



The Sustainable Community

Strategy for Halton

2011 - 2016

Mid-year Progress Report







01st April – 30th Sept 2012

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This report provides a summary of progress in relation to the achievement of targets within Halton’s Sustainable Community Strategy 2011 - 2016.

It provides both a snapshot of performance for the period 01st April 2012 to 30th September 2012 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 2012 - 13 targets and against performance for the same period last year.

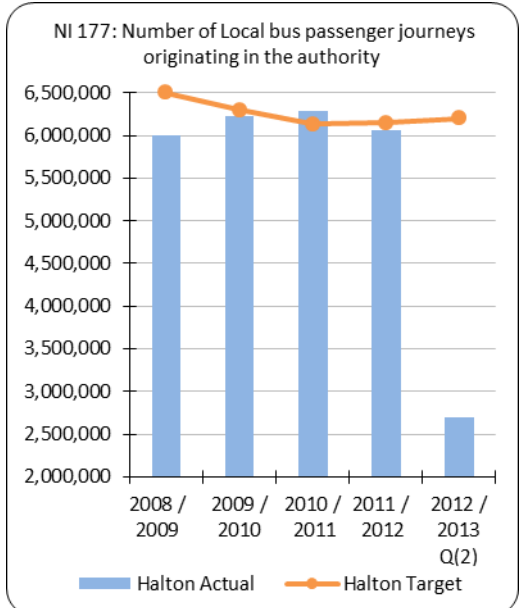
	Target is likely to be achieved or exceeded.		Current performance is better than this time last year
	The achievement of the target is uncertain at this stage		Current performance is the same as this time last year
	Target is highly unlikely to be / will not be achieved.		Current performance is worse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

Environment and Regeneration in Halton

Page	Ref	Descriptor	2012 / 13 Target	Direction of travel
4	ER 1	a) Number of Local bus passenger journeys originating in the authority area NI 177		
5		b) Number of passengers on community based accessible transport PPT LI 28		
6	ER 2	a) Percentage of buses starting route on time		
		b) Percentage of buses on time at intermediate timing points		
7	ER 3	Average Number of days to repair street lighting faults		
		a) Non Distribution Network Operators (HBC)		
		b) Distribution Network operators		
8	ER 4	Percentage of road carriageway where maintenance should be considered		
		a) Principal Carriageways		
		b) Non-Principal Carriageways	N/A	N/A
		c) Unclassified Carriageways		
9	ER 5	Satisfaction with the standard of maintenance of trees, flowers and flower beds		
10	ER 6	Residual household waste per household (Kgs)		
11	ER 7	% of household waste recycled / composted		
12	ER 8	Percentage of municipal waste land filled		
13	ER 9	Satisfaction with the standard of cleanliness and maintenance of parks and green spaces		
14	ER 10	Number of Green Flag Awards achieved for Halton		
15	ER 11	Improved local biodiversity –active management of local sites.	N/A	N/A
16	ER 12	To regenerate 5 hectares of urban sites per annum for the next five years	N/A	N/A
17	ER 13	To make sure there is a 5 year rolling supply of housing land available for 2000 homes over 5 years	N/A	N/A

SCS / ER1a

Number of Local bus passenger journeys originating in the authority area (000) (NI 177)

	2011/12 Actual	2012/13 Target	2012/13 Qtr 2	2012/13 Qtr 4	Current Progress	Direction of Travel
	6,060	6,200	2,689		✘	↓
Data Commentary:						
The figures for this indicator are actuals for the financial year 2012/13 and are provided by the bus operators in the Borough.						
Performance Commentary:						
Patronage levels have continued to decline due to the withdrawal of a number of services and a reduction in the funding available to provide contracted bus services. One operator is currently revisiting their initial Quarter 2 data as discussions identified there had been a considerable and unanticipated decrease against the preceding quarter.						

