

EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES – 4 SEPTEMBER 2014

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT PORTFOLIO

EXB54 HALTON BOROUGH COUNCIL MARKETS

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise, on a Charging Policy for Halton Borough Council's markets.

The Board was advised that a requirement to have a single source of information had been identified which related to the charges for stall rental or storage space within each of the Council's markets. It was reported that this would ensure transparency for traders and provide a full working document for use by the markets management team to ensure all traders were treated in a fair and consistent manner. As part of this exercise, it was further reported that a review had been undertaken of the way in which the Council charged its market traders, to ensure that the rents were consistent, competitive and viable. Members noted that rents within Widnes Market had remained static since 2009/10.

Following the review, a number of areas where changes would be required were identified, details of which were set out in the report. This included:-

- Rents within the Market Hall to be based on up-to-date floor space and frontage measurements;
- Direct Debit arrangements for monthly stall charges;
- Application of consistent electricity charges;
- A new charging structure for Runcorn Street Market; and
- New consistent store room charges based on store room area.

The report provided further details on the risk analysis for the Widnes Market Hall, changes to electricity charges, Widnes Open Market, Runcorn Street Market, containers and store rooms and the use of Widnes Market Foyer, for Members' information.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the Charging Policy for Halton Borough Council Markets be approved with immediate effect;
- 2) the Charging Policy and associated stall charges be reviewed and amended (if required), yearly; and
- 3) the Operational Director, Economy, Enterprise and Property be given delegated power , in consultation with the Operational Director, Finance and the Portfolio holder for Physical Environment, to make amendments to the Pricing Policy prior to the review, should the need arise.

Strategic Director
- Children and
Enterprise

TRANSPORTATION PORTFOLIO

EXB57 OBJECTION TO TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER 865

The Board considered a report of the Chief Executive which reported on the use of his delegated powers in respect of an objection to a proposed Traffic Regulation Order from Cheshire West and Chester Council (CWAC).

The Board was advised that CWAC had closed the Sutton Weaver Swingbridge over the Weaver Navigation Canal and installed a temporary bridge close to the existing crossing and then closed the Swingbridge to traffic to allow the contractor unrestricted access to carry out essential repair work.

The report set out details of the traffic restrictions and the impact on surrounding roads in the area as a result of the diversions which CWAC had put in place. It was reported that CWAC may consider making the temporary arrangements permanent, although no formal request had been received. Therefore, in anticipation, the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, submitted a formal objection to CWAC to these temporary arrangements being made permanent.

RESOLVED: That the actions of the Chief Executive in submitting an objection to the Cheshire West and Chester Council proposal to ban right turns at Sutton Weaver Swingbridge, be noted and endorsed.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES – 18 SEPTEMBER 2014

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT PORTFOLIO

EXB63 SCI-TECH DARESBUURY ENTERPRISE ZONE FUNDING

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise, which provided an update on funding for the development of Sci-Tech Daresbury.

The Board was advised that Sci-Tech Daresbury was allocated as a strategic site in Halton's Core Strategy and was an international hub for world class science. In August 2011, part of Daresbury was named as one of the eleven new Enterprise Zones, the aim of which was to attract new businesses with simplified planning rules, super-fast broadband and reductions in business rates.

It was reported that in February 2014, Sci-Tech Daresbury was shortlisted for £3.57m of Enterprise Zone (EZ) Capital Grant which would be used to facilitate the next stage of development. Details of the DCLG claw back arrangement for any increase in the value of the development as a result of the grant were outlined in the report.

In addition, it was noted that in June 2014, an application for £1.128m European Regional Development Funding (ERDF) was approved by the DCLG, subject to match funding. An offer letter would be issued once match funding and State Aids were confirmed. The offer would be made to Langtree as the developer, with the intention that the Council be acknowledged as the delivery partner, receiving £25k towards the funding and monitoring service it would provide to Langtree.

Members were advised that there were financial implications for the Council in accepting ERDF funding, minor breaches of the agreement could result in DCLG having the right not only to discontinue funding for the future but to also demand the return of funding prior to any breach

of the agreement. In this respect the Council's direct liability would be limited to the 25k it would receive as delivery partner. It was also noted that by entering into the back to back contracts with the Joint Venture (JV) for both the EZ and ERDF, this would restrict the Council's overall liability to its liability as a JV partner.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the offer of £3.57m of EZ Capital Grant (EZ) from the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) be accepted;
- 2) the offer of £25k of European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) from DCLG be accepted;
- 3) the Council be given authority to enter into a back to back contract with Joint Venture partners for the delivery of the project; and
- 4) the Council agrees to entering into a claw back agreement with Joint Venture partners in accordance with the EZ offer.

