

EXECUTIVE BOARD

At a meeting of the Executive Board on Thursday, 14 July 2011 in the Marketing Suite, Municipal Building

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

Apologies for Absence: Councillor McInerney

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: G. Cook, B. Dodd, D. Johnson, I. Leivesley, A. McIntyre, G. Meehan, D. Parr, M. Reaney and M. Simpson

Also in attendance: N. Atkin and I. Fife, Halton Housing Trust

ITEMS DEALT WITH UNDER POWERS AND DUTIES EXERCISABLE BY THE BOARD

EXB23 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 30 June 2011 were taken as read and signed as correct record.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE PORTFOLIO

(NB: The following Councillors declared a personal interest in the following item of business for the reasons stated: Councillor Cargill as a Governor of Windmill Hill Primary School, Councillor Swain as a Governor Weston Point Community Primary and Councillor Harris as a Governor of The Bankfield School.)

EXB24 SCHOOLS CAPITAL STRATEGY BASIC NEED 2011-12 - KEY DECISION -

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise which outlined the methodology used to prioritise the schools for basic needs funding for 2011/2012. It sought approval of Executive Board to the prioritisation process for the allocation of Basic Need Capital for 2011/2012

Action

The Board was advised that in December 2010 the Department for Education had announced the schools capital grant allocations for 2011/12. It was reported that at the Executive Board meeting on 17th March the capital programme for 2011/2012 had been agreed with the exception of the Basic Need allocations. It was, therefore, agreed that a further report would be submitted to consider the allocation of this fund.

The Board was further advised that the model for Halton had been developed in order to objectively prioritise schools identifying those in with the strongest case for basic need support. The model was attached as Appendix 1 to the report. In addition, the three key elements of this model were as follows:-

- The total net capacity for each school had been considered in relation to the current total pupil numbers for each school;
- The future capacity had been projected to identify the number of places likely to be required for each school; and
- Priority had been given to schools with temporary mobile classrooms – the highest score had been given to schools with long term use of temporary classrooms.

It was reported that In Widnes East five schools appeared in the priority list as follows:

- Wade Deacon High School Widnes East;
- St Bede's Catholic Infant School Widnes East;
- St Bede's Catholic Junior School Widnes East;
- Fairfield Infant School Widnes East; and
- Lunts Heath Primary School Widnes East.

The report outlined the current situation in respect of each school and recommended a way forward. The Board discussed demographics, school capacities and parent's requirements in terms of a mixture of voluntary aided and community schools. It was noted that a report would be brought back to a future meeting to provide details of capital projects for each of the approved capital schemes.

Reason For Decision

To deliver and implement the basic need capital programmes.

Alternative Options Considered And Rejected

Consideration had been given to supporting capital development in more Halton schools however the level of funding available meant that this was not possible.

Implementation Date

Development of the detailed capital programme will need to commence in July 2011.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the prioritisation process outlined within the report be agreed;
- (2) the capital projects can be developed to address basic need at Windmill Hill Primary School, Weston Primary School. St Bede's Catholic Infant and Junior Schools and Lunts Heath Primary Schools; and
- (3) a further report detailing the capital projects for each of the approved capital schemes be presented to the Board.

Strategic Director
- Children and
Enterprise

HEALTH AND ADULTS PORTFOLIO

(NB: Councillors Swain and Nelson declared a personal interest in the following item due to being a Board Member of Halton Housing Trust.)

EXB25 HALTON HOUSING TRUST PROGRESS REPORT

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Communities which, in accordance with the monitoring framework agreed prior to the housing stock transfer, provided a further update on Halton Housing Trust's progress since the last report to Executive Board on the 15 July 2010.

Mr Nick Atkin, Chief Executive of Halton Housing Trust and Ms Ingrid Fife, Chair of the Board, Halton Housing Trust, attended the meeting to present the report.

The report set out progress to date in delivering some of the key “pledges” made prior to the stock transfer, and progress in meeting the Tenant Services Authority’s regulatory framework. The report also identified progress made by the Trust in the delivery of its key service areas. It also considered some of the challenges and opportunities ahead during a period of unprecedented change for the housing sector.

The Board was advised of the implementation of the customer scrutiny panel, the success of partnership working, improving the customer care experience (ICE) programme and the neighbourhood investment framework.

