

# Public Document Pack



## Executive Board

Thursday, 12 December 2019 2.00 p.m.  
The Boardroom, Municipal Building

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David W R'.

**Chief Executive**

### ITEMS TO BE DEALT WITH IN THE PRESENCE OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

#### PART 1

Item	Page No
<b>1. MINUTES</b>	
<b>2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST</b>	
Members are reminded of their responsibility to declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interest or Other Disclosable Interest which they have in any item of business on the agenda, no later than when that item is reached or as soon as the interest becomes apparent and, with Disclosable Pecuniary interests, to leave the meeting during any discussion or voting on the item.	
<b>3. HEALTH AND WELLBEING PORTFOLIO</b>	
<b>(A) 2018/19 PUBLIC HEALTH ANNUAL REPORT- WORKPLACE HEALTH</b>	<b>1 - 3</b>

*Please contact Angela Scott on 0151 511 8670 or  
Angela.scott@halton.gov.uk for further information.  
The next meeting of the Committee is on Thursday, 16 January 2020*

Item	Page No
4. COMMUNITY SAFETY PORTFOLIO	
(A) DOMESTIC ABUSE, REFUGE AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES	4 - 6
5. TRANSPORTATION PORTFOLIO	
(A) MERSEY GATEWAY PROJECT UPDATE	7 - 14
6. RESOURCES PORTFOLIO	
(A) DISCRETIONARY NON-DOMESTIC RATE RELIEF	15 - 19
7. SCHEDULE 12A OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985	
<b>PART II</b>	
<p>In this case the Board has a discretion to exclude the press and public and, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted, it is <b>RECOMMENDED</b> that under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, having been satisfied that in all the circumstances of the case the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item(s) of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act.</p>	
8. PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT PORTFOLIO	
(A) 3MG HBC FIELD	20 - 24

*In accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Act the Council is required to notify those attending meetings of the fire evacuation procedures. A copy has previously been circulated to Members and instructions are located in all rooms within the Civic block.*

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	Executive Board
<b>DATE:</b>	12 December 2019
<b>REPORTING OFFICER:</b>	Director of Public Health
<b>PORTFOLIO:</b>	Health and Wellbeing
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	2018-19 Public Health Annual Report – Workplace Health
<b>WARD(S)</b>	Borough-wide

### 1.0 **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

To provide the Executive Board with the Public Health Annual Report 2019.

### 2.0 **RECOMMENDATION: That the Board note the report.**

### 3.0 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 3.1 Since 1988 Directors of Public Health (DPH) have been tasked with preparing annual reports - an independent assessment of the health of local populations. The annual report is the DPH's professional statement about the health of local communities, based on sound epidemiological evidence, and interpreted objectively.
- 3.2 The annual report is an important vehicle by which a DPH can identify key issues, flag problems, report progress and, thereby, serve their local populations. It will also be a key resource to inform local inter-agency action. The annual report remains a key means by which the DPH is accountable to the population they serve.
- 3.3 The Faculty of Public Health guidelines on DPH Annual Reports list the report aims as the following:
- Contribute to improving the health and well-being of local populations.
  - Reduce health inequalities.
  - Promote action for better health through measuring progress towards health targets.
  - Assist with the planning and monitoring of local programmes and services that impact on health over time.
- 3.4 The PHAR is the Director of Public Health's independent, expert assessment of the health of the local population. Whilst the views and contributions of local

partners have been taken into account, the assessment and recommendations made in the report are those held by the DPH and do not necessarily reflect the position of the employing and partner organisations.

- 3.5 Each year a theme is chosen for the PHAR. Therefore it does not encompass every issue of relevance but rather focuses on a particular issue or set of linked issues. These may cover one of the three work streams of public health practice (health improvement, health protection or healthcare public health), an overarching theme, such as health inequalities, or a particular topic such as mental health or cancer.
- 3.6 For 2018-2019 the Public Health Annual Report is a short film that focusses on Workplace Health. This topic has been chosen to highlight key areas pertinent to the Health and Wellbeing of the working population within the borough. The report will emphasise the measures being taken to both prevent poor health and improve the health of workers and their families.
- 3.7 The film link is below it covers the following areas:
- What has been happening with workplace health in Halton.
  - What impact the work undertaken has had on local businesses and their employees.
  - Outcomes associated with this work.
  - Recommendations for the future.

