

EXECUTIVE BOARD

At a meeting of the Executive Board on Thursday, 13 December 2007 in the Marketing Suite, Municipal Building

Present: Councillors Polhill (In the Chair) Gerrard, Harris, McInerney, Nelson, Polhill, Swain, Wharton and Wright.

Apologies for Absence: Councillors McDermott and D. Cargill

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: M. Reaney, G. Cook, A. Cross, B. Dodd, D. Johnson, I. Leivesley, G. Meehan, D. Parr and D. Tregear and M. Simpson

ITEMS DEALT WITH UNDER POWERS AND DUTIES EXERCISABLE BY THE BOARD

EXB68 MINUTES

Action

The Minutes of the meeting held on 15th November 2007 were taken as read and signed as correct record.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE PORTFOLIO

EXB69 ANNUAL PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT (CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S DIRECTORATE)

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Young People, which detailed the outcome of the Children and Young People's directorate Annual Performance Assessment 2006/07.

It was reported that the Annual Performance Assessment (APA) of services for children focussed mainly on the operational responsibilities of the Children and Young People's directorate and how it achieved the five outcomes for children set out in Every Child Matters. The five outcomes were noted as follows:

- Be Healthy
- Stay Safe

- Enjoy and Achieve
- Make a Positive Contribution
- Achieve Economic Wellbeing

It was noted that the APA of the Children and Young People's directorate also made judgements in relation to:

- The Council's services for children and the specific contributions they made to improving outcomes for Children and Young People; and
- The Council's management of its services for Children and Young People and its capacity to further improve those services.

The Board was advised that judgements were made on a scale of 1 to 4 with 4 being the highest. The grades were reported as follows:

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| • Overall effectiveness of children's services | 3 |
| • Being Healthy | 3 |
| • Staying Safe | 4 |
| • Enjoying and Achieving | 3 |
| • Making a Positive Contribution | 4 |
| • Achieving Economic Well-being | 2 |
| • Capacity to improve, including the Management of Children's Services | 3 |

Members thanked the Children and Young People's directorate for all their hard work in gaining the excellent results.

RESOLVED: That the Executive Board formally receives the Annual Performance Assessment of Children's Services undertaken by Ofsted.

Strategic Director-Children & Young People

ENVIRONMENT, LEISURE AND SPORT PORTFOLIO

EXB70 MUNICIPAL WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director, Environment that contained the Draft Updated Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Halton. The report advised Members of financial consequences associated with the Draft Strategy and recommended that the Draft Strategy be subject to consultation as detailed within the report.

It was noted that the Council's current Municipal Waste Management Strategy was approved by the Executive Board on 12th February 2004 and adopted as an enabling document to provide a set of aspirations and principles to guide the Council's actions and activities on waste management issues.

The Strategy outlined plans for sustainable waste management service for Halton, with a high degree of waste reduction, recycling and composting that had been implemented throughout the Borough since its adoption. The Strategy did not set out the specific future waste treatment facilities to be procured, but outlined the types of facilities most likely to provide a solution, and a framework for Halton to plan and manage its waste services in an integrated manner. This approach provided the flexibility for the Authority to procure the best and most appropriate residual waste treatment solutions.

It was reported that HBC was working in partnership with the Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority and, with the support of external consultants, the Authorities were updating their respective Strategies and aligning the strategic approaches within each. A copy of the draft updated Strategy for Halton, that had been produced with direct government consultancy support funding was detailed within the report.

A detailed review of the Council's strategy was proposed to take place in 2010. The purpose of the interim update was to ensure that the Council's Strategy document remained fit for purpose.

Members were advised of the new target for recycling / composting of a least 30% of waste by 2010 which replaced the previous target of 50%. The previous target was not founded on any modelling of the service but was an aspiration based on good practice in Europe. Since the publication of the current Strategy, detailed modelling had been carried out by external consultants that initially considered the potential for recycling in Halton using a variety of different kerbside collection recycling services and more recently, the effect of providing a multi-material recycling collection service to all properties in the Borough.

It was reported that the consultation exercise would be undertaken for a four week period during December 2007 and January 2008 and it was proposed that the consultation results would be reported to the Executive Board in

February 2008. It would be recommended that the Draft Strategy be refined to take account of the results, and any subsequent proposal for amendments, prior to seeking approval and adopting a final updated Strategy.

RESOLVED: That

1. Executive Board approve the Draft updated Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Halton for the purposes of public consultation;
2. A further report be presented to the Executive Board in February 2008, which will report the outcome of the consultation, together with a recommendation that the Executive Board endorse the production of a final Strategy that takes account of the consultation results; and
3. Members note the financial implications associated with the Council's Waste Management Strategy and consider them further in the preparation of the budgets for 2008/09 and beyond.

Strategic Director
- Environment

PLANNING, TRANSPORTATION, REGENERATION AND RENEWAL PORTFOLIO

EXB71 GROWTH POINT SUBMISSION OF INTEREST

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Environment providing detailed information of the recent submission of an Expression of Interest for Halton to be awarded Growth Point Status as part of a joint Merseyside Submission to Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG).

It was reported that the Housing Green Paper, July 2007 (previously reported to Members) included proposals to extend the Government's Growth Points and Eco-Towns programme to cover areas within the North of England. Local Authorities in the North West were subsequently invited to submit Expressions of Interest (EoI) to Government Office by 31st October. Due to the incredibly short timescale for submissions, authorisation was gained from the Leader (Cllr McDermott) and the Environment Portfolio Holder (Cllr. Polhill) for the submission of an initial EoI.

It was noted that Growth Points should be able to deliver in excess of 500 dwellings per annum at a rate representing at least a 20% increase on figures within Regional Spatial Strategy to 2016. Growth Points would have access to a share of a £300 million Community

Infrastructure Fund.

Following informal advice from GONW it was quickly decided that it would be most appropriate for the Mersey Policy Unit (MPU) to co-ordinate a joint submission on behalf of the Merseyside Authorities. This joint submission was divided into two potential growth areas centred on Liverpool and Wirral Waterfronts, and Halton and St Helens.

It was reported that Government Office had advised that they expected the decision, on which Authorities had been selected to work up their proposals in more detail, should be issued within a matter of weeks.

Members discussed the following points:

- the number, type and affordability of dwellings;
- assortment of other facilities;
- employment and residential led regeneration of the area; and
- access and egress to the development.

RESOLVED: That

1. Members ratify the actions taken regarding the submission of a Growth Point Expression of Interest; and
2. Members authorise officers to work with our partners on Merseyside and where appropriate private landowners to further work up proposals should Halton be selected by DCLG to progress to the next round.

Strategic Director
- Environment

Minutes Issued: 21st December 2007

Call in: 1st January 2008

Any matter decided by the Executive Board may be called in no later than 1st January 2008

Meeting ended at 12.30 p.m.