

Minutes

**For Presentation to the Council
At the meeting to be held on**

**Wednesday, 7 December
2022**

Minutes

For Presentation to the Council
At the meeting to be held on
Wednesday, 7 December 2022

COMMITTEE/BOARD	Page Ref
COUNCIL MINUTES	1 - 4
MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD	
20 October 2022	5 - 18
17 November 2022	19 - 26
MINUTES OF THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD	27 - 32
MINUTES OF THE POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARDS AND THE AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE BOARD	
Children, Young People and Families	33 - 40
Employment, Learning, Skills and Community	41 - 48
Health	49 - 56
Safer	57 - 60
Environment and Urban Renewal	61 - 66
Corporate Services	67 - 70
Audit & Governance Board	71 - 74
COMMITTEE MINUTES	
Development Management	75 - 88
Regulatory	89 - 92
Appointments	93 - 96

COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Council on Wednesday, 19 October 2022 in the Council Chamber - Town Hall, Runcorn

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

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Leck, Nolan, Ratcliffe and Wall

Absence declared on Council business: None

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

Also in attendance: 5 representatives of the Halton Youth Cabinet and two members of the public.

Action

COU31 COUNCIL MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of Council held on 13 July 2022 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

COU32 THE MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

At the commencement of the meeting the Mayor welcomed representatives from the Halton Youth Cabinet to the meeting. The Mayor also advised Members that:

- the family of former Councillor Eastup had donated a painting to the Council;
- he had recently met and congratulated Mr Noone, who had been undertaking challenges to raise funds for the Macmillan Cancer Charity. Mr Noone had presented the Mayor with a vest he had worn during the challenges; and
- he had met with two Buddhist monks from a temple in Runcorn and they had presented him with two gifts.

COU33 LEADER'S REPORT

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

- on 8th September 2022, Her Majesty the Queen sadly passed away following which the Council conducted a range of activities connected with “Operation London Bridge” which was the plan associated with the death of Her Majesty. The Council had conducted itself impeccably in observing the various protocols and traditions associated with the death of a monarch and the proclamation of a new King;
- in response to the cost-of-living crisis, the Council had recently agreed a process to distribute the £1.3 million Household Support Fund Extension Grant received from Government. Four key areas of need had been targeted:
 - ensuring those children who received free school meals have access to food during the October half term;
 - vulnerable pensioners to help with their rising energy bills;
 - a sum for discretionary support to help vulnerable people who did not fit the first two categories; and
 - a sum had been made available for partners in the charity sector to distribute directly food and warmth support.
- the Governments mini budget announced on 23 September. The Leader gave an outline of their plans and also his concerns of how the Government was going to pay for the tax cuts announced in the mini budget;
- progress made to date against balancing the Council budget and in year pressures;
- an update on the latest office development at Sci Tech Daresbury (Project Violet) which was completed in February and already at 80% full; and
- an update on the progress of the revised Council Senior Management Structure.

COU34 URGENT DECISIONS

The Council considered a report of the Chief Executive, on the urgent decisions taken since the last meeting of the Council.

RESOLVED: That Council note the report.

COU35 MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

The Council considered the minutes of the Executive Board meeting on 14 July 2022.

RESOLVED: That the minutes be received.

COU36 MINUTES OF THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

The Council considered the minutes of the Health and Wellbeing Board meeting on 6 July 2022.

RESOLVED: That the minutes be received.

COU37 QUESTIONS ASKED UNDER STANDING ORDER 8

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

COU38 2022/23 TO 2024/25 CAPITAL PROGRAMME (MINUTE EXB 17 REFERS)

The Council considered a report of the Operational Director, Finance, which sought approval for a number of revisions to the Council's 2022/23 Capital Programme.

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

COU39 MINUTES OF THE POLICY AND PERFORMANCE 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 13 July 2022:-

- Safer;
- Environment and Urban Renewal;
- Corporate Services; and
- Audit & Governance Board.

COU40 COMMITTEE MINUTES

The Council considered the reports of the following Committees in the period since the meeting of Council on 13 July 2022:-

- Development Management;
- Appointments; and
- Taxi Licensing Sub Committee

Meeting ended at 7.02 p.m.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

*At a meeting of the Executive Board on Thursday, 20 October 2022 in the Boardroom -
Municipal Building, Widnes*

Present: Councillors Wharton (Chair), Harris, M. Lloyd Jones, J. Lowe,
T. McInerney, Nelson, Nolan, Thompson and Wright

Apologies for Absence: None

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: S. Young, M. Vasic, M. Reaney, E. Dawson, G. Ferguson and
D. Nolan

Also in attendance: N. McGrath and S. Scott – Halton Housing Trust. One
member of the public and Councillor McDermott.

**ITEMS DEALT WITH
UNDER POWERS AND DUTIES
EXERCISABLE BY THE BOARD**

	<i>Action</i>
EXB22 MINUTES	
The Minutes of the meeting held on 14 July 2022 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.	
LEADER'S PORTFOLIO	
EXB23 URGENT DECISIONS	
The Executive Board received a report from the Chief Executive, which provided information on the urgent decisions taken since the last meeting of the Board.	
It was noted that the Council's Constitution gave authority to the Chief Executive to take urgent decisions, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Operational Director Finance and/or the Operational Director Legal and Democratic Services, where necessary.	
Four urgent decisions had been made since the last meeting of the Board and full details were published on the Council's website.	

RESOLVED: That the urgent decisions taken since the last meeting of the Executive Board be noted.

EXB24 PROCUREMENT OF PROPERTY TERM CONSULTANT SERVICES

The Board considered a report of the Operational Director of Economy, Enterprise and Property, that notified Members of the intention to utilise the Matrix MM online market place to appoint Cassidy & Ashton as the main property term consultants for up to a four year period.

Cassidy & Ashton were the current term consultants and were appointed via the Chest in November 2018. The initial contract period was for three years and ended on 16 November 2021, a 12 month extension option was available which was exercised.

It was noted that during the past 4 years Cassidy & Ashton had consistently delivered a high level of service across all disciplines and it was considered desirable that the Council continued to engage with them going forward.

RESOLVED: That Members note the intention to utilise the Matrix MM online Market Place in order to appoint Cassidy & Ashton as our main property term consultants going forward for up to a 4 year period.

Operational
Director -
Economy,
Enterprise &
Property

EXB25 2022/23 SPENDING AS AT 30 JUNE 2022

The Board received a report from the Operational Director – Finance, which reported the Council's overall revenue net spending position as at 30 June 2022, together with an initial forecast outturn position. The report also included the financial impact of Covid-19 with a summary of Government funding made available to the Council to date.

A summary of spending against the operational revenue budget up to 30 June 2022 was presented in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 and these provided detailed figures for each individual Department. In overall terms the outturn forecast for the year showed that net spend would be over the approved budget by £4.661m. It was noted that this figure was based on current service demand and forecast of future costs and income levels. Appendix 3 presented the Capital Programme as at 30 June 2022.

The implications to the Council of the recently announced 1.25% increase in National Insurance contributions was discussed.

RESOLVED: That

Operational
Director - Finance

- 1) all spending continues to be limited to only absolutely essential items;
- 2) Strategic Directors take urgent action to identify areas where spending could be reduced or suspended for the remainder of the current financial year; and
- 3) Council be requested to approve the revisions to the Capital Programme as set out in paragraph 3.14.

EXB26 COUNCIL CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY OF GROCERY AND CHILLED GOODS (INCL FRUIT, VEGETABLES AND DAIRY)

The Board considered a report of the Operational Director – Community and Environment, which sought approval to commence a new procurement process for the supply of Grocery and Chilled Goods.

RESOLVED: That

Operational
Director -
Community &
Environment

- 1) the preliminary estimates report be approved in compliance with Procurement Standing Order 1.3.4; and
- 2) Officers be authorised to undertake a call-off in compliance with Procurement Standing Order 1.4.1, Frameworks, accessing the TUCO Grocery, Frozen and Chilled Food, including associated goods of Fresh Fruit & Vegetables Framework for a 2 year period with the option to extend for a further two separate 12 month periods from 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2026 with an estimated total expenditure of £4 million.

DEPUTY LEADER'S PORTFOLIO

EXB27 WIDNES MARKET

The Board considered a report which provided Members with an updated Business Plan and Market Protocols for Widnes Market. Both of these documents highlighted the changes required to Widnes Market to bring it in line with the Council's financial procedures. A copy of the Business Plan and Market Protocols were attached as appendices to the report.

The Widnes Market Protocols and Charging Policy

were previously approved by Executive Board at the meeting on 11 April 2019 (Minute EXB121 refers). In the intervening years a number of issues had been raised around the operation of Widnes Market which had necessitated some amendments to the market regulations and the main points of these changes were set out in the report.

In addition the Board noted that the Widnes Market Business Plan had been updated to take into account the priorities and actions required to be undertaken to ensure the market continued to be at the heart of the Widnes Town Centre. The main focus of the business plan was to set out the vision and strategy for the market over the next three years.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the report be noted;
- 2) the amendments to the Market Protocols as outlined in the Report, (section 3.2 refers) be approved; and
- 3) the Board requested the Corporate Policy and Performance Board to review the findings of the proposed Customer Survey, with a view to it bringing forward any further comments to the Executive Board on the proposed amended Market Business Plan.

Operational
Director -
Economy,
Enterprise &
Property

ADULT SOCIAL CARE PORTFOLIO

EXB28 ST PATRICK'S AND ST LUKE'S CARE HOMES REDEVELOPMENT CONTRACT

The Board considered a report which notified Members of the intention to undertake a procurement exercise via the RISE framework in respect of St Patrick's and St Luke's Care Homes.

It was noted that previously Eric Wright Construction were contracted to refurbish the Lillycross Care facility. The works were completed on time and on budget to a high standard, all of which demonstrated their capability and experience of working in the care sector. Furthermore, of the 20 contractors who were on the general building framework, Eric Wright Construction were the most cost competitive on the price valuation.

The overall estimated cost for both schemes amounted to circa £3.885m.

RESOLVED: That Members note the intention to undertake a procurement exercise via the RISE framework and make a direct award to Eric Wright Construction in respect of the redevelopment of both St Patrick’s and St Luke’s Care Homes, subject to them submitting competitive prices for the works.

Operational Director
Economy, Enterprise & Property

EXB29 A NEW ASSURANCE FRAMEWORK FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – People, which provided an update on the Halton preparation for the new Care Quality Commission (CQC) Adult Social care assurance framework. It was noted that:

- The CQC had now published a draft assessment framework for consultation;
- North West ADASS Sector Led Improvement Board were leading on the assurance preparation across the North West and they had pulled together a number of work streams to support local authorities with assurance preparations;
- The LGA had completed an initial scoping of key data requirements aligned to the proposed assurance framework. A proposed set of indicators had been developed in draft form; and
- Halton Adult Social Care Management Team had established a task and finish group to ensure the Council was fully prepared for a CQC inspection, working on a timeline for full preparation by April 2023.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the report be noted;
- 2) the approach to the preparation and generation of an improvement plan be agreed;
- 3) the risks be noted; and
- 4) the Board agree that a members seminar be held later in the year to brief on the plan.

Strategic Director
- People

EXB30 COMMUNITY MEALS: RE-COMMISSIONING OPTIONS

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – People, which outlined proposals for the re-

commissioning for the provision of the Community Meals Service from 1 April 2023. The Council currently provides a Community Meals Service to eligible adults within Halton who were unable to shop or prepare a meals for themselves due to age, illness or disability. An external catering provider currently supplies the Council with frozen ready prepared meals.

It was noted that the Council's Internal Audit team had undertaken a planned audit of the Community Meals Service for the financial year 2020/21. Outlined in the Audit report, the Internal Audit Team made a number of recommendations for the service. One of the recommendations set out that an interim contract should be awarded to the existing supplier whilst the Council considers alternative community meals service delivery options. Subsequently, a one-year contract was agreed with the current supplier Apetito until 31 March 2023.

The report set out a number of options (Appendix A) in relation to the supply of meals from 1 April 2023 and requested the Board to advise on the preferred option.

RESOLVED: The Board agreed that option 1, as set out in Appendix A of the report, was the preferred re-commissioning option for the provision of the Community Meals Service from 1 April 2023.

Strategic Director
- People

EXB31 HALTON HOUSING TRUST - ANNUAL REPORT

The Board received the Halton Housing Trust's (HHT) Annual Report, which provided an update on their activities since the last report to Executive Board in October 2021.

The Chair welcomed Sam Scott, Group Chief Executive and Neil McGrath, Deputy Group Chief Executive of Halton Housing, who presented the report to the Board – *Annual Report to HBC Executive Board, October 2022.*

The report outlined some of the key achievements over the past year, these included the completion of 31 new homes for affordable rent and 48 new homes for shared ownership; Destination Ditton Pilot had been completed, delivery of their largest independent living scheme of 100 homes in Sandymoor (Hazlehurst) was completed, continued performance improvement in responding to and addressing customer complaints and the Trust had continued to work with the Halton Borough Council hubs to support customers during the pandemic.

The guests' responded to Members' questions on the report and Members congratulated the Trust on its achievements.

RESOLVED: That the Board notes the report.

ENVIRONMENT AND URBAN RENEWAL PORTFOLIO

EXB32 CONTRACTOR INVOLVEMENT IN THE EAST RUNCORN CONNECTIVITY (ERC) PROJECT

The Board considered a report from the Operational Director – Policy, Planning and Transportation, which sought approval to utilise the SCAPE framework to secure Balfour Beatty to provide contractor involvement in the development of the four schemes that comprised the East Runcorn Connectivity (ERC) project.

The full ERC scheme comprised four elements:

- A558 dualling from Pitts Heath Lane to Innovation Way;
- A56 Major Maintenance – Keckwick Lane to M56 junction 11;
- Potential loop road M56 junction 11 to A533; and
- A suite of active and sustainable travel interventions.

The Scape Framework had been used successfully for the completion of works on Silver Jubilee Bridge, Runcorn Delinking and Runcorn Station Quarter projects. The Scape had six stages as shown in Appendix 1. The report sought permission to utilise the Scape process to the end of Stage 3 (pre-construction). Once Stage 3 was complete and provided technical considerations were favourable and funding was available, a further report would be presented to the Board to seek approval to sign a 'delivery agreement' and proceed into construction.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) approval is given to procure, via the SCAPE framework, contractor input into the ERC Project, up to and including 'Pre-construction Stage'; and
- 2) delegated authority is given to the Operational Director – Planning and Transport, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder Environment and Urban Renewal, to implement activities to pass the formal SCAPE gateways up to and including 'Pre-construction Stage'.