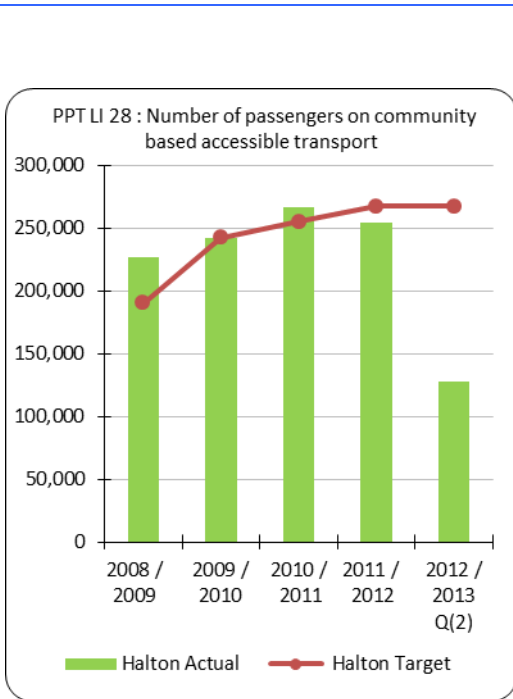
Summary of Key activities taken or planned to improve performance:

Operators continue to experience above inflation increases in operating costs which may result in further service reductions in the future. The Bus Service Operators Grant was reduced by 20% as of 1st April 2012 and the local bus budget was further reduced by 19.14%. Anecdotal evidence from one operator has indicated that the fall in patronage could be the result of the current economic climate.

The operators continue to evaluate the current network to identify any possible opportunities to grow and improve services and routes. The Transport Co-ordination section will continue to discuss these opportunities with the operators. Work has begun to deliver service improvements on the Daresbury - Warrington corridor through funding awarded following the successful Mid-Mersey LSTF bid. An increase in the frequency of existing services is expected to be registered early in Quarter 3.

SCS / ER1b

Number of passengers on community based accessible transport PPT LI 28



2011/12 Actual	2012/13 Target	2012/13 Qtr 2	2012/13 Qtr 4	Current Progress	Direction of Travel
253,682	267,000	127,273		?	↑

Data Commentary:

The data above is actual patronage numbers and is provided by the operator and taken from the Council’s in house scheduling system.

Performance Commentary:

Passenger numbers have fallen between Quarters 1 and 2. However figures will have been affected as a result of school contracts not operating during the second quarter and it is anticipated that patronage will return to target levels during Q3.

Additionally as compared to the preceding year the quarter 2 figure represents a rise in numbers of almost 5,000 although it remains uncertain at this stage whether the annual target will be reached.

Summary of Key activities taken or planned to improve performance:

Passenger numbers have increased as compared to the same period last year and the service continues to demonstrate a high level of patronage.

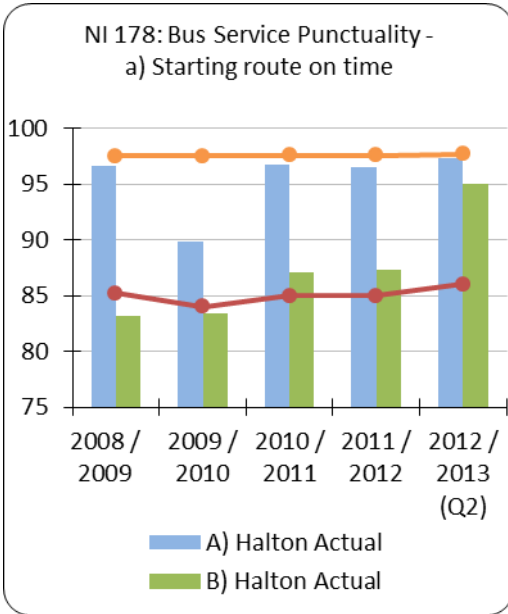
The service continues to be widely promoted in order to ensure that the return on investment can be maximised. For example presentations on the services delivered by Halton Community Transport have been delivered to both Elected Members and the public at a number of Area Forums, and an explanatory leaflet has been produced and distributed on how services can be accessed.

