

Extract of Executive Board Minutes relevant to the Corporate Policy and Performance Board

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 3 SEPTEMBER 2015

EXB31	TAXI LICENCING MATTER
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The Board considered a report of the Chief Executive, on proposed additions/amendments to the Single Status Drivers Conditions and the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Conditions (the Conditions) as recommended by the Regulatory Committee on 17 June 2015.

The Board was advised that the Regulatory Committee had considered various changes and additions to the Conditions following consultation with the trade by the Taxi Consultative Group. It was noted that a number of potential changes were set out in the report to the Regulatory Committee (attached at Appendix 1.) Minute REG 21 of the Regulatory Committee recommended the adoption of those changes as Council policy (Minute REG 21 was set out in Appendix 1 for Members' reference.)

RESOLVED: That

- 1) The recommendations of the Regulatory Committee set out in Minute REG 21 and in the report to Regulatory Committee on 17 June 2015, be adopted as Council policy; and
- 2) the Operational Director, Legal and Democratic Services, be authorised to determine the detailed wording of any outstanding matters and all other consequential matters to ensure implementation of this resolution.

EXB32	QUARTER 1 SPENDING
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The Board considered a report of the Operational Director, Finance, which summarised the overall revenue and capital spending position as at 30 June 2015.

In overall terms, revenue expenditure was £0.131m below the budget profile, however, this was only a guide to eventual spending. It was noted that spending on employees was £0.4m below the budget profile at the end of the quarter with the existence of a number of vacant posts and savings in staff turnover.

Members were advised that the Children and Families Department had experienced severe cost pressures in 2014/15 which resulted in a budget overspend for the year. In addition, the Department continued to deal with pressures in other areas such as Special Guardianship, Out of Borough Fostering, Direct Payments and Individual Budgets.

The Capital Programme had been revised to reflect a number of changes in spending profiles as schemes had developed; a list of those schemes that had been revised were set out in the report. With regard to capital spending, it was reported that spending to the 30 June 2015 totalled £4.575m, which was 96% of the planned spending of £4.780m at this stage. However, this represented 9% of the total Capital Programme of £49.234m.

The Council's Balance Sheet was monitored regularly in accordance with the Reserves and Balances Strategy which formed part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy. The key reserves and balances had been reviewed and were considered prudent and appropriate at this stage in the financial year and within the current financial climate.

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 approve the revised Capital Programme, as set out in Appendix 3 attached to the report.

EXB33	A SOCIAL VALUE CHARTER FOR HALTON
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The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Policy and Resources, which sought endorsement for the Social Value Charter for Halton.

The Social Value Policy Statement and Procurement Framework were approved by the Board in September 2014. They were developed both in response to the requirements of the Public Services (Social Value Act) 2012 (the Act) and as part of a national Delivering Social Value in Health Programme, of which Halton was one of four pilot areas.

The Act required the Council to consider how what it procured might improve the well-being of the relevant area, and how the procurement process might act in achieving that improvement.

The definition of social value contained within the Act, made it possible to weigh social benefit against the cost of investment, with benefits in local employment, apprenticeship and training programmes, volunteer programmes and the use of sustainable products, as detailed in the report.

It was reported that, as part of the Council's continuing work of the Delivering Social Value in Health Programme, there had been an aspiration to pull together an overarching Social Value Charter, to provide the umbrella under which each organisations' social value work would take place, with a shared set of values and principles to work towards. The Charter was attached at Appendix 1, and it was proposed that this would be launched in September 2015, alongside the roll out of a

number of other activities including training across organisations and an annual report on social value successes in Halton.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the report be noted; and
- 2) the Social Value Charter for Halton be endorsed.

EXB38	SIGNAGE AT THE HIVE, WIDNES WATERFRONT
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The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Children and the Economy, which sought approval to amend the Capital Programme to provide an allocation of funding to introduce Totem style signage at The Hive, Widnes Waterfront.

It was reported that businesses at the site had requested the erection of a Totem style promotional sign at the junction of Earle Road and Ashley Way. The Board was advised that whilst existing businesses had indicated their willingness to contribute financially in principle, the provision of such a sign, and the Council's support for it, would further attract potential developers to the Borough, as detailed in the report.

RESOLVED: That Council be recommended to approve a revision to the Capital Programme of an additional £100,000, maximum, for the construction and erection of a Totem style sign at The Hive, Widnes Waterfront.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 17 SEPTEMBER 2015

EXB43	DIRECTORATE PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW REPORTS FOR QUARTER 1 OF 2015/16
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The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Community and Resources, on progress against key objectives/milestones and performance targets for the first quarter to 30 June 2015.

The Board was advised that the Directorate Performance Overview Report provided a strategic summary of key issues arising from performance in the relevant quarter for each Directorate, being aligned to Council priorities or functional areas. The Board noted that such information was key to the Council's performance management arrangements, with the Board having a key role in monitoring performance and strengthening accountability. Performance management would continue to be important in the demonstration of value for money and outward accountability.

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

EXB44	TREASUREY MANAGEMENT 2015-16 – QUARTER 1
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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, interest rate forecast, short term borrowing rates, longer term borrowing rates, borrowing/investments, new long term borrowing, policy guidelines and treasury management indicators. It was noted that no debt rescheduling had been undertaken during the quarter.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 1 OCTOBER 2015

EXB49	INITIAL BUDGET PROPOSALS 2016/17 (CHECK NO CHANGES)
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The Board considered a report of the Operational Director, Finance, on initial budget proposals for 2016/17.

The Board was advised that the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) forecast revenue budget funding gaps of approximately £16m in 2016/17 and £9m in 2017/18. A first set of savings proposals from the Budget Working Group were attached at Appendix 1. It was proposed to implement these immediately to achieve a part in-year saving in 2015/16, to assist in keeping the Council's overall spending in line with budget.

It was noted that the Government would announce its Grant Settlement for Local Government in December 2015, at which point the Council's actual budget gap for 2016/17 would be identified as well as indications for 2017/18 and 2018/19.

RESOLVED: That Council be recommended to approve the initial budget proposals for 2016/17, as set out in Appendix 1.

EXB 50	TERM MAINTENANCE CONTRACTS (CHECK NO CHANGES)
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The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, People and Economy, on Term Maintenance Contracts.

The Board was advised that the existing maintenance and minor work term contracts across the Borough were due to end by 1 June 2016. The Operational Director, Economy, Enterprise and Property had proceeded with a procurement process to invite tenders for three new contracts to cover all the required elements across the Borough, as detailed in the report. It was proposed that the new arrangements would be set up for a three year period with the potential to extend by one year, subject to satisfactory performance.

RESOLVED: That the Board note that a procurement process will be entered into via The Chest, with the purpose of securing maintenance and minor works contracts for mechanical, electrical and building elements for use across the Borough.