Operational
Director - Policy,
Planning and
Transportation

Councillor Thompson declared an interest in the following item as he is a Member of the Town Deal Board

EXB33 BRINDLEY GREEN, RUNCORN SCAPE FRAMEWORK

The Board considered a report of the Operational Director – Economy, Enterprise and Property, which provided an update on:

- the development of the High Street Connectivity project in support of the Runcorn Town Investment Plan; and
- the Inception Phase of the previously approved development of the High Street Connectivity project as per the Town Centre bid, which led to a change in scope.

The report also sought approval to utilise the SCAPE framework for the integration of the already designed Brindley Green plans with the High Street scheme to Project Order stage.

RESOLVED: That the Board approve

- 1) the use of the SCAPE framework for the integration of the already designed Brindley Green plans with the High Street scheme to Project Order stage; and
- 2) the delegation of authority to the Operational Director, Economy, Enterprise and Property to authorise the passing of the SCAPE gateways prior to this stage.

Operational Director -
Economy, Enterprise &
Property

EXB34 ENVIRONMENT SERVICES DYNAMIC PURCHASING SYSTEM

The Board considered a report which sought approval to proceed with a procurement process with regard to the provision of an Environment Services Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS).

The Environment Services Division currently utilised DPS to source landscape contractors to carry out construction works in the Borough's parks, playgrounds and open spaces. The Division's existing DPS would come to an end on 31 March 2023. It was proposed that a new Environment Services DPS would be set up for an initial 4 year period.

Based upon previous expenditure it was anticipated that the total annual value of the further competition

exercises tendered via the Environment Services Division DPS was likely to be up to £1.5m thus making the value of a four year contract up to £6m. This figure was above the Public Contract Regulation threshold and as such it would need to be procured in accordance with the Public Contract Regulations 2015.

RESOLVED: That approval be given for a procurement process to be undertaken with the purpose of creating an Environment Services Dynamic Purchasing System.

Operational
Director
Community
&
Environment

-
&

CLIMATE CHANGE PORTFOLIO

EXB35 HALTON SMART MICRO GRID

The Board considered a report of the Chief Executive, which sought for a waiver of compliance with part 2 and/or 3 of Procurement Standing Orders 1.14.4, to allow a direct contract award to Horizon Energy and Power to provide technical support development of the Halton Micro Grid including submitting a planning application and developing all documentation to enable design and build tenders to be invited.

The Board was advised that at a previous meeting the Board had endorsed a scheme to extend the Solar Farm on the former St Michael's Golf Course and create a micro grid connecting in the Municipal Building, Lowerhouse Lane Depot and the new Leisure Centre in Moor Lane (Minute EXB75/2021 refers).

The scheme also had the endorsement of the Liverpool City Region (LCR) Internal Investment Panel with a potential for a grant allocation of £2.5m towards the capital costs. A key condition of the Investment Panel's decision was that the Council provided an updated cost for the project to reflect current market prices.

In order to meet the condition set out by the LCR Internal Investment Panel the Council would be required to undertake a procurement exercise and seek planning approval for the scheme. This would require specialist consultancy support in a number of areas, details of which were outlined in the report.

The Council had appointed Horizon Power and Energy to undertake consultancy work in relation to the initial solar farm project and they had provided a quote for the above scope of work for the Micro Grid Project. A

benchmarking exercise of the costs submitted by Horizon Power and Energy had been undertaken against the consultancy rates on the ESPO Public Sector Procurement Framework and this had shown that the costs of the work were in line with the framework rates.

RESOLVED: Executive Board give approval that

Chief Executive

- 1) Procurement Standing Orders 2 and or 3 be waived pursuant to Standing Order 1.14.4 (non-emergency procedures – exceeding a value threshold of £100,000), 1.14.4 (iv) where compliance with Procurement Standing Orders would result in the Council having to forego a clear financial or commercial benefit); and
- 2) a contract award be made to Horizon Energy and Power as their quote demonstrates value for money against the ESPO Public Sector Procurement Framework rates and of their expertise and detailed knowledge of the Halton Micro Grid Project.

EXB36 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 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
- 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 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, exempt information would be disclosed, being information defined in Section 100 (1) and paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

With prior permission from the Leader, Councillor McDermott remained to observe the following items.

DEPUTY LEADER'S PORTFOLIO

EXB37 PROPOSED LEISURE CENTRE, MOOR LANE, UPDATE REPORT

The Board considered a report of the Operational Director – Economy, Enterprise and Property, which provided an update on the progress in respect of the proposed Leisure Centre on Moor Lane. The report also sought approval to proceed following submission of the updated costs from the contractor.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the report be noted; and
- 2) approval is given to proceed with the construction of the Leisure Centre, and enter into a contract with Wates Construction to deliver the scheme.

Operational Director - Economy, Enterprise & Property

ENVIRONMENT AND URBAN RENEWAL PORTFOLIO

EXB38 SILVER JUBILEE BRIDGE LIGHTING SCHEME

The Board considered a report of the Operational Director – Policy, Planning and Transportation, which provided an update on the competitive tendering exercise that had been carried out utilising the 'Scape Framework' in accordance with Procurement Standing Order 1.4.1 to provide costings for a new architectural lighting scheme on Silver Jubilee Bridge.

The Board thanked Councillor S. Hill for his contribution towards this project.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the 'Scape Framework' is used for fulfilling of the supply and installation of the SJB floodlighting

Operational Director - Policy, Planning and Transportation

scheme in compliance with Procurement Standing Order 1.4.1;

- 2) the tendered sum set out in section 3.4 is accepted and the capital programme amended accordingly; and
- 3) delegated powers are given to the Operational Director – Policy, Planning and Transportation in conjunction with Portfolio Holder for Environment and Urban Renewal to undertake the necessary actions to deliver the proposed lighting scheme.

ADULT SOCIAL CARE PORTFOLIO

EXB39 LILYCROSS CARE CENTRE - CARE BEDS

The Board considered a report from the Director of Adult Social Services, which sought a waiver in compliance with Procurement Standing Order 1.14.4 (v) of Part 3 of Procurement Standing Orders for the granting of a direct award for the provision of 10 Transitional Beds (Residential and Nursing) at Lilycross Care Centre, Widnes, by Catalyst Management Services from 1 October 2022 to 31 March 2023.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the contents of the report be noted; and
- 2) in compliance with Procurement Standing Order 1.14.4 (v), approve the waiver of Part 3 of Procurement Standing Orders and approval be granted for a direct award to Catalyst Management Services for the provision of Care Beds at Lilycross Care Centre.

Director of Adult
Social Services

LEADER'S PORTFOLIO

EXB40 ADDITIONAL CAPACITY TO SUPPORT THE DESIGN OF THE COUNCIL'S TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME

The Board considered a report of the Executive Director - Enterprise, Community & Resources – Interim, which sought approval for a waiver of standing orders for an immediate hire of additional temporary resources from a specific supplier who could provide that expertise at short notice to assist with designing the Transformation Programme. The appointment was needed in order for the programme to be approved as part of the Council's 2022/23

budget setting process.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the appointment of additional temporary capacity to support the Transformation Programme design, be approved; and
- 2) Part 3 of Procurement Standing Orders be waived, by virtue of Procurement Standing Order 1.14.4(v) and the contract be awarded directly to Studio3Advisory Ltd.

Strategic Director
- Enterprise,
Community and
Resources

MINUTES ISSUED: 25 October 2022

CALL- IN: 1 November 2022 at 5.00 pm

Any matter decided by the Executive Board may be called in no later than 5.00pm on 1 November 2022.

Meeting ended at 3.12 p.m.

This page is intentionally left blank

EXECUTIVE BOARD

*At a meeting of the Executive Board on Thursday, 17 November 2022 in the Boardroom
- Municipal Building, Widnes*

Present: Councillors Wharton (Chair), Harris, M. Lloyd Jones, J. Lowe,
T. McInerney, Nelson, Nolan, Thompson and Wright

Apologies for Absence: None

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: S. Young, M. Vasic, M. Reaney, E. Dawson, S. Wallace-Bonner
and G. Ferguson

Also in attendance: One member of the press.

**ITEMS DEALT WITH
UNDER POWERS AND DUTIES
EXERCISABLE BY THE BOARD**

EXB41 MINUTES

Action

The Minutes of the meeting held on 13 October 2022
were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

LEADER'S PORTFOLIO

EXB42 TREASURY MANAGEMENT 2022-23 HALF YEAR
UPDATE

The Board considered a report from the Operational
Director – Finance, which presented the Treasury
Management Half Year Report as at 30 September 2022.

These reports updated Members on the activities
undertaken on the money market, as required by the
Treasury Management Policy.

The report provided supporting information on the
economic outlook, interest rate forecast, short term
borrowing rates, longer term borrowing rates, borrowing and
investments, budget monitoring, new long term borrowing,
policy guidelines and treasury management indicators. It
was noted that no debt rescheduling had been undertaken
during the quarter.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

EXB43 MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2023 TO 2026 -
KEY DECISION

The Board considered a report from the Operational Director – Finance, which presented the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) for the period 2023/24 to 2025/26.

The MTFS sets out a three-year projection of the Council's resources and spending and was based on information that was currently available. The most recent Public Sector Spending Review was published at the end of October 2021 and covered the next three financial years. It was noted that details of the 2023/24 Local Government Finance Settlement were expected to be released in December 2022 on a provisional basis, with a final settlement expected in January 2023.

The Board was advised that the delay and uncertainty regarding 2023/24 financial resources meant the financial information included within the MTFS was based on a large number of assumptions and best estimates. The financial forecast would be updated as and when further information was known. Appendix 1 therefore detailed the MTFS from 2023/24 – 2025/26 using a prudent estimate of the financial conditions over the course of the next three years. Appendix 2 presented the Reserves and Balances Strategy.

The Board received an update from the Operational Director – Finance, on the Governments Autumn Budget Statement which was announced today:

- local authorities could increase Council Tax in April 2023 by 3% with an additional 2% increase - Adult Social Care precept;
- a Business Rates revaluation will take place in April 2023;
- proposed adult social care reforms would be deferred for 2 years; and
- there would be a 12 month extension of the Household Support Fund.

Reason for Decision

To seek approval for the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2023/24 to 2025/26.

Alternative options considered and rejected

The alternative option of not maintaining a Medium Term Financial Strategy has been considered. However, this would not follow good financial management practice, as the Medium Term Financial Strategy is a key element in informing the Council's financial planning and budget setting processes.

Implementation date

The Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023/24 will be implemented from 1 April 2023.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the Medium Term Financial Strategy be approved;
- 2) the 2022/23 base budget be prepared on the basis of the underlying assumptions set out in the Strategy;
- 3) the Reserves and Balances Strategy be approved; and
- 4) the award of Council Tax Support for 2022/23 remains at the 2021/22 level of 21.55%

Operational
Director - Finance

EXB44 2022/23 SPENDING AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2022

The Board received a report from the Operational Director – Finance, advising of the Council's overall revenue net spending position as at 30 September 2022, together with a forecast outturn position.

Appendix 1 presented a summary of spending against the operational revenue budget up to 30 September 2022 and Appendix 2 provided detailed figures for each individual Department. It was reported that in overall terms the outturn forecast for the year showed that net spend would be over the approved budget by £7.586m. Appendix 3 presented the Capital Programme as at 30 September 2022, highlighting the schemes which had been revised.

It was noted that the increased energy costs, pay award and high inflation rates would all have a serious negative impact upon the Council's financial position. There was no expectation that any increased Government funding would be received to help meet these pressures. Therefore, to address the pressures within the Council budget there was an urgency for all Departments to reduce, cease or

defer any non-essential spending and to implement any proposed efficiencies as soon as possible.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the scale of the potential outturn overspend and the potential impact upon reserves, if no corrective action is taken, be noted;
- 2) all departments be requested to limit spending to only absolutely essential items;
- 3) all Departments be requested, to identify as a matter of urgency any areas where spending could be reduced or ceased for the remainder of the current financial year, or deferred until next year; and
- 4) Council be requested to approve the revisions to the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 3.18.

Operational
Director - Finance

EXB45 DETERMINATION OF COUNCIL TAX BASE 2023-24 - KEY DECISION

The Board considered a report of the Operational Director – Finance, on the requirement for the Council to determine the Council Tax Base for its area and the Council Tax Base for each of the Parishes.

The Council Tax Base was the measure used for calculating Council Tax and was used by both the billing authority (the Council) and the major precepting authorities (Cheshire Fire Authority, Cheshire Police and Crime Commissioner and the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority), in the calculation of their Council Tax requirements. It was arrived at in accordance with a prescribed formula which represented the estimated full year number of chargeable dwellings in the Borough expressed in terms of the equivalent Band 'D' dwellings.

Taking account of all the relevant information and applying a 97% collection rate, the calculation for 2023/24 gave a base figure of 36,241 for the Borough as a whole. The Council Tax Base figure for each of the Parishes was noted.

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.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) Council set the 2022/23 Council Tax Base at 36,241 for the Borough and that the Cheshire Fire Authority, the Cheshire Police and 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

Operational
Director - Finance

EXB46 TAXI LICENSING MATTER

The Board considered a report of the Operational Director – Legal and Democratic Services, which set out proposed amendments to the current Taxi Licensing Policy and Private Hire Operator Conditions.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) a new private hire operator licence condition on the use of passengers carrying vehicles be adopted; and
- 2) the temporary policy amendment relaxing the maximum age restriction on Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles, which is due to expire on 25 February 2023, be extended for a further period of 2 years (i.e. until 25 February 2025) subject to the

Operational
Director, Legal
and Democratic
Services

same two conditions requiring the vehicles benefiting from the extension to have 3 tests per year and on the basis that no vehicle taking advantage of the dispensation may be transferred to another proprietor.

EXB47 BUSINESS RATES ACTION AREAS

The Board considered a report of the Operational Director Economy, Enterprise and Property that provided information on the Business Rates Action Areas Scheme. The Scheme had been previously approved by the Executive Board at its meeting in July 2018 and the first five year pilot commenced on Astmoor in 2019. Other locations would follow when local circumstances were considered favourable.

It was noted that conditions were now favourable for access to the Business Rates Action Areas Scheme at 3MG at two sites occupied by Warburtons.

RESOLVED: That Business Rates Relief to Warburtons be agreed.

