

APPENDIX 1

Extracts of Executive Board Committee Minutes that are relevant to the Corporate Policy and Performance Board.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 7 FEBRUARY 2013

143	DRAFT BUDGET 2013-14
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The Board considered a report of the Operational Director, Finance, which outlined a recommendation to Council in respect of the Budget, Capital Programme and Council Tax for 2013/14.

It was noted that, at the time of writing the report, the Government had not announced the final Local Government Settlement, nor had the Cheshire Police and Crime Commissioner and the Cheshire Fire Authority set their budgets and Council Tax precepts. However final figures would be reported to Council when the information was available.

In terms of consultation, it was noted that the Council used various methods to listen to the views of the public and Members' own experiences through their Ward work was an important part of that process. The key conclusions were detailed in the report. Budget presentations were also underway at the seven Locality Area Forums. In addition, individual consultations would take place in respect of specific budget reductions and equality impact assessments would be completed where necessary.

The Board was advised that the Medium Term Financial Strategy, approved on 29 November 2012, had identified a funding gap of around £14m in 2013/14, £11m in 2014/15 and £12m in 2015/16. The Strategy had the following objectives:

- Deliver a balanced and sustainable budget;
- Prioritise spending towards the Council's five priority areas;
- Avoid excessive Council Tax rises;
- Achieve significant cashable efficiency savings;
- Protect front line services as far as possible; and
- Deliver improved procurement.

On 12 December 2012, the Council approved savings of £6.037m, and the new proposed savings were shown at Appendix B. The Departmental analysis of the budget was shown in Appendix C and the major reasons for change from the current budget were outlined for

Members' information in Appendix D. It was noted that the proposed budget total was £115.114m.

The Board was advised that the proposed budget incorporated the grant figures announced in the Provisional Settlement, and included £195,247 for the New Homes Bonus Grant, payable to local authorities based on the net increase in the number of homes in their area. The grant was payable at this amount for six years.

The Government announced on 19 December 2012 the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement for 2013/14, with the Final Settlement figures due to be announced late January/early February. It was noted that from 1 April 2013, the Local Government funding regime would change significantly with the introduction of the Business Rates Retention Scheme, as outlined in the report.

Further information was provided in respect of the budget outlook, although it was difficult to forecast resources over the following two years given the uncertainties caused by the current economic climate and the changes to the grant system following the introduction of the Business Rates Retention Scheme. The Medium Term Financial Forecast had been updated and was attached at Appendix E. It was noted that the funding gap over the next two years was forecast to be in the region of £27.5m.

Further information was provided in respect of Halton's Council Tax, Parish Precepts, Police and Fire Precepts, the Capital Programme, the Prudential Code and school budgets.

Members wished to place on record their thanks to all members of the Budget Working Group, Policy and Performance Board Chairs and staff for their hard work in producing this year's budget.

RESOLVED: That the Council be recommended to adopt the resolution set out in Appendix A of the report, which included setting the budget at £115.114m, the Council Tax requirement of £36.165m (before Parish, Police and Fire Precepts) and the Band D Council Tax for Halton of £1,159.53.

144	TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT 2013-14
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The Board considered a report of the Operational Director, Finance, proposing the Treasury Management Strategy Statement for 2013/14.

The Treasury Management Strategy Statement (TMSS) was attached to the report and detailed the expected activities of the Treasury function in the forthcoming financial year (2013/14).

The Local Government Act 2003 required the Council to “have regard to” the Prudential Code and to set Prudential Indicators for the next three years to ensure that the Council’s capital investment plans were affordable, prudent and sustainable. The Act therefore required the Council to set out its Treasury Strategy for borrowing as well as an Annual Investment Strategy, which set out the Council’s policies for managing its investments and for giving priority to the security and liquidity of those investments. However, Government guidance stated that Authorities could combine the statement and the strategy into one report, and the Council had adopted this approach.

Members noted that the production of a Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement was required and a formal statement for approval was contained within Appendix C.

RESOLVED: That Council be recommended to adopt the policies, strategies, statements and prudential and treasury indicators outlined in the report.

145	TREASURE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 3RD QUARTER OCTOBER - DECEMBER
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The Board considered a report of the Operational Director, Finance, which updated Members on the activities undertaken on the money market as required by the Treasury Management Policy.

The report provided supporting information on the economic background, economic forecast, short term rates, longer term rates, temporary borrowing/investments and new borrowing. It was noted that no debt rescheduling had been undertaken during the quarter.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

146	MULTI FUNCTIONAL DEVICES TENDERS
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The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Policy and Resources, which advised them on the advertising of tenders for the Council’s Multi-Functional Devices (MFD’s).

