

Minutes & Reports

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

**Wednesday, 13 December
2006**

Minutes & Reports

For Presentation to the Council
At the meeting to be held on
Wednesday, 13 December 2006

Committee/Board	Page Ref
Council Minutes	341 - 348
Executive Board	
2nd November 2006	349 - 356
16th November 2006	357 - 364
Executive Board Sub-Committee	
12th October 2006	365 - 374
2nd November 2006	375 - 380
16th November 2006	381 - 386
Executive (Transmodal Implementation) Sub-Board	
19th October 2006	387 - 390
Mersey Gateway Executive Board	
19th October 2006	391 - 394
Boards	
Children and Young People - Cream Pages	395 - 400
Employment, Learning and Skills - Yellow Pages	401 - 408
Healthy Halton - Grey Pages	409 - 416
Safer Halton - Pink Pages	417 - 422
Urban Renewal - Green Pages	423 - 428
Corporate Services - Salmon Pages	429 - 432
Joint Children and Young People, and Healthy Halton - Blue Pages	433 - 436
Business Efficiency Board - White Pages	437 - 440
Committees	
Development Control - Pink Pages	441 - 460
Standards - White Pages	461 - 464
Regulatory - Blue Pages	465 - 470
Appointments - White Pages	471 - 474
Statutory Joint Scrutiny Committee - Grey Pages	475 - 478

COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Council on Wednesday, 18 October 2006 in the Council Chamber, Runcorn Town Hall

Present: Councillors Swain, Blackmore, Bradshaw, D. Cargill, E. Cargill, Cross, Dennett, Edge, Findon, Fraser, Gilligan, Harris, Hignett, Hodgkinson, Horabin, Howard, C Inch, D Inch, Jones, Leadbetter, Lewis, Lloyd Jones, Lowe, McDermott, Morley, Nelson, Nolan, Norddahl, Osborne, Parker, Pearsall, Philbin, Polhill, Rowan, Rowe, Sly, Stockton, Swift, Wainwright, Wallace, Whittaker, Worrall and Wright

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Cole, Drakeley, Gerrard, Higginson, Loftus, Marlow, Massey, McInerney, E Ratcliffe, M Ratcliffe, Redhead, Thompson and Wharton

Absence declared on Council business: (none)

Officers present: D. Parr, D. Johnson, I. Leivesley, D Tregaea, J. Tradewell, J. Whittaker and L. Cairns

Also in attendance: 1 member of the public and 1 member of the press

Action

COU29 COUNCIL MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 19th July 2006, having been printed and circulated, were taken as read.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting be confirmed and adopted subject to the inclusion of the following Councillors within the list of attendees:

Councillors E. Cargill, Edge, Howard, Lloyd-Jones, Rowan, Stockton, Wallace and Worrall.

COU30 THE MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor made the following announcements:

- A glass front pipe cabinet had been presented to Private Thomas Alfred Jones VC DCM by the Scholars and Friends of the Ellesmere Street Sunday School, Runcorn, in recognition of his being awarded the Victoria Cross on 23rd November 1916. This had been re-presented to Halton Borough Council on 24th

July 2006 by Mr. and Mrs. Shooter and his family for safekeeping and to be on display in the Mayor's Parlour.

- A photograph of the Silver Jubilee Bridge had been presented to the Mayor, Councillor John Swain, by Mr. Webb at the Summer Garden Party on 28th July 2006. The photograph was taken from Wigg Island looking down at the River and was now in the Members' Room.
- A photograph of the Widnes Vikings had been presented to the Strategic Director – Corporate and Policy, Mr I. Leivesley, and the Leader of the Council, Councillor McDermott, at a sponsored match.
- Member Services had won the APSE award for Member training and development. The staff and all those involved were congratulated.
- Miss Katie Kelleher, a Job Broker (Halton People Into Jobs) within the Environment Directorate, had been runner-up in the "Young Local Government Thinker of the Year UK and Ireland". Katie had produced a presentation based on the gambling regulations and law, and had been involved in an intense schedule on a four day residential. This had provided the opportunity to share best practice with other local government officers and Katie was congratulated on her success and re-presented by the Mayor with the certificate and medal she had received on the day.
- Ms D. Terris, Strategic Director – Children and Young People, had been appointed as Chief Executive of Warrington Borough Council. The Mayor wished her the very best for the future.

COU31 LEADER'S REPORT

The Leader of the Council reported on the following issues:

- It was disappointing that the Widnes Vikings had had a near miss in the Grand Final; however, it was hoped that they would come back strong the following season.
- Daresbury had attracted publicity for Halton as, along with Harwell, it was a centre of research and innovation for the UK.

- The Heath had won several awards including that for Peter Cook who had been nominated Businessman of the Year.
- The Widnes Waterfront was developing and three businesses were now under construction.
- Halebank was being regenerated in association with the 3 MG (Mersey Multi Modal Gateway).
- Kingsway Leisure Centre had been closed by the Chief Executive as soon as there had been a hint of danger in respect of the recent legionella scare. It was hoped that this would be cleared up in the near future and the Centre reopened.
- The Authority was continuing to lobby to achieve Assisted Area Status for Halton. However, despite Council D. Cargill's valiant efforts, it looked as though a decision had been made to exclude the area. In the letter received, it was stated that the problems presented were not as dramatic as elsewhere. In addition, national indicators worked against the Council. On the positive side, this acknowledged some of the progress that had been made, and other European horizontal aid systems that were in place and would be explored.
- The Colleges had now merged.
- The Mersey Gateway project was proceeding and the Leader had been appointed Chair of North West Transport which would assist in the process.
- The restructure of the Primary Care Trust was now complete and the hospital restructure project was ongoing.
- Waste disposal was a current big issue for the Authority. It was noted that Halton would be unable to meet the requirements by itself and there was therefore a need to work with partners. Unfortunately, the previous partnership with Warrington had not been fruitful as the two Authorities together did not have the capacity to deliver what was required. In addition, there had been a diversion of priorities. An opportunity had arisen in Merseyside and this had been capitalised on rather than the Authority being left behind and isolated.

- There had been an Executive Board Away Day where there had been a tentative look at the following year's budget. Similar events would be held for the Policy and Performance Board Chairs and Committee Chairs towards the end of November.
- Local Area Agreements were being developed and of particular interest was the community involvement and neighbourhood management involved. This was part of the Government's Agenda and the aim was to secure the best deal possible locally.
- The budget savings of £250,000 per Directorate promised in March 2006 were being achieved as explained in Executive Board Minute EXB 29 of the meeting held on 7th September 2006.
- Minute no. EXB 31 of the same meeting outlined the development of the Liverpool John Lennon Airport, which would have benefits and opportunities for the Borough. However, there were also environmental concerns.
- The Annual Governance Report had been complimentary, in particular in respect of the Authority's financial statements.

(NB Councillor McDermott declared a personal and prejudicial interest in respect of minute number EXB35 – 5 Boroughs Partnership NHS Trust Model - of the Executive Board meeting held on 21st September 2006 due to being a Board Member of the 5 Boroughs Partnership.)

COU32 MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

The Council considered the Minutes of the Executive Board held on 20th July, 7th September and 21st September 2006.

In response to concerns raised in respect of EXB 35 of the meeting held on 21st September 2006 – 5 Boroughs Partnership NHS Trust Model – with respect to the major implications for Halton Hospital and the Council budget, and the need to ensure partnership working and that services were maintained, the Leader confirmed that this review would be carried out in the same way as that done previously with an independent consultant whose findings would be brought back to the Council.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes be received.

COU33 MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD SUB-COMMITTEE

The Council considered the Minutes of the Executive Board Sub-Committee held on 20th July, 21st August, 7th September and 21st September 2006.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes be received.

COU34 MINUTES OF THE MERSEY GATEWAY EXECUTIVE BOARD

The Council considered the Minutes of the Mersey Gateway Executive Board held on 20th July 2006.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes be received.

COU35 QUESTIONS ASKED UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 8

It was noted that no questions had been submitted in accordance with Standing Order No. 8.

COU36 EXECUTIVE BOARD - 21ST SEPTEMBER 2006 (EXB38 REFERS) - CORPORATE RISK REGISTER

The Executive Board had considered a report reviewing the Corporate Risk Register.

RESOLVED: That the revised Corporate Risk Register be approved.

COU37 EXECUTIVE BOARD - 21ST SEPTEMBER 2006 (EXB42 REFERS) - JOINT MERSEYSIDE WASTE DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT

The Executive Board had considered a report outlining a need for Halton's inclusion in the preparation of a Joint Merseyside Waste Development Plan document in collaboration with the other Merseyside authorities of Liverpool, St. Helens, Wirral, Sefton and Knowsley.

Observations were made regarding differing reasons offered by Warrington Borough Council officers and the portfolio holder with regard to the reason for the break in joint working, as well as the perceived lack of consultation with the relevant Policy and Performance Board (PPB) and Waste Management Working Party.

In response, the Chairman of the Waste Management Working Party confirmed that he had been involved up to this stage and both the PPB and the Working Party had been kept involved and fully informed. In addition, the relevant portfolio holder and the Leader confirmed that the relationship with Warrington Borough Council had been open and the partnership had appeared to finish on good terms. The Leader advised that a deadline had been set by the other Merseyside Authorities to which the Council had to respond and, in the opinion of Members and professional officers, the decision to join the Merseyside Authorities was more likely to deliver what was required within the necessary timescales.

RESOLVED: That subject to the prior adoption of the revised Halton Local Development Scheme 2006/2007:

- (1) Halton's formal inclusion in the preparation of the Joint Merseyside Waste Development Plan Document (to be known as the Halton Borough Council, Liverpool City Council, Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council, Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council, St. Helens Borough Council and Wirral Borough Council Joint Waste Development Plan document) be approved;
- (2) the necessary financial arrangements be put in place to fund Halton's contribution to the Joint Merseyside Waste Development Plan Document for the next three financial years, commencing with the current financial year 2006/07; and
- (3) the Operational Director – Environmental and Regulatory Services (OD – ERS) be given delegated authority to determine all matters as indicated in column 1 of the table below in accordance with column 2 of the same table (other than those matters indicated to be determined by full Council).

1.	Decision Maker 2.
Agreement to join, fund and progress joint Waste DPD	Full Council
SEA Scoping Report	OD – ERS
Interim SEA	OD – ERS
Approval Issues and Options for public consultation	OD – ERS

SEA Report to accompany Preferred Options	OD – ERS
Approval of Preferred Options for public consultation	Full Council
Submission of Waste DPD	Full Council
Final Adoption of Waste DPD	Full Council

COU38 SAFE AND ATTRACTIVE NEIGHBOURHOODS POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD ANNUAL REPORT

The Council considered a report of the Strategic Director – Corporate and Policy outlining the Annual Report of the Safe and Attractive Neighbourhoods Policy and Performance Board 2005-2006, which had been submitted in accordance with the Council's Constitution.

The Chairman confirmed that the document outlined the work that had been done in respect of waste management and commended the Councillors and Officers involved.

RESOLVED: That the 2005-2006 Annual Report submitted from the Safe and Attractive Neighbourhoods Policy and Performance Board be received.

COU39 CHANGES TO BOARD/COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

In accordance with Standing Orders, the Council noted the following changes to Board membership:

- Employment, Learning and Skills Policy and Performance Board (PPB) – Councillor Howard replaced Councillor Nolan;
- Healthy Halton PPB – Councillor Howard replaced Councillor Fraser; and
- Appeals Panel – Councillor Howard replaced Councillor Edge.

COU40 CHANGES TO APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

The Council noted the following changes in appointments to Outside Bodies, which had been made in accordance with the scheme of delegation:

- INEOS Chlor Community Forum – Councillor Nelson replaced Councillor Swain;

- Rocksavage Community Liaison Group – Councillor Nelson replaced Councillor Swain; and
- Groundwork Mersey Valley – Councillor Wallace replaced Councillor Morley.

COU41 MINUTES OF POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARDS AND THE BUSINESS EFFICIENCY BOARD

The Council considered reports on the work of the following Boards in the period since the last meeting of the Council:

Children and Young People
Employment, Learning and Skills
Healthy Halton
Safer Halton
Urban Renewal
Corporate Services
Business Efficiency Board

COU42 COMMITTEE MINUTES

The Council considered reports on the following Committees in the period since the last meeting of the Council:

Development Control
Standards
Regulatory
Appointments
Statutory Joint Scrutiny Committee

Meeting ended at 7.28 p.m.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

At a meeting of the Executive Board on Thursday, 2 November 2006 at the Marketing Suite, Municipal Building

Present: Councillors McDermott (Chairman), D. Cargill, Gerrard, Harris, Massey, McInerney, Polhill, Nelson and Wright

Apologies for Absence: Councillors (none)

Absence declared on Council business: Councillor Wharton

Officers present: D. Parr, D. Johnson, I. Leivesley, D Terris, D Tregoe, L. Butcher, B Dodd, M. Loughna, J. Tradewell, G. Derby, L. Cairns and G. Cook

Also in attendance: 1 Member of the Press and 1 Member of the Public

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

EXB46 MINUTES

Action

The minutes of the meeting held on 21st September were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE PORTFOLIO

EXB47 CHILDREN'S CENTRES PHASE 2 DEVELOPMENTS (KEY DECISION)

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Children and Young People providing an update on the second phase of Children's Centre Developments and proposing sites for the development of three new Children's Centres to be completed by March 2008.

It was noted that Local Authorities must plan capital investments and phase capital programmes so that all children living in the 30% most disadvantaged areas, as measured by Super Output Areas, had access to the core children's centre offer of services by March 2008. In line with Government guidance, the centres would ensure that families with young children would have easy access to these services.

Information was provided in respect of a needs analysis that had been carried out together with an outline of the proposed sites in the Castlefields, Hough Green and Mersey Wards. In addition, Ms G Derby, Divisional Manager – Early Years and Lifelong Learning, attended the meeting to give a presentation outlining progress so far.

The Board considered the following issues:

- the proposed virtual children's centre opportunity which would enable disadvantaged and vulnerable communities to access interactive service provision via cutting edge technology methods;
- the need for local performance indicators to demonstrate the improvements required and being made, which may not be reflected in national indicators;
- services were being developed to deliver at a range of venues based on a needs analysis identifying where people would go, and outreach was based around the delivery of services to people in their homes; and
- groups that found accessing services difficult would be identified and targeted.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None.

Implementation Date

Centres to be completed by March 2008.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the proposed sites for the new Children's Centres in the Castlefields, Hough Green and Mersey Wards, as outlined in the report, be approved; and
- (2) the proposal for inclusion of the virtual children's centre opportunity as part of the Phase 2 developments be endorsed.

CORPORATE SERVICES PORTFOLIO

EXB48 MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL FORECAST

The Board considered a report of the Operational Director – Financial Services setting out the findings of the

Medium Term Financial Forecast. It was noted that the Forecast set out a three-year projection of resources and revenue spending. The implications of the forecast in terms of the need for budget savings in 2007/08 onwards could then be considered and the scope for increased costs to maintain or enhance services assessed.

It was noted that the projections provided initial guidance to the Council on its revenue position into the medium term, although further information had yet to be received and the projections therefore needed to be treated with caution. However, the forecast currently showed that the spending required to maintain existing policies and programmes was expected to increase at a faster rate than the resources available to support it. Given the need to avoid budgets being capped by the Government, levels of additional spending would need to be kept to the absolute minimum and compensating budget savings would need to be identified.

The Board considered areas of uncertainty such as the change in the allocation of the Supporting People Grant and the waste agenda. In addition, Members discussed the impact on the Authority of the introduction of the Dedicated School Grant where, due to the Council supporting its schools and cushioning them from the impact of the new formula, it was now being penalised. It was advised that representations in this respect were ongoing. The Board further noted that national negotiations would determine the final figure in respect of staff salary inflation.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Medium Term Financial Forecast be noted;
- (2) the base budget be prepared on the basis of the underlying assumptions set out in the Forecast; and
- (3) further reports be considered by the Executive Board on the areas for budget savings and cost increases to maintain existing service levels or service enhancements.

Operational
Director -
Financial Services

ENVIRONMENT, LEISURE AND SPORT PORTFOLIO

EXB49 RENEWAL OF REFUSE COLLECTION VEHICLE FLEET

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Environment requesting agreement to procure ten new refuse collection vehicles via direct purchase funded

from the Council's capital budget rather than through the lease arrangements currently used. It was noted that the procurement was to be undertaken through a partnership with an established framework and an amendment to the 2006/07 capital programme was sought.

It was advised that the current fleet had been procured in 1999 through an operating lease arrangement that expired on 12th December 2006. However, as a new Council Waste Management Strategy had been in development over the past year, and in order to provide time for this work to be completed, it had been agreed that the renewal of the lease arrangement be deferred until 31 March 2007. Arrangements needed to be in place by 1 April 2007 in order to avoid high maintenance costs and an unreliable refuse collection service.

The report outlined details of the proposed procurement arrangement which would yield an estimated net revenue saving of £100,000 per year over the annual cost of a seven-year contract hire arrangement based on the procurement of ten vehicles. The ten vehicles represented the core fleet and those in need of the most urgent replacement.

The officers involved in bringing this to fruition were congratulated.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the full Council be recommended to amend the 2006/07 Capital Programme to provide a sum of up to £1.2m through prudential borrowing to fund the purchase of 10 new refuse collection vehicles, and subject to full Council agreeing to amend the Capital programme to make the purchase;
- (2) the Operational Director for Highways and Transportation, in consultation with the Executive Board Member for Environment, Leisure and Sport, be authorised to procure 10 new refuse collection vehicles through direct purchase;
- (3) procurement be undertaken through partnership working with an established framework of an appropriate Procurement Organisation; and
- (4) Procurement Standing Orders 2.1 to 2.6 and 2.8 to 2.14 be waived for the reason that insufficient time is available to undertake a procurement process in

Strategic Director
- Environment

compliance with the statutory procurement procedures.

LEADER'S PORTFOLIO

EXB50 APPLICATION FOR TWINNING GRANT

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Corporate and Policy outlining an application being made to the Twinning Grant Fund. It was noted that the Fund had been set up in April 1996 to assist in enabling all members of the community to access and gain benefit from the Council's international links.

An application had been received from Halton Swimming Team requesting support for 25 members to visit Usti nad Labem between 10th and 13th November 2006. During the visit the members would compete in a swimming competition in the Ing. Vilem Protschke swimming pool: a return visit from the swim team in Usti nad Labem was being planned for August/September 2008.

It was advised that, if Members were to approve the project, the grant would be offered subject to a number of conditions which were outlined within the report.

RESOLVED: That £2000 be awarded to the Halton Swimming Club.

Strategic Director
- Corporate and
Policy

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE PORTFOLIO

EXB51 CONSULTATION ON ROYAL LIVERPOOL CHILDREN'S NHS TRUST APPLICATION FOR FOUNDATION STATUS (KEY DECISION)

The Board considered a joint report of the Strategic Directors of Health and Community, and Children and Young People, regarding key issues and concerns relating to the application for Foundation Status by the Royal Liverpool Children's NHS Trust.

It was reported that Foundation Trusts were to be at the cutting edge of a wider programme of public sector reform with the intention of offering more diversity and patient choice, enabling leadership, innovation and initiative to flourish as part of the local health economy and replacing central control from Whitehall with accountability to the local community. National debate was ongoing in this respect and implications and key questions were outlined within the report for the Board's consideration.

It was noted that the Trust had applied for Foundation Status under the Health and Social Care Act 2003 and, as the consultation period had ended on Monday, 23rd October 2006, a letter had been sent from the Health and Social Care, and Children and Young People, Portfolio Holders in response.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) Halton Borough Council seeks clarity and reassurance as to what Foundation Status will actually mean for the residents and families of Halton in receipt of patient care;
- (2) reassurance be sought that high cost and low caseload interventions will not be under threat in the context of a market driven by choice and competition;
- (3) clarification should be sought as to whether the funding arrangements, assessment of need, nature of the workforce and the range of provision will change as a result of Foundation status;
- (4) the Trust should make clear its policy on generating income;
- (5) clarification should be sought with respect to the composition of the council of governors and the process for selecting representatives; and
- (6) the impact of this policy (i.e. to foster innovation and change in acute hospitals) on the ability of Primary Care Trusts to invest in preventive, primary, community and intermediate care should be carefully monitored by the Healthy Halton Policy and Performance Board.

Strategic Director
- Health and
Community

EXB52 SCRUTINY AND COMMISSIONING ISSUES ACROSS THE HALTON/ST HELENS FOOTPRINT

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Health and Community regarding the implications of the reconfigured Halton and St Helens Primary Care Trust (PCT) with respect to Halton Borough Council.

It was noted that the policy context arising from the White Paper was dominated by patient choice, Practice Based Commissioning, Payment by Results and the overriding requirement to achieve financial balance. The key

issues that emerged from the policy context were outlined for consideration. It was noted that, within this context, PCTs were expected to act as a system intermediary. As such, their goal was to help customers achieve their objectives rather than those of the organisation itself. The Council would therefore need to consider its future joint commissioning arrangements with the PCT and build upon the work already established within the Children's Services Directorate.

