



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

**Monday, 15 June 2015 at 6.30 p.m.
Council Chamber, Runcorn Town Hall**

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

Chief Executive

BOARD MEMBERSHIP

Councillor Susan Edge (Chairman)	Labour
Councillor Andrew MacManus (Vice-Chairman)	Labour
Councillor Sandra Baker	Labour
Councillor Lauren Cassidy	Labour
Councillor Harry Howard	Labour
Councillor Peter Lloyd Jones	Labour
Councillor Geoffrey Logan	Labour
Councillor Stan Parker	Labour
Councillor Carol Plumpton Walsh	Labour
Councillor Joe Roberts	Labour
Councillor Christopher Rowe	Liberal Democrat

*Please contact Ann Jones on 0151 511 8276 or e-mail
ann.jones@halton.gov.uk for further information.
The next meeting of the Board is on Monday, 21 September 2015*

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

Part I

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Members are reminded of their responsibility to declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interest or Other Disclosable Interest which they have in any item of business on the agenda, no later than when that item is reached or as soon as the interest becomes apparent and, with Disclosable Pecuniary interests, to leave the meeting during any discussion or voting on the item.	
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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 & Community
Policy & Performance Board

DATE: 15 June 2015

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Policy and Resources

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: Employment, Learning and Skills and Community Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 15 June 2015

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director Children and Economy

PORTFOLIO: Economic Development

SUBJECT: Annual Report 2014/15

WARDS: Boroughwide

1.0 PURPOSE AND CONTENT OF REPORT

1.1 To receive the Employment, Learning and Skills and Community Policy and Performance Boards' Annual Report for 2014/15.

2.0 RECOMMENDED: That the 2014/15 Annual Report be recommended to Full Council.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 Article 6 of the Constitution requires each Policy and Performance Board to submit an Annual Report to Council outlining their work, making recommendations for future work programmes and amended working methods as appropriate.

3.2 The Annual Report (see attached) has been submitted to the Employment, Learning and Skills, and Community Policy and Performance Board for consideration.

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 RISK ANALYSIS

None.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

None.

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

9.1 None under the meaning of the Act.

**ANNUAL REPORT
EMPLOYMENT LEARNING, SKILLS AND COMMUNITY POLICY AND
PERFORMANCE BOARD
APRIL 2014 – MARCH 2015**



Cllr. Sue Edge
Chairman

Introduction from Councillor Sue Edge

Chair of the Employment Learning, Skills and Community Performance Board

This has been my fifth year as Chair of this committee, and this year has brought a significant number of both challenges and opportunities. These include the contribution of the Mersey Gateway to improving skills and providing job opportunities for residents of Halton. We are continuing to work together with our partners across the Liverpool City Region, as part of the new Combined Authority to promote economic growth and provide employment opportunities for residents. In addition we continue to deliver essential services through our libraries, community centres, sports facilities and the continued neighbourhood activity supported by our Community Development Team. The Government's welfare reforms continue to put added pressure on our Employment, Learning and Skills services as we strive to help people improve their employment opportunities in a difficult economic climate. That said, through Halton's ELS and C PPB we have overseen a number of positive activities aimed at helping people to find work, growing our local businesses and increase the skills and qualifications of our residents. The review below provides a snapshot of these activities.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my Member colleagues for their valuable contributions and the support they have shown throughout the year and in particular I want to thank members who have agreed to give up their time to serve on the Welfare Reform Scrutiny Topic Group and the new Inward Investment Scrutiny Topic Group. I would also like to thank officers for working with me to develop an interesting and important range of topics and agenda items for consideration.

Although, there will be difficult times in the year ahead, I am confident that this PPB will continue to explore new and innovative ways of working to ensure that we provide the best possible Employment, Learning, Skills and Community services to the people of Halton.

I look forward to continuing to work together to make the most of the opportunities ahead and rise to challenges we will undoubtedly face.

Councillor Sue Edge

Chair, Employment, Learning, Skills and Community Policy and Performance Board

MEMBERSHIP AND RESPONSIBILITIES

During 2014/15, the Board comprised eleven Councillors – Councillors S. Edge (Chair) A. McManus (Vice Chair), L. Cassidy, H. Howard, P. Lloyd-Jones, G. Logan, C. Plumpton Walsh , S. Parker, J. Roberts, M. Ratcliffe and S. Baker.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

The full Board met five times during the year. Set out below are some of the main initiatives that the Board has worked on:

Liverpool City Region Enterprise Strategy

The Board considered a report on progress towards development of an Enterprise Strategy for the Liverpool City Region. The Strategy aims to develop and deliver a coherent plan of action to tackle the chronic shortage of businesses in the City region, which will impede economic performance. The Liverpool City region shortfall from the UK average currently stands at 18,500 and assuming an up-lift in UK business density in the next 20 years this will equate to at least 20,000 businesses in 20 years. The Strategy aims to create an environment where we can grow and develop new business opportunities across the City region.

Welfare Reform Scrutiny Review Report and Recommendations

The Board received a report on the process undertaken by the Scrutiny Topic group members to prioritise the recommendations from the Welfare Reform Scrutiny Topic Group. The aim of this work was to identify actions that are most likely to be of most benefit, so that resources can be targeted more effectively. A prioritisation tool was used to rank the recommended actions, based on agreed criteria, including costs and added benefits that were determined to be important.

Sport and Recreation Annual Report 2013-14

The board considered the priorities within the Halton Sports Strategy 2012 - 2015 which illustrated how sport had, and continued to enrich the lives of people living and working in Halton. Activities were used as an essential component in supporting and developing the infrastructure of the community and to improve the quality of life both physically and mentally.

Library Service Annual Report 2013-14

The Board considered a report on the Library Service which provides key resources in their communities, where they provide books, information and technology which promoted lifelong learning, digital inclusion and encouraged and celebrated reading. Libraries are important community spaces which offer a welcoming neutral environment and hosted a range of cultural activities, events and opportunities for all sections of the community. Libraries provided access to the Internet and quality assured online resources through more than 100 public computers and laptops. In 2013-14 a total of 415,406 items were borrowed and visits had risen which reflected the significant proportion of people using libraries for other purposes i.e. to access public computer facilities.

Advice Service Transition Fund

The Board received a presentation from Hitesh Patel, Halton CAB regarding the Advice Services Transition Fund. Halton CAB have secured "Advice Services Transition Fund" Lottery Funding to improve partnership working amongst Halton's numerous advice agencies. One of the key tasks had been to undertake a mapping exercise of all the agencies based in Halton which provide 'information', 'advice' or 'tribunal/court advocacy/representation' services. This work has been undertaken in partnership with Halton BC who are taking the "lead" to develop a multi-agency approach to helping people deal with the impact of the government's "Welfare Reform" agenda.

Halton's Work Programme Contracts

The Board received a presentation which provided an update on progress regarding Halton's Work Programme Contracts. The presentation set out the background to the programme, its delivery and the customer journey, performance against targets and challenges and opportunities ahead. The successful programme, works with customers referred via Job Centre plus to help them into employment.

Adult Learning Update

The board considered a report which provided an update on changes to Adult and Family Learning offered in the borough. This included amendments to the curriculum for 2014-15 to better align with the Council's priorities and reflect the wider economy. The 2014-15 curriculum contains more accredited provision with a bigger focus on progression routes into further or higher education. Longer courses spanning a full academic year, such as Counselling and a Teaching Assistant course are now offered.

Youth Employment Gateway

The Board received information on the Youth Employment Gateway Programme which commenced at the beginning of November. The Liverpool City Region has secured £5.9m of Government investment to deliver a programme to reduce youth unemployment across the City Region over the next three years. Each Local Authority has been given an allocation to deliver their scheme in their respective areas. The Programme will support young people aged 18-24 years old, who had been unemployed between 2 and 9 months.

Universal Credit – Welfare Reforms

The Board considered a presentation from the Council's Revenue and Benefits and Customer Services Division on the introduction of the Universal Credit Scheme. Universal Credit is a single payment for people who are looking for work or are on low incomes. It went live in Halton on 17 November 2014, bringing three key changes: a single household payment; being paid monthly; and rent being paid directly to the claimant. The presentation included an overview of the advice and support provided by the council's Welfare Rights Service to residents.

Community Centres Annual Report

The Board considered a report on the Community Centres service, which consists of five buildings, Castlefields, Ditton, Grangeway, Murdishaw and Upton. The centres deliver programmes of community activity, varying models of community cafés and service outlets, i.e children's centre, youth centre, day

services. These centres provide a community hub, a central point at the heart of these communities for residents to enjoy chosen activities and receive services in their neighbourhoods. They are based in the most severely deprived wards in the Borough and are well utilised.

Merseylink Employment & Skills Performance Update

The Board received a presentation on progress made to date against the Employment & Skills Key Performance Indicators associated with the new Mersey Gateway crossing, which include:

- *'A minimum of 3,000 hours per year **volunteer opportunities** delivered linked to the activities of the Visitor Centres and Community Relations Programme.'*
- *'A minimum of **10% of all new construction employees** to be sourced from Job Centre Plus, Work Programme and current local employment and career development.'*
- *'A minimum of **40 days per year (during Works) work based learning opportunities** for young people and adults living within Halton.'*
- *'To deliver **15 weeks work experience** placements per annum, during the construction works to support both adults and young people.'*
- *'**10% of all labour on the construction works being delivered by New Apprenticeships**, including higher apprenticeses.'*
- *'The target of **80% of all new apprenticeships** recruited through the Mersey Gateway Project to **complete their framework**'.*
- ***100 days Timebank support per annum** during the construction period for the delivery of targeted and meaningful support for Halton Borough Council, local third sector community organisation and educational establishments.'*

European Programme 2014 - 2020

The Board received an update on the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) Programme for Halton 2014 to 2020 and advised that the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) was co-ordinating the implementation of the Programme. The Board also considered a Halton 'position paper' aimed at presenting to the LEP how Halton could contribute to the delivery of the European Programme. The Liverpool City Region has received approximately £185 million, with an indicative allocation of £16.9 million ring fenced for Halton.

Inward Investment Scrutiny Topic Group 2015

In March 2015, the Board established an Inward Investment Scrutiny Topic Group to determine if:

- The inward investment service provided in Halton is fit for purpose;
- There is synergy between a local and city-region wide inward investment service and where added value can be obtained.

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 Wesley Rourke on 0151 511 8645 or e-mail: Wesley.rourke@halton.gov.uk

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

DATE: 15th June 2015

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director – Children and Economy

PORTFOLIO: Economic Development

SUBJECT: A Dual Mandate for Adult Vocational Education

WARD(S) Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To provide a summary of the Government’s consultation document ‘A dual mandate for adult vocational education’

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That: Employment, Learning, Skills and Community Policy and Performance Board are recommended to:-

- (1) Welcome the work underway in developing a Halton consultation response; and
- (2) Delegate the final approval of the Halton consultation response to the Operational Director (Economy, Enterprise and property) in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Economic Development and Chair of the Employment Learning and Skills and Community PPB.

3.0 OVERVIEW

3.1 In March 2015, the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills published a consultation paper entitled, “A dual mandate for adult vocational education”. The consultation, which closes in June 2015, summarises Government’s proposals for future adult vocational education and asks a wide variety of questions regarding the proposals. This report summarises a number of key themes within the consultation.

3.2 The consultation document describes what has been done since 2010 to promote vocational education and training for adults across further and higher education sectors and analyses England's

performance on higher level vocational education against our comparator nations. The report identifies three core themes associated with higher level skills (funding; institution building; and the ownership and development of qualifications, standards and curricula) and recognises the importance of individuals being given a second chance to gain the fundamental skills required for life and work.

- 3.3 Higher level vocational education is defined as education which goes above what should be achieved in compulsory education, but will often not involve a full-time academic degree. This is an area where England has had a historic weakness and where we continue to lag behind the performance of other developed countries.
- 3.4 The second part of the document focuses on further education which provides a vital lifeline to those, often in the most disadvantaged circumstances, who reached adulthood without the basic skills they need for the workplace or for modern life. The documents sets out how the Government will improve the delivery of basic skills and community learning by allowing greater flexibility for providers to tailor services to the needs of users and to innovate by encouraging the development of a more diverse supplier base.
- 3.5 The final section of the document looks at the implications for providers of adult further education, particularly further education (FE) colleges. It sets out two key trends that the Government forecast will continue over the rest of this decade and beyond. First, reductions in public funds for skills are unlikely to be reversed, and resource allocation will increasingly be contestable. Secondly, effective delivery will increasingly require greater specialisation.
- 3.5 The Government's support to a shift to greater influence and control over skills at the local level is also reflected in this document. The document explores how greater influence at the local level, as signaled by City Deals and the Devolution Agreements may be further strengthened and extended in future years.
- 3.6 The consultation period is open until **16 Jun 2015**. There are 44 questions to answer in the consultation document. Halton has worked together with our partners from the Halton Employment Partnership to develop a response to the consultation; the draft response is attached in **Appendix 1**. Members are advised that not all the questions will be relevant to the Local Authority.

4.0 **KEY POINTS**

4.1 **Dual mandate**

4.1.1 The Government sees adult education as having a dual mandate:

- To provide higher vocational education for the workplace with a focus on higher level professional and technical skills.
- Provide second chances for those who have not succeeded in the school system.

4.2 **Higher Vocational Education for the workplace**

4.2.1 Higher vocational education covers education and training provision which is focused on employer need at level 4 through to 8, and is being delivered by providers across the further education and higher education sectors. England lags behind other countries in terms of participation in higher vocational training, for a number of reasons including a focus by schools and individuals on university academic study, attitudes that higher vocational education is 'second tier', a decline in employer contributions for vocational training and change in focus away from part time and shorter programmes such as technical certificates . This is at a time when the demand from industry for higher level technical skills is growing due to an ageing workforce and people retiring alongside a demand created from business growth.

4.2.2 The Government sets out the three key themes associated with higher level vocational training:

- Funding
- Qualifications, standards and curricula
- Institution building

4.2.3 **Funding** – The Government has already made a number of policy changes regarding funding, including moving apprenticeship funding directly to employers (with the intention of making higher vocational education more responsive to the needs of employers and learners), introducing Advanced Learning Loans and access to tuition fee loans for part time first degrees in key subject areas. Going forward the funding for adult skills will continue to be constrained so needs to be focused to gain maximum impact. The Government is consulting on the introduction of a new national awarding body or committee, to grant higher vocational awarding powers reducing bureaucracy. The Government is also consulting on foundation

degrees including the role of employers in their design, development and delivery.

- 4.2.4 **Qualifications, standards and curricula** – The Government wants to see more high quality vocational qualifications based on employers' needs. Some reforms have already been implemented with new reforms planned, for example new employer produced standards with clear outcomes for apprenticeships and work with employers to develop new Degree Apprenticeship models. The consultation also asks if we should make work experience an expected part of all higher vocational education.
- 4.2.5 **Institution building** – High status institutions, which adopt new technology, and prepare students to meet modern business needs, are vital if they are to establish quality higher vocational education which young people aspire to study. There is a need for high quality vocational education to cut across the traditional distinctions between academic 'higher' education and lower level further education. The government response has included establishing National Colleges set up with employers to deliver technical higher education from level 4 up to post graduate level, as well as professional development. The Government sets out its ambition to support FE colleges to develop centres of expertise in higher vocational skills in areas aligned with the needs of their local and regional economies. They also want to see more effective collaboration between colleges, universities and research and development to help develop a workforce that is capable of adapting to innovation.
- 4.3 **Provide second chances for those who have not succeeded in the school system.**
- 4.3.1 Too many people in the UK have failed to reach the levels they should reach by 16. 78 per cent of the population do not have level 2 skills in maths and c. 50 per cent do not have this level of English. On international comparisons England is barely at the OECD average for literacy and below this for numeracy, despite being one of the wealthiest economies in the OECD. Many people in England, young and old, lack the confidence, motivation and presentation skills needed to secure and succeed in interviews, and in employment. Further education can support these people to succeed in a way they didn't in their formal education, through help to secure employment or support to improve their educational

attainment and progress in their life. This will reduce benefits dependency, improve employability and potentially lead to an increase in wages as new skills are developed.

