# **Environment & Urban Renewal PPB Thematic Performance Overview Report**

Reporting Period: Quarter 3 – Period 1 October to 31 December 2012

#### 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This report provides an overview of issues and progress against key service objectives/milestones and performance targets, during the third quarter of 2012/13.
- 1.2 Key priorities for development or improvement in 2012-15 were agreed by Members and included in Directorate Plans, for the various functional areas reporting to the Environment and Urban Renewal Policy & Performance Board:
  - Economic Regeneration
  - Environmental
  - Highways, Transportation & Logistics
  - Physical Environment (Statutory Plans and Housing Issues)
- 1.3 The way in which traffic light symbols have been used to reflect progress to date is explained within the Appendix (section 8). Please note initials have been provided to indicate which Operational Director is responsible for the commentary to aid Members during Policy and Performance Board scrutiny of the report. A key is provided at the end of the report in the Appendix (section 8).

#### 2.0 Key Developments

There have been a number of developments during the period which include:-

#### 2.1 Economic Regeneration (WR)

#### 2.1.1 Regeneration

The formal process to secure a further five year Business Improvement District Programme at Astmoor and Halebank Industrial Estates is well advanced.

Business Improvement Districts or BIDs are a partnership between local authorities and local businesses to provide additional services or improvements to a specific area funded by an additional levy to the non-domestic rates.

All ratepayers in the BID area have the opportunity to vote on the proposed BID Programme. Approval of a BID has to meet two tests.

Firstly a simple majority of those voting in the BID ballot must vote in favour. Secondly, those voting in favour must represent a majority by rateable value of the rateable properties of those voting.

The process by which businesses are balloted to ascertain their views with respect to the creation, or continuation, of a BID is strictly governed by statute The following timetable has been, therefore, been put in place to satisfy the requirements of the relevant legislation:-

Date		Action
December	04	Notice given to ballot holder (HBC) to hold BID Ballot.
2012		
December	05	Ballot holder instructs Electoral Reform Society (ERS) of
2012		intention to ballot.
January 03 2013		ERS receives list of eligible BID businesses + wording for
		covering letter.
January 17 20	13	Formal '42 Day Notice' of ballot issued to Department for
		Communities and Local Government.
January 31 20	13	Ballot papers distributed by ERS.
February 28 20	013	Close of Ballot.

The delivery of the ERDF 4.2 Business Support Programme is scheduled to commence in January 2013. In readiness for a January roll out a small Project Team has been created made up of a part-time Project Manager (in post) and a full time Project Support Officer (offered to existing Council staff as a secondment opportunity).

The Halton element of the pan-Merseyside ERDF 4.2 Business Support Programme will consist of firstly, a comprehensive business diagnostic which will generate a detail 'Strategic Plan for Growth' for each participating business. The 'Strategic Plan for Growth' will suggest further specific interventions which will enable the company to grow and achieve second stage growth.

The Business Improvement & Growth (BIG) team does not have the capacity or skill sets to deliver one to one, face to face business support. Expert consultancy support will, therefore, be procured utilising the Council's Matrix SProc.Net portal. The Matrix SProc.NET is a procurement portal employed by all Merseyside Local Authorities to source consultancy services.

The Team has, therefore, in partnership with Knowsley, Wirral and Sefton Councils, participated in numerous events to ensure that the programme has access to a ready supply of suitable consultants. It is anticipated that a company, consortia or group of consultants will be appointed in January 2013 to begin the diagnostic element of the programme with local companies.

#### 2.1.2 Funding

During the quarter we achieved the following:

- Received 27 new funding enquiries
- Helped to secure £11.6million in external grant funding; this included £9.77m from Regional Growth Fund and £1.81m from Growing Places Fund for Sci-Tech Daresbury, as well as a number of smaller amounts from WREN and the National Lottery.

#### Big Lottery Fund - Reaching Communities Programme

Currently supporting the following projects at Outline Proposal Stage:

- The Canal Boat Adventure Project/Woodlands Play Centre
- Halton CAB
- Catalyst SDC
- Community Safety Team

We have also now had five stage one passes, which is an achievement in itself, and are now supporting these projects with Full Stage bids

- Halton Community Transport
- Delamere Centre
- Power in Partnership
- Nightstop
- Groundwork Cheshire

#### Big Local Trust

£1m has been allocated to Windmill Hill over the next 10 years. External Funding is supporting the Advisory Group to get the programme established with the local community.

#### Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF)

Sankey Canal: Working on a Round 1 bid to HLF for late 2013 as well as leading on consultation and grant criteria.

Norton Priory Museum Trust: supporting a stage 2 bid for £3.5m, with match funding target of £1million.

St Marie's Church redevelopment has passed at full stage, with an award of £800,000.

#### 2.2 Environmental (CP)

#### 2.2.1 Environmental Enforcement

During this last Quarter, Officers issued 65 Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) for waste related offences, taking the total issued this financial year to 221. There were also 6 successful prosecutions for waste and environmental offences, taking the total so far this year to 35.

Following a review, the Council's FPN levels have been amended and set at the upper level allowed under legislation. The increased levels have been introduced to act as a further deterrent to individuals committing waste and environmental offences. The new FPN levels are set out in the table below:

Description of Offence	Amounts available under legislation	HBC Amount
Litter	Can be set at local level £50-£80	£75 if paid in 10 days £80 thereafter
Street Litter Control Notice	Can be set at local level £75-£110	£100 if paid in 10 days £110 thereafter
Street Litter Clearing Notice	Can be set at local level £75-£110	£100 if paid in 10 days £110 thereafter
Unauthorised Distribution of Free Printed Matter	Can be set at local level £50-£80	£75 if paid in 10 days £80 thereafter
Offences in relation to Waste Receptacles	Can be set at local level £60-£80	£75 if paid in 10 days £80 thereafter
Offences under Dog Control Orders	Can be set at local level £50-£80	£75 if paid in 10 days £80 thereafter
	<u> </u>	
Failure to Produce a Waste Transfer Note	Set by Statute £300	£275 if paid in 10 days £300 thereafter
Failure to produce a Waste Carrier's Licence	Set by Statute £300	£275 if paid in 10 days £300 thereafter

#### 2.2.2 Open Space Services

#### Parks for People bid

In late December 2012 the service was informed that it had been successful with its 'Parks for People' bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for £1.3 million for Runcorn Hill & Heath Park.

