

Environment & Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board

Priority Based Monitoring Report

Reporting Period: **Quarter 1 – Period 01st April 2015 to 30th June 2015**

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1. This report provides an overview of issues and progress against key service objectives/milestones and performance targets, during the first quarter of 2015/16 for service areas within the remit of the Environment & Urban Renewal (E&UR) Policy and Performance Board.
- 1.2. Key priorities for development or improvement in 2015-18 were agreed by Members and included in Directorate Plans, for the various functional areas reporting to the Environment & Urban Renewal Policy & Performance Board i.e.:
 - Development & Investment Services
 - Open Spaces and Waste and Environmental Improvement
 - Highways, Transportation & Logistics and Physical Environment
 - Housing Strategy
- 1.3 The way in which traffic light symbols have been used to reflect progress to date is explained within Section 8 of this report.

2.0 Key Developments

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

Development & Investment Services

- **St Michaels Golf Course**
The lease agreement at St Michaels is driven by obtaining the necessary consents in advance of commencement of the lease. Variation to planning permission was received by HBC on 22nd April and a decision is anticipated in July 2015. The Bespoke Permit application to the Environment Agency is also currently in process with a decision expected by August 2015. Officers are finalising the detail of financial controls, boundaries, monitoring and reporting. A site start is expected in September 2015.
- **Merseyside Business Support Programme**
The programme is now coming to an end. The project closedown plan has been completed and suppliers informed of a timetable for the completion of all outstanding work and invoices. Ongoing tasks include the collection of additional information of the impact of the programme on employment, the final financial claims and ensuring that project documentation is in order to comply with future audits.

- **Liverpool City Region Business Growth Grant Programme**
The Liverpool City Region (LCR) Business Growth Grant can provide grant of between £10,000.00 and £1,000,000.00 to eligible companies across the LCR based on a private sector leverage ratio of 5:1 and the creation of sustainable jobs.

The deadline for final company claims for grant from the Regional Growth Fund (RGF) 3 element of the programme (grant between £50,000.00 and £1,000,000.00) was Friday 29 May. Halton Borough Council then had two weeks to process all claims and submit a corresponding claim to the LEP to reimburse the Council for grant paid to businesses. All RGF 4 final claims were processed by the 12 June deadline.

A total of £3,027,954.20 of private sector leverage was invested in the Borough as a consequence of the RGF 4 scheme against total project expenditure of £3,649,077.27. To date the RGF 3 programme has created 26 jobs and safeguarded a further 23 jobs.

- **Castlefields, Lakeside Phase 3**
Keepmoat have been given a 3 year exclusivity agreement covering Phase 3 to enable them to investigate a number of abnormal issues with the remaining 1ha parcel. Housing mix on phase 3 is likely to include affordable housing to due to financial viability and possibly to enable demolition of a further deck access block.

Initial advice has been given to Keepmoat in respect of design, layout and dealing with site constraints. Regeneration will return to this in April 2016 following progress with Phase 2.

- **3MG**
The Council is waiting to hear if HBC Field has been shortlisted by a transport and logistics operator. The rail scheme is progressing through Network Rail's approval process. Good progress is being made on the construction of a Biomass Plant and a new bridge which will span Stewards Brook.
- **Sci-Tech Daresbury**
Galliford have started on site for both the Tech Space construction and site connectivity. The Joint Venture Partnership between Langtree, Halton Borough Council and Science and Technologies Facilities Council (STFC) has agreed a price for the hostel plot, which now requires approval.

Policy, Planning and Transportation.

- **Bridge & Highway Maintenance**
A major Maintenance Outline Business Case is to be submitted to the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority by the end of July, the full business case is expected to be completed in early autumn. The scheme will ensure steady state maintenance for the SJB for the next 3yrs post 2016/17. The overall value of the scheme is £3.3m, however, an option to extend the scheme to 5 years has also been submitted which would cover the wider SJB complex.
- **Highway Schemes**

The Lunts Heath Road / Wilmere Lane junction improvement scheme was completed in early June 2015. The scheme comprised the installation of traffic signals to reduce delays at the junction aimed at assisting bus services, improving safety and providing improved pedestrian and cycle crossing facilities in the developing area of North Widnes. The finished scheme has been well received with several positive comments being received from residents, pedestrians and road users.

➤ Logistics

Real Time Bus Passenger Information Systems continue to be rolled out across the Borough with a further 12 units having been installed. The remaining 5 units are due to be installed within the next few months. A number of units have been subject to vandalism and considerations are now being given to the ongoing suitability of some original site locations in order that maintenance and operational costs can be managed effectively.

➤ Transport Policy

Halton has been awarded funding from the Liverpool City Region Local Growth Fund to deliver a number of Sustainable Transport Enhancement Packages which includes the continuation of the A56 cycle route from Preston on the Hill to Warrington with a scheme value of approx. £230k.

Also the delivery of the Ditton to Jaguar Land Rover factory, via 3MG, cycle network will provide residents with a clear and safe route between the locations. Halton is leading on the scheme which has a value of £330k, and is the only cross-boundary scheme in this round of funding.

Halton and Knowsley MBC have also been awarded £90k to deliver sustainable travel information within the locality and Halton will lead on the procurement of services with the key aims of the project to promote new and existing cycle routes to employment and education locations.

The delivery of the 'Get Halton Cycling' initiative has provided cycling sessions across the borough being organised every 3 weeks with maintenance checks, cycle skills and organised rides taking place and bikes being available to loan providing equality of opportunity for the Halton community.