4.3.2 To do this the Government wants to see more flexible, innovative and accessible provision, an appropriate diversity of providers, a clearer focus on outcomes and robust local accountability, through local partnerships. To deliver this the Government are consulting on new approaches to commissioning, with strong commitment to localised delivery, including:

- review the funding model for Community Learning to consider giving more weight to factors such as the population levels or relative disadvantage in different geographical areas;
- Reinforcing the partnership approach in Community Learning by procuring through existing or new partnerships in each geographical area rather than through individual providers;
- Procuring instead through a lead provider on behalf of a broader coalition of providers;
- Revising commissioning to allow the introduction of new national or regional providers with a reach beyond their immediate location, but a strong commitment to localised delivery;
- Reviewing the barriers between Community Learning and Adult Skills Budget provision to facilitate greater joining up of progression routes for harder to reach adults.

4.4 **Adult further education colleges**

4.4.1 The final chapter of the consultation looks at the implications of the dual mandate for adult further education colleges, against a background of wider change in the way in which Government funds education for adults, and the Government's wider strategy of empowering local places to make decisions on economic development. The government spells out very clearly that, 'We have instituted a programme of reform that leaves no doubt that structural change in the sector is required'. On the financial sustainability of colleges, it seems to be encouraging colleges to choose whether they should be specialising, e.g. in 'second chance' education or high level adult learning. According to the document, the programme of reform will shift to a funding system that is driven by employers and learners.

- 4.4.2 Colleges adapting to the new system will have to focus on a range of issues including working in partnership with local employers and other local stakeholders, focusing explicitly on their strengths or growth in different types of activity and developing specialisms in line with their local labour market needs. Colleges will also need to manage the impact of changed provision in a way which is sustainable and minimises the impact on existing learners.

5.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 Although this is a consultation document, if the future plans contained in the report are adopted, they will have a significant bearing on how Adult Education Services are delivered in the borough. It is envisaged that the Halton Employment Partnership will need to play a role in determining which partners are best placed to respond to the recommendations in the report and agree to 'who does what?' so that a coherent and consistent adult education service continues to be provided. Whilst the document refers to more flexible, innovative and accessible provision, education training and skills providers will be under increasing pressure to deliver courses that come with funding. This may have an impact on the ability of partners to fulfil some of the objectives presented in the report. For example, whilst the proposal is to provide colleges with options in terms of what they deliver and how they deliver, there may be a disincentive to deliver non-income generating courses.

6.0 **OTHER/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 Although there are no direct financial implications at this time, the consultation document refers to a future allocation of resources based on need and deprivation.

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

7.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

Development of local opportunities for vocational educational training with a focus on employment is likely to offer new opportunities and broaden life chances for young people in further education.

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

This consultation is likely to impact upon the adult skills and FE offer in the borough. Also the way funding is provided and managed may change with a key focus on local partnerships and robust

accountability.

7.3 **A Healthy Halton**

There are no direct policy implications on health from the report, however offering second chances for adults to access training should help to improve their wellbeing and health.

7.4 **A Safer Halton**

There are no direct policy implications from the report.

7.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

There are no direct policy implications from the report; however growth or a change in the FE sector may require new investment into the local area in time.

8.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

8.1 As this report is a consultation document, there are no risks at this time.

9.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

9.1 **None**

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

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
A Dual Mandate for adult Vocational Education	Rutland House, Runcorn	Debbie houghton

APPENDIX 1

A dual mandate for adult vocational education consultation - response form

A DUAL MANDATE FOR ADULT VOCATIONAL EDUCATION CONSULTATION

Response Form

MARCH 2015

A copy of the consultation document can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/adult-vocational-education-challenges-over-the-next-decade>

A further version of the response form is also available to complete on line at:

<https://bisgovuk.citizenspace.com/fe/a-dual-mandate-for-adult-vocational-education>

You can email or post this completed response form to:

Postal Address:

Strategic Funding Policy Team
Bay G
Department for Business, Innovation and Skills
2nd Floor
2 St Paul's Place
Sheffield
S1 2FJ

Email: FE.reform@bis.gsi.gov.uk

If you are emailing the document, please include "dual mandate" in the subject box.

The Department may, in accordance with the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information, make available, on public request, individual responses.

The closing date for this consultation is: 16 June 2015

Your details

Name:

Organisation (if applicable): Halton Borough council

Address: Municipal Building, Kingsway, Widnes, WA8 7QY

Telephone:

Email:

Please tick the box below that best describes you as a respondent to this consultation

- Representative organisation
- Independent Training Provider
- College
- Awarding Organisation
- Charity or social enterprise
- Individual
- Legal representative
- x Local government
- Local Enterprise Partnership
- Large business (over 250 staff)
- Medium business (50 to 250 staff)
- Small business (10 to 49 staff)
- Micro business (up to 9 staff)
- Professional body
- Trade union or staff association
- Industrial Strategy sector
- Other (please describe)

National Colleges

Question 1: How can the National College proposals be developed to ensure the employers across the whole sector benefit?

Halton is part of the Liverpool City Region and the city region has published a suite of Skills for Growth Agreements each relating to a specific growth sector within the City Region. Developed in consultation with a wide range of businesses across the respective sectors, these Agreements provide schools, colleges, training providers and universities with detailed information regarding the skills needs of the City Region's employers and make clear recommendations on how they can best tailor their provision to respond to these needs. This work, along with additional employer engagement across the Liverpool City Region, continues to identify the importance of an individual's attitude, work ethic and broader 'employability' skills as a key consideration for employers during the recruitment process and for an individual's further career progression.

The model currently being applied to the Apprenticeship Trailblazers is a good one to be developed further to engage employers in the whole sector.

Question 2: How can National Colleges best work in partnership with local FE colleges, private training organisations and HEIs?

Key to the success of National Colleges are effective accountability and partnership arrangements. In addition, mapping of curriculum pathways is essential.

Establishing partnerships with FE, private training organisations and HEIs would be a rigorous process involving consultation within geographical areas, evaluation of quality standards and inspection grades. Taking into account existing local labour market research is also critical to help determine suitable provision within specific localities.

Question 3: Which priority sectors should be targeted for future National Colleges?

Logistics

Low carbon

Knowledge economy (science, technology)

Communications and branding

Question 4a: Would you support rebranding English higher vocational education as either "Professional Education and Training" or "Professional and Technical Education"?

Yes x

No

Don't know

Question 4b: If so, which would you prefer and why?

Professional Education and Training **Professional and Technical Education** x

Please explain your response:

Employers are more likely to recognise this term and associate it with particular disciplines. The term 'vocational' tends to lead thoughts to hairdressing, etc.

Question 5: Would you support a national advertising and marketing campaign for higher vocational education?

Yes x **No** **Don't know**

Please explain your response:

If we really want to make an impact and dispel myths that might currently exist, a strong and influential marketing campaign, delivered by employers, would be needed over a long term.

Question 6: What other means of promoting higher vocational education do you think would be desirable?

Enhanced and more effective careers guidance within schools, colleges and for parents/guardians. Employers would need to promote the value of HVE within their own businesses and sectors and employer champions could be used to share good practice through existing networks.

Question 7: How can we encourage more individuals to study higher vocational education?

Employer buy-in is critical in raising the profile of higher vocational education as a valued option and a long term career choice. Effective IAG for schools, parents and colleges is absolutely crucial. In Liverpool City Region we hold an annual Graduation Ceremony for L3 and above apprentices as a means of bringing some parity to apprenticeship achievements and degree success.

Part-time higher education provision

Question 8: How can we encourage more individuals to study part-time Higher Education?

Employers would need to co-invest, for example, through pay incentives for those that achieve HVE qualifications, through funding qualifications for staff, advertising job roles as a job with training, etc.

The level of fees required for studying part time would be a huge factor for individuals to take into account. Making part time study accessible financially would be welcomed.

A new overarching body to manage awarding powers for higher level vocational qualifications

Question 9: Should a new overarching vocationally focused body be established to grant higher vocational awarding powers?

Yes

No

Don't know

Please explain your response:

Question 10: How could we increase the role of employers in scrutinising applications for new awarding powers?

There are already Local Enterprise Partnerships in place in City Regions which are employer led. In Liverpool City Region the Employment and Skills Board has a broad and fully representative membership with a thorough understanding of the local economy. Making use of existing arrangements should be mandatory for any applications for awarding body powers.

Question 11a: How can the role of National Colleges in defining qualifications, apprenticeships standards and assessments and curricula best be taken forward?
COLLEGE BEST PLACED TO RESPOND

Question 11b: Should other, high performing providers be empowered to do this?

Yes

No

Don't know

Please explain your response:

Question 12: Are the right awarding powers in place to facilitate an increase in the uptake of HNC, HND and BTEC type qualifications?

Yes

No

Don't know

Please explain your response:

Question 13: How do we design delivery and assessment in a way which imparts work ethics, occupational attitudes and standards, while enabling learners to reflect on and improve these?

Question 14: How do we develop these mechanisms without losing existing quality products that already meet these standards and which employers recognise and have faith in?

Refocusing the Foundation Degree curriculum

Question 15: Should the Government be prescriptive about the role of employers in the design, development and delivery of Foundation Degrees?

Yes x

No

Don't know

Please explain your response:

Whichever 'board' has approval to approve qualifications, then they should include employers from that relevant sector.

COLLEGE BEST PLACED TO RESPOND

Reviewing Foundation Degrees Awarding Powers (FDAPs)

Question 16: Should we consider some form of specialised FDAPs rather than general powers to award any kind of foundation degree?

Yes

No

Don't know

Please explain your response:

Question 17: Could the FDAPs process and/or criteria be changed to improve access while maintaining quality?

Yes

No

Don't know

Please explain your response:

Question 18: How do we ensure that the quality assurance arrangements are appropriate to foster the right type of HVE (higher vocational education)?

Work-based learning and higher vocational education

Question 19: Should all HVE courses involve work based learning?

Yes x

No

Don't know

Please explain your response:

There is the opportunity to develop academic skills alongside vocational/technical experience. Additionally, work based learning allows the application of skills and knowledge in a real life context.

COLLEGE BEST PLACED TO RESPOND

Specialisation in colleges

Question 20: Are there other lessons to learn from the implementation of the CoVE (Centres of Vocational Excellence) programme?

Yes

No

Don't know

Please explain your response:

Question 21: Should there be a new status for colleges specialising in higher level vocational skills as the Institute of Public Policy Research recommended?

Yes

No

Don't know

Please explain your response:

Question 22: How can we support FE colleges to achieve excellence in higher level vocational skills?

Sci- Tech Daresbury (?) best placed to respond??

HVE in the higher education setting – extending the role of universities and links with research and innovation

Question 23: What are the barriers to effective collaboration between colleges, universities and Catapult centres?

Question 24a: Should all Catapult centres be engaged in developing vocational education and higher level vocational skills training?

Yes

No

Don't know

Question 24b: If so, how best can this be achieved?

Question 25: What should the role of universities, colleges and Catapult centres be in growing technician level skills?

Question 26: How do we ensure even stronger employer/university engagement?

Stronger virtual learning and use of technology

Question 27: How can Government drive the further adoption of new technology in FE institutions?

Skills Capital Investment from Government should be devolved to city regions to manage at a local level and take account of new technologies and key growth sectors in the area to ensure that public funding helps drive the adoption of new technologies in the local FE institutions.

Key governmental departments need to be joined up on their thinking with regards to delivery of the digital inclusion and connectivity agenda to ensure resources are more targeted to meet these evolving requirements.

More partnering between research and innovation centres, universities and FE institutions must be developed and this should include upskilling of staff.

Making the overall system more effective

Question 28: What is the best way to ensure greater local accountability on the part of providers towards learners and employers, in terms of relevance and quality of provision, and social and economic impacts?

In Halton we have some excellent partnerships already in place that have developed in strength and impact over the years. These include the Halton Employment Partnership (HEP) which brings together the expertise of agencies and businesses with an interest in employment and skills within the borough. Individual partners bring the intelligence they have gathered from their own areas, for example, their housing residents, benefit claimants,

constituents, learners, etc. and design a curriculum pathway that leads to upskilling of local residents to meet the needs of local employers. Often, community learning partners do not have the capacity or resources to attend meetings and unless funding is readily available, they struggle to commit to partnership working in some cases. The HEP is a very strong partnership made up of all key players and delivers real, positive outcomes for local residents.

Giver accountability powers to existing partnerships should be the way forward.

The HEP currently reports into the Local Strategic Partnership.

Question 29a: What benefits would there be to commissioning Adult Skills Budget provision through local partnerships or through a lead provider acting on behalf of a partnership?

FE colleges are in a strong position to deliver on ASB provision and if they are good quality, well performing providers, they would still be best placed to deliver on ASB provision; however, how this budget is spent does not always involve great consultation in terms of curriculum planning. College governing bodies do provide a scrutiny role but further consultation (and accountability) with wider partnerships would be welcomed.

Decision making for all skills budgets should be devolved to city region level so that a comprehensive understanding of local skills priorities and provider performance is taken into account when allocating funding. This would ensure residents of all ages were able to access high quality and relevant training provision.

Question 29b: What downsides might there be to such an approach?

As long as the city region teams have a good understanding of local borough needs and priorities, there are very few downsides to this commissioning approach. Other downsides are that existing ASB funded providers could be placed at risk in terms of funding cuts and that existing provision may then not be available at a local borough level. Additionally, if ASB provision was to be commissioned at a city region level rather than allocated as it is now, the increased timescales for bidding/planning would need to be factored into any competitive tendering process.

Question 30: How do we ensure a stronger focus on outcomes without encouraging cherry picking of the easiest to help?

All learners should have the opportunity to be assessed to determine their starting point and their aspirations/goals. Currently, this service is not available across the board. The outcomes of these assessments should then be used to influence levels and types of provision and commissioning carried out accordingly to meet these needs.

Some current provision does lend itself to situations of cherry picking, yet those working with the hardest to engage learners are not recognised for

helping these learners achieve a positive outcome. It is much easier to work with someone newly unemployed than it is to work with a long term unemployed resident with multiple barriers.

Introduction of an 'added value' measure should be awarded to those providers working with the hardest to engage that achieve positive outcomes, e.g. an interview, volunteering experience or a job.

Current funding arrangements don't take account of the additional work required by adult learning providers who work with the hardest to engage.

Question 31: What issues would there be with supporting programmes of study rather than qualifications?

