

Minutes

**For Presentation to the Council
At the meeting to be held on**

Wednesday, 13 July 2016

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COMMITTEE/BOARD	Page Ref
COUNCIL MINUTES	1 – 6
MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD	
28 January 2016	7 - 12
11 February 2016	13 - 20
25 February 2016	21 - 28
10 March 2016	29 - 36
24 March 2016	37 - 48
7 April 2016	49 - 56
17 May 2016	57 - 58
16 June 2016	59 – 74
MINUTES OF THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD	
9 March 2016	75 – 80
MINUTES OF THE POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARDS AND THE BUSINESS EFFICIENCY BOARD	
Children, Young People and Families	81 - 8
Employment, Learning, Skills and Community	89 - 94
Health	95 - 102
Safer	103 - 112
Environment and Urban Renewal	113 - 118
Corporate Services	119 - 126
Business Efficiency Board	127 – 138
COMMITTEE MINUTES	
Development Control	139 - 186
Regulatory	187 - 190
Standards	191 - 194
Appeals Panel	195 - 202
Appointments Committee	203 - 204

COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Council on Friday, 20 May 2016 in the Council Chamber, Runcorn Town Hall

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

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Edge and Joe Roberts

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: D. Parr, I. Leivesley, G. Meehan, M. Reaney, A. Scott and S. Wallace-Bonner

Also in attendance: Thirty-eight invited guests and members of the public

*Action***COU1 ELECTION OF MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR**

Moved by Councillor Jones and seconded by Councillor Tom McInerney -

RESOLVED: That Councillor Ged Philbin be elected Mayor of the Borough for the Municipal Year 2016/17.

Moved by Councillor Thompson and seconded by Councillor John Stockton –

RESOLVED: That Councillor Alan Lowe be elected Deputy Mayor of the Borough for the Municipal Year 2016/17.

THE MAYOR, COUNCILLOR GED PHILBIN IN THE CHAIR**COU2 COUNCIL MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of Council held on 2 March 2016, having been circulated, were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

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

COU3 THE MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor made the following announcements:

- 1) That the Charities he would support during his term of office would be:-
 - Child Bereavement UK; and
 - Lets Go Stroke Club.
- 2) The Mayor's Chaplain for 2016/17 would be Father Joe Bibby; and
- 3) Congratulated Gerald Meehan, Strategic Director, People and Economy, on his appointment as Chief Executive for Cheshire West and Chester Council and thanked him for his ten years of service at Halton Borough Council.

COU4 BOROUGH COUNCIL ELECTION RESULTS 2016/17

Details of the Borough Council elections held on 5 May 2016 were submitted for information.

The Mayor congratulated all returning Members and welcomed newly-elected Councillor John Abbott to the Council.

RESOLVED: That the election results be noted.

COU5 EXECUTIVE BOARD (SELECTION COMMITTEE) 17 MAY 2016

The following recommendations of the Executive Board (Selection Committee) were moved by the Mayor and seconded by the Deputy Mayor.

COU6 LEADER AND DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

RESOLVED: That

- 1) Councillor Rob Polhill be appointed Leader of the Council in accordance with the Council's Constitution; and
- 2) Councillor Mike Wharton be appointed Deputy Leader

of the Council for the Municipal Year 2016/17.

COU7 BOARDS, COMMITTEES AND APPEALS PANEL AND WORKING PARTY

RESOLVED: That the Boards, Committees, Appeals Panel and Working Party be constituted with the membership as shown for the Municipal Year 2016/17:

Health & Wellbeing Board

Councillors Polhill, T. McInerney, Woolfall and Wright.

Corporate Policy and Performance Board (11)

Councillors Gilligan (Chair), A Lowe (Vice Chair), Abbott, E. Cargill, Howard, C.Loftus, A McInerney, N. Plumpton Walsh, Joe Roberts, G.Stockton and Wainwright.

Health Policy and Performance Board (11)

Councillors J. Lowe (Chair), Osborne (Vice Chair), Baker, M. Bradshaw, E. Cargill, Dennett, C.Gerrard, Horabin, M. Lloyd Jones, Parker, and Sinnott.

Environment and Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board (11)

Councillors Woolfall (Chair), Fry (Vice Chair), V.Hill, Howard, Morley, Nolan, Joe Roberts, Sinnott, J.Stockton, Wall and Zygadlo.

Employment, Learning, Skills and Community Policy and Performance Board (11)

Councillors MacManus (Chair), Edge (Vice Chair), Baker, Cassidy, J.Gerrard, Logan, J.Lowe, C.Plumpton Walsh, June Roberts, Wallace and Rowe.

Children, Young People and Families Policy and Performance Board (11)

Councillors Dennett (Chair), Logan (Vice Chair), Cassidy, Edge, C. Gerrard, P.Hignett, Horabin, P.Lloyd Jones, Parker, Rowe and J Stockton.

Safer Policy and Performance Board (11)

Councillors Thompson (Chair), N. Plumpton Walsh (Vice Chair), Abbott, Baker, Edge, J.Gerrard, V.Hill, P. Lloyd Jones, K.Loftus, Osborne and Zygadlo.

Development Control Committee (11)

Councillors Nolan (Chair), Morley (Vice Chair), J.Bradshaw, Cole, Gilligan, R.Hignett, C.Plumpton Walsh, June Roberts, Thompson, Woolfall and Zygadlo.

Business Efficiency Board (11)

Councillors M.Lloyd Jones (Chair), Joe Roberts (Vice Chair), J.Bradshaw, Cole, C.Loftus, A.Lowe, MacManus, McDermott, N.Plumpton Walsh, J.Stockton and A.Wall.

Standards Committee (9)

Councillors P.Lloyd Jones (Chair), M.Bradshaw, Cole, Howard, C.Loftus, J.Lowe, McDermott, Wainwright and Wharton.

Appeals Panel (20)

Councillors Wainwright (Chair), A. McInerney (Vice Chair), Abbott, M.Bradshaw, Cassidy, Fry, C.Gerrard, J.Gerrard, P.Hignett, V.Hill, Horabin, K.Loftus, MacManus, Morley, Osborne, C.Plumpton Walsh, June Roberts, Rowe, Wallace and Woolfall.

Regulatory Committee (11)

Councillors K. Loftus (Chair), Wallace (Vice-Chair), Fry, P.Hignett, McDermott, A.McInerney, Nelson, Parker, G.Stockton, Wainwright and Wall.

Local Development Framework Working Party (15)

Councillors R.Hignett (Chair), J.Bradshaw, Cole, Gerrard, MacManus, Morley, Nolan, Parker, C Plumpton Walsh, Roberts, Rowe, Thompson, Wainwright, Woolfall and Zygadllo.

Mayoral Committee (5)

The incumbent Mayor (Councillor Philbin) and Councillors Gilligan, R.Hignett, Morley and Wright.

Appointments Committee (6)

Councillors Polhill and Wharton (plus relevant PPB Chairs x 2) and Opposition Group Leaders (Rowe and J.Bradshaw).

COU8 APPOINTMENT OF SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATOR

RESOLVED: That Councillor Tony McDermott be appointed Scrutiny Co-ordinator for the Municipal Year 2016/17.

COU9 APPOINTMENT OF CO-OPTEEES

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the re-appointment of Mr Tom Baker as the Healthwatch Halton representative and non-voting Co-optee to the Health Policy and Performance Board for the Municipal Year 2016/17 be

confirmed;

- 2) the re-appointment of Mr Tony Luxton and Mrs Anita Morris as non-voting Independent Co-optees to the Standards Committee for four years be confirmed;
- 3) the re-appointment of Reverend David Felix and Mr Stephen Cluff as non-voting Parish Council Co-optees to the Standards Committee for the Municipal Year 2016/17 be confirmed;
- 4) the re-appointment of Professor David Norman, Mrs Diane Howard and Mr Roy Radley as Independent Persons for the purposes of the Localism Act 2011, be confirmed.

COU10 APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES

The Council considered a report of the Strategic Director, Community and Resources, regarding the appointment of Members to serve on various Outside Bodies. A document was tabled showing the recommendations put forward.

RESOLVED: That representatives be appointed to Outside Bodies in accordance with the tabled report.

COU11 EXECUTIVE BOARD PORTFOLIOS

The Leader confirmed that the Executive Board would consist of the following Portfolio holders for the Municipal Year 2016/17:

Leader's - Councillor Polhill
Children, Young People and Families – Councillor Tom McInerney
Health and Wellbeing – Councillor Wright
Transportation – Councillor Stan Hill
Community Safety – Councillor Dave Cargill
Economic Development – Councillor Jones
Resources – Councillor Wharton
Environmental Services – Councillor Nelson
Community and Sport – Councillor Harris
Physical Environment – Councillor Ron Hignett

RESOLVED: That the Portfolios be noted.

COU12 CONSTITUTION UPDATE 2016/17 (MINUTE EXB 139 REFERS)

Executive Board had considered a report of the Strategic Director, Community and Resources, which sought approval of a number of changes to the Council's Constitution.

RESOLVED: That Council approve

- 1) the revised Constitution, including the matters set out in Appendix 1, attached to the report;
- 2) all references to the term "Chairman" be replaced with the term "Chair"; and
- 3) all references to the term "Vice Chairman" be replaced with the term "Vice-Chair".

COU13 CIVIC SUNDAY

The Mayor announced his intention to attend a Civic Service at St Bede's Church, Leigh Avenue, Appleton Village, Widnes on Sunday 26 June 2016 starting at 11.15am.

Meeting ended at 7.09 p.m.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

At a meeting of the Executive Board on Thursday, 28 January 2016 in The Boardroom, Municipal Building

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

Apologies for Absence: None

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: A. Scott, G. Cook, D. Parr, I. Leivesley, G. Meehan, M. Reaney, E. Dawson and S. Wallace-Bonner

Also in attendance: None

**ITEMS DEALT WITH
UNDER POWERS AND DUTIES
EXERCISABLE BY THE BOARD**

	<i>Action</i>
<p>EXB98 MINUTES</p> <p>The Minutes of the meeting held on 14 January 2016 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.</p> <p>HEALTH AND WELLBEING PORTFOLIO</p> <p>EXB99 SERVICE DEVELOPMENT FOR ADULTS WITH COMPLEX NEEDS</p> <p>The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, People and Economy, on service provision for support to adults with complex needs.</p> <p>The Board was advised that the Bredon site in Palacefields, , was reported that the building was underused and that a recent feasibility study had confirmed potential to develop the accommodation to better meet local need. Details of the proposals were set out in the report as Proposal 1 - developing Bredon as a Complex Care Centre and Proposal 2 – the re-location of staff from the Moorfield Road site to Bredon.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That</p> <p>1) the re-design of Bredon, Palacefields, Runcorn, to</p>	<p>Strategic Director - People and Economy</p>

create a Complex Care Centre be approved; and

- 2) the provision of additional office and accommodation as part of the development be approved.

EXB100 IMPACT OF PROPOSED REDUCTIONS IN ADULT SOCIAL CARE VOLUNTARY SECTOR FUNDING FOR 2016/17 - KEY DECISION

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, People and Economy, which outlined the projected impact of proposed funding reductions on Adult Social Care commissioned services within the voluntary sector.

The Board was advised that the well-established Voluntary Sector in Halton offered a range of vital services, delivering important services and interventions to support people to maintain their independence. During the past five years, the Council had managed to protect the budgets of these organisations and the valuable work they carried out, with only some small reductions in larger contracts.

On 1 October 2015, a 10% reduction was agreed by the Board, as part of the overall Council efficiency proposals. It was noted that, as a result of the reductions and the potential risks to the sector, a number of plans and options were considered to minimise the impact. This included more collaborative working within the sector, to ensure that all provision was aligned with Council and Clinical Commissioning Group priorities.

Reason(s) for Decision

To support the Council's objectives in relation to 2016/17 budgets.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

Maintain existing funding levels – this was not possible due to funding constraints.

Reduce some organisations by 30%, however, this level of funding would have potentially led to service closure.

Reduce funding completely – this would have created a significant level of instability within the voluntary sector.

Implementation Date

1 April 2016.

RESOLVED: That the proposed reductions set out in the report, be agreed.

Strategic Director
- People and
Economy

TRANSPORTATION PORTFOLIO

EXB101 NEC SHORT FORM CONTRACT AUTHORISATION FOR BALVAC WORKS

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Community and Resources, which sought authorisation to enter into an NEC Short Form contract with Balvac for the completion of Footway reconstruction works at Moore Lane, Moore, and the re-decking of the South West Footbridge at Halton Lea.

It was reported that the Council had an Access Agreement to the SCAPE Framework (the Framework), a public sector owned built environment specialist. It was intended that this Framework be utilised for the procurement of Bridge and Structures Maintenance works for this year. This year's works consisted of two parts; the Moore Lane footway reconstruction and the Halton Lea South West Footbridge re-decking.

Members were advised that, as the value of the combined works was less than £1m and that the Framework only had one contractor rather than a minimum of five, Executive Board approval was required on this occasion.

RESOLVED: That the entering into of a contract with Balvac, through the SCAPE Framework, for the procurement of footway reconstruction works at Moore Lane, Moore and the re-decking of the South West Footbridge at Halton Lea, be approved.

Strategic Director
- Community &
Resources

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO

EXB102 WASTE TREATMENT SERVICES CONTRACT

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Community and Resources, on a proposed extension to the Council's current contractual arrangements for the treatment of household waste.

A Waste Treatment Services Contract (the Contract) to WSR Recycling was approved by the Board on 27 February 2014. This was put in place to cover the period from April 2014 up to the commencement of the Merseyside and Halton Resource Recovery Contract (RRC), anticipated

to commence in mid/late 2016. An option to extend the Contract was included to ensure that the Council maintained its arrangements for the treatment of its waste whilst awaiting the operational start of the RRC.

It was reported that the operational date for the RRC had been confirmed as 1 October 2016. Therefore approval was sought to extend the Contract with WSR Recycling until 30 September 2016. Details of the likely expenditure were contained within the report for Members' consideration.

RESOLVED: That an extension of the Waste Treatment Services Contract with WSR Recycling Limited, to 30 September 2016, be approved.

Strategic Director
- Community &
Resources

EXB103 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 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 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, exempt information would be disclosed, being information defined in Section 100 (1) and paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government

Act 1972.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING PORTFOLIO

EXB104 SUPPORTED ACCOMMODATION (VULNERABLE ADULTS) TENDER (RELATES TO MINUTE 15 - 2ND JULY 2015 AND MINUTE 47 1ST OCTOBER 2015)

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, People and Economy, which sought approval to award contracts for the delivery of supported accommodation services for vulnerable adults.

The Invitation to Tender to deliver supported accommodation services was advertised in October 2015. The tender consisted of seven geographic zones plus an option to be included in a framework agreement for future business. A summary of the evaluation award criteria was set out in the report.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the award of a three year plus one year extension contract to PossAbilities for delivery of services in Zones 1, 2 and 7 be approved;
- 2) the award of a three year plus one year extension contract to Community Integrated Care for delivery of services in Zone 3 be approved;
- 3) the award of a three year plus one year extension contract to United Response for delivery of services in Zones 4,5 and 6 be approved;
- 4) the award of a contract to the ten providers listed in paragraph 3.6 of the report who will be accepted onto the Supported Accommodation (Vulnerable Adults) Framework for a period of three years plus a one year extension be approved; and
- 5) delegated powers be given to the Strategic Director, People and Economy, in conjunction with the Portfolio holder for Health and Wellbeing and the Procurement Services to manage any detailed negotiations relating to the award of contracts for these services.

Strategic Director
- People and
Economy

MINUTES ISSUED: 1 February 2016

CALL-IN: 8 February 2016

Any matter decided by the Executive Board may be called in no later than 5.00pm on 8 February 2016

Meeting ended at 2.10pm

EXECUTIVE BOARD

At a meeting of the Executive Board on Thursday, 11 February 2016 in The Boardroom, Municipal Building

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

Apologies for Absence: None

Absence declared on Council business: Councillor T. McInerney

Officers present: A. Scott, G. Cook, D. Parr, I. Leivesley, G. Meehan, M. Reaney, E. Dawson and S. Wallace-Bonner

Also in attendance: None

**ITEMS DEALT WITH
UNDER POWERS AND DUTIES
EXERCISABLE BY THE BOARD**

Action

EXB105 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 28 January 2016 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

**CHILDREN YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES
PORTFOLIO**

**EXB106 SCHOOL ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS 2017 - KEY
DECISION**

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, People and Economy, on school admission arrangements for the 2017 intake into Halton's schools.

The Board was advised that in November 2015, Halton Local Authority issued a statutorily required consultation paper on the proposed admission arrangements and co-ordinated admission schemes for the September 2017 intake. It was noted that the consultation ran until 11 December 2015, with no changes proposed to the current oversubscription criteria for local authority schools.

As commissioner of school places, the Local Authority must ensure that the admission arrangements

were fair, clear and objective and complied fully with all statutory requirements. It was reported that no responses to the consultation had been received.

Reason(s) for Decision

The decision was statutorily required and any revision to the proposed arrangements may adversely affect school place planning, as detailed in the report.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

Other options considered and rejected included the allocation of places through random selection (lottery), as this method could be seen as arbitrary and random.

Implementation Date

The Policy applied to the September 2017 academic intake.

RESOLVED: That the School Admissions Policy, Admission Arrangements and Coordinated Schemes for admission to primary and secondary schools for the 2017/18 academic year be approved.

Strategic Director
- People and
Economy

HEALTH AND WELLBEING PORTFOLIO

EXB107 ADULT SOCIAL CARE CONTRACTS

The Board considered a report of the Director of Adult Social Services, which sought approval to extend the current services provided by external providers for the Adult Social Care Contracts.

The Board was advised that the authority had contracts in place with MIND, Halton Carers Centre and Halton Healthwatch, to provide services as set out in the report. It was reported that all these contracts were due to expire on 31 March 2016.

Following the implementation of the Care Act in April 2015, the Local Authority had been working with these service providers to achieve service specification re-design, better quality and value for money and improved integration within an evolving system of integrated health and social care services.

It was noted that the extension of these contracts to 31 March 2017 required a waiver of Procurement Standing Orders. Details of the total financial cost to the authority

were detailed in Appendix 1, attached to the report.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the use of Procurement Standing Orders 1.8.3 (e) and (f) be agreed to waive Procurement Standing Orders 4.1 and 4.1 (a), in respect of the current contracts with MIND, Halton Carers Centre and Healthwatch; and
- 2) an extension of the existing contracts listed in Appendix 1, attached to the report, be agreed for a period of up to one year from 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017.

Director of Adult
Social Services

EXB108 ADULT SOCIAL CARE BUDGET PRESSURES

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, People and Economy, which presented a summary of the current and forthcoming budget pressures facing Adult Social Care.

The Board was advised that Adult Social Care Services were experiencing significant and increasing pressure driven by a number of factors, such as increased demand, reductions to wider local government funding, introduction of the National Living Wage (NLW), workforce availability and skills and the reduced scope for further efficiency savings.

Phase 1 of the Care Act was introduced in April 2015. The main changes to the duty of local authorities which this introduced were set out in the report. Care Act funding was allocated to local authorities for new burdens which arose from the Care Act. However, it was reported that future funding was unclear which presented a further potential pressure. In July 2015, confirmation was received that Phase 2 of the Care Reform which would have proposed a cap to care costs, would be delayed until 2020.

Since April 2010, funding had been transferred to local authorities to be used to support Adult Social Care services; there was flexibility for local areas to determine how this investment in social care service was best used. However, from April 2015, this funding was integrated into the Better Care Fund, with the Council receiving £9.451m. The Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement 2016/17 indicated that local authorities would receive additional money to spend on Adult Social Care by 2019/20,

with the allocations back-loaded. Halton's indicative figures were set out in the report.

The Board was further advised that in the 2015 Autumn Spending Review, it was announced that Councils would have the power to increase Social Care funding through levying up to 2% as an additional Council Tax precept from 2016/17. This would generate an additional £793,000 of council tax for Halton. Members noted the estimated impact for Halton of the spending pressures which had been quantified and were detailed in the report.

RESOLVED: That the budget pressures facing Adult Social Care, outlined in the report be noted, and be taken into account when considering the 2016/17 Budget Report, found elsewhere on the agenda.

RESOURCES PORTFOLIO

EXB109 BUDGET 2016/17 - KEY DECISION

The Board considered a report of the Operational Director, Finance, which outlined a recommendation to Council in respect of the Budget, Capital Programme and Council Tax for 2016/17.

It was noted that, at the time of writing the report, the Cheshire Police and Crime Commissioner, the Cheshire Fire Authority and Daresbury Parish Council had not set their budgets and Council Tax precepts. However, final figures would be reported to Council when the information was available.

The Government announced the Final Local Government Finance Settlement figure for 2016/17 on 9 February 2016, which was in line with the Provisional Settlement announced on 17 December 2015. The Business Rates Retention Scheme allowed 49% of the business rates generated within the Borough to be retained, with the Council in receipt of a Top Up grant and Revenue Support grant.

The 2015 Spending Review also announced that local authorities responsible for adult social care would be given an additional 2% flexibility on their current council tax referendum threshold, which was to be used towards the funding shortfall for adult social care.

The Board was advised that the Medium Term Financial Strategy, approved on 10 December 2015, had

identified a funding gap of around £18m in 2016/17, £16m in 2017/18 and £7m in 2018/19. The Strategy had the following objectives:

- Deliver a balanced and sustainable budget;
- Prioritise spending towards the Council's five priority areas;
- Avoid excessive Council Tax rises;
- Achieve significant cashable efficiency gains;
- Protect essential front line services; and
- Deliver improved procurement.

In terms of consultation, it was noted that the Council used various methods to listen to the views of the public and Members' own experiences through their Ward work was an important part of that process. Budget presentations had taken place at its Area Forums and details of the comments made were tabled at the meeting. In addition, individual consultations would take place in respect of specific budget proposals and equality impact assessments would be completed where necessary.

On 14 October 2015 and 9 December 2015, the Council approved initial budget savings totalling £11.5m for 2016/17, and further proposed savings were shown at Appendix B. The Departmental analysis of the budget was shown in Appendix C and the major reasons for change from the current budget were outlined for Members' information in Appendix D. It was noted that the proposed budget total was £98.465m.

The Board was advised that the proposed budget incorporated the grant figures announced in the Final Grant Settlement, and included £0.5m for the New Homes Bonus Grant, payable to local authorities based on the net increase in the number of homes in their area.

Further information was provided in respect of the budget outlook. As part of the Local Government Provisional Finance Settlement for 2016/17, the Government had published indicative Settlement Funding Allocations for the three years up to 2019/20. In addition, a consultation had been published on the future of the New Homes Bonus grant, which looked to reduce the number of years this grant was paid from six to four years. The Medium Term Financial Forecast had been updated and was attached at Appendix E. It was noted that the resultant funding gap over the next two years was forecast to be in the region of £34m.

Further information was provided in respect of

Halton's Council Tax, Parish Precepts, Capital Programme, the Prudential Code and school budgets.

Members wished to place on record their thanks to all members of the Budget Working Group, Policy and Performance Board Chairs and staff for their hard work in producing this year's budget.

Reason(s) For Decision

To seek approval for the Council's revenue budget, capital programme and council tax for 2016/17.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

In arriving at the budget saving proposals set out in Appendix B, numerous proposals had been considered, some of which had been deferred pending further information or rejected.

Implementation Date

2 March 2016.

RESOLVED: That Council be recommended to adopt the resolution set out in Appendix A of the report, which included setting the budget at £98,465m, the Council Tax requirement of £41.217m (before Parish, Police and Fire Precepts) and the Band D Council Tax for Halton of £1,250.97.

Operational
Director - Finance

EXB110 TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT
2016/17

The Board considered a report of the Operational Director, Finance, proposing the Treasury Management Strategy Statement (TMSS) which incorporated the Annual Investment Strategy (AIS) and the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Strategy for 2016/17.

The TMSS was attached to the report and detailed the expected activities of the Treasury function in the forthcoming financial year (2016/17).

The Local Government Act 2003 required the Council to "have regard to" the Prudential Code and to set Prudential Indicators for the next three years to ensure that the Council's capital investment plans were affordable, prudent and sustainable. The Act therefore required the Council to set out its treasury strategy for borrowing as well as an

Annual Investment Strategy, which set out the Council's policies for managing its investments and for giving priority to the security and liquidity of those investments. However, Government guidance stated that authorities could combine the statement and the strategy into one report, and the Council had adopted this approach.

Members noted that the production of a Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement was required and a formal statement for approval was contained within the report at paragraph 2.3, with Appendix A detailing the full policy and Appendix B detailing the changes in the policy for 2016/17.

RESOLVED: That Council be recommended to adopt the policies, strategies, statements and prudential and treasury indicators outlined in the report.

Operational
Director - Finance

MINUTES ISSUED: 15 February 2016

CALL-IN: 22 February 2016

Any matter decided by the Executive Board may be called in no later than 5.00pm on 22 February 2016

Meeting ended at 2.16pm

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EXECUTIVE BOARD

At a meeting of the Executive Board on Thursday, 25 February 2016 in The Boardroom, Municipal Building

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

Apologies for Absence: None

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: A. Scott, G. Cook, D. Parr, I. Leivesley, G. Meehan, M. Reaney, E. Dawson and S. Wallace-Bonner

Also in attendance: None

**ITEMS DEALT WITH
UNDER POWERS AND DUTIES
EXERCISABLE BY THE BOARD**

Action

EXB111 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 11 February 2016 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

LEADER'S PORTFOLIO

EXB112 SYRIAN REFUGEE CRISIS

The Board considered a report of the Chief Executive, on the Syrian Refugee Crisis, the current response from Central Government and at local level.

The Board was advised that Halton was working collaboratively with all the North West local authorities in respect of this agenda, and was part of the Merseyside sub regional group. It was reported that the Council had developed measures to fully engage with communities, statutory and non- statutory agencies including the faith and voluntary sector, to improve the understanding of the refugee crisis and the implications this had for Halton and the wider North West.

The report set out details of the Asylum Dispersal Programme (COMPASS), which the Home Office had

contracted out to Serco to provide asylum accommodation, transport and support. It was noted that the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme (VPR), would expand to admit 20,000 Syrian refugees to be admitted to the UK by 2020.

It was further reported that each local authority in the North West would take the lead role to work with local partners to ensure that arrivals were provided with suitable accommodation and the specific needs of this vulnerable group were met. Central Government would meet the cost of the arrivals in terms of orientation, support, health and education costs for the first year, with reducing support in years 2-5.

RESOLVED: That Council

- 1) support the COMPASS and VPR Programme;
- 2) work with all the North West Local Authorities to establish a robust operational mechanism to oversee and deliver the programme; and
- 3) learn from the examples of best practice nationally, to ensure that Halton provides effective humanitarian support, which is measured and proportionate, and takes into account the needs of those relocated under the programme and Halton's existing communities.

Chief Executive

HEALTH AND WELLBEING PORTFOLIO

EXB113 THE NATIONAL LIVING WAGE – CARE PROVIDER CONTRACTS

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, People and Economy, on the planned introduction of the National Living Wage, and the impact for the pooled budget for Health and Care Services in Halton.

The Board was advised that a compulsory National Living Wage (NLW) for workers aged 25 and above would be introduced from 1 April 2016. It was noted that the National Minimum Wage (NMW) would remain in place, and the distinction between the two was clarified in the report.

It was reported that the Chancellor of the Exchequer had commented that to help businesses to afford the increase in wages, he was cutting Corporation Tax by 2% by 2020 and that employers could reduce the amount of

National Insurance Contributions that were paid for employees by 50%.

In Halton, there were currently 12 domiciliary care providers working across the Borough in 29 care homes. The majority of the contracted organisations had stated that the impact of the NLW would place economic challenges on their organisations and impact on their ability to remain viable in future.

A finance model to establish the potential impact of the cost of the NLW had been designed and adopted by local authorities across the North West region. This initial analysis, set out in the report, provided Members with an indication of the costs involved for Halton.

RESOLVED: That approval be given to actively enter into discussions with Care Providers, to agree how additional costs would be met, as set out in paragraphs 5.4.3 and 5.4.4 of the report.

Strategic Director
- People and
Economy

(N.B. The following Councillors made a Disclosable Other Interest in the following item of business for the reasons stated. Councillor Polhill as Chair of the Mersey Gateway Crossings Board Limited and Councillor Wharton as Vice-Chair of the Mersey Gateway Crossings Board Limited)

TRANSPORTATION PORTFOLIO

EXB114 MERSEY GATEWAY BRIDGE PROJECT - PROGRESS UPDATE

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Community and Resources, which provided a progress update on the Mersey Gateway Bridge Project (the Project) and on the Mersey Gateway Crossings Board Limited (MGCB), for June to December 2015.

The Board was advised that the MGCB was a special purpose vehicle, established by Halton Borough Council, with delegated authority to deliver the Mersey Gateway Bridge project, and to administer and oversee the construction, maintenance and tolling of the new tolled crossings, which included the tolling of the Silver Jubilee Bridge.