Operational Director Economy, Enterprise & Property -

ADULT SOCIAL CARE PORTFOLIO

EXB48 PRELIMINARY PROCUREMENT NOTIFICATION – PROPOSED TENDER OF HALTON HEALTHWATCH & ADVOCACY HUB SERVICE

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – People, which sought approval to commence a new procurement process for the supply of a combined Halton Healthwatch and Advocacy Hub Service. The proposed contract would be for three years (plus a 2 year extension), commencing 1 April 2023 until 31 March 2026, in compliance with Procurement Standing Order 1.3.4. The estimated value of the contract was £1,467,930 over five years.

It was noted that both of the services covered by the contractual agreement were statutory Adult Social Care services which the Council had a duty to commission.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the contents of the report be noted; and
- 2) the Preliminary Estimates report in compliance with Procurement Standing Order 1.3.4 be approved.

Strategic Director - People

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE PORTFOLIO

EXB49 CHILDREN SOCIAL WORK WORKFORCE RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION PACKAGE - KEY DECISION

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – People, which set out a series of proposals to support the permanent recruitment and retention of staff in qualified social worker posts in Children’s Social Care.

The report set out the national and local context for the Children’s Social Care workforce, options for consideration and developing the right organisational offer to create the right environment in which staff can thrive in Halton.

Reason for Decision

To improve the recruitment and retention of Qualified Children Social Workers and reduce the reliance and cost of agency staff.

Alternative options considered and rejected

A review of schemes of a similar nature across the region have been considered and the proposal is set within similar parameters found regionally.

Implementation date

1 December 2022.

RESOLVED: The Board endorsed the following recommendations set out in the report:

Strategic Director
- People

- 1) proposals to support the conversion of agency social workers to becoming permanent (set out in para 3.8), including payment of a conversion allowance of £4,000 paid over a two year period;
- 2) agreement to fund Social Work England registration for permanent staff employed in a qualified social work role (up to Principal Manager level) for a two year period (set out in para 3.9b);
- 3) a recognition and performance allowance is paid to existing permanent staff employed in a qualified social work role. This would be a £2,000 payment paid over a two year period and would support the

retention of existing staff (set out in para 3.9c);

- 4) a form of 'golden hellos' is offered to new recruits employed in permanent social work roles (set out in paras 3.10a, c); and
- 5) an annual allowance of £2,000 is paid to social work staff employed in case management child protection teams, reflecting these are considered hard to fill posts.

EXB50 CHILDREN SERVICES IMPROVEMENT UPDATE

The Board considered an update report on the progress of Children Services as part of the improvement programme. Following on from the Ofsted ILAC Focused Visit in October 2021, a Notice to Improve was issued and an independently chaired Improvement Board was established. The Improvement Board oversaw the delivery of the Improvement Plan which had four overarching themes: Workforce, Quality of Practice, Partnerships and Future Model of Practice. The report provided an update on the work within each of these themes.

The Board was advised on the next steps which included a refresh of the Improvement Plan and an updated self-assessment alongside audit and staff development activity. In order to accelerate improvement additional investment of resource and capacity as part of the Corporate Transformation programme had been added providing capacity and opportunity to develop a sustainable improvement programme.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the content of the report be noted; and
- 2) the refreshed Improvement Plan be presented to the next meeting of the Executive Board.

MINUTES ISSUED: 22 November 2022

CALL- IN: 29 November 2022 at 5.00 pm

Any matter decided by the Executive Board may be called in no later than 5.00pm on 29 November 2022.

Strategic Director
- People

Meeting ended at 2.35 p.m.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

At a meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board on Wednesday, 12 October 2022 at Karalius Suite - Halton Stadium, Widnes

Present: Councillors Wright (Chair), J. Lowe, T. McInerney and Woolfall. K. Butler, N. Evans, R. Foster, L. Garner, G. Ferguson, N. Goodwin, S. Johnson-Griffiths, T. Leo, W. Longshaw, P. McGuinness, D. Nolan, I. Onyia, K. Parker, S. Semoff and P. Thomas.

Apologies for Absence: P. Jones, C. Lyons, S. Patel, G. Smith, M. Vasic and D. Wilson.

Absence declared on Council business: None

**ITEM DEALT WITH UNDER
DUTIES EXERCISABLE
BY THE BOARD**

	<i>Action</i>
<p>HWB9 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING</p> <p>The Minutes of the meeting held on 6 July 2022 having been circulated were signed as a correct record.</p>	
<p>HWB10 UPDATE ON ONE HALTON PLACE BASED PARTNERSHIP</p> <p>The Board received an update report from Nicola Goodwin (One Halton, Senior Programme Manager) on the One Halton Place Based Partnership. The Integrated Care Systems (ICS) consists of an Integrated Care Board (ICB) and an Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) along with at Place level, a Place Based Partnership (PBP). Locally this is One Halton.</p> <p>The Health and Care Bill was implemented on 1 July 2022 and all Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG) were dissolved as of this date. The functions previously delivered by Halton CCG were now provided by the ICB which would be known as NHS Cheshire and Merseyside going forward.</p> <p>The report set out the senior leadership team and governance structures of One Halton and the workstreams which consist of One Halton Delivery Plan, Digital Strategy, Workforce, Estates and Communication and Involvement.</p>	

The Board will be provided with further update reports to ensure they are up-to-date with arrangements as the new system becomes embedded and evolves further.

RESOLVED: The report be noted.

HWB11 ONE HALTON AND HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD STRATEGY

The Board received a presentation from the Director of Public Health, which set out the content of the new combined One Halton and Health and Wellbeing Board Strategy which was adopted as a shared partnership approach following the creation of One Halton.

The Strategy identified important system priorities and a strategic framework which will be used to develop a delivery plan. It also outlined the intention to transform and improve the delivery of health care for the people of Halton.

RESOLVED: The report be noted and the Strategy be endorsed.

HWB12 ICP STRATEGY

The Board received a presentation from the Halton Director, NHS Cheshire & Merseyside regarding the ICP Strategy. The presentation provided the Board with information on the process for developing the ICP Strategy.

The Department of Health and Social Care issued guidance over the Summer in relation to publishing an Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) Strategy by December 2022. This would be updated again in June 2023 or whenever a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) is published, following a refresh of National guidance.

The Board would be kept updated as the work progresses with a partner report to the January meeting.

RESOLVED: That the presentation be noted.

HWB13 PLANNING FOR WINTER 2022-23

The Board considered a report which provided an overview of the plans in place to help protect Halton's population from challenges during Winter 2022/23. The report also summarised the flu and winter vaccination programme, system pressure planning and the links with

measures required to support Halton communities during the cost of living crisis.

The report described four main outcomes, those being flu, covid, system pressures and supporting people and households.

RESOLVED: That:

- 1) the content and process of planning for winter to protect Halton's population against additional threats that the season may bring be noted; and
- 2) each individual agency note their respective requirements in relation to the programme and use all opportunities to promote positive prevention messages and community support as widely as possible.

HWB14 NHS WINTER PRESSURES

The Board received a report of the Halton Place Director, which provided information regarding the pressures the NHS were expecting to experience in the coming winter months and the focus being employed in preparation and monitoring. The NHS Chief Executive had written to all NHS organisations to outline the approach being undertaken to develop operational resilience during the coming winter, with a focus on urgent and emergency care services and the capacity and occupancy in acute hospital beds.

The Board was advised that the NHS Winter Plan aimed to mitigate some of the pressure points within the system and it had a series of key metrics to monitor the situation throughout the winter. The report set out the Plan core objectives and key actions.

The Board noted that:

- NHS Cheshire and Merseyside had set up a weekly Winter Planning and Operational Group to support the development of the ICB winter planning and provide assurance across the systems;
- the number of services and initiatives in place to support Halton residents to create closer to home and easily accessible alternatives to acute hospital care; and
- Halton was establishing a Winter Resilience Group, operational and tactical management and escalation arrangements. These would bring together health

and care partners to monitor, plan, implement and impact, system performance and pressures, identifying, agreeing and executing remedial actions as required to ensure local people can access the services they need, when they need them.

RESOLVED: That the Board noted:

- 1) the focus on the urgent and emergency care services;
- 2) the core objectives and actions being employed; and
- 3) the Board Assurance Framework and key metrics.

HWB15 COST OF LIVING CRISIS

The Board received a report regarding the predicted health impacts of the cost of living crisis and outlined the actions taken locally to reduce those impacts.

The report summarised:

- The characteristics of a person who was more at risk of fuel poverty;
- Risk factors and health conditions impacted on by cold homes; and
- The support available to people both nationally and locally, fuel support, funding grant schemes and existing planned events.

RESOLVED: That:

- 1) the report be noted;
- 2) all partners to promote community support opportunities widely.

HWB16 DEMENTIA FRIENDLY HALTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

The Board received a report from the Strategic Director, People which presented the Dementia Friendly Plan. The Dementia Friendly Communities was a programme from the National Alzheimer's Society which focused on improving inclusion and quality of life for people with dementia and encouraged organisations to develop and implement local action plans.

The Council had developed an action plan which was

approved by Executive Board in June 2022. The three main priorities of the plan were to set up an infrastructure to support dementia friendly commitment by the Council, raise awareness amongst staff and targeting specific service area tasks going forward.

RESOLVED: The report be noted.

HWB17 BETTER CARE FUND (BCF) 2022-23 PLAN

The Board received a report from the Director of Public Health, which provided an update on the Better Care Fund (BCF) Plan 2022/23 following its submission on 26th September 2022. The update provided the Board with information on the four national conditions and the three related documents, those being the BCF Plan, BCF planning template and capacity and demand information.

RESOLVED: The BCF Plan 2022/23 be noted for information.

HWB18 PHASE 2 - RECONFIGURATION OF BREAST SERVICES PROVIDED TO THE BOROUGHES OF HALTON, KNOWSLEY, ST HELENS AND WARRINGTON

The Board considered a report from Lucy Garner, Director of Strategy and Partnerships, Warrington and Halton Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, which provided an update on the proposal to cease the Breast Screening service at Kendrick Wing, Warrington Hospital and consolidate and expand the service at Bath Street, Warrington. The report also outlined the case for change, the outcome of the public consultation and the next steps in the process.

It was also reported that extension bids had received approval to improve diagnostics with additional MRI and CT scanners. These would be based at the Captain Tom Moore site at Halton Hospital.

RESOLVED: The Board noted the report and supported the next steps as outlined in the report.

HWB19 HALTON WOMEN'S CENTRE

The Board received a report from the Director of Adult Social Services, regarding the current position and development of the Women's Centre. The report described the service provided by centre, the service development, funding/resources and future developments/considerations.

RESOLVED: The report be noted.

HWB20 COMBATING DRUGS PARTNERSHIP

The Board received a report which informed them of the establishment of the Halton Combating Drugs Partnership, its governance and its remit. The Partnership was a multi-agency partnership which was established to support the delivery of the ambitions as set out in the National Strategy “From Harm to Hope: A 10 year drugs plan to cut crime and save lives”. The focus was to prevent harm from drugs.

The National Strategy sets out 3 key areas to address harm and criminality from drugs and drugs use:

- Break drug supply chains;
- Deliver a world-class treatment and recovery system;
- Achieve a generational shift in demand for drugs.

The inaugural meeting of the Halton Combating Drugs Partnership was held on 20 September 2022. The meeting agreed the terms of reference, shared information for the Joint Needs Strategic Assessment, agreed timescales and acknowledged the challenges.

Further meetings would be held in November and January with a local plan expected in January 2023.

RESOLVED: The Board noted the purpose of the Combating Drugs Partnership and its intended reporting structure and also the brief update on the recent meeting.

Meeting ended at 4.10 p.m.

CHILDREN YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD

At a meeting of the Children Young People and Families Policy and Performance Board on Monday, 14 November 2022 in the Council Chamber - Town Hall, Runcorn

Present: Councillors Logan (Chair), C. Plumpton Walsh (Vice-Chair), Abbott, M. Bradshaw, Bramwell, Carlin, Goodall, V. Hill, Jones, Loftus and Aimee Teeling

Apologies for Absence: None

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: M. Vasic, A. Jones, B. Holmes and A. Leach

Also in attendance: None

**ITEMS DEALT WITH
UNDER DUTIES
EXERCISABLE BY THE BOARD**

CYP7 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 13 June 2022 were taken as read and signed as a correct record. It was noted that the 12 September meeting was cancelled due to the passing of Her Majesty the Queen.

CYP8 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

It was noted that no public questions had been received.

CYP9 CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & FAMILIES PPB ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2021/22

The Chair presented the Children, Young People and Families Policy and Performance Board's Annual Report for 2021-22. He gave thanks to Members and Officers for their commitment, support and hard work carried out throughout the year.

CYP10 HEADTEACHER OF THE VIRTUAL SCHOOL'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR HALTON CHILDREN IN CARE

Action

The Board received the Annual Report of the Headteacher of the Virtual School, which gave the education outcomes and achievements of Halton's Children in Care (CIC).

The Annual Report (appended to the cover report) included detailed data, analysis and a summary of the work of Halton's Virtual School, during the academic year 2021-22. It was reported that the work of the School had continued throughout the academic year and the full Annual Report provided detailed analysis of how Halton's Children in Care had performed against each of the individual key performance indicators.

The Annual Report also gave a summary of the Virtual School's progress towards its identified key priorities for the academic year 2021-22 and identified the priorities for the Virtual School in 2022-23.

Members welcomed the report and the following was discussed following their questions:

- Bench marking for Pupil Premium Plus (PPP) – it was important that the right children were being targeted for this funding, such as those with Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs. The impacts being made on those currently in receipt of PPP were being monitored;
- Personal Education Plans (PEP) for those already in care – a PEP was completed for every school age child in care. This included a section of gathering the voice of the child and was an integral part of the process. The Virtual School were also looking at the use of an 'App' to gather their wishes and feelings in other ways, when they were reluctant to talk to professionals;
- Lateness/absence from school – although there was a spike of non-attendance during Covid, this had not been the case since the children had returned following this. It was noted that the attendance of CIC was better than those under Child Protection (CP), this would be looked at;
- Lowering the number of CIC leavers who were NEET (Not in Employment, Education or Training) – actions already taken were discussed, such as identifying traineeships and upskilling the core skills of the young person. It was recognised that there was a need to remove barriers to employment or further education for care leavers; and
- Effectiveness of PEP's – it was recognised a year

ago that this needed looking at. A new Post-16 Officer role was created following which an improvement was made. The Officer has since left though so this role was currently vacant and being recruited to.

RESOLVED: That the Board

- 1) note the information provided; and
- 2) accept the Headteacher of the Virtual School's Annual Report as an accurate account of the performance on the education outcomes and achievement of Halton's Children in Care.

CYP11 CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE UPDATE

The Board received a presentation from the Strategic Director – People, which provided an update of the work undertaken to date, following the Ofsted focussed visit and the subsequent actions taken in response to their findings.

