

Priority Based Report

Priority: Employment, Learning and Skills

Reporting Period: Quarter 1, Period 01 April 2014 – 30 June 2014

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This report provides an overview of issues and progress towards the priority of Employment, Learning and Skills, that have occurred during the period of the report. The way in which traffic light symbols have been used to reflect progress to date is explained within the Appendix (section 8).
- 1.2 Please note initials have been provided to indicate which Operational Director is responsible for the commentary to aid Members. A key is provided at the end of the report in Appendix (section 8).

2.0 Key Developments

2.1 Regional activities (WR)

The Employment, Learning and Skills Division was commissioned to support a number of agencies with their own strategic developments as a result of its outstanding grades for outcomes for learners and leadership & management in its last Ofsted. 2 staff spent a day with Brent Council advising them of how we have developed the Halton Employment Partnership. Then 18 colleagues from NW adult learning services attended a Learning Raid delivered by the division. Good practice was shared and evaluations were very complimentary. Both of these activities resulted in income being received. Halton hosted the national Metaregen network its Regeneration strategy with the group. Hosting of events helps the division to increase its reputation on a regional/national level.

2.2 Merseylink (WR)

The Timebank Brochure was launched in Q1 and 12 applications from across the council, voluntary and community sector and the education sector were submitted. Outcomes will be known in Q2. Working in partnership with Merseylink staff, the Skills for Life and Employability team has delivered Volunteer Information Sessions and 39 individuals have taken part in the Mersey Gateway Volunteer Training programme in Q1. The volunteers also participated in additional training workshops in preparation for the opening of the Mersey Gateway Visitor Centres in the Autumn. Bespoke Merseylink pre-employability programmes were designed for Traffic Management and Business Administration and 24 learners participated in the programmes. On completion of the programmes, all learners were successfully offered an interview that will take place in early July, the outcomes of which will be available in Q2.

2.3 Merseyside Business Support Programme (WR)

The Merseyside Business Support Programme continues to engage the Halton business community with 183 companies approaching the Project Team for support. 91 companies have been referred for an initial diagnostic and the creation of an Action Plan for Growth

while 75 businesses have subsequently been referred for more specialist support. The programme has, to date, achieved 55 12 hour support outputs and is on course to meet the target of 146 SMEs assisted.

2.4 Library Service

Efficiency review

The Efficiency Programme Board has now agreed to consult on two options for the future of the library service. The estimated staff savings arising are in the region of £400,000 or £500,000. The public consultation will run from 14 July to 14 August 2014.

Centenary of the outbreak of World War 1

Following the successful Great War exhibition and Community Road Show events at Halton Lea and Widnes Libraries earlier in the year the WW1 centenary events have continued with a special tea dance held in Widnes Library. The event attended by 40 people took place on 11 June and included songs and music performed by an organist, dancing demonstrations, refreshments and a display of authentic WW1 artefacts. Material contributed by members of the public to the Cheshire Great War Stories Roadshows formed part of the "Halton Remembers 1914-18 Archive Exhibition" held at The Brindley during June. The unique Great War stories, photographs, documents, medals, guns and other fascinating artefacts have all been documented and will be added to the archive collection in due course.

Runcorn New Town at 50

On 10 April 1964 Runcorn was designated a New Town by National Government with the primary purpose of providing housing and employment for people from Liverpool and North Merseyside. It was a decision that would change and shape the lives of many residents, new and old. 50 years on, a series of events was held to mark this anniversary and provide opportunities for residents to share their memories and reflect upon an important part of Halton's shared history. An exhibition of photographs, models, newspaper articles, documents and maps brought together from the local archive was held at Halton Lea Library and Runcorn Shopping Centre. In addition a film documentary was screened in various community venues and the library. The feedback and memories gathered from the events will be added to the community history archive.

National Bookstart Week 2014

During June the Library Service celebrated National Bookstart week with "My hero" themed rhyme times. Children came dressed up as their favourite hero's and joined in the fun with special guests' firemen and PCSOs. National Bookstart Week aims to encourage parents and children to read together on a daily basis. The events, activities and resources helped families to see the benefits of reading together every day, while engaging them with the fun theme of 'My Hero'. This year's events were supported by HarperCollins publishers who provided special copies of the book Super Duck by Jez Alborough to give away. 134 children and parents attended the Rhymetimes during this week.

