

Extract of Executive Board Minutes Relevant to the Corporate Services Policy and Performance Board

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 4 JUNE 2015

RESOURCES PORTFOLIO

EXB7 DIRECTORATE OVERVIEW REPORTS

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 2015.

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 each report contained an update concerning the implementation of mitigation measures for all high risks contained within each of the Directorate Risk Registers.

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

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 2 JULY 2015

LEADER'S PORTFOLIO

EXB12 HALTON FOUNDATION (RUNCORN AND WIDNES COMMUNITY FUND)

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Policy and Resources, on progress made on the development of a Community Foundation for Halton.

The Board was advised that the Halton Foundation would link individuals, businesses and organisations with their community to facilitate philanthropy across the Borough. It was reported that the Steering Group had

articulated a Vision and a Mission, as detailed in the report. It was further reported that the Foundation's focus would comprise four main elements:-

- Halton Gives;
- Halton Supports;
- Halton Cares; and
- Halton Shares

and would operate across Runcorn and Widnes to enable individuals, families, companies, entrepreneurs and charitable trusts to support Halton's communities in a cost effective way.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the establishment of the Halton Foundation – Runcorn and Widnes Community Fund be endorsed;
- 2) the Council having an ongoing advisory role in the Halton Foundation as a founding partner be agreed;
- 3) the Leader be authorised to nominate an Elected Member to represent Halton Borough Council on any decision making Boards; and
- 4) subject to trustee approval, it be agreed that charitable funds named in the report and currently administered by the Council, be administered in future by the Community Foundation for Lancashire and Merseyside as part of the Halton Foundation.

Strategic Director
- Policy &
Resources

RESOURCES PORTFOLIO

EXB17 2014/15 FINANCIAL OUTTURN

The Board considered a report of the Operational Director, Finance, on the final revenue and capital spending position for 2014/15.

The Board was advised that the final accounts for 2014/15 were near completion; 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 2015/16 were

implemented over two tranches, the first of which consisted of savings of £11.5m, and approved by Council in December 2014. As a result of some of these savings being implemented early, it provided part-year budget savings in 2014/15.

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

- Children and Families;
- Children's Organisation and Provision Department;
- Community and Environment;
- Prevention and Assessment;
- Finance;
- Legal and Democratic Services;
- Policy, Planning and Transportation; 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 Reserve stood at £8,823,662. It was noted that Council had approved £3m of the General Reserve to be used to balance the budget for 2015/16. In the current economic climate and the financial challenges facing the Council, it was considered that the General Reserve at £5.8m, was considered to be at a reasonable and prudent level, given the scale of the Council's business.

With regard to Capital Spending, details of spending against the 2014/15 capital programme, were attached at Appendix 2. It was noted that spending was £11.0m below the revised capital programme of £43.1m, which represented 75% delivery of the revised capital programme. Members were advised that there had been slippage on several large projects, listed in the report, which would incur expenditure into 2015/16.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the report be noted; and
- 2) the information within the report be taken into account when reviewing the medium term forecast and savings proposals for future years.

Operational
Director - Finance

The Board considered a report of the Operational Director, Finance, on the 2015/16 to 2017/18 Capital Programme.

An updated Capital Programme had been approved by Council on 4 March 2015. The Board was advised that since then, other reports covering planned capital expenditure for 2015/16 and future years had been presented and that there had been slippage reported to capital projects for 2014/15 and rolled forward to 2015/16.

It was reported that the Capital Programme was subject to regular review with monitoring reports presented on a quarterly basis. Table 1 presented information on the planned Capital Programme for 2015/16 onwards, based on current information for approved schemes. Table 2 summarised how the Capital Programme would be funded.

RESOLVED: That Council be recommended to

- 1) approve the updated Capital Programme for 2015/18, including forecast spend and funding as set out in Table 1 and Table 2; and
- 2) the Strategic Director, Policy and Resources, in consultation with the Portfolio holder for Transportation, be delegated authority to agree a detailed implementation programme of Highways and Transportation schemes to be delivered in 2015/16.

Operational
Director - Finance

EXB19 TREASURY MANAGEMENT 2014/15 QUARTER ENDING
31 MARCH 2015

The Board considered a report of the Operational Director, Finance, which updated them on activities undertaken on the money market as required by the Treasury Management Statement.

The report provided supporting information on the economic background, economic forecast, short term rates, longer term rates, temporary borrowing/investments and new borrowing. It was noted that no debt rescheduling had been undertaken during the quarter.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the report be noted; and

- 2) information included be taken into account when approving Treasury Management Strategies in future years.

EXB20 DISABLED GO - ACCESSIBILITY AND EQUALITY SERVICES

The Board considered a report of the Chief Executive, on Disabled Go – Accessibility and Equality Services.

The Board was advised that the Disabled Go Service was the UK's leading provider of accessibility and equality services. The Service covered all types of venue and sought to give users information for them to make an informed choice about accessibility rather than make a decision for them.

It was reported that Disabled Go currently worked with more than 250 public and private sector organisations on its unique Access Guide Service. This strongly linked to Equality Act obligations, and helped disabled people to tackle the barriers faced by them to access venues and services and build resilience and independence.

In developing an Access Service for Halton, it was reported that the Council would seek to work with local partners initially, such as the Clinical Commissioning Group, the Chamber of Commerce, Halton Disability Partnership, the local SEND and the Voluntary, Faith and Community sector.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) in light of the exceptional circumstances set out in the report, Procurement Standing Orders 4.1 to 4.2 be waived in order for the Council to enter into a contract with Disabled Go for the provision of an Access Service in Halton; and
- 2) the Chief Executive, in conjunction with the Portfolio holder for Resources, be authorised to negotiate terms and enter into a contract for Access Services in Halton with Disabled Go.

Chief Executive