

Public Document Pack



Safer Halton Policy and Performance Board

Tuesday, 19 September 2006 6.30 p.m.
Town Hall, Runcorn

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'David W R'.

Chief Executive

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Councillor Shaun Osborne (Chairman)	Labour
Councillor John Stockton (Vice-Chairman)	Labour
Councillor Susan Edge	Labour
Councillor Martha Lloyd-Jones	Labour
Councillor Keith Morley	Labour
Councillor Ernest Ratcliffe	Liberal Democrat
Councillor Linda Redhead	Liberal Democrat
Councillor Colin Rowan	Conservative
Councillor Geoffrey Swift	Conservative
Councillor Dave Thompson	Labour
Councillor Pamela Wallace	Labour

*Please contact Michelle Simpson on 0151 424 2061 Ext. 1126 or e-mail michelle.simpson@halton.gov.uk for further information.
The next meeting of the Committee is on Tuesday, 14 November 2006*

**ITEMS TO BE DEALT WITH
IN THE PRESENCE OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Part I

Item No.	Page No.
<p>1. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS (INCLUDING PARTY WHIP DECLARATIONS)</p> <p>Members are reminded of their responsibility to declare any personal or personal and prejudicial interest which they have in any item of business on the agenda no later than when that item is reached and (subject to certain exceptions in the Code of Conduct for Members) to leave the meeting prior to discussion and voting on the item.</p>	
2. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME	1 - 2
3. EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES	3 - 10
4. DEVELOPMENT OF POLICY	
<p>(A) PRESENTATION - CIVIL CONTINGENCIES ACT The Board will receive a presentation from the Principal Emergency Planning Officer on the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 outlining the responsibilities and expectations for local responders during an emergency.</p>	
(B) ENVIRONMENTAL AND REGULATORY SERVICES DEPARTMENT - AREA WITHIN PPB'S REMIT	11 - 18
<p>(C) PREVENTING ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR - THE ROLE OF THE YOUTH SERVICE The Board will receive a talk from the Head of Halton Youth Service outlining the roles taken to prevent anti-social behaviour in the Borough.</p>	
<p>(D) COMMUNITY SAFETY - THE WAY AHEAD The Board will receive a presentation from the Community Fire Safety Manager – Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service providing an update on the latest community fire safety initiatives in and around Halton giving ideas for future improvement of partnership working.</p>	
(E) VANDALISM IN SCHOOLS	19 - 26
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In accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Act the Council is required to notify those attending meetings of the fire evacuation procedures. A copy has previously been circulated to Members and instructions are located in all rooms within the Civic block.

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REPORT TO: Safer Halton Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 19th September 2006

REPORTING OFFICER: Chief Executive

SUBJECT: Public Question Time

WARD(s): Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To consider any questions submitted by the Public in accordance with Standing Order 33 (5).

1.2 Details of any questions received will be circulated at the meeting.

2.0 RECOMMENDED: That any questions received be dealt with.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 Standing Order 34(11) states that Public Questions shall be dealt with as follows: -

- (i) A total of 30 minutes will be allocated for members of the public who are residents of the Borough, to ask questions at meetings of the Policy and Performance Boards.
- (ii) Members of the public can ask questions on any matter relating to the agenda.
- (iii) Members of the public can ask questions. Written notice of questions must be submitted by 4.00 pm on the day prior to the meeting. At any meeting no person/organisation may submit more than one question.
- (iv) One supplementary question (relating to the original question) may be asked by the questioner which may or may not be answered at the meeting.
- (v) The Chair or proper officer may reject a question if it:-
 - Is not about a matter for which the local authority has a responsibility or which affects the Borough;
 - Is defamatory, frivolous, offensive, abusive or racist;
 - Is substantially the same as a question which has been put at a meeting of the Council in the past six months; or
 - Requires the disclosure of confidential or exempt information.

- (vi) In the interests of natural justice, public questions cannot relate to a planning or licensing application or to any matter, which is not dealt with in the public part of a meeting.
- (vii) The Chairperson will ask for people to indicate that they wish to ask a question.
- (viii) **PLEASE NOTE** that the maximum amount of time each questioner will be allowed is 3 minutes.
- (ix) If you do not receive a response at the meeting, a Council Officer will ask for your name and address and make sure that you receive a written response.

Please bear in mind that public question time lasts for a maximum of 30 minutes. To help in making the most of this opportunity to speak: -

- Please keep questions as concise as possible.
- Please do not repeat or make statements on earlier questions as this reduces the time available for other issues to be raised.
- Please note that public question time is not intended for debate – issues raised will be responded to either at the meeting or in writing at a later date.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

None.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

None.

6.0 RISK ANALYSIS

None.

7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

None.

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

There are no background papers under the meaning of the Act.

REPORT TO: Safer Halton Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 19th September 2006

REPORTING OFFICER: Chief Executive

SUBJECT: Executive Board Minutes

WARD(s): Boroughwide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The Minutes relating to the Safer Halton Policy and Performance Board which have been considered by the Executive Board and Executive Board Sub since the last meeting are attached at Appendix 1 for information.
- 1.2 The Minutes are submitted to inform the Policy and Performance Board of decisions taken in their area.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the Minutes be noted.

3.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

None.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

None.

6.0 RISK ANALYSIS

None.

7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

None.

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

There are no background papers under the meaning of the Act.

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APPENDIX 1

Extract of Executive Board Sub Committee Minutes Relevant to the Safer Halton Policy and Performance Board

EXECUTIVE BOARD 22nd JUNE 2006

EXB009 SAFER AND STRONGER COMMUNITIES FUND

The Board considered a report of the Chief Executive providing details in respect of the Safer and Stronger Communities Fund (SSCF) which was introduced for all local authorities in England in April 2005. The Fund brought together DCLG and Home Office funding streams aimed at tackling crime, anti-social behaviour and drugs, empowering communities and improving the condition of streets and public spaces. In particular, it was aimed at disadvantaged neighbourhoods where those issues often required more attention.

The Board was advised that the basis of the SSCF was that Halton received an allocation of funding and agreed to achieve a set of outcomes based on local and national priorities. Last year, an SSCF agreement for Halton was concluded with Government Office North West. The agreement detailing the funding and the outcomes was called a Mini Local Area Agreement and ran for three years covering the period 2005/06 – 2007/08.

Implications of agreements were outlined for the Board's consideration and it was noted that the Safer Halton Partnership had taken responsibility in Halton for its development and implementation. The document had been refreshed and the Government had now approved the agreement and issued a Grant Offer letter. The Offer Letter brought together several funding streams from the Home Office and the Office of the DCLG. Details of funding, together with reviewing and reporting procedures, were outlined for the Board's consideration.

It was noted that the funding was focused on the most disadvantaged areas and concerns were raised about how other pockets with difficulties would be addressed. Members were advised that work was ongoing in order to provide

sound data to support any argument put forward by the Authority in this respect.

RESOLVED: That the SSCF agreement for Halton be endorsed and the Council become Accountable Body for the Fund under the terms set out in the report.

EXB010 DRINKING IN DESIGNATED PLACES

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Corporate and Policy regarding a draft Alcohol Designation Order under the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 which was undergoing the necessary consultation procedure with statutory consultees.

It was noted that the intention of this Order was to replace current bye-laws that were to lapse on 1st September 2006. The aim was to designate public places for a ban on alcohol consumption with offences occurring when a person in a designation area:

- (a) was drinking alcohol and was warned by a police officer not to do so and continued; or
- (b) was carrying a container of alcohol, whether opened or not, and ignored a request by a police officer either to place the container in an approved receptacle or hand it over to the officer.

There was a proviso concerning designation in that the local authority had to be satisfied that there was a need for such a ban because of public nuisance and disorder associated with drinking in public in those areas. A plan was attached to the report to show the public places which it was proposed should be designated.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) after consideration of comments made on the proposal for an Alcohol Designation Order, the Council be recommended to make the Order as advertised, subject to resolution number (2) below; and
- (2) authority be delegated to the Executive Board Member for Corporate Services, in consultation with the Council

Solicitor, to deal with any comments received after this meeting up to the consultation deadline of 23rd June 2006.

(NB Councillor Wharton declared a personal interest in the following item of business due to being Chairman of the Hale Park Friends Group and Treasurer of the Youth Centre.)

Council
Solicitor

EXB012 WASTE MANAGEMENT

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Environment outlining the present situation in relation to waste management, addressing concerns about the Council's ability, jointly with Warrington, to procure a waste disposal facility to replace the existing arrangements that expired in 2008.

The Board was advised that, despite previous successful joint working, there were now concerns surrounding the current partnership's ability to deliver a new waste treatment infrastructure within the necessary timeframes. However, it was reported that there was currently an opportunity for Halton to take advantage of Merseyside's short term and long term waste treatment facilities, although this decision needed to be made as a matter of urgency prior to Merseyside's Outline Business Case (OBC) being finalised. The current position of Merseyside in this respect, together with the benefits for Halton, were outlined for the Board's consideration together with proposed next steps.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) Halton Borough Council submit a "Declaration of Intent" to work with the Merseyside Authorities and a formal request be made that the Council is accepted as a partner by the Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority to work towards securing appropriate waste treatment and disposal services and facilities;
- (2) discussions continue with Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority to establish the potential costs, wider benefits and consequences for Halton, and a future report be presented to the Executive Board;

Strategic
Director -
Environment

- (3) a letter be sent to the Leader and Chief Executive of Warrington Borough Council confirming Halton's intention to work with Merseyside; and
- (4) a review of Halton's Waste Management Strategy be undertaken and consultation on a new draft Strategy be carried out in the summer of 2006.

EXECUTIVE BOARD 20 JULY 2006

EXB020 ALCOHOL HARM REDUCTION

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Health and Community which highlighted the key findings of an alcohol audit commissioned by Halton Local Strategic Partnership. In addition the Board considered the draft Halton Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy, which addressed the issues identified within the audit.

It was noted that in 2004 the Government published a National Audit Harm Reduction Strategy and identified the following number of critical harms connected to alcohol misuse:

- health – up to 22,000 premature deaths per year;
- crime and antisocial behaviour – 1.2 million associated violent incidents per year;
- loss of productivity and profitability – calculated at £6.4bn per year;
- harms to family and society – between 780,000 and 1.3 million children were affected by parental alcohol problems.

The Board discussed various issues including the employment that was created through the night time economy, the accessibility of alcohol for young people and the need to focus on a wider range of people, not just young people.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Draft Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy and Action Plan be approved; and

Strategic
Director –
Health and
Community

- (2) the Safer Halton Policy and Performance Board monitors the implementation of the strategy.

EXECUTIVE BOARD SUB COMMITTEE 22ND MAY 2006

ES19 DRAFT ENFORCEMENT POLICY – CONSUMER PROTECTION

The Sub-Committee considered a report which sought approval for the adoption of the Consumer Protection Service Environment Policy following business consultation and consideration by the Safer Halton Policy and Performance Board. The Policy was based around the general principles of good enforcement, the Enforcement Concordat and the Code for Crown Prosecutors, and had been updated following relevant case law.

Apart from being best practice for any enforcement body to have a documented enforcement policy, the adoption, publication and adherence to such a policy counted towards 10% of the Council's sole Trading Standards Best Value Performance Indicator (BVPI) score.

RESOLVED: That the Council adopts the revised Consumer Protection Enforcement Policy.

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REPORT TO: Safer Halton Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 19 September 2006

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director – Environment

SUBJECT: Environmental and Regulatory Services
Department

WARDS: Borough Wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to explain to Members the functions undertaken within the Environmental and Regulatory Services Department, as set out on the attached Appendix, and to identify areas of work which will be regularly reported to the Board.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the report be noted.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 As shown in the attached Appendix.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 None.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

5.1 None.

6.0 RISK ANALYSIS

6.1 None.

7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

7.1 None.

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

8.1 There are no background papers under the meaning of the Act.

APPENDIX

ENVIRONMENTAL AND REGULATORY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

1.0 INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW OF THE DEPARTMENT

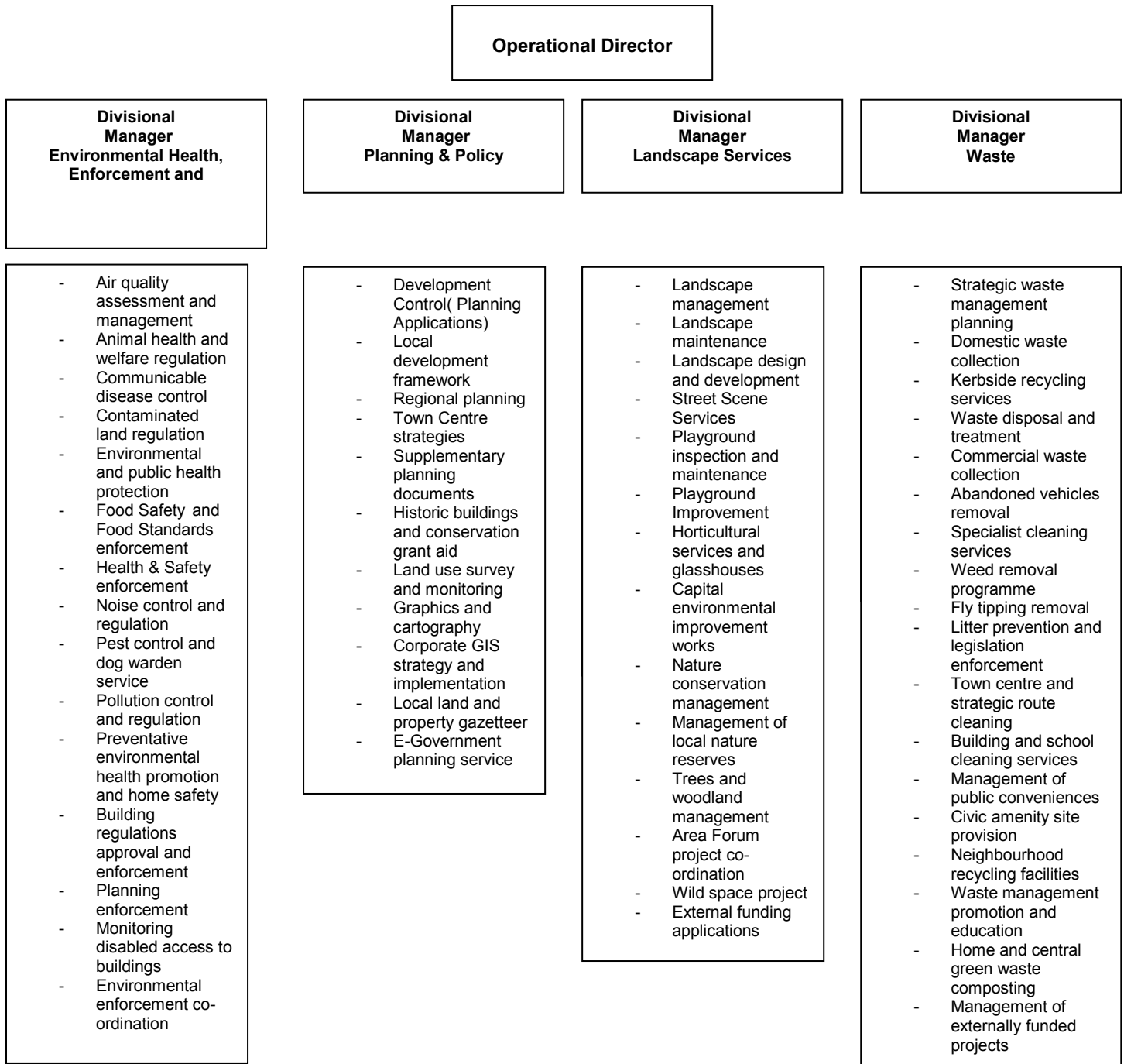
1.1 The Environmental and Regulatory Services Department was created on the 1 April 2006, with the purpose of co-ordinating a number of key services, which share as part of their wider objectives improving the environmental quality of the borough. In particular, the Service aims to support and deliver on the corporate objective/vision of providing a modern and high quality urban environment, which is safer and more attractive and which provides for a better quality of life for the borough's residents.

1.2 Within the Department there are four Divisions which collectively deliver this commitment:-

- Environmental Health, Enforcement and Building Control
- Landscape Services
- Planning and Policy
- Waste Services

1.3 The departmental structure is shown on the next page.

1.4 Environmental and Regulatory Services Department Structure



1.5 The Department as a whole employs 445* personnel, consisting of:

Building Control	7
Environmental Protection	17
Food/Health and Safety	16
Enforcement	3
Planning Policy and Information	12
Development Control	4
Special Support	7
Landscape (managerial, professional and technical)	20
Landscape- Operational	92
Landscape-Operational (temporary)	16
Waste(managerial , professional and technical)	16
Refuse	45
Cleansing	13
Toilet Attendants	2
Building Cleaning	62
School Cleaning	111
TOTAL	445

* there are a number of posts currently vacant.

2.0 ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH, ENFORCEMENT AND BUILDING CONTROL DIVISION

This division provides:

- a comprehensive and effective environmental health service ensuring that, through monitoring, regulation and enforcement, residents and businesses can enjoy an environment and services which are, so far as possible, safe and without risks to their health or welfare;
- a comprehensive and effective Building Control service ensuring high standards in construction work, protecting the health and safety of people in or about buildings and making sure that the requirements of people with disabilities are met;
- an effective and comprehensive planning enforcement service that is a fundamental part of the development control framework and is central to ensuring a fair and transparent development control system;
- oversees coordinated environmental enforcement across the directorate and facilitates a holistic approach to such enforcement at the time responding to a perception that some enforcement matters are not so proactively pursued as others and to identify

where within the directorate responsibility to enforce a particular matter clearly lies.

- is responsible for:

Building Control:

- Processing building regulation applications;
- Controlling and making safe dangerous structures;
- Processing building demolition consents;
- Safety at Sports Grounds;
- Advising and enforcing Disabled Access Legislation.

Food Safety & Standards Enforcement:

- Carrying out inspections of food businesses for food hygiene and food standards safety;
- Investigation of food complaints;
- Investigation of food based infections;
- Giving advice and guidance to all food businesses;
- Inspection and issue of approvals for certain food businesses.

Health & Safety Enforcement:

- Carrying out inspections of high risk business premises for health and safety;
- Carrying out topic based health & safety campaign projects around HSE Health & Safety Executive national programmes;
- Investigating occupational health & safety accidents;
- Responding to complaints about occupational health & safety;
- Registration of ear piercing, tattooists and acupuncture;
- Work in partnership with other Council Departments, the PCT, voluntary organisations, to carry out campaigns to improve the public health with reference to wider environmental health role.

Environmental Protection:

- Pollution control;
- Air quality management;
- Environmental nuisance control;
- Noise control;
- Contaminated land;
- Pest control, dog control;
- Animal welfare and disease and
- All related issues where the environment can impact on the health of populations.

Planning Enforcement:

- Protecting the amenity of the area with planning law;
- Regulating developments or agreements;
- Site monitoring;
- Investigating complaints;
- Regulating unlawful developments;

- Coordinate with development control planners evidence for appeals;
- Coordinated multidisciplinary environmental enforcement projects;
- Tackling environmental crime in coordination with key partners;
- Coordinating the work of the key departments, partners through programmed projects;
- Investigating joint projects with partners and community groups.

3.0 LANDSCAPE SERVICES DIVISION

The Landscape Services Division provides a single agency within the Council to manage the Borough's 'Natural Assets'. The Division does this by providing safe and attractive parks and open spaces for the enjoyment of the people of Halton and by providing an advice and maintenance service for the other Departments of the Council.

The Division is responsible for:

- Landscape Management;
- Provides Operational management of:
 - Parks and Open Space (including Pride of Place & Civic Pride Teams);
 - Playgrounds;
 - Trees, Woodlands & Ponds;
 - Victoria Park Glasshouses;
 - Streetscene – in conjunction with Cleansing Services to deliver environmental maintenance and improvement across the borough.
- Landscape Development & Conservation;
- Design & Implementation Service;
- Nature Conservation including woodland management & local nature reserves;
- Procurement of External Funding.

These services benefit everyone in Halton - who live, work and visit Halton.

4.0 PLANNING AND POLICY DIVISION

The Planning Division encompasses the professional services that provide Development Control (planning applications), the Local Development Framework (Spatial Planning), Survey and Monitoring (land use change and implementation of policy), plus a central corporate service for the management of electronic land and property information, using Geographic information Systems.

