

Environment & Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board

Priority Based Monitoring Report

Reporting Period: **Quarter 3 – Period 01st October 2015 to 31st December 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 third 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

- Lakeside Phase 2 January 2016
Development Agreement signed and Keepmoat now in full possession of site. First homes and new Sales Office expected to open in April 2016.

The scheme covers approximately 1.7ha and will deliver 79 two and three bedroom homes for open market sale. Early reservations have been strong and likely to follow the previous Phase as one of Keepmoat's top performing developments. A two bed 'starter' home begins at £105,995 which reduces to £84,795 with 'Help to Buy'.

- 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.

➤ Canalside

Works to improve access via length of redundant Busway, including upgrading of two bridges, was completed in May 2015. Next step is assessment of the carriageway and designs for road junction into the site from Busway. Marketing agents to be appointed in 2016 to provide advice and begin process for disposal of Canalside for approximately 250 homes.

➤ Investment Enquiries

The Business Improvement and Growth (BIG) Team managed 45 commercial property\inward investment enquiries in Quarter 3 2015/16, 10 of which were converted (inward investment enquiries 'converted' into actual investment projects).

➤ Merseyside Business Support Programme

Through the Merseyside Business Support Programme, Halton has received 287 enquiries for assistance. 126 companies are currently engaged on the programme and 116 have completed the initial diagnostic phase.

We selected a sample of businesses to follow up to assess the impact of the programme including the number of jobs created and a subjective assessment from each business on how the support had assisted the development of its business.

Tasks in this quarter included the collection of additional information concerning the impact upon employment and qualitative follow-on research in relation to the impact that the advice had made to the consolidation or growth of each business.

Without exception, the feedback from the chosen sample was very positive. We also started to collect the remaining documentation (and will continue to do so into quarter four) and informed participants of the total state aid received from the project.

The Business Improvement and Growth Team is developing a new programme which will be up and running from 1st April 2016.

➤ Liverpool City Region Business Growth Grant Programme

The Liverpool City Region Business Growth Grant (RGF) Programme is now closed and all claims for grant funding from Halton companies under both the RGF 3 and RGF 4 elements of the programme were paid and monies recovered from the LEP.

This work has been completed in advance of other projects that the authority is expected to also complete to meet Regional Growth Fund Criteria.

The tables below describe the final spend position with respect to both RGF 3 and RGF 4 and stands the same at the end of quarter 3 as it did at the end of quarter 2.

RGF 3

Company	Grant Award	Grant Paid	Percentage Paid
Converge IT	£160,275.00	£160,274.79	99.99%
The Protein Works	£104,265.00	£96,134.69	92.20%
WSR	£99,990.00	£99,990.00	100%
Ineos Technologies	£78,500.00	£78,147.80	99.55%
Helsby & Longden	£59,950.00	£58,937.29	98.31%
CDL	£163,191.20	£127,638.50	78.21%
Totals	£666,171.20	£621,123.07	93.23 %

RGF 4

Company	Grant Award	Grant Paid	Percentage Paid
Tall Security Print	£18,000.00	£17,487.00	91.13%
Merseyside Printing Co	£10,000.00	£9,996.00	99.96%
E-Scape	£15,000.00	£15,000.00	100%
Perceptive Engineering	£25,000.00	£16,067.93	64.27%
Freight First Ltd	£10,000.00	£9,891.00	98.91%
Totals	£78,000.00	£68,441.93	87.74%

- Sci-Tech Daresbury
Tech Space 2 base-build is now complete and work has commenced on the fit out. A tenant has been signed up to occupy the first floor of the 10,000 sq. ft. office space.

The final financial claim for ERDF was submitted in December 2015. Due to delays in the site connectivity works, the amount of eligible expenditure reduced resulting in a loss of almost £300k ERDF funding for the project. The delays were due to the approval and acceptance of the grant and the Authority is working with the applicant to see if we can absorb this in to the timescale of the wider contract.

➤ **Regional Growth Fund**

A total of £3,290,354.03 of private sector leverage was invested in the Borough as a consequence of the RGF 4 scheme, against total project expenditure of £3,916,416.50. In total 92.64% of contracted grant (RGF 3 + RGF 4) has been paid to businesses.

We arranged a scheme of follow-on visits from the Business Improvement and Growth Team to quantify the efficiency of the delivery of the programme and investigate new opportunities, particularly with the Merseyside Jobs and Growth Fund.

These follow on visits are an opportunity to get feedback from Halton businesses, with an overall positive response in terms of the usefulness of the programme; it used as a mechanism for maintaining an ongoing dialogue with businesses

➤ **Merseyside Jobs and Growth Fund**

This is a grant of up to £75,000 (maximum 20% of the total project value) for capital investments in businesses that have expansion plans which may lead to an increase in the number of people working for the business. We have referred more than 20 businesses to St Helens' Chamber of Commerce for this, the managing agent for this fund.

➤ **Liverpool City Region – Growth Deal: Business Investment Fund**

Liverpool City Region has been allocated £15.6m through its Local Growth Deal to stimulate economic growth through business investment. The original case for this funding was made on the basis of the impact of the RGF backed Business Growth Grant which in the last 2 years has supported 100 businesses across the City Region, leveraging £75m in other investment creating 2,000 jobs.

For Halton, a target of 97 supported businesses was set. At present 86 have received support with a deadline of 2017 to meet the overall target.