The Children's Services Department received the Ofsted visit in October 2021 and inspectors looked at the arrangements for Children in Need (CIN), including those who were subject to a Child Protection Plan (CPP). Since then, steps had been taken to make improvements to the service, including the establishment of an Improvement Board. It was noted that Members received an initial update at the Board meeting on 13 June 2022.

Following consideration of the update and Members questions, the following additional information was provided:

- Administration support for social workers had been looked at so they could focus on the cases they were working on, this work was continuing but it was hoped to have one administration staff member for 5 social workers;
- Social workers spent a lot of their time using IT; it was recognised that the IT systems needed improvement so that paperwork could be streamlined;
- It was felt that agency staff did not share the same commitment to a team as a permanent member of staff would;
- Halton had eight student social workers who had now finished their training – 6 of them had taken jobs with Halton;
- A Memorandum of Understanding had been agreed with a higher education institute;

- An interim review had been carried out since the initial Ofsted focussed visit in October 2021. Improvements had been made and the annual review is due in January 2023; and
- It was suggested that retention incentives should be in place – it was noted an increased pay offer for social workers was being proposed.

RESOLVED: That the Board note the steps that have been taken and the role of the Improvement Board.

CYP12 HALTON LOCAL AREA SEND STRATEGY 2021-25

The Board considered a report and presentation of the Strategic Director – People, advising on the progress and updates in relation to the Halton Local Area SEND Strategy 2021-25 and current pressures.

Members were advised that throughout 2021-22 Halton, in common with other local authority areas, had seen an unprecedented growth in demand for Education Health and Care Needs Assessments. The number of applications for EHC Needs Assessments reached 353 for the academic year in July 2022. This represented a 35% increase in demand, presented in the table in paragraph 3.1.2.

The report outlined the impacts that the increased demand was making across the service. Considerable pressure was being placed on the capacity in both the SEN Assessment Team and those services that provided advice and assessments that contributed towards developing EHCP's, such as the Educational Psychology Service, Speech and Language Therapy Services, Occupational and Physio Therapy services.

It was reported that these capacity issues had resulted in a decline in the completion rate for EHCP's, which was due to three main factors; these were described in the report. Further, Members were advised that the growth in demand for EHCP's was placing huge stress on the availability of specialist provision in Halton. Paragraph 3.2.7 gave details of capital developments that had been put in place over the last 3 years to help accommodate the increase in the numbers and complexities of pupils with SEND, as all specialist places and resource bases were oversubscribed for 2022.

The report made comparisons on the current pressures with national data and neighbouring authorities; gave information on funding / grants being made available;

and presented information on the new SEND Sufficiency Strategy currently being consulted upon.

In response to Members questions the following information was given:

- Alternative provision plans for Key Stages 1 and 2 – officers were currently working with schools to help understand the gaps here and what was being accessed presently. It was too early to decide now the depth of work required.
- Career paths were built into a child’s EHCP from age 14, however it was felt that this should be sooner and as early as leaving primary school;
- A ‘flightpath’ was more about aligning curriculums for children leaving school and going onto further education – so a college for example is better able to understand a pupil’s need better;
- A large number of headteachers had left the profession lately, which had provided some positives and some negatives – positives in a creative way with new ideas and ways of doing things and negatives such as not knowing the area and how things were done in Halton;
- Travel training support was provided for those students who needed it;
- One Members query regarding being excluded from travel and access to work schemes would be followed up outside the meeting as the information was not to hand at the meeting;
- DfE data showed that the sector where Halton trailed national rates of inclusion in relation to the proportion of pupils with an EHCP was secondary academies. Conversations regarding this were being had with them, as well as offering support, training and consultancy work, so that there will be consistency amongst the SEND provision across all secondary academy schools in the future.

RESOLVED: That the Board receives the presentation.

Operational Director
Education,
Inclusion and
Provision

CYP13 SUMMARY OF 2022 PROVISIONAL UN-VALIDATED ATTAINMENT OUTCOMES

The Board considered a report which provided a summary of the 2022 provisional un-validated attainment outcomes for Halton’s Children and Young People.

The data presented included a summary of Early

Years Good Level of Development (GLD) indicator; Key Stage One phonics results; and Key Stages 1, 2, 4 and 5 attainment information. This data provided the Board with an early indication of the educational attainment data across Halton's Schools before publication of the validated data by the Department for Education (DfE) in December. The DfE publication would include detailed national data on progress and provide comparative groups. Members were advised however, that the data provided in this report gave sufficient information for the Local Authority, schools and wider stakeholders to plan and prioritise actions.

The report also shared with the Board some key updates regarding educational priorities and developments both locally and nationally:

- Priority Educational Investment Area (PEIA) – of which Halton is one;
- Halton Learning Alliance – to be formally relaunched;
- Delivering Better Values Programme – which Halton was part of;
- Early Years Experts and Mentors Programme – Halton participating in; and
- Headteacher of the Virtual School – a successful appointment had been made – Mr Benjamin Holmes.

The following comments were made following the Officer's presentation of the item:

- One Member commented it was important to note that the attainment figures presented for England used in comparison had worsened since 2017, due to the pandemic;
- It was acknowledged that improvements needed to be made and it was disappointing that Halton was behind in all except two areas; it was hoped that the PEIA would help Halton to improve outcomes in the future;
- The challenges Halton faced in comparison to other areas of England such as London were discussed, as well as the impacts of Covid 19 still being felt in education;
- The educational aspirations of Halton's parents, and expectations of teachers and headteachers of pupils was discussed; and
- Halton Learning Alliance – this has been formally relaunched and will be led by the education sector. This will bring all education partners together and see schools working together.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the presentation be received; and
- 2) Members note the key updates and implications for the Borough.

CYP14 SUPPORTING FAMILIES UPDATE

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director – People, which provided an update on the Supporting Families Programme and its current performance levels.

It was reported that following the Spending Review in October 2021, the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) announced an extra £200m boost to the Supporting Families Programme, which would now continue for the next 3 years (2022-2025) and allow the Programme to be expanded. The report outlined the improvements being made to the Programme by the DLUHC in order to achieve this.

It was noted that Halton signed up to the Programme commitments and funding agreement in April 2022, which included key parameters around performance requirements, resourcing the Programme, and service and data transformation. These were outlined in the report and a detailed update on all aspects of the Programme in Halton was provided as well as a performance update.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

CYP15 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORT FOR QUARTER 2 2022/23

The Board received the Performance Management reports for quarter 2 of 2022-23 (July 1 2022 to 30 September 2022).

The key priorities for development or improvement in 2022-23 were agreed by Members and included in the Local Authority's Business Plan for the following Departments:

- Education, Inclusion and Provision Services; and
- Children and Families Services.

The reports detailed progress made against objectives, milestones and performance targets and provided information relating to key developments and emerging issues that had arisen during the period.

Members were requested to consider the progress and performance information and highlight any areas of interest and/or concern, where further information could be reported at a future meeting of the Board.

It was noted that the current targets would be subject to a review for future performance reports.

RESOLVED: That the Performance Management reports for quarter 2 of 2022-23 be received.

Meeting ended at 8.40 p.m.

EMPLOYMENT, LEARNING AND SKILLS, AND COMMUNITY POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD

At a meeting of the Employment, Learning and Skills, and Community Policy and Performance Board on Monday, 21 November 2022 in the Boardroom - Municipal Building, Widnes

Present: Councillors Jones (Chair), E. Cargill (Vice-Chair), Begg, Garner, Logan, C. Plumpton Walsh, Rowe and Stretch

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Dourley and Aimee Teeling

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: W. Rourke, A. Jones and S. Saunders

Also in attendance: M. Basnett – Liverpool City Region Growth Platform and J. Leake – Sci-Tech Daresbury

**ITEMS DEALT WITH
UNDER DUTIES
EXERCISABLE BY THE BOARD**

	<i>Action</i>
ELS11 MINUTES	
<p>The Minutes from the meeting held on 20 June 2022, were taken as read and signed as a correct record.</p> <p>It was noted that the meeting scheduled to be held on 19 September 2022 was cancelled due to the passing of Her Majesty the Queen.</p>	
ELS12 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME	
<p>It was confirmed that no public questions had been received.</p>	
ELS13 LIVERPOOL CITY REGION GROWTH PLATFORM	
<p>The Board received a presentation from Mark Basnett, the Managing Director of the Liverpool City Region (LCR) Growth Platform, informing of the role and work of his organisation.</p> <p>It was reported that the LCR Growth Platform was</p>	

established jointly by the Liverpool City Region's Local Enterprise Partnership and Combined Authority to help strengthen, simplify and coordinate the business landscape for the City Region to make it easier for businesses to start, grow and invest in the area.

The mission of the Growth Platform was described as being able to deliver growth across the City Region through business support, attracting investment and developing talent to create a fairer, greener and more inclusive economy for all who lived and worked here.

Mr Basnett outlined to Members the positive relationships that existed between the Growth Platform and the Council and discussed the following areas using a presentation:

- Sector Insights – were a range of City Region based sector Boards that provided insight on key opportunities and challenges facing businesses in each sector;
- Cluster Developments – these were growing in numbers; Daresbury Sci-Tech had been included in the LCR cluster development;
- LCR Growth Hub – any businesses could access services offered by the Growth Hub;
- The scale up of business support – the LCR overall had a business survival and growth problem so it was recognised that there was a need to nurture and support new businesses; it was commented however that Halton performed well in this area;
- Data on business survival rates and growth comparisons were made with the rest of England;
- LCR Careers Hub – an LCR wide programme of support for students and schools to better understand and experience local careers and future employment opportunities; and
- Inward Investment and Performance Analysis – the Council sits on the Investment Board.

Further to Members questions following the presentation, the following further information was provided:

- The Growth Platform was not as well known as it should be and it was a challenge to attract people in. Funding was cut this year, which had affected the amount of outreach planned. The amount of funding for next year was unknown;
- The success of the two schools in Halton that had reached all eight Gatsby benchmarks was discussed.

Success was usually driven by the passion of the staff at the school who encouraged leadership and entrepreneurialship amongst their students. What could be learnt from these schools – this would be looked into outside the meeting and reported back;

- There was an almost 50/50 split of Halton residents versus out of Borough employees who worked in local businesses in Halton. A summary taken from an economic profile of Halton would be prepared and sent to Members following the meeting;
- The Growth Hub did not include business support for young people at the moment as this was not funded as part of the offer. The Council has provided start up programs in the past for young people but funding was also a challenge now in Halton;
- There was a need to get into secondary schools in Halton to offer careers advice services; and
- Leaving the EU had shown a 10%-15% decline in trade and exports. This has had a particularly negative effect on small businesses who were unable to meet the additional requirements to do business in Europe.

RESOLVED: That the Board notes the considerations given to how the Liverpool City Region Growth Platform contributes to supporting businesses in Halton.

Operational
Director -
Economy,
Enterprise &
Property

ELS14 SCI-TECH DARESBUY TALENT AND SKILLS ACTION PLAN

The Board considered a report from the Operational Director – Economy, Enterprise and Property, which provided an update on the delivery of Sci-Tech Daresbury’s Talent and Skills Action Plan.

The Chair welcomed Mr John Leake, the Business Growth Director for Sci-Tech Daresbury, who gave a presentation to Members on the Talent and Skills Action Plan, which was appended to the report.

It was noted that the Sci-Tech Daresbury Talent and Skills Strategy was developed in 2021 and was a key component of the Sci-Tech Daresbury Strategy for Science, Innovation and Growth. The Talent and Skills Strategy was being delivered through an Action Plan and sought to create an exciting, inspiring and high performing community at Sci-Tech Daresbury and beyond.

Mr Leake gave an introduction to Sci-Tech Daresbury and spoke about the campus community and the masterplan

for the site, including the adjacent development of homes. He outlined the challenges being faced by companies attracting talented people to come and work on campus, and the ambition to create 10,000 high value jobs by 2036. He went on to introduce the *Sci-Tech Daresbury RADAR – Talent and Skills Strategy*, which aimed to promote and communicate their talent and skills initiatives – to attract, develop and retain talent.

He presented some success stories from their partnership working with the University of Liverpool and Cronton College as well as the delivery of management expertise through the campus Gold Partners and explained the work to date with Halton schools. Data was also presented upto 2021 which showed that the Strategy was working and the skills shortages constraining growth had come down.

Following Members questions, the following additional information was provided:

- Not all jobs at Sci-Tech were science jobs – there were vacancies for staff in finance, administration and marketing roles for example;
- Expertise from *Michael Page* targeted people of all ages. Although they had the knowledge of companies' skills shortages, it was up to a particular company as to whether they used their services;
- Halton People into Jobs – they had worked with them and encourage them to get clients to send their CV's to companies on the site;
- A total of 12 local entrepreneurs had been recruited and were ready to offer live speeches or activities in schools for young people. It was noted that there was a challenge currently in engaging with the secondary schools;
- It was also planned to give additional talks at community centres in the Borough to raise awareness of Sci-Tech Daresbury and instil confidence in people to apply for jobs and/or plan a career with a company on the site;
- Staff worked with both SEND and mainstream schools in the Borough to raise awareness of Sci-Tech Daresbury. In addition, a piece of work was planned around diversity and inclusivity, which would also include educating the companies on site on the opportunities they could make available for people with special needs. It was noted that there were already connections in place to identify people with special needs through DWP;

- Work had been carried out with local primary schools to raise awareness of the site. Windmill Hill Primary was highlighted by one Member concerning the barriers that existed for some of the residents in moving around the Borough and the aspirations of the children at the Primary School, which left them at a disadvantage. It was noted that Windmill Hill Primary had already engaged with Sci-Tech Daresbury and they were aware of these barriers; and
- Employment enquiries did come into Sci-Tech Daresbury from students and young people from different places such as Warrington, St Helens, Liverpool and other parts of Cheshire.

RESOLVED: That the work of the Sci-Tech Daresbury Talent and Skills sub-group be noted.

ELS15 UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND (UKSPF) UPDATE

The Board considered a report from the Operational Director – Economy, Enterprise and Property, which updated them on the next stages in the implementation of the Liverpool City Region (LCR) Investment Plan.

It was announced that the Investment Plan would be approved by Government in October 2022 and that £44m had been allocated to the LCR over three years. The vast majority of funding would be directed through to local authorities with a small minority of funding deployed for City Region Level activities via open calls. The funding will be allocated to three themes – Communities and Place; Supporting Local Business; and People and Skills. Further details on each theme and the proposed allocation of funding for each was contained in Appendix one of the report.

