

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

Reporting Period: **Quarter 4 – 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019**

### 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This report provides an overview of issues and progress against key service objectives/milestones and performance targets, during the fourth 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**

##### Castlefields

- 2.2 The Lakeside Phase 3 (45 homes by Keepmoat for open market sale) development has now commenced on site with over 40% units being sold off-plan. Construction is anticipated to complete in early summer 2019 and will provide further housing opportunities within the borough. Work continues 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 and consultants have now been appointed to prepare a design brief.

##### 3MG

- 2.3 A number of developments occurred at 3MG during the quarter 4 period including the commencement of the construction of a 107,000 square foot warehouse by Liberty and the continued delivery of the train carriage repainting contract by Alstom.
- 2.4 Consultants have also completed a Flood Risk assessment and mitigation measures for the Foundry Lane area and Officers will now be considering the findings and implications for the redevelopment of the area. In addition, a report concerning potential passenger numbers for Ditton rail Station has concluded that numbers would be low and further work to support any business case for the re-opening of the station would need to be considered.

## External Funding

### Funding Updates

- 2.5 Almost £800K of external funding was secured during quarter 4 bringing the total for 2018 – 19 to £3.1M. Existing schemes to the value of almost £21M are presently being monitored and additional training will be launched later in 2019 to upskill staff in compiling bids for future funding.

### Liverpool City Region Business Growth Programme

- 2.6 Delivery of the Business Growth Programme 1 (BGP1) was completed on 31st December 2018. The programme has engaged with 230 Halton businesses, assisting 141 businesses and creating over 50 jobs.

## Open Spaces and Waste and Environmental Improvement

### Open Space Design & Development

- 2.7 A number of large scale works began during the Quarter 4 period. Upgrades and improvements to Sunny Bank and the Weates Close open space made good progress and will be completed in the early part of 2019/20. Work also began on phase 3 of the Peel House Cemetery project which involves the laying out of the cemetery grounds. A replacement bridge was installed at an overflow point of the Sankey Canal replacing a structure that had failed.

## Highways, Transportation & Logistics and Physical Environment

### *Planning and Policy*

#### Local Plan

- 2.8 Work is continuing on the evidence base to support the Local Plan. The Executive Board have approved that the consultation on the local plan can commence in May once the evidence base documents and local plan documents are ready. Following consultation the plan will then be reported to Full Council with a recommendation for submission to the Secretary of State.

#### Planning Application Statistics

- 2.9 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 below and the figures given for PPT LI 04 later in this report.

Total Applications Received: (Includes those Withdrawn and Returned) 136			
Applications Decided	129	Applications On-Hand (Undecided)	117
Pre-Applications Received	28	Pre Applications Closed	19

## *Traffic Division*

### Street Lighting

- 2.10 The LED street lighting conversion programme will continue in the 2019 - 20 financial year, in order to lower ongoing energy and maintenance costs. From 24th January 2019, Jones Lighting took over the street lighting maintenance within the Borough and they have been employed utilising the Sefton MBC Contract, which has also been utilised by St Helens MBC.

### Emergency Planning

- 2.11 During the quarter, the Emergency Planning team successfully carried out a COMAH Off-Site Emergency Plan exercise for Runcorn Sites on 27th February 2019.

## *Highway Schemes and Maintenance*

### Program Update

- 2.12 Works have progressed in relation to the Watkinson Way gyratory improvements and final resurfacing works will be completed in early April. In addition the Runcorn Delinking and Demolition works commenced on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2019 and are programmed for completion in spring 2020 alongside Widnes Loops link road works which are scheduled from April 2019 until January 2020.
- 2.13 Within the Silver Jubilee Bridge Refurbishment works there are 2 remaining sections to be painted and it is expected this will be complete by summer 2020 at which time the bridge can be reopened to cyclist and pedestrians. Additional carriageway reconfiguration and cable replacement is also scheduled for July.

## *Transport*

### New Bus Ticketing System

- 2.14 During 2019 a new on bus ticketing system will be introduced into the borough whereby contactless payment can be made to purchase tickets. The ticket machines will be installed in both Arriva and Halton Transport buses which will provide greater flexibility for passengers.

