

APPENDIX 1

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

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 9 JANUARY 2014

134	BUSINESS RATES POOLING
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The Board considered a report of the Operational Director, Finance, on the establishment of a Business Rates Pool from 1 April 2014.

The Board was reminded that at its meeting on 17 October 2013, it had considered a report which set out the proposal to establish a Business Rates Pool with St Helens Borough Council and Warrington Borough Council. It was reported that the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) had confirmed their agreement to this proposal, which would provide the three Councils with a net Top-Up grant position of £1.9m.

A Governance Agreement, attached at Appendix 1, had been prepared which set out how the Pool would operate. The Pool would be established for an initial one year period, with annual reviews and an appropriate notice period for any Council wishing to leave the Pool.

RESOLVED: That the proposal to establish a Business Rates Pool from 1 April 2014 along with St Helens Borough Council and Warrington Borough Council, be approved.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 23 JANUARY 2014

142	REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES
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The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Policy and Resources, on a review of Polling Districts and Polling Places.

The Board was advised that the Electoral Administration Act 2006 introduced a statutory duty for local authorities to carry out a review of their Parliamentary Polling Districts and Polling Places by 31 December 2007 and at least every four years thereafter. However, it was reported that the Electoral Administration Act 2013 introduced a

change to the timing of compulsory reviews which must now be completed between 1 October 2013 and 31 January 2015.

It was noted that the last formal review was undertaken in 2011. The Returning Officer reviewed Polling Stations at election times. Ward Members had usually been informally consulted on any changes deemed necessary and those changes made.

The review would have three stages, as set out in the report. The Board was further advised that, given the nature of the review and the imminent timescale, the involvement of a Working Party of Elected Members, would ensure that the final decision could be made and published prior to the elections in May 2014.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) authority be given for the publication of the Notice of Polling Districts and Polling Places Review; and
- 2) a Working Party of six Members (4 Labour, 1 Liberal Democrat and 1 Conservative), be appointed to undertake the review of Polling Districts and Polling Places following consultation, as required by the Electoral Administration Act 2013, and make recommendations to the Executive Board.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 6 FEBRUARY 2014

144	TREASURY MANAGEMENT STATEMENT 2014-15
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The Board considered a report of the Operational Director, Finance, proposing the Treasury Management Strategy Statement (TMSS) for 2014/15.

The TMSS was attached to the report and detailed the expected activities of the Treasury function in the forthcoming financial year (2014/15).

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.

146	DEMOLITION OF MOOR LANE BUSINESS CENTRE
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The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise, which provided an update on the closure and subsequent demolition of Moor Lane Business Centre.

The Board was advised that a decision to close the Centre was made in early 2013, as repair work needed to return the building to a reasonable state of repair was estimated to be in excess of £750,000. It was noted that unless rents were increased substantially over a five year period, funding was not available to carry out this work.

Tenants had been provided with assistance with relocation and it was noted that although the majority of the 38 businesses had relocated within the Borough, five had relocated elsewhere. It was reported that if the building was demolished and the site cleared and secured, the site offered a regeneration opportunity. It was further noted that discussions had taken place with the NHS Clinical Commissioning Group in respect of the site being used as an interim car parking facility for clients using the Moor Lane Health Centre.

RESOLVED: That the Board noted

- 1) that the final date for the closure of the building was 31 January 2014; and
- 2) the demolition of the premises would commence in late February 2014, with completion being due in early June 2014.