

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

**EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 17 FEBRUARY 2022**

**ENVIRONMENT AND URBAN RENEWAL, HEALTH AND WELLBEING AND CLIMATE CHANGE PORTFOLIOS**

**EXB73 DECARBONISING EXISTING HOMES IN HALTON**

The Board received a report from the Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources, which set out the approach for the local delivery of a number of UK Government funding and finance initiatives, to improve the energy efficiency and performance of existing residential properties.

It was reported that based on the evidence of the scale of the challenge and opportunity in Halton, a strategic approach was required to guide the implementation of the programme. This would be achieved through partnership working and would prioritise the least energy efficient homes and those households experiencing or at risk of fuel poverty.

The report described in detail the initiatives and funding schemes available in relation to reducing carbon emissions from UK homes, under the following headings:

- UK Government policy and funding;
- Halton and Liverpool City Region perspective;
- Energy Company Obligation;
- Challenges and opportunities in Halton;
- Delivery in Halton; and
- Strategic approach to delivery.

It was noted that although that these schemes and initiatives dealt with improving the energy performance of existing homes in Halton, the Council were also committed and developing a strategy to improve the energy efficiency of new build housing. This would outline opportunities to accelerate delivery of Net Zero homes within the Borough ahead of UK Government targets and introduction of new Future Homes Standards.

RESOLVED: That Executive Board

- 1) recognised the progress being made to support the decarbonisation of homes in Halton;
- 2) approves the strategic approach to delivery of decarbonising homes in Halton, as outlined in paragraph 3.26, to guide Council activity;
- 3) provides delegated authority to the Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Climate Change, to enter the Council into collaboration agreements with the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority, to deliver housing energy retrofit grant schemes;
- 4) provides delegated authority to the Director of Public Health, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing and Portfolio Holder for Climate Change, to approve future revisions to ECO Flex criteria for Halton;
- 5) agrees that The Energy Projects Plus are engaged via the existing Service Level Agreement to provide ongoing advice and support to the Council to target delivery of energy retrofit grant schemes and subject to future review; and
- 6) agrees that future targets and monitoring in relation to decarbonising existing homes forms part of the Halton Climate Change Action Plan and Boroughwide Carbon Reduction Strategy.

## **ENVIRONMENT AND URBAN RENEWAL PORTFOLIO**

### **EXB74 PRELIMINARY ESTIMATES FOR STREET LIGHTING ENERGY PROCUREMENT**

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources, which sought approval for the Council to utilise Dukefield Energy (formerly Utilities Procurement Group UPG), as specialist energy advisor for the Council’s un-metered electricity supply contract for street lighting, utilising the ‘National Public Sector Energy Framework’ in accordance with Procurement Standing Order 1.4.1 and to record that the

anticipated expenditure was likely to be over £1m per annum.

The report provided some information in respect of Dukefield, who were energy procurement specialists to the public sector. They had procured energy for the Council since 2002; the companies awarded since then were listed, with SEE Energy being the current provider until 31 March 2022. Approval was sought for Dukefield to invite tenders on the Council's behalf for the supply of energy from April 2022 onwards, for a period of between 12 and 36 months, as recommended.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the Board endorse the use of the 'National Public Sector Energy Framework' for the purchase of unmetered energy in compliance with Procurement Standing Order 1.4.1;
- 2) it be recorded that the expenditure was anticipated to be in excess of £1m per annum; and
- 3) Dukefield Energy continue to be used to manage the Council's street lighting energy provision.

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## **CLIMATE CHANGE PORTFOLIO**

### **EXB75 HALTON SMART MICRO GRID**

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources, which presented proposals for the development of a Smart Micro Grid.

Further to the completion of a 1 MW Solar Farm on the former St Michael's Golf Course, further feasibility work had been undertaken to see if there was scope to extend the Solar Farm and create a Micro Grid connecting the Municipal Building, Lowerhouse Lane Depot and the new Leisure Centre in Moor Lane.

Members were presented with the business case, which included outline budget estimates for the scheme. The report described how this proposal would benefit the Council with its ambitions to decarbonise Council buildings electricity, and heating and transport, via the culmination of

several technologies.