## **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**

#### Place Marketing for Investment ERDF Programme Extension

- 3.1 A partnership of City Region Local Authorities and Chambers of Commerce has delivered a Place Marketing for Inward Investment project for a period of three years utilising European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) Priority 3 funding. A 3 year projects extension was successfully sought by the partnership and this will now run until December 2021.

### Liverpool City Region 'One Front Door'

- 3.2 The Liverpool City Region 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 and work is now underway to realise this ambition during the coming months.
- 3.3 Asset Management Service Charges in Commercial Properties - the Royal Institute of Civil Surveyors (RICS) revised standards come into force 1st April 2019.
- 3.4 Whole Plan Viability Assessment Planning policy colleagues have commissioned a review of the viability impact on emerging planning policies. Once approved the review may impact on the receipt for land sales and how the Asset Management team will support colleagues in Development Control to analyse viability appraisals provided by developers.

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

### *Planning and Policy*

#### Planning and Development

- 3.5 Two Judicial reviews of planning decisions made by the Council have been made. One relates to the approval of a house in the conservation area in Moore (since writing this has subsequently been rejected by the court). The other judicial review relates to the approval for a waste transfer facility in Halebank.

### *Traffic Division*

- 3.6 The street lighting (unmetered) electricity contract has just been renewed for a further 12 months from 1st April 2019 but the rates have increased by around 20% due to market volatility. The market is being monitored as another contract/ option to extend (OTE) will be required from 1st April 2020 but rates could increase further.

## **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](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	Q4 Progress
EEP 01a	Completion of Halton Tomorrow Document - <b>July 2018</b>	
EEP 01b	Produce Local Economic Assessment – <b>September 2018</b>	
EEP 03b	Complete consultation on Astmoor Masterplan - <b>December 2018</b>	
EEP 03f	Complete Feasibility Study for Ditton Rail Station - <b>September 2018</b>	

#### 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 Employment, Learning, Skills & Community Policy and Performance Board 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<sup>th</sup> 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 2019.

The initial feasibility study for the Ditton Rail Station has been completed.

## Key Performance Indicators

Ref	Measure	17 / 18 Actual	18 / 19 Target	Q4 Actual	Q4 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	55		N / A
EEP LI 14	Number of Businesses Supported.	658	700	220		


### Supporting Commentary

Good progress being made to engage with the borough's business community.

Growth Hub in Halton is delivered by the Halton Growth Hub Partnership led by Halton Chamber of Commerce and Enterprise supported by Halton Borough Council. The Partnership is increasingly focused upon delivering more intensive support rather than simply brokerage to other agencies which has, in part, contributed to the number of interventions in 2018/19.

## Waste and Environmental Improvement

### Key Objectives / milestones





Ref	Milestones	Q4 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> .	

### Supporting Commentary

Activities to achieve this objective have remained on-going throughout the year. As previously reported, this has included producing information booklets to help ensure that residents are aware of the waste and recycling services provided by the Council and their requirements under the Council's waste collections Policies, community events and direct engagement with householders, and participation in the RECYCLE RIGHT campaign.

This 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'.

## Key Performance Indicators

Ref	Measure	17 / 18 Actual	18 / 19 Target	Q4 Actual	Q4 Progress	Direction of travel
CE LI 05	Residual household waste per household.	551kgs	590kg	607kg		
CE LI 06	Household waste recycled and composted.	43.80%	44%	40%		





### Supporting Commentary

This year we have seen a significant increase in the amount of residual waste handled. This includes both an increase in the amount of general waste presented for collection and higher levels of 'contaminated' materials in blue bins which is sent for disposal.

This is an estimated figure for Household waste recycled and composting but indications are that this target will not be met. Contributing factors to this include a significant reduction in the amount of garden waste collected, high levels of 'contaminated' materials in blue bins and an increase in the amount of residual waste handled.

### Policy, Planning and Transportation

### Key Objectives / milestones

Ref	Milestones	Q4 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 <b>March 2019</b>	
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) <b>September 2018</b>	

### 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.

#### PPT 02

The Sustainable Transport Enhancements Package (STEP) is an integrated programme of investment in sustainable transport in the Liverpool City Region (LCR) over the six year period from 2015/16 to 2020/21.

