# **Environment and Urban Renewal PPB – Priority Based Monitoring Report**

Reporting Period: Quarter 3 – 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018 – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018

#### 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 2018/19 for service areas within the remit of the Environment and 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 during the period which include:-

## **Development & Investment Services**

Sci-Tech Daresbury

- 2.2 The Joint Venture applied to Chrysalis Fund for £8.4m to fund Project Violet alongside the £5.9m approved by the Council's Executive Board. This application was approved subject to due diligence in November 2018. The £8.4m is now intended to be provided jointly by Chrysalis and LCR CA through the Strategic Investment Fund. The due diligence process has commenced. Following the approval of funding, the OJEU procurement process commenced with a 6 month process anticipated meaning a start on site in late summer 2019.
- 2.3 A Talent & Skills Strategy Lead was appointed by the JV in November 2018, to finalise and launch the strategy and to deliver a number of activities which seek to address the skills shortages and challenges at Daresbury. An element of this will continue the activities identified in the previous SkillSPACE bid.

## Castlefields

- 2.4 Lakeside Phase 3 (45 homes by Keepmoat for open market sale) on site with over 40% units sold off plan. Construction is anticipated to complete in early summer 2019.
- 2.5 Preparations continue to work towards taking the final phase of Council land disposal at Priory Meadow (known as Canalside within the Castlefields Masterplan) to the market in late 2019.

- 2.6 Updates to the 3MG site include:
  - Executive Board have agreed to extend Alstom's option over land at HBC Field to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019.
  - Alstom are making progress with the pendolino contract as well as bidding for other work.
  - Liberty have commenced on site at Newstead Road.
  - Rail consultants have been appointed to assess the viability of the Ditton Station reopening.
  - Flood risk consultants have been appointed to advise on flood mitigation measures in the foundry lane area, should residential be achievable.
  - The LEP have agreed to extend the GPF loan repayment date to 31 December 2019.

#### Liverpool City Region Business Growth Programme

2.7 Delivery of the Business Growth Programme (BGP) in Halton was completed on December 31 2018. The programme has engaged with 230 Halton businesses, assisting 141 businesses against a target of 123. The final three months of the programme will collect evidence of jobs created as a result of BGP assistance. Currently 37.5 jobs have been created against a target of 108.

#### Halton Growth Hub

2.8 In Quarter 3 2018-19 the Halton element of the Liverpool City Region Growth Hub Programme assisted 140 unique companies which equates to a 2018-19 cumulative total of 429 against a target of 700. We have until 31 March 2019 to meet the target and are in discussions with Halton Chamber of Commerce who are the lead partner.

#### **External Funding**

#### **Funding Updates**

- 2.9 During the quarter 3 2018/19 period:
  - Pilot Charging Policy launched on Sept 1st; two contracts entered into in Quarter 3 one for £2000 and one for £6000.
  - Annual Training Programme launched; looking to add in additional training courses in the second half of 2019.
  - £30,000 secured in external grants this quarter; the total to date for 18-19 = £2,334,833
  - 21 requests for support with funding were received this quarter; total enquiries for the year to date
     72.
  - Approximately 11 bids have been submitted in the quarter to the value of £2.4 million.
  - We are monitoring 8 schemes worth almost £20 million.

## **Open Spaces and Waste and Environmental Improvement**

#### **Open Space Services**

### Tree & Woodland Strategy

2.10 A Tree & Woodland Strategy for Halton was adopted as council policy by the Executive Board in Q3. The strategy sets out how the Open Space Service will manage the council tree stock going forward.

#### Cemeteries & Crematorium

2.11 Phase 2 of the Peel House Cemetery works was completed at the end of Q3. This phase saw the installation of a drainage system that is compliant with EA regulations. The contract for Phase 3 (the laying out of the cemetery grounds) was awarded in Q3 and work will start in Q4.

- 2.12 At the end of Q3 Widnes Crematorium had seen its busiest 12 month period since it opened in 1959. In total 769 cremations were carried out in the 2018 calendar year. The previous year's figure was 639. Factors such as a rise in the annual death rate nationally (due to an aging population) and a contract with a private cemetery led to this increase. There is still plenty of capacity at Widnes Crematorium so any further rise in numbers can be met.
- 2.13 The Halton Residents' Funeral which was launched towards the end of Q2 started to have an impact in Q3. During Q3 19 of these funerals took place.

#### Design & Development

2.14 A number of large schemes that have been in the planning stage for over a year began in Q3. They included the new pavilion for Crow Wood Park, the upgrading of footpaths and infrastructure at Sunny Bank/Weates Close and the refurbishment of a number of children's play areas.

#### **Parks**

2.15 The Town Park Masterplan was approved by Executive Board in Q3 as was a package of funding for a first phase of works that will commence in Q1 of 2019/20.

#### Waste and Environmental Improvement

- 2.16 The Strategy provides a commitment to protect the environment and an ambition for using resources more efficiently, reducing the amount of waste produced and increasing recycling levels. The Strategy also reflects and re-states a commitment to eliminating plastic waste within the next 25 years and the elimination of all avoidable waste by 2050. A number of the government's proposals will be subject to consultation. The consultations are planned to commence as early as January 2019 and will cover the following proposals:
  - Every household to be provided with a weekly separate food waste collection from 2023. The consultation will also consider whether charges for garden waste collections should continue.
  - Extending producer responsibility to ensure that producers pay the full net costs of disposal or recycling of packaging.
  - The introduction of the collection of a consistent set of recyclable materials from all households.
  - The introduction of a 'deposit return scheme' to increase the recycling of single-use drinks containers including bottles, cans, and disposable cups
  - The introduction of tax on plastics that do not have a minimum recycled content.
  - Addressing barriers to re-use at Household Waste Recycling Centres and further measures to boost re-use; including reporting and re-use targets.
  - Extending producer responsibility for waste electronic and electrical equipment (WEEE)
  - The clamp-down on illegal movements of waste.
  - A review of joint working arrangements and performance metrics to move beyond current weight based targets.

