

Minutes & Reports

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

**Wednesday, 20 October
2010**

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COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Council on Wednesday, 21 July 2010 in the Council Chamber, Runcorn Town Hall

Present: Councillors Wright, Austin, P. Blackmore, M. Bradshaw, J. Bradshaw, Browne, Bryant, D. Cargill, E. Cargill, C. Carlin, Dennett, Edge, Findon, Gerrard, J. Gerrard, Harris, Hignett, M. Hodge, Hodgkinson, Horabin, Howard, D. Inch, Jones, Leadbetter, Lloyd Jones, P. Lloyd Jones, Loftus, A. Lowe, J. Lowe, A. Macmanus, McDermott, McInerney, Morley, Murray, Nelson, Nolan, Norddahl, Osborne, Parker, Philbin, Polhill, E. Ratcliffe, M. Ratcliffe, J. Roberts, Stockton, Swain, Thompson, Wainwright, Wallace and Wharton

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Balmer, Gilligan, Redhead, Rowe and Shepherd

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: M. Reaney, G. Ferguson, D. Johnson, C. Lawley, I. Leivesley, G. Meehan, D. Parr and D. Tregea

Also in attendance: None

Action

COU14 PRESENTATION ON "THE YEAR AHEAD, 2010 AND BEYOND".

Members received a presentation from the Chief Executive which highlighted the major external and internal influences which would affect the Council during the year ahead, 2010 and beyond, they included:

- less money;
- more efficiencies: working together with partners, Members and communities;
- devolution/choice
- accountability;
- big society;
- business/private sector driven;
- economic emphasis; and
- higher expectations.

Members had previously received a copy of "The Year Ahead" document which provided an outline of the major initiatives and activities the Council, with its partners, would focus on during 2010. The document focussed on the

following priorities as identified by Halton's residents and partners, and which were set out in the Sustainable Communities Strategy:

- Safer Halton
- Healthy Halton
- Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton
- Urban Renewal of Halton
- Children & Young People in Halton
- Running Our Business Effectively.

It was anticipated that 2010 would be a challenging year for Halton with the global financial crisis, reduction in public spending and budget constraints. However, the Council would continue to run its business effectively whilst seeking to improve its services.

RESOLVED: That the presentation be noted.

COU15 COUNCIL MINUTES

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 21st May 2010, 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.

COU16 THE MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor announced that the Strategic Director Adults and Community had been presented with two awards from the Disability Awareness Day (DADS) Management Team who expressed their sincere thanks for all the support that was given to them from Halton Borough Council.

COU17 LEADER'S REPORT

The Leader reported on the following issues:

- The Council had been advised that Central Government would cut funding by £6m, together with £2m area based grant cuts and £1m cuts from other grant areas. A special Council meeting would be arranged for 1st September 2010 to discuss potential budget cuts of £10m for each of the next three years;

- Building Schools for the Future programme would no longer go ahead in Halton with the exception of Halton High, Wade Deacon and Grange Secondary School, these were still under discussion; and
- Mersey Gateway was still part of the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review. A "Back the Bridge" campaign had been launched by the Runcorn and Widnes Weekly News, and businesses were being encouraged to write letters of support to Central Government.

COU18 MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

The Council considered the minutes of the Executive Board from meetings held on 17th June 2010 and 1st July 2010.

RESOLVED: That the minutes be received.

(Councillor Hodgkinson declared a personal and prejudicial interest in EXB9 as a governor of Halton High School.)

COU19 MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD SUB COMMITTEE

The Council considered the minutes of the Executive Board Sub-Committee from meetings held on 27th May 2010, 17th June 2010 and 8th July 2010.

RESOLVED: That the minutes be received.

COU20 MINUTES OF THE MERSEY GATEWAY EXECUTIVE BOARD

The Council considered the Minutes of the Mersey Gateway Executive Board from the 17th June 2010.

RESOLVED: That the minutes be received.

COU21 QUESTIONS ASKED UNDER STANDING ORDER 8

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

COU22 APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

The Council considered a report of the Strategic Director – Resources regarding the appointment of

Members to serve on various outside bodies. A document was tabled showing recommendations put forward.

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

- 1) the tabled report, subject to Councillor Loftus replacing Councillor E Cargill on North Cheshire Hospital Trust (see appendix to these minutes); and
- 2) Councillor Browne be appointed to serve on Widnes Educational Foundation.

COU23 REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL'S GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS (MINUTE EXB 11 REFERS)

The Executive Board had received a report of the Strategic Director, Resources which outlined the implications of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, in relation to the Council's governance arrangements.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the process and timetable outlined in Appendix 1 attached to the report be endorsed;
- 2) the Council undertake consultation on governance arrangements as outlined in paragraph 4.9 of the report; and
- 3) the Council propose that no change be made to the current electoral arrangements, with Halton continuing with elections by thirds, in accordance with paragraph 5.2 of the report.

(Councillor M Ratcliffe Declared A Personal And Prejudicial Interest In The Following Item Due To Her Role As A Magistrate.)

COU24 WIDNES MAGISTRATES COURT - RESPONSE TO PROPOSED CLOSURE (MINUTE EXB12 REFERS)

The Executive Board had considered a report of the Chief Executive which advised on the decision by the Ministry of Justice to close Widnes Magistrates Court following a consultation exercise.

At its meeting on 16 December 2009, Council approved a response to the consultation document issued

by the Ministry of Justice on the proposal to close Widnes Magistrates Court. The response made clear that the Council did not believe that the court should close, and that residents may be potentially disadvantaged by having to travel to facilities in Warrington, Runcorn or Northwich to access the judicial system.

Although the decision to close the Court had been taken, the Ministry of Justice had revised its equality impact assessment to take account of the Council's response regarding financial impact. In addition, other suggestions regarding the future use of the land and greater use of the Council's existing buildings by the Court Service had been welcomed by the Ministry.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

COU25 CORPORATE HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY (MINUTE EXB 21 REFERS)

The Executive Board had received a report of the Strategic Director, Resources on the revised Corporate Health and Safety Policy for 2010. The Policy had been amended to take account of the role of the Corporate Services Policy and Performance Board in monitoring health and safety performance. In addition, the document took account of the new Health and Safety Executive's Strategy entitled "Being Part of the Solution", and as a result, included aims, objectives and outcomes for the Health and Safety meetings.

RESOLVED: That the Corporate Health and Safety Policy be approved.

COU26 ANNUAL REPORTS OF PPBS

The Council considered the report of the Strategic Director Resources outlining the Annual Reports for each of the Policy and Performance Boards (PPBs) which had been submitted outlining their work, making recommendations for future work programmes and amended working methods if appropriate.

It was further reported that the Annual Reports had been submitted to the appropriate PPBs for consideration and had all been agreed.

RESOLVED: That the 2009 – 2010 Annual Reports submitted from the Policy and Performance Boards be received.

COU27 STANDARDS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT (MINUTE
STC 3 REFERS)

The Council considered a report of the Strategic Director, Resources which summarised the work of the Standards Committee in the last Municipal Year.

RESOLVED: That the information in the report be noted.

COU28 CHANGE OF COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

It was noted that the following changes to Board Membership had been made in accordance with Standing Order No. 30(4):

Councillor Bryant had resigned from Health Policy and Performance Board and would be replaced by Councillor E Ratcliffe; and

Councillor Inch would replace Councillor E Ratcliffe on the Business Efficiency Board.

COU29 MINUTES OF THE 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 21st May 2010:-

Children Young People and Families
Employment, Learning, Skills and Community
Health
Safer Halton
Environment and Urban Renewal
Corporate Services
Business Efficiency Board

In receiving the minutes, the Chairmen thanked Members, officers and Topic Groups for their work throughout the year. In addition:

- (1) the Chairman of the Corporate Services PPB thanked Councillor Gilligan for his contribution as the previous Chair of Corporate PPB; and
- (2) the Chairman of Children Young People PPB thanked staff involved in the recent Safeguarding inspection;

(Councillor K Loftus declared a personal and prejudicial interest in EB106 as an employee of Riverside College. Councillor P Lloyd Jones declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Health Policy and Performance Board Minutes as a Non Executive Director Halton and St Helens PCT.)

COU30 COMMITTEE MINUTES

The Council considered the reports on the work of the following Committees in the period since the meeting of the Council on 21st May 2010:-

Appointments
Development Control
Standards
Regulatory

COU31 MOTION - SO6 " OPPOSING THE INCREASE IN VAT FROM 17.5% TO 20%"

The following motion was moved and seconded by Councillor Howard and McDermott respectively:

"The Council resolves:

To write directly to the Chancellor of the Exchequer raising concerns about the impact of the proposed VAT increase on pensioners, other vulnerable groups and businesses in Halton.

To call on the Members of Parliament representing the Borough of Halton; to stand up for Halton's pensioners, businesses and wider community; to voice their opposition to this unfair increase in VAT; and to vote against it in Parliament."

A recorded vote was requisitioned in accordance with Standing Order number 16(1)(b).

Moved by Councillor Howard.

Seconded by Councillor McDermott.

The following Councillors voted for the motion:

Councillors Austin, Blackmore, Bryant, Carlin, D. Cargill, E Cargill, Dennett, Edge, Findon, A. Gerrard, J. Gerrard, Harris, Hignett, Hodge, Horabin, Howard, Inch, Jones,

Leadbetter, M. Lloyd-Jones, P. Lloyd Jones, Loftus, A. Lowe, J. Lowe, McDermott, McInerney, Macmanus, Morley, Nelson, Nolan, Norddahl, Osborne, Parker, Philbin, Polhill, E Ratcliffe, M Ratcliffe, Roberts, Stockton, Swain, Thompson, Wainwright, Wallace, Wharton and Wright,

The following Councillors voted against the motion:

Councillors J Bradshaw, M Bradshaw, Browne, and Murray.

Councillor Hodgkinson abstained.

RESOLVED: That the motion be agreed.

Meeting ended at 8.15 p.m.

COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Council on Wednesday, 1 September 2010 in the Council Chamber, Runcorn Town Hall

Present: Councillors Wright, Austin, Balmer, P. Blackmore, Browne, Bryant, D. Cargill, E. Cargill, C. Carlin, Dennett, Edge, Findon, M. Fry, Gerrard, J. Gerrard, Harris, Hignett, Hodgkinson, Horabin, Howard, D. Inch, Jones, Leadbetter, M Lloyd Jones, P. Lloyd Jones, Loftus, A. Lowe, J. Lowe, A. Macmanus, McDermott, Murray, Nelson, Nolan, Norddahl, Parker, Philbin, Polhill, E. Ratcliffe, M. Ratcliffe, Redhead, J. Roberts, Rowe, Shepherd, Stockton, Swain, Thompson, Wallace and Wharton

Apologies for Absence: Councillors M. Bradshaw, J. Bradshaw, Gilligan, M. Hodge, McInerney, Morley, Osborne and Wainwright

Absence declared on Council business: None

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

Also in attendance: Two members of the public

Action

(The Councillors shown below declared a Personal Interest in the following item of business:-

Councillor Polhill and Councillor McDermott as Board members of Widnes Regeneration, Councillor McDermott as a member of the North West Development Agency and Councillor Hignett as an employee of Community Integrated Care and his daughter an employee of Halton Borough Council)

COU32 REVISION TO 2010/11 BUDGET

Council considered the report of the Operational Director – Finance which set out the proposed savings to the 2010/11 budget as a result of the in-year reductions to Government and other grants.

At its meeting on 1 July 2010, Executive Board received a report that the number of Government grants had been cut which had been incorporated in the 2010/11 budget. Since then, further cuts to grants had been announced by both the Government and North West Development Agency (NWDA).

The report gave figures on the latest position for Halton as it affected Area Based Grants, Other Revenue Grants, Capital Grants and NWDA Capital Grants. As the Council's 2010/11 budget had been set on the basis that these grants were to be paid in full, it had become necessary to revise, and in most cases reduce spending, in order to achieve a balanced budget.

Members were advised of an amendment to the figure quoted in paragraph 3.5 of the report; this figure should read:-

"41.33 FTE posts"

The Appendix attached to the report provided information on the financial, staffing and service implications of the proposals. Members were advised that the proposed actions were intended to mitigate the risks associated with the reductions in Government and other grants. However, it was not possible at this stage to quantify wider changes taking place within other agencies which would have an impact on the Borough.

The report also considered the impact on the 2010/11 budget and beyond, of changes which were expected to be announced following the Comprehensive Spending Review on 20 October 2010.

On behalf of the Liberal Democrat Group, Councillor Austin made the following observation:-

"We believe that any savings in the size of the cuts to the grants identified in this report should be directed towards the front line services."

"I would be grateful if this observation could be recorded in the minutes"

RESOLVED: That the 2010/11 Budget and Capital Programme be revised as set out in the report and supporting appendix.

Meeting ended at 7.15 p.m.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

At a meeting of the Executive Board on Thursday, 15 July 2010 in the Marketing Suite, Municipal Building

Present: Councillors Polhill (Chairman), D. Cargill, Gerrard, Harris, Nelson, Stockton, Swain and Wharton

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Jones and McInerney

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: M. Reaney, D. Johnson, I. Leivesley, G. Meehan, D. Parr, D. Tregea, M. Allen, B. Dodd and M. Simpson

Also in attendance: Cllr Hodgkinson

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

Action

EXB23 MINUTES

The Minutes of 1 July 2010 were taken as read and signed as correct record.

(NB: Councillor Harris declared a personal interest in the following item due to being a Halton Housing Trust Tenant).

(NB: Councillor Nelson declared a personal interest in the following item due to being a Halton Housing Trust Board Member).

(NB: Councillor Swain declared a personal interest in the following item due to being a Halton Housing Trust Board Member).

EXB24 HALTON HOUSING TRUST PROGRESS REPORT

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Adults and Community which provided a further update on Halton Housing Trust's progress since the last report to Executive Board on the 16th July 2009.

Mr Nick Atkin, Chief Executive Halton Housing Trust and Ingrid Fife, Chair of the Board, Halton Housing Trust attended the meeting to present the report which set out the progress to date in delivering some of the key "pledges"

made prior to the stock transfer, and progress in meeting the Tenant Services Authority's regulatory framework.

The Board was advised that the Trust continued to make strong progress in the range and quality of the services provided for their customers. This was underpinned by the Corporate Plan, which provided a clear strategic direction and vision for their role and contribution to the wider success of Halton.

The report provided information on the following key headlines:-

- The Decent Homes Programme had been delivered 14 months ahead of schedule and had achieved efficiency savings of over £6.5 million. These savings would be reinvested in improving customers homes and neighbourhoods;
- Core performance and the quality of services to customers continued to improve as evidenced by the outcome of recently completed mock Short Notice Inspection;
- The Trust was viewed positively by the regulator, the TSA, and had received an improved Regulatory Judgement. The Trust had also been selected as one of only 39 pilots for the development of "local offers" following the implementation of the TSA's new Regulatory Framework in April 2010;
- A new Chair, Ingrid Fife, had been appointed following the resignation of the previous and first Chair, David Felix. Ingrid, with the help and support of other members of the Board, was leading a review of the governance arrangements of the Trust to ensure that they remained fit for purpose both now and into the future;
- The continued development of the Neighbourhood Investment Framework outlined how the Trust would invest up to £262 million in the Borough between 2009 and 2015;
- There was strong support and positive contributions towards the Council's priorities for the Borough. The Trust was working with a cross section of stakeholders to secure some real outcomes for people living within the Borough;

- For the second consecutive year the Trust had taken full advantage of the additional adaptations funding made available by the Council and had significantly reduced the long term backlog;
- The development and acquisition of new homes to support the Council's Housing Needs Survey and Housing Strategy;
- The Trust implemented the Job Family and Pay Frameworks in May 2009, backdated to 1st April 2008; and
- A formal 5th anniversary celebration event is planned for 6th December 2010.

The Board was advised that as the Trust continued to make improvements to primary business areas and improving core performance the emphasis was now shifting towards considering longer term new business growth and development opportunities. This was underpinned through the continued development of an enhanced customer orientated culture throughout the organisation.

Arising from the presentation Members discussed affordable housing and new build schemes, delivering presentations of the Annual Report to the next round of Area Forums, communication pathways and points of contact for tenants, partnership working to tackle anti-social behaviour issues and the success in keeping rent arrears at a minimum.

RESOLVED: That the progress outlined in the report be noted.

HEALTH AND ADULTS PORTFOLIO

EXB25 SAFER MANUAL HANDLING POLICY & PROCEDURES

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Adults and Community which presented the revised Safer Manual Handling Policy, Procedure and Practice document for endorsement.

The Board was advised that The Safer Handling Policy Procedures and Practice document had been originally developed in partnership with representatives from Halton and St Helens Primary Care Trust and closely mirrored the current PCT Safer Handling Policy prepared in 2007 and the Council's policies developed in 2005.

The Board was further advised that the reason for reviewing Halton's policy, procedures and practice was:-

- To update Halton's policy, procedures and practice in line with that of partner organisations, to reflect developments in guidance and in preparation for the development of an integrated service;
- There are increasing numbers of service users with complex disabilities being supported at home by domiciliary care services, family carers and personal assistants and use of complex equipment requiring regular review; and
- To update procedural arrangements covering risk assessments and reviews, training and the role and responsibilities of Manual Handling Advisors acknowledging the complexity of social care and health service provision.

RESOLVED: That the Safer Manual Handling Policy, Procedures and Practice document be endorsed.

EXB26 FAIR ACCESS TO CARE SERVICES POLICY- KEY DECISION

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Adults and Community which presented the updated 'Fair Access to Care Services (FACS) Policy' in light of the Department of Health's (DoH) guidance on eligibility entitled "Prioritising need in the context of 'Putting People First' – a whole system approach to eligibility for social care", published in March 2010.

The Board was advised that the revised guidance reflected the current responsibility held by local authorities for identifying local priorities and allocating their own resources accordingly. In doing so, it ensured that those individuals who did not meet the eligibility threshold were adequately signposted to alternative sources of support such as: luncheon clubs, befriending, volunteering etc. Such universal services improved outcomes for the wider population and could help some individuals avoid or delay having to rely on health or social care services for support. If councils based their approach to needs on achieving outcomes rather than providing specific services, then people with similar needs within the same local authority area should expect to receive a similar quality of outcome.

The Board was further advised that this approach required councils to prioritise their support to individuals in a hierarchical way. Those whose needs had immediate and longer term critical consequences for their independence and safety should be supported ahead of those with needs that had substantial consequences and so on. In addition, the policy sets out how decisions would be made in Halton about ‘what sorts of people with what kinds of needs qualify for what types of services.’ Since the publication of the new national guidance, paragraphs 3.4 –3.5 summarised the main aspects of FACS that were the same, those that have changed and those that were either new or enhanced as a result of policy wider developments.

REASON FOR THE DECISION

To update the Fair Access to Care Services Policy following the Department of Health’s guidance “Putting People First – a whole system approach to eligibility for social care” (March 2010).

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

The revised guidance from the Department of Health reflects the current responsibility held by local authorities for identifying local priorities and allocating their own resources accordingly.

Halton’s Fair Access to Care Services Policy needs to be updated in order to uphold its responsibility and ensure that those individuals who do not meet the eligibility threshold are adequately signposted to alternative sources.

IMPLEMENTATION DATE

July 2010.

RESOLVED: That the enhanced Fair Access to Care Services Policy to comply with the March 2010 Department of Health Guidance “Putting People First” be approved.

Strategic Director
- Adult and
Community

EXB27 ADULTS & COMMUNITY CAPITAL PROGRAMME OUTTURN

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Adults and Community which informed Members of the 2009/10 capital programme outturn and the provisional

capital programme for 2010/11.

The Board was advised that the 2009/10 underspend mainly related to two areas:-

- Developments at Runcorn Town Hall Park, original delays in the scheme identified in the year had caused succession projects for the Skate Park and Multi Use Games Area to also be delayed; and
- Within Housing Strategy, Renovation/Home Repairs had received approximately £70k income for repayment of works already completed due to houses being sold. RSL adaptations budget was fully committed but due to contractors being delayed, consultation with clients and the backlog of adaptations being prioritised the budget had not been fully spent in 2009/10 but the expenditure would be realised in the first half of 2010/11.

The Board was further advised that for Housing schemes provisional carry forward figures for 2011/12 had been included in the event that underspends could again occur. Demand on some schemes may not reach target budgets and other schemes experience time lags that cross over financial years. Therefore predicted amounts were in line with similar underspends for 2009/10.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the final 2009/10 outturn figures be noted; and
- (2) the Board recommend that the Council approve the capital project for 2010/11 as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

Strategic Director
- Adult and
Community

COMMUNITY SAFETY PORTFOLIO

EXB28 A MULTI-AREA APPROACH TO COMMISSIONING ALCOHOL AND SUBSTANCE MISUSE TREATMENT SERVICES- KEY DECISION

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Adults and Community which sought agreement to participate in a multi area approach towards the commissioning of alcohol and substance misuse treatment services.

The Board was advised that as part of the emerging sub regional collaborative agenda, St Helens, Halton and Warrington Councils identified problematic drug use and alcohol related harm as issues of particular concern. This was reflected in the inclusion of NI 40 'numbers of problematic drug users in effective treatment' within their respective Local Area Agreements (LAA).

The Board was further advised that initial work across the three local Council areas identified that the substance misuse treatment systems had a number of common features. All were more or less successful in attracting and retaining service users but there was less evidence for the progression of service users and a concern that treatment services were perpetuating, rather than addressing, social exclusion.

In July 2009, Mott MacDonald were commissioned to look at current arrangements in terms of total expenditure, the numbers in treatment, per capita costs of treatment and the number of service users being discharged from treatment via a planned exit. A copy of their key findings document (April 2010) was attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

Arising from the discussion Members noted the potential future changes of Primary Care Trusts in relation to recent Government announcements and discussed staffing implications and TUPE arrangements.

REASON FOR THE DECISION

To seek to provide better and more cost effective services for alcohol and substance misuse treatment.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

Current arrangements could continue however as identified in the Mott MacDonald report, there would be less evidence for the progression of service users. Continuing with current arrangements will perpetuate the social exclusion of service users and put local arrangements increasingly out of step with the National Treatment Agency's (NTA's) aspiration for treatment systems to become recovery orientated.

IMPLEMENTATION DATE

July 2010.

RESOLVED: That

1. the proposals to establish a Multi Agency approach for the commissioning of alcohol and substance misuse treatment services be approved; and
2. the proposals form the basis of consultation with the Trade Unions.

Strategic Director
- Adult and
Community

ENVIRONMENT SUSTAINABILITY PORTFOLIO

EXB29 ENERGY MANAGEMENT IN BUILDINGS

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Environment and Economy which outlined that the Corporate Policy and Performance Board had agreed that the Use of Natural Resources topic should form part of their work programme for 2009/10. Given the broad nature of the topic area the Board had agreed that they should initially focus on a small number of key areas that offered the greatest scope for reducing the use of resources. Based on the findings of a baseline report the Board decided to focus their attention initially on the Council's approach to energy management in buildings. This report presented the findings and recommendations of the Working Group set up to look at the issue.

The Board was advised that as a result of the investigations to date, the Group had identified a number of interim recommendations in respect of:-

- Monitoring and reporting;
- Energy management;
- Training;
- Devolved energy management;
- Procurement policies;
- Finance; and
- Renewable energy.

The Board was further advised that the findings of the review and recommendations were set out in the attached Appendix attached to the report. In particular it was noted that a trial had taken place at Stobart Stadium resulting in a reduction in energy usage of 20% that resulted in a combined saving of £31,000.

The Board noted that current initiatives could still be carried out within the existing expenditure budget, however any additional fitting of meters and equipment would be subject to funding.

RESOLVED: That recommendations contained in the report in respect of energy management in Council buildings be endorsed for implementation.

Strategic Director
- Resources

RESOURCES PORTFOLIO

EXB30 CONSULTATION PAPER - PROVISION OF COURTS SERVICES IN CHESHIRE AND MERSEYSIDE

The Board considered a report of the Chief Executive which advised Members of the publication by the Ministry of Justice of a Consultation Paper on their proposal on the provision of Court Services in Cheshire and Merseyside.

The Board was advised that on 23 June 2010 the Ministry of Justice published a Consultation Paper entitled "Proposal on the Provision of Court Services in Cheshire and Merseyside". (Attached at Appendix 1). It was noted that this was part of Her Majesty's Court Services National Estates Strategy, in which HMCS indicated that it was committed to providing a high quality Court Service within a reasonable travelling distance of the communities that used it, whilst ensuring value for money for tax payers.

It was suggested that the Consultation Paper be sent to all Members of the Council to invite them to make responses either direct to the Ministry of Justice, or to the Operational Director, Legal and Democratic Services who would collect them and produce a draft Consultation Response for consideration by Executive Board at its meeting on 9 September 2010. This would therefore enable the Council's response to be provided before the end of the consultation period on 15 September 2010.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) Members of the Council consider the Consultation Paper issued by the Ministry of Justice on the proposal for the provision of Court Services in Cheshire and Merseyside;
- (2) all Members be provided with a copy of the document and be invited to submit their comments to the Operational Director, Legal and Democratic Services; and
- (3) a further report be brought to the 9th September 2010 meeting of the Executive

Chief Executive

Board, containing a draft response to the consultation.

