

EXECUTIVE BOARD

At a meeting of the Executive Board on Thursday, 11 December 2014 in The Boardroom, Municipal Building

Present: Councillors Polhill (Chairman), Harris, R. Hignett, Jones, T. McInerney, Nelson, Philbin, Wharton and Wright

Apologies for Absence: Councillor D. Cargill

Absence declared on Council business: None

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

Also in attendance: One member of the press

ITEMS DEALT WITH UNDER POWERS AND DUTIES EXERCISABLE BY THE BOARD

Action

EXB104 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985 URGENT BUSINESS

The Board was advised that a matter had arisen which required immediate attention by the Board (Minute 112 refers), therefore, pursuant to Section 100 B(4) and 100 E and as the exclusivity period was due to expire, if the Council were to proceed to sell the land to the named developer, a decision was required before the end of 2014 to allow an early completion.

EXB105 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 20 November 2014 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

CHILDREN YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES PORTFOLIO

EXB106 CONTRACTED SERVICES FOR MISSING FROM HOME AND CARE AND CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION SERVICES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE ACROSS CHESHIRE – WAIVER OF TENDERING STANDING ORDERS

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise, requesting an extension of the existing contract with Catch 22 for the provision of Missing from Home or Care and Child Sexual Exploitation services to children and young people across the four Local Authorities in Cheshire.

The Board was advised that since 2008, Halton had commissioned a Missing from Home and Care service to fulfil its statutory responsibilities for children and young people that went missing. During 2010/11, the Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCB's), along with Cheshire Constabulary, had produced a Pan-Cheshire Joint Protocol for Children and Young People, which identified and managed the risks for all runaways, which ensured a consistent approach across borders and agencies.

Following from this, all four Cheshire local authorities commissioned a joint Pan-Cheshire Missing from Home Service. Halton, as the lead authority, appointed Catch 22 as the service provider in 2012. It was reported that from April 2014, the Service was expanded to include the emerging links around Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and both elements of the service supported vulnerable children, young people and their families as well as assisting with local and national requirements.

Members were advised that in accordance with Government policy, all Cheshire local authorities were engaged in the process of significant re-organisation to support the requirements around CSE. It was recommended that existing arrangements continued through this transition period so as to ensure that continuous care and support could be offered to vulnerable children, young people and their families. It was further noted that Cheshire East, Cheshire West and Chester and Warrington Councils had all agreed to an extension with the same provider.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) in light of the exceptional circumstances set out in the report, Procurement Standing Orders 3.1 to 3.7 be waived by virtue of Procurement Standing Order 1.8.3, in order to extend the existing contract with Catch 22 for the provision of the Missing from Home or Care and Child Sexual Exploitation Services to children and young people across four Local Authorities in Cheshire, in order to ensure continuous care and support; and

Strategic Director
- Children and
Enterprise

- 2) the Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise, in conjunction with the Portfolio holder for Children, Young People and Families, be authorised to enter into the above contract for up to a maximum of six months from April 2015.

RESOURCES PORTFOLIO

EXB107 DISCRETIONARY NON DOMESTIC RATE RELIEF

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Policy and Resources, on four applications for discretionary non-domestic rate relief.

The Board was advised that, from 1 April 2013, there had been significant changes in the funding of non-domestic rate relief exemptions, following the introduction of the Business Rates Retention Scheme. This meant that the Council now funded 49% of any award of mandatory or discretionary rate relief granted, whereas previously all mandatory relief awards were met in full by the Government.

The report set out the details and values for each request for Members' consideration. Appendix 1 contained information on the costs of each application to the Council Taxpayer.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) Discretionary Rate Relief be granted to the following organisations at the percentage indicated, for the period from 1 April 2014 (or commencement of liability, whichever is the later) to 31 March 2016:-

Halton and St Helens VCA	20%
Lane Tennis Club Ltd	20%

- 2) in respect of the following organisation, Discretionary Rate relief be granted for the backdated element at the percentage indicated, for the period 1 April 2010 (or commencement of liability whichever is the later):-

Lane Tennis Club Ltd	20%
----------------------	-----

- 3) under the provisions of Section 47, Local Government Finance Act 1988, the following application for Discretionary Rate Relief be

Strategic Director
- Policy &
Resources

refused:-

Brook Young People 20%

and

- 4) the request for Discretionary Rate Relief from Wellbeing Enterprises CIC be refused as the Council has not to date provided discretionary relief to Community Interest Companies and given the Council's current financial position would not wish to add CICs to the category of organisations it provides discretionary relief to, particularly as it would be shortly embarking on a review of all existing discretionary reliefs given.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT PORTFOLIO

EXB108 TOWN CENTRES POLICIES AND GUIDELINES

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise, which set out details of proposed Policies and Guidelines for Town Centres.

The Board was advised that earlier in the year, Town Centre 'walk arounds' took place which identified a number of 'Street Activity' issues. It was reported that 'street activity' was currently controlled and managed by several Council departments, and an audit of such activities and issues had been undertaken. A framework for the effective management of town centre issues had been prepared.