#### Highways, Transportation & Logistics and Physical Environment

#### **Traffic Division**

### Street Lighting Conversion

2.17 The LED street lighting conversion programme is continuing in the current financial year, which will reduce energy and maintenance costs.

2.18 The current street lighting contractor has decided not to extend their Contract with Halton, so it has been necessary to engage a new contractor. Sefton MBC invited tenders in 2017 and this Contract is being utilised – the contractor is Jones Lighting.

#### **Emergency Planning**

2.19 The Emergency Planning team carried out an exercise for ICoNiChem, on 17th October 2018.

### Traffic Management

2.20 Mersey Gateway has been open for over twelve months, however the completion of works, especially at Ditton is dragging on, and it should now be completed in early 2019.

#### Planning and Policy

#### Local Plan

2.21 Work is continuing on the evidence base to support the local plan. The revised household projections are also to be taken into account in the next stage of the local plan. An executive board report will be produced in Quarter 4 seeking permission for consultation on the next stage of the local plan.

## **Planning Applications**

2.22 An application for a new office building for Inovyn has been received. This is for a new office building to replace the existing headquarters building at the Runcorn site.

#### **Planning Application Statistics**

Total Applications Received: (Includes those Withdrawn and Returned) 123					
Applications Decided	165	Applications On-Hand (Undecided)	132		
Pre-Applications Received 14 Pre Applications Closed 14					

N.B. There are certain applications (such as tree preservation orders) that are not counted in the statutory CLG speed of processing statistics. This accounts for the difference between the figures reported above and the figures given for PPT LI 04.

## **Highway Schemes and Maintenance**

#### Q3 2018/19 Programme Updates

- 2.23 Updates during the quarter include:
  - Liverpool John Lennon Airport Runway End Safety Area. Construction programmed to commence January 19 for completion in Spring 19.
  - Watkinson Way Gyratory Improvements. Completion of Final Phase March 19.
  - Warrington Road to Watkinson Way HHT funded footpath link. Construction will form part of the above Phase of Watkinson Way works.
  - Runcorn De-Linking and Demolition. Construction programmed to commence 1 March 19 to December 19.
  - Widnes Loops Link Road. Construction programmed for April 19 to January 2020.

#### **Structures**

- 2.24 Site works for the SJB steel arch painting project have continued, with completion of Phase 4 (of 7) achieved in December.
- 2.25 The design process for HBC's preferred option for the Runcorn Approach Viaduct (RAV) western cantilever and parapet modification scheme (which is required to enable the demolition of RAV West under the Runcorn de-linking scheme) is progressing, with site investigation work undertaken in December 2018 to check as-built detailing to key reinforced concrete structural elements.
- 2.26 The team has continued to provide input to the planning and scheme development processes for the demolition of various highway structures within the Trumpet Loop section of the SJB complex, and also to the forthcoming STEP improvement schemes for RAV and Widnes Approach Viaduct (WAV).
- 2.27 The Delivery Agreement for the LCR major maintenance project for the steelwork maintenance painting on Hutchinsons Sidings bridge has been signed in preparation for site implementation during Q4. Part of the work will necessitate the temporary closure of Dock Road, and a traffic order has been made for this.

## 3.0 Emerging Issues

3.1 A number of emerging issues have been identified during the period that will impact upon the work of services including:-

#### **Development & Investment Services**

## **Investment and Development Services**

3.2 3.5 Contract period for the provision of property Guardian services is due to expire May 2019 and commence work to re tender the contract.

Business Growth Programme\Place Marketing ERDF Programme Extension

- 3.3 The Liverpool City Region Combined Authority (CA) issued a 'Call' under ERDF Programme Priority 3 (Business Support) in March 2018. The Call sought partnerships or agencies to deliver a range of business support services across the Liverpool City Region for a period of three years.
- 3.4 A partnership of City Region Local Authorities and Chambers of Commerce have delivered the Business Growth Programme (BGP) for a period of six years and Place Marketing for Inward Investment project for a period of three years utilising ERDF Priority 3 funding. An extension to both projects was, therefore, sought by the partnership for a further three years.
- 3.5 Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) has confirmed that a three year programme extension for BGP, to cover the period January 2019 December 2021, has been approved albeit with more demanding output targets
- 3.6 A Change Control for the Place Market for Inward Investment was submitted on October 08 2018 and is currently being evaluated by MHCLG. However, the future delivery of the Place Marketing for Inward Investment programme is inexorably linked to the roll out of One Front Door (see below). It is, therefore, likely that approval of a programme extension will be subject to a number of material changes to the proposed delivery model.

Liverpool City Region 'One Front Door'

- 3.7 The Combined Authority (CA) has been tasked with realising a Mayoral ambition to create 'One Front Door' (OFD), in other words a single portal for all investment enquiry and management and place marketing, for the City Region.
- 3.8 In December 2018 the CA published a proposal that would see the creation of a small central team of approximately five individuals to oversee inward investment marketing and inward investment enquiry management across the City Region.
- 3.9 The CA aspire to have an OFD Team and operating protocols with key partners in place by June 2019. In the meantime the Liverpool City Region Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) will deliver a transition OFD service. The LEP will also ultimately assume all operational responsibility for the OFD Team.

#### Sci-Tech Daresbury

3.10 In order to access the funding for Project Violet, the Joint Venture have been asked to set up a Specialist Purpose Vehicle (subsidiary company). The JV are considering the legal, tax and procurement issues relating to this and will report to the Board in the next Quarter.

#### Resources

3.11 Recruitment and regeneration is challenging; three regeneration officers have taken up posts in neighbouring authorities in the last 6 months and clearly this is having an impact on capacity to deliver key projects.

