

Minutes & Reports

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

**Wednesday, 21 October
2009**

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COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Council on Wednesday, 13 August 2008 in the Council Chamber, Runcorn Town Hall

Present: Councillors Loftus (Chairman), Austin, M. Bradshaw, Browne, Shepherd, Hodgkinson, P. Blackmore, S. Blackmore, J. Bradshaw, Bryant, D. Cargill, E. Cargill, Dennett, Drakeley, Edge, Findon, Fraser, Gerrard, Gilligan, Harris, Hignett, D. Inch, Jones, Lloyd Jones, A. Lowe, J. Lowe, McDermott, McInerney, Morley, Murray, Norddahl, Parker, Philbin, Polhill, E. Ratcliffe, M. Ratcliffe, Redhead, Rowan, Rowe, Swain, Swift, Thompson, Wainwright, Wallace, Worrall and Wright

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Balmer, Higginson, Horabin, Howard, Leadbetter, Nelson, Nolan, Osborne, Stockton and Wharton

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: R. Barnett, P. Barron, I. Leivesley, S. Nicholson, D Parr, D. Tregea and L. Derbyshire

*Action***COU13 COUNCIL MINUTES**

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 16th May 2008, having been printed and circulated, were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

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

COU14 THE MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor made the following announcements:-

- A copy of the New Testament which had been presented to The Right Honourable Gordon Oakes MP and had been sworn by Her Majesty's most Honourable Privy Council on 26th June 1979, and signed by the Lord President of the Council had been represented to Halton Borough Council on 6th June 2008 by the family of the late Right Honourable Gordon Oakes MP. The Right Honourable Gordon Oakes MP had been an MP for Halton for many years;
- A book about Marzahn und Hellersdorf had been

presented to the Mayor at the musical concert 'Halton Welcomes the World' held at the Brindley on 13th July 2008;

- A book 'Shadower's Crossing' had been presented to the Mayor by a local author Chris Kirwan;
- Photographs of Berlin had been presented to the Council; and
- A cap Badge had been presented at Veterans Day by Widnes S.C.C.

COU15 LEADER'S REPORT

The Leader reported on the following issues:

- That the Council meeting in July had been re-arranged due to industrial action concerning the annual pay award process. He reported that negotiations were ongoing.
- Halton had been one of the first authority's to award members with the ILM. During the last year, every member had participated in a training session, of which 28 had received awards and 33 had received a certificate of achievement. Members and the staff who organised the training events were congratulated on their achievements;
- Halton Council had received the highest grade in its Corporate Assessment and an excellent report following the Joint Area Review on services for children and young people. The authority was proud to maintain its 'excellent' status and the report had been circulated to members of the Council. Actions were being taken to address a few weaknesses that had been identified in the report;
- The KS2 SAT results had been announced and the Leader took the opportunity to congratulate teachers in the Borough on their excellent achievements;
- Daresbury Science and Innovation Campus had received £65m capital funding for the new computer centre;
- The proposals for the Building Schools for the Future Programme had been passed to DfES for

approval. As the programme developed, further reports would be presented to Council. Preliminary meetings had taken place to set up a joint governing body for the Federation of Wade Deacon and Fairfield High School;

- Mersey Gateway was on the agenda and an update would be given at that time;
- The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 had come into effect in December. The Act placed duties on the Council to decide on a system of internal governance. There would be a future consultation on internal governance in respect of the Council having an elected Mayor or Cabinet. If the Mayor option was adopted, it would not necessarily be a member or Leader of the Council. In this respect, no change to the current system was not an option.
- The 2007 Act also allowed the Council to opt for a four yearly election pattern. There was an option to opt for 'no change' to the current system.
- Members would have the opportunity to express their views on these internal governance and election matters and it was anticipated that decisions would be taken by May 2009.
- Members would be consulted on a White Paper 'Communities In Control' in the near future; and
- Mr Peter Fay, the Chief Constable of Cheshire Police was moving to Manchester. Mr Fay had addressed the Council on numerous occasions. The Leader took the opportunity to place on record his thanks to Mr Fay and extend best wishes to him for his future career.

COU16 MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

The Council considered the minutes of the Executive Board from meetings held on 10th April, 14th May, 19th May, 5th June, 19th June and 26th June 2008.

RESOLVED: That the minutes be received.

COU17 MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD SUB-COMMITTEE

The Council considered the minutes of the Executive Board Sub-Committee from meetings held on 10th April, 8th May, 5th June and 25th June 2008.

RESOLVED: That the minutes be received.

COU18 MINUTES OF THE MERSEY GATEWAY EXECUTIVE BOARD

The Council considered the minutes of the Mersey Gateway Executive Board from the meetings held on 19th May and 21st July 2008.

RESOLVED: That the minutes be received.

COU19 QUESTIONS ASKED UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 8

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

COU20 MERSEY GATEWAY TWA ORDER - KEY DECISION

The Council received a report of the Strategic Director, Environment which related to the order under section 3 of the Transport and Works Act 1992 (the TWA Order) that was being promoted by the Council in order to secure powers to promote the elements of the Mersey Gateway, Project (the Project) that related to the Mersey Gateway Bridge, in particular (and among other matters), to authorise interference with public rights of navigation by the construction of a new bridge over the River Mersey comprised in the Project.

In accordance with the provisions of section 239 of the Local Government Act 1972 as applied by section 20 of the Transport and Works Act 1992, the Council resolved on 23 April 2008 to promote the TWA Order. A copy of the report to Council was attached as Annex 1 to the report.

On 30 May 2008 the Council had made an application under section 6 of the Transport and Works Act 1992 to the Secretary of State for Transport for the TWA Order – the proposed River Mersey (Mersey Gateway Bridge) Order.

The application for the TWA Order having been made, in accordance with the provisions of section 239 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council was required to confirm its decision to promote the application for the TWA Order in order for the matter to proceed.

The report sought the Council's confirmation of its decision to promote the TWA Order in accordance with the requirements of section 239 of the Local Government Act.

Reason for Decision

The recommended decisions were required to support the delivery of Mersey Gateway.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

Alternative options for securing the powers to construct, maintain and operate, as well as tolling, the Mersey Gateway project had been assessed and rejected.

Implementation Date

The recommended decisions were required to be made as soon as may be after the expiration of fourteen days after the application for the TWA Order was made, in accordance with the provisions of section 239 of the Local Government Act 1972.

It was unanimously RESOLVED: That

- (1) the content of the report and the appendices be noted; and
- (2) in accordance with section 239 of the Local Government Act 1972 as applied by the Transport and Works Act 1992, the Council confirms the resolution of the Council made on 23rd April 2008 to promote the TWA Order, it being expedient to do so.

Strategic Director,
Environment

COU21 CHANGING THE NAME OF A WARD - EXECUTIVE BOARD 5TH JUNE 2008 (MINUTE NO. EXB9 REFERS)

The Council considered a report of the Chief Executive which informed Members of a request to change the name of Castlefields Ward to Castle Ward.

RECOMMENDED: That

- (1) electors in the Castlefields Ward be consulted on the proposed change of name; and
- (2) a Working Party of elected representatives be nominated to consider any representations received following the consultation.

Chief Executive

(NB: Councillor Hignett declared a personal interest in the following item of business due to being a governor of Weston Primary School.

Councillor E Cargill declared a personal interest in the following item of business due to being a governor at St Berteline's Church of England (Aided) Primary School, The Park Primary School and Astmoor Primary School).

COU22 PRIMARY CAPITAL PROGRAMME - EXECUTIVE BOARD
5TH JUNE 2008 (MINUTE NO. EXB11)

The Council considered a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Young People, which provided an outline of the draft Primary Strategy for Change that had been developed as part of the Primary Capital Programme. The report sought approval by the Council of the Strategy prior to its submission to the DCSF by 16th June 2008.

The report sought approval of the capital investment programme for submission to the DCSF.

RESOLVED: That the building projects prioritised for 2009/2010 and 2010/2011 be ratified.

Strategic Director,
Children & Young
People

COU23 ANNUAL REPORTS FROM PPBs

The Council considered a report of the Strategic Director – Corporate and Policy, outlining the Annual Reports of each of the Policy and Performance Boards (PPBs), which had been submitted in accordance with the Council's Constitution.

RESOLVED: That the 2007-2008 Annual Reports submitted from the Policy and Performance Boards be received.

COU24 APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

The Council considered a report of the Strategic Director – Corporate and Policy regarding the appointment of Members to serve on various outside bodies. A document was tabled showing recommendations put forward.

It was reported that the Liberal Democrat group, would notify the Chief Executive of any changes/amendments in respect of their representatives on outside bodies.

RESOLVED: That representatives be appointed to outside bodies in accordance with:

- (1) the tabled report (see appendix to these minutes); and
- (2) the Liberal Democrat group notifying the Chief Executive of any changes/amendments to their representatives on outside bodies.

Strategic Director,
Corporate &
Policy

COU25 APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBER OF STANDARDS COMMITTEE

The Council considered a report of the Strategic Director, Corporate and Policy which recommended the appointment of a new independent member to the Council's Standards Committee.

RESOLVED: That the Council appoint Mr Rob Garner as a new independent member of the Council's Standards Committee until the end of the 2011/2012 municipal year.

Strategic Director,
Corporate &
Policy

COU26 CHANGE OF COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The Council was advised that in accordance with Standing Order 30(4) there would be a change of representation on the Healthy Halton Policy and Performance Board. Councillor Bryant had stood down leaving a Liberal Democrat vacancy on the Board.

The Council was also advised that Councillor Wharton would replace Councillor Nelson on the Regulatory Committee.

(NB: Councillor Dennett declared a personal interest in respect of minute number CYP7 in the following item of business due to being a trustee of Halton Play Council.

Councillor J Lowe declared a personal interest in respect of minute number CYP10 in the following item of business due to being a governor at Weston Primary School).

COU27 MINUTES OF POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARDS AND THE BUSINESS EFFICIENCY BOARD

The Council considered the reports on the work of the following Boards in the period since the meeting of the Council on 23rd April 2008:

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

(NB: Councillor Wainwright declared a personal interest in respect of minute number DEV9 08/00173FUL due to representing ward constituents).

COU28 COMMITTEE MINUTES

The Council considered the reports on the work of the following Committees in the period since the meeting of the Council on 23rd April 2008:

Development Control
Standards
Regulatory

Meeting ended at 7.35 p.m.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

At a meeting of the Executive Board on Wednesday, 9 September 2009 in the Marketing Suite, Municipal Building

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

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Gerrard, McInerney and Nelson

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: L. Derbyshire, B. Dodd, D. Johnson, I. Leivesley, G. Meehan, A. Pannell, M. Reaney, D. Tregea and T. Upton

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

Action

EXB27 MINUTES

The Minutes of 16 July 2009 were taken as read and signed as correct record

EXB28 BSF OUTLINE BUSINESS PLAN

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Young People which provided a summary of the peer assessment undertaken on the BSF Outline Business Case (OBC), the outcome of the assessment.

The Board was advised that the assessment praised Halton for the level of stakeholder engagement in the process, the quality on the BSF Outline Business Case, and responsiveness of the Council to any queries and clarifications they had raised. They confirmed their approval of Halton's Outline Business Case subject to the following three technical conditions:

- HM Treasury approval;
- Confirmation by Executive Board of the Council's commitment to post LEP costs; and,

- The approval of the statutory consultation on the “Grange Schools” (Nursery, Infant, Junior and Comprehensive) before the end of September 2009.

The Board was further advised that HM Treasury approval had subsequently been confirmed. On 24 September 2009, the Executive Board would be asked to make a decision on the outcome of the statutory consultation to close The Grange Nursery, Infant and Junior Schools; change the age range of The Grange Comprehensive from 3-16 years (offering 0-16 provision with support from the day care service) and enlarging the school so that it becomes The Grange School.

In addition, approval was sought to confirm the Local Education Partnership (LEP) funding post, thus ensuring all the conditions set by the (MRA) meeting as listed in 3.4 of the report had been met.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the requirements of the Outline Business Case as set out in the report be approved;
- (2) the Council continues to monitor BSF programme costs closely, making agreed funding available to ensure the effective delivery of the Programme within the expected timescales; and
- (3) Following the establishment of the Local Education Partnership the internal project costs estimated at £300,000 will continue to be committed by the Council during both construction and post construction phase to ensure contract monitoring and support functions can be maintained.

Strategic Director
– Children &
Young People

EXB29 TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Health and Community which advised of proposed changes to the use of Grangeway Court (GWC) and sought approval to implement the necessary change to the Council’s Housing Allocations Policy following a period of consultation with Registered Social Landlord (RSL) partners.

The Board was advised that there had been a major shift in the way Councils had been encouraged to manage

homelessness by Central Government over the last few years. This had resulted in an increased emphasis on early intervention and prevention strategies rather than 'crisis management'. This replicated the approach taken in other service areas.

The Board was further advised that a change in the Council's Allocations Policy would be required, as it did not currently specifically assist those ready to 'move on' from supported housing. The use of GWC as supported housing rather than temporary accommodation would require a mechanism to facilitate a 'move on' to other forms of housing. Without this minor change in the Council's Allocations Policy, a preventative placement in 'supported housing' would not be perceived as an attractive option, if ultimately there was no pathway into social housing.

It was therefore proposed that families in supported accommodation were dealt with in practice in the same manner as singles in hostel accommodation i.e. they were awarded points to facilitate 'move on' (600 was suggested based on an analysis undertaken by Halton Housing Trust on the current waiting list and points categories).

In addition, all Local Authorities with housing responsibilities had been tasked with meeting a Government target that their use of temporary accommodation for homeless households would reduce by 50% by 2010.

It was noted that the adopted preventative approach to homelessness in Halton had been very successful.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the proposed change in use of Grangeway Court (GWC) to supported housing be approved;
- (2) the complementary amendment required to the Council's Housing Allocations Policy to facilitate this change be noted;
- (3) that it be agreed that households placed at GWC as a preventative solution to a threat of homelessness are awarded 600 points on the Council's Housing Register; and
- (4) the Board review the effectiveness of the change in use of Grangeway Court in 12 months time.

Strategic Director
– Health and
Community

EXB30 GAMBLING ACT 2005 STATEMENT OF GAMBLING POLICY

The Board considered a report of the Operational Director, Legal which sought endorsement of the Gambling Policy set out in the report.

The Board was advised that The Gambling Act 2005 required a local authority to produce a Statement of Gambling Policy every three years. The current Gambling Policy had come into effect on 29 January 2007. Therefore, a new statement of gambling policy must be in force by the end of January 2010 and adopted by the Council at least a month before that date. The meeting of the Council on 17 September 2009 would therefore, be a suitable date to consider adopting the statement.

The Board was further advised that the Council could only adopt the statement after a formal consultation in accordance with the 2005 Act. It was suggested that the consultation period begin on or around 11th September 2009 and end by 16th October 2009. This would allow a reasonable time for consideration of comments from consultees.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the draft statement of gambling policy attached to the report be the Council's consultation document for the purposes of section 349 Gambling Act 2005;
- (2) the Operational Director, Legal, Organisation Development and Human Resources determine all matters relating to the consultation process; and
- (3) a further report be presented to the Board following the consultation process.

Strategic Director
– Corporate &
Policy

EXB31 HALTON EFFICIENCY PROGRAMME - DECISIONS AND IMPLEMENTATION

The Board considered a report of the Chief Executive which outlined that the first wave of Efficiency Programme workstreams were currently entering the implementation stage. This was likely to require that structures within affected areas were amended, resulting in the deletion and creation of posts on the establishment to adopt a more efficient organisational design.

The Board was advised that it was imperative that, after consultation, in the event of a need being identified for changes to staffing structures, these changes are made as quickly as possible in order that new structures could be implemented to achieve enhanced economy, efficiency and effectiveness in provision of public services. The proposal was that changes were made to take effect from 1st April 2010, thus securing targeted efficiency savings and related service changes and improvements. The changes would bear on:-

- Management Structures;
- Transactional Support Services;
- Non-Transactional Support Services;
- Green (now – Open) Spaces Service; and
- Property Services.

The Board was further advised that the report sought approval to grant delegated authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Services, to amend and approve organisational structures, make changes in conditions of service, take decisions on redundancy and other arrangements for termination of employment, and such other decisions as may be necessary to carry through and implement the Efficiency Programme.

In addition, it was reported that this would ensure that momentum was maintained within the programme, and that service improvement and savings could be secured at the earliest opportunity.

It was noted that a Members seminar to look at the progress made on the efficiency programme to date and the future steps of the programme would take place on 17 September 2009.

RESOLVED: That the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Services be authorised to: amend and approve organisational structures, make changes in conditions of service, take decisions on redundancy and other arrangements for termination of employment, and take such other decisions as may be necessary to carry through and implement the Efficiency Programme.

Chief Executive

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Environment which sought approval for a six week period of public consultation (24 September to 5 November 2009) of the content of the Halton Core Strategy Preferred Options document.

The Board was advised that subsequent to the period of public consultation on the Core Strategy Preferred Options document and the collation and consideration of representations made, the team would begin to work on the Core Strategy Publication document. This would be the final stage of significant preparation of the Core Strategy. The Publication document would be published for a six-week consultation period, where representations would be able to be made. However, it was reported that these may only relate to issues of the soundness of the DPD.

The Board was further advised that the preparation of the Publication document was due to commence in November 2009, with it being published for consultation in September 2010. Following this period and the completion of any changes to the document, the Core Strategy would be submitted to the Secretary of State in December 2010. The subsequent public examination of the document was due to commence in April 2010.

In addition, following the public examination, and taking into consideration the Inspector's Binding Report, it was anticipated that the Council would adopt the Core Strategy in October 2011.

Reason (s) For Decision

Under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act, the production of a DPD must involve several important stages of preparation. This "Preferred Options" stage of the Core Strategy represents the second crucial stage in document preparation, and follows from the "Issues and Options" papers, which were subject to public consultation in 2006.

Alternative Options Considered And Rejected

This is a statutory step of plan making that is defined in law and as such there are no alternative options available.

Implementation Date

This decision will be implemented via a public consultation held between the 24th September and 5th November 2009.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) The Halton Core Strategy Preferred Options document be approved for the purposes of a six-week period of public consultation;
- (2) Further editorial and technical amendments that do not materially affect the content of the Halton Core Strategy Preferred Options document be agreed by the Operational Director - Environmental and Regulatory Services in consultation with the Executive Board Member for Planning, Transportation, Regeneration and Renewal, as necessary, before the document is published for public consultation; and
- (3) The results of the statutory public consultation exercise on the Halton Core Strategy Preferred Options document be reported back to the Executive Board following the consultation period.

Strategic Director
- Environment

MINUTES ISSUED: 11th September 2009

CALL IN: 18 September 2009

Any matter decided by the Executive Board may be called in no later than 18 September 2009.

Meeting ended at 2.30 p.m.

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EXECUTIVE BOARD

At a meeting of the Executive Board on Thursday, 24 September 2009 in the Marketing Suite, Municipal Building

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

Apologies for Absence: Councillor Gerrard

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: M. Reaney, G. Cook, B. Dodd, I. Leivesley, A. McNamara, G. Meehan, D. Parr, D. Tregoe, C. Halpin and S. Wallace-Bonner

Also in attendance: Councillor Redhead

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

EXB33 MINUTES

Action

The Minutes of 9th September 2009 were taken as read and signed as correct record.

EXB34 WORLD EXPO SHANGHAI

The Board received a report of the Chief Executive which set out that the World Expo in Shanghai ran between 1st May and 31st October 2009 and would attract around 70 million visitors. It was regarded as a once in a generation opportunity to consolidate existing and forge new relationships in the World's emerging markets and was predicted to deliver up to £50m benefits to Liverpool and the North West over the next decade.

It was noted that Liverpool was the only UK city to have a dedicated Pavilion at the event. Its presence was being led by Liverpool Vision in partnership with Liverpool City Council, the Liverpool-Shanghai Partnership and the Northwest Regional Development Agency (NWDA).

It was further noted that a number of themes would

be addressed by Liverpool's Pavilion during the Expo. They were:

- Urban regeneration, energy, sustainability and the environment;
- Advanced technology and science;
- Culture, health and sport
- The Knowledge Sector;
- Professional services; and
- Liverpool: the gateway to the North west (Ports, airports and property development).

Pavilion sponsorship opportunities, which started at £6,000 for individuals organisations, included a package of professional business support which was outlined in the report.

The Board was advised that Peel Holdings was to be the lead sponsor of the Liverpool Pavilion at the Expo. Peel was investing more than £100,000 in the deal to be the headline sponsor for the Pavilion during the six-month event and more sponsors were expected to be announced in coming weeks.

It was further noted that the Liverpool City Region authorities had been invited to take a Platinum Sponsorship Package – costing £18,000 – so they could be involved in the event. St. Helens, Wirral, Sefton and Knowsley were all committed to a Platinum Sponsorship Package.

RESOLVED: That Halton Borough Council commit to Platinum Sponsorship Package.

EXB35 IMPLICATIONS OF THE ATLANTIC GATEWAY IN HALTON

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director – Environment which aimed to summarise the “Atlantic Gateway Spatio-Economic Framework Options Paper”, published by the North West Development Agency (NWDA) in terms of its implications for Halton.

The Board was advised that the “Atlantic Gateway Spatio-Economic Framework Options Paper” (the Options Paper) was prepared by the consultants Ekosgen on behalf of the NWDA, and was published in August 2009 for a period of stakeholder consultation. The Options Paper sought the views of partners on the options for interventions associated with the implementation of Atlantic Gateway, across a series of themes. The Options Paper was attached

to the report at Appendix 1.

It was noted that the Atlantic Gateway was the spatial area anchored by the cities of Liverpool and Manchester and the corridor between them, including Warrington, Halton and parts of Cheshire. The Atlantic Gateway concept sought to join together the disparate elements of this large sub-region, linking initiatives and interventions, including physical sites and infrastructure, and also social, environmental and most significantly economic policy approaches.

It was further noted that the Options Paper was primarily based upon themes of intervention, creating a high level economic and spatial framework. This methodology looked to establish what the Atlantic Gateway should aim to become rather than assessing the potential contribution of individual development sites in the first instance. However, the Atlantic Gateway would be influenced by Peel Holdings Ocean Gateway investment strategy, which was based on the development of Peel's portfolio sites in the North West and shared some of the same themes, aims and goals.

In policy terms, the Atlantic Gateway sought to build upon the Government initiatives to focus economic development on strong regions and sub-regions, and sought to overcome potential problems with City Region insularity by ensuring that both Manchester and Liverpool look outwards as well as inwards. This meant that there was an opportunity for Halton, over and above its role in the Liverpool City Region, to play an important role in this larger sub-regional area.

The Board was advised that the Options Paper built on a series of Foundation Reports assessing the Atlantic Gateway in a number of ways, which were set out in the report. The Options Paper set out a number of areas in which it was anticipated that organising, planning, advocacy and prioritisation at the spatial level of the Atlantic Gateway had some merit. The paper also recognised that in some areas, a more localised, informal approach to capitalising on opportunities may be more appropriate. The key areas identified were outlined in detail in the report.

It was further noted that the Options Paper focussed on a number of underlying principles guiding the Atlantic Gateway, as outlined in the report. The Options Paper stated that it was not the intention for the Atlantic Gateway to subsume current arrangements or to take over the role of the city regions and sub-regional partnerships; rather, there would be a focus on key areas of added value.

The Board was advised that the Options Paper presented the key areas outlined above in terms of the pertinent issues, why the key areas presented an opportunity for the Atlantic Gateway, and the potential options for dealing with the key area within the Gateway remit. In most cases, there were around three options presented, based on varying levels of intervention, ranging from no or little intervention to high level or radical intervention.

The Board was further advised that a summary of the issues and options presented for each of the key areas, along with suggestions of potential implications for Halton, was attached to the report at Appendix 2.

It was noted that being in a central position within the Atlantic Gateway Area, the implementation of the options proposed would have an impact upon Halton. Depending on the degree, type and level of intervention which formed the preferred options, these impacts would range from relatively minor to potentially extremely large. The most significant of these impacts were summarised and set out within the report, with consideration being given to the opportunities afforded by the Atlantic Gateway for Halton, as well as the areas of the Options Paper which could be altered or improved to better reflect Halton's needs and aspirations.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the implications of the implementation of the "Atlantic Gateway" Options in Halton are noted; and
- (2) the Council respond to the Options proposed within the "Atlantic Gateway Spatio-Economic Framework Options Paper" in the manner outlined within this paper.

EXB36 RESIDENTS-ONLY PARKING SCHEMES

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director, Environment which reviewed Council policy in relation to residents only parking schemes.