In addition, information was provided in respect of the reconfiguration of the footprint for PCTs and the structure for the delivery of public health, as well as the arrangements for the scrutiny of health. It was noted that the reconfiguration of PCTs created an opportunity to review current arrangements, and opportunities for the development of health scrutiny were outlined.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be noted;
- (2) a further report be received in 2007 on proposals to establish a Joint Public Health Unit; and
- (3) the existing Scrutiny arrangements continue (but with the emphasis refined to take into account the points raised in 3.6.2 and 3.6.4 of the report).

Strategic Director
- Health and
Community

EXB53 TRANSPORT ARRANGEMENTS POST
RECONFIGURATION OF NORTH CHESHIRE HOSPITALS
TRUST

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Health and Community regarding transport between Halton and Warrington Hospitals, which had been prepared following a recommendation from the Healthy Halton Policy and Performance Board (minute number HEA16 refers).

It was noted that recent developments, with a free bus service commencing from mid-November involving 11 journeys a day, had alleviated some of the issues highlighted by the Policy and Performance Board. However, a number of other issues relating to accessibility remained.

RESOLVED: That the Council, in partnership with the Primary Care Trust and North Cheshire Hospital Trust, review the transport arrangements to and from Halton and Warrington hospitals.

Strategic Director
- Health and
Community

MINUTES ISSUED: 13th November 2006

CALL IN: 20th November 2006

Any matter decided by the Executive Board may be called in no later than 20th November 2006.

Meeting ended at 3.07 p.m.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

At a meeting of the Executive Board on Thursday, 16 November 2006 at the Marketing Suite, Municipal Building

Present: Councillors McDermott (Chairman), D. Cargill, Gerrard, Harris, Massey, McInerney, Polhill, Nelson, Wright and Wharton

Apologies for Absence: Councillors (none)

Absence declared on Council business: Councillor (none)

Officers present: L. Cairns, G. Cook, D. Parr, D. Johnson, I. Leivesley, K. O'Dwyer, J. Tradewell and D Tregoe

Also in attendance: Councillors M Ratcliffe and Redhead, 1 Member of the Public and 1 Member of the Press

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

	<i>Action</i>
EXB54 MINUTES	
<p>The Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd November 2006 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE PORTFOLIO</p>	
EXB55 IMPLEMENTATION OF CHILDREN IN NEED (CIN) STRATEGY, POLICY AND PROCEDURES	
<p>The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Children and Young People seeking agreement to the implementation of the multi-agency Children in Need (CIN) Strategy, Policy and Procedures across the Borough. It was noted that the implementation of the Strategy, policy and procedures would be overseen by the development of a Children in Need (CIN) Mini-Trust and Halton's Local Safeguarding Children's Board.</p>	
<p>The aim of the Strategy was that, through the timely provision of co-ordinated multi-agency support services to children and families, the need of children and families would be met at an early stage, reducing the risk to children</p>	

and the need for them to be removed from home. This would allow services to refocus towards an increased range of high quality support services provided to families at their point of need, which promoted the welfare of children and the achievement of high level outcomes for children.

The Board noted that the associated policies and procedures were based on Halton Children's Planning Model, which focused on the early identification of need and provision of services. The model was outlined within the report for Members' information.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Children in Need Strategy, Policy and Procedures be implemented by all agencies, including those that relate to the CIN Trust;
- (2) the Children in Need Strategy, Policy and Procedures form the basis of the service delivery model for the Children in Need Mini-Trust;
- (3) the Children in Need Mini-Trust Action Plan focus on commissioning, aligned budgets, co-location of staff and multi-agency assessments, and be at the forefront of the development of Children and Young People Area Networks;
- (4) the Children in Need Strategy, Policy and Procedures be overseen by the local Safeguarding Children's Board;
- (5) the Children in Need Strategy, Policy and Procedures establish a continuum of Children in Need, thinking preventative, promotional and safeguarding Children in Need services together; and
- (6) the Children in Need Strategy, Policy and Procedures be formally launched to all agencies.

Strategic Director
- Children and
Young People

EXB56 ANNUAL PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT (CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S DIRECTORATE)

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Children and Young People outlining the outcome of the Children and Young People Directorate's Annual Performance Assessment (APA) 2005/06 undertaken by Ofsted, the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI), Government Office North West (GONW) and the Department for Education and Skills (DfES).

It was noted that the APA of services for children focused mainly on the operational responsibilities of the Children and Young People's Directorate and how it achieved the five outcomes for children set out in Every Child Matters. Partnership working with other Council Directorates, and with all agencies working with children in Halton, was taken into account with a grade determined for each of the five outcomes. In addition, the APA made three judgements in relation to:

- the Council's Children's Social Care Services;
- the Council's Services for Children and the specific contributions they made to improving outcomes for children and young people; and
- the Council's management of its services for children and young people and its capacity to further improve those services.

The Board was advised that 2006 was the final year for a separate children's Social Care Judgement and the Children's Social Care Services had been assessed as outstanding. This would result in the award of an additional star taking Halton's Social Care Services to a top performing Three Star Status in this year's star ratings announcement.

The Authority's Children's Services had been assessed overall as good, with this judgement forming a two star rating for Children's Services overall. This would feed into Halton's CPA rating.

The judgement made in respect of the Council's management of its services for Children and Young People, including its capacity to improve them further, was good, which was a maintained position from 2004/05. The areas identified for improvement, which would be a focus for inspectors in the forthcoming Joint Area Review, were outlined for the Board's consideration.

Ms. K. Tempest, and Ms. D. Westhead, of CSCI attended the meeting to outline the Commission's views on the achievement of the Authority. It was noted that the progress made reflected the considerable commitment of the Councillors and Officers involved, all of whom were commended by Ms Tempest, the Leader and by the Strategic Director – Children and Young People via the Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People. Ms Tempest stated that there was obvious engagement with young people and on-going integration between Education and Social Services. In particular, Ms. Tempest passed on

her best wishes to the Strategic Director – Children and Young People.

Ms. K. O'Dwyer, Operational Director – Children and Young People's Services, attended the meeting to give a presentation regarding APA, outlining the areas for judgements, grades awarded and key quotes made at the conclusion of the process.

RESOLVED: That the report be received and the contents noted.

COMMUNITY PORTFOLIO

(NB Councillors Nelson and M. Ratcliffe declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the following item of business, due to being Board Members of Halton Housing Trust, and left the room for the duration of its consideration.)

EXB57 HALTON HOUSING TRUST UPDATE

The Board considered a Progress Assessment and Position Statement report from Halton Housing Trust, which had been produced in accordance with the Monitoring Framework agreed prior to the transfer of the Council's housing stock. The report identified progress made in the establishment of the Trust and the delivery of its key service areas.

It was noted that there was a need to finalise how reports were to be presented to the Board: the Chief Executive confirmed that Mr. Atkin had stated that he was keen to maintain dialogue with the Council.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be noted;
- (2) the Leader, relevant Portfolio Holder and the Deputy Leader meet with the Chief Executive of Halton Housing Trust to review the contents of the report; and
- (3) the Portfolio Holder and Strategic Director - Health and Community meet with Halton Housing Trust monthly to monitor the progress of the activities of Halton Housing Trust.

Strategic Director
- Health and
Community

CORPORATE PORTFOLIO

(NB Councillor M. Ratcliffe declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the following item of business due to being a magistrate.)

EXB58 PROPOSED CHANGES TO MAGISTRATES' COURT ARRANGEMENTS IN HALTON

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Corporate and Policy regarding the proposed changes to the Court arrangements in Halton. The Council had been formally told of these changes in a letter received from the Area Manager, Her Majesty's Courts Service, on 31st October 2006.

The principal changes were outlined within the report for the Board's information. Although the Council had effectively been told that these new arrangements were being put in place, the Chief Executive had written to make representations about the detrimental effect they would have on the administration of justice within Halton, essentially relating to accessibility, cost, attracting new magistrates and the long-term future of the Courts in Halton.

The Chief Executive reported that, as a representative of the Cheshire Local Authority Chief Executives on the Criminal Justice Board, he had raised these concerns at a recent meeting and had been supported by representatives of Cheshire Magistrates, in particular with regard to the decision-making process and the lack of consultation. As a result of this meeting, Judge Elgin Edwards, the Court Service, the Crown Prosecution Service and the Police had agreed to come to a meeting to explain the rationale for the decision made and provide an opportunity for questions. This meeting was scheduled for 6th December 2006.

Invitations had been sent to the Chairs of each of the Benches of Cheshire Magistrates, the Cheshire Chief Executives and Cheshire Authority Leaders for this meeting, which was to be held at Halton Stadium. However, in the interim, it had been assured that

- (1) the changes would not result in the closure of courts in Halton; and
- (2) the arrangements would be kept under review so that if the difficulties that had led to the decision were not resolved an alternative would be sought.

Members of the Board expressed their discontent at the lack of consultation and the impact that this would have

on the residents of Halton.

In addition, it was advised that the Authority had been notified that the Courts were to change the way private prosecutions were administered. This would mean that Court time availability for the Council would be reduced from a weekly to a fortnightly slot.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Council expresses its concern and disappointment that Her Majesty's Courts Service (HMCS) has asked for the Council's views after its decision appears to have been made and seeks further clarification in relation to the points raised within the report;
- (2) the action of the Chief Executive in expressing the Council's concerns be endorsed;
- (3) HMCS be asked to reconsider its decision in the light of the concerns of the Council and other stakeholders;
- (4) HMCS be asked to work with the local bench and other stakeholders to thoroughly examine other options to improving the performance of the Court Service in Halton, including looking at the alternate use of Courts in Halton and Warrington; and
- (5) HMCS be requested to consider Halton as the location for the hearing of road traffic cases given the road and public transport infrastructure in and around the Borough.

Strategic Director
- Corporate and
Policy

EXB59 DEFAULT RETIREMENT AGE

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Corporate and Policy regarding implications of the Employment Equality (Age) Regulations in respect of a default retirement age.

It was noted that dismissal on the grounds of a person's age was likely to be unfair. However, the Regulations contained an exception in the case of persons who were at, or over, the age of 65 and where the reason for dismissal was retirement. As a result, employers had the option of continuing to have a retirement age of 65 or over but, if they did, they must have procedures in place to consider and determine requests to work beyond retirement

age. The alternative was not to have a default retirement age and simply allow employees to continue to work until they wished to retire.

A number of options were outlined for the Board's information. It was advised that these had been discussed with the Trade Unions, and the view of both senior management and the Trade Unions was that the best option would be for the Council not to have a default retirement age. This decision should not result in any significant financial implications for the Council and would not affect employees' pensions.

RESOLVED: That a no default retirement age policy be adopted with immediate effect.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE PORTFOLIO

EXB60 CARERS STRATEGY 2006 -2008

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Health and Community together with the draft Carers Strategy 2006/2008.

It was noted that all local authorities were required to provide a Carers Strategy, which identified the aims for delivering services to Carers. The Council would receive an annual ring-fenced grant 2006/07 and 2007/08 to support the Carers Services. In 2006/07 the grant was £490,000 and this was set to increase to £503,000 for 2007/08. The annual increase in carers grant reflected a growing importance placed by the Department of Health in supporting carers and it was expected that 15% of the overall scoring in assessing the performance of Adult Social Care within the Council would be against services for carers.

A stronger corporate approach to carers was required to meet national requirements as well as providing a Council-wide response to the needs of 13,528 carers in Halton. The Carers Strategy 2006/08 reflected the outcome of consultations undertaken and sought to build on, and develop, those aspects of services most valued by carers. An action plan had been drawn up to implement the Carers Strategy and this would be subject to a review in March 2007.

The Board considered hard-to-reach groups and the methods for identifying and helping them. It was noted that, for many, family GPs would be a mechanism to identify carers and sign post them to the services available.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Carers Strategy be noted; and
- (2) the Strategy be approved.

MINUTES ISSUED: 23rd November 2006

CALL IN: 30th November 2006

Any matter decided by the Executive Board may be called in no later than 30th November 2006.

Meeting ended at 3.10 p.m.

EXECUTIVE BOARD SUB COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the Executive Board Sub Committee on Thursday, 12 October 2006 at Conference Room 1, Municipal Building

Present: Councillors Wharton (Chairman), Harris and Nelson

Apologies for Absence: Councillor (none)

Absence declared on Council business: Councillor (none)

Officers present: G. Ferguson, A. McNamara, D. Perchard, J. Potter, J. Tradewell and A. Williamson

Also in attendance: (none)

**ITEMS DEALT WITH
UNDER POWERS AND DUTIES
EXERCISABLE BY THE SUB-COMMITTEE**

COMMUNITY PORTFOLIO*Action*

ES39 APPROVED MOTOR TRADER SCHEME

The Sub-Committee considered a report which sought approval for the operation of the Warrington Borough Council Trading Standards Approved Motor Trader Scheme in Halton, following consideration by the Safer Halton Policy and Performance Board.

At present, Warrington Trading Standards Service operated an approved Motor Trader Scheme for car retailers and repairers in Warrington. A car dealer from Runcorn had approached the Consumer Protection Service requesting that a similar scheme be established in Halton. The dealer concerned received a significant proportion of his business from Warrington residents and felt that he was at a competitive disadvantage as he cannot claim that he is Trading Standards Approved.

An agreement in principle with Warrington Trading Standards had been reached that their scheme could be extended to allow Halton businesses to join. Halton would support the scheme to the extent of:

- (i) the production and distribution of flyers to potential members (cost of postage and printing of approximately 100 flyers);
- (ii) promotion of the scheme during officers' routine visits (negligible additional time required); and
- (iii) liaising with Warrington prior to their annual inspection of members (probably 1 hour of officer time per member).

RESOLVED: That the operation of the Warrington Borough Council Trading Standards Approved Motor Trading Scheme in Halton be agreed.

Strategic Director
- Environment

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE PORTFOLIO

ES40 SOCIAL SERVICES OUT OF HOURS EMERGENCY DUTY TEAM

At present the Social Services Out of Hours Service Emergency Duty Team (EDT) was provided through firstly a call reception and assessment service, which managed all the out of hours emergency calls for Halton's Social Services. This was delivered through a contract with Cheshire County Council at a cost of £115,000. Secondly, a front line contact service, to complete urgent assessments of need and risk consisting of daytime staff from Children's and Adults Services, who volunteer for an out of hours rota and receive enhanced payments. An additional £88,000 was allocated to the Budget for this purpose, making a total overall budget of £203,000.

The Sub-Committee was advised that there were significant problems with these arrangements, and as a result the service was not fit for purpose.

These problems stemmed from two key issues:

- the contract with Cheshire was significantly above the market value and the per capita expenditure on the service was much more than neighbouring authorities; and
- there were not enough volunteers to cover either of the rotas, and there were significant gaps on these rotas. For Adult Services, over 50% of the rota could not be filled, whilst for Children's Services this was approximately 35%.

The Contract with Cheshire required that they should

cover for Halton if gaps arise, but this had been difficult to enforce.

Both Halton and St. Helens Borough Councils had separately reviewed their EDT Services and had concluded that a different service arrangement should be put in place. Officers of both authorities had met and had developed proposals, details of which were outlined in the report. These proposals had been supported in principle by the Senior Management Teams of both authorities.

It was proposed that Halton would pay St. Helens Borough Council £170,500 annually to manage the service for three years making a total of £510,000. The Sub-Committee was requested to consider waiving Contract Standing Order 3.1 – Relating to Contracts between £50,000 and £1m, on the grounds that there was only a very limited potential supply of the providers of EDT Services in the region. In addition, there would be a clear financial and operational benefit to the Council - a potential reduction in the overall budget of over £30,000 annually, allied to the delivery of a consistent service.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the proposals to develop a formal partnership between St. Helens and Halton Borough Councils for the delivery of the emergency out of hours social workers service as identified in the report be approved in principle; and
- (2) the waiving of the Contracts Standing Order 3.1, be approved.

Strategic Director
- Health and
Community

Strategic Director
- Health and
Community

ES41 PROVISION OF SHORT-TERM RESIDENTIAL RESPITE CARE FOR ADULTS WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES

The Sub-Committee was advised that the need for short term residential respite care for adults with disabilities was met through an in-house resource at Moorfield Road, Widnes. This resource required modernisation in line with Valuing People. Halton PCT also had a residential resource that was accessed through the partnership working arrangements.

Currently the Bredon resource was closed whilst capital work was undertaken to enable reconfigured services to be delivered at this facility. Work would be completed by the end of 2006, and would include four fully accessible respite beds to meet the needs of those with severe physical

disabilities as well as challenging behaviour.

The report proposed that the service based at Moorfield be closed and the new service based at Bredon be tendered out. In view of the significant budget pressures, the high cost of in-house provision and the Council's duty to ensure value for money and service delivery, it was proposed to transfer provision of care and support at Bredon to the independent sector through a process of competitive tendering. The proposed contract period was three years and the estimated value over this term, based on the independent sector English Average unit cost, uplifted to 2006/07 prices, was £1.03m. This represented a potential saving of £340,000 over the term of the contract.

It was noted that current staff at Moorfield would be eligible for transfer to the new providers of the respite services but currently there were insufficient vacancies within the supported housing network service to offer redeployment and it was likely that this would be an attractive alternative.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the proposal to tender for a 4 bed short stay unit based at Bredon be accepted;
- (2) the proposal to close the 4 bedded unit at Moorfield be accepted; and
- (3) further work would be undertaken in partnership with the Primary Care Trust to seek further investment in more innovative respite services rather than traditional bed based services.

Strategic Director
- Health and
Community
Strategic Director
- Health and
Community
Strategic Director
- Health and
Community

ES42 LONG TERM PROCUREMENT OF SUPPORTING PEOPLE SERVICES

On 19th September 2002, the Executive Board gave approval for the award of interim contracts to existing supported housing providers in order to afford protection to vulnerable people in receipt of services. The report proposed that the interim contract would be replaced by full Supporting People (SP) contracts, subject to the findings of a rigorous review to be conducted on each service which would evaluate value for money based on cost, strategic relevance and quality. In Halton there were 107 services for vulnerable members of the community at an approximate cost of £8m per annum.

The Supporting People Service Reviews in Halton had been completed and in general services were found to be offering a fair to good service. The report highlighted the number of service improvements instigated by the Supporting People Team during the review process.

The Service Reviews also highlighted potential to reconfigure existing services in order to meet gaps in local needs and to improve value for money by reducing the cost of services. Initial discussions regarding the findings of the Supporting People Service Reviews had taken place with approximately one third of providers. These discussions had indicated a potential gross annual saving of approximately £700,000.

The report sought approval to extend interim contracts for a period of up to 12 months and to enter into full contracts, following a period of consultation with providers and subject to the following provisos:

- services were configured to meet an agreed local need;
- services were of good quality, reaching a minimum of level C against Supporting People Quality Assessment Framework and meeting all Quality and Performance Standards to the entire satisfaction of the Supporting People Commissioning Body;
- services were reviewed as offering Value for Money in terms of the quality and cost of the service; and
- expenditure could be met within existing budgets.

It was proposed that Standing Orders would be waived due to compliance with Standing Orders not being possible as:

- (i) The SP Interim Contract set out an intention to enter into long term contracts subject to the satisfactory outcome at service review;
- (ii) It would result in a clear financial detriment to the Council in that, a mass procurement exercise would be prohibitive in terms of cost and time;
- (iii) it was not practicable as a mass procurement exercise could destabilise the provider market and place vulnerable people at risk of loss of service;

- (iv) an extension of the interim contract would allow officers additional time to undertake further value for money assessments, which would be used to inform negotiations with providers on reduced levels of funding; and
- (v) an extension of the interim contract would afford the authority the flexibility not to renew contracts, should this prove necessary, to contain expenditure within budget.

RESOLVED: That

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) in the exceptional circumstances detailed above, for the purpose of Standing Order 1.6, that Standing Orders 2.2 – 2.6, 2.8 – 2.13, 3.3 -3.6, be waived on this occasion because compliance would result in a clear financial detriment to the Council and would result in a market imbalance, placing vulnerable service users at risk of a loss of service; | Strategic Director
- Health and
Community |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (2) the Council extends interim Supporting People Contracts for a period of up to 12 months and enters into negotiations with existing service providers to ensure the continued provision of services to vulnerable service users, subject to the providers being able to demonstrate, to the entire satisfaction of the Supporting People Commissioning Body, that services are of good quality, are strategically relevant and offer value for money; | Strategic Director
- Health and
Community |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (3) Contract Standing Orders 2.2 – 2.6, 2.8 – 2.13, 3.3 – 3.6 are suspended to implement a retraction plan for the re-configuration of 24-hour Supported Living Services in order to minimise the risk of loss of service of some of the most vulnerable members of our community; | Strategic Director
- Health and
Community |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (4) delegated powers be approved to enable the Strategic Director, Health and Community, in conjunction with a Portfolio Holder for Community, to award contracts to existing providers subject to the conditions set out above on the varied terms set out under Sections 3.10 – 3.13 of the report; | Strategic Director
- Health and
Community |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (5) subsequent to the expiry of full Supporting People Contracts, granted under a waiver due to the exceptional circumstances set out in the report, Supporting People Services will be procured through | Strategic Director
- Health and
Community |

a competitive tendering process; and

- (6) the Strategic Director, Health and Community, in conjunction with the portfolio holder for Community, be authorised to take such action as may be necessary to implement the above recommendations

Strategic Director
- Health and
Community

ES43 DEVELOPMENT OF SHORT TERM PILOTS FOR SUPPORTING PEOPLE AND WELFARE SERVICES

The Sub-Committee was advised that in 2003, Halton received a £8.5m ring-fenced grant for the provision of Supporting People (SP) Services. The grant had since been reduced each financial year. The Department of Communities and Local Government had confirmed the Council's levels grant up to 2007/08 and had confirmed that as an Excellent Authority, the Council retained the right to roll-forward any underspend.