The STEP funding has or will contribute to the following:

- STEP funded improvements to Runcorn East Station Car Park to provide additional car parking. Construction is progressing well and due for completion in April 19.
- STEP funded Astmoor Busway cycle and walking improvements. Construction is progressing well and programmed for completion Summer 2019/20.
- STEP funded improvements to RAV West to provided footpath widening. Construction programmed for commencement May 2019 for 3 months.
- STEP funded improvements to Widnes Approach Viaduct to provide reconfigured footway cycleway. Programmed for construction in May 2019 for 3 months
- STEP funded walking and cycling improvements to Runcorn Canal Tow Path. Construction commenced March 2019 and is due for Autumn 2019/20.

#### 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(completed), Prescott Road, railway bridge to Heath Road, Runcorn road Moore, Liverpool road haunch repair, Hale road haunch repair, Clifton Islands link roads (under M56 jcn 11) have also been completed in the period. Further works are currently being prepared including carriageway reconstruction at Liverpool Road, from Chesnut Lodge junction to Heath Road, this work requires a road closure and is programmed for Summer 2019.

Carriageway Surface Treatment is due to commence in mid-April 2019 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. Following Executive Board approval the Council will consult on the Proposed Submission Draft of the DALP in Q2 2019/20.

### **Key Performance Indicators**

Ref	Measure	17 / 18 Actual	18 / 19 Target	Q4 Actual	Q4 Progress	Direction of travel
PPT LI 02	Net additional homes provided	369 (2017/18)	552	N/A	N/A	N/A
PPT LI 03	Number of affordable homes delivered (gross)	92 (2017/18)	138	N/A	N/A	N/A
PPT LI 04	Processing of planning applications (%) as measured against targets for:					
	a) Major application	83%	60%	100%		
	a) Minor applications	95%	80%	96%		
	b) Other applications	96%	80%	98%		
PPT LI 12	Damage to roads and pavements (% above)	100%	100%	100%		



Ref	Measure	17 / 18 Actual	18 / 19 Target	Q4 Actual	Q4 Progress	Direction of travel
	intervention levels) repaired within 24 hours.					
PPT LI 15	% of network where structural maintenance should be considered:					
	a) Principal roads	0.30%	2.00%	0.30%		
	b) Non-Principal Roads	1.00%	4.00%	1.00%		
	c) Unclassified Roads	3.46%	9.00%	3%		
PPT LI 16	Bus service punctuality, Part 1: The proportion of non-frequent scheduled services on time (%):					
	a) Percentage of buses starting route on time	97.67%	98.55%	100%		
	b) Percentage of buses on time at intermediate timing points	84.83%	95.00%	86.58%		

### Supporting Commentary

Net housing completions are monitored annually as at 31st March each year. 2018/19 figures should be available next quarter.

Housing completions are monitored annually as at 31st March each year. 2018/19 figures should be available next quarter.

All outcomes remain in excess of targets. For the year as a whole Major applications are at 95% against a target of 60%, Minors are 95% against a target of 80% and Others are 97% against a target of 80%.

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.

This indicator of buses starting route on time has performed better than expected although operators have carried out scheduling work to improve the departure times from the terminus.

Although the percentage of buses on time at intermediate points has not been met the indicator has improved on last year by 1.75%. Operators continue to monitor service performance to improve intermediate timing point performance. Operators have also confirmed that traffic and roadworks are the main reasons for delays at intermediate timing points.

