

APPENDIX 1

Extract of Executive Board, Executive Board Sub Committee and the 3MG Executive Sub Board Minutes Relevant to the Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 20 SEPTEMBER 2007

39. Halton Unitary Development Plan Saved Policies

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Environment seeking the Board's approval of the further 'saving' of policies from the Halton Unitary Development Plan (UDP) as part of the 'Development Plan'.

With the adoption of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act in September 2004, the system of old style plans was abolished. The 2004 Regulations which accompanied this Act, allowed the adopted Halton UDP to be automatically saved for a period of three years from either the date of commencement of Section 28th September 2004 or the date the plan was adopted, whichever was the latter. The UDP was adopted on 7th April 2005, therefore 'old' policies were automatically saved until 6th April 2008. The Act required authorities to apply to the Secretary of State (via the Government Office) to issue a direction, if it became necessary to save specified policies beyond this three year period. This must be done six months prior to 6th April 2008 in Halton's case i.e. by 6th October 2007.

It was noted that the Halton Local Development Framework (LDF) was intended to replace the UDP. However, given the time taken to produce the documents contained within the LDF it would be necessary to continue to save many of the 'old' policies within the UDP for a number of years, whilst these LDF documents were being prepared.

This situation meant that the Council would have to make a request, to the Secretary of State, that a number of the 'old' adopted UDP policies were automatically saved beyond the automatic three years.

In addition it was noted that the Government would take compliance with a number of criteria, which were outlined within the report, into account when considering extensions to the UDP. Officers had analysed all UDP policies against these

criteria and had produced two tables as a result detailing those policies that were intended to be requested as saved and those that were proposed not to be saved beyond the automatic three years.

RESOLVED: That

(1) Policies listed within Appendix 1 are submitted to the Government Office for the North West (acting on behalf of the Secretary of State) with a request that they are 'saved' as part of the 'Development Plan' for Halton beyond the expiry of the automatic three year period from adoption of the Halton UDP;

(2) Policies listed within Appendix 2 are submitted to the Government Office for the North West (acting on behalf of the Secretary of State) with a request that they are no longer maintained as part of the 'Development Plan' for Halton beyond the expiry of the automatic three year period from adoption of the Halton UDP;

(3) The Operational Director (Environmental & Regulatory Services) in consultation with the Executive Board Member for Planning, Transportation, Regeneration and Renewal be authorised to make any changes to this document as required by the Government Office for the North West;

(4) Further editorial and technical changes and/or correction of printing errors that do not affect the content be agreed by the Operational Director – Environmental & Regulatory Services before the document is published; and

(5) The importance of replacing 'saved policies' with a new style Local Development Framework, starting with the progression of the Halton Core Strategy, is acknowledged.

40. Business Improvement Districts Ballots

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Environment summarising the key elements of the Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) business plans for the Astmoor and Halebank industrial estates, the contents of which businesses, within the respective areas, would be balloted on during November/December 2007. The report also sought Executive Board approval to proceed with the ballot.

Members were advised that the Government legislated in

the Local Government Act 2003 to allow partnerships between local authorities to set up BIDS. BIDS provide a means for local areas to develop and finance projects and services that would benefit localities such as town centres and industrial estates. This allowed businesses in a given area to lead on and develop their own unique area improvement plans, in addition to those provided and were funded by a levy on businesses within the specified area. The levy would be ring fenced for the area to fund the extra services and improvements identified in the proposal. Each bid was operational for a maximum of five years before a new vote to support the development of BIDS and to facilitate their establishment.

In addition the achievements for Business Led Steering Groups in Halton, the mechanisms for delivering BIDS and the governance, management and delivery of the Business Improvement Districts in Halton were outlined for Members consideration.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Strategic Director - Environment, in consultation with the Executive Board Member for Planning, Transportation, Regeneration and Renewal, be authorised to approve the final BIDs business plans for Astmoor and Halebank industrial estates to be voted on in the ballots;
- (2) the Strategic Director - Environment be authorised to take such other action as may be necessary to bring forward a BID at each of the two sites; and
- (3) the Strategic Director - Environment be authorised to undertake the ballot in accordance with government regulations in relation to Business Improvement Districts.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 18 OCTOBER 2007

43. Approval of the Formal Adoption of the Provision of Open Space Supplementary Planning Document

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Environment, which sought approval for the formal adoption of Supplementary Planning Document (SPD): Provision of Open Space as part of the Halton Local Development Framework.

