



Executive Board

**Thursday, 4 December 2008 2.00 p.m.
Marketing Suite, Municipal Building**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David W R'.

Chief Executive

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

PART 1

| Item | Page No |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| 1. MINUTES | |
| 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST | |
| 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, with personal and prejudicial interests (subject to certain exceptions in the Code of Conduct for Members), to leave the meeting prior to discussion and voting on the item. | |
| 3. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE PORTFOLIO | |
| (A) PROPOSALS FOR A GREATER MERSEYSIDE SUB-REGIONAL GROUPING TO PLAN AND COMMISSION 16-18 LEARNING AND COMMISSIONING ARRANGEMENTS - KEY DECISION | 1 - 7 |

| Item | Page No |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| 4. CORPORATE SERVICES PORTFOLIO | |
| (A) DETERMINATION OF COUNCIL TAX BASE | 8 - 10 |
| 5. PLANNING, TRANSPORTATION, REGENERATION AND RENEWAL PORTFOLIO | |
| (A) THE 'HEART OF HALTON' PLAQUE SCHEME | 11 - 13 |
| 6. QUALITY AND PERFORMANCE PORTFOLIO | |
| (A) NEIGHBOURHOOD MANAGEMENT | 14 - 24 |

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.

REPORT TO: Executive Board

DATE: 4th December 2008

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director – Children & Young People

SUBJECT: Proposals for a Greater Merseyside Sub Regional Grouping to Plan and Commission 16-18 Learning and Commissioning Arrangements

WARD(S) Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 Recommendation of a Sub Regional Grouping within which Halton Council can discharge its future statutory responsibilities for planning and commissioning 16-18 Learning. This as part of the transfer of responsibilities from the Learning & Skills Council in April 2010.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That:

- i) Executive Board approves Halton's membership of a Greater Merseyside Sub Regional Group for 16-18 learning, in order to comply with the Council's responsibilities arising from the transfer of Learning & Skills Council (LSC) duties for 16-18 learning to the Council in 2010.
- ii) To maximise the benefits to all learners Executive Board requests that the Greater Merseyside Group ensures that there is coordination of strategic planning for 16-18 learners with all neighbouring authorities.
- iii) Executive Board approves 'Model Three' for Sub-Regional Commissioning. Local Authorities come together to share plans for 14-19 but procure providers from within our own Council areas.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 The Government has announced its intention to route funding for 16-18 year old learning through Councils following the winding up of the LSC. The LSC will be replaced in 2010 by two new agencies; the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) and the Skills Funding Agency (SFA). The changes are subject to legislation, and outlined in the White Paper "Raising Expectations". Part of the transitional arrangements is to establish sub-regional groupings of Councils who

will coordinate commissioning for 16-18 learning across the appropriate area.

- 3.2 Locally, these new responsibilities will be coordinated under the auspices of Halton's 14-19 Strategic Partnership. This Partnership brings all stakeholders together to plan all 14-19 learning in the Borough and will ensure that the full breadth of provision to meet the 2013 entitlement is in place for Halton's learners.
- 3.3 There is significant preparatory work required to ensure the Council is ready to assume the lead commissioning role for 16-18 learning in 2010. This will involve:
- Establishing Sub Regional Groupings of Councils for 16-18 commissioning (the subject of this report);
 - Shadowing the LSC in 2009/10 as a 'tracking year' for all Councils to fully understand planning and commissioning cycles for Post 16;
 - Coordination of LSC changes within Building Schools for the Future and Further Education College investment;
 - Introduction of new courses including changes to A Levels and 17 new Diplomas
 - The raising of the participation age from 16 – 18
 - Meeting the diverse needs of all learners in the borough
- 3.4 The recommendation of a Greater Merseyside Sub Regional Grouping for 16-18 is on the basis of:
- Alignment with the Greater Merseyside Connexions Service boundary;
 - Alignment with the developing Liverpool City Region and the Multi Area Agreement;
 - Current 'Travel to Learn' patterns for 16-18 year olds in the sub-region.
 - Working collectively to reduce young people Not in Education, Employment and Training (NEET) and raising numbers of learners with Level 2 and Level 3 qualifications in the Borough.
 - Additional sub sub regional groupings including a St Helens Warrington Halton sub group.
- 3.5 The other Council areas forming this proposal are Knowsley, Liverpool, Sefton, St Helens and the Wirral.
- 3.6 There are three models proposed to undertake the strategic commissioning through the sub regional grouping however the final decision will sit with the Young Peoples Learning Agency (YPLA), the national body that will assume responsibility from the Learning and Skills Council for the funding of 16-18 provision. On behalf of the Merseyside Directors of Childrens Services the 14-19 strategic leads from the six council areas have undertaken an assessment of each model detailed in Appendix 1. In summary :-

Model One

Local Authorities undertake strategic commissioning collectively with **shared services** to manage Further Education (FE) and all 16-18 provision on behalf of the sub-regional grouping. In this model the agency will contract with the YPLA to commission all the sub regional 16-18 provision from local providers and 6th forms. This model removes the accountability of providers to individual Local Authorities and the decision on each authorities curriculum modelling would be subject to the ratification of the agency. Funding will be top sliced to fund agency staff and premises.