➤ **Norton Priory Museum - Monastery to Museum 900**

The main works commenced on site in early August 2015 and are progressing well. The exhibition fit-out contract has now also been let to a company called Elmwood, its works are due to commence on site in March. Final completion is due in summer 2016, the Museum being due to reopen in August 2016.

➤ **Police Station & Magistrates Court**

A contractor has now been appointed in respect of the proposed demolition work, J Bryan (Victoria) Ltd. The Council is due to complete on the purchase of the site in early January, immediately following which the contractor will take possession of the site. The demolition works are due for completion by the end of May.

- **New Travellers Site – Runcorn**
The project to create a 12 pitch Travellers site has now been completed, and the site is now ready for occupation, as yet however the site is unoccupied.
- **Runcorn Hill Park Pavilion Building**
All building works to the main pavilion are now complete, the building having been opened on 23 August 2015. There are still outstanding external works to other areas within the park which are continuing.
- **Fairfield Primary- redevelopment**
This project is currently out to tender on the Chest, the tenders are due for return on 25th January with the overall available budget being circa £2.1m. It is currently anticipated that the works will consist of 3 separate phases commencing in April 2016.

Policy, Planning and Transportation.

- The coordination of the works for the Mersey Gateway is increasing, this is to try and minimise the impact of the works on the travelling public. This is continuing to prove a challenge as works are underway at multiple sites throughout the Borough in order to meet the completion date.
- The work is increasing especially around Ditton roundabout (where the roundabout is being replaced with a traffic signal controlled junction) and, in the near future, the Speke Road will be diverted around the roundabout, however this will not take place until the mitigation measures are agreed to minimise the disruption. The Central Expressway, in Runcorn, is now closed for up to 7 months whilst the route is realigned and bridge works are carried out.
- The Pegasus Crossing (a crossing for pedestrians, cyclists and horses) will shortly be commissioned across A56 at Daresbury, near Keckwick Lane. It will be of particular benefit to SciTech staff who park in Daresbury church car park (SciTech rent spaces off the church).
- The Building Control (BC) collaboration with Knowsley Council has now been in formal operation for 6 months (15th July 2015) and the results have been very positive. Informal discussions are ongoing to set out future options for this joint shared service.
- Fee income is now covering budgeted costs and this is a key measure of success in securing a zero net budget business model based on commercial principles for the BC Service. Building Control must compete with the private sector ('Approved Inspectors') for work.

Additionally, the Council benefits from having the resource to undertake statutory duties such as dangerous structure assessment and safety at sports grounds and events (Creamfields). These additional duties are also covered by the fee income, giving significant benefits at nil cost.

➤ To support the Liverpool City Region Devolution agreement progress has been made on the following joint work streams;

▪ *Single Statutory Framework*

Workshops have been undertaken for elected member representatives at the Housing and Spatial Planning Board covering housing strategy and a single statutory framework for planning. The workshops have produced a high level work programme to deliver those strategic documents.

▪ *Priorities Overview Document*

An overview document of spatial priorities is being produced to capture the current pipeline and trajectory for major sites, schemes, infrastructure, and major land allocations. A draft of the document will be submitted to the Housing and Spatial Planning Board in March 2016.

▪ *Statement of Co-Operation on strategic planning matters*

This document is now at an advanced draft and is being used to capture the detail and work programme behind the 'Devolution Planning Asks'. The document sets out the evidence studies that need to be undertaken to deliver a single statutory framework and fulfils the legal requirement for each Council to show how they have worked with neighbouring authorities across the City Region on strategic planning matters.

▪ *Strategic Housing and Employment Land Market Assessment.*

GL Hearn has been commissioned to undertake this work on behalf of the Liverpool City Region (LCR). A 'Memorandum of Understanding' has been agreed between the member LAs and Executive Board will receive a report on 14th January 2016 to approve the MOU.

This study will provide a baseline position of housing and employment land requirements across the City Region to inform future planning documents (such as an LCR Strategic Plan) and joint Green Belt review work to accommodate growth across the LCR.

▪ *Transport Pipeline*

Pipeline Transport project workshops have been held over the last few months to identify future transport/highway schemes Halton and the LCR would like to deliver. Subsequently a number of pipeline transport projects are currently being drafted for consideration for future funding post 2021. Once the schemes have been approved by Halton they will be submitted to the LCR along with all the other districts proposals and then prioritised for any future funding which may become available.

▪ *Local Development Scheme (Local Plan – Update)*

A report has been produced for the Executive Board on 14th January 2016 to adopt an updated Local Development Scheme (LDS) setting out the timetable for statutory local plan production. Public consultation on the revised scope of the Delivery and Allocations Plan (to include selected policies from the Core Strategy) is scheduled to start before the end of February.

▪ *Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SMHA)*

The Mid-Mersey Strategic Housing Market Assessment has been concluded. This looks at the 'Objectively Assessed Need' (OAN) for housing in Halton, St. Helens and Warrington.

This assessment shows an annual requirement for 466 dwellings per annum over the period 2014-2037 (based on an assumed jobs growth of 4,952 over the same period). This is below the currently adopted figure of 552 p.a. derived from the 2008 Regional Spatial Strategy.

- *Retail Study*

Consultants England and Lyle have been appointed to prepare a Retail Study for the borough, assessing the health of our principal centres and quantifying the need (if any) for additional retail floor space over the next plan period.

