

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

*At a meeting of the Executive Board on Thursday, 16 April 2026 in The Boardroom, Municipal Building*

Present: Councillors Wharton (Chair), Bevan, Ball, Dennett, Harris, T. McInerney, P. Nolan, Thompson, Wall and Wright

Apologies for Absence: None

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: E. Dawson, A. Donaldson, M. Reaney, W. Rourke, I. Jones, J. Doran, G. Cooke and I. Moorhouse

Also in attendance: None

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

*Action*

#### EXB114 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Leader thanked Wes Rourke for all his work during his tenure working for the Council and wished him well in his retirement.

#### EXB115 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 12 March 2026, were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

#### LEADER'S PORTFOLIO

#### EXB116 URGENT DECISIONS

The Board received a report from the Interim Chief Executive, which provided information on an urgent decision taken since the last meeting of the Board.

It was noted that the Council's Constitution gave authority to the Chief Executive to take urgent decisions, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Director Finance and/or the Director of Legal and Democratic Services, where necessary.

One urgent decision had been made since the last meeting of the Board and full details were published on the

Council's website.

RESOLVED: That the urgent decision taken since the last meeting of the Executive Board be noted.

## **CORPORATE SERVICES PORTFOLIO**

### **EXB117 ANNUAL REVIEW OF CONSTITUTION 2026**

The Board received a report of the Director Legal and Democratic Services, which sought the approval of Council to a number of changes to the Constitution.

The revised version of the Constitution picked up the changes to the Council's working arrangements that had taken place during the year, as well as other changes which were intended to assist the Council to operate more effectively.

Members were referred to the Appendix where the proposed amendments were listed; these had been considered by the Chief Executive and the Corporate Services Portfolio Holder, in accordance with Article 16.02.

The changes proposed on Page 32 of the Agenda regarding Call-Ins would not be included in the changes to the Constitution.

RESOLVED: That Executive Board recommends Council to approve the changes to the Constitution, excluding the changes regarding Call-Ins, as set out in the Appendix.

Director of Legal  
and Democratic  
Services

### **EXB118 PENSIONS DISCRETIONS STATEMENT 2026/27**

The Board received the annual Pensions Discretions Statement for 2026/27 for Halton Borough Council.

The Council was required to publish a Pension Discretion Statement annually, to advise the discretions it intended to exercise under the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) – this was appended to the report.

It was reported that the Pensions Discretion Statement for 2026/27 was based upon the statement for 2025/26, which was approved by Executive Board in October 2025. It was noted that one additional new discretion had been added to incorporate the implementation of the Mutually Agreed Resignation Scheme as required.

RESOLVED: That the Board approve the Pensions Discretions Statement for 2026/27.

Corporate  
Director - Chief  
Executive's  
Delivery Unit

## **CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE PORTFOLIO**

### **EXB119 CHILDREN'S SERVICES ASSET MANAGEMENT MASTERPLAN - KEY DECISION**

The Board considered a report that presented the Children's Services Asset Management Masterplan (CSAM) and sought approval to progress the capital investment required to align Children's Services assets with service redesign, statutory improvement requirements, and the needs of children and families in Halton.

In October 2025, ICENI Projects were commissioned to undertake a strategic review of Halton Children's Services Assets with 3 key objectives:

- sufficiency space;
- office space; and
- service delivery space.

The review is now complete and all the options for Children's Services Assets were outlined in the attached CSAM.

It was noted that the sufficiency element of the CSAM proposed a phased Capital Programme – Invest to Save (2026 -2028) that comprised:

- Four children's homes (12 beds) delivered through a partnership with We Are Juno CIC;
- Replacement and expansion of care leaver provision (Park House/Appleton Village);
- New 16+ supported accommodation; and
- 18+ supported independent living provision.

The report provided details on the key benefits of the sufficiency element, progress so far, project delivery, monitoring and governance.

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

- The decision to take this approach is based on:
1. Supporting the ambitions of the Corporate Plan.
  2. Delivering the ambitions and vision of the Children

& Young Peoples plan.

3. Transforming the Children's Services system to an early intervention and prevention system whilst addressing the financial sustainability of the local system.
4. Doing the right things for the children and families at Halton, and
5. Ensuring the right support is available at the right time.

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

Carry on improvement journey without required capital funding Work has already begun through the transformation programme to stabilise and transform Children's Services. requirements and work is in progress. It had identified.

The pace and impact is severely hampered due to time, cost and resource constraints across the Council, not just in Children's Services.

Progress is being made but not at the scale and pace required to improve services in the manner and pace required by the inspecting bodies.

It was decided early on that to not invest is not an option due to the potential additional impacts/ramifications financially, operationally and reputationally for the Council, and most of all the pace and change needed for the children, young people and their families of Halton.

### **IMPLEMENTATION DATE**

Should approval be given on by the Executive Board on 16th April 2026 then the Implementation programme will commence with immediate effect.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the Children's Services Asset Masterplan be noted;
- 2) Council include the capital funding required to meet the objectives of the Children's Social Care Placement and Sufficiency Invest to Save Project within the Capital Programme at an estimated cost of up to £2,156,250 as outlined in paragraph 5.1;

Executive Director  
of Children's  
Services

- 3) the Executive Director of Children's Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People and the Section 151 Officer, is given delegated authority to present a full business case to Management Team for approval to draw down capital funding for each element of the sufficiency strategy as outlined in paragraph 5.1; and
- 4) Council include requirements for the Children's Services Asset Masterplan relating to 'Office Space and Service Provision' within the overall Corporate Strategy for Halton's Accommodation and Assets review.