Phoenix Park in Castlefields, Runcorn, is to provide the first cycle café in Halton. Urban Trikes, a Halton based company, will provide bike rental, a bike maintenance service, as well trike carriage rides around the Town Park. It is hoped the Café will be open in early August 2015 and will help provide an element of sustainability to the 'Get Halton Cycling' project.

The government's July budget announcement confirmed that £30M will be made available for the North of England over the next 3 years for the development of Smartcard technology and more detail will be provided as this becomes available.

Halton as part of the LCR is currently developing an alternative freight fuelling strategy. A workshop is to be held in Sefton to discuss the needs and aspirations of local hauliers/ bus operators with regard to future fuel technologies.

Halton is presently working with the Liverpool City Region to develop a bid to ULEV (Ultra Low Emission Vehicles) which will provide a grant to the LCR to lease (at extremely low rates)

electric vehicles and charging points to local authorities. Halton has requested a grant for two vehicles (small vans) with an option for a third. The grant would provide a 75% discount on a 2 year lease.

Works on the Mersey Gateway, predicted to open in autumn 2017, continue with a number of notable developments including:

- The Trestle Bridge was completed in May and the installation of the moving span continues,
- Remediation works at Ditton Road are progressing as planned and the reconstruction of the Central Expressway to Weston Link Road has commenced along with retaining wall earthworks for Junction 12 of M56,
- The Moving Scaffolding System, which filled 90 shipping containers currently being assembled on Catalyst Trade Park and the Tower Crane for the south pylon has been erected,
- Signed diversion routes are being introduced in order to maximise traffic flows and minimise disruption for drivers.
- The UK and South Korean Ambassadors led a group of Korean trade representatives and UK Dept. of Trade and Industry officials on a tour of the site.

Open Spaces and Waste & Environmental Improvement

➤ Cemeteries & Crematorium

The cemeteries and crematorium section had a very busy first quarter. Registered deaths were up during the quarter on the previous year. As a result the section dealt with 17% more burials and 11% more cremations which meant that it was stretched at times. One of the issues was the increase in deaths ran into the mowing season and additional resources had to be deployed from other sections within the Open Space Service.

All of the necessary permissions for the creation of a new cemetery (Peel House Cemetery) had been put in place during Q1 and it is expected that work will start on the ground in Q2/2 2015/16.

➤ Design & Development

The Runcorn Hill & Heath Park Café building was completed in Q1 and internal kitchen fit out commenced. Caldwell Road Playground was provided with a new climbing piece of equipment that replaced an out dated multi-play unit. Over 800 school children had become engaged with the Forest Schools activities as part of the Runcorn Hill & Heath Park HLF project.

➤ Parks

During Q1 the ice cream kiosk at Victoria Park opened for business. Operated through a franchise early indications are that the kiosk has done very well. Park users have made many positive comments on social media about the venture.

The pavilion at Phoenix Park was successfully let as a café franchise during Q1. Work began on an external and internal refurbishment during Q1 and it is hoped that the café will be open by the end of the summer period.

➤ Garden Waste Collection Service

There has been a positive response by Halton's residents to the introduction of the charge for the garden waste collection service. By the end of June over 13,000 households had subscribed to the service, representing a participation rate of 32% of the 41,490 households that are currently offered the service. The level of income received means that the service has become self-financing as a result of the introduction of the subscription charge.

This is a completely new scheme and as we move forward Officers will be reviewing the service, for example, looking at options for those householders who do not generate large quantities of garden waste and those who cannot accommodate wheeled bins.

➤ **Waste Related Offences**

The Deregulation Act 2015 came into force on 15th June 2015. Section 58 of the Act amends Section 46 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (EPA) to decriminalise offences relating to waste collection. Powers to deal with waste offences covered by s46 of the EPA are similar to those previously available however the criminal offence is removed and replaced by provision for a civic penalty (Fixed Penalty Notices).

The prosecution provisions formerly contained in s.46 of the EPA have been repealed and have been replaced by an elaborate non-criminal system that now includes two further steps between a written warning being issued to an offender and the issuing of a Fixed Penalty Notice.

Officers are reviewing current practices and will be introducing new processes to deal with waste offences in accordance with the new legislative requirements.

Housing Strategy

➤ **Housing**

The transfer in ownership of 272 dwellings (predominantly in the Halton Lodge and Runcorn old town areas) from Sanctuary Housing Association to Halton Housing Trust, LHT and Riverside was completed just prior to the financial year end.

The new accommodation for single homeless persons at Brennan Lodge (Albert Rd, Widnes) opened in June.

3.0 Emerging Issues

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

Development & Investment Services

I. **Runcorn Retail BID**

A Business Improvement District (BID) proposal, encompassing Runcorn Old Town, Trident Retail Park and Runcorn Shopping Centre has been proposed. Groundwork Cheshire have been appointed to facilitate the development of a BID Business Plan, manage a major consultation exercise and oversee a ballot of all businesses within the programme area.

The proposal was launched at the Brindley on 5th February 2015 and Groundwork Cheshire is currently working on the business plan following the completion of the consultation exercise.

Three key themes have emerged:

1. Vibrant and Attractive Runcorn – How we better market Runcorn, Which festivals and events best support Runcorn, Stay Local/ Shop Local, Street Scene.
2. Connectivity and Accessibility – Improving transport and signage. Building on studies already commissioned/ completed but translate into actions.
3. Supportive Environment for Businesses – Establishing a Runcorn Retail Business group, Make town centres more competitive, establishing training, seminars and networking opportunities, joint procurement to make trading cheaper, develop crime prevention initiatives.