- *Green Belt Study*

The Green Belt Study has been completed and has been published. This is a factual evidential document that sets out all of the land currently under Green Belt designation and assesses the characteristics and performance of these sites against the criteria in national Green Belt policy.

The study does not make any recommendations on the release of Green Belt sites.

- *'Bikeright' Scheme*

STEPS revenue funds a shared scheme between Knowsley and Halton via a consortium led by 'Bikeright'. The project promotes cycling with a focus on helping those who are trying to get back into work/training/education.

Funding secured from the STEP (Merseytravel/Local Growth Fund) enables a consistent approach across the two authorities and fortnightly rides and events will take place across the Borough with bikes and safety equipment being available to loan for the sessions.

A recycle bicycle scheme will be launched in spring 2016 and will operate until the end of October 2016. The scheme will provide low cost bikes to Halton residents and Victoria Park (Widnes) and Phoenix Park/Heath Park (Runcorn) have been identified as initial Cycle Hub areas.

- *Alternative Fuel Strategy*

Halton residents will have access to two Electric Charging Points (ECP's) one located at the Select Stadium, Widnes and one at Church Street, Runcorn (near old market entrance).

The points will be funded by Halton's LTP delivery fund, while Merseytravel are currently grant funding all electric charging costs until 2018, after which this will be reviewed.

The cost to the public is a one off joining fee of approximately £20.00 which will then provide access to an LCR wide network of ECP's. This project will support the delivery of Halton's LTP3 and the LCR Alternative Fuel Strategy objectives.

- *National Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy*

The Infrastructure Act has imposed a duty for the Secretary of State for Transport to bring forward a Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy (CWIS) in England. In July 2015, Part 2 of the Infrastructure Act (Cycling and Walking Investment Strategies) was enacted with the following objectives: invest over £200 million to make cycling safer so we reduce the number of cyclists and other road users killed or injured on our roads every year; double cycling rates. A public consultation is to be undertaken in spring 2016 covering activities to be carried out; results to be achieved; and standards to be met.

- The first part of the Highway Asset Management Plan is due to be presented at the Environment and Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board meeting on 13th January 2016 for review before further submission to Executive Board in the early part of the new calendar year.
- The Council has received email confirmation from colleagues in Merseytravel that it has been successful in our LCR Growth Fund bid for additional funding for further and continued maintenance of the Silver Jubilee Bridge Complex. We expect to receive the formal letter in the New Year.

Open Spaces and Waste & Environmental Improvement

- The second phase of works at Runcorn Hill progressed during Quarter 3 including upgraded footpaths, new boundary fences and the refurbishment of the lake. Additionally, the lock at Spike Island which provides access to the marina from the River Mersey was refurbished and the outer lock gates are now fully functional which means that the lock can be kept in water.
- The major changes that were implemented to the waste and recycling collection services in August have had a positive impact upon resident behaviour and participation with the Council's recycling services. The changes saw a restriction on the amount of rubbish taken from every household which was intended to encourage waste reduction and increased recycling.
- Between April and January 3,300 households requested and were provided with larger or additional blue bins. During that same period, the Council collected over 500 tonnes more recyclable materials compared to the same period in the previous year and there has also been a corresponding reduction in the amount of general rubbish collected.
- Following the cessation of the Green Redeem (Recyclebank) Recycling Rewards programme at the end of 2015, the Council is currently working up the details of a new locally managed scheme to reward Halton's residents for their recycling efforts.
- The Waste Treatment Services (WTS) Contract with WSR Recycling Limited for the provision of services to divert waste from landfill has been extended until 31st September 2016 pending the commencement of the Merseyside and Halton Resource Recovery Contract (RRC) on 1st October 2016.

Housing Strategy

- Riverside Housing Association has been selected as one of a handful of Housing Associations to run a 6 month pilot of the new 'Right to Buy' scheme for Housing Association tenants. Before the scheme is rolled out nationally, the pilot aims to test a number of key issues, in particular
 - The nature and level of demand in different parts of the country
 - The values at which homes will be sold
 - The processes required to implement the full scheme

For Riverside, sales will be restricted to around 200 properties across the 6 local authority areas making up the Liverpool City Region, and for the duration of the pilot scheme applications will be restricted to those who have been tenants for 10 years or more.

The Government's November Spending Review included the following announcements –

- From 1/4/2018, Housing Benefit for new tenants in social rented housing will be capped to Local Housing Allowance rates (the limits for tenancies in the private rented sector), including a shared room rate for under 35s who are single with no dependants.
- Government investment for new build will be focussed on shared ownership and 'affordable' housing for owner occupation.
- Government will look to sharpen incentives for the New Homes Bonus and reduce the level of funding provided.

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. Growth Hub

The Liverpool City Region Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) started to deliver a 'Growth Hub' for the city region. The Growth Hub is a virtual organisation/collaboration to provide business support services across the City Region. Each of the local authorities in the sub-Region have funds allocated to appoint a Growth Hub Broker and the recruitment process started in Halton in quarter 3 with a view to appointing in quarter 4.

We are delivering a 'virtual Halton Team' made up of both Council Officers and Chamber staff who will support the Halton Growth Hub Broker. Once appointed, this role will be to provide a comprehensive business brokerage and diagnostic service to all Halton businesses. This is for the time period 01 September 2015 to 31 March 2016. The outputs which we are required to deliver are interventions and interactions with business in the Halton area. This can include indigenous businesses or businesses considering moving to the area.