The Board was advised that in 2008, the Council rationalised its office printing, fax and photocopier devices by awarding a contract for the supply and maintenance of MFD’s to M2. The existing contract had been successful in rationalising printing, reducing costs and improving

reliability and added the ability to scan documents from a standard set of equipment.

Details of comparative Quarter 4 contract expenditure from 2010-2012 was attached at Appendix A. It was noted that contract expenditure peaked in 2010/11 at £255k, and had started to decrease as a result of the Council realising the benefits of electronic working, including the concept of “agile working” for staff, as detailed in the report.

It was reported that there was a need to replace the existing fleet of MFD’s, by inviting competitive quotes through The Chest. This would give the Council the opportunity to compare options for the provision of a replacement service and ensure the most economically advantageous solution. As the existing contract value was in excess of £1m, Procurement Standing Order 2.1 (Preliminary Estimate Report), required prior approval for this process to be undertaken.

RESOLVED: That the Board note the report and support the process of the advertising of the Multi-Functional Device tenders on behalf of the Policy and Resources Directorate, required from September 2013.

147	SINGLE EQUITY SCHEME 2013- 2015
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The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Policy and Resources on the revised Single Equality Scheme 2013-15.

The Board was advised that the previous Single Equality Scheme for 2009-12 expired at the end of 2012 calendar year. The Scheme proposed was a Single Equality Scheme, that conveyed the Council’s commitment to all the protected characteristics as defined in the Equality Act 2010.

It was reported that since approval of the previous Scheme in 2009, there had been a number of important legislative changes, including the Equality Act 2010 and the Public Sector Equality Duty in force since October 2011. The proposed Scheme incorporated all of these changes, and had been considered and recommended for approval by the Corporate Policy and Performance Board on 10 January 2013.

It was noted that since the inception of the previous Scheme, a workforce survey and workforce profile had been compiled. The information had been used as the basis for the People Plan 2012-2015, and to comply with the Public Sector Equality Duty, must be updated and published annually. The proposed Scheme also included the Council’s agreed Equality Objectives, which were approved by the

Executive Board on 15 March 2012. It was further noted that in order to achieve compliance, the Council must publish progress towards its objectives in April each year.

RESOLVED: That the Board

- 1) notes the contents of the Single Equality Scheme for 2013-15;
and
- 2) approves the Single Equality Scheme for 2013-15.

148	NORTHGATE SOCIAL FUND SOLUTION – WAIVER OF STANDING ORDERS
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The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Policy and Resources, seeking approval for the waiver of Procurement Standing Orders in relation to the Northgate Social Fund Solution.

The Board was advised that, the Discretionary Social Fund (the Fund), currently administered by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), had been abolished by the Welfare Reform Act effective from April 2013. Certain functions within the Fund would remain the responsibility of the DWP. However, it was reported that Crisis Loans, for general living expenses, and Community Care Grants would be replaced by a new service to be administered by the Local Authority.

The Board was reminded that, at its meeting on 13 December 2012, it agreed the development of a scheme for Halton, to be known as the Discretionary Support Scheme, from April 2013. The Council would be responsible for the design and implementation of its own criteria and application process.

Due to the extremely tight timescales, the Board was advised that it was not practical to invite tenders to provide the appropriate revenues and benefits systems, as required by Procurement Standing Order 4.1. Northgate Information Solutions UK Limited had been chosen as they were the current Council providers for the revenues and benefits and blue badge scheme, thereby reducing the need for additional system interfaces to be established.

It was further noted that the contract would be subject to an annual renewal and tendering process, which would be conducted during the 2013/14 financial year.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) in these exceptional circumstances (namely the statutory timetable for the introduction of Discretionary Social Fund

changes), Procurement Standing Order 4.1 be waived in respect of Northgate Information Solutions UK Limited, for the supply and operating installation of the Northgate Social Fund Solution; and

- 2) the Operational Director, Finance, be authorised to enter into a contract with Northgate Information Solutions UK Limited for the supply and operating installation of the system referred to in resolution 1) above, for an annual charge of £8,000.

149	DIRECTORATE PLANS 2013-2016
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The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Policy and Resources on the adoption of Directorate Plans for the period 2013-16.

The Board was advised that each Directorate was required to develop a medium term business plan or Directorate Plan, in parallel with the budget. These would be subject to annual review and refresh. Draft Service Objectives and Performance Indicators and targets had been developed and these would form the basis of the quarterly performance monitoring presented to the Board during the forthcoming year.