The intended timescale is to share the Business Plan with businesses in July 2015 with a vote in September 2015.

II. Growth Hub

The Liverpool City Region (LCR) 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.

At a city region level an initial funding package of £550,000.00 has been agreed between the LEP and the Department for Business, Innovation & Skills (BIS) to support the development of an LCR Growth Hub. The LEP plan to recruit a team of 'Business Brokers', of which a core team of Business Brokers will be based at the LEP and a single Business Broker will be based within each Local Authority area, embedded within the Local Authority.

Halton Borough Council and Halton Chamber of Commerce and Enterprise submitted a joint response to the Growth Hub tender as Halton Growth Hub Partnership.

III. Pan-Merseyside Client Relationship Management System

As part of the development of a LCR Growth Hub the LEP has also proposed a pan-Merseyside CRM system to manage investment projects, commercial property enquiries and future grant and business support programmes.

The BIG Team have been working closely with developers Alcium and the Council's ICT Team to migrate data from the existing system to the new Evolutive system. It is anticipated that the system will go live from the first week in August 2015. Halton Borough Council will be the first LCR Local Authority to adopt the system.

IV. European Funding (Business Support)

Government published the first round of calls for the European Structural and Investment Funds in March 2015. The calls were for Research and Innovation, Low Carbon, SME Support, Access to Employment and Technical Assistance.

A consortium made up of the LCR Local Authorities, the LCR LEP and some, but not all, LCR Chambers of Commerce submitted an Expression of Interest (EOI) under Priority 3c 'SME Support' to government for funding from the European Programme 2014-20.

The project will provide eligible SME's across the Liverpool City Region, who would not typically engage with providers of business support, with the capacity and support they need to grow and prosper. The project will be a bridge between start-up support and more bespoke, intensive or specialist support typically provided by the private sector.

The project will provide participating SME's with the following quantifiable outputs:

- An intensive Business Diagnostic
- A Strategic Business Plan
- A dedicated Relationship Manager
- Informed brokerage into commercial business support
- More intensive support, where appropriate, focusing upon the management of people, processes and resources

The Halton element of the overall project will be for a projected spend of £530,073.00 and will aim to assist 164 companies and create 140 new jobs.

V. Mersey Gateway Regeneration

On the 1st June the Regeneration Team commenced a 12 month project to explore securing local economic benefits from the Mersey Gateway Project, following its completion. The main focus being:

- Identifying development site / site assembly opportunities resulting from the construction of the bridge;
- Place-making benefits through local infrastructure (highway / landscape) projects;
- Place-promotion & marketing opportunities.

There are six spatial areas of focus:

- 1) Rock Savage / M56 J12
- 2) Halton Lea / Hallwood Park
- 3) Astmoor
- 4) West Bank / South Widnes (including SJB de-linking)
- 5) Ditton / A562 corridor
- 6) Runcorn Old Town Silver Jubilee Bridge(SJB) De-linking

Upon completion of the 12 month project, a report will be presented which will set out a deliverable programme of actions that can be taken forward to help secure investment in Halton and improve perceptions of the area. Costs and benefits for each action will be outlined.

Policy, Planning and Transportation.

VI. Emergency Planning

Due to changes in ownership of parts of the Ineos site in Runcorn, it is now classed as having six top tier Control of Major Accident Hazards (COMAH) sites. Originally it was one site and then became three sites under previous ownership changes. The full impact on the requirement for off-site emergency plans is under discussion with the Health & Safety Executive (HSE). Due to these changes there are now eight top tier COMAH sites within Halton.

VII. Mersey Gateway / CCTV

Construction of the Mersey Gateway is progressing and beginning to impact on the road network. This is particularly evident in Runcorn at present but will increase particularly on the Widnes side as Ditton roundabout is re-modelled to a signalised junction and Watkinson Way is removed between Ashley Way and the Silver Jubilee Bridge. These works are impacting on service delivery and require staff resources to co-ordinate the works to minimise the impact on the Borough. More options are being discussed but every endeavour is being made to minimise the impact on the travelling public.

In Runcorn Town Centre, wireless links are being installed to reduce the operating costs of the Town Centre CCTV system. At present it is difficult to say what the expected saving will be but it could be up to £10k per year and would give better control over communication faults.

VIII. Planning

In its budget government has proposed changes to the planning system that pose a significant challenge to councils. In the Treasury's productivity document 'Fixing the Foundations', it is stated: "The government will also take steps to ensure that local plans are more responsive to local needs".

In the future large development schemes with a housing element can be determined nationally. Local plans may be imposed in councils and housing on brownfield sites will, in principle, receive automatic planning permission.

The Statement to Cooperate on Local Planning document has been prepared at officer level by the Liverpool City Region (LCR) Chief Planning Officers Group with aims of:

- Providing an agreed position of how strategic planning is currently being undertaken;
- Providing a description of those strategic thematic topics the authorities have agreement upon;
- Providing an approved mechanism for ongoing strategic planning; and
- Identifying those areas of joint working that will be required in the period 2015 to 2020.

This document aims to help fulfil the Duty to Cooperate that became a statutory requirement under the Localism Act. The document will be presented to members via the LCR Housing and Spatial Planning Board

Guidance from the Government requires that Councils assess the "Objectively Assessed Need for Housing (OAN)" and that this should be considered at a Strategic Housing Market Area (HMA) level.

