



Executive Board Sub Committee

**Thursday, 22 February 2007 at 10.00 a.m.
Marketing Suite, Municipal Building**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David W R', is centered on the page.

Chief Executive

SUB COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Councillor Mike Wharton (Chairman)	Labour
Councillor Phil Harris	Labour
Councillor Steff Nelson	Labour

Please contact Gill Ferguson on 0151 471 7395 or e-mail gill.ferguson@halton.gov.uk for further information.

The next meeting of the Sub Committee is on Thursday, 15 March 2007

**ITEMS TO BE DEALT WITH
IN THE PRESENCE OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Part I

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PART II

In this case the Sub Committee has a discretion to exclude the press and public, but in view of the nature of the business to be transacted it is **RECOMMENDED** that under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, having been satisfied that in all the circumstances of the case the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act

5. PLANNING, TRANSPORTATION AND REGENERATION PORTFOLIO	
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**(A) AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR THE PROVISION OF
CARE AND SUPPORT AT BREDON SHORT-TERM
RESPITE SERVICE**

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In accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Act the Council is required to notify those attending meetings of the fire evacuation procedures. A copy has previously been circulated to Members and instructions are located in all rooms within the Civic block.

REPORT TO: Executive Board Sub Committee

DATE: 22nd February 2007

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director Health and Community

SUBJECT: 2007/08 Charges for Riverview Gypsy Site

WARD(S): Riverside

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek approval for revised site charges for the financial year 2007/08.

2.0 RECOMMENDED – that the proposed 2.5% increase to pitch rental and 9.2% increase in water charges set out in the report be approved with effect from 2nd April 2007, and that the same charges be applied to the temporary site at Johnsons Lane for the duration of the improvement works at Riverview.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 Charges for occupation at Riverview are set annually under the terms of the pitch licences. The table below sets out the existing weekly charges for 2006/07 and the proposed charges for 2007/08.

	2006/07	2007/08 (proposed)	Difference
Pitch Rental	21 @ £43.78 1 @ £51.07	21 @ £44.87 1 @ £52.35	+ 2.5% + 2.5%
Water & sewerage	23 @ £ 7.69	23 @ £ 8.40	+ 9.2%

- 3.2 The suggested pitch rental increase of 2.5% is in line with inflationary increases being levied for other Council fees and charges for 2007/08. The charge for water costs is based on actual bills and usage incurred in 2006/07, and should be increased by 9.2% for the coming year to cover costs. The cause of the above inflation increase is due to the utility company increasing its prices by between 10% and 12% over the period.
- 3.3 On 8th February 2006 the Board considered a report on the procurement arrangements for the refurbishment of the Riverview site. The scheme will entail residents having to temporarily relocate to a site at Johnsons Lane, Widnes for a period of 7/8 months. Approval is

sought to levy the same charges for pitch rental and water/sewerage on the temporary site as recommended above for Riverview. Any reduction in water consumption as a result of this move will be reflected in the 2008/09 charges.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 None.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The proposed charges will enable the Council to continue to properly fund the management and maintenance of the Riverview site.

6.0 RISK ANALYSIS

6.1 Not applicable.

7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

7.0 Not applicable.

8.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

<u>Document</u>	<u>Place of inspection</u>	<u>Contact Officer</u>
None		

REPORT TO: Executive Board Sub-Committee

DATE: 22nd February 2007

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director – Corporate and Policy

SUBJECT: Discretionary Non-Domestic Rate Relief

WARD(S): Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is for members to consider an application for Discretionary Non-Domestic Rate Relief, under the provisions of the Local Government Finance Act 1988.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS: That

- (1) **Under the provisions of Section 47, Local Government Finance Act 1988, Discretionary Rate Relief be granted to the following organisation at the percentage indicated, for the period 1st April 2006 or the commencement of liability, whichever is the later, to 31st March 2009:**

Hale Juniors Football Club

100%

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 Under the provisions of Section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988, the Authority is allowed to grant Discretionary Rate Relief to organisations who are either a charity or a non-profit making organisation. A summary of the application follows and a list of the associated figures are attached in Appendix 1.