The report also provided Members with information on proposals for how the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) Programme might be managed in Halton and outlined the *Multiply Programme*, which was aimed at improving numeracy skills amongst adults.

RESOLVED: That Members note the progress being made to prepare for the delivery of the UK Shared prosperity Fund in Halton.

ELS16 UPDATE ON EMPLOYMENT, LEARNING AND SKILLS AND COMMUNITY POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD SCRUTINY TOPICS

The Board received an update on the Scrutiny Topic Group themes agreed by Members for the Municipal Year 2021/22.

Members had progressed two topics '*Health and Employment*' and '*The Provision of Business Support in the Borough*'. The report presented an update on each topic. It was agreed that the *Health and Employment* topic be concluded, subject to a caveat that the Policy and Performance Board (PPB) would welcome a presentation from health partners as the delivery plan emerged. Further, Members would also like to receive regular updates via the quarterly monitoring reports on progress being made against targets outlined in the delivery and action plan that related to employment and skills priorities.

Councillor Garner emphasised the importance of ensuring that local employers supported local employees through initiatives such as the *Time to Change Employer Pledge*.

The second topic, *The Provision of Business Support in the Borough*, had two actions outstanding. The first was covered today in the presentation from the Managing Director of the Liverpool City Region's Growth Planform; the other was to undertake a study visit to a local business to understand how business support has had a positive impact in the Borough – this had now been arranged on 12 December at 5pm. Members would receive further information on the visit nearer the time.

It was noted that a final report would be presented to the PPB in January, which would capture the key points arising from the Growth Platform presentation made today and upcoming the study visit.

RESOLVED: That the Scrutiny Topic Group updates be received.

Operational Director -
Economy, Enterprise & Property

ELS17 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORTS FOR QUARTER 2 OF 2022/23

The Board received the performance management reports for quarter two of 2022-23 (1 July 2022 to 30 September 2022) and were requested to consider and raise any questions or points of clarification in respect of these.

It was noted that the key priorities for development or improvement in 2022-23 were agreed by Members and included in Directorate Plans for the various function areas reported to the Board as follows:

- Enterprise, Employment and Skills; and
- Community and Environment.

The report detailed progress against service objectives and milestones and performance targets and provided information relating to key developments and emerging issues that had arisen during the period.

In response to Members queries, it was reported that since the closure of Runcorn Swimming Pool all those members who applied for a refund had received one; 14 had retained their memberships to use with another leisure facility. In addition, 20 lifeguards had recently been recruited and completed their lifeguard training; they were now in pre-employment checks with HR. Members made suggestions with regards to the retention of lifeguards and lifeguard instructors.

RESOLVED: That the quarter two 2022-23 performance management reports be received.

Meeting ended at 8.45 p.m.

This page is intentionally left blank

HEALTH POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD

At a meeting of the Health Policy and Performance Board held on Tuesday, 27 September 2022 at the Council Chamber - Town Hall, Runcorn

Present: Councillors P. Lloyd Jones (Chair), Baker (Vice-Chair), Ball, Bevan, D. Cargill, Dourley, Goodall, Leck and Nolan, and D. Wilson – Healthwatch Co-optee

Apologies for Absence: Councillor J. Bradshaw and McDermott

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: S. Wallace-Bonner, A. Jones, L Wilson, N. Goodwin and I. Onyia

Also in attendance: L. Gardener and P. McLaren – Warrington and Halton Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, D. Robinson, T. McPhee and R. Mayner – Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust and A. Leo – One Halton Place Based Partnership.

**ITEMS DEALT WITH
UNDER DUTIES
EXERCISABLE BY THE BOARD**

	<i>Action</i>
HEA1 MINUTES	
The Minutes of the meeting held on 15 February 2022 were signed as a correct record, <i>(noted the meeting scheduled for 28 June 2022 was cancelled)</i> .	
HEA2 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME	
It was confirmed that no public questions had been received.	
HEA3 HEALTH AND WELLBEING MINUTES	
The minutes from the Health and Wellbeing Board meeting held on 23 March 2022 were submitted for the information of the Board.	
HEA4 HEALTH POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD ANNUAL REPORT : 2021/22	
The Chair presented the Health Policy and Performance Board's Annual Report for 2021-22.	

RESOLVED: That the Annual Report be received.

HEA5 PHASE 2 - RECONFIGURATION OF BREAST SERVICES PROVIDED TO THE BOROUGHES OF HALTON, KNOWSLEY, ST HELENS AND WARRINGTON

The Board received an update on the proposal to consolidate and expand Breast Screening Services at Bath Street, Warrington, and the impact the proposed service change would have on service users from Halton.

The Board welcomed Lucy Gardner, Director of Strategy and Partnerships and Pat McLaren, Director of Communications and Engagement – Warrington and Halton Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, who both delivered the update using a presentation.

The update included a recap of the proposals to reconfigure Breast Services across Halton, Knowsley, St Helens and Warrington; information and data on the usage of the Breast Screening service over all areas; and an update on the proposal to cease Breast Screening services at Kendrick Wing, Warrington Hospital.

Members were also provided with the outcomes of the public consultation for the second and final phase of the proposals. The Board welcomed the proposals especially taking into consideration the ageing facility at the Kendrick Wing. The following additional information was noted following Members' questions:

- Halton residents had a local facility at the Captain Sir Tom Moore Building, which was now fully operational offering breast care services to residents of Halton and Warrington; and
- Further to a question presented at the February meeting, the breast screening uptake in Halton for 2019/20 was 68.6%, which was almost the same as the national figure of 69.1%.

RESOLVED: That the Board

- 1) notes the contents of the report and presentation; and
- 2) supports the proposed next steps as described.

HEA6 MENTAL HEALTH, LEARNING DISABILITIES AND AUTISM

The Board received a report and presentation of the Strategic Director of Partnerships, Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust, which provided information on Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust's internal organisational developments and the local performance measures against national standards.

The Chair welcomed Donna Robinson, Tim McPhee and Rachel Mayner, from Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust, who presented the item.

The presentation gave an introduction to Mersey Care; introduced the Board of Directors and local structures; outlined Mersey Care Services within Halton – Adult Mental Health Services, ADHD Services, Autism Assessment and Diagnostic Service; Learning Disabilities Services; and introduced the Think Wellbeing Service (IAPT). The information presented sought to assure the Board of the Trust's continuous pursuit of excellence within the Borough.

The following information was provided from Members' questions:

- The mental health crisis line was publicised mainly using leaflets and social media;
- A dedicated mental health response team will be available in Halton at the end of October / beginning November, using its own ambulance; this will be mirrored by the Police who will have their own response car dedicated to mental health crisis calls;
- Once 999 was dialled and a patient in crisis was identified, they would divert the call to the mental health team; if the team was unavailable, a regular ambulance was able to attend and the crew would use the crisis number to make contact with mental health specialists;
- Members' recognised that during the pandemic the demands made on the mental health service were unprecedented and remained extremely high to date;
- Adult autism referrals were also at an unprecedented high level and were predicted to double this year;
- Mental health practitioners could be placed in GP surgeries (which was trialled successfully in Wigan); this would need to be worked through at a local level to be able to introduce them in Halton.

It was the consensus of the Board that mental health

services and learning disability and autism services all deserved more lengthy debate to be able to fully understand the complexities of each. Donna Robinson invited Members to discuss the situation further and advised that she could be contacted regarding this in the future.

RESOLVED: That the Board

- 1) notes the organisational developments within the Mersey Care Operating model; and
- 2) notes the commissioning activity and performance for the Borough against national standards.

HEA7 MARMOT REPORT: ALL TOGETHER FAIRER

The Board received a report from the Director of Public Health, which advised of the launch of the *Marmot Report: All Together Fairer* written by Professor Sir Michael Marmot on health inequalities.

The report was written by Sir Michael and his team of researchers in partnership with Cheshire and Merseyside's local authorities. It set out measurable actions for each area, as well as the sub region as a whole, to create a fairer, equitable society.

The Director's report summarised the implications of the findings for Halton and presented comparisons with neighbouring authorities across Cheshire and Merseyside. The report outlined actions still required and gave some examples of actions already taking place, following the publication of the Marmot Report.

It was commented by one Member that the recent rise in the cost of living would only exacerbate inequalities across Halton, particularly in the more deprived wards. The Board discussed their concerns regarding the health inequalities in life expectancy locally and across Cheshire and Merseyside.

The Director of Public Health welcomed suggestions from Members that could help to offer solutions in combatting inequalities for the communities in Halton. Further to a request from the Chair, she would provide Board Members with updated ward information on life expectancy, once this was finalised by analysts.

RESOLVED: That the report is noted.

Director of Public Health

HEA8 UPDATE ON ONE HALTON PLACE BASED PARTNERSHIP

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – People, which provided an update on the One Halton Place Based Partnership development, within the context of the Cheshire Merseyside Integrated Care System (ICS).

The Health Policy and Performance Board received reports in November 2021 and February 2022 setting out the requirements for the formation of Integrated Care Systems regionally. This consists of an Integrated Care Board (ICB) and an Integrated Care Partnership (ICP), along with at Place level, a Place Based Partnership (PBP). Locally, this was the One Halton Place Based Partnership – these arrangements were set out in NHS Reforms White Paper, Integration and Innovation, published in February 2021.

The Board welcomed Mr Anthony Leo, who is the Director of the One Halton Place Based Partnership. He introduced himself and advised the Board of the aims of the Partnership, particularly in addressing health inequalities that exist across Halton.

The report provided the Board with some context, an overview of progress and the current position of the One Halton Place Based Partnership.

RESOLVED: That the Board notes the report.

HEA9 HEATH PPB SCRUTINY REVIEW REPORT 2021/22

The Board received the final report of the Scrutiny Review undertaken in 2021/22, titled *North West Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (NWADASS) Elected Member Commission – ‘The impact of Covid-19 on People with Care and Support Needs, their Families, Carers and Communities’*.

It was noted that the Elected Member Social Care Commission was established as part of a North West ADASS approach to learning lessons from the Covid-19 pandemic. In particular, the role of the Commission was to investigate the impact of the pandemic on people and communities in the North West and what lessons could be learnt for further waves of infection and future service design.

The report explained how the review was conducted;

presented information that was considered by the topic group over the course of five meetings; and gave the actions agreed in relation to each of the ten NWADASS recommendations, which were the focus of the scrutiny topic in terms of looking at local implementation.

RESOLVED: That the Board

- 1) notes the contents of the report and comments made; and
- 2) endorses the report and associated actions and recommend the report be submitted to the Executive Board.

Director of Adult
Social Services

HEA10 SCRUTINY TOPIC BRIEF 2022-23 AND PROPOSED ACTIVITY SCHEDULE

The Board received a report from the Strategic Director – People, which requested agreement of the topic brief for the Health Policy and Performance Board's Scrutiny Group for 2022/23 and the proposed activity schedule for presentations and feed-in to the scrutiny.

Further to feedback from the last Health PPB meeting, a topic was chosen for 2022/23. It was agreed that this would focus on the current issues around the Adult Social Care Workforce, including looking at workforce planning and development needs. The Topic Brief and Schedule of Activity were attached to the report and the Board was requested to agree these so the scrutiny group could progress.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the Topic Brief is approved; and
- 2) the proposed activity schedule for the topic group is approved as representative of the input required to fulfil the brief.

HEA11 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORTS, QUARTER 1 2022/23

The Board received the Performance Management Reports for quarter one of 2022/23.

Members were advised that the report introduced, through the submission of a structured thematic performance report, the progress of key performance

indicators, milestones and targets relating to Health in quarter one of 2022-23. This included a description of factors, which were affecting the service.

The Board was requested to consider the progress and performance information and raise any questions or points for clarification and highlight any areas of interest or concern for reporting at future meetings of the Board.

RESOLVED: That the Performance Management reports for quarter one of 2022/23 be received.

Meeting ended at 8.10 p.m.

This page is intentionally left blank

SAFER POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD

*At a meeting of the Safer Policy and Performance Board on Tuesday, 8 November 2022
at the Council Chamber - Town Hall, Runcorn*

Present: Councillors N. Plumpton Walsh (Chair), V. Hill (Vice-Chair), Baker, Begg, Bevan, Bramwell, Carlin, Loftus, A. McInerney, Ratcliffe and Wall

Apologies for Absence: None

Absence declared on Council business: None.

Officers present: M. Andrews, G. Ferguson, K. Hannay and P. Wright

Also in attendance: Sgt Sullivan

**ITEM DEALT WITH
UNDER DUTIES
EXERCISABLE BY THE BOARD**

	<i>Action</i>
SAF7 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS	
At the start of the meeting the Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance. The Chair reported that early indications had revealed that there had been no serious community safety/ anti-social behaviour incidents during the Halloween and Bonfire Night period. The Chair requested an update report on this activity for the next meeting.	Operational Director Community & Environment
SAF8 MINUTES	
The Minutes of the meeting held on 19 July 2022 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.	
SAF9 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME	
It was reported that no questions had been received.	
SAF10 ANNUAL REPORT FOR APRIL 2021 - APRIL 2022	
The Annual Report of the Safer Policy and Performance Board was received which outlined the contributions made to the ongoing work of the Board.	
Following the Community Payback Scheme presentation which Members received at the Board meeting	

in November 2021, it was noted that the Scheme would be re-commencing sometime in the new year.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

SAF11 CREATION OF A COMMUNITY SAFETY & PROTECTION DIVISION

The Board received a report regarding the creation of a new Community Safety and Protection Division that would bring together a number of disparate activities into one service area answerable to one Portfolio Holder.

Operational Director
Community &
Environment

The new Division would be a one stop shop for all aspects of community safety, corporate safety and enforcement. It would be managed by a Divisional Manager, who would also oversee the CCTV section, Enforcement Officers, a new Domestic Abuse Team and Emergency Planning.

The Division would fall under the remit of the Safer Halton portfolio and its creation would deliver a saving of £32,000. Plans were on track for the Division to be up and running by 1 February 2023.

Members asked if there would be engagement with the community and voluntary sector to help drive forward community safety and it was confirmed that this would be part of the new Division's remit.

Further to discussions about community engagement, Councillor Wall asked if consideration could be given to the Board meetings being held at alternate venues in Widnes and Runcorn, in order to give more engagement opportunities for residents of both Widnes and Runcorn. It was agreed that the suggestion would be explored.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

SAF12 RACE EQUALITY WORK IN HALTON

The Board considered a report about the ongoing work across the Borough to raise issues related to race equality and encourage a more tolerant society.