SCS / ER2

Percentage % of Bus services running on time: (NI 178)

a) Percentage of buses starting route on time

b) Percentage of buses on time at intermediate timing points



2011/12 Actual	2012/13 Target	2012/13 Qtr 2	2012/13 Qtr 4	Current Progress	Direction of Travel
a) 96.56	97.70%	97.29%		✓	↑
b) 87.30	86.00%	95%		✓	↑

Data Commentary:

This data is actual data and is taken from timing checks carried out by a member of the Transport Co-ordination Team.

Performance Commentary:

- a) Performance slightly down on this year's Quarter 1 position. However, the indicator continues to perform above last year's Quarter 2 position and is on course to achieve this year's target.
- b) Following the recent re-scheduling of the services in the Borough, this indicator continues to perform at expected levels with Quarter 2 showing improvement both on the preceding quarter and as compared to the quarter 2 2011 – 12 position.

Summary of Key activities taken or planned to improve performance:

The Council continues to monitor the position in relation to these measures and provides regular feedback to operators. Operators are also continuing to monitor the performance on the network in order that the punctuality of services remains at optimum and realistic levels taking account of contributory factors which remain outside of their control e.g. highway maintenance works, unusual traffic flow patterns, etc.

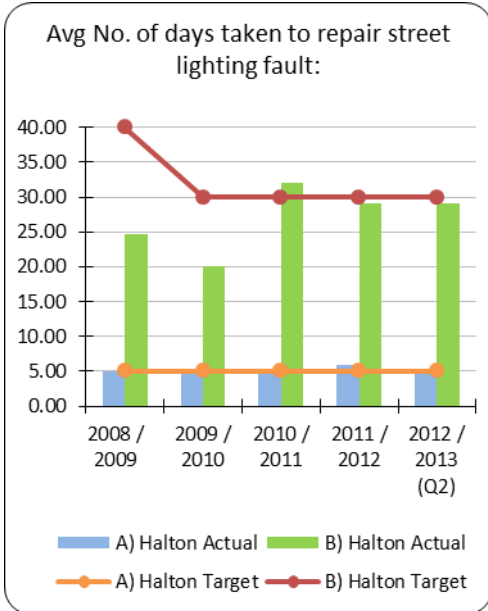
There has also been significant investment in GPS enabled ticketing systems which have improved the quality of information available to operators. This information provides operators with real time data which enables them to make informed decisions on the scheduling of services.

Both of these measures are currently showing a high level of performance and there are currently no indications that this will not be sustained as we move forward through the remainder of the year.

SCS / ER3

Average Number of days to repair street lighting faults:

- a) Non Distribution Network Operators (HBC)
- b) Distribution Network Operator (DNO)



2011/12 Actual	2012/13 Target	2012/13 Qtr 2	2012/13 Qtr 4	Current Progress	Direction of Travel
a) 6.00	a) 5.00	a) 5.00		✓	↔
b) 29.00	b) 30.00	b) 29.00		✓	↓

Data Commentary:

This is actual data for year-end derived from Halton Mayrise repair records system.

Performance Commentary:

Currently on target but performance can reduce during the darker nights due to an increased number of faults being reported and increased workload for the DNO (Scottish Power).

Summary of Key activities taken or planned to improve performance:

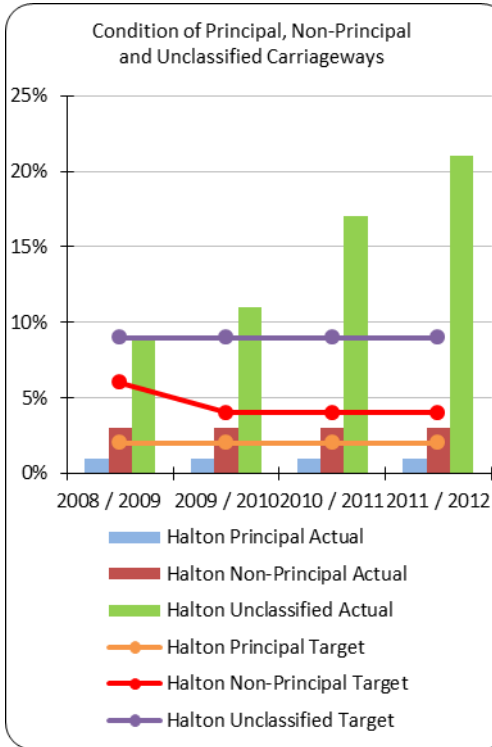
Performance of the contractors is continuing to be monitored to ensure work is on target, however we cannot force the Distribution Network Operator (DNO) to provide increased resources to meet the target.