#### **External Funding**

- 3.12 During the quarter 3 2018/19 period:
  - Need to review new Big Lottery Fund (BLF) Reaching Communities programme and its effect on funding in the Borough; new processes and highly competitive programme. Asked for meeting with NW BLF staff.
  - The Team is focussing resource on SIF bids and support for colleagues in the Impact Areas. Also offering support on Town Centre Commission work and the Future High Street Fund programme.
  - Focus on winding down of ESIF programme in England; some calls still due to be released with a deadline for funding agreements to be in place by March 2020. Need to be prepared for the Shared Prosperity Fund which is due to replace the ESIF post-Brexit.
  - Much activity at the LCR level regards Culture and Visitor Economy; need to ensure Halton is able to benefit from any joint funding opportunities e.g. Creative People and Places and Borough of Culture year in 2021. Organising a tour of the Borough for key Arts Council staff in February as Halton is under-represented with Arts Council funding; and working with Halton Chamber and the LEP to reinvigorate Halton's Visitor Economy offer.

#### Highways, Transportation & Logistics and Physical Environment

## Planning and Policy

#### Planning and Development

3.13 The Liverpool City Region are starting work on the LCR Spatial Development Strategy. The Spatial Development Strategy will support the delivery of strategic employment and housing sites throughout the City Region. The Strategy would require approval by a unanimous vote of Members appointed to

the Combined Authority by the constituent Councils. It is worth noting that devolution deal stated that this approach must not delay the development of local plans. Also emerging is a non-statutory Mayoral Transport Plan which will articulate the transport aspirations of the LCR Mayor whilst considering the emerging LCR Industrial and Energy Strategies.

3.14 An application is likely to be received in quarter 4 for a new local centre at Sandymoor.

#### **Structures**

Silver Jubilee Bridge Maintenance Delays

- 3.15 On several occasions, high winds during the autumn have led to lost working shifts, which will affect the contractor's programme. The contractor is seeking to recover lost time through additional weekend working. The current forecast completion date is in July 2019.
- 3.16 Due to a complex and protracted design process, there is a significant risk that the LCR major scheme for the replacement of a suspension cable on SJB will not be achieved during Q4.
- 3.17 A change request to Merseytravel is being prepared to seek approval for changes to the agreed schedule and spend allocations for the current programme. This includes a proposal to utilise a budget underallocation towards the SJB arch painting scheme.

#### 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 2018 19 Directorate Business Plans.
- 4.2 Progress concerning the implementation of all high-risk mitigation measures relevant to the remit of this Board is included as Appendix 1 to this report.

## 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.
- 5.2 The Councils latest annual progress report in relation to the achievement of its equality objectives is published on the Council website and is available via:

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 fall within the remit of the Board.

## **Development and Investment Services**

## **Key Objectives / milestones**

Ref	Milestones	Q3 Progress
EEP 01a	Completion of Halton Tomorrow Document - July 2018	✓
EEP 01b	Produce Local Economic Assessment – <b>September 2018</b>	✓
EEP 03b	Complete consultation on Astmoor Masterplan - December 2018	✓
EEP 03f	Complete Feasibility Study for Ditton Rail Station - September 2018	?

### **Supporting Commentary**

Halton Tomorrow (renamed Halton 2030) is now complete and was presented to Executive Board, Employment, Learning, Skills and Community (ELSC) Policy & Performance Board and Management Team. An additional piece of work is now being undertaken to develop an Action Plan.

Interim findings were reported to ELSC PPB in February 2018 and to the Board of Halton Chamber of Commerce and Enterprise in June 2018. The LEA now forms the basis of the Halton Tomorrow and the economic development priorities for Halton Council

To inform production of an Astmoor Masterplan a stakeholder Consultation Workshop was held on 12 December 2018 with key landlords, landowners, and representatives of the business community and Halton Chamber. The next step is working up a draft Astmoor Masterplan for publication in March 2019.

The feasibility study for the Ditton Rail Station has been delayed by Merseytravel. Merseytravel asked the Council to go through them to get this piece of work undertaken and Merseytravel are only now appointing the consultant to undertake the work. It is now expected by December 2018.

## **Key Performance Indicators**

Ref	Measure	17 / 18 Actual	18 / 19 Target	Q3 Actual	Q3 Progress	Direction of travel
EEP LI 07	Number of companies benefitting from the Council's intensive Key Account Management Service (KAM).	New Indicator for 2018/19	50	53	<b>✓</b>	<b>↑</b>
EEP LI 14	Number of Businesses Supported.	658	700	429	<b>✓</b>	<b>☆</b>

#### **Supporting Commentary**

The BIG Team are currently working with industry partners to create a local 'Chemical\Energy & Environmental Sector Group' thereby increasing KAM penetration within an otherwise neglected sector.

KAM sectors have been refined and now include Advanced Engineering and Manufacturing (AEM), Energy and Environmental and Knowledge Intensive Businesses; Digital & Creative, Pharmaceuticals, Life Sciences and Financial and Business Services.

Current Progress' refers to 'unique company engagements' through the Growth Hub since the inception of the Growth Hub contract in October 2015

### Waste and Environmental Improvement

## **Key Objectives / milestones**

Ref	Milestones	Q3 Progress
CE 04	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 - <b>March 2019</b> .	<b>✓</b>

In this last quarter, a campaign was undertaken over the 2018 Christmas period to encourage waste prevention and increased recycling which resulted in direct face-to-face community engagement with over 300 residents.

A new 'Guide to Waste Collection Services and Procedures' information booklet was developed and will be used to help ensure that residents in 'new build' properties are aware of the waste and recycling services provided by the Council and their requirements under the Council's waste collections Policies.

Along with other district Council's across the LCR, Halton has signed up to partnership agreement with the Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority for the delivery of a RECYCLE RIGHT campaign, which has been developed to support the delivery of a wide scale and on-going communications and awareness raising programme that aims to deliver a targeted set of communications activities to raise awareness and improve the quality of kerbside recycling collections and reduce 'contamination'.

The campaign commenced in December 2018 with generic social media messaging and future communication activities will include, but not be limited to, radio advertising, outdoor media advertising, press and PR opportunities and 'paid for' social media messaging.

## **Key Performance Indicators**

Ref	Measure	17 / 18 Actual	18 / 19 Target	Q3 Actual	Q3 Progress	Direction of travel
CE LI 05	Residual household waste per household.	551kgs	590kg	452kg	<b>✓</b>	#
CE LI 06	Household waste recycled and composted.	43.80%	44%	42%	×	1

## **Supporting Commentary**

The figures for residual household waste per household and the amount recycled and composted are all cumulative estimates.