Halton is presently working with St. Helens and Warrington Councils to assess the Mid-Mersey HMA and have commissioned consultants to undertake a SHMA which will be a key evidence base document informing the development of the emerging Local Plan. Draft results are expected during the latter part of July 2015

Open Spaces and Waste & Environmental Improvement

IX. Waste & Recycling Collection Services

During this quarter plans are being finalised for the implementation of major changes to the waste and recycling collection services, which are due to be introduced in August. The changes are being brought about as a result of the borough-wide roll out of the Alternate Bin Collection (ABC) scheme to all suitable properties, which is being completed as part of a 'Route Optimisation' exercise and will see the complete re-design of existing waste and recycling collection schedules.

Whilst some properties will remain on weekly waste collections, all households will be affected in some way by the changes. Full details will be provided to Members in advance of householders receiving information leaflets explaining how they will be affected.

Those households that will be remaining on weekly waste collections will be those provided with a 'sack' collection service and those provided with small wheeled bins that only hold half the amount of rubbish compared to standard sized bins.

The changes will mean that from August the Council will restrict the amount of rubbish it removes from every household and, over a fortnightly period, will collect equal amounts from every home. This will encourage waste reduction and increased recycling.

Housing Strategy

X. Housing

The Queen's speech and July 2015 budget have heralded a number of significant changes that will impact on the housing sector, these include:

- Extension of the Right to Buy to Housing Association tenants.
- Rents for social housing to reduce by 1% for each of the next four years starting in 2016.
- 18–21 yr. olds will not be eligible to claim Housing Benefit if they are not working, with some exceptions for the vulnerable (yet to be defined) and those who were in work in the 6 months prior to application.
- Local Housing Allowance rates frozen for the next 4 years for private rented sector tenancies.
- Tax relief for 'Buy to Let' investments is to be reduced to basic rate, potentially leading to rent increases to recoup costs.
- The Universal Credit cap will be reduced from £26,000 to £20,000, further increasing the risk of the Housing Benefit element being insufficient to cover rent payments.
- Social housing tenants with incomes above £30,000 will be charged a market rent.
- Further planning reforms to remove obstacles to house building.

4.0 Risk Control Measures

- 4.1 Risk control forms an integral part of the Council’s Business Planning and performance monitoring arrangements. As such Directorate Risk Registers were updated in tandem with the development of the suite of 2014 – 15 Directorate Business Plans.

Progress concerning the implementation of all high-risk mitigation measures will be monitored in Quarter 2 (14-15).

5.0 High Priority Equality Actions

- 5.1 Equality issues continue to form a routine element of the Council’s business planning and operational decision making processes. Additionally the Council must have evidence to demonstrate compliance with the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) which came into force in April 2011.

The Councils latest annual progress report in relation to the achievement of its equality objectives was published on the Council website during quarter 4 and is available via:

[http://www3.halton.gov.uk/Pages/councildemocracy/pdfs/EandD/Equality - objectives progress report - April 2013.pdf](http://www3.halton.gov.uk/Pages/councildemocracy/pdfs/EandD/Equality_-_objectives_progress_report_-_April_2013.pdf)

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 the Directorate:

Development and Investment Services








Key Objectives / milestones

Ref	Milestones	Q1 Progress
CED10b	Commence Sci-Tech Daresbury Tech Space by April 2015 .	
CED10d	Completion of road at Johnson's Lane by March 2016 .	
CED10g	Commence Crossville development by March 2016 .	

Supporting Commentary

All objective and milestones are currently on track for completion by their respective target dates.

Key Performance Indicators

Ref	Measure	14 / 15 Actual	15 / 16 Target	Q1 Actual	Q1 Progress	Direction of travel
CED060	Occupancy of HBC industrial Units	89%	90%	90%		
CED061	Occupancy of Widnes Market Hall	85%	95%	82%		
CED062	Number of inward investment enquiries per annum	239	250	38 (Q1 only)		
CED064	Number of funding enquiries per annum	113	110	35	N/A	


Supporting Commentary

Compared to last year the number of applications for Widnes Market Hall has declined. The economic recession continues to affect retailers along with competition from supermarkets, out-of-town shopping centres and online shopping. During the quarter five new traders started trading, and three businesses have changed ownership. It is hoped this will ensure their long-term sustainability. Ten traders have left the market during the quarter, many of which have only traded for a few months. Development of a marketing and promotions plan for the boroughs markets is being finalised and is scheduled for completion in August 2015.

Conversions of investment enquiries has exceeded all expectations due to a number received in 2014/15 which have only come to fruition in quarter 1 2015/16, and the lower numbers received within the quarter. Sustaining this level of conversion will be unlikely.

Open Spaces and Waste & Environmental Improvement



Key Objectives / milestones

Ref	Milestones	Q1 Progress
CE 05	Woodland Expansion - Additional 200m ² of Woodland planted Borough wide - March 2016.	

Supporting Commentary

Planning has begun for the winter planting for 2015/16.

Key Objectives / milestones

Ref	Milestones	Q1 Progress
CE 06	Continue to deliver communications and awareness raising initiatives to ensure that participation with the Council's recycling services is maximised and that residents comply with the requirements of the Council's Household Waste Collection policy, March 2016 .	
CE 07	Continue to review and assess the effectiveness of the Council's Environmental Enforcement Plans and Policies and maintain actions to ensure that the Council continues to effectively prevent and tackle a range of waste and environmental offences, March 2016 .	

