

**HALTON BOROUGH COUNCIL**



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

*26 November 2024*

**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, 4 December 2024 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 that reads 'S. Young'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping 'S' and a 'Y' that loops back under the 'o'.

*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>URGENT DECISION</b>	<b>1 - 2</b>
7.	<b>MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD</b>	<b>SEE MINUTE BOOK</b>
	a) 24 October 2024	
	b) 14 November 2024	
8.	<b>MINUTES OF THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD</b>	<b>SEE MINUTE BOOK</b>
9.	<b>QUESTIONS ASKED UNDER STANDING ORDER 8</b>	
10.	<b>MATTERS REQUIRING A DECISION OF THE COUNCIL</b>	
	a) 2024/25 Spending as at 30 September 2024 - EXB52	<b>3 - 60</b>
	RECOMMENDED: That the Board	
	1) all spending continue to be limited to only absolutely essential items;	
	2) Executive Directors identify reductions to their directorate forecast outturn net spend position and urgently implement them; and	
	3) Council be asked to agree to submit an application for Exceptional Finance Support to cover the deficit position for the year, as recommended within the Medium Term Financial Strategy report elsewhere on the agenda.	
	b) Medium Term Financial Strategy 25/26-27/28 - Key Decision - EXB53	<b>61 - 84</b>

RECOMMENDED: That the Board

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

- c) Determination of Council Tax Base 2025/26 - Key Decision - EXB54

**85 - 88**

RECOMMENDED: That the Board

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

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

- d) Gambling Act 2005 Statement of Gambling Policy
- e) Members Allowance Review
- f) External Auditor's Annual Report 2023/24
- g) Absence of a Member

**89 - 110**

**111 - 114**

**115 - 172**

Under Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972, permission is sought for:

- Councillor Skinner to be granted a period of absence from attending Council meetings for a period of 6 months, concluding on 4 June 2025, due to Maternity Leave; and
- Councillor Stretch to be granted a period of absence from attending Council meetings for a period of 6 months, concluding on 4 June 2025, due to personal reasons.

h) Application for Exceptional Financial Support

**173 - 180**

**11. MINUTES OF THE POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARDS AND THE AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE BOARD**

**SEE MINUTE BOOK**

a) Children, Young People and Families

b) Employment, Learning, Skills and Community

c) Safer

d) Environment and Urban Renewal

e) Corporate Services

**12. COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**SEE MINUTE BOOK**

a) Development Management

b) Regulatory

c) Regulatory Sub Committee

d) Taxi Licensing Sub Committee

e) Appointments

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

In this case Council 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 items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1 and 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

**Please note that if this resolution is passed, members of the press and public will be asked to leave the room prior to the consideration of the following business.**

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

- a) Children's Service Improvement Programme Funding - Workforce Stabilisation - Key Decision - EXB47

**181 - 206**

RECOMMENDED: That the Board

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

- b) Legal Services Transformation Report - Key Decision - EXB57

**207 - 262**

RECOMMENDED: That the Board

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

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

- Outsourcing;
  - Formation of a collaboration/shared service with another Local Authority;
  - Wholly owned subsidiary Legal Company
- 2) Council be requested to approve the necessary funding set out in paragraph 5 of the report.