The DNO requires longer to complete their repairs due to them needing to arrange for excavations to complete repairs involving a number of operations. Halton Borough Council works usually involve the replacement of lamps and hence can be carried out relatively quickly.

SCS / ER4

Percentage of road carriageway where maintenance should be considered

- a) Principal Carriageways
- b) Non-Principal Carriageways
- c) Unclassified Carriageways



2011/12 Actual	2012/13 Target	2012/13 Qtr 2	2012/13 Qtr 4	Current Progress	Direction of Travel
a) 1%	a) 2%	Data Reported in Q4		N/A	N/A
b) 3%	b) 4%				
c) 21%	c) 9%				

Data Commentary:

The data required to report on this measure is based upon Scanner survey of the Principal and non-Principal carriageway network and Coarse Visual Inspection of the Unclassified Carriageway network. These surveys are conducted on an annual cycle and as the data is not available until March, the measure can only be reported annually in Q4.

Performance Commentary:

These measures will be reported in Q4 due to the availability of data.

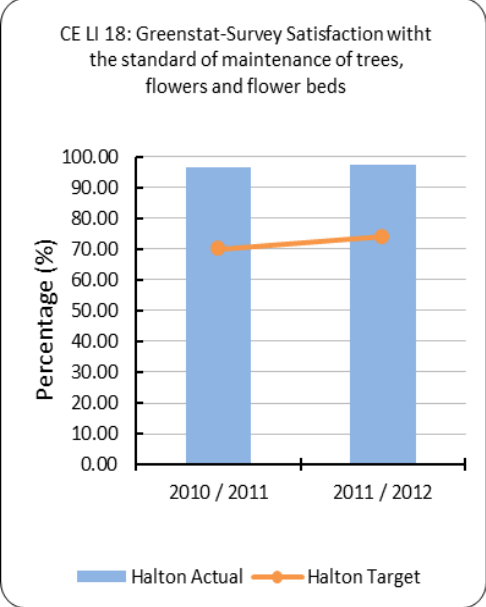


Summary of Key activities taken or planned to improve performance:

Maintaining an effective highways infrastructure, particularly for principal carriageways, has a number of significant advantages for local residents and businesses in terms of both the Environment and Urban Renewal and Safer Halton perspectives. The highway network is the Council’s biggest physical asset.

Future targets are considered appropriate to carriageway classification although any future, and as yet unknown, financial considerations may require these targets to be reviewed.

The volume of carriageway structural and preventative maintenance work committed to in 2012/13 totals 32,000sqm and 90,500sqm respectively. This compares with 2011/12 volumes of work of 30,625sqm and 118,000sqm respectively. Despite decreased budget availability it is expected that target expectations for (a) and (b) should be satisfied and that improvement should be made as regards meeting target expectations for (c).

The long range Met Office predictions for Winter 2012/13 have not yet been received but should the conditions encountered in the 2010/11 and the two preceding years be repeated this could have significant repercussions for carriageway condition targets in 2013/14.

CE LI 18: Greenstat-Survey Satisfaction with the standard of maintenance of trees, flowers and flower beds 	2011/12 Actual	2012/13 Target	2012/13 Qtr 2	2012/13 Qtr 4	Current Progress	Direction of Travel
	97.5%	78%	96.15%			
Data Commentary:						
Quarter 2 figure represents actual data for the period taken from the Greenstat Survey.						
Performance Commentary:						
Score is above target but shows a slight drop from the previous year which was 96.88%.						