II. European Programme 2014-20

A full application for European Regional Development Funding (ERDF) under Priority Axis 3c 'SME Support' was submitted on behalf of a consortia made up of the LCR Local Authorities, Liverpool Vision, the LEP and St Helens and Liverpool Chambers of Commerce on 11 September 2015. The total bid came to £6m with a view of drawing down nearly £3m of ERDF. The Council are providing over £230k in match funding to deliver a three year project costing over £450k in total. Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) issued written feedback to the consortia in October 2015. Assuming the consortia can address the issues raised by DCLG it is anticipated that the programme will be signed off before Christmas and delivery will commence in Halton in January 2016.

DCLG also issued calls under Priority Axis 3 'Gap Funding Project for new commercial facilities' and Priority Axis 3 'Place Marketing for Investment'.

For the 'Place Marketing for Investment' call the Council are part of a consortium where the Liverpool City Region Local Enterprise Partnership are the lead applicant for the bid with a view of the Combined Authority being the Accountable Body. Sci-Tech Daresbury are also a partner for the same bid. The project will be to develop a modest supply chain\sector development initiative focused upon the AEM and pharma' sector. The Council has indicated that it will provide cash match, not exceeding £25,000.00 each year, for a three year period as match.

The Council cannot provide match funding under the 'Gap Funding Project for new commercial facilities' call rather the Council have promoted the opportunity to commercial developers. To date two developers\companies have submitted outline applications to DCLG.

Langtree submitted an Outline Application on behalf of the Sci-Tech Daresbury Joint Venture under the 'Gap Funding Project for new commercial facilities' call for the next phase of development on the Eastern Plots. The application identified a request of £2.1m gap funding for the £10.7m project.

A full application for European Social Funding (ESF) was also submitted on Friday 02 October under the Priority Axis 1 'Inclusive Labour Markets' by a consortia made up of all six Local Authorities and Merseytravel. The total bid came to £42m, with a view of drawing down nearly £30m of ESF and Youth Employment Initiative (YEI). The Council is providing £1.3m in match to deliver a three year project costing £3.3m in total. Department of Working Pensions (DWP) are due to provide feedback by the end of October 2015; with a view to the project commencing early in the New Year.

The Council has also submitted an EOI to VOLA who are the lead applicant on a Digital Inclusion application to Big Lottery Fund (BLF). BLF are an 'Opt In' provider of the European Social Fund who have recently released two calls; 'Digital Inclusion' and 'Financial Inclusion'.

The total amount of funding available is for £1.6m for Digital and £2.5m for Financial. The Council will be working with VOLA and other partners over the next couple of months to submit a 1st stage application by the end of November 2015. Applicants will then be requested to submit full application in the New Year with a view to projects starting in July 2016.

- III. Business Improvement District (BID) Programme
This is now managed by Halton Chamber of Commerce and Enterprise.

Policy, Planning and Transportation.

- IV. *Logistics*
The various roadworks and closures required as part of the Mersey Gateway works are continuing to have an adverse impact on the reliability of local bus services. Regular monthly update meetings take place with the bus operators with regards to future roadwork projects to monitor the network and make changes to schedules to improve reliability and punctuality.
- V. *Traffic and Risk & Emergency Planning / Health & Safety*
To enable the closure of the Central Expressway during the Mersey Gateway works, permitted traffic on Northway (within Halton Lea) has been amended to allow for two-way traffic flows. This is working well and has had a positive impact. The option to make this a permanent alteration are being investigated.

Policy & Development Services

- VI. *Policy & Development Services*
The Housing and Planning Bill will now move to the House of Lords after passing its third reading (on 12th January 2016) following a session in the House of Commons.

A number of technical Government amendments had been made to parts 6 (Planning in England) and 7 of the Bill (compulsory purchase), and a new clause and schedule were added to enable the Mayor of London or a combined authority to prepare a development plan document where a local authority had failed to make progress on such a document.

- VII. *Major Site Delivery*

HBC Fields

Alstom UK Ltd have submitted a planning application (15/00549/FULEIA) for the construction of a purpose built transport and technology facility (Use Class B2) in three phases.

Phase 1 to include a 27,938 sq. m facility with associated access, car parking, HGV parking, service yards, rail sidings, landscaping, substation and associated engineering operations.

Phase 2A to include a 7,425 sq. m extension to the facility with a connection to the rail sidings constructed under Phase 1, an additional service yard, additional car parking and associated development. Phase 2B to include a further 15,925 sq. m extension to the facility with additional HGV parking and associated development at HBC Fields, Hale Bank Road, Hale Bank, Widnes.

Sandymoor

Development continues at a strong pace with David Wilson Homes, Morris, and Bloor all active. The Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) is undertaking a community consultation during January on proposals for the local centre and primary school site.

Discussions are also underway with HCA on future phases at Sandymoor, including the Wharford Farm site.

Daresbury

Redrow has three live planning applications for the majority of the Daresbury site allocated for housing in the Core Strategy. The Local Planning Authority is awaiting the testing of the economic viability submissions by Redrow.

The Tech-Space building at Sci-Tech Daresbury is at an advanced stage of construction and work is also underway to open up additional building plots adjacent to the A56.

VIII. *Travellers*

Appeals are expected on the two unauthorised developments at Daresbury and in Astmoor but as yet, no dates for the hearing of these appeals have been received from the Planning Inspectorate.

There is a High Court injunction in place on the site in Daresbury to prevent any further development or changes in caravans / structures on the site. The next court date for this enforcement action is 17th February 2016.

