



**Employment, Learning and Skills Policy  
and Performance Board**

**Tuesday, 7 July 2009 at 6.30 p.m.  
Civic Suite, Town Hall, Runcorn**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David W R', positioned above a faint rectangular stamp.

**Chief Executive**

**BOARD MEMBERSHIP**

|  |                         |
|--|-------------------------|
| <b>Councillor Eddie Jones (Chairman)</b>     | <b>Labour</b>           |
| <b>Councillor Susan Edge (Vice-Chairman)</b> | <b>Labour</b>           |
| <b>Councillor Dave Austin</b>                | <b>Liberal Democrat</b> |
| <b>Councillor Marjorie Bradshaw</b>          | <b>Conservative</b>     |
| <b>Councillor David Findon</b>               | <b>Conservative</b>     |
| <b>Councillor Harry Howard</b>               | <b>Labour</b>           |
| <b>Councillor Kath Loftus</b>                | <b>Labour</b>           |
| <b>Councillor Stan Parker</b>                | <b>Labour</b>           |
| <b>Councillor Christopher Rowe</b>           | <b>Liberal Democrat</b> |
| <b>Councillor John Stockton</b>              | <b>Labour</b>           |
| <b>Councillor Philip Worrall</b>             | <b>Liberal Democrat</b> |

*Please contact Lynn Derbyshire on 0151 471 7389 or e-mail  
lynn.derbyshire@halton.gov.uk for further information.  
The next meeting of the Board is on Monday, 21 September 2009*

**ITEMS TO BE DEALT WITH  
IN THE PRESENCE OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**Part I**

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| <b>1. MINUTES</b>  |                 |
| <b>2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST (INCLUDING PARTY WHIP DECLARATIONS)</b>  |                 |
| <p>Members are reminded of their responsibility to declare any personal or personal and prejudicial interest which they have in any item of business on the agenda no later than when that item is reached and, with personal and prejudicial interests (subject to certain exceptions in the Code of Conduct for Members), to leave the meeting prior to discussion and voting on the item.</p> |                 |
| <b>3. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME</b>   | <b>1 - 3</b>    |
| <b>4. EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES</b>  |                 |
| <p>There are no minutes from the Executive Board or Executive Board Sub-Committee that are relevant to the Employment, Learning and Skills PPB, since the last meeting.</p>  |                 |
| <b>5. SSP MINUTES</b>  | <b>4 - 9</b>    |
| <b>6. DEVELOPMENT OF POLICY ISSUES</b>   |                 |
| <b>(A) ECONOMIC CLIMATE / RECESSION UPDATE</b>   | <b>10 - 20</b>  |
| <b>(B) TOPIC GROUP - WORKFORCE &amp; SKILLS FOR THE LOGISTICS INDUSTRY - SUMMARY REPORT</b>  | <b>21 - 23</b>  |
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| <b>(A) QUARTERLY MONITORING REPORTS</b>  | <b>35 - 81</b>  |
| <b>(B) LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT REFRESH AND UPDATE REPORT</b>  | <b>82 - 92</b>  |

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***In accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Act the Council is required to notify those attending meetings of the fire evacuation procedures. A copy has previously been circulated to Members and instructions are located in all rooms within the Civic block.***

**REPORT TO:** Employment, Learning and Skills Policy & Performance Board

**DATE:** 7 July 2009

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director, Corporate and Policy

**SUBJECT:** Public Question Time

**WARD(s):** Borough-wide

### **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To consider any questions submitted by the Public in accordance with Standing Order 34(9).
- 1.2 Details of any questions received will be circulated at the meeting.

### **2.0 RECOMMENDED: That any questions received be dealt with.**

### **3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 Standing Order 34(9) states that Public Questions shall be dealt with as follows:-

- (i) A total of 30 minutes will be allocated for dealing with questions from members of the public who are residents of the Borough, to ask questions at meetings of the Policy and Performance Boards.
- (ii) Members of the public can ask questions on any matter relating to the agenda.
- (iii) Members of the public can ask questions. Written notice of questions must be given by 4.00 pm on the working day prior to the date of the meeting to the Committee Services Manager. At any one meeting no person/organisation may submit more than one question.
- (iv) One supplementary question (relating to the original question) may be asked by the questioner, which may or may not be answered at the meeting.
- (v) The Chair or proper officer may reject a question if it:-
  - Is not about a matter for which the local authority has a responsibility or which affects the Borough;
  - Is defamatory, frivolous, offensive, abusive or racist;
  - Is substantially the same as a question which has been put at a meeting of the Council in the past six months; or

- Requires the disclosure of confidential or exempt information.
- (vi) In the interests of natural justice, public questions cannot relate to a planning or licensing application or to any matter which is not dealt with in the public part of a meeting.
- (vii) The Chairperson will ask for people to indicate that they wish to ask a question.
- (viii) **PLEASE NOTE** that the maximum amount of time each questioner will be allowed is 3 minutes.
- (ix) If you do not receive a response at the meeting, a Council Officer will ask for your name and address and make sure that you receive a written response.

Please bear in mind that public question time lasts for a maximum of 30 minutes. To help in making the most of this opportunity to speak:-

- Please keep your questions as concise as possible.
- Please do not repeat or make statements on earlier questions as this reduces the time available for other issues to be raised.
- Please note public question time is not intended for debate – issues raised will be responded to either at the meeting or in writing at a later date.

#### **4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

None.

#### **5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

None.

#### **6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

6.1 **Children and Young People in Halton** - none.

6.2 **Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton** - none.

6.3 **A Healthy Halton** – none.

6.4 **A Safer Halton** – none.

6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal** – none.

**7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

7.1 None.

**8.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

8.1 There are no background papers under the meaning of the Act.

**REPORT TO:** Employment Learning and Skills Policy and Performance Board

**DATE:** 7 July 2009

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Chief Executive

**SUBJECT:** Specialist Strategic Partnership minutes

**WARD(s):** Boroughwide

**1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 The Minutes relating to the Planning, Transportation, Regeneration and Renewal Portfolio which have been considered by the Specialist Strategic Partnership are attached at Appendix 1 for information.

**2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the Minutes be noted.**

**3.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

3.1 None.

**4.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 None.

**5.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

**5.1 Children and Young People in Halton**

None

**5.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton**

None

**5.3 A Healthy Halton**

None

**5.4 A Safer Halton**

None

**5.5 Halton's Urban Renewal**

None

**6.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

6.1 None.

**7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

7.1 None.

**8.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

8.1 There are no background papers under the meaning of the Act.



## Employment, Learning & Skills SSP

### Draft Minutes of Executive Group Meeting 14 May 2009

#### 9.00 am, Jobcentre Plus Widnes

#### Present:

Mark Wilson  
 Garry Collins  
 Marie Hoyles  
 Gerry Fitzpatrick  
 Kevin Mothersdale  
 Neil Maguire  
 Jane Trevor  
 Mark Grady  
 Margaret Harper  
 Claire Tierney  
 Claire Bradbury  
 Andy Guile  
 Diane Sproson  
 Cllr Eddie Jones  
 Hitesh Patel  
 Cleo Pollard  
 Adele O'Neill

#### Organisation:

Jobcentre Plus  
 HBC Economic Regeneration  
 Halton Employment Partnership (HBC)  
 Enterprise & Employment (HBC)  
 LSC  
 LSC  
 Jobcentre Plus  
 HBC Policy & Partnership  
 Riverside College  
 External Funding (HBC)  
 YMCA  
 HVA  
 Connexions  
 Councillor (HBC)  
 CAB  
 Halton Parents & Carers  
 Community Devt Parental Involvement  
 (Children's Centres)

#### 1. Welcome/Apologies

- 1.1 Mark Wilson welcomed everyone to the meeting and the Group provided introductions. A new member to the Group is Cleo Pollard of Halton Parents & Carers.
- 1.2 Apologies had been received from:
- |                |                            |
|----------------|----------------------------|
| Lisa Driscoll  | Policy & Partnership (HBC) |
| Eleanor Carter | External Funding (HBC)     |

#### 2. Previous Minutes & Matters Arising

- 2.1 The previous Minutes were reviewed and agreed.
- 2.2 Matters arising were:  
 NEET Action Plan – see Item 5.

#### 3. End of Year Performance Review/New PMF arrangements

- 3.1 Much of the data contained in the Review is now out of date and affected by recession. GC felt that possibly more local indicators need to be developed as national indicators cannot be changed.
- 3.2 The final quarterly reports did not contain all end of year cumulative figures. Lisa is working on producing a final year end statement and **GC will email this report to the Group.**

- 3.3 The LSP has signed up to the Performance Management Framework. ELS SSP will now regularly be holding face to face sessions with project managers with the first on 27<sup>th</sup> May and a second on 9<sup>th</sup> June. Projects will be advised in advance of when their own session is. MW agreed to consider whether projects doing well should be rewarded from any identified under spends.
- 3.4 MW informed that due to changes within JCP Colin Billingsley now has a new role for Halton JCP but in the interests of independence and transparency has retained all external relations work in Halton.
- 3.5 GC informed the group that the recession fighting fund needs an SLA for signing off on 22 May but this is very difficult as we do not yet know what it is to be spent on.
- 3.6 MW stressed that WNF funding must be spent effectively for local people. Over 2 years there is an additional £3m to be spent.

#### 4. Sub-group reports

##### 4.1 Enterprise

- The progress report was reviewed. GF reported that there are an increasing number of initial business enquiries from those recently made redundant.
- CP explained that for many people the initial risks are very off putting. If there could be some form of insurance system so if a business failed there was a guarantee of income this would be an encouragement. MW said the partnership will look into this.
- MW informed that Colin Billingsley has made contact with JCP Wales who have worked on this issue to enable a person to remain on benefits whilst working on Enterprise. MW felt that work trials reduce risk and Halton should be doing more. GF explained the sustainability grant.
- GC informed the group that DWP is providing the NWDA with an additional £3m to fund (at a regional level) people who are 6 months unemployed to start a business. It is believed that that in the next 2-3 months the landscape of the whole area will change completely.

##### 4.2 Employment

- MW reported a staggering rise in unemployment within the Cheshire Halton & Warrington area and outlined JCP focus in getting people back to work and the new initiatives available. **MG to email documents round Future Jobs Fund.**
- The number of people signposted by JCP to CAB for voluntary work has increased to such an extent that the bar setting to join the team is rising.
- RAST: MH informed that there is now to be a main RAST Group (for the whole JCP district) with 4 smaller groups (one for each local authority).
- MW felt that Halton needs to develop its provision of the guided learning hours supported by LSC.
- Through the Council Employment Learning and Skills Policy and Performance Board (PPB) a review is to be undertaken looking at debt counselling/financial inclusion. This takes account of the new community strategy target around financial inclusion.

##### 4.3 Skills

- A copy of the Skills update had been circulated prior to the meeting.
- SS/NM met with Amion for commissioning a research & business plan for entry level jobs for local people, around the construction integrator model. It

was suggested that it would be a good idea to look at the work done in the North East and Wirral.

**5. NEET**

- 5.1 DS has previously circulated the NEET Action Plan to the group. This is being revised and there is a report that could be circulated. **DS to circulate.**
- 5.2 There is a lack of clarity as to progress on the NEET employer engagement post that has been funded from the monies secured from the commissioning pot (£35k this year) and made available to CYP SSP. DS said that Connexions has not been commissioned.
- 5.3 **MW/GC will look to clarify the position with CYP SSP and will report back to the Group.**

**6. 3MG Update and Inward Investment**

- 6.1 The announcement re Customer No. 1 is to be formalised very shortly. MW informed that anyone can visit JCP requesting their details be noted for warehousing work. This information should be shared with any community contacts.

**7. Migration Fund**

- 7.1 This fund has been established by central government, also money provided by other EU countries has been significant. The Fund has been put together where local authorities feel there is a need to bid in to it for support in a community where there are significant numbers of people involved. **Cheshire Fire Service is considering a new bid and GC will find out if Halton are included. MG to provide information on the Fund for circulation to the Group.**

**8. Future Jobs Fund**

- 8.1 MW reviewed the document on FJF and reported that today is the first day for local authorities to bid into this. The role of JCP is to support Halton in making a bid to the fund or to join with another LA or to join with Merseyside. The emphasis will be on local authorities and there is a clear desire by City employment strategy (CES) Board to have a CES Strategy Submission. GF is organising sessions with LSP partners to take forward.

**9. Risk Register**

- 9.1 This item is up to date. Documents had been circulated prior to the meeting.

**10. Sustainable Community Strategy Review & Other LSP Matters**

- 10.1 This item is up to date. Documents had been circulated prior to the meeting.

**11. Any Other Business**

- 11.1 MW informed on the commissioning project for supported workshops through Urban Renewal SSP. GC advised that with supported employment the problem is that the commissioning round was setup for £5m WNF with Urban renewal and Employment & Skills putting in bids. However, LSP suspended the commissioning process advising it was only appropriate to take projects from 3 areas which effectively cut out any other projects.
- 11.2 VOLA are working on the new advancement service being rolled out and are keen to have a number of sessions with partners. GC has had an invitation circulated and requested partners to forward to anyone who may find this of interest.

- 11.3 KM informed of a media briefing, tomorrow based around Merseyside, but impacting on Halton. This is based on the Framework for Action from NWDA.
  - 11.4 NM informed that sub-regional events have been held but the message needs to be got over to local news sheets. Tim Leather has been invited to attend.
  - 11.5 The Halton Employment Partnership will be starting a new logistics course on Monday; however more people need to be recruited for the courses.
  - 11.6 **The draft Skills Passport was handed round and the Group were requested to provide feedback to MH.**
- 12. Date, Time and Venue of Next Meeting**
- 12.1 The next meeting will be held on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July in the Conference Room, Runcorn Jobcentre Plus, at 9.30 am.

**REPORT TO:** Employment, Learning and Skills Policy and Performance Board

**DATE:** 7<sup>th</sup> July 2009.

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director of Environment

**SUBJECT:** Economic Climate

**WARD(S):** Borough-wide

### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To provide an update on the economic impacts of the present economic climate.

### 2. RECOMMENDED: That

**2.1 The Board considers the economic impact that the recession is having on Halton.**

### 3. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 Halton Borough Council and its partners have been working hard for many years to reduce unemployment in the Borough. Key elements in reducing unemployment include improving skills, promoting enterprise, reclaiming derelict sites, environmental and infrastructure improvements and facilitating private sector investment. Appendix 1 details the reductions in unemployment over time. However, in the present economic climate unemployment has been clearly increasing.

| Date     | Halton | Halton (%) | NW(%) | GB (%) |
|----------|--------|------------|-------|--------|
| Jul 2008 | 2,446  | 3.2        | 2.7   | 2.3    |
| Oct 2008 | 2,706  | 3.6        | 3.0   | 2.6    |
| Jan 2009 | 3,912  | 5.2        | 3.9   | 3.4    |
| Apr 2009 | 4,474  | 5.9        | 4.6   | 4.1    |

Source: ONS claimant count with rates and proportions

Note:% is a proportion of resident working age people

3.2 With the April rate in Halton now standing at 5.9%, this represents an 80% increase since April 2008. The Halton increase is not much different to the rest of the country with the North West increase c77% and GB increase c86%. In Halton male unemployment during that time rose 83% and female by 68%. More statistical analysis is found in Appendix 2.

- 3.3 Colleagues in Jobcentre Plus (JCP) report that few HR1's (notification of redundancies) are coming forward. Many lay-offs have been from companies employing less than 20 people who aren't obliged to complete a HR1 and the analysis shows that all sectors are being affected. JCP is presently recruiting nationally and Halton will receive an additional 35 staff. Changes to procedures mean that more 'day one' unemployment provision has been put in place (rather than the traditional six month wait for support).
- 3.4 Business Link is the gateway to many of the national programmes that have been put in place. A big element of its work at this time is to promote what is available and as such it has attended a number of business events in Halton over past months. A new business intelligence team has been created to monitor what is happening in the region and to try and identify companies that are in trouble at an early stage. Business Link has undertaken to organise a number of briefing sessions -
- Company health checks
  - Workshop on asset management and maximising the return on commercial property (in partnership with RICS)
  - Access to finance workshops (explaining how to access new government initiatives)
  - Finance for the third sector (possibly in partnership with Unity Trust Bank)
- 3.5 The Learning and Skills Council has started to commission a range of new initiatives both nationally and locally. Nationally, it has made available £83m to the FE sector for new initiatives of which Riverside College has £320,000. It has also introduced new flexibilities to its Train to Gain contracts to enable them to be more flexible. Locally a new response to redundancy programme has been launched that can help people under the threat of redundancy or those recently made redundant. However, this has to be seen within the context of the LSC nationally being over committed and seeking to make reductions across the board, most recently in adult apprenticeships. The LSC has agreed to fund and organise the next business breakfast briefing and is presently identifying dates with the Heath Business and Technical park
- 3.6 In terms of Council activity the number of property enquiries remains low. During 2007-08 there were 304 enquiries but in 2008-09 this fell to 193 and the trend continues into this year being c40% down. That said, enquiries from potential business start ups have increased from 77 in quarter 3 (08-09) to 144 in quarter 4. The quality of enquiries has risen noticeably. Interest from local businesses in the new apprenticeship programme continues to be strong with 9 more placements since 1<sup>st</sup> April and another 9 companies signed up to take people. The Council has delivered two major events – a business breakfast briefing and a Real Help Now event for local people. A recession special of the business publication Halton today has been produced and the website updated to make sure all new initiatives are recorded. Progress has been made on the opening of an Enterprise Zone at the Heath Business and Technical Park and this will open in quarter 2. Small Business Rate Relief has been promoted to businesses and in local press. A partnership group has been formed to share intelligence and organise activities including HBC,

Halton Chamber, LSC, JCP and Business Link. Work is underway on delivery of a number of workshops on issues such as debt recovery and working with banks and the resources needed for the delivery of a shop local campaign have been identified. An Enterprise Fair will take place at Halton Lea on 3<sup>rd</sup> September to promote self employment which will particularly promote enterprise to the 50+.

- 3.7 CAB has report a significant rise in its workload and will make a short presentation to the Board on the latest position.
- 3.8 The Future Jobs Fund (FJF) is a new government initiative aimed at getting 150,000 people into temporary (at least 6 months) work. Appendix 3 has a Department of Works and Pensions summary but in essence jobs must pay minimum wage and last at least 25 hours per week. People who go onto this voluntary programme will be officially employed so their unemployment claim ends. If they do not find permanent employment during the 6 months they will have to make a new claim for job seekers allowance. There will be a submission of bid by Knowsley MBC as the accountable body for the Liverpool City Employment Strategy (LCES) partnership. This bid will include placement programmes that cover the whole of the city region e.g. registered social landlords are working together on energy efficiency and decent homes, and local programmes that each local authority will manage. Present indications are that up to 3000 places will be bid for. There is some discussion in other local authorities and partners about using European Social Fund (ESF) to make such placements up to a year but Halton cannot access this funding. An example of this the work under way with universities to create a 200 place programme for graduates but as this would use Merseyside ring-fenced ESF, Halton residents will not be able to benefit.
- 3.9 The FJF is new and as such is subject to regular revision, so to an extent it is hard to pin down precisely what it can do. For example, since FJF has been announced it was clear that only people on job seekers allowance could access this funding until a very recent announcement said that it could be opened up to people on certain out of work benefits. Also, guidance recently issued said that people over 12 months unemployed could not access this provision as they will then be eligible for the Flexible New Deal that is being brought on line. However, Merseyside and Cheshire are in phase two of the Flexible New Deal roll out and are therefore over a year behind.
- 3.10 Within Halton a proforma has been made available through the LSP team to local partners and also distributed to council departments. Two briefing sessions have also been held. Progress on the shape of the Halton programme will be reported at the Board but potential projects that have come forward to date include – environmental & landscape, energy advice to businesses, waste recycling, debt advice, grounds workers, childrens centres, tourism and hospitality, digital inclusion ICT, health trainers.

#### **4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The impacts of the recession cut across the full policy range of the council and the Strategic Partnership.

**5. OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 No other implications.

**6. IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES.**

**6.1 Children and Young People in Halton.**

The reduction in jobs and training within them is likely to mean that it will be more challenging in reducing the number of young people that are not in employment, education or training. This reinforces the importance of the new apprenticeship programme.

**6.2 Employment Learning and Skills in Halton**

The Local Area Agreement contains particular targets for reduction in worklessness in 25 of the Lower Super Output Areas. The most recent statistics show that good progress is being made, however there is a time lag with these and it is expected worklessness will actually rise in these locations.

**6.3 A Healthy Halton.**

It is taken that people in work are generally more active and often more healthy than those who are not. Indeed, there is clear evidence that the longer people are on incapacity benefits the more likely they are to develop mental health issues. The reduction in employment if long term, is thus likely to impact on the health of the borough.

**6.4 A Safer Halton**

No implications identified at this time

**6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal**

The reduction in enquiries is an indication of the reduced levels of investment and the depressed nature of the market. Fortunately Halton had a number of projects in the pipeline that are continuing to progress at this time including the Progressive Solutions building at the Heath Business and Technical Park and the Stadium Development in Widnes Town Centre. However, the recession and lack of enquiries will impact on the pipeline. The Strategic Partnership has recently released £160,000 of additional Working Neighbourhood Funds to the Urban Renewal SSP in order to bring forward additional small scale enterprise space which ties in very well with the enhanced levels of start up enquiries coming through.

**7.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 The most significant long term risk associated with the recession is associated with long term worklessness. When the recession ends there will be many people with good employment track records and experience that will be looking for jobs. These are likely to squeeze out the longer term unemployed in the jobs market and as such continued proactive emphasis and targeting on these groups is seen as essential.



8. **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

- 8.1 The recession is hitting many people right across the board. At present there is little evidence to suggest it is disproportionately impacting on particular groups. That said, due to the time lag there are some statistics that are not up to date. These will be monitored over time to identify if any patterns emerge.

9. **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT**

- 9.1 None under the meaning of the Act.

## Appendix 1

**Reduction in Unemployment since 1993**

| Date     | Halton | Halton (%) | NW(%) | GB (%) |
|----------|--------|------------|-------|--------|
| Apr 1993 | 7,518  | 9.9        | 8.6   | 8.5    |
| Apr 1994 | 7,099  | 9.5        | 7.8   | 7.7    |
| Apr 1995 | 6,153  | 8.2        | 6.8   | 6.7    |
| Apr 1996 | 5,741  | 7.7        | 6.4   | 6.2    |
| Apr 1997 | 4,746  | 6.4        | 5.0   | 4.7    |
| Apr 1998 | 4,151  | 5.6        | 4.2   | 3.8    |
| Apr 1999 | 3,974  | 5.4        | 4.0   | 3.6    |
| Apr 2000 | 3,405  | 4.6        | 3.5   | 3.1    |
| Apr 2001 | 3,175  | 4.3        | 3.2   | 2.7    |
| Apr 2002 | 3,057  | 4.1        | 3.0   | 2.7    |
| Apr 2003 | 2,960  | 4.0        | 2.8   | 2.6    |
| Apr 2004 | 2,280  | 3.0        | 2.5   | 2.4    |
| Apr 2005 | 2,250  | 3.0        | 2.4   | 2.3    |
| Apr 2006 | 2,683  | 3.6        | 2.8   | 2.6    |
| Apr 2007 | 2,370  | 3.1        | 2.7   | 2.4    |
| Apr 2008 | 2,486  | 3.3        | 2.6   | 2.2    |
| Jul 2008 | 2,446  | 3.2        | 2.7   | 2.3    |
| Oct 2008 | 2,706  | 3.6        | 3.0   | 2.6    |
| Jan 2009 | 3,912  | 5.2        | 3.9   | 3.4    |
| Apr 2009 | 4,474  | 5.9        | 4.6   | 4.1    |

Source: ONS claimant count with rates and proportions

Note: % is a proportion of resident working age people

## Appendix 2

## Unemployment Statistics

**Total Job Seekers Allowance claimants (April 2009)**

|            | <b>Halton<br/>(numbers)</b> | <b>Halton<br/>(%)</b> | <b>North West<br/>(%)</b> | <b>Great Britain<br/>(%)</b> |
|------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| All people | 4,474                       | 5.9                   | 4.6                       | 4.1                          |
| Males      | 3,456                       | 9.0                   | 6.7                       | 5.8                          |
| Females    | 1,018                       | 2.7                   | 2.3                       | 2.2                          |

Source: ONS claimant count with rates and proportions

Note:% is a proportion of resident working age people

The Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) is payable to people under pensionable age who are available for, and actively seeking, work of at least 40 hours a week.

**Job Seekers Allowance claimants by age and duration (April 2009)**

|                             | <b>Halton<br/>(numbers)</b> | <b>Halton<br/>(%)</b> | <b>North West<br/>(%)</b> | <b>Great Britain<br/>(%)</b> |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>By age of claimant</b>   |                             |                       |                           |                              |
| Aged 18-24                  | 1,510                       | 33.9                  | 32.0                      | 29.5                         |
| Aged 25-49                  | 2,355                       | 52.7                  | 53.6                      | 54.3                         |
| Aged 50 and over            | 585                         | 13.1                  | 13.8                      | 15.6                         |
| <b>By duration of claim</b> |                             |                       |                           |                              |
| Up to 6 months              | 3,335                       | 74.7                  | 74.7                      | 76.0                         |
| Over 6 up to 12 months      | 800                         | 18.0                  | 17.2                      | 16.3                         |
| Over 12 months              | 325                         | 7.3                   | 8.1                       | 7.7                          |

**Working-age client group - key benefit claimants (August 2008)**

|                                       | <b>Halton<br/>(numbers)</b> | <b>Halton<br/>(%)</b> | <b>North West<br/>(%)</b> | <b>Great Britain<br/>(%)</b> |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| Total claimants                       | 16,100                      | 21.4                  | 17.5                      | 14.2                         |
| Job seekers                           | 2,580                       | 3.4                   | 2.8                       | 2.4                          |
| Incapacity benefits                   | 8,330                       | 11.1                  | 9.2                       | 7.0                          |
| Lone parents                          | 2,230                       | 3.0                   | 2.2                       | 2.0                          |
| Carers                                | 1,270                       | 1.7                   | 1.3                       | 1.1                          |
| Others on income related benefits     | 380                         | 0.5                   | 0.5                       | 0.5                          |
| Disabled                              | 1,060                       | 1.4                   | 1.2                       | 1.0                          |
| Bereaved                              | 240                         | 0.3                   | 0.3                       | 0.3                          |
| Key out-of-work benefits <sup>†</sup> | 13,530                      | 18.0                  | 14.8                      | 11.9                         |

Source: DWP benefit claimants - working age client group

<sup>†</sup>Key out-of-work benefits consists of the groups: job seekers, incapacity benefits, lone parents and others on income related benefits