Whilst the target is forecast to be met, the Kgs of residual waste produced per household is higher than the corresponding period in the previous year.

In addition, indications at this stage for the target percentage of household waste that is recycled and composted are that will not be met.

Recycling performance is projected to be lower than last year's 43.8% figure. A fall in recycling rates is not unique to Halton but appears to be consistent with many other local authorities. In Halton, a reduction in the amount of garden waste collected due to the hot weather and an increase in blue bin contamination levels are two of the contributory factors towards the projected reduction in recycling performance.

#### Policy, Planning and Transportation

#### **Key Objectives / milestones**

Ref	Milestones	Q3 Progress
PPT 01	Review progress against LCR SJB maintenance strategy and deliver 2018/19 major bridge maintenance works programme <b>March 2019</b> .	×
PPT 02	Deliver the 2018/19 LTP Capital Programme March 2019	1
PPT 03	Ensure continued unrestricted availability of the Highway network and to allow future maintenance to be delivered on a steady state, lifecycle planned basis.	✓
PPT 05	Consult on a revised draft Delivery and Site Allocations Local Plan (DALP)  September 2018	x

#### **Supporting commentary**

#### **PPT 01**

There has been some delays to several tasks within the Silver Jubilee Bridge major maintenance works programme for Year 3. A change request will be submitted to Merseytravel in January 2019.

#### **PPT 02**

STEP funded improvements to Runcorn East Station Car Park to provide additional car parking. Construction programmed for 7 January 19 to April 19.

STEP funded Astmoor Busway cycle and walking improvements. Construction programmed for February 19 to June 19.

STEP funded Parapet upgrade to Runcorn Approach Viaduct (RAV). Construction completed prior to Christmas 18.

STEP funded improvements to RAV West to provided footpath widening. Construction programmed for commencement February 19 for 3 months.

STEP funded improvements to Widnes Approach Viaduct to provide reconfigured footway cycleway. Programmed for construction in Spring 19.

STEP funded improvements from West Banks Street to Lugsdale Road to provide footpath cycleway upgrades. Construction starts 3 December to 21 December 18.

STEP funded walking and cycling improvements to Runcorn Canal Tow Path. Construction programmed for February 2019 to August 2019.

#### PPT 03

Footway Reconstruction Programme. Works programmed for Birkdale road, Ryder Road, Hough Green Road, Hale road, Blackburn Avenue to Lovell Terrace, and Fieldway.

Carriageway Resurfacing Programme. Schemes currently programmed for 19/20 Fairfield Road, remaining southern half, Prescot Road, railway bridge to Heath Road, Runcorn road Moore, Liverpool road haunch repair, Hale road haunch repair, Clifton Islands link roads(under M56 Junction 11). Further works are currently being prepared including additional LCR KRN Carriageway Funded Schemes.

Carriageway Surface Treatment programmed for spring 19 at Daresbury Expressway to Central Expressway to Pitts Heath Lane roundabout, Northwich Road and Weston point slip road to Rocksavage.

#### **PPT 05**

During 2018, Government issued revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), a new 'standard method' for calculating housing needs and interim changes to this new standard method. The housing requirement is lower than previously consulted on. This together with outstanding evidence and assessment requirements (some resulting from the last consultation) mean that the milestone has not been met.

### **Key Performance Indicators**

Ref	Measure	17 / 18 Actual	18 / 19 Target	Q3 Actual	Q3 Progress	Direction of travel
PPT LI 02	Net additional homes provided	369 (2017/18)	552	369 (2017/18)	N/A	N/A
PPT LI 03	Number of affordable homes delivered (gross)	92 (2017/18)	138	92 (2017/18)	N/A	N/A
PPT LI 04	Processing of planning applicatio	ns (%) as me	asured agains	st targets for	:	
	a) Major application	83%	60%	100%	$\checkmark$	$\Leftrightarrow$
	a) Minor applications	95%	80%	89%	<b>✓</b>	1
	b) Other applications	96%	80%	100%	<b>✓</b>	1
PPT LI 12	Damage to roads and pavements (% above intervention levels) repaired within 24 hours.	100%	100%	100%	<b>✓</b>	<del>(</del>

Ref	Measure	17 / 18 Actual	18 / 19 Target	Q3 Actual	Q3 Progress	Direction of travel
PPT LI 15	% of network where structural maintenance should be considered:					
	a) Principal roads	0.3%	2.00%	N/A	N/A	N/A
	b) Non-Principal Roads	1.00%	4.00%	N/A	N/A	N/A
	c) Unclassified Roads	3.46%	9.00%	N/A	N/A	N/A
PPT LI 16	Bus service punctuality, Part 1: Th	ne proportior	n of non-frequ	uent schedul	ed services o	n time (%):
	a) Percentage of buses starting route on time	97.67%	98.55%	100%	✓	1
	b) Percentage of buses on time at intermediate timing points	84.83%	95.00%	85.09%	✓	#

## **Supporting Commentary**

Housing completion figures are reported annually at year end.

All figures remain in excess of target with Majors the same as Q3 2017, Minors 1% down and others 10% up. All are in line to meet/exceed their annual targets.

Repair to damage to roads and pavements remains positive and Annual structural surveys will be undertaken and collated and results reported later in the year. In line with the Highways Asset Management Plan consideration needs to be given to further overall long term investment and highway condition. Note that this figure doesn't measure those highways which are starting to deteriorate, where works may be required to prevent failure and more costly repairs.

The performance of buses starting services on time continues to perform above expected and it is anticipated that it will continue to perform at this level for the rest of the year. Although the percentage of buses on time at intermediate points is down on last year's performance, operators continue to monitor the services to enable changes to improve performance. It is anticipated these changes will result in the target being met by year end.

