

REPORT: Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 6 January 2010

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Environment

SUBJECT: Policy & Performance Board Work Programme
2010/2011

WARDS: Boroughwide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To consider progress on the 2009/10 Topic Reports and to consider the possible 2010/11 work programme.

2.0 RECOMMENDED: That

- (1) Members of the Policy and Performance Board indicate target topic areas for potential scrutiny in 2010-2011.**
- (2) Details of the topic briefs subsequently be agreed by the Chair and Vice Chair of the PPB in conjunction with the Lead Officer for the Board.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 Each year the PPB identifies a number of areas which it intends to scrutinise in detail as part of its work programme for the year.

3.1.1 At the meeting of the Board on 21st January 2009 it was agreed that the topics to be considered in 2009/10 would be:

- Implications of the De-linking of the Silver Jubilee Bridge, carried over from 2008/9 (Highways and Transportation)
- A joint group with Employment and Skills on Workforce and Skills for the developments at Daresbury (Economic Regeneration and Planning)
- The Local Development Framework Working Party (Planning) to which all Members are invited.

3.2 Each of the Topic Groups has subsequently met and established their work programme.

3.2.1 The SJB De-linking Topic Group presented its conclusions on its work to the Policy Board at its meeting on 16th September 2009. The Board agreed the recommendation of the report which noted the progress made in examining the relevant issues and concluded that any further consideration be deferred until the outcome of the Public Inquiry into the Mersey Gateway Project is known.

- 3.2.2 The Joint Urban Renewal and Employment Learning and Skills Topic Group has met on a number of occasions to consider the future of the Science, Technology and Advanced Manufacturing Sector of which Daresbury is a part. A survey of 119 local businesses has recently been commissioned and the results will be considered at the next topic group meeting at which point preliminary recommendations will be developed. A final report is anticipated in June 2010.
- 3.2.3 The Local Development Framework Working Party (LDFWP) has existed for a number of years to discuss the issues and content concerning planning policy in Halton. It previously dealt with the Halton Local Plan (1996) and the Halton Unitary Development Plan (2005). It comprises a representative group of members including members of the Urban Renewal PPB.

The Working Party has had a series of meetings during 2009 to discuss papers prepared for the content of the Local Development Framework Core Strategy working in tandem with a Core Strategy Officers Steering Group chaired by the Chief Executive. The papers discussed, described spatial planning issues to be addressed, an overall strategic vision, the objectives and policy options available. Presentations also included studies comprising the evidence base for the Core Strategy.

In the coming months the LDFWP will be concentrating on the results of the recent public consultation on the Core Strategy, the issues arising and discussing proposed changes leading to the next stage of submission to the Secretary of State.

3.4 2010-11 Work Programme

- 3.4.1 Members are asked to target attention on a specific number of areas. Good practice based on experience suggests that 2/3 Topics is manageable. The process is that following their adoption by this Board the topics selected are worked up as detailed topic briefs and agreed with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the PPB in conjunction with the Lead Officer for this Board.
- 3.4.2 In considering which are good topics to include in the work programme Members will need to keep in mind the Overview and Scrutiny Guide/Toolkit. Guidance on Topic Selection is attached as an aide-memoire. In particular the Board's attention is drawn to paragraphs 12, 13 and 14 which relate to added value, capacity and resources.
- 3.4.3 It should be remembered that much of the work of this PPB will be cross-cutting and will impact or be of relevance to other PPBs.
- 3.4.4 It should also be noted that Performance Monitoring of the Reporting Departments (Environmental and Regulatory; Highways and Transportation; Employment, Economic Regeneration and Business Development, and Housing) will in any case be received by this PPB.

3.4.5 It has been suggested by the Strategic Director, Environment, that the following might be appropriate issues to review at this time or at the appropriate time in the coming year.

- Open Space Services – as part of the Efficiency Review a number of services which affected the Borough's streets, greenspaces and other open spaces have been brought together under a single umbrella. It is suggested that a Topic Group could, during the services' first year of operation, monitor its activities and results, and particularly track this performance in terms of impacts upon the urban environment.
- Town Centre Co-ordination – town centre management will now be delivered through and as part of a wider Enforcement Group potentially providing for a more joined up and proactive approach to the environmental quality within the Centres. Throughout the year a co-ordinated policy, as well as work programmes will be developed. It is suggested that a Topic Group could influence the development of and contribute to the content of these programmes.
- Assuming a positive outcome to the Public Inquiry into the Mersey Gateway, Members may wish to see the 'Implications of the De-linking of the Silver Jubilee Bridge' Topic Group, reconvened.

3.4.6 Members will doubtless be able to think of other suitable areas for scrutiny and the Board is asked to discuss all of these and other suggestions on the context of existing workloads.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 None at this stage.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

5.1 None at this stage.

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**

7.1 There are no background papers within the meaning of the Act.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

Topic Selection Checklist

This checklist leads the user through a reasoning process to identify a) why a topic should be explored and b) whether it makes sense to examine it through the overview and scrutiny process. More “yeses” indicate a stronger case for selecting the Topic.

#	CRITERION	Yes/No
Why? Evidence for why a topic should be explored and included in the work programme		
1	Is the Topic directly aligned with and have significant implications for at least 1 of Halton’s 5 strategic priorities & related objectives/PIs, and/or a key central government priority?	
2	Does the Topic address an identified need or issue?	
3	Is there a high level of public interest or concern about the Topic e.g. apparent from consultation, complaints or the local press	
4	Has the Topic been identified through performance monitoring e.g. PIs indicating an area of poor performance with scope for improvement?	
5	Has the Topic been raised as an issue requiring further examination through a review, inspection or assessment, or by the auditor?	
6	Is the topic area likely to have a major impact on resources or be significantly affected by financial or other resource problems e.g. a pattern of major overspending or persisting staffing difficulties that could undermine performance?	
7	Has some recent development or change created a need to look at the Topic e.g. new Government guidance/legislation, or new research findings?	
8	Would there be significant risks to the organisation and the community as a result of <u>not</u> examining this topic.	
Whether? Reasons affecting whether it makes sense to examine an identified topic		
9	Scope for impact – is the Topic something the Council can actually influence, directly or via its partners? Can we make a difference?	
10	Outcomes – Are there clear improvement outcomes (not specific answers) in mind from examining the Topic and are they likely to be achievable?	
11	Cost: benefit – are the benefits of working on the Topic likely to outweigh the costs of doing so, making investment of time & effort worthwhile.	
12	Are PPBs the best way to add value in this Topic area? Can they make a distinctive contribution?	
13	Does the organisation have the capacity to progress this Topic? (e.g. is it related to other review or work peaks that would place an unacceptable load on a particular officer or team?)	
14	Can PPBs contribute meaningfully given the time available?	