**local authority numbers %**

|           |        |     |
|-----------|--------|-----|
| Halton    | 4,474  | 5.9 |
| Knowsley  | 6,255  | 6.7 |
| Liverpool | 21,056 | 7.4 |
| Sefton    | 8,006  | 4.9 |
| St Helens | 5,670  | 5.2 |
| Wirral    | 9,806  | 5.3 |

|                                 | Number of claimants |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
|                                 | Apr-08              | May-08 | Jun-08 | Jul-08 | Aug-08 | Sep-08 | Oct-08 | Nov-08 | Dec-08 | Jan-09 | Feb-09 | Mar-09 | Apr-09 |
| Appleton                        | 144                 | 154    | 150    | 140    | 175    | 182    | 158    | 181    | 213    | 229    | 247    | 267    | 282    |
| Beechwood                       | 32                  | 30     | 33     | 33     | 48     | 43     | 42     | 47     | 60     | 63     | 64     | 66     | 66     |
| Birchfield                      | 47                  | 51     | 40     | 40     | 50     | 54     | 59     | 61     | 74     | 92     | 106    | 106    | 106    |
| Broadheath                      | 130                 | 121    | 112    | 119    | 135    | 129    | 135    | 160    | 178    | 198    | 223    | 237    | 241    |
| Daresbury                       | 20                  | 15     | 19     | 23     | 28     | 29     | 33     | 35     | 39     | 46     | 50     | 47     | 50     |
| Ditton                          | 131                 | 132    | 131    | 130    | 147    | 147    | 169    | 195    | 233    | 264    | 269    | 283    | 271    |
| Farnworth                       | 55                  | 52     | 53     | 64     | 62     | 75     | 73     | 82     | 96     | 113    | 121    | 128    | 133    |
| Grange                          | 188                 | 186    | 201    | 197    | 212    | 211    | 218    | 232    | 251    | 266    | 272    | 293    | 297    |
| Hale                            | 16                  | 16     | 18     | 19     | 20     | 15     | 19     | 27     | 34     | 28     | 33     | 35     | 33     |
| Halton Brook                    | 152                 | 147    | 138    | 144    | 139    | 150    | 137    | 171    | 181    | 197    | 227    | 232    | 234    |
| Halton Castle<br>(Castlefields) | 229                 | 230    | 231    | 234    | 231    | 238    | 242    | 267    | 286    | 302    | 317    | 315    | 325    |
| Halton Lea                      | 194                 | 172    | 159    | 164    | 173    | 180    | 184    | 229    | 255    | 277    | 291    | 296    | 312    |
| Halton View                     | 104                 | 101    | 101    | 111    | 118    | 105    | 108    | 148    | 179    | 198    | 199    | 213    | 215    |
| Heath                           | 70                  | 62     | 67     | 70     | 65     | 62     | 63     | 80     | 89     | 108    | 108    | 115    | 119    |
| Hough Green                     | 161                 | 157    | 170    | 181    | 197    | 180    | 182    | 206    | 222    | 248    | 278    | 283    | 278    |
| Kingsway                        | 156                 | 152    | 165    | 148    | 160    | 165    | 170    | 200    | 224    | 264    | 269    | 301    | 288    |
| Mersey                          | 147                 | 154    | 167    | 169    | 183    | 187    | 193    | 216    | 255    | 269    | 304    | 332    | 330    |
| Norton North                    | 101                 | 93     | 94     | 94     | 105    | 101    | 100    | 108    | 129    | 158    | 191    | 196    | 208    |
| Norton South                    | 172                 | 161    | 172    | 161    | 175    | 188    | 201    | 209    | 242    | 273    | 289    | 305    | 300    |
| Riverside                       | 127                 | 117    | 127    | 122    | 135    | 137    | 148    | 168    | 179    | 211    | 243    | 239    | 243    |
| Windmill Hill                   | 112                 | 102    | 90     | 87     | 80     | 81     | 78     | 96     | 117    | 114    | 117    | 137    | 151    |
| Halton                          | 2,486               | 2,402  | 2,435  | 2,446  | 2,636  | 2,656  | 2,706  | 3,112  | 3,530  | 3,912  | 4,209  | 4,418  | 4,474  |

|                                 | Rate <sup>1</sup> (% of working age residents) |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
|---------------------------------|--|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
|                                 | Apr-08   | May-08 | Jun-08 | Jul-08 | Aug-08 | Sep-08 | Oct-08 | Nov-08 | Dec-08 | Jan-09 | Feb-09 | Mar-09 | Apr-09 |
|                                 | Appleton                                       | 3.8    | 4.0    | 3.9    | 3.7    | 4.6    | 4.8    | 4.1    | 4.7    | 5.6    | 6.0    | 6.5    | 7.0    |
| Beechwood                       | 1.2  | 1.1    | 1.2    | 1.2    | 1.8    | 1.6    | 1.6    | 1.8    | 2.3    | 2.4    | 2.4    | 2.5    | 2.5    |
| Birchfield                      | 1.2  | 1.3    | 1.0    | 1.0    | 1.2    | 1.3    | 1.5    | 1.5    | 1.8    | 2.3    | 2.6    | 2.6    | 2.6    |
| Broadheath                      | 3.4  | 3.1    | 2.9    | 3.1    | 3.5    | 3.3    | 3.5    | 4.1    | 4.6    | 5.1    | 5.8    | 6.1    | 6.2    |
| Daresbury                       | 0.7  | 0.5    | 0.7    | 0.8    | 1.0    | 1.0    | 1.2    | 1.2    | 1.4    | 1.6    | 1.8    | 1.7    | 1.8    |
| Ditton                          | 3.5  | 3.6    | 3.5    | 3.5    | 4.0    | 4.0    | 4.6    | 5.3    | 6.3    | 7.1    | 7.3    | 7.6    | 7.3    |
| Farnworth                       | 1.4  | 1.3    | 1.3    | 1.6    | 1.6    | 1.9    | 1.8    | 2.1    | 2.4    | 2.8    | 3.0    | 3.2    | 3.3    |
| Grange                          | 4.6  | 4.5    | 4.9    | 4.8    | 5.2    | 5.2    | 5.3    | 5.7    | 6.1    | 6.5    | 6.7    | 7.2    | 7.3    |
| Hale                            | 1.5  | 1.5    | 1.7    | 1.7    | 1.8    | 1.4    | 1.7    | 2.5    | 3.1    | 2.6    | 3.0    | 3.2    | 3.0    |
| Halton Brook                    | 3.8  | 3.7    | 3.5    | 3.6    | 3.5    | 3.8    | 3.5    | 4.3    | 4.6    | 5.0    | 5.7    | 5.9    | 5.9    |
| Halton Castle<br>(Castlefields) | 5.9  | 6.0    | 6.0    | 6.1    | 6.0    | 6.2    | 6.3    | 6.9    | 7.4    | 7.8    | 8.2    | 8.2    | 8.4    |
| Halton Lea                      | 5.1  | 4.5    | 4.2    | 4.3    | 4.5    | 4.7    | 4.8    | 6.0    | 6.7    | 7.3    | 7.6    | 7.8    | 8.2    |
| Halton View                     | 2.5  | 2.4    | 2.4    | 2.6    | 2.8    | 2.5    | 2.6    | 3.5    | 4.3    | 4.7    | 4.7    | 5.1    | 5.1    |
| Heath                           | 2.0  | 1.8    | 1.9    | 2.0    | 1.9    | 1.8    | 1.8    | 2.3    | 2.6    | 3.1    | 3.1    | 3.3    | 3.4    |
| Hough Green                     | 3.7  | 3.6    | 3.9    | 4.2    | 4.6    | 4.2    | 4.2    | 4.8    | 5.2    | 5.8    | 6.5    | 6.6    | 6.5    |
| Kingsway                        | 4.0  | 3.9    | 4.2    | 3.8    | 4.1    | 4.2    | 4.3    | 5.1    | 5.7    | 6.7    | 6.9    | 7.7    | 7.3    |
| Mersey                          | 3.6  | 3.7    | 4.0    | 4.1    | 4.4    | 4.5    | 4.7    | 5.2    | 6.2    | 6.5    | 7.4    | 8.0    | 8.0    |
| Norton North                    | 2.2  | 2.0    | 2.0    | 2.0    | 2.3    | 2.2    | 2.2    | 2.4    | 2.8    | 3.4    | 4.2    | 4.3    | 4.5    |
| Norton South                    | 3.9  | 3.6    | 3.9    | 3.6    | 4.0    | 4.2    | 4.5    | 4.7    | 5.5    | 6.2    | 6.5    | 6.9    | 6.8    |
| Riverside                       | 4.1  | 3.7    | 4.1    | 3.9    | 4.3    | 4.4    | 4.7    | 5.4    | 5.7    | 6.7    | 7.8    | 7.6    | 7.8    |
| Windmill Hill                   | 7.9  | 7.2    | 6.4    | 6.1    | 5.6    | 5.7    | 5.5    | 6.8    | 8.3    | 8.1    | 8.3    | 9.7    | 10.7   |
| Halton                          | 3.3  | 3.2    | 3.2    | 3.2    | 3.5    | 3.5    | 3.6    | 4.1    | 4.7    | 5.2    | 5.6    | 5.9    | 5.9    |

Appendix 3

**Future Jobs Fund – DWP summary**

The Future Jobs Fund is an exciting new initiative, backed by significant money, which will help to generate jobs for those in greatest need, particularly young people, and also in areas of high unemployment. It is an important part of the Government's commitment to delivering real help for young people and those who face barriers to employment, making sure people stay connected with the labour market and do not suffer the adverse effects of long-term unemployment.

What is the Future Jobs Fund?

In the Budget the Government announced that we would be introducing a major new Jobs Fund. This aims to create 150,000 jobs between October 2009 and April 2011 providing real help for young people and who face significant disadvantages in the labour market. The Future Jobs Fund builds on proposals made in the recently published Tackling Worklessness review led by Councillor Stephen Houghton. The Government is keen to work with Local Authorities and other partners to turn this important priority into a reality.

What makes a successful bid?

Ahead of the formal bidding process, it is important for us to let you know what sort of ideas we are looking for. We're keen to make a difference quickly and will be looking for successful bids to be delivering jobs by late autumn. We are currently developing the criteria for bids. In the meantime, as a guide, we expect that successful bids must:

- create additional jobs for long term unemployed people;
- benefit the local community; and
- create a significant proportion of jobs quickly.

The majority of jobs created must go to people aged 18-24 who are approaching 12 months on Jobseeker's Allowance. We are particularly interested in hearing from organisations in areas of high unemployment to understand how we can best create new jobs in these areas. The overall cost of each bid should not exceed £6,500 per job created (including any admin costs) but of course this can be supplemented by funding from other sources.

Beyond this we are likely to favour proposals that:

- demonstrate the potential to lead to sustainable employment;
- include proposals for training to develop an individual's skills;
- contribute to the creation of a significant number of new green jobs;
- provide value for money and / or include additional funding from other sources.

Who can bid?

We expect that the significant majority of bids will come from upper tier local authorities or sub-regional partnerships and will demonstrate that all partners within the area have been involved in developing the proposals, however we recognise that in a some circumstances there may be a case for second tier local authorities to bid for funding for their areas. Bids will need to be in line with existing locally agreed work and skills strategies and show that they do not replicate or replace existing jobs. Other large organisations such as social enterprises and voluntary sector bodies will be able to bid as long as their proposals meet the criteria set out during the bidding process.

Who gets these new jobs?

The Future Jobs Fund has been set up to provide additional job opportunities to jobseekers and other people on out of work benefits who would otherwise be unable to find work by ensuring a significant number of people, particularly those aged 18 – 24 who have been unemployed for around 12 months, are able to take up these new jobs. As well as making a significant contribution to the Government's guarantee for young people, it will also provide much needed and valuable support to other people who have been out of work and on benefit for around a year, helping to ensure they do not lose touch with the labour market. This dual approach ensures that young and disadvantaged people do not lose touch with the labour market.

When do the jobs need to start?

We want to get this up running as soon as possible, with some jobs in place as early as October 2009.

When will there be further information?

We will give more details on the criteria for bids and on the actual bidding process in May 2009. We then expect to receive the initial set of bids later in the summer and we would look to announce the first successful bid in early autumn 2009.

How long does the funding last?

We expect funding to be awarded from this autumn on a rolling basis throughout the following 18 months at least until spring 2011. Each job created must last for a minimum of 6 months, and funding provided from the Future Job Fund will cover a 6-month period for each unemployed person taken on.

**REPORT TO:** Employment, Learning and Skills Policy and Performance Board

**DATE:** 7 July 2009

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director, Environment

**SUBJECT:** Topic Group – Workforce and Skills for the Logistics Industry – Summary Report

**WARDS:** Boroughwide

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 To provide an update on the ideas put forward in June 2008 to identify the future skill needs within the logistics sector in Halton and, to assess whether existing activity will meet those needs, including the identification of opportunities for improved performance. In addition, to explore in-work training opportunities within logistics companies in the borough.
- 1.2 The recommendations will lead to an improvement in the employment opportunities within logistics, particularly in terms of Halton's long term unemployed adults residents.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- a) **That approval is given to Council Officers to conclude the work of this Topic Group;**
- b) **That the recruitment model for the 3MG development is tested, including feeding back on:**
  - i. **Number of applicants**
  - ii. **Number of interviews**
  - iii. **Number of successful job outcomes for Halton residents, of which:**
    1. **% are from LSOAs**
    2. **Age breakdown**
    3. **gender**
- c) **That Skills for Life support (maths, English, ICT) is embedded within any skills roll out relating to logistics training;**
- d) **That the 3MG development makes full use of apprenticeships;**
- e) **That real case studies evidencing progression opportunities within the logistics sector are identified and positive promotion of these are actively encouraged.**



### **3.0 BACKGROUND**

3.1 The Urban Renewal PPB in January 2008 (URB41) selected this topic as a joint topic group with the Employment Learning and Skills PPB. The joint topic group was subsequently formed. The Terms of Reference and Member representatives were agreed by the Urban Renewal PPB as Cllr Hignett (Chair), Cllr Leadbetter and Cllr Rowe in June 2008 (URB54). The Terms of Reference and Member representatives were agreed by the Employment, Learning and Skills PPB as Cllr Parker Cllr Findon and Cllr Austin in June 2008 (ELS8). The joint topic group has met regularly since its inception and debated matters relating to the terms of reference and the recommendations.

### **4.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

4.1 Work on furthering this topic has been undertaken and a clear understanding has been reached on:

- The current demand for skills from logistics sector related companies in Halton;
- The likely future demand for logistics skills;
- The kinds of companies locating to the 3MG site over the next 5 to 10 years.

4.2 The Halton Employment Partnership has been established supported by key partners including:

- Learning and Skills Council;
- Skills for Logistics;
- Riverside College Halton;
- Job Centre Plus;
- Halton People Into Jobs;
- The Warrington Business School;
- Halton Borough Council.

4.3 A Halton Investors' Handbook has been produced, specifically tailored to the logistics sector and sets out the skills and recruitment offer of the Halton Employment Partnership. The Handbook has been used in marketing the Halton Employment Partnerships offer to logistic companies considering opportunities at 3MG (Mersey Multimodal Gateway).

4.4 A pilot skills and recruitment offer is being tested with the first occupier at 3MG. This pilot can be rolled out to all future occupiers on 3MG and boroughwide.

## **5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The proposals are in line with Council policy to skill up and support Halton people into Halton jobs.

## **6.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 All the proposals are sustainable.

## **7.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

### **7.1 Children and Young People in Halton**

Supports key objectives D and E.

### **7.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton**

Supports key objectives B, C and D.

### **7.3 A Healthy Halton**

Supports key objectives B, C and E.

### **7.4 A Safer Halton**

None applicable

### **7.5 Halton's Urban Renewal**

Supports key objectives A, D and E.

## **8.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

- 8.1 None applicable

## **9.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

- 9.1 The Halton Employment Partnership operates under the Council's Equality and Diversity policy.

## **10.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

- 10.1 There are no background documents under the meaning of this Act.

**REPORT TO:** Employment Learning and Skills

**DATE:** 7 July 2009

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director Children and Young People

**SUBJECT:** Employment Opportunities for Care Leavers

**WARDS:** All

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 To provide PPB members with: -

- An update on the current situation for Care Leavers
- Information about proposals for the future

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That**

- (1) PPB note the contents of the report
- (2) PPB members provide support for the proposals
- (3) PPB members consider how they may support the Employment Policy for Care Leavers

## **3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 3.1 Although there has been some improvement, it has been known for some time that young people who leave care are over represented in the NEET figures in Halton.
- 3.2 Connexions data shows that in November 2006, only 20% of 19-year-old care leavers were in some form of education, employment or training. In November 2007, the figure was 39% and by November 2008, it was almost 45%. Whilst an improvement, this does not compare favourably with over 62% of the general 19 year old population who are in EET in Halton.
- 3.3 Research and experience show that young people who are in care often under achieve compared with the general population. A significant proportion of care leavers have few or no qualifications. They may have experienced a number of both placement and school moves and their low self- esteem and mistrust of adults can act as a barrier to enjoyment of school and educational success.
- 3.4 As a Corporate Parent, Halton Borough Council recognised some time ago that additional support was needed for care leavers to help them to access and sustain education, employment and training opportunities.
- 3.5 Additional resources were put in place to support the education of children in care through the Education Support Team. The focus of this service is to help young people to achieve their full potential within the education system. The service will be further developed to provide additional focus on 14-19 year olds.

- 3.6 A Connexions worker is now based within the Young Peoples Team to provide targeted planning and support for individual care leavers who are NEET.
- 3.7 A Community Support Worker, with responsibility for promoting and supporting care leavers to access EET opportunities, has also been introduced to YPT to work alongside social workers, Connexions, education and other professionals.
- 3.8 A National Employability Project for Care Leavers has recently been introduced and will seek to work with national and regional employers to influence regional and local capacity to offer employability opportunities to care leavers.
- 3.9 Some years ago, the Council also implemented an Employment Policy for care leavers in recognition that, as a major employer in the Borough and as the Corporate Parent of care leavers, there was a responsibility to help and support these young people into employment.
- 3.10 Unfortunately, the Employment Policy has had little impact. In the past 12 months, 3 care leavers have received employment training or experience. One young person went on to become an Administration apprentice within the Children and Young People Directorate. None of the others went into full time or permanent jobs. No care leavers are employed full time and permanently by the Council.
- 3.11 In the past barriers to the success of this policy appear to include: -
- Difficulty in identifying and agreeing suitable matches of opportunity and young person
  - A lack of priority or preference offered to care leavers when an appropriate post becomes available
  - Some Human Resources policies and processes
  - Better communication with Unions
  - Limited take up from the Council and the various Directorate's
  - Limited support for and understanding of the needs of care leavers in the work place.
- 3.12 The lack of success of this policy is disappointing and calls into question the viability of having such a policy in place. Some local authorities (eg Liverpool, Warrington, Stoke on Trent) appear to have overcome the barriers that Halton faces and have successfully offered employability opportunities to care leavers. The national project will report on the good practice that is evident elsewhere and will report back to local authorities on how some of the barriers can be removed. Feedback suggests that these local authorities have simply taken the 'just do it' approach and with Senior Officer and Elected Member support, progress has been made.
- 3.13 Members of the ELS PPB may wish to consider the implementation of the Employment Policy to ensure that care leavers are given every opportunity to find employment in the Council, and eventually with LSP and Children's Trust partners.

- 3.14 Temporary funding (NRF) has in the recent past, been used to help care leavers to be prepared for employment and to experience paid work experience. This will now be incorporated into the Apprenticeship Scheme.
- 3.15 In order to improve the situation in Halton, a dedicated apprenticeship scheme for care leavers has been agreed. This will involve 10 apprenticeships being made available over the next two years, within the Council and partner agencies and involving a range of employment areas.
- 3.16 A temporary post will be created to provide the co-ordination necessary to achieve this. The post-holder will work alongside colleagues in Enterprise and Employment, Connexions and Young People's Team to identify placement opportunities and to then provide the support to both employer and young person. Written terms of reference for both the apprenticeship scheme and the support networks will be vital for the scheme to be effective and to ensure that all participants are aware of their own and each others roles and responsibilities.
- 3.17 Each employer who participates in the apprenticeship scheme will be asked to ensure that the young person undertakes an accredited qualification. It is hoped that, at the end of the apprenticeship, there will be permanent jobs made available to the young people involved. At the very least, the experience of the apprenticeship should increase the young persons employability prospects.
- 3.18 The apprenticeship scheme commenced in April 2009 and the dedicated post will be in place by the end of June. Two care leavers are currently in apprenticeships as apart of this scheme.
- 3.19 The full costs of the apprenticeship scheme will be met by WNF monies and some external funding until 2011.
- 3.20 The Government's Care Matters agenda and the recent Children and Young Person's Act 2008, emphasise the role that Corporate Parents should play in securing the best possible outcomes for Children in Care. This includes helping them to secure appropriate employment.

#### **4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The proposals are consistent with National policy, the Care Matters Agenda, and Halton's Multi-agency strategy for Children in Care.

#### **5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The proposals are consistent with the Council's responsibility as a Corporate Parent and with the aims of the NEET Strategy Group.

#### **6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton. The proposals are consistent with ensuring the best possible outcomes for children in the care of the Council and in promoting their life chances.

**6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton**

The introduction of the apprenticeship scheme and the revision of the employment policy will contribute to care leavers having better access to employment and will enhance their skill and qualification levels.

**6.3 A Healthy Halton**

Improved access to EET opportunities will contribute to the emotional and physical well being of care leavers.

**6.4 A Safer Halton**

It is anticipated that greater involvement in EET activities will raise the aspirations and achievements of care leavers, providing constructive and long-term options.

**6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal**

Increased numbers of young people engaged in EET will enhance their own and the boroughs economic environment.

**7.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 There are no significant risks associated with the proposals.

**8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 Improving the life chances of children in care and care leavers through better access to EET opportunities will contribute to ensuring that the needs of this vulnerable group are met.

**9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

| <b>Document</b>                | <b>Place of Inspection</b> | <b>Contact Officer</b> |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|
| Children in Care Strategy      |                            | Christine Taylor       |
| Care Matters                   | DCSF website               | Christine Taylor       |
| Children and Young Persons Act | DCSF website               | Christine Taylor       |



**CHILDREN AND YOUNG  
PEOPLE DIRECTORATE**

**EMPLOYMENT POLICY  
CHILDREN IN CARE & CARE  
LEAVERS**

SS2008YPT01

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**1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 Halton Borough Council (HBC) as a Corporate Parent has the responsibility for all Looked After Children and Care Leavers. Put simply, this requires HBC in its corporate parenting role to do for Haltons Looked After Children at least what any good parent would do for their own children.
- 1.2 Recognising the many obstacles Looked After Children and Care Leavers face in accessing, maintaining and succeeding in employment, the Council is committed to fulfilling its Corporate Parenting responsibilities by providing direct opportunities for employment.

**2. PRINCIPLES**

- 2.1 The Corporate Parenting responsibility extends across all Directorates within HBC and as such emphasises the need for all managers to have an ongoing awareness of how they contribute to improving life chances and outcomes for this vulnerable group of young people.
- 2.2 HBC in meeting its Corporate Parenting responsibilities is committed to improving the Life Chances of Looked After Children and Care Leavers by providing them with opportunities to:
- ◆ Improve existing skills
  - ◆ Learn new skills
  - ◆ Increase knowledge
  - ◆ Provide access to training and development programme
  - ◆ Enjoy work experience
  - ◆ Support progress into employment
- 2.3 It is also underlined within three of the five key outcomes of the Children Act 2004 specifically:-
- ◆ Enjoy and Achieve
  - ◆ Make a Positive Contribution
  - ◆ Achieve Economic Well-being

**3. LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT**

- 3.1 Improving outcomes for Looked After Children and Care Leavers is one of the recent key priorities agreed with Dfes and CSCI by the Children and Young People's Directorate and performance in this area is a significant consideration in the Directorate's Annual Performance Assessment. Consequently, performance in this area will impact on the Council's overall CPA rating and it is essential therefore that the Employment Policy is fully implemented by Managers across the Council.

**4. CURRENT SITUATION IN HALTON**

- 4.1 At any one time in Halton there are approximately 90 Care Leavers aged 16 – 21 yrs who would fall within the scope of the Employment Policy and a significant proportion of these are not engaged in Education, Employment or training (NEET).
- 4.2 The Connexions Service is integral to the implementation of this Policy and is fully committed to support both Care Leavers and Line Managers involved in providing employment opportunities for Care Leavers. A link personal advisor from Connexions has been identified for the Employment Policy and will contribute to its planning and co-ordination.

**5. PROCESS IN HALTON**

- 5.1 In the first instance, this will be through 'work related opportunities' (two weeks work placement) which schools have a statutory responsibility to arrange for young people in years 9 – 11. When offering to take these placements the Council should always give priority to Looked After Children.

- 5.2 In addition each Directorate will offer as a minimum at least one Care Leaver at any given time:

- ◆ 26 weeks paid employment
- ◆ A placement supervisor
- ◆ Opportunities to access skill development

This will be achieved by recruiting to a permanent vacancy on a temporary basis for six months or from existing budgets.

- 5.3 The Council will guarantee that any Looked After Child or Care Leaver applying for a permanent post will be offered an interview provided they meet the essential requirements of the person specification. Application forms from Care Leavers will indicate their status.

- 5.3 The Council will also endeavour to provide Care Leavers with work placements required as part of a college course.

- 5.4 Corporate Training will give priority to Looked After Children on placement or in employment with the Council in attending training courses.

- 5.5 During the 26 weeks paid employment the young person will:

- ◆ Be provided, where possible, with the same opportunities as regular employees including training and development opportunities
- ◆ Be subject to the same conditions of service as an employee
- ◆ Receive remuneration at the rate for the post they are in
- ◆ Be eligible to apply for posts as they arise
- ◆ Be eligible to access training provided by Corporate Training Unit

## 6. **RESPONSIBILITIES OF CONNEXIONS**

6.1 During the 26 week paid employment Connexions will:

- ◆ Provide a link with the placement supervisor and will support their role as appropriate including on the job support to young people
- ◆ Make every effort to ensure that all young people move into Education, employment or training at the end of their placement with Halton Borough Council
- ◆ Extensive job seeking activity will be provided during the final six weeks of the employment experience for those young people who do not have permanent employment within the Council. This will include planned visits to the Connexions Centre and support with applications, letters, and production of a CV.

6.2 The Connexions Advisor or the young person's social worker will provide support to young people who maybe assessed as needing support or who may experience difficulties during their work placement.

6.3 Progress within the work placement will be reviewed at regular intervals organised by Connexions and involving the young person, the placement supervisor and the social worker.

## 7. **RESPONSIBILITIES OF INDIVIDUAL DIRECTORATES**

7.1 Prior to, or during the work placement, the young person may be provided with the opportunity to 'shadow' a nominated officer for one day from the Directorate in which they are placed.

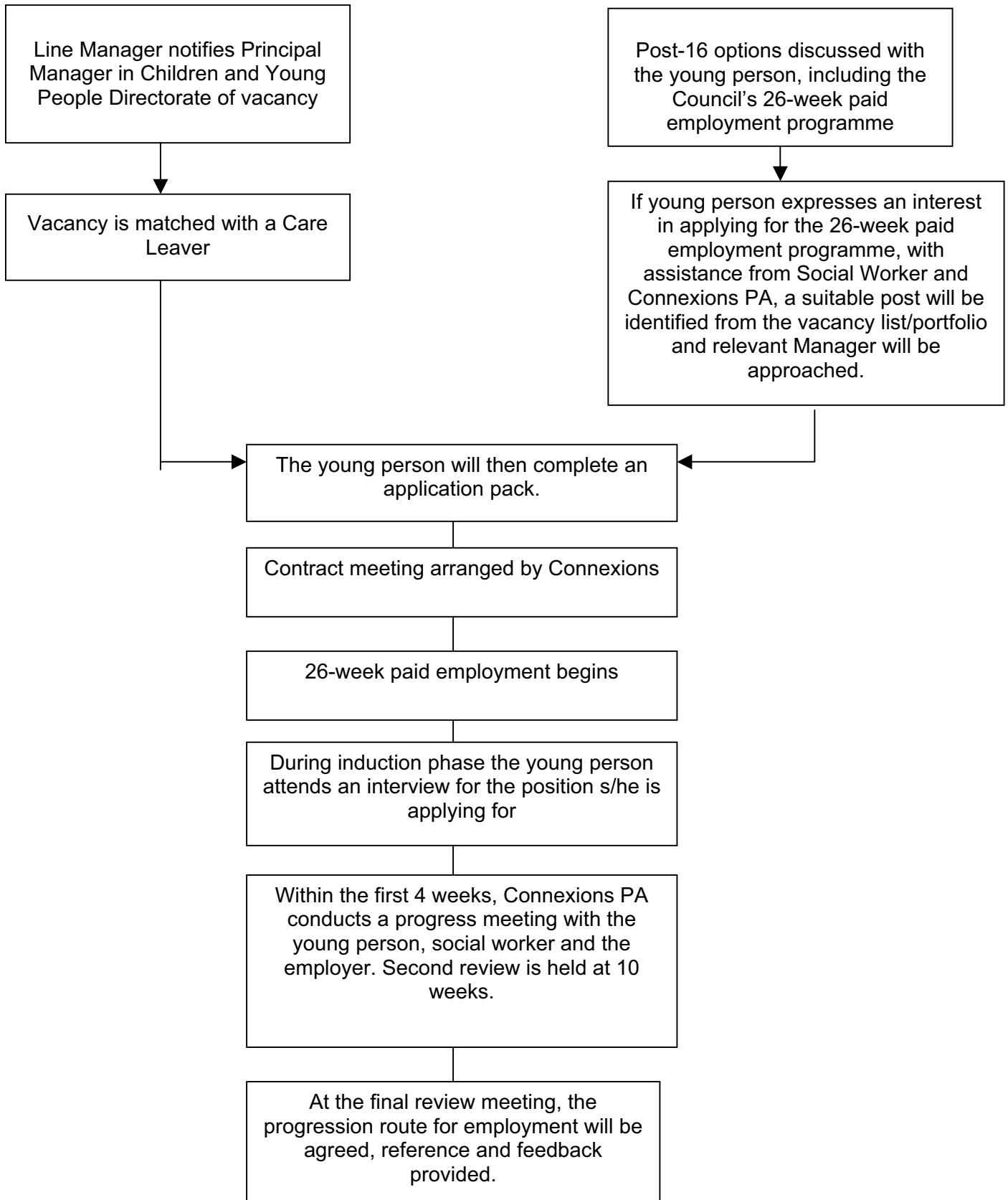
7.2 The Children and Young People's Directorate will also employ young people on specific projects relating to the development of Policy/Procedures/Practice or relating to the employment of social work staff.

7.3 Personnel will monitor the implementation of this Policy and information regarding work placements will be reported to Strategic Directors, the Corporate Parenting Scrutiny Group and thereafter to the Life Chances and Employment Policy and Performance Board.

**Appendix 1**

### Procedural Flow Chart

#### Employment Policy (26 week paid employment)



**LEAD OFFICERS**

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Chief Executives</b>                                  | Jim Yates – Principal Executive Officer  |
| <b>Children and Young People</b>                         | Sharon Williams – Head of Education, Support for LAC   |
| <b>Corporate and Policy</b>                              | Jane Burgess – Principal Personnel Officer   |
| <b>Environment</b>                                       | Dave Hall – Section Leader – Transport,<br><br>Gerry Fitzpatrick - Enterprise, Employment and Skills Manager |
| <b>Health and Community</b>                              | Howard Cockcroft – Operational Director Culture and Leisure  |
| <b>Young Peoples Team<br/>Link for Employment Policy</b> | Hilary Barker – Principal Manager  |

**REPORT TO:** Employment, Learning & Skills PPB

**DATE:** 7 July, 2009

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Chief Executive

**SUBJECT:** Performance Management Reports for 2008/09

**WARDS:** Boroughwide

### **1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 To consider and raise any questions or points of clarification in respect of the 4th quarter performance management reports on progress against service plan objectives and performance targets, performance trends/comparisons, factors affecting the services etc. for;

- Economic Regeneration
- Culture & Leisure

### **2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the Policy & Performance Board;**

- 1) Receive the 4th quarter performance management reports;
- 2) Consider the progress and performance information and raise any questions or points for clarification; and
- 3) Highlight any areas of interest and/or concern where further information is to be reported at a future meeting of the Policy and Performance Board.

### **3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 The departmental service plans provide a clear statement on what the services are planning to achieve and to show how they contribute to the Council's strategic priorities. The service plans are central to the Council's performance management arrangements and the Policy and Performance Board has a key role in monitoring performance and strengthening accountability.

3.2 The quarterly reports are on the Information Bulletin to reduce the amount of paperwork sent out with the agendas and to allow Members access to the reports as soon as they have become available. It also provides Members with an opportunity to give advance notice of any questions, points or requests for further information that will be raised to ensure the appropriate Officers are available at the PPB meeting.

**4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

There are no policy implications associated with this report.

**5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

There are no other implications associated with this report.

**6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

The quarterly performance monitoring reports demonstrate how services are delivering against the objectives set out in the relevant service plan. Although some objectives link specifically to one priority area, the nature of the cross-cutting activities being reported means that to a greater or lesser extent a contribution is made to one or more of the priorities listed below;

**6.1 Children and Young People in Halton**

**6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton**

**6.3 A Healthy Halton**

**6.4 A Safer Halton**

**6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal**

**6.6 Corporate Effectiveness and Efficient Service Delivery**

**7.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

N/A

**8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

N/A

**9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

| <b>Document</b> | <b>Place of Inspection</b> | <b>Contact Officer</b> |
|-----------------|----------------------------|------------------------|
| N/A             |                            |                        |

## QUARTERLY MONITORING REPORT

**DIRECTORATE:** Health & Community  
**SERVICE:** Culture & Leisure  
**PERIOD:** Quarter 4 to period end 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009

### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

This quarterly monitoring report covers the Culture & Leisure Department fourth quarter period up to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009. It describes key developments and progress against 'all' milestones and performance indicators for the service.

Given that there are a considerable number of year-end transactions still to take place a Financial Statement for the period has not been included within this report in order to avoid providing information that would be subject to further change and amendment. The final 2008/09 financial statements for the Department will be prepared and made available via the Council's Intranet once the Council's year-end accounts have been finalised. A notice will be provided within the Members' Weekly Bulletin as soon as they are available.

The way in which traffic light symbols have been used to reflect progress to date is explained in Appendix 5.

***It should be noted that this report is presented to a number of Policy and Performance Boards. Those objectives and indicators that are not directly relevant to this Board have been shaded grey.***

### 2.0 KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Halton Council in partnership with Special Olympics Halton hosted the Special Olympics Regional Athletics event to mark the opening of its new state of the art athletics facility. 160 athletes aged from 8 years to 67 years completed against each other to become Regional champions.