The MGCB were commissioned to deliver the Project on behalf of the Council and operate as a commercial, not for profit organisation, on an arm's length basis.

The report provided an update on progress of the Project and the performance of the MGCB in monitoring the Project, as required under the Governance Agreement. It covered:-

- Key Construction Events;
- Construction of the Main Crossing, Landside and Highways;
- Most recent activities on site;
- Programmed activities for January 2016;
- Health and Safety;
- Key Performance Indicators;
- Current Progress on the actions/risks at Financial Close; and
- Production of an Annual Business Plan.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) progress with the Mersey Gateway Bridge Project, as set out in the report, be noted; and
- 2) the performance of the Mersey Gateway Crossings Board Limited in monitoring the Project Company's performance, as set out in the report, be noted.

RESOURCES PORTFOLIO

EXB115 THE ESTABLISHMENT, VICTORIA SQUARE, WIDNES

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, People and Economy, on the proposed sale of the Council's reversionary freehold interest in The Establishment (Former Halton Business Forum).

The Board was advised that the former Halton Business Forum was currently leased to SJL Leisure Ltd for a term of 150 years from November 2008. The original proposal was for the leaseholder to develop the site for a hotel and a substantial two storey extension was built at the rear of the original listed building to facilitate this.

It was reported that, due to the downturn in the economy, the only area of the building in use was the ground floor bar, the remainder of the property was

unoccupied. As the leaseholder would now like to develop the vacant area to provide office space close to the town centre, it was reported he had made an offer of £20,000 (plus professional costs) to the Council for the disposal of the Freehold Interest. This amount would be paid in instalments, as set out in the report.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) disposal of the Freehold interest on the basis set out in the report, be approved; and
- 2) the Operational Director, Economy, Enterprise and Property, be authorised to arrange for all required documentation to be completed to the satisfaction of the Operational Director, Legal and Democratic Services.

Strategic Director
- People and
Economy

EXB116 2016/17 QUARTER 3 SPENDING

The Board considered a report of the Operational Director, Finance, which summarised the overall revenue and capital spending position as at 31 December 2015.

In overall terms, revenue expenditure was £39,000 below the budget profile, however, this was only a guide to eventual spending. It was noted that spend to date showed a very marginal position and careful monitoring through to year-end was required to ensure spend was within overall budget. Saving proposals of £11.5m had already been approved by Council, and early implementation of these proposals had helped to manage the overall spend for the last three months of the financial year.

It was noted that spending on employees was £0.930m below the budget profile at the end of the quarter, with vacant posts in a number of Departments helping to generate the favourable variance to date.

Members were advised that there continued to be budget pressures within the Children and Families Department which was significantly over the profiled budget to date.

With regard to capital spending, it was reported that spending to the 31 December 2015 totalled £19.896m, which was slightly ahead of the planned spending of £19.431m at this stage. However, this represented 65% of the total capital programme of £30.478m (which assumed a 20% slippage between years).

The Council's Balance Sheet was monitored regularly in accordance with the Reserves and Balances Strategy which formed part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy. The key reserves and balances had been reviewed and were considered prudent and appropriate at this stage in the financial year and within the current financial climate.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) all spending continued to be limited only to the absolutely essential;
- 2) Strategic Directors ensure that overall spending at year-end was within their total operational budget; and
- 3) Council be recommended to approve the revised Capital Programme as set out in Appendix 3, attached to the report.

Operational
Director - Finance

EXB117 TREASURY MANAGEMENT QUARTER 3 2015/16

The Board considered a report of the Operational Director, Finance, which updated them on activities undertaken on the money market as required by the Treasury Management Statement.

The report provided supporting information on the economic outlook, interest rate forecast, short term borrowing rates, longer term borrowing rates, borrowing and investments, new long term borrowing and policy guidelines. It was noted that no debt rescheduling had been undertaken during the quarter.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

EXB118 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 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, exempt information would be disclosed, being information defined in Section 100 (1) and paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

RESOURCES PORTFOLIO

EXB119 DISCRETIONARY BUSINESS RATES RELIEF REQUEST

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, People and Economy, and the Strategic Director, Community and Resources, on a request for discretionary business rates relief.

The Board was advised that under the Business Rates Retention Scheme, introduced in April 2013, the Council retained 49% of the business rates income that it collected, and offered a financial incentive to promote economic growth. Halton had historically considered applications for discretionary business rates relief on a case by case basis and where there were exceptional reasons for doing so.

The report set out details of the current request for Members' consideration.

RESOLVED: That discretionary business rates relief of up to 100% in respect of the company referred to in the report, be approved for 2016/17 only, on the basis set out in paragraph 3.9 of the report.

Strategic Director
- Community &
Resources

MINUTES ISSUED: 1 March 2016

CALL-IN: 8 March 2016

Any matter decided by the Executive Board may be called in no later than 5.00pm on 8 March 2016

Meeting ended at 2.12pm

EXECUTIVE BOARD

At a meeting of the Executive Board on Thursday, 10 March 2016 in The Boardroom, Municipal Building

Present: Councillors Polhill (Chairman), D. Cargill, Harris, T. McInerney, Philbin, Wharton and Wright

Apologies for Absence: Councillors R. Hignett, Jones and Nelson

Absence declared on Council business: None

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

Also in attendance: Councillor Gilligan (Minute EXB 124 refers)

**ITEMS DEALT WITH
UNDER POWERS AND DUTIES
EXERCISABLE BY THE BOARD**

Action

EXB120 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 25 February 2016 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

TRANSPORTATION PORTFOLIO

EXB121 OBJECTIONS TO PROPOSED WAITING RESTRICTIONS, NAUGHTON ROAD, WIDNES

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Community and Resources, on objections that had been received following public consultation on a proposed Traffic Regulation Order at Naughton Road, Widnes.

The Board was advised that the intention to introduce 'At Any Time' waiting restrictions on part of Naughton Road, was advertised in August 2015. This had been in response to a request from a Ward Councillor on behalf of adjacent residents, who had complained about obstructive parking close to the junction with Cameron Road.

It was reported that two objections were received, as detailed in Appendix A attached to the report. Residents had now requested that the restrictions originally requested were no longer wanted, as parking restrictions outside their properties would apply at all times, rather than just on match

days. Members noted that the introduction of restrictions on parking in the vicinity would create further displacement of parked vehicles in the area.

RESOLVED: That the proposal to introduce an Order to implement waiting restrictions on Naughton Road, Widnes, as set out in Appendix B, not be supported, on the grounds of the objections received.

Strategic Director
- Community &
Resources

(N.B. Councillor Wharton declared a Disclosable Other Interest in the following item of business as he was Chair of Governors at Hale C of E Primary School. He left the room during consideration of the item and took no part in the decision making)

EXB122 OBJECTIONS TO PROPOSED WAITING RESTRICTIONS, HALE VILLAGE

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Community and Resources, on objections that had been received following public consultation on proposed Traffic Regulation Orders on various roads in Hale Village.

The Board was advised that after due public consultation in August 2015, limited waiting restrictions were introduced on parts of roads adjacent to Hale C of E Primary School in Hale Village. These were shown in Appendix C attached to the report, and their purpose was to address parking obstruction issues near the school gate. It was reported that residents received hand delivered notice letters together with notices posted on site and advertised in local newspapers. However, during the consultation period, no objections were received.

Following further consultation on minor alterations to the extent of the waiting restrictions, as specified in Appendix D, a single objection was received, as detailed in the report. It was noted that the main issue related to parking at school times. As the proposed restrictions would apply during the working day, it was considered that this would deal with the original complaints and minimise inconvenience for residents.

RESOLVED: That the Board supports the proposal to introduce Orders for revised waiting restrictions on various roads in Hale Village, as set out in Appendix B, attached to the report.

Strategic Director
- Community &
Resources

RESOURCES PORTFOLIO**EXB123 DISCRETIONARY NON DOMESTIC RATE RELIEF**

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Community and Resources, which set out details of two applications from charities for discretionary non-domestic rate relief.

The Board was advised that, under the amended provisions of the Local Government Finance Act 1988, the Council was able to grant discretionary rate relief to any business ratepayer. This relief had previously only been available to organisations that were a charity, a community amateur sports club or a not-for-profit organisation.

Since 1 April 2013, the Council had been responsible for funding 49% of any award of mandatory or discretionary rate relief granted, with Government meeting the remaining 51%. The Board was reminded of its decision on 26 February 2015, to provide discretionary rate relief at 15% from 2016/17 onwards, where applications were approved from registered charities or community amateur sports clubs.

Details of the requests were set out in the report for Members' consideration.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) Discretionary Rate Relief be granted to the following organisations at the percentages indicated, for the period 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2019:-

Halton Haven Hospice	15%
Mark Gorry Foundation	15%

- 2) Discretionary Rate Relief be backdated to the commencement of liability in respect of the following organisations, at the percentage indicated, for the period up to 31 March 2016:-

Halton Haven Hospice	20%
Mark Gorry Foundation	20%

Strategic Director
- Community &
Resources

EXB124 FEES AND CHARGES REVIEW TOPIC GROUP

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director, Community and Resources, which presented the work of the Fees and Charges Topic Group.

The Board was advised that the Corporate Policy and Performance Board (PPB) established a cross - PPB Topic Group to consider potential ways to increase income. Given the resources and timescale available, a targeted approach was agreed to review fees and charges, and focused on those Departments which generated the most in financial terms.

Councillor Gilligan, Chairman of the Corporate PPB, attended the meeting to present the report and to answer Members' questions. Over the past twelve months, a series of meetings were held to consider fees and charges within a set of criteria, as listed in the report, and which included the basis and rationale for existing charges; the level of cost recovery; statutory restrictions on charges levied; the scope to charge where no charge was currently made; and the total additional income which might be generated.

Councillor Gilligan reported that, in the light of financial challenges facing the Council, the Topic Group undertook an in-depth and challenging review of existing and potential areas for charging, whilst being mindful of the potential impact upon residents and service users of any new or increased charges introduced.

The Topic Group concluded that, whilst there may be scope to increase fees and charges in certain areas and to introduce new and innovative charges, the amount of additional income generated would be relatively small and would not on its own solve the Council's significant financial challenges.

However, a number of options were considered for implementation from 1 April 2016, to support development of the Council's 2016/17 budget. It was noted that these proposals had been incorporated within the Council's proposed fees and charges for 2016/17, reported elsewhere on this agenda.

Attached at Appendix A was the final report of the Topic Group's work which had been received by the Corporate PPB on 5 January 2016. Executive Board thanked Councillor Gilligan for attending and for the work undertaken by members of the Topic Group.

RESOLVED: That the work of the Fees and Charges Topic Group, as set out in the Appendix attached to the report, the outcomes of which have been incorporated within the Council's proposed fees and charges for 2016/17, be noted.

EXB125 REVIEW OF COUNCIL WIDE FEES AND CHARGES

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Community and Resources, which presented the proposed fees and charges for 2016/17 for services provided by the Council's Directorates.

It was reported that the review of fees and charges had been carried out as part of the budget preparations for 2016/17. The work of the Fees and Charges Group, reported elsewhere on this agenda, had been incorporated into the changes made by managers. It was noted that generally, fees and charges were set to ensure the Council was able to recover costs incurred in service provision. It was proposed that existing fees and charges be increased in line with inflation.

The schedule in Appendix A, attached to the report, included a number of statutory fees which may increase during the coming financial year, with the relevant fees increased accordingly. Chargeable fees for The Brindley and Registrars Service for the financial year 2017/18 were set out in Appendix B. Chargeable rates for Halton Registration Service, previously agreed by Executive Board on 17 September 2015, were set out in Appendix C for information.

RESOLVED: That the proposed fees and charges for 2016/17 as set out in Appendix A and for 2017/18 as set out in Appendix B, both attached to the report, be approved.

Strategic Director
- Community &
Resources

EXB126 DIRECTORATE PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW REPORTS FOR QUARTER 3 2015 - 16

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Community and Resources, on progress against key objectives/milestones and performance targets for the third quarter to 31 December 2015.

The Board was advised that the Directorate Performance Overview Report provided a strategic summary of key issues arising from performance in the relevant quarter for each Directorate, being aligned to Council priorities or functional areas. The Board noted that such information was key to the Council's performance management arrangements, with the Board having a key role in monitoring performance and strengthening accountability.

It was reported that the Council's Performance

Management Framework would continue to form part of the Council's policy framework.

RESOLVED: That the report and progress and performance information be noted.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING PORTFOLIO

EXB127 COMMUNITY DAY SERVICES

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, People and Economy, on proposals for Adult Community Day Services.

The Board was advised that Community Day Services currently provided 383 work experience placements for adults with disabilities, across a range of small 'businesses'. The development of these businesses had transformed the way in which day care was delivered, and focused on the provision of work skills. It was noted that this model of care moved away from the segregation of people with disabilities and towards supporting independence in ordinary community settings.

It was reported that an opportunity to broaden the range of small business opportunities in the Borough, in partnership with a working farm, had been identified, as detailed in the report. As no other expressions of interest were forthcoming this provided the primary rationale for not undertaking a tender process to secure a suitable provider.

It was further reported that Halton Clinical Commissioning Group had expressed an interest in this innovative approach and had agreed to fund any start-up costs which were estimated at £15k.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the development of a new Community Day Service for adults with learning disabilities and mental health issues, as set out in the report, be agreed; and
- 2) in the exceptional circumstances set out in the report, Procurement Standing Orders 4.1 and 4.2 be waived on this occasion, on the basis that compliance would result in a clear financial or commercial detriment to the Council, as outlined

Strategic Director
- People &
Economy

in the report.

MINUTES ISSUED: 14 March 2016

CALL-IN: 21 March 2016

Any matter decided by the Executive Board may be called in no later than 5.00pm on 21 March 2016

Meeting ended at 2.30 p.m.

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EXECUTIVE BOARD

At a meeting of the Executive Board on Thursday, 24 March 2016 in The Boardroom, Municipal Building

Present: Councillors Polhill (Chair), D. Cargill, Harris, R. Hignett, Jones, T. McInerney, Philbin, Wharton and Wright

Apologies for Absence: None

Absence declared on Council business: Councillor Nelson

Officers present: A. Scott, G. Cook, D. Parr, I. Leivesley, G. Meehan, M. Reaney, E. Dawson and S. Wallace-Bonner

Also in attendance: Councillor Dennett

**ITEMS DEALT WITH
UNDER POWERS AND DUTIES
EXERCISABLE BY THE BOARD**

Action

EXB128 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 EXB 140 refers), therefore, pursuant to Section 100 B (4) and 100 E and the urgent need to determine the actions that the Council wished to take in the continued operation of the Madeline McKenna Court Care Home, the Leader ruled that this item would be considered at this meeting.

EXB129 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 10 March 2016 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

COMMUNITY SAFETY PORTFOLIO

EXB130 AMALGAMATION OF THE CHESHIRE WEST, HALTON AND WARRINGTON YOUTH OFFENDING SERVICE WITH CHESHIRE EAST'S YOUTH OFFENDING SERVICE FROM APRIL 2016 - KEY DECISION

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, People and Economy, which advised Members of

developments in the delivery of the plan for Youth Justice Services.

The Board was advised that the 1998 Crime and Disorder Act required each local authority to establish a multi-agency partnership to deliver Youth Justice Services. The current partnership was formed in 2012, following an extensive scoping exercise assisted by the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales. It was reported that the original plan included Cheshire East services, who subsequently adopted an alternate strategy, leaving Cheshire West, Halton and Warrington (CWHWYOS) to establish their own partnership.

It was reported that in May 2015, the Cheshire Police and Crime Commissioner requested the two Youth Offending Services (YOS) in Cheshire to consider proposals for a single YOS in order to improve consistency and resilience to potential future changes in both the criminal justice systems and Councils. Both YOS Boards had agreed the principle of amalgamation in line with the scoping exercise carried out in 2010-12, with formal agreement expected in March 2016.

Reason(s) for Decision

To formally validate the decision by the current CWHWYOS partnership to extend its agreement to include Cheshire East.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

To remain as two separate Youth Offending Services.

Implementation Date

1 April 2016 for formal amalgamation of the two YOS Management Boards who would then oversee a review of the service with an action plan being identified by 1 October 2016 and implemented by 31 March 2017, following any necessary consultations with partners, stakeholders and staff.

RESOLVED: That the decision of the Cheshire West, Halton and Warrington Youth Offending Service (CWHWYOS) to extend the partnership to include Cheshire East Youth Offending Service, be approved.

Strategic Director
- People and
Economy

**CHILDREN YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES
PORTFOLIO**

EXB131 DEVELOPMENT OF THE REGIONAL ADOPTION
AGENCY FOR WARRINGTON, WIGAN, ST HELENS,
HALTON AND CHESHIRE WEST AND CHESTER - KEY
DECISION

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, People and Economy, on plans for the development of a Regional Adoption Agency (RAA), for Warrington, Wigan, St Helens, Halton and Cheshire West and Chester.

The Board was advised that the Government had outlined its expectations that local authorities establish Regional Adoption Agencies in an announcement on Regionalising Adoption. The rationale for this was that a greater pool of adopters would be available and that children would have a better chance of being matched with a family that could meet their needs.

It was reported that Halton and Cheshire West and Chester were full partners in the development of the new RAA, together with Wigan, Warrington and St Helens (WWIISH). Together, the five local authorities would provide the scale required by Government for an RAA. Further, the inclusion of Adoption Matters and Caritas Care, (both Voluntary Adoption Agencies), in the development of the RAA, provided the partnership with an opportunity to build an RAA drawing on best practice from each of the partners and to meet changing demands through the pooling of expertise and resources.

The report provided further detail for Members' consideration on:-

- Aims and objectives of the RAA;
- Benefits of the RAA;
- Project Governance arrangements;
- Key project activities, milestones and update on progress;
- The Communications and Engagement Plan;
- An Options appraisal for the delivery vehicle of the

RAA; and

- The Transition Plan and Next Steps.

Reason(s) for Decision

A decision was required for Halton's agreement to progress with a plan for a regional adoption agency. This was in partnership with four other local authorities and two voluntary agencies and services for adoption which were currently delivered directly by Halton, would be delivered on its behalf by the regional adoption agency.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

An options appraisal had been undertaken by the Project Board for the regional adoption agency.

Implementation Date

The proposed implementation date would be October 2016.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the contents of the report be noted;
- 2) the approach being taken be agreed;
- 3) the proposed scope and function of the RAA be agreed;
- 4) the approach of the RAA Board to set out a transition plan and the bid for further funding in March 2016 be agreed; and
- 5) any further requirements to achieve the RAA are delegated to the Strategic Director, People and Economy, in conjunction with the Portfolio holder for Children, Young People and Families.

Strategic Director
- People and
Economy

EXB132 ACADEMIES UPDATE - KEY DECISION

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, People and Economy, which provided a brief from the Scrutiny Topic Work undertaken by the Children, Young People and Families Policy and Performance Board, on "*How we work with our family of schools*".

Members were advised that the Scrutiny Group held four meetings between December 2014 and September

2015, in which they considered the role of the Local Authority (LA) in all schools, including its relationship with Academies. The Group considered whether there should be a differentiated approach between officer roles, service provision and charges for maintained schools and Academies.

Councillor Dennett, Chairman of the Children, Young People and Families Policy and Performance Board attended the meeting to present the report. The recommendations that emerged from the process were noted as follows:

That, to ensure that the LA can share information and provide a level of influence across all schools:

- All schools should receive the e-circular;
- All Head Teachers and Principals to be invited to the Head Teacher meetings with the Director;
- Consideration be given to the charges that were currently levied to Academies for access to Council Services, charged at full cost recovery only; and
- Officers continue to promote partnership working, encouraging Academies to work with the Council, including the purchase of services through HBC Service Level Agreements.

Councillor Dennett dealt with Members' questions before being thanked for his attendance.

Reason(s) for Decision

Working in partnership with all the schools across Halton would provide a more coherent, consistent offer for children and young people and the Borough.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

It was not considered appropriate to treat Academies and the Free School differently as the Halton offer could only be strengthened by all schools and the local authority working together.

Implementation Date

April 2016.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the work undertaken by the Scrutiny Topic Group be noted; and
- 2) the recommendations of the Children, Young People and Families Policy and Performance Board be approved.

Strategic Director
- People and
Economy

HEALTH AND WELLBEING PORTFOLIO

EXB133 HALTON BOROUGH COUNCIL AND NHS HALTON CLINICAL COMMISSIONING GROUP : JOINT WORKING AGREEMENT

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, People and Economy, which presented an overview of the new Joint Working Agreement (JWA) between Halton Borough Council (HBC) and NHS Halton Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG).

The Board was advised that in April 2013, HBC and Halton CCG entered into a three year JWA for the commissioning of services for people with complex care needs. A revised JWA was presented to the Board on 26 March 2015, following the introduction of the Better Care Fund. However, it was reported that the focus on joint working and the pooling of resources had continued to develop and strengthen since the original JWA in 2013, and that there was a commitment to further develop an integrated approach to service delivery and transformation to improve the health and wellbeing of Halton residents.

It was noted that both organisations wanted to continue with the current arrangements in place and approval was sought to continue with this arrangement for another three years until 31 March 2019.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the contents of the report and Appendix be noted; and
- 2) delegated authority be approved for the Health and Wellbeing Portfolio holder and the Director of Adult Social Services to approve the new Joint Working Agreement.

Strategic Director
- People and
Economy

EXB134 BARKLA FIELDS BUNGALOWS

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, People and Economy, which sought approval to enter into an agreement with Halton Housing Trust in connection with specifically adapted bungalows at Barkla Fields.

The Board was advised that Halton Housing Trust (HHT) had developed five specially adapted bungalows at Barkla Fields, with the handover due in mid-March 2016. The Council and HHT sought to enter into an arrangement which would allow Social Care to nominate adults it supported, as tenants of HHT to include an equal risk share relating to the filling of voids including lost rent. Members were advised that provision would be included to revisit this arrangement if Local Housing Allowance was removed by Government. The specialist bungalows supported the Transforming Care agenda (Winterbourne View) and minimised the need for assessment and treatment beds and distant placements.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the report be noted;
- 2) the entering into of an arrangement with Halton Housing Trust to share risks relating to voids at Barkla Fields bungalow be approved; and
- 3) delegated powers be given to the Strategic Director, People and Economy, in consultation with the Portfolio holder for Health and Wellbeing to implement this arrangement.

Strategic Director
- People and
Economy

RESOURCES PORTFOLIO

EXB135 REVENUES AND BENEFITS SYSTEM CONTRACTS

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Community and Resources, which sought approval to extend three contracts currently provided by Northgate Public Services (UK) Limited, relating to the Council's Revenues and Benefits Computer System.

The Board was advised that the Council had successfully operated the Northgate system for over 15 years, for the provision of housing benefits, council tax support, council tax and business rates. There were three contracts with Northgate in relation to the revenues and

benefits computer system, as set out in the report.

Members were advised that the scale of the system meant that any changes would require significant preparatory work, a lengthy lead-in time, additional staff resource and significant costs. Initial discussions had been held with Northgate regarding the extension of all three contracts in order to have a co-terminus end date of 31 March 2021. A number of factors would support this extension in terms of value for money, which included that as well as being the market leader, Northgate were the Council's existing supplier; the system was compatible with the Council's Home Working Policy; and the likelihood of increased capital and revenue costs in terms of the implementation of a new system.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the extension to the Northgate DOL.mailroom over 4 years and 7 months be approved;
- 2) the extension of the Northgate Information@work contract over 4 years and 2 months be approved;
- 3) the extension of the Northgate Revenues and Benefits contract over 3 years and 8 months be approved; and
- 4) the Waiver of Procurement Standing Order 4.1, Competition Requirements, be approved in the light of the exceptional circumstances and on the basis that compliance would result in a clear financial detriment to the Council, as set out in paragraphs 3.4 to 3.10 of the report.

Strategic Director
- Community &
Resources

EXB136 PENSIONS DISCRETIONS STATEMENT

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Community and Resources, on the annual publication of the Pensions Discretions Statement (the Statement).

The Board was advised that the Statement for 2016/17 was based upon the Statement for 2015/16. No new discretions had been added or removed. In addition, there had been no material changes to the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013 which would result in a change to the Statement.

It was reported that minor drafting changes had been

made to the Statement for the purpose of adding clarity and to reflect a change in the Staffing Protocol effective 1 April 2016, as detailed in the report.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the Pensions Discretions Statement for 2016/17 be approved; and
- 2) those discretions be exercised by the appropriate Strategic Director, in consultation with the Portfolio holder for Resources and the Operational Director, Finance. (In the case of applications from the Strategic Directors/Chief Executive, replace appropriate Strategic Director with Chief Executive/ Strategic Director, Community and Resources, respectively).

Strategic Director
- Community &
Resources

EXB137 'UNLOCKING OUR POTENTIAL - AN ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR HALTON BOROUGH COUNCIL 2016-20'

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Community and Resources, which sought endorsement of the document '*Unlocking Our Potential – an Organisational Development Strategy for Halton Borough Council 2016-2020*' (the Strategy).

The Strategy document was the successor to the People Plan. In line with the public sector generally, despite significant constraints in funding, the Council needed to maintain an effective, professional and motivated workforce, whilst at the same time creating opportunities for the workforce to maximise their potential. In formulating the Strategy the future needs of the community, our values and ways of working were considered as well as information on the workforce composition and feedback from the Staff Survey 2014.

It was noted that the Strategy was built around the following 5 Key Strategic Aims and each contained a number of objectives and actions with linked outcomes and timescales which would enable progress to be monitored:

- Workforce Skills and Development;
- Recruitment and Retention;
- Engagement and Recognition;
- Health and Wellbeing; and
- Innovation and Flexibility.

RESOLVED: That the implementation of the Council's 'Unlocking Our Potential – an Organisational Development Strategy for Halton Borough Council 2016-2020' be endorsed and implemented in April 2016.

Strategic Director
- Community &
Resources

(N.B. Councillor Wharton declared a Disclosable Other Interest in the following item of business as he had a family member employed as a casual worker for Halton Borough Council, and did not speak or vote on the matter).

EXB138 NATIONAL LIVING WAGE - UNDER 25S

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Community and Resources, which sought approval to pay the National Living Wage to members of staff aged under 25.

The National Living Wage (NLW) was announced as part of the Government's Budget in July 2015 as a compulsory payment to workers aged 25 and over effective from 1 April 2016. It was reported that the NLW rate of pay would have no link with the cost of living but was instead based around median earnings. The NLW would apply to all categories of individual that were currently eligible for the National Minimum Wage; these included employees, most 'workers' (working under contract) and agency workers.

The report contained details of the policy implications and the provision of the NLW to all individuals working for Halton under an employment contract or a contract to personally perform services. It was reported that, given the practicalities of implementing the NLW from April 2016, Halton had prepared for the potential impact on pay structures, even though new pay structures under offer through the National Local Government pay negotiations were subject to agreement.

Members were advised that, on balance, there was insufficient justification to pay those under 25 less for doing exactly the same job. There would however, be a number of on-costs associated with this, including pension, National Insurance Contributions, auto enrolment and the need to maintain pay differentials within the workforce. For Halton, based on current staffing levels and ages, this would equate to an additional total cost of £34,734 in 2016/17. These estimated costs showed a steady cumulative increase in the total cost over the four year period, with an estimated annual cost of implementing the NLW of £1.1m by 2020/21.

RESOLVED: That the payment of the National Living Wage to members of staff aged under 25 be agreed and implemented from 1 April 2016.

Strategic Director
- Community &
Resources

EXB139 CONSTITUTION UPDATE 2016/17

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Community and Resources, which sought the approval of the Council to a number of changes to the Constitution.

Members were advised that the revised version picked up the changes to the Council's working arrangements that had taken place during the year, as well as other changes which were intended to assist the Council to operate more effectively.

The proposals for change had been considered by the Chief Executive and the Executive Board Member for Resources in accordance with Article 16.02. It was reported that, apart from the purely technical changes, the proposed amendments that were considered to be of particular significance were listed as an appendix to the report.

Members considered a further recommendation to be added to Appendix 1 as follows:-

- (a) All references in the Constitution to the term "Chairman" be replaced by the term "Chair"; and
- (b) All references in the Constitution to the term "Vice Chairman" be replaced by the term "Vice Chair".

RESOLVED: That Council be recommended to approve the revised Constitution, including the matters set out in Appendix 1 attached to the report and with the additional recommendation as set out at (a) and (b) above.

Strategic Director
- Community &
Resources

EXB140 MADELINE MCKENNA COURT CARE HOME

RESOLVED: That the Chief Executive be authorised, in consultation with the Leader, the Operational Director Legal and Democratic Services, the Operational Director Finance, and the Director of Adult Services, to explore all options and to take all and any steps as may be required, insofar as it is reasonably practicable after applying due diligence, to ensure the continued operation of the Madeline McKenna Court Care Home.