3.0 Emerging Issues

3.1 National Careers Service (WR)

The current National Careers Service contract will expire at the end of September 2014. Staff have been placed at risk of redundancy as it is not certain that we would be part of the subcontractor chain. The current contract does not fully cover staff costs – the new funding model for the new contract is even more financially constrained.

3.2 Adult Learning (WR)

New curriculum offer for the 2014/15 academic year – in order to fully maximise funding levels the current curriculum has been evaluated in terms of class sizes, success rates, income generated and quality of provision and a revised curriculum has been developed. The new prospectus will be launched in Q2. We will be offering more year long courses, which generate greater levels of income as well as offering more full cost recovery courses.

3.3 Liverpool City Region Growth Hub (WR)

The Liverpool City Region Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) has developed a proposal to create a 'Growth Hub' for the city region. A Growth Hub is not a physical entity but rather a virtual organisation to provide business support services across the City Region. However, Government is very prescriptive with respect to the form and function of the Growth Hub model they will support. This must include management and strategic coordination and a one stop shop.

The prescribed model suggests a preeminent role for local Chambers support by Local Authorities. Halton Borough Council and Halton Chamber of Commerce and others are, therefore, discussing in detail how the Growth Hub might work in Halton and how best the model might serve the needs of the local business community

3.4 Inward Investment Protocol (WR)

The LEP and Local Authority partners are currently debating the development of an Inward Investment Protocol for the LCR. The LEP proposes a co-ordinated agency approach, resourced centrally but led by the LEP, to 'sell' the LCR. The LEP have therefore, issued a tender inviting the private sector to recommend how the LCR might deliver an inward investment service.

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 2014/15 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.

4.2 3MG (WR)

The Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) and BIS have approved 3MGs proposal to re-profile the jobs to start in 2015 and issued a new offer letter in June 2014. DCLG have set an interim milestone which states that Heads of Terms (HoT) need to be

agreed with an end user by 31 March 2015. The risk of not achieving HoT by March 2015 is highly likely to result in claw back. A meeting has been arranged with the Stobart Group on 16 July 2014 to discuss the implications as they will be responsible for repaying their £4.5m grant, the Council would also have to find £4.5m. Stobart and the Council will work closely to ensure the milestone is met and jobs are realised within the given time periods.

5.0 Progress against high priority equality actions




- 5.1 The local authority must have evidence that it reviews its services and policies to show that they comply with the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) which came into force in April 2011. The PSED also requires us to publish this information as it is available.
- 5.2 As a result of undertaking Equality Impact Assessments no high priority actions were identified for the Directorate during the reporting period.

6.0 Performance Overview

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

Priority: Supporting growth and investment

Key Milestones and Measures

Ref	Milestones	Quarterly progress
EEP2	Undertake a baseline review of business makeup sectors and capacity in Halton by March 2015.	
EEP2	Deliver the Business Improvements Districts Year 2 action plan by March 2015.	
EEP2	Agree priority action areas arising from the Mersey Gateway regeneration strategy by July 2014.	