Summary of Key activities taken or planned to improve performance:

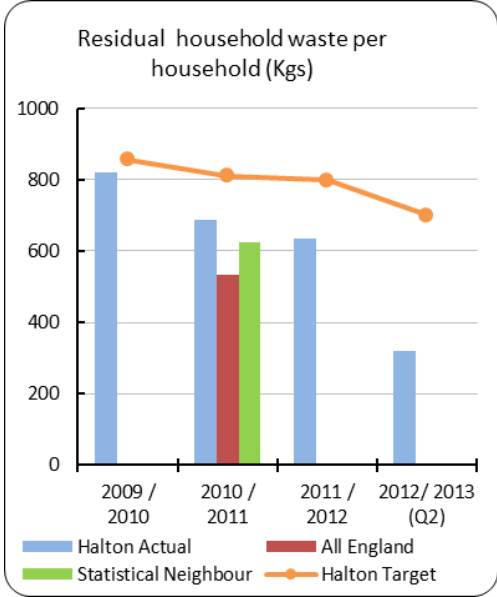
It is hoped that in the short-term levels of public satisfaction can be sustained through the continued maintenance programme. However public perception rates can be influenced by a range of factors and as resources continue to decrease it is more appropriate to establish an acceptable level of satisfaction as opposed to a continual year on year increase.

The Open Space Service will continue to manage its sites to the highest standards that it can achieve within the resources allocated to it.

SCS / ER6

Residual household waste per household (Kgs)

2011/12 Actual	2012/13 Target	2012/13 Qtr 2	2012/13 Qtr 4	Current Progress	Direction of Travel
636 Kgs	700kgs	319.59 Kgs			
Data Commentary:					
This indicator monitors the authority's performance in reducing the amount of waste produced per household.					
Performance Commentary:					
This is an estimated figure and waste is subject to seasonal variation, however, indications at this stage are that this target will be met.					





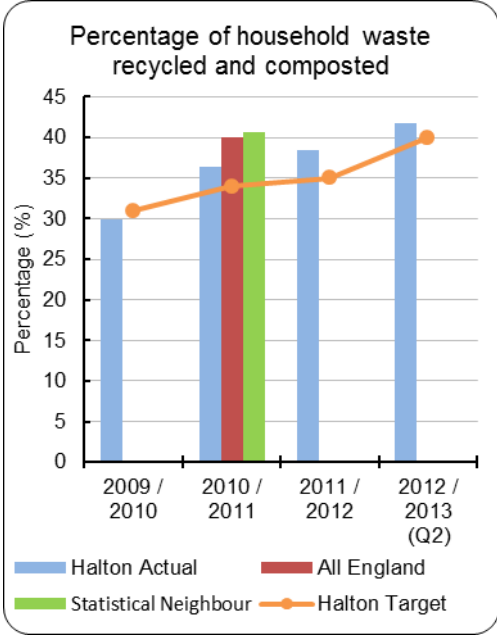
Summary of Key activities taken or planned to improve performance:

Given the financial pressures faced by the Council, and the increasing costs associated with landfill, a key challenge over the short and medium term will be to continue to reduce the levels of waste produced per household.

Despite annual improvements in performance against this indicator, the residual level of waste produced per household in Halton is amongst the highest in the country. Reducing the levels of waste produced in Halton will therefore be particularly challenging and require a significant change in resident behaviour. A Communications and Awareness Raising Strategy is being developed to support the Council's efforts to reduce levels of waste produced.

SCS / ER7 % of household waste recycled and composted

	2011/12 Actual	2012/13 Target	2012/13 Qtr 2	2012/13 Qtr 4	Current Progress	Direction of Travel
	39.90%	40%	41.83%			
Data Commentary:						
This indicator measures the % of household waste which has been sent by the authority for reuse, recycling or composting.						
This is an estimated figure and waste is subject to seasonal variation.						
Performance Commentary:						
Indications are that at this stage the target will be met.						




