

Public Document Pack



Executive Board

Thursday, 29 January 2009 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) CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2009/2010 - KEY DECISION	1 - 9
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lynn.cairns@halton.gov.uk for further information.
The next meeting of the Committee is on Thursday, 12 February 2009*

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4. CORPORATE SERVICES PORTFOLIO	
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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.

REPORT TO: Executive Board

DATE: 29th January 2009

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director - Children and Young People

SUBJECT: Capital Programme – 2009/2010

WARDS: Boroughwide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 This report provides a summary of the capital programme for 2009/10 for Children & Young People Directorate (CYPD).

2.0 RECOMMENDATION:

(1) To note the capital funding available for 2009/10;

(2) To recommend submission to Full Council for approval of the Schools Capital Programme 2009/10.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 The total capital funding allocation for 2009/10 is outlined below.

<u>TYPE OF FUNDING</u>	<u>AMOUNT OF FUNDING (2009/10)</u>
Schools Capital Allocation (Supported Borrowing)	£1,504,653 *
LA contribution to repairs from revenue (to be confirmed)	£431,330
Access Initiative	£197,999
Children's Centre Capital	£47,194
Early Years Childcare Capital	£545,573
Playbuilder Capital	£411,252
Primary Capital Programme	£3,000,000 (Funding subject to PCP Strategy for Change being approved)
Total:	£6,138,001

* In November 2006 the DCSF approved an advance of £700,000 from 2009/2010 schools capital funding allocation for the extension and remodelling works at Brookfield's and Cavendish Schools. The advance will be deducted by reducing the capital grant over the period 2008-2011. The capital allocation above of £1,504,653 is the net allocation after the return of the second advance payment of £233,333.

3.2 Overview of Schools Capital Programme 2009/10.

It is proposed the schools capital and Local Authority revenue allocations fund the following works. See Appendix 1: Summary of funding.

1. Property Services carry out an annual short survey of all schools plus a more detailed survey for one quarter of Halton schools each year. These surveys identify the key capital repairs requirements. This information is then prioritised through use of a condition score matrix which takes into account the following factors: likelihood of occurrence, impact on school, impact on building fabric, health and safety and school repair strategy.

The matrix has been agreed by the Asset Management Steering Group which is a group consisting of Head teacher representatives from primary, secondary and special schools, representatives from the Dioceses of Liverpool, Shrewsbury and Chester and officers of Property Services and the Children and Young People Directorate.

2. The detailed capital repairs programme for 2009/2010 is identified in Appendix 2. The costs shown against each project are currently provisional. Based on these estimated costs it is likely that all projects can be funded in 2009/2010 however should the costs following receipt of tenders be less than the estimated costs further projects will be brought forward from the reserve list. However if the costs exceed the total funding available once final costs have been obtained the lowest scoring projects (lowest priority) will be deferred to 2010/11.
3. Other commitments from this fund are:
 - AutoCAD plans have been produced detailing the layout and schedule of accommodation for all school buildings and will enable their use by schools in relation to asset management. It will be necessary to maintain up to date plans for all schools where building improvement works have been carried out.
 - A rolling programme to address fire compartmentation in consortia type school buildings as a preventative measure against the risk of fire. To continue with this work it is essential to allocate funds to this programme.
4. A notional allocation for Primary Capital (£3.0m in 2009/10 and £5.378m in 2010/11) has been provided to all authorities. The exact amount available will be confirmed when the authority's Primary Capital Strategy is approved by the Department for Children Schools and Families (DCSF) – the Strategy is required to be re-submitted to the DCSF by 31 January, 2009. In order to maximise development opportunities and to provide added impact to the Primary Capital Programme it will necessary to join with other eligible capital funding. It is therefore necessary to make a contribution of £400,000 from the Schools Capital Programme 2009/10 towards the

proposals in the Primary Capital Programme (as detailed below in paragraph 7.0).

5. A contingency fund is also retained from this fund. This is used to cover the costs of emergency and health and safety works that arise during the year of a capital nature.
6. Fairfield High School – Wade Deacon High and Fairfield High School are currently federated until the closure of Fairfield High in August 2010. Wade Deacon will then operate as a split site school until the remodelling of Wade Deacon has been completed in 2013. It will therefore be necessary to modify a number of general and specialist teaching areas at Fairfield High until the new accommodation is available at the Wade Deacon site. The scope and detail of the works is yet to be determined and costed. Funding provision will be included in the contingency budget.
7. Control of Asbestos Regulations 2006 – in order to ensure systems in respect of asbestos management are robust it is necessary to update existing asbestos surveys.
8. Cavendish School – upgrading of the changing rooms associated with the new multi purpose hall is required to enhance the recent extension and remodelling works.

4.0 ACCESS INITIATIVE FUNDING 2009/10

Funding of £197,999 has been allocated by the DCSF to address access issues within school curriculum and buildings. Schools will be invited to submit bids for funding in April 2009 with bids assessed against agreed criteria.

5.0 EARLY YEARS CHILDRENS CENTRE CAPITAL AND CHILDCARE CAPITAL 2009/10

Funding of £47,194 has been allocated by the DCSF for the capital maintenance of existing childrens centres. Childcare Capital funding of £545,573 has been allocated by the DCSF to improve the quality of the environment in private, voluntary and independent early years and childcare settings. Bids will be invited from settings and will be assessed against the aims of the grant:

- To improve the quality of the learning environment in early years settings to support the delivery of the Early Years Foundation Stage with a particular emphasis on improving play and physical activities and ICT resources.
- To ensure all children, including disabled children, are able to access provision.
- To enable private, voluntary and independent providers to deliver the extension to the free offer for 3 and 4 year olds and to do so flexibly.

A further report detailing bids received and proposed works will be submitted to Executive Board for consideration and approval.

6.0 PLAYBUILDER CAPITAL 2009/10

Funding of £411,252 has been allocated by the DCSF to provide high quality and safe places to play. Expressions of interest are to be invited which will be assessed at end of March 2009. A further report detailing the bids received will be submitted to Executive Board for consideration and approval.

7.0 PRIMARY CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2009/10 – 2010/11

Halton is required to resubmit its Primary Capital Strategy to the DCSF before 31 January, 2009. Halton's provisional allocation is £3,000,000 in 2009/10 and £5,378,000 in 2010/11 for the first two years of the programme. Further funding will be available for the remaining twelve years of the Programme (details of allocations yet to be confirmed by the DCSF). The Strategy for Change has identified the following priorities for the first two years of the programme:

- The Grange Nursery, Infants and Junior Schools – development to provide an “all through school” as part of Halton's Building Schools for the Future programme to transform secondary schools. Estimated cost £6.5m.
- All Saints Upton CE Primary School – development to provide single site school. Estimated cost £3.1m.
- Our Lady Mother Superior Catholic Primary School - development to complete the remodelling of the school in partnership with Shrewsbury Diocese. Estimated cost £1.3m.

As the estimated building costs exceed the funding available under the Primary Capital Programme it will be necessary to join up with other eligible capital funding in order to maximise development opportunities and provide added impact for the Programme. A further report will be submitted to Executive Board as the Primary Capital Programme develops.

8.0 14-19 DIPLOMA EXEMPLAR FUNDING

All local authorities have been provided with the opportunity to bid for capital projects up to £5m that create world class facilities for diploma lines of learning. Consideration will be given to the projects that represent the best use of limited funding. A bid was submitted to provide world class facilities to deliver the Engineering Diploma with Wade Deacon High School being the proposed base for the facility. Facilities to be available for learners from September 2011. DCSF will advise local authorities which projects will receive funding at the end of March 2009.

9.0 YOUTH CAPITAL FUND AND YOUTH CAPITAL FUND PLUS

All local authorities have been provided with additional funds to invest in youth facilities with a further 50 local authorities receiving funding to target work and resources “to increase young people’s participation in activities, provide facilities and bring young people and the community together” (Youth Taskforce Action Plan 2008).

Additionally all local Authorities have been invited to submit bids through the My Place Fund, to deliver world class youth facilities driven by the active participation of young people and their views and needs. Halton has submitted a My Place bid proposing the refurbishment of the Kingsway Health Centre. Approval has been granted by DCSF to carry forward the Youth Capital Fund plus Grant (£452k) to contribute towards the refurbishment costs of the centre if the bid is successful. If the bid is unsuccessful the grant will fund improvements at Upton Community Centre to enhance the facilities for young people there.

10.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The capital repairs element of the Capital Programme and the Primary Capital Programme will allow the Council to continue to meet its requirement to enhance the learning environment through capital projects allocated in accordance with the priorities identified in the Asset Management Plan.

11.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

The capital repairs programme and the Primary Capital Programme will contribute to Halton’s Carbon Management Programme by producing more energy efficient buildings.

12.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL’S PRIORITIES

12.1 Children and Young People in Halton

The proposed capital repairs programme and the Primary Capital Programme will address condition and suitability issues within school buildings and will improve the learning environment for children and young people.

13.0 RISK ANALYSIS

13.1 As the costs identified in Appendix 2 are currently only estimates once final costs have been obtained should there be insufficient funds the lowest scoring projects (lowest priority) will be deferred to 2010/11.