SUPPORTING COMMENTARY

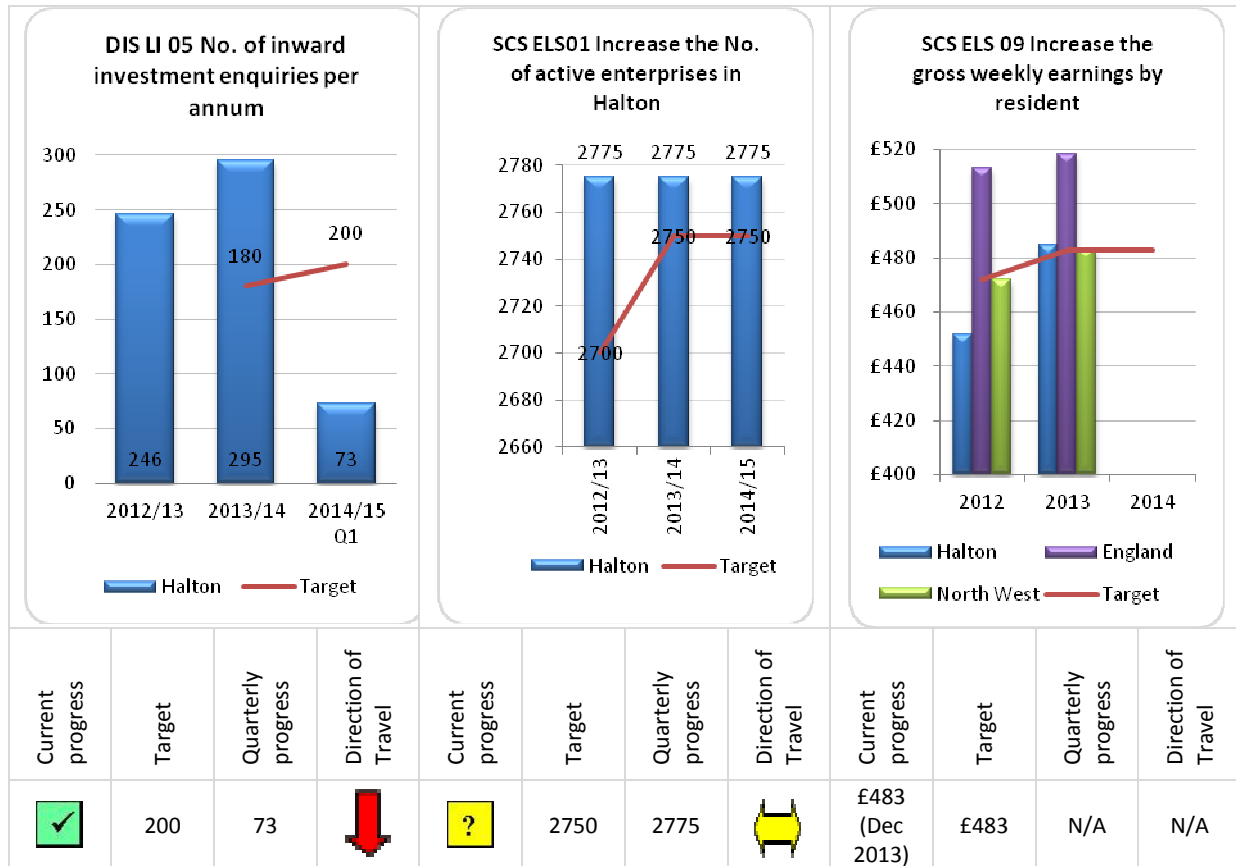
EEP 2 - The Council has recently appointed a graduate intern from the University of Chester who will be engaged, for a period of six months, to undertake a research project designed to better understand the sectoral makeup of the Borough, to canvass the business community to ascertain their business support needs and to identify the key one hundred companies within the Borough who would most benefit from more proactive and intensive business support from the Council and partners. Identification of the one hundred key companies in the Borough will involve the application of a number of academic models together with an analysis of the Business Improvement and Growth Team's existing company database.

The graduate will also audit and map existing business support provision in Halton in order to identify any obvious gaps. The business support audit will then be mapped against a typical business lifecycle, for example from pre-start to start-up to post start to growth to high growth. The mapping

exercise will seek to identify weaknesses in provision across the business lifecycle and will inform the development of future service delivery.

All outputs associated with Business Improvements Districts (BID) II Year I Business Plan are on programme and on budget.

Mersey Gateway regeneration Strategy - Regeneration Group meeting in July 2014.



Ref	Measure	13/14 Actual	14/15 Target	Current	Direction of Travel	Quarterly progress
SCS ELS 02	Increase the proportion of business diversity in the following sectors: Knowledge Economy, Superport, Low carbon/green, Visitor economy	27.03% (March 2013)	27%	N/A	N/A	N/A
SCS ELS 03	Increase the number of people classed as self-employed	6% (Local Economic Assessment HBC July 2013)	7%	5.7%		

Supporting Commentary

DIS LI 05 - In comparison to the same period last year the figure has reduced from 81; however Investment enquiries in Quarter 1 2014\15 are on target.

SCS ELS LI 01 – March 2013 is the latest data available from the NOMIS website.

