

APPENDIX 1

Extract of Executive Board and Mersey Gateway Executive Board relevant to the Environment and Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 17th October 2013

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PORTFOLIO

EXB93 THE LIVERPOOL CITY REGION GROWTH GRANT

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise, which updated Members on the Liverpool City Region (LCR) Business Growth Grant Programme.

The Board was reminded that at its meeting on 11 July 2013, it considered a progress report on the LCR Growth Grant Programme. It was reported that the Growth Grant could support businesses which planned to invest in capital or equipment which would directly create or safeguard jobs and increase business output. It was noted that the LCR Growth Grant was designed to unlock private sector investment, with a leverage ratio of 5:1.

The report detailed the eligible costs for which funding could be given which included capital expenditure, investment in new technologies, systems and software and employment and training aid. The report further outlined how the scheme would operate in Halton and the key stages of the preferred Delivery Model, the latter supported by information in Appendices 1 and 2.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the proposed mechanism to be used to deliver funds to Halton businesses through The Liverpool City Region Growth Grant, detailed in Appendices 1 & 2, be agreed;
- 2) the partnership agreement between LCR Local Enterprise Partnership and Halton Borough Council for the delivery of The Liverpool City Region Growth Grant be accepted; and
- 3) the award of Liverpool City Region Growth

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Grant be delegated to the Operational Director Employment, Enterprise and Property in consultation with the Operational Director, Finance, the Operational Director, Legal and Democratic Services and the Portfolio Holder for Economic Development.

EXB96 FIXED PENALTY NOTICES

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Communities, on the use of Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) issued for litter and dog fouling offences.

The Board was advised that a proposal had been received from 3GS (UK) Limited, for the provision of FPNs for litter and dog fouling notices. It was reported that this proposal had been assessed by Officers and the potential benefits of such an arrangement were contained within the report for Members' consideration.

It was noted that the arrangement with 3GS would be strictly limited to the issuing of FPNs for environmental offences which would supplement the work of the Council's current Enforcement Team. This would support the Council's efforts to reduce anti-social behaviour and improve the safety and attractiveness of the Borough.

It was further reported that research had been undertaken on four other local authorities that had engaged private enforcement companies, and this was set out in the report. The delivery of a pilot scheme within Halton would give the opportunity for such an initiative to be assessed, as a number of unknown elements existed at this early stage. A further report would be brought to the Board following an evaluation of the pilot scheme.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) a six month pilot scheme be delivered by 3GS (UK) Limited for the issuing of Fixed Penalty Notices for litter and dog control offences;
- 2) the Strategic Director, Communities be authorised in consultation with the Executive Board Member for Physical Environment and the Operational Director, Legal and Democratic Services, to determine all matters relating to the pilot scheme; and

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- 3) a further report be presented to Executive Board following evaluation of the pilot scheme.

**EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 7th November 2013
PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT PORTFOLIO**

CHANGE OF ALLOTMENT CHARGING METHOD

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Communities, which sought approval to change the allotment pricing structure.

The Board was reminded that the provision of allotments was a statutory function. In 2012, the pricing structure was amended which reflected a reasonably balanced budget for the provision of allotments. It was noted that allotments within Halton differed in size, and a half plot category was introduced based upon current allotment legislation.

It was reported that since January 2013, 36 new allotment tenancies had been issued; the amount of work incurred by Officers in terms of administration, billing, tenancy agreements and site viewings per tenancy was approximately two and a half hours. It was proposed that a one-off start-up charge be introduced at the start of a new tenancy to recover these costs. In addition, it was proposed that a review of water supplies at allotment sites be undertaken during 2014 so as to find more efficient ways of providing water.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) in the interest of fairness to all allotment holders, a new rate is introduced based upon a cost per square metre of 0.412p per annum so that the allotment holder pay only for the area of land they cultivate;
- 2) a one off 'start-up' charge of £40 is applied to new tenants for administration purposes, which includes a refundable deposit of £20 for issued keys; and
- 3) water use conservation measures be taken at allotment sites in order to reduce costs.

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EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 21st November

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT PORTFOLIO

EXB118 RE-TENDERING OF ADULT DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICES

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Communities, which sought approval to extend the existing contract with Halton and District Women's Aid Association (HADWAA), for the provision of domestic abuse services.

The Board was reminded that at its meeting on 5 September 2013, it had considered a report on Homelessness Services. The Board had agreed to the retendering of the domestic abuse service, currently delivered by HADWAA, to be in place by April 2014. It was reported that the refurbishment works of the Refuge building, due to commence mid November 2013, may overrun the planned completion date of April 2014. The Board was advised that it had always been the intention to align the start of the new contract to the completion of the refurbishment works. However, given the potential slippage of the planned works, it was proposed that the existing HADWAA contract be extended on a month by month basis, up to a maximum of four months, with the intention of commencing the new contract as soon as possible upon completion of the refurbishment works.

RESOLVED: That, acting in accordance with Procurement Standing Order 1.8.4 (a), Procurement Standing Order 4.1 be waived, to enable an extension of up to four months, on a month by month basis, to the HADWAA contract for domestic abuse services.

