

REPORT TO: Executive Board

DATE: 16 October 2014

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Policy & Resources

PORTFOLIO: Transportation

SUBJECT: Mersey Gateway Crossings Board (MGCB) –
Interim Chief Executive

WARD(S) Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To seek authority for the Chief Executive to undertake the role of Interim Chief Executive of the M.G.C.B for a period of 2 years.
- 1.2 To note that the M.G.C.B will pay to the Council, a fee, for the release of the Chief Executive, to undertake the role.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That Executive Board

- 1) give authority for the Council's Chief Executive to undertake the role of Interim Chief Executive of the Mersey Gateway Crossings Board (MGCB) for a period of 2 years; and**
- 2) authorise the Strategic Director, Policy and Resources to conclude the details of the arrangements and agreement between the Council and the MGCB.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Mersey Gateway Project is a major priority for the Council, the Liverpool City Region, the North West and the U.K. Government.
- 3.2 The Project is now under construction by Merseylink, the Council's contractor.
- 3.3 The Council has established the MGCB to oversee the construction of the Project. Construction will be completed in the Autumn of 2017.
- 3.4 Steve Nicholson the former Project Director currently undertakes the role of Interim Chief Executive for the MGCB. Mr. Nicholson will be stepping down from this role in October 2014.
- 3.5 The Council's Chief Executive has lead the Mersey Gateway Project

as the Senior Responsible Officer over the last 10 years, supported by Mr Nicholson and a multi-disciplinary team of experts.

3.6 The next two years are crucial in ensuring Mersey Gateway is delivered and Merseylink meet their contractual obligations to construct the new bridge and undertake all the necessary associated highway works.

3.7 The role of Interim Chief Executive MGCB is critical to the delivery of the Project in providing the appropriate leadership and strategic direction to achieve this. Over the last 10 years the Council's Chief Executive has demonstrated he has the leadership skills to drive the Mersey Gateway project towards a successful outcome and this has been recognised by the MGCB in supporting and seeking the Council's approval to this proposal.

3.8 The MGCB wish to appoint the Council's Chief Executive as Interim Chief Executive, from 1st November 2014 for a period of 2 years.

3.9 The proposed role of the Interim Chief Executive is envisaged as strategic rather than operational, and will involve

- Meetings with Merseylink
- Attendance at MGCB Board meetings,
- Attendance at MGCB Management Team meetings and support to the Team
- Strategic project development
- Liaison with Government

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 The proposed arrangements will support the delivery of the Mersey Gateway Project, a priority for the Council.

5.0 **OTHER/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 The MGCB have agreed to pay the Council a fee for the services the Council's Chief Executive will be providing to that Board.

6.0 **IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

6.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

None identified.

6.2 **Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

The Mersey Gateway Project will provide work, training and education opportunities for Halton residents.

6.3 **A Healthy Halton**

None identified.

6.4 **A Safer Halton**

None identified.

6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

Mersey Gateway will provide the catalyst for the further regeneration and urban renewal of Halton.

7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 The Project requires strong leadership to deliver the construction phase, without this there is a risk of non-delivery.

7.2 The Chief Executive will continue to meet his full responsibilities to the Council and meet the role identified for him by the MGCB.

8.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 The Mersey Gateway Project has been designed to meet the Council's equality and diversity policies.

9.0 **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

None under the meaning of the Act.