

Departmental Quarterly Monitoring Report

<u>Directorate:</u>	Environment & Economy
<u>Department:</u>	Environmental & Regulatory Services
<u>Period:</u>	Quarter 4 - 1 st January – 31 st March 2011

1.0 Introduction

This quarterly monitoring report covers the Environmental & Regulatory Department fourth quarter period up to 31st March 2011. It describes 'key' developments and progress against 'key' milestones and performance indicators for the service.

The way in which the traffic lights symbols and direction of travel indicators have been used to reflect progress to date is explained within Appendix 8.

2.0 Key Developments

Regulatory Services

Environmental Health (EH) continues to play a key role as a link between the Local Authority and the Primary Care Trust to facilitate the transition of public health to the Local Authority. Environmental Health has developed opportunities to integrate public health initiatives with core regulatory activities e.g. healthier takeaway food, Smoke Free Plus, counterfeit/illegal alcohol.

3.0 Emerging Issues

Environment & Regulatory Services

In line with the Council wide cuts in budgets, a restructuring of Directorates and the deletion of posts will be necessary. It is proposed that Directorates be reduced from four to three with this Department's current Directorate being disbanded and split across the remaining three.

Environmental Health and Health Protection has transferred to the Community Directorate and the Prevention and Assessment Department.

Regulatory Services

Following recommendations from Lord Young in relation to the enforcement of occupational health & safety, EH are examining further opportunities for combining food and health & safety visits.

Following Halton's launch of the Food Standards Agency National Food Hygiene Rating Scheme, there is anticipation that there may be an increased demand for revisits. FSA are exploring the possibility of making a charge for these revisits in the future.

4.0 Service Objectives / milestones

4.1 Progress against 'key' objectives / milestones

Total	4		4		0		0
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For further details please refer to Appendix 1.

All 'key' objectives have been met.

4.2 Progress against 'other' objectives / milestones

Total	N/A		N/A		N/A		N/A
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There are presently no objectives/ milestones of this type identified for this service.




5.0 Performance indicators

5.1 Progress Against 'key' performance indicators

Total	N/A		N/A		N/A		N/A
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There are presently no performance indicators of this type identified for this service.

5.2 Progress Against 'other' performance indicators

Total	3		3		0		0
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For further details please refer to Appendix 2

All 'other' objectives have been met.

6.0 Risk Control Measures

There are no Risk Control Measures for this area.

7.0 Progress against high priority equality actions

There are no High Priority Equality Actions for this area.

8.0 Data quality statement

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

9.0 Appendices

- Appendix 1 Progress Against 'key' objectives / milestones
- Appendix 2 Progress against 'other' performance indicators
- Appendix 3 Financial Statement
- Appendix 4 Explanation of use of symbols




Appendix 1: Progress Against 'key' objectives / milestones

Ref	Objective
EAR 1	To address air quality in areas in Halton where ongoing assessments have exceeded national air quality standards set out under the Environment Act 1995, in consultation with all relevant stakeholders.







Milestones	Progress Q 4	Supporting Commentary
Formal/Public declaration of the Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) March 2011.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AQMA came in force on 1 st March within Widnes Town Centre. Preparation of an action plan now underway

Appendix 1: Progress Against 'key' objectives / milestones

Ref	Objective
EAR 5	To develop, publish and implement actions arising from an integrated Environmental Nuisance Prevention and Enforcement Strategy. This strategy will allow a co-ordinated response from the Service to reported nuisances and their remedy.

Milestones	Progress Q 4	Supporting Commentary
Develop a Strategy, in consultation with relevant HBC officers, external agencies and other stakeholders. Oct 2010		A draft Strategy has been produced, however, as a result of a current government review of local authority powers to tackle certain waste offences, the draft Strategy may be subject to amendment and therefore it will be presented once the outcome of the government review is known.
Develop Action Plans, in conjunction with other Divisional Managers, for service areas within the Environmental and Regulatory Services Department. Mar 2011.		Action plans to deliver environmental improvements and to tackle environmental crime have been developed.
Implement actions to meet the commitments of the Strategy and Action Plans. Mar 2011.		This target was met and the implementation of actions to tackle environmental crime is on-going

Appendix 2: Progress Against 'other' performance indicators




Ref	Description	Actual 2009/10	Target 2010/11	Quarter 4	Current Progress	Direction of Travel	Supporting Commentary
Quality							
NI 182	Satisfaction of business with local authority regulation services	82%	80%	80%			Target achieved, though performance slightly lower than in 2009/10, with performance in the top 20% in the country. For 2011/12 customer satisfaction feedback will be collected to replace the National Indicator collection.
Service Delivery							
NI 184	Food establishments in the area which are broadly compliant with food hygiene law	84%	72%	87%			This is no longer a NI but will be still collected by FSA as a measure by the Food Standards Agency as measure of LA performance so therefore retained as a local indicator.
NI 190	Achievement in meeting standards for the control system for animal health	Level 1	Level 1	Level 1			Programme of inspections complete. Animal Disease Contingency Plans reviewed.

Appendix 3: Financial Statement

The Department's quarter 4 financial statement will be prepared once the Council's year-end accounts have been finalised and will then be made available via the intranet by 30th June 2011.




Appendix 4: Explanation of Symbols

Symbols are used in the following manner:

Progress	<u>Objective</u>	<u>Performance Indicator</u>
Green	 Indicates that the <u>objective is on course to be achieved</u> within the appropriate timeframe.	<i>Indicates that the annual target <u>is on course to be achieved</u>.</i>
Amber	 Indicates that it is <u>uncertain or too early to say at this stage</u> , whether the milestone/objective will be achieved within the appropriate timeframe.	<i>Indicates that it is <u>uncertain or too early to say at this stage</u> whether the annual target is on course to be achieved.</i>
Red	 Indicates that it is <u>highly likely or certain</u> that the objective will not be achieved within the appropriate timeframe.	<i>Indicates that the target <u>will not be achieved</u> unless there is an <u>intervention or remedial action</u> taken.</i>

Direction of Travel Indicator

Where possible performance 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.