SCS ELS 02 – This is the latest data released on 3rd October 2013 is a snapshot of the Inter Departmental Business Register (IDBR) taken on 12 March 2013. To download and view the current data in excel format, click on the link below, the Information is taken from: (table B1.1)

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/publications/re-reference-tables.html?edition=tcm%3A77-313744>

The following standard categories have been chosen as a proxy for these priorities:

- Professional, Scientific and Technical
- Information and Communication
- Transport and Storage





SCS ELS 03 - HBC does not own this NI data. This figure is the latest data available taken from the NOMIS website for the period April 2013 – March 2014. However, 3 customers accessing HPIJ's Enterprising Halton service have become self-employed during Quarter 1. This is a decrease in comparison to previous years (2011/12 - 6.4%, 2012/13 – 6%). A possible explanation could be due to the instability of the current economic climate.

SCS ELS09 NI 166 - HBC does not own this NI data. The latest data available (Dec 2013) is £484.70 which is an increase from £452.00 compared to the same period in 2012. Source: ONS annual population survey from www.nomisweb.co.uk

The gap between the North West and Halton has steadily decreased over the years with the current data in December 2013 having marginally surpassed the North West Gross Weekly Pay of £483 for the first time since 2002. The Gross Weekly Pay for Halton residents has increased by £30 to £484.70 in 2013 compared to the same period in 2012.

Priority: Raising skills levels and reducing unemployment

Key Milestones and Measures

Ref	Milestones	Quarterly progress
EEP3	Deliver the Work Programme via subcontract arrangements to Prime Contractors A4E and Ingeus Deloitte in line with the contract	
EEP3	Complete SciTech skills for growth action plan by March 2015.	
EEP3	Implement Corporate Apprenticeships framework by November 2014.	
EEP3	Identify skills bank requirements from Mersey Gateway project by July 2015.	