However, the level of funding committed to the SP Programme on a national level had been the subject of considerable review since the programme was introduced in 2003. In October 2006 the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) was expected to publish its plans for the long term funding arrangements for the programme. In addition to the risk to Halton of loss of funding, all Excellent Authorities faced the risk of loss of flexibility to roll-forward any underspend. DCLG had indicated an intention to require the return of underspend from 2008 onwards.

The on-going reduction in funding, coupled with concerns over the government's intention to introduce an SP distribution formula within the first two years of the programme, had lead to an effective freeze on the commissioning of any SP services. This restriction on the commissioning of new services and delays in the completion of on-going developments had lead to a year on year underspend on Halton's SP Programme Grant and subsequent concerns that Halton was failing to meet gaps in service identified in the SP Five-year Strategy and in meeting the Government's new preventative agenda for adults social care.

It was proposed that in order to maximise use of the grant and to ensure best use of resources for vulnerable members of the community, an expansion of services on a temporary basis, within the confirmed grant allocation up to the end of March 2008 be agreed.

Halton's SP underspend in 2005/06 was

approximately £1.4m. This was rolled-forward into the 2006/07 budget which was also currently projected to underspend by £1.4m. Bids had been invited for short-term funding of services to support vulnerable members of the community. Under the flexibility afforded to the Authority after achieving Excellent Status, bids were also invited for the provision of welfare services, which were only eligible for funding within the SP Grant conditions for Excellent Authorities. All services were to be viewed as pilots, attracting funding up to the end of March 2008. An outline of the services approved by Supporting People Boards and the indicative costs were set out in the report.

RESOLVED: That

- | | |
|---|---|
| (1) in the exceptional circumstances detailed below, for the purpose of Standing Order 1.6, Standing Orders 3.3 – 3.6 be waived on this occasion. Compliance is not practicable for reasons of urgency, in that undertaking tender exercises would reduce the time available to spend the time limited funding on vulnerable members of our community and compliance would result in the Council having to forego a clear financial benefit, in that the Council could be required to return any under spent Supporting People Programme Grant from April 2008 onwards; | Strategic Director
- Health and
Community |
| (2) delegated powers be approved to enable the Strategic Director, Health and Community, in conjunction with the Portfolio Holder for Community, to award short-term contracts to the parties listed in the report, at a cost not exceeding that listed and subject to the conditions set out in the report; and | Strategic Director
- Health and
Community |
| (3) the Strategic Director, Health and Community, in conjunction with the Portfolio Holder for Community, be authorised to take such action as may be necessary to implement the recommendations as set out in the report; subject to further information on how the proposals regarding the appointment of the proposed three additional temporary Support Time and Recovery Workers could be developed without long term implications for the Council. | Strategic Director
- Health and
Community |

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE PORTFOLIO

ES44 TO SEEK A WAIVER OF CONTRACT STANDING ORDERS TO PERMIT THE SETTING UP OF A SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT WITH KEY STAGE 4 PUPIL REFERRAL UNIT PROVIDERS

There was a statutory duty on Local Authorities to provide education for pupils who were permanently excluded from school. This was carried out by most authorities through the provision of Pupil Referral Units.

At the end of the last academic year tenders were invited for provision in the following areas:

- Work-based Learning;
- Support and Emotional Literacy;
- Sport, Recreation and Leisure;
- Academic Sub GCSE; and
- Academic GCSE

Specifications for these tenders were widely distributed to organisations in the region who provided services in these areas, and expressions of interest were requested. However, this year only single tenders were received in each area of provision. This reflected the limited number of organisations who were willing and equipped to work with some of the most demanding and challenging young people within the Borough. All the tenders received were from existing providers who were part of the recent successful Ofsted Inspection and who had met the Quality Assurance Processes administered by the Head of Key Stage 4 PRU.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Strategic Director Children and Young People be given delegated authority to enter into Service Level Agreements with the following providers:

Kids First;
The Alternative Project;
Progress Sport;
Rathbones; and
Riverside College; and

- (2) a further report be brought to the Sub Committee outlining what each company supplies, where they are based, approximate cost of each and how many young people are involved in each area of provision;

- (3) the waiving of Standing Orders 3.1 – 3.7 be approved

Strategic Director
- Children and
Young People

Strategic Director
- Children and
Young People

Strategic Director

due to the specialist nature of the provision and limited market.

- Children and Young People

CORPORATE SERVICES PORTFOLIO

ES45 SALE OF LAND AT HALE ROAD, WIDNES

The Sub-Committee considered a report which sought approval for the sale of Council land forming part of the site of the former Ball O'Ditton Royal British Legion Branch premises, Hale Road, Widnes.

The whole site (including the Council's land) had been advertised for sale on the open market. 14 bids had been received ranging from £175,000 to £525,000. The offer of £525,000 from Grundy and Co. Excavations Limited was unconditional and it was their intention to hold the site for a period of time prior to making a formal planning application for residential development purposes. Acceptance of the bid would give the Council a projected capital receipt of £175,000.

RESOLVED: That approval be given for the sale of the site of the former Ball O'Ditton Royal British Legion Branch premises, Hale Road, Widnes to Grundy and Co. Excavations Limited.

Strategic Director
- Corporate and Policy

MINUTES ISSUED: 26th October 2006

CALL IN: 2nd November 2006

Any matter decided by the Executive Board Sub-Committee may be called in no later than 2nd November 2006.

Meeting ended at 11.15 a.m.

EXECUTIVE BOARD SUB COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the Executive Board Sub Committee on Thursday, 2 November 2006 at Marketing Suite, Municipal Building

Present: Councillors Harris (Chairman) and Nelson

Apologies for Absence: Councillor (none)

Absence declared on Council business: Councillor Wharton

Officers present: G. Ferguson, R. Dart, B Dodd, P. Esseen, P. McWade and E. Scott

Also in attendance: (none)

**ITEM DEALT WITH
UNDER POWERS AND DUTIES
EXERCISABLE BY THE SUB-COMMITTEE**

ES46 MINUTES

**NEIGHBOURHOOD MANAGEMENT AND
DEVELOPMENT PORTFOLIO**

ES47 VOLUNTARY SECTOR CONTRACTS

At its meeting on 13th March 2006 the Sub-Committee received a report outlining the issues surrounding a number of voluntary sector contracts within Health and Partnerships. The report highlighted a timetable of actions, which included reviewing, monitoring, tendering and re-tendering for these services. This work had now taken place and had produced three clear options details of which were outlined in the report. It was noted that thirteen of the fifteen contracts would now be offering more in the way of service provision and monitoring information for the same level of expenditure. The remaining two projects would require re-tendering.

It was also reported that work had taken place on improving the monitoring and data collection for a selection of low level services. This had helped to provide detailed information relating to individual services and longer term would help the Council identify the impact, both financially

Action

and through service provision of preventative voluntary services.

RESOLVED: That

(1) Standing Orders 4.1 and 4.3 be waived and contracts awarded as listed in Appendix 1 whose value is less than £50,000 and that contracts and specifications are improved and linked to a standard process;

Strategic Director
Health and
Community

(2) Standing Orders 3.1 - 3.7 be waived and contracts awarded as listed in Appendix 2 whose value is in excess of £50,000 but not exceeding £1,000,000 and that contracts and specifications are improved and linked to a standard process;

(3) re-tendering takes place on each of the contracts listed in Appendix 3; and

(4) a template Service Specification be developed to encourage standardisation of information received from organisations.

CORPORATE SERVICES PORTFOLIO

ES48 2006/07 HALF YEAR SPENDING

The Sub-Committee considered a report which summarised the overall half year spending position against the Council's Revenue Budget and Capital Programme across all departments up to 30th September 2006.

In overall terms, revenue expenditure at the half year position was within the budget profile. However, as the profile was only a guide to eventual spending it was important that budget managers continue to closely monitor and control spending to ensure that overall spending remains in line with budget by year end. Within the overall position there were some significant variances and details of these were outlined in the report.

With regard to capital it was reported that spending represented only 24% of the total programme. Although historically capital expenditure was significantly higher in the second half of the financial year, it was important that project managers kept projects and spending on schedule and in particular to ensure that all external funding was maximised.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

ES49 TREASURY MANAGEMENT 2006/07 SECOND QUARTER
JULY TO SEPTEMBER

The Sub-Committee considered a report which reviewed activities and Treasury management for second quarter of 2006/07.

It was noted that all policy guidelines including the Prudential indicators had been complied with.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

ES50 PROCUREMENT: STATIONERY AND PAPER
CONTRACTS

The Sub-Committee was advised that each year the Council's requirements for stationery and paper amounted to an estimated £120,000 and £50,000 respectively. The actual take-up depended on a wide spectrum of factors many of which could not be reliably predicted. For these reasons the Council had over the years entered into a framework (or call off) contract with a supplier under which the Council could order a range of supplies at prices fixed throughout the contract. Potentially there could be separate suppliers for paper and for stationery. The contracts had usually been for a period of between one and two years. The contract was not an exclusive agreement so the Council could order elsewhere if it chooses and there was no commitment that the Council would place any minimum order or indeed any order at all under the contract. Suppliers tendering for these contracts every one to two years tendered on the basis of previous years' volumes of purchases.

The Sub-Committee noted that tenders had been invited in the normal way for stationery for the period 1st September 2006 to 31st August 2008. As a result 5 tenders had been received and had been appraised against the declared criteria of a blend of price and quality. Office Depot had been identified as the preferred supplier.

Following the tender process it had become clear that if the Council were to extend the contract to cover a much wider spectrum of stationery items further savings in the sum of £48,000 may be achieved if volumes of purchasing, in particular items and supplies over the next two years reached fixed levels. This had been brought to the Council's attention through contact with OGC, the Government Purchasing Agency.

Although the Council had not tested the market for this wider range of items and supplies through a tendering process; it was understood that OGC had carried out price comparisons with two of the Council's three shortlisted suppliers: Office Depot and Banner. Both provided framework prices to OGC and of the two Office Depot was the most competitive. The third supplier could not be involved in this process as they were not part of the OGC framework.

The Sub-Committee considered the following three options:

- accept the Office Depot stationery tender for the range of items for which the market had been tested;
- discard the tenders received and accept the OGC arrangement subject to waiver of Standing Orders on the grounds of loss of clear commercial or financial detriment; and
- discard the tenders received, go out to tender again on a much wider basis joining a much wider range of stationery items with all the Council's non-schools paper requirements.

The Sub-Committee was advised that options 1 and 2 both offered similar levels of savings on the basket of 250 items used traditionally to assess tenders of this nature. Option 2, however, offered further potential savings due to its much broader coverage of items. For this reason it was recommended that Option 2 be preferred over Option 1 in this instance and that the relevant Procurement Standing Orders be suspended to allow this.

Arising from the discussion, it was suggested that a monitoring report be submitted after a period of six months.

RESOLVED: That

(1) the Sub-Committee agrees to proceed as outlined in Option 2 and that Procurement Standing Orders 1.12, 3.1 – 3.7 are waived in accordance with Standing Order 1.6 in light of the potential savings that Option 2 offers; and

(2) a monitoring report be submitted following a period of six months.

Strategic Director
Corporate and
Policy

ES51 GRANT AWARDS FROM WREN - THIRD PARTY FUNDING

The Sub-Committee was advised that Officers from WREN had approached the Council in April and invited bids this year in excess of their usual maximum grant of £40,000 per scheme as they did not wish to carry forward a large unallocated surplus of potential funding into the next financial year.

Six bids were submitted to support and extend existing environmental improvement projects as any grant funding would need to be spent in 2006/2007 financial year. Five were successful, totalling £310,764. In order to access grant for each project an 11% contribution from a third party was required to offset attributable costs for WREN. Local authorities were allowed to provide the third party funding for their own projects. Therefore £34,184.04 of third party funding was required to secure the grant funding. The capital programme currently did not have an allocation for this purpose. It was therefore proposed that the current capital programme be varied for this purpose.

The projects in receipt of grant funding were listed below:

(i)	Climbing boulder at Victoria Park	£20,000;
(ii)	Russell Road kickabout and fencing	£62,500
(iii)	Wigg Island Tower Hide	£80,000
(iv)	Six Acre Lane Playground, Moore	£75,590
(v)	Halebank Recreation Ground and Playground	£72,674

RESOLVED: That Council be recommended that the capital programme be varied by the inclusion of an allocation for Third Party Funding – Landfill Tax Credit Funding in the sum of £34,200 for 2006-2007.

MINUTES ISSUED: 10th November 2006

CALL IN: 16th November 2006

Any matter decided by the Executive Board Sub-Committee may be called in no later than 16th November 2006.

Strategic Director
Environment

Meeting ended at 10.35 a.m.

This page is intentionally left blank

EXECUTIVE BOARD SUB COMMITTEE

*At a meeting of the Executive Board Sub Committee on Thursday, 16 November 2006
at Marketing Suite, Municipal Building*

Present: Councillors Wharton (Chairman), Harris and Nelson

Apologies for Absence: Councillor (none)

Absence declared on Council business: Councillor (none)

Officers present: G. Ferguson, A. West, J. Tradewell, B Dodd, J. Potter,
J. Unsworth and A. Williamson

Also in attendance: (none)

**ITEMS DEALT WITH
UNDER POWERS AND DUTIES
EXERCISABLE BY THE SUB-COMMITTEE**

Action

**PLANNING, TRANSPORTATION, REGENERATION AND
RENEWAL**

ES52 VARIABLE MESSAGE SIGNS AND JOURNEY TIME
MONITORING

As part of the Local Transport Plan 2 there was a proposal to provide Variable Message Signs (VMS) on the approaches to the Silver Jubilee Bridge, to provide information on traffic conditions and proposed work. In order to get the most benefit from the system it needed to be the same systems as installed in neighbouring authorities, Liverpool City Council, Warrington BC, and Wirral BC. All these authorities had recently installed systems supplied by Siemens Traffic Controls Limited after obtaining tenders. Liverpool's system included a sign within Halton on A562 Speke Road near Everite Road, Widnes.

Initially, the VMS system would only be operated by Halton but by agreement, it was envisaged that it would be able to be utilised by neighbouring authorities and the Highway Agency, who would reciprocate with similar sharing arrangements for their signs. It was also planned to show the information displayed on the VMS on the website as part of supplying travel information to the public.

The cost of supplying, installation and commissioning of six number variable message signs (VMS) from Siemens Traffic Controls Limited was £138,479.69. In addition, the Council would need to arrange traffic management for their installation and the provision of a mains electrical supply to each sign.

The Sub-Committee also considered proposals for the installation of Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras at strategic points throughout the Borough. It was proposed to monitor the journey times across the Bridge on the routes from Speke Road and Watkinson Way to Runcorn and vice-versa. Initially, eight cameras would be needed but this number could be reduced by joint working with Cheshire Constabulary (subject to agreement and technical details).

As part of the Traffic Management Act 2004, the Authority was required to monitor journey time information to ensure that it was able to supply information that may be requested by the Department for Transport, to prove that the Authority was fulfilling its duties. The data could also be used to support the Mersey Gateway Proposal, as information would be constantly gathered about journey times across the existing bridge.

Prices had been obtained from Siemens Traffic Controls who had installed systems for Liverpool and Warrington for the supply, installation and commissioning of a journey time monitoring system including four number Automatic Number Plate Recognition cameras for £43,720.00. In addition, the Council would need to arrange traffic management for their installation and the provision of mains electrical supply to each camera.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) procurement of Standing Orders 3.1 to 3.7 be waived to obtain equipment that is the same as neighbouring authorities to allow future joint use;
- (2) the quote from Siemens Traffic Controls for the supply, installation and commissioning of six number Variable Message Signs (VMS) for £138,479.69 be accepted;
- (3) the Authority agrees to pursue joint working with the Merseyside Authorities and Highways Agency for joint use of the Variable Message Signs;

Strategic Director
Environment

(4) the quote from Siemens Traffic Controls for the supply, installation and commissioning of Journey Time Monitoring System including Automatic Number Plate Recognition Cameras for £43,720.00 be accepted; and

(5) the Authority agrees to pursue joint working with Cheshire Constabulary for joint use of Automatic Number Plate Recognition cameras.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE PORTFOLIO

ES53 KS4 PUPIL REFERRAL UNIT PROVIDERS

At a previous meeting of the Sub-Committee held on 12th October 2006, a further report was requested outlining the range of external providers that the Children and Young People's Directorate had developed service level agreements with as providers to the Council's Key Stage 4 Pupil Referral Unit. There were currently 6 providers working with KS4 PRU children, 5 of which provided curriculum and 1 who provided additional support.

The 5 curriculum providers were the Vocational Centre; Riverside College; Rathbone; and Progress Sport. The 6th provider was Kids First and their role was to provide additional support for pupils whose needs of challenging behaviour meant that they required support to access the other PRU providers. The costs and role of each provider were outlined in the report.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

ENVIRONMENT, LEISURE AND SPORT PORTFOLIO

ES54 LANDFILL ALLOWANCE TRADING SCHEME (LATS)

The Sub-Committee considered a report which set out the implications of the Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme (LATS) on the Council, and the Authority's current and predicted LATS position based upon the first year of the scheme (2005/06).

The report also sought approval for a decision-making structure, delegated powers to be established to manage the trading of LATS Allowances, and the financial parameters in which to operate considering the current position.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the decision-making structure outlined in the report be approved for the purpose of LATS Trading;
- (2) delegated powers to trade for Landfill Allowances are given to the Operational Director Financial Services in consultation with the Strategic Director, Environment and the Portfolio holders for Environment, Leisure and Sport and Corporate Services;
- (3) for the purpose of LATS, authority be granted to purchase or sell LATS provide that the cumulative face value of all such transactions (disregarding whether purchases or sales) in any financial year does not exceed £100,000 and subject to adequate budgetary provision having been made.
- (4) further reports are received on LATS as the scheme develops, and in the light of service procurement to implement waste management strategy.

Strategic Director
Environment

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE PORTFOLIO

ES55 INDEPENDENT MENTAL CAPACITY ADVOCATE SERVICE

The Sub-Committee was advised that the Mental Capacity Act 2005 would come into force from March 2007 to protect vulnerable people who were assessed as lacking capacity and, therefore were unable to make informed decisions. The Act required that all local authorities ensured the delivery of an independent Mental Capacity Advocate Service (IMCA) for all people assessed as lacking capacity, who had no family or friends to advocate on their behalf and/or in their best interests.

The Government had allocated funding to each Local Authority based on population size. For 2007/08 Halton had been allocated £18,868 of Mental Capacity Grant. In order to ensure the service was in place by 1st April 2007, all local authorities must begin the tender process as soon as possible.

It was noted that the low level of funding available would make it difficult to deliver an effective service commissioned by the Council alone as the allocated budget would not fund one full time advocate post. Therefore it was proposed to pool the resources available to Halton, Warrington St Helens and Knowsley (in total £97,897) to

commission a service across the localities. The funding of a larger service would provide for greater flexibility in the delivery of the IMCA Service.

Warrington Borough Council had agreed to lead on the tendering process and contract award, in full consultation with representatives from all the other local authorities involved, who would also take part in the evaluation of the tenders.

RESOLVED: That

(1) the arrangements for a joint commissioning and tendering process for Independent Mental Capacity Services be agreed; and

(2) procurement of Standing Orders 2.2 – 2.6 and 2.8 – 2.14 be waived in light of the exceptional circumstances, namely that compliance with Standing Orders would result in the Council having to forego a clear financial or commercial benefit based on the price advantages likely to be achieved by pooled purchasing arrangements with St.Helens, Warrington and Knowsley.

Strategic Director
Health and
Community

MINUTES ISSUED: 29th November 2006

CALL IN: 5th December 2006

Any matter decided by the Executive Board may be called in no later than 5th December 2006.

Meeting ended at 10.36 a.m.