If programmes of study were supported these would need to be supported alongside qualification bearing programmes. Programmes of study would need to have robust systems in place to capture positive outcomes/progression/achievements. For example, Halton Borough Council's Adult Learning Service captures Learner Impact Measures across a range of areas, including improved mental health and well-being, confidence levels, budgeting skills, relationships and job prospects. Learners are surveyed at the end of their learning programme and are asked to rank a range of statements. This simple and effective survey provides valuable evidence for the positive impact on all learning programmes, qualification bearing or not.

Testing alternative approaches

Question 32: What risks do we need to cater for in testing out new local arrangements to deliver skills provision for unemployed individuals and those with skills below level 2?

Risk : Performance targets. Viability.

These skills will require a longer journey for the unemployed less than level 2 skilled, as we know that there are particular barriers for longer termed unemployed and a more holistic approach in smaller groups is advisable. This will be more costly. There should be stepping stone approaches for unemployed adults in basic skills and there should be an allowance made for the provider working with those harder to reach, in the success rates, which may be lower than within mainstream delivery.

Question 33: What new approaches can be taken on commissioning and funding streams to maximise the value gained from public spending to support unemployed and disadvantaged learners?

VCS partners are very well placed to deliver to the communities they serve but are very often unable to get through the ROTO process, in order to deliver on behalf of local colleges, especially if working with more than one college. Conditions should be relaxed for the smaller and

very new VCS organisations involved in training as there is an over emphasis on risk and this thwarts creativity. In addition could there be a relaxation of how often an organisation has to be resubmitted through the ROTO process and rather than go through the whole process again, a shorter version be developed which merely checks for any new risks (ie submitting of recent accounts etc) In this way the government is assisting those who are community based small organisations who get fantastic results for the unemployed locally. If we evaluated Pilots for impact, this would be a way of promoting social value and case studies could be used after the pilots.

Community Learning

Question 34: If we were to make the changes described in paragraph 208 of the consultation document, how should we look to phase them in over time?

Question 35: Would a greater focus on commissioning partnerships enhance partnership working and deliver a more coherent Community Learning offer?

Yes but I think that VCS representation from a strategic perspective should be involved in the process. VCS organisations in each borough are usually best placed to be involved in the commissioning process as they do not tend to deliver themselves and are usually more involved in infrastructure support of the VCS organisations. However this should not be a problem even if VCS are involved in delivery as this would mirror the others within the partnership. A good partnership will develop trust in the commissioning of projects.

Question 36: What would be the pitfalls and unintended consequences that could arise from these potential reforms and how can we avoid them?

Question 37a: Do you agree that some institutions, such as Specialist Designated Institutions (SDIs), play a unique role within the wider sector and should continue to receive funding on an individual basis?

Yes

No

Don't know x

Question 37b: Are there other organisations that should be considered alongside the SDIs?

Question 38: What would be the risks associated with these proposals?

Question 39: Would there be benefits from greater integration of Community Learning and Adult Skills Budget funded provision?

Supporting the development of resilience in the sector

Question 40: What are the barriers preventing some colleges from adjusting their provision and approach?

Question 41: What lessons can we learn from colleges who have already made significant changes?

Question 42: How can relationships between localities and FE providers be strengthened?

Question 43: What are the risks to colleges and providers with the shift towards greater local influence and control over skills funding and accountability?

Question 44: What are the advantages/disadvantages of Central Government taking an active intervention role in the FE landscape, including supporting new entrants and/or supporting mergers and rationalisation?

Advantages:

Disadvantages:

Thank you for taking the time to let us have your views on this consultation. We do not acknowledge receipt of individual responses unless you tick the box below.

Please acknowledge this reply

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

DATE: 15 June 2015

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director – Children and Economy

PORTFOLIO: Economic Development

SUBJECT: Update on the development and
implementation of the European Programme for
the Liverpool City Region

WARD(S) Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To provide an update on the development and implementation of the European Programme for the Liverpool City Region.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the Board Note the report.

3.0 BACKGROUND

3.1 The LCR Employment and Skills Board have held detailed discussions and consulted on the proposed allocations for the Inclusive Economy element of the City Region's European programme. This led to an allocation which was approved and submitted to the City Region's ESIF Committee on 26 February 2015. This approved allocation is attached as Appendix 1 and was submitted to the Department for Work and Pensions as Managing Authority for the ESF programme.

4.0 COMMISSIONING CALLS - MARCH 2015

4.1 The usual way of securing contractual agreements for European funding is by means of the publication of commissioning calls. These set out the broad themes or activities that are required with a level of funds available. Bidders are expected to submit an outline application (which outlines the proposed activities and costs) which is appraised by Department for Work and Pensions. If this is supported, applicants must submit a full and detailed application for review: bidders will have about 8 weeks to complete each application.

4.2 Department for Work and Pensions will complete a full appraisal on applications based upon value for money, eligibility and suitability, and will invite local areas to provide a perspective on local strategic fit. This will give the Liverpool City Region the opportunity to review applications and consider which ones best fit with local needs and priorities. The process and timescale by which this local view is captured is being developed by the LCR.

4.3 Government published a call for Access to Employment support for the City Region on Friday 27 March 2015, with a closing date of 22 May 2015. This covers the following funding:-

Investment area		ESF (£m)	YEI (£m)
1.1	Adults into work	10.900	0.000
1.2	Young people (not YEI eligible)	0.600	0.000
1.3	Youth Employment Initiative	19.684	19.684
TOTAL		31.184	19.684

4.4 The detail included under each investment area is in line with that requested by the City Region and endorsed by both the LCR Employment and Skills Board and the ESIF Committee in February 2015. The call outline has flexibility in that it lists a range of activities to be commissioned through the Youth Employment Initiative funding for the total funding, rather than allocating funding to specific headings.

4.5 The commissioning call is published on part of the Government website and the link to this has been distributed to Councils, relevant infrastructure organisations, partners and associations. This was supplemented by an Information Day on 2 April 2015, at which the City Region set out its priorities and desires to over 210 people from organisations who were interested in apply for European funding within the City Region. They were briefed to engage with the City Region on strategic issues and with Department for Work and Pensions on technical issues.

4.6 Government also released a call for Technical Assistance funding. This is designed to help local areas to bring forward a pipeline of applications for European funds, to communicate the impact that the funds are having locally and to conduct evaluations of activity. This is expected to be a single bid from the City Region as a whole for integrated support for both ESF and ERDF applicants.

4.7 The other method of securing contracts with providers for activities is through a procurement service which local areas can opt in to use. The City Region has agreed to opt in to the services offered by Skills Funding Agency, Department for Work and Pensions and Big Lottery Fund, and these bodies will be applying for European funds to be used through their opt in service.

5.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 The utilisation of European funding will enable organisations in the City Region to deliver services to residents and businesses in line with the LCR and Halton priorities. There will be a capacity issue in managing the funding applications that come forward and the relationships with the opt in service providers, however this is being looked at by the LCR.

6.0 **OTHER/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 There is a need to identify match funding alongside the allocated European funding.

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

7.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

There is a significant opportunity for the EU programme to benefit all of the Council's priorities. Specific projects will be developed to support Children and Young People, targeting the resources where they are most needed.

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

Overall the EU programme will assist in providing job opportunities for local people and will go some way in addressing the level of unemployment in Halton. The projects proposed will support the local economy, local businesses and the local community which in turn will skill up Halton's workforce and create more jobs locally.

7.3 **A Healthy Halton**

The EU programme will promote healthier communities through jobs opportunities, the development of green transport and housing initiatives.

7.4 **A Safer Halton**

The EU programme will complement the initiatives of the Mersey Gateway Regeneration Strategy and the good work of the Police and Community Safety and through its projects look to reduce the fear of crime.

7.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

The EU programme will act as a catalyst to attract developers and new businesses to the area by creating an attractive, well-accessed and serviced area, which provides a safe and attractive environment

for employees and visitors.

8.0 RISK ANALYSIS

8.1 There is a risk that local organisations will not be aware of the opportunities to bid in for European funding. This has been mitigated by communicating opportunities with networks and associations, including the Halton Employment Partnership and the Employment, Learning and Skills SSP amongst others. There is a risk that the applications do not meet the City Region's priorities and aspirations. This will be mitigated by the LCR providing a strategic fit assessment to Department for Work and Pensions.

9.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

9.1 Equality and diversity are picked up within all European funding applications as a cross cutting theme for applicants to respond to. There are no specific equality and diversity issues associated with the report.

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

None under the meaning of the Act

APPENDIX 1 Liverpool City Region proposed usage of European Social Funds

	ESF £	YEI £	Total £	Numbers engaged (estimated)	Job outcomes (Estimated)
Coaching and mentoring support (YEG)	4,200,000	4,200,000	8,400,000	7,151	3,575
Open access information advice and guidance	1,465,000	1,465,000	2,930,000	7,982	2,395
Creation of 6 month wage subsidy jobs	1,350,000	1,350,000	2,700,000	460	184
Creation of 12 month wage subsidy jobs for those with multiple disadvantages	1,800,000	1,800,000	3,600,000	306	92
Support for those at risk of NEET	600,000		600,000	200	
Flexible integrated employment support for adults	10,000,000		10,000,000	3,448	690
Total	15,215,000	4,615,000	19,830,000	12,396	3,361
Support to young people who are detached from services	2,000,000	2,000,000	4,000,000	371	74
Employability and job related training	1,950,000	1,950,000	3,900,000	3,900	1,560
Digital and functional skills	1,300,000	1,300,000	2,600,000	2,167	
Total	3,250,000	3,250,000	6,500,000	6,067	1,560
Longer term intensive mentoring support	1,450,000	1,450,000	2,900,000	988	198
Support for young people into enterprise	1,290,000	1,290,000	2,580,000	879	176
Travel support for young people	1,750,000	1,750,000	3,500,000	8,046	
Travel support for all ages	900,000		900,000	2,069	
Total	2,650,000	1,750,000	4,400,000	10,115	-
Skills Show and road to the Skills Show	350,000		350,000	8,000	
Responsive skills fund	6,002,509		6,002,509	4,002	
Apprenticeship promotion and brokerage	275,000	275,000	550,000		
Total	6,627,509	275,000	6,902,509	12,002	-

	ESF £	YEI £	Total £	Numbers engaged (estimated)	Job outcomes (Estimated)
Small grants for community and voluntary sector organisations	1,250,000		1,250,000		
Digital inclusion	1,250,000		1,250,000	4,310	
Financial inclusion	1,250,000		1,250,000	2,694	
Total	2,500,000	-	2,500,000	7,004	-
Promotion of access and development	600,000		600,000	3,448	
Development and delivery of responsive higher level skills	3,600,000		3,600,000	3,103	
Total	4,200,000	-	4,200,000	6,551	-
Creation of 6 month temporary jobs for young people	3,870,000	3,870,000	7,740,000	1,668	667
Strategic labour market information and intelligence	280,000		280,000		
Flexible employment support for those with most need	2,060,000		2,060,000	412	
Purchasing of additional open age information advice and guidance	365,000		365,000	730	219
Grand total	51,207,509	22,700,000	73,907,509	66,334	9,830

#

REPORT TO:	Employment, Learning and Skills and Community Policy and Performance
DATE:	15 June 2015
REPORTING OFFICER:	Strategic Director, Children and Economy
PORTFOLIO:	Economic Development
SUBJECT:	Scrutiny Topic Group Items
WARD(S)	Borough-wide

1.0 **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the Inward Investment Topic Group.

2.0 **RECOMMENDATION: That: Members note progress to date and support the next steps outlined in the report.**

3.0 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 At the PPB meeting in January 2015, Members were advised that the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority is developing a collaborative city region approach to inward investment.

3.2 ELS and C PPB Members agreed that it was important to understand the current arrangements for managing Inward Investment enquiries locally, including the source of these enquiries and the resources allocated to delivering the service. This would then determine whether there is synergy between a local and city-region wide inward investment service and where added value can be obtained.

3.3 Therefore, it was proposed that a Scrutiny Topic Group should be established in order that Members could evaluate the effectiveness of the current Inward Investment service and would assess where Halton's Inward Investment priorities should lie, together with an assessment of future resource requirements. The work would also be considered within the context of an emerging Liverpool City Region Business Growth hub (and its delivery locally), as well as the Halton Business Survey, previously reported to this Board.

3.4 The Topic Group would also consider the scope and principles that are being developed to formulate an Inward Investment Service for the Liverpool City Region and will assess whether the approach will be beneficial to Halton.

- 3.5 Members have asked that an interim report on the progress of the Inward Investment Topic Group would be reported to the June meeting.
- 3.6 Members are advised that a topic brief and programme has been prepared. This is provided in Appendix 1.
- 3.7 The first meeting focused on a review of Inward Investment in Halton, outlining the role of the Council's Business Improvement and Growth Team, the type of enquiries received and how enquiries are handled. An explanation of Inward Investment concepts i.e. Foreign Direct Investment and Investor Development. The notes of this meeting are contained in Appendix 2
- 3.8 At the second meeting, Mark Basnett Executive Director at the Local Enterprise Partnership attended to provide a presentation on the development of an Inward Investment Strategy for the Liverpool City Region and outlined some principles in respect of how partners will work together to develop a strong Inward Investment offer for the LCR. The notes of this meeting are contained in Appendix 3.
- 3.9 **Next Steps:** It is proposed that a third session is arranged which will focus on obtaining the views of the Business Community and business perceptions of the borough as a place in which to invest and do business. 'Expert witnesses' will be sought from local companies and the Chamber of Commerce. A final session will be used to draft the final report with the intention that this is presented to Members at the September PPB.

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The Liverpool City Region Combined Authority was established on 1st April 2014. It commits individual Local Authorities and the LEP to work more effectively and efficiently together in order to grow the economy of the Liverpool City Region. In return for this collaborative working, further devolvement of powers and resources to the Liverpool City Region is anticipated.
- 4.2 The proposition is that by working together, partners in the Liverpool City Region can deliver a 'best in class' investment service.

5.0 **OTHER/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

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

6.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

None.

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

There are a number of implications for this priority, although the Topic Groups will consider the implications in more detail.

However, by promoting a more efficient and proactive client-led approach to Inward Investment, this should lead to greater levels of investment and jobs in Halton.

6.3 **A Healthy Halton**

N/A

6.4 **A Safer Halton**

N/A

6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

N/A

7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 There are no risks identified. However, in preparing for this Scrutiny Topic, the following key steps have been applied

1. Have we chosen the right topic?
2. What are we looking at?
3. Why are we looking at this topic?
4. What do we hope to achieve?
5. Is the topic geared towards Halton's top priorities?

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

None under the meaning of the Act.

