

Period: 01st October to 31st December 2022

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 2022 / 23 for service areas within the remit of the Employment, Learning, Skills and Community (ELSC) Policy and Performance Board.
- 1.2 Key priorities for development or improvement in 2022 - 23 were agreed by Members and included in Directorate Plans, for the various functional areas reporting to Employment, Learning, Skills and Community (ELSC) Policy & Performance Board i.e.
 - Employment, Learning and Skills
 - Library and Culture and Leisure Services
- 1.3 The emergence of the global COVID19 pandemic early in 2020 has had a significant and unavoidable impact upon Council services the full extent of which is yet to become known. The Council, along with key partner agencies, has prioritised its resources upon mitigating the serious risks to public health, the protection of vulnerable residents, and the social cohesion of the local community. In developing appropriate responses to emerging national and local priorities this situation is likely to remain the case for the foreseeable future.
- 1.4 The way in which traffic light symbols have been used to reflect progress to date is explained within Section 7 of this report.

2.0 Key Developments

- 2.1 There have been a number of developments during the period which include:-

2.2 Employment, Learning and Skills

- Extension was granted for the LCR Apprenticeship Support by Be More team to the end of Q3.

Community & Environment

2.3 Culture

The Brindley Theatre and Events

- The Brindley Theatre bookings diary continues to increase with 2023 and 2024 virtually full with bookings now being taken into 2025.
- Two new double entrance doors have been installed within the Café in order to facilitate the new temporary entrance for when the refurbishment works take place in 2023.
- This year's sponsored fireworks display was the best ever, set against the backdrop of the iconic Silver Jubilee Bridge. With an estimate of over 40,000 people viewing the fireworks across the borough. The Silver Jubilee Bridge was closed for the day and used at the launch site for the display.

- The Events Team could not have put on this year's event without the sponsorship and support of the below local companies:
- Marshall/CDP
- Langtree
- Beesley & Fildes
- Eddie Stobart
- DCBL
- Esken
- Tarmac
- Halton Housing

The Events Team in partnership with the Mayoral Office supported the local British Legions Remembrance Day Services at both Victoria Park and Runcorn Cenotaph. Both services were very well attended with the numbers now gathering increasing each year.

2.4

Community Centres

All our Community Centres are open to offer a safe and warm place for people to visit. Customers are made welcome and can be signposted to other organisation which may be able to help them.

The Centres are in need of new Chairs to replace the current ones we have, we have secured Area forum funding to help fund the new chairs.

Castlefields Community Centre

- Castlefields Community Centre held a Table Top Sale on 8th October, we had 17 tables booked in which helped local residents to clear their unwanted household items and the raise some funds to help with their Christmas purchases. Recycling is an approach we have been encouraging with our waste and recycling team who attend the Centres to promote the correct way to dispose of unwanted items and recyclable waste. We have also been involved in the re-cycling of coats where members of the public donated coats they no longer used at each Community Centre and they held events at the Centres week commencing 21st November.
- Roaming Planetarium Events were held in the Community Centres during half term week in October, teaching children and families about the Planets in the Solar System, this was a free event for Families. The Brownies and their leaders from Castlefields attended this event.
- The Centre held a Halloween Party for Children and their Families on 30th October, this was part funded by Halton Castle Area Forum, the event was well attended, Aladdins Cave Entertainments hosted the Party which was enjoyed by all the local residents which attended.
- We held two Christmas Parties Events in December, One for Adults and one for Children. Both partly funded by Halton Castle Area Forum. Entertainment was provided at each event and hot meal was provided for the Adult Party. Each event was fully booked. We used a small room off the Hall as a Grotto where children took it in turns to visit Father Christmas.
- We distributed Creativity Boxes which were donated to families in Halton by Split Perspectivz CIC. The boxes were jam-packed with mental health activities and methods, validated by Samaritans. They allowed children to follow the Boat of Hope campaign. They improve literacy. They are much needed at Christmas. They show families that somebody cares.
- Castlefields Community Centre have also been able to relocate a local Charity, Access to Support who work with vulnerable young adults in Halton with space after their office was flooded just before Christmas.
- We have had an increase in weekend bookings for private children's parties covering 8 out of 12 weekends and have also been able to offer Trinity Safe Space our main hall for their Project Events.