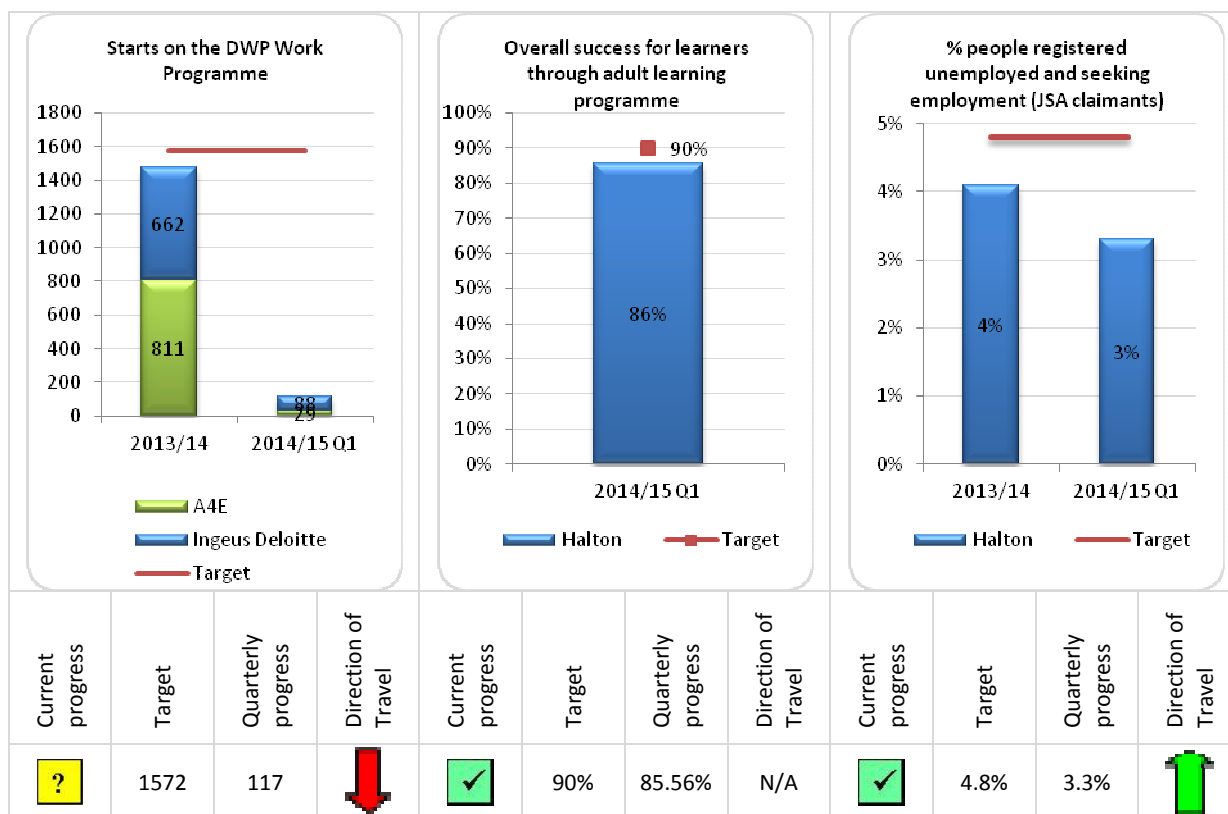
SUPPORTING COMMENTARY

EEP 3 - Job starts and job outcomes have been achieved against the contracted minimum performance levels (MPL's) this quarter on the Ingeus contract.

Job starts and job outcome targets haven't been achieved on the A4e contract this quarter. There was a reduction in anticipated referrals during this period and staff have undergone an intense transition period whilst A4e's new MI system (Connect for Work) was implemented which has impacted on performance.

Skills Strategy meetings with Sci-Tech Daresbury continued in Q1. Further work is still to be done to firm up some specific projects and funding streams. The Skills group continue to work on the action plan and interventions, in particular the School Champion.

COMT have approved an Apprenticeship Strategy for HBC. It is expected that this will be financially supported through the next round of ESF monies.



Ref	Measure	13/14 Actual	14/15 Target	Current	Direction of Travel	Quarterly progress
ELS A1	The number of new apprenticeship starts in Halton Borough Council	361	5	5	N/A	✓
ELS LI04	Number of new starts into permitted/paid work for local people with disabilities (over 12 month period)	14 (Cumulative)	12	5	↑	✓
SCS ELS 04	Reduce the proportion of people with no qualifications	12.1% (Jan to Dec 2012)	11%	10.9% (Jan 13 – Dec 13)	↑	✓
SCS ELS05	Increase the percentage of people achieving NVQ level 4 and above	24.5% (Jan to Dec 2012)	24.5%	25.1% Jan 13 – Dec 13	↑	✓
SCS ELS 08	Reduce the percentage of the working age population claiming out of work benefits	15%	16.5%	15.4%	↑	✓

ELS A1 – This is a new measure for this year, therefore there is no comparable data. Previously, the measure related to the number of new apprenticeship starts in Halton. However, this year, it is now related to Halton Borough Council only. During this quarter we have had 5 new apprenticeships starts.

ELS A2 – 909 learners are active during Quarter 1, generating 1462 enrolments. To date, 1423 of those learners have been retained with a 85.56% success rate. This figure is expected to increase on completion of the 451 learners currently continuing on summer term courses. This is a new measure this year so there is no comparable data.

ELS LI 03 - The figure is lower compared to the same period last year however, 88 starts on the Ingeus contract and 29 starts on the A4e contract in quarter 1.

Referrals from DWP have been lower than indicative flows throughout this and the previous year; therefore fewer customers have started on programme which has been out of our control.

There continues to be an increase in the number of customers in receipt of Employment Support Allowance, approx. 60% of all referrals received are ESA claimants.

A4e referrals were switched back on from 1st April following a freeze on referrals due to underperformance however only 6 referrals were received in April and only 6 referrals were received in May due to system errors.

ELS LI 04 - 5 customers with disabilities were supported into paid employment during this quarter.

This is an increase compared to the same period last year of 3.

SCS ELS 04 - HBC does not own this NI data. However, 77 full qualifications were achieved by learners participating in Halton Borough Council's adult learning programmes in Q1. In addition, 50 Unit accreditations have been achieved in Q1.

The latest data available is (Jan 13 to Dec 2013) at 10.9%. Taken from the NOMIS website. In comparison to the same period in previous years this is the lowest figure since 2011. (2011 - 11.5%, 2012 - 12.1%).






SCS ELS 05 (Revised NI 165) - HBC does not own this NI data which is only available from the Skills Funding Agency 18 months after learners achieve the qualification. The latest data available is (Jan 13 to Dec 2013) at 25.1%. Taken from the NOMIS website. Trend shows a marginal increase in comparison for the same period year on year. (2011 - 24%, 2012 – 24.5%).

