

EXECUTIVE BOARD

At a meeting of the Executive Board on Thursday, 14 March 2013 in The Boardroom, Municipal Building

Present: Councillors Polhill (Chairman), D. Cargill, Harris, R. Hignett, Jones, Nelson, Philbin, J. Stockton, Wharton and Wright

Apologies for Absence: None

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: A. Scott, M. Reaney, G. Cook, D. Johnson, I. Leivesley, G. Meehan, D. Parr, E. Dawson, S. Riley, L Mosley and E. O'Meara

Also in attendance: Councillor Ratcliffe

ITEMS DEALT WITH UNDER POWERS AND DUTIES EXERCISABLE BY THE BOARD

EXB170 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 28 February 2013 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

HEALTH AND ADULTS PORTFOLIO

EXB171 PUBLIC HEALTH ANNUAL REPORT 2012

The Board considered a report and presentation by the Director of Public Health which provided an overview of the Halton and St Helen's Public Health Annual Report 2012.

The Board was advised that the Annual Report was an important vehicle by which the Director of Public Health (DPH) could identify key issues, flag problems, report progress and serve their local populations. It remained a key means of accountability for the population served. The Public Health Annual Report (PHAR) was the DPH's independent and expert assessment of the health of the local population, based on evidence. It was noted that the assessment and recommendations made were those held by the DPH and did not necessarily reflect the position of the

Action

employing and partner organisations.

It was reported that the PHAR typically contained a theme focusing on a particular issue or set of linked issues. With the dissolution of the PCT on 31 March 2013, it was noted that this was an opportunity to reflect on achievements in improved health outcomes whilst also looking forward recognising some of the main health challenges.

Members noted that the report highlighted the improvements in health including:

- Cardio-vascular disease;
- Tobacco control; and
- Dental health

and contained recommendations and future actions for each. In addition, the report provided an update on last year's recommendations and a compendium of data.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PORTFOLIO

EXB172 VOLUNTARY SECTOR FUNDING - GRANT ALLOCATION 2013/14

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Communities, on the Voluntary Sector Grant Funding Awards 2013/14.

The Board was advised that voluntary sector organisations had been invited to submit applications for funding in 2013/14. 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 Communities Directorate.

The report contained details of the recommended annual allocation for the financial year 2013/14.

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

Strategic Director
- Communities

HEALTH AND ADULTS PORTFOLIO

EXB173 HALTON SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD (HSAB) : ANNUAL REPORT 2011/12

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Communities, on the Halton Safeguarding Adults Annual Report 2011/12.

The Board was advised that a high priority for the Council and its partner agencies was treating people with respect and dignity. Building on the excellent results achieved in the 2010 Safeguarding Inspection, the Annual Report described how organisations and individuals across all sectors were working together to safeguard vulnerable people.

The report contained the following; the Forward, the Vision, the National Context, the Structure and Reporting Arrangements, the Outcomes and Board priorities, the Safeguarding Data available and the Key Developments and Local Activity.

The Board was also advised of the six sections in the report which focused on the activity around the various sub groups:-

- Learning & Development;
- Publicity and Communications;
- Quality and Performance;
- Policies and Procedures;
- Practitioners Network; and
- Safer Workforce.

RESOLVED: That the report and the contents of the Annual Report, attached at Appendix 1, be noted.

RESOURCES PORTFOLIO

EXB174 ASSETS OF COMMUNITY VALUE - COMMUNITY RIGHT TO BID

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Policy and Resources, on the Assets of Community Value (England) Regulations 2012 (the Regulations).

The Board was advised that the Regulations came into force on 21 September 2012, under the Localism Act 2011, and was another community-facing power to sit alongside the Community Right to Challenge. The latter

allowed voluntary and community groups, Parish Councils and local authority staff to express an interest in taking over the running of local authority services. It was reported that, where such an approach was received, and was a legitimate challenge, the authority must carry out an open procurement exercise for the service.

It was reported that the Regulations set out the procedures and compensation arrangements in respect of assets such as land and buildings. A building or piece of land said to have community value could include libraries, community centres, leisure facilities, pubs and shops owned either by the Council or another public organisation. Groups eligible to make a community nomination were detailed in the report and defined as:

- Parish Councils;
- Neighbouring Parish Councils;
- Unincorporated Community Groups;
- Neighbourhood Forums; and
- Community interest groups with a local connection.

