

EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES – 12 March 2015

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT PORTFOLIO

EXB144 HALTON YMCA – DIRECT AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR HOUSING SUPPORT

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Communities, which sought approval to grant a Direct Award of a contract to deliver housing support services at Halton YMCA.

The Board was advised that the current contract, awarded in April 2012 for the provision of housing support services to residents at Halton Lodge YMCA, was now in its final year. Following a scrutiny review of homelessness services in 2012, it was noted that a number of service users appeared not to either need or use the level of support on offer. It was reported that vacancy levels averaged around 50% during the last six months, which had led to the service becoming economically unviable.

A new service model which provided a lasting solution had been negotiated with YMCA, whilst at the same time, a partnership arrangement had been developed with Fylde YMCA, as detailed in the report. It was further reported that the Direct Award of a further one year contract to YMCA would result in the Council achieving savings and provide an opportunity to test the effectiveness of the new service model with the existing provider.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) to ensure the stability and continuity of the service, the Board support the grant of a Direct Award to Halton YMCA for the delivery of Housing Support Services from 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016;
- 2) the proposed changes to the service specification be noted; and
- 3) the financial efficiencies to be secured through this course of action be noted.

Strategic Director
- Communities

EXB145 ADVERTISING SCREEN - THE HIVE

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise, on a proposal to locate an LED advertising screen on land at The Hive, Widnes.

The Board was advised that the screen would offer the opportunity to advertise upcoming events at The Hive, as well as being available to the Council and third parties to advertise. Details of the business case were set out in the report.

It was noted that Silver Blades (Ice Rink) had agreed to fund half of the capital cost, with the Council being asked to provide funding for the remaining amount of £50,000. In return, the Council would have advertising rights of 10 minutes per day which could be used to support local events, inform the public of council services or support advertising from third parties. This would generate income for the Council after operating costs had been deducted.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the location of an LED advertising screen on land at The Hive, Widnes, in partnership with Silver Blades (Ice Rink) be supported on the terms set out in the report;
- 2) a grant to Silver Blades (Ice Rink), as set out in Section 4 of the report, to be funded from the Council's share of advertising income, be approved; and
- 3) detailed terms and conditions, including any permissions required, be agreed with the operational Director, Legal and Democratic Services, and the Operational Director, Finance, in consultation with the Portfolio holder and the Leader.

TRANSPORTATION PORTFOLIO

EXB146 PARTIAL REVOCATION OF EXISTING WAITING & LOADING RESTRICTIONS SCHOOL WAY, WIDNES

Strategic Director
- Children and
Enterprise

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Policy and Resources, on the partial revocation of existing Waiting and Loading Restrictions at School Way, Widnes.

The Board was advised that, at the request of residents and local Councillors and to address parking congestion and associated safety concerns adjacent to Moorfield Primary School, in 2011 various waiting and loading restrictions were introduced on the full length of School Way and the area of its junction with Whalley Grove and Nursery Close. It was reported that all frontage properties were consulted directly on the proposals and no objections were received.

Since the introduction of the restrictions, there had been repeated contacts with adjacent residents and their Ward Councillors requesting minor alterations to the restrictions to permit a degree of local parking. Subsequently, three experimental 'gaps' in the restrictions were introduced.

Members were advised that following the advertisement of the proposal to revoke limited parts of a Traffic Regulation Order relating to School Way, 10 objections were received, details of which were outlined in the report.

In view of the responses it was recommended that just one 'gap' be retained and formalised, that being the one on the south side of School Way adjacent to No 1. School Way. It was also recommended that Cheshire Constabulary be contacted with a view to greater priority being given to this location.

Members were advised that the report had been considered by the Environment and Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board at its meeting on 28 January 2015, which supported the recommendation.

RESOLVED: That the Board approves the introduction of a Traffic Regulation Order to revoke part of both the Halton Borough Council (Various Roads, Widnes) (Prohibition of Waiting) Order 2011 and the Halton Borough Council (Various Roads, Widnes) (No Loading) Order 2011 relating to School Way, Widnes as in Appendix D and that

Strategic Director
- Policy &
Resources

objectors be notified accordingly.

Executive Board – 26th March 2015

EXB156 STREET LIGHTING ENERGY PROCUREMENT

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Policy and Resources, on street lighting energy procurement arrangements.