Grangeway Community Centre

- Halton Housing held a Halloween Party in October, this was a free event for Families. They had many stalls, a bouncy castle and games for children and they provided hot food and drink, this was very well attended by over 250 local residents.
- Cheshire Police used Grangeway Community Centre For Mischief Night, We Supplied the police with hot food and refreshments which was funded by Community Safety
- New training bookings started in October for people wanting to work on building sites, to gain their CSCS Card. This will help people to gain work in the building trade.
- Halton Housing held an advice day in November at Grangeway, it was very well attended by local residents, and they provided information stalls. The Health Bus providing Covid information was also present on the side carpark.
- We have a new booking Christmas Table Decorations and Wreath Making by a local Florist
- Runcorn Comets Fundraising Prize Bingo helped raise funds for their Group, with over 90 people attending.
- Pick a coat day was held in November at Grangeway, we had a fantastic turn out we gave out 250 coats on the day.
- The 6th Runcorn Beavers And Cub Scouts held their Christmas Bingo with prizes and gifts to help support The Scouts annual outings
- Halton Borough Council held a toy Sale people donated new toys and they were sold at the event with funds made going to Halton Food Banks.
- Sure start to Later Life held a Christmas Event, with entertainment Food and refreshments.
- Grangeway Forum in partnership Halton Borough Council held a Bingo we sold 120 tickets with plenty of prizes which were donated. Everyone received a hot drink and Mince Pie.
- In December Runcorn Comets held their Christmas party at the Centre with Games and plenty of food for people to eat
- Grangeway Community Centre held 2 Christmas Events One for the Children and one for Adults both with entertainment. The small office in reception was set out as a Grotto for the children to meet with Father Christmas, all children were given a small gift.
- Halton Lodge Pre School held their Christmas Party too in December and used the Grotto for the young children to visit Santa.

Ditton Community Centre

- Wonky Gardens held an open day in October where they opened the gardens up to the public and provided refreshments and information on a range of topics that was well attended. Wonky Gardens also donated a lovely planted Christmas Tree in the Centre and decorated it with traditional handmade decorations.
- We also had a new meditation group starting on Monday evenings in October.
- Halton Skies held a Halloween family event that was free to attend, with tombolo stalls and refreshments also they had pumpkin lantern making activity for the children. They also had a local dance school who provided a dance display for people's entertainment.
- The Community Centre held a Christmas party that was part funded by area forum that provided entertainment refreshments and food that was well attended and enjoyed by all
- Children's centre held a baby's 1st Christmas party where the children were entertained by doing crafts with the parents. They also had a breakfast with Santa where the children were given a present, each event was free.

Murdishaw Community Centre

- The Centre's family Hallowe'en party took place on 31st October. With all 75 tickets being sold well in advance we were sure of a good turnout, it was nice to see some familiar faces and some new after a three year gap (due to Covid restrictions) all thoroughly enjoying themselves. As in the past the Centre was extensively decorated for the Hallowe'en party (thanks to Centre staff members - Julie assisted by Gill) drawing many complimentary comments from centre users and partygoers alike. Area Forum Funding enabling tickets to be sold at a subsidised cost. Thanks to Rachel Prime (H.B.C.'s Community Development Officer) for supporting with the funding bid for this event and the Christmas event and for assisting on the night.
- "Pick a coat for free" day was held on Monday 21st November. This was the culmination of several weeks collecting donated coats as part of Halton & St. Helens VCA initiative to redistribute unwanted coats to those in need, throughout Halton, by holding such events in several Community Centres and at their base in Widnes.
- The Centre's Family Christmas party took place on Friday 16th December with all 75 tickets being sold two weeks beforehand. Area Forum Funding subsidised the event and as in previous years Aladdin's Cave provided the music & entertainment, with families having time to visit Santa in his Grotto, plus arts & crafts on offer too (Thanks to Rachel Prime for supervising the latter) with lots of happy faces during and after the party. We began putting up the Christmas decorations and tree at the end of November (Santa's Grotto was assembled just for the party). We received a lot of positive feedback from Centre users as to how festive and attractive they made the Centre look and feel (A big thank you to Julie ably assisted by Gill for their efforts decorating the Centre).