Chief Executive

MINUTES ISSUED: 30 March 2016

CALL - IN: 6 April 2016

Any matter decided by the Executive Board may be called in no later than 5.00pm on 6 April 2016

Meeting ended at 2.30 p.m.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

At a meeting of the Executive Board on Thursday, 7 April 2016 in The Boardroom, Municipal Building

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

Apologies for Absence: None

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: A. Scott, G. Cook, I. Leivesley, G. Meehan, M. Reaney, E. Dawson and S. Wallace-Bonner

Also in attendance: Councillor Joan Lowe

**ITEMS DEALT WITH
UNDER POWERS AND DUTIES
EXERCISABLE BY THE BOARD**

Action

EXB141 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 EXB 151 refers), therefore, pursuant to Section 100 B (4) and 100 E and in view of the representations by the Ward Councillors and Local Residents, the Leader asked for urgent action and an update on the issues at the Parklands Club, Cronton, and ruled that this item would be considered at this meeting.

EXB142 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 24 March 2016 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING PORTFOLIO

EXB143 HALTON URGENT CARE CENTRES

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, People and Economy, with an update on the development of Halton's Urgent Care Centres (UCC) and the impact they had on residents and the local health

economy.

The Board was advised that UCCs were a community-based primary care facility providing access to urgent care to a local population. In 2012/13, a review of UCCs within Halton helped inform an options appraisal as to how urgent care services within the Borough could be reconfigured to ensure local pressures and demand were met. It was reported that a number of options were considered for the delivery of an urgent care model in Halton. Following extensive consultation with professionals / clinicians and members of the public, the model chosen was to create two UCCs on the site of the former Minor Injuries Unit at Halton Hospital and the Walk in Centre in Widnes.

The report provided detail on the outcome for patients attending UCCs, the impact on the local health economy and the positive impact on the people of Halton.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the report and appendices be noted; and
- 2) the Board continue to support Halton's investment into the provision of the UCCs, as outlined in Halton's current and new Better Care Fund (BCF) Plan, to be presented to a future meeting of Executive Board.

EXB144 DISCHARGE FROM HOSPITAL SCRUTINY REVIEW

The Board considered a report of the Director of Adult Social Services which presented the recommendations of the Discharge from Hospital Scrutiny Review 2015/16.

The report, attached at Appendix 1, advised that the Review Group sought national and local evidence and undertook a range of site visits to understand best practice and the systems and issues with ensuring timely, safe and effective discharge of people from hospital. Councillor Joan Lowe, Health Policy and Performance Board Chair, attended the meeting to present the report. It was noted that the contributors to the review included: Hospital Discharge Teams; the voluntary sector; Warrington and Halton Hospitals NHS FT; St Helens and Knowsley Teaching Hospitals NHST; care home support teams; NHS Halton CCG; two local GP's and their surgeries and North West Ambulance Service.

The report contained details of the five recommendations of the Review Group for Members' information.

Councillor Lowe then dealt with Members questions before being thanked for her attendance.

RESOLVED: That the report and contents of Appendix 1 attached to the report, be noted.

RESOURCES PORTFOLIO

EXB145 TERM MAINTENANCE CONTRACTS

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, People and Economy, which sought approval to award the three year term maintenance and minor works contracts once the evaluation process was complete.

The Board was reminded that at its meeting on 1 October 2015, it had given approval for the commencement of a procurement process via The Chest, for term maintenance and minor works contracts for mechanical, electrical and building elements across the Borough.

It was reported that the procurement process had taken longer than originally intended, and the results of the evaluation would not be known until week commencing 11 April 2016. Therefore, due to the timings of Executive Board meetings, it would not be possible to report the outcome of the evaluation in time to award the contracts with a commencement date of 1 June 2016. Approval was therefore sought for the delegation of such award, in consultation with the Portfolio holder for Resources.

RESOLVED: That delegated authority be approved for the Operational Director, Economy, Enterprise and Property, in conjunction with the Portfolio holder for Resources, to award the three year term maintenance and minor works contracts for mechanical, electrical and building elements for use across the Borough, once the evaluation process has been completed.

Strategic Director
- People and
Economy

EXB146 COUNCIL TAX SECTION 13A DISCOUNT POLICY STATEMENT

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Community and Resources, on the adoption of a policy statement for Council Tax Section 13A Discount.

The Board was advised that Section 13A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended) provided the Council with discretionary powers to reduce the amount of council tax liability in exceptional circumstances, where national discounts or exemptions could not be applied. It was noted that the Council was required to have a Section 13A Discount Policy Statement in place.

The Policy Statement, attached as an appendix to the report, outlined the process for making applications and set out the decision making process and appeals arrangements.

RESOLVED: That the Council Tax Section 13A Discount Policy Statement, attached at Appendix 1 to the report, be approved.

Strategic Director
- Community &
Resources

TRANSPORTATION PORTFOLIO

EXB147 HIGHWAYS ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Community and Resources, which sought approval of Chapters 1-4 of the Draft Highways Asset Management Plan (HAMP).

The Board was advised that a HAMP was a guidance document used by the Council's Highways Service which identified current assets, developed a framework for Asset Management to enhance existing good practices and improve the management of the highway network. In addition, it addressed maintenance challenges moving forward. Some of the potential benefits of adopting Asset Management practices were as follows:

- Formalised and documented standards and processes;
- Provided an informed response to budget pressures;
- Recorded assets and what condition they were in;
- Allowed an understanding of how infrastructure had aged and the risks associated with it;
- Led to consistency of practices;
- Provided an audit trail;
- Assisted with managing public expectations; and
- Acknowledged that future spending requirements were not always the same as historical ones.

It was noted that, unless each local Highway Authority was actively committed to Asset Management and other Highways Maintenance Efficiency Programme principles, then they could expect a cut in future funding of

up to 15.5% by 2020/21, through the Incentive Element Funding Formula. This demonstrated the importance for the Council to develop and sustain its highway asset management capability.

The report had been considered by the Environment and Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board at its meeting on 13 January 2016, which had supported the recommendation.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) Chapters 1-4 inclusive of the Draft Highway Asset Management Plan, attached at Appendix 1 to the report, be approved; and
- 2) the remaining Chapters of the HAMP be brought to the Board for consideration at the appropriate time.

Strategic Director
- Community &
Resources

(N.B. the following Councillors declared a Disclosable Other Interest in the following item of business for the reasons stated: Councillor Polhill as he was Chair of the Mersey Gateway Crossings Board and vacated the Chair during consideration of the item; Councillor Wharton as a Non- Executive Director of the Mersey Gateway Crossings Board)

COUNCILLOR DAVE CARGILL IN THE CHAIR

EXB148 MERSEY GATEWAY BRIDGE PROJECT - REVISED DEPARTMENT FOR TRANSPORT FUNDING LETTER

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Community and Resources, which presented the revised Department for Transport (DfT) Funding Letter in respect of the Mersey Gateway Bridge Project, which incorporated the improved Local User Discount Scheme, for approval.

It was reported that on 23 January 2014 the Mersey Gateway Executive Board approved a number of documents and the process which took the Mersey Gateway Bridge Project through to financial close. This included providing a delegation to the Operational Director, Finance, as the Council's Section 151 Officer, to authorise such written confirmations as required by the Department for Transport's Funding Letter. It was announced on 25 July 2014 that the Government would provide additional funding to improve the Local User Discount Scheme; this would enable Halton residents to undertake unlimited journeys at no cost, other

than an annual registration fee, across the Mersey Gateway Bridge.

Following this announcement the Mersey Gateway Crossings Board had undertaken negotiations with the Department for Transport regarding the revised terms and conditions of the Government's additional funding offer; the result of the negotiations were presented in a revised Funding Letter, which was appended to the report.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the Department for Transport's revised Funding Letter in respect of the Mersey Gateway Bridge Project be approved; and
- 2) the Operational Director, Finance, be authorised to certify the Department for Transport's revised Funding Letter, on behalf of the Council, as the Section 151 Officer.

Strategic Director
- Community &
Resources

COUNCILLOR POLHILL IN THE CHAIR

EXB149 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 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.

RESOURCES PORTFOLIO

(N.B. Councillor Polhill declared a Disclosable Other Interest in the following item of business, as he was Director of Widnes Regeneration)

EXB150 PROPOSED ACQUISITIONS

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, People and Economy, which sought approval for the acquisition of a number of sites, as set out in the report.

The Board was advised that in 1999, the Council had entered into a Joint Venture Agreement with the development company St Modwens. Widnes Regeneration Limited (WRL) was formed and over the next twelve years WRL made a significant impact in supporting the regeneration of Widnes. However, it was reported that the partnership had become dormant and St Modwens had worked with the Council to wind up the Company.

It was reported that an agreement had been reached to acquire a package of sites, as detailed in the report, subject to contract and Executive Board approval. The report provided a brief rationale for the purchase of each site.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the purchase of the three sites as set out in the report, be agreed;
- 2) the Operational Director, Economy, Enterprise and Property, be authorised to arrange for all required documentation to be completed to the satisfaction of the Operational Director, Legal and Democratic Services; and
- 3) Council be recommended to approve the allocation of Capital Funding, not exceeding £235k, to acquire the sites outlined in the report.

Strategic Director
- People and
Economy

EXB151 PARKLANDS CLUB, 1A PARKLANDS, CRONTON

The Operational Director, Legal and Democratic Services, provided an update and drew Members' attention to concerns raised by Local Residents and Ward Councillors.

RESOLVED: That the Operational Director, Legal and Democratic Services, be instructed to seek Counsel's advice on this matter, and to bring a further report to Executive Board in due course.

Operational
Director, Legal
and Democratic
Services

MINUTES ISSUED: 11 April 2016

CALL-IN: 18 April 2016

Any matter decided by the Executive Board may be called in no later than 5.00pm on 18 April 2016

Meeting ended at 3.00 p.m.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

At a meeting of the Executive Board on Tuesday, 17 May 2016 in The Boardroom, Municipal Building

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

Apologies for Absence: None

Absence declared on Council business: None

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

Also in attendance: None

**ITEMS DEALT WITH
UNDER POWERS AND DUTIES
EXERCISABLE BY THE BOARD**

	<i>Action</i>
<p>EXB152 MINUTES</p> <p>The Minutes of the meeting held on 7 April 2016 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.</p>	
<p>EXB153 APPOINTMENT OF LEADER AND DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL</p> <p>RESOLVED: That Council be recommended to</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) appoint Councillor Polhill as Leader of the Council in accordance with the Council's Constitution; and 2) appoint Councillor Wharton as Deputy Leader of the Council for the 2016/17 Municipal Year. 	Chief Executive
<p>EXB154 APPOINTMENT TO BOARDS, COMMITTEES, APPEALS PANEL, WORKING PARTY AND SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATOR POST AND THE APPOINTMENT OF CO-OPTES ON VARIOUS BOARDS</p> <p>The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Community and Resources, regarding the appointments to the Council's Boards, Committees, Appeals Panel, Working Party and Scrutiny Co-ordinator and the appointment of a non-voting co-optee to the Health Policy</p>	

and Performance Board and the appointment of two non-voting Parish Council co-optees and two non-voting Independent co-optees to the Standards Committee.

The Board also considered the appointment of Independent Persons for the purposes of the Localism Act 2011.

A list of committee memberships was tabled at the meeting.

RESOLVED: That Council be recommended to

- 1) agree the appointments to the Council's Boards, Committees, Appeals Panel and Working Party for the Municipal Year 2016/17 with the representation put forward by each of the political groups;
- 2) approve the nomination of Councillor A McDermott as the Scrutiny Co-ordinator for the Municipal Year 2016/17;
- 3) confirm the re-appointment as non voting co-optee of Mr Tom Baker as the Healthwatch Halton representative to the Health Policy and Performance Board for the Municipal Year 2016/17;
- 4) confirm the re-appointment of Reverend David Felix and Mr Stephen Cluff as non-voting Parish Council co-optees to the Standards Committee for the Municipal Year 2016/17;
- 5) confirm the re-appointment of Mr Tony Luxton and Mrs Anita Morris as non-voting Independent co-optees to the Standards Committee for a period of four years; and
- 6) confirm the re-appointment of Professor David Norman, Mrs Diane Howard and Mr Roy Radley as Independent Persons for the purposes of the Localism Act 2011.

Strategic Director
- Community &
Resources

Meeting ended at 2.03 p.m.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

At a meeting of the Executive Board on Thursday, 16 June 2016 in The Boardroom, Municipal Building

Present: Councillors Polhill (Chair), D. Cargill, Harris, R. Hignett, Jones, S. Hill, T. McInerney, Nelson, Wharton and Wright

Apologies for Absence: None

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: G. Cook, D. Parr, M. Reaney, E. Dawson, S. Wallace-Bonner, G. Ferguson and A. McIntyre

Also in attendance: None

**ITEMS DEALT WITH
UNDER POWERS AND DUTIES
EXERCISABLE BY THE BOARD**

Action

EXB1 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 17 May 2016 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

**CHILDREN YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES
PORTFOLIO**

EXB2 CLOSURE OF WESTFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL
RESOURCE PROVISION BASE FOR PUPILS WITH
HEARING IMPAIRMENT AND SPECIFIC LEARNING
DIFFICULTIES - KEY DECISION

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, People and Economy, which sought permission to commence consultation on the closure of the Primary Hearing Impaired Resource Provision Base at Westfield Primary School.

The Board was advised that Westfield Primary School had a Resource Provision Base for six pupils with hearing impairment (HI) and specific learning difficulties at Westfield Primary School. It was reported that parents are choosing to educate their children with such difficulties in mainstream provision rather than in specialist HI provision. It was noted

that from September 2016, there would be three children accessing provision.

The Board was further advised that in 2015/16, Halton ceased the secondary specialist Resource Provision base at Wade Deacon High School, due to lack of numbers. The funding this released was invested in strengthening and increasing the level of peripatetic specialist teaching and non-teaching support. It was noted that the three pupils at Westfield Primary would remain in the mainstream school and would be allocated additional teaching assistant support and support from the peripatetic specialist team.

The pre-statutory consultation would commence on 22 June 2016 for four weeks, with the outcome reported to Executive Board, with a planned statutory consultation commencing in September 2016, as detailed in the report.

RESOLVED: That the commencement of consultation on the closure of the Hearing Impaired Resource Provision Base at Westfield Primary School be approved.

Strategic Director
- People and
Economy

EXB3 WHITE PAPER "EDUCATION, EXCELLENCE EVERYWHERE" KEY DECISION

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, People and Economy, which provided a summary of the White Paper "Education Excellence Everywhere" and the key elements of the proposed Education Bill.

The Board was advised that on 17 March 2016, the Secretary of State launched the document "Education Excellence Everywhere" and the Department for Education's five year strategy "World-class Education and Care". It was reported that these two documents set out the Government's plans and vision for education over the next five years. The proposed reforms sought to radically reshape education and reduce and redefine the role of the local authorities.

There were seven key areas covered within the White Paper, which were detailed in the report and noted as being:-

- Great Teachers;
- Great Leaders;
- A School-led system with every school and Academy;
- Preventing under Performance;
- A World-leading curriculum;
- Accountability; and

- The right resources in the right hands.

Under the current arrangements, every time a school converted to Academy status, the local authority's Education Services Grant (ESG) reduced. It was reported that this funding had previously funded a range of education services including Education Welfare, School Improvement, Asset Management, Premature retirements and a range of statutory services. The School Improvement element of the ESG would be re-routed to teaching schools to support their new role.

Reasons(s) for Decision

To explore the options and opportunities available to the local authority and its maintained schools.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

Not applicable.

Implementation Date

June 2016.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the implications of the White Paper "Education Excellence Everywhere", and proposed Education Bill be noted; and
- 2) the Board approves the development options for the future role of the Council in supporting schools.

Strategic Director
- People and
Economy

HEALTH AND WELLBEING PORTFOLIO

EXB4 ADULT HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE - ACCOUNTABLE COMMISSIONING SYSTEM

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, People and Economy, which set out a draft Project Initiation Document (PID) outlining a proposal for further alignment of systems and services across Health and Social Care Services.

The Board was advised that in May 2013, the Government announced its commitment to making co-ordinated health and care a reality and published a plan 'Integrated Care and Support: Our Shared Commitment'.

The Health and Social Care Act 2012 brought in the most wide-ranging reforms of the NHS since it was founded.

The report set out the details of joint working and collaboration within the local context in Halton. However, it was reported that this would be an opportune time to review current arrangements in respect of joint working and to align organisational structure, leadership and governance arrangements across Adult Social Care and Health.

Attached at Appendix 2 to the report, was a detailed PID which outlined the aim of the project, rationale, expected outcomes and processes to be undertaken. It was reported that a Project Board had been established called the Integration – Joint Steering Group, to take the project forward. This Board was chaired by the Director of Adult Social Services for Halton. The aim was to facilitate the further alignment of systems, to support the existing pooled budget and improve the pathways and outcomes for individuals that use the services.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the contents of the report and associated appendices be noted; and
- 2) the draft PID attached at Appendix 2, be approved.

Strategic Director
- People and
Economy

EXB5 MADELINE MCKENNA RESIDENTIAL HOME

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, People and Economy, which presented options for the future provision of the Madeline McKenna Court residential home.

The Board was advised that the Madeline McKenna Court residential home was currently owned by the Your Housing Group (YHG), with the business and building currently up for sale. It was reported that YHG had begun formal consultation with residents and staff and had outlined a number of options, as set out in the report.

The report set out three possible options for the future of the home, which Members considered.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the contents of the report be noted; and

Strategic Director
- People and
Economy

- 2) the Board agree to the purchase of Madeline McKenna Court and enter into a partnership agreement with Community Integrated Care (CIC) to jointly manage Madeline McKenna Court as a residential home.

EXB6 SUPPORTED ACCOMMODATION (VULNERABLE ADULTS) TENDER

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, People and Economy, which provided an update on the implementation of Vulnerable Adults Supported Accommodation services. It also sought approval to re-award three contracts.

The Board was advised that tender process had been progressing since October 2015. The new contracts were agreed, as detailed in the report, under seven geographic zones (lots). However, one company had indicated an increase of 8,22% would be necessary to meet a shortfall in costs. Following legal advice, it was recommended that contracts be awarded in line with the original tender evaluation rankings in Zones 4, 5 and 6.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the award of a three year plus one year extension to contract to Community Integrated Care for delivery of services in Zone 5 be approved;
- 2) the award of a three year plus one year extension contract to Clece Care for delivery of service in Zones 4 and 6 be approved;
- 3) subject to Clece Care not being in a position to accept the offer of a contract to provide the services in resolution 2), approve a contingency arrangement whereby the award of a three year plus one year contract is made to Community Integrated Care for delivery of services in Zone 4 and PossAbilities for delivery of services in Zone 6; and
- 4) delegated powers be given to the Strategic Director, People and Economy and/or the Director of Adult Social Services, in conjunction with the Portfolio holders for Health and Wellbeing and for Resources, to manage any detailed negotiations relating to the award of contracts for these services.

Strategic Director
- People and
Economy

TRANSPORTATION PORTFOLIO

EXB7 OBJECTION TO PROPOSED 30 MPH SPEED LIMIT, LUNTS HEATH ROAD, WIDNES

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Community and Resources, on an objection to a proposed 30mph speed limit at Lunts Heath Road, Widnes.

The Board was advised that in December 2015, the Council advertised its intention to introduce a 30mph speed limit on a length of Lunts Heath Road in Widnes (as detailed in Appendix B). This followed a number of requests from residents and a Ward Councillor for a reduction in the speed limit from 40mph. Members noted the continued housing development and multiple access points on Lunts Heath Road.

It was reported that during the consultation period, one objection was received from a resident, the details of which were attached at Appendix A for Members' information. The Board was further advised that this matter had been considered by the Environment and Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board at its meeting on 23 March 2016, with a recommendation to support the Traffic Regulation Order, subject to the approval of the Executive Board.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the proposal to make a Traffic Regulation Order to implement a 30mph speed limit on those roads defined in Appendix B, attached to the report be approved; and
- 2) the objector be informed of the decision.

Strategic Director
- Community &
Resources

EXB8 NEC SHORT FORM CONTRACT AUTHORISATION FOR BALVAC WORKS

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Community and Resources, on the NEC Short Form Contract authorisation for Balvac Works.

It was reported that the Council had an Access Agreement to the SCAPE Framework, which had successfully been utilised for the procurement of Bridge and Structures Maintenance Works.

Following consultation with the Leader, the Chief Executive authorised the entering into of a contract with Balvac, through the SCAPE Framework for the procurement of the Silver Jubilee Bridge (SJB) Complex Major Maintenance Project, using his emergency powers. The reasons for this action and the timescales involved, were set out in the report for Members' information.

RESOLVED: That the Board note that authorisation by the Chief Executive been given for the entering into of a contract with Balvac, through the SCAPE Framework, for the procurement of the SJB Complex Major Maintenance Project.

RESOURCES PORTFOLIO

EXB9 2015/16 FINANCIAL OUTTURN

The Board considered a report of the Operational Director, Finance, on the final revenue and capital spending position for 2015/16.

The Board was advised that the final accounts for 2015/16 were near completion; the revenue spending for each Department, which would be subject to external audit, was attached to the report at Appendix 1.

It was reported that the budget savings for 2016/17 were implemented over three tranches, the first and second of which consisted of savings of £11.4m and approved by Council in October and December 2015. As a result of some of these savings being implemented early, it provided part-year savings in 2015/16.

The report provided details on the key variances (which were in addition to the overall net underspend) in the following services:

- Children and Families;
- Economy, Enterprise and Property;
- Education, Inclusion and Provision;
- Community and Environment;
- Finance;
- Legal and Democratic Services;

- Policy, Planning and Transportation; and
- Corporate and Democracy.

Members were advised that the Council's Reserves and Balances had been reviewed in accordance with the Reserves and Balances Strategy. The Council's General Reserve stood at £5.391m. It was noted that the general reserve was now at its lowest level since 2003. Given the financial challenges and spending pressures the Council faced, the balance was considered to be at a reasonable level, but it was not considered prudent to make any further reductions to balance future budgets.

With regards to Capital Spending, details of spending against the 2015/16 Capital Programme were attached to the report at Appendix 2. It was noted that spending was £2.096m below the revised Capital Programme of £30.639m, which represented 93% delivery of the revised Capital Programme. Members were advised that although there had been slippage on several large projects, spend would be incurred into 2016/17.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the report be noted; and
- 2) the information within the report be taken into account when reviewing the medium term forecast and saving proposals for future years.

EXB10 TREASURY MANAGEMENT QUARTER 4 2015/16

The Board considered a report of the Operational Director, Finance, which updated them on activities undertaken on the money market as required by the Treasury Management Statement.

The report provided supporting information on the economic outlook, interest rate forecast, short term borrowing rates, long term borrowing rates, borrowing and investments, budget monitoring, new long term borrowing and treasury management indicators. It was noted that no debt rescheduling had been undertaken during the quarter.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

EXB11 LIVERPOOL CITY REGION – 100% BUSINESS RATES
RETENTION PILOT AREA

The Board considered a report of the Operational Director, Finance, which related to the Liverpool City Region 100% Business Rates Retention Pilot Area.

The Board was advised that as part of the 2015 Spending Review, the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced plans that would involve councils retaining 100% of the business rates they collect. The Government's stated aims in making this change were set out in the report.

In March 2016, the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) approached the Liverpool City Region councils to act as a pilot area for the development of the new 100% business rates retention system. It was reported that the development of the pilot areas would include discussions regarding which additional service and funding responsibilities the councils might adopt and the timescales for doing so. DCLG would ensure that appropriate measures were developed to mitigate any financial risks and ensure that the new system was sustainable.

The report also advised that the offer of a four year Grant Settlement option, which had been offered by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in March 2016, provided a commitment to provide "minimum" grant allocations for each year up to 2019/20. The intention was to provide some degree of financial certainty and some assurance that each council's grant allocations would not fall below a minimum level. Members were advised that, as part of the discussions regarding the LCR rates retention pilot area proposal, DCLG had guaranteed that during the pilot period each of the six councils would be financially no worse off than if they had taken up the four year grant settlement offer.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the proposal for the Liverpool City Region to be a pilot area for 100% business rates retention, as presented in the report, be noted; and
- 2) the decision taken by the Chief Executive under urgency powers to agree to Halton's inclusion within the Liverpool City Region pilot arrangement, be noted.

EXB12 DISCRETIONARY BUSINESS RATES RELIEF REQUEST

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Community and Resources, which detailed a request for discretionary business rates relief.

In April 2013, the Government introduced the Business Rates Retention Scheme, whereby the Council retained 49% of the business rates income collected up to a baseline level and also 49% of any growth in business rates income above that baseline. It was noted that the Scheme offered Councils a financial incentive to promote economic growth.

The report set out the details of a request from a company based in Christleton Court, Manor Park in Runcorn. Members were advised that Officers of the Council had visited the company to evaluate their growth plans and to agree a series of realistic and deliverable outputs which would be conditional upon the award of any discretionary business rates relief.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) 100% Discretionary Business Rates Relief be granted "in principle" for Unit 8, Christleton Court, Manor Park, Runcorn, initially for a period of six months, based upon the economic and job creation opportunities outlined in the report and subject to the conditions detailed in paragraph 3.8 of the report;
- 2) Subject to resolution 1, at the end of the first six month period, if satisfactory progress is evidenced towards the creation of at least six new sustainable jobs within twelve months, a further six months relief be awarded as set out in paragraph 3.8 of the report; and
- 3) the Strategic Director, Community and Resources, in liaison with the Resources Portfolio holder, be authorised to action the initial six months and subsequent six months Discretionary Business Rates Relief in respect of Unit 8, Christleton Court, Manor Park, Runcorn, once the premises have been added to the rating list and subject to

Strategic Director
- Community &
Resources

the conditions detailed in paragraph 3.8 of the report.

EXB13 DIRECTORATE OVERVIEW REPORTS

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Community and Resources, on progress against key objectives/milestones and performance targets for the fourth quarter year-end to 31 March 2016.

The Board was advised that the Directorate Performance Overview Report provided a strategic summary of key issues arising from performance in the relevant quarter for each Directorate, being aligned to Council priorities or functional areas. The Board noted that such information was key to the Council's performance management arrangements, with the Board having a key role in monitoring performance and strengthening accountability.

It was reported that each report contained an update concerning the implementation of mitigation measures for all high risks contained within each Directorate Risk Register.

RESOLVED: That the report and progress and performance information be noted.

EXB14 ICT & SUPPORT SERVICES CAPITAL PROGRAMME

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Community and Resources, which outlined the ICT and Support Services Capital Programme.

The Board was advised that, supported by last year's capital programme, the authority's technology infrastructure had undergone a considerable upgrade with major changes to the internal structure, wi-fi, server and storage infrastructure and server infrastructure licensing. It was noted that these changes had given the authority a multi-site resilient technology architecture that would enable the delivery of a true cloud based service to all of its users.

The report set out the key programme areas for the 2016/17 ICT Capital Programme, which was split into three distinct areas of Licensing, Desktop Development and Cloud Services. It also set out details of the financial spend profile for Members' consideration.

RESOLVED: That the Board notes and approves the programme and IT Capital Programme spend profile for

2016/17.

EXB15 CORPORATE SECURITY CONTRACT

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, People and Economy, which advised of a tender opportunity for Corporate Security Services to be published via The Chest.

The Board was advised that Select Security (North West) Limited were awarded the Corporate Security Contract following a procurement exercise in 2015, for a three year period. It was reported that the company was placed into Administration on 19 January 2016. The company was sold and a change of company name had taken place, with the new company known as Select Security (NW) Limited.

It was reported that, following a meeting, it was acknowledged that as an interim measure the Council had little option but to continue with the current provider of the security contract. However, this was subject to the new company demonstrating that they had everything in place to deliver such a service. This was confirmed and the Board was advised that the Chief Executive had used emergency powers to approve a waiver of procurement standing orders under Procurement Standing Order 1.8.1 in respect of the interim security arrangements.

The Board noted the new contract would be for a three year period with the provision for a twelve month extension subject to satisfactory performance giving a maximum contract length of four years.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the Board note the intention to procure a new corporate security contract in line with EU Public Procurement Regulations 2006 and Procurement Standing Orders; and
- 2) note that the Chief Executive approved a waiver of Standing Orders under Procurement Standing Order 1.8.1, in respect of the provision of interim security arrangements until such time that a new contract is awarded.

Strategic Director
- People and
Economy

EXB16 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 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, 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

EXB17 PROPOSAL TO FACILITATE DISPOSAL OF THE FORMER BAYER CROPSCIENCE SITE- KEY DECISION

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, People and Economy, which presented the options for the development of the Bayer Cropsience site.

The report provided details on the current position with the site, options for its future development and a recommendation of a preferred approach, for Members to consider.

Reason(s) for Decision

To allow the development of a largescale brownfield site for economic gain.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

The site had been informally marketed and the site had been formally marketed under a development partner. Neither of these approaches had resulted in any viable success for development.

Although the recent open marketing had been for a period of five months, the site had been available on the market for circa five years in total.