The Board was advised that since October 2001, the Council's un-metered electricity supply had been procured through Utilities Procurement Group (UPG), a public sector energy procurement specialist. The current contract with Haven Power had already been extended and would expire on 31 March 2015. Tenders were therefore invited on the Council's behalf by UPG, the details of which were set out in the report for information.

Members were advised that the street lighting energy contract needed to be accepted within a very short timescale, due to the rapid changes in prices charged for electricity. Often offers were withdrawn at short notice, hence the need to waive Procurement Standing Orders to enable the offer to be accepted in this instance.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the new supply contract for un-metered electricity with British Gas be endorsed;
- 2) the waiver of Procurement Standing Orders 2.2 and 2.11 for the purchase of un-metered electricity be endorsed;
- 3) it be recorded that the expenditure is anticipated to be in excess of £1.0 million per annum; and
- 4) Utilities Procurement Group (UPG) continue to be used to manage our street lighting energy provision.

Strategic Director
- Policy &
Resources

EXB157 HALTON LOCAL FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Policy and Resources, on the development of Halton's Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS).

The Board was advised that the LFRMS was a statutory document required under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. The Strategy had been prepared in accordance with informal guidance published by the Local Government Association and using a common template that had been developed and agreed in conjunction with our neighbouring LLFA members of the Cheshire Mid-Mersey Regional Sub Group, to ensure a consistent approach to flood risk management across the sub-regional catchment areas. A copy of the Strategy document was attached at Appendix 1.

The LFRMS brought together information from a number of other sources, as detailed in the report and provided a coherent plan to demonstrate Halton's work with partners to manage flood risk.

It was noted that the draft LFRMS had been considered by the Environment and Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board at its meeting on 28 January 2015.

RESOLVED: That the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy for Halton be approved and adopted in accordance with the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 Section 9.

Strategic Director
- Policy &
Resources

TRANSPORTATION PORTFOLIO AND RESOURCES PORTFOLIO

EXB158 INVEST TO SAVE PROPOSAL - STREET LIGHTING

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Policy and Resources, on the findings of a Street Lighting Asset review and to seek approval of funding for an Invest to Save proposal.

The Board was advised that Halton currently had 19,000 street lights which operated with traditional high sodium lanterns. These need replacing after 4-5 years which incurred additional costs to the highways budget. It was reported that approximately 2000 lanterns had already been switched to LED's (light emitting diode) units, mainly in residential areas.

The key benefits were noted as a reduction in energy costs, increased reliability and longevity and enabling the Council to meet its commitments on sustainable practices and reducing carbon emissions.

The report set out an analysis and assessment of three options for conversion of the Borough's street lighting to LED units, as follows:

- A bulk change of residential lights only;
- A bulk change of main roads and through routes only; and
- A bulk change of both residential and main roads and through routes.

Members noted that a risk assessment had been undertaken, as detailed in the report. A number of methods of funding the upfront investment costs had also been considered.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) a programme of work to replace the current conventional street lighting with energy saving Light Emitting Diode (LED) Units be approved;
- 2) Council be recommended to include this £4.7m scheme within the 2015/16 Capital Programme, to be funded as outlined in the report;
- 3) the Strategic Director, Policy and Resources in consultation with the Operational Director, Finance, be authorised to determine the most financial advantageous method of financing the Conversion Programme; and
- 4) subject to resolution 3, the Strategic Director, Policy and Resources, in consultation with the Operational Director, Finance, and the relevant Portfolio holders, be authorised to seek prudential borrowing of up to £4.7m to cover the costs of the LED Conversion Programme.

Strategic
Director - Policy
& Resources

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 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.

**PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT PORTFOLIO AND
RESOURCES PORTFOLIO**

EXB166 DISPOSAL OF VARIOUS PARCELS OF LAND FOR
RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT - KEY DECISION

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise, which sought approval to dispose of various parcels of land for residential development.

The Board was advised that development on the parcels of land identified as Castlefields, Lakeside; Latham Avenue (Land adjacent to The Grange School); Land at Grangeway; and Land at The Ridgeway were all subject to

planning permission. The report contained detailed information on the proposed disposal and development of each location for Members' consideration.

Reason(s) for Decision

To dispose of surplus land at best value and to meet the housing requirements of the Borough. The do nothing option would mean that the sites remained unused for a further period of time, which would result in continued costs to the Council.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

Place the land on the open market for sale; in Officers' opinion negotiated transactions offered the best opportunity of influencing the development outcomes to support regeneration and housing policies.