Upton Community Centre

- JM Excellence in Training has begun a block booking, Monday to Wednesday, except school holidays. The young people will be working towards a sport qualification and as well as English and Maths qualifications. This is continuing.
- Sure Start to later life have had their monthly event for Christmas, Upton CC provided the food for their event this time. Upton CC will continue to cater for event in 2023.
- Vibe have started to use the climbing wall now that the service on the wall has been completed. The ropes which needed to be replaced have been replaced. Vibe ran half term activities in the sports hall.
- Elite Coaching Solutions have used the sports hall for the half term holidays too.
- We collected coats for the Halton & St Helens VCA and had a great response. They also ran an event here for giving them away to the local community.

HEARTS held the annual panto here in December. This year it was Cinderella. Tickets were sold to the local Community and they also held a performance for the School Children. The Mayor attended on the final day.

2.5 Library Service

Resources

- The implementation of the new public VDI PC offer has started with the install of the new equipment at Ditton Library, in December 2022. The HBC IT team will roll out this offer to the other service points from mid-January 2023. The new equipment will provide library users with greater opportunities for searching and improve learning opportunities plus the new offer can be fixed remotely thereby avoiding long periods of down time.

Outreach

- New partnership with Halton Hospital – promotion of library service and ebooks. Bookstart packs supplied for children’s waiting rooms. Agreement with Tesco, Widnes for promotion of the service and Summer Reading Challenge in the foyer. Visited 2 Age UK groups and the Carers’ Centre Forum to promote relevant aspects of the service.
- Resulted in new joiners and new members of the Home Library Service. We continue to provide memory boxes for use by care homes. Recent evaluation of the scheme has confirmed that care homes are using them for the wellbeing of the residents
- Health- National Reading Well for teens collection of books launched, all available in every library. Promotion to schools and youth organisations. World Mental Health Day - Nightstop CIC had a stand and workshops at Halton Lea and Widnes Libraries.

Halton Lea & Runcorn Libraries

- ‘Stay Well, Stay Warm’ coffee mornings have been consistently popular since their launch in October and plan to run through to Feb 23- attendance figures for Runcorn and Halton Lea from Oct- Dec 22 totalled 145 people.
- Requests for a regular Scrabble club were received from Runcorn library coffee morning participants, which we piloted and has been gaining steady popularity with attendance from a handful of people each week.
- October hosted 2 x one off events in Runcorn and Halton Lea- an art exhibition and local history evening talk- bringing in over 65 people to attend these events
- ‘Saturday Squad’ launched for seasonal festive activities- all events sold out (free to participate) with all tickets being allocated for each weekly session- participation numbers for Runcorn and Halton Lea total- 145 people
- An additional live music Christmas family Rhyme Time was put on in December in Halton Lea with record attendance for similar sessions of 40 children and 40 adults for this 1 x 60 minute session
- This year was the first in several that Halton Library Service remained open in between Christmas and New Year and Halton Lea welcomed over 150 people through the doors on the first day open (Wednesday 28th December 22)

Widnes & Ditton Libraries

- We were pleased to welcome BBC Radio 4 to our December Stay Warm, Stay Well event at Widnes Library. Their article for the Moneybox programme focussed on libraries as warm, welcoming spaces and included interviews with Energy Projects Plus and Age UK which both ran outreach sessions at the event.
- Mako and Daresbury SciTech have been working in partnership since October to deliver Code Clubs aimed at 10-17 year olds at Widnes Library. The monthly events, which will continue to March 2023, have proven to be popular and have all sold out to date.
- Lego Club at Ditton library has continued to grow since its launch in September 2022, with 118 children attending during Quarter 3.
- During October half term library staff delivered a range of Autumn/Halloween themed crafts and activities at both Widnes and Ditton libraries. The free events all sold out on Eventbrite, though limited drop in places were also available.

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:-

Employment, Learning & Skills

3.2 Employment, Learning & Skills

- If successful, recruitment of specialist staff for the Home Office employability programme will take place in Q4.
- Preparations for an Ofsted inspection will continue in Q4 with an adult learning inspection being imminent. A real focus will be on safeguarding of young people accessing the service in particular.
- The Division will cease the delivery of the LCR Apprenticeship Support by Be More project on the 31st January 2023 and the Team will no longer be employed in the Division.

Community & Environment

3.3 Culture Services

None detailed

3.5 Library Service

None detailed

4.0 High Priority Equality Actions

4.1 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.