The Board was advised that the increasing number of vehicles on our roads was creating more and more pressure on parking space on the highway. The problems were at their worst adjacent to schools, shops, transport hubs and other key destinations but there was also a growing problem with residential areas, partly due to multiple car ownership in

some households. There was pressure on parking spaces to the areas around Runcorn and Widnes North (Farnworth) rail stations. In Victoria Road (Widnes North rail station) where most residents had off-road parking facilities, the problem had been largely solved by the use of parking restrictions.

It was noted that parking on Halton's roads was free and open to all highway users on an equal basis, provided their vehicles were street legal. It was an uncomfortable truth that nobody had an absolute right to expect to park on the highway directly outside or even near their own home. Owning and running a car was a lifestyle choice that residents made and, therefore it was their responsibility to ensure that they could legally park their vehicle when not in use. The highway was for the passing or repassing of traffic and not for parking.

It was further noted in Halton, there was no charge levied for the use of the limited number of Council owned car parks and thus there was no income from these facilities and they were a financial liability to the Council, due to their ongoing maintenance costs. Most parking provision associated with the town centre and supermarket shopping was in private ownership and again carried no charge, currently. However, there was charging by the owners of car parks at some locations such as the hospital and Runcorn mainline railway station. The Council had commissioned parking studies in Runcorn and Widnes Town centres and in Halton Lea. These studies provided the base data and analysis to enable consideration by the Council, in conjunction with private car park operations, of future car parking policy. Enforcement of on-highway parking restrictions was the responsibility of Cheshire Police.

The Board was advised that Cheshire Police had been consulted to ascertain if they would be prepared to enforce a Residents Only Parking (ROPS) scheme in Halton, if one was introduced. This request had been declined as Police had indicated that the Force's position on residents only parking was that it was solely a local authority issue. Extensive internet research and contact with other local authorities confirmed that this was the Force's view and was consistent with those of other Forces in the Country. The Police were also not prepared to enforce ROPS, even if the funding was provided by the Council to enable officers to work overtime.

It was noted that using powers introduced by the Road Traffic Act 2004, it would be possible for Halton to take

on responsibility for enforcing on street parking restrictions instead of the Police, including any ROPS. These Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) powers would mean that the majority of parking offences, including parking on yellow lines and mis-using disabled persons' parking bays, would no longer be criminal offences. A total of 247 local authorities had taken on CPE powers to March 2009, freeing some Police resources to tackle more serious crime.

The case for introducing CPE in Halton was in the process of being considered and would include an assessment of the financial implications as well as any enforcement benefits. However, should Halton subsequently decide to adopt CPE powers it would be able to keep the income from any parking tickets issued under the initiative. This income would then have to be used to cover all operational costs including funding parking attendants (called Civil Enforcement Officers) who would replace Police staff for enforcement, and also the management and administration systems associated with collecting fines and pursuing defaulters. The operational costs would be dependent on the areas covered and the times of operation. If the income from any parking charges issued did not cover operational costs, any shortfall would have to be met from other Council resources. It followed that there was a direct relationship between the number of parking tickets issued and the level of parking enforcement that could be resourced.

The Board was advised that, as indicated above, there was no charging regime in place either on street or in the limited number of off street car parks, which were operated by the Council. Therefore the Council had no parking income against which it could offset the cost of a ROPS within a CPE regime. Without wishing to prejudice the outcome of the Council's feasibility study into CPE, its ability to fund a ROPS would be limited.

It was noted that there had been intermittent requests over the years for ROPS to be introduced in individual streets in the Borough, usually triggered by residents being unable to park immediately outside their homes. However, even taking into consideration the town centres and other areas subject to high levels of often transitory demand for parking space, it was clear that the area around Runcorn mainline rail station was one of the most under pressure, with Holloway being the main focus of attention. This was due to the on-street parking by rail users, who wished to avoid paying daily charges at the station's car parks and the practical difficulties facing householders in constructing off

road parking, due to the height of their front gardens relative to the carriageway of Holloway.

The Board was advised that the situation had been much worse over the past few months as construction of a new multi-storey car park at the station required the temporary closure of the main car park. A large proportion of the usual parking demand was displaced onto the surrounding streets and following the opening of the multi-storey car park, drivers were now reluctant to pay for parking. Instead they were continuing to park on surrounding roads, wherever possible, with some leaving cars outside resident's homes for days on end.

Many of Holloway's residents see the introduction of ROPS as a simple solution provided that the restrictions were enforced robustly. However, based on the reported experiences of other local authorities, such schemes had a number of associated problems and impacts, which were set out in the report and it was felt inappropriate to introduce a scheme at the present time.

RESOLVED: That residents only parking schemes should not be introduced at the present time.

EXB37 RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director, Environment, which sought approval to the adoption of Halton's first Rights of Way Improvement Plan, following a 12 week consultation with other local authorities, user groups and outside agencies.

The Board was advised that Section 60 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 introduced a requirement on all local authorities in England and Wales to prepare a Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP).

ROWIPs were not about rights of way in isolation, they were intended to deliver an integrated network of routes in and between town and country. The areas the Rights of Way Improvement Plan must assess were set out in the report.

It was also noted that the plan must contain a Statement of Actions that the Highway Authority intended to carry out in order to improve its network, with particular regard to issues identified within the assessment. The Rights of Way network was undoubtedly a major means of accessing the countryside and key services, but on its own

did not show the full picture. There were many other routes and sites that were used by the general public for informal countryside access and every day journeys that were not legally recorded as definitive public rights of way. With this in mind, the Rights of Way Improvement Plan for Halton considered the whole network of access routes, public open spaces and sites, as well as definitive rights of way and highways. It also assessed the whole spectrum of users and journey purposes, from disabled needs to routes to open access land.

It was noted that once the ROWIP was published, the Council was required to make a new assessment and review it within 10 years. Thereafter, they would review the plan at not more than 10 year intervals.

The ROWIP was a strategic document and would form a distinct strand of Halton's next Local Transport Plan (LTP), which was being prepared on a joint basis with Merseytravel and the five Merseyside districts. This was Halton's first full 10 year Rights of Way Improvement Plan.

The draft Rights of Way Improvement Plan had been used as the basis for a 12 week consultation with a wide range of users and stakeholders to enable their views to be taken into consideration in the preparation of the final document. The Board was advised that only 14 formal written responses were received, these responses along with discussions with other consultees, were found to be positive, in addition, 17 questionnaires on the ROWIP were also returned. On the whole, the document was well received and strongly supported. Summaries of the results of the questionnaire survey and written responses were set out in the Appendices to the report.

The Board was further advised that the draft Rights of Way Improvement Plan was also considered by the Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board at its meeting on 17th June 2009, when it resolved that the draft Rights of Way Improvement Plan be forwarded to the Executive Board for consideration.

Under the Strategic Environment Assessment Directive and Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, there was requirement to undertake a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Sustainability Appraisal (SA) on certain plans and programmes, such as the ROWIP. The results of these assessments were set out in the report.

RESOLVED: That the adoption of the Rights of Way Improvement Plan, subject to any minor amendments and the inclusion of photographs that may be required prior to its publication, being delegated to the Strategic Director, Environment, in consultation with the Executive Board Member for Planning, transportation, Regeneration and Renewal be approved.

(NB: Councillor Nelson declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the following item due to being a Chair of Governors of The Grange and left the meeting during consideration of the item).

EXB38 SECONDARY RE-ORGANISATION - RUNCORN - KEY DECISION

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Young People, which provided a response to the statutory consultation to close The Grange Nursery, Infant and Junior School, change the age range of The Grange Comprehensive School and enlarge the school from 1050 to 1445 pupils. An outline of the decision-making process was also included in the report. In addition, it provided a summary of the response to the pre-statutory consultation to expand The Heath Specialist Technology College and provided an outline of the next stage in the procedure.

It was noted that at the Executive Board meeting on 9th April 2009 it was agreed that statutory consultation could be undertaken to discontinue The Grange Nursery, Infant and Junior Schools; expand the age range of The Grange Comprehensive and enlarge the school to establish an "All Through School".

The Board was advised that the statutory proposal was published on the 25th June 2009. Letters were sent to all parents and provided for staff and governors. These letters contained a copy of the statutory proposals and included a feedback form and contact details. They were also provided the date, time and venue of consultation meetings. In addition, the public meeting was advertised in the local press and posters were displayed at the four schools, plus other secondary schools, Children's Centres, Community Centres, Direct Links and the libraries. The consultation details were also included in the circular which was distributed to all schools and Children's Services settings. A copy of the statutory notice was appended to the report.

It was noted that a Governors meeting was held on the consultation on 1st July 2009 and the staff meeting and

public consultation meeting at The Grange Comprehensive School on the 2nd July 2009. The staff meeting was well attended and a copy of the presentation used was placed on the website, along with the questions raised. Those people wishing to respond to the consultation were advised to put their views in writing. A total of 20 responses had been received in response to the consultation. The responses had all been from staff, parents and governors. There had been no objections to the proposals. All those who had responded had supported the proposal.

It was further noted that at the same meeting of the Executive Board on 9th April 2009 that pre-statutory consultation could be taken on the proposal to expand The Heath Specialist Technology College. The consultation commenced on the proposal on 25th June 2009 similar to that of the Grange. The proposed expansion was discussed at the Governors meeting where it was supported. There were a total of three responses received to the consultation, these responses were all in support of the proposal to expand the College.

The Board was advised that the decision-maker (Executive Board) must decide on the proposal within two months of the end of the representation period otherwise the decision must be referred to the Adjudicator for a decision. If referred to the Adjudicator the proposals and any representations must be forwarded to the Adjudicator within one week of the end of the two month representation period along with any representations received and not withdrawn. The report set out what choices the decision-maker could take and it was noted that conditional approval could only be granted in a limited number of circumstances.

It was noted that the statutory consultation be undertaken in Autumn 2009 with the proposal to expand The Heath Specialist Technology College. Following completion of the statutory consultation a further report would be provided to the Executive Board for consideration.

REASON(S) FOR DECISION

To provide more choice and diversity and retain pupils within the Borough.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

N/A

IMPLEMENTATION DATE

A decision will be required by Executive Board prior to 24th September 2009.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) Proposals having been published in pursuance of the powers set out in sections 15(1) and 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and having had regard to the statutory guidance and to responses to the consultation it is RESOLVED that the following related proposals be approved:-
 - (a) with effect from 31st August 2010, The Grange Nursery School, The Grange Infants School and The Grange Junior School be discontinued;
 - (b) with effect from 1st September 2010 the age range of The Grange Comprehensive School be changed from 11 -16 years to 3 – 16 years; and
 - (c) with effect from 1st September 2010 The Grange Comprehensive School be enlarged from 1050 pupils to 1445 pupils and become known as The Grange School; and
- (2) statutory consultation be undertaken to expand The Heath Specialist Technology College from 1050 (210 per year group) in 2009 to 1200 in 2011 (240 per year group) to 1350 (270) in 2013.

EXB39 HEALTH & COMMUNITY CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2008-09 AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2009-10

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director, Health and Community which informed the Board of the 2008/9 capital programme outturn and the 2009/10 capital programme.

A report was presented to the Board on 2nd April 2009 setting out the forecast outturn for the Health and Community capital programme for 2008/9 and the reasons for monies being carried forward to 2009/10, together with a proposed programme of schemes for 2009/10. Due to the delay in announcing the housing grant allocations from the Government Office, the report highlighted that assumptions had been made about the level of resources likely to be

available in 2009/10.

The Board was advised that the allocation for the housing programme had been announced as £2.911m, an increase of £2.289m over the 2008/9 allocation. After several years of declining grant in Halton, this level of funding considerably exceeded what was expected and was due to the introduction of a revised funding distribution formula which more closely reflected the priorities in the recently revised Regional Housing Strategy.

Given that the housing programme had been supported by corporate capital growth in recent years when the housing grant was reducing, and the current pressures on the Council in terms of capital, it was proposed that the approved carry forward of £0.736m be vired to support the corporate capital programme.

It was noted that there would be a requirement for some resources to be set aside to fund Halton's share of ICT and Software costs for the development and introduction of a sub-regional Choice Based Lettings Scheme, but the amount involved would not be clear until much later in the financial year. A provisional sum of £50,000 had therefore been included in the programme.

This still left £1.329m of the new housing allocation unallocated. There were a number of potential calls on this fund, but the main priority was in the Housing and Supporting People Strategies was to secure the development of additional extra care housing schemes for the growing population of older people in the Borough.

The Board was advised that a further priority was the Registered Social Landlord (RSL) Partnership Agreement. This partnership between HBC and the RSLs began in July 2008. In 2008/9 the Council identified £467k to be used to fund, on a 50:50 basis, home adaptations within RSL properties.

In 2009/10 the Council had allocated £450k to the Partnership Agreement. To date £410k had been paid, committed to schemes agreed and it was anticipated that the RSLs could carry out further adaptations to a value £400k requiring additional partnership funding of £200k, from the Council, to be match funded by £200k from the RSL.

The report set out the actual funding available for the Health and Community capital programme for 2009/10 after

the adjustment detailed within the report.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the recommendation in 3.3 of the report be approved; and
- (2) the Board recommend the Council to approve the capital programme for 1009/10, as set out in Appendix 1.

EXB40 EXTRA CARE HOUSING - DEVELOPMENT OPTIONS AND RESOURCING

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director, Health and Community which informed the Board of progress to date in delivering new schemes as part of the Extra Care Commissioning Strategy and which sought delegated authority in the use of housing capital resources to support the development of future schemes as necessary.

It noted that in February 2008 “Lifetime Homes, Lifetime Neighbours: A National Strategy for Housing in an Ageing Society” set out the Government’s vision for housing within an ageing society, describing a range of housing provision that would be necessary to accommodate future growth, including extra care housing. Nationally, by 2026 older people would account for 48% of the forecast household growth resulting 2.4m extra older person households than currently.

In Halton, the impact over the next ten years was a dramatic rise in the over 60s (27%) and over 75 (19%), This, combined with older people’s desire to live independently for longer, meant that Halton had a significant shortfall in current and projected extra care provision.

In comparing Halton with a sample of local authorities in the North West, Halton had a similar number of units in proportion to the older population as Blackpool, but a significantly lower number than Warrington, Blackburn and St. Helens.

There was currently only one 40 unit extra care scheme in the Borough and the Commissioning Strategy for Extra Care – May 2008, produced on behalf of the Council identified an immediate need for 137 additional units of extra care housing and a further 59 units by 2017, a total need of 196 units.

The Board was advised that in recent years Halton had faced some difficulty identifying sites suitable for this type of scheme but as a result, a piece of work recently undertaken. A number of sites had been identified which represented possibility for development, as set out in the report.

Due to this year's unexpectedly large capital settlement, there was currently £1.329m uncommitted in the housing capital programme. This offered an opportunity to directly support the development of extra care housing, and the Board was asked to agree that the bulk of this sum of uncommitted capital be reserved for this purpose, and to acknowledge that due to the long lead in time for such developments, much of the expenditure would not be committed until 2010/11.

RESOLVED: That the Board:

- (1) agrees to reserve the uncommitted capital in the 2009/10 housing programme to support the development of extra care housing by Registered Social Landlords;
- (2) acknowledges that due to the development timescales involved, much of the expenditure would not be committed during 2009/10 and any uncommitted capital be carried forward to 2010/11; and
- (3) grants delegated authority to the Strategic Director, Health and Community, in consultation with the Operational Director, Financial Services and the Executive Board Member for Community, to determine appropriate levels of financial support on a scheme by scheme basis.

EXB41 HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY - KEY DECISION

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director, Health and Community which sought the Board's approval to ratify a new Homelessness Strategy for the Borough.

The Board was advised that the Homelessness Act 2002 required each local authority to review the extent and nature of homelessness in their area and to produce a strategy and action plan to prevent and tackle the problem. Halton's first Homelessness Strategy was published in 2003 which included measures to prevent homelessness and to develop and improve services for households who become

homeless.

The new Homelessness Strategy built upon the progress made from the previous Homelessness Strategy and focused more heavily on prevention and early intervention strategies.

The report set out the key findings of the Review and the key recommendations that came from this.

The Board was advised that a formal consultation exercise was carried out in March 2009, to seek views on the draft documents referred to above. The Council received six formal responses of which three were from external sources, one from an Elected Member and two from internal officers.

However, it should also be noted that the blue print for developing the draft Homelessness Strategy was presented to the Borough's Homelessness Forum. The Homelessness Forum also had the opportunity to consider and comment on the findings and draft strategy on several occasions ahead of the wider consultation exercise.

The Board was advised that a key component that the respondents were supportive of was the preventative emphasis in the new strategy, its general strategic direction and the objectives and recommendations. The Review and Strategy was presented to the Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board on the 17th June 2009 and endorsed its content.

It was noted that the draft Documents had now been revised taking into account all the appropriate comments. Where possible the recommendations had been rationalised in order to clarify and prioritise strategic thinking to aid delivery of resulting actions.

REASON(S) FOR DECISION

To adopt a new fit for purpose Homelessness Strategy for the Borough covering the next five years.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

The Action Plan prioritises a number of developmental activities. The actions highlighted are considered to be the ones which would optimise the potential to improve outcomes for homeless households and those at risk of homelessness.

IMPLEMENTATION DATE

With immediate effect.

RESOLVED: That the Executive Board agrees the adoption of the new Strategy.

EXB42 SCHEDULE 12A OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

The Board considered:

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

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

EXB43 ACCOMMODATION

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director, Corporate and Policy which sought approval to a number of accommodation proposals aimed at ensuring that Catalyst House is vacated by 1 April 2011, to facilitate the construction of the Mersey Gateway.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the approach outlined in this report to vacate Catalyst House by 1 April 2011 be approved; and
- (2) the Council's approval be sought to vary the Capital Programme to allow the prudential borrowing of £3m to fund the commencement of the refurbishment of the Municipal Buildings.

MINUTES ISSUED: 6th October 2009

CALL IN: 13th October 2009

Any matter decided by the Executive Board may be called in no later than 13th October 2009.

Meeting ended at 2.50 p.m.

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EXECUTIVE BOARD SUB COMMITTEE

*At a meeting of the Executive Board Sub Committee on Thursday, 10 September 2009
in the Marketing Suite, Municipal Building*

Present: Councillors Wharton (Chairman) and Harris

Apologies for Absence: Councillor Nelson

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: M. Reaney, G. Ferguson, B. Dodd, J. Hatton, S. Kirk and P. McWade

Also in attendance: Councillor Redhead

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

Action

ES16 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 16 July 2009 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

Arising from the discussion, in relation to Minute ES13 it was reported that further discussions had taken place with Members and the matter had been resolved.

QUALITY AND PERFORMANCE PORTFOLIO

ES17 HALTON LEA LIBRARY – MEETING ROOM HIRE CHARGES

The Sub-Committee considered a report which set out the proposed charges for the hire of the meeting rooms in the newly refurbished Halton Lea Library. Since the refurbishment of the library there had been an increase in the number of meeting rooms that were now available for hire. To take account of the varying sizes of each of these rooms, the current scale of charges need to be revised.

The proposed pricing structure reflected the size of each of the rooms and was in line with the charges levied for other Council Community facilities.

RESOLVED: That the charges as proposed be approved.

CORPORATE SERVICES PORTFOLIO

ES18 SPENDING AS AT 30 JUNE 2009

The Sub-Committee considered a report which summarised the overall revenue and capital spending position as at 30th June 2009.

In overall terms, revenue expenditure was below the budget profile, however, this was only a guide to eventual spending. It was noted that spending on employees was also below the budget profile; this was primarily due to the delay in setting the 2009 pay award. The budget included 2.5% for the pay award and the latest offer was around 1%. However, the arbitration decision regarding the 2008 pay award increased the award by 0.3% to 2.75% in total which was 0.25% higher than budget.

It was noted that income was currently below budget profile in a number of areas. At this stage it did not appear that shortfalls in income were having an adverse effect upon the Council's overall net budget, however, this may be due to delays in spending and would need to be kept under close control by Directorates.

With regard to Capital Spending, it was reported that spending to 30th June 2009 totalled £3.8m, which was 57% of the planned spending of £6.7m at this stage. However, this only represented 10% of the total capital programme of £36.7m (which assumed a 20% slippage between years).

Although historically, capital expenditure was significantly higher in the latter part of the financial year, it was important that Project Managers maintained pressure to keep projects and spending on schedule and in particular, to ensure that all external funding was maximised.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

ES19 TREASURY MANAGEMENT 2008/09

The Sub-Committee considered a report, which reviewed activities on Treasury Management for the year 2008/09.

The Annual Report covered:

- the Council's current Treasury Position;
- Performance Management;
- the Borrowing Strategy for 2008/09;
- the Borrowing Outturn for 2008/09;
- Compliance with Treasury limits;
- Investment Strategy;
- Investments Outturn for 2008/09;
- Debt Rescheduling; and
- Other issues.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

ES20 TREASURY MANAGEMENT 2009/10 1ST QUARTER:
APRIL - JUNE

The Sub-Committee considered a report which updated Members on the activities undertaken on the Money Market as required by the Treasury Management Policy.

It was noted that all the activities, including prudential indicators, complied with policy guidelines. However it was noted that during the quarter the authority exceeded the limit with the National Westminster Bank by a small amount over a weekend rather than place cash with a counterparty. A list of counterparties and their long term rating was circulated with the agenda.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

ES21 REVIEW OF THE FAIRER CHARGING POLICY 2009-10

The Sub-Committee considered a report which outlined a revised fairer charging policy for 2009-10. The Department of Health had published a 'Fairer Contributions Guidance Calculating an Individual's Contribution to their Personal Budget' in July 2009. Within this guidance, all Council's with Social Services responsibilities were required to introduce a revised Fairer Charging Policy to take into account personalised budgets.

A personal budget was an upfront allocation of social care resources to a person who is eligible for support. A service user may choose to ask the Council to arrange all the care and support they need, they may choose to receive the whole amount of their personal budget as a direct payment so they can organise their care and support themselves, they may choose to have their personal budget paid to a third party, or they may choose to have mix of the

options available.

With a personal budget, the charging system must compare the amount of a service users personal budget for the financial year with the maximum weekly charge they are assessed as being able to afford. This is a fundamental change as it affects the issue of charging service users for a week when they do not receive service, either through choice or circumstances.

At present, if a service user has their care commissioned by the Council and does not have service for one week; no charge is made for that week. The essence of this change was to bring services that had been commissioned by the Council into line with direct payments.

This would allow all service users irrespective of how they choose to meet their care needs, to have the ability to bank services, to use at a later point within the financial year, for example to purchase additional services whilst taking a holiday.

It was noted that the policy had been written with a view to ensuring any service user currently receiving care services would not be required to contribute an increased amount.

RESOLVED: That the Fairer Charging Policy be approved.

PLANNING, TRANSPORTATION, REGENERATION AND RENEWAL PORTFOLIO

ES22 REVIEW OF WARRINGTON ROAD TRANSIT SITE

In approving the pitch charges for the new Traveller transit site on 16th October 2008, the Sub Committee resolved that a report be submitted after six months to review income against costs. In order to consider the effectiveness of the facility and its financial and operational impact in the widest sense a report was considered by Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board on 17th June 2009. The recommendations from that meeting were noted in the report.

RESOLVED: That the Sub Committee

- (1) note the comments of the Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board; and

- (2) a further report be submitted to the next Sub Committee meeting on the detailed operation of the site.

MINUTES ISSUED: 21 September 2009

CALL IN: 29 September 2009

Any matter decided by the Executive Board Sub Committee may be called in no later than 29 September 2009.

Meeting ended at 11.10 a.m.

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EXECUTIVE BOARD SUB COMMITTEE

*At a meeting of the Executive Board Sub Committee on Thursday, 24 September 2009
in the Marketing Suite, Municipal Building*

Present: Councillors Wharton (Chairman) and Nelson

Apologies for Absence: Councillor Harris

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: M. Reaney, C. Halpin, A. McNamara, P. McWade and S. O'Sullibhan

Also in attendance: T. Hayes, Cheshire Police and Councillor Redhead

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

Action

ES23 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 9th September 2009 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

**PLANNING, TRANSPORTATION, REGENERATION AND
RENEWAL PORTFOLIO**

ES24 NORTON PRIORY BUSINESS CASE

The Sub-Committee received a report of the Strategic Director, Health and Community which informed Members on the progress of the Catering Contract at Norton Priory which had been provided by Adults with learning Disabilities Day Services since 25th October 2008 and which sought approval for the Business Plan.

The Council, like many other Councils across the UK had found it difficult to meet the Care Quality Commission's objectives of finding people known to Social Care, particularly those with Learning Difficulties, suitable employment opportunities.