The funding will deliver an upgraded park with better facilities and represents the biggest investment in it since the 1920s. The Parks for People money will do for Runcorn Hill what a previous lottery grant did for Victoria Park in the previous decade.

The HLF grant will allow infrastructure such as paths and fences to be upgraded and improved. The important lowland heathland will also be improved. A new park centre/café will be created, a club house created for the model boat club and the shelter at the bowling greens will be refurbished.

The project that will now commence to bring about the improvements will take 5 years.

#### **New Cremators**

Procurement of two new cremators for Widnes Cemetery began in Q3. It is expected that the new cremators will be in situ by September 2013.

# 2.3 Highways, Transportation & Logistics (MN)

#### 2.3.1 Highway & Bridge Maintenance

In his Autumn Statement, the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced that  $\mathfrak{L}215m$  of additional capital funding would be provided to local highway authorities, to help renew and repair the network in England.  $\mathfrak{L}140m$  would come in 2013/14, with the remaining  $\mathfrak{L}75m$  following in 2014/15. The funds are distributed on the basis of the Department's existing highways maintenance capital funding formula.

Halton Borough Council (HBC) will receive an additional £355k for 2013/14 (18% increase above Local Transport Plan Highway Maintenance Block) and £187k for 2014/15 (10% increase).

Delivery of major bridge maintenance work within the Silver Jubilee Bridge (SJB) Complex using DfT Major Maintenance Capital funding is on-going. The major work to refurbish and repaint the above deck steelwork at the Runcorn end and to replace the pedestrian parapet on the footbridge has now been completed.

The 2012/13 carriageway structural reconstruction programme has been completed. It is expected that one further small scheme and pre patching works prior to next year's surface dressing programme will be addressed in Q4.

Phases one and two of the 2012/13 footway reconstruction programme have been completed with Phase three well underway.

Tenders for the provision of highway improvement and maintenance works in Halton and Warrington have been received from 5 organisations. The financial and quality aspects of these submissions are currently being evaluated with a view to award of the Contract in early March 2013 and contract start on 1 June 2013.

#### 2.3.2 Highway Network Improvement

The Depart for Transport (DfT) has invited Councils to apply for a share of the £170 million Local Pinch Point Fund to remove bottlenecks on the highway network.

This funding forms part of an additional £1.5 billion investment announced by the Government, to improve the road network and reduce congestion, Halton has been asked to respond on behalf of the Liverpool City Region Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) authorities and proposes to include within the submission, schemes within the Borough boundary.

The funding follows on from an earlier £100m fund for similar schemes on the Highway Agency's strategic road network, in which funding was granted for a scheme to improve capacity of M56 Junction 11 at Daresbury.

# 2.4 Physical Environment (MN)

# 2.4.1 Development Management Summary

Applications Received – 130 (includes applications withdrawn and returned)

Applications on hand (undecided) - 134 Applications Decided – 123

Below is a summary of major applications received (but not necessarily decided) over the last quarter:

REF	PROPOSAL
12/00445/FUL	Proposed re-plan of plots 14 - 48 (phase 2), of the previously approved scheme 09/00512/FUL, reducing the total number of units on the development by one to 73 no. at Land To The Northern Extent Of, St Aidan's Drive, Widnes.
12/00448/FUL	Proposed installation of new and replacement gas exchanger plant at Ineos Enterprises Ltd, Sulphuric Acid Plant, Rocksavage Works, Runcorn.
12/00457/FUL	Proposed remediation and extension of allotments via the import of material to provide a clean capping layer at Allotment Gardens, Heath Road, Runcorn.
12/00458/FULEIA	Proposed development and erection of a wood fuelled Biomass Combined Heat and Power Plant and ancillary infrastructure development at Stobart Park/3MG, Widnes.
12/00473/FUL	Proposed replacement of boundary fence and gate posts at Leigh Recreation Ground, Lower House Lane, Widnes.
12/00492/S73	Proposed renewal of Planning permission 09/00509/S73 for the erection of a block of 10 no. apartments at Community Centre, Vine Street, Widnes.
12/00511/FUL	Proposed development of a Class A1 neighbourhood foodstore (1556 GIA) with 74 associated car parking spaces (amendment to proposal permitted under application Ref.11/00240/FUL) on Site Of Former, Vestric House, West Lane, Runcorn.
12/00516/FUL	Proposed erection of portal framed building for use as raw materials reception along with new tallow farm to replace existing tallow farm and new vehicle wash facility to replace existing vehicle wash facility at Granox Ltd, Desoto Road, Widnes.

REF	PROPOSAL
12/00524/OUT	Outline planning application (with all matters reserved) for demolition of existing public house and the erection of a two thousand square metre, three storey nursing home at Hallwood Raven, Eagles Way, Runcorn.
12/00535/FUL	Proposed erection of new portal frame workshop and reconstruction of existing access road at Wernick Hire Ltd, Kingfisher Business Park, Brown St, Widnes.
13/00011/S73	Proposed variation of condition 57 of BERR permission 01.08.10.04/8C (Halton Ref 07/00068/ELC) to vary (by increase) the maximum amount of Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF) which may be transported by road to the energy from waste facility (EfW) from 85,000 tonnes per annum up to 480,000 tonnes per annum at Ineos Chlor South Parade, Runcorn. And to place an obligation on the operator of the EfW facility to report annually to Halton Borough Council the actions taken to secure the delivery of RDF by rail and or water over the previous 12 month period together with recommendations for the year ahead at Runcorn Energy From Waste Facility Barlow Way, Off Picow Farm Road, Runcorn.

# 2.5 Housing Issues (PMcW)

# 2.5.1 Homelessness & Housing Strategy

The reconfiguration of Homelessness Services is continuing. All service users have been relocated from Halton Goals and the service ceased to operate on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2012.