The Division is responsible for:

- **Development Control** – processing planning applications; enforcement action on breaches of planning control; defending appeals against Council planning decisions; land charge searches on planning matters; guidance and design advice and preparation of supplementary planning guidance; encouraging business development, and ensuring interpretation of statutes;
- **Spatial Planning** – preparation, adoption and monitoring of the Local Development Framework (LDF); Development Plan Documents; listed building and conservation advice; preparation of Town Centre Strategies, and input into Regional Spatial Strategies; and
- **Survey and Monitoring** – survey and analysis of changing land uses; monitoring of planning policy; monitoring of planning and building control applications to inform land use change survey; management of Department electronic data and information. Management of Uniform core planning system; management of e-planning projects; Corporate Geographical Information Systems; graphics and cartography; Ordnance Survey Liaison and copyright enforcement; Local Land and Property Gazetteer custodianship and maintenance, and maintaining the Department's website.

5.0 WASTE MANAGEMENT DIVISION

The Waste Management Division exists to bring together and develop policy and strategy to enable the Council to meet its statutory and non-statutory objectives concerned with waste management and environmental improvement. Local and global environmental issues are increasingly at the forefront of the individual's feeling of well-being and this is reflected in the priority now afforded to environmental improvement policy, by both local and national government.

The Division is responsible for:

Waste Management

- Strategic Waste Management Planning;
- Municipal Waste Management Strategy;
- Procurement of External Funding.

Waste Disposal

- Domestic Waste Disposal and Recycling Contracts;
- Recycling and Household Waste Centre Contracts;
- Abandoned Vehicles Removal.

Waste Recycling

- Education and Promotion of Recycling and Waste Minimisation;
- Neighbourhood Recycling Facilities;
- Kerbside Recycling Collection Services;
- Home and Central Green Waste Composting.

Refuse Collection

- Household Domestic Refuse Collection;
- Bulky Items Collection;
- Commercial Refuse Collection.

Street Cleansing

- Neighbourhood Cleansing;
- Fly Tipping Removal;
- Litter Prevention and Legislation Enforcement;
- Streetscene – In conjunction with Landscape Services Division to deliver environmental maintenance and improvement across the borough.

- 6.0 As can be seen much of the work undertaken contributes directly or indirectly to the objectives for a safer, as well as a renewed and regenerated Halton.

Of particular interest to this Board will be the Department's contributions towards wider corporate policies and responsibilities in respect of

- Crime and Disorder;
- Alcohol Reduction Strategy;
- Safer and Stronger neighbourhoods and
- Waste Strategy.

On these matters the Board will receive regular reports to enable them to be assured that a quality service is being provided in an efficient and effective manner.

REPORT TO: Safer Halton Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 19 September 2006

REPORTING OFFICER: Resources, Planning and Communication Manager

SUBJECT: Vandalism in Schools

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To provide details of the impact of vandalism on schools and a summary of both the schools and council's responsibility in relation to responding to incidents of vandalism.

2.0 RECOMMENDED: That schools be encouraged to allow their Site Manager/Caretaker to attend seminars on school security and fire precautions.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 The responsibility for responding to acts of vandalism on school sites is that of the school e.g. where a school suffers a broken window the expectation is that the school key holder, generally the Caretaker, Maintenance Officer or Site Manager will arrange the boarding up, repair and reporting of the incident. All vandalism should be reported to the local police by the school. A form for reporting all incidents of vandalism was produced by Risk Management several years ago. Schools should complete this form and return it to Risk Management so that the incidents of vandalism can be mapped and the information passed on to police and fire brigade colleagues. There needs to be better recording compliance.

3.2 Schools are responsible for the costs of any repairs required as a result of vandalism and as these costs are generally not covered through HBC Insurance they are encouraged to purchase All Risk Cover. Although schools have a code they can record the costs of vandalism better use of this code will be encouraged. In 2004/2005 the total spend recorded by schools on the vandalism budget was £75,360. The figure for 2005/2006 has increased to £79,489.

3.3 In the event of a fire or other major property related incident e.g. flood or where the level of vandalism is so severe the school will be unable to function, it is the Local Authorities (and Dioceses responsibility in the case of an aided school) to support the school and minimise the disruption to pupils' education. In these circumstances the Critical Incident Team can be contacted. This team will then determine the level of other support

required from the Authority in accordance with the policy and through the published contact list. As most major property related incidents occur out of school hours the team tend to be contacted direct by either the police or fire brigade. The Critical Incident Team comprises three full time staff whose primary role is delivering the Technical Support and Caretaking Management Service Level Agreement to schools. Only 20% of the Principal Officers time is core funded. Unfortunately over the past few years the practice has developed whereby the schools, police and the fire brigade will contact the Critical Incident team following a minor incident of vandalism, however, without additional capacity the team cannot respond.

- 3.4 The costs of responding to any major property related incident such as a fire and flood for community and voluntary controlled schools insured with the local authority must either be met by the HBC insurance policy or from the Council fund for the excess element. As voluntary aided schools are owned by their Trustees and not the Local Authority, the cost incurred following any major incident must be found from one of the following sources; the schools devolved or revenue budget, the LCVAP budget (this is the budget available for capital schemes in voluntary aided schools which tends to be committed before the start of the financial year), the school's insurance which can only cover 10% of building costs, or finally from the DfES if they have funding available.
- 3.5 In an attempt to reduce the level of vandalism taking place at schools and in particular to reduce the risks of the loss of school buildings through a major fire e.g. as in the case of Halton Lodge, on an annual basis schools and other Council buildings are able to bid for Risk Management Funding. Schools must identify the project and their contribution. In determining which school bids to approve the Local Authority will also consider the level of vandalism the school has suffered. Appendix 1 identifies the full list of bids submitted for 2006/2007 and shows the approved projects.
- 3.6 In 2004/2005 an Arson Task Group was established with the aim of reducing the incidents of arson in Halton and improve awareness of arson vulnerability to public buildings, vehicles and open spaces amongst the community. The group is intended to have a membership, which includes HBC staff from Property Services, the Education Service, Environmental Services and Risk Management along with the Crime Reduction Adviser, the Community Fire Safety Officers and representatives from the Police. There is an agenda item on each meeting related to school incidents.
- 3.7 In February 2006, Risk Management convened a meeting with school some school representatives, police, fire and local authority officers to discuss options for reducing vandalism to school property. A range of issues were discussed including how incidents are reported and how they are responded to, whether all schools should have common gates and

locks, costs of vandalism, feasibility of the development of a security patrol Service Level Agreement for schools and the need for extended use of school premises.

- 3.8 As schools are at their most vulnerable during the summer break two seminars were arranged for School Caretaking/maintenance or Site Managers. These were jointly run by the Local Authority, Fire and Police and took place on 11th and 12th July at Fairfield High and The Grange Comprehensive. The aim of the meetings was to provide advice and guidance on school security and fire prevention. Work is needed to ensure that attendance is improved at further seminars.
- 3.9 In addition, due to the levels of vandalism in Halton schools and the potential threat of arson the Fire Brigade have now committed to visit all schools in Halton before the end of the calendar year to try and discourage pupils from arson, to highlight the implications of arson on schools and provide advice and guidance in fire prevention.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The costs of vandalism to Halton schools appear to have increased between 2004/2005. The true costs identified for vandalism is likely to be much higher than the figures shown in school accounts as many schools do not separately identify vandalism costs from their day to day tenants maintenance costs. In addition, the total costs of school vandalism do not include the costs of any insurance claims made through either HBC or any other insurance company.
- 4.2 In addition to the costs incurred considerable local authority and school time is lost responding to acts of vandalism.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- 5.2 When designing or remodelling school premises consideration needs to be given to improving the school's security. New buildings should be secure by design.

6.0 RISK ANALYSIS

- 6.1 It is essential those persistent acts of vandalism are identified and quickly addressed and that these are reported to the police, fire brigade and local authority as they may result in a serious arson attack and the loss of school premises.

7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

7.1 This is an issue which may affect all schools at any time.

Risk Management Capital Works Programme Bids Received 2006/2007

Name of Applicant	Purpose of Bid	Risk Management Budget Amount Requested	Contribution	Comments
Astmoor Primary School – Headteacher	Perimeter Security	£7,500.00	£7,500.00	REJECTED
Bankfield School – Headteacher	Secure Front Entrance	£55,000.00	£55,000.00	REJECTED
Chestnut Lodge School – Headteacher	Perimeter Security	£3,000.00	£3,000.00	APPROVED
Daresbury – Headteacher	Improve Security and Fire Prevention	£600.00	£600.00	APPROVED
Ditton C of E - Headteacher	Perimeter Security	£6,000.00	Nil	APPROVED
Ditton Library – Siobhan Kirk	Safe Front Exit	£1,500.00	£1,500.00	APPROVED
Ditton Primary – Headteacher	Railings to Prevent Hazardous Parking	£2,500.00	£2,500.00	REJECTED
Fairfield Infants – Headteacher	Main Entrance Security	£3,000.00	£3,000.00	APPROVED
Fairfield Junior’s – Headteacher	Improve Security and Accessibility	£3,000.00	£6,000.00	APPROVED
Gorsewood – Headteacher	New Car Park Security Improvements	£15,000.00	£37,774.00	APPROVED
Grange Infants – Headteacher	Window Shuttering	£2,100.00	£2,100.00	APPROVED
Grange Schools Initiative – Elaine Southern	Sports Field Perimeter Kick Bar	£5,000.00	£25,000.00	APPROVED

Risk Management Capital Works Programme Bids Received 2006/2007

Halebank Primary – Headteacher	Update Fire Alarm System	£4,457.00	£4,457.00	APPROVED
Hill View Primary – Headteacher	Rear of School Security	£8,000.00	£8,000.00	REJECTED
Kingsway Learning Centre – Andrew Lucas	CCTV and Improving Access	£10,500.00	£10,500.00	REJECTED
Landscape Services – Paul Wright	Mobile Elevated Working Platform	£10,000.00	£25,000.00	APPROVED
Major Projects – Ian Goodall	Security St Michaels Gold Course	£40,000.00	£40,000.00	REJECTED
Moore Primary – Headteacher	Front Entrance Security	£1,500.00	1,500.00	REJECTED
Murdishaw West - Headteacher	Car Park / Front Entrance Security	£5,556.83	£5,556.83	APPROVED
Oakfield Primary - Headteacher	CCTV	£8,000.00	£8,000.00	APPROVED
Park and Countryside – Tim Booth	CCTV – Victoria Park	£7,000.00	£19,000.00	APPROVED
Social Care – Carol Clark	File Dividers	£1,065.75	£1,065.75	REJECTED
St Bede's Catholic Infants - Headteacher	Roller Shutters	£2,358.45	£1,747.00	APPROVED
St Bede's Catholic Juniors – Headteacher	Enhance Security	£2,750.00	£2,750.00	APPROVED
St Gerard's Catholic Primary – Headteacher	Upgrade Alarm and CCTV	£2,000.00	£4,100.00	APPROVED
St Mary's Primary – Headteacher	Improve Fire Preventions (Bin Store)	£2,500.00	£2,500.00	APPROVED
St Michael's Catholic Primary – Headteacher	Link Fire Alarm to Monitoring Station	£250.00	£250.00	APPROVED

Risk Management Capital Works Programme Bids Received 2006/2007

The Brindley – Claire Jones	Fire Prevention/Staff Safety	£1,612.50	£1,612.50	APPROVED
The Brow Primary – Headteacher	ICT Equipment Protection	£2,553.00	£2,553.00	APPROVED
Town Centres – Paul Smith	CCTV and Bin Cages	£17,000.00	£23,000.00	APPROVED
Victoria Road Primary – Headteacher	Fencing, CCTV, Fire Detection and Auto Monitoring	£7,000.00	£11,000.00	APPROVED
Wade Deacon High School – Ian Kirkham	CCTV/Door Security	£6,000.00	£6,000.00	REJECTED
Weston Point Primary – Secretary	Security and Fire Prevention	£5,287.00	£5,300.00	APPROVED
Windmill Hill Primary – Headteacher	Renew Windows in Reception with Safety Glass	£1,500.00	£1,500.00	REJECTED
Woodside – Headteacher	Upgrade Fire Alarm	£10,000.00	£10,000.00	APPROVED
All Saints Upton Primary	Reroof Etc	–	–	REJECTED
Totals		£261,090.53	£339,366.08	

Total funding approved £120,523 (includes £83,411 for school projects)

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Cllr Shaun
Osborne
(Chairman)

**ANNUAL REPORT
SAFE AND ATTRACTIVE
NEIGHBOURHOODS POLICY
AND PERFORMANCE BOARD
JULY 2005 – MARCH 2006**

“ The last Municipal year has again been both an interesting and challenging one for the Safe and Attractive Neighbourhoods Policy & Performance Board. There has been considerable progress within the organisation of the Board in order to develop further our policy formation and scrutiny roles. The members of the board should be congratulated for their efforts in adapting quickly to changing roles.

Prior to the beginning of the financial year the Policy and Performance board received details of the budget proposals for 2005/06.

The Board noted the national and local financial settlements, consequences of data losses, pressure on local government to passport money into education and the expectation from central govt that Council Tax increases would be held to low, single figures. It was immediately clear that the financial pressures would hit hard at members concerns to develop policy in order to improve the Councils direct services in the short term and resolved that cuts in expenditure in the following year would be unacceptable. In future years we would be anticipating financial growth to maintain and improve our service to the public.

Members of the Board have worked diligently with our excellent officers to bring about effective change and improvement to many of the important direct services, despite financial pressures.

During the course of the year services within the remit of the SAAN Policy & Performance Board have received independent national recognition and awards for development and performance. These services are now recognised as areas of ‘best practice’ bringing representatives of other local authorities from across the UK to Halton in order to learn from our experiences.

The Board will further develop this year and continue to improve services for the residents of the Borough.”

**Councillor Shaun Osborne
Chairman, Safe and Attractive Neighbourhoods
Policy and Performance Board**

MEMBERSHIP AND RESPONSIBILITIES

During 2004/05 the Board comprised ten Councillors – Councillors Cllr Osborne (Chairman), Cllr Nelson (Vice Chairman), Cllr Dennett, Cllr Marlow, Cllr Morley, Cllr Philbin, Cllr E Ratcliffe, Cllr Redhead, Cllr Swift, Cllr Thompson.

The Board is responsible for scrutinising performance and formulating policy in relation to waste collection and disposal, waste minimisation, recycling, environmental health, consumer protection, Registration, Agenda 21 strategy, derelict land reclamation, neighbourhood services, landscape improvement and management (including parks and open spaces) and the development of area based environmental improvement projects to complement area forum agenda.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

The full Board met 5 times during the year, set out below are some of the main activities and issues that the Board has worked on during the year.

ESTABLISHMENT OF WORKING PARTIES

At a special meeting of the Environment Policy and Performance Board on 17th February 2004 the following list of suggested topics were approved for examination/review within the 2004/5 work programme of the new PPB:

- Managing continuous improvement in the delivery of bereavement services;
- Anti Social Behaviour
- Contaminated land;
- Waterfront areas;
- Waste Management Strategy.
- Alcohol

The following working groups were established to consider the above topics identified for scrutiny;

- Parks and Open Spaces
- Waste
- Contaminated Land
- Anti Social Behaviour
- Bereavement Services
- Alcohol

In addition, it was agreed that an annual report on progress and expenditure by the Area Forums be submitted to an appropriate meeting of the Board.

The above Working Parties met on a regular basis throughout the year and reported to the Policy and Performance Board in order to inform the decision making progress.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT

Waste Management

Waste Management remains one of the most challenging issues facing the Council, given the EU and UK targets which impose new requirements upon LA's and demand a major step change in levels of recycling and diversion of waste from landfill disposal. Halton's targets under the Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme (LATS) have a far greater regulatory and cost impact than the statutory recycling performance standards imposed on Halton so far and in order to meet these challenges a major new waste management treatment facilities infrastructure will be required. The Division was successful in acquiring direct financial support from central government to commission technical and financial consultants as part of the on-going evaluation of options for Halton. Joint working arrangements between Halton and Warrington Borough Councils were further developed in 2005/06 with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the two authorities.

During the course of the year the Board received several reports concerning the development of the waste management services and the Council's Municipal Waste Management Strategy. The requirements to enter into new contracts for waste disposal and associated services in 2008 emphasised the need to ensure that the project to secure a new contract is driven forward effectively and efficiently. This, together with the need to develop and monitor performance in an area of considerable financial and government interest was recognised in a new Waste Management Staffing Structure that was detailed in a report to the Board in January 2006.

With the support of the Board the Waste Management Division continued to utilise all statutory provisions available to it for the purpose of addressing issues of littering, graffiti and other forms of environmental nuisance within the boundaries of the Borough.

Bereavement Services/Consumer Protection/Registration Service

During the course of the year the Board received several reports on meetings of the Bereavement Services Working Party and was able to contribute to the ongoing development of policy in this sensitive area of the Council's activity.

The Board recommended that the Executive Board supported the roll-out of the government driven Consumer Direct Contact Centre in the North West (CD). This has led to the re-direction of all initial telephone enquiries from Halton's consumers to CD from February 2006 and early indications are that Halton's consumers are receiving an enhanced service, that Halton's advisors are able to deal with the more complex issues and engage with the harder to reach groups locally, and that cashable efficiency savings have been delivered – all from supporting this one initiative.

As part of the modernisation of the civil registration service, the Board

recommended that the Executive Board deregulated the marriage room at the Register Office in Runcorn Town Hall. This was linked to the review of fees for civil weddings with the result that more realistic income streams (based on cost recovery) may be expected for 2006/2007. Additionally, recommendations were made regarding the provision of civil partnership registrations (a new statutory duty that fell to the Council from December 2005). This led to the seamless introduction of civil partnership registrations in Halton.

PROJECTS AND SERVICE DELIVERY

Landscape Services

In September 2005 the Landscape Services Division began the implementation of 'Streetscene' a neighbourhood approach to the delivery of front line landscape maintenance and street cleansing services. Six Neighbourhood Spaces Manager posts were created (5 from existing positions) and each was given a geographic area of responsibility based around the Area Forums. Presentations were given to the each Area Form and to the SAAN P&P Board which explained how 'Streetscene' would work. Since September 2005 two distinct workforces have been integrated, new job descriptions issued, new work plans developed, new vehicle branding introduced and many local improvements implemented. In the first 3 months of 2006 the Streetscene Operation collected 383,940 kg of litter and waste from the streets, parks and open spaces of Halton.

As part of the back-up arrangements for 'Streetscene' the Landscape Services Division completed a re-furbishment and undertook improvements to its Picow Farm Depot. New front line office facilities have allowed managers to work more effectively and to increase front line productivity.

Throughout 2005/6 work has continued on the restoration and enhancement of Victoria Park utilising a £1.6m grant from Heritage Lottery Fund. The past year has seen the completion of a new Junior Children's Play Area, a new lake (on the site of an earlier original), the restoration and enhancement of the War Memorial, the creation of the Appleton Garden, the restoration of park buildings and the completion of a new Park Pavilion. Work will continue through 2006/7.

The Wild About Halton project has continued to support the Borough's Natural Assets Strategy. In 2005/6 the project established a powerful working relationship with the 'City Learning Centres', organisations designed to support and linked to existing educational establishments. Through a project called the 'Artery of Life' the Learning Centres have assisted the Wild About Halton Project to promote Halton's Green Spaces as outdoor field centres using pioneering techniques involving technologically advanced teaching aids such as data loggers and hand held computers. High Schools from surrounding Borough's within Greater Merseyside and Cheshire are now visiting Halton to conduct educational field visits which is helping to promote a positive image of the Borough. Events run as part of the project have continued to attract increasing numbers of participants from local areas and further a-field.

Unfortunately funding for the Waterfront Maintenance Team (established in July

2004 for 2 years with NWDA funding from Mersey Waterfront Regional park project) came to an end and further funding could not be secured. The team was disbanded in March 2006. Throughout 2005/6 the team had been responsible for major enhancements to the Waterfront Estate bringing sites up to the Green Flag Award Standard. Improvements were carried out at Runcorn Promenade, Wigg Island, Victoria Promenade and Spike Island. Spike Island and Wigg Island were submitted for a Green Flag Award in Feb 2006. Judging will take place in May/June. The work that was undertaken by the Waterfront Team has been redistributed to other 'Streetscene Teams' but obviously maintenance frequencies have had to be reduced.

