

**HALTON BOROUGH COUNCIL**



*Municipal Building,  
Kingsway,  
Widnes.  
WA8 7QF*

*9 April 2013*

**TO: MEMBERS OF THE HALTON  
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

*You are hereby summoned to attend an Ordinary Meeting of the Halton Borough Council to be held in the Council Chamber, Runcorn Town Hall on Wednesday, 17 April 2013 commencing at 6.30 p.m. for the purpose of considering and passing such resolution(s) as may be deemed necessary or desirable in respect of the matters mentioned in the Agenda.*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David W R'.

*Chief Executive*

**-AGENDA-**

<b>Item No.</b>		<b>Page No.</b>
1.	<b>COUNCIL MINUTES</b>	<b>SEE MINUTE BOOK</b>
2.	<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b>	
3.	<b>THE MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS</b>	
4.	<b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b>	
5.	<b>LEADER'S REPORT</b>	
6.	<b>MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD</b>	<b>SEE MINUTE BOOK</b>
7.	<b>MINUTES OF THE SHADOW HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD</b>	<b>SEE MINUTE BOOK</b>
8.	<b>QUESTIONS ASKED UNDER STANDING ORDER 8</b>	
9.	<b>MATTERS REQUIRING A DECISION OF THE COUNCIL</b>	
a)	Children and Enterprise Capital Programme - 2013/14 - Key decision (Minute EXB 185 refers)	<b>1 – 10</b>
	Executive Board considered the attached report:-	
	RECOMMENDED: That Council	
	1) note the capital funding available for 2013/14;	
	2) note the position in respect of Basic Need;	
	3) approve the proposals to be funded from Capital Maintenance and Capital Expenditure Revenue Account;	
	4) approve the proposal for the Two Year Old capital funding;	
	5) approve the proposal for the Short Breaks capital; and	
	6) approve the Capital Programme 2013/14.	

<p>b) Transport Capital Implementation Programme 2013/14 (Minute EXB 196 refers)</p> <p>Executive Board considered the attached report:-</p> <p>RECOMMENDED: That Council</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">1) note the Local Transport Settlement final allocations for 2013/14 and 2014/15;</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">2) approve the following sums for incorporation into the Council's Capital Programme for 2013/14:</p> <p style="padding-left: 80px;">▪ Transport Implementation Programme £2,685,000;</p> <p style="padding-left: 80px;">▪ Transport Major Scheme Capital Funding (SJB) £2,460,000</p> <p style="padding-left: 80px;">▪ Additional Local Highways Maintenance Funding £355,000; and</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">3) agree the detailed programme of schemes, based, where appropriate, upon the four year Implementation Programme described in the Local Transport Plan, and authority be delegated to the Strategic Director, Policy and Resources, in consultation with the Executive Board Member for Transportation.</p>	<p><b>11 - 18</b></p>
<p>c) Annual Review of the Constitution 2013 (Minute EXB 199 refers)</p> <p>Executive Board considered the attached report:-</p> <p>RECOMMENDED: That Council approve the revised Constitution including the amendments, set out in Appendix 1 attached to the report.</p>	<p><b>19 - 24</b></p>
<p>d) Calendar of meetings 2013/14 (Minute EXB 200 refers)</p> <p>Executive Board considered the attached report:-</p> <p>RECOMMENDED: That Council approve the Calendar of Meetings for the 2013/2014 Municipal Year, as appended to the report.</p>	<p><b>25 - 28</b></p>

e) 3MG Funding and Infrastructure (Minute EXB 205 refers)

29 - 34

Executive Board considered the attached report:-

RECOMMENDED: That Council

- 1) note the appointment of Waterman's as Project Manager for the Rail Sidings following competitive tender;
- 2) authorise the Operational Director for Economy, Enterprise and Property to procure the design and build of the Rail Sidings at 3MG HBC Field at an estimated cost of £2.5 M;
- 3) invite tenders by the Operational Director, Planning, Policy and Transportation, for a contract to complete construction of the western access road at 3MG HBC Field at an estimated cost of £1.2m in accordance with Procurement Standing Order Part 2;
- 4) note that development and award of the contract be conducted in accordance with Procurement Standing Orders;
- 5) approve a revision in the Capital Programme for £1.2m for the completion of the western access road to 3MG HBC Field; and
- 6) authorise the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader and the Portfolio holders for Physical Environment, Transportation and Resources to take such action as judged necessary to implement the 3MG HBC Field development.

- f) Appointment of Mayor and Deputy Mayor for the Municipal Year 2013/14 (Minute MYR 2 refers)

The Mayoral Committee considered a Part II item making recommendations for the appointment of Mayor and Deputy Mayor for the 2013/14 Municipal Year:-

Council is requested to note these recommendations as follows. Formal confirmation will be sought at the annual meeting.

- 1) Councillor Margaret Ratcliffe be appointed as the Mayor; and
- 2) Councillor Shaun Osborne be appointed as the Deputy Mayor.

**10. MINUTES OF THE POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARDS AND THE BUSINESS EFFICIENCY BOARD**

**SEE MINUTE BOOK**

- a) Children, Young People and Families - yellow pages
- b) Employment, Learning, Skills and Community - cream pages
- c) Health - blue pages
- d) Safer - pink pages
- e) Environment and Urban Renewal - green pages
- f) Corporate Services - salmon pages
- g) Business Efficiency Board - white pages

**11. COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**SEE MINUTE BOOK**

- a) Development Control - pink pages
- b) Standards - white pages
- c) Regulatory - blue pages
- d) Mayoral Committee - white pages

## 12. NOTICE OF MOTION UNDER STANDING ORDER 6

The following motion has been submitted in accordance with Standing Order No.6:

**Proposer:** Councillor Wright

**Seconder:** Councillor E Cargill

### **BEDROOM TAX**

This Council:

- Asks the Government to re-examine the measures it is putting in place to cut housing benefit from some of Halton's most vulnerable residents on the grounds that their social housing has a spare bedroom;
- Believes it to be an unworkable policy given that if people moved house it would not save any money;
- Notes that according to the Government's own impact assessment, two thirds of the households affected have a disabled person;
- Further notes that if people do want to downsize there is no suitable properties for them to move to, thus forcing them to be disadvantaged;
- And calls on the Government to drop this policy and think again.

