

**Extract of Executive Board Minutes Relevant to the Environment and Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board**

**EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 2 JULY 2015**

**PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT PORTFOLIO AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PORTFOLIO**

EXB16 BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS - FUTURE MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Children and the Economy, on a proposal by Halton Chamber of Commerce to take on the management of the Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) in Astmoor and Halebank Industrial Estates.

The Board was advised that the Local Government Act 2003 allowed partnerships between local authorities and the local business community to set up BIDs, which allow businesses in a specific geographic area to develop a business plan aimed at improving the area.

BIDs schemes in Halton had been very successful with a number of improvements seen over the last seven years, providing a cost effective way for business to work collaboratively to achieve a series of common objectives. The current programme would be operational until 2018, with the Council providing a number of services to the Steering Group and Executive, set out in the report and included:-

- Programme Administration;
- Crime Reduction and Community Safety Initiatives;
- Image Enhancement; and
- Business Support.

It was reported however, that the BIDs Executive Committee had expressed a view that the BID programme could be delivered at a reduced cost by not using the Council as the BID body. A proposal had been received from the Chamber of Commerce and Enterprise to take on the BID body role as a 'Project Management Organisation', through a Service Level Agreement. The Council would

continue to take on responsibilities, detailed in the report, which included the issuing of BID levy bills and their collection, provision of monthly levy income statements, officer support to the BID Manager and assistance with the delivery of the BID Business Plans.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the Board note the proposal for Halton Chamber of Commerce and Enterprise to take on the management and delivery of the BIDs programmes in Astmoor and Halebank; and
- 2) Halton Borough Council continue its role as billing authority for the BIDs area be agreed.

Strategic Director  
- Children and the  
Economy

## **PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT PORTFOLIO**

### **EXB21 CHARGES FOR NEW TRAVELLER SITE**

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Communities, which sought approval for the setting of pitch and water/sewerage charges at the new Traveller site in Warrington Road, Astmoor, Runcorn.

The Board was advised that construction of the new Traveller site at Warrington Road was near completion. The site had in large part been funded by the Homes and Communities Agency, which required that pitch rents were set under the 'Affordable Rents' regime. It was reported that this permits rents to be set at up to 80% of the market rent, and it was proposed to set the amount at £75 per week. It was further proposed that the weekly rent for water and sewerage would be set on a cost recovery basis with an initial charge of £11.60 per week. It was noted that the combined rent and water charge for the new site would be comparable to the weekly charge for the adjacent Transit site and would enable the site to be self-financing.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the initial pitch rent for the new permanent Traveller site at Warrington Road, Astmoor, be set at £75 per week and the water/sewerage charge at £11.60 per week;
- 2) future increases of the pitch rent be calculated in line with the Homes and Communities Agency 'Affordable Rent' regime; and

Strategic Director  
- Communities

- 3) future increase of the water/sewerage charge be set on a cost recovery basis.

## **TRANSPORTATION PORTFOLIO**

### **EXB22 LIVERPOOL CITY REGION MAJOR MAINTENANCE BID FOR THE SJB COMPLEX**

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Policy and Resources, which sought approval to submit a major maintenance bid to the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority for the Silver Jubilee Bridge Complex (SJBC).

The Board was advised that the SJBC, approach viaducts and other major highway bridges formed a strategically important River Mersey and Manchester Ship Canal crossing. The SJBC required a continual programme of structural and maintenance works to maintain its state and availability for use. It was reported that a number of interventions had been necessary since 2006, with Department for Transport funding of £18.5m approved in 2009, so as to remove a significant amount of backlog in structural works.

It was noted that timely and on-going investment in maintenance would safeguard the previous capital investment. A proposed scheme of maintenance works, planned to start in April 2016 and to be carried out over a three year period, required a contribution from the Liverpool City Region (LCR) Growth Fund towards the capital elements of the scheme. To that end, a Major Maintenance Bid would be submitted to the LCR Combined Authority to provide gap funding for capital maintenance works.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the Silver Jubilee Bridge Complex Major Maintenance bid to the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority for an element of the Regional Growth Fund be approved; and
- 2) Council be recommended to approve the inclusion of £330,000 in the Capital Programme to provide the partial match funding required for the Major Maintenance bid.

Strategic Director  
- Policy &  
Resources

## **PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT PORTFOLIO**

### **EXB24 SCI TECH DARESURY**

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Children and the Economy, which informed them of urgent action taken by the Chief Executive regarding the Sci-Tech Daresbury Joint Venture Partnership.

Members were reminded of a previous report considered on 4 June 2015 regarding the changes to the Joint Venture Partnership. It was reported that the necessary legal arrangements had now been completed which brought about the change to the Joint Venture Partnership, which had required a revision to the terms of the agreed changes.

**RESOLVED:** That the action taken by the Chief Executive be noted.