Implementation Date

1 October 2016.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the current position be noted;
- 2) the disposal of approximately 40 acres of land by way of a development agreement as per the terms set out in Appendix A, be approved;
- 3) the Operational Director, Economy, Enterprise and Property be authorised in consultation with the Leader and portfolio holders for Resources and Physical Environment to agree the final net price payable; and
- 4) the Operational Director, Economy, Enterprise and Property be authorised to arrange for all required documentation to be completed to the satisfaction of the Operational Director, Legal and Democratic Services.

Strategic Director
- People and
Economy

MINUTES ISSUED: 20 June 2016

CALL-IN: 27 June 2016

Any matter decided by the Executive Board may be called in no later than 5.00pm on 27 June 2016

Meeting ended at 2.20 p.m.

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HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

At a meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board on Wednesday, 9 March 2016 at The Halton Suite - Select Security Stadium, Widnes

Present: Councillors Polhill (Chairman), Woolfall and Wright and S. Banks, L. Birtles Smith, P. Cook, G. Ferguson, T. Hill, L. McDonnell, A. McIntyre, E. O'Meara, D. Parr, M. Pearson, M. Pickup, C. Samosa, M. Saville, S. Semoff, R. Strachan, L. Thompson, S. Wallace Bonner, S. Yeoman

Apologies for Absence: Councillor Philbin and D. Lyon and H. Patel

Absence declared on Council business: None

**ITEM DEALT WITH
UNDER DUTIES
EXERCISABLE BY THE BOARD**

Action

HWB35 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 13th January 2016 having been circulated were signed as a correct record.

HWB36 INTEGRATING CHILDREN'S SERVICES

The Board considered a report which advised on developments for integrating Children's Services. An Integrating Child Health in Halton Workshop was held on 8th May 2015 with local acute trusts, community trusts, children's services, NHS CCG Halton and Public Health. The key note speaker was Dr. Hilary Cass, President of the Royal College of Paediatric and Child Health. The outcome was consideration to pilot an innovative programme of joint working between providers and the placement of a local paediatrician in the local community. The report outlined the drivers for change towards an integrated service and the aims and outcomes which an integrated service could achieve.

Members were advised that the next steps in Halton would be to:

- agree a financial plan and work plan for a paediatrician in the community;
- agree GP hosts and pilot sites; and
- liaise with Health Education England for recognition as a pilot site.

RESOLVED: That the Board –

1. note the contents of the report; and
2. note that a paediatrician is available to work in the Halton Community from Warrington and Halton Hospital Trust.

HWB37 WELL NORTH PROGRAMME

The Board considered a report which provided information on the successful Well North bid that Halton Partners had submitted. The Board was advised that Well North was a Department of Health (DH) response to the Due North Report which highlighted the disparity in wealth and circumstances between the North and the South of England. The DH Well North team had allocated up to £9m to be available to nine local areas to improve health via innovative approaches.

It was noted that the programme must be delivered in wards in the top 10% of Index of Multiple Deprivation and the approach was to develop, test and pilot a set of linked interventions to improve the health of the poorest. The Well North methodology would involve co-production between Halton's partners and the Well North team. Full details of Halton's successful bid were outlined in the report.

As part of the next steps, a team of Halton staff from across key agencies and service areas would work with local communities and the Well North team through an initial stage to further define the proposals and intended outcomes for Halton. Initial sessions and visits had already taken place to provide a sense of place for the Well North team and a trip to Bromley by Bow for Halton partners to see a successful Wellness Place based approach in action. It was proposed that a two day workshop would be programmed for May 2016 to develop plans.

RESOLVED: That

1. the contents of the successful Well North bid and an

update of commencement of implementation be noted; and

2. any comments be fed back to the Director of Public Health and Director of Commissioning and Service Delivery.

HWB38 DELIVERING THE FORWARD VIEW: PLANNING GUIDANCE 2016/17- 2020/21

The Board was advised that the National Health and Care Bodies in England had come together to publish shared NHS Planning Guidance for 2016/17 – 2020/2021, setting out the steps to help local organisations deliver a sustainable, transformed Health Service and improve the quality of care, wellbeing and NHS finances. A copy of the guidance had been previously circulated to Members of the Board.

As part of the new planning process, NHS organisations had been asked to develop two plans.

- 1) A wider health and care system Sustainability and Transformation Plan, covering the period October 2016 to March 2021; and

- (2) A plan by organisation for 2016/17.

It was noted that the guidance had indicated that planning by individual organisations would increasingly be supplemented with planning by place for local populations. Providing a Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP) on a larger geographical footprint would encourage a joint approach. On the 29th January it was confirmed that Halton would form part of the Cheshire and Merseyside STP footprint.

Members were advised on access to future transformation funding which was outlined in the Government Spending Review as an additional dedicated funding stream for transformational change, building up over the next five years. The most compelling and credible STPs would secure the earliest additional funding from April 2017 onwards. In addition the report also set out the timetable for submission of the Operational Plan and completion of the five year Cheshire and Merseyside STP. It also outlined nine “must do” priorities for local health economies which NHS England and the other NHS organisations had identified.

RESOLVED: That

1. the contents of the report be noted; and
2. the Council works collectively with Halton CCG and One Halton delivery partners to develop a local 5 year Sustainability and Transformation Plan with accompanying 12 month Operational Plan and contribute to the wider Cheshire and Merseyside footprint Sustainability and Transformation Plan.

HWB39 COMPLEX DEPENDENCY/EARLY INTERVENTION

The Board considered a report which detailed the arrangements for the introduction of Multi-Agency Front door as part of Complex Dependency Early Intervention model in Halton.

One of the key aims of the Complex Dependency Early Intervention project was to create a single, multi-agency front door for identification and assessment of complex individuals, Children and Families. In order to deliver a multi-agency front door in Halton, the process and practice of the current Contact and Referral Team (CART) had been reviewed. Through the implementation of the revised front door the aim was to provide a proportionate, timely and co-ordinated partnership approach to children, families and vulnerable adults. This approach should lead to a more appropriate allocation of resources to those children, families and vulnerable adults that required additional support due to them having multiple and complex needs.

Members of the Board were advised on staffing roles within the new integrated team, known as I-CART and noted that there would be a soft launch of the new approach at the end of March 2016.

It was noted that the aim of I-CART was to see less inappropriate and repeat referrals, closer partnership working and clearer accountability, supported by information sharing protocols and pathways, improve confidence for those who access the service, identification of possible gaps in service and cost benefits.

RESOLVED: That the Board notes the progress to date in implementing a multi-agency front door and recognise the benefit of a defined route to services through a single point of access by a dedicated multi-agency team.

HWB40 SUMMARY OF CQC INSPECTION REPORTS OF GP PRACTICES

The Board considered a report of the Chief Officer, NHS Halton CCG, which presented a summary of the outcomes of the first wave of CQC inspections of general practices in Halton undertaken in September 2015. Of the eight practices inspected, seven received an overall rating of good, and one an overall rating of outstanding. An overview of each general practice inspection was detailed in the report.

RESOLVED: That the good outcomes of the first wave of CQC inspections of GP practices in Halton be noted.

HWB41 NHS ENGLAND UPDATE FOR LEARNING DISABILITIES PAPER - KAREN POWELL NHS ENGLAND

The Board considered a report from NHS England, which provided an update of the national, regional and local programme of work with regard to Transforming Care for People with Learning Disabilities. The Transforming Care programme was a national programme of work, aimed to improve care for people with learning disabilities and/or autism and behaviour that challenged (learning disabilities). The five areas in the Transforming Care programme were –

- Empowering individuals;
- Right care in the right place;
- Regulation and inspection;
- Workforce; and
- Data and information.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted and the Board support the implementation.

HWB42 PUBLIC HEALTH ANNUAL REPORT

The Board received an update on the development of the Halton Public Health Annual Report (PHAR) from the Director of Public Health. The Annual Report was the Director of Public Health's professional statement about the health of local communities, based on sound epidemiological evidence and interpreted objectively.

Each year a theme was chosen for the PHAR and for 2015 – 16 it was noted that the report would focus on the work of the Public Health Evidence and Intelligence Team. This topic had been chosen to highlight some key pieces of

work and how they had been used or would be used by Halton Borough Council and its partner organisations. The final version of the report would be presented to the Board in July however, prior to this an electronic copy would be circulated to Members of the Board for feedback.

RESOLVED: That the theme and development of the Public Health Annual Report be noted.

HWB43 POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR SUPPORT SERVICE

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, People and Economy, which provided an update on the activity of the Positive Behaviour Support Service (PBSS), which had been operational since November 2011. The service was jointly funded by NHS Halton CCG and was a specialist service for children and adults with the primary purpose of improving life quality for those individuals who present with behaviours that challenged services. Eligibility criteria for the service were moderate to severe Learning Disability, including those with a diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Condition. The service was currently supporting 15 adults and 18 children in the Halton area. In addition, it would also be supporting the return of 6 adults to Halton from out of borough placements in January 2016.

It was noted that the cost of the PBSS to Halton was less than the savings achieved. The report detailed examples of annual savings to the Council.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted and the ongoing work of the PBSS be supported.

Meeting ended at 3.00 p.m.

**CHILDREN YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES POLICY AND PERFORMANCE
BOARD**

At a meeting of the Children Young People and Families Policy and Performance Board on Monday, 22 February 2016 in the Civic Suite, Town Hall, Runcorn

Present: Councillors Dennett (Chairman), P. Hignett, Horabin, K. Loftus, A. McInerney, June Roberts, J. Stockton and Woolfall

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Logan, Cassidy and Wall

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: A. McIntyre, G. Meehan, A. Jones, T. Coffey, S. Williams, J. Farrell and M. Higginbottom

Also in attendance: M. Parkinson – Strategic Professional Partner (CWAC), R. Ratcliffe and M. Walker – Halton Youth Council and P. McClure – Addaction

**ITEMS DEALT WITH
UNDER DUTIES
EXERCISABLE BY THE BOARD**

Action

CYP40 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 4 January 2016 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

CYP41 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The Board was advised that no public questions had been received.

CYP42 EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES

The minutes relating to the Children, Young People and Families Portfolio which had been considered by the Executive Board since the last meeting of this Board were attached at Appendix 1 for information.

RESOLVED: That the minutes be noted.

CYP43 SSP MINUTES

The minutes of the Halton Children's Trust meeting held on 1 December 2015 were submitted to the Board for information.

RESOLVED: That the minutes be noted.

CYP44 YOUTH COUNCIL PRIORITIES

The Board received a presentation from Rhiannon Ratcliffe and Matthew Walker, representatives of Halton Youth Council, on the current priorities of the Organisation. They were accompanied by Mr McClure from Addaction.

Members were advised of the different ways in which the Youth Cabinet determined their priorities as detailed in the report.

The presentation provided information on the following:

- recent key campaigns such as Homophobia and School Uniforms;
- recruitment to the Youth Council and the importance of establishing relationships with schools and youth groups;
- the use and impact of social media;
- the Youth Democracy Awards.

Following the presentation the Chairman thanked the visitors for their time and praised their work. Recruitment to the Youth Council was discussed and Members suggested that schools Governors be contacted. They also commented on the upcoming referendum and the teaching of the democratic process in schools – both of which were topics being discussed by the Youth Council.

RESOLVED: That the priorities of the Youth Council be noted.

CYP45 PREVENT DUTY AND SUPPORT TO SCHOOLS BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY HALTON STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)

The Board received a report which informed of the ways in which the Local Authority was currently supporting schools in embedding the Prevent duty and protecting young people from extremism and the risk of radicalisation. It was noted that this was in response to the *Prevent* duty provision placed on schools and in support of guidance published in June 2015.

Members were advised that all schools in Halton had received a briefing paper explaining the Prevent agenda as one element of the Government's Counter Terrorism

Strategy, known as CONTEST; details of the briefing paper were outlined in the report.

Additional support to schools had also been provided through presentations by the local Prevent Officer at headteachers' meetings advising them of the support and guidance available to them. It was noted that there was a dedicated Local Authority Officer to *Halton Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE)*.

The report went on to outline the details of the guidance and materials provided to schools so far; the work of SACRE and the *Channel* Partnership, which was a key element of the Prevent strategy.

It was noted that the subject of extremism and radicalisation was a complex safeguarding issue, alongside Child sexual exploitation for example. Members were advised that two members of the Police and a departmental representative from HBC were included in the membership of the Channel Panel. Further, they were advised that all schools had been requested to send two representatives to the 'train the trainer event', so they could deliver in-house workshops to raise awareness of the Prevent duty.

RESOLVED: That the Board

- 1) Notes the contents of the report;
- 2) Notes the resource implications potentially needed to discharge this duty and the need to prepare accordingly; and
- 3) Considers any further partnership approach required underneath this duty.

CYP46 THE EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES OF CHILDREN IN CARE
2014-15

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, People and Economy, which provided an update on the educational outcomes for Halton's children in care for 2014-15.

It was reported that Halton had a small number of children in care within each key stage cohort which made comparison with the general population and year on year performance very difficult as each child in care had a high statistical significance.

It was noted that the data provided within the report compared the performance of Halton children who had been

in care for 12 months or more, to that of their peers within each key stage.

The report presented outcomes for:

- Early Years Foundation Stage;
- Year 1 Phonics;
- Key Stage 1;
- Key Stage 2;
- Key Stage 4; and
- Attendance and exclusions.

RESOLVED: That the Board

- 1) Notes the contents of the report; and
- 2) Notes the possible impact on children's outcomes and financial implications if Pupil Premium Plus did not continue.

CYP47 CHILDREN & FAMILIES

The Board received a report from the Strategic Director, People and Economy, which provided a profile of the Children in Care (CIC) population.

Members were advised that the Children in Care Partnership Board was chaired by the Lead Member for Children and Families. This was a multi-agency group with representation from the Children in Care Council which oversaw the quality of service and service development for children in care.

Attached to the report were the following documents:

- Appendix 1 was the profile information at quarter 3 of 2015-16 for Children in Care;
- Appendix 2 was the Annual report on the health of children in care provided by Bridgewater Community Health Care Trust; and
- Appendix 3 was the profile information for children who left care before they were 21 (25 if they had additional needs).

Members noted the key points from the documents, as detailed in the report and discussed the following:

- The changing profile of CIC to younger children 0 – 4 years;
- The stabilising of the CIC population to 236 presently;
- The difficulties in fostering older children and sibling

groups;

- The increase in adoption rates over the past 12 months and the upcoming changes to Adoption legislation;
- The possibility of Care Leavers being role models for others in care; and
- The constant need for foster carers.

RESOLVED: That the Policy and Performance Board notes the report.

CYP48 BUDGET REDUCTIONS

The Board received a presentation on the impact of the reductions to Children's Services Budgets in 2016-17.

It was reported that a reduction of almost £1.5 million had been made across 3 areas namely: staffing; supplies and services; and commissioned services.

Members raised their concerns for the coming years if the reductions to funding were to continue, especially for services within adult social care and children's social care. Officers advised that adult and children's social care would always be a priority for the Council and that officers were constantly looking at other ways of doing business to help meet budget demands. It was noted that the Council was presently working very effectively with partners and was looking to increase partnership arrangements in the future. An example of this was the Youth Offending Team (YOT) which now functioned using a shared service between Halton, Cheshire West and Chester, and Warrington and was soon to be joined by Cheshire East Council.

RESOLVED: That the Board notes the reductions and considers the impact on services for Children and Families.

CYP49 BUSINESS PLANNING 2016-19

The Board received the final draft of the Children, Young People and Families elements of the Council's Single Business Plan for approval.

Members were advised that since 2010 each Directorate had been required to produce a medium term Business Plan that covered a three year period. It was confirmed that a Single Business Plan would now be constructed for the authority as a whole and this would focus on the key medium term issues rather than providing

extensive narrative of every area of work of the Local Authority.

It was noted that to ensure that the Authority was producing a Business Plan that enabled them to meet the priorities identified within the Corporate Plan, the information from each Directorate would be set out under the Council's priority headings:

- Children and Young People;
- Employment, Learning and Skills;
- A Safer Halton;
- A Healthy Halton;
- Environment and Regeneration; and
- Corporate Effectiveness and Efficiency.

Officers referred Members to the final draft of the Children, Young People's and Families element of the business plan which was appended to the report and identified four main service objectives:

- To improve outcomes for children and young people through effective multi agency early intervention;
- To close the gap in attainment at Key Stage 2 including between vulnerable groups and their peers;
- Raising achievement in early years; and
- To effectively implement the SEND reforms and improve the offer for children and young people with SEND aged 0-25.

RESOLVED: That the Board

- 1) notes the contents of the report; and
- 2) approves the Children, Young People and Families elements of the Council's Single Business Plan.

CYP50 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORTS FOR QUARTER 3 OF 2015/16

The Board received the Performance Management reports for quarter 3 of 2015-16 and were requested to consider and raise any questions or points of clarification in respect of these.

It was noted that key priorities for development or improvement in 2015-18 were agreed by Members and included in Directorate Plans, for the various functional areas reporting to the Board as detailed below:

- Children and Families Services; and
- Education, Inclusion and Provision.

The report detailed progress against service objectives and milestones and performance targets and provided information relating to key developments and emerging issues that had arisen during this period.

The following points were highlighted:

- The number of referrals to Children's Social Care had continued to reduce;
- SEN inspections would commence from June 2016;
- Halton now had a more stable workforce in Social Care with all manager posts filled;
- There would be alterations to the end of KS1 and KS2 statutory assessments this summer 2016; and
- Funding of £550,000 had been secured to support the complex dependency/early intervention project.

RESOLVED: That the third quarter performance management reports be received and comments made be noted.

Meeting ended at 8.35 p.m.

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**EMPLOYMENT, LEARNING AND SKILLS, AND COMMUNITY POLICY AND
PERFORMANCE BOARD**

At a meeting of the Employment, Learning and Skills, and Community Policy and Performance Board on Monday, 21 March 2016 in the Council Chamber, Runcorn Town Hall

Present: Councillors Edge (Chairman), MacManus (Vice-Chairman), Cassidy, Howard, P. Lloyd Jones, Parker, C. Plumpton Walsh, Joe Roberts and Rowe

Apologies for Absence: Councillors S. Baker and Logan

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: W Rourke, N. Goodwin, C. Patino, S. Saunders, M. Patino and A. Scott

Also in attendance: None

**ITEMS DEALT WITH
UNDER DUTIES
EXERCISABLE BY THE BOARD**

	<i>Action</i>
<p>ELS37 MINUTES</p> <p>The Minutes from the meeting held on 6 January 2016 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.</p>	
<p>ELS38 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME</p> <p>The Board was advised that no public questions had been received.</p>	
<p>ELS39 NEWHAM COUNCIL'S WORKPLACE PROGRAMME – A CASE STUDY</p> <p>The Board received a report which advised Members of a scheme that Newham Council had implemented to tackle unemployment and skills shortages and to consider whether there were any aspects of the scheme that could be applied to Halton.</p> <p>The Chair had previously referred to an article in The Guardian Newspaper in January 2016 entitled '<i>What's behind the huge fall in deprivation in east London? And no, it's not gentrification</i>'. It was explained that the article reported that the latest indices of deprivation published in</p>	

2015 pointed to a significant improvement in Newham's deprivation indicators, moving them from the second most deprived local authority in England to twenty fifth. The report went on to discuss the success of Newham and the possible reasons for this; and whether their approach was one that Halton Council could explore.

In discussion Members noted the following:

- Youth Employment Gateway;
- The success rate for job applicants;
- Average earnings in Halton; and
- The use of Key Performance Indicators for target setting.

RESOLVED: That Members note the content of the report.

ELS40 EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND (ESF) WAYS TO WORK PROJECT

The Board received an update on the recently awarded Combined Authority European Social Fund (ESF) Ways to Work contract.

It was reported that following submission of an outline application to the Access to Employment axis of the European Operational Programme, the Combined Authority was invited to submit a full application in October 2015. Notification of a successful application was received from the Department for Work and Pensions in January 2016. It was noted that the project value was £42m over 3 years, with Halton's allocation worth £3.3m.

Members were advised that the Ways to Work project incorporated a 3 way match funding model: ESF, Youth Employment Initiative and Youth Contract Underspend (Youth Employment Gateway). It was noted that the Ways to Work project would focus on young people and those furthest away from the labour market. The report provided details of the numbers of expected participants and potential job outcomes for Halton. Further it provided information on the key elements of the project and how it would be delivered. Members were referred to Appendix 1 of the report which provided the Logic Model for the Ways to Work project.

In discussion, Members made the following observations:-

- The opportunities for young people in the labour market;
- The type of coaching/mentoring offered to young people with multiple issues; and
- Details on the sources of match funding.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted and the Policy and Performance Board welcomed the progress made to date and supports the implementation of the Ways to Work project.

ELS41 PEOPLE & ECONOMY QUARTERLY POLICY UPDATE

The Board was presented with a number of policy, legislation, consultation and guidance documents that were issued by Government departments and agencies that had varying degrees of relevance to issues on the employment, learning and skills agenda and related topics.

The report provided a summary of the key announcements along with observations of local relevance. Members requested more information on employer surveys for future reporting and noted that a joint team meeting would consider ways to provide an improved service to schools in respect of the rollout of Job Centre Plus support.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

ELS42 BUSINESS PLANNING 2016-19

The Board received a report from the Strategic Director, People and Economy, which presented the final draft of the Employment, Learning and Skills elements of the Council's Single Business Plan, for Members approval.

Members were advised that since 2010 each Directorate had been required to produce a medium term Business Plan that covered a three year period. It was confirmed that a Single Business Plan would now be constructed for the authority as a whole and this would focus on the key medium term issues rather than providing extensive narrative of every area of work of the Local Authority.

It was noted that to ensure that the Authority would produce a Business Plan that enabled them to meet the priorities identified within the Corporate Plan, the information from each Directorate would be set out under the Council's priority headings as set out in the report.

Members were advised that objectives and performance measures identified within the Single Business Plan would continue to form the basis of Directorate and PPB priority based quarterly monitoring reports, along with any key developments or emerging issues identified within the relevant reporting quarter.

Members commented as follows:

- The day to day operations of Halton's Leisure Centres would return in-house from 1 April 2016;
- The downward trend in the number of Adult Learning enrolments; and
- The introduction of a new KPI 3 measuring the use of outdoor space for exercise.

RESOLVED: That the Board

- 1) notes the content of the report; and
- 2) approves the Employment, Learning and Skills elements (at Appendix 1) and the Community and Environment Services elements (at Appendix 2) of the Council's Single Business Plan.

(N.B. Councillor Peter Lloyd Jones declared a Disclosable Other Interest in the following item of business as he was a Board Member of the Murdishaw Community Centre)

ELS43 COMMUNITY CENTRES

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director, Community and Resources, on the Community Centres annual report for the operating period 2014-15.

By way of background Members were reminded that the Community Centres service consisted of five buildings: Castlefields, Ditton, Grangeway, Murdishaw and Upton. The Centres delivered programmes of community activity, varying models of community cafes and service outlets, for example, a children's centre, youth centre and day services. The Centres provided a community hub, a central point at the heart of communities for residents to enjoy activities and receive services in their neighbourhoods. It was noted they were based in the most severely deprived wards in the Borough and were well utilised.

Members were advised that the Community Centres were benchmarked through APSE (the Association of Public Service Excellence) against other Civic, Cultural and

Community Venues owned and run by other local authorities. With regards to usage, this had increased steadily over the past three years, as discussed in the report, which provided data relating to numbers attending and financial information relating to operating costs.

The report provided profiles for each Community Centre and key performance indicators illustrating their performance over a three year period; and also presented the services offered and future challenges for the Centres. Members considered opportunities for income generation and the possible combination of facilities on offer to maximise attendance at all Centres.

RESOLVED: That the report and comments made be noted.

ELS44 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORTS - QUARTER 3 OF 2015-16

The Board was presented with the performance management reports for quarter 3 of 2015-16 and was asked to consider and raise any questions or points of clarification in respect of these.

It was noted that the key development or improvement in 2014-17 were agreed by Members and included in Directorate Plans, for the various functional areas reporting to the Board as follows:

- Enterprise, Employment and Property Services; and
- Community and Environment

The report detailed progress against service objectives and milestones, and performance targets and provided information relating to key developments and emerging issues that had arisen during the period.

RESOLVED: That the Board receives the third quarter performance management reports.

ELS45 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

As this was the final meeting of the Board for the 2015/16 municipal year, the Chair wished to place on record her thanks to all Members and Officers for their attendance and support during the year.

Meeting ended at 8.01 p.m.

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HEALTH POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD

At a meeting of the Health Policy and Performance Board held on Tuesday, 8 March 2016 at Council Chamber, Runcorn Town Hall

Present: Councillors J. Lowe (Chairman), S. Hill (Vice-Chair), S. Baker, C. Gerrard, Horabin, Dennett, M. Lloyd Jones, Osborne, C. Plumpton Walsh, Sinnott and Wallace and Tom Baker (Co-optee)

Apologies for Absence: None

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: S. Wallace-Bonner, A. Jones, D. Nolan, L Wilson, M. Holt, H. Moir and L. Smith

Also in attendance: Councillor P. Lloyd Jones

**ITEMS DEALT WITH
UNDER DUTIES
EXERCISABLE BY THE BOARD**

	<i>Action</i>
HEA35 MINUTES	
<p>The Minutes of the meeting held on 12 January 2016 having been circulated were signed as a correct record.</p>	
HEA36 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME	
<p>It was confirmed that no public questions had been received.</p>	
HEA37 HEALTH AND WELLBEING MINUTES	
<p>The minutes of the Health and Wellbeing Board meeting on 13 January 2016 were submitted to the Board for information.</p>	
<p><i>Councillor M Lloyd Jones declared a Disclosable Other Interest in the following item as her husband is a Governor of Warrington and St Helens NHS Foundation Trust and Bridgewater Trust.</i></p>	
HEA38 DISCHARGE FROM HOSPITAL SCRUTINY REVIEW 2015/16	
<p>The Board received the <i>Discharge from Hospital Scrutiny Review 2015-16</i> (appended to the report) which</p>	

outlined the key findings and made a number of recommendations for consideration by Members.

The report advised that the group sought national and local evidence and undertook a range of site visits to understand best practice and the systems and issues with ensuring timely, safe and effective discharge of people from hospital. It was noted that the contributors to the review included: Hospital Discharge Teams; the voluntary sector; Warrington and Halton Hospitals NHS FT; St Helens and Knowsley Teaching Hospitals NHST; care home support teams; NHS Halton CCG; two local GP's and their surgeries and North West Ambulance Service.

The recommendations made by the scrutiny review were outlined in the report and Members made the following comments/points to note:

- Mr Baker informed the Board of his own discharge experience from hospital and the problems he experienced on the day with obtaining medication and transport, which actually delayed his discharge.
- The importance of the Voluntary Sector was recognised and they were included in the review, however it was noted that their funding sources were also being cut resulting in fewer opportunities for them to help partner agencies.

RESOLVED: That the Board notes the contents of the Discharge from Hospital Scrutiny Review 2015-16.

Councillor M Lloyd Jones declared a Disclosable Other Interest in the following item as her husband is a Governor of Warrington and St Helens NHS Foundation Trust and Bridgewater Trust.

HEA39 HALTON SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD 2014/2015

The Board received an update from the Strategic Director, Community and Resources, on key issues and progression of the agenda for safeguarding adults at risk of abuse in Halton.

Members were advised that the Care Act required that all Safeguarding Adults Boards were required to produce an Annual Report; this was attached at Appendix 1. All of the key achievements and priorities the Board had been working towards over the last 12 months were summarised. The report also set out the national and local developments on safeguarding adults at risk.

It was reported that membership of the Halton Safeguarding Adults Board included senior representatives from all partner agencies, including Directors; Lead Clinicians and Lead Officers responsible for safeguarding adults in Halton and it was the responsibility of all to ensure that the community worked together to support and safeguard all adults who were most at risk in society. In order to achieve this, Members were advised that the Board continued to develop and establish strong partnerships to ensure that the most vulnerable in society were safeguarded and were free from fear; harm; neglect and abuse.

Members were advised of the Safeguarding Adults Board's four key priorities for 2014-15; these were outlined in the report and discussed. Other areas highlighted were the Anti-slavery Network which Halton had recently joined; the Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP) evaluation; and the development of a Financial Abuse Toolkit.

The following comments were made by Members:

- Televisions were used a lot in hospitals to raise awareness of safeguarding issues; could they not be used in other locations where communities gathered – HBC were currently working with Liverpool City Region looking at more imaginative ways of raising awareness in this way;
- An 'act of omission' was clarified by example – such as unintentionally missing a dose of medication;
- The Safeguarding Board had scheduled a development meeting on 11 March 2016;
- The number of safeguarding referrals had risen in relation to female victims – this could be attributed to the fact that there were more females supported in the community than males;
- The total number of referrals had risen against previous years – this could be due to a greater awareness of the need for safeguarding and the dedicated role of the Safeguarding Unit in dealing with the more complex issues;
- What was the difference between a Domestic Violence Protection Notice (DVPN) and a Domestic Violence Protection Order (DVPO) – this would be sent to Members after the meeting;

- An increase in the number of Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) nationally and locally was noted – an update would be brought to the next Board meeting.