Halton has played a key role in the work of the Steering Group and the initiatives which were part of the work programme included:

- the development of a Black Business Hub;

- the World Reimagined Art Project;
- the Anthony Walker Foundation Hate Crime Project; and
- a Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) Local Authority Staff Network.

A key element of the work programme is a dedicated Race Equality Training Programme for all local authority staff across the Liverpool City Region.

Members noted the list of ongoing equality and diversity activities across the Halton.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

SAF13 COMMUNITY TRIGGER UPDATE

The Board received an update report on the amendments to the current Community Trigger Scheme, which was part of the Home Office Reform of anti-social behaviour powers which were launched in October 2014. The guidance in respect of Community Trigger was updated in January 2021 and a formal press release with information on the Trigger launched.

Operational
Director
Community
&
Environment

Members were advised that the process was managed by the Safer Halton Partnership and reviewed on a regular basis. The report also outlined how requests/applications for the Community Trigger within Halton would be dealt with. Training on the Community Trigger was also available for Councillors, if required.

It was noted that in the past 12 months, there had been 4 requests for a Community Trigger in Halton.

Further update reports on the Scheme would be provided to the Board in due course.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

SAF14 CANNABIS GROW AWARENESS SCHEME

The Board received a presentation from Sergeant Anthony Sullivan (Northern Problem Solving Team) regarding the Cheshire Constabulary pilot scheme to raise awareness around cannabis growing within the private rented housing sector (Police Operation "Instinct") and the problems being encountered locally across Halton and Warrington.

Police Officers were working with landlords and letting agents across Halton in order to make them aware of the signs that would indicate that a cannabis factory might be being operated in one of their properties and what they should do if they suspect there was one. The Police were also working closely with partners including Halton and Warrington Councils, the Chamber of Commerce and Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service.

The pilot scheme was aimed to raise the awareness among a group of people are best placed to help with the issue of drug factories which in return would lead to more detections.

Members were given the opportunity to ask questions and subsequently the Board thanked Sergeant Sullivan for his presentation and attendance. The Board also requested a further update on this work in 12 months time.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

Meeting ended at 7.40 p.m.

ENVIRONMENT AND URBAN RENEWAL POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD

At a meeting of the Environment and Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board on Wednesday, 16 November 2022 at the Council Chamber - Town Hall, Runcorn

Present: Councillors Woolfall (Chair), Fry (Vice-Chair), Ball, D. Cargill, Davidson, Gilligan, S. Hill, Logan, McDermott, Stretch and Thornton

Apologies for Absence: None

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: J. Brussels, T. Gibbs, K. Butler and A. Plant

Also in attendance: None

**ITEM DEALT WITH
UNDER DUTIES
EXERCISABLE BY THE BOARD**

Action

EUR19 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 21 September 2022 having been circulated were signed as a correct record.

EUR20 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

It was confirmed that no public questions had been received.

EUR21 EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES

The Board considered the Minutes of the meetings of the Executive Board relevant to the Environment and Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes be noted.

EUR22 ANNUAL ROAD TRAFFIC COLLISION & CASUALTY REPORT

The Board received a report on the latest road safety statistics released by the Department for Transport through the publication of the 2021 Comprehensive Annual Report.

The report set out full details of the numbers of traffic

collisions and casualties in 2021 and compared these figures with those from previous years. Of those killed or seriously injured, the number of adult and child casualties decreased by 2 (total decrease of 4). However, due to the low numbers recorded annually in Halton, this number did fluctuate from year to year.

Halton had achieved its performance targets as set by the Department of Transport and was one of the few Local Authorities to report a fall in both collisions and casualties, against a national picture where road casualties (all categories) increased by 11% in 2021.

In addition, the report highlighted the work the Road Safety Team had undertaken in 2021/22 and the programme for 2022/23 which would continue to cover road traffic reduction schemes, road safety education, training and publicity as well as engaging with Cheshire Police to target effective enforcement action.

Members also considered information on the following road safety initiatives:

- Community Speed Watch;
- “Smiley” Speed Indicative Device/Sign (SiDs);
- Speed Camera A562;
- Gyrotory Red Light Camera;
- Mobile Speed Camera Sites;
- Collision Sites;
- Safer Active Travel;
- Education; and
- Halton 2023/24 Programme.

Arising from the discussion, a Member asked if a timeline could be confirmed for the installation of the gyrotory red light camera on the A557 Watkinson Way. It was agreed that this would be looked into.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the overall progress made on casualty reduction in Halton over the past decade be noted; and
- 2) the 2023/24 programme of road safety schemes and road safety education, training and publicity be endorsed.

The Board expressed their appreciation to the Road Safety Team on their work.

Operational
Director - Policy,
Planning and
Transportation

EUR23 ENVIRONMENTAL FUND UPDATE

The Board received a report of the Operational Director, Policy, Planning and Transportation, which provided an update on the expenditure of the Environmental Fund. Planning permission for the Runcorn Thermal Power Station (TPS) Plant was granted in September 2008. The Plant was subject to a legal agreement, under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. The legal agreement contained a provision that the owner of the Plant agreed to pay the Council an annual lump sum payment for every tonne of fuel received and processed.

To date, the fund had generated £5,035,120 and the projects that had benefitted from those funds were set out in Appendix 1.

RESOLVED: That the wide range of projects that had benefitted from the fund as set out in Appendix 1 be noted.

EUR24 HOUSES OF MULTIPLE OCCUPATION - WORKING PARTY UPDATE

The Board received an update report on the progress of the Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMO) Working Party.

The Working Party last met on 27 October 2022 and compiled a list of issues reported by Members relating to HMOs and these was outlined in section 3.2 of the report.

It was reported that the Working Party had agreed an action plan which covered the following:

- Undertake a borough-wide exercise to gather evidence on numbers of small HMOs to identify locations and clustering (using Council data sources);
- Examine the level of clustering of HMOs at Frederick Street, Widnes;
- Use the West Bank area as a pilot area to test interventions;
- Identify small HMOs and private rented properties in West Bank and investigate options for discretionary (selective) licencing of private rented properties. The pilot would be used to inform options for any future Borough wide scheme;
- Investigate an Article 4 Direction for West Bank to remove 'permitted development rights' preventing single dwellings becoming small HMOs (note this

does not prevent applications being made for planning permission);

- Improve the management of waste from HMOs in West Bank;
- Quantify the cost of these interventions for budget purposes; and
- Present recommendations to the Executive Board.

The Board noted the Terms of Reference of the Working Party attached at Appendix 1.

Following discussions, a Member raised concerns regarding the state of some HMO's in the West Bank area and rubbish that was accumulating in the area. It was agreed to raise this matter at the next Working Party meeting in December.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the Terms of Reference of the Working Party (Appendix 1) be endorsed; and
- 2) the action plan set out in Section 5.0 be noted.

Operational
Director - Policy,
Planning and
Transportation

EUR25 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORTS FOR QUARTER 2 OF 2022/23

The Board received the Performance Monitoring Reports for Quarter 2 of 2022/23 (1 July 2022 – 30 September 2022).

The key priorities for development of improvement in 2022-23 were agreed by Members and included in Directorate Plans for the various function areas reported to the Board as detailed below:

- Development and Investment Services;
- Highways and Transportation, Logistics and Development Services; and
- Waste and Environmental Improvement and Open Space Services;

The reports detailed progress against service objectives and milestones, and performance targets and provided information relating to key developments and emerging issues that had arisen during the period.

Members discussed the challenges the Council faced in recruiting Planning Officers and it was suggested that

consideration be given to a retention package, similar to the one adopted for Social Workers.

A Member also questioned if the decline in the occupancy rate at Widnes Market was due to the introduction of car parking charges at Green Oaks. It was agreed that Property Services would clarify this matter.

RESOLVED: That the second quarter performance monitoring reports be received and noted.

Operational
Director - Policy,
Planning and
Transportation

Meeting ended at 7.00 p.m.

This page is intentionally left blank

CORPORATE POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD

At a meeting of the Corporate Policy and Performance Board on Tuesday, 1 November 2022 in the Civic Suite - Town Hall, Runcorn

Present: Councillors Gilligan (Chair), Hutchinson, P. Lloyd Jones, A. Lowe, G. Stockton, Angela Teeling, Thornton, Wainwright and Wall

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Philbin and N. Plumpton Walsh

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: M. Reaney, K. Butler, E. Dawson, G. Ferguson, P. Garnett, C. Haworth, J. Hughes and L Pennington-Ramsden

Also in attendance: None

ITEM DEALT WITH UNDER DUTIES EXERCISABLE BY THE BOARD

		<i>Action</i>
CS17	<p>MINUTES</p> <p>The Minutes from the meeting held on 6 September 2022 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.</p>	
CS18	<p>PUBLIC QUESTION TIME</p> <p>The Board was advised that no public questions had been received.</p>	
CS19	<p>CORPORATE ACCIDENT/INCIDENT REPORT 1.4.22-31.8.22</p> <p>The Board was provided with a report from the Operational Director, Policy, Planning & Transportation, on the performance of health and safety management within the Authority from 1 April 2022 to 31 August 2022.</p> <p>The report highlighted health and safety incidents that had taken place over the past 4 months and as a result of those incidents proposed actions for the future. In addition, the report included information around the number of actual near misses, accidents that had resulted in over 7 day absences, together with significant accidents.</p> <p>The report also highlighted the following key points:</p>	

- following the pandemic, an expected rise in accidents and violent incidents could occur as services were returning to their pre-pandemic status and this would show over the next 6 months;
- registered users for lone working had decreased from the same period as last year whilst actual usage had increased. The decrease could be attributed to the pandemic and homeworking. Monitoring was now in place to encourage relevant staff to the system;
- there had been an increase in figures for risk assessments completed on the Corporate Risk Assessment system; and
- work on maintaining appropriate bomb and lockdown procedures in Council buildings was ongoing, with a number of exercises planned.

RESOLVED: That the contents of the report be noted including the recommendations and actions for 2022/23.

CS20 WIDNES MARKET - BUSINESS PLAN

The Board received a presentation on the proposed Widnes Market Business Plan which summarised its vision and strategy, marketing strategy, business priorities and actions and its financial information.

The Business Plan outlined the following key areas:

- the environment in which Widnes Market was operating;
- the key ingredients needed to continue to make Widnes Market successful;
- the priorities and actions;
- it provided financial information, including current levels of outstanding trader debt; and
- stall occupancy and footfall rates.

It was reported that Widnes Market had a current occupancy rate of 92% in comparison to the national average of 72%. However, according to NABMA (The National Association of British Market Authorities) the national average footfall in September 2022 had reduced by 6% compared to the pre-pandemic figures of September 2019. Halton's average for the same comparison was 22%. It was suggested that the introduction of car park charges

and bus strikes could have impacted on the reduction in footfall in Halton. The Board was reassured that work was ongoing to attract new customers and traders to the market and in October 2022, 4 new traders had opened up stalls in the market.

In early November 2022, the British Legion held their annual Poppy Event at the Widnes Market Event Space and positive feedback had been received.

The results of a survey completed by the public in November 2020 were reported. Members suggested that it might also be useful to undertake a 360 survey with market traders in the near future.

The Board noted their thanks for the presentation and the ongoing work to improve Widnes Market.

RESOLVED: Members considered the Widnes Market Business Plan and recommended it for approval at Executive Board.

Operational Director - Economy, Enterprise & Property

CS21 HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT FUND EXTENSION 1ST OCTOBER 2022 - 31ST MARCH 2023

The Board received a report from the Operational Director, Finance, which updated Members on the progress of the delivery of the Government's Household Support Fund from 1 October 2022 to 31 March 2023. This fund was intended to support vulnerable households with the pressures caused by the significantly rising cost of living.

Halton had been awarded grant funding of £1,297,880 and it was proposed to allocate £178,000 to the Discretionary Support Scheme. A Spending Plan had been prepared and attached as an appendix. This demonstrated how the grant funding might be utilised via a combination of Council departments and the Voluntary Sector to deliver help and assistance to vulnerable households over the six month period.

It was suggested that the Household Support Fund be promoted in various places e.g. schools and nurseries to ensure people are aware of its availability.

Operational Director - Finance

RESOLVED: That progress with delivery of the Household Support Fund be noted.

Meeting ended at 8.05 p.m.

This page is intentionally left blank

AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE BOARD

At a meeting of the Audit and Governance Board held on Wednesday, 28 September 2022 at the Council Chamber - Town Hall, Runcorn

Present: Councillors Polhill (Chair), A. Lowe (Vice-Chair), E. Cargill, Garner, Harris, Jones, McDermott, Nolan, Philbin and Wallace

Apologies for Absence: Councillor J. Bradshaw

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: E. Dawson, M. Murphy, A. Jones and K. Keane

Also in attendance: Stephen Nixon – Grant Thornton

**ITEMS DEALT WITH
UNDER DUTIES
EXERCISABLE BY THE BOARD**

	<i>Action</i>
<p>AGB9 MINUTES</p> <p>The Minutes of the meeting held on 6 July 2022 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.</p>	
<p>AGB10 2021-22 EXTERNAL AUDIT UPDATE</p> <p>The Board received a progress update regarding the audit of the Council's 2021/22 year-end accounts from Grant Thornton UK LLP.</p> <p>It was reported that the audit was close to completion and the Auditor's findings would be reported to the Board in November 2022 alongside the 2021/22 Statement of Accounts prior to their publication by 30 November 2022.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the verbal progress update by the Council's external auditor Grant Thornton UK LLP be received.</p>	Operational Director - Finance
<p>AGB11 PROCUREMENT UPDATE REPORT</p> <p>The Board considered a report of the Operational Director, Finance, which provided an update on:</p>	

- procurement activity in 2021/22, with an outline of the key actions taken during the year – Members were referred to Appendix A, which presented a total of 116 contracts awarded with their values; and Appendix B which presented details of 78 contract extensions supported and their values;
- the progress achieved in delivering the Council's Procurement Strategy – Appendix C provided updates on progress against the planned actions and demonstrated strong progress against all four themes of the Strategy; and
- the Procurement Bill – this was currently at the Committee Stage in the House of Lords and some refinement of its key provisions were expected. The report outlined some of the key points within the document.

Further to Members questions the following was noted:

- Only contracts above £25,000 are required to be advertised and procured through the Chest;
- For contracts below £25,000 best value is sought by obtaining three quotes from different suppliers. Managers within service areas are usually best placed to understand the local market and which suppliers to approach for quotations. This also helped to make the procurement process more efficient for low value spend;
- The reason for the length of the recent Highways contract award was discussed; and
- Individual service areas of the Council were responsible for determining the specification requirements for the type and nature of products required.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

AGB12 ANTI-FRAUD & CORRUPTION UPDATE

The Board considered a report of the Operational Director, Finance, which provided an annual update on developments in regard to the Council's anti-fraud and anti-corruption activity.

