

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

DATE: 13th January 2011

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director (Resources)

SUBJECT: Sustainable Community Strategy
2010 – 11 Mid-year progress report.

WARDS: Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To provide information on the progress in achieving targets contained within the Sustainable Community Strategy for Halton.

2.0 RECOMMENDED THAT:

- i. The report is noted
- ii. The Board considers whether it requires any further information concerning the actions being taken to achieve the performance targets contained within Halton's Sustainable Community Strategy.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 The Sustainable Community Strategy is the central document for the Council and its partners, providing an evidenced based framework through which actions and shared performance targets can be developed and communicated. An updated Sustainable Community Strategy for Halton is presently at an advanced stage of preparation and will become live from April 2011.

3.2 The coalition government has set out its intention to create greater transparency. This is intended to include the publication of performance as well as financial transactions. It is the government's expectation that Whitehall departments, local authorities and other public bodies will be performance managed by the communities and citizens which they serve. To this end, the coalition has set out its performance measures in government departmental business plans. Many of these performance measures are already included in the Sustainable Community Strategy.

3.3 The current Sustainable Community Strategy included targets which were also in the Local Area Agreement (LAA). In October this year, the coalition government announced the ending of government performance management of local authorities through LAA's.

3.4 Nevertheless, we need to maintain some framework of performance management to:

- measure progress towards our own objectives for the improvement of the quality of life in Halton.
- meet the government's expectation that we will publish performance information.

3.5 Attached as Appendix 1 is a report on progress to the 2010 – 11 mid-year which includes information for those specific indicators and targets that fall within the remit of this Policy and Performance Board.

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

- a) All of the measures within the National Indicator Set (NIS) 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 at the mid-year point. Additionally, all measures captured through the National Place Survey, which was due to be undertaken this year, have been deleted from the NIS by central government and therefore no further data will be made available in 2010/11. The future requirement for localised perception survey under the transparency agenda is presently subject to consideration.

4.0 CONCLUSION

4.1 The Sustainable Community Strategy for Halton, and the performance measures and targets contained within it will remain central to the delivery of community outcomes. 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 Sustainable Community Strategy for Halton is central to our policy framework. It provides the primary vehicle through which the Council and its partners develop and communicate collaborative actions that will positively impact upon the communities of Halton.

6.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The publication by Local Authorities of performance information is central to the coalition government's transparency agenda. This is accompanied by a commitment to reduce top down performance management, with the existing National Indicator Data Set (NIS), replaced from April 2011 with a single comprehensive list of all data that Local Authorities are required to provide to Central Government.
- 6.2 Central Government target setting will be replaced by minimum standards in some areas.
- 6.3 Thus, it still remains to be seen whether the burdens placed on local government will be reduced or simply redefined.

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 Sustainable Community Strategy is to reduce inequalities in Halton.

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

Document Sustainable Community Strategy 2006 – 11
Place of Inspection 2nd Floor, Municipal Building, Kingsway, Widnes
Contact Officer Rob MacKenzie (0151 471 7416)



The Sustainable Community

Strategy for Halton

2006 - 2011

Mid-year Progress Report

01st April 2010 – 30th Sept 2010

**Employment, Learning & Skills &
Community**

Policy & Performance Board







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This report provides a summary of progress in relation to the achievement of targets within Halton's Sustainable Community Strategy 2006 - 2011.

It provides both a snapshot of performance for the period 1st April 2010 to 30th September 2010 and a projection of expected levels of performance to the year-end.













The following symbols have been used to illustrate current performance as against the annual targets and as against performance for the same period last year.

	Target is likely to be achieved or exceeded.		Current performance is better than this time last year
	The achievement of the target is uncertain at this stage		Current performance is the same as this time last year
	Target is highly unlikely to be / will not be achieved.		Current performance is worse than this time last year

EMPLOYMENT, LEARNING AND SKILLS



Page	NI	Descriptor	2009/10 Target	2011 Target	Direction of travel
6	153	<u>Working age people claiming out of work benefits in the worst performing neighbourhoods</u>			
7	163	<u>Working age population qualified to at least Level 2 or higher.</u>			
8	171	<u>VAT Registration rate</u>			

Non Local Area Agreement Measures / Targets

10	ELS1	<u>Reduce the proportion of adults with no qualifications</u>			
11	ELS2	<u>Increase the proportion of adults qualified to Level 3</u>			
12	ELS3	<u>Increase the rate of self-employment</u>			
13	ELS4	<u>Ensure unemployment in any Lower Super Output Area is less than 20% above the borough average</u>			