## 7.0 Financial Statements

## ECONOMY, ENTERPRISE & PROPERTY

### Revenue Budget as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019

	Annual Budget £'000	Actual £'000	Variance (Overspend) £'000
<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>			
Employees	4,870	4,882	(12)
Repairs & Maintenance	2,123	2,123	0
Premises	69	70	(1)
Energy & Water Costs	667	643	24
NNDR	543	541	2
Rents	377	378	(1)
Economic Regeneration Activities	20	18	2
Supplies & Services	2,132	2,112	20
Grants to Voluntary Organisations	56	56	0
Transfer to Reserves	402	402	0
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>11,259</b>	<b>11,225</b>	<b>34</b>
<b><u>Income</u></b>			
Fees & Charges	-316	-318	2
Rent – Markets	-773	-763	(10)
Rent – Investment Properties	-53	-53	0
Rent – Commercial Properties	-1,166	-1,171	5
Government Grant Income	-2,449	-2,449	0
Recharges to Capital	-82	-101	19
Schools SLA Income	-502	-468	(34)
Transfer from Reserves	-1,064	-1,064	0
Rent & Other Grant Income	-302	-309	7
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>-6,707</b>	<b>-6,696</b>	<b>(11)</b>
<b>Net Operational Expenditure</b>	<b>4,552</b>	<b>4,529</b>	<b>23</b>
<b><u>Recharges</u></b>			
Premises Support Costs	1,965	1,965	0
Transport Support Costs	25	23	2
Central Support Service Costs	2,122	2,122	0
Accommodation Income	-2,396	-2,396	0
Repairs & Maintenance Income	-2,402	-2,402	0
Central Support Service Income	-2,042	-2,042	0
Asset Rental Support Costs	1,530	1,530	0
<b>Net Total Recharges</b>	<b>-1,198</b>	<b>-1,200</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Net Department Expenditure</b>	<b>3,354</b>	<b>3,329</b>	<b>25</b>

### Comments on the above figures

The outturn position shows the department marginally underspent by £0.025m against an annual budget of £3.354m.

Finance worked closely with the Department in year to ensure a balanced budget was achieved which is reflected in the above figures. Detailed work was undertaken to identify the financial resources available to support the delivery of the service and allocate resources where needed most, ensuring budget pressures were met.

Whilst effective control can be maintained over expenditure, income still remains a budget pressure as the majority of the income is externally funded and difficult to factor in with certainty.

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

The significant budget variances are listed below.

The turnover of staff in the latter part of the year helped reduce the anticipated negative variance on employee costs. However, the staff turnover saving target was not achieved this year.

Employee budgets are based on full time equivalent staffing numbers of 122.

Following reconciliations by 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 expenditure on controllable budgets was kept to a minimum within the Department and this is reflected in the Supplies and Services budget.

The School SLA income target for the year was not achieved. Due to the increase in staffing costs, SLA charges have increased, which in turn resulted in schools choosing to use alternative providers.

Market rental actual income fell short of the budgeted target due to the open market not meeting its full capacity. Following a restructure within the Department and with focus being to promote the markets it is envisaged there will be an increase to income levels for 2019/20.

## Capital Projects as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019

<b>Capital Expenditure</b>	<b>2018/19 Capital Allocation £'000</b>	<b>Actual Spend £'000</b>	<b>Total Allocation Remaining £'000</b>
3MG	399	399	0
Former Crossville Depot	440	109	331
Advertising Screen at The Hive	100	0	100
Stadium – Karalius Suite	260	246	14
Sci Tech Daresbury	382	286	96
Murdishaw Development	38	0	38
Broseley House	1,190	729	461
Equality Act Improvement Works	150	146	4
Venture Fields	41	0	41
Widnes Market Refurbishment	1,191	1,080	111
Linnets Club House	287	88	199
Solar Farm – Golf Course	100	68	32
The Croft	30	0	30
Decontamination of Land	50	51	-1
<b>Net Expenditure</b>	<b>4,658</b>	<b>3,202</b>	<b>1,456</b>

### Comments on the above figures.

**3MG** - It's been a successful year for 3MG. Alstom have continued to secure further contracts. Stobart's opened a new Energy and Rail HQ and Liberty commenced a new speculative unit at Liberty Park.

**Former Crossville Depot** – The redevelopment of this site has been completed. Awaiting receipt of final account.

**Broseley House** – The acquisition of Broseley House was completed and will be developed along with adjoining site of the former magistrate's court and police station.

**The Croft** – The former Croft Public House had been closed and the site subject of anti-social behaviour and was visually unattractive. The sale has been agreed and to develop the site for residential use as assisted living units of accommodation.

**Venture Fields** - The initial phase of the LPW development at Venture Fields is complete. Retention monies are being withheld as there is still some excavated material on the adjacent land associated with the project to remove, as soon as this is dealt with all retention monies will be released.