In July 2008 negotiations with Norton Priory led to the

offer from Norton Priory to Adults with Learning Disability Day Services of a contract (SLA) to provide all the catering at Norton Priory. This included special, local and corporate events as well as the café.

Members were advised that Day Services had existing experience at providing community based catering projects at Murdishaw Café and Country Garden Buffet and had included the Norton Priory contract into its current operations without any increase to the establishment. The report set out the businesses run by Adults with Learning Disability Day Services.

The catalyst that enabled these services to become more recognisable as businesses was the award of the contract to provide the catering at Norton Priory, which began officially on 5th December 2008. This had been a genuinely commercial opportunity. The refectory at the museum was staffed Monday to Sunday with at least one member of staff and between 2 and 6 service users per day. Between the Norton Priory site, Murdishaw Café and Vine Street there were currently five service users receiving permitted earnings.

The feedback at Norton Priory continued to be positive and warm with customers commencing favourably on the quality, cost, variety and the friendliness of the service. The standards were closely monitored and the repeat customer base was steadily increasing.

It was noted that monthly meetings were being held with Norton Priory Trust's management team. The relationship remained strong and mutually beneficial. The success of the service and the healthy relationship had provided further opportunities to cater for fetes and large corporate events.

It was noted that since December 08 CGS's takings from Norton Priory, the buffets and the two days per week at Murdishaw Café amounted to £29,500. Two thirds of this was made up from the trade at Norton Priory.

Based on this trading history, the figures demonstrated that it was a profitable business. Margins were around 33% although this must be emphasised that the real costs of labour i.e. the costs associated with the staff who supported the service users to provide the services, were already paid for and effectively subsidised the business. This was not to say that in future the projects could not be outsourced or act as stand-alone enterprises. It

was noted that with this had come opportunities to diversify into other areas. The report set out a number of projects and businesses that Day Services and colleagues from the Children and Young People Directorate had worked on in the belief that they are both achievable and sustainable.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Strategic Director, Health and Community, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder, Health and Social Care be authorised to continue and, where appropriate, extend the contractual arrangements with Norton Priory Trust to provide catering and related services at Norton Priory;
- (2) a further financial report be submitted to the Sub-Committee in 12 months time; and
- (3) further update reports be submitted to the relevant Policy and Performance Board.

ES25 REVIEW OF WARRINGTON ROAD TRANSIT SITE

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director, Health and Community which provided details of operational information and costs incurred during the six months following the opening of the site on the 10th February 2009.

The Board was advised that when setting the £11 per day charge in October 2009 the Board, conscious that many elements of the forecast operational budget were estimates, decided to review the charge after six months of operational experience. Appendix 1 to the report set out the original budget forecast, actual costs incurred during the first six months of operations and a revised budget forecast.

It was noted that Appendix 2 detailed actual occupancy levels achieved for the first half year, and the revised budget forecast in the final column of Appendix 1 was based upon achieving an occupancy level of 60%, which was more in keeping with experience to date. Some of the costs were still estimated in the absence of bills having been received for certain services and assumptions had been made about the charges over the full year for electricity as winter consumption was likely to be higher than the first half of the year. Nevertheless this budget forecast represented the best estimate that could be made at this stage.

Given the stated assumptions, the site was forecast

to produce a deficit of just £1,723 over a full year, but this should be set in the context of the wider savings achieved in not having to deal with the usual level of unlawful encampments.

Financial provision for dealing with unlawful encampments had never appeared as an explicit item in directorate budgets but in May 2007 an exercise was undertaken to try to quantify the cost for the period 2005/6 and 2006/7. The combined results from the relevant sections in each Directorate were set out in the report. This also excluded the substantial Police costs involved as well.

In this respect the Sub Committee received an update from PC Hayes, Cheshire Police which gave details of the number of illegal encampments in Halton compared to surrounding areas and the action taken within Halton on illegal encampments.

The Board was advised that the site had clearly been a success in terms of meeting its original aim of reducing the costly and time consuming problem of unauthorised encampments in Halton. Halton's new approach to managing Traveller issues had been applauded by Traveller associations, the Police and neighbouring Councils and the reduction in encampments had also been welcomed by local businesses. This meant that Halton had already met its targets for the provision of transit site accommodation proposed in the recent draft figures set out under the partial review of the Regional Spatial Strategy.

A report was presented to the Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board on 17th June 2009 outlining how the site had been operating since it opened on the 10th February 2009 including similar (but not as up to date) information to that included in this report. The recommendations were noted by the Executive Board Sub-Committee on 10th September 2009.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Board reviews the current charging arrangements in respect of the transit site;
- (2) a feasibility study to extend the site be undertaken;
- (3) a further financial report be submitted to the Sub-Committee when the winter data was available; and
- (4) a further update reports be submitted to the relevant

Policy and Performance Board.

MINUTES ISSUED: 5th October 2009

CALL IN: 12th October 2009

Any matter decided by the Executive Board may be called in no later than 12th October 2009.

Meeting ended at 10.35 a.m.

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MERSEY GATEWAY EXECUTIVE BOARD

*At a meeting of the Mersey Gateway Executive Board on Thursday, 24 September 2009
in the Marketing Suite, Municipal Building*

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

Apologies for Absence: None

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: B. Dodd, D. Parr, M. Reaney, D. Tregea, S. Nicholson, M. Noone and M. Simpson

Also in attendance Councillors Findon and Redhead.

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

Action

MGEB1 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meetings held on 29 January and 19 March 2009 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

MGEB2 GENERAL PROGRESS REPORT

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Environment which advised of the progress made since the last meeting of the Board in March 2009, during which time a Public Inquiry to consider the formal planning applications and orders had taken place.

The Board was advised that the Inquiry had now closed having sat for 19 days. All the concerns raised by the regulators, such as the Environment Agency, the Mersey Conservator and Natural England had been addressed either before or during the Inquiry, resulting in objections being withdrawn. Many objections received from land owners and businesses affected by the project were also addressed, leading to the objections also being withdrawn. The project continues to benefit from wide support, demonstrated in the

letters of support sent to the Inspector from government agencies, neighbouring Councils and businesses.

Members informed they could look into the more detailed discussions and evidence presented to the Inquiry on the website www.persona.uk.com/mersey.

RESOLVED: That the progress made to date be noted.

MGEB3 PREPARATION FOR PROCUREMENT

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Environment which advised of the key activities leading up to the commencement of the procurement process for Mersey Gateway.

The Board was advised that the next stage of the project plan was focussed on the delivery of the following key milestone events:-

- i) the Secretaries of State announce their decision on the Orders and Applications submitted by the Council and considered at the Public Inquiry; and
- ii) the Department for Transport (DfT) grants Conditional Funding Approval based on the Outline Business Case submission being approved by both DfT and the Project Review Group (PRG) of HM Treasury.

The Board was further advised that the planning decision by the Secretaries of State was expected early next year. Although the timetable for, and outcome of, such events was always uncertain the fact that the Inquiry had been relatively short and straightforward would help the drafting of a decision letter.

The Planning Inspectorate had advised that the Inspector's Report on the Inquiry would be with the Transport and Works Act Orders Unit towards the end of November. It was noted that the various planning applications and orders submitted for Mersey Gateway would require contributions from a number of different government offices in the drafting of a decision letter.

The second requirement prior to commencing the procurement process was to secure Conditional Funding Approval from DfT Ministers, which involved consultation with the Treasury Ministers after clearing the Outline

Business Case through the Project Review Group (explained in Appendix 1 to the report).

It was also reported that the programme for securing the sequence of approvals leading to Conditional Funding Approval being granted by Government was set out at Appendix 2 to the report for Members consideration.

Members were advised that although large PFI contracts had been agreed in recent months the market was still affected adversely by the banking crisis and the current work on procurement would investigate how to allocate risk to get best value bids.

RESOLVED: That the Board note what is required to be achieved to secure the authority to commence the procurement process, as determined by the Council's funding agreement with Government.

MGE B4 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 Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972; and
- (2) whether the disclosure of information was in the public interest, whether any relevant exemptions were applicable and whether, when applying the public interest test and exemptions, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed that in disclosing the information.

RESOLVED: That as, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information, members of the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business in accordance with Sub-Section 4 of section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 because it is likely that, in

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

(NB Councillors Findon and Redhead remained in the meeting during consideration of the following item of business having demonstrated a "need to know".)

MGEB5 LAND ASSEMBLY AND AGREEMENTS WITH THIRD PARTIES

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Environment which outlined that during the preparation for the Public Inquiry, the Project Team was able to satisfy a considerable number of concerns expressed by individuals and organisations leading to the avoidance or withdrawal of formal objections to the proposed Applications and Orders for Mersey Gateway. In many cases, the response given to potential objectors had now been compiled in formal agreements. This report advised the Board of the third party agreements entered into and the substantive obligations for the Council.

RESOLVED: That the Board note the Agreements in place and the Council obligations reported.

MINUTES ISSUED: 5 October 2009

CALL IN: 12 October 2009

Any matter decided by the Executive Board may be called in no later than 12 October 2009.

Meeting ended at 3.29 p.m.

3MG EXECUTIVE SUB BOARD

At a meeting of the 3MG Executive Sub Board on Thursday, 24 September 2009 in the Marketing Suite, Municipal Building

Present: Councillors Polhill (Chairman), Nelson and Wright

Apologies for Absence: None

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: M. Reaney, S. McDonald, M. Noone, D. Tregea, B. Dodd and M. Simpson

Also in attendance: None

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

		<i>Action</i>
ESB1	MINUTES	
	The Minutes of the meeting held on 2 April 2009 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.	
ESB2	3MG HIGHWAY WESTERN ACCESS - HIGHWAY AND RAIL AGREEMENTS	
	The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Environment which sought approval and set out the way in which the Council intended to enter into formal legal Agreements with Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council and Network Rail in connection with the proposed A5300 Link Road (which provided the 3MG Highway Western Access).	
	The Board was advised that a significant proportion of the proposed A5300 Link Road was within Knowsley. Traffic generated by the future development on HBC Field would impact upon the highway network in Knowsley, and particularly the A5300-A562 junction. Planning Approval for the Link Road had been secured from both Authorities (Halton and Knowsley). There were a number of conditions associated with the Planning Approval including the	

implementation of a traffic mitigation scheme at the A5300-A562 junction.

It was reported that Halton would undertake the role of Highway Authority for the rail overbridge and adjoining section of carriageway up to Newstead Road. The report included a plan which detailed areas that Halton would be retaining, Knowsley would be adopting and the area for a traffic mitigation scheme.

It was noted that in order to formalise the agreement it would be necessary for the two authorities to enter into an agreement under Section 8 of the Highways Act 1980. It was further reported that the agreement would also provide the mechanism for payment of a financial contribution by Halton towards a traffic mitigation scheme at the A5300-/A562 junction as required by the terms of the planning permission granted by Knowsley MBC on 17 September 2008. Following negotiation with Knowsley MBC Halton's contribution towards this scheme had been agreed at £400,000.

The Board was advised that the developer would be responsible for the construction of the link road.

Arising from the discussion Members asked if the bridge would be assembled in stages. In response it was noted that it would and no full railway closures would be necessary.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) an agreement under Section 8 of the Highways Act be entered into with Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council over the adoption of the various proposed Highway elements within Knowsley;
- (2) an Overbridge Agreement and associated standard agreements which includes a Basic Asset Protection Agreement and an Easement Agreement, be entered into with Network Rail to enable the construction and operation of a new highway structure over the Liverpool Branch of the West Coast Main Line; and
- (3) the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning, Transportation, Regeneration and Renewal be authorised to take all actions and make any decisions

Strategic Director
- Environment

deemed appropriate in connection with the Section 8 and Overbridge Agreements for the proposed A5300 Link Road and that any such actions and decisions be reported back to the next meeting of the 3MG Executive Sub-Board.

MINUTES ISSUED: 5 October 2009

CALL IN: 12 October 2009

Any matter decided by the 3MG Executive Board may be called in no later than 12 October 2009

Meeting ended at 3.44 p.m.

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CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD

At a meeting of the Children and Young People Policy and Performance Board on Monday, 7 September 2009 in the Civic Suite, Town Hall, Runcorn

Present: Councillors Dennett (Chairman), Horabin (Vice-Chairman), Drakeley, Gilligan, Loftus, J. Lowe, Parker, M. Ratcliffe and Stockton

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Browne and Higginson

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: J. Kirk, T. Crane, C. Halpin, A. McIntyre, G. Meehan, N. Moorhouse, A. Villiers and V. Buchanan

Also in attendance: C. Pollard

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

CYP12 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 1st June 2009 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes be noted.

CYP13 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

It was noted that no public questions had been received.

CYP14 EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES

The Board considered a report which contained the minutes relating to the Children and Young People Portfolio which had been considered by the Executive Board and the Executive Board Sub-Committee since the last meeting.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes be noted.

(NB: Councillor Stockton declared a personal interest in the following item due to being a Governor of the Grange School).

Action

CYP15 SSP MINUTES

The Board received the Minutes of the Halton Children's Trust Specialist Strategic Partnership held on Tuesday 21st July 2009.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes be noted.

CYP16 COMMENTS, COMPLAINTS AND COMPLIMENTS RELATING TO CHILD CARE SERVICES

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Young People which gave an update and provided an analysis on complaints processed under the Statutory Complaints Procedure to Children and Young People during 2008/2009.

The Board was advised that the regulations came into effect on 1st September 2006 and aimed for Children and Young People to have their concerns resolved swiftly and wherever possible by the people who provided the service locally.

The Board was advised that a complaint might generally be the sign of an expression of dissatisfaction or disquiet in relation to an individual child or young person, which required a response. There were two categories to the representation process;

- (1) Statutory complaint;
- (2) Representation;
- (3) Compliment.

The Board was advised that the formal complaints procedure had a process of four stages, details of which were set out in the report.

The Board was advised that there had been 24 statutory complaints made to the local authority in 2008/09 and there had also been 30 representations made to the local authority over the same time period, details of both were set out in the report.

It was noted that there had been 7 compliments made in respect of Children's Social Services.

It was noted that during 2008/09 Halton Borough Council extended a contract with Barnado's to provide a Children's Right Service, this was a meditation and

advocacy service for children and young people. Two young people used the service last year.

Arising from Members' comments and questions the following was noted:

- that it would be useful to have feedback forms available at care homes;
- the procedure undertaken if complaints were made by non service users; and
- whether there was a need to review the categories to ensure that data was being recorded correctly.

RESOLVED: That the report be accepted as the mechanism by which the local authority be kept informed about the operation of its Complaints Procedure.

CYP17 CLIMBIE VISITS

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Young People which reported on the conduct of and outcomes from Climbie visits to front line children in need teams and reviewed the outcome from the recommendations reported to the Board on 23rd February 2009.

The Board was advised that training had been provided to PPB Members on 1st June 2009, and this explained the purpose of both regulation 33 visits to children's homes and Climbie Visits. There were currently four members identified to carry out these visits, two in Runcorn and two in Widnes. Visits were carried out quarterly and a report was then sent to the Operational Director, Specialist Services and to the Divisional Manager, Children in Need to respond to any issues raised.

It was noted that the purpose of Climbie visits were to:

- Ensure that staffing levels were appropriate;
- Check that workloads of individual workers were appropriate;
- Ensure that referral management processes were sound and secure;
- Check on the performance of the Duty Teams;
- Check the progress of implementation of Integrated Children's system (ICS).

It was noted that issues raised around visits had been

predominately around Health and Safety, working conditions for staff and Members had provided support in resolving a number of these issues.

There had also been issues raised in relation to the workload of social workers. Examples of issues and resolutions had been outlined in detail in the report. There were two issues which needed to be addressed to strengthen the conduct of Climbie Visits. Firstly, there had been some difficulties engaging Members to carry out visits. Visits to the Widnes Team were prioritised by the two members involved and took place at appropriate intervals, however, embedding the same process in Runcorn had proved more problematic. All Members in Climbie visits must have an Enhanced CRB Disclosure. Secondly, whilst the visits had had a very positive impact, the expectation following the Baby Peter case, was that Members have a more detailed understanding of the functions of the contact, referral and assessment processes in ensuring children were safeguarded.

Arising from Members' comments and questions the following was noted:

- whether Councillors would be required to have several CRB checks as many had roles as Governors at local schools. It was noted that this would be investigated further;
- changes being made to improve recording of information to reduce social workers administrative tasks; and
- the size and scope of the Teams was felt to be sufficient for workloads as there was significant early intervention work ongoing.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the contents of the report be noted;
- (2) a new and extended list of available Members be agreed by the Board and rota of Climbie visits agreed;
- (3) following all Climbie visits, the report provided by Members and the responses made by relevant managers should be reported to the PPB and scrutinised bi-annually; and
- (4) the focus of Climbie visits should give increased scrutiny to the core business of contact, referral and

Strategic Director,
Children and
Young People

assessment processes and performance data should be routinely be discussed and understood.

CYP18 RACE EQUALITY – RACIST INCIDENT REPORTING – SCHOOLS

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Young People which updated Members on progress against meeting the targets and requirements arising from the Macpherson Report (Stephen Laurence Inquiry).

The Board was advised that schools were required to ensure that racist incidents were reported to the Governing Body and to the Local Authority. The Local Authority had recommended to schools that reporting to Governors was undertaken by a Headteachers termly report as a Part II Confidential Item.

It was noted that racist incidents in schools has to be reported to the Authority since the introduction of this requirement. They were recorded by a nominated officer in the Directorate who monitored the information and the action taken in response by Headteachers. To date, appropriate action had been undertaken.

It was further noted that the nominated officer ensured that this information was included in the data submitted by the Council for the two Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPI) on this subject.

BVPI 174 – the number of racist incidents reported to the Council and BVPI 175 – the number of those reported that had been acted upon.

It was noted that the following data had been submitted for the BVPI report period April 2008 – March 2009 and included a summary of some details of incidents.

BVPI 174 – 36

BVPI 175 – 36

Number of Schools

15 schools reported 36 incidents:

9 Primary

6 Secondary

0 Special

Categories of Incident

It was noted that most incidents had been low level name-calling and that no violent incidents had been reported this time.

Arising from Members' questions and comments the following was noted:

- there were was a likelihood that there a number of unreported incidents and steps being taken to address this;
- that there was a need for a simpler pathway for reporting of incidents; and
- that a key component of Ofsted was the need for schools to promote Community Cohesion.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

CYP19 SCHOOL ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS 2009/10 AND IN-YEAR CO-ORDINATION 2010/11

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Young People which updated the Board on the 2009/10 Admissions round to Primary and Secondary Schools and gave information on the commencement of the consultation process with schools, during the autumn term 2009 and the statutory requirement to the local authority to co-ordinate in-year admissions for all schools in the 2010 and subsequent admissions round.

The Board was advised that on 10th April 2008, the Executive Board approved a Council School Admissions Policy and Admission arrangements for the September 2009 intake to all community and voluntary-aided primary schools in Halton. Halton's Admission Arrangements continued to reflect the requirements within the revised Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) School Admissions Code.

The Board was further advised that Halton continues to meet above the annual average percentage for first preference applications for secondary schools. For the 2009 admissions round Halton met 90% of first preferences for secondary schools (against a national average of 83%) and 92% first preferences for primary schools.

It was noted that details of the school allocation for the September 2009 intake were attached as Appendix A for secondary schools and Appendix B for primary schools, to

the report.

The Board was further advised that pupil numbers had increased slightly to the 2009 admissions round. 1,448 pupils were admitted to primary schools in 2008 compared to 1,469 in 2009, and 1,438 pupils were admitted to secondary schools in 2008 compared with 1,463 in 2009.

It was important to recognise that where a preference could not be met, parents/carers had a right of appeal to an independent admission appeal panel. The panel could uphold or decline an appeal based on the individual circumstances of the case presented by the parents/carer, and if the panel decided to admit further pupils to the school that this would not prejudice the provision of efficient education and the efficient use of resources at the school. The decisions made by the independent admission appeal panels were legally binding on all parties: the Local Authority and the School Governing Body as Admission Authority, Schools, and parents/carers.

The slight increase in pupil numbers from 2008 to 2009 had an impact on the number of appeals heard. 110 appeals were heard for the September 2008 intake across the primary and secondary sector compared with 136 in 2009. 25 appeals were upheld for the 2009 intake compared with 19 for the 2008 intake.

The report also set out the number of Halton residents where pupils were seeking admission to a secondary school in an neighbouring authority, that whilst Halton was currently a net exporter of pupils that one of the key drivers for the Building Schools for the Future Programme included the introduction of 21st Learning, the expansion of popular and successful schools, and the delivery of a diverse range of educational opportunities through community, joint faith, trust and academy schools. It was felt that these factors which were currently being introduced in Halton would support the aims of returning Halton pupils into Halton schools, and attracting where possible out of borough pupils to Halton.

The Board was advised that as part of this secondary school re-organisation process, and links to the BSF Programme, that from September 2010 Fairfield High School would close and re-open as part of an extended Wade Deacon High School operating on two sites.

It was noted that from the academic year 2009/10 onwards, local authorities must co-ordinate all in year

applications. In relation to the academic year 2010/11 the arrangements for co-ordinating these applications must be formulated by 1st January 2010. Regulations prescribed that parents/carers must complete a common application form allowing them to express at least three preferences which may be for schools within or outside their home local authority area, and to give reasons for their preferences.

It was estimated that between 300 – 350 pupils per term moved between schools either moving between Runcorn and Widnes, within Runcorn, within Widnes or move into the Borough.

Wherever a parent/carer wished to change school, or sought admission to a Halton School for the first time, they would be required to complete a preference form and submit the form to the Local Authority, following which the application would be considered. If a place could be allocated the admission would be agreed, normally from the beginning of the next term, and if a place could not be allocated at the school of preference, an alternative offer would be made and parents would be offered the right of appeal against the school they had been refused.

It was further noted that the in-year co-ordinated scheme would also need links with the Fair Access protocol. The Fair Access Protocol existed to ensure that access to education was secured quickly for children who had no school place but for whom a place at a main stream school or alternative provision was appropriate, and to ensure that all schools in the area admitted their fair share of children with challenging behaviour.

Arising from Members' comments and questions the following was noted:

- what the criteria for entry to Widnes High schools would be following the changes to Wade Deacon and Fairfield High School;
- how the fair access protocol would operate in oversubscribed schools. It was noted that there would be places available at all schools under this protocol;
- the need for careful forward planning to increase admission numbers and that this was being completed incrementally over the next few years.

RESOLVED: the report be noted and that a report on the outcome of the consultation would subsequently be reported to the Board.

(NB: Councillor Loftus declared a personal interest in the following item due to being employed by Riverside College).

CYP20 SUMMARY OF EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT 2009

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Young People, which reported on the 2009 Performance Data for Foundation Stage Profile and the Key Stages 1-4. It was noted that this was an initial report referring to currently available data. It reported attainment only and did not indicate the effectiveness of service delivery. A more detailed report would be submitted to the next meeting of the Board when further data had become available.

The Board was advised that the Foundation Stage Profile was the continual assessment of a child's ability undertaken throughout the Reception Year and then reported at the end of the year. The main headlines of Halton were summarised in detail in the report.

The Board was further advised that at Key Stage 1 a child's attainment in reading, writing and maths was assessed during Year 2. The main headlines for Halton were summarised in detail in the report.

It was noted that at Key Stage 2 a child's attainment was assessed in English, Reading, Writing, Maths and Science during Year 6. Current data should be treated as provision as validation was still on-going with a number of papers being returned for marking. The main headlines for Halton were summarised in detail in the report.

It was further noted that at Key Stage 3 a child's attainment in English, Maths and Science was measured during Year 9. Performance could not be reported at present, but it was hoped to have summary level information for the next meeting of the Board.

The Board was advised that Key Stage 4 attainment measured a child's GCSE results in Year 11.

The Board requested that the final report include graphical data to enable clearer comparison of results.

RESOLVED: That the Board note the attainment of children in Halton's schools for the 2008/2009 academic year.

(NB: Councillor Loftus declared a personal interest in the following item due to being employed by Riverside College. Councillor Stockton declared a personal interest in the following item due to being a Governor of the Grange School).

CYP21 QUARTERLY MONITORING REPORTS

The Board received a report of the Chief Executive which detailed the first Quarter Performance Management Reports on progress against service plan objectives and performance targets, performance trends/comparisons, and factors affecting services for:

- Business support and commissioning;
- Preventative services;
- Specialist services;
- Universal and Learning Services

The Board requested the following further information and reports:

- a report on the changes to 14-19 Education be submitted to a future meeting of the Board;
- additional budget details be provided in relation financial profiles and where reallocation and reprioritisation have taken place;
- a report on the placement strategy and foster carers be invited to a future meeting of the Board.