In the last months of the 2005/6 period the new Phoenix Park in Runcorn which forms part of the Castlefields redevelopment was completed. This state of the art park includes a new Children's Play Area, a Skate Park, Climbing Boulder and a Pavilion. The park has site based staff in the form of a Ranger and a Site Based Gardener.

The Landscape Services Division continued to facilitate the activities of Friends of Parks Groups. In the year 2005/6 a new Friends Group was established for Hale Park. Since its establishment a master plan for the park has been drawn up and many site improvements delivered. Elsewhere the Friends of Crow Wood Park have continued to bid for funding to complete the enhancement of their local facility. In 2005/6 the Phase 1 Improvements were completed. Crow Wood Park now has a new central boulevard that links it to The Bongs, a new Ball Court and a Skate Ramp with Youth Shelter. On the adjacent area 'The Bongs' many small scale environmental improvements have been delivered including improvements to the vegetation alongside Halton View Bridge to remove a litter trap.

Officers from the Landscape Services Division have been asked to address numerous professional bodies to share the Borough's best practice. Many authorities have visited the Division to learn about its activities.

Furthermore;

- Satisfactory delivery of landscape maintenance and street cleansing services.
- Further improvements to high profile public spaces, e.g. roundabouts and major traffic routes.
- Continued improvements to formal parks in line with the 5 year Management Plans
- Maintained school grounds maintenance contract, a total of 47 schools representing over 70% of the Borough Total.
- Secured nominations for APSE Service Team of the year 2005 and for APSE Most Improved Council of the Year 2005.
- Secured 5 Green Flag Awards (Hough Green Park, Rock Park, Runcorn Hill Park, Pickerings Pasture and Victoria Promenade).

Waste Management

The Waste Management Division contributed towards the successful implementation of the 'Streetscene' initiative. The resulting transfer of the neighbourhood cleansing operation into Landscape Services enabled the Division to focus upon the more strategic waste management functions, including graffiti removal, fly-tipping and major highway and strategic route cleansing. At the same time it allowed the Division to concentrate on other functions such as BVPI recording, enforcement, and waste strategy development. The Government has set a national standard for cleanliness which states that the proportion of unacceptable sites for 2005/06 should be below 15%. The changes made in the last year saw Halton's figure improve from 17% in 2004/05 to 8% in 2005/06.

Throughout the year there were a number of successful prosecutions for fly tipping and illegal disposal of trade waste. The Division continues to work closely with other sections of the Council and other external agencies to adopt a more co-ordinated approach to litter prevention and enforcement activities and will be embracing new legislation that will increase the authorities powers to tackle environmental nuisance and crime. Through NRF funding the Division acquired mobile surveillance equipment to support its enforcement and litter prevention activities. This will enable cameras to be installed at known 'black spots' in both neighbourhood and remote areas of the borough to deter fly tipping and other environmental crime. The erection of a network of signs will support the campaign by informing the public of the penalties for fly tipping and will act as a visible deterrent to discourage this practice. The signs will also increase residents awareness of the Council's efforts to tackle environmental crime, a matter frequently raised at Area Forums.

As part of the Council's waste minimisation activities, the Division successfully secured Halton's involvement in a government backed Home Composting campaign for a third year in 2005/6. The scheme secured external funding for every resident in Halton to purchase a choice of home composters at highly subsidised rates. The object of this scheme was to work with WRAP (Waste Resource Action Programme) in order to test how successful home composters are and the effect they have on reducing levels of household waste produced in the borough. Over 400 local authorities applied for this project but Halton was one of only 22 in the country to be successfully chosen in this scheme, which also offered support by way of marketing, advertising, promotional incentives and a dedicated home compost expert to offer advice to residents. The scheme was very successful with more than 1600 residents purchasing a home composting unit in the last year.

The Division operates a successful service that sees abandoned vehicles removed within 24 hours of being reported. With NRF funding a further development of the service is to involve partnership working with the Police and Fire Service. This will see improved removal response times and an increase in the number of dangerous and nuisance vehicles removed.

The Division, with direct financial support from Defra, continues to make

progress on the development its next stage waste management strategy. In the last year external consultants were commissioned and have produced a further series of reports to assist the Council in determining and procuring the most favourable long-term sustainable waste management solution for Halton.

Halton's Recycling and Household Waste Centres continue to be amongst the top performing in the country and our overall recycling and composting performance of 23% remains above the regional average and in line with the national average.

Bereavement Services/Consumer Protection/Registration Service

On 1 April 2005 the Consumer Protection Division (which comprises the above Services) joined the Health and Partnerships Department of the new Health & Community Directorate, following on from the Council's Strategic Management Review. Later in the year, the Consumer Protection Service re-located its office base from Grosvenor House, to Rutland House. Front-line service delivery continued seamlessly during these changes.

During the course of the year work on phase 1 of the preparation of the western strip of Widnes cemetery for burial ground was begun and completed. In November 2005 evidence was provided to a public planning enquiry to ensure that land adjoining Widnes cemetery was protected in case it was required to extend the present cemetery grounds

The Consumer Protection Service took the regional lead on a research project identifying how youngsters gain access to alcohol, a project for which external funding was secured. Combating the sale of alcohol and other restricted products to children continues to be a high priority for the service.

The Registration Service received an inspection from Her Majesty's Inspector of Registration in August 05. The Inspector's subsequent report concluded that Halton's plans for the implementation of modernisation changes, including the new web-enabled registration systems for Registrations, Births, Deaths and Marriages, were well on schedule. This was evidenced when, in December 2005, the Registration Service registered Halton's first civil partnerships.

WORKING PARTY ACTIVITIES

Parks and Open Spaces

In 2005/6 the Waterfront Parks and Open Spaces working party broadened its remit and took on the task of investigating existing standards of quality of management and maintenance throughout all open spaces.

The working party met twice during the year and examined the funding and on-going improvement and development works planned for park sites.

Waste

This working party was established to provide member input into the development of policy on the provision of the authority's waste collection, recycling, disposal and street cleansing services and litter prevention, education and enforcement measures by evaluating the options for achieving the targets and pledges contained within the authority's Municipal Waste Management Strategy and Litter Plans.

The working party considered matters arising out of the Council's Municipal Waste Management Strategy and the continuing developments with regard to the Council's public and private sector waste partnerships. The working party also discussed a range of matters relating to the Street Cleansing services, and in particular the Division's enforcement activities.

Contaminated Land

Contaminated land inspection

The Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy, published in 2001, is the core document for the implementation of the Contaminated Land Regime. This sets out the overall approach taken in Halton and how the specific characteristics of the borough determine the key issues and work programmes. A working party was established to overview and scrutinise the ongoing development and implementation of this significant strategy for the inspection of contaminated land under the chairmanship of councillor Philbin

The major piece of work has been to scrutinise work on the a review of the existing Strategy for the inspection of contaminated land and progress on projects arising from that strategy and the recommendations of the Lancaster study into factors the affecting health in Halton

Environmental Health has a core list of sites that are at varying stages of investigation and assessment under the formal contaminated land regime (Part IIA of the Environmental Protection Act 1990). The sites are those which the Council has had involvement with prior to Part IIA coming into force in 2001 and those which have been selected from those identified under work in line with the Council's Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy.

The Part IIA process is long, slow and complicated, ad Halton is now in a position where there are several sites on the verge of the detailed investigation work starting, along with maintaining momentum on more advanced projects. However, all Part IIA work needs input from the EA and Halton finds itself in a position where it is very difficult to progress any of the sites and to produce accurate work programmes. In the last 12 months there has been considerable discussion and negotiation with the EA to ensure that St Michael's Golf Course remains a priority and genuine progress is made.

Key projects

1. St Michael's Golf Course

This is a very public and significant project that is being run by Major Projects

and Environmental Health.

2. Stenhills Quarry

This is one of several former sandstone quarries in Runcorn that have been backfilled in part with waste.

3. Runcorn Hill Quarry

Another of the former sandstone quarries now used as recreational open space; Runcorn Hill has also been partly filled with waste by the Council.

4. Johnson's Lane Landfill

Johnson's Lane Landfill is a large closed landfill formerly owned and operated by ICI Ltd. It was the main disposal site for a wide range of solid and drummed wastes from ICI's manufacturing plants in Widnes and Runcorn.

5. Speke Road Landfill

The closed landfill site that was operated by Cheshire County Council lying alongside Speke Road has problems with leachate.

6. Weston Quarries

The former sandstone quarries at Weston were national headline news in 2000 when the problem of contamination of the adjacent residential properties by chlorinated hydrocarbons arose. The main issue of the contaminated housing has now been settled with the demolition of the majority of the effected properties. However, there are a number of problems remaining, including the effect on groundwater beneath the site.

7. Waterloo Road Area

This area covers a mix of industrial, commercial, vacant and open space land, which historically formed part of the early chemical works in Widnes.

Consumer & Environmental Matters

The remit of this WP is to meet when significant issues need to be reviewed or investigated. During the year there were no such issues referred to the WP and the need to meet did not arise.

Service delivery

The Food Safety Inspection Service

The effective delivery of this key environmental health function is scrutinised by the board firstly by receipt of an annual service delivery plan, which is a mandatory plan, demanded by the Food Standards Agency (FSA) and through regular scrutiny of the performance returns. The Food Standards Agency appeared on the scene in 2000 and took over from the audit commission in receiving and publishing the performance figures for local authorities food inspections. The FSA introduced a far more exacting regime of scrutiny with a framework agreement for all local authorities. For a variety of reasons including resources the return to the FSA in this initial year showed a very poor performance and Halton found themselves on the list of worst performing local authorities for food safety and food standards. Quite rightly the board made it clear that this was unacceptable. Making use of overview and scrutiny and offering its support to managers the board set out to:

- Establish the size of the task so that they could recommend the correct level

of resources

- Review working practices to maximise use of available resources
- Maximise use of IT to improve accuracy eliminate any prospect of underreporting

In the longer term the aim was for Halton to be recognised by the FSA as a capable authority who delivers what it promises and any new challenges from them but also flexible enough to meet local needs and challenges. The net result of working with the officers and supporting improvements to the service is that Halton have moved up the performance listings of the FSA and are now in the top 30 or so UK Councils.

Responsible dog ownership

Although there continues to be an improvement owners allowing dogs to defecate in public areas remains a cause of complaint. The board received a report on the inadequacies of the enforcement policy and the potential benefits of moving to a fixed penalty notices. The enforcement policy was strengthened to allow officers to issue notices on a first offence. Although only seventeen fixed penalty notices have been served it has streamlined the system and the immediate threat of issuing one has been an invaluable tool for officers patrolling public spaces.

Health and safety regulation by project working

The board received a report on the changes to health and safety enforcement guidance. The key national targets set for the health & safety regulatory system are to;

- reduce the number of working days lost per 100,000 workers from work-related injury and ill health by 30% by 2010.
- reduce the incidence rate of fatal and major injury incidents by 10% by 2010
- reduce the incidence rate of cases of work-related ill health by 20% by 2010

The need for more-effective progress towards these health and safety targets and increased momentum for better working between central and local government has led the health and safety commission to set out in its strategy a significant change in the way its enforcing authorities – LAs and HSE – interact. The principal aim of the Strategic Programme is a more-effective use of HSE's and LAs' collective resources – working in partnership locally, regionally and nationally – to minimise harm to those in the workplace or those affected by workplace activities by reducing ill health and accidents.

The board endorsed Halton's response to the challenges set by the strategy. The environmental health division is enhancing the current mode of regulation with a series of campaigns around set topics set by the HSE throughout the year that incorporate a number of different strategies to engage local businesses, including but not exclusively, through inspection.

The division will be able to look at local problems within topic areas and plan a

local approach by employing different means of communicating with businesses, including that of enforcement. By planning projects around HSE national media programmes our campaigns can benefit from raised national awareness and allow us to translate these issues to the local situation.

This has proved highly successful and the council in a national were recently commended by the regional director of the HSE to north west authorities, attending a regional road show, as a beacon example for our successful adoption this of new working strategy.

Bereavement Services

The Bereavement Services Working Party met on four occasions during the year. These meetings encouraged member input on policy on a wide variety of cemetery and crematorium issues. Matters of particular significance included policy issues surrounding the Council's strategy for safe headstones; policy on contingency planning for a future Flu pandemic; developing options for the longer-term provision of new grave space in Halton and receiving updates as information trickled through on the subject of mercury abatement and its impact on the crematorium operation.

One of the meetings welcomed members of the local clergy plus local funeral directors, and encouraged an open dialogue aimed at improving our partnership working for the benefit of the members of the community we serve.

Alcohol

Work has progressed on alcohol harm reduction. An Audit has been carried out, a draft strategy is in place which will shortly be presented to a Member Seminar, and an Alcohol Harm Reduction Co-ordinator will shortly be recruited.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Bereavement Services maintained its "Charter for the Bereaved" best value quality standard
- The Consumer Protection Service retained its ISO9001 registered body status

PERFORMANCE ISSUES

There are no relevant performance issues to report upon.

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REPORT TO: Safer Halton Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 19 September 2006

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Health and Community

SUBJECT: Approved Motor Trader Scheme

WARDS: Boroughwide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To seek members' support for the operation of the Warrington Borough Council Trading Standards Approved Motor Trader Scheme in Halton.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

- (1) the report be noted,**
- (2) comments and suggestions from Members be noted; and**
- (3) The Executive Board be requested to agree to the operation of the Warrington Borough Council Trading Standards Approved Motor Trader Scheme in Halton.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 Warrington Trading Standards Service operates an Approved Motor Trader Scheme for car retailers and repairers in Warrington. A car dealer from Runcorn has approached the Consumer Protection Service requesting that a similar scheme is established in Halton. The dealer concerned receives a significant proportion of his business from Warrington residents and feels that he is at a competitive disadvantage, as he cannot claim that he is 'Trading Standards Approved'.
- 3.2 In 2002, following research with consumers and traders, Halton's Consumer Protection Service attempted to introduce its own Trusted Trader Scheme; unfortunately it was not supported by the trade and was abandoned.
- 3.3 An agreement in principle with Warrington Trading Standards has been reached that their scheme could be extended to allow Halton businesses to join. Halton would support the scheme to the extent of:
- The production and distribution of flyers to potential members (cost of postage and printing of approx 100 flyers)
 - Promotion of the scheme during officers' routine visits (negligible additional time required)

- Liaising with Warrington prior to their annual inspection of members (probably one hour of officer time per member)
- 3.4 Warrington Trading Standards would retain responsibility for the operation of the scheme, including any mediation required between consumers and members, in return for the trader's annual membership fee.
- 3.5 Membership fees are currently being revised by Warrington Trading Standards to ensure cost recovery for the operation of the scheme.
- 3.6 The Scheme is currently badged 'Trading Standards APPROVED MOTOR TRADER SCHEME' and bears no reference to Warrington Borough Council. This will allow for the extension of the scheme to Halton without the cost of re-printing the scheme materials; if it were necessary, the cost of re-printing would make the extension uneconomic.
- 3.7 To launch the scheme in Halton a minimum of three local members would be required; it is anticipated that this could quite easily be achieved.
- 3.8 The extension of the Warrington scheme will allow Halton traders to benefit without the associated costs to Halton of operating such a scheme itself.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The arrangement outlined above is in line with the Best Value principles of maximising cross-border partnership opportunities to the benefit of both the Council and the people we serve.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The financial and labour costs are minimal as outlined above. Because of the comparatively low numbers of motor traders in Halton, it would not be viable for Halton's Consumer Protection Service to design and operate its own Approved Motor Trader Scheme. Legal Services have been consulted and have no issues with such a cross-border arrangement.

6.0 RISK ANALYSIS

- 6.1 Warrington Trading Standards will retain all the risks of managing and administering the scheme. Such a scheme has been in operation for over ten years within areas of Cheshire and no problems have arisen for the administering authorities.

7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

7.1 There are no general equality and diversity issues flowing from this report, but on a positive note, supporting the recommendation will enable Halton motor traders to compete on a level playing field with their Warrington counterparts.

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

8.1 There are no background papers under the meaning of the Act.

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REPORT TO: Safer Halton Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 19 September 2006

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Corporate and Policy

SUBJECT: Local Area Agreements

WARDS: Boroughwide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 A Local Area Agreement (LAA) is a 3-year protocol that sets out the priorities for a local area, agreed between central government and the area itself, as represented by the lead local authority and other key partners through Local Strategic Partnership. Government has stipulated that Halton will be in Round 3 of the programme. This means that an Agreement must be negotiated by next April. The purpose of this report is to update the Board on the process and progress to date.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

(1) the report and the outline of the process be noted; and

(2) comments to Executive Board on the draft Agreement be provided prior to its approval and submission to Government by end of September.

3. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 LAAs are meant to join up, focus and simplify the administration of neighbourhood renewal activity which utilises external funding. They provide a framework for partnerships to grow and develop and are a tool for driving efficiency. Whilst currently limited in scope, there is every indication that Government would like to extend LAAs in the future to cover elements of mainstream and statutory activity. Normally, LAAs are based upon four blocks established around the shared priorities for Government:

- Enterprise & Economic Development
- Healthier communities, and older people
- Safer and stronger communities
- Children and young people

3.2 The concept of an LAA is that it will spell out the priorities and targets for local well being, based on outcomes which reflect local and national priorities. These then form the basis of an agreement between an LSP and government departments that sets out the aims and funding

requirements for activities that lie outside mainstream services – the special initiatives. This approach acts as the basis for a negotiated settlement between an LSP and government on the overall level and pattern of ‘additional’ spending in an area over a given timeframe, say three years. Once established, the local area agreement helps to bring vertical alignment between national and local priorities. Overall they reduce the complexity of funding arrangements by allowing more flexibility in the use of government monies and streamlining bureaucracy. As a starting point the Government has set out in its guidance a range of key mandatory outcomes and targets that every LAA must include. It is then for local discretion what other outcomes should be pursued in pursuit of local goals, which should derive from the Community Strategy. Members will be aware that the priorities agreed in the Community Strategy largely mirror the four blocks, with the addition of Urban Renewal. Government allow local flexibility in how LAAs are structured. Therefore, the starting point for the Halton LAA is that it is being framed around our agreed five priorities rather than the four blocks.

- 3.3 There is the opportunity within LAAs to request enabling measures (previously called freedoms & flexibilities). This is where we would wish to remove government-imposed barriers which would get in the way of delivering LAA outcomes and targets. These are not intended to alter legislation, or request central intervention on matters which should be settled locally.
- 3.4 LAAs do not carry with them extra funding, apart from a reward element. However, this is merely a rebranding of the financial rewards of local public service agreements (LPSA 2). Halton has already negotiated its LPSA2 and agreed its targets and arrangements for dividing pump-priming monies. Therefore, the LPSA2 will be incorporated into the LAA.
- 3.5 Government has set out a fairly specific timetable for the process leading to the adoption of an LAA. This is as follows:
 - By end September - areas submit first draft LAAs to GONW. These must include outcomes, indicators and indicative targets, funding streams, the business case for Enabling Measures, a draft Statement of Community Involvement, and partnership arrangements.
 - By December, final drafts must be received by GONW. Ministerial sign-off will be during February 2007, with LAAs being implemented from April 2007.
- 3.6 It is clear that we have in place many of the building blocks in Halton that will enable a strong and robust LAA to be put in place. These include established governance framework for the Halton Strategic Partnership. The Priorities Process, our strategic planning process is complete, and we have a new Community Strategy framed around the LAA structure. The Community Strategy has 54-shared outcomes,

which already address the LAA Mandatory Outcomes, as dictated by central government. As already mentioned, we have already successfully negotiated our LPSA 2 and put in place arrangements for sharing out the pump priming monies. The 12 LPSA2 targets have been put in place behind the Community Strategy and will be passported into the LAA. In addition we have a Safer and Stronger Communities Fund Mini-LAA already in place, which will be an important component of our final LAA.

