

COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Council on Wednesday, 6 February 2013 in the Council Chamber, Runcorn Town Hall

Present: Councillors T. McInerney, Baker, J. Bradshaw, M. Bradshaw, D. Cargill, E. Cargill, Cassidy, Cole, Dennett, Edge, Fraser, Fry, Gerrard, Gilligan, Harris, P. Hignett, R. Hignett, S. Hill, V. Hill, Hodge, Horabin, Howard, Jones, Lea, M. Lloyd Jones, P. Lloyd Jones, C. Loftus, K. Loftus, Logan, A. Lowe, J. Lowe, Macmanus, McDermott, A. McInerney, Nolan, Osborne, Parker, Philbin, Polhill, C. Plumpton Walsh, N. Plumpton Walsh, Ratcliffe, Roberts, Rowe, Sinnott, G. Stockton, J. Stockton, Thompson, Wallace, Wharton, Woolfall, Wright and Zygadlo

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Morley, Nelson and Wainwright

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: M. Reaney, A. Scott, D. Johnson, I. Leivesley, G. Meehan, D. Parr and E. O'Meara

Also in attendance: None

Action

COU62 MINUTE'S SILENCE

The Mayor reported on the sad passing of former Councillors Trevor Higginson and Ken Farrow and of former Mayoress Elsie Gleave.

The Council stood for a minute's silence as a mark of respect.

COU63 PRESENTATION ON THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING STRATEGY

Eileen O'Meara, Director of Public Health, addressed Members of the Council on the Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2012-15 (the Strategy).

The Strategy had been developed by Halton's Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board. It was an overarching Strategy that all other strategies and plans relating to health and wellbeing sat under. It explained the health and wellbeing priorities that Halton's Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board had identified in delivering the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.

The vision was to improve the health and wellbeing of Halton people so they lived longer, healthier and happier lives. To be able to achieve this, five priority actions had been identified as follows:

- Prevention and early detection of cancer;
- Improved child development;
- Reduction in the number of falls in adults;
- Reduction in the harm from alcohol; and
- Prevention and early detection of mental health conditions.

The presentation advised Members that the Strategy set the framework for the commissioning of health and wellbeing services in Halton with a particular emphasis on prevention and early intervention.

There was an opportunity for Members to ask questions on related matters. Ms O'Meara was then thanked for her attendance.

COU64 COUNCIL MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 December 2012, having been printed and circulated, were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

COU65 LEADER'S REPORT

The Leader reported on the following items:

- An update on the negotiations with the Department for Education and the transfer of staff at Castle View House to offices in Manchester;
- Possible redundancies and reduction of staff at Ineos and DHL; and
- Regional Growth Fund funding for Daresbury.

(N.B. The following Councillors made a Disclosable Other Interest in the minutes of Executive Board for the reasons stated: Councillor Osborne in Minute EXB 134, as a member of the Cheshire Police and Crime Panel; Councillor D Cargill in Minute EXB 136 as a member of the Merseyside Phasing –in Sub Committee – Euro Structural Funding; Councillor Gerrard on Minute EXB 135 as a Council representative to Halton Community Transport)

COU66 MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

The Council considered the minutes of the Executive Board meetings from 13 December 2012, 10 January 2013 and 24 January 2013.

Councillor Rowe asked for clarification on the criteria for approval of Discretionary Non-Domestic Rate Relief for Moorfield Sports and Social Club (Minute EXB 135 referred). In response, Councillor Wharton advised that this was consistent with the awards already approved as detailed in Minute EXB121.

RESOLVED: That the minutes be received.

COU67 MINUTES OF THE MERSEY GATEWAY EXECUTIVE BOARD

The Council considered the minutes of the Mersey Gateway Executive Board meeting from 24 January 2013.

RESOLVED: That the minutes be received.

COU68 MINUTES OF THE SHADOW HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

The Council considered the minutes of the Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board meetings from 12 December 2012 and 16 January 2013.

RESOLVED: That the minutes be received.

COU69 QUESTIONS ASKED UNDER STANDING ORDER 8

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

COU70 MEMBERS' ALLOWANCE SCHEME - TRI-ANNUAL REVIEW

Council considered a report of the Chief Executive, on the Members' Allowance Scheme Tri-annual review.

Under the Local Authority's (Members' Allowances) Regulations, the Scheme of Members' Allowances was due for review. At its meeting on 18 July 2012, Council authorised the Chief Executive to establish an Independent Panel (the Panel) to review the Council's Scheme of Members' allowances and make recommendations with regard to the matters to be included in the scheme.

Details of the Panel appointed by the Chief Executive, and of their findings and recommendations were contained in the report.

RESOLVED: That the recommendation of the Independent Panel be approved as follows:

Chief Executive

- 1) the current scheme is fit for purpose and should remain unaltered, subject to the amendments set out in paragraph 6.2 of the report (Resolution 2);
- 2) the Subsistence and Accommodation rates be amended as follows:

Breakfast = £ 6.45
Lunch = £ 8.65
Dinner = £17.35

Accommodation (overnight)
London = £126.90
Outside London = £100.52

- 3) the Scheme be reviewed in 18 months rather than three years, to ensure the Scheme, and in particular Special Responsibility Allowances, do not fall significantly behind those of adjacent authorities.