RESOLVED: That the first Quarter Performance Management Reports be received.

Meeting ended at 9.00 p.m.

EMPLOYMENT, LEARNING AND SKILLS POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD

At a meeting of the Employment, Learning and Skills Policy and Performance Board on Monday, 21 September 2009 in the Civic Suite, Town Hall, Runcorn

Present: Councillors Jones (Chairman), Edge (Vice-Chairman), Austin, M. Bradshaw, Findon, Loftus, Parker and Stockton

Apologies for Absence: Councillor Howard, Rowe and Worrall

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: H. Cockcroft, G. Collins, N. Goodwin, M. Simpson and A. Villiers

Also in attendance: None

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

	<i>Action</i>
ELS13 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME	
It was reported that no public questions had been received.	
ELS14 MINUTES	
The minutes of the meeting held on 7 th July 2009 having been printed and circulated were taken as read and signed as a correct record.	
ELS15 EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES	
The Board considered the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Board and the Executive Board Sub-Committee relevant to the Employment Learning and Skills Policy and Performance Board.	
ELS16 SSP MINUTES	

The Board received the minutes of the Employment Learning and Skills Specialist Strategic Partnership Meeting held on 16th July 2009. In receiving the minutes the following points were noted:

- There were still discussions being held between “Customer No. 1” and Stobart in relation to the creation of jobs in the warehousing and distribution centre. It was thought that jobs would be available after Christmas due to an 11 week training programme and a three day Employability Course;
- 120 jobs every six months would be available in Halton and once these had been agreed in a central point in Liverpool they would be filtered through to Widnes and Runcorn Job Centres; and
- The “Support to Newly Employed” Service Level Agreement (SLA), had been held back as the Specialist Strategic Partnership had to ‘recession – proof’ the financial plan for this. It was proposed that any underspend identified as part of the review process would be added to this line to create a larger recession fund.

RESOLVED: That the minutes be noted.

ELS17 MERSEY GATEWAY AND THE CONSTRUCTION EMPLOYMENT INTEGRATOR MODEL

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director, Environment which outlined the progress made on identifying how employment and training opportunities resulting from the Mersey Gateway could be secured for local people.

It was reported that the Inspector formally closed the public inquiry on 28th July 2009 and a decision was expected in early 2010. Following the public inquiry, the priorities would be focused on the land acquisition programme and procurement/tendering arrangements, in order that the project could be progressed quickly, when the government announced its decision, assuming that the decision was favourable.

The Board was advised that work was underway to ensure that the process to appoint a Concessionaire to build and operate the Mersey Gateway once the Secretaries of

State announced their decision.

A procurement workshop chaired by the Chief Executive was held on 13th July 2009 to discuss the Council's position on a number of key aspects of the project, which included agreeing a project plan and identifying further work that would be required.

Outlined in the report for information was a diagram which provided an overview of how the model worked including employment planning, capturing demand, monitoring and evaluation, continued workforce development and providing routeways. It was reported that the Mersey Gateway Project Team were currently working with colleagues in the Economic Regeneration Department, to identify ways in which the Mersey Gateway procurement arrangements could assist in securing employment and training opportunities in construction for local people, using the Construction Employment Integrator model initiative (CEI).

It was further advised that the overall aim of the CEI was to provide a mechanism that would ensure people from disadvantaged groups and areas were able to access jobs and training opportunities arising in the construction industry. Outlined in the report were the details of how the CEI would achieve the national aims and objectives in using this mechanism.

The Board discussed various issues such as a breakdown of requirements and targeted audience, training needs for Job Centre staff to source the correct candidates for the jobs and a breakdown of percentage of categories of jobs required for example skilled, semi-skilled and low skilled. It was further noted that a Suppliers Workshop would be held in the near future. Members felt that facilitating a Jobs Fair would benefit all parties involved in the scheme.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the progress made on identifying how employment and training opportunities resulting from the Mersey Gateway could be secured for local people be noted; and
- (2) arrangements be made for Halton Borough Council to hold a Jobs Fair in the near future.

Strategic Director
- Environment

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Health and Community which outlined the delivery of Community Development in 2008/09.

It was reported that the purpose of Community Development was to build relationships with our communities, to help groups and networks of people take joint action on matters that concerned them. It was also about enabling individuals to influence the decisions that affected their lives.

The Board were informed that to do this the Community Development combined a number of aspects which were outlined in the report for information. The Board was advised of the service performance and service development which detailed the following:

- Starter Grants;
- Community Development Grants;
- Voluntary Youth Organisation Grants; and
- Bursaries.

A detailed breakdown of all the grants during 2008/09 was provided within the report for Members' consideration.

The Board discussed the lack of Capital Funding for Community Development and suggested that the Culture and Leisure provisions required could be sought through Building Schools for the Future (BSF).

The Board raised concerns in relation to schools being paid for community use and not providing this use. The Board was advised that this would be investigated further and information would be brought back to Members. Members wished to congratulate the Community Development Team on the excellent work being carried out through 2008/9.

RESOLVED: That the Community Development Service performance for 2008/09 be noted.

ELS19 SKILLED AND TALENTED SPORTS

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director, Health and Community which detailed how young skilled and talented sports participants were managed in Halton.

It was reported that the Board had identified Skilled and Talented sports for a work programme and this report was to enable an introductory discussion on how the Board would like to proceed and how to look at that area in terms of topic work.

The Board received a presentation from Gill McGough – Advisory Teacher for Sports and Physical Education and Sue Lowrie – Sports and Recreation Manager, which outlined processes for the gifted and talented young people in physical education and sport. It was advised that gifted and talented in PE and sport was one of the ten strands of the Physical Education and Sport Strategy for Young People (PESSYP) which had the overall aim of creating a world class system for physical education and sport.

The Board was advised that the aim of the gifted and talented strand was to improve the recognition of and the support and provision for gifted and talented pupils in physical education and sport. Three key areas of work were outlined as follows:

- High quality – raising the quality of PE for gifted and talented young people;
- Support – ensuring appropriate personal development support for young talented performers in sport; and
- Raising the quality of coaching and competition for talented performers in sport.

It was noted that pupils were recognised as talented when they demonstrated high level ability within the range of PE context or had the potential to do so. Specifically it was suggested that talented pupils excel in one or more of the following abilities that reflected the full range of PE, physical, social, personal, cognitive and creative. Descriptions of these elements were tabled at the meeting for Members' consideration.

The Board was informed that teachers were given the skills to identify gifted and talented pupils and advised of how to develop their skills further. Work was also carried out in terms of leadership skills, coaching and competitions and there was also a disability sport focus where appropriate.

The Board raised queries as to how much the work into gifted and talented sports actually costs, where the funds for this came from and discussed whether it required mainstream funding. In response it was noted that the Skills Support Partnership received currently £300,000 from DCSF funding and there were also other small budgets. Members were advised that this information could be circulated to the Board.

The Board discussed various issues such as mechanisms for talent identification, the dangers of young talent slipping through the net, provision for development to maximise potential, opportunities available to participate at a high level and multi-disciplinary approaches to nurturing talent. After a lengthy discussion the Board felt that more information would be required to explore the skilled and talented sports system in more detail.

RESOLVED: That a more detailed report be brought back to a future meeting on the approach to skilled and talented young sportspeople in Halton.

Strategic Director
- Health and
Community

ELS20 BARRIERS TO WORK TOPIC GROUP

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Environment which provided a progress report on Barriers to Work Topic Group. The report outlined the terms of reference for the Topic Group and detailed the emerging issues raised by the Topic Group which were outlined in the report for information.

Members discussed the postcode lottery system as it was felt that some companies use this when recruiting applicants for jobs. In response, it was noted that this would be investigated. The Board discussed a qualification level chart which had been produced to simplify the qualifications gained, explain what an employer could expect from the level of qualifications and also state which qualifications were accredited to that level. It was reported that this would be distributed to Members of the Board.

RESOLVED: That the Board note the progress made by the Barriers to Work Topic Groups in considering the findings of the employment focussed research undertaken in the Neighbourhood Management areas.

ELS21 TOPIC GROUP - WORKFORCE AND SKILLS FOR THE

LOGISTICS INDUSTRY - FINAL REPORT

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director, Environment which outlined the recommendations of the Topic Group on Workforce and Skills for the Logistics Industry.

The Board was advised that the topic commenced with a skills audit of the logistics sector in Halton and the audit covered aspects of work which were outlined in the report for information. It was noted that the Halton Employment Partnership was established in late 2008, to bring together expertise from various employment, learning and skills agencies which were detailed in the report for Members' consideration.

In relation to the Topic Group recommendations it was noted that whilst recent work had established a knowledge base of the recruitment and training needs for the 3MG development, more detailed work would be required once the 3MG recruitment commence to meet individual business needs. Members considered all the Topic Group's recommendations and were satisfied with those and agreed that the Topic Group could be signed off.

RESOLVED: That the Board noted and endorsed the final recommendations of the Topic on Workforce and Skills for the Logistics Industry.

ELS22 SERVICE PLANS 2010/11

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Environment which outlined the key issues for consideration in the development of service plans for 2010/11 as follows:-

- Impact of difficult financial settlement in the re-structuring of the Council;
- Impact of economic downturn;
- Community cohesion, community engagement, equality and diversity;
- The Health agenda i.e. sport and participation and Libraries and Arts;
- Integrational issues;
- Libraries;
- Building Schools for the Future;
- 2012 and the programme to support and increase

- participation in 2012;
- St. Michael's Golf Course; and
- Norton Priority Museum.

Members were advised to inform the Chair should they suggest any further areas that the service plans could explore.

RESOLVED: That the 10 key issues for consideration in the development of service plans for 2010/11 be noted.

ELS23 STANDING ORDER 51

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

RESOLVED: That Standing Order 51 be waived.

ELS24 QUARTERLY MONITORING REPORTS

The Board considered a report of the Chief Executive on progress against service plan objectives and performance targets, performance trends/comparisons and factors affecting services for economic regeneration and culture and leisure for the first quarter.

Arising from the discussion, the following points were noted:

- Congratulations were noted in relation to the 12 Green Flags awarded the quality mark of excellence for parks as this was an increase of two on the previous year;
- Halton was currently 2% below the North West average for people claiming Job Seekers' Allowance; and
- Clarity was sought around the figure of the latest position in relation to care leavers and apprenticeships being employed within Halton Borough Council. It was noted that this figure would be distributed to Members of the Board;

Tabled at the meeting was an informal note of the Employment Learning and Skills PPB's Performance Group

Meeting held on 4th August 2009. It was advised that this Group was set up in part so that it could time its meetings flexibly to consider quarterly performance information when it was newly available. The minutes outlined a discussion held regarding ways to obtain more value from the processes of performance reporting and monitoring. The points considered were outlined in the minutes for Members' consideration. The Board was advised that this Group would continue to meet regularly and report progress back to the Board.

RESOLVED: That the report be received.

Meeting ended at 9.30 p.m.

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HEALTHY HALTON POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD

At a meeting of the Healthy Halton Policy and Performance Board held on Thursday, 3 September 2009 at Council Chamber, Runcorn Town Hall

Present: Councillors E. Cargill (Chairman), J. Lowe (Vice-Chairman), Austin, Gilligan, Higginson, Horabin, Lloyd Jones, Philbin and Wallace

Apologies for Absence: Councillor E. Ratcliffe and Swift

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: E. Bragger, L. Derbyshire, D. Hall, A. Villiers and A. Williamson

Also in attendance: Catherine Beardshaw and Mr Massey – Warrington and Halton Hospitals NHS Trust

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

HEA13 PROPOSED BUS CHARGES FOR NORTH CHESHIRE HOSPITAL TRUST

Action

The Board received a verbal presentation from Catherine Beardshaw, Chief Executive of Warrington and Haltons Hospitals NHS Trust and Mr A Massey regarding the proposed charges to the shuttle bus service between Warrington Hospital and Halton General Hospital.

The Board was advised by Ms Beardshaw that the free hospital shuttle bus service for patients and staff had been trialled for a period of nine months and as a result in the increase in demand a new larger bus had been leased and had been in operation for a year. However, due to an increase in pressure on the service, at peak periods, staff had experienced difficulties in gaining access to the bus between the two sites.

The Board was further advised that as part of the Trust's financial plan, consideration had been given to charging certain groups of people for this service. Patients and staff, children under 16 years of age or any one else with a free bus pass would continue to receive a free service, but all other categories of people would be asked to

pay £2 per single journey. In addition, it was reported that the Trust had kept their promise made in 2006 in providing a free service between the two sites to staff and patients.

In response to the proposal to charge visitors to use the hospital shuttle bus between Warrington and Halton Hospitals, Members of the Board raised the following questions/comments:-

- Members raised concern that a decision to charge visitors on the hospital shuttle bus had been made by the Trust without any consultation with them and clarity was sought on who had been consulted;

In response, it was reported that the Trust were not obliged to consult on issues outside the original promise i.e. that patients and staff would receive the service free, and it was merely a new approach. In addition it was suggested that a year ago, during a one to one informal meeting with the Chief Executive of Halton Borough Council the pressures on the service had been raised.

Members in reply indicated that the Chief Executive had stated that charges had not been raised or discussed at the informal meeting, merely that it had been mentioned that the bus service was experiencing capacity pressures.

- It was emphasised that there had been an understanding that visitors would travel free on the bus and to date this had been the case. It was also emphasised that Elected Members should have been consulted on this matter as they only found out via a press article. It was also highlighted that the bus was mainly for people who did not have access to private transport and that there was no public transport available between the two sites.
- It was reported that information on the Trust's website was misleading as it stated that there was a free bus for people visiting Warrington and Halton hospitals, and the new larger bus had been launched last year with full wheel chair and disabled access;
- Clarity was sought on when the decision had been taken as it was reported that a representative had attended the Board in March to give an update on the Trust and there had been no indication that

charges would be established on the bus service;

In response it was reported that discussions had taken place in May/June and a decision taken in June/July 2009. The information on the website related to the previous year and had not been updated. However, assurance was given that this would be completed next week.

- In relation to the information on the website being misleading in that there was an assumption that visitors and patients would travel free on the bus, and that they had travelled free for three years and the lack of any consultation with Halton Borough Council or its Members – Members asked whether the Trust felt that the process had been transparent?

In response, it was reported that the demand on the service had significantly increased and that the Trust had kept their promise of a free service for patients and staff. It was highlighted that the Trust were not a transport organisation and did not have sufficient funds to keep up with the increased volume of activity and demands on the service. It was also suggested that people were using the service for personal shopping. It was also reported that the £2 per single journey would contribute towards the running costs of the service and visitors on shopping trips were displacing staff and patients.

In reply, it was highlighted that there was no other public transport service operating between the two sites and it was suggested that it was unlikely that people were using it to shop because of the distance from the sites to the town centre, but that it was visitors transporting patient's laundry to and from the hospital.

- Clarity was sought on whether the Trust consulted with the Governing Body when making a decision to charge for visitors on the bus service;

In response it was reported that the Trust had authorisation to make such decisions without consulting the Governing Body. However, the Governing Body received regular information to keep them up to date on such matters. In addition, it was highlighted that there was only a problem with the service during the day at peak times and

that the Trust had to consider how to fund the increase in the cost of the service whilst keeping the promise that it would be free to patients and staff.

- It was emphasised that visitors were an important part of a patient's recovery and that the area the bus serviced was a deprived area and the charge would result in people not being able to visit due to the cost. Clarity was sought on whether any other options had been considered i.e. limiting the service to one visitor per patient and the patient would decide which visitor received the free service;

In response it was reported that the bus driver would not be able to undertake the task of who was eligible to use the bus free of charge. It was also reported that the Trust only received funding to service the population in health care services not transport.

- Members of the Board emphasised that the population of Halton would feel that the Trust had broken a promise as visitors had always travelled on the bus free of charge. They also indicated that they were unhappy with the decision of charging for visitors, particularly as they had not been consulted on the proposal and highlighted that they were not in any way responsible for these charges;

In reply, it was reported that there had been no explicit agreement that visitors would use the service free of charge and that the free transport was for patients and staff and the Trust had not reneged on any agreements. It was also reported that the Trust were happy to support any action that Members wished to take to say that it had been a decision made by the Trust alone and Members had not been part of the consultation process.

- It was emphasised that the service was mainly used by people on low wages and that £2 per single visit was excessive, especially when the service had been free previously. It was also highlighted that the charge would seriously affect people on benefits who had to visit every day as transport costs would be at least £24 per week;

In reply, it was reported that the Trust had been instrumental in moving acute care back to Halton Hospital resulting in fewer people having to travel to

Warrington Hospital. It was also reported that a discount scheme would be available to relatives who had to visit patients on a regular basis. Details of the discount scheme would be circulated to officers and attached to the minutes for information.

- Clarity was sought on the increase in car parking charges and whether the additional money could be used to subsidise the shuttle bus service;

In reply it was reported that all NHS Trusts in England were facing the pressure of making efficiency savings and finding contributions to increasing challenges as a public sector. The funding from the additional car parking charges would be used to invest in security and maintenance of the car parks, and there would not be enough to subsidise the shuttle service.

- It was noted that Whiston Hospital operated a free bus service and the car park was only £1.50 p;
- Clarity was sought on what other options had been considered before a decision to charge for visitors on the service had been determined. Members also raised concern that public perception for three years was that the service was free to patients, staff and visitors. It was acknowledged that this issue would be raised at Councillors surgeries and they had not been part of the consultation process and did not agree with the decision to charge for visitors;

In reply it was reported that a huge range of options had been explored one of which was restricting clinical services. However, it was highlighted that the Trust were open to suggestions. In addition, the website would be updated next week, information would be placed on the bus and a leaflet would be distributed to explain the new charge and how/who and why a decision had been made to charge visitors for the service.

In conclusion, the Members of the Board requested that they take the comments back and review their decision / look at other options to charging visitors on the hospital shuttle bus service.

The Chief Executive of the Trust indicated that the decision could not be reviewed this year but consideration would be given to comments made as part of the 2010/11

planning process.

The Members of the Board thanked the Chief Executive and Mr Massey for their attendance.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Chief Executive and Mr Massey, Warrington and Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust be thanked for their attendance and verbal presentation;
- (2) it be noted that Halton Borough Council has not been consulted on the proposal to charge visitors on the hospital shuttle bus service between Warrington and Halton General Hospitals; and
- (3) although it is too late to review the decision to charge visitors this year, that the Trust, when undertaking the 2010/11 planning process consider other options other than charging to subsidise the hospital shuttle service.

Meeting ended at 7.20 p.m.

HEALTHY HALTON POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD

At a meeting of the Healthy Halton Policy and Performance Board held on Tuesday, 15 September 2009 in the Civic Suite, Town Hall, Runcorn

Present: Councillors E. Cargill (Chairman), J. Lowe (Vice-Chairman), Austin, Gilligan, Lloyd Jones, Philbin, Swift, Wallace and P. Cooke

Apologies for Absence: Councillor Higginson, Horabin and E. Ratcliffe

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: L. Derbyshire, M. Holt, S. O'Sullibhan, D. Sweeney, A. Williamson, L Wilson and A. Villiers

Also in attendance: None

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

Action

HEA14 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held 9 June 2009 having been printed and circulated were signed as a correct record.

HEA15 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

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

HEA16 EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES

The Board considered the Minutes of the meetings of the Executive Board relevant to the Healthy Halton Policy and Performance Board.

RESOLVED: That the minutes be noted.

HEA17 SSP MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Halton Health Partnership Board from 19 March 2009 were submitted for information.

RESOLVED: That the Halton Health Partnership Board Minutes be noted.

HEA18 PRESENTATION: THE AMBULANCE SERVICE

The Board was advised that consideration of this item had been deferred to a future meeting by the North West Ambulance Service NHS Trust. This was as a result their formal consultation process on the Foundation Trust being postponed.

(NB: Councillor Lloyd Jones declared a personal interest in the following three items due to her husband being a Non-Executive Director of Halton and St Helen's Primary Care Trust).

HEA19 DRAFT JOINT CARERS COMMISSIONING STRATEGY 2009/12

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Health and Community which outlined the draft Joint Carers Commissioning Strategy 2009/12.

The Board was advised that the Strategy built upon the aims, objectives and activities outlined in the 2008/9 Carers Strategy, but had been written as a practical document, including an action plan, to support services in Halton to move toward a more focused way of commissioning services for Carers over the next three years.

It was reported that it had been developed as a result of research carried out in terms of other Local Authority plans and ongoing consultations and contributions from all stakeholders, including: -

- Local Implementation Team (LIT) Carer Sub Groups;
- Carers (via a consultation event held on 12.2.09);
- Halton & St Helens NHS Trust;
- Halton Carers Centre;
- Voluntary Sector organisations; and
- Staff and managers from the Health & Community and Children & Young People's Directorate.

The Board was further advised that the format of the commissioning strategy followed a similar one adopted with other Joint Commissioning Strategies within the Directorate and also took account of the contents of the National Carers Strategy published in June 2008, by focusing commissioning intentions on: -

- Integrated and Personalised Services;
- A Life of Their Own;
- Income & Employment;
- Health & Wellbeing; and
- Young Carers.

In addition, it was reported that the main objectives of the Commissioning Strategy was not only to move towards a process for the commissioning of services but to continue to assist in the identification of hidden carers and improve information and access to support services. A balance would need to be achieved between the commissioning and the work that continued to take place in supporting voluntary sector organisations e.g. Parkinson's Society, Connect etc to develop their services.

It was noted that as part of the National Carers Strategy, the Department of Health (DoH) had allocated £150m to PCT's to support carers breaks in 2009/10 and 2010/2011. Halton and St Helens PCT had ensured that these funds would be utilised to support carers and had ring fenced funds during 2001/10 and 2010/11. Discussions were taking place with the PCT as to how the funds would be best utilised.

The Board was further advised that the LIT Carer Sub Groups and the multi agency Carers Strategy Group would undertake monitoring of the implementation of the Commissioning Strategy and associated action plan.

The following points arose from the discussion: _

- Page 71 – 3.7 - Continue to target 'Hidden Carers – point c) – to develop presentation to be delivered in schools and colleges – clarity was sought on how schools would be involved;

In response it was reported that the Carer Development Officer in the Children & Young People's Directorate developed linkages with schools and colleges, However, it was reported that it was not clear presently what impact this would have and further work may need to be undertaken to identify young carers.

- Clarity was sought on whether there were any plans to establish a carers centre in Widnes with the allocated grant. It was also suggested that carers would benefit from a drop in facility as it would

enable them to have some periods of respite;

In response it was reported that there were no plans to establish a carers centre in Widnes presently. However, the Halton Carer Centre aimed to look at a base to be provided in Widnes in the future.

In reply, Members of the Board suggested that officers contact the Halton Carer Centre and ask that the feasibility of establishing a Carer Centre in Widnes be progressed as soon as possible.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report and comments made be noted; and
- (2) Officers contact the Halton Carer Centre with a view to progressing the establishment of a Carer Centre in Widnes.

Strategic Director
– Health and
Community

HEA20 OLDER PEOPLE'S JOINT COMMISSIONING STRATEGY

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Health and Community which outlined the Older People's Commissioning Strategy.

The Board was advised that the new Older People's Commissioning Strategy built on a previous strategy that covered 2004-2008. The new strategy aimed to bring the plans for older people's services up to date and clearly identify the commissioning priorities for the next five years.

The Board was further advised that the commissioning strategy was important for two main reasons; it gave context to what the Council were intending in relation to commissioning and it also acted as a performance measure. This would enable the Authority to monitor progress against the actions and targets.

In addition, it was reported that two main consultation events had taken place. The events involved a range of commissioning staff, providers, voluntary sector representatives, independent providers, service users and carers. A number of one-to-one meetings were also carried out to ensure that a wide range of views were collected. The main themes of the commissioning strategy reflected the consultation that was completed.

The following points arose from the discussion:-

- The difficulties and the reasons for the difficulties in diagnosing the actual number of people with dementia in Halton was noted. However the authority were working with multi disciplinary clinical teams to achieve an early diagnosis of dementia which would probably result in a significant rise in the figures over the next 2/3 years;
- The connection between alcohol and drug abuse, dementia was noted; and

In response, it was reported that Halton and St Helens Primary Care Trust took the lead in respect of mental health. However, they were working together with Older People's Services and Mental Health Services to improve services.

- In respect of Intergenerational Work – it was suggested that Grangeway Youth Centre and Connexions obtain young people as volunteers to teach older people ICT.

