



**Employment, Learning, Skills and
Community Policy and Performance
Board**

**Monday, 23 June 2014 at 6.30 p.m.
Council Chamber, Runcorn Town Hall**

Chief Executive

BOARD MEMBERSHIP

Councillor Susan Edge (Chairman)	Labour
Councillor Andrew MacManus (Vice-Chairman)	Labour
Councillor Sandra Baker	Labour
Councillor Lauren Cassidy	Labour
Councillor Harry Howard	Labour
Councillor Peter Lloyd Jones	Labour
Councillor Geoffrey Logan	Labour
Councillor Stan Parker	Labour
Councillor Carol Plumpton Walsh	Labour
Councillor Margaret Ratcliffe	Liberal Democrat
Councillor Joe Roberts	Labour

***Please contact Michelle Simpson on 0151 511 8708 or e-mail
michelle.simpson@halton.gov.uk for further information.
The next meeting of the Board is on Monday, 15 September 2014***

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

Part I

Item No.	Page No.
1. MINUTES	
2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST (INCLUDING PARTY WHIP DECLARATIONS)	
<p>Members are reminded of their responsibility to declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interest or Other Disclosable Interest which they have in any item of business on the agenda, no later than when that item is reached or as soon as the interest becomes apparent and, with Disclosable Pecuniary interests, to leave the meeting during any discussion or voting on the item.</p>	
3. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME	4 - 6
4. EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES	7 - 11
5. DEVELOPMENT OF POLICY ISSUES	
(A) ADVICE SERVICE TRANSITION FUND - PRESENTATION	12 - 13
(B) LIBRARY SERVICE ANNUAL REPORT 2013-14	14 - 23
(C) SPORT AND RECREATION ANNUAL REPORT	24 - 36
(D) CHAIR'S ANNUAL REPORT	37 - 42
(E) WELFARE REFORM SCRUTINY REVIEW REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS	43 - 59
6. PERFORMANCE MONITORING	
(A) PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORTS	60 - 77
(B) SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY	78 - 101

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: Employment, Learning, Skills and Community
Policy & Performance Board

DATE: 23 June 2014

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Policy and Resources

SUBJECT: Public Question Time

WARD(s): Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To consider any questions submitted by the Public in accordance with Standing Order 34(9).
- 1.2 Details of any questions received will be circulated at the meeting.

2.0 RECOMMENDED: That any questions received be dealt with.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 Standing Order 34(9) states that Public Questions shall be dealt with as follows:-
- (i) A total of 30 minutes will be allocated for dealing with questions from members of the public who are residents of the Borough, to ask questions at meetings of the Policy and Performance Boards.
 - (ii) Members of the public can ask questions on any matter relating to the agenda.
 - (iii) Members of the public can ask questions. Written notice of questions must be given by 4.00 pm on the working day prior to the date of the meeting to the Committee Services Manager. At any one meeting no person/organisation may submit more than one question.
 - (iv) One supplementary question (relating to the original question) may be asked by the questioner, which may or may not be answered at the meeting.
 - (v) The Chair or proper officer may reject a question if it:-
 - Is not about a matter for which the local authority has a responsibility or which affects the Borough;
 - Is defamatory, frivolous, offensive, abusive or racist;
 - Is substantially the same as a question which has been put at a meeting of the Council in the past six months; or

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

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

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

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

None.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

None.

6.0 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 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

7.1 None.

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

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

REPORT TO: Employment, Learning, Skills and Community
Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 23 June 2014

REPORTING OFFICER: Chief Executive

SUBJECT: Executive Board Minutes

WARD(s): Boroughwide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

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

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the Minutes be noted.

3.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 None.

4.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 None.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

5.1 Children and Young People in Halton

None

5.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

None

5.3 A Healthy Halton

None

5.4 A Safer Halton

None

5.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

None

6.0 RISK ANALYSIS

6.1 None.

7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

7.1 None.

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

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

Extract of Executive Board Minutes Relevant to the Employment, Learning, Skills and Community Policy and Performance Board

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 27 FEBRUARY 2014

EXB159 REVIEW OF FEES AND CHARGES – COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Communities, on a review of fees and charges within the Community and Environment Services for 2014/15.

The Board was advised that the review of fees and charges within the Communities Directorate had been carried out as part of the budget preparations for 2014/15. It was reported that the existing fees and charges would be increased generally in line with inflation. However, some, such as Cemeteries and Crematoria had been increased by more to ensure full cost recovery. It was noted that others had been increased to reflect the charges in other local authority areas.

RESOLVED: That the proposed fees and charges as set out in Appendix 1 attached to the report be approved for 2014/15.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 13 MARCH 2014

EXB165 IMPLEMENTING HALTON BOROUGH COUNCIL'S APPRENTICESHIP SCHEME

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise, which set out the options to resource a corporate Apprenticeship Scheme.

The Board was advised that Halton Borough Council's People's Plan reinforced the need for the Council to continue to attract, develop and retain excellent people. The benefits of apprenticeships, previously reported to the Board, promoted a more balanced workforce, injected freshness and new ideas into the organisation. In addition, they contributed to the Council's wider employment and regeneration policies.

The report set out three funding options for Members' consideration. It was reported that Option 3 – to explore the use of European funding to develop a Borough-wide apprenticeship scheme - was the preferred option of the

Council's Organisational Development Group.

It was further noted that a cascade briefing, scheduled for May 2014, would brief managers on apprenticeships so as to cascade the benefits of an Apprenticeships Scheme across the whole organisation. This would set out the process for the identification, appointment, support and monitoring of apprenticeships.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the options to fund apprenticeships within the Council, as set out in section 3.4 of the report, be noted;
- 2) Option 3 be agreed as the preferred option;
- 3) the target of 10 additional apprentices to be established during the next financial year, be approved; and
- 4) a cascade briefing be approved to promote, and provide information on apprenticeships.

EXB166 VOLUNTARY SECTOR FUNDING – GRANT ALLOCATION 2014/15

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Communities, on the Voluntary Sector Grant Funding Awards for 2014/15.

The Board was advised that voluntary sector organisations had been invited to submit applications for funding in 2014/15. Applications were assessed and recommendations agreed by a Panel consisting of the Executive Board Portfolio holder with responsibility for the Voluntary Sector and Officers from the Communities Directorate.

The report contained details of the recommended annual allocation for the financial year 2014/15. It was noted that a review of Voluntary Sector funding would need to be undertaken as part of the budgetary setting process for 2015/16.

RESOLVED: That the grant allocations, as outlined in the report, be approved.

EXB167 NORTON PRIORY HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND BID

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Communities, which sought approval for the provision of financial support for the Norton Priory Museum Trust (the Trust).

The Board was advised that the Trust was granted a stage 1 pass from the Heritage Lottery fund (HLF) in 2013, for its project "Monastery to Museum

900". The £5m scheme would conserve the 12th century undercroft and redevelop the museum facilities.