Summary of Key activities taken or planned to improve performance:

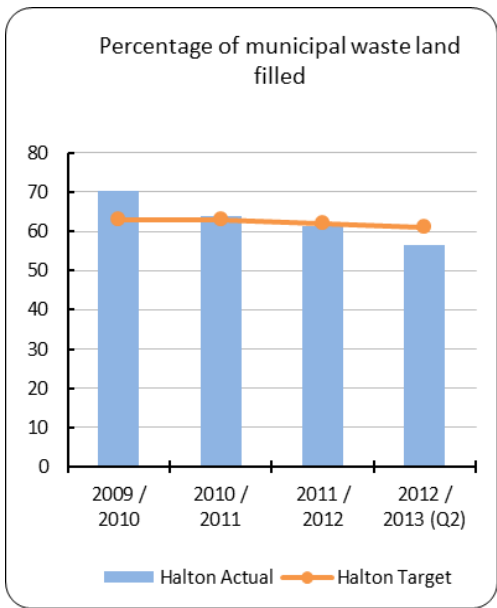
Given the financial pressures faced by the Council, and the increasing costs associated with landfill, a key challenge over the short and medium term will be to concentrate efforts to minimise waste production within the borough, increase recycling levels and reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill.

Whilst kerbside multi-material recycling services are provided to all properties in the borough, there are areas where participation rates remain relatively low and further work will be needed to increase participation and recycling performance.

Increased participation will require a significant change in resident behaviour. Raising awareness on waste matters and changing people’s behaviour will be vital if we are to be successful in reducing the Council’s costs of dealing with waste and this will best be achieved through direct and comprehensive community engagement activities. In order to support the Council’s efforts to reduce waste sent to landfill for disposal, a Community Engagement Strategy is being developed which set out how we will engage with members of the local community and the messages that will be used to promote and encourage waste minimisation and increased recycling.

The introduction and further roll out of the Alternate Bin Collection scheme and the implementation of the Council’s ‘no side waste’ policy will encourage increased use of the Council’s recycling services and further improve recycling performance. Limiting the amount of residual waste we collect, by not taking additional ‘side waste’ presented alongside wheeled bins for collection, will encourage residents to accept responsibility for their waste, to think about minimising what they produce and to recycle as much as possible by making better use of the services provided by the Council.

2011/12 Actual	2012/13 Target	2012/13 Qtr 2	2012/13 Qtr 4	Current Progress	Direction of Travel
57.50%	61.00%	56.49%		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Data Commentary:					
<p>This indicator measures the % of Municipal waste which has been sent to landfill for disposal. Municipal Waste is all the waste produced/collected by the Council when carrying out its functions e.g. Household Waste, Commercial Waste, litter and Fly-tipping waste.</p> <p>This is an estimated figure and waste is subject to seasonal variation.</p>					
Performance Commentary:					
<p>Indications are that at this stage the target will be met.</p>					



Summary of Key activities taken or planned to improve performance:

The reduction in the % of municipal waste sent to landfill for disposal has been achieved through a number of activities that have resulted in both a reduction in the level of waste produced in Halton (SCS ER 6) and an increase amount of waste produced that has been recycled (SCS ER 7). These activities have included educational and awareness raising campaigns, the provision of enhanced recycling services to all households in the borough, the Council’s ‘rewards for recycling’ scheme, the pilot Alternate Bin Collection scheme and new contractual arrangements that have resulted in the recycling of both commercial waste and waste generated from the Council’s Open Space Services operations.

Now that all households in the borough have access to multi-material recycling services, sustaining and further improving performance will require an increase in the number of households using the services provided. Increased participation and recycling will require significant change in the behaviour of many residents. A number of initiatives are planned to encourage more residents to reduce the amount of waste that they produce, and recycle more, including further educational and community engagement initiatives, the further roll out of the Alternate Bin Collection scheme and the implementation of the Council’s ‘no side waste’ policy.

