

REPORT TO: Health & Wellbeing Board

DATE: 12th October 2016

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director,
Enterprise, Community & Resources

PORTFOLIO: Leader

SUBJECT: Halton Strategic Partnership Restructuring

WARD(S) Borough-wide

1.0 **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 The purpose of the report is to update the board on work that has been going on to restructure the Halton Strategic Partnership and to inform the Board of the impact on its future agenda.

2.0 **RECOMMENDATION: That:**

- i) **The report be noted and the revised arrangements be supported;**
- ii) **Members of the Board be asked to comment on future agenda management arising from the broadening of the Board's remit.**

3.0 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 **Background**

3.1.1 In 2000 the Local Government Act put in place a formal requirement on local authorities to have a Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) for those areas that received Neighbourhood Renewal Funding.

3.1.2 The Halton Strategic Partnership (HSP) has been in existence since 2001; however there has been a Halton Partnership in various forms since the early nineties, which has encouraged and facilitated strategic dialogue across partners. Over the years the Partnership and its governance arrangements have been regularly reviewed and refreshed to ensure they are fit for purpose.

3.2 **Considerations**

3.2.1 The HSP operates at a strategic level and is tasked with delivering the Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS), to which all stakeholders and communities are given the opportunity to

contribute towards its development.

3.2.2 Since 2010 there have been several legislative and policy changes which have impacted on the HSP and how it operates e.g. Localism Act, Deregulation Act, and Health and Social Care Act in particular.

3.2.3 These various pieces of legislation have removed statutory responsibility to have an LSP and for partners to agree an SCS. These changes sit alongside huge reductions in the resources available to partners across different sectors, meaning fewer resources are available to allow partners to engage with the wide range of partnership groups and forums which have developed over the years.

3.2.4 This changing environment provides an ideal opportunity to review the partnership governance, structures and membership of the strategic boards, ensuring resources are maximised, duplication eliminated and a rationalising of the proliferation of sub-groups that sit under the Partnership banner.

3.3 **Changes**

3.3.1 On the 2nd March 2016 the Halton Strategic Partnership held a consultation event, attended by over 70 delegates from across the partnership, to discuss a proposed restructure of the various strategic boards that sit under the partnership banner. Whilst delegates valued the previous joint working opportunities, there was an appreciation that changes were needed.

3.3.2 As there is statutory requirement to have a HWBB it was considered sensible to merge the HSP with the HWBB under the banner of the HWBB. However, it was recognised that it would be important to ensure that within the “new” expanded role of the HWBB that it still remained focussed on the wider determinants of health and its formal statutory role.

3.3.3 The new structure also sees several of the other boards being dissolved or combined, with one new Board being created whose remit would include some of the areas of responsibility covered by the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority, and thus providing a partnership forum for feeding into the wider LCR agendas. Attached as an appendix to this report is a diagram that shows the proposed new partnership arrangements.

3.3.4 These changes are currently being progressed across the remaining Strategic Partnership Boards (HWBB, Children’s Trust, and Safer Halton Partnership). Work has also started on Terms of Reference and Membership for the new Economic Prosperity Board.

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 Effective partnership arrangements are essential in ensuring the best possible use of public money across the Borough. It is felt that these new streamlined arrangements will continue to ensure that happens.

5.0 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 There are no direct financial implications. The revised arrangements reflect the reducing resources available to all partners.

6.0 **IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

6.1 The delivery of all the Council's priorities is heavily dependent on working effectively with all of its partners. Reviewing these arrangements from time to time helps challenge their appropriateness, giving the ever changing circumstances faced.

7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 There are no risks associated with this paper.

8.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 There are no equality and diversity issues associated with this paper.

9.0 **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

None.