This page is intentionally left blank

EXECUTIVE (TRANSMODAL IMPLEMENTATION) SUB-BOARD

At a meeting of the Executive (Transmodal Implementation) Sub-Board on Thursday, 19 October 2006 in the Marketing Suite, Municipal Building

Present: Councillors Polhill (Chairman) and Wright

Apologies for Absence: Councillor(s) McDermott

Absence declared on Council business: (none)

Officers present: A. Gore, M. Ledson, S. McDonald, I. Munro, A. Pannell, D. Sutton, D Tregea and L. Cairns

Also in attendance: (none)

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

ESB2 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd July 2006, having been printed and circulated, were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

PLANNING, TRANSPORTATION, REGENERATION AND RENEWAL PORTFOLIO

ESB3 ADOPTION OF HALEBANK REGENERATION AREA SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT AND DITTON STRATEGIC RAIL FREIGHT PARK SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Environment, the recommendations of which had previously been agreed by the Executive Board on 21st September 2006.

The report had sought approval for the adoption of the final versions of the Halebank Regeneration Action Area Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) and the Ditton Strategic Railfreight Park SPD, subject to any further minor editorial or technical amendments required. It was noted that

Action

the SPDs were not yet adopted as the authority first had to produce an adoption status report in line with statutory guidance.

The Board considered the potential implications for the SPD of the recent application for registration of a Village Green. It was advised that this would be considered by officers and a report would be submitted to a future meeting.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

ESB4 EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND OFFER,
MERSEY MULTIMODAL GATEWAY

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Environment providing an update on the progress of the application to European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) for Mersey Multi-Modal Gateway (3MG).

It was noted that ERDF was one of the key funding sources identified in the 3MG Masterplan and, following advice, two applications had been submitted:

- (1) for connection with A5300/A562 Ditton Road Environmental Improvements, Halebank HGV Access – Priority 3 for £1,750,000; and
- (2) for Business Enterprise Grants – Priority 1.5 for £250,000.

Subsequently, £2m had been secured towards these Projects.

RESOLVED: That the progression of the ERDF funded projects as contained in the report be approved.

ESB5 DITTON ROAD ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS,
MERSEY MULTIMODAL GATEWAY

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Environment seeking approval of the initial concept of the Ditton Road Environmental Improvements and approval to progress with the consultation, detailed design, any required planning permissions and implementation of the scheme.

It was noted that, whilst comprehensive redevelopment of land adjacent to Ditton Road was not proposed as part of the core programme, incremental redevelopment of land and property on and along Ditton

Road for uses benefiting from the adjacent rail infrastructure was expected to be brought forward by the private sector. In order to encourage this investment and to brand the location as part of the programme initiative, advance public realm environmental works were being proposed. The scheme would incorporate landscaping and highways works.

The concept plan for the scheme had been drawn up and was shown on the plan attached to the report. The Board noted that the scheme would cost approximately £985,000.

RESOLVED: That the Strategic Director – Environment, in consultation with the Executive Board Member for Planning, Transportation, Regeneration and Renewal, be authorised to submit relevant planning applications and implement the scheme in accordance with Standing Orders relating to Contracts.

Strategic Director
- Environment

ESB6 SCHEDULE 12A OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

The Sub-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 Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972; and
- (2) whether the disclosure of the information was in the public interest, whether any relevant exceptions were applicable, and whether, when applying the public interest tests 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 outweighs 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 is likely that, in

view of the nature of the business, exempt information will be disclosed, being information defined in Section 100 (1) and paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

PLANNING, TRANSPORTATION, REGENERATION AND RENEWAL PORTFOLIO

ESB7 LAND AT HALE ROAD, WIDNES

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Corporate and Policy outlining the terms upon which the acquisition of land at Hale Road, Widnes had taken place.

The Board congratulated the officers involved in this successful project.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

MINUTES ISSUED: 26th October 2006

CALL IN: 2nd November 2006

Any matter decided by the Executive (Transmodal Implementation) Sub-Board may be called in no later than 2nd November 2006

Meeting ended at 3.02 p.m.

MERSEY GATEWAY EXECUTIVE BOARD

At a meeting of the Mersey Gateway Executive Board on Thursday, 19 October 2006 in the Marketing Suite, Municipal Building

Present: Councillors McDermott (Chairman - in attendance for Minute Numbers MGE10 to MGE14), Polhill and Wharton

Apologies for Absence: (none)

Absence declared on Council business: (none)

Officers present: B Dodd, D. Parr, D. Sutton, J. Tradewell, D Tregear, A. West, S. Nicholson, C. Hall and L. Cairns

In attendance: Councillor Redhead

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

Action

COUNCILLOR POLHILL IN THE CHAIR

MGE9 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 20th July 2006, having been printed and circulated, were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

The Board agreed that the meeting should stand adjourned until 1.00 pm to allow the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive to be in attendance.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 12.05 PM

MEETING RE-CONVENED AT 1.00 PM - COUNCILLOR MCDERMOTT ASSUMED THE CHAIR

MGE10 PROGRESS REPORT

The Board considered a report of the Mersey Gateway Project Director outlining progress made in the delivery of Mersey Gateway since the last meeting of the Board in July 2006.

It was noted that substantive progress had been made in the following areas:

- delivery resources and project structure; and
- liaison with the Department for Transport (DfT).

The progress report that was to be submitted to the DfT was attached to the agenda for Members' information.

The principle short-term deliverables were outlined for the Board's consideration and it was advised that progress with each of these was currently to programme. However, contingency in the delivery plans for the traffic model had been eroded due to the delay in receiving data from third parties. Resources were therefore being adjusted to avoid any programme slippage.

The Board noted that the appointment of a Procurement Manager for this project was unlikely to be filled from internal resources due to the specialist nature of the post. However, there was an option for a secondment to be secured from E.C. Harris and Halcrow if required.

RESOLVED: That the progress made be noted and the issues to be discussed with officials at the Department for Transport at the meeting arranged for 26th October 2006.

MGEB11PROCUREMENT STRATEGY FOR MERSEY GATEWAY

The Board considered a report of the Mersey Gateway Project Director regarding the results emerging from the on-going market consultation on procurement options for Mersey Gateway.

It was noted that the investigation of procurement options was centred on whether an earlier procurement approach would be both beneficial and deliverable. Early procurement, by inviting tenders before the scheme was progressed through the planning process, could help the Council to manage delivery risk and also provide more scope for the private sector to add value in whole life cost terms. A market consultation had taken place and a representative of the project financial consultants KPMG attended the meeting to present the consultation results received to date.

MGEB12SCHEDULE 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 Part I 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 outweighs 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 is likely that, in view of the nature of the business, exempt information will be disclosed, being information defined in Section 100 (1) and paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

MGEB13PROCUREMENT STRATEGY FOR MERSEY GATEWAY

Mr. R. Threlfall of KPMG LLP attended the meeting to present the results to date in respect of early procurement market consultation. The presentation outlined the process undertaken, the consultees involved, a summary of responses, common messages, emerging thoughts on possible approach, issues to be addressed and the next steps.

The Board noted that the work carried out had determined that this was an option worth exploring further. A similar presentation was to be made to the Department for Transport the following week and comments arising from this would be reported back to the Board.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Threlfall for attending the meeting.

RESOLVED: That the preliminary results from the market consultation be noted, pending further reports to the Board that would enable a decision to be taken on the preferred procurement strategy for the project.

MGEB14 SITING OF TOLL PLAZAS

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Environment regarding the preferred Toll Plaza location for the Mersey Gateway, the consequential land use and other operational implications.

RESOLVED: That the preferred layout be included in the final reference design and this be the subject of extensive public consultation in 2007.

MINUTES ISSUES: 26th October 2006

CALL IN: 2nd November 2006

Any matter decided by the Mersey Gateway Executive Board may be called in no later than 2nd November 2006

Meeting ended at 2.10 p.m.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD

At a meeting of the Children and Young People Policy and Performance Board on Monday, 30 October 2006 at the Civic Suite, Town Hall, Runcorn

Present: Councillors Dennett (Chairman), Horabin (Vice-Chairman), Fraser, Gilligan, Lewis, Parker, Philbin, M Ratcliffe, Stockton and Mr C. Chorley,

Apologies for Absence: Councillor Higginson

Absence declared on Council business: (none)

Officers present: Ann McIntyre, T. Crane, K. Massey, A. Page and M. Simpson

Also in attendance: Councillor McInerney (in accordance with Standing Order 33). and Cllr M. Wright

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

CYP23 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 4th September 2006, having been printed and circulated were signed as a correct record subject to the inclusion of Cllr M. Ratcliffe in the apologies.

CYP24 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

It was confirmed that no public questions had been received.

CYP25 EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES

The minutes of the Executive Board relating to the work of the Children and Young People Policy and Performance Board were submitted for information.

RESOLVED: That the minutes be noted.

CYP26 EDUCATION BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP

The Board received an update report on the key objectives and achievements of the Halton Education

Action

Business Partnership (EBP). The Halton EBP team was established in 2001 and was responsible for the co-ordination and development of links between Halton's schools and local businesses to support work related learning.

The report set out key priority areas, as outlined by LSC/DfES, the wide range of support delivered to schools and how the EBP contributions to four of the five key outcomes for young people.

It was noted that since September 2004 the significance of Halton's EBP services had been highlighted by the introduction of a new statutory requirement for Work Related Learning on schools to make provision for all students at Key Stage 4 to:-

- learn through work – utilising experiences of work;
- learn about work – developing economic and industrial understanding; and
- learn for work – developing employability and enterprise skills.

The Board was advised that funding for the EBP was totally grant based. The only other form of money coming in was through funding from the schools and any profit made from sales of the Enterprise Board Game.

A survey was carried out to discover what the key factor was with regard to what is needed from an employee. Reliability came out first with punctuality second.

A board game entitled "The Enterprise Game" was displayed to the Board, which had been developed by the EBP using work that had been carried out with schools. 28 Halton businesses were involved in this and had their logo printed on the board itself. Head teachers had funded the production of the game and now the EBP own it. Children from The Bankfield school were running the launch of the game on 16 November 2006.

It was reported that the biggest contribution for funding the EBP was from secondary schools and it was felt that the Board should pursue a more active response from primary schools. The Board discussed the idea of encouraging primary schools to get back on board with the EBP and how to find other sources of funding. The Board agreed to make a request to the Executive Board seeking funding of £75,000 each year for two years to sustain the delivery of Education Business Partnership programmes that

may otherwise cease.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the contents of the report be endorsed; and
- (2) a request be made to Executive Board asking for £75,000 each year for two years be given to sustain the delivery of education business partnership programmes that may otherwise cease; and
- (3) pursue a more active response from primary schools with regard to buying the service from EBP.

Strategic Director
- Children and
Young People

CYP27 YOUTH MATTER - GREEN PAPER

The Board was informed of the key issues arising from the Green Paper – Youth Matters and the subsequent Government response (Next Steps).

In particular the Green Paper focused on the following themes, which were outlined in detail within the report:

- Empowering young people – place to go and things to do;
- Young people as Citizens – making a contribution;
- Supporting Choices – information, advice and guidance;
- All young people achieving – reforming targeted support; and
- A reformed system – delivering the proposals.

The Government response was published in March 2006, following widespread consultation, and outlined future plans for the implementation of these aims, as outlined within the report.

In addition the Board was updated on the progress which had taken place in Halton, in particular in relation to:

- the youth opportunity fund and youth capital fund;
- volunteering;
- information, advice and guidance (IAG); and
- integrated strategic planning.

RESOLVED: That the progress, identified above, be noted

CYP28 HALTON PREVENTATIVE SERVICES

The Board received a progress report on Halton's Preventative Mini Children's Trust, which detailed the national context, Halton's proposals, preventative services and its progress.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

CYP29 STANDING ORDER 51

The Board was reminded that Standing Order 51 of the Council's Constitution stated that meetings should not continue beyond 9.00pm.

RESOLVED: That Standing Order 51 be waived.

CYP30 SUMMARY OF EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT 2006

The Board received a report on the performance data for Key Stages 1 to 4, which were outlined in detail within the report.

Overall a mixed picture had emerged with some significant gains and some key areas for improvement. It was noted the analysis of the data was at different stages due to the varying timescales and methods of receiving data and a further more detailed analysis would be completed when the relevant data was available i.e. Contextual Value Added.

RESOLVED: That the report be received.

CYP31 SCRUTINY TOPIC UPDATES

The Board was informed of the proposed scrutiny topics which would be considered at meetings of Working Parties set up by the Children and Young People Policy and Performance Board. Two topics had been identified; Out of Borough Placements and Transition for Young People with complex SEN/Disability. It was noted that unfortunately due to Members availability the SEN topic group was no longer running.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

Meeting ended at 9.10 p.m.

This page is intentionally left blank

EMPLOYMENT, LEARNING AND SKILLS POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD

At a meeting of the Employment, Learning and Skills Policy and Performance Board on Monday, 13 November 2006 at the Civic Suite, Town Hall, Runcorn

Present: Councillors Jones (Chairman), Fraser (Vice-Chairman), E. Cargill, Edge, Findon, Hodgkinson, Howard, Parker, M Ratcliffe and Stockton

Apologies for Absence: Councillor Lewis

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: L. Cairns, H. Cockcroft, G. Collins, N. Goodwin, A. Villiers, L. Holland and S. Saunders

Also in attendance: Ms. D. Dalby, Mr. F. Noon, Mr. H. Patel

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

	<i>Action</i>
ELS18 MINUTES	
<p>The minutes of the meeting held on 11th September 2006, having been printed and circulated, were taken as read and signed as a correct record.</p>	
ELS19 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME	
<p>It was noted that no questions had been received.</p>	
ELS20 EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES	
<p>It was confirmed that the Council had not been short-listed for the Local Enterprise Growth Initiative. Only thirteen authorities had been selected nationally, which was less than the number that had previously been advised. Feedback on the Authority's submission was expected at the end of January 2007.</p>	
<p>RESOLVED: That the minutes be received.</p>	
ELS21 ADULT LEARNING PRESENTATION	
<p>The Board received a presentation from Ms. Siobhan</p>	

Saunders, Head of Adult Learning and Skills Development, regarding adult learning in the Borough.

Ms. Saunders outlined:

- the structure of the division;
- the remit of the team;
- funding for the service, which equated to an overall revenue income for 06/07 (on an academic year basis) of approximately £888,000;
- an overview of the external inspection;
- the post inspection action plan, a copy of which was tabled for information; and
- issues for the team.

Members considered a variety of issues including the following:

- attempts being made to encourage men to participate in services offered, for example by providing IT type courses and family courses, which had resulted in a gradual increase;
- the “train to gain” project which attempted to improve basic skills up to level 2 in a particular field to help to tackle the views expressed by employers that certain skills were lacked by the workforce;
- the inability of the service to claim back extra funding to cover those people on benefits who participated in courses;
- research previously undertaken by Pion Economics, refined further by additional research undertaken earlier this year, identified problems and areas to be addressed and enabled the Authority to inform the Learning Skills Council where there were shortages;
- difficulties due to the Learning Skills Council not being locally accountable – it was noted that although there was now a new area team for Halton, the new Area Manager, who was supposed to be dedicated to Halton, had been seconded on a part-time basis to Sefton Council;
- limited Neighbourhood Renewal and priorities fund meant that the Authority could target specific areas to help bridge gaps that existed; however, Neighbourhood Renewal and European funding ceased in 2008 at which time the Authority would lose a large slice of the current programmes provided;
- the impact on children of family situations and the parents’ outlook on learning.

The Chairman thanked Ms Saunders for an

informative presentation.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the presentation be noted;
- (2) the Adult Learning Topic Group consider the issues raised during debate, in particular:
 - (a) the high number of people that have literacy and numeracy problems;
 - (b) the barriers specific to Halton;
 - (c) lobbying the Learning and Skills Council on the use and distribution of funding, including the contracting process; and
 - (d) how people can be motivated to improve their skills.

ELS22 VOLUNTARY SECTOR GRANTS

The Board received a presentation from Ms. D. Dalby, Chief Executive of Halton Voluntary Action (HVA), regarding the HVA's work and contribution to Halton's priorities.

Ms. Dalby provided the following information:

- an overview of the services and support provided to local groups and organisations that worked within the voluntary sector;
- recent achievements;
- the current environment, for example in relation to the recent dramatic changes to European funding and changes to statutory relationships;
- structure and housekeeping issues;
- future options, for example to carry on as the organisation currently did or to join with a neighbouring council for voluntary services; and
- new constitutional changes.

The Board considered a variety of issues including the following:

- training, which was provided free of charge;
- funding ramifications and the need for HVA to consider a variety of options such as partnership working and sharing resources;
- other funding sources apart from the Council which included Central Government, ERDF, EU Social Fund and the Lottery;
- the fact that money was targeted at very specific

- headings;
- the fact that the building lease was to be relinquished the following year and lessons learnt in respect of refurbishing a privately-owned building;
 - the impact of Value Added Tax (VAT) on groups – Ms. Dalby reported that an accountant had been advising groups about book-keeping and VAT registering benefits, although this post was funded through the Government and so would only be available until the end of March;
 - work was ongoing with each group to look at their policies in respect of CRB checks; it was advised that this requirement had meant that a number of volunteering placements had dried up.

The Chairman thanked Ms. Dalby for an informative presentation.

RESOLVED: That the presentation be noted.

ELS23 ANNUAL REPORT FOR VOLUNTARY SECTOR FUNDING

The Board received the Annual Report for Voluntary Sector Funding, which looked at the benefits to Halton from funding to the voluntary sector for 2005/2006.

The report outlined a background in terms of the national perspective and the Council's response to this, an outline of external funding accessed by organisations receiving core funding and a number of organisation profiles.

Members considered the way these groups were funded and an analysis of how outcomes were monitored. It was noted that anybody that received over £5,000 had a service level agreement.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

ELS24 ENTERPRISE TOPIC ACTION PLAN UPDATE

The Board received a report from the Strategic Director – Environment providing a briefing on progress of the Enterprise Topic Group Action Plan, which had been established to look at skills issues in the Borough. The appendix to the report detailed the action plan and provided an update on progress made.

In addition, Mr. Frank Noon attended the meeting to outline the work he was undertaking with young people who were experiencing difficulties within the education system,

teaching them skills such as plumbing and joinery. Mr. Noon supported several local schools including St. Peter and Paul, Halton High and St. Chads, and the very successful team consisted of ex-teachers who were highly qualified.

The company dealt with the type of young person who would not normally access a college education and who was “disaffected” from school life for whatever reason. The young people were engaged in an informal atmosphere and, as well as reintegrating them and providing them with lifelong skills, they also carried out a number of tasks that were of benefit to the society at large; for example, a group had recently revitalised a plot at Haddocks Wood used by people who had had strokes or had serious therapy issues.

Mr. Noon confirmed he worked with boys and girls from years 10 and 11, and he was based at Haddocks Wood. Fifteen young people per day could be accommodated and this was funded by the school at a rate of £41 per pupil per day. Mr. Noon confirmed he was looking to expand his business but was not driven to do so; the aim was to get youngsters to engage and have a positive outlook and better self-image to improve their attitude so that they were equipped with basic needs that were incidental skills most people learnt as a matter of course.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Noon for attending the meeting.

RESOLVED: That progress on the action plan be noted.

ELS25 STANDING ORDER 51

The Board was reminded that Standing Order 51 of the Council’s Constitution stated that meetings should not continue beyond 9.00 pm.

RESOLVED: That Standing Order 51 be waived.

ELS26 EMPLOYMENT TOPIC ACTION PLAN UPDATE

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Environment regarding the Employment Topic Group action plan. The appendix to the report detailed the action plan and provided an update on progress.

It was noted that the one area that had made no progress at all was the establishment of high street jobs shops as, at this time, the cost of such shops was seen as

prohibitively expensive.

RESOLVED: That progress on the action plan be noted.

ELS27 SKILLS TOPIC ACTION PLAN UPDATE

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Environment providing a briefing on progress of the skills topic group action plans as outlined at Appendix one.

It was noted that, in summary, reasonable progress had been made in terms of skills. In terms of influencing Government about seeking achievement and progression, these messages were now being made by many skills-based organisations and there were increasing signs that this was acknowledged. However, there was little tangible progress in this filtering down to changes in what was being delivered.

Of real concern were the continued budget reductions for the work of the adult learning team that had amounted to some 6.5%, although it was acknowledged that some nearby boroughs had had much bigger reductions.

RESOLVED: That progress on the action plan be noted.

ELS28 EMPLOYMENT, LEARNING AND SKILLS SPECIALIST STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

It was agreed that this item be deferred to the next meeting.

ELS29 CAPITAL OF CULTURE

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Health and Community providing an update on Liverpool's Capital of Culture Programme for 2008.

Two documents were tabled outlining annual events, which were already established on Liverpool's cultural calendar, and an additional programme. It was noted that this was not comprehensive as the programme for 2008 continued to develop and expand. Further announcements would be made throughout 2007 as specific events and new season details were finalised.

The Operational Director – Cultural Services

confirmed that, in addition to local plans, work was on-going to involve the Authority as much as possible in the raft of events listed.

RESOLVED: That the update be received.

ELS30 QUARTERLY MONITORING REPORTS

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Corporate and Policy regarding the 2nd quarter monitoring reports for the Economic Regeneration, and Cultural and Leisure Services. A number of performance considerations were outlined in the appendix to the report.

