

EXECUTIVE BOARD

At a meeting of the Executive Board on Thursday, 16 June 2011 in the Marketing Suite, Municipal Building

Present: Councillors Polhill (Chairman), D. Cargill, Jones, McInerney, Nelson, Stockton, Swain, Wharton and Wright

Apologies for Absence: None

Absence declared on Council business: Councillor Harris

Officers present: A. Scott, M. Reaney, G. Cook, I. Leivesley, G. Meehan, D. Parr, B. Dodd, P. McWade, W Rourke and D. Hennessy

Also in attendance: None

ITEMS DEALT WITH UNDER POWERS AND DUTIES EXERCISABLE BY THE BOARD

Action

EXB8 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 26 May 2011 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

EXB9 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985 URGENT BUSINESS

The Board was advised that two matters had arisen which required immediate attention by the Board (Minute EXB 12 and 13 refers). Therefore, pursuant to Section 100 B (4) and 100 E, and due to immediate action being required, the Chairman ruled that the items be considered as a matter of urgency.

HEALTH AND ADULTS PORTFOLIO

EXB10 ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE FAIRER CHARGING FOR NON-RESIDENTIAL SERVICES POLICY

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director, Communities on the Annual Review for the Fairer Charging

for Non-Residential Services Policy.

The Board was reminded that at its meeting on 1 April 2010, the policy for Fairer Charging for Non Residential services was approved. The policy ensured charges for non-residential community care services were calculated in an open and transparent manner and that all service users treated fairly and consistently.

The Board was advised that for the services to be sustainable, the charge to service users would need to be increased. Halton was identified as being amongst the lowest charging authority in a recent benchmarking exercise, and the report detailed the method of calculations used to determine the charges. Department of Health guidance stated that certain benefits should be disregarded in the calculations, although the disregard of the Severe Disability Premium (SDP) was left to the discretion of each local authority.

Appendix 1 contained details of the revised policy, which also clarified the treatment of couples.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the removal of the Severe Disability Premium disregard from the Charging Policy with effect from 1 July 2011 be approved; and
- (2) the revised Fairer Charging for Non-Residential Services Policy detailed at Appendix 1, be approved.

Strategic Director
- Communities

RESOURCES PORTFOLIO

EXB11 REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director, Policy and Resources on the Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places.

The Board was advised that the Electoral Administration Act 2006 introduced a statutory duty for local authorities to carry out a review of their parliamentary Polling Districts and Polling Places by 31 December 2007 and every four years thereafter.

The Board was advised that the last formal review of

Polling Districts and Polling Places was undertaken in 2007. Since that time, Polling Stations had been reviewed at election times by the Returning Officer, and where changes had been necessary, Ward Members had been consulted and changes made.

The report detailed the three stages of review; the Preliminary Stage, the Proposal Stage and the Consultation Stage. Following the Consultation Stage, the Authority must make its final decisions on the review, taking into account all the representations received. This would need full Council approval before the publication of the Register of Electors on 1 December 2011.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) authority be given for the publication of the notice of the Polling Districts and Polling Places Review; and
- (2) a Working Party of 6 Members (4 Labour, 1 Liberal Democrat and 1 Conservative) be appointed to undertake the review of Polling Districts and Polling Places, following consultation, as required by the Electoral Administration Act 2006 and to make recommendations to Executive Board.

Strategic Director
- Policy &
Resources

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 Sub-Section 4 of Section 100A 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 outweighs the public interest 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 Sub-Section 4 of Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 because it is likely that, in view of the nature of the business, exempt information will be disclosed, being information defined in Section 100 (1) and paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE PORTFOLIO

(NB: Councillor Nelson and Councillor Stockton declared a personal interest in the following item of business as Governors of The Grange School)

EXB12 BSF- TITLE COMPENSATION

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise which provided an update on the Financial Closing of the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) agreement.

The Board was advised that the BSF final business case was approved by the Executive Board based upon the Competitive Dialogue (CD) process. The risks associated with title and price position were discussed as part of the dialogue. Although these issues were subject to discussions in the CD process, the issues were withdrawn by the consortia because it was their intention to procure title insurance to mitigate the risks. HTP advised late afternoon on Friday 10th June that they were unable to secure the appropriate insurance to satisfy the funders (Aviva) requirements, as outlined in the report.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the revised BSF Project Agreement as specified in the report in respect of the potential risks on the titles be approved;

Chief Executive

- 2) the Chief Executive be given Delegated Authority to take such actions as are necessary to resolve this matter, in consultation with the Leader, the Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People, the Operational Director- Legal and Democratic Services and the Operational Director – Finance; and
- 3) this decision be excluded from the call-in procedure, as immediate action was required so Financial Close could take place by week commencing 20 June 2011.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PORTFOLIO

EXB13 SINGLE WORK PROGRAMME

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise on the Single Work Programme in Halton.

The Board was advised that, as part of the Government's welfare reform proposals, a number of existing employment support programmes had ceased and had been replaced by a new initiative called the Single Work Programme. This would be a mandatory programme for residents reaching key milestones of unemployment.

It was noted that the work programme would be delivered through a number of contract areas and that Halton was included in a large contract area which covered Merseyside, Lancashire and Cumbria. The report contained details of the Prime Contractors for the area together with the Work Programme Income and Expenditure forecasts.

RESOLVED: That Halton Borough Council enter into contracts to deliver the Single Work Programme with the Prime Contractors named in the report.

Strategic Director
- Children and
Enterprise

MINUTES ISSUED: 22 June 2011

CALL-IN: 29 June 2011

Any matter (with the exception of Minute No: EXB 12 above) decided by the Executive Board may be called in no later than 5.00pm on 29 June 2011.

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Meeting ended at 2.20 p.m.