3.7 The LSP has the task of managing the process forward and shaping the agreement. The following key steps and milestones to help trace the path for the rest of the year:

- Draft LAA end of August
- Consideration and comments from PPBs and SSPs
- Halton Strategic Partnership Board Endorse LAA September
- Executive Board Endorse Draft LAA September
- Submit draft LAA to GONW end of September
- Negotiation Process Oct/Nov
- Exec Board/LSP Formal Endorsement to Final LAA (Dec)
- Final Submission – Xmas

3.8 This is obviously only a skeleton of the process and overlays a great deal of activity. There was a major partnership event in July to consider the framework for the agreement. Partners have put in a great deal of work over the summer to draw up the first draft of the LAA. Attached as an Annex to this report is the initial draft of the Agreement. Executive Board will consider this on 21 September prior to its submission to Government Office by the end of the month.

3.9 Members will observe that the Agreement is largely a re-presentation of the agreed Community Strategy and is based on the outcomes and funding embedded in existing plans and strategies. In considering their comment, in particular members may wish to focus on the outcome framework within the document that relates to their portfolio, and how it could help the Council to achieve its key objectives.

3.10 Underpinning the outcomes framework is an attempt to “prioritise the priorities” by articulating a small number of transformational issues that demonstrate the crosscutting and joined up approach to achieving the Halton vision. These four issues – liveability, anti-social behaviour, alcohol harm, and employment and skills – are largely self selecting based on expressed community needs, the State of halton Report and the recent LSP review. By focussing on these many of the overall outcomes and targets would be achieved. The LAA would look to provide a greater focus on these areas, particularly given the impact they have across all priorities. For each area we need to look at:

- What we are doing?
- What are the barriers to progress?

- What could we do as a Partnership to address those issues that we aren't already doing? e.g. shared targets, pooled budgets, co-location,
- What could the Government do to help us?

3.11 On the latter point, the agreement identifies a number of enabling measures that we would like Government to consider to remove barriers to our progress. The overall objective would be to push harder in those issues that we know will have a positive impact across the priorities in the Community Strategy.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 A Local Area Agreement (LAA) is a 3-year agreement that sets out the priorities for a local area, agreed between central government and the area, represented by the lead local authority and other key partners through Local Strategic Partnership. The LAA provides a service improvement tool for helping to implement Halton's adopted Community Strategy.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

5.1 None.

6.0 RISK ANALYSIS

6.1 The LAA includes proposals for a robust risk management process. This will focus attention and resources on critical areas, provide more robust action plans and better-informed decision-making. It is intended to carry this forward through a partner seminar examining risk management of the Agreement in October.

7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

7.1 The LAA will be based on the same values that underpin the Community Strategy and the Council's Corporate Plan, of which a commitment to equality and diversity is paramount. The LAA reinforces this value-driven system of partnership working.

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

8.1 There are no background documents under the meaning of this Act.

(Draft 1: 24 August 2006)

Halton Local Area Agreement:**Introduction**

A Local Area Agreement (LAA) is three-year agreement, based on local Community Strategies that set out the priorities for a local area agreed between Central Government (represented by Government Office North West - GONW) and a local area, represented by its Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) – in our case the Halton Strategic Partnership. LAAs relax central government constraints and allow better decision-making at the local level. Greater freedoms provide the opportunity to think innovatively, and develop new solutions to local priorities.

To be effective our LAA must reflect local circumstances and needs. It should act as a vehicle to:

- engage and involve local communities;
- involve active participation of all stakeholders in Halton;
- be prepared and implemented by a broad 'local strategic partnership', through which the local authority can work with other local bodies;
- be based on a proper assessment of needs and the availability of resources.

This LAA has been prepared in accordance with these principles. The Community Strategy is key, and provides an overarching framework through which the corporate, strategic and operational plans of all the partners can contribute. The LAA provides a mechanism by which key elements of the strategy can be delivered over the next three years.

Background

Halton has inherited more than its share of issues, many rooted in the area's industrial past. Making the borough a better place to live and work presents some major challenges and opportunities for us all. This LAA sets out the steps we need to take together to bring about real improvements that will change lives for the better. In particular, we need to achieve real progress on five strategic themes that are set out clearly in the Community Strategy and mirrored in this LAA:

- A Healthy Halton
- Halton's Urban Renewal
- Halton's Children and Young People
- Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton
- A Safer Halton

These priorities have been derived from what local people feel is important, and from the facts and figures about conditions in Halton.

Halton is a largely urban area of 118,900 people. Its two biggest settlements are Widnes and Runcorn that face each other across the River Mersey, 10 miles upstream from Liverpool. The population of Halton was decline for over

a decade, but has recently started to increase. Between 1991 and 2002 the estimated Borough population decreased by 6,500 people from 124,800 to 118,300 in 2002. However, in 2003 there was a small increase in the population and between 2003 and 2004 the estimated population increased 500 people.

As a result of its industrial legacy, particularly from the chemical industries, Halton has inherited a number of physical, environmental and social problems. The Council has been working hard to resolve these issues ever since the Borough was formed in 1974. Gaining unitary status in 1998 has helped to co-ordinate more activity over a wider front and increased the resources the Council, and its strategic partners, have been able to invest in Halton. However, there still remains much to be done.

Halton shares many of the social and economic problems more associated with its urban neighbours on Merseyside. The latest Index of Multiple of Deprivation (IMD) for 2004, not only contains some of the latest data available, but also is one of the most comprehensive sources of deprivation indicators, as some 37 different indicators are used. It shows for example that overall, Halton is ranked 21st nationally (a ranking of 1 indicates that an area is the most deprived), but this is 3rd highest on Merseyside, behind Knowsley and Liverpool, and 5th highest in the North West. St Helens (36th), Wirral (48th) and Sefton (78th.) are way down the table compared to Halton.

The Index of Multiple of Deprivation for 2004 suggests that Deprivation has improved in the Borough. In 2004 the IMD ranked Halton as 21st most deprived Authority in England for rank of average score compared to a rank of 16th in the 2000 Index. The proportion of Halton's population in the top category (i.e. the top 10% of wards in 2000 and the top 20% of super output areas in 2004) has also decreased from 54% in 2000 to 50% in 2004. However, there is still room for improvement. Halton's concentration of deprivation has gone up from 38th position in 2000 to 20th worse in England in 2004. Concentration is a key way of identifying hot spots of deprivation within an area. Within Halton there are 6 super output areas in the top 975 Super Output Areas in England, i.e. within England's top 3% most deprived. The highest neighbourhood is ranked 193rd out of 32,482 and is situated in southern Widnes. Clearly there remains much to do.

- Claimant unemployment in the Borough has fallen from 5.0% in January 2000 to 3.1% in November 2005. However, Halton still had the 5th highest claimant count rate in the North West in November 2005. The claimant count rate only includes those people who are eligible for Jobseekers allowance and therefore underestimates the true number of people who are unemployed. The Annual population Survey for April 2004-March 2005 estimates that the unemployment rate in Halton was 7.3% compared to an England average of 4.7%
- The employment rate, i.e. the proportion of the potential workforce actually working at 68.5% in the 2004- 2005 Annual Population Survey Halton is in the bottom 6 of 43 Local Authority districts in the North West. The Borough rate is also significantly lower than the England average of 74.7%.
- Life expectancy in the Borough has increased in the past decade. Between 1992-1994 and 2002-2004 Female life expectancy in the Borough increased from 77.8 years to 78.1 years. Life expectancy at birth for men in Halton also increased

over the same time period from 72.7 in 1992-1994 to 74.1 in 2002-2004. However, despite the increase in Life expectancy Halton has not kept pace with other Authorities. Over a decade Halton has fallen from a rank of 382 for females to 424 out of 432 authorities with 432 being the lowest rank. For men the ranking has fallen from 352 to 397.

- Standardised Mortality Rates for all causes, all ages, ranks Halton 4th highest out of 354 English Local Authorities for 2001/02 . At 124 it is 24% above the national average.
- GCSE passes in the Borough are improving between 1997 and 2005 the percentage of pupils achieving 5+ A*-C increased by 16.5 percentage points to 49.3%. The difference with the national rate has reduced to 8%. Pupils gaining no GCSE passes (or equivalent) was 4% in 2005 compared to 2.6 % nationally. Skills among the workforce remain low, with a quarter of all workers lacking any qualifications.

Bespoke research to get a better picture of life in Halton was commissioned in 2005. The Local Futures Group produced a 'State of the Borough' Audit of economic, social and environmental conditions. This is a timely and necessary assessment of the challenges and issues that face Halton. Performance is assessed according to how well the borough scores on a range of carefully selected benchmark indicators of economic, social and environmental well-being. It provides a perspective on the state of Halton by looking at how it compares with other districts, how it rates within the North West region, and also how it performs compared to the country as a whole.

The Audit demonstrates that the borough is performing well in terms of its current economic performance and structure. However, the level of human capital and trends in economic growth may present problems for the future. This is particularly so given the district's poor performance in terms of social and environmental indicators, which may create difficulties attracting the best qualified people to the borough. Halton's performance on education and skills, and low levels of home ownership points to problems of inclusiveness, with groups of residents not sharing in the current levels of economic prosperity.

Moving Forward

This local area agreement sets out a clear vision of making changes across many issues that will make a big difference to life in Halton. It aims to give people opportunities and choice. We want to build people's aspirations and abilities so they can exercise greater control and choice in their lives. Having done so we want to ensure we provide the quality of life and opportunities locally so that people choose to live and work here. The following table sets out the strategic framework proposed for the Halton LAA:

<p>Vision</p>	<p>Halton will be a thriving and vibrant borough where people can learn and develop their skills, enjoy a good quality of life with good health; a high quality, modern urban environment; the opportunity for all to fulfil their potential; greater wealth and equality; sustained by a thriving business community; and within safer, stronger and more</p>
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	attractive neighbourhood.
Priorities	<p>A Healthy Halton - To create a healthier community and work to promote well being - a positive experience of life with good health</p> <p>Halton's Urban Renewal - To transform the urban fabric and infrastructure, to develop exciting places and spaces and to create a vibrant and accessible borough</p> <p>Halton's Children and Young People - To ensure that in Halton children and young people are safeguarded, healthy and happy</p> <p>Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton - To create an economically prosperous borough that encourages investment, entrepreneurship, enterprise and business growth</p> <p>A Safer Halton - To ensure pleasant safe and secure neighbourhood environments where people can enjoy life.</p>
Approach	<p>Closing the gap between the most deprived communities in the borough and in Halton overall.</p> <p>Tackling inequality and promoting community cohesion, so that no community is disadvantaged.</p> <p>Making what we do sustainable so that our quality of life is protected and enhanced for the benefit of current and future generations.</p> <p>Investing in preventative activity that stops problems occurring rather than paying for actions to fix things that are going wrong. We need to invest more in success, rather than in failure.</p>
Principles	<p>Leadership – the Partnership's role is to give clear strategic leadership to the borough and enable people to make the necessary contribution to make a difference.</p> <p>Fair and inclusive – promoting equal access to opportunities and facilities. This includes the need to positively target activity at the most deprived geographical areas or particular groups of people.</p> <p>Good value – being economical, efficient and effective in delivering 'Best Value' for the public.</p> <p>Collaborative – this is about collective responsibility for making things better and embedding partnership approaches in everything that we do.</p> <p>Evidence-based – ensuring we learn from best practice elsewhere and make good use of research about what works in addressing the borough's priorities.</p>

This vision and approach arises directly out of the newly agreed community strategy: *Making It Happen In Halton – A Community Strategy For A Sustainable Halton*. The LAA takes this as its the starting point.

Approach

The Halton LAA is framed around the five priorities agreed in the Community Strategy and set out above. These encompass the four blocks suggested by Government but take a wider view of what the priorities are for Halton. The urban renewal agenda is included because revitalising the physical fabric of the borough underpins our regeneration agenda.

Also relevant are the cross cutting themes that Halton has adopted which are pertinent to each of our five blocks. We want to shift our focus to prevention measures, to promoting positive lifestyles and the many excellent aspects of life in Halton, and to more timely interventions to help people at the times when they most need support. Our ways of working will focus on:

- Poverty and material deprivation
- Choice and quality in neighbourhoods and housing
- Equality of opportunity for everyone and ending discrimination.
- Policies and programmes that look forward and help to achieve sustainable development

We want to sharpen up service delivery and focus on the things that will make the most difference. The key measure of whether service delivery is transformed is how far and how fast we can narrow the gap in outcomes for the most disadvantaged in Halton, as measured by comparison with both Halton and national averages. The Halton Strategic Partnership will be accountable for achieving the outcomes set out in the agreement.

The LAA has developed out of the established partnership structure and strategic planning process. It is important that it adds value to the established landscape of partnership plans and activity. It can do this by helping to refocus current activity and drive concerted actions on key challenges, neighbourhoods and target beneficiaries. Using evidence and intelligence we intend to close the gap between the most deprived people and places and national norms.

Transformational Issues

The question that the Halton Strategic Partnership has been addressing is: What added value can be brought by an LAA to existing partnership frameworks and activity? The partnership believes that the answer lies in using the LAA to focus in on a small number of issues which, if we were successful at addressing, would make a significant improvement to the quality of life in the Borough. These transformational issues have been identified on the basis of two criteria:

- those where progress has not been as significant as we would have liked – identified from statistics, public perception and concern, areas for focus in recent LSP reviews.

- those which would have a positive impact across a range of our objectives and targets.

We want the LAA to bring a greater concerted effort to those key issues. We want the LAA to focus on our most intractable problems, and in doing so make a significant impact upon them. These issues need to be supported by the partnership and it has been agreed that the following four areas best fit the two criteria outlined above - Employment & Skills; Alcohol Harm reduction; Anti-Social Behaviour; and, Liveability

In addressing these through the LAA we will address the following questions:

- What are the barriers to progress?
- What is it we could be doing but are not?
- What does best practice elsewhere suggest we could be doing?
- What freedoms and flexibilities would we need to make greater progress?
- Are we using all our resources as effectively as we could?

We intend to use the “energy” and focus an LAA brings to make measurable progress in those intractable areas. Our intention is to use these as a means to exemplify the joined up nature of how the Halton Strategic Partnership addresses key issues which cut across all five blocks of the LAA. The following table gives a summary of the current position on the four transformational issues

Alcohol Harm

Why is this an issue?

Alcohol misuse can be a source of considerable harm. The National Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy identifies certain critical harms connected to alcohol misuse:

- Health – up to 22,000 premature deaths per year
- Crime and antisocial behaviour – 1.2 million associated violent incidents per year
- Loss of productivity and profitability – calculated at £6.4bn. per year
- Harms to family and society – between 780,000 and 1.3 million children are affected by parental alcohol problems

Halton itself suffers from more than its fair share of alcohol related issues. The table below taken from a recent study on alcohol misuse in the North West conducted by the North West Public Health Observatory, highlights Halton’s position against some of the key indicators for alcohol. On all indicator Halton ranks in the worst 5 districts (out of 43 areas)

During 2005 an alcohol survey of year 10 and 11 pupils in Halton was carried out. These were a few of the results:

- A higher than average proportion of 15-16 year olds are drinking alcohol in Halton – 92%. (North West 88% and 93% across Cheshire).
- 40% of teenagers surveyed claim to drink in pubs.
- 50% of teenagers surveyed claim to get their alcohol from their parents.

How will we work to address this issue across the LAA?

The cost of alcohol misuse, both social and economical provides serious cause for concern in Halton, particularly given the latest statistics. We know that if we can reduce alcohol harm across the borough we will make an impact on improving a range of associated issues. For example, these would include health, crime and community safety, employment, liveability, regeneration and educational attainment.

How will we work differently?

No single partnership or agency can act alone on such a complex issue. In order to meet the significant challenge of reducing the harm caused by alcohol the different components of the partnership structure in Halton must recognise the relevance of alcohol to their core business and must include it as a cross-cutting issue.

A multi-agency task group has been established and a comprehensive Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy developed. An Alcohol Intervention officer is about to be appointed, whose primary purpose will be to ensure the delivery and implementation of the Strategy and Action Plan.

How do we propose to deliver on this area?

In order to deliver on this area of the LAA we intend to focus on 5 key priorities, which bring together the strategic priority areas identified in Halton's Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy. These are **Health, Crime and Licensing, Children and Young People, Workplace and Communities and Regeneration**. Under each area we have picked the key outcomes and targets that we feel the LAA can help us to achieve. This action plan will be monitored and delivered by the Alcohol Task Group and will sit alongside the main Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy and action plan. Relevant SSPs will also need to take responsibility for outcomes relating to their priority area.

Employment & Skills

Anti-Social Behaviour

Why is this an issue?

The government has made a commitment to tackle anti-social behaviour. In March 2003, the Home Secretary announced new powers to deal with anti-social behaviour. Amongst these provisions are powers to close premises connected with drug abuse, new powers for Registered Social Landlords and Local authorities to deal with troublesome tenants, a new range of orders to address the behaviour of perpetrators of anti-social behaviour and in some cases, address parental responsibility, and extended use of the Fixed Penalty procedure for cases of anti-social behaviour including litter and graffiti.

Social responsibility, respect for others and appropriate community behaviour are fundamental requirements of a thriving and successful community. The majority of our communities recognise this and contribute positively to community life, however, a minority do not. The conduct of this minority adversely affects the ability of people to enjoy the communities and facilities where they live, work and visit. This is not acceptable. This behaviour is often termed anti-social behaviour. Anti-social behaviour is not welcome in Halton and will not be tolerated.

How will we work to address this issue across the LAA?

The LAA mirrors the strategic priorities of the Community Strategy. These strategic

priorities were arrived at through public consultation as to what our communities consider important and the careful analysis of research data that provides an indication of prevailing conditions in the Borough. The Anti-social Behaviour Strategy, whilst perhaps centred within the strategic priority of 'Ensuring safe and attractive neighbourhoods', relies for its success on the commitment and complementary working practices of a number of partner agencies within and outside of Halton Borough Council. It is therefore an overarching strategy embracing all 5 strategic priorities in achieving the strategic vision.

How will we work differently?

Survey data provides information in four key areas:-

- Misuse of Public Space
- Disregard for community / personal well-being
- Acts directed at people
- Environmental damage

These are robust categories that encompass the experiences of people living, visiting and working in Halton. The LAA will develop a rounded response to ASB through:

- Integration of the strategy into the statutory framework for joint agency co-operation set out in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, s17 "*It shall be the duty of each authority to which this section applies, to exercise its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder.*"
- Accessing partnership resources to maximise service provision
- Seeking and ensuring commitment to a Borough-wide response to Anti-social Behaviour
- Facilitating the flow of appropriate information to enable effective interventions. The law allows for information sharing for any legitimate purpose where this has a legal basis. *Data Protection Act. 1998*
- Recommending the realignment of mainstream resources to improve multi-agency service delivery and response to Anti-social Behaviour
- Providing the structure for continuous improvement of the multi-agency response by developing common protocols and assessment pathways
- Identifying and addressing the capacity, knowledge and skill requirements of key staff

How do we propose to deliver on this area?

Prevent & Deter

- Identifying those perpetrators of A.S.B. or those at risk of becoming perpetrators of A.S.B. and intervening at an early stage to bring about behavioural change.
- Identifying appropriate routes to divert the focus of groups and individuals, towards positive pro-social activity.
- Minimising the opportunity for anti-social behaviour by addressing the factors that support it. These may be physical e.g. 'uncared for' environment, or social e.g. influenced by alcohol or substance misuse.

Protect And Punish

- Use of civil and criminal legal remedies where appropriate:
- Harassment Notices and Orders, Anti-social Behaviour Orders, Injunctions, Housing Related Measures (demoted tenancies, possession proceedings etc.), Crack House Closures. Fixed Penalty Notices for Disorder and Litter etc.
- Providing support to the vulnerable and support to the vulnerable and ensuring that complainants and witnesses are supported and informed throughout the process.

Rehabilitation

- The ASB Task Group is committed to ensuring that there are a range of activities within Halton aimed at encouraging and reinforcing positive citizenship and pro-social behaviour. These will include activities aimed at wide groups e.g. community projects and citizenship programmes within schools as well as other activities targeted at groups who are at risk of social inclusion.
- In addition it is recognised that A.S.B. is not age restricted and adult education is equally important in shifting attitudes.
- The need to take this work to the street or neighbourhood level, a factor recognised by the national 'Respect' agenda, will be crucial in making this strategy work

Liveability

Why is this an issue for Halton?

The visual quality of an area, namely the way an area looks, including levels of litter and rubbish, scruffiness of gardens and the prevalence of high rise flats or open space, is of crucial importance in determining quality of life in a local area.