<https://itnproductions.wistia.com/projects/z6y28w712p>

#### **4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The Public Health Annual Report should be used to inform commissioning plans and collaborative action for the NHS, Social Care, Public Health and other key partners as appropriate.

#### **5.0 OTHER/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 None identified at this time.

#### **6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

##### **6.1 Children & Young People in Halton**

Improving the Health and Wellbeing of Children and Young People is a key priority in Halton. The PHAR will highlight key topics for improving the health of families in Halton.

##### **6.2 Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

The above priority is a key determinant of health. Therefore improving outcomes in this area will have an impact on improving the health of Halton residents. Improving and maintaining a health, skilled working population has important effects on the local economy and the future of Halton.

### **6.3 A Healthy Halton**

All issues outlined in this report focus directly on this priority.

### **6.4 A Safer Halton**

Reducing the incidence of crime, improving Community Safety and reducing the fear of crime have an impact on health outcomes particularly on mental health.

There are also close links between partnerships and local workplaces on areas such as scams, alcohol and domestic violence.

### **6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal**

The environment in which we live and the physical infrastructure of our communities has a direct impact on our health and wellbeing. This includes the development of industrial and business infrastructure.

## **7.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 Developing the PHAR does not present any obvious risk however, there may be risks associated with the resultant recommendations. These will be assessed as appropriate.

## **8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 This is in line with all equality and diversity issues in Halton.

## **9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

9.1 None.

**REPORT TO:** Executive Board

**DATE:** 12 December 2019

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director, People

**PORTFOLIO:** Community Safety

**SUBJECT:** Domestic Abuse Refuge and Community Support Services

**WARD(S)** Borough-wide

**1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 To update Executive Board on the integrated Domestic Abuse Service commissioned across People's services and seek approval of a waiver of Parts 2 and/or 3 of Procurement Standing Orders as appropriate pursuant to Procurement Standing Orders 1.14.4 and 1.14.5, for the continued provision of Adult Domestic Abuse Services.

**2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That pursuant to Procurement Standing Orders 1.14.4 and 1.14.5, Executive Board approve a further extension to the existing Adult Domestic Abuse Services.**

**3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 In March 2019, Executive Board approved the commencement of a joint procurement process with Children's Services, to commission an integrated Domestic Abuse system based in Grangeway with refurbishment of Council owned property. Unfortunately, the refurbishment costs are prohibitive and a waiver is requested to allow for a new procurement process.

3.2 The procurement process would commence in January 2020 with the contract to be awarded from July 2020.

**4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 None identified.

**5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 The table below shows the current contract values:

<b>Service</b>	<b>Annual Contract Value</b>	<b>Funding for Extension Period</b>
Refuge Accommodation	£120,000	£57,705
Community Support	£123,000 (includes £15,000 for Sanctuary Scheme)	£59,147
<b>Total (HBC budgets)</b>	<b>£243,000</b>	<b>£116,852</b>
Additional pan-Cheshire funding for DA accommodation project /Complex Case worker	£7,728 2019/20 £25,872 2020/21	£4,321 £6,468
<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>£366,320</b>	<b>£123,320</b>

## 6.0 **IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

### 6.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

This service supports and provides safe accommodation for children, young people and families. Wherever possible children and young people are enabled to remain in their home and continue to access and maintain existing schools, health services and support services.

### 6.2 **Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

Individuals accessing the service will be supported to maximise opportunities to access training and employment.

### 6.3 **A Healthy Halton**

The service supports people to minimise the risks of harm, and access relevant services to improve their physical and mental health and wellbeing.