EXB31 LOCAL PUBLIC SERVICE AGREEMENT AND WORKING NEIGHBOURHOOD FUND ALLOCATIONS

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Resources which outlined progress with the review of the Working Neighbourhood Fund (WNF) and Local Public Service Agreement (LPSA) reward grant allocations.

The Board was advised that a report to an earlier meeting of Executive Board on proposals for the use of Local Public Service Agreement reward grant (LPSA2) and additional WNF had been deferred. The deferral was to enable consideration of the £600,000 reduction in Working Neighbourhood Fund allocation for 2010/11 by the Government.

The Board was further advised that it was important that decisions were made as quickly as possible to enable savings to be made. Some projects required an early approval to allow them to proceed (if there was funding).

It was reported that following the meeting of SSP Chairs on 5th July 2010 a WNF / LPSA2 funding cut proposal document had been produced which was tabled at the meeting. The Board considered the document and requested that a column be added to the spreadsheet entitled “Original / Revised Allocation” in order to clarify the current figures. The Board was informed that the document would be created as a supplement agenda item and published accordingly.

RESOLVED: That progress with the review of LPSA2 and WNF allocations be noted.

MINUTES ISSUED: 21 July 2010

CALL-IN: 29 July 2010

Any matter decided by the Executive Board may be called in no later than 29 July 2010

Meeting ended at 3.10 p.m.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

At a meeting of the Executive Board on Thursday, 9 September 2010 in the Marketing Suite, Municipal Building

Present: Councillors Polhill (Chairman), D. Cargill, Gerrard, Harris, Jones, McInerney, Nelson, Stockton, Swain and Wharton

Apologies for Absence: Councillors

Absence declared on Council business: Councillor

Officers present: A. Scott, M. Reaney, G. Cook, I. Leivesley, B. Dodd, T. Gibbs, N. Moorhouse, P. Watts and L Wilson

Also in attendance: Hodgkinson

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

EXB32 MINUTES

The Minutes of 15 July 2010 were taken as read and signed as correct record.

LEADERS PORTFOLIO

EXB33 REQUEST FOR FUNDING FOR A CONTRIBUTION FROM THE AREA FORUM

The Board received a report of the Chief Executive on a request for a funding contribution of £2,500 towards a study to examine health effects of industrial plants where incineration technology was used.

The request had been made by Mr Gorry on behalf of HAGATI for funding from Area Forum 4 (Mersey, Heath, Grange and Halton Brook), for a contribution towards the cost of a study examining the downwind health effects around industrial plants where incineration was used. The request for funding for an additional study followed the grant of planning permission by BERR for a Waste to Heat Plant at the Ineos Chlor Complex at Runcorn.

Action

The request had been discussed and considered at the Area Forum meeting, and after consultation with the appropriate chief officers, had been referred to the Board for determination.

The appendices attached to the report included a presentation to the Health Policy and Performance Board in June 2010, advice given by the Strategic Director, Environment and Economy in response to the request and a detailed scoping statement which had been submitted in August 2010 by Mr Gorry. In addition, a response on the scoping document from Fiona Johnstone, Director of Public Health was attached which indicated that the Primary Care Trust had not intended to provide any funding towards this research. Correspondence from Dr Alec Stewart of the HPA and Cllr Hodgkinson was also tabled.

RESOLVED: That the request be declined.

CHILDREN YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES PORTFOLIO

EXB34 REVIEW OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE PLAN - KEY DECISION

The Board received a report from the Strategic Director, Children and Young People which provided the Board with an overview of the review that had been undertaken of Halton's Children and Young People Plan 2009-11(CYPP).

The Board were advised that Halton's second CYPP had been published in 2009, to provide strategic direction for all services within the Children's Trust in Halton. It represented Halton's local vision and aspirations for children and young people in the Borough, and determined how the Children's Trust Board would work together to commission services to address locally identified needs and better integrate provision.

A multi agency task and finish group was established in April 2010 to produce the Review. The report set out developments in a number of key areas over the past twelve months and highlighted the many achievements over the same period, together with an overview of a number of areas where more work was needed in order to achieve the stated objectives by March 2011.

It was noted that the Coalition Government was reviewing the policy framework for Children's Services and had announced its intention to remove the statutory regulations in place for Children's Trusts and CYPPs from Autumn 2010.

Reason(s) For Decision

The Review was undertaken in order to comply with the updated Statutory Children's Trust Guidance to review the Children & Young People's Plan in each year that a new Plan was not produced. The Review also provided an update on progress that had been submitted to Ofsted to inform this year's Children's Services Rating.

Alternative Options Considered And Rejected

None.

Implementation Date

The existing Children & Young People's Plan remained the overarching strategy that Halton's Children's Trust was working towards meeting. The Review provided a supplement that updated progress so far on the two year (2009-11) Plan. The Review was published in July in time to be submitted to Ofsted by its deadline of July 16th for consideration for the Children's Services Rating for 2010.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the Children & Young People's Plan Review 2010 be endorsed; and
- 2) the actions detailed in Section 11 of the Children & Young People's Plan Review 2010, and summarised in 3.9 of the report be approved and be taken into consideration in terms of meeting the Children & Young People's Plan 2009-11.

Strategic Director
- Children &
Young People

EXB35 REDESIGN OF RESIDENTIAL SERVICES- KEY DECISION

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Young People on the outcome of the review of Halton's residential provision for children in care.

The Board had approved a Placement Strategy Review on 5 November 2009, in respect of children in care. The review focused initially on the Borough's situation in relation to foster care and identified the barriers to the

recruitment of carers needed to be overcome in order to address the severe shortage of carers. As a result of that first stage review, the Board agreed to an 'Invest to Save Bid' to improve the recruitment and retention of foster carers through an increase in allowances.

Members were advised that in 2004, the Borough had 169 children in care; by July 2010 there were 149. This was contrary to regional and national trends which had seen numbers increase over the previous two years. This had been achieved through a rigorous approach to children in need, child protection and children in care services. The report provided details of the current range of provision for children in care and the associated issues. The Placement Strategy Review concluded that 4 in-house residential beds would be sufficient to meet the needs of children in care. A range of provision, as detailed in the report, would provide reassurance that the Council was committed to providing a suitable setting for care leavers up to adulthood and address one of the key issues that care leavers had raised about the lack of choice.

Reason(s) for Decision

The decision was required in order to ensure the most efficient and effective use of resources and to improve outcomes for children who grow up in care.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

Consideration was given to utilising the existing property at Littlebourne for the semi-independent provision. However neither the location nor the size made it suitable for this service.

Consideration was given to developing the semi-independent provision as a Halton Borough Council resource. This was not a cost effective model and would not have allowed the department to benefit from a partnership with an experienced provider of such services.

Implementation Date

It was proposed that the closure of Littlebourne Children's Home take place by 31st March 2011 and a contract for semi-independent accommodation be awarded and commence in April 2011.

RESOLVED : That

1. the proposal to close Littlebourne Children's Home be endorsed;
2. in order to meet statutory requirements and responsibilities, the proposal to invest £220,000 of the efficiencies from this re-design to provide essential services to care leavers, foster carers and children in care be endorsed; and
3. the financial efficiencies of £150,000 (one off capital) and £105,000 (revenue) be endorsed to contribute to the Council's efficiency programme.

Strategic Director
- Children &
Young People

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PORTFOLIO

EXB36 BOROUGH OF HALTON (ASHLEY PARK RETAIL CENTRE, WIDNES) CPO 2010

The Board received a report of the Chief Executive which sought authorisation to make the Borough of Halton (Ashley Park Retail Centre, Widnes) Compulsory Purchase Order 2010 under Section 226 (1) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and Section 13 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 and the Acquisition of Land Act 1981.

Members were advised that planning permission had been approved for the re-development of this prominent site with a proposed new foodstore and petrol filling station. The scheme was in accordance with national planning policy for town centres and the planning permission complied with the emerging town centre strategy.

RESOLVED: That the Board, subject to the prior completion of an appropriate indemnity agreement with the Developer,

- 1 make the Borough of Halton (Ashley Park Retail Centre Widnes) Compulsory Purchase Order 2010 ("the Order") under Section 226(1)(a) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and Section 13 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 and the Acquisition of Land Act 1981 for the acquisition of all interests in the Order Land and the acquisition of new rights within the Order Land;
- 2 the Order Land shall (subject as provided otherwise in this resolution) comprise the

	<p>areas shown coloured pink and blue respectively on the plan attached for the purpose of redevelopment of the Ashley Park Retail Centre comprising of demolition of existing buildings, construction of new retail unit together with associated provision for access, servicing, parking and landscaping;</p>	
3	<p>delegated authority be given to the Strategic Director Environment and Economy (whether acting personally or through any other person nominated by him) to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Take all necessary steps as soon as is reasonably practical to finalise the Order map and schedule, (including the exercise of powers of requisition) secure the making, confirmation and implementation of the Order including the publication and service of all notices and the presentation of the Council's case at any Public Inquiry; (ii) Negotiate to acquire and acquire all interests in the Order Land and new rights within the Order Land either by agreement or compulsorily including prior to the making of the Order and where appropriate to agree terms for relocation; (iii) To reduce (but not increase) the area of the Order Land and/or any interests therein should the said negotiations make the inclusion of such land and/or such interests unnecessary; (iv) Make arrangements for the relocation of owners and occupiers, where appropriate; (v) Approve agreements with the owners of any interest in the Order Land and any objectors to the confirmation of the Order setting out the terms for the withdrawal of objections to the Order including, where appropriate, seeking inclusion in and/or exclusion from the Order of land or new rights 	<p>Strategic Director - Environment and Economy</p>

- (vi) In the event that a question of compensation be referred to the Lands Tribunal to take all necessary steps in relation thereto including advising on the appropriate compensation payable and to appoint appropriate consultants if necessary to assist and advise in this regard.

RESOURCES PORTFOLIO

EXB37 LICENSING ACT 2003 STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY

The Board received a report of the Chief Executive requesting authorisation to carry out consultation on a review of the Council's statement of licensing policy.

On 12 December 2007, the Council adopted a statement of licensing policy in compliance with its obligations under section 5 of the Licensing Act 2003. The statement lasted for three years but Members were advised that must be re-adopted by the Council for successive three year periods. However, a statement could not be re-adopted before the completion of a consultation exercise.

The consultation exercise would commence on 10 September 2010 and run for a five week period until 15 October 2010. Any comments and recommendations received would be reported back to the Executive Board for consideration.

RESOLVED: That the Operational Director, Legal and Democratic Services, be authorised to undertake a consultation exercise in respect of the Council's statement of licensing policy in accordance with section 5 (3) of the Licensing Act 2003.

Operational
Director- Legal
and Democratic
Services

EXB38 CONSULTATION PAPER - PROVISION OF COURTS SERVICES IN CHESHIRE AND MERSEYSIDE

The Board received a report of the Chief Executive which advised Members of the responses received from Councillors on the provision of courts services in Cheshire and Merseyside.

Members were advised that at its meeting on 15 July 2010, the Board received a report relating to the consultation document received from the Ministry of Justice on their

proposals for the provision of Court Services in Cheshire and Merseyside. The Board resolved to seek the views of all Councillors and comments from two Members were contained within the report. It was noted that the formal consultation period would end on 15 September 2010.

The Strategic Director, Environment and Economy had prepared an assessment of transport issues. Should the proposal to close the Runcorn County Court go ahead, it was clear that court users would be put at greater inconvenience in travelling to Warrington due to the location and increased travel costs.

RESOLVED: That the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Portfolio holder for Resources, be authorised to finalise and despatch the Council's response to the consultation.

Chief Executive

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT PORTFOLIO

EXB39 MERSEYSIDE JOINT WASTE DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT - PREFERRED OPTIONS: INTERIM FEEDBACK REPORT

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director, Environment and Economy that advised Members of the outcome of the consultation exercise and the feedback on the Merseyside Joint Waste Development Plan Document – Preferred Options.

The Waste Development Plan was being produced by Merseyside Environmental Advisory Services (MEAS) on behalf of the six greater Merseyside districts. The Preferred Options consultation exercise took place over a six week period during May to July 2010. A draft report, attached at Appendix A, explained the full extent of the exercise and provided some analysis of the results process. In the total Merseyside wide exercise, 139 responses were submitted, 64 of which were from organisations rather than individuals and a number of petitions were submitted relating to specific site allocations.

Members were advised that within Halton three sites had been identified for possible future waste related uses; these were:

- Ditton Sidings, Newstead Road (Widnes)
- Johnsons Lane (Widnes)
- Manor Park Road Waste Water Treatment Works (Runcorn)

The draft report detailed the number of submissions made and petitions received.

During consideration of the report, Members discussed the location and site characteristics of the Ditton Sidings site and concluded that this site was not suitable for the uses proposed.

RESOLVED: That

1. the draft findings be noted;
2. a further report be brought to the Board once the MEAS full analysis of the consultation exercise had been completed; and
3. MEAS be advised that it was not considered that the site at Ditton Sidings was suitable for the uses proposed in the Waste DPD, and that a further report be presented to the Executive Board at the conclusion of the consultation process to enable a formal decision to be made by the Council.

Strategic Director
- Environment
and Economy

HEALTH AND ADULTS PORTFOLIO

EXB40 INTIMATE RELATIONSHIPS AND SEXUAL HEALTH NEEDS FOR ADULTS

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director, Adults and Community on the revised Intimate Relationships and Sexual Health Needs for Adults Policy, Procedure and Practice.

Members were advised that the original policy, Sexual Health Policy, Strategy and Guidelines, (2003) was developed under the previous council structure of Social Care, Housing and Health Directorate. A review was required to update the policy in line with the Authority's current structure and legislation.

A review took place during 2009/10 and involved input from and consultation with a number of sources which were detailed in the report. Following this review, the main amendments to this policy included reference to :-

- Sexual Offences Act 2005

- Mental Capacity Act 2005
- General Social Care Council's Codes of Practice
- Information Sharing
- Adult Safeguarding

The revised policy and associated guidance aimed to draw together the legal framework, whilst also recognising:-

- Service Users' individual uniqueness and diversity
- Their right to privacy and independence, and to make informed decisions which might include risks
- That some individuals' circumstances might make them vulnerable to abuse and may need support with minimising or eliminating those risks
- The importance of their physical and emotional wellbeing.

RESOLVED: That the Board

1. note the contents of the report; and
2. agree the revised policy, procedure and practice document attached to the report as Appendix 1.

MINUTES ISSUED: 14 September 2010

CALL-IN: 20 September 2010

Any matter decided by the Executive Board may be called in no later than 20 September 2010

Meeting ended at 2.35 p.m.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

At a meeting of the Executive Board on Thursday, 23 September 2010 in the Marketing Suite, Municipal Building

Present: Councillors Polhill (Chairman), Gerrard, Jones, McInerney, Nelson, Stockton, Swain and Wharton

Apologies for Absence: Councillors D. Cargill and Harris

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: A. Scott, M. Reaney, G. Cook, D. Johnson, I. Leivesley, G. Meehan, D. Parr, D. Tregoe and A. Williamson

Also in attendance: Councillors Redhead and Edge

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

EXB41 MINUTES

Action

The Minutes of 9 September 2010 were taken as read and signed as correct record.

**CHILDREN YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES
PORTFOLIO**

EXB42 HSCB SAFEGUARDING ANNUAL REPORT

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director Children and Young People, advising Members of the publication of Halton Safeguarding Children Board's (HSCB) Annual Report 2009-10.

Members were advised that the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 set out a statutory requirement for Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) to produce and publish an Annual Report on the effectiveness of safeguarding in the local area. The report should provide a robust challenge to the work of the Children's Trust Board to safeguard children and would be used by the Children's Trust Board to inform the Children and Young People's Plan.

The report would also provide information to the Chief Executive and Lead Member as part of their responsibility to hold the Director of Children's Services accountable for the effective working of the LSCB.

The report highlighted the considerable amount of work undertaken by HSCB and the developments that had taken place over the past twelve months. These were in line with core functions of LSCBs as set out in primary legislation and regulations, and included:

- Thresholds, policies and procedures, monitoring and evaluation functions;
- Training;
- Recruitment and Supervision;
- Private Fostering;
- Communicating and Raising Awareness;
- Functions relating to child deaths; and
- Serious Case Reviews

RESOLVED: That the Halton Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2009-10 be endorsed.

EXB43 APPOINTMENT OF DIOCESAN REPRESENTATIVE TO CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES POLICY PERFORMANCE BOARD

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Young People on the appointment of a representative from the Diocese of Shrewsbury and the Archdiocese of Liverpool to the Children and Young People's Policy and Performance Board.

The Board were advised that under a Direction issued by the Secretary of State, authorities must appoint diocesan representatives to scrutiny committees under Section 499 of the Education Act 1996 and DfEE Circular 19/99, all as amended. These representatives would have voting rights in relation to any decision relating to:

- Schools maintained by the Local Authority;
- Pupils that attend schools maintained by the Local Authority; and
- Pupils that are educated in some by the Local Authority in some way

but cannot vote on any other business of the Committee. This would enable denominations to have a direct input to policies on education provision for pupils of school age.

The report contained a brief pen portrait of the nominee for Members' information.

RESOLVED: That Council be recommended to appoint a Diocesan Representative for Shrewsbury and Liverpool as a voting co-optee on the Children and Young People Policy and Performance Board for a period of four years, commencing from the date approval is confirmed.

Strategic Director
- Children &
Young People

EXB44 SUMMARY OF EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT 2010

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Young People which summarised 2010 performance data for Early Years Foundation Stage Profile and Key Stages 1 to 4.

The Strategic Director Children's Services reported across phase exam performance improvement; at Early Years Foundation Stage; Key Stage 1; Key Stage 2; GCSE, and at 'A' Level. Performance across the Borough for the number of pupils attaining 5 GCSE's A* to C was 82%. This was a record for the Borough, and a significant 10% increase over last year's figures.

The Executive Board agreed that the Leader of the Council would formally write to schools to congratulate them on such an excellent all round performance, and on the continued rise in educational standards year on year in the Borough.

RESOLVED: That the attainment of children in Halton schools for the 2009/10 academic year be noted.

Strategic Director
- Children &
Young People

HEALTH AND ADULTS PORTFOLIO AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PORTFOLIO

EXB45 SCRUTINY REVIEW OF EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES FOR PEOPLE WITH LEARNING OR PHYSICAL DISABILITIES OR MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director, Environment and Economy on the outcome of the scrutiny review of employment practices for people with learning or physical disabilities or mental health issues. Councillor Sue Edge, Chairman of the Employment, Learning, Skills and Community Policy and Performance Board attended to present the report.

Members were advised that, as part of a Care Quality Commission performance assessment in 2008, it had been noted that although Halton supported more people with learning or physical disability or mental health issues into employment than had been predicted, performance was lower than comparators. The Commission also noted that targets set in relation to supported employment were relatively low.

Despite a number of interventions through employment and social care programmes in Halton, the number of people with learning disabilities progressing into employment remained low and was significantly lower than north west averages. As a result, of this assessment, a scrutiny review of current practice was commissioned.

The report outlined the methodology used and Appendix 1 contained the Scrutiny report, together with a series of recommendations discussed and agreed by the Members of the Employment Topic Group.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Edge for her presentation.

RESOLVED :That

1. the contents of the report be noted; and
2. where resources allowed, the recommendations made by the Employment, Learning, Skills and Community Policy and Performance Board and the Health Policy and Performance Board, as set out in the scrutiny report and action plan (Annex 5), be supported.

(NB: Councillors Nelson and Swain declared a Personal Interest in the following item of business due to being Halton Housing Trust Board Members).

EXB46 REVIEW OF HALTON HOUSING TRUST BOARD COMPOSITION

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director, Adults and Community, seeking agreement to a proposal from Halton Housing Trust (HHT) to reduce the membership of the HHT Board from 15 to 12 members, including a reduction in tenant and Local Authority Member representation.

The HHT Board recently asked a working group to review governance arrangements in terms of Board membership and a range of options were present for their consideration on 1 July 2010. In coming to a decision, the Trust had taken into account good practice guidance from the National Housing Federation and Department for Communities and Local Government which suggested Board size should be between 5 and 12. The appendix attached to the report also showed the findings of a survey of 32 stock transfer Housing Associations which showed the size and composition of the Board in each organisation and how long both had existed.

Members were reminded that, under the housing transfer agreement, the authority's consent was required for any changes in so far as they relate to local authority or tenant representation. The Trust's Board wished to reduce the Board size to 12, with 4 local authority nominees, 4 tenant members and 4 independent members.

RESOLVED: That Halton Housing Trust's proposal to reduce its Board from 15 to 12 members, comprising 4 local authority nominees, 4 tenant members and 4 independent members be approved.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PORTFOLIO

EXB47 BARRIERS TO WORK SCRUTINY TOPIC GROUP

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director, Environment and Economy on the findings and recommendations of the Barriers to Work Scrutiny Topic Group, as submitted to the Employment, Learning, Skills and Community Policy and Performance Board in June 2010. Councillor Sue Edge, Chairman of the Employment, Learning, Skills and Community Policy and Performance Board attended the meeting to present the report

The Scrutiny Topic Group was established to analyse the results of research undertaken by Merseyside Information Service which was detailed in Appendix 1. The Group met on seven occasions between October 2008 and March 2010 to develop appropriate recommendations for local employment initiatives, training and skills programmes and business start-up services could be re-focussed to address the perceived barriers to employment, identified by residents in the neighbourhood management areas.

The report contained a list of key recommendations.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Edge for her attendance.

RESOLVED: That where resources allow, the key recommendations proposed by the Employment, Learning, Skills and Community Policy and Performance Board, as detailed in Paragraphs 4.1 to 4.14 of the report be approved.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY PORTFOLIO

EXB48 HOUSEHOLD WASTE RECYCLING CENTRES - VEHICLE PERMIT SCHEME & ACCESS POLICY

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director, Environment and Economy which sought approval for an Access Policy and the implementation of a Vehicle Permit Scheme for the Council's two Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs).

The Board were advised that the Council had a statutory duty to provide places where residents may deposit their own household waste free of charge, under the Environmental Protection Act 1990. As the sites were not to be used for trade waste, the Council needed to have measures in place to deter and prevent commercial businesses depositing waste at HWRCs. The introduction of a Vehicle Permit Scheme would prevent commercial or industrial (trade) waste from being deposited at the Council's HWRCs.

Members were reminded that the proposed scheme accorded with Halton's current Municipal Waste Management Strategy, which contained a commitment to further improve controls for trade waste at HWRCs, and that the current contractor, Veolia Environmental Services, was required to comply with and implement the Scheme under conditions of the current contract.

The report provided information on how the permit scheme would work, the types of permit (annual or temporary), administration of the scheme, site controls, advice for residents and traders on the new arrangements and details of how the Scheme would be implemented once approved.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the implementation of a Vehicle Permit Scheme, as outlined in the report, for the two Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) in Halton be approved;
- (2) the Household Waste Recycling Centre Access Policy, attached as Appendix 2 to the report, be approved; and
- (3) the Strategic Director for Environment and Economy be authorised, in consultation with the Executive Board Member for Environmental Sustainability, to take all steps necessary to implement the Scheme in Halton.

Strategic Director
- Environment
and Economy

EXB49 WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY REVIEW

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director, Environment and Economy which updated Members on the current position of Halton's Waste Management Strategy.

The current Waste Management Strategy was published in 2008, and was an update of a previous document, and the updating was carried out with Defra direct consultancy support funding. A local consultation exercise was carried out as part of the review and updating process. A number of supplementary documents were produced, including a Waste Action Plan which set out Halton's actions to meet the objectives and targets contained within the Strategy. In addition, a sustainability appraisal of the Strategy was also completed.

The Board were advised that it had been intended to carry out a full review of the Council's Municipal Waste Management Strategy in 2010. However, it was not considered necessary for a full review to be conducted at this stage, and the report provided details of the relevant factors for Members' consideration. Members noted that the proposal to defer the review took into account current guidance published in December 2009 by the Defra Waste Programme. As there had been no significant change in local circumstances, policy or priorities, the Councils' current Strategy remained fit for purpose.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the deferral of a planned full review of Halton's Municipal Waste Management Strategy be approved for a period of up to a further two years;
- (2) the updating of associated supplementary documents, including the Councils Waste Action Plan, to ensure that documents remain up to date and fit for purpose be approved; and
- (3) further reports be submitted once the supplementary documents have been updated and the outcomes of relevant waste policy reviews are known.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT PORTFOLIO

EXB50 DARESBURY SCIENCE & INNOVATION CAMPUS (DSIC) - JOINT VENTURE PARTNERSHIP BOARD NOMINEES

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director, Environment and Economy on the Joint Venture Partnership Board nominees.

In June 2009, authority was given for the Chief Executive to take all necessary steps to establish a Joint Venture Partnership at Daresbury. As part of the Operational arrangements for the new partnership, two boards had been established; a Joint Venture Board and a Public Sector Joint Venture Board.