A recent Mori poll which asked people what most needs improving in their own local area, found liveability issues are still top of the public priority list, well ahead of health and education. In Halton, the opinions of 2,500 local residents were surveyed in 2005. Removing rubbish, and cleaning the streets and verges was felt to be the biggest environmental improvement, which could be made. In the 2005 LSP consultation, residents thought that one of the most effective factors in improving the environment was to 'improve local parks and make them safer and tidier'.

How will we work to address the issue across the LAA?

The quality of the local environment impacts on people's health, their fear of crime, and the social and economic vibrancy of the area. Poor quality spaces are visible indicators of decline and disadvantage. Graffiti, street litter, abandoned vehicles, dog fouling drag down a local area and there is evidence that their presence signals a spiral of decline, which can undermine communities. It is only through partners working together to tackle these issues and their causes, that we are to bring about improvements in the liveability agenda and quality of life for local residents.

How will we work differently?

Working in partnership delivering joint initiatives has proven to particularly effective and this approach will be developed across partner agencies, and in particular through the Safer Halton Partnership. The recent police drug raids, were supported by other partners, who following the raids, successfully helped to deliver local environment improvements, and re-assure the local community.

Three of the more deprived areas of the Borough have been selected for the neighbourhood management pilot. A neighbourhood management board has been established and neighbourhood boards will soon follow. By tailoring services to meet the needs of local communities across the LAA, it is hoped that we can make a significant difference to their quality of life. Neighbourhood management is seen as an opportunity for partners to work more closely together and pilot new ways of working, which if successful can be rolled out across the Borough.

How do we propose to deliver on this area?

The recently revised Safer and Stronger Communities Fund Agreement, sets out a number of liveability targets across the Borough and more specific targets for the

neighbourhood management pilots areas. The SSCF Agreement will be monitored by the performance management group, of the Safer Halton Partnership (SHP) and the SHP, engagement and liveability task group, which will take the lead in delivering on the liveability agenda

Obviously, this is merely a very short summary position. At Annex G is a more considered position paper on each of these topics.

Funding

Halton partners have noted the funding arrangements for LAAs. The mandatory pooling by Government of a number of external funding streams is welcomed. It is felt that this will simplify the performance management arrangements, reduce the transaction costs of programme management and lead to efficiencies.

The Halton Strategic Partnership does not propose to pool any other funding streams within the LAA in Year 1. Some local and specific pooling of funding by partners will take place, as indeed it does now. However, we do not seek to embed these pooling arrangements within the auspices of the Agreement. Instead Partners intend to concentrate their efforts on wider moves to align appropriate budgets behind the Agreement. This position will be reviewed for Years 2 and 3 of the Agreement and we will seek to pool additional funding in years 2 and 3 of the agreement where this is helpful in achieving the outcomes agreed.

Partners are committed where appropriate to align the use of resources (including funds, personnel, buildings and land use) to support the aims of the LAA. Annex A outlines our current thinking on aligning and pooling funding in the LAA. Our approach has been mainly to align funding in this first year.

Enabling Measures

Halton takes a pragmatic view of the opportunity offered to negotiate freedoms and flexibilities. The development process has identified a number of key enabling measures, which would benefit the LAA in its operation. These potential freedoms and flexibilities are set out in Annex C of the Agreement, and will be the subject of negotiation with GONW.

Sustainability

The focus in Halton is to build a sustainable community that balances and integrates social, economic and environmental progress; that meets current expectations and prepares for future needs; and that respects the diversity of the place and people. Sustainability is about linking cohesion into the mainstream of service delivery and ensuring that our vision can be delivered over time and in the face of conflicting demands and diminishing resources. It involves more than changing plans and policies as it involves changing hearts and minds. This is one of our greatest challenges. What is important is that foundations are properly and securely laid at the outset for enabling any project or initiative to make an impact into the future. The LAA has been developed by adopting this approach.

The vision for the future is of a Halton that has sustained itself. This is a place where people want to live and work. It is somewhere that provides a high quality living environment, sensitive to a range of needs, and recognises the diversity of its residents. This Strategy is all about giving people opportunities and choice. We want to build people's aspirations and abilities so they can exercise greater control and choice in their lives. Having done so we want to ensure we provide the quality of life and opportunities locally so that people choose to live and work here.

In short, we want to build a sustainable community that balances and integrates social, economic and environmental progress; that meets current expectations and prepares for future needs; and that respects the diversity of the place and people. The Partnership has identified the following components as being crucial to success.

- (a) *Respect and Enjoyment*
- (b) *Thriving Places*
- (c) *Well Planned*
- (d) *Accessibility*
- (e) *Well Served*
- (f) *Well Run*

Developing the LAA

The process to develop the LAA was important. It was vital that the process was inclusive. Many people and groups were involved so we could build a clear picture on what was important and how we should go forward. From the outset the Halton Strategic Partnership Board has been engaged in leading the development of the LAA. We have ensured wide involvement across agencies and sectors. This process of engagement with people and partners was vital. It is only if there is a shared view of the challenges that Halton faces, and a broad sense of ownership of the resulting strategy, that there will be any chance of its ambitions being realised.

Halton established a Lead Officer Group to lead the development of the LAA. This is made up of key leaders from all partners, including the VCS. This cross agency corporate steering group - has met regularly to co-ordinate the development of the LAA and ensures a consistent and holistic approach. In addition, a wide variety of organisations, teams and individuals have been involved in developing the detail for each of the blocks. This process has been actioned through the SSPs – our well-established thematic working groups. Wherever possible we have ensured that the work has been integrated into existing cross-agency structures, e.g. the Older Peoples Local Implementation Team. Within each block various methods have been used to engage people – workshops, mini-conferences etc. Regular activities have involved monthly LOG meetings to discuss the focus and content of the LAA, backed up by regular meetings with GONW to test this; thematic partnership meetings to discuss the detail, agree outcomes, map resources and relationships, and identify enabling measures; all partner seminars and workshops to develop coherence and consensus around the overall agreement; and a micro-website for as part of an overall communication effort to keep all partners in touch with progress (already set up on www.haltonpartnership.net).

Key milestones in the process include:

- An early decision to align our Community Strategy with the LAA blocks. We were also able to use the consultation that had been done on the Community Strategy to inform the LAA.

- Extensive briefing across sectors; putting in place the appropriate project management structures and disciplines; identifying lead officers and forming working groups and teams;
- Across agencies and across the 5 blocks stimulating thinking to clarify our ambitions and develop them into a cohesive statement, together with identifying the key challenges to Government and ourselves;
- 14 July – an all-partners conference at Halton Stadium to agree the ambitions and the challenges;
- July/August – cross agency teams for each block focused on developing the outcomes framework for the block; identifying appropriate indicators, and proposals for pooled funding and freedoms and flexibilities.
- September – meetings of the Halton Strategic Partnership Board and the Council’s Executive Board Cabinet to endorse the LAA.

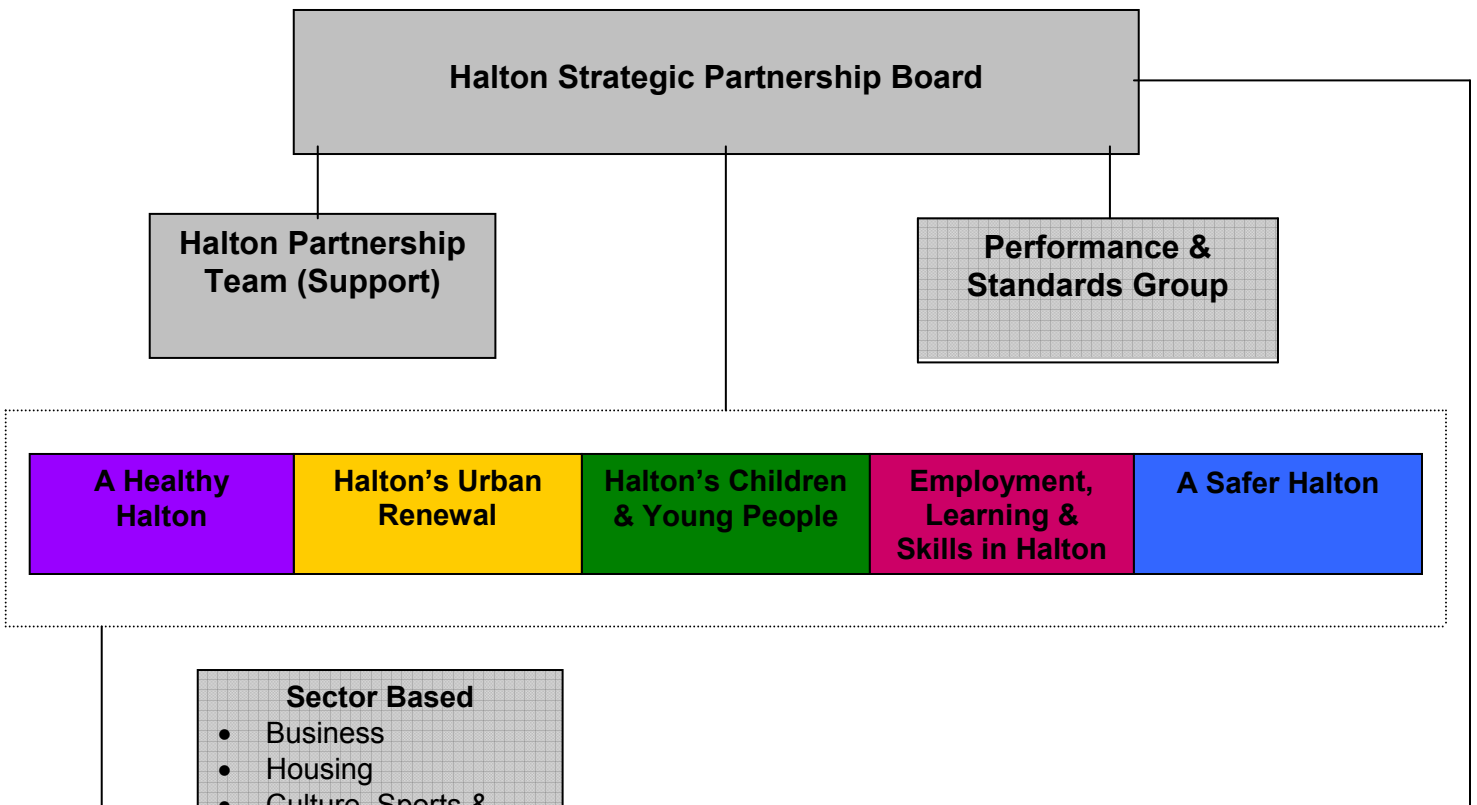
Governance

Halton already has in place well established and robust partnership arrangements. These are based on a Strategic Board supported by five thematic partnerships, a performance management group and a number of specialist subsidiary partnerships. This includes representation at all levels by all stakeholders including significant representation from the voluntary and community sectors. The structure has been recently reviewed, refreshed and rationalised through an overhaul of governance arrangements supported by Manchester Business School. The current governance structure is considered wholly fit for purpose, and can be represented as follow



Halton Strategic **PARTNERSHIP**

The Virtual Organisation



The Halton Strategic Partnership Board (HSPB) brings together representatives from all sectors of life in the borough. It is the strategic level Board and a key part of the broad-based Halton Partnership. It serves the function of a 'local strategic partnership' (LSP) for the area.

The Halton Strategic Partnership Board, the Community Strategy, and the LAA provide a common sense of direction for the community and an overarching framework within which different partnerships, organisations and groups can co-operate together, committed to common goals and dedicated to improving life for people in the Borough. Taking action is one thing, but unless it is focused on the right things it is unlikely to yield the right results. This is why the Partnership invested a good deal of time and resources sounding out public opinion and gathering the facts and figures needed to identify the overall priorities for the borough. All of this is reflected in the LAA.

In 2005 the State of Halton report was researched and published, highlighting a range of challenges and opportunities facing Halton. Its findings have been checked and challenged by the Partnership and tested against public opinion. This led to the identification of a number of priorities for the borough over the medium term which, in combination, addresses the overall aim of making it a better place to live and work.

The Partnership also works to improve the quality of life at a neighbourhood level. It does this by working through the seven geographical Area Forums established by the Council and supported by the partners. A Local Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy has been produced for each area, highlighting the concerns of local people and outlining actions to be taken to tackle issues at a local level. Many of those actions build on and link with the five Specialist Strategic Partnerships' plans, while others

are unique to their particular area. Each plan has devolved resources to draw on to help deliver these actions.

Halton is enthusiastic about extending neighbourhood management as a means to engage and empower local communities. This will address problems in deprived neighbourhoods by managing and co-ordinating resources and services to achieve a greater combined impact. A sound neighbourhood approach will lay the foundations for delivery of improvements to liveability and public services, transforming neighbourhoods and empowering local people. Halton already has many front line services organised on a neighbourhood basis. Community Support Officers, policing, community development workers, housing management, street-scene teams and youth workers are organised on an area basis. Children's Centres will also co-ordinate service delivery at a local level. A neighbourhood focus will provide management and co-ordination mechanisms for joining these, and other services such as health and social care up on a local basis. This Community Strategy provides a framework through which these arrangements can be brokered.

Strategic Priorities

The vision for Halton as set out in the Community Strategy, and mirrored in this LAA is:

Halton will be a thriving and vibrant borough where people can learn and develop their skills, enjoy a good quality of life with good health; a high quality, modern urban environment; the opportunity for all to fulfil their potential; greater wealth and equality; sustained by a thriving business community; and within safer, stronger and more attractive neighbourhood.

The key challenge is how best to frame the response to the challenges that Halton faces through the LAA. To do this challenges have been grouped into the five key themes, which are in the Community Strategy itself: These are

- A Healthy Halton
- Halton's Urban Renewal
- Halton's Children and Young People
- Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton
- A Safer Halton

We intend to focus heavily on these key issues and through the LAA to channel extra resources year on year into efforts to achieve challenging targets in each chosen priority area. If we succeed in this enterprise, we will realise our Vision for Halton. It is worth restating our overall aspirations for each of these five blocks of activity.

A HEALTHY HALTON

Our overall aim

To create a healthier community and work to promote well being - a positive experience of life with good health (not simply an absence of disease), and offer opportunities for people to take responsibility for their health with the necessary support available.

Why health?

Statistics show that health standards in Halton are amongst the worst in the country and single it out as the aspect of life in the borough in most urgent need of improvement. The population is ageing which could put even greater demands on the health and social care services. At the same time lifestyle choices in the borough, especially among the young, in terms of diet, smoking, alcohol, exercise and other factors continue to give cause for concern for the future.

Key Objectives

- A To understand fully the causes of ill health in Halton and act together to improve the overall health and well-being of local people**
- B To lay firm foundations for a healthy start in life and support those most in need in the community by maximising and promoting autonomy.**
- C To promote a healthy living environment and lifestyles to protect the health of the public, sustain individual good health and well-being, and help prevent and efficiently manage illness**
- D To reduce the burden of disease in Halton by concentrating on lowering the rates of cancer and heart disease, mental ill health and diabetes and addressing the health needs of older people**
- E To remove the barriers that disable people and contribute to poor health through ensuring that people have ready access to a wide range of social, community and housing services, and cultural and sporting activities that enhance their quality of life**

HALTON'S URBAN RENEWAL

Our overall aim

To transform the urban fabric and infrastructure, to develop exciting places and spaces and to create a vibrant and accessible borough that makes Halton a place where people are proud to live and see a promising future for themselves and their families.

Why urban renewal?

Modern day Halton has inherited an exceptional legacy of obsolete and poor quality land, buildings and physical infrastructure that undermine the development potential and attractiveness of the area. Putting this right is a key to greater prosperity and boosting the image of the borough.

Key Objectives

- A To create and sustain a twenty first century business environment with the required variety and quality of sites, premises and infrastructure that**

can support high levels of investment and economic growth and increase Halton's competitiveness

- B To revitalise the town centres to create dynamic, well-designed high quality commercial areas that can continue to meet the needs of local people, investors, businesses and visitors**
- C To support and sustain thriving neighbourhoods and open spaces that meet peoples expectations and add to their enjoyment of life**
- D To ensure Halton designs in and maintains high levels of accessibility to places and spaces so that opportunity and need are matched, and provides excellent connectivity to the wider world through transport and ICT links.**
- E To enhance, promote and celebrate the quality of the built and natural environment in Halton, including tackling the legacy of contamination and dereliction, to further improve the borough's image**

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE IN HALTON

Our overall aim

To ensure that in Halton children and young people are safeguarded, healthy and happy, and receive their entitlement of high quality services that are sensitive to need, inclusive and accessible to all.

Why children and young people?

Children and young people are the future of Halton. In time they will become the adults that take responsibility for all aspects of life in the borough. Therefore, it is vital that we should invest in Halton's future by investing in them. This will make sure they have the best possible start in life, have places to go and things to do that are positive and life enhancing, and the opportunity to fulfill their potential and succeed.

Key Objectives

- A. To ensure all children and young people in Halton enjoy a healthy lifestyle that helps them to achieve physical and emotional well being**
- B. To ensure all children and young people in Halton grow up and thrive in safe environments, communities, homes and families**
- C. To ensure all children and young people in Halton participate and enjoy, learning to develop socially and achieving their full potential**
- D. To ensure all children and young people in Halton engage in enterprising behaviour, are confident and make positive decisions about their lives and their communities**
- E. To ensure all children and young people in Halton have positive futures after school by embracing life long learning, employment opportunities and enjoying a positive standard of living**

EMPLOYMENT LEARNING & SKILLS IN HALTON

Our overall aim

To create an economically prosperous borough that encourages investment, entrepreneurship, enterprise and business growth, and improves the education, skills and employment prospects of our residents and workforce so they can share in the all the opportunities Halton affords.

Why employment, learning and skills?

A strong economy provides the key foundation for any prosperous and successful place. It provides jobs, opportunities, wealth and aspirations for local people. There is a sustained mismatch between the needs of local business and the skills of local people. This means that opportunity and need are out of balance and contribute to the widespread deprivation in Halton. Sustainable economic growth and prosperity requires a commitment to encourage and support a vibrant business sector and a commitment to employment, learning and skills to satisfy all stakeholders in Halton.

Key Objectives

- A To foster a culture of enterprise and entrepreneurship and make Halton an ideal place to start and grow economic activity**
- B To develop a culture where learning is valued and raise skill levels throughout the adult population and in the local workforce**
- C To promote and increase the employability of local people and remove any barriers to employment to get more people into work**
- D To develop a strong, diverse, competitive and sustainable knowledge-based local economy**

A SAFER HALTON

Our overall aim

To ensure pleasant safe and secure neighbourhood environments, with attractive, safe surroundings, good quality local amenities, and the ability of people to enjoy life where they live.

Why a Safer Halton?

Crime and the fear of crime affect everybody's lives. It is a major concern according to every survey of Halton residents. These surveys also show that cleaner, tidier neighbourhoods would make the biggest difference to improving life for people in their local area. We want Halton to be a clean, green, safe and attractive place to live. People should tolerate, value and respect each other, their property and the places where they live.

Key Objectives

- A To investigate and tackle the underlying causes of crime and disorder and respond effectively to public concern by reducing crime levels**
- B To improve the understanding of alcohol and drug/substance misuse problems, their impact in Halton, and reduce the harm they cause**
- C To create and sustain better neighbourhoods that are well designed, well built, well maintained, safe and valued by the people who live in them, reflecting the priorities of residents**
- D To understand and tackle the problem of domestic abuse in all its forms**

Cross Cutting Issues

This LAA is concerned with addressing social exclusion. This is about what happens when people face a multitude of problems such as poor housing, high crime, poor health, worklessness, discrimination and poor relationships. These problems link and reinforce each other creating a vicious circle for people. Often they are clustered in specific neighbourhoods. However, this strategy tries to take a positive view of the future. Past approaches have very much concentrated on dealing with Halton's failings and problems. Significant change is unlikely if we continue to focus in this way. It will be better to shift our focus to prevention measures, to promoting positive lifestyles and the many excellent aspects of life in Halton, and to more timely interventions to help people at the times when they most need support.