Model Two

Local Authorities undertake strategic commissioning and **collectively agree** for a **lead Local Authority** to manage FE provision on behalf of the sub-regional grouping. In this model a lead local authority would be identified to hold the contract with the YPLA and act as a banker for Further Education provision in the sub region. This model could remove the accountability of Further Education Colleges to their Local Authorities. Curriculum modelling is more complex as it splits the planning and funding of 6th form and FE provision.

Model Three

Local Authorities come together to share plans but **each local authority procures provision** from **providers within their own boundaries**. This model allows for a planning dialogue to take place sub regionally accountable to the Liverpool City Region Employment and Skills Board to ensure that individual 14-19 plans are meeting the sub regional, regional and national priorities. Each Local Authority would then commission provision for all 16-18 provision within their boundary against their local 14-19 Education plan.

There is strong support for model 3 from the 14-19 strategic Managers to the Directors of Childrens Services. In model 3 Local Authorities remain in control of their local planning and commissioning but through sub regional collaboration are accountable for meeting Multi Area Agreement priorities through Employment and Skills Board, this will ensure that both employers and learner demands are met and that provision is procured locally to meet learner needs. This is the preferred model for Halton Council at this stage in the process. This will be reviewed as the arrangements mature and will finally be determined by the YPLA.

- 3.7 Warrington Borough Council is believed to be proposing an arrangement with the new Council of Cheshire East and Cheshire West and Chester however discussions are underway to provide a

forum for St Helens, Halton and Warrington to have a strong planning dialogue.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Further decisions will be required when the full implications of LSC transfer is clear in 2009, particularly around transfer of resources to the Council.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

5.1 Children & Young People in Halton

Children and young people choose a range of post 16 learning providers, including those Outside the Borough. It is important to coordinate this based on 'Travel to Learn' patterns across the sub region. Improved collaborative planning and commissioning locally will lead to a broader high quality of provision being available locally reducing the travel to learn requirements for Halton's learners.

5.2 Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

16-18 learning plays a critical role in the future employability of young people, and therefore the Borough's continued regeneration.

5.3 A Healthy Halton

16-18 learning reflects a range of opportunities to promote a Healthy Halton.

5.4 A Safer Halton

All 'Travel to Learn' Plans will reflect the safeguarding of young people.

5.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

16-18 Learning is key to the continued prosperity of Halton.

6.0 RISK ANALYSIS

6.1 It is a requirement of LSC transfer of responsibilities and funding that the Council work on a sub-regional basis in terms of commissioning for post 16 learning.

Whilst those proposals cement Post 16 learning across the City Region, the Council will need to ensure there is a strategic 16-18 relationship with the other Cheshire Authorities.

7.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

7.1 Planning for 16-18 year olds on a sub regional basis must ensure equality of access to learning for a broad range of young people. This includes young people with physical disabilities, or a learning difficulty.

It must also take account of the different faith communities and those young people from different racial heritage.

8.0 **REASON(S) FOR DECISION**

To comply with Machinery of Government requirements as part of the transfer of LSC responsibilities to Councils.

9.0 **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

To form a Sub Group with Cheshire Councils. Given the emphasis of working within the City Region for the reasons outlined in paragraph 3.4, this has not been put forward. However, key strategic linkages will be maintained with any Cheshire grouping, particularly with Warrington Council.

10.0 **IMPLEMENTATION DATE**

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

| Document | Place of Inspection | Contact Officer |
|----------|---------------------|-----------------|
| | | |
| | | |

Assessment of Sub-regional Models for MOG

3 Models

1. Local Authorities undertake strategic commissioning collectively with **shared services** to manage Further Education and all 16-18 provision on behalf of the sub-regional grouping
2. Local Authorities undertake strategic commissioning and **collectively agree** for a **lead Local Authority** to manage FE provision on behalf of the sub-regional grouping
3. Local Authorities come together to share plans but **each local authority procures provision** from **providers within their own boundaries**