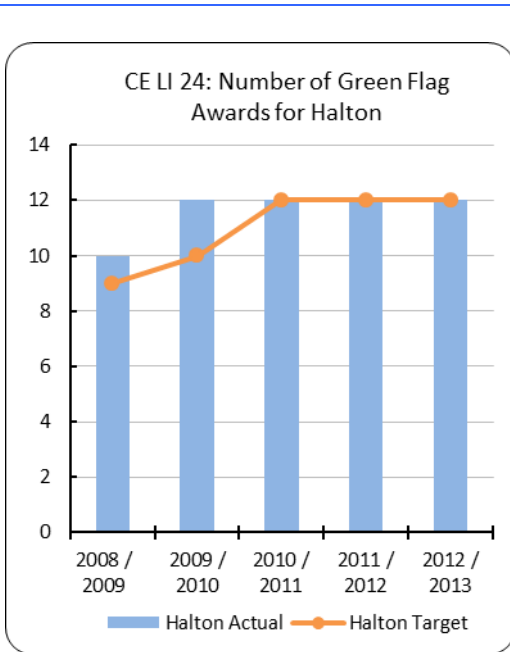
<p>Satisfaction of the standard of cleanliness and maintenance of parks and green spaces</p>	2011/12 Actual	2012/13 Target	2012/13 Qtr 2	2012/13 Qtr 4	Current Progress	Direction of Travel
	95.9%	92%	97.44%			
Data Commentary:						
Quarter 2 figure represents actual data for the period captured through the Green Stat survey.						
Performance Commentary:						
Despite facing a very challenging year due to the extremely wet summer the score is up on previous year and is above target and higher than the 2011/12 Q2 figure which was 97.5%.						
Eighty seven people took part in the survey between April to September this year.						

Summary of Key activities taken or planned to improve performance:

It is unlikely that performance can be improved given the resources available but it is anticipated that the target can be met and standards of cleanliness of parks and green spaces maintained at a good level.

SCS / ER10

Number of Green Flag Awards achieved for Halton



2011/12 Actual	2012/13 Target	2012/13 Qtr 2	2012/13 Qtr 4	Current Progress	Direction of Travel
12	12	12			

Data Commentary:

The Green Flag Award scheme is the benchmark national standard for parks and green spaces in the UK and applications must be made by the organisation that manages the park/green space.

The Green Flag Award is given on an annual basis in May each year. A park or green space must maintain and improve on previous standards to be guaranteed a subsequent award.

Performance Commentary:

Green Flag Awards have been retained at:

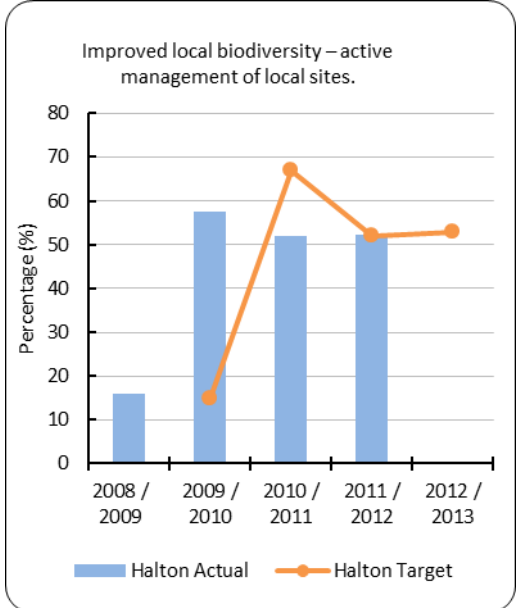
- | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| Clinton Woods LNR | Spike Island |
| Hale Park | Victoria Park |
| Hough Green Park | Victoria Promenade |
| Phoenix Park | Wigg Island |
| Pickerings Pasture | Runcorn Hill Park |
| Rock Park | Runcorn Town Hall Park |

Summary of Key activities taken or planned to improve performance:

The Open Space Service will continue to manage its sites to the highest standards it can achieve within the resources allocated to it. It will be very challenging in 2013/14 to retain all twelve Green Flag Awards.