Members commended the work of the Housing Trust in improving social housing in the Borough. The Chairman thanked Nick Atkin and Ingrid Fife for an informative presentation.

RESOLVED: That the progress set out in the report be noted.

Strategic Director
- Communities

EXB26 CONSULTATION ON OPTIONS FOR THE FUTURE UTILISATION OF THE CHESHIRE AND MERSEYSIDE TREATMENT CENTRE ON THE HALTON HOSPITAL SITE, RUNCORN

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Communities which informed the Executive Board of the consultation on options for the future utilisation of The Cheshire and Merseyside Treatment Centre on the Halton Hospital site, Runcorn. The report also sought the views of the Executive Board on the options set out in the consultation document.

The Board was advised of the following options in the Business Case:-

- A Do Nothing – included only to provide a benchmark for cost comparison purposes;
- B Divest – sell the building on the open market guided by an assessment by the District Valuer;
- C Lease – seek through a procurement process an organisation that was willing to take on the lease for the building;

D Utilisation – use the asset for local health care provision, if costs including capital charges, depreciation and running costs could be recouped. This was broken down into four further options:

D1 Orthopaedic Surgery only;

D2 Orthopaedic Surgery and Health Care Resource Centre on one floor;

D3 Day Surgery and Health Care Resource Centre on two floors; and

D4: Health Care Resource Centre only (no surgery).

The Board was further advised that the preferred option, taking into account the advantages and disadvantages, were options D2 and D3 as they presented a good balance of urgent care centre, primary care, intermediate care services and surgery, with a “community hospital” feel. They also reduced the risk of reliance on finding a single provider for the whole facility and potentially deliver an affordable long-term solution. D2 included an orthopaedic surgery with the opportunity to work closely with Warrington Hospital and D3 had a day surgery. It was recommended that further work should be undertaken to develop the implementation details for these options.

The Board discussed the consultation across Locality Area Forums and noted that expressions of interest had been received from four providers. Members agreed that the facility was required in Halton and agreed that options D2 and D3 would be supported as a response to the consultation.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the consultation being undertaken by the NHS Halton and St Helens be noted;
- (2) business case options D2 and D3 be supported as a response to the consultation, which takes into account the benefits, costs and risks of each option and also the needs of the local population.

Strategic Director
- Communities

EXB27 VICTORIA PARK PLAY AREA

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Communities which sought Members approval to make a bid to WREN for funding which would be used to extend the present Children's Play Area at Victoria Park by providing more equipment suitable for older children.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the extension of the Play Area at Victoria Park be made a development priority of the Open Space Services Division and added to its work plan;
- (2) a bid be prepared and submitted to Waste Recycling Environmental Ltd (WREN) to secure funding that would be used to extend the existing children's play area at Victoria Park through the installation of equipment that would be suited to an older age group; and
- (3) subject to securing the WREN funding, and having match funding in place, an extension to the existing playground be designed, procured and installed at Victoria Park.

Strategic Director
- Communities

TRANSPORTATION

EXB28 PRELIMINARY FLOOD RISK ASSESSMENT

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Policy and Resources which informed Members that the Environment and Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board at its meeting of 15th June 2011, had considered a report detailing the preparation and findings of a Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (PFRA) for the Borough.

The Board was advised that Defra had set a timetable for the production and review of PFRAs, and the results of the assessments were required by the Environment Agency (EA) for review by 22 June 2011. It was reported that the Board had resolved to support the submission of the draft Preliminary Assessment Report for Halton to the EA in order to comply with Defra's timetable for review and approval, and recommended the Preliminary Assessment Report (PAR) to the Executive Board for approval.

Members were advised of the key findings of the PFRA, the need for Halton to produce a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy and that Defra had extended the date for submission of the approved PAR to 19 August 2011. The Board agreed that the PAR appended to the report could be submitted to the EA for review.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) The Preliminary Assessment Report, detailing the preparation and funding of the PFRA for Halton, be approved; and
- (2) the Preliminary Assessment Report be submitted to the Environment Agency for review, in accordance with the EA's final guidance and Defra's timetable.

Strategic Director
- Policy &
Resources

MINUTES ISSUED: 21 July 2011

CALL-IN: 28 July 2011

Any matter decided by the Executive Board may be called in no later than 5.00pm on 28 July 2011.

Meeting ended at 3.10 p.m.