

## APPENDIX 1

### Extracts of Executive Board Committee Minutes that are relevant to the Corporate Policy and Performance Board.

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#### EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 23 MAY 2013

<b>6</b>	<b>DIRECTORATE OVERVIEW REPORTS</b>
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The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Policy and Resources, on progress against key objectives/milestones and performance targets for the fourth quarter year-end to 31 March 2013.

The Board was reminded that in September 2011, it had approved a revision to reporting arrangements on performance, in the light of emerging national and local circumstances. The approved changes included presentation of Directorate Performance Overview Reports on a quarterly basis and progress against the Corporate Plan on a six monthly basis; the development and use of a priority based performance report for each Corporate Priority and Policy and Performance Board; and departmental performance reports to be made available via the intranet and the Members' Bulletin.

It was noted that a review of the Council's existing performance management and monitoring arrangements had been undertaken in 2011, based upon an agreed set of principles, which had been agreed by the Corporate Policy and Performance Board, based around the better management of performance information in terms of both strategic focus and volume. The Directorate Performance Overview Report (DPOR) provided a strategic summary of the key issues arising from performance in the relevant Quarter for each Directorate. DPOR's from 2012/13 would be presented to Executive Board in line with the presentation of Quarterly Financial Statements. Information for each of the Council's Directorates were attached at Appendices 1-3. The Board noted that monitoring of all relevant high risks would be undertaken and progress be reported against the application of the risk treatment measures in Quarters 2 and 4.

RESOLVED: That the report and progress and performance information be noted.

<b>7</b>	<b>DISPOSAL OF SURPLUS LAND AND BUILDINGS</b>
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The Board considered a joint report of the Strategic Directors, Policy and Resources and Children and Enterprise, on the disposal of surplus land and buildings.

The Board was advised that the Council had a number of property assets which were no longer used, which were predominantly infill plots in secondary locations unlikely to yield high returns. Details of the sites identified as surplus were given on the schedule attached to the report.

The Board noted that the aim was to continue to dispose of surplus sites to sustain the flow of capital receipts, with sites identified and disposals undertaken when market conditions allowed. Following consultation with the relevant Ward Councillors, assets had been identified either for immediate disposal or to be put on hold subject to review; those on hold would be reviewed by the Asset Management Working Group and the Resources Portfolio holder by February 2014.

It was noted that there were a number of other disposals underway, which would be reported separately at the appropriate time. In addition, surplus sites following the construction for the Mersey Gateway Scheme were not readily identifiable until the preferred bidder stage. However, the timescales for such disposals was unlikely to be before the completion of construction in 2016/17.

RESOLVED: That

1. the sites on the schedule, declared as surplus and for disposal, be approved;
2. the sites on hold be approved for review by February 2014; and
3. a further report be brought to Executive Board following this review.

<b>8</b>	<b>RELEASE OF RESTRICTIVE COVENANT ON PART OF BRENTFIELD ST MARIE'S</b>
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The Board considered a report of the Chief Executive, on the release of the restrictive covenant on part of Brentfield St Marie's, Heath Road, Widnes.

The Board was advised that the Council had been approached with a proposition to develop part of the land at St Marie's club for social housing and to secure the future use of playing pitches. Plans attached at Appendix 1 to the report showed the frontage of land which was proposed for sale to HHT for social housing, subject to planning permission, and the two playing pitches which would be transferred to the Wids. It was noted that the removal of the restrictive covenant would apply to the frontage land only. Appendix 2 showed land edged red, where a new restrictive covenant would be applied which would restrict the use of land for playing pitches and leisure uses.

It was further noted that the proposal supported the Borough's Housing and Leisure objectives and was in line with the Unitary Development Plan and upcoming Core Strategy.

Reason(s) for Decision

To ensure a sustainable use of playing pitches and provide new social housing.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

The 'do nothing' option had been considered but this would impact on the long-term viability of the rugby pitches.

Implementation Date

Once approval had been agreed, the recommendations would be implemented immediately.