Overall poverty, unemployment and material deprivation are diminishing in crude terms. However, Halton continues to display high rates of benefit dependency. At the same time many people are still not claiming their full entitlements which would allow them to enjoy a minimum standard of living. Therefore, information, advice, guidance and advocacy are crucial in allowing people to access the help they need to navigate an extraordinarily complicated benefits system. This is not only beneficial for the

recipients themselves but also for the local economy as research shows that most transfer payments are spent locally. High levels of personal debt also characterise Halton, with up to 10% of households struggling to support debt levels. This in turn impacts on people's health and well being and the positive contribution they can make to the local economy. Therefore, debt advice and innovative community finance initiatives are a continuing need.

Whilst the population of Halton has stabilised in recent years, its most prominent future feature will be the rate at which it ages. The next ten years will see a reduction in teenagers by 20% and a dramatic rise in the over 60s (27%) and over 75s (19%). This presents new risks for social exclusion and shifting demands for services. Single person households will rise, and single parenthood will become even more common. One result is likely to be a marked increase in social isolation which will have profound effects on people's health and involvement in their communities.

There is already growing pressure on housing in Halton. The underpinning reasons for homelessness – including family breakdown and mental health problems – are still with us. Choice and quality in housing will be key across all tenures and in all parts of Halton. This is essential if we are to mitigate the housing element of social exclusion and concentrate on preventing homelessness and the damage it does, especially to children.

Halton is committed to equality of opportunity for disabled people and to ending discrimination. The passing of the Disability Discrimination Act in 1995 has given a new focus to our commitment to disabled people. Underlying this Community Strategy is a commitment to turn policy into practice. We want to identify and support all family carers and cared for people with disabilities in Halton by striving to improve their quality of life and life chances. We want disabled people living and working in Halton to be able to realise their full potential. We will make progress towards this by removing barriers and changing the attitudes which prevent disabled people from gaining access to employment and to the services provided by partners. Disability is a social issue and impairment becomes a disability because of the social and physical barriers that the individual faces. . For example using a wheel chair only becomes disabling if the bus cannot accommodate a wheelchair or kerbs are too high. Our efforts will be focussed on removing these barriers

The Halton Strategic Partnership want to develop policies and programmes which leave a lasting and positive effect on future generations of people in Halton. We also want to look forward and help to achieve sustainable development both locally and more widely to promote regional, national and global aims.

Given its dependence on the chemical industry, Halton has always been sensitive to the need to improve and protect the environment. Halton's ambitious Local Agenda 21 was one of the most comprehensive in the UK. It sets out Halton's contribution to meeting national and international commitments, and to tackling worldwide environmental issues such as climate change. It looks at ways we can manage our resources better, and avoid the many local problems that adversely affect our quality of life. It also considers practical ways in which we can all contribute to making Halton more sustainable. This Community Strategy sets out clearly our ambitions for a sustainable future for Halton. Underpinning all of the proposed actions is the belief that changes in our behaviour are needed to make a significant impact on long term sustainability.

The people of Halton, and a focus on responding to their full range of needs, is the key cross cutting theme that underpins this strategy. The needs analysis allows us to

anticipate likely changes and plan accordingly. We want to sustain progress and increasingly provide a much greater range of opportunities, and the ability to take advantage of them. We want to sharpen up service delivery and focus on the things that will make the most difference. The key measure of whether service delivery is transformed is how far and how fast we can narrow the gap in outcomes for the most disadvantaged in Halton, as measured by comparison with both Halton and national averages.

Resources Management

All the objectives and targets outlined here are achievable. How well and how quickly this happens depends crucially on the availability of resources and how smartly they are used. That means money, people, physical resources, proper intelligence and information, allied with the strength of will to use them in the best way. A key purpose of this Strategy is to ensure that the resources available are targeted and used effectively to bring about improvements in the borough. This means:

- Being clear and agreeing about what we need to achieve so we are all pulling in the same direction
- Maximising the funding we can generate or draw in to benefit Halton and developing our own resources and the capacity to help ourselves
- Co-operating to be more effective, cutting out duplication and waste, and pooling the budgets, knowledge and efforts of different organisations and groups where this makes sense
- Listening and responding to what matters most to people locally
- Targeting what we do to where it can make most difference
- Doing the kind of things that experience has shown will really work and be successful
- Checking on progress, letting people know how we are doing, and adjusting where necessary to keep on track

Without the tools and the will to do the job, the improvements set out in this Strategy will not happen.

The LAA runs for three years. It is an important step, but only a step, in a much longer journey to build a better future for people in Halton. If we succeed in achieving our targets they will translate into real improvements for local people. This is why it is important to know how we are doing and what progress we are making in meeting the improvement targets we have set ourselves. By monitoring progress closely we can identify and build on successes, provide necessary assistance or support where progress has not met expectations, and adjust our efforts and resources to adapt to changing circumstances.

The forward programme of the Partnership in pursuit of the LAA will be reviewed and updated to ensure it responds to changing circumstances. As well as the high level scorecard, each Specialist Strategic Partnership will have a more detailed action plan. This will contain a richer hierarchy of outcomes, outputs, targets and milestones. Each Partnership will be accountable for its own performance and the Board will seek qualitative monitoring reports on how work is progressing. One of the key features of the LAA is the understanding of how each of the themes are linked and impact on each other. The LAA establishes the importance of a number of key crosscutting themes – especially the transformational issues - that are common across all Partnership activity. A Performance and Standards Group reporting directly

to the Board has been established. This group takes responsibility for all aspects of performance management and ensure proper oversight, scrutiny and accountability of all activities that take place under the auspices of the Partnership and this LAA.

Without proper information, and making it easily accessible to people, we are working in the dark in trying to bring about improvement in Halton. This covers information about local needs and conditions, and what people think is most important for their communities. It is about the information we need to understand what is likely to work well in achieving our targets for Halton. It's about keeping people – local people and partner organisations – in the picture about the progress we are making together.

The Partnership has made a big commitment to improving the way information is gathered, used and shared. Of particular note are:

- a) A data observatory has been set up to hold key statistical information on all aspects of living conditions in Halton. This will keep data at a variety of spatial levels – super output area, ward, neighbourhood and district level – and allow for comparison with our neighbours and regional and national averages. It will greatly help people to understand the geography and nature of disadvantage in Halton. It will be especially useful in informing the spatial targeting of activity under this LAA.
- b) The Partnership is setting up a database of consultation and community engagement in Halton. This will enable people to access a rich source of attitudinal data on a range of issues. It will also help people to plan and execute better community engagement in the borough. This is a key underpinning of this LAA.

Managing Risk

The Partnership recognises the scale of its ambition and is realistic in its expectations of what can be achieved given the scale of resources being deployed. It also recognises that risk management must be an integral part of the performance management framework and business planning process. This will increase the probability of success (and reduce the likelihood of failure) by identifying, evaluating and controlling the risks associated with the achievement of its objectives.

The risk management process focuses attention and resources on critical areas, provides more robust action plans and better informed decision-making. It also fosters a culture where uncertainty does not slow progress or stifle innovation and ensures the commitment and resources of the Partnership to produce positive outcomes.

As part of implementing this LAA the Partnership will use its agreed Risk Management Strategy and establish a Strategic Risk Register. This will set out the risk management objectives, the role and responsibilities for risk management of the Board and individual SSPs, and will the categorise risks and the approach to risk management action plans.

The risk management objectives include the;

- Adoption of Risk Management as a key part of the LAA
- Identification, evaluation and economic control of strategic and operational risks

- Promotion of ownership through increased levels of awareness and skills development

The Partnership's risks can be broadly categorised as either "strategic" or "operational". Strategic risks cover those threats or opportunities which could impact upon the achievement of medium and long-term goals. The review of strategic risks will be carried out in October/November 2006 when the LAA has been adopted. This will be followed up by an assessment of operational risks through each of the SSPs as part of their Action Planning of the LAA implementation process.

Equality & Diversity

The Partnership is determined to deliver its vision of a better future for Halton's people. We are committed to equality for everyone regardless of age, sex, caring responsibilities, race, religion, sexuality, or disability. We are leaders of the community and will not accept discrimination, victimisation or harassment. This commitment to equity and social justice is clearly stated in the adopted equal opportunities policy of the Partnership. This states that the Partnership:

- is committed to promoting equal opportunities in Halton
- values diversity and encourages fairness and justice
- wants equal chances for everyone in Halton to work, learn and live free from discrimination and victimisation
- will combat discrimination and will use its position of influence in the borough, wherever possible, to help overcome discriminatory barriers

As well as accepting our legal responsibilities, we are committed to broad principles of social justice. The Partnership is opposed to any form of discrimination and oppression. Our policies will apply to all of those who come into contact with us. This includes current users of directly provided services, users of services provided on our behalf, potential users of services, other agencies and professionals, employees and job applicants, and the general public.

The Partnership wants to create a culture where people of all backgrounds and experience feel appreciated and valued. Discrimination on the grounds of race, nationality, ethnic or national origin, religion or belief, gender, marital status, sexuality, disability, age or any other unjustifiable reason will not be tolerated. As a Partnership we are committed to a programme of action to make this policy fully effective.

Partners will work collaboratively to develop effective procedures and policies to combat all forms of unlawful discrimination and to share good practice. They will ensure that all services are provided fairly and without discrimination. Reasonable adjustments will be made so that services are accessible to everyone who needs them. People's cultural and language needs will be recognised and services will be provided which are appropriate to these needs. Partners will monitor the take up of services from different sections of the population. The information collected will be used to inform service planning and delivery. Equality Impact Assessments will also be carried out on Partnership policies and services to assess how policies and services impact on different sections of the community. The results of the Equality Impact Assessments will highlight areas for improvement, which will be dealt with through the Partnership Improvement Plan.

Involving the Voluntary and Community Sector

The voluntary and community sector (VCS) are an integral part of the structure and activities of the Halton Strategic Partnership, and have been since its inception. A Compact governing relationships between the public sector and VCS has been in place for several years. A protocol governing these relationships within the LSP structure was agreed in 2005. In addition, the Partnership has spent a considerable time over the last year in developing a radical new approach to community engagement in the borough. The VCS plays a powerful role in developing the LAA, and will do so in its implementation. The HSP Board has already agreed that compact-plus principles will underpin the governance and operation of the LAA. HVA Together (the CEN) has taken the responsibility of working with partners to develop the Statement of Community Involvement that maps out the principles of this relationship in the LAA.

To develop our ambitions and priorities we have drawn on the consultation for the Community Strategy and analysis of all consultation exercises over the last year. Over the last 12 months the Halton Strategic Partnership has developed and agreed its Protocol with the voluntary sector. This build on the previous work to develop and implement Compact arrangement in Halton. We have worked closely with HVA Together (our Community Empowerment Network) to involve the voluntary and community sectors in the development of the LAA. At the outset there were briefings with the Halton Together Executive. In September, Halton Together organised a series of Forum meetings which focused on developing the LAA and the involvement of groups and individuals. Representatives of groups and networks have been involved both in the Lead Officers Group and the SSPs developing each block.

In response to developing the LAA and the subsequent challenge to deliver and achieve the outcomes, Halton Together has established its forums, corresponding to the blocks. This enables it to select its nominees to the SSPs and also provides a forum for them to debate issues and give feedback.

Within the agreement we have outcomes and indicators to show the growth and vibrancy of the sector and its capacity to contribute to the delivery of the LAA. Extensive consultation and engagement has taken place with the Voluntary and Community Sector on this. Annex E includes our Compulsory Statement of Community Involvement, and contains the detailed descriptions of the following:

- The governance arrangements for involving the Voluntary and Community Sector in the development of the Local Area Agreement;
- Summaries of the key issues arising from feedback from four major consultation events carried out on a Block-by-Block basis with the Voluntary and Community Sector;
- An explanation of how Voluntary and Community Sector will be critical to the delivery of the Agreement, together with key examples of Key Innovations and targets which demonstrate how community engagement is embedded within the Agreement

Priority Areas

In order to focus on “closing the gaps” we needed to identify a coherent set of priority geographic areas. In the past, available analysis has largely been at ward level. We now have excellent information available at the ward level of around 25,000 people

and are developing information at the “Super Output Area” level of around 3,000 people

The following wards have been selected as those for which “closing the gap” targets across the LAA will be monitored. The wards were identified on the basis of census and IMD data:

- A
- B
- C
- D
- E
- F

Progress in outcomes will be monitored to evidence “closing the gap” between these wards and Halton average outcomes. These wards have amongst the highest Multiple Deprivation Index scores in Halton and in England. In all of the priority wards, over xx% of the ward population are in Super Output Areas (SOA’s) that are amongst the 10% most deprived in England. All six wards have unemployment rates above the Halton average of 3.5%. All priority wards have Long Term Limiting Illness rates above the national.

For some targets, there are additional parts of Halton with poor outcomes in particular areas. In these cases the individual target specifies which additional areas are involved. During the first year of the Agreement, we will refine this analysis to look at smaller Super Output Areas to identify patches of poor outcomes within wards across Halton, and looking at neighbourhoods which “make sense” to local people.

Detailed maps of the key target outcomes across Halton, down to “Super Output Area” level, are being developed as part of the Halton Data Observatory development. These will enable very targeted approaches to achieving improvements in these outcomes. Some of our neighbourhoods face particularly widespread and deep difficulties. Areas of Halton have already benefited from local initiatives such as SRB. We will use a new government grant (the Neighbourhood Element) to co-ordinate local services and support community engagement, starting in neighbourhoods in the six eligible LAA priority wards. It will employ innovative neighbourhood management practices and models to deliver sustainable change. This will include the reconfiguration of local public services so that they better meet the needs of local people, and thereby help to close the gap by reducing a number of deprivation differentials, which exist between the area and more affluent parts of Halton.

Performance management arrangements

The LAA sets out clear targets for outcomes in the five thematic block areas and on key cross-cutting transformational issues. The Halton Strategic Partnership Board (HSPB) has delegated responsibility for developing and monitoring delivery of the annual LAA Action plan to the Performance and Standards Group (PSG). The PSG will review delivery of the LAA targets and operational plan actions on a six-monthly basis, with lighter-touch intermediate quarterly reviews of financial performance. The HSPB and PSG are supported by a dedicated performance management capacity from the Halton Strategic Partnership Team. They will continue to be supported by the Council’s Corporate Policy and Performance Team. The existing performance

management framework of the Partnership has been updated and revised to take account of the needs of LAA management. This is attached at Annex D.

The performance management framework will be comprehensive, strategic and operational. It will test the vision and approach of the LAA, including its preventative, sustainable and targeted aspects, and the priorities. This will include taking account of existing and emerging borough wide, regional and national frameworks and initiatives that provide useful information and intelligence about the performance of Halton. It is designed to plan, monitor and review in a timely manner and will include targeted and LAA-wide evaluations. During the first year of LAA we will develop an annual trajectory for each of the three years of the Agreement, building on the trajectory analysis produced for the LSP review in 2006.

Our thematic partnerships – the SSPs - will be responsible for the delivery of the relevant “block” outcomes of the LAA. SSPs will review their arrangements to ensure these are “fit for purpose” to ensure delivery of the LAA. Responsibility for individual targets in the LAA will be clearly designated in the action plan to be developed before the spring, with particular lead partners with named lead officers. Each partner’s normal accountability and corporate governance procedures apply to the initiatives they take responsibility for.

The role of the PSG is to:

- Prepare an annual LAA action plan for Board approval
- Review, and where necessary challenge, the annual action plans prepared by thematic partnerships (SSPs) and recommend their approval to the BSP Board
- Monitor performance against LAA targets twice a year and monitor financial performance quarterly
- Ensure effective arrangements are in place to collect and analyse information to support the development, monitoring and delivery of the LAA
- Undertake performance management action as outlined below

The Halton Partnership team supports the PSG. It is advising on the development and maintenance of information systems and analysis to support the LAA and its implementation. The Team will help join-up the performance management arrangements across all partnerships and help to ensure that action is effectively coordinated

The SSPs - thematic partnerships - are responsible for the overall delivery of the relevant block outcomes. They are primarily accountable for delivery against the LAA. Their role is to:

- Prepare an annual action plan for the block for submission to the PSG
- Monitor performance against LAA targets twice a year and monitor financial performance quarterly
- Undertake performance management action as outlined below.

SSPs are reviewing their arrangements to ensure that they are adequate for managing delivery of the relevant LAA outcomes. They will agree how responsibility for individual targets in the LAA is allocated to a lead partner and named lead officer. All agencies contributing to the delivery of a target will be expected, as part of their normal accountability and governance arrangements, to ensure:

- Appropriate delivery plans are in place

- Robust data on performance against target is collected and reported in accordance with overall arrangements for monitoring the LAA
- Under-performance against agreed targets and outcomes can be promptly addressed.

All action plans will include appropriate tracking of performance at six-monthly or more frequent interval (except where outcome data is only available annually – for example, for school examination results). A "monitoring level" will also be set for targets: this will be the level that triggers performance management action. The PSG will agree all targets and "monitoring levels" through its oversight of annual action plans.

Ladder of intervention

Our annual planning cycle is designed to fit with the established budgetary and project management cycles of partners in Halton. In summary, the planning cycle for the LAA is as follows:

Timing	Activity	Outputs
July- Sept	Annual review of progress against LAA outcome targets and delivery of previous year's action plan	Report to HSP Board Annual report. Financial report.
Aug – Oct	Draft action plans submitted by SSPs (covering proposed activities, outcomes and funding arrangements). PSG to challenge prioritization and plausibility.	Feedback to SSPs. Report to HSP Board on draft plans, including recommendations for changes. Financial report.
Nov	Mid-year (Apr-Sept) update on spending and activities (against action plan) from SSPs.	Exception / summary report to HSP Board. Performance report. GONW Monitoring Meeting
Dec	Finalised action plans submitted by SSPs. PSG challenge as appropriate.	Final proposed operational plan to HSP Board. Financial report.
Feb/March	Quarter 3 (Oct-Dec) update on spending and activities (against action plan) from SSPs	Exception / summary report to HSP Board. Financial report.
May	End of year update on spending and activities (against action plan) from SSPs	Exception / summary report to HSP Board. Performance report.

Tackling under-performance will be the greatest challenge for the performance management regime in the wider LAA context. A three-stage process is proposed for

the LAA. This ladder of intervention will be reviewed over time. However, from the outset we intend to put in place systems which provide clear monitoring and reporting and make available a mutually accountable and supportive approach to enable partners to improve performance. This reporting would result in a clear picture of performance against the LAA in our annual report and then provides the basis for future planning as LAA implementation rolls forward.

For specific funding streams, performance management action could be triggered when performance against a particular target fails to achieve the agreed "monitoring level".

- Stage 1 If a six monthly monitoring report shows that performance against the action plan or a particular target has failed to achieve the agreed "monitoring level", the lead partner will be expected to take appropriate action, working as appropriate with other agencies. It will be asked to report on progress to the relevant SSP within three months.
- Stage 2. If a six monthly monitoring report shows that performance against the action plan or target has failed to achieve the agreed monitoring level for two consecutive six monthly periods, the SSP will be expected to agree with the relevant agencies a plan to tackle the under-performance. It will be asked to report on progress to the PSG within three months.
- Stage 3. If performance continues to fall below expected levels despite action by the SSP, the PSG will nominate one of its members to agree a revised plan to tackle under-performance, details of which will be reported to the PSG within three months.

The PSG will retain the right, in consultation with the relevant SSP, to trigger performance management action at either Stage 1, 2 or 3 in other circumstances where there is evidence of under-performance against target. The PSG will report every six months to the Board on all performance management actions at Stages 2 and 3. These arrangements will be implemented and tested during the first year of the LAA 2006/7.

Partnership Strategies and Plans

Delivering on the LAA also means ensuring that all our strategies and plans together. The main strategies and plans which underpin our priorities are:

- Local Development Framework.
- Integrated Equality & Diversity Policies.
- Economic Development & Tourism Strategy.
- Town Centre Strategies.
- Local Transport Plan.
- Crime and Disorder Reduction Plan
- Education Development Plan.
- Children & Young People's Plan.
- Health Strategy.
- Sport Strategy.
- Joint Commissioning Strategy for Older People.
- Air Quality Action Plan.
- Climate Protection and Sustainable Energy Strategy.

