

FOREWORD



"I am grateful to all the Members of the Environment and Urban Renewal PPB for their support and valuable contributions during this, my third year as Chair.

Members have played a significant role in leading the continued regeneration and transformation of the Borough and its environment. We should be proud of our achievements particularly in view of reducing financial and human resources.

Over the last 12 months, the Board has responded to, and dealt with, a wide range of issues which demonstrates their level of commitment and positive attitude in reacting swiftly and effectively to matters that are brought before them. These, combined with the Board's experience and abilities help support a continuing improvement in the quality of life of our residents and the opportunities afforded to our communities. We recognise that a quality place is an important consideration when attracting and retaining investment in the borough".

Councillor Bill Woolfall

Chair, Environment and Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board

MEMBERSHIP AND RESPONSIBILITIES

During 16/17 the Board comprised eleven Councillors:-

Councillor Bill Woolfall (Chair)

Councillor Mike Fry (Vice-Chair)

Councillor Valerie Hill

Councillor Harry Howard

Councillor Keith Morley

Councillor Paul Nolan

Councillor Joe Roberts

Councillor Pauline Sinnott

Councillor John Stockton

Councillor Andrea Wall

Councillor Geoff Zygadllo

The Environment and Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board's primary function is to focus on the work of the Council (and its partners) in seeking to bring about the Environmental and Urban Renewal of the Borough. It is also charged with scrutinising progress against the Corporate Plan in relation to the Urban Renewal Priority. The Board is responsible for scrutinising performance and formulating policy in relation to the following areas:

- Highways, Transportation and Logistics (including road maintenance, street, lighting, road safety, traffic management, supported bus services and flood risk management)
- Landscape Services, Parks & Countryside, Cemeteries & Crematoria
- Environmental and Regulatory Services
- Major Projects
- Economic Regeneration and Business Development
- Waste Management and Waste Strategy
- Derelict and contaminated Land
- Housing Strategic Policy
- Sustainability, Climate Change and Biodiversity
- Physical Environment and Planning policies

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

The Board met 3 times during the Municipal Year 2016/17. As well as considering Executive Board decisions relevant to the work of the Environment and Urban Renewal Board, agreeing the Service Plans of the relevant Departments and monitoring their general activities and performance against them.

Some of the main activities and issues which have come before the Board during the year are set out below.

The Board has reviewed the minutes of meetings of the Executive Board and considered questions from the public on relevant matters. It also received, considered reports, agreed decisions and put forward relevant actions on the following issues:

Local Transport Plan Review

Members received a report on the Local Transport Plan 3. The review provided a summary of the delivery of the four-year implementation programme of Integrated Transport Schemes and Interventions. The delivery of schemes funded through the Integrated Transport Block (ITB), which was used to fund small transport improvements was considered. Members considered expenditure during the four-year period had been in accordance with overall ITB allocation within each of the themes listed below:-

- Integrated Transport;
- Neighbourhood Centres;
- Walking and Cycling Improvements;
- Measures to Assist Buses;
- Local Safety Schemes and other Highway Improvements; and
- Other funded schemes.

Waste Collection

During the year the PPB received an update on Garden Waste collections, fly tipping in the Borough and the introduction of the pilot Food Waste collection service.

Members were advised that the pilot Food Waste collection had been extended on two occasions. The service now covered 2,347 homes in the Hale, Ditton, Heath and Beechwood Wards.

There had been a positive response to the service with participation in some areas reaching upwards of 85%.

In respect of Green and Blue bins it was noted that Members of the Topic Group have been asked to review the Council's Policy on charging for green and blue bins.

Members of the Board were also advised that measures to reduce incidents of fly-tipping and tackle those responsible had been implemented.

Topic Group Members were asked to consider the Council's approach to the use of Fixed Penalty Notices for the fly-tipping offences, such as suggested Penalty Notice levels.

Road Traffic Management

The Board was advised on the numbers of road traffic collision and casualty numbers in the year 2015, and compared these figures with those from previous years. These results were very encouraging, with significant decreases in the number of people being slightly injured (SLI) and those killed/seriously injured (KSI) compared to the figures for recent years. Within the KSI total, both the number of adults and children decreased but the latter figure was known to be volatile in Halton and could fluctuate from year to year.

Proposed Waiting Restrictions Runcorn Hill Park

The Board considered the introduction of waiting restrictions on parts of Park Road, Highlands Road, Campbell Avenue and Heath Grove in Runcorn near to Runcorn Hill Park, in order to address parking congestion.

It was noted that Plans were currently being drawn up for an improved and expanded car parking facility at the north end of Highlands Road close to the original Runcorn Hill Park car park. Subject to funding, the additional facilities could be in place by the summer of 2018.

Joint Waste Local Plan

The Board received a report seeking approval for the Part 2 of the Highway Asset Management Plan (HAMP). The Board had previously endorsed Part 1, Chapters 1-4, of the HAMP Approval of the HAMP would serve as a foundation for other detailed plans and strategies based on the principles and objectives of the HAMP.

Work Programme for 2016/17

- The Board were notified that there was an opportunity to contribute towards the Council's Business Plan for 2016/17, although it was clarified that this couldn't be finalised until budget decisions were confirmed in March 2016. It was agreed that a draft plan should be brought back to the Board.
- It was noted that, in line with an organisational restructure across the Council, there would be only one Business Plan for 2016/17.

Members of the Public are welcome at the meetings of the Board. If you would like to know where and when meetings are to be held or if you would like any more information about the Board or its work please contact Mick Noone, Operational Director 0151 511 7604.