The Board were advised that the Chief Executive had lead negotiations on behalf of the Borough Council which lead to the establishment of the Joint Venture Partnership. The report outlined the vision for the Daresbury Science and Innovation Campus as well as the policy implications for Members' consideration.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Chief Executive be authorised to represent the Borough Council at the DSIC Joint Venture Partnership Board; and
- (2) the Chief Executive and the Portfolio Holder for the Physical Environment be authorised to represent the Borough Council on the Public

Chief Executive

Sector Joint Venture Board.

RESOURCES PORTFOLIO

EXB51 REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL'S GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director, Resources, which advised Members of the outcome of the consultation exercise in respect of the Council's Governance arrangements, and the model of governance to be adopted.

On 17 June 2010, Executive Board considered a report on the implications of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (the Act), in relation to the Council's governance arrangements. Section 62 of the Act modified the provisions of the Local Government Act 2000 in respect of the forms of Executive which local authorities could operate, and required the Council to operate one of the following models:

- Leader and Cabinet Executive (England); or
- Mayor and Cabinet Executive

The Consultation period ended on 10 September 2010 and no representations or comments had been received. The report contained a series of proposals for publication:

- (a) The Leader and Cabinet Executive model of governance be adopted;
- (b) The Leader be appointed until the annual meeting after the Leader's normal day of retirement as a Councillor;
- (c) Provision be made in the Constitution to enable the Council to pass a resolution to agree that the Leader ceases his/her term of office before this statutory period has come to an end, if required;
- (d) The Leader appoint his/her own Executive Board of two or more Members up to a maximum of ten (including the Leader).

The Board were reminded that a formal resolution on the model it would adopt must be made by 31 December

2010 and this would come into effect in May 2011.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the outcome of the consultation exercise be noted; and
- (2) Council be recommended to adopt the Leader with Cabinet model of governance with effect from May 2011 and the proposals, as detailed in the report, be published.

Strategic Director
- Resources

EXB52 REVIEW OF THE CONSTITUTION

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director, Resources which sought approval for a revised Call-in Procedure and rules of debate for inclusion on the Council's Constitution.

The meeting of Annual Council on 21 May 2010 approved a number of changes and updates to the Constitution as recommended by the Executive Board. In addition, it was resolved that a cross-party Working Group be established to consider the changes to the Call-in Procedure and the proposal submitted by the Liberal Democratic Group and the Conservative Group.

The Working Group met on 12 July 2010 and agreed the following:

- (i) Executive Board be recommended to approve the suggested revised text for Call-In as detailed in the Appendix;
- (ii) With the exception of the suggestion in respect of training, Executive Board be recommended not to support the suggestions submitted by the Liberal Democrat Group and the Conservative Group;
- (iii) All Councillors be offered training led by the Operational Director, Legal & Democratic Services to explain the key issues of the Constitution.

RESOLVED: That Council be recommended to approve the revised Call-in Procedure and Rules for

Strategic Director
- Resources

Debate as detailed in the Appendix attached to the report.

EXB53 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.

EXB54 PROPERTY REVIEW

The Board received a joint report of the Strategic Directors, Resources and Environment and Economy, on the Council's property portfolio.

The report contained information on the detailed examination that had taken place of two areas of property holdings – Corporate Accommodation and Surplus Property Assets. The options presented an opportunity to:

- Make efficiency savings;
- Improve the stock; and
- Meet service delivery objectives.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) with the exception of the lease on the 6th property listed in the report, for which a further report should be submitted, the surrender of the Leases outlined in paragraph 4.2 be approved, with the detailed arrangements being delegated to the Strategic Director – Environment and Economy and the Strategic Director – Resources, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Resources;
- (2) the process for the disposal of assets outlined in paragraph 5.7 of the report be approved; and
- (3) the Corporate Services Policy and Performance Board receive half yearly reports on progress.

Strategic Director
- Resources

Strategic Director-
Environment and
Economy

MINUTES ISSUED: 29 September 2010

CALL-IN: 6 October 2010

Any matter decided by the Executive Board may be called in no later than 6 October 2010

Meeting ended at 2.45 p.m.

EXECUTIVE BOARD SUB COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the Executive Board Sub Committee on Thursday, 22 July 2010 in the Marketing Suite, Municipal Building

Present: Councillors Wharton (Chairman), Harris and Nelson

Apologies for Absence: None

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: M. Reaney, G. Ferguson, D. Cunliffe, L Gladwyn, J. Hughes and R. Lyden

Also in attendance: None

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

Action

ES19 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 8th July 2010 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

RESOURCES PORTFOLIO

ES20 ACCEPTANCE OF TENDER FOR MUNICIPAL BUILDING

The Sub-Committee considered a report which informed Members that the Operational Director, Employment, Economic Regeneration and Business Development had accepted a tender relating to the refurbishment of the Municipal Building and a contract had been entered into with the successful contractor.

Tenders were invited from six contractors in a two stage tendering process designed to ensure that the contractor offering best value was appointed to carry out the project. From the analysis of the stage one bids which were assessed on both price and quality, three contractors were chosen to progress to stage two. Following the stage two process Globe Management Services Limited were the preferred contractor chosen for this project. The cost for the project would not exceed the current budget provision of

£3m.

RESOLVED: That Members note that the phase 1a tender submitted by Globe Management Services Limited had been accepted by the Operational Director Employment, Economic Regeneration and Business Development and a contract had been entered into, with a contract sum of £1,825,882.00.

HEALTH AND ADULTS PORTFOLIO

ES21 SEXUAL VIOLENCE SUPPORT SERVICES

The Sub-Committee considered a report which sought approval to commit funding to a five year contract of Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (ISVAs) for the Cheshire Area Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) to the value of £20,552 per year. Currently, Halton had one full time ISVA who provided support and advice to adults from the age of 16, including one to one counselling sessions, support through the court process or reporting to the Police, and acute case support. Previously, Halton had been able to maintain this service for £20,000 as the provider had secured match funding from other sources to maintain a full time position which equated to approximately £40,000. In the current economic climate this had proved more difficult and so Halton was facing the prospect of part-time provision of service against the full-time level of demand.

In line with Central Government requirements, Cheshire had been developing a SARC to respond to victims of serious sexual offences. This SARC was designed to develop multi agency partnership working through high quality forensic examination and support services tabled to the needs of the victim. Cheshire SARC was based upon joint commissioning and officially commenced operation in April 2010.

It was noted that through SARC Halton service users would continue to be offered ISVA services in the locality. In addition, the project offered long term approach to ISVA commissioning with some associated cost savings, such as continued full time ISVA provision for approximately £20,000.

Members noted that the current request for funding was £10,276 from 1st October 2010 for the commencement of central commissioning of ISVA services. Partners had then identified the cost for Halton for ongoing ISVA provision for 2011/12 would be £20,552.

At present the Halton Domestic Abuse Forum funded the ISVA provision through Working Neighbourhood Funds. Within the budget for ISVA provision £20,000 was allocated for ISVA provision. This would provide the majority of funding required for this year's commitment with future years funded by the Supporting People Grant with a built in review after three years.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) approval is given to participate in the SARC joint commissioning of after care services for victims of sexual assault, namely ISVAs;
- 2) approval to fund this support service for victims is agreed; and
- 3) this decision be reviewed after three years.

Strategic Director
Adults and
Community

TRANSPORTATION PORTFOLIO

ES22 WINTER MAINTENANCE - WEATHER FORECASTING AND SUPPLY OF ROAD SALT

The Sub-Committee was advised that until 31st March 2010 weather data collection weather station maintenance was procured under joint collaborative arrangements with Cheshire utilising Vaisala and the Met Office. Vaisala Limited was one of two specialist companies who supplied and maintained the type of sensor system to collect real time data relating to the weather conditions within Halton.

Members noted that changing to an alternative supplier (at a cost of between £30,000 to £40,000) was not an economic option at present as it would require the total replacement of the hardware embedded in the road surface, together with the replacement of the roadside instrumentation. The costs associated with the Vaisala weather forecasting and data collection were £24,954.32 for 2010/11. This was a saving on last year of £5,000.

It was proposed that the Council continue with the joint collaborative arrangements for weather forecasting and data collection with the Cheshire Councils and Warrington Borough Council until 31st March 2011. During this period a comprehensive review of weather data capture process would be carried out to ensure the most effective and accurate system was being utilised.

In addition, Members were advised that the Council had procured salt from Peacock Salt Limited until the contract ended on the 31st March 2010. During the snow and icy conditions which affected much of mainland Europe, extraordinary demands were placed on salt production and consequently, the reliability of supplies from Peacocks.

At present, Cheshire East, Cheshire West and Chester currently had a contract for salt procurement with Salt Union until the 31st March 2013, which included rates for Halton and Warrington Borough Councils. The cost of procuring salt by via the Cheshire Contract for 2010/11 would be £37.36 per tonne. Last year's rate via Peacock's was £37.50 per tonne.

It was therefore proposed that the Council continue with the joint collaborative arrangements for salt procurement with the Cheshire Councils and Warrington Borough Council until 31st March 2013. As a consequence for this coming winter it was intended that Halton's salt would be sourced from Salt Union rather than Peacock's.

It was noted that extension of these arrangements with the Cheshire Councils and Warrington was in keeping with the joint collaborative arrangements for Winter Maintenance highlighted during the Winter Resilience Reviews of 2008/09 and 2009/10.

RESOLVED: That the Sub-Committee

- (1) approves a 1 year extension to the current joint collaborative arrangements for weather forecasting and data collection until March 31st 2011; and
- (2) the circumstances associated with the current joint collaborative arrangements for salt supply are noted.

Strategic Director
Environment and
Economy

ES23 EXTENSION OF TERM CONTRACT FOR HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES

The Sub-Committee considered a report of the Strategic Director, Environment and Economy which advised that a Highway Improvement Term Contract with Lambros (Paving Contractors) Limited was formed on 9th July 2007 for an initial period of three years with an option to extend the term, by mutual agreement, for further periods of 12 months, up to a maximum of five years. Members noted that the annual value of works undertaken through the contract had increased since it was originally formed and therefore,

Members were requested to consider the extension of the Contract. Lambros had confirmed in writing their desire to extend the Contract.

The Contract included a range of performance measures designed to ensure that works were undertaken to the specified standard and quality and delivered in accordance with the agreed scheme programmes. Throughout the programme of the Contract, Lambros' performance in this respect had been excellent, achieving a high standard of work throughout the Borough and there had not been any cause to issue performance penalties.

If the option to extend the current contract, in accordance with the original procurement strategy was not taken up, then the Council would have to find an alternative way of delivering the range of highway improvement schemes and minor works that had been identified in the Local Transport Plan Implementation Programme for 2010/11. A number of alternatives had been considered:

- Invite "Spot" Tenders for individual schemes and minor works;
- Procure the work through the current Highway Maintenance Term Contract; and
- Procure a new Term Contract to deliver the programme.

The Contract was designed essentially to deliver the quality transport corridor of the integrated transport programme as outlined in the Council's local Transport Plan 2006/7 to 2010/11, valued at around £450,000 per year. However, as the LTP capital allocation increased due to the 25% performance addition, and the contract was utilised to deliver a wider range of highway construction works, the value of instructions through the contract had grown to approximately £800,000 per annum, and a current total spend of £2.4m.

It was proposed that as this was the final year of the three year capital transport settlement and the final year of the LTP2, and funding for highway improvements and capital works was uncertain beyond March 2011, a 12 month extension to the term contract should be granted, as outlined in the original tender documents. Dependent upon future funding availability and continuing good performance by the Contractor, the Contract would be extended for a further 12 month period if necessary, and this would be reported to the Board at the appropriate time.

RESOLVED: That the Highway Improvement Term Contract with Lambros (Paving Contractors) Limited of Longmeadow Road, Knowsley, Prescot be extended for a period of 12 months to July 2011 to enable the delivery of approximately £800,000 worth of highway improvements.

Strategic Director
Environment and
Economy

HEALTH AND ADULTS PORTFOLIO

ES24 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.

ES25 SERVICES FOR DEAF AND DEAFBLIND

The Sub-Committee considered a report of the Strategic Director, Adults and Community which outlined options for the provision of statutory assessments of need

for Halton residents who are D/deaf. Deafness Support Network (DSN) were currently contracted to provide services to the D/deaf community across Halton.

The report outlined the current contracted service with DSN, the scrutiny review by Healthy Halton Policy and Performance Board in September 2008, the additional costs outside the contract, and consultation on hearing impairment services in Halton with stakeholders. In addition, the report contained information on the three options for the future of hearing impairment services which included continuing to contract with DSN, to end the contract and establish in-house provision and to tender out the service.

Arising from the discussion Members suggested that the hearing impairment services in Halton be referred for scrutiny by the Health Policy and Performance Board.

RESOLVED: That the Sub-Committee

- 1) note the contents of the report and the findings from consultation summarised in Appendices 1 and 2;
- 2) support implementation of Option 3 as detailed in 3.8.3; and
- 3) waive Standing Orders 4.1 and 4.3 in the light of the exceptional circumstances, namely that service provision needed to be maintained whilst a tendering process was undertaken, and authorise the Operational Director Planning and Commissioning, in consultation with the relevant portfolio holder, to award a contract to Deafness Support Network as detailed in 3.8.4.

Strategic Director
Adults and
Community

MINUTES ISSUED: 26 July 2010

CALL IN: 3rd August 2010

Any matter decided by the Executive Board Sub Committee may be called in no later than 3rd August 2010

Meeting ended at 10.53 a.m.

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EXECUTIVE BOARD SUB COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the Executive Board Sub Committee on Thursday, 9 September 2010 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, G. Ferguson, G. Collins, B. Dodd, M. Lloyd, P. Oldfield, C. Patino and S. Williams

Also in attendance: Councillor Redhead

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

Action

ES26 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd July 2010 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

LEADERS PORTFOLIO

ES27 APPLICATION FOR TWINNING GRANT

The Sub-Committee was advised that two applications for the Town Twinning Grant Scheme had been received. One from St. Martin's Catholic Primary School on behalf of their school, St. Bede's Junior School and St. John Fisher Primary School; the other from Warrington Road Nursery School on behalf of their school, Lunt's Heath Primary School and Simms Cross Primary School. Each Group consisted of three head teachers who wished to visit the school of the Anhui Province in Tongling. The visit would provide an opportunity to continue the educational twinning project which began five years ago. The Groups had been invited to Tongling to continue the primary education twinning programme, including sharing of practice in the support services particularly in primary years. It was noted that the head teachers would also be using their own funds to contribute to the trip.

The application was in line with the Borough's European Strategy, in particular the promotion of international links, which sought to offer the opportunity to participate to the whole population of Halton.

RESOLVED: That both applicants be advised that the Council was not in a position at this time to accommodate these requests.

Strategic Director
Environment and
Economy

ES28 POTENTIAL PROJECT FOR EUROPEAN LIFE FUNDING

The Sub-Committee considered a report of the Strategic Director, Environment and Economy on LIFE+ Nature and Biodiversity which was a European Funding programme aimed at delivering the requirements of the Habitats Directive designed to halt the loss of biodiversity in the member states.

It was noted that applications for funding were announced in May 2010. Some initial preparatory work through a partnership approach identified a potential project addressing the long-term management of the Upper Mersey Estuary using an ecosystem services approach.

As the submission date for the application occurred between Executive Board Sub-Committee meetings, a briefing note had been circulated to the Chair and Vice Chair of the Sub-Committee in early August. The report detailed the progress that had been made to date since then and sought approval to proceed with developing the application.

RESOLVED: That

(1) the partnership approach taken to progress a LIFE funding application for the long-term management of the Upper Mersey Estuary be approved;

Strategic Director
Environment and
Economy

(2) Officer time within Environment and Economy continues to develop the concept and to secure external funding sources to potentially draw down €500,000; and

(3) the Strategic Director, Environment and Economy, in consultation with the relevant portfolio holder, be authorised to take all the necessary actions to progress the preparatory work into a successful application.

RESOURCES PORTFOLIO

ES29 TREASURY MANAGEMENT 2009/10

The Sub-Committee considered a report, which reviewed activities on Treasury Management for the year 2009/10 in accordance with the Council's Treasury Management Policy Statement.

The annual report covered:

- The current Treasury position;
- Performance Measurement;
- The Borrowing Strategy for 2009/10;
- The Borrowing Outturn for 2009/10;
- Compliance with Treasury limits and Prudential Indicators;
- The Investment Strategy for 2009/10;
- The Investment Outturn for 2009/10;
- Debt Rescheduling; and
- Other issues.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

ES30 TREASURY MANAGEMENT 2010/11 1ST QTR 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.

The report provided supporting information on the economic forecast, short-term rates, longer-term rates, temporary borrowing/investments, and investment income forecast. It was noted that all the policy guidelines in the Treasury Management Policy had been complied with.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

ES31 SPENDING AS AT 30 JUNE 2010

The Sub-Committee considered a report which summarised the overall revenue and capital spending position as at 30th June 2010.

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 delays in filling vacancies following the organisational restructuring from April 2010. In addition, the budget included 1% for the pay award, however, the employers had offered a zero increase.

It was noted that income levels were largely in line with budget, as the impact of the economic downturn upon income levels was taken into account when setting the 2010/11 budget.

With regard to capital spending, it was reported that spending to 30th June 2010 totalled £4.4m, which was 60% of the planned spending of £7.3m at this stage. However, this only represented 9% of the total capital programme of £50.5m (which assumed a 20% slippage between years).

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

The report also outlined the impact of the significant number of equal pay claims which had been lodged with the Council as part of the national single status agreement. A reserve had been established over recent years, although it was not certain whether this would be sufficient to meet the future cost of such claims.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

ES32 DISCRETIONARY NON DOMESTIC RATE RELIEF

The Sub-Committee received a report of the Strategic Director, Corporate and Policy which sought Members' consideration of two applications for discretionary rate relief, under the provisions of the Local Government Finance Act 1988.

The Sub-Committee was advised that under the provisions of Section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988, the Authority was allowed to grant discretionary rate relief to organisations that were either a charity or a non-profit making organisation. This relief may also be awarded to Community Amateur Sports Clubs. A summary of the applications was outlined within the report and a list of the associated figures was included.

RESOLVED: That under the provisions of Section 47, Local Government Finance Act 1988, discretionary rate relief be granted to the following organisations at the percentage indicated, for the period from 1st April 2010 or the commencement of liability, whichever is the later to the

Strategic Director
Resources

31st March 2013:

Runcorn Residents Federation

100%

Tenants and Residents Organisations of England

20%

ES33 EXTENSION OF CONTRACTS AND WAIVER OF
STANDING ORDERS

The Sub-Committee considered a request to waive Standing Orders and extend the current Northgate@work and Northgate's Docs on Line contract for a further 5 years.

The Revenues and Benefits Division successfully implemented Anite@work (now known as Northgate@work), a document managing and workflow system, in January 2001. The contract was extended in 2006 and the current contract expired in January 2010. Northgate@work was an integral part of the work process of the division. It was the market leader in the supply of document imaging systems to Local Government, in particular in the field of Revenues and Benefits.

It was noted that an advantage of Northgate@work was that they offered a remote scanning and indexing service. This service had been used successfully during the course of the Northgate@work contract and was only offered by Northgate. In 2001 it was determined that it was more cost effective for the Council to outsource this specialist operation and provision was made in the budget to accommodate this service. As the Northgate@work contract was to be extended then it was necessary to extend the Docs on Line contract at the same time.

Members noted that there were various factors for extending the contract with Northgate including:

- the existing supplier had been used successfully for ten years;
- no conversion of information was necessary;
- no staff training on a new system was necessary, therefore no associated costs;
- there would be no significant additional costs in the setting up of a new system, data mapping and staff training
- the new Doc on Line contract was on more favourable terms and would achieve a saving of existing costs; and
- the current system was compatible with the

Council's Home Working Policy and also supported staff working in various locations e.g. Job Centre Plus and Housing offices.

RESOLVED: That

(1) the Operational Director, Finance in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Resources be authorised to extend the contract for the scanning and indexing of images for the Revenues and Benefits Division to the contractor Northgate Information System at a cost over 5 years of £240,000 and the annual maintenance contract for a cost over 5 years of £30,725;

Operational
Director, Finance

(2) for the purposes of Contract Standing Order 1.6, approval be given on this occasion to the waiver of Standing Orders 3.1 to 3.7 and Procurement Standing Order 4 in light of the exceptional circumstances under the following provisions:

- Standing order 1.6a, as Northgate was the only provider of a remote scanning and indexing system;
- Standing order 1.6c, as the existing system had been operating successfully for ten years and any new supplier would involve the Council in substantial set up and installation costs;
- Standing order 1.6d, as Halton Borough Council had been a reference site for Northgate@work. Due to this relationship Halton Borough Council had been able to negotiate favourable terms for the extension of the contract, which would not be available on the open market; and
- Standing order 1.6e as the provision of a remote scanning and indexing of documents can only be provided by Northgate Docs on Line.

HEALTH AND ADULTS PORTFOLIO

ES34 BEERS, WINES & SPIRITS CONTRACT

The Sub-Committee considered a report of the Strategic Director Adults and Community which outlined the

current position with regard to the Beers, Wines and Spirits Contract. It was reported that the Council had an annual spend of £245,000 Beers, Wines and Spirits, which was split between the Stobart Stadium Halton £228,000 and The Brindley Arts Centre £17,000 per annum.

The Stadium and The Procurement Centre of Excellence had worked together to scope the marketplace and identify an alternative source of supply that would deliver value for money and increase revenue for the authority, whilst addressing efficiency savings around the tender procedure. As such, a variety of tendering opportunities had been identified that would be open for the Council to participate in. These had been benchmarked against the current contract prices to assist with the decision on which procurement route to take.

It was proposed that in order for the Council to participate in a new collaborative Framework Agreement with either Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council as lead representing the Associated Greater Manchester Authorities (AGMA) or ESPO (Eastern Shires Procurement Organisation) and Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council, the existing contract arrangements which finish at the end of October 2010 be extended for a further 8 months, up to June 2011.

The collaborative opportunity would improve the market profile of the framework by increased aggregated volumes, opportunities of supply to a wider customer base of Local Authorities which would attract key suppliers within this supply chain to influence the market and stimulate competition to deliver improved efficiency savings. In addition, efficiency savings would also be gained from the Council not having to manage the tender procedure independently from reduced resource and time preparing the documentation as this would be done by ESPO.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be accepted; and
- (2) Procurement Standing Orders part 3 be waived.

Strategic Director
Adults and
Community

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT PORTFOLIO

ES35 CASTLEFIELDS VILLAGE SQUARE – LOCAL LETTINGS POLICY

The Sub-Committee considered a report which sought its views on a proposal by Plus Dane Housing Association to introduce a local lettings policy to allocate the new rental properties being constructed as part of the Castlefields Village Square redevelopment. Plus Dane was the developer of the shop units and 16 flats above the shops at Castlefields Village Square. Mindful of the need to do everything possible to protect this investment and the new facilities for the long term benefit of the community, and of the anti-social behaviour problems often associated with local centres and flats over shops particularly, Plus Dane were proposing to introduce a local lettings policy. This would only apply to 16 new flats due to be constructed above the new shops and not the wider estate.

Members considered a copy of Plus Dane's overarching policy framework governing the use of local lettings policies. The framework set out the consultation, implementation and monitoring process and the safeguards in terms of regular monitoring, analysis and review.

In addition, the report outlined the local context of why Plus Dane wanted to introduce a local policy for the Castlefields Village Square area and the proposed criteria to be used to select new tenants. Essentially, introduce two additional criteria on top of the normal conditions, in that applicants must be over 25 years of age and must be either working or engaged in voluntary work within the community.

It was noted that the Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board supported this proposal at its meeting on 16th June 2010.

RESOLVED: That the Board support the introduction of a local lettings policy as set out in the report.

MINUTES ISSUED: 15th September 2010

CALL IN: 23rd September 2010

Any matter decided by the Executive Board Sub Committee may be called in no later than 23rd September 2010

Meeting ended at 10.53 a.m.

EXECUTIVE BOARD SUB COMMITTEE

*At a meeting of the Executive Board Sub Committee on Thursday, 23 September 2010
in the Marketing Suite, Municipal Building*

Present: Councillors Wharton (Chairman), Harris and Nelson

Apologies for Absence: None

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: M. Reaney, G. Ferguson, S. Riley, D. Cunliffe and R. Lyden

Also in attendance: None

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

Action

ES36 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 9th September 2010 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

ES37 DEFRA CONSULTATION ON DISTRIBUTING FUNDING FOR LOCAL FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT

The Sub Committee were advised that Defra had consulted Lead Local Flood Authorities (LLFAs) (including Halton) on how funding for the new duties under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 should be distributed. The report set out the options described in Defra's consultation paper and detailed Halton's response, which had been agreed with the relevant portfolio holder. It was noted that the actual level of funding was subject to the outcome of the spending review and other decisions on local government finances.

Members noted that the Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board had previously considered a similar report on 16th June 2010 and had resolved to request the Executive Board to consider the financial and resource implications of the Act, including Defra's proposal to provide

Area Based Grant to assist with the carrying out of its new duties.