SCRUTINY SCOPING DOCUMENT

Employment, Learning, Skills and Community Scrutiny Panel

Review of Inward Investment 2015

Aims and Objectives

Aim and Objectives	<p>The aim of the review is to support the Employment, Learning, Skills and Community PPB to determine if:</p> <p>(a) the inward investment service provided in Halton is fit for purpose;</p> <p>(b) there is synergy between a local and city-region wide inward investment service and where added value can be obtained.</p>
Context/Background	<p>Halton Borough Council's Business Improvement and Growth (BIG) Team deliver Halton's inward investment service, which includes:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Managing inward investment enquiries from both inward investors and local companies wishing to expand and grow ▪ Managing the commercial property database and service enquiries for commercial property ▪ Engaging with the key companies in the Borough <p>The Liverpool City Region Local Enterprise Partnership has proposed the creation of a stand-alone inward investment agency for the City Region called 'Invest Liverpool'. However, any such agency would have to be resourced by the six Local Authorities, primarily through the</p>

SCRUTINY SCOPING DOCUMENT

	<p>provision of secondees.</p> <p>The LEP have issued a tender for a private sector consultancy to work with the Local Authorities to identify the ‘Liverpool City Region Offer’ for inward investment. Following this work an analysis will need to be undertaken to determine how city region collaboration would lead to a more effective service to investors and what this would mean in practice.</p> <p>However, in order to contribute to this analysis, it is important to understand the current arrangements for managing Inward Investment enquiries locally, including the source of these enquiries and the resources allocated to delivering the service. This will then help to determine whether there is synergy between a local and city-region wide inward investment service and where added value can be obtained.</p>
Methodology	
Timescale	<p>It is proposed that this review will be conducted during the period February to June 2015 with a view to submitting a report/ recommendations to the ELS&C PPB meeting in June 2015.</p> <p>It is proposed that the review will comprise 4 meetings, covering topics set out below, followed up by a final session to consider the content of Scrutiny topic Group report and recommendations.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) How does Halton’s inward investment service currently operate; 2) The Liverpool City Region Perspective; 3) Halton Business and Chamber of Commerce Perspective; 4) Final session to consider the content of Scrutiny topic Group report and recommendations. <p>Following endorsement by the ELS&C PPB, it is anticipated that the final Inward Investment</p>

SCRUTINY SCOPING DOCUMENT

	Scrutiny Topic Group report and recommendations will be submitted to a meeting of the Executive Board .
Scrutiny Topic Group Session 1	<p>Date of meeting: 12th March 2015</p> <p>Purpose of the session: To provide a clear understanding of inward investment in Halton</p> <p>Expert witnesses: Wesley Rourke - Operational Director, Economy Enterprise & Property Tim Leather - Lead Officer – Business Improvement & Growth</p>
Scrutiny Topic Group Session 2	<p>Date of meeting: 30th April 2015</p> <p>Purpose of the session: To consider the inward investment proposals being considered by the Liverpool city Region.</p> <p>Expert witnesses: Mark Basnett (Local Enterprise Partnership)</p>
Scrutiny Topic Group Session 3	<p>Date of meeting: Tbc</p> <p>Purpose of the session: To consider the business perspective of Halton’s inward investment offer</p> <p>Expert witnesses: Paula Gain (Chamber of Commerce tbc) Business representative (tbc) Tim Leather - Lead Officer – Business Improvement & Growth</p>

SCRUTINY SCOPING DOCUMENT

<p>Scrutiny Topic Group Session 4</p>	<p>Date of meeting: Tbc</p> <p>Purpose of the session: To consider and agree the review’s final report and recommendations.</p>
<p>Potential outcomes</p>	
<p>Expected outcomes</p>	<p>It is expected that this review will support the ELS&C PPB in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Providing a clear understanding of inward investment in Halton; (b) Providing a steer as to whether Halton’s approach to inward investment is fit for purpose; (c) Deciding if the approach to inward investment is meeting the needs of Halton businesses; (d) Identify activities that we could undertake to better meet the needs of Halton businesses (e) Inform future inward investment activity in Halton to complement the emerging model proposed within the Liverpool City Region (LCR)
<p>Measuring success</p>	<p>Any recommendations arising out of the review will be considered by the Employment, Learning, Skills and Community PPB and once agreed presented to the council’s Executive Board. Subject to Executive Board approval, recommendations will be implemented and monitored.</p>

SCRUTINY SCOPING DOCUMENT


Officer/Member involvement	
Members	<p>All Members of the ELS&C PPB will be given the opportunity to be involved in the Scrutiny Topic Group review.</p> <p>Chair of the scrutiny topic group – Cllr Sue Edge</p> <p>The Scrutiny topic Group will be supported by the following council officers:-</p> <p>Wesley Rourke - Operational Director, Economy Enterprise & Property Tim Leather - Lead Officer – Business Improvement & Growth Debbie Houghton – Principal Policy Officer</p> <p>Other officers and guest speakers will be invited to participate in the Scrutiny Topic Group as appropriate.</p>

Employment, Learning, Skills & Community Inward investment Scrutiny Topic Group

12th March 2015
Bridgewater, Ground Floor, Municipal Building, Widnes
4pm - 5.30pm

Notes of Meeting Session 1

Meeting Focus: To provide a clear understanding of inward investment in Halton

	Subject	Report Type/Lead
1.	Introduction and Welcome	Information/Chair
2.	Inward Investment Scrutiny Topic Brief Wesley Rourke went through the topic brief, background and context which was agreed by members. The aim of the review is to support the Employment, Learning, Skills and Community PPB to determine if: (a) the inward investment service provided in Halton is fit for purpose; (b) there is synergy between a local and city-region wide inward investment service and where added value can be obtained.	Decision/Group  ELS PPB Scrutiny review inward investr

Employment, Learning, Skills & Community Inward investment Scrutiny Topic Group

3.	<p>Review of Inward Investment in Halton</p> <p>Tim Leather delivered a presentation to members on inward investment in Halton, starting with the role of the team, which is to:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Manage commercial property database.• Deliver Halton part of LCR funding streams.• Also proactive inward investment – limited due to lack of resources what we can do. <p>Direction of travel for inward investment in Halton and the wider LCR is towards an ‘Invest Liverpool’ joint approach which would be tasked with supporting inward investment across LCR. This approach would have to be resourced from each LA through secondments. Compromise solution each LA auditing what they do and then hopefully can be used to draw down European match to resource ‘Invest Liverpool’.</p> <p><i>Foreign company investment in our economy</i></p> <p>Halton has the greatest concentration of foreign owned companies in LCR, behind Liverpool. Accounts for 5% gross number of companies but have 20% employee posts.</p> <p>Post crisis recovery 2011/13 now back at pre crash level.</p> <p>Number projects UK 3rd place 876 projects. In 2013 26.5 billion dollars came in to UK as foreign direct investment. FDI comes from US, but UK second ie. UK companies investing abroad.</p> <p>Emerging market growth – big growth expected South America and parts of Africa. Developing and</p>	<p>Discussion/Wesley Rourke&Tim Leather</p> <p></p> <p>PPB PowerPoint March 2015 V1.pptx</p>

Employment, Learning, Skills & Community Inward investment Scrutiny Topic Group

transition companies likely to account for 50%.

State owned enterprises have a lot of buying power. So need to be mindful of these significant businesses alongside private businesses.

Mergers and acquisitions – significant jump but one deal can alter figures.

Investor development

Working with businesses here in Halton so they grow and prosper. For example we worked with Thermofisher Scientific who have stayed in Halton. Also Teva considering putting R&I at Daresbury following work with the team.

Inward investment enquiries – graph getting to pre-recession levels about 300 per yr. Conversions also increasing and exceeding targets about 10% conversions.

Direct investment geographical source – 94% local in origin, 68% here and want to grow, 26% want to grow, NW 4%,

Source of enquiries to inward investment service – 3% from UKTI, 94% because someone has phoned the council direct.

Halton Approach

- Travel distance important as business growth in travel distance is good for Halton people.
- Currently have a graduate working with businesses to identify what businesses want.

Employment, Learning, Skills & Community Inward investment Scrutiny Topic Group

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Looking to engage with the 50 most significant employers • Inward Investment post - Now recruited to this post, who will work with these 50 companies. • Sector focused network group has been established to facilitate closer working between related businesses, which has been well received. Plan to extend these to other business sectors where possible. 	
4.	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>Members of PPB would like to book a minibus for a tour of business areas in Halton, to help inform members about Halton businesses and what they do.</p>	<p>Action</p> <p>Wesley Rourke</p>
5.	<p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>April date to be agreed (Thursday 4pm if possible)</p> <p>Mark Basnett from LEP to be invited</p>	

EMPLOYMENT LEARNING, SKILLS AND COMMUNITY TOPIC GROUP
30TH APRIL 5.30 P.M.
INWARD INVESTMENT

SESSION 2

In attendance: Councillor Sue Edge, Councillor S. Parker, Tim Leather, W. Rourke.

Mark Basnett from the Liverpool City Region Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) provided an overview on Inward Investment challenges in the Liverpool City Region and drivers for growth and the need to have the right Inward Investment product e.g. skills, talent, infrastructure, cost effectiveness.

Mark stated that the things we need to focus on are working smarter together with limited resources and pooling capabilities.

The LEP and partners were looking at options which focus on:

- 1) Creating an investment hub and a virtual team.
- 2) Spending time with sector specialists, developing a LCR investment strategy that we all agree to.

Mark remarked that looking to our strengths; logistics, parts accessibility, buildings are Halton's key strengths.

We have promoted Halton sites at national exhibitions e.g. 3MG at the NEC Multi-Modal Hub.

Mark reported on an area by area analysis and consideration of opportunities through a City Region Inward Investment Asset Matrix (circulated) and working jointly can create economies of scale.

The LCR has some sector strengths i.e. automotive and relationship with the sector supply chain.

Just in time supply is critical in this sector and we can offer a broader package to businesses and reasons and a product to offer.

A third area focus on world class facilities including Big Data, for example, Si-Tech Daresbury.

LEP will work with local teams to promote and market opportunities in the area.

One team, operating on a Common Customer system as the key function of the LCR Inward Investment Framework would be a desired long-term position.

An Investment Strategy will focus on key sectors and would establish a set of performance measures and be accountable to City Region Leaders, and Chief Executives.

Also emphasis on engaging with business leaders.

Future proposals would not be about taking away existing lines of enquiry.

LA Leaders have signed up to these principles.

£1m had been allocated to Inward Investment. activity in LCR, of which 20% is a contribution from Local Authority partners.

Councillor Parker asked whether if transport infrastructure is an asset is it being used effectively? Example cited Manchester Ship Canal.

The intention is to create a continual dialogue to refine a better product to attract investment to Halton and beyond.

Mark shared a paper that had been presented to Regeneration Directors identifying potential options and level of funding required.

There is an opportunity to demonstrate a collective approach to the “outside world”.

A discussion took place regarding Human Capital and recent discussions the Chair had had with Riverside College, given skills shortages in growth sectors.

REPORT TO:	Employment, Learning, Skills and Community Policy & Performance Board
DATE:	15 June 2015
REPORTING OFFICER:	Strategic Director – Children and Economy
PORTFOLIO:	Economic Development
SUBJECT:	Realising Talent: a new framework for devolved employment and skills
WARD(S)	Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 **To provide a summary of the Local Government Association Realising Talent: a new framework for devolved employment and skills.**

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the Board Note the report.

3.0 OVERVIEW

- 3.1 On 27 March 2015, the Local Government Association published **Realising Talent: a new framework for devolved employment and skills**. It recommends options for the devolution of employment and skills to local areas.
- 3.2 The report looks at Government proposals on how to meet the anticipated employer demands of the future, how to up-skill our workforce and get more people back to work. The Government faces two significant challenges to achieving this which are:
1. a **better local skills match** between training and employer demand
 2. **integrating employment, skills and health provision** at the local level – more effective and more efficient support.
- 3.2 The recommendations recognise all councils believe much more can be done locally to reduce unemployment, and more effectively match local skills supply with current and future employer demand. It sets out our minimum expectation to improve services for all areas, and creates the space for those who have already made great strides in devolved powers, to go further. It calls for:

- **The introduction of Local Labour Market Agreements by 2016/17** – to be the basis of a deal between groups of councils and central government on what is needed to get more people into work, help low paid people progress in work, and address the skills demand for achieving local growth;
- **A shift in national focus to help the most disadvantaged by replacing the £620 million Work Programme with two new programmes, and devolving it** – one to deal with long-term Jobseeker Allowance claimants and the other designed for disadvantaged claimants. The report suggests that new local models of job brokerage should be explored combining the resources and labour market information from local partners, Job Centre Plus and National Careers Service – working together to provide access to vacancies and careers, and referrals to skills.
- **Devolving skills funding and commissioning for all ages** - so local areas can better gear the skills system to the needs of businesses and integrate including devolving the £2 billion a year Adult Skills Budget to all local areas.
- **Devolution of post 16 learning, and a new Youth offer** for all 14 to 21 (or 24) year olds to access independent careers and employment advice, and for every young person not learning or earning, support into training, an apprenticeship, or sustained employment;
- **Job Centre Plus' Support Contracts and Flexible Support Fund to be co-commissioned with councils** to improve job brokerage and help workless people find, and progress in employment, and **significantly increasing co-location of existing JCP services** with other local services; and
- **A National Employment and Skills Partnership** - to bring together central and local government, businesses, voluntary sector and other stakeholders to drive devolved and integrated funding and services to put people and places first, rather than institutions.

3.3 The LGA are looking to press the case for additional devolution to local areas for employment and skills services within the first 100 days of a new Government and have asked for local areas that have the readiness for this to respond to them. The Liverpool City Region is well placed with the work under way on potential devolution and their response is attached as Appendix 1. LGA have

asked for local areas to respond by Friday 1 May 2015.

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 If the recommendations are implemented there are likely to be significant changes to both how skills and employment initiatives are funded and delivered locally. As local areas will have greater control this will have a positive impact locally.

5.0 **OTHER/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 Although there are no direct financial implications at this time, the recommendations refer to devolution of funding to local areas, which should positively impact on the resources available locally and on control over how services are delivered.

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

6.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

The report's recommendations have addressing youth unemployment and skills as a priority. It recommends a Youth offer with access to independent careers and employment advice and work experience while in education and training. It would also guarantee every young person not learning or earning, support into training, an apprenticeship, or sustained employment.

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

If implemented the report's recommendations will give more local control over the way that employment and skills initiatives are funded and delivered locally, with the funding devolved to the LCR. It will enable funding to be used to better meet the needs of each area, which would be supported by the LCR.

6.3 **A Healthy Halton**

The report recommends that Local government should develop a new model for integrated support for people with disabilities and health problems. One of the most significant areas for innovation is in how health and employment support can work together.

6.4 **A Safer Halton**

There are no direct policy implications from the report.

6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

Should the report's recommendations reduce long-term unemployment and support business growth, which it sets out to do, this is likely to result in a need for new investment in infrastructure in the longer term.

7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 Should the report's recommendations be implemented resulting in devolution of funding to local areas giving more control over how budgets are spent this is likely to have a positive impact on local service delivery.

8.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 None

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

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
Realising Talent: a new framework for devolved employment and skills	Rutland House, Runcorn	Debbie Houghton

**LGA: Realising Talents – Liverpool City Region response
(May 2015)**

How can your local area apply the LGA devolved employment and skills framework	
<p>Scale / range of councils involved plus accountability mechanism</p>	<p>The Liverpool City Region Combined Authority provides transparent and accountable strategic decision making for economic development, transport, strategic housing and employment and skills functions. It is focused entirely on strategic governance to facilitate economic growth across the Liverpool City Region's six local authority areas: Halton, Knowsley, Liverpool, Sefton, St Helens and Wirral.</p> <p>The Combined Authority discharges its strategic employment and skills functions through the Liverpool City Region Employment and Skills Board which acts as the lead strategic voice for improving the employment, skills and productivity of the City Region's residents and workforce.</p> <p>The Liverpool City Region Employment and Skills Board also supports the Local Enterprise Partnership to deliver the area's wider growth ambitions.</p>
<p>The employment / skills challenge for your local area</p>	<p>Long term unemployment</p> <p>There are currently around 23,000 Liverpool City Region residents in receipt of JSA: with more than one in three (approximately 8,500 people) being unemployed for over 12 months. This is higher than the one in four claimants nationally who have been out of work for more than 12 months.</p> <p>Since 2012, the Liverpool City Region's overall JSA claimant count has fallen by 60%, compared to just 38% for residents claiming for over 12 months. This suggests that it is taking almost twice as long to help long term unemployed residents back into work. In keeping with pre-recession trends, the Liverpool City Region's long term unemployment rate remains significantly higher than the national average and, in order to 'close the gap' with England, the City</p>

Region would need to help an additional 3,100 long term JSA claimants into work.

