

APPENDIX 1

Extract of Executive Board, Executive Board Sub Committee and Executive (Transmodal Implementation) Sub Board Minutes Relevant to the Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 25 January 2007

78. MERSEYSIDE WASTE DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT: ISSUES AND OPTIONS REPORT FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Environment covering the Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service's report, which had been produced in accordance with the agreed governance arrangements for the preparation of the Joint Merseyside Waste Development Plan Document (DPD). This had been done in collaboration with officers from other Districts that were part of the Joint Waste DPD. The core contents and recommendations of the report were the same for all the local authorities involved in the preparation of the Joint Waste DPD to ensure that each district was following exactly the same statutory planning process.

It was noted that the report was seeking approval for the Issues and Options report for public consultation purposes as the first stage in the statutory planning process. A copy of this document, which asked specific consultation questions to structure the consultation process and guide the development of more detailed and specific policies at preferred options and submissions stages, had been circulated for Members' consideration.

It was noted that the consultation period would last for six weeks until 6th April 2007 after which a "results of consultation report" would be prepared along with the policy response to the issues raised. This would be accompanied by the required sustainability appraisal commentary.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the issues and options report be approved for public consultation commencing 23rd February 2007;
- (2) a consultation response to the issues and options report be

prepared by 6th April 2007; and

- (3) further reports on progress of the Waste DPD project, including the results of the consultation on issues and options, preferred options report and financial matters, be received later in 2007.

79. **VICTORIA SQUARE: DEVELOPING THE NIGHT-TIME ECONOMY**

The Board considered a report of the Chief Executive and the Strategic Director – Environment outlining the approach to be taken in developing a Management Plan for Victoria Square.

It was noted that much progress had been made in regenerating Widnes Town Centre over recent years and, of particular note, was the progress made in and around Victoria Square. To ensure the benefits were maximised and the current momentum was maintained, it was considered appropriate to develop a Victoria Square Management Plan.

Much discussion had already taken place with the Police in this regard and the Board was advised that the Police saw that the development of such a plan was a good way forward for the partners and authorities to meet their duties to reduce crime and disorder within the areas they served (Section 17 Crime and Disorder Act 1998). To this end, a preliminary workshop session had taken place with representatives from all appropriate Council departments, and partners, to look at the issues and opportunities that would need to be considered in the Management Plan.

An integral part of the management plan related to the issues of “al-fresco” drinking and dining and, following discussions with the Police, it was proposed to permit al-fresco drinking/dining on designated parts of Victoria Square adjacent to certain buildings.

It was noted that the development of a Management Plan for Victoria Square at this time would be a very complex task. In addition, it was confirmed that this was a pilot and, if successful, the intention was to develop it across the Borough.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the development of a Management Plan including al-fresco drinking and dining on Victoria Square be approved, subject to

resolving any legal, health and safety, and risk management issues; and

- (2) further reports be provided on the progress of the Victoria Square Pilot with a view to developing the night-time economy across the Borough.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 22ND FEBRUARY 2007

82. LOCAL TRANSPORT EXPENDITURE SETTLEMENT 2007/08 AND LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAMME 2007/08

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Environment advising of the announcement made by the Secretary of State for Transport on 18th December 2006, giving details of the 2007/8 Local Transport Capital Expenditure Settlement and the classifications awarded to the Council's second Local Transport Plan 2006/07-2010/11 (LTP2) and the first Local Transport Plan 2001/02-2005/06 (LTP1) Delivery Report.

It was noted that, due to the high performance achieved in both these reports, the settlement had included an additional £392,000. In addition, the Board was advised that the DfT performance assessments had placed Halton in the top quartile of the 82 local transport authorities in England

Appendix A to the report provided details of the proposed LTP2 capital expenditure programme for 2007/08. The total settlement for 2007/08 was £4.15 million; this covered all items of transport capital expenditure apart from major schemes such as the Mersey Gateway and major maintenance on the Silver Jubilee Bridge.

It was noted that an additional 25% of performance funding had been allocated to the integrated transport block; 12.5% had been achieved by gaining "Excellent" for the LTP2 grading and 12.5% for gaining "Excellent" for the LTP1 Delivery Report. The Board congratulated officers on their outstanding achievement in this area.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the 2007/08 Local Transport Capital Expenditure Settlement, and the classifications awarded to the Council's second Local

Transport Plan, be welcomed; and

- (2) the implementation programme for 2007/08 at Appendix A be recommended to Council for inclusion in the Council's Capital programme.