RESOLVED: That the response as set out in the pro forma attached to the report, which stated Halton's preference for a 'flat rate of funding' common to all LLFAs plus an additional amount based on flood risk (Option 2a), be noted and endorsed.

Strategic Director
Environment and
Economy

HEALTH AND ADULTS PORTFOLIO

ES38 ADDITIONAL IDVA CAPACITY FOR HALTON DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICE

The Sub-Committee considered a report which sought agreement to enter into a temporary contract with Halton and District Women's Aid Association for provision of temporary additional Independent Domestic Violence Advocacy. The Partnership had been notified at the beginning of August 2010 that it had been successful in its bid for grant funding towards the provision of additional Independent Domestic Violence Advocacy (IDVA) capacity. The area was awarded £16,000 of the requested £20,000 from its March 2010 bid. This revised grant value offered sufficient funding for a temporary increase in IDVA capacity. The lifespan of the post would depend on whether a full time or part time post was recruited but it was envisaged that these funds would offer additional capacity for a minimum of six months.

It was noted that at the time of going to tender for the new Halton Domestic Abuse Service in 2009 this grant was not available so could not be offered as part of the tender package. Subsequently, the contract had now commenced and the area had additional funds to add to the contract as a temporary addition to value.

As detailed in the Council's Standing Orders, this additional capacity should be put out to tender. However the tender process could take approximately three months for a contract value under £50,000 which would leave the area with less than three months to spend the allocated grant within Government Office North West grant conditions.

Members were advised that if current tender requirements were waived, the service could advertise and recruit a temporary post within potentially a four week period. Thus ensuring the funds were utilised within the deadline of 31st March 2011. In addition, inclusion of this post within the current service also offered best utilisation of

the additional capacity that they would be situated alongside an already embedded service which would ensure the post was supported by experienced specialist staff to respond to need immediately.

Whilst the post would not have been market tested it was anticipated that best value could be achieved for the following reasons:

- the new Halton Domestic Abuse Service had brought a number of services together to ensure cost savings were made via back office and management costs as opposed to posts. Thus, inclusion of this temporary post into the existing structure should ensure these savings are maintained across this post;
- if the post was allocated to another provider there would likely be management costs that reduced the actual amount of capacity offered;
- the current service provider offered the most competitive and cost effective option for provision of an IDVA, floating support and Sanctuary Scheme service.

RESOLVED: That

(1) the Strategic Director, Adults and Community, in consultation with the relevant portfolio holder, be authorised to enter into a contract with Halton and District Women's Aid in respect of temporary delivery of additional IDVA capacity to adults who were victims of domestic abuse in the sum of £16,000 between September 2010 and April 2011; and

Strategic Director
Adults and
Community

(2) on this occasion, in the light of exceptional circumstances, due to the need to retain the service delivery gains made by the combining of three existing contracts and the time and spend conditions of the Home Office grant, Standing Orders 4.1 relating to Tendering for Contracts be waived pursuant to Standing Order 1.6.

RESOURCES PORTFOLIO

ES39 ICT HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE MAINTENANCE AND DEVELOPMENT CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2011/2011

The Sub-Committee considered a report of the

Strategic Director, Resources which outlined the future spend profile for the ICT Hardware and Software Maintenance and Development Capital programme for the financial year 2010/2011. The report detailed the technical requirement, the associated capital investment for each requirement, the venue implication and related risk analysis.

Members requested that future update reports include an implementation timescale.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted and that a further progress report be brought back to the board in six months time.

MINUTES ISSUED: 28th September 2010

CALL IN: 5th October 2010

Any matter decided by the Executive Board Sub Committee may be called in no later than 5th October 2010

Meeting ended at 10.55 a.m.

MERSEY GATEWAY EXECUTIVE BOARD

*At a meeting of the Mersey Gateway Executive Board on Thursday, 23 September 2010
in the Marketing Suite, Municipal Building*

Present: Councillors Polhill (Chairman), Stockton and Wharton

Apologies for Absence: None

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: D. Parr, M. Reaney, D. Tregea, S. Nicholson, M. Noone and A. Scott

Also in Attendance: Councillor Redhead

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

Action

MGEB4 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 17 June 2010 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

MGEB5 THE COUNCIL SUBMISSION TO THE GOVERNMENT'S SPENDING REVIEW

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Environment and Economy which outlined that the Coalition Government had suspended its funding agreement with the Council for Mersey Gateway pending the outcome of the Comprehensive Spending Review to be announced on 20 October 2010.

The Board were reminded that this development had been reported orally to the Mersey Gateway Executive Board at the last meeting on 13 June 2010; this report dealt with the actions that had been taken in response to the following Board decisions made at that meeting:-

- The Mersey Gateway Team continue to develop the case for Mersey Gateway having particular regard to current Government Guidance;

- The Mersey Gateway Team enter into further dialogue with Department for Transport on the funding arrangements for Mersey Gateway;
- The Council restate the economic, business and financial case for Mersey Gateway to Government; and
- The Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader, be authorised to take all necessary actions to progress the Mersey Gateway Project.

The following comments arose from the discussion:-

- The costs to the Authority already incurred in acquiring land and property and other preparatory work;
- The costs and implications of the delay in receiving the decision; and
- Potential sources of alternative funding.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the action taken to promote the case for the Government to part fund Mersey Gateway be noted: and
- (2) the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader, be authorised to take all necessary actions to progress the Mersey Gateway Project.

Chief Executive

MGEB6 THE CAMPAIGN TO SUPPORT THE CASE FOR FUNDING MERSEY GATEWAY

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Environment and Economy on the campaign to support the case for funding Mersey Gateway.

At the last meeting of the Mersey Gateway Executive Board on 13 June 2010, the Mersey Gateway Team had been instructed to continue to seek the positive and proactive support of businesses, politicians, other partners, the media and the public for Mersey Gateway. The resulting

evidence of widespread support across the region would bolster the case for the Government to confirm its funding contribution for Mersey Gateway as part of the Spending Review to be undertaken this Autumn. The report explained the action taken since June, leading to the submission of the case for funding Mersey Gateway now with Government.

The Board was advised that, following the suspension of the Council agreement with Government to part fund Mersey Gateway, the Mersey Gateway Officer Project Board (OPB) instructed that the project team should give a higher priority to its ongoing work with partners and supporters, in order to maintain the high profile nature of the project, and ensure that Ministers in the new Coalition Government were aware of the broad support for Mersey Gateway across the private and public sectors throughout the North West.

A proportion of the proposed budget for the 2010/2011 financial year was dedicated to these tasks. A number of interest groups were targeted and the focus of these tasks were divided into the areas of Media, Public/Businesses, and Political Support. The report provided details of the various activities for Members' information. The project team referred to this area of work as 'Campaign 2010.'

The following comments arose from the discussion:-

- The level of support and promotion of the campaign via local media and businesses;
- Recent and planned attendance of the Chief Executive and the Mersey Gateway Team at all three 2010 Party Political Conferences, to help raise the profile of the issue and to enlist their further support; and
- The Chairman wished to place on record his thanks to colleagues of all Political Groups, to the private sector and other partners, the media, local Members of Parliament, neighbouring Local Authorities and all residents and visitors to the area for their support of the campaign to date.

RESOLVED: That the Mersey Gateway Team continue to seek the positive and proactive support of businesses, politicians, other partners, the media and the public for Mersey Gateway.

MINUTES ISSUED: 29 September 2010

CALL-IN: 6 October 2010

**Any matter decided by the Mersey Gateway Executive Board may
be called in no later than 6 October 2010**

Meeting ended at 3.25 p.m.

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

At a meeting of the Children, Young People and Families Policy and Performance Board on Monday, 6 September 2010 in the Civic Suite, Town Hall, Runcorn

Present: Councillors Dennett (Chairman), Horabin (Vice-Chairman), Browne, Findon, M. Fry, Gilligan, P. Lloyd Jones, Loftus, J. Lowe and M. Ratcliffe

Apologies for Absence: Councillors M. Hodge

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: G. Bennett, M. Simpson, V. Buchanan, H. Coen, A. McIntyre, N. Moorhouse, C. Taylor, A. Villiers, L Wilson, P. St Aubyn and K. Kerfoot

Also in attendance: None

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

CYP12 MINUTES

Action

The Minutes of the meeting held on 24 May 2010, having been printed and circulated were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

In relation to training for Levels of Need / Thresholds for referrals and Climbie Visits, Members were given two dates of scheduled training sessions being 11th October at 12:00 or 13th October at 18:00. Members were asked to contact Nigel Moorhouse / Vicky Buchannan with their preferences.

It was also noted that the sessions would provide a general overview of Levels of Need and the role of Children's Social Care.

RESOLVED: That the minutes be noted and Members contact Nigel Moorhouse with their preferred training session.

CYP13 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

It was reported that no public questions had been

received.

*(NB: Councillor Fry declared a personal interest in all items on the agenda as Chair of the Halton Autistic Family Support Group.
Councillor P Lloyd Jones declared a personal interest in all items on the agenda as a Non-Executive Director of Halton and St Helens PCT.*

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 since the last meeting.

Arising from Minute No. EXB9 it was noted that there was one final piece of legal paperwork to be completed for the transfer from Halton High to the Academy and the company had reserved the right until 1st February 2011 to re-consider their position.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes be noted.

CYP15 FOSTER CARE RECRUITMENT

The Board considered a report which provided information on the progress of the revised recruitment and retention campaign for carers.

It was noted that a Placement Strategy Review in respect of children in care was presented to the Executive Board on 5 November 2009.

It was reported that the review focussed initially on the borough's situation in relation to foster care and it identified barriers to the recruitment of carers that needed to be overcome in order to address a severe shortage of carers and the resulting high cost of placing a significant number of children in external provision.

The Executive Board agreed to support an Invest to Save Bid to improve recruitment and retention of foster carers as a result of the first stage of the review. The increased allowances would be introduced on 7 September 2010, and a summary of activity between January and July 2010 was outlined in the report for information.

The report also detailed advertising and marketing activities, the role of Family Support Assistants and noted that some carers who were previously registered by other

agencies had now joined Halton.

Members discussed training the Family Support Assistants received, various reasons carers de-register, the percentage of interested calls and actual take up figures, the number of children in care that currently require fostering, the stringent process undertaken to be a carer and the cost of buying in foster care from outside the authority. It was suggested that help be provided during the application progress as people could lose confidence when dealing with complicated forms.

Arising from the discussion the Board felt that, in relation to current spend information and short falls of funding, it would be beneficial to receive an updated report after quarter 4.

RESOLVED:

- 1) the report be noted; and
- 2) an updated funding report regarding foster care expenditure be brought back to a future meeting after Quarter 4 information has been received.

Strategic Director
- Children &
Young People

CYP16 CHILDREN YOUNG PEOPLE PLAN REVIEW

The Board considered a report which provided an overview of the review that had been undertaken of Halton's Children & Young People's Plan 2009-2011.

It was reported that Halton's second Children and Young People Plan (CYPP) was published in 2009 to provide strategic direction for all services within the Children's Trust in Halton.

It was further noted that the CYPP was the agreed joint strategy of the partners in the Children's Trust, and detailed how they would co-operate to improve children's wellbeing over the five Every Child Matters Outcomes. In addition it determined how the Children's Trust Board would work together to commission services to address locally identified needs and better integrated provision.

The Board was advised that a multi agency task group had been established in April 2010 and focussed on a number of developments outlined in 3.7 of the report. Also detailed in the report were achievements gained so far and the areas where more work was needed.

Members discussed the indicators listed on page 31 of the report as to whether there should be target numbers listed. In response it was noted that this information related only to instances of consultation for each indicator and that this information was shown in the performance monitoring section on pages 43 to 53.

The Board also discussed possible effects the in year cuts would have on the Trust as a whole and how work would continue with partners. Members were informed that project meetings were being held across all specialist strategic partnerships to examine outcomes of projects.

The Board referred to Section 11 of the set out actions required to improve areas that had been identified as a result of the review. An overview of a number of areas where more work was required in order to achieve the objectives by March 2011 was set out in the report.

Members requested that a report be brought back to the January PPB in order to see progress made.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the Children and Young People's Plan Review 2010 be endorsed;
- 2) the actions detailed in Section of 11 of the Children and Young People's Plan Review 2010, and summarised in 3.9 of this report to be taken into consideration in terms of meeting the Children and Young People's Plan 2009-2011 be approved; and
- 3) a report be submitted to the January PPB providing an update of progress.

Strategic Director
- Children &
Young People

CYP17 ANNOUNCED INTEGRATED INSPECTIONS OF SAFEGUARDING AND LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN'S SERVICES.

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Young People which provided information regarding the process and preparation required for the Ofsted announced inspection of safeguarding and looked after children services.

It was noted that the inspections examine the arrangements for safeguarding children, and the outcomes for children and young people who were looked after.

The Board was advised that in terms of safeguarding the inspection would assess the effectiveness of the Children's trust, the Safeguarding board, local services and would assess how well partners work together to identify, safeguard and promote the welfare of potentially vulnerable groups of children and young people that live in Halton. Members were reminded that the inspection covered all agencies and services who worked with children and young people.

Set out in the report for information was the level of preparation required for the inspection, the grading of inspection findings, the process and inspection activity, preparation in Halton and the Timeline for the Inspection was embedded in the report for consideration.

The inspection identified areas of strength, satisfactory practice and areas for development.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the focus of the inspection and the associated timelines are noted;
- 2) appropriate staffing and resources are released when the inspection is notified; and
- 3) the Lead Member and Chair of the PPB attends the 'set up' meeting with inspectors.

Strategic Director
- Children &
Young People

CYP18 OFSTED'S UNANNOUNCED INSPECTION OF CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE CONTACT, REFERRAL & ASSESSMENT SERVICE

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Young People which provided information of the outcome of Ofsted's first unannounced inspection of Children's Social Care Contact Referral and Assessment Services, which took place on 5th and 6th of May 2010.

It was reported that the purpose of the inspection was to assess the effectiveness of frontline social work practice in managing potential risk to children, and minimising the incidence of abuse and neglect of children. The focus was primarily on the Local Authority as lead agency for child protection.

It was noted that the inspection would inform the content of future inspections, in particular the 10 day announced Ofsted inspection of Safeguarding and Looked

After Children.

It was further noted that the inspection did not identify grades but aspects of satisfactory practice, strengths and areas for development. Members were advised that no areas for 'priority action' were identified during Ofsted's inspection.

Appended to the report for information was the final letter from Ofsted confirming their judgement following the inspection which was extremely positive.

There were a number of strengths identified which were detailed in the report for information in addition to satisfactory areas. With regard to areas for development that had been identified Members considered an action plan to address the issues which was appended to the report.

Members were informed that staff were attending "back to basics" training and once the Care First 6 system was operational, there would be less duplication, delays and frustrations for staff. Members expressed an interest in viewing the system once it had been established.

The Board congratulated Children's Services for the extremely positive results from the inspection.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the result of Ofsted's inspection of Contact, Referral and Assessment Services be noted including areas of strengths and satisfactory practice; and
- 2) the Action Plan to address the areas for development arising from the inspection be noted.

Strategic Director
- Children &
Young People

CYP19 DIOCESAN REPRESENTATIVE NOMINATION

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Young People which informed Members of the requirement to appoint diocesan representatives to Scrutiny Committees and advised Members to recommend to Executive Board and Full Council the appointment of a Diocesan representative for Shrewsbury and Liverpool as a voting co-optee on the Children, Young People and Families Policy and Performance Board for a period of 4 years.

It was reported that under a Direction issued by the Secretary of State authorities must appoint diocesan representatives to Scrutiny Committees under s499

Education Act 1996 and DfE circular 19/99 all as amended. The representatives would have voting rights in relation to any decision relating to the following:

- Schools maintained by the Local Authority (LA);
- Pupils who attend school maintained by the LA or are educated in some way but not the other business of the Committee.

Members were informed that Elizabeth Lawler who was the Diocesan representative for Shrewsbury and Liverpool be appointed as a voting co-optee on the Children, Young People and Families Policy and Performance Board for a period of four years commencing from the date approval is given.

RESOLVED: That the Executive Board and Full Council be requested to agree the appointment of a Diocesan representative for Shrewsbury and Liverpool, as a voting co-optee on the Policy and Performance Board for a period of four years, commencing from the date approval is given.

Strategic Director
- Children &
Young People

CYP20 UPDATE ON BSF

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Young People which updated Members on the Building Schools for Future (BSF) programme.

It was reported that the second round of the Competitive Dialogue process commenced on 23 February 2010 and formal meetings were completed on 30 April 2010. Close of Dialogue was achieved on Friday 11 June 2010, by ensuring that enough documentation had been reviewed by all agencies involved to ensure that all Legal, Financial and Commercial issues had been agreed.

Members were advised that each of the four designs produced by the bidders for the sample schools were formally assessed by the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) in London on 27 May 2010. It was further noted that the comments made by CABE at the meeting were of such nature that both the LA and Partnership for Schools felt that at the next review each design would achieve an overall pass.

The report also set out details of the final bidders presentation, the final bid submissions, BSF announcement 5 July and progress to date. In particular it was noted that

the Secretary of State announced on 5 July 2010 the end of the BSF Programme with immediate effect. All LA's currently within the Programme were put into 3 categories outlined in the report. The Board was informed that Halton had two sample schools which were under review being Wade Deacon and The Grange. The only exception was with the Academies which were being reviewed on a case by case basis alongside the sample schools.

Members discussed other provisions which BSF would have covered such as ICT equipment and whether schools not in receipt of any funding would be left at a disadvantage in terms of performance tables. It was recognised that there was a challenge ahead and once results of the James Review were received other options could be explored.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the report be noted; and
- 2) a further report be presented to the Board on the school capital once the outcome of the James review has been completed.

Strategic Director
- Children &
Young People

CYP21 SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY 2011 - 2026

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Resources which updated Members on the progress of the new Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) 2011-2026 and presented the emerging vision, key objectives and long term priorities that the plan sought to deliver upon.

Members received a presentation which outlined the following:

- Implementation date was from April 2011;
- Overarching priorities for Children and Young People;
- Amendments to the priorities to align with the five Every Child Matters outcomes;
- Develop new priorities that reflect the new areas of focus within Halton's Children's Trust and the evolving Government policy framework for children's services; and
- Next steps.

Arsing from presentation Members noted the following:

- Locality working, for example employees working with families through early intervention and family framework;
- Continuation of provision for special educational needs within the new academy school;
- Procedures if parents or carers refuse to engage in family support programmes; and
- Provision of careers advice.

The report sought endorsement of the proposed emerging issues / themes and long term challenges that Halton needed to tackle. Once these had been agreed, detailed policy options would be worked upon to provide a range of potential interventions to deal with challenges that Halton faced.

Members also considered the strategic objectives and challenges contained in section 6.0 of the report and their alignment with their knowledge of local needs.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the five overarching priorities for the emerging Sustainable Community Strategy 2011-2026 be noted; and
- 2) the suggested vision, strategic objectives and challenges contained in Section 6.0 and their alignment with their knowledge of local needs be noted.

Strategic Director
- Children &
Young People

CYP22 SSP MINUTES

The minutes from the Halton Children's Trust meetings held on 4 May, and 27 July 2010 were presented to the Board for information.

RESOLVED: That the minutes be noted.

CYP23 1ST QUARTER MONITORING REPORT -

The Board received a report of the Chief Executive on the Performance Management reports for quarter one, 2010/11.

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;

- Children and Families;
- Children's Organisation Provision; and
- Learning and Achievement.

An overview report was tabled at the meeting, which provided an outline of issues and progress within the directorate for the period ending 30 June 2010. Members attention was drawn to Appendix 1, which explained how red, amber and green (RAG) symbols had been used to reflect progress for both objectives and performance indicators in the Departmental Reports.

For 2010/2011 direction of travel indicators had also been added where possible, to reflect progress for performance measures compared to the same period last year.

Arising from the reports the Board noted the following:

- In relation to page 129, the principal fostering managers post had been filled. In addition there were more front-line managers in place now;
- Dialogue was taking place with Human Resources in relation to improving employment opportunities for care leavers within the authority;
- Concerns were noted regarding an incident with the Vroomz outreach bus and anti-social behaviour – officers were unaware of this and would investigate further, however overall it was reported that its use had been effective and was well used;
- Effects on services and maintaining standards, if grant funding if was no longer available to fund staff; and
- With regard to the pupil referral unit Members discussed, alternative provisions in schools, and sharing good practice and resources.

RESOLVED: That the 1st quarter performance management reports be received.

Meeting ended at 8.45 p.m.

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

At a meeting of the Employment, Learning, Skills and Community Policy and Performance Board on Monday, 20 September 2010 in the Civic Suite, Town Hall, Runcorn

Present: Councillors Edge (Chairman), P. Lloyd Jones (Vice-Chairman), Austin, C. Carlin, Horabin, A. Macmanus, Parker and J. Roberts

Apologies for Absence: Councillor Findon, Howard and Rowe

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: M. Simpson, W Rourke and G. Fitzpatrick

Also in attendance: Cllr Jones in accordance with Standing Order 33

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

Action

ELS13 MINUTES

The Minutes from the meeting held on 9 June 2010, were taken as read and signed as a correct record, subject to it being noted that Cllr Jones was present in accordance with Standing Order 33.

ELS14 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

It was reported that no public questions had been received.

ELS15 EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES

The Board considered the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Board Sub-Committee relevant to the Community Portfolio.

RESOLVED: That the minutes be noted.

ELS16 SSP MINUTES

The Board considered the minutes from the Specialist Strategic Partnership. In receiving the minutes Members

noted the date from the last meeting and requested that the Partnership Team ensured tie in of when to meet so the minutes from SSPs would be more relevant in terms of timescales.

RESOLVED: That the SSP minutes be noted.

ELS17 SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY 2011-2026

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Resources which updated Members on the progress of the new Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) 2011-2026 and presented the emerging vision, key objectives and long term priorities that the plan sought to deliver upon.

The Board was informed that the implementation of the Strategy would be from April 2011 and a five year delivery plan for the Strategy would provide the details of planned interventions and activities. The Board received a presentation from the Operational Director Employment, Economic Regeneration and Business, which outlined the following –

- The 5 priorities - Members were advised that the current Urban Renewal priority would be re-named to “Regeneration and the Quality of Halton’s Environment”;
- The process;
- Timetable;
- The emerging issues and challenges, current Halton situation employment;
- Lifelong learning and skills;
- Policy drivers; and
- Considering the policy in context for example, aging population and high levels of unemployment.

Arising from the presentation the Board considered schemes where volunteers working in colleges could help adults with basic skills, large scale interventions in terms of local level delivery and whether the wording could be altered in terms of saying “public can expect” as the Council had to be careful when making statements in the current climate regarding what could be delivered.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) Members note the five overarching priorities for the emerging Sustainable Community Strategy 2011-2026; and

- 2) Members note the suggested vision, strategic objectives and challenges contained in Section 6.0 of the report and their alignment with their knowledge of local needs.

ELS18 3MG SKILLS & RECRUITMENT PROJECT

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Environment and Economy which updated the Members on the 3MG skills and recruitment project which involved the Halton Employment Partnership handling the recruitment for the new Tesco chilled distribution centre and the Norbert Dentressangle recycling unit associated with it.

It was reported that the Halton Employment Partnership (HEP) was established to offer a one stop shop service to local businesses and residents. The HEP could support companies and individuals with pre-recruitment training, skills training, sourcing of apprenticeships and other workforce development needs. It also provided employers with recruitment and selection package of support.

The report noted that this was the first major recruitment project that the HEP had managed and it was undertaken in a number of stages which were detailed in the report for information.

A full evaluation report was appended to the agenda for information and in summary the following job outcomes were noted:

- there were 377 new job starts at the Tesco distribution centre, 75% of these were Halton residents;
- 46% of the starters were previously unemployed and 82% of these were Halton unemployed residents i.e. nearly 38% of the total new starters at Tesco were previously unemployed Halton residents; and
- there was a Widnes Runcorn job outcome split of 60:40, and 30% equalled 111 of the new starters were registered as Halton People Into Jobs (HPIJ) clients.

It was also noted that of the 20 available jobs for Norbert Dentressangle 7 of the jobs were offered to local people.

The Board was advised that the HEP and its activities were funded through Working Neighbourhood Funding (WNF) which was due to cease on 31st March 2011.

Members raised concerns in relation to the service once funding had ceased after March 2011 and stressed the importance of trying to obtain ways to maintain the HEP activities and wished for their support to be noted for this credible achievement. The Board agreed to make a recommendation to the Executive Board to investigate other sources of funding for the continuation of the services provided by the HEP.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) The report be received; and
- 2) A report be submitted to the Executive Board requesting that funding options be explored for continuation of the services of the Halton Employment Partnership.

Strategic Director
- Environment
and Economy

ELS19 HALTON PEOPLE INTO JOBS 10TH ANNIVERSARY

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Environment and Economy which provided information on the progress achieved by Halton People Into Jobs (HPIJ) during the ten years that it had been providing a job brokering service for employers and residents seeking work in Halton.