Following the withdrawal of Cosmopolitan Housing Association from its housing development commitments in Halton (covered in the last Report), Halton Housing Trust has submitted a number of substitute development proposals to the Homes and Communities Agency, including proposals for extra care housing and a homeless hostel in Widnes. The outcome of these funding bids is awaited.

The Department of Health recently launched a £160m funding programme, to be managed by the Homes and Communities Agency, which is focussed on developing housing provision for older people and the disabled who have care and support needs. Bids are being prepared for submission.

Work is on-going to develop Halton's Housing Strategy, with a view to presenting a draft report to Exec Board on 24 January 2013, prior to commencing stakeholder consultation during February and March which will include reports to the relevant PPBs

#### 2.5.2 Supported Housing

Quarter 3 has seen the successful opening of Naughton Fields Extra Care Housing Scheme. Naughton Fields offers high quality purpose built housing for people over 55. The development consists of 47 two bedroom apartments and in partnership with Halton Housing Trust will deliver an exciting new opportunity for people in the borough.

#### 3.0 Emerging Issues

A number of emerging issues have been identified during the period that will impact upon the work of the Council including:-

#### 3.1 Economic Regeneration (WR)

#### 3.1.1 Investment & Development

The Halton Core Strategy was adopted in December 2012. This document sets out a spatial vision and strategic policies to guide physical development, regeneration and investment within the Borough until 2028.

Whilst the Department has already begun to align its functions and service delivery to reflect new spatial plan priorities, such as through the recent restructure of development and investment services, further adjustment will be required over the next 12 months to ensure the department is focused on enabling delivery of the plan and securing maximum local economic benefits. Going forward this will create new service objective (and associated milestones) for the department including:

- Managing transition of resources from delivery of older regeneration programmes to developing and delivery of programmes within the Core Strategy key areas of change;
- Developing a refreshed departmental offer to changing patterns of inward investment opportunities;

#### 3.1.2 External Funding

The team is currently undertaking an analysis with Community Development Team of funding enquiries received between September and November 2012 with a view to exploring income generation opportunities.

Work is continuing to facilitate a Funding Update group for the Council, to look at areas of duplication and gaps in service provision, and also to explore joint training opportunities.

A training plan is being developed for 2013 to encourage self-sustainability for groups and Council colleagues to include Awards for All, Heritage Lottery Fund and How to Write High Quality bids.

Training sessions now booked as follows:

January 31<sup>st</sup> - Awards for All surgeries with Community Development Team February 1<sup>st</sup> - Esmee Fairbairn Foundation surgeries February 13<sup>th</sup> - Heritage Lottery Fund overview session

The service is continuing to support the JV Partnership at Sci-Tech Daresbury to source match funding and to develop a funding strategy for the site.

# 3.2 Environmental (CP)

#### 3.2.1 Open Space Services

The exceptionally wet weather continued through Quarter 3. This compounded the issues that the service was already facing and has resulted in additional costs.

Water damage to open space infrastructure has been significant with culverts becoming blocked and pond edges breaking up. Winter playing pitch maintenance has been severely affected.

# 3.3 Highways, Transportation & Logistics (MN)

#### 3.3.1 Winter Maintenance

The winter maintenance season for highways commenced on 10 October 2012. By the end of December, 20 gritting runs had been undertaken using 440 tonnes of grit. Approximately 1250 tonnes of grit is stockpiled and stock levels continue to be monitored with a view to replenishing at the appropriate time.

#### 3.3.2 Highway Development

Following the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) consultation exercise early last year, the implementation of the Sustainable Drainage (SuDS) schedule of the Flood and Water Management Act may now be delayed until April 2014 or later. The legislation as currently drafted, carries through the recommendations of the Pitt Report, and includes the setting up of a local SuDS Approval Body (SAB) to consider and approve sustainable drainage proposals from developers and to adopt and maintain those systems in the future.

#### 3.3.3 Street Lighting

Electricity rates will increase from 1 April 2013 by about 10%. It has been necessary to apply for extra funding to cover the increase of £115k. This is only for one year and the rate in future years is still unknown, but it is likely to be increase further.

#### 4.0 Risk Control Measures

4.1 Risk control forms an integral part of the Council's Business Planning and performance monitoring arrangements. During the development of the 2012/13 Business Plan, the service was required to undertake a risk assessment of all key service objectives with high risks included in the Directorate Risk Register.

As a result, monitoring of all relevant 'high' risks will be undertaken and progress reported against the application of the risk treatment measures in Quarters 2 and 4.

# 5.0 Progress against high priority equality actions

5.1 There have been no high priority equality actions identified in the quarter.

#### 6.0 Performance Overview

The following information provides a synopsis of progress for both milestones and performance indicators across the key business areas that have been identified by the Directorate.

#### 6.1 Economic Regeneration

#### Key Objectives / Milestones

# Development & Investment Services

Ref	Milestones	Q3 Progress	
EEP 2	Agree the restoration strategy for St Michaels Golf Course and commence Phase 2 by <b>July 2012</b> .	✓	
EEP 2	Complete the second phase of warehouse development on Stobart land and the improvements to Foundry Lane access by <b>March 2013</b> .		

#### Supporting Commentary

#### St. Michaels Golf Course Restoration

The restoration strategy for St Michaels Golf Course is on schedule, with the 3 month exclusivity agreement between Halton Borough Council (HBC) and Mersey Valley is now in place.

Officers are due to meet with Mersey Valley on the 8th January to receive an update on intended programme of work by Mersey Valley. Due diligence work will continue by HBC to ensure best value and to inform decision to commence to lease at the end of the exclusivity period.

# Stobart land and Foundry Lane Developments

The land remediation of phase 2 of is well underway with over £3m spent to date. On completion of the land remediation Stobart will look to start the warehouse development (subject to securing a tenant). However this is expected to be completed by March 2015.