The Board discussed the following issues:

- a strategy to tackle worklessness – it was confirmed that news was still awaited in respect of deprived areas funding;
- Learning Skills Council Adult Plan for Halton – a working draft, which was originally to have been issued in September, was now anticipated to be 12 months away.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

Meeting ended at 9.24 p.m.

This page is intentionally left blank

HEALTHY HALTON POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD

At a meeting of the Healthy Halton Policy and Performance Board on Tuesday, 7 November 2006 at the Civic Suite, Town Hall, Runcorn

Present: Councillors E. Cargill (Chairman), Loftus (Vice-Chairman), Blackmore, Hodgkinson, Horabin, D Inch, Howard, Jones, Lloyd-Jones, Swift, Wallace and Mr B. Bryant

Apologies for Absence: (none)

Absence declared on Council business: (none)

Officers present: A. Villiers, A. Williamson, C. Halpin, P. St. Aubyn, J. Gibbon, M Mahmood and C. Taylor

Also in attendance: Councillor Gerrard (in accordance with Standing Order 33), M. Ogden-Meade and K. Holburn

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

	<i>Action</i>
HEA23 MINUTES	
<p>The Minutes of the meeting held on 12 September 2006, having been printed and circulated were signed as a correct record.</p>	
HEA24 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME	
<p>It was confirmed that one public question had been received from Halton Disability Alliance. It was agreed that the question would be dealt with under Minute Number HEA26.</p>	
HEA25 EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES	
<p>The Board considered the Minutes of the meetings of the Executive Board and Executive Board Sub Committee relevant to the Healthy Halton Policy & Performance Board.</p>	
<p>RESOLVED: That the minutes be received.</p>	

HEA26 UPDATE ON THE RECONFIGURATION OF NORTH CHESHIRE HOSPITAL NHS TRUST

The Board received an update from Mr. M. Ogden-Meade and Ms K. Holburn on the reconfiguration of the North Cheshire Hospitals NHS Trust which outlined the phased changes, the progress made, staffing issues and how staff and the public were being kept informed.

A number of questions and concerns in relation to the transport being provided between Halton and Warrington hospitals were raised, including:

- 1) the number of seats being provided;
- 2) the provision for disabled passengers;
- 3) the cost of this service and what alternatives had been considered;
- 4) how long it would be funded for;
- 5) whether usage would be monitored and reviewed;
- 6) whether it was felt that all agencies had been involved and would the Trust would be prepared to set up a meeting with officers from the Halton's Transportation Section, Arriva North West and Halton Transport;
- 7) whether the service would predominantly be for staff; and
- 8) what the timetable would be.

In response the following answers were given:

- 1) the shuttle bus would have 17 seats;
- 2) a specialised service would be available to disabled passengers and a ring and book system would be in operation to ensure there was adequate provision for disabled passengers;
- 3) the cost of the service was market sensitive but was less than the reported £60, 000. Alternative services had been explored but this was felt to be the most cost effective, however, it would be reviewed in six months time;
- 4) the funding was from a general fund as there was no specific funding for such a service and the present arrangements were for a six month period. After this period the service would be reviewed;
- 5) the usage would be monitored and broken down into staff, patients and visitors. This would then be used when the service was reviewed.
- 6) the Trust felt that it had tried to involve all relevant agencies and would be prepared to organise a

- meeting;
- 7) although staff would be using the service, this would be at different times to the visitors, as there were set visiting hours which were different to shift start times. As with any public transport if there were more people waiting than seats available some people would have to wait for the next available shuttle; and
 - 8) the first journey would leave at 6.40am and last at 8.15pm with 11 journeys, which was approximately hourly.

In addition a number of other questions and concerns were raised in relation to the reconfiguration and in relation to articles in the local newspaper, including:

- 1) how many staff had been relocated between the two sites;
- 2) whether the pathology service at Halton was closing;
- 3) whether the minor injuries unit was closing or the hours being reduced and whether any consultation of the public would take place if this was agreed;
- 4) how the deficit would be recouped and if the financial recovery plan had been agreed;
- 5) how many staff had appealed against their new placement and how many that were declined would lose their job; and

In response the following answers were given:

- 1) 120 staff had moved from Halton to Warrington and 7 staff had moved from Warrington to Halton. The low number moving to Halton was due to Halton vacancies being given preference to Halton staff;
- 2) the pathology service was not closing, however, the on call service would be operated from the Warrington site;
- 3) the possibility of reducing the hours of the minor injuries unit was being considered at present, however, no decision had been taken by the Trust's Executive Board. If a change in hours was agreed and if it was a substantial change in the provision of the service, using the Department of Health definition, public consultation would take place;
- 4) in order to recoup the deficit a whole range of options were being considered, the minor injuries hours being one example. Work was ongoing to determine the feasibility of these options. The organisation had to show a robust plan to enable it

to be in financial balance in time for the Government's deadline. The financial recovery plan would be approved by NHS North West; and

- 5) 33 of the 850 staff had appealed, 8 of these had been displaced due to the loss of 69 jobs in the reconfiguration. All members of staff who's job no longer existed and who it had not been possible to place had been retained and would be offered other vacancies when they became available.

A public question had been received from Halton Disability Alliance (minute HEA24 refers), which was read out by the Chairman, as follows:

'What assurances can be given to Halton residents with disabilities that they will be provided with transport to and back from Warrington hospital and if the transport available is not fully accessible, what provision will be made available, all free of charge.'

It was felt that this question had been answered as part of the discussions detailed above that the transport service would be accessible, free and have provision for disabled passengers.

The Board requested regular updates on the Financial Recovery Plan and on any future decisions that affect Halton services.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the update be received;
- (2) the comments and concerns raised be noted; and
- (3) regular updates on the Financial Recovery Plan and on any future decisions that affect Halton services be submitted to the Board.

Strategic Director,
Health and
Community

(NB: Councillors Horabin and Loftus both declared a personal interest in the following item due to working at the Independent Learning Centre and due to working at Riverside College who hold classes at the Independent Learning Centre respectively).

HEA27 PROVISION OF SHORT-TERM RESIDENTIAL RESPITE CARE FOR ADULTS WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES

The Board received a presentation by the Divisional Manager - Integrated Care, on the proposal to transfer the delivery of care and support in Bredon short-term residential unit through an open tender process, to secure the best

value for money for the delivery of respite services for Adults with Learning Disabilities (ALD). The presentation outlined:

- the current provision;
- why the Council needed to modernise respite care;
- examples of benchmarking and good practice;
- research undertaken on 'innovative' respite services;
- the views of self advocates;
- vision for the new model;
- menu of short break options: the mix and match approach; and
- the way forward.

It was noted that a balance would need to be sought for the different age ranges who use the service, that a visit to Bredon would be arranged for December and the possibility of expanding Older Peoples services at the Moorfield site.

The Board discussed what could make up a typical years' worth of respite resources and how these could be used, when Moorfield would close, life skills training and what was taken into account when making assessments.

RESOLVED: That the report and proposals be noted.

HEA28 HEALTH OF LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN SCRUTINY TOPIC

The Board received an update on the progress of the Health of Looked After Children (LAC) Action Plan.

In March 2006 the Health PPB received the findings of the Health of LAC Scrutiny Group, which had comprised of an indepth audit of 90 LAC case files resulting in the action plan. At this time the Board agreed that the action plan be adopted and its implementation be monitored.

It was noted that Halton's performance continued to be excellent in relation to the completion of health assessments of LAC; 91.2% compared to the national average of 77.3%.

The action plan was appended to the report and gave a breakdown of each recommendation, the action needed, the lead responsibility, timescale and the progress made to date.

The Board raised concerns that if the recommendation in the report was agreed it would mean that the progress of this action plan would be accountable to

the Looked After Children's Mini Trust, as this did not involve Elected Members. Therefore it was decided that monitoring should continue to be reported to the Board.

A request was made for further information in relation to health issues such as immunisations, to be included in future progress reports.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the progress of the action plan be noted;
- (2) continued progress of this action plan be monitored by the Healthy Halton PPB;
- (3) information on health issues be included in future progress reports; and
- (4) the action plan be presented to the Children and Young People Policy and Performance Board

Strategic Director,
Children and
Young People

HEA29 STANDING ORDER 51

The Board was reminded that Standing Order 51 of the Council's Constitution stated that meetings should not continue beyond 9.00 pm.

RESOLVED: That Standing Order 51 be waived for 15 minutes.

HEA30 COMMENTS, COMPLAINTS AND COMPLIMENTS RELATING TO SOCIAL CARE (SERVICES FOR ADULTS OF WORKING AGE AND OLDER PEOPLE/PHYSICAL SENSORY DISABILITIES)

The Board received an update on the Health and Community Directorate's process for managing comments, complaints and compliments during 2004/05 and 2005/06.

The report detailed the number of complaints within each service area, how long it took to deal with them for 2004/05 and 2005/06 and the reasons for complaints taking longer than 28 days to resolve. In addition how and where improvements had taken place were detailed thoroughly within the report.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the joint report for 2004 - 2006 be accepted, and it be noted that reports for future years would be delivered within six months of year end;
- (2) the proposals (subject to the availability of resources) for directorate/corporate action to

promote and improve borough-wide the receipt of all complaints/compliments, their recording and analysis be noted; and

- (3) the national changes in complaints procedure, with effect from September 2006 be noted.

HEA31 PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORTS FOR THE 2ND QUARTER (2006/07)

The Board received a performance briefing paper which highlighted aspects contained in the full versions of the monitoring reports, which set out what the services had been planning to achieve and demonstrate how they contributed to the Council's strategic priorities.

A number of emerging issues and key developments that would impact upon the service or where any action was required to address performance were detailed within the report, for the following services:

- Older Peoples
- Adults of Working Age
- Health and Partnerships

RESOLVED: That the service performance and progress towards achieving objectives and targets be received.

HEA32 TRAINING NEEDS AND REQUIREMENTS

This Item was deferred.

Meeting ended at 9.11 p.m.

This page is intentionally left blank

SAFER HALTON POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD

At a meeting of the Safer Halton Policy and Performance Board on Tuesday, 14 November 2006 in the Civic Suite, Town Hall, Runcorn

Present: Councillors Osborne (Chairman), Stockton (Vice-Chairman), Lloyd Jones, Morley, Rowan, Swift, Thompson and Wallace

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Edge, E Ratcliffe and Redhead

Absence declared on Council business: (none)

Officers present: H. Cockcroft, J. Downes, C. Myring, M. Simpson, J. Unsworth, A. West and G. Marchment

Also in attendance: Councillor Wright (in accordance with Standing Order No. 33).

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

	<i>Action</i>
SAF22 MINUTES	
<p>The Minutes of the meeting held on 19th September 2006 having been printed and circulated were taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.</p>	
SAF23 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME	
<p>It was noted that no public questions had been received.</p>	
SAF24 EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES	
<p>The Board considered the minutes of the Executive Board and the Executive Board Sub-Committee relating to the Safer Halton Policy and Performance Board.</p> <p>Discussions arose regarding Waste Management as residents had raised concerns about having bin bags rather than bins in the Murdishaw area. In response it was noted that at present a suitability study was being carried out with plans to introduce black bins to more areas in the future. It was agreed that a response would be given to the Ward</p>	

Councillor providing details of when there would be any changes to the waste collection system, once the analysis had been completed.

RESOLVED: That the minutes be received.

SAF25 COMMUNITY SAFETY TEAM

The Board considered a report from Andy Ross – Community Safety Partnership Inspector - Cheshire Police Authority, which gave details of the work and current issues of the Community Safety Team. The report set out the following:

- the make up of the Community Safety Team;
- the role;
- engagement and liveability issues;
- current and repeat crime issues;
- PCSO's (Police Community Support Officers);
- multi agency meeting (MAM);
- tasking and co-ordination;
- anti-social behaviour (ASB) strategy;
- examples of good practice;
- other initiatives;
- performance; and
- challenges.

The Board had a wide ranging discussion regarding the action plans taken to target criminal damage, the new government initiative to increase the amount of PCSO's, the decrease in NRF funding, the need for a PCSO in the Halton Lea ward and the concerns around the anti-social problems gypsy travellers could cause.

The Board expressed its thanks to Cheshire Police for all the good work that had been carried out in West Bank and Victoria Park, Widnes.

The Board heard of the Multi Agency Problem Solving (MAPS) Team at West Lancashire which had all the key partners housed in one building for example: - police officers, a fire officer, an officer from the Primary Care Trust (PCT), Youth Offending Team and the Council Solicitor for two and a half days a week. It was noted once capital costs were covered this system cost little to maintain as in essence the approach involved bringing together staff who were already in post into one office.

It was agreed that Board Members and certain key partners would be invited to the ASB working party on

Wednesday 22nd November 2006 in order to discuss various issues for example: -

- what added value might be derived if all officers involved in Community Safety were to be located in one building?
- who would be the main people to be co-located?
- where would the ideal location be? (independent or accessible to the public)
- what would be the remit of the co-located team e.g. strategic or operational – dealing with complaints of ASB etc.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the presentation be received;
- (2) the comments made above be noted;
- (3) all Board Members be invited to the ASB working party in order to discuss the above matters with a view to referring any suggestions made to Executive Board.

Strategic Director
- Health and
Community

SAF26 ANNUAL ROAD TRAFFIC CASUALTY ANALYSIS REPORT

The Board received a report from the Operational Director – Highways and Transportation outlining road traffic collision and casualty numbers within Halton for 2005 in order to enable Members to review the effectiveness of the Council's Casualty Reduction Strategy.

The report set out a full analysis of the numbers of traffic collisions and casualties for 2005 comparing performance with previous years. In addition the details of progress towards various national and local targets for casualty reductions were also given.

It was noted that there had been 590 casualties last year, 73 of which were serious and 4 of which were deaths. Members noted that prior to 1998 there was 89 deaths in one year, therefore today's statistic was significantly lower.

The Board was informed of a training scheme used in schools called Megadrive which aimed to educate senior school pupils of the dangers of high speed reckless driving. The scheme also gave pupils the opportunity to have a driving taster, with an instructor. It was felt this has helped to reduce the number of road traffic casualties in previous years.

At present there were only enough spaces for 50 children from each senior school and it was agreed that a recommendation should be made to Executive Board requesting main stream funding for the continuation of the Megadrive scheme to a wider number of pupils.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) work undertaken on casualty reduction continues to be supported;
- (2) progress towards the achievement of the national casualty reduction targets be noted and welcomed; and
- (3) a request be referred to Executive Board to investigate whether mainstream funding for the Megadrive scheme could be found for future years.

Strategic Director
- Health and
Community

SAF27 THE USE OF THE PROCEEDS OF CRIME ACT 2002 BY THE CONSUMER PROTECTION SERVICE

The Board received a presentation from the Senior Trading Standards Officer which sought Members support for the use of the full “confiscation regime” and “offences” under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 by the Consumer Protection Service.

The report gave details of:

- crime – profitable business;
- the asset recovery philosophy;
- new ways to part criminals from their assets;
- post conviction confiscation orders;
- Law Enforcement’s New Weapon (The Proceeds of Crime Act 2002);
- The Trading Standards Connection and how it worked;
- Confiscation Hearing;
- The Confiscation Order;
- The Assumptions; and
- The Home Office Incentivisation Scheme.

Concerns were raised regarding incidents that had been reported recently in connection to rogue traders. Members were encouraged to pass information on to residents to be aware that rogue traders were in circulation in the area. It was requested that any information in relation to situations involving rogue traders be reported promptly to the Trading Standards Team.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be noted; and
- (2) the Executive Board be requested to agree to the use of the full 'confiscation regime' and 'offences' under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 by the Consumer Protection Service, as outlined in the report.

Strategic Director
- Health and
Community

SAF28 PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORTS QUARTER 2

The Board received a performance briefing paper which highlighted aspects contained in the full versions of the monitoring reports. This set out what the services had achieved relative to planned performance and demonstrated how they contributed to the Council's strategic priorities.

A number of emerging issues and key developments that would impact upon the service or required action to address performance were detailed within the report, for the following services:

Environment Directorate

1. Highways & Transportation
2. Environment & Regulatory Services

Health & Community Directorate

3. Health & Partnerships
4. Culture & Leisure

The Board requested that in future the information within full performance monitoring reports which was relevant to this PPB be collated and paged numbered, prior to being circulated to the Board.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the service performance and progress towards achieving objectives and targets be received; and
- (2) the information within full performance monitoring reports which was relevant to this PPB be collated and paged numbered, prior to being circulated to the Board.

Strategic Director
- Corporate and
Policy

This page is intentionally left blank

URBAN RENEWAL POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD

At a meeting of the Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board held on Wednesday, 15 November 2006 at Civic Suite, Town Hall, Runcorn

Present: Councillors Hignett (Chairman), E. Cargill, Morley, Rowe, Nolan, Thompson, Wallace and Whittaker

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Sly, Worrall and Polhill (in accordance with Standing Order 33).

Absence declared on Council business: Councillor Leadbetter

Officers present: C. Halpin, S. Baxter, P. Brown, G. Collins, D. Owen, A. Villiers, W. Watson, A. West and S. Williams

Also in attendance: (none)

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

	<i>Action</i>
<p>URB24 MINUTES</p> <p>The Minutes of the meeting held on 20 September 2006, having been printed and circulated were signed as a correct record.</p>	
<p>URB25 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME</p> <p>It was confirmed that no public questions had been received.</p>	
<p>URB26 EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES</p> <p>The Board considered the Minutes of the meetings of the Executive Board and Executive Board Sub Committee relevant to the Urban Renewal Policy & Performance Board.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the minutes be received.</p>	
<p>URB27 PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORTS FOR THE 2ND QUARTER (2006/07)</p> <p>The Board received a performance briefing paper</p>	

which highlighted aspects contained in the full versions of the monitoring reports, which set out what the services had been planning to achieve and demonstrated how they contributed to the Council's strategic priorities.

A number of emerging issues and key developments that would impact upon the service or where any action was required to address performance were detailed within the report, for the following services:

Environment Directorate

1. Highways & Transportation
2. Environment & Regulatory Services
3. Economic Development
4. Major Projects

Health & Community Directorate

5. Culture & Leisure

The Board discussed a number of issues in relation to road repairs, planning enforcement issues and whether an appointment had been made with the funding identified by NWDA for an individual, based in Halton, who would have a region-wide 'China brief' to support businesses that wished to trade with China.

RESOLVED: That the service performance and progress towards achieving objectives and targets be received.

URB28 TRAFFIC ISSUES IN WEST BANK

The Board received a report which related to a 34 name petition and letter which had been received relating to traffic issues in West Bank, Widnes. The petition and letter raised a number of issues in relation to the area wide traffic calming scheme which had been undertaken in 2002/3. The following issues were outlined in detail within the report, along with the proposed actions to be taken:

- that the calming did not have the desired effect;
- that residents suffer undue noise and vibrations from speeding vehicles;
- drainage problems on the west side of the raised junction at Mersey Road/Terrace Road; and
- a parking restriction request.

A member requested that consideration be given to

installing additional 20mph and no right hand turn road signs in the area.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be noted;
- (2) the Board support the conclusion of the report, in particular that:
 - (i) the traffic calming scheme in West Bank, be retained in its present form, subject to the enhancements detailed in the report;
 - (ii) the existing waiting restriction be retained un-amended; and
- (3) petitioners be informed accordingly.

Strategic Director,
Environment

URB29 BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS SURVEY

The Board received a presentation on the findings of a study undertaken in Runcorn and Widnes town centres to determine the level of support from traders and businesses, for developing Business Improvement Districts (BIDS) from the Head of Business Development. The presentation outlined:

- what a BID was;
- how BID's are funded;
- the rationale for the study;
- the background to the study;
- the sectors survey of the study;
- the study findings – Widnes;
- the study findings - Runcorn; and
- conclusions – in particular that there was some support but it was short of the 50% needed to proceed with a BID.

The Board discussed whether clearer promotion of how street furniture, Christmas lights etc could increase trade was needed, alternative ways to fund town centre events and whether there had been any issues during the transfer of tourism enquiries to the Halton Direct Link.

RESOLVED: That support be given to the conclusions in the report.

URB30 PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING RENEWAL STRATEGY

The Board received a report on the proposed changes to the Private Sector Housing Renewal Strategy, which reflected both the recent legislative changes and the different forms of financial assistance which could be

provided to clients. The updated Private Sector Housing Renewal Strategy was submitted to the Board for consideration.

It was noted that there were a number of factors which made it necessary to update this strategy, including:

- an increased Government focus on tackling none-decent housing in the private sector that was occupied by vulnerable households;
- the need to provide incentives to promote membership of the recently introduced Landlord accreditation scheme;
- the need to provide assistance to reduce the number of long term empty properties, as this was a best value performance indicator;
- a new requirement under the Housing Act 2004 to license certain houses in multiple occupation; and
- under the Housing Act 2004 there was a need to introduce the Housing Health and Safety rating system, replacing the 'fitness' standard which for several decades was the yardstick for measuring housing conditions.