## 7.0 Financial Statements

# **ECONOMY ENTERPRISE & PROPERTY DEPARTMENT**

# Revenue Budget as at 31 December 2018

	Annual	Budget To	Actual	Variance
	Budget	Date	Spend	(Overspend)
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<u>Expenditure</u>				
Employees	4,463	3,586	3,607	(21)
Repairs & Maintenance	2,239	1,453	1,453	0
Premises	55	53	53	0
Energy & Water Costs	686	419	388	31
NNDR	543	543	541	2
Rents	363	259	259	0
Economic Regeneration Activities	17	5	5	0
Supplies & Services	1,845	1,523	1,510	13
Grants To Voluntary Organisations	41	35	35	0
Capital Financing	118	94	94	0
Total Expenditure	10,370	7,970	7,945	25
Income				
Fees & Charges Income	-277	-222	-210	(12)
Rent – Commercial Properties	-1,174	-641	-660	19
Rent – Investment Properties	-44	-30	-30	0
Rent – Markets	-775	-583	-569	(14)
Government Grant Income	-2,001	-1,696	-1,696	0
Reimbursements & Other Grant Income	-161	-130	-131	1
Schools SLA Income	-509	-483	-465	(18)
Capital Salaries	-45	-27	-27	0
Transfers From Reserves	-831	-579	-579	0
Total Income	-5,817	-4,391	4,367	(24)
Net Operational Expenditure	4,553	3,579	3,578	1
<u>Recharges</u>				
Premises Support	1,965	1,474	1,474	0
Transport	26	18	18	0
Asset Charges	4	0	0	0
Central Support Services	2,121	1,085	1,085	0
Accommodation Income	-2,396	-1,796	-1,796	0
Repairs & Maintenance Income	-2,402	-1,802	-1,802	0
Central Support Income	-2,042	-1,531	-1,531	0
Net Total Recharges	2,724	-2,552	-2,552	0
Net Department Expenditure	1,829	1,027	1,026	1

#### Comments on the above figures

Finance continues to work closely with the department on projections, savings proposals and balancing the Economy Enterprise & Property budget and this is reflected in the above figures. We continue to identify the financial resources available to support the delivery of the service and allocate resources where needed most, ensuring budget pressures are met.

Whilst we can maintain effective control over expenditure, income still remains a budget pressure as a majority of the income is externally funded and difficult to envisage.

Though the saving measures put forward by the Department for 18-19 have been met, future savings are becoming increasing hard to find.

The significant budget variances are listed below.

The recent turnover of staff within the Department has helped reduce the anticipated negative variance on employee costs this quarter. However the staff savings target will not be achieved this year.

Following reconciliation by the energy providers, the Council has received a number of one off refunds relating to previous years utility charges.

Every effort has been made to ensure that expenditure on controllable budgets is kept to a minimum within the Department and this is reflected in the Supplies and Services budget in Quarter 3.

Commercial Properties held by Halton Borough Council are fully occupied and this is reflected in the income to date. Quarter 3 continues to show the Council has over achieved on rental income and this is profiled to continue in year.

Fees and charges income is projected to under achieve for the year due to the Court Service deciding not to relocate to Rutland House.

School SLA income has not been achieved this financial year. Due to the increase of staffing costs this means the SLA charges have increased, which in turn resulted in schools choosing to use alternative services.

Market rental income is under budget as at quarter 3, this is due to the open market not meeting its full capacity. This pressure looks set to continue during the winter months. Hopefully following the restructure within the Department and the main focus being to promote the markets, we will hopefully see an increase the income levels.

It is forecast the departments net spend will be within budget as at 31 March 2019.

#### **ECONOMY ENTERPRISE & PROPERTY DEPARTMENT**

#### Capital Projects as at 31 December 2018

	2018-19	Allocation	Actual	Total
	Capital	to Date	Spend	Allocation
	Allocation			Remaining
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
3MG	399	144	144	255
Sci Tech Daresbury – EZ Grant	382	286	286	96
Solar Panel Golf Course	100	57	57	43
Decontamination of Land	50	4	4	46
Former Crossville Depot	440	83	83	357
Advertising Screen at The Hive	100	0	0	100
Murdishaw	38	0	0	38
Venture Fields	41	0	0	41
Widnes Market Refurbishment	1,191	953	953	238
Equality Act Improvement Works	150	29	29	121
Linnets Club House	287	31	31	256
Broseley House	1,190	725	725	465
The Croft	30	0	0	30
Stadium Alternations	260	10	10	250
Total	4,658	2,322	2,322	2,336

#### Comments on the above figures

**Equality Act Improvement Works** - It is anticipated the budget will be fully spent at year end. There are a number of Improvement works ongoing or about to commence on site, including a changing places facility and new entrance doors at Catalyst Museum, new ramps at Ditton Library and Picow Farm Depot and improvements at Oakmeadow

**Decontamination of Land**. The works on the reed bed will be starting shortly.

**Linnets Club House** Junior changing building - Scottish Power have confirmed the date for the new power supply as commencing on the 31 Jan 2019; the Council still await the date from United Utilities for the new water supply. New Linnets Changing Pavilion -The remedial works to the ventilation system will commence on the 21 January with an anticipated duration of 2 weeks.

**Former Crossville Depot** The main site works have been concluded and the Council are waiting receipt of the final invoices.

**3MG** The Council agreed to extend Alstom's option over 18 acres of land at Executive Board in December 2018. The option will now expire on 30 June 2019.

Liberty have commenced construction of 107,000 sqft unit and expect to have this complete by July 2019. Liberty will also submit a planning application on behalf of the Council for the parking associated with Ditton Station by end January 2019.

The Council will complete the tree planting of the new road embankments before Spring.

JBA Flood Risk specialist have been appointed to provide advice on flood mitigation for the proposed Foundry Lane residential area. Report due February 2019.

ARUP have been appointment to provide catchment modelling for Ditton Station which will test its viability of being reopened. Report due end January 2019.

**Solar Panel Golf Course** The Solar Farm project went out to tender for the main design, build, install and maintenance contract at the end of November. The notice is due to close on the 01 February with a view to evaluate, interview and award before April.

A change control was submitted to MHCLG, the Managing Authority, in November also to make adjustments to timescales, the project is planned to complete by December 2019

**Widnes Market Refurbishment** The re-roofing works (incl. internal decorations) are now complete; the contractor has submitted an Extension of Time request with a claim for Loss and Expense – this is currently being assessed; the remaining Widnes Market projects will be postponed until the final costs for the re-roofing works are confirmed.