Hale Juniors Football Club **Hale Park, Hale**

Hale Juniors Football Club has been established to provide a junior football facility, within the local community. The club is affiliated to the Football Association and is operated as a 'not for profit' organisation. The club currently operates six teams from 'under nine' to 'under fifteen' level, providing recreation for boys and girls of most ages. The club encourages the progression of juniors to the associated Hale Football Club, in order that players can continue to benefit from the improved health and well-being, derived from participation in sport.

The premises are used to provide changing facilities for all the teams from Hale Juniors Football Club, their opponents and Hale Football Club, at a site formerly occupied by Hale Cricket Club.

As the organisation is not a registered charity, they do **not** qualify for 80% Mandatory Rate Relief and their application is for Discretionary Rate Relief only. Hale Cricket Club were previously awarded 100% Discretionary Rate Relief, in respect of the premises. Halebank Football Club and Halton Football Club also receive the maximum relief available, in respect of their facilities.

Cost to Taxpayer (25%) 2006/07 £182.84

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Members are required by the regulations to consider each application on its own merit. Any recommendations provided are given for guidance only and are consistent with previous decisions and Council policy.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 75% of any Discretionary Rate Relief granted to organisations receiving Mandatory Rate Relief must be met by the Council Taxpayer, whilst **25%** must be met if Mandatory Rate Relief has **not** been awarded. Appendix 1 identifies the cost to the Council Taxpayer for each new application. All the applicants provide support and/or education to the community, which is consistent with the Council's Corporate Plan.

6.0 RISK ANALYSIS

- 6.1 There are no key risks associated with the proposed action.

7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

- 7.1 Membership is available to any youngster, within the appropriate age range.

8.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

- | 8.1 | Document | Place of Inspection | Contact Officer |
|-----|--|------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| | Application form and supporting evidence | Catalyst House, Widnes | Phil Murphy, Business Rates Manager |

APPENDIX 1

Ratepayer	Address	Annual Rates 2006/2007 £	Actual Rates Payable £	Mandatory Rate Relief Awarded	Discretionary Rate Relief Claimed	Cost of Relief to HBC, if <u>all</u> 2006/2007 £	Cost of Relief to HBC 2006/07 £
Hale Juniors Football Club	Hale Park, Hale	974.25	731.35	Nil	100%	243.56	182.84

REPORT TO: Executive Board Sub-Committee

DATE: 22nd February 2007

REPORTING OFFICER: Operational Director – Financial Services

SUBJECT: Treasury Management 2006/07
3rd Quarter: October-December

WARDS:

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to update the Sub-Committee about activities undertaken on the money market as required by the Treasury Management Policy.

2.0 RECOMMENDED: That the report be noted.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 Short Term Rates

The base rate increased from 4.75% to 5.00% on 9th November 2006. This increase was expected. The market had priced in the rise, and at the time seemed to be indicating that the increase might well be the peak of the current cycle. However, after the increase the shorter market rose by a further 0.20%, indicating a possible further rise to 5.25%, which took place in early January. Current economic data is mixed, and a degree of volatility has been introduced into shorter rates, with two year investments reaching 5.50%.

	Start	October		November		December	
		Mid	End	Mid	End	Mid	End
Call Money (Market)	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
1 Month (Market)	4.90	4.80	4.85	5.10	5.10	5.10	5.30
3 Month (Market)	4.90	4.90	4.99	5.10	5.10	5.20	5.20
	5.02	5.01	5.13	5.17	5.20	5.25	5.30

3.2 Longer Term Rates

Longer rates remained fairly static throughout the period. The 45 to 50 year maturity rate dipped to 4.05% in mid-November, and this prompted the Council to consider if this rate was attractive enough for borrowing to be undertaken. It was decided that at the forecast investment levels, and with an already very long dated book, further long term borrowing would not be undertaken. Rates are still being monitored.