COU71 PAY POLICY STATEMENT

Council considered a report of the Strategic Director, Policy and Resources, which contained details of the Council's recommended Pay Policy Statement for 2013-14 (the Statement).

Under Section 112 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council had the power "to appoint officers on such reasonable terms and conditions as the authority sees fit". The Statement set out the Council's approach to pay in accordance with Section 38 of the Localism Act 2011.

The purpose of the Statement was to provide transparency with regard to the Council's approach to setting the pay of its employees (excluding teaching staff working in local authority schools). The Statement would be effective immediately and be reviewed on an annual basis, although it could be amended in-year, by reference back to full Council.

The report detailed the following information:

- Background to the Pay Structure;
- Senior Management Remuneration;
- Recruitment of Chief Officers;
- Additions to Salaries of Chief Officers;
- Pension Contributions;
- Payments on Termination;
- Publication;
- Lowest Paid Employees; and
- Accountability and Decision Making.

RESOLVED: That the Pay Policy Statement for 2013/14 be approved.

Strategic Director
- Policy &
Resources

COU72 TREES AND HEDGEROW ALONG BUSWAY HEDGE AND INTRODUCTION OF GAS POWERED BUSES

Council considered a report of the Strategic Director, Communities, on emergency action taken by the Chief Executive in approving capital funding.

The introduction and operation of new Gas Powered buses by Arriva North West required work to hedges and trees on approximately 17 miles of busway. The report provided details of the history to the maintenance regime of the busway since its construction as part of the New Town Development in the 1960's and 1970's.

The report advised Members that emergency action was necessary as the Open Spaces Service did not have the capacity to carry out the required works within a relatively short time frame. The buses could not operate on the dedicated busway if tree and hedge maintenance work was not completed in time.

RESOLVED: That, such works being necessitated by the introduction of gas-powered buses, the emergency action of the Chief Executive in approving a capital sum of £90,000 for works that will be let through tender to reduce the height of the busway hedgerow and carry out pruning/felling work to trees, be noted.

COU73 LOCAL TRANSPORT BODY FOR LIVERPOOL CITY REGION

Council considered a report of the Chief Executive on the establishment of a Local Transport Body (LTB) for the Liverpool City Region.

It was reported that the Department for Transport (DfT) proposed to devolve funding for major transport schemes to local areas in the next spending review period. The LTB would ultimately assume the role previously undertaken by DfT in relation to funding decisions which affected major transport schemes. The principal deadlines set by the DfT in the lead up to the next spending review period were detailed in the report.

Council was advised that the LTB needed to be established and the Assurance Framework, attached in draft form, would be submitted to the DfT by the end of February 2013. The report contained details of the proposed constitution and membership of the LTB and detailed guidance on the Assurance Framework.

RESOLVED: That Council

Chief Executive

- 1) nominate the Leader/Chair onto the new Local Transport Body (LTB), together with an alternate member, the Transport Portfolio Holder, to represent the Authority on the LTB as required;
- 2) approve the draft Assurance Framework and its associated principles, as set out within the Appendix of the report, ahead of its submission to the Department for Transport;
- 3) delegate authority to the Chief Executive to oversee minor, editorial changes to the draft Assurance Framework (based on issues arising from the approvals processes within partner organisations) and approve its submission to the Department for Transport by the end of February 2013; and
- 4) receive follow- up information on the above issues, at appropriate intervals.

COU74 APPOINTMENT OF COUNCILLOR REPRESENTATIVE TO AN OUTSIDE BODY

Council was asked to note changes to the membership of the Halton Borough Transport Outside Body made by the Leader.

RESOLVED That it be noted that Councillor Woolfall would replace Councillor Hodge as a Borough Council representative on the Halton Borough Transport Outside

Body.

(N.B. Councillor Osborne made a Disclosable Other Interest in Minutes SAF 49 and SAF 50, as a member of the Cheshire Police and Crime Panel)

COU75 MINUTES OF THE POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARDS

The Council considered the reports of the following Boards in the period since the meeting of Council on 12 December 2012:

- Children, Young People and Families;
- Employment, Learning, Skills and Community;
- Health;
- Safer;
- Environment and Urban Renewal; and
- Corporate.

In considering the minutes, the following comments/observations were made:-

- Councillor Dennett drew Council's attention to Minute CYP 36 – Adoption Score Card – which noted that Halton and Cheshire West and Chester Councils were two top performing Councils both nationally and in the North West (being in the top quartile).

COU76 COMMITTEE MINUTES

The Council considered the reports on the work of the following Committees in the period since the meeting of Council on 12 December 2012:-

- Development Control;
- Regulatory; and
- Appeals Panel.

Meeting ended at 6.55 p.m.