Supporting Commentary

CE 06





As part of the introduction of operational changes referred to in 'Emerging Issues', all households will receive an information booklet that advising of how they will be affected by the changes. This booklet represented the opportunity to directly engage with every household in the borough and as such it also provides information about the importance of waste reduction and increased recycling as well as information about the recycling services provided by the Council.

Ahead of the introduction of the changes, Information will also be provided to the local press to help raise awareness of waste issues. Further campaigns and direct engagement with residents will remain on-going.

CE 07

This work is on-going and Members will receive updates throughout the financial year.

Key Performance Indicators



Ref	Measure	14 / 15 Actual	15 / 16 Target	Q1 Actual	Q1 Progress	Direction of travel
CE LI 10	Residual household waste per household (Previously NI191).	534 Kgs	593 Kgs	143 Kgs <i>Estimated</i>		
CE LI 11	Household waste recycled and composted (Previously NI192).	46.8%	40%	47%		

Supporting Commentary

Both the residual household waste and household waste recycled per household are both a cumulative figures however, the estimated performance in Q1 indicates that they will both be met by the end of the financial year.

Highways, Transportation & Logistics

Key Objectives / milestones








Ref	Milestones	Q1 Progress
PPT 01	Deliver 2015/16 major bridge maintenance works programme. March 2016.	
PPT 02	To deliver the 2014/15 LTP Capital Programme March 2016.	









Supporting Commentary

Annual bridge maintenance works Programme currently on Target. The Early Contractor Involvement (ECI) is anticipated to commence through the Summer regarding the outstanding land slip and footpath works on Moor Lane, Widnes.

The LTP Capital programme is progressing as planned with a detailed programme of sustainable transport improvements has been approved and design work on schemes is underway. Additionally the first phase programmes of carriageway resurfacing and footway reconstruction schemes have been designed and is currently being target costed by the Term Contractor.

Key Performance Indicators

Ref	Measure	14 / 15 Actual	15 / 16 Target	Q1 Actual	Q1 Progress	Direction of travel
PPT LI 01	Percentage of third party compensation claims due to alleged highway / footway defects successfully defended.	N / A	80	80		N / A
PPT LI 04 (ex NI 157)	Processing of planning applications as measured against targets for:					
	a) 'major' applications	75%	60%	84.6%		
	b) 'minor' applications	43.75%	80%	82.9%		
	c) 'other' applications	85.71%	80%	94.9%		
PPT LI 05	To ensure a five year rolling supply of housing land available for 2,760 homes over 5 years. Measure as supply of ready to develop housing sites (%).	100	105	N / A	N / A	N / A
PPT LI 15	Bus service punctuality, Part 1: The proportion of non-					

Ref	Measure	14 / 15 Actual	15 / 16 Target	Q1 Actual	Q1 Progress	Direction of travel
	frequent scheduled services on time (%):					
	Percentage of buses starting route on time	98.38%	98.40%	97.10%		
	Percentage of buses on time at intermediate timing points	93.82%	94.00%	91.43%		
PPT LI 17	No. of passengers on community based accessible transport	213,998	214,100	47,578		
PPT LI 19	Number of local bus passenger journeys originating in the authority area in one year (000's)	5,493	5,500	1372		

Supporting Commentary

PPT LI 01

This is an amended Performance Indicator and reflects the number of successfully defended cases, rather than the number of claims received. All data will be referenced to the baseline established from 1st April 2015.

PPT LI 04

Progress is on target.

PPT LI 05

Reported annually at year end.

PPT LI 15

Operators have indicated that the slight decline in performance is due to the increased level of roadworks and the removal of the bus lanes across Liverpool. However, service schedules have been changed and it is anticipated performance will improve.

PPT LI 17

Passenger journeys have dropped by 2.76% on the previous period. This is due to a reduction in college journeys and charitable groups are making fewer bookings as a result of funding issues. It is anticipated that a marketing initiative over the coming months will bring the usage figures back on track.

PPT LI 19

Passenger figures have increased by approximately 4.65% on the same period last year. It is thought the increase is due to more students travelling on the network.

7.0 Financial Summaries

ECONOMY, ENTERPRISE & PROPERTY DEPARTMENT

Summary Financial Position as at 30th June 2015

	Annual Budget	Budget to Date	Expenditure to Date	Variance to Date (overspend)
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<u>Expenditure</u>				
Employees	4,242	1,073	1,099	(26)
Repairs & Maintenance	2,485	399	398	1
Premises	41	36	36	0
Energy & Water Costs	599	95	98	(3)
NNDR	544	504	501	3
Rents	446	120	120	0
Marketing Programme	23	3	3	0
Promotions	9	4	4	0
Supplies & Services	1,726	290	285	5
Agency Related Expenditure	42	2	3	(1)
Grants to Non Voluntary Organisations	323	301	301	0
Surplus Property Assets	-685	-75	0	(75)
Revenue Contrib'n to / from Reserves	35	35	35	0
Total Expenditure	9,830	2,787	2,883	(96)
<u>Income</u>				
Fees & Charges	-654	-268	-274	6
Rent - Markets	-766	-164	-166	2
Rent - Industrial Estates	-605	-120	-123	3
Rent - Investment Properties	-627	-111	-119	8
Transfer to / from Reserves	-518	-518	-518	0
Government Grant – Income	-1,827	-537	-537	0
Reimbursements & Other Income	-46	-32	-36	4
Recharges to Capital	-227	-3	-3	0
Schools SLA Income	-510	-437	-434	(3)
Total Income	-5,780	-2,190	-2,210	20
NET OPERATIONAL BUDGET	4,050	597	673	(76)
Premises Support Costs	1,924	508	508	0
Transport Support Costs	32	5	5	0
Central Support Service Costs	2,049	542	542	0
Asset Rental Support Costs	2,543	0	0	0
Repairs & Maint. Rech. Income	-2,558	-640	-640	0
Accommodation Rech. Income	-2,763	-691	-691	0
Central Supp. Service Rech. Income	-2,061	-515	-515	0
Total Recharges	-834	-791	-791	0
Net Expenditure	3,216	-194	-118	(76)