In response, it was reported that an Intergenerational Conference had taken place in April 2009 in which 200 people of all ages had attended. This had given the authority the base to start developing local engagement in planning future workstreams. The event had been a huge success and ICT had been popular with younger people teaching ICT to older people and older people teaching genealogy to younger people. This had helped to close the generation gap.

RESOLVED: That the report and comments made be noted.

HEA21 DEVELOPING A COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY LEARNING DISABILITIES SERVICES INFRASTRUCTURE

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Health and Community which outlined that the four Boroughs of Halton, Knowsley, St Helens and Warrington, together with the NHS Knowsley, NHS Halton and St Helens and NHS Warrington, wished to develop a Model of Care to support the development of a comprehensive community based service infrastructure for adults with learning disabilities.

The Board was advised that the objective was to

transform the quality of care, service model and configuration of services for people with learning disabilities across the four boroughs. This, it was reported, was to be achieved through the development of a more effective range of community support services which enabled people to remain at home and avoid hospital admissions and, where this was not possible, to provide a fair, personal, effective and safe in-patient service.

The Board was further advised that Commissioners wished to engage and consult with service users, carers, Learning Disability Partnership Boards and key stakeholders on this proposed model of care. The consultation process would occur through the months of August and September 2009.

In this respect, a summary of Developing a Comprehensive Community Learning Disability Services Infrastructure was circulated at the meeting.

The following points arose from the discussion:-

- It was noted that the proposal was for three beds available for intensive support in Halton. These beds were for people with learning disabilities who were seriously ill. It was also noted that Halton were only using two beds currently, but the two patients were due to go home in the near future;
- It was noted that once implemented, the provider of the services would have robust performance management systems in place to ensure efficient and quality services were being provided; and
- It was noted that Local Authorities were working closely with GP's in comprising a list of people with learning disabilities to ensure that they received regular health checks. It was also noted that eight out of nine GP's in Widnes and five out of seven GP's in Runcorn had signed up to this new direct enhanced service.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report and comments made be noted; and
- (2) the development of a Comprehensive Community Learning Disabilities Services Infrastructure be supported.

Strategic Director
– Health and
Community

HEA22 MODERNISATION OF DAY SERVICES

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Health and Community which informed Members of the progress on the modernisation of Day Services and the outcome of recent consultation events.

The Board was advised that a report had been considered by the Executive Board on 4 June 2009 proposing a modernisation of Day Services and had requested permission to consult with all stakeholders about the future of these services. A comprehensive consultation plan had been prepared and had since been updated and was attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

The Board was further advised that the modernisation of day services would enable people to be more actively involved in community activities and would promote independence and confidence. In addition, it was reported that longer term the developments would help some users to participate fully in mainstream services bringing benefits for them and the wider community.

The satellite sites, activities offered and venues set out in Box 1 Page 175 of the report was noted. The success of the Independent Living Centre, Runcorn's Cup Cake Project was also noted.

The following points arose from the discussion:-

- Clarity was sought on whether there would be any improvements made to Priory View;

In response it was reported that although Priory View was very small it complied with the Disability Discrimination Act 2005 (DDA). In addition, it was reported that Council venues within the remit of the service were being reviewed as part of an improvement schedule.

- It was suggested that services had been run down prior to the decision to provide satellite units for day activities and to close the Bridgewater Centre;

In response, it was reported that this had been a continuing process since 2001 as services were not flexible or creative enough and this had been undertaken to provide a better service.

- Clarity was sought on options for the future use of

the Centre;

In response, it was reported that it was a Local Authority building and it would be considered as part of a wider agenda. However, to date, no decision had been made. It was also reported that no savings had been identified from the changes as there were additional smaller local groups which needed support workers.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report and comments made be noted; and
- (2) the Board support the plan to continue to modernise the service.

Strategic Director
– Health and
Community

HEA23 HALTON AND ST HELENS SOCIAL SERVICES EMERGENCY DUTY TEAM

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Health and Community which gave an update on the Partnership arrangements for the delivery of the Emergency Duty Team (EDT) service across St Helens and Halton Councils and sought agreement to review and update the Partnership Agreement in line with the recommendations of a recent Audit report.

The Board was advised that following approval by both St Helens and Halton Executive Committees, a joint Emergency Duty Team had become operational in October 2007 under a three year Partnership Arrangement. The EDT provided an emergency social care service for adults and children who were deemed vulnerable and were at immediate risk or require immediate statutory support.

The Board was further advised that The EDT was located in Halton Borough Council's Contact Centre at Catalyst House, Widnes. The team consisted of an EDT Manager, six full time social workers and a part time Administrative Officer. It operated outside normal working hours. Under the terms of the Partnership Agreement, all staff were directly employed by St Helens Council, whilst the infrastructure for the service was supplied by Halton Borough Council.

In addition, before the EDT service had been in place, a Steering Group had been set up, consisting of senior officers from both Councils, to drive forward all developments, and a full Partnership Agreement was

developed. At the point that the new service began, the Steering Group had become the full Partnership Board.

It was reported that the Partnership Board had met regularly in line with the Partnership Agreement, with responsibility for chairing the Board being shared between Senior Officers from both Councils on an annual rota. The Board reviewed management information, the budget, service delivery, areas for development and any issues that impacted on the service. A Performance Management Framework had been also developed and the Board considered statistical information at each meeting. This framework was to be taken forward through 2009/10 with the development and piloting of an outcomes-based framework, which would build on pure statistical information to give a fuller picture of the effectiveness of the service.

It was noted that the budget for 2008/09 was £391,499 and was funded on a 50:50 shared basis between St Helens Council and Halton Borough Council.

The Board was advised that they could undertake a visit to Catalyst House and meet the staff in the Emergency Duty Team. The operating hours were from 4.30 pm and any Member interested in visiting the team should contact the Lead Officer of the Board.

The following points arose from the discussion:-

- It was noted that various agencies used the service such as the Police, Health and A&E etc. It was also noted that it was well publicised, all agencies were aware of the service and the quality of the service had significantly improved;
- Clarity was sought on whether the drop in Centre in Moor Lane was closed at the weekend;

In response, it was reported that officers would look into this matter.

- In respect of the statistical data regarding the numbers of referrals in any area not reflecting the workload for the team it was suggested that this could be changed to give a clearer picture of the actual number of referrals; and
- it was acknowledged that Halton and St Helens Social Services Duty Team represented an excellent example of partnership working.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report and comments made be noted;
- (2) a visit to Catalyst House to meet the Emergency Duty Team be arranged for Members of the Board; and
- (3) information on the opening hours of the drop in centre at Moor Lane be circulated to Members of the Board.

Strategic Director
– Health and
Community

HEA24 QUARTERLY MONITORING REPORTS

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Corporate and Policy regarding the First Quarter Monitoring Report for:

- Older People and Physical and Sensory Impairment Services;
- Adults of a working age; and
- Health and Partnerships.

The Board was advised that the Shadow Partnership Board had been established and comprised of people with learning disabilities. The Board met a week before the Partnership Board meeting to consider the agenda and raise issues/comments. It was suggested that consideration be given to a representative from the Partnership Board attending a future meeting.

The following points/comments arose from the discussion:-

Adults of Working Age

- (1) Page 220 – AWA 2 (4) - It was noted that a proposal had been agreed and a project manager appointed to develop a business case to secure three year funding for a specialist challenging the behaviour support service was noted; and
- (2) The update in respect of the review of the restaurant provision, Dorset Gardens was noted.

Older People's Services

- (3) Page 231 (2.0) - Clarity was sought on the Virtual Ward model agreed in partnership with the PCT, to be in place by January 2010 and whether a doctor would be available on the ward and whether it was permanent and funded by the PCT;

In reply, it was reported that a range of staff would identify that a person was 'at risk' and that the model was based on best practice and would be more efficient and cost effective and better for individuals.

- (4) It was suggested that the evacuation procedure on the top floor of Oak Meadow be assessed;

- (5) Page 239 – OPL10 – Percentage of items of equipment delivered within 7 working days – Clarity was sought on why this was under target;

In response, it was reported that this information would be circulated to Members of the Board.

- (6) Page 238 – OPL18 – Clarity was sought on the commentary – Q1 figure is higher than expected in relation to cumulative performance and was expected to exceed target; and

In response, it was reported that this represented a 12 month. However, the Board was advised that future monitoring reports would contain less jargon.

- (7) It was noted that in respect of Page 243 - OP LP14 – ethnicity of older people receiving assessment - no requests had been made by black minority ethnic groups.

Health and Partnerships

- (8) Page 255 – Commissioning Floating support for vulnerable groups Mar 2011 (AOF 6,30 and 31) - Clarity was sought on the work ongoing to review floating support services – tender to be prepared to procure services within 12 months of the commencement of the Gateway Service; and

In response, it was reported that this information would be circulated to Members of the Board.

- (9) Page 266 – Housing Strategy & Support Services – Capital Projects as at 30 June 2009 – Clarity was sought on there being no spend on Home Link and Energy Promotion and whether the funding could be transferred if it was not used.

In response, it was reported that this information would be circulated to all Members of the Board.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be noted; and
- (2) clarification on points 5, 8 and 9 above be circulated to all Members of the Board for information.

Strategic Director
– Corporate &
Policy

HEA25 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT

The Board was advised of a free information event 'Fact or Fiction' taking place at the Stobart Stadium, Widnes at 1.00 pm – 3.15 pm on 2 October 2009 by the Halton LINK (Local Involvement Network).

Meeting ended at 8.30 p.m.

SAFER HALTON POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD

At a meeting of the Safer Halton Policy and Performance Board on Tuesday, 22 September 2009 at the Civic Suite, Town Hall, Runcorn

Present: Councillors Osborne (Chairman), M. Bradshaw, Edge, Lloyd Jones, Morley and M. Ratcliffe

Apologies for Absence: Councillor Stockton, Rowan, Shepherd and Thompson

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: H. Cockcroft, C. Halpin, R. Mackenzie, J. Unsworth, A. Villiers, M. Nistotskaya and P. McWade

Also in attendance: P. Astley, WBC

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

SAF14 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 16 June 2009 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

SAF15 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

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

SAF16 QUARTERLY MONITORING REPORTS

The Board received a report from the Chief Executive on the Performance Management Reports for Quarter 1, 2009/10.

Members were requested to consider and raise any questions or points of clarification in respect of the 1st quarter performance management reports on progress against service plan objectives and performance targets, performance trends/comparisons, factors affecting the services etc. for:-

Action

- Health & Partnerships;
- Highways & Transportation;
- Environmental & Regulatory Services; and
- Culture & Leisure.

RESOLVED: That the report and comments made be noted.

SAF17 SSP MINUTES

The minutes from the last Safer Halton Partnership (SHP) meeting held on Tuesday, 12th May 2009 were presented to the Board for information.

RESOLVED: That the minutes be noted.

SAF18 MINUTES OF THE WORKING GROUPS

The Board received the MAPS Topic Group minutes of its 28 May 2009 meeting for information.

Following discussions it was agreed that the Bereavement Working Party would continue and an invite would be extended to all previous members of the Party and the Board.

RESOLVED: That the minutes and comments made be noted.

SAF19 SURVEY ON ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

The Board received a presentation from Mr R. Mackenzie on the findings of a Halton 2000 Citizens Panel's survey on anti-social behaviour in Halton. The presentation gave details of;

- the methodology of the Halton 200 postal survey;
- the most important and general anti-social behaviour issues;
- the percentages of Panel Members experiencing anti-social behaviour in 2007 and 2008
- the percentages in respect of victims of anti-social behaviour;
- the reasons that Panel Members had not reported incidents of anti-social behaviour;
- how effective local services work had been in addressing anti-social behaviour issues in 2008; and
- the key findings of the survey.

Following discussions it was agreed that it would be useful for a seminar to be held with Members, Community Safety Team and Research and Intelligence Team to compare the data from the survey to police crime statistics.

Members also requested a copy of the report be circulated to the Board.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the presentation be received;
- (2) a seminar be arranged, as detailed above; and
- (3) a copy of the Anti-Social Behaviour in Halton: 2007 and 2008 be circulated to the Board

Strategic Director,
Corporate and
Policy

SAF20 TRADING STANDARDS SERVICE

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Health and Community which outlined the performance and activities of the joint Trading Standards Service between Warrington Borough Council and Halton Borough Council.

The Board was advised that the report detailed current activity, which was making a difference in Halton and which adequately demonstrated the value of a joint service.

The Board received an update from Mr P. Astley, Warrington BC on the current operating arrangements within the Service, how sharing of best practice had lead to significant improvements in both areas and how technology was being utilised.

Arising from Members' comments and questions the following was noted:

- that Councillors played an important 'early warning system' through residents complaints at surgeries;
- that in the future it was envisaged that deprived areas/wards would have a day-to-day contact on the Team;
- that it would be useful for all Councillors to receive updated contact details for the service;
- that work on reducing illicit tobacco sales would receive additional funding and require partnership working.

The Board extended its appreciation to the Officers

present and the Service for their hard work.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be received; and
- (2) all Councillors be sent updated contact details for the service.

Strategic Director,
Health and
Community

SAF21 ANNUAL ROAD TRAFFIC COLLISION & CASUALTY REPORT

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Environment which reported road traffic collision and casualty numbers within the Borough in the year 2008 and recommended a continuance of road traffic accident reduction work.

The Board was advised that Appendix A to the report set out full details of the numbers of traffic collisions and casualties in the year 2008, and compared these figures with those for previous years. The report also gave details of progress towards various national targets for casualty reductions and highlighted concerns regarding the Government's casualty reduction targets for the ten years beyond 2010, which are set out in its consultation 'A Safer Way: Consultation on Making Britain's Roads the Safest in the World'.

The Board was further advised of the following:-

- there had been 326 road collisions involving personal injury in Halton, producing 494 casualties;
- 55 of the casualties had been classed as serious, and there had been 4 deaths. These results were markedly higher than those recorded in 2006 and 2007, which at the time were considered to be exceptionally low;
- the child serious injury and fatality total of 11 remained the same as that of 2007, in keeping with the general trends of recent years;
- the number of people of all ages being slightly injured had fallen from 477 in 2007 to 435;
- the overall figures showed a large decrease over those for 2007; and
- casualty numbers in the three key nationally set target areas remained well below the 2010 final target levels.

In addition, it was reported that overall, the results

confirmed the success of casualty reduction work, funded through Halton's Second Local Transport Plan, the Cheshire Safer Roads Partnership, supported by targeted enforcement, and local road safety education, training and publicity initiatives.

The Board extended its appreciation to the Officers present and the Partnership for their hard work.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the overall progress made on casualty reduction in Halton be welcomed and noted;
- (2) the current programme of road traffic collision reduction schemes and road safety education, training and publicity be endorsed; and
- (3) the concerns with regard to the achievement of the Government's proposed post 2010 casualty reduction targets be noted.

SAF22 CHESHIRE SAFER ROADS PARTNERSHIP 2008/09 ANNUAL REPORT

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Environment which presented the Cheshire Safer Roads Partnership's (CSRP) Annual Report for 2008/9.

The Board was advised that the 2008/09 Annual Report, set out in Appendix 1 to the report, set out the activities undertaken by CSRP, the progress made against targets, its financial position and intended actions for 2009/10.

It was reported that the core business of the CSRP remained enforcement with cameras of speed limits and red light running at known collision sites. During 2008-09 the Partnership had undertaken 99,321 hours of enforcement and issued 35,054 fixed penalty notices. There had been a reduction in the number of collisions and on average, 44 fewer people a year have been killed or seriously injured at safety camera sites.

In addition, there were now 20 red routes across Cheshire, (which since Local Government Reorganisation in April 2009 was split into Cheshire West & Chester & Cheshire East), Halton and Warrington. These routes had been chosen because they carried a higher risk of an injury collision and they were now subject to extra policing and

safety camera enforcement, as a result of this initiative.

The Board was also advised that Speed Awareness Workshops had been introduced by Cheshire Police, in conjunction with the Partnership, for speed offenders who had only exceeded the speed limits by a small amount. The course takes offenders through the consequences of their actions and looks at their motivations to speed.

In addition, a range of targeted schemes and programmes had been introduced to address issues within certain sections of the public, which included:-

- a focus on young road users;
- a focus on drink and drug driving;
- awareness raising;
- working with communities;
- biker safety in Vale Royal; and
- Bertie – This project involved the production of a road safety DVD, which was used, along with a supported lesson plan, to discuss road safety issues in Crewe and Nantwich secondary schools.

RESOLVED: That the work of the Cheshire Safer Roads Partnership, in reducing road casualties, continue to be supported and welcomed.

(NB: Councillor M. Ratcliffe declared a personal interest in the following item due to being a Magistrate Youth Chair)

SAF23 SERVICE PLANS 2010/11

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Health and Community which provided information on the first step in the development of service plans for 2010/11 and beyond.

The Board advised that a number of suggestions had been put forward and it was agreed that these would be circulated to members of the Board for consideration.

RESOLVED: That suggestions be circulated to members of the Board for consideration.

Meeting ended at 7.45 p.m.

URBAN RENEWAL POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD

At a meeting of the Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board held on Wednesday, 16 September 2009 in the Civic Suite, Town Hall, Runcorn

Present: Councillors Hignett (Chairman), Morley (Vice-Chairman), E. Cargill, Hodgkinson, Leadbetter, Nolan, Rowe and Thompson

Apologies for Absence: Councillors: Balmer, P. Blackmore and Murray

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: G. Collins, L. Derbyshire, J. Farmer, C. Leyshon, M. Noone, N Renison, D. Sutton and A. Villiers

Also in attendance: In Accordance with Standing Order 30, Councillor Polhill, Portfolio Holder Planning, Transportation, Regeneration & Renewal

20 Members of the Public

ITEMS DEALT WITH UNDER DUTIES EXERCISABLE BY THE BOARD

Action

URB18 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 17 June 2009 having been printed and circulated were signed as a correct record.

URB19 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

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

URB20 EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES

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

RESOLVED: That the Minutes be received.

URB21 SSP MINUTES

The Board was advised that there were no SSP Minutes for this meeting.

URB22 QUARTER1 TO PERIOD END 30TH JUNE 2009

The Board received a report of the Chief Executive which detailed the 1st quarter performance management reports on progress against service plan objectives and performance targets, performance trends/comparisons and factors affecting the services for: –

- Highways, Transportation and Logistics;
- Environment and Regulatory Services;
- Health and Partnerships;
- Culture and Leisure;
- Economic Regeneration; and
- Major Projects

In receiving the 1st quarterly monitoring reports the following comments arose from the discussion:-

Major Projects

- Page 28 - Emerging Issues (Para 3.0) – Re the Homes and Community Agency (HCA) informing the Council that it would not maintain its commitment to the Canal Quarter development – the reasons and implications of this action was noted; and
- Page 38 – Clarity was sought on the spend of the 'Contaminated Land' funding allocation.

In reply it was reported that this information would be circulated to Members of the Board.

Environmental and Regulatory

- Page 70 – Clarity was sought on spend against financial allocations on the Growth Points programme.

In reply it was reported that this information would be circulated to Members of the Board.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the 1st quarter monitoring report be noted; and

Strategic Director,
Environment

- (2) information on the Growth Points Award be circulated to all Members of the Board.

URB23 WORKING NEIGHBOURHOOD FUND OUTTURN POSITION AND ACHIEVEMENTS 2008/2009

The Board considered a report of the Urban Renewal Co-ordinator which outlined the final financial outturn position and achievements of Urban Renewal projects receiving Working Neighbourhoods Fund (WNF) support. The report also reflected a re-profiling of the 2008/09 budget.

The Board was advised that the Partnership approved the 2008/09 funding allocations for projects receiving WNF in January 2008. This report had been deferred from the 17th June 2009 Board meeting, due to the high volume of business already being considered on that occasion.

The Board was further advised that Appendix XXb showed the project's estimated expenditure position at the end of March 2009. This could be compared with the original allocations and the level of over/underspend.

It was noted that, despite an overprofiling element having been added into the allocations profile (of £12,040), the total Urban Renewal project spend outturn position was almost on target, with a mere £132 overspend.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

URB24 CASTLEFIELDS REGENERATION PROGRAMME REVIEW

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Environment, which gave an update on progress of the Castlefields Regeneration Programme and outlined the potential next development phases which would continue to drive forward the regeneration of the area.

The Board received a presentation from Chris Leyshon, Castlefields Regeneration Programme Manager which:-

- Outlined the reasons for the need for the Castlefields Regeneration;
- Gave an update on the key projects and the delivery of housing renewal;
- Showed images of before and after regeneration

in respect of Caesars Close, Meadow Road and Oak Lodge;

- Set out an aerial view taken in the late 1980's and what the area would look like in 2012;
- Highlighted the place making – Astmoor Lane, the New Link Road, Rolands Walk Subway, Lighting, Signage, Branding, the Public Arts Strategy and environmental improvements;
- Showed images of Pheonix Park and the 'Party in the Park' which had taken place in August 2009 and which 8000 people had attended;
- Highlighted that the regeneration was more than just housing, it included apprenticeships, the Enterprise Game, Community Arts Projects, the Youth Squad and promoting civic pride; and
- Set out the challenges ahead.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the presentation be received; and
- (2) the Board supports the Castlefields Re-generation Programme.

Strategic Director,
Environment

URB25 THE IMPLICATIONS OF DE-LINKING THE SILVER JUBILEE BRIDGE – TOPIC GROUP PROGRESS REPORT

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Environment which reported back to the Board on the matters examined by the Topic Group set up to consider the implications of de-linking the Silver Jubilee Bridge (SJB) in support of the Mersey Gateway Project.

The Board was advised that the Members of the Group concluded that the Topic Group meetings had enabled an open and frank discussion on the implications of De-linking the SJB. It was agreed that it made sense to await the outcome of the Public Inquiry before looking to influence proposals in Runcorn. It was concluded that there was no need for the Topic Group to continue in the immediate future, that support continue to be given to the various Mersey Gateway (MG) Applications and Orders to be considered by the Public Inquiry, and that support be given for the Preferred Options of the MG Regeneration Strategy

but that more work be undertaken on these and alternative options once the result of the Inquiry was known. It was further recognised that in order to consider any further evaluation of these options, the Topic Group may need to be reconvened subject to approval of this Policy and Performance Board.

The Board thanked everyone who had been involved in the Topic Group for the excellent work that had been undertaken on the review.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Board note the progress made by the Topic Group in examining the issues associated with the proposed de-linking of the Silver Jubilee Bridge; and
- (2) endorse the Group's conclusion that any further consideration be deferred until the outcome of the Public Inquiry into the Mersey Gateway Project is known.

Strategic Director,
Environment

URB26 RECEIPT OF PETITION - RELOCATION OF BUS STOP AT DERBY ROAD, WIDNES

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Environment which informed Members of a petition which had been received from the residents of Claremont Avenue, Claremont Drive, Derby Rd, Marsh Hall Road, Windermere Avenue and Windermere Street, following the relocation of a bus stop by approximately 100 metres from its original location on Derby Road, at the junction with Claremont Drive, Widnes.

The Board was advised that Halton Borough Council had received a petition on the 10th August 2009, signed by 49 residents, concerning the relocation of a bus stop on Derby Rd (Set out in Appendix A to the report). The basis of the petition being that: the majority of the people who use the bus stop were between 60 and 80 years of age, had health and mobility problems and had a greater risk of falling, (particularly in the winter with icy pavements and the downhill location of the new bus stop); and that the current siting of the stop provided little protection from inclement weather. It was alleged that the original location of the stop had never caused a problem. Finally, the petition sought a 'Request Stop' to be placed in the vicinity of the old bus stop.

The Board was further advised that the bus stop was served by the Halton Transport Ltd service 17a, which operated on an hourly frequency Monday to Saturday between Widnes, Vicarage Rd and St Helens Town Centre.

The bus stop was originally relocated as part of a Borough wide scheme to improve access to stops and to bring the bus stop up to Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (DDA) compliance. Part 3 of the DDA gave people with disabilities the right to access goods, facilities, services and premises. Unfortunately, the bus stop, in its initial location could not accommodate the necessary improvements to make the stop DDA compliant (bus shelter, raised kerbing and bus box markings) and as such an alternative location was sought.

It was reported that as a result of the concerns raised in the petition, a site visit had been carried out by the Executive Board Member for Planning, Transportation, Regeneration and Renewal and relevant Council Officers, to assess the situation and if appropriate, identify an alternative location. It was subsequently agreed that for a trial period of six months, an alternative bus stop should be sited on Derby Rd, closer to its junction with Claremont Drive to enable an assessment to be made of the relative benefits of each bus stop location. However, the temporary bus stop would not comply with DDA standards, during the trial and the current bus stop would be taken out of use due to the close proximity of the temporary stop.