	Start	October		November		December	
		Mid	End	Mid	End	Mid	End
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
1 Year (Market)	5.21	5.35	5.40	5.35	5.40	5.50	5.55
10 Year (PWLb)	4.65	4.80	4.75	4.70	4.70	4.80	4.95
25 Year (PWLb)	4.40	4.50	4.45	4.40	4.45	4.50	4.65

The PWLB rates are for “lower quota” entitlements.

3.3 Temporary Borrowing/Investments

Turnover during period

	No. Of Deals Struck	Turnover £m
Short Term Borrowing	5	12.25
Short Term Investments	40	36.65

Position at Month End

	October £m	November £m	December £m
Short Term Borrowing	4.75	3.00	3.50
Short Term Investments	38.00	37.20	36.85

Investment Income Forecast

The Quarters 1, 2 and 3 performance results are as follows, and show income is currently exceeding the target:

	Cumulative Budget £'000	Cumulative Actual £'000	Cumulative Target Rate %	Cumulative Actual Rate %
Quarter 1	443	452	4.51	4.64
Quarter 2	879	959	4.62	4.66
Quarter 3	1,282	1,435	4.72	4.73
Quarter 4	1,600	-	-	-

3.4 Longer Term Borrowing/Investments

The Authority did not borrow any long term money.

3.5 Banking Arrangements

The Authority has negotiated with its bankers, the National Westminster Bank Plc, a three year extension to the current facility. The first year charges are frozen at current prices, with Year 2 and 3 increasing by no more than the rate indicated by the CPI Index.

3.6 Policy Guidelines

Interest Rate Exposure – complied with.

Approved Investments/Maximum Deposits – complied with.

Borrowing Instruments – complied with.

Prudential Indicators – complied with:

- Operational Boundary for external debt;
- Upper limit on interest rate exposure on fixed rate debt;
- Upper limit on interest rate exposure on variable rate debt;
- Maturity structure of borrowing as a percentage of fixed rate borrowing;
- Total principal sums invested for periods longer than 364 days;
- Maturity Structure of New Fixed rate Borrowing during 2005/06.
-

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 None.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

5.1 None.

6.0 RISK ANALYSIS

6.1 The main risks associated with Treasury Management are security of investment and volatility of return. To combat this, the Authority operated within a clearly defined Treasury Management Policy and an annual borrowing and investment strategy, which set out the control framework.

7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

7.1 There are no issues under this heading.

8.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

There are no background papers under the meaning of the Act.

REPORT TO: Executive Board Sub Committee

DATE: 22nd February 2007

REPORTING OFFICER: Operational Director – Financial Services

SUBJECT: 2006/07 Quarter 3 Spending

WARD(S): Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To report the revenue and capital spending position as at 31st December 2006.

2.0 RECOMMENDED: That the report be noted.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Revenue Spending

- 3.1 Appendix 1 presents a summary of spending against the revenue budget for each Department, up to 31st December 2006. In overall terms, revenue expenditure at the end of the third quarter is around £1.97m below the budget profile. The profile is only a guide to spending patterns but it does indicate, in overall terms, spending will be within budget. However, it is important that budget managers continue to closely monitor and control spending to ensure this outcome.

- 3.2 Within the overall position there are some significant variances as follows;

Childrens Services:- expenditure on agency placements and boarded out allowances continues to be lower than the budget to date, through fewer out-of-Borough placements being required.

Student Services & Lifelong Learning:- there have been a number of staffing vacancies in the Special Needs, Pupil Referral and Vulnerable Children Sections.

School Support & Advisory:- there have been a number of staffing vacancies across the Department.

Highways and Transportation:- there have been a number of staffing vacancies within the Highway Engineers Section and the Operational Services Division.

Stadium, Catering and Cleaning:- there are shortfalls in income due to the lack of a sponsor for the Stadium and reduced executive box sales. In addition, school meals income is significantly below expected levels as a result of fewer pupils taking school meals.

Exchequer and Customer Services:- as a result of opening the new HDL premises at Ditton and Runcorn Old Town later than expected, staffing expenditure has been below budget profile. There have also been a number of staff vacancies in the Revenues and Benefits Division.

