

REPORT TO: Employment, Learning & Skills and Community Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 25th September 2017

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, People & Economy

PORTFOLIO: Economic Development

SUBJECT: Business Growth Programme in Halton: Update

WARD(S) Borough-wide

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 The report and presentation will inform members about the current performance of the Halton Business Growth Programme

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That:

- i) Members note the activities and performance of the Business Growth Programme and the support available to Small to Medium Enterprises within Halton

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 Background

The Business Growth Programme within Halton is part of a City Region initiative designed to assist Small to Medium Enterprises to grow and create employment. The Business Growth Programme started in January 2016 and is scheduled to finish December 2018.

The Business Growth Programme provides assistance by commissioning external suppliers to undertake a 2-stage intervention with eligible Halton businesses.

Stage 1:

An initial Diagnostic phase considering overall business performance and identifies areas for improvement or to capitalise upon strengths. This results in an Action Plan and set of priorities for additional support from the Business Growth Programme

Stage 2:

Additional support from the Business Growth Programme in one or more of the following disciplines:

- Financial Management
- ICT
- Improving Environmental Performance and Waste Minimisation
- Improving HR Practices and Procedures
- Process Efficiency, including Manufacturing
- Procurement and Tender Readiness
- Sales and Marketing
- Strategic Business Planning

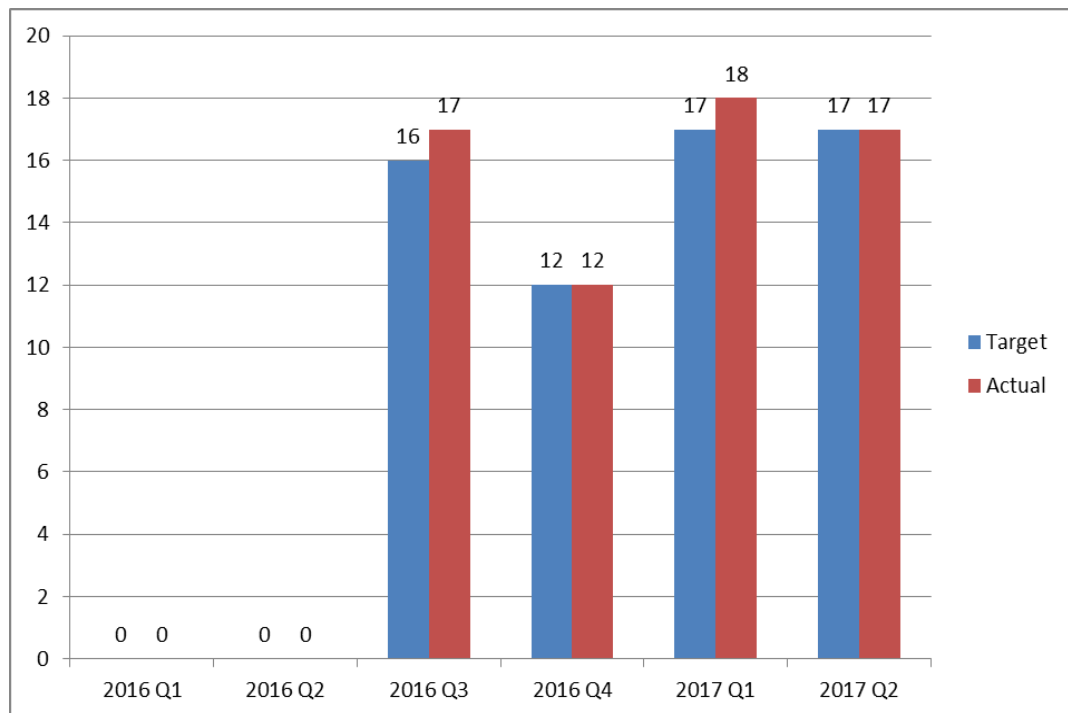
Table 1 shows the Business Growth Programme targets for Company Assists and Jobs Created.