It was also reported that further consultation with the residents occupying frontage properties on Derby Rd, affected by the alternative bus stop location, would be undertaken.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the petition be noted; and
- (2) the proposed course of action to relocate the bus stop on Derby Road on a temporary basis to enable an assessment to be made of the relative benefits be supported.

Strategic Director,
Environment

URB27 RECEIPT OF PETITION - PARKING PROBLEMS AT SOUTHWAY, WIDNES

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Environment which reported the receipt of a petition from residents of Southway and Ash Grove, Widnes

and actions taken to date.

The Board was advised that a petition by 19 residents of Southway and Ash Grove, Widnes (11 properties) had been received on 5 June 2009. This represented approximately 39% of households within the area of circulation of the petition. The petition outlined the problems associated with a lack of car parking. These included neighbourly disputes, possible damage to footways and vehicles and potential road safety issues. It requested that the Council consider the provision of additional parking spaces on the grassed verge in Southway.

The Board was further advised that there had been a history of parking problems in Southway and Ash Grove. The majority of houses in these streets were laid out generally perpendicular to the carriageway, with the fronts of properties accessed by a footpath only. There was limited carriageway space available for parking. Previously, car parking bays had been provided within grassed amenity areas in the Borough by the previous Housing Department. However, there was insufficient space to cope with current demand.

In addition, a written holding reply had been sent to the organiser of the petition on 19 June 2009. The response had referred to previous involvement by the Council in similar parking issues at Southway. It explained that grassed verges were owned by Halton Housing Trust and that their views on the proposal would be sought.

Given the responsibilities of Halton Borough Council for carriageway, footway and road safety in Southway and Halton Housing Trust's responsibilities for both the grassed amenity areas and for estate management, any scheme to provide parking spaces on the grassed verges would need to be developed in partnership. Also, any scheme to provide parking spaces would need planning permission and the issue of who should fund such a scheme also needed consideration.

It was reported that a preliminary design sketch had been prepared which showed how parking spaces could be provided, and Halton Housing Trust had been asked for initial views.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the petition be received;

Strategic Director,
Environment

- (2) the Board notes that the initial design sketch had been submitted to Halton Housing Trust for its views on whether a parking scheme could be progressed; and
- (3) a further report be presented to the Board when the views of Halton Housing Trust on the feasibility of a parking scheme have been received.

URB28 RESIDENTS-ONLY PARKING SCHEMES

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Environment, which sought to review the Council's policy in relation to residents only parking schemes. The Board's comments on the scheme were requested prior to being considered by the Executive Board.

The Board was advised that parking on Halton's roads was free and open to all highway users on an equal basis, provided their vehicles were street legal. The highway, it was reported, was for the passing and re-passing of traffic and not for parking.

The Board was further advised that in Halton, there was no charge levied for the use of the limited number of Council owned car parks and thus there was no income from these facilities. In this respect, they represented a financial liability to the Council, due to their ongoing maintenance costs. Most parking provision associated with the town centre and supermarket shopping was in private ownership and again carried no charge, currently. However, there was charging by the owners of car parks at some locations such as the hospital and at Runcorn mainline railway station. It was noted, however, that the Council had commissioned parking studies in Runcorn and Widnes Town Centres and in Halton Lea. These studies provided the base data and analysis to enable consideration by the Council, in conjunction with private car park operators, of a future car parking management policy.

In addition, enforcement of on-highway parking restrictions is the responsibility of Cheshire Police. Cheshire Police had been consulted to ascertain if they would be prepared to enforce a Residents Only Parking (ROPS) scheme in Halton, if one were introduced. The request had been declined as the Police indicated that the "Force's position on residents only parking is that it was solely a local authority issue.

It was reported that using powers introduced by the Road Traffic Act 2004, it would be possible for Halton to take on responsibility for enforcing on-street parking restrictions instead of the Police, including any ROPS. These Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) powers would mean that the majority of parking offences, including parking on yellow lines and misusing disabled person parking bays, would no longer be criminal offences. A total of 247 local authorities had taken on CPE powers to March 2009, freeing some Police resources to tackle more serious crime.

It was reported that Council were in the process of considering the feasibility for introducing CPE in Halton and would include an assessment of the financial implications as well as any enforcement benefits. However, it was highlighted that the Council had no parking income against which it could offset the cost of a Resident Only Parking Schemes within a Civil Parking Enforcement regime.

It was noted that many of The Holloway's residents saw the introduction of ROPS as a simple solution provided that the restrictions were enforced robustly. However, it was also noted that based on the reported experiences of other local authorities available via the internet, such schemes had a number of associated problems and impacts that would need to be taken into account.

In conclusion, it was reported that the Council's ability to introduce Residents Only Parking Schemes within the Borough at this time was dependent on the viability of it adopting Civil Parking Enforcement powers. However, there also remained a substantial number of disadvantages to agreeing to the introduction of Residents Only Parking Schemes within the Borough associated with: inflexibility in the provision of licenses and parking spaces; the inability to guarantee parking spaces for individual residents; the inconvenience to residents and visitors; the displacement of parking problems; the potential reductions in the availability of parking space; and costs. It was therefore considered inappropriate to introduce Residents Only Parking Schemes in the Borough at this time.

The following points arose from the discussion:-

- It was noted that the view of the Board would be included in the report to the Executive Board for consideration at its meeting on 24 September 2009;
- It was reported that there were problems caused

by parking on The Holloway (adjacent to Runcorn rail station) and that they were getting worse. It was suggested that parking was being displaced from the station's multi-storey car park as the charge was considered expensive (£6 before 10.00am). Residents had to compete/share parking with train travellers;

- It was agreed that Residents Parking schemes need to be self financing and not funded via additional Council tax, suggesting that it could be put out to private contract or neighbouring authorities. It was also suggested that the Council apply for Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) Powers once the results of the CPE feasibility study were known;
- a Member of the Board reported via email that he had lived and worked in a residents parking scheme area. He thought it was an excellent idea but clarity was sought on who would police it, who would administer it and how it would be funded. In addition, it was reported that the scheme had worked when there was only one car per household, but that it was not a workable option when residents had more than one car. It was highlighted that the parking bays were less than 11 metres long and there was no provision for visitors who had to park up to three quarters of a mile away;
- It was noted that there was a parking problem across the Borough and the country and that ROPS would have to be introduced everywhere at a substantial cost if a parking scheme was introduced;
- It was suggested that the report was a useful document as background but the key to it was the proposed Civil Parking Enforcement Powers Feasibility Study. In addition, it was not only Holloway which was experiencing parking problems but other areas of the Borough also, i.e. the New Town area;
- In respect of East Runcorn station, it was highlighted that there had always been a problem in the surrounding streets for different reasons i.e the car park was not perceived as 'safe', In addition, it was felt that a Borough-wide view

would need to be taken and firm comments obtained from Network Rail / Virgin on the potential for reducing their charges or amending the times at which different rates were charged.

- The Board supported a recommendation that a report be brought back to the Board outlining the outcomes and conclusions of the CPE feasibility study as and when it was completed;
- It was noted that the timescale for the project would be presented to the Executive Board; and
- It was reported that there had been a parking problem in Victoria Avenue, Farnworth and that the Council had introduced a restriction of 1 hour in each 24 hours, on one side of the road. Some of the vehicles had been booked and it had been successful, but it had displaced some cars onto another road. It was suggested that ROPS were not the only answer and that any scheme would need to be self financing, possibly costing as much as £800 per permit to cover the administration costs.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the conclusions in the report and comments made be noted; and
- (2) a report be brought to the Board outlining the outcome and conclusions of the feasibility study as and when the study is complete.

Strategic Director,
Environment

URB29 HALTON LEA AND RUNCORN AND WIDNES TOWN CENTRE PARKING STUDIES

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Environment which advised of the key results and recommendations of Town Centre Parking Studies and sought approval to a number of actions which would enable a new parking strategy to be developed that would seek to sustain the viability of the Borough's Town Centres.

The Board was advised that Halton was one of only two boroughs in Merseyside (the other being Knowsley) where car parking was free. Therefore, the implications of imposing parking charges, parking enforcement and amending parking supply would need to be carefully considered in relation to their potential impact on the

attractiveness (and hence economic viability) of the town centres, and on nearby residents. In determining a car parking policy, the Council faced an unusual situation, due to a large number of the car parks within the Borough being privately owned. It was therefore essential, in developing new 'on' and 'off'-street car parking strategies, for the Council to work closely with the owners of these car parks to ensure that a consistent, practical and enforceable approach was adopted.

The Board was further advised that to progress this work, parking studies had been commissioned at three key locations within the Borough (Runcorn and Widnes Town Centres and Halton Lea). These studies provided the base data and analysis for consideration by the proposed Parking Partnership and thereby a foundation upon which decisions could be taken by the Council on future parking management policy and formation of a revised strategy. Whilst the existing strategy made some mention of parking management, charging and residents only parking, it was important that up to date parking study data continued to be collected to allow updating of the strategy following the proposed formation of the Parking Partnership, particularly in the light of recent and proposed developments. A parking strategy which responded to the current needs of visitors to the town centres would help ensure that the town centres' attractiveness as destinations was maintained, particularly in the light of new development and the current economic climate.

In addition, it was reported that in commissioning the parking studies, comprehensive briefs had been provided to the consultants, which detailed the broad aims & objectives.

The consultants had identified the parking patterns and problems for each of the centres. Whilst various recommendations were made, any decisions taken would need to take into account a range of factors and potential impacts. These included:

- town centre (economic) viability;
- the current economic downturn;
- impacts on residential parking;
- proposed tolling of the Mersey Gateway and Silver Jubilee Bridge;
- the costs and potential income from CPE;
- promotion of sustainable transport; and
- public reaction to the imposition of charging and/or parking restrictions.

There were considerable differences between the parking patterns and ownership in the three town centres. In Runcorn Old Town, with the exception of Somerfield & Poundstretcher, car parks were generally in the ownership of the Council. In the other Town Centres most were privately owned. Therefore, whilst their management requirements would vary, it was important that an agreed approach was developed, which was acceptable to the Council and all car park operators across the three Town Centres. The study identified the potential for a number of controversial decisions to be made to enable the three Town Centres to function and develop; unimpaired by inadequate parking provision resulting from current and future land uses. These included the following:-

- the introduction of limited period parking;
- the introduction of off street parking charges;
- the introduction of on street parking charges;
- the introduction of Residents' Only Parking Schemes (ROPS);
- the introduction of Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) in Halton;
- the provision of a Multi Storey Car Park in Runcorn; and
- the provision of Long Stay Parking in Widnes.

The Board also received a presentation outlining the Halton Parking Studies Consultants findings and recommendations – Headlines.

The following points arose from the presentation and discussion:-

- It was reported that Halton Lea multi storey car park had restricted spaces close to the shops that were short stay only and that this could be considered in Runcorn Town Centre using a private operator to cover the costs;
- In respect of the railway station, it was suggested that the Council could put in competitive parking via a private contractor as the cost of the Network Rail/Virgin car park was displacing cars into residential areas;

In reply it was reported that Network Rail and Virgin had worked with the Authority to reduce the car parking charges to £6 before 10 am and £3 later as they were currently charging £8 in other places.

- The importance of free parking being retained in Halton was noted;
- It was noted that previous studies had shown a footfall in the town centre, particularly in Runcorn Town Centre and that most trade visits to the town were up to two hours. It was suggested that short term parking charges would have a devastating effect on retail footfall. However, consideration could be given to charging for long term parking which would not have such an impact on footfall;
- It was noted that car parking in Halton Lea had been successful as it was free for three hours; and
- It was noted that when looking at partnerships consideration would be given to consistency in respect of operators and parking charges.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Board note the findings of the studies;
- (2) the Board support the need to pursue and establish a formal Parking Partnership by mid 2010 between the Council and the private operators of car parks within the Borough, the purpose of which would be to consider options and propose measures that are required to manage parking demand both 'Off' and 'On' Street and also to agree the basis of a new draft Parking Strategy for future consideration by the Executive Board;
- (3) the Board support the commissioning of a study, which is currently underway, that will explore the feasibility of the Council making an application for the introduction of its own Civil (Parking) Enforcement Powers and request that the results be brought back to a future meeting of this Board;
- (4) The Board note the consultant's conclusion that there is a potential need for a multi-storey car park in Runcorn, but endorse the recommendation that investigations into this proposal be deferred until the current

Strategic Director,
Environment

economic climate improves;

- (5) The current approach of seeking Section 106 agreements where appropriate to support small residential developments with no private off street parking around the Victoria Square area and seeking a financial contribution towards parking or transport infrastructure, be continued;
- (6) A further report on the establishment of a strategy for securing Section 106 contributions from development elsewhere within the Borough be prepared and submitted to a future meeting of the Board for consideration; and
- (7) The Board support the proposal for officers to investigate the feasibility of the Council keeping the temporary car park at Runcorn station open for use by rail users, to help ease parking problems on surrounding streets, and the potential for a charge to be imposed for its use with management by the private sector.

URB30 LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Environment which advised on the progress that had been made during 2008/09 on implementing the programmes contained within Halton's second Local Transport Plan (LTP2) and on the targets that underpin LTP's policies and strategies.

The Board was advised that in March 2006, Halton submitted its second LTP to the Department for Transport (DfT) for approval which covered the five year period from 2006/07 to 2010/11.

The Board was further that for the first financial year of LTP2, (2006/07), a brief progress report had been required and submitted to the DfT, the contents of which were presented to Urban Renewal PPB on the 19th September 2007. In the subsequent financial year a more comprehensive progress report (Local Transport Plan 2006/07 to 2010/11, Mid Term Review) was required covering the first two years of delivery and this was approved by Executive Board and submitted to DfT in September 2008.

It was reported that the report summarised the

programme of works and initiatives that had been undertaken in 2008/09 and also described the progress that had been made against the performance indicators contained within LTP2. It was noted that the DfT did not require a report on 2008/09 progress.

It was also reported that during 2008/9 good progress had been made towards the achievement of the targets set. An analysis of progress against all the targets that could be reported on revealed that 67% of mandatory indicators were on target and that 73% of all indicators were on target and this provided a good base upon which further improvements could be made.

RESOLVED: That the progress made during 2008/09 on the LTP2 be welcomed.

Meeting ended at 8.15 p.m.

CORPORATE SERVICES POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD

At a meeting of the Corporate Services Policy and Performance Board on Tuesday, 8 September 2009 in the Civic Suite, Town Hall, Runcorn

Present: Councillors Gilligan (Chairman), A. Lowe (Vice-Chairman), J. Bradshaw, Browne, E. Cargill, Dennett, Edge and D. Inch

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Nolan, Norddahl and Wainwright

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: M. Reaney, G. Ferguson, R. Mackenzie, N. Mannion, P. Searing, A. Villiers and J. Yates

Also in attendance: N/A

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

		<i>Action</i>
CS13	MINUTES	
	The Minutes from the meeting held on 2 nd June 2009 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.	
CS14	PUBLIC QUESTION TIME	
	It was reported that no public questions had been received.	
CS15	EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES	
	The Minutes of the Executive Board and the Executive Sub-Committee relating to the work of the Corporate Services Policy and Performance Board since its last meeting were submitted for information.	
	Arising from the discussion on Minute ES3 it was agreed that the Board be provided with further information regarding the merger of building societies which resulted in the Council exceeding its limit with Nationwide Building Society.	Operational Director Financial Services
	RESOLVED: That the Board be provided with further	

information on the merger of building societies that resulted in the Council exceeding its limit with Nationwide Building Society.

CS16 SSP MINUTES

There are no SSP minutes for this meeting.

CS17 DISABLED ACCESS TO PUBLIC BUILDINGS

The Board received an update report on the current position with regard to disabled access and the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) compliance with regard to public buildings. The BVPI 156 'Buildings Accessible to People with a Disability' was introduced in 2000/01 in order to monitor the improvement of access to local authority buildings for disabled people. The indicator was formally withdrawn following the 2007/08 submission, however, Property Services had a local indicator PYSLI 12 which replaced it, together with a service objective (PSO7) which measured DDA compliance with regard to public buildings.

The percentage of public buildings which now complied with BVPI 156 and the subsequent local indicator PYSLI 12 had risen from 25% in 2003/04 to 72% in 2008/09, the target for 2009/10, which the Council was confident could be achieved was 75%.

The Board noted that service objective PS07 was at the stage where all Priority 1 work had been completed where necessary together with over 60% of necessary priority 2 works. The target for March 2010 was that 90% of Priority 2 works would be completed, following which a review of the remaining works would be undertaken as many of the Priority 3 items had already been carried out in conjunction with other works.

It was reported that over the past few years the available funds to address disabled access and DDA issues in public buildings had had a massive impact on improving compliance. This was evidenced by the significant increase in the percentage of buildings which now complied with the indicators. However, improving the percentage would become increasingly difficult due to the nature of some of the buildings where compliance was extremely difficult to achieve, as such it was important to continue with the funding stream.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be noted; and
- (2) a further report be provided later in the year containing a list of all Council buildings detailing their priority (ie 1, 2 or 3), the current position with regard to disabled access and DDA compliance.

Strategic Director
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CS18 MARKETS UPDATE

The Board received an update on the current position with regard to Halton's Markets and the work being undertaken by the Market's Topic Group, chaired by Councillor Wainwright.

It was noted that over the past few years Halton Markets had been operating in an increasingly competitive environment. This was having an impact on trader numbers and Council income. Whilst Widnes Market was well occupied, many traders under pressure. To assist this, the Council had given the traders a 10% reduction in rent and frozen the rent increase of 2.5% that was due in April 2009. This had helped the traders and the numbers leaving had now stopped and some new traders were appearing. The rent arrears were also reducing with payment plans in place to eliminate all arrears.

With regard to Runcorn Market, whilst its position had stabilised at a lower level, rents were still at half standard rates. Various initiatives had been tried but with little improvement coming through. There was a core of Committee Traders who worked closely with the Market Management. As a result of the problems with the indoor market and the general economic downturn in trade, it was felt a radical solution was required. The Member's Working Party was set up to look at ways to improve the situation to ensure the Borough, its residents, and visitors continued to enjoy the benefits of vibrant markets.

Consequently, the Working Party had supported the introduction of a Street Market in Runcorn and assisted in its setting up to increase the social and financial vitality of the area. The Market had proved a great success in the first few weeks. It was now in the process of establishing itself with small lettings, increasing from 23 to 36 and over 20 different commodities currently on offer. Primarily due to the positive views and rental levels at a rate that encouraged traders to

stay there was a waiting list of 23 applications.

Whilst the Street Market had only had a partial positive impact on the indoor market, the Town Centre had seen a large increase in visitors on a Tuesday, with many of the local retailers benefiting and complaints have been minimal. In the short term the venture may break even, but in the longer term as the market becomes more established, it could show a profit.

The Working Party was continuing to examine further aspects of the operation of both markets and additional reports would be brought to the Board.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

CS19 NEIGHBOURHOOD MANAGEMENT PROGRESS
REPORT

The Board received a presentation from Councillor Swain, Executive Member for Quality and Performance Portfolio and Mr. N. Mannion, Neighbourhood Director on progress developing Neighbourhood Management in Halton over the past six months.

The Presentation provided:

- a brief overview of the Government's expectations and the key objectives to narrow the gap between our communities in Halton, promoting effective and efficient use of resources whilst facilitating greater resident involvement;
- how and why the three pilot neighbourhoods were chosen. The three pilot areas were Central Widnes, Hallwood Park and Palacefields and Castlefields and Windmill Hill;
- how the Halton Neighbourhood Management Partnership was structured and operated;
- Halton's approach to developing neighbourhood management – the key tools and techniques being utilised to narrow the gap. A number of examples of how using these had worked in the pilot areas, including home safety and tackling arson in conjunction with the Fire and Rescue Services, men's health projects (1 & 2), raising aspirations: Aim Higher Programme, targeting Year 8 and Year 9 pupils

and their families, addressing worklessness through Pilot HaltonNet and the delivery of employment and training and skills services; and

- the future challenges and opportunities for Neighbourhood Management, which included the current funding source for Neighbourhood Management ending in March 2010.

Arising from the discussion, Councillor Inch requested that it be minuted that she would have preferred a copy of the presentation report earlier than at the meeting. It was also requested that a financial breakdown of the Neighbourhood Management service be provided to Board members.

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RESOLVED: That the report and presentation be noted.

CS20 THE FUTURE OF LOCALITY WORKING IN HALTON

The Board received a report which outlined three options for sustaining the development of locality working beyond March 2010.

The three options, containing an outline of the pros and cons of each were considered as follows:

Option 1

Complete closedown, disband the Neighbourhood Management Team and the Boards. Whilst this was the case with over 90% of SRB Programmes, there were only two known examples of this course being adopted from Neighbourhood Management elsewhere (Chelmsleywood (Solihull) and Gospel Oak (London Borough of Camden)).

Option 2

Transfer of the Neighbourhood Management Partnership to a third sector/charitable host/accountable body. This option had been pursued in other districts where there was an existing community development trust, or tenants management organisation in the locality that already had significant capital assets. Examples included Tranmere

and Rock Ferry (Lairdside Trust) and Blacon in Chester.

Option 3

Development of wider more systematic or targeted locality working and community engagement arrangements across the whole borough based on the Area Forum Footprint. The learning from local neighbourhood management pilots was being used to develop this type of option in the majority of other local authority areas that have had neighbourhood management pilots. Arrangements commonly had varying degrees of intensity between localities across the local authority area depending upon places level of need/deprivation. An example of this could be found in St. Helens. Specific localities were targeted but sit within a Borough-wide strategic locality-working framework.

Members made the following observations on the information presented

- in Option 3 the words Area Forum Footprint should be amended to read Area Forum Model;
- the Board requested precise costs of developing a wider more systematic or targeted locality working and community engagement arrangements across the whole Borough based on the Area Forum Model (Option 3) before considering approval;
- the Council was currently going through a restructure process and consideration needed to be given to this;
- a Working Party needed to be set up to consider locality working in more depth; and
- further information was requested on how the deprivation gap had been bridged in the Neighbourhood Management areas.

RESOLVED: That the Executive Board be recommended to accept Option 1 – complete closedown, and a Working Party be set up with the Business Efficiency Board to consider the future of locality working in Halton.

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CS21 WORK PROGRAMME 2009/10

The Board had previously agreed that the Use of National Resources topic should form part of their Work Programme for 2009/10.

The topic was very broad and in order to identify those areas with the most need for/offering the greatest scope for improvement, the Board considered a report which provided an overview of the current baseline in terms of Halton's approach to green issues.

The report identified the following areas for the Board to consider investigating further:

Energy – green audit of data centre/computer rooms;

Energy – operational buildings (excluding schools)

- school buildings
- street lighting; and

Procurement – use case studies of high spending areas to identify scope for minimising environmental impact with a view to developing a sustainable procurement strategy.

RESOLVED: That the following Use of Natural Resources priority areas for closer scrutiny as part of the work programme for 2009/10 be approved with the membership detailed:

Procurement – Councillor Gilligan Chairman, Councillors Inch, Norddahl, Browne, Edge, Lowe and Cargill.

Buildings and Machinery – Councillor Lowe, Chairman, Councillors Inch, Browne, Bradshaw, Cargill and Norddahl.

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CS22 QUARTERLY MONITORING REPORTS

The Board received a report from the Chief Executive on the performance management reports for First Quarter 2009/10 against the Service Plan Objectives and Performance Targets, Performance Trends/Comparisons, factors affecting the services etc. for:

- Exchequer and Customer Services;
- Policy and Performance;
- Legal, Organisational Development and Human Resource Services;
- Financial Services;
- Property Services; and
- Stadium and Hospitality.

The Board, in considering these reports, identified areas of interest or concern as detailed below:

- Exchequer and Customer Services; the Board congratulated Exchequer Services on its recent collection rates for Council Tax and Business Rates.

- Legal, Organisational Development and Human Resources Services: The Board were advised that training sessions on sickness monitoring had taken place for 200 managers throughout the Council and the programme was being rolled out to schools. Before the next Board meeting it was requested that sickness absence figures for school staff be provided as well as a breakdown of sickness by Council Directorate including long-term and more casual absences. Also additional information on sickness absences due to industrial accidents be provided.

RESOLVED: That the First Quarter Performance Management Report be received.

Strategic Director
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Meeting ended at 8.37 p.m.