4.2 The Council's latest annual progress report in relation to the achievement of its equality objectives is published on the Council website and is available via:

<http://www4.halton.gov.uk/Pages/councildemocracy/Equality-and-Diversity.aspx>




5.0 Performance Overview

The following information provides a synopsis of progress for both milestones and performance indicators across the key business areas that have been identified by the Directorate.

Employment, Learning & Skills



Key Objectives / milestones











Ref	Objective
EEP 01	Employment Learning and skills

Milestone	Progress Q3	Supporting Commentary
To manage and sustain employment support programmes Work Programme by March 2023		A number of employment programmes are in operation with some being funded beyond March 2023.
To deliver a Liverpool City Region Apprenticeship Graduation Ceremony by September 2022		The Liverpool City Region Apprenticeship Graduation ceremony took place as planned, at Anfield stadium
To develop, in partnership with the CA/LCR CAs, a Pathways to Teaching in Adult Learning route way by September 2022		PTT developed as planned, with the other LAs in the LCR. Recruitment for tutors and learners commenced in Autumn Term (September to December), with delivery across all programmes planned to commence in January 2023

Appendix 2: Progress Against Performance Indicators

Ref	Description	Actual 2021 / 22	Target 2022 / 23	Quarter 3 Position	Current Progress	Direction of Travel	Supporting Commentary
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EEP LI 08	Number of Enrolments (Adult Learning).	698	2500	494			The service is still working hard to redress the impact of Covid. Recruitment delays impacted the ability of the service to run its full curriculum in Q3, along with key members remaining on long term sick. This had a notable impact on capacity
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Ref	Description	Actual 2021/22	Target 2022/23	Quarter 3 Position	Current Progress	Direction of Travel	Supporting Commentary
EEP LI 09	Number of People supported into work (HPiJ).	333	750	130			130 customers were supported into employment across all employment programmes in Q3. Cumulative number of customers supported into work 450 via HPIJ
EEP LI 10	Percentage of learners achieving accreditation .	15%	20%	18%			There has been the introduction of a L3 Education and Training qualification. As well as further Distance Learning qualifications which have both supported in increasing the number of learners achieving a qualification. Additionally, the greater focus on timeliness has improved achievements in Maths and English.
EEP LI 11	Total number of job starts on DWP Work and Health and JETS programmes (Ingeus).	142	257	58			58 customers were supported into employment on Work and Health and JETS programme in Q3. Cumulative number of customers supported into work 215
EEP LI 12	Total number of job starts on DWP Restart programme (G4S). (New)	N/A	265	45			45 customers were supported into employment on Restart programme in Q2. Cumulative number of customers supported into work 160.
EEP LI 13	Number of Businesses Supported.	1091	500	31			As Covid business support has ended, efforts to increase business engagements are being made.

Ref	Description	Actual 2021/22	Target 2022/23	Quarter 3 Position	Current Progress	Direction of Travel	Supporting Commentary
EEP LI 14	Number of individuals supported into paid work placements (ILMs)	47	100	7			7 ILM's commenced in Q3. The number of young people aged 16-29yrs of age wanting to apply for ILM's has reduced. There was also an issue of double funding for customers on other programmes preventing them accessing ILM's.
EEP LI 15	Number of adult learners who feel prepared for choosing the next steps (e.g. into employment, another course, college/university etc.)	90%	100%	96%			Although an upward trend, the target for this remains as 100% as all learner should feel ready for next steps on completion. The service aims to provide wider ranging information and impartial Careers and progression advice through partnership with NCS and running events such as Careers Fairs and Open Evenings in Spring / Summer terms
EEP LI 16	Number of adult learners who have progressed onto another course	49%	52%	18%			Due to recruitment and long term sickness absence there has been limited delivery of non-accredited engagement courses
EEP LI 17	Deliver supported internships	N/A	10%	9%		N / A	There are currently 9 interns on programme, undertaking accredited qualifications in Employability . Learners also supported in developing maths and English skills.

Ref	Description	Actual 2021/22	Target 2022/23	Quarter 3 Position	Current Progress	Direction of Travel	Supporting Commentary
EEP LI 18	% Increase coverage in top 7 disadvantaged wards <i>(New)</i>	N/A	10%	15%	U	N / A	Difficulty obtaining clear ward data. The service will be using Power BI moving forwards to report more clearly on LSO areas and develop a marketing plan to increase engagement from deprived or in need areas









Community Services

Ref	Objective
CE 02	Develop a confident, energetic library service. Create a team that deliver pioneering projects with communities, from vibrant spaces & online. Establish the library service as an organisation embracing change, leading learning, - and contributing to a thriving Halton.