### 6.4 **A Safer Halton**

This service safeguards children, young and vulnerable people and families by providing safe accommodation or support to remain safe at home.

6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

None identified.

7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 Financial risk will be minimised by delivering the service within existing budgets.

7.2 The contract will comply with the Council's Standing Orders in relation to procurement and will be monitored in line with the Council's Quality Assurance framework to ensure contractual requirements are met with regard to quality, performance and outcomes.

8.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 The support provider will be required to demonstrate they embrace and comply with the Equality Act.

9.0 **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
Executive Board report	Runcorn Town Hall	Cath Howarth

**REPORT TO:** Executive Board

**DATE:** 12 December 2019

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community & Resources

**PORTFOLIO:** Transportation

**TITLE:** Mersey Gateway Project Update

**WARDS:** Borough-wide

### **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 To provide an overview of progress with the Mersey Gateway Project as at 30 September 2019.

**2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the report be noted.**

### **3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

#### **Background**

3.1 The Mersey Gateway Bridge was successfully completed and opened on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2017. The Project and the on-going operation of the bridge is managed and overseen on a day-to-day basis, on behalf of the Council, by the Mersey Gateway Crossings Board.

3.2 The Mersey Gateway Crossings Board receives regular progress reports concerning a wide range of matters, including in particular the performance of the Project in terms of construction works, maintenance, traffic flows and finance. The Board also monitors the Operator's (Merseylink) performance against the contract (Project Agreement) and the activities of the toll operator Emovis.

3.3 Executive Board received a progress report on 11 April 2019. This report provides an update on progress with the Mersey Gateway project for the first six months of 2019/20.

#### **Construction and Finishing Works**

3.4 Final completion of the planned construction and finishing works is anticipated by December 2019.

3.5 A number of finishing, drainage, fencing, lighting, landscaping, earthworks and snagging works have continued to be undertaken in various locations. Progress with completion of these is being monitored by the Mersey Gateway Crossings Board.

- 3.6 Discussions are continuing with Merseylink regarding the formal handover of Temporary Use Areas within the project boundary, which have to be reinstated in order to allow the Works Completion Certificate to be issued.
- 3.7 Highway construction works associated with the delinking and reconfiguration of approaches to the Silver Jubilee Bridge are currently ongoing. The Silver Jubilee Bridge currently remains closed for major maintenance and deck reconfiguration works.

### **Operation and Maintenance Update**

- 3.8 The Mersey Gateway Crossings Board monitors Merseylink's operational performance against the Project Agreement. A large range of data is monitored and reviewed on an ongoing basis, including; lane closures, defect repairs, safety inspections, street lighting, winter maintenance, planned maintenance and reactive maintenance, and traffic incidents. Any concerns identified are raised with Merseylink to ensure they are rectified within the terms of the Project Agreement.

### **Economic Impact and Handback Land**

- 3.9 Despite current uncertainty in the investment market, primarily related to Brexit, companies are continuing to invest within the Borough. Many companies state that the improved connectivity which the Mersey Gateway Bridge has brought, has been a major factor in determining their investment decisions. Expansion plans have been announced in both Runcorn and Widnes, for example, at Widnes Waterfront, 3MG, Astmoor, and Manor Park. Examples include:

#### **1.Hitachi**

Made the decision in September 2017 to locate in Halton, and were clear at the time that the decision to invest was based on the opening of the bridge and improved journey times.

#### **2. ConvaTec**

ConvaTec is a global medical products and technologies company focused on therapies for the management of chronic conditions, with leading market positions in advanced wound care, ostomy care, continence and critical care, and infusion devices.

They have a large presence in Deeside and have established a sales and marketing function at the Heath, circa 40 jobs.

Communications and proximity to clients was cited as a reason for their relocation to Halton.

#### **3. Hosokawa Micron**

International process technology company Hosokawa Micron Ltd has launched a new state-of-the-art Technical Innovation Centre at Sci-Tech Daresbury.