BUSINESS EFFICIENCY BOARD

At a meeting of the Business Efficiency Board held on Wednesday, 30 September 2009 in the Marketing Suite, Municipal Building

Present: Councillors Leadbetter (Chairman), Lloyd Jones (Vice-Chairman), D. Inch, Jones, Murray, Norddahl, Philbin and Swift

Apologies for Absence: Councillors A. Lowe, Osborne and Worrall

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: I. Leivesley, M. Murphy, E. Dawson, B. Dodd, M. Thomas, C. Williams and C. Halpin

Also in attendance: None

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

BEB10 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 12th August 2009 having been printed and circulated were agreed as a correct record.

BEB11 2008/09 ABSTRACT OF ACCOUNTS AND THE ANNUAL GOVERNANCE REPORT

The Board received a report of the Operational Director, Financial Services which sought approval for the 2008/9 Abstract of Accounts and the report of the Audit Commission regarding the 2008/9 Financial Statements (The Annual Governance Report).

At the Board's meeting on the 12th August 2009 Members approved the Council's draft Statement of Accounts (The Abstract) for 2008/9. It was agreed at the meeting that further changes to The Abstract would be necessary to amend prior year figures, following the receipt of a capitalisation direction in respect of Mersey Gateway development costs from the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG).

Action

The Board was advised that prior year amendments had now been incorporated within the revised draft Abstract, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

It was noted that the results of the amendments was that £8.43m of expenditure previously charged to capital in 2006/7 and 2007/8 and included in the fixed assets as infrastructure costs had instead been charged to the Income and Expenditure Account as revenue expenditure.

It was further noted that during the audit of the financial statements, a review of the Council's assets revealed that six voluntary controlled/aided primary schools were disclosed in the accounts as if the buildings were owned by the Council.

The Board was advised that the value of these buildings (£11.42m) had therefore been excluded from the Council's fixed assets and prior period adjustments had been made which were detailed in the draft Abstract.

As a result of these adjustments the fundamentals of the Council's financial position remained unchanged and there had been no impact upon the General Fund balance.

The District Auditor attended the meeting and presented a report of their findings, the Annual Governance report, which included their work in respect of the Council's arrangements for securing value for money in its use of resources which was set out in Appendix 2 to the report.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the amendments to the 2008/9 Abstract of Accounts be noted;
- (2) the Audit Commission's Annual Governance Report 2008/9 be received;
- (3) the Letter of Representation be approved; and
- (4) the 2008/9 Abstract of Accounts be approved.

BEB12 SCHEDULE 12A OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

The Board considered:

- (1) whether Members of the press and public should be

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

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

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

BEB13 INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT - QUARTER 1 (2009/10)

The Board considered a report of the Operational Director, Financial Services which provided a summary of internal audit work for the period from April to June 2009.

The report set out the internal audit reports finalised since the last progress report, the key issues and recommendations arising from the audits completed and the results of the work undertaken following up the implementation of previous internal audit recommendations.

RESOLVED: That the Internal Audit progress report be noted.

Meeting ended at 6.30 p.m.

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APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the Appointments Committee held on Monday, 21 September 2009 at the Conference Room 2, Municipal Building

Present: Councillors McDermott, Polhill, Redhead, Findon and Wharton

Apologies for Absence: None

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: D. Parr, I. Leivesley and J Burgess

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

Action

APC1 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 2nd April 2009, having been printed and circulated, were taken as read and agreed as a correct record.

APC2 STAFFING PROTOCOLS

In order to meet the financial challenges it faced over the next few years the Council had embarked on a wide-ranging Efficiency Programme. To support the implementation of the Efficiency Programme, and recognising the natural concerns of employees through these processes, a Staffing Protocol document had been produced which dealt with the staffing issues that may arise from such programmes. The document brought together the relevant Human Resource Policies and Procedures of the Council into one coherent document. The development of the document into the Staffing Protocol had been achieved through a series of joint Trade Union Negotiation meetings with relevant Trade Unions (UNISON and MPO/GMB).

Whilst developing the protocol, the opportunity was taken to review the existing At Risk Policy and the Voluntary Early Retirement Scheme. It was also checked to ensure that it complied with current Employment Law. The

amendments to the At Risk process mainly related to clarifying the processes and steps that were to be followed when employees were placed at risk. However, the review of Voluntary Early Retirement in the Interests of Efficiency Scheme resulted in proposed changes in the way pension was augmented (the power of the employing authority to increase total pension scheme membership of active members). The revised scheme introduced a sliding scale of augmentation based on length of service of the member of staff concerned. Any augmented years added would be determined by the number of years service an employee had on a sliding scale. It was this issue that had been subject to Trade Union ballot and it was reported that MPO/GMB and UNISON had now agreed to the revised augmentation scale.

It was noted that there were clearly financial implications to the Council in terminating a person's employment either compulsorily or by voluntary means. The costs would depend on the individual's circumstances and therefore could not be reliably estimated at this time. The costs would be met from the overall savings generated from the Efficiency Programme.

RESOLVED: That

(1) Staffing Protocol be approved; and

(2) Any minor drafting amendments be delegated to the Strategic Director, Corporate and Policy, in consultation with the Corporate Services Portfolio holder, to make.

Strategic Director,
Corporate and
Policy

Meeting ended at 9.20 a.m.

DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the Development Control Committee on Monday, 6 July 2009 at Civic Suite, Town Hall, Runcorn

Present: Councillors Nolan (Chairman), Thompson (Vice-Chairman), P. Blackmore, S. Blackmore, J. Bradshaw, Hignett, Hodgkinson, Leadbetter and Polhill

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Morley and Osborne

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: P. Watts, C. Halpin, A. Plant, P. Shearer, J. Tully and R. Wakefield

Also in attendance: Councillors Balmer and McInerney and 22 members of the public.

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

	<i>Action</i>
DEV16 MINUTES	
<p>The Minutes of the meeting held on 8th June 2009, having been printed and circulated, were taken as read and signed as a correct record subject to the following amendment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DEV9 – date of the meeting be amended to 18th May 2009. 	
DEV17 PLANNING APPLICATIONS TO BE DETERMINED BY THE COMMITTEE	
<p>The Committee considered the following applications for planning permission and, in accordance with its powers and duties, made the decisions described below.</p>	
DEV18 09/00144/OUT - OUTLINE APPLICATION (WITH LANDSCAPING MATTERS RESERVED) FOR THE ERECTION OF 13 NO. DWELLINGS WITH ACCESS AND ASSOCIATED WORKS ON LAND ADJACENT TO EIGHT	

TOWERS, WEATES CLOSE, WIDNES, WA8 3RH

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

The Committee was advised that no further representation had been received in respect of the application since the report had been written.

Members were also updated on the safety audit received following the site visit.

Councillor McInerney addressed the Committee in objection to the application, raising concerns regarding siting of the access road and loss of landscaping.

It was noted that the previous application for this development had been upheld at appeal by Secretary of State following refusal by the Committee and that if the application was refused it was anticipated that an appeal, if submitted, would be upheld incurring costs to the Council.

The Committee considered the application and representations made.

RESOLVED: That Application No. 09//00144/OUT be approved subject to conditions and that authority be delegated to Operational Director, Environmental and Regulatory Services to negotiate conditions with the applicant.

DEV19 09/00177/FUL - RETROSPECTIVE APPLICATION FOR RETENTION OF BOUNDARY FENCE TO SIDE OF 12 BUCKINGHAM AVENUE, WIDNES, WA8 9EP

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

Since the report was written one further objection had been received stating that the proposal disregarded documents and schedules of the sale of the properties, would set a precedent, loss of amenity on the estate and devalue properties in the area.

Mr Horabin addressed the Committee on behalf of the applicant in support of the application.

Mr Baston addressed the Committee in objection to

the application.

Councillor Balmer addressed the Committee in objection to the application raising concerns that the fence was inappropriate to the character of the area.

The Committee considered the recommendation in the report but felt that insufficient attention had been given to the requirements of UDP Policy BE 22 (Boundary Walls and Fences) in relation to the character and appearance of the area.

The Committee considered the application and the representations made.

RESOLVED: That Application No. 09/00214/FUL be refused due to being inappropriate to the character and appearance of the area contrary to UDP Policy BE 22 (Boundary Walls and Fences).

DEV20 09/00198/COU - PROPOSED CHANGE OF USE OF ADJACENT VACANT LAND TO DOMESTIC GARDEN AND ERECTION OF 1.8M HIGH FENCING AT 86 ARLEY DRIVE, WIDNES

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

It was noted that no further representations had been received in respect of the application since the report had been written.

Mr Strickland addressed the Committee on behalf of the applicant in support of the application.

Mr Bray addressed the Committee in objection to the application.

The Committee considered the application and in doing so noted that there would be no loss of the remaining tree on site and that the application had been amended to leave a strip of land between the fence and the back of the highway.

RESOLVED: That Application No. 09/00198/COU be approved subject to conditions relating to the following:

- 1) Time limits on commencement.

2) Condition(s) for the removal of permitted development rights for enlargements and ancillary buildings (classes A, E of part 1 of the GPDO) and the hard surfacing (class F of part 1 of the GPDO), and for additional fences (class A of part 2 of the GPDO).

3) Condition(s) for the protection and retention of trees.

DEV21 09/00214/FUL - PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF 9 NO. NEW FLATS (FOR RENT) ON LAND AT MUNCASTER COURT, RUNCORN

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

It was noted that no further representations had been received in respect of the application since the report was written.

RESOLVED: That Application No. 09/00214/FUL be approved subject to conditions relating to the following:

- 1) Materials condition, requiring the submission and approval of the materials to be used (BE2).
- 2) Landscaping condition, requiring the submission of both hard and soft landscaping to include replacement tree planting (BE2).
- 3) Boundary treatments to be submitted and approved in writing (BE2).
- 4) Wheel cleansing facilities to be submitted and approved in writing (BE1).
- 5) Construction and delivery hours to be adhered to throughout the course of the development (BE1).
- 6) Vehicle access, parking, servicing etc. to be constructed prior to the occupation of properties/commencement of use (BE1).
- 7) Conditions relating to the agreement and the implementation of bin stores, cycling provision (TP6).
- 8) Site investigation, including mitigation to be submitted and approved in writing (PR14).
- 9) Agreement of details and construction design of all

retaining walls (BE1).

10) Protection of trees (BE1).

11) Submission and agreement of details of solar panels/photovoltaic panels (BE2).

12) Provision of bins prior to occupation (BE1).

DEV22 MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

It was noted that the following application had been withdrawn:

09/00155/FUL – Proposed first floor extension above existing garage at 7 Lessingham Road, Widnes, Cheshire WA8 9FU.

Meeting ended at 7.45 p.m.

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DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the Development Control Committee on Monday, 10 August 2009 in the Civic Suite, Town Hall, Runcorn

Present: Councillors Nolan (Chairman), Thompson (Vice-Chairman), P. Blackmore, S. Blackmore, J. Bradshaw, Hignett, Hodgkinson, Leadbetter, Morley, Osborne and Polhill

Apologies for Absence: None

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: R. Cooper, A. Pannell, A. Plant, M. Simpson, J. Tully, P. Watts and R. Wakefield.

Also in attendance: Ward Councillors Philbin, Edge and Jones plus 3 members of the public.

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

		<i>Action</i>
DEV23	MINUTES	
	The Minutes of the meeting held on 6 July 2009, having been printed and circulated, were taken as read and signed as a correct record.	
DEV24	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.	
DEV25	09/00224/COU - CHANGE OF USE FROM EXISTING GROUND FLOOR OFFICE TO 3 RESIDENTIAL CARE BEDSITS AT 1 PEEL HOUSE LANE, WIDNES	
	The consultation procedure undertaken was outlined in the report together with background information in respect of the site.	
	It was reported that at the time of writing the report six representations had been received from local residents	

raising concerns which were outlined in the report for Members consideration.

Ward Councillor Philbin addressed the Committee and spoke against the application raising concerns as outlined in the report and made reference to the possible creation of nuisance and past history of police visits to similar establishments.

In response the Planning Officer noted that the use of the building would be Class C2 and the facility would have a staff office, toilet facilities, and a lounge area. The building would be staffed 24 hours per day. It was also reported that no further objections had been received.

The Committee also made reference to the issues of car parking. It was queried whether a response had been received from the Police and Community Safety Team, in response it was noted that they had not been consulted. The Committee suggested that the application be deferred until a view had been sought from the Community Safety Team and the Police.

RESOLVED: That the application be deferred in order to obtain a view from the Police and Community Safety Team in terms of issues around anti-social behaviour and disruption to the local community.

DEV26 09/00244/FUL - PROPOSED THREE-STOREY INNOVATION CENTRE (GROW ON BUILDING) WITH CAR PARKING / MOTORCYCLE SHELTER AND EXTERNAL LANDSCAPING TO THE LAND AT PLOT 1, DARESURY SCIENCE & INNOVATION CAMPUS, KECKWICK LANE, DARESURY.

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

It was reported that no objections had been received but various agencies had suggested conditions as listed below. Daresbury Parish Council had raised issues which were outlined in the report for information. The report detailed that the proposal was considered to offer a high quality development that was compatible and complementary to its surroundings.

It was reported that the Highways Agency had made

no objection to the proposal but has asked for details to be forwarded to the applicant.

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

1. Wheel cleansing facilities; (BE1)
2. Vehicle access, parking, servicing etc to be constructed prior to occupation/ commencement of use; (BE1)
3. Requiring implementation of Travel Plan; (TP16) and
4. Restriction of the use (E5).

Additional conditions were agreed as follows:

5. Submission of details of the cycle store and substation.

DEV27 09/00250/HBCFUL - PROPOSED REMEDIATION AND RESTORATION OF GOLF COURSE (INCLUDING THE DIVERSION OF STEWARD'S BROOK) AT ST MICHAELS JUBILEE GOLF COURSE, DUNDALK ROAD, WIDNES.

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

The Committee was advised that since the report had been written one further letter of objection had been received details of which were outlined in the report. It was reported that the Environment Agency had responded and did not object subject to conditions.

The site was designated as a Special Site Under Part IIa of the Environment Protection Act 1990; the remedial works were therefore regulated by the Environment Agency, they had no specific conditions relating to contamination.

However, with regards to flood risk they had recommended three further conditions relating to the following:

- the development being carried out in accordance with the flood risk assessment (June 2009),
- the submission of the final design details of the brook,
- and the submission of a landscape management plan

relating to new planting, maintenance, new habitats, and details of buffers.

It was also noted that should any waste materials be imported and used in the restoration scheme appropriate exemptions or authorisation from the Environment Agency should be sought.

The Committee was advised that the removal of any waste off the site shall be taken to an appropriate licensed disposal site and any controlled waste should be removed by a registered carrier.

The Committee was informed that United Utilities raised no objections.

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

1. Standard time limits condition; (BE1)
2. Condition for details of all boundary treatments; (BE22)
3. Condition for details of wheel cleansing facility to be used during the course of construction; (BE1)
4. Condition for details of a scheme for dust suppression; (PR1)
5. Condition(s) restricting hours of construction/working/deliveries; (BE1)
6. Condition(s) for full landscaping scheme including planting and final golf course design and implementation; (BE1)
7. Condition(s) for the final design of the Steward's Brook diversion;
8. Conditions relating to location and heights of stock piles; (BE1)
9. Condition relating to the submission of a validation report upon the completion of the site remediation works to ensure works have been carried out to required specification; (S6 and PR14)
10. No trees shown to be retained shall be felled or pruned without the Council's consent; (BE1)
11. No works shall be carried out within the designated root protection areas without consultation with the Council's Landscape Officer; (BE1)
12. Details planting scheme to be submitted; (BE1) and
13. Before site works commence, all trees shown to be retained shall be protected by fencing in accordance with British Standard 5837 (BE1)

The following additional conditions were also agreed.

14. The development being carried out in accordance with the flood risk assessment (June 2009);
15. the submission of the final design details of the brook;
16. the submission of a landscape management plan relating to new planting, maintenance, new habitats and details of buffers; and
17. the development to be carried out in accordance the Flood Risk Assessment.

DEV28 09/00253/FUL - PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF NEW TWO-STOREY CHURCH/MEETING HOUSE, RE-LAYING OF CAR PARK, CAR PARK LIGHTING AND BOUNDARY FENCES TO THE SITE OF FORMER CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS, CLIFTON ROAD, RUNCORN.

The consultation procedure undertaken was outlined in the report together with background information in respect of the site. It was noted that two comments had been received in support of the improvement and design of the building.

It was reported that National Grid had indicated the presence of one of their pipelines and their advice would be forwarded to the applicant.

It was further noted that following further consultation with the Health and Safety Executive had since confirmed that they did not advise on safety grounds against the granting of planning permission in this case.

The Committee was also informed that the car park layout had been re-designed following comments received from the Mersey Gateway Team, and there was an additional condition to incorporate this. The Planning Officer made reference to another condition in relation to the provision of a travel plan.

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

1. Standard approval; (BE1)
2. Prior to commencement materials submission; (BE2)
3. Prior to commencement details of all boundary treatments; (BE22)
4. Prior to commencement Green Travel Plan submission; (TP16)

5. Prior to commencement a detailed landscaping scheme to be submitted; (BE1)
6. Prior to commencement details landscape specie scheme to be submitted; (BE1)
7. Before site works commence, all trees shown to be retained shall be protected by fencing in accordance with British Standard 5837; (BE1)
8. No works shall be carried out within the designated root protection areas without consultation with the Council's Landscape Officer; (BE1)
9. Prior to commencement of Transport Assessment details; (TP14)
10. Prior to commencement details of wheel cleansing facility to be used during the course of construction; (BE1)
11. Restricted hours of construction; (BE1)
12. Landscaping implementation; (BE1)
13. No trees shown to be retained shall be felled or pruned without the Council's consent; (BE1) and
14. Submission of any future lighting to be approved in writing; (BE1)

Additional conditions were agreed as follows:

15. Submission of a travel plan; and
16. submission of a car parking plan.

DEV29 09/00276/FUL - ADJOINING AUTHORITY CONSULTATION BY WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL REGARDING AN OUTLINE APPLICATION FOR COMMUNITY SPORTS HUB COMPRISING A RETAIL STORE, LEISURE CENTRE (INCLUDING SWIMMING POOL), LIBRARY, CRECHE, HEALTH CENTRE, SPORTS PITCHES, LOCAL PARK ACCESS AND CAR PARKING TO THE LAND AT ORFORD PARK, WINWICK ROAD, WARRINGTON.

The Committee considered a report for an adjoining authority consultation by Warrington Borough Council on an outline application.

It was reported that the proposed development was located to the immediate north of Warrington Town Centre and involved the development of a former landfill site, which adjoined the Warrington Collegiate, William Beaumont Community High School and the existing Orford Park.

The Committee was advised that the proposals included provision for a 2322sqm. retail unit over 2 floors for suggested sports retail use. The scheme would be primarily

served via the A49 (Winwick Road) and Long Lane.

RESOLVED: That Warrington Borough Council is informed that Halton Borough Council raises no objections.

DEV30 MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

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

09/00155/FUL Proposed first floor extension
above existing garage at 7
Lessingham Road Widnes.

09/00222/FUL Proposed extension of ground floor kitchen and addition of first floor bathroom at 189 Liverpool Road Widnes.

Meeting ended at 6.58 p.m.

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DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the Development Control Committee on Monday, 14 September 2009 in the Civic Suite, Town Hall, Runcorn.

Present: Councillors Nolan (Chairman), Thompson (Vice-Chairman), P. Blackmore, Hodgkinson, Leadbetter, Morley, Osborne and Polhill

Apologies for Absence: Councillors S. Blackmore and J. Bradshaw

Absence declared on Council business: Councillor Ron Hignett

Officers present: P. Watts, L. Capper, R. Cooper, A. Pannell, A. Plant, M. Simpson, R. Wakefield and Winstanley

Also in attendance: Ward Councillor Philbin and 8 members of the public

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

	<i>Action</i>
DEV31 MINUTES	
The Minutes of the meeting held on 10 August 2009, having been printed and circulated, were taken as read and signed as a correct record.	
DEV32 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.	
DEV33 - 09/00224/COU - PROPOSED CHANGE OF USE FROM EXISTING GROUND FLOOR OFFICE TO 3 RESIDENTIAL CARE BEDSITS AT 1 PEEL HOUSE LANE, WIDNES	
The consultation procedure undertaken was outlined in the report together with background information in respect of the site.	
It was noted that this application was deferred from the last meeting of the Development Control Committee held on 10 August 2009, as it was resolved that more information	

was required from the Police and Community Safety Team in terms of issues around anti-social behaviour and disruption to the local community.

The Committee was advised that further comments had been received from the local Police Inspector who commented on an existing establishment within the vicinity of the site. The Police Inspector advised the establishment provided homes for children from disadvantaged backgrounds, broken homes and some suffered from behavioural problems which lead to the committing of crimes from theft to anti-social behaviour that had a large impact on police resources.

The Neighbourhood Policing Team fully acknowledged the requirement to house and support these children and develop the social skills in order to help them back into the community, there had to be a limitation on the amount of children taken into one particular area. The Neighbourhood Policing Team were of the view that if this Application was agreed it would increase demand from the police to deal with issues relating to these young persons from an increase in crime and anti-social behaviour.

The Committee was further advised that if the application was approved then the Widnes Neighbourhood Policing Team would deal with the issues that arose from the tenants and whilst the Inspector did not oppose the application the above information should be taken into consideration.

Members were informed of correspondence from the Director of Health and Communities which stated they had grave reservations regarding the proximity of the proposed care home to the older peoples home which was located across the road.

In relation to the lack of provision of private amenity space it was reported that the site was located within a town centre location, such areas were characterised by high density properties with little or no private amenity space. Furthermore it was noted that there was no specific policy or standards for the provision of private amenity space for such establishments (C2 use). The Committee was informed that taking into consideration this lack of private amenity space could not be upheld as a reason for refusal.

Ms Tierney from Contium Care and Education Group addressed the Committee and spoke in favour of the application and raised points such as the safeguarding of

the children, the benefit and support offered to the young people and the alternative option of young people taking accommodation with private landlords and the negative effect this would have on children not receiving the benefit of care and support offered to them through living in a care home.

Ward Councillor Philbin addressed the Committee and spoke against the application raising concerns regarding the location of the care home in relation to its proximity to the older people's home and other similar units within 200mtrs of the proposed site.

The Committee held a wide ranging discussion and felt that whilst there was a need for this type of centre however not in the proposed location and agreed to refuse the application with authority being delegated to the Operational Director Environmental and Regulatory Services in conjunction with Legal Services to construct the refusal notice.

RESOLVED: That the application be refused due to the proposed use being inappropriate for the area because it would:

- Create an environment in which anti-social behaviour would result;
- Create an environment where there is a genuine perception of fear and concern because of the likelihood of increased crime and disorder;

The proposal is therefore contrary to policy BE1 of the Halton Unitary Development Plan and the Council has paid particular consideration to the requirements of Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act.

DEV34 - 09/00245/OUT - OUTLINE APPLICATION (WITH LANDSCAPING, APPEARANCE AND SCALE MATTERS RESERVED) FOR PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT (UP TO 19 NO. DWELLINGS) AT THE FORMER OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL SUCCOUR R.C. INFANT SCHOOL, AVONDALE DRIVE, WIDNES

The consultation procedure undertaken was outlined in the report together with background information in respect of the site. It was noted that at the time of writing the report nine representations had been received from local residents, details of which were outlined in the report for information.

It was reported that one further representation had

been received from the resident of 57 Avondale Drive relating to the proposed landscaping to the rear of their property. Issues raised were children climbing trees and leaves falling into their property. The Committee was advised of a condition that had been recommended for the approval of full details of landscaping which would include planting details to ensure appropriate planting.

It was reported that the principle of the development was considered to be acceptable as the site had been left for many years and was no longer in educational use and did not provided recreation for local residents. The proposed layout demonstrated that 19 dwellings could be accommodated providing adequate garden spaces and parking and would meet interface distances with existing properties.

Mrs Gallagher addressed the Committee and in principle supported the application but expressed concerns that the loss of a footpath would lead to a more torturous route to local shops, bus routes and the train station. The Committee felt that a footpath would benefit the development and agreed to liaise with the developer regarding provision of a footpath.