**Karalius Suite** - The refurbishment of the Karalius Suite, which is now complete, has seen the room be significantly enlarged and provided with new associated facilities such as a new bar area and refurbished toilets.

**Equality Act Improvement Works** - Access improvement works have been undertaken to a number of premises including Picow Farm Depot, Ditton Library, Municipal Building and Oakmeadow. The Council have also commenced on a project to update access audits to public buildings with a view to implementing a programme of upgrade works later in the year.

**Sci-Tech Daresbury** - EZ Capital Grant is almost fully drawn down as the JV develops the Project Violet scheme. The project is currently out to tender and work is ongoing to secure the funding from Chrysalis for the delivery of the buildings.

**Widnes Market** - Final account now agreed for the roofing works; the remaining Widnes Market projects are to be prioritised within the remaining available budget for completion in the next financial year 2019/2020

**Linnets** - The final snagging items to the new build Pavilion are currently being completed; the ventilation system works are all complete; the new power supply and new water supply to the existing junior changing block are almost complete and final snagging items are being carried out

	Annual Budget £'000	Actual £'000	Variance (Overspend) £'000
<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>			
Employees	4,558	4,212	346
Other Premises	168	125	43
Contracted Services	243	322	(79)
Supplies & Services	163	276	(113)
Street Lighting	1,731	1,373	358
Highways Maintenance	2,465	2,228	237
Fleet Transport	1,318	1,102	216
Lease Car Contracts	1	5	(4)
Bus Support	649	740	(91)
Grants to Vol. Organisations	61	61	0
LCR Levy	882	882	0
NRA Levy	64	64	0
Contribution to Reserves	526	526	0
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>12,829</b>	<b>11,916</b>	<b>913</b>
<b><u>Income</u></b>			
Sales	-351	-278	(73)
Planning Fees	-526	-448	(78)
Building Control Fees	-209	-206	(3)
Other Fees & Charges	-646	-895	249
Rent	-9	0	(9)
Grants & Reimbursements	-370	-413	43
Government Grant Income	-135	-135	0
Efficiency Savings	-100	-66	(34)
Schools SLAs	-43	-45	2
Capital Salaries	-317	-203	(114)
LCR Levy Reimbursement	-882	-882	0
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>-3,588</b>	<b>-3,571</b>	<b>(17)</b>
<b>Net Operational Expenditure</b>	<b>9,241</b>	<b>8,345</b>	<b>896</b>
<b><u>Recharges</u></b>			
Premises Recharges	642	642	0
Transport Recharges	771	784	(13)
Asset Charges	8,558	8,558	0
Central Recharges	1,733	1,733	0
Transport Recharge Income	-4,896	-4,722	(174)
Central Recharge Income	-866	-866	0
<b>Net Total Recharges</b>	<b>5,942</b>	<b>6,129</b>	<b>(187)</b>
<b>Net Department Expenditure</b>	<b>15,183</b>	<b>14,474</b>	<b>709</b>

**Comments on the above figures**

The outturn position shows the department underspending by £0.709m against an annual budget of £15.183m.

Employee expenditure is under budget due to staffing vacancies within the Building Control team and the Highways division. From January 2019 a shared building control service has been entered into with KMBC which will result in a reduction to the variance in 2019/20

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

Other premises related expenditure has come in under budget due to a reduction in costs for Lowerhouse Lane Depot.

Supplies and services are over budget due in the main to surveys that have needed to be conducted within the Planning division, there have also been small overspends within the rest of the department.

Street lighting has come in under budget due to a reduction in street lighting maintenance costs during the year, this is because of the introduction of the LED street light replacement programme. A new contract for street lighting energy was agreed in March 2019, costs for the next year will increase by approximately 21% over current levels.

Fleet transport costs have come in under budget. Due to continuation of the fleet transport capital programme, vehicles are being replaced at optimum times for newer and more efficient models, this has led to a reduction in consumable costs like vehicle parts, tyres and fuel. Reduction in these costs has the knock on impact of recharges for front line service vehicles being less than forecast.

As in previous years, bus support costs continue to be over the allocated budget.. Existing supported routes are in place with no budget provision allocated against them. This has been reviewed as part of the 2019/20 budget setting exercise which will reduce the negative impact next year.