Variations on 3 Models

| Models | Advantages | Disadvantages |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Model 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o A sub regional grouping responsible for all 16-19 funding possibly as a stand alone agency or as a combined service of LA's | <p>Transfer easy to manage: LSC staff just TUPE into sub-regional group (poss through lead LA) Economies of scale Keeps planning and funding of all 16-19 together Strong alignment with developing city region Stronger representation to region</p> | <p>Loose linkage (and possibly conflict) with CYPP plans and 14-19 teams Diploma consortia are organised on a borough basis Governance issues around sensitive issues such as funding FE and sixth forms Possible disconnection with DCS statutory responsibilities</p> |
| <p>Model 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Sub regional grouping for FE with lead banker (14-19 teams coming together to do this) o Local Authorities fund School 6th Forms and 6th Form Colleges o WBL is likely to be sub-regional | <p>Economies of scale Alignment with city region Single conversation for FE colleges (a consistent approach) Quality and data issues can be managed through sub regional basis Stronger representation to region</p> | <p>One LA takes on responsibility of funding FE (currently £70m) and could be seen as not only disinterested Splits planning and funding FE from sixth forms. potential problems for diploma planning Possible governance and scrutiny issues .Possible disconnection with DCS statutory responsibilities</p> |
| <p>Model 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Sub regional grouping is responsible for skills strategy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Skill priorities for individual borough 14-19 commissioning plans o Quality o Employer engagement o Labour market trends analysis o Data <p>Local Authority responsible for funding FE and 6th Forms in their own area within priorities set by Employment and Skills Board</p> | <p>Close link to DCS for discharging their statutory responsibilities Governance and scrutiny is strong in this model Some economies of scale Some alignment with city region Model is dynamic in that it seeks to develop sub –regional working but also maintain local planning Supports local consortia for diplomas and builds on current LA collaborative working Enables decisions to be close to CYP plans and local commissioning priorities Keeps planning and funding of all 16-19 together</p> | <p>Needs to develop trust between borough and sub regional working Danger of replicating resources across each borough rather than centralising them...this is an issue for quality monitoring Capacity over 6 LA's to monitor quality Need for data sharing protocols Possible inconsistent approach to FE across Greater Merseyside Not clear on how hard decisions about resource reduction are managed in this model Who would be voice on behalf of sub region</p> |

Draft Principles to underpin Governance/Management/Decision Making Arrangements

1. Linked to statutory responsibilities

- Provision of 16-19 learning (including 25 for Learning Difficulties (LLDD) and also Young Offenders up to age of 18)
- Securing entitlement for diplomas
- Securing entitlement for apprenticeships
- Agreeing effective local collaborative arrangements at sub-regional level
 - i. Sharing commissioning plans
 - ii. Analysing cross boundary traffic/travel to learn
 - iii. Aggregating demand for provision
 - iv. Deciding who leads on planning, commissioning, procurement and funding for each college and provider
- Ensuring range and appropriateness of provision to support the raising of the participation age to 18

2 Securing effective support for commissioning

- access to needs analysis
- access to supply and demand analysis
- access to performance analysis
- coherence with CYP commissioning

3 Supporting employment and skills agenda

- ensuring provision drives forward economic growth

4 Efficiency of planning and funding arrangements

- ensuring decisions, accountability and funding rules are transparent and equitable
- ensuring good value for money is secured in the allocation and use of public funds
- enabling hard decisions about resource reduction or institutional changes to be made effectively

5 Overall effectiveness of provision and capacity to improve

- ensuring there is a clear focus on quality
- ensuring intervention is proportionate to under-performance

REPORT TO: Executive Board

DATE: 4th December 2008

REPORTING OFFICER: Operational Director – Financial Services

SUBJECT: Determination of Council Tax Base

WARD(S): Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 There is a requirement for the Council to determine the 'Tax Base' for its area and also the tax base for each of the Parishes.
- 1.2 It is required to notify the figure to the Cheshire Fire Authority, the Cheshire Police Authority and the Environment Agency by 31st January 2009. The Council is also required to calculate and advise, if requested, the Parish Councils of their relevant tax bases.

2.0 RECOMMENDED: That

- (1) **The Executive Board recommend to the Council that the 2009/10 Council Tax Base be set at 38,200 for the Borough, and that the Cheshire Fire Authority, the Cheshire Police Authority, and the Environment Agency be so notified; and**
- (2) **The Executive Board recommend to the Council that the Council Tax Base for each of the Parishes be set as follows:**

| Parish | Tax Base |
|---------------|----------|
| Hale | 729 |
| Halebank | 569 |
| Daresbury | 141 |
| Moore | 345 |
| Preston Brook | 347 |
| Sandymoor | 913 |

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 The Tax Base

The 'Tax Base' is the measure used for calculating the council tax and is used by both the billing authority (the Council) and the major precepting authorities (the Cheshire Fire Authority and the Cheshire Police Authority), in the calculation of their council tax requirements.

