

# **Minutes**

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

**Wednesday, 4 December  
2024**

# Minutes

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**COUNCIL**

*At a meeting of the Council on Wednesday, 23 October 2024 in the Council Chamber, Runcorn Town Hall*

Present: Councillors Wainwright (Mayor) Abbott, Ball, Baker, Begg, Bevan, Carlin, Connolly, Dennett, Davidson, Dourley, Fry, Garner, Gilligan, Goodall, Harris, S. Hill, V. Hill, Hughes, Hutchinson, Jones, Leck, M. Lloyd Jones, P. Lloyd Jones, C. Loftus, K. Loftus, Logan, A. Lowe, A. McInerney, T. McInerney, Nelson, L. Nolan, P. Nolan, Philbin, Polhill, N. Plumpton Walsh, Ratcliffe, Rowe, Ryan, Stockton, Teeling, Thornton, Wainwright, Wallace, Wharton, Woolfall and Wright

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Bramwell, McDermott, McDonough, C. Plumpton Walsh, Stretch, Skinner, Thompson and Wall

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: M. Reaney, Z. Fearon, S. Young and G. Ferguson

Also in attendance: Two members of the press

*Action*

COU25 COUNCIL MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of Council held on 10 July 2024 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

COU26 THE MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor announced that the following events had been arranged in aid of the Mayor's charity – the Halton Foundation and all are welcome to attend:

- Wellness In Widnes – 17 November
- Abba Night – 14 December
- Soul Night – 13 December
- Town Hall Open Day – 7 December
- Tickets are currently on sale from Councillor Wallace for the Christmas Hamper

COU27 LEADER'S REPORT

The Leader in his report to Council:

- spoke about local government finances, 14 years of the previous Government's austerity and that representations had been made to the current Government;
- advised that the Council had taken part in the Local Government Association's Corporate Peer Challenge this year and we was visited by a peer review team in September. A report was expected shortly;
- a CQC inspection of Adult Social Care was impending;
- the Labour Party Conference had recently been held in Liverpool and was a success for the region. It had been confirmed that the Labour Party Conference would be held in Liverpool in 2025; and
- he had recently attended a Halton Economic Business Forum at Heath Business Park.

### COU28 URGENT DECISIONS

The Council considered a report of the Chief Executive, on the urgent decisions taken since the last meeting of the Council.

RESOLVED: That Council note the report.

### COU29 MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

The Council considered the minutes of the Executive Board meetings on 11 July and 12 September 2024.

RESOLVED: That the minutes be received.

### COU30 MINUTES OF THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

The Council considered the minutes of the Health and Wellbeing Board meeting on July 2024.

RESOLVED: That the minutes be received.

### COU31 QUESTIONS ASKED UNDER STANDING ORDER 8

It was noted that no questions had been submitted under Standing Order No. 8.

### COU32 2024/25 TO 2026/27 CAPITAL PROGRAMME - EXB17

The Council considered a report of the Director,

Finance, which sought approval for a number of revisions to the Council's 2024/25 Capital Programme.

RESOLVED: That Council approve the updated capital programme for 2024-27, including forecast spend and funding, as set out in Table 1 and Table 2.

Director of Finance

COU33 KINGSWAY QUARTER, WIDNES TOWN CENTRE - KEY DECISION - EXB18

Executive Board had previously considered a report which sought approval to progress delivery of Kingsway Quarter development.

RESOLVED: That Council

- 1) adjust the Capital Programme for the sum of £750,000.00 to enable demolition of Kingsway Leisure Centre and associated preparation works to aid formal land disposal;
- 2) endorse the vision for Kingsway Quarter site for residential led development, as set out in para 3.6 of the report and in accordance with the wider Widnes Town Centre Strategy;
- 3) approves delegated authority to Director of Economy, Enterprise and Property, in consultation with the Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Climate Change, for site marketing and disposal; and
- 4) authorises the Director for Economy, Enterprise and Property to arrange for all required documentation for the transactions to be completed to the satisfaction of the Director of Legal and Democratic Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Services.

Director of Finance

COU34 REPLACEMENT CREMATOR WIDNES CREMATORIUM - KEY DECISION

Executive Board had previously considered a report which sought approval to procure a replacement cremator and associated installation, service and maintenance contract.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) delegated authority be granted to the Executive Director – Environment and Regeneration, in

Executive Director Environment & Regeneration

consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Urban Renewal, to procure a replacement cremator and associated installation, service and maintenance contract; and

- 2) Council include £308,000, in the 2024/25 Capital Programme for the scheme, as outlined in section 5.0 of the report.

COU35 2024/25 SPENDING AS AT 31 JULY 2024 AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL FORECAST - EXB25

Council was asked to approve the Capital Programme as outlined in the attached report.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) all spending continues to be limited to only absolutely essential items;
- 2) Executive Directors continue the urgent action to identify areas where spending could be reduced or suspended for the remainder of the current financial year, or additional funding secured;
- 3) approve the Capital Programme as set out in paragraph 3.21; and
- 4) the updated Medium Term Financial Forecast included at Appendix 5 is noted.

Director of Finance

COU36 YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN - EXB27

Council were asked to approve the attached Youth Justice Plan 2024/27.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the 2024-27 Youth Justice Plan be approved; and
- 2) authority be delegated to the Executive Director – Children’s Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Children, Young People and Families, to approve and submit an annual refresh of the Youth Justice Plan in 2025 prior to formal approval by Council next year.

Executive Director of Children's Services

COU37 JOINT HEALTH SCRUTINY ARRANGEMENTS - CHESHIRE & MERSEYSIDE - HEA15

The Health Policy and Performance Board had previously endorsed the Joint Health Scrutiny Arrangements – Cheshire & Merseyside and recommended for Council approval.

RESOLVED: That Council

- 1) notes the report and Appendix; and
- 2) approves the revised Joint Health Scrutiny Arrangements.

Executive Director  
of Children's  
Services

#### COU38 MINUTES OF THE POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARDS AND THE AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE BOARD

The Council considered the reports of the following Boards in the period since the meeting of Council on 10 July 2024:-

- Children, Young People and Families
- Employment, Learning and Skills and Community;
- Health;
- Safer;
- Environment and Urban Renewal;
- Corporate Services; and
- Audit and Governance.

#### COU39 COMMITTEE MINUTES

The Council considered the reports of the following Committees in the period since the meeting of Council on 10 July 2024:-

- Development Management;
- Taxi Licensing Sub Committee; and
- Regulatory Sub Committee.

#### COU40 NOTICE OF MOTION - DEFINING OUR COMMUNITY'S RESPONSE TO AUGUSTS DISTURBANCES

Council considered a Notice of Motion submitted in accordance with Standing Order No. 6.

The following Motion was proposed by Councillor

Martha Lloyd Jones and seconded by Councillor Norman Plumpton Walsh:-

Defining Our Community's response to August's disturbances

Halton Council is proud that our City Region is defined by its fine history of supporting people in need of shelter or help with these groups have enriched our communities and worked alongside the existing community to build up our local economy and services.

With our fellow residents, we were appalled to hear of the terrible attacks in Southport on the three children, their friends and adults who bravely tried to defend them. Our thoughts remain with everyone affected and their families.

We are no less appalled at the cynical high-jacking of that tragedy as an excuse for attacks on police and emergency workers, malicious vandalism, arson and looting. We stand in support of our police and emergency workers who risked their lives to protect people and businesses and welcome the full force of the law being brought against those who use or encourage race hatred, violence and terror. The recent drunken and self-indulgent hooliganism was an attack on the law abiding 60+ million UK residents and businesses who will pay the bill in millions of pounds and the other crimes that the police should have been addressing.

Over the past half century, the people of Halton have overcome enormous social and economic challenges: the dismantling of our core industries, pharmaceuticals and engineering; the cost of living crisis; austerity and the pandemic. As a community, we have met these challenges together.

To protect and strengthen our Halton Togetherness we resolve to:

- Continue to fight the adverse legacy of the social and economic challenges we have faced to secure a better life for all our residents;
- Write to the Prime Minister to support his Government's stance on bringing immediate justice to those responsible for acts of violence and hatred and for greater promotion of accurate information on the role of migrants in society and regulation of social media to prevent its role in inciting such acts;
- Stand with all our communities against hatred and



misinformation; and

- Re-enforce our work on togetherness and social cohesion.

The motion was put and carried.

RESOLVED: That the motion be approved.

COU41 NOTICE OF MOTION - CHANGES TO THE WINTER FUEL ALLOWANCE AND PROTECTING PENSIONERS FROM FUEL POVERTY

Council considered a Notice of Motion submitted in accordance with Standing Order No. 6.

The following Motion was proposed by Councillor Davidson and seconded by Councillor Ratcliffe:-

Changes to the Winter Fuel Allowance and Protecting Pensioners from Fuel Poverty

This Council notes:

The Labour Government's recent decision to restrict the Winter Fuel Payment to only pensioners in receipt of means-tested benefits like Pension credit, as announced by Chancellor Rachel Reeves.

The estimated impact of this decision, which Age UK says will mean 2 million pensioners who badly need the money to stay warm this winter will not receive it.

The significant role that Winter Fuel Payments play in helping older residents of Halton and across the UK afford heating during the coldest months, thereby preventing 'heat or eat' dilemmas and safeguarding health.

The criticism from Age UK, the Countryside Alliance and other charities, highlighting the social injustice and potential health risks posed by this sudden policy change.

The additional strain this decision will place on vulnerable pensioners, many of whom do not claim Pension Credit despite being eligible, further exacerbating their financial hardship.

This Council believes:

That the Winter Fuel Payment has been a lifeline for many older people across the UK and that restricting its availability solely to those on Pension Credit risks leaving many pensioners in financial hardship.

While some pensioners currently in receipt of the Winter Fuel Payment may not require it, 19,809 across Halton sit

just above the cut-off for Pension Credit and will now lose their allowance.

The decision to means-test Winter Fuel Payments, especially with such short notice and without adequate compensatory measures, is deeply unfair and will disproportionately affect the health and wellbeing of our poorest older residents.

The Government's approach fails to consider the administrative barriers and stigma that prevent eligible pensioners from claiming Pension Credit, leaving many without the support they desperately need.

This Council resolves to:

Bring forward a Council-led local awareness campaign to alert those eligible of Pension Credit, which in some respects will help access to the Winter Fuel Payment for those most in need.

Requests that the Council Leader writes to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, urging a review of the decision to means-test the Winter Fuel Payment and asking the Government to ensure that vulnerable pensioners, particularly those not claiming Pension Credit, are protected from fuel poverty.

Commit the Council to signing the 'Save the Winter Fuel Payment for Struggling Pensioners' petition being run by Age UK and write to all members offering them the opportunity to sign the petition themselves.

Encourage local efforts to promote Pension Credit uptake through Council services and partnerships with local charities and community organisations to ensure that all eligible pensioners in Halton are supported in claiming their entitlement.

The motion was put and refused.

RESOLVED: That the motion be refused.

*Meeting ended at 7.35 p.m.*

**EXECUTIVE BOARD**

*At a meeting of the Executive Board on Thursday, 24 October 2024 in The Boardroom, Municipal Building*

Present: Councillors Wharton (Chair), Ball, Dennett, Harris, M. Lloyd Jones, T. McInerney, Nelson, P. Nolan and Wright

Apologies for Absence: Councillor Thompson

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: G. Cook, S. Young, M. Reaney, E. Dawson, S. Wallace-Bonner, Z. Fearon, G. Ferguson and J. Rosser

Also in attendance: M. Bennett and D. Lyon (Mersey Gateway) S. Scott and D. Trust Dickinson (Halton Housing)

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

	<i>Action</i>
<p>EXB35 MINUTES</p> <p>The Minutes of the meeting held on 12 September 2024, were taken as read and signed as a correct record.</p> <p><b>LEADER'S PORTFOLIO</b></p> <p>EXB36 URGENT ITEMS</p> <p>The Board received a report from the Chief Executive, which provided information on urgent decisions taken since the last meeting of the Board.</p> <p>It was noted that the Council's Constitution gave authority to the Chief Executive to take urgent decisions, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Director Finance and/or the Director Legal and Democratic Services, where necessary.</p> <p>Five urgent decisions had been made since the last meeting of the Board and full details were published on the Council's website.</p>	

RESOLVED: That the urgent decisions taken since the last meeting of the Executive Board be noted.

**CORPORATE SERVICES PORTFOLIO**

EXB37 DISCRETIONARY NON-DOMESTIC RATE RELIEF

The Board received a report from the Director – Finance, which presented two applications for discretionary non-domestic rate relief, under Section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988, for consideration.

