

F O R W A R D P L A N

FOR THE PERIOD: 1 MARCH 2026 TO 30 JUNE 2026

What is the Forward Plan?

The Forward Plan is a list of the key decisions the Authority intends to take during a four month period. The Plan is updated monthly and is available to the public 14 days before the beginning of each month.

What is a Key Decision?

Key decisions are defined as any executive decision which is likely

- to result in expenditure or savings which are significant in the context of the budget for the service or function in question; or
- to be significant in terms of its effects on the communities living or working in two or more wards in the area.

What does the Forward Plan tell me?

The Plan gives information about:

- what key decisions are coming forward in the next four months;
- when those key decisions are likely to be made;
- who will make those decisions;
- what consultation will be given;
- who you can make representations to, and how;
- what documents will be considered; and
- who you can contact for further information.

Who takes Key Decisions?

Under the Authority's Constitution, Key Decisions are taken by the Council, the Executive Board (and its Sub-Committees/Sub-Boards) or individual officers acting under delegated powers.

Most Key Decisions are taken at public meetings of either the Council or the Executive Board. Council meets at 6.30 pm at the Town Hall, Runcorn and the Executive Board meets at 2.00 pm in the Municipal Building, Widnes.

How to make representations and by when

Names of contact officers are included in the Plan and can be reached via 0303 333 4300. If you are unsure, please ring Committee Services via the same number and staff there will be able to assist you.

**FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS FOR THE PERIOD
1 MARCH 2026 TO 30 JUNE 2026**

	MATTER TO BE DECIDED	DECISION MAKER AND DATE	
1	Children's Services Asset Master Plan - Capital Programme Report	Executive Board	12 March 2026
2	High Needs Provision Capital Allocation - Proposed Expansion of Special Educational Needs & Disability Provision	Executive Board	12 March 2026
3	Introduction of Selective Licensing Scheme	Council	15 May 2026
4	Budget 2026/27	Council	4 March 2026
5	Review of Telehealthcare Services	Executive Board	12 March 2026
6	Care Provider Contract Uplift 2026/27	Executive Board	12 March 2026
7	Article 4 Confirmation	Executive Board	12 February 2026

Key Decision	Decision-Maker and Date	Brief Summary of Decision to be Taken	Consultees and Consultation method	Relevant Background Reports	Lead Officer Contact Details
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Children and Young People Portfolio

Children's Services Asset Master Plan - Capital Programme Report	Executive Board 12 March 2026	Decision to approve the capital programme request detailed in the Children's Asset Master Plan work has been undertaken to ensure that we have a detailed understanding of our infrastructure, making sure that it is fit for purpose and aligned with the future needs of children and families across the borough. This is all part of our system reform, including our improvement journey and the Families First Partnership Programme.	N/A	<i>Children's Services Asset Master Plan – Capital Programme Report</i>	Executive Director of Children's Services zoe.fearon@halton.gov.uk
High Needs Provision Capital Allocation - Proposed Expansion of Special Educational Needs & Disability Provision	Executive Board 12 March 2026	The Board are requested to: Approve the commencement of the statutory consultation process for those schools	Where any new SEND provision is being proposed at a school that does not already have SEND provision, statutory consultation is	N/A	martin.west@halton.gov.uk

Key Decision	Decision-Maker and Date	Brief Summary of Decision to be Taken	Consultees and Consultation method	Relevant Background Reports	Lead Officer Contact Details
		<p>where the Local Authority is designated as the “Decision Maker” (detailed in Appendix A of the report), with regard to the implementation of new SEND provision;</p> <p>1. Approve the progression of projects and capital expenditure for any school (LA maintained or academy) where a statutory consultation is not required (which will be detailed in Appendix A of the report);</p> <p>2. Approve the allocation of funding for capital expenditure incurred at those academy schools (which will be detailed in Appendix A of the report) providing those schools undertake their own statutory consultation</p>	<p>required in accordance with the Making Significant Changes (“Prescribed Alterations”) to Maintained Schools 2023 guidance set against the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013. Consultees include: parents/carers, governors, and staff of the relevant schools where provision is proposed, ICB, Parent/Carer Forum, neighbouring local authorities, relevant Diocese, Halton schools, MPs.</p>		

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		if required, and 3. receives a further report detailing the outcome of any Local Authority led statutory consultations (providing the Board agree at this meeting to commence with those consultations).			

