

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

DATE: 24th September 2018

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources

PORTFOLIO: Economic Development

SUBJECT: Business Improvement and Growth Team Update on Work Priorities

WARD(S) Borough-wide

1.0 **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 At the request of the Chair, this report and presentation will inform Members about the current performance and future work priorities of the Business Improvement and Growth Team. The report reflects upon the changing nature of business support both nationally and across the Liverpool City Region. The last update was provided in June 2017.

2.0 **RECOMMENDATION: That:**

- i) Members note the activities and performance of the Business Improvement and Growth Team and sets out the emerging delivery model which will better reflect the priorities of the Council and will seek to align local delivery with emerging City Region business support delivery.

3.0 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 **Background**

The Business Improvement and Growth Team are currently responsible for the delivery of the following functions on behalf of the Council :-

- The management of inward investment enquiries from both inward investors and local companies wishing to expand and grow
- The management of a commercial property database and the delivery of a comprehensive commercial property finding service
- Researching and disseminating business critical information to local companies
- Engaging with the key companies in the Borough (Key Account Management).

- Delivering the LCR Growth Hub in Halton
- Delivering the EU funded Business Support Programmes
- Facilitating sector specific cluster groups, for example advanced manufacturing and pharmaceuticals.

However, the Business Improvement and Growth Team are currently undertaking a broad range of activities and driving a diverse range of projects beyond the scope of the objectives described above.

The delivery of business support across the wider Liverpool City Region is also in a period of transition.

It is, therefore, timely, to consider the broader range of activities undertaken by the Business Improvement and Growth Team and to identify the key priorities of the Team going forward and in so doing ensure that the Team are focused upon those activities which will have the greatest impact upon the economic regeneration of Halton.

A detailed presentation will, therefore, be made to the Board detailing performance against a number of key priorities and contracts and presenting, for consideration by Members, a modified delivery model.

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 Better aligning the activities of the Business Improvement and Growth Team with the Council's emerging regeneration priorities will impact positively upon both the supply of sites and premises available for new and expanding businesses and the growth of the business base in the Borough.

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**

Growth in the LCR business base will result in greater employment opportunities for the Borough's young people.

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

Growth in the LCR business base 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**

Increasingly, the activities of the Business Improvement and Growth Team will be aligned with the delivery of the Mersey Gateway Regeneration Plan. The increased human resource and expertise allocated to the project will accelerate the urban regeneration of the Borough.

7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 The resources of the Business Improvement and Growth Team are finite. Redeployment of those resources will, necessarily, mean, therefore, that other activities will cease.

8.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 There are no equality and diversity issues.

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

9.1 There are no background papers under the meaning of the Act.