Sales income targets have not been achieved due to Halton Hopper ticket income and external fuel sales not meeting allocated budgets.

Planning fees have come in under budget due to a shortfall against planning applications. Building control income however was only £3,000 under achieved. This will be helped in 2019/20 due to the shared service with KMBC.

Other fees and charges income has over achieved. This is due to additional income being received in relation to Section 74 Overrun charges, inspection fees and also repairs income.

Capital salaries has not achieved its income target for the year but this has been offset by the underspend on employee costs.

## PLANNING & TRANSPORTATION

### Capital Projects as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019

Capital Expenditure	2018/19 Capital Allocation £'000	Actual Spend £'000	Total Allocation Remaining £'000
<b><u>Local Transport Plan</u></b>			
<b>Bridges &amp; Highway Maintenance</b>			
Bridge Assess, Strength & Maintenance	1,546	300	1,246
Road Maintenance	2,093	755	1,338
<b>Total Bridge &amp; Highway Maintenance</b>	<b>3,639</b>	<b>1,055</b>	<b>2,584</b>
<b>Integrated Transport</b>	<b>460</b>	<b>317</b>	<b>143</b>
<b>STEP Schemes</b>	<b>2,643</b>	<b>682</b>	<b>1,961</b>
<b>SJB MM – Arch Painting</b>	<b>6,665</b>	<b>6,246</b>	<b>419</b>
<b>SJB deck reconfiguration</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>600</b>
<b>SJB decoupling</b>	<b>9,596</b>	<b>599</b>	<b>8,997</b>
<b>KRN – Earle Rd Gyratory</b>	<b>1,150</b>	<b>913</b>	<b>237</b>
<b>Ditton Loops</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>675</b>	<b>325</b>
<b>Total Local Transport Plan</b>	<b>25,753</b>	<b>10,487</b>	<b>15,266</b>
<b>Halton Borough Council</b>			
Street Lighting	282	68	214
Lighting Upgrades	500	160	340
Risk Management	80	0	80
Fleet Vehicles	1,013	557	456
Travelodge / Watkinson Way footpath	130	2	128
SUD Green Cycle	0	3	(3)
<b>Total Halton Borough Council</b>	<b>2,005</b>	<b>790</b>	<b>1,215</b>
<b>Total Capital Expenditure</b>	<b>27,758</b>	<b>11,277</b>	<b>16,481</b>

#### Comments on the above figures.

The STEP (Sustainable Transport Enhancement Package) programme is in its fourth year and expenditure is continuing.

The SJB (Silver Jubilee Bridge) various programmes are continuing into 2019/20. Due to various weather conditions works are taking longer than originally anticipated.

KRN Earle Rd Gyratory works are still continuing and will go into 2019/20.

Works are continuing on the lighting maintenance upgrade programme.

New capital projects have started such as Travelodge / Watkinson Way and the SUD Green Cycle. These began towards the end of the year so expenditure is expected to be much higher in 2019/20.



## COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT

### Revenue Budget as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019

	Annual Budget £'000	Actual £'000	Variance (Overspend) £'000
<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>			
Employees	14,021	14,179	(158)
Other Premises	2,095	2,205	(110)
Supplies & Services	1,115	1,051	64
Book Fund	158	129	29
Hired & Contracted Services	1,174	1,157	17
Food Provisions	506	504	2
School Meals Food	1,980	2,105	(125)
Transport	51	134	(83)
Other Agency Costs	327	342	(15)
Waste Disposal Contracts	5,900	5,874	26
Grants to Voluntary Organisations	67	19	48
Grant to Norton Priory	172	174	(2)
Rolling Projects	20	20	0
Capital Financing	407	429	(22)
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>27,993</b>	<b>28,322</b>	<b>(329)</b>
<b><u>Income</u></b>			
Sales Income	(1,829)	(1,325)	(504)
School Meals Sales	(2,368)	(2,315)	(53)
Fees & Charges Income	(6,137)	(5,460)	(677)
Rents Income	(231)	(221)	(10)
Government Grant Income	(1,198)	(1,072)	(126)
Reimbursements & Other Grant Income	(681)	(671)	(10)
Schools SLA Income	(1,347)	(1,357)	10
Internal Fees Income	(171)	(220)	49
School Meals Other Income	(254)	(240)	(14)
Catering Fees	(114)	(102)	(12)
Capital Salaries	(172)	(173)	1
Rolling Projects Income	0	(45)	45
Transfers From Reserves	(341)	(394)	53
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>(14,843)</b>	<b>(13,595)</b>	<b>(1,248)</b>
<b>Net Operational Expenditure</b>	<b>13,150</b>	<b>14,727</b>	<b>(1,577)</b>
<b><u>Recharges</u></b>			
Asset Charges	5,213	5,213	0
Central Support Services	3,665	3,665	0
HBC Support Costs Income	(421)	(421)	0
Transport Recharges	3,069	2,894	175
Premises Support	1,558	1,558	0
<b>Net Total Recharges</b>	<b>13,084</b>	<b>12,909</b>	<b>175</b>
<b>Net Department Expenditure</b>	<b>26,234</b>	<b>27,636</b>	<b>(1,402)</b>