SCS ELS 07 - This is the latest data available at June 2014 from the NOMIS website. 3.3% is the total percent of only JSA claimants in Halton aged 18 - 64, which equates to 2,663 JSA claimants.

SCS ELS 08 - The latest data available is at November 2013 from the NOMIS website. 15.4% equates to 12,520 of the working age population aged 16-64 claiming out of work benefits in Halton.

Priority: Enhancing residents' quality of life

Key Milestones and Measures

Ref	Milestones	Quarterly progress
CE1	Continue to implement the Sports Strategy (2012-15) by March 2015.	
CE1	Active people survey results show an increase in participation rates from 2009/10 baseline by March 2015.	
CE2	Identify areas for improvement in line with the Business Plan and Marketing Plan by January 2015.	
CE4	Increase the use of libraries promoting reader development and lifelong learning, thereby encouraging literacy skills and quality of life opportunities.	
CE4	Deliver a programme of extended informal learning opportunities including support for digital inclusion meeting identified local targets by March 2015.	






SUPPORTING COMMENTARY

CE1: Community Sports coaches delivered 373 hours coaching; 6183 coaching contacts and 234 training opportunities. 2 workshops delivered 35 attendees; 7 clubs attended funding and information clinic. Full list of activities available in the Community and Environment QMR.

CE1: Interim results, published in June, show progress has been made on the 2013/14 baseline.

CE2: Continued analysis of market trends held drive the business planning for the Stadium.

CE4: The Library Service has supported Spring Online activities this quarter. IT Clinics has been delivered at both Halton Lea and Widnes Libraries with 22 sessions having taken place with 150 attendances. Workclubs sessions supported have been delivered this quarter with 79 attendances. Festival of Learning events (Adult Learning Week) have been delivered this quarter with workshops ranging from Tai Chi and Family History to various Online activities, these were attended by 25 people.

Ref	Measure	13/14 Actual	14/15 Target	Current	Direction of Travel	Quarterly progress
CE LI4	Diversity – number of community groups accessing stadium facilities	N/A	15	17	N/A	
CE LI6	Number of new members of the library service during the last 12 months	N/A	9,234	1,363		
CE LI6a	Number of physical and virtual visits to libraries (annual total)	675,989	721,000	143,698		

CE LI4 The number of community groups accessing Stadium facilities continues to grow, the Stadium is seen as an integral part of the local and wider community.

CE LI6/LI6a Performance in Q1 is down on the corresponding period last year, it is too early to say at this stage whether the annual target will be achieved.

ECONOMY, ENTERPRISE & PROPERTY DEPARTMENT

SUMMARY FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2014

	Annual Budget £'000	Budget to Date £'000	Expenditure to Date £'000	Variance to Date (overspend) £'000
<u>Expenditure</u>				
Employees	4,356	1,029	1,052	(23)
Repairs & Maintenance	2,411	581	579	2
Premises	41	35	36	(1)
Energy & Water Costs	567	143	138	5
NNDR	582	468	467	1
Rents	426	164	163	1
Marketing Programme	35	7	6	1
Promotions	53	9	8	1
Supplies & Services	1,416	223	208	15
Agency Related Expenditure	33	13	14	(1)
Total Expenditure	9,920	2,672	2,671	1
<u>Income</u>				
Fees & Charges	-481	-113	-114	1
Rent - Markets	-759	-167	-169	2
Rent - Industrial Estates	-573	-169	-169	0
Rent - Commercial	-560	-64	-64	0
Transfer to / from Reserves	-199	-190	-190	0
Government Grant - Income	-1,916	-202	-202	0
Reimbursements & Other Income	-38	-38	-38	0
Recharges to Capital	-312	0	0	0
Schools SLA Income	-569	-20	-19	(1)
Total Income	-5,407	-963	-965	2
NET OPERATIONAL BUDGET	4,513	1,709	1,706	3
<u>Recharges</u>				
Premises Support Costs	1,409	343	343	0
Transport Support Costs	30	4	4	0
Central Support Service Costs	1,970	507	507	0
Asset Rental Support Costs	2,414	0	0	0
Repairs & Maint. Rech. Income	-2,448	-612	-612	0
Accommodation Rech. Income	-2,652	-663	-663	0
Central Supp. Service Rech. Income	-1,457	-364	-364	0
Total Recharges	-734	-785	-785	0
Net Expenditure	3,779	924	921	3

Comments

Achieving staff turnover savings within the Department will continue to remain an issue this financial year. Whilst, there are a few vacancies within the Department which will contribute towards the savings, the staff savings turnover target set for Building & School Cleaning and Caretakers Service cannot be achieved as the services need to be fully staffed at all times.