NI 153

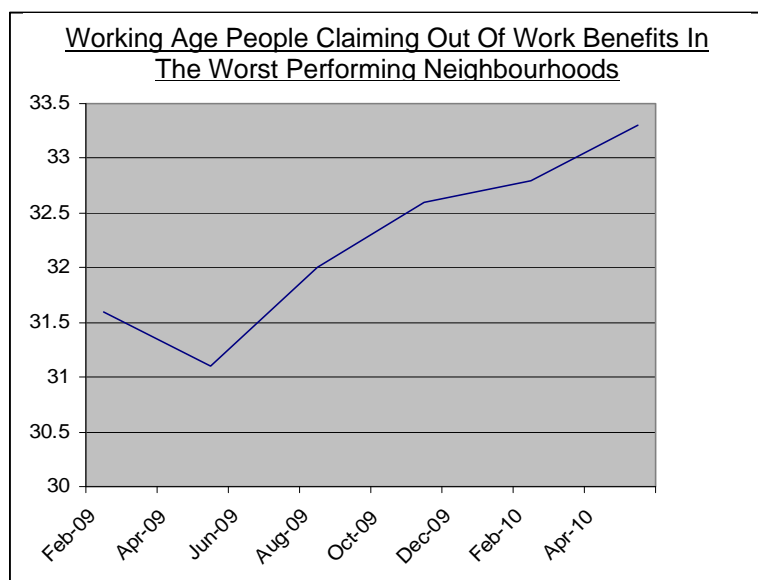
Reduce the proportion of working age people claiming out of work benefits in the worst performing neighbourhoods

Baseline (Year)	09 – 10 Actual	2011 Target	2010 – 11 Cumulative outturn data				Current Progress	Direction of Travel
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
31.5% (2007/8)	33.5%	28.5%	32.8%	33.8%	-	-		

Data Commentary

The data supplied is for Q1 2010 which is the latest data available on the hub. The source of the information is Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study – Benefit data, Office for National Statistics (ONS) - Population estimates.

General Performance Commentary



The above graph illustrates the impact of the onset of the recession from early 2009, which has had a significantly disproportionate impact on those neighbourhoods with existing high levels of economic inactivity.

The May 2010 rate for the whole of Halton borough was 18.1%

In October 2010 the Jobseeker Allowance total for Halton was 3805. The number of people who ‘flowed onto’ JSA in October 2010 was 1200 and 1215 ‘flowed off’. There were also 8,530 ‘live’ Incapacity Benefit/Employment Support Allowance claims in October.

Total employer vacancies notified to Halton’s two Job Centres in October 2010 was 1470 (Runcorn 556, Widnes 914). This figure was 40% higher than in October 2009.

Summary of key activities undertaken / planned during the year



A programme of projects and services, largely supported by the Working Neighbourhoods Fund is heavily promoted throughout all of our most disadvantaged neighbourhoods, with the Neighbourhood Employment & Engagement Service working exclusively in the three former neighbourhood management pilot areas.

Examples of recent and new activities;

Between 1/10/2009 and 30/11/2010 131 residents entered the Future Jobs Fund programme, co-ordinated through the Halton People into Jobs Service. The project is performing well against targets and continues to focus the job opportunities initially towards 18 – 24 year old jobseekers.

Also, a pilot programme called 'Focused Partnership Delivery' is offering intensive support to long-term unemployed JSA claimants. Experienced Job Centre Advisors work intensively with them alongside a range of partners to help to identify and then alleviate the issues and barriers the claimants may be experiencing, and thus help to reduce their barriers to work. The majority of the claimants live in neighbourhoods with high levels of unemployment.

NI 163 Increase the proportion of the working age population qualified to at least Level 2

Baseline (2006)	09 – 10 Actual	2011 Target	2010 – 11 Cumulative outturn data				Current Progress	Direction of Travel
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
60.1%	61.6% (2008)	67.5%	-	68.2% (2009)	-	-		

Data Commentary

The data supplied refers to calendar year 2009 and is the latest figure available from the hub. The source of the data is derived by DIUS from the ONS Annual Population Survey (LFS/IHS).

General Performance Commentary

The proportion of population aged 19-64 for males and 19-59 for females qualified to at least Level 2 or higher reached **68.2%** (46,900) as at December

2009.