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 which are relevant to the Board is included as appendix 1.

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 Council's 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	Q3 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

CE 10b

Started on site June 2015 with 12 month build.








CE 10d

The road at Johnson's Lane is completed up to the wearing course which has enabled the sale to proceed to Ballast Phoenix.

CE 10g

Initial appraisals have taken place. The site investigation work is currently being undertaken. Results from this will be used to inform the design, in particular the remediation and foundation design. Once these have been determined a more accurate viability appraisal can be completed.

Key Performance Indicators

Ref	Measure	14 / 15 Actual	15 / 16 Target	Q3 Actual	Q3 Progress	Direction of travel
CED060	Occupancy of HBC industrial Units	89%	90%	94%		
CED061	Occupancy of Widnes Market Hall	85%	95%	82%		
CED062	Number of inward investment enquiries per annum	239	250	42 (15/16 cumulative)		
CED064	Number of funding enquiries per annum	113	110	70		N / A

Supporting Commentary

CED060

Two units have recently been let at Dewar Court. Expressway IE was sold on 11 December 2015 but the occupancy to the date of sale has been included in these figures but will be omitted from future figures.

CED061

Shopmobility has left but a number of traders have increased the size of their stalls since September and two new traders have started trading in the market.

CED062


In Q3 2015/16 there were 42 investment enquiries and it is still expected to meet the target for the year.

CED064

In Q3 we received 27 new enquiries for funding support. A larger proportion of enquiries traditionally in quarter 4 (after the Christmas break). Plus we have filled a vacant post so we will be in a better position to accept enquiries.

Open Spaces and Waste & Environmental Improvement

Key Objectives / milestones



Ref	Milestones	Q3 Progress
CE 05	Woodland Expansion - Additional 200m ² of Woodland planted Borough wide - March 2016 .	

Supporting Commentary

CE 05

Plans were drawn up for planting schemes during Q3. Planting will begin in Q4. The target of 200m² will be exceeded.

Key Objectives / milestones

Ref	Milestones	Q3 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 changes to waste and recycling collections, all households received an information booklet. This booklet represented the opportunity to directly engage with every household in the borough and as such it also provided information about the importance of waste reduction and increased recycling as well as information about the recycling services provided by the Council.

Further campaigns and direct engagement with residents will remain on-going.

CE 07

Following a review, the Council's Enforcement Policy was updated in August. The Policy document sets out the Council's approach to compliance and enforcement with respect to authority's regulatory services, including Waste and Environmental Improvement Services. Its review and revision was undertaken to ensure that the Policy remained up to date and fit for purpose.

Key Performance Indicators

Ref	Measure	14 / 15 Actual	15 / 16 Target	Q3 Actual	Q3 Progress	Direction of travel
CE LI 10	Residual household waste per household (Previously NI191).	534 Kgs	593 Kgs	422 Kgs		
CE LI 11	Household waste recycled and composted (Previously NI192).	46.8%	40%	46%		

Supporting Commentary



CE LI 10 & CE LI 11

This is an estimated cumulative figure which is subject to seasonal variation and will change. Performance in Q3 CE LI 10 is slightly lower than the corresponding period from last year (398kgs) and indications are that whilst the target will be met, performance may be lower than 2014/15. An increase in the amount of waste per household is consistent with increases experienced by other local authorities and appears a national trend.

For CE LI 11, despite an increase in the tonnage of recyclable materials collected through the blue bin scheme, as a result of different waste treatment processes being in place, overall recycling performance may fall for this year. The end of year target is however still forecast to be met.

Highways, Transportation & Logistics

Key Objectives / milestones

Ref	Milestones	Q3 Progress
PPT 01a	Deliver 2015/16 major bridge maintenance works programme. March 2016.	
PPT 03	To deliver the 2015/16 LTP Capital Programme March 2016.	

Supporting Commentary

PPT 01a







Remaining works have been designed, estimated, procured and are now awaiting Executive Board to authorise the entering into of a contract with Balvac to complete the works.









PPT 03

The LTP Capital programme consists of two main strands:

- **Integrated Transport:** Several schemes have been completed including A56 Pegasus crossing (contribution to STEP programme) and pedestrian & cycle improvements at various locations. Schemes currently in delivery include: Clifton / Grangeway Cycleway; new crossing to the Hive; Hale Road / Ditton Road signal junction improvement to provide a Toucan Crossing on the STEP Mersey corridor cycle route. Reconstruction of Kingsway central reserve is due to commence in Q4. The Widnes Road improvement scheme (ASDA link) has been delayed pending completion of design and discussions with ASDA and the landowner. Subject to agreement, it is hoped that work can commence in Q4. The progress indicator has been changed to 'amber' as funding for this scheme represents a major part of the LTP ITB allocation.
- **Highway Maintenance:** The carriageway and footway programmes of resurfacing and reconstruction have been phased over the course of the year and delivery to the full budget allocation is nearing completion.