The Board was informed that HPIJ was established and launched in April 2001 as a nil cost "local jobs for local people" job brokering service. It was noted that the HPIJ service was recognised as an exemplar of best employment practice by customers, employers and partner organisations and had, over the last ten years, assisted more than 6,000 residents into employment. It was also noted that HPIJ was on target to achieve the figure of helping 500 people into jobs this year.

The Board discussed alternative funding opportunities for the HPIJ service which was mainly funded from external earned income and was supported by a contribution of £203,000 from Council revenue funding.

Members commented that the service was an excellent service and also contributed to the Employment Learning and Skills key priorities contained in the Halton Sustainable Communities Strategy in addition to contributing to performance against National Indicators relating to employment, enterprise and learning. Members wished to place on record their support for the project and that its

service be continued.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the Board note the progress that had been achieved by Halton People into Jobs in assisting Halton residents into work over the last ten years; and
- 2) the Board support the continuation of the project.

ELS20 ENTERPRISING HALTON PROGRAMME

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director, Environment and Economy which provided an update on the progress achieved by the Enterprising Halton Programme in promoting a culture of enterprise across the Borough and supporting the creation of new business start ups since it was launched in April 2007.

The report detailed an action plan that had been carried out after a study which considered why Halton had performed so poorly on key enterprise indicators. The study addressed several issues that were prevalent at the time which were as follows:-

- Consistent low levels of new business start-ups and self-employment in the Borough;
- The rate of new vat registered businesses which were among the lowest in the region; and
- Low self employment rates.

It was further noted that the Enterprise Strategy Action Plan had been developed following extensive consultation as part of the study to identify the number of key recommendations aimed at supporting the vision of *“developing a culture of enterprise and improving business performance in Halton”* details of which were outlined in the report for information.

The report also set out the refreshed strategy called ‘Connections, Connectivity and Communication: The Building Blocks of an Enterprise Strategy for Halton’ which identified that the most effective way of driving the enterprise agenda forward in Halton was to build a strategy around the key strategic assets that the Borough had to offer.

Members were informed that since the Enterprising

Halton Programme was launched in April 2007, 362 new businesses had been established which had created 106 new jobs in addition to the business owners. Since April 2009, 110 which was 52% of the 214 new businesses had been set up in priority lower super output neighbourhoods. A schedule of the projects achievements since it was launched on 1st April 2007 to August 2010 was appended to the report for information.

The Board was advised that the project was highly regarded as an exemplar of enterprise best practice and the grants regime developed by Halton had since been adopted by both Liverpool Vision and North Liverpool and South Sefton LEGL Board to support new start ups in their respective areas.

Members commended that grant scheme as not only did it provide £500 for business start ups, and if businesses were still trading after 12 months a further £500 sustainability was provided.

Members raised concerns in relation to the grant regime not being available after March 2011.

The Board also queried how many businesses were operating after five years. In response, it was noted that the scheme had not been running that long. However, 68% of the businesses trading over two years were still trading which was higher than the national average.

RESOLVED: That the Board note the significant contribution the Enterprising Halton Programme has made to promoting enterprise development activity, supporting new business start ups and job creation.

ELS21 1ST QUARTER MONITORING REPORT

The Board considered a report of the Chief Executive on the progress against service plan objectives and performance targets. Performance trends/comparisons affecting services for Economic Regeneration and Culture and Leisure for the first quarter 2010/11.

The Board was advised that a Performance Sub-Group met on the 23 August 2010 and discussed the type of information and the level of information that would be reported to PPBs in the future. Some valid points were raised during the meeting and various templates were considered. These would be provided to the next group and

set out for consideration to ascertain which would be most effective, and would be brought to the next Policy and Performance Board for information.

The Board noted that some indicators were not always relevant and an economic summary which pre-faced the report would be beneficial.

The Board also stressed the need for a glossary of abbreviations at the start of performance monitoring as not all acronyms were known to all Members, especially new Members.

It was further noted that it would be useful to have a summary for progress against the objectives and milestones etc should have be appended with the supporting commentary in order to scrutinise the progress further.

Members referred to page 86 of the Performance Report and asked for details of the business perception survey in terms of the results. It was noted that these could be brought to the next meeting of the Policy and Performance Board.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the first quarter monitoring reports be received; and
- 2) the analysis of the results of the Business Perception Survey 2009/10 be brought to the November meeting of the PPB.

Strategic Director
- Environment
and Economy

ELS22 PPB SCRUTINY TOPIC GROUP TITLES

Members considered a report which presented the Scrutiny Topic Group Titles for the remainder of the 2010/11 Municipal Year. The proposed topics for this year were as follows:

- 1) Barriers to employment from an employers' perspective; and
- 2) Deficit policies and the impact of the recession.

For the Barriers to Employment from an employers' perspective, the following Councillors nominated themselves:

Councillor Edge - Chair

Councillor Cargill,
Councillor Roberts,
Councillor Horabin, and
Councillor Parker.

For the Deficit Policies Topic Group the following
Councillors nominated themselves:

Councillor P. Lloyd Jones - Chair,
Councillor McManus, and
Councillor Austin.

It was reported that Councillors Rowe, Howard and
Findon would be contacted to see if they were happy to sit
on the Deficit Policies Topic Group.

The Board discussed the Topic Groups in detail and
felt that the Barriers to Employment from an employers'
perspective would be a short Topic Group which could be
completed within the next four or five months as a lot of the
information had already been gathered as a result of the
Topic Group from 2009/10.

RESOLVED: That the Board approve the Scrutiny
Topic Groups titles, presented in the report.

Meeting ended at 8.25 p.m.

HEALTH POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD

At a meeting of the Health Policy and Performance Board held on Tuesday, 14 September 2010 at Council Chamber, Runcorn Town Hall

Present: Councillors E. Cargill (Chairman), J. Lowe (Vice-Chairman), Austin, M. Bradshaw, Dennett, M. Fry, Gilligan, Horabin, M Lloyd Jones, E. Ratcliffe and P. Cooke

Apologies for Absence: None

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: A. Williamson, L. Derbyshire, D Edwards, T. Gibbs, N. Goodwin, J. Hunt, S Kelly, P. McWade, E O'Meara, S. Wallace-Bonner and A. Villiers

Also in attendance: Councillor M Ratcliffe as Scrutiny Co-Ordinator and In accordance with Standing Order 33, Councillor Gerrard – Portfolio Holder – Health and Adults and one member of the public.

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

	<i>Action</i>
HEA16 MINUTES	
The Minutes of the meeting held on 8 June 2010 having been printed and circulated were signed as a correct record.	
HEA17 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME	
The Board was advised that no public questions had been received.	
HEA18 EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES	
The Board considered the Minutes of the meetings of the Executive Board Sub Committee relevant to the Healthy Halton Policy and Performance Board.	
In respect of EXB25 – Safer Handling Policy and Procedures – Councillor E Ratcliffe, requested further information on this item. It was reported that further information would be sent directly to Councillor E Ratcliffe.	

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the minutes be noted; and
- (2) further information on the Safer Handling Policy and Procedures be sent to Councillor E Ratcliffe.

Strategic Director
– Adults &
Community

HEA19 SSP MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Halton Health Partnership Board from 20 May 2010 were submitted for information.

RESOLVED: That the minutes be noted.

(NB: Councillor Lloyd Jones declared a Personal Interest in the following item of business as her husband is a Non Executive Director of Halton and St Helens Primary Care Trust).

HEA20 EQUITY AND EXCELLENCE: LIBERATING THE NHS (WHITE PAPER)

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Adults and Community which provided a policy summary of the recent NHS White Paper published on 12th July 2010 and explored the possible implications for the Local Authority.

The Board was further advised that the Health White Paper, 'Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS' represented possibly the most radical restructuring of the NHS since its inception. It would transform how health care was commissioned, with around £80 billion being transferred to new GP consortia.

The key proposals were as follows:-

- extending patient choice over providers and treatment;
- establishing an independent NHS Commissioning Board;
- ensuring all health trusts are foundation trusts by 2013 and giving them greater freedoms;
- the transfer of commissioning to GPs and the

abolition of PCTs and SHAs;

- transferring the public health budget to local authorities; and
- giving councils the responsibility to promote integration and partnership working.

The following points arose from the discussion:-

- the excellent partnership arrangements that Halton had with GP's was noted. It was also noted that there could be an opportunity to further develop the partnership via the GP consortia and that each consortia would be able to decide what commissioning activities they would undertake themselves and what they would buy in;
- concern was raised that the radical changes could have an impact on the quality of care over the next few years;
- the importance of retaining integration and partnership working was noted. It was also noted that standards would need to be maintained and early advice given on resources available to maintain the quality and effectiveness of care during the changes;
- It was noted that the Government were committed to reducing the NHS's management costs by more than 45% over the next four years. It was also noted that this would cause significant disruption and loss of jobs and would incur transitional costs between now and 2013;
- It was noted that more detailed documents would be published shortly and the White Paper was the main overarching document for NHS reform;
- It was noted that comments on the White Paper had to be sent by 5 October 2010 and Members were assured that supplementary papers would be circulated to them with a briefing note for comments, when they became available;
- It was noted that the Health partnership had undertaken some work during the last six months in preparation for the changes; and

- it was noted that an audit on resources was currently being undertaken in the north west which would better inform resources at a national level in preparation for the changes proposed in the White Paper.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the contents of the report and comments made be noted; and
- (2) information on the supplementary proposals be circulated to Members with a briefing note for comments as soon as they are available.

Strategic Director
– Adults &
Community

HEA21 TELECARE

The Board received a presentation from Steven Kelly, Adults and Community which:-

- Outlined the background of Telecare and the differences between the two generations of the service;
- Set out the benefits of using the Telecare Service and the equipment available;
- Explained which service would be provided and when;
- Gave details of the response and why the response was important to the service user;
- Gave details of customer feedback on the current service and the positive impact it was having in the community;
- Detailed the Accreditation and why communication was important; and
- Highlighted case studies and the plans for the future.

The Board was advised that the investment in Telecare to support vulnerable adults had impacted positively on their health and well being, i.e the use of a falls monitor could reduce the impact of the fall on the person. A range of Telecare equipment was also available at the meeting.

It was noted that Telecare provided a valuable service in the community. However, concern was raised that it should not be used to replace traditional services and it was important to signpost people to activities in order to reduce social isolation. In response, it was reported that Telecare was not there to replace human contact and a clear strategy was in place to ensure it was linked to community services.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the presentation be received and comments noted; and
- (2) Steven Kelly be thanked for his informative presentation.

HEA22 HALTON'S SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2009-10

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Adult and Community which presented the Annual Report of Halton's Safeguarding Adults Board, for the year 2009/10, and briefed the members on the key issues and progression of the agenda for Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults.

The Board also received a presentation from Julie Hunt, Adults and Community which:-

- Set out the responsibilities of the Safeguarding Adult Board and Halton Borough Council;
- Highlighted the Board's Vision;
- Detailed the national context of the report e.g the 'No Secrets' review, the structure and reporting, the outcomes for Service Users and Carers; the key developments and local activity 2009-10 and the priorities and work plan 2010-11;
- Set out how positive outcomes were assured for service users and carers;
- Outlined what was being done to make it happen, i.e. Working together, the procedural framework, safer recruitment, training and development and publicity;
- Detailed how the quality and performance of the service was measured;

- Outlined and explained the partner agency representation on the Board; and
- Gave the website for further information www.halton.gov.uk/safeguardingadults.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) The content of the Annual Report of the Safeguarding Adults Board 2009/10 and the current key issues be supported;
- (2) the presentation be received; and
- (3) Julie Hunt be thanked for her informative presentation.

HEA23 INTERGENERATIONAL ACTIVITY

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Adults and Community on the intergenerational activity during the period of 1 April 2009 and 31 March 2010. The report also presented a proposal for completion of the intergenerational strategy set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

The Board was advised that during 2008/09 thirty-two community led intergenerational events/activities had been delivered. On the 25 April 2009 Halton's first intergenerational conference had taken place coinciding with the European day of solidarity between the generations. Over 200 people, young and old, attended the event which focussed on positive activities i.e. games through the decades. Young people held workshops on e-communication demonstrating mobile phone and internet usage. Consultation for future intergenerational activity was collected and many attendees contributed to a video diary of their experiences and desires for relationships between the generations in our communities.

A DVD of the Halloween events of intergenerational activities that had taken place in the community centres throughout the Borough was shown at the meeting. It was reported that these events had been so successful that they would take place again this year in community centres throughout the Borough and areas that did not have a community centre could also be supported.

The Board congratulated the team on the success of the event and noted that it had contributed to the reduction

of anti social behaviour and the fear of crime in the community on Halloween night.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the delivery of the intergenerational activity be noted; and
- (2) the team be congratulated on the success of the intergenerational activities throughout the Borough.

HEA24 SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY 2011 – 2026

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Resources which gave members an update on the progress of the new Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) 2011-2026 and presented the emerging vision, key objectives and long term priorities that the plan sought to deliver upon.

The Board was advised that the SCS would not be delivered in isolation but was part of the wide framework of statutory plans the Council and partners produced to steer corporate direction and inform the community i.e. The Children and Young People's Plan, the Local Development Framework and the Local Transport Plan. The new SCS would cover the period from 2011 to 2026.

The Board was further advised that the five year delivery plan would contain the detail of the planned intervention and prevention activities that would be undertaken to bring about positive change upon Halton's priority areas. The inclusion of a five year delivery plan would allow for a regular review of the selected intervention and prevention measures on a shorter timescale to enable changing circumstances throughout the lifetime of the full SCS to be reflected.

The Board raised concern that the White Paper considered earlier on the agenda which proposed the formation of a GP Consortia would have an impact on the delivery plan. It was also noted that improving health in the Borough was an important priority for the Council.

RESOLVED: That the five overarching priorities for the emerging Sustainable Community Strategy 2011-2026 and comments made be noted.

HEA25 1ST QUARTER MONITORING REPORT

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

- Prevention and Commissioning Services;
- Complex Needs; and
- Enablement Services.

Prevention and Commissioning Services

Page 109 – An update on the implementation of the Single Assessment Programme (SAP) within Halton as a result of the meetings in July was requested.

In response it was reported that the implementation of SAP had been audited and an initial report would be presented to Management Team. The outcome of the audit would be presented to key partners and a final report would be available next month.

Page 110 – NI 136 – clarity was sought on whether an indicator had been set for this target.

In response it was reported that there had been a typing error and the target was set out in column two – 3350 and that this was an achievable target.

Page 111 – PCS 4 – clarity was sought on whether the problem was because of a training need.

In response it was reported that it was due to a slight delay in the inputting of the data and this would be rectified in the near future.

Page 114 – Clarity was sought on why the expenditure relating to community care had been less than expected.

In response, it was reported that it was not expected that the under spend would continue and it was as a result of some invoices that were for block contracts being late and had subsequently not been included. It had also been as a result of continuing health care.

Page 114 – clarity was sought on why on the capital projects there was an unallocated carry forward of £1,366.

In response it was reported that this related to the programme of extra care housing. The Executive Board had agreed the carry forward and two sites were currently being explored to establish 30/40 units for extra care housing. It was suggested that this information be incorporated in future reports.

The Board congratulated the Housing Solutions team on their work in respect of preventing homelessness in the Borough.

Complex Services

Page 124 – CSS7 – Clarity was sought on why performance was lower in terms of the number helped to live at home?

In response, it was reported that this was a result of continuing after care and the number of deaths over recent months.

Page 124 – Fair Access - CSS2 – Clarity was sought on why there had been a downtrend on this target.

In response it was reported that the Authority were confident that this target would be achieved and the downtrend had been as a result of an additional member of staff being employed via a grant in 2009/10 for the Bridge Build project which had led to a significant increase in performance.

Page 124 – Service Delivery – CSS6 & CSS7 - Clarity was sought on why there had been a downtrend on this target.

In response it was reported that this target was still in the top quartile. The decrease in numbers was due to a number of deaths of people with physical and sensory disabilities over recent months. In addition service users who were funded by the Primary Care Trust under Continuing Health Care were not included in the Council's figures. A number of people with learning disabilities and or physical and sensory disabilities fell into this category accounting for the decline in figures.

RESOLVED: That the quarterly monitoring reports and comments made be noted.

Meeting ended at 8.20 p.m.

SAFER POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD

At a meeting of the Safe Policy and Performance Board on Tuesday, 21 September 2010 at the Council Chamber, Runcorn Town Hall

Present: Councillors Osborne (Chairman), Wallace (Vice-Chairman), M. Bradshaw, Edge, J. Gerrard, M Lloyd Jones, M. Ratcliffe, Shepherd, Thompson and B Hudson

Apologies for Absence: None

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: M. Andrews, S. Burrows, G. Collins, L. Derbyshire, D. Houghton, J. Hunt, R. Mapleson, J. Pope, Y. Sung, P. McWade, C. Walsh and A. Villiers

Also in attendance: In Accordance with Standing Order 33 Councillor D Cargill – Portfolio Holder – Community Safety.

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

Action

SAF10 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 15 June 2010 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

SAF11 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT

The Chairman, Councillor Osborne welcomed the new co-optee Mr Hodson to the Board. A Member of the Board requested further information on the appointment of Mr Hodson and it was reported that this information would be sent to him directly.

SAF12 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

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

SAF13 SSP MINUTES

The minutes from the last Safer Halton Partnership (SHP) Meeting held on the 11 May 2010 were presented to the Board for information.

Minute No: SHP5 – The Bye-Law on the Minimum Price of Alcohol – It was agreed that the Board receive a report on this item at a future meeting.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the minutes be noted; and
- (2) a report on the Bye-Law on the minimum price of alcohol be presented to a future meeting.

Strategic Director-
Adults and
Community

SAF14 1ST QUARTER MONITORING REPORT

The Board received a report of the Chief Executive on the Performance Management reports for Quarter 1, (April – June 2010).

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;

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

RESOLVED: That the 1st quarter performance management reports be received.

SAF15 GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE REVIEW OF THE HALTON REGISTRATION SERVICE

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Adults and Community which informed the Members of the findings of the recent Inspection of the Halton Registration Service (attached at Appendix 1 to the report).

The Board was advised that the delivery and administration of civil registration was a partnership between local government and the General Register Office (part of the Identity and Passport Service). In 2007 registration officers had become local authority employees. This, together with the creation of a new governance framework, provided local authorities with greater responsibility and opportunities to develop the delivery of local registration services. To date some 93 local authorities, including

Halton, have adopted the new governance arrangements, and committed to the national Code of Practice / Good Practice Guide.

The Board was further advised Halton had adopted new governance arrangements in July 2007. The terms of reference for the review were agreed with the Proper Officer for Registration and the Registration Service Manager / Superintendent Registrar on 29 April 2010 as follows:

- To examine the technical proficiency of staff in relation to marriage activity and service attainment against related Good Practice Guide standards;
- To examine the service's Key Performance Indicator monitoring systems and service attainment;
- To examine the customer journey whilst accessing the service and attainment against related Good Practice Guide standards;
- To identify existing strengths and offer recommendations for improvement; and
- To report on any other noteworthy issues identified during the review.

In addition, the review noted the following:

- Observation of the Superintendent Registrar and other registration officers performing statutory duties revealed a very good standard of technical proficiency;
- The register office made good use of electronic and manual recording systems which worked well in monitoring service performance in respect of appointment availability, customer waiting times and certificate applications;
- The Registration Service's attainment against Key Service Performance (set out in Appendix B of the report);
- Customer access to the Registration Service was excellent across the district with additional service points providing convenient access;
- Initial customer contact via the Council's contact

centre worked very well, although there was scope to extend its role and responsibilities in relation to the registration service; and

- Staff displayed excellent customer care skills and a willingness to ensure that customers were fully informed and all their needs met.

It reported that there was scope for improving storage space for deposited registers as the strong room had exceeded capacity and consideration would need to be given on how to deal with this situation. It was suggested that a way forward could be to scan the registers and store them in controlled conditions at the Cheshire Record Office. In response, it was agreed that this could be done, but it was highlighted that this would require a considerable amount of time and money to complete as there were a significant number of records. It was also highlighted that current records (under 100 years old) would need to be kept on site as frequent access was required.

It was also suggested that a report be presented to a future meeting of the Board outlining various options for storage and digitising the records.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) The findings of the Board be endorsed;
- (2) the Board review the recommendations in accordance with the report; and
- (3) a report be presented to a future meeting outlining various options for storing and digitising the records together with the associated costs.

Strategic Director
– Adults and
Community

(Note: Councillor M Lloyd Jones declared a Personal Interest in the following item of business as her husband is a non executive Director of Halton and St Helens Primary Care Trust.)

SAF16 ALCOHOL MISUSE

The Board received a presentation from Collette Walsh, the Head of Alcohol Harm Reduction (PCT) relating to harm linked to alcohol misuse, and a strategy to reduce the impact on services and to create capacity for the local population to understand and manage their own risks in relation to alcohol.

The presentation:-

- Highlighted the journey to date i.e. the immediate need to stabilise services, co-ordinate partnership activities, address inequity across Halton and St Helens and progress initiatives outlined in the Commissioning Strategic Plan;
- Set out the successes to date;
- Outlined the key findings of the Alcohol Needs Assessment and the 12 Point Plan;
- Set out prevention strategies;
- Explained the scale of the challenge in relation to attitudes and behaviours;
- outlined the treatment options;
- highlighted the key findings of a review of existing alcohol services and shared draft consultation questions to inform future redesign;
- highlighted the key findings of the review and the draft consultation questions; and
- set out the next steps.

The following comments arose from the discussion:-

- concern was raised that non alcoholic beers were not available in all public houses. In addition the high cost of soft drinks in comparison to alcoholic drinks was noted. After considerable discussion it was suggested that a letter be sent from the Board to the MP requesting this matter be addressed. In response, it was reported that it may be more beneficial to involve the campaigning group 'Our Life'. It was agreed that a letter be sent to the group on behalf of the Board;
- It was noted that the funding for key posts whose role it was to tackle alcohol related harm was externally funded. It was also noted that the actions for 2010/11 could only be implemented as long as the external funding remained in place. The Board agreed to recommended that posts be considered as a priority for future funding;

- The linkages between alcohol abuse and domestic violence, suicide and crime etc was noted;
- It was suggested that it should be statutory to attend an alcohol seminar on the risks of alcohol abuse as part of the community pay back system;
- It was suggested that the Authority could consider random breath testing for employees; and
- The Chairman requested that Councillor Wallace in the Community Safety Working Group look at local prices of beer in comparison to soft drinks. In addition, that a letter be sent to Officers responsible for Licensing to request via the licence that local public houses must provide alcohol free beers and that the Working Group make contact with the campaigning group 'Our Life'.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the presentation be received;
- (2) Collette Walsh be thanked for her informative presentation;
- (3) The comments and actions raised above be noted; and
- (4) The Board request that the Budget Working Group consider whether the Alcohol Harm Reduction roles could be regarded as a priority for future funding.

Strategic Director
– Adults and
Community

SAF17 REGULATION OF HEALTH AND SAFETY AT WORK IN HALTON - ANNUAL PLAN

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Environment and Economy which invited the Members to comment on Health and Safety Plan for the forthcoming year and provided an update on the work of the Health and Safety Enforcement team in the Environment and Regulatory Services Department.

The Board received a presentation from Steve Burrows, Principal Environmental Health Officer which:-

- Outlined the role and responsibilities of the Health and Safety Enforcement Team;

- Set out the teams enforcement responsibility;
- outlined and explained the various Health and Safety Law Acts;
- demonstrated the difference between Health and Safety law and myth;
- highlighted the key functions of Health and Safety Enforcement;
- detailed the number of inspections and interventions taken between 2009-10;
- highlighted the new inspection programme from April 2010 and the new criteria;
- detailed the procedure of accident investigations and showed photographs of incidents; and
- outlined forthcoming projects and future opportunities.

The Board noted that it was within their remit to monitor the work being undertaken by the Health and Safety Executive. The Board agreed that a letter would be sent to the Health and Safety Executive in Liverpool inviting them make a presentation at a future meeting of the Board.

It was suggested that the team could extend their advisory service role to a consultancy role with a charging policy. In response, it was reported that this would be deemed as a conflict of interest and could create liability issues.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) The report, comments made and attached plans be noted;
- (2) the presentation be received;
- (3) Stephen Burrows be thanked for his informative presentation; and
- (4) A letter be sent to the Health & Safety Executive in Liverpool inviting them to a future meeting of the Board.

Strategic Director
– Environment
and Economy

SAF18 SAFEGUARDING VULNERABLE ADULTS

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Adult and Community which presented the Annual Report of Halton's Safeguarding Adults Board, for the year 2009/10, and briefed the members on the key issues and progression of the agenda for Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults.