The tax base figure is arrived at in accordance with a prescribed formula, and represents the estimated full year number of chargeable dwellings in the Borough, expressed in terms of the equivalent of Band 'D' dwellings.

3.2 The Council Tax Base for 2009/2010

The tax base is calculated using the number of dwellings included in the Valuation List, as provided by the Listing Officer, as at 15th September 2008. Adjustments are then made to take into account the estimated number of discounts, voids, additions and demolitions during the period 16th September 2008 to 31st March 2009.

An estimated percentage collection rate is then applied to the product of the above calculation to arrive at the tax base for the year.

Taking account of all the relevant information and applying a 99% collection rate, the calculation for 2009/2010 gives a tax base figure of 38,200 for the Borough as a whole.

The appropriate tax base figure for each of the Parishes is as follows:

| Parish | Tax Base |
|---------------|----------|
| Hale | 729 |
| Halebank | 569 |
| Daresbury | 141 |
| Moore | 345 |
| Preston Brook | 347 |
| Sandymoor | 913 |

4.0 POLICY AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no direct policy or other implications arising from this report.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

5.1 Children and Young People in Halton

There are no direct implications arising from this report.

5.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

There are no direct implications arising from this report.

5.3 A Healthy Halton

There are no direct implications arising from this report.

5.4 A Safer Halton

There are no direct implications arising from this report.

5.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

There are no direct implications arising from this report.

6.0 RISK ANALYSIS

6.1 Setting the Council Tax base within the statutory timescale and in accordance with the prescribed formula minimises the risk of loss of income to the Council.

7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

7.1 There are no direct implications arising from this report.

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

| Document | Place of Inspection | Contact Officer |
|-----------------|----------------------------|------------------------|
| Working Papers | Catalyst House | P. McCann |

REPORT TO: Executive Board

DATE: 4th December, 2008

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director Environment

SUBJECT: The 'Heart of Halton' Plaque Scheme

WARDS: Borough wide

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To report the deliberations of the Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board in regard to the development of a new tourism initiative – the Heart of Halton.

2.0 RECOMMENDED: That

(1) Executive Board approves the development of a 'Heart of Halton' plaque scheme subject to the 2009/10 budget process.

3.0 BACKGROUND

3.1 Halton has many famous places, people and landmark events, all of which have in some way shaped Halton and the towns and the parishes within the borough. Currently no one record of the achievements, places or people has been brought together in one celebratory scheme. Urban Renewal PPB has been considering proposals to establish such a scheme – 'The Heart of Halton'. This would be similar to the Civic Trust's Blue Plaque scheme but the scheme focuses only on people whilst the Heart of Halton will seek to identify and celebrate Halton's achievers, people, important buildings and activities which took place. Local historical societies, groups and the public will be invited to submit suggestions.

3.2 To complement the plaques, online Web based maps will be developed highlighting the location of the plaques and what they signify. This will be supported from time to time with leaflets or other publications. The plaques will also offer a cost effective way of developing heritage trails using the Web based maps, or for providing historical information to residents and visitors to the Borough.

3.3 At the meeting of the Policy and Performance Board on the 17th September, the costs and scale of such a project were considered. From an initial proposal of 100 plaques the Board concluded a more modest scheme of 50 plaques as a first phase would be more appropriate. The PPB decided 'the scheme be referred to the Executive Board for consideration during the Council's 2009/10 budget settlement process.'

4.0 OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

4.1 Staffing

To implement the scheme, it is estimated that a total of 3 weeks work will be required in year one, by a member of the Promotions and Tourism team.

4.2 Research/validation

Any suggestions received will need to be validated for accuracy prior to manufacture and installation.

4.3 Approvals

Written approval will be required from property owners prior to installation. If it's not granted, the plaque will be placed in a nearby location.

4.4 Erection of Signs

The signs will be erected using an Approved Contractor who will also undertake the necessary insurance in case of building repair requirements following installation.

4.5 Finance

The final cost of the 50 proposed plaques will be subject to quotations. At this stage it is estimated that the plaques including erection would cost £11,000 which is presently not budgeted for and would be subject of consideration within the council budgetary processes. The estimated cost of cleaning and maintaining is estimated to be in the region of £500 per annum which can be met from existing budgets.

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Halton Economic Development and Tourism Strategy has specific policies on tourism which state that Halton will develop the tourism offer of the Borough to support the Liverpool City Region, and other brands as advised by the North West Development Agency, and in so doing ...
“will place the emphasis on investment in quality attractions which make a positive contribution to the overall quality of life and opportunities for employment for residents, potential new residents, and visitors ...”

6.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no other implications arising from this report.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

7.1 Children and Young People in Halton

The provision of such a scheme would stimulate the interest of younger people in the history of the Borough and hopefully further civic pride.