### **ADULT SOCIAL CARE PORTFOLIO**

#### **EXB120 HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD SCRUTINY TOPIC GROUP 2025 – MENTAL HEALTH**

The Board considered a report which outlined the outcome of the Health and Social Care Policy and Performance Board (PPB) scrutiny topic review of Mental Health Services in the Borough. A key focus of the review was to examine the services delivered by Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust. The Topic Group had met on several occasions, and the final report was attached as Appendix One.

It was noted that at its meeting in November, the Health and Social Care PPB had approved 14 recommendations, and these had been included in an action plan, for which a small task and finish group would be formed with representation from the Council, the Integrated Care Board and Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust. The Board was requested to approve the report and to give support for the implementation of the action plan.

**RESOLVED:** That the Board ratify the action plan for implementation.

### **ENVIRONMENT AND URBAN RENEWAL PORTFOLIO**

#### **EXB121 TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATE**

The Board considered a report of the Executive Director Environment and Regeneration, that provided an update on details of the proposed investments in Halton's transport network and requested approval for the transport

pipeline of future schemes set out in Appendix 2 and 3. In addition the report outlined recent transport schemes that had taken place in the Borough. It was noted that funding for the schemes was primarily capital grant and was provided from central government or by the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority. The combined investment for Halton to 2031 would be c£130m, if all funding bids were successful.

RESOLVED: That the Board

- 1) note Appendix 1, summarising completed scheme since the 2023 update;
- 2) note Appendix 2 listing the schemes in delivery;
- 3) approve Appendix 3, the 'transport pipeline of future schemes. (Approval includes design and feasibility, business case preparation, funding bids and when appropriate, grant acceptance and entry into the Council's Capital Programme;
- 4) in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Urban Renewal, the Director Planning and Transport will be authorised to take the necessary actions to ensure value for money through the appropriate procurement processes relating to the list of schemes (Appendix 2 and 3); and
- 5) in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Urban Renewal, the Director – Planning and Transport be authorised to take any other actions necessary to accept grant funding and enable delivery of the list of schemes (Appendix 2 and 3).

Director -  
Planning and  
Transportation

#### EXB122 POLICY DOCUMENTS SOCIAL VALUE IN PLANNING SPD

The Board considered a report of the Executive Director Environment and Regeneration, that sought approval for the adoption of the Social Value in Planning Supplementary Planning Document. A copy of the document was attached to the report.

RESOLVED: That the Board

- 1) approve the strategy; and
- 2) supports that editorial rights be retained to the Planning Policy team to remain aligned with changing

Director -  
Planning and

national policy, and to align with changes in delivery models.

Transportation

EXB123 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 Section 100A (4) 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 outweighed that in disclosing the information, members of the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business in accordance with Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 because it was likely that, in view of the nature of the business, exempt information would be disclosed, being information defined in Section 100 (1) and paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

**CORPORATE SERVICES PORTFOLIO**

EXB124 MUTUALLY AGREED RESIGNATION SCHEME

The Board considered on the Council's Mutually Agreed Resignation Scheme. It was noted that the scheme was fully voluntary and consultation had taken place with the Unions and Corporate & Inclusion PPB. The scheme will launch later in 2026.

RESOLVED: That the proposal for the introduction of a Mutually Agreed Resignation Scheme in the 2026/27

Corporate  
Director - Chief  
Executive's

financial year, and in any future years be approved.

Delivery Unit

## **ENVIRONMENT AND URBAN RENEWAL PORTFOLIO**

### **EXB125 HIGHWAYS IMPROVEMENT CONTRACT AWARD**

The Board considered a report on the procurement process for the Highways Improvement Contract. Following the conclusion of the procurement exercise, the contract would commence on 6 August 2026.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the Highway Improvement Works Contract is awarded to the preferred bidder, as set out in paragraph 3.6; and
- 2) the award for a three-year term commencing on 6 August 2026 with an optional one-year extension (to extend to a 4<sup>th</sup> year).

Director -  
Planning and  
Transportation

## **LEADER'S PORTFOLIO**

### **EXB126 CONTRACT FOR ADVOCACY SERVICE**

The Board considered a report requesting a waiver compliance with Procurement Standing Order 1.14.4, in respect of the Contract for Advocacy Service.

RESOLVED: The Board approve that the contract with 7 Harrington Street Chambers be renewed for twelve months, with an option to extend for a further 2 years, in pursuance of Procurement Standing Order 1.14.4 (non-emergency procedures – exceeding a value threshold of £100,000) to waive part 3.1 and 3.2 of Procurement Standing Orders.

Director -  
Planning and  
Transportation

**MINUTES ISSUED: 21 April 2026.**

**CALL-IN: 28 April 2026 at 5.00 pm.**

**Any matter decided by the Executive Board may be called in no later than 5.00pm on 28 April 2026.**

*Meeting ended at 14:13*