The Merseyside Primary Schools Games will be held on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2009 in Liverpool. Lord Coe will be attending to promote the 2012 Olympic Games.

The Arts Strategy and the Public Arts Strategy have been approved by Executive Board.

The Outline Business Case for Culture and Leisure Provision in the context of Building Schools for the Future has been submitted.



Halton's Got Talent Finals will be held at the Brindley on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2009.

A Dementia reading group project has been set up to support people with dementia through poetry sessions. There are currently 2 sessions running in Halton, one in the community and one in a residential home. This is currently a pilot, but is planned to expand the project given the indications of its success.

Phase 1 of the refurbishment of Halton Lea Library funded by the Lottery Community Libraries Programme is now complete and the remodelled first floor was re-opened to the public on the 9<sup>th</sup> March. A reduced library service is being offered from the first floor whilst phase 2 works continue. A self-service facility has been introduced for the issuing and returning of library materials, which will be extended once the building work is complete. The new meeting room facilities, although not currently available, are generating a great deal of interest with enquiries from a range of partners who are keen to deliver a variety of new services. The refurbishment is currently on schedule and the library will reopen in August 2009.

**3.0 EMERGING ISSUES**

Proposals are in place to extend Leisure Card Facilities to Serving Armed Forces.




Proposals are being evaluated to attempt to re-locate the Runcorn Linnets F.C. back into the Borough.

Plans are being further developed with Bereavement and Registration Services to cope with the possible outbreak of pandemic flu.

Details are being finalised to re-locate the Community Safety Team in Widnes Waterfront accommodation. This will allow the concept of Multi-Agency Provision to be further developed, including representatives from Police representatives, the Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator, Family Intervention Officers, Youth Offending Team, Witness Support and Probation.

The Literature Festival will be held 8<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> June 2009.

**4.0 PROGRESS AGAINST OBJECTIVES / MILESTONES**

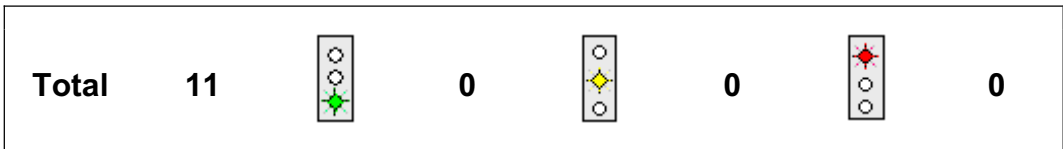
|              |           |   |           |   |          |   |          |
|--------------|-----------|---|-----------|---|----------|---|----------|
| <b>Total</b> | <b>21</b> |  | <b>19</b> |  | <b>0</b> |  | <b>2</b> |
|--------------|-----------|---|-----------|---|----------|---|----------|

The majority of objectives / milestones for the service have progressed as planned and additional details are provided in Appendix 1.

**5.0 SERVICE REVIEW**

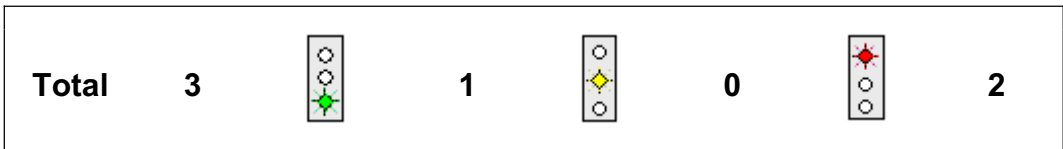
The current Sports and Facilities Strategy runs to 2009. The Strategy will be reviewed with all partners with proposals to establish a revised version up to and including 2012.

**6.0 PROGRESS AGAINST KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS**



Performance against ‘key’ performance indicators cannot yet be reported due to the unavailability of data at this point in time. Details of these indicators are provided within Appendix 2. This is largely the result of data not yet being released by the CLG for nationally prescribed measures.

**6.1 PROGRESS AGAINST OTHER PERFORMANCE INDICATORS**



Of the remaining 8 indicators for the service that can be reported this period three can be assigned traffic lights. Further details of these indicators are provided within Appendix 3.

**7.0 PROGRESS AGAINST LPSA TARGETS**

For further details, please refer to Appendix 4.

**8.0 RISK CONTROL MEASURES**

During the production of the 2008-09 Service Plan, the service was required to undertake a risk assessment of all Key Service Objectives.

Where a Key Service Objective has been assessed and found to have associated ‘High’ risk, progress against the application of risk treatment measures is to be monitored, and reported in the quarterly monitoring report in quarters 2 and 4.

There are no Service Objectives for this service that have been assessed and found to have associated ‘High’ risks. Therefore, there is no progress to report.

## 9.0 PROGRESS AGAINST HIGH PRIORITY EQUALITY ACTIONS

During 2007/08 the service was required to undertake an Equality Impact Assessment. Progress against actions identified through that assessment, with associated High priority are to be reported in the quarterly monitoring report in quarters 2 and 4.






There are no High priority actions for this service; therefore, there is no progress to report.

## 10.0 DATA QUALITY








The author provides assurance that the information contained within this report is accurate and valid and that every effort has been made to avoid the omission of data. Where data has been estimated, has been sourced directly from partner or other agencies, or where there are any concerns regarding the limitations of its use this has been clearly annotated.






## 11.0 APPENDICES

Appendix 1- Progress against Objectives/ Milestones  
Appendix 2- Progress against Key Performance Indicators  
Appendix 3- Progress against Other Performance Indicators  
Appendix 4- Progress against LPSA Targets  
Appendix 5- Explanation of traffic light symbols

| Service Plan Ref. | Objective   | 2008/09 Milestone  | Progress to date  | Commentary  |
|-------------------|---|--|---|---|
| CL 1              | Increase participation in sport and physical activity, thereby encouraging better lifestyles. | Ensure the Council's Leisure Centres maintain service delivery at nationally recognised standards by applying and achieving the Quest quality standards. Oct 2008                                |    | Brookvale Recreation Centre assessment 76%.<br><br>All centres have shown on improvement on previous performance. |
|                   |   | Increase number of new participants through Sport Physical Activity Alliance (SPAA) delivery plan i.e. sports participation (Jan08-Dec08). Jan 2009  |    | Achieved 1048   |
|                   |   | <i>Work with Primary Care Trust (PCT) and other community groups to deliver Big Lottery Fund (BLF) well being Physical Activity projects i.e. cycling projects, Bounce into Action. Mar 2009</i> |    | All projects now delivering activity  |
|                   |   | <i>Deliver sport activity as part of Youth Festival July 08. Jul 2008</i>  |  | Delivered   |
|                   |   | Increase number of members in local sports clubs 125 by improving school to club links (Jan08-Dec08). Jan 2009   |  | PESSYP results show 1% increase to 34% against national average of 33%.   |

| Service Plan Ref. | Objective   | 2008/09 Milestone  | Progress to date | Commentary   |
|-------------------|---|--|------------------|--|
| CL 2              | Increase the use of libraries, thereby encouraging literacy skills and quality of life opportunities. | Develop plans for £1.3million upgrade of Halton Lea Library. Community Engagement Plan, Business Plan, Capital Plan to be submitted to Big Lottery, April 2008; work to commence on site Sept 2008. Consultation complete. |                  | Phase 1 complete, phase 2 commenced 9 <sup>th</sup> March 2009, work on schedule for completion August 2009. Consultation complete. Community History and Young People's Steering Groups established |
|                   |   | <i>Hold week long literature festival (in conjunction with the Brindley). May 2008</i>   |                  | Held 10 <sup>th</sup> -22 <sup>nd</sup> May 2008   |
|                   |   | Hold 2 promotional campaigns to increase library membership (Sept08-Feb09). Feb 2009   |                  | Promotional/consultation event with a health theme held in Halton Lea Shopping Centre in January<br><br>Outreach consultation / promotional events undertaken in various locations in Runcorn.       |
|                   |   | <i>Roll out Books for Children initiative to distribute free books to young people to encourage the habit of reading. Dec 2008</i>   |                  | Roll out of the various DCSF schemes "Booktime", "Boys into Books" has continued.  |

|      |  |   |   |   |
|------|--|---|---|---|
| CL 3 | Develop the arts product in Halton which will in turn improve quality of life, self-esteem and encourage new skills.                           | Produce Public Arts Strategy for Halton to provide a structure for future investment into Public Art. Sep 2008                            |    | Completed and approved by Executive Board<br>In February 09   |
|      |  | Produce Arts Strategy for Halton which recognises cultures contribution to quality of life, health and economic regeneration. Sep 2008    |    | Completed and approved by Executive Board in March 09   |
|      |  | <i>Produce drama, music, dance and visual arts programme to contribute to Youth Cultural Festival. Jul 2008</i>                           |    | Ran successful range of events throughout the festival at The Stadium and The Brindley, including Halton's Got Talent which will be repeated in 2009.                               |
|      |  | <i>Produce programme for Theatre in the Parks as part of Halton's offer for Capital of Culture Year. Jun 2008</i>                         |    | Three outdoor performances Of Alice In Wonderland were successfully staged at Wigg Island. The performances drew many first time visitors to Wigg Island and the new visitor centre |
| CL 4 | Increase use and satisfaction with parks and open spaces, promoting healthy lifestyles and providing diversionary activities for young people. | <i>Hold 150 free events in parks over the year to promote the educational and environmental benefits of Haltons Open Spaces. Mar 2009</i> |   | 226 events were held over the year.   |
|      |  | <i>Review SPLASH programme, April 2008 to implement for June 2008 - March 2009. Mar 2009</i>  |  | Reviewed and delivered.   |
|      |  | Obtain Green Flag for 8 sites in the Borough. Sep 2008  |  | Awarded 10 Green Flags.   |

|      |   |  |   |   |
|------|---|--|---|---|
| CL 5 | Make Halton a safer and better place to live in by active programmes of community safety and activities to modify drug and alcohol abuse. | <i>Improve the number of new referrals that undertake a screening for hepatitis C. March 2009.</i>   |  | Out of 74 new treatment journeys who were current or previous injectors, 14 were offered and accepted Hep C screening (19%) |
|      |   | <i>Maintain or improve the sanction detection target for domestic abuse. March 2009.</i>   |  | High number of detections in quarter 4.   |
|      |   | Reduce the number of repeat victims of domestic abuse from the 07/08 baseline. March 2009.   |  | Please see NI 32 below.   |
|      |   | Reduce longest waiting time for alcohol treatment from 16 to 12 weeks. March 2009.   |  | Waiting time is currently 3 months  |
|      |   | <i>Review the structure of the Community Safety Team to ensure it is fit for purpose to respond to the needs of Halton residents. Sep 2008</i> |  | Review complete with recommendations presented to PPB. MAPS proposals partially implemented.                                |

The following listed “Key” performance indicators cannot be reported at this time,

**CL LI4** - % Overall satisfaction of Library Users (Previously BVPI 118c)

**CL LI5** - % Of residents satisfied with sport and leisure (Previously BVPI 119a)

**NI 17** - Perception of anti-social behaviour

**CL LI1** - Domestic burglaries per 1,000 households (Previously BVPI 126)

**NI 9** - % of adult population (16+) say they have used their public library service during the last 12 months

**NI 10** - % of adult population (16+) who have visited a museum or gallery at least once in the past 12 months

**NI 11** - % of adult population (16+) that have engaged in the arts at least 3 times in the past 12 months.

**NI 20** - Assault with injury crime rate (per 1000 population)


**NI 30** - Re-offending rate of prolific and priority offenders

**NI 33** - Arson incidents

**NI 8** - % of adult population (16+) participating in sport each week



| Ref                     | Description   | Actual 2007/8 | Target 08/09 | Quarter 4 | Progress  | Commentary   |
|-------------------------|---|---------------|--------------|-----------|---|--|
| <b>Quality</b>          |   |               |              |           |   |  |
| NI 22                   | Perceptions of parents taking responsibility for the behaviour of their children in the area                | N/A           | N/A          | N/A       |   | Figures still awaited from Place Survey                                    |
| NI 23                   | Perceptions that people in the area treat one another with respect and dignity                              | N/A           | N/A          | N/A       |   | Figures still awaited from Place Survey                                    |
| NI 24                   | Satisfaction with the way the police and local council dealt with anti-social behaviour                     | N/A           | N/A          | N/A       |   | Figures still awaited from Place Survey                                    |
| N1 25                   | Satisfaction of different groups with the way the police and local Council dealt with anti-social behaviour | N/A           | N/A          | N/A       |   | Figures still awaited from Place Survey                                    |
| NI 41                   | Perceptions of drunk or rowdy behaviour as a problem  | N/A           | N/A          | N/A       |   | Figures still awaited from Place Survey                                    |
| NI 42                   | Perceptions of drug use or drug dealing as a problem  | N/A           | N/A          | N/A       |   | Figures still awaited from Place Survey                                    |
| <b>Service Delivery</b> |   |               |              |           |   |  |
| CL LI2                  | Number of racial incidents recorded by the Authority per 100,000 population (Previously BVPI 174)           | 42.68         | N/A          | N/A       |   | Data not yet available   |
| CL LI3                  | % Of racial incidents that resulted in further action (Previously BVPI 175)                                 | 100%          | 100%         | 100%      |  | All reports are investigated as a matter of policy.                        |
| NI 15                   | Serious violent crime rate (per 1,000 population)   | 92 crimes     | N/A          | 63 Crimes |   | A reduction of 29 crimes (31%).<br>Halton are currently 2nd out of 15 when |


| Ref   | Description  | Actual 2007/8   | Target 08/09 | Quarter 4       | Progress  | Commentary  |
|-------|--|-----------------|--------------|-----------------|---|---|
|       |  | equates to 0.77 |              | equates to 0.53 |   | compared to most similar CDRP family, 0.098 crimes per 1000 population, well below most similar group average Dec 08 – feb 09: (excellent performance).   |
| NI 16 | Serious acquisitive crime rate (per 1000 population) | 16.47           | 16.06        | 18.79           |  | <p>During January 2009 to March 2009 Halton Area reported 415 Serious Acquisitive Crimes achieving a <b>-14.1% DECREASE</b> when compared to the same period during the previous year (483 to 415).</p> <p>Performance against year end target is <b>17% under target</b>. However, current quarters performance, if sustained, would achieve 2009/10 target reductions in line with Government Office North West targets to achieve a 7.5% reduction from 2007/08 baseline by 2010/11.</p> <p>The number of crimes reported within this quarter is the lowest it has been since April 05 (numbers not available to assess prior to this date). Work to reduce numbers has been significant and numbers recorded reflect this action.</p> <p>When compared to our MSCDRP family we are in 9<sup>th</sup> position out of 15, with 0.076 per thousand population above most similar average</p> <p>The categories within Serious Acquisitive are</p> |

| Ref | Description | Actual<br>2007/8 | Target<br>08/09 | Quarter<br>4 | Progress | Commentary   |
|-----|-------------|------------------|-----------------|--------------|----------|--|
|     |             |                  |                 |              |          | <p>broken down into the following categories:</p> <p><b><u>Serious Acquisitive Crime - Burglary in a dwelling</u></b></p> <p>During January 2009 to March 2009 Halton Area reported 139 Burglary in a dwelling achieving a <b>-3.6% DECREASE</b> when compared to the same period during the previous year (144 to 139).</p> <p>Performance against year end target is <b>26.2% over target</b>. However the current quarters performance, if sustained, would achieve 2009/10 target reductions in line with Government Office North West targets to achieve a 7.5% reduction from 2007/08 baseline by 2010/11.</p> <p>During January 2009 to March 2009 (Quarter 4) Halton Area achieved a <b>3.6% DECREASE</b> when compared to the same period during the previous year (144 to 139). With the lowest reported numbers during March 2009 since in April 2005 (records before this date not available to assess further).</p> <p>When compared to our MSCDRP family we are in 9<sup>th</sup> position out of 15 and 0.161 per 1000 households above average.</p> <p><b><u>Theft of a motor Vehicle</u></b></p> <p>During January 2009 to March 2009 Halton Area reported 84 theft or unauthorised taking of a motor vehicle achieving a <b>-25.7%</b></p> |

| Ref | Description | Actual<br>2007/8 | Target<br>08/09 | Quarter<br>4 | Progress | Commentary   |
|-----|-------------|------------------|-----------------|--------------|----------|--|
|     |             |                  |                 |              |          | <p><b>DECREASE</b> when compared to the same period during the previous year (113 to 84).</p> <p>Performance against year end target is <b>11.66 % under target</b>. The current quarters performance, if sustained, would achieve 2009/10 target reductions in line with Government Office North West targets to achieve a 7.5% reduction from 2007/08 baseline by 2010/11.</p> <p>This quarters performance is the lowest recorded (data prior to April 05 not available) since April 05, with all months recording particularly low figures.</p> <p>When compared to our MSCDRP family we are in 6<sup>th</sup> position out of 15. Currently 0.062 per thousand population below MCDPR average.</p> <p><b><u>Theft from a motor vehicle</u></b><br/>           During January 2009 to March 2009 Halton Area reported 159 theft from a motor vehicle achieving a <b>-16.75% DECREASE</b> when compared to the same period during the previous year (191 to 159).</p> <p>Performance against year end target is <b>26.6% over target</b>. However, given the current quarters performance, if sustained, would achieve 2009/10 target reductions in line with Government Office North West targets to achieve a 7.5% reduction from</p> |



| Ref   | Description  | Actual<br>2007/8 | Target<br>08/09 | Quarter<br>4 | Progress      | Commentary  |
|-------|--|------------------|-----------------|--------------|---------------|---|
|       |  |                  |                 |              |               | <p>2007/08 baseline by 2010/11.</p> <p>This quarters performance is the lowest recorded (data prior to April 05 not available) since April 05, with all months recording particularly low figures.</p> <p><u>Robbery</u></p> <p>During January 2009 to March 2009 Halton Area reported 33 Robberies of business and personal crimes achieving a <b>5.71% DECREASE</b> when compared to the same period during the previous year (35 to 33).</p> <p>Performance against year end target is <b>37.4% over target</b>. Even with reductions when compared to last year, If performance was to continue as per this quarters performance then the target for 2009/10 target reductions in line with Government Office North West targets to achieve a 7.5% reduction from 2007/08 baseline by 2010/11 would NOT be achieved. Additional action is required in this area of business to become on track for achieving targets in 2009/10.</p> <p>When compared to our MSCDRP family we are in 11<sup>th</sup> position out of 15. Currently 0.38 per thousand population well above MCDRP average.</p> |
| NI 18 | Adult re-offending rates for those under probation | N/A              | N/A             | N/A          | Refer comment | Data not yet available.   |


| Ref   | Description   | Actual 2007/8 | Target 08/09 | Quarter 4 | Progress | Commentary   |
|-------|---|---------------|--------------|-----------|----------|--|
|       | supervision   |               |              |           |          |  |
| NI 19 | Rate of proven re-offending by young offenders  | N/A           | N/A          | N/A       | -        | Data not yet available   |
| N1 21 | Dealing with local concerns about anti-social behaviour and crime by the local council and police     | N/A           | N/A          | N/A       | -        | Data not yet available   |
| NI 26 | Specialist support to victims of a serious sexual offence   | N/A           | N/A          | N/A       | -        | Data not yet available   |
| NI 27 | Understanding of local concerns about anti-social behaviour and crime by the local council and police | N/A           | N/A          | N/A       | -        | Figures still awaited from Place Survey  |
| NI 28 | Serious knife crime rate  | N/A           | N/A          | 92        | -        | Data submitted by the Police.  |
| NI 29 | Gun crime rate  | N/A           | N/A          | 0         | -        | Data submitted by the Police.  |
| NI 31 | Re-offending rate of registered sex offenders   | N/A           | N/A          | N/A       | -        | Data not yet available   |
| NI 32 | Repeat incidents of domestic violence   | 127           | 121          | N/A       | -        | Further analysis (ie quarter 4) can not be completed due to Police systems being temporarily out of order. However, performance at quarter 3 noted: During April to December 2008 Halton Area reported 74 repeat victims of domestic violence achieving a <b>-30.8% DECREASE</b> when compared to the same period during the previous year (107 to 74). The forecast is following a stable trend and we are in line to achieve the 2.5% reduction target with a projected year end of 99 crimes equating to -25 (-20%) below |

| Ref    | Description  | Actual 2007/8 | Target 08/09 | Quarter 4 | Progress  | Commentary   |
|--------|--|---------------|--------------|-----------|---|--|
|        |  |               |              |           |   | target of 124.   |
| NI 34  | Domestic violence - murder   | N/A           | N/A          | N/A       | -   | Data submitted by the Police.  |
| NI 38  | Drug-related (Class A) offending rate  | N/A           | N/A          | N/A       |   | Data not yet available   |
| NI 40  | Drug users in effective treatment  | 527           | 518          | 447       |  | Figure is taken from the NTA effective treatment trajectory summary month 9 YTD and is for Dec 08. End of year figure will be available in Aug 09. Target was revised down by the NTA from 532 to 518. |
| NI 6   | Participation in regular volunteering  | N/A           | N/A          | N/A       | -   | Data not yet available   |
| NI 143 | Offenders under probation supervision living in settled and suitable accommodations at the end of their order or licence | N/A           | N/A          | N/A       | -   | Data not yet available   |
| NI 144 | Offenders under probation supervision in employment at the end of their order or licence                                 | N/A           | N/A          | N/A       | -   | Data not yet available   |
| NI 35  | Building resilience to violent extremism   | N/A           | N/A          | 2.5       | -   | This is self-assessed (on a score of 1-5 based upon existing national guidance).   |
| NI 36  | Protection against terrorist attack  | N/A           | N/A          | N/A       | -   | Data not yet available   |
| NI 7   | Environment for a thriving third sector  | N/A           | N/A          | N/A       | -   | Next Survey 2010   |
| NI 49  | Number of primary fires and related fatalities and non-fatal casualties, excluding                                       | N/A           | N/A          | N/A       | -   | Data not yet available   |



| Ref | Description          | Actual<br>2007/8 | Target<br>08/09 | Quarter<br>4 | Progress | Commentary |
|-----|----------------------|------------------|-----------------|--------------|----------|------------|
|     | precautionary checks |                  |                 |              |          |            |



| LPSA Ref. | Indicator   | Baseline         | Target           | Perform 07/08 | Perform 08/09 4 | Traffic light   | Commentary  |
|-----------|---|------------------|------------------|---------------|-----------------|---|---|
| 3         | The percentage of adults in Halton participating in at least 30 minutes moderate intensity sport and active recreation (including recreational walking) on 3 or more days a week, as measured by Sport England's Active People survey | 19.62 (Nov 2006) | 20.60 (Nov 2009) | N/a           | 18.5            |    | This is a disappointing outcome for Halton indicating a reduction in participation. The survey sample was only 500 compared to 1000 when the survey was conducted in 2006. Local evidence collected through targeted intervention and Leisure Facility usage does not show a reduction but rather an increase. For example there has been over 1% year on year visit across Councils Leisure Facilities and an increase in Club Live membership Sept 07 compared to Sept 08 of 253. Most noticeable increase at KLC due to moving the Gym to a larger room. New facilities have opened i.e. 2 ATPs, Tennis Centre & Athletics track all indicating increase in participation. |
| 5         | Reducing the harm caused by drug misuse:<br><br>1. The number of individuals in Halton who are in contact with structured drug treatment services.  | 604 (2004/5)     | 790 (2008/9)     | 864           | 742             |  | Figure is provisional for Mar 09. Year end data will be available in Aug 09   |

| LPSA Ref. | Indicator  | Baseline        | Target          | Perform 07/08 | Perform 08/09 4 | Traffic light   | Commentary  |
|-----------|--|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|---|---|
|           | 2. The percentage of individuals in Halton starting treatment who are retained in treatment for over 12 weeks. | 80%<br>(2004/5) | 88%<br>(2008/9) | 86%           | 70%             |  | Figure is for PDU, Dec 08. end of year figure will be available in Aug 09 |

The traffic light symbols are used in the following manner:

|                     | <b><u>Objective</u></b>   | <b><u>Performance Indicator</u></b>   |
|---------------------|---|---|
| <b><u>Green</u></b> |  <p>Indicates that the <u>objective has been achieved</u> within the appropriate timeframe.</p>          | <p>Indicates that the annual 08/09 target <u>has been achieved</u> or exceeded.</p> |
| <b><u>Red</u></b>   |  <p>Indicates that that the <u>objective has not been achieved</u> within the appropriate timeframe.</p> | <p>Indicates that the annual 08/09 target <u>has not been achieved</u>.</p>         |

## QUARTERLY MONITORING REPORT

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| <b>DIRECTORATE:</b> | <b>Environment</b>                             |
| <b>SERVICE:</b>     | <b>Economic Regeneration</b>                   |
| <b>PERIOD:</b>      | <b>Quarter 4 to period end 31st March 2009</b> |

### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

This monitoring report covers the Economic Regeneration Department fourth quarter period up to year end 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009. It describes key developments and progress against all objectives and performance indicators for the service.

Given that there are a considerable number of year-end transactions still to take place a Financial Statement for the period has not been included within this report in order to avoid providing information that would be subject to further change and amendment. The final 2008/09 financial statements for the Department will be prepared and made available via the Council's Intranet once the Council's year-end accounts have been finalised. A notice will be provided within the Members' Weekly Bulletin as soon as they are available.

The way in which traffic lights symbols have been used to reflect progress to date is explained within Appendix 6.

***It should be noted that this report is presented to a number of Policy and Performance Boards. Those objectives and indicators that are not directly relevant to this Board have been shaded grey.***

### 2.0 KEY DEVELOPMENTS

#### **Recession measures**

- A Real Help Now event for local people was delivered at the Stadium in March aimed at helping people who were recently unemployed or under threat of redundancy.
- A business breakfast briefing took place in March to explain to local businesses what help is available from which organisations (76 local business and supported by eight partner agencies)
- The new WNF (Working Neighbourhoods Fund) Apprenticeship project that was due to start in April was accelerated and commenced in January 2009. Up till the end of March 25 new apprentice opportunities identified in local businesses with 20 of them filled. The new apprentices include 15 young people who were previously NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training).
- The department made a successful bid to the LSC's (Learning & Skills Council) to deliver the Local Redundancy Response ESF (European

- A twelve page 'recession special' Halton Today which will be mailed to approximately 2,400 local businesses is under production
- A radical overhaul of the web site [www.runcorn-widnes.com](http://www.runcorn-widnes.com) has taken place to include recession measures from partners
- A programme of targeted events and clinics is under development and will start shortly including surgeries from ACAS (Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service) and Halliwells solicitors
- A partners recession group has been established involving Business Link, HBC, Halton Chamber and the LSC which will focus on what is happening with businesses locally

#### **Other key developments**

- Significant progress has been made on developing the Halton Employment Partnership (HEP). The HEP is the partnership that has been developed by the Employment Learning and Skills SSP to bring together agencies and key local providers to offer businesses a joined up service.
- A new Halton Investors' Handbook has been developed by the HEP and has been distributed to key partners/organisations. This identifies the 'complete employment offer' for businesses.
- The new Halton Employment Partnership Team was formed in February 2009. This is co-located with the HPIJ at Rutland House and provides the capability of developing bespoke training packages with local companies with a view to equipping unemployed people with the necessary skills to gain employment. A new training room has been developed to deliver bespoke employability programmes at Rutland House and a second room is under development at the Stadium.
- The Enterprising Halton Programme supported 78 new start ups during the year and despite the recession the number of initial business enquiries has increased significantly since January 2009.
- The Inaugural Business and Tourism Awards took place in February. This joint venture between Halton Chamber of Commerce and Halton Tourism Business network was held at The DeVere Hotel, and was hosted by BBC Radio Merseyside's Roger Phillips who spoke very positively about what was happening in Halton on his radio show.
- Meetings have taken place with Heritage Lottery Managers to discuss a way forward for the Heart of Halton Plaque Scheme. This would place plaques at key locations to commemorate local people and events. The concept was well received and we have been asked to consider making the scheme larger than our original plans. A bid will now be brought together to encompass all the suggestions they made.
- The new Halton tourism DVD has been finalised and was used at Business and Tourism Awards. In the future it will be used by local hotels and tourism forum members to promote Halton.
- A date for the New Mersey Gateway Public Enquiry has been announced. As a consequence the Economic Development Officer (Development) has been working almost full time preparing the

Council's case for the enquiry and it is expected that this level of activity will continue throughout the enquiry. This combined with recent staffing reductions and long term sickness mean that only the highest priority work is now taking place.




- Total crime on Halebank Industrial Estate has reduced by 65.5% during 2008-09, whilst on Astmoor Industrial Estate it has reduced by 32.2%. This is the first year that the two Business Improvement Districts have been operational and crime reduction has been a high priority within the BID plans. Mobile security patrols have been introduced, CCTV enhanced and smartwater property marking has been introduced across the estates.

### 3.0 EMERGING ISSUES

- Various government departments are developing response programmes to the recession. It would seem that not all of these are joined up. Some are being commissioned at a national level and some at a more local level. It will be important to keep all initiatives under review to ensure Halton maximises the benefits they bring and also to understand the degree that they duplicate or enhance existing programmes.
- There will be an OFSTED inspection of LSC/DWP funded programmes within Economic Regeneration in the next quarter. Whilst the majority of the inspection will focus on the more traditional Adult Learning & Skills Development programmes, some projects within Enterprise & Employment will also be inspected.
- Following the DIUS (Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills) consultation in 2008 of informal adult learning, the Government have now published the Learning Revolution White Paper, which sets out the proposals for adult learning in the future. Local Authorities will play a key role in managing this and an adult learning pledge will need to be signed by the LA. How the Foundation Learning Tier will impact on existing First Steps funding is still unclear as losing this funding to FE colleges would have a significant impact on the adult learning service.
- The NWDA has now completed the procurement for the regional Intensive Business Start up Support Programme. Within Merseyside local authorities have been given the opportunity to manage the start up contracts for their own areas subject to local authority monies being used as co-finance. This would provide an opportunity for Enterprising Halton to better co-ordinate business start up and support services in the borough. Proposed NWDA contract documentation is presently subject to review by Legal Services.
- The TMP (The Mersey Partnership) secondment that provided a tourism officer has now come to an end. The workload of the team is being reviewed to ensure key tasks continue.
- Meetings have been held with representatives from Halton Miniature Railway to look at what could be developed in the future
- Following the completion of the Halton Economic Review 2008 work is

progressing on the Borough's next Economic Development Strategy.

#### 4.0 PROGRESS AGAINST OBJECTIVES / MILESTONES




|              |           |   |           |   |          |   |          |
|--------------|-----------|---|-----------|---|----------|---|----------|
| <b>Total</b> | <b>24</b> |  | <b>18</b> |  | <b>0</b> |  | <b>6</b> |
|--------------|-----------|---|-----------|---|----------|---|----------|

The majority of objectives/milestones have been achieved during the year. For further details, please refer to Appendix 1.