7.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

Halton's has a rich history in entrepreneurial activity and part of the Halton Enterprise Strategy is to raise awareness of this. Local plaques of famous entrepreneurs and businesses would be a good way of supporting this awareness raising.

7.3 A Healthy Halton

The provision of such a scheme would facilitate the establishment of heritage style walking tours of the borough similar to those that exist in other towns and cities.

7.4 A Safer Halton

The locations of the plaques will need to take into account safety issues such as lighting and personal/road safety.

7.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

An appreciation of the cultural heritage that has made Halton what it is today will aid in the understanding of new projects and areas of local interest.

8.0 RISK ANALYSIS

8.1 A risk assessment has been undertaken. The most significant risks involved are obtaining permission from property owners and with the validity of the information. Every effort will be made to engage property owners early and to ensure that information is validated as correct.

9.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

9.1 A Equality Impact Assessment screening has been undertaken. Whilst the plaques will only be produced in one language, it is intended that using Web based technology, people who are non-English speaking will be able to translate the online map information to enable them to learn more about the sites where the plaques are situated.

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

| Document | Place of Inspection | Contact Officer |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| Heart of Halton Plaque Scheme (June 2008) | Heath Business and Technical Park | Iain Bisset |
| The 'Heart of Halton' Plaque Scheme – Costs and Operational Requirements (September 2008) | Heath Business and Technical Park | Iain Bisset |

REPORT TO: Executive Board

DATE: 4th December 2008

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Corporate and Policy

SUBJECT: Neighbourhood Management

WARDS: Appleton, Castlefields, Halton Lea,
Kingsway, Riverside, Windmill Hill

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To consider the development of neighbourhood management in Halton up to and beyond the end of Government funding in March 2010.

2.0 RECOMMENDED: That

- (1) The Halton Neighbourhood Management Partnership develop a detailed business case for Neighbourhood Management after 2010, and Corporate Services PPB review this.
- (2) the Council supports the continuation of present Neighbourhood Management arrangements at least until March 2010.
- (3) It is confirmed that the Council will retain and fund Area Forums under any future arrangements.

3.0 WHAT IS NEIGHBOURHOOD MANAGEMENT TRYING TO ACHIEVE?

Since 2006 Halton has received government funding to develop neighbourhood management in those areas of the Borough that fell within the 3% most deprived under the 2004 Index of Multiple Deprivation. Since April 2008 this has been part of Halton's Area Based Grant allocation, and continues until March 2010.

Work is being focused in three pilot neighbourhoods, each of which fell within the above category; Central Widnes, Hallwood Park & Palace Fields and Castlefields & Windmill Hill.

Neighbourhood management is designed to help close the gap between our most deprived neighbourhoods and the rest of the Borough, with regards to health, education, employment and crime

Over the years, many programmes have come and gone without lasting impact on health, education, employment, or crime and safety. That is not to say that they have not made a difference – many areas have been physically transformed – but they have had less impact on deep-seated deprivation. It may be the case that individuals and households which become more affluent move out, so that individuals' quality of life has been improved, but neighbourhood statistics have

not. However, research suggests that in such cases residents remain within a mile or so of their original home.

Neighbourhood Management therefore seeks to take a different approach. The aim is that working with residents and partners, existing service delivery mechanisms which are demonstrably not having sufficient impact will be changed to reflect the requirements of the local community. Neighbourhood Management is not about projects and grants but is aimed at smarter use of existing mainstream resources. It should deliver more bang for the existing buck.

4.0 GOVERNMENT FUNDING AND GUIDANCE

The Government tested this approach through two rounds of Neighbourhood Management pilots (35 in total). They commenced in 2002 and 2004 and are funded for 7 years. In 2006 this approach was extended to all areas with hotspots of deprivation through Neighbourhood Element Funding (but funded for 4 years only, 2006/7 to 2009/10). Halton received funding for one neighbourhood, but taking account of existing provision, we were able to stretch it across three neighbourhoods. The Government funding model assumed that nearly all of the grant would be directed to staffing, but recognising existing provision (for example PCSOs and Wardens), and concerns that money should go into services with the neighbourhoods, almost half of Halton's neighbourhood element has been available to fund direct interventions. In some ways this had been a disadvantage, because it reinforces the short-term project-based mentality.

5.0 EVALUATION OF THE NATIONAL NEIGHBOURHOOD MANAGEMENT PATHFINDER PROGRAMME

In October this year CLG published the final evaluation of the national neighbourhood management pathfinder programme. The pathfinder partnerships have been operating considerably longer than here in Halton, and therefore are more established and have been able to start tracking change from their starting baselines in 2001.