Comments on the above figures

Spend against the employee budget is higher than the profiled budget as at quarter 1. This relates to the staff turnover savings target which has not been achieved due to low turnover of staff within the Department.

Premises costs have remained constant during Quarter 1. Property Services will continue to utilise council accommodation wherever possible and outsource accommodation space to external agencies to generate additional income, at the same time as aiming to continue to keep expenditure to a minimum.

It is anticipated that the Surplus Property Assets savings target will not be fully achieved by year-end. An action plan has been developed and is being implemented in conjunction with the Members Asset Review Panel, to assist with achieving the savings target at the earliest opportunity.

NNDR budgets are under budget, as most of the Investment Properties are fully occupied (HBC not being liable for many empty rates at present).

In order to ease budget pressures spending will be 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.

It is projected Investment Properties and Industrial Estates rental income will remain constant during the year and envisaging minimal change in the occupancy rates.

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 over budget by year-end. In the main this is due to the savings target against surplus property assets. However work is being undertaken to minimise this where possible.

ECONOMY ENTERPRISE & PROPERTY CAPITAL PROJECTS

Summary Financial Position as at 30th June 2015

	2015/16 Capital Allocation £'000	Allocation To Date £000's	Expenditure to Date £'000	Variance to Date (overspend) £'000
Castlefields Regeneration	635	19	19	0
3MG	3,493	121	121	0
Widnes Waterfront	1,000	0	0	0
Johnsons Lane Infrastructure	450	0	0	0
Decontamination of Land	6	0	0	0
Sci Tech Daresbury	10,965	5	5	0
Former Crossville Depot	518	25	25	0
Fairfield Primary School	380	0	0	0
Fairfield High Site - Contingency	64	9	9	0
Peel House Lane Cemetery	1,017	1	1	0
Peel House Lane Roundabout & Cemetery Access	53	2	2	0
John Briggs House	350	0	0	0
Travellers Site - Warrington Road	1,286	604	604	0
Widnes Town Centre Initiative	21	0	0	0
Lower House Lane Depot – Upgrade	38	4	4	0
Equality Act Improvement Works	250	10	10	0
Grand Total	20,526	800	800	0

Comments on the above figures

The timing of spend for Castlefields Regeneration scheme is unknown as the main expenditure item relates to a compulsory purchase order claim (which is likely to be referred to Lands Tribunal).

The bulk of the capital allocation for 3MG will be used to fund the construction of rail sidings which will commence in quarter 2.

Widnes Waterfront and Bayer project will only commence once the developer has an end user in place so timing of spend is hard to predict at this moment in time.

Decontamination of Land allocation will fund final contract retention payment.

Sci Tech Daresbury spend will relate to purchase of Tech Space building which is expected to be towards the end of the financial year.

In regards to Peel house Lane scheme, Officers are meeting up on a on a regular basis to progress the works and also financial profile remains estimated subject to the results of the tender. Johnsons Lane road construction has been completed up to its wearing course and currently work is being carried out to secure the remaining sites from unauthorised use.

POLICY, PLANNING & TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

Revenue Budget as at 30th June 2015

	Annual Budget	Budget To Date	Actual To Date	Variance To Date (overspend)
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Expenditure				
Employees	4,831	1,180	1,181	(1)
Other Premises	222	64	51	13
Hired & Contracted Services	307	67	43	24
Supplies & Services	283	73	76	(3)
Street Lighting	2,026	65	66	(1)
Highways Maintenance	2,281	300	295	5
Bridges	98	4	3	1
Fleet Transport	1,397	178	177	1
Lease Car Contracts	516	197	196	1
Bus Support – Hopper Tickets	180	30	30	0
Bus Support	525	151	154	(3)
Out of Borough Transport	51	9	7	2
Finance Charges	406	146	143	3
Grants to Voluntary Organisations	68	34	34	0
NRA Levy	60	15	15	0
Total Expenditure	13,250	2,513	2,471	42
Income				
Sales	-358	-51	-42	(9)
Planning Fees	-531	-133	-124	(9)
Building Control Fees	-201	-50	-57	7
Other Fees & Charges	-449	-76	-89	13
Rents	-8	0	0	0
Grants & Reimbursements	-527	-74	-74	0
Efficiency Savings	-60	0	0	0
School SLAs	-40	-40	-40	0
Recharge to Capital	-312	0	0	0
Transfer from Reserves	-217	0	0	0
Total Income	-2,703	-424	-426	2
Net Controllable Expenditure	10,547	2,089	2,045	44
Recharges				
Premises Support	681	271	271	0
Transport Recharges	629	147	157	(10)
Asset Charges	7,791	0	0	0
Central Support Recharges	2,120	530	530	0
Departmental Support Recharges	491	123	123	0
Departmental Support Recharges Income	-491	-123	-123	0
Support Recharges Income – Transport	-3,734	-850	-866	16
Support Recharges Income	-1,995	-430	-430	0
Net Total Recharges	5,492	-332	-338	6
Net Departmental Total	16,039	1,757	1,707	50

Comments on the above figures

In overall terms revenue spending at the end of quarter 1 is below budget profile. This is due to a number of expenditure and income budget areas.

