

COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Council on Wednesday, 16 October 2013 in the Council Chamber, Runcorn Town Hall

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

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Fraser, Hodge, M Lloyd Jones, P. Lloyd Jones, McDermott, Morley, Parker and Roberts

Absence declared on Council business: None

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

Also in attendance: C Taylor, H Cantrill (CWAC) one member of the public and one member of the press.

Action

COU31 PLEDGE TO CHILDREN IN CARE

The Mayor welcomed Annalise Gray, a young person in care within Halton, to the meeting.

A copy of the Children in Care Pledge was presented to the Mayor, who received it on behalf of the full Council, as Corporate Parents. The Pledge had been developed by children in care and care leavers, and identified the twelve key things that they felt would improve outcomes for them.

The Mayor then invited Annalise to address the Members before being thanked for attending the meeting.

COU32 COUNCIL MINUTES

The minutes of the meetings held on 17 July 2013 and 19 September 2013, Having been printed and circulated, were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meetings be confirmed and adopted.

COU33 THE MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor made the following announcements:

- Having recently attended the Vintage Rally event at Victoria Park, Widnes, she wished to thank all of those involved in the organisation of the event which welcomed over 60,000 visitors over the two days; and
- Tickets were still available for the next charity event to raise money for the Mayor's charities – the theme was Halloween and the event was scheduled for Friday 25 October 2013.

COU34 LEADER'S REPORT

The Leader reported on the progress of the Mersey Gateway Project, working towards financial close. The next stage was to consider and agree a discount scheme for local users.

Councillor Chris Loftus sought the Leader's assurance that he would make sure that Officers would not be involved in political issues. In response, the Leader gave him that assurance and offered the opportunity to discuss the matter at another convenient time.

COU35 MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

The Council considered the minutes of the Executive Board meetings from 15 August 2013, 5 September 2013, 19 September 2013 and 3 October 2013.

RESOLVED: That the minutes be received.

COU36 MINUTES OF THE MERSEY GATEWAY EXECUTIVE BOARD

The Council considered the minutes of the meeting of the Mersey Gateway Executive Board on 19 September 2013.

RESOLVED: That the minutes be received.

COU37 MINUTES OF THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

The Council received the minutes of the meetings of

the Health and Wellbeing Board on 17 July 2013 and 18 September 2013.

RESOLVED: That the minutes be received.

COU38 QUESTIONS ASKED UNDER STANDING ORDER 8

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

COU39 WIDNES RECREATION SITE DEVELOPMENT (MINUTE EXB 59 REFERS)

Executive Board had considered a report of the Strategic Director, Communities on the redevelopment of the former Widnes Recreation Site, Liverpool Road, Widnes.

RESOLVED: That Council approve the inclusion of the former Widnes Recreation Site development within the Council's Capital Programme.

Strategic Director
- Communities

COU40 LOWERHOUSE LANE DEPOT - UPGRADE WORKS (MINUTE EXB 61 REFERS)

Executive Board had considered a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise, on the upgrade works at Lowerhouse Lane Depot and the undertaking of further health and safety related capital works.

RESOLVED: That Council approve the inclusion of the capital works within the Council's Capital Programme, with a total estimated cost of £735,000, to be funded as set out in section 5 of the report.

Strategic Director
- Children and
Enterprise

COU41 2013/14 REVISED CAPITAL PROGRAMME (MINUTE EXB 63 REFERS)

Executive Board considered a report of the Operational Director, Finance, which sought approval to a number of revisions to the Council's 2013/14 Capital programme.

RESOLVED: That Council approve the revisions to the Council's 2013/14 Capital Programme as set out in paragraph 3.2 of the report.

Operational
Director - Finance

COU42 STANDARDS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT (MINUTE STC 2 REFERS)

Standards Committee had considered a report of the

Operational Director, Legal and Democratic Services/Monitoring Officer, which summarised the work of the Committee in the last Municipal Year.

RESOLVED: That Council note the Standards Committee Annual Report.

COU43 TEMPORARY AMENDMENT TO STANDING ORDER 96 OF THE CONSTITUTION (MINUTE DEV 8 REFERS)

Development Control Committee had considered an item which requested a temporary amendment to Standing Order 96 of the Council's Constitution. The amendment was in relation to the scheme of delegation in relation to permitted development orders on householder applications.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the Constitution be amended by adding the following wording after exception (f): "Provided that exceptions (b), (c) and (d) shall not apply to an application submitted under Class A1 (e) of Part 1 of Schedule 2 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 (as amended); and that had the above provisions applied that those applications shall be determined in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Committee; and
- 2) pending the implementation of the above, exceptions (b), (c) and (d) to delegated power 96 be dis-applied, shall in respect of any application submitted under Class A1 (e) of Part 1 of Schedule 2 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 (as amended) and that had the above provisions applied that those applications shall be determined in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Committee.

Operational Director, Legal and Democratic Services

COU44 APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

The Council noted the following changes to the membership of the following Outside Bodies:

- Knights House Charity – Councillor Fraser replaced Mr D Reynolds.
- Halton Community Transport – Councillor Fry replaced Councillor Gerrard.

COU45 MINUTES OF THE POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARDS AND THE BUSINESS EFFICIENCY BOARD

The Council considered the reports of the following Boards in the period since the meeting of Council on 17 July 2013:

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

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

- Councillor Dennett advised that there would be a seminar early in 2014 on Corporate Parenting (CYP 16 refers);
- Councillor Dennett advised on the launch in November of the new single Ofsted Inspection Framework, which would have a multi-agency approach (CYP 15 refers);
- Councillor Osborne thanked Councillor Norman Plumpton Walsh for his work in chairing the Topic Group on the Night Time Economy (SAF 19 refers);and
- Councillor Chris Loftus made an observation on the financial support that had been made available from Government which supported the needs of people with dementia within care homes for the elderly in the Borough (HEA 22 refers).

(N.B. Councillor Cole declared a Disclosable Other Interest in Minute DEV 16 as he was a Board Member of Halton Housing Trust)

COU46 COMMITTEE MINUTES

The Council considered the reports of the work of the following Committees in the period since the meeting of Council on 17 July 2013:

- Development Control
- Standards
- Regulatory

COU47 NOTICE OF MOTION UNDER STANDING ORDER 6

The following Motion was moved and seconded by Councillors Tom McInerney and Howard respectively:

Blacklisting

'This Council:

Condemns and opposes the illegal practice of 'Blacklisting' employees or job applicants from either employment or workplace opportunities and pledges that Blacklisting will not form any part of the Council's own workplace activities, nor would we expect any contractor associated with us to participate in Blacklisting when delivering any contracts on behalf of the Council'.

RESOLVED: That the motion be agreed.

Meeting ended at 7.05 p.m.