The Board discussed a new Government initiative which provided equity loans to home owners to enable housing repairs; focusing on older style properties. Liverpool Housing Trust and CDS Housing were acting as the Council's agents on the project which was focused on the Castlefields area. 23 loans had been agreed which amounted to approximately a third of the funding. In addition reference was made to the problems being experienced by tenants due to lack of experience and problem solving of landlords.

RESOLVED: That the document be accepted for public consultation purposes prior to being referred to the Executive Board.

URB31 CONTAMINATED LAND INSPECTION STRATEGY REVIEW

The Board received a presentation on the Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy Review, from the Principle Contaminated Land Officer, which set out:

- the background to the review;
- the key achievements;
- the risk scores for Runcorn;
- the risk scores for Widnes; and

- the key outcomes and the conclusions of the review.

The Board had been supplied with copies of the Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy Review document as part of the agenda, for consideration.

Arising from the discussion reference was made to St. Michael's Golf Course, health issues and new technologies for treating contaminated sites.

RESOLVED: That the review document and revised implementation timetable be noted.

URB32 HIGHWAY SKIDDING RESISTANCE POLICY

The Board was updated on the current position regarding the measurement and treatment of highway skidding resistance and informed of the proposal to introduce a policy for analysing skid resistance data to produce programmes of treatment.

The new policy had been prepared to take into account a number of developments, which were outlined in detail within the report. The proposed policy sites identified as having low resistance would now be correlated against road geometry, surface characteristics and accident statistics, to provide a mechanism by which the Highway Engineer could make a reasoned assessment to determine what treatment, if any, needed to be carried out, at any particular locations or at any point in time.

Arising from the discussion reference was made to the frequency of resurfacing of roads and whether the Council encouraged local road users and companies to report problems they had experienced.

RESOLVED: That the Skidding Resistance Policy be recommended to the Executive Board for adoption.

Strategic Director,
Environment

(NB: Councillor Morley declared a personal interest in the following item due to being a Board Member of Halton Transport).

URB33 BEST VALUE REVIEW: TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

The Board received a presentation on the Best Value Review of Transportation and Access, from the Operational Director, Highways and Transportation. The presentation set out:

- the scope of the review;
- the review team and key players;
- the Passenger Transport Expenditure for 2005/6;
- the no. of Annual Passenger Trips in 2005/6;
- key review outcomes;
- key recommendations – such as better accessible transport, better local bus services, better information, post 16 transport;
- the comments made by the Business Efficiency Board and responses;
- the improvement plan.

The Board discussed the need for transport links to new developments, the service being provided by the North Cheshire NHS Trust between Halton and Warrington hospitals and whether the Public Transport Liaison Panel could scrutinise this further as the service was not adequate for the needs of Halton's residents.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be received; and
- (2) reports on the progress towards implementing the Improvement Plan be included in future performance monitoring reports to the Board.

Strategic Director,
Corporate and
Policy

Meeting ended at 8.24 p.m.

CORPORATE SERVICES POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD

At a meeting of the Corporate Services Policy and Performance Board on Tuesday, 31 October 2006 in the Council Box, Halton Stadium

Present: Councillors Gilligan (Chairman), Lowe (Vice-Chairman), Bradshaw, Blackmore, Edge, C Inch, Loftus, Norddahl and Wainwright

Apologies for Absence: Councillor Nolan

Absence declared on Council business: Councillor Dennett

Officers present: G. Ferguson, R. Mackenzie, C. Patino, J. Tradewell, A. Villiers, B Hilton, H. Jones, V. Kehoe and I. Leivesley

Also in attendance: (none)

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

	<i>Action</i>
CS19 MINUTES	
<p>The Minutes of the meeting held on 27th September 2006 having been printed and circulated were taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record subject to an amendment to CS13 – Equality Legislation to remove the words “of 65” from recommendation (2).</p>	
CS20 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME	
<p>It was noted that no public questions were received.</p>	
CS21 MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE BOARD	
<p>The Minutes of the Executive Board and the Executive Board Sub Committee, relating to the work of the Corporate Services Policy and Performance Board since its last meeting were submitted for information.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the minutes be received.</p>	
CS22 COUNCIL WIDE TRAINING PROVISION	
<p>The Board received a presentation on the training</p>	

activities which were organised and managed by three of the Council Directorates.

On behalf of the Corporate & Policy Directorate Training Section, which organised generic training across the Council's Directorates, Hazelle Jones attended the meeting and outlined the usage statistics January to June 2006 which included figures for:

- the number and type of training courses held at the Corporate Training Centre;
- staff who attended Corporate Training Calendar courses;
- staff currently provided with funding to Post Entry Training;
- staff who attended external short courses;
- staff who received customised training from the Corporate Training Centre Staff;
- details of the Corporate Training Centre budget 2006/07; and
- information on the Halton Management Pathway.

The Board received a second presentation from Brian Hilton on behalf of the Health and Community Directorate. The presentation highlighted the types of qualification available to staff including professional and national vocational, various training events delivered and numbers of those who attended and the section expenditure for April 2006 to September 2006.

On behalf of the Children and Young People Directorate, John Palmer and Vicki Kehoe attended the Board to provide a presentation on the range of training provision for schools and the Advisory Team within the local authority. The presentation outlined to Members future developments within the Directorate, the wide and varied range of training provision for schools, the integrated approach and population centred workforce development, which was needs lead, population focused and examined service demand.

Arising from the discussion, the Board raised/considered the following issues:

- could the graduate trainee programme be extended from its existing two placements?;
- could the figures be provided for the Children and Young People Directorate Training Budget?;
- was the amount of fees charged for training voluntary organisations within the Health and Community

- Training Section adequate?; and integration of the three training sections.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) a further report be submitted on the implications of expanding the graduate trainee programme; and
- (2) a further report be submitted dealing with the cost of training activities across the Council, and the potential for further integration in training provision.

CS23 AREA FORUM TOPIC GROUP

The Board noted that the first meeting of the Area Forum Topic Group had taken place on 5th October 2006. At the first meeting the group considered how best to take forward the work topic.

It was reported that following the first meeting, a Workplan had been established, a timetable for future meetings had been agreed, each Area Forum had been invited to nominate a Member to attend Topic Group meetings, it was proposed to visit other local authorities, initiatives to encourage members of the public to become involved with Area Forums were to be examined and meetings were to be set up with Fire Service and Police Authority.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

CS24 EQUALITY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

The Board considered a report which gave an overview of the monitoring that takes place with regard to the Council's effectiveness in relation to Equality and Diversity. A copy of the performance indicators currently used by the Council to monitor its effectiveness in respect of Equality and Diversity, together with some information on the profile of the Borough and the Council's workforce, had been previously circulated to Members.

Members commented that school based employees were not included in the information provided. It was agreed that when the information became available it could be circulated to the Board.

In addition, Members requested clarification on targets BV195 and BV196 and the possibilities of those targets being achieved.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

CS25 ITEM CONTAINING EXEMPT INFORMATION FALLING WITHIN SCHEDULE 12A OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

In view of the nature of the business to be transacted, it was:

RESOLVED: That under Section 100 (A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, having been satisfied that in all of the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information the press and the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act

CS26 HALTON STADIUM ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN

The Board considered a copy of the three year Marketing and Public Relations Strategy and Annual Business Plan for the Halton Stadium. A Consumer Evaluation exercise was undertaken in 2005 by the Consultants Mott McDonald, their findings and recommendations formed the basis for the three year marketing and public relations strategy. These recommendations had fed into the Annual Business Plan.

The Board received a presentation from the Halton Stadium Manager which highlighted facilities available at the Stadium currently, recent and future initiatives including the promotion and marketing of the Stadium.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

N.B Councillor Wainwright declared a personal interest in the above item as a member of the Halton Stadium Health Suite. Councillor Edge declared a personal interest in the above item, as her relative is an employee at the Halton Stadium.

Meeting ended at 8.00 p.m.

**JOINT CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE & HEALTHY HALTON POLICY AND
PERFORMANCE BOARDS**

At a meeting of the Joint Children and Young People & Healthy Halton Policy and Performance Boards on Wednesday, 4 October 2006 in the Marketing Suite, Municipal Building

Present: Councillors E. Cargill (Chairman), Dennett, Blackmore, Hodgkinson, Loftus and Stockton

Apologies for Absence: Councillor Jones and Marlow

Absence declared on Council business: Councillor (none)

Officers present: K. O'Dwyer, A. Williamson, C. Halpin, M. Loughna and M. Chaplin

Also in attendance: Councillor Gerrard (in accordance with Standing Order No. 33) and Mr T. Windle (Liverpool Children's NHS Trust).

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

		<i>Action</i>
CH1	<p>APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN</p> <p>RESOLVED: That Councillor E. Cargill be appointed Chairman.</p> <p>Councillor E. Cargill took the Chair and welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p>	
CH2	<p>CONSULTATION ON ROYAL LIVERPOOL CHILDREN'S NHS TRUST APPLICATION FOR FOUNDATION STATUS</p> <p>The Board received a presentation by Mr. T Windle on the application for foundation status by the Royal Liverpool Children's NHS Trust. The presentation outlined:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ the vision for the Royal Liverpool Children's NHS Trust; ▪ the difference between an NHS Trust and a Foundation Trust (FT); ▪ the reasons for wanting to become a FT; 	

- the benefits for children, young people and their families;
- governance arrangements, including details of the Council of Governors;
- the future of services; and
- how the Trust would be run and the consultation process.

It was noted that Foundation Trusts would be at the cutting edge of a wider programme of public sector reform with the intention of offering more diversity and patient choice, enabling leadership, innovation and initiative to flourish as part of the local health economy, and replacing central control from Whitehall with accountability to the local community.

In addition the report gave details of the general context of the proposal, the number of demands on Primary Care Trusts (PCT), the freedoms and privileges Foundation status would allow, key issues arising from the proposal and the possible impact on patients from Halton.

Arising from the discussion the Boards sought clarification on a number of issues and concerns such as:

- whether the high cost and low case load interventions would be under threat in the context of a market driven by choice and competition;
- what basis the business plan had been produced on;
- whether there would be the ability to have control of finance matters in relation to Private Finance Initiative (PFI) funding;
- the criteria and process for selecting members of the Council of Governors; and
- how the process for selecting members would be managed to ensure it was open and fair.

Mr T. Windle responded to each of the above comments, giving further information to support the proposals.

In addition the Boards felt that there should be wider consultation in relation to the Council of Governors, that the lower age limit of 7 was appropriate and that mail shooting of schools for members within the catchment area may increase take up of appointments.

Mr T. Windle was thanked for attending the meeting, giving an informative presentation and responding to

concerns raised.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) Halton Borough Council welcomes the commitment to “develop a workforce which is sensitive to the needs of the different communities”;
- (2) reassurance be sought that high cost and low caseload interventions will not be under threat in the context of a market driven by choice and competition;
- (3) clarification should be sought as to whether the funding arrangements, assessment of need and the range of provision will change as a result of Foundation status;
- (4) the Trust should make clear their policy on generating income; and
- (5) the impact of this policy (i.e. to foster innovation and change in acute hospitals) on the ability of PCTs to invest in preventive, primary, community and intermediate care should be carefully monitored by the Healthy Halton Policy and Performance Board.

Meeting ended at 7.54 p.m.

This page is intentionally left blank

BUSINESS EFFICIENCY BOARD

At a meeting of the Business Efficiency Board held on Wednesday, 8 November 2006 at the Council Chamber, Runcorn Town Hall

Present: Councillors Cole (Chairman), Lloyd Jones (Vice-Chairman), Bradshaw, Hignett, Dennett, Findon, Lowe, Osborne and Rowe

Apologies for Absence: Councillors C Inch and Philbin

Absence declared on Council business: (none)

Officers present: I. Leivesley, R. Dart, R. Mackenzie, M. Murphy and M. Simpson

Also in attendance: (none)

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

Action

BEB15 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 9 September 2006, having been printed and circulated, were signed as a correct record.

BEB16 PROCUREMENT UPDATE

The Board received an update report on the progress made to introducing better procurement in Halton.

Earlier in the year the Council had adopted an updated Procurement Strategy for 2006-2009. The report outlined the:

- key objectives;
- progress made to date;
- procurement and commissioning group;
- procurement & the Web;
- P Card pilot;
- E-Marketplace;
- document imaging;
- working with Directorates, NWCE and others;
- training for procurement; and
- procurement improvement plan and strategic

targets.

The Board had a wide ranging discussion regarding agency workers, stationery contracts, specification of refuse vehicles and the possibility for savings in various areas of the Council. It was felt that there was not enough information of what the potential was in certain areas for procuring that service at a lower rate. The Board requested that more detail on the spend analysis undertaken by the procurement and commissioning unit be brought to the next meeting.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be noted and the approach taken be endorsed; and
- (2) a more detailed report on the spend analysis undertaken by the procurement and commissioning unit be brought to the next meeting.

Strategic Director
- Corporate and
Policy

BEB17 EFFICIENCY STRATEGY AND THE IDEA PEER REVIEW

The Board received a report from the Strategic Director, Corporate and Policy on the contents of the IDeA Peer Review report and how the report was used to develop an Efficiency Strategy for the Council.

The report set out the following:

- background;
- key findings;
- recommendations;
- issues raised; and
- efficiency strategy.

RESOLVED: That the report be received.

BEB18 COMPREHENSIVE PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

The Board received a report which outlined the current Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) framework and arrangements for the 2006 assessment. The next corporate assessment was to take place in March 2008 and would be the subject of a further report.

The annual assessment would normally be published in mid December; however, for 2006, it had been put back to February 2007 to allow up-to-date Best Value user satisfaction data to be taken into account.

The results of the annual service assessment for Children and Young People and Adult Social Services were expected over the next two months. The use of resources assessment had been completed following a self-assessment and a number of interviews with Councillors and Officers. The score would be published in February and the Direction of Travel assessment would be conducted in November.

RESOLVED: That

- (3) the progress on the 2006 CPA assessment be noted and approved; and
- (4) a further report be made in due course in preparation for the 2008 Corporate Assessment.

Strategic Director
- Corporate and
Policy

BEB19 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 outweighs 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 is likely that,

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

BEB20 2006/07 INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN – QUARTER 1
PROGRESS REPORT

The Board received a progress report against the 2006/7 Internal Audit Plan which gave a summary of the audits completed in the second quarter July – September 2006 and which gave details of other initiatives Internal Audit had been involved in during this period.

RESOLVED: That the Internal Audit Progress Report be accepted.

Meeting ended at 8.30 p.m.

DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the Development Control Committee Monday, 9 October 2006 Council Chamber, Runcorn Town Hall

Present: Councillors Nolan (Chairman), Thompson (Vice-Chairman), Blackmore, Leadbetter, Osborne, Polhill, Rowan and Sly.

Apologies for Absence: Councillor Whittaker

Absence declared on Council business: Councillor Keith Morley

Officers present: P. Watts, M. Simpson, Liz Beard, J. Farmer, G. Henry, A. Pannell, A. Plant, P. Shearer and J. Tully

Also in attendance: Councillors: Cross and M. Hodgkinson

Members of public: 9

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

Action

DEV16 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 11th September 2006 having been printed and circulated, were taken and signed as a correct record.

DEV17 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.

DEV18 - PLAN NO. 00469/OUTEIA - OUTLINE APPLICATION FOR FORMATION OF 18 HOLE GOLF COURSE TOGETHER WITH CLUB HOUSE, GREENS MAINTENANCE BUILDING, CAR PARK AND

ASSOCIATED FACILITIES (JOINT APPLICATION WITH KNOWSLEY COUNCIL), TO THE LAND BOUNDED BY NORLANDS LANE, M62 MOTORWAY AND MILL LANE, PEX HILL, WIDNES.

The consultation procedure undertaken was outlined in the report together with background information in respect of the site. It was noted that 12 letters of objection had been received on the grounds of which were detailed in the report. In addition Halton Friends of the Earth had sent a letter of objection which raised concerns over the following;

- the justification put forward by the applicants;
- the transport and accessibility;
- loss of amenity of local residents;
- loss of natural habitat;
- accessibility to the public;
- assumption over existing course and funding issues; and
- other uses of the land would be more sustainable.

It was noted that this was an initial response and they would be submitting a more substantial response.

Mr Worcester from Turley Associates – the planning consultants who were representing the application - addressed the Committee. It was noted that the plans were illustrative plans only and the plans for the siting of the clubhouse would be drawn at a later stage and consideration would be given to residents with regards to the visual impact of the building.

In addition the Ward Councillor, Councillor Cross, addressed the Committee on behalf of the residents from Norlands Park as it was felt that the amount of traffic would increase and there were concerns regarding the proximity and scale of the clubhouse. It was noted that a single storey building would be preferred.

Members discussed the possibility of restricting the height of the clubhouse, noise survey assessment, whether the Widnes golf course on Liverpool Road would become surplus to requirements and the public right of way issues. It was reported that the right of way issues would be dealt with by Knowsley Borough Council as they fell under its border.

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

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Standard condition relating to timescale and duration of permission.2. Reserved matters, layout, scale, appearance, and landscape for future consideration.3. Amended Plans condition.4. Details of materials required prior to commencement (BE2).5. Drainage details required prior to commencement (BE1).6. Condition to show the levels details for the proposal and how it links in with the adjacent land uses (BE1).7. Details of bin storage required (BE2).8. Car parking layout prior to commencement (TP12).9. Cycle parking (TP6).10. Disabled parking (TP12).11. Details tree and hedgerow survey prior to commencement (BE2 & GE24).12. Bat survey mitigation measures need to be put in place prior to the commencement of development (GE21).13. Great crested newts survey, mitigation measures need to be put in place (GE21).14. Barn Owl survey carried out and any mitigation measures need to be put in place prior to commencement (GE21).15. Badger survey carried out and any mitigation measures need to be put in place prior to commencement (GE21).16. Landscape and ecological plan (GE19).17. Lighting scheme plan, showing details of all lighting (BE2 & PR4).18. Noise levels report and mitigation measures (BE2 & PR2).19. Visibility splay required to be maintained at all times (BE1).20. Boundary treatment condition required ensuring details are provided prior to the commencement of development (BE2).21. Wheel wash condition required for construction phase (BE1).22. Scheme for the disposal of Japanese Knotweed (BE1).23. Hoardings to be provided during the construction phase, where appropriate (BE1).24. Construction hour's conditions (BE1).25. Clubhouse, and other structures, restricted to single storey only (BE2 & GE1).26. Residential accommodation, which should be provided within main clubhouse, for person working on golf course only (BE1). | Strategic Director
- Environment |
|---|-------------------------------------|

27. Operating hours (BE1).
28. Hour of illumination (BE1).

DEV19 - PLAN NO. 06/00571/FUL FULL APPLICATION FOR ERECTION OF 24 NO. TWO BEDROOM APARTMENTS IN A THREE STOREY BUILDING WITH ASSOCIATED ACCESS, CAR PARKING AND LANDSCAPING AT LAND TO THE REAR OF 353-363 HALE ROAD, HALEBANK, WIDNES.

The consultation procedure undertaken was outlined in the report together with background information in respect of the site. It was noted that comments had been received from eight local residents at the time the report was written and were detailed in the report.

In addition a letter had been received from Elite Homes, who had previously had an application recommended for refusal on an adjacent site, which was subsequently withdrawn. The letter raised concerns regarding the following:

- the same considerations given to the comprehensive development of the entire residential designation be given equal consideration on this current application;
- concerns around access and provision of the road and rights across it from third parties which could be achieved through a section 106 agreement; and
- underground car parking, which could cause flooding, issues.

The Planning Officer informed the Committee that in relation to the first point as detailed in the report the whole basis of the approval was that the site would provide the opportunity to facilitate the link through to the adjacent sites which would have the potential to unlock the access problems, experienced by Elite Homes on their previous application.

With regards to the second point it was noted that the applicant had agreed to enter in to a Section 106 Agreement to facilitate this access for future development on the adjacent land. A decision would only be issued on completion of this Agreement.

In relation to the third point the Committee was advised that the Environment Agency had raised no objections to the scheme based on the provision of the underground car parking.

It was reported that amended plans had been submitted which successfully dealt with the following:

- design quality;
- delineation of private space at entrance;
- improvement to elevations; and
- indication of type of boundary treatment.

The amended plans illustrated the building set back a further 4.8m, which would provide additional protection of the privacy and outlook of the existing occupiers of the terraced properties on Hale Road.

The Committee was advised that the Council's Highway Engineers had requested further amended plans to improve the highway, car parking layouts and location of cycle stores. It was considered that these improvements could be achieved through planning permission.

It was reported that the applicant had been requested to provide a financial contribution towards the HGV Relief Road.

RESOLVED: That the application be approved subject to the following 18 conditions including a Section 106 Legal Agreement for the provision of off site open space and free access through to the adjacent site without recourse to ransom.

