

APPENDIX 1

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

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 19th SEPTEMBER 2019

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT PORTFOLIO

EXB33 PROCUREMENT OF SINGLE HOMELESS ACCOMMODATION SERVICES

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, People, on the procurement of single homelessness short term supported accommodation.

It was reported that there were two single homelessness supported accommodation services in Halton. Creative Support currently provided support at both premises – Brennan Lodge and Halton Lodge – and the current contracts expire at differing times, albeit with options to extend in place. It was noted that there was now an opportunity to align the contracts to include both services, as currently both are managed by one service manager, with staff able to work flexibly across both services to provide consistency and flexibility.

Permission was sought to commence a tender exercise for a single homelessness short-term accommodation service. Details of the current contract values were set out in the report.

RESOLVED: That the commencement of a procurement exercise for single homelessness short-term supported accommodation be approved.

Strategic Director
- Enterprise,
Community and
Resources

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT PORTFOLIO AND COMMUNITY AND SPORT PORTFOLIO

EXB35 LEISURE CENTRE AT MOOR LANE

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources, on the development of a leisure centre at Moor Lane, Widnes.

Members were reminded that in September 2018, the

Board had given Officers authority to explore funding sources to finance a replacement leisure centre for the current facility located at Kingsway, Widnes. Further feasibility work was undertaken by Wates, under the Scape Major Works UK framework, which ensured it was OJEU compliant.

The report set out details of three options for Members to consider. These were set out as routes which the Council could take to commission the construction of the facilities. It was noted that further information on the proposed design and use of a future leisure centre were contained in Appendix 1, attached to the report.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) Council be recommended to make a change to the Capital Programme in order to finance the development of a leisure centre at Moor Lane, Widnes;
- 2) Executive Board delegates the delivery of the project to the Operational Director, Economy, Enterprise and Property and the Operational Director, Communities, in consultation with the Portfolio Holders for Physical Environment and Community and Sport; and
- 3) the Board be provided with a further progress report in six months' time.

Strategic Director
- Enterprise,
Community and
Resources

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 17TH OCTOBER 2019

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT PORTFOLIO

EXB41 HALTON HOUSING TRUST - ANNUAL REPORT

The Board received the annual report of Halton Housing Trust, which provided an update on progress in 2019.

A verbal update was provided for the Board by new Chief Executive, Liz Haworth, with Deputy Group Chief Executive, Neil McGrath and new Chair, Clive Deadman from Halton Housing Trust. They reported on progress to date in delivering some key achievements, partnerships and strategic priorities.

It was reported that some of the key organisational achievements, detailed in the report were an additional £6.4m of investment in improvements to homes and neighbourhoods; completion of 32 new homes; achieved 96.3% of collectable income; and embarked on a transformational project – ‘Customeyes’ - which would transform services to a pre-emptive approach. In addition, they had continued to actively support and contribute to a wide range of local strategic partnerships across Halton and the wider City Region.

Also noted were the organisational changes to the management structure at the Trust during 2019.

Having dealt with Members’ questions, all were thanked for attending.

RESOLVED: That the progress report be noted.

EXB42 PRACTICALITIES OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY (CIL).

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources, which explained the practicalities of implementing the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).

At its meeting on 22 March 2019, the Board requested that a report be brought to Members on the practicalities of the Council introducing a CIL. The Board was advised that CIL was introduced by the Government in 2010. Its purpose was to generate additional funds to pay for infrastructure that was required to support new development, to show communities tangible community benefits from accepting new development.

It was reported that CIL permitted planning authorities to impose a charge on new development in their area to raise funds for local infrastructure. Those items of infrastructure permitted to be funded were set out in a pre-determined list, known since September 2019 as an ‘Infrastructure Funding Statement’. A local authority wishing to introduce a CIL had to set out a Charging Schedule which indicated the types of development where a Levy would apply, which would then be mandatory on qualifying developments. It was reported that, unlike Section 106 Agreements which were considered on a site by site basis, a CIL was non-negotiable.

The report set out details of the operation of the CIL and the potential introduction in Halton. It was noted that a Whole Plan Viability Study and review commissioned by Halton was available to view online. The scope for CIL had been reviewed and found not to be viable when all other policy requirements or asks had been met, which was a priority under Government guidance.

RESOLVED: That, given the information provided, a Community Infrastructure Levy not be introduced at this time but that the matter be reviewed if changes in the Section 106 arrangements or other economic circumstances change.

EXB43 LIVERPOOL CITY REGION SPATIAL PLANNING STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources, which sought approval of two documents relating to the Spatial Planning Statement of Common Ground.

The Board was advised that Statements of Common Ground (SoCG) were introduced in the 2018 update to the National Planning Policy Framework. Local Planning Authorities were to set out an agreed record of strategic matters between authorities together with details of how these matters would be addressed. It was reported that these new documents had to be formally endorsed on behalf of the Council, although they were not directly covered by either the Constitution or by schemes of delegation. It was noted that SoCG's did not take away or diminish the planning powers of the local planning authority; they provided the primary evidence of compliance with the duty to co-operate.

The report sought endorsement of the first two such documents prepared with, or presented by, neighbouring authorities, together with approval for subsequent documents and updates to be authorised by the Operational Director in consultation with the Portfolio holder for Physical Environment.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) The Liverpool City Region Spatial Planning Statement of Common Ground be approved, and

Strategic Director
- Enterprise,

there is an agreement to sign the final document on behalf of Halton Borough Council;

Community and Resources

- 2) Delegate the Divisional Manager, Planning and Development, to hold the authoritative powers to agree minor wording changes to the LCR Statement of Common Ground if proposed by the other Liverpool City Region local authorities or the Combined Authority during the approval process; and
- 3) Approve the ongoing delegation of power to the Divisional Manager, Planning and Development, in consultation with the Portfolio holder for Physical Environment to approve further Statements of Common Ground, or revisions to those previously endorsed with appropriate bodies.