RESOLVED: That the Board approve the variation to the restrictive covenant on Brentfield St Marie's, subject to the following conditions:

1. the release of the covenant shall apply only to the frontage land formerly used as clubhouse, car park, etc and identified on the plan at Appendix 1. The Operational Director, Legal and Democratic Services to ensure that the release is only implemented when the following conditions have been satisfied;
2. the land released from the covenant shall be used for the development of social housing only;
3. the restrictive covenant shall continue for the remaining two rugby pitches at Brentfield; and
4. a new restrictive covenant in favour of the Council shall be applied to the land shown at Appendix 2 at Prescott Road playing fields for the land to be used for playing pitches and leisure only.

<b>9</b>	<b>LIVERPOOL CITY REGION SUBMISSION TO THE 2013 SPENDING REVIEW</b>
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The Board considered a report of the Operational Director, Finance, which sought agreement to the Liverpool City Region (LCR) submission ahead of the Government's 2013 Spending Review.

The Board was advised that the 2013 Spending Review, the H M Treasury-led process which allocated resources across government

departments, would be published on 26 June 2013. Although the review would be effective from 2015/16, no confirmation had been given on the number of years it would cover. In his 2013 budget report, the Chancellor announced that the themes driving the 2013 Spending Review would be growth, efficiency and public service reform.

The LCR Submission, details of which were attached at Appendix 1, had been drafted to emphasise the level of cuts the region had to deal with before and during the 2010 Spending Review. The Submission had sought the views of Finance and Policy leads in the six LCR Councils as well as Merseyside Police Service, Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service, Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority and Merseytravel.

The Board was advised that the submission set out key areas of concern and risk for the LCR Authorities, including :

- Localisation of Council Tax Support;
- Council Tax Referenda;
- Protection of Specific Grants including Public Health Funding;
- Increasing costs of Adult Social Care;
- Business Rate Retention;
- New Homes Bonus; and
- Scope for Further Cuts.

It was noted that the Submission would be presented to the LCR Cabinet on 24 May 2013 and then to H M Treasury and the local Members of Parliament. In addition, it would also be provided to the Local Government Association, Sigoma, Local Government Information Unit and New Local Government Network, for consideration as part of their submissions.

RESOLVED: That the Liverpool City Region submission to the 2013 Spending Review, as set out in the Appendix to the report, be approved.

## **EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 27 JUNE 2013**

<b>33</b>	<b>2012/13 FINANCIAL OUTTURN</b>
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The Board considered a report of the Operational Director, Finance, on the final revenue and capital spending position for 2012/13.

The Board was advised that the final accounts for 2011/12 were complete; the revenue spending position for each Department, which

would be subject to external audit, was attached to the report at Appendix 1.

It was reported that budget savings for 2013/14 were implemented over two tranches, the first of which consisted of savings of £6.04m, and approved by Council in December 2012. As a result of some of these savings being implemented early, it provided part-year budget savings in 2012/13.

The report provided details on the key variances (which were in addition to the overall net underspend) in the following services:

- Children and Families;
- Economy, Enterprise and Property;
- Finance;
- Human Resources;
- Prevention and Assessment;
- Commissioning and Complex Care;
- Community and Environment; and
- Corporate and Democracy

Members were advised that the Council's Reserves and Balances had been reviewed in accordance with the Reserves and balances Strategy. The Council's General Balances stood at £8,067,000, which, given the financial climate, was considered to be at a reasonable level.

With regard to Capital Spending, details of spending against the 2012/13 Capital Programme, were attached at Appendix 2. It was noted that spending was £7.1m below the revised capital programme of £57.8m, which represented 87% delivery of the revised capital programme. It was reported that the main areas of significant slippage were in respect of Castlefields Regeneration, The Grange (PFI) Project, Widnes Crematorium (Cremators) and Bungalows at Halton Lodge.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

<b>34</b>	<b>2013/14 TO 2015/16 CAPITAL PROGRAMME</b>
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The Board considered a report of the Operational Director, Finance, on the Council's total forecast capital programme expenditure and associated funding over the next three years.

As part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy, Executive Board had approved the capital strategy on 29 November 2012. This covered the period 2013/14 to 2015/16. Council approved the overall capital

programme for the same period at its meeting on 6 March 2013, which at the time were based on estimates of capital allocations.

The Council would continue to seek and secure further additional external resources to reduce on-going revenue implications and enhance the capital programme, through for example, Section 106 agreements.