13.2 It is current practice for schools to contribute towards the cost of works. This consultation with schools has yet to take place therefore if schools are not willing to contribute these projects will not be carried out in 2009/10.

13.3 In the event of the Primary Capital Programme Strategy for Change not being approved by the DCSF the schools capital contribution (£400,000) will be re-allocated to other projects.

14.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

The Access Initiative Programme provides funding to authorities to improve the accessibility of mainstream schools for pupils with disabilities and the wider community. Consideration to access issues is given in all building projects. The capacity of schools to meet the needs of children with more complex needs and disabilities will be developed further through the Primary Capital Strategy for Change.

15.0 CAPITAL FUNDING AND PROGRAMMES 2010/11

The DCSF has confirmed the following allocations for 2010/11.

<u>TYPE OF FUNDING</u>	<u>AMOUNT OF FUNDING 2010/11</u>
Schools Capital Allocation (Supported Borrowing) (Grant)	£514,083 £990,570
LA contribution to repairs from revenue (to be confirmed)	£431,330
Access Initiative	£197,999
Childrens Centre Capital	£49,661
Early Years Childcare Capital	£545,573
Playbuilder Capital	£411,252
Primary Capital Programme	£5,378,000 (Funding subject to PCP Strategy for Change being approved by DCSF)
Total	£8,518,468

Further reports will be submitted to Executive Board recommending proposed works from the capital allocations.

16.0 REASON FOR DECISION

To deliver and implement the capital programmes.

17.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

Not applicable.

18.0 IMPLEMENTATION DATE

Capital Programmes to be implemented with effect from 1 April 2009.

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

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
Schools Capital Announcement – DCSF 10/10/2007	Finance & Resources	Phil Dove
Asset Management Steering Group Minutes	Finance & Resources	Phil Dove
Childrens Centres Capital Grant – DCSF 15/10/2007	Finance & Resources	Phil Dove
Early Years Capital Grant – DCSF 30/11/2007	Finance & Resources	Phil Dove

Premises	Works	Estimated cost	Estimated cost of fees	Total estimated cost	Likelihood of Occurrence	Impact on School	Impact on Fabric	H&S	Schools Repair Strategy	Overall Score
Weston Primary	Windows	40,000	6,000	46,000	4	4	3	4	3	56
Windmill Hill Primary	Boilers	80,000	12,000	92,000	4	4	3	4	3	56
Brookvale	Roofs	75,000	11,250	86,250	4	4	4	3	2	52
Ditton CE	Windows	25,000	3,750	28,750	4	4	4	3	2	52
The Heath Comprehensive	Windows	10,000	1,500	11,500	4	4	3	4	2	52
Astmoor Primary	Windows (Asbestos Present)	70,000	10,500	80,500	4	4	4	3	2	52
Hallwood Park	Ongoing Electrics	75,000	11,250	86,250	4	4	3	4	2	52
Oakfield Primary	Rewire	60,000	9,000	60,900	4	4	3	4	2	52
Fairfield Infants	Pipes,radiators & boilers	75,000	11,250	86,250	4	4	3	4	2	52
Gorsewood Primary	Pipes & radiators	78,500	11,775	90,275	4	4	3	4	2	52
Simms Cross Primary	Replacement canopy	8,000	1,200	9,200	4	4	3	4	2	52
Woodside Primary	Gas boilers & pipework	50,000	7,500	57,500	4	4	3	4	2	52
Pewithall Primary	Pipes & radiators	100,000	15,000	115,000	4	4	3	3	3	52
Wade Deacon High School	Switchgear lower & upper	35,000	5,250	40,250	4	3	3	4	2	48
Pewithall Primary	Link Corridor Roof	15,000	2,250	17,250	4	3	2	3	3	44
Wade Deacon High School	Gym Floor	65,000	9,750	74,750	4	3	3	3	2	44
Oakfield Community Primary	Windows	25,000	3,750	28,750	4	3	3	3	2	44
Hillview Primary	Emergency lighting & main	16,000	2,400	18,400	4	3	2	4	2	44
Woodside Primary	Emergency Lighting	8,500	1,275	9,775	4	4	1	4	2	44
Fairfield Juniors	Submains	20,000	3,000	23,000	4	4	2	3	2	44
Weston Point Primary	M&E	10,000	1,500	11,500	4	4	3	2	2	44
Weston Primary	Fan convectors	50,000	7,500	57,500	4	4	3	2	2	44
Total		991,000	148,650	1,139,650						
Reserve List										
Gorsewood Primary	E/lighting & rewire	50,000	7,500	57,500	4	3	2	3	2	40
Brookvale Primary	E/lighting,lighting extractors	90,000	13,500	103,500	4	3	2	3	2	40
Lunts Heath Primary	Roofs	50,000	7,500	57,500	4	3	3	2	2	40
Simms Cross Primary	Sub boards & sub mains	65,000	9,750	74,750	3	4	3	4	2	39
West Bank Primary	Boiler	80,000	12,000	92,000	3	4	3	4	2	39
Hillview Primary	Boilers	50,000	7,500	57,500	3	4	3	3	2	36
Halebank CE Primary	Roofs	70,000	10,500	80,500	3	3	3	2	2	30
Halebank CE Primary	Pipes & radiators	60,000	9,000	69,000	3	3	2	3	2	30
Beechwood Primary	Main switch gear	20,000	3,000	23,000	3	3	2	2	2	27
Pewithall Primary	Switchgear & luminaires	65,000	9,750	74,750	3	3	2	2	2	27
Farnworth CE Primary	Refurb heating/gas supply	40,000	6,000	46,000	3	3	2	2	2	27
Fairfield Juniors	Refurb heating/gas supply	40,000	6,000	46,000	3	3	2	2	2	27
West Bank Primary	Windows	50,000	7,500	57,500	3	3	2	2	2	27
Palace Fields Primary	Suspended Ceilings	65,000	9,750	74,750	3	2	1	1	2	18
Total		795,000	119,250	914,250						

CAPITAL PROGRAMME SUMMARY 2009/10

FUNDING	
Total Schools Capital Funding	1,935,983
School contribution	170,948
Estimated Total	2,106,931

Appendix 1

DESCRIPTION	ESTIMATED COSTS	COMMENT
Asset Management Data	5,000	Update CAD (Computer Aided Design) plans
Fire Compartmentation	15,000	Continuation of compartmentation works.
Capital Repairs	1,139,650	See Appendix 3 for details. Estimated costs only - should prices received exceed estimate the number of projects approved in 2009/10 will need to be decreased.
Contingency	422,281	Funding required to cover costs of retentions from previous years, emergency capital & health & safety work. Allowance also included for works to Fairfield High teaching areas.
Primary Capital Programme	400,000	Contribution to Programme
Asbestos Management	75,000	Update surveys
Cavendish School	50,000	Remodelling changing rooms
Estimated Total	2,106,931	

PRIMARY CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2009/19 & 10/11		
Primary Capital Programme Funding	3,000,000	Proposed developments at The Grange Nursery, Infants & Junior Schools (BSF
	5,378,000	All Through School), All Saints Upton CE Primary School & Our Lady Mother Saviour
		Primary.
Total	8,378,000	
CHILDRENS CENTRE CAPITAL 2009/10		
Childrens Centres Capital Funding	47,194	Capital Maintenance of existing centres
Total	47,194	
EARLY YEARS CAPITAL 2009/10		
Early Years Capital Funding	545,573	Works to various private, voluntary & independent settings
Total	545,573	
ACCESS INITIATIVE FUNDING 2009/10		
Access Initiative Funding	197,999	Schools to bid for funding to address access issues.
Total	197,999	
PLAYBUILDER CAPITAL 2009/10		
Playbuilder Capital Funding	411,252	Works to provide high quality & safe places to play.
Total	411,252	

REPORT TO: Executive Board

DATE: 29 January 2009

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director - Children and Young People

SUBJECT Primary Organisation

WARDS: Boroughwide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To provide a summary of the current primary school organisation, the number of primary places and the current and projected primary school numbers in Halton. In addition, provide an update on the Primary Capital Strategy including the drivers for prioritising future investment and process for revising and resubmitting the Strategy to the DCSF.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

2.1 The Board note the current and proposed level of primary surplus places across the authority and request a further more detailed report on the current and predicted capacity of each primary school.

2.2 The Board agree the key drivers for an investment priorities matrix as outlined in paragraph 3.5 of the report.

2.3 The Strategic Director for Children and Young People be authorised in consultation with the Executive Board Member for Children and Young People to make the revision to the Primary Capital Strategy required by the DCSF and resubmit the revised Strategy to the DCSF by the deadline of 31st January 2009.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 The local authority now has a role as Commissioner and quality assurer of school places rather than direct service provider. It is therefore responsible for shaping a system that meets the local needs. In managing its duty the local authority is required to ensure that there are sufficient schools in number, character and size and that school provision within the area provides both diversity and choice.

3.2 There are current 46 primary schools, 3 junior schools and 3 infant schools in Halton. 31 of the primary schools are community, 5 schools are voluntary controlled (Church of England), 13 are voluntary aided (Catholic) and 3 are voluntary aided (Church of England).

