

REPORT TO: Environment and Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 27th February 2019

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources

SUBJECT: Business Planning

WARDS: All Wards

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 Following the November 2018 Board, a working party was established to select a small number of priority topics to be fed into department business plans for 2019 - 20.
- 1.2 This report updates the Board on outcomes of the Business Planning Working Party (WP).

2.0 RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board endorse the topics to be fed into the Business Plan 2019-20 (Section 4.0).

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 Department business plans provide an overall operating context together with details of specific objectives and performance measures for service delivery, giving a focus for the monitoring of progress throughout the year.
- 3.2 Members' knowledge of local and organisational issues forms an integral element of plan development.
- 3.3 Plans can only be finalised once final budget decisions have been determined in March 2019, and annual targets can only be confirmed once year-end outturn figures for 2018 – 19 are known.
- 3.4 Due to a software error, the business planning report to the November 2018 Board had the last two pages missing from the appendix. The appendix summarised the topic areas covered by the Environment and Urban Renewal PPB. The two missing pages are appended here for completeness.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The topics / areas of focus selected by the working party are as follows:

4.2 Opportunities to coordinate maintenance activity with partners

The Working Party (WP) discussed the opportunities to improve environmental quality in the areas of the Borough where social landlords own significant numbers of properties and land. The WP was of the view that maintenance and upkeep work could be further coordinated between the relevant parties, leading to gains in the environmental quality enjoyed by residents. The largest social landlords in Halton are as follows:

Current name	Previous name
Plus Dane housing Association	C/D/S Housing Association
HHT	n/a
Riverside	n/a
Your Housing Association	Liver HA then changed to Arena before Your Housing
Onwards housing	Liverpool Housing Trust
Regenda Homes	Maritime Housing Association
Affinity Sutton Housing	William Sutton Trust
Guinness Partnerships Ltd	Guinness Trust housing Association

4.3 This theme will be considered as part of the review of business plans, picked up via the Street Scene and Waste Management Service areas.

4.4 Improved recycling of food waste

On the 18 December 2018 the Department for Environment, Food, and Rural affairs published its Resource and Waste Strategy for England. All households in England could be given a caddy for food waste in a drive to cut greenhouse gas emissions and reduce the use of fossil fuels. Only around a third of households in England currently have separate caddies for food waste. Just over half do in Scotland, and Wales comprehensively covered by the scheme.

4.5 The Government are including the idea in its new plan to tackle waste and use of resources, as they seek to reduce methane emitted by rubbish in landfill.

4.6 The WP is keen to understand local authority best practice in this area, particularly how recycling rates of food waste could be improved and how domestic collection can be done cleanly and efficiently.

4.7 Tackling fly tipping

Fly-tipping across the UK continues to have a serious impact upon the natural environment in both rural and urban communities. Government statistics reveal that in 2016/17, local authorities in England dealt with around 1 million fly-tipping incidents, a 7% increase from the previous year. Financial resources are also having to be allocated towards disposing of fly-tipped waste, with costs estimated to have reached £57.7 million (April, 2018). This is of serious concern since councils in England are facing a funding shortfall predicted to exceed £5 billion by 2020 (LGA, 2018).

4.8 Recognising the environmental, social and financial impact of fly-tipping, WP Members are keen to ensure that tackling fly-tipping remains a priority for local services.

4.9 Awareness of Environmental Fund benefits

In association with the Energy Recovery Facility, an Environmental Fund was set up to donate around £500,000 every year to local improvement projects. The fund has already paid over £2million to support local causes and initiatives. The WP is keen to see awareness raised of the fund's benefits, for example through a regular feature in the 'Inside Halton' magazine.

4.10 City Region regeneration fund

The Working Party is keen to review the share of business and regeneration support funds distributed to Halton. Members are keen to incorporate specific indicators / KPIs in business plans. This would allow Members to ensure that the City Region Mayor would be held to account over his manifesto pledge to ensure that no community is left behind.