## 13. PART II

In this case the Board has a discretion to exclude the press and public and, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted, it is **RECOMMENDED** that under Section 100A(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 to the Act.

**14. MATTERS REQUIRING A DECISION OF THE COUNCIL**

- a) Halton Borough Transport Ltd (Minute EXB 211 refers)  
Executive Board considered the attached report:-

**35 - 40**

RECOMMENDED: That Council note the developments made by Halton Borough Transport Limited as outlined in the report, and approve the recommendations i) to v) as set out in the report.

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**REPORT TO:** Executive Board

**DATE:** 28<sup>th</sup> March 2013

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director – Children and Enterprise

**PORTFOLIO:** Children, Young People and Families

**SUBJECT:** Capital Programme – 2013/2014

**WARD(S):** Borough-wide

### 1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 This report provides a summary of the capital programmes for 2013/14 for Children & Enterprise Directorate.

### 2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That:

- i) The capital funding available for 2013/14 is noted;
- ii) The position in respect of Basic Need is noted;
- iii) The proposals to be funded from Capital Maintenance and Capital Expenditure Revenue Account are approved;
- iv) The proposal for the Two Year Old capital funding is approved ;
- v) The proposal for the Short Breaks capital is approved; and
- vi) The report is submitted to Full Council for approval of the Capital Programme 2013/14.

### 3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 In March 2013 the Department for Education announced the schools capital grant allocations for 2013/14. The table below details the funding received.

<b>TYPE OF FUNDING</b>	<b>AMOUNT OF FUNDING (2013/14)</b>
<b>GOVERNMENT FUNDING</b>	
<b>Basic Need</b> 2 Year Allocation (2013/14 & 2014/15) according to relative need for new places based on forecast data to address basic need pressures.	£1,203,445

TYPE OF FUNDING	AMOUNT OF FUNDING (2013/14)
<b>GOVERNMENT FUNDING</b>	
<b>Capital Maintenance – Local Authority maintained schools</b> Allocated to fund condition and suitability projects at Local Authority maintained schools.	£1,416,477
<b>Capital Maintenance – Voluntary Aided maintained schools</b> Allocated to fund condition and suitability projects at Voluntary Aided schools.	£809,396
<b>Devolved Formula Capital – Local Authority maintained schools</b> Allocated directly to Local Authority maintained schools for their own use to address school building and Information Communication Technology needs.	£289,712
<b>Devolved Formula Capital – Voluntary Aided maintained schools</b> Allocated directly to Voluntary Aided maintained schools for their own use to address school building and Information Communication Technology needs.	£163,533
<b>Early Education for Two Year Olds</b> Allocated to support the implementation of early education for two year olds from lower income families.	£355,916
<b>Short Breaks Capital (2012/13)</b> Allocated to provide a range of short break services for disabled children, young people and their families.	£241,942
<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY FUNDING</b>	
<b>Capital Expenditure Revenue Account funding</b> In addition to the funding outlined above, the Local Authority makes a contribution towards capital works in schools.	£431,330

3.2 The sections below detail the projects this funding will support with the exception of Basic Need, which will be the subject of an additional Executive Report and Devolved Formula Capital, which will be decided by the schools.

#### 4.0 Capital Maintenance and Capital Expenditure Revenue Account funding

4.1 The table below details how the Capital Maintenance and Capital Expenditure Revenue Account funding will be allocated.

<b>Description</b>	<b>Estimated costs</b>	<b>Description</b>
Computer Aided Design Plans	£5,000	Used up to date plans where building improvement works have been carried out.
Fire Compartmentation	£20,000	A rolling programme to address fire compartmentation in school buildings.
Asbestos Management	£10,000	Annual updated of asbestos surveys and undertaking of resulting remedial works.
Access Initiative Projects	£100,000	Fund that schools can bid for to resolve accessibility issues within school buildings.
School Modernisation Projects	£500,000	Fund that schools can bid for to resolve educational development and curriculum suitability issues within school buildings.
Contingency	£78,159	Used for emergency and health and safety works that arises during the year.
Capital Repairs	£1,134,648	The detailed capital repairs programme for 2013/14 can be found in Appendix 1. This is based upon a priority matrix using information taken from condition surveys.
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1,847,807</b>	

## **5.0 Early Education for Two Year Olds 2013/14**

- 5.1 Local early years and childcare providers will be invited to apply for funding to make changes or purchases in order to create additional places for eligible 2 year olds.
- 5.2 Bids will be assessed against the ability to offer 15 additional hours of education to 2 year old children per week in a flexible manner in high achieving settings within areas of high demand.

## **6.0 Short Breaks Capital 2012/13**

- 6.1 This grant is to provide a wide range of high quality opportunities providing positive life experiences for disabled children and young people as well as a break for parents and carers. When the fund was allocated in September 2012 a consultation exercise was undertaken to determine the best use for the grant. This consultation revealed that a specialist sensory and play centre for use by families or groups of disabled children, young people and adults would be beneficial.

- 6.2 A review of potential venues within Halton that could offer an inclusive, accessible play space as highlighted by the consultation was undertaken. The only venue that could meet the criteria was the Silver Blades Ice Rink at The Hive Leisure Park, Widnes. It has the benefit of a central location with good transport links and is part of a complex that already offers other activities and eating establishments. The rink was designed to be more accessible for disabled people from the outset and therefore already has a number of key features designed in.
- 6.3 A review has been undertaken regarding the lease between Halton Borough Council and the ice rink company. Assurances have been given that as long as the ice rink company obtain consent to carry out any structural alterations that may be required, the specialist sensory and play centre will not breach the lease agreement.
- 6.4 This report seeks approval for the funds to be used to develop the specialist sensory and play centre within the Silver Blades Ice Rink.
- 6.5 Furthermore, as the ice rink company is currently completing the works around the main ice rink and will shortly be installing an additional smaller ice pad, it is proposed that the specialist sensory and play centre is undertaken by the ice rink's own contractors. The Local Authority will be fully involved in the development of the area and will be consulted at all stages of the works.