Engaging communities; The evaluation team found that;

'the number of residents engaged has steadily increased and this has benefited service providers by providing them with access to local 'intelligence' on needs and views on services, better access to 'hard to reach' groups and improved consultation.' (Page 5)

Influencing Services The evaluation team found that;

'.....consistent engagement with a wide range of service providers over a number of years – including services beyond the local authority and 'grime and crime'.

Impact Because of by its very nature, neighbourhood management focuses on relatively small-scale (in terms of spending) yet often very complex strategic interventions it will always be difficult to evaluate and identify measurable impact over very short timescales. However, the Evaluation Team found positive measurable impact across areas such as resident satisfaction, satisfaction with policing & environmental services and influence on local decision making.

However, perhaps a much more significant impact that bodes well for the future found the team was that;

'...improved working cultures and innovative practices within service provider organisationsthe implications of which are likely to be felt beyond the boundaries of each pathfinder.'

6.0 WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED SO FAR?

It is still far too early to look for improvements in outcomes or the narrowing of gaps in Halton. The Neighbourhood Management Team was not in place until November 2006 and the governance arrangements were completed by March 2007. Therefore, 2007/8 was the first full year of operation and during this formative period it is unlikely that the activities that took place affected outcome indicators for that year. Indeed, some interventions, such as the Men's Health Programme, will take years before there is any impact on mortality rates.

Activities in the first years tended to be short term, cleaner/greener approaches – Clean Ups, Fun Days etc. These activities address some immediate concerns expressed by the residents and members, and build cohesion, engagement and awareness.

Changing service-delivery on bigger issues will take longer. A series of thematic partnership groups have been established in each neighbourhood to develop ideas for health, skills, employment etc. Action plans have now been drawn up for each neighbourhood. Some early progress has already been achieved in health – the Men's Health Programme has improved access to screening for that group, and health facilities in Windmill Hill are to be developed.

Achievements to date could be summarised as follows:

1. Building the Foundations

- improved networking and information sharing among the partners
- partners' targets and objectives are beginning to be aligned
- improved engagement of residents and groups
- recognition locally, and amongst service providers

2. Impact –**Crime** Between 2005 and 2008 the ‘gap’ in the fear of crime between the three NMAs and the Borough as a whole closed by 9.3% (Daytime) and 15.3% (darkness).

| | 2006 | | 2008 | | Change +/-% | |
|-------------------------------|------|------|------|------|----------------|-------|
| | D | N | D | N | D | N |
| Central Widnes | 76 | 31.1 | 91.2 | 50.0 | +15.2 | +18.9 |
| Hallwood Park & Palace Fields | 82.1 | 33.3 | 84.6 | 43.5 | +2.5 | +10.2 |
| Castlefields & Windmill Hill | 80.9 | 34.0 | 91.4 | 54.8 | +10.5 | +20.8 |
| ALL N'hood Man Areas | 79.3 | 33.0 | 89.8 | 49.9 | +10.5 | +16.9 |
| HALTON (Baseline 2005) | 92.6 | 55.4 | 93.8 | 57.0 | +1.2 | +1.6 |

D = % residents who feel safe going out in the daytime - therefore higher is better

N= % residents who feel safe going out after dark

Satisfaction Just over 70% of respondents in each Neighbourhood Management Area are satisfied with their local area as a place to live. but the overall figure (73.1%) is slightly lower than the overall figure for the Borough (79.2%) (HSP survey).

However, least a third of respondents in each area agreed that their local area has **improved** as a place to live over the past two years. The overall figure (47.0%) is higher than that of the Borough wide percentage (39.1%).

Levels of engagement In Quarter 1 (2008/9) the following engagement figures were recorded for the three NMAs

| | |
|---------------------------------|-------|
| Nature of Involvement | Total |
| Direct (meetings etc) | 693 |
| Indirect (Receipt of info etc.) | 5924 |
| Total | 6617 |

This is a new PI and effectively a baseline.

7.0 FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

The Neighbourhood Management Board reviewed progress at an awayday in July 2008. The following key areas of work were endorsed for the partnership:

- A restatement of the partnership’s neighbourhood management ‘vision’.

- To track the 'closing the gap' with regard to key indicators between the neighbourhood management areas and Halton.
- To investigate the value for money/business case for the sustaining neighbourhood management beyond 2010.
- To reach a consensus about if, when and how to roll out' neighbourhood management after 2010 beyond the current pilot areas.

A copy of the full progress report presented to Corporate Services PPB in September is appended for information.

It is recommended that Executive Board confirm the Council's support for the continuation of Neighbourhood Management for the duration of the current funding, and support the key areas of future work agreed by the partnership. This work will form the basis for subsequent consideration of the future for neighbourhood arrangements in Halton after April 2010.