#### 5.0 SERVICE REVIEW




- The service delivered to Children's Centres by the Adult Learning & Skills Development Division is being reorganised with a view to delivering a more localised and responsive service. The creation of 5 new Children's Centre tutor posts will enable staff to be based out within 5 different Children's Centres.
- A further meeting of the Town Centre Management PPB Scrutiny Panel took place during March. At the meeting the Elected Members endorsed the transfer of the Town Centre Manager post from Economic Regeneration to Environmental and Regulatory Services with a view to better integration of town centre management and the cleansing and maintenance of the town centres.

#### 6.0 PROGRESS AGAINST KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

|              |          |   |          |   |          |   |          |
|--------------|----------|---|----------|---|----------|---|----------|
| <b>Total</b> | <b>7</b> |  | <b>5</b> |  | <b>0</b> |  | <b>2</b> |
|--------------|----------|---|----------|---|----------|---|----------|

Targets for five of the seven "Key" performance indicators have been met, however those relating to inward investment enquiries and job creation were not. For further details, please refer to Appendix 2.

#### 6.1 PROGRESS AGAINST OTHER PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

|              |           |   |          |   |          |   |          |
|--------------|-----------|---|----------|---|----------|---|----------|
| <b>Total</b> | <b>20</b> |  | <b>3</b> |  | <b>1</b> |  | <b>2</b> |
|--------------|-----------|---|----------|---|----------|---|----------|

Of the 11 "Other" indicators reported 3 achieved their targets, 2 did not and one received an amber light which is explained in the commentary.

The remaining 5 are new national indicators for which targets were not set. An additional 9 indicators are not able to be reported at this time. For further details, please refer to Appendix 3.

## **7.0 PROGRESS AGAINST LPSA TARGETS**

For further details, please refer to Appendix 4.

## **8.0 RISK CONTROL MEASURES**

During the production of the 2008-09 Service Plan, the service was required to undertake a risk assessment of all Key Service Objectives.

Where a Key Service Objective has been assessed and found to have associated 'High' risk, progress against the application of risk treatment measures is to be monitored, and reported in the quarterly monitoring report in quarters 2 and 4.

For details please refer to Appendix 5.

## **9.0 PROGRESS AGAINST HIGH PRIORITY EQUALITY ACTIONS**

During 2007/08 the service was required to undertake an Equality Impact Assessment. Progress against actions identified through that assessment, with associated High priority are to be reported in the quarterly monitoring report in quarters 2 and 4.

No actions have been identified as high priority for the service.









## **10.0 DATA QUALITY**



The author provides assurance that the information contained within this report is accurate and valid and that every effort has been made to avoid the omission of data. Where data has been estimated, has been sourced directly from partner or other agencies, or where there are any concerns regarding the limitations of its use this has been clearly annotated.


## **11.0 APPENDICES**









Appendix 1- Progress against Objectives/ Milestones  
Appendix 2- Progress against Key Performance Indicators  
Appendix 3- Progress against Other Performance Indicators  
Appendix 4- Progress against LPSA Targets  
Appendix 5- Progress against Risk Treatment Measures  
Appendix 6- Explanation of traffic light symbols








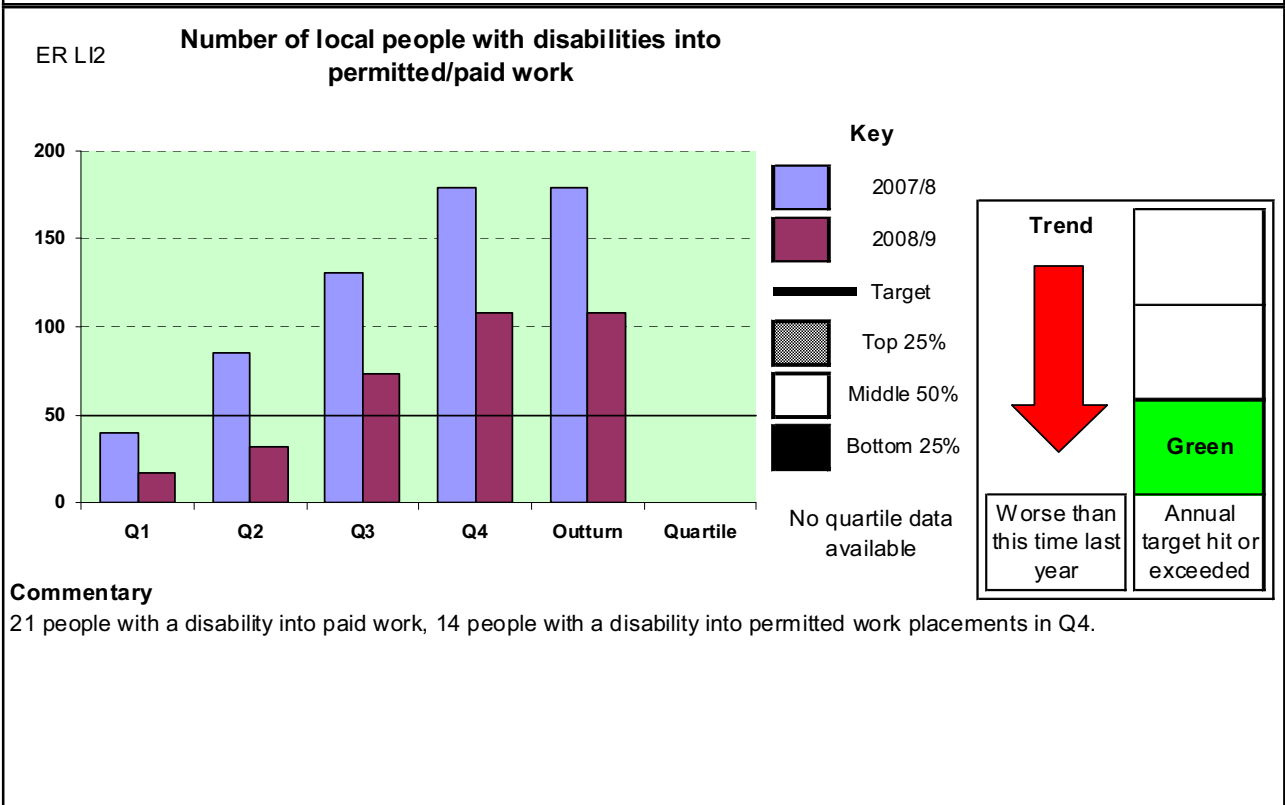
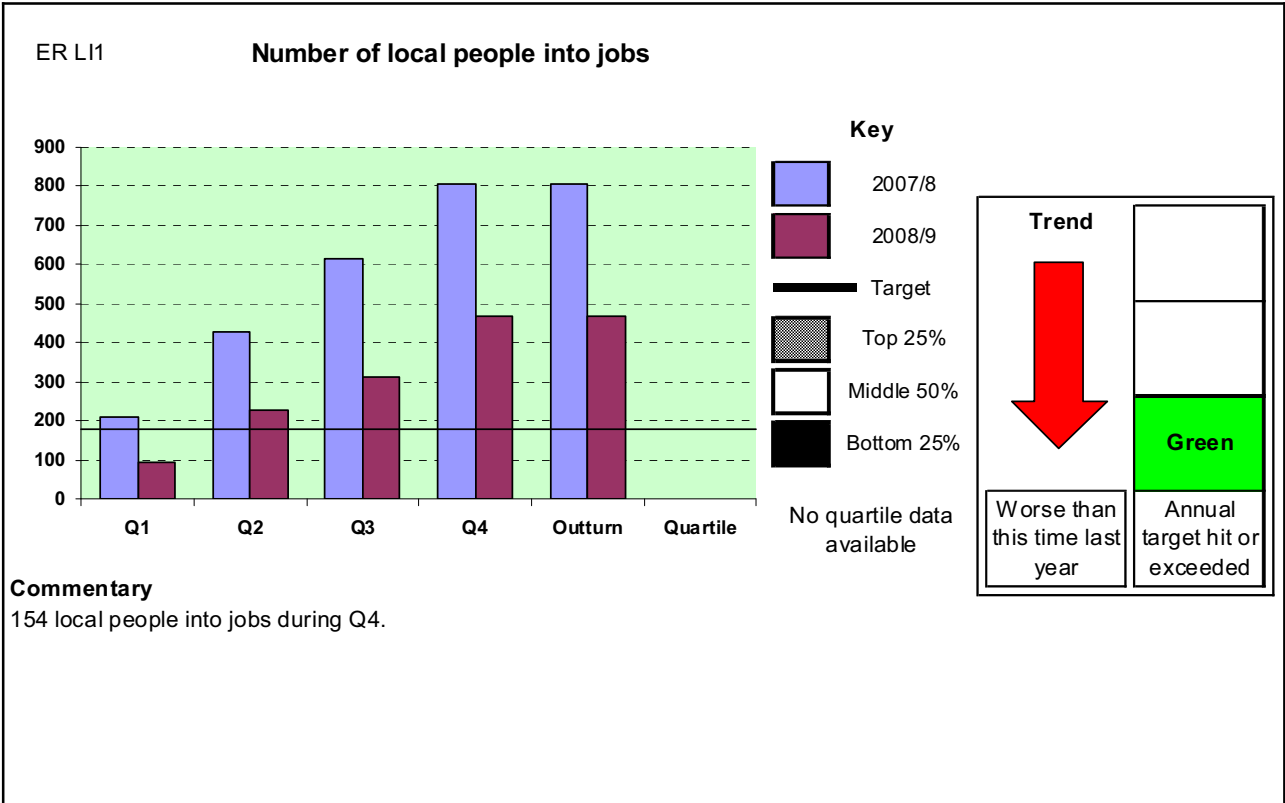
| Service Plan Ref. | Objective  | 2008/09 Milestone   | Progress to date  | Commentary  |
|-------------------|--|---|---|---|
| ER 1              | To foster a culture of enterprise and entrepreneurship, particularly amongst the low skilled, making Halton an ideal place to start and grow economic activity | <i>Enterprising Halton Competition, Nov 2008</i>  |    | Competition completed.  |
|                   |  | Secure continuation of Enterprise coaches, Jun 2008   |    | Enterprise coaches service continued.   |
|                   |  | <i>Enterprise week programme, Nov 2008</i>  |    | Enterprise week very low key due to vacancies although the Halton Enterprise Fair took place on 21/1/09.  |
|                   |  | <i>Launch Enterprising Halton DVD, Dec 2008</i>   |    | DVD of Enterprising Halton including video clips of Enterprise Fair now nearing completion.   |
| ER 2              | To develop a culture where learning is valued and raise skill levels throughout the adult population and in the local workforce                                | <i>Completed sector skills plan for logistics with first provision commencing, Sep 2008</i> |    | Complete  |
|                   |  | Completed sector skills plan for Science with first provision commencing, Mar 2009          |    | A joint Urban Renewal & ELS PPB Topic on 'Skills in the Science, Technology and Advanced Manufacturing Sector' (agreed in Q4) will commence in the next quarter. Provision is likely to commence in the autumn of 2009, given priority being placed on other sectors e.g. logistics, customer services, retail. |
|                   |  | <i>Recruitment of dedicated apprenticeship officer post, Jul 2008</i>                       |  | Now expected to recruit Q2 2009/10  |
|                   |  | <i>Halton Learner awards, May 2008</i>  |  | The next Adult Learners Awards ceremony is planned for May 2009.  |

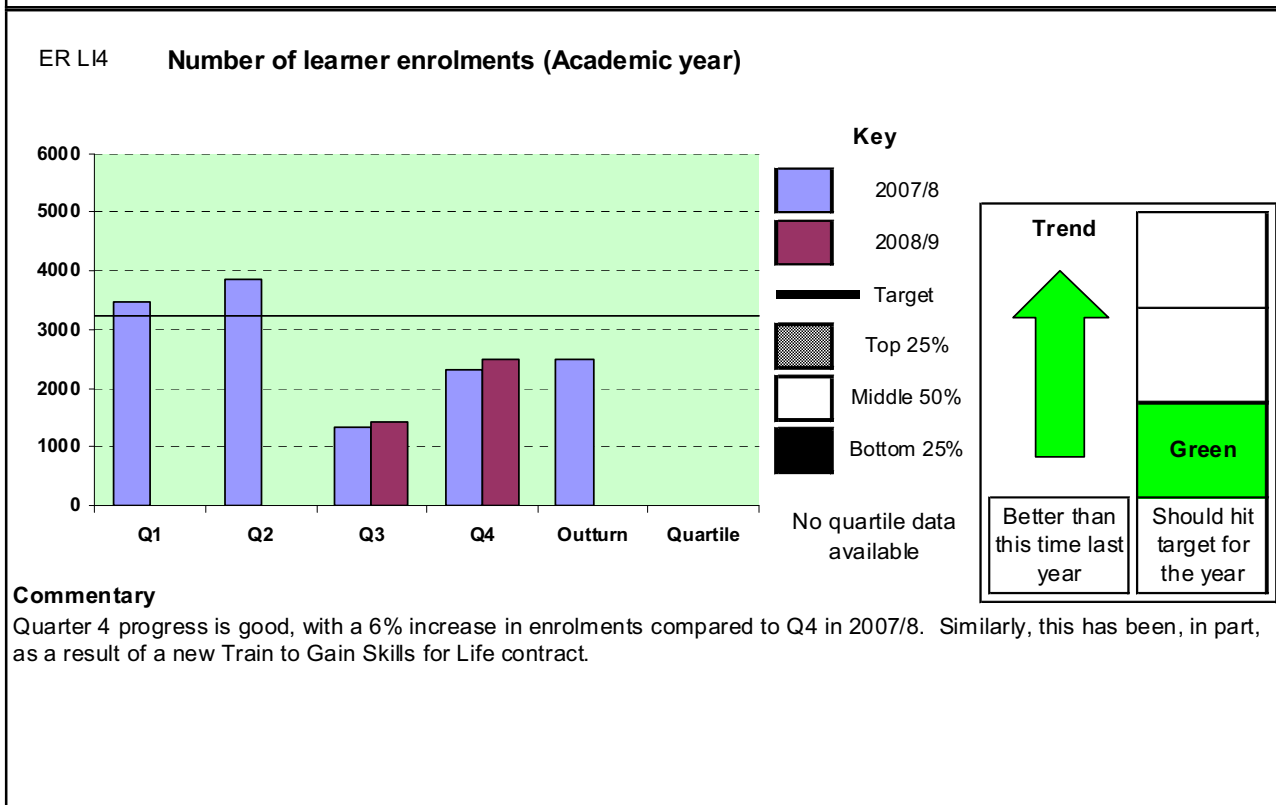
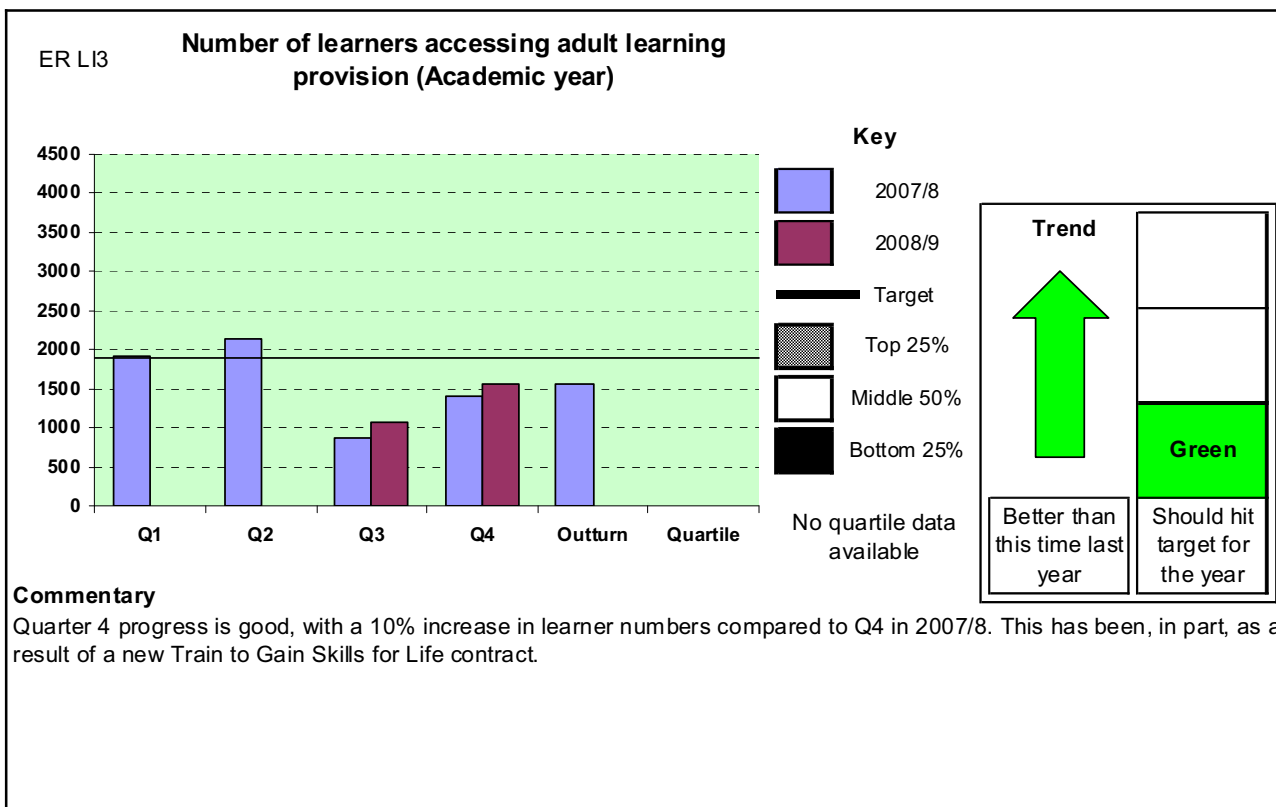
| Service Plan Ref. | Objective   | 2008/09 Milestone   | Progress to date  | Commentary  |
|-------------------|---|---|---|---|
|                   |   | <i>Delivery of 5 adult/family learning courses in each CYPAN area, Mar 2009</i> |  | A new SLA has been agreed between the Adult Learning & Skills Development Division and Children's Centres. This will commence April 2009. Courses were delivered. |
| ER 3              | To promote and increase employability of local people, to identify and remove any barriers to | <i>Complete reconfiguration of E&amp;E division to embed outreach, Jul 2008</i> |  | Reconfiguration delayed but outreach is embedded.   |

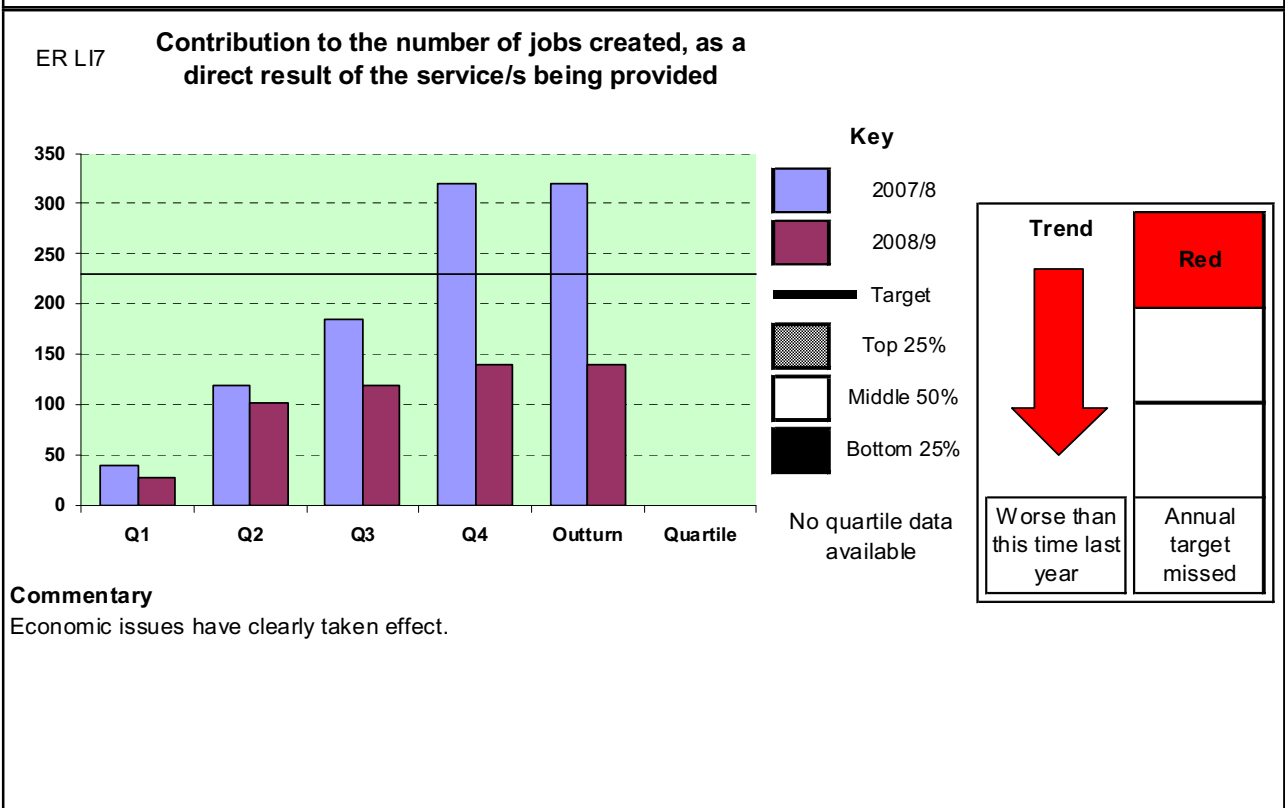
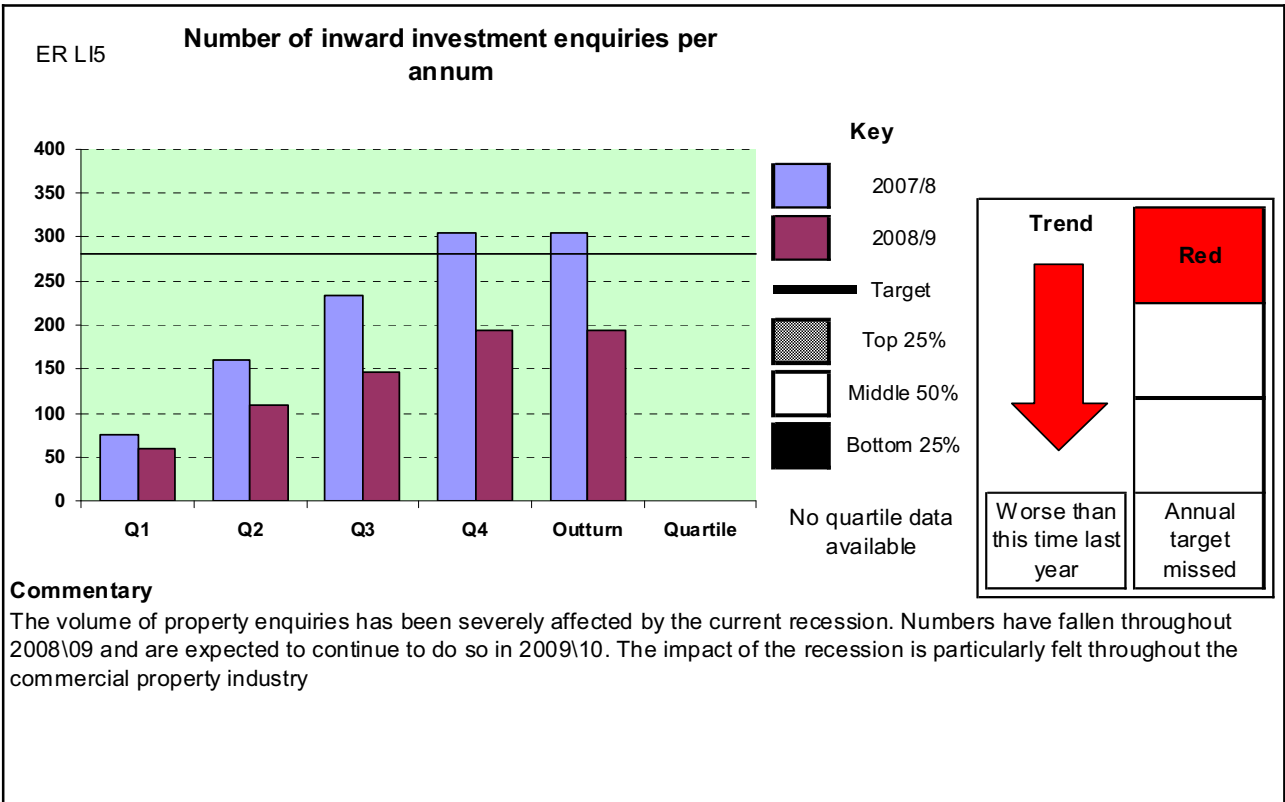
| Service Plan Ref. | Objective                               | 2008/09 Milestone  | Progress to date  | Commentary  |
|-------------------|---|--|---|---|
|                   | employment to get more people into work | <i>Deliver targeted outreach campaigns (2 in each priority ward), Mar 2009</i> |  | <p>During Q4 HPIJ continued to deliver weekly outreach services across 20 LSOA locations to better engage with harder to reach customers. A series of targeted outreach campaigns took place in Q4 as follows:</p> <p><b>Castlefields</b> – 3000 properties leafleted promoting follow up appointments at Phoenix Park. Free refreshments and entertainment. ASDA vouchers used as incentives to engage with priority group customers</p> <p><b>Halton View</b> – 800 properties leafleted promoting follow up appointments at Warrington Road Children’s Centre. Free refreshments and entertainment. ASDA vouchers used as incentives to engage with priority group customers</p> <p><b>Riverside</b> – 2100 properties leafleted promoting follow up appointments at Catalyst Museum. Free Entry into the museum along with children’s entertainment to engage with priority group customers</p> <p><b>Halton Lea</b> – 1600 properties were leafleted promoting follow up appointments at Palacefields Community Centre. ASDA vouchers used incentives to engage with priority group customers along with FREE raffle prizes</p> <p><b>Windmill Hill</b> – 1000 properties leafleted promoting family fun day at Windmill Hill Play Centre.</p> |

| Service Plan Ref. | Objective   | 2008/09 Milestone  | Progress to date  | Commentary  |
|-------------------|---|--|---|---|
|                   |   | <i>Launch pre-recruitment partnership, Jul 2008</i>  |    | The Halton Employment Partnership Team is now in place and delivery commences from April 2009.  |
|                   |   | <i>Complete Employment strategy for disabled and carers with launch of disability employment network, Sep 2008</i> |    | The strategy has been delayed due to delays in government announcements in this area. It is presently being finalised. The Disability Employment Network has been formed. |
| ER 4              | To develop a strong, diverse, competitive and sustainable knowledge based economy | <i>Commence delivery of logistics campaign, Sep 2008</i>   |    | The six-month logistics campaign reported to PPB on June 18 2008 was completed in January 2009.   |
|                   |   | <i>Deliver a new tourism promotion DVD, Nov 2008</i>   |    | The DVD has been finalised and used at the recent awards. It was delayed due to the need to shot new footage in good weather.   |
|                   |   | <i>Launch with SOG the Heath new build marketing programme, Jul 2008</i>   |   | Programme completed. The first new building is nearing completion   |
|                   |   | <i>Deliver Major events programme, Mar 2009</i>  |  | All delivered   |
|                   |   | <i>Deliver capital of culture youth event, Jul 2008</i>  |  | Delivered at the Stadium and Brindley   |
| ER 5              | To create and sustain a thriving business environment                             | <i>Commence delivery of Widnes Industrial Area Action Plan, Dec 2008</i>   |  | A business led steering group has been constituted and a chair elected. All the actions contained within the 2008\09 Action Plan have been completed                      |

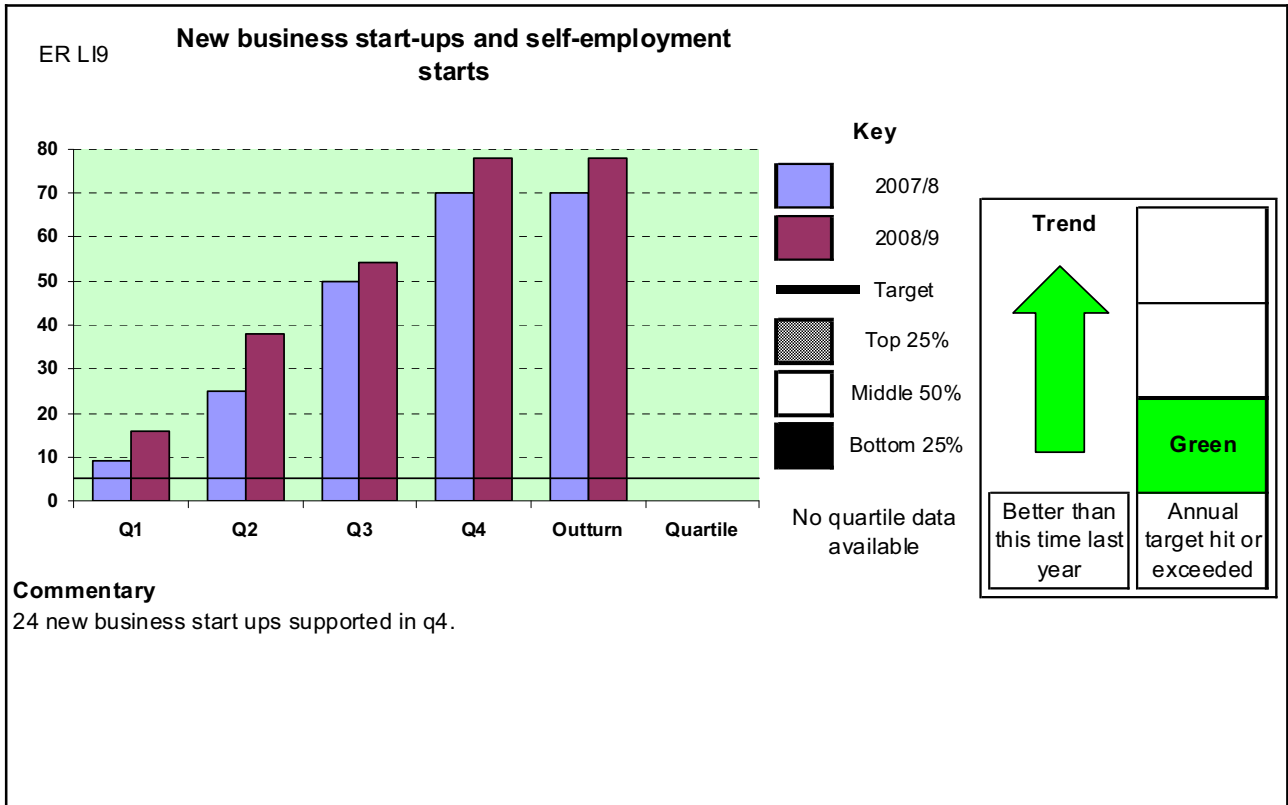
| Service Plan Ref. | Objective   | 2008/09 Milestone  | Progress to date  | Commentary   |
|-------------------|---|--|---|--|
|                   |   | Complete Business Improvement District phase 1 actions (CCTV, security, signage), Mar 2009 |  | All actions associated with the implementation of Phase 1 of the BID programme have been completed   |
| ER 6              | To revitalise the town centres to create dynamic, well designed high quality commercial areas | <i>Deliver a continental market in widnes, Dec 2008</i>                                    |  | The market took place in Widnes town centre in October   |
|                   |   | <i>Launch a weekly Runcorn street market, Sep 2008</i>                                     |  | After much planning and discussion with external agencies and consultation with local shops the street market is scheduled to take place in May/June 2009 subject to necessary permissions |
|                   |   | <i>Deliver gum cleaning programme, Aug 2008</i>  |  | Completed July\August 2008   |
|                   |   | <i>Deliver Christmas programme, Dec 2008</i>   |  | A full festive programme inc' Christmas Lights, reindeer parade, grotto etc was delivered November\December 2008   |















| Ref <sup>1</sup>             | Description  | Actual<br>2007/8 | Target<br>08/09 | Quarter 4 | Progress  | Commentary   |
|------------------------------|--|------------------|-----------------|-----------|---|--|
| <b>Cost &amp; Efficiency</b> |  |                  |                 |           |   |  |
| ER LI13                      | Cost per job created and/or safeguarded to which the authorities inward investment promotional activity has made a significant contribution. (£)(Audit Commission ECR18d)          | 153.15           | 140             | N/a       | N/a   | Data not available at this time. Will be available by Q2 2009/10   |
| <b>Quality</b>               |  |                  |                 |           |   |  |
| ER LI12                      | Percentage of business customers using the inward investment services (including aftercare) expressing satisfaction with the services & support provided (Audit Commission ECR18e) | 92               | 85              | N/a       | N/a   | Data not available at this time. Will be available by Q2 2009/10   |
| <b>Service Delivery</b>      |  |                  |                 |           |   |  |
| ER LI6                       | Inward investment enquiry conversion rate (%)  | 13.5             | 11.5            | 11.9      |   | Although the percentage target has almost been achieved, the actual numbers of businesses taking property within the borough has fallen by 40%                               |
| ER LI8                       | Contribution to the number of jobs safeguarded, as a direct result of the service/s being provided   | 443              | 400             | 235       |  | Number of vacancies has fallen by 53% over the last 12 months (JCP statistic) so it is proving very challenging in finding alternative jobs for people being made redundant. |




