

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

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 14 SEPTEMBER 2023

EXB30	HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION - AMENITY STANDARDS FOR LICENSED PREMISES
--------------	--

The Board considered a report of the Director of Public Health, which sought approval to adopt the Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMO) Licensing requirements and Amenity Standards Policy.

Over the past 12 months some Members had expressed concern about the proliferation and standards of HMO properties in certain parts of the Borough. Subsequently the Environment and Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board (PPB) had agreed to establish a working party to agree a set of HMO amenity standards and explore options for additional control of HMO's. The working party had met on a number of occasions and developed an action plan which was approved by the PPB in February 2023. Details of the plan were outlined in the report.

Following a progress report on the action plan to the PPB in June 2023, the Board had endorsed the proposal to submit the HMO Property Standards Policy to the Executive Board for adoption. A copy of the Policy document was attached to the report.

RESOLVED: That the adoption of the Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMO) Licensing Requirements and Amenity Standards Policy be approved.

EXB31	PRELIMINARY PROCUREMENT NOTIFICATION - PORT OF WESTON, SURFACE ACCESS IMPROVEMENTS
--------------	---

The Board considered a report of the Executive Director – Environment and Regeneration, which provided notification of the intention to undertake a procurement exercise to appoint a specialist multi-disciplinary team to prepare pre-development design and feasibility work for surface access improvements to Port Weston, Runcorn. The contract was to be funded through the Liverpool City Region Freeport Seed Investment Fund, subject to securing a Grant Funding Agreement with the Combined Authority.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) Members noted the intention to undertake a procurement exercise via the SCAPE Public Sector National Consultancy Framework, with the purpose of securing a specialist multi-disciplinary team to undertake design and feasibility work for surface access improvements to Port Weston; and

- 2) delegated authority is provided to the Executive Director Environment and Regeneration, to enter into a Grant Funding Agreement(s) with the Combined Authority to access the Liverpool City Region Freeport Seed Investment Fund.

EXB32	PRELIMINARY ESTIMATES FOR LIQUID ROAD FUEL CONTRACTS – SUPPLY OF DIESEL, KEROSENE, HVO AND AD BLUE
--------------	---

The Board considered a report of the Executive Director – Environment and Regeneration, that sought approval for the Council to be included in a national procurement exercise in order to award contracts for the supply of Liquid Road Fuels to Council sites.

The Council currently had a Liquid Road Fuel contract and a contract for the provision of Ad Blue in place with a total expenditure in the region of £733,000 per annum. These contracts were both awarded under a national Framework Agreement procured by Crown Commercial Services (an executive agency sponsored by the Cabinet Office that provided commercial services, including buying services for the public sector). Both contracts would expire on 31 March 2025.

RESOLVED: That the Board approves the use of Procurement Standing Order 1.4.1 to allow the Council to use a Framework Agreement procured by a Central Purchasing Body (Crown Commercial Services) in compliance with the Public Contracts Regulation 2015.

ENVIRONMENT AND URBAN RENEWAL AND HEALTH AND WELLBEING PORTFOLIOS

EXB33	REVOCATION OF HALTON'S AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT AREAS IN WIDNES TOWN CENTRE
--------------	--

The Board received a report of the Director of Public Health, which sought approval for the revocation of Halton's Air Quality Management Areas in Widnes Town Centre.

In 2011, the high levels of Nitrogen Dioxide measured $49\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ against the UK legal limit of $40\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. Since then, a number of developments have resulted in a significant improvement in air quality. These included improvements in vehicle emission technology and the opening of the Mersey Gateway Bridge in 2017, which resulted in reduced traffic congestion in Widnes Town Centre. Levels of Nitrogen Dioxide in those areas were now consistently below the UK legal limit.

The Environment and Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board (PPB) had previously endorsed a report which set out the rationale for revoking the air quality management in Widnes Town Centre and the proposal for the public consultation (Minute EUR32 refers). In June 2023, the PPB received a further report which set out the results of the public consultation and the Board endorsed that the report be submitted to Executive Board to seek approval for the revocation.

The air quality management areas would need to be revoked by way of an Order of the Council under the Environment Act 1995 and a copy of the draft Order was attached as Appendix 2.

RESOLVED: That the Board approve the revocation of:

- 1) the Halton Borough Council Air Quality Management (Widnes No.1) Order 2011; and
- 2) the Halton Borough Council Air Quality Management (Widnes No. 2) Order 2011.