The Board also received a presentation from Julie Hunt, Adults and Community which:-

- Set out the responsibilities of the Safeguarding Adult Board and Halton Borough Council;
- Highlighted the Board's Vision;
- Detailed the national context of the report e.g the 'No Secrets' review, the structure and reporting, the outcomes for Service Users and Carers; the key developments and local activity 2009-10 and the priorities and work plan 2010-11;
- Set out how positive outcomes were assured for service users and carers;
- Outlined what was being done to make it happen, i.e. Working together, the procedural framework, safer recruitment, training and development and publicity;
- Detailed the quality and performance of the service;
- Outlined and explained the partner agency representation on the Board; and
- Set out the review and forward planning and the website for further information
www.halton.gov.uk/safeguardingadults.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) The content of the Annual Report of the Safeguarding Adults Board 2009/10 and the current key issues be supported;
- (2) the presentation be received;
- (3) Julie Hunt be thanked for her informative presentation; and

- (4) the Board requested that a member of the Safer PPB be nominated onto the Safeguarding Adults Board

SAF19 JOINT TRADING STANDARDS SERVICE

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

The Board was advised that this was the second report giving an outline of the performance of the joint Warrington and Halton Trading Standards Service. Joint arrangements had commenced on 1st December 2008 and the first report had been presented to the Board on 21 September 2009. It was reported that the report covered the following 12 months to date and the performance had been referenced primarily against the objectives contained in the Service Specification.

The Board was further advised that in the past 12 months, against a background of a recession that had brought fresh challenges the key objective was still to prioritise the activities to those which had the greatest impact on health, wellbeing, community safety and economic prosperity. This required a balance of the longer term goals of tackling childhood obesity and alcohol harm against more reactive, short term demands of, for example, rogue traders preying on vulnerable residents.

It was reported that ICAN was the Warrington and Halton Consumer Alert Network and was an extremely powerful communication tool that could telephone, email and text its members providing targeted, relevant information to residents on a wide variety of issues relating to doorstep crime, phone, email and postal scams, rogue traders and other issues. It also provided information and advice on more general consumer issues.

In addition, it was reported that there had been a small reduction of under age alcohol sales reported since last year. A dedicated Under Age Sales Alcohol Officer for Halton had commenced work in May 2010. Clarity was sought on how long the contract was for. In response, it was reported that it would be for approximately two years.

The Chairman reported that a Bill to abolish loan

sharking was about to be debated in Parliament. He encouraged the members of the Board to write to their MP to support this Bill.

RESOLVED: That the report and comments made be noted.

SAF20 SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY 2011–2026

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Resources which gave members an update on the progress of the new Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) 2011-2026 and presented the emerging vision, key objectives and long term priorities that the plan sought to deliver upon.

The report highlighted that the SCS is a high level strategic document, which sets the Council's and partners priorities and what action will be taken to deliver these. Under the SCS sits a wide framework of statutory and non statutory plans that the Council and partners produce. For example, The Alcohol Strategy, The Policing Plan and the Anti Social Behaviour Strategy. The new SCS would cover the period from 2011 to 2026.

The SCS would also include a five year delivery plan, which would contain the detail of the planned intervention and prevention activities that would be undertaken to bring about positive change upon Halton's priority areas. The inclusion of a five year delivery plan would allow for a regular review of the selected intervention and prevention measures on a shorter timescale to enable changing circumstances throughout the lifetime of the full SCS to be reflected.

It was reported that some of the key challenges facing the authority in the future are as follows:-

- Alcohol harm and drug abuse and related crime;
- How the Authority support integrated offender management;
- Anti social behaviour and looking at long term holistic solutions;
- Looking at new approaches to address domestic violence and abuse;
- Safeguarding vulnerable children and adults; and
- Communication and marketing.

In addition, the Board were encouraged to attend the 'My Halton' event which would be taking place on 29

October 2010 at the Stobart Stadium from 12 pm – 4 pm.

It was noted that anti social behaviour and domestic violence in Halton were mainly as a result from alcohol abuse rather than drug related.

RESOLVED: That the five overarching priorities for the emerging Sustainable Community Strategy 2011-2026 and comments made be noted.

SAF21 ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR, MONTGOMERY ROAD

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Environment and Economy which outlined the anti-social behaviour to the rear of Montgomery Road, Widnes.

The Board was advised that between Montgomery Road/Cunningham Road and Chilton Avenue / Netherfield Road, there was a linear greenway. Over the last 12 months there had been a considerable amount of anti-social behaviour with 27 incidents being recorded by the police. St Georges Court (operated by Riverside RSL) and 23 Montgomery Road had been particularly affected. There was a non adopted alley to the greenway by these properties and local councillors had identified this as a key access point for the people who were causing the anti-social behaviour. This alley also provided access to the Council allotments and was well used by the public as a route to the town centre, schools and places of work.

The Board was further advised that there had been a number of meetings regarding the issues in this area and that the Tasking and Coordination Group had considered this location on a number of occasions. An action plan had also been put in place as follows:-

- Investigate the deployment of CCTV to try and identify who is throwing stones at the rear of St Georges Court;
- Police Tasking Vehicle to be used in the area;
- The turning area of the access road to the allotments will be resurfaced (This was breaking up and loose stones are used for throwing);
- The Vroom vehicle had been in the area on Friday the 16 and Saturday 17 July 2010 – assess what impact this had;

- Contact Addaction in relation to the mobile Muga and see if it was possible to get this resource into the area;
- Contact Ashley House in relation to supporting local drug users and encourage access to services;
- PCSO's increased foot patrol;
- To continue to provide support to victims of ASB within the area;
- Contact the Community Centre – targeting information about the effect that stone throwing has on others;
- Contact Cheshire Fire and Rescue and see if they were operating in the area and establish whether or not they were able to assist in terms of engaging with the local youths; and
- Community Development was currently in the process of supporting the local residents in developing plans for a community house, Muga and a play builder scheme to be situated in Tedder Square.

The Board was further advised that these actions were now in the process of implementation and the impact would be monitored and assessed. There was local support to close the alley adjacent to 23 Montgomery Road. Whilst the alley was not adopted it was established as a right of way and a Gating Order would be required. Consultation would be undertaken, particularly with the allotment holders as part of the Gating Order process. It was noted that this would restrict access to the greenway (though there were a number of other accesses in the vicinity) and the police and community safety were not convinced this would significantly reduce the anti-social behaviour in the area.

Councillor Wallace and a representative of Ditton West Community Group attended the meeting to highlight the anti social behaviour in the area and to support the Gating Order and the establishment of an alleygate. Photographs and a map of the area was circulated at the meeting.

Councillor Wallace highlighted that there had been 27 incidents reported last year and numerous others that had not been reported. These incidents included fly tipping, graffiti, pellets being fired at windows, damage to the residents windows and arson. It was reported that if alley

gates were erected and the action plan in place it would eradicate the problem and not displace the youths into other areas. In response to the comments set out in paragraph 6.1 of the report stating that the allegegate may require young people to detour around the closure and walk along busy roads, this fact was disputed and it was highlighted that there were also quicker alternative routes available.

The following points arose from the discussion:-

- It was noted that the footpath had not been adopted and because of the continual use it was established as a Right of Way. It was agreed that clarity should be sought from the Legal Department and Highways and Transportation on the appropriate way forward to establish an alleygate in Montgomery Road;
- It was noted that previously the methodology of establishing alley gates had been discussed and it had been agreed that a flow chart outlining the steps/procedure to installing alleygates would be produced but to date, the Board had not received it; and
- The Chairman recommended that a specific working group be established for a short period (maximum of six meetings) to consider how to proceed with alley gating. To consider what was happening now, what could happen in the future and the best way of getting there. The following Councillors agreed to be part of the working group which would be led by Councillor Wallace – Osborne, J Gerrard, M Ratcliffe and Thompson.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the action plan for addressing the anti social behaviour to the rear of Montgomery Road, Widnes be supported;
- (2) a short term working group be established to look at the procedure for Alleygates with the recommendations being presented to the Executive Board for adoption; and
- (3) Councillors J Gerrard, Osborne, M Ratcliffe and Thompson be part of the Working Group with Councillor Wallace being Lead Member.

Strategic Director
– Environment
and Economy

Meeting ended at 9.00 p.m.

ENVIRONMENT AND URBAN RENEWAL POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD

At a meeting of the Environment and Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board on Wednesday, 15 September 2010 at the Civic Suite, Town Hall, Runcorn

Present: Councillors Hignett (Chairman), Morley (Vice-Chairman), Balmer, P. Blackmore, E. Cargill, J. Gerrard, Hodgkinson, Nolan, Thompson and Wainwright

Apologies for Absence: Councillor Rowe

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: M. Noone, G. Ferguson, J. Hatton, A. Moyers, P. Oldfield, S. Saunders, A. Villiers and M. Carter

Also in attendance: Councillors McInerney and Stockton

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

Action

EUR15 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 16th June 2010 having been printed and circulated were signed as a correct record.

EUR16 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

It was confirmed that no public questions had been received.

EUR17 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.

EUR18 1ST QUARTER MONITORING REPORT

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 the services for –

- Employment, Economic Regeneration and Business Development (Business Development and Regional Affairs)
- Highways, Transportation and Logistics
- Environment and Regulatory
- Community Services (Parks and Countryside)
- Prevention and Commissioning (Housing Strategy).

It was noted that for Community Services (Parks and Countryside) there were no key objectives/milestones, performance indicators or no other objectives and performance indicators reported by exception (being flagged as either red or amber) to be reported for quarter 1. A full report detailing progress against all key and other objectives/ milestones and performance indicators would be reported for quarter two.

RESOLVED: That the first quarter performance management reports be received.

EUR19 HOUSEHOLD WASTE COLLECTION POLICY

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Environment and Economy which provided members with a copy of the draft Household Waste Collection Policy for comment and endorsement. The Safer Halton Policy and Performance Board work programme of Topics for examination included various aspects of waste management. It had been previously agreed by the Board that the Waste Management Working Party would produce a document that set out the Council's policies and service standards relating to household waste collection. Following the work carried out by the Working Party, a draft Household Waste Collection Policy had been produced.

The policies within the draft Household Waste Collection Policy document had been developed taking into account the pressures the Council faced both in terms of meeting landfill diversion targets and the increasing costs of waste treatment and disposal. It had drawn upon best practice and common approaches adopted by local authorities across the country. The draft Policy set out both existing and new policies and Members' attention was drawn in particular to the policies on charging and collecting side waste.

It was reported that financial pressures and the increasing costs of dealing with waste necessitated a review of the Council's policies on charging for services where legislation allowed. This had resulted in revised policies on charging for the collection of bulky household waste and a new policy regarding the provision of wheeled bins.

It was therefore proposed that from April 2011, the charge for removing bulky household waste be increased to £15 and that the number of items collected be reduced to five. The new proposed payment structure reflected the increasing costs of collecting and disposing of bulky household items. The new lower limit on items per collection had been established to encourage the re-use/recycling of items.

It was noted that the draft Policy also included a charge for new and replacement wheeled bins. At present the provision of new and replacement wheeled bins was free of charge and there was no limit on the number of replacement wheeled bins that a householder could request. It was proposed that a charge for the provision and delivery of new and replacement wheeled bins be introduced on a phased basis as follows:-

- From April 2011 residents could be required to make a contribution of £12.50 towards the costs of new and replacement bins;
- From April 2012 residents would be required to pay £25 to meet the full cost of receiving a new or replacement wheeled bin; and
- Recycling, replacement blue or green bins would continue to be provided free of charge.

Members noted that it was the current policy of the Council not to collect side waste placed alongside wheeled bins for collection. This policy was approved by the Executive Board in April 2005 (Minute EXB 53 refers). However, to date, this policy had not been applied. It was now recommended that the Council applied its policy with regard to not collecting side waste other than in exceptional circumstances, such as during the Christmas holiday period or other unavoidable disruptions in service. The "no side waste" policy would encourage residents to accept responsibility for their waste, minimising their waste and encourage recycling.

It was recognised that the policy document sought to

ensure that the Council provided high quality, cost effective services that were applied fairly and consistently to all households. In addition to setting out clear and robust waste collection policies the document also set out pledges to residents on the level of services that they could expect to receive from the Council.

The Waste Working Party, Councillors Thompson (Chair), Osborne, Stockton, Redhead and Shepherd were thanked for their contributions to the development of the Policy.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) authority be delegated to the Divisional Manager Waste and Environmental Improvement, in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Environment and Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board, to agree the nominations to the Waste Working Party and to explore options for discretion within the Household Waste Collection Policy; and
- (2) The revised Household Waste Collection Policy be brought back to the Board for consideration.

Strategic Director
Environment and
Economy

EUR20 MERSEY GATEWAY ENVIRONMENT TRUST

At a previous meeting (Minute No. URB 36/2009) the Board received a report on a number of biodiversity issues, including the establishment of the Mersey Gateway Environmental Trust, as part of the mitigation scheme for the Mersey Gateway. The Board resolved that a letter be sent to the Strategic Director, Environment on behalf of the Board requesting further information and the justification for the establishment of a charitable trust in relation to the Mersey Gateway Nature Reserve. The letter was subsequently written and responded to.

Members considered a report of the Strategic Director, Environment and Economy which provided an update on progress in the establishment of the Trust and the reasons for its establishment. Arising from the discussion the following information was requested:

- information on the Mersey Gateway Environment Trust accountability, including details on the position if a Halton Councillor representative resigned, be forwarded to Councillor Wainwright; and

- information on the role of the Mersey Gateway Environment Trust and copies of any agreement be forwarded to Councillor Thomson.

The Board also proposed that the Mersey Gateway Environment Trust be included on the Council's outside body list and requested the Mersey Gateway Executive Board to consider increasing the Councillor membership on the Trust to three.

RESOLVED: That

(1) the progress on establishing the Merseyside Gateway Environmental Trust be noted;

(2) a presentation be made to a future Board meeting on the role of the Mersey Gateway Environment Trust; and

(3) the Mersey Gateway Environment Trust be included on the Council's outside body list and the Mersey Gateway Executive Board be requested to consider increasing the Councillor membership on the Trust to three.

Strategic Director
Environment and
Economy

EUR21 SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY 2011-2026

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Resources which gave Members an update on the progress of the new Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) 2011 – 2026 and presented the emerging vision, key objectives and long term priorities that the plan sought to deliver upon.

Arising from the discussion it was proposed that reference to Runcorn Docks should be included as part of the strategy document.

RESOLVED: That

(1) the five overarching priorities for the emerging Sustainable Community Strategy 2011 – 2026 and comments made be noted;

(2) the suggested vision, strategic objectives and challenges contained in Section 6.0 and their alignment with their knowledge of local needs be noted; and

(3) consideration be given to the inclusion of Runcorn Docks within the strategy.

Strategic Director
Resources

EUR22 HALTON CEMETERIES

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Adults and Community which outlined revisions to the Council's policy on memorial safety testing in the light of new guidance issued by The Ministry of Justice. In addition, the report also assessed a partnership approach with Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council for the use of Widnes crematorium by Knowsley residents.

Members were also updated on the progress in developing new cemetery space in Halton. For Runcorn the existing cemetery was to be extended onto vacant land, in the Council's ownership, adjacent to the existing cemetery. A feasibility study, ground investigation, topographical survey and cost planning had been undertaken. The project was now moving into the design and planning approval stage. Budgetary approval (£330,000) had been made to undertake this work that would provide a further 10 years of burial space.

Within Widnes, provision of further burial space was more complex as the Council did not own adjoining vacant land that could be used for this purpose. A feasibility study had been carried out on the extension option. The extension to Widnes Cemetery would offer a further 12 years of burial space. The cost estimate in the Executive report of March 2009 indicated a cost of £2.1m. A joint officer working group had concluded that this offered poor value for money.

At the same, other potential sites in Widnes that could host a new cemetery and provide 60 years of burial space had been investigated. Although no conclusion had yet been reached, it was hoped to present to Members a detailed assessment of the options available shortly.

In the meantime, it was proposed that as burial space was in decline it was recommended that to provide continuity of burial space, the pre-purchasing of graves be temporarily suspended pending the establishment of new cemetery space in both Runcorn and Widnes.

It was further noted that in order to offer a new funeral service Bereavement Services were seeking to liaise with local funeral directors with the aim of offering a low cost, but dignified funeral service to local residents. This would enable families to have a simple, no frills, funeral package for an all inclusive price (to be negotiated).

RESOLVED: That

Strategic Director
Adults and
Community

(1) the following be endorsed:

- revised draft memorial safety policy;
- principle of a partnership agreement with Knowsley for the provision of cremation services;
- policy allowing the pre purchase of graves;
- proposed fixed price funeral option to Halton residents.

(2) the progress on the establishment of new cemetery space be noted.

EUR23 3MG SKILLS AND RECRUITMENT PROJECT -

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Environment and Economy which provided an update on the 3MG skills and recruitment project which involved the Halton Employment Partnership (HEP) handling the recruitment for the new Tesco chilled distribution centre and the Norbert Dentressangle recycling unit associated with it. The report outlined the final statistics of the recruitment process, feedback from Tesco and Dentressangle and lessons learned by HEP.

It was noted that HEP and its activities were funded through Working Neighbourhood's funding (WNF) which was due to cease on the 31st March 2011. All existing WNF projects were to be reviewed during August/ September 2010 and decisions made about which projects warranted further investment. The long term benefits brought by the Tesco/Norbert's recruitment included an improved local economy and it was suggested that the complete employment offer should continue to be something Halton offered its future investors.

Arising from the discussion members proposed that consideration be given for future Section 106 agreements to be used to assist the funding of HEP.

RESOLVED: That

(1) the report be received; and

(2) consideration be given as to how similar projects could take place in the future in light of the withdrawal of Working Neighbourhoods Funding.

Strategic Director
Environment and
Economy

Meeting ended at 8.05 p.m.

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CORPORATE POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD

At a meeting of the Corporate Policy and Performance Board on Tuesday, 7 September 2010 in the Civic Suite, Town Hall, Runcorn

Present: Councillors A. Lowe (Chairman), J. Roberts (Vice-Chairman), Browne, Dennett, Gilligan, D. Inch, Loftus, Nolan and Philbin

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Norddahl and Wainwright

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: M. Reaney, A. Jones, I. Leivesley, T. Gibbs, R. Mackenzie and A. Villiers

Also in attendance: In accordance with Standing Order 33 Councillor Wharton – Portfolio Holder Resources, and Councillor M Ratcliffe

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

CS14 RESOURCES PORTFOLIO

Action

Councillor Mike Wharton, Executive Board Portfolio Holder for Resources, provided Members with an update on current issues within his portfolio. This focused predominantly on the budget and the efficiency review. It was commented that whilst some difficult decisions had already been made at the last Executive Board meeting in light of the budget cuts, there were still more ahead.

Councillor Wharton invited questions from the Board. Following a discussion regarding Council owned land, it was agreed to share the property portfolio with members of the Board. It was noted that any land releases would only go ahead after consultation with members and advice from valuers.

In response to suggestions from members regarding various potential savings that could be made, the Chair confirmed that all Committees were being asked to consider costs within their areas, for future review.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) Councillor Wharton be thanked for his update and

attendance at the Board meeting; and

- 2) the Council's property portfolio be provided to members at the next PPB meeting.

Strategic Director
- Resources

CS15 MINUTES

The Minutes from the meeting held on 25 May 2010 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

CS16 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

It was reported that no public questions had been received.

CS17 EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES

The Minutes of the Executive Board and the Executive Board Sub-Committee relating to the work of the Corporate Services Policy and Performance Board since its last meeting were submitted for information.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes be noted.

CS18 SSP MINUTES

The Minutes of the Halton Strategic Partnership Board were submitted to the Board for consideration.

RESOLVED: That the minutes be noted.

CS19 SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY 2011 – 2026

The Board received a report updating them on the progress of the new Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) 2011-2016 and presented the emerging vision, key objectives and long term priorities that the plan sought to deliver upon.

The drafting of a new SCS offered the opportunity to revisit the high level objectives under each of the current five key priorities and reflected the current public priorities and needs. There were a multitude of changes proposed for the public sector and uncertainty over financing mechanisms, but these factors would not change the long term challenges that the Borough faced. It was important that the overarching priorities for the Borough were scrutinised so

that decisions about the allocation of resources could be made when organisational architectures and funding mechanisms became clearer.

Members commended the SCS document but questioned how realistic it would be considering the current financial situation. In response it was agreed that it would be challenging to deliver, taking into consideration the budget restraints. This would need to be taken into account when developing the 5 year delivery plan after the implications of the Comprehensive Spending Review are known. With regards to the public consultation process, it was confirmed that this would encompass a Borough wide section of the community in the form of special interest groups.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) Members noted the five overarching priorities for the emerging SCS 2011-2016; and
- 2) Members noted the suggested vision, strategic objectives and challenges contained in Section 6.0 and their alignment with their knowledge of local needs.

CS20 INVESTORS IN PEOPLE (IIP) AWARD AND THE POST ASSESSMENT ACTION PLAN

The Board received a report on the outcome of the liP re-assessment and the associated action plan. The Investors in People Organisation Improvement Framework Review Report was attached in Appendix 1.

It was agreed by all that in spite of the current efficiency review the report was positive overall. It was felt particularly pleasing that the assessors found that morale largely remained good despite the impact of the Efficiency Review. Any areas for improvement identified within the report would be highlighted so that appropriate action could be taken. It was commented that the liP Award was a credit to the Authority and confirmed the successful working relationship between the Trade Union, Members and staff.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the liP Re-assessment Report was noted by the Board; and
- 2) the liP post-assessment Action Plan was

endorsed by the Board

CS21 1ST QUARTER MONITORING REPORT

The Board considered a report of the Chief Executive on the 1st quarter Performance Management Reports for 2010/11 (April – June 2010).

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;

- Policy and Performance;
- Legal and Democratic Services;
- Financial Services;
- ICT and Support Services;
- Human Resources;
- Property Services; and
- Stadium and Hospitality

RESOLVED: That the 1st quarter performance Management Reports be received.

NB. Councillor Nolan declared a personal interest in the following item due to his wife being employed by the Council in HR.

CS22 SICKNESS ABSENCE

The Board received a report from the Strategic Director, Resources, on attendance management and interventions introduced to assist managers in effectively managing employee absence. The report included interventions planned for 2010/11 and gave details on average days lost, due to sickness absence, per employee in 2009/10 and 2008/09.

Members commented that although the report was good; the figures were still high. It was noted that with the interventions planned for 2010/11, it was hoped that the figures would improve again. One member requested comparison data with the private sector which would follow.

RESOLVED:

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

Strategic Director
- Resources

- 2) Data from the private sector is made available to the Board so that comparisons could be made.

Meeting ended at 7.25 p.m.

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BUSINESS EFFICIENCY BOARD

At a meeting of the Business Efficiency Board held on Wednesday, 29 September 2010 at the Civic Suite, Town Hall, Runcorn

Present: Councillors Leadbetter (Chairman), M Lloyd Jones (Vice-Chairman), Howard, D. Inch, A. Lowe, A. Macmanus, McDermott and J. Roberts

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Murray, Norddahl and Philbin

Absence declared on Council business: None

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

Also in attendance: None

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

Action

BEB12 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 30 June 2010 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

BEB13 ABOLITION OF COMPREHENSIVE AREA ASSESSMENTS AND THE AUDIT COMMISSION

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director Resources which informed Members of Government announcements regarding the Comprehensive Area Assessment, (CAA) and the Audit Commission.

It was noted that in May 2010 the Government announced its intention to abolish the CAA. Details of what the CAA inspectorates announced on 28 May 2010 were set out in the report for information. A further announcement was made on 13 August which reported that the Government planned to disband the Audit Commission.

Members were advised that the general direction of Government policy had been made clear as follows:

- Less regulation from the centre; and

- Greater transparency allowing performance to be monitored by the local community.

It was reported that Local Authorities were being encouraged to publish frontline performance data and there had been hints that the Government would support proposals from the LGA for regular (3 yearly) peer reviews of councils.

The Board was advised that the full picture of Government and Inspectorate requirements had yet to emerge and it was therefore too early to know what would be required of the Council. The Local Government Group (formerly known as LGA) was in discussion with Government about proposals for benchmarking, peer challenge review and improvement support.

It was felt that there would not be a situation where the Council was not held accountable and once things were clearer the Council would need to consider what information was required to manage and monitor service provision by the Council itself, and what information would be useful to the public.

Members were advised that once information had been received from the Government and things were clearer as to how the Local Authority would continue with regulation and monitoring, a report would be brought back to a future meeting of this Board.

RESOLVED: that;

- 1) The report be noted; and
- 2) A report be brought back to the board, once direction had been received from Government.

Strategic Director
- Resources

BEB14 EFFICIENCY PROGRAMME UPDATE

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Resources which provided an update of progress made to date with the Efficiency Programme. The report set out updates on the following areas:

- Transactional Support Services Workstream;
- Non-transactional Support Services Workstream;
- Review of Open Spaces;
- Review of Property Services;
- Review of Revenues, Benefits and HDL;
- ICT Support Services Review;

- Review of Contracted Services to schools;
- Review of Operational Fleet & Client Transport;
- Transactional / Non-Transactional: Process Review; and
- Review of Income and Charging.

The Board was advised that the programme was well into Wave 2 with a number of workstreams established and others starting, each of which were bringing their own challenges. To date a saving of £3 million pounds had been made.

Arising from the report Members discussed the reduction in income from fees and charges and noted that this was due to the economic downturn and in respect of land charges, less people had been buying property. The Board wished to receive a document that detailed fees and charges across all departments of the Council.