RESOLVED: That the Board notes the contents of the report.

Strategic Director
- Community &
Resources

HEA40 MENTAL HEALTH CHAMPION QUARTERLY REPORT

The Board received an update on mental health related activity undertaken by Halton Borough Council (HBC) and NHS Halton Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG).

Members were informed that Mental Health services in Halton were under huge pressure as they were nationally, and the wait times and need for Mental Health services had risen to an all-time high. Halton had therefore encountered significant challenges to ensure services met National standards. Work had been undertaken to fully review all the adult services and older peoples in-patient beds in line with parity of esteem.

It was noted that the report was completed in December 2015 and the recommendations would set the scene for the creation of a more effective, responsive service. Further, the ongoing consultation and co-production of services would continue to help shape service provision in partnership with users of services. The Board was advised that huge strides had been taken and the report provided an update of changes and innovation underway in the following areas or services:

- Halton's Wellbeing Practice;
- Service Provision;
- New Governance Structure;
- Dementia Friendly Communities;
- Admiral Nurses for Dementia;
- 5 Boroughs Footprint Review;
- Emotional Wellbeing Services for Children;
- The National Schools Pilot;
- Future in Mind (FIM) and CAMHS Transformation;
- System Resilience Funding;
- The Mental Health Crisis Care Concordat;
- Operation Emblem / Street Triage;
- Liaison Psychiatry Service;
- IAPT – Halton Psychological Therapies Service;
- Suicide Prevention Strategy;

- Support 4 Change;
- Access targets for Early Intervention in Psychosis for First episode of psychosis;
- Public Health, Mental Health Posts; and
- Social Work for Better Mental Health

Following a request from one Member, further information on the 'Admiral Nurses' for Dementia would be sent to all Members via e-mail.

On behalf of the Board, the Chairman wished to convey their thanks to Councillor Dennett, the Council's Mental Health Champion, on his work to date around the Mental Health agenda.

RESOLVED: That the contents of the report are noted.

Strategic Director
- People and
Economy

HEA41 CARE ACT IMPLEMENTATION – EVALUATION

The Board received the first of a two part evaluation which summarised how the Care Act had resulted in a number of changes in the way Care Management carried out its various processes.

The document was attached to the report at Appendix 1 and discussed by Members, who commented that they were thankful for the detail and they looked forward to receiving the second report, which would help determine what difference the Care Act was actually making.

It was noted that the second more difficult part would be presented to the Board at a later date. This would look at how these changes in health and social care were making a difference to the lives of adults with needs in Halton. Further these two reports would provide evidence of how effective the Act had been in helping adults with a long term illness to live more fulfilling and meaningful lives while retaining their independence and active roles in their community for as long as possible.

RESOLVED: That the contents of the report and Appendix are noted.

HEA42 SCRUTINY TOPIC 2016/17 CARERS

The Board was presented with details of the Carers Scrutiny topic as outlined in the topic brief which was appended to the report at Appendix 1.

To provide some background Members were advised that the 2011 census found that there were over 15,000 carers in the Borough who were providing unpaid help and support to their partners and relatives. With the introduction of the Care Act 2014, Carers were now recognised in law in the same way as those they cared for; meaning they had the right to an assessment of their needs. As a consequence, the Act had resulted in an unprecedented focus on Carers and their own health and for the first time set out a set of national criteria to establish whether the Carer was eligible for support.

It was noted that the topic would focus on the type and quality of Carers Services provided in Halton and the associated pathways in place to support Carers' ability to access those services. It would examine these services and associated pathways with a view to evaluating their effectiveness in meeting the needs of the local population.

Members agreed to accept the topic brief and it was agreed that all Members of the Board would be invited to attend the group to ensure good attendance and to give all Members the opportunity to provide their input.

RESOLVED: That the Board

- 1) Notes the contents of the report and associated Appendix; and
- 2) Agrees to the formation of the Scrutiny Topic Working Group including all Members of the Board.

HEA43 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORTS, QUARTER 3 2015-16

The Strategic Director, People and Economy, presented the performance management reports for quarter 3 of 2015-16 and requested Members to consider the progress and performance information and raise any questions or points for clarification they may have.

The report provided an overview of issues and progress against key service area objectives and milestones and performance targets, during the third quarter of 2015-16 for those service areas that fell within the remit of this Board. These were as follows:

- Prevention and Assessment
- Commissioning and Complex Care (including housing operational areas); and

- Public Health.

Members made the following points:

- Discussion took place around the Members visits to Social Workers that occurred some years ago and a suggestion that these be reinstated. This was clarified as being visits to Social Workers in Childrens' Social Care that took place following the *Climbie* case but had since stopped;
- Reference made to PA 2's direction of travel – could be explained due to some Social Workers not signing off cases as complete when in fact they were; and
- Cancer screening facility – noted that the mobile one had moved to Warrington and would be relocated locally as soon as possible.

The Chairman wished to convey her thanks to all Members and Officers' for their hard work and support with scrutiny groups over the past year.

RESOLVED: That the quarter 3 priority based reports be received.

Meeting ended at 7.35 p.m.

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SAFER POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD

At a meeting of the Safer Policy and Performance Board on Tuesday, 15 March 2016 at the Council Chamber, Runcorn Town Hall

Present: Councillors Edge, J Gerrard, Gilligan, V. Hill, M. Lloyd Jones, Sinnott and Zygadllo

Apologies for Absence: Councillor Nolan

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: M. Andrews, C. Patino, S. Ashcroft, N. Hallmark, D. Perchard, S. Shepherd and G. Ferguson

Also in attendance: C. Roberts, CRI

ITEM DEALT WITH UNDER DUTIES EXERCISABLE BY THE BOARD

SAF40 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 19th January 2016, having been circulated were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

SAF41 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The Board was advised that no public questions had been received.

SAF42 CREAMFIELDS MUSIC FESTIVAL

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Community and Resources, which provided an update on the annual work of the Safer Halton Partnership during the period of the Creamfields Festival. The Board received a copy of a report from Cheshire Constabulary detailing Police planning for the 2015 event. The report had been previously submitted to the Regulatory Committee on the 18th January 2016. A site visit to the Creamfields 2016 event would be arranged for Members.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

Action

SAF43 TRADING STANDARDS AND LOAN SHARKS

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Community and Resources, which outlined the work of the National Illegal Money Lending Team (IMLT) and the current level of activity in Halton.

The IMLT was based in Birmingham Trading Standards and had the responsibility to investigate loan shark activity across England and to support the victims. A documented protocol existed between the IMLT and individual Trading Standards Services which allowed the team to operate in the local authority area.

Nationally, the IMLT had secured more than 332 prosecutions for illegal money lending and related activity, leading to nearly 212 years' worth of custodial sentences. They had written off over £63m worth of illegal debt and helped over 26,000 people.

Members were advised on the current position within Halton and previous examples of illegal money lending which had led to prosecution. The IMLT had no reports of loan shark activity in Halton for the last 12 months. However, this was not consistent with anecdotal information from Halton Credit Union whose members had mentioned loan activity to them. Whilst Halton Credit Union encouraged anybody of knowledge of loan sharks to report it to the IMLT, it appeared that most people were reluctant to do so.

Halton Trading Standards, Halton Credit Union and the IMLT would be working together on an approach to assist and encourage members to report loan sharks anonymously.

Recent initiatives included:-

- awareness raising across the Borough with the IMLT working with Social Landlords who had included items in their newsletters;
- the IMLT continued to work closely with the Police in terms of intelligence sharing;
- adult Safeguarding Teams had been trained by IMLT;
- the IMLT and Halton Trading Standards had been a part of Halton's Financial Abuse Working Group and had contributed to Halton's Financial Abuse Toolkit;

and

- IMLT had developed lesson plans to teach financial education to primary and secondary schools.

Arising from the discussion it was suggested that Trading Standards contact Officers in the People and Family Directorate to put an item in the Education bulletin which was circulated to schools.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

SAF44 DOMESTIC ABUSE AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE

The Board received a report from the Strategic Director, Community and Resources, which provided an update in relation to the activities being supported across the Borough in response to domestic abuse and sexual violence. The report provided detailed information on the Halton Vision, the impact and cost of domestic abuse and Halton Domestic Abuse Service.

Between 6th February 2016 to 1st August 2016, Halton Borough Council and Cheshire Police would be operating a joint initiative, Operation Enhance, with the overall aim to enhance the service provided to victims and Frontline Local Policing Unit Officers with support in relation to domestic abuse between intimate partners across the Runcorn Local Police Unit (LPU).

As part of the Operation, during the weekend and Monday day shift there would be a Police Officer and an independent Domestic Violence Advocate (IDVA) on duty between 08.00 to 16.00 hours. Their primary role would be to provide the Frontline LPU Officers and victims with support in relation to domestic violence across the Runcorn LPU, ensuring appropriate and proportionate safeguards were in place for vulnerable victims, children and witnesses. Staff would not be there as the first line of response but as an addition to support the attending Officer, victims, vulnerable people and children.

Initial enquiries suggested that the operation was working very effectively and was being positively received by victims of domestic abuse. It was noted that 34 victims had been spoken to and 32 had engaged with the service over the past five weekends. A full evaluation of the impact and effectiveness of this new approach would be available at the end of the pilot.

In addition, Members were advised on the White Ribbon Campaign and the Be a Lover Not a Fighter Campaign.

On behalf of the Board, the Chairman thanked Officers for their continued hard work and requested a future report on the Corporate White Ribbon Campaign.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

SAF45 RECOVERY WALK

The Board was advised on the planning and development of the National Recovery Walk 2016. The UK Recovery Walks had become an annual event that combined the celebration of recovery with advocacy activities. Each year, a new city or town took on the responsibility for hosting the walk and this year it would be held in Halton on Saturday 10th September 2016 and would be followed by an afternoon of celebrations, music and family activities at the Select Security Stadium.

Members were advised that on 24th March at 1.00 pm a meeting would be held to finalise arrangements for the walk and anyone who could provide support to the event were invited to attend.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

SAF46 MATCH DAY SAFETY

The Board considered presentation which provided information on the preparations for match day operations and compliance with The Guide to Safety at Sport Grounds Act 1975 at the Select Stadium, Widnes. Members were advised on:

- A recent incident at the Stadium prior to an Everton Ladies match and the steps that were taken;
- Recruitment and training of Stadium Stewards; and
- The Council's duty of care for operating the Stadium.

Members were invited to attend a future match at the Stadium to view how the Stadium operated on match days.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

SAF47 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORTS QTR 3,
2015/16

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Community and Resources which presented the progress of key performance indicators, milestones and targets relating to Safer Halton in Quarter 3 of 2015/16. Appendix 1 to the report contained a progress update regarding the implementation of all directorate high-risk mitigation measures that were relevant to the remit of the Board.

RESOLVED: That the report and comments raised be noted.

Meeting ended at 8.10 p.m.

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SAFER POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD

At a meeting of the Safer Policy and Performance Board on Tuesday, 14 June 2016 at the Council Chamber, Runcorn Town Hall

Present: Councillors Thompson (Chair), N. Plumpton Walsh (Vice-Chair), Abbott, S. Baker, Edge, V. Hill, P. Lloyd Jones, K. Loftus and Zygadllo

Apologies for Absence: Councillor J Gerrard and Osborne

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: M. Andrews, C. Patino, A. Bailey, M Antrobus, R Rodgerson, I. Seville, J. Tetlow, S. Armstrong, G. Ferguson and B. Seabury

Also in attendance: None

**ITEM DEALT WITH
UNDER DUTIES
EXERCISABLE BY THE BOARD**

		<i>Action</i>
SAF1	CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS The Chair advised that the Annual General meeting of the Police and Crime Commissioner Panel would be held on Friday 17 th June 2016.	
SAF2	MINUTES The Minutes of the meeting held on 15 th March 2016, having been circulated were taken as read and signed as a correct record.	
SAF3	PUBLIC QUESTION TIME The Board was advised that no public questions had been received.	
SAF4	TAXI LICENSING ENFORCEMENT The Board considered a report which outlined how Taxi Licensing processes were operated in Halton. Members were advised that Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle (PHV) legislation was based mainly around two Acts of Parliament:-	

- The Town Police Clauses Act 1847; and
- The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.

These two Acts set out the framework for the licensing of drivers, vehicles and operators and the report detailed how this was implemented by the Local Authority. In addition, the report also provided details on the role of the Local Authority with regard to enforcement, ensuring licence holders were compliant with legislation and local conditions. Some of the duties undertaken were:

- Vehicle inspections;
- Identity verification;
- Complaint handling;
- Multi agency operations; and
- Undertaking criminal investigations.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

SAF5 SAFER PPB BI-MONTHLY TOPIC GROUP VISITS

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Community and Resources which outlined a list of areas that had been identified for scrutiny. It was proposed to visit a number of areas to improve awareness and provide a direct on-site means of scrutiny with the potential to offer feedback to the various agencies. The topic areas identified were:-

- Police Custody Suite;
- Stay Safe;
- Police Dog Operations;
- Creamfields;
- Match Day Operations – Select Security Stadium; and
- Night Time Economy.

It was proposed that these visits would be Officer lead and would be for one to two hours in duration. A summary report on observations would be presented to a future meeting of the Board.

Arising from the discussion, it was agreed to add Temporary Event notices to the list of topic areas. It was also agreed that a list of proposed dates for visits would be circulated to Members to express an interest to attend.

RESOLVED: That the Board agree to participate in site visits as detailed in the report.

SAF6 COMMUNITY SAFETY TEAM

The Board were presented with a copy of the Community Safety Business Plan 2016/17 and were provided with information on the role and responsibility of the Community Safety Team within Halton, together with examples of their work with other agencies. The Team comprised Officers from Cheshire Constabulary and Halton Borough Council and representatives from each presented information on recent activity in their respective area.

Arising from the discussion it was agreed that:

- Further information be forwarded to Members regarding the percentage of children receiving the support of the Community Safety Team during reported incidents of domestic violence; and
- A copy of the Domestic Violence Strategy be circulated to all Board Members.

On behalf of the Board, the Chair thanked Officers for their detailed presentations and congratulated Bill Seabrook on his Chief Constables recommendation.

RESOLVED: That the report be received and noted.

SAF7 OPERATION ENHANCE (DOMESTIC ABUSE PILOT)

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Community and Resources, which provided an update on the Domestic Abuse Pilot, Operation Enhance, which was a joint Council and Cheshire Police initiative which would run between 6th February 2016 and 1st August 2016. The overall aim of the operation was to enhance the service provided to victims and front line Local Policing Unit (LPU) officers with support in relation to domestic abuse across the Runcorn LPU.

It was reported that the operation was working very effectively and was being positively received by victims of domestic abuse. Since February more than 100 victims had benefitted from this operation so far. With risk assessments being completed by trained domestic abuse specialists, an increase in the number of high risk cases had been identified, subsequently leading to an increased caseload being supported through the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference. Due to victims accessing services in a more prompt way, engagement had improved and the case load of the core commissioned service had increased.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

SAF8 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORTS, QUARTER
4, 2015-16

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Community and Resources which presented the progress of key performance indicators, milestones and targets relating to Safer Halton in Quarter 4 of 2015/16. Appendix 1 to the report contained a progress update regarding the implementation of all directorate high risk mitigation measures that were relevant to the remit of the Board.

RESOLVED: That the report and comments raised be noted.

Meeting ended at 8.45 p.m.

ENVIRONMENT AND URBAN RENEWAL POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD

At a meeting of the Environment and Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board on Wednesday, 23 March 2016 at the Council Chamber, Runcorn Town Hall

Present: Councillors Woolfall (Chair), Fry (Vice-Chair), P.Hignett, V. Hill, C.Loftus, MacManus, Morley, Sinnott, G. Stockton and Wall

Apologies for Absence: None

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: M. Noone, A. Cross, S. Rimmer, P. Wright and G. Ferguson

Also in attendance: None

**ITEM DEALT WITH
UNDER DUTIES
EXERCISABLE BY THE BOARD**

Action

EUR41 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 13 January 2016 having been circulated were signed as a correct record.

EUR42 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

It was confirmed that no public questions had been received.

EUR43 EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES

The Board considered the Minutes of the meetings of the Executive Board relevant to the Environment and Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes be received.

EUR44 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORTS FOR QUARTER 3 OF 2015/16

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director, Community and Resources, which detailed the third quarter performance management report for 2015/16 on progress

against service objectives/milestones and performance targets and provided information related to key developments and emerging issues that had arisen in relation to-:

- Development and Investment Services;
- Highways and Transportation, Logistics and Development Services;
- Waste and Environmental Improvement and Open Space Services; and
- Housing Strategy.

RESOLVED: That the third quarter management report be noted.

EUR45 BUSINESS PLANNING 2016/17

Members were provided with an update on Business Planning for the period 2016-17 and were asked to consider the Directorate priorities, objectives and targets for services for this period that fell within the remit of this Policy and Performance Board (PPB).

It was reported that following organisational restructuring the Council would develop a single Business Plan for 2016/17 financial year and in parallel with the budget that was subject to annual review and refresh. Key priorities for development or improvement for the various functional areas reporting to this PPB were presented to and considered by the Board in Autumn 2014, from which the Draft Business Plan had been developed. Given the remit of this Board, extracts from the Draft Plan were presented for consideration.

Members were informed that plans could only be finalised once budget decisions had been confirmed in March and that some target information may need to be reviewed as a result of final outturn data becoming available post March 2016.

Arising from the discussion, it was agreed that Councillor Loftus would be sent a written response to his concerns regarding odours at various locations in the Borough.

RESOLVED: That the Draft Business Plan extract be received and forwarded to the Executive Board for approval.

(N.B. Councillor MacManus declared a Disclosable Other Interest in the following item as in his role as Ward Councillor he was involved in residents' request for a 30mph speed limit)

EUR46 OBJECTION TO PROPOSED 30 MPH SPEED LIMIT,
LUNTS HEATH ROAD, WIDNES

The Board considered a report which advised that an objection had been received, following public consultation, on a proposed Traffic Regulation Order to introduce a 30 mph speed limit on part of Lunts Heath Road, Widnes. Due to continued housing development adjacent to Lunts Heath Road, requests had been received from residents and a Ward Councillor to reduce the speed limit over the full length of the route on the grounds that retention of the 40 mph speed limit was felt to be inappropriate. Accordingly in December 2015 the Council advertised its intention to introduce a 30 mph speed limit.

During the advertised consultation period one objection was received from a Lunts Heath resident. The objection related to interpretation of the DfT's Transport Circular 01/2013 (Setting Local Speed Limits) and whilst quoting extensively from the document, the focus of the objection was that application of a 30 mph speed limit to Lunts Heath Road was not realistic or justified and that this Council had not complied with DfT guidance. Members were advised that the latter was not the case as Lunts Heath Road was a single lit carriageway road which had become residential in nature through development and on which the existing mean traffic speed had been independently recorded at 32mph. Therefore the introduction of a 30 mph limit was in line with current DfT guidance.

RESOLVED: That the Board supports the proposal to make an Order to implement a 30 mph speed limit on Lunts Heath Road, Widnes as set out in Appendix B and to the matter being referred to the Executive Board for resolution.

EUR47 OBJECTIVELY ASSESSED NEED FOR HOUSING

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Community and Resources, which provided a summary of conclusions on the Objectively Assessed Need (OAN) for Housing, as contained in the recently completed Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA).

In 2015, Halton together with St Helens and Warrington Borough Councils jointly commissioned

specialist consultants GL Hearn and JG Consulting to undertake a Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) to re-examine the appropriateness of the Mid-Mersey geography (covering the three authorities) as a Housing Market Area (HMA) and identify the OAN for the Mid-Mersey HMA and for each of the partner authorities. A copy of the Topic Briefing Paper that had been prepared for the website, setting out the various stages in the SHMA study leading to the suggested figure for OAN for housing had been previously circulated to Members.

The conclusion from the study was that the Full Objectively Assessed Need for housing in Halton (assuming jobs growth of 4,952) in the period 2014-37 was 466 dwellings per annum. In addition, the SHMA identified an annual shortfall of 119 affordable units per annum across Halton.

Members were advised that the Liverpool City Region had commissioned a similar report.

Arising from the discussion, it was noted that a report on the number of housing units per acre being achieved at current housing development sites in the Borough would be circulated to Board Members.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

EUR48 FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 2015 TREE WORKING GROUP

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director, Community and Resources, which outlined the work of the Tree Working Group. In 2015 Internal Audit issued a report on their audit of the tree inspection and management. They identified a number of the recommendations made by the previous Tree Working Group which had not been fully implemented. It was reported that the Tree Working Group had subsequently held six meetings and revisited four of the seven recommendations previously made to the Board in 2013. The detailed findings and recommendations of the Tree Working Group were set out in the report.

The Board agreed that recommendations a, b, d and e of the Tree Working Group, as set out on page 78 of the report, be forwarded to Executive Board for approval. In respect of recommendation c, it was agreed that the Chair of the Board would seek clarification regarding the public's right of appealing to the Board in respect of the decision of the Divisional Manager.

RESOLVED: That recommendations a, b, d and e as set out on page 78 of the report of the Tree Working Group be forwarded to Executive Board for approval.

Meeting ended at 7.15 p.m.

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CORPORATE POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD

At a meeting of the Corporate Policy and Performance Board on Tuesday, 23 February 2016 in the Civic Suite, Town Hall, Runcorn

Present: Councillors Gilligan (Chairman), A. Lowe (Vice-Chairman), Dennett, C. Gerrard, C. Loftus, A. McInerney, Osborne, N. Plumpton Walsh, Joe Roberts, Rowe and Wainwright

Apologies for Absence: None

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: M. Reaney, I. Leivesley, E. Dawson, G. Ferguson, M. Murphy, C. Patino, J. Gallagher and B. Hilton

Also in attendance: None

**ITEM DEALT WITH
UNDER DUTIES
EXERCISABLE BY THE BOARD**

	<i>Action</i>
CS35 MINUTES	
The Minutes from the meeting held on 5 th January 2016 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.	
CS36 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME	
The Board was advised that no public questions had been received.	
CS37 SSP MINUTES	
The Minutes relating to the Corporate Services Portfolio which had been considered by the Halton Strategic Partnership were presented to the Board for information.	
RESOLVED: That the Minutes be noted.	
CS38 MEMBER DEVELOPMENT GROUP NOTES	
The Board considered the minutes of the Member Development Group meeting held on 24 th September 2015.	

RESOLVED: That the Board note the minutes.

CS39 UNLOCKING OUR POTENTIAL: AN ORGANISATIONAL STRATEGY FOR HBC 2016/2018

The Board received a presentation from Brian Hilton and John Gallagher which provided an overview of 'Unlocking our Potential – an Organisational Development Strategy for Halton Council 2016-20'. The strategy document was the successor to the People Plan. In line with the public sector generally, despite significant constraints in funding, the Council needed to maintain an effective, professional and motivated workforce, whilst at the same time creating opportunities for the workforce to maximise their potential. In formulating the Strategy the future needs of the community, our values and ways of working, workforce composition and feedback from the Staff Survey 2014 were considered.

It was noted that the Strategy was built around the following 5 Key Strategic Aims and each contained a number of objectives and actions with linked outcomes and timescales which would enable progress to be monitored:

- Workforce Skills and Development;
- Recruitment and Retention;
- Engagement and Recognition;
- Health and Wellbeing; and
- Innovation and Flexibility.

Arising from the discussion, the Board highlighted the following issues:

- the potential for integrated working with the Halton CCG;
- the apprenticeship levy and the number of apprenticeships currently employed by the Council; and
- retaining Knowledge when staff leave the Council.

RESOLVED: That the Board notes the contents and intentions of the Strategy and approves its submission to Executive Board.

CS40 INSURANCE AND RISK FINANCING

The Board received a report which outlined the Council's insurance and risk financing arrangements. Members were advised on Officer roles and responsibilities, the different types of insurance cover the Council had the

measures undertaken in 2010/11 to ensure that the Council had value from its insurance arrangements and how insurance claims were dealt with by the in-house handling arrangements. It was noted that since 2010/11 the Council's insurance premiums had reduced from £1,543,690 to £445,211.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

CS41 TOPIC GROUPS 2016/17

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director, Community and Resources, which sought to develop a work programme of topics for the Board to examine in 2016/17.

The Board had previously established a Topic Group which oversaw the operation of the Council's Discretionary Support Scheme. The Group had been highly effective and provided significant guidance to the Executive Board and Officers, in relation to the delivery of the service. In addition, the Board had set up a Topic Group related to the review of Fees and Charges. This was a major piece of work that had recently concluded and was to be reported to Executive Board.

It was felt the Discretionary Support Scheme Topic Group would continue and any suggestions for an additional Topic Group should be forwarded to the Chairman of the Corporate PPB.

RESOLVED: That Members' confirmed their support for the continuation of the Discretionary Support Topic Group.

CS42 PERFORMANCE MONITORING QUARTER 3 2015/16

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director, Community and Resources, which presented the Performance Monitoring Reports for Quarter 3, 2015/16.

The reports related to the following functional areas which reported to the Board and detailed progress against service objectives and milestones, and performance targets and provided information relating to key developments and emerging issues that had arisen during the period:

- Finance;
- Human Resources and Organisational Development;
- ICT and Administrative Support;
- Legal and Democracy;

- Policy and Performance;
- Property Services; and
- Catering, Stadium and Registration Services.

Arising from the discussion, further information be forwarded to Councillor Lowe on the position of East Lane Development and where it stands in relation to Council Tax/Business Rates.

RESOLVED: That the third quarter performance monitoring reports be received and noted.

CS43 BUSINESS PLANNING 2016 - 17

Members were provided with an update on Business Planning for the period 2016-17 and were asked to consider the Directorate priorities, objectives and targets for services for this period that fell within the remit of this Policy and Performance Board (PPB).

It was reported that following organisational restructuring the Council would develop a single Business Plan for 2016/17 financial year and in parallel with the budget that was subject to annual review and refresh. Key priorities for development or improvement for the various functional areas reporting to this PPB were presented to and considered by the Board in autumn 2014, from which the Draft Business Plan had been developed. Given the remit of this Board, extracts from the Draft Plan were presented for consideration.

Members were informed that plans could only be finalised once budget decisions had been confirmed in March and that some target information may need to be reviewed as a result of final outturn data becoming available post March 2016.

RESOLVED: That the Draft Business Plan extract be received and forwarded to the Executive Board for approval.

Meeting ended at 7.50 p.m.

CORPORATE POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD

*At a meeting of the Corporate Policy and Performance Board on Tuesday, 7 June 2016
in the Civic Suite, Town Hall, Runcorn*

Present: Councillors Gilligan (Chair), A. Lowe (Vice-Chair), Abbott, E. Cargill,
Howard, C. Loftus, A. McInerney, N. Plumpton Walsh, Joe Roberts and
G. Stockton

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Wainwright

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: M. Reaney, E. Dawson, C. Lawley and C. Patino

Also in attendance: None

**ITEM DEALT WITH
UNDER DUTIES
EXERCISABLE BY THE BOARD**

		<i>Action</i>
CS1	MINUTES The Minutes from the meeting held on 23 rd February 2016 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.	
CS2	PUBLIC QUESTION TIME The Board was advised that no public questions had been received.	
CS3	EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES The Board was presented with the Minutes relating to the Corporate Services Portfolio which had been considered by the Executive Board since the last meeting of the Board. RESOLVED: That the minutes be noted.	
CS4	MEMBER DEVELOPMENT GROUP NOTES The Board considered the minutes of the Member Development Group meeting held on 21 st January 2016. RESOLVED: That the Board note the minutes.	

CS5 TOPIC GROUPS 2016/17

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director, Community and Resources, which sought to develop a work programme of topics for the Board to examine in 2016/17.

At the last meeting of the Board it was agreed that the Discretionary Support Scheme Topic Group would continue as there was still work to do, including providing progress updates regarding the introduction of Universal Credit and consideration should be given to establishing a second Topic Group. The Board was advised that a suggestion has been made that some work could be carried out in scrutinising concessionary charges at Council venues.

Although the work of the Fees and Charges Topic Group had been completed it was noted that the Topic Group may meet in the future to look at individual fees and charges.

RESOLVED: That a second Topic Group to scrutinise concessionary charges at Council venues be established.

CS6 ANNUAL HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT

The Board was provided with a report from the Strategic Director, Policy and Resources, which presented details of corporate accident statistics with associated trends, from 1 April 2015 to 31st March 2016.

Officers commented that the report highlighted the national and local health and safety information together with performance gaps and incident trends and these formed the basis for the recommended actions for 2016/17. In order to be proactive in health and safety management the report also indicated the number of risk assessments in place and training delivered to staff.

It was reported that significantly there had been a decrease in the number of individual accidents leading to days lost and an increase in the number of staff using the Lone Working Monitoring system, which was in line with the recommendations from Management Team. Conversely there had been an increase in the number of significant accidents, violent incidents and days lost, with 671 this year and 373 last year. These were chiefly due to 6 accidents.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

CS7 ANNUAL REPORT 2015/16

The Board considered a copy of the Annual Report from the Chair of the Corporate Services Board, 2015/16. The Board met five times during the year and the report set out the work carried out and the recommendations throughout the Municipal Year April 2015 to March 2016.