- Household Waste Management Strategy.
- Halton Community Strategy.
- Crime and Drugs Strategy.
- Housing Strategy.
- The National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services
- Healthy Schools Standards and Plan
- Local Safeguarding Children Board Plan
- Looked After Children Strategy
- Building Bridges Strategy for Children with Disabilities
- Halton and Warrington Youth Justice Plan
- The Local Delivery Plans of the Health Trusts
- Cheshire Fire Service Plan
- Cheshire Constabulary Plan
- Cheshire Probation Plan
- Cheshire Criminal Justice Board Plan
- Safer Halton Partnership Plan

The LAA is linked to this whole range of other plans, strategies and reports. These fit together as a system designed to achieve progress on Halton's key strategic priorities and to deliver improvement for local people.

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Children & Young Peoples LAA Block							
Outcomes	Indicators	Links	Baselines 2006/07 (Unless otherwise stated)	Targets 2007/08 (including any stretch targets, and their annual unstretched targets)	Targets 2008/09 (including any stretch targets, and their annual unstretched targets)	Targets 2009/10 (including any stretch targets, and their annual unstretched targets)	Lead partner
Raise standards in English, maths, and science in secondary education	By 2008 all schools to ensure that at least 50% of pupils achieve level five or above in each of English, maths and science at KS3	CYPP outcome 3 Aim 5 Community Strategy C&YP KS3 Target Floor Target 3 Worklessness Attainment Priority	87.5% (1 school did not achieve target)	100% of schools achieve target	100% of schools achieve target	100% of schools achieve target	
Raise standards in English, maths, and science in secondary education	By 2007, 85% of 14 year olds achieve level 5 or above in English, math's and ICT (80% in science) nationally, with this level of performance sustained to 2008.	Community Strategy C&YP KS3 Target Floor Target 3 Worklessness Attainment Priority	English 72% Maths 71% ICT 69% Science 66%	English 85% Maths 85% ICT 85% Science 80%	English 85% Maths 85% ICT 85% Science 80%	English 85% Maths 85% ICT 85% Science 80%	
Raise standards in English and maths	by 2006, 85% of 11 year olds achieve level 4 or above in English and Maths, with this level of performance sustained to 2008	CYPP Outcome 3 Aim 3 Community Strategy C&YP KS2 Target Floor Target 2 Worklessness Attainment Priority	English 78% Maths 73%	English 85% Maths 85%	English 85% Maths 85%	English 85% Maths 85%	

Outcomes	Indicators	Links	Baselines 2006/07 (Unless otherwise stated)	Targets 2007/08 (including any stretch targets, and their annual unstretched targets)	Targets 2008/09 (including any stretch targets, and their annual unstretched targets)	Targets 2009/10 (including any stretch targets, and their annual unstretched targets)	Lead partner
Raise standards in English and maths	by 2008, the number of schools in which fewer than 65% of pupils achieve level 4 or above in English and Maths is reduced by 40%.	Community Strategy C&YP KS2 Target Floor Target 2 Worklessness Attainment Priority	16.3% English 26.5% Maths	9.8% English 15.9% Maths	8.2% English 14.3% Maths	6.1% English 12.2% Maths	
Help achieve economic well-being	Reduce Percentage of 16-18 year olds not in education, employment or training to fewer than 7%	CYPP Outcome 5 Aim 1 Community Strategy C&YP Engaged target Worklessness NEET Priority	10.5%	7.3%	7%	6.8%	
Ensure children have a healthy start in life	To increase to at least 85% the percentage of children fully immunised by their second birthday	CYPP Outcome 1 Aim 1 Community Strategy C&YP Health target No link to 4 intractables	80.1%	82%	83.5%	85%	
Tackle the underlying determinants of ill health and health inequalities	By reducing the under-18 conception rate by 50% by 2010 as part of a broader strategy to improve sexual health (1998 Baseline)	CYPP Outcome 1 Aim 3 Community Strategy C&YP Health target No link to 4 intractables TP Priority Floor Target 5	-7.0% (2004 data)	-15%	-30%	-50%	

Outcomes	Indicators	Links	Baselines 2006/07 (Unless otherwise stated)	Targets 2007/08 (including any stretch targets, and their annual unstretched targets)	Targets 2008/09 (including any stretch targets, and their annual unstretched targets)	Targets 2009/10 (including any stretch targets, and their annual unstretched targets)	Lead partner
Ensure children are protected from accidental death and injury.	To reduce the number of children killed or seriously injured in road accidents to 13 per year (or below)	CYPP Outcome 2 Aim 2 Community Strategy C&YP Safety target Floor target 6 No link to 4 intractables	16	15	14	13	
Help children develop healthy lifestyles	To stabilise the growth in obesity rates in the under 11's	CYPP Outcome 1 Aim 4 Community Strategy C&YP Obesity target No link to 4 intractables	7.7% Under 3 Baseline and targets to be agreed during 2006-07				
Make sure children are ready for school	To increase to 60% the percentage of children whose personal, social and emotional development is assessed as "good" at the end of the Foundation Stage	Community Strategy C&YP Foundation target Floor Target 1 Worklessness	50%	53%	57%	60%	

Outcomes	Indicators	Links	Baselines 2006/07 (Unless otherwise stated)	Targets 2007/08 (including any stretch targets, and their annual unstretched targets)	Targets 2008/09 (including any stretch targets, and their annual unstretched targets)	Targets 2009/10 (including any stretch targets, and their annual unstretched targets)	Lead partner
To help children attend and enjoy school	To reduce unauthorised absence towards the national average in both primary and secondary schools by 6% and 10% respectively	CYPP Outcome 3 Aim 2 Community Strategy C&YP Attendance target Worklessness Attendance Priority	Primary 5.65 Secondary 9.52	Primary 5.54 Secondary 9.20	Primary 5.43 Secondary 8.88	Primary 5.31 Secondary 8.56	
Achieve stretching standards in education	To increase the number of pupils achieving 5+ GCSEs at Grades A*-C to at least 60% by 2008	CYPP Outcome 3 Aim 5 Community Strategy C&YP Attainment target LPSA2 Target Floor Target 4 Worklessness Attainment Priority	49.2%	60%	62.5%	65%	
Achieve stretching standards in education	By 2008, in all schools at least 30% of pupils aged 16 to achieve the equivalent of 5 GCSEs at grades A* – C by 2008.	Community Strategy C&YP Attainment target LPSA2 Target Floor Target 4 Worklessness Attainment Priority	87.5% <i>(1 school did not achieve target)</i>	100% of schools achieve target	100% of schools achieve target	100% of schools achieve target	

Outcomes	Indicators	Links	Baselines 2006/07 (Unless otherwise stated)	Targets 2007/08 (including any stretch targets, and their annual unstretched targets)	Targets 2008/09 (including any stretch targets, and their annual unstretched targets)	Targets 2009/10 (including any stretch targets, and their annual unstretched targets)	Lead partner
Ensure children are safe from crime and anti-social behaviour	To increase the reported perception of safety after dark by at least 15% by 2008	CYPP Outcome 2 Aim 4 Community Strategy C&YP Protect target Anti-Social Behaviour	75%	86.25%	89%	92%	
Prepare young people for employment	To increase the number of 19 year olds with Level 2 qualifications by at least 30%	CYPP Outcome 5 Aim 2 Community Strategy C&YP Employability target Worklessness	55%	60%	65.5%	71.5%	
Give young people the chance to make a positive contribution	To increase to 25% the number of 13-19 year olds that are reached by the youth service, and who have a youth centre or project open at least one night each week within a mile of their home	CYPP Outcome 4 Aim 1 Community Strategy C&YP Accessibility target Anti-Social Behaviour	19.3%	21.5%	23%	25%	
Living in households free from low income	To reduce the proportion of children living in homes with a relatively low income by at least 40%	Community Strategy C&YP Equity target Worklessness	27.5%	23.5%	20%	16.5%	

Outcomes	Indicators	Links	Baselines 2006/07 (Unless otherwise stated)	Targets 2007/08 (including any stretch targets, and their annual unstretched targets)	Targets 2008/09 (including any stretch targets, and their annual unstretched targets)	Targets 2009/10 (including any stretch targets, and their annual unstretched targets)	Lead partner
Ensure young people live in decent homes and a sustainable community.	To reduce the number of care leavers who live in temporary accommodation to at least 15%	CYPP Outcome 5 Aim 3 Community Strategy C&YP Care target No link to 4 intractables	32%	26%	21%	15%	
Achieve stretching educational standards inclusively	To reduce the proportion of pupils with statements of special education needs to 2.8%.	CYPP Outcome 3 Aim 5 Community Strategy C&YP Statements target SEN Priority Worklessness	3.0%	2.95%	2.9%	2.8%	
Engage in law abiding and positive behaviour	To reduce year on year the number of first time entrants to the youth justice system	CYPP Outcome 4 Aim 2 Community Strategy C&YP Crime target Anti-Social Behaviour	369	362	354	347	
<u>OTHER POTENTIAL TARGETS</u>	(FOR CONSISTENCY RE ENABLING MEASURES)						

Have security, stability and are cared for	Number of LAC adopted during the year as % of those looked after for 6 months or more	CYPP Outcome 1 Aim 2	9.5%				
Have security, stability and are cared for	Reduce ratio of children looked after per 10,000 child population	CYPP Outcome 2 Aim 5	Baseline and targets to be completed once information available				
Choose not to take illegal drugs	Young people with a substance misuse problem choose to have treatment and this increases to 60% from the current baseline by 2008	CYPP Outcome 1 Aim 5	Baseline and targets to be completed once information available				
Have security, stability and are cared for	Children with disabilities will have improved security, stability and care within their home environment by all eligible families being offered a carers' assessment by 2009	CYPP Outcome 2 Aim 5	Baseline and targets to be established in 2006-07				
Develop self-confidence and successfully deal with significant life changes and challenges	100% of young people with disabilities progress into further education, work or other positive destinations each year	CYPP Outcome 4 Aim 4	Baseline and targets to be established in 2006-07				

Safe from bullying and discrimination	More children feel safer from bullying and discrimination within schools by the continued implementation of anti-bullying policies, the establishment of good local baseline information and systems for self-reporting which are monitored and reviewed by 2009	CYPP Outcome 2 Aim 3	Baseline and targets to be established in 2006-07				
Be Healthy	Modal share in travel to school (need to put performance indicator in here)	CYPP Outcome 1 aim 4 LAA Mandatory Target Community Strategy C and YP obesity target	Baseline information and targets to be agreed based on findings of school census January 2007				
Be healthy	Healthy Schools Target	CYPP Outcome 1 Aim 2 CYPP Outcome 1 Aim 4 Community Strategy C and YP obesity target	Baseline and targets to be completed once information available				

<u>LPSA2</u>							
Improved opportunities and levels of participation in ETE Looked after Children							
	Indicators	Links	Baselines 2006/07	Targets 2007/08	Targets 2008/09	Targets 2009/10	Lead partner
Target 1	Increase the % school attendance of children who have been looked after for at least 12 months	No Direct Link Worklessness LAC Priority	89.6%	91%	92.6%	93.5%	
Target 2	Increase % of LAC under 16, looked after for more than 2.5 years, that have been in their current placement for at least 2 years (LAC 24)	No Direct Link Worklessness	77%	81.5%	83%	85%	
<u>Improve educational attainment at Key Stage 4</u>							
	Indicators	Links	Baselines 2006/07	Targets 2007/08	Targets 2008/09	Targets 2009/10	Lead partner
Target 1	The percentage of year 11 pupils gaining 5 GCSEs at grades A*-C or DfES agreed equivalents, including English and Maths	Community Strategy C&YP Attainment target Floor Target 4 Attainment Priority	32.5%	36.5%	40.5%	42.5%	

BLOCK - Healthier Communities and Older People

Outcomes	Indicators	Baselines 2006/07 (Unless otherwise stated)	Targets 2007/08 (including stretch targets, and their annual unstretched targets)	Targets 2008/09(including stretch targets, and their annual unstretched targets)	Targets 2009/10 (including stretch targets, and their annual unstretched targets)	Lead partner
Improved Health and reduced health inequalities:	Reduce health inequalities between Halton and the England population by narrowing the gap in all-age, all-cause mortality by at least 10% by 2010 (2009-11)	2002-2004 Data Period England: 650.3 Halton: 809.4 Gap: 24.4%	2003-2005 Data Period Gap: 24.1%	2004-2006 Data Gap: 23.8%	2005-2007 Data Gap: 23.4%	Notes: Calculated using 3 yr all cause mortality rates for 2002-04, and projections for England to 2009-11. Calculated assuming gap by 2009-11 is 22% (10% reduction)
Reduce premature mortality rates and reduce inequalities in premature mortality rates between wards/neighbourhoods with a particular focus on reducing the risk factors for heart disease, stroke and related diseases (CVD) (smoking, diet and physical activity)	<p>Reduce premature mortality rates from heart disease and stroke and related diseases so that the absolute gap between the national rate and the rate for the district is reduced by X% by 2010 [x to be agreed as part of the contribution to the reduction in the gap between the Spearhead Group and the England average (national PSA target)]:</p> <p>Reduce the death rates from All Circulatory Diseases (in under 75s) by 53% by 2010 (2009-11)</p> <p>Reduce the death rate from all cancers (in under 75s) by 26% by 2010 (2009-11)</p> <p>Reduce health inequalities within Halton, by narrowing the gap in all-age, all-cause mortality between the 20% of wards experiencing the highest rate and the Halton average by at least 25%</p> <p>Reduce adult smoking rates to under 22%. With</p>	<p>2003-2005 Data Period 112.0 per 100,000</p> <p>2003-2005 Data Period 168.2 per 100,000</p> <p>2003-2005 Data Period Halton: 803.7 Highest wards: 1368.4 Gap: 70.3%</p> <p>2004 estimate: 34%</p>	<p>2004-2006 Data Period 107.6 per 100,000</p> <p>2004-2006 Data Period 163.1 per 100,000</p> <p>2004-2006 Data Period</p> <p>Gap: 67.3%</p> <p>2005: 33%</p> <p>10</p>	<p>2005-2007 Data Period 103.2 per 100,000</p> <p>2005-2007 Data Period 158.0 per 100,000</p> <p>2005-2007 Data</p> <p>Gap: 64.4%</p> <p>2006: 32%</p>	<p>2006-2008 Data Period 98.8 per 100,000</p> <p>2006-2008 Data Period 152.9 per 100,000</p> <p>2006-2008 Data</p> <p>Gap: 61.5%</p> <p>2007: 31%</p>	<p>Calculated using 3 yr all cause mortality rates for 2003-05, and target reduction required by to 2009-11. Interim years assuming linear trend to target.</p> <p>Calculated using local death files and pop'n estimates. Annual trajectory figures based on linear progression to target of gap of 52% (i.e. 25% reduction) by 2010 (2009-11)</p> <p>Baseline taken from HDA's modelled estimates (2004). <i>Note</i> this is not routinely updated on an annual basis, and is not a survey. Local lifestyle survey results due autumn 2006 – figures could be updated then Reduction in prevalence based on approximately 1,000 successful quitters per year. Prevalence of 22% very ambitious based on HDA estimates.</p>

BLOCK - Healthier Communities and Older People						
Outcomes	Indicators	Baselines 2006/07 (Unless otherwise stated)	Targets 2007/08 (including stretch targets, and their annual unstretched targets)	Targets 2008/09 (including stretch targets, and their annual unstretched targets)	Targets 2009/10 (including stretch targets, and their annual unstretched targets)	Lead partner
Provide customer focus in service delivery	Improve public satisfaction with the quality of health and social care services year on year					
Lay firm foundations for future good health	Reduce the proportion of low birth weight babies by 10%	2004 Births: 8.4%	2005: 8.3%	2006: 8.1%	2007: 7.9%	Based on 10% reduction by 2010 (from 2004) with linear progression to target.
Improve sexual health of young people	Reduce the rate among girls under 18 by 55%	2004 Data: 43.8 per 1,000	2005: 39.7 per 1,000	2006: 35.7 per 1,000	2007: 39.7 per 1,000	Calculations based on 55% reduction being met by 2010 based on 1998 baseline. Trajectory plans for gradual decrease to 2008 – then steeper reduction once impact of programmes is fully established
Enhance the well being of Halton people	Increase take up of cultural and sporting activities by adults by 5%					
Improve the living environment to support healthy living	All social housing to have affordable heating systems and insulation levels that exceed the national minimum guidelines	SAP rating of all RSL Stock 2004 is 66	SAP rating 66	SAP rating 69	SAP rating 74	
The outcomes framework for Supporting People is being developed within the Supporting People Strategy						

by ODPM will be ready in the early summer

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Employment Learning & Skills Block

Indicators	Baselines 2006/07	Targets 2006/07 (including stretch targets, and their annual unstretched targets)	Targets 2007/08 (including stretch targets, and their annual unstretched targets)	Targets 2008/09 (including stretch targets, and their annual unstretched targets)	Targets 2009/10 (including stretch targets, and their annual unstretched targets)	Targets 2010/11	Community Strategy (Five Year Total)	Lead partne r
An improvement by 2007/8 of at least one percentage point in the overall employment rate for those living in the wards in Halton with the worst labour market position.	Where do we find employment rate data by ward?							
Ensure unemployment rate in any ward is less than 20% above the borough average	3.5% borough average 4.2 = 120%	20	30	60	76	76	262 people in specific wards	
Increase headline employment rate in Halton by 2%	68.5% (2005)	200	240	280	340	70.5% 370	1,430 extra people	

Reduce economic inactivity rate by 10%	26.1% (04-05)	100	200	300	500	23.5% 800	1,900 extra	
Increase number of adults qualified to 4/5 by 15%	11,400 (03-04)	50	50	200	600	810	1,710 extra	
Increase number of adults qualified to Level 3 by 25%	12,700 (03-04)	125 366 college	250 377 college	600 377 college	1,000 377 college	1,200	3,175 extra 1497 college	
Increase number of adults qualified to Level 2 by 15%	30,000 (04-05)	100 896 college	300 966 college	600 986 college	1200 1006 college	2400	4,500 extra 3854 college	
Reduce number of adults with no qualifications by 15%	18,000 economically active (04-05)	100 345 college	200 366 college	500 371 college	700 376 college	1200	2,700 reduction 1458 college	
Increase rate of self-employment by 20%	3,900 (04-05)	30	100	150	200	300	780 extra	
Increase number of VAT registrations by 15%	235 p.a. (2004)	235	240	250	260	270	270 p.a.	