3.3 The Audit Commission and DCSF guidance recommends that there should be no more than 10% surplus provision across an authority and that schools should not have more than 25% surplus places. In Halton, the level of surplus capacity in primary schools has varied over the last

few years. In January 2007 the number of primary places totalled 11,756, whilst the total pupil numbers in Halton primary schools was 9729, leaving over 2027 surplus places, 17% over capacity. Following revisions to the net capacity of a number of primary schools the net capacity reduced in September 2008 to 11,088, with total pupil numbers of 9688, leaving 1400 surplus places across the borough. This represents a 12.6% surplus and 8 schools with surplus capacity in excess of 25%.

3.4 Predicting the likely level of future primary provision using PCT live birth data and applying the previous rate of school admission to births, the future primary numbers are estimated to be on average 1462 per year. This would give an estimated total school primary population of around 10,234, a total of 854 surplus places, 8% surplus capacity. Although this total figure is below the recommended 10%. It is predicted that there will still be schools within the borough with over 25% surplus capacity. In addition, although there are surplus places in some areas, in others the increase in the birth rate and new housing has resulted in a shortage of provision and increases in school places to meet needs therefore needs to be explored. A driver for the prioritisation for the investment matrix through the Primary Capital Programme is therefore responding to the local demography and changing pupil numbers.

3.5 The DCSF have set a target for Halton that 15% of primary schools in the worst condition should be rebuilt or taken out of use and that a further 35% should be remodelled to bring them up to 21st century standards. A range of key drivers have therefore been identified which will support the delivery of the national targets and allow Halton to meet its local priorities. The key drivers will be included in an investment matrix :

- School capacity and pupil numbers;
- Improving facilities in the most deprived areas – each school to be ranked on the basis of the levels of deprivation;
- Raising school standards – each school to be ranked;
- Addressing building condition – all schools ranked according to their condition;
- Opportunities to join PCP with other capital investment and provide integrated and extended services.

In addition, the authority will consider the suitability of its primary provision in relation to special educational needs and disabilities, unmet extended and community services need, health through improved dining and play provision, and access to ICT. Priority will also be given to removing temporary accommodation, increasing specialist accommodation and providing more flexible learning spaces.

3.6 The outcome of the assessment of the PCP was sent to the authority in November 2008. The assessment which had been undertaken by Capita on behalf of the DCSF identified that further work was needed on the Strategy before any funding could be confirmed. The vision and context of the Strategy were assessed as sound however, the following work is being undertaken to strengthen and revise the strategy:

- detailed data and analysis on pupil numbers, standards and ICT provision, extended schools and early years provision and condition, suitability and capacity of schools;
- an outline of the strategy to achieve transformational change;
- the links to national and local priorities;
- how ICT will be embedded and procured;
- the approach to raising standards and to design;
- the Programme Management arrangements;
- the matrix to identify investment priorities;
- Investment priorities for the first four years (only the first two years were identified in the original submission; and
- Evidence of consultation.

3.7 A consultant from 'Place' consultancy was assigned to Halton in December 2008 to support the revision of the document. Once a revised draft has been produced the consultant will review it and provide feedback prior to its re-submission.

3.9 The next steps are that the revisions to the Primary Capital Strategy must be submitted to the DCSF by the end of January 2009 along with the matrix for prioritisation and the priorities for the first four years of investment.

Following the further analysis of pupil places and projected numbers a detailed report will be presented to the Board on the opportunities and options for future primary re-organisation.

4.0 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 The Authority must develop a strategic approach to capital investment for primary schools over 14 years. For 2009/2010 and 2010/11 the indicative primary capital funding is £8.4 million. Funding from 2011/12 will be subject to public spending review.

5.0 **OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 The Authority must identify how it intends to address demographic change, falling rolls, the Standards Agenda as well as increase the diversity, choice and access to popular schools and improve building condition and suitability. It needs to consider a range of provision such as Trusts, Federations, amalgamations and all-age provision.

5.2 Proposals will need to be developed on the future primary school organisation. School and public consultation will then need to be

undertaken.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

The Primary Capital Programme contributes directly to priority SM5: Transforming Learning Opportunities for all Children.

Increase choice, diversity, inclusion and high standards and reduce the surplus capacity within Halton schools.

Transform the learning environment: workforce, buildings, learning resources and technology.

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

By providing 21st Century primary provision for all pupils, standards will improve providing greater employment prospects for Halton's Children and Young People.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

In developing primary provision the authority will seek to improve the sports and dining facilities and work collaboratively with other agencies to encourage healthy eating, promote high nutritional standards and provide access to a wider range of extended services.

6.4 A Safer Halton

New primary provision will be designed to ensure that children, staff and other community users feel safe and secure on schools sites.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

The Primary Capital Programme seeks to ensure that schools become a major resource for the communities they serve and will be designed to offer shared community facilities, linking to other wider regeneration projects as well as being the focus for the local delivery of children's services.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 A risk analysis has been undertaken which has identified a number of key risks. The key risks include the timeline for delivery, school organisation and approval of the Strategy and the impact of any delay on primary capital approval on the BSF Programme.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 The Primary Capital Strategy must be inclusive and consider the needs of

all primary schools. The Programme aims to increase diversity access and choice, address under performance, provide more integrated local services for every child and family.

9.0 REASON (S) FOR DECISION

9.1 Following evaluation of the Halton's PCP further it has been suggested that revisions are made to the original submission to strengthen this document prior to funding being approved.

10.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

10.1 This is a DCSF requirement.

11.0 IMPLEMENTATION DATE

11.1 The Primary Capital Strategy must be submitted to the DCSF by 31st January 2009

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

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
Every Child Matters: Primary Capital Programme – Primary Strategy for Change. Department for Children, Schools and Families (6.12.2007)	3 rd Floor Grosvenor House	Lorraine Cox
Draft Primary Capital Strategy	3 rd Floor Grosvenor House Intranet/internet	Lorraine Cox
Presentations and Notes Primary Headteachers Meeting, Diocesan Meetings and Extended Services Meetings	3 rd Floor Grosvenor House	Lorraine Cox
Executive Board Report – Primary Capital Programme – 20 th March 2008	3 rd Floor Grosvenor House Internet	Lorraine Cox
DCSF – Primary Capital Programme Notification of Assessment of Outcomes	3 rd Floor Grosvenor House	Lorraine Cox

REPORT TO: Executive Board

DATE: 29th January 2009

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director – Corporate and Policy

SUBJECT: Calendar of Meetings 2009-2010

WARDS: All

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To approve the Calendar of Meetings for the 2009-2010 Municipal Year attached at Appendix 1 (NB light hatched areas indicate weekends and Bank Holidays, dark hatched areas indicate school holidays).

2.0 RECOMMENDATION:

That Council be recommended to approve the Calendar of Meetings for the 2009-2010 Municipal Year, attached at Appendix 1.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

None.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

None.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

None.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

None.

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

None.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

None.

6.4 A Safer Halton

None.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

None.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

Should a Calendar of Meetings not be approved, there will be a delay in publishing meeting dates. This would result in practical difficulties in respect of the necessary arrangements to be made and the planning process regarding agenda/report timetables.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

Once a Calendar of Meetings has been approved the dates will be published, hence assisting public involvement in the democratic process.

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

None under the meaning of the Act.