National and local analysis suggests that current support can leave residents with more complex barriers at risk of remaining unemployed with little expectation of finding work. In addition to this, local stakeholders have highlighted the need to ensure that employment found through this approach does not reinforce the existence of what has become known as the low-pay, no-pay cycle.

In order to ensure that the Liverpool City Region and all of its residents are able to take advantage of future growth opportunities and develop a thriving local economy, it will be essential to develop and implement more effective employment support for the long term unemployed.

Health-related worklessness

There are currently around 100,000 Liverpool City Region residents in receipt of Incapacity Benefit or Employment Support Allowance (IB/ESA); accounting for more than one in ten of the City Region's working age population. In comparison, the IB / ESA claimant rate across England is 6% - meaning that Liverpool City Region residents are almost twice as likely to be out of work due to ill health.

Approximately 19,000 of these residents are within the Work Related Activity Group for Employment Support Allowance; these individuals are classed as having limited capability for work and, while not expected to work, are provided with help and support to prepare for work where possible. In keeping with the wider trends seen across all sickness of benefits, more than half are diagnosed with a mental health condition.

It is widely accepted that the Work Programme has been unsuccessful at helping ESA claimants into work. In order to address the long-term levels of health-related unemployment in the Liverpool City Region and improve the life chances of some of the City Region's most vulnerable people, national and local analysis shows that it will be essential to ensure that future support provides highly personalised and targeted help to individuals with a

	<p>clearer and stronger link between health expertise and employment advice.</p> <p>Skills gap</p> <p>Since 2008, the Liverpool City Region's overall skills base has continued to grow with current levels amongst the highest recorded. However, the gap with the England average has also increased over this time period and, in order to match the national levels and increase the productivity and competitiveness in the local economy, the City Region would currently need:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 36,445 more residents with NVQ Level 2+ qualifications; • 73,940 more residents with NVQ Level 3+ qualifications; and • 79,640 more residents with NVQ Level 4+ qualifications. <p>In addition to the challenges facing the Liverpool City Region in regards to the <i>level</i> of skills, it remains essential to ensure that residents have the right <i>type</i> of skills: those that will allow them to compete for sustainable careers in the City Region's growth sectors.</p> <p>Insight from local growth sector employers suggests that, in order to truly allow residents to develop the skills they need to take advantage of future economic growth opportunities, training provision in the Liverpool City Region needs to respond to business requirements and the clear recommendations from the City Region's Skills for Growth work in a timelier manner.</p>
<p>Local deals negotiated thus far (and why more is needed)</p>	<p>City Region Deal</p> <p>In 2012, the Liverpool City Region negotiated a City Region Deal with Government that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tested out new ways of promoting apprenticeship take up; • Brought together public and private sector investment towards business-led skills for growth; • Aimed to create a skills system that kept pace with structural economic rebalancing; and

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced long-term youth unemployment by half. <p>Growth Deal</p> <p>The Liverpool City Region's Growth Deal secured funding of £232 million (from a £250 million bid) in July 2014. In December, the government announced up to £700m of further investment included in the Growth Plan, as part of the Roads Investment Strategy (RIS). In January 2015, it committed an additional £31.6m of local growth funding. In total, government has devolved over £250m of funding through the Local Growth Fund, and with the RIS, up to £1bn has been committed for investment in the City Region, through the joint work of the LEP, the Combined Authority and its partners.</p> <p>Despite these successes, there remains significant challenges facing the City Region's economy, as detailed above. The Liverpool City Region recognises the need to accelerate its approach to economic growth and is seeking more powers, functional responsibilities and funding to maximise its effectiveness in the pursuit of sustainable economic growth and employment.</p>
<p>Aspects of framework / recommendations to focus on, if not all</p>	<p>The Liverpool City Region is seeking different levels of devolution for the employment and skills responsibilities set out in Realising Talent. These respective levels of devolution are set out in detail in Appendix A.</p>
<p>Involvement sought (strategy, co-commissioning, financial devolution)</p>	<p>The Liverpool City Region is seeking different levels of devolution for the employment and skills responsibilities set out in Realising Talent. These respective levels of devolution are set out in detail in Appendix A.</p>
<p>Improvements in service integration as a result of involvement (above)</p>	<p>Skills</p> <p>The Liverpool City Region aims to have the most demand-led and effective employment and skills delivery system in the country. By formally holding FE Colleges and learning providers to account for their curriculum offers and training provision, the City Region can strengthen the approach taken to</p>

	<p>shape local skills provision and ensure that the skills needs of the local economy are met.</p> <p>Employment</p> <p>The Liverpool City Region aims to create an integrated package of services based around an employment and skills continuum model by which Government departments and their agencies come together with local authorities and others to align funding and deliver activities to help people get a job, keep a job and progress to higher level employment opportunities. By increasing local involvement in the design, commissioning and delivery of employment, training and advice programmes and ensuring they are based upon the individual needs of participants, the City Region can deliver more efficient and effective outcomes for local people further away from the labour market.</p>
<p>Desired outcomes if above is enabled</p>	<p>As a further result of this service integration, the Liverpool City Region will see a wide range of high-level, positive outcomes. These outcomes will include, but not be limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased resident skill levels; • Increased employment rate; • Reduced long-term unemployment rate; • Reduced levels of health-related worklessness; and • Increased GVA per head.
<p>Range of partners to engage locally (and nationally)</p>	<p>Local partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment and Skills Board • Local Enterprise Partnership • Local authorities • Job Centre Plus • Skills Funding Agency • Mersey Care NHS Trust • Local CCGs and Hospital Trusts • Colleges and training providers • Community and voluntary sector organisations • Association of Greater Manchester Authorities • Greater Manchester Combined Authority

	<p>National partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LGA • DWP • BIS • Cabinet Office • HM Treasury • NHS
<p>Additional compelling factors for devolving (over and beyond those in the reports)</p>	<p>The Liverpool City Region is clear about its longstanding aim to help its residents truly benefit from local economic growth by developing the most demand-led and effective employment and skills delivery system in the country.</p> <p>The Liverpool City Region's combination of business and civic leadership, and experience in successfully delivering large scale employment support projects, gives it a thorough understanding of what is required to effectively help residents into sustainable employment and develop the skills they need to meet their economic potential.</p> <p>The Liverpool City Region shares LGA's view that devolution of decision making powers and funding can radically improve the employment and skills provision available; offering sustainable career pathways to residents, an increased economic return for the Liverpool City Region, and better value for Government resources.</p>

APPENDIX A

A better local skills match between training and employer demand	
LGA recommendations	Liverpool City Region response
<p>Local Agreements</p> <p>Introduction of Local Labour Market Agreements</p>	<p>The Liverpool City Region would welcome the introduction of long term Local Labour Market Agreements and the opportunity to further articulate its strategic ambitions, responsibilities and implementation approach to addressing local employment and skills priorities.</p> <p>The Liverpool City Region has already set out a number of long term, strategic targets that will help address the City Region's current gaps with national economic performance and ensure that all residents are able to make the most of economic growth opportunities. Better enabling the Liverpool City Region with decision making powers will be key to achieving these goals, as the City Region has proven with the continuing implementation of its City Region Deal.</p> <p>As part of this Deal, the Liverpool City Region set out its goal to ensure skills provision was more responsive to the needs of the local economy and, as part of its ongoing Skills for Growth work, the Liverpool City Region has led the way in clearly articulating the current and future skills needs of key economic growth sectors. As part of this work, the City Region has published a suite of Skills for Growth Agreements: each relating to a specific growth sector within the City Region. Developed in consultation with a wide range of businesses across the respective sectors, these Agreements provide schools, colleges, training providers and universities with detailed information regarding the skills needs of the City Region's employers and make clear recommendations on how they can best tailor their provision to respond to these needs.</p> <p>Analysis shows that the local skills system is responding to the clear recommendations of the Skills for Growth work but the Liverpool City Region acknowledges that there is a need to increase the pace of this response in order to</p>

<p>Review of administrative boundaries</p>	<p>ensure that residents do not miss out on current and future economic opportunities. The Liverpool City Region firmly believes that increased local commissioning and decision-making powers can ensure that the true impact of the Skills for Growth work is felt by our residents.</p> <p>The Liverpool City Region shares LGA’s view that the current, complicated landscape of administrative boundaries can hold back effective partnership working and the devolution of decision making powers.</p> <p>However, the Liverpool City Region’s strong identity as a functional economic market area, recognised as an “engine of growth” with a critical mass of people who live and work within the City Region, provides both LGA and Government with a strong example of how revised boundaries across the country should work. The Liverpool City Region’s Combined Authority’s administrative boundary is consistent with that of its Local Enterprise Partnership, the European Commission (NUTS2), Skills Funding Agency and Jobcentre Plus. This level of consistency is unique amongst England’s complicated landscape of administrative geographies and is the obvious geographic footprint for devolution of further funding and decision making powers.</p> <p>The City Region’s appropriately-aligned geography, strong business and civic leadership, combined with its clear ambitions and track record of effective delivery regarding employment and skills provision, make the Liverpool City Region well-placed to further develop its own decision making functions and ensure residents are able to truly benefit from local economic growth.</p>
<p>Post 16 Education Devolution of 16-19 funding provision</p>	<p>The Liverpool City Region is seeking greater decision making and commissioning powers regarding all skills funding provision and welcomes LGA’s approach to post 16 funding. The Liverpool City Region believes that local decision making powers regarding EFA funding allocations for 16-19 provision, administered</p>

	<p>centrally by national government, will allow the City Region to strengthen the approach taken to shape local skills provision and enable it to formally hold FE Colleges and learning providers to account for their curriculum offers and training provision; ensuring that the needs of the local economy and the City Region's residents are met.</p> <p>The devolution of decision making powers regarding EFA funding allocations for 16-19 provision will empower the Liverpool City Region with the freedom and flexibility to review and lever the balance and mix of provision, by rewarding those providers delivering to locally identified priorities and reducing funding utilised by providers in non-priority areas. This will ensure that the City Region's economic priorities remain at the heart of local skills provision and that the clear recommendations set out in the City Region's Skills for Growth work are implemented at an appropriate pace; helping young people develop the skills they need to make the most of future economic opportunities.</p>
<p>Adult Skills</p> <p>Devolution of Adult Skills Budget</p>	<p>The Liverpool City Region is seeking greater decision making and commissioning powers regarding all skills funding provision and welcomes LGA's recommendation to devolve the Adult Skills Budget (ASB) to local areas. The Liverpool City Region believes that local decision making powers regarding ASB funding allocations, administered centrally by national government, will allow the City Region to strengthen the approach taken to shape local skills provision and enable it to formally hold FE Colleges and learning providers to account for their curriculum offers and training provision; ensuring that the needs of the local economy and the City Region's residents are met.</p> <p>The devolution of decision making powers regarding Adult Skills Budget provision will empower the Liverpool City Region with the freedom and flexibility to review and lever the balance and mix of provision, by rewarding those providers delivering to locally identified priorities and reducing funding utilised by providers in non-priority areas. This will ensure that the City</p>

	<p>Region's economic priorities remain at the heart of local skills provision and that the clear recommendations set out in the City Region's Skills for Growth work are implemented at an appropriate pace; helping all residents develop the skills they need to make the most of future economic opportunities.</p>
Integrating employment, skills and health provision at the local level	
LGA recommendations	Liverpool City Region response
<p>Access to support</p> <p>To be based on individual needs assessment, rather than benefit claimant type</p>	<p>The Liverpool City Region welcomes LGA's recommendation that access to support should be based on a needs assessment rather than by which benefit is being claimed.</p> <p>The Liverpool City Region recognises that an individual's personal circumstances and specific barriers to employment are not effectively reflected by benefit claimant categories and that, in order for employment support to be truly effective, a more personalised and needs-based assessment approach is required.</p> <p>By locally commissioning an element of DWP's Youth Contract 'underspend', the Liverpool City Region has a track record in implementing a personalised approach to employment support through its Youth Employment Gateway; which provides personalised to young people based on an individual assessment of their specific requirements.</p> <p>In addition to this, the City Region is commissioning European funding to implement a locally-designed individualised and integrated support package for residents furthest away from the labour market.</p> <p>The Liverpool City Region considers that it will be able to deliver more efficient and effective outcomes for local people furthest away from the labour market if employment, training and advice programmes are locally commissioned and are based upon individual needs rather than on their benefit type and/or how long they have been on that benefit.</p>

<p>Replacing the Work Programme</p>	<p>The Liverpool City Region welcomes LGA's recommendation that the Work Programme is replaced by two distinct programmes with greater local involvement in commissioning and designing support for long term unemployed residents. The Liverpool City Region has a thorough understanding of its local labour market and the barriers facing, and support required by, its long term unemployed residents. Through the effective delivery of locally commissioned, large-scale employment support programmes, the City Region has a strong track record of supporting these residents into sustainable employment and, as a result, believes that it will be able to deliver more efficient and effective outcomes for local people furthest away from the labour market if employment, training and advice programmes are locally commissioned.</p>
<p>Mainstream JSA claimants</p>	<p>In keeping with its response to DWP's Commissioning Strategy consultation exercise, the Liverpool City Region seeks to jointly co-commission DWP employability support for long-term, mainstream JSA claimants using the City Region's geography; which is unique in its consistency with its functional economic market area and other administrative boundaries. In order to ensure that unemployed residents are able to access effective support into sustainable employment, the City Region would seek involvement in the co-design and co-commissioning of a new programme at all stages of the commissioning cycle; from needs assessment to performance management.</p> <p>The Liverpool City Region welcomes LGA's recommendation that a new employment support programme for disadvantaged claimants requires stronger local involvement, integrated support for residents and flexible, funding agreements including upfront investment.</p> <p>In order to address the long-term levels of health-related unemployment in the Liverpool City Region and improve the life chances of some of the City Region's most vulnerable people, it will be essential to ensure that a future approach provides highly personalised and targeted support to individuals with a clearer and</p>

<p>Disadvantaged claimants</p>	<p>stronger link between health expertise and employment advice. A history of partnership working to address significant levels of health-related worklessness means that Liverpool City Region has an in-depth knowledge of the barriers facing its disadvantaged claimants and the need for personalised and integrated support.</p> <p>As a result, the City Region would seek to jointly co-commission new DWP employability support for disadvantaged claimants within the Liverpool City Region. This would include the co-design and co-commissioning of a new programme at all stages of the commissioning cycle (from needs assessment to performance management) at the appropriate geographies within the City Region.</p>
<p>Universal Credit: local support</p> <p>Significantly increased co-location of JCP services</p> <p>Local services to provide personalised support to UC claimants</p> <p>DWP/local areas to explore support for progression of people in low paid employment</p>	<p>The Liverpool City Region welcomes LGA's recommendations regarding local support for Universal Credit claimants and co-location of services.</p> <p>The City Region has a strong history of close partnership working with local JCP services and believes that increased co-location of these services and shared working (including the introduction of additional data sharing protocols) can improve the efficient use of public sector services and the effectiveness of support offered to local residents. As the implementation of Universal Credit continues, it will be vital to ensure that personalised, integrated support is available to both out-of-work and in-work claimants in the Liverpool City Region and, in order to address the significant local levels of in-work poverty across the, the City Region would welcome the opportunity to work with DWP to explore support for progression of people in low paid employment.</p> <p>In order to ensure that the recommendations can truly support services help local residents into sustainable employment with progression opportunities, the Liverpool City Region would seek to establish a common framework of shared targets across a range of partners; better placing the City Region to hold partners (including</p>

<p>New financial incentive package jointly explored</p>	<p>drives and support economic growth across the City Region and the wider 'Northern Powerhouse'.</p> <p>The City Region would welcome the opportunity to work with LGA and Government to better understand the opportunities and implications of a 'risk and reward' package.</p>
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REPORT TO:	Employment, Learning and Skills Policy and Performance Board
DATE:	15 th June 2015
REPORTING OFFICER:	Strategic Director Children & Enterprise
SUBJECT:	Performance Management Reports for Quarter 4 of 2014/15
WARDS:	Boroughwide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To consider, and raise any questions or points of clarification, in respect of performance management for the fourth quarter period to 31st March 2015.
- 1.2 Key priorities for development or improvement in 2014-17 were agreed by Members and included in Directorate Plans, for the various functional areas reporting to the Board as detailed below:
 - Enterprise, Employment and Skills
 - Community and Environment

The report details progress against service objectives and milestones, and performance targets and provides information relating to key developments and emerging issues that have arisen during the period.