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

The report outlined details of the two applications, in relation to their respective addresses. Appended to the report was the potential annual cost to the Council of granting the discretionary rate relief.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the application for 15% discretionary top up relief from Community Integrated Care, be rejected for the reasons outlined within the report; and
- 2) the application for discretionary rate relief from Runcorn Amateur Boxing Club, be approved at 90%

Director of Finance

**HEALTH AND WELLBEING PORTFOLIO**

EXB38 HOMELESSNESS FUNDING GRANT ALLOCATION

The Board considered a report of the Executive Director – Adult Services, which outlined the homelessness grant funding allocated by Central Government to reduce and prevent homelessness within the Borough for the period 2024/25. The Council had been allocated £369,000 and the report set out in appendix 1 and 2, proposals for the allocation of the grant for the period.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the Board note and consider the content of the report; and

Executive Director of Adult Services

- 2) approve the recommendations for expenditure against the grants as described in Appendices 1 and 2.

## **COMMUNITY SAFETY PORTFOLIO**

### **EXB39 GYPSY TRAVELLER WARDEN CONTRACTS - KEY DECISION**

The Board considered a report of the Executive Director – Adult Services, that advised on a proposal to continue with the existing service provision provided by two Romani Traveller Wardens at two sites at Riverview, Widnes and Canalside, Runcorn. The report set out the advantages of employing site wardens and the service they provided which had proven successful.

The two warden contracts would be initially for three years, with an option to extend by a further two years, subject to performance and would be renewed annually. The combined contract value for the two wardens would be £48,876 annually and a combined cost of £244,380 across the five-year period.

#### Reason(s) for Decision

The proposal to extend the wardens employment contract will ensure a consistent approach and stability across the three traveller sites within Halton. As the wardens are situated on site, this offers an out of hours service.

#### Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

Due to previous issues raised, it would not be advisable to consider further service options or employing none traveller wardens, as this would prove more costly and could result in serious issues across the three sites.

#### Implementation Date

The contract implementation date will be 1 November 2024 for a period of three, plus one, plus one years.

**RESOLVED:** That the Board

- 1) approve the proposed employment contract for the two Traveller Wardens; and
- 2) agree that the in house wardens will continue to provide site management and support across the

Executive Director  
of Adult Services

three Council owned sites.

## **ENVIRONMENT AND URBAN RENEWAL PORTFOLIO**

### **EXB40 ADDITIONAL HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE ALLOCATIONS**

The Board considered a report of the Executive Director – Environment and Regeneration, which sought approval to accept capital funding from the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority (LCRCA) in compliance with Standing Orders.

It was noted that in addition to the current capital funding arrangements through the LCRCA, the Council had received two Highways and Improvement Grants for £306,781.20 each and a Traffic Signal Maintenance and Improvement Grant for £44,394.12. The cost of works undertaken as part of these grant funding agreements would be met entirely from the approved budget allocations for this additional capital funding.

**RESOLVED:** That

- 1) the Board approves the Director Planning and Transportation, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder Environment and Urban Renewal, be delegated to accept the Grant Funding Agreement and enable timely delivery of the agreement; and
- 2) the Director Planning and Transportation in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Urban Renewal, be delegated to deal with any matters relating to procurement and operation of this agreement.

### **EXB41 A STRATEGY FOR HALTON'S TREES AND WOODLANDS**

The Board considered a report of the Executive Director – Environment and Regeneration, which sought approval of an updated Halton Trees and Woodlands Strategy. A review of the Strategy had recently been undertaken as one of the Council's Climate Change Action Plan objectives ES10.

The Board was advised that there had been no material changes to the Council's Policy since the adopted Trees and Woodland Strategy was approved in 2018. A summary of the primary updates to the Strategy was detailed in the report and a copy of the Strategy was attached as Appendix 1.

RESOLVED: That the Board approve the updated Trees and Woodland Strategy attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

Executive Director  
Environment &  
Regeneration

*N.B. Councillor Wharton declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in the following item of business as he is a Non-Executive Director of Mersey Gateway Crossings Board and left the meeting for the duration of the item.*

#### COUNCILLOR NELSON IN THE CHAIR

#### EXB42 MERSEY GATEWAY

The Board considered a report of the Director – Legal and Democratic Services, that advised on the requirement to replace the existing Road User Charging Scheme Order (RUCSO) with a new RUCSO to reflect the need to increase toll charges on both the Mersey Gateway Bridge and the Silver Jubilee Bridge. The report also included details on proposed changes to Blue Badge Holders, Penalty Charge Notices and Local User Discount Scheme, which would all be subject to consultation which would run for six weeks in November and December 2024.

It was noted that both bridges are described as being operated as tolled crossings, however motorists pay in the form of a road user charge under the Transport Act 2000. The charges are anticipated to remain on the crossing until the Mersey Gateway Bridge, improvements to the Silver Jubilee Bridge and other associated highway network improvements are paid for.

Since the tolls were introduced in 2017, they had remained unchanged and there was now a need to increase the tolls by 20% to ensure that they were in line with the original proposals and the project remained financially robust without the need for additional local or central funding beyond that already agreed.

It was noted that the Mersey Gateway Project had continued to operate with a financial loss and had required Central Government grants. Details of the income and expenditure of the scheme from October 2017 to March 2024 were outlined in Appendix 2 of the report.

Following the consultation period a report would be taken to a meeting of the Council and if approved, the updated RUCSO would come into effect from 1 April 2025.

Following a discussion, the Board agreed that the

reference to proposed changes for Blue Badge holders would be deleted in the updated RUCSO before the document is subject to consultation.

RESOLVED: That the Board should

- 1) consult on making an updated RUCSO based on the working draft enclosed at Appendix 1 on the basis prescribed in this report, subject to the removal of the reference to changes for Blue Badge holders;
- 2) after full and proper consideration to any responses received, and having taken them into account, recommend the Council to make the updated RUCSO based on the working draft enclosed at Appendix 1 and delegate to the Director – Legal and Democratic Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder, the authority to make any non-material or consequential amendments as are necessary to give it effect; and
- 3) authorise the Director – Legal and Democratic Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder, to take all necessary steps to bring the RUCSO into effect, provided that any material amendments or considerations shall be considered by the Council and subject to its determination before the RUCSO is brought into effect.

Director, Legal  
and Democratic  
Services

**EMPLOYMENT, LEARNING AND SKILLS AND  
COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT AND URBAN  
RENEWAL PORTFOLIOS**

EXB43 PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY UPDATE REPORT 2024

The Board received a report of the Executive Director – Environment and Regeneration, which sought approval of Halton’s Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) update report. The 2024 update report was prepared by Knight Kavanagh & Page, in consultation with partners including Halton Sports Partnership, Sport England and the National Governing Bodies of relevant sports. A copy of the *Halton Borough Council Playing Pitch Strategy Update Report August 2024 and Action Plan*, was appended to the report.

The update report set out the changes in demand for and supply of playing pitches in Halton since the previous annual update was conducted in 2023. The report also provided an audit of the quality, quantity and accessibility of playing pitches, current levels of demand and whether pitches were being over/under used.



It was noted that the report was an enabling document and did not commit the Council or any other body to funding any of the actions identified.

RESOLVED: That the Board approves the Playing Pitch Strategy Update Report 2024, including the updated site action plan. This is based upon consultation undertaken by sports provision consultants Knight Kavanagh & Page in 2024.

Executive Director  
Environment &  
Regeneration

## CLIMATE CHANGE PORTFOLIO

*N.B. Councillor Wright declared a Disclosable Other Interest in the following item of business as she is a member of Halton Housing Trust Board. Councillor Harris declared a Disclosable Other Interest in the following item of business as a tenant of Halton Housing Trust.*

### EXB44 HALTON HOUSING ANNUAL REPORT

The Board received the Halton Housing (HH) Annual Report, which provided an update on their activities since the last report to Executive Board.

The Chair welcomed Sam Scott, Group Chief Executive and colleague Debbie Trust Dickinson, who jointly presented the report to the Board – *Annual Report to HBC Executive Board, October 2024.*

The report outlined the key achievements over the past year which included:

- implementation of a new Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system, customer portal and a Customer Support Hub;
- introduction of a central complaint handling team;
- the Listen, Learn, Act tracker had been implemented, capturing learning from complaints and customer feedback surveys;
- repairs service delivery is improving, the number of jobs completed in target time had increased and average repair wait times had reduced;
- continued delivery of the development programme as set out in the three-year plan. In total, 309 homes (44% of the programme) had been delivered and 66 homes (9% of the programme) were currently on site.

Following a discussion the Board requested that the following be considered by Halton Housing:

- installation of sprinkler systems be considered as part

- of the retro fit programme of works or new builds;
- Neighbourhood Managers make contact with their Ward Councillors;
- Halton Housing magazine which is distributed to tenants should be shared with all Councillors;
- The presentation to be circulated to all Councillors; and
- Halton Housing representatives to attend a future meeting of the relevant Council Policy and Performance Board.

RESOLVED: That the Board thanked Halton Housing for the presentation and noted the report.

EXB45 SCHEDULE 12A OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

The Board considered:

- 1) whether Members of the press and public should be excluded from the meeting of the Board during consideration of the following item of business in accordance with Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 because it was likely that, in view of the nature of the business to be considered, exempt information would be disclosed, being information defined in Section 100 (1) and paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972; and
- 2) whether the disclosure of information was in the public interest, whether any relevant exemptions were applicable and whether, when applying the public interest test and exemptions, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed that in disclosing the information.

RESOLVED: That as, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed that in disclosing the information, members of the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business in accordance with Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 because it was likely that, in view of the nature of the business, exempt information would be disclosed, being information defined in Section 100 (1) and paragraphs 1 and 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE PORTFOLIO**

**EXB46 DIRECT AWARD OF THE HALTON 0-19 (+25 SEND) HEALTHY CHILD PROGRAMME, PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE CONTRACT 2025 - KEY DECISION**

The Board considered a report of the Director of Public Health, which sought approval to proceed with a procurement process to grant a direct award to Bridgewater Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (Bridgewater) for the delivery of 0-19 (+25 SEND) Healthy Child Programme (0-19 HCP) for the period 1 April 2025 – 31 March 2030, with the option of 2 x plus 1-year, pre-determined extension periods up to 31 March 2032.

Reason(s) for Decision

The justification to use the Provider Selection Regime Process C to direct award to Bridgewater was set out in the report.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

The alternative option is to undertake a full competitive tender exercise. This was rejected for the reasons mentioned in section 10.

Implementation Date

It is intended that the process to provide a direct award would be undertaken following Board approval, with the new contract to commence on 1 April 2025.

RESOLVED: That the Board

- 1) note the Local Authority's statutory responsibility for commissioning Public Health services for children and young people aged 0 to 19 years (Health and Social Care Act 2012); and
- 2) approves the use of the new procurement regime for selecting providers of healthcare services in England: The Provider Selection Regime (PSR) to direct award to Bridgewater.

Director of Public Health

**EXB47 CHILDREN'S SERVICE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME FUNDING - WORKFORCE STABILISATION - KEY DECISION**

The report considered a report of the Executive

Director – Children’s Services which provided an update on the progress to develop a programme around the stabilisation and redesign of Children’s Social Care following the Inspection Local Authority Children’s Service in May 2024 and subsequent report in July. The aim of the redesign was to develop and implement transformation of the system in a sustainable manner.

A detailed business case around each element of the programme funding request was presented and the report sought Board approval to proceed with the requested investment.

#### Reason(s) for Decision

The decision to take this approach is based on:

1. Supporting the ambitions of the Corporate Plan;
2. Delivering the ambitions and vision of the Children & Young Peoples plan;
3. Transforming the Children’s Services system to an early intervention and prevention system whilst addressing the financial sustainability of the local system;
4. Doing the right things for the children and families at Halton; and
5. And ensuring the right support is available at the right time.

#### Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

Work has already begun through the transformation programme to stabilise and transform Children’s Services. It had identified requirements and work is in progress.

The pace and impact is severely hampered due to time, cost and resource constraints across the Council, not just in Children’s Services.

Progress was being made but not at the scale and pace required to improve services in the manner and pace required by the inspecting bodies.

It was decided early on that to not invest is not an option due to the potential additional impacts/ramifications financially, operationally and reputationally for the Council, and most of all the pace and change needed for the children, young people and their families of Halton.