2009/2010

	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MARCH	APR
M		1 Children & Yng Pple PPB								1 AF – M, H G & HB	1	
T		2 Corporate Services PPB			1			1		2 AF – C, WH, NN & NS	2	
W		3 Standards Committee Business Efficiency Brd	1 AF – HL & B		2 Regulatory Committee			2		3 AF – HL & B	3 SPECIAL COUNCIL	
T		4 Executive Sub Executive Board	2		3	1		3 Executive Sub Executive Board		4	4 Executive Sub Executive Board	1 Executive Sub Executive Board 3MG Sub-Board
F	1	5	3		4	2		4	1	5	5	2
S	2	6	4	1	5	3		5	2	6	6	3
S	3	7	5	2	6	4	1	6	3	7	7	4
M	4	8 Dev Control Cttee	6 Dev Control Cttee	3	7 Children & Yng Pple PPB	5 AF – M, H, G & HB	2 Children & Young People PPB	7 Dev Control Cttee	4 Children & Yng Pple PPB	8 AF – Daresbury	8 Employment, Learning & Skills PPB	5
T	5	9 SEMINAR Healthy Halton PPB	7	4	8 Corporate Services PPB	6 AF – C, WH, NN & NS	3 Corporate Services PPB	8 SEMINAR	5 Corporate Services PPB	9 SEMINAR	9 Healthy Halton PPB	6
W	6	10 Employment, Learning & Skills PPB	8	5	9 Standards Committee	7 AF – HL & B	4	9	6 Standards Committee Urban Renewal PPB	10 COUNCIL	10 Business Efficiency Brd	7
T	7	11	9 SEMINAR	6	10 Executive Sub Executive Board	8	5 Executive Sub Executive Board	10	7 SEMINAR	11 Executive Sub Executive Board	11	8
F	8	12	10	7	11	9	6	11	8	12	12	9
S	9	13	11	8	12	10	7	12	9	13	13	10
S	10	14	12	9	13	11	8	13	10	14	14	11
M	11	15 MGE B Regulatory Committee	13 AF – Daresbury	10 Development Control Committee	14 Dev Control Cttee	12 Dev Control Cttee	9 Dev Control Cttee	14	11 Dev Control Cttee	15 Dev Control Cttee	15 Dev Control Cttee	12 Dev Control Cttee
T	12	16 Safer Halton PPB	14	11 SEMINAR	15 Healthy Halton PPB	13	10 Healthy Halton PPB	15	12 Healthy Halton PPB	16	16 Safer Halton PPB	13 SEMINAR
W	13 Executive Board (Selection)	17 Urban Renewal PPB	15	12	16 Urban Renewal PPB	14 SEMINAR	11 Standards Committee Business Efficiency Board	16 COUNCIL	13 Employment, Learning & Skills PPB	17	17 Urban Renewal PPB	14
T	14	18 Executive Sub Executive Board	16 Executive Sub Executive Board	13	17 SEMINAR	15 Executive Sub Executive Board 3MG Sub-Board	12 SEMINAR	17 Executive Sub Executive Board	14 Executive Sub Executive Board 3MG Sub-Board	18	18 MGE B Executive Sub Executive Board	15
F	15 ANNUAL COUNCIL	19	17	14	18	16	13	18	15	19	19	16
S	16	20	18	15	19	17	14	19	16	20	20	17
S	17	21	19	16	20	18	15	20	17	21	21	18
M	18 Dev Control Cttee	22 AF – B, D, H & HG	20	17	21 Employment, Learning & Skills PPB	19 AF – Daresbury	16 Employment, Learning & Skills PPB	21	18 Regulatory Committee	22 Children & Yng Pple PPB	22 Regulatory Committee	19
T	19 SEMINAR	23 AF – R, A & K	21	18	22 Safer Halton PPB	20	17 Safer Halton PPB	22	19 Safer Halton PPB	23 Corporate Services PPB	23 SEMINAR	20
W	20	24 AF – B, F & HV	22 COUNCIL	19	23 Business Efficiency Brd	21 COUNCIL	18	23	20 Business Efficiency Board	24 Standards Committee	24	21 COUNCIL
T	21	25 3MG Sub-Board Business Effic'y Brd (Closure of Accounts)	23	20	24 MGE B Executive Sub Executive Board	22	19 MGE B Executive Sub Executive Board	24	21	25	25	22
F	22	26	24	21	25	23	20	25	22	26	26	23
S	23	27	25	22	26	24	21	26	23	27	27	24
S	24	28	26	23	27	25	22	27	24	28	28	25
M	25	29 AF – M, H, G & HB	27	24	28 AF – B, D, H & HG	26	23 Regulatory Committee	28	25 AF – B, D, H & HG		29	26
T	26	30 AF – C, WH, NN & NS	28	25	29 AF – R, A & K	27	24	29	26 AF – R, A & K		30	27
W	27		29	26	30 AF – B, F & HV	28	25 Urban Renewal PPB	30	27 AF – B, F & HV		31	28
T	28		30	27					28 MGE B Executive Sub Executive Board			
F	29		31	28								29
S	30			29								30
S	31			30								
M				31								
T												

REPORT TO: Executive Board
DATE: 29 January 2009
REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director – Health & Community
SUBJECT: Care Standards Commission Performance Rating
WARD(S) Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To advise the Executive Board of the further improvements in the performance rating of the Health and Community Directorate.
- 1.2 To notify the Executive Board of impending changes in the way the performance of Social Care services will be assessed commencing 2008/09.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That:

- i) **The improved performance of the Directorate be noted.**
- ii) **The Executive Board note that the performance assessment framework is undergoing a period of continuous change and that the framework will change again in 2008/09.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Health & Community Directorate have their performance rated annually by the Care Standards Commission (CSCI). The performance rating is linked to how well the Directorate provides social care services to all adults. The rating the Directorate receives feeds into the Comprehensive Performance Assessment rating for Halton Borough Council.
- 3.2 In September 2006 CSCI announced that as well as looking at quantitative data they would also be judging performance based on the outcomes that were delivered for people. 7 new outcomes and 2 new domains were announced against which performance would be judged. These were:

No	Outcome
1	Improved Health & Well being
2	Improved Quality of Life
3	Making a positive contribution
4	Increased Choice & Control
5	Freedom from Discrimination & Harassment
6	Economic Well being
7	Maintaining Personal Dignity & Respect
No	Domain
8	Leadership
9	Commissioning & use of Resources

3.3 Performance for 2007/08 has been rated by CSCI as being 3 star and this was announced on 27th November 2008. The actual performance judgement based on the new performance ratings was as follows:

- Delivering outcomes: **Excellent**
- Capacity for improvement: **Excellent**

A copy of the performance judgement letter and summary report received from CSCI is attached as Appendix 1.

3.4 Our key strengths have been identified as:

Areas for judgement	Grade awarded
Delivering Outcomes	Excellent
Improved health and emotional well-being	Excellent
Improved quality of life	Excellent
Making a positive contribution	Excellent
Increased choice and control	Good
Freedom from discrimination or harassment	Good
Economic well-being	Excellent
Maintaining personal dignity and respect	Good
Capacity to Improve (Combined judgement)	Excellent
Leadership	
Commissioning and use of resources	
Performance Rating	3 Star

3.5 Prior to this the Directorate had been rated as:

Star Rating	Year	Serving People	Prospects for Future
1 Star	2002	Some	Uncertain
1 Star	2003	Some	Promising
2 Stars	2004	Most	Promising
2 Stars	2005	Most	Promising
2 Stars	2006	Most	Promising
		Delivering outcomes	Capacity for improvement
3 Stars	2007	Good	Promising

3.6 This is the last year that the Star Ratings and Performance Judgements will be used as a new system will be implemented next year, we have, therefore, finished at the highest level within the existing performance assessment framework and are one of only 25 Local Authorities in England in this position.

3.7 At this stage, it is not clear how the new performance system will operate as CSCI is being re-formed with other Commissions into a new Care Standards Commission.

3.8 The Government has recently announced a new National Indicator set of 198 indicators, which the Council will also be judged against for 2008/09. In addition to this new indicators for both health and social care are due to be announced shortly by the Care Standards Commission. The indications are that any performance judgement for 2008/09 will continue to focus on the results that people who use our services tell us have been delivered.

3.9 It is likely that the “outcome” and “domain” themes described in 3.2 will form part of the performance assessment process and these judgements reported cyclically in November.

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 The actions contained within the CSCI Summary Report will be addressed with the Commission during 2009.

5.0 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 There are no direct financial implications within this report.

6.0 **IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL’S PRIORITIES**

6.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

To ensure that adults’ carers continue to be supported in their caring roles.

6.2 Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

To ensure that employment and educational opportunities continue to be maximised for the people that we provide services to.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

To ensure that the Council continues to engage in and provide activities that promotes the health & well being of people in Halton.

6.4 A Safer Halton

To continue to safeguard the people that we provide services to.

6.5 Halton’s Urban Renewal

To ensure that performance evidence collected continues to evidence how local communities are supported and people are enabled to continue to live in their own homes.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 The risk of the changing performance framework must be managed so that performance continues to improve. The Directorate will ensure that it monitors performance regularly in accordance with the performance-monitoring framework it has adopted.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 These are identified within the summary report in Appendix 1.

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

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
Self Assessment Survey, CSCI 2008	Runcorn Town Hall	Amanda Lewis, Performance Manager



CONFIDENTIAL: EMBARGOED UNTIL 27 NOVEMBER 2008

Dwayne Johnson
Strategic Director – Health & Community
Halton Borough Council
Municipal Building
Kingsway
Widnes
Cheshire
WA8 7QF

27th October 2008

Dear Director

Performance Ratings for Adult Social Care Services

I am writing to inform you of the 2008 performance rating and judgments for your council's adult social care services. The delivering outcomes judgment contributes to the Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) for all local government services. The council's overall CPA rating will be announced by the Audit Commission in February 2009.

The performance judgments for your Council are as follows:

- Delivering outcomes: **Excellent**
- Capacity for improvement: **Excellent**
- Your adult social care services performance rating is **3 Stars**

If your council has been rated zero stars the Chief Inspector will write to you separately to explain the next steps.

Performance Summary Report and Quality Assurance and Moderation Summary (attached)

The final performance summary report that will be published on the CSCI website on 27th November, the final Performance Assessment Notebook and a summary of the Quality Assurance and Moderation form for your council are attached to this letter.

Priority for Improvement Councils

In November 2008, CSCI will provide an account to the Minister on all councils' performance in adult social care for 2007/8. This report will also update the Minister on the progress of any council currently identified as a Priority for Improvement Council and any councils newly rated as zero stars.

Written Representations

A Chief Inspectors letter informed you on 25th September 2008 of the revised timetable for notification of performance ratings. Guidance on the written representation process is available at <http://www.csci.org.uk/> as Annex 9 of the Performance Assessment handbook. The process provides for an opportunity at this stage to make a formal written representation.