# **Key Performance Indicators**

Ref	Measure	11/12 Actual	12/13 Target	Q3	Current Progress	Direction of travel
DIS LI 01	Occupancy of HBC Industrial Units.	72%	85%	81%	<b>✓</b>	Î
DIS LI 02	Occupancy of Widnes Market Hall.	85%	90%	92%	<b>✓</b>	1

# **Supporting Commentary**

#### **DIS LI 01**

A campaign to further promote our industrial units which has resulted in an improvement in the quarter from 72% to 81%. However, looking across the portfolio, the property sector as a whole is fragile.

#### DIS LI 02

Occupancy rate as at the end of December 2012 is 92%. 14 stalls are vacant out of 184 stalls. Occupancy rates may be affected by the continuing economic recession which is still adversely affecting businesses. Many traders within the market are struggling financially and are close to leaving the market in the New Year.

However, there are 15 applications which will be considered in mid-January 2013 which demonstrates that there are businesses still looking to be located within the market.

#### 6.2 Environmental

# 6.2.1 Open Spaces

#### Key Objectives / Milestones

Ref	Milestones	Q3 Progress
CE 5	Runcorn Hill Park (Parks for People bid) - Work up bid to 'Second Round' submission stage (subject to success of First Round) - <b>March 2013</b> .	<b>★</b>
CE 5	Woodland Expansion - Additional 200m2 of Woodland planted Borough wide - March 2013.	<b>✓</b>

# **Supporting Commentary**

# **Runcorn Hill Park Funding**

The Council was informed that it has been successful with its bid in late December 2012 and external for funding of £1.3 million has been secured for Runcorn Hill & Heath Park.

# **Woodland Expansion**

Planting plans were completed in Quarter 2. Planting commenced in Quarter 3 and will continue into Q4.

# Key Performance Indicators

Ref	Measure	11/12 Actual	12/13 Target	Q3	Current Progress	Direction of travel
CE LI 13	Greenstat-Survey, Satisfaction with the standard of maintenance of trees, flowers and flower beds. (Previously EAR LI8). (%)	97.5	78	100%	<b>✓</b>	$\widehat{\mathbb{I}}$
CE LI 18	Satisfaction with the standard of cleanliness and maintenance of parks and green spaces. (Previously EAR LI2). (%)	95.9	92	97.4%	<b>✓</b>	1
CE LI 19	Number of Green Flag Awards for Halton (Previously EAR LI3).	12	12	12	<b>✓</b>	<del> </del>

# **Supporting Commentary**

# **CE LI 13 & 18**

Figure is from the latest Greenstat Survey with at least 40 questionnaires are completed every quarter at a number of different parks.

#### **CE LI 19**

Green Flag Awards are made in Q1 and remain static until they expire in Q1 2013/14. Parks will be submitted for the 2013/14 award in Q4 of 2012/13.

# 6.2.2 Waste Management

#### Key Objectives / Milestones

Ref	Milestones	Q3 Progress
CE 6	Publish a revised Waste Management Strategy - March 2013.	<b>✓</b>
CE 6	Continue to review and assess the effectiveness of projects and initiatives to help improve energy efficiency and reduce CO2 emissions - <b>March 2013</b> .	<b>✓</b>

CE 6	Develop and publish a Waste Communications Plan and implement actions arising from the Plan - <b>March 2013</b> .	<b>✓</b>
CE 7	Continue to develop Action Plans and Protocols with External Agencies to effectively prevent and tackle a range of waste and environmental offences - <b>March 2013</b> .	<b>✓</b>

# **Supporting Commentary**

# **Publication of Revised Waste Management Strategy**

A review of the Waste Management Strategy has commenced and an updated Strategy will be produced as per the milestone date.

# Energy Efficiency and CO<sub>2</sub> Reduction

An energy management toolkit has been created to help building managers monitor energy usage in all council buildings fitted with automatic meter reading. An internal energy consumption monitoring and reporting process has now been introduced to help reduce energy consumption within corporate buildings.

#### **Waste Communications Plan**

A draft Waste Communications Plan has been produced and the implementation of actions contained within the Plan will commence ahead of the milestone date.

#### **Waste and Environmental Offences**

As reported in previous quarterly reports, joint working arrangements with external agencies have been on-going through this financial year and will continue. Officers are currently working on a programme of activities in partnership with a number of Housing Associations to reduce fly-tipping and other waste related problems.

#### **Key Performance Indicators**

Ref	Measure	11/12 Actual	12/13 Target	Q3	Current Progress	Direction of travel
CE LI 14	Residual household waste per household (Previously NI191). (Kgs)	655.18 Kgs (Estimated Cumulative)	700 Kgs Cumulative	475 Kgs	<b>✓</b>	Î
CE LI 15	Household waste recycled and composted (Previously NI192). (%)	38.42% (Estimated)	40%	39.73%	<b>✓</b>	1
CE LI 16	Municipal waste land filled (Previously NI193). (%)	61.36% (Estimated)	61%	58.57%	<b>✓</b>	1

# **Supporting Commentary**

#### CE LI 14, 15 & 16

These are estimated figures and waste is subject to seasonal variation, however, indications at this stage are that these targets will be met.

# 6.3 Highways, Transportation & Logistics

# 6.3.1 Mersey Gateway

# Key Objectives / Milestones

Ref	Milestones	Q3 Progress
PPT 07	Bidders submit draft final tenders. November 2012	<b>✓</b>
PPT 07	Issue Invitation to Submit Final Tender. February 2013	<b>✓</b>
PPT 07	Deadline for return of tenders. March 2013	<b>✓</b>

# **Supporting Commentary**

# **Mersey Gateway – Final Tender Submission & Evaluation**Draft final tenders were received on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2012.

Invitation to submit final tenders will take place in February 2013 after the Commercial and Technical Dialogue teams have evaluated the draft final tenders.

The Project Team intend to close dialogue on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2013 and issue the invitation to submit final tender.