It was reported that the Board was responsible for the monitoring and reviewing the adequacy of the Council's anti-fraud and anti-corruption arrangements, which was a key

aspect of the Council's risk management, control and governance framework.

The Board considered information relating to the following activities:

- The fraud risk landscape;
- Reported fraud investigations from 2021/22;
- HR related investigations from 2021/22;
- Whistleblowing complaints received and action taken;
- An update on the National Fraud Initiative;
- Details of fraud investigation related information reported under the Transparency Code;
- Details of ongoing and planned anti-fraud work; and
- Details of the Council's suite of anti-fraud and anti-corruption related policies.

Appended to the report was the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority's *Internal Audit Report – Grant Auditing Arrangements at Local Authorities*, for Halton Borough Council and the Council's Fraud Response Plan.

RESOLVED: That the annual update report be noted.

AGB13 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 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
- 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 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, exempt information would be disclosed, being information defined in Section 100 (1) and paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

AGB14 INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT

The Board received a report from the Divisional Manager – Audit, Procurement and Operational Finance, updating them on the internal audit activity since the last progress report to the Board on 6 July 2022. It also highlighted any matters that were relevant to the Board's responsibilities as the Council's Audit Committee.

Members were referred to appendix one, which listed all the planned work for the year and its current status. The schedule of audits had been updated to reflect the progress made in completing audits since the last update to the Board. By the end of August 2022, 291 days of audit work had been completed, which represented 28.4% of the total planned days for the year. Planned work continued to progress but it was noted that due to a temporary reduction in staff resources there would be some slippage.

Appended to the report were the executive summaries of the reports issued numbering 2 to 13, as listed in the report.

A further update on resources and coverage would be provided to the Board at its November meeting.

RESOLVED: That the Internal Audit Progress Report and comments made be noted.

Operational
Director - Finance

Meeting ended at 7.10 p.m.

DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

*At a meeting of the Development Management Committee on Monday, 3 October 2022
at the Civic Suite - Town Hall, Runcorn*

Present: Councillors S. Hill (Chair), Leck (Vice-Chair), Abbott, Carlin, Hutchinson, A. Lowe, Philbin, Polhill, Thompson and Woolfall

Apologies for Absence: Councillor J. Bradshaw

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: A. Jones, T. Gibbs, A. Plant, G. Henry, L. Wilson-Lagan, K. Brindley, D. Halliburton and A. Blackburn

Also in attendance: 21 members of the public, Councillors Jones and A. Teeling and one member of the press

**ITEMS DEALT WITH
UNDER DUTIES
EXERCISABLE BY THE COMMITTEE**

	<i>Action</i>
<p>DEV15 MINUTES</p> <p>The Minutes of the meeting held on 8 August 2022, having been circulated, were taken as read and signed as a correct record.</p>	
<p>DEV16 PLANNING APPLICATIONS TO BE DETERMINED BY THE COMMITTEE</p> <p>The Committee considered the following applications for planning permission and, in accordance with its powers and duties, made the decisions described below.</p>	
<p>DEV17 22/00101/FUL - THE RE-FENESTRATION OF EXISTING FACADE TO MAIN BUILDING TO CREATE ENGINEERING WORKSHOPS AND CLASSROOMS, PLUS SUB-STATION TO THE WEST OF THE SITE AT RIVERSIDE COLLEGE, KINGSWAY, WIDNES</p> <p>The consultation procedure undertaken was outlined in the report together with background information in respect of the site.</p>	

The Chair advised that this item had been moved from column A to column B of the update list, because an update was required.

Officers reported that there was an omission of the four story element in the description of the development on the top of the Committee report, however this was contained in the body of the report under *principle of development* and was evident throughout the plans and report, and was included in the description when advertised. In addition, the wording on conditions on page 16 required rewording in the final decision notice.

Further to the update on contaminated land referred to in the report, the Contaminated Land Officer had stated that he was in agreement with the findings and recommendations and did not object to the application, but recommended that any permission be conditioned to require site investigation, updated risk assessment and if necessary, remediation and verification reporting.

The Committee was satisfied with the updates and agreed that the application be approved.

RESOLVED: That the application be approved subject to the following conditions:

1. Time limit – full permission;
2. Approved plans;
3. Implementation of external facing materials (CS(R)18 and GR1);
4. Electric vehicle charging points scheme (C2);
5. Parking and servicing provision (C1 and C2);
6. Cycle parking details (C2);
7. Car park management plan (C2);
8. Implementation of cycle parking scheme (C2);
9. Travel Plan (CS(R)15 and C1);
10. Drainage strategy (CS23 and HE9);
11. Site waste management plan/waste audit (WM8);
12. Sustainable development and climate change scheme (CS(R)19); and
13. Contaminated land conditions.

DEV18 22/00130/FUL - THE DEMOLITION OF AN EXISTING BUILDING AND THE ERECTION OF UP TO 66 INDEPENDENT LIVING APARTMENTS WITH ANCILLARY SUPPORT SERVICES AND COMMUNAL FACILITIES, TOGETHER WITH ASSOCIATED LANDSCAPING AMENITY SPACES AND CAR PARKING ON LAND AT 81 HIGH STREET, RUNCORN, CHESHIRE

The Committee was advised that the Applicant had withdrawn this application from the Committee agenda, so consideration was not required today.

In order to avoid any allegation of bias, Councillor Philbin did not take part in the debate and did not vote on the following item, as the site in question was part of the Ward he represented.

In order to avoid any allegation of bias, Councillor Hutchinson removed himself from the meeting before the following item, as he had dealt with the applicant previously and since the introduction of the car parking charges.

DEV19 22/00284/FUL - RETROSPECTIVE APPLICATION FOR PLANNING CONSENT FOR THE INSTALLATION OF A CAR PARK MANAGEMENT SYSTEM ON EXISTING CAR PARK COMPRISING 4 NO. POLE MOUNTED ANPR CAMERAS AND 6 NO. PARK AND DISPLAY MACHINES AND 22/00285/ADV - APPLICATION FOR ADVERTISING CONSENT FOR THE INSTALLATION OF 74 NO. POLE MOUNTED NON ILLUMINATED SIGNS FOR CAR PARK MANAGEMENT SYSTEM ON EXISTING CAR PARK

The consultation procedure undertaken for both applications was outlined in the report together with background information in respect of the site.

Officers advised the Committee that since the publication of the agenda a further seven letters of objection had been received, outlining issues already reported. They also advised that the principle planning consideration for the proposals were the scale and design of the proposed infrastructure and signage. It was noted that although concerns had been raised regarding the displacement of parking related to the introduction of a maximum stay period on the car park, it was important to note that planning permission is not required for the owners of the land to introduce a maximum stay period or car parking charges. The land is owned privately so it was at the owner's discretion as to how the parking was managed on their car park and the Council could not intervene in this.

Objections had been received regarding the charging for car parking and the impact on the Town Centre. Whilst the Council was opposed to the principle of charging for parking and sympathetic to the reported impacts on local business and the community, the amount of parking charge was not a material consideration for the Committee or was it within the control of the Planning Authority.

Members were advised that no objections had been received based on the appearance of the cameras and poles or the park and display machines. Officers' advised that it was considered that the design and appearance of the proposed ANPR cameras, associated structures and pay machines would not result in harmful impact on the visual amenity of the area and no conflict with current local or national policy had been identified. Regarding the impacts of advertisements on amenity and public safety, these were not considered to be inappropriate in scale and location to the area in which they are situated. Officers advised therefore, that they considered that refusal of planning permission for either of the applications could not be sustained on these grounds.

In summary the proposals for the ANPR cameras and poles were considered appropriate in terms of their design and appearance and were appropriate to their surroundings. The application for retrospective permission for their retention was acceptable and the application for the advertisements were considered acceptable in accordance with the relative DALP policies.

The Committee was addressed by Mr McLoughlin, who objected to the applications on behalf of the Widnes Market Traders Committee, citing the following:

- He has been a trader for 20 years and since the introduction of the parking charges, has seen footfall fall by 25% initially, to down by 50% now;
- The retail trade was just picking up after suffering two years of the impacts of Covid and now it was worse than ever;
- Customer parking has dispersed into the Town Centre and surrounding roads and the car park is hardly used even at peak times of the day;
- There is no provision for disabled badge users;
- Local businesses were struggling and their livelihoods were at risk; and
- Shoppers from surrounding towns were avoiding Widnes as a shopping destination since the introduction of the parking charges.

Councillor Jones, one of the local Ward Councillors then addressed the Committee, objecting to the applications. He argued that:

- The applications were contrary to Council policies and detrimental to the reputation of the Council;
- Halton has a free parking policy and the Council did

- not support these applications;
- Both were retrospective applications;
- Vehicles were being dispersed onto surrounding roads;
- This would be a reversal of historical precedence in relation to free parking policy and have an adverse effect on communities;
- The Council has the responsibility for the wellbeing of the people of the Borough and should encourage footfall into the Town centre not decrease it;
- He supported the Market Traders whose businesses and livelihoods were in jeopardy; and
- The same reduced footfall was being felt in Greenoaks Mall as well.

In summary Councillor Jones stated that Widnes has always been attractive to local and out of town shoppers because of the free parking. People did not come anymore because of the parking charges and the risk of being fined.

Councillor Teeling, another Ward Councillor, then addressed the Committee. She argued that if local traders and retailers had to comply with rules regarding signage then why did companies at a corporate level get away with breaching the rules. She stated that both applications were discriminatory – people with disabilities, especially those with partial sight, were discriminated against because the pay machines were small and signs were difficult to read. She also stated that they discriminated against residents without smart devices and internet access. She said the whole physical aspect of the applications were in question and should not be allowed.

The Planning Officer provided clarity on the principle planning considerations to be applied to these proposals, those being scale and design of the proposed infrastructure and signage. He reiterated that there was no conflict with current local or national policies identified and it was not considered that refusal of planning permission could be sustained on these grounds.

Further, Officers read out the outcome of an appeal made against a refusal of a similar application in another authority, where the appeal was upheld and the applicant was awarded full costs.

Committee Members discussed the applications in detail, taking into consideration the comments made by the speaker, local Ward Councillors and the responses and advice provided by Officers.

In response to questions over the retrospective nature of the application for planning permission, it was noted that legislation did allow retrospective applications to be made to local authorities.

The Legal Advisor advised that the applications must be determined in accordance with the Development Plan and clarified what was a material condition and what was not a material condition. She also reiterated that if the applications were refused and the applicant submitted an appeal, which was highly likely, this would be lost – this was also the opinion of the Planning Officers. Some information on the appeal procedure of the Planning Inspectorate was provided by the Operational Director for the benefit of the members of the public seated in the public gallery.

Upon conclusion to the debate one Member moved a motion to depart from the officer recommendation and refuse the applications due to the lack of provision for free parking to accommodate shoppers in Widnes, and because the signage was detrimental to the amenity area and has an adverse impact upon the Town Centre. This was seconded and the motion was carried. Members voted by a show of hands and both applications were refused.

RESOLVED: That both applications are refused for the following reasons:

Full application

1. the lack of provision of free car parking spaces and the wider impact on the Town Centre and businesses in Widnes; and

Advert application

2. the signage is detrimental to the amenity of the area and the adverse impact on the Town Centre.

DEV20 22/00407/FUL - PROPOSED SINGLE STOREY SIDE EXTENSION AT 7 CHELTENHAM CRESCENT, RUNCORN, WA7 4YT

The consultation procedure undertaken was outlined in the report together with background information in respect of the site.

The application was in column A of the published AB update list and the Committee agreed that no further explanation was required and the application was approved.

RESOLVED: That the application is approved
subject to the following conditions:

1. Standard 3 year expiry;
2. In accordance with approved plans; and
3. Materials to match existing.

Meeting ended at 7.25 p.m.

This page is intentionally left blank

DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the Development Management Committee on Monday, 7 November 2022 in the Council Chamber, Runcorn Town Hall

Present: Councillors S. Hill (Chair), Leck (Vice-Chair), Abbott, J. Bradshaw, Carlin, A. Lowe, Polhill, Thompson and Woolfall

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Hutchinson and Philbin

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: A. Jones, T. Gibbs, A. Plant, A. Evans, G. Henry, L. Wilson-Lagan, A. Blackburn and K. Brindley

Also in attendance: Six members of the public and one member of the press

**ITEMS DEALT WITH
UNDER DUTIES
EXERCISABLE BY THE COMMITTEE**

	<i>Action</i>
DEV21 MINUTES	
<p>The Minutes of the meeting held on 3 October 2022, having been circulated, were taken as read and signed as a correct record.</p>	
DEV22 PLANNING APPLICATIONS TO BE DETERMINED BY THE COMMITTEE	
<p>The Committee considered the following applications for planning permission and, in accordance with its powers and duties, made the decisions described below.</p> <p><i>In order to avoid any allegation of bias, Councillor Thompson did not take part in the debate or vote on the following item, as he is a Member of the Town Deal Board.</i></p>	
DEV23 22/00130/FUL - THE DEMOLITION OF AN EXISTING BUILDING AND THE ERECTION OF UP TO 66 INDEPENDENT LIVING APARTMENTS WITH ANCILLARY SUPPORT SERVICES AND COMMUNAL FACILITIES, TOGETHER WITH ASSOCIATED LANDSCAPING AMENITY SPACES AND CAR PARKING ON LAND AT 81 HIGH STREET RUNCORN CHESHIRE	

The consultation procedure undertaken was outlined in the report together with background information in respect of the site.

Since the publication of the agenda and AB Update List, an additional seven neighbour representations had been received however, none of these raised any issues that had not been already addressed in the report. The Case Officer advised of two typos on pages 21 and 24 of the report; these were noted. Members were also advised of two additional conditions that were required, one restricting construction hours and one requiring that noise mitigation be implemented.

The Committee was addressed by Mrs Forward, who spoke on behalf of her husband Mr Forward, in objection to the proposal and cited the following *inter alia*:

- The proposal would mean the over development of the site, it would be better to build less development and provide more garden space;
- Not enough parking for the visitors of the residents of the properties;
- Another characterful building would be lost from the Town Centre;
- There would be a loss of street scene – a 5 storey building will be out of character with the rest of the area;
- There was a potential for rodent life to increase;
- Air pollution would increase from traffic from the 3 surrounding roads and noise pollution would increase from the noise from this traffic;
- There would be an impact on environmental health matters;
- The development was not suitable for the over 55's – there were no gardens/parks in the vicinity; there was a neighbouring nightclub open until 5am where the proposed attenuation measures were unlikely to sufficiently address the associated noise; the swimming pool had closed; and there were no museums or community centres in the area; and
- Public consultation carried out by the Applicant was questionable.