Milestone	Progress Q3	Supporting Commentary
Create a digital offer that utilises up to date technology and hardware options to ensure residents are able to access information, communication, & learning opportunities that support personal growth and individual ambition. March 2022		The implementation of the new public VDI PC equipment will offer the latest technology for accessing information and improving learning opportunities
Working in partnership, deliver an ambitious cultural programme that builds on the legacy of the Borough of Culture festival season, securing external funding to maximise impact, value & potential. March 2022		A Cultural Strategy is being produced.

Key Objectives / milestones

Key Performance Indicators

Ref	Description	Actual 2021/22	Target 2022/23	Quarter 3	Current Progress	Direction of Travel	Supporting Commentary
CE LI 07	Number of active users (physical & digital resources) of the library service during the last 12 months.	1,799,950	1,250,00	505,500			Number of active users (physical & digital resources) of the library service (October to December 2022) = 505,500
CE LI 08	Number of physical and virtual visits to libraries (annual total)	1,485,023	987,000	532,188			Number of physical and virtual visits to libraries (October to December 2022) = 532,188
CE LI 09	Increase in percentage of the population taking part in sport and physical activity at least twice in the last month (KPI 1 from Active Lives survey)	50.1%	53%				To be updated at year end
CE LI 10	Percentage of people physically inactive (KPI 2 from Active Lives survey)	38.9%	30%-				To be updated at year end

6.0 Financial Statements

ECONOMY ENTERPRISE & PROPERTY DEPARTMENT

Revenue Operational Budget as at 31 December 2022

	Annual Budget	Budget to Date	Actual	Variance (Overspend)	Forecast Outturn
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Expenditure					
Employee Related Expenditure	4,898	4,210	4,103	107	143
Pay Award	195	0	0	0	0
Repairs & Maintenance	2,347	1,631	1,681	(50)	(67)
Premises	92	90	90	0	0
Energy & Water Costs	895	500	594	(94)	(126)
NNDR	549	549	633	(84)	(84)
Rents	177	141	141	0	0
Economic Regeneration Activities	37	13	0	13	17
Security	486	329	345	(16)	(22)
Supplies & Services	618	434	430	4	5
Supplies & Services - Grant	1,284	574	574	0	0
Grants to Voluntary Organisations	130	103	103	0	0
Capital Finance	30	30	30	0	0
Transfer to Reserves	190	187	187	0	0
Total Expenditure	11,928	8,791	8,911	(120)	(134)
Income					
Fees & Charges Income	-773	-386	-386	0	0
Rent - Commercial Properties	-837	-517	-431	(86)	(115)
Rent - Investment Properties	-53	-43	-43	0	0
Rent - Markets	-796	-604	-583	(21)	(21)
Government Grant	-803	-803	-803	0	0
Reimbursements & Other Grant Income	-1,206	-726	-726	0	0
Schools SLA Income	-381	-381	-362	(19)	(19)
Recharges to Capital	-243	-71	-71	0	0
Transfer from Reserves	-1,883	-1,451	-1,576	125	125
Total Income	-6,975	-4,982	-4,981	(1)	(30)
Net Operational Expenditure	4,953	3,809	3,930	(121)	(164)
Recharges					
Premises Support	1,474	1,106	1,106	0	0
Transport Support	27	20	20	0	0
Central Support	2,082	1,562	1,562	0	0
Asset Rental Support	4	0	0	0	0
Recharge Income	-6,258	-4,693	-4,693	0	0
Net Total Recharges	-2,671	-2,005	-2,005	0	0
Net Departmental Expenditure	2,282	1,804	1,925	(121)	(164)

Comments on the above figures

The Department recognises the significant financial challenges they face and will continue to face into the near future, particularly given the elevated levels of inflation for commodities including fuel, energy, materials, and increased wage demands. Budget holders actively manage their budgets and work closely with the Financial Management team to try and achieve a balanced budget.

To date the Department is reporting net spend to be over the approved budget by £0.121m. The longer term forecast through to the end of the year estimates net spend will be above the annual budget by £0.164m.