## **7.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 This programme of works will allow the Council to continue to meet:
- its requirement to enhance the environments through capital projects,
  - its statutory duty to secure free early education for eligible two year olds and
  - its duty to provide a range of short break services for disabled children, young people and their families.

## **8.0 OTHER/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

### **8.1 Capital repairs programme**

This will contribute to Halton's Carbon Management Programme by producing more energy efficient buildings.

### **8.2 Short Breaks Capital**

The Short Breaks Capital Grant conditions are met, as they recommend working in partnership with private and voluntary organisations and using the grant in conjunction with funds provided from them.

## **9.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

### **9.1 Children and Young People in Halton.**

9.1.1 The Capital Programme will address condition and suitability issues within school buildings and will improve the learning environment for children and young people.

9.1.2 The Short Breaks Capital will provide a specialist sensory and play area at the Ice Rink, for use by families and groups of disabled children, young people and adults.

9.1.3 The 2 year old capital grant is intended to support the implementation of early education for 2 year old children of lower income families.

**9.2 Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

9.2.1 The Short Breaks Capital has the potential to offer mentoring, young leadership training and work experience for vulnerable young people in Halton.

9.2.2 The 2 year old capital grant is intended to support the implementation of early education for 2 year old children of lower income families.

**9.3 A Healthy Halton**

The specialist sensory and play area provided by Short Breaks Capital, will provide disabled children, young people and adults a break away from their day to day routine and provide a full sensory experience which will enhance their psychological well-being.

**9.4 A Safer Halton**

N/A

**9.5 Halton's Urban Renewal**

The provision of the specialist sensory and play area will further enhance the Ice Rink facility, and should encourage more visitors for outside Halton to visit the area.

**10.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

**10.1 Capital Repairs**

It is current practice for schools to contribute towards the cost of works. This consultation with schools has yet to take place therefore if schools are not willing to contribute these projects will not be carried out in 2013/14. In the event that schools are unable to contribute towards the cost of the works when completed, an element of the contingency budget can be used for this purpose. The school would then be required to make their contribution in the next financial year.

**10.2 Short Breaks Capital**

A milestone payment schedule will be issued to mitigate the financial risks. Stage payments will be checked against actual work completed, prior to any payment being made. This project will be a jointly funded venture, with the ice rink committing funds and resources to this project too.

- 10.3 The rink has adequate public liability insurance and if providers are booking the facility for set sessions they already have public liability insurance, for not less than £5,000,000 for their existing activities that would cover this. They would also be required to complete risk assessments for the activities. If families were hiring the facility for a birthday party they would be responsible for that session. The facility will have a disclaimer notice and there will be 'conditions of use' displayed for example shoes must be removed, no food etc. If parents are present, they will be responsible for their children in the venue and for adhering to the conditions of use. All of the works and equipment will be completed, maintained and serviced to the required standards.
- 10.4 A Legal agreement will be drawn up between Halton Borough Council and the ice rink, detailing the responsibilities of on-going cleaning and maintenance, insurance requirements and service delivery arrangements. This agreement will be reviewed annually by both parties and any amendments agreed.
- 10.5 The agreement will also stipulate that, in the event of the ice rink company ceasing to operate at the venue, the equipment is the property of Halton Borough Council and would be removed (where possible) should the ice rink close.

## **11.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

- 11.1 The Access Initiative Programme provides funding to improve the accessibility of mainstream schools for pupils with disabilities and the wider community. Consideration to access issues is given in all building projects. The capacity of schools to meet the needs of children with more complex needs and disabilities will be developed further through building works at schools.
- 11.2 The Short Breaks Capital funding will ensure a wide range of short breaks services for disabled children and families.

## **12.0 REASON(S) FOR DECISION**

- 12.1 To deliver and implement the capital programmes.

## **13.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

- 13.1 Not applicable.

## **14.0 IMPLEMENTATION DATE**

- 14.1 Capital Programmes for 2013/14 to be implemented with effect from 1 April 2013.

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

<b>Document</b>	<b>Place of Inspection</b>	<b>Contact Officer</b>
<b>Schools Capital Announcement – DfE 01/03/2013</b>	<b>Children &amp; Enterprise</b>	<b>Phil Dove</b>
<b>Early Education for Two Year Olds Capital DfE announcement 27/12/2012</b>	<b>Children &amp; Enterprise</b>	<b>Phil Dove</b>
<b>Short Breaks Capital DfE Letter – Sept 12</b>	<b>Children &amp; Enterprise</b>	<b>Phil Dove</b>

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**Capital Repairs Programme 2013/14**

<b>School</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Estimated Cost inc fees</b>
Various	Retentions from 2012/13 Capital Repairs Programme	£35,000
The Bridge School	Boiler, Hot water heater and storage tank (phase 1 of 1)	£62,150
Brookfields School	Swimming pool boilers	£67,800
Farnworth CE Controlled Primary School	Infant area Boiler and Radiators (phase 3 of 3)	£113,000
Chesnut Lodge School	Heating distribution pipework and radiators to school (phase 1 of 2)	£135,600
Ashley School	Radiators to school and hot water boiler in kitchen	£118,650
Hallwood Park Primary School and Nursery	Pumps and Heating distribution pipework and radiators to school (phase 1 of 2)	£101,834
West Bank Primary	Radiators	£169,500
Weston Point Primary	Radiators (Phase 1 of 2)	£79,055
The Bankfield	Heating distribution pipework and radiators to school (phase 3 of 4)	£252,059
		<b>£1,134,648</b>

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**REPORT TO:** Executive Board

**DATE:** 28th March 2013

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director Policy and Resources

**PORTFOLIO:** Transportation

**SUBJECT:** Transport Capital Implementation Programme 2013/14

**WARDS:** Boroughwide

### **1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

The purpose of the report is to seek approval to the inclusion of the Transport Capital Implementation Programme into the Council's 2013/14 Capital Programme.