<sup>1</sup> Key Indicators are identified by an **underlined reference in bold type.**




| Ref <sup>1</sup> | Description   | Actual 2007/8              | Target 08/09 | Quarter 4    | Progress | Commentary  |      |   |        |      |        |      |        |      |        |      |               |             |
|------------------|---|----------------------------|--------------|--------------|----------|---|------|---|--------|------|--------|------|--------|------|--------|------|---------------|-------------|
| ER LI10          | No of day visitors per annum to the borough (Calendar year)                             | 4.261m (2006) Annual count | +2%          | 4.363 (2007) |          | Tourism now estimated to contribute 2,578 jobs to Halton economy.   |      |   |        |      |        |      |        |      |        |      |               |             |
| ER LI11          | Footfall in the town centres (millions)   | 12.5                       | +2%          | 13.78        |          | Target has been exceeded.   |      |   |        |      |        |      |        |      |        |      |               |             |
| NI 13            | Migrants English language skills and knowledge  | N/a                        | N/a          | N/a          | N/a      | Data not available until Autumn 2009.   |      |   |        |      |        |      |        |      |        |      |               |             |
| NI 151           | Overall employment rate   | N/a                        | N/a          | 70.4%        | N/a      | NW 72.1% and GB 74.5% (data June 07 – July 08)  |      |   |        |      |        |      |        |      |        |      |               |             |
| NI 152           | Working age people on out of work benefits  | N/a                        | N/a          | 17.8%        | N/a      | <p><b>NI152 for Halton</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Date</th> <th>%</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Aug-07</td> <td>18.2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Nov-07</td> <td>18</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Feb-08</td> <td>17.9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>May-08</td> <td>17.8</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Aug-08</b></td> <td><b>17.8</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>   | Date | % | Aug-07 | 18.2 | Nov-07 | 18   | Feb-08 | 17.9 | May-08 | 17.8 | <b>Aug-08</b> | <b>17.8</b> |
| Date             | %   |                            |              |              |          |   |      |   |        |      |        |      |        |      |        |      |               |             |
| Aug-07           | 18.2  |                            |              |              |          |   |      |   |        |      |        |      |        |      |        |      |               |             |
| Nov-07           | 18  |                            |              |              |          |   |      |   |        |      |        |      |        |      |        |      |               |             |
| Feb-08           | 17.9  |                            |              |              |          |   |      |   |        |      |        |      |        |      |        |      |               |             |
| May-08           | 17.8  |                            |              |              |          |   |      |   |        |      |        |      |        |      |        |      |               |             |
| <b>Aug-08</b>    | <b>17.8</b>   |                            |              |              |          |   |      |   |        |      |        |      |        |      |        |      |               |             |
| NI 153           | Working age people claiming out of work benefits in the worst performing neighbourhoods | 31.6                       | 30.6         | 30.6         |          | <p>This is identified as amber at this time because whilst progress has been made the latest data does not yet take into account the impact of the recession.</p> <p><b>NI153 for Halton</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Date</th> <th>%</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Aug-07</td> <td>31.3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Nov-07</td> <td>31.1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Feb-08</td> <td>30.8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>May-08</td> <td>30.7</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Aug-08</b></td> <td><b>30.6</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | Date | % | Aug-07 | 31.3 | Nov-07 | 31.1 | Feb-08 | 30.8 | May-08 | 30.7 | <b>Aug-08</b> | <b>30.6</b> |
| Date             | %   |                            |              |              |          |   |      |   |        |      |        |      |        |      |        |      |               |             |
| Aug-07           | 31.3  |                            |              |              |          |   |      |   |        |      |        |      |        |      |        |      |               |             |
| Nov-07           | 31.1  |                            |              |              |          |   |      |   |        |      |        |      |        |      |        |      |               |             |
| Feb-08           | 30.8  |                            |              |              |          |   |      |   |        |      |        |      |        |      |        |      |               |             |
| May-08           | 30.7  |                            |              |              |          |   |      |   |        |      |        |      |        |      |        |      |               |             |
| <b>Aug-08</b>    | <b>30.6</b>   |                            |              |              |          |   |      |   |        |      |        |      |        |      |        |      |               |             |

| Ref <sup>1</sup> | Description  | Actual 2007/8    | Target 08/09 | Quarter 4        | Progress  | Commentary  |
|------------------|--|------------------|--------------|------------------|---|---|
| NI 161           | Learners achieving a Level 1 qualification in literacy         | 481<br>(06/07)   | N/a          | N/a              | N/a   | Data is calculated by LSC based on the programmes it has commissioned.  |
| NI 162           | Learners achieving an Entry Level 3 qualification in numeracy  | 35<br>(06/07)    | N/a          | N/a              | N/a   | Data is calculated by LSC based on the programmes it has commissioned.  |
| NI 163           | Working age population qualified to at least Level 2 or higher | 57.2<br>(2006)   | 65.4         | 57.4             |  | ONS annual population survey +/- 3.1  |
| NI 164           | Working age population qualified to at least Level 3 or higher | 33.9<br>(2006)   | N/a          | 32.6             | N/a   | ONS annual population survey +/- 3.1  |
| NI 165           | Working age population qualified to at least Level 4 or higher | 16.8<br>(2006)   | N/a          | 16.2             | N/a   | ONS annual population survey +/- 3.1  |
| NI 166           | Average earnings of employees in the area                      | £427.2<br>(2007) | N/a          | £419.1<br>(2008) | N/a   | Median Earnings (Nomis)   |
| NI 171           | Business registration rate                                     | 48.3<br>(2007)   | N/a          | N/a              | N/a   | Data available winter 2009.   |
| NI 172           | VAT registered businesses in the area showing growth           | N/a              | N/a          | N/a              | N/a   | Data available winter 2009.   |
| NI 173           | People falling out of work and on to incapacity benefits       | N/a              | N/a          | N/a              | N/a   | Accurate baseline yet to be established. Local JCP are on a national group trying to resolve issues with how data is collected. |
| NI 174           | Skills gaps in the current workforce reported by               | N/a              | N/a          | N/a              | N/a   | This indicator will be reported every 2 years. Data from the 2009 study will be available                                       |




| Ref <sup>1</sup> | Description | Actual<br>2007/8 | Target<br>08/09 | Quarter 4 | Progress | Commentary  |
|------------------|-------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------|----------|-------------|
|                  | employers   |                  |                 |           |          | April 2010. |




| LPSA Ref. | Indicator   | Baseline                    | Target                            | Perform 07/08 | Perform 08/09 Q4 | Traffic light   | Commentary  |
|-----------|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------|------------------|---|---|
| 12        | Increase the number of people who have been claiming an incapacity benefit into sustained employment of at least 16 hours per week for 13 consecutive weeks or more | 18 for year ending 31/03/06 | 179 3 year cumulative to 31/03/09 | 72            | 171              |  | The cumulative total as at 31/03/09 is 171 against an overall target of 179. Therefore a further 8 customers need to remain in employment/self-employment during the tracking period of 13wks (April-June 09). There are 12 IB customers that have been supported into work/self-employment currently being tracked. Should at least 8 of these customers remain in sustained employment by 30.6.09 the 179 to target will be achieved. |


| Objective Reference | High Risk Identified  | Target/ Deadline | Progress  | Commentary   |
|---------------------|---|------------------|---|--|
| ER 1                | <p><b>Risk Identified:</b><br/>Lack of resources in schools to promote enterprise</p> <p><b>Control Measure:</b><br/>Potential use of WNF and development of entrepreneurs in residence</p>         | 09/11/2008       |  | <p>WNF has been secured for Halton Education Business Partnership to develop and introduce Entrepreneurs in Residence project to promote enterprise in both primary and secondary schools. A proposal for a joint appointment of a Halton Schools Enterprise Officer between the Education Business Partnership and Young Enterprise is well advanced.</p>   |
| ER 2                | <p><b>Risk Identified:</b><br/>Reductions in real terms LSC funding</p> <p><b>Control Measure:</b><br/>Increased efficiency and bidding for other budgets</p>                                       | 08/12/2008       |  | <p>Additional funding streams have been secured including:</p> <p>Train to Gain<br/>Employability Skills Programme<br/>Response to Redundancy</p>  |
|                     | <p><b>Risk Identified:</b><br/>Increasing LSC focus on in work training at cost to unemployed skills development</p> <p><b>Control Measure:</b><br/>Working with LSC and JCP on provision plans</p> | 09/02/2008       |  | <p>The Halton Employment Partnership brings together key agencies including HBC, JCP and the LSC in presenting a 'complete employment offer' to businesses and those looking for work. WNF funding has been secured for unemployed skills development and other LSC/DWP monies are available to support both unemployed and employed people. It is essential that the HEP partners work effectively to ensure to training is delivered to the detriment of others.</p> |

| Objective Reference | High Risk Identified   | Target/ Deadline | Progress   | Commentary   |
|---------------------|--|------------------|--|--|
|                     | <p><b>Risk Identified:</b><br/>Potential development by LSC of contestability resulting in possible loss of funding</p> <p><b>Control Measure:</b><br/>Identify additional income and efficiencies</p> | 08/10/2008       |   | <p>As a result of the Department submitting a successful PQQ with LSC, it means that HBC can submit relevant ITTs. Additional funding streams offered through ITTs have been secured including:</p> <p>Train to Gain<br/>Employability Skills Programme<br/>Response to Redundancy</p>   |
| ER 3                | <p><b>Risk Identified:</b><br/>Existing main funding sources cease March 31 2008</p> <p><b>Control Measure:</b><br/>New business plan based on reduced income and make bids to new income sources</p>  | 08/06/2008       |   | <p>The service has levered-in external funding from new LSC contracts and has secured significant WNF for enterprise development and worklessness. New draft business plan agreed, awaiting approval of divisional re-organisation to finalise business plan.</p>  |
|                     | <p><b>Risk Identified:</b><br/>Not achieving progress on disabled employment fast enough</p> <p><b>Control Measure:</b><br/>Develop a disabled employment strategy and action plan</p>                 | 08/07/2008       |  | <p>Production of strategy delayed due to the need to await major government announcements in this area that have been delayed. However, a Disability Employment Network has been established and the Strategy is being finalised to reflect recent welfare benefit reform affecting disabled people in receipt of working age benefits.</p> <p>Progress on supporting disabled people into work has been achieved. During the year 90 disabled people have been placed into jobs or permitted work placements.</p> |





| Objective Reference | High Risk Identified   | Target/ Deadline | Progress   | Commentary  |
|---------------------|--|------------------|--|---|
| ER 4                | <p><b>Risk Identified:</b><br/>Redeployment of resources to Mersey Gateway lowering performance in inward investment</p> <p><b>Control Measure:</b><br/>Re-prioritise workload and cease lower priority work.</p>  | 08/10/2008       |   | Increasingly the majority of the Economic Development Officer's (EDO) time is taken up with New Mersey Gateway related projects, particularly in the run up to the Public Enquiry. It has been possible to back fill a number of the EDO's back office type functions with a secondees from SOG Ltd. However, there exists a resource gap, in terms of both officer time and more particularly the necessary skill sets, to service major inward investment and company expansion projects. This has to be offset to a degree due to the downturn in enquiries. |
|                     | <p><b>Risk Identified:</b><br/>Continued focus on Liverpool for tourism spend resulting in other areas being marginalized</p> <p><b>Control Measure:</b><br/>Increased lobbying and identify alternate funding</p> | 08/12/2008       |   | TMP continues to focus attention on a limited number of big schemes despite lobbying for a new approach. That said, £65,000 has been secured from the NWDA towards the Lewis Carroll centre by going direct to the agency.  |
| ER 5                | <p><b>Risk Identified:</b><br/>Impact of new crossing on existing businesses</p> <p><b>Control Measure:</b><br/>Ensure provision of alternate premises</p>   | 08/11/2008       |  | The relocation of a number of key businesses in the line of the bridge has recently been agreed. However, there remains a considerable amount of work to do to accommodate businesses who's relocation needs are both complex and difficult to satisfy within the Borough   |

| Objective Reference | High Risk Identified   | Target/ Deadline | Progress   | Commentary  |
|---------------------|--|------------------|--|---|
| ER 6                | <p><b>Risk Identified:</b><br/>Impact of major works over next 12 months</p> <p><b>Control Measure:</b><br/>Work with traders to manage situation</p>  | 08/11/2008       |   | The construction phase of the Stadium Development in Widnes has contributed to congestion in the town centre. The recent opening of a new multi-story car park at Runcorn Station has alleviated a number of parking problems around the station. |
|                     | <p><b>Risk Identified:</b><br/>Longer term impacts on parking as centres become busier</p> <p><b>Control Measure:</b><br/>Work with travel team once parking surveys complete on wider accessibility plans</p> | 08/11/2008       |   | Work still underway on parking issues within Highways.  |
|                     | <p><b>Risk Identified:</b><br/>Maintaining and improving cleanliness as centres become busier</p> <p><b>Control Measure:</b><br/>Work with E&amp;RS on schedules</p>   | 09/04/2008       |  | The pending transfer of the Town Centre Management function to the Council's Waste Management Service will seek to rationalise and, therefore improve, the cleansing of the Borough's town centre   |

| Objective Reference | High Risk Identified  | Target/ Deadline | Progress  | Commentary  |
|---------------------|---|------------------|---|---|
|                     | <p><b>Risk Identified:</b><br/>Implications of increased night time activity e.g. cleanliness, accessibility</p> <p><b>Control Measure:</b><br/>Development of night time management plan</p> | 09/02/2008       |  | <p>A number of new licensed premises have, or are about to, open in Victoria Square increasing the pressure on the public services with respect to the management of public order, safety and cleanliness.</p> <p>Cheshire Constabulary have made the policing of the town centres a priority and have scored a number of recent successes. The licensed traders in Victoria Square have also made a proactive approach to the police to fund additional public safety measures</p> |

The traffic light symbols are used in the following manner:

|                     | <u>Objective</u>  | <u>Performance Indicator</u>  |
|---------------------|---|---|
| <b><u>Green</u></b> |  <p>Indicates that the <u>objective has been achieved</u> within the appropriate timeframe.</p>          | <p>Indicates that the annual 08/09 target <u>has been achieved</u> or exceeded.</p> |
| <b><u>Red</u></b>   |  <p>Indicates that that the <u>objective has not been achieved</u> within the appropriate timeframe.</p> | <p>Indicates that the annual 08/09 target <u>has not been achieved.</u></p>         |

**REPORT TO:** Employment, Learning & Skills Policy and Performance Board

**DATE:** 7 July 2009

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director Corporate and Policy

**SUBJECT:** Local Area Agreement Refresh and 2008-09 Performance Report

**WARDS:** Borough-wide

### **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 To report on progress towards meeting Local Area Agreement targets at the end of the first year of the Agreement.

### **2.0 RECOMMENDATION THAT:**

- i. The report is noted.
- ii. The Board considers whether it requires any further information on the actions being taken to deliver the LAA targets.

### **3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 The revised Local Area Agreement (LAA) was signed off by the Secretary of State in June 2008. The purpose of the LAA is to agree a set of targets for Halton with government and local partners. Named partners have a duty to co-operate in striving to achieve these targets. There were 34 indicators in the LAA, together with statutory education and early years targets. The agreement covers the period April 2008 to March 2011.

3.2 The Agreement was "refreshed" in March 2009. The indicators and targets were reviewed with Government Office. There were a number of gaps and estimates in the original agreement, and the principle changes were to fill these gaps using information that had become available between June 2008 and March 2009 such as the results of the Places Survey. A summary of the changes is attached as appendix 1. It is not expected that there will be many further changes, except in one area. The economic downturn will inevitably have an impact on the likelihood of achieving some targets relating to the economy and housebuilding, and the government has identified a list of indicators for which targets will be reviewed before the end of March 2010, by which time the impact of the downturn will be clearer.

3.3 A report on progress over the first year of the Agreement is attached at Appendix 2, covering those indicators which fall within the responsibilities of this particular Policy and Performance Board. This is based on the targets in the refreshed agreement.

3.4 In reading the report members should bear in mind that:

1. All the national indicators are built into the quarterly service plan monitoring reports. The intention of this report is pick out the LAA indicators from the different service plans so that it is possible to see a clearer picture of progress overall.
2. Certain indicators are only reported some time after year end, so in those cases no progress report is yet available. There are also some survey based indicators for which no further data will be available until the survey is repeated in 2010.

#### **4.0 CONCLUSION**

4.1 The Local Area Agreement reflects the priorities in our community strategy for improving the quality of life in Halton. It is the main mechanism by which government will performance manage local areas. It is therefore important that we monitor progress, and that members are satisfied that adequate plans are in place to ensure that the improvement targets are achieved.

#### **5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 The Local Area Agreement acts as a delivery plan for the sustainable community strategy and as such is central to our policy framework.

#### **6.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 Achievement of our Local Area Agreement targets has direct implications for our comprehensive area assessment. Further consideration of any areas of under-performance may give rise to other implications for the Council and its partners.

#### **7.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

7.1 This report deals directly with progress and delivering one of our five priorities.

#### **8.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

8.1 The key risk is failure to improve the quality of life for residents of Halton in accordance with the objectives of our community strategy. This risk can be mitigated by regular reporting of performance, and reviewing the action being taken where under-performance occurs.

**9.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

9.1 One of the guiding principles of the LAA is to reduce inequalities in Halton.

**10.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

10.1 Document:

Local Area Agreement 2008. Place of inspection 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Municipal Building.  
Contact officer – Rob MacKenzie (0151 471 7416)

## APPENDIX 1

## CHANGES TO HALTON'S LAA OUTCOMES FRAMEWORK – March 09

| Ref    | Description   | Reason for Change  |
|--------|---|--|
| NI 5   | Overall satisfaction with the area  | Targets now agreed, provisional data became available early 2009 following Places Survey.                            |
| NI 7   | Environment for a thriving third sector                                     | Targets now agreed, data became available early 2009 following survey conducted by Office of the Third Sector.       |
| NI 8   | Adult participation in sport  | Had used local data, now have national data which became available early 2009 following Sports Participation survey. |
| NI 16  | Serious acquisitive crime rate  | Minor typing error corrected.  |
| NI 17  | Perceptions of anti-social behaviour  | Small changes to targets as provisional Places Survey data now being used instead of local data.                     |
| NI 20  | Assault with injury crime rate  | Presentation style was changed by GONW, and more up to date data was made available.                                 |
| NI 30  | Re-offending rate of prolific and priority offenders.                       | Presentation style changed.  |
| NI 32  | Repeat incidents of domestic violence                                       | Small changes to targets as national definitions now being used instead of local data.                               |
| NI 33  | <i>Arson Incidents</i>  | <i>No change.</i>  |
| NI 39  | Alcohol-harm related hospital admission rates – Rate per 100 000 admissions | Baseline updated which impacted on targets.  |
| NI 40  | Drug users in effective treatment   | Baseline updated which impacted on targets.  |
| NI 53  | Prevalence of breastfeeding at 6-8 weeks from birth                         | Baseline has been changed, but targets remain the same as previously agree.  |
| NI 56  | <i>Obesity among primary school age children in Year 6</i>                  | <i>No Change.</i>  |
| NI 63  | <i>Stability of placements of looked after children</i>                     | <i>No Change.</i>  |
| NI 80  | Achievement of a Level 3 qualification by the age of 19                     | Baseline has been changed, but targets remain the same as previously agree.  |
| NI 111 | First time entrants to the Youth Justice System aged 10-17                  | Small changes to targets as baseline supplied has been revised by GONW.  |



## APPENDIX 1

| Ref       | Description   | Reason for Change  |
|-----------|---|--|
| NI 112    | Under 18 conception rate  | Updated baseline, targets remain the same.   |
| NI 115    | Substance misuse by young people  | Survey data now available and being used.  |
| NI 116    | <i>Proportion of children in poverty<br/>(To be reviewed in 2010)</i>   | <i>No change.</i>  |
| NI 117    | 16-18 year old not in education, training or employment<br>WNF Reward Indicator (To be reviewed in 2010)                                      | National data now available and being used.  |
| NI 120    | <i>All-age all cause mortality</i>  | <i>No change.</i>  |
| NI 123    | <i>16+ current smoking rate prevalence</i>  | <i>No change.</i>  |
| NI 139    | People over 65 who say that they receive the information, assistance and support needed to exercise choice and control to live independently. | Places survey data now available and being used.   |
| NI 142    | <i>Number of vulnerable people supported to maintain independent living</i>   | <i>No change.</i>  |
| NI 150 C4 | Adults in contact with secondary mental health services in employment   | This indicator has been deferred and used as a placeholder due to lack of relevant data available. Will be reviewed in the next refresh. |
| NI 153    | Working age people claiming out of work benefits in the worst performing neighbourhoods<br>WNF Reward Indicator (To be reviewed in 2010)      | Minor typing error corrected.  |
| NI 154    | <i>Net additional homes provided<br/>(To be reviewed in 2010)</i>   | <i>No change.</i>  |
| NI 163    | Working age population qualified to at least Level 2 or higher<br>WNF Reward Indicator  | Baseline has changed and targets reviewed, taking into account the economic climate.   |
| NI 171    | VAT registration rate<br>(To be reviewed in 2010)   | National data now available and being used.  |
| NI 175    | <i>Access to services and facilities by public transport walking and cycling</i>  | <i>No change.</i>  |
| NI 186    | <i>Per capita CO2 emissions in LA area</i>  | <i>No change.</i>  |
| NI 192    | <i>Household waste recycled and composted</i>   | <i>No change.</i>  |

## APPENDIX 1

PLEASE NOTE THAT TWO INDICATORS HAVE BEEN DELETED FROM HALTON'S LAA.  
THESE ARE:-

| Ref    | Description  | Comment          |
|--------|--|------------------|
| NI 124 | <b>People with long-term condition supported to be independent and in control of their condition</b> | Data unavailable |
| NI 173 | <b>People falling out of work and on to incapacity benefits</b>                                      | Data unavailable |

## LAA Outcome Measures - Progress as at March 2009

This report provides a summary of progress in relation to the achievement of targets for Halton Local Area Agreement.

It provides both a snapshot of performance at 2008 – 09 year-end and a projection of expected levels of performance to the period 2011.

The following traffic light convention has been adopted to illustrate both current and projected performance in relation to each of those measures and targets within the LAA.

### ***Traffic light convention 2008 / 09***



2008 – 09 target has been achieved or exceeded.



2008 – 09 target has not been achieved

### ***Traffic light convention for 2011 projection***



2011 target is likely to be achieved or exceeded.



The achievement of the 2011 target is questionable



2011 target is highly unlikely to be / will not be achieved.

**Halton Local Area Agreement Annual  
Progress Report  
2008 - 09**

**Employment, Learning & Skills**

This report provides a summary of progress in relation to the achievement of targets for Halton Local Area Agreement.

It provides both a snapshot of performance at 2008 – 09 year-end and a projection of expected levels of performance to the period 2011.

The following traffic light convention has been adopted to illustrate both current and projected performance in relation to each of those measures and targets within the LAA.

#### **Traffic light convention 2008 / 09**



2008 – 09 target has been achieved or exceeded.



2008 – 09 target has not been achieved

#### **Traffic light convention for 2011 projection**



2011 target is likely to be achieved or exceeded.



The achievement of the 2011 target is questionable



2011 target is highly unlikely to be / will not be achieved.

The following indicators are not included within this performance report:



| NI  | Descriptor   | Reason                |
|-----|--|-----------------------|
| 173 | People falling out of work and on to incapacity benefits | Deleted from LAA 2009 |

#### **Performance Overview**

| Ref | Descriptor  | 2008 – 09 Target | 2011 Target |
|-----|---|------------------|-------------|
| 153 | Working age people claiming out of work benefits in the worst performing neighbourhoods |                  |             |
| 163 | Working age population qualified to at least Level 2 or higher.                         |                  |             |
| 171 | VAT Registration rate   | N/A              |             |

## EMPLOYMENT, LEARNING AND SKILLS

### NI 153 Working age people claiming out of work benefits in the worst performing neighbourhoods

| Baseline<br>2007 – 08 | 2008 - 09 |                          |   | 2011   |   |
|-----------------------|-----------|--------------------------|---|--------|---|
|                       | Target    | Actual                   | Progress  | Target | Projected   |
| 31.5 %                | 30.5 %    | <b>30.6%</b><br>(Aug 08) |  | 28.5 % |  |

#### Supporting information / commentary

##### Progress using latest MI available to DWP

JSA Halton April 2008 = 2493 - March 09 = 4501 an increase of 81%.

Jobs notified to JCP August 08 = 527 – Feb 09 = 269 a reduction of 49%.

Employment rate 70.4% Dec 07 – 70.0% March 08.

Working Age People not working:



May 2008 =16,002 = 21.2% working age population (this figure has increased substantially)

Latest Job Outcome Target figures for DWP at September 08 = 1978 some 83.9% of 08/09 profile target.

Given the economic downturn the likelihood of achieving this NI target over 3 years is substantially reduced.

The ELS SSP will continue to maximise partnership resources including the WNF to support priority group working age customers from deprived wards into sustainable employment.

### NI 163 Working age population qualified to at least Level 2 or higher


| Baseline<br>2007 – 08 | 2008 - 09 |                        |   | 2011   |   |
|-----------------------|-----------|------------------------|---|--------|---|
|                       | Target    | Actual                 | Progress  | Target | Projected   |
| 60.1%<br>(2006)       | 64%       | <b>60.4%</b><br>(2007) |  | 67.5%  |  |

#### Supporting information / commentary

The targets were based on expected provision as purchased through the LSC, mainly train to gain and FE. It is difficult at this time to estimate the likely effect of the recession on levels of attainment. It will be more possible to assess this when the real 08 stats come through

## EMPLOYMENT, LEARNING AND SKILLS

### NI 171 VAT registration rate

| Baseline<br>2007 – 08 | 2008 - 09 |               |          | 2011   |   |
|-----------------------|-----------|---------------|----------|--------|---|
|                       | Target    | Actual        | Progress | Target | Projected   |
| 42.3%                 | 42.3%     | Not available | N/A      | 42.8%  |  |

#### Supporting information / commentary

This is a completely new indicator and target. Information will be produced annually in arrears. As such it is not possible to identify progress for 08-09. The baseline 42.3% is actually an average of the 2005-2007. (The 2007 figure in itself was suspect as a change in treasury rules produced a one off boost in the business start up data for that year). Given the recession it was agreed with GONW that only a small increase in start up rate was likely but this is to be reviewed in 2010 when more data is available. As such, it is projected as an amber due to the uncertainty of the recession and the impact of the 2007 figures on the projections)

**REPORT TO:** Employment Learning and Skills Policy and Performance Board

**DATE:** 7 July 2009

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director Corporate and Policy

**SUBJECT:** Mid-term Review of the Sustainable Community Strategy

**WARDS:** Boroughwide

### 1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To provide the Board with an amended version of the Sustainable Community Strategy for comment.

### 2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

**That the Policy and Performance Board considers the draft mid-term review of the Sustainable Community Strategy and that any observations or comments the Board makes are reported to Executive Board.**

### 3.0 BACKGROUND

Local Authorities are required to prepare and implement a Sustainable Community Strategy. We are expected to work with partners through the Local Strategic Partnership to agree priorities and to engage and involve local communities. The current Sustainable Community Strategy was adopted in 2006. It contains a long-term vision and objectives with delivery targets for the period 2006-2011. Since it was prepared a number of changes have taken place making it necessary to conduct a mid-term review of the Sustainable Community Strategy. This is an update, not a complete revision. Recent perception surveys and the revised State of the Borough Report (2009) confirm that the underlying vision and priorities from 2006 remain relevant. Widespread engagement has therefore not been undertaken for this mid-term review. However, in 2010/11 work will commence on a full review and roll forward of the strategy with wide engagement, linking up with work being done on the Local Development Framework Core Strategy.

The main objectives of this mid-term review were:

- i. To explain what our vision statement means – what will Halton be like in 2025 if we are successful? The statutory guidance on the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007



requires that a Sustainable Community Strategy should include a long-term vision for the area.

- ii. To review the indicators and targets for each priority. Since the current strategy was produced the National Indicator set and LAA targets have been introduced. The aim is to have a single coherent set of indicators and targets in the Sustainable Community Strategy which encompasses both LAA targets and key local targets.
- iii. Incorporate the Housing and Homelessness Strategy (a requirement of the Statutory Guidance referred to above)
- iv. To ensure that appropriate cross-cutting targets are agreed, covering social inclusion, cohesion, equalities and closing the gap.