It was noted that the Provision of Open Space SPD was

to complement the Halton Unitary Development Plan, other corporate policy documents and the wider aims and objectives of partner agencies in recognising the importance of public open space within the Borough. The document ensured that, where appropriate, new residential developments made a financial contribution towards the establishment and enhancement of different types of public open space in Halton. In addition, the SPD provided practice advice to developers and their agents about how best to design open space. This was for those circumstances when new public open space was required to be provided as part of the development.

As required by statutory procedures, the SPD had been subject to a number of consultation stages, both with internal and external stakeholders and the public, as part of its production: Appendix B provided a record of the representations received and how they had been taken in to account. In addition, the report outlined actions taken in respect of a Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations Assessment.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Supplementary Planning Document (SPD): Provision of Open Space be formally adopted as a Supplementary Planning Document and part of the Halton Local Development Framework;
- (2) the responses to the representations received at the public participation stages, as set out in the statement of consultation, be agreed; and
- (3) further editorial and technical changes that do not affect the content or intended purpose of the SPD be agreed by the Operational Director – Environmental and Regulatory Services in consultation with the Executive Board Member for Planning, Transportation, Regeneration and Renewal, if necessary, before the document is published.

EXECUTIVE BOARD SUB COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 20 SEPTEMBER 2007

26. Purchase of CCTV Surveillance Equipment

The Council's main town centre security CCTV system was acquired over ten years ago, with the initial project being tendered in accordance with Standing Orders and won by Technology Solutions Limited of Rawtenstall. Having successfully

won the first contract for the installation of the CCTV security system and control room, Technology Solutions Limited had successfully bid to install equipment at extra locations throughout the Borough. In addition, in October 2005 Technology Solutions tendered for and won a term maintenance and repair contract for the CCTV system which would expire at the end of 2010.

It was also noted that in January 2007 the Executive Board Sub-Committee agreed to waive purchasing standing orders in relation to Technology Solutions Limited being awarded the work to install a wireless communications link from Widnes to the CCTV control room at Runcorn Town Hall in the value of £48,949.

Technology Solutions Limited were major contractors to several other authorities in the area and over the years the firm have been unstinting in the assistance and advice they have provided without charge in a very specialist, technically advanced and fast evolving area where rival firms tend to come and go regularly.

It was proposed that, given the extensive knowledge of and commitment to Halton, acquired by working in the area for many years and their complete understanding of the existing CCTV security system, Technology Solutions were in unique position to be able to supply and install new equipment at minimal cost. In addition, should maintenance issues arise, there were advantages of having one contractor working on such a technologically advanced system.

The report requested that standing orders be waived to allow a total work limit of £125,000 up to the end of 2010 to Technology Solutions Limited.

It was noted that the Legal Department were satisfied with the reasons for waiving Standing Orders on this occasion.

RESOLVED: That –

(1) Financial Standing Orders relating to the supply and installation of CCTV security equipment to a total value of £125,000 be suspended until the end of 2010 and the work be placed with Technology Solutions Limited of Rawtenstall at the discretion of the Operational Director – Highways Transportation and Logistics, though not on a guaranteed basis; and

(2) The option to use Financial Standing Orders be retained for

the supply and installation of CCTV security equipment, to be used at the discretion of the Operational Director (Highways, Transportation and Logistics) as the situation demands

EXECUTIVE BOARD SUB COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 20 SEPTEMBER 2007

31. Castlefields Regeneration Programme

The Sub-Committee received a report which sought approval for the disposal of the Castlefields Community Centre to Partners 4 Lift and for the receipts to be used to contribute to the funding package required to build a new Community Centre as set out in the Castlefields Regeneration Master Plan. The report included pre-tender cost estimates for the new Community Centre, the District Valuer's value of the land and details of the Capital Budget for the new Community Centre. In order to assemble the budget it was essential that the Capital Receipt for the land sale of the existing Community Centre, together with that of the old Youth Centre site were used to help fund the new Centre.

RESOLVED: That

(1) the Capital Receipts from the sale of the existing Community Centre be used to part fund the new Centre; and

(2) the Strategic Director Corporate and Policy in conjunction with the Executive Board Member Corporate Services be authorised to sell the existing Castlefields Community Centre owned by Halton Borough Council to Partners 4 Lift.