All notifications of intent to make representation, and actual written representations should be sent to CSCI for the attention of Louise Guss Head of Legal Services, copied to the relevant CSCI Regional Director. Please use the e-mail address of Louise Guss's Personal Assistant, Jenny Wright using one of the following methods:

- Email: jenny.wright@csci.gsi.gov.uk
- Faxination: 01484 770 421

The revised timetable for written representations is as follows:

- Council intention to make written representations to be received by Representations Office no later than Tues 28th October at 4.00pm.
- Council confirmed written representations received by Representations office no later than Sunday 2nd November at 9.00am.

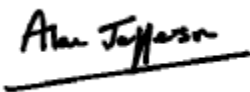
Further Information and Publication

The new performance ratings and underlying judgments will be published on 27th November 2008. The summary report for your council and your performance ratings will also be available on our website at www.csci.org.uk on 27th November 2008.

We will send you a letter via email from our Chief Inspector confirming your performance ratings and information to access the WebPages containing the embargoed star ratings for all councils and the Performance Indicators report on 25th November 2008 at 08.00am. Both this letter and the e-mail setting out the star ratings for all councils are sent to give you time to prepare local briefings - for example, to handle press enquiries. If you require help or advice on dealing with the media, CSCI press officers, Andy Keast-Marriot, Ray Veasey and Chris Salter are available to assist. Their contact numbers are 0207 979 2093/2094/2089.

Any questions about your performance rating that are not answered by the guidance, or by the contents of this letter should be addressed in the first instance to your Business Relationship Manager.

Yours sincerely



Alan Jefferson
Regional Director
Commission for Social Care Inspection

cc: David Parr, Chief Executive Officer

We welcome your feedback to help us improve our service.
Please feel free to contact the Customer Service Unit on 0845 015 0120



Dwayne Johnson
Strategic Director – Health &
Community
Halton Borough Council
Municipal Building
Kingsway
Widnes
Cheshire
WA8 7QF

27th October 2008

Ref DW/DK

Dear Director

PERFORMANCE SUMMARY REPORT of 2007-08 ANNUAL PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT OF SOCIAL CARE SERVICES FOR ADULTS SERVICES FOR HALTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

Introduction

This performance summary report summarises the findings of the 2008 annual performance assessment (APA) process for your council. Thank you for the information you provided to support this process, and for the time made available by yourself and your colleagues to discuss relevant issues.

Attached is the final copy of the performance assessment notebook (PAN), which provides a record of the process of consideration by CSCI and from which this summary report is derived. You will have had a previous opportunity to comment on the factual accuracy of the PAN following the Annual Review Meeting.

The judgments outlined in this report support the performance rating notified in the performance rating letter. The judgments are

- Delivering outcomes using the LSIF rating scale

And

- Capacity for Improvement (a combined judgement from the Leadership and the Commissioning & Use of Resources evidence domains)

The judgment on Delivering Outcomes will contribute to the Audit Commission's CPA rating for the council.

The council is expected to take this report to a meeting of the council within two months of the publication of the ratings (i.e. by 31st January 2009) and to make available to the public, preferably with an easy read format available.

ADULT SOCIAL CARE PERFORMANCE JUDGMENTS FOR 2007/08

Areas for judgment	Grade awarded
Delivering Outcomes	Excellent
Improved health and emotional well-being	Excellent
Improved quality of life	Excellent
Making a positive contribution	Excellent
Increased choice and control	Good
Freedom from discrimination and harassment	Good
Economic well-being	Excellent
Maintaining personal dignity and respect	Good
Capacity to Improve (Combined judgment)	Excellent
Leadership	Excellent
Commissioning and use of resources	Excellent
Performance Rating	3 Star

The report sets out the high level messages about areas of good performance, areas of improvement over the last year, areas which are priorities for improvement and where appropriate identifies any follow up action CSCI will take.

KEY STRENGTHS AND AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT BY PEOPLE USING SERVICES

Key strengths	Key areas for development
All people using services	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The continued promotion of healthy lifestyles with clear links to the overall Corporate Strategy • Positive joint working with all partners addressing priority issues to improve the health, independence and well-being of all people residing in the borough • Development of the Local Area Agreement (LAA), focussing on priorities and outcomes for people • Continued very good performance in helping all adults to live at home • Continued increased provision of telecare services improving people's quality of life and independence • Consultation and publication of a Commissioning Strategy for extra care housing • Good progress made in relation to the key action points resulting from the Housing Strategy • Continued monitoring of onward referrals to grant funded services to ensure effective provision is in place • The provision of specialist services for people in the borough • Mechanisms in place to ensure people feel safe in their communities and safer as a result of direct service provision • Users satisfaction about services in the borough is strong • The continued development of self-assessment questionnaires improving access to services for people as a result • Consultation with all groups of people who use services and their carers in the development, modernisation and planning of services • Encouraging and supporting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To continue to negotiate with housing providers and partners in relation to the provision of further extra care housing tenancies • To develop and support Local Involvement Networks to ensure a smooth transition from existing arrangements • To continue to promote and progress volunteering as a means of improving services to communities • To continue to implement, monitor and review the roll out of the Single Assessment Process • To continue to plan and progress the implementation of Individualised Budgets • To continue to ensure that people from BME communities have access to appropriate services • To continue to work towards the achievement of Level 4 of the Local Government Equality Standard • To further increase the percentage of relevant staff trained to identify and assess risks to vulnerable adults • To continue to ensure that all partners and members are fully engaged with safeguarding protocols • To continue to drive forward the personalisation agenda • To continue to review workforce development strategies supporting the wider agenda • To continue to improve the numbers of days/shifts lost to sickness absence • To continue to work towards achieving implementation of the

<p>volunteers to work within social care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall effective care management processes • An effective complaints procedure • The provision of accurate and accessible information to ensure people remain well informed • Development of a Joint Emergency Duty Team (EDT) with a neighbouring authority • The provision of advocacy and the development of an Independent Mental Capacity Act (IMCA) service • The promotion and development of family based care as an alternative to traditional models • Continued very good performance on the number of people using direct payments as a way of purchasing services • A clear published eligibility criteria • Continued good progress in understanding and addressing the equality and diversity agenda with the attainment of Level 3 of the Local Government Equality Standard • A partnership approach to Gypsy and Traveller issues with the employment of a co-ordinator to support the equality and diversity agenda • Good progress made against the Disability Equality Scheme Action Plan • Effective joint protocols with health in relation to continuing health care disputes • Continued positive outcomes for people who use services and carers in both volunteering and employment opportunities • Continued effective benefits and debt management service targeting the most deprived areas of the borough to maximise peoples income and avoid financial difficulty • Well developed and effective arrangements are in place to effectively safeguard people against abuse, neglect or poor treatment 	<p>electronic social care record</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To continue to implement the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)
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- Updated and published Inter Agency Policy, Procedures and Guidance in relation to safeguarding
- The development of formal joint protocols with other agencies involved in the protection of vulnerable adults
- Increased numbers of council staff and staff and independent sector staff trained to address work with vulnerable adults
- All people going into permanent residential and/or nursing care continued to be offered a single room
- Strategies, policies and guidance in place to ensure people's privacy and confidentiality are met
- Improved outcomes for people using services as a result of the Dignity in Care Grant enhancing privacy and dignity
- A clear and ambitious vision in line with changes in national policy agendas, with clear synergies to the Corporate Strategy and Community Strategy priorities
- Effective leadership at all levels centring on delivering high quality value for money services for local people
- Positive partnership working with evidence this is leading to better outcomes for people who use services
- A multi-agency Transition Protocol that clearly demonstrates the Transition Process and the council's commitment to transition.
- Continued very good performance on the numbers of social work staff accessing practice learning
- The recording of staff ethnicity
- Good progress made against the Workforce Development Plan to develop the skills, knowledge and quality of the social care workforce
- Robust performance management frameworks
- Good progress made in relation to

<p>the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) reflecting national and local priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation and development of a Domiciliary Care Strategy • Very Good performance on the number of people receiving intensive home care as a percentage of all people receiving services • Well established financial arrangements and proven track record of strong budgetary control • Clear understanding of the social care market • The review and development of integrated commissioning for the whole health and well-being agenda • Continued scrutiny of provider performance and appropriate responses to failing services 	
Older people	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued emphasis on the preventative agenda reducing hospital admissions and helping people return home after a hospital stay • Continued improved performance on the number of reviews for people who use services • A continued focus on early prevention to reduce higher-level support services • Very good performance in the percentage of services for older people within 4 weeks of assessment • Continued good performance on the number of older people receiving a statement of their need • Continued very good performance on the number of older people admitted to residential care 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To formally develop the Single Point of Access Team • To continue to progress and develop services for people with long-term neurological conditions • To continue to improve performance on acceptable waiting times for assessment
People with learning disabilities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robust protocols and policies for Transition Planning and Person Centred Planning (PCPs) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To continue to develop locally based specialised services • To continue to ensure there is a wide choice of pathways to employment and volunteering

	opportunities to meet the needs of people with a learning disability
People with mental health problems	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good progress made within mental health services promoting and protecting mental well-being • The successful implementation of recommendations made in the Mental Health Service Review 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To continue to develop drug and alcohol services to ensure positive outcomes for people are maintained
People with physical and sensory disabilities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The continued prompt delivery of equipment and minor adaptations and improvements to waiting times for major adaptations 	
Carers	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good progress made in relation to the key action points arising from the Carers' Strategy with very good performance in the provision of services to carers 	

KEY STRENGTHS AND AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT BY OUTCOME

Improved health and emotional well-being

The contribution that the council makes to this outcome is excellent.