Table 1: Business Growth Programme Targets

	2016	2017	2018	Total
Company Assists	29	68	26	123
Jobs Created	0	56	52	108

Fig. 1 shows performance against Company Assists from the start of the programme from January 2016 to July 2017:

Fig. 1: Company Assists Q1 2016 – Q2 2017

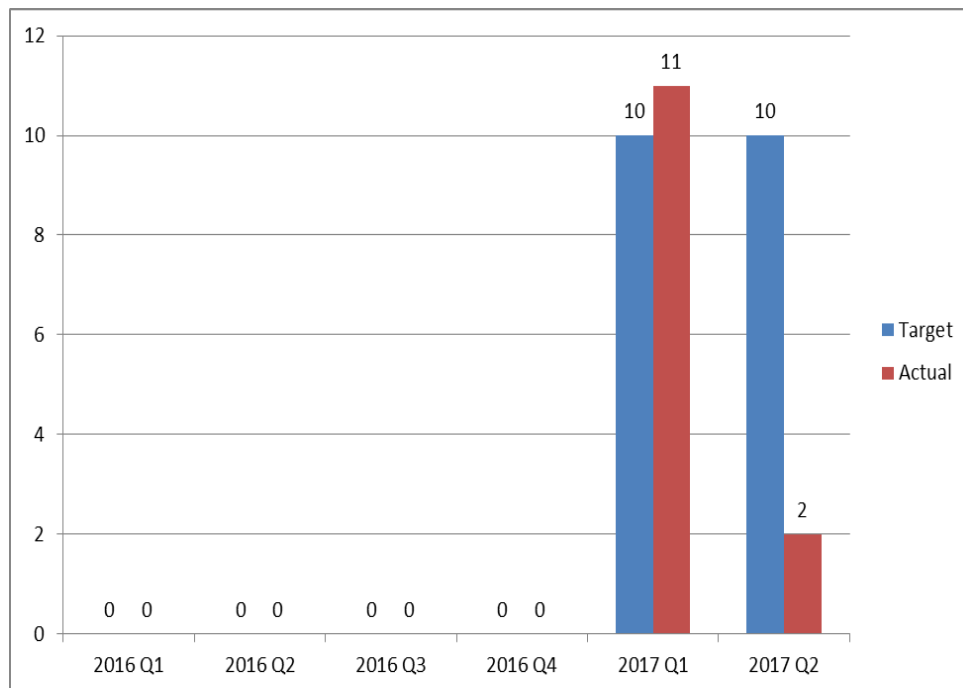


There are currently 109 Halton Businesses participating in the programme. Halton Business Growth Programme has until December 2018 in order to meet the Company Assists target of 123.

Fig. 2 shows performance against Jobs Created from the start of the

programme until July 2017:

Fig. 2: Jobs Created Q1 2016 – Q2 2017



In order to meet the Jobs Created target the programme is working with suppliers to identify those businesses who are most likely to have generated additional jobs following Halton Business Growth Programme engagement. These businesses are being contacted and individual visits undertaken. These visits have identified and documented additional jobs created to date. This exercise will continue until December 2018 in order to meet the Jobs Created target of 108.

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 The support available through the Business Growth Programme will positively impact upon the sustainability and growth of businesses located in the Halton area.

5.0 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report

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

6.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

The presence of sustainable and growing businesses within Halton will result in greater employment opportunities for the Borough's young people.

6.2 **Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

The presence of sustainable and growing businesses within Halton will result in greater employment opportunities for the community of Halton.

6.3 **A Healthy Halton**

Access to sustainable employment will impact positively upon the health of the Borough

6.4 **A Safer Halton**

No implications

6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

No implications

7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 The resources of the Business Improvement and Growth Team are finite. Adequate resources will be required to successfully complete the Business Growth Programme within Halton.

8.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

There are no equality and diversity issues

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

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
Promotional information	Foyer and 5 th Floor Halton Borough Council Municipal Building Kingsway, Widnes WA87QF	David Unsworth Tel: 0151 511 6803