It was noted that a stage 2 bid for £3.67m would be submitted by 31 March 2014 to HLF. However, match funding of £690,392 was required, but may not be in place until after the July 2014 deadline, which, it was reported, may put the project at risk.

The Board was further advised that HLF required confirmation that the Council would underwrite the stage 2 match funding, in the event that all of the match funding was not secured by the Trust, within the timeframe.

RESOLVED: That, if the Trust is unable to raise all the match funding required, the Board agree to underwrite the Norton Priory Museum Trust's HLF bid, by providing a loan of up to £300,000 plus interest, to be repaid over a period of up to three years, commencing 2015.

REPORT TO: Employment, Learning, Skills & Community
PPB

DATE: 23 June 2014

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Children & Enterprise

PORTFOLIO: Resources

SUBJECT: Advice Service Transition Fund - Presentation

WARD(S): Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF PRESENTATION / REPORT

1.1 To receive a presentation from on Advice Services Transition Fund from Hitesh Patel.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the Board notes the presentation and action points.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 Halton CAB has secured “Advice Services Transition Fund” Lottery Funding to improve partnership working amongst Halton’s numerous advice agencies. One of the key tasks has been to undertake a mapping exercise of all the agencies based in Halton which provide ‘information’, ‘advice’ or ‘tribunal/court advocacy/representation’ services.

This detailed piece of mapping work has been undertaken in partnership with Halton BC as we are taking the “lead” to develop a multi-agency approach to helping people deal with the impact of the government’s “Welfare Reform” agenda.

4.0 POLICY, FINANCIAL AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS

4.1 N/A.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL’S PRIORITIES

5.1 As above.

6.0 RISK ANALYSIS

6.1 This report is for information only. There are no risks arising from it.

7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

7.1 The presentation reflects every aspect of the Equality Act 2010 and associated policies.

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

8.1 None.

REPORT TO:	Employment Learning Skills and Communities Policy & Performance Board
DATE:	23 rd June 2014
REPORTING OFFICER:	Strategic Director, Communities
PORTFOLIO:	Neighbourhood, Leisure and Sport
SUBJECT:	Library Service
WARD(S)	Borough-wide

1.0 **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 To provide an annual report on the Library Service for the period 2013-2014.

2.0 **RECOMMENDATION: That:**

- i) **The report be noted**
- ii) **Members comment on the service delivery and future challenges for the service**

3.0 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 The Library Service is delivered through 4 static libraries, a satellite facility in Castlefields Community Centre, an outreach service for the housebound and through digital access. Key resources in their communities they provide books, information and technology which promote lifelong learning, digital inclusion and encourages and celebrates reading. They are important community spaces which offer a welcoming neutral environment and host a range of cultural activities, events and opportunities for all sections of the community.

3.2 All libraries provide access to the Internet and quality assured online resources through more than 100 public computers and laptops. All the buildings are Wi-Fi enabled providing flexibility for customers and also offer self service facilities for borrowing and returning materials. 24/7 access to services are available through a virtual library presence offering an enquiry service and the ability to search for, reserve and renew items remotely via the online catalogue

3.3 In 2013-14 a total of 415,406 items were borrowed. Visits have risen this year and reflect the significant proportion of people using libraries for other purposes i.e. to access public computer facilities.

The library service has 70,026 registered members with 16,289 having borrowed items in the last 12 months. This equates to 57.7% of the population who are registered members, 23.7% have actively borrowed in the last 12 months. Against the total population 13.7% of members have borrowed in the last 12 months

	No' of registered members	Active members	Active members as a % of the population	Number of items borrowed	Number of visits to library premises
2012-13	61,147	16,468	13.1%	433,189	620,942
2013-14	70,026	16,289	13.0%	415,406	675,989

- 3.4 The 3 year Library Strategy was endorsed in June last year and defines the priorities of the service to ensure we meet our statutory responsibilities whilst contributing to the corporate and strategic priorities of the borough.
- 3.5 In July 2013 the Library Service moved into Wave 5 of the Efficiency Review Programme. The As Is phase has been completed whilst work continues on the To Be proposals.
- 4.0 The report demonstrates the progress that the Library Service has made in the last 12 months. It is structured to reflect the priorities set out in the Library Strategy and illustrates the impact that the service has had in supporting people to develop their skills and fulfil their potential and participate in the cultural and community life of the borough.
- 4.1 **Priority: Inspiring a community of readers and learners**
In line with the Public Libraries Universal Reading Offer the service has provided a full programme of creative reading promotions and events some of which are set out below:
- 4.1.1 **Bookstart** - the Library Service continues to work with partners to deliver this scheme which offers the gift of free books to all children at two key ages before they start school to inspire a love of reading. Libraries coordinate the delivery of the packs to health visitors, nurseries and early year's settings. The Bookstart Baby packs are given out by health visitors to babies prior to their first birthday whilst the Bookstart Treasure packs are given out to all 3-4 year olds by nurseries and playgroups. Each pack contains books, rhymes and songs as well as an invitation to join the library and participate in their local weekly Rhymetime. National Bookstart Week was celebrated in collaboration with Children's Centres with 95 children participating in traditional tales story sessions
- 4.1.2 Rhymetimes sessions are held in all 4 static libraries and deliver stories, rhymes and activities which support speech and language development in an informal setting. They also provide parents with an opportunity to participate and gain confidence in their own storytelling abilities. During 2013-14 149 Rhymetimes sessions were delivered across libraries with

a total of 3,773 children and parents participating.

- 4.1.3 In collaboration with Children's publisher Ladybird Runcorn Library hosted the Ladybird Roadshow to celebrate and promote the joys of storytelling. 68 children and parents were treated to stories and activities. Ladybird experts were also on-hand to speak to parents who wanted guidance or advice on reading with their children. Feedback from parents was very positive *"plenty of activities and great interactive storytelling"*, *"we gained new skills"*, *"it has reinforced the pleasure in storytelling"*, *"we had a fantastic time and I will interact and make stories more interesting"*
- 4.1.4 **Schools** – Engagement with schools is an important aspect of libraries work to inspire children and young people to enjoy reading and to develop information skills. The library service continues to offer traditional class visits to schools introducing children to the library so they can become proficient in finding information and resources as well as expanding their reading experiences. Over the last year we have worked with 22 schools and have delivered instructional sessions to over 4,000 children and young people. In addition we have provided opportunities for them to meet numerous authors and participate in a range of workshops.
- 4.1.5 **World Book Day** - we supported a themed assembly at Westbank Primary school which was attended by 150 children dressed as their favourite book characters. Author Tim Bowler visited Bankfield School and spent the morning talking to 220 year 8 pupils about his books and then 60 young people were selected to take part in an exclusive writing workshop.
- 4.1.6 **Summer Reading Challenge** - over the summer we encourage children aged four to eleven to take part in the challenge which aims to keep them reading throughout the summer holidays. The theme last year was the "Creepy House" and on entering the challenge children embarked upon an exciting adventure with friendly characters as they explored the three creaking floors of the Creepy House. Participants had to read six books of their choice and after every two books another part of the Creepy House adventure was unlocked and new a hair-raising character revealed. Children could read any books they liked and there were activities to participate in and rewards along the way. 830 children joined the Creepy House Summer Reading Challenge with 40% of those who originally started, finishing the challenge. This is a 29% increase of children taking part in last year's challenge.