Some concerns have been expressed about the relationship of Area Forums to Neighbourhood Management, and that Area Forum funding may be required to subsidise Neighbourhood Management in the future. Area Forums perform a different and complementary function, and it is recommended that Executive Board confirm the Council's intention to retain Area Forums, and that there is no current plan to alter their funding arrangements.

8.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Engagement and empowerment are key elements of the national policy agenda, as expressed through the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act, associated statutory guidance and the community empowerment white paper.

We have made commitments to closing the gap between Halton's most deprived wards and the rest of the Borough in the Community Strategy and LAA. Neighbourhood Management arrangements are critical to our ability to deliver these commitments.

9.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

The operational cost of the neighbourhood management partnership team is currently around £225,000 per year, excluding neighbourhood grant "pots", which is currently met by Government Area-Based Grant. This ends with effect from March 2010.

It is estimated that over the first two years of operation the partnership attracted at least the same amount of additional public investment each year into the three neighbourhood management areas either directly or 'in kind' by the allocation of additional resources.

10.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL’S PRIORITIES

10.1 Children and Young People in Halton

10.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

10.3 A Healthy Halton

10.4 A Safer Halton

10.5 Halton’s Urban Renewal

Neighbourhood Management can facilitate the delivery of our ambitions under all five priorities in some of our most disadvantaged communities.

11.0 RISK ANALYSIS

The persistence of the gaps between the most deprived parts of Halton and the rest of the Borough indicate that without targeted intervention we will be unable to achieve our objectives to narrow those gaps. There is a risk that failure to develop an evidence based business case for any future intervention will result in inefficient use of resources. There is also a risk that undue delay in determining our approach will lead to the loss of experienced staff, with a consequent impact on capacity to deliver.

12.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

Neighbourhood Management has been recognised as a key plank in our approach to reducing inequalities in Halton.

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

| Document | Place of Inspection | of | Contact |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Neighbourhood Management Pathfinders; Final Evaluation Report (CLG Oct 08) | Director Neighbourhood Management’s office, Runcorn Town Hall | of | Nick Mannion Neighbourhood Management Director 0151 471 7470 Nicholas.mannion@halton.gov.uk |

| | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| REPORT TO: | Corporate Services Policy and Performance Board |
| REPORTING OFFICER:: | Strategic Director Corporate and Policy |
| DATE: | 9 th September 2008 |
| SUBJECT: | Neighbourhood Management Update |
| WARDS | Appleton, Castlefields, Halton Lea, Kingsway, Riverside, Windmill Hill |

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To inform the Board on progress in developing neighbourhood management in Halton.

2. RECOMMENDATION

The Board notes the report.

3. BACKGROUND

Since 2006 Halton has received to develop neighbourhood management in those areas of the Borough that fell within the 3% most deprived under the 2004 Index of Multiple Deprivation. Since April 2008 this has been part of Halton's Area Based Grant allocation, and continues until March 2010.

Work is being focused in three pilot neighbourhoods, each of which fell within the above category; Central Widnes, Hallwood Park & Palace Fields and Castlefields & Windmill Hill.

Neighbourhood management is designed to help close the gap between our most deprived neighbourhoods and the rest of the Borough, with regards to health, education, employment and crime. A strategic partnership board made-up of key local service providers, elected members, resident representatives and the voluntary sector, currently oversees the development of neighbourhood management in Halton. The board reports directly to the Halton Strategic Partnership Board.

In addition to the 'strategic board', there are well-established neighbourhood boards working in each of the three neighbourhoods. The three neighbourhood boards include local residents, key local service providers, local stakeholders and ward councillors.

4. SUMMARY OF KEY DEVELOPMENTS OVER THE PAST QUARTER

The Halton Neighbourhood Management Board has met twice since your last meeting; on 3rd June and on 15th July 2008. The board also had an 'awayday' at Norton Priory on 8th July 2008 (See section 5)

(a) Key issues at the June meeting were;

- Councillor John Swain was re-elected chair and Windmill Hill resident Clare Nelson, vice-chair for the 2008/9 municipal year.
- A presentation and review of the partnership's service agreement with the Borough Council's Community Development service was received. The agreement is currently scheduled to end in March 2009.
- The board also received a report outlining the partnership's delivery of its 2007/8 Action Plan. Overall, progress in the delivery of the partnership's first action plan was satisfactory, with 10 (77%) out of the 13 key objectives being assessed as 'green' by the year end. An analysis of each of the those objectives and milestones that attracted a 'red' light highlighted shared key factor across all of them as to why progress has been slower than planned or had stalled. Briefly, pressure on staff resources both within the neighbourhood management team and in key partners was the major contributory factor. Therefore, it could be said that we were a little too ambitious last year when the Action Plan was agreed as to what could be delivered with the resources and the time available
- In 2007/8 32 Quick Response Fund & Community Action Fund grants were made by the neighbourhood boards, for a total of £35,997.48. Reports from the partnership's appraisal panel on mid-point reviews of two major neighbourhood management supported interventions (Kooldown Plus and Neighbourhood Pride) were also considered.