### Comments on the above figures

The net Department spend is £1.402 million over budget at the end of the 2018/19 financial year.

Employee spend is over budget for the year, partly 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 for the year was £879,000, in contrast to £635,000 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 £163,000 compared to £95,000 in 2017/18, with School Meals the main cause of this increase.

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

Premises spend was £110,000 over budget in 2018/19. Utilities costs have risen throughout the Department, with Kingsway Leisure Centre, Halton Lea Library and the Stadium all significantly over budget. Repair and maintenance costs for the Leisure Centres are significantly over budget due to the high costs of maintaining the ageing buildings. There have been some significant one-off premises costs in the Department this year, including £15,000 for concrete grave plinths at Runcorn Cemetery and £43,000 for a new plant control panel at Brookvale Leisure Centre.

Transport costs for the year are overspent by £83,000. This is due to additional Mersey Gateway toll charges being incurred across the Department. Budgets have been provided in 2019/20 to cover these additional costs.

There was an underspend of £26,000 on the new waste contract in 2018/19. Funding set aside in 2017/18 to cover estimated costs was over provided thereby creating the in-year saving.

Sales income was £504,000 short of budget in 2018/19. There was a significant underachievement on food and drink sales in Commercial Catering and the Stadium. Sales at the Stadium were negatively influenced by low attendances at Widnes Vikings games during the year. There was also no sponsorship income received for the Stadium in 2018/19. Registrar's income decreased by £37,000 from 2017/18 and was significantly short of target. Food and drink sales at The Brindley performed well and were £49,000 over the target for 2018/19.

Fees and charges income underachieved by £677,000 in 2018/19. Stadium executive box hire was £57,000 short of its target as sales decreased markedly due to Widnes Vikings' relegation from Super League. Gym membership at the Stadium underachieved by £64,000 this year due to the closure of the main gym from April 2019 and the associated reduction in membership renewals. Pitch booking fees at the Stadium also decreased this year as the pitch was replaced and therefore not in use for three months. There was no major concert at the Stadium in 2018/19 and therefore the events income target of £103,000 was not met. Fee income at the Leisure Centres underachieved by £488,000. A major reason for this was due to severe difficulties in the recruitment of swimming and fitness instructors, leading to cancelled swimming lessons and a lack of fitness classes, and should therefore be considered alongside a staffing understand of over £250,000 across the three centres.

Although many areas of the Department struggled to meet income targets, there were areas that generated increased income during 2018/19. Crematorium fees exceeded their income target by £59,000, with the introduction of the new Resident's Funeral Package proving popular. The Brindley increased their lettings and promotions income from last year, and exceeded their target by £7,000. Green waste collection fees again performed well, exceeding the forecast income by £52,000.

Government Grant income fell £126,000 short of target due to a £215,000 shortfall in income due for Universal Infants Free School Meals. Free children numbers have fallen dramatically in the last few years and this source of funding has been exacerbated by more schools converting to academies where this funding cannot be charged. This shortfall had a significant impact on the overall Schools Catering budget.

Transport recharges were lower than expected in Open Spaces and Waste Management during 2018/19 which contributed a £175,000 underspend to the Departmental outturn figure.