#### 6.3.2 Transport

#### **Key Performance Indicators**

Ref	Measure	11/12 Actual	12/13 Target	Q3	Current Progress	Direction of travel
PPT LI 02	Increase MOT test facility turnover by 3% per annum $(\mathfrak{L})$	213,789	192,757 (+3%)	173,379	<b>✓</b>	Î
PPT LI 18 (Ex NI	Bus service punctuality, Part 1: The proportion of non-frequent scheduled services on time (%):					
<u>178)</u>	a) Percentage of buses starting route on time	96.56%	97.7%	97.43%	<b>✓</b>	Î
	b) Percentage of buses on time at intermediate timing points	87.30%	86%	92.09%	<b>✓</b>	1
PPT LI 20	No. of passengers on community based accessible transport	253,682	267,000	202,357	~	Î

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Ref	Measure	11/12 Actual	12/13 Target	Q3	Current Progress	Direction of travel
PPT LI 22 (Ex NI 177)	Number of local bus passenger journeys originating in the authority area in one year (000's)	6,060	6,200	4,134	×	1

# **Supporting Commentary**

#### PPT LI 02

Income receipts have remained above expected levels despite the reduced national economic growth forecast.

# **PPT LI 18 (a)**

This indicator continues to perform well and has seen a very slight increase on Q2 2012/13 figures.

# **PPT LI 18 (b)**

The indicator continues to perform well and it is expected the indicator will achieve above expected levels for this year.

#### **PPT LI 20**

Passenger numbers have increased during Q3 as expected. The increase is due to school journeys and season journeys during the Christmas period. It is anticipated the target figure will be achieved for this year.

#### **PPT LI 22**

Patronage on During Q3 has improved on Q2. This is due to seasonal increase. However it is anticipated the indicator will not achieve expected levels for the year. Operators have identified that patronage has dropped due to the current economic climate and the need to reduce operational mileage.

# 6.3.3 Bridge & Highway Maintenance

#### Key Objectives / Milestones

Ref	Milestones	Q3 Progress
PPT 05	Review progress, revise SJB maintenance strategy document and deliver 2012/13 major bridge maintenance works programme. <b>March 2013</b>	<b>✓</b>

# **Supporting Commentary**

# Silver Jubilee Bridge (SJB) Maintenance Strategy

The 2012/13 works programme is progressing. All above deck and below deck SJB refurbishment works in this year's programme have been completed. Replacement of the SJB footbridge parapet is complete. The new parapet at 1.8m high is 0.4m higher than the original parapet.

A new phase of SJB Complex major bridge maintenance works will commence in February 2013 but as this is confined to below deck level, the traffic management consequences will be much reduced.

# Key Performance Indicators

Ref	Measure	11/12 Actual	12/13 Target	Q3	Current Progress	Direction of travel
<u>PPT</u> <u>LI 01</u>	Number of third party compensation claims received due to alleged highway / footway defects	127	110	105	×	<u></u>
PPT LI 14	Damage to roads and pavements (% dangerous damage repaired within 24 hours).	94.4%	98%	80%	×	<b>=</b>

# **Supporting Commentary**

#### PPT LI 01

There have been 105 3rd party claims up to Q3. Although this is less than the Q3 total in 2011/12 (107) it would appear very unlikely that the 2012/13 target will be met. It should be noted however that the numbers of successful claims remains a low proportion of all claims received.

#### **PPT LI 14**

The fall in performance on this measure is largely as result of more inspections being undertaken due to additional resources being made available. However those repairs that are safety critical continue to be given priority. Additionally the manner in which this nature of reactive maintenance is delivered will be rationalised in the new Highways term contract which is effective from June 2013 and will bring performance back in line with target.

# 6.3.4 Highway Development

# Key Objectives / Milestones

Ref	Milestones	Q3 Progress
PPT 09	To deliver the 2012 /13 LTP Capital Programme. March 2013	<b>✓</b>

# **Supporting Commentary**

#### **Local Transport Plan (LTP) Capital Program 2012/13**

The highway maintenance block of the capital programme is now complete. Integrated transport improvement schemes are currently being delivered including local safety scheme minor works and walking / cycling / bus improvements focused on neighbourhood centres in the Ditton and Grange areas.

The scheme to upgrade Halton Lea South bus station is now complete and the programme of other bus stop improvements continues at locations across the Borough. This includes the provision of new shelters and street furniture at Greenoaks bus station.

# 6.3.5 Traffic / Road Safety

# **Key Performance Indicators**

Ref	Measure	11/12 Actual	12/13 Target	Q3	Current Progress	Direction of travel
PPT LI 12	Average number of days taken to repair street lighting fault: non DNO (Street lights controlled by the authority). (Previously BVPI 215a).	6	5	5	<b>*</b>	Û
PPT LI 13	Average number of days taken to repair street lighting fault: DNO (Street lights controlled by the energy provider). (Previously BVPI 215b).	29	30	29	<b>✓</b>	1

# **Supporting Commentary**

#### **PPT LI 12 & 13**

Currently on target but performance can reduce during the darker nights due to an increased number of faults being reported and an increased workload.

# 6.3.6 Flood Risk Management

# Key Objectives / Milestones

Ref	Milestones	Q3 Progress
PPT 08	Flood Risk Management (FRM) - to manage the risk of local flooding (i.e. flooding arising from surface water, groundwater and ordinary watercourses) across the Borough by delivering a programme of FRM schemes for 2012/13 <b>March 2013</b>	?

# **Supporting Commentary**

£6k was provisionally allocated in the Medium Term Programme to continue survey and investigation works for the Pickerings Pasture scheme but this was allocation could not be drawn down. This has meant that it is uncertain if the target deadline will be achieved by the date specified.

It should be noted that this funding may not be required and will be the subject of discussions with the Environment Agency (EA), as mentioned above. This is because the EA have advised that following completion of the initial investigatory report, which they funded, and after further consideration by their officers, the Pickerings Pasture scheme would not qualify for Flood Defence Grant in Aid funding as properties are not affected by the potential flooding in case of failure of the protection works.

The Environment Agency have offered to assist us in establishing which part of the Agency would be the relevant funding provider for the scheme (probably one of the contamination protection teams).

