

EXECUTIVE BOARD

At a meeting of the Executive Board on Thursday, 3 March 2011 in the Marketing Suite, Municipal Building

Present: Councillors Polhill (Chairman), A. Gerrard, Harris, Jones, McInerney, Nelson, Stockton, Swain and Wharton

Apologies for Absence: None

Absence declared on Council business: Councillor D. Cargill

Officers present: A. Scott, M. Reaney, G. Cook, I. Leivesley, G. Meehan, D. Parr, D. Tregaea, B. Dodd, A. Williamson, S. Williams and S. Clough

Also in attendance: None

ITEMS DEALT WITH UNDER POWERS AND DUTIES EXERCISABLE BY THE BOARD

EXB96 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 10 February 2011 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

HEALTH AND ADULTS PORTFOLIO

(NB: Councillors Nelson and Swain declared a personal interest in the following item of business as Board Members for Halton Housing Trust)

EXB97 SUB REGIONAL CHOICE BASED LETTINGS

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director, Adults and Community on a new housing allocations scheme to be implemented alongside a new Choice Based Lettings (CBL) Service later in the year.

The Board was reminded that at its meeting on 10 March 2010, a report was presented which outlined the progress made in developing a sub regional model of CBL. A draft allocations scheme for consultation was agreed and consultation took place between 23 August and 12 November 2010, with other Council partners conducting a

Action

similar exercise at the same time.

The final draft allocations scheme was attached at Appendix 1 for Board approval. It was noted that many of the changes made since the original draft was presented in 2010 were of a minor nature but two changes were of particular note:-

- the effect that a poor tenancy history of rent arrears or anti-social behaviour should have on a person's housing application; and
- the award of some priority to people who were working but otherwise not in housing need.

These changes had resulted in the number of priority Bands changing from four to six, as outlined in the report.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the results of the consultation exercise and the consequent changes proposed to the allocations scheme be noted; and
- 2) the Choice Based Lettings allocations scheme attached at Appendix 1 be agreed, and be introduced formally with the launch of the sub regional Choice Based Lettings service in the Autumn.

Strategic Director
- Adult and
Community

EXB98 INVITATION TO BE AN EARLY IMPLEMENTER – HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARDS

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director, Adults and Community on the Department of Health invitation to Local Authorities to become an Early Implementer for Health and Wellbeing Boards.

The Board was informed that, as part of the proposals for health reforms, the Government had recently announced the establishment of Health and Wellbeing Boards. The Boards would bring together Councils with NHS Commissioners, working to join up services across the NHS, Public Health, Social Care and Children's Services. Elected Members would have a statutory responsibility to be members of the Health and Wellbeing Board along with relevant GP Consortia and membership would also include Directors of Children's Services, Adult Social Services and Public Health as well as local HealthWatch.

Members were advised that Health and Wellbeing Boards would take the lead on developing a shared understanding of local needs (through the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment) and setting the priorities and strategy for health and wellbeing for the local community. The strategies would inform commissioning plans for NHS commissioners and councils, providing a basis for joint working and commissioning. It was noted that, subject to parliamentary approval, Health and Wellbeing Boards would be established from 2013, running in shadow form from 2012 with 2011/12 being a transitional year.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the contents of the report be noted ;and
- 2) the application to become a Department of Health Early Implementer be approved.

Strategic Director
- Adult and
Community

RESOURCES PORTFOLIO

EXB99 INTRODUCTION OF A VEXATIOUS COMPLAINTS POLICY

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director, Resources on the introduction of a Vexatious Complaints Policy as a revision to the Council's three complaints procedures.

The Board was reminded that the Council had three separate complaints procedures in place - Corporate complaints, Children and Young People complaints, and Adult Social Care complaints. Whilst only the latter two procedures were statutory, the Corporate complaints procedure was introduced to conform to the principles of the Citizens' Charter, which sought to enable the public to seek redress when public services failed to provide a satisfactory standard of service.

Adoption of a Council wide policy would ensure that all Council complaints procedures remained fit for purpose and conformed to best practice. The draft Policy, attached at Appendix 1, had previously been considered by the Corporate Policy and Performance Board at its meeting on 2 November 2010 with a recommendation that it be considered and approved by Executive Board.

RESOLVED: That the draft Vexatious Complaints Policy be approved as a revision to the Council's complaints procedures.

EXB100 CORPORATE CHARGING POLICY FRAMEWORK

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director, Resources on the Corporate Charging Policy Framework (the Framework).

The Board was advised that the Framework set out the principles for charging, recovering costs and generating income across the Council. It set out the powers available to the Council with regard to charging for discretionary services, along with the application of subsidies, concessions and exemptions. It also provided the statutory background relating to trading powers. The Framework provided guidance on establishing and recovering the full costs of service delivery.

The Framework, as a policy for the future, contained the basis for the Efficiency Programme Review of Income & Charging workstream to progress, and would provide a structured approach for the Council to implement such options as generating income and charging for services it currently did not charge for.

RESOLVED: That the Corporate Charging Policy Framework be approved.

CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES PORTFOLIO

EXB101 STRATEGIC COMMISSIONING STATEMENT FOR 14-19 EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Young People on the Strategic Commissioning Statement for 14-19 Education and Training.

The Board was advised that the Strategic Commissioning Statement (the Statement) would enable Halton Borough Council to carry out its statutory duty, under Sections 15Z and 18A of the Education Act 1996, to secure sufficient suitable education and training opportunities to meet the reasonable needs of all young people in the Borough. The Statement provided a strategic overview of provision and needs in the area.

The Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) published statutory guidance on 20 December 2010 on Funding Arrangements for 16-19 Education and Training. The key elements of the guidance were outlined in the report, together with details of the clear roles and responsibilities for Local Authorities. The Board was advised that the role of YPLA up to March 2012 was the funding of 16-19 education and training, funding and support for academies and financial support for young learners. There was an additional responsibility for the YPLA to contribute to the establishment of the Education Funding Agency which would operate from 1 April 2012.

The Board was reminded that the Borough Council produced a Strategic Commissioning Statement which was ratified by the 14-19 Strategic Partnership in September 2010, and the following five points were agreed:-

1. Participation in Education and Training;
2. Learning Routes;
3. NEET;
4. Close the Gap - Vulnerable and Disadvantaged (*for example Children in Care/Care Leavers, Learners with learning difficulties and /or disabilities, young offenders, young parents, young carers and those young people on free school meals*); and
5. Quality of Provision.

Following consultation, it was agreed to include activities across the 14-16 phase and demonstrate stronger links with Employment Learning and Skills to ensure that a more coherent and joined up approach between education and employment was reflected in the Statement. These had now been included in the Strategic Commissioning Statement.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the Strategic Commissioning Statement for 2011/12 be endorsed; and
- 2) progress to date towards meeting the five priorities in the Commissioning Statement and Halton Borough Council's statutory duty, under Section 15ZA and 18A of the Education Act 1996 (as inserted by the ASCL Act 2009), to secure sufficient suitable education and training opportunities to meet the reasonable needs of young people in Halton be noted.

MINUTES ISSUED: 8 March 2011

CALL-IN: 15 March 2011

Any matter decided by the Executive Board may be called in no later than 5.00pm on 15 March 2011.

Meeting ended at 2.40 p.m.