EXECUTIVE BOARD SUB COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 18 OCTOBER 2007

37. Joint or Partnership Arrangement for the commissioning of a cross-boundary Employment Land and Premises Study with deferral to Sefton MBC's Standing Orders for the conduct of this commission

In order to provide a full and robust evidence-based support for the development of the Council's Local Development Framework (LDF), including the core strategy, it was necessary to undertake an Employment Land and Property Review.

In line with Government Best Practice Guidance and in

response to the policy approach being taken in the emerging Regional Spatial Strategy, it was most prudent for this review to be undertaken at a Sub-Regional level. Unfortunately, due to timing and other issues it had not been possible to co-ordinate a single study for the full Merseyside Area, however Sefton MBC, Knowsley MBC and West Lancs District Council had invited Halton to participate in a jointly commissioned study. This approach should provide benefits to Halton both in terms of the overall cost of the study and the quality of the resultant output.

The estimated cost for the overall study (covering the four authorities) was up to £140,000 with the cost to Halton expected to be in the region of £30,000 up to £40,000. The cost had been budgeted for and would be met from existing resources.

In order to aid the efficient management of the study, it was intended that one authority would act as the lead or commissioning authority for the issue and receipt of tenders and the handling of payment of fees to the contracted consultant. The lead authority would invoice the other partner authorities for payment of agreed costs at the appropriate intervals. Sefton MBC had agreed to take on the role of lead commissioning authority for this study. As a result, the contract would be entered into solely by Sefton MBC on behalf of itself and its partner authorities.

The partner authorities (including Halton) would be fully represented on this Study Steering Group that would draft the study brief, select the winning consultants and manage the study through to completion.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Planning and Policy Division be authorised to enter into a partnership arrangement with Sefton MBC, Knowsley MBC and West Lancs District Council to jointly commission a cross-boundary Employment Land and Property Review; and
- (2) approval be given for Sefton MBC to act as the commissioning authority and under the provisions of Section 1.15c of Procurement Standing Orders, that the Standing Orders of the Authority (Sefton) shall apply to contracts entered into for the delivery of this Study.

3MG EXECUTIVE SUB BOARD MEETING HELD ON 16 JULY

OCTOBER 2007

**2. MASTERPLAN BOUNDARY REVIEW - 3MG MERSEY
MULTIMODAL GATEWAY**

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Environment which described the opportunity to review the Masterplan and sought approval to make the changes outlined in the report.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Masterplan be reviewed to incorporate the entire site currently owned by Tessengerlo;
- (2) the Masterplan be reviewed to incorporate the areas of land referred to in Plan 6 of the Masterplan as 'Designated Landscape Corridor' which are identified within Supplementary Planning Document for 3MG and currently lie outside the physical boundary of the freight park; and
- (3) the revised Masterplan boundary be agreed as a basis for consultation.

3. 3MG HIGHWAY WESTERN ACCESS

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Environment which outlined the progress to date in providing highway access to the HBC Fields site in connection with the 3MG project and sought approval to recommend the route.

Arising from the discussion, the following points were noted:-

- the factors that may influence adherence to the project programme and consequently the project cost that lie outside of the control of the Authority were noted;
- the timetable for planning approval and technical approval by Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council and Network Rail was noted; and
- the importance of gaining support from Knowsley and Network Rail was noted.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the preliminary design for highway access to 'Halton Fields' from the A562 Speke Road / A5300 Knowsley Expressway junction, as set out on Drawing No: 5013684/HW/AA/GA/017A be approved and detailed design be progressed; and
- (2) planning approval be sought for the development of the highway western access to 3MG as described above.

4. SCHEDULE 12A OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

The Sub-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 Sub-Section 4 of Section 100A 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 Part I 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 outweighs the public interest 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 Sub-Section 4 of section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 because it is likely that, in view of the nature of the business, exempt information will be disclosed, being information defined in Section 100(1) and paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

5. DELIVERY STRATEGY REVIEW - 3MG (MERSEY MULTIMODAL GATEWAY)

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Environment which gave Members an update on the Delivery Strategy from 2004 and sought approval to make the changes as outlined in the report.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Delivery Strategy be agreed on the basis of the up to date financial position of the programme; and
- (2) the revised spending profile be recommended to Council for approval.

6. ESTABLISHMENT OF A MANAGEMENT COMPANY FOR 3MG - MERSEY MULTIMODAL GATEWAY

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Environment which described the process and sought approval to establish a Company for the 3MG – Mersey Multimodal Gateway.

RESOLVED: That 3MG Executive Sub-Board recommend to Executive Board the formation of the Company on the terms set out in the report.