

Extract of Executive Board Minutes relevant to the Corporate Policy and Policy and Performance Board

11 December 2014

RESOURCES PORTFOLIO

EXB107 DISCRETIONARY NON DOMESTIC RATE RELIEF

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Policy and Resources, on four applications for discretionary non-domestic rate relief.

The Board was advised that, from 1 April 2013, there had been significant changes in the funding of non-domestic rate relief exemptions, following the introduction of the Business Rates Retention Scheme. This meant that the Council now funded 49% of any award of mandatory or discretionary rate relief granted, whereas previously all mandatory relief awards were met in full by the Government.

The report set out the details and values for each request for Members' consideration. Appendix 1 contained information on the costs of each application to the Council Taxpayer.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) Discretionary Rate Relief be granted to the following organisations at the percentage indicated, for the period from 1 April 2014 (or commencement of liability, whichever is the later) to 31 March 2016:-

Halton and St Helens VCA	20%
Lane Tennis Club Ltd	20%

- 2) in respect of the following organisation, Discretionary Rate relief be granted for the backdated element at the percentage indicated, for the period 1 April 2010 (or commencement of liability whichever is the later):-

Lane Tennis Club Ltd	20%
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- 3) under the provisions of Section 47, Local Government Finance Act 1988, the following

Strategic Director
- Policy &
Resources

application for Discretionary Rate Relief be refused:-

Brook Young People 20%

and

- 4) the request for Discretionary Rate Relief from Wellbeing Enterprises CIC be refused as the Council has not to date provided discretionary relief to Community Interest Companies and given the Council's current financial position would not wish to add CICs to the category of organisations it provides discretionary relief to, particularly as it would be shortly embarking on a review of all existing discretionary reliefs given.

EXB111 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 outweighed 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.

COMMUNITY AND SPORT PORTFOLIO AND RESOURCES PORTFOLIO

EXB112 UPDATE ON THE DISPOSAL OF LAND FOR HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AT LIVERPOOL ROAD WIDNES

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise, which provided an update on the proposed disposal of development land at Liverpool Road, Widnes.

The Board was reminded that it had approved a proposal for the disposal of the site in September 2013. It was reported that in July 2014, the Board had approved the disposal of land to a named developer following an open market sale process.

Details of a revised offer, heads of terms and a site plan were attached to the report for Members' consideration.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the disposal of the site to the company named in the report at the value specified, subject to planning permission and subject to contract, be approved; and
- 2) the operational Director, Economy, Enterprise and Property, be authorised to arrange all required documentation, to be completed to the satisfaction of the Operational Director, Legal and Democratic Services.

Strategic Director
- Children and
Enterprise

15 January 2015

LEADER'S PORTFOLIO

EXB114 DRAFT CORPORATE PLAN 2015-2018

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Policy and Resources, which sought approval for the design and content of the new Corporate Plan.

The Board was advised that the Corporate Plan set out the Council's vision and values as well as its contribution

to the delivery of the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) 2011-16. It was noted that the current Corporate Plan would end in April 2016, and a new approach was proposed so that the new plan would be a clear and simple reference document which set out the Council's overall aims, vision and values, but with the operational details and performance issues contained within the Directorate Business Plans and Performance Framework. The Board was advised that this approach would improve clarity of the Plans' purpose, reduce duplication with other strategic documents and communicate the core purpose and values of the organisation.

The draft Corporate Plan, attached at Appendix 1, was based around five strategic themes which contributed to the Borough's five strategic priorities, as set out in the report. There was also an additional Council theme incorporated – Corporate Effectiveness and Business Efficiency – which underpinned and supported the achievement of the five strategic themes. Members noted that the draft plan identified a new set of corporate values called 'The Halton Way'. These included co-operative working, managing demand, locality and business approaches, and set out the operating culture of the Council. It was reported that this was based on both current ways of working as well as the increasing need for the Council to respond to future challenges and opportunities so as to manage demand and build more resilient communities.

RESOLVED: That Council be recommended to

- 1) approve the draft 2015-18 Corporate Plan; and
- 2) support the production of an annual report each year based on the Corporate Plan, highlighting the Council's key achievements and issues.

Strategic Director
- Policy &
Resources

RESOURCES PORTFOLIO

EXB116 DIRECTORATE OVERVIEW REPORTS - QUARTER 2

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Policy and Resources, on progress against key objectives/milestones and performance targets for the second quarter to 30 September 2014.

The Board was advised that the Directorate Performance Overview Report provided a strategic summary of key issues arising from performance in the relevant quarter for each Directorate, being aligned to Council

priorities or functional areas. The Board noted that such information was key to the Council's performance management arrangements, with the Board having a key role in monitoring performance and strengthening accountability.

It was reported that Directorate Risk Registers had been reviewed and refreshed in conjunction with the development of Directorate Business Plans 2014-17; monitoring of high risks was reported this period.

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