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EXB119 WIDNES WATERFRONT INFRASTRUCTURE - KEY DECISION

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise, which provided an update on regeneration projects at Widnes Waterfront and Johnson's Lane, and sought approval to vary the Capital Programme to allow these projects to proceed.

The report set out the background to each site and details of previous approvals granted by the Board for the disposal of each site. In addition, the reasons for the delay in disposal and in the development of each respective site was set out for Members' consideration.

Reason(s) For Decision

To alter the Capital Programme to allow funding to be made available to bring forward the former Bayer site and Johnson's Lane, specifically for the provision of remediation and infrastructure.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

The do nothing option would mean that the former Bayer Crop Science site and Johnson's Lane sites would remain unused for a further period of time, which potentially would result in further security and maintenance costs to the Council.

Implementation Date

Once approval was received, the recommendations would immediately be acted upon.

RESOLVED: That Council be recommended to include the £0.52m remediation costs of the former Bayer site and £0.5m for the provision of infrastructure at Johnson's Lane, Widnes, within the Capital Programme, to initially be funded from Growing Places Fund (GPF) loans (subject to successful bids) which will thereafter be repaid from the capital receipts generated from the sale of the respective sites.

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MERSEY GATEWAY EXECUTIVE BOARD 7TH NOVEMBER 2013

EXB11 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 items of business in accordance with Section 100A (4) 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 outweighed that 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 Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 because it was likely that, in view of the nature of the business, exempt information would be disclosed, being information defined in Section 100 (1) and paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

EXB12 PROGRESS TOWARDS ACHIEVING FINANCIAL CLOSE WITH THE PREFERRED BIDDER

The Board received a verbal update on the progress towards achieving Financial close with the Preferred Bidder.

The Board was advised that significant progress was being made with the confirmation of the project finance as laid out in the Preferred Bidder appointment letter.

RESOLVED: That the verbal update be noted.

EXB13 MERSEY GATEWAY ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST: PROGRESS REPORT AND BUDGET SETTING

The Board considered a report of the Chief Executive which informed the Members that the Mersey Gateway Environmental Trust (MGET) had been specifically created by the Council, and supported through the Public Inquiry process by the Planning Inspectorate, to assist the Project Company to manage its long term environmental planning commitments and its ecological assets.

The Board was advised that the last 12 months had seen an increase in activity. The report included details of the financial arrangements between the Trust and the

Crossings Board through a comprehensive Third Party Agreement to manage the environmental assets of the Project and by adding value to the wider Mersey Gateway objectives associated with long term and sub-regional environmental improvements.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the progress during the last 12 months be noted;
- (2) approval be given to develop a schedule of services between the Crossings Board and the Mersey Gateway Environmental Trust during the construction period; and
- (3) the signing of the contract covering the long term financial arrangements for the operation period between the Crossings Board and the Mersey Gateway Environmental Trust be supported.

Chief
Executive

EXB14 THE DRAFT FINAL BUSINESS CASE SUBMISSION TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR TRANSPORT- KEY DECISION

The Board considered a report of the Chief Executive which advised Members that prior to achieving Financial Close, the Council was required to submit the Final Business Case, which included the Final Funding Submission. Ministers (Department for Transport and Treasury Ministers) would then be required to approve these submissions. The report explained the key aspects of the draft submission now made to Government and the current draft Final Funding Approval letter that had been received from Department officials.

The Board also received a presentation from the Chief Executive and the Project Director Mersey Gateway setting out proposals explaining how a Local User Discount could be applied to the proposed tolling arrangements on Mersey Gateway and Silver Jubilee Bridge.

The Board considered a number of options to implement the Local User Discount and noted any proposal must be fundable, affordable, and comply with the legal powers granted in the Tolling Orders considered and approved by the Inspector at the Public Inquiry and subsequently approved by Government.

The recommended proposal set out in the presentation

was considered to be deliverable and capable of meeting all these conditions and, after due consideration, the Board were satisfied it was likely to be the most appropriate means of providing discounts to those least able to afford the full cost of tolls.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Board recommend that Council approve the Mersey Gateway:
 - Final Business Case;
 - Final Funding Submission; and
 - Final Funding Letter;
- (2) the Board support the recommended Local User Discount Scheme proposal as set out in the presentation; and
- (3) the recommended Local User Discount Scheme supported by the Board be presented to the Council for consideration and approval.

Chief
Executive

EXB15 MERSEY GATEWAY LAND ACQUISITION PROGRAMME

The Board considered a report of the Chief Executive which provided Members with an update on the progress of the Land Acquisition Programme, and sought approval to retain the necessary internal and external staffing resources (including the appointment of consultants) to conclude the Land Acquisition Programme following Financial Close.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the staffing and resource allocations (including the recruitment of consultants) as identified in the report be approved; and
- (2) the Chief Executive be granted delegated authority to make all necessary appointments and commissions, and agree terms and conditions, in respect of the completion of the Land Acquisition Programme, identified within the report.

Chief
Executive