(NB Councillors McDermott and Polhill declared a personal interest in the following item of business due to being Board Members of Widnes Regeneration Ltd (WRL).)

83. HALTON BOROUGH COUNCIL (WIDNES WATERFRONT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ZONE) COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER 2006

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Environment and the Strategic Director – Corporate and Policy seeking approval to use the Council's statutory powers of compulsory purchase to assist with the comprehensive land assembly needed to achieve the successful development of the Widnes Waterfront Economic Development Zone (EDZ).

It was noted that the EDZ comprised 80 hectares of low quality former industrial land located on the banks of the River Mersey to the south of Widnes Town Centre, which had been designated as a regeneration site of high priority. Funding to bring this land back into full economic use was available until 31st March 2009 using European Funding under Priority 3 of the North West England Objective 2 Programme, Northwest Development Agency Funds and Halton Borough Council monies. The redevelopment proposals were described in the report and outline plans were contained in Appendix D.

Detailed land referencing had taken place to identify the interests to be acquired for the development, and this schedule would form part of a proposed Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO). Despite lengthy discussions, it was unlikely that agreement would be reached with all interested parties within a reasonable timescale; therefore the Acquiring Authority had legitimate, deep-seated concerns that it would be unable to comply with the timetable set for the delivery of the scheme unless it pursued a CPO to assemble the land required.

It was considered that there was a compelling case for making the Order in the public interest and this was outlined for Members' information; however, negotiations would continue with a view to acquiring the properties voluntarily even after the CPO had been made.

The Board was advised that there were two small amendments to the boundaries shown on the plan:

- (a) there was an addition of site 17(b) which had been disclosed by the ongoing site referencing; and
- (b) the boundary around Tan House Garage on Tan House Lane needed to be revised to reflect the actual ownership.

An amended schedule was tabled outlining these changes.

In addition, it was noted that, following the publishing of the agenda, further comments had been received from Mr Routledge of White Moss Landfill, and Mr Adam Gilson, Company Secretary of British Gypsum-Isover Ltd. These were read out for the Board's consideration. Officers advised that discussions had been ongoing with both parties for some time and it was hoped that a mutually acceptable solution could be found in order that those properties could be withdrawn from the CPO; this could be done at any time, including after the start of the Public Inquiry.

Reason for Decision

The draft Statement of Reasons (Appendix F) outlined the case and detailed the reasons for making the CPO. In summary, this was to facilitate the comprehensive redevelopment of the area.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

The Council and/or its joint venture partner had contacted and sought to commence negotiations with all the known freeholders and leaseholders to purchase land covered in the Order by agreement. These discussions were ongoing but it was unlikely that agreement would be reached with all parties within a reasonable timescale unless a CPO, to assemble the land required, was made.

Implementation Date

It was anticipated that the CPO would be made within 3 months of the Executive Board decision.

RESOLVED: That with the inclusion of the amendments tabled at the meeting

- (1) the Council makes a Compulsory Purchase Order under Section 226(1)(a) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 for the acquisition of all interests in the land (the Order Land)

shown edged red on the plan attached to the report, Appendix E, for the purposes of facilitating its development, redevelopment or improvement to secure a comprehensive and integrated scheme thereby achieving the promotion and improvement of the economic, social and environmental well-being of the area;

- (2) the Council makes a Compulsory Purchase Order under section 13 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 to acquire new rights over the land shown edged blue on the plan attached to the report, Appendix E, in order to secure the comprehensive redevelopment of this run down zone;
- (3) authority be given to the Strategic Director - Environment and the Strategic Director - Corporate and Policy, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning, Transportation, Regeneration and Renewal, the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Services, and the Council Solicitor, to take all necessary steps to secure the making and confirmation of the Compulsory Purchase Order and for any other actions necessary to give effect to the land acquisition and the implementation whether on a voluntary basis or otherwise;
- (4) the Strategic Director - Environment, and the Strategic Director - Corporate and Policy, in consultation with the Council Solicitor, be authorised to enter into an Indemnity Agreement with Widnes Regeneration Limited (WRL) which will indemnify the Council in respect of all external expenditure concerned with the making and implementation of the Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) and thereafter provide for WRL to develop those sites to implement the Widnes Waterfront Economic Zone in accordance with the principles of the Masterplan;
- (5) the CPO not be entered into until the Indemnity Agreement has been completed to the satisfaction of the Council Solicitor, the Strategic Director - Environment and the Strategic Director - Corporate and Policy;
- (6) authority be given to the Strategic Director - Environment and the Strategic Director - Corporate and Policy, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning, Transportation, Regeneration and Renewal and the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Services, to implement the Widnes Waterfront Relocation Strategy (Appendix A); and