This represents a very satisfactory result of the several years of hard work on this agenda by a range of partners.

Summary of key activities undertaken / planned during the year

An ongoing co-ordinated programme of services and projects targeting residents for whom a traditional ‘talk & chalk’ classroom-based approach may not be appropriate continues to be delivered by a wide range of partners from the public and voluntary sectors.



One example is a small project that is offering co-ordinated help for some of Halton’s young people Not in Education, Employment, or Training (NEET).

In 2008/09 the proportion Halton’s young people that were NEET in Halton stood at 13.2%. Since then, a concerted programme of innovative and focused work by a range of partners in Halton has seen the figure reduced to 10.3%.

Riverside College is working closely with the Connexions Service to provide access to a range of vocational programmes for NEET young people in Halton. Examples of the wide range of vocational opportunities include business administration, health & social care, bricklaying, painting and decorating, hospitality and catering.

Also, to encourage young people to engage and sustain their participation in the programme, coaching and mentoring services are offered alongside the vocational element of the programme delivered by the college.

NI 171 | Maintain the VAT registration rate

Baseline (Year)	09 – 10 Actual	2011 Target	2010 – 11 Cumulative outturn data				Current Progress	Direction of Travel
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
42.3% (2007/8)	44.5% (2008)	42.8%	48.3%	-	-	-		

Data Commentary

This data is from the Business Demography 2009 dataset provided by Office for National Statistics -

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=15186>

This replaces the previously used VAT registrations dataset from BERR. NI 171 is the number of new businesses (births) per 10,000 adult population (16+). The baseline 42.3% is an average from 2005-2007. The 2008 figure is 44.5% (NW 49.6%) which is above our 2010 target but below the regional rate.

General Performance Commentary

Historically, Halton has had low levels of new registrations, but equally has low levels of de-registrations. This indicates that stock levels have increased year on year and business survival rates are good.

In 2007/8 the programme helped 68 new businesses start-up (of which 5 were VAT-registered).

In 2008/9 this increased to 78 (of which 8 were VAT-registered).

In 2009/10 the Enterprising Halton programme helped 154 new businesses to start trading, 13 of which registered for VAT.

Enterprising Halton Programme 2010/11 Targets;

- Start up enquiries 420
- New business starts 110
- Sustainability Grants 50
- Kickstart Courses 10
- VAT registrations 10
- Business survivability rate 50%

Summary of key activities undertaken / planned during the year

The thriving Enterprising Halton business start-up started in 2007, and aims to develop a culture of enterprise within the Borough to promote self-- employment as a realistic option, and to provide 1-to-1 business advice and support to potential entrepreneurs.

It delivers a range of projects including:

Business start up support (the local scheme has been integrated with the regional programme under the management of HBC into one programme operating under the new business simplification programme.

Start up centre – at the heath business and technical park for people who need a desk and business address to help launch their business.

Next generation – enterprise in schools

Aftercare Academy – workshop sessions to help businesses on topics of importance to new businesses e.g. how to network.

Business mentors – new project commenced early 2010.



Construction Halton – aimed at increasing local contracting/tendering opportunities for local businesses in the construction and also general procurement systems of major public and private sector organisations in the borough.

Progress as at 31 August 2010:

- 377 new start up enquiries against a target of 420; 244 (64%) male & 133 (36%) female.
- 102 new business starts against target of 110 ; 57 male (56%) and 45 (44%) female.
- 17 new jobs created against a target of 46.
- 26 sustainability grants awarded against a target of 50.
- 9 Kickstart Courses delivered against a target of 10.
- 4 VAT registrations against a target of 10
- 69% Business survivability rate against a target of 50%

ELS 1

Reduce the proportion of adults with no qualifications

Baseline (Year)	09 – 10 Actual	2011 Target	2010 – 11 Cumulative outturn data				Current Progress	Direction of Travel
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
14,800 (2007)	13,800	12,240	13,100 (2009)	-	-	-		

Data Commentary

The data supplied refers to calendar year 2009 and is the latest figure available from the hub. The source of the data is derived by DIUS from the ONS Annual Population Survey (LFS/IHS).

General Performance Commentary



Whilst the number of adults in Halton without any formal qualifications continues to fall, the December 2009 total of 13,100 still represents 16.8% of our adult population (16-60/65) against figures of 13.8% for the north west region and 12.3% for Great Britain.