Key Performance Indicators

Ref	Measure	14 / 15 Actual	15 / 16 Target	Q3 Actual	Q3 Progress	Direction of travel
PPT LI 01	Percentage of third party compensation claims due to alleged highway / footway defects successfully defended.	N / A	80%	60%	?	N / A
PPT LI 04 (ex NI 157)	Processing of planning applications as measured against targets for:					
	a) 'major' applications	75%	60%	88.9%		
	b) 'minor' applications	43.75%	80%	77.1%		
	c) 'other' applications	85.71%	80%	88.7%		

Ref	Measure	14 / 15 Actual	15 / 16 Target	Q3 Actual	Q3 Progress	Direction of travel
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-frequent scheduled services on time (%):					
	Percentage of buses starting route on time	98.38%	98.40%	97.01%		
	Percentage of buses on time at intermediate timing points	93.82%	94.00%	89.89%		
PPT LI 17	No. of passengers on community based accessible transport	213,998	214,100	136,153		
PPT LI 19	Number of local bus passenger journeys originating in the authority area in one year (000's)	5,493	5,500	4,330		

Supporting Commentary

PPT LI 01

Based on 31 received, 16 repudiated with 9 still ongoing. If those nine are reputed then the percentage rises to 81%. This will be an annual KPI in the future.

PPT LI 04

Majors are on target and above designation criteria (designation criteria increasing to 50% of decisions within 13 weeks and is being extended to apply to non-major decisions (amendment in the Housing & Planning Bill)). Minor applications below 80% target due to the close working with applicants to overcome objections raised during the processing of the application. In the light of the Housing Bill changes, officers will now encourage applicants to formally request 'extension of time' where applicants need more time to amend submissions.

PPT LI 05

This indicator is reported annually at year end.

PPT LI 15

Performance in both indicators has dropped slightly due to the increased roadworks currently ongoing within the Borough. Bus operators continue to monitor the network and make changes to schedules to improve reliability and punctuality. Regular monthly update meetings take place with the bus operators with regards to future roadwork projects.

PPT LI 17

Figures for Q3 continue to show a decline as compared with the previous year. Figures for the majority of services remain fairly steady; however community group bookings have declined mainly due to Halton Community Transport ceasing to operate large coaches.

PPT LI 19

This indicator continues to improve with the majority of the bus stops on the core network now compliant. It is anticipated further bus stops will be improved during Q4.

ECONOMY, ENTERPRISE & PROPERTY DEPARTMENT

Summary financial position as 31st December 2015

	Annual Budget £'000	Budget to Date £'000
<u>Expenditure</u>		
Employees	4,259	3,138
Repairs & Maintenance	2848	1,936
Premises	45	43
Energy & Water Costs	656	384
NNDR	533	513
Rents	431	397
Marketing Programme	22	7
Promotions	8	4
Supplies & Services	1,404	641
Agency Related Expenditure	3	3
Grants to Non Voluntary Organisations	352	339
Surplus Property Assets	-685	-514
Revenue Contrib'n to / from Reserves	175	175
Total Expenditure	10,051	7,066
<u>Income</u>		
Fees & Charges	-496	-338
Rent - Markets	-766	-574
Rent - Industrial Estates	-614	-452
Rent – Investment Properties	-655	-447
Transfer to / from Reserves	-676	-676
Government Grant - Income	-1,806	-1,355
Reimbursements & Other Income	-265	-260
Recharges to Capital	-227	-47
Schools SLA Income	-486	-481
Total Income	-5,991	-4,630
NET OPERATIONAL BUDGET	4,060	2,436
Premises Support Costs	1,924	1,452
Transport Support Costs	32	21
Central Support Service Costs	1,824	1,378
Asset Rental Support Costs	2,543	0
Repairs & Maint. Rech. Income	-2,558	-1,919
Accommodation Rech. Income	-2,763	-2,072
Central Supp. Service Rech. Income	-1,836	-1,377
Total Recharges	-834	-2,517
Net Expenditure	3,226	-81

Comments

The latest quarter shows the employees budget will not achieve the anticipated target set for the employee savings. This is due to service demands within the Department with any in year vacancies being filled quickly to avoid a backlog of workloads.

Expenditure has been restricted in year on supplies and services across all Division's and as a result the expenditure is under budget at the end of quarter 3.

Premises costs have remained stable during quarter 3 with accommodation space currently utilised to its maximum potential with both HBC and external agencies staff.

The trading climate is difficult within the region and a number of stalls at Widnes market are currently vacant; nevertheless both Widnes / Runcorn outdoor markets and the market hall are forecasting to over achieve on the income targets set for this financial year.

Due to the current economic climate the Asset Management Team continue to face pressure in renting out of commercial properties to various organisations. Based upon current occupancy levels the service is going to surpass it's current set income target. However, this could vary based upon any changes in occupancy levels and the impact of rental reviews during the final quarter of the year. The earliest we can foresee Surplus Property Assets savings of £685k being achieved is in 2016/17 due to the length of time involved in implementing the programme.

Fees and Charges and School SLA budgets vary from quarter to quarter depending on the level of support required. Both the cleaning and facilities team have over achieved on income targets the current financial year.

Overall the budget position will continue to be monitored and updates provided on a monthly basis to Budget Holders. Managers are reminded of the need to keep within budgets and remedial action undertaken.

