

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

*At a meeting of the Executive Board on Thursday, 26 January 2012 in The Boardroom -  
Municipal Building, Widnes*

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

Apologies for Absence: Councillor Swain

Absence declared on Council business: None

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

Also in attendance: None

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

#### EXB90 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 12 January 2012  
were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

#### **CHILDREN YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES PORTFOLIO**

#### EXB91 TACKLING 'TROUBLED FAMILIES' - INITIAL PLANS

The Board considered a report of the Strategic  
Director, Children and Enterprise, which outlined  
Government proposals for tackling troubled families and the  
Council's initial plans for delivering this new initiative in  
Halton.

The Board was advised that the Government had  
made £450 million available in a cross-government drive to  
turn around the lives of 120,000 troubled families. The  
money would be made available to local authorities to fund a  
national network of Troubled Family 'Trouble Shooters' and  
family intervention projects.

The Board noted that the criteria for defining a family

*Action*

as 'troubled', was still under development, but information available so far would suggest such a family would have the following characteristics:

- Not be in work;
- Children not attending school; and
- Children involved in crime and/or anti social behaviour

The 375 families calculated for Halton were based on an analysis from the 2005 Family and Children Survey, using the child welfare index and indicators of multiple deprivation, which were detailed in the report. An analysis would be undertaken to convert this indicative estimate into verified figures of 'real' troubled families in Halton.

It was further noted that this analysis would need to be involve multiple agencies and be informed by Government criteria currently under formulation. Details of the Council's initial response, discussed by the Board, were contained in the report.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the Government's initiative for troubled families be noted;.
- 2) the Council's initial response to troubled families listed in paragraph 4 of the report be endorsed;
- 3) the Lead Member for Children, Young People and Families be authorised to lead the initiative on behalf of the Council; and
- 4) a further report be brought to the Board, once consultation had been undertaken with key partners on the delivery of the 'Troubled Families' programme, and after the initial analysis of the 375 troubled families calculated by Government as living in Halton.

Strategic Director  
- Children and  
Enterprise

## **HEALTH AND ADULTS PORTFOLIO**

### **EXB92 PUBLIC HEALTH RESPONSIBILITIES AND TRANSITION GUIDANCE**

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Communities, which updated Members on new guidance published on the future public health

responsibilities of Local Authorities.

The White Paper "Liberating the NHS" outlined Government plans for the health system, and to transfer responsibilities to new organisations from April 2013. A further suite of guidance was published in December 2011, in the form of a series of factsheets, which provided an updated list of services the local authority would commission. In addition, the factsheets provided a significant amount of information on the requirements for health protection and healthcare public health, which were described in the report.

The Board was advised that there had been some changes to the proposed list of commissioning responsibilities, and a list of services transferring to local authorities was attached at Appendix 1. The report also outlined a number of local authority mandated services which included:

- Sexual health services
- Population healthcare advice
- Health check programme
- Health protection plans
- National child measurement programme
- Accountability

It was further noted that the post of the Director of Public Health would become a statutory chief officer, with statutory duties and be the lead officer for, and be consulted on, a range of health issues. In addition, the report also outlined the additional responsibilities of the Directors of Adults and Children's Services respectively.

The Board noted the timetable for action as set out in the report.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted and a transition plan be submitted for approval by the Executive Board in March 2012.

Strategic Director  
- Communities

#### EXB93 NHS SUPPORT FOR SOCIAL CARE

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Communities, on recent announcements on the NHS Support for Social Care.

The report updated the Board on changes to funding announced for 2011/12 and 2012/13 for Post Discharge Services and Enablement and Specific PCT Allocations for

Social Care. The current position was that the Department for Health (DfH) had indicated that funding for the Specific Allocations for Social Care would be extended to 2013/14. It was noted that the two year programme to 2012/13 would require review in the light of this announcement, and the proposed revised funding allocation was attached at Appendix 2 to the report.

It was further noted that the DfH had announced one further one-off allocation of funding for the PCTs, for immediate transfer to Local Authorities for investment in social care services which also benefit the health system. This was in recognition that during the winter period, health services, and in particular hospitals, experienced significant pressure. The allocation for Halton was £397,000 and would enable local services to discharge patients from hospital more quickly and provide effective ongoing support for people in their own homes. Details of the proposed allocation were attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the report be noted;
- 2) the Communities Directorate be authorised to continue with the agreement with NHS Halton and St Helens on behalf of Halton Borough Council; and
- 3) the revised funding allocation detailed in Appendices 1 and 2 be approved.

Strategic Director  
- Communities

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PORTFOLIO**

### **EXB94 PROGRESS REPORT ON APPRENTICESHIPS IN THE BOROUGH**

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise, providing an update on apprenticeships in Halton.

It was noted that within Halton there were 98 different apprenticeship providers, supporting Halton residents with their Apprenticeship Frameworks. The creation of new or additional apprenticeships in the Borough had previously been supported financially by the Working Neighbourhoods Fund (WNF) which had been abolished. An Apprenticeship Business Grant was available to support employers in recruiting a new or additional apprentice, and as part of the Government's plan for growth, a number of new initiatives

were announced at the end of 2011, as detailed in the report.

The Board was advised that apprenticeships had long term benefits for the Council as an employer, in engendering a talented and able workforce. The report set out some suggestions for how the Council could lead and assist the local economy on the apprenticeships agenda. With this in mind, it was proposed that the Council should support the apprenticeships scheme and incorporate the aims, objectives, target numbers, monitoring and reviewing of the scheme into its forthcoming Corporate People Plan.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the recommendations for apprenticeships outlined in the report be noted;
- 2) the recommendations be incorporated into the Council's Corporate People Plan; and
- 3) the Board receive updates on apprenticeships on a six monthly basis.

Strategic Director  
- Children and  
Enterprise

## **RESOURCES PORTFOLIO**

### **EXB95 RISK MANAGEMENT - KEY DECISION**

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Policy and Resources on the Risk Management Policy (the Policy) and Strategic Risk Register (the Register) for 2012.

The Board was advised that the purpose of the Policy and the Register was to ensure that the Council maximised its opportunities whilst minimising and controlling risks in delivering its priorities. The Policy described the framework the Council operated under Risk Management, which was linked to its performance management arrangements.

The Policy and the Register, attached to the report, had been reviewed and updated, with the process simplified in accordance with the Corporate Risk Management Policy, without losing any of the benefits of the old processes. The risks had been grouped in order of priority of risks under eight headings listed in the report. It was noted that briefings had taken place with Directorate Senior Management Teams, as part of the review process.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the Policy and Register be approved; and
- 2) the Business Efficiency Board be asked to review the adequacy of arrangements for identifying and managing business risks, in accordance with the Council's Constitution.

Strategic Director  
- Policy &  
Resources

**MINUTES ISSUED: 27 January 2012**

**CALL-IN: 3 February 2012**

**Any matter decided by the Executive Board may be called in no later than 5.00pm on 3 February 2012.**

*Meeting ended at 2.45 p.m.*