

EXECUTIVE BOARD

*At a meeting of the Executive Board on Thursday, 15 March 2012 in The Board Room -
Municipal Building, Widnes*

Present: Councillors Polhill (Chairman), D. Cargill, Harris, Jones, T. McInerney,
Nelson, Stockton, Wharton and Wright

Apologies for Absence: None

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: A. Scott, M. Reaney, G. Cook, I. Leivesley, G. Meehan,
B. Dodd, L Unsworth, S. Wallace-Bonner and D Edwards

Also in attendance: None

ITEMS DEALT WITH UNDER POWERS AND DUTIES EXERCISABLE BY THE BOARD

Action

EXB110 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 1 March 2012 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

HEALTH AND ADULTS PORTFOLIO

EXB111 PUBLIC HEALTH TRANSITION PLAN - KEY DECISION

The Board considered a joint report of the Strategic Director, Communities and the Interim Director, Public Health, on the Public Health Transition Plan.

The Board was advised that the current NHS reform programme set out proposals for the development of a new public health system. A key element of the proposals was the transfer of local public health leadership and commissioning from the Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) to local councils. The key elements of the new public health system were summarised in the report. Health and Wellbeing Boards, as a statutory Council committee, would provide the forum to bring together clinical commissioning groups, health and social care commissioners, public health and Elected Members with patient and public champions, to join up the public health agenda with the wider work of the NHS,

social care and children's services.

The report provided details of the approach to be taken by Halton and the joint role the Borough Council had with the Merseyside PCT Cluster in co-developing the new local arrangements for public health. The Public Health Transition Assurance Framework was attached at Appendix 1. It was noted that funding and responsibilities would formally transfer on 1 April 2013, although would run in shadow form in 2012/13.

The Board noted that from 2013/14, Councils would receive a ring-fenced Public Health grant. In addition, the Government had announced £5.2 billion of funding for the whole public health system, of which £2.2 billion would be allocated to local authorities. Details were awaited of the distribution formula on which allocations would be based. In addition, it was further noted that the Government had intended to incentivise the achievement of key health outcomes by introducing a Health Premium as a financial reward.

Reason(s) for Decision

The transfer of public health functions to the Council was deemed significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in Halton.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

This was Government Policy and therefore few alternative options available to the Council. However, this option provided significant opportunity to improve public health outcomes.

Implementation Date

April 2013.

RESOLVED: That the Plan to transfer Public Health functions to the Council be noted and approved, and any amendments required in the document to meet SHA requirements, be delegated to the Strategic Director, Communities in consultation with the Portfolio holder for Health and Adults.

Strategic Director
- Communities

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PORTFOLIO

EXB112 VOLUNTARY SECTOR FUNDING – GRANT ALLOCATION 2012/13

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Communities, on the Voluntary Sector Grant Awards for 2012/13.

The Board was advised that voluntary sector organisations had been invited to submit applications for funding in 2012/13. Applications were assessed and recommendations agreed by a Panel consisting of the Executive Board Portfolio holder with responsibility for the Voluntary Sector and Officers from the Commissioning and Complex Care service in the Communities Directorate.

The report contained details of the recommended annual allocation for the financial year 2012/13. It was noted that the proposed budget saving of £12,000 for the year resulted in two organisations – Halton and St Helens VCA and Halton Citizens Advice Bureau –receiving a reduced allocation.

RESOLVED: That the recommended grant allocations, as detailed in the report, be approved.

Strategic Director
- Communities

RESOURCES PORTFOLIO

EXB113 PUBLIC SECTOR EQUALITY DUTY; EQUALITY OBJECTIVES

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Policy and Resources, on the Public Sector Equality Duty, Equality objectives.

The Board was advised that the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) came into force in April 2011 as part of the Equality Act 2010. The Duty consisted of a General Duty and Specific Duties, as detailed in the report. This information, which was published by the Council on 31 January 2012, would be updated annually and included:

- Information relating to employees that share protected characteristics; and
- Information relating to people affected by the public body's policies and practices.

In addition, the Specific Duties also required public bodies to prepare and publish one or more specific and

measurable equality objectives which help them to further the three aims of the Equality Duty. This must be first published by 6 April 2012 and subsequent objectives must be published at least every four years, with a progress report each year.

The Board noted that the proposed objectives for 2012 were set out in Appendix 1, attached to the report. They reflected issues raised by customers and staff and would promote partnership working, and had been developed as a result of consultation with the Corporate Equality and Diversity Group.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the obligations of the Council in respect of the Public Sector Equality Duty be noted; and
- 2) the proposed objectives be agreed.

Strategic Director
- Policy &
Resources

MINUTES ISSUED: 20 March 2012

CALL-IN: 27 March 2012

Any matter decided by the Executive Board may be called in no later than 5.00pm on 27 March 2012.

Meeting ended at 2.14 p.m.