Housing and Environmental Sustainability

Introduction of Selective Licensing Scheme	Council 15 May 2026	Introduction of Selective Licensing Scheme for private rental property in the wards of Central and Westbank, Mersey and Weston, Appleton Bridgewater and 2 lower super output areas within Highfield and Halton Lea Ward. The scheme will seek to improve and maintain property conditions. The areas selected are also amongst the boroughs most deprived and the	Statutory Process. A third party housing consultancy will be commissioned to draw up a formal consultation document. The documents will clearly explain the reasons for introducing the scheme, set out the evidence underpinning the proposals, and describe why alternative approaches have been deemed insufficient. They will also demonstrate how the scheme will	N/A	Stephen.burrows@halton.gov.uk
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		scheme will seek to address the health inequalities caused by poor property conditions. The final scheme details will be confirmed following statutory consultation process	help tackle the specific problems in the area, outline the proposed fee structure, and explain the anticipated outcomes and benefits of the designation. The consultation will seek the views of a full range of stakeholders including local residents, tenants, managing agents and landlords and will be conducted over multiple channels. The Housing and Safer Policy and Performance Board will also be consulted and Executive Board a report will be taken to executive board seeking approval to launch the consultation.		

Leader's Portfolio

Budget 2026/27	Council 4 March 2026	To seek approval for the Council's revenue budget,	Chamber of Commerce	None	Director of Finance Ed.dawson@halton.gov.uk
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Key Decision	Decision-Maker and Date	Brief Summary of Decision to be Taken	Consultees and Consultation method	Relevant Background Reports	Lead Officer Contact Details
		capital programme and council tax for 2026/27.			

Adult and Social Care Portfolio

Review of Telehealthcare Services	Executive Board 12 March 2026	Executive Board to recommend an option regarding the future direction of travel for the Telehealthcare Provision.	N/A	N/A	debbie.o'connor@halton.gov.uk
Care Provider Contract Uplift 2026/27	Executive Board 12 March 2026	For Executive Board to agree the Adult Social Care Provider uplift rate for 2026/27.	Consultation discussions have taken place with domiciliary care, direct payments, supported living and care home providers within Halton. As part of this consultation, all care providers received a questionnaire and were requested to feedback on any increases they had identified in relation to indirect and direct staffing costs	N/A	debbie.o'connor@halton.gov.uk

Key Decision	Decision-Maker and Date	Brief Summary of Decision to be Taken	Consultees and Consultation method	Relevant Background Reports	Lead Officer Contact Details
			and describe any legitimate current and future costs. They were also asked to consider whether there had been any opportunities to reduce costs and compliance with the real living wage.		

Environment and Urban Renewal Portfolio

Article 4 Confirmation	Executive Board 12 February 2026	To confirm the making of the immediate Article 4 Direction to remove permitted development rights for the material change of use from Use Class C3 (dwelling houses) to C4 (HMOs), within parts of Appleton, Central & West Bank, Halebank, Mersey & Weston, Beechwood & Heath, Grange, Bridgewater, Halton Castle, Halton Lea, Norton North and Norton South &	The Council undertook a consultation on the Article 4 Direction between the 24 th September 2025 to the 5 th November 2025. The Council published an advertisement in the Local Press and on the Councils website. Public notices were displayed throughout the borough and correspondence was sent to all statutory consultees. The responses were formulated into a consultation	The relevant reports and background papers can be found at: https://www3.halton.gov.uk/Pages/planning/Article4.aspx	Andrew.Plant@halton.gov.uk
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Key Decision	Decision-Maker and Date	Brief Summary of Decision to be Taken	Consultees and Consultation method	Relevant Background Reports	Lead Officer Contact Details
		Preston Brook.	statement, which will be published on the https://www3.halton.gov.uk/Pages/planning/Article4.aspx website		

NOTE

The following Members comprise the Executive Board:

Leader – Councillor Wharton

Deputy Leader – Councillor Thompson

Corporate Services Portfolio Holder – Councillor Dennett

Children and Young People Portfolio Holder – Councillor T McInerney

Adult Social Care Portfolio Holder – Councillor Ball

Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder – Councillor Wright

Community Safety Portfolio Holder – Councillor Wall

Environmental and Urban Renewal Portfolio Holder – Councillor Nolan

Employment, Learning and Skills, and Community Portfolio Holder – Councillor Bevan

Housing and Environmental Sustainability Portfolio Holder – Councillor Harris