#### Implementation Date

Should approval be given on by the Executive Board on 24th

October 2024 then the Implementation programme will commence following the completion of the call-in period, from 1st November 2024.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) Council be asked to approve the investment as defined in the report for improvement programme funding; and
- 2) delegated authority to approve the expenditure of the programme budget is given to the Executive Director of Children's Services, in consultation with the lead Member for Children and Young People.

Executive Director  
of Children's  
Services

**MINUTES ISSUED: 30 October 2024**

**CALL-IN: 6 November 2024 at 5.00 pm.**

**Any matter decided by the Executive Board may be called in no later than 5.00pm on 6 November 2024.**

*Meeting ended at 3.37 p.m.*

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**EXECUTIVE BOARD**

*At a meeting of the Executive Board on Thursday, 14 November 2024 in the Boardroom, Municipal Building*

Present: Councillors Wharton (Chair), Ball, Dennett, Harris, M. Lloyd Jones, T. McInerney, Nelson, Thompson and Wright

Apologies for Absence: Councillor P. Nolan

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: G. Cook, S. Young, M. Reaney, E. Dawson, G. Ferguson, W. Rourke, D. Nolan, S. Waters and B. Holmes

Also in attendance: Councillors C. Loftus, K. Loftus and Philbin

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

	<i>Action</i>
<p>EXB48 MINUTES</p> <p>The Minutes of the meeting held on 24 October 2024 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.</p> <p><b>LEADER'S PORTFOLIO</b></p> <p>EXB49 URGENT DECISIONS</p> <p>The Board received a report from the Chief Executive, which provided information on an urgent decision taken since the last meeting of the Board.</p> <p>It was noted that the Council's Constitution gave authority to the Chief Executive to take urgent decisions, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Director Finance and/or the Director Legal and Democratic Services, where necessary.</p> <p>One urgent decision had been made since the last meeting of the Board and full details were published on the Council's website.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the urgent decision taken since</p>	<p>Chief Executive</p>

**CORPORATE SERVICES PORTFOLIO**

**EXB50 TAXI LICENSING MATTER**

The Board considered a report of the Director of Legal and Democratic Services which provided details on amendments to the current taxi licensing policy/conditions.

The amendments set out in Appendix 1 had been submitted by the Taxi trade following a consultation exercise. The Regulatory Committee had previously considered the proposed changes and had recommended the position set out in Section 2 of the report.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the Vehicle Age Policy is to be amended to remove the minimum age requirement from 5 years to 7 for a standard vehicle and maximum from 10 to 12 years and keep the minimum age of 13 years for a wheelchair accessible vehicle, whilst increasing the maximum to 18 years. (maintaining the same testing conditions as two per year);
- 2) the proposal for card readers to become mandatory be rejected (so no change in conditions);
- 3) the proposal to change the colour of purpose-built wheelchair vehicles be rejected (so no change in conditions);
- 4) the proposal to amend the condition for a spare wheel/space saver to be adopted (to remove the current policy requirement for a space saver/spare wheel in the vehicle, with the implication that the manufacturers specifications apply);
- 5) the proposal to remove the fire extinguisher be rejected (so no change in conditions); and
- 6) the age of Electric Vehicles to remain the same as the current age policy.

Director, Legal  
and Democratic  
Services

**EXB51 TREASURY MANAGEMENT 2024-25 HALF YEAR UPDATE**

The Board considered a report from the Director of Finance, which presented the Treasury Management Half Year Report as at 30 September 2024.



These reports updated Members on the activities undertaken on the money market during the first half of the financial year to 30 September 2024, as required by the Treasury Management Policy.

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

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

EXB52 2024/25 SPENDING AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2024

The Board received a report from the Director of Finance, advising of the Council's overall revenue and capital net spending position as at 30 September 2024, together with a 2024/25 forecast outturn position.

Appendix 1 presented a summary of spending against the operational revenue budget up to 30 September 2024 and Appendix 2 provided detailed figures for each individual Department. It was reported that in overall terms the net Council spend as at 30 September 2024 would be over the approved budget by £8.864m. The outturn forecast for the year estimates that net spending would be over budget by £20.642m if no corrective action was taken. Appendix 3 presented the Capital Programme as at 30 September 2024, highlighting the schemes which had been revised. Appendix 4 detailed the Council approved savings covering 2024/25 and 2025/26, together with information on progress to date.

It was clear that Council reserves would not be sufficient to meet this pressure, and urgent corrective action should be taken as soon as possible across all Council services to identify spend reductions. It was recommended that the Council submit an application for the Government Exceptional Financial Support, to assist with funding the forecast overspend and future budget setting.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) all spending continue to be limited to only absolutely essential items;
- 2) Executive Directors identify reductions to their

Director of  
Finance

directorate forecast outturn net spend position and urgently implement them;

- 3) Council be asked to agree to submit an application for Exceptional Finance Support to cover the deficit position for the year, as recommended within the Medium Term Financial Strategy report elsewhere on the agenda; and
- 4) future reports be submitted for information to all Council Boards.

EXB53 MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 25/26 - 28/29 KEY DECISION

The Board considered a report from the Director of Finance, which presented the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) for the period 2025/26 to 2028/29.

The MTFS sets out a three-year projection of the Council's resources and spending and was based on information that was currently available. The MTFS financial year sat outside the period of time covered by the most recent Public Sector Spending Review, published in October 2021. The Chancellor had commissioned a new Spending Review which was intended to set Government departmental limits over a three-year period. The Review was set to conclude in Spring 2025, which would not be in time to inform 2025/26 budgets. Details of the 2025/26 Local Government Finance Settlement are expected to be released in December 2024 on a provisional basis with a final settlement expected in January 2025.

The Board was advised that the uncertainty regarding 2025/26 financial resources meant the financial information included within the MTFS was based on a large number of assumptions and best estimates. The financial forecast would be updated as and when further information was known. Appendix 1 therefore detailed the MTFS from 2025/26 – 2028/29 using a prudent estimate of the financial conditions over the course of the next four years. Appendix 2 presented the Reserves and Balances Strategy and Appendix 3 outlined Approved Budget Savings for 2025/26.

Reason for Decision

To seek approval for the Council's MTFS for 2025/26 to 2028/29.

Alternative options considered and rejected

The alternative option of not maintaining a MTFS has been considered. However, this would not follow good financial management practice, as the MTFS is a key element in informing the Council's financial planning and budget setting processes.

Implementation date

The MTFS 2025/26 to 2028/29 will be implemented from 1 April 2025.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the Medium Term Financial Strategy be approved;
- 2) the 2025/26 base budget be prepared on the basis of the underlying assumptions set out in the Strategy;
- 3) the Reserves and Balances Strategy be approved;
- 4) the award of Council Tax Support for 2025/26 remains at the 2024/25 level of 21.55%; and
- 5) Council approve the submission of an application to Government for Exceptional Finance Support.

Director of Finance

EXB54 DETERMINATION OF COUNCIL TAX BASE 2025/26 - KEY DECISION

The Board considered a report of the Director of Finance, on the requirement for the Council to determine the Council Tax Base for its area and the Council Tax Base for each of the Parishes.

The Council Tax Base was the measure used for calculating Council Tax and was used by both the billing authority (the Council) and the major precepting authorities (Cheshire Fire Authority, Cheshire Police and Crime Commissioner and the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority), in the calculation of their Council Tax requirements. It was arrived at in accordance with a prescribed formula which represented the estimated full year number of chargeable dwellings in the Borough expressed in terms of the equivalent Band 'D' dwellings.

Taking account of all the relevant information and applying a 97% collection rate, the calculation for 2025/26 gave a base figure of 36,936 for the Borough as a whole. The Council Tax Base figure for each of the Parishes was noted.

Reason for Decision

To seek approval for the Council Tax Base for the Borough and also the Council Tax Base for each of the Parishes.

Alternative options considered and rejected

The Council is required to determine annually the Council Tax Base and to notify the Cheshire Fire Authority, the Cheshire Police & Crime Commissioner, Liverpool City Region Combined Authority, the Environment Agency and Parish Councils.

Implementation date

The Council Tax Base 2025/26 will be implemented from 1 April 2025.

RESOLVED: That Council be recommended to approve:

Director of Finance

- 1) setting the 2025/26 Council Tax Base at 36,936 for the Borough and that the Cheshire Fire Authority, the Cheshire Police and Crime Commissioner, Liverpool City Region Combined Authority and the Environment Agency be so notified; and
- 2) setting the Council Tax Base for each of the Parishes as follows:

Parish	Tax Base
Hale	674
Halebank	546
Daresbury	301
Moore	344
Preston Brook	373
Sandymoor	1,645

EXB55 SCHEDULE 12A OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

The Board considered:

- 1) whether Members of the press and public should be excluded from the meeting of the Board during consideration of the following item of business in accordance with Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 because it was likely that, in

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

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

RESOLVED: That as, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed that in disclosing the information, members of the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business in accordance with Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 because it was likely that, in view of the nature of the business, exempt information would be disclosed, being information defined in Section 100 (1) and paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

## **CORPORATE SERVICES**

### **EXB56 DISPOSAL OF LAND TO THE REAR OF GUSSION TRANSPORT AT DITTON ROAD WIDNES**

The Board considered a report of the Executive Director Environment and Regeneration, which sought approval for the disposal of land to the rear of Gussion Transport, Ditton Road, Widnes.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the disposal of the freehold interest in land to the rear of Gussion Transport, Ditton Road, Widnes is approved on the terms reported in 3.4;
- 2) authorises the Director of Economy, Enterprise and Property, to arrange for all required documentation for the transactions to be completed to the satisfaction of the Director Legal and Democratic Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Services; and
- 3) delegated authority be given to the Executive Director Environment and Regeneration, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Services, to

Executive Director  
Environment &  
Regeneration

undertake further negotiations with the company to seek reasonable recompense for the preceding period when the company occupied the site.

EXB57 LEGAL SERVICES TRANSFORMATION REPORT - KEY DECISION

The Board considered a report of the Director Legal and Democratic Services, which outlined a Transformation Report that presented the most cost effective way in which to deliver Legal Services across the Council and options to alternate operating models.

Reason for Decision

Legal Services had gone through several years of overspend particularly in respect of Social Care (Children and Adult). The Transformation Report considered the most cost effective way in which to deliver Legal Services across the Council and options for alternate models.

Alternative options considered and rejected

The report provided three options and option three was recommended as the most effective means of delivery.

Implementation date

March 2025.

RESOLVED: That the Board

- 1) adopts Option Three within the Legal Services Transformation Report:

Interim structure with enhanced efficiency and effectiveness in service delivery moving towards consideration of viability around options of:

- Outsourcing;
- Formation of a collaboration/shared service with another Local Authority;
- Wholly owned subsidiary Legal Company.

- 2) Council be requested to approve the necessary funding set out in paragraph 5 of the report.

**COMMUNITY SAFETY PORTFOLIO**

EXB58 REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT SUPPORT CONTRACT

Director, Legal and Democratic Services

**FORWARD PROCUREMENT ARRANGEMENTS - KEY DECISION**

The Board considered a report of the Executive Director Environment and Regeneration, which sought approval for the award of a contract for the re-settlement support contract.

Reason for Decision

To provide consistency in support for refugees arriving in Halton. The contract incurs expenditure and has a significant impact on both Halton's new and established communities. The integration of new cohorts and diverse communities had the potential to generate community tensions, the resettlement support is an approach to mitigate this.

Alternative options considered and rejected

The alternative would be to conduct an options appraisal to identify preferred options and progress appropriate procurement arrangements however, there is no capacity available currently to support a procurement process within timescales before the expiry date.

Implementation date

1 April 2025 to 31 March 2027.

**RESOLVED:** That the Board approve a VEAT (Voluntary Ex-ante Transparency) notice to enable the Council to directly award a two-year contract to the incumbent provider for the re-settlement support to ensure continuity of care in compliance with Procurement Standing Order 1.5.8.

Executive Director  
Environment &  
Regeneration

**ADULT SOCIAL CARE PORTFOLIO**

**EXB59 DOMICILIARY CARE SERVICE TENDER: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONTRACT AWARD - KEY DECISION**

The Board considered a report of the Executive Director Adult Services, which sought approval to award contracts to providers for the provision of a Domiciliary Care Service across Halton.

Reason for Decision

The report relates to a service which is statutorily required.

The value of the contract is above £5m. The decision impacts on all wards and communities within the Borough.

Alternative options considered and rejected

There are no alternative options. The Council must award contracts to providers for the supply of a Domiciliary Care Service in compliance with its regulatory duties, to ensure continuity of service once the current contract ceases on 1 April 2025.

