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COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Council on Wednesday, 7 December 2022 in the Council Chamber - Town Hall, Runcorn

Present: Councillors Abbott, Ball, Baker, Begg, Bramwell, D. Cargill, E. Cargill, Carlin, Dennett, Davidson, Dourley, Fry, Garner, Gilligan, Harris, V. Hill, Hutchinson, Jones, Leck, M. Lloyd Jones, P. Lloyd Jones, Loftus, Logan, A. Lowe, J. Lowe, McDermott, T. McInerney, Nelson, Nolan, Philbin, Polhill, C. Plumpton Walsh, N. Plumpton Walsh, Ratcliffe, Rowe, G. Stockton, Stretch, Aimee Teeling, Angela Teeling, Thompson, Thornton, Wall, Wallace, Wharton, Woolfall and Wright

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Bevan, J. Bradshaw, M. Bradshaw, Goodall, S. Hill, A. McInerney, Nolan and Wainwright

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: M. Reaney, S. Young and G. Ferguson

Also in attendance: None

Action

COU41 COUNCIL MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of Council held on 19 October 2022 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

COU42 LEADER'S REPORT

The Leader highlighted the following issues since the last meeting of the Council:

- Ofsted had revisited the Children's Services Department for a focussed visit of our 'front door' arrangements. This was the first visit since the focussed visit of November 2021. Once the formal report was received an update would be provided to Members; and
- An outline of the implications of the Government's Autumn Statement on 17 November and its anticipated impact on the Council and the public.

COU43 MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

The Council considered the minutes of the Executive Board meetings on 20 October 2022 and 17 November

2022.

RESOLVED: That the minutes be received.

COU44 MINUTES OF THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

The Council considered the minutes of the Health and Wellbeing Board meeting on 12 October 2022.

RESOLVED: That the minutes be received.

COU45 QUESTIONS ASKED UNDER STANDING ORDER 8

It was noted that no questions had been submitted under Standing Order No. 8.

COU46 2022/23 REVISED CAPITAL PROGRAMME AS AT 30 JUNE 2022

Council was asked to consider the attached report.

RESOLVED: That the revisions to the Council's 2022/23 capital programme set out in paragraph 3.2 of the report, be approved.

COU47 2022/23 REVISED CAPITAL PROGRAMME AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2022

Council was asked to consider the attached report.

RESOLVED: That the revisions to the Council's 2022/23 capital programme set out in paragraph 3.2 of the report, be approved.

COU48 DETERMINATION OF COUNCIL TAX BASE 2023-24 - KEY DECISION

The Council considered a report of the Operational Director, Finance, on the determination of the Council Tax Base for 2023-24.

Operational
Director - Finance

Reason for Decision

To seek approval for the Council Tax Base for the Borough and also the Council Tax Base for each of the Parishes.

Alternative options considered and rejected

The Council is required to determine annually the Council Tax Base and to notify the Cheshire Fire Authority, the

Cheshire Police and Crime Commissioner, Liverpool City Region Combined Authority, the Environment Agency and Parish Councils.

Implementation date

The Council Tax Base 2023/24 will be implemented from 1 April 2023.

In accordance with Standing Order 16 (3), a recorded vote was taken.

The following Members voted FOR the motion:

Councillors Abbott, Ball, Baker, Begg, Bramwell, D. Cargill, E. Cargill, Carlin, Dennett, Dourley, Fry, Garner, Gilligan, Harris, V. Hill, Hutchinson, Jones, Leck, M. Lloyd Jones, P. Lloyd Jones, K. Loftus, Logan, A. Lowe, J. Lowe, McDermott, T. McInerney, Nelson, P. Nolan, Philbin, C. Plumpton Walsh, N. Plumpton Walsh, Polhill, Ratcliffe, Rowe, G. Stockton, Aimee Teeling, Angela Teeling, Thompson, Thornton, Wall, Wallace, Wharton, Woolfall, and Wright.

The following Member voted against the motion:

Councillor Davidson.

There were no abstentions.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the Council Tax Base for 2023/24 be set at 36,241 for the Borough, and that the Cheshire Fire Authority, the Cheshire Police & Crime Commissioner, Liverpool City Region Combined Authority and the Environment Agency be so notified; and
- 2) Council set the Council Tax Base for each of the Parishes as follows:

Parish	Tax Base
Hale	668
Halebank	528
Daresbury	186
Moore	336
Preston Brook	370
Sandymoor	1,473

BOARDS AND THE AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE BOARD

The Council considered the reports of the following Boards in the period since the meeting of Council on 19 October 2022:-

- Children, Young People and Families;
- Employment, Learning, Skills and Community;
- Health;
- Safer;
- Environment and Urban Renewal;
- Corporate Services; and
- Audit & Governance Board.

(N.B. Councillor G. Stockton declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in Minute DEV20 of the Development Management Committee as he was the applicant)

COU50 COMMITTEE MINUTES

The Council considered the reports of the following Committees in the period since the meeting of Council on 19 October 2022:-

- Development Management;
- Regulatory; and
- Appointments

COU51 NOTICE OF MOTION - GOVERNMENT ACCESS TO WORK PROGRAMME

Government Access To Work Programme

Council considered a Notice of Motion submitted in accordance with Standing Order No. 6.

The following Motion was proposed by Councillor Abbott and seconded by Councillor Wallace:-

Halton Borough Council recognises that many of the 22% of our local population who have a disability are excluded from employment often because they cannot physically get to a workplace or there is a lack of appropriate work place equipment.

HM Government "Access to work" programme enables people with disabilities to access funding to pay for transport to work and equipment in the work place.

However this scheme is millions of pounds under claimed

and many local people live in poverty on benefits even though they have the skills and abilities to undertake decent paid employment. This lack of support excludes many local people from the work force.

Halton Borough Council commits itself to publicise and promote "Access to Work" to help tackle this inequality.

Meeting ended at 6.55 p.m.