### **2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That**

- (1) the Executive Board notes the Local Transport Settlement final allocations for 2013/14 and 2014/15;**
- (2) the Board recommends the Council to approve the following sums for incorporation into the Council's Capital Programme for 2013/14:**
  - Transport Implementation Programme £2,685,000;**
  - Transport Major Scheme Capital Funding (SJB) £2,460,000**
  - Additional Local Highways Maintenance Funding £355,000**
- (3) authority to agree the detailed programme of schemes, based, where appropriate, upon the four year Implementation Programme described in the Local Transport Plan, be delegated to the Strategic Director Policy and Resources, in consultation with the Executive Board Member for Transportation.**

### **3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 3.1** Halton's third Local Transport Plan (LTP3) was approved by the Executive Board on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2011 (Minute EXB 103 Refers). The key issues for Transport in Halton, were identified through the public consultation exercise for LTP3 and are listed in Appendix 1 to this report. These issues are addressed by LTP3 through a series of 'local goals' which link to both national and local priorities. A wide range of options for interventions, projects and initiatives are described in the LTP for

delivery, either through the shorter-term implementation plan or via longer term transport strategies.

- 3.2 A four year Implementation Plan, covering the period of the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR10 announced on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2010) is detailed in LTP3 together with the planned transport capital block allocations for Halton up to (and including) 2014/15.
- 3.3 Capital funding for local transport is provided by Central Government through the Integrated Transport and Highway Maintenance Block Allocations. The grant is based on 'needs-based' formulae which take account of a wide range of road, transport and other related data, specific to the Authority.
- 3.4 In order to provide certainty to transport authorities, Ministers agreed to firm up the 'indicative' allocations for 2013/14 and 2014/15 for both capital blocks. In March 2012, the DfT announced 'final' allocations as set out below:

Integrated Transport and Highway Capital Maintenance Block Funding

<b>Block Allocations</b>	<b>2013/14 Final £000s</b>	<b>2014/15 Final £000s</b>
Integrated Transport	725	1,020
Highways Capital Maintenance	1,960	1,816
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,685</b>	<b>2,836</b>

The settlement for 2013/14 was subsequently confirmed by DfT in their letter dated 21 December 2012.

- 3.5 Major Scheme Capital Funding  
In 2011 DfT gave full approval for a £18.6m 5 year programme of major bridge maintenance activity for the SJB and its approach structures. Over £9m has been spent to date, and following a re-profiling of the proposed allocation last year, the final 3 years of SJB Complex Bridge Major Maintenance Grant availability is as follows:

<b>Major Scheme Capital</b>	<b>2013/14 £M</b>	<b>2014/15 £M</b>	<b>2015/16 £M</b>
SJB Complex Bridge Maintenance Grant	2,460	2,029	4,990

The Major Scheme funding will allow HBC to continue to address the backlog of major bridge maintenance identified within the SJB Complex Maintenance Strategy. This allows HBC to continue to provide a road crossing of the Mersey which is free from restriction and to consider a future steady state maintenance regime where maintenance can be planned and delivered in a rationalised lifecycle based manner.

### 3.6 Additional Maintenance Funding

In his Autumn Statement, the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced that £215M of additional capital funding would be provided to local highway authorities, to help renew, repair and extend the life of roads in England. This maintenance funding could be used for improvements such as road resurfacing, maintenance to bridges or repairing damage to highway infrastructure caused by severe weather events, such as the recent flooding. The funds are distributed on the basis of the DfT's existing highways maintenance capital funding formula and there are conditions attached to the spending of the grant allocation that Halton must adhere to. Halton has been allocated funding as follows:

	2013/14 £000s	2014/15 £000s
Additional Highway Maintenance Funding	355	187

### 3.7 Transport Block Implementation Programmes.

Based upon the CSR10 proposed transport financial settlements, a funded, four year implementation programme was incorporated into LTP3, which was subsequently approved by the Board on March 17<sup>th</sup> 2011. The programme was determined in line with national and local transport goals and the Government's priorities to enhance economic growth whilst reducing carbon emissions from transport.

The final two years of the Implementation Programme covering the Integrated Transport Block and the Highway Capital Maintenance Block is reproduced below:

<b>Integrated Transport Block</b>	2013/14 £,000 (Final)	2014/15 £,000 (Final)
<b>Transport Integration</b> • Halton Sustainable Transport Network Signage / Branding, Publicity & Promotion • Cycle Secure Parking Lockers	160	185
<b>Measures to Assist Walking</b> • Neighbourhood Centres – Pedestrian Access, signage & Public Realm Improvements • PRow Improvement Programme	130	185
<b>Measures to Assist Cycling</b> • Neighbourhood Centre Cycle Access, signage & Public Realm Improvements • Halton Cycleway & Greenway Links	100	140
<b>Measures to Assist Buses</b> • Halton Neighbourhood Centres Accessible Bus Stop Improvements • Bus Priority at Junctions	170	240

• Widnes Road Bus Lane and Stops		
<b>Local Safety Schemes</b> • Residential Area 20mph Zones • Casualty Reduction • Safety Improvement Schemes	140	180
<b>Intelligent Transport Systems</b> • Expansion of VMS • Improve traffic and travel information	25	50
<b>Total</b>	<b>£725</b>	<b>£1,020</b>

(Note: Transport Integration initiatives and local safety schemes, will by their nature also incorporate a variety of measures that are designed to increase public transport usage and measures to assist increased walking and cycling).

- 3.8 Over the course of previous transport plans, a 'transport corridor' approach was adopted in the delivery of integrated transport improvements. For LTP3, the range of pedestrian, cycle and bus route improvements have been successfully delivered, focusing on neighbourhood centres. It is planned to continue this phased approach over the remaining period of the implementation programme. There will also be a range of schemes to improve the connectivity of walking and cycling links and a programme of local safety schemes.

The range of planned initiatives draws strongly on the Mersey Gateway Sustainable Transport Strategy, which was prepared to support the Mersey Gateway planning application. This builds upon the work delivered previously under the Quality Transport Corridor approach, and will hopefully provide a platform to encourage a significant modal shift to sustainable transport in the run-up to the Mersey Gateway construction phase, and help reduce traffic congestion during the period.

- 3.9 In terms of highway maintenance, the additional funding provided through the Major Scheme programme for the SJB and its approach structures has enabled the Maintenance Block allocation to be strongly biased towards roads maintenance. For the remainder of the implementation programme period, this will continue to permit increased programmes of carriageway and footway maintenance to be implemented across the Borough.