2.0 RECOMMENDED: That the Policy and Performance Board

- 1) Receive the fourth 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 Board.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 Departmental objectives provide a clear statement on what services are planning to achieve and to show how they contribute to the Council's strategic priorities. Such information is central to the Council's performance management arrangements and the Policy and Performance Board has a key role in monitoring performance and strengthening accountability.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no policy implications associated with this report.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no other implications associated with this report.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Departmental service objectives and performance measures, both local and national are linked to the delivery of the Council's priorities. The introduction of a Thematic Priority Based Report and the identification of business critical objectives/ milestones and performance indicators will further support organisational improvement.

6.2 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 Council priorities.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 Not applicable.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

Priority Based Report

Priority: Employment, Learning and Skills

Reporting Period: Quarter 4, Period 01 January 2015 – 31 March 2015

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This report provides an overview of issues and progress towards the priority of Employment, Learning and Skills, that have occurred during the period of the report. The way in which traffic light symbols have been used to reflect progress to date is explained within the Appendix (section 8).
- 1.2 Please note initials have been provided to indicate which Operational Director is responsible for the commentary to aid Members. A key is provided at the end of the report in Appendix (section 8).

2.0 Key Developments

2.1 Investment Enquiries (WR)

The Business Improvement and Growth (BIG) Team managed 239 commercial property\inward investment enquiries in 2014/15, 10% of which were converted (inward investment enquiries 'converted' into actual investment projects).

The cumulative total of enquiries (total enquiries 2014\15 of 239) exceeds the annual target of 200. The cumulative conversions to date are at 10 %, this equals the 2014\15 annual target of 10%. However, the total number of enquiries in 2014\15, while on target, is down on the previous year.

2.2 Liverpool City Region Apprenticeship Hub (WR)

3 Hub Co-ordinators were appointed in Q4 and their contracts will run until the end of July 2015 (the posts are funded through the Employer Skills Fund – Local Response Fund). The co-ordinators will deliver on a range of projects that will take place between March –July 2015 including a Graduation Ceremony and individual employer events for each local borough. HBC's Chief Executive has also committed to being an Apprentice Employer Ambassador for the North West.

2.3 Merseylink developments (WR)

The first of the 2 Visitor Centres was opened on 10th February at the Catalyst Museum. Merseylink are progressing well on all their employment and skills key performance indicators and gave a presentation on progress at the March ELS PPB.

12 students completed a training scheme developed between Riverside College, Merseylink and Halton Employment Partnership, to help local residents gain the knowledge and practical skills required for a career in construction and to improve their employment prospects.

Trainees then completed a work placement with Merseylink, where they gained valuable work experience on the Mersey Gateway Project. 9 trainees have been offered positions with Merseylink. 4 have been offered apprenticeships and 5 have been offered full roles.

2.4 Skills Funding Agency Community Learning Mental Health Pilot North West (WR)

The Government's 2014 Autumn Statement announced an additional £5m 2015-16 and £15m in 2016-17 for pilot community learning courses to help adults recover from mild to moderate mental health problems. An invitation to tender was issued at the end of December 2014 and Halton will be submitting a bid. There will be 5 contracts awarded from the 24 North West Local Authorities.

2.5 SciTech Daresbury (WR)

Tenders were received in September 2014 from Barr, Galliford Try, Grahams Construction, Eric Wright.

Start on site is estimated March 2015.

£3.57m EZ Capital Grant awarded, two payments have been received by Halton BC.

£1.1m bid to ERDF for Phase 1b Techspace; bid approved.

Sci-Tech Funding Route Map workshop – this workshop brought relevant stakeholders together to consider the current and future skills needs of the campus and consider possible sources of funding to deliver on the skills strategy. A number of spin-off meetings to look at specific funding pots are due to take place.

2.6 EUROPEAN PROGRAMME 2014-2020

National Update:

- Negotiations between Government and the EC regarding the approval of Operational Programmes have been slow.
- The Programme will more likely be launched middle of 2015.
- Further delay may occur due to the General Election in May and purdah, which will start around the end of March 2015.
- Discussions are taking place regarding extending current ERDF projects past June 2015, to mitigate the impact of the delayed start to the programme.
- There has been official confirmation that TO7 for transport has now been removed from the English ERDF operational programme (except for less developed regions). Government now need to agree with the EU the wording around Low Carbon to see how, and if any of our transport activities can be included.

Liverpool City Region (LCR) Update

- The Liverpool City Region (LCR) Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) are having discussions with partners regarding potential new projects where Government funding that could be used as match is time sensitive, such as Youth Employment Initiative funding (YEI), this must be spent by the end of 2017. The eligibility of participants that can be assisted through the YEI has been narrowed, and in conjunction with the tight timescale for spend, this is becoming a real challenge.

- The LEP is continuing to work with partners on the development of a series of projects, Technical Assistance and European Social Fund (ESF) skills related activity.
- The first round of calls for the Blue/Green Portfolio will be for an LCR 2 Energy Hub, which will be a vehicle to find match funding and develop calls around Energy efficiency, Modal shift for SMEs, Ship to shore connections, Heat networks.
- It is envisaged that SME support will be provided via the Business Growth Hub and that some Blue/Green activities will be delivered through the Innovation Portfolio, such as offshore wind and hydrogen network.
- Draft project calls have been produced for the Business Economy portfolio. There are four key areas of activity around which first round calls will be developed; Brokerage / Growth Hub, Generic business support activity, Business start-up support, Targeted business support.
- Workshops are being held to consult with local partners regarding Innovation Exchange and this will be a dimension of the Growth Hub.
- LCR LEP is looking to ensure that the activity which may have come through the ERDF opt-ins, will be covered under mainstream business support provision.
- The Local Incubation for Social Innovation (LISI) mechanism, as an alternative to Community Led Local Development / global grants. This is a small grants programme working with community-led organisations that have had a great impact in previous programmes and is a 3 stage process providing support to individuals and groups from the more disadvantaged areas of the City Region. This will be worked up with a view to issuing a call once the programme is open. The Voluntary sector will continue to develop this proposal over the coming months.
- The Local Impact Fund (LIF) and LISI are complementary; organisations looking to access a grant are not likely to be investment ready in order to access a loan.
- The LEADER offer letter has been received by the Combined Authority. The programme could start spending early this year, but cannot duplicate any activity that might be delivered under the new EU programme. The Eligible areas for LEADER/Rural funding in Halton are Hale, Daresbury, parts of Ditton and parts of Farnworth. Further information will follow in the next couple of months.

Halton Update

- Halton representative continues to attend the EU Core Team Meetings at the LEP, providing regular updates to partners.
- Continued support is being provided to local partners to prepare them for when calls will be launched.
- Halton representatives have been attending workshops and consultation events that the LEP Portfolio leads have been holding.
- Continued discussions are taking place with partners organisations in Halton to identify local priorities.

2.7 Merseyside Business Support Programme (WR)

The Merseyside Business Support Programme continues to engage the Halton business community. To date, there have been 257 enquiries for assistance to the programme. Of these 114 are currently engaged on the programme. The project is now collecting information on jobs created / safeguarded and the financial impact of the support. To date

businesses have reported 64 jobs created (57% of target) and 16 jobs safeguarded (27% of target). To date 10 businesses have reported an increase in gross value added of £3,016,554.

2.8 Community Development (CP)

Community Development has delivered a programme of Health & Wellbeing Grants on behalf of the Health & Wellbeing Board. During the period there have been 6 Healthy School Awards, 19 Community Group Awards and 28 Recognition Awards for Health Champions. The programme has supported a wide range of activities from burlesque fitness sessions to encaustic painting to school gardening and healthy messages posters. The Mayor has presented the Health Champion Awards recognising the contribution people make going over and above for others which significantly impacts on residents' wellbeing.

2.9 Community Shop (CP)

In March, the ELS&C PPB also received a report on 'Community Shop', which sought endorsement from Members to further explore this concept for Halton. Community Shop is a member only supermarket that sells goods at 70 percent less than RRP. The initiative provides a programme of mentoring support to tackle financial exclusion, improve health & wellbeing and support employability skills. The Members endorsed the project exploration with further reports on progress to be presented.

2.10 Community Centres (CP)

In March, the ELS&C PPB received an annual Community Centres report. The report detailed the usage and income for the service which demonstrated an overall positive direction of travel. The report highlighted over 267k attendances at the Community Centres during the year and that there had been a significant reduction in operating costs.

The Board were advised that Ditton Community Centre won "Best Performer" in the APSE (Association of Public Service Excellence) Annual Awards for the Civic, Cultural and Community Venues category. The Centre had previously won a "Most Improved Performer" award, recognising the effective management of the service and the staff and centre's achievements in delivering a wide range of activities for the local community. The progression to "Best Performer", the highest category of award, shows the continuous improvement within the service to now be the top performer.

2.11 Pilot Community Centre Initiative (CP)

The Area Forum funded pilot initiative to provide improved meals provision and an increased range of activities for young and old at Upton Community Centre is underway.

The initiative is proving to be successful and has generated a considerable amount of interest from the target audience, in both the immediate and wider area. The Tea Dance event in particular is very popular, with attendance figures rising from an initial 30 for the first event held in March to 70 at the latest event.

2.12 Other activities that have been piloted to date, with good attendances, are as follows:

- Indoor bowls

- Prize Bingo
- Exercise Sessions (Tai Chi and Chair Based Exercises)

Officers have received feedback and suggested additional activities from users and will take comments on board for upcoming events. Consultation with users is also planned and opportunities for sustaining the initiative beyond May (the end of the initial 3 month pilot period) are being explored.

The potential for providing information or delivering targeted presentations during events/sessions is being explored with the Fire Service and Police/PCSOs.

2.13 THE BRINDLEY (CP)

The annual pantomime (which ran from Q3 to Q4) was the most successful in terms of tickets sold since the Brindley opened in 2004. Most evening performances were sold out and afternoon performances were at least 75% full.

2.14 THE STADIUM (CP)

A lot of promotion is being undertaken for Stadium Fitness which now has its own email contact and Facebook page, making it easier to measure the effects of the publicity. Despite competition from the local commercial gyms the Ladies Gym is proving a good attraction.

2.15 An introductory offer to HBC staff produced around 20 new members. New promotional photos have been taken and the website page has been updated. A Facebook promotion is currently underway and the page followers have more than quadrupled in the last week.

2.16 The new Legends Bar is now up and running. Daytime business has been steady dependant on activity in the Sports Hall. New promotional photos have also been taken of the bar and there is a new page on the website. A new leaflet featuring Stadium Fitness and Legends Bar is being designed, which can also form part of a new general Stadium Leaflet.

An inventory of the large concourse posters has been carried out and new posters are being designed for Weddings, Parties, Legends Bar and Stadium Fitness.

The Pink Ball, Mayor's Ball and Rainbow Ball were held in the marquee.

This is the right time to do this to coincide with the start of the Vikings season. New Business Cards and Feedback Forms have been produced for the Stadium Conference business. A Stadium e-newsletter has been set up and we are just waiting for the header graphic from the designers.

The New Halton Suite is proving popular attracting new custom due to the excellent modern layout and accessibility.

A brand new digital CCTV system has been being installed the old analogue system was outdated and could not generate the quality images needed to ensure site security.

A major Sky initiative was held at the Stadium, the “Sky Try Initiative” was held here in conjunction with RFL and Sky to encourage rugby league at grass roots level.

Widnes Vikings season has started – Widnes v Wigan opening game of Super league was televised and watched by a record crowd of over 9,500, on the same day we (in conjunction with Widnes Vikings and the CCG) broke the World Record attempt received nationwide coverage on Sky and BBC and ITV for the largest participation to a keep fit video.

Liverpool Ladies season has also started as they attempt to win the Ladies League for a third consecutive year.

The Crucial Crew event was once again (10+ years running) held at the Stadium which saw over 2,000 Primary School age children attend the Stadium for lessons on stranger danger, keep safe and basic first aid.

2.17 SPORTS STRATEGY DELIVERY 2014/15 (CP)

Theme 1: Increase Participation and Widen Access

Get Active: Get Active is set to help more local people aged 25-55 years, get into sport. Nearly 1,000 people have attended an activity class since the project started. New sessions this quarter include Rebound, Metafit, Kettlercise, Clubbercise (new class trends).

Go Run for Fun activities (delivered in partnership with INEOS), took place in Victoria Park, Widnes and Phoenix Park, Runcorn over 1,400 primary school children took part in a 2km run. Sports Leaders from Cronton College assisted with the activities.

In addition to all the new activities the Sports Development Team continue to support over 50 established community classes.

Halton Sports Coach Scheme: Q4: has delivered over 227 hours of coaching from grass roots to excellence at schools, special schools, clubs, charities & organisations. 2652 contacts made in schools and community settings and 113 adults received training.

Sports coaching and support Schools SLA provides a professional coaching service, 27 packages have been purchased for 2015.

Leisure Centre Activity: Sports centre visits in last quarter are down on last year. This can be attributed to the decline in Gym memberships, a direct result of the opening of low cost Gyms in Runcorn and Widnes and a reduction in the number of juniors enrolling on swimming lessons. It should be noted that gym membership numbers at BRC and KLC are slowly rising, this could be due to the initial membership offer at Pure Gym ending. KLC will be price matching Pure Gyms Widnes membership from 1st April.

Halton Leisure Card: 1302 Leisure card were sold in 2014, leisure card holders made 14,654 visits to the Councils 3 Leisure facilities.

Bowlers: Grass Sports Hire and HDL are now administering the sale of Bowling Green Cards. From 1st April anyone wishing to use a Council Bowling Green must purchase a Bowling Green Card, cards cost £25 and are valid from April 1 to March 31.