Across the Investment & Development Division several posts are currently vacant due to a restructure that has taken place. Temporary resources are in place where it has been possible to find the appropriate skill set required. It is envisaged that the vacancies will not be filled this financial year. The delay in recruitment of staff has improved the employee budget position this quarter. The 2022/23 pay award was agreed in October.

The impact of increased energy and fuel costs continue to be monitored during the year and it is anticipated that current budget provision will not be sufficient to meet rising costs and will therefore be met from Council reserves. Latest forecasts show a 207% increase in Gas Costs and 64% electricity costs.

The Asset Management Service is currently forecasting a budget pressure of £0.285m which includes reduced rental income. This figure is inclusive of empty property business rates costs of £0.084m, repairs and maintenance costs of £0.042m to ensure buildings are in a satisfactory state for future tenants.

Work is ongoing to fill vacant properties. There will be a monetary impact of any delays.

The savings put forward to provide additional office space for external agencies at Rutland House will not be achieved this budget year. This budget pressure will continue into financial year 2023/24. It is important that any future savings put forward can be delivered and will not create an added budget pressure.

Due to adverse trading conditions in the retail sector which have been worsened by inflation and increased utilities costs, the department is projecting to under achieve on market rental income targets this budget year. During the last few months, the occupancy rate has dropped to 92%. This may be linked to the introduction of customers having to pay for parking outside the market.

The School Cleaning Service Level Agreement (SLA) is not covering its costs this budget year due to the need to employ agency staff to cover sickness and leave and the pay award. A review of SLA charges has been undertaken ahead of the next budget year.

ECONOMY ENTERPRISE & PROPERTY DEPARTMENT

Capital Projects as of 31 December 2022

	2022-23 Capital Allocation £'000	Allocation to Date £'000	Actual Spend £'000	Total Allocation Remaining £'000
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Expenditure				
3MG	164	18	18	146
Murdishaw Redevelopment	31	2	2	29
Equality Act Improvement Works	200	53	53	147
Widnes Market Refurbishment	6	6	6	0
Broseley House	21	7	7	14
Solar Farm Extension	11	0	0	11
Foundry Lane Residential Area	2,117	2,075	2,075	42
Kingsway Learning Centre Improved Facilities	36	0	0	36
Halton Lea TCF	388	353	353	35
Property Improvements	213	169	169	44
Astmoor Regeneration	14	14	14	0
Woodend - Former Unit 10 Catalyst Trade Park	500	79	79	421
Runcorn Station Building Development	110	60	60	50
St Paul Mews	500	500	515	(15)
Runcorn Town Centre Redevelopment	2,000	1,346	1,346	654
Total	6,311	4,682	4,697	1,614

Comments

3MG - Planning approval was granted for HBC Field and the Council will complete the transaction on 28th Feb 2023. Discussions have taken place with LCR colleagues in relation to the Tax Site status of 3MG and Culina have been referred to LCRs tax specialist for enquiries about a Custom site.

Murdishaw - The partnership development continues, supporting onward in leasing the former boxing club and establishing a CIC. Alongside this, work is ongoing to develop the outdoor space at Murdishaw Community Centre.

Equality Act Budget- There are several access type schemes using the equality act budget this year so it is anticipated the budget will be fully spent at year end.

Widnes Market Refurbishment - All Capital works have now been completed and all retentions paid

Broseley House - All works are complete on site, the only outstanding payment is the retention monies.

Solar Farm Extension - It has now been operational for 2 years. No major issues have been identified. The system is performing in line with expectations in terms of energy produced and income.

Foundry Lane – Project Works now well underway. Remediation Works to Phase 1 complete, with housing construction to commence mid 2023. Statutory planning documentation relating to Phase 2 currently being drawn up, due for submission in 2022/23 Q4.

Kingsway Learning Centre Improvement Works – Majority of the refurbishment works completed; redecoration works to the meeting rooms to be carried out.

Halton Town Centre Fund - This LCR funded programme is now complete

Property Improvements- There are a number of projects against this code including reroofing the fitness suite at the Stadium, lift replacement at Kingsway Learning Centre, and reroofing 73 High Street. There will also likely be some roofing works done at the Municipal Building.