#### **4. Autoscan**

C-Major Medical has secured a trio of patents for its innovative syringe technology in Japan, Taiwan and Europe and has cited its new location in the borough as having a huge impact on its growth.

The company's leading CHoRD™ technology targets the multi-billion dollar retracting syringe market and aims to assist in the prevention of needle-stick injuries (NSIs) and infectious contamination.

#### **5. LIVFUL**

US biotechnology start-up LivFul has set up a UK research base at STFC's Daresbury Laboratory as part of its global mission to save lives from malaria and other insect-borne diseases

#### **6. Carpenter Additive – Widnes**

Carpenter Additive make Additive Manufacturing a reality in critical production environments. They focus on high quality metal powder products and services.

They made a £30 million investment in Widnes with the purchase of LPW Technology in 2019.

#### **7. Fresenius Kabi**

With a reinvestment in Halton Fresenius Kabi will be creating more in the region of 400 jobs. It is worth noting that 485 of all staff employed here are taken up by local people and their definition of local means Halton residents only.

Figures from the Land Registry show that The residential property market in Halton is also buoyant with a 7.5% growth in house prices June 2018 and June 2020.

The Council is working with Merseylink to conclude the 'hand back' of land which was temporarily required as part of the construction of the Bridge. The return of the land is being overseen by an Independent Assessor, who will determine that this will be in accordance with the requirements of the Project Agreement, which will enable the sites to be brought forward for development in the future. To date the Council has only accepted the return of a limited number of sites. These areas are those that have been required by the Council to undertake works inclusive of the permanent Widnes loops junction and the maintenance works to Hutchinson Sidings Bridge. Three landscaped verge areas, the former Stobart car park site and 4/5 Dock Road site have also been returned.

Nevertheless, given the economic potential of some of these sites, the Council's regeneration team is prioritising the Handback Land in Astmoor, Runcorn. Strategic Investment Funding from the Combined Authority is being sought to assist with this. This is in preparation for the marketing of the handback sites once they are returned to HBC's ownership.

## **Finances - Update**

### Project Funding

- 3.12 The Mersey Gateway project requires Government funding in the form of Availability Support Grant (AS grant) and Extended Discount Scheme grant (EDS grant) in addition to toll/charge income, in order to meet all related project costs.
- 3.13 The EDS grant provides funding for the extension of the Local User Discount Scheme (LUDS) to cover all journeys made by Halton Residents (ie. in addition to the first 300 journeys which are paid for by the Council).
- 3.14 The DfT Funding Letter dated 24 February 2016 sets out the level of Government grant funding for the Mersey Gateway Project. Although there are provisions to seek additional support, a key measure of success of the Project is the ability to stay within the agreed funding levels. The Funding Letter also specifies levels of anticipated expenditure and the success of the Project will be measured by the ability to operate within total anticipated costs.
- 3.15 The Funding Letter provides for the overall Project position to be refreshed on a rolling basis and to this end a rolling Five Year Plan was submitted to DfT based on more up to date information. The success of the Project will also be judged by its performance against this Five Year Plan.

### Financial Performance

- 3.16 The Appendix presents a summary of the financial performance of the Mersey Gateway Project from 1 April 2019 to 30 September 2019.
- 3.17 When the gross theoretical revenues (ie. excluding penalty charge notice revenues) are compared to total project costs for the period, the actual shortfall of £9.5m is less than the expected shortfall shown in both the Funding Letter (£12.9m) and Five Year Plan (£13.8m).
- 3.18 The shortfall is funded from the DfT Availability Support grant and Extended Discount Scheme grant. Should performance continue at the same pace, there are no anticipated pressures on Government Funding and therefore the Project is operating within its funding targets.
- 3.19 It should be noted that the shortfall is reduced when actual revenues are compared to project costs, because actual revenues include penalty charge notice receipts and registration fees, which were not included in the Funding Letter or Five Year Plan. The resultant actual shortfall is £2.3m.
- 3.20 With regard to the financial performance information shown in the Appendix, the key reasons for variances are as follows;
- The Mersey Gateway Crossing Board's operational costs have been managed below the levels estimated in the Funding Letter and Five Year Plan.

