

**REPORT TO:** Environment and Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board

**DATE:** 16 June 2010

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director, Resources

**SUBJECT:** Sustainable Community Strategy Performance Report

**WARDS:** Borough-wide

### **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 To provide information on the progress towards meeting Halton's Sustainable Community Strategy targets at 2009 – 10 financial year-end.

### **2.0 RECOMMENDED: That**

**(1) the report is noted; and**

**(2) the Board considers whether it requires any further information concerning the actions being taken to achieve Halton's LAA targets.**

### **3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 The revised Local Area Agreement, which comprises an element of Halton's Sustainable Community Strategy, was signed off by the Secretary of State in June 2008. The LAA contains a set of measures and targets agreed between the Council, local partner agencies (who have a duty of co-operation in achieving targets) and government. There are 32 indicators within the LAA along with statutory and education and early years targets. The current agreement covers the period April 2008 to March 2011.

3.2 The Agreement was refreshed in March 2010 following a review with Government Office North West. Any changes to performance targets that resulted from this review have been reflected within the enclosed report.

3.3 Attached as Appendix 1 is a report on progress to the 2009 – 10 financial year end which includes those indicators and targets that fall within the remit of this Policy and Performance Board.

3.4 In considering this report Members should be aware that:-

- a) All of the measures within the National Indicator Set are monitored through Quarterly Departmental Service Plan Monitoring Reports. The purpose of this report is to consolidate information on all measures and targets relevant to this PPB in order to provide a clear picture of progress.

- b) In some cases outturn data cannot be made available and there are also some Place Survey based indicators for which information will not become available until 2010 i.e. the next date the survey is due to be undertaken.

#### **4.0 CONCLUSION**

- 4.1 The Sustainable Community Strategy for Halton, and the Local Area Agreement contained within it, is the main mechanism through which government will performance manage local areas. It is therefore important that we monitor progress and that Members are satisfied that adequate plans are in place to ensure that the Council and its partners achieve the improvement targets that have been agreed.

#### **5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The Local Area Agreement acts as the delivery plan for the Sustainable Community Strategy for Halton and is therefore central to our policy framework.

#### **6.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 The achievement of Local Area Agreement targets has direct implications for the outcomes in relation to Comprehensive Area Assessment judgements.

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

- 7.1 This report deals directly with the delivery of the relevant strategic priority of the Council.

#### **8.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

- 8.1 The key risk is a failure to improve the quality of life for Halton's residents in accordance with the objectives of the Sustainable Community Strategy. This risk can be mitigated thorough the regular reporting and review of progress and the development of appropriate actions where under-performance may occur.

#### **9.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

- 9.1 One of the guiding principles of the Local Area Agreement is to reduce inequalities in Halton.

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

Document Local Area Agreement 2008 – 11

Place of Inspection 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Municipal Building, Kingsway, Widnes

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