

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

Waste and Environmental Improvement

During this quarter the RecycleBank 'Rewards for Recycling' scheme was extended to all remaining households in the borough. All properties in the borough, including those provided with boxes or communal bins for recycling, now have access to the scheme which provides residents with points for the amount of recyclable materials collected through the Council's recycling collection service. Residents can exchange their points for vouchers for money off goods and services at over 120 local shops, restaurants and leisure and entertainment facilities.

In this last quarter, 115 Fixed Penalty Notices were issued for litter and waste offences, taking the total number issued this financial year to 262. During the past 12 months the Council also secured 10 successful prosecutions for waste offences.

Open Space Services

The Open Space Services Division was subject to an end of Efficiency Review report which concluded that the service had continued to deliver its services effectively and within budget.

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.

Waste and Environmental Improvement and Open Spaces have transferred to the Community Directorate and the Community and Environment Department.

Development & Building Control / Contaminated Land is now part of the Policy & Resources Directorate in the Policy, Planning & Transportation Department.

Waste and Environmental Improvement

Waste Regulations

New waste regulations came into force from 29th March 2011. The Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011:

- require businesses to confirm that they have applied the waste management hierarchy when transferring waste, and include a declaration on their waste transfer note or consignment note (from 28th September 2011)
- introduce a two-tier system for waste carrier and broker registration, including a new concept of a waste dealer
- make amendments to hazardous waste controls
- exclude some categories of waste from waste controls.

The regulations implement the revised EU Waste Framework Directive which sets requirements for the collection, transport, recovery and disposal of waste.

Review of Statutory Duties Consultation

The Government has launched a review of all 1200+ statutory duties placed on local government by central government. This includes over 20 duties specific to waste management. As part of the review an informal consultation has been launched with local government. The focus of the consultation is on duties, rather than powers, and a response to the consultation in respect of the waste related duties will be sent on behalf of the Merseyside and Halton Waste Partnership.

4.0 Service Objectives / milestones

4.1 Progress against 'key' objectives / milestones

Total	11		8		0		3
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For further details please refer to Appendix 1.

Of the 'key' milestones, 3 were not met during the year. These missed target were due to external influences:

- Late submission of supporting material and to take into account the views of statutory consultees caused the formal submission of the Core Strategy Development Plan Document (DPD) to the Secretary of State from February 2011 to July 2011.
- The delivery of 4 Playbuilder projects reduced to 3 as funding was reduced, this amendment was agreed by Executive Board in Q3 2010/11.
- Agreements not being made on future service delivery options for the Waste Action Plan but will be a subject of a future report to Members.

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	6		3		0		3
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For further details please refer to Appendix 2.

There are 3 'key' indicators that were failed meet there target for the year. These relate to the processing of major, minor and other planning applications. This is due to the reduction in the size of the Development Control team and ongoing issues around experienced administrative support.

5.2 Progress Against 'other' performance indicators

Total	12		9		0		3
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For further details please refer to Appendix 3.

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 'key' performance indicators
- Appendix 3 Progress against 'other' performance indicators
- Appendix 4 Financial Statement
- Appendix 5 Explanation of use of symbols

Appendix 1: Progress Against 'key' objectives / milestones



Ref	Objective
EAR 2	To prepare and adopt a local development framework (LDF) and to review the LDF on a regular basis ensuring that an up to date development plan is available (statutory requirement). To achieve this by producing the following targets set out in the most current Local Development Scheme (LDS):

Milestones	Progress Q 4	Supporting Commentary
Submissions of the Core Strategy Development Plan Document (DPD) to the Secretary of State February 2011 .		Due to late delivery of supporting material and to take into account the views of statutory consultees, it is intended to re-consult on a slightly amended 'Revised Proposed Submissions Draft' in May 2011 before proceeding to formal submission in July 2011





Ref	Objective
EAR 3	Continue to improve Parks, Sports Grounds, Open Spaces and Local Nature Reserves.

Milestones	Progress Q 4	Supporting Commentary
Runcorn Hill Park - Parks for People bid. Work up bid to 'First Round' submission stage, Dec 2010 .		The first round bid was submitted in Q2. In Q3 Heritage Lottery Fund confirmed the bid had passed the first round submission stage.
Develop plan for new Park and associated landscape improvements at Upton, Mar 2011 .		In Q3 the Open Space Service received notice that Playbuilder funding would be forthcoming in part. Work commenced on the plan which was completed in Q3.



Appendix 1: Progress Against 'key' objectives / milestones

Woodland Expansion - Additional 200m2 of Woodland planted Boroughwide, Mar 2011 .		Works were completed in February 2011.
Deliver 4 new or refurbished Play Areas through Playbuilder Programme, Mar 2011 .		Due to a cut in Playbuilder Funding only three projects will now go ahead. This was agreed by Executive Board in Q3.









Ref	Objective
EAR 4	Implementation of actions to ensure the Council achieves its targets and objectives relating to waste and climate change.

Milestones	Progress Q 4	Supporting Commentary
Extension of kerbside green waste collection service May 2010 .		This was completed ahead of schedule with a further 400 properties added to the scheme in February 2010.
Extension of multi-material recycling service to all properties. June 2010 .		As reported in Q1, this target was achieved.
Review of the network of neighbourhood recycling 'Bring Sites' Sep 2010 .		A review of the network of neighbourhood recycling sites has been completed and actions are being taken as appropriate, including the removal of banks from some locations.
Produce a Schools and Retailers Recycling Communications Pack Sept 2010 (AOF 31)		The communications pack has been completed and So far, 48 schools have received recycling information packs.