- 1 The entering into a Legal Agreement for off-site open space provision and allowing free access through site to adjacent land. (Policy RG5 and H3).
- 2 In accordance with amended plans (Policy RG5 and BE1).
- 3 Prior to commencement the applicant to install security gates for the access to the rear of 353-363 Hale Road following approval of details by the Local Planning Authority (Policy BE1).
- 4 Prior to commencement the submission of material samples for approval (Policy BE2).
- 5 Prior to commencement the submission of details of all boundary treatments for approval (Policy BE22).
- 6 Prior to commencement the submission of details of a hard and soft landscaping scheme (Policy BE1).
- 7 Prior to commencement the submission of detailed species of soft landscaping for approval (Policy BE1).
- 8 Prior to commencement the submission of details of bin and cycle stores, to be secured, for approval (Policy BE2).
- 9 Prior to commencement the submission of a ground

Strategic Director
- Environment

- investigation and undertaking of any remedial works where required (Policy PR14).
- 10 Prior to commencement the submission of existing ground levels and proposed finished floor/ground levels for approval (Policy BE1).
 - 11 Prior to commencement the submission of drainage details for approval (Policy BE1).
 - 12 Prior to commencement the submission of details of wheel wash to be used throughout the course of the construction period (Policy BE1).
 - 13 Landscaping scheme to be implemented during the course of development or next available planting season (Policy BE1).
 - 14 Access, roads, car parking and service areas to be laid out prior to occupation of premises (Policy BE1, TP6, TP7, TP12 and TP17).
 - 15 Windows to north and east elevations to be installed with triple glazing and trickle vents (Policy PR7).
 - 16 No lighting to be installed within the site or on the building without further approval from the Local Planning Authority (Policy BE1 and PR4).
 - 17 Restricted hours of construction (Policy BE1).
 - 18 Provision of domestic refuse bins.

DEV20 - PLAN NO. 06/00591/OUT. OUTLINE APPLICATION FOR UP TO 50 NO. DWELLINGS WITH ALL MATTERS RESERVED ON THE LAND OF THE FORMER GLEBE GARAGE LTD, LUNTS HEATH ROAD, WIDNES.

The application was refused as per the printed agenda.

Strategic Director
- Environment

DEV21 - PLAN NO. 06/00592/FUL. PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT TO PROVIDE 16 NO. ONE BEDROOM APARTMENT, 34 NO TWO BEDROOM AND 5 NO. THREE BEDROOM APARTMENTS (TOTAL 55 NO. UNITS) IN A SINGLE BLOCK BETWEEN FOUR AND SIX STORIES OVER UNDERCROFT CAR PARKING TO THE LAND AT THE FORMER EXPRESS DAIRIES SITE, PERRY STREET, RUNCORN.

It was noted that this application had been withdrawn.

Strategic Director
- Environment

DEV22 - PLAN NO. 06/00594/OUT. PROPOSED CREATION OF UP TO 17,350 SQUARE METRES OF NEW B1 BUSINESS ACCOMMODATION ACROSS 8 NO. INDIVIDUAL SITES (A MAXIMUM OF THREE STOREYS) AND CAR PARKING WITHIN, TO THE LAND AT THE HEATH BUSINESS AND TECHNICAL PARK, THE HEATH, RUNCORN.

The consultation procedure undertaken was outlined in the report together with background information in respect of the site. It was noted that 26 letters of objection had been received (including a Ward Councillor) on the grounds of which were detailed in the report. In addition it was reported that 11 further letters of objection had been received following consultation regarding the removal of the B2 use from the description, which were the same as the ones detailed in the report.

Mr Thomas addressed the Committee on behalf of local residents objecting to the application on the grounds that the site was too close to the proximity of local residents, also it was felt that residents were recovering from the pollution scare five years ago. In addition their concerns were noted regarding increase of traffic flow and the height of the buildings. Mr Thomas requested that the application be deferred.

Ward Councillor, Councillor M. Hodgkinson also addressed the Committee to oppose the application on the grounds of which were detailed in a document that was tabled at the meeting. (see appendix a).

Members raised concerns regarding the privacy and noise level issues for local residents. In reply it was noted that there were no planning reasons to defer the application.

It was reported that the Health and Safety Executive had confirmed they did not wish to call in the application.

RESOLVED: That authority be deferred to the Operational Director of Environmental & Regulatory Services in consultation with the Chairman subject to the application not being called in by the Health and Safety Executive to approve subject to the following 24 conditions and additional 6 conditions listed below:

1. Reserved matters condition, for the submission of and approval prior to the commencement of development.
2. Time limit for the submission of reserved matters.
3. Time limit for the commencement of development.
4. Reserved matters to be submitted and carried out as approved.
5. Materials condition, requiring the submission and approval of the materials to be used (BE2).
6. Drainage condition, requiring the submission and approval of drainage details (BE1).

Strategic Director
- Environment

7. Landscaping condition, requiring the submission of both hard and soft landscaping (BE2).
8. Boundary treatments to be submitted and approved in writing (BE1).
9. Wheel cleansing facilities to be submitted and approved in writing (BE1).
10. Parking conditions to ensure parking and servicing areas is provided and maintained at all times. The use of the premises shall not commence until the vehicle access and parking has been laid out (TP12).
11. Details of the design of the bin storage (BE2).
12. Construction hours to be adhered to throughout the course of the development (BE1).
13. Delivery hours to be adhered to throughout the life of the permission (BE1).
14. Condition that construction traffic is to use Weston Point Expressway (BE1).
15. To maintain the minimum distances to the residential properties (BE1).
16. The parking shall be provided to a ratio of 1 Space per 30sqm.
17. Subject to a travel plan being submitted and approved in writing (TP16).
18. A phasing agreement on the submission and implementation of the reserved matters to be submitted (BE1).
19. A traffic management scheme to be agreed and implemented (TP15).
20. No lighting to be installed within the site or on the building without further approval from the Local Planning Authority (Policy BE1 and PR4).
21. Prior to the commencement of development an amphibian survey is undertaken including remediation package and replacement pond.
22. Details of a soak away system and oil interceptor.
23. No existing trees to pruned or felled without consent.
24. A full tree survey, arboricultural method statement and tree protection plan to be submitted.

Additional conditions were as follows:

1. Details of cycle parking shall be provided prior to commencement (BE1).
2. Details of changing and shower facilities shall be provided (BE1).
3. Details of existing site levels and finished floor levels shall be submitted and approved (BE1).
4. Details of extract and refrigeration systems shall be submitted and approved (PR2).
5. Extract and refrigeration units shall be located on the

North West elevation of site 1 and 3 away from residential properties.

6. Grampian condition for off site highways work to cover junction and access improvements with an agreed phasing plan and time table.

DEV23 - PLAN NO. 06/00612/FUL. PROPOSED SINGLE STOREY MANUFACTURE FACILITY WITH ANCILLARY MEZZANINE STORAGE AND INTERNAL TWO STOREY OFFICES TO THE LAND AT MANOR FARM ROAD, RUNCORN.

The consultation procedure undertaken was outlined in the report together with background information in respect of the site. It was noted that no objections had been received and the Council's Environmental Officer had raised no concerns.

RESOLVED: That authority be deferred to the Operational Director of Environmental & Regulatory Services in consultation with the Chairman for the resolution of outstanding issues and application be approved subject to the following conditions:

Strategic Director
- Environment

1. Specifying amended plans (BE1).
2. Materials condition, requiring the submission and approval of the materials to be used (BE2).
3. Submission, agreement and implementation of site (BE1).
4. Submission, agreement and implementation of scheme for drainage (BE1).
5. Landscaping condition, requiring the submission of both hard and soft landscaping (BE2).
6. Submission, agreement and implementation of woodland habitat management plan (GE19).
7. 6 conditions relating to protection of trees to be retained during construction (GE19).
8. Boundary treatments to be submitted and approved in writing (BE2).
9. Wheel cleansing facilities to be submitted and approved in writing and used during construction (BE1).
10. Construction and delivery hours to be adhered to throughout the course of the development (BE1).
11. Vehicle access, parking, servicing etc to be constructed prior to occupation/ commencement of use (BE1).
12. Agreement and implementation of cycle parking provision (TP6).
13. Requiring implementation of agreed Travel Plan

- (TP16).
14. Restricting external lighting (BE1).
 15. 2 conditions restricting external storage and external waste area to defined area (E5).
 16. Agreement and implementation of cycle parking (TP6).
 17. Grampian condition relating to off-site footpath / cycleway provision (BE1). It is considered that this can be satisfactorily achieved through condition

DEV24 - PLAN NO. 06/00640/HBCFUL. RETROSPECTIVE APPLICATION FOR THE ERECTION OF ALLEY GATES TO THE LAND ADJACENT TO 4 MOTTERSHEAD ROAD, WIDNES.

The consultation procedure undertaken was outlined in the report together with background information in respect of the site. It was noted that an objection had been received from the Highways Authority in relation to the use of Stopping Up Orders in such cases.

One letter of support had been received from a local resident in addition to one letter of objection on the grounds of which were detailed in the report. The Council's response to the objections was that the fence and gates scheme had emerged because of the requests from several local residents, through local Councillors and Area Forums in order to address anti-social behaviour occurring to the rear of their homes.

It was reported that United Utilities had no objection but would require 24hr access to a water main within the enclosed area. Should access be needed and no key available access would be gained through forced entry. United Utilities would not be held liable for the cost of repairing such damage.

RESOLVED: That the application be approved subject to 1 condition requiring colour coating Dark Green BE22.

Strategic Director
- Environment

DEV25 - PLAN NO. 06/00646/HBCFUL. FULL APPLICATION FOR THE ERECTION OF A RE-POSITIONING OF ALLEY GATES TO THE LAND ADJACENT TO 4 SQUIRES AVENUE AND 11 SINCLAIR AVENUE, WIDNES.

The consultation procedure undertaken was outlined

in the report together with background information in respect of the site. It was noted that an objection had been received from the Highways Authority in relation to the use of Stopping Up Orders in such cases.

In addition comments had been received from United Utilities that they had no objection but would require 24 hr access to a public sewer and manhole within the enclosed area. Should access be needed and no key available access would be gained through forced entry. United Utilities would not be held liable for the cost of repairing such damage.

The Committee was informed of an amendment to the fencing detail as the proposed 2m paladin fence was now replaced with details for timber fencing to match adjacent existing fencing (which was similar to the Kingsway refurbishment schemes), as a result of consultation with residents.

RESOLVED: That the application be approved subject to 1 condition requiring colour coating Dark Green BE22.

Strategic Director
- Environment

DEV26 MATTER RELATING ADJOINING AUTHORITY
CONSULTATIONS

Plan No. 06/00570/ADJ

Adjoining authority outline application for the laying out of golf course, associated clubhouse and car parking with access to be determined at this stage to the land bounded by Mill Lane / M62 Motorway / Norlands Lane and Pex Hill, Cronton.

The Committee was informed that this proposal was an adjoining authority consultation by Knowsley Council, in respect of an 18-hole golf course. It was noted that this proposal was also a joint application between Halton and Knowsley, which had been discussed during this meeting (see Minute No. DEV18).

RESOLVED: That Halton Borough Council has no objections to the proposal.

Strategic Director
- Environment

DEV27 MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

It was reported that the following applications had been withdrawn:-

- 06/00461/FUL Proposed erection of 101 No. 2.5/ 3/ 3.5 storey houses and apartments with associated parking at Cameron Industrial Services Ltd. Hale Road Widnes Cheshire.
- 06/00490/FUL Proposed two storey side extension and associated works at 247 Ditchfield Road Widnes Cheshire.
- 06/00553/OUT Outline application for 3 No. two storey office blocks with details of siting / layout and means of access for approval at Clifton Road Sutton Weaver Runcorn Cheshire.
- 06/00558/FUL Proposed two storey side extension and vehicular access crossing at 2 Heralds Close Widnes Cheshire.

Appendix a

Planning Application 06/00594/OUT SOG Ltd. Objection by Cllr. Mike Hodgkinson.

In 2000 HCBD was found in quarries at Weston Village. As a result of incentives to leave and unjustified scare mongering, about half the population left the Village. However, most of the residents of Weston Crescent and SOG, who took over the Heath site from the ICI, had faith in the area and stayed.

We are pleased that SOG have been successful in attracting businesses to the site to replace the jobs lost when it was vacated by ICI and they have rightly received credit from the highest levels for their achievements.

Most local residents support the expansion of the Heath site to create more jobs, but have two major concerns. The first was that the site's status as an office and research establishment would be compromised by permitting the introduction of light industry. This has been accepted by SOG.

The second major issue relates to Site 1, which is sandwiched between a line of pylons and the housing both in Weston Crescent and that recently constructed by Persimmon Homes. The proposal is of a three-storey building. The SOG design statement says that as it is close to houses, a generous landscape buffer with design measures to avoid overlooking

should be provided. The Site 1 analysis recommends a 20m buffer for a three-storey building. The minimum distance to houses may be 25m, but the distance to the fence lines to some properties is much less than 20m. This will result in a major loss of amenity due to noise, overspill lighting and loss of privacy for the nearby housing.

In the Site 4 analysis, it states that the building on this site should be limited to two storeys to allow a roofline relationship with the buildings to the east. This is a valid point even though the buildings on the east are offices. Why does this not also apply to the housing near Site 1, which has only two storeys and would be overlooked? On this basis Site 1 should be no higher than 2 storeys.

The Site 1 analysis also says that the building position on the grid should be aligned to create a relationship with Sites 4 and 5. These sites are much further from Site 1 than the housing in Weston Crescent or the new housing, neither of which are considered in this context, In fact the new housing is not even marked on the plan and does not seem to have been considered at all!

A pond would be removed which is described as being in poor condition and affecting the developable area. It is home to protected newts, ducks and other wild life and provides a much-valued green oasis in an area sandwiched between heavy industry and offices.

Several of the people who have written to me stayed in the Village throughout the HCBd crisis, which emptied half the Village. They have been through enough and they deserve reasonable consideration by SOG as a good neighbour.

In conclusion I ask for the Site 1 proposal to be withdrawn and replaced by a landscaped area centred on an enhanced pond to 'provide a generous landscaped buffer' with some car parking. I have no objection to the remaining sites, which will provide a significant increase to the employment opportunities.

Tabled 09.10.06

Meeting ended at 7.15 p.m.

This page is intentionally left blank

DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the Development Control Committee on Monday, 20 November 2006 at Civic Suite, Town Hall, Runcorn

Present: Councillors Nolan (Chairman), Thompson (Vice-Chairman), Blackmore, Hignett, Morley, Leadbetter, Osborne, Polhill, Rowan and Whittaker

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Sly

Absence declared on Council business: (none)

Officers present: P. Watts, M. Simpson, Liz Beard, A. Pannell and J. Tully

Also in attendance: (none)

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

Action

DEV28 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 9th October 2006 having been printed and circulated, were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

DEV29 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.

DEV30 - PLAN NO. 06/00683/FUL - FULL APPLICATION FOR ERECTION OF 12 NO. TWO AND 2.5 STOREY, FOUR BEDROOM DETACHED DWELLINGS AT LAWSON HOUSE, MOUGHLAND LANE, RUNCORN.

The consultation procedure undertaken was outlined in the report together with background information in respect of the site. It was noted that comments had been received from six local residents, the details of which were outlined in the report. It was noted that two letters of objection had been received from Mr Duncan MacNaughton and Ms Susan Sherliker, both of which raised concerns regarding

the article recently published in the local press that highlighted the possible demolition of Lawson House. The two objectors raised other concerns such as the thought that the development may not fit in with the character of the building and the departure from the original proposal.

In reply it was confirmed that these newspaper articles were factually incorrect and it was noted that Lawson House was separate to the area that this application referred to as it was behind Lawson House. It was reported that the area was low density and the developers would ensure that the character of the area would be maintained.

It was reported that there were a number of trees on the site that were protected by a tree preservation order and the planning design was low density and the layout complied with Halton's Unitary Development Plan.

The Committee was advised of an amended plan which gave access to a double garage on plot one, this had been received and accepted by the Council's highways engineer.

It was noted that United Utilities had raised no objection to the proposal providing that the site was drained on a separate system with only foul drainage connected into the foul sewer. In addition the Health and Safety Executive had not advised against the proposal.

RESOLVED: That the application be approved subject to the applicant entering into a Section 106 Legal Agreement for a financial contribution for the provision of off-site open space and the following 24 conditions: -

- 1 Standard 3 year permission
- 2 Amended plans (BE1 and BE2)
- 3 Entering into a legal agreement for provision of financial contribution towards off site open space (H3)
- 4 Submission of materials for approval prior to commencement (BE2)
- 5 Submission of existing land levels and proposed finished floor levels prior to commencement (BE1)
- 6 Submission of drainage scheme prior to commencement (BE1)
- 7 Provision of full details of boundary treatments prior to commencement (BE22)
- 8 Prior to commencement provision of ground investigation and remediation work implemented prior to commencement (PR12)
- 9 No trees shown to be retained on the site shall be

Strategic Director
- Environment

felled, pruned, lopped, topped, uprooted or damaged in any way as a result of carrying out this development without the prior written consent of the Local Planning Authority (GE27)

- 10 Before any site works commence, a method statement for the protection of retained trees shall be approved by the Local Planning Authority and adopted by all personnel on site (GE27)
- 11 Before any site works commence, robust temporary fencing in accordance with British Standard 5837 shall be erected to adequately protect all existing trees shown to be retained (GE27)
- 12 No work on site (including the pre-construction delivery of equipment or materials or the creation of access to the site) shall commence until the Local Planning Authority has been notified in writing of the proposed date of commencement and has confirmed that the protective fencing around trees has been erected to its satisfaction (GE27)
- 13 Within the protective zones surrounding each tree, as defined by the fencing, there shall be no raising or lowering of levels, no storage of soil, debris or building materials, no installation of underground services, kerbing, or any kind of hard surfacing, no passage of vehicles or any other site activity whatsoever without prior consultation with the Council's Tree Officer (GE27)
- 14 Provision of hard and soft landscaping details to be agreed and implemented (BE1)
- 15 Soft landscaping to include written specifications (BE1)
- 16 All hard and soft landscaping to be carried out in accordance with approved details (BE1)
- 17 The new tree planting as indicated within Plot 5 on Drawing No. MD056/PL02 Rev J shall be retained throughout the lifetime of the development, replacement planting if tree is damaged or dies back within first 5 years (BE1)
- 18 Details of boundary treatment to north of Plots 4 and 5 to be submitted prior to the commencement of development and retained throughout the lifetime of the development (BE1 and BE22)
- 19 Layout of access and car parking prior to occupation (BE1)
- 20 Removal of permitted development rights for Class A and E (BE1 and BE2)
- 21 Removal of permitted development rights for insertion of windows and dormers (BE1 and BE2)
- 22 Restriction of construction and delivery hours (BE1)
- 23 Provision of wheel cleansing facilities for use

throughout construction period (BE1)
24 Provision of domestic refuse bins (BE1)

DEV31 - PLAN NO. 06/00734/HBCFUL PROPOSED ERECTION OF GATES AT ENTRANCE TO ALLEYWAYS AT THE REAR OF JAMES CLOSE AND ADJACENT TO 1, 11 AND 17 DAVIES CLOSE, WIDNES.

The consultation procedure undertaken was outlined in the report together with background information in respect of the site. It was noted that United Utilities had raised no objections in principle and the Highways Authority had objected in relation to the use of Stopping Up Orders in such cases.

RESOLVED: That the application be approved subject to 1 condition requiring colour coating Dark Green BE22.

Strategic Director
- Environment

DEV32 - PLAN NO. 06/00735/HBCFUL. PROPOSED ERECTION OF GATES AT ENTRANCE TO ALLEYWAYS AT THE REAR OF 3 AND 5 LACEY STREET WIDNES.

The consultation procedure undertaken was outlined in the report together with background information in respect of the site. It was noted that United Utilities and Cheshire Fire Authority had raised no objections in principle and the Highways Authority had objected in relation to the use of Stopping Up Orders in such cases.

RESOLVED: That the application be approved subject to 1 condition requiring colour coating Dark Green BE22.

Strategic Director
- Environment

DEV33 - PLAN NO. 06/00755/S73. PROPOSED VARIATION OF CONDITION 24 ON 06/00502/FUL TO VARY HOURS OF OPENING FOR A1 USE AND A5 USE TO THE LAND OPPOSITE MOTHERWELL CLOSE, LANARK GARDENS, WIDNES.

It was reported that a further three letters of objection had been received which were for the same reasons as those detailed in the report.

The Committee was advised that this application had been withdrawn by the applicants on the 9th November 2006.

DEV34 MISCELLANEOUS

It was reported that an appeal was lodged following the Council's refusal of the following application: -

A decision had been reached as follows

05/00893/ Full proposed first floor rear extension at 1 Danby Close Runcorn Cheshire WA7 2YE.

This appeal had been allowed.

The following applications had been withdrawn.

06/00592/FUL Proposed residential development to provide 16 No. one bedroom, 34 No. two bedroom and 5 No. three bedroom apartments (total 55 No. units) in a single block between four and six stories over undercroft car parking on Former Express Dairies Site, Perry Street, Runcorn, Cheshire, WA7 5SW

06/00619/OUT Outline application for demolition of existing buildings and erection of 3-5 storey residential development (comprising 42 No. units with 58 No. car parking spaces) with siting/layout, design/external appearance and means of access for approval at Former Oak Lodge, Richards Close, Runcorn, Cheshire, WA7 2HR

The following applications have been returned:-

06/00733/HBCFUL Proposed erection of alleygates on Land Adjacent To 158 Hale Road, Widnes, Cheshire, WA8 8SY

06/00751/HBCFUL Proposed erection of gates at entrances to alleyway and fencing (approx 10m in length) at Alleyway Adjacent To 16 Allen Road, Runcorn, Cheshire, WA7 4HX

06/00752/HBCFUL Proposed erection of gates at entrances
to alleyway at Alleyway To Rear Of 8
Carlton Street, Widnes, Cheshire, WA8
6NP

Meeting ended at 6.44 p.m.

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the Standards Committee on Wednesday, 1 November 2006 in Committee Room 1, Runcorn Town Hall.

Present: Mr. W. Badrock (Chairman), Mr. Luxton and Councillors Lewis, Parker and Redhead

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Pearsall, Wharton and Parish Councillor R. Crawford.

Absence declared on Council business: (none)

Officers present: M. Simpson and J. Tradewell.

Also in attendance: (none)

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

STC10 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 6th September 2006, having been printed and circulated were signed as a correct record subject to the amendment that in the attendance section Cllr Luxton should have read Mr Luxton.

RESOLVED: That the minutes be noted.

STC11 ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF STANDARDS COMMITTEES

The Council Solicitor fed back information from the Annual Assembly of Standards Committees. One weakness of the event was that the draft form of the new Members Code of Conduct was not ready for discussion.

It was reported that there were conversations on how to raise the profile of Standards Committee for example:

- the use of websites;
- visiting parishes; and
- other ways the Committee could be pro-active.

The Committee had a wide ranging discussion

Action

regarding the issues in the White Paper relating to Standards Committee. It was reported that, under the proposals all complaints would come to the Standards Committee. It seemed likely that the decision on whether to investigate a complaint would have to be dealt with by a Member of the Standards Committee, not the officers.

The Committee also discussed the presentation at the Assembly regarding a Chester Case, the need for the Committee to have an independent chair person, the maximum penalty under the code of conduct and the need to have clear public relations via the website with instructions regarding how to make a complaint.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

STC12 TRAINING UPDATE

The Committee received a report which provided an update on the training session held for Councillors on the Code of Conduct on the 26th September 2006. It was noted that the sessions were attended by 11 Councillors and were generally well received. The feedback sheets were detailed within the report and overall the feedback was really good.

The Committee was advised that there would be further training sessions for new Councillors on the new Code of Conduct once it was finalised. The final version should be available for the Council to adopt as of May 2007.

It was reported that there was an away day planned for the 6th December at the Halton Stadium and possible themes such as, plans for the future, the needs of Parish Councillors, what the priorities should and how they could be taken forward were discussed.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Strategic Director Corporate and Policy be invited to the Away Day; and
- (2) the Leader and Chief Executive be asked for their views on the priorities for the Committee over the next few years.

Council
Solicitor

STC13 STANDARDS BOARD INFORMATION ROUND-UP

The Committee received a report which outlined the latest news from the Standards Board. A copy of a paper entitled "A Question of Standards – Prescott's Town Hall Madness" produced by Owen Paterson MP and Gerald

Howarth MP was discussed. The two MP's paper criticised standards agenda in local government and recommended the abolition of both monitoring officers and the Standards Board. Also detailed within the report was the Standards Board's response to the paper.

The Committee had a wide ranging discussion regarding the report and it was felt that there were some points to reflect upon. Among other things it was noted that the current standards regime replaced the old rules of surcharge which most Members had been glad to see replaced.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

STC14 FEEDBACK FROM MEETING WITH THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE STANDARDS BOARD

It was reported that the Council Solicitor attended an ACSES North West Group meeting on the 22nd September 2006. The Board was advised that the session provided a useful opportunity to discuss with colleagues and senior officers from the Standards Board how the standards agenda was likely to develop over the next year or two. The points that came out during the discussion were outlined in detail within the report.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

STC15 ANNUAL REPORT OF ADJUDICATION PANEL FOR ENGLAND

The Committee received a copy of the Annual Report from the Adjudication Panel for England. The report provided an interesting insight into how the standards regime looked from the perspective of the President of the Adjudication Panel.

The Committee was advised as to what the President had to say in the report about local Standards Committees. The President believed it would be better for hearings to be chaired by lawyers with experience of the Competency Framework for Chairman and Members of Tribunals. It was felt that the President's comments served to reinforce the need for some practical training for the Committee on carrying out hearings.

Concerns were raised regarding the specifics of what amounted to a significant breach of the Code of Conduct, and that it was not just about following the procedural rules

but knowing how to reach a decision. It was noted that there must be sufficient checks and balances in place to make the process work.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

Meeting ended at 4.30 p.m.

REGULATORY COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the Regulatory Committee on Monday, 13 November 2006 in the Council Chamber, Runcorn Town Hall

Present: Councillors Pearsall (Vice-Chairman), Cole, Cross, Gilligan, D Inch, Lowe, Nelson and E Ratcliffe

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Philbin and Drakeley

In view of statements made in a local newspaper by Councillor C. Inch (Member for Daresbury Ward) regarding the Creamfields application Councillor D. Inch felt that it would not be appropriate for her to take part at the meeting. Councillor D. Inch had requested that it be recorded that the statements by Councillor C. Inch were made entirely independently and that she personally had not commented on the application and had not formed any opinion on the merits of the application.

Absence declared on Council business: (none)

Officers present: G. Ferguson, K. Cleary, J. Findlow, I. Mason, Y. Sung, J. Tully and P. Watts

Also in attendance: (none)

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

REG10 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985 – URGENT BUSINESS

The Committee was advised that two matters had arisen which required immediate attention by the Committee because in each case a decision was required before the date of the next meeting (Minute REG14 refers), therefore pursuant to Section 100 B (4) and 100 E Local Government Act 1972, the Chairman ruled that the items be considered as a matter of urgency.

REG11 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 18 September 2006 having been printed and circulated were taken as read

Action

and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

REG12 APPLICATION FOR SEX SHOP LICENCE AT 87 HIGH STREET, RUNCORN

The Committee considered an application for a sex shop licence at 87 High Street, Runcorn. On behalf of the applicant Darker Enterprises Limited, Mr. Sullivan, attended the meeting and addressed the Committee in support of the application.

The Committee noted that Section 2 and Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 enabled local authorities to adopt controls over sex establishments. The Council adopted these provisions in 1983 and confirmed its policies and procedures in 2000 after consideration by the Council's Licensing Review Body. Details of circumstances where an application must be refused as well as circumstances where an application may be refused were outlined in the report.

Objections could be made to the grant of a licence not later than 28 days after the date of the application. Within this period 8 letters of objection were received in response to the application. The Committee was advised that they could take these objections into account in the extent that they raised issues which were material to the potential grounds for refusal set out in the legislation.

One letter had been received one day after the close for objection and another three days later and one anonymous letter was received. None of these had been taken into account. An analysis of the objections was set out in the report.

In accordance with the procedure for sex shop applications, Members of the Committee and Council legal representatives left the room to consider the application.

Following consideration of the objections and the application put forward, and also having regard to all of the information set out in the agenda item, the Committee returned and a decision was provided to the applicant and members of the public present.

RESOLVED: That the application be refused on the grounds that to grant the application would be inappropriate having regard to the character of the locality.

REG13 CREAMFIELDS EVENT 2006

The Committee received a report from the following responsible authorities on issues arising from the Creamfields Event:

- Halton Council Environmental Health (Noise Control);
- Halton Council Environmental Health (Health and Safety and Trading Standards);
- Warrington Borough Council;
- Cheshire Police; and
- Cheshire Fire Authority.

On behalf of Halton Council (Environmental Health): (Noise) Isabel Mason attended the meeting and addressed the Committee on issues around noise/noise readings; fundamental changes that were made to the layout of the site prior to the event; and the number of complaints received from residents.

Members noted that should any subsequent applications for a similar event in the same location be received, some areas would be considered in order to further reduce the noise levels where appropriate and practicable, particularly after 23.00 hours.

On behalf of Halton Council Environmental Health (Health and Safety, Food Safety and Standards) Yee May Sung advised Members that no notification of accidents on the site had been reported and the event had ran reasonably safely with no major concerns.

The service was satisfied that Creamfields took all appropriate measures to inform and keep the service up to date with all health and safety measures and conditions. However, if the event was to be run again, Creamfields would be requested to produce a detailed risk assessment with regard to work transport and also not to allow food concession latecomers to the site, as the service required time preceding the event to check with the Home Regulating Authority.

In addition, Members considered representations from Jan Souness (Head of Service) on behalf of Warrington Borough Council, who outlined the following areas of concern:

- (i) communication between Warrington Council's helpline and the on-site emergency liaison team was not as effective as it could have been in terms of

regular briefings and responding quickly to issues;

- (ii) severe traffic delays and congestion in Stretton caused serious disruption for residents, this was partly due to the relatively late arrival by event goers to the concert;
- (iii) Warrington Borough Council received 30 complaints about noise during the weekend, higher than expected numbers of complaints were received from areas outside the initial consultation zone, this was due to the late reorientation of the stage and speakers;
- (iv) there appeared to be a delay in the issuing of residents permits to all properties that fell within the road closures of the traffic management plan;
- (v) the Principal Environmental Health Officer had confirmed that the event organisers did comply with the conditions placed on the licence application;
- (vi) noise levels increased between 4.00 am and 6.00 am;
- (vii) various observations by residents from Walton, Hatton, Stretton and Appleton.

Arising from the discussion, J. Souness confirmed to Members that previously Warrington Borough Council's main objection to the Creamfields licence application was related to noise, however, since the Principal Environmental Health Officer (Warrington) had confirmed that Creamfields organisers had complied with the noise conditions placed on the licence application, it was unlikely that Warrington Borough Council would object to a similar application if one was submitted.

Inspector D. Price attended the meeting and summarised the views of Cheshire Constabulary regarding the planning and operation of Creamfields Music Festival. In response to a request from a local resident, Officers from Halton queried with Inspector Price the issuing of wristbands to visitors. Inspector Price had reported that wristbands were issued to visitors who appeared to be between 18 – 21. However, the licence conditions stated that they should be issued to every member of the public attending the event. It was agreed that if a future licence application was received the wording of this condition would be reviewed.

There was no representative from Cheshire Fire Service. However, Mark Kerry Station Manager at Community Fire Protection Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service had sent his apologies.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

REG14 LICENSING ACT 2003 FIRST ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT

The Committee considered a report from responsible authorities on their experience of the first 12 months operation of the Licensing Act 2003.

Responsible authorities were:

- the Police;
- the Fire Authority;
- Health and Safety Authority;
- the Local Planning Authority;
- Public and Environmental Health Authority;
- Child Protection Authority;
- any licensing authority in respect of shared premises; and
- miscellaneous navigation/waterway authorities.

Members considered reports from Halton Council Environmental Health – Noise Control; Environmental – Health & Safety; Cheshire Police and Cheshire Fire Authority.

RESOLVED: That the reports from the responsible authorities be noted.

REG15 ITEM CONTAINING EXEMPT INFORMATION FALLING WITHIN SCHEDULE 12A OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

In view of the nature of the business to be transacted, it was:

RESOLVED: That under Section 100 (A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, having been satisfied that in all of the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information the press and the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part I of

Schedule 12A of the Act.

REG16 TAXI LICENSING MATTER

The Committee were asked to determine two referral cases, details of which had been circulated to Members of the Committee only.

Both of the applicants attended the Committee in support of their applications.

RESOLVED: That in respect of

Case No. 666

The allegations made had been proved and the driver's licence suspended for one month, any further occurrences and a more severe punishment may be applied.

Case No. 667

The application be refused.

Strategic Director
– Corporate and
Policy

Meeting ended at 10.35 p.m.

APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the Appointments Committee held on Wednesday, 25 October 2006 at the Marketing Suite, Municipal Building

Present: Councillors McDermott (Chairman), Blackmore, Findon, Gilligan, Polhill and Wharton

Apologies for Absence: (none)

Absence declared on Council business: (none)

Officers present: D. Parr, D Tregua and L. Cairns

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

	<i>Action</i>
<p>APC6 MINUTES</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 21st July 2006, having been printed and circulated, were taken as read and agreed as a correct record.</p>	
<p>APC7 SCHEDULE 12A OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985</p> <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 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, 3 and 4 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 applicable and whether, when applying the public</p>	

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 outweighs 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 is likely that, in view of the nature of the business, exempt information will be disclosed, being information defined in Section 100 (1) and paragraphs 1, 2, 3 and 4 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

APC8 HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

The Committee considered a report of the Strategic Director – Environment regarding the management and operation of the Highways and Transportation Department.

Members discussed the success of the division and the possible impact of the proposed amendments. However, it was noted that the restructuring dealt with the need for succession planning and built on the proven strengths and expertise within the department.

RESOLVED: That

- (a) the 14 existing posts shown in Appendix B of the report be deleted from the establishment with effect from 31st March 2007 and three of the existing post holders be placed at risk in accordance with the Council's procedures;
- (b) the 10 new posts shown in Appendix B of the report be added to the establishment with effect from 1st April 2007;
- (c) the Strategic Director – Environment, in consultation with the Operational Director – Human Resources, be authorised to take such steps as are necessary to secure the implementation of the changes by 1st April 2007 having regard to transitional issues; and
- (d) Alan West (Operational Director – Highways and Transportation), Stephen Leng (Divisional Manager – Highways) and Tony Wilkinson (Section Leader – Maintenance) be retired in the interests of the

efficiency of the Authority.

|

Meeting ended at 3.55 p.m.

This page is intentionally left blank

STATUTORY JOINT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**5 BOROUGH PARTNERSHIP NHS TRUST PROPOSALS RELATING TO IMPROVING SERVICES FOR ADULTS WITH MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS IN HALTON, ST. HELENS AND WARRINGTON**

Minutes of the meeting of this Committee held on
19 October 2006

(Members Present) Halton Council

**Councillors Cargill and Inch
Jones (Substitute for Councillor Loftus)**

St. Helens Council

Councillors Bowden and Stephanie Topping

Warrington Council

Councillors Banner, Hoyle and Johnson

(Not Present) Halton Council

Councillor Loftus

St Helens Council

**Councillor McGuire
Ronan (Substitute for Councillor McGuire)**

(Also Present) Halton Council

Dwayne Johnson, Strategic Director, Health and Community

St. Helens Council

Carole Swift, Service Manager Carers and Scrutiny

Mike Wyatt, Assistant Director, Performance and Business Support

Peter Hughes, Head of Policy

Warrington Council

Alison Williams, Overview and Scrutiny Officer

Rob Vickers, Halton and St. Helens Primary Care Trust

Tina Molyneux, (Clerk to the Committee),

Senior Democratic Services Officer, St. Helens Council

26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Loftus, McGuire and Ronan. Councillor Jones attended as substitute for Councillor Loftus.

27 MINUTES

- * **Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 7 September, 2006 be approved and signed.**

STATUTORY JOINT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

28 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS

No Declarations of Interest from Members were made.

Councillor Inch entered the meeting during discussion on the following item.

29 STATUTORY JOINT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - FINAL REPORT

A report was submitted which confirmed to Members the final report of the Statutory Joint Scrutiny Committee regarding the proposals of the 5 Boroughs Partnership NHS Trust to improve services for adults with mental health problems, which were summarised in the document, "Change for the Better".

At the meeting of the Committee held on 7 September 2006 amendments were made to the draft report and it was agreed that it be delegated to the Chair, Councillor Cargill, Vice Chair, Councillor Bowden and representative Member from Warrington, Councillor Hoyle to agree the final report.

The report had sent to the 5 Boroughs Partnership NHS Trust on 14 September 2006, requesting a written response to the findings and recommendations in the report by 13 October 2006.

The consultation document 'Change for the Better' was attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

The Committee identified a list of key issues and wrote to the 5 Boroughs Partnership NHS Trust and invited them to attend the meeting and respond to these issues. A copy of the 5 Boroughs Trust response was attached as Appendix 2 to the report.

Similarly, the Committee identified key issues for PCT Commissioners in each of the Boroughs, and wrote to them with a list of key issues. The PCT's response was attached at Appendix 3 to the report.

* **Resolved that the report be noted**

Councillor Jones left the meeting during discussion on the following item.

30 RESPONSE FROM 5 BOROUGH PARTNERSHIP NHS TRUST

A report was submitted which informed Members of the response from the 5 Boroughs Partnership NHS Trust. Judith Holbrey, Chief Executive, Ray Walker, Director of Operational Services, Standards and Nursing and Jan East, Assistant Chief Executive, 5 Boroughs Partnership NHS Trust were present to outline the report and answer questions from Members.

The Trust had taken account of the themes and issues of concern raised within the Statutory Joint Scrutiny Committees Response, together with those of other respondents, and consequently had proposed significant adjustments to the modernisation proposals which would result in the model costing £1m more than the original model. A report to this effect had been submitted to an Extraordinary Meeting of the Trust Board held on 5 October 2006. The Trust Board had approved Option 3 of the Report i.e., Approved the "modified model" in principle, Full approval of the model being subject to the Trust Board receiving and approving a supporting Cost Improvement Programme to cover the additional £1m shortfall. A copy of this was attached as an appendix to the report.

STATUTORY JOINT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

2

* Resolved that

- (1) the report be noted; and
- (2) the representatives from the 5 Boroughs Partnership NHS Trust were thanked for their attendance.

31 **FURTHER ACTION**

A report was tabled and considered by Members which set out the main options which the Committee may wish to take having received the response from the 5 Boroughs Partnership NHS Trust. The Committee discussed the options and agreed on Option 3 which was as follows:

Option 3

If the Committee is not wholly satisfied with response from the 5 Boroughs Partnership NHS Trust and requires further information - information could be sought from either the 5 Boroughs Trust and/or other expert witnesses. A letter would be sent to the Trust outlining the Committee's approach and requesting information and possibly attendance at future meetings.

The Statutory Joint Committee identified four Terms of Reference. The fourth term of reference was:

- To monitor the Trusts responses to the report and agree mechanisms for the ongoing monitoring of future changes to mental health services.

The report set out a number of options for the ongoing monitoring of future changes to the Mental Health Services in the boroughs of Halton, St. Helens and Warrington.

The Committee discussed the options and agreed on Option 4 as follows:

Option 4

Defer a decision until the final outcome of the scrutiny exercise and other Terms of Reference had been completed. It may be helpful during this period if this decision was made to seek the views of the 5 Boroughs Trust NHS Partnership Trust about the most effective scrutiny mechanisms from their perspective.

The Committee were pleased to note a significant number of positive areas and endorsed all of the 20 recommendations summarised in Appendix 2, of the response to the Statutory Joint Scrutiny Committee. The Committee felt that these recommendations demonstrated that the 5 Boroughs Partnership NHS Trust had listened during the consultation process and was taking on board comments and the views of stakeholders.

The Committee were also pleased to note a number of other points from the presentation including :

- The securing of Capital Funding.
- The development of commissioning strategies for Older People and Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services and the work that is ongoing
- The creation of an Assistant Director of Workforce and the positive progress being made in relation to consultation with the staff side.
- The availability of transitional funds to assist with the modernisation process.

STATUTORY JOINT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

- The availability of a phased implementation plan.
- The commitment, which the 5 Boroughs Trust, gave to working with the PCTs and other partners to continue to develop services.

Although the Committee was pleased with the progress made there were some areas of continued concern which the Committee would like further information on for its next meeting to be held on the 16 November 2006.

- Details of the revision to the model, which is anticipated, would be approved by the Trust Board on the 2 November 2006.
- More detailed financial information in relation to the model with a particular focus on how the extra million pounds worth of savings will be identified.
- Further details about the level of community resources which would be available in each of the Boroughs following implementation of the model.
- Further information about the needs of older people, in particularly in in-patient settings. The Committee still had some concerns about how this issue would be managed.
- Details of staff deployment in the new model in both in-patient and community settings.
- Further information about how local authorities would be engaged in the partnership work and the implementation programme.
- The Committee would like sight of a copy of the implementation plan.
- Further details about risk management and development of a risk register and assessment of risk.
- Update in relation to the proposed disinvestments by Warrington PCT and how this will impact upon the proposed Models of Care and 5BPT financial context.

A response would be requested by Friday 3 November 2006 in order that the papers can be circulated and Members can have proper time to consider them

* **Resolved that**

- (1) the report be noted;**
- (2) the Committee agreed on Options 3 and 4 as outlined above;**
- (3) a letter be sent to the 5 Boroughs Partnership NHS Trust requesting further information as outlined above; and**
- (4) a meeting of the Committee be arranged to be held on 16 November 2006**