Feedback from participants and their parents was very positive *"I joined the reading challenge and read all six books. I really enjoyed it and had fun"*, *"loved reading the books and really enjoyed coming to the library. It's become a regular visit now"*, *"we enjoyed this as it got my son reading a lot more before starting school in September"*, *"we enjoyed the Creepy House reading it inspired us to read throughout the summer"*

- 4.1.7 **Reading Activists** – is a national programme run by The Reading Agency in partnership with libraries which provides opportunities for young people (11–24) to promote reading and writing, shape services, gain work experience and learn new skills.

Reading Activists contributes to the government's *Positive for Youth* agenda and Local Authority outcomes for young people. Halton was one of the 18 authorities funded by the Big Lottery to develop this project which has been running for 3 years. During which time 3,052 young people have taken part in 65 Reading Activist events, 124 young people have volunteered as Reading Activists and have been working towards or have received accreditation.

Over the last 12 months Reading Activists have been involved in planning, organising and promoting events and activities for other young people, choosing stock, writing book reviews, interviewing authors and participating in workshops.

- Students with varying degrees of autism from Riverside College took part in a Stop Motion Animation Workshop. All of the young people agreed that through the workshops they gained skills and strengths in team work, communication, planning and digital skills
- One Direction Events at both Halton Lea and Widnes Libraries were very popular. Young People had the opportunity to meet and work with author Sarah Oliver.
- Green, screen filmmaking workshops provided an opportunity for young people to learn new skills and create short film clips featuring their favourite books for screening which are now available on YouTube.
- Author interview – 7 Reading Activist volunteers interviewed American author Leila Sales via Skype.
- 10 young people volunteered for Takeover day in November at Widnes Library. The young people planned and ran the activities for other young people on the theme of the Hunger Games. 29 young people participated in the event.
- Reading Activists hosted a special “Day of the Daleks”, Dr Who event at Widnes Library which they had designed to help eliminate boredom during half term it was attended by approximately 100 children, young people and parents.

- 4.1.8 **Try Reading Project** – the public library services in the North West and Yorkshire & Humber regions (30 in total) were successful in their joint bid to the Arts Council for “Grants for Arts: Libraries” funding for the creative project “Try Reading”. The project celebrated the Rugby League World Cup 2013 and encouraged people to read more and engage in writing and drama.

- 32 young people took part in a professionally led workshop based on Mick Martin's play “Broken Time” participants used scenes from the play to explore writing about character and how to create tension through the written word.

- 21 children and adults participated in author Tom Palmer's Rugby Reading Game at Widnes Library alongside players from Widnes Vikings
- Young people from Bankfield School worked with poetry and dance artists Risktakers to create a performance to welcome the visiting USA Rugby League team at the Opening Ceremony of the Primary Schools Sports Event at the Stadium. They performed a specially written song and dance for an audience consisting of the USA team, officials, the Mayor and around 700 primary school children.
- American themed rhymetimes with Tom the USA team mascot were held at Halton Lea, Widnes and Ditton Libraries, with the American Rugby Team Ambassadors attending the Halton Lea event. 94 children and parents attended the sessions
- Tim Quinn former Editor of Marvel Comics delivered a cartoon workshop, which included figure drawing, emotions, storytelling in pictures, character and story creation, and comic book history. The event was well attended with excellent feedback from all participants. *"I found this event great – very inspiring especially because I am studying computer game design at college. This will help me in my studies"*

4.2 The Library Service has adopted the Public Library Universal Health and Wellbeing Offer to enhance the health and wellbeing of the local community by promoting and providing access to self-help resources, health information, outreach collections signposting and opportunities for social and recreational reading.

4.2.1 **Books on prescription** - self-help books based on Cognitive Behavioural Therapy principles. Health professionals can prescribe these to patients with mild to moderate mental health problems. The list of books and CD's cover key problem areas and the patient can take the prescription to the library and obtain a copy of the book or CD which they can be borrow for up to 8 weeks. All the titles are also available in the libraries for anyone to borrow. The number of prescriptions has fallen over the last 12 months but the titles within the collection continue to be well used.

4.2.2 **Reading Well Mood-boosting Books** - is a national promotion of uplifting titles, including novels, poetry and non-fiction. These books are recommended by readers and reading groups around the country and are available to borrow from any library.

4.2.3 **Pictures to Share** - a collection of books designed to stimulate memories among older people. Whether problems are caused by Alzheimer's Disease, stroke, Parkinson's Disease, brain injury or any other condition, these books can be enjoyed by anyone affected, as well as by their carers. These books can be borrowed by individuals or by care homes.

4.2.4 **Memory Boxes** - in response to the growing need for help for people with dementia and their carers, the service created a collection of themed memory boxes. The collection aims to stimulate the memories of those suffering from Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia and these are now being widely used for reminiscence therapy. Each box contains local photographs and books, a book from the Pictures to Share series, replicas of posters, labels and pictures, smell bottles, a music CD and objects of the time, such as toys and household implements. The collection is available for individuals or organisations to borrow and has proved so popular that a further 20 memory boxes have now been developed.

4.2.5 **Centenary of the outbreak of World War 1** - Halton Libraries working in partnership with Cheshire Museums and Cheshire Archives held a series of events to commemorate the First World War. The Great War Touchscreen Kiosk was displayed at Halton Lea and Widnes Libraries and contained collections of images from across historic Cheshire. The photographs showed different aspects of the Great War, the men who went away to fight and never returned, the people left behind and the war memorials. Special information panels about local Victoria Cross war heroes Thomas Alfred 'Todger' Jones and Thomas Mottershead were also displayed and two Community Collection Roadshows were staged to gather and record local people's Great War photographs, documents, objects and oral history.

5.0 **Priority: Employment, enterprise and developing online skills**

In line with the Public Libraries Universal Digital Offer the service is committed to helping Halton residents become ICT literate through a programme of support and targeted activities and providing access to computer facilities across all libraries.

5.1 Computer use continues to grow and shows a 9% increase in the last 12 months. Wi-Fi is available in all libraries and use has grown by 41% which reflects the nature of people accessing services online through mobile devices.