Other premises is below budget to date mainly due to lower than expected utility bills and lower than expected NNDR for Lower House Lane Depot within the Logistics division.

Contracted services expenditure is currently below budget due to expected goods and services not yet being received. The budget is expected to be fully spent by year end.

Planning fees are currently under budget; this income stream is however expected to increase as the year progresses and it is expected that income will be in line with the budget at year end.

Building Control income is exceeding the budget profile to date, the increased income reflects the increase in the number of control inspections provided by the department to members of the public, this is despite the strong competition from outside competitors who can provide the same service expect for the issuing of the certificate.

The above budget increase in other fees and charges is mainly due to income generated within the Traffic area for overrun charges and permits etc. This is expected to be just above budget throughout the year.

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

POLICY, PLANNING & TRANSPORTATION

Capital Projects as at 30th June 2015

	2015/16 Capital Allocation £'000	Allocation To Date £'000	Actual Spend To Date £'000	Allocation Remaining £'000
<i>Local Transport Plan</i>				
<i>Bridges & Highway Maintenance</i>				
Bridge Assessment, Strengthening & Maintenance	967	105	85	882
Road Maintenance	1,261	300	290	971
	2,228	405	375	1,853
<i>Total Bridge & Highway Maintenance</i>				
Integrated Transport	908	130	125	783
	3,136	535	500	2,636
<i>Total Local Transport Plan</i>				
 <i>Halton Borough Council</i>				
Street lighting – Structural Maintenance	200	50	31	169
Street lighting – replacement programme	4,700	50	50	4,650
Risk Management	120	10	0	120
	2,174	300	283	1,891
<i>Fleet Replacement</i>				
	7,194	410	364	6,829
<i>Total Halton Borough Council</i>				
 <u>Grant Funded</u>				
	122	10	0	122
<i>Surface Water Management Grant</i>				
	384	5	4	380
<i>S106 schemes</i>				
	534	0	0	534
<i>STEPS program</i>				
	1,040	15	4	1,036
<i>Total Grant Funded</i>				
	11,370	960	868	10,502
<i>Total Capital Programme</i>				

Comments on the above figures

The programme of spend regarding surface water management is dependent on uptake by members of the public. This in turn is affected by local weather conditions.

The STEP (Sustainable Transport Enhancement Package) programme is scheduled to start from quarter 2, this spend will then be reflected from this period onwards.

COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

Revenue Budget as at 30 June 2015

	Annual Budget £'000	Budget To Date £'000	Actual To Date £'000	Variance To Date (overspend) £'000
<u>Expenditure</u>				
Employees	12,018	3,022	3,039	(17)
Other Premises	1,182	479	471	8
Supplies & Services	1,565	374	347	27
Book Fund	142	35	35	0
Hired & Contracted Services	1,151	225	239	(14)
Food Provisions	652	163	162	1
School Meals Food	2,077	389	382	7
Transport	54	9	5	4
Other Agency Costs	674	169	142	27
Waste Disposal Contracts	5,160	525	536	(11)
Leisure Management Contract	1,496	260	280	(20)
Grants To Voluntary Organisations	322	137	131	6
Grant To Norton Priory	222	115	117	(2)
Rolling Projects	20	21	21	0
Capital Financing	9	2	0	2
Total Spending	26,744	5,925	5,907	18
<u>Income</u>				
Sales Income	-2,259	-607	-563	(44)
School Meals Sales	-2,180	-349	-357	8
Fees & Charges Income	-3,235	-1,029	-1,000	(29)
Rents Income	-235	-48	-63	15
Government Grant Income	-1,186	-8	-8	0
Reimbursements & Other Grant Income	-516	-96	-100	4
Schools SLA Income	-79	-79	-83	4
Internal Fees Income	-120	-25	-30	5
School Meals Other Income	-2,270	-1,373	-1,375	2
Meals On Wheels	-196	-49	-37	(12)
Catering Fees	-225	-39	-15	(24)
Capital Salaries	-53	-13	-13	0
Transfers From Reserves	-32	0	0	0
Total Income	-12,586	-3,715	-3,644	(71)
Net Controllable Expenditure	14,158	2,210	2,263	(53)
<u>Recharges</u>				
Premises Support	1,947	522	522	0
Transport Recharges	2,390	165	164	1
Departmental Support Services	9	0	0	0
Central Support Services	3,146	845	845	0
Asset Charges	3,005	0	0	0
HBC Support Costs Income	-382	-382	-382	0
Net Total Recharges	10,115	1,150	1,149	1
Net Departmental Total	24,273	3,360	3,412	(52)

Comments on the above figures

The net budget is £52,000 over budget profile at the end of the first quarter of the 2015/16 financial year.

Employee expenditure is subject to savings this year which have yet to take effect so the position is slightly worse than anticipated at this stage of the year. The use of agency staff across the department has fallen significantly since the introduction of the apprenticeship schemes and vacant posts being filled.

Other Agency costs are £27,000 under budget mainly due to underspending on the Area Forums for projects not yet started.

The Leisure Contract is now in its final year and will end in January 2016, the contract price exceeds budget and will overspend this year.