- Operational Insurances have been secured significantly below estimate.
- The project has incurred interest on the Council's borrowing significantly below that estimated in the Funding Letter, primarily because it was achieved at significantly lower rate of interest rate than anticipated.
- The Surplus Revenue Adjustment is calculated quarterly, becoming payable only if toll revenues exceed certain amounts as set out in the Demand Management Participation Agreement (DMPA). It does not feature in the Funding Letter and Five Year Plan and hence appears as a variance

#### Local User Discount Scheme (LUDS) and Extended Discount Scheme (EDS)

- 3.21 Under the Local User Discount Scheme (LUDS) the Council funds the cost of qualifying residents' first 300 journeys in a 12 month period, with the balance of journeys (Extended Discount Scheme) being funded by the DfT.
- 3.22 Under the Funding Letter the Council can contribute up to 10% of toll revenues that would have been earned in the absence of any discount scheme, plus their share of procurement savings, in order to fund the LUDS.
- 3.23 Based on the traffic analysis overall the pattern of journeys for LUDS users has remained steady at 73% undertaking 300 journeys or lower with 27% undertaking more than 300 journeys. Accordingly, the cost of the LUDS during the period met 73% by the Council and 27% by DfT is £5.5m and £2.0m respectively. From the Council's perspective this exceeds the maximum contribution imposed by the Funding Letter by £0.6m, but for the DfT this represents a positive position being some £1.8m less than expected.

#### **Conclusions**

- 3.24 The operation of the Mersey Gateway from 1 April 2019 to 30 September has continued to be positive in both operational and financial terms. The Mersey Gateway Crossings Board continues to manage and oversee the Project on a day to day basis on behalf of the Council, and to take any necessary action to ensure the Operator fully complies with the requirements of the Project Agreement.
- 3.25 Indications are that should the Project's financial performance continue to progress at the current rate, there will be no anticipated difficulties in terms of both the Council's and the Government's funding for the Project, as it is operating within its funding targets.

#### **4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 There are none.

#### **5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 None.

**6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

6.1 There are no implications for the Council's priorities.

**7.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 Performance to date indicates that the Mersey Gateway Project is ahead of target. However, the Project is still in the relatively early stages and although the indications are positive, the results to date should be extrapolated forward with a degree of caution.

7.2 The Project is subject to a number of risks and these are managed by the Mersey Gateway Crossings Board on behalf of the Council, captured on the risk registers. The Mersey Gateway Crossings Board's Audit Committee review the detailed risk registers on a regular basis.

**8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 None.

**9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

<b>Document</b>	<b>Place of Inspection</b>	<b>Contact Officer</b>
Mersey Gateway DfT Funding Letter	Mersey Gateway Crossings Board Limited, Forward Point, Tanhouse Lane, Widnes, WA80SL	David Lyon
Mersey Gateway Five Year Plan	“	“

## Appendix

## Mersey Gateway Financial Performance 1 April 2019 to 30 September 2019

	Forecast		Actual Costs £'000	Variances	
	5 Year Plan £'000	Funding Letter £'000		To 5 Year Plan £'000	To Funding Letter £'000
MGCB Operating Costs	948	1,268	667	281	601
Operational Insurances	760	720	200	560	520
Prudential Borrowings Interest	2,829	3,720	2,558	270	1,162
HMT Fee	75	91	75	0	16
Adjudication Costs	173	0	101	73	-101
Sustainable Transport	250	0	130	120	-130
HBC Costs	74	0	60	14	-60
Unitary Charge	18,723	18,723	18,726	-4	-4
Service Subsidy	4,036	4,036	4,044	-8	-8
Surplus Revenue Adjustment	0	0	1,450	-1,450	-1,450
<b>Total Costs</b>	<b>27,869</b>	<b>28,557</b>	<b>28,012</b>	<b>-143</b>	<b>545</b>
Gross Theoretical Revenue <sup>1</sup>	14,105	15,654	18,485	4,381	2,832
Shortfall / Surplus	-13,764	-12,904	-9,527	4,237	3,377
Actual Revenue <sup>1</sup>	14,105	15,654	25,676	11,572	10,023
Shortfall / Surplus	-13,764	-12,904	-2,336	11,428	10,568
DfT Availability Support Grant	9,114	9,114	9,114	0	0
DfT Extended LUDS Grant	3,790	3,790	3,790	0	0
<b>Total DfT Grant</b>	<b>12,904</b>	<b>12,904</b>	<b>12,904</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