	Number of computer sessions	Number of hours of computer use	Number of Wi-Fi sessions	Number of hours of Wi-Fi use
2012-13	147,071	94,649	5,991	5,164
2013-14	161,855	100,357	10,273	8,521

5.2 The Library Service has provided support to help people to get online through regular IT Clinics and one to one support as well as specific events including sessions during UK Online Week and the Spring Online promotion.

5.3 In conjunction with communications company TalkTalk we also delivered a Connecting the Community IT event at Halton Lea Library and a National Older Peoples Day IT event at Widnes Library. Talk Talk experts were on hand in the workshops and personalised one to one

sessions to help people with email, social networking, accessing multi-media, Word/Excel, understanding the internet, online shopping, PC basics and safety on the internet. The events were very popular with lots of positive feedback. 60 people attended the workshops and one to one sessions

- 5.4 Digital IT Clinics have been delivered at Halton Lea and Widnes Libraries over the last 12 months with 77 sessions having taken place with 475 attendees.
- 5.5 25 Work club sessions supported by both GMB and library staff have been delivered this year with 287 attendances.
- 5.6 A total of 261 one to one support sessions have been delivered by library staff. 63 were job related and 194 involved older people seeking support in getting online, setting up e-mail accounts and finding out more about social networking and safe internet use. These sessions are very popular and have had a positive impact on the lives of those individuals attending as reflected in some of the feedback received:

"I'm going on holiday for the next 3 weeks, but just wanted to say how much I have enjoyed coming to these lessons, it came about at a perfect time, as my husband recently died I really felt like I would be stuck struggling along on the computer at home, as he used to do all the important things on there, but now obviously I need to know, and I do feel like slowly it is starting to sink in! I'm also so glad I have something to take my mind of it and let me concentrate on something else. Thank you"

"I have tried so many different things and taken books out from the library to try and help me but I just can't seem to get my head around it. What you have actually shown me has really helped and I am going to make sure I spend at least half an hour tonight practising while it is still in my head."

"I really want to learn to use the computers so I can take my driving theory test online. As my instructor has said that I am ready but I really don't know how to use a computer so if I can do that, it will be great."

"My husband has been ill for quite a while, and at first I thought it wouldn't matter that I couldn't use the internet, but more and more people keep saying to me, it will be handy to buy things or order things online as he can't drive me about me anymore, so thank you for your patience"

- 6.0 **Priority: Extending access through innovation and new technology**
Technological change is happening at a tremendous pace and the library service has tried to grasp the opportunities available to us within the current resources.

- 6.1 The efficiency review impacts on this priority but we have been able to make progress in the following areas:
- Backroom procedures have been streamlined to improve efficiency through electronic invoicing and ordering.
 - The virtual library has been improved and the library catalogue enhanced with more interactive and personalised features including book reviews and ratings.
 - Social media is used to communicate with customers about events and service developments.
 - Material brought to the World War 1 roadshows has been catalogued and the information will be digitised and made available through the website

7.0 **Priority: Providing a relevant and responsive library service**

- 7.1 Over the last 12 months the Library service has continued to provide opportunities for young volunteers to engage and shape the service through the Reading Activists programme. Although the Big Lottery Funding for this programme has now ended the Reading Agency has received a gift from the Paul Hamlyn Foundation which has identified £700K to develop a Reading Challenge for 13 to 24 year olds. This sustainability funding is to support young people's activities as a continuation of the hubs developed through the Big Lottery funding.
- 7.2 Halton is one of only 15 authorities nationally whose young people will work with the Reading Agency to develop and test the Challenge over the next 10 months. The Challenge aims to increase young people's reading enjoyment, skills, confidence and employability through reading and volunteering opportunities.
- 7.3 In addition to the funding for the development of the Reading Activists Challenge, libraries have also been offered grants from the Cabinet Office's Social Action Fund to build on the work of young volunteers supporting the Summer Reading Challenge. Halton's allocation of £900 will be used to attract and train new volunteers
- 7.4 Libraries continue to offer community spaces providing opportunities for people to meet and participate in the social, educational and cultural life of the community. A range of activities takes place across the libraries including Reading Groups, Knit and Natter sessions, Film making, Self Help Services, Weight Management, various internal and external partners also use the facilities for meetings and to deliver training courses.
- 7.5 **CIPFA Children and Young People's Survey** – this was conducted in February 2014 this was last completed three years ago. The new survey introduced last year covers three age ranges, Preschool and KS1 (0-7 years), KS2 (7-11 years), KS3 and KS4 (11-16 years). In total 788 children and their parents/carers responded during the two week survey, of these 56% were girls and 44% were boys.

7.5.1 Overall 54% of respondents gave their library a 10/10 satisfaction score, 24% gave 9/10, 15% gave 8/10, 5% gave 7/10 and 1% gave 6/10. Other key findings are:

7.5.2 **KS1 (0-7 years completed by parent or adult)**

52% rated their library 10/10 in the satisfaction question
100% believe their library helps their child with learning to read
97% believed that libraries prepared their children for school
98% believe their library helps their child socialise with other children
99% believe the library helps with speaking and listening

7.5.3 **KS2**

63% of children rated the library 10/10
99% thought the library was a safe place
97% thought the library had the books they need
98% thought the library held the information they needed
77% of children had borrowed a book during term to read for pleasure
96% think the library has helped them get better at reading
96% think the library has helped with their enjoyment of reading
77% think the library has helped them with using computers

7.5.4 **KS3 and KS4**

43% of gave their library a 10/10 rating, 31% gave a 9/10 rating and 12% a 8/10 rating
51% had borrowed a book during the term to read for pleasure
83% had asked library staff for help with their schoolwork this term
37% had used a library book this term to help with their school work
49% had used a library computer to help with schoolwork this term

7.5.5 Further detailed analysis of the CIPFA Children's results will be undertaken to get a better understanding of how children and young people use the library and to inform improvements in our provision.

8.0 **Priority: Workforce development**

The majority of outcomes under this priority are directly linked to the efficiency review although some social media training has been undertaken and nationally we are involved in the development of the Public Library Universal Information Offer learner network which is developing training modules for library staff which will be rolled out this autumn.

9 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 Outcomes used to measure the achievements against the Library Strategy and statutory responsibilities

10.0 **OTHER/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 None at this time

11.0 **IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

11.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

Community activity and events, Bookstart, Rhymetimes, work with schools and other partners, Reading Activists volunteer programme, engagement with a wide section of the community

11.2 **Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

Provision of public access computer facilities, support for people getting online, job seekers, employment and training opportunities and those learning new skills

11.3 **A Healthy Halton**

Provision of venues from which to deliver health and wellbeing events, Books on Prescription, Mood boosting collection and Memory Boxes.

11.4 **A Safer Halton**

N/A

11.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

N/A

12.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

12.1 None at this time

12.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

13.1 The service is open and accessible to all Halton residents

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

None under the meaning of the Act.