<b>Highways Capital Maintenance Block</b>	<b>2013/14</b> £,000 (Final)	<b>2014/15</b> £,000 (Final)	<b>Total</b> £,000
Highway Maintenance	1,360	1,216	2,576
Bridge Maintenance	600	600	1,200
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,960</b>	<b>1,816</b>	<b>3,776</b>

### 3.10 Detailed Implementation Programmes

In previous years, the authority to agree each year's detailed implementation programme has been delegated to the Strategic Director in Consultation with the relevant portfolio holder. The LTP3 four year Implementation Plan contains provisional programmes of both integrated transport and highway maintenance schemes and it is proposed that for the remaining two year period of the Plan, authority to agree the detailed programme, based upon the provisional lists in LTP3, be delegated to The Strategic Director Policy and Resources in consultation with the Executive Board Member for Transportation.

## 4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The programmes of work identified in the report are designed to deliver the strategies contained in the Council's third Local Transport Plan which was approved by the Board in March 2011.

## 5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

**Resource Implications** – The report sets out details of Central Government transport capital grant allocations for 2013/14 and outlines programmes of work for inclusion in the Council's Capital Programme. Delivery will be managed through existing staff resources, and construction carried out via the Term Highways Contract and Bridge Partnership Contract which have been procured for these works and services.

**Social Inclusion and Sustainability Implications** – The LTP is targeted at improving transport opportunities for those without access to private cars and therefore has positive impacts on social inclusion and sustainability.

## 6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

### 6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

The 2013/14 Transport Capital Implementation Programme will assist children and young people in accessing services in the Borough and improve road safety.

### 6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

Measures contained within the 2013/14 Transport Capital Implementation Programme are expected to improve access to employment, training and learning facilities within the Borough and also ensure that essential maintenance is undertaken on the existing network, thereby contributing to the Council's efforts to tackle unemployment, worklessness and the problems associated with the current economic downturn.

### **6.3 A Healthy Halton**

The 2013/14 Transport Capital Implementation Programme will help to encourage local communities to adopt more healthy lifestyles through the introduction of measures to increase the use of cycling and walking for local journeys and which could help address health problems such as obesity.

### **6.4 A Safer Halton**

The 2013/14 Transport Capital Implementation Programme incorporates measures to reduce road casualties in the Borough, to improve road safety and provide a safe and serviceable highway network.

### **6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal**

The 2013/14 Transport Capital Implementation Programme will continue to support the ongoing regeneration of Halton through the improvement of highway and public realm infrastructure focused upon neighbourhood centres and residential areas.

## **7.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

A risk associated with the report is the failure to deliver against the Transport Capital Implementation Programme. This risk will be managed through the Council's quarterly performance monitoring regime and through regular progress meetings with senior managers to enable early action to be taken, should the need arise.

## **8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

Accessibility and connectivity are essential issues for equality and diversity and every effort is made to facilitate barrier-free movement around the Borough. Particular emphasis is given to improving access for people with disabilities and to education and training, employment, health, shopping and leisure facilities which are key services impacting on quality of life.

## **9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

<b>Document</b>	<b>Place of Inspection</b>	<b>Contact Officer</b>
<b>Autumn Statement Additional Maintenance Funding DfT Letter 18<sup>th</sup> December 2012</b>	<b>Rutland House Halton Lea, Runcorn</b>	<b>Mike Bennett</b>



**Settlement Letter from  
DfT dated 21st  
December 2012**

**Rutland House  
Halton Lea, Runcorn**

**Dave Cunliffe**

**Correspondence in  
Relation to Major Bid  
Funding**

**Rutland House  
Halton Lea, Runcorn**

**Mike Bennett**

**APPENDIX 1**

**Local Transport Plan – Key issues for Transport Identified through the public consultation exercise:**

- Address and manage congestion – primarily associated with the Silver Jubilee Bridge and its approaches;
- Enhance economic success through the Mersey Gateway and encourage better freight distribution;
- Reduce road casualties;
- Improve access to work, education, training, services (health) and social activities;
- Promote and provide clean, low carbon transport;
- Improve maintenance of the highway network;
- Promote public transport, walking and cycling;
- Reduce crime and fear of crime on the transport system;
- Continue to maintain the transport system;
- Reduce traffic impact on communities in terms of pollution and noise.

**REPORT TO:** Executive Board

**DATE:** 28 March 2013

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director – Policy and Resources

**PORTFOLIO:** Resources

**SUBJECT:** Annual Review of Constitution: 2013

### **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 The purpose of the report is to seek the approval of the Council to a number of changes to the Constitution.

**2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That Council be recommended to approve the changes to the Constitution as set out in Appendix 1.**

### **3.0 BACKGROUND**

3.1 The revised version picks up the changes to the Council's working arrangements that have taken place during the year, as well as other changes which are intended to assist the Council to operate more effectively.

3.2 The proposals for change have been considered by the Chief Executive and the Executive Board Member for Resources in accordance with Article 16.02. Apart from the purely technical changes, the proposed amendments that are considered to be of particular significance are listed in Appendix 1 to this report.

### **4.0 POLICY, FINANCIAL AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 The implications of the Localism Act 2011 and the Health and Social Care Bill 2010-12 have been considered as well as other changes in the law. The opportunity has also been taken to clarify the various Appeals processes the Council has in relation to revenue and benefits issues. However, no further amendments, over and above those already outlined, are required at the present time. Any other required changes during the period 2013/14 will be the subject of further reports when dates and details are available.

### **5.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

**5.1 Children and Young People in Halton.**

**5.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton.**

**5.3 A Healthy Halton.**

**5.4 A Safer Halton.**

**5.5 Halton's Urban Renewal.**

The changes proposed are designed to support the continued delivery of the Council's priorities.

**6.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

6.1 The Council needs to ensure that its Constitution is regularly updated so that it continues to support efficient, transparent and accountable decision-making by the authority.

**7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

7.1 None.

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

None under the meaning of the Act.

## **Proposed Significant Changes to the Constitution**

### **Finance Standing Orders**

A number of minor updates have been included in this review, in addition to the following amendments :

- SO 3.3.1 additional responsibility (b) as follows-

Operational Directors may have responsibility delegated to them by Strategic Directors for (a) certain financial matters, including budget monitoring and control and will be held accountable for those budgets; (b) the drawing up of a list of those officers authorised to certify accounts, invoices, orders and expenditure vouchers.