#### **4.0 WAY FORWARD**

The attached draft of the mid-term review has been drawn up following consultation with partners and will be considered by the Halton Strategic Partnership Board on 20 May 2009. Any resulting changes will be reported verbally to the Board. The revised Sustainable Community Strategy has to be adopted by full Council (Local Government Act 2000). Following consultation with the Policy and Performance Boards it is planned to take the final draft to the full Council meeting on 22 July with a recommendation from Executive Board for final adoption.

#### **5.0 CONCLUSION**

The opportunities and challenges facing Halton are well-known. The Sustainable Community Strategy sets out the steps we need to take to bring about real improvement and how we will measure progress. The Local Area Agreement is a set of targets agreed with Government which reflects the Community Strategy. The mid-term review is an opportunity to bring these together in a single coherent document.

#### **6.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

The Sustainable Community Strategy is the primary policy document for the Council and its partners who have a statutory duty to have regard to it.

#### **7.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

The delivery of the Strategy will require the application of resources by all the partners in Halton, and consideration of impact on priorities is already part of the Council's budget setting process.

## **8.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

The Community Strategy sets out our priorities for Children and Young People, Employment Learning and Skills, Healthy Halton, Safer Halton and Urban Renewal in Halton.

## **6.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

The key risk to the revision of the Strategy is lack of consensus. This is mitigated by consulting key partners and Policy and Performance Boards.

The risks to delivery of the Strategy are set out in the Partnership Risk Register.

## **10.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

Addressing inequality is a key theme in the Strategy.

## **11.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

None.

## **DRAFT V12**

### **MAKING IT HAPPEN IN HALTON – A SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY FOR A SUSTAINABLE HALTON**

#### **What is a Sustainable Community Strategy?**

A key role for local authorities and their partners is to produce a Sustainable Community Strategy for their area. This should aim to enhance the quality of life of local communities through actions to improve the economic, social and environmental well being of the area and its inhabitants. They must also:

- allow local communities to express their aspirations, needs and priorities;
- co-ordinate the actions of the council and of the public, private, voluntary and community organisations that operate locally;
- focus and shape the existing and future activity of those organisations so that they effectively meet community needs; and
- contribute to the achievement of sustainable development both locally and more widely.

They must have four key components:

- a long-term vision for the area focusing on the outcomes that are to be achieved;
- an action plan identifying shorter-term priorities and activities that will contribute to the achievement of long-term outcomes;
- a shared commitment to implementing the action plan, and proposals for doing so;
- arrangements for monitoring the implementation of the action plan, for periodically reviewing the Sustainable Community Strategy, and for reporting progress to local communities.

Sustainable community strategies will reflect local circumstances and needs. They will:

- engage and involve local communities;
- involve active participation of councillors within and outside an Executive Steering Group;
- be prepared and implemented by a broad 'local strategic partnership', through which the local authority can work with other local bodies;
- be based on a proper assessment of needs and the availability of resources.

This Sustainable Community Strategy has been prepared in accordance with these principles. It lies as the centrepiece of a portfolio of documents which help define the task for partners in improving life in Halton. The portfolio includes:

- The State of Halton Audit
- Consulting the Communities of Halton
- Priority Baseline Reports
- A Local Development Framework
- A Community Engagement Strategy
- The joint strategic needs assessment for Health
- The joint strategic needs assessment for Community Safety
- The Halton Economic Review

The Sustainable Community Strategy provides an overarching framework through which the corporate, strategic and operational plans of all the partners can contribute. Of particular note is the newly emerging relationship between the Sustainable Community Strategy and the Local Development Framework. This is the replacement for the Unitary Development Plan, made up of a Core Strategy and individual planning documents for particular areas or issues. It gives a more flexible and responsive approach to planning in Halton.

Importantly, the Local Development Framework takes forward the land use elements of the Sustainable Community Strategy. It takes into account all of the plans and strategies which affect the quality of life in Halton (such as health, housing and education) and impact upon future development. The Sustainable Community Strategy is based on the socio-economic profile of the borough and listening to the views and aspirations of the local community. The Local Development Framework provides a vehicle through which the planning process can enable these to happen.

## **FOREWORD**

The Halton Strategic Partnership brings together key representatives from all the major organisations that are vital to building a better future for Halton. Its role is to agree on a common purpose and a common sense of direction which is set out in this Sustainable Community Strategy. Having done so, it provides a framework through which organisations, groups and individuals can co-operate to achieve our common goals. The Partnership is committed to making life better for everyone who lives, works, invests or visits the borough.

This is a refresh of Halton's second Sustainable Community Strategy and whilst we can take pride in what has been achieved to date, there is still much more to do. This document sets out a vision of the Halton we would like to see emerge by 2025. It sets out the steps we need to take together to bring about real improvements that will change lives for the better. Those steps concentrate on the things that matter most to most people. The Strategy is about focusing on the issues that will make the biggest difference in the long-term.

This Strategy is relatively short. However, it is based on a significant body of research and consultation. This document outlines some key goals, some headline actions, and a scorecard of key performance measures by which we will be judged. It aims to guide the development and implementation of more detailed plans and actions to be undertaken by the Council, the Police, Health Agencies and others. Everyone has a role to play in making it happen in Halton. Working together we can make a difference and build a better future for the borough.

## INTRODUCTION

Halton has inherited more than its share of issues over the years, many rooted in the area's industrial past. Making the borough a better place to live and work presents some major challenges and opportunities for us all.

This Sustainable Community Strategy is for all the communities of Halton. It sets out the steps we need to take together to bring about real improvements that will change lives for the better. In particular, we need to achieve real progress on five strategic themes that are set out clearly in this plan:

- A Healthy Halton
- Halton's Urban Renewal
- Children and Young People in Halton
- Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton
- A Safer Halton

These priorities have been derived from what local people feel is important, and from the facts and figures about conditions in Halton. However, the strategy also recognises that Halton is not insular or isolated. Halton is an important component in the development of a thriving and successful Liverpool City Region, and more widely in a dynamic and sustainable North West region. Halton can only succeed as part of a successful and thriving North West. This Sustainable Community Strategy builds upon the wider strategic developments which are taking place in the region. Partners from Halton play a key role in shaping sub-regional and regional plans and arrangements. This connectivity – both strategically and operationally – is an important part of the Halton approach.

Halton's local strategic partnership (LSP) – the Halton Strategic Partnership has developed the Strategy. As partners we have built on existing collaboration and are fully committed to working more effectively together and with the community to help improve the quality of life for people in our borough.

This Strategy outlines key goals for the borough, some of the headline actions to be taken, and measures by which progress can be judged. It guides the development of more detailed plans and actions – to be undertaken by the Council, Health Trusts, the Police, Fire Service, community and voluntary sector, and others – whose actions are the important step that makes a difference to people on the ground. We all have a part to play in making it happen.

## **ABOUT THE HALTON STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP BOARD**

The Halton Strategic Partnership Board brings together representatives from all sectors in the borough. It is the strategic level Board and a key part of the broad-based Halton Partnership. It serves the function of a 'local strategic partnership' (LSP) for the area. Local Strategic Partnerships are promoted by the Government and designed to help ensure that action taken at local level by a whole range of groups and organisations is properly 'joined up' and meets the needs of local communities.

The Halton Strategic Partnership Board, and this Sustainable Community Strategy, provides a common sense of direction for the community and an overarching framework within which different partnerships, organisations and groups can co-operate together, committed to common goals and dedicated to improving life for people in the Borough.

### **Members of the Halton Strategic Partnership Board**

Halton Borough Council  
Cheshire Police  
Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service  
Halton & St Helens Primary Care Trust  
Greater Merseyside Learning and Skills Council  
Halton Housing Partnership  
Halton Sports Partnership  
Riverside College Halton  
Halton Voluntary Action/Community Empowerment Network  
Jobcentre Plus  
North West Development Agency  
Faith Community  
Greater Merseyside Connexions Service  
Halton Association of Secondary Heads  
Halton Chamber of Commerce and Enterprise  
Government Office North West

## **PLANNING A BETTER FUTURE FOR HALTON**

This Sustainable Community Strategy is about what is most important for Halton and about working together to improve the quality of life for all who live and work in the borough. It sets out key priorities and shows the direction we need to progress in together, and gives us challenging improvement targets to work towards. It provides an overall guide and framework for the activities of partners and other organisations in Halton. It will guide the development of more specific plans and projects working across Halton.

To make real progress we will need to pool ideas and resources, and work even more closely and effectively together. Working in partnership and concentrating on what matters most will make the difference in planning a better future for Halton. This includes:

- knowing where we are heading, focusing on the priorities and agreeing clear objectives
- working productively together, sharing understanding of the borough's problems and their root causes, and joining up and co-ordinating our efforts to tackle them
- championing Halton's cause in the wider world, lobbying at regional and national levels, and working with wider UK and European partners for mutual benefit
- learning from experience, finding out and putting into practice what works best
- checking on our achievements, monitoring progress and keeping on track

The process to develop this Strategy was important. It was vital that the process was inclusive. Many people and groups were involved so we could build a clear picture on what was important and how we should go forward. Some of the key steps included:

- A review of our achievements since the first Sustainable Community Strategy was launched in 2002, and an honest assessment of how well partnership arrangements have worked
- Commissioning new State of Halton reports to look objectively at statistical conditions and changes and trends in social, economic and environmental conditions
- A major telephone survey of residents was carried out to seek their views on what life is like in Halton
- A review of regional and national strategies, and those of partners, was carried out to assess the likely impact of this activity in Halton



- An inclusive process of debate and discussion on the way forward took place with members, officers, officials and volunteers of all the organisations involved with the partnership
- A thematic assessment of the challenges facing the borough, and a thorough review of outcomes, outputs and targets was carried out. These helped to demonstrate how the strategy and partnership working could make a difference in the future.

This process of engagement with people and partners was vital. It is only if there is a shared view of the challenges that Halton faces, and a broad sense of ownership of the resulting strategy, that there will be any chance of its ambitions being realised.

## WHAT IS HALTON LIKE?

**Halton is a largely urban area of 119,500 people. Its two biggest settlements are Widnes and Runcorn that face each other across the River Mersey, 10 miles upstream from Liverpool.**

Since 2001 the population of Halton has increased steadily to its current estimate of 119,500 (2007) and is projected to continue to increase to 124,200 in 2016. Following national and regional trends, Halton has an ageing population, which is increasingly making up the majority of residents in the borough.

As a result of its industrial legacy, particularly from the chemical industries, Halton has inherited a number of physical, environmental and social problems. We have been working to resolve these issues ever since the borough was formed in 1974. Gaining unitary status in 1998 has helped to bring together more wide reaching activities and has increased the resources that the Council and its strategic partners, have been able to invest in Halton.

Halton shares many of the social and economic problems more associated with its urban neighbours on Merseyside. The Index of Multiple Deprivation for 2007 is one of the most comprehensive sources of deprivation indicators, as some 37 different indicators are used. It shows for example that overall, Halton is ranked 30th nationally (a ranking of 1 indicates that an area is the most deprived), which is third highest on Merseyside, behind Knowsley and Liverpool, and 10th highest in the North West, although this is an improvement on being fifth highest in 2004). Other authorities, St Helens (47th), Wirral (60th) and Sefton (83rd), are all way down the table compared to Halton.

The Index of Multiple Deprivation for 2007 suggests that deprivation has improved in the borough, since ranking 21<sup>st</sup> in 2004 there has been a decrease in 2007 to the 30<sup>th</sup> most deprived Authority in England. The proportion of Halton's population in the top category (i.e. the top 20% of super output areas) has also decreased from 50% in 2004 to 47 % in 2007. However, there is still room for improvement. Halton's concentration of deprivation has improved from 20th worst in England in 2004 to 27<sup>th</sup> in 2007. Concentration is a key way of identifying hot spots of deprivation within an area. Of England's 975 'Super Output Areas', which form the top 3% most deprived areas within England, eight are situated in Halton. The most deprived neighbourhood in Halton is ranked 306th out of 32,482 and is situated in Central Runcorn. Much has been done but clearly there is still much to do. Highlights of the key successes and challenges to date are:

- Claimant unemployment in the borough had fallen from 5.0% in January 2000 to 3% in December 2007, but this was still the 3rd highest claimant count rate in the North West. Due to the current economic climate, recent trends in unemployment have shown a sharp rise over the past twelve months, up to 4.8% in December 2008 and 5.9% in March 2009. The claimant count rate only includes those

people who are eligible for Jobseekers allowance and therefore underestimates the true number of people who are unemployed. The Annual population Survey for July 2007-June 2008 estimates that the unemployment rate in Halton was 6.8% compared to an England average of 5.4%, at a time when claimant unemployment averaged 3.1%.

- The employment rate, i.e. the proportion of the potential workforce actually working at 70.4% in the 2007-2008 Annual Population Survey shows that Halton is in the bottom 12 of 43 Local Authority districts in the North West. The borough rate is also significantly lower than the England average of 74.5%.
- Life expectancy in the borough has improved in the past decade. Between 2001-2003 and 2004-2006 female life expectancy in the borough increased from 78.2 years to 78.4 years. Life expectancy at birth for men in Halton also increased over the same time period from 73.9 in 2001-2003 to 74.3 in 2004-2006. This increase in life expectancy in Halton has kept pace with other Authorities. Between 2001 and 2006 Halton has risen from a rank of 374 for females to 370 out of 376 authorities with 376 being the lowest rank. For men the ranking has risen from 371 to 356. Standardised Mortality Rates for all causes, all ages, ranks Halton 2<sup>nd</sup> highest (i.e. worse) out of 354 English Local Authorities for 2006. At 127 it is 27% above the national average.
- GCSE passes in the borough are improving, between 1997-2008 the percentage of pupils achieving 5+ A\*- C increased by 38.3 percentage points to 71.1%. This is now greater than the national rate of 65.3%. Pupils gaining no GCSE passes (or equivalent) was 2% in 2008 compared to 1.4% nationally. Skills among the workforce remain low, with 20% of working age people lacking any qualifications in 2007.

## OUR VISION FOR HALTON

**Halton will be a thriving and vibrant borough where people can learn and develop their skills, enjoy a good quality of life with good health; a high quality, modern urban environment; the opportunity for all to fulfil their potential; greater wealth and equality; sustained by a thriving business community; and within safer, stronger and more attractive neighbourhoods.**

How Halton will look in 2025 depends on a variety of factors, both local and national. True, the Halton Strategic Partnership will be able to influence the outcome through how successful its joint working on cross cutting issues has been, but the over riding influence will be the state of the national economy at the time and how quickly Halton will have been able to leave the effects of the current recession behind. Recessions traditionally last 12 –18 months on average, but their effects on the economy, employment levels and wealth can take 3 – 4 years to recover their pre-recession position.

Physically, the main change in this period will be the completion of the second Mersey crossing upstream from the existing road bridge. This will help relieve the Borough's road network of the regional traffic currently using and congesting the existing bridge at peak times. The new bridge will help open up sites in the south Widnes/north Runcorn corridor for employment development that could create many hundreds of new jobs taking advantage of the improved traffic flows. 3MG will also be able to capitalise on this extra capacity to establish itself as one of the most computerised transport interchanges in the UK.

However the Borough's success in 2025 will not just be dependent on new physical facilities (not understating their importance) but also on the social, community and environmental characteristics of the time. Halton Strategic Partnership enthusiastically embraces the Government's agenda on such issues as:

- Social inclusion and community cohesion
- Closing the gap between the most deprived parts of the Borough and the most affluent.
- Equality and diversity among the population
- Sustainability
- Climate change
- Improving the health of local residents
- Improving life skills and opportunities for Halton residents

Closing the gap between the poorer and richer parts of the Borough embraces many of these issues because the spatial pattern is repeated. The worst health, the lower employment levels and lower skill levels are concentrated in the more deprived areas. Initiatives such as Neighbourhood Management with the backing of the Halton Strategic Partnership are very important in tackling these issues.

Paradoxically the gap appears to widen in times of economic growth because at such times all areas improve but the more affluent areas tend to improve more, thereby widening the gap. However when times are harder, for example in the recession, then the gap is less pronounced. This emphasises the importance of intervention as market forces cannot be relied on to narrow the gap.

### **A Healthy Halton**

Of the five priorities, poor health continues to be the one that affects most people, with 33% of Halton's population placed in the worst 4% for health deprivation in England. The cancer rates and life expectancy figures, particularly for women, are among the worst in the country.

To overcome this we envisage a focused effort by all the partners that will improve Halton's overall position by concentrating on the areas with the worst health outcomes. The target will be to reduce early deaths.

### **Halton's Urban Renewal**

Modern day Halton has inherited an exceptional legacy of obsolete and poor quality land, buildings and physical infrastructure that undermines the development potential and attractiveness of the area. Putting this right is a key to greater prosperity and boosting the image of the borough.

To achieve our vision we will

- Work with partners and the local community to support The Mersey Gateway scheme to fully realise its benefits. This will be a major focus over the coming years
- Provide affordable housing for sale and rent for those who need it most.
- Upgrade and fully utilise the borough's rail, road, commercial waterways and power infrastructure in order to maximise the potential for economic development.

### **Children and Young People in Halton**

For children and young people, three specific ambitions have been set, which better define what we are trying to achieve for children and young people.

These are that:

- Every Young Person is successful when they leave school
- Children and young people will do well whatever their needs and wherever they live
- Children and young people are physically, emotionally and sexually healthy.

Work will continue on specific responsibilities or issues, which affect specific groups of children or young people. These chosen ambitions are relevant to all children and encapsulate some of the specific difficulties experienced by particular cohorts of children and young people. Each ambition is a condition of well being for all children and young people that no one single agency can

achieve on its own. Rather a coherent partnership approach is vital if we are to succeed in making the necessary difference to each of these outcomes.

### **Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton - Our long-term vision**

Historically, high economic inactivity rates across the borough, with particular pockets of high deprivation and social exclusion, have been endemic in the local economy. Progress has been made in recent years but the current economic downturn has meant rising levels of unemployment and inactivity with worklessness rates currently standing at 17.8% in Halton, with some wards experiencing levels as high as 30.6% against a national average of 11.7%.

Our vision is the creation of a strong economy able to compete in the challenging global market. This can only be achieved by targeted investment in skills, a vibrant employment market and creating a strong culture of entrepreneurship. Our target will be to ensure that no area of Halton has unemployment at more than 20% above the borough average and to reduce the number of adults of working age claiming out of work benefits in the worst performing neighbourhoods.

### **A Safer Halton - Our long-term vision**

We want to make Halton a great place to live with an attractive quality of life and excellent local environment. However, this is very much dependent on reducing current levels of crime, tackling anti-social behaviour and improving the local environment in our neighbourhoods. Halton has seen a 16% reduction in total recorded crime from 2005 and 2008. In the same time period vehicle crime has reduced by 29% and criminal damage by 34%. The Safer Halton Partnership - with its focus on action at the neighbourhood level - has contributed to these welcome reductions. However, this remains a pressing problem for most people in Halton, and fear of crime remains at unacceptable levels and impacts upon too many lives.

Taking the successes to date and working to improve on them, the Safer Halton Partnership aims to increase the confidence of communities in their neighbourhoods through coordinated enforcement and communication. Safeguarding adults is a key issue for the partnership, therefore policy and performance is scrutinised by the Safer Halton Partnership Board at every meeting. And whilst further guidance on the National review of 'No Secrets' is still awaited, work on the views of service users and carers, training and protecting adults will continue. Improving local conditions and encouraging people to get involved to help shape what happens in their local area is key to the partnership. With the continued provision of Area Forums, Police Community Action Meetings (CAMs), Community Watch Schemes and 'Face the People' Sessions, the Safer Halton Partnership offers opportunities for local people to have their say and help make a difference.

## WHAT IS THE FOCUS?

Taking action is one thing, but unless it is focused on the right things it is unlikely to yield the right results. This is why the Partnership invested a good deal of time and resources sounding out public opinion and gathering the facts and figures needed to identify the overall priorities for the borough.

Between 2000 and 2009, five separate State of Halton reports have been researched and published, highlighting a range of challenges and opportunities facing Halton. Their findings have been checked and challenged by the Partnership and tested against public opinion. This led to the identification of a number of priorities for the borough over the medium term which, in combination, addresses the overall aim of making it a better place to live and work. These include:

- Improving Health
- Improving the skills base in the borough
- Improving educational attainment across the borough
- Creating employment opportunities for all
- Tackling worklessness
- Tackling the low wage economy
- Improving environmental assets and how the borough looks
- Creating prosperity and equality of opportunity
- Reducing crime and anti-social behaviour
- Improving amenities for all age groups
- Furthering economic and urban regeneration
- Tackling contaminated land
- Creating opportunities/facilities/amenities for children and young people
- Supporting an ageing population
- Minimising waste/increasing recycling/bringing efficiencies in waste disposal
- Increasing focus on community engagement
- Running services efficiently

The key challenge is how best to frame the response to these through the Sustainable Community Strategy. To do this challenges have been grouped into five key themes as set out in the vision, which are:

- A Healthy Halton
- Halton's Urban Renewal
- Children and Young People in Halton
- Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton
- A Safer Halton

Each of these thematic areas has been examined more closely in a series of Baseline Reports, which identify in detail the issues where we need to concentrate our improvement efforts. The Partnership intends to focus heavily on these key issues and to focus its future investment into achieving the challenging targets in each chosen theme.

To help do this, five Specialist Strategic Partnerships (SSPs) have been established. Their task is to design and deliver strategies and action plans to address priorities. Their plans are based on the information from the Baseline Reports and on the expertise of the Partnership members. Each of the five major themes is addressed in turn in the next part of this Strategy.

The Partnership also works to improve the quality of life at a neighbourhood level. It does this by working through the seven geographical Area Forums established by the Council and supported by the partners. Each Area Forum has dedicated resources to draw on to help deliver improvements in their area and expenditure proposals are expected to support one or more of the five priorities.

Halton is enthusiastic about extending neighbourhood management as a means to engage and empower local communities. This will address problems in deprived neighbourhoods by managing and co-ordinating resources and services to achieve a greater combined impact. A sound neighbourhood approach will lay the foundations for delivery of improvements to liveability and public services, transforming neighbourhoods and empowering local people. Halton already has many front line services organised on a neighbourhood basis. Community Support Officers, policing, community development workers, housing management, street-scene teams and youth workers are organised on an area basis. Children's Centres will also co-ordinate service delivery at a local level. A neighbourhood focus will provide management and co-ordination mechanisms for joining these, and other services such as health and social care up on a local basis. This Sustainable Community Strategy provides a framework through which these arrangements can be brokered.



## **A Healthy Halton**

**Our overall aim:** To create a healthier community and work to promote well being and a positive experience of life with good health, not simply an absence of disease, and offer opportunities for people to take responsibility for their health with the necessary support available.

### **Why Health?**

Statistics show that health standards in Halton are amongst the worst in the country. Because of this health has been singled out as a priority in most urgent need of improvement across the borough. As previously discussed the population in Halton is ageing which could put even greater demands on health and social care services. At the same time lifestyle choices in the borough especially amongst the young, in terms of diet, smoking, alcohol, exercise and other factors continue to give cause for concern for the future.

### **Key Objectives**

- A. To understand fully the causes of ill health in Halton and act together to improve the overall health and well-being of local people.
- B. To lay firm foundations for a healthy start in life and support those most in need in the community by increasing community engagement in health issues and promoting autonomy.
- C. To reduce the burden of disease and preventable causes of death in Halton by reducing smoking levels, alcohol consumption and by increasing physical activity, improving diet and the early detection and treatment of disease.
- D. To respond to the needs of an ageing population by addressing the needs of older people, improving their quality of life and thus enabling them to lead longer, active and more fulfilled lives.
- E. To remove the barriers that disable people and contribute to poor health by working across partnerships to address the wider determinants of health such as unemployment, education and skills, housing, crime and environment.

### **Background**

The recent State of the Borough Report identifies Halton as one of the most deprived districts in England. In terms of health deprivation the borough currently ranks 371<sup>st</sup> out of 408 districts in the country. The Index of Multiple Deprivation identifies 53 'Super Output Areas' in Halton that fall within the top 20% of most health deprived wards nationally and that approximately 40,000 people (33% of the population) live in the top 4% most health deprived wards in England.

When compared with other areas in England, Halton is within the worst 10% of areas for life expectancy. In particular female life expectancy is the third

worst in England (78.4). Male life expectancy (74.3) is also 3 years less than the national average.

The two biggest killers in Halton are heart disease and cancer. Heart disease is still the single biggest cause of premature death in Halton, and more people have it in this borough than they do in other boroughs across the country. For those under 75, men are more likely to have heart disease than women.

In terms of cancer, Halton has the worst early death rate in the country (167.8 per 100,000 population). Lung cancer remains the leading cause of cancer death in Halton. There has also been a steady increase in the number of women developing breast cancer and death rates from the disease have increased recently. Breast cancer is the second largest cause of cancer death in Halton.

Some of the reasons why Halton residents suffer disproportionately high death rates from major causes of death include poor diet, high smoking rates and inadequate levels of physical activity.

In recent years, the burden of ill health caused by alcohol consumption has also increased significantly. Recent statistics show that approximately 24% of adult residents in Halton binge drink. Whilst twice as many men as women drink above safe limits the number of women doing so has increased significantly from 6.9% in 2001 to 12.4% in 2006.

The latest Alcohol Profiles for England show that Halton is amongst some of the worst districts in the country in terms of months of life lost due to alcohol, alcohol specific and attributable mortality and hospital admissions due to alcohol.

In 2003 the Halton Health Partnership appointed a team of consultants from Lancaster University to examine the reasons for Halton's poor health record. Whilst there was much speculation around the role of Halton's industrial legacy and existing levels of pollution, the study revealed that economic, social and lifestyle factors were largely responsible for the high rates of illness and death.

When taking these factors into consideration, it becomes easier to understand why some communities suffer disproportionately from poorer health than others. Therefore, we would expect to set specific neighbourhood targets where appropriate.

During 2008 Halton & St. Helens Primary Care Trust produced two key documents, 'Ambition for Health' and the 'Commissioning Strategic Plan'.

Ambition for Health is a key document for Halton & St. Helens Primary Care Trust in terms of improving the health of the local population. The document sets out key "ambitions" that are based on understanding of the needs of the local population. These are as follows:

- To support a healthy start in life
- To reduce poor health that results from preventable causes
- To ensure that when people do fall ill from some of the major diseases, they get the best care and support
- To provide services which meet the needs of vulnerable people
- To make sure people have excellent access to services and facilities
- To play our part in strengthening disadvantaged communities

Following on from this Halton & St. Helens Primary Care Trust then produced the Commissioning Strategic Plan. This document turns the Ambition for Health goals into action by delivering transformational change in a number of key areas that support the strategic priorities.

The six priority areas identified in the Commissioning Strategic Plan are:

- Alcohol
- Obesity
- Early detection: Diabetes, respiratory, heart disease, cancer
- Early Detection: Depression
- Prevention: Tobacco Control
- Safety, Equality and Efficiency: Planned and Urgent Care

In addition to this, addressing the wider determinants of ill health is a key issue for Halton if it is to effectively respond to national and local targets. This will mean working across partnerships to achieve our goals. The list below highlights some of the areas where further joint working is required:

- Taking steps to reduce unemployment in areas with poor health statistics
- Improving educational attainment and increasing access to training opportunities for those living in deprived areas
- Improving the quality and provision of social housing
- Improving access to services such as social and leisure facilities, supermarkets, health services and transport.
- Understanding how knowledge and perceptions of health related issues can affect the local population
- Reducing social isolation
- Reducing crime and improving community safety
- Maximising community resources and facilitating effective community engagement and participation

Individuals also have a role to play in improving their own health and well being. Lifestyle factors such as a poor diet, smoking, and lack of exercise can all have a negative impact on an individual's health. Actions and services aimed at increasing participation in sport and leisure activities and promoting a healthy diet and lifestyle can contribute towards improving the health of local people. However, whilst agencies can work together to improve access, affordability, and quality of services, it is also important to encourage local residents to play an active role in improving their own health.

Well being is about more than health. It is about the ability to enjoy a range of activities that actually make life worth living. This is about having access and the ability to enjoy culture in all its forms - sport, arts, libraries, leisure, entertainment, hobbies, friends and family, and shopping. We aim to enhance these opportunities for people. Happy people are more likely to be healthy people and vice versa.

We therefore also need to address all of the determinants of mental health and well-being for different population groups. Children and young peoples emotional and mental well-being is addressed within Children's Trust structures.

### **Linkages to other priorities**

#### **Halton's Urban Renewal**

A high quality built environment is an important contributory factor in determining the health and well-being of local people. Good quality, accessible buildings, served by a good quality transport infrastructure create a more vibrant community where people are proud to live and work. In turn this contributes to the health and well-being of local residents.

#### **Children and Young People in Halton**

Improving the health and well-being of children and young people is a key priority. Being healthy as a child can have an influence on long term health outcomes. The Healthy Halton Specialist Strategic Partnership works closely with the Children and Young Peoples partnership to address issues such as childhood obesity and teenage pregnancy. In addition low educational attainment is one of the key determinants of poor health outcomes and leads to many health inequalities within neighbourhoods.

#### **Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton**

Improving access to employment opportunities is a key determinant in improving the health of the local population. Being in employment increases choice and opportunity and enhances quality of life. Areas of high unemployment are shown to have higher levels of poor health therefore anything we can do to increase wealth creating factors within those communities will automatically improve health outcomes. Linked to this is the need to increase access to learning opportunities and offering people the chance to improve their skills thereby improving their chance of gaining employment.

#### **A Safer Halton**

Personal experience of crime and anti-social behaviour can have a significant impact on our health and well-being. Tackling crime is high on the public agenda and a key priority for neighbourhoods. One of the key areas for both the Health Partnership and the Safer Halton Partnership is the current issues surrounding alcohol harm. Both partnerships are working together to address these issues.