REPORT TO:	Employment, Learning & Skills Policy & Performance Board
DATE:	23 June 2014
REPORTING OFFICER:	Strategic Director, Communities
PORTFOLIO:	Neighbourhood, Leisure and Sport
SUBJECT:	Sport & Recreation Team Annual Report
WARD(S)	Borough-wide

1.0 **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 To provide an annual report for the period 2013/14 on the Council Sport and Recreation Service.

2.0 **RECOMMENDATION: That:**

- i) **The report be noted**
- ii) **Members comment on the service delivery**

3.0 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 The report demonstrates a year where the Sport and Recreation Team has worked in partnership with a range of stakeholders and has made considerable progress, impact and achievements across the borough. It is structured to reflect the priorities set out within the Halton Sports Strategy 2012 - 2015 and illustrates how sport has and continues to enrich the lives of people living and working in Halton. Activities are used as an essential component in supporting and developing the infrastructure of the community and to improve the quality of life both physically and mentally.

3.2 The service actively works with partner organisations, such as, Halton Sports Partnership, in order to facilitate development through a better understanding of the issues and a sharing of resources to achieve success. Without the contribution from our partners much of the work highlighted within this report would not have been possible.

4.0 **SPORT AND RECREATION TEAM**

4.1 The team consists of 6 full time officers who cover a wide range of work areas. The service has two distinct areas:

- Management of the Leisure Management Contract. Places for People are responsible for the day to day operations of the Council 3 Leisure

Centres.

- Sports Development Team – development of programmes and activities to support the local sporting infrastructure.

The budget for Sports Development is £275,210. The service produces a monthly report and quarterly briefings. The following is a snap shot of local projects being delivered against the Sports Strategy key themes.

5.0 **SPORTS STRATEGY DELIVERY 2013/14**

5.1 **Theme 1: Increase Participation and Widen Access**

5.1.1 **Sportivate** is a national funding programme from Sport England, it is aimed at increasing regular participation in sport amongst 11 to 25 year olds. Halton secured £18,281 for year 3 delivery plan and over achieved its targets with 455 attendees 2700 throughput and a number attaining coaching qualifications to help with sustaining activities. Haltons year 4 plan has been approved with £16,334 secured for future delivery this will assist the Sports Development Team to provide a varied programme of activities for young people.

5.1.2 **Halton Sports Coach Scheme** delivered over 1100 hours of coaching from grass roots to excellence at schools, special schools, clubs, charities & organisations. Coaches deliver sports to all groups regardless of ability; in addition they have disability specific experience and awareness and provide a bespoke service to schools.

Sports coaching and support Schools SLA provides a professional coaching service for primary and special schools in Halton. 26 primary schools purchased the SLA in 2013, generating £13,998 income and achieving 8438 contacts. 28 packages have been purchased for 2014.

Community Sports Coaching - Coaches delivered activity at a number of events during the year, including Party in the Park; Widnes Scouts summer fair; Fire service Phoenix challenge; Health & Wellbeing fun days at various community venues. 2074 contacts made and 1773 adults received training. The service generated £4,075 income.

5.1.3 **Halton Sports Fair** aims to showcase sports and physical activities, which are taking place locally, throughout voluntary sports clubs, and venues in Halton. A variety of sports and physical activities sessions open to young people and adults. 150 sessions promoted, over 2 project periods including, come and try it taster sessions, demonstrations, or competitions. Table Tennis, Rugby League, Martial Arts, Swimming, Trampolining, Jogging, Rugby Union and a Join in Event at the Stadium where local clubs came and delivered practice sessions.

5.1.4 **Leisure Centre Activity:** Places for People Leisure operates Kingsway Leisure Centre, Brookvale Recreation Centre and Runcorn Swimming Pool on behalf of the Council. Each year Officers agree a 12 month Service Development Plan to ensure that the service continues to deliver in line

with the Council priorities, and monitors performance on a monthly basis. (DC Leisure was acquired in 2013 by Places for People (PfP). On 1 April 2014 DC changed its name to Places for People Leisure Management Ltd).

The Council's leisure centres provide access to affordable leisure activities which support the health and wellbeing agenda across the borough. People who are physically active reduce their risk of developing major chronic diseases, such as, coronary heart disease, stroke and type 2 diabetes by up to 50% and the risk of premature death by about 20 -30%. Inactive people spend 38% more days in hospital.

Nationally the company have received a number of accolades including:

- Leisure Centre Operator of the Year 2013, ukactive
- Health & Wellbeing Award 2013, Royal Society of Public Health
- Apprenticeship Provider of the Year 2013, Active Leisure Awards,
- Amateur Swimming Association Facilities Operator of the Year 2012
- Quest "Excellent" Rating for Sports Development

During the contract the public's use of the buildings has grown by approximately 34% and now stands at 680,000 active users and 810,000 visits per year. This increase has included working with the council and local agencies to address local priorities. Partners include Health Service providers, sports clubs, schools and colleges, private companies etc. Created strong links with local Schools including OBA, Wade Deacon and improved links with SureStart clubs were working with 1 centre, but over last 12 month now working with 8 centres.

Other activity examples:

- 2412 children in swim academy
- Back to Netball: New activity has 27 new members, local league playing fixtures at Kingsway Leisure Centre.
- Essentials Badminton, Kingsway working closely with Badminton/Sport England 8 Week course.
- Squash league is doing really well, had 565 casual people play Squash in one month
- Kinetika Gym members are staying 1 month longer than last year.
- Swim tag: All Leisure centres now have SWIMTAG - Over 30 day period, 152 swimmers at Kingsway Leisure Centre recorded 760 swims, swimming 962 kilometers in 545 hours, burning an estimated 294,801 calories
- All sites gaining dementia friendly status soon

5.1.5 **Halton Leisure Card:** 1496 Halton Leisure Cards purchased providing residents with discounted rates from a range of leisure providers. Leisure card holders made 16,771 visits to the Councils 3 Leisure facilities.

5.1.6 **Get Active Project:** Activity has been targeted at those not currently taking part in any sport or exercise over the age of 16 particularly women age 25-45 and older adults i.e. sedentary people at risk of disease due to lifestyle and people with low self-esteem. During 2013 new participants, those not

having taken part in any activity for last 12 months totalled 813. A [Get Active](#) review document has been produced for 2013/14. The document outlines some new projects, existing activities and general information on the benefits of being physical active. The Get Active timetables promote over 60 local community activities. Continues to support a number of community organisation and voluntary groups to provide opportunities for adults to be more active. 26 groups using social sports equipment for regular activity, e.g. Kurling and Bowling. Assisted group applications totalled £6,864. In addition to regular activity the project also supported some taster session, such as:

- “Try it” activity session delivered to Connect group at Grangeway (adults with learning disability), support given to volunteer with learning disability.
- Prepared and delivered physical activity workshops for cancer patients at Delemere Centre.
- Lunchtime health walks map including lunch at Grangeway promo flyer produced as requested via Community development.
- Meeting and action plan for St Luke’s dementia trial exercise programme.
- Assistance given to deliver Winter Olympic theme Kurling event for stroke association and lunch bunch dementia group
- Taster activity and on-going equipment loan to Murdishaw Day Services group.
- Windmill Hill new walks maps (Woodland Trust) disseminated.
- Support to new Day Services staff, providing training ideas to deliver activity, such as, Castlefields Community Centre.