It was noted that staff needed clear guidance on powers available to them, so as to ensure the right staff dealt with the right issues. In addition, it was proposed that consideration be given to PCSO's fulfilling additional enforcement duties relating to the management of relevant Town Centres' legislation and/or policies.

The report set out details of policies and guidelines for Members' consideration on the following issues:-

- the management of Highway 'A' Boards;
- the management of the Sale/Display of Goods and Services on the Highway;
- the monitoring and control of pedlar activity

and busking in the town centres; and

- the arrangements for organising retail-led events such as craft fairs and Christmas markets.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the updated Highway 'A' Boards Policy be approved;
- 2) an updated policy which includes the Sale/Display of Goods and Services on the Highway and arrangements for al fresco dining be approved;
- 3) the development of further work with Cheshire Police be agreed, to enable PCSO's to enforce additional legislation and policies pertaining to:-
 - Highway 'A' Boards;
 - Sale/Display of Goods on the Highway;
 - Al fresco dining;
 - Pedlar activity; and
 - Busking.
- 4) the arrangements for the monitoring and control of pedlar activity and busking in the Town Centres be noted; and
- 5) the arrangements for dealing with requests for retail-led events be noted.

Strategic Director
- Children and
Enterprise

EXB109 ORCHARD HOUSE HOUSING SUPPORT SERVICE AND SERVICE USER INVOLVEMENT SERVICE

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Communities, which sought approval to decommission two services currently funded by the Council's Supporting People budget.

The report set out the details of two housing support services that were proposed for decommissioning. It was reported that currently, these services were provided by the independent sector and funded by the Council's Supporting

People Grant. They were Orchard House, a six bed supported housing scheme for single homeless young people, and Service User Involvement – a service to empower vulnerable Service Users and promote engagement at all levels.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the decommissioning of the Orchard House Service when the current contract expires on 31 March 2015 be agreed;
- 2) acting in accordance with Procurement Standing Order 1.8.3, Procurement Standing Order 4.1 be waived and delegated authority be granted to the Strategic Director, Communities, to extend the current Orchard House contract for up to two months in the event that the opening of the new Albert Road hostel is delayed;
- 3) the decommissioning of the Service User Involvement Service be agreed; and
- 4) acting in accordance with Procurement Standing Order 1.8.3, Procurement Standing Order 4.1 be waived to extend the current Service User Involvement Contract to 30 June 2015.

Strategic Director
- Communities

COMMUNITY AND SPORT PORTFOLIO

EXB110 EFFICIENCY REVIEW OF HALTON LIBRARY SERVICE: CONSULTATION ON MOBILE LIBRARY PROVISION

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Communities, which set out the findings of the public consultation on the future of the mobile library service in Halton.

The Board was advised that, within the scope of the Efficiency Review of Library Services, two key criteria had to be met. These were noted as being that all four of the Borough's libraries remained open and that any new arrangements should still be able to deliver the strategic objectives contained within the Council's adopted Libraries Strategy. It was reported that those objectives, set out in the report, could be met without the current mobile library provision.

The Council had previously indicated that it was minded to cease the mobile library provision. However, further public consultation was undertaken over a three week period in October 2014. Members noted that the mobile library service operated from one vehicle across the Borough, stopping at 125 locations on a three week cycle. The report set out details of the number of respondents, their views on the Service and the average cost of a book issued from the mobile library. A further analysis of the responses received was attached at Appendix 1.

Based upon the consultation findings, it was reported that there were a number of actions which the Council could take, as part of the Efficiency Review, to offer provision to some of the service users which currently accessed library facilities through the mobile service. Appendix 2 contained the steps that would need to be considered to achieve this.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the contents of the report be noted; and
- 2) the Board approves the withdrawal of the mobile library service.

Strategic Director
- Communities

EXB111 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 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 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 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, exempt information would be disclosed, being information defined in Section 100 (1) and paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

COMMUNITY AND SPORT PORTFOLIO AND RESOURCES PORTFOLIO

EXB112 UPDATE ON THE DISPOSAL OF LAND FOR HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AT LIVERPOOL ROAD WIDNES

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise, which provided an update on the proposed disposal of development land at Liverpool Road, Widnes.

The Board was reminded that it had approved a proposal for the disposal of the site in September 2013. It was reported that in July 2014, the Board had approved the disposal of land to a named developer following an open market sale process.

Details of a revised offer, heads of terms and a site plan were attached to the report for Members' consideration.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the disposal of the site to the company named in the report at the value specified, subject to planning permission and subject to contract, be approved; and
- 2) the operational Director, Economy, Enterprise and Property, be authorised to arrange all required documentation, to be completed to the satisfaction of the Operational Director, Legal and Democratic Services.

Strategic Director
- Children and
Enterprise

MINUTES ISSUED: 15 December 2014

CALL-IN: 22 December 2014

Any matter decided by the Executive Board may be called in no later than 5.00pm on 22 December 2014

|

Meeting ended at 11.45 a.m.