Implementation Date

Transactions were subject to contract and anticipated completion dates were October 2015.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the disposal of the various sites to the named developers, and on the terms as set out in the report and appendices, be approved subject to planning permission and subject to contract;
- 2) the Operational Director, Economy, Enterprise and Property, be authorised to arrange for all documentation to be completed to the satisfaction of the operational Director, Legal and Democratic Services; and
- 3) the Operational Director, Economy, Enterprise and Property, be authorised in consultation with the Portfolio holders for Physical Regeneration and for Resources, to agree any appropriate and reasonable variations to the land price which may arise from more detailed ground investigations or Planning.

Strategic Director
- Children and
Enterprise

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT PORTFOLIO

EXB171 MARKETING AND PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES IN RUNCORN AND WIDNES TOWN CENTRES

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise, which provided an update on existing and proposed Marketing and Promotions activity within Runcorn and Widnes Town Centres.

The Board was advised that in December 2014, the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills had commissioned and published a research paper entitled 'Policy implications of recent trends in the high street/retail sector'. This had been considered by the Environment and Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board at its meeting on 25 March 2015.

It was reported that the research paper identified key trends impacting on the UK's high streets together with some recommendations which could be adapted to improve and sustain the vitality and vibrancy of Halton's town centres.

The report set out a summary of current and proposed marketing and promotions activities taking place in Widnes Markets, Runcorn Town Centre and Widnes Town Centre, for Members' information.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the existing marketing and promotional activities in Runcorn and Widnes Town Centres be noted; and
- 2) the future proposals outlined in the report be approved.

TRANSPORTATION PORTFOLIO

EXB172 PASSENGER TRANSPORT TENDERS

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Policy and Resources, which advised on the process for the open tender procedure for Passenger Transport Tenders.

The Board was advised that the Transport Co-

ordination Section was responsible for a complex range of passenger transport contracts and arrangements on behalf of the Children and the Economy and the Communities Directorates. The report set out the details of the tenders which would be advertised via The Chest, in compliance with Procurement Standing Orders.

RESOLVED: That the process of advertising transport tenders on behalf of the Children and the Economy Directorate and the Communities Directorate for services required from September 2015 be supported.

Strategic Director
- Policy &
Resources

Executive Board – 4th June 2015

TRANSPORTATION PORTFOLIO

EXB8 LIQUID FUEL CONTRACTS - SUPPLY OF DIESEL, KEROSENE AND GAS OIL

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Policy and Resources, on a proposed tendering exercise for the supply of Liquid Fuel Contracts.

The Board was advised that currently, there were two liquid fuel contracts in place, which covered the supply of diesel kerosene and gas oil to Council sites having such requirements. These contracts were due to expire on 30 September 2015.

It was reported that Crown Commercial Services (CCS) was an executive agency sponsored by the Cabinet Office, providing commercial services to the public sector. It was proposed that Halton Borough Council join a procurement exercise undertaken by CCS for the provision of liquid fuels. It was noted that the value of these contracts was estimated to be £1.4m for a two year period commencing 1 October 2015, and that the new contracts would be procured in line with the Council's Procurement Standing Orders.

RESOLVED: That, in line with Procurement Standing Order 1.3.1, the inclusion of the Council in a new Crown Commercial Services procurement exercise for the supply of liquid fuels, be supported.

Strategic Director
- Policy &
Resources

EXB9 SCHEDULE 12A OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

The Board considered:

- (2) 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 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.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT PORTFOLIO

EXB10 SCI-TECH DARESBUY - KEY DECISION

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Children and the Economy, which provided an update on phase one of developments and investment at Sci-Tech, Daresbury.

The report provided an update for Members on the Sci-Tech Enterprise Zone, Daresbury, the Phase One Developments and Investments and Future Ambitions for

Sci-Tech, Daresbury. It also provided details on the new management organisation.

Reason(s) for Decision

The Council, as a partner in the Sci-Tech Joint Venture (JV), agreed to amend the JV partnership to include Langtree Land and Property Ltd. The Council entered into a loan agreement with Langtree.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

The Council had no direct influence over the changes to the Langtree companies. Therefore, on balance it accepted that this was the most appropriate mechanism to ensure that Sci-Tech was delivered.

Implementation Date

Both agreements were implemented in May using the delegated powers conferred to the Chief Executive.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the work of the JV to date, be recognised;
- 2) the future ambitions of Sci-Tech be recognised;
and
- 3) the action taken by the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader and appropriate Portfolio holders under delegated powers, be noted.

Strategic Director
- Children and the
Economy