5.1.7 **Case Study: Much more than Physical Activity benefits**

Walking for Health Volunteer Leader, case A, leads weekly walks for up to 25 people and is a valued walk leader, helping many people explore Halton’s green areas and improve health. Last year, case A, was mugged and lost all confidence not wanting to leave the house afraid of what might happen; they felt cooped-up and struggled with nightmares. Case A had always walked from home to lead walks but could not make this journey following the incident. The teams Health and Physical Activity Development Officer arranged to pick up, from home, and attend each weekly walk with them. It was important to support a very valued volunteer get through a period of personal difficulties and keep them in touch with their social networks. 6 months on and through support from a number of agencies, including, Police, Housing Trust, Arriva travel and valued friends and associates, case A, now leaves home independently to attend health walks. Having a social circle of people who care and systems in place to support victims of crime has been essential in order for case A to use their own strength to overcome the trauma.

5.2 **Theme 2: Club Development**

5.2.1 **Club Halton** is a scheme that accredits quality sports clubs in Halton, who

meet a set of agreed criteria. Officers provide on-going support for 44 sports with Club Halton and those working towards accreditation including; Matt Fiddes Martial Arts, Halton Baseball and Softball Club, Widnes Rugby Union Club, Runcorn Cricket Club, Halton Farnworth Hornets, Runcorn Hockey Club, Runcorn Reps ASC and Halton Gymnastics Club.

75 clubs are affiliated to the Halton Sports Partnership; they receive regular information and support, from template administration documents and checklists to club visits and session promotion. This assistance supports the club to provide a quality experience that is both safe and attractive to the participants and those that care for them.

5.2.2 **Sports Resource Centres** - There are 2 accessible to voluntary sports 20 clubs have accessed the resources to assist and support running their club, including photocopying, meeting rooms, internet access, loan of sport specific and generic books, journals and equipment.

5.2.3 **Case Study: Halton Table Tennis Club**
Is truly a flagship club, continually striving to achieve more every year. The breadth and diversity of their day-to-day operation is unprecedented, reaching everyone from school groups to their over 50s group, they are the standard bearer for all other clubs. Due to their continuing progression, which is assisted by a number of Sports Development Team initiatives, they won the Sport & Recreation Alliance School Links Award 2013, which recognises the clubs efforts to encourage children to take up table tennis.

5.3 **Theme 3: Coach Education and Volunteering**

5.3.1 A comprehensive coach education programme was coordinated by officers to support high quality delivery in Halton. Consultation on programme content took place with the Halton Sports Partnership. Courses were well attended, with Halton residents receiving a generous subsidy. Courses were published in the annual "Sport in Halton" booklet.

170 coaches / backroom staff accessed coach education course, assisting 26 Halton sports clubs deliver their clubs development plan (see appendix 1).

5.3.2 **Sports Coaching bursaries**

Aimed at those people who wish to become a new coach, gain a new qualification or develop onto another level of coaching. Specifically for anyone who is affiliated to a sports club in Halton. £4,890 distributed to clubs to assist members gaining National Governing Body of Sport qualification. Each coach prepares an action plan and identifies a mentor to support their development (see appendix 2).

5.3.3 **Halton Sports Volunteer Scheme**

The scheme aims to recruit, reward, recognise and support volunteers

aged 9+ and mentors, who are dedicating their time voluntary to the sporting sector of Halton. 40 volunteers have been supported through the scheme in the last 12 months.

5.3.4 **Case Study: Supporting club infrastructure improves performance**

Halton Swimming Club has 150 junior and 70 senior members. In the last 12 months the club have accessed a number of Sports Development Team initiatives including club development and coach education programmes, with:

- 19 members attending SCUUK safeguarding and protecting children workshop
- 6 coaches attending equity workshops
- 2 Level 2 coaches awarded bursaries
- 9 Level 1 coaches awarded bursaries
- 16 people signed up to the volunteer scheme

A number of the new coaches are aged 16yrs to 19yrs; this has had a direct impact on the recent success of swimmers. The younger swimmers have seen the younger coaches as role models and aspiring to achieve the same success. In the past 12 months the club went from 13th place to 7th place at the Hugh Laughland Age group trophy, which was an improvement of 242 points. At recent Cheshire Championships overall there were 39 Medals won, a further 45 Top 10 Finishes alongside 77 new personal best times set. A significant improvement on the previous year's performance.

5.4 **Theme 4: Sporting Excellence**

5.4.1 **The Annual Halton Sports Awards** celebrated the success of local sporting individuals, clubs and schools by highlighting their achievements. A highly successful evening was followed up by several winners going on to represent Halton at other local awards, such as, the Merseyside Sporting Champions Awards, with great success, 3 out of the 6 main Merseyside awards going to Halton entries.

5.4.2 **RLWC2013** was a major sporting event in England. Halton were thrilled to be able to host the USA team for the tournament. The Sports Development Team coordinated a diverse programme, involving the community in activity throughout their stay. Including a multi sport activity day at the Stadium for over 500 primary school pupils, involving Cronton College and Wade Deacon leaders, Widnes Vikings, Bankfield students and Tom the Eagle and USA players. The USA team gained great respect from the RFL community; named team of the tournament. The management team constantly praised the Council for exceptional hospitality and stated "the good people of Halton and the USA Tomahawks together we shocked the world".

5.4.3 **Case Study: Grass route to excellence**

Halton Cricket Forum consists of representatives from all 4 cricket clubs, sports development, school games and County Cricket. In 2013/14 the schools coaching programme involved 32 primary schools signing up to either entry competitions or 10 hours coaching and teacher CPD, or both, this raised £4,600. Cheshire cricket board and Sports Development provided grant contributions to aid the sustainability of the programme, generating £5,600 for local clubs and coaches. This provides the first introduction to the game for some young people and opportunities for others to learn new skills and techniques, ultimately improving the standard of cricket within primary schools. Winners of the four competitions held as a culmination to the programme go on to represent Halton at the Cheshire county cricket competitions.

5.5 **Theme 5: Finance and Funding for Sport**

5.5.1 The Officers work both with other Council teams and the voluntary sector to secure investment from a range of funding bodies to support both the development of facilities and the delivery of sports programmes. The accessibility of grant funding has not been immune from the recent economic downturn and the level of funding secured has dropped, however, sports development still supported a total £17,576 Area forum grants and £78,677 external grants.