ICT Services:- a major restructuring has been undertaken within the Department over recent months and as a result a number of posts have remained vacant for a period, which are currently being filled.

Property Services:- the refurbishment of Runcorn market has resulted in income from stallholder rents being below the budget profile. In addition, a number of industrial estate units remain vacant and therefore rent income is also below the budget profile.

Adult Services:- there continue to be major difficulties with community care provision within the adults with learning difficulties (ALD) pooled budget. An action plan has been put in place to bring spending into line with budgets, which is being closely monitored.

Older People:- spending on both residential care and supported living is significantly below budget profile.

Capital Spending

3.3 Appendix 2 presents a summary of spending against the 2006/07 Capital Programme. Capital spending to 31st December 2006 totalled £13.5m which represents only 42% of the total programme of £32.4m. In particular, within Major Projects the Widnes Waterfront, 3MG, and Castlefields projects are significantly below their capital programme allocations, however, these are complex multi-funded projects which makes them particularly challenging to deliver. Within Highways and Housing capital spending is historically significantly higher in the final quarter and therefore is expected to be in line with the programme.

3.4 Although spending is likely to be significantly higher in the remainder of the financial year, it is important that project managers maintain pressure to keep projects and spending on schedule and in particular to ensure that all external funding is maximised.

4.0 POLICY, FINANCIAL AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS

4.1 None.

5.0 RISK ANALYSIS

5.1 There are no risks associated with the report.

6.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

6.1 None.

**7.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1072**

7.1 There are no background papers under the meaning of the Act.

APPENDIX 1

Revenue Expenditure to 31st December 2006

	Annual Budget	Budget to Date	Actual Spend	Variance to Date	Actual Including Committed
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Children's Services	12,737	6,614	6,223	391	6,472
Student Services & Lifelong Learning	3,573	694	382	312	488
School Support & Advisory	7,259	1,866	1,713	153	1,738
Children and Young People Directorate	23,569	9,174	8,318	856	8,698
Environmental Health & Regulatory	9,709	8,351	8,276	75	8,555
Highways & Transportation	15,444	4,957	4,710	247	5,364
Major Projects	367	172	180	(8)	180
Regeneration	1,409	845	802	43	825
Stadium, Catering & Cleaning	1,745	1,490	1,854	(364)	1,873
Environment Directorate	28,674	15,815	15,822	(7)	16,797
Legal & Member Services	1,412	1,645	1,617	28	1,653
Policy & Performance	3,500	1,765	1,719	46	1,786
Exchequer & Customer Services	5,228	6,641	6,183	458	6,224
Financial Services	0	1,010	970	40	972
ICT Services	34	1,900	1,592	308	1,736
Personnel Services	123	1,076	1,106	(30)	1,121
Property Services	1,902	3,534	3,744	(210)	3,746
Financial Arrangements	-13,556	-158	-303	145	-303
Corporate and Policy Directorate	-1,357	17,413	16,628	785	16,935
Culture & Leisure Services	14,013	5,476	5,433	43	6,038
Adult Services	11,686	6,472	6,790	(318)	7,081
Health & Partnerships	2,321	1,935	1,940	(5)	2,000
Older People	13,215	6,069	5,452	617	5,765
Health and Community Directorate	41,235	19,952	19,615	337	20,884
	92,121	62,354	60,383	1,971	63,314

APPENDIX 2

Capital Expenditure to 31st December 2006

	Capital Allocation	Actual Expenditure	Remaining Allocation
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Children & Young People Directorate			
Childrens Services	185	0	185
Education	2,868	2,185	683
Environment Directorate			
Highways & Transportation	8,090	3,157	4,933
Environmental & Regulatory	2,570	1,979	591
Major Projects	9,500	1,777	7,723
Health & Community Directorate			
Culture & Leisure	2,145	1,527	618
Health and Partnerships	3,774	975	2,799
Adults & Older People	823	397	426
Corporate & Policy Directorate			
Policy & Performance	120	42	78
ICT Services	1,100	556	544
Property Services	300	132	168
Exchequer & Customer Services	945	733	212
	32,420	13,460	18,960

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