Estimates of capital receipts over the medium term were based on forecast land and building sales. Given the current subdued state of the property market, and with no expected sign of recovery over the term of the capital programme, a cautious approach needed to be followed, and as such, there were no funds available for new capital starts unless external funding was generated to finance the cost.

RESOLVED: That the Council's Capital Programme for 2013/16, including forecast spend and funding, be noted.

#### **EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 11 JULY 2013**

<b>46</b>	<b>REMOVALS CONTRACT – EXTENSION TO WAIVER OF PROCUREMENT STANDING ORDERS</b>
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The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise, which sought an extension to the Waiver of Procurement Standing Orders for the Council's (Accommodation) Removals Contract.

The Board was reminded that in January 2013, it had approved a Waiver of Procurement Standing Orders to allow the Property Services and Procurement Teams to draw up the specification and documentation needed to invite bids for the Council's Accommodation Removals Contract. Although the process had been completed, it was considered appropriate to allow a transition/handover period, which would require an extension of the current waiver to 31 August 2013.

RESOLVED: That

1. the extension to a Waiver of Procurement Standing Orders Part 4 Section 4.1 (Competition Requirements) be approved; and
2. the Waiver shall be effective until 31 August 2013.

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Policy and Resources which sought approval for the Waiver of Procurement Standing Orders for the provision of Election Products.

The Board was advised that the current provider of Election Products, Idox Software Solutions Ltd, was a specialist in the field and unique in the market. Whilst there were other companies in the market, there could be the possibility of compatibility issues with the computer software used for elections if they were used.

It was reported that, following negotiations with the current provider, a reduction in costs had been agreed, which made a saving of £8,184. It was noted that the contract would be for three years from 1 August 2013 to 31 July 2016.

RESOLVED: That

1. the Operational Director, Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to award a contract to Idox Software Solutions Ltd for the provision of ballot books, postal packs and poll cards for the European/Local Elections 2014, Parliamentary/Local Elections in 2015 and the Police and Crime Commissioner /Local Elections in 2016; and
2. the waiver of Procurement Standing Order 4.1 (Competition Requirements) in accordance with Procurement Standing Order 1.8.4 (d) and ( e) be approved.

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise, on the request for Business Rates Relief at Easter Park.

In April 2013, the Government introduced a business rates retention scheme, where Councils would be able to retain a proportion of their business rates revenue as well as growth on the revenue generated in their area.

The Board was advised that a request for Business Rates Relief had been received from a company at the Easter Park development, as detailed in the report. In the short term, the Council would lose revenue arising from the offer of Business Rates Relief. However, in the longer term, the Council would recoup this lost income through the potential to

create a significant number of jobs and capital investment in the Borough.

The report provided details of a number of rates relief scenarios for Members' consideration.

RESOLVED: That

1. the proposals, outlined in the report, be approved in principle;
2. given the benefits to the Borough available from the economic development opportunity outlined in the report, and subject to the required outcomes being delivered regarding capital investment and job creation, approval be given on an exceptional basis to the award of Business Rates Relief on Unit 4 for the period of two years; and
3. subject to the necessary planning and legal consents being in place, the Strategic Director, Policy and Resources and the Operational Director, Finance ,individually, each in consultation with the Resources Portfolio holder, be authorised to determine the level of Business Rates Relief to be awarded to the company.

<b>52</b>	<b>LAND DISPOSAL FOR EMPLOYMENT LAND AT JOHNSON'S LANE</b>
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The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise, on the development of the Johnson's Lane site at Widnes Waterfront.

The Board was advised that the Council owned approximately twenty acres of land at Johnson's Lane which had not been developed and did not have the benefit of access or service infrastructure. The Council had been approached with a proposal to develop the site, as detailed in the report.

RESOLVED: That the Board

1. **approve the sale of approximately 6.7 acres of land to Ballast Phoenix Ltd (BPL) for circa £1M gross, subject to Planning Permission, and subject to contract;**
2. authorises the Operational Director for Economy, Enterprise and Property, in consultation with the Leader and Portfolio Holders for Resources and Physical Environment, to agree the final net price, making reasonable deductions for site establishment costs; and



3. authorises the Operational Director for Economy, Enterprise and Property to arrange for all required documentation to be completed to the satisfaction of the Operational Director, Legal and Democratic Services.
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