Implementation date

The proposed contract will be for an initial five years commencing 7 April 2025 until 6 April 2030 with the option to extend by 2 x 12 month periods, 7 April 2030 until 6 April 2031 and 7 April 2031 until 6 April 2032.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the report be noted;
- 2) the Board approves the recommendations for the award of contracts in relation to the provision of a Domiciliary Care Service across Halton, as per section 3.11 of this report; and
- 3) the Board approves an extension to the current contract as per section 3.12 and 3.13 of the report.

Executive Director  
of Adult Services

**MINUTES ISSUED: 19 November 2024**

**CALL-IN: 26 November 2024 at 5.00 pm.**

**Any matter decided by the Executive Board may be called in no later than 5.00pm on 19 November 2024.**

*Meeting ended at 3.17 p.m.*



**HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD**

*At a meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board on Wednesday, 9 October 2024 at Karalius Suite, Halton Stadium, Widnes*

- Present:
- Councillor Wright (Chair)
  - Councillor Ball
  - Councillor Woolfall
  - I. Baddiley, Public Health
  - P. Brown, Cheshire Constabulary
  - L. Byrne, Liverpool University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust,
  - D. Nolan, Adult Social Care
  - L. Gardner, Warrington & Halton Teaching Hospitals
  - S. Patel, Halton, St. Helens & Knowsley Local Pharmaceutical Committee
  - J. Rosser, Public Health
  - K. Stratford, Halton Borough Council
  - J. Wallis, Bridgewater Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust
- Apologies: Councillor T. McInerney, H. Crampton, A. Leo, W. Longshaw, W. Rourke and S. Yeoman

Also in attendance: None

*Action***HWB10 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 10 July 2024 having been circulated were signed as a correct record.

**HWB11 SEXUAL HEALTH SERVICES ANNUAL REPORT 2023/24**

The Board received a presentation and report from the Assistant Divisional Director of Nursing – Sexual Health and HIV, which provided an overview of the Axxess Sexual Health Service Halton Annual Report 2023/24 and a copy of this was also attached to the report.

Axxess was the service commissioned by the Council to provide Halton's Integrated Sexual Health Service. The annual report highlighted the service's work and achievements over the past 12 months, key data and benchmarking across all areas of the service, as well as emerging challenges and areas for development.

The presentation outlined the services available across the five local authorities; HIV treatment and care for Wirral and Cheshire West & Chester and partnership working with the Wirral Community Trust to provide senior medical staff for leadership and governance of their sexual

health services, as well as provision of their electronic patient records and laboratory support.

It was noted that services were delivered through three main hubs at Bath Street in Warrington, Widnes Health Resource Centre and Halton Hospital, Runcorn.

The presentation also summarised the following key data:

- number of patients who had accessed the service during 2023-24;
- number of gonorrhoea diagnoses by age group between 2014 and 2023;
- number of new diagnoses of infectious syphilis among England residents accessing services between 2014 and 2023;
- Halton attendances by age;
- Halton positive testings, by age, for chlamydia, gonorrhoea, syphilis and HIV;
- number of implants fitted/renewed in Halton; and
- number of intra uterine contraception's fitted/renewed in Halton.

Members of the Board were informed that the largest age group in the North West of England was those between 50-54 years old and 46% of the total population in Halton were over 45 years.

Members of the Board noted some examples of future aims to improve the service further:

- utilise new opportunities of the Women's Health Hubs to work collaboratively across multiple areas within the Borough;
- continue to grow clinical outreach services and attend events, services and care settings to reach these older age groups;
- continue partnership working with GP and Pharmacy enhanced services; and
- increase 'walk in' access/services at better times i.e. evenings/early mornings.

Following discussions and arising questions from the Board, it was confirmed that :

- The reasons why the take up of the services was lower in Halton was that not only is Halton the smallest area in the region but the service had struggled to engage with schools, education

institutions and GP's and this had impacted on the throughput of services;

- the service undertake a range of procedures/services which included minor surgery, scans and dermatology and all of these would be available at the Widnes Walk-in Centre;
- HIV testing had increased nationally, due to higher rates of gonorrhoea and syphilis across all age ranges; and
- the introduction of the Sexual Health Service at the Widnes Walk-in Centre had been announced on social media.

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

#### HWB12 WARRINGTON & HALTON INTEGRATION PROGRAMME

The Board received a report and presentation from the Director of Strategy and Partnerships at Warrington and Halton Hospitals on the Warrington and Halton Integration Programme.

It was noted that a £5 million savings target had been set against the Integration Programme by the Integrated Care Board. In order to try and achieve this target, significant opportunities had been identified to improve things for both patients and staff working at the front line. A programme of work had been launched with an aim to deliver integrated and collaborative models of care between Warrington and Halton Hospital NHS Foundation Trust and Bridgewater Community NHS Foundation Trust.

The programme of work contained eight different workstreams and six month deliverables and the details of these were outlined in the presentation.

The presentation also provided a summary of progress to date; a strategic case for change; what the priority services were; and the key next steps which included a draft milestone plan.

RESOLVED: That the Board note the report.

#### HWB13 JOINT STRATEGIC NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Members of the Board considered a report from the

Director of Public Health which provided an update on the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA).

The Board were updated on the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) which analysed the health needs of the population to inform and guide commissioning of health, well-being and social care services within local authority areas. The JSNA underpinned the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and commissioning plans. The main goal of a JSNA was to assess the health needs of a local population in order to improve the physical and mental health and wellbeing of individuals and communities.

Since the first executive summary of the JSNA in 2012, the approach had continued to receive good feedback from various partnerships and stakeholders. As a consequence, the revised annual summary had used broadly the same approach to provide updated data and information since the previous version.

The report set out the key changes since the previous summary and the developments for the JSNA during 2024/25. It was noted that the process for agreeing and developing a work plan for the remainder of 2024/25 and into 2025/26 would be managed in collaboration with key stakeholders and members of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Members of the Board were encouraged to share the JSNA within their respective teams.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted and the draft summary document be approved for publication.

#### HWB14 LONELINESS AND SOCIAL ISOLATION IN HALTON

Members of the Board received a report which provided an overview of the results of the One Halton loneliness survey and the outcome of an insight focus group session, with local people of the Borough.

The report stated that evidence showed that loneliness could increase the risk of mortality by 26% and was a significant factor for poor mental health and physical health. Evidence also showed that it had a strong association to depression, cognitive decline and dementia, in addition to hypertension and cardiovascular disease risk.

Since Spring 2020, loneliness levels in the UK had increased. From October 2020 and February 2021, results

from the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey showed that people's perceptions of being lonely increased to 7.2% in the adult population with the equivalent in Halton being 7.4%.

Halton Borough Council and One Halton (Ageing Well workstream) commissioned a survey to ask local people about their experience with loneliness. A focus group was then set up from a selection of people who responded to the survey to explore the reasons and risk factors for loneliness in Halton.

The report summarised the results and key findings of the survey and focus group, and set out the recommendations for the next steps to help residents of the Borough.

The Board noted that Halton had been committed to tackling the underlying issues of loneliness, as identified in the survey, for some time, including the Halton Loneliness Conference in 2019. The Halton Loneliness Steering Group meets bi-monthly and the next four meetings would focus on the priority themes from the survey results and continue to build on the loneliness action plan.

Lucy Gardner reported that information and communications about this topic had been a challenge in Warrington and Halton, both for professionals and members of the public. Following discussions it was suggested that it might be worth exploring a virtual hub option, similar to the St. Helens model and Sally Yeoman would be able to offer some advice. It was also suggested that access points in public venues be explored as a means of getting information out to the public.

**RESOLVED:** That the Board note the report and recognise the need for a systemic partnership approach to loneliness in Halton.

#### HWB15 COST OF LIVING AHEAD OF WINTER

The Board received a report from the Director of Public Health, which provided an updated on the state of the cost of living crisis compared to last winter and some of the recent policy changes that would impact residents in the coming months.

The report provided an overview on:

- changes compared to last winter;
- fuel price cap changes;

- fuel allowance changes;
- the Autumn Statement;
- the Winter Programme; and
- Government support.

The Board noted the report and echoed the importance of residents accessing the benefits and support entitled to them. The Board were assured that every effort was made to reach as many people in the Borough as possible via public events. Halton Housing Trust also had a dedicated welfare benefits team that support their tenants. It was noted that in the last year 900 people were identified as being eligible for pension credit.

RESOLVED: That the Board:

- 1) Endorse the work taking place in Halton; and
- 2) Note the expected impact of recent policy changes and possible changes following the Autumn Statement.

#### HWB16 BETTER CARE FUND (BCF) PLAN 2024/25 - QUARTER 1 UPDATE

The Board received a report from the Executive Director – Adult Services, which provided an update on the Quarter 1 Better Care Fund (BCF) Plan 2024/25, following its submission to the National Better Care Fund Team in June 2024.

In line with the national requirements, the quarter 1 report focussed on reporting on the spend and activity funded via the discharge funding allocated to the local authority and NHS Cheshire and Merseyside (Halton Place).

The Board noted that the schemes funded via the discharge funding were:

- Oakmeadow Intermediate Care Beds;
- Reablement Service;
- Halton Intermediate Care and Frailty Services; and
- Halton Integrated Community Equipment Service.

RESOLVED: The Board note the report.

*Meeting ended at 3.10 p.m.*

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

*At a meeting of the Children Young People and Families Policy and Performance Board on Monday, 11 November 2024 in the Civic Suite, Town Hall, Runcorn*

Present: Councillors Logan (Chair), Baker, Begg, Goodall, Jones, P. Lloyd Jones, Ratcliffe and Ryan

Apologies for Absence: Councillors C. Plumpton Walsh, McDermott and Skinner

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: A. Jones, B. Holmes, K. Appleton, C. Finch, D. Roberts and J. Dunning

Also in attendance: S. Walker – Department for Education and Councillor T. McInerney (in accordance with Standing Order No. 33)

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

	<i>Action</i>
CYP18 MINUTES	
<p>The Minutes of the meeting held on 9 September 2024 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.</p>	
CYP19 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME	
<p>It was confirmed that no public questions had been received.</p>	
CYP20 QUARTERLY MONITORING REPORT 1ST APRIL 2024 - 30TH JUNE 2024 .	
<p>The Board considered a report from the Executive Director, Children's Services, which informed Members of the key performance indicators identified to measure progress against each of the priorities identified within the Children and Young People Plan.</p> <p>The format of the Quarterly Monitoring Report (QMR) had changed from previous reporting, in order to comply with the new corporate reporting template. The performance measures of the QMR had also changed, to correlate with</p>	

the priorities identified in the newly launched Children and Young People Plan.

It was noted that the quarter 1 QMR was presented to the Board at the September meeting in the old format with the old measures. The new formatted report included the quarter 1 data, but reported on the new measures, so is able to demonstrate to Members the format and allow for comments so that any amendments could be made in preparation for future reporting.

The following performance indicators were questioned by Members:

P2.2 – this was found to be a typographical error as progress had increased from 12% to 17%;

P2 3-6 – the information was not provided as it related to quarter 2 data which was not ready. This would be presented going forward in this new template;

P3 – 6 & 7 – challenges continued with the new Speech and Language provider as they struggled to recruit staff and because of this, clients had to be prioritised according to need. This has since improved and they were now fully staffed so an improvement was expected. It was suggested that a report on the Speech and Language Service be included on the next PPB agenda;

P5 1-4 – there were unprecedented numbers of school suspensions and exclusions last year. This was a national issue and was thought to be related to social, mental and emotional health issues with some children, resulting from the Covid period. Officers were working with schools on this issue, although it was noted that any solutions would take time to get through the system and show improvements. There was no evidence that school exclusions were related to the aspirations of a schools exam results. If a pupil was presenting with behaviour problems all schools were encouraged to flag this up with the Local Authority. This would be reiterated at the upcoming Governors' conference;

P 6.5 – management of those children being home educated (Electively Home Educated) was explained to Members. There were two dedicated Home Education Officers employed by the Council, who monitored the quality of education being provided at home by carrying out reviews. The recent Ofsted inspection did highlight that Halton's EHE service was robust. A School Attendance Order was explained, which was used when Home Education Officers



considered the home provision to be inadequate. Debate around social interaction, support for EHE children, safeguarding, home visits and taking exams took place.

The Chair commented that some secondary school curriculums did not offer any creative GCSE's. This was noted and Officers advised that a curriculum review was being conducted by the new Government.

RESOLVED: That the quarterly monitoring report (QMR) is accepted as the mechanism by which Elected Members can monitor and scrutinise progress going forward.