Urban Renewal LAA Block							
Outcomes	Indicators	Links	Baselines 2006/07 (Unless otherwise stated)	Targets 2007/08 (including any stretch targets, and their annual unstretched targets)	Targets 2008/09 (including any stretch targets, and their annual unstretched targets)	Targets 2009/10 (including any stretch targets, and their annual unstretched targets)	Lead partner
Sustain levels of Gross Value Added (GVA)/capita at or above the regional norm.							
increase the numbers of jobs in Halton by 10%	.		58,000 (2004)			5800 extra	
Increase prime rents on commercial property by 15%							

Outcomes	Indicators	Links	Baselines 2006/07 (Unless otherwise stated)	Targets 2007/08 (including any stretch targets, and their annual unstretched targets)	Targets 2008/09 (including any stretch targets, and their annual unstretched targets)	Targets 2009/10 (including any stretch targets, and their annual unstretched targets)	Lead partner
Bring 50ha of derelict land back into beneficial use			10	10	10	10	HBC
Facilitate bringing to market of at least 100,00 sq. m. of new and replacement commercial floorspace			40,000	20,000	20,000		
Increase footfall in town centres by 25% across the borough							
Ensure the decency standard is met by all social housing			-				

Outcomes	Indicators	Links	Baselines 2006/07 (Unless otherwise stated)	Targets 2007/08 (including any stretch targets, and their annual unstretched targets)	Targets 2008/09 (including any stretch targets, and their annual unstretched targets)	Targets 2009/10 (including any stretch targets, and their annual unstretched targets)	Lead partner
Ensure 50% of all new housing is built on brownfield sites							
Increase proportion of buses starting route on time to 98% .							
Ensure 40% of municipal waste is recycled or composted							

Outcomes	Indicators	Links	Baselines 2006/07 (Unless otherwise stated)	Targets 2007/08 (including any stretch targets, and their annual unstretched targets)	Targets 2008/09 (including any stretch targets, and their annual unstretched targets)	Targets 2009/10 (including any stretch targets, and their annual unstretched targets)	Lead partner
Improve the satisfaction rate of residents on quality of the built and natural environment by 10%							

BLOCK - SAFER AND STRONGER COMMUNITIES						
Outcomes	Indicators	Baselines 2006/07 (Unless otherwise stated)	Targets 2007/08 (including stretch targets, and their annual unstretched targets)	Targets 2008/09 (including stretch targets, and their annual unstretched targets)	Targets 2009/10 (including stretch targets, and their annual unstretched targets)	Lead partners
Reduce overall crime in line with Halton's Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership targets and narrow the gap between the worst performing wards/neighbourhoods and other area across Halton (Source ((PSA I) SSCF Agreement))	Reduction in overall British Crime Survey comparator recorded crime by 17.5 (PSA1)	Baseline 03104 79.7 offences per 1000 population Expect 12% reduction by 2006/7	17.5%	7%	15%	Cheshire Police
	Reduce violent crime rates from serious woundings and common assault	Baseline 03/04 2,133	07/08 1,913	4%	8%	Cheshire Police
	Reduce criminal damage by 20%	03/04 baseline 36.8 offences per 1000 population 14% reduction expected 06/07	20%	5%	10%	Cheshire Police
	Reduce burglary from dwellings by 40%	Baseline 5 offences per 1,000 population 2003/04	25% reduction by 2007 from 2003/04 baseline. 40% reduction by 2008	6%	12%	Cheshire Police
	Reduce the number of thefts of vehicles (source LPSA2)	03/04 baseline 753	07/08 588 17% by 2008	7%	15%	Cheshire Police

	Reduce the number of thefts from vehicles (source SSCF Agreement)	03/04 baseline 1108 12% by 2007	07/08 749 17% by 2008	7%	15%	Cheshire Police
	Increase the perception of safety after dark (source SSCF Agreement)	2003 baseline 50%	Increase by 15%			Cheshire Police/HBC
	Reduce the proportion of adult and young offenders, and prolific and other priority offenders who re-offend:					
	POPO		79% POPO			
	overall		8% by 2007			
	young people (under 18) Source SSCF Agreement)		5% by 2007	7%		
Reassure the public, reducing the fear of crime	<u>Indicators to be agreed in negotiations</u> Reduce levels of expressed fear of crime and anti-social behaviour by 25%	Not in SSCF Agreement but is one to reduce perception and reports of asb being an issue of concern to residents by 7%				

Reduce the harm caused by illegal drugs	Increase the total numbers of individuals in treatment (Source LPSA2)	2004/05 baseline 604	665	790	810 (based on current funding)	DAT
	Increase the retention rate in treatment for 12 weeks (LPSA2)	04/05 baseline 80%	85%	88%	89% (based on current funding)	DAT
	Increase number of young people with a substance misuse problem choosing to have treatment	Baseline37	59	94	150	DAT
	Increase number of young people and their families accessing specialist support services	Baseline 7 in 2005	20	40	60	DAT
	Reduce public perception of local drug dealing or drug use as a problem (SSCF Mandatory)	Establish baseline				
	To arrest five offenders for supplying class A drugs per month					

Build Respect in communities and reduce anti-social behaviour	The following indicators should draw on data in the Local Government User Satisfaction Survey					
	Increase in percentage of people who feel informed about what is being done to tackle anti-social behaviour in their local area	Not in SSCF Agreement are we proposing to add these?				
	Increased percentage of people who feel that parents in their local area are made to take responsibility for the behaviour of their children					
	Increased percentage of people who feel that people in their area treat them with respect and consideration					

	<p>Reduce the perception and reports of anti-social behaviour being an issue of concern to residents (SSCF Mnandatory)</p> <p>Reduction in the number of incidents of anti-social behaviour recorded by the police, classified as drunkenness and criminal damage to public and private property</p>	<p>Baseline 2005 33.6%</p> <p>7% reduction by end of 06/07 from baseline</p>	2007/8 27%			
<p>Empower local people to have a greater choice and influence over local decision making and a greater role in public service delivery</p>	<p>Increase Percentage of residents who feel they can influence decisions affecting their local area (SSCF Mandatory)</p> <p>Maintain the capacity of the local VCS in the borough as measured by volume of public service delivery CSSCF Mandatory)</p> <p>Growth of the local VCS by 1% per year</p>	<p>2005 baseline 30% (Consulting Communities in Halton Survey)</p> <p>2005/06 baseline 1.3%</p>	33%			

	Increase number of people who feel that their local area is a place where people from get on well together by 4% CSSCF Mandatory)	2005 baseline 80% (consulting Communities in Halton survey)	84%			
	Increase the number of people recorded as or reporting that they have engaged in formal volunteering on an average of at least two hours per week over the past year by 10%	Baseline 2005 26% (Consulting Communities of Halton Survey)	2007/08 29%			
Cleaner, greener and safer public spaces	Improve environmental quality, as measured by BVPI 199 and 89 in combination, which measure perceptions of Cleanliness	2004 baseline 57.9% (very or fairly satisfied)	Increase by 10% 2004 baseline			
	Increase the number of parks and green spaces with Green Flag Award Increase the number of residents satisfied with local parks and open spaces (BV119e)	2006 baseline 5 03/04 baseline 71% 06/07 target 74%	2007 7			
	A An increase in the percentage of abandoned vehicles removed within 24 hours from the point where the local authority is legally entitled to remove the	<u>NOT IN SSCF AGREEMENT but proposed by Phil Watts</u>				

	vehicle (BVPI 1218b)					
Improve the quality of the local environment by reducing the gap in aspects of liveability between the worst wards/neighbourhoods and the district as a whole, with a particular focus on reducing levels of litter and detritus	Reduce detritus and litter density to 16% (BVPI 100(a))	Baseline 03/04 22.3%	19% 2007			
Improved quality of life for people in the most disadvantaged neighbourhoods; service providers more responsive to neighbourhood needs; and improved service delivery	<p>Percentage of residents in Halton's NM Pilot areas reporting an increase in satisfaction with their neighbourhoods</p> <p>Implement a local management scheme in all neighbourhoods in Halton by 2011</p> <p>Raise satisfaction levels with the neighbourhood area where people live to above 63%</p> <p>Increase the rate of people involved in community activities by 30%</p>					

Road Safety	Reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured in road collisions	Baseline (1994 – 1998 average) 157 KS1	34% reduction by 2007			
	Reduce the number of children killed or seriously injured in road collisions by 46%	Baseline (1994 – 1998 average) 33 KS1	41% reduction by 2007			
Increase domestic fire safety and reduce arson	Reduce deliberate number of incidents of vehicle arson to non-derelict vehicles (LPSA2)	200 (Jan – Dec 05) baseline	140			
	Reduce fly tipping (flycapture) (LSPA2)	Baseline April 05/Feb 06 2,100	1890			
	Reduce nuisance fires		8% 2007 10% 2008			

BLOCK - SAFER AND STRONGER COMMUNITIES						
Outcomes	Indicators	Baselines 2006/07 (Unless otherwise stated)	Targets 2007/08 (including stretch targets, and their annual unstretched targets)	Targets 2008/09 (including stretch targets, and their annual unstretched targets)	Targets 2009/10 (including stretch targets, and their annual unstretched targets)	Lead partner
Implement a strategic approach to reduce the harm caused by domestic abuse	Increase awareness of domestic abuse throughout the community					
	To ensure that within the local authority area a minimum of 1 refuge place per 10,000 population is available (BVPI 225)					
	Reduce the percentage of cases accepted as homeless due to domestic abuse that had previously been rehoused in the last two years by that local authority as a result of domestic abuse (BVPI 225)	05/06 7%	-8%	-8.5%		Halton Housing Trust
	Reduce the number of violent crimes (common assault and other wounding) which are domestic abuse related	Baseline data needed	Reduce by 2% from baseline by 2007/08			Cheshire Police
	Increase the number of victims of domestic abuse accessing support by 20%	05/06 270	324			Relationship Centre
	Increase by 5% the					

	number of victims being referred onto a support service (LCJB)	36 per month	38			Cheshire Police
	Increase by 5% arrest and charge of perpetrators where a crime has been committed (LCJB)	Baseline				
	Reduce by 10% the occurrence of prosecutors not offering evidence at trial (LCJB)	8	7			Cheshire Police
	Reduce the attrition rate by 50% (LCJB)	41	20.5			Cheshire Police
	Provision and effectiveness of services to help victims and prevent domestic abuse					
	To deliver a programme of multi-agency training covering front line and managerial staff from within housing, social services, education health and police (BUPI225)					
	To increase the number of incidents of domestic abuse reported to the police (directly or through a third party) by 10% (LPSA2)	Baseline 04/05 1613	07/08 1774			Cheshire Police
	Increase by 5% the proportion of incidents of domestic abuse,	Baseline 273	287			Cheshire Police

	<p>which result in sanctioned detections from a baseline in 2005/06 (LPSA2)</p> <p>To reduce the proportion of the total number of domestic abuse reported annually to the police (directly or through a third party) in the same period who are repeat victims (LPSA2)</p>	Baseline 03/04 23%	18% (actual 05/06 12.7%)			Cheshire Police
Develop a strategic approach to address the harm caused by alcohol	the Alcohol Task Group will develop a set of key indicators from which targets will be set					

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REPORT TO: Safer Halton Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 19 September 2006

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Health and Community

SUBJECT: Notes of Working Party meetings

WARDS: Boroughwide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To inform members of topics and issues discussed at meetings of Working Parties set up by the Safer Halton Policy and Performance Board.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the report be noted.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 The Bereavement Services Working Party met on 22 August 2006 and notes of that meeting are attached as Appendix 1.

3.2 Where notes have not been produced for meetings held close to, or after the deadline for agenda items for the Board, members may be requested to receive oral reports of Working Party meetings, when the Policy and Performance Board considers this agenda item.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no new policy implications as a result of this report.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no other implications flowing from this report.

6.0 RISK ANALYSIS

6.1 There are no risks associated with this report.

7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

7.1 There are no Equality and Diversity issues associated with this report.

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

8.1 There are no background papers under the meaning of the Act.

Bereavement Working Party

22nd August 2006

Bereavement Services Office, Cemetery Lodge, Birchfield Road, Widnes

NOTES

Present: Councillor K. Morley (Chair), Councillor Geoffrey Swift, Councillor Linda Redhead, Councillor Pamela Wallace, Councillor Martha Lloyd-Jones, Mr. J. Downes, Mrs. M. Carter, Mrs. D. Philbin.

1. Apologies for Absence

Councillor S. Osborne

2. Widnes Crematorium working arrangements

Proposed changes to existing working arrangements were discussed. It was agreed that there should be further consultation with partners etc. and any changes eventually agreed should initially be introduced on a trial basis.

3. Future grave provision for 2015 and beyond

The Working Party discussed some of the options that members may wish to consider in order to ensure continued availability of new grave space for 2015 and beyond.

JD is scheduled to meet with Property Services Department in early September and it seems likely that a member led Options Appraisal will be undertaken, to provide members with detailed information on a range of options so that proper consideration may be given regarding longer term new grave provision. Members of the Working Party will be kept informed of developments.

4. Headstone safety

Just like all cemeteries in the Country, Halton's cemeteries are affected by the national problem of headstone safety. Discussions revolved around the Council's own strategy for safe headstones and the recently published Ombudsman's report on Headstone Safety.

Bereavement Services have looked at the different methods of making headstones temporarily secure and a favoured method was demonstrated.

It was agreed that the Council's Strategy for Safe Headstones be reviewed, and a programme of action put into place that would include the erection of example headstones, made-safe for the public to view, at the cemetery main

entrances, and the issuing of press articles and letters to grave deed owners to inform them of what we were doing to make headstones safe, and why.

5. BRAMM Scheme (British Register of Accredited Memorial Masons)

This Memorial Mason Registration Scheme, which is administered by NAMM (National Association of Monumental Masons), is aimed at raising the standards of memorial mason work in cemeteries, and providing additional consumer protection via mandatory guarantees. If adopted, this scheme would replace the present Monumental Mason Registration scheme currently adopted by Bereavement Services.

Following a short discussion on the benefits of the proposal, the Working Party was in full agreement to implement the scheme. Further consultation will be arranged with local monumental masons prior to the proposal being submitted formally to members with a view to an April 2007 introduction.

6. Green Bins

Waste Management Section would like to install Green bins within the Council's Cemeteries to enhance their re-cycling programme. It was agreed by the Working Party that this would be an acceptable as a cost neutral proposal. The matter would be discussed further with Waste Management with a view to its introduction.

7. Letter re floral tributes to mark Public grave

The Working Party considered a letter received from a member of the public regarding this issue. Presently, all public graves are unmarked but families are permitted to lay flowers on a public grave if they so wish.

A discussion took place regarding erecting one modest memorial (possibly grant-funded) on one of the public grave sections in each of the Council's cemeteries to commemorate the people buried in public graves. A reply to the letter would be dispatched to the member of the public and the proposal further investigated.

8. Drinking and associated vandalism/nuisance in Runcorn Cemetery

The Working Party heard that there had been a reduction in the amount of nuisance caused in Runcorn Cemetery in recent weeks and it was hoped that this would continue to be the case – thanks to the assistance of the local Police. Councillors were aware that that security staff from Runcorn Town Hall had recently been called to Runcorn Cemetery but this incident had not been brought to the attention of the Bereavement Services Section. This would be investigated further.

9. Serious complaints against the service or other serious bereavement issues

There were no serious complaints for the Working Party to consider.

10. Any Other Business

Councillor Wallace asked whether Bereavement Services operated a wreath removal programme or the like, following key dates in the year. It was advised that Christmas wreaths/arrangements were removed from the Gardens of Remembrance in early February, but any Christmas tributes placed on individual graves were not removed by Bereavement Services staff.

11. Date and time of next meeting

It was agreed that unless anything triggered the need to call a meeting in the interim, the next scheduled meeting would be held on 7th December 2006 (4.30pm for 5.00pm).

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REPORT TO: Safer Halton PPB

DATE: 19 September 2006

REPORTING OFFICER: Operational Director-Policy & Performance

SUBJECT: Performance Monitoring Reports for the 1st quarter (2006/07)

WARDS: Boroughwide

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The 1st quarter monitoring reports for the Council services that come within the remit of this Policy & Performance Board were published last month and are available in both electronic and hard copy formats. These reports enable the Board to scrutinise progress towards achieving the service plan objectives, milestones and performance targets. Therefore, the purpose of this report is to draw attention to particular aspects contained in the full versions of the monitoring reports and to act as a 'signpost' to assist Board Members carry out their performance management function.

2. RECOMMENDED: That the Policy & Performance Board

- 1) Scrutinise service performance and progress towards achieving objectives and targets and raise any questions or points for clarification in respect of the information contained in the quarterly monitoring reports; and**
- 2) Highlight areas of interest and/or concern that require further information or action to be reported at a future meeting of the Policy and Performance Board where appropriate.**

3. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 The performance considerations attached as Appendix 1, highlights the key findings in the quarterly monitoring reports for the services listed below:

Environment Directorate

1. Highways & Transportation
2. Environmental & Regulatory Services

Health & Community Directorate

1. Culture & Leisure Services
2. Health & Partnerships

4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Any policy implications arising from emerging issues or key developments that will impact upon the service or any action required to address

performance issues, will be identified in the respective quarterly monitoring report.

5. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Any other implications associated with issues connected with the service will be identified in the respective quarterly monitoring report.

6. RISK ANALYSIS

6.1 The risk control measures associated with the service objectives that were initially assessed as having 'HIGH' risks are summarised in the quarterly monitoring reports to monitor their implementation.

7. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

7.1 The actions identified arising from the Equality impact/needs assessments that are regarded as 'HIGH' priority for each service are in the Equality Action Plans and progress on their implementation is included in the respective quarterly monitoring reports.

8. REASON(S) FOR DECISION

Not applicable

9. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

Not applicable

10. IMPLEMENTATION DATE

Not applicable

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

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
Quarterly monitoring reports for:		
1. Highways & Transportation	Municipal Building 2 nd floor	Mike Foy-Senior Performance Management Officer
2. Environmental & Regulatory Services		
3. Culture & Leisure Services		
4. Health & Partnerships		

PERFORMANCE CONSIDERATIONS

(1st Quarter 2006/07)

SERVICE: Highways & Transportation (*Road Safety ONLY*)

Overview

There are no key objectives highlighted in the 1st quarter monitoring report that come within the remit of the Safer Halton PPB. Therefore, an overview of progress in this regard is not available. The two performance indicators relating to street lighting are on course to be achieved and no issues or concerns associated with them have been identified.

Areas of Further Consideration

- The recommendations from the Transportation & Access best value review are outlined in the Highways & Transportation monitoring report. The majority of the recommendations in the action plan fall within the remit of the Urban Renewal PPB and therefore, they will monitor progress towards achieving them. However, there are recommended actions that might be of interest to the Safer Halton PPB such as improving the maintenance and upkeep of the passenger infrastructure through the Street Scene initiative and reducing the environmental impact of passenger transport through the use of bio-fuels.

SERVICE: Environment & Regulatory Services (*Waste Management and Environmental Health ONLY*)

Overview

The majority of the objectives and performance targets that come within the remit of the Safer Halton PPB appear to be on course to be achieved and therefore, the prospects for the service at this stage of the year look encouraging. There are several key developments and emerging issues highlighted in the monitoring report that have already had an impact on the service and will continue to do so and no doubt will be the focus of further attention and monitoring by the Board at future meetings as the year progresses. These issues include the planned partnership working with the Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority (MWDA) and the new licensing regime in Environmental Protection. (*See the box below*)

Areas of Further Consideration

- The 400% increase in the number of complaints received by Environmental Protection requires considerable staff input and a report is to go to the Regulatory Committee on the impact of the new licensing regime. The resource and operational implications for the service will also be of particular interest to this PPB and therefore, members may wish to consider whether it is appropriate for this to be the subject of further scrutiny over and above the normal monitoring arrangements.

- The internal review of Street Scene services is underway to assess the business risks and how well the operations are managed in the areas of:
 - Customer Service
 - Performance Management
 - Operational processes
 - Partnership working
 - Value for money

The Business Efficiency Board as the Audit Committee will receive a summary of the key findings in the final audit report and therefore, the Board may wish to be informed of the main elements of the action plan through its current monitoring arrangements.

SERVICE: Culture & Leisure (*Community Safety & the Drug Action Team ONLY*)

Overview

There are no key objectives relating to Community Safety or Drug Treatment/Action highlighted in the monitoring report and therefore, an overview of progress is not available for the 1st quarter. There are three BVPIs on violent crime, robberies and vehicle crime that are all reporting reductions compared to last year and that all are on course to achieve the target. However, there is a note of caution about drawing premature conclusions in respect of the crime statistics because of the relatively small number of robberies reported and changes in the way the Police are now calculating the violent crime figures. The participation in drug treatment programmes (BV 198) is reported to be on course to achieve its target and that no issues of concern have been highlighted in respect of it.

Areas of Further Consideration

None highlighted

SERVICE: Health & Partnerships (*Registration Service, Consumer Protection & Bereavement Services ONLY*)

Overview

The key objectives and performance targets for this service that fall within the remit of the Safer Halton PPB are forecast to be achieved by the end of the year. The prospects for the year appear to be good and the only area of concern highlighted in the Emerging Issues section of the monitoring report relates to anti-social behaviour in Runcorn Cemetery, which is referred to in the box below.

Areas of Further Consideration

- The monitoring report refers to the serious concern about the increasing number of incidents of vandalism/drinking alcohol in Runcorn Cemetery. Therefore, the Board may want to know if there have been any particular factors that may have triggered the situation in the cemetery and whether there are any actions or steps that could be taken to tackle the problems of anti-social behaviour and criminal damage.

- Options about ensuring the longer-term cemetery provision to meet future needs will be presented to members. Therefore, an indication on when the Board can expect to receive the presentation might be appropriate.
- An under age sales strategy is being developed and is reported to be on schedule. Therefore, an indication on when the Board can expect to receive the draft strategy might be appropriate.

SERVICE: Policy & Performance (*Risk & Emergency Planning ONLY*)

Overview

There are no key objectives or performance targets relating to Risk & Emergency Planning highlighted in the monitoring report and no exceptions are reported on progress regarding the other non-key objectives and targets relating to the service.

Areas of Further Consideration

None highlighted.

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