## Improvement Targets

Halton Local Area Agreement Indicators relating to Health

By 2011 we aim to:

- Increase adult participation in sport from 20.13% (2006 baseline) to 24.02%: Sport: NI 8.
- Slow the rate of increase in alcohol-harm related hospital admissions from 2180 in 2007/08 to 2323 in 2009/10 and 2309 by 2010/11: Alcohol related hospital admissions: NI 39.
- Increase the number of drug users in effective treatment from 513 (2007/08 baseline) to 544: Drug Treatment: NI 40.
- Increase the prevalence of breastfeeding at 6-8 weeks from birth from 12.1% (Quarter 2 2008) to 23%: Breastfeeding: NI 53.
- Reduce obesity in primary school age children from 22.4% to 21.3%: Obesity NI: 56.
- Reduce the conception rate in girls under 18 by 55%, compared to 1998: Conception: NI 112.
- Reduce the number of young people misusing substances from 12.6% in 2008 to 9.8% in 2011: Substance Misuses: NI 115
- Reduce all age all cause mortality for Males from 906 per 100,000 population (2007/08 baseline) to 755: Life expectancy: NI 120.
- Reduce all age all cause mortality for females from 673 (2007/08 baseline) to 574 by 2010/2011: Life expectancy: NI 120.
- Increase the number of people age 16+ who have stopped smoking from 914 per 100,000 population (2007/08 baseline) to 1128: Lifestyle: NI 123.
- Improve the number of people over 65 who say that they receive the information, assistance and support needed to exercise choice and control to live independently from 30.4% (2008 base) to 32.8%: Independent living: NI 139
- Improve the number. of vulnerable people supported to maintain independent living from a Baseline in 2007/08 of 98.17%, to a target of 99.04% in 2011: NI 142
- No. of adults in contact with secondary mental health services in employment – target to be set by March 2010.: Mental Health: NI150

### Local targets

- **Reduce the death rate in under 75s from circulatory disease by 57% from 1995-97 baseline in 2009-2011**
- Reduce the death rate from Cancer (in under 75s) by 25% in 2009-11 from 1995-97 baseline
- Increase the number of people with a long term condition supported to be independent and in control of their condition from 43% (07/08 baseline) to 49% (2010/2011): Managing long term conditions: NI 124

## **Halton's Urban Renewal**

**Our Overall aim:** To transform the urban fabric and infrastructure, to develop exciting places and spaces and to create a vibrant and accessible borough that makes Halton a place where people are proud to live and see a promising future for themselves and their families.

### **Why Urban Renewal?**

Modern day Halton has inherited an exceptional legacy of obsolete and poor quality land, buildings and physical infrastructure that undermines the development potential and attractiveness of the area. Putting this right is a key to greater prosperity and boosting the image of the borough. This is why Urban Renewal is Halton Borough Council's second most important priority.

### **Key Objectives**

- A. To create and sustain a twenty first century business environment with the required variety and quality of sites, premises and infrastructure that can support high levels of investment and economic growth and increase Halton's competitiveness;
- B. To promote regional employment sites at 3MG, Daresbury and the Widnes Waterfront;
- C. To secure the commencement of the construction of the Mersey Gateway bridge;
- D. To revitalise the town centres; to create dynamic, well-designed high quality commercial areas that can continue to meet the needs of local people, investors, businesses and visitors;
- E. To support and sustain thriving neighbourhoods and open spaces that meet people's expectations and add to their enjoyment of life;
- F. To ensure Halton designs in and maintains high levels of accessibility to places and spaces, so that opportunity and need are matched, and provide excellent connectivity to the wider world through transport and ICT links;
- G. To enhance, promote and celebrate the quality of the built and natural environment in Halton including tackling the legacy of contamination and dereliction, to further improve the borough's image.

### **Background**

Halton helped maintain the momentum of the industrial revolution in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century and was a cradle to both invention and innovation. Reflecting this industrial and manufacturing history, Halton has a legacy of ageing infrastructure, obsolete and redundant buildings, a relatively poor built and

natural environment, an overly mature housing stock and an under-provision of modern amenities to support a far more discerning population.

Much has already been achieved to green the environment, both within the town centres and at our gateway approaches. Town centres have experienced new private sector investment, whilst small businesses have taken advantage of grant assistance to rejuvenate tired, rundown or unproductive premises. Award-winning leisure facilities have been provided around the borough and new housing and jobs are being provided because of the confidence in Halton's future.

The business environment is expanding thanks to developments on the Widnes Waterfront, 3MG, Daresbury, The Heath and the key infrastructure development of the Mersey Gateway river crossing:

- The Widnes Waterfront is located in South Widnes, fronting onto the River Mersey. The programme aims to regenerate 80 ha., of low quality industrial land, supported by a cocktail of funding opportunities. Work includes commercial, retail and leisure developments, together with environment, infrastructure and public realm enhancements - all of which will have been completed by 2015. This programme has been identified as a North West Strategic Site and supports the borough's Employment, Learning & Skills priority amongst others;
- 3MG (Mersey Multi-modal Gateway) in Ditton is quickly becoming a regionally and nationally significant intermodal freight park which anticipates an approximate total investment of £100m. This major scheme will create up to 5,000 new jobs and 3 million sq.ft of rail-related distribution facilities by 2015. In addition, the Stobart Group have acquired the Mersey Gateway Port at Weston in Runcorn, which will offer an integrated transport and logistics facility;
- The Mersey Gateway project will provide a landmark new bridge over the River Mersey between Runcorn and Widnes. It will transform the borough of Halton, improve the lives of local people and create new opportunities for business and investment in Halton, Cheshire, the Liverpool city-region, the north west and beyond. The new bridge will cross the river 1.5km east of the Silver Jubilee Bridge (SJB), be a tolled crossing, have three lanes in each direction and be linked to the major road systems in the area, keeping traffic moving and raising the profile of the borough. The Mersey Gateway bridge is due to open to the public in 2014 and will overcome one of the biggest congestion problems in the region. Modifications will be made to the existing SJB to improve facilities for local public transport, walking and cycling;
- The Mersey Gateway Regeneration Strategy will support and promote significant developments in both Runcorn and Widnes Town Centres, continuing regeneration programmes such as the Canal Quarter (Runcorn), Ashley Retail Park and Windmill Centre (Widnes), which are under way in both towns;



- The Daresbury Science & Innovation Centre is a state-of-the-art facility offering high quality office, workshop and laboratory space. The Innovation Centre aims to bring together science and technology-based businesses into an innovative scientific environment. The building provides facilities and specialist support critical to young businesses whether at the creation, growth or acceleration stages of their development.

Exciting new expansion developments are also anticipated at The Heath Business Park and the Halton Lea and Widnes retail areas.

Halton together with our partners in St.Helens and Warrington has been awarded Growth Point Status. This will help foster increasing partnership working across traditional boundaries, better integrating the provision of new housing and employment opportunities across the sub-region whilst promoting sustainable development and the timely provision of supporting infrastructure (including Green Infrastructure).

Two large sites for private sector-residential developments in the borough over the past decade have been at Upton Rocks, Widnes and Sandymoor, Runcorn. The focus of these developments has been a concentration on the executive end of the housing market, in order to encourage managerial and professional socio-economic groups to move to the borough. However, land remediation has cleared the way for housing development at Halebank and plans are being progressed to develop residential accommodation at the Canal Quarter in Runcorn, where leisure and retail facilities will also be delivered along the banks of the Bridgewater Canal. In addition, a £130 million major sustainable regeneration programme is taking place in Castlefields, where high quality mixed-tenure housing is replacing grim deck access flats. The existing local centre will be demolished and redeveloped to create a new community hub centred around a Village Square, offering shops, residential accommodation and health and community facilities – all amidst many and varied environmental and leisure enhancements, including the very successful Phoenix Park. Further housing renewal opportunities have been identified including areas of Runcorn New Town and West Bank, Widnes.

The creation and maintenance of high quality places and spaces that support a twenty- first century economy and lifestyles which are accessible and well connected, is a pre-requisite of Halton's Sustainable Community Strategy and its Urban Renewal Strategy. Much of this is dependent upon the borough's extensive expertise for land reclamation, which has been developed out of need to address and overcome the borough's legacy of contamination from the chemicals industry. This is detailed in the Borough's Contaminated Land Remediation Strategy.

Land is being reclaimed at the rate of approximately 10 hectares per annum. Much of this reclamation is located on the historical chemical sites adjacent to and part of the Widnes Waterfront. For example, Moss Bank Park and further additions to the Trans Pennine trail have been completed adding valuable

amenity space within a modern industrial environment. Development of new 'Alternative Technologies' by Halton, to make safe the severe contamination on these sites, will provide the economic solution to bring forward significant industrial and intermodal developments in the borough, e.g. as in the Widnes Waterfront and the 3MG Intermodal Logistics Park.

Environmental improvements and better quality open spaces, in addition to a better quality built environment and transport offer, are vital as steps to promote Halton's assets. A positive image is a key requirement if we are to boost the confidence and aspirations of local people and business.

## **Linkages to Other Priorities**

### **A Healthy Halton**

Providing a better, cleaner and greener built environment where employment and leisure opportunities are fostered and resident prosperity overcomes health issues associated with deprivation. Improved access to hospitals.

### **Children and Young People in Halton**

Creating an environment that provides the basis in which our children are able to flourish

### **Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

Developing employment opportunities for all in a thriving business environment where skills meet business needs. Improved access to further education facilities

### **A Safer Halton**

Instilling pride in our local community where residents feel safe and cherish their neighbourhoods, wishing to help eradicate violence and unsocial elements

## **Improvement Targets**

Halton LAA Indicators relating to Urban Renewal

By 2011 we aim to:

- Assist in raising residents' overall satisfaction with the area from 70% in 2008 to 73.4% in 2010 (baseline and target provisional pending publication of final places survey data): Residents' Satisfaction: NI 5.
- Reduce per capita CO2 emissions within the local authority area, from 10.1 tonnes per capita in 2007/08, (based on Defra 2005 data) to 8.98 tonnes per capita, by 2010/11 (based on Defra 2008 data): Climate Change: NI 186.
- Ensure 34% of municipal waste is recycled or composted by the local authority by 2010/11 compared to 25.1% in 2007/08: Waste: NI 192.

- Build additional homes within Halton at an annual rate of 518 between 2008/2009 and 2010/2011: Housing: NI 154.
- Improve access to services and facilities by public transport, walking and cycling. Targets set for access to Whiston and Warrington Hospitals (100%) and Runcorn and Widnes comprises of Riverside College (89% and 93% respectively): Transport: NI 175.

### Local Indicators

- **Assist in achieving an increase in the numbers of jobs in Halton by 1% by 2011**
- To bring 10 hectares of derelict land back into beneficial use annually.
- Facilitate the relocation of businesses affected by the construction of the Mersey Gateway Bridge.

## **Children and Young People in Halton**

**Our Overall Aim:** Halton's ambition is to build stronger, safer communities which are able to support the development and learning of children and young people so they grow up feeling safe, secure, happy and healthy, and are ready to be Halton's present and Halton's future

### **Why Children and Young People?**

Children and young people are the future of Halton. In time they will become the adults that take responsibility for all aspects of life in the borough. Therefore, it is self-evident that we should invest in Halton's future by investing in them. This will make sure they have the best possible start in life, have places to go and things to do that are positive and life enhancing, and the opportunity to fulfil their potential and succeed.

### **Key Objectives**

Halton's Children's Trust has identified three entrenched areas, where a strong partnership approach is needed to improve outcomes for children and young people. These will form the foundation for the new Children and Young People's Plan 2009-12. These areas under which the key outcomes can be clustered, are:

- A. Children and young people do well wherever they live and whatever their needs
- B. Children and young people are physically, emotionally and sexually healthy
- C. Young people are successful when they leave school

### **Background**

Development in early childhood, success while at school through educational and other achievement, and the acquisition of important, employable skills, are key determinants of individuals' life and employment chances. They have a major effect on people's ability to access employment, the income they earn, their aspirations, behaviour, health and longevity, and on the range of positive choices they are able to make in life.

The Government policy, Every Child Matters: Change for Children, describes a vision of improving outcomes for all children and young people and narrowing the gap between those who do well and those who do not. In Halton, as elsewhere, this requires radical change in the whole system of children's services including:

- The improvement and integration of front line services - in early years settings, schools, the health service and play and recreation - and to raise standards of achievement for all learners

- More specialised help to promote opportunity, prevent problems and act early and effectively if and when problems arise
- The further development of services around children, young people and families through the delivery of better and more easily accessible services may involve co-location through, for example, extended schools, children's centres, and the bringing together of professionals in multi-disciplinary teams
- Dedicated and enterprising leadership striving for the highest standards at all levels of the system
- The development of a shared sense of responsibility across agencies for safeguarding children and protecting them from harm
- Listening to children, young people and their families when assessing and planning service provision, as well as in face-to-face delivery

To bring about improvement in the life chances and employment prospects for children and young people in Halton, we need to remove socio-economic barriers to early development, and deliver the Every Child Matters agenda through the Children's Trust, and through better joint commissioning and integrated delivery of services through the widely agreed Children's and Young People's Plan.

The key agencies that have an impact on children and young people need to build on existing cooperation. Firstly we need to develop policies based on evidence of what works most effectively that are focused on delivering the outcomes highlighted above. Then we must create a model of what measures and services to enhance life chances and employment need to be like to make the most positive impact in Halton. Finally, we should devise an action plan to make any changes needed to shift from the measures and services that exist now, to what they need to be in the future.

## **Linkages to other Priorities**

### **A Healthy Halton**

Children's health is a key priority mainly because being healthy is the best basis from which children can go on and develop throughout their lives. Education is a key influence on health and affects health-related behaviour such as smoking, drinking, drugs and exercise. To tackle the issues such as obesity and teenage pregnancy in Halton, Children and Young People work closely with the Health Partnership to ensure there is a joined up approach.

### **Halton's Urban Renewal**

Investment in Halton's urban fabric and infrastructure will help to make Halton a place where our children and young people will want to live as adults. Also the provision of access to quality transportation links for education and leisure opportunities is a key priority.

### **Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

Increasing the number of young people in education, employment and training will involve close working with partners from Employment, Learning & Skills. Employment opportunities and training offers a number of key options to our young people post-16 as they look for the best pathway going forward.

### **A Safer Halton**

The provision of pleasant, safe and secure neighbourhoods will provide children and young people with a safe environment in which to play, grow and prosper. Providing positive activities for young people are delivered through the Safer Halton Partnership to discourage crime and anti social behaviour.

### **Improvement Targets**

Halton Local Area Agreement Indicators relating to Children & Young People

By 2011 we aim to:

- Increase the stability of placements for looked after children from 69% in 2008 to 81.5% by 2011: Children in Care: NI 63.
- Reduce the proportion of children in poverty from 27% in 2008 to 24.2% by 2011: Children in Poverty: NI 116.
- Reduce obesity among primary school age children in Year 6 from 22.4% in 2008 to 21.3% by 2011: Child Obesity: NI 56.
- Reduce the under 18 conception rate by 55% by 2011 from the 1998 figure: Teenage Pregnancy: NI 112.
- Increase the proportion of young people achieving a Level 3 qualification by the age of 19 from 33.5% in 2008 to 42.2% by 2011: Level 3 Qualification: NI 80.
- Reduce the number of 16-18 year olds not in education, employment or training from 11.5% in 2008 to 7.7% by 2011: Not in education, employment or training: NI 117.
- Reduce the number of first time entrants aged 10-17 entering the Youth Justice System from 249 in 2007/08 to 234 by 2010/11: First time entrants: NI 111.
- Reduce the number of young people misusing substances from 12.6% in 2008 to 9.8% in 2011: Substance Misuses: NI 115

**Local indicator**

- Reduce the gap of attainment of 5 A\*-C GCSEs (including English and Maths) by 25% between those living in the worst 10% Lower Super Output Areas nationally and the Halton average by 2011
- Reduce the number of children killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents: Road Traffic Fatality: NI 48

## **Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton**

**Our overall aim:** To create an economically prosperous borough that encourages investment, enterprise and business growth, and improves the opportunities for learning and development together with the skills and employment prospects of both residents and workforce so that they are able to feel included socially and financially.

### **Why Employment, Learning and Skills?**

A robust economy lays the foundation for any prosperous and successful place and provides jobs, opportunities, wealth and aspirations for local people. Historically, in Halton there has been a sustained mismatch between the needs of local business and the skills of local people, low rates of entrepreneurship and high levels of welfare dependency, meaning that opportunity and need are out of balance and contributing to the widespread deprivation in Halton. Sustainable economic growth and prosperity requires a commitment to encourage and support a vibrant business sector together with a renewed commitment to creating sustainable employment, and high quality learning and skills opportunities to satisfy all stakeholders in Halton.

### **Key Objectives**

- A. To foster a culture of enterprise and entrepreneurship and make Halton an ideal place to start and grow economic activity
- B. To develop a culture where learning is valued and raise skill levels throughout the adult population and in the local workforce
- C. To promote and increase the employability of local people and remove any barriers to employment to get more people into work
- D. To develop a strong, diverse, competitive and sustainable knowledge-based local economy.
- E. To maximise an individual's potential to increase and manage their income, including access to appropriate, supportive advice services.

### **Background**

Despite a range of local and national initiatives, Halton is still characterised by widespread deprivation. Attainment at school, in further education and the acquisition of employable skills are key determinants of individuals' life and employment chances. They have a major effect on people's ability to get a job, on the income they earn, on their aspirations, behaviour, health and longevity, and on the range of positive choices they are able to make in life. This means that the creation of a strong economy able to compete in today's challenging global market can only be achieved by continuing targeted investment in skills, a vibrant employment market and a strong culture of entrepreneurship.



Research shows that the skill base of the local area is relatively poor compared to Great Britain as a whole and to other surrounding local economies. Halton has a relatively low percentage of adults with further education qualifications and a high number of adults experiencing problems with numeracy and literacy. Looking to the future, estimates indicate that the majority of new jobs will require some form of recognised education qualification. Over 95% of new jobs will need qualifications of at least NVQ 2 level and over 70% at NVQ 3 and above. In addition, in an increasingly technologically developed society and in a borough where up to 30% of adults experience some form of difficulty with literacy there is a danger that a digital divide is created between those able to access and navigate jobs and services and those who cannot.

High economic inactivity rates across the borough, with particular pockets of high deprivation and social exclusion, are endemic in the local economy. Halton continues to display higher than average rates of benefit dependency, whilst at the same time many people are not claiming their full entitlements which would enable them to enjoy a minimum standard of living. Targeted information, advice and advocacy are crucial to allow people to access the support, whether related to work or to benefits, they need for the benefit of both themselves and local economy.

The Halton economy is heavily reliant upon a narrow range of industry sectors and, in common with the rest of the UK, is becoming susceptible to national and global pressures, which may have a negative effect upon the business sector, employment opportunities and could increase the numbers of individuals and families at risk of becoming financially and socially at risk.

## **Linkages to Other Priorities**

### **A Healthy Halton**

Being out of work or suffering financial exclusion have been shown to be significant contributors to health inequalities, whilst being in employment has been proven to have significant benefits for an individual's physical and mental health. By providing opportunities for skills, training and employment and enabling people to move from inactive benefits to employment, the Employment, Learning and Skills priority contributes towards improving the Health and mental wellbeing of Halton's residents.

### **Halton's Urban Renewal**

Halton residents will need a high quality, responsive skills and training infrastructure to take full advantage of the new opportunities for employment and business development being afforded through Halton's programme of Urban Renewal.

### **Children and Young People in Halton**

In addition to the importance of attainment at school, it is vital that Children and Young People are offered a wide range of good quality learning, skills and employment opportunities in order for them to fulfil their potential to

succeed and to ensure that they are not at risk of poverty or financial disadvantage.

### **A Safer Halton**

By enabling people to become engaged in employment, learning and skills opportunities, they are encouraged to move away from becoming involved in anti-social behaviour or crime. The Employment, Learning and Skills priority aims to ensure that positive progression routes to training and employment are available to all Halton residents to enable them to improve their life chances.

### **Improvement Targets**

Halton Local Area Agreement Indicators relating to Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

By 2011 we aim to:

- Reduce the proportion of working age people claiming out of work benefits in the worst performing neighbourhoods from 31.5% in 2007/2008 to 28.5% by 2010/2011: Benefits: NI 153.
- Increase the proportion of the working age population qualified to at least Level 2 from 60.1% in 2007/2008 to 67.5% by 2010/2011: Level 2 Qualification: NI 163.
- Maintain the VAT registration rate at 42.8% through to 2010/2011: VAT Registration: NI 171.

### **Local Indicators**

- Reduce the proportion of adults with no qualifications by 15%.
- Increase the proportion of adults qualified to Level 3 by 25%.
- Increase average household income in Halton to more than 90% of the national average.
- Increase the rate of self-employment by 20%.
- Ensure unemployment in any Lower Super Output Area is less than 20% above the borough average.

## **A SAFER HALTON**

**Our overall aim:** To ensure pleasant, safe and secure neighbourhood environments, with attractive, safe surroundings, good quality local amenities, and the ability of people to enjoy life where they live.

### **Why a Safer Halton?**

Crime and the fear of crime affect everybody's lives. It is a major concern according to every survey of Halton residents. These surveys also show that cleaner, tidier neighbourhoods would make the biggest difference to improving life for people in their local area. We want Halton to be a clean, green, safe and attractive place to live. People should tolerate value and respect each other, their property and the places where they live.

### **Key Objectives**

- A.** To investigate and tackle the underlying causes of crime and disorder and respond effectively to public concern by reducing crime levels
- B.** To improve the understanding of alcohol and drug/substance misuse problems, their impact in Halton, and reduce the harm they cause
- C.** To create and sustain better neighbourhoods that are well designed, well built, well maintained, safe and valued by the people who live in them, reflecting the priorities of residents
- D.** To understand and tackle the problem of domestic abuse in all its forms
- E.** To reduce the levels of crime that disproportionately affects some of the more deprived areas within the borough

### **Background**

The Safer Halton Partnership has a wide-ranging remit focused on two major concerns of Halton people. Crime and the local environment have consistently been two areas the public have raised as high priorities in successive consultations over the last few years.

We want to make Halton a great place to live with an attractive quality of life and excellent local environment. However, this is very much dependent on reducing current levels of crime, tackling anti-social behaviour and improving the local environment in our neighbourhoods. Recent years have seen a 16% reduction in total recorded crime from 2005 and 2008. In the same time period vehicle crime has reduced by 29% and criminal damage by 34%. The Safer Halton Partnership - with its focus on action at the neighbourhood level - has contributed to these welcome reductions. However, this remains a pressing problem for most people in Halton, and fear of crime remains at unacceptable levels and impacts upon too many lives.

At the same time, whilst general satisfaction levels with Halton as a place to live have risen, it is the condition of their local environment which is of most concern to residents. Therefore, the Strategy aims to increase the confidence of communities in their neighbourhoods. This is about improving local conditions and encouraging people to get involved in helping to shape what happens in their local area. Area Forums, Police Community Action Meetings (CAMs), Community Watch Schemes and 'Face the People' Sessions, offer opportunities for local people to have their say and help make a difference. They also help make the police, council and others more accountable to residents, check that the priorities are right; that they respond to local concerns, and will take more effective action against the issues that most impact on their quality of life.

Tackling the causes as well as the symptoms of neighbourhood issues are a responsibility shared by all partners. Increasingly, they will look to better co-ordinate their activity through neighbourhood management arrangements to have a greater impact. This will increase the effectiveness of work that can prevent and intervene early in the conditions which lead to dissatisfaction.

### **Linkages to other priorities**

#### **A Healthy Halton**

Personal experience of crime or anti social behaviour can have a significant impact on our health and mental wellbeing. Tackling crime is high on the public agenda and a key priority for neighbourhoods.

#### **Halton's Urban Renewal**

When designing and planning new buildings such as housing estates and shopping areas, it is important that we consider community safety issues and design out crime. This may be through better lighting, CCTV, removing inappropriate planting etc

#### **Children and Young People in Halton**

Providing positive activities for young people and raising their aspirations will make them less likely to commit crime or anti social behaviour. Working with young people and their families is vital if we are to change behaviour, where their behaviour has already become a problem.

#### **Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

Creating employment opportunities and training for residents to access jobs is key to driving down crime. In particular those who have already committed crime, or have drug and alcohol problems are much less likely to re-offend if they can gain employment.

## **Improvement Targets**

Halton Local Area Agreement Indicators relating to a Safer Halton

By 2011 we aim to:

- Increase residents overall satisfaction with their local area from 70% in 2008 to 73% in 2010 (baseline and target provisional pending publication of the final Places Survey data): Overall satisfaction: NI 5.
- Increase voluntary and community sector satisfaction from 22.2% (2007/8) to 29.7% (2010/11) by creating a strong environment in which it can thrive: Thriving third Sector: NI 7.
- Reduce acts of serious acquisitive crime from 16 per 1000 population in 2007/08 to 15 per 1000 population by 2010/11: Serious acquisitive crime: NI 16.
- Reduce the perceptions of anti social behaviour from 24% in 2008 to 21% by 2010/11: Perceptions of anti social behaviour: NI 17.
- Reduce the assault with injury crime rate by 7.5% compared to 2008/09: Assault with injury: NI 20.
- Reduce the re-offending rate of prolific and priority offenders by 19% each year until 2011: NI 30.
- Reduce the repeat incidents of domestic abuse from 127 in 2007/08 to 108 by 2010/11: Repeat incidents of domestic violence: NI 32.
- Reduce the number of arson incidents from 1277 in 2007/08 to 855 by 2010/11: Arson: NI 33.
- Slow the rate of increase in alcohol-harm related hospital admissions from 2180 in 2007/08 to 2323 in 2009/10 and 2309 by 2010/11: Alcohol related hospital admissions: NI 39.
- Increase the number of drug users in effective treatment from 513 in 07/08 to 544 by 10/11: Drug users in effective treatment: NI 40.

### **Local Target**

- Reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents: People killed or seriously injured: NI 47.
- Reduce the number of incidents of anti-social behaviour in the worst 5 Lower Super Output Areas compared with the rest of the Borough from 97.88 per 1000 population in 2007/08 to 83.2 per 1000 population by 2010/11 (total of 11% reduction).

## **Cross Cutting Issues**

### **Introduction**

The Sustainable Community Strategy is concerned with addressing local needs in order to make the 2025 vision a reality. This strategy tries to take a positive view of the future. It will be better to shift our focus to prevention measures, to promote positive lifestyles and the many excellent aspects of life in Halton, including more timely interventions to help people at the times when they most need support. At the same time a number of issues that cut across the key priority areas contained within this Strategy must be kept in mind as we meet the challenges faced within each priority area.

The Halton Strategic Partnership wants to develop policies and programmes which leave a lasting and positive effect on future generations of people in Halton. We also want to look forward and help to achieve sustainable development both locally and more widely to promote regional, national and global aims. Our approach will be guided by the following principles:

- Anti-discrimination
- Equality of opportunity
- Independence not dependence
- Individual needs
- Accountability
- Integration
- Involvement in decision making

The people of Halton and a focus on their full range of needs, is the key cross cutting theme that underpins this strategy. Analysing needs allows us to anticipate likely changes and plan accordingly. We want to sustain progress and increasingly provide a much greater range of opportunities, and the ability to take advantage of them. We want to sharpen up service delivery and focus on the things that will make the most difference. The key measure of whether service delivery is transformed is how far and how fast we can narrow the gap in outcomes for the most disadvantaged in Halton, as measured by comparison with both Halton and national averages.

In short, we want to build a sustainable community that balances and integrates social, economic and environmental progress; that meets current expectations and prepares for future needs; and that respects the diversity of the place and people. The Partnership has identified the following components as being crucial to success.

### **(a) Respect and Enjoyment**

The communities of Halton have a strong sense of community identity and belonging. They also tolerate and respect differences, and believe in 'live and let live'. Co-operation, collaboration and helpfulness are vital. There needs to be plenty of things to do and places to go - culture, leisure, sport, community, shopping - for all members of the community, young and old alike. People

should feel their chances in life are good and crime, drugs or anti-social behaviour does not taint their lives.

**(b) Thriving Places**

The local economy has to flourish and provide a range of opportunities for all Halton people for both training and work. The economic infrastructure has to be top quality with a variety of land and premises (industrial, commercial and retail) available to support economic prosperity, growth and change. In addition, we want to see a strong business sector, which feels valued locally, and is well supported to create new enterprises and new jobs which can benefit local people.

**(c) Well Planned**

We need to retain a clear sense of place and retain features that make Halton distinctive. We want to see buildings and open spaces that are accessible, well designed and of the highest quality. Places and spaces that are safe, valued and promote a feeling of well-being. The housing market has to be dynamic and inclusive with a range of options available that are affordable for local people.

**(d) Accessibility**

People make places work, and all the communities and facilities of Halton (jobs, schools, town centres, health) need to be well connected and well served by the transport network. We need appropriate levels of car parking in the right places, a well managed and maintained road network, and a properly functioning public transport network to help people get about and reduce car dependency. **We need to further develop opportunities for walking and cycling, and ensure that through the implementation of the Mersey Gateway project and associated works that our connection to the outside world through motorways, railways, ports and airports is excellent.** The further development of technology and digital opportunities will also enable Halton to be more accessible to the world.

**(e) Well Served**

People need to have good access to a range of services that are appropriate to their needs and that make their lives worthwhile. This includes good schools, further and higher education opportunities and lifelong learning, high quality health, leisure and social care facilities, including quality services for vulnerable adults, children and families. In addition a good range of information, advice and signposting is needed, and wherever possible services should be situated together to make access easier.

**(f) Well Run**

There has to be a sense of pride, responsibility and civic values which present themselves in a place that is well governed and managed. This includes democratic, representative and accountable governance through Halton Borough Council with community wellbeing at its heart. It also encompasses effective community engagement and enabling active participation by local people in the decisions that affect their lives. A strong and vibrant voluntary

and community sector is a sign of success along with effective partnerships that lead by example.

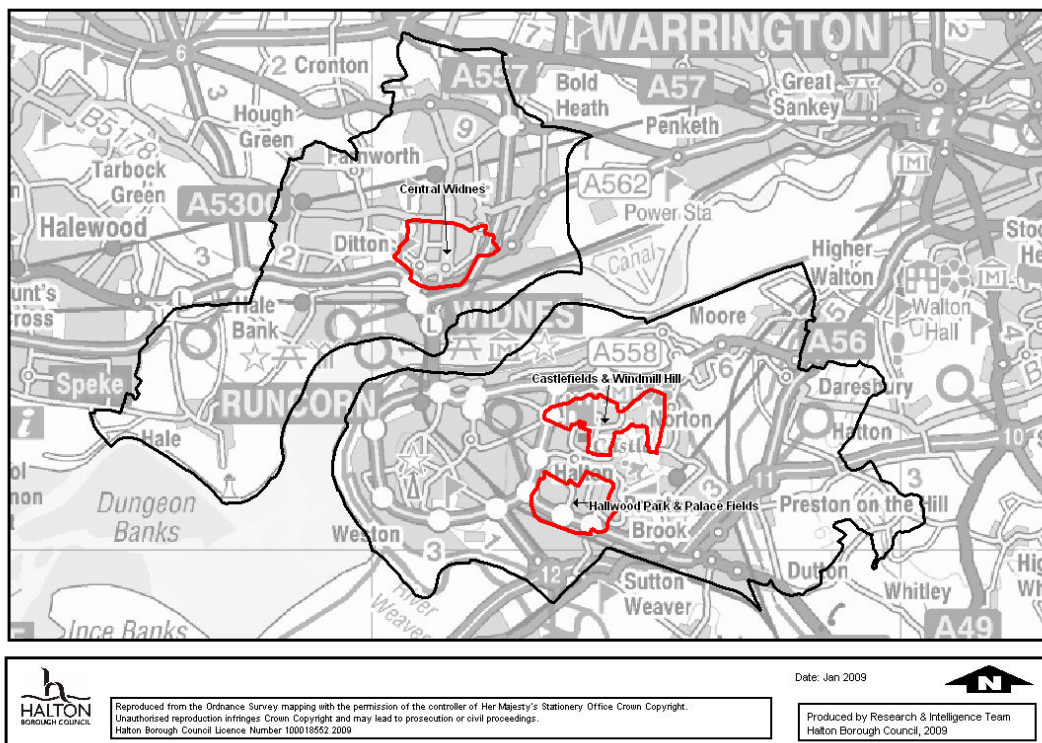
The objectives and targets outlined in this Strategy and all the improvements aspired to need to be adequately resourced in order to make happen. A key purpose of this Strategy is to ensure that the resources available are targeted and used effectively to bring about improvements in the Borough.

