

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

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 15 JUNE 2023

EBX2	DIRECTORATE PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW RERPORTS FOR QUARTER 2 2022-23
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The Board considered a report of the Executive Director – Environment and Regeneration, on progress against key objectives/milestones and performance targets for the fourth quarter period to 31 March 2023, for the People Directorate (Social Care Health); and the Enterprise, Community and Resources Directorate.

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

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

EBX3	TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME UPDATE
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The Board considered a report of the Corporate Director: Chief Executive’s Delivery Unit, which provided an update on the following progress made within the Council’s Transformation Programme:

- a structure had been developed and appointed to. Further appointments would be made as projects progressed;
- projects had been set up and scoping completed. Appendix A set out a list of the projects and Appendix B set out a list of the initial savings estimated for the programme;
- reporting and governance arrangements had been agreed and a monthly report would be provided to the Board; and
- bi-monthly briefings would be provided to all Members.

The Board noted that all Members would receive bi-monthly updates on the work of the Transformation Team and update reports would also be submitted to Scrutiny Chairs’ meetings. It was therefore recommended that for the near future, the Budget Working Group meetings would not be required.

RESOLVED: That the Board noted the contents of the update.

EBX4	2022/23 FINANICAL OUTTURN POSITION
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The Board considered a report from the Operational Director – Finance, advising of the Council’s overall revenue net spending outturn position for the year 2022/23.

It was reported that preparation of the statutory statement of accounts for 2022/23 was nearing completion. The revenue spending position for each Department was shown in Appendix one; which presented a summary of spending against the operational revenue budget. Appendix two provided detailed figures for each individual Department. In overall terms, the outturn position for the year showed that operational net spend was over the approved budget by £5.161m. Appendix 3 contained the Capital Programme for each Directorate as at 31 March 2023.

The outturn position was a significant improvement on the forecast overspend of £7.586m reported at the end of quarter 3. There were a number of reasons for the improved financial position; these were detailed in the report. The key budget variances for the quarter were outlined for the Board, from the following Departments:

- Children and Families Department;
- Adult Social Care Department;
- Education, Inclusion and Provision;
- ICT & Support Services; and
- Corporate and Democracy;

Members were also advised on the reasons for the reliance on agency employees over the past year and the cost to the Authority for 2022/23.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the Council’s 2022/23 outturn position as presented in the report be noted, along with the importance of early delivery of the Re-imagine Halton Transformation Programme, to help reduce future costs and provide a balanced, sustainable budget position;
- 2) the proposal to replenish Council reserve balance within the Medium Term Financial Strategy, be noted; and
- 3) consideration is given by relevant Departments to utilise external enforcement agencies to help reduce the value of outstanding debt and improve debt recover times.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 13 JULY 2023

EBX15	TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME UPDATE
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The Board considered a report of the Corporate Director: Chief Executive's Delivery Unit, which provided an update on the progress made within the Council's Transformation Programme. Work had continued to develop the scope of projects alongside service areas with a view to supporting changes that were designed to optimise operations, align service provision with demand and reduce the cost of service provision.

The Board noted the initial programme structure had been augmented to increase capacity as projects came on stream. The schedule of projects set out in Appendix A to the report had been updated to reflect this.

The programme methodology had also now become embedded and it balanced service involvement and ownership, with project support and challenge. The focus was now on applying the methodology through robust arrangements to identify and realise financial savings and service optimisation.

RESOLVED: That the Board noted the contents of the update.

EXB16	TREASURY MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23
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The Board considered a report from the Operational Director – Finance, which presented the Treasury Management Annual Report 2022/23.

The report updated Members on the activities undertaken on the money market, as required by the Treasury Management Policy.

Information was provided on the economic outlook, interest rate forecast, borrowing and investments, budget monitoring, policy guidelines and treasury management indicators. The Council's approved Treasury and Prudential Indicators for 2022-23 were set out in the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and was attached as Appendix one.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.