Astmoor Regeneration –Langtree formally appointed as JV Partner with project design/approval underway. Full Development Agreement currently being drawn up – delayed due to HM Land Registry errors needing to be addressed. Full phased Work Programme agreed in draft.

Woodend Unit 10 Catalyst Trade Park- Refurbishment works have commenced on site due for completion prior to 31st March 2023. Likely expenditure circa £550,000

Runcorn Station Building Development - Architectural images of the station have been produced. Network Rail's Asset Manager has endorsed the options report, which is a key stage to progress the project. Project sponsor has been liaising with their Capital Delivery Team to discuss moving the project to the next stage and the requirements / resources needed from Network Rail to do that.

St Paul Mews- No further spend is likely until the last remaining tenant vacates the property then progress with the demolition work will continue.

COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT

Revenue Budget as at 31 December 2022

	Annual Budget	Budget to Date	Actual	Variance (Overspend)	Forecast Outturn
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Expenditure					
Employees	16,052	11,949	11,148	801	1,038
Premises	2,543	1,799	1,838	(39)	(100)
Supplies & Services	1,398	1,263	1,314	(51)	(99)
Hired & Contracted Services	890	121	243	(122)	(136)
Book Fund	146	125	114	11	14
Food Provisions	404	306	264	42	57
School Meals Food	1,872	1,568	1,406	162	216
Miscellaneous Transport Costs	115	86	81	5	6
Other Agency Costs	156	125	119	6	(69)
Other Expenditure	0	2	6	(4)	(6)
Waste Disposal Contracts	6,538	5,207	5,207	0	500
Grants to Voluntary Organisations	67	50	49	1	42
Grant to Norton Priory	172	173	174	(1)	(1)
Rolling Projects	0	5	20	(15)	(20)
Capital Financing	0	4	4	0	0
Total Expenditure	30,353	22,783	21,987	796	1,442
Income					
Sales Income	-1,309	-1,064	-924	(140)	(187)
School Meals Sales	-4,957	-3,530	-3,260	(270)	(380)
Fees & Charges Income	-5,546	-4,544	-4,501	(43)	(57)
Rental Income	-205	-157	-131	(26)	(35)
Government Grant Income	-359	-404	-404	0	45
Reimbursements & Other Grant Income	-597	-245	-242	(3)	(4)
Catering Fees	-88	-77	-55	(22)	(29)
Internal Fees Income	-247	-180	-100	(80)	(106)
Capital Salaries	-173	-120	-51	(69)	(93)
Transfers From Reserves	-747	-512	-512	0	0
Total Income	-14,228	-10,833	-10,180	(653)	(846)
Net Operational Expenditure	16,125	11,950	11,807	143	596
Recharges					
Premises Support	1,496	1,122	1,122	0	0
Transport	2,324	1,632	1,819	(187)	(250)
Central Support	4,449	3,337	3,337	0	0
Asset Rental Support	146	0	0	0	0
HBC Support Costs Income	-511	-383	-383	0	0
Net Total Recharges	7,904	5,708	5,895	(187)	(250)
Net Departmental Expenditure	24,029	17,658	17,702	(44)	346

Comments on the above figures

The net Department spend is £0.044m over the approved budget at the end of Quarter 3. The forecast outturn is likely to show an improvement on this and is estimated at £0.346m under the approved budget.

Net employee spend is below the budget to date by £0.801m, due to the number of vacancies within the department resulting from delays and difficulty in recruitment. This reflects vacancies within the school meals, leisure and open spaces services. Number of full time equivalent staff in the service is 425.

Premises costs are £0.039m over budget at the end of Quarter 3 with the forecast outturn estimated to be in the region of £0.100m over the approved budget. Costs for utilities across all sites are unclear for the final four months of the year given the increased cost of electricity and gas. Cost and usage will continue to be reviewed on a monthly basis and action taken to minimise where possible.

Spend on Supplies and Services is currently £0.051m over budget and spend on Hired Services is £0.122m over budget. This includes crematorium spend for the decommissioning of the temporary cremator plus equipment costs, including £8k/month for container hire.

The department has now received final invoices relating to 2021/22 waste disposal contracts. The indication is these costs are much lower than was forecast in finalising the 2021/22 accounts. The difference in actual cost to forecast is considered to be in the region of £0.500m but work is on-going to gain assurance over the final billed amount.