The report detailed the requirements for nominations that must be complied with and noted that the local authority would be required to establish, maintain and publish the list of assets of community value as well as maintain and publish a list of unsuccessful nominations. The report also set out the process for identifying which assets should be 'listed' on a register, the review process and the appeal process to the First Tier Tribunal.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the report be noted;
- 2) the Operational Director Economy, Enterprise and Property establishes and maintains the List of Community Assets under the Assets of Community Value (England) Regulations 2012;
- 3) the Operational Director Economy, Enterprise and Property be authorised, in consultation with the Resources Portfolio holder, the relevant Portfolio holder(s) and Ward Councillor(s), to take decisions relating to applications made under the Assets of Community Value legislation as outlined in the process set out in Appendix 1 in general and in respect of particular cases and applications;

Strategic Director
- Policy &
Resources

- 4) the compensation criteria as outlined in Appendix 2 of this report be approved and the Operational Director Economy, Enterprise and Property be authorised, in consultation with the Resources portfolio-holder, to take decisions in respect of this;
- 5) Reviews of decisions taken under paragraphs 2.3 and 2.4 shall be undertaken and decisions taken under delegated powers by Appeals Panel;
- 6) The Operational Director Legal Services and Monitoring Officer instigate such changes to the Constitution as may be necessary to give effect to the legislation; and
- 7) At present it is not possible to anticipate the financial or staff resource that will be required to manage these Regulations. It is recommended that the Operational Directors Economy, Enterprise and Property and Legal Services provide an appraisal of the impact of these arrangements after September 2013.

EXB175 ICT CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2012/13 AND 2013/14

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Policy and Resources, on the profile of spend against the ICT Capital Programme 2012/13 and on planned spend for 2013/14.

The Board was advised that for a number of years, £1.1m had been set aside to support the development, improvement and maintenance of the Council's ICT infrastructure. In a fast changing environment, the importance was noted for equipment to be maintained, updated and replaced in order to provide an effective service to the departments that relied so heavily on it. This approach had enabled the Council to retain a stable and fit for purpose ICT environment.

It was reported that the infrastructure supported 400 software applications, 3,500 devices and provided an ICT support service to twenty schools, as well as a small number of contracts with external organisations. The Board was advised that there was potential to earn further income from other opportunities, as investment made through the Capital Programme provided the confidence potential clients

required.

The capital investment focussed on three areas, details of which were attached at Appendix A, and which were noted as:-

- Server;
- Network; and
- Desktop.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the actual spend profile for 2012/13 outlined in Appendix A be noted; and
- 2) the planned spend profile for 2013/14 outlined in Appendix A be approved.

Strategic Director
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EXB176 SCHEDULE 12A OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

The Board considered:

- (1) whether Members of the press and public should be excluded from the meeting of the Board during consideration of the following item of business in accordance with Sub-Section 4 of Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 because it was likely that, in view of the nature of the business to be considered, exempt information would be disclosed, being information defined in Section 100 (1) and paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972; and
- (2) whether the disclosure of information was in the public interest, whether any relevant exemptions were applicable and whether, when applying the public interest test and exemptions, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed that in disclosing the information.

RESOLVED: That as, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information, members of the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business in accordance with Sub-Section 4 of Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 because it was likely that, in view of the nature of the business, exempt information would be disclosed, being information defined in Section 100 (1)

and paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

RESOURCES PORTFOLIO

EXB177 INDUSTRIAL ESTATES OPTIONS APPRAISAL

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Policy and Resources, which provided an Options Appraisal on four industrial estates with options for their future.

The report advised the Board that over recent years there had been increased expenditure on these industrial estates due to their age, deteriorating condition and very high vacancy rates caused by difficult marketing conditions. The report provided details on each location, to help Members ascertain their feasibility and viability so as to formulate a strategy for their future management. Financial and options appraisals were attached at Appendix 2.

RESOLVED: That the following be approved

- 1) Marshgate, St Michael's Industrial Estate - Retain within HBC ownership and the sum now reported is allocated from the maintenance budget in 2013 / 2014 in order to replace the roof (These costs are at today's prices and do not take into account inflation);
- 2) Oldgate, St Michael's Industrial Estate - Retain within HBC's ownership and that funding be allocated from the maintenance budget to replace the roof on a phased basis as follows: -
 - Phase 1 – the sum now reported allocated 2014 / 2015 in respect of block B
 - Phase 2 - the sum now reported allocated 2015 / 2016 in respect of block C
 - Phase 3 - the sum now reported allocated end over the end 2016 / 2017 and beginning 2017 / 2018 in respect of block D.
- 3) Dewar Court, Astmoor Industrial Estate, Runcorn-HBC continues to retain this estate within its ownership; and
- 4) Seymour Court, Manor Park, Runcorn –Dispose of this estate on the open market by the most appropriate method in the 2013 / 2014 financial

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year.

(The costs are at today's prices and do not take into account inflation).

CALL IN

MINUTES ISSUED: 20 March 2013

CALL-IN: 26 March 2013

Any matter decided by the Executive Board may be called in no later than 5.00pm on 26 March 2013

Meeting ended at 3.00 p.m.