She concluded by saying that Mr Forward welcomed new developments in the Town Centre but considered this site unsuitable for a development of this nature, and suggested an alternative site on Mersey Road. She went on to list previous developments in the Town Centre, which in his opinion, were mistakes.

The Committee was then addressed by Mr Chorlton who spoke on behalf of the Applicant. He commented that, *inter alia*:

- This development would provide independent living homes for up to 100 local residents;
- It would bring into use a long standing brownfield site;
- The development would bring investment and jobs to the Town;
- The scheme was designed to facilitate independent living for its residents and would include facilities within it to encourage social interaction;
- There was a specific need for this type of housing in Halton;
- The building itself would be constructed from red brick and sand brick, so in keeping with surrounding properties; and
- The actual footprint of the scheme was smaller than a previous application that was made and approved.

Having considered the application, the Officer's presentation and speakers' comments, the Committee agreed that the application be approved subject to the conditions listed and the additional conditions recommended above.

RESOLVED: That the application be approved subject to the following conditions:

1. Time limit – full permission;
2. Approved plans;
3. Restriction of use;
4. Implementation of external facing materials (CS(R)18 and GR1).
5. Submission of landscaping scheme and subsequent maintenance (Policy GR1);
6. Japanese Knot Weed method statement/validation;
7. Revised risk assessment and supporting remedial strategy, along with verification reporting upon completion of such remedial activities (HE8);
8. Electric vehicle charging points scheme (C2);
9. Parking and servicing provision (C1 and C2);
10. Car park management plan (C2);
11. Off site highway works (C1);
12. Implementation of cycle parking scheme (C2);
13. Residential travel plan (C1);
14. Details of the external buggy store (GR1/C1);
15. Implementation of drainage strategy (Policies CS23 and HE9);
16. Flood evacuation plan (CS23/HE9);

17. Programme of archaeological work (HE2);
18. Sustainable development and climate change scheme (CS(R) 19);
19. Submission and agreement of a site wide waste management plan (WM8);
20. Restricting gates/barriers to the car park entrance;
21. Restriction on demolition/construction hours (HE7);
and
22. Noise mitigation implementation (HE7).

DEV24 22/00260/FUL - PROPOSED EXTENSION TO EXISTING WAREHOUSE (USE CLASS B8), GROUND WORKS AND ASSOCIATED WORKS - ONYX 35, BLACKHEATH LANE, RUNCORN, WA7 1SE

The consultation procedure undertaken was outlined in the report together with background information in respect of the site.

It was noted that since the publication of the Committee agenda, there was no additional information to report.

The Committee was addressed by Mr Rouse, who spoke on behalf of the Applicant. He stated that *B&M Bargains* employed 210 people in Halton. They were presently on a short-term lease but required an extension to the warehouse, as the business is growing and they needed more space. *B&M Bargains* would be committed to a new lease if planning approval was granted for this. He added that the extension would bring up to a further 15 jobs to the area. He also advised that all statutory consultees raised no objections and all applicable planning policies had been met.

One Member queried the concerns made by Moore Parish Council in relation to noise. He asked if there were any conditions that could be imposed in relation to noise. In response, it was explained that the application was for an extension to an existing building, so this would be difficult and that any condition would need to meet the tests for a valid condition. Additionally, an environmental protection noise report concluded that noise levels would have no adverse effect on the area, so therefore Environmental Health could not sustain an objection based on noise and a planning condition could not be justified according to the legal tests. It was noted that in the event of noise nuisance being reported in the future; this would be dealt with by Environmental Health.

The Committee agreed that the application be

approved.

RESOLVED: That the application be granted subject to the following planning conditions:

1. Time limit – full permission;
2. Approved plans;
3. Implementation of external facing materials (CS(R)18 and GR1);
4. Landscaping (CS(R)18 and GR1);
5. Tree felling (HE5);
6. Arboricultural works (HE5);
7. Construction Environmental Management Plan (CS(R)20 and HE1);
8. Lighting scheme (CS(R)20 and HE1);
9. Off-site ecological mitigation (CS(R)20 and HE1);
10. Surface water drainage (CS23 and HE9);
11. SuDs verification (CS23 and HE9);
12. Flood mitigation (CS23 and HE9);
13. Electric vehicle charging points scheme (C2);
14. Travel plan (CS(R)15 and C1);
15. Site Waste Management Plan (WM8);
16. Securing ecological watching brief;
17. Remediation strategy (HE8); and
18. Verification of remediation strategy (HE8).

DEV25 22/00369/FULEIA - PROPOSED INSTALLATION OF AN ADDITIONAL PRODUCTION LINE, INVOLVING AN EXTENSION TO AN EXISTING BUILDING AND THE INSTALLATION OF ASSOCIATED PLANT AND MACHINERY - UNIFRAX WIDNES, SULLIVAN ROAD, WIDNES, CHESHIRE, WA8 0US

The consultation procedure undertaken was outlined in the report together with background information in respect of the site.

This application was moved from List A of the published AB Update List to List B, as an update was required. The Case Officer advised that Highways impacts had been assessed by the Council's Highways Officer. It was confirmed that there was sufficient parking on site for the number of staff employed, who mostly work shift patterns. He also advised that the Applicant had agreed to an additional condition concerning a parking layout that would also include details of EV charging spaces and the installation of a covered cycle storage facility.

RESOLVED: That the application be approved subject to the following conditions:

1. Time limit – full permission;
2. Approved plans (GR1);
3. Contaminated land identification, remediation strategy, verification (CS23);
4. External facing materials (GR1);
5. SUDS (HE9, CS, CS23);
6. SUDS verification and validation (HE9, CS7, CS23);
7. Construction management plan (GR2, CS23);
8. Construction waste audit (WM8); and
9. Submission and agreement of landscaping to be implemented.

Meeting ended at 7.15 p.m.

REGULATORY COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the Regulatory Committee on Wednesday, 12 October 2022 in the Council Chamber - Town Hall, Runcorn

Present: Councillors Wallace (Chair), Abbott (Vice-Chair), D. Cargill, Dourley, Fry, Loftus, A. McInerney, G. Stockton and Woolfall

Apologies for Absence: Councillor Wainwright

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: K. Hesketh, K. O'Brien and L. Wilson-Lagan

Also in attendance: None

**ITEMS DEALT WITH
UNDER DUTIES
EXERCISABLE BY THE COMMITTEE**

	<i>Action</i>
REG1 MINUTES	
<p>The Minutes of the meeting held on 6 October 2021 having been circulated were signed as a correct record.</p>	
REG2 TAXI LICENSING POLICY AMENDMENTS	
<p>The Committee considered two matters. The first was the adoption of a condition relating to Passenger Carrying Vehicles as recommended by the Department for Transport in its guidance on "Statutory Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle (PHV) Standards". The guidance provides that public safety is to be of paramount consideration in discharging licensing functions and sets out a number of recommendations that the Department expects to be implemented, unless there is a compelling local reason not to.</p> <p>A Private Hire Vehicle is a "motor vehicle constructed or adapted to seat fewer than 9 passengers". Where a larger vehicle was required, such as a minibus, bus or coach, this was known as a Passenger Carrying Vehicle or PCV. PCVs were subject to a different licensing regime. Some Private Hire Operators held PCV licences or subcontract bookings to PCV licence holders where a PHV is unsuitable. In these circumstances, neither the driver nor the vehicle would have been licensed with the Council despite the passenger having booked through a Private Hire Operator which was licenced</p>	

with the Council.

So that the customers were aware of this, the following condition was recommended:-

A private hire operator must not provide (to include sub-contract) a vehicle that is able to carry more than 8 passengers without first obtaining written or verbal consent of the hirer. The hirer must be made aware that neither the vehicle, nor the driver (where applicable) are licensed by Halton Borough Council and as such are subject to different checks. The hirer must also be informed that the driver is not required to have an enhanced DBS check. Verification of consent must be kept for a period as stated in 2.2 of these conditions.

Members were advised that the consultation exercise had produced no relevant responses.

In respect of the second matter, a request to extend the temporary vehicle policy amendment, relaxing the maximum age restriction on Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles, for a further period of time had been received from the Trade.

The temporary policy amendment came into force on 26 February 2021 to ease the economic pressures experienced by the trade following the pandemic. It extended the maximum age of non-fully wheelchair accessible vehicles to 12 years old and of fully wheelchair accessible vehicles to 18 years old, subject to two conditions requiring the vehicle benefiting from the extension to have 3 tests per year and on the basis that no vehicle taking advantage of the dispensation may be transferred to another proprietor. These conditions were imposed to mitigate any safety risks to the public bearing in mind the overriding consideration of protecting the public.

The temporary amendment is due to expire on the 25 February 2023 but the economic circumstances have not improved with the current cost of living crisis.

An update was provided on the public consultation exercise which had expired earlier in the day. No responses had been received. The majority of the feedback from the Trade supported the extension.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the following new Private Hire Operator Condition be

adopted:-

Operational
Director, Legal
and Democratic
Services

- a. "A private hire operator must not provide (to include sub-contract) a vehicle that is able to carry more than 8 passengers without first obtaining written or verbal consent of the hirer. The hirer must be made aware that neither the vehicle, nor the driver (where applicable) are licensed by Halton Borough Council and as such are subject to different checks. The hirer must also be informed that the driver is not required to have an enhanced DBS check. Verification of consent must be kept for a period as stated in 2.2 of these conditions."
- 2) the temporary Vehicle Policy amendment extending the maximum age of licensed Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles be extended for a further period of 2 years (i.e. until 25 February 2025) subject to the same two conditions requiring any vehicles benefiting from the extension to undergo 3 tests per year and on the basis that no vehicle taking advantage of the dispensation may be transferred to another proprietor.

REG3 TAXI LICENSING MATTERS

The Committee considered two matters. The first was the introduction of a vehicle licence condition requiring the display of a customer feedback notice in vehicles licensed with the Council. The Committee and the Executive Board had already approved an amendment to the Vehicle Licence Policy which required that:-

"Every licensed hackney carriage and private hire vehicle is required to permanently display in a prominent location for the customer a feedback notice (compliments and complaints) as provided by the licensing section".

The change of policy should have been accompanied by a vehicle licence condition so that it could be enforced by the Licensing Department. As such, it was recommended that the following condition be inserted into the Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licence Conditions and the Private Hire Vehicle Licence Conditions under the heading "Signs and Advertisements":-

- (i) *"The Licence Holder shall ensure that before driving a licensed Hackney Carriage [or private hire vehicle] or renting a vehicle to a licensed Hackney Carriage*

driver [or private hire vehicle] that the customer feedback notice, issued by the Council, is displayed in the vehicle in a prominent location so that it can be seen by all passengers.”

In respect of the second matter, the Committee’s approval was sought to amend the Council’s Policy on Professional Standards. The suggested amendment was not to the substantive policy itself but to the “background information” which misquoted the law on the burden of proof. At paragraph 10 on page 2 of the Policy, it was incorrectly stated that when a licence is reviewed, the burden shifts from the licence holder to the Council to prove that the licence holder is a fit and proper person. There had been some confusion in the legal authorities as to who bore the burden of proof in these circumstances but the correct position is set out in the leading case of R (Hope & Glory Public House Limited) v Westminster Magistrates’ Court and Another [2011] EWCA Civ 31. The recommendation was that the offending part of the sentence “*except when reviewing a licence then the burden of proof reverts to the Council*” was removed so that the sentence reads:-

“It is the requirement of the applicant to prove that they are a fit and proper person”.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) a vehicle licence condition requiring the display of a customer feedback notice in vehicles licensed with the Council is adopted; and
- 2) there be an amendment to the Policy on Professional Standards to reflect the correct legal position on the burden of proof.

Operational
Director, Legal
and Democratic
Services

REG4 TAXI LICENSING UPDATE

The Committee considered a report summarising the decisions taken by the Taxi Licensing Sub-Committee and the urgent decisions taken by the Chief Executive under delegated powers.

RESOLVED: That the contents of the report be noted.

Meeting ended at 7.10 p.m.

APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the Appointments Committee held on Friday, 7 October 2022 at the Halton Stadium, Widnes

Present: Councillors Wharton (Chair), J. Bradshaw, J. Lowe, McDermott, Ratcliffe and Thompson

Apologies for Absence: None

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: S. Gurrell, G. Haining, S. Young and M. Vasic.

Also in attendance: Sharon Senior and Massimo Porceddu - North West Employers

**ITEMS DEALT WITH
UNDER DUTIES
EXERCISABLE BY THE COMMITTEE**

	<i>Action</i>
<p>APC7 MINUTES</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 15 September 2022, having been printed and circulated, were taken as read and agreed as a correct record.</p>	
<p>APC8 SCHEDULE 12A OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985</p> <p>The Board considered:</p> <p>1) whether members of the press and public should be excluded from the meeting of the Board 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>	

- 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 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, exempt information would be disclosed, being information defined in Section 100 (1) and paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

APC9 SELECTION INTERVIEWS FOR THE POST OF OPERATIONAL DIRECTOR, EDUCATION, INCLUSION AND PROVISION

Following a long-listing recruitment process and the drawing up of a shortlist, the Committee considered candidates for the post of Operational Director Education, Inclusion and Provision.

RESOLVED: That Jill Farrell be appointed to the post of Operational Director Education, Inclusion and Provision.

Meeting ended at 11.29 a.m.

APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the Appointments Committee held on Monday, 10 October 2022 at the Bridge Suite - Halton Stadium, Widnes

Present: Councillors Wharton (Chair), J. Bradshaw, J. Lowe, McDermott, Ratcliffe and Thompson

Apologies for Absence: None

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: S. Gurrell, S. Young and M. Vasic

**ITEMS DEALT WITH
UNDER DUTIES
EXERCISABLE BY THE COMMITTEE**

APC10 SCHEDULE 12A OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

Action

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 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
- 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 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, exempt information would be disclosed, being information defined in Section 100 (1) and paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

APC11 SELECTION INTERVIEWS FOR THE POST OF OPERATIONAL DIRECTOR, CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE

Following a long-listing recruitment process and the drawing up of a shortlist, the Committee considered candidates for the post of Operational Director Children's Social Care.

RESOLVED: That Peter Murphy be appointed to the post of Operational Director Children's Social Care.

Chief Executive

Meeting ended at 1.13 p.m.