RESOLVED: That the Annual Report be noted.

CS8 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORTS FOR QUARTER 4 OF 2015/16

The Board received a report from the Strategic Director, Policy and Resources, which presented the Performance Monitoring Reports for Quarter 4 of 2015/16.

The reports related to the following functional areas which reported to the Board and detailed progress against service objectives and milestones, and performance targets and provided information relating to key developments and emerging issues that had arisen during the period:

- Finance;
- Human Resources and Organisational Development;
- ICT and Administrative Support;
- Legal and Democracy;
- Policy and Performance;
- Property Services; and
- Catering, Stadium and Registration Services.

RESOLVED: That the fourth quarter performance monitoring reports be received and noted.

CS9 DORSET GARDENS

RESOLVED: That the Risk and Emergency Planning Team and staff at the Select Security Stadium be thanked for the work carried out at the weekend with residents of Dorset Gardens.

Meeting ended at 7.21 p.m.

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BUSINESS EFFICIENCY BOARD

At a meeting of the Business Efficiency Board held on Wednesday, 24 February 2016 at the Civic Suite, Town Hall, Runcorn

Present: Councillors Joe Roberts (Chairman), M. Lloyd Jones (Vice-Chairman), J. Bradshaw, Cole, Fry, A. Lowe, MacManus, McDermott and J. Stockton

Apologies for Absence: Councillor N. Plumpton Walsh

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: E. Dawson, I. Leivesley, M. Murphy and C. Lawley

Also in attendance: G. Jones, Grant Thornton

**ITEMS DEALT WITH
UNDER DUTIES
EXERCISABLE BY THE BOARD**

Action

BEB27 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 18 November 2015 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

BEB28 EXTERNAL AUDIT UPDATE REPORT

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director - Community and Resources, which provided an update from Grant Thornton (External Auditors) regarding the following:-

- the progress made in delivering their responsibilities as the Council's external Auditors; and
- a summary of emerging national issues and developments that may be relevant to the work of the Board.

Ms Georgia Jones from Grant Thornton presented the report.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

BEB29 INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN

The Board received the report of the Operational Director – Finance, on the planned programme of internal audit work for 2016/17.

RESOLVED: That the proposed Internal Audit Plan for 2016/17 be approved.

BEB30 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 Section 100A (4) 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 that in disclosing the information, members of the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business in accordance with Section 100A(4) 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.

Councillor John Stockton declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in the following item as he was a Governor of Castle View Primary School.

BEB31 INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT

The Board considered a report of the Operational Director – Finance, which provided Members with a summary of internal audit work completed since the last meeting of the Board.

RESOLVED: That:

- 1) the update on progress against the 2015/16 Internal Audit Plan be received;
- 2) the completed internal audit reports be noted; and
- 3) the progress made in regard to the implementation of previous internal audit recommendations be noted.

Meeting ended at 7.00 p.m.

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BUSINESS EFFICIENCY BOARD

At a meeting of the Business Efficiency Board held on Wednesday, 8 June 2016 at the Civic Suite, Town Hall, Runcorn

Present: Councillors M. Lloyd Jones (Chair), Joe Roberts (Vice-Chair), J. Bradshaw, C. Loftus, A. Lowe, McDermott, MacManus, J. Stockton and Wall

Apologies for Absence: Councillor N. Plumpton Walsh

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: A. Scott, E. Dawson, M. Murphy and L. Cox

Also in attendance: Mark Heap, Grant Thornton (External Auditor)

**ITEMS DEALT WITH
UNDER DUTIES
EXERCISABLE BY THE BOARD**

Action

BEB1 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENT

The Chair welcomed all Members and Officers to the first meeting of the Board in the 2016/17 Municipal Year, and extended a welcome to Mark Heap, from Grant Thornton external auditors.

The Chair also announced that she wished to continue the established practice of providing training and development sessions for Members of the Board prior to the start of each of the meetings in the calendar. These sessions would commence at 5.00pm in the Civic Suite on 28 September 2016, 23 November 2016 and 1 February 2017, and as well as providing training prior to the approval of the Statement of Accounts at the September meeting, would also provide training on Procurement and Risk Management at the subsequent meetings.

BEB2 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 24 February 2016 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

BEB3 EXTERNAL AUDIT FEE - 2016/17

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Community and Resources, which provided

Members with details of the scale of fees for the external audit work for 2016/17.

The Board was advised that the Local Audit Accountability Act 2014 provided a new framework for local public audit. As the Audit Commission ceased from March 2015, the secretary of State for Communities had delegated some statutory functions to Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited (PSAA) on a transitional basis.

The letter attached to the report, set out the details of the audit fee proposed by the PSAA along with the scope and timing of external audit work and the team that would be working on the audit.

RESOLVED: That the 2016/17 audit fee and the scope and timing of the planned external audit work be noted.

BEB4 EXTERNAL AUDIT PLAN 2015/16

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Community and Resources, which sought approval of the Audit Plan proposed by Grant Thornton.

The Board was advised that the attached report set out details of the Grant Thornton's strategy and plan to deliver the 2015/16 audit of the Council's financial statements. It also provided details of their approach to the value for money conclusion.

RESOLVED: That the contents of the External Audit Plan for 2015/16 be noted.

BEB5 EXTERNAL AUDIT LETTER TO THOSE CHARGED WITH GOVERNANCE

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Community and Resources, which provided Members with a proposed response to the annual letter to the Board from Grant Thornton, the Council's external auditors, regarding their year-end audit of accounts work.

The Board was advised that International Auditing Standards required the Council's external auditors, Grant Thornton, to raise with those charged with governance (i.e. the Business Efficiency Board), matters that may affect the Council's financial statements and to document the Board's response.

The Board was further advised that Appendix 1 attached to the report, presented a proposed response to a number of questions contained in a letter from Grant Thornton to the Chair of the Board. Grant Thornton attended the meeting to discuss further questions with Board Members.

RESOLVED: That the proposed response to the Council's external auditors, shown in Appendix 1 attached to the report, be approved.

Strategic Director
- Community &
Resources

BEB6 PROCUREMENT STRATEGY 2016-19

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Community and Resources, which sought approval of the Council's Procurement Strategy 2016/19 (the Strategy).

The Strategy, presented in Appendix 1 attached to the report, had been refreshed following the completion of the period of the previous Strategy, which covered 2013/16. It was noted that the new Strategy followed the format recommended by the Local Government Association's "National Procurement Strategy for Local Government in England 2014", which was underpinned by four key areas. These were:

- Making savings;
- Supporting Local Economies;
- Leadership; and
- Modernising Procurement.

The Strategy was structured around these four key areas and provided a position statement on each as at March 2016, together with the achievements made to date. It was reported that Halton had progressed rapidly in terms of ensuring that procurement was recognised as a strategic function, with the Council's approach achieving national recognition.

Halton had embraced the requirements of the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012, and had regard to economic, social and environmental wellbeing in connection with public service contracts. In June 2015, Executive Board approved a Social Value Framework for Procurement, which was underpinned by a Charter and Policy. It was reported that this had been utilised in seventeen procurement exercises to date, which were detailed in Appendices 2 and 3.

RESOLVED: That the Council's Procurement Strategy 2016/19, as presented in Appendix 1 attached to the report, be approved.

BEB7 CORPORATE RISK REGISTER 2016/17

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Community and Resources, on the review and update of the Corporate Risk Register 2016/17.

The Board was advised that the Council recognised its responsibility to manage both internal and external risks as a key component of good corporate governance. At Directorate level, arrangements were in place for the high-risk mitigation measures on the Directorate Risk Registers to be reviewed and updated at mid-year, in line with Directorate Business Plans. Progress was then reported to Management Team and the Policy and Performance Boards.

It was reported that the Risk Control Measures had been reviewed and updated in line with current changes within the Authority. The risks had been grouped in order of priority, as detailed in Appendix 1, attached to the report.

RESOLVED: That the Corporate Risk Register and comments raised be noted.

BEB8 DRAFT ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2015/16

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Community and Resources, which sought approval of the draft Annual Governance Statement (AGS) for 2015/16.

The Board was advised that under the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, the Council must produce an AGS which must be approved by resolution of a Committee or Members of the authority as a whole. The AGS must also be approved in advance of the Council approving the statement of accounts.

The Council's Constitution delegated the responsibility to review and approve the AGS to the Business Efficiency Board. Once approved, the AGS would be signed by the Leader and Chief Executive and published on the Council's website.

The Board was further advised that the AGS was intended to identify any areas where the Council's

governance arrangements needed to be developed and to set out any action that was proposed to strengthen those arrangements.

The draft AGS for 2015/16 was attached to the report. It was noted that the document identified two significant governance challenges for the Council; Funding pressures and Liverpool City Region Combined Authority, as detailed in the report.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the draft Annual Governance Statement be confirmed that it accurately reflects the corporate governance arrangements at the Council; and
- 2) the draft Annual Governance Statement be approved.

BEB9 INTERNAL AUDIT ANNUAL REPORT 2015/16

The Board considered a report of the Operational Director, Finance, which informed Members that the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS) required the Head of Internal Audit to deliver an annual audit opinion and report which could be used to inform the Annual Governance Statement.

The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2011 provided a requirement for local authorities to conduct a review of the effectiveness of its internal audit at least once each year.

The Board noted information set out in the report relating to:-

- The Annual Opinion on the Council's framework of governance, risk management and control;
- A summary of work supporting the Annual Opinion;
- A statement on conformance with the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards;
- The Internal Audit Quality Assurance and Improvement Programme; and
- The Annual Review of the effectiveness of Internal Audit.

RESOLVED: That the Board note and approve the Internal Audit Annual report.

BEB10 FRAUD AND CORRUPTION UPDATE REPORT

The Board received a report of the Operational Director, Finance, which provided an update on the Council's anti-fraud and anti-corruption arrangements.

The update report, attached at Appendix 1, provided details of reported fraud and corruption from 2015/16, a summary of the results from the 2014/15 National Fraud Initiative and developments in the Council's counter fraud and corruption arrangements.

It was noted that the Board was responsible for reviewing the adequacy of the Council's arrangements to counter fraud and corruption, and as such the report formed one of the sources of assurance which supported the Council's Annual Governance Statement.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the fraud and corruption update be received; and
- 2) the actions taken to counter fraud and corruption be endorsed.

BEB11 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 Section 100A (4) 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 that in disclosing the information, members of the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business in accordance with Section 100A(4) 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.

(N.B. Councillor Martha Lloyd Jones and Councillor Chris Loftus declared a Disclosable Other Interest in the following item of business as they were both Governors at Beechwood Primary School)

BEB12 INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT

The Board considered a report of the Operational Director, Finance, which provided a progress report on the 2015/16 Internal Audit Plan and an update on internal audit activity since the last meeting of the Board.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the update on progress against the 2015/16 Internal Audit Plan be noted; and
- 2) the completed Internal Audit Reports be noted.

Meeting ended at 7.57 p.m.

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DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the Development Control Committee on Monday, 8 February 2016 at The Board Room - Municipal Building, Widnes

Present: Councillors Nolan (Chairman), Morley (Vice-Chairman), J. Bradshaw, Cole, R. Hignett, S. Hill, C. Plumpton Walsh, June Roberts, J. Stockton, Thompson, Wainwright, Woolfall and Zygadlo

Apologies for Absence: None

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: A. Jones, J. Tully, T. Gibbs, M. Noone, A. Plant, R. Cooper and J. Farmer

Also in attendance: 4 members of the public

**ITEMS DEALT WITH
UNDER DUTIES
EXERCISABLE BY THE COMMITTEE**

DEV29 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 11 January 2016, having been circulated, were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

DEV30 PLANNING APPLICATIONS TO BE DETERMINED BY THE COMMITTEE

The Committee considered the following applications for planning permission and, in accordance with its powers and duties, made the decisions described below.

To avoid any allegation of bias in the following item Councillors Nolan and Morley (Chairman and Vice Chairman) left the room during debate and took no part in the vote as they were both patients at the applicant's surgery which was the subject of the application. The Chairmanship for this item was delegated to Councillor Thompson.

DEV31 - 15/00343/FUL - PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF TWO STOREY MEDICAL CENTRE INCORPORATING PHARMACY AND CAR PARKING ON LAND OPPOSITE MOTHERWELL CLOSE, LANARK GARDENS, WIDNES

Action

The consultation procedure undertaken was outlined in the report together with background information in respect of the site.

It was reported that a re-consultation had been carried out with neighbouring residents on the amended car parking layout. One representation was received raising concerns in relation to the proposed access onto Lanark Gardens, suggesting that it should be from within the Local Centre site. A previous representation was received from a resident in Lanark Gardens raising similar concerns over cars and bikes speeding in the area. It was reported that the Council's Highways Engineer has already been consulted and was satisfied that the access was acceptable.

Members discussed the parking provision and raised concerns that it fell short of what was required for this development. It was confirmed that the Local Centre car park could be used for the overspill, however as this was a private car park there was no guarantee of this as there was no undertaking from the car park owner that he would allow this. Members' concerns were noted and officers advised that a redesign of the building or car parking areas was unlikely to improve the situation due to lack of space.

The Committee agreed to approve the application subject to the conditions mentioned below.

RESOLVED: That the application be approved subject to the following conditions:

1. Standard condition relating to timescale and duration of the permission;
2. Condition listing approved plans (BE1, BE2);
3. Submission of materials (BE2);
4. Details and provision of secure cycle parking (TP6);
5. Access and parking/layout, cycle parking provision (BE1);
6. Details of final drainage scheme (BE1);
7. Condition(s) for full details of hard and soft landscaping, and maintenance (BE1);
8. Conditions specifying construction hours and hours of deliveries for building material (BE1);
9. Construction traffic management plan and wheel wash facilities (BE1);
10. Details of final site levels (BE1);
11. Submission and approval of bin storage details (BE1);
12. Condition relating to details of external lighting (PR4);
13. Submission of a green travel plan (TP16); and
14. Condition for the design details of the vehicular and

pedestrian access off Lanark Gardens (BE1).

In order to avoid any allegation of bias on the part of Councillor J Stockton in respect of the following item (as he knew the applicant) he did not take part in the debate and did not vote on the item.

Councillor J Bradshaw did not take part in the debate or vote on this item as he wished to address the Committee in his capacity as Ward Councillor, objecting to the application.

DEV32 - 15/00515/FUL - RETROSPECTIVE APPLICATION FOR RETENTION OF SUMMER HOUSE IN REAR GARDEN AT 55 RUNCORN ROAD, MOORE

The consultation procedure undertaken was outlined in the report together with background information in respect of the site.

It was noted that this was a retrospective application to retain the timber shed that had been constructed in the rear of the property which was a total height of 3.55m which exceeded the requirements of Class E permitted development.

The Committee was addressed by Mr Peter Rhodes, the applicant. He advised that he was not aware of the need for planning permission for the summer house. He added that to reduce the height of the building would make no difference to the neighbouring properties and the wood would mature and darken over time. He argued also that to remove the building would be costly.

Councillor J Bradshaw then addressed the Committee in his capacity as local Ward Councillor, objecting to the application. He commented that the size of the structure was well in excess of what it should be and was being used as a two storey building; one floor as a playroom and one floor for storage. He commented that the summer house was contained within a narrow garden with the apex of the roof higher than the roofline of the existing house. He passed around photographs taken from the footpath of Bridgewater Canal to show this. He also disagreed with the assessment information contained in section 6 of the report, particularly 6.1, 6.2 and 6.4.

Taking the information presented into consideration and hearing the representations, Members agreed to approve the application.

RESOLVED: That the application be approved.

DEV33 - 15/00563/OUT - OUTLINE APPLICATION, WITH ALL MATTERS RESERVED, FOR DEMOLITION OF EXISTING BUILDINGS AND ERECTION OF UP TO 53 DWELLINGS WITH ASSOCIATED ACCESS, LANDSCAPING AND ANCILLARY WORKS AT FORMER WAREHOUSE, HALTON COURT, RUNCORN

The consultation procedure undertaken was outlined in the report together with background information in respect of the site.

Since publication of the report National Grid had requested that the contractor contact them before any works were carried out to ensure their apparatus was not affected by any of the proposed works. It was noted that this would be attached to the decision notice as an informative for the applicant. A further objection was received from a resident on Halton Court in relation to increased traffic, which was addressed in the report.

RESOLVED: That the application be approved subject to:

- a) The applicant entering into a Legal Agreement in relation to the payment of a commuted sum for offsite open space and affordable housing.
- b) Conditions relating to the following:
 1. Standard outline conditions for the submission of reserved matters applications x 3 conditions (BE1);
 2. Plans condition listing relevant drawing i.e. site location / red edge (BE1 and TP17);
 3. Prior to commencement the submission of a reserved matters proposal which incorporates a full proposal for drainage of the site (BE1);
 4. Prior to commencement submission of levels (BE1);
 5. Prior to commencement submission of materials (BE1 and CS11);
 6. Condition(s) for submission of hard and soft landscaping (BE1);
 7. Prior to commencement submission of a construction / Traffic Management plan which would include wheel cleansing details (TP17);
 8. Avoidance of actively nesting birds (BE1);
 9. Prior to commencement details of on-site biodiversity action plan for measures to be incorporated in the scheme to encourage wildlife

(GE21);

10. Prior to commencement details of a landscape proposal and an associated management plan to be submitted and approved (BE1, GE21);
11. Prior to commencement details of boundary treatments (BE22);
12. Provision of a Site Waste Management Plan (WM8); and
13. Provision of bins (WM9).

- c) That if the Legal Agreement was not executed within a reasonable period of time authority is delegated to the Operational Director – Policy, Planning and Transportation, in consultation with the Chairman or Vice Chairman, to refuse the application on the grounds that it failed to comply with UDP Policy S25 Planning Obligations.

DEV34 - 15/00583/FUL - PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF A 1300 SQUARE METRE LABORATORY BUILDING AND ADDITIONAL CAR PARKING FACILITIES WITHIN THE EXISTING COLLEGE AT CRANTON SIXTH FORM COLLEGE, CRANTON LANE, WIDNES

The consultation procedure undertaken was outlined in the report together with background information in respect of the site.

Since the publication of the agenda officers advised that:

- Knowsley MBC had raised no objections;
- The College had provided further information to explain how the STEM building would be operated as detailed in the update list;
- The Council's Highway Engineers had raised no objections providing that sufficient car parking was provided to accommodate the impact on student and staff growth as a result of the new unit;
- They had requested a condition to agree an increase in the number of disabled sized spaces and cycle parking on the site to accord with the remainder of the car parking provision;
- The College was in discussions in relation to the provision of electric vehicle charging points; and
- An additional condition was recommended regarding the avoidance of nesting birds.

It was noted that the Environment Agency (EA) had been consulted in relation to the proximity of Alder Brook

which ran under the car parking areas of the site. The EA had no objection in principle to the development but stated that under the terms of the Water Resources Act 1991 and the North West Land Drainage, prior consent was required for any proposed works or structures in, under, or over to within 8 metres of the top of the bank/foreshore of the Alder Brook, designated a main river.

An additional condition was recommended in relation to Disabled parking and condition / informative in relation to nesting birds.

RESOLVED: That the application be approved subject to the following conditions:

1. Time limit for implementation (BE1);
2. Drawing numbers (BE1);
3. Materials submission (BE2);
4. Submission of ground investigation (PR14);
5. Submission of a detailed surface water drainage strategy and design detailing how additional SW runoff would be attenuated and discharged (BE1);
6. Submission of plans to demonstrate that surface water run-off exceedance flow paths would not affect flood risk of adjacent properties (BE1);
7. Submission of Construction Management Plan (BE1 and TP17);
8. Submission of updated Travel Plan (TP16);
9. Foul and surface water shall be drained on separate systems (BE1);
10. Submission of a surface water drainage scheme – in accordance with comments received from United Utilities and in accordance with the Non-Statutory Technical Standards for Sustainable Drainage System (March 2015) or any subsequent replacement national standards and unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority, no surface water shall discharge to the public sewerage system either directly or indirectly (BE1);
11. Disabled and cycle parking; and
12. Nesting birds.

DEV35 MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

The following appeals had been received / were in progress:

15/00005/REFUSE – 15/00115/COU

Proposed Change of Use to residential caravan site for up to 8 caravans including the laying of hardstanding and erection

of three amenity blocks at former Ivy House Marsh Lane, off Brindley Road, Runcorn, Cheshire, WA7 1NS.

To be dealt with by way of a public inquiry (date to be confirmed).

15/00006/REFUSE – 14/00656/FUL

Proposed construction of single storey convenience store with associated car parking, landscaping and ATM machine at Wellington Hotel Car Park, 23 Town Lane, Hale, Liverpool, L24 4AG.

To be dealt with by written representation.

15/00007/REFUSE – 15/00461/FUL

Proposed single storey rear and two storey side extension at 94 Hale Road, Hale, Liverpool, L24 5RF.

To be dealt with by written representation.

Meeting ended at 7.20 p.m.

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DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the Development Control Committee on Monday, 7 March 2016 at Civic Suite, Town Hall, Runcorn

Present: Councillors Nolan (Chairman), Morley (Vice-Chairman), Cole, R. Hignett, S. Hill, June Roberts, J. Stockton, Thompson and Woolfall

Apologies for Absence: Councillors J. Bradshaw, C. Plumpton Walsh, Wainwright and Zygadlo

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: A. Jones, J. Tully, A. Plant, J. Eaton, J. Farmer and G. Henry

Also in attendance: Councillor N. Plumpton Walsh and 7 Members of the public

**ITEMS DEALT WITH
UNDER DUTIES
EXERCISABLE BY THE COMMITTEE**

Action

DEV36 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 8 February 2016, having been circulated, were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

DEV37 PLANNING APPLICATIONS TO BE DETERMINED BY THE COMMITTEE

The Committee considered the following applications for planning permission and, in accordance with its powers and duties, made the decisions described below.

DEV38 - 15/00430/FUL - PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT COMPRISING 116 DWELLINGS, ROADS, OPEN SPACE, SUBSTATION AND ALL ASSOCIATED WORKS AT FORMER MARLEY ETERNITY SITE, DERBY ROAD, WIDNES

The consultation procedure undertaken was outlined in the report together with background information in respect of the site.

The Committee was advised that two further letters of representation had been received supporting the application but requesting adequate parking provision; a children's play

area; that the works are closely monitored and traffic congestion is considered.

Officers also advised that the Council's Contaminated Land Officers were satisfied that the site could be appropriately and safely remedied since they had received an updated report and appropriate planning conditions could now be applied. Further the applicant had confirmed that in order to avoid delay in commencing the site remediation they were willing to accept planning conditions to demonstrate that risks from contamination to Bowers Brook were minimised by a detailed risk assessment and including any necessary mitigation measures. It was noted that there would be additional conditions required to those contained in the recommendation and that these would be timed to allow the remediation to commence prior to the start of the housing development.

RESOLVED: That the application be approved subject to the addition of the above conditions and conditions below:

- a) A Legal or other appropriate Agreement relating to financial contributions towards off site highway improvements.
- b) Conditions relating to the following:
 - 1) Specifying amended/approved plans;
 - 2) Conditions relating to ground investigation and mitigation (PR14);
 - 3) Environment Agency conditions relating to preliminary risk assessment, site investigation, remediation and verification (PR14);
 - 4) Environment Agency condition relating to discovery of unidentified contamination;
 - 5) Environment Agency condition restricting infiltration of surface water drainage of contaminated land;
 - 6) Materials condition, requiring development be carried out as approved (BE2);
 - 7) Landscaping condition, requiring development be carried out as approved (BE2);
 - 8) Requiring submission and agreement of hard surfacing materials (BE2);
 - 9) Boundary treatments requiring development be carried out as approved (BE2);
 - 10) Requiring detail relating to sound attenuation fencing, trickle ventilation and other means of ventilation in accordance with the submitted noise

- report and implementation prior to occupation (BE1);
- 11) Wheel cleansing facilities to be submitted and approved in writing (BE1);
 - 12) Construction and delivery hours to be adhered to throughout the course of the development (BE1);
 - 13) Vehicle access, parking, servicing etc to be constructed prior to occupation of properties/commencement of use (BE1);
 - 14) Finished floor and site levels condition requiring development be carried out as approved (BE1);
 - 15) Conditions relating to tree protection during construction (BE1);
 - 16) Requiring development be carried out in accordance with the approved RA and mitigation measures (PR16);
 - 17) Submission and agreement of ecology / habitat enhancement features including bird/bat boxes (BE21); and
 - 18) A risk assessment that demonstrates that risks from contamination to Bowers Brook were minimised and includes mitigation measures.
- c) That if the S106 Agreement or alternative arrangement was not executed within a reasonable period of time, authority be delegated to the Operational Director – Policy, Planning and Transportation, in consultation with the Chairman or Vice Chairman of the Committee to refuse the application.

The following three applications related to the overall redevelopment of the former Fairfield High School Site located on Peel House Lane, Widnes, so were considered together by the Committee.

DEV39 - 15/00551/FUL - PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT COMPRISING 162 NO. DWELLINGS WITH ASSOCIATED ACCESS ROADS, LANDSCAPING AND INFRASTRUCTURE AT FORMER FAIRFIELD HIGH SCHOOL SITE, PEEL HOUSE LANE, WIDNES

The consultation procedure undertaken was outlined in the report together with background information in respect of the site.

It was noted that the former Fairfield High School site was granted a release for non-education use by the Secretary of State under Section 77 of the Academies Act 2010. In relation to the protection of outdoor playing space

for formal sport and recreation, Sport England raised no objection as they were satisfied that the School playing field was surplus to requirements in the light of the Playing Pitch Strategy.

It was reported that Local Ward Councillor Philbin had raised some concerns regarding surface water run-off from the site. In response it was commented that a further drainage strategy had been provided and implementation of an appropriate drainage strategy was recommended at condition number 18 below.

The Committee agreed the approval of the application subject to the conditions listed below.

RESOLVED: That the application be approved subject to the following conditions:

- 1) Time limit – full permission;
- 2) Approved plans;
- 3) Submission of proposed site levels (BE1);
- 4) Facing materials to be agreed (BE1 and BE2);
- 5) Submission of detailed soft landscaping scheme, implementation and subsequent maintenance (BE1);
- 6) Implementation of submitted hard landscape and boundaries layout and subsequent maintenance (BE1);
- 7) Breeding birds protection (GE21);
- 8) Hours of construction (BE1);
- 9) Removal of permitted development – all dwellings (BE1);
- 10) Submission of a construction environmental management plan (BE1);
- 11) Implementation of remediation method statement and submission of a completion report (PR14);
- 12) Provision and retention of parking for residential development (curtilage) (BE1);
- 13) Retention of garages (BE1);
- 14) Implementation of site access from Peel House Lane (linked to application 15/00552/FUL) (BE1);
- 15) Implementation of access and servicing provision (BE1);
- 16) Traffic calming scheme (BE1);
- 17) Off-site highway works scheme (BE1);
- 18) Submission of drainage strategy for approval and subsequent implementation (PR16);
- 19) Scheme for electrical vehicle charging points (CS23);
- 20) Noise mitigation measures scheme (PR8);
- 21) Scheme for bird nesting boxes (GE21);
- 22) Ecological mitigation strategy (GE21); and

23) Submission of a waste audit (WM8).

DEV40 - 15/00552/FUL - PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF ACCESS ROAD PROVIDING ACCESS TO CEMETERY AND HOUSING DEVELOPMENT INCLUDING LANDSCAPING AT FORMER FAIRFIELD HIGH SCHOOL SITE, PEEL HOUSE LANE, WIDNES

The consultation procedure undertaken was outlined in the report together with background information in respect of the site.

The Committee approved the application subject to the conditions listed below.

RESOLVED: That the application is approved subject to the following conditions:

- 1) Time limit – full permission;
- 2) Approved plans;
- 3) Submission of proposed site levels (BE1);
- 4) Implementation of detailed soft landscaping scheme and subsequent maintenance (BE1);
- 5) Implementation of submitted hard landscape and boundaries layout and subsequent maintenance (BE1);
- 6) Breeding birds protection (GE21);
- 7) Hours of construction (BE1);
- 8) Submission of a construction environmental management plan (BE1);
- 9) Implementation of access and servicing provision (BE1);
- 10) Submission of drainage strategy for approval and subsequent implementation (PR16); and
- 11) Submission of a waste audit (WM8).

DEV41 - 15/00553/HBCFUL - PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW CEMETERY, ACCESS ROAD AND MAINTENANCE DEPOT WITH ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE AT FORMER FAIRFIELD HIGH SCHOOL SITE, PEEL HOUSE LANE, WIDNES

The consultation procedure undertaken was outlined in the report together with background information in respect of the site.

The Committee was advised that an updated drainage proposal had been received and observations from the Environment Agency were still awaited.

The Committee agreed to approve the application subject to the following conditions.