The council continues to ensure that people have access to information and advice to enable them to understand how to stay healthy. A number of initiatives have demonstrated positive outcomes for people, promoting independent living and reducing social isolation. The council continues to work in partnership with health colleagues supporting the health and well-being agenda. Halton's 'Advancing Well Strategy' launched during the year, has a clear link to healthy improvement targets. The 'Bridgebuilding' initiative has continued to expand its services and links into all other health promotion services to ensure a seamless approach. There are well-developed joint working arrangements with health and clear pathways in place to prevent unnecessary admissions to hospital and to facilitate timely hospital discharge. The council anticipates a Single Point of Access service will be operational during 2008-09. With the Primary Care Trust (PCT) work is underway to identify all people with long-term neurological conditions and to re-examine current care pathways. The council continues to develop drug and alcohol services to ensure positive outcomes for people are maintained by supporting service users and carers through treatment and back into the community.

Key strengths

- The continued promotion of healthy lifestyles with clear links to the overall Corporate Strategy
- Positive joint working with all partners addressing priority issues to improve the health, independence and well-being of all people residing in the borough
- Development of the Local Area Agreement (LAA), focussing on priorities and outcomes for people
- Continued emphasis on the preventative agenda reducing hospital admissions and helping people return home after a hospital stay
- Continued improved performance on the number of reviews for people who use services
- Good progress made within mental health services promoting and protecting mental well-being

Key areas for development

- To formally develop the Single Point of Access Team
- To continue to progress and develop services for people with long-term neurological conditions
- To continue to develop drug and alcohol services to ensure positive outcomes for people are maintained

Improved quality of life

The contribution that the council makes to this outcome is excellent.

The council continues to support the independence of people who use services. There continues to be a strong focus on early prevention to reduce higher-level support services and the council effectively signposts to non-care managed support when necessary. The council continues to promote the use of assistive technology to support its preventative agenda. This approach enables people to live their lives in a way they choose and minimises the impact of any disabilities. The council continues to look at ways of developing extra care housing tenancies to ensure peoples' care needs are met in a variety of service provisions. The Carers' Strategy Action Plan is making a difference to the lives of carers within Halton. There continues to be appropriate access to specialist services and there are effective relationships with a number of stakeholders to improve these further. Partnership working is helping to reduce crime and build stronger communities ensuring that people who use services feel safe and secure.

Key strengths

- A continued focus on early prevention to reduce higher-level support services
- Continued very good performance in helping all adults to live at home
- Continued increased provision of telecare services improving people's quality of life and independence
- The continued prompt delivery of equipment and minor adaptations and improvements to waiting times for major adaptations
- Good progress made in relation to the key action points arising from the Carers' Strategy with very good performance in the provision of services to carers
- Consultation and publication of a Commissioning Strategy for extra care housing
- Good progress made in relation to the key action points resulting from the Housing Strategy
- Continued monitoring of onward referrals to grant funded services to ensure effective provision is in place
- The provision of specialist services for people in the borough
- Mechanisms in place to ensure people feel safe in their communities and safer as a result of direct service provision

Key areas for development

- To continue to negotiate with housing providers and partners in relation to the provision of further extra care housing tenancies
- To continue to develop locally based specialised services

Making a positive contribution

The contribution that the council makes to this outcome is excellent.

The council actively involves people and their carers in policy development and decision making. The council uses this information to drive forward improvement. The council continues to progress and evaluate the use of self-assessments and self-directed care. A number of other new self-assessments were introduced during the year and this has demonstrated improved outcomes for people who use services and for carers. User satisfaction is strong. The council anticipates implementation of the Local Involvement Network (LINKs) during 2008-09 enabling communities to influence the health and social care they receive. The council recognises the importance of volunteering as a means of improving all services to communities and has a range of volunteering opportunities in place. The 'Bridgebuilding' and Sure Start programmes offer both support and volunteering opportunities for people in a vulnerable position. There is a significant commitment within adult social care and corporately to develop ways of expanding the number of volunteers working in social care settings.

Key strengths

- Users satisfaction about services in the borough is strong
- The continued development of self-assessment questionnaires improving access to services for people as a result
- Consultation with all groups of people who use services and their carers in the development, modernisation and planning of services
- Encouraging and supporting volunteers to work within social care settings

Key areas for development

- To develop and support Local Involvement Networks to ensure a smooth transition from existing arrangements
- To continue to promote and progress volunteering as a means of improving services to communities

Increased choice and control

The contribution that the council makes to this outcome is good.

Overall the council continues to ensure that care management processes are undertaken in a timely manner. The council provides sufficient, accurate and accessible information to ensure people are well-informed about services and how to make a complaint if they are dissatisfied. In partnership with the Primary Care Trust (PCT) the council has progressed the implementation of the Single Assessment Process and is aware this remains an area of development. Person Centred Transition Planning (PCP) for people with a learning disability continues to be progressed. The council continues to support advocacy services for all vulnerable groups and there is an effective out of hour's service. The council

continues to promote independence and choice enabling people to take control of their lives. There continues to be an upward trend in the number of people using direct payments as a way of purchasing services. The council anticipates further developments to the implementation of Individualised Budgets during 2008-09 with a dedicated project officer to support this agenda. Family based care continues to be promoted and developed as an alternative to more traditional forms.

Key strengths

- Overall effective care management processes
- Very good performance in the percentage of services for older people within 4 weeks of assessment
- An effective complaints procedure
- The provision of accurate and accessible information to ensure people remain well informed
- Development of a Joint Emergency Duty Team (EDT) with a neighbouring authority
- Continued good performance on the number of older people receiving a statement of their need
- Continued very good performance on the number of older people and adults admitted to residential care
- Robust protocols and policies for Transition Planning and Person Centred Planning (PCPs)
- The provision of advocacy and the development of an Independent Mental Capacity Act (IMCA) service
- The promotion and development of family based care as an alternative to traditional models
- Continued very good performance on the number of people using direct payments as a way of purchasing services

Key areas for development

- To continue to improve performance on acceptable waiting times for assessment
- To continue to implement, monitor and review the roll out of the Single Assessment Process
- To continue to plan and progress the implementation of Individualised Budgets

Freedom from discrimination and harassment

The contribution that the council makes to this outcome is good.

The council has clear published eligibility criteria and continues to ensure that residents can access appropriate advice and information about their needs. There is a robust framework in place to support equality and diversity with the council focussing on those living in the most deprived parts of the borough to narrow the deprivation gap. The council has made considerable progress in understanding

and addressing the equality and diversity agenda across all services, attaining Level 3 of the Local Government Equality Standard. There is an All Party Members Equality and Diversity Group to ensure strong political commitment to champion equality issues. The council is actively looking at ways of encouraging the take up of services from under represented groups. In partnership with people who use services the council has continued to progress the areas outlined within the action plan relating to the Disability Equality Scheme. There has been good progress on improving access to services.

Key strengths

- A clear published eligibility criteria
- Continued good progress in understanding and addressing the equality and diversity agenda with the attainment of Level 3 of the Local Government Equality Standard
- A partnership approach to Gypsy and Traveller issues with the employment of a co-ordinator to support the equality and diversity agenda
- Good progress made against the Disability Equality Scheme Action Plan

Key areas for development

- To continue to ensure that people from BME communities have access to appropriate services
- To continue to work towards the achievement of Level 4 of the Local Government Equality Standard

Economic well being

The contribution that the council makes to this outcome is excellent.

There is a clear and effective protocol in place between the council and Primary Care Trust (PCT) covering continuing care. There is a wide choice of pathways available to meet the employment needs of people who use services and their carers. The 'Bridgebuilding' service continues to support people into employment and volunteering. Employment opportunities for carers improved during the year and the council has introduced a 'Flexible Working Strategy' to reinforce its commitment to carers employed in the organisation. The council has demonstrated how it intends to improve pathways to employment and volunteering to meet the needs of people with a learning disability. This includes the expansion of a permitted work scheme with the intention of increasing the number of people with a learning disability employed in the council. There continues to be an effective benefits advice and debt management service in place to maximise people's income and avoid financial difficulties.

Key strengths

- Effective joint protocols with health in relation to continuing health care disputes

- Continued positive outcomes for people who use services and carers in both volunteering and employment opportunities
- Continued effective benefits and debt management service targeting the most deprived areas of the borough to maximise peoples income and avoid financial difficulty

Key areas for development

- To continue to ensure there is a wide choice of pathways to employment and volunteering opportunities to meet the needs of people with a learning disability

Maintaining personal dignity and respect

The contribution that the council makes to this outcome is good.

