

EXECUTIVE BOARD SUB COMMITTEE

*At a meeting of the Executive Board Sub Committee on Thursday, 20 September 2007
in the Marketing Suite, Municipal Building*

Present: Councillors Wharton (Chairman) and Harris

Apologies for Absence: Councillor Nelson

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: M. Reaney, G. Ferguson, A. Denton, J. Hatton, A. Page and
J. Goacher

Also in attendance: None

ITEMS DEALT WITH UNDER POWERS AND DUTIES EXERCISABLE BY THE SUB-COMMITTEE

		<i>Action</i>
ES27	<p>SCHEDULE 12A OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985</p> <p>The Committee considered:</p> <p>(1) whether Members of the press and public should be excluded from the meeting of the Committee 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 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</p> <p>(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.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That as, in all the circumstances of the</p>	

case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs 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 is likely that, in view of the nature of the business, exempt information will be disclosed, being information defined in Section 100 (1) and paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

CORPORATE SERVICES PORTFOLIO

ES28 GARAGE SITE COLONY, SURREY STREET, RUNCORN

The Sub-Committee considered a report which sought approval to dispose of the garage site colony at Surrey Street, Runcorn. The land at Surrey Street was currently let as 12 garage plots which were let on monthly tenancies. In April 2007 the Council was approached by a developer wishing to acquire the land at Surrey Street to include in his adjoining development site. The developer had offered £30,000 for the site subject to the garage tenancies and an obligation that the developer shall enter into negotiations with the existing tenants to provide alternative accommodation.

RESOLVED: That approval be granted to sell the land to Barros/Parker Developments at a figure of £30,000.

Strategic Director
Corporate and
Policy

ES29 DISPOSAL OF LAND AT LIVERPOOL ROAD, WIDNES

The Sub-Committee considered a report which sought approval to dispose of the former Ditton Junior School site. Following marketing 17 firms had submitted sealed offers opened on 28th June 2007. Following examination of the bids only four were deemed to be worthy of further detailed consideration in relation both to the brief issued and being of reasonable value. These firms were approached and asked to remove or reduce their qualifications to allow a more reliable comparison. All four firms amended their bids, taking out the majority of qualifications. The highest net offer that fully complied with the brief was submitted by Harron Homes in the sum of £1,495,000.

RESOLVED: That approval be given to sell the land to Harron Homes.

Strategic Director
Corporate and
Policy

PLANNING, TRANSPORTATION, REGENERATION AND RENEWAL PORTFOLIO

ES30 TAKING FORWARD THE 'ENTERPRISE' GAME

The Sub-Committee received an update on the work of Halton Education Business Partnership (Halton EPB) to sell the Enterprise Game (a learning resource developed in partnership with Halton Secondary and Special Schools) and to seek approval to take appropriate steps to build on that considerable success.

Discussions had taken place both with the Halton Association of Secondary Heads and with the Senior Management Team of Children and Young People to investigate if, and how the capacity might be created within Halton EPB to best implement the next steps. The proposal endorsed by both, was to re-invest some of the emerging income streams from game sales in appointing a Team Leader for Halton EPB to free up the equivalent of 3 days per week for the EPB Manager to maximise the opportunities for Halton being created by the demand for the Enterprise Game. Ongoing progress reports would feed into the 14-19 Partnership and the Senior Management Team of Children and Young People.

In addition, following further specialist advice, Halton EPB had instructed Potts Kerr and Co. to make three European Community design applications to better protect the Council's own intellectual property rights associated with emerging editions of the game. The EPB was currently also exploring in which specific countries extending such protection might offer good value for money.

RESOLVED: That in relation to the Enterprise Game

- (1) the progress report be noted;
- (2) the proposed next steps as set out in the report be approved for implementation by the Strategic Director Children and Young People, in consultation with the relevant portfolio holder;
- (3) the Strategic Director Children and Young People report back to Executive Board Sub-Committee in 2008 on the commercial opportunities and options that may become available to Halton and on actions taken under this Minute, which will include investigation into setting up a separate trading arm to bring additional monies into the Council; and

Strategic Director
Children and
Young People

(4) the Strategic Director Children and Young People, in consultation with the relevant portfolio holder, be authorised to take such actions as may be necessary within Council's policies and procedures further to develop the game in the Council's interests;

(5) Procurement Standing Orders 3.1-3.7 and 3.9-3.10 (contracts £50,000-£1M) and 4.1-4.3 (contracts £0-£50,000) be waived in connection with all contracts for services and supplies for the development, promotion, marketing and sale of The Enterprise Game and its associated variants awarded by or on behalf of the Strategic Director Children and Young People.

ES31 CASTLEFIELDS REGENERATION PROGRAMME

The Sub-Committee received a report which sought approval for the disposal of the Castlefields Community Centre to Partners 4 Lift and for the receipts to be used to contribute to the funding package required to build a new Community Centre as set out in the Castlefields Regeneration Master Plan. The report included pre-tender cost estimates for the new Community Centre, the District Valuer's value of the land and details of the Capital Budget for the new Community Centre. In order to assemble the budget it was essential that the Capital Receipt for the land sale of the existing Community Centre, together with that of the old Youth Centre site were used to help fund the new Centre.

RESOLVED: That

(1) the Capital Receipts from the sale of the existing Community Centre be used to part fund the new Centre; and

(2) the Strategic Director Corporate and Policy in conjunction with the Executive Board Member Corporate Services be authorised to sell the existing Castlefields Community Centre owned by Halton Borough Council to Partners 4 Lift.

Strategic Director
Environment

MINUTES ISSUED: 26th September 2007

CALL IN: 2nd October 2007

Any matter decided by the Executive Board Sub Committee may be called in no later than 2nd October 2007

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Meeting ended at 10.40 a.m.