Appendix 1: Progress Against 'key' objectives / milestones

Complete a full review and update of the Council's Waste Action Plan Nov 2010.		Although work had commenced on the updating of the Waste Action Plan it could be not completed by the original target date as a number of future service delivery options have yet to be agreed and will be the subject of future reports to Members.
Complete a review of the Council's Waste Management Strategy Mar 2011		As reported in Q2, Members of the Executive Board approved that a full review of the Council's Strategy should be deferred for a period of up to two years. The outcome of that review was that the Council's Strategy remains fit for purpose and that a further review should be undertaken once the results of the government's review of national waste policy have been announced.









Appendix 2: Progress Against 'key' performance indicators

Ref	Description	Actual 2009/10	Target 2010/11	Quarter 4	Current Progress	Direction of Travel	Supporting Commentary
Service Delivery							
<u>NI 157a</u>	Percentage of major planning applications determined within 13 weeks	60%	60%	44.4%			A total of 9 applications were determined this quarter. 4 were determined within 13 weeks
<u>NI 157b</u>	Percentage of minor planning applications determined within 8 weeks	90.1%	80%	36%			A total of 25 applications were determined this quarter. 9 were determined within 8 weeks. The reduction in the size of the Development Control team and ongoing issues around experienced administrative support has contributed to this.
<u>NI 157c</u>	Percentage of other planning applications determined within 8 weeks	77.55%	80%	55.56%			A total of 54 applications were determined this quarter. 30 were determined within 8 weeks. The reduction in the size of the Development Control team and ongoing issues around experienced administrative support has contributed to this.
<u>NI 159</u>	Supply of ready to develop housing sites	131.9%	100%	128.80%			Annual figure from Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment 2010/11







Appendix 2: Progress Against 'key' performance indicators

Ref	Description	Actual 2009/10	Target 2010/11	Quarter 4	Current Progress	Direction of Travel	Supporting Commentary
<u>NI 170</u>	Previously developed land that has been vacant or derelict for more than 5 years	2.33%	2.24%	2.21%			Annual figure taken from National Land Use Database.
<u>EAR LI8</u>	Greenstat-Survey, Satisfaction with the standard of maintenance of trees, flowers and flower beds.	New Measure 2009/10	70%	96.88%			From the Greenstat-Survey for Q4









Appendix 3: Progress Against 'other' performance indicators

Ref	Description	Actual 2009/10	Target 2010/11	Quarter 4	Current Progress	Direction of Travel	Supporting Commentary
Quality							
EAR LI2	Satisfaction with the standard of cleanliness and maintenance of parks and green spaces.	94%	90%	100%			From the Greenstat-Survey for Q4.
EAR LI3	Number of Green Flag Awards for Halton.	12	12	12			All Green Flag Award parks were retained.
Service Delivery							
NI 154	Net additional homes provided	114	159	173			Please note quarterly figures are gross. Annual net additional homes is 173 dwellings. (Demolition of 89 dwellings and survey of minor sites accounts for the total net figure) Whole Borough data collected annually in quarter 4.
NI 155	Number of affordable homes delivered (gross)	108	20	145			Annual affordable homes is 145. An error occurred in an earlier quarter where a proportion of site was recorded as market housing but site survey identified homes as Home Buy (Intermediate affordable Housing)



Appendix 3: Progress Against 'other' performance indicators

Ref	Description	Actual 2009/10	Target 2010/11	Quarter 4	Current Progress	Direction of Travel	Supporting Commentary
NI 191	Residual household waste per household (Kgs)	819.41	811	688.86			As some waste data information was not available at the time of writing this report, this is an estimated figure and may be subject to minor adjustment, but the year end target will be met.
NI 192	Household waste recycled and composted	29.97%	34%	36.42%			As some waste data information was not available at the time of writing this report, this is an estimated figure and may be subject to minor adjustment, but the year end target will be met.
NI 193	Municipal waste land filled	70.16%	63%	63.79%			As some waste data information was not available at the time of writing this report, this is an estimated figure and may be subject to minor adjustment. It is unclear whether the year end target will be met.

Appendix 3: Progress Against 'other' performance indicators

Ref	Description	Actual 2009/10	Target 2010/11	Quarter 4	Current Progress	Direction of Travel	Supporting Commentary
NI 195	Improved street and environmental cleanliness:						
	a) Litter	13%	8%	6%			Target achieved.
	b) Detritus	9%	5%	8%			Although there has been an improvement in performance compared to the previous year, the year end target has not been met.
	c) Graffiti	3%	1%	2%			Although there has been a reduction in graffiti levels compared to the previous year, the year end target has not been met. The Council does not have a dedicated resource for removing graffiti.
	d) Fly-Posting	1%	0%	2%			Inspections have revealed an increase in levels of fly-posted materials in the past 12 months. The Council does not have a dedicated resource for removing fly-posted materials.

Appendix 3: Progress Against 'other' performance indicators




Ref	Description	Actual 2009/10	Target 2010/11	Quarter 4	Current Progress	Direction of Travel	Supporting Commentary
NI 196	Improved street and environmental cleanliness - Fly tipping	3	1	1			<p>In 2009/10 there were 2462 incidents of fly-tipping and in 2010/11 there were 667. In 2009/10 the Council recorded 381 enforcement actions and in 2010/11 recorded 1361.</p> <p>As the total number of fly-tipping incidents dealt with has decreased from the previous year and the total number of enforcement actions has increased, the Council's grading is categorised as '1' or 'Very Effective'</p>
NI 197	Improved local biodiversity – active management of local sites	57.5%	67%	N/A	N/A	N/A	<p>The data for this indicator is processed by the Cheshire Wildlife Trust and verified by the Local Wildlife Partnership.</p> <p>As at 26th April 2011 the data had not been processed, we hope that we will have the information by the 30th June 2011.</p>

Appendix 4: 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 5: 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 intervention or remedial action taken.</i>

Direction of Travel Indicator

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

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