

**REPORT TO:** Executive Board

**DATE:** 13 December 2012

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director – Policy and Resources

**PORTFOLIO:** Resources

**TITLE:** Abolition of the Discretionary Social Fund

**WARDS:** Borough Wide

### **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to ask the Executive Board to consider a set of recommendations from the Corporate Policy and Performance Board in relation to the abolition of the Discretionary Social Fund.
- 1.2 The Corporate Policy Performance Board meets on 11 December 2012 to formulate its recommendations.

**2.0 RECOMMENDED: That the Executive Board consider and respond to the recommendations of the Corporate Policy and Performance Board.**

### **3.0 BACKGROUND/SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 3.1 The Executive Board first considered this matter at its meeting on 18 October 2012. At that time the Board resolved as follows:

“That this item be deferred and referred to the Corporate Policy and Performance Board and they be asked to consider the issue and make recommendations to the Executive Board”.

- 3.2 The PPB met informally on 30 October 2012 to give some initial consideration to this issue and are meeting formally on 11 December 2012 to consider making recommendations to the Executive Board.
- 3.3 A copy of the report the PPB is considering on 11 December 2012 can be accessed from the Link below:

<http://moderngov.halton.gov.uk/documents/s27737/CS%20PPB%2011Dec12%20SocialFund.pdf>

Copies of the Appendices can be accessed from the links below:

Appendix 1:

<http://moderngov.halton.gov.uk/documents/s27738/Proposals%20for%20a%20scheme%20to%20replace%20the%20current%20discretionary%20social%20fund.pdf>

Appendix 2:

<http://moderngov.halton.gov.uk/documents/s27775/New%20Scheme%20Criteria%2030%2011%2012%20docx.pdf>

3.4 Details of the PPB conclusions and recommendations will be circulated to the Executive Board on 12 December 2012.

#### **4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 The Council has a discretion whether to provide such schemes and this fact will form part of the PPB's consideration.

#### **5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 Managing the demand for such schemes will be difficult and any criteria will need to be kept under review to ensure the schemes are delivered within the grant provided.

5.2 This again will be considered by the PPB.

#### **6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

6.1 **Children and Young People in Halton**

6.2 **Employment Learning and Skills in Halton**

6.3 **A Healthy Halton**

6.4 **A Safer Halton**

6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

As there were over 7,000 applications made last year the schemes have the potential of affecting all of the Council's priorities.

#### **7.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 There are a number of key risks that will need to be considered:

- The timescale for the implementation (if the Council decides on this course of action).
- Financial controls over demand led budgets that the Council has little experience of.
- The accounting for spend and the control of spend. Ensuring the loans/grants are used for the purposes given.

## **8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 An equality impact assessment will be required of any scheme adopted.

## **9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

9.1 There are no background papers under the meaning of the Act.