2.18 Theme 2: Club Development

Sport in Halton Booklet: Sport in Halton 2015 booklet produced and circulated, also available online. This Girl Can national campaign launched in January, templates and marketing information available, information sent to clubs. Club Matters, Sport England's, new online tool provides free guidance, support and learning on all aspects of running a club. Club Matters is a convenient and flexible tool designed to fit around volunteers, with practical guidance to help clubs attract and retain members, to improve and develop skills and build a club that lasts. Sports Development Officer will have access to additional resources to assist clubs with club accreditation, development plans etc.

75 clubs receive direct mailings, providing updates, such as, grants opportunities, coaching courses receive ongoing support with club accreditation

2.19 Theme 3: Coach Education and Volunteering

Coach education courses: Sports Coach UK 'Safeguarding & Protecting Children' workshop delivered to 20 people assisting 7 different clubs.

Sports Coaching Bursaries

Halton Farnworth Hornets	6 x L2 coaches	£600.00
	3 x L1 coaches	£285.00
Widnes Boxing Club	1 x L2 coach	£ 20.00
West Bank ARLFC	4 x L1 coaches	£380.00
	3 x L2 coach	£300.00
Total for quarter		£1,585.00

Total for the year 35 sports coaching bursaries awarded = £3,885 distributed to clubs

Theme 4: Sporting Excellence

Sports specific development work with local clubs continues to support talented athletes, coaches and officials to reach their full potential. Halton School Games continues to provide opportunities for local schools to take part in competitions. Halton sporting venues, including Kingsway Leisure Centre and the Stadium, played host to a number of the Merseyside School Games events taking place throughout a week-long festival of Winter School Games finals in March.

Theme 5: Finance and Funding for Sport

Sports Development Grant Scheme

Q4: 7 bursaries and 5 group grants (cumulative £17,300; 35 bursaries and 6 group grants)

Theme 6: Sports Facilities

Liverpool Road Playing Fields Project: Construction work on the Liverpool Road project is nearing completion. The facility, which will be known as the Frank Myler Sports and Recreation Ground will provide opportunities for the community to take part in a wide range of indoor and outdoor activities.

Improvement Plans: We are presently assisting a number of clubs with their facility improvement plans including

- Runcorn Linnets
- Widnes Tennis Academy
- West Bank Bears
- Widnes RUFC
- Kingsway Boxing Club

2.20 LIBRARIES (CP)

Efficiency Review

The review of the Library Service is now drawing to a conclusion and the new structure and opening hours will be implemented from Monday 13th April. The Service will be led by the Library Strategy and Development Manager supported by two Area Managers and a small team of Development Officers and Resources staff.

Area Managers will be responsible for services delivered through the static libraries in either Runcorn or Widnes. Frontline staff will work on a rota basis spending time at each site within their area, these teams will comprise of Library & Information Assistants and Floor Managers. External recruitment is underway for a number of posts which remain vacant.

The Mobile Library was withdrawn following its last day of operation on Saturday 28th March and options for the disposal of the vehicle are being considered. One of the priorities for the service in the coming months will be for Outreach staff to ensure that residents who cannot access a static library can use the service by other means

Public Lending Right – Sample authority

Public Lending Right (PLR) is the right for authors to receive payment for the loans of their books by public libraries.

Under the PLR system in the UK, payment is made from government funds to authors, illustrators and other contributors whose books are borrowed from public libraries. Payments are made annually on the basis of loans data collected from a sample of public libraries in the UK. Halton will be included in the PLR sample from 1st July 2015.

Purchasing consortium

Public library authorities in the North West and Yorkshire regions have joined together for the purpose of procuring the supply and servicing of library materials. The Participating Authorities serve a population in excess of 9.8 million and issue nearly 36 million items per

annum. The key objectives of the tender are to procure the supply and servicing of library materials in the most efficient and cost effective manner for the Participating Authorities.

The current contract arrangements for the supply and servicing of Adult Non Fiction, Adult Fiction, Children's Materials, Reference Standing Orders, Academic Materials, Music CDs and DVDs ends on 31st May 2015. The Authorities believe that a joint procurement exercise is the most efficient and cost effective method for both the Participating Authorities and tenderers.

It also enables the Participating Authorities to examine current working practices in order to standardise and streamline various functions, thus improving the supply chain in a manner which is beneficial to Authorities and Contractors. The aim is to achieve best value in the procurement of library materials and improve the speed and efficiency of delivery to our customers.

The contract will be awarded for a period of 3 years and will commence on 1st June 2015.

Widnes Library

English Heritage has commissioned Environmental Consultants Ecus to undertake research into pre-1939 public libraries. Post war libraries are in the process of being assessed as to whether they should be a potential addition to the List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest by English Heritages Designation Department. Widnes is one of the 28 examples that have been selected for additional research to help inform a decision. The photographic survey of Widnes has been completed, this will form the basis of the evidence presented to English Heritage.

Health benefits of Libraries

The Arts Council has published research showing libraries can save the NHS money and makes a positive contribution to people's health and wellbeing. The new research quantifies the economic value of the benefits to health and wellbeing contributed by public libraries. It shows that the benefits people gain from public libraries could be valued nationally at around £748.1million per annum. This includes benefits to their quality of life and improvements to health which can save the NHS around £27.5million a year. The methodology used in the research was consistent with HM Treasury's Green Book guidance, the Government's guide to assessing the economic value of public services.

Using a library service is associated with a 1.4% increase in the likelihood of reporting good health and library engagement is associated with a range of positive wellbeing outcomes. Based on reductions in GP visits caused by this improvement in health, libraries can save the NHS around £27.5 million per year. This cost-saving could be much higher if other medical services were taken into account.

READING WELL; Books on Prescription for dementia

A new Reading Well Books on Prescription scheme for dementia was launched by the Reading Agency in January. The scheme is endorsed by leading health organisations and is delivered in partnership with the Society of Chief Librarians with funding from Arts Council England.

Halton Libraries is part of this national scheme and launched the service locally on the 5th February. The core booklist of 25 titles includes professionally endorsed information and advice for people diagnosed with dementia, their carers and people worried about symptoms or wanting to find out more about the condition. Health professionals can use the scheme to recommend helpful reading but individuals can also self-refer. The scheme is evidence-based and works within NICE clinical guidance for the treatment of common mental health conditions and for dementia care. It also delivers in accordance with the CCG Outcome Indicator Set 2014/15.

Dementia Friends

The Library Service has a member of staff who is a trained Dementia Friends Champion. Dementia Friends training has now being rolled out to 16 staff.

Digital access/workforce development

The service has continued to roll out training to staff focussing on the libraries role in supporting people to access information and services online in life-critical areas such as careers and job seeking; health, personal financial information and benefits. To date 48 staff have participated with 153 course enrolments and 117 course completions.

Central to this offer is helping people to use vital government online information services. This Universal Information Offer aims to bring together government and non-government sources of information, which have been researched by information professionals in public libraries, giving a level of quality assurance to the customer and to ensure that staff are continually developing their skills to provide the help some people need to access information and services online.

3.0 Emerging Issues

3.1 Adult Learning in Children's Centres (WR)

Confirmation of contract is awaited from Children's Centres in order to plan for provision from April 2015 onwards. Children's Centre promotional materials post April 2015 are currently being drafted for publication and adult learning engagement will be disadvantaged if not included.

3.2 Liverpool City Region Business Growth Grant Programme (WR)

The current Liverpool City Region Business Growth Grant Programme is fully committed.

However, the combined Merseyside Chambers of Commerce have applied under the government's RGF Round 6 for funds to deliver a scheme offering grant of up to £75,000.00 while Merseyside Special Investment Fund (MSIF) have applied, again under RGF Round 6, for funds to deliver a scheme offering grant between £75,000.00 and £1,000,000.00

Local Authorities were precluded from making applications under RGF Round 6.

It is anticipated that government will announce in February 2015 whether the above applications have been successful.

The sum of £15m has also been included within the Liverpool City Region 'City Deal' to continue the current scheme for a further two years.

3.3 Liverpool City Region Growth Hub (WR)

The Liverpool City Region Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) has developed a proposal to create a 'Growth Hub' for the city region. A Growth Hub is not a physical entity but rather a virtual organisation to provide business support services across the City Region. Government is, however, very prescriptive with respect to the form and function of the Growth Hub model they will support. The prescribed model suggests a preeminent role for local Chambers support by Local Authorities. Halton Borough Council and Halton Chamber of Commerce and others are, therefore, discussing in detail how the Growth Hub might work in Halton and how best the model might serve the needs of the local business community

At a city region level an initial funding package of £550,000.00 has been agreed between the LEP and BIS to support the development of a LCR Growth Hub. The LEP are obliged to undertake a full OJEU procurement exercise to appoint the partners who will deliver the Growth Hub locally. It is the intention of the LEP to appoint partners to a framework for five years to deliver the Growth Hub and other business support services. The Council and Chamber will, therefore, work together to submit a tender response to deliver the Growth Hub in Halton.

As part of the development of a LCR Growth Hub the LEP has also proposed a pan-Merseyside computerised record management (CRM) system to manage investment projects, commercial property enquiries and future grant and business support programmes. The Business Improvement & Growth Team has contracted to roll out the new CRM system locally.

3.4 Liverpool City Region Inward Investment Strategy (WR)

The Liverpool City Region Local Enterprise Partnership has proposed the creation of a stand-alone inward investment agency for the City Region called 'Invest Liverpool'. However, any such agency would have to be resourced by the six Local Authorities, primarily through the provision of secondees. However, to resource such an agency, given the current demands placed upon Local Authority budgets, is unrealistic.

It is, therefore, proposed that existing inward investment activity across the City Region be formalised. Once the resource currently utilised to support inward investment activities across the City Region has been identified it can be used as match to draw down additional resources from the European Programme 2014-20.

To accelerate the process the LEP have issued a tender for a private sector consultancy to work with the Local Authorities to identify the 'Liverpool City Region Offer'.

3.5 Aerospace\Automotive Cluster (WR)

The first meeting of a small cluster group, made up of local companies involved in very specialist, high tech' aspects of the aerospace and automotive industries will take place on, Thursday 05 March 2015.

It is intended that the group, going forward, be private sector led and meet on a regular basis to discuss matters of shared interest and promote the sector further locally, regionally and nationally

3.6 Runcorn Retail BID (WR)

A Business Improvement District (BID) proposal, encompassing Runcorn Old Town, Trident Retail Park and Runcorn Shopping Centre has been proposed.

Groundwork Cheshire have been appointed to facilitate the development of a BID Business Plan, manage a major consultation exercise and oversee a ballot of all businesses within the programme area.

The proposal will be launched at the Brindley on February 05 2015 and a ballot will be held in July 2015. It is anticipated that, subject to a successful ballot, the BID will be in place by September 2015.

3.7 CDM Regulations 2015 (WR)

The Construction Design and Management (CDM) regulations 2015 come into force on 1st April 2015. These will have a significant impact on our projects as they place additional H&S responsibilities on clients and create a new role of Principal Designer which will be required on the vast majority of projects, as opposed to the current CDM-C role which is only required on the larger scale projects. We have been reviewing the implications of these changes and have put processes in place to ensure we comply with the new regulations. Briefings have been organised in late April 2015 for staff who are involved in project delivery.

3.8 Procurement (WR)

The new public procurement regulations have now come into force. These have a significant impact on our procurement processes and we have been liaising with the procurement centre of excellence to review our procedures to ensure compliance will comply with the new regulations. In short the regulations restrict the use of the pre-qualification process to higher value works only and are designed to give SME's more of an opportunity to obtain work in the public sector, which is welcomed, they are likely to result in higher numbers of submissions having to be evaluated however which could impact on workload.

3.9 Growth Hub (WR)

The Liverpool City Region Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) has developed a proposal to create a 'Growth Hub' for the city region. A Growth Hub is not a physical entity but rather a virtual organisation to provide business support services across the City Region.

At a city region level, an initial funding package of £550,000.00 has been agreed between the LEP and BIS to support the development of a LCR Growth Hub. The LEP plan to recruit a team of 'Business Brokers'. A core team of Business Brokers will be based at the LEP and a single Business Broker will be based within each Local Authority area, embedded either within the Local Authority or local Chamber.

The LEP have issued an OJEU (Official Journal of the European Union) tender for the delivery of the Growth Hub. The tender will, however, be broken down into six lots, one for each LA's area. Organisations successful at tender will be appointed to a five year framework. The providers of future business support programmes will then be selected from the framework. Halton Borough Council and Halton Chamber of Commerce will respond to the tender independently, and, if successful collaborate with respect to the delivery of the Growth Hub. Tenders to deliver the Growth Hub in Halton must be completed by 16 April 2015.

3.10 Pan-Merseyside CRM (WR)

As part of the development of a LCR Growth Hub the LEP has also proposed a pan-Merseyside CRM system to manage investment projects, commercial property enquiries and future grant and business support programmes. The LEP, following a competitive tender exercise, has selected a system called Evolutive. Halton has agreed to adopt the Evolutive system. However, a number of other LA's and Chambers have procured their own systems.

The BIG Team are currently working with developers Alcium and the Council's ICT Team to migrate data from the existing system to the new Evolutive system.

3.11 EMPLOYMENT, LEARNING & SKILLS (WR)

DWP Work Programme – new basket of measures

The changes in numbers and types of referrals to the Work Programme, together with the new stretching targets to achieve, will require some infrastructure changes within Halton People into Jobs. The real focus will be to ensure those clients that gain employment remain in employment.

4.0 Risk Control Measures

4.1 Risk control forms an integral part of the Council's Business Planning and performance monitoring arrangements. As such Directorate Risk Registers were updated in tandem with the development of the suite of 2014 – 15 Directorate Business Plans.

4.2 Progress concerning the implementation of all Directorate high-risk mitigation measures relevant to this Policy and Performance Board was reported at quarter two.

5.0 Progress against high priority equality actions

5.1 Equality issues continue to form a routine element of the Council's business planning and operational decision making processes. Additionally the Council must have evidence to demonstrate compliance with the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) which came into force in April 2011.

5.2 The Council's latest annual progress report in relation to the achievement of its equality objectives was published on the Council website during quarter 4 and is available via: [http://www3.halton.gov.uk/Pages/councildemocracy/pdfs/EandD/Equality -
_objectives_progress_report - April 2013.pdf](http://www3.halton.gov.uk/Pages/councildemocracy/pdfs/EandD/Equality_-_objectives_progress_report_-_April_2013.pdf)

6.0 Performance Overview

6.1 The following information provides a synopsis of progress for both milestones and performance indicators across the key business areas that have been identified by each Directorate.

Priority: Supporting growth and investment

Key Milestones and Measures

Ref	Milestones	Quarterly progress
EEP2	Undertake a baseline review of business makeup sectors and capacity in Halton by March 2015.	✓
EEP2	Deliver the Business Improvements Districts Year 2 action plan by March 2015.	✓
EEP2	Agree priority action areas arising from the Mersey Gateway regeneration strategy by July 2014.	✓



SUPPORTING COMMENTARY

EEP2 – Research has been commissioned as reported at the last ELS and C PPB.

EEP2 – All milestones within the BID II Business Plan are on programme and on target.

EEP2 – Priority action areas have been agreed.