(b) Key issues at the July Halton Neighbourhood Management Board

- A presentation on the innovative Men's Health service developed by Halton & St. Helens Primary care Trust ('PCT') was received.
- A draft Development Plan for the partnership covering the period up to the end of external funding for the development of neighbourhood management in Halton, March 2010 was discussed. The plan was drafted to take into account ongoing work from last year's action plan, David Winchurch's report, and the key issues identified at the Awayday the previous week. After a discussion and with some amendments to objectives and performance indicators it was approved and adopted.
- The board also agreed to set-up a small working group to review the partnership's Risk Register.

(c) Neighbourhood Management Boards.

The three neighbourhood management boards are continuing to develop, with all three now having evolving Neighbourhood Action Plans and growing programmes of events and interventions.

(d) Other relevant issues;

- Training sessions on the subjects of project appraisal (to provide partnership members with the skills and knowledge to examine applications for funding from the partnership's Intervention Budget) and an 'Introduction to Neighbourhood Management' were offered in Spring. Attendance was good, and participant feedback was very positive. Further training opportunities are in the process of being set-up for the Autumn.
- Neighbourhood management was singled out for particular praise in the Audit Commission's recently published Comprehensive Performance Assessment ('CPA') of the Borough Council – paragraph 8 on page 6.
- The latest update on the statistical baselines for each of the three neighbourhood management areas should be available by the date of your meeting.

5. THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEIGHBOURHOOD MANAGEMENT IN HALTON.

The Halton Neighbourhood Management Board had a well attended and productive board awayday at Norton Priory on 8th July. The event was externally facilitated by Dr Helen Kara.

The main focus of the awayday was to scrutinise in detail the recommendations contained in the Winchurch report relating to the future development of the partnership, to discuss partnership development priorities between now and the end of external funding in 2010, and how to best maintain the ongoing development of neighbourhood management in Halton after 2010.

The strong view of participants was that whilst much has been achieved to date, there remains much work to be done to secure the future of neighbourhood working here in Halton.

The consensus was that the partnership needs to 'kick-on' over the remaining period of external funding up to 2010 to embed neighbourhood working and resident engagement within the broader evolving empowerment, inclusion and cohesion agenda currently being set at national level for local authorities and wider public services.

Pursuant to this, the Awayday set the following key areas of work for the partnership over the coming months;

- A restatement of the partnership's neighbourhood management 'vision'.

- To track the 'closing the gap' with regard to key indicators between the neighbourhood management areas and Halton.
- To investigate the value for money/business case for the sustaining neighbourhood management beyond 2010.
- To reach a consensus about if, when and how to roll out' neighbourhood management after 2010 beyond the current pilot areas.

6. INTERVENTION ACTIVITY & EXPENDITURE

The neighbourhood boards' grant awarding panels continue to consider applications from local community and voluntary groups seeking small and medium sized grants from their respective allocated budgets for a wide range of events, projects and activities.

The three neighbourhood boards are working, via thematic groups, on the best use of their delegated Intervention Budget to deliver the key priorities contained in their respective Neighbourhood Action Plans.

The partnership's overall level of expenditure is in line with its budget for 2008/9.

7. EMERGING ISSUES

- Negotiations with SSP's regarding the agreement of local targets for the neighbourhood management areas within Halton's 2008 LAA.
- Working with the relevant lead organisations regarding the key priorities set out in the HSP's commissioning pot.
- To start the planning process to sustain and develop neighbourhood management in Halton post-2010.

8. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Neighbourhood Management is intended to help the Council and its partners to deliver the objectives in the Community Strategy and Corporate Plan in relation to closing the gap between the quality of life in the most disadvantaged areas and that in the rest of Halton.

9. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

None

10. IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

10.1 Children and Young People in Halton

10.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

10.3 A Healthy Halton

10.4 A Safer Halton**10.5 Halton's Urban Renewal**

Neighbourhood Management aims to support the delivery of objectives under all of the Council's key priority areas.

11. RISK ANALYSIS

N/A

12. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

Neighbourhood Management aims to reduce geographical inequalities with the Borough.

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

| Document | Place of Inspection | Contact Officer |
|-------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| National Strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal | Runcorn Town Hall | Nick Mannion Neighbourhood Management Director 0151 471 7470 Nicholas.mannion@halton.gov.uk |
| Halton LAA | | |
| Neighbourhood Management Delivery Plan | | |
| Minutes of Neighbourhood Management Board meetings | | |