With regards to the invoice payment process and officer control it was noted that if it would result in less control from officers during the process care would need to be taken.

The Board discussed the progress of equal pay claims and it was reported that when the results from the employment tribunal scheduled for November were received, more information could be provided. Members requested a report be brought back to a future meeting with details of claims and payments made under equal pay legislation.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) The report be noted; and
- 2) A detailed report regarding the equal pay be presented to a future meeting once the results of the employment tribunal had been received.

Strategic Director
- Resources

BEB15 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE REPORT 2009/10

The Board received a report of the Operational Director, Finance which contained the Annual Governance Report for 2009/10. Appended to the report was a letter of representation for approval.

It was reported at the Board's meeting on 30 June 2010, Members approved the Council's Draft Statement of

Accounts (The Abstract) for 2009/10. Since that meeting the Audit Commission had undertaken their audit of the Council's financial statements.

The Members discussed the Government's proposals to abolish the Audit Commission and it was reported that the Minister had made positive comments regarding the audit part of the business.

The Audit Report was appended to the report for consideration and detailed the following:

- Key messages;
- Next steps;
- Financial Statements;
- Value for Money;
- Independent auditor's report to Members of HBC;
- Amendments to the draft accounts;
- Value for money criteria; and
- Action Plan.

The Board wished to place on record that the Audit Commission be commended for the excellent work undertaken over the years.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) The Audit Commission's Annual Governance Report 2009/10 be noted; and
- 2) The Letter of representation in Appendix 2 be approved.

BEB16 PROCUREMENT

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Resources which informed Members of progress made to date by the new Procurement Centre of Excellence.

It was reported that the team was established on 1 April 2010 as part of the major Halton Borough Council restructure. The purpose was to lead the Council in managing change and developing procurement activity to realise spend reduction and to make financial savings. It was further noted that the team was led by a Divisional Manager with four Category Managers, one attached to each of the four Directorates, to co-ordinate the review and rollout strengthened procurement practice.

Members were advised that the Council was committed to using the E-Tendering system, Due North, to advertise and manage all tender exercises. This would be phased across all spend areas of the Council over the next year which would bring a number of benefits to both the Council and to the business community.

It was reported that by using the system a cost saving in the region of £600,000 had already been made so far.

The Board noted that work was underway with the Chamber of Commerce so that local firms would be alerted by email once a tender was available to encourage local firms to tender for work.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) The report be noted; and
- 2) The revised Procurement Strategy be brought to the Board for approval.

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.

BEB17 INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT - QUARTER 1 (2010/11)

The Board considered a report of the Operational Director, Resources, which provided a summary of internal audit work for the period April to June 2010.

The report set out the progress against the audit plan, the internal audit reports, follow ups from previous internal audit recommendations and other internal audit work.

RESOLVED: That the Internal Audit progress report be noted.

Meeting ended at 7.38 p.m.

DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the Development Control Committee on Monday, 9 August 2010 at Civic Suite, Town Hall, Runcorn

Present: Councillors Thompson (Vice-Chairman), J. Bradshaw, Hignett, Hodgkinson, Leadbetter, McInerney, Morley and Osborne

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Nolan, P. Blackmore and E. Cargill

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: P. Watts, M. Simpson, J. Farmer, A. Jones, A. Plant, P. Shearer and J. Tully

Also in attendance: 15 Members of the Public

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

Action

DEV12 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 5 July 2010, having been printed and circulated, were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

DEV13 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.

DEV14 - 10/00029/FUL - PROPOSED NEW RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT OF 6 NO. SEMI DETACHED HOUSES ON THE LAND AT LODGE FARM, NORTON VILLAGE, NORTON, RUNCORN, WA7 6PZ

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

Councillors Austin and Lloyd Jones addressed the Committee and spoke against the application, raising the following areas of concern:

- Loss of a unique character building which was part of the village atmosphere;
- The new development would be out of character;
- The development would have a detrimental effect on house prices;
- Wildlife would be threatened;
- Traffic volume would be increased;
- Safety of the site and surrounding area;
- Contractor adherence to the building rules;
- Completion of a summer survey in relation to wildlife; and
- The application be deferred in order to consider all options for the future use of the site.

Mr Fred Dipnall addressed the Committee and spoke against the application, tabling a presentation for reference. His objections included:

- Unsuitable infrastructure of road networks;
- Access issues in terms of there only being one entrance and exit road;
- The dangers of there being only one pavement and having no curb stones; and
- Importance of retaining the character of the village.

In response it was reported that the building was not Listed nor was it included on the Council's list of historical buildings. Advice had been sought from the Conservation Consultant to clarify this. It was further noted that the building did not justify any protected status under the 'principles of selection' for agricultural buildings built around the turn of the 19th Century, produced by the English Heritage.

It was further noted that an additional condition was recommended to ensure the full protection of the sandstone dwarf wall adjacent to the Norton Village Highway.

RESOLVED: That the application be approved subject to entering into a Section 106 agreement for a financial contribution towards off-site public open space, and the following conditions:-

1. Standard 3 year permission (BE1);
2. Amended and approved plans (BE1, BE2 & GE27);
3. Before development details of the footway alongside Highgate Close shall be submitted to and approved in writing. To be implemented to an agreed timetable and no later than first occupation of the dwellings

Strategic Director
- Environment
and Economy

- (BE1);
- 4. Before development begins submission of a ground investigation (PR14);
- 5. Before development begins submission and approval of a Biodiversity action plan and implementation prior to occupation (BE1);
- 6. Before development begins submission of details of Tree Protection (GE27);
- 7. Before development begins submission of a landscaping scheme incorporating the required replacement tree planting (GE27);
- 8. Construction management plan;
- 9. Before development begins submission of archaeological investigation for approval and implemented in accordance with LPA requirements (BE6);
- 10. Before development begins submission of full schedule of materials (BE2);
- 11. Before development begins submission of boundary treatment details (BE22);
- 12. Before development begins submission of existing and proposed site levels of development and adjacent land (BE1);
- 13. Before development begins submission of details of wheel wash facilities including method statement and site plan for use during construction (BE1);
- 14. Retention of visibility splay (BE1);
- 15. No planting higher than 600mm or otherwise agreed in writing within the visibility splay (BE1);
- 16. Restricted times of deliveries (BE1);
- 17. Restriction to development avoiding nesting birds (BE1);
- 18. Pd removed for A and E and porches (BE1 and BE2);
- 19. Pd removed for additional windows/dormers (BE1 and BE2); and
- 20. Pd removed for fences/walls (BE1 and BE22).

An additional condition was agreed as follows:

- 21. Full protection of the sandstone dwarf wall adjacent to the Norton Village highway.

DEV15 - 10/00124/FUL - PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT COMPRISING 39 NO. DWELLINGS AND ASSOCIATED WORKS ON LAND TO REAR OF 6-42 NORLANDS LAND AND 31-51 CRONTON LANE, WIDNES, CHESHIRE

The consultation procedure undertaken was outlined

in the report together with background information in respect of the site. An amended site plan and red line site boundary had been received since the original report, removing a small area in the north east corner of the site, which was formally used for a substation. This did not alter the scheme that was already consulted on.

It was reported that one further representation had been received from the resident of 25 Norlands Lane, which raised concerns in relation to potential contamination, specifically from the former substation land, and potential linkage through proposed pond.

Conditions were recommended for further site investigations and mitigation measures to be submitted and agreed prior to commencement; and for construction details of the pond to be approved, along with full details of drainage and landscaping agreed prior to commencement.

Councillor Murray addressed the Committee and spoke against the application and raised concerns regarding the use of green field site, flood risk dangers and the safety of pedestrians around the shops and junctions, and that highway alterations should be implemented before works commence on site. Cllr Murray made reference to emails from the Councils Highways department and the issues around the junction of Norlands and Cronton Lane. In response it was reported that although all the issues raised in the email were valid issues they had been correctly answered by the Planning Officer.

Mr Jonathan Chapman, acting for the applicant, addressed the Committee and spoke in favour of the application, stating that the development was in keeping with local architectural styles and that developer would be prepared to invest in local road developments in partnership with the Council.

In response to the concerns raised it was reported that flood risk assessments had been submitted and there were three conditions covering issues around flooding. It was further noted that the road collision history did not merit highway amendments at this current time. However the Committee was advised that plans had been drafted for highway improvements in the area concerned although a definite date had not been set for commencement of such works.

Members suggested an increase in police presence in the area to tackle the congestion issues and illegally

parked cars by the shops on Cronton Lane and agreed that a pedestrian crossing would be required in the area. Officers confirmed that planning for this was already at the consultation stage and could be prioritised subject to sufficient funding. The Committee stressed the need for early implementation of the highway improvements for obvious safety reasons.

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

Strategic Director
- Environment
and Economy

(a) The entering into a Legal Agreement for the provision of a financial contribution towards off-site public open space and off site highways works, and;

(b) The following conditions,

- 1 Time limit for the commencement of development; (in accordance with the Town & Country Planning Act 1990);
- 2 Amended and approved plans Drawing List (BE1, BE2);
- 3 No development shall begin until the provision of pre-development site levels and proposed finished floor levels and adjacent land levels; (BE1);
- 4 Prevention of any tree/hedge felling without consent; (BE1 and GE27);
- 5 Submission and implementation of detailed landscaping scheme (BE1 and GE27);
- 6 Replacement of any damaged or dying trees within 3 years of completion (BE1 and GE27);
- 7 Replacement tree planting protected for 5 years following planting to be replaced with agreed species (BE1 and GE27);
- 8 Prior to commencement a scheme of protective measures for wildlife in accordance with the ecological survey to be submitted, approved and implemented; (BE1, GE21 and GE25);
- 9 Condition for the provision of bird nesting boxes (BE1, GE21 and GE25);
- 10 Condition relating to work to be carried out outside of the bird nesting season (BE1 and GE21);
- 11 Prior to commencement submission of a biodiversity action design plan to show how features within the house design will encourage wildlife to the scheme; (BE1 and GE21);
- 12 Prior to commencement ground investigations for potential pollutants and remediation

- scheme where necessary; (BE1 and PR6);
- 13 Environment Agency condition relation to the submission of a revised remediation strategy should unexpected contamination be encountered;
 - 14 Prior to commencement full details of boundary treatment (BE22);
 - 15 The development to be carried out in accordance with the approved Flood Risk Assessment and the mitigation measures as detailed within; (BE1 and PR16);
 - 16 Prior to commencement provision of a surface water drainage scheme to be submitted and approved; (BE1);
 - 17 Condition restricting the discharge rates from the site as recommend by United Utilities ;
 - 18 Prior to commencement provision and use of wheel cleansing facilities during course of construction to be submitted and approved; (BE1);
 - 19 Prior to the commencement of development submission and approval of materials (BE2);
 - 20 Prior to the commencement final details of the access onto Norlands Lane to be submitted (BE1);
 - 21 Prior to occupation laying out of approved vehicle access, service and parking areas and retained as such (BE1);
 - 22 Restricted hours of development and deliveries related to development during construction period; (BE1);
 - 23 Provision of required refuse and recycling storage facilities for all individual dwellings at developer's expense (BE1);
 - 24 Remove permitted development rights for hard surfacing front (BE1);
 - 25 Restriction on the conversion of garages;
 - 26 Remove permitted development for Class A and E (extensions and outbuildings) (BE1 and BE2);
 - 27 Remove permitted development for fences/walls front of building line (BE1); and

Additional conditions were reported as follows:

- 28 Further site investigations and mitigations measures to be submitted and agreed prior to commencement;
- 29 Construction details of the pond to be approved;

- 30 Full details of drainage and landscaping agreed; and
- 31 Condition relating to the removal of Japanese Knotweed.

c) That if the S106 Agreement or alternative arrangement is not executed within a reasonable period of time, authority be delegated to the Operational Director – Environment & Regulatory Services in consultation with the Chairman or Vice Chairman of the Committee to refuse the application on the grounds that it fails to comply with Policy S25 (Planning Obligations).

DEV16 - 10/00150/FUL - THE ERECTION OF 20 NO. TWO AND THREE BEDROOM HOUSES WITH ASSOCIATED LANDSCAPING ON THE LAND OFF RIVENMILL CLOSE, WIDNES, CHESHIRE

The consultation procedure undertaken was outlined in the report together with background information in respect of the site. It was reported that this application had been to an earlier Committee with a recommendation for refusal due to the loss of employment land. However further evidence had been submitted in relation to the concerns of the officers regarding allocated employment land and it is now recommended for approval.

Since the publication of the report one further condition was recommended for surface water drainage details to be submitted for approval prior to commencement.

It was further reported that additional comments had been received from a resident relating to disturbance and disruption of construction, development of commercial buildings would be quicker than residential, property devaluation, quietness of commercial property compared to residential, threat to quality of life and possible theft and increase in traffic.

Mr Sean Taylor addressed the Committee on behalf of the applicant and spoke in favour of the application commenting that the scheme complies with the national strategy for housing development.

Mr Peter McGarry addressed the Committee against the application raising concerns in relation to the potential anti social behaviour issues that affordable housing could attract, and the lack of nearby facilities for children.

In response officers commented that developing the site would be a big improvement from its present state. Speculating on the type of owners/tenants was not a condition of approval. It was confirmed that the Police received the Councils list of applications, so were aware of this application, and had not raised any objections,

RESOLVED: That the application be approved subject to S.106 for off-site public open space and the following conditions:-

Strategic Director
- Environment
and Economy

- 1 Standard 3 year permission (BE1);
- 2 Plans and amended plans (BE1, BE2);
- 3 Before development begins submission of a ground investigation (PR14);
- 4 Before development begins submission of a landscaping scheme incorporating the required replacement tree planting (GE27);
- 5 Before development begins submission of a construction management plan (BE1);
- 6 No development shall begin until the Council inspects the site markings to establish individual building locations of plots 3 and 4, the development to be constructed in accordance with the locations as approved on site ; (BE1);
- 7 Before development begins submission of full schedule of materials (BE2);
- 8 Before development begins submission of boundary treatment details (BE22);
- 9 Before development begins submission of existing and proposed site levels of development and adjacent land (BE1);
- 10 Provision of thermal glazing to the kitchen and habitable room windows of the dwellings (BE1);
- 11 Before development begins submission of details of wheel wash facilities including method statement and site plan for use during construction (BE1);
- 12 Retention of visibility splay (BE1);
- 13 No planting higher than 600mm or otherwise agreed in writing within the visibility splay (BE1);
- 14 Restricted times of deliveries (BE1);
- 15 Restriction to development avoiding nesting birds (BE1);
- 16 Pd removed for A and E and porches (BE1 and BE2);
- 17 Pd removed for additional windows/dormers (BE1 and BE2);
- 18 Pd removed for fences/walls (BE1 and BE22); and
- 19 Pd removed for any hard surfacing within dwelling plots (BE1).

An additional condition was reported as follows:

- 20 The submission of details of how surface water is to be drained.

DEV17 - 10/00157/COU - CHANGE OF USE FROM PUBLIC HOUSE & MANAGERS ACCOMMODATION/SIX LETTING ROOMS TO SINGLE RESIDENTIAL DWELLING HOUSE ON GROUND FLOOR & SIX LETTING ROOMS ON FIRST FLOOR AT THE QUEENS ARMS SITE, MOOR LANE, WIDNES

The consultation procedure undertaken was outlined in the report together with background information in respect of the site. It was reported that the Council had received a written objection from one local resident, which had been supported by a 12-person petition. Details of the objections were outlined in the report for information.

The Committee was advised that the change of use to residential was acceptable in principle and there was a concurrent planning application for the whole of the building to be converted to a dwelling which is acceptable. However this particular proposal raised issues which were felt would result in an unacceptable impact on the amenity of the existing residential occupiers.

In particular this relates to the provision of car parking on site. For a family dwelling and six single bed units, the Council required the provision of 8 car parking spaces on site. It was reported that the proposal could provide only 2 spaces on site. This would result in an under provision of 6 spaces and would mean future residents parking on the adjacent highway of Rose Street. There were already highway restrictions in front of the public house on Rose Street which would serve to exacerbate this situation.

Councillor Horabin addressed the Committee and spoke against the application on behalf of the residents on Smith Road, Rose Street and Caldwell Road, Widnes.

RESOLVED: The application be refused as the proposal failed to provide the appropriate levels of off-street car parking. This would result in a detrimental and harmful impact on the amenity of the adjacent residential area, particularly those occupiers of Rose Street. As such the proposal failed to comply with Policies BE1 and TP12 of the Halton Unitary Development Plan.

DEV18 - 10/00214/FUL & 10/00215/S73 - PROPOSED ERECTION OF MEZZANINE SALES FLOOR AND ASSOCIATED INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL WORKS; AND PROPOSED REMOVAL OF CONDITION NO 4 ON PLANNING CONSENT 02//00630/FUL TO ALLOW FOR UPLIFT IN THE NET RETAIL FLOOR SPACE AT WIDNES ROAD, WIDNES, WA8 6AF

The Committee was advised that this application had been deferred as the applicant had not yet agreed the heads of terms for a S.106 Agreement

DEV19 MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

The Committee was advised that appeals had been received following the Council's refusal of the following applications:-

10/00176/TEL Prior notification of telecommunications development for the installation of a radio base station consisting of a 12.5m high streetworks monopole housing 3 No. O2 antennas, 3 No. Vodaphone antennas and 2 No. ground based equipment cabinets on Footpath at Junction of Hale Road and Crossway, Widnes Cheshire

10/00193/TPO Proposed crown thinning/lifting of 2 No. Sycamore trees at 18A Hough Green Road Widnes

An appeal had been received against an Enforcement Notice for the following enforcement case :-

10/00044/COUGEN Depositing Of Building Material in Open Space at Sandy Lane Preston Brook Runcorn

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

A decision had been received as follows :-

09/00511/COU Proposed change of use of ground floor office to 3 No. residential care bedsits at 1 Peelhouse Lane Widnes.

This appeal was allowed

This application was reported to the January Development Control Committee and the application was refused on the basis that the proposal would create an environment in which anti social behaviour could result and a perception of fear and concern because of the likelihood of increased crime and disorder. The Inspector stated that the he did “not consider the risk of additional criminal and anti-social behaviour as a consequence of the small development proposed, which in any event is intended as a means of facilitating progression to responsible citizenship, to be so great as to significantly harm the living conditions of local residents and thereby outweigh the need for it and the advantages of utilising for that purpose an existing building in an accessible and sustainable location.”

Meeting ended at 7.57 p.m.

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DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the Development Control Committee on Monday, 13 September 2010 at Civic Suite, Town Hall, Runcorn

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

Apologies for Absence: Councillors J. Bradshaw and Osborne

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: P. Watts, A. Jones, R. Cooper, J. Farmer, Y. Sung and J. Tully

Also in attendance: Councillor Redhead & 5 Members of the Public

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

Action

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

The Committee was advised that a matter had arisen which required immediate attention by the Committee (Minute 26 refers). A letter from Ineos was brought to the attention of the Committee at the request of the Chairman to enable a swift response to be provided to Ineos, so that their implementation of the scheme and future considerations were not unduly delayed. Therefore, pursuant to Section 100 B (4) and 100 E, the Chairman ruled that the item be considered as a matter of urgency.

DEV20 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 9 August 2010, having been printed and circulated, were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

**DEV21 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.

DEV22 - 10/00214/FUL & 10/00215/S73 - PROPOSED ERECTION OF MEZZANINE SALES FLOOR AND ASSOCIATED INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL WORKS; AND PROPOSED REMOVAL OF CONDITION NO.4 ON PLANNING CONSENT 02/00630/FUL TO ALLOW FOR UPLIFT IN THE NET RETAIL FLOOR SPACE AT WIDNES ROAD, WIDNES

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

Application 10/00214/FUL:

RESOLVED: That delegated authority was granted to the Operational Director – Environmental and Regulatory Services in consultation with the Chairman or Vice Chairman of the Committee to determine the applications upon the satisfactory conclusion of negotiations to conclude the necessary planning obligation and should the application be approved it was recommended that permission be subject to the following:-

- a) The entering into a Legal Agreement heads of terms to be agreed under delegated authority.
- b) The following conditions:
 - 1 Time limit for the commencement of development; (in accordance with the Town & Country Planning Act 1990);
 - 2 Condition listing approved plans and drawings (BE1, BE2, GE27);
 - 3 Condition restricting the additional net retail floor space from the mezzanine to 1,393 sq m (restricting the overall net retail floor space at the store to 5,574 sq m);
 - 4 Condition restricting the mezzanine to comparison goods only (non-convenience); and
 - 5 Condition for a scheme to improve pedestrian and cycle linkages through the site (BE1).
- c) That if the S106 Agreement or alternative arrangement was not executed within a reasonable period of time, authority be delegated to the Operational Director – Environmental & Regulatory Services in consultation with the Chairman or Vice Chairman of the Committee to refuse the application on the grounds that it fails to comply with Policy S25

(Planning Obligations).

And application **10/00215/S73**:

RESOLVED: That condition no.4 of planning permission 02/00630/FUL be removed.

DEV23 - 10/00279/FUL - PROPOSED ERECTION OF 18 NO. COURTYARD HOUSES, DETACHED GARAGES, PRIVATE ACCESS ROAD AND PRIVATE OPEN SPACE AT DAWSONS DANCE CENTRE, LUNTS HEATH ROAD, WIDNES

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

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

1. Standard condition relating to timescale and duration of the permission;
2. Wheel wash condition required for construction phase (BE1);
3. Parking conditions (2 separate conditions) to ensure access and parking is provided and maintained at all times; The use of the premises shall not commence until the vehicle access and parking has been laid out (TP12);
4. Landscaping condition is required to ensure comprehensive development of the site (BE2);
5. Drainage condition, requiring the submission and approval of drainage details (BE1);
6. Construction hours to be adhered to throughout the course of the development. (BE1);
7. Delivery hours to be adhered to throughout the course of the development. (BE1);
8. Materials condition, requiring the submission and approval of the materials to be used. (BE2);
9. Remediation Strategy to be submitted and approved in writing.(PR14);
10. A condition and removing permitted developments from the property including extension, detached buildings, porches, boundary treatments, hard standing, roof alterations and garage conversions. (BE1); and
11. Details of off site highway works, to include a refuge island and an extension to the ghost island, to be

submitted to, agreed and constructed prior to commencement of development (BE1).

DEV24 - 10/00302/COU - PROPOSED CHANGE OF USE FROM CLASS A2 TO CLASS A5 HOT FOOD TAKEAWAY, NEW SHOP FRONT & EXTERNAL EXTRACTION SYSTEM AT 176 WIDNES ROAD, WIDNES

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

The applicant, Mr Gary Fredson addressed the Committee in support of his application stating that his outlet would offer a healthy eating option to the consumer using fresh local produce delivered daily. Furthermore, he would employ local tradesmen and companies for the fit out and employ people from the local community to work within the shop. He further stated that he was prepared to invest in a unit that had remained empty for the past 18 months so his occupancy would compliment the area.

In response it was noted that the fact that a unit had remained empty for a period of time was not a matter for consideration during the approval process. Also, that the application was for a 'hot food takeaway' outlet and as such there were no conditions relating to the type of hot food that could be served.

RESOLVED: That the application be refused for the following reasons:

- 1) The proposed use of these premises, as a hot take away food establishment would lead to a further concentration of similar uses within the town centre and detract from its potential offer, vitality and viability. As such the proposal would be contrary to policies TC4 and TC8 of the UDP; and
- 2) The applicant had failed to provide adequate information to demonstrate that the premises could operate satisfactorily, as a hot food retail premises.

NOTE: To avoid any allegation of predetermination Cllr. E. Cargill did not vote on this matter.

DEV25 MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

Appeals had been received following the Council's refusal of the following applications:-

09/00501/FULTEL Proposed installation of a radio base station consisting of a 17.5m Jupiter 811E column, 1 No. Cannon Type G cabinet, 1 No. Vodafone RBS 3107 cabinet and associated ancillary equipment on Verge Adjacent to Busway to North of Halton Haven Barnfield Avenue Runcorn

09/00541/TEL Prior notification of telecommunications development for siting of a 12.5m high column incorporating internal antennae for O2 UK and Vodafone together with two associated equipment cabinets on Footpath To South West Of YMCA Halton Lodge Avenue Runcorn

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

A decision had been received as follows:-

09/00351/COU Proposed change of use from retail (Class A1) to hot food takeaway (Class A5) with new flue and rear fire door at Occasions Ascot Avenue Runcorn

This appeal was allowed

The Inspector stated that "whilst I sympathise with the concerns and fears raised by a significant number of local residents, I conclude that the proposal would not have an unacceptable impact on the occupiers of nearby dwellings by way of general noise and disturbance or the fear of crime and anti social behaviour. I am also satisfied that it would not cause undue highway safety issues and the proposed flue would be visually acceptable, whilst the risk of some customers dropping littering is not a reasonable reason for withholding planning permission."

DEV26 URGENT ITEM

Details of a letter which had been received from INeos was shared with the Committee. The letter sought permission to vary Condition 57 of their permission to construct and operate a Combined Heat and Power Energy Generating Station, by increasing the permissible amount of imported fuel to be delivered by road.