It was noted that Elected Members had engaged in the process primarily through the Policy and Performance Boards. Once the budget proposals had been approved by Council in March 2013, budgetary statements would be inserted into the Plans.

RESOLVED: That

1. the Draft Directorate Plans be approved; and
2. the Chief Executive be authorised, in consultation with the Leader, to make any final amendments and adjustments that may be required.

151	LAND DISPOSAL FOR HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AT FALKIRK AVENUE – KEY DECISION
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The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise, on the disposal of land for housing development at Falkirk Avenue, Widnes.

The Board was advised that, following a competition on The Chest, the Council appointed property agents to advertise the development opportunity on the open market and to act as the Council's advisors for the disposal of land at Falkirk Avenue, Widnes. Offers from

a number of developers were received with three parties being selected to submit their final bids by the 31 October 2012. Their details were contained in the report for Members' information.

It was noted that the proposal was consistent with the Council's policy of disposing of its property assets in an economically effective manner, and of ensuring the provision of new homes.

Reason(s) for Decision

To maximise a significant land asset to generate a capital receipt for the Council.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

To retain the site for non-residential use, but this would prevent the Council generating a significant capital receipt.

Implementation Date

This would be subject to detailed planning being awarded.

RESOLVED: That

1. the disposal of c.4.34 acres of land to Morris Homes Ltd on the terms set out in Appendix 2, subject to Planning Permission, and subject to contract be approved; and
2. the Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise, be authorised to arrange for all required documentation to be completed to the satisfaction of the Operational Director, Legal and Democratic Services.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 28 FEBRUARY 2013

161	USE OF GUARDIAN SCHEME IN VACANT BUILDINGS
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The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise which advised Members on the success of the use of the Guardian Scheme in vacant buildings.

Members were advised that the Executive Board Sub Committee on 29 March 2012, approved a pilot of the Guardian Scheme in two of its vacant properties, as an alternative method of security. Two buildings were identified as suitable for the pilot scheme – the former library at Egerton Street in Runcorn and Transporter Bridge House in Widnes. The report provided details of the initial set up costs and utility costs for

each of the premises and it was noted that both properties were inspected monthly by the management company, with spot checks to ensure that the guardians were complying with their agreements.

It was reported that in general terms, the installation of guardians ensured that the fabric of the buildings were being maintained and that incidences of burst pipes or water ingress were quickly noted and dealt with before any serious damage could occur. It was considered that the use of guardians scheme was a viable alternative method to protecting vacant buildings until they were sold, let, demolished or occupied by the Council.

RESOLVED: That the Board approves the continuing use of the Guardian Scheme.

162	NATIONAL TRAVELLER PLANNING POLICY – UPDATE ON IMPLICATIONS FOR HALTON
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The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Policy and Resources which provided an update on the Council's response to the national Traveller Planning Policy and its implications for Halton.

The Board was advised that the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) would provide £60m of capital funding towards the development and improvement of Traveller pitches. It was announced in December 2012, that Halton's bid for a grant to deliver new permanent pitches was successful. It was noted that there had for some time been a statutory requirement to undertake a Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment. With the new National Planning Policy for Traveller Sites was the necessity to demonstrate a five year supply of sites against local pitch targets.

It was noted that there were two separate requirements for pitch delivery; permanent pitches where Travellers stayed year round and transit pitches for Travellers passing through the Borough. The grant from the HCA would cover the capital costs for new permanent site pitches at Warrington Road, Runcorn, which would comprise twelve pitches each with its own water and electricity supply and toilet and shower facilities.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) The offer made by the Homes and Communities Agency via the Traveller Funding Stream within the Affordable Housing Programme to finance the provision of new permanent pitches in Halton be accepted; and

- 2) Delivery of new permanent pitches at Warrington Road, Runcorn in accordance with the strategy outlined in Section 5 of the report, be approved.

163	DIRECTORATE OVERVIEW PERFORMANCE REPORTS FOR QUARTER 3 – 2012-13
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The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Policy and Resources, on the Council's performance for the third quarter to 31 December 2012.

The Board was reminded that in September 2011, it had approved a revision to reporting arrangements on performance, in the light of emerging national and local circumstances. The approved changes included presentation of Directorate Performance Overview Reports on a quarterly basis and progress against the Corporate Plan on a six monthly basis; the development and use of a priority based performance report for each of the Council's six corporate priorities in 2012/13 and Policy and Performance Boards; and departmental performance reports to be made available via the intranet and the Members' Bulletin.