Executive Director  
of Children's  
Services

## CYP21 CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE HIGH COST PLACEMENTS

The Board received a report from the Executive Director, Children's Services, which provided an update on high cost placements within Children's Social Care.

Children's Social Care had seen an increase in the need to use residential provisions over a number of years due to a reducing number of foster carers and difficulties nationally to recruit foster families. This shortage of foster families has led to an increase in the use of residential placements and the age of children living in residential provisions has reduced.

The report provided details of the three highest cost placements and the circumstances surrounding these. It also outlined the efforts being made to engage with providers to establish provisions locally for children that meet their needs.

It was confirmed that the High Cost Place Panel was now in place and some results were being shown. In response to challenges from Members the following additional information was given:

- It was suggested that the High Cost Place Panel has central Government representation – this was currently not the case but the Director would look into the possibility of this;
- The imposing of rate/cost controls on providers – this had been looked into but no progress made so far, although it was still very much an ongoing conversation, so still on the agenda;
- It was recognised that a regional stance was needed in negotiating yearly uplifts from providers;
- The Council has appointed a commissioner

specifically for Children's Social Care placements and to date, this had seen some costs reduce and significant savings had been made; and

- It was suggested that a scrutiny topic group be established to look into this issue further.

The challenges faced by Children's Services was recognised by the Board as it was a high demand service competing in market with a low number of providers. To add to this, placement costs were continually rising year on year.

Officers would evidence the total amount of savings being made since the introduction of the Commissioner's role and present at a future meeting of the Board.

RESOLVED: That the report is noted.

Executive Director  
of Children's  
Services

CYP22 ANNUAL REPORT - COMMENTS, COMPLAINTS AND COMPLIMENTS RELATING TO CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE SERVICES 1ST APRIL 2023- 31ST MARCH 2024

The Board received the Annual Report – Comments, Complaints and Compliments, relating to Children's Social Care Services from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024.

The Annual Report, a statutory requirement, provided an analysis of complaints processed under the Children's Act 1989 Representation's Procedure and evidenced how feedback from service users had been used to improve delivery. A summary of complaints received during the 2023-24 period was provided on page 60 of the agenda.

The report also provided Members with an update and feedback on compliments made by clients and positive feedback from workers / professionals relating to Children's Services in the Directorate. The report demonstrated the positive impact and outcomes on the lives of people accessing services in this Directorate.

In response to a question regarding the turnover of social workers, this could be for many reasons such as promotions, some retiring and some leaving the profession, so there was always movement within this area. Halton was however, still committed to its Retention Strategy, as discussed in previous meetings.

RESOLVED: That the reports presented are accepted as the mechanism by which Elected Members can monitor and scrutinise Children's Social Care complaints and compliments.

CYP23 SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES (SEND) IMPROVEMENT PLAN UPDATE

The Board considered a report from the Executive Director, Children's Services, which provided an update on the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Improvement Plan, in particular the progress made against the targets set out in the Delivering Better Values (DBV) Grant.

DBV is a Department for Education (DfE) Programme working to identify and implement local opportunities to improve the outcomes for children and young people with SEND across 54 local authorities and aid local systems in their objective of achieving financial sustainability. Halton was identified as being eligible to apply for DBV grant funding and was awarded £1m, to primarily build resilience across all educational systems to support and include learners with social, emotional, and mental health needs. This additional funding presented a significant opportunity to positively transform inclusive practices across Halton.

The report described in detail the various projects and initiatives being delivered in Halton's schools under the DBV and the costs associated with these to date.

It was reported that Halton was taking a different approach to other local authorities in that it was using an innovative approach and targeting the funding into the schools themselves. This was being closely monitored by the Department for Education who were happy with this. All school settings were included in the Programme and positive responses had been received, after receiving feedback from many headteachers.

Further to questions, it was commented that the impacts of the program would follow, but long term impacts were expected. The data collated was analysed by Halton analysts'. The *Team around the School* also worked with the Programme, which added prevention and inclusion measures. It was also commented that an exit strategy was included in the Programme, as this was a requirement of the grant.

RESOLVED: That the report and comments made be noted.

CYP24 HALTON'S VIRTUAL SCHOOL ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24

The Board received the Headteacher of the Virtual

School's Annual Report for 2023-24, on the educational outcomes and achievement for Halton's Children in Care, and the School's wider work across Children's Services.

The Annual Report provided Members with information on the work of the Virtual School throughout the academic year and presented detailed analysis of how Halton's Children in Care had performed against each of the individual key performance indicators. This included a summary of the Virtual School's progress towards its identified key priorities for the academic year 2023-24, and the priorities for the School in 2024-25.

The following additional information was provided in response to Members questions:

- Pupil Premium Plus and Wider Funding – Approximately £356,972 was spent directly on the children and young people to improve their educational outcomes. The remainder of the £695,750 grant was centrally retained and spent on the School itself, which provided Education Psychology time, speech and language support and the staff within the Virtual School;
- Practical interventions could be made for children in care in certain circumstances and the Council could direct a school to admit a child;
- There were independent services available for children who were victims of crime and violence, depending on age, such as *Barnardos*. The Emotional and Mental Health Panel would also intervene in these situations;
- 'Growth' was a Charity that helped with young people not in employment, education or training (NEETS) and worked alongside the Council; and
- The Education and Health Hub, part of the Reconnecting Runcorn project would be available to offer services to care leavers in the future: <https://reconnectingruncorn.info/education-and-health-hub/>

It was noted that at the most recent ILACS inspection, the Virtual School had received exemplary feedback from inspectors.

RESOLVED: That the Board:

- 1) notes the information provided; and
- 2) accepts the Headteacher of the Virtual School's

Annual Report as an accurate account of the performance on the education outcomes and achievement of Halton's Children in Care.

#### CYP25 CHANGES TO SCHOOL ATTENDANCE GUIDANCE

The Executive Director, Children's Services, presented a report outlining the recent changes in school attendance policies, following the release of the Department for Education's (DfE) *Working Together to Improve Schools Attendance* guidance, in August 2024.

The report highlighted the key changes in the following areas, as well as their implications and responsibilities of local authorities:

- Daily data sharing and monitoring;
- Enhanced multi agency collaboration;
- Increased fines and legal interventions;
- Support for pupils with mental health and SEND needs;
- Changes to attendance codes and registers; and
- The role of local authorities.

It was noted that the new measures were now operational across Halton's schools and all schools had fully complied. The new measures were designed to promote regular attendance, enhance monitoring and offer targeted support to pupils facing barriers.

Further to Members questions it was confirmed that there were 790 fines in total across Halton last year, 442 of those were in secondary schools. Members were reassured that the profits from fines were put back into the attendance support service for families. It was also confirmed that most fines came from term time holidays being taken. It was recognised that a significant amount of a child's schooling is lost when they are absent for 1-2 weeks each year.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

#### CYP26 SCHOOL PERFORMANCE OUTCOMES 2024

The Board received a presentation on the validated school performance data which was published on 24 October 2024.

Performance outcomes for schools across Halton at the end of Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and Key Stages 2 and 5 were shared with the Board. It was reported

that the outcomes for Key Stage 4 had been delayed by the Department for Education (DfE) and were expected in December 2024.

The Board noted the following highlights:

- Good Level of Development – this was slightly down on last year to 61.2;
- Phonics – was consistently the same; and
- KS 2 – this had increased slightly to 59.6 (reading, writing and maths combined).

Members were advised that data relating to individual schools in their Wards could be found using the link in paragraph 3.4 of the report.

RESOLVED: That the outcomes presented be noted.

*Meeting ended at 8.40 p.m.*

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

*At a meeting of the Employment, Learning and Skills, and Community Policy and Performance Board on Monday, 18 November 2024 in the Board Room - Municipal Building, Widnes*

Present: Councillors Jones (Chair), Teeling (Vice-Chair), Abbott, Connolly, Garner, S. Hill and Ryan

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Hutchinson, McDonough and Stretch

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: A. Jones, S. McDonald, L. Carr and N. Goodwin

Also in attendance: None

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

ELS14 MINUTES

The Minutes from the meeting held on 16 September 2024, were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

ELS15 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

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

ELS16 PROPOSED TOPIC GROUP ITEM ON VOLUNTARY AND  
COMMUNITY GROUP FUNDING

The Board considered the proposal for the Employment, Learning and Skills, and Community Policy and Performance Board to form a topic group, to discuss the funding of the Voluntary and Community Sector in Halton.

It was noted that in February 2023 the Executive Board agreed to reduce the funding for voluntary and community groups and in March 2024, full Council approved the budget for 2024-25, which included a reduction in funding for these groups.

*Action*

Members discussed the proposal for the topic group and its objective, as well as the implications of reduced funding for charities going forward, in particular those who were core funded. It was also suggested that the topic group looks at the voluntary sector as a whole.

All Members supported the proposal and it was agreed that the scrutiny topic group be held. All Members of the Board were invited to participate. A date in December would be agreed with Officers and Members advised accordingly.

RESOLVED: That the Board agrees with the proposal to conduct a scrutiny topic group on the funding of the Voluntary and Community Sector in Halton.

Executive Director  
Environment &  
Regeneration

ELS17 HALTON PEOPLE INTO JOBS – UPDATE ON ENGAGING WITH ECONOMICALLY INACTIVE RESIDENTS AND HALTON PEOPLE INTO JOBS CURRENT FUNDING POSITION

The Board considered a report from the Executive Director – Environment and Regeneration, which provided an overview of the current services provided by Halton People into Jobs (HPIJ).

HPIJ had successfully delivered a range of DWP Welfare to Work Programmes since 2011, including the Work Programme, Ways to Work, the Work and Health Programme, JETS and more recently the Work and Health Programme Pioneer Support Programme. It was noted that all of these programmes had supported unemployed Halton residents with looking for and sustaining employment. Further, recent funding streams continued to focus more on engaging with and supporting Economically Inactive residents into work and helping those ‘at risk’ of redundancy.

Members also received an update on current funding streams and information on the requirement for HPIJ to secure future funding, to sustain the service it provided to Halton’s residents.

Board Members were disappointed to learn and raised concerns about the uncertainty of the future of the HPIJ service, due to the imminent cessation of funding of *Restart*, *Pioneer* and the *Work and Health Programme*, where referrals to these had already stopped. The following information was provided in response to Members’ challenge:



- HPIJ was not a statutory service and had to generate income to cover 100% of overall costs;
- One Member suggested contacting the Halton Foundation for support for individuals that may require funding;
- It was estimated that approximately 6 months funding was required to keep the service operating as it was currently, to allow time for future funding to be identified and secured;
- The HPIJ service had huge social value in the community and to lose it would have a knock on effect on other Council services;
- A number of staff at HPIJ would be placed 'at risk' of redundancy unless any future funding was confirmed; and
- Members were reassured that every effort was being made to work with the LCR to secure funding beyond March 2025.

The Board commented that they would support the lobbying of the LCR to make interim funding available so that the service could continue; and to secure future funding. The HPIJ provided a valuable service to many of Halton's residents and Members recognised the challenging work carried out by the staff over the years and the continued successful results.

On behalf of the Board, the Chair passed on thanks to all the staff at HPIJ and commented that their experience in carrying out their duties was of huge value to the Council and the clients they dealt with.

RESOLVED: That the report is noted.

#### ELS18 THE BRINDLEY ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

The Board received a report and accompanying presentation on the Brindley Enhancement project. This included time lapse videos of the building work taking place and the 'on foot' access to the temporary entrance at the rear of the building from the car park at Costa Coffee.

It was reported that The Brindley Enhancement project formed part of the Town Deal Fund – Reconnecting Runcorn Programme. This transformational project would not only act as a catalyst for the Reconnecting Runcorn Programme, but also transform The Brindley into a cultural hub for the Borough. It would provide a new space for Runcorn Library, a larger café facility and a provide a high quality outdoor green space.

The programme of works had started in July 2024 and completion was expected in the Summer of 2026. In the meantime, Members were advised that The Brindley Theatre was operating 'business as usual'.

In response to questions and comments, the following additional information was provided to Members:

- All job roles within the new building were compliant with disabled access, so anyone could work in any role;
- Two new toilets were located on the first floor;
- More staff would be required to work at the theatre as the café would be bigger and they would like to offer pre-theatre meals;
- New signage had been installed in all directions leading to The Brindley and there was a designated coach parking bay in the car park;
- The Costa Coffee car park was now the designated car park for The Brindley;
- Runcorn Library would be moving into the Brindley once the new extension is complete; and
- The Brindley was an asset to Halton and all stakeholders were be proud of the facility.