- (7) authority be given to the Strategic Director - Environment and the Strategic Director - Corporate and Policy, prior to making the Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO), to make such changes as might be necessary to the Order in the light of varying circumstances and information relating to properties/businesses which might be affected by the CPO including if necessary the authority to expand the Schedule 2 rights.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 15TH MARCH 2007

92. HOUSING ALLOCATIONS POLICY

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Health and Community which sought approval to change the Council's Allocations Policy with regard to offers to homeless households and undertaking first stage reviews of homelessness decisions.

It was noted that the changes outlined in the report were subject to consultation and a further report would be presented to the Board at the end of the consultation process.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the changes as set out in the report for consultation purposes be approved; and
- (2) a further report be presented to the Board on completion of the consultation exercise.

93. HOUSING CAPITAL PROGRAMME (KEY DECISION)

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Health and Community which outlined the forecast outturn for the 2006/07 housing capital programme.

It was noted that the Appendix to the report compared the approved 2006/07 programme with the forecast outturn position, and also showed the proposed programme for 2007/08.

It was noted that the Council had been successful in receiving £25,000 from a bid to the Regional Housing Board.

Reason for the Decision

The proposed programme would enable the Council to make

continued progress in addressing the priorities set out in its Housing Homelessness, Private Sector Renewal and Supporting People strategies.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

The strategies referred to in paragraph 10.1 of the report had previously examined a range of options for meeting housing needs in the Borough, and the proposed programme of work has been based on the priorities that had already been identified.

Implementation Date

April 2007.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the position regarding the 2006/07 programme be noted; and
- (2) the proposed programme for 2007/08, as set out in Appendix A to the report, be recommended to Council for approval.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 29TH MARCH 2007

103. PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING RENEWAL STRATEGY

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Health and Community which sought approval to the proposed changes to the Private Sector Housing Renewal Strategy, both to reflect recent legislative change and to amend the different forms of financial assistance provided to clients.

It was noted that Halton had introduced its Private Sector Housing Renewal Strategy in 2003 and a number of factors now made it necessary to revise this Strategy; these factors were outlined for the Board's consideration.

An appendix was attached to the report summarising the principle changes being recommended in terms of the range of financial assistance to be offered to individuals and the rationale for them. Also appended was the full strategy, which included a new enforcement policy, HMO Licencing Policy, detailed eligibility criteria/conditions for financial assistance, and a policy for dealing with applications to reduce or waive requirements to

repay assistance.

The Board was advised that a consultation exercise had been undertaken through the press, the Council's website, the Landlords Forum, and directly with other local authority and stakeholder organisations: no responses had been received.

RESOLVED: That the Strategy be approved for implementation as soon as is practicable.

104. LIVERPOOL CITY REGION HOUSING STRATEGY

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Health and Community outlining the development and draft findings of the Housing Strategy for the Liverpool City Region. It was noted that this Strategy was a major piece of work which had been funded by Government Office North West but commissioned by the Merseyside Housing Forum - it would provide an investment framework for future housing development across the City Region and it was a key element of the Sustainable Communities workstream of the Liverpool City Region Development Programme in response to the Northern Way Challenge.

The findings of work undertaken so far were outlined for the Board's consideration including information on:

- Housing Market Assessment;
- Vulnerable Housing Markets; and
- BME/Gypsy and Traveller households.

The draft strategy identified seven strategic enablers as the building blocks to meet the vision to create sustainable communities. The "Strategic Enablers", and the appropriate policy responses required to deliver them, were also summarised for the Board's information.

It was noted that the Liverpool City Region Housing Strategy undoubtedly had a new heartlands/Liverpool focus. Informal discussions with colleagues in St. Helens and Knowsley had revealed concerns about the degree of emphasis based on the pathfinder area. Nevertheless, the findings and recommendations of the strategy may present opportunities to increase investment in some of Halton's poorest neighbourhoods. The Strategy also supported continued

investment in Castlefields through the National Affordable Housing Programme as the area was identified as one of the top 15% Vulnerable Housing Markets.