It was noted that a review of the Council's existing performance management and monitoring arrangements had been undertaken in 2011, based upon an agreed set of principles, which had been agreed by the Corporate Policy and Performance Board, based around the better management of performance information in terms of both strategic focus and volume. The Directorate Performance Overview Report (DPOR) provided a strategic summary of the key issues arising from performance in the relevant Quarter for each Directorate. DPOR's from 2012/13 would be presented to Executive Board in line with the presentation of Quarterly Financial Statements. Information for each of the Council's Directorates were attached at Appendices 1-3. The Board noted that monitoring of all relevant high risks would be undertaken and progress be reported against the application of the risk treatment measures in Quarters 2 and 4.

RESOLVED: That the report and progress and performance information be noted.

164	DISCRETIONARY NON-DOMESTIC RATE RELIEF
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The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Policy and Resources regarding four new applications for Discretionary Non-Domestic Rate Relief.

The Board was advised that, under the Local Government Finance Act 1988, the Council was allowed to grant discretionary rate relief to organisations that were either a charity or a not for profit organisation.

It was reported that the Council grants discretionary rate relief to organisations for a three year period. Details of the four applications were given in the report together with more detailed financial information at Appendix 1.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) under the provisions of Section 47, Local Government Finance Act 1988, discretionary rate relief be granted to the following organisations at the percentage indicated, for the period from 1st April 2012 or the commencement of liability, whichever is the later, to 31st March 2016:-

Four Estates Ltd	20%
Greater Merseyside Connexions Partnership	20%
Halton Speak Out	20%
St John's Church	20%

- 2) in respect of the following organisations, they be granted discretionary rate relief for the backdated element of the charge from 1 April 2011 or from the commencement of liability, whichever is the later:-

Greater Merseyside Connexions Partnership	20%
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165

2012-13 QUARTER 3 SPENDING

The Board received a report of the Operational Director, Finance which reported on the Council's overall revenue and capital spending position at 31 December 2012.

A summary of spending against the revenue budget up to 31 December 2012 was attached to the report at Appendix 1. This provided individual statements for each department. The Board was advised that in overall terms, the revenue expenditure was £1.643m below the budget profile, although this was only a guide to eventual spending.

It was reported that on 12 December 2012, the Council had approved the early implementation of budget savings for 2013/14 totalling £6.038m. A number of those would provide part year saving in 2012/13 and would assist in keeping overall spending within budget at year end.

The report contained details on a number of significant areas of the budget including:

- The employee budget, vacant posts, overtime and agency staff;
- Expenditure on general supplies and services;
- The Community Care budget;
- Children's residential placements;
- Income affected by the economic downturn;
- A new contract with Grant Thornton to provide the External Audit providing savings;
- The collection rate for Council Tax and Business Rates; and
- The Council's net overall spending.

The report also outlined details of a revision to the capital spending programme at Appendix 2 and monitoring of the Council's balance sheet.

RESOLVED: That

1. all spending continues to be limited to the absolutely essential;
2. Strategic Directors ensure overall spending at year-end is within their total operational budget; and
3. Council be recommended to approve the revised capital programme as set out in Appendix 2.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 14 MARCH 2013

174	ASSETS OF COMMUNITY VALUE – COMMUNITY RIGHT TO BID
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The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Policy and Resources, on the Assets of Community Value (England) Regulations 2012 (the Regulations).

The Board was advised that the Regulations came into force on 21 September 2012, under the Localism Act 2011, and was another community-facing power to sit alongside the Community Right to Challenge. The latter allowed voluntary and community groups, Parish Councils and local authority staff to express an interest in taking over the running of local authority services. It was reported that, where such an approach was received, and was a legitimate challenge, the authority must carry out an open procurement exercise for the service.

It was reported that the Regulations set out the procedures and compensation arrangements in respect of assets such as land and buildings. A building or piece of land said to have community value could include libraries, community centres, leisure facilities, pubs and shops owned either by the Council or another public organisation. Groups eligible to make a community nomination were detailed in the report and defined as:

- Parish Councils;
- Neighbouring Parish Councils;
- Unincorporated Community Groups;
- Neighbourhood Forums; and
- Community interest groups with a local connection.

The report detailed the requirements for nominations that must be complied with and noted that the local authority would be required to establish, maintain and publish the list of assets of community value as well as maintain and publish a list of unsuccessful nominations. The report also set out the process for identifying which assets should be 'listed' on a register, the review process and the appeal process to the First Tier Tribunal.