Members welcomed the presentations and update and recognised that this enhancement project would have a positive impact on local communities and add vibrancy to the Town Centre. Members advised that they would appreciate a site visit in the future.

RESOLVED: That the presentation be received.

ELS19 QUARTER 2 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORT OF 2024 / 25

The Board received the performance management reports for quarter 2 of 2024-25 (1 July 2024 to 30 September 2024) and were requested to consider and raise any questions or points of clarification in respect of these.

The key priorities for development or improvement in 2024-25 were agreed by Members and for the various function areas reported to the Board as follows:

- Enterprise, Employment and Skills; and
- Community and Environment.

The report detailed progress against service objectives and milestones and performance targets and

Executive Director  
Environment &  
Regeneration

provided information relating to key developments and emerging issues that had arisen during the period. Members were invited to highlight any areas of interest and/or concern where further information is to be provided to a future meeting of the Board.

In response to the information provided in the report, Members questioned the following:

- The need for a housing consultant – more information was requested on this;
- Sci-tech Daresbury Project Violet – more information requested on what this was;
- Empty properties – what was the Council’s stance on this;
- Reasons why the School Cleaning Services were over budget;
- Reasons why there were delays in HR with recruitment processes;
- EEP2 – details requested on the caretaking and security services restructure;
- An explanation was requested on how the landfill tax credit works; and
- The transition of schools from Council supply to their own supply of school meals – these were now being provided by a mix of providers as schools were able to source their own. It was noted that the statutory duty to provide schools meals lies with the schools.

Responses to the above questions would be sought and sent to Members following the meeting.

RESOLVED: That the quarter two performance management report be received.

Executive Director  
Environment &  
Regeneration

*Meeting ended at 8.40 p.m.*

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**SAFER POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD**

*At a meeting of the Safer Policy and Performance Board on Tuesday, 19 November 2024 at the Board Room - Municipal Building, Widnes*

Present: Councillors N. Plumpton Walsh (Chair), Carlin (Vice-Chair), Baker, Bevan, Bramwell, Goodall, A. Lowe, A. McInerney, Ratcliffe and Wallace

Apologies for Absence: None

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: W. Betts, K. Butler and N. Goodwin

Also in attendance: None

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

	<i>Action</i>
SAF12 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS	
<p>The Chair informed Members of the Board that as per their request, the Police and Crime Commissioner would be attending the next meeting in February 2025, along with both the Police Chief Inspectors for Widnes and Runcorn. There would also be an item on the agenda regarding substance misuse from the Public Health Team.</p>	
SAF13 MINUTES	
<p>The Minutes of the meeting held on 10 September 2024 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.</p>	
SAF14 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME	
<p>It was reported that no public questions had been received.</p>	
SAF15 PREVENT	
<p>Members of the Board received a presentation which provided an update on the Prevent Programme and delivery in Halton. The aim of Prevent was to stop people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.</p>	

Members noted that the national security threat for the Country remained at substantial, the definition of which meant that attack was likely. Following the recent incident in Southport and the civil unrest seen across the UK, the Prevent work was prevalent.

The presentation highlighted the following key areas:

- The expectations of the Council:
  - completion of an annual benchmarking process;
  - preventative risk assessments and action plan; and
  - the Council do not receive any funding in relation to the Prevent Duty.
- The resources the Council has in place:
  - Prevent leads/points of contact;
  - Prevent delivery group which meets quarterly;
  - a fully established Channel process;
  - a referral process;
  - a Council Prevent webpage – Council staff were encouraged to complete the Home Office Prevent Awareness Course;
  - venue hire guidance – a copy to be circulated to Board Members; and
  - participation in Liverpool City Region Prevent Network - work to increase awareness of the Liverpool offer across agencies including the voluntary and faith sector.
- Training/awareness raising events:
  - Cheshire Police delivered an awareness session to Children’s Social Care Teams in September and would deliver the same session to Adult Social Care teams in November;
  - Liverpool City Council, Prevent Advisor - education awareness session on 19 November 2024; and
  - Dr Gareth Harris to deliver an Elected Members awareness session on 27 November 2024 – all Members were encouraged to participate.

RESOLVED: That the Prevent Programme presentation is received.

SAF16 WHITE RIBBON UPDATE

Members of the Board received a report from the Executive Director, Environment and Regeneration, which provided an update on the approach to White Ribbon.

In October 2023, Full Council received and approved a motion to protect women and girls from domestic abuse and on 18 November 2024, the Council obtained White Ribbon accreditation. Accreditation meant that Halton had a commitment to work towards transformational culture change in their staff culture, systems and communities.

A Steering Group had been established which had developed an action plan which included a number of activities, including:

- lighting the Mersey Gateway and Silver Jubilee Bridges for a week;
- a social media campaign;
- developing a workforce network of champions;
- circulating resources for White Ribbon to staff, partners and Elected Members;
- a series of lunch and learn sessions;
- TED talk sessions on misogyny; and
- 7 x 7 minute themed briefings to be circulated on Safeguarding Board websites.

It was noted that Halton's approach to White Ribbon recognised that domestic abuse was not limited to males being the perpetrator of harm. The Council was committed to working with those that harm to change behaviours and outcomes.

The Community Safety Team had created a behaviour change programme for adults called "Choices" and in September alone, they had received 19 referrals. Referrals were received from a number of agencies which included social care and the probation service.

A Board Member asked if any literature was available for victims who were frightened to report incidents of domestic violence. It was confirmed that literature was available and copies would be circulated to Board Members. Other alternative methods of help would be to speak to an Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) or the Samaritans. It was also noted that the Women's Centre had recently been awarded some funding for a drop-in café which would support victims of domestic violence.

In response to questions from Members the following additional information was given:

- Halton had a refuge for victims and a piece of work was being undertaken to look at future requirements for provision in the Borough;
- information shared at a recent Members seminar on domestic violence would be re-circulated for information;
- an additional IDVA had been appointed for 12 months to work in GP surgeries and deliver training to professionals; and
- Members to receive a further update in 12 months time.

RESOLVED: that the Board notes the report and endorses the approach to White Ribbon.

Director of  
Community &  
Greenspaces

*Meeting ended at 7.32 p.m.*



**ENVIRONMENT AND URBAN RENEWAL POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD**

*At a meeting of the Environment and Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board on Wednesday, 13 November 2024 at the Civic Suite, Town Hall, Runcorn*

Present: Councillors Woolfall (Chair), P. Lloyd Jones (Vice-Chair), Hughes, K. Loftus, L. Nolan and Ryan

Apologies for Absence: Councillor Hutchinson, Skinner, Thornton and Wall

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: K. Butler, T. Gibbs, I. Dignall, J. Farmer, I. Jones and I. Saxby

Also in attendance: H. Jenkins (Liverpool City Region Combined Authority)

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

	<i>Action</i>
<p>EUR12 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME</p> <p>It was confirmed that no public questions had been received.</p>	
<p>EUR13 MINUTES</p> <p>The Minutes of the meeting held on 18 September 2024 having been circulated were signed as a correct record.</p>	
<p>EUR14 EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES</p> <p>The Board considered the Minutes of the meetings of the Executive Board relevant to the Environment and Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the Minutes be received.</p>	
<p>EUR15 LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN 4 (LIVERPOOL CITY REGION COMBINED AUTHORITY)</p> <p>Huw Jenkins from the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority attended the meeting to present a report to the Board, which provided an overview of the draft</p>	

Local Transport Plan 4 (LTP4) and the consultation process.

Members of the Board were advised that the aim of the Plan was to provide transport choices that would be safe, inclusive, affordable and low carbon. It was acknowledged that there were gaps in the current transport network that needed to be challenged and the Plan would seek to address those. In order to decarbonise transport by 2040 we would need to significantly change the way we travel and transport freight and goods.

The draft Plan included five goals and eight core principles, and these were set out in section 4.4 of the report. The Plan also included details of the policy approaches and proposed interventions across the range of transport challenges. The consultation on proposed plans opened on 3 October 2024 and would close on 15 December 2024.

Members of the Board noted and discussed the report and subsequently the following additional information was noted:

- shopping habits had changed in recent years with more people buying goods online and consideration needed to be given to alternative ways to deliver those goods, for example, electric/greener vans or e-bikes;
- consideration to be given to banning petrol or diesel delivery vans in city centres. Instead goods could be delivered to a consolidation centre outside of a city centre and then delivered by e-bikes or greener vehicles. This however would require help from the Government in terms of funding and legal changes; and
- the plan does not advocate user charges (cleaner emission charges) due to the risk of alienating itself to other nearby areas, such as Manchester or Skelmersdale.

On behalf of the Board, the Chair thanked Huw Jenkins for his attendance and said they looked forward to further updates on the Plan in the future.

**RESOLVED:** that the Board note the Local Transport Plan 4 and its associated consultation process.

EUR16 HALTON LOCAL CYCLING AND WALKING  
INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN

The Board received a report from the Executive Director – Environment and Regeneration which provided an update on the recent completion of a Halton specific Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) document. Members also received a presentation which highlighted the main points of the report and demonstrated some examples of travel patterns, proposed cycle networks and walking routes round the Borough.

Members were reminded that the Liverpool City Region LCWIP document was produced in 2019 and approved by the Combined Authority. This document was presented to this Board on 26 February 2020 and since then, several schemes identified in the report had either been completed or were in the process of being taken forward, including:

- Runcorn-Daresbury – completed;
- Runcorn Busway - to be delivered in phases; Shopping City to Runcorn East Station/Whitehouse near to completion;
- Silver Jubilee Bridge to Sandy Lane/Knowsley boundary – completed; and
- Wilmere Lane/Birchfield Road – subject to ongoing design/consultation and funding.

The LCWIP sets out the structure and strategic direction to allow the development and delivery of a planned active travel network for Halton over a 10 year period for its residents, workers and visitors. The routes would be designed to offer safe and convenient alternatives for walking and cycling and had been prioritised based on elements such as connectivity to new developments; existing population; employment and services; air quality issues and deliverability. The LCWIP would also help deliver some of the local priorities such as a reduction in transport emissions and health improvement.

Members of the Board discussed the proposals and following discussions, the additional information below was noted:

- Members would be provided with more detailed information in due course which would demonstrate how proposals would look for each ward in the Borough;
- use of cycle lanes were observed by sensors and

would continue to be monitored;

- Councillor Peter Lloyd Jones suggested that it would be helpful if routes could be signposted; it was confirmed that a LCR standard was being adopted for signage and plans on the website would be updated as schemes come forward; and
- scheme funding was subject to further announcements, potentially in Spring 2025.

RESOLVED: That the Board:

- 1) endorses the Halton LCWIP (which comprises the Halton Borough Wide LCWIP and East Runcorn Connectivity Programme documents); and
- 2) notes the prioritised list of potential schemes outlined in the report.

Executive Director  
Environment &  
Regeneration

#### EUR17 DEPARTMENT FOR TRANSPORT STATISTICAL UPDATE 2023

The Board received a report on the latest road safety statistics released by the Department for Transport (DfT) through the publication of the 2023 Comprehensive Annual Report.

The report set out full details of the numbers of traffic collisions and casualties in 2023 and compared these figures with those from previous years, which showed a small rise in overall casualty numbers. This was in contrast to the national picture where there had been a slight decrease and traffic flow had been comparable for the first time since the pandemic.

Members noted that Halton had achieved its performance targets as set by the DfT; there were 158 road traffic collisions involving personal injury within Halton, one more than the previous year. These incidents had resulted in 195 casualties, a 4% increase on the 2022 figure but 22% below 2019, when traffic levels were comparable.

In addition, the report highlighted an update on the work the Road Safety Team had undertaken in 2024/25 which would continue to cover road traffic collision reduction schemes, road safety education, training and publicity as well as engaging with Cheshire Police to target effective enforcement action.

The report also outlined information on the following road safety initiatives:

- Gyrotory Red Light Camera;
- Speed Camera A562 (Speke Road):
- “Smiley” Speed Indicative Device/Sign (SiDs);
- Mobile Speed Camera Sites;
- Collision Sites;
- Speed Limit Reduction;
- Safer Active Travel;
- Road Safety Audits;
- Education; and
- Halton 2025/26 Programme.

Members of the Board noted the report and suggested that it would be useful to do a press release on Halton’s achievements on meeting performance targets.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the overall progress made on casualty reduction in Halton over the past decade be noted; and
- 2) the 2024/25 strategy of road safety schemes and road safety education, training and publicity be endorsed.

