REPORT: Children and Young People's Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 5th January 2009

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director Children and Young People Directorate

SUBJECT: Children &Young People's Policy and Performance Board Work Programme 2009/10

WARDS: Boroughwide

1.0 PURPOSE AND CONTENT OF REPORT

1.1 This report is the first step in developing a work programme of Topics for the Board to examine in 2009/10. While the Board ultimately determines its own Topics, suggestions for Topics to be considered may also come from a variety of other sources in addition to Members of the Board themselves, including members of the Council's Executive, other non-Executive Members, officers, the public, partner and other organisations, performance data and inspections.

1.2 The key tasks for Board Members are:

- to suggest and gather Topic ideas on issues relevant to the Board's remit;
- to decide on a work programme of 2 or 3 Topics to be undertaken in the next municipal year.

2.0 RECOMMENDED: that the Policy and Performance Board

(1) Put forward and debate its initial suggestions for Topics to be included in the Board's 2009/10 work programme

(2) Develop and informally consult on a shortlist of its own and others' 2009/10 Topic suggestions ahead of the Board's meeting on 23rd February 2009, bearing in mind the Council's Topic selection criteria

(3) Decide at its February 23rd 2009 meeting on a work programme of 2 or 3 Topics to be examined in 2009/10.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Annex 1 – Topic selection checklist

4.0   POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1   The Council's priorities are further developed through the 2009 / 10 scrutiny topics

5.0   OTHER IMPLICATIONS

None

6.0   IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1   **Children and Young People in Halton**

Selection of scrutiny topics for 2009 / 10 leads to further development of the Council's priorities

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

Selection of scrutiny topics for 2009 / 10 leads to further development of the Council's priorities

6.3   **A Healthy Halton**

Selection of scrutiny topics for 2009 / 10 leads to further development of the Council's priorities.

6.4   **A Safer Halton**

Selection of scrutiny topics for 2009 / 10 leads to further development of the Council's priorities

6.5   **Halton's Urban Renewal**

Selection of scrutiny topics for 2009 / 10 leads to further development of the Council's priorities

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

Topic <u>Selection</u> Checklist

This checklist leads the user through a reasoning process to identify a) why a topic should be explored and b) whether it makes sense to examine it through the overview and scrutiny process. More "yeses" indicate a stronger case for selecting the Topic.

#	CRITERION	Yes/No
	<u>Why</u>? Evidence for why a topic should be explored and included in the work programme	
1	Is the Topic **directly aligned with and have significant implications for at least 1 of Halton's 5 strategic priorities & related objectives/PIs, and/or a key central government priority?**	
2	Does the Topic **address an identified need** or issue?	
3	Is there a **high level of public interest or concern about the Topic** e.g. apparent from consultation, complaints or the local press	
4	Has the Topic been **identified through performance monitoring** e.g. PIs indicating an area of poor performance with scope for improvement?	
5	Has the Topic been **raised as an issue requiring further examination through a review, inspection or assessment, or by the auditor?**	
6	Is the Topic area likely to have a **major impact on resources or be significantly affected by financial or other resource problems** e.g. a pattern of major overspending or persisting staffing difficulties that could undermine performance?	
7	Has some **recent development or change** created a need to look at the Topic e.g. new government guidance/legislation, or new research findings?	
8	Would there be **significant risks** to the organisation and the community **as a result of <u>not</u> examining this topic**?	

	Whether? Reasons affecting whether it makes sense to examine an identified topic	
9	**Scope for impact** - Is the Topic something the Council can actually influence, directly or via its partners? Can we make a difference?	
10	**Outcomes –** Are there clear improvement outcomes (not specific answers) in mind from examining the Topic and are they likely to be achievable?	
11	**Cost: benefit** - are the benefits of working on the Topic likely to outweigh the costs, making investment of time & effort worthwhile?	
12	**Are PPBs the best way to add value** in this Topic area? Can they make a distinctive contribution?	
13	Does the organisation have the **capacity** to progress this Topic? (e.g. is it related to other review or work peaks that would place an unacceptable load on a particular officer or team?)	
14	Can PPBs contribute meaningfully given the **time** available?	