Note 1 Gross Theoretical Revenue excludes PCN revenues whereas Actual Revenue includes them.

## Local User Discount Scheme &amp; Extended Discount Scheme – Crossing Numbers

Month	Number of Crossings		
	Less Than 25 Trips ie. Funded by LUDS	More Than 25 Trips ie. Funded by EDS	Total
April 2019	502,116	173,349	675,465
May 2019	514,746	196,343	711,089
June 2019	505,432	182,969	688,401
July 2019	518,670	208,329	726,999
August 2019	516,399	175,674	692,073
September 2019	510,496	190,529	701,025
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,067,859</b>	<b>1,127,193</b>	<b>4,195,052</b>

**Local User Discount Scheme and Extended Discount Scheme – Funding**

	<b>Actual Revenue (£'000)</b>	<b>Gross Theoretical Revenue (£'000)</b>
<b>Local User Discount Scheme</b>		
Total Revenue	25,677	18,486
LUDS (Forsaken Revenue)	<u>7,552</u>	<u>14,105</u>
Grand Total Revenue	<u>33,229</u>	<u>32,591</u>
10% of Revenue Used for LUDS Council Share of Procurement Savings	<u>3,323</u> <u>1,636</u>	<u>3,260</u> <u>1,636</u>
Total Available for LUDS	<u>4,959</u>	<u>4,896</u>
Cost of LUDS (<300 Trips)	<u>5,523</u>	<u>7,552</u>
Shortfall	<u><u>-564</u></u>	<u><u>-2,656</u></u>
<b>Extended Discount Scheme</b>		
EDS DfT Grant	3,790	3,790
Cost of EDS	2,029	2,029
Remaining DfT EDS Funding	<u><u>1,761</u></u>	<u><u>1,761</u></u>

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	Executive Board
<b>DATE:</b>	12 December 2019
<b>REPORTING OFFICER:</b>	Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Discretionary Non-Domestic Rate Relief
<b>PORTFOLIO:</b>	Resources
<b>WARD(S):</b>	Borough-wide

### **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to consider two applications for discretionary non-domestic rate relief, under Section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988.

### **2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That**

- 1) the request for 15% discretionary rate relief from Halton Haven Hospice in respect of premises at 23 Queen's Avenue, Widnes from 14<sup>th</sup> October 2019, be approved; and**
- 2) the request for 15% discretionary rate relief from the Cathie Stankevitch Foundation in respect of premises at 25 Albert Square, Widnes from 14<sup>th</sup> June 2019, be approved.**

### **3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 3.1 Under the amended provisions of the Local Government Finance Act 1988, the Council is able to grant discretionary rate relief to any business ratepayer. This relief had previously only been available to organisations that were a registered charity, a community amateur sports club or a not-for-profit organisation.
- 3.2 From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 the Council became responsible for meeting the full cost of all mandatory and discretionary relief granted, as part of the Liverpool City Region 100% Business Rates Retention Pilot Scheme.
- 3.3 Applications for discretionary rate relief have been received from two registered charities as outlined below. Currently, where discretionary rate relief has been granted to registered charities, it has been provided until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 in order to provide the organisations with some degree of certainty.