5.5.2 **Sports Development Grant Scheme:** Primary purpose is to assist local clubs and organisations who, through their activities provide sports development benefit to the inhabitants of the Borough. It also provides bursaries for talented individuals, club coaches and elite athletes and coaches who reside in Halton (see appendix 3).

5.5.3 **Merseyside Sporting Bursaries** - Each year the Halton Sports Partnership receives a percentage of the proceeds from the Merseyside Sports Awards. The sports development team administer this grant fund on their behalf. It is open to residents under the age of 25. 2 bursaries were awarded last year (see appendix 4).

5.5.4 **Funding and Information Clinics:** The Sports Development Team offer advice and support to all those seeking to access funding to improve sport and physical activity facilities and programmes within Halton. They continue to be popular with 47 appointments held during the year. Advice ranged from how to set up a sports club bank account and constitution to preparing and submitting revenue and capital grant applications.

Total distributed as grant aid to community groups £18,258

Funding secured for Sports Development Team initiatives £67,218.

Successful internal and external sports club funding applications £96,253

5.6 **Theme 6: Sports Facilities**

5.6.1 **Halton Playing Pitch Strategy** was reviewed and a new strategy produced. An action plan and implementation plan for playing fields has been prepared.

5.6.2 **Widnes Recreation Playing Field** development received planning permission during 2013. Construction of a new sports pavilion commenced March 2014. The new changing rooms and sports facilities will support activities on the playing pitches and a new sport and physical activity programme.

5.6.3 Officers supported a number of clubs with facility improvement plans:

- Runcorn Linnets - disability access, changing room and playing pitch improvements.
- Runcorn Town FC - ground developments
- Widnes RUFC - disability access, upgrade of facilities and playing fields
- Runcorn Boxing Club - new club base
- Runcorn Rowing Club - adaptive equipment

6.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 The Council has an adopted Sports Strategy 2012 -2015 which outlines the key actions for the Council. The delivery of the strategy is subject to resources. Sport is cross cutting and the benefits gained from participation and involvement in sport contributes towards achieving wider council priorities. The Sport and Recreation services delivery and the voluntary sector sporting community make a significant contribution to the Public Health agenda.

7.0 **OTHER/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 Sports Development has an income target of £48,200. This has been achieved through the School Coaching SLA, Service Level Agreements for sports activity, and generating income from activity. The service needs to constantly identify future income opportunities to support the sustainability of the service.

7.2 Regular monitoring of the strategy also lies with the Halton Sports Partnership Executive Committee, which comprises of key stakeholders from the voluntary sport sector.

8.0 **IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

8.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

The service engages with thousands of young people, signposting to community sports clubs and showcasing activity to increase participation. The School Games Officer and Disability Sport Officer post compliment the

service delivery.

8.2 Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

Volunteer opportunities and skill development in coaching, administration, fundraising etc. Support adult and lifelong learning.

8.3 A Healthy Halton

Sport and Physical Activity links directly with three of the five priorities in Halton’s Health and Wellbeing strategy, prevention being the key. Physical activity links with prevention of certain cancers, mental health problems and falls.

8.4 A Safer Halton

The connection between sport and reducing anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime is supported by key research. Sports activities and competitions, sports volunteering, sports leadership, sports training help develop individuals and communities, encourage healthier and more productive lifestyles and create inclusive communities and neighbourhoods that provide a shared identity and sense of place.

8.5 Halton’s Urban Renewal

The service supports numerous groups looking to improve the areas they are in.

9.0 RISK ANALYSIS

9.1 The service has a performance management process in place.

10.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

10.1 The Sport and Recreation service is open and accessible. The service supports groups and individuals to meet the needs of present and potential participants.

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

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
Sports Strategy 2012 – 2015	Select Security Stadium	Sue Lowrie Sport & Recreation Manager

Coach Education and Volunteering

Club Supported	Number at workshops	Club Supported	Number at workshops
Widnes Rugby Union Club	19	Halton Cricket Forum	1
Focus Gymnastics Club	3	Runcorn Hockey Club	7
Birchfield Cricket Club	4	Oakfield School Table Tennis Club	1
Halton Gymnastics Club	4	Sport 4 All multi-disability club	9
Runcorn Rowing Club	2	Matt Fiddes Martial Arts Club	7
Halton Swimming Club	11	Moorfield ARLFC	4
Heath Tennis Club	1	Halton Farnworth Hornets ARLFC	7
Halton Table Tennis Club	6	Dragons/Vikings FC	18
Widnes Cricket Club	4	Juurai Martial Arts Club	4
West Bank Bears ARLFC	5	Moore Rugby Union Football Club	1
Widnes St Maries ARLFC	4	Beechwood Netball Club	2
Moorfield FC	1	Mersey Storm Wheelchair RL club	2
Plodders Running Club	6	Lane Tennis Club	1
Sports Dev/DC	18	Out of borough clubs	18

Sports Coaching bursaries

Club Supported	Coaching Qualification Gained
Halton Farnworth Hornets ARLFC	1 x Level 1 Rugby Football League coach
Dolphin Swimming Club	2 x Level 1 Amateur Swimming Association coach
Focus Gymnastics Club	4 x Level 1 British Gymnastics coaches
Halton Table Tennis Club	1 x Level 1 English Table Tennis Association coach
Widnes Wasps Running Club	3 x Run Leaders coaches
Widnes Boxing Club	2 x Level 1 Amateur Boxing Association England coaches
Pex Hill Junior Football Club	1 x Level 2 Football Association coach
Halton & Frodsham Harriers AC	4 x Level 1 England Athletics coaches
West Bank Bears ARLFC	5 x Level 1 Rugby Football League coaches
Albrights Junior Football Club	1 x Level 1 Football Association coach
Halton Girls Football Club	1 x Level 1 Football Association coach
Runcorn Rowing Club	5 x Rowing Leaders British Rowing Coaches 1 x Level 2 (Strength/Conditioning) British Rowing coach
Lane Tennis Club	1 x Level 1 Lawn Tennis Association coach
Halton Baseball Club	2 x Level 1 Baseball Softball UK coaches 1 x Level 2 Baseball Softball UK coaches
Halton Swimming Club	6 x Level 1 Amateur Swimming Association coaches

Sports Development Group Grants 2013/14:

CLUB	Members	Purpose	Amount Awarded
Simms Cross RL	35	Equipment	300
Widnes RUFC	160 Juniors	Junior Equipment	900
Brookvale Utd FC	146	Kit & Equipment	370
Runcorn Ladies FC	23 New	Kit for Linnets Link	650
Avon FC	38	Equipment	300
Widnes Football Forum	350	Tournament	1000
BPR Leira FC	46	Equipment	200
Widnes Cricket Club	700	Equipment School to Club Link	600
Widnes Boxing Club	50	Equipment	300
West Bank Bears RL	266	Equipment	587
Halton Cricket Forum	510	Equipment School to Club Link	1000
Halton & District Football	1100	Equipment & Tournament	1000
Total Beneficiaries	3424		7207