RESOLVED: That

- a) Delegated authority is given to the Operational Director – Policy, Planning and Transportation, in consultation with the Chairman or Vice Chairman of the Development Control Committee, to make the decision once the drainage design has been amended to the satisfaction of the Environment Agency and the Lead Local Flood Authority; and
- b) The application be approved subject to the following suggested conditions and any additional conditions required following the submission of further information and subsequent consultation:
 - 1) Time limit – full permission;
 - 2) Approved plans;
 - 3) Implementation of proposed site levels (BE1);
 - 4) Implementation of landscaping and boundary treatments scheme (BE1);
 - 5) Breeding birds protection (GE21);
 - 6) Protection of woodland habitat (GE21);
 - 7) Construction management plan (Highways) (BE1);
 - 8) Implementation of access road under application 15/00552/FUL (BE1);
 - 9) Provision of parking and servicing with cemetery (BE1); and
 - 10) Implementation of drainage strategy 9 PR16).

In order to avoid any allegation of bias Councillor R Hignett took no part in the following item as he had been involved with the scheme.

DEV42 - 15/00584/OUT - PROPOSED HYBRID APPLICATION SEEKING FULL PLANNING PERMISSION FOR DEVELOPMENT COMPRISING: TOWN CENTRE CAR PARK, PUBLIC HOUSE/RESTAURANT (USE CLASS A4) WITH ANCILLARY MANAGER'S ACCOMMODATION, ACCESS ROADS, PARKING AND SERVICING AREAS AND LANDSCAPING AND OUTLINE PERMISSION (WITH ALL MATTERS RESERVED) FOR A COMMERCIAL UNIT OF UP TO 195 SQUARE METRES (USE CLASS A1, A3, A5) ON LAND BOUNDED BY BRIDGEWATER CANAL, DARESURY EXPRESSWAY AND GREENWAY ROAD, RUNCORN, CHESHIRE

The consultation procedure undertaken was outlined

in the report together with background information in respect of the site.

The Committee was advised that the Ecological Consultant had advised that the trees on site were category 2 as detailed in the update list. It was noted that the Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service advised that the sensitive working methods outlined in the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal be followed and secured by a condition. They were also satisfied that checks for water vole activity were appropriate. Now that these ecological issues had been addressed it was noted that delegated authority was no longer requested.

The Chairman requested that the case officer contact the archaeologist to see if a condition needed to be attached to any permission.

The Committee agreed to approve the application subject to the additional condition mentioned above and the following listed conditions.

RESOLVED: That the application be approved subject to the following:

Conditions applicable to all parts of the proposal:

- 1) Remediation strategy (PR14);
- 2) Verification report (PR14);
- 3) Unidentified contamination (PR14);
- 4) No piling or other foundation design using penetrative methods (PR14);
- 5) Detailed drainage strategy (PR16 and CS23);
- 6) Implementation of pedestrian crossing phase (BE1);
- 7) Breeding bird protection (GE21);
- 8) Lighting scheme to protect ecology (GE21);
- 9) Water vole protection (GE21);
- 10) Japanese knotweed eradication (GE21); and
- 11) Bridge works over Bridgewater Canal (BE1).

Conditions – Tenant Phase 1 – Public House

- 1) Time Limit – full permission;
- 2) Approved plans;
- 3) Facing material (BE1);
- 4) Hard landscaping and boundary treatments (BE1);
- 5) Soft landscaping (BE1);
- 6) Construction management plan (BE1);
- 7) Implementation of parking and servicing (BE1);
- 8) Implementation of cycle parking (BE1);

- 9) Implementation of Bridgewater access phase (BE1);
and
- 10) Site levels (BE1).

Conditions – Tenant Phase 2 – Outline application for Commercial Unit

- 1) Time Limit – outline permission;
- 2) Submission of reserved matters; and
- 3) Implementation of Bridgewater Access Phase and Western Access Phase (BE1).

Conditions – Town Centre Car Park and Western Access Phase

- 1) Time limit – full permission;
- 2) Approved plans;
- 3) Hard landscaping and boundary treatments (BE1);
- 4) Soft landscaping (BE1);
- 5) Site levels (BE1);
- 6) Construction management plan (BE1); and
- 7) Implementation of Bridgewater access phase and Western access phase before first use of Town Centre Car Park (BE1).

DEV43 - 15/00027/FUL - PROPOSED TWO STOREY ANNEXE EXTENSION TO EXISTING HOTEL TO CREATE AN ADDITIONAL 27 LETTING ROOMS INCLUDING ANCILLARY SERVICES, CAR PARK ALTERATIONS, CYCLE PARKING AND INTERNAL ALTERATIONS TO THE MAIN HOTEL TO CREATE TWO NEW FULLY ACCESSIBLE ROOMS AT PREMIER INN, CHESTER ROAD, PRESTON BROOK, RUNCORN, CHESHIRE, WA7 3BA

The consultation procedure undertaken was outlined in the report together with background information in respect of the site.

Members were referred to the update list where it was confirmed that the access/exit could remain where it was as the internal alterations to the car park did not affect the highway network. Further, the addition of 27 bedrooms and loss of 2 parking spaces had been demonstrated not to have a negative impact on the operation of the site, and that the level of parking required could be accommodated within the site. It was also reported that a further planning condition was recommended for a scheme to provide an electric vehicle charging point.

RESEOLVED: That the application be approved subject to the following conditions:

- 1) Standard condition relating to timescale and duration of the permission;
- 2) Condition listing approved plans (BE1 and BE2);
- 3) Submission of materials (BE2);
- 4) Details and provision of secure cycle parking (TP6);
- 5) Access and parking/layout, cycle parking provision to be implemented as approved (BE1);
- 6) Details of final drainage scheme (BE1);
- 7) Conditions specifying construction hours and hours of deliveries for building materials (BE1);
- 8) Construction traffic management plan and wheel wash facilities (BE1);
- 9) Details of existing final site levels (BE1);
- 10) Submission of a green travel plan (TP16).

Meeting ended at 6.55 p.m.

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DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the Development Control Committee on Tuesday, 12 April 2016 at The Board Room - Municipal Building, Widnes

Present: Councillors Morley (Vice-Chair, in the Chair), J. Bradshaw, R. Hignett, S. Hill, C. Plumpton Walsh, J. Stockton, Thompson, Woolfall and Zygadlo

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Nolan, Cole, June Roberts and Wainwright

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: A. Jones, J. Tully, T. Gibbs, A. Plant, J. Farmer and G. Henry

Also in attendance: Sandymoor Parish Councillor David Felix and two members of the public

**ITEMS DEALT WITH
UNDER DUTIES
EXERCISABLE BY THE COMMITTEE**

Action

DEV44 MINUTES

Officers reported that there was one Condition omitted from Minute number DEV 38 as follows:

'A risk assessment that demonstrates that risks from contamination to Bowers Brook were minimised and including any necessary mitigation measures'

The Minutes would be amended and presented for agreement at the next meeting of the Committee.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the minutes from the meeting held on 7 March 2016 be amended to include the additional condition above; and
- 2) the revised minutes be agreed at the May Committee meeting.

DEV45 PLANNING APPLICATIONS TO BE DETERMINED BY THE COMMITTEE

The Committee considered the following applications for planning permission and, in accordance with its powers and duties, made the decisions described below.

DEV46 - 15/00453/FUL - PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF 205 DWELLING HOUSES TOGETHER WITH ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE ON LAND TO THE REAR OF SANDYMOOR FREE SCHOOL, WHARFORD LANE, SANDYMOOR

The consultation procedure undertaken was outlined in the report together with background information in respect of the site.

Since the report was published Officers advised the Committee that an additional letter had been received raising similar issues already discussed in the report relating to increased traffic and highway safety. It was noted that the amended noise report with updated mitigation measures had been received and the Environment Agency had confirmed that they raised no objections based on the updated Flood Risk Assessment subject to condition. With regards to the highways, surface water drainage and land contamination queries; these were still to be resolved. Members were advised that the applicant intended to programme the bridge and access works during school holidays; hence the early reporting of the application to Committee with a request for delegated authority to minimise delay that could be apportioned to the planning system.

One correction to the report was made; the final paragraph on page 16 point a) of the recommendation to be deleted and replaced with '*the entering into a legal or other agreement for the provision of a financial contribution per dwelling*', similar to the existing overarching Sandymoor Legal Agreement and towards *inter alia* highway improvements.

The Committee was addressed by Sandymoor Parish Councillor David Felix, who spoke regarding the requirement for an easement of drainage agreement which would need to be entered into between Sandymoor Parish Council (SPC) the owners of the land, and the developer, and that currently this had not been finalised. Reverend Felix produced a draft plan of the area detailing the drainage requirements. He further stated that the public open space areas were not finalised and that SPC needed more information regarding the financial contributions towards this. Parish Councillor Felix also raised concerns over the volumes of traffic in the area, in particular the junction at Wharford Lane and Pitts Heath Lane, and Newmore Lane junction. He also raised concerns of the access to Sandymoor itself in the event of a road accident, as had recently happened. He requested the Committee to note

that the easement agreement had not yet been reached when making their decision on the application.

In response to the Speaker the Committee was advised that the outstanding drain easement agreement was a private land matter and therefore not a material consideration. Drainage considerations would normally be dealt with by conditions; similarly third party payment for maintenance of the public open spaces was not a material consideration whereas a maintenance schedule could be covered by a landscaping condition. With regards to concerns over the traffic and junctions, this was a material condition and the Highways Officer responded. It was reported that some allowance in the overall masterplan had been made for transport growth in Sandymoor up to 2018. He stated that the performance of the junctions and chicane at Newmore Lane and Wharford Lane would be monitored over the next two years; but there were no alterations proposed as a result of the current proposals or in the immediate future. It was noted however that within the terms of the recommendation this included scope to use Section 106 monies for adaptations if deemed necessary in the future.

With regards to the drainage and land ownership issues, Officers advised that these would be resolved during the course of the determination and prior to any planning permission being issued under delegated powers.

Councillor Bradshaw raised concerns over the problems that already existed on Newmore Lane and Wharford Lane junctions and commented that this would worsen well before 2018 due to the increase in the volume of traffic expected. He suggested plans be put in place to cope with the increase in traffic in these areas in the near future.

After taking the Officer's report and updates and the Speaker's representation into consideration, the Committee agreed to approve the application, subject to the required test outcomes upon expiration of the consultation period; the resolution of the outstanding issues mentioned above; and the conditions listed in the report.

RESOLVED: That the application be delegated, on expiration of all relevant consultation periods, to the Operational Director – Policy, Planning and Transportation, in consultation with the Chair or Vice Chair of the Development Control committee subject to:

- a) The entering into of a Legal Agreement or other agreement for the provision of a financial contribution analogous to the existing overarching Sandymoor Legal Agreement, with added provision to include use of such financial contribution for alterations to Pitts Heath Lane / Wharford Lane junction, should the junction become overcapacity with the proposed development (plus committed development) in place.
- b) Conditions relating to the following:
- 1) Standard 3 year permission (BE1);
 - 2) Specifying approved and amended plans (BE1);
 - 3) Requiring submission and agreement of a detailed Construction Environmental Management Plan, including wheel cleansing facilities and construction vehicles access routes, construction parking and management plans and timing and management of deliveries to avoid peak school drop off / pick up times, to be submitted and approved in writing (B1);
 - 4) Materials condition, requiring the submission and approval of the materials to be used (BE2);
 - 5) Landscaping condition, requiring submission and approval of both hard and soft landscaping, including replacement tree planting (BE2);
 - 6) Submission and agreement of boundary treatment, including retaining walls (BE2);
 - 7) Construction and delivery hours to be adhered to throughout the course of the development (BE1);
 - 8) Vehicle access, parking and servicing to be constructed prior to occupation of properties / commencement of use (BE1);
 - 9) Condition restricting permitted development rights relating to frontage boundary fences etc (BE1);
 - 10) Requiring submission and agreement of a scheme of confirmatory soil testing strategy / remediation strategy and verification report upon completion of the remedial works as required (PR14);
 - 11) Submission and agreement of details of on-site biodiversity action plan for measures to be incorporated in the scheme to encourage wildlife including dwellings to be fitted with bird boxes (GE21);
 - 12) Conditions relating to tree protection during construction (BE1);
 - 13) Submission and agreement of detailed surface water / highway drainage (BE1/PR5);
 - 14) Requiring submission and agreement of site and finished floor levels (BE1);

- 15) Submission and agreement of Himalayan Balsam method statement (PR14);
- 16) Securing Water Vole displacement in accordance with the relevant Class Licence and best proactive protocol (GE21);
- 17) Submission and agreement of a detailed habitat management plan (GE21);
- 18) Submission and agreement of detailed bankside habitat mitigation scheme (GE21);
- 19) Submission and agreement of scheme of protective fencing to Keckwick Brook to secure 10m buffer zone (GE21);
- 20) Conditions securing compliance with Ecological Assessment / addendum recommendations / mitigation measures (GE21);
- 21) Conditions requested by the Environment Agency relating to the revised Flood Risk Assessment and mitigation measures (PR16);
- 22) Submission and agreement of updated noise mitigation measures to be implemented (PR2); and
- 23) Requiring submission and agreement of bridge parapet / materials details (BE1).

- c) That if the S106 Agreement or alternative arrangement was not executed within a reasonable period of time, authority be delegated to the Operational Director – Policy, Planning and Transportation, in consultation with the Chair or Vice Chair of the Committee to refuse the application.

DEV47 MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

The following applications had been withdrawn:

15/00592/FUL

Proposed two storey side extension at Jamar, Halton Station Road, Runcorn, Cheshire, WA7 3EL.

13/00379/OUT

Outline application (with all matters reserved) for residential development of up to 131 dwellings on Land East of Dans Road and North and West of Bennetts Lane, Gorsey Lane, Widnes, Cheshire.

The following Appeals had been received / were in progress:

15/00108/S73

Proposed removal of condition number one from Planning

Permission APP/D0650/C/10/2126943, to allow the permanent retention of a mixed use for the keeping of horses and a residential gypsy caravan site and the variation of condition 5 to allow the stationing of 12 caravans at any time (of which no more than one shall be static caravan or mobile home) at land to the South West of Junction between Newton Lane and Chester Road, Daresbury, Cheshire.

Appeal to be heard at a Public Inquiry for four days commencing on 4 October 2016 at Runcorn Town Hall.

15/00005/REFUSE – 15/00115/COU

Proposed change of use to residential caravan site for up to 8 caravans including the laying of hardstanding and erection of three amenity blocks at former Ivy House, Marsh Lane off Brindley Road, Runcorn, Cheshire, WA7 1NS.

To be dealt with by way of a Public Inquiry (date to be confirmed).

15/00006/REFUSE – 14/00656/FUL

Proposed construction of single storey convenience store with associated car parking, landscaping and ATM machine at Wellington Hotel Car Park 23, Town Lane, Hale, Liverpool L24 4AG.

The Appeal was dismissed.

Mr Plant advised Members of the appeal decision regarding the application at the Wellington Hotel and the issues involved.

Meeting ended at 7.00 p.m.

DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the Development Control Committee on Monday, 16 May 2016 at Civic Suite, Town Hall, Runcorn

Present: Councillors Nolan (Chairman), J. Bradshaw, Cole, R. Hignett, S. Hill, C. Plumpton Walsh, June Roberts, J. Stockton, Thompson, Woolfall and Zygadlo

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Morley and Wainwright

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: A. Jones, L. Davies, T. Gibbs, M. Noone, A. Plant, J. Eaton, J. Farmer and G. Henry

Also in attendance: Councillors N. Plumpton Walsh and Sinnott and 32 Members of the public.

**ITEMS DEALT WITH
UNDER DUTIES
EXERCISABLE BY THE COMMITTEE**

Action

DEV48 MINUTES

The minutes of the meetings held on 7 March 2016 and 12 April 2016 were agreed as a correct record.

DEV49 PLANNING APPLICATIONS TO BE DETERMINED BY THE COMMITTEE

The Committee considered the following applications for planning permission and, in accordance with its powers and duties, made the decisions described below.

In order to avoid any allegation of bias Councillor R Hignett took no part in the debate and did not vote on the following item as he had been involved with the scheme on Executive Board.

DEV50 - 15/00549/FULEIA - PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF A PURPOSE BUILT TRANSPORT AND TECHNOLOGY FACILITY (USE CLASS B2) IN THREE PHASES. PHASE 1 TO INCLUDE A 27,938 SQ.M. FACILITY WITH ASSOCIATED ACCESS, CAR PARKING, HGV PARKING, SERVICE YARDS, RAIL SIDINGS, LANDSCAPING, SUBSTATION AND ASSOCIATED ENGINEERING OPERATIONS. PHASE 2A TO INCLUDE A 7,425 SQ.M. EXTENSION TO THE FACILITY WITH A CONNECTION

TO THE RAIL SIDINGS CONSTRUCTED UNDER PHASE 1, AN ADDITIONAL SERVICE YARD, ADDITIONAL CAR PARKING AND ASSOCIATED DEVELOPMENT. PHASE 2B TO INCLUDE A FURTHER 15,925 SQ.M. EXTENSION TO THE FACILITY WITH ADDITIONAL HGV PARKING AND ASSOCIATED DEVELOPMENT ON HBC FIELD, HALEBANK, WIDNES

The consultation procedure undertaken was outlined in the report together with background information in respect of the site.

Officers reported a number of corrections in the report as follows:

- Paragraph 4.1 – the date for the public exhibition was 25 November 2015 and not 2016 as printed;
- Paragraph 2.12 and 6.55 – includes a list of the main documents submitted with the application. These were shown to include a waste management plan, material management plan and landscape environmental management plan. These had been included in error and should be deleted as they were included in the documents to be required by condition as detailed within the recommendation. For the avoidance of doubt the submitted construction environmental management plan (CEMP) is draft only and the detailed CEMP was listed to be required by condition within the recommendation;
- Page 54 – reference is made to various SUDS measures to be included. These were listed in error and are not proposed but just examples of SUDS measures.

By way of update Officers advised that a number of scheme refinements were outlined within the report as summarised at 2.11 in the report. As a result of those refinements and in particular the marginal increase in floor space, the detailed breakdown for the development and cumulative floorspace figures should be read from section 2.2 of the report. Also for the avoidance of doubt the proposal description at page 17 of the report was the description of the development as originally applied for and does not take account of the scheme refinements.

It was reported that Knowsley Borough Council had requested that additional conditions be added to the recommendations:

- That a physical barrier be required to restrict use of the emergency and bus link to Halebank prior to commencement of use. The recommended conditions include a restriction on use of this access and submission and agreement of details but it was recommended that the condition suggested be accepted to require installation prior to occupation; and that
- Further consideration be given to cycle links connecting the end of Lovel's Way with the site. This had been agreed by Halton's Highways Officers and it was therefore recommended that an additional condition be included to secure this.

Officers confirmed that the animal remains had now been removed from the site. A detailed verification report was awaited to confirm this as required by conditions 23 and 24 listed in the recommendation. Finally Members were advised that a response had been provided to the queries from the Lead Local Flood Authority as outlined in the report. This was noted that all outstanding issues could be secured through the terms of condition 8 as listed in the recommendation.

The Committee was addressed by local resident and homeowner Mr Killen, who objected to the scheme. He suggested that Halton Council had used bullying tactics and treated the people of Halebank like second class citizens during the consultation period for the application. Mr Killen was a businessman with local knowledge of businesses in the area and he refuted the claims that this development would bring local jobs for local people, as he claimed that more foreign nationals were employed in this type of industry than local people. He further stated that the development would cause an increase in traffic; pollution and noise pollution; destroy wildlife, hedgerows and trees; and reduce the standard of living of local people.

Councillor Ian Hastie, from Halebank Parish Council, then addressed the Committee objecting to the application. He referred to the previous application and expressed his concern that the Officer recommendations to approve were unlawful. He stated that no planning consultation had taken place and the development was contrary to the 2011 Localism Act. He also stated that the report made false claims and did not highlight the environmental impacts with regards to the greenbelt; habitat and hedgerows; newts and other wildlife. He urged the Committee to consider the application carefully from a legal aspect as it was a

departure from the Council's own Policy.

Mr Gilmore, a representative on behalf of the applicant then addressed the Committee. He presented reasons in support of the application, which was a transport and technology facility which would maintain and modify trains and also act as a training facility, as well as support for the UK operation. He stated that the development would bring economic development to a deprived area; initially 150 jobs would be created which would increase to 400 - 600 on completion. It was hoped that the facility would attract further development in the area. He advised that the scheme would bring environmental benefits and landscaping and public access to the site upon completion.

Officers referred Members to the material conditions (paragraph 7) at the end of the report and confirmed that the payment of money referred to on page 67 was not a material condition. Members were also advised that all aspects of the consultation had been adhered to and confirmed that the application was a departure.

Members queried the legality of the application in comparison to the previous application that came before the Committee. It was confirmed that although all policies had been satisfied, there could be no guarantee of the outcome of a legal challenge.

In response to Members' queries, it was confirmed that the hours of operation for deliveries by rail would be between 7am and 11pm and that Lovel's Way was developed for the use of vehicles to the site. Conditions would be in place to restrict access to Halebank; any breach of which would be enforced by the Council. With regards to the phasing of the project, this was requested by the applicant as discussed in the report. Officers clarified the departure status in that it was designated B8; uses for storage and distribution facilities, so had now changed to manufacturing and assembling of trains. With regards to the status of the Greenbelt and Greenfield, Officers explained the site as shown in the layout plans 1B, 1C and 1D in the report pack.

After taking the representations made at the meeting into consideration, together with the Officer's report and updates provided at the meeting, Members agreed to approve the application subject to the following conditions.

RESOLVED: The Committee is satisfied that

- a) The payments referred to in the Financial Contributions section of this report would be secured as part of the sale of land; and
- b) The application be approved subject to the following conditions.
 - 1) The development hereby permitted shall be begun before the expiration of three years from the date of this permission.

Reason: In order to comply with Section 91 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

- 2) The development hereby approved shall be carried out in accordance with the application and all approved plans and associated supporting information, the Environmental Statement (Reference RG/eab/CHHB15 dated 3 May 2015) and recommendations and mitigation measures contained therein.

Reason: To define the permission, to ensure that the development is carried out in accordance with the approved details, in order to minimise risk to the environment and impact on nearby residents and to comply with *inter alia* Policy BE1 of the Halton Unitary Development Plan.

- 3) The development hereby approved shall be carried out in accordance with the approved phasing plans, hereinafter called Phase 1, Phase 2A and Phase 2B ("Phase").

Reason: To define the permission and to ensure that the nature of the phasing hereby approved is understood.

- 4) Prior to the commencement of any development hereby approved the following shall be submitted and agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority:
 1. A Construction Environmental Management Plan to include pollution and silt pollution control measures and specific measures to minimise and mitigate impacts including noise, light, odour and dust.
 2. A plan for the control of routing, access / egress to/from the site, parking and waiting for all construction traffic including plant and deliveries.

For the avoidance of doubt the routing, access / egress to/from the site, other than in the case of emergency or unavoidable road closure, shall take place via the dedicated link road to A5300 / A562 only and not Halebank Road.

3. Wheel cleansing facilities for heavy commercial and site vehicles to be used by all heavy commercial and site vehicles with an operating weight greater than 3 tonnes before leaving the site throughout the construction period of the development.

The development shall be carried out in accordance with the approved details.

Reason: to allow the Local Planning Authority to ensure that sufficient regard is given to minimising potential impacts on neighbours and the environment. It would not be good practice to deal with the matters referred to in this condition on a phased basis. This is prior to commencement style condition in the interest of good planning.

- 5) Prior to the commencement of any development hereby approved, a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation and recommendations shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The development shall be carried out in accordance with the approved scheme.

Reason: to ensure the proper investigation of the site due to its historic importance. It would not be good practice to deal with the matters referred to in this condition on a phased basis. This is a prior to commencement style condition in the interests of good planning.

- 6) Prior to the commencement of any development hereby approved a Site Wide Waste Management Plan and a Materials Management Plan to cover the ground and earth works and construction phases of the development shall be submitted to and agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The development shall be carried out in accordance with the approved details and such details as are agreed shall be implemented in full throughout the course of the development.

Reason: to allow the Local Planning Authority to

ensure that sufficient regard is given to the consideration for minimising and re-use of waste materials. It would not be good practice to deal with the matters referred to in this condition on a phased basis. This is a prior to commencement style condition in the interests of good planning.

- 7) Prior to the commencement of any development hereby approved an Environmental Landscape Management Plan shall be submitted to and agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority. That Plan shall include:
- A Landscape management and maintenance plan, including long term design objectives and maintenance schedules for all landscaped areas; and
 - A detailed method statement for the translocation of vegetation/aquatic fauna from the existing ponds within the site to the newly created replacement ponds required by condition of this planning permission.

The development shall be carried out in accordance with the approved details and such details as are agreed shall be implemented in full throughout the course of the development.

Reason: to ensure that pond mitigation is carried out as approved and that sufficient regard is given to the long term maintenance and management of the site in the interests of biodiversity. It would not be good practice to deal with the matters referred to in this condition on a phased bases. This is a prior to commencement style condition in the interests of good planning.

- 8) Prior to commencement of any drainage work hereby approved and required for any phase, a detailed drainage scheme for the phase shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The drainage scheme for the phase shall include full details of the re-profiling of Pond A as defined on the approved plans. The scheme as approved shall be fully implemented prior to commencement of the use of the development comprised in the phase, hereby approved and shall then thereafter be maintained.

Reason: to ensure that satisfactory provision is made

for drainage, to prevent the increased risk of flooding.

- 9) Notwithstanding any description of materials in the application prior to the implementation or installation of any hard surfacing works in any phase, full details of the materials to be used in the finished surfaces of that phase shall be submitted to and agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The development shall be carried out in accordance with the approved details.

Reason: to ensure the appropriate use of quality materials in the interests of visual amenity.

- 10) Prior to the commencement of construction of any pond an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) shall have been submitted to and agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority to include detailed habitat and planting schedules to render the pond unattractive to birds potentially moving from the estuary (gulls, waders and waterfowl). Such designs may include the establishment of reeds, proximity of trees and managing potential flightlines and sightlines through appropriate location and design of landscaping bunds etc. Such details shall include details of a scheme for monitoring the use of the site by gulls, waders and waterfowl to be undertaken through the vegetation establishment period and methods of reporting results to the Local Planning Authority and agreeing additional measures deployed as required. These could include netting of the waterbodies.

Reason: In the interests of aerodrome safeguarding, to minimise potential for birdstrike.

- 11) Notwithstanding any description of materials in the application no above ground construction works shall take place in respect of any building in any phase hereby approved until samples and/or full specification of materials to be used externally on the buildings have been submitted to and agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority. Development shall be carried out as approved.

Reason: to ensure the use of appropriate external finishing materials in the interests of visual amenity.

- 12) Prior to the implementation or installation of any sprinkler tanks, pump houses, Ring Main Unit, Gas

Governor, Primary Substation Station, bus stops or security barriers as detailed on the approved plans, full specification details, including colour coating of that feature shall be submitted to and agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority. Any such feature shall be installed in full accordance with those approved details and the approved plans and so maintained.

Reason: the application is deficient with regards this detail, to ensure the appropriate design and quality of those ancillary features in the interests of visual amenity.

- 13) Unless such works do not cause existing ambient noise levels to be exceeded there shall be no construction work associated with the development on the site at any time on any Sunday, Bank Holiday or other Public Holiday or on any other day except between the following hours:

0730 – 1900 Monday to Friday

0730 – 1300 Saturdays

Reason: to ensure that the development is carried out as submitted and approved, to minimise nuisance caused to nearby residents.

- 14) No Heavy commercial Vehicle or any other vehicle which has an operating weight greater than 3 tonnes associated with the construction of the development shall enter or leave the site at any time on any Sunday, Bank or Public Holiday or on any other day except between the following hours:

0730 – 1900 Monday to Friday

0730 – 1300 Saturdays

Reason: to ensure that the development is carried out as submitted and approved, to minimise nuisance caused to nearby residents.

- 15) The development permitted by this planning permission shall only be carried out in accordance with the approved Flood Risk Assessment and Surface Water Drainage Strategy (FRA) November 2015/R.151667.F001/Hydrock Consultants Limited and the following mitigation measures detailed within the FRA:

1. Limiting the developed area to Flood Zone 1 (low risk of fluvial and tidal flooding).
2. Construction of finished ground floor levels of buildings at a minimum level of 8.5m AOD.
3. Surface water discharge rates from the site to be restricted to current 'Greenfield' levels.
4. On-site surface water attenuation to be provided up to 100 year (20% return period) event.
5. Site contouring and topography to ensure overland exceedance flow routing to be retained on site but away from building locations.

The mitigation measures shall be fully implemented prior to occupation and subsequently in accordance with the timing / phasing arrangements embodied within the scheme, or within any other period as may subsequently be agreed, in writing, by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: to reduce flood risk, both on the site and elsewhere to an acceptable level.