**Halton Haven Hospice**  
**23 Queen's Avenue, Widnes, WA8 8HR**

- 3.4 Halton Haven is an independent hospice providing palliative care for people whose illness is treatable but cannot be cured, with the goal of achieving the best quality of life for patients and their families. The organisation provides extensive care free of charge for terminally ill patients and their families in our local community. Although they will not exclude affected parties, their services are intended to provide assistance to the residents of Halton.
- 3.5 Their premises at 23 Queen's Avenue, Widnes are used as a charity shop to sell donated items to support the work of the hospice. As a registered charity, the organisation is automatically entitled to receive 80% mandatory rate relief. The application is to request 15% discretionary rate relief.
- 3.6 The hospice also currently receives 15% discretionary rate relief for premises at 57-61 Widnes Road, Widnes and 25 High Street, Runcorn.
- 3.7 The total annual cost of relief to the Council would be as follows;

Actual cost of 80% mandatory relief	£1,774.08
Actual cost of 15% discretionary relief	<u>£ 332.64</u>
Total	<u>£2,106.72</u>

**Cathie Stankevitch Foundation (Trading As Resport UK)**  
**25 Albert Square, Widnes, WA8 6JW**

- 3.8 The Cathie Stankevitch Foundation delivers community projects and initiatives. The objectives of the organisation are to promote social inclusion for the public benefit, by preventing people from becoming socially excluded, relieving the needs of those people who are already socially excluded and assisting them to integrate back into society.
- 3.9 The property in Albert Square is being used as a workshop and youth centre. The workshop on the ground floor offers projects to local youths to help with self-esteem and build confidence. The first floor of the premises is used as a youth centre, which is open some evenings throughout the week, for youths aged between 7 and 13. The youth centre offers a safe place for youngsters in the area to visit and use the facilities, which include pool tables, game stations, beauty areas and craft areas.
- 3.10 As a registered charity the organisation automatically receives 80% mandatory rate relief. The application is to request 15% discretionary rate relief. The organisation currently also receives discretionary rate relief in respect of their premises at 20 Albert Square, Widnes which is used as a charity shop.

3.11 The total annual cost of relief to the Council would be as follows;

Annual cost of 80% mandatory relief	£ 7,963.20
Annual cost of 15% discretionary relief	£ 1,493.10
Total	<u>£ 9,456.30</u>

#### **4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 The Board is required by the regulations to consider each application on its own merit. Any recommendations provided are given for guidance only, are consistent with Council policy and, wherever possible, previous decisions.

#### **5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 The Appendix presents the potential annual costs to the Council of granting rate relief, along with the cost in the current financial year.

#### **6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

##### **6.1 Children and Young People in Halton**

None.

##### **6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton**

None

##### **6.3 A Healthy Halton**

None

##### **6.4 A Safer Halton**

None

##### **6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal**

None.

#### **7.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 There are no key risks associated with the proposed action.

#### **8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 The organisations both offer their services to all sections of the community, without any prejudice.

#### **9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

9.1	<b>Document</b>	<b>Place of Inspection</b>	<b>Contact Officer</b>
	Application forms	Halton Stadium, Lower House Lane, Widnes	Louise Bate Revenues Manager – Business Rates

**APPENDIX**

<b>Ratepayer</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Annual Rates Liability</b>	<b>Mandatory Rate Relief Awarded</b>	<b>Annual Cost of Mandatory Rate Relief to HBC</b>	<b>Disc. Rate Relief Claimed</b>	<b>Annual Cost of Disc. Rate Relief to HBC</b>	<b>Actual Rates Liability 2019/20</b>	<b>Actual Cost of Mandatory Relief to HBC from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020</b>	<b>Actual Cost of Disc. Rate Relief to HBC from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020</b>
		£		£		£	£	£	£
Halton Haven Hospice	23 Queens Avenue, Widnes, WA8 8HR	2217.60	80%	1774.08	15%	332.64	1199.69	824.03	179.95
Cathie Stankevitch T/A Resport UK	25 Albert Square, Widnes, WA8 6JW	9954.00	80%	7963.20	15%	1493.10	7941.44	6353.15	1191.22

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A  
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted