

Minutes & Reports

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

**Wednesday, 21 February
2007**

Minutes & Reports

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COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Council on Wednesday, 13 December 2006 in the Council Chamber, Runcorn Town Hall

Present: Councillors Swain (Mayor), Blackmore, Bradshaw, D. Cargill, E. Cargill, Cole, Cross, Dennett, Drakeley, Edge, Findon, Fraser, Gerrard, Gilligan, Harris, Hignett, Hodgkinson, Horabin, Howard, C Inch, Jones, Leadbetter, Lewis, Lloyd Jones, Loftus, Lowe, Massey, McDermott MBE, McInerney, Morley, Nelson, Nolan, Norddahl, Osborne, Parker, Pearsall, Polhill, E Ratcliffe, M Ratcliffe, Redhead, Rowan, Rowe, Sly, Stockton, Swift, Thompson, Wainwright, Wallace, Wharton and Wright

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Higginson, D Inch, Marlow, Philbin, Whittaker and Worrall

Absence declared on Council business: (none)

Officers present: D. Parr, D. Johnson, I. Leivesley, D Terris, D Tregaea, R. Barnett, C. Foley and L. Cairns

Also in attendance: (none)

*Action***COU43 THE MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor commented on the imminent departure of Ms D Terris, Strategic Director – Children and Young People, who was due to take up the post of Chief Executive at Warrington Borough Council in the near future. It was noted that Ms Terris had joined Halton Borough Council at a difficult time and had moved the Authority forward quickly in respect of the challenging integration of children agenda.

The Council thanked Ms Terris and wished her well for the future.

COU44 COUNCIL MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 18th October 2006, having been printed and circulated, were taken as read subject to an amendment to the list of apologies.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting be confirmed and adopted subject to Councillor McInerney's apologies being amended to read "absence declared on

Council business”.

COU45 LEADER'S REPORT

The Leader of the Council reported on the following issues:

- There would be the opportunity for Members to go through the Liverpool City Region bid in more detail on 5th January 2007. In the meantime, the Chief Executive would circulate his presentation slides and the business case to Members for information.
- The Executive Board was to consider a paper the following week regarding “Building Schools for the Future”. If the Authority was successful in this, it would provide the opportunity of £90 million worth of new school building, having an effect on provision in schools and on the Borough as a whole. Certain criteria had to be met for the Authority to be successful.
- The proposed changes to the Magistrates’ Court arrangements in Halton (minute number EXB58 of the Executive Board meeting held on 16th November 2006 refers) was an ongoing issue. The Authority had expressed its concerns about the changes and the fact that the decision had been made prior to consultation, and meetings were ongoing in this respect.
- A representative of the LGIU had visited the Authority two weeks ago and had been very complementary about what was happening in Halton and, in particular, the information provided by the HDLs (Halton Direct Links). Another illustration was the positive impact alley gates had had on reducing nuisance.
- The Standards Committee was now up and running with the new Independent Chairman. It was noted that there had never been a Standards Board investigation at the Authority to date and this was a credit to all concerned. In addition, Members were advised that a new Code of Conduct was to be published in the coming months.

COU46 MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

The Council considered the minutes of the Executive

Board held on 2nd November and 16th November 2006.

In receiving the minutes, the Council noted that:

- the new Halton Direct Link (HDL) in Runcorn had proven to be a massive hit with those people who used it, including those who required tourist information;
- buses were now running between the Warrington and Halton hospital sites daily, which had been a request predominant in the Council's submission;
- in response to a question, the Leader confirmed that the Council could look at whether or not similar meetings to those arranged with Halton Housing Trust (item EXB57 of the Executive Board meeting held on 16th November 2006 refers) were required with the hospitals; and
- the agreed new Children's Centre in the Mersey Ward would now fill the gap in provision in Western Runcorn: it was noted that Children's Centres were being rolled out to almost all areas in the Borough that fit the criteria.

RESOLVED: That the minutes be received.

COU47 MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD SUB-COMMITTEE

The Council considered the minutes of the Executive Board Sub-Committee held on 12th October, 2nd November and 16th November 2006.

RESOLVED: That the minutes be received.

COU48 MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE (TRANSMODAL IMPLEMENTATION) SUB-BOARD

The Council considered the minutes of the Executive (Transmodal Implementation) Sub-Board held on 19th October 2006.

RESOLVED: That the minutes be received.

COU49 MINUTES OF THE MERSEY GATEWAY EXECUTIVE BOARD

The Council considered the minutes of the Mersey Gateway Executive Board held on 19th October 2006.

RESOLVED: That the minutes be received.

COU50 QUESTIONS ASKED UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 8

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

COU51 EXECUTIVE BOARD - 2ND NOVEMBER 2006 (EXB49 REFERS) - RENEWAL OF REFUSE COLLECTION VEHICLE FLEET

The Executive Board had considered a report requesting agreement to the procurement of 10 new refuse collection vehicles via direct purchase funded from the Council's capital budget rather than through the lease arrangements currently used. Procurement was proposed to be undertaken through a partnership with an established framework, and an amendment to the 2006/07 capital programme was sought.

The Portfolio Holder for Environment, Leisure and Sport undertook to respond in writing to a question raised by the Principal Opposition about the procurement route taken.

RESOLVED: That the 2006/07 Capital Programme be amended to provide a sum of up to £1.2million through prudential borrowing to fund the purchase of 10 new refuse collection vehicles.

(NB Councillor Osborne declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the following item of business due to being a member of WREN and left the meeting during its consideration.)

COU52 EXECUTIVE BOARD SUB-COMMITTEE (ES51 REFERS) - WREN - LANDFILL TAX FUNDING THIRD PARTY PAYMENTS

The Executive Board Sub-Committee had considered a report proposing a variation of the capital programme to enable draw down of landfill tax credit grant funding of £310,764 this financial year.

RESOLVED: 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.

COU53 EXECUTIVE BOARD - 7TH DECEMBER 2006 - GAMBLING ACT 2005 STATEMENT OF GAMBLING POLICY

The Executive Board had considered a report proposing the adoption of a Gambling Policy at its meeting on 7th December 2006.

It was noted that, under Section 349 of the Gambling Act 2005, the Council was required to adopt a three-year licensing policy, also known as a statement of gambling policy. A draft had been out to public consultation and responses, with a corresponding reply from the Authority, had been detailed for the Executive Board's consideration. Under the Gambling Act 2005 the statement of Gambling Policy must be adopted by full Council and then advertised in the local press with all statements in place by the end of January 2007.

Council was advised that the Executive Board had resolved to recommend that the Statement of Gambling Policy attached to the report be adopted.

RESOLVED: That the statement of Gambling Policy attached to the report be adopted.

COU54 DETERMINATION OF COUNCIL TAX BASE

The Executive Board had considered a report regarding the determination of the 'Tax Base' for the Authority's area and for each of the Parishes at its meeting on 7th December 2006. It was noted that the Council was required to notify the figure to the Cheshire Fire Authority, the Cheshire Police Authority, the Cheshire Magistrates' Courts Committee, the Cheshire Probation Committee and the National Rivers Authority by 31st January 2007.

The Board's resolution was reported to the Council for information.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the 2007/8 Council Tax Base be set at 37,392 for the Borough, and the Cheshire Fire Authority, the Cheshire Police Authority and the National Rivers Authority be so notified; and
- (2) the Council Tax Base for each of the Parishes be set as follows:

Parish	Tax Base
Hale	722
Daresbury	140
Moore	352

Operational
Director –
Financial Services

COU55 INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

The Council considered a report of the Strategic Director – Corporate and Policy outlining the need to set up an Independent Remuneration Panel.

It was noted that the Council's Scheme of Members' Allowances would expire on 31st March 2007 and a new Scheme needed to be in place before that date. The Council was advised that, before making a Scheme, the relevant Regulations required that an Independent Remuneration Panel be appointed from which the Authority must take advice.

RESOLVED: That the Chief Executive be authorised to take all necessary steps to establish an Independent Remuneration Panel to review the Council's Scheme of Member Allowances.

COU56 CHANGE TO APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

The Council was advised of the following change in appointments to outside bodies which had been made in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation (Matters Relating to Council Policy –17):

- T H Brown Trust – Councillor Nelson appointed.

(NB Councillors Morley, Osborne, Wainwright and Wharton declared a personal interest in respect of minute number URB33 on the Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board minutes in the following item of business due to being Board Members of Halton Borough Transport.)

COU57 MINUTES OF POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARDS AND THE BUSINESS EFFICIENCY BOARD

The Council considered the 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
Joint Children and Young People, and Healthy Halton

Business Efficiency Board

In receiving the minutes of the Safer Halton Policy and Performance Board, the Council noted that, since becoming a Unitary Authority, the statistics in respect of the number of children killed or seriously injured in the Borough had reduced dramatically.

(NB Councillor Findon declared a personal interest in respect of minute number DEV18 of the Development Control Committee minutes on the following item of business due to being a member of the local golf club.)

COU58 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

(NB At the close of the meeting, the Council wished a speedy recovery to both John Whittaker (Mayoral Attendant) and Councillor Higginson.)

Meeting ended at 7.10 p.m.

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EXECUTIVE BOARD

At a meeting of the Executive Board on Thursday, 7 December 2006 at the Marketing Suite, Municipal Building, Widnes.

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

Apologies for Absence: Councillors McInerney

Absence declared on Council business: (none)

Officers present: L. Cairns, B. Dodd, I. Leivesley, D. Parr, M. Platts, P. Watts and A. Williamson

Also in attendance: Councillor Redhead and 1 member of the press

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

EXB61 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 16th November 2006 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

COMMUNITY PORTFOLIO

EXB62 ALLEYGATES

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Health and Community regarding the scheme for installing alley gates across the Borough and the financial implications of maintaining them.

It was noted that the gating of rear entries had proved to be a very successful crime prevention measure, contributing to a reduction of burglaries, criminal damage, graffiti, vandalism, anti-social behaviour and fly tipping. A survey carried out by Mott MacDonald in 2003 had also demonstrated that the gates had had a positive effect on the perceptions of residents in relation to crime. Each householder affected by the gate had a key to it, and access for refuse collection and emergency services was guaranteed.

Action

The Board was advised that, from what started as a pilot scheme, alley gates had become a major project and there was therefore a need to review the managerial and financial arrangements for their installation and maintenance to ensure that they were sustainable. A number of operational processes were outlined for consideration.

The Board considered:

- the need for Area Forum involvement, despite the delay this sometimes caused;
- the need for the installation of gates to continue whilst the review was ongoing;
- timing of the review, which was expected to commence prior to Christmas with a further report submitted to the Board by March 2007;
- membership of the review panel – it was agreed that Councillors Wright and Nelson, the relevant Portfolio Holders, should be involved, as well as a representative from the Community Safety team.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the approach to the:
 - (a) management of alley gates as set out in paragraph 4.0 of the report; and
 - (b) financial management of alley gates as set out in paragraphs 5.3 and 5.4 of the reportbe endorsed; and
- (2) the process and procedures for considering, providing and maintaining alley gates be reviewed to ensure the process and procedures meet best practice, are timely and cost efficient.

EXB63 NORTH WEST HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Health and Community regarding a Regional Homelessness Strategy that had been produced by the North West Regional Housing Board for consultation. The appendix to the report outlined the legislative and policy context. Statistical evidence was also presented to highlight the regional position in comparison to the position in England as a whole.

The North West Regional Housing Board advocated that prevention was better than a reactive response to homelessness. The Housing Board believed that a Regional Homelessness Strategy should focus on the main causes of homelessness in the North West where local authorities and the voluntary sector could make a difference by adopting changes in policies and practices. The Housing Board suggested that the issue of homelessness could be addressed partly by looking at the processes adopted to administer housing stock and partly by looking at the needs of groups who were vulnerable to homelessness.

Members considered:

- the difficulty of establishing an accurate number of people homeless in Halton;
- the many reasons for homelessness;
- the success of Blackpool in eradicating the need to house families in bed and breakfast accommodation as a result of the preventative work being undertaken;
- repeat homelessness, in particular with respect to young people;
- mediation work that could be carried out between young people and their parents to prevent long-term homelessness, subject to the home place being a safe environment;
- the offer from Halton Housing Trust (HHT) to work with the Council on this issue and the possibility of HHT contributing financially.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted and the response detailed in Appendix B be agreed.

CORPORATE SERVICES PORTFOLIO

EXB64 GAMBLING ACT 2005 STATEMENT OF GAMBLING POLICY

The Board considered a report of the Council Solicitor outlining a Statement of Gambling Policy, which had been produced as required by Section 349 of the Gambling Act 2005. The Statement had been out for public consultation and the responses received were outlined at Appendix 1 to the report. No changes to the draft Statement, previously agreed by the Board, were proposed as a result of the consultation exercise.

Members noted that, once adopted, the Statement of Gambling Policy would be used by applicants and the Regulatory Committee in accordance with the Gambling Act

2005.

RESOLVED: That the Council be recommended to adopt the Statement of Gambling Policy attached to the report.

EXB65 CORPORATE EQUALITY PLAN

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Corporate and Policy requesting approval of the revised Corporate Equality Plan which was to be submitted for public consultation.

It was noted that the Board had approved a Plan earlier in the year; however, since then, there had been significant new legislation in relation to both Disability Equality and Gender Equality. The new legislation required the Council to adopt a Disability Equality Scheme (December 2006) and a Gender Equality Scheme (April 2007) and it was proposed that a single equality scheme be adopted, to include the statutory requirements, within the Corporate Equality Scheme.

The changes within the Scheme were outlined for the Board's consideration, and the proposed process in terms of public consultation was also outlined. It was advised that, following this process, any representations and further amendments would be brought back to the Board for consideration.

RESOLVED: That the revised Corporate Equality Plan be approved and submitted for public consultation as outlined in the report.

EXB66 DETERMINATION OF COUNCIL TAX BASE

The Board considered a report of the Operational Director – Financial Services regarding the 'Tax base' for the area and the tax base for each of the Parishes. The Council was required to notify Cheshire Fire Authority, the Cheshire Policy Authority, the Cheshire Magistrates' Courts Committee, the Cheshire Probation Committee and the National Rivers Authority of this figure by 31st January 2007.

Members were advised that the 'Tax Base' was arrived at in accordance with a prescribed formula, representing the estimated full year number of chargeable dwellings in the Borough expressed in terms of the equivalent of Band 'D' dwellings, and was the measure used for calculating the council tax. Taking account of all the

relevant information, and applying a 99% collection rate, the calculation for 2007/2008 gave a tax base figure of 37,392 for the Borough as a whole.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Council be recommended that the 2007/8 Council Tax Base be set at 37,392 for the Borough, and that the Cheshire Fire Authority, the Cheshire Police Authority and the National Rivers Authority be so notified; and
- (2) the Council be recommended that the Council Tax Base for each of the Parishes be set as follows:

Parish	Tax Base
Hale	722
Daresbury	140
Moore	352
Preston Brook	331

LEADER'S PORTFOLIO

EXB67 LIVERPOOL CITY REGION BUSINESS CASE

The Board considered a report of the Chief Executive advising of the development of the Liverpool City Region Business Case (LCRBC) and providing a draft of the case for consideration.

It was noted that the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) was promoting the development of City Regions and City Region Governance, and Liverpool was required to present a LCRBC, which was supported by the six Merseyside Local Authorities, to the Secretary of State. Halton had played a significant role in the development of the LCRBC, which looked to integrate the Authority within the strategic planning framework as part of the delivery of strategic functions for the Liverpool City Region. This strategic arrangement was critical to the further development of Halton locally, sub-regionally, regionally and nationally, whilst at the same time complementing Halton's position as the local authority for Halton's communities and its role as a community and neighbourhood leader.

The Board was advised that a briefing session for all Members would be held prior to full Council on Wednesday, 13th December 2006. This would be followed by a fuller seminar in the new year.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the current draft of the Liverpool City Region Business Case be supported; and
- (2) the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader, be delegated authority to agree the final version of the Liverpool City Region Business Case.

PLANNING, TRANSPORTATION, REGENERATION AND RENEWAL PORTFOLIO

EXB68 LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Corporate and Policy regarding Local Area Agreements. It was noted that a Local Area Agreement (LAA) was a three year protocol that set out the priorities for a local area. This had to be agreed between central government and the area itself, as represented by the lead local authority and other key partners through Local Strategic Partnership.

The Government had stipulated that Halton would be in Round 3 of the programme, which meant that an Agreement had to be negotiated by April 2007. A draft had been endorsed by the Board in September and had subsequently been submitted to Government Office North West (GONW) on 29 September. A number of developments had taken place since that time and these were outlined within the report for Members' consideration. This had resulted in the production of a revised LAA with the key changes being in the narrative and outcomes framework.

The Board noted that the final document had to be submitted to Government by 20 December 2006 and, as Halton Borough Council was to be the accountable body for the LAA, Members were requested to formally endorse the Agreement prior to its submission to GONW and subsequent sign off by the Minister.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the final agreement be endorsed and its submission to Government be agreed; and
- (2) the Leader and Chief Executive be given delegated powers to make any necessary minor drafting

amendments to the submission following Executive Board.

MINUTES ISSUED: 13th December 2006

CALL IN: 20th December 2006

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

Meeting ended at 2.47 p.m.

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EXECUTIVE BOARD

At a meeting of the Executive Board on Thursday, 21 December 2006 at the Marketing Suite, Municipal Building, Widnes.

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

Apologies for Absence: (none)

Absence declared on Council business: (none)

Officers present: B. Dodd, D. Johnson, I. Leivesley, A. McIntyre, K. O'Dwyer, D Tregea, L. Cairns and G. Cook

Also in attendance: (none)

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

EXB69 MINUTES

Action

The minutes of the meeting held on 7th December 2006 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE PORTFOLIO

EXB70 BUILDING SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Children and Young People regarding Building Schools for the Future (BSF). It was noted that BSF aimed, through substantial capital investment, to transform secondary educational standards by providing 21st century learning environments.

The Council was advised on 15th December that it had been selected to join the programme in Wave 6. A reorganisation of the Authority's secondary provision would need to be completed by January 2008 to start the programme. The aim of any proposal would be to reform and redesign the pattern of secondary education, its curricula and schools' infrastructure to best serve the Borough's communities for decades to come.

The funding arrangements, together with information about factors to be considered and the process to be undertaken, were outlined for the Board's consideration. It was noted that a further report would be submitted to a future meeting of the Board.

LEADER'S PORTFOLIO

EXB71 THE MERSEY PARTNERSHIP: A SINGLE INWARD INVESTMENT AGENCY FOR THE LIVERPOOL CITY REGION

The Board considered a report of the Chief Executive and Strategic Director – Environment outlining the proposals by The Mersey Partnership (TMP) to develop a single inward investment agency for the Liverpool City Region: the proposals were set out in appendix 1 to the report.

It was advised that, in essence, TMP was proposing to move from what was predominately a reactive model (some proactive campaigns), to a much more proactive sales approach whereby dedicated sales managers hunted out opportunities and targeted would-be investors and growth sectors.

The issues for Halton were outlined for consideration. It was noted that a number of questions were still outstanding and needed to be resolved before the Council could consider fully signing up to the proposal. However, given that maintaining the status quo was not seen as viable, and that there was much logic to what had been laid out, it did make sense to sign up in principle, subject to further discussions.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the development of an inward investment agency for the Liverpool City Region be approved in principle; and
- (2) the Strategic Director – Environment be authorised to enter discussions with The Mersey Partnership to secure the implementation of the Single Inward Investment Agency.

Strategic Director
- Environment

EXB72 LOCAL GOVERNMENT WHITE PAPER/BILL

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Corporate and Policy regarding the new White

Paper on local government “Strong and Prosperous Communities” which had recently been published. It was noted that the Paper was in two volumes, with the main proposals for change in volume one, and volume two containing thematic chapters discussing both the applicability of the proposals from Volume One to different sectors, and crosscutting issues. Appendix 1 to the report was a summary table of all of the main proposals from the paper and the area of Council activity it most affected.

Specific proposals in respect of the main themes of the White Paper were outlined for the Board’s consideration together with possible implications for the Authority. It was noted that a draft bill was expected before Christmas 2006 to come into law in 2008.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

PLANNING, TRANSPORTATION, REGENERATION AND RENEWAL PORTFOLIO

EXB73 APPROVAL OF THE FORMAL ADOPTION OF THE HOUSE EXTENSIONS SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT (FORWARD PLAN ITEM)

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Environment seeking approval for the formal adoption of “Supplementary Planning Document (SPD): House Extensions” as part of the Halton Local Development Framework.

It was noted that the production of this SPD was included within the Local Development Scheme (LDS), which set out the spatial planning policy priorities for the Council for the next three years. The purpose of the SPD was to complement the Halton Unitary Development Plan (UDP) by providing additional guidance for anyone intending to extend or alter their house or erect a garage or other outbuilding to ensure that all developments met the standards described.

The report set out the process and the consultation procedure undertaken.

Reasons for Decision

The SPD had been produced to ensure that, through its function as a Local Planning Authority, the Council:-

- (a) was in accordance with national and regional

planning policy and advice; and

- (b) wherever possible, met the priorities of the community it served, as set out in the Halton Community Strategy and Corporate Plan.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

The alternative options considered and rejected with regard to the preparation of the document were set out within the Sustainability Appraisal report.

Implementation Date

With immediate effect.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the Supplementary Planning Document (SPD): House Extensions be formally adopted as a Supplementary Planning Document and part of the Halton Local Development Framework;
- 2) the responses to the representations received at the public participation stage, as set out in the statement of consultation, be agreed; and
- 3) further editorial and technical changes that do not affect the content or intended purpose of the SPD be agreed by the Operational Director – Environmental and Regulatory Services in consultation with the Executive Board Member for Planning, Transportation, Regeneration and Renewal, if necessary, before the document is published.

Strategic Director
- Environment

EXB74 HIGHWAY SKIDDING RESISTANCE POLICY

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Environment outlining the current position regarding the measurement and treatment of highway skidding resistance and proposing the introduction of a policy for analysing skid resistance data to produce programmes of treatment. A copy of the policy was attached to the report for information.

It was noted that the Council had approved an overall policy document in relation to Highway Maintenance Strategy in 1998, incorporating the method by which the measurement of skidding resistance of highway surfacing was to be carried out. However, national guidance on

skidding resistance had changed significantly since then and a specific policy was now required.

The Board was advised that the new policy had been prepared to take account of developments, meeting current requirements and recognising the contribution of accident analysis to the assessment process. The policy had been presented to the Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board on 15th November 2006 where it had been agreed that the policy should be recommended for approval.

RESOLVED: That the Skidding Resistance Policy, submitted as an appendix to the report, be adopted.

MINUTES ISSUED: 12th January 2007

CALL IN: 19th January 2007

Any matter decided by the Executive Board may be called in no later than 19th January 2007.

Meeting ended at 12.04 p.m.

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EXECUTIVE BOARD

At a meeting of the Executive Board on Thursday, 25 January 2007 at the Marketing Suite, Municipal Building

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

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Gerrard

Absence declared on Council business: (none)

Officers present: L. Cairns, G. Cook, B. Dodd, D. Johnson, I. Leivesley, A. McIntyre, D. Parr and D Tregoe

Also in attendance: (none)

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

EXB75 MINUTES

Action

The Minutes of the meeting held on 21st December 2006 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE PORTFOLIO

(NB Councillor Harris declared a personal interest in the following item of business due to being a governor at The Bankfield School.)

EXB76 CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2007/2008

The Board considered a report of the Acting Strategic Director – Children and Young People providing a summary of the funding available for the Schools Capital Programme 2007/08. The report outlined the process for prioritisation for Capital Repairs together with the proposed programme.

It was noted that the main source of funding for the Schools Capital Programme was the DfES Capital Allocation. For 2007/08 capital funding available totalled £1,938,007 and current commitments were outlined for information. Following an annual short survey of all schools,

as well as a more detailed survey for one quarter of Halton Schools each year, the key capital repairs requirements had been prioritised through the use of a condition score matrix attached as Appendix 3 to the report.

The Board was advised that the Capital Programme identified would allow the Council to continue to meet its requirement to enhance the learning environment through capital projects allocated in accordance with the priorities identified in the Asset Management Plan.

RESOLVED: That full Council be recommended to approve the Capital Programme identified in Appendix 1 to the report for 2007/08.

Acting Strategic Director-Children & Young People

CORPORATE SERVICES PORTFOLIO

EXB77 ACCOMMODATION STRATEGY

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Corporate and Policy outlining a proposed Accommodation Strategy, which had been produced as a result of a recommendation of the Base Budget Review Working Party, looking at savings and rationalisation.

The objectives of the strategy and issues that needed to be resolved were outlined for the Board's consideration together with proposals for rationalisation in respect of Runcorn Town Hall and Midwood House, and the knock-on effect for Municipal Building, Lugsdale Road, John Briggs House and Grosvenor House.

In addition, an appendix was attached to the report outlining a proposed decision chain, which would be utilised when considering any future changes to accommodation needs.

In particular, the Board considered the proposed space standards which would be used to test any future accommodation moves and it was confirmed that the text 'individual offices down to Divisional Managers only' did not intend to suggest that Divisional Managers would automatically be allocated an individual office as a matter of course.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the approach outlined in the report be supported;
- (2) a capital bid be made to support the refurbishment of

Strategic Director - Corporate and Policy

Runcorn Town Hall; and

- (3) future accommodation decisions be made within the framework outlined in the report and implemented by the Strategic Director – Corporate and Policy in consultation with the Corporate Services Portfolio holder.

PLANNING, TRANSPORTATION, REGENERATION AND RENEWAL PORTFOLIO

EXB78 MERSEYSIDE WASTE DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT: ISSUES AND OPTIONS REPORT FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Environment covering the Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service's report, which had been produced in accordance with the agreed governance arrangements for the preparation of the Joint Merseyside Waste Development Plan Document (DPD). This had been done in collaboration with officers from other Districts that were part of the Joint Waste DPD. The core contents and recommendations of the report were the same for all the local authorities involved in the preparation of the Joint Waste DPD to ensure that each district was following exactly the same statutory planning process.

It was noted that the report was seeking approval for the Issues and Options report for public consultation purposes as the first stage in the statutory planning process. A copy of this document, which asked specific consultation questions to structure the consultation process and guide the development of more detailed and specific policies at preferred options and submissions stages, had been circulated for Members' consideration.

It was noted that the consultation period would last for six weeks until 6th April 2007 after which a "results of consultation report" would be prepared along with the policy response to the issues raised. This would be accompanied by the required sustainability appraisal commentary.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the issues and options report be approved for public consultation commencing 23rd February 2007;
- (2) a consultation response to the issues and options report be prepared by 6th April 2007; and

Strategic Director
- Environment

- (3) further reports on progress of the Waste DPD project, including the results of the consultation on issues and options, preferred options report and financial matters, be received later in 2007.

EXB79 VICTORIA SQUARE: DEVELOPING THE NIGHT-TIME ECONOMY

The Board considered a report of the Chief Executive and the Strategic Director – Environment outlining the approach to be taken in developing a Management Plan for Victoria Square.

It was noted that much progress had been made in regenerating Widnes Town Centre over recent years and, of particular note, was the progress made in and around Victoria Square. To ensure the benefits were maximised and the current momentum was maintained, it was considered appropriate to develop a Victoria Square Management Plan.

Much discussion had already taken place with the Police in this regard and the Board was advised that the Police saw that the development of such a plan was a good way forward for the partners and authorities to meet their duties to reduce crime and disorder within the areas they served (Section 17 Crime and Disorder Act 1998). To this end, a preliminary workshop session had taken place with representatives from all appropriate Council departments, and partners, to look at the issues and opportunities that would need to be considered in the Management Plan.

An integral part of the management plan related to the issues of “al-fresco” drinking and dining and, following discussions with the Police, it was proposed to permit al-fresco drinking/dining on designated parts of Victoria Square adjacent to certain buildings.

It was noted that the development of a Management Plan for Victoria Square at this time would be a very complex task. In addition, it was confirmed that this was a pilot and, if successful, the intention was to develop it across the Borough.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the development of a Management Plan including al-fresco drinking and dining on Victoria Square be approved, subject to resolving any legal, health and safety, and risk management issues; and

- (2) further reports be provided on the progress of the Victoria Square Pilot with a view to developing the night-time economy across the Borough.

Strategic Director
- Corporate and
Policy

MINUTES ISSUED: 31st January 2007

CALL IN: 7th February 2007

Any matter decided by the Executive Board may be called in no later than 7th February 2007.

Meeting ended at 2.20 p.m.

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EXECUTIVE BOARD SUB COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the Executive Board Sub Committee on Thursday, 7 December 2006 in the Municipal Building, Widnes

Present: Councillors Wharton (Chairman), Harris, and Nelson.

Apologies for Absence: (none)

Absence declared on Council business: (none)

Officers present: G. Ferguson, A. West, N. MacFarlane, N. Martin, S Wallace Bonner and E. Scott

Also in attendance: Councillor Cross

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

Action

NEIGHBOURHOOD MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT PORTFOLIO

ES56 VICTORIA PARK RESTORATION, REPORT ON PATH SURFACING TENDERS

The Board considered a report which outlined the results of the tender for the supply and laying of specialist resin-bound gravel surfaces to Victoria Park's main paths.

Two tenders had been received, however, one tender arrived late and was therefore disqualified. The remaining valid tender from E.B.L. Group in the sum of £97,471.44 was within budget for this element of work and a contract for the work had been entered into in accordance with Standing Orders relating to procurement clause 3.1.

RESOLVED: That in accordance with Standing Orders relating to Procurement Clause 3.2, the Committee note the report for information only, the tender was awarded to E.B.L. Group Limited.

ES57 EXTENSION OF EXISTING SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT WITH MERSEYSIDE ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY SERVICE FOR THE PROVISION OF

TECHNICAL ENVIRONMENTAL ADVICE

The Sub-Committee considered a request for a time extension to a service level agreement between Halton Borough Council and Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council, acting on behalf of Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service (MEAS), for the provision of technical environmental advice in connection with planning matters.

The existing legal agreement for the provision of these services was signed on 9th June 2005 and covered a two-year period from 1st April 2004 to 31st March 2006. The new draft legal agreement would extend this time period for a further two years to 31st March 2008, at an annual cost of £15,000 in financial year 2006/07 and £15,450 in 2007/08.

It had become apparent from previous working with MEAS that they offered good value for money when compared against the charges made by consultants for equivalent services. MEAS were able to draw upon existing local knowledge and technical expertise. Additionally, they also provided advice, on occasion, on behalf of six local authorities, which enabled the cost to be shared between the six rather than borne by an individual authority.

RESOLVED: That the Service Level Agreement between Halton Borough Council and the Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service be extended for two years to cover the period to end of March 2008, at an annual cost of £15,000 in 2006/07 and £15,450 in 2007/08.

Strategic Director
Environment

PLANNING TRANSPORTATION REGENERATION AND RENEWAL PORTFOLIO

ES58 ACCEPTANCE OF TENDER FOR WIDNES WATERFRONT EDZ LINK ROAD

The Sub-Committee was advised that 8 tenders had been received for the construction of an access road at Widnes Waterfront EDZ. The tenders were assessed both on a price/quality basis in a ratio of 60/40 in accordance with the instructions for tendering. The most economically advantageous tender, taking into consideration both the quality and price submissions, for the construction of the access road was that submitted by Birse Civils Limited at a tendered cost of £298,129, which was not the lowest tender received.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

ES59 PROPOSED ZEBRA CROSSING – CRANTON LANE,
WIDNES

The Area Forum for Birchfield, Farnworth and Halton View had previously received a request from the residents of the new houses recently built and being constructed off Norlands Lane to install a pedestrian crossing on Cranton Lane outside the shops. Following informal discussions, it was decided to investigate a zebra crossing. A possible location was found and the proposal was advertised in the local press and on site for a period of four weeks leading up to 31st May 2006.

Subsequently, comments were received from the Post Office about the difficulties a pedestrian crossing would cause to the operation of their business. In addition, a number of comments were received both in favour and against the proposal from residents in the area, and also from the owner of Cranton Fish Bar, No. 2 and Bargain Booze. A petition in favour of the crossing was also submitted via Councillor Cross. The number of people who had written supporting the crossing was 8, plus 88 people included in the petition. The number objecting was 102 including the 3 businesses above.

It was reported that a pedestrian/traffic survey was carried out on 12th September 2006. Although a controlled crossing was not justified under the former national criteria, there were a significant number of pedestrians crossing Cranton Lane. This indicated that the busiest time for pedestrians was between 18.00 and 19.00, which was unusual and the surveyors indicated that it was people using the chip shop and off-licence.

At present, there were double yellow lines on Cranton Lane outside the shops, which prohibited parking, but there was an exemption for the delivery of goods to the adjacent shops, and this was particularly important for deliveries to the Post Office. The installation requirements of a zebra crossing included zig-zag lines which would prohibit parking, loading and unloading. Contravention results in the driver being prosecuted for an endorsable offence and therefore delivery drivers would not stop on them to deliver to the shops. This would cause operational problems for the shops.

It was reported that in the last five years there had been two reported injury accidents in the vicinity and neither of them involved pedestrians. Both the accidents involved parked cars. Therefore in view of the comments received, it

was clear that the zebra crossing proposal, however desirable, would be divisive.

An alternative improvement for pedestrians had therefore been developed. This would widen the refuge island and provide an additional length of footway outside the barbers shop. This would help to reduce the conflict between pedestrians and vehicles and provided, it was hoped, an acceptable compromise.

The Committee heard representations from the ward councillor, Councillor Cross, who addressed Members in support of the zebra crossing proposals.

RESOLVED: That the report be referred back to the Highways Department for further information on the original proposal to install a zebra crossing, the possibility of installing an additional refuge island and the alternative proposal of widening the refuge island and providing an additional length of footway outside the barbers shop.

Strategic Director
Environment

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE PORTFOLIO

ES60 INTERMEDIATE CARE CRISIS BEDS

The Sub-Committee considered a report which sought authority to continue with the contract for two residential intermediate care crisis beds with Southern Cross/Highfield Health Care (Beechcroft Care Home), for up to six months, to suspend Contract Standing Orders, and approve delegated powers to enter into a contract without going out to competitive tender.

The Beechcroft Crisis beds were opened on 12th August 2005, these beds were an essential part of the service, and enabled the authority to manage more complex risk issues, negating the need to admit unnecessarily to more intensive services. The occupancy rate of these beds was 95%.

It was reported that compliance with Standing Orders was not practicable for reasons of no expressions of interest returned within timescales for the provision of this service. Expressions of interest had been requested twice. The existing contractor did express an interest verbally, however, due to administrative difficulties did not return a written expression of interest.

The request for waiver of Standing Orders was made to sustain this essential operational service, particularly over

the winter period. The waiver was requested for a period of six months, to allow the time to again explore the market for the provision of these beds. Following the six month period, delegated authority was requested for the Operational Director (Older People) to award the contract, within the framework of Standing Orders, to 31st March 2008. If the waiver was not agreed, this could result in a decrease in service provision, particularly in Runcorn. This could result in an increase in admissions both to long term care and hospital, due to the lack of services in the community.

RESOLVED: That for the purposes of Standing Order 1.6c, that is if compliance is not practicable for the reason of the level of training support that has been provided within this environment and the need to continue to operate the service of two intermediate care crises beds in Runcorn, Procurement Standing Orders be waived in respect of the extension of the present contract with Southern Cross/Highfield Health Care (Beechcroft Care Home) for a period of up to six months from 31st December 2006.

Strategic Director
Health and
Community

MINUTES ISSUED: 14th December 2006

CALL IN: 20th December 2006

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

Meeting ended at 10.50 a.m.

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EXECUTIVE BOARD SUB COMMITTEE

*At a meeting of the Executive Board Sub Committee on Thursday, 21 December 2006
in the Municipal Building, Widnes*

Present: Councillors Wharton (Chairman), Harris and Nelson

Apologies for Absence: (none)

Absence declared on Council business: (none)

Officers present: J. Downes, L. Derbyshire, L. Capper and P Baragwanath

Also in attendance: (none)

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

	<i>Action</i>
ES61 MINUTES	
<p>The minutes of the meeting held on 7th December 2006 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.</p>	
ES62 THE USE OF THE PROCEEDS OF CRIME ACT 2002 BY THE CONSUMER PROTECTION SERVICE	
<p>The Sub-Committee considered a report on the use of the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 by the Consumer Protection Service. The Act was introduced by the Government because it recognised that leaving illicitly obtained assets in the hands of criminals was damaging to society.</p> <p>In recent years, there had been concern with the Trading Standards profession that courts often imposed low financial penalties on defendants in Trading Standards prosecutions. To address this concern, some Consumer Protection/Trading Standards Services had worked in partnership with the Asset Recovery Agency to pursue asset recovery in appropriate cases.</p> <p>The Local Authority Co-ordinators of Regulatory Services (LACORS) had recognised that this was a powerful enforcement tool that supported the normal prosecution</p>	

process, but was aware that the Asset Recovery Agency, the Regional Asset Recovery Teams and Police Forces could not provide all the support that Trading Standards would need. It had therefore secured funding from the Home Office for the training of a number of Trading Standards Officers in each region as accredited financial investigators under Parts 2 and 8 of Proceeds of Crime Act 2002.

Halton's Consumer Protection Service had an officer fully trained and accredited under the above provisions of the POCA, one of only 27 officers in Local Government trained to undertake this work. The officer was capable of using the provisions of the Act in certain criminal investigations where the person under investigation had benefited by over £5,000 from their criminal conduct.

An analysis of criminal investigations undertaken by the Consumer Protection Service had revealed that since the introduction of this legislation, 13 local cases could have utilised the confiscation regime under the Act. Currently, there were four cases under investigation that would merit financial investigation, one of which represented potential criminally acquired assets in excess of £200,000. However, LACoRS always intended that those local authority financial investigators trained in this way would offer their services within the region, and that requirement could be delivered via the Council permitting this officer to act for other local authority services on a chargeable, consultancy basis.

It was reported that the Home Office had developed a Recovered Asset Incentivisation Fund (RAIF) which allowed a percentage of confiscated assets to be returned to the Agency undertaking the criminal investigation and/or confiscation work. However, the Home Office had ring-fenced the use of what it called Incentive Monies and had advised that it would monitor the use of such monies to assess issues of propriety and regularity.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the use of the full 'confiscation regime' and 'offences' under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 by the Consumer Protection Service, be agreed; and
- (2) Council be requested to agree the necessary Scheme of Delegation changes:
 - (i) the Borough Solicitor should be the delegated person for instituting proceeds for the Council,

Strategic Director
- Health and
Community

whilst Trading Standard Officers/Consumer Protection Officers should be delegated as investigating officers;

(ii) in agreeing to the above, the Council would be committing to undertake confiscation cases at Crown Court in Consumer Protection Prosecutions where it can be shown that assets are available for confiscation; and

(iii) a financial investigator to act on a chargeable consultative basis for other local authority services requiring the use of an accredited financial investigator in appropriate cases be permitted.

COMMUNITY PORTFOLIO

PLANNING, TRANSPORTATION, REGENERATION AND RENEWAL PORTFOLIO

ES63 PROVISION OF OPEN SPACE SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT - 2ND REVISED DRAFT PUBLIC CONSULTATION

The Sub-Committee considered a report which sought approval for the publication of paragraphs 5.8 and 5.9 of revised draft Supplementary Planning Document (SPD); Provision of Open Space, for the purposes of an additional four-week public consultation to accommodate material changes to the document in light of responses received at the previous consultation stage.

Paragraphs 5.8 and 5.9 in the draft version of the SPD related to a very specific set of development circumstances for the repayment of commuted sums. This was not an issue that was highlighted during the first internal partnerships consultation period by any of those consulted. As a result of the comments made at the public consultation stage this policy had been simplified and may be perceived as a material change to the text.

Following consultation with the Government Office and the Council's Legal Services Division it was agreed to take forward the proposed changes by undertaking an additional four-week public consultation on the two paragraphs.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the relevant section of draft Supplementary Planning Document (SPD); Provision of Open Space be

Strategic Director
- Environment

approved for the purposes of Statutory Public Consultation for a period of four weeks;

- (2) the comments received at the public consultation stage, as set out in the statement of consultation and responses to them are noted; and
- (3) the results of the public consultation exercise and consequent recommended modifications to the draft SPD be reported back to the Executive Board for resolution to adopt as a Supplementary Planning Document.

MINUTES ISSUED: 5th January 2007

CALL IN: 11th January 2007

Any matter decided by the Executive Board Sub Committee may be called in no later than 11th January 2007.

Meeting ended at 10.15 a.m.

EXECUTIVE BOARD SUB COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the Executive Board Sub Committee on Thursday, 11 January 2007 in the Marketing Suite, Municipal Building, Widnes

Present: Councillors Wharton (Chairman), Harris and Nelson

Apologies for Absence: (none)

Absence declared on Council business: (none)

Officers present: G. Ferguson, A. West, J. Tradewell, A. Cross and N. MacFarlane

Also in attendance: (none)

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

Action

PLANNING, TRANSPORTATION, REGENERATION AND RENEWAL PORTFOLIO

ES64 APPROVAL OF PUBLICATION OF DRAFT TOWN CENTRE STRATEGIES FOR HALTON LEA AND RUNCORN OLD TOWN FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION

The Sub-Committee considered a report which sought approval for the publication of the draft Town Centre Strategies for Halton Lea and Runcorn Old Town as Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD's) for the purposes of statutory public consultation. The purpose of the SPD's was to complement the Halton Unitary Development Plan (UDP), by providing additional guidance for those involved in the planning of new developments within Halton to:

- (i) enable the Town Centres to prosper without adversely affecting the health of any other;
- (ii) safeguard and strengthen the individual role of each town centre as a safe and accessible place to shop, work and enjoy;
- (iii) co-ordinate public and private investment decisions;

(iv) improve the economic prosperity of the Borough through the creation of employment opportunities; and

(v) ensure the highest standard of design and architecture within each town centre.

Consultation which had taken place regarding the SPD and was outlined for consideration.

In addition, a scoping exercise had been undertaken to determine whether or not a strategic environment assessment (SEA) was required to assess the environmental effect of the SPD. The conclusion was that an SEA was not required.

The Sub-Committee was also advised that a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) was in the process of being produced and would be consulted upon at the same time as the respective Town Centre Strategies. Both the Halton Lea and Runcorn Town Centre Strategy SPD's would also be subject to an appropriate assessment screening assessment.

A further report would be submitted to the Executive Board seeking formal adoption of the Halton Lea and Runcorn Town Centre Strategy Supplementary Planning Documents. However, if comments were received during the public consultation process, which required alterations to be made to one or both of the SPD's that materially affected the contents of the documents, a further period of public consultation may be required regarding those proposed alterations.

It was suggested that authority be delegated to the Operational Director Environmental and Regulatory Services to approve any further statutory periods of consultation, on the SPD's should they be required.

RESOLVED: That

(1) the two draft Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD's): Halton Lea Town Centre Strategy and Runcorn Old Town Centre Strategy be approved (subject to being amended to reflect this Boards comments in relation to climate change) for the purposes of Statutory Public Consultation;

(2) authority be delegated to the Operational Director – Environmental and Regulatory Services to determine all

Strategic Director
Environment

matters relating to the method, extent and content of the public consultation;

(3) the comments received at the partnership consultation stage are noted;

(4) further editorial and technical amendments that do not materially affect the content of the two SPD's be determined by the Operational Director Environmental and Regulatory Services in consultation with the Executive Board Member for Planning, Transportation, Regeneration and Renewal, if necessary before the document is published for public consultation;

(5) authority be delegated to the Operational Director Environmental and Regulatory Services to approve any further period of statutory public consultation, on the Halton Lea and Runcorn Old Town SPD's should they be needed as a consequence of material changes being required to the documents as a result of comments received during the period of public consultation approved under recommendation 1;

(6) the results of the public consultation exercises and consequent recommended modifications to the draft SPDs be reported back to the Executive Board for resolution to adopt as Supplementary Planning Documents; and

(7) particular attention was brought to the need to include climate change issues as part of the SPD's.

ES65 PURCHASE OF CCTV COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT

The Sub-Committee considered a report which sought authority to waive Standing Orders to purchase a discreet package of CCTV Communications Equipment.

It was noted that Technology Solutions Limited of Rawtenstall had won the first contract for installation of the system and had subsequently been invited to attend for a range of extensions to the original CCTV security system as new camera units had been installed in extra locations. The Company had successfully been awarded the work, with one exception. However, even in this case, due to unresolved technical problems they had been brought in to complete the other contractor's work.

In addition, Technology Solutions Limited had tendered for and won the term maintenance and repair contract for the Council's CCTV's system and they were

major contractors to several other authorities in the area.

It was proposed that given their extensive knowledge of the Borough, acquired by working in the area for many years, and their complete understanding of the existing CCTV security system, it was believed that Technology Solutions Limited were in a unique position to be able to efficiently supply and install this new communications equipment at a cost of £48,494.

One contractor working on such a technologically advanced system offered substantial advantages, in that should issues arise there could be no dispute over compatibility of equipment or as to whose equipment was causing a problem.

In addition, it was also noted that should this initiative fail to be implemented, the Council would continue to incur unnecessary costs, due to the need to continue to fund BT line rentals for the cameras. The Contract would provide savings to the Council of £10,000 per annum.

The Council Solicitor gave his opinion that waive of Standing Orders in this instance was appropriate within the terms of this Council's Constitution.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) Standing Order 4.1 be waived to enable the contract for the supply and installation of microwave communications to be awarded to Technology Solutions Limited of Rawtenstall, in the sum of £48,494; and
- (2) The reason for waiver was the combination of the firm's knowledge of the Councils systems, their expertise with such systems, and the desirability of ensuring compatibility in such systems.

Strategic Director
Environment

MINUTES ISSUED: 17th January 2007

CALL IN: 23rd January 2007

Any matter decided by the Executive Board Sub Committee may be called in no later than 23rd January 2007

Meeting ended at 10.50 a.m.

EXECUTIVE BOARD SUB COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the Executive Board Sub Committee on Thursday, 25 January 2007 in the Marketing Suite, Municipal Building

Present: Councillors Wharton (Chairman), Harris and Nelson

Apologies for Absence: (none)

Absence declared on Council business: (none)

Officers present: G. Ferguson, J. Unsworth, E. Scott, P. Searing and S Rourke

Also in attendance: (none)

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

	<i>Action</i>
ES67	MINUTES
	The minutes of the meeting held on 21 st December 2006 and 11 th January were taken as read and signed as a correct record.
	PLANNING, TRANSPORTATION AND REGENERATION PORTFOLIO
ES68	NEW TERM CONTRACT FOR SURFACE TREATMENTS APRIL 2007 TO POTENTIALLY MARCH 2017
	This item was deferred to a future meeting.
	CORPORATE SERVICES PORTFOLIO
ES69	DISPOSAL OF FORMER DAY NURSERY SITE, OKELL STREET, RUNCORN
	The Sub-Committee considered a report which sought approval to dispose of the former Day Nursery Site at Okell Street, Runcorn.
	It was anticipated that the sale would produce a

capital receipt in excess of £50,000. Section 123 of the Local Government Act 1972, required local authorities to achieve the best possible consideration when disposing of land and property interests. To ensure this, other potential uses of property would be examined, following which the property would be extensively marketed.

RESOLVED: that

(1) approval be given to dispose of the property by private treaty following a marketing exercise, and

(2) approval be delegated to the Strategic Director Corporate and Policy to accept the highest offer with the details being reported to the Sub-Committee at the earliest opportunity.

Strategic Director
Corporate and
Policy

ENVIRONMENT LEISURE AND SPORT PORTFOLIO

ES70 INSTALLATION OF UNDERGROUND RECYCLING UNITS

The Sub-Committee was advised on four quotations received from Contractors to carry out excavation work for the installation of underground recycling units.

In considering the quotations received, it was proposed that the quote from Paddison Construction of £18,869.48 be accepted for the following reasons:

(i) none of the other companies had direct experience of undertaking similar work;

(ii) the requested work was very specialist and not just a standard excavation;

(iii) when considering the variation in quotes there was uncertainty that the companies without the relevant experience completely understood the job specification;

(iv) Paddison Construction Limited had the most relevant experience, having undertaken excavation work for several hundred underground banks, including 90% of the underground banks in the UK;

(v) Paddison Construction was the appointed contractor of the Unit Manufacturers and used for installations of the underground unit following excavation;

(vi) if problems occurred during the excavations it was felt that they would be able to deal with them much more

efficiency due to their wealth of experience.

Due to the reasons outlined above, it was requested that Standing Orders be waived and Paddison Construction be appointed to carry out these works.

RESOLVED: That

(1) for the reasons stated in the report, the quotation submitted by Paddison Construction Limited, be accepted and the Operational Director, Environmental and Regulatory Services, in consultation with the portfolio holder for Environment, Leisure and Sport, be authorised to make the necessary arrangements to enter into a contract with that company;

(2) Standing Order 4.1 of the Procurement Standing Orders be waived accordingly.

Strategic Director
Environment

ES71 INVITATION TO TENDER FOR WASTE MANAGEMENT RELATED CONTRACTS

The Sub-Committee considered a report which sought authority to carry out all the necessary steps in relation to the procurement of the following contracts:

- (i) Landfill Disposal; and
- (ii) Interim arrangements for the Management and Operation of Recycling and Household Waste Centres; (Civic Amenity Sites).

The Council's contractual arrangements for all Landfill Disposal and the Management and Operation of the Civic Amenity Sites end on 31st January 2008 and authority was sought to put in place contractual arrangements for these services as from 1st February 2008.

At its meeting on 21st September 2006, the Executive Board resolved that a formal partnership with the Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority be established for the procurement of appropriate Waste Treatment and Disposal for Services and Facilities. (EXB40/2006 refers).

The Council was to be included in the joint procurement arrangements for the management and operation of the Council's Civic Amenity Sites as from October 2008, but not the Landfill Disposal Contract as the Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority (MWDA) had already issued an OJEU Notice and PQQ for Landfill Disposal. The

Council's Consultants had not finalised their advice to the Council as to future arrangements with the MWDA and as such a number of contingencies had to be provided.

The Landfill Disposal Contract would commence on 1st February 2008. Halton would seek to participate with the MWDA on joint landfill disposal arrangements at the first opportunity. Given the review periods within the MWDA contract, the period of contract could be between 5 years and 8 months and 8 years and 8 months. The estimated value was as follows:

- Estimated annual value - £621.000;
- Estimated value for 5 years and 8 months
- £3.90m
- Estimated value for 8 years and 8 months
- £6.98m

With regard to the provision of interim arrangements for the management and operation of recycling and household waste centre (Civic Amenity Sites), it was proposed that the estimated value from 1st February 2008 for a period of 8 months would be £690,000 (excluding Landfill Tax), based on the existing specification.

Despite the position set out above, the Council's consultants were still evaluating the process of integrating into the arrangements being prepared by the MWDA. There were a number of potential outcomes of that evaluation which could impact on the Council's proposals for either or both of the contracts, details of which and the possible contingency arrangements were outlined in the report.

RESOLVED: That

(1) the Operational Director, Environmental and Regulatory Services, be authorised in consultation with the Portfolioholder for Environment, Leisure and Sport, to proceed with the procurement process as outlined in the report and to take all steps deemed appropriate (including the selection of tenderers) up to the point of receipt of tenders;

(2) the tenders be reported back to the Executive Board Sub Committee for decision;

(3) should negotiations with the MWDA result in a conclusion that the subject matter of proposed Landfill Disposal Contract (Contract A) could be included within arrangements being entered into by the MWDA, the

Strategic Director
Environment

Operational Director, Environmental and Regulatory Services, shall be authorised, in consultation with the Portfolioholder for Environment, Leisure and Sport, to negotiate with the MWDA on that basis and shall be authorised to proceed with Contract A on the basis of the same contract period as proposed in Contract B; and

(4) subject to the sanction of the European Commission to the non- application of the Public Procurement Rules, authority be given to negotiate extensions to Contracts A and/or B.

MINUTES ISSUED: 2nd February 2007

CALL IN: 8th February 2007

Any matter decided by the Executive Board Sub Committee may be called in no later than 8th February 2007

Meeting ended at 10.53 a.m

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CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD

At a meeting of the Children and Young People Policy and Performance Board on Monday, 8 January 2007 at the Civic Suite, Town Hall, Runcorn

Present: Councillors Dennett (Chairman), Horabin (Vice-Chairman), Gilligan, Higginson, Parker, Philbin, M Ratcliffe, Stockton and A. Brothers

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Fraser and Marlow

Absence declared on Council business: (none)

Officers present: L. Derbyshire, T. Crane, A. McIntyre, N. Moorhouse, C. Taylor and A. Villiers

Also in attendance: Councillors McInerney and Wright, A Baldwin, D Bellfield, N Howe, J Pickering, J Slater and L Platt

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

WELCOME*Action*

As this was the first meeting of the Board since the Festive Season, the Chairman extended his best wishes to the Members of the Board and Officers for a prosperous New Year.

The Chairman took the opportunity to welcome and introduce two observers from the Parent/Carers Forum and the young people from the Youthbank Project.

In this respect, he reported that he would be engaging with the young people in between Board meetings. Their questions would be videod and presented to the Board for consideration. At the end of the meeting, he indicated, that he would meet with the young people again to give them feedback on their questions.

The Chairman also took the opportunity to invite Members to the Halton High Achievers Award which would take place on Wednesday 10th January 2007 at 6.30 pm in the stadium.

CYP32 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 30th October 2006, having been printed and circulated were signed as a correct record.

CYP33 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (INCLUDING PARTY WHIP DECLARATIONS)

There were no declarations of interest.

CYP34 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

It was confirmed that no public questions had been received.

CYP35 EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES

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

RESOLVED: That the minutes be noted.

CYP36 SCRUTINY TOPIC UPDATE - OUT OF BOROUGH SCRUTINY TOPIC UPDATE

The Board considered a report of the Acting Strategic Director, Children and Young People which gave Members an update of the work undertaken by the Out-Borough School Admissions Scrutiny Topic Group and outlined the next key tasks.

The Board was advised that, at its second meeting, the following data had been provided to the group for information and consideration:-

- Parental preferences for Halton Secondary Schools;
- Parental preferences for Out-of-Borough Schools;
- The total numbers of pupils imported to the authority across phase;
- The total numbers of pupils exported to other authorities;
- Ethnic minority details; and
- Geographical data identifying those Halton resident pupils attending Out-of-Borough Schools.

In this respect, it was agreed that a questionnaire would need to be drafted and circulated to the group for

comments. This would enable the views of parents seeking out of borough provision to be collected.

During discussions, it was noted that previously research had been undertaken in connection with the closure of Norton Priory school and it was suggested that this data could be used as a benchmark. However, it was also noted that the previous research had not investigated the financial impact, the impact on performance and had not been specific or detailed.

Acting Strategic
Director-Children
& Young People

RESOLVED: That the report and comment made be noted.

CYP37 SCRUTINY TOPIC UPDATE - WORK PROGRAMME
2007/2008

The Board considered a report of the Acting Strategic Director of Children and Young People which requested that Members consider a work programme for the Board for the coming year and make suggestions on how the programme should be taken forward.

The Chairman, reported that two topics had been identified during the year, but due to Members commitments one had been deferred. Taking this into account, he indicated that he would like Members to consider items for the 2007/08 work programme. He added that the overview and scrutiny training at West Lancashire District Council, had highlighted that external organisations could be looked at and considered within the meeting of the Board. In this respect he indicated that he would like to allocate time within future Board meetings to consider the YOT and Youth Justice.

In closing, he requested that Members email him within the next two weeks with suggestions for future topic items.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the comments raised above be noted: and
- (2) Members, in the next two weeks, email the Chairman suggestions for future topic items.

CYP38 YOUTH BANK PRESENTATION

The Board received a presentation from the

representatives from the Youthbank project, Amy Baldwin, Daniel Belfield, Nicola Howe, Johanna Pickering and Jack Slater which:-

- Explained the role of the Youthbank Project;
- Outlined why they had become involved in the project and how they were recruited;
- Set out what they had done so far; and
- Outlined what was planned for the future.

Arising from the discussions, the following comments were noted:-

- That the project comprised of five members and it was hoped that fifteen more young people would be recruited in the future. This was subject to the availability of funding and there was also a possibility of forming sub groups within the project;
- The project was currently funded for twelve months, ending March 2008, and the young people would be approaching the Authority at that time for further funding. When the project had demonstrated how successful it has been other funding may also become available;
- Young people interested in becoming involved in the project would need to have basic skills i.e. confidence, the ability to work under pressure, presentation skills and the ability to make decisions etc;
- The Decision Team would comprise of three members. The decisions were based on a criteria and scoring system out of 100. There was also a maximum limit of £55 for each bid unless it was for a building; and
- the young people be congratulated on their excellent presentation and work undertaken to date.

RESOLVED: That the presentation and comments raised be noted.

CYP39 FINDINGS OF THE INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF THE YOUTH SERVICE UNDERTAKEN BY THE NATIONAL YOUTH AGENCY IN SEPTEMBER 2006

The Board considered a report of the Acting Strategic Director, Children and Young People which provided

information on the quality of the Youth Service being delivered to the young people of Halton and the value for money this service represented to the Authority.

Arising from the discussions, the following comments were noted:-

- That there was more detail in the action plan and it represented the Nyomi model, which was a simple systematic intervention; and
- That a lot of work had been undertaken increasing standards and credit should be given to youth workers and staff who had worked hard to build up the service. However, there were still gaps in the service in respect of some young people who were not aware of the services available in the Borough.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the information in the report and the comments raised be noted; and
- (2) the action plan be presented to the next meeting of the PPB (26th February 2006).

Acting Strategic
Director-Children
& Young People

CYP40 COMMENTS, COMPLAINTS AND COMPLIMENTS RELATING MAINLY TO CHILD CARE SERVICES

The Board considered a report of the Acting Strategic Director, Children and Young People Services which provided:-

- A report on the Directorate's process for managing complaints and compliments during 2004/05 and 2005/06;
- A brief on the key issues and implications of the revised regulations and guidelines for the Social Services Complaints Procedure for Children and Young People; and
- An outline of the opportunities available to initiate a comprehensive complaints service across the Children & Young People's Directorate.

Arising from the discussions, the following comments were noted:-

- That the members of a Review Panel were required

to be independent of the Council and were paid to undertake the various stages. The cost for this service would be in the region of £1800. Ways of reducing the costs were also under review;

- In respect of practice and procedure changing as a result of the outcome of a complaint - if there were numerous complaints regarding a particular policy, this policy could be reviewed by management. Various compliments on a particular service could also indicate the result of a new policy being implemented or additional resources being allocated to that service;
- That every effort was made to ensure that the complaints process was as simple and effective as possible. The information on forms was clear and in plain English. The Authority were also working on developing one source document for all complaints/compliments policies and procedures; and
- That the number of complaints received at Stage 1 in 2005/06 was lower than comparable neighbouring authorities. At Stage 2 and 3 all three neighbouring authorities were very similar.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the initiatives leading to an integrated complaints service across the Directorate be supported;
- (2) a cycle of reporting on a six monthly basis, which would include the annual report be agreed; and
- (3) the comments raised be noted.

Acting Strategic
Director-Children
& Young People

CYP41 CLIMBIE VISITS

The Board considered a report of the Acting Strategic Director, Children and Young People which reviewed the procedure and impact of Climbie visits to the three child care teams. The visits had been undertaken by Elected Members in accordance with recommendation 41 of Lord Laming's Inquiry into the death of Victoria Climbie, known locally as 'Climbie Visits'. The report also recommended changes to the Climbie Visit Procedure and record of visit proforma which was attached to the report.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) Climbie visits continue to be undertaken by Elected Members and Senior Managers, but at a reduced frequency of quarterly (12 visits per year across the three childcare teams, or one visit each month), in order to reflect the progress made in establishing Climbie visits since July 2004. This would lead to a more sustainable level of visiting and allow the adoption of a more inspectoral approach;
- (2) Climbie visits maintain the focus on the key aspects of the findings of Lord Laming Inquiry; staffing, workloads and referral management in intake teams, but also to widen the focus to include: a review of team quarterly performance, and the impact the teams are having on outcomes for children, including the shift to holding electronic records (Integrated Children System);
- (3) Climbie visits are only undertaken by Elected Members who have a current enhanced Criminal Records Bureau Check and have received specific training in the key aspects and requirements of Climbie visits; and
- (4) the current pool of Elected Members undertaking Climbie visits is increased from five to nine, in order to ensure the visits are undertaken regularly and in accordance with the agreed frequency.

Acting Strategic
Director-Children
& Young People

CYP42 ADOPTION INSPECTION

The Board considered a report of the Acting Strategic Director, Children and Young People which outlined the proposed action plan as a result of the inspection.

The Board was advised that the Inspection report was available at the meeting. The Board was also advised that only one of the eleven requirements were outstanding (item five) and this had been agreed with the Inspector for completion in March 2007.

The Board was advised that a Peer Review would be commissioned in order to enable the authority to benchmark services against external organisations. Members requested that an update report be presented to a future meeting;

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report, action plan be noted; and
- (2) an update report be presented to a future meeting of the Board.

Acting Strategic
Director-Children
& Young People

CYP43 FOSTERING AND PRIVATE FOSTERING INSPECTION

The Board considered a report of the Acting Strategic Director, Children and Young People which outlined the final reports and proposed action plan.

The Board was advised that the inspection had received a positive outcome. The three requirements had been addressed and action on the recommendations was underway.

Arising from the discussions, the following comments were noted:-

- Resources within adoption and fostering have to be carefully allocated across the two services;
- In respect of appointing a Principal Manager of the Fostering Team, there had been two national adverts placed for the post, but to date it had not been filled. It was not clear why suitable applicants were not applying, but the post would be reviewed and re-advertised. Members requested to be kept informed of progress on this matter; and
- That generally across the service there was a shortage of staff. It was recognised that staff were doing an excellent job.

Acting Strategic
Director-Children
& Young People

RESOLVED: That the report, action plan and comments raised be noted.

CYP44 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORTS FOR 2006/07

The Board considered a report of the Acting Strategic Director, Children and Young People which invited Members to raise any questions or points of clarification in respect of the half-year to 30th September performance management reports. The reports outlined the progress against service plan objectives and performance targets, performance trends/comparisons, factors affecting the service etc for:-

- a) Children's Services;
- b) School Support & Advisory Services; and
- c) Student Services & Lifelong Learning.

The Chairman reported that discussions had taken place to re-design the reports to make them more user friendly. A training session was also being arranged and would take place before next years' cycle of meetings.

Acting Strategic
Director-Children
& Young People

Arising from the discussions, the following comments were noted:-

Children's Services

- There needed to be a synergy between the Boards meeting cycle and the Performance Monitoring cycle;
- During discussions regarding the stability of placements in the Borough, it was noted that there was a public service agreement in place to strengthen performance in this area; and
- That Quarter 3 monitoring reports would be on the information bulletin around the middle of February 2007.

Student Services and Lifelong Learning

- That there has been an increase in the demand from people undertaking English as a second language in the Borough. This matter was being looked into. Members suggested that this information could be incorporated within the monitoring reports;
- Attendance performance had improved. However, more improvement was required and further details provided to the next meeting;
- Re Fair Access – An update report on this matter be presented to the next meeting of the Board;
- In respect of a suggestion that video conferencing be used to monitor absenteeism, it was highlighted that the 14-19 provision gave pupils an lots of benefits including the opportunity to learn in a virtual learning environment; and
- There was a skill shortage in the North West and high unemployment. It was acknowledged that this was due to a combination of reasons, some of which were historical. It was also recognised that

there would need to be a collective multi agency approach to addressing this issue and strategies put in place for young people from the age of 12 onwards. Basic skills would also need to be improved in order to ensure that the demand for unskilled work was met. It was also recognised that employers in the Borough had a role to play by recruiting more young people within their organisation.

School Support & Advisory Service

The Board was advised that the issues relating to this service had been identified at the last meeting and the key areas were represented by an amber traffic light.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the second quarter performance management reports be received;
- (2) the comments raised above be noted;
- (3) more details be provided on attendance performance at the next meeting; and
- (4) an update report on Fair Access be presented to the next meeting.

Acting Strategic
Director-Children
& Young People

Meeting ended at 8.30 p.m.

EMPLOYMENT, LEARNING AND SKILLS POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD

At a meeting of the Employment, Learning and Skills Policy and Performance Board on Monday, 29 January 2007 in the Council Chamber, Runcorn Town Hall

Present: Councillors Jones (Chairman), Fraser (Vice-Chairman), Edge, Findon, Parker and Stockton

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Hodgkinson, Howard and Lewis

Absence declared on Council business: Councillor (none)

Officers present: L. Derbyshire, H. Cockcroft, G. Collins, N. Goodwin and P Reilly-Cooper

Also in attendance: (none)

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

	<i>Action</i>
<p>ELS31 MINUTES</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 13th November 2006, having been printed and circulated were signed as a correct record.</p>	
<p>ELS32 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME</p> <p>It was noted that no questions had been received.</p> <p><i>(NB: Councillor Findon declared a personal interest in the following item of business, due to being the Personnel Treasurer of the Housing Town Twinning Association).</i></p>	
<p>ELS33 EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES</p> <p>In respect of Minute No: EXB68 – Local Area Agreements, clarity was sought on the progress that had been made to date.</p> <p>The Board was advised that the final document had been submitted on time on 20th December 2006. The employment aspect of the agreements had to be updated due to changes in the benchmarking process. The first</p>	

formal feedback is expected in the near future.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the minutes be received;
- (2) an update report on the Local Area Agreements be presented to the next meeting of the Board; and
- (3) the comments raised be noted.

Strategic Director
- Environment

ELS34 MID-YEAR MONITORING REPORT FOR VOLUNTARY SECTOR FUNDING

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Health and Community which outlined the mid year monitoring report for Voluntary Sector Core Funding.

Members considered a variety of issues and noted the following comments:-

- That the six monthly monitoring figures for Halton Talking Newspapers had been omitted from the agenda. It was agreed that these figures would be circulated to Members via email;
- That the increase in Halton District Citizens Advice Bureaux's yearly target of £1m was as a result of more debt being written off; and
- That a key role in the community development function was to help external organisations obtain funding. It was acknowledged that some organisations would require a lot of support in completing documentation in order to obtain such funding. It was also recognised that a simple process for obtaining funding via grants was essential.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report and comments raised be noted; and
- (2) the Authority look at ways of streamlining the process and documentation required for applications for funding.

Strategic Director
- Health and
Community

ELS35 HALTON HOUSING CONSTRUCTION PARTNERSHIP

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Environment which briefed the Members on the emerging Halton Housing Construction Partnership (HHCP) and the Recruitment Event which had been arranged by HPiJ that had been held at Halton Stadium on 1st November 2006.

Arising from the discussion, the following comments were noted:

- that the Decent Homes Scheme whereby 4000 homes would be renovated over a four year period commencing from late November 2006 only represented the first phase of the renovation;
- concern was raised regarding the maintenance and installation of alley gates and the difficulty residents have in communicating with Halton Housing Trust in order to resolve these problems. It was acknowledged that this matter was within the remit of the Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board. However, it was agreed that this matter be discussed and considered at the next Board pre-agenda meeting;
- it was essential that local people be equipped with the skills for jobs being created. A skills demand audit could also be undertaken which would highlight potential gaps in the workforce. This audit would be of benefit to local schools so that future jobs could be identified;
- it was recognised that the first essential step was to ensure people in the area had the necessary skills to obtain the jobs that become available; and
- that the Board place on record a vote of thanks to everyone who had undertaken work on this excellent initiative.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) The Board support the further development of the partnership working arrangement between Halton's Housing Construction Partnership and Halton People into Jobs (HPiJ);
- (2) the future opportunities of the housing construction

Strategic Director
- Environment

work be identified via a skills audit and reported back to the Board;

- (3) Halton Housing Trust be urged to use companies with a travelling base within the region;
- (4) The recruitment and training initiatives developed by HPiJ and HHCP when providing jobs should create a balance between age and gender; a
- (5) the Board place on record a vote of thanks to everyone who has undertaken work on this excellent initiative; and
- (6) the progress to date and comments raised be noted.

ELS36 TOPIC GROUPS

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Environment and which asked Members to consider developing a work programme of topics for the Board to examine in 2007/08. The report also requested that Members:-

- Suggest and gather topic ideas on issues relevant to the remit of the Board;
- Develop and prioritise a short list of possible topics for examination in 2007/08, taking into account the Council's agreed selection criteria; and
- Decide on a work programme of two to four topics to be undertaken in the next municipal year.

Arising from the discussion the following comments were noted:

- That the Board had currently four topic groups: Adult Learning - Basic Skills, Halton People into Jobs (HPiJ); Sports Development – Inclusion in Sports and Community Co-hesion; and
- It was acknowledged that the Halton People into Jobs and the Sports Development Topic Groups were near to completion.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report and comments raised be noted; and

(2) the following topic groups be approved as the work programme for 2007/08:

- (i) Community Co-hesion;
- (ii) Sports Development – Inclusion in Sports;
- (iii) Creating local jobs through Procurement; and
- (iv) Skills: Identifying the needs of businesses.

ELS37 EMPLOYMENT, LEARNING AND SKILLS SPECIALIST STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Environment which provided a briefing on the Employment, Learning and Skills Specialist Strategic Partnership (SSP).

Arising from the discussion, the following comments were noted:

- The funding relating to Bulky Bobs was the last payment from the contract that ended March 2006;
- The increase in the funding to WFD had been as a result of the introduction of the introduction of the Business Perceptions Survey;
- The 2007-08 budget figures in the table were provisional. They would be considered by the Performance Monitoring Group in the first instance and then be presented with recommendations to the full Partnership Board: and
- That the Performance Monitoring Group had created three action plans which would look at reducing duplications in the services.

RESOLVED: That

(1) the progress on the development of the Specialist Strategic Partnership be noted; and

(2) the comments raised be noted.

ELS38 LIBRARY USERS SURVEY

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Health and Community which outlined the findings

of the Public Library Users Survey (PLUS) for adults and children which had been undertaken in 2006.

The Board was advised that the results of the survey had identified that overall 97% of users were satisfied with the library service. The Authority had also achieved joint second in the country for satisfaction with the service.

Arising from the discussion, the following comments were noted:-

- The benefits of a new library in Runcorn Old Town;
- That the area forums, this cycle, would be receiving a presentation on the review of the mobile library service and the public would be asked for suggestions on new stops and their views on the expansion of the service;
- That access to some areas of the Borough was restricted due to the size of the mobile library vehicle;
- That it had been suggested that the mobile library stop at shopping areas and parks;
- That there was an opportunity to place a bid for lottery funding to re-furbish Halton Lea Library. The deadline for the submission was the end of March 2007;
- The activities undertaken to encourage people into reading i.e. poetry sessions etc which attracted speakers and authors into the area; and
- Halton Literature Festival would commence shortly.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report and comments raised be noted;
- (2) the new library and the attempts to re-furbish Halton Lea Library be supported;
- (3) the expansion and increased access to the service be supported; and

- (4) the Board place on record a vote of thanks to everyone in the library service for their excellent achievements to date.

Meeting ended at 8.25 p.m.

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HEALTHY HALTON POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD

At a meeting of the Healthy Halton Policy and Performance Board on Tuesday, 16 January 2007 at the Civic Suite, Town Hall, Runcorn

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

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Blackmore and Wallace

Absence declared on Council business:(none)

Officers present: A. Villiers, A. Williamson, C. Halpin, P. Barron, D. Gill, N. Parker and L. Smith

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

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

	<i>Action</i>
HEA33 MINUTES	
<p>The Minutes of the meeting held on 7 November 2006, having been printed and circulated were signed as a correct record.</p>	
HEA34 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME	
<p>It was confirmed that no public questions had been received.</p>	
HEA35 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>The Board discussed the Healthy Eating Strategy and it was noted that this would be distributed to the Topic Group members in the near future. In addition it was noted that further information would be sought from North Cheshire Hospitals NHS Trust on the future and operation of the shuttle service.</p>	

RESOLVED: That the minutes be received.

HEA36 HITS YOUNG CARERS SERVICE

The Board received a presentation on the Young Carers Project delivered by HITS by Mr D. Atkinson. The presentation outlined:

- what HITS was;
- values by which HITS plans and delivers services;
- the projects currently delivered by HITS
- the definition of a young carer;
- how it affects young people;
- the number of young carers in the Borough as taken from the 2001 census;
- what support was available for young carers; and
- the future for HITS.

The Board had a thorough discussion on the impact being a carer could have on young people, the difficulty in identifying carers within the Borough and linkages to Council Departments, other agencies and organisations.

RESOLVED: That the report be endorsed.

HEA37 HEALTH & COMMUNITY SERVICE PLANS 2007-2010

The Board received the draft Service Plans for the period 2007-2010 from:

- Adults of Working Age;
- Health & Partnerships; and
- Older People's Services.

RESOLVED: That the reports be noted.

(NB: Councillor Horabin declared a personal interest in the following item due to working at the Independent Learning Centre. Councillor Loftus declared a personal interest in the following item due to working at Riverside College who hold classes at the Independent Learning Centre. Councillor Lloyd Jones declared a personal interest in the following item due to her husband being a Non-Executive Director of Halton and St. Helen's Primary Care Trust).

HEA38 PHYSICAL RESTRAINT POLICY

The Board received the draft Restrictive Physical Interventions Policy and Procedure between the Council's Health & Community Directorate and the Primary Care Trust

(PCT) for Adults with Learning Difficulties.

The draft policy had been developed to formalise current practises within health and social care for adults with learning difficulties and therefore would be a joint policy between the Council and the PCT.

Stakeholder consultation had taken place on the draft, including the Council and the PCT staff working with this client group, service users and carers who may be affected and a number of other agencies as detailed within the report.

RESOLVED: That the draft Restrictive Physical Interventions Joint Policy and Procedure be noted.

HEA39 MENTAL CAPACITY ACT 2005

The Board received a presentation on the Mental Capacity Act 2005 (MCA) from Mr L. Smith. The presentation outlined:

- why the Act was needed and who it affects;
- the principles of the Act;
- how capability would be assessed;
- what changes does the MCA introduced; and
- the process being adopted by Halton.

The MCA provided a statutory framework to empower and protect vulnerable people who cannot make their own decisions, and would allow people to plan ahead to a time when they might lack the capacity.

Arising from the discussion reference was made to the skills and qualifications which would be needed to undertake advocacy work and whether this would need to be a specialised role. In addition how the Independent Mental Capacity Advocate (IMCA) service would operate and the importance of putting in place the necessary policies and procedures were noted.

RESOLVED: That the contents of the report be noted.

HEA40 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 10 minutes.

HEA41 WORK PROGRAMME

The Board received a report which sought to develop a work programme of topics for 2007/8. The need to chose topics for which reviews could be completed within the allocated time and whether the Council could gather enough relevant information were noted.

RESOLVED: That initial suggestions for topics be submitted to the next meeting of the Board.

Strategic Director
- Health and
Community

Meeting ended at 9.10 p.m.

SAFER HALTON POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD

At a meeting of the Safer Halton Policy and Performance Board on Tuesday, 23 January 2007 at the Council Chamber, Runcorn Town Hall

Present: Councillors Osborne (Chairman), Stockton (Vice-Chairman), Edge, Lloyd Jones, Redhead, Swift and Thompson

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Morley, E Ratcliffe, Rowan and Wallace

Absence declared on Council business: (none)

Officers present: P Baragwanath, S. Baxter, J. Downes, S. Eastwood L Scott, L Shannon, M. Simpson, J. Unsworth, A. Villiers and P. Watts

Also in attendance: Councillor Wright (in accordance with Standing Order No. 33) and 10 pupils from Saints Peter & Paul Student Council, Alan Briggs – Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service, Paul Knott and Lucy Atkinson – Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service.

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

Action

Prior to the start of the meeting the Chairman welcomed the pupils from Saints Peter and Paul Catholic High School.

SAF29 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 14th November 2006 having been printed and circulated were taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

SAF30 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

It was noted that no public questions had been received.

SAF31 EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES

The Board considered the Minutes of the Executive Board and the Executive Board Sub-Committee relating to the Safer Halton Policy and Performance Board.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes be received.

SAF32 MEGADRIVE - PRESENTATION

The Board received a presentation from the Council's Road Safety Officer which outlined the recent successful Road Safety Event called MegaDrive. The Members were informed that Britain has one of the best road safety records in the world, but one of the worst child casualty records.

In 2000, the Government set new challenging targets in its Strategy Document – Tomorrows Roads Safer for Everyone. The presentation covered various issues as, outlined below:

- Targets 2010
- Local Public Service Agreement
- Pump Priming Money Supported
- Halton CKSI Trend
- Mega Drive – The Event
- Scenarios

It was noted that MegaDrive was organised solely by the Road Safety Unit and the service was offered to 50 pupils per year group from years 10 and 11. The agenda for the pupils at Mega Drive covered various issues such as views from the Police informing the students of the real life situations, the road safety issues from the Driving Standards Agency, the importance of mobile phones and seat belts, a Road Safety Show, first aid training and finally an evaluation. The results taken from the evaluation were provided with the presentation. The Research and Intelligence Team collated the data and produced tables and graphs which were shown to Members.

It was noted that the Road Safety Assistant Post was only funded until April 2008, along with the MegaDrive Scheme.

The Members discussed various issues regarding the Pump Priming. It was felt that 50 pupils per year group was not enough and it would be helpful to have funding as part of a whole package. The Road Safety Officer was thanked for an informative presentation.

Members suggested changing the recommendation to suggest a request to Executive Board asking for £60,000 for the financial year 2008/2009 in order to roll out the MegaDrive to all pupils in Year 10 and 11.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the presentation be received, and
- (2) a recommendation be made to Executive Board looking to extend the funding for MegaDrive in the financial year 2008/2009.

Strategic
Director –
Health and
Community

SAF33 FIRE SAFETY - PRESENTATION

The Board received a presentation from Fire Safety Officer Alan Briggs entitled “Fire Safety – the Way Ahead” which outlined the new and improved community focus provided by Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service in Halton for 2007/08 in conjunction with many partners.

The presentation gave details of the following:

- preventing arson;
- helping to develop young people;
- reducing risk in communities;
- making people safer in homes i.e. older people;
- Halton Safer Homes Group;
- Halton Arson Task Force;
- Road Traffic Collision Reduction; and
- The Neighbourhood Management Project.

The Board heard how anti-social behaviour issues were being dealt with and that the car clear scheme had resulted in a 30% reduction in burnt out vehicles across the Borough.

The Board held a wide ranging discussion regarding bonfire initiatives, how successful the home fire safety checks had been and also advertising methods for home fire safety checks.

The Chairman thanked Alan Briggs for an informative presentation.

RESOLVED: That the presentation be received.

SAF34 JOINT MERSEYSIDE WASTE DEVELOPMENT PLAN - PRESENTATION

The Board considered a presentation from Lucy Atkinson and Paul Knott from the Merseyside Environmental Service, which outlined the Merseyside Joint Waste Development Plan document.

The presentation outlined:

- the development plan document process;
- the need to consider various types of waste;
- the Waste Development Plan document timetable;
- the aims and objectives of sustainability appraisal;
- key milestones; and
- how the public can participate.

Members who wished to express their views regarding what Merseyside could be doing with its waste, could log on to www.wasteplanningmerseyside.gov.uk and complete the on-line consultation. Alternatively, a paper copy of the consultation could be obtained from any library in Merseyside in addition to details being published in the local press or contacting the Waste Development Plan Document Team and request a copy be sent out in the mail.

In conclusion it was noted that once people had registered their interest in the Joint Waste Development Plan document, advice of the results of the issues and options consultation would be provided and an invitation would be sent asking people to participate in the consultation on the preferred options.

The Chairman thanked Lucy and Paul for an informative presentation.

RESOLVED: That the presentation be noted.

SAF35 DRUG ACTION AND ALCOHOL TEAM - PRESENTATION

The Members considered a presentation report from the Council's Drug Action Team Co-Ordinator, Steve Eastwood which noted that in 2003 the Government decided to merge the Drug and Alcohol Teams with the Partnerships and various other agencies.

The presentation outlined the following:

- who the Drug and Alcohol Action Team are, i.e. the make-up of the staff in the office;
- what the Drug and Alcohol Action Team do;
- agencies the DAT Team link with;
- what the DAT Team are expected to achieve in relation to national targets etc; and
- the achievements of the DAT Team.

The Members were also informed of the new building

called Ashley House in Widnes which provided a range of services for those affected by drugs or alcohol. The service provided at Ashley House included:

- a doctor's office;
- needle exchange facilities;
- access to computers;
- progress to work;
- prolific offenders team;
- service user Advocacy Manager;
- structured day care;
- drug intervention programme;
- family service;
- outreach services;
- stimulants service;
- alcohol teams;
- and community drugs team (GP shared care, prescribing service needle exchange)

In addition, it was noted that service users and their families would be able to access a range of other support agencies such as Benefit Bus, Citizen's Advice Bureau, Housing Flotation Support, Sure Start, Dental Health and Harm Reduction Service.

The Pupils from Saints Peter and Paul Student Council asked various questions regarding the age of self referrals, the Young Add-Action 16 – 18 year olds. They also thanked the chairman for letting them attend a meeting at the Council.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the presentation be received; and
- (2) Members continue to support the good work of the Drug and Alcohol Action Team is doing.

SAF36 SMOKE FREE PREMISES LEGISLATION

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Environment regarding the Smoke Free Premises Legislation. It was noted that the report was very much about the regulatory role.

Included in the report was background information, the legislation and essential factors for consideration. It was reported that the implementation date would be on Sunday 1st July 2007 at 6.00 am.

The implementation of the smoke free elements of the Health Act 2006 would mean that virtually all enclosed public places and workplaces would become smoke-free environments. It was noted that this would included offices, factories, shops, pubs, bars, restaurants, membership clubs, public transport and work vehicles that are used by more than one person. The Board heard how smoke-free legislation was not a "smoking ban". It was not being enforced by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE).

The Board held a wide ranging discussion regarding the report and it was felt that there may be implications for the increase in litter, the need for an educational programme, the assisting of compliance, and funding for the required major piece of work.

It was reported that the Chairman had agreed that the Environmental Health and Risk Assessment Working Party set up by the Board to consider such issues should take on an overview and scrutiny examination of the issue.

The Environmental Health and Risk Assessment Working Party had met to be briefed on the background and the Government's intentions. With the arrival of the detailed legislation and the promise of detailed guidance to follow, this group would be able to meet again to fulfil this role. It was suggested that any incoming money could be ring-fenced and used solely for the purpose of making this new law/rule work more easily. In reply, it was noted that some guidance from Scotland would be sought on how they implemented the new legislation.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Board note and consider the report; and
- (2) that the Environmental Health and Risk Assessment Working Party continue to meet to undertake an overview of the legislation as national guidance is made available and report back to the Board as appropriate.

Strategic
Director –
Environment

SAF37 SECTION 57 OF THE CLEAN NEIGHBOURHOODS AND ENVIRONMENT ACT 2005 DOG CONTROL ORDERS

It was noted that the Clean Neighbourhood and Environment Act 2005 brought in new powers for local authorities to deal with dog related issues. These powers enabled local authorities to deal with the minority of irresponsible dog owners and would replace existing

legislation if adopted.

Members were advised that an additional report regarding dog control orders would be brought back to a future meeting.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the Board note and consider the report;
- 2) a further report be brought back to a future meeting containing precise dog control orders.

Strategic
Director -
Environment

SAF38 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.

SAF39 RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR SAFE HEADSTONES

The Board received a report from the Strategic Director Health and Community regarding the Risk Management Strategy for Safer Headstones.

The purpose of the report was to seek Members' support for the revised Risk Management Strategy for Safer Headstones which was distributed with the report.

RESOLVED:

- (1) the report be noted; and
- (2) the Operational Director for Health and Partnerships be requested to agree the revised Risk Management Strategy for Safe Headstones in consultation with the Executive Board Member for Environment, Leisure and Sport.

Strategic
Director -
Environment

SAF40 NOTES OF WORKING PARTY MEETINGS

Members were informed of topics and issues discussed at meetings of Working Parties set up by the Safer Halton Policy and Performance Board, details of which were outlined in the report.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

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Meeting ended at 9.15 p.m.

URBAN RENEWAL POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD

At a meeting of the Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board held on Wednesday, 24 January 2007 at Civic Suite, Town Hall, Runcorn

Present: Councillors Hignett (Chairman), E. Cargill, Rowe, Nolan, Thompson, Sly and Worrall

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Morley, Wallace and Whittaker

Absence declared on Council business: Councillor Leadbetter

Officers present: D. Sutton, C. Halpin, A. Cross, I Lifford, N. MacFarlane, P. Watts, A. West, J. White and P. Oldfield

Also in attendance: Councillor Polhill (in accordance with Standing Order 33).

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

URB34 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 15 November 2006, having been printed and circulated were signed as a correct record.

URB35 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

It was confirmed that no public questions had been received.

URB36 EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES

The Board considered the Minutes of the meetings of the Executive Board, Executive Board Sub Committee and the Executive (Transmodal Implementation) Sub Board relevant to the Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board.

URB37 PUBLIC CONSULTATION: DRAFT TOWN CENTRE STRATEGIES FOR HALTON LEA AND RUNCORN OLD TOWN

The Board received the Draft Town Centre Strategies

Action

for Halton Lea and Runcorn Old Town, as Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD's), which had been approved for the purpose of statutory public consultation. The public consultation would take place between 1st February 2007 and 15th March 2007 and members were asked to submit any comments, in writing, during this time. It was noted that Widnes would have an Area Action Plan produced instead of an SPD.

The Board discussed various issues relating to car parking provision, both in Runcorn Old Town and in Trident Park at Halton Lea.

RESOLVED: That the content of the report and appendices be noted.

URB38 UPDATE - DERBY ROAD, WIDNES

The Board received a report which gave details of the outcome of further investigations and a site visit which assessed the current situation at the junction of Derby Road/Peelhouse Lane, Widnes.

The further investigations and site visit had concluded that due to the bus routes and the space needed to allow deliveries to the Co-op shop it was not possible to install a refuge island. The possibility of installing traffic signals was also investigated, but these would increase delays at the junction and cause problems for adjacent properties.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted and the junction continue to be monitored.

Strategic Director
- Environment

URB39 LOCAL TRANSPORT CAPITAL SETTLEMENT 2007/08

The Board was advised of the announcement made by the Secretary of State for Transport on 18th December 2006 that gave details of the 2007/8 Local Transport Capital Expenditure Settlement and the classifications awarded to the Council's second Local Transport Plan 2001/2 (LTP2) – 2005/6 (LTP1) Delivery Report.

It was noted that the settlement included an additional £392,000 awarded for the high performance achieved in both LTP2 and LTP1 Delivery Report. The Department for Transport (DfT) performance assessments placed Halton in the top quartile of the 82 local transport authorities in England.

RESOLVED: That the 2007/8 Local Transport Capital

Expenditure Settlement and the classifications awarded to the Council's second Local Transport Plan and Delivery Report of the first Local Transport Plan be welcomed.

URB40 WORK PROGRAMME 2007/2008

The Board received a report which sought to develop a work programme of topics for 2007/8.

RESOLVED: That the following working groups be established/continuing to consider topics identified for scrutiny during 2007/8:

Working Group	Membership	Lead Officer
Future of Town Centre Management	Councillors Leadbetter, (Chairperson), Sly, Nolan, Thompson, Rowe	Gary Collins
Housing Strategy	Councillors Wallace (Chairperson), Whittaker, E. Cargill	Steve Williams
Income Regeneration (should it continue into 2007/8)	Councillors Hignett and Leadbetter, Thompson, Sly, Morley	Derek Sutton

URB41 REVIEW OF NATURAL ASSETS STRATEGY

The Board received a report on the review of the current Natural Assets Strategy, which was adopted in September 2000. It was noted that the review would reflect the changes in the wider environment in which the Strategy operated, recent changes in legislation and highlight the success of the raised profile of Halton's natural environment. In this respect two DVD's, entitled 'Swifts in Halton' and 'Pickering's Pasture' were played to the Board.

The Board requested further information on how Swifts in the area could be helped and were advised that assessments and assistance in putting up nesting boxes was available as well as working with builders to include nesting boxes within new build properties as part of the 'Wild about Halton' initiative.

In addition the need to get the balance of vegetation right, particularly during the planning process was discussed

along with the regeneration works at Castlefields. The need for further publicity was also raised.

RESOLVED: That

(1) The Executive Board be recommended to approve:

(a) the review of the Natural Assets Strategy be published as a document available to the public;

(b) the policies and actions contained in the Natural Assets Strategy be noted by all services and followed whenever any of the Council's activities would potentially impact on the natural environment; and

(2) a public launch of the document to take place in 2007.

Strategic Director
- Environment

Meeting ended at 7.40 p.m.

CORPORATE SERVICES POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD

At a meeting of the Corporate Services Policy and Performance Board on Tuesday, 9 January 2007 in the Civic Suite, Town Hall, Runcorn

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 M Dennett

Officers present: G. Ferguson, B. Dodd, J. Hughes, R. Mackenzie, S. Riley, J. Tradewell and A. Villiers

Also in attendance: (none)

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

	<i>Action</i>
CS27 MINUTES	
<p>The Minutes of the meeting held on 31st October 2006, having been printed and circulated, were taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.</p>	
CS28 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME	
<p>It was noted that no public questions were received.</p>	
CS29 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 & Performance Board since its last meeting were submitted for information.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the Minutes be received.</p>	
CS30 PARTNERSHIPS	
<p>The Board received a progress report on the work completed to date in relation to partnership activity within the Council.</p>	

The Board had previously considered a report which outlined information which would be included in the Register of Partnerships. The Register was still in its formative stages and would develop to be a more comprehensive record of partnership working over time.

It was possible that the register may never be fully comprehensive of all partnership activity going on, but it was important that all the key partnerships were included i.e. those that were crucial to the delivery of the Council's priorities. As new partnerships were established, it was important that they would also be included in the Register.

In addition to the Register, a governance of partnership's checklist had been established (which was now available on the Council's intranet). This focused attention on the key areas to be addressed when the Council was considering partnership working. Initial feedback from officers was that they found it useful and were happy to have some straightforward guidance when considering new partnership arrangements.

It was also reported that the definition of a partnership was yet to be defined. It was proposed that the suggested definition below (taken from the Audit Commission) would be used to capture the key partnerships with which the Council was involved:

Partnership – a joint working arrangement where the partners:

- are otherwise independent bodies;
- agree to co-operate to achieve a common goal;
- and to achieve it, create an organisational structure or process, an agreed programme, and shared information, risks and rewards.

RESOLVED: That the Board make the following recommendations to the Executive Board:

- (1) the definition of partnership as set out above be agreed;
- (2) a register of all partnerships of which the Council is a member is created and kept by the Council's Solicitor including the information as outlined in the report;
- (3) all new partnerships created or joined by the Council were notified to the Council Solicitor by the Officer with

Council Solicitor

responsibility for the partnership;

- (4) the governance of partnership checklist is formally endorsed;
- (5) the issues set out in the checklist are properly considered and addressed before a decision is taken to form or enter into a new partnership;
- (6) annual progress reports are presented by each partnership in the register to the appropriate PPB;
- (7) the Corporate Services PPB reviews the partnership register and partnership arrangements on an annual basis to make sure that they are working effectively; and
- (8) as the process with regard to partnerships is developed, additional reports be brought to the Board.

CS31 SERVICE PLANNING

The Board was advised that the service planning process for the next three years was currently underway. In order to enable the Board to influence the future direction of those services for which it was responsible, it received presentations from representatives from the following departments which provided a brief outline of plans for their areas over the next three years, including details of issues likely to emerge and budget and resource pressures;

- (i) Legal and Member Services;
- (ii) Financial Services;
- (iii) ICT Services;
- (iv) Exchequer and Customer Services;
- (v) Policy and Performance Department; and
- (vi) Property Services.

Within Legal and Member Services it was reported that the significant issues emerging included: the Council Solicitor post would be vacant from early March, budget implications, Gambling Act 2005, Electoral Administration Act 2006, Changes to Standards Procedures and the Local Government Bill.

Whilst within Financial Services the key issues included: the External Audit Commission Report, Budget, Gershon Targets, Major Capital Programme Schemes, Publication of Accounts and Comprehensive Spending Review.

The Committee were advised the key issues emerging from Property Services were Major Capital Programme Schemes, Energy Targets, Building Schools for the Future Programme 2008, Procurement issues, and alley gate workload.

Within IT the following issues would be significant: Building Skills for the Future Programme, the restructure of the department which had taken place, work with several new systems including the Revenues and Benefits System, CRM System, Trent etc. including upgrading existing systems i.e. Citrix, Windows XP and improvements to the IT Help Desk.

It was noted that within Policy and Performance the significant issues emerging would be Local Government Bill, Local Area Agreements, Performance Management Framework Changes, Efficiency Savings, Changes to NRF Grants and improvements to the Internet/Intranet.

Arising from the discussion, the Board expressed concern that their previous recommendation that an Energy Officer be appointed had not been progressed.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Service Planning process be noted; and
- (2) a meeting of the Board would be held to consider the Budget 2007/08.

Strategic Director
Corporate and
Policy

CS32 CORPORATE EQUALITY PLAN

Since the approval of a Corporate Equality Plan for the Council, significant new legislation in relation to both disability equality, and gender equality had been produced. The new legislation required the Council to adopt a Disability/Equality Scheme (December 2006) and a Gender Equality Scheme (April 2007).

Rather than adopt separate schemes for each aspect of social identity, a revised Corporate Equality Scheme had been produced and endorsed by the Executive Board in December. The revised scheme was the single Equality Scheme encompassing the separate statutory requirements for the Council to produce race, disability and gender equality schemes.

The revised scheme would be subject to public consultation. A copy of the revised Corporate Equality Plan was submitted to the Board for consideration.

Members commented that costings were not included within the Corporate Equality Plan and it was suggested that future plans contain costings.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the revised Corporate Equality Plan be noted; and
- (2) future Corporate Equality Plans should outline the costings for progressing from Stage 2 to Stage 4.

CS33 AREA FORUM TOPIC GROUP

The Board considered an update report on the progress of the Area Forum Topic Group. To date, the Group had:

- (i) consulted with representatives from the Police, Fire Service, various organisations who had been involved with Area Forums, Officers and Members;
- (ii) commissioned a Halton 2000 Panel Questionnaire;
- (iii) study visits to Knowsley and Thameside Councils were also proposed; and
- (iv) an item would be placed on the agenda of all Area Forum meetings for discussion and feedback.

It was anticipated that the initial findings of the Working Group would be circulated to all Members in February/March and a report brought to a future meeting of the Board.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

CS34 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORTS TO HALF-YEAR 30 SEPTEMBER 2006

The Board considered a report which outlined the progress of the Performance Management 2nd Quarter against Service Plan Objectives, Milestones and Performance Targets affecting the service etc for the following areas:

- Personnel Services;

- Financial Services;
- Exchequer and Customer Services;
- ICT Services;
- Policy and Performance;
- Legal and Member Services;
- Property Services; and
- Stadium and Hospitality

The Board received a oral report from Simon Riley, Operational Director – ICT, which highlighted IT objectives, the recent delivery of Major Projects i.e. Trent, Corona, SX3, ICS, improvements to the IT Helpdesk and the restructure and review of IT Services. The significant key issues emerging in the future included the rollout of Windows XP, upgrade of Citrix, upgrade of IT Helpdesk, and networking issues.

Arising from the discussion, it was agreed that each Member of the Board would receive a paper copy of the individual performance management report relating to the Board's activities. Members would continue to receive the Performance Management Reports electronically as soon as they were available via the information bulletin and a paper copy would be placed in the Members Room.

RESOLVED: That the 2nd Quarter year end Performance Management Report be received.

Meeting ended at 9.00 p.m.

BUSINESS EFFICIENCY BOARD

At a meeting of the Business Efficiency Board held on Wednesday, 10 January 2007 at the Civic Suite, Town Hall, Runcorn

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

Apologies for Absence: Councillor C Inch

Absence declared on Council business:(none)

Officers present: I. Leivesley and C. Halpin

Also in attendance: (none)

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

BEB21 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 November 2006, having been printed and circulated, were signed as a correct record with an amendment to the attendance list to include Councillor Massey (in accordance with Standing Order 33).

BEB22 ANNUAL EFFICIENCY STATEMENT MID YEAR UPDATE

The Board received a Mid Year Update on the progress made against the Council's efficiency target. As an excellent Authority, Halton was not required to provide this to Government, however, it was felt that it was good practice to measure whether the Council's Gershon targets were being achieved.

The update showed the efficiency gains achieved in the first six months of the year against the 2006/07 efficiency target, as well as forecasting efficiency gains and the cashable element for 2006/7. Ongoing efficiency gains and the cashable element from previous years was also shown, as well the cumulative gains and cashable element.

It was noted that the Council had achieved efficiency

Action

gains of more than £1.5m in the first six months, with gains of almost £2.9m forecast for the whole year, which would exceed the target of £2.5m. In addition the cashable element of the gains was forecast to be over £1.6m, representing 68.8% of the gains, which would exceed the target of 50%.

Furthermore an estimated total of £5.7m efficiency gains overall was expected; on incorporating the ongoing efficiency gains of over £2.8m from previous years and the efficiency gains expected at the end of this financial year. Consequently the Council's target of £7.5m by 2007/8 was well on the way to being achieved.

The Board requested that service performance be cross-referenced against efficiency savings in order to ensure that the savings were not adversely affecting performance.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

BEB23 DRAFT EFFICIENCY STRATEGY

The Board was presented with the Council's Draft Efficiency Strategy, which detailed:

- the need to have a strategy;
- efficiency and value for money;
- what we do already;
- what more do we need to do and why;
- what we were actually going to do;
- who will do it;
- how will we know when we have done it;
- conclusions; and
- proposed actions.

The Board requested that a clearer explanation of 'value for money' to be included in the Strategy and that where possible to use more user-friendly language.

RESOLVED: That the comments made, as detailed above, on the Draft Efficiency Strategy be noted.

BEB24 STATUS REPORT ON COMPREHENSIVE PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT 2006 AND 2007

The Board received a report which provided a position statement on the Corporate Performance Assessment (CPA) 2006, as it applied to the Council and which provided an overview of anticipated performance against the provisional framework for CPA 2007.

The report set out each of the elements of the CPA 2006; Corporate Assessment, Use of Resources Assessment, Level 1 Service Assessments and Level 2 Service Assessments and how this would be analysed.

In addition the elements of the anticipated performance in the CPA 2007 assessment, key issues and new indicators were also detailed within the report.

RESOLVED: That the position be noted.

BEB25 COUNCIL SPEND ANALYSIS

The Board received a report on the spend analysis undertaken by the Procurement and Commissioning Unit, which had been requested at the last meeting of the Board.

The top 50 areas of spend across the Council were detailed in the appendix to the report. It was noted that raw data had been used to produce the analysis therefore it was inevitable that some spend would be incorrectly classified. However, representatives from each Directorate had been asked to examine the data to check the classification. Although the majority of these classifications would not to any great extent and it would be these areas that where need to be examined to ensure optimal procurement practices were in place.

From this information the Procurement and Commissioning Unit would identify a number of work streams starting with the highest areas of expenditure to examine them to ensure that the Council was utilising the most effective methods of procurement.

As this work was ongoing the Board requested a further report be submitted to a future meeting.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted and a further report be submitted to a future meeting.

Strategic Director
- Corporate and
Policy

Meeting ended at 7.45 p.m.

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DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the Development Control Committee on Monday, 18 December 2006 at Council Chamber, Runcorn Town Hall

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

Apologies for Absence: Councillors (none)

Absence declared on Council business: (none)

Officers present: P. Watts, M. Simpson, L. Beard, J. Farmer, G. Henry, J. Tully and W. Watson

Also in attendance: 4 members of public

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

35. MINUTES

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

36. 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.

37.- PLAN NO. 06/00736/FUL - FULL APPLICATION FOR CONSTRUCTION OF NEW B2/B8 SINGLE STOREY UNIT WITH ASSOCIATED TWO STOREY OFFICE ACCOMMODATION AND EXTERNAL AREAS TO THE LAND AT ASTON LANE SOUTH, WHITEHOUSE INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, RUNCORN.

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

Action

RESOLVED: That the application be approved subject to the following 15 conditions: -

Strategic Director
- Environment

1. Standard 3 year permission;
2. Specifying amended plans (BE1);
3. Prior to commencement, materials condition, requiring the submission and approval of the materials to be used (BE2);
4. Prior to commencement, submission, agreement and implementation of scheme for drainage (BE1);
5. Three conditions relating to the submission of a landscaping scheme, requiring the submission of both hard and soft landscaping, species identification and implementation (BE2);
6. Eight conditions relating to protection of trees to be retained during construction, including provision of areas of 'geotextile' base around retained trees as shown on amended plan (BE1);
7. Prior to commencement, boundary treatments to be submitted and approved in writing (BE2 and BE22);
8. Prior to commencement, wheel cleansing facilities to be submitted and approved in writing and used during construction (BE1);
9. Prior to commencement ground investigation (PR14);
10. Prior to commencement requirement of Green Travel Plan and implementation of agreed details (TP16);
11. Construction and delivery hours to be adhered to throughout the course of the development (BE1);
12. Vehicle access, parking, servicing etc to be constructed prior to occupation/ commencement of use (BE1);
13. Full details and implementation of cycle parking provision (TP6);
14. Condition restricting external storage and external waste area to defined area (E5); and
15. Condition relating to provision of full car parking areas if building is in B2 use as identified on amended plan (BE1 and E5).

38.- PLAN NO. 06/00742/OUT - OUTLINE APPLICATION FOR GOLF DRIVING RANGE WITH ALL MATTERS RESERVED FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION TO THE LAND AT THE FORMER MUSPRATT WORKS, EARLE ROAD, WIDNES.

The consultation procedure undertaken was outlined in the report together with background information in respect of the site. Various issues were detailed in the report including:-

- relevant history;
- unitary development plan designation, key policies and sustainability objectives;
- contaminated land;
- design and access statement principles;
- highway issues; and
- nature conservation issues.

The Committee heard representation from Mr Wood on behalf of Broadthorn Developments who spoke in favour of the application.

It was reported that the use would fit in with the overall master plan, and Supplementary Planning Document for Widnes Waterfront. However, due to the unknown nature of the ground conditions in this area and the insufficient information provided to determine the extent and possible risks from contamination this application could not be supported.

The Committee held a wide ranging discussion regarding the use and the possible risks to the site.

RESOLVED: That the application be refused as it has not been clearly demonstrated that the contamination can be successfully remediated or the site can be accessed safely. The proposal is contrary to Planning Policy Statement 23, and Policy PR14 Contaminated Land, TP1 Public Transport Provision as Part of New Development and BE1 General Requirements for New Development of the Halton Unitary Development Plan. It is also contrary to the aims and objectives of the Supplementary Planning Document for Widnes Waterfront, as it has not been demonstrated that the site can be regenerated.

Strategic Director
- Environment

39.- PLAN NO. 06/00759/OUT - PROPOSED DEMOLITION OF MEADOW ROW, PART DEMOLITION OF HEDGE HEY AND CONSTRUCTION OF 64 NO. TWO STOREY HOUSES AND FLATS (FOR SALE [SHARED OWNERSHIP] AND RENT), TO THE LAND AT HEDGE HEY, SPINNEY WALK AND MEADOW ROW, CASTLEFIELDS, RUNCORN.

The consultation procedure undertaken was outlined in the report together with background information in respect of the site. It was noted that two letters of objection had been received, details of which were outlined in the report.

The Committee was advised that a further letter of objection had been received. In addition to the issues previously reported – this objection was also raised on the

grounds of impact on character and quality of local area due to loss of greenspace and trees, and the visual impact of the new dwellings. Issues relating to noise and dust resulting from the demolition and construction, impact on health relating to asthma were also raised.

The Committee heard representation from Mrs Edwards who spoke on behalf of residents from the area against the application. Mrs Edwards raised various issues noted above, in addition to the problem of safe egress from Meadow Walk in the event of a fire or evacuation.

The Planning Officer responded to say that during the development phase advice was sought from the Fire Service and issues had been dealt with by the Council's Building Control Section in conjunction with the Fire Service. Any areas of concern would be dealt with as reserved matters and approval from the Fire Service would be sought before any works were to be carried out.

It was reported that the Environment Agency had added an extra condition of a bat survey and there were an additional two conditions regarding retaining walls and replacement footpaths.

Members discussed various matters such as dust suppression methods, fire safety and how the demolition could be achieved without causing inconvenience to residents.

It was noted that any issues that have arisen would be outweighed by the long term result.

RESOLVED: That the application be approved subject to the following 14 conditions:

1. Condition specifying amended plans (BE1);
2. Materials condition, requiring the submission and approval of the materials to be used (BE2);
3. Drainage condition, requiring the submission and approval of drainage details (BE1);
4. Drainage condition, requiring the submission and approval of oil interceptor details (BE1);
5. Landscaping condition, requiring the submission of both hard and soft landscaping to include replacement tree planting (BE2);
6. Boundary treatments including retaining walls to be submitted and approved in writing (BE2);
7. Wheel cleansing facilities to be submitted and approved in writing (BE1);

Strategic Director
- Environment

8. Construction and delivery hours to be adhered to throughout the course of the development (BE1);
9. Vehicle access, parking, servicing etc to be constructed prior to occupation of properties/ commencement of use (BE1);
10. Agreement and implementation of cycle parking provision (TP6);
11. Submission and agreement of finished floor and site levels (BE1);
12. Three conditions relating to restriction of permitted development rights relating to extensions and outbuildings, garage conversions and boundary fences etc (BE1);
13. Site investigation, including mitigation to be submitted and approved in writing (PR14); and
14. Four conditions relating to tree protection during construction (BE1).

Additional conditions were as follows:

- 1) Bat survey as per request from Environment Agency;
- 2) Retaining walls;
- 3) Replacement footpath; and
- 4) The agreement of additional details relating to bin stores and cycle stores.

40.- PLAN NO. 06/00783/FUL - PROPOSED DEMOLITION OF EXISTING CARE HOME AND ERECTION OF REPLACEMENT 2.5. STOREY CARE HOME WITH PARKING AND ASSOCIATED LANDSCAPING TO THE LAND AT WILMERE HOUSE, WILMERE LANE, WIDNES.

The consultation procedure undertaken was outlined in the report together with background information in respect of the site. It was reported that no objections had been received from United Utilities and the Council's Environmental Health Officer but there was a ground investigation and remediation plan required. In addition it was noted that St Helens Council had responded and no comments were made.

RESOLVED: That the application be approved subject to not being called in by the Secretary of State and the following 13 conditions:

1. Standard condition relating to timescale and duration of the permission;
2. Wheel wash condition required for construction phase (BE1);

Strategic Director
- Environment

3. Parking conditions (2 separate conditions) to ensure access and parking 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);
4. Boundary treatment condition is required to ensure details are provided prior to the commencement of development (BE2);
5. Drainage condition, requiring the submission and approval of drainage details (BE1);
6. Materials condition, requiring the submission and approval of the materials to be used (BE2);
7. Site investigation, including mitigation to be submitted and approved in writing (PR14);
8. The remediation to be carried out in accordance with the site investigation (PR14);
9. A condition restricting the use of the property to residential care home (BE1);
10. Landscaping details to be implemented in accordance with the plans submitted;
11. Details of bin storage required (BE2);
12. The entering into a Legal Agreement for the upgrading of bus stops (Policy TP1); and
13. Five conditions relating to protection of trees to be retained during construction (BE1);

41.- PLAN NO. 06/00813/FUL - PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF 23 NO. APARTMENTS (RELATED TO PRESENT DEVELOPMENT OF 20 UNITS APPROVED UNDER 05/00578/FUL) TO THE LAND AT THE FORMER EGERTON ARMS, IRWELL LANE / BRIDGE STREET, 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 raised.

RESOLVED: That the application be approved subject to the following 5 conditions:

14. Standard commencement condition;
15. Construction hours (BE1 General Requirements for Development) ;
16. Wheel was condition (BE1); and
17. Pedestrian visibility splay (BE1).

42.- PLAN NO. 06/00857/FUL - PROPOSED ERECTION OF THREE STOREY OFFICE DEVELOPMENT TO THE LAND OFF EARLE ROAD, WIDNES.

Strategic Director
- Environment

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.

RESOLVED: That the application be approved subject to the following 11 conditions: -

Strategic Director
- Environment

1. Standard commencement condition;
2. Submission of materials (BE2 Quality of Design);
3. Comprehensive landscaping scheme (BE1 General Requirements for Development);
4. Boundary treatment details (BE1 General Requirements for Development);
5. Site investigation remediation plan (PR14 Contaminated Land);
6. Cycle parking details (TP6 Cycling Provision as Part of New Development);
7. Provision of Green Travel Plan (TP16 Green Travel Plans);
8. Provision of Bin Storage/Waste (BE1 General Requirements for Development);
9. Use Restriction to B1 use only (BE1 General Requirements for Development);
10. Wheel wash during construction (BE1 General Requirements for Development); and
11. Details of temporary access road, required prior to commencement of development (BE1 General Requirements for Development).

43. MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

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

06/00410/FUL Proposed single storey rear extension and first floor bedroom extension above garage at 14 Lessingham Road Widnes.

An appeal was lodged following the Council's refusal of the following application:-

A decision had been received as follows :-

06/00180/FUL Proposed two storey side/rear extension to form bedroom, bathroom garage and kitchen at 18 Kingsley Road Runcorn.

This appeal was dismissed.

The following applications had been withdrawn:-

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| 06/00667/FUL | Proposed two storey detached dwelling with basement area plus a detached garage at Former Hale Village Nurseries Cocklade Lane Hale. |
| 06/00773/FUL | Proposed extension to rear of Little Manor Day Nursery Manor Farm Road Runcorn. |
| 06/00682/HBCFUL | Proposed all weather sports training area with 3.0m high perimeter fencing and 8.0m high floodlights at Woodend Park Upper Mersey Road Widnes. |

Meeting ended at 6.53 p.m.

DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE

*At a meeting of the Development Control Committee on Wednesday, 17 January 2007
at Civic Suite, Town Hall, Runcorn*

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

Apologies for Absence: Councillor Rowan

Absence declared on Council business: (none)

Officers present: P Baragwanath, L. Beard, L Bolton, J. Farmer, A. Plant, P. Shearer, M. Simpson, J. Tully, W. Watson and P. Watts

Also in attendance: (none)

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

DEV44 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 18th December 2006 having been printed and circulated, were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

DEV45 PLANNING APPLICATIONS TO BE DETERMINED BY THE COMMITTEE

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

DEV46 - PLAN NO. 06/00809/FUL - PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT COMPRISING 50 NO. ONE AND TWO BED APARTMENTS IN 3 NO. THREE AND FOUR STOREY BLOCKS TO THE LAND AT CHAPEL GATE (NAZARETH HOUSE), ST MICHAELS ROAD, WIDNES.

The consultation procedure undertaken was outlined in the report together with background information in respect of the site. It was noted that one letter of representation had been received from an adjoining resident details of which were outlined in the report.

Action

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

A) The applicant entering into a legal agreement in relation to the payment of a commuted sum for the provision and / or improvement of off-site open space.

Strategic Director
- Environment

B) Conditions relating to the following:

1. Condition specifying amended plans (BE1)
2. Materials condition, requiring the submission and approval of the materials to be used (BE2)
3. Landscaping condition, requiring the submission of both hard and soft landscaping to include tree planting. (BE2)
4. Boundary treatments including retaining walls to be submitted and approved in writing (BE2)
5. Wheel cleansing facilities to be submitted and approved in writing and used. (BE1)
6. Construction and delivery hours to be adhered to throughout the course of the development. (BE1)
7. Vehicle access, parking, servicing etc to be constructed prior to occupation of properties/ commencement of use. (BE1)
8. Agreement and implementation of cycle parking provision (TP6)
9. Submission and agreement of finished floor and site levels. (BE1)
10. Site investigation, including mitigation to be submitted and approved in writing. (PR14)
11. Five conditions relating to tree protection during construction (BE1)

C) That if the legal agreement is not executed within a reasonable period of time authority be delegated to the Operational Director- Environmental and Regulatory Services in consultation with the Chairman or Vice Chairman to refuse the application on the grounds that it fails to comply with UDP Policy S25 Planning Obligations.

Strategic Director
- Environment

DEV47 - PLAN NO. 06/00848/HBCFUL - PROPOSED REDUCTION IN LEVEL OF LANDSCAPED MOUND TO SURROUNDING GROUND FLOOR LEVEL AT THE BRINDLEY ARTS CENTRE, HIGH STREET RUNCORN.

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

of the site. The Environment Agency and Council's Environmental Health Officers had confirmed that they had no objections subject to the conditions which required that all works were carried out in accordance with the submitted reports.

The Committee considered the report which, outlined the plans to remove all material from the landscaped mound outside the Brindley Arts centre in order to create a flat, low level grassed area. It was reported that in the future the area could be used to provide access to future redevelopment of the Canal Quarter and other regeneration projects.

It was advised that the material to be moved was known to be contaminated and was supported by a detailed ground investigation and a method statement relating to the proposed application, which would limit the effects of the possible dust and smell issues.

Members were informed that the proposed application was anticipated to take ten weeks to complete and also before the end of the financial year. The proposed method of access and egress from the site would be via the service yard.

RESOLVED: That the application be approved subject to the conditions listed below:

1. Materials condition, requiring the submission and approval of the materials to be used. (BE2)
2. Submission and agreement of detailed routeing plan for construction traffic including directional signage (BE1)
3. Condition requiring submission and agreement of additional details relating to railings and safety barriers to be installed. (BE22)
4. Requiring that all works be carried out in accordance with the approved Method Statement and Ground Investigation and Waste Characterisation Assessment (PR13)
5. Requiring that the area be top-soiled and seeded/grassed in the first available planting season (BE2)
6. 5 Conditions relating to protection of trees to be retained (BE1)
7. Submission and agreement of a scheme of replacement tree planting (BE1)
8. Restricting hours of working and delivery to and from site (BE1)

Strategic Director
- Environment

9. Wheel cleansing facilities to be submitted and approved in writing and used. (BE1)

DEV48 - PLAN NO. 06/00872/HBCFUL - PROPOSED NEW 3.2M WIDE COMBINED FOOTPATH / CYCLEWAY LINKING GREENS BRIDGE WITH THE EXISTING CYCLEWAY TO SOUTH OF DARESBUY EXPRESSWAY ON THE LAND TO WEST OF NORTON PRIORY, TUDOR ROAD, RUNCORN.

The consultation procedure undertaken was outlined in the report together with background information in respect of the site. No objections had been received.

RESOLVED: That the application be approved subject to the conditions listed below.

1. Materials condition, requiring the submission and approval of the materials to be used. (TP9)
2. Condition requiring submission and agreement of additional details relating to safety barriers to be installed. (TP9)
3. Requiring provision and maintenance of adequate visibility splay to junction with existing cycleway to north. (TP9)
4. Requiring provision of notice of commencement of works and access to allow archaeological recording (BE6)

Strategic Director
- Environment

DEV49 - PLAN NO. 06/00874/FUL - PROPOSED TWO STOREY NEW PRIMARY CARE CENTRE INCLUDING RETAILS PHARMACY, TO THE LAND OFF PEELHOUSE LANE, WIDNES.

The consultation procedure undertaken was outlined in the report together with background information in respect of the site. It was reported that one letter of objection had been received details of which were outlined in the report.

United Utilities had raised no objection subject to drainage on a separate system with foul drainage connected into the foul sewer. Network rail had responded and raised no objection, however did raise comment regarding any operations carried out close to the railway line. It was reported that these comments would be forwarded to the applicant.

The Committee discussed various issues regarding the location of the site, access and egress from the site,

proximity to Fairfield High School, and the two local pharmacies near by. It was reported that the proposed new clinic would replace the clinic on Beaconsfield Road.

Concerns were raised regarding parking facilities and the access from Lancaster Road to Peelhouse Lane. In response it was noted that parking would be provided within the UDP requirements and the access road had been approved and checked.

RESOLVED: That the application be approved subject to the conditions listed below.

1. Materials condition, requiring the submission and approval of the materials to be used. (BE2)
2. Amended plans condition. (BE1)
3. Drainage condition, requiring the submission and approval of drainage details. (BE1)
4. Landscaping condition, requiring the submission of both hard and soft landscaping. (BE2)
5. Boundary treatments to be submitted and approved in writing. (BE1)
6. Wheel cleansing facilities to be submitted and approved in writing (BE1)
7. Parking conditions (2 separate 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).
8. Details of the design of the bin storage (BE2).
9. Construction hours to be adhered to throughout the course of the development. (BE1)
10. Prior to the commencement requirement of Green Travel Plan and implementation of agreed details. (TP16)
11. 8 conditions relating to protection of trees to be retained during construction (BE1)
12. Security shutters to be incorporated and perforated and these details shall be submitted and approved. (BE1)

Strategic Director
- Environment

DEV50 - PLAN NO. 06/00887/OUT- OUTLINE APPLICATION FOR THE ERECTION OF 34. NO. RESIDENTIAL UNITS (COMPRISING THREE AND FOUR STOREY APARTMENT BUILDING) WITH LANDSCAPING MATTERS RESERVED FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION, TO THE LAND AT FORMER OAK LODGE, RICHARDS CLOSE, RUNCORN.

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

of the site. It was reported that one neighbour objection had been received which raised the seven issues listed below:

- development was too close;
- too much car parking next to existing bungalows when accessible to bus services;
- loss of the landscaped area;
- it was felt that it was wrong to utilise green space for car parking;
- inappropriate access roads; and
- noise pollution and access to existing flats and bungalows.

In response it was noted that:

- the amended scheme had reduced the proposed numbers of units from 42 to 34 and at 86 units per hectare, this was appropriate for the size of the site, in view of the overall design of the proposal and would comply with Policy HR2 of the UDP;
- the car parking provision at 125% per dwelling was appropriate for the location of the site near to a regular bus service and local centre;
- as identified within the committee report, there had been inevitable loss of some landscaping to achieve the development. However, this revised scheme retains a greater area of existing trees and proposed new tree planting. It was considered that the regenerative benefits of the development outweigh the loss of landscaping as shown;
- the area was not a designated greenspace and was within the general extent of the residential area within the UDP and Castlefields SPD, therefore the proposal would not conflict with the Council's greenspace policies.
- the Council's highway engineer had raised no objection to the application in relation to the capacity of the access roads to the site;
- it was accepted that there would be noise and pollution from vehicles. However, this would not be necessarily considerably worse than the previous use of the site. The site's proximity to the local bus services would provide good opportunities to use alternative forms of transport to private vehicles; and
- the redevelopment of the site would not alter the current emergency access to the existing flats and bungalows, there would be sufficient access for this for the proposed development. The applicant had agreed to upgrade the area currently used adjacent to Achilles Court for emergency and refuse access

to existing properties at the request of the Highway Engineer.

The Committee was informed the applicant had expressed agreement to provide the appropriate financial contribution under the terms of the Open Space SPD.

It was reported that the plans had been amended to incorporate the bin storage areas nearer to the apartment blocks to avoid stand along structures and greater accessibility for collection.

The Committee was advised the proposal was a step further forward in the regeneration of the Castlefields area and was compliant with the principles of the Castlefields SPD.

Requested modifications to the submitted plans in relation to highway and the requested tree survey had not yet been received at the time of the meeting. In view of this it was requested that authority be deferred to the Operational Director of Environment and Regulatory Services in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman, subject to the submission of acceptable amended plans and a tree survey.

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

A) the applicant entering into a legal agreement for the provision of off-site open space;

B) the following 27 conditions listed below: -

1. Standard Outline planning conditions (x 4)
2. Subject to amended plans (Policy BE1, BE2)
3. Provision in full of car parking prior to commencement of construction of building.
4. Prior to commencement of development details of widening of adjacent footway provided and agreed in writing. (Policy BE1)
5. Prior to commencement the submission of material samples for approval (Policy BE2).
6. Prior to the commencement details of tree protection measures (x7)(Policy BE1).
7. Prior to commencement the submission of details of all boundary treatments for approval (Policy BE22).
8. Prior to commencement the submission of details of a hard and soft landscaping scheme (Policy BE1).
9. Prior to commencement the submission of detailed

- species of soft landscaping for approval (Policy BE1).
10. Prior to commencement the submission of details of bin and cycle stores, to be secured, for approval (Policy BE2).
 11. Prior to commencement the submission of a ground investigation and undertaking of any remedial works where required (Policy PR14).
 12. Prior to commencement the submission of existing ground levels and proposed finished floor/ground levels for approval (Policy BE1).
 13. Prior to commencement the submission of drainage details for approval (Policy BE1).
 14. Prior to commencement the submission of details of wheel wash to be used throughout the course of the construction period (Policy BE1).
 15. Landscaping scheme to be implemented during the course of development or next available planting season (Policy BE1).
 16. Access, roads, car parking and service areas to be laid out prior to occupation of premises (Policy BE1, TP6, TP7, TP12 and TP17).
 17. No lighting to be installed within the site or on the building without further approval from the Local Planning Authority (Policy BE1 and PR4).
 18. Restricted hours of construction (Policy BE1).

The following amendment to condition **No. 4** was stated as follows:

The condition should be extended to include the adjacent footpath to the north west of the site adjacent to Achilles court, in order to achieve a formalisation and “tidying up” of this area for emergency and refuse collection for existing dwellings.

- C) That if the legal agreement is not executed within a reasonable period of time authority be delegated to the Operational Director – Environmental and Regulatory Services in consultation with the Chairman or Vice Chairman to refuse the application on grounds that it fails to comply with UDP Policy S25 Planning Obligations.

DEV51 MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

It was reported that appeals had been received as a result of the following applications: -

06/00281/FUL Application for the retention of boundary wall and gates at 13 Penrhyn Crescent

Runcorn

06/00561/FUL Proposed two storey extension to front at 5 Wilsden Road Widnes

It was noted that appeals were lodged following the Council's refusal of the following applications:-

Decisions had been received as follows :-

05/00932/FUL Retrospective application for retention of boundary fencing (to replace damaged section) at Selwyns Travel Ltd Cavendish Farm Road Runcorn

This appeal was dismissed

05/01054/FUL Proposed erection of amateur radio mast at 4 Allen Road Runcorn

This appeal was dismissed

06/00159/TEL Application for prior approval for 1 No. 12.5m telegraph pole column and 1 No. outdoor cabinet on Land to The West of Railway Station Liverpool Road Widnes

This appeal was allowed

The Council considered that prior approval would be required as it would be in a prominent location near residential areas and in the vicinity of two existing

telecommunication masts, which would result in an unacceptable proliferation of telecommunication equipment. It would also be in an unacceptable position within the highway.

The Planning Inspectorate considered the above, but stated that no alternative locations were suggested by The Council and considered an adequate assessment of possible alternative sites had been undertaken, and that there are no available alternatives which would represent a preferable environmental solution. It was concluded that the siting and appearance of the proposed development would not be damaging to the character and appearance of this part of Widnes, and would not conflict with Policy BE21 of the Halton Unitary Development Plan.

3) The following applications have been withdrawn :-

06/00806/FUL	Proposed single storey side extensions to provide bedroom and en suite at 23 Addison Square Widnes
06/00820/FUL	Proposed erection of 5 No detached dwellings at 5 Holt Lane Runcorn

Meeting ended at 6.43 p.m.

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the Standards Committee, Wednesday, 10 January 2007 Committee Room 1, Runcorn Town Hall

Present: Mr B. Badrock (Chairman), Parish Councillor Ronald Crawford, Mr T. Luxton, and Councillors Parker and Redhead

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Lewis and Wharton

Absence declared on Council business: (none)

Officers present: L. Cairns and J. Tradewell

Also in attendance: (none)

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

STC16 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 1st November 2006, having been printed and circulated, were signed as a correct record.

STC17 INFORMATION ROUND-UP

The Committee considered a report of the Strategic Director – Corporate and Policy outlining the latest news from the Standards Board. In addition, further information was tabled in respect of the implications of the decision of Collins J in the Livingstone case. The Committee noted that the judgement considerably narrowed the scope for the Code to apply to a Member in their private life. On the basis of the judgement, conduct in a Member's private capacity could only come within the scope of the Code where it was established that there was a direct link with a Member's office.

The Committee was also advised that the Standards Board was proposing roadshows in June to support the implementation of the new Code and was asking for suggestions as to the content of these events.

Action

Members considered a variety of issues including:

- procedures to follow in respect of a complaint should a councillor no longer be in office;
- the need to let the monitoring officer decide who was the appropriate investigating officer at the necessary time; and
- the impact of the Collins judgement in respect of a Member who was convicted of a criminal offence and imprisoned for less than 3 months.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be noted; and
- (2) the extra information tabled in respect of the decision of Collins J in the Livingstone case be included on the Members' Information Bulletin and sent to all Parish Council Clerks.

Strategic Director
- Corporate and
Policy

STC18 AWAYDAY

The Committee considered a report of the Strategic Director – Corporate and Policy regarding the Away Day held on 6th December 2006. A note of this event was outlined for Members' information.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be noted;
- (2) a letter be sent to Mr Charles Kerry thanking him for his presentation and contribution to the event;
- (3) an action plan be included on the Committee's next agenda for consideration; and
- (4) enquiries be made in respect of including an item on each Committee agenda to raise the profile of the ethical agenda.

Strategic Director
- Corporate and
Policy
Strategic Director
- Corporate and
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Strategic Director
- Corporate and
Policy

STC19 REVISED CODE OF CONDUCT

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Corporate and Policy regarding the draft revised Code of Conduct.

It was noted that this Code had been awaited for some time and, to date, was still not available; however, it

was expected to be out for consultation imminently.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

STC20 TRAINING UPDATE

The Committee considered a report of the Strategic Director – Corporate and Policy regarding the proposed training event for Standards Committee Members. It was noted that Mr Graeme Creer had been identified as the training provider and a date now needed to be agreed in order that the necessary arrangements could be progressed.

RESOLVED: That the training event be held at 2.00pm on Wednesday, 28th February 2008, in place of the scheduled Standards Committee meeting.

Meeting ended at 4.10 p.m.

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REGULATORY COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the Regulatory Committee on Monday, 22 January 2007 in the Council Chamber, Runcorn Town Hall

Present: Councillors Philbin (Chairman), Pearsall (Vice-Chairman), Cole, Cross, D Inch, Lowe, Nelson and Wainwright

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Drakeley, Gilligan and E Ratcliffe

Absence declared on Council business: (none)

Officers present: G. Ferguson, K. Cleary, J. Findlow, J. Tully and C Cullen

Also in attendance: 1 Member of the public

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

Action

REG17 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 13th November 2006 having been printed and circulated were taken as read and signed by the Vice-Chairman as a correct record.

REG18 TAXI & PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE LICENSING – BEST PRACTICE GUIDANCE

The Department for Transport (DfT) had prepared a Best Practice Guidance to assist Hackney and Private Hire Vehicle Licensing Authorities.

A copy of the guidance had been published and had been circulated to Members together with a comparison which summarised the differences between the guidance and the practices currently carried out by the Council.

In the vast majority of cases the best practice recommended by the DfT coincides with practice adopted by the Council for many years. There were some areas of disagreement as to what constitutes best practice. These were explained in the report and at the meeting.

The Committee requested one matter to be reviewed.

This relates to the appropriate ages for mandatory medical examinations for Single Status Drivers and the appropriate frequency of such examinations.

RESOLVED: That

(1) the contents of the report by the Department for Transport be noted and the analysis of that report be endorsed; and

(2) a consultation exercise be undertaken as to the appropriate ages for mandatory medical examinations for Single Status Drivers and the appropriate frequency of such examinations.

Strategic Director
Corporate and
Policy

REG19 GAMBLING ACT 2005 - POWERS AND DUTIES REVIEW

The Gambling Act 2005 was due to come fully into effect in September 2007 with a number of transitional arrangements coming into effect in April 2007. The role of the Regulatory Committee under the Gambling Act 2005 was similar to that under the Licensing Act 2003.

The Committee was advised that Section 154 of the Gambling Act 2005 stated that the functions under Part 8 of that Act were automatically delegated to the Licensing Committee of every Licensing Authority established under the Licensing Act 2003.

However, there were three exceptions to this automatic delegation under the Gambling Act 2005. The functions of the Licensing Authority under Section 166 (Resolutions not to Issue Casino Licences) and Section 249 (Three year Licensing Policies) may only be exercisable by full Council. Furthermore, although not automatically delegated to the Regulatory Committee, Council was authorised delegated functions under Section 212 (Setting Fee).

The Gambling Act 2005 adopted section 10 of the Licensing Act 2003. This had the effect of enabling the Regulatory Committee to arrange for the discharge of any of its functions by a sub committee or (subject to limitations) by an officer of the licensing authority. It was proposed to put forward a scheme of Sub-Committee Powers and Duties and Officer Delegations similar to those already in place under the Licensing Act 2003. It was also noted that training for Members on the Gambling Act 2005 would be arranged in the near future.

The effect of the Gambling Act 2005 on Powers and Duties of the Regulatory Committee and the Scheme of Delegation to Officers as set out in the Council's Constitution was outlined in the report.

The Committee considered it appropriate that the Council delegate to the Regulatory Committee its functions under section 212 Gambling Act 2005 (Setting Fees)

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the powers and duties of the Regulatory Committee as amended by the Gaming Act 2005 be noted;
- (2) the Regulatory Committee sub-delegates its powers and duties under the Gambling Act 2005 to a Sub-Committee or Sub-Committees of the Regulatory Committee as set out in the report;
- (3) the Regulatory Committee sub-delegates its powers and duties under the Gaming Act 2005 to the extent set out in the report;
- (4) the Executive Board be requested to recommend the Council to amend the Constitution of the Council accordingly; and
- (5) the Executive Board be requested to recommend the Council to delegate authority to the Regulatory Committee its power to set fees under section 212 Gambling Act 2005 in accordance with section 154 Gambling Act 2005.

Strategic Director
Corporate and
Policy

REG20 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.

REG21 TAXI MATTER

The Committee were asked to consider a complaint by the holder of a Single Status and Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licence which alleged grave misconduct by the Enforcement Officer in that he obtained a private document (Vehicle Pre-Test Sheet) illegally without permission.

Before reaching a decision, the Committee considered representations from the complainant and they also heard from Mr. Tully (Group Solicitor – Environment), J. Findlow (Enforcement Officer) and C. Cullen (Vehicle Contracts Manager). The Committee also considered a copy of the agenda and copies of additional paperwork submitted by the Legal Services Department and the Complainant at the hearing.

Members of the Committee left the room to consider the complaint.

Following consideration of all the information presented, the Committee returned and a decision was provided to the Complainant.

RESOLVED: That although it was stated that the taxi was off the road and there was no doubt about the complainant's integrity as a long standing taxi driver, it was important that policies were in place which applied to all Members of the Taxi Trade. The Committee had decided that members of staff had conducted themselves as expected and the staff at Lowerhouse Lane Garage had exercised a duty of care to inform the Enforcement Officer on the results of the test. The Committee established that there was no such thing as a "private test" where licensed vehicles were concerned, and a "pre-test" was still a test. The Committee also found that the Enforcement Officer, Mr. Findlow be exonerated of all allegations put to him.

Strategic Director
Corporate and
Policy

Meeting ended at 10.18 p.m.

APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the Appointments Committee held on Tuesday, 9 January 2007 at the Halton Suite, Halton Stadium

Present: Councillors McDermott MBE (Chairman), Dennett, Findon, McInerney, Polhill and Redhead

Apologies for Absence: (none)

Absence declared on Council business: (none)

Officers present: D. Parr

In attendance: D. Charnock and I. Jeffcott of Gatenby Sanderson Consultants

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

APC9 MINUTES

Action

The minutes of the meeting held on 25th October 2006, having been printed and circulated, were taken as read and agreed as a correct record.

APC10 SCHEDULE 12A OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

The Committee considered:

- (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 and 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972; and
- (2) whether the disclosure of information was in the

public interest, whether any relevant exemptions were applicable and whether, when applying the public interest test and exemptions, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed that in disclosing the information.

RESOLVED: That as, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption 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 and 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

APC11 APPOINTMENT OF STRATEGIC DIRECTOR - CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE (DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES)

The Committee reviewed the report of Gatenby Sanderson Consultants, considered feedback from the Stakeholders Event, and feedback from one-to-one sessions with the Leader, Portfolio Holder for Children's Services and the Chief Executive, regarding the applications for the post of Strategic Director – Children and Young People (Director of Children's Services). Three candidates were selected for interview on the following day.

RESOLVED: That the three candidates selected be interviewed on Wednesday, 10th January 2007, for the post of Strategic Director – Children and Young People (Director of Children's Services).

Meeting ended at 6.15 p.m.

APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the Appointments Committee held on Wednesday, 10 January 2007 at the Halton Suite, Halton Stadium

Present: Councillors McDermott MBE (Chairman), Dennett, Findon, McInerney, Polhill and Redhead

Apologies for Absence: (none)

Absence declared on Council business: (none)

Officers present: D. Parr

In attendance: D. Charnock of Gatenby Sanderson Consultants

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

APC12 SCHEDULE 12A OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

Action

The Committee considered:

- (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 and 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972; and
- (2) whether the disclosure of information was in the public interest, whether any relevant exemptions were applicable and whether, when applying the public interest test and exemptions, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed that in disclosing the information.

RESOLVED: That as, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption 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 and 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

APC13 APPOINTMENT OF STRATEGIC DIRECTOR - CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE (DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES)

The Committee interviewed three candidates for the post of Strategic Director – Children and Young People (Director of Children's Services).

RESOLVED: That Mr Gerald Meehan be appointed to the post of Strategic Director – Children and Young People (Director of Children's Services) on terms and conditions to be determined by the Chief Executive within the current Strategic Director Grade.

Meeting ended at 2.30 p.m.

APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the Appointments Committee held on Wednesday, 17 January 2007 at the Marketing Suite, Municipal Building

Present: Councillors McDermott MBE (Chairman), Findon, Polhill and Redhead

Apologies for Absence: (none)

Absence declared on Council business: (none)

Officers present: J Burgess and D Tregea, and I. Leivesley (for item APC17)

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

Action

APC14 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985 – URGENT BUSINESS

The Committee was advised that a matter had arisen which required immediate attention by the Committee as a decision was required before the date of the next meeting (Minute APC 17 refers); therefore, pursuant to Section 100 B (4) and 100 E Local Government Act 1972, the Chairman ruled that the item be considered as a matter of urgency.

APC15 SCHEDULE 12A OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

The Committee considered:

- (1) whether Members of the press and public should be excluded from the meeting of the Committee during consideration of the following items of business in accordance with Sub-Section 4 of Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 because it was likely that, in view of the nature of the business to be considered, exempt information would be disclosed, being information defined in Section 100 (1) and paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972; and

- (2) whether the disclosure of information was in the public interest, whether any relevant exemptions were applicable and whether, when applying the public interest test and exemptions, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed that in disclosing the information.

RESOLVED: That as, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption 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 paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

APC16 APPOINTMENT OF OPERATIONAL DIRECTOR - HIGHWAYS, TRANSPORTATION AND LOGISTICS

The Committee interviewed five candidates for the post of Operational Director – Highways, Transportation and Logistics within the Environment Directorate.

RESOLVED: That Mr M Noone be appointed to the post of Operational Director – Highways, Transportation and Logistics, on Spinal Column Point 150, from a date to be agreed, subject to satisfactory references and medical clearance.

Strategic Director
- Environment

APC17 OPERATIONAL DIRECTOR (LEGAL, ORGANISATION DEVELOPMENT AND HUMAN RESOURCES) AND MONITORING OFFICER

The Committee considered a report of the Strategic Director - Corporate and Policy regarding the disestablishment of the posts Operational Director (Legal & Member Services) and Operational Director (Human Resources) in order to establish a single post of Operational Director (Legal, Organisation Development and Human Resources) and Monitoring Officer. It was noted that this proposal was subject to a future Appointments Committee agreeing to an early retirement as outlined in the report.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the post of Operational Director (Legal & Member

Strategic Director
- Corporate and

- | | |
|---|--------|
| Services) be disestablished; | Policy |
| (2) the post of Operational Director (Human Resources) be disestablished; | |
| (3) the post of Operational Director (Legal, Organisation Development and Human Resources) and Monitoring Officer be established; and | |
| (4) the recruitment process be commenced forthwith. | |

Meeting ended at 3.10 p.m.

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