RESOLVED: That

1. the report be noted;
2. the Operational Director Economy, Enterprise and Property establishes and maintains the List of Community Assets under the Assets of Community Value (England) Regulations 2012;
3. the Operational Director Economy, Enterprise and Property be authorised, in consultation with the Resources Portfolio holder, the relevant Portfolio holder(s) and Ward Councillor(s), to take decisions relating to applications made under the Assets of Community Value legislation as outlined in the process set out in Appendix 1 in general and in respect of particular cases and applications;
4. the compensation criteria as outlined in Appendix 2 of this report be approved and the Operational Director Economy, Enterprise and Property be authorised, in consultation with the Resources portfolio-holder, to take decisions in respect of this;
5. Reviews of decisions taken under 2.3 and 2.4 above shall be undertaken and decisions taken under delegated powers by Appeals Panel;

6. The Operational Director Legal Services and Monitoring Officer instigate such changes to the Constitution as may be necessary to give effect to the legislation; and
7. At present it is not possible to anticipate the financial or staff resource that will be required to manage these Regulations. It is recommended that the Operational Directors Economy, Enterprise and Property and Legal Services provide an appraisal of the impact of these arrangements after September 2013.

175

ICT CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2012-13 AND 2013-14
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The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Policy and Resources, on the profile of spend against the ICT Capital Programme 2012/13 and on planned spend for 2013/14.

The Board was advised that for a number of years, £1.1m had been set aside to support the development, improvement and maintenance of the Council's ICT infrastructure. In a fast changing environment, the importance was noted for equipment to be maintained, updated and replaced in order to provide an effective service to the departments that relied so heavily on it. This approach had enabled the Council to retain a stable and fit for purpose ICT environment.

It was reported that the infrastructure supported 400 software applications, 3,500 devices and provided an ICT support service to twenty schools, as well as a small number of contracts with external organisations. The Board was advised that there was potential to earn further income from other opportunities, as investment made through the Capital Programme provided the confidence potential clients required.

The capital investment focussed on three areas, details of which were attached at Appendix A, and which were noted as:-

- Server;
- Network; and
- Desktop.

RESOLVED: That

1. the actual spend profile for 2012/13 outlined in Appendix A be noted; and
2. the planned spend profile for 2013/14 outlined in Appendix A be approved.

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Policy and Resources, which provided an Options Appraisal on four industrial estates with options for their future.

The report advised the Board that over recent years there had been increased expenditure on these industrial estates due to their age, deteriorating condition and very high vacancy rates caused by difficult marketing conditions. The report provided details on each location, to help Members ascertain their feasibility and viability so as to formulate a strategy for their future management. Financial and options appraisals were attached at Appendix 2.

RESOLVED: That the following be approved

1. Marshgate, St Michael's Industrial Estate - Retain within HBC ownership and the sum now reported is allocated from the maintenance budget in 2013 / 2014 in order to replace the roof (These costs are at today's prices and do not take into account inflation);
2. Oldgate, St Michael's Industrial Estate - Retain within HBC's ownership and that funding be allocated from the maintenance budget to replace the roof on a phased basis as follows: -
 - Phase 1 – the sum now reported allocated 2014 / 2015 in respect of block B
 - Phase 2 - the sum now reported allocated 2015 / 2016 in respect of block C
 - Phase 3 - the sum now reported allocated end over the end 2016 / 2017 and beginning 2017 / 2018 in respect of block D.
3. Dewar Court, Astmoor Industrial Estate, Runcorn- HBC continues to retain this estate within its ownership; and
4. Seymour Court, Manor Park, Runcorn –Dispose of this estate on the open market by the most appropriate method in the 2013 / 2014 financial year.

(The costs are at today's prices and do not take into account Inflation).

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 28 MARCH 2013

199	ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE CONSTITUTION
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The Board received a report of the Strategic Director, Policy and Resources which sought the approval of the Council to a number of changes to the Constitution.

Members were advised that the revised version picked up the changes to the Council's working arrangements that had taken place during the year, as well as other changes which were intended to assist the Council to operate more effectively.

The proposals for change had been considered by the Chief Executive and the Executive Board Member for Resources in accordance with Article 16.02. It was reported that apart from the purely technical changes, the proposed amendments that were considered to be of particular significance were listed as an appendix to the report.

RESOLVED: That Council be recommended to approve the revised Constitution, including the amendments set out in Appendix 1 attached to the report.