- Capital Programme SO 4.2.3. increase in variation levels as follows-
  - **10%** on schemes costing less than £5m
  - **£500,000** on schemes costing £5m and above

The following additional Standing Order to be included -

- Financial Reserves and Balances

6.10.1 The Operational Director, Finance, will be responsible for maintaining and managing the Council's Reserves and Balances Strategy, which will be reported annually to Executive Board alongside the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

6.10.2 The Operational Director, Finance will establish and manage financial reserves and provisions as are considered appropriate, in order to support the Council's day to day activities, to provide for potential financial commitments and to ensure the Council's financial standing remains sound and aids the achievement of its long term objectives and corporate priorities.

### **Procurement Standing Orders**

These have been amended to keep up with changes in procedures. A full set of the Procurement Standing Orders, showing track changes, together with a summary of those changes, is available for inspection.

### **ICT Standing Orders**

SO 2.2 and 2.3 to merge

The following additional Standing Order to be included –

- Be aware that deleted emails remain accessible to management through the Journal

### **Health and Wellbeing Board**

The Health and Wellbeing Board, as a Committee of the Council, has been operating in Shadow form since December 2011 and the terms of reference were agreed at the first meeting. With the enactment of the Health and Social Care Act 2012, it will become fully operational from 1 April 2013 and the Constitution should be amended accordingly to reflect this.

### **Public Health**

The formal transfer of responsibility for the majority of public health functions to the Borough Council will take place on 1 April 2013. The following should be added to the Scheme of Delegation to Officers:

New SO 282 – Such actions as are necessary to give effect to the Public Health and related Powers and Duties conferred upon the Council as a result of the reform of the National Health Services legislation – Chief Executive (or his nominee)

### **Schools Forum**

Changes included in the Schools Forum Regulations required local authorities to hold School Forum meetings in public and to make agendas, minutes and decisions publicly available on their web site. As a formal meeting of the authority, the terms of reference for the Schools Forum should now be included in the Constitution.

### **Localism Act 2011**

#### **Assets of Community Value and Community Right to Challenge**

Following approval of Executive Board (14 March 2013), the following amendments to be made under the Scheme of Delegation to Officers:

New SO 16A – To take such decisions as deemed necessary under Part 1 Chapter 3 of the Localism Act 2011 (Assets of Community Value) – OD-EEP

New SO 16B – To take such decisions that may be necessary under Part 1 Chapter 2 of the Localism Act 2011 (Community Right to Challenge) – SD-PR

### **Standing Orders Relating to Duties of Proper Officers and Delegation to Officers**

New Standing Orders have been added under the following sections:

Consumer Protection

Planning and Transportation  
Flood Water Management

### **Appeal Processes**

The following clarifies the various appeals processes the Council has in relation to revenue and benefit issues:

#### Council Tax Reduction Scheme

- Stage 1 SD P&R or nominee
- Stage 2 Valuation Tribunal

#### Housing Benefit

- Stage 1 SD P&R or nominee
- Stage 2 Tribunal Service

#### Discretionary Rate Relief – Partial Occupation

- Stage 1 OD Financial Services
- Stage 2 No further right of appeal

#### Discretionary Rate Relief – Charitable Occupation and Amended Scheme

- SD P&R recommendation to Executive Board

#### Discretionary Rate Relief – Hardship Relief

- SD P&R recommendation to Executive Board

#### Discretionary Support Scheme

- SD P&R or nominee
- No further right of appeal

Discretionary Housing Payment

- Stage 1 – SD P&R or nominee
- Stage 2 – Members Appeals Panel

Council Tax – Discretionary Reduction in Liability

- Stage 1 – SD P&R or nominee
- Stage 2 – Members Appeals Panel

**Gifts and Hospitality**

Under the Members' Code of Conduct the estimated value of any gift, benefit or hospitality will increase from £25 to £50.



**REPORT TO:** Executive Board  
**DATE:** 28 March 2013  
**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director – Policy and Resources  
**SUBJECT:** Calendar of Meetings – 2013/14  
**WARDS:** Boroughwide

### **1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 To approve the Calendar of Meetings for the 2013/2014 Municipal Year attached at Appendix 1 (N.B. light hatched areas indicate weekends and Bank Holidays, dark hatched areas indicate school holidays).

**2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That Council be recommended to approve the Calendar of Meetings for the 2013/2014 Municipal Year, attached at Appendix 1.**

### **3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

None.

### **4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

None.

### **5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

None.

### **6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

#### **6.1 Children and Young People in Halton**

None.

#### **6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton**

None.

#### **6.3 A Healthy Halton**

None.

#### **6.4 A Safer Halton**

None.

#### **6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal**

None.

## **7.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

Should a Calendar of Meetings not be approved, there will be a delay in publishing meeting dates. This would result in practical difficulties in respect of the necessary arrangements to be made and the planning process regarding agenda/report timetables.

## **8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

Once a Calendar of Meetings has been approved the dates will be published, hence assisting public involvement in the democratic process.

## **9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

None under the meaning of the Act.

NB Lightly shaded areas indicate weekends and Bank Holidays; dark shaded areas indicate school holidays.