There was a requirement to complete and pay for the commission by the end of March and this had led to challenging turnaround times for consultation and feedback. It was expected that the current draft of the Strategy would be signed off by Members of the Merseyside Housing Forum at its meeting on 2nd April 2007 and endorsement of the Strategy would be sought at the Chief Executives and Leaders Group at the end of April. The authors of the Strategy had recognised that, given the deadline for completing the Commission, it was unlikely that agreement could be reached between partners on the relative merits of each vulnerable area. Therefore, the report restricted itself to suggesting a broad framework for partners to use to determine priority areas for investment.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted and the thrust of the comments identified in Section 6 – Conclusions – be supported.

EXECUTIVE BOARD SUB COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 29TH MARCH 2007

111. REQUEST TO APPROVE SINGLE QUOTE TENDER CONTRACT:- LOCAL BUS SERVICE 700

The Sub-Committee considered a request for a Single Quote Contract (Procurement Standing Orders 1.5 and 3.1), to be entered into with Arriva (North West and Wales) to divert an existing express coach service linking Manchester City Centre and Liverpool John Lennon Airport to serve the Borough.

There were currently no other local bus operators running similar services. The proposal was based on an agreed financial revenue contribution from the Council of £87,000 over three financial years (2006/07 – 2010/11). This arrangement followed a kick-start style funding profile, whereby the Council's revenue contribution would decline over three years as follows:

2007/08 £43,500

2008/09 £29,000

2009/10 £14,500

A service contract would be entered into with Arriva (North West and Wales) in line with the Council's standard supported local bus service contract terms and conditions.

In addition, Arriva (North West and Wales) had guaranteed to operate the service commercially for a minimum of 7 years after the initial grant period from 2010/11 onwards.

RESOLVED: That Procurement Standing Orders in relation to tendering be waived accordingly.

112. RENEWAL OF AGREEMENT WITH MERSEY WATERFRONT REGIONAL PARK

The Sub-Committee considered a request for approval to sign the new Mersey Waterfront Regional Park Agreement.

The Mersey Waterfront Regional Park was set up in 2004 to transform, energise and connect the collective potential of areas along the Mersey Waterfront. The initial three-year period was funded by £8.5m from the North West Regional Development Agency (NWDA) and £13.25m of European Regional Development Fund Objective 1 money. During this period, Halton had benefited from substantial grants towards Wigg Island Visitors Centre, Widnes Wharf Boardwalk and viewing platform, and the Waterfront Maintenance Scheme.

It was reported that £16.5m of NWDA Funding had now been secured for the succession programme, which would run until 2009.

Although no major schemes had been identified within Halton for this period, money may be available for smaller schemes within the 'Pride in our Promenades' and 'Coastal Spaces and Places' programmes. Halton would also benefit from marketing and publicity initiatives for the wider waterfront park. In addition, a spatial framework identified Halton as one of the key windows on the waterfront, which could help to draw in future funding.

RESOLVED: That the existing Mersey Waterfront Regional Park Agreement be renewed and that the Strategic Director, Environment be authorised to determine the terms of the new agreement following the principles outlined in the report.

**EXECUTIVE (TRANSMODAL IMPLEMENTATION) SUB BOARD
ON 19TH APRIL 2007**

**REVISIONS TO PROPOSED STRUCTURAL LANDSCAPING ON
HBC FIELDS**

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Environment which gave Members an update on the revisions to the design, planning issues and implementation of the structural landscape around the area proposed for development on the 'Halton Fields' site.

In addition it was noted that a revised landscape master plan, albeit only a variation to that approved earlier would be submitted for a further revised planning approval in May 2007.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be noted; and
- (2) the submission of the revision to the existing planning application be approved.

**RAIL RECEPTION SIDINGS FOR 3MG - MERSEY MULTIMODAL
GATEWAY**

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Environment which sought approval to submit a planning application for Phase 1 of the Rail Reception Sidings for 3MG – Mersey Multimodal Gateway.

A query was raised in relation to noise levels, particularly at night and in response it was noted that this would be considered as part of the environmental survey which would be carried out by MDS Transmodal and 3MG.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the submission of the planning application as set out in the report be approved; and
- (2) delegated authority to develop and implement the scheme, be granted to the Strategic Director, Environment in consultation with the Executive Board Portfolio Holder for Planning, Transportation and Regeneration.