Summary of key activities undertaken / planned during the year

An example of the practical application of programmes to help residents acquire basis skills and knowledge is the work of the Halton Employment Partnership. During the recently completed Tesco pre-recruitment programme 31 pre-recruitment sessions were organised to support local people into work. The sessions included tips on making job applications and preparing for interviews. Tesco Human Resources staff set up a recruitment centre at the Stobart Stadium, Halton, with the help of Halton Borough Council and Halton Employment Partnership. Halton Employment Partnership staff then spent a number of weeks at the Stadium supporting the Tesco interview process while other staff organised the interview schedules.

Halton Employment Partnership also recently helped international firm Norbert Dentressangle, which recently set up a recycling centre on 3MG, to recruit 12 members of staff and is exploring opportunities with new employers on the Widnes Waterfront development.

ELS 2 Increase the proportion of adults qualified to Level 3

Baseline (Year)	09 – 10 Actual	2011 Target	2010 – 11 Cumulative outturn data				Current Progress	Direction of Travel
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
12, 400 (2007)	11,900 (2008)	15,875	15,000 (2009)	-	-	-		

Data Commentary

The data supplied refers to calendar year 2009 and is the latest figure available from the hub. The source of the data is derived by DIUS from the ONS Annual Population Survey (LFS/IHS).

General Performance Commentary

The latest (December 2009) figure of 15,000 represents 37.5% of Halton's adult workforce.

Again, whilst the situation is continuing to improve, Halton remains some way behind the rates recorded for both the north west region (46.9%) and Great Britain (49.3).



Summary of key activities undertaken / planned during the year

In addition to the wide range of learning opportunities already offered, an exciting project being developed at the moment is the STAM (Science Technology Advanced Manufacturing) Routeway, due to be formally launched early in 2011..

This is a web-based resource to enthuse young people about learning and careers in new and growing sectors of the economy which they may have formerly not seriously considered, and are under-represented in Halton's workforce.

This interactive web-based resource called 'Science Halton' will offer a vast range of information on clubs, activities, careers, local employers in the sector and qualification requirements.

ELS 3**Increase the rate of self-employment**

Baseline (Year)	09 – 10 Actual	2011 Target	2010 – 11 Cumulative outturn data				Current Progress	Direction of Travel
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
5.2% (2008)	4.9% (2009)	6.8%	5.7 % (2009)		-	-		

Data Commentary

The figures are based on ONS annual population survey.

General Performance Commentary

The maintenance of a positive direction of travel during a period of economic recession is very welcome, but again is still some way behind the regional and the national rates.



In 20010/11 the Enterprising Halton programme has a target of helping to create 110 new businesses.

Summary of key activities undertaken / planned during the year

2010/11 Enterprising Halton Programme Progress as at 31 August 2010:

- 377 new start up enquiries against a target of 420; 244 (64%) male & 133 (36%) female.
- 102 new business starts against target of 110 ; 57 male (56%) and 45 (44%) female.
- 17 new jobs created against a target of 46.
- 26 sustainability grants awarded against a target of 50.
- 9 Kickstart Courses delivered against a target of 10.
- 4 VAT registrations against a target of 10
- 69% Business survivability rate against a target of 50%

ELS 4**Ensure unemployment in any Lower Super Output Area is less than 20% above the borough average**

Baseline (Year)	09 – 10 Actual	2011 Target	2010 – 11 Cumulative outturn data				Current Progress	Direction of Travel
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
	29 LSOAs (Out of 79) More than 20% above the Borough average	Ensure unemployment in any Lower Super Output Areas are less than 20% above the borough average	-	26	-	-		

Data Commentary

The data supplied is for Q1 2010 which is the latest data available on the hub. The source of the information is Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study – Benefit data. ONS - Population estimates.

General Performance Commentary

Currently (September 2010), 26 (67%) out of the 39 Lower Super Output Areas ('LSOA's) in Halton have unemployment rates over 20% higher than that for the borough as a whole.

This echoes the picture with regard to LAA Indicator 153 above, in that the level of 'Worklessness' in neighbourhoods suffering high levels of multiple deprivation is continuing to remain stubbornly high, and in some places actually increasing. In Windmill Hill the rate is now approaching 40% of adults aged 16-60 being categorised as 'economically inactive'.

Summary of key activities undertaken / planned during the year

A programme of projects and services, largely supported by the Working Neighbourhoods Fund is heavily promoted throughout all of our most disadvantaged neighbourhoods, with the Neighbourhood Employment & Engagement Service working exclusively in the three former neighbourhood management pilot areas.