**Brosley House**\_ It is not anticipated that there will be any further significant spend on Broseley House until the building is demolished which is anticipated to be in 2021/22. There will be minimal spend dealing with any necessary ongoing repairs but this will be kept to an absolute minimum.

**Sci Tech Daresbury** – **EZ Grant** The Joint Venture are progressing Project Violet and are currently out to tender. The Enterprise Zone grant is intended to pay for the professional fees for the project so should be fully claimed as we reach the end of the design phase Sci-Tech Daresbury –.

**Murdishaw** – Work continues with partners in Murdishaw to agree priorities for investment. The quick wins projects were delayed slightly to allow for the production of a masterplan for the area, however this has recently been reviewed and agreement has been reached to identify key projects and work with colleagues in Highways, Planning, Open Spaces etc to prioritise spend. Some activities are anticipated to carry over into the next financial year.

Stadium Alterations (Karalius Suite) - Works are on site and due for completion mid-February.

# **COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT**

# Revenue Budget as at 31 December 2018

	Annual	Budget To	Actual To	Variance
	Budget	Date	Date	(Overspend)
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Employees	13,897	10,459	10,649	(190)
Premises	2,038	1,518	1,570	(52)
Supplies & Services	1,153	917	803	114
Book Fund	160	114	103	11
Hired & Contracted Services	1,165	776	653	123
Food Provisions	506	378	309	69
School Meals Food	1,980	1,105	1,067	38
Transport	51	36	31	5
Agency Costs	438	256	251	5
Waste Disposal Contracts	5,900	3,659	3,745	(86)
Grants To Voluntary Organisations	239	196	164	32
Rolling Projects	7	7	7	0
Capital Financing	101	101	101	0
Total Expenditure	27,635	19,522	19,453	69
<u>Income</u>				
Sales Income	-1,829	-1,353	-1,011	(342)
School Meals Sales	-2,368	-1,667	-1,523	(144)
Fees & Charges Income	-5,996	-4,675	-3,941	(734)
Rents Income	-231	-189	-193	4
Government Grant Income	-1,198	-1,198	-1,047	(151)
Reimbursements & Other Grant Income	-681	-405	-342	(63)
Schools SLA Income	-1,347	-1,347	-1,335	(12)
Internal Fees Income	-171	-130	-114	(16)
School Meals Other Income	-254	-179	-137	(42)
Catering Fees	-114	-81	-42	(39)
Capital Salaries	-123	-89	-121	32
Rolling Projects Income	0	0	-45	45
Transfers From Reserves	-172	-172	-172	0
Total Income	-14,484	-11,485	-10,023	-1,462
	, -	,	-,-	, -
Net Operational Expenditure	13,151	8,037	9,430	(1,393)
Recharges	-,	-,	-,	( )
Premises Support	1,558	1,168	1,168	0
Transport Recharges	3,069	2,134	2,134	0
Central Support Services	3,665	2,763	2,763	0
Asset Charges	93	0	0	0
HBC Support Costs Income	-421	-349	-349	0
Net Total Recharges	7,964	5,716	5,716	0
<del>0</del>	,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	- /	-,- = 3	
Net Department Expenditure	21,115	13,753	15,146	(1,393)

#### Comments on the above figures

The net Department budget is £1,393,000 over budget profile at the end of the third quarter of the 2018/19 financial year.

Employee spend is currently over budget, mainly due to staff saving targets for the department which are not being met in the majority of areas due to the need to maintain frontline services. Casual spend stands at £646,000, in contrast to £403,700 at the same point last year. The largest increases in casual spend are for Leisure Centres and School Catering, where there has been considerable difficulty in recruiting permanent staff. Casual spend has also been adversely impacted by the rise in the living wage which has caused casual pay rates to increase. Agency staffing spend is also significantly higher than last year at £115,000 compared to £63,000 in 2017/18, with School Meals the main cause of this increase.

Employee budgets are based on full time equivalent staffing numbers of 477.

The waste disposal contract is expected to overspend until arrangements are in place to reimburse the Council for spare capacity and waste sold for electricity. Actual tonnage the Council is contributing to the contract is currently less than forecast in comparison to contract partners, this is helping to maintain actual costs to a reasonable level.

Income targets had been reduced by approximately £200k this year, although in many areas, the department will again struggle to meet the budgeted income amounts. There are large shortfalls on Leisure Centre income due to cancelled classes as staff vacancies cannot be filled, swimming lessons no longer being offered at Runcorn Swimming Pool (again due to recruitment difficulties) and a continued reduction in the number of memberships being taken out. The Brindley is struggling to meet income targets, although over the past quarter promotions income has increased after a difficult summer. With no concert or significant event at the Stadium, planned events income will underachieve at year-end.

Other areas where income targets are not being achieved include catering, event income, sponsorship income and architect fees within the Open Spaces division.

Sales income is again currently short of the target to date mainly due to Stadium Bars and Catering, and Municipal Catering. So far income is down on these activities compared to the same stage last year and there is no evidence to be able to project growth for the remainder of the year.

The replacement of the iPitch at the stadium has meant that it has been unavailable for hire for approximately three months leading to a reduction in lettings income. Letting fees income is also significantly underachieving at Ditton, Grangeway and Upton Community Centres.

Government Grant income is low compared to budgeted targets for Universal Infants Free School Meals. Free meal children numbers appear to have fallen dramatically over the last few years.

Expenditure on Supplies and Services and Hired and Contracted services is currently under budget across the majority of areas as spend is limited where possible. Premises spend is over budget, mostly due to increases in utility prices and the increased maintenance cost of the ageing Leisure Centre buildings. There have also been some essential repairs at the cemeteries which have contributed to the current premises overspend.