4.11 The WP is keen to ensure that Combined Authority responsibilities that cross-cut interrelated service areas are identified in service business plans. This will ensure that delivery outcomes can be monitored, and will highlight the benefits of being part of the Combined Authority. Example areas that cross-cut services are regeneration and transportation.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Business plans continue to form the basis for progress monitoring, including reporting to Policy and Performance Boards throughout the year. Such reports will contain information concerning key developments and emerging issues as well as the delivery of predetermined actions and targets.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 The business planning process is one means by which the Council aligns its operational activity with its overall strategic aims and those priorities detailed below.

6.2 **Children and Young People in Halton**

6.3 **Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton**

6.4 **A Healthy Halton**

6.5 **A Safer Halton**

6.6 Halton's Urban Renewal

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 Business Plans allow the Council to align its activities with the delivery of priorities and provide information to stakeholders concerning priorities for 2019 – 20. The process aligns with the annual review of Corporate Risks Registers, ensuring that these are fully considered when determining future actions.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 There are no equality and diversity issues directly related to this report. However, such matters will continue to be monitored and reported annually to the Board through the existing performance monitoring framework.

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

9.1 None under the meaning of the Act.

APPENDIX 1: 2019 – 20 PPB SUMMARY INFORMATION

Highways, Transportation and Traffic

- **Completion of SJB Major Maintenance Scheme**
- **Delivery of Highways Term Contract / Transport**
- **Flood Defence and Sustainable Legislation**
- **Street Lighting and Traffic Management**

Silver Jubilee Bridge (SJB)

SJB maintenance works (including high level painting, cable replacement and deck reconfiguration to allow 2 traffic lanes) requires completion.

Highways Asset Management Plan (HAMP)

The Department for Transport's capital "Incentive Fund" element pushes local authorities to prove that they are proceeding with improving on the management of its assets. This is a 3 Stage process designed to encourage authorities to adopt full asset management principles and procedures. For those remaining in the first stage (Stage 1) a 10% cut in capital funding has been implemented. Halton has now achieved stage 2, with plans to achieve Stage 3 status underway.

Investment in Transport Improvements

The 'investment pipeline' of transport schemes remains a key priority across the six authorities. The aim of the work is to identify a selection of transport schemes at a range of scales which address current and future issues for each district, including supporting planned housing and economic growth.

Flood Risk Management

Halton, in its role as lead Local Flood Authority is now a statutory consultee on the management of surface water in major planning applications providing advice to developers as to the standards of operation and maintenance of surface water drainage systems over the lifetime of proposed developments. The Environment Agency now manages a six-year investment programme of capital Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCRM) schemes on behalf of Defra. Bids for Flood Defence Grant in Aid (FDGiA) funding are invited annually from flood risk management authorities and the programme is refreshed accordingly. Halton assesses the need for schemes under the asset inspection & survey regime.

Street Lighting and Traffic Management

The process of converting street lights and traffic signals to LED operation to reduce energy and maintenance costs is continuing.

Key issues include:

- Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS)
- Road Safety
- Energy costs

Physical Environment – Statutory Plans

- **Delivery and Allocation Local Plan (DALP) and completion of key supporting documents**
- **Neighbourhood Planning**

Halton's Local Plan

The statutory plan that guides development and land use over a future fifteen year period are known as 'Local Plans' or 'Development Plan'. For Halton, these statutory plans comprise the Unitary Development Plan (saved policies), Core Strategy and Joint Waste Local Plan. The emerging 'Delivery and Allocations Local Plan' (DALP) and will replace the saved policies of the Unitary Development Plan which were adopted in 2005.

The Local Plan has statutory status and is legally of primary importance in planning decisions. The Town and Country Planning System in the UK is plan led as this provides certainty that a Borough can make provision for sustainable future growth and economic prosperity.

The Core Strategy Local Plan (adopted April 2013) and Joint Waste Local Plan (adopted July 2013) will be implemented over the coming period to provide for future growth, prosperity and regeneration of Halton.

Key Issues

- Adoption of Delivery and Allocations Local Plan
- Strategic planning work undertaken in the context of the LCR Combined Authority
- Neighbourhood Planning

To date, no communities in Halton have chosen to bring forward a Neighbourhood Plan under the Localism Act. However, a number of Parish Councils continue to discuss the subject.