	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MARCH	APR
S		1			(31 August)			(30 November)		1	1	
S		2			1					2	2	
M		3 Regulatory Committee	1 Dev Control Cttee		2 Children, Young People & Families PPB			2 Dev Control Cttee		3 AF – Daresbury	3	
T		4 SEMINAR Health PPB	2		3 Corporate PPB	1				4 AF – H C, NN, NS & WH	4 Health PPB	1
W		5 Employment, Learning, Skills & Community PPB			4 Standards Committee	2 AF – B & HL			1 New Year's Day	5 COUNCIL	5 SPECIAL COUNCIL	2
T	1	6	4 SEMINAR	1	5 Executive Board	3 Executive Board			2	6 Executive Board SEMINAR	6	3
F	3	7	5	2	6	4	1			7	7	4
S	4	8	6	3	7	5	2			8	8	5
S	5	9	7	4	8	6	3			9	9	6
M	6 Early Spring Bank Holiday	10 Dev Control Cttee	8 AF – H C, NN, NS & WH	5 Development Control Committee	9 Dev Control Cttee	7 Dev Control Cttee	4 Dev Control	9	6 Dev Control Cttee	10 Dev Control Cttee	10 Dev Control Cttee	7
T	7	11 Safer Halton PPB	9	6 SEMINAR	10 Health PPB	8 AF – H C, NN, NS & WH	5	10	7 Health PPB	11	11 Safer PPB	8 SEMINAR
W	8	12 Environment & Urban Renewal PPB	10 AF – B & HL	7	11 Environment and Urban Renewal PPB	9 AF – B, F & HV SEMINAR	6 Health PPB	11 COUNCIL	8 Employment, Learning, Skills & Community PPB	12 Standards Committee	12 Health & W Board	9 COUNCIL
T	9	13 Executive Board MGEGB	11 Executive Board	8	12 SEMINAR		7 Executive Board MGEGB	12 Executive Board	9 Executive Board		13 Executive Board MGEGB	10 Executive Board
F	10	14	12	9	13	11	8	13	10	14	14	11
S	11	15	13	10	14	12	9	14	11	15	15	12
S	12	16	14	11	15	13	10	15	12	16	16	13
M	13 Dev Control Cttee	17 AF – G, HB, H AND M	15	12	16 Employment, Learning, Skills & Community PPB	14 AF Daresbury	11 Employment, Learning, Skills & Community PPB	16	13 Children, Young People & Families PPB	17	17 Regulatory Committee Schools Forum	14 Dev Control Cttee
T	14 Executive Board (Selection)	18 Schools Forum	16	13	17 Safer PPB	15 Schools Forum	12 Safer PPB	17	14 Safer PPB	18	18 Corporate PPB	15
W	15	19 AF – B, F & HV	17 Health & W Board COUNCIL	14	18 Health & W Board Business Efficiency Board	16 COUNCIL	13 Health & W Board	18	15 Health & W Board Regulatory Committee	19	19 Mayoral Committee	16
T	16 ANNUAL COUNCIL	20	18	15	19 Executive Board MGEGB	17 Executive Board			16 SEMINAR	20		17
F	17	21	19	16	20	18	15	20	17	21	20	18 Good Friday
S	18	22	20	17	21	19	16	21	18	22	21	19
S	19	23	21	18	22	20	17	22	19	23	23	20
M	20 Children Young People and Families PPB	24 AF – B, D, H & HG	22	19	23 AF – B, D, H & HG	21	18 Regulatory Committee	23	20 AF – B, D, H & HG	24 Children, Young People & Families PPB	24 Employment, Learning Skills and Community PPB	21 Easter Monday
T	21 Corporate PPB	25 AF – A, K & R	23	20	24 AF – A, K & R	22	19	24	21 Environment & Urban Renewal PPB Schools Forum	25	25	22
W	22 Health & W Board Business Efficiency Board	26 Business Efficiency Board	24 AF- Daresbury	21	25 Regulatory Committee	23	20 Environment and Urban Renewal PPB	25 Christmas Day	22 AF – B, F & HV (daytime meeting) Corporate PPB	26 Business Efficiency Board	26 Environment & Urban Renewal PPB	23
T	23 Executive Board	27 Executive Board	25	22	26	24	21 Executive Board	26 Boxing Day	23 Executive Board MGEGB	27 Executive Board	27 Executive Board	24
F	24	28	26	23	27	25	22	27	24	28	28	25
S	25	29	27	24	28	26	23	28	25		29	26
S	26	30	28	25	29	27	24	29	26		30	27
M	27 Spring Bank Holiday		29	26 Summer Bank Holiday	30 AF – G, HB, H AND M	28 Children, Young People & Families PPB	25	30	27 AF – G, HB, H & M		31	28
T	28		30	27		29 Corporate PPB		31				29
W	29		31	28			26 Business Efficiency Board		28 AF – A, K & R			30
T	30			29		30	27		29 AF – B & HL			
F	31			30		31 SEMINAR	28		30			
							29		31			



**REPORT TO:** Executive Board

**DATE:** 28<sup>th</sup> March 2013

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director – Children & Enterprise

**PORTFOLIO:** Physical Environment

**SUBJECT:** 3MG Funding and Infrastructure

**WARDS:** Boroughwide

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide a Preliminary Estimate Report for rail and road access infrastructure to the 3MG HBC Fields development site in accordance with Procurement Standing Order 2.1.2. and to provide an update on the appointment of a Project Manager for the Rail Sidings and to seek approval to procure the works.
- 1.2 To seek approval to go out to tender for Phase 2 of the western access road works and to appoint a Contractor.
- 1.3 To seek permission to amend the Capital programme to allocate £1,200,000 to the 3MG programme for; the construction of the western access road phase 2 to HBC Field development and all associated costs.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That**

- 1) The Board notes the appointment of Waterman's as Project Manager for the Rail Sidings following competitive tender;**
- 2) The Board authorises the Operational Director for Economy, Enterprise and Property to procure the design and build of the Rail Sidings at 3MG HBC Field at an estimated cost of £2.5 M;**
- 3) Tenders be invited by the Operational Director Planning Policy and Transportation for a contract to complete construction of the western access road at 3MG HBC Field at an estimated cost of £1.2M in accordance with Procurement Standing Order Part 2;**
- 4) Development and award the contract in accordance with Procurement Standing Orders;**

- 5) **Council be recommended to approve a revision in the Capital Programme for £1.2m for the completion of the western access road to 3MG HBC Field; and**
  
- 6) **The Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader and the following Portfolio holders (Physical Environment, Transportation and Resources) be authorised to take such action as he judges necessary to implement the 3MG HBC Field development.**

### **3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 3.1 Executive Board on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2004 (EXB162) adopted the Ditton Strategic Rail Freight Park Masterplan, now known as 3MG (the Mersey Multimodal Gateway).
  