The council continues to ensure that people are adequately safeguarded. The multi-agency Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Partnership Board has matured over the year with an increase in membership and consistency of attendees. The council, working collaboratively with health colleagues refreshed Inter-Agency Policy, Procedures and Guidance. The council also developed formal joint protocols with the police. Staff awareness training increased further to ensure staff deal appropriately with concerns. The council is aware it will need to continue to work with all partners to ensure all are fully engaged with safeguarding issues. All single adults and older people going into permanent residential and nursing care were allocated single rooms. Strategies, policies and guidance are in place to ensure people's privacy and confidentiality are met.

Key strengths

- Well developed and effective arrangements are in place to effectively safeguard people against abuse, neglect or poor treatment
- Updated and published Inter Agency Policy, Procedures and Guidance in relation to safeguarding
- The development of formal joint protocols with other agencies involved in the protection of vulnerable adults
- Increased numbers of council staff and staff and independent sector staff trained to address work with vulnerable adults
- All people going into permanent residential and/or nursing care continued to be offered a single room
- Strategies, policies and guidance in place to ensure people's privacy and confidentiality are met
- Improved outcomes for people using services as a result of the Dignity in Care Grant enhancing privacy and dignity

Key areas for development

- To further increase the percentage of relevant staff trained to identify and assess risks to vulnerable adults
- To continue to ensure that all partners and members are fully engaged

with safeguarding protocols

Capacity to improve

The council's capacity to improve services further is excellent.

The council continues to make year on year improvements in many of its key areas demonstrating improved outcomes for people who use services. There is strong and effective leadership at all levels and evidence of good political support. Plans are comprehensive and linked strategically addressing key development areas. The council continues to promote the personalisation agenda and has strong working relationships with health colleagues. The council's Workforce Development Plan addressed a number of issues during the year supporting commissioning, service redesign and quality. The council and its partners are working together to ensure that a suitable workforce is available to support the personalisation agenda. The council has revised policies in place to monitor sickness absence and is confident this will evidence positive outcomes. There is good transition planning for young people. Performance management arrangements remain robust and effective scrutiny arrangements are in place. The council has implemented the Electronic Social Care Record and is aware this remains an area of further development.

Together with its major partners, the council has developed strong, clear and challenging ambitions that are based on a detailed knowledge about the needs of its communities and the views of local residents. Good progress is being made in relation to the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA). The council is aware that future commissioning strategies will need to take account of demographic changes in Halton to ensure commissioning reflects present and future need. Financial arrangements are well established and the council's medium term financial forecast links to its corporate priorities and forms an integral part of the corporate planning process. Risk management is effectively integrated into service planning and project management. The council has a proven track record of strong budgetary control with performance reports including both financial and performance indicator information. The council makes effective use of contracting processes to improve the quality of services it commissions embedding a robust approach to addressing poor services.

Key strengths

Leadership

- A clear and ambitious vision in line with changes in national policy agendas, with clear synergies to the Corporate Strategy and Community Strategy priorities
- Effective leadership at all levels centring on delivering high quality value for money services for local people
- Positive partnership working with evidence this is leading to better outcomes for people who use services

- A multi-agency Transition Protocol that clearly demonstrates the Transition Process and the council's commitment to transition.
- The successful implementation of recommendations made in the Mental Health Service Review
- Continued very good performance on the numbers of social work staff accessing practice learning
- The recording of staff ethnicity
- Good progress made against the Workforce Development Plan to develop the skills, knowledge and quality of the social care workforce
- Robust performance management frameworks

Commissioning and use of resources

- Good progress made in relation to the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) reflecting national and local priorities
- Consultation and development of a Domiciliary Care Strategy
- Very Good performance on the number of people receiving intensive home care as a percentage of all people receiving services
- Well established financial arrangements and proven track record of strong budgetary control
- Clear understanding of the social care market
- The review and development of integrated commissioning for the whole health and well-being agenda
- Continued scrutiny of provider performance and appropriate responses to failing services

Key areas for development

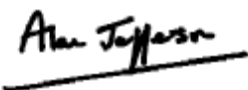
Leadership

- To continue to drive forward the personalisation agenda
- To continue to review workforce development strategies supporting the wider agenda
- To continue to improve the numbers of days/shifts lost to sickness absence
- To continue to work towards achieving implementation of the Electronic Social Care Record

Commissioning and use of resources

- To continue to implement the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)

Yours sincerely



Alan Jefferson
Regional Director
Commission for Social Care Inspection

Copy to David Parr, Chief Executive Officer

REPORT TO: Executive Board

DATE: 29th January 2009

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director - Environment

SUBJECT: Regional Funding Allocations (2)

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of the report is to provide the Executive Board with a brief summary of the Regional Funding Allocations Advice document. The report also sets out a number of initial comments in response to the consultation.

2. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that:

- i) The Executive Board agrees to the development of a Halton response to the regional consultation on Regional Funding Allocations.

3. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 Government has invited the North West and other English Regions to submit its advice on regional investment priorities by the end of February 2009. The advice covers regional funding allocations for transport, housing and regeneration and economic development for the period up to 2011. The advice will also present planning assumptions for these funding streams up to 2018.

3.2 A draft North West Advice has been produced by the NWDA and 4NW and responses to the document are required by 30th January 2009. Although the Merseyside Policy Unit and The Merseyside Partnership are co-ordinating a sub-regional response, colleagues have raised a number of important points across the Council, and, therefore, a separate response on behalf of Halton Borough Council is proposed.

3.3 In summary, the Advice document uses the NWDA's Corporate Plan, the ERDF Programme, Regional Housing Strategy HCA investment plan as a reference point. It also draws heavily on transport priorities detailed in RFA 2006. The advice recognises that the Single Regional Strategy is in development and, as a result, the advice does not propose any significant changes to future priorities at this point as an in-depth review through the SRS process in 2009 is anticipated. The imminent publication of the SRS key issues and principles paper will inform this review.

3.4 The RFA advice recognises that testing economic conditions will require actions in the short-term to support businesses and individuals to manage the impact of the global slow-down, but there are major long-term challenges facing the region in regard to structural weaknesses in the housing market, high levels of transport congestion, poor transport infrastructure. The draft Advice sets out four priority areas.

- 1) Maximise the growth opportunities presented by the three cities of Manchester, Liverpool and Preston as key drivers of regional growth.

- 2) Fully develop growth opportunities around key regional towns and cities of Crewe, Chester, Warrington, Lancaster and Carlisle.
- 3) Regenerate Penning Lancashire, Blackpool, Barrow and West Cumbria.
- 4) Ensure ongoing growth in the rural economy.

3.5 Priority areas are further broken down into “Economic development and skills”, “Housing and Regeneration” and “Transport” action points.

A series of annexes accompany the advice. Further details together with views from Respective Council departments are provided below.

3.6 Halton Colleagues are broadly comfortable with the document, not least because there are few surprises as many of the proposals and issues have been previously expressed in other regional strategy documents. It is fair to note that the level of detail provided varies across the respective themes. For example, the transport annex is quite prescriptive in the type of proposals and recommendations being made, whilst the skills annex tends to be more ‘aspirational’.

3.7 An important point to be made is that there should be greater cross-referencing to the Regional Spatial Strategy, particularly in regard to the designation of priority areas, otherwise this could lead to unnecessary confusion and a dilution of any messages the region would wish to present to Government.

3.8 On this point, the Executive Board should note that whilst there is a focus on Liverpool, Manchester and Preston, and the regeneration areas of Pennine Lancashire, Blackpool, Barrow and West Cumbria, such designations are not helpful to Halton. In addition, there is also a focus on Crewe, Chester, Warrington, Lancaster and Carlisle as growth opportunities. The Executive Board may wish to reflect on the extent to which such areas require public sector investment, and our response should make the point that were the towns of Widnes and Runcorn not separated by the Mersey, they would be included in this designation.

Annex A -Transport Spending Priorities

This annex refers to the Transport Investment Programme and the region having commissioned Atkins consultants to assess 100 LA major schemes and Highways Agency regional schemes. The top 25 schemes initially formed an investment of £1.3bn and the cost of delivering the programme has risen by over £450m. The programme is 35.5% over-programmed for the RFA1 period 2006/07 to 2015/16 and, therefore, new schemes have not been added.

The advice proposes that from the potential £978m available 2006/07 to 2013/14 £512m will be allocated to completed schemes and schemes under construction.

In regard to the Integrated Transport and Highway Maintenance Allocations the advice states that the region does not consider that sufficient evidence is available to make informed recommendations on the changes. To do this would have adverse effects on Local Authorities to deliver local transport plans.

There is concern in the NW that sub-£5m schemes that do not meet the DfT criteria will make them unaffordable to Local Authorities.

The region could create a fund to finance these schemes by top slicing money and therefore offering greater flexibility.

Initial comments from Highways and Transportation colleagues are as follows:

Greater prominence should be given to the Mersey Gateway and Silver Jubilee Bridge in the document. Additional comments are given below.