Strategic Director
Children and
Enterprise

EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES – 2 OCTOBER 2014

RESOURCES PORTFOLIO, PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT PORTFOLIO AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PORTFOLIO

EXB70 BUSINESS RATES PROPOSAL - UNIT 3 ARAGON COURT, MANOR PARK

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise, which detailed a request for Business Rates relief.

The Board was reminded that in April 2013, the Government had introduced a Business Rates Retention Scheme, which enabled Councils to keep a proportion of the business rates revenue as well as growth on the revenue that was generated within their area.

The Board was advised of a request for Business

Rates Relief from a company that had agreed a long lease on premises in Manor Park, Runcorn, the details of which were set out in the report.

Strategic Director
- Children and
Enterprise

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the proposals set out in the report be approved; and
- 2) 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 Rate Relief to Jem Recycling Group for the period of six months at the level as set out in the report.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES – 16 OCTOBER 2014

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT PORTFOLIO

EXB76 GRANGEWAY COURT HOMELESSNESS SERVICE

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Communities, which sought approval for the waiver of Procurement Standing Orders to extend the housing support contract at Grangeway Court.

The Board was advised that Your Housing Group (YHG) had successfully delivered housing management and support services at Grangeway Court since October 2008. It was noted that the original five year contracts had been extended to facilitate planned refurbishment works which had been identified as necessary by a Homeless Services Scrutiny Review.

It was reported that Officers had been working with YHG to develop a service model sustainable at current levels of demand. A further report would be prepared for consideration, but in the meantime, it was necessary to extend the existing contractual arrangements with YHG, who had indicated a willingness to continue the service on the current terms and conditions, provided that the Council agreed to underwrite 70% of any losses arising due to loss

of rental income.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) acting in accordance with Procurement Standing Order 1.8.3 (a), Executive Board agrees to waive Procurement Standing Orders 4.1 in order to extend the contracts with Your Housing Group for housing management and housing support services at Grangeway Court, up to March 2015; and
- 2) a further report be presented to the Board to agree proposals for a revised service model at Grangeway Court.

Strategic Director
- Communities

EXB77 PROCUREMENT OF FLOATING SUPPORT SERVICES

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Communities, which sought approval for the invitation of tenders to provide floating housing support services.

The Board was advised that following a procurement exercise in 2011, the current contract for floating housing support services provided by Plus Dane, would expire on 31 March 2015. It was noted that the current contract was split into four services, as set out in the report.

The Board noted that there was evidence that demand for floating support services produced positive outcomes, including the prevention of homelessness for vulnerable people in Halton. It was proposed that the tender be offered in two lots; the Mental Health service would be offered as a separate lot due to the specialist nature of that service, with the other three elements grouped together as the second lot.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the commencement of a procurement exercise for floating housing support services be approved; and
- 2) a further report be received on the outcomes of the tenders.

Strategic Director
- Communities

(N.B. Councillors Polhill and Wharton left the room prior to the consideration of the following item of business as they were Chair and Deputy Chair respectively of the Mersey Gateway Crossings Board; David Parr, Chief Executive, also left the room prior to the consideration of the following item of business as he stated that he may have a potential conflict of interest).

COUNCILLOR DAVE CARGILL IN THE CHAIR

TRANSPORTATION PORTFOLIO

EXB78 MERSEY GATEWAY CROSSINGS BOARD (MGCB) - INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Policy and Resources, which sought authority for the Chief Executive to undertake the role of Interim Chief Executive of the Mersey Gateway Crossings Board (MGCB) for a period of two years.

The Board was advised that the Council's Chief Executive had lead the Mersey Gateway Project as the Senior Responsible Officer over the past ten years, supported by the former Project Director, Mr Steve Nicholson and a multi-disciplinary team.

It was reported that the role of Interim Chief Executive for MGCB was critical to the delivery of the project in providing the appropriate leadership and direction. The role was envisaged as strategic rather than operational, involving attendance at MGCB Board and Management Team meetings, meetings with Merseylink, strategic project development and liaison with Government.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) authority be given 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 two years; and

Strategic Director
- Policy &

2) the Strategic Director, Policy and Resources, be authorised to conclude the details of the arrangements and agreement between the Council and the MGCB. Resources