- 3.2 The Regional Growth Fund (RGF) grant allocation of £9.0m, of which £4.5m is towards the provision of additional rail sidings, western access link road and associated costs was last reported to Executive Board on 24 May 2012 (EXB8). Since that time the Council has received a second final offer letter dated 8<sup>th</sup> November 2012. Changes from the March 2012 version include the provision for Stobart to increase their draw down of grant in 2012 and the re-profiling of jobs. The jobs now commence in 2013 and not 2012 as originally planned.
  
- 3.3 The Liverpool City Region Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Growing Places Funds (GPF) issued an Offer Letter for £5.4m dated February 2013. In accordance with EXB8 the Chief Executive has accepted this offer on behalf of the Council and the 3MG programme. These funds are offered as a loan on condition that the Council repay the GPF in full by December 2015, failure to do so would incur a 2% interest rate from the date of default.
  
- 3.4 In January 2012 3MG Executive Sub Board (ESB5) and in May 2012 Executive Board (EXB8) approved the use of RGF funding towards the rail sidings project.
  
- 3.5 Competitive tenders were sought in December 2012 for a rail consultant who will project manage a design and build tender, and supervise the construction of the rail sidings. Three valid tenders were received:

Waterman's	£142,155
Atkins	£216,924
AECOM	£346,878

Following an interview and in consultation with the Chief Executive, Leader and Portfolio Holder, Waterman's were appointed as the Project Manager for the Rail Sidings.

3.6 Given that the RGF must be spent by December 2013 and the timetable for delivery is extremely tight, approval to procure a Rail Contractor is sought, either following a competitive tender process, or by working with Network Rail and using their Framework Contractor. Both options will be appraised to see which offers the best form of procurement in terms of timescales, reduction in risk and value for money. It is imperative that we start as soon as practicable and by examining both options concurrently we ensure the earliest start possible.

We will report back the outcome, should Members find this approach acceptable.

### Road Infrastructure Access

At its meeting of 24th May, the Board considered a report dealing with the construction of the western access road to the 3MG development. Minute EXB9 refers.

At that time it considered that it would be inappropriate to complete the access road south of the railway line due to uncertainties regarding the arrangement of the future development within the site.

Construction of the initial phase of the road to provide a connection from the site to existing highway at Newstead Road and a new bridge over the railway line commenced in September 2012 and is due for completion in May.

However, due to the need to complete the road and rail access infrastructure whilst the external funding is available, (described in Paragraphs 3.2 and 3.3), it is proposed that tenders now be invited for the completion of the road. This primarily comprises the completion of the road embankment and drainage extending from the new bridge, south of the railway line and carriageway & footway construction south of Newstead Road.

Furthermore, it is considered that the completion of the road at this stage will minimise the risks to the Council of leaving the access in a partially constructed form and it is anticipated that the tendered cost of the works will be most advantageous if the completion works follow closely the completion of construction of the initial phase.

These completion works are estimated to cost £1.2M. It is proposed to invite tenders in accordance with Procurement Standing Orders Part 2 using the Special Select List form of tendering as set out in Standing Order 2.5.

The planning application for the development is now being re-consulted on, based upon the original layout proposal. The completion works referred to above will take the access to the boundary of the proposed development and provides sufficient flexibility for the on-site infrastructure to be adapted during the later design and implementation stages.

#### **4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The 3MG programme is included in the Council's Corporate Plan, the Halton Partnership and Halton Borough Council Urban Renewal Strategy and Action Plan, and supports the Council's Urban Renewal corporate priority. Grant funding is essential to facilitate the delivery of 3MG.
- 4.2 As is usual with external funding arrangements, the funding places the balance of risk with the Council. Although some risks have been negotiated away, the most prominent risks for the Council remain:
1. The repayment of the GPF when HBC Field is developed or by December 2015 whichever is sooner. Also, an expectation that the development of HBC Field will provide 1725 jobs.
  2. The responsibility for State Aid compliance rests with HBC. For this reason we have taken advice regarding the potential implications of European Commission rules and regulations.
- 4.3 These risks are similar to those previously accepted by Members in connection with other projects such as Widnes Waterfront.
- 4.4 Having secured the GPF loan and the RGF grant, we now have a real opportunity to continue the progress already made with Phase 1 of the western access road with the remaining infrastructure on HBC Field.
- 4.5 Bringing forward the road and rail infrastructure whilst external funding is available puts the Council at an advantage in terms of the delivery of HBC Field for occupiers searching for a significant B8 opportunity in the North West. HBC Field will be ahead of competing sites if it already has road and rail connections. We strongly believe that HBC Field will create significant job opportunities and by kick starting the development through the road and the rail access infrastructure, developers and end users will be able to better visualise the area for development and remove some of the uncertainties which currently exist.

#### **5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The Council has given a commitment to secure as much external funding as possible to support the delivery of 3MG. The Growing Places Fund referred to in this report supports that commitment.

#### **6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

##### **6.1 Children and Young People in Halton**

They are no implications associated with this report.



## **6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton**

Overall the 3MG programme will assist in providing job opportunities for local people and will go some way in addressing the level of unemployment in Halton. The next phases of development are estimated to create up to 3,450 new jobs.

## **6.3 A Healthy Halton**

The overall 3MG programme provides new walking and cycling routes as well as a bus service, which offer safe and affordable means of accessing key services and thereby can overcome many of the transport barriers often faced by people who do not own or have access to a car.

## **6.4 A Safer Halton**

The 3MG programme will provide much needed environmental improvements to the immediate areas.

## **6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal**

The 3MG programme is acting as a catalyst to attract developers and new businesses to the area by creating an attractive, well-accessed and serviced area, which provides a safe and attractive environment for employees and visitors.

## **7.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

**7.1** There are risks in utilising loan and grant funding. These same risks have been acknowledged and accepted previously, e.g. previous NWDA funding agreements on 3MG and on the Widnes Waterfront Programme. In broad outline the risks are that the Council will have to repay GPF if the HBC Field is not developed by December 2015.

## **8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

Not applicable.

## **9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

<b>Document</b>	<b>Place of Inspection</b>	<b>Contact Officer</b>
3MG Masterplan	Regeneration, Municipal Building, Widnes	Sally McDonald
RGF Offer Letter	Regeneration, Municipal Building, Widnes	Sally McDonald

GPF Offer Letter

Regeneration, Municipal  
Building, Widnes

Sally McDonald

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A  
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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