RESOLVED: The Members considered the request and unanimously voted against agreeing to it.

Meeting ended at 7.03 p.m.

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the Standards Committee Wednesday, 8 September 2010 Committee Room 1, Runcorn Town Hall

Present: Mr W Badrock (Chairman), Parish Councillor Mr B Allen, Mr A Luxton (Vice-Chairman), Mrs A Morris, Councillors Murray, Parker, Redhead, Swain and Wainwright

Apologies for Absence: Parish Councillor Canon D. Felix and R. Garner

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: M. Reaney and A. Scott

Also in attendance: None

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

STC8 MINUTES

Action

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 May 2010, having been printed and circulated, were signed as a correct record.

In noting the comments, the Committee commented on the following matters:

- The power to award costs by the First Tier Tribunal if the Tribunal considered a party had acted unreasonably in bringing, defending or conducting proceedings;
- Support from Standards for England to Standards Committees and their availability to attend a future meeting;
- Cancellation of the Annual Assembly in the Autumn; and
- Take-up of the one to one training sessions offered at the previous meeting.

STC9 STANDARDS FOR ENGLAND ROUNDUP

The Committee received a report of the Strategic Director, Resources which brought Members up to date on the latest news from Standards for England.

On 28 May 2010, Standards for England issued a statement concerning the Government's Planned Decentralisation and Localism Bill (the Bill) and included a proposal to abolish the Standards Board regime. Although the proposals in the Bill had not been confirmed, Members were advised that the local Standards Framework remained pending further legislative change.

Since the Statement was issued, Monitoring Officers had been advised not to provide quarterly update reports.

On 24 June 2010, Standards for England had advised that a new "Compact Toolkit" had been launched which offered help and guidance in building up greater working relationships with parish and town councils. The toolkit had been jointly developed by Standards for England, the National Association of Local Councils and the Society of Local Council Clerks. The toolkit was designed for use by Standards Committees, Monitoring Officers, SLCC Branch Officers and County Association Officers.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

STC10 RECENT CASE SUMMARIES FROM STANDARDS FOR ENGLAND

The Committee received a report of the Strategic Director, Resources which outlined recent decisions in cases where a breach of the Code of Conduct had been alleged in other authorities.

The Committee noted and discussed the contents of two cases from Hyndburn Borough Council and one for Wolverhampton City Council.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

STC11 DRAFT ACTION LIST

The Committee's Action List was attached for information.

In considering the Action List, the Committee highlighted the importance of training for all Elected Members and Parish Councillors on the current Code of Practice. In the absence of a new Code being issued in the foreseeable future given the recent change in Government, the Committee were keen that refresher training be organised. In addition they supported the idea of holding training for the Committee, utilising role play, at a future meeting.

The Monitoring Officer had considered the possibility of a Cheshire-wide training opportunity (to include the Cheshire East, Cheshire West and Chester and Warrington Authorities), and would raise this as an item at the next meeting of the Cheshire Secretaries' Group, and report the outcome to the next meeting of the Committee.

Monitoring Officer

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

STC12 BLOGGING TOPIC GUIDE

The Committee received a report of the Strategic Director, Resources which advised Members of the online publication of a Blogging Topic Guide by Standards for England.

The Guide was published on the 18 August 2010 on the Standards for England website. The Guide pointed out that blogging had become an important and legitimate part of the operation of a democratic society and recognised that it was an efficient cost effective means of keeping in touch with people.

A copy of the Guide was attached to the report at Appendix 1, and it explained the positive role of blogging and provided information on how the Code of Conduct applied, giving examples of tribunal cases that had dealt with the issue.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

Meeting ended at 4.15 p.m.

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REGULATORY COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the Regulatory Committee on Wednesday, 14 July 2010 in the Civic Suite, Town Hall, Runcorn

Present: Councillors Philbin (Chairman), Loftus (Vice-Chairman), M. Fry, D. Inch, A. Lowe, E. Ratcliffe and Wallace

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Bryant, Howard, McDermott and Murray

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: L. Capper, K. Cleary, I. Mason, Pope and J. Tully

Also in attendance: None

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

REG4 APPLICATION TO VARY A PREMISES LICENCE, CANAL WALK/GRUMPY'S, HALTON ROAD, RUNCORN

Action

The Committee met to consider an application which had been made under Section 34 of the Licensing Act 2003 to vary the above premises licence. The hearing was held in accordance with the Licensing Act 2003 and the Licensing Act 2003 (Hearings) Regulations 2005.

During the application process the application was amended on two occasions to reduce the requested licensable activities. The application to be dealt with by the Committee was:-

Category E – Live Music (Indoors) 12.00(noon) to 02.00
Category L – Late Night Refreshment (Outdoors) 23.00 to 00.00

The Applicant, Grumpy's Limited, was represented by June Clarke of JMC Licensing Consultants. The Police as a Responsible Authority made no representations to the application.

The Council's Environmental Health Department as a responsible authority was represented by Isobel Mason who

had requested the following condition to be attached to the premises licence:-

All doors and windows should be kept closed at all times that any regulated music is being performed (to include categories E,F and I), except for access and egress to the building.

The interested parties were represented by Mr C Powl and Mr Lloyd.

Prior to the hearing commencing Mrs Clarke was asked to confirm that the application to be dealt with was as set out in the third paragraph above. The procedure to be followed was explained and the parties put their cases in accordance with it.

The following points are highlighted as being relevant to explaining the conditions which were subsequently imposed:

1. Previous incidents of noise emanating from the premises were alleged to have taken place including noise from external speakers. It was initially denied (on behalf of the applicant) that there were any external speakers at the premises. But having checked the position with her client by telephone, June Clarke confirmed that there were indeed external speakers at the premises but that they were not connected up.
2. Isobel Mason clarified the requested wording of the proposed condition relating to doors and windows: it was designed to apply whenever regulated entertainment (of whatever kind) was taking place at the premises.

June Clarke, on behalf of the applicant, agreed what is set out below as conditions 1, 2 and 4. (Condition 3 being merely consequential to condition 2).

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 granted the application subject to the following conditions:-

1. All doors and windows shall be kept closed at all times that any regulated entertainment (of any category) is being performed within the premises, except for access and egress to the building.
Reason: In the interest of prevention of public nuisance.
2. The existing external speakers at the premises shall be removed.
Reason: In the interest of prevention of public nuisance. Outdoor music is not permitted under the premises licence.
3. No new or replacement external speakers shall be permitted at the premises.
Reason: In the interest of prevention of public nuisance. Outdoor music is not permitted under the premises licence.
4. The provision of outdoor late night refreshment permitted by this determination shall be restricted to the triangular area of land between the rear of the premises and the Bridgewater Canal.
Reason: For clarification. The area specified in the application was ambiguous and was clarified by the applicant's representative at the hearing.

Time that the variations shall take effect

Forthwith

Reasons for the decision and steps taken under section 35(3)(b) of the Act

The reason for the determination was that the Committee felt that the application was consistent with the Licensing Objectives. The conditions imposed were sufficient to deal with those representations which related to problems related to noise coming directly from the premises.

Following the announcement of the Committee decision the Chairman of the Committee advised that there were some obvious concerns from the local residents regarding nuisance in Halton Road Runcorn allegedly caused by patrons who had left the premises. Such nuisance is likely to be outside of the control of the Committee. The conditions imposed on the premises licence were designed to deal with noise issues arising directly from the premises.

However in the event that the conditions imposed were not adequate to deal with noise nuisance from the premises the local residents were advised of the review process which is part of the Licensing Act 2003 which is evidence based. Local residents and the Councils Environmental Health could trigger a review of the premises licence based on noise nuisance but that any evidence must be specific to the premises and demonstrate that the use of the premises for licensable activities undermines one or more of the four licensing objectives. Local residents had the right to contact their ward councillors, and where appropriate the Police. The residents were further advised that Environmental Health also had the power to issue Abatement Notices.

Meeting ended at 8.35 p.m.

REGULATORY COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the Regulatory Committee on Tuesday, 17 August 2010 in the Civic Suite, Town Hall, Runcorn

Present: Councillors Philbin (Chairman), Loftus (Vice-Chairman), M. Fry, D. Inch, A. Lowe, McDermott and E. Ratcliffe

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Bryant, Howard and Murray

Absence declared on Council business: None

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

Also in attendance: Stephen Lawlor, Denis Riley, Stephen Gibbons, Martin Stafford Mrs J Clarke, Ian Seville, P C Chris Carney, Chief Inspector John Ward and Bill Seabury. Plus one member of the Press.

ITEMS DEALT WITH UNDER DUTIES EXERCISABLE BY THE COMMITTEE

		<i>Action</i>
REG5	<p>APPLICATION TO VARY A PREMISES LICENCE THE ESTABLISHMENT OLD TOWN HALL VICTORIA SQUARE WIDNES</p> <p>The Committee met to consider an application which had been made under Section 34 of the Licensing Act 2003 to vary the above premises licence.</p> <p>The hearing was held in accordance with the Licensing Act 2003 and the Licensing Act 2003 (Hearings) Regulations 2005.</p> <p>In attendance were the applicant Stephen Lawlor, Denis Riley DPS and Stephen Gibbons Head Doorman who were represented by Martin Stafford (DWF Solicitors).</p> <p>Cheshire Constabulary ("the Police") were represented by Ian Seville Police Licensing Officer, also in attendance were P C Chris Carney, Chief Inspector John Ward and Bill Seabury, Licensing Enforcement Officer Safer Halton Partnership</p> <p>The Council's legal advisor, John Tully, introduced</p>	

the parties, outlined the procedure to be followed, summarised the nature of the application and the relevant representations which had been made. The Committee was advised that other representations had been made by local residents but had not been made within the statutory time limit: consequently, no details were provided in respect of these invalid representations.

Details of the existing premises licence

The premises licence authorised the following licensable activities:-

Categories B - Exhibition of films (Indoors), E – Live Music (Indoors), F – Recorded Music (Indoors) and J – Dancing (Indoors) between the following times:-

Monday and Tuesday	10.00 to 01.30
Wednesday	10.00 to 02.30
Thursday Friday and Saturday	10.00 to 03.00
Sunday	10.00 to 02.30

Category M – Supply of alcohol (On Licence) between the following times:-

Monday and Tuesday	10.00 to 02.00
Wednesday to Sunday	10.00 to 03.00

Category O – Hours Premises are open to the public between the following times

Monday and Tuesday	10.00 to 03.00
Wednesday to Sunday	10.00 to 03.30

Details of the application

The application comprised nine components as follows [with some explanatory text added in square brackets]:-

1. 'To vary existing hours for all named activities' **[i.e. Categories B,E,F,J, and O];**
2. 'To apply for late night refreshment' **[Category L];**
3. 'To apply for Facilities for Making Music' **[Category I];**
4. 'To request an amendment on the condition under the heading 'Door Supervisors' for Door Supervisors to be employed from 23.00' **[the current requirement being from 22.00];**
5. 'To extend the opening hours' **[Category M];**
6. 'To apply K facilities for entertainment of a similar description' **[i.e. similar to Categories I or J];**
7. 'To apply for the performance of dance' **[Category G];**

8. 'To apply for Deregulation from 10.00 on New Years Eve until terminal hour on New Years Day' **[in respect of Categories B,E, F, G, I, J, K, L, M and O];**
9. 'To apply for alterations to the layout to include the outside area at the front of the premises for the consumption of alcohol as per layout on the attached drawings (subject to the approval of a Street Café Licence)' **[This refers to a licence under Part VIIA Highways Act 1980].**

The variation application requested the following licensable activities:-

Categories B – Films (Indoors), E – Live Music (Indoors), F – Recorded Music (Indoors), G – Performance of Dance (Indoors), I – Making Music (Indoors), J – Dancing (Indoors), K – Similar to I or j (Indoors) and M – Supply of Alcohol between the following times:-

Monday and Tuesday	10.00 to 01.30
Wednesday	10.00 to 04.30
Thursday to Saturday	10.00 to 05.00
Sunday	10.00 to 04.30

(NOTE: Volunteered condition - No alcohol will be consumed in any outdoor area of the premises after 23.00 on any day).

Category L – Late Night Refreshment (Indoors) between the following times:-

Monday and Tuesday	23.00 to 00.30
Wednesday	23.00 to 03.30
Thursday to Saturday	23.00 to 04.00
Sunday	23.00 to 03.30

Category O – Hours the premises are open to the public between the following times:-

Monday and Tuesday	10.00 to 02.00
Wednesday	10.00 to 05.00
Thursday to Saturday	10.00 to 05.30
Sunday	10.00 to 05.00

Details of the application as varied at the hearing

At the start of the Hearing Mr Stafford stated that the application was amended as follows (with the additions and corrections confirmed by him shown in square brackets):

1. Proposed Hours

There be no change to the existing hours for [Mondays to] Thursday[s]

That the variation of hours on Sunday / Monday morning to 05.00 shall only apply on those Sundays that are adjacent to public or bank holidays including the Sunday immediately before Christmas Day. On all other Sundays the terminal hour [for Category O] shall [be] 03.00 [(and be 02.30 for all other purposes)].

2. CCTV Suite

On Fridays and Saturdays and those Sundays where the additional hours are in operation, the premises shall ensure that the CCTV suite located at the entrance of the premises is staffed.

3. External Areas

That the seated capacity of the external area does not exceed 60 persons.

[That the supply of alcohol shall be restricted to customers sat at the seating areas and while they remain seated at the seating areas].

That the area will be closed at 22.30 at which point all furniture shall be removed and stored away from the public. Whilst the area may be used by smokers after this time, they shall not be allowed to carry drinks into the area.

The boundaries of the external area be substantially and effectively delineated so as to prevent pedestrian access through the area.

The external area shall only be used once the applicant has obtained the written approval of the Highway Authority for the proposed furniture and usage.

Technical Issues

The Council's Legal advisor highlighted three technical issues as detailed in the printed agenda and requested the applicant to deal with them as part of his presentation.

The hearing

Mr Stafford presented the case on behalf of Mr Lawlor. He agreed that the application of the existing premises licence

to the first floor of the premises was incorrect (because the area was not completed) and that the licence should be amended to remove the first floor designation. Mr Stafford considered that the other technical issues (apart from confirming that the ground floor maximum permitted number of 800 should continue) should be left for consideration as part of a future variation application.

Mr Seville presented the case for the Police and called PC Carney to give evidence relating to the documents previously supplied by the Police. The Police did not object to item 8 of the application (the New Years Eve etc extension) but were firmly opposed to any other increase in hours of operation.

The three local residents who had made relevant representations did not appear at the hearing but the Committee was advised that their representations should be given full consideration.

The Police and the Applicant were then invited to sum up their cases.

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 granted the application subject to the following:-

1. The first floor area of the premises shall be deleted from the premises licence.
2. The application to extend the area of the premises outside of the building be refused (this relates to Item 9 of the application).
3. The application for Deregulation from 10.00 on New Years Eve until terminal hour on New Years Day be approved (this relates to item 8 of the application).
4. The requested amendment to the condition under the heading 'Door Supervisors' relating to the hours for Door Supervisors to be employed be approved: specifically, there shall be substituted for any reference to "22.00" a reference to "23.00" (this relates to item 4 of the application).
5. With respect to items, 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, and 7 of the application the matters specified and the hours associated therewith on the existing premises licence shall be varied as follows:

Strategic Director
Resources

Categories B – Films (Indoors), E – Live Music (Indoors), F – Recorded Music (Indoors), G – Performance of Dance (Indoors), I – Making Music (Indoors), J – Dancing (Indoors), K – Similar to I or J (Indoors) between the following times:-

Monday	10.00 to 01.30
Tuesday	10.00 to 01.30
Wednesday	10.00 to 02.30
Thursday	10.00 to 03.00
Friday	10.00 to 04.30
Saturday	10.00 to 04.30
Sunday	10.00 to 02.30 * See 6 below

Category L – Late Night Refreshment (Indoors) between the following times:-

Monday	23.00 to 01.30
Tuesday	23.00 to 01.30
Wednesday	23.00 to 02.30
Thursday	23.00 to 03.00
Friday	23.00 to 04.30
Saturday	23.00 to 04.30
Sunday	23.00 to 02.30 * See 6 below

M – Supply of Alcohol (Indoors) between the following times:-

Monday	10.00 to 02.00
Tuesday	10.00 to 02.00
Wednesday	10.00 to 03.00
Thursday	10.00 to 03.00
Friday	10.00 to 04.30
Saturday	10.00 to 04.30
Sunday	10.00 to 02.30 * See 6 below

Category O – Hours the premises are open to the public between the following times:-

Monday	10.00 to 03.00
Tuesday	10.00 to 03.00
Wednesday	10.00 to 03.30
Thursday	10.00 to 03.30

Friday	10.00 to 05.00
Saturday	10.00 to 05.00
Sunday	10.00 to 03.00 * See 6 below

NOTE: 1. These variations include new categories of regulated entertainment (G, I, K) and late night refreshment (category L).

2. These variations mean that there is no change in hours on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and (subject as set out below) Sundays.

3. These variations mean that on Fridays and Saturdays there is an increase in hours of operation existing licensable activities of 1.5 hrs and an increase in hours that the premises are open to the public of 1.5 hrs.

4. The variation to normal hours on Sundays represent a small decrease in hours for the supply of alcohol and in hours that the premises are open to the public (30 minutes in each case).

6. All references to the terminal hours applicable to Sundays (that is, Sundays into Monday mornings) shall be subject to the following exceptions on Monday mornings which are public or bank holidays or Christmas Day: (1) for any reference to "02.30" there shall be substituted "04.30" and (2) for any reference to "03.00" there shall be substituted "05.00".
7. The following additional conditions shall apply to the premises licence:

C1. CCTV Suite

On Fridays, Saturdays and on Sundays when additional hours are in operation, the Licence Holder shall ensure that the CCTV suite located at the entrance to the premises is staffed from 23.00 hours.

C2. Controlled Dancing

In this condition "controlled dancing" means lap-dancing, striptease or any similar dancing. Controlled dancing shall not take place at the licensed premises without the written consent of the Council.

In deciding whether to grant permission for

controlled dancing the Council will take into account the suitability of the premises and the location of the premises.

If the Council grants consent for controlled dancing such consent shall be subject to the following standard conditions and to any other special conditions which may be so specified:

No person under the age of 18 shall be at the premises when controlled dancing is taking place.

The licensee shall ensure that controlled dancing shall not comprise or result in any offence arising by statute or at common law.

Performers of controlled dancing shall be provided with changing room facilities at the premises to which the public have no access and which are patrolled by an adequate number of attendants of the same sex as the performers

Otherwise than inside the premises (and from a position which cannot be seen from outside the premises) no photographs or other pictorial representation on posters at the premises or on any other advertisement or promotional material shall be permitted which relate to controlled dancing or the performers of controlled dancing if they can be seen from outside of the premises

Specific reasons for the determination

The Committee took into account all relevant considerations and made its determination on the totality of the material before it.

The evidence presented by the Police was well presented and disclosed a number of highly relevant issues. The prime concern expressed by the Police was stated to be incidents of various categories of violent crime: including serious violent crime. However, the Police confirmed that the premises were well run and that none of the incidents presented by them was attributable to poor management. The Committee also took into account the absence of any previous request for a review of the premises licence or objection to any application for a temporary event notice ("TEN"). There was no evidence of problems associated with later opening under any TEN albeit that the Committee noted that these were imperfect comparables because of the limited number of persons allowed to attend under a TEN as compared with the normal permitted occupancy. The

claimed link with the licensing objective of protecting children from harm was also somewhat tenuous when compared with the evidence submitted. The Committee took into account concerns raised about public nuisance and intimidation but did not feel that these warranted a different outcome to that imposed by the Committee.

The Committee refused that part of the application which related to the proposed outside area (item 9) in its entirety because the proposal was not properly worked through. The applicant had not demonstrated that this part of the application was consistent with the licensing objectives. The Committee would consider any future application which came before it on its merits.

The approval to the requested variation to the condition under the heading 'Door Supervisors' relating to the hours for Door Supervisors (item 8) was justified because no evidence was produced which demonstrated that any problems had been experienced prior to 23.00.

The new condition C1 was proposed by the applicant and endorsed by the Police.

The new condition C2 was designed to further reduce to risks of crime and disorder and was not objected to by the Applicant.

The actions of the Committee were taken in the furtherance of the licensing objectives of prevention of crime and disorder and prevention of public nuisance.

Time that the variations shall take effect: Forthwith

Following the announcement of the Committee decision the Chairman of the Committee advised that the area outside of the Establishment in Victoria Square already has a premises licence for regulated entertainment but not alcohol, however premises licences can co exist.

The area to the front of the premises was refused because the plans were under designed and the applicant had not demonstrated that this part of the application was consistent with the licensing objectives. The Chairman further advised that the Committee would consider any future application which came before it on its merits.

Meeting ended at 9.20 p.m.

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APPEALS PANEL

At a meeting of the Appeals Panel held on 16th April, 23rd April and 28th April 2010 at The Stobart Stadium, Widnes.

Present: Councillors Wainwright (Chairman), Gerrard and Findon.

Apologies for absence: None.

Absence declared on Council business: None.

Officers present: Ann McIntyre, Karen Bate and G Ferguson.

In attendance: Appellant, Paula Barker (Unison) and six management witnesses.

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

Action

**AP1 SCHEDULE 12A OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972
AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION)
ACT 1985**

The Panel considered:

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

RESOLVED: That as, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information, members of the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business in accordance with Sub-Section 4 of

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

AP2 DISCIPLINARY APPEAL

The Panel considered information submitted in respect of the above appeal and heard representations from the appellant, trade union representative and the presenting officer and her witnesses.

RESOLVED: That the Disciplinary Appeal be declined.

Meeting ended at 3.25 pm

APPEALS PANEL

At a meeting of the Appeals Panel held on 29 April 2010 in the Stobart Stadium, Widnes

Present: Councillors Wainwright (Chairman), J Lowe and Redhead

Apologies for absence: None.

Absence declared on Council business: None.

Officers present: S Williams and A Scott

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

Action

**AP3 SCHEDULE 12A OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972
AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION)
ACT 1985**

The Panel considered:

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

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

information will be disclosed, being information defined in Section 100 (1) and paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

AP4 HOUSING HOMELESSNESS APPEAL

The Panel considered information submitted in respect of the above appeal in writing by the appellant and heard representations from the presenting officer.

RESOLVED: That the appeal be dismissed.

APPEALS PANEL

At a meeting of the Appeals Panel held on 29 April 2010

Present: Councillors Wainwright (Chairman), J Lowe and Redhead.

Apologies for absence: None.

Absence declared on Council business: None.

Officers present: K Lunt

ITEMS DEALT WITH UNDER POWERS AND DUTIES EXERCISABLE BY THE PANEL

Action

AP5 SCHEDULE 12A OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

The Panel considered:

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

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

100 (1) and paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

AP6 HOUSING DISCRETIONARY AWARD APPEAL

The Panel considered information submitted in respect of the above appeal and heard representations from the appellant and the presenting officer.

RESOLVED: That the Housing Discretionary Payment Appeal be awarded as follows:

£13.00 be awarded from 26/04/10 to 30/05/10 followed by £5.00 for period 31/05/10 to 22/08/10.

APPEALS PANEL

At a meeting of the Appeals Panel held on 16 June 2010 in the Stobart Stadium, Widnes

Present: Councillors Wainwright (Chairman), Findon and Wallace.

Apologies for absence: None.

Absence declared on Council business: None.

Officers present: K Lunt

In attendance: Appellants.

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

Action

**AP7 SCHEDULE 12A OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972
AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION)
ACT 1985**

The Panel considered:

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

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

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

AP8 HOUSING DISCRETIONARY AWARD APPEAL Case no 205

The Panel considered information submitted in respect of the above appeal and heard representations from the appellant and the presenting officer.

RESOLVED: That the Housing Discretionary Payment Appeal be awarded as follows:

£28.84 be awarded from 13/11/09 to 11/04/10.

AP9 HOUSING DISCRETIONARY AWARD APPEAL Case no 206

The Panel considered information submitted in respect of the above appeal and heard representations from the appellant and the presenting officer.

RESOLVED: That the Housing Discretionary Payment Appeal be declined.

APPEALS PANEL

At a meeting of the Appeals Panel held on 3 September 2010 at Stobart Stadium, Lowerhouse Lane, Widnes.

Present: Councillors Wainwright (Chairman), Edge and Findon.

Apologies for absence: None

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: P. Wright, K. Mylchreest, E. Parker and M. Simpson

In attendance: Appellant.

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

Action

**AP10 SCHEDULE 12A OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972
AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION)
ACT 1985**

The Panel considered:

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

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

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

AP11 GRIEVANCE APPEAL

The Panel considered information submitted in respect of the above appeal and heard representations from the appellant and the presenting officer. The Panel noted that a Working Party, consisting of representatives from Management and Trade Unions, was in the process of addressing the Council wide issues of premium pay.

RESOLVED: That the Appeal not proceed pending the result of the concluded Working Party, which would be applied to the appellant's case, and if the results found in the appellant's favour, then the pay would be backdated to the date the grievance was originally lodged.

Meeting ended at 3.00pm