Energy & Water Costs are under budget at the end of Quarter 1 as a result of improvements that have been implemented throughout the Council buildings over the last few years.

In order to ease budget pressures spending has been restricted in year on Supplies & Services. Promotions and Marketing has also been kept to a minimum in an effort to achieve savings for the Department.

The adverse variance relating to Asset Management income in previous years has alleviated this financial year, as a result of the closure of Moor Lane and the impending sale of Seymour Court. The remaining Industrial Estates and Commercial Properties show the income budgets marginally under budget at this point in the year. As rental income can fluctuate in year, close monitoring will continue on these volatile budgets.

Market rental income is slightly above budget at the end of Quarter 1. Both market hall and open market income has remained stable during the first quarter of the year.

Work will continue with Managers to deal with any in-year budget pressures. In overall terms it is anticipated that net expenditure will be slightly under the overall Departmental budget by year-end.

CHILDREN & ENTERPRISE CAPITAL PROJECTS

SUMMARY FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30th June 2014

	2014/15 Capital Allocation £'000	Allocation To Date £000's	Expenditure to Date £'000	Variance to Date (overspend) £'000
Economy, Enterprise & Property Dep't				
Castlefields Regeneration	725	20	20	0
3MG	2,909	227	227	0
Widnes Waterfront	1,200	0	0	0
SciTech Daresbury- Power Infrastructure	1,916	314	314	0
Sci-Tech Daresbury – Transport	177	0	0	0
Sci-Tech Daresbury – Site Connectivity	1,662	0	0	0
Johnsons Lane Infrastructure	466	3	3	0
Decontamination of Land	6	0	0	0
Former Crossvile Depot	518	0	0	0
Widnes Town Centre Initiative	60	9	9	0
Fairfield High Site - Contingency Costs	33	19	19	0
Queens Arms	23	8	9	(1)
Former Fairfield Site Demolition	162	0	0	0
Travellers Site Warrington Road	776	0	0	0
Lower House Lane Depot – Upgrade	444	150	150	0
Moor Lane Property Purchase	160	0	0	0
Moor Lane Demolition	150	5	5	0
Disability Discrimination Act/Disabled Access	362	21	21	0
Grand Total	11,749	776	777	(1)

Comments - Economy Enterprise & Property

Johnsons Lane Infrastructure – The road design has now been completed and with Tarmac to price. There is an unknown electricity cable running across the site which has slowed progress.

Former Crossville Depot: There are numerous technical issues, including protection of the high pressure gas main and treatment of the contamination (galigui) to significant depths.

Decontamination of Land – Contractors can claim the capital allocation at any time during the next 12 months,

Widnes Town Centre Initiative – It is proposed that the full capital allocation will be spent this financial year.

Queens Arms - All works are now complete.

Travellers Site - Works out to tender, likely to be a significant funding shortfall.

Fairfield High Contingency – It is anticipated that the full capital allocation will be spent this financial year.

Disability Discrimination Act/Disabled Access - To date £170k allocated, further projects to follow in due course. There may be a possible underspend on this budget at year-end, further details will be known in Quarter 2.

Moor Lane Demolition - Works on site, slight underspend envisaged, but this can be offset against the demolition of the property mentioned below.

Moor Lane Property Purchase - Property in process of being purchased at £160k, it will have to be demolished, the cost of this has yet to be determined.

Lower House Lane Depot - Works nearing completion. Full costs will be known shortly.

COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

Revenue Budget as at 30 June 2014

	Annual Budget £'000	Budget To Date £'000	Actual to Date £'000	Variance To Date (overspend) £'000
<u>Expenditure</u>				
Employees	12,249	3,026	3,036	(10)
Other Premises	1,459	535	507	28
Supplies & Services	1,546	462	439	23
Book Fund	192	58	57	1
Promotional	265	66	64	2
Other Hired Services	1,052	171	160	11
Food Provisions	706	167	164	3
School Meals Food	1,643	373	367	6
Transport	55	14	4	10
Other Agency Costs	676	89	87	2
Waste Disposal Contracts	5,012	76	80	(4)
Leisure Management Contract	1,437	349	390	(41)
Grants To Voluntary Organisations	333	116	111	5
Grant To Norton Priory	222	111	112	(1)
Capital Financing	19	0	0	0
Total Spending	26,866	5,613	5,578	35
<u>Income</u>				
Sales Income	-2,327	-600	-562	(38)
School Meals Sales	-2,368	-160	-173	13
Fees & Charges Income	-2,793	-677	-618	(59)
Rents Income	-127	-135	-149	14
Government Grant Income	-31	-5	-5	0
Reimbursements & Other Grant Income	-444	-27	-31	4
Schools SLA Income	-82	-71	-68	(3)
Internal Fees Income	-110	-21	-32	11
School Meals Other Income	-2,165	-15	-50	35
Meals On Wheels	-192	-40	-38	(2)
Catering Fees	-226	-43	-29	(14)
Capital Salaries	-53	-13	-13	0
Transfers From Reserves	-27	0	0	0
Total Income	-10,945	-1,807	-1,768	(39)
Net Controllable Expenditure	15,921	3,806	3,810	(4)
<u>Recharges</u>				
Premises Support	2,048	547	547	0
Transport Recharges	2,393	155	173	(18)
Departmental Support Services	9	0	0	0
Central Support Services	3,149	844	844	0
Asset Charges	3,197	0	0	0
HBC Support Costs Income	-356	-356	-356	0

Net Total Recharges	10,440	1,190	1,208	(18)
Net Departmental Total	26,361	4,996	5,018	(22)

Comments on the above figures:

The net budget is £22,000 over budget profile at the end of the first quarter of 2014/15.

Staffing expenditure is over budget profile by £10,000 for the first quarter of the year. This is primarily due to the quarterly target for premium pay of £14,100. There has been some spending on agency staffing in Open Spaces to cover absences and vacancies although this spend is not expected to continue.

Other Premises and Supplies & Services expenditures are collectively currently £51,000 under budget to date. The main reasons are due to lower spend on rates across the division and lower than expected spend in the quarter on landscaping works and equipment within school meals. It is likely that landscaping works and equipment budgets will be spent later in the year.

The Leisure Management contract is £41,000 over budget profile. If spend continues at the same rate the full year effect is likely to be in the region of £160,000 over budget. Last financial year the contract was £81,000 overspent, however £32,000 reserves were used to partially offset this.

Sales and Fees & Charges across the Department are currently underachieving and will continue to be a pressure this year. In particular stadium sales and trade waste income is still less than anticipated but the underachievement is less than previous years due to the target having been reduced.




The majority of invoices relating to waste disposal for the quarter have not yet been received so close monitoring will be undertaken throughout the next quarter to ascertain an accurate position moving forward.

Capital Projects as at 30 June 2014

	2014/15 Capital Allocation £'000	Allocation To Date £'000	Actual Spend To Date £'000	Allocation Remaining £'000
Stadium Minor Works	30	7	1	29
Widnes Recreation Site	2,515	630	630	1,885
Open Spaces Schemes	189	108	108	81
Children's Playground Equipment	79	1	1	78
Upton Improvements	63	0	0	63
Crow Wood Play Area	13	0	0	13
Runcorn Hill Park	311	153	153	158
Runcorn Cemetery Extension	9	0	0	9
Cremators Widnes Crematorium	396	1	1	395
Landfill Tax Credit Schemes	340	14	14	326
Litter Bins	20	0	0	20
Total Spending	3,965	914	908	3,057




7.0 Appendix – Explanation for use of symbols

7.1 Symbols are used in the following manner:

Progress	Milestone	Measure
Green 	Indicates that the milestone is 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 uncertain or too early to say at this stage whether the milestone 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 highly likely 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.

7.2 Direction of Travel Indicator

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

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

7.3 Key for Commentary

WR Wesley Rourke, Operational Director, Economy Enterprise and Property Service (EEP)

CP Chris Patino, Operational Director, Communities and Environment (CandE)