DIS I 06 -Inward Investment Enquiry conversion rate				SCS EL501 Increase the No. of active enterprises in Halton				SCS EL509 Gross weekly earnings of residents Halton (£)			
Current progress	Target	Quarterly progress	Direction of Travel	Current progress	Target	Quarterly progress	Direction of Travel	Current progress	Target	Quarterly progress	Direction of Travel
✓	10%	10%	↓	N/A	2750	N/A	N/A	✓	To close the gap to the CIPFA Nearest Statistical Neighbourhoods	£458.50	↓

Ref	Measure	13/14 Actual	14/15 Target	Current	Direction of Travel	Quarterly progress
SCS ELS 02	Increase the proportion of business diversity in the following sectors: Knowledge Economy, Superport, Low carbon/green, Visitor economy	27.03% (March 2013)	27%	N/A	N/A	N/A
SCS ELS 03	Increase the number of people classed as self-employed	6% (Local Economic Assessment HBC July 2013)	7%	6.1%		

SUPPORTING COMMENTARY

DIS LI06 – The percentage of conversions in Q4 (enquiries ‘converted into actual investment projects) was 7%. However, the cumulative percentage is 10% and so the annual conversions target of 10% has been achieved.

SCS ELS01 – This information will be available at year end.





SCS ELS09 – This is an annual figure and will be reported at year end. The latest data available is for 2014. The figure for the gross weekly earnings for employees resident in Halton before tax is £458.50 for 2014. The previous data for Q3 reported on the gross weekly pay for full time workers in Halton (not just residents) which was £30 higher per week compared to the North West.

SCS ELS 02 - This information will be available at year end.

SCS ELS03 – The latest data available is for Jan 2014 to Dec 2014 at 6.1% taken from the NOMIS website – ONS annual population survey for those aged 16-64. 2014/15 data should be available in quarter 1.

Priority: Raising skills levels and reducing unemployment

Key Milestones and Measures

Ref	Milestones	Quarterly progress
EEP3	Deliver the Work Programme via subcontract arrangements to Prime Contractors A4E and Ingeus Deloitte in line with the contract	
EEP3	Complete SciTech skills for growth action plan by March 2015.	
EEP3	Implement Corporate Apprenticeships framework by November 2014.	
EEP3	Identify skills bank requirements from Mersey Gateway project by July 2015.	

SUPPORTING COMMENTARY

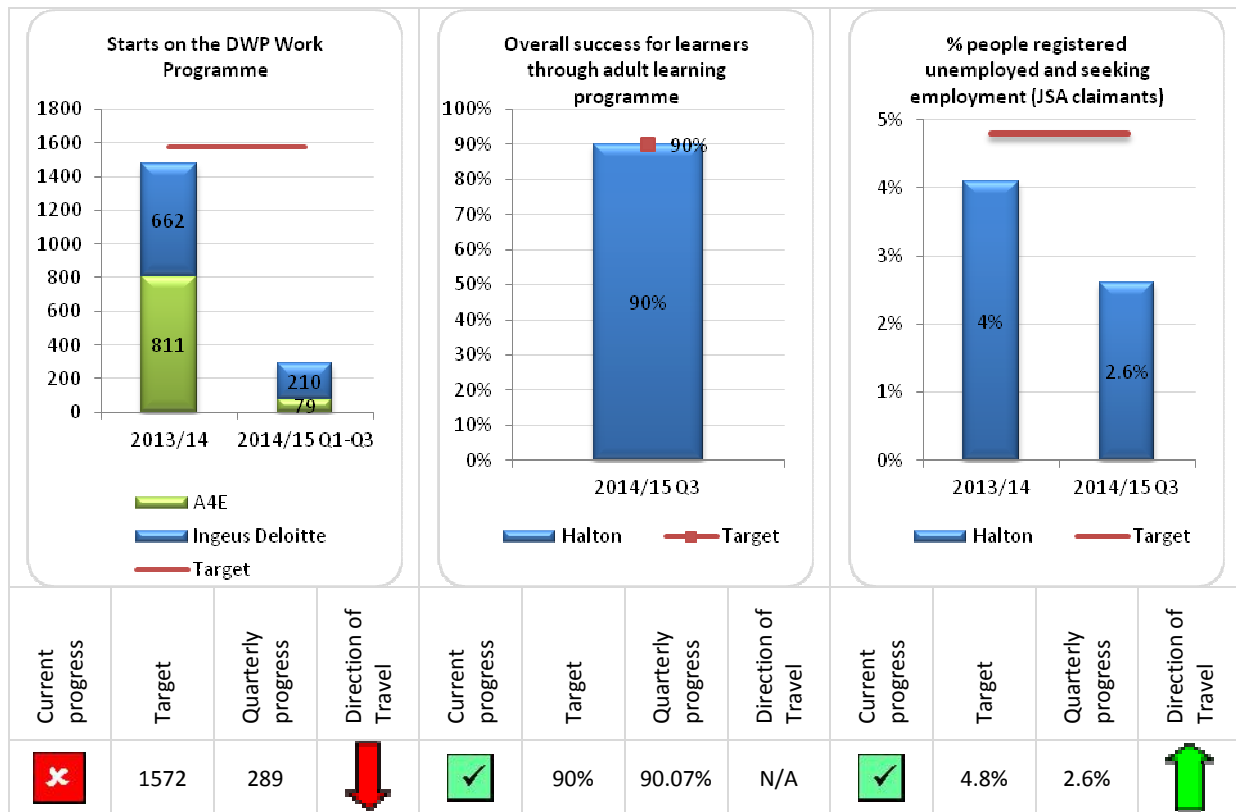
EEP3 – Job starts and job outcome targets haven’t been achieved on the Ingeus or A4e contract during this period but contracted minimum performance levels (MPL’s) for specified 3 payment groups were achieved on the Ingeus contract during quarter 4. Due to falling short by one job outcome in February we were placed on a formal performance improvement plan to achieve new DWP MPL’s March to June 15.

There continues to be a reduction in referrals against indicative profiles during this period. A review of staffing/resources was completed in March to maximise income and productivity in year 5 of the contract (April 15-March 16).

EEP3 – Requests for contributions to a Sci Tech Skills Action Plan have been made in Q4. The planning is therefore within timescales although implementation will come later.

EEP3 – A corporate apprenticeship framework has still not been adopted – but particular vacancies within the council have been identified as possible apprenticeship opportunities.

EEP3 – All KPIs associated with the Employment & Skills Delivery Plan are on target to be achieved.



Ref	Measure	13/14 Actual	14/15 Target	Current	Direction of Travel	Quarterly progress
ELS A1	The number of new apprenticeship starts in Halton Borough Council	361	5	5	N/A	✓
ELS LI04	Number of new starts into permitted/paid work for local people with disabilities (over 12 month period)	14 (Cumulative)	12	13 44 (actual 14/15)	Up	✓
SCS ELS 04	Reduce the proportion of people with no qualifications	12.1% (Jan to Dec 2012)	11%	10%	Up	✓
SCS ELS05	Increase the percentage of people achieving NVQ level 4 and above	24.5% (Jan to Dec 2012)	24.5%	25.6%	Up	✓
SCS ELS 08	Reduce the percentage of the working age population claiming out of work benefits	15%	16.5%	18.7% (Aug 2014)	Down	✗

SUPPORTING COMMENTARY

ELS LI03 – Referrals from DWP have been lower than indicative flows throughout this and the previous year; therefore fewer customers have started on programme which has been out of our

control. There continues to be an increase in the number of customers in receipt of Employment Support Allowance, approximately 60% of all referrals received are ESA claimants.

ELS A2 – 758 learners are active during Quarter 3, generating 1118 enrolments. To date, 1068 of those learners have been retained with a 90% success rate.

SCS ELS07 – HBC does not own this National indicator data. Data taken from NOMIS website shows that at December 2014 the number of JSA claimants is 2061, a reduction of 329.

ELS A1 – This is a corporate measure. The apprentices work in two different divisions within the Communities Directorate (2 Open spaces, 3 Waste Management)

ELS LI04 – 14 customers with disabilities/health conditions were supported into paid employment during quarter 3.





SCS ELS04 – In Quarter 3, 85 adults have achieved a qualification with HBC's Employment, Learning and Skills Division. In addition, 73 qualifications have been taken and the results are awaited. The latest data available is for the period Jan 13- Dec 13 and is reported annually in arrears.

SCS ELS05 – HBC does not own this National Indicator data. NVQ Level 4 in the borough has risen. Halton has seen a continuous increase year on year.

SCS ELS08 – The latest data available is up to May 2014 from the NOMIS website. The total number of claimants of working age population in Halton is 15,210 which equates to 18.9%.

Priority: Enhancing residents' quality of life

Key Milestones and Measures

Ref	Milestones	Quarterly progress
CE1	Continue to implement the Sports Strategy (2012-15) by March 2015.	
CE1	Active people survey results show an increase in participation rates from 2009/10 baseline by March 2015.	
CE2	Identify areas for improvement in line with the Business Plan and Marketing Plan by January 2015.	
CE4	Increase the use of libraries promoting reader development and lifelong learning, thereby encouraging literacy skills and quality of life opportunities.	
CE4	Deliver a programme of extended informal learning opportunities including support for digital inclusion meeting identified local targets by March 2015.	

SUPPORTING COMMENTARY

CE1 - The Councils Sport and Recreation Team continue to deliver and support activity against the key themes and objectives contained in the Sports Strategy. The service produces a detailed monthly report to highlight the key areas of work. Quarter 4 activities include:

- Community Sports coaches delivered 227 hours coaching; 2,652 coaching contacts and 113 training opportunities. (Full year totals: 1300 hours delivering 12,676 school SLA and 1,912 community contacts and 595 adults trained)
- Safeguarding and Protecting Children workshops delivered - 20 attendees, supporting 7 clubs, 17 coaching bursaries, 7 bursaries and 4 group grant. Year totals: 68 workshop attendees from 22 clubs, 37 coaching bursaries, 35 bursaries, 6 group grants. Other activities included;
- Parkrun launched 11 runs, 21 first timers, 165 average number in race.

- 3 clubs re-accredited for Club Halton, 1 new club accredited with Club Halton, 3 new clubs signed up to scheme
- Go Run For Fun: in partnership with INEOS, 1400 primary school children took part in 2 Halton events
- Get Active project registrations 953
- 3836 throughput with Get Active project, new sessions
- The new Get Active Exercise trends timetable has 18 new classes on it, including Metafit, Clubbercise, Rebound and Push and Tone
- On-going support to community exercise classes, over 50 groups
- 183,465 leisure centre visits during Jan/Feb/Mar. Total visits since 1 April 2014 587,298
- 1,302 Halton Leisure Card applications
- 7 Sportivate activities operating 80 participants (sport sessions for 14 – 25 year olds). £5,050 secured for 2015
- 92 registered on Door Step Clubs, £9,000 secured for year 2 delivery
- In house training for casual coaches.

CE1 - Halton Participation Headlines:

- 3 x 30 mins per week, formerly NI8, increased by 1% from 24% to 25% (highest rate Halton has achieved in the survey).
- 16+ years 1 x 30 per week 36.8% (last year's rate 30.7% – 09/10 remains highest rate 41.2% Halton then had free swim for over 60s/additional resources from WNF/LPSA/SE grants)
- 14+ years 1 x 30 per week 37.2% (last year's rate 32.2% – this indicator was only introduced last year)

CE4 – Strategy priority - Inspiring a community of readers and learners

Reading Well Books on Prescription – Dementia: A new Reading Well Books on Prescription scheme for dementia is now available in Halton. The Reading Agency scheme is endorsed by leading health organisations and is delivered in partnership with the Society of Chief Librarians with funding from Arts Council England. The core booklist of 25 titles includes professionally endorsed information and advice for people diagnosed with dementia, their carers and people worried about symptoms or wanting to find out more about the condition. The books are available in all the libraries.

Reading Activists Project: 7 Reading Activists meetings have taken place this quarter with 42 attendees. The Reading Activist young volunteers planned and organised the Harry Potter extravaganza at Widnes Library providing games, crafts, stories and lots of fun during February half-term. 160 children and parents participated in the event.

Schools: 7 schools have been engaged in activities with the service this quarter with 723 children and young people participating in class visits.



Reading Groups: 17 Reading Group sessions have been held this quarter with 104 attendees.

Rhymetime: Over 900 children and parents attended 42 Rhymetime sessions in this quarter

Bookstart: 1639 Baby and 1625 Treasure packs have been delivered to Under 5's this year through Health Visitors and Nurseries. In addition 38 foreign language and special needs packs have also been distributed.

Other events: The library service attended Halton Lodge Children's Centre 10th Anniversary celebrations with 20 participants as well as Terrific 2's sessions. 40 Widnes Brownies participated in a Booklovers Badge session

CE4 - The Library Service delivered an Introduction to memory” session to 34 people at the Lunch Bunch club at Murdishaw Community Centre. Dementia Friends Training undertaken with 16 library staff. Safer Internet Families session delivered at Halton Lea Library. Digital access/workforce development - 48 staff have enrolled on 153 courses completing 117 modules. IT Clinics has been delivered at both Halton Lea and Widnes Libraries with 19 sessions having taken place with 128 attendances. 19 workclubs sessions supported by GMB have been delivered this quarter with 224 attendances.

Ref	Measure	13/14 Actual	14/15 Target	Current	Direction of Travel	Quarterly progress
CE LI4	Diversity – number of community groups accessing stadium facilities	N/A	15			
CE LI6	Number of new members of the library service during the last 12 months	N/A	9,234			
CE LI6a	Number of physical and virtual visits to libraries (annual total)	675,989	680,000	139,920 Annual total 598,632		

SUPPORTING COMMENTARY

CE LI6a – Although performance has risen slightly this quarter overall the target has not been achieved.




The people counters at Halton Lea, Runcorn and Widnes have all had technical faults at some point this year so the annual total contains data which is estimated and therefore potentially inaccurate. The Efficiency Review has impacted on performance and has led to capacity issues as staff have not been replaced. In addition the decommissioning and withdrawal of the Mobile Library in Quarter 4 has had an impact on this PI.

7.0 Financial Summaries

- 7.1 The Council’s 2014/15 year-end accounts are currently being finalised.
- 7.2 The year-end position for each Department will therefore be made available via the Intranet by 30 June 2015.




8.0 Appendix – Explanation for use of symbols

8.1 Symbols are used in the following manner:

Progress		Milestone	Measure
Green		Indicates that the milestone is on course to be achieved within the appropriate timeframe.	Indicates that the annual target is on course to be achieved.
Amber		Indicates that it is uncertain or too early to say at this stage whether the milestone will be achieved within the appropriate timeframe.	Indicates that it is uncertain or too early to say at this stage whether the annual target is on course to be achieved.
Red		Indicates that it is highly likely or certain that the objective will not be achieved within the appropriate timeframe.	Indicates that the target will not be achieved unless there is an intervention or remedial action taken.

8.2 Direction of Travel Indicator

Where possible measures will also identify a direction of travel using the following convention:

Green		Indicates that performance is better as compared to the same period last year.
Amber		Indicates that performance is the same as compared to the same period last year.
Red		Indicates that performance is worse as compared to the same period last year.
N/A		Indicates that the measure cannot be compared to the same period last year.

8.3 Key for Commentary

WR Wesley Rourke, Operational Director, Economy Enterprise and Property Service (EEP)

CP Chris Patino, Operational Director, Communities and Environment (CandE)