- i) **Section1, Foreword, Page2** - – The third paragraph, first bullet, refers to success being based on ‘connectivity through Ports and Airports’ only, and yet paragraph 3.1 refers to the excellent connectivity afforded by the motorway and rail networks. It would be sensible, therefore, that road and rail networks should be included as part of our reasons for success. It should also be noted that this latter reference seems to be in conflict with the 3rd bullet on page 3;
- ii) **Section 1.3 Approach to RFA2**:- The intention of the NWDA to reaffirm its commitment to existing priorities such as transport that are already being ‘delivered’ is cautiously welcomed, albeit the reference only refers to the 2009/10 & 2010/11 Programmes. However, clarification needs to be made of what is meant by ‘delivered’ and also what schemes will be considered as commitments, when reviewing ‘future priorities’. Failure to address this point increases the risks faced by authorities and could result in the Programme being undermined due to continuing uncertainty and the timescales and costs involved in preparing schemes for implementation. Given the current economic climate and the need to stimulate the economy by delivering a consistent stream of public sector initiatives, it would seem incongruous not to provide the necessary assurance to authorities;
- iii) **TIF Funding**:- Following the demise of the Manchester Congestion bid proposals, the opportunity should be taken to introduce (perhaps as part of Section 2.6) a marker to highlight the need for additional funding to be introduced into the RFA to help deliver the identified programme of schemes, which can’t be funded on current RFA allocations. The case needs to be made that a more flexible approach is now required in the consideration of demand management schemes;
- iv) **Section 2.2, Progress since RFA1**- The reference to transport in the table needs to acknowledge the fact that the Mersey Gateway has received funding for development costs;
- v) **FirstTable, Section 2.5**:- The recognition of the Mersey Gateway and the Silver Jubilee Maintenance schemes in the listing of transport priorities is welcome, but as per comment under (ii) above, clarification and a greater level of commitment is required to ensure continued delivery of the Programme;
- vi) **Section 3.2, ‘Transport Investment Programme’** - Table 1 is not shown in the document, as indicated; and b) **Alignment with Delivering a Sustainable Transport System (DaSTs), Northern Way, RSS, RES and Housing Growth Points** – If the Government is looking for advice to influence its decision making on transport beyond 2014, why is there a reluctance to give a firm commitment to schemes only up to 2010, as indicated in paragraph 1.3? It would therefore seem prudent to; at least, give a firm commitment to transport schemes, at this stage, up to 2014. Also query the reference to 2013/14 in the final paragraph. Should this be 2015/16 to be consistent with the reference in the 2nd paragraph?

- vii) **Section 3.3, 'Integrated Transport and Highway Maintenance Blocks'** – The decision not to change the distribution of either of the block allocations between authorities, nor to alter the balance of spend between the major schemes, the integrated transport and highway maintenance blocks is welcomed, as is the proposal to undertake research on the benefits and costs of incorporating sub £5m schemes into the RFA Programme; and
- viii) **Section 3.4, 'Additional Advice'** – a) The last sentence of the 1st paragraph should be deleted as climate change is already included in the list above; and b) **Regional Priorities for Study Work by the Highways Agency'** – the 'other' issues listed are not just for the consideration of the Highways Agency, but are also important to local highway authorities e.g. Strategic Park & Ride; Behavioural change; Access to inter-modal freight terminals; and Access to designated housing growth points.

Annex B Housing and Regeneration Spending Priorities

This section refers to regional priorities as set out in the Regional Housing Strategy RHS, notably around the themes of **quantity** of housing, raising the **quality** of existing stock, and an improved **housing** offer.

Whilst the RHS makes little reference to current economic conditions, the RFA advice sets out regional priorities around;

Reinvigorating development
Retaining skills in construction and ancillary sectors
Stimulating demand
Preventing repossessions
Implementing social cohesion measures.

There is a reaffirmation of the need to support existing commitments, for example, continuing with Housing Market Renewal and Growth Points.

Initial comments from Housing Strategy Colleagues are as follows:

The emphasis on improving quality of the existing stock through the revised RHS is welcomed, however, it is crucial that Halton is included as part of the Merseyside sub region rather than Cheshire when sub regional allocations are made, otherwise the Council will not receive sufficient funding to address issues of quality and non sustainability.

The provision of a range of tools to help increase access to affordable homes as a means of stimulating housing markets is welcomed, as is the recognition that current economic conditions require more "people" focused approaches to sit alongside an increase in bricks and mortar. However, the success and ease of access of such tools will largely be dependent upon a sufficient level of resources being made available to "pump prime" initiatives and on the simplicity and "true" affordability of such products.

A Technical point relates to the chart on page 26 showing quarterly house building starts and completions do not indicate the actual period covered.

The integrated area based approach described on page 30 is also supported, particularly as Halton has a strong track record of delivering the holistic regeneration of deprived communities through housing led partnerships for example, Southgate,

Castlefields and looks forward to working with HCA to develop integrated solutions to revitalise communities through the single conversation.

Halton also welcomes the emphasis on tackling worklessness and improving conditions in the private rented sector.

The advice is not clear about the priority to be given to supporting the most vulnerable people. We feel that it is crucial, in view of the ageing population and the impact of affordability issues and economic conditions on homelessness levels, that the push for growth and affordability i.e. emphasis on building new homes per se, is not at the expense of providing much needed supported housing and Disabled Facilities Grants.

Finally, at this stage, it is difficult to comment on the likely implications given that the advice does not go into detail about actual funding levels or splits between different priorities.

Annex C Economic Development Spending Priorities

This annex explains that the North West economy has grown continuously for the last 15 years, but that current global economic conditions are threatening continued progress. The annex highlights immediate short-term actions that have been introduced in response to changing economic circumstances. Priority economic development interventions focus on the current RES priorities with an emphasis on opportunities within, for example, the sectors of biomedical, creative industries science, innovation, and lifelong learning.

Initial Comments from Major Projects' Colleagues are:

Accepting the emphasis on growth sectors, a continuing barrier to economic growth in the region is the poor infrastructure that remains whether this is transport or site specific. An ongoing issue for the region continues to be difficulties in securing power and utilities' supplies to bring forward sites for development.

Furthermore, the advice does not take into account the high proportion of derelict land and land requiring remediation in the North West.

The point was also made that infrastructure also has a broader definition and appropriate investment in digital infrastructure would support the region's ability to be more competitive in the global market place.

Annex D Regional Funding Advice Skills

Although the skills budget is not included in the RFA, the Government has requested advice on the region's skills priorities. Priorities relate to principles established by the Regional Skills and Employment Board

Despite the current economic conditions the advice acknowledges that longer-term skills and employment priorities are important including a growing demand for higher-level skills.

Initial Comments from colleagues within Economic Regeneration:

Although there is recognition that support is needed to help people gain basic skills and that level 2 is a key for future employment, there appears to be little recognition that for many people the progression from basic skills to level 2 is too great a leap.

As LSC funding is changing, there is a growing gap in provision between the two. Current terminology refers to 'ladders of progression' from the workless to the fully employed, but there is also a 'sub-ladder of learning'. In our view, what is increasingly missing is the rungs on the ladder i.e. between basic skills and level 2 with progression rungs and incentives to undertake the work. There is a funding gap in this area and future funding allocations from Government should reflect this. A related issue is the decline in lower skill jobs. Consequently, there needs to be a clear strategy to help those with some skills move up and on, so that entry no/low skill jobs are freed up for the unemployed.

In terms of recession our view is that those areas with high unemployment will see even higher unemployment with a widening gap emerging. Our advice is that a further revision to NWDA funding is required to respond to the recession in terms of worklessness and concentrations. One example of this would be increasing significantly the amount of resource being provided by the NWDA to support the Liverpool City Region Employment Strategy.

Consideration should also be given to providing resources to support the 'wrap around' services that the Houghton report advocates. There is a danger that with an expanding JCP that the unemployment agenda would be picked up by this organization, but it is clear in the Houghton report that there are existing gaps within the current JCP arrangements and consequently a larger JCP could lead to even greater gaps in service provision.

The RFA should pick up on the LCR ask of greater sharing of JCP data as a way to improve targeting.

The advice also refers to needing more jobs near to high worklessness areas. We would recommend a NW managed workspace study, which maps out and scopes here provision exists, where there are gaps, which would then inform any future strategy and allocation of resources at a regional level.

Finally we would also recommend a revisiting of successful initiatives, which were developed during the last recession, for example, Intermediate Labour Market Models.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This is an important document for the region as it sets out the region's priorities for funding during the next two years with planning assumptions for a further seven years. The document will need to be read in conjunction with the development of a Single Regional Strategy for the North West as set out in the Government Sub-National (Economic Development Review).

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

None

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL’S PRIORITIES

The document will have a significant impact on the delivery of many of the Council’s priorities as it presents proposals for how Government funding will be allocated to transport, housing and regeneration and economic development over the next few years.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 There are no significant risks associated with implementing these proposals.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 There are no significant equality and diversity issues relating to this report.

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

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
RFA2 Advice	Municipal Building	Wesley Rourke 0151 471 7526