**Issues**

**1. Social Exclusion**

This is about what happens when people face a multitude of problems such as poor housing, high crime, poor health, worklessness, discrimination and poor relationships. These problems link and reinforce each other creating a vicious circle for people. Often they are clustered in specific neighbourhoods.

Since 2006 Halton has received ring-fenced funding from the 'neighbourhood element' part of the then Safer & Stronger Communities block of the Local Area Agreement. The money is to develop Neighbourhood Management in those areas of the Borough that fall within the 3% most deprived nationally under the Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2005. The funding runs until 2010. In Halton work is focused on three pilot neighbourhoods, each of which falls within the above category; Central Widnes, Hallwood Park & Palace Fields and Castlefields & Windmill Hill. The map below shows the boundaries for these 3 neighbourhoods.



Neighbourhood Management is designed to help close the gap between the most deprived parts of the Borough and the rest, with regards to health,



education, employment and crime. The development of neighbourhood management in Halton is being directed by a strategic partnership board that consists of many of the key local service providers and partners. This board reports directly to the Halton Strategic Partnership Board

One key example of this is the effort to reduce worklessness in the neighbourhood management areas. The gap between out of work benefit claimants within the neighbourhood management areas and Halton overall had reduced since 2006, but has increased slightly in the last months, probably as a result of the economic downturn.

According to the latest Index of Multiple Deprivation in 2007 Halton has again improved its overall deprivation score but it remains amongst the 30 most deprived areas of England. Halton has become less deprived overall on a national scale but the gap between the most affluent and deprived areas of the borough is growing. Serious progress must be made to increase wealth and to narrow the gap for those who are most disadvantaged if residents are to enjoy the quality of life that many others take for granted.

Overall poverty, unemployment and material deprivation have diminished in crude terms. However, Halton continues to display high rates of benefit dependency, which may increase in the current economic climate. At the same time many people are still not claiming their full entitlements which would allow them to enjoy a minimum standard of living. Therefore, information, advice, guidance and advocacy are crucial in allowing people to access the help they need to navigate an extraordinarily complicated benefits system. This is not only beneficial for the recipients themselves but also for the local economy as research shows that most transfer payments are spent locally. Halton is also characterised by high levels of personal debt, with up to 10% of households struggling to support debt levels. This in turn impacts on people's health and well being and the positive contribution they can make to the local economy. Therefore, debt advice and innovative community finance initiatives are a continuing need.

## **2. Economic Climate**

The adverse economic climate now has major implications for us all. The Halton Strategic Partnership has a role to put in place measures to support residents and businesses and where possible provide intervention measures to try and prevent house repossessions, loss of jobs, etc. Where they do occur we need to ensure services are there to help pick up the pieces, whether this is access to training, benefits, debt advice, target hardening against burglary, alcohol abuse support or counselling.

On top of the implications of the current economic climate on the residents of Halton, there are implications for partners in terms of meeting its Local Area Agreement (LAA) targets by March 2011. Several of Halton's LAA indicators are likely to be severely affected by the current climate, with others indirectly impacted upon.

## **3. Climate Change**

Halton has adopted a climate change indicator, per capita CO2 reduction, as part of its LAA. This cross cutting indicator includes CO2 emissions from domestic housing, business and the public sector and road transport. Local, regional and national partners and organisations will work together to encourage and influence residents, businesses and other organisations to make CO2 reductions and also to put our own house in order.

There has already been much progress around tackling climate change. Halton is committed to the Carbon Strategy and Reduction Plan and a target of reducing CO2 by 20% by 2015. As part of the strategy, we have invested in a number of areas to reduce energy costs and consequently CO2 emission reductions.

#### **4. Sustainability**

The goal of sustainable development – integrating and improving environmental, economic and social outcomes both now and in the future – is at the heart of the strategy. This Strategy sets the overall strategic direction and long-term vision for the economic, social and environmental well-being of Halton through to 2025 that will contribute to the overall sustainable development across the UK.

Part of Halton's success has been its ability to change and evolve, and its resilience in the face of adversity. It has had to cope with the loss of much of the manufacturing industry it formerly depended on. The effect of this was dramatic, leading to population loss and a legacy of deprivation across the communities of Halton. However, the position has stabilised and welcome signs of an improvement can now be seen. This resilience is the key to the future. The Halton Strategic Partnership sees this as one of the strengths on which a sustainable future can be built.

The vision for the future is of a Halton that has sustained itself. This is a place where people want to live and work. It is somewhere that provides a high quality living environment, sensitive to a range of needs, and recognises the diversity of its residents. This Strategy is all about giving people opportunities and choice. We want to build people's aspirations and abilities so they can exercise greater control and choice in their lives. Having done so we want to ensure we provide the quality of life and opportunities locally so that people choose to live and work here.

#### **5. Equality & Diversity**

Building stronger communities through community engagement must be a key outcome for the strategy. There has been much progress in this area of work since 2006. For example, an Equalities and Community Cohesion Group now meets regularly and reports to the Halton Strategic Partnership.

The Partnership is determined to deliver its vision of a better future for Halton's people. We are committed to equality for everyone regardless of age, sex, caring responsibilities, race, religion, sexuality, or disability. We are leaders of the community and will not accept discrimination, victimisation or harassment.

This commitment to equity and social justice is clearly stated in the adopted equal opportunities policy of the Partnership. This states that the Partnership:

- is committed to promoting equal opportunities in Halton
- values diversity and encourages fairness and justice
- wants equal chances for everyone in Halton to work, learn and live free from discrimination and victimisation
- will combat discrimination and will use its position of influence in the borough, wherever possible, to help overcome discriminatory barriers

As well as accepting our legal responsibilities, we are committed to broad principles of social justice. The Partnership is opposed to any form of discrimination and oppression and looks to enhance quality of life by supporting individuals and communities who experience marginalisation and exclusion. Our policies apply to all of those who come into contact with us. This includes current users of directly provided services, users of services provided on our behalf, potential users of services, other agencies and professionals, employees and job applicants, and the general public.

The Partnership wants to create a culture where people of all backgrounds and experience feel appreciated, valued and able to participate fully and constructively in the life of the local community. Discrimination on the grounds of race, nationality, ethnic or national origin, religion or belief, gender, marital status, sexuality, disability, age or any other unjustifiable reason will not be tolerated. As a Partnership we are committed to a programme of action to make this policy fully effective.

Halton is committed to equality of opportunity for disabled people and to ending discrimination. The passing of the Disability Discrimination Act in 1995 has given a new focus to our commitment to disabled people. Underlying this Strategy is a commitment to turn policy into practice. We want to identify and support all family carers and cared for people with disabilities in Halton by striving to improve their quality of life and life chances. We want disabled people living and working in Halton to be able to realise their full potential. We will make progress towards this by removing barriers and changing the attitudes which prevent disabled people from gaining access to employment and to the services provided by partners.

Partners will work collaboratively to develop effective procedures and policies to combat all forms of unlawful discrimination and to share good practice. They will ensure that all services are provided fairly and without discrimination. Reasonable adjustments will be made so that services are accessible to everyone who needs them. People's cultural and language needs will be recognised and services will be provided which are appropriate to these needs. Partners will monitor the take up of services from different sections of the population. The information collected will be used to inform service planning and delivery. Equality Impact Assessments will also be carried out on Partnership policies and services to assess how policies and services impact on different sections of the community. The results of the

Equality Impact Assessments will highlight areas for improvement, which will be dealt with through the Partnership Improvement Plan.

## **6. Population**

Following national and regional trends, Halton's population continues to age with older people making up an increasing proportion of the population:

**Younger people (0-14 year olds):**

projected to grow by 2% (2006-2021).

**Working age (15-64 year olds):**

projected to decline by 2% (2006-2021).

**Older people (65+):**

projected to grow by 43% from 16,400 in 2006 to 23,500 in 2021.

The growth in older people will increase the demands for both formal and informal support. While small decreases in the working age population mean there are fewer people to provide and pay for this additional support.

## **7. Housing**

The priorities set out within the Halton Housing Strategy 2009-11 mirror the priorities contained within the Sustainable Community Strategy.

It is recognised that many housing objectives can make a contribution to more than one of the Sustainable Community Strategy's aims and objectives. This is a summary of some of the main areas that link to the Sustainable Community Strategy. A full breakdown of these areas is set out in the table attached to the Housing Strategy.

The Government and the regional housing board have identified the "big issues" for housing for the next decade. Halton does not necessarily exhibit these problems to the same degree as other areas, so the challenge for Halton is to develop solutions and secure resources for local problems that are not reflected in national or regional policy.

Partnership working will be key to this process and we will endeavour to work with partners across local authority boundaries to seek joint solutions to common issues and to help shape sub regional policy.

There is an emerging affordability issue in the Borough, caused by the relationship between house prices and local incomes. Consequently the demand for social rented housing has increased in recent years but the number of available social rented dwellings has declined. Equally the private rented sector cannot fully meet the demands of those unable to afford to buy or access social rented housing due to low supply and high rents.

Other housing demand issues include a mismatch between demand for private sector terraced housing and the number of terraces available (which could result in market decline in poorer areas) and the predicted demographic change in the elderly population which is likely to result in increased demand for supported housing and related services.

In terms of housing condition, the private sector is generally in good condition although there are concentrations of older terraced housing with the potential to fall into decline without investment by the owners. The condition of privately rented property is generally poorer.

Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) are on target to meet the 2010 target of making all homes decent, which in turn should improve energy efficiency. Although vacancy levels are generally comparable with national and regional figures the proportion of private sector dwellings vacant for more than six months is a growing cause for concern.

Overcrowding is higher in the social rented than owner occupied sectors, though there is potential to alleviate this through making better use of the housing stock.

In relation to local populations and communities, Halton has a very small Black and Minority ethnic population, although the demographics of that population are rapidly changing due to Eastern European migration.

Although homelessness remains an issue in Halton, the number of presentations has dropped considerably since the last Housing Strategy was produced. Recent prevention service developments for homeless people are proving successful and should have a positive impact on acceptances and the number of people in temporary accommodation.

Worklessness is an issue on many social housing estates across Halton and the Council is working with RSL partners to develop projects aimed at tackling worklessness on these estates.

The Council is improving provision for Gypsies and Travellers in accordance with the recommendations of the Cheshire Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment, with the development of a 14 pitch transit site.

Supply and demand analysis for particular client groups reveals a need for increased accommodation for the elderly, particularly extra care accommodation, making better use of the existing stock of adapted dwellings and a range of accommodation for people with mental health problems offering varying levels of support.

Government expenditure on housing is set to increase nationally; however, this will be specifically targeted at housing growth and affordable housing at the expense of private sector renewal. It will also be targeted at specific interventions developed at a sub regional level.

The Council is likely to receive a reduced capital allocation over the term of the Strategy and there is uncertainty over the levels of funding available for adaptations and new supported housing schemes.

### **8. Community empowerment and engagement**

It is now recognised that both individuals and whole communities can and should take some responsibility for improving quality of life. This requires action especially through Local Government and other public and voluntary sector services, to empower local communities so that they develop skills and can access resources to play their part effectively.

### **9. Cross Cutting Targets**

There are many key targets that we work towards achieving in partnership, all of which are included in the improvement targets in each of the five priority areas within this document. See pages 19, 24, 28, 32 and 35 for detailed target information.

## **HOW WILL WE MAKE IT HAPPEN IN HALTON?**

All the objectives and targets outlined here are achievable. How well and how quickly this happens depends crucially on the availability of resources and how smartly they are used. That means money, people, physical resources, proper intelligence and information, allied with the strength of will to use them in the best way. A key purpose of this Strategy is to ensure that the resources available are targeted and used effectively to bring about improvements in the borough. This means:

- Being clear and agreeing about what we need to achieve so we are all pulling in the same direction
- Maximising the funding we can generate or draw in to benefit Halton and developing our own resources and the capacity to help ourselves
- Co-operating to be more effective, cutting out duplication and waste, and pooling the budgets, knowledge and efforts of different organisations and groups where this makes sense
- Listening and responding to what matters most to people locally
- Targeting what we do to where it can make most difference
- Doing the kind of things that experience has shown will really work and be successful
- Checking on progress, letting people know how we are doing, and adjusting where necessary to keep on track

Without the tools and the will to do the job, the improvements set out in this Strategy will not happen.

### **Money**

The organisations that make up the Partnership already spend hundreds of millions of pounds of public money each year in Halton. Much of this goes to maintain essential services like health, policing, schools, transport and waste collection that we tend to take for granted. The way money is spent on these statutory services – ‘mainstream budgets’ – has to be steadily re-focused to achieve the specific objectives and improvement targets within this Strategy. The Sustainable Community Strategy provides a tool to help partners refocus their budgets.

The Strategy also provides a framework to help identify and secure additional funding for the borough from a variety of sources. It sets out shared policy objectives along with clear aims and targets across the five agreed key themes. This gives a framework in which partners can make budgetary decisions that reflect Halton's priorities.

Halton received Neighbourhood Renewal Funding, which provided tremendous support (more than £30million) to the aims of the Sustainable Community Strategy. In 2007 Halton was awarded a further £16million from the Working Neighbourhood Fund, to continue with the important projects already serving the communities needs, up until 2011.

Local Area Agreements provide a mechanism for the partners to genuinely work together to achieve the same goals and to spend the resources discussed above. They provide an opportunity to map resources and activity, streamline current processes, pool and align budgets, eliminate duplication, attract new funding and to target activity to where it is most needed to achieve the overall vision for Halton. In particular agreements will target funding at the most deprived neighbourhoods and towards specific at-risk groups.

### **People & Assets**

Allied to cash, the efforts, skills and determination of people living and working in the borough are key to success. This applies to individuals interested or already active in helping their local community as well as to those who work in public, voluntary and other organisations serving Halton. We need to boost skills and knowledge and stimulate confidence and motivation that will strengthen the Borough's capacity to help itself. We must ensure that we are organised and co-operate in ways that are effective and deliver real benefits. Also, we need to provide better ways for people to work collaboratively and across organisational boundaries to increase their own job satisfaction and their impact on the challenges they deal with.

Most of the steps we need to take in moving Halton forward will involve some use of land, buildings, equipment and materials. Hundreds of millions of pounds are currently invested in publicly owned physical resources of various kinds within the borough. We need to make optimum use of these assets, cutting out any unnecessary duplication and ensuring they are well adapted to local requirements.

In particular we have to respond to the rise of consumerism and the desire of people to access a range of services through a single portal. The advent of Halton Direct Link, Health Care Resource Centres, extended schools and Children's Centres provide models of exemplary service delivery which are highly valued by local people. Increasingly, partners will need to look at much greater efforts towards co-location and joint use of facilities. Not only is this more cost efficient, but it gives partners a proper customer focus.

### **Intelligence**

Without proper information, and making it easily accessible to people, we are working in the dark in trying to bring about improvement in Halton. This covers information about local needs and conditions, and what people think is most important for their communities. It is about the information we need to understand what is likely to work well in achieving our targets for Halton. It's about keeping people – local people and partner organisations – in the picture about the progress we are making together.

The Partnership has made a big commitment to improving the way information is gathered, used and shared. Of particular note are:



- a) A data 'Observatory' that holds key statistical information on all aspects of living conditions in Halton. The Observatory provides data at a variety of spatial levels – super output area, ward, neighbourhood and district level – and allow for comparison with our neighbours and regional and national averages. It will greatly help people to understand the geography and nature of disadvantage in Halton.
- b) The Partnership has a database of consultation and community engagement in Halton. This will enable people to access a rich source of attitudinal data on a range of issues. It will also help people to plan and execute better community engagement in the borough.
- c) The Partnership website provides an easy to access source of material on all aspects of the Halton Strategic Partnership's work throughout the borough. The site covers the full range of activities from events and award ceremonies to new policy changes. There are dedicated sections for each of the priority areas that outline the aims and objectives plus provide access for meeting minutes. There is also a newly added policy section, developed to keep partners up to date with any changes.

## **MANAGING RISKS**

The Partnership recognises the scale of its ambition and is realistic in its expectations of what can be achieved given the scale of resources being deployed. It also recognises that risk management must be an integral part of the performance management framework and business planning process. This will increase the probability of success (and reduce the likelihood of failure) by identifying, evaluating and controlling the risks associated with the achievement of its objectives.

The risk management process focuses attention and resources on critical areas, provides more robust action plans and better informed decision-making. It also fosters a culture where uncertainty does not slow progress or stifle innovation and ensures the commitment and resources of the Partnership to produce positive outcomes.

As part of implementing this Sustainable Community Strategy the Partnership will adopt a Risk Management Strategy and establish a Strategic Risk Register. The Strategy will set out the risk management objectives, the role and responsibilities for risk management of the Board and individual Specialist Strategic Partnerships, and will categorise risks and the approach to risk management action plans.

The risk management objectives include the;

- Adoption of Risk Management as a key part of the Sustainable Community Strategy
- Identification, evaluation and economic control of strategic and operational risks
- Promotion of ownership through increased levels of awareness and skills development

The Partnership's risks can be broadly categorised as either "strategic" or "operational". Strategic risks cover those threats or opportunities which could impact upon the achievement of medium and long-term goals.

A major review of strategic risks was carried out in 2006 when this Sustainable Community Strategy was adopted. That was followed up by an assessment of operational risks through each of the Specialist Strategic Partnerships as part of their action planning and Local Area Agreement process.

## **HOW WILL WE KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING?**

The targets in this plan are a first step towards aligning our vision for Halton in 2025. If we succeed in achieving our targets they will translate into real improvements for local people, building on the work done to date. This is why it is important to know how we are doing and what progress we are making in meeting the improvement targets we have set ourselves. By monitoring progress closely we can identify and build on successes, provide necessary assistance or support where progress has not met expectations, and adjust our efforts and resources to adapt to changing circumstances.

A range of high level outcomes have been set in the Strategy. These provide a benchmark and clarity in how our progress can be measured in the future. For all five themes there are several key objectives and a small number of key targets for each. In particular these reflect the government floor targets, local public service agreements and key desired outcomes. Together these form a 'score card' for the Sustainable Community Strategy.

We want to be judged by what we do and not by what we say. Every year the progress on the Sustainable Community Strategy will be reviewed and the scorecard published as part of our Annual Report. This will allow for scrutiny of the work of the Partnership. Local people are the best judges of how well we are doing. The Partnership works on their behalf and they are best placed to venture an opinion on how the quality of life in Halton rates. As well as the scorecard the Partnership will repeat its Quality of Life survey at regular intervals to track public perceptions of how well the Strategy is being implemented. This regular dialogue is a key part of our performance-monitoring framework. We genuinely want to know what people think of the things we do, how we go about tasks and what we should pay attention to in the future.

The forward programme of the Partnership in pursuit of the Strategy will be reviewed and updated to ensure it responds to changing circumstances. As well as the high level scorecard, each Specialist Strategic Partnership will have a more detailed action plan. This will contain a richer hierarchy of outcomes, outputs, targets and milestones. Each Partnership will be accountable for its own performance and the Board will seek qualitative monitoring reports on how work is progressing. One of the key features of the Strategy is the understanding of how each of the themes are linked and impact on each other. The Strategy establishes the importance of a number of key crosscutting themes that are common across all Partnership activity. A Performance and Standards Group reporting directly to the Board has been established. This group takes responsibility for all aspects of performance management and ensure proper oversight, scrutiny and accountability of all activities that take place under the auspices of the Partnership and this Sustainable Community Strategy.

## **ENGAGING THE PEOPLE OF HALTON**

Wholesale improvement in the quality of life enjoyed by local people can only come about if a significant part of the community is involved in making it happen. This can take place informally, in many different ways within the community itself. However this has to be complemented by action taken with the support of a variety of public, voluntary and other bodies.

The views of the public were an important factor in deciding the overall themes and direction of this Sustainable Community Strategy. Channels of communication like the borough's Area Forums and the Police Community Action Meetings provide extra ways to share, discuss and resolve local issues. A whole range of services actively consult with and involve their customers, and staff from a range of organisations work closely with local people on a day-to-day basis.

The Halton Strategic Partnership sees itself, through this Strategy and the actions of partners, as providing leadership. This can only be achieved if they remain in touch with the people and communities they represent and serve. The Strategy aims to create an environment in which everyone can get involved in making things happen in Halton. We want to foster active participation by as many people and agencies as possible. The Partnership will look for ways to make itself more accountable to communities through events, panels, area forums and open and transparent decision-making processes. A number of steps define this:

**Customer focus** – Services and processes have to be designed around the needs of the people who actually use them. At the same time users need to have an appropriate role in specifying the services that are delivered.

**Consultation & engagement** – Partners will create specific and purposeful opportunities for people to give their views on what is needed and how it should be delivered. Wherever possible people should be actively involved in decision-making, service specification and design.

**Communication** – Letting people know what is happening, how they can get involved and encouraging dialogue between partners and local communities is vital. Various media and methods will be used in appropriate and sensitive ways to build and maintain the communication effort.

The Partnership has spent a considerable effort in developing an inclusive approach to engagement through its bespoke strategy and network arrangements. Full details are available on the Partnership website. Community empowerment is about members of a community feeling able to achieve their own goals, with some measure of control over the processes and strategies to attain these. It is a process whereby communities are encouraged to become increasingly self-reliant in improving their neighbourhoods and livelihoods. It is a cyclical, participatory process where local people co-operate in formal or informal groups to share their knowledge and experiences and to achieve common objectives. It is a process rather

than a blueprint, and one that underpins this Sustainable Community Strategy.

## **THE WAY FORWARD**

This Sustainable Community Strategy highlights key objectives for each strategic theme and improvement targets by which success can be judged. These targets collectively form the Partnership Scorecard. We will report back to partners and the public each year on progress against this Scorecard.

If we succeed in achieving our targets, they will translate into real improvements for local people, including:

- longer, healthier lives
- a better urban environment and reasons to feel pride in Halton
- higher standards of education and skills and the greater employment and other life chances that go with them
- fewer people trapped by poverty, excluded or held back through some form of deprivation or disadvantage
- the freedom to feel safe and enjoy life in an attractive neighbourhood

**Back cover**

If you have any queries or comments you would like to make about this Sustainable Community Strategy, please contact:

The Halton Strategic Partnership Team,  
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Widnes,  
WA8 7QF

Telephone 0151 424 2061  
or email [lsp@halton.gov.uk](mailto:lsp@halton.gov.uk)

You can find out more detail on the work of the Partnership on our website:  
[www.haltonpartnership.net](http://www.haltonpartnership.net)

**REPORT TO:** Employment, Learning and Skills Policy & Performance Board

**DATE:** 7<sup>th</sup> July 2009

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director, Environment

**SUBJECT:** Annual Report

**WARDS:** Borough-wide

### **1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 To consider the draft annual report for 2008-09.

### **2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That**

(1) The Policy & Performance Board considers and comment upon the draft annual report.

### **3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 Annex comprising the draft Employment Learning and Skills PPB Annual Report for 2008-09.

### **4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 None arising from this report

### **5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 None arising from this report

### **6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES.**

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton.  
6.2 Employment Learning and Skills in Halton  
6.3 A Healthy Halton.  
6.4 A Safer Halton  
6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

No implications identified at this time.

### **7.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 No implications identified at this time.

### **8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 Equality of access to services and opportunities is an important part of the PPB scrutiny function. There is increasing focus on identifying



areas and groups that need to be proactively targeted to drive up participation on a range of issues including skills development and employment.

**9. LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT**

9.1 None under the meaning of the Act.

Cllr. Jones  
Chairman



## **ANNUAL REPORT**

### ***EMPLOYMENT LEARNING AND SKILLS***

### **POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD**

### **APRIL 2008 – MARCH 2009**

“ This has been a very busy and productive year for the Employment Learning and Skills Policy and Performance Board and I would like to offer my sincere thanks to Board members for all the work they have undertaken. The Board undertook a very challenging programme of monitoring, scrutiny, visits and policy development. I believe it is making a substantial contribution to improving the way the council and its partners work together and particularly note the increasingly close relationship with the Employment Learning and Skills Specialist Strategic Partnership, whose meetings I attend on behalf of this Board”.

Councillor Eddie Jones, Chairman Employment Learning and Skills Policy and Performance Board

#### MEMBERSHIP AND RESPONSIBILITIES

During 2006/07 the Board comprised eleven Councillors – Councillors Eddie Jones, Frank Fraser, Dave Austin, Marjorie Bradshaw, Susan Edge, David Findon, Harry Howard, Stan Parker, John Stockton, Christopher Rowe and Philip Worrall.

The Board is responsible for scrutinising performance and formulating policy in relation to the Culture and Leisure Services and the Economic Regeneration Departments. The primary functions are to focus on the work of the Council (and its partners) in seeking to improve economic prosperity, to further develop culture and community cohesion, to improve the skills and employment prospects of its residents, and to scrutinise progress against the Corporate Plan in relation to the Employment, Learning and Skills priority

#### REVIEW OF THE YEAR

The full Board met 5 times during the year, and set out below are some of the main initiatives that the Board has worked on during the year.

#### *Community Cohesion*

The Board received an update on community cohesion matters and considered a range of performance indicators that could be used to measure progress.

*Local Area Agreement*

The Board considered the progress made on the Local Area Agreement (LAA), particularly in relation to targets for employment, skills and enterprise development.

*Employment Learning and Skills Specialist Strategic Partnership (SSP)*

The Chairman of this Board is a member of both the Employment Learning and Skills SSP and its Performance Sub Group. It was agreed to further develop the relationship between the two Boards that the SSP minutes would be regularly considered at PPB meetings.

*Community Development*

The Board received an annual report on **Community Development** service (2007-08) that directly supported 90 community organisations involving 2,084 active volunteers (increase of 945 from the previous year).

The Board received an annual report on **Community Centres** scrutinising capacity usage of the Council's five facilities by members of the public, other Council departments and partner agencies.

The Board received an annual report on impact of **Voluntary Sector Core Grant** funding for 2007-08 and considered the mid-year performance for 2008-09. It also considered a report on the criteria and assessment process for accessing community grants.

*Libraries*

The Board considered a number of reports on Libraries in Halton. This included a presentation on the investment in Halton Lea Library, an update on the Big Lottery CORE (Community Opportunities through Reading and Engagement) programme, and the progress being made on delivery of the mobile library services.

*Arts Policy and Public Art*

The Board also considered the development of an Arts Policy and considered the relationship between arts development work and the Council's wider corporate strategy. The Board also considered the draft Public Arts Strategy including the development of a new part time post (externally funded) that would help to kick start public art across the Borough.

*Skills*

The Board established a joint topic group with the Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board to examine how to maximise the opportunities resulting from the investments in the logistics and distribution sector, most notably at 3MG. It also received a detailed report on progress on the Daresbury Science and Innovation Campus and considered a progress report on implementation of the skills action plan. The Board also considered the findings of a large scale survey of local businesses that sought to identify business skill needs. This was referred to the new Scrutiny Panel that was established to identify existing and future skill needs.

*Employment*

The Board considered the findings of research that sought to identify why certain parts of the Borough has persistently high levels of worklessness. This detailed report summarised a number of group sessions with workless and recently employed people and identified a number of key issues. The report was referred onto the Barriers to Work Scrutiny Panel for detailed consideration. It also reviewed the progress made on the Liverpool City Region Employment Strategy.

*Procurement*

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director Environment which detailed the recommendations of the Policy Board's Scrutiny Panel regarding the Council's Procurement Policy and its role in developing local employment opportunities.

*Service Plans*

The Board considered issues that should be fed into the service planning process and examined the draft service plans for Culture and Leisure Services and Economic Regeneration Departments.

*Sport*

The Board gave consideration to a report regarding how Halton is responding to the opportunities offered by the Olympic Games including; sports development grant scheme, elite performers and free pitch hire for junior sports clubs.

*Enterprise*

The Board reviewed progress on the Enterprise Action plan and considered the opportunities open to Halton through the new North West Development Agency enterprise programme.

*Free Swimming*

The Board considered a report regarding the government initiative to provide free swimming to all those aged over 60 and those under 16 for two years from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009. This is part of the government initiative to get two million people more active by 2012.

*Child Poverty*

The Board considered a report on Child Poverty in Halton. The report explained that whilst good progress had been made in reducing the overall numbers of children living in poverty, the government focus to date has been on those parents/carers that are out of work. However, there are still many children living in poverty who live in working households. Child poverty is a key focus for the Liverpool City Region Employment Strategy and the partnership is developing a common methodology framework for the development of child poverty action plans.

*Joint Needs Assessment*

The Board considered a report on the first Joint Strategic Needs Assessment Health. It discussed this at length and considered ways in which the activity within Employment learning and Skills can contribute to improving Health in the Borough.

*Fairfield High School – All weather pitch*

The Board considered a letter from the school regarding the all weather pitch provision at the site and how the existing pitch could be improved.

*Mersey Gateway*

The Board requested and received a report on the employment opportunities arising from the Mersey Gateway. The Board was keen to identify the range of opportunities (not just construction) that will arise and how apprenticeship, training places and jobs could be secured through the contracting arrangements.

*Performance Issues*

The Board considered the departmental quarterly monitoring reports through the year. It particularly noted the impact that the recession had on targets relating to inward investment and jobs created/safeguarded. Of real note was the positive impact the changes to the mobile library services which had seen visits increased by 130% and issues by 45%.

*Work Programme 2009/10*

The Board has decided that during the current municipal year (2009/10) it will complete the reviews of the following areas:

- Logistics – Joint with Urban Renewal
- Barriers to Employment

Additionally, the Board will commence reviews of:

- Workforce & Skills for Science and Technology joint with Urban Renewal
- Financial Inclusion
- Libraries

Members of the Public are welcome at the meetings of the Board. If you would like to know where and when meetings are to be held or if you would like any more information about the Board or its work please contact Gary Collins 01928 516100 [gary.collins@halton.gov.uk](mailto:gary.collins@halton.gov.uk)