# 6.4 Physical Environment (MN/PMcW)

#### Key Objectives / Milestones

Ref	Milestones	Q3 Progress
PPT 01	Progress the Core Strategy towards Adoption. October 2012	×
PPT 01	Progress the Waste Development Plan Document (DPD) to adoption. <b>February 2013</b>	<b>✓</b>
PPT 01	Progress Climate Change Strategy towards adoption. June 2012	×
PPT 02	Update the State of the Borough Report. July 2012	<b>✓</b>

#### **Supporting Commentary**

#### **Core Strategy & Waste Development**

The Core Strategy Local Plan was adopted by Full Council in December 2012.

A public consultation on the modifications was over the period 14 November 2012 to 10 January 2013. Following the consultation, representations have been forwarded to the Inspector and her report is awaited, which if positive will allow the Waste DPD to be adopted.

# **Climate Change Strategy**

Progress towards adoption continues to be made. The Strategy is being amended to reflect recent Executive Board decision to adopt the Liverpool City Region (LCR) Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP) and Local Government Association's Climate Local commitment.

# State of the Borough Report

The updating of the State of the Borough is an on-going process as data becomes available. The staged release of the Census data will require updates throughout the financial year. As each section is updated it will incorporate products such as the Health Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and unemployment summary.

To aid this various profiles have been made available at: <a href="www.halton.gov.uk/research">www.halton.gov.uk/research</a>

# **Key Performance Indicators**

Ref	Measure	11/12 Actual	12/13 Target	Q3	Current Progress	Direction of travel
PPT LI 06 (Ex NI157)	% Processing of planning applications as measured against targets for:					
	a) 'major' applications	25%	60%	11.76%	x	1
	b) 'minor' applications	34.29%	80%	34.38%	x	1
	c) 'other' applications	54.79%	80%	69.7%	x	1
PPT LI 07	To ensure a five year rolling supply of housing land available for 2, 000 homes over 5 years. Measure as supply of ready to develop housing sites (%).	128.8	100	N/A	N/A	1
PPT LI 08 (Ex NI170)	To regenerate 5 hectares of urban sites per annum for the next five years.	N/A	5ha	5ha	~	N/A

#### **Supporting Commentary**

#### PPT LI 06

As part of the Wave 3 Efficiency Review additional resource has been put into the staffing of the daily duty rota that deals with general planning queries from the public. This allows Area Planning Officers to spend more time on case work and will result in improved performance. Recruitment is underway for additional staff resources.

#### PPT LI 07

The Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) is prepared annually and the final report made available on the Council's website by the end of quarter 4 2012/13. The SHLAA 2012 (for the year 2011/12) indicated that there is sufficient residential land available to meet the Boroughs five year housing land supply.

#### PPT LI 08

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

6.4.2 Housing Issues

# Key Objectives / Milestones

Ref	Milestones	Q3 Progress
CCC 1	Work with the Council's Planning Department to introduce an affordable housing policy within the Local Development Framework. <b>Mar 2013</b> (AOF18)	<b>★</b>
CCC 1	Introduce a Choice Based Lettings scheme to improve choice for those on the Housing Register seeking accommodation. <b>September 2012</b> (AOF 18)	✓
CCC 2	Continue to negotiate with housing providers and partners in relation to the provision of further extra care housing tenancies, to ensure requirements are met (including the submission of appropriate funding bids). <b>March 2013</b> (AOF18 & 21)	<b>✓</b>

#### **Supporting Commentary**

#### **Affordable Housing Policy**

The 5 Boroughs Partnership has successfully completed its first full quarter of service since the redesign of the Acute Care Pathway. Initial findings have been extremely positive in both the quality and the timeliness of delivery of care. Progress will continue to be monitored.

The redesign of the Later Life and Memory Service for older people is currently being undertaken. Findings from an agreed pilot in Wigan have been analysed and implementation plans for Halton have been developed. The redesign will be in place by April 2013.

# **Choice Based Lettings**

The Property Pool Plus scheme was formally launched in July 2012.

#### Extra Care Housing

Bids have been submitted to the Homes and Communities Agency for two extra care schemes, each of 50 units, on land at Halton Brook and Pingot. The outcome of the bids is awaited.

# 7.0 Financial Statement

# **COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT**

# Revenue Budget as at 31st December 2012

	Annual Budget £'000	Budget To Date £'000	Actual to Date £'000	Variance To Date (overspen d) £'000
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Employees	11,457	8,625	8,977	(352)
Other Premises	1,200	858	720	138
Supplies & Services	1,377	1,078	842	236
Book Fund	245	169	156	13
Promotional	260	255	253	2
Other Hired Services	925	598	582	16
Food Provisions	861	589	518	71
School Meals Food	1,656	884	830	54
Transport	43	39	39	0
Other Agency Costs	121	88	65	23
Waste Disposal Contracts	5,113	2,414	2,364	50
Leisure Management Contract	1,493	870	886	(16)
Grants To Voluntary Organisations	72	63	64	(1)
Grant To Norton Priory	222	222	224	(2)
Rolling Projects	286	68	68	0
Transfers To Reserves	10	0	0	0
Capital Financing	59	9	8	1
Total Spending	25,400	16,829	16,596	233
Income				(2.2)
Sales Income	-1,948	-1,402	-1,333	(69)
School Meals Sales	-2,173	-1,066	-1,129	63
Fees & Charges Income	-2,393	-1,787	-1,587	(200)
Rents Income	-178	-159	-124	(35)
Government Grant Income	-31	-38	-43	5
Reimbursements & Other Income	-476	-377	-392	15
Schools SLA Income	-2,037	-1,931	-1,969	38
Internal Fees Income	-123	-72	-37	(35)
School Meals Other Income	-369	-261	-279	18
Meals On Wheels	-193	-145	-154	9
Catering Fees	-226	-169	-64	(105)
Capital Salaries	-101	-75	-69	(6)
Transfers From Reserves	-298	-17	-17	Ô
Total Income	-10,546	-7,499	-7,197	(302)
Net Controllable Expenditure	14,854	9,330	9,399	(69)

Recharges				
Premises Support	1,329	832	833	(1)
Transport Recharges	2,343	1,848	1,852	(4)
Departmental Support Services	9	0	0	0
Central Support Services	2,757	2,080	2,079	1
Asset Charges	2,459	0	0	0
HBC Support Costs Income	-307	-307	-307	0
Net Total Recharges	8,590	4,453	4,457	(4)
Net Departmental Total	23,444	13,783	13,856	(73)

#### Comments on the above figures:

In overall terms the Net Operational budget is £73,000 over budget profile at the end of the third quarter of the financial year.