# Capital Projects as at 31 December 2018

	2018-19	Allocation	Actual	Total
	Capital	to Date	Spend	Allocation
	Allocation			Remaining
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Stadium Minor Works	50	38	16	34
Stadium Pitch	300	300	277	23
Brindley Cafe Extension	80	30	7	73
Children's Playground Equipment	57	1	1	56
Landfill Tax Credit Schemes	340	0	0	340
Upton Improvements	13	0	0	13
The Glen Play Area	41	0	0	41
Runcorn Hill Park	5	5	3	2
Crow Wood Park Play Area	478	7	7	471
Open Spaces Schemes	611	458	357	254
Peelhouse Lane Cemetery	500	375	135	365
Peelhouse Lane Cemetery - Enabling Works	33	25	17	16
Phoenix Park	104	104	104	0
Victoria Park Glass House	170	0	0	170
Sandymoor Playing Fields	1,032	803	803	229
Widnes & Runcorn Cemeteries - Garage & Storage	190	9	9	181
Town Park	280	2	2	278
Litter Bins	20	0	0	20
Total	4,304	2,162	1,738	2,566

# **Policy, Planning & Transportation**

# Revenue Budget as at 31 December 2018

	Annual	Budget To	Actual	Variance to
	Budget £'000	Date £'000	To Date £'000	Date (Overspand)
	1 000	£ 000	£ 000	(Overspend) £'000
Expenditure				
Employees	4,504	3,371	3,170	201
Other Premises	168	116	101	15
Contracted Services	209	120	116	4
Supplies & Services	157	177	175	2
Street Lighting	1,700	854	704	150
Highways Maintenance	2,446	1,535	1,531	4
Fleet Transport	1,413	742	742	0
Lease Car Contracts	1	62	62	0
Bus Support	649	473	487	(14)
Finance Charges	145	12	12	0
Contribution to Reserves	201	0	0	0
Grants to Vol. Organisations	61	61	61	0
LCR Levy	882	441	441	0
NRA Levy	64	64	64	0
Total Expenditure	12,600	8,028	7,666	362
		5,625	7,000	
Income				
Sales	-351	-239	-191	(48)
Planning Fees	-526	-420	-353	(67)
Building Control Fees	-209	-134	-123	(11)
Other Fees & Charges	-646	-483	-622	139
Rent	-9	-6	0	(6)
Grants & Reimbursements	-177	-201	-280	79
Government Grant Income	-120	-15	-15	0
Efficiency Savings	-68	-9	-9	0
Schools SLAs	-43	-45	-45	0
Capital Salaries	-317	-34	-34	0
LCR Levy Reimbursement	-882	-441	-441	0
Total Income	-3,348	-2,027	-2,113	86
		-	·	
Net Operational Expenditure	9,252	6,001	5,553	448
Recharges				
Premises Recharges	642	481	481	0
Transport Recharges	771	539	539	0
Asset Charges	539	0	0	0
Central Recharges	1,732	1,300	1,300	0
Transport Recharge Income	-4,896	-3,084	-3,084	0
Central Recharge Income	-866	-597	-597	0
Net Total Recharges	-2,078	-1,361	-1,361	0
Net Department Expenditure	7,174	4,640	4,192	448
Net Department Expenditure	7,174	4,040	4,132	440

## Comments on the above figures

Employee spend is currently under budget mainly due to there being a number of vacancies within Building Control, Traffic and Highway teams. It is projected that the vacancies will continue until the end of the financial year.

Employee budgets are based on full time equivalent staffing numbers of 113.

Other premises costs are anticipated to be under budget due to lower energy costs from a recently refurbished Lower House Lane Depot.

The underspend to date on Street Lighting is due to reduced energy costs associated with the capital project for lighting upgrades.

Supplies and services are under budget due to a conscious effort from all budget holders to reduce spending where possible.

Both planning and building control income targets are not anticipated to achieve their income budgets for this financial year. This is due to staffing issues, along with continued competition from Approved Inspectors charging rates that the Council cannot compete with. External fuel sales are also not projected to come in on budget.

Other Fee and Charges includes income budgets such as repairs, access crossing and Section 74 overrun charges that are projected to overachieve, however these are areas where income is received on an ad-hoc basis and forecasting future income levels is unpredictable.

At this point it is forecast the department outturn net spend will be within the allocated budget.

# Capital Projects as at 31 December 2018

Capital Expenditure	2018/19 Capital	Allocation to Date	Actual Spend	Total Allocation
	Allocation	to Date	эрспа	Remaining
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Local Transport Plan				
Bridges & Highway Maintenance				
Bridge Assess, Strength & Maintenance	1,546	323	323	1,223
Road Maintenance	2,093	543	543	1,550
Total Bridge & Highway Maintenance	3,639	866	866	2,773
Integrated Transport	460	255	255	205
STEP Schemes	2,643	128	128	2,515
SJB MM – Arch Painting	6,665	4,814	4,814	1,851
SJB deck reconfiguration	600	0	0	600
SJB decoupling	9,596	335	335	9,261
KRN – Earle Rd Gyratory	1,150	916	916	234
Ditton Loops	1,000	161	161	839
Total Local Transport Plan	25,753	7,475	7,475	18,278
Halton Borough Council				
Street Lighting	282	41	41	241
Lighting Upgrades	500	29	29	471
Risk Management	80	0	0	80
Fleet Vehicles	1,013	495	495	518
Travelodge / Watkinson Way footpath	130	2	2	128
Total Halton Borough Council	2,005	567	567	1,438
Total Capital Expenditure	27,758	8,042	8,042	19,716

## Comments on the above figures.

The fourth year of the STEP (Sustainable Transport Enhancement Package) programme has begun with grant allocations being agreed by the LCR.

The SJB MM (Silver Jubilee Bridge Major Maintenance) arch painting programme is continuing.

Works are continuing for the lighting upgrade programme. Due to a change in contractor the majority of the expenditure for this year will be in Q4.

Spend on capital projects are still relatively low in quarter 3 but these are expected to pick up in Q4 with some projects pushed back into 19-20.