Income budgets have been reduced where possible as part of setting 2019/20 budgets, although based on current estimates income will continue to fall short of targets in 2019/20.

## COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT

### Capital Projects as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019

Capital Expenditure	2018/19 Capital Allocation £'000	Actual Spend £'000	Total Allocation Remaining £'000
Stadium Minor Works	50	42	8
Stadium Pitch	300	279	21
Children's Playground Equipment	57	67	(10)
Landfill Tax Credits Scheme	340	0	340
Crow Wood Park	478	218	260
Peelhouse Lane Cemetery	500	135	365
Peelhouse Lane Cemetery – Enabling Works	33	21	12
Phoenix Park	104	98	6
Runcorn Hill Park	5	-22	27
Sandymoor Playing Fields	1,032	839	193
Town Park	280	6	274
Bowling Greens	0	2	(2)
Brindley Café Extension	80	0	80
Victoria Park Glasshouses	170	0	170
Open Spaces Projects	511	468	43
Widnes & Runcorn Cemeteries – Garage & Storage	190	11	179
Litter Bins	20	20	0
<b>Net Expenditure</b>	<b>4,150</b>	<b>2,184</b>	<b>1,964</b>

#### Comments on the above figures.

**Stadium Minor Works** – New equipment has been purchased for the Stadium this year, including chairs and tables which should lead to revenue savings as these are currently being hired when needed. Equipment has also been purchased for the newly refurbished Karalius Suite in order to increase its appeal to potential hirers.

**Stadium Pitch** – It was necessary to replace the iPitch this year as the previous pitch did not meet FIFA standards for football matches. The work is mostly complete and the pitch is now in use by Widnes Vikings and Widnes FC. The contractor needs to come back on site to complete the works in the next couple of months.

**Children's Playground Equipment** – This is an ongoing project which includes spend on maintenance and improvements within the borough's playgrounds.

**Crow Wood Park** – On site building work is now 50% complete.

**Peelhouse Lane Cemetery** – The enabling works are almost complete, with only a small number of charges left to come in. Phase 3 of the main works have recently commenced and should take approximately 16 weeks depending on weather conditions.

**Phoenix Park** – The works at Phoenix Park have now been completed, and there is a retention payment of £2,500 due to pay in 2019/20.

**Runcorn Hill Park** - The main building works are now complete and the scheme has been closed. The remaining works to be completed on the area boundaries will be included under Open Spaces Projects.

**Sandymoor Playing Fields** – The main works have now been completed and the site is under a 12 month establishment / maintenance project. There are still some invoices from the contractors which have not yet been received.

**Town Park** – Work on the Southern Pathways at the Town Park is in an early phase and it is hoped that this will go out to tender in early summer.

**Bowling Greens** – Plans are currently being drawn up for the improvement works at Runcorn Hill. The removal of the King George V Bowling Green is currently on hold awaiting the demolition of the pavilion by Property Services.




**Open Spaces Projects** – Projects completed this year include works at Wood Lane, Prescott Road and the Sankey Canal sluice. Works at the Bridgewater (Crosville) site have been completed and the area is now under a 12 month establishment / maintenance contract which will need to be funded in 2019/20. Works on the boundary at Runcorn Town Hall are almost complete, as are works at Barrows Green, with some snagging items outstanding. Works are continuing at the Runcorn Ski Slope car park and Sunnybank Park. Work is due to start on the Town Park / Phoenix Park BMX Pump Track in May 2019 as grant funding has now been secured. Design work has been completed for the Runcorn Station Piazza and the scheme is currently awaiting confirmation of funding in order to progress further. Consultant engineers are currently working on the Runcorn Locks scheme, with their report due in May.

**Widnes & Runcorn Cemeteries – Garage & Storage** - Works have commenced on site and should take approximately 10 weeks.




## 8.0 Application of Symbols

Symbols are used in the following manner:

### Progress Symbols

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

### Direction of Travel Indicator

Green 	Indicates that performance <b>is better</b> as compared to the same period last year.
Amber 	Indicates that performance <b>is the same</b> as compared to the same period last year.
Red 	Indicates that performance <b>is worse</b> 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.