200	CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2013-14
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The Board received a report of the Strategic Director, Policy and Resources which set out the proposed Calendar of Meetings for the 2013/14 Municipal Year which was appended to the report for information.

RESOLVED: That Council be recommended to approve the Calendar of Meetings for the 2013/2014 Municipal Year as appended to the report.

201	SALARY SACRIFICE CAR SCHEME
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The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Policy and Resources, which sought approval to phase out the Council's existing car lease scheme.

The report provided details of the background to the arrangements of the existing car leasing scheme. It was reported that the proposed replacement salary sacrifice scheme was a contractual arrangement whereby an employee gave up the right to receive part of their cash remuneration, in return for some form of non-cash benefit, which in this case would be a car. The Council would be able to make savings on its employer's national insurance and pension contributions.

It was noted that the Council already had salary sacrifice schemes operating for child care vouchers, mobile phones, computers and bicycles. The report detailed the benefits to both the employee and the Council for Members' consideration.

RESOLVED: That the Strategic Director, Policy and Resources, in consultation with the Resources Portfolio Holder, be authorised to:

1. design and approve a local car leasing scheme policy and associated guidance for employees;
2. undertake the necessary procurement activity to appoint a provider to deliver a salary sacrifice car lease scheme;
3. arrange the phasing out of the Council's existing employee car lease scheme; and
4. undertake the operational management of the scheme.

202	AGENCY WORKERS – NEW FRAMEWORK / CONTRACT
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The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Policy and Resources, which sought approval to commence a new collaborative procurement process for the supply of Agency Workers.

The Board was advised that Merseyside Procurement Partnership (MPP) awarded a collaborative Framework Agreement in September 2009 to Matrix SCM for a four year period for the supply of agency workers. It was noted that prior to the current Matrix Framework Agreement, minimal information was available on the Council's Agency Worker spend profiles. The report provided information on the historical spend comparisons, taken from the Council's financial system, 'Agresso', which showed a continued reduction in spend and suppliers used by the Council to provide agency workers over the last five years.

It was reported that St Helen's Council would lead on the new Procurement Process for MPP, with all members participating in the options appraisal of existing Open Frameworks with Government Procurement Service (GPS) and Managed Services to Temporary Agency Resources (MSTAR), supported by a market review to identify the best solution available as an alternative consideration to conducting a new tender process.

RESOLVED: That

1. Halton continues to work with the collaborative group MPP to seek the most economic advantageous route to market, either through an existing Framework or to contribute to a full EU procurement exercise;

2. Halton participates in the collaborative contract with MPP to ensure the Council maximises purchasing power on a common category of spend (supply of Agency Workers); and
3. the new Agency Worker Framework/ Contract be utilised in the first instance for the supply of any Agency Staff to ensure the Council achieves value for money.

203	PENSIONS DISCRETIONS POLICY
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The Board considered a response of the Strategic Director, Policy and Resources, on the review of the Pensions Discretions Policy.

The Board was advised that the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) provided for employer discretions on a number of regulations relating to the application of the scheme, when an employee left employment under certain circumstances. However, there were some rules within the LGPS with discretions placed upon them which allowed an employer to decide which options they wished to apply.

The Executive Board had approved the previous Discretions Policy on 1 December 2011. The key changes proposed to the current Discretions Policy were detailed in the report and a copy of the Pensions Discretions Statement attached at Appendix 1.

RESOLVED: That the Pension Discretions Policy for the Council, attached at Appendix 1, be agreed.

204	REVIEW OF COULCIL WIDE FEES AND CHARGES
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The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Policy and Resources, on the proposed review of Council Fees and Charges.

The Board was advised that a review of fees and charges had been carried out as part of the budget preparations for 2013/14. It was proposed that existing fees and charges be increased in line with inflation, although some would increase more to reflect charges in adjacent authorities. In addition, others had been reviewed with consideration of the impact of the price change.

The schedule in Appendix 1 included a number of statutory fees which it was noted might increase during the financial year, with the relevant fees increased accordingly. Charges for The Brindley were listed in Appendix 2 and were for the 2014/15 financial year. Details of other increases were contained in the report.

RESOLVED: That, subject to the removal of the charges set out in Appendix 1 which relate to the Halton Athletics Academy, and which will be the subject of a separate agreement with the Wade Deacon Academy and Saints Peter and Paul School,

1. the proposed fees and charges for 2013/14 as set out in Appendix 1, be approved and referred to the relevant Policy and Performance Boards for information; and
2. charges for The Brindley, as listed in Appendix 2, be agreed for 2014/15.