Executive Director  
Environment &  
Regeneration

EUR18 PETITION FOR REGENT ROAD, WIDNES TO BECOME ONE-WAY

The Board considered a report from the Executive Director, Environment and Regeneration, which provided information on the petition received containing 43 signatures requesting that Regent Road be made a one-way street as a measure to reduce traffic flows and increase public safety. The lead petitioner had been informed that their request would be considered at this meeting and it was noted that they were not in attendance.

Members were reminded that in respect of petitions, their role was to receive a report on any petitions received by the Council relating to their respective area and/or any action taken or proposed to be taken by the Executive (or Portfolio Holder, or an Officer acting under delegated powers).

It was noted that at the time the petition was received, a section of Appleton Village, between Regent Road and Deacon Road had been closed for an extended period in July and August, to allow for emergency utility works and this had impacted on traffic to migrate onto adjacent roads, including Regent Road.

Following receipt of the petition, the report described the steps that were put in place to monitor activity on Regent Road and surrounding areas, and what the findings were as a result of those investigations.

It was also noted that a one-way street could only be imposed as part of a legal Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) which would require statutory consultation with various agencies, including emergency services. Members were advised that Cheshire Police had stated that they would not support a one-way TRO for the following reasons:

- vehicle speeds would increase as there would be no opposing flow of traffic;
- roads in the immediate vicinity would see an increase in traffic; and
- response times for emergency services would increase.

Members were advised that based on the findings of traffic monitoring investigations and advice from Cheshire Police, there was no recommended action.

RESOLVED: That the request set out in the petition not be supported for the reasons given in the report.

#### EUR19 ENVIRONMENTAL FUND UPDATE

The Board received a report of the Executive Director – Environment and Regeneration, which provided an update on the expenditure of the Environmental Fund.

Planning permission for the Runcorn Thermal Power Station (TPS) Plant was granted in September 2008. The Plant was subject to a legal agreement, under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. The legal agreement contained a provision that the owner of the Plant agreed to pay the Council an annual lump sum payment for every tonne of fuel received and processed.

The fund had been in operation since 2015 and to date had generated £6,909,919.76. The projects that had benefitted from the fund were set out in Appendix 1.

RESOLVED: That the wide range of projects that had benefitted from the fund as set out in Appendix 1 be noted.

EUR20 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORT FOR  
QUARTER 2 OF 2024/25

The Board received the Performance Monitoring Reports for quarter 2 of 2024/25.

The key priorities for development of improvement in 2024/25 were agreed by Members and included in Directorate Plans for the various function areas reported to the Board as detailed below:

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

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

Board Members were asked to note the budget reporting position and forecast which indicated that the Directorate services were on track to be delivered within budget.

**RESOLVED:** That quarter 2 performance management reports be received and noted.

*Meeting ended at 7.30 p.m.*

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**CORPORATE POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD**

*At a meeting of the Corporate Policy and Performance Board on Tuesday, 5 November 2024 in the Civic Suite, Town Hall, Runcorn*

Present: Councillors Gilligan (Chair), Philbin (Vice-Chair), V. Hill, Leck, Logan, A. Lowe, N. Plumpton Walsh and Thornton

Apologies for Absence: Councillor McDonough

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: K. Butler, E. Dawson, P. Garnett, C. Hill and M. Reaney

Also in attendance: None

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

	<i>Action</i>
CS16 MINUTES	
The Minutes from the meeting held on 3 September 2024 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.	
CS17 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME	
The Board was advised that no public questions had been received.	
CS18 EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES	
The Board was presented with the minutes relating to the Corporate Services Portfolio which had been considered by the Executive Board since the last meeting of this Board.	
RESOLVED: That the minutes be noted.	
CS19 CORPORATE ACCIDENT / INCIDENT REPORT 1.4.24 TO 31.8.24	
The Board was provided with a report from the Corporate Director – Chief Executive’s Delivery Unit, on the performance of health and safety management within the Authority from 1 April 2024 to 31 August 2024.	

The report highlighted health and safety incidents that had taken place over the past 4 months and as a result of those incidents proposed actions for the future. The report included information around the number of actual near misses, accidents that had resulted in over seven day absences, together with significant accidents.

In addition, the report contained information on the performance of health and safety management in relation to key performance indicators for the current financial year.

Following discussions it was noted that:

- concerns were raised that if the Protect Duty/Martyn's Law was implemented, the Council would have an obligation to protect its buildings against terrorism and this would be challenging due to a low number of caretakers. It was agreed that once more information became available, this matter would be re-visited;
- a member of the Board said that they did not recall any practice evacuations taking place whilst they were in any of the Council buildings. It was suggested that although many practice evacuations had taken place for staff, it appeared that Members had not been involved. It was agreed that this would be taken into account for future practice evacuations;
- Councillor Philbin reported that he had received some reports of incidents where Council staff had received abuse in Victoria Park when dealing with people walking their dogs off lead, however, this did not seem to be reflected in the figures. It was agreed that this would be investigated and the Board would be updated in due course; and
- the school crossing patrol staff member who had been injured by a mobility scooter, had fully recovered from their injuries.

RESOLVED: That the Board note the contents of the report including the recommendations and actions for 2024/25.

CS20 PROGRESS UPDATES REGARDING THE HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT FUND 1 APRIL 2024 - 30 SEPTEMBER 2024, AND THE LATEST HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT FUND FOR THE PERIOD 1 OCTOBER 2024 - 31 MARCH 2025

The Board received a report from the Director of

Corporate  
Director - Chief  
Executive's  
Delivery Unit

Finance, which updated Members on the final position regarding delivery of the Government's Household Support Fund for the past six months.

Appendix A of the report outlined the Household Support Fund spend for the period 1 April 2024 to 30 September 2024. This included expenditure from partner organisations including Halton Citizens Advice Bureau, Runcorn Foodbank, Widnes Foodbank, Affordable Warmth, Holiday Activity Food Programme and Halton Voluntary Action.

A spending plan for 1 October 2024 to 31 March 2025 had been prepared and was attached at Appendix B. It was noted that £75,000 had been allocated to the Discretionary Support Scheme within the Benefits Division to process means tested applications.

It was proposed that pensioners who were in receipt of a council tax reduction, would be provided with a one-off award of £130. It was estimated that 4,200 pensioner households would benefit from this award, at a total cost of £546,000.

RESOLVED: That the Board note:

- 1) the final position regarding the Household Support Fund for the period 1 April 2024 – 30 September 2024; and
- 2) the spending plan for the Household Support Fund for the period 1 October 2024 – 31 March 2025.

## CS21 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORTS FOR QUARTER 2 OF 2024/25

The Board received the Performance Management Report for Quarter 2 of 2024/25. The reports related to the following functional areas which reported to the Board and detailed progress against service objectives and milestones and performance targets, and provided information relating to key developments and emerging issues that had arisen during the period:

- Finance;
- Operational Human Resources Division;
- ICT and Administrative Support;
- Legal and Democracy;
- Catering, Stadium and Registration Services; and
- Property Services.

Members were requested to consider the progress and performance information and highlight any areas of interest and/or concern, where further information could be reported at a future meeting of the Board.

The Board noted the report and following discussions requested some additional information:

- Councillor Logan referred to corporate priority ICT 01 – the delivery of the initial Microsoft M365 E5 platform, and requested if it was possible to use this new platform to provide some data to demonstrate the rise and fall of carbon emissions in the Borough. It was suggested that such data could be incorporated in future Council reports, under climate change implications;
- it was noted that despite best efforts to reduce sickness absences, figures had continued to rise. Councillor Philbin suggested that a staff survey be carried out to try and identify some of the reasons for this, as it had been some time since the last one had been done;
- an update report on agency staff to be presented to a future Board meeting; and
- the number of schools the Council provide a cleaning service to and the costs for this provision.

RESOLVED: That the quarter 2 performance management report for 2024-25 be noted.

Corporate  
Director - Chief  
Executive's  
Delivery Unit

Executive Director  
Environment &  
Regeneration

*Meeting ended at 7.23 p.m.*

**DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

*At a meeting of the Development Management Committee on Monday, 4 November 2024 at the Civic Suite, Town Hall, Runcorn*

Present: Councillors S. Hill (Chair), Leck (Vice-Chair), Bevan, Carlin, C. Loftus, C. Plumpton Walsh, Polhill, Rowe, Thompson and Woolfall

Apologies for Absence: None

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: A. Jones, T. Gibbs, A. Plant, M. Webster, G. Henry and A. Blackburn

Also in attendance: None

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

DEV65 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 2 September 2024, having been circulated, were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

DEV66 PLANNING APPLICATIONS TO BE DETERMINED BY THE COMMITTEE

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

DEV67 22/00548/FUL - PROPOSED ERECTION OF SINGLE STOREY WAREHOUSE AT CRODA EUROPE LTD, FOUNDRY LANE, WIDNES, WA8 8UB

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

Officers advised that an updated preliminary bat roost survey that was requested remained outstanding, but the proposals were considered acceptable in all other regards.

*Action*

Delegated authority was therefore requested for the Director of Planning and Transportation, to determine the application in consultation with the Chair or Vice Chair, subject to resolution of the above outstanding matter, and the addition of any conditions required as a result of that. The Committee agreed with the request.

RESOLVED: That authority be delegated to the Director of Planning and Transportation, to determine the application in consultation with the Chair or Vice Chair of the Committee, following the satisfactory resolution of the outstanding matter relating to the bat roost survey and subject to the following conditions:

1. Time limit;
2. Approved plans;
3. Materials;
4. Hours of construction;
5. Foul and surface water drainage scheme;
6. Sustainable drainage verification, management and maintenance plan;
7. Lighting strategy;
8. Bird nesting protection;
9. Bird nesting boxes;
10. Reasonable Avoidance Measures (RAMS) including bats, hedgehog and terrestrial mammals; and
11. Site investigation, remediation and verification.

DEV68 24/00243/FUL - PROPOSED NURSING CARE HOME (USE CLASS C2: RESIDENTIAL INSTITUTION), ASSOCIATED ACCESS AND PARKING AT GREENOAKS FARM INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, WARRINGTON ROAD, WIDNES, WA8 0SY

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

Since the publication of the agenda, Members were advised that the outstanding comments from the Council's Ecology Advisor, Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service (MEAS), had been received. It was reported that the Biodiversity Net Gain metric confirmed that the development was capable of exceeding the required 10% biodiversity net gain.

Officers advised therefore, that the recommendation for delegated authority was no longer required and should be replaced with a recommendation for approval.

The Committee agreed that the application be approved.

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

1. Time limit;
2. Approved plans;
3. Restriction on use;
4. Submission of proposed site levels;
5. Submission of facing materials;
6. Boundary treatment details;
7. submission of soft landscaping scheme;
8. tree protection measures;
9. breeding bird protection;
10. submission of bird and bat boxes scheme;
11. hours of construction;
12. submission of an acoustic report;
13. implementation of remediation strategy and submission of validation report;
14. surface water SuDS;
15. SuDS verification report;
16. United Utilities surface water drainage;
17. Off-site highways works;
18. Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) – include RAMS;
19. Site Wide Waste Management Plan (SWWMP); and
20. Sustainable development and climate change.

DEV69 24/00302/FUL - PROPOSED EXTENSION (PART RETROSPECTIVE) OF EXISTING INDUSTRIAL UNIT TO CREATE NEW B2/B8 FLOOR SPACE AND NEW THREE STOREY OFFICE FACILITIES AND ASSOCIATED EXTERNAL WORKS AT HUTCHINSON ENGINEERING LTD, EVERITE ROAD, WIDNES, WA8 8PT

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

It was noted that the extension of the existing unit would result in an increase in employment opportunities from 66 full time jobs to 85, making a positive contribution to opportunities within the Borough.

The Committee agreed that the application be approved.

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

1. Time limit;
2. Approved plans;
3. Materials;
4. Asbestos management plan;
5. Drainage strategy;
6. Foul and surface water drainage;
7. Implementation and retention of parking layout;
8. Site Wide Waste Management Plan (SWWMP);
9. Sustainable development and climate change; and
10. Hours of construction.