# **ADULT SOCIAL CARE DEPARTMENT**

# Revenue Budget as at 31 December 2018

	Annual	Budget	Actual	Variance
	Budget	To Date	Spend	(Overspend)
				£'000
	£'000	£'000	£'000	
Expenditure				
Employees	14,770	10,565	10,401	164
Premises	329	152	159	(7)
Supplies & Services	1,596	687	696	(9)
Aids & Adaptations	113	80	67	13
Transport	201	149	132	17
Food Provision	206	120	106	14
Contracts & SLAs	528	449	444	5
Emergency Duty Team	98	73	76	(3)
Other Agency	635	543	542	1
Payments To Providers	1,443	1,233	1,248	(15)
Transfer to Reserve	210	. 0	0	, ,
Total Expenditure	20,129	14,051	13,871	180
<u>Income</u>				
Sales & Rents	-281	-273	-260	(13)
Fees & Charges	-666	-500	-502	2
Reimbursements & Grant Income	-1,139	-553	-532	(21)
Transfer From Reserves	-800	0	0	0
Capitalised Salaries	-111	-83	-83	0
Government Grant Income	-1,161	-980	-990	10
Total Income	-4,158	-2,389	-2,367	(22)
Net Operational Expenditure	15,971	11,662	11,504	158
Net Operational Expenditure	13,971	11,002	11,504	136
Recharges				
Premises Support	610	458	458	0
Asset Charges	50	0	0	0
Central Support Services	3,027	2,180	2,180	0
Internal Recharge Income	-2,037	-1,578	-1,578	0
Transport Recharges	671	193	193	0
Net Total Recharges	2,321	1,253	1,253	0
Not Donoute out Even and the sec	40.202	12.015	12 757	450
Net Department Expenditure	18,292	12,915	12,757	158

#### Comments on the above figures

In overall terms, the Net Department Expenditure excluding the Complex Care Pool is £158,000 below budget the budget profile at the end of the third quarter of the 2018/19 financial year. Current expenditure patterns indicate that spend will be very close to the budget allocation for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of the year, and a net spend below budget in the region of £152,000 is projected for the 2018/19 financial year overall.

The financial report includes expenditure and income related to the Housing Solutions division, which includes the Housing Solutions advisory service, 2 permanent and 1 temporary traveller sites, and the grant-funded Syrian Resettlement Programme. These services have a combined net budget of £593,000, and expenditure is currently projected to be to budget for the year.

Employee costs are currently showing spend of £164,000 under budget profile, due to savings being made on vacancies within the department, specifically in the Day Services and Care Management divisions. The majority of these vacancies have now been filled, therefore the current level of underspend is not projected to continue at this level for the remainder of the financial year.

Employee budgets are based on full time equivalent staffing numbers of 537. The staff turnover saving target in relation to vacant posts is £520,000, and this has been achieved in full.

Premises costs are running slightly above budget profile at the end of December 2018. The winter quarter is likely to bring additional pressures on utilities costs, so these budgets will be closely monitored during the remainder of the year, and remedial action taken if necessary.

Income from sales and rents are currently running slightly behind budget profile, and income until the end of December suggests an under-achievement of £15,000 for the year on the full-year income target of £281,000. The shortfalls relate to rechargeable income in respect of electricity at the traveller sites, and sales income relating to Day Services initiatives. In both cases, these shortfalls are offset by savings on running costs, and the departments concerned are projected to be to budget overall.

Income received from the Clinical Commissioning Group (recorded under the "Re-imbursements and Grants" heading) is projected to be below target. This income relates to Continuing Health Care funded packages within Day Services and the Supported Housing Network. The income received is dependent on the nature of service user's care packages. The shortfall is currently estimated to be in the region of £28,000 for the full year.

#### Capital Projects as at 31st December 2018

	2018-19	Allocation	Actual	Total
	Capital	To Date	Spend	Allocation
	Allocation			Remaining
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Vine Street Development	10	1	1	9
Orchard House	180	0	0	180
Purchase of 2 Adapted Properties	230	0	0	230
Total	420	1	1	419

#### Comments on the above figures:

The Vine Street Development project relates to the adaptation of the Mental Health Resource Centre in Widnes in order to better meet service user's needs. Construction was completed during the previous financial year, the 2018/19 capital allocation represents the funding carried forward from 2017/18 to fund the residual payments due in relation to the scheme.

The Orchard House allocation relates to the purchase and re-modelling of a currently vacant property, to provide accommodation for young adults who have a Learning Disability and Autism. The scheme was approved by Exec. Board on 15 November 2018. The full scheme cost is £497,000, and is fully funded by an NHS England grant. The £180,000 capital allocation in the current year reflects the proposed purchase price, and estimated architectural consultancy fees.

The capital allocation for the purchase of land and construction of 2 properties relates to funding received from the Department Of Health under the Housing & Technology for People with Learning Disabilities Capital Fund. The funding is to be used to meet the particularly complex and unique needs of two service users. The purchase of suitable land is scheduled to be completed in March 2019, with construction of the properties scheduled to be completed during the 2019/20 financial year. The total scheme value and funding is £520,000, of which £230,000 is expected to be spent in the final quarter of this financial year on land purchase and architectural consultancy fees.

# 8.0 Application of Symbols

Symbols are used in the following manner:

# **Progress Symbols**

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Objective</u>	Performance Indicator
Green	Indicates that the <u>objective is on</u> course to be achieved within the appropriate timeframe.	Indicates that the annual target <u>is</u> <u>on course to be achieved</u> .
Amber ?	Indicates that it is uncertain or too early to say at this stage whether the milestone/objective will be achieved within the appropriate timeframe.	Indicates that it is <u>uncertain or too</u> <u>early to say at this stage</u> whether the annual target is on course to be achieved
Red	Indicates that it is <u>highly likely or</u> <u>certain</u> that the objective will not be achieved within the appropriate timeframe.	Indicates that the target <u>will not</u> <u>be achieved</u> unless there is an intervention or remedial action taken.

Direction of Travel Indicator				
Green	1	Indicates that performance <i>is better</i> as compared to the same period last year.		
Amber	$\Leftrightarrow$	Indicates that performance <i>is the same</i> as compared to the same period last year.		
Red	#	Indicates that performance <i>is worse</i> 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.		