Staffing related expenditure is over budget profile by £352,000, although this is primarily due to the £513,000 savings target for premium pay, staff turnover and terms and conditions budget reductions. Agency staff is still being used to keep services running at full capacity in the Open Spaces and Waste Management Divisions with expenditure of over £252,000 so far. In Open Spaces this has been necessary to cover up to ten long term illnesses, but this is now diminishing. Waste Management have also had a number of long term illnesses and two of these will continue for at least the rest of this financial year. One recent return to work should reduce agency costs slightly for the remainder of the year. Most other employee costs are under budget profile across the department with exception of the Stadium Catering and Matchdays.

Other Premises costs and Supplies and Services are both currently under budget profile. Advertising spending across the department remains low as does purchasing of dustbins and repairs of equipment in school kitchens. Expenditure incurred on utilities and Rates is still lower than expected at this point of the year.

Expenditure on food provisions for both catering and school meals remain lower than anticipated though related sales for catering also remain low, so adversely affecting related income. Internal Catering Fees Income is also under budget profile due to the continuing trend of reduced internal orders for catering across the council as a whole. School Meals incomes continue to benefit from the recent price increase of school meals and school breaks are also expected to over achieve against target.

Fees & Charges income is still under achieving on its budget target across most divisions of the department, mainly due to an unachievable target on Open Spaces, suite hire at the Stadium and a fall in Trade waste within Waste Management partly due to companies going into administration. Income budgets are currently being investigated to determine if they can be realigned to reflect more accurately income levels generated from the service provided.

Rental income will be considerably reduced this current financial year due to Everton Football Club no longer using the Stadium. The annual effect of this will be in the region of  $\pounds$  50,000.

# **COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT**

# Capital Projects as at 31 December 2012

	2012/13 Capital Allocation £'000	Allocation To Date £'000	Actual Spend To Date £'000	Allocation Remaining £'000
Stadium Minor Works	30	18	18	12
Stadium Disability Works	25	12	12	13
Children's Playground Equipment	96	88	34	62
Landfill Tax Credit Schemes	340	20	20	320
Arley Drive (Upton)	72	20	6	66
The Glen	5	1	2	3
Crow Wood	12	0	0	12
Open Spaces Schemes	150	87	52	98
Runcorn Cemetery Extension	71	38	61	10
Installation of 5 Multi Use Games				
Areas	29	15	0	29
Dev of Facilities at RTH Park	73	73	75	(2)
Playground Runcorn Hill Park	48	43	44	4
Litter Bins	28	18	23	5
Cremators At Widnes Crematorium	350	0	0	350
Runcorn Busway Works For Gas Powered Buses	90	0	0	90
Castlefields Recycling Scheme	30	0	0	30
Castionolds Hooyoning Contine	1,449	433	347	1,102

# ECONOMY, ENTERPRISE & PROPERTY DEPARTMENT Summary Financial Position as at 31 December 2012

#### SUMMARY FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2012

	Annual Budget £'000	Budget to Date £'000	Expendit ure to Date £'000	Variance to Date (overspen d) £'000
Expenditure				
Employees	4,493	3,546	3,606	(60)
Repairs & Maintenance	2,585	2,051	2,164	(113)
Energy & Water Costs	626	532	476	56
NNDR	854	813	763	50
Rents	683	624	647	(23)
Marketing Programme	98	27	27	0
Promotions	41	29	28	1
Supplies & Services	1,332	852	807	45
Agency Related Payments	90	33	33	0
Total Expenditure	10,802	8,507	8,551	(44)
Sales	0	0	0	0
Fees & Charges	-319	-283	-284	1
Rent - Markets	-806	-629	-609	(20)
Rent - Industrial	-613	-484	-447	(37)
Rent - Commercial	-1,099	-874	-784	(90)
Government Grant Income	-913	-791	-791	0
Transfer from Reserves	-45	-220	-220	0
Recharges to Capital	-754	-167	-118	(49)
Reimbursements & Other Grant Income	-662	-471	-471	0
Schools SLA Income	-684	-647	-629	(18)
Total Income	-5,895	-4,566	-4,353	(213)
NET OPERATIONAL BUDGET	4,907	3,941	4,198	(257)
	1,001	-,	-,	(===)
Premises Support	1,518	1,151	1,151	0
Transport Support Costs	47	33	33	0
Central Support Service Costs	2,057	1,579	1,579	0
Asset Rental Support Costs	3,464	8	8	0
Repairs & Maintenance Recharge Income	-2,393	-1,795	-1,795	0
Accommodation Recharge Income	-3,344	-2,508	-2,508	0
Central Supp. Service Rech Income	-1,833	-1,416	-1,416	0
Total Recharges	-484	-2,948	-2,948	0
Net Expenditure	4,423	993	1,250	(257)

#### Comments on the above figures:

The expenditure for employees is above budget as staff savings targets are not being achieved. This is due to an insufficient level of staff turnover compared to staff vacancies across the Division and will be closely monitored throughout the financial year.

A recent reduction in the Repairs & Maintenance budget has resulted in an inyear overspend. This is only temporary and is restricted to the current financial year as a retendering exercise has been carried out (which will result in a reduction of planned maintenance expenditure) ensuring the budget is balanced in future years.

Energy and water costs are under budget as a result of improvements that are currently being implemented throughout the Council. Business rates are under budget due to the revaluation of various properties within the Council.

In order to ease budget pressures only necessary spending on supplies and services has occurred in year.

Rental Income (including Markets; Industrial Estates & Commercial) is currently showing a shortfall due to vacant unites across all three areas. Work is being carried out to promote these units and there is a possibility that activity levels will change as the financial year progresses. Budgets will be monitored closely throughout the year to make sure the financial impact is limited and action taken to balance the Directorate budget at year-end.