*Meeting ended at 6.45 p.m.*



**REGULATORY COMMITTEE**

*At a meeting of the Regulatory Committee on Wednesday, 9 October 2024 in the Council Chamber, Runcorn Town Hall*

Present: Councillors Wallace (Chair), Abbott (Vice-Chair), Bramwell, Dourley, Fry, V. Hill, K. Loftus and Teeling

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Hughes and A. McInerney

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: K. Hesketh, W. Pringle and A. Strickland

Also in attendance: None

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

	<i>Action</i>
REG3 MINUTES	
<p>The Minutes of the meeting held on 3 July 2024 having been circulated were signed as a correct record.</p>	
REG4 TAXI LICENSING POLICY AMENDMENTS	
<p>The Committee considered four matters, the first was to consider amendments to the Taxi Licensing Policy.</p> <p>The request was on the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Age of vehicles;</li> <li>• Card readers;</li> <li>• Colour of purpose-built vehicles;</li> <li>• Space wheel/space saver;</li> <li>• Fire extinguisher; and</li> <li>• Age of electric vehicles.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Age of Vehicles</u></b></p> <p>The Committee considered a report which outlined a request from the Taxi Trade to review the vehicle age policy</p>	

due to the cost of replacing vehicles. There were 111 replies to the consultation; 52 replies were in favour of the change, 52 replies were not in favour of the change and 7 replies made no comment.

The Committee considered the report and the outcome of the consultation.

RESOLVED: That the Council should remove the minimum age requirement from 5 years to 7 years for a standard vehicle and maximum from 10 to 12 years and keep the minimum age of 13 years for wheelchair accessible vehicles but increase the maximum to 18, with the same testing conditions as two per year.

### **Card Readers**

The Committee considered a report which outlined a request from one of the Private Hire Operators that this should be reviewed by the Licensing Department. There were 111 replies to the consultation; 26 replies were in favour of the change, 80 replies were not in favour of the change and 5 replies made no comment.

The Committee considered the report and the outcome of the consultation.

RESOLVED: That the Council should not require a card reader.

### **Colour of purpose-built vehicles**

The Committee considered a report which outlined a request from the Taxi Trade that purpose built vehicles (Fully Accessible Vehicles) for Hackney Carriage Vehicles should be any colour due to the cost of replacing them. There were 111 replies to the consultation; 23 replies were in favour of the change, 27 replies were not in favour of the change and 61 replies made no comment.

The Committee considered the report and the outcome of the consultation.

RESOLVED: That the Council should maintain the current policy.

### **Spare Wheel/Space Saver**

The Committee considered a report which outlined a request from the Taxi Trade to remove the condition for a spare wheel/space save. The request was made due to

purchasing new vehicles, manufacturers did not provide a spare wheel or space saver they now only provide the manufacturer tyre kit. There were 111 replies to the consultation; 78 replies were in favour of the change, 18 replies were not in favour of the change and 15 replies made no comment.

RESOLVED: That the Council should remove the current policy requirements for a space saver/spare wheel in the vehicle (with the implications that the manufacturers specifications applies).

### **Fire Extinguishers**

The Committee considered a report which outlined a request from the Taxi Trade to remove this condition due to not being required any longer. There were 111 replies to the consultation; 30 replies were in favour of the change, 21 replies were not in favour of the change and 60 replies made no comment.

RESOLVED: That the Council should keep the requirement for a fire extinguisher in the vehicle as per current policy.

### **Age of Electric Vehicles**

The Committee considered a report which outlined a request from the Taxi Trade to review the vehicle age policy for Electric Vehicles due to the financial cost. There were 111 replies to the consultation; 30 replies were in favour of the change, 8 replies were not in favour of the change and 73 replies made no comment.

The Committee considered the report and the outcome of the consultation.

RESOLVED: That the Council should maintain the current policy with no difference between licensing convectional and electric vehicles.

Director, Legal  
and Democratic  
Services

## REG5 GAMBLING ACT 2005 STATEMENT OF GAMBLING POLICY

The Committee considered a request to approve a Draft Statement of Gambling Policy for recommendation to the Council for adoption. The Committee was advised that one reply was received following the consultation process.

Following the comments received during the

consultation exercise, Halton Borough Council would publish the details of the National Gambling Helpline on its website for information.

RESOLVED: That an appropriate form of wording for the Council resolution would be: "The Council":

Director, Legal  
and Democratic  
Services

- 1) adopts the Statement of Gambling Policy attached to the report to come into effect immediately following the expiry of the current Policy; and
- 2) agrees that the Director of Legal and Democratic Services publishes the Statement in accordance with Section 349 Gambling Act 2005 and the Gambling Act 2005 (Licensing Authority Policy Statement) (England and Wales) Regulations 2006".

#### REG6 TAXI ENFORCEMENT POLICY

The Committee considered a report to accept powers delegated from the City of Wolverhampton Council to Halton Borough Council, under Section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972.

Since the introduction of the Deregulation Act 2015, Private Hire Operators have been allowed to subcontract bookings to any other Private Hire Operator. This had resulted in an increase of vehicles completing bookings in one local authority area although the driver and vehicles were licensed in a different local authority area.

The City of Wolverhampton Council had recently piloted a scheme with Milton Keynes Borough Council for a period of 6 months. The scheme had been successful and had now been offered to other Local Authorities, one of them being Halton Borough Council.

RESOLVED: That the Committee:

- 1) approve the proposed formal arrangements between the City of Wolverhampton Council and Halton Borough Council, in relation to officer authorisation concerning Taxi and Private Hire licensing functions; and
- 2) accept the powers delegated by the City of Wolverhampton Council under Section 101 Local Government Act 1972.

REG7 SCHEDULE 12A OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

The Board considered:

- 1) whether members of the press and public should be excluded from the meeting of the Board during consideration of the following items of business in accordance with Sub-Section 4 of Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, because it was likely that, in view of the nature of the business to be considered, exempt information would be disclosed, being information defined in Section 100 (1) and paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972; and
- 2) whether the disclosure of information was in the public interest, whether any relevant exemptions were applicable and whether, when applying the public interest test and exemptions, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed that in disclosing the information.

RESOLVED: That, as in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information, members of the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business, in accordance with Sub-Section 4 of Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 because it was likely that, in view of the nature of the business, exempt information would be disclosed, being information defined in Section 100 (1) and paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

REG8 TAXI LICENSING UPDATE

The Committee considered a report summarising the decisions taken by the Taxi Licensing Sub Committee, Regulatory Sub Committee and the urgent decisions taken by the Chief Executive under delegated powers.

RESOLVED: That the contents of the report be noted.

*Meeting ended at 7.35 p.m.*

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**REGULATORY SUB COMMITTEE**

*At a meeting of the Regulatory Sub Committee on Thursday, 10 October 2024 at The Board Room - Municipal Building, Widnes*

Present: Councillors Wallace (Chair), Bramwell and K. Loftus

Apologies for Absence: None

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: K. Hesketh, W. Pringle and A. Strickland

Also in attendance: None

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

*Action*

REGS8 SCHEDULE 12A OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

The Board considered:

- 1) whether members of the press and public should be excluded from the meeting of the Board during consideration of the following items of business in accordance with Sub-Section 4 of Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, because it was likely that, in view of the nature of the business to be considered, exempt information would be disclosed, being information defined in Section 100 (1) and paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972; and
- 2) whether the disclosure of information was in the public interest, whether any relevant exemptions were applicable and whether, when applying the public interest test and exemptions, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed that in disclosing the information.

RESOLVED: That, as in all the circumstances of the

case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information, members of the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business, in accordance with Sub-Section 4 of Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 because it was likely that, in view of the nature of the business, exempt information would be disclosed, being information defined in Section 100 (1) and paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

REGS9 LICENSING ACT 2003 - PERSONAL LICENCE

RESOLVED: That following a review of the suitability of the Personal Licence Holder, the licence be revoked.

*Meeting ended at 3.06 p.m.*



**REGULATORY SUB COMMITTEE**

*At a meeting of the Regulatory Sub Committee on Friday, 18 October 2024 at Bridgewater Room - Municipal Building, Widnes*

Present: Councillors Wallace (Chair), Dourley and A. McInerney

Apologies for Absence: Councillors

Absence declared on Council business:

Officers present: K. Hesketh, W. Pringle and A. Strickland

Also in attendance: None

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

*Action*

REGS10 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on the 30 September 2024 having been circulated were signed as a correct record.

REGS11 SCHEDULE 12A OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

The Board considered:

- 1) whether members of the press and public should be excluded from the meeting of the Board during consideration of the following items of business in accordance with Sub-Section 4 of Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, because it was likely that, in view of the nature of the business to be considered, exempt information would be disclosed, being information defined in Section 100 (1) and paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972; and
- 2) whether the disclosure of information was in the public interest, whether any relevant exemptions were applicable and whether, when applying the public

interest test and exemptions, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed that in disclosing the information.

RESOLVED: That, as in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information, members of the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business, in accordance with Sub-Section 4 of Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 because it was likely that, in view of the nature of the business, exempt information would be disclosed, being information defined in Section 100 (1) and paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

#### REGS12 LICENSING ACT 2003 - PERSONAL LICENCE

RESOLVED: That following the review of the suitability of the Personal Licence Holder, a formal written warning letter be issued, subject to further consideration of any comments from Cheshire Police.

*Meeting ended at 12.15 p.m.*

**REGULATORY SUB COMMITTEE**

*At a meeting of the Regulatory Sub Committee on Thursday, 31 October 2024 at Municipal Building, Widnes*

Present: Councillors Wallace (Chair), Dourley and A. McInerney

Apologies for Absence: None

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: K. Hesketh, W. Pringle and A. Strickland

Also in attendance: None

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

REGS13 SCHEDULE 12A OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

*Action*

The Board considered:

- 1) whether members of the press and public should be excluded from the meeting of the Board during consideration of the following items of business in accordance with Sub-Section 4 of Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, because it was likely that, in view of the nature of the business to be considered, exempt information would be disclosed, being information defined in Section 100 (1) and paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972; and
- 2) whether the disclosure of information was in the public interest, whether any relevant exemptions were applicable and whether, when applying the public interest test and exemptions, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed that in disclosing the information.

RESOLVED: That, as in all the circumstances of the

case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information, members of the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business, in accordance with Sub-Section 4 of Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 because it was likely that, in view of the nature of the business, exempt information would be disclosed, being information defined in Section 100 (1) and paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

REGS14 LICENSING ACT 2003 - PERSONAL LICENCE

RESOLVED: Following a review and confirmation from Cheshire Police that they were in agreement with the provisional decision reached on 18 October 2024, the Personal Licence Holder be issued with a formal written warning.

*Meeting ended at 12.15 p.m.*

**TAXI LICENSING SUB COMMITTEE**

*At a meeting of the Taxi Licensing Sub Committee on Thursday, 31 October 2024 in the The Board Room - Municipal Building, Widnes*

Present: Councillors Wallace (Chair), Dourley and K. Loftus

Apologies for Absence: None

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: K. Hesketh, W. Pringle and A. Strickland

Also in attendance: None

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

TL20 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on the 2 October 2024 having been circulated were signed as a correct record.

TL21 SCHEDULE 12A OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

The Board considered:

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

*Action*

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

RESOLVED: That, as in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information, members of the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business, in accordance with Sub-Section 4 of Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 because it was likely that, in view of the nature of the business, exempt information would be disclosed, being information defined in Section 100 (1) and paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

TL22 TAXI LICENSING MATTER

Case 782

RESOLVED: That the Single Status Driver's Licence be suspended for a period of 14 days and an official warning letter be issued.

*Meeting ended at 3.03 p.m.*

**APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE**

*At a meeting of the Appointments Committee held on Wednesday, 23 October 2024 at the Civic Suite, Town Hall, Runcorn*

Present: Councillors Wharton (Chair), Davidson, Dennett and Ratcliffe

Apologies for Absence: Councillor McDermott and Thompson

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: S. Young

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

	<i>Action</i>
<p>APC12 MINUTES</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 15 May 2024, having been printed and circulated, were taken as read and agreed as a correct record.</p>	
<p>APC13 SCHEDULE 12A OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985</p> <p>The Board considered:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) whether members of the press and public should be excluded from the meeting of the Board during consideration of the following items of business in accordance with Sub-Section 4 of Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, because it was likely that, in view of the nature of the business to be considered, exempt information would be disclosed, being information defined in Section 100 (1) and paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972; and</li> <li>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</li> </ol>	

maintaining the exemption outweighed that in disclosing the information.

RESOLVED: That, as in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information, members of the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business, in accordance with Sub-Section 4 of Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 because it was likely that, in view of the nature of the business, exempt information would be disclosed, being information defined in Section 100 (1) and paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

#### APC14 STAFFING MATTER

The Committee considered a report which set out a proposed amendment to the Director of Chief Executive's Delivery Unit job description to enable additional delegation to be performed.

RESOLVED: That

1. the report be noted; and
2. the Committee approves the amendment to the job description.

*Meeting ended at 6.05 p.m.*