Expenditure on Waste contracts is currently over budget to date and will remain a pressure throughout the year. This budget will be closely monitored to ensure expenditure is brought back in line.

Sales income, Fees & Charges and Internal Catering Fees across the Department will significantly struggle to achieve income targets for the year. Last year income for these specific areas underachieved by over £322,000, although this was partially offset by other income streams. Sales targets have increased this year and as a result income budgets will be closely monitored and if necessary income targets will be realigned where possible. Income relating to the collection of green waste, approved as a saving item for 2015/16 is on target with the budget for the year.

COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

Capital Projects as at 30th June 2015

	2015-16 Capital Allocation £'000	Allocation To Date £'000	Actual Spend To Date £'000	Total Allocation Remaining £'000
Stadium Minor Works	30	20	18	12
Stadium 3G Equipment	12	0	0	12
Widnes Recreation Site	741	530	524	217
Norton Priory	3,426	100	82	3,344
Norton Priory Biomass Boiler	140	0	0	140
Children's Playground Equipment	138	60	53	85
Upton Improvements	13	0	0	13
Crow Wood Play Area	13	0	0	13
Runcorn Hill Park	250	200	199	51
Runcorn Cemetery Extension	9	0	0	9
Cremators Widnes Crematorium	109	109	151	(42)
Open Spaces Schemes	18	15	15	3
Playground Third Party Funding	340	0	0	340
Litter Bins	20	0	0	20
Total	5,259	1,034	1,042	4,217

Comments on the above figures

Most capital projects are on line to spend their allocations in year with the exception of the Norton Priory schemes which will run into next year.

The Widnes Recreation project has now completed with remaining invoices anticipated in quarter two. Total spend should be within the allocation.

The allocation for Playground Third Party Funding represents funding carried forward from previous years to provide match funding for external grants. Any residual funding will be carried forward at year-end.

COMMISSIONING & COMPLEX CARE DEPARTMENT

Revenue Budget as at 30th June 2015

	Annual Budget	Budget To Date	Actual To Date	Variance To Date (overspend)
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Expenditure				
Employees	7,608	1,746	1,700	46
Premises	308	87	82	5
Supplies & Services	1,912	498	500	(2)
Carers Breaks	427	166	164	2
Transport	170	44	40	4
Contracts & SLAs	90	23	21	2
Payments To Providers	3,591	757	757	0
Emergency Duty Team	93	0	0	0
Other Agency Costs	446	87	87	0
Total Expenditure	14,645	3,408	3,351	57
Income				
Sales & Rents Income	-284	-129	-134	5
Fees & Charges	-176	-44	-29	(15)
CCG Contribution To Service	-392	-98	-89	(9)
Reimbursements & Grant Income	-648	-78	-75	(3)
Transfer From Reserves	-620	-0	0	0
Total Income	-2,120	-349	-327	(22)
Net Operational Expenditure	12,525	3,059	3,024	35
Recharges				
Premises Support	174	57	57	0
Transport	450	7	7	0
Central Support Services	1,515	376	376	0
Asset Charges	62	16	16	0
Internal Recharge Income	-2,012	-199	-199	0
Net Total Recharges	189	257	257	0
Net Departmental Total	12,714	3,316	3,281	35

Comments on the above figures

Net operational expenditure is £35,000 below budget profile at the end of the first quarter of the financial year.

Employee costs are currently £46,000 below budget profile. This results from savings made on vacant posts, specifically in relation to Day Services. The majority of these posts have now either been filled, or are in the process of being recruited to. It is therefore not anticipated that the current spend below budget profile will continue at this level for the remainder of the financial year.

Income is below target to date. There is an anticipated shortfall on Fees & Charges income as a result of revised contract arrangements for the homeless hostel. Additionally, income received from the Clinical Commissioning Group is projected to be below target. This income relates to Continuing Health Care funded packages within Day Services and the Supported Housing Network. The income received is dependent on the nature of service user's care packages, and is out of the direct control of the service. The shortfall is currently estimated to be in the region of £35,000 for the full year. This shortfall is likely to be partly offset by an over-achievement of trading income from Day Services ventures.

At this stage in the financial year, it is anticipated that a balanced budget overall will be achieved for the year. Whilst income is projected below target, this will be offset by in-year savings in other areas, principally on savings on staff turnover above the set target.

COMMISSIONING & COMPLEX CARE DEPARTMENT

Capital Projects as at 30th June 2015

	2015-16 Capital Allocation £'000	Allocation To Date £'000	Actual Spend To Date £'000	Total Allocation Remaining £'000
ALD Bungalows	200	0	1	199
Lifeline Telecare Upgrade	100	0	0	100
Grangeway Court Refurbishment	360	0	0	360
Halton Carer's Centre Refurbishment	34	0	0	34
The Halton Brew	16	0	0	16
Social Care Capital Grant	413	0	0	413
Total	1,123	0	1	1,122




Completion of the first phase of the ALD Bungalows has been delayed due to the original contractor going into liquidation. The contract is currently being retendered, with the building works estimated for completion in November. Spend is now anticipated to be £200,000 in-year, with the remainder being spent in 2016/17.

The refurbishment of Grangeway Court is expected to be completed in-year, although approximately 10% of the capital allocation will be required in 2016/17 for retention payments. It is expected that all other projects will be completed within the financial year.




8.0 Explanation of Symbols

Symbols are used in the following manner:

Progress Symbols

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

Direction of Travel Indicator

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	N / A
	Indicates that the measure cannot be compared to the same period last year.