RESOLVED: That

- a) the views of the Committee regarding provision of a footpath be forwarded to the developer and;
- b) the application be approved subject to the following conditions
 - 1. Standard time limits condition (BE1, BE2)
 - 2. Amended plans condition
 - 3. Standard reserved matter condition(s) for landscaping, appearance and scale (BE1, BE2, H2).
 - 4. Condition relating to the section 106 agreement for open space provision/ improvement ,prior to the commencement of development (S25)
 - 5. Details of boundary fencing/treatment to be submitted for approval before commencement. (BE22)
 - 6. Condition relating to the approval of wheels wash facility details prior to commencement (BE1, BE2).
 - 7. Details of construction materials prior to the commencement of development (BE2)
 - 8. Condition(s) for details of hard and soft landscaping prior to the commencement of development (BE1, BE2)
 - 9. Condition relating to further investigation and mitigations of ground conditions prior to

- commencement (PR14)
10. Condition for final site levels and floor levels prior to commencement
 11. Condition(s) relating to full details and implementation of bin provision prior to commencement
 12. Conditions relating to renewable, low carbon, decentralised energy prior to commencement
 13. Condition(s) removing permitted development rights A, B and E (BE1, BE2, H2)
 14. Condition(s) relation to access and highways being constructed to highways authority standards
 15. Conditions relating to hours of construction and delivery (BE1, BE2)
 16. The provision of bins for each residential unit prior to occupation. (Policy BE1)

An additional conditions was reported as follows

17. Approval of full landscaping details including planting details to ensure appropriate planting.

DEV35 - 09/00269/FUL - PROPOSED TWO STOREY SIDE EXTENSION AND SINGLE STOREY EXTENSION TO FRONT / REAR AT 33 HALE GATE ROAD, WIDNES.

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

It was reported that one objection had been received from the adjoining neighbour on the grounds that the proposed extension would cause loss of light to their property. As the rooms of the objector's house were not habitable rooms the proposed extension would have minimal impact on the amenity. The Committee was advised that the proposed extension was similar to others along the road and would remain subordinate to the original dwelling.

The applicant Mr Dewsnap addressed the Committee and spoke in favour of the application.

Members were informed that this application was brought to Committee as the local Ward Councillor was asked to bring it on behalf of the objector from the adjoining property.

Ward Councillor Osborne withdrew from the Committee during consideration of this item to speak on behalf of his constituents from the adjoining property,

relaying their concerns to the Committee in relation to loss of light, over development of land and the terraced appearance of the property.

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

1. Standard condition relating to timescale and duration of the permission.
2. Materials to be used shall match those in the existing building.

DEV36 - 09/00270/FUL - PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF A TWO STOREY BLOCK OF 12 NO. NEW BUILD FLATS WITH 3 COMMUNAL ENTRANCES, 6 NO. NEW BUILD BUNGALOWS IN TWO TERRACES (INCLUDING 1 NO. DISABLED BUNGALOW), ASSOCIATED GROUNDWORKS, PARKING AND STOPPING UP OF A PUBLIC FOOTPATH AT CLARKE GARDENS WIDNES.

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

It was reported that amended plans had been received showing ground and first floor gable and windows for each end of the apartment block. The Committee was advised that these plans were originally omitted from the elevations, but had always been shown on the proposed layout plan. It was noted that, as such no neighbour re-consultation was felt to be necessary and no significant overlooking issues were present.

The Committee was advised that comments had been received from Environmental Health with regard to ground conditions. A condition had been requested that no part of the development should commence until a remediation plan, including suitable monitoring and verification methodologies, should also be agreed in writing with the Planning Authority. A completion statement would be issued upon completion of the remediation programme. (Policy PR14).

RESOLVED: That the application be approved with the following conditions:

1. Standard condition timescales for development

- commencement.
2. Prior to commencement approval of materials (Policy BE2).
3. Prior to commencement of development, a scheme for the provision and implementation of a surface water regulation system to be submitted for approval. (Policy PR16)
4. Details relating to off-site highway works involving dropped crossings and tactile paving to be submitted and approved. (Policy TP7)
5. Before site works commence protective fencing to be erected to protect trees to be retained. (Policy BE1)
6. Prior to commencement an arboricultural method statement to be submitted and approved. (Policy BE1)
7. Prior to commencement wheel washing details to be submitted and approved. (Policy BE1)
8. Submission and agreement of finished floor and site levels prior to commencement (Policy BE1).
9. Vehicle access, parking, servicing etc to be constructed prior to occupation of properties / commencement of use (Policy BE1).
10. Development should be carried out in accordance with the approved Flood Risk Assessment and identified mitigation measures. (Policy PR16)
11. There shall be no ground disturbance close to the trees to be retained. (Policy BE1)
12. Planting plan shall be implemented as soon as practical after completion of the development. (Policy BE1)
13. Restricted hours of construction (Policy BE1)
14. Restricted hours of delivery (Policy BE1)
15. The provision of bins and management of collections for each residential unit prior to occupation. (Policy BE1)
16. Withdrawal of Permitted Development Rights for extensions and fences.
17. No trees shown to be retained shall be damaged in any way as a result of the development (Policy BE1)

An additional condition was noted as follows:

18. A completion statement shall be issued upon completion of the remediation programme. (Policy PR14).

CENTRE, REAR EXTENSION WITH GLAZED LINK CONNECTION, ASSOCIATED COURTYARD, BALL COURT, DEMOLITION AND REBUILDING OF PART OF BOUNDARY WALL/RAILINGS, PARTIAL DEMOLITION OF SOUTH BOUNDARY WALL AND REPLACEMENT WITH RAILINGS AND ANCILLARY WORKS.

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

It was reported that the building was built in 1939 and the design was in the Modern style and incorporated well preserved Art Deco elements both externally and internally.

RESOLVED: That the applications listed below be approved subject to the following conditions:

09/00340/HBCCOU

1. Specifying amended plans (BE1)
2. Materials condition, requiring the submission and approval of the materials to be used (BE2)
3. Requiring that the scheme be implemented in full accordance with the approved plans/ details unless otherwise agreed. (BE1)
4. Specifying the use as a Youth Centre within use class D2 (BE1).
5. Boundary treatments to be submitted and approved in writing. (BE2)
6. Wheel cleansing facilities to be submitted to and approved in writing and used during construction. (BE1)
7. Submission and agreement of landscaping details including replacement tree planting (BE1)
8. Construction and delivery hours to be adhered to throughout the course of the development. (BE1)
9. Restriction of opening hours (BE1)
10. Vehicle access, parking, servicing etc to be constructed prior to occupation/ commencement of use. (BE1)
11. Agreement and implementation of cycle parking provision (TP6)
12. Restricting external lighting (BE1)
13. Site investigation, including mitigation to be submitted and approved in writing. (PR14)
14. Requiring additional details relating to associated plant/ noise attenuation (PR2)
15. Requiring submission and agreement of additional details relating to brise soleil, glazed roof, pergola, bin

stores etc. (BE2)

09/00341/HBCLBC – RESOLVED: That;

Authority is delegated to the Operational Director – Environmental and Regulatory Services to approve the application subject to the Secretary of State not calling the application in and to conditions relating to the following:

1. Specifying amended plans (BE9)
2. Materials condition, requiring the submission and approval of the materials to be used (BE9)
3. Requiring that the scheme be implemented in full accordance with the approved plans/ details unless otherwise agreed. (BE9)
4. Requiring submission and agreement of additional details relating to detailed features including door architraves, hand rail, glazed roof, brise soleil, pergola etc (BE9)

09/00342/HBCCAC

1. Requiring submission and agreement of method statement for demolition, rebuilding and refurbishment (BE8)
2. Requiring that the demolition, rebuilding, refurbishment be implemented in full accordance with the approved plans/ details unless otherwise agreed. (BE8)
3. Materials condition, requiring the submission and approval of the materials to be used (BE8)

DEV38 ADJOINING AUTHORITY CONSULTATION

The Committee considered a report for an adjoining authority consultation by Cheshire West and Cheshire regarding an application for removal of condition No. 1 of planning permission 07-0320-COU (our ref [07/00123/ADJ]).

It was reported that the application was to vary a condition of a previous planning permission to extend the temporary trial period of one year for the development by one further year.

The Committee was advised that the proposal was a significant distance from the Borough boundary and, whilst no control could be achieved over flight patterns, the

proposals were not considered to have significant adverse effects on the Borough or its residents in land use terms.

RESOLVED: That Cheshire West and Cheshire be informed that Halton Borough Council raises no objections.

Meeting ended at 7.16 p.m.

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the Standards Committee Wednesday, 9 September 2009 Committee Room 1, Runcorn Town Hall

Present: Mr B. Badrock (Chairman), T. Luxton, Balmer, Parker and Wainwright

Apologies for Absence: Councillor Redhead, Parish Councillor Crawford, R. Garner and Redhead

Absence declared on Council business: Councillor Mike Wharton

Officers present: R. Barnett and C. Halpin

Also in attendance: None

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

Action

STC8 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd June 2009 having been printed and circulated, were signed as a correct record.

STC9 STANDARDS FOR ENGLAND PAPER - SUSPENDING A STANDARDS COMMITTEE'S ASSESSMENT AND REVIEW FUNCTIONS

The Committee received a report of the Strategic Director, Corporate and Policy which set out the Standards for England's recent paper detailing the circumstances in which it may suspend a Standards Committee's Assessment and Review Functions.

The Committee was advised that Standards for England had recently issued a paper setting out the circumstances in which it may suspend Assessment and Review Functions. The powers were given to the Committee by the Local Government Act 2000 as amended and the circumstances in which suspension could be made were set out in the new Standards Committee (Further Provisions) (England) Regulations 2009, as set out in the report.

It was noted that the paper went on to set out the

formal processes for bringing into effect a suspension of functions. The document made it clear that Standards for England only intended to use the power as a last resort. Suspension would usually only happen after a series of attempts to improve performance had failed. The document detailed the process for issuing a direction, amendments to the direction, assessment in the review processes during a suspension, and how the Standards for England would work with a suspended authority. It also dealt with how a suspension may be revoked.

Of course, the Monitoring Officer, the Standards Committee and the Authority would do all they could to minimise the risk of such a step ever needing to be taken in Halton. However, it was felt important to bring the power to the attention of the Committee.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

STC10 WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee received a report of the Strategic Director Corporate and Policy which updated Members on the emerging work programme.

The Committee received a report at the last meeting seeking items for a work plan for the municipal year. Members had agreed to keep under review the Standards Committee (Further Provisions) Regulations 2009 which at the time were not as yet in force. Those Regulations have now been issued, and were reported elsewhere in this Agenda.

Members also wished to consider trends emerging from the quarterly and annual returns provided to the Standards Board by Councils across the country. An update was contained within Bulletin 44 elsewhere on the Agenda.

Members had sought clarification on the indemnity issue insofar as it related to independent Members on the Committee. The Monitoring Officer had been in touch with the Insurance Section and had been able to obtain confirmation that the policy cover did extend to indemnity to Members (including independent members) at the request of the Council. The indemnity only operated if the Council would have been entitled to indemnity if the claim had been made against it rather than the individual. In the event that the Member was entitled to indemnity from another source, the other insurance cover should be utilised. The other proviso was that the Council's insurers had sole conduct and

control of the claim. The only potential gap the insurers could think of in relation to Members was for pure legal expenses rather than conventional liability cover.

It was noted that Members had requested regular training on the Code of Conduct and it was confirmed that a further training session would take place on 20th October.

Members had also asked at the last meeting whether there was a qualified mediator available to the Council, internally who could be used to provide mediation training. It had been suggested that a brainstorming session would be beneficial with a qualified facilitator. The Monitoring Officer agreed to discuss the suggestion with the Divisional Manager responsible for training. He had been able to confirm that the Council did not have qualified mediators, and that an appropriate facilitator would have to be someone with a detailed knowledge of the standards regime.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be noted;
- (2) further joint or multi authority training be explored;
- (3) a session to brainstorm further ideas for the Work Programme be arranged; and
- (4) the Code of Conduct training on 20 October 2009 be added to the work programme.

STC11 JOINT STANDARDS COMMITTEE GUIDANCE

The Committee received a report of the Strategic Director, Corporate and Policy which advised Members of the publication of guidance from Standards for England on Joint Standards Committees.

Standards for England had recently published guidance on the establishment of Joint Standards Committees. The guidance reflected the Standards Committee (Further Provisions) (England) Regulations 2009. These particular provisions were not mandatory.

The Local Government Act 2000 provided that an Authority must set up a Standards Committee and that the Standards Committee (England) Regulations 2008 set out the rules governing the size and composition of a Standards Committee. The Standards Committee (Further Provisions) (England) Regulations 2000 enabled Joint Standards

Committees to carry out any of the functions of a standards committee.

It was noted that it was considered that joint arrangements were likely to be most useful where additional flexibility to deal with cases was needed, or where resources were limited and sharing them would benefit the successful management of the standards framework in the area.

It was further noted that Standards for England had also identified a number of potential problems or issues with joint arrangements which were important to consider, as set out in the report.

It must be remembered that the Standards framework became fully localised on 8th May 2008 which reflected a general desire supported by the Standards Board, among those in the field, to be able to monitor their own complaints. The local standards framework also recognised that a knowledge of the local area and local situation could have a positive impact on finding the right solutions.

Standards for England recognised that authorities would have different reasons for wanting or needing a Joint Standards Committee and had therefore identified three model structures for Joint Committees which they felt offered the most practical ways of operating joint arrangements, as set out in the report.

The Committee was advised that the guidance went on to consider in detail the composition of Joint Standards Committees. The general rule that a Joint Committee was composed in the same way as an ordinary Standards Committee but with the changes necessary to reflect the fact that it was a Joint Committee. So, it must include at least one elected member of each authority involved in the joint arrangement, at least 25% of the Joint Committee members must independent members, at least three people must attend a Joint Standards Committee meeting, the chair of the Joint Standards Committee must always be an independent member. Also, an executive member was permitted to be on the Joint Standards Committee. There must also be at least two representatives from Parish or Town Councils, and the Parish or Town Council representative must be present on the Committee at all times when Parish matters were being discussed. There was no limit on the number of independent members.

The guidance then detailed the arrangements for establishing membership. It must be remembered that

authorities have a power and not a duty to establish Joint Committees and this was submitted for information at this stage.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

STC12 OTHER ACTION GUIDANCE

The Committee received a report of the Strategic Director, Corporate and Policy which advised Members on the contents of the recent Standards for England Publication "Other Action Guidance".

It was noted that at the last meeting of the Committee on 3rd June 2009, the Monitoring Officer reported that Standards for England had just issued guidance on Other Action in terms of the assessment of complaints. Members would recall having received the Standards Board's guidance on local investigations and other action last year. Since then, there had been some uncertainty about the circumstances in which Other Action could be taken in the context of assessment. Members were aware that in considering a complaint, the assessment sub-committee may take one of three options in dealing with a complaint that a Member had failed or may have failed to comply with the Code of Conduct. If the assessment sub-committee decided to refer the complaint to the Monitoring Officer, it could direct him or her to investigate the matter or, alternatively, it could direct him or her to take steps other than carrying out an investigation. This was known as Other Action.

The Standards Board's key messages on Other Action were set out in the report along with steps that could be taken as directed to the Monitoring Officer.

The Committee noted that within the publication there were several conflicting paragraphs and clarification of these be sought from Standards for England and a further report be submitted a future meeting of the Committee.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be noted; and
- (2) a further report be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee on the response from Standards for England.

STC13 STANDARDS BOARD INFORMATION ROUND-UP

The Committee received a report of the Strategic Director, Corporate and Policy which brought Members up to date on the latest news from the Standards Board. Since the last meeting of the Committee the Standards Board had released Bulletin 44 which was appended to the report for information.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

Meeting ended at 3.55 p.m.

REGULATORY COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the Regulatory Committee on Monday, 24 August 2009 in the Council Chamber, Runcorn Town Hall

Present: Councillors Philbin (Chairman), Wallace (Vice-Chairman) and A. Lowe

Apologies for Absence: None

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: K. Cleary and L. Capper

Also in attendance: Paul Draycott Police Licensing Officer and Mr & Mrs Harrison.

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

REG1 APPLICATION FOR THE REVIEW OF A PREMISES LICENCE UNDER SECTION 53A OF THE LICENSING ACT 2003 - THE GOLDMINE BAR AND GRILL 419 HALE ROAD HALEBANK WIDNES

Action

INTERIM HEARING

The Sub Committee met to consider an application for a Summary Review of a Premises made by Cheshire Constabulary in respect of Goldmine Bar & Grill 419 Hale Road Halebank Widnes under section 53A of the Licensing Act 2003 ("The Act") (premises associated with serious crime or disorder or both).

In accordance with the Act the interim hearing was held on 29 July 2009 which was within 48 hours of the receipt of the application. At the interim hearing the Police were represented by Paul Draycott Police Licensing Officer and Inspector Simon Blackwell and the Premises Licence Holder Mr Michael James Harrison attended with Mrs Linda Harrison and Mr Mark Lafferty.

The procedure to be followed was explained and the parties subsequently put their cases in accordance with it.

The Police put forward the case in support of their application and presented seven potential interim conditions for the Sub Committee to consider in respect of the premises.

The Premises Licence Holder Mr Harrison together with Mrs Harrison and Mr Lafferty made representations.

The Sub Committee asked a number of questions of the parties and retired to consider the application and

RESOLVED that the following interim conditions be imposed with immediate effect (20.00 hrs on 29 July 2009) unless otherwise stated

- 1 The removal of the DPS Michael James Harrison
Reason – The Prevention of Crime and Disorder
- 2 CCTV system to be reviewed to establish effectiveness. Sufficient staff should be trained in its use so that they can download relevant images at the time of request by the police for crime investigation purposes.
Reason – The prevention of Crime and Disorder
- 3 Only polycarbonate or toughened glasses to be used.- With effect from 09.00 on 30 July 2009
Reason – The prevention of Crime and Disorder
- 4 All glass bottles to be decanted into polycarbonate or toughened glasses – with effect from 09.00 on 30 July 2009
Reason – The prevention of Crime and Disorder
- 5 Bottles to be placed in bottle bins where public have no access.
Reason – The prevention of Crime and Disorder
- 6 (i) Pool table cues and the white ball to be placed behind the bar of the premises. A “signing out/in” book to be provided by the Premises Licence holder showing the times and names of customers using the pool table equipment.
(ii) Pool table equipment to be removed from customers by 22.30 each day and placed in a secure position behind the bar.
Reason – The prevention of Crime & Disorder

FULL HEARING

In accordance with the Act the full review hearing was held on 24 August 2009.

The procedure to be followed was explained and the parties subsequently put their cases in accordance with it.

Mr Paul Draycott represented Cheshire Police and Mr Michael Harrison the Premises Licence Holder attended with Mrs Linda Harrison.

At the full hearing the Police requested the following conditions to be imposed permanently on the Premises Licence

1 CCTV system to be reviewed to establish effectiveness. Sufficient staff should be trained in its use so that they can download relevant images at the time of request by the police for crime investigation purposes.

Reason – The prevention of Crime and Disorder

2 Bottles to be placed in bottle bins where public have no access.

Reason – The prevention of Crime and Disorder

3 Only polycarbonate or toughened glasses to be used

Reason – The prevention of Crime and Disorder

4 All glass bottles to be decanted into polycarbonate or toughened glasses after midnight (NOTE this currently applies to Friday, Saturday and special occasions – Bank Holidays etc)

Reason – The prevention of Crime and Disorder

5 (i) Pool table cues and the white ball to be place behind the bar of the premises. A “signing out/in” book to be provided by the Premises Licence holder showing the times and names of customers using the pool table equipment.

(ii) Pool table equipment to be removed from customers by midnight each day and placed in a secure position behind the bar.

Reason – The prevention of Crime & Disorder

The Police put forward their case in support of their application and the Premises Licence Holder Mr Harrison confirmed his acceptance of the permanent conditions requested by the Police.

The Sub Committee asked a number of questions of the parties and retired to consider the matter.

RESOLVED: having considered the application made by the Police and the case put forward by the Premises Licence Holder and Mrs Harrison (and having taken into account all other relevant considerations) the Committee resolved that conditions numbered 1 to 5 above be permanently imposed on the Premises Licence.

Meeting ended at 6.35 p.m.

REGULATORY COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the Regulatory Committee on Tuesday, 22 September 2009 in the Committee Room 1, Runcorn Town Hall

Present: Councillors Philbin (Chairman), Wallace (Vice-Chairman), Drakeley, D. Inch, A. Lowe and Nelson

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Howard, Murray, E. Ratcliffe and Wainwright (Cllr B Bryant declared an interest in this item to avoid any allegation of bias and did not attend)

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: K. Cleary and J. Tully

Also in attendance: Mr & Mrs Houlgrave, Mr Baines, Mrs O'Keeffe and 3 members of the public.

ITEMS DEALT WITH UNDER DUTIES EXERCISABLE BY THE COMMITTEE

REG4 APPLICATION FOR A PREMISES LICENCE – STENHILLS
NEWS AND CONVENIENCE STORE 72 – 74 PICTON
AVENUE RUNCORN

Action

The Committee met to consider an application for a Premise Licence at Stenhills News 72 – 74 Picton Avenue Runcorn

An application had been made for a premises licence to allow an off licence at Stenhills News by Mr B Houlgrave. Mr G Baines as a person living in the vicinity of the premises made representations against the application.

At the hearing, the Committee were addressed by the applicant Mr B Houlgrave and his wife Mrs Houlgrave and by the objector Mr G Baines who was assisted by Alison O'Keeffe.

The procedure to be followed was explained and the parties put their cases in accordance with it. The Committee asked a number of questions of the parties and retired to

consider the matter.

RESOLVED: That having considered the application in accordance with section 4 Licensing Act 2003 and all other relevant considerations the Committee decided that the application be granted subject to the following condition

“Challenge 21

The licence holder shall ensure that anyone who appears to be under 21years of age and who attempts to purchase alcohol will be asked to prove their age. Accepted methods of proof of age are: passports, photo driving licences and PASS accredited proof of age cards e.g. Validate, Connexions, Citizen Card, Prove It Card. If any such person fails to satisfy the licence holder by means of such proof of age that they are 18 years old or older that person shall be refused the sale of alcohol”

Reason for the condition – The Prevention of Crime and Disorder and Protection of Children from Harm

Note: The Police conditions as set out in the Committee item was agreed prior to hearing and would be included within the premises licence.

The reason for the determination was that the Committee felt that the application was consistent with the Licensing Objectives.

Meeting ended at 7.45 p.m.

REGULATORY COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the Regulatory Committee on Thursday, 1 October 2009 in the Council Chamber, Runcorn Town Hall

Present: Councillors Philbin (Chairman), Bryant, Howard, D. Inch, A. Lowe, Wainwright and Nelson

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Drakeley, Murray and E. Ratcliffe

Absence declared on Council business: Councillor P Wallace

Officers present: K. Cleary, J. Findlow and J. Tully

Also in attendance: None

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

		<i>Action</i>
REG5	MINUTES	
	The minutes of the meetings held on 23 rd March, 14 th April and 8 th June 2009 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.	
REG6	SCHEDULE 12A OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985	
	The Board considered:	
	(1) whether Members of the press and public should be excluded from the meeting of the Board during consideration of the following item of business in accordance with Sub-Section 4 of Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 because it was likely that, in view of the nature of the business to be considered, exempt information would be disclosed, being information defined in Section 100 (1) and paragraph 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972; and	
	(2) whether the disclosure of information was in the	

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

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

REG7 TAXI REPORT CASE 677

The Committee met to consider if a Single Status Driver (SSD) was a fit and proper person to hold a SSD Licence following a written complaint received from a member of the public.

Members took into account the information provided by the Licensing Section and the driver and his representative's explanation regarding the event.

RESOLVED: That the driver's SSD Licence be suspended for 7 days and a further 3 week suspension be imposed but suspended for 18 months. The latter period of three weeks would be served if the driver was brought back before the Regulatory Committee in relation to any disciplinary matter in the next 18 months. The Committee also recommended that the driver undertake Disability Discrimination Act training.

REG8 TAXI REPORT CASE 678

The Committee met to consider if a Single Status Driver was a fit and proper person to hold a SSD Licence.

Members took into account the information provided by the Licensing Section and the driver and his representative's explanation regarding the events.

RESOLVED: That the driver receive a written reprimand and be advised that if he were to be brought back before the Regulatory Committee in respect of any disciplinary matter during the next 12 months the events considered by the Committee on this occasion would be taken into consideration.

REG9 TAXI REPORT CASE 679

The Committee met to consider if a Single Status Driver was a fit and proper person to hold a SSD Licence.

Members took into account the information provided by the Licensing Section and also the explanation put forward by the driver and his representative.

RESOLVED: That the driver be suspended for 7 days and a further 4 weeks suspension be imposed but suspended for 18 months. The latter period of 4 weeks would be served if the driver was brought back before the Regulatory Committee in relation to any disciplinary matter in the next 18 months.

Meeting ended at 10.00 p.m.

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