In overall terms it is anticipated that net expenditure will be above the overall departmental budget by year-end, primarily as a result of the shortfalls in income outlined above. Steps will therefore need to be taken where possible to reduce expenditure to offset the shortfalls in income.

# **PLANNING & TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT**

# REVENUE BUDGET AS AT 31st December 2012

	Annual	Budget	Actual	Variance
	Budget	To Date	To Date	To Date
	£'000	£'000	£'000	(overspen d)
				£'000
Expenditure				
Employees	6,050	4,670	4,713	(43)
Other Premises Hired & Contracted Services	230 1,697	117 827	102 821	15
Supplies & Services	369	153	149	6 4
Street Lighting	1,656	970	951	19
Highways Maintenance	2,160	1,188	1,177	11
Bridges	92	92	94	(2)
Fleet Transport	1,259	1,207	1,206	1
Lease Car Contracts Bus Support – Halton Hopper Tickets	694 170	642 155	642 156	0 (1)
Bus Support	575	351	361	(10)
Out of Borough Transport	51	34	32	2
Finance Charges	407	486	486	0
Grants to Voluntary Organisations	75	75	75	0
NRA Levy Mersey Gateway	62 5,176	46 3,051	45 3,051	1 0
Wersey dateway	20,723	14,064	14,061	3
Total Expenditure	•	,		
Income				
Sales	-247	-256	-289	33
Planning Fees	-486	-260	-230	(30)
Building Control Fees	-182	-136	-115	(21)
Other Fees & Charges Rents	-395 -8	-323 -6	-387 -6	64 0
Grants & Reimbursements	-3,634	-501	-496	(5)
School SLAs	-38	-38	-37	(1)
Recharge to Capital	-3,248	-2,345	-2,345	` ó
Contribution from Document	-702	0	0	0
Contribution from Reserves	0.015	0.005	0.00=	
Total Income	-8,940	-3,865	-3,905	40
Net Controllable Expenditure	11,783	10,199	10,156	43

Recharges				
Premises Support	832	486	496	(10)
Transport Recharges	518	425	407	18
Asset Charges	8,498	0	0	0
Central Support Recharges	3,007	2,256	2,256	0
Departmental Support Recharges	546	0	0	0
Support Recharges Income –	-3,993	-3,313	-3,321	8
Transport				
Support Recharges Income –	-4,254	-1,937	-1,938	1
Non Transport				
Net Total Recharges	5,154	-2,083	-2,100	17
Net Departmental Total	16,937	8,116	8,056	60

# **Comments on the above figures:**

In overall terms revenue spending at the end of quarter 3 is below budget profile. This is due to a number of expenditure and income budget areas.

Staffing is above budget due to savings targets not being fully met within Bridge & Highway Maintenance, Logistics, and Policy & Strategy divisions. There are also efficiency savings targets within the Policy & Strategy division which will not be achieved until 2013/14 following the implementation of the Policy, Performance, Marketing & Communications workstream.

Other Premises is below budget to date mainly due to a lower than expected utility bills within Logistics Division.

Supplies & Services is below budget due to a combination of small variances to date across Logistics Policy & Strategy and Traffic, Risk & Emergency Planning divisions.

Fees & Charges income is above income target partly due to MOT fees performing better than anticipated at this point in time. The remaining variance relates to Traffic Management where there have been additional road closures, higher than expected number of defects and overstays by Statutory Undertakers. It is anticipated that this will not continue as Statutory Undertakers are taking action to improve their efficiency and standards of work to avoid incurring these charges and challenging/refusing to pay invoices. This has been evidenced recently by the fact that very few United Utilities reinstatements are now failing their inspection. This additional income will offset not being able to achieve savings originally anticipated from switching off street lighting. This is due to increased standing charges from the energy supplier as a result of the feed in tariffs.

At this stage it is anticipated that overall-spend will be lower than the Departmental budget at the financial year-end.

# POLICY, PLANNING & TRANSPORTATION

# Capital Projects as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2012

	2012/13 Capital	Allocatio n	Actual Spend	Allocation Remaining
	Allocation £'000	To Date £'000	To Date £'000	£'000
Local Transport Plan	2000	2000	2000	2000
Bridges & Highway Maintenance				
Bridge Assessment, Strengthening & Maintenance	5,245	4,023	4,356	889
Road Maintenance	1,578	1,180	1,420	158
Total Bridge & Highway Maintenance	6,823	5,203	5,776	1,047
Integrated Transport	838	416	250	588
Total Local Transport Plan	7,661	5,619	6,026	1,635
Halton Borough Council				
Early Land Acquisition Mersey Gateway	13,481	8,070	8,055	5,426
Development Costs Mersey Gateway	3,500	1,528	1,528	1,972
Street lighting – Structural Maintenance	200	160	94	106
Risk Management	167	120	99	68
Total Halton Borough Council <u>Grant Funded</u>	17,348	9,878	9,776	7,572
Surface Water Management Grant	172	0	0	172
Contaminated Land -Heath Road Allotments	48	2	9	39
Growth Points Mid Mersey Local Sustainable Transport - Infrastructure	380 10	380 2	380 2	0 8
Total Grant Funded	610	384	391	219
S106 Funded				_
Asda Runcorn	165	154	156	9
Evertie – Derby/Peelhouse	15	0	0	15
Norlands Lane	15	0	0	15
Total S106 Funded	195	154	156	39
Total Capital Programme	25,814	16,035	16,349	9,465

The LTP allocation includes a carry forward from 11/12 of £113,000 for Integrated Transport

Work is being undertaken with regards to the capital and revenue split for Mersey Gateway so the allocation above may change in the future.

# 8.0 Appendix – Explanation for use of symbols

Symbols are used in the following manner:

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

**Direction of Travel Indicator** 

Where possible <u>performance measures</u> 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.

# **Key for Operational Director lead:**

MN – Mick Noone, Operational Director, Policy, Planning & Transportation CP – Chris Patino, Operational Director, Community & Environment PMcW – Paul McWade, Operational Director, Commissioning & Complex Care

WR – Wesley Rourke Operational Director Economy Enterprise & Property