SCS / ER11

Improved local biodiversity – active management of local sites. (NI 197)

	2011/12 Actual	2012/13 Target	2012/13 Qtr 2	2012/13 Qtr 4	Current Progress	Direction of Travel
	52.3%	53%	N/A		N/A	N/A
Data Commentary:						
Data for 2012/13 is not reported on until after the end of the year.						
Performance Commentary:						
It is anticipated based upon planned works for the coming winter period the target will be exceeded. Data only becomes available in March 2013.						

Summary of Key activities taken or planned to improve performance:

Planned works at local wildlife sites and Local Nature Reserves is scheduled to start in October 2012. Works include woodland management tasks over the winter period and heather moorland restoration using volunteers from O2.

SCS / ER12

To regenerate 5 hectares of urban sites per annum for the next five years

	2011/12 Actual	2012/13 Target	2012/13 Qtr 2	2012/13 Qtr 4	Current Progress	Direction of Travel
No chart available	N/A	5 hectares	N/A		N/A	N/A

Data Commentary:

Data is obtained from the annual National Land Use Database Site Survey and database categories A, B, & C to F definitions. The purpose of the indicator is to ensure the best use of the Halton's land assets and promote sustainable growth and development.

Performance Commentary:

A number of brownfield sites across the Borough have either been granted planning consent or works commenced on site. Examples include Widnes Waterfront, 3MG, Castlefields, Polar Ford redevelopment at Halton Lea, Halton Road housing scheme.

Data for 2011/12 is currently being collated is anticipated to become available in the third quarter of 2012/13.

Summary of Key activities taken or planned to improve performance:

- Delivery of Key Areas of Change within the Core Strategy Local Plan through specific schemes and partnerships.
- Work to achieve the target of 40% of housing development to be delivered on brownfield land set out in the Core Strategy (Policy CS3 – Housing Supply and Locational Priorities)
- Promotion of brownfield sites for redevelopment through Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment and emerging Local Economic Prosperity Strategy & Investment Framework.
- Granting of planning consent on appropriate brownfield sites.
- Delivery of further regeneration activity at Widnes Waterfront, 3MG and Runcorn Old Town.

SCS / ER13 To make sure there is a 5 year rolling supply of deliverable housing land available for 5 years' worth of housing against the housing requirement (New)

	2011/12 Actual	2012/13 Target	2012/13 Qtr 2	2012/13 Qtr 4	Current Progress	Direction of Travel
No chart available	141% (Published December 2011)	100%	N/A		N/A	N/A

Data Commentary:

The purpose of this indicator is to ensure that sufficient *SUPPLY* of land is available to deliver the Borough's targets for building new homes.

Figures are calculated as at 1st April each year however these do not become available until at least the second quarter period. Data is taken from the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) which is a requirement of the National Planning Policy Framework.

The measure is calculated in accordance with the definition for former National Indicator NI159 plus a 20% buffer (would be 5% but for previous under-performance in *DELIVERY*) in line with National Planning Policy Framework (Para 47) requirements. The basic requirement is for 552 units per annum = 3,309 units (552 x 5 years +20%), however as the indicator comprises previous over/under performance the numeric requirement changes year to year. A 496 net gain over the last two years (608 behind target) makes this year's five year requirement 3,456 units or 691 per annum.

Performance Commentary:

Housing targets and requirement to maintain a 5 year supply originate from Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) and national guidance. The former is due to be revoked and the latter has been updated with the publication of the National Planning Policy Framework which added a requirement to add a 20% buffer as there has been consistent under-performance against prevailing targets.

The Core Strategy examination has imposed the retention of the RSS housing figures with the effect of increasing the 9,000 housing requirement by 930 units to accommodate past under-performance. The examination also called into question previous assumptions about identified sites which may result in a reduction in reported supply.

Summary of Key activities taken or planned to improve performance:

Whilst the planning system can seek to identify and allocate additional land, only the proportion of units considered deliverable within 5 years contribute to the 5 year supply. This is dependent upon developers gaining planning permission and bringing sites forward for development.

The Core Strategy examination is recommending additional land be identified for development around Widnes and Hale. This will be brought forward through the next Local (Development) Plan to 2028.