ECONOMY, ENTERPRISE & PROPERTY DEPARTMENT

Summary financial position as at 31st December 2015

	2015/16 Capital Allocation £'000	Allocation To Date £000's	Expenditure to Date £'000	Variance to Date (overspend) £'000
Economy, Enterprise & Property Dep't				
Castlefields Regeneration	635	120	117	3
3MG	3,493	320	324	(4)
Widnes Waterfront	200	0	0	0
Johnsons Lane Infrastructure	450	120	137	(17)
Decontamination of Land	6	0	0	0
Sci Tech Daresbury	10,965	9	9	0
Former Crossville Depot	200	161	161	0
Peel House Lane Demolition	6	1	1	0
Police Station Demolition	342	30	30	0
Travellers Site - Warrington Road	1,362	1,312	1,302	10
Widnes Town Centre Initiative	21	8	6	2
Lower House Lane Depot – Upgrade	24	17	17	0
Signage at The Hive	5	0	0	0
Equality Act Improvement Works	50	25	18	7
Grand Total	17,754	2,123	2,122	1

Comments

Warrington Road Travellers Site is now partially complete(S106 funding with Redrow still to be agreed).

In regards to the former Crossville Depot, a planning application has been submitted and is currently awaiting approval before work commences.

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 3.

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.

PLANNING & TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

Revenue Budget as at 31st December 2015

	Annual Budget	Budget To Date	Actual To Date	Variance To Date (overspend)
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Expenditure				
Employees	4,561	3,462	3,500	(38)
Other Premises	228	77	76	1
Hired & Contracted Services	214	92	100	(8)
Supplies & Services	299	182	160	22
Street Lighting	2,085	813	813	0
Highways Maintenance	2,333	1,972	1,968	4
Bridges	98	4	4	0
Fleet Transport	1,397	733	733	0
Lease Car Contracts	516	282	282	0
Bus Support – Hopper Tickets	180	80	80	0
Bus Support	525	497	497	0
Out of Borough Transport	51	16	16	0
Finance Charges	406	177	177	0
Grants to Voluntary Organisations	68	68	68	0
Direct Revenue Financing	14	14	14	0
NRA Levy	60	45	45	0
Total Expenditure	13,035	8,514	8,533	(19)
Income				
Sales	-372	-203	-213	10
Planning Fees	-531	-493	-493	0
Building Control Fees	-201	-179	-179	0
Other Fees & Charges	-469	-310	-345	35
Rents	-8	-6	-6	0
Grants & Reimbursements	-559	-185	-185	0
Efficiency Savings	-60	0	0	0
School SLAs	-40	-40	-42	2
Recharge to Capital	-312	0	0	0
Transfer from Reserves	-217	0	0	0
Total Income	-2,769	-1,416	-1,463	47
Net Controllable Expenditure	10,266	7,098	7,070	28
Recharges				
Premises Support	642	515	515	0
Transport Recharges	629	460	512	(52)
Asset Charges	7,791	0	0	0
Central Support Recharges	1,935	1,455	1,455	0
Departmental Support Recharges	393	292	292	0
Departmental Support Recharges Income	-491	-368	-368	0
Support Recharges Income – Transport	-3,734	-2,612	-2,665	53
Support Recharges Income	-1,022	-594	-594	0
Net Total Recharges	6,143	-852	-853	1
Net Departmental Total	16,409	6,246	6,217	29

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 showing an overspend due to staff turnover targets not being met, this is due to the nature of staffing within PPT, there has been little staff movement over the last 9 months.

Income generated from both Planning and Building Control fees are in-line with current targets at this stage of the financial year. It is expected that by the end of Q4 both services will have fully met the expected income, if not slightly over achieved the income.

Supplies and Services is currently underspending due to closer control of non-essential spending by managers, this is expected to continue in the next quarter.

Income generated from sales at the Lower House Lane depot is slightly above budget for the year to date although the recent impact of nearby road closures connected with Mersey Gateway works is starting to have an adverse impact.

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. The starting of the new permit scheme should also increase this income although not to the expected income target set at the beginning of the year. This shortfall will be covered by excess income and underspends from within the PPT division.

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

POLICY, PLANNING & TRANSPORTATION

Capital Projects as at 31st December 2015

	2015/16 Capital Allocation £'000	Allocation To Date £'000	Actual Spend To Date £'000	Allocation Remaining £'000
<u>Local Transport Plan</u>				
Bridges & Highway Maintenance				
Bridge Assessment, Strengthening & Maintenance	967	100	101	866
Road Maintenance	1,261	715	712	549
Total Bridge & Highway Maintenance	2,228	815	813	1,415
Integrated Transport	908	260	258	650
Total Local Transport Plan	3,136	1,075	1,071	2,065
<u>Halton Borough Council</u>				
Street lighting – Structural Maintenance	200	65	66	134
Street lighting – replacement programme	1,700	690	690	1,010
Risk Management	120	95	95	25
Fleet Replacement	2,174	650	651	1,523
Peelhouse Lane Cemetery - Highways	120	5	5	115
Total Halton Borough Council	4,314	1,505	1,507	2,807
<u>Grant Funded</u>				
Local Pinch Point – Daresbury E'way	943	80	72	871
Surface Water Management Grant	122	10	9	113
S106 schemes	314	0	0	314
STEPS program	664	95	90	574
Total Grant Funded	2,043	185	171	1,872
Total Capital Programme	9,493	2,765	2,749	6,744

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 has now commenced as is expected to fully spend by the end of the financial year.

The bulk of the LTP works has now been completed and these fees will now show during Q4 along with contract retention fees.

COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

Revenue Budget as at 31st December 2015

	Annual Budget £'000	Budget To Date £'000	Actual To Date £'000	Variance To Date (overspend) £'000
<u>Expenditure</u>				
Employees	12,058	9,522	9,582	(60)
Other Premises	1,182	913	878	35
Supplies & Services	1,585	949	879	70
Book Fund	142	106	107	(1)
Hired & Contracted Services	1,152	753	766	(13)
Food Provisions	629	469	459	10
School Meals Food	2,077	1,320	1,300	20
Transport	54	52	59	(7)
Other Agency Costs	674	145	60	85
Waste Disposal Contracts	5,160	2,667	2,708	(41)
Leisure Management Contract	1,496	1,075	1,136	(61)
Grants To Voluntary Organisations	317	268	257	11
Grant To Norton Priory	222	222	229	(7)
Rolling Projects	38	38	38	0
Capital Financing	9	7	0	7
Total Spending	26,795	18,506	18,458	48
<u>Income</u>				
Sales Income	-2,207	-1,655	-1,526	(129)
School Meals Sales	-2,180	-1,585	-1,606	21
Fees & Charges Income	-3,272	-2,576	-2,501	(75)
Rents Income	-235	-234	-277	43
Government Grant Income	-1,202	-1,179	-1,168	(11)
Reimbursements & Other Grant Income	-548	-426	-453	27
Schools SLA Income	-79	-79	-83	4
Internal Fees Income	-120	-83	-106	23
School Meals Other Income	-2,270	-1,791	-1,800	9
Meals On Wheels	-196	-134	-96	(38)
Catering Fees	-225	-154	-78	(76)
Capital Salaries	-53	-33	-17	(16)
Transfers From Reserves	-50	-23	-23	0
Total Income	-12,637	-9,952	-9,734	(218)
Net Controllable Expenditure	14,158	8,554	8,724	(170)
<u>Recharges</u>				
Premises Support	1,947	1,472	1,472	0
Transport Recharges	2,390	1,223	1,223	0
Departmental Support Services	9	0	0	0
Central Support Services	3,146	2,379	2,379	0
Asset Charges	3,005	0	0	0
HBC Support Costs Income	-382	-390	-390	0
Net Total Recharges	10,115	4,684	4,684	0
Net Departmental Total	24,273	13,238	13,408	(170)

Comments on the above figures:

The net budget is £170,000 over budget profile at the end of the third quarter of the financial year.

There have been a number of staff who have left the department on redundancy terms over the past quarter and subsequent vacant posts will help contribute to the staff turnover savings target for the remainder of the year. Although it is currently forecast that employee expenditure will remain above budget at year-end.. . Agency staff expenditure has decreased slightly in quarter three and is still significantly lower than last year, with the introduction of the apprenticeship scheme and vacant posts being filled.

Supplies and Services remain under budget profile across all Divisions to offset budget pressures within the Department. There are small underspends on areas such as equipment, advertising, and clothing.

The Leisure Contract is now in its final year and will end in March 2016, after which the service will be brought back in house and realise agreed savings.

Waste Disposal contracts are still over budget profile and will remain a pressure throughout the remainder of the year. This budget will be closely monitored throughout the new financial year to ensure costs are contained and brought back in line with budget.

Other Agency costs are £85,000 under budget profile mainly due to underspending on the Area Forums where some projects have still not yet been completed.

Sales, Fees & Charges and Internal Catering Fees are the most significant under-achievements on income across the Department. Fees and Charges income has recovered a little in this quarter mainly due to generated income relating to the Brindley and Open Spaces being maximised. The income relating to the collection of green waste has however over performed against budget by £44,000.

COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

Capital Projects as at 31st December 2015

	2015-16 Capital Allocation £'000	Allocation To Date £'000	Actual Spend To Date £'000	Total Allocation Remaining £'000
Stadium Minor Works	30	30	31	(1)
Stadium 3G Equipment	12	0	0	12
Widnes Recreation Site	741	600	573	168
Norton Priory	2,843	700	680	2,163
Norton Priory Biomass Boiler	107	0	0	107
Children's Playground Equipment	138	98	92	46
Upton Improvements	13	0	0	13
Crow Wood Play Area	4	2	0	4
Runcorn Hill Park	138	138	521	(383)
Runcorn Cemetery Extension	9	0	0	9
Cremators Widnes Crematorium	109	109	188	(79)
Peelhouse Lane Cemetery	1020	12	12	1,008
Peelhouse Lane Cemetery-Enabling Work	65	20	20	45
Open Spaces Schemes	160	100	97	63
Playground Third Party Funding	340	0	0	340
Litter Bins	20	20	19	1
Total	5,749	1,829	2,232	3,512

Comments on the above figures

The Widnes Recreation project has now been completed although there are still a number of payments due in respect of retention and project completion. Total spend will be within the allocation.

The Norton Priory "Monastery To Museum" project commenced on-site in August 2015, and has an anticipated completion date of July 2016. Total Heritage Lottery funding amounts to £3.9M over the course of the project.




Funding for the Runcorn Hill Park project remains a concern. The initial contractor tasked with phase one of the building works went into liquidation once work had commenced. The decision was taken to continue with the project with the expectation that extra funding may be secured to meet the resulting increased costs. The additional costs of the re-tendered contract, together with remedial works required to the original constructions, and additional security costs, are in the region of £390,000. Requests to external bodies for additional funding have so far proved unsuccessful. Heritage Lottery Fund, the principal contributor to the scheme are unwilling to contribute further to phase one of the works. Total project funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund amounts to £2.2M until 2018 for a number of phases of the programme, and consideration is currently being given as to whether the costs of subsequent phases of the work can be reduced, whilst still attracting the full level of grant funding originally offered.

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.




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.