Charges for 2022/23 waste disposal contracts are calculated based on the average cost per tonne in the previous year. Further work will be undertaken in estimating costs for the full year to ensure accuracy of final estimated amounts.

Fees & Charges income is £0.043m under budget at the end of Quarter 3 and is not expected to hit budgeted targets. The cancellation of certain events, such as the Vintage Rally means that the associated income will not be realised. Shortfalls in income in the Leisure Centres and the Stadium plus a reduction in room hire at Community Centres and Libraries have also contributed under achieving income objectives.

Transport recharges are expected to be higher than budgeted due to fuel and other cost increases. This has resulted in an overspend against budget of £0.187m at the end of Quarter 3 with an estimated outturn overspend for 2022/23 of £0.250m.

Capital Projects as at 31 December 2022

Project Title	2022/23 Capital Allocation £'000	Allocation to Date £'000	Actual Spend £'000	Total Allocation Remaining £'000
Stadium Minor Works	37	10	9	28
Halton Leisure Centre	3,296	1,200	1,359	1,937
Brookvale Pitch Refurbishment	70	38	71	-1
Stadium decarbonisation scheme	0	0	117	-117
Open Spaces Schemes	450	157	157	293
Children's Playground Equipment	80	5	3	77
Upton Improvements	13	0	0	13
Crow Wood Park Play Area	39	25	27	12
Landfill Tax Credit Schemes	340	0	0	340
Runcorn Town Park	256	150	164	92
Widnes Crematorium, Replacement Cremator	200	200	242	-42
Spike Island / Wigg Island	60	5	1	59
Litter Bins	20	0	0	20
Totals	4,861	1,790	2,150	2,711

Comments on the above figures

Halton (Moor Lane) Leisure Centre

The estimated cost of the new leisure centre has increased significantly due to the current levels of inflation, scarcity of materials etc. The Leisure Centre contract start date is 09/01/23 for a 108 week build. Spend to date of £2.25m includes all works associated with the PCSDA and CPO etc. Anticipated spend of a further £760k bringing the total spend to £3m by 31st March 2023.

Brookvale Pitch Refurbishment

The scheme is now complete. An invoice is due February for £32,605 for the practical completion. There is a slight overspend due to additional fence panel/gate request works.

Stadium Decarbonisation Scheme

Grant-funded project to reduce the DCBL Stadium's carbon footprint. This involved replacing the gas boilers with air source heat pumps and installing LED lighting and additional installation. The scheme was completed in March 2022 with retentions due April 2023.

Open Spaces

This covers spending on a variety of externally funded projects, including Arley Drive/Halton Housing Trust and Fairfield History projects. Schemes on this code are progressing, although slightly behind the expenditure profile due to capacity issues.

Children's Playground Equipment

This is an ongoing project which includes spend on improvements within the Borough's playgrounds. A contract has been let for the majority of this spend and it is expected to have most of the budget spent this year.

Crow Wood Park

The main contract for the new park building has ended. A small amount of work to the building is required plus additional landscape contract to complete the paths - this is ongoing with some work from Property services and Open Spaces team to complete.

Landfill Tax Credits Schemes

Currently used to support improvements for a rolling programme of existing playgrounds/open space schemes across the Borough. There are no projects currently identified and minimal spend if any against this is anticipated in 2022/23.

Runcorn Town Park

Project to renew park infrastructure. Project is ongoing with 2 contractors on site expect to meet expenditure by end of financial year. Possibly some carry forward will be needed to complete work in season and for contingency payments.

Widnes Crematorium replacement Cremator

Contract works on the new cremator are complete. Some of this overspend is as a result of the original budget of £200k being based on the quote from a company that later had to drop out of the process because they failed to meet the financial solvency requirements HBC needed. The company who could meet our financial requirements quote was an additional £31k. A further £10k overspend is as a result of repairs required to unforeseen damage to the original building slab under the old cremator when it was removed.




Wigg/Spike Island Recovery Works

The programme is slightly behind due to staff capacity issues. Waiting for a consultancy agreement to be put in place so the scheme can progress using external help.





7.0 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 is <u>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 is better as compared to the same period last year.
Amber 	Indicates that performance is the same as compared to the same period last year.
Red 	Indicates that performance is worse as compared to the same period last year.
N / A 	Indicates that the measure cannot be compared to the same period last year.