- 16) No trees or hedgerows shown to be retained shall be felled, pruned, lopped, topped, uprooted or damaged in any way as a result of carrying out the development hereby approved without the prior written consent of the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: in order to avoid damage to the trees and hedgerows on and adjoining the site, in accordance with the provisions of Section 197 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, in the interests of visual amenity.

- 17) If at any time during the course of carrying out the development hereby approved, contamination not previously identified in the contamination report is found to be present at the site then no further development shall be carried out until a remediation strategy detailing how this unanticipated contamination shall be dealt with has been submitted to and agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The remediation strategy shall thereafter be implemented as approved.

Reason: to ensure a safe form of development which poses no unacceptable risk of pollution.

- 18) The soft landscaping works associated with any phase shall be carried out prior to the occupation of

that phase or in accordance with a timetable to be agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: in the interest of visual amenity.

- 19) Prior to the commencement of use of any part of the building hereby approved a detailed travel plan including timescale for implementation shall be submitted to and agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The details submitted shall include measures to discourage cycle journeys to the A562 and A5300. Such details as are agreed shall be implemented in full and in accordance with the submitted timescale.

Reason: to ensure provision for a range of transport options in the interest of sustainable development.

- 20) No part of the development hereby approved shall be occupied until space has been laid out within the site for the safe and secure parking of bicycles in accordance with the approved plans.

Reason: to ensure the satisfactory provision for cycle parking to encourage alternatives and sustainable means of travel and to comply with Policy TP6 of the Halton Unitary Development Plan and Core Strategy Policy CS15.

- 21) Prior to the occupation of any premises hereby approved in any phase the vehicle access, service and parking area related to that phase shall be laid out and surfaced in accordance with the approved plans, and shall be retained at all times thereafter within the curtilage of the site for use exclusively in connection with the development hereby approved.

Reason: to ensure the satisfactory development of the site in the interests of highway safety.

- 22) No part of the development hereby approved shall be brought into use until details of a silent warning device and/or methodology to be used during the movement of trains has been submitted to and agreed in writing. Any train movements within the site shall be carried out using the agreed silent warning device and/or methodology. At no time shall audible warning devices be used in connection with train movements within the site.

Reason: to minimise potential noise disturbance to surrounding residents in accordance with the submitted noise report.

- 23) Prior to the commencement of use of the development hereby approved, a Remediation Verification Plan shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The plan shall provide detailed verification methodology and data in order to identify all material unsuitable for use as fill or re-use on site, to demonstrate that works for the excavation and removal of all such material and pollutant linkages have been completed in accordance with the Environmental Statement and identifying any requirements for longer term monitoring of pollutant linkages, maintenance and arrangement for contingency action.

Reason: to allow the Local Planning Authority to ensure the development is carried out as agreed in a safe form that poses no unacceptable risk of pollution.

- 24) Prior to the commencement of use of the development hereby approved, upon completion of the site remedial works, a verification report containing the data collected in accordance with the verification plan required by condition of this planning permission shall be submitted to and agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: to allow the Local Planning Authority to ensure the development is carried out as agreed in a safe form that poses no unacceptable risk of pollution.

- 25) No part of the development hereby approved shall be brought into use until rail sidings have been provided within the application site to a standard providing operational connectivity to the rail network in accordance with the approved plans and Rail Connectivity Plan. Such sidings shall be retained for the lifetime of the development.

Reason: to ensure adequate provision is made to secure rail access to the site, to encourage movement of freight by rail.

- 26) Prior to the commencement of the use of any phase a detailed Operational Waste Management Plan

including details of facilities to collect and store Bulk wasters generated as a result of the use of that phase shall be submitted to and agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority. Such a Plan shall be implemented in accordance with the approved details.

Reason: to allow the Local Planning Authority to ensure that sufficient regard is given to the consideration for minimising and re-use of water materials.

- 27) No part of the development hereby approved shall be brought into use until a scheme of pond replacement to provide 3 no. ponds within the site has been implemented in full and in accordance with a detailed scheme submitted to and agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority. Such details as are submitted shall include detailed design and pond profiles and a detailed maintenance and management plan. The ponds shall be so managed and maintained for the lifetime of the permission.

Reason: to ensure that satisfactory mitigation is provided for the ponds to be lost as a result of the development.

- 28) The development hereby approved shall be used for the purpose of a transport and technology facility as described and any other purpose including any purpose within use class B2.

Reason: for the avoidance of doubt as to the extent of this permission.

- 29) There shall be no outdoor storage or display of equipment, plant, goods or material within the site other than as detailed in the approved plans.

Reason: in the interests of visual amenity.

- 30) Except to provide access/egress for emergency vehicles and public transport vehicles, no motorised traffic shall at any time be permitted to gain access to or egress from Halebank Road using the section of roadway identified as Emergency Access on the approved plan.

Reason: in order to prevent traffic using the local highway network in the interests of highway safety and to minimise impacts on local residents.

- 31) There shall be no deliveries or dispatch of materials or trains to or from the site whether by road or by rail or movement of trains within the site during the hours 2300 and 0700 hours.

Reason: to minimise potential noise disturbance to surrounding residents in accordance with the submitted noise report. To be consistent with the period of noise assessment within the noise report.

- 32) No use of any part of the development hereby approved shall be commenced until physical control measures have been provided between the emergency and bus access route as defined on the approved plans and Lovel's Way in accordance with details submitted to and agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority. Such barrier shall be designed to prevent access to through traffic other than for access / egress for emergency vehicles and public transport as allowed by condition of this permission.

Reason: In order to prevent traffic using the local highway network in the interests of highway safety and to minimise impacts on local residents.

- 33) Notwithstanding the details within the plans hereby approved no part of the development hereby approved shall be brought into use until a footway and cycleway has been provided between the boundary of the site where it joins the end of Lovel's Way and the cycle storage area within the western carpark in accordance with details submitted to and agreed in writing by the Local Planning authority. Such a footway and cycleway shall be so maintained throughout the life of the development.

Reason: To ensure that opportunities for footway and cycleway connections are maximised through the development.

- 34) Any works hereby approved to Pond 3 as detailed within the application shall only take place between September and January.

Reason: To minimise potential harm to the population of common toad within that pond.

DEV51 - 16/00024/FUL - PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF 34 NO. DWELLINGS COMPRISING MEWS, SEMI-DETACHED AND DETACHED PROPERTIES WITH ASSOCIATED ACCESS, PARKING, GARAGES AND CONSTRUCTION OF ACOUSTIC BUND ON LAND TO THE NORTH EAST OF ABBOTS PARK AND BOUNDED BY THE M56 AND CHESTER ROAD, PRESTON BROOK, RUNCORN, CHESHIRE

The consultation procedure undertaken was outlined in the report together with background information in respect of the site.

RESOLVED: That the application be approved subject to the upfront payment for Greenspace enhancements in the locality and the following conditions.

- 1) Time limit – full permission.
- 2) Approved plans.
- 3) Submission of Proposed Site Levels (BE1);
- 4) Implementation of facing materials detailed (BE1 and BE2);
- 5) Implementation of landscape structure plan (BE1);
- 6) Habitat management and maintenance plan (BE1);
- 7) Implementation of recommendations in the Arboricultural Method Statement (BE1);
- 8) Implementation of submitted hard landscape and boundaries layout and subsequent maintenance (BE1);
- 9) Breeding bird protection (GE21);
- 10) Hours of construction (BE1);
- 11) Removal of permitted development – all dwellings (BE1);
- 12) Implementation of the noise bund and acoustic fence and subsequent maintenance (BE1 and PR8);
- 13) Implementation of the glazing and mechanical ventilation as identified in the acoustic report (BE1 and PR8);
- 14) Submission of a Construction Management Plan (BE1);
- 15) Provision and retention of parking for residential development (curtilage) (BE1);
- 16) Provision and retention of parking for residential development (not in curtilage) (BE1);
- 17) Retention of garages to dwellings (BE1);
- 18) Implementation of access and servicing provision (BE1);
- 19) Implementation of off-site highway works (site access point from Chester Road, dropped crossing at the Tannery Farm access point, closure of existing farm

- access, bus stop alterations) (BE1);
- 20) Visibility splay (2.4m x 55m at site access with Chester Road) (BE1);
- 21) Submission of electric vehicle charging point scheme, subsequent implementation and maintenance (CS19);
- 22) Submission of a surface water regulatory scheme for approval and subsequent implementation (PR16);
- 23) Ground contamination – site investigation, remediation strategy and site completion report (PR14);
- 24) Submission of a waste audit (WM8); and
- 25) Submission of a sustainable waste management design (WM9).

In order to avoid any allegation of bias Councillor Cole did not take part in the debate or vote on the following item as he is a Board Member of Halton Housing Trust.

In order to avoid any allegation of bias Councillor Carol Plumpton-Walsh did not take part in the debate or vote on the following item due to a recent press release on the development which included a comment she made.

DEV52 - 16/00069/FUL - PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF 22 NO. APARTMENTS AND 6 NO. HOUSES INCLUDING CHANGE OF USE OF EXISTING BUILDING, SELECTIVE DEMOLITION AND ASSOCIATED LANDSCAPING AT VICTORIA HOUSE, HOLLOWAY, RUNCORN, CHESHIRE.

The consultation procedure undertaken was outlined in the report together with background information in respect of the site.

The Committee was advised that since the publication of the agenda two additional representations had been received via a Ward Councillor which raised the following issues: scale, look of the building and the level of intrusion; not meeting guidelines with regards to privacy; the application of the 25° rule; and why the 45° rule was not applied as the proposed extension appeared contrary to it.

It was reported that in respect of scale, Victoria House was a large building which was three storeys in height and the proposed extension whilst being large, would respect the scale of the existing building and form an acceptable relationship with surrounding buildings.

It was noted that the update list was published prior to the meeting and contained further information relating to the

elevations of the building; privacy aspects and the relationship of the development with its nearest neighbours. It further discussed the 45° rule and its uses.

Officers also advised the Committee that an additional condition was recommended for the submission of a scheme for the provision of future charging points of ultra-low emission vehicles, which the applicant had agreed to accept.

The Committee was addressed by Victoria Jones, a local resident who objected to the proposal. She spoke regarding the distances between the development and the surrounding houses being insufficient and not complying with minimum standards: she argued that the apartments were too close to neighbours; not enough space had been left between habitable windows; and that the measurements and angles presented in the plan/report were not accurate. She suggested that the proposal was out of character with the area and that the third storey on the flats was domineering and not to scale with the surrounding area.

The Committee was then addressed by James Nicholls, from Halton Housing Trust. He stated that they were a reputable not for profit company who would develop high quality homes on a site that had remained vacant for the past 3 years. He advised Members that they had carried out a consultation process with residents to discuss their concerns over highway safety and future tenant selection. He further stated that they planned to restore the original features of the property and that as the extension was set back, residents views would not be affected. He stated that the flats did not directly face the neighbours; the development would retain the character of the area; and would provide economic benefit as well as additional housing for Halton.

Local Ward Councillor Sinnott then addressed Members referring them to paragraph 5.2 of the report where it stated that 75 representations had been received in relation to the application, objecting to the proposal. She reiterated the main objections: that the building was an undesignated heritage asset and this would be lost; shrubs would disappear; there would be an impact on neighbours from being overlooked; the extensions would affect the look of the site; and there was a lack of amenities such as schools, open spaces and parking for the new residents. She also raised concerns over traffic access and parking during construction and the nature of the vehicles accessing the site. She requested that the views of the local people

are heard.

After hearing the updates and representations Members discussed the matters raised by the speakers in particular the lack of amenities for residents and the distances between the properties not complying with those recommended.

Councillor John Stockton moved to defer the application until such time as further consultation can be carried out with residents and to address the issues raised above.

Councillor Thompson seconded the motion and the Committee voted to agree to defer the application for the reasons stated above.

RESOLVED: That the application be deferred so clarity can be sought regarding the points raised by residents with regards to proximity between properties and to address the provision of amenities for local residents.

DEV53 - 16/00120/FUL - PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF NEW WORKSHOP AND OFFICE FACILITIES (2,225 SQUARE METRES) TOGETHER WITH ADDITIONAL CAR PARKING AND ASSOCIATED DEVELOPMENT AT YKK (UK) ASTON LANE SOUTH, PRESTON BROOK, RUNCORN

The consultation procedure undertaken was outlined in the report together with background information in respect of the site.

The Committee was advised that United Utilities had stated that they had no objection to the proposed development provided that it was understood that it was the applicant's responsibility to demonstrate the exact relationship between any United Utilities' assets and the proposed development; and that the following 3 conditions were attached to any approval:

- Foul and surface water shall be drained on separate systems;
- Prior to the commencement of any development, a surface water drainage scheme shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority; and
- Prior to the commencement of the development, a sustainable drainage management and maintenance plan for the lifetime of the development shall be submitted to the Local Planning Authority and agreed

in writing.

The Committee agreed that the application be approved subject to the conditions listed below and the addition of the conditions submitted by United Utilities.

RESOLVED: That the application be approved subject to

- a) delegated powers being given to the Operational Director – Policy, Planning and Transportation, in consultation with the Chair or Vice Chair of the Development Control Committee to make a final determination, once the application has received a response from consultation sent to the British Pipeline Association (BPA); and
- b) the following conditions:
 - 1) Standard 3 year expiry;
 - 2) Materials condition;
 - 3) Position, design, materials and type of boundary treatment;
 - 4) Travel plan shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority;
 - 5) Prior to the occupation of the premises hereby approved the vehicle access, service and parking areas shall be laid out and surfaced to the satisfaction of the Local Planning Authority;
 - 6) Submission and approval of contaminated land report; and
 - 7) Traffic management plan.

Meeting ended at 7.48 p.m.

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DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the Development Control Committee on Monday, 6 June 2016 at The Board Room - Municipal Building, Widnes

Present: Councillors Nolan (Chair), Morley (Vice-Chair), J. Bradshaw, Cole, Gilligan, R. Hignett, June Roberts, Woolfall and Zygadlo

Apologies for Absence: Councillors C. Plumpton Walsh and Thompson

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: A. Jones, J. Tully, T. Gibbs, M. Noone, A. Plant and G. Henry

Also in attendance: One member of the public

**ITEMS DEALT WITH
UNDER DUTIES
EXERCISABLE BY THE COMMITTEE**

Action

DEV1 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 16 May 2016, having been circulated, were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

DEV2 PLANNING APPLICATIONS TO BE DETERMINED BY THE COMMITTEE

The Committee considered the following applications for planning permission and, in accordance with its powers and duties, made the decisions described below.

In order to avoid any allegation of bias Councillor R Hignett took no part in the following item as he had been involved with the scheme on Executive Board.

DEV3 - 14/00382/HBCFUL - PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF 5 NO. RAILWAY SIDINGS TO BE IMPLEMENTED ON A PHASED BASIS TO SERVE THE MERSEY MULTIMODAL GATEWAY (3MG) CONNECTING TO THE NATIONAL RAIL NETWORK WEST COAST MAINLINE VIA DITTON JUNCTION SIDINGS AT DITTON STRATEGIC RAIL FREIGHT PARK / 3MG, HALEBANK, WIDNES

The consultation procedure undertaken was outlined in the report together with background information in respect of the site.

Members were advised of the following updates received since the publication of the report.

- 1) The plan shown within the report was out of date as the application site had been extended to include Network Rail land to the east. The more up to date plan was included within the plans section of the report;
- 2) Since the withdrawal of the high level lighting no subsequent comments had been received from Halebank Parish Council;
- 3) The Council's advisor on archaeological matters had confirmed that an archaeological watching brief secured by condition was acceptable;
- 4) The Council's Highways and Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) had confirmed that they raised no objection subject to an additional condition relating to detailed drainage design; and
- 5) Condition 14 was an error and would be deleted.

It was reported that Natural England had submitted comments that there was currently insufficient information to determine likely significant effects to demonstrate compliance with the Habitats Regulations. A response was provided which confirmed that the Council had fulfilled its requirements in this regard, subject to submission and agreement of a detailed Construction Management Plan; which was recommended by condition. Officers requested that authority be delegated subject to the usual tests to allow Officers to respond to Natural England and overcome their concerns.

Officers provided clarity to Members over update number two above. The Committee then agreed to approve the application subject to the conditions listed below.

RESOLVED: That authority be delegated, on confirmation by Natural England and/or expiration of the relevant notification period, to the Operational Director, Policy, Planning and Transportation, in consultation with the Chair or Vice Chair of the Development Control Committee to approve the application subject to the following conditions:

1. Standard 3 year permission (BE1);
2. Specifying approved and amended plans and

documents and requiring development be carried out as approved;

3. Condition requiring submission and approval of a Construction Environmental Management Plan including wheel wash facilities and scheme of dust management (BE1);
4. Condition restricting routing of construction and delivery traffic to Lovel's Way (BE1);
5. Conditions requiring construction and delivery hours to be adhered to throughout the course of the development (BE1);
6. Condition securing a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (BE6);
7. Environment Agency condition relating to submission and agreement of a scheme to limit surface water runoff (PR16);
8. Condition securing a scheme of site investigation and remediation within specified area of site (PR14);
9. Condition relating to discovery of unidentified contamination (PR14);
10. Condition restricting audible warning devices from being used within the site (PR2);
11. Condition requiring submission and agreement of verification report for the removal of animal remains (PR14);
12. Condition restricting outside storage (BE1);
13. Condition requiring submission and agreement of details of low level lighting (PR4); and
14. Condition requiring submission and agreement of detailed drainage design (PR16).

DEV4 - 16/00125/FUL - PROPOSED ERECTION OF 36 NO. DWELLINGS AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE (RE-PLAN OF PLOTS 75-106 OF APPROVED APPLICATION 14/00575/FUL) WITH THE ADDITION OF A FURTHER 4 UNITS ON LAND AT SANDYMOOR PHASE 1, LAND OFF WALSINGHAM DRIVE, SANDYMOOR, RUNCORN, WA7 1QD

The consultation procedure undertaken was outlined in the report together with background information in respect of the site.

Officers advised the Committee that the reference to 'mews style' on page 41 under 'The Proposal' was included in error. It was also confirmed that the Council's Highways and LLFA Officer had confirmed that they raised no objection subject to a slight amendment to the landscaping at one driveway to improve visibility. The applicant had

agreed an alternative plant species which was considered acceptable; this would be secured by an additional condition.

The Committee agreed to approve the application.

RESOLVED: That the application be approved subject to the following conditions:

1. Standard 3 year permission (BE1);
2. Specifying approved and amended plans and documents and requiring development be carried out as approved (BE1);
3. Requiring development be carried out in accordance with the approved construction Environmental Management Plan (BE1);
4. Construction and delivery hours to be adhered to throughout the course of the development (BE1);
5. Vehicle access, parking, servicing etc to be constructed prior to occupation of properties/commencement of use (BE1);
6. Condition restricting permitted development rights relating to frontage boundary fences etc (BE1);
7. Conditions relating to tree and hedgerow protection during construction (BE1); and
8. Condition requiring that, notwithstanding the submitted landscape plans, the 2 no. Phormium Jester either side of the driveway access to plots 22 and 23 are deleted and replaced with 2 no. Lavendula Augustifolia as agreed by email dated 6 June 2016.

Meeting ended at 6.45 p.m.

REGULATORY COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the Regulatory Committee on Wednesday, 1 June 2016 in the Council Chamber, Runcorn Town Hall

Present: Councillors K. Loftus (Chair), Wallace (Vice-Chair), Fry, P. Hignett, Nelson, A. McInerney, Parker and Wall

Apologies for Absence: Councillors McDermott, G. Stockton and Wainwright

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: K. Cleary, J. Tully and Wheeler

Also in attendance: None

**ITEMS DEALT WITH
UNDER DUTIES
EXERCISABLE BY THE COMMITTEE**

	<i>Action</i>
REG1 MINUTES	
<p>The Minutes of the meetings held on 21 January 2016 and 10 February 2016 having been circulated were signed as a correct record.</p>	
REG2 SCHEDULE 12A OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985	
<p>The Committee considered:</p>	
<p>1) Whether members of the press and public should be excluded from the meeting of the Committee 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</p>	
<p>2) Whether the disclosure of information was in the public interest, whether any relevant exemptions were</p>	

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 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, exempt information would be disclosed, being information defined in Section 100 (1) and paragraphs 1, 2, 3 and 7 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

REG3 TAXI LICENSING MATTER

Case No. 691

RESOLVED: That

- 1) The applicant's vehicle be exempt from the requirement to carry a full size spare wheel or space saver wheel and to allow the use of run flat tyres with appropriate conditions relating to use; and
- 2) The subject of run flat tyres be referred to the next meeting of the Taxi Consultative Group for consideration in the context of the Council's current policy.

REG4 TAXI LICENSING MATTER

Case No. 692

RESOLVED: A Single Status Drivers licence is to be granted for a 3 year period with a clear warning issued as to future conduct.

REG5 TAXI LICENSING MATTER

Case No. 693

It was noted that this was an information item to the Regulatory Committee as required by the Council's Constitution, following a decision made by the Chief Executive under urgent action powers.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted by the
Committee.

Meeting ended at 7.45 p.m.

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STANDARDS COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the Standards Committee Wednesday, 10 February 2016 The Board Room, Municipal Building, Widnes

Present: Councillors P. Lloyd Jones (Chairman), M. Bradshaw, Cole, J. Lowe, McDermott, Parker, Tony Luxton (Co-optee), Canon David Felix (Parish Council Co-optee), Professor David Norman (Independent Person) and Mr Roy Radley (Independent Person)

Apologies for Absence: Anita Morris (Co-optee) and Stephen Cluff (Parish Council Co-optee)

Absence declared on Council business: Councillor Kevan Wainwright

Officers present: M. Reaney, A. Scott and L. Driscoll

Also in attendance: One member of the public

**ITEMS DEALT WITH
UNDER DUTIES
EXERCISABLE BY THE COMMITTEE**

	<i>Action</i>
<p>STC1 MINUTES</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 11 February 2015 having been circulated, were signed as a correct record.</p>	
<p>STC2 STANDARDS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT</p> <p>The Committee 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.</p> <p>At the meeting in February 2015, Members had considered the Annual Report, which had noted the major changes to the Standards regime and the implementation of the Localism Act. There had been an update on issues that had arisen in other parts of the country, which had provided an insight into the nature of matters raised and how they were dealt with elsewhere.</p> <p>In addition, Members also received an update on matters within Halton, although no further investigations had been required into any of the three complaints that had been</p>	

received.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted and referred to Council for information.

Operational
Director, Legal and
Democratic
Services
/Monitoring Officer

STC3 WHISTLEBLOWING POLICY

The Committee considered a report of the Operational Director, Legal and Democratic Services/Monitoring Officer, on the Council's Whistleblowing Policy, in so far as it related to the work of the Standards Committee.

Lisa Driscoll, Policy Officer, addressed the Committee to advise on the current version of the Council's Whistleblowing Policy (the Policy). It was noted that, as part of the annual review of the Council's Constitution, the Policy was kept under review as regards best practice, the outcome of legal cases and model practice demonstrated by other local authorities or public bodies.

Ms Driscoll dealt with Members' questions before being thanked for her attendance.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

STC4 STANDARDS UPDATE

The Operational Director, Legal and Democratic Services/Monitoring Officer provided the Committee with an update on issues which had arisen in other parts of the country, which provided an insight into the kind of issues faced and the manner in which they had proceeded.

Details on recent cases were given from the following locations:-

- Wiltshire;
- Surrey;
- Wells (Somerset);
- Wigan;
- Shropshire; and
- St Helens.

A verbal update was given on local issues and on the anticipated revision of the Members' Code of Conduct. The Monitoring Officer advised that, since his secondment at Cheshire West and Chester Council had ended in June

2015, he had been working with the Liverpool City Region on a review of a Merseyside-wide Members' Code of Conduct and would keep Members of the Committee informed of progress in this regard.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

Meeting ended at 2.48 p.m.

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APPEALS PANEL

*At a meeting of the Appeals Panel held on 25 January 2016 at
Halton Stadium, Lowerhouse Lane, Widnes.*

Present: Councillors Wainwright (Chairman), K Loftus and Wallace

Apologies for absence: None.

Absence declared on Council business: None.

Officers present: A Scott, K Bate, W Rourke, J Unsworth and
A Mottershead

In attendance: Appellant

**ITEMS DEALT WITH
UNDER POWERS AND DUTIES
EXERCISABLE BY THE PANEL**

Action

**AP14 SCHEDULE 12A OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972
AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION)
ACT 1985**

The Panel considered:

- (1) whether Members of the press and public should be excluded from the meeting of the Panel 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 paragraphs 1, 2 and 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 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, exempt information would be disclosed, being information defined in Section 100 (1) and paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

AP15 DISCIPLINARY APPEAL HEARING

The Panel considered information submitted in respect of the above appeal and heard representations from the appellant and the presenting officer and his witnesses.

RESOLVED: That the disciplinary appeal hearing be dismissed and the decision of the local authority be upheld.

Meeting ended at 1.25pm

APPEALS PANEL

*At a meeting of the Appeals Panel held on 17 February 2016 at
Halton Stadium, Lowerhouse Lane, Widnes.*

Present: Councillors Wainwright (Chairman), K Loftus and Wallace

Apologies for absence: None.

Absence declared on Council business: None.

Officers present: A Scott, L Fletcher, T Coffey

In attendance: Appellant and Trade Union representative

**ITEMS DEALT WITH
UNDER POWERS AND DUTIES
EXERCISABLE BY THE PANEL**

Action

**AP16 SCHEDULE 12A OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972
AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION)
ACT 1985**

The Panel considered:

- (1) whether Members of the press and public should be excluded from the meeting of the Panel 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 paragraphs 1, 2 and 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 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, exempt information would be disclosed, being information defined in Section 100 (1) and paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

AP17 DISCIPLINARY APPEAL HEARING

The Panel considered information submitted in respect of the above appeal and heard representations from the appellant and her Trade Union representative and the presenting officer.

RESOLVED: That the disciplinary appeal be upheld.

Meeting ended at 11.28 am

APPEALS PANEL

At a meeting of the Appeals Panel held on 3 March 2016 in Halton Stadium, Widnes.

Present: Councillors Wainwright (Chairman), A. McInerney and June Roberts

Apologies for absence: None

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: K Lunt

Also Present: None

**ITEMS DEALT WITH
UNDER POWERS AND DUTIES
EXERCISABLE BY THE PANEL**

Action

**AP18 SCHEDULE 12A OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972
AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION)
ACT 1985**

The Panel 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 Section 100A (4) 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 paragraphs 1,2 and 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 that in disclosing the information, members of the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business in accordance with Section 100A(4) 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 paragraphs 1,2 and 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

**AP19 HOUSING DISCRETIONARY APPEAL HEARING: CASE NO
276**

The Panel considered information submitted in respect of the above appeal and heard representations from the presenting officer.

RESOLVED: That the decision of the Local Authority dated 8 January 2016 be upheld and the appeal be dismissed.

Meeting ended at 10.30 am.

APPEALS PANEL

At a meeting of the Appeals Panel held on 31 March 2016 in Halton Stadium, Widnes.

Present: Councillors Wainwright (Chairman), A. McInerney and June Roberts

Apologies for absence: None

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: C Featherstone

Also Present: None

**ITEMS DEALT WITH
UNDER POWERS AND DUTIES
EXERCISABLE BY THE PANEL**

Action

**AP20 SCHEDULE 12A OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972
AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION)
ACT 1985**

The Panel 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 Section 100A (4) 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 paragraphs 1,2 and 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 that in disclosing the information, members of the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business in accordance with Section 100A(4) 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 paragraphs 1,2 and 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

**AP21 HOUSING DISCRETIONARY APPEAL HEARING: CASE NO
277**

The Panel considered information submitted in respect of the above appeal and heard representations from the presenting officer.

RESOLVED: That the decision of the Local Authority dated 15 February 2016 be upheld and the appeal be dismissed.

Meeting ended at 10.35 am.

APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the Appointments Committee held on Monday, 6 June 2016 at the Bridgewater Room, Municipal Building, Widnes

Present: Councillors Polhill (Chair), Wharton, J. Bradshaw, Gilligan and McDermott

Apologies for Absence: Councillor Rowe

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: D. Parr

**ITEMS DEALT WITH
UNDER DUTIES
EXERCISABLE BY THE COMMITTEE**

	<i>Action</i>
<p>APC1 SCHEDULE 12A OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">The Panel considered:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">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 Section 100A (4) 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 paragraphs 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972; and</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">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.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">RESOLVED: That as, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed that in disclosing the information, members of the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business in</p>	

accordance with Section 100A(4) 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 paragraphs 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

APC2 APPOINTMENT OF STRATEGIC DIRECTOR – (PEOPLE)
AND ASSOCIATED MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

The Committee considered a proposal to establish and recruit to the post of Strategic Director (People) and associated management arrangements.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the contents of the report be approved; and

- 2) the approach to recruitment, and associated management arrangements, as set out in the report, be approved.

APC3 PERSONNEL MATTER

The Committee considered information submitted in respect of a disciplinary matter.

RESOLVED That the course of action outlined in the report be approved.

Meeting ended at 3.00 p.m.