RESOLVED: That the Executive Board approves a funding allocation of £250,000 to allow a technical consultant to be appointed to support the Project, including seeking a planning permission and to develop the required documentation to allow tenders to be invited for a Design, Build and Maintenance contract.

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## EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 17 MARCH 2022

### ENVIRONMENT AND URBAN RENEWAL PORTFOLIO

#### EXB85 HOUSEHOLD WASTE RECYCLING CENTRES - VEHICULAR ACCESS POLICY

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director - Enterprise, Community and Resources, which provided information in respect of Halton's Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) and requested approval of the proposed changes to the current HWRC Access Policy and associated Vehicle Permit Scheme.

The proposed changes to the current scheme were considered by the Environment and Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board on 17 November 2021. It was resolved by them that a report be presented to the Executive Board recommending the approval of a number of changes to the current policy.

The report outlined the reasons for the proposals being made and the revised Household Waste Recycling Centre Access Policy was set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the Council's Household Waste Recycling Centre booking system, as currently operating and as detailed within the report, be adopted as a replacement for the Vehicle Permit Scheme;
- 2) the number of visits that can be made to the council's Household Waste Recycling Centres in a commercial type vehicle, van or a large trailer be limited to one per week; and
- 3) the revised Household Waste Recycling Centre

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Access Policy, attached as Appendix 1 to the report, be adopted.

## **EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 14 APRIL 2022**

### **ENVIRONMENT AND URBAN RENEWAL PORTFOLIO**

#### **EXB99 HIGHWAYS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT TERM CONTRACT TENDER**

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources, informing of the commencement of a procurement process for the provision of a Term Maintenance Contract, for the implementation of works and projects to deliver reactive, routine and planned highway works across the Borough.

It was noted that given the value of the contract, the Council's Constitution required that the Executive Board be informed at the beginning that such a tendering process is about to commence. The tendering of the contract would allow Halton Borough Council, as the Highway Authority, to deliver its current and future revenue and capital highway maintenance works from May 2023, when the current contract ends.

**RESOLVED:** That the Board note the intention to undertake a procurement exercise via The Chest with the purpose of securing an NEC4 Term Services Contract for the delivery of routine, reactive and planned highway improvement works across the Borough.

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### **CLIMATE CHANGE PORTFOLIO**

#### **EXB100 CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN**

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources, which sought approval of a Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan for the Council's operations and activities.

Further to the Executive Board meeting on 9 December 2021, the Board agreed that the Council sets a target to be carbon neutral by 2040 and that an Action Plan be developed to support the objective of becoming carbon neutral by 2040. Members were presented with the Action Plan, appended to the report.

It was noted that there were two key considerations with regards to the Action Plan – having the necessary resources and the development of technologies to help deliver it, further detail was outlined in the report.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the attached Strategy and Action Plan be approved; and
- 2) further reports be brought to the Board as and when funding decisions arose to finance the actions identified.

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EXB101 SCHEDULE 12A OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

The 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 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 outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information, members of the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item 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, exempt information would be disclosed, being information defined in Section 100 (1) and paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local

Government Act 1972.

## **ENVIRONMENT AND URBAN RENEWAL PORTFOLIO**

### **EXB102 FOUNDRY LANE RESIDENTIAL**

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources, which gave an update on the progress of the regeneration project for residential development at Foundry Lane, Widnes.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) Council be asked to include the Foundry Lane regeneration project in the Capital Programme, to be funded as outlined in sections 3.2 and 5.0 of the report; and
- 2) the Board subsequently authorises the Operational Director for Economy, Enterprise and Property, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Urban Renewal, to finalise the Development Agreement discussions.

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### **EXB103 ASTMOOR REGENERATION PROGRAMME**

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources, which gave an update on the progress of the Astmoor Regeneration Project and sought approval to formally appoint a Joint Venture partner following a full, open and competitive procurement procedure, in order to implement the Astmoor Regeneration Masterplan.

RESOLVED: That the Board approves the formal appointment of the Council's Joint Venture partner, as part of the wider Astmoor Regeneration Project.

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