Sport Bursary awards 2013/14:

Name	Sport	Club	Purpose	Amount Awarded
Alex Shaw	Hockey	Bowden Hockey Club	North of England Team	500
Robyn Cosgrove	Table Tennis	Halton Table Tennis	Cheshire Team	300
Keiran Maher	Cricket	Widnes Cricket Club	Lancashire Team	200
William Avon	Football	Blackpool FC	Travel to training	200
Hollie Bousfield	Taekwondo	Halton Taekwondo Club	GB World Championships	500
Robert Wright	Golf	Special Olympics GB	National Games - Bath	200
Lucy Martin	Cycling	Estado de Mexico Faren	National Elite Athlete	500
Maurice Craig	Wheel Chair RL	Mersey Storm RL	RL World Cup Coach	100
Chris Atkin	Rugby League	John Moores Uni RL	World Student Games	200
Paul Craig	Wheel Chair RL	Mersey Storm RL	RL World Cup Team	200
George Hill	Wheel Chair RL	Mersey Storm RL	RL World Cup Team	200
Chris Dennett	Wheel Chair RL	Mersey Storm RL	RL World Cup Team	200
Mark Allen	Table Tennis	Halton Table Tennis	Euro Games Competition	100
Ellen Johnson	Football	Halton Girls/Stoke FC	Cheshire Team	200
Omar Haddad	Gymnastics	Cheshire Gymnastics SO	Special Olympics – National Champs	250
Demi Lee Corless	Cricket	Runcorn Cricket Club	Cheshire Team	200
Jade Green	Football	Halton Girls FC	Kit/Equipment	100
Jade Kudrycz	Football	Halton Girls FC	Kit/Equipment	100
Leah Hatfield	Football	Halton Girls FC	Kit/Equipment	100
Taylor Jade Goodhall	Taekwondo	Halton Taekwondo Club	National Championships	300
Amy Wignall	Canoeing	Runcorn Canoe Club/GB	GB Squad	500
Jenny Illidge	Canoeing	Runcorn Canoe Club/GB	GB Squad	500
Katie Brough	Athletics	Vale Royal/GB	GB Competitions	300
Lewis Bradshaw	Tennis	Widnes Tennis Academy	Cheshire Team	200
				6150

REPORT: Employment, Learning, Skills and Community Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 23 June 2014

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director Children and Enterprise

PORTFOLIO: Economic Development

SUBJECT: Annual Report 2013/14

WARDS: Boroughwide

1.0 PURPOSE AND CONTENT OF REPORT

1.1 To receive the Employment, Learning, Skills and Community Policy and Performance Boards' Annual Report for 2012/13.

2.0 RECOMMENDED: That the 2013/14 Annual Report be recommended to Full Council.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 Article 6 of the Constitution requires each Policy and Performance Board to submit an Annual Report to Council outlining their work, making recommendations for future work programmes and amended working methods as appropriate.

3.2 The Annual Report (see attached) has been submitted to the Employment Learning and Skills Policy and Performance Board for consideration.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 None

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

5.1 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

7.1 None

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 None

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

9.1 None under the meaning of the Act

**ANNUAL REPORT
EMPLOYMENT LEARNING, SKILLS AND COMMUNITY POLICY AND
PERFORMANCE BOARD
APRIL 2013 – MARCH 2014**



Cllr. Sue Edge
Chairman

Introduction from Councillor Sue Edge

Chair of the Employment Learning, Skills and Community Performance Board

This has been my fourth year as Chair of this committee, and this year has brought a significant number of both challenges and opportunities. In regard to opportunities, our board has considered how European Structural Funds for Halton from 2014 will be allocated. We have also considered how the establishment of a new Combined Authority across the Liverpool City Region will complement existing employment learning and skills services in Halton. We have been working in partnership to develop new job opportunities arising from our regeneration projects, including the Mersey Gateway. We have seen neighbourhood activity going from strength to strength supported by our Community Development Team. In addition, Halton were hosts to Rugby League Teams for the World Cup, being one of 14 of the 37 towns and cities that applied. The Government's welfare reforms continue to have an impact on our Employment, Learning and Skills services as we strive to help people improve their employment prospects in a difficult economic climate. That said, through Halton's ELS and C PPB we have overseen a number of positive activities aimed at helping people to find work, growing our local businesses and increase the skills and qualifications of our residents. The review below provides a snapshot of these activities.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my Member colleagues for their valuable contributions and the support they have shown throughout the year and in particular I want to thank members who have given up their time to serve on the Welfare Reform Scrutiny Topic Group. This has been an intensive and complex piece of work, which cuts across many sectors and organisations. I would also like to thank officers for working with me to develop an interesting and important range of topics and agenda items for consideration.

Although, there will be difficult times in the year ahead, I am confident that this PPB will continue to explore new and innovative ways of working to ensure that we provide the best possible Employment, Learning, Skills and Community services to the people of Halton.

I very much hope that the ELS and C PPB will continue to making an important contribution to creating an economically prosperous borough that encourages investment, entrepreneurship, enterprise and business growth, and improves the education, skills and employment prospects of our **people** and workforce.

Councillor Sue Edge

Chair, Employment, Learning, Skills and Community Policy and Performance Board

MEMBERSHIP AND RESPONSIBILITIES

During 2013/14, the Board comprised eleven Councillors – Councillors S. Edge (Chair) C. Plumpton Walsh (Vice Chair), L. Cassidy, H. Howard, P. Lloyd-Jones, G. Logan, A. McManus, S. Parker, J. Roberts, C. Rowe and G. Zygadlo

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

The full Board met five times during the year. Set out below are some of the main initiatives that the Board has worked on:

Library Strategy

The Board received a report on a revised three year Library Strategy for Halton. This set out five priorities for the library service:-

- inspiring a community of readers and learners;
- employment, enterprise and developing online skills;
- extending access through innovation and new technology;
- providing a relevant and responsive library service; and
- workforce development.

A key challenge for the library service is to continuously improve and modernise the service in response to new technological innovation.

Ofsted Inspection of the Adult Learning & Skills Development Service

The Board received a report on the outcome of Ofsted inspection, which examined and made judgements on 3 areas:

- Outcomes for learners;
- Quality of teaching and assessment; and
- Effectiveness of leadership and management.

The final grades for the Adult Learning Service Ofsted inspection were very positive with 3 'outstanding' and 3 'Good' grades being awarded. Ofsted were so impressed that they wanted to use Halton as good practice case studies.

Liverpool City Region Enterprise Strategy

The Board considered a report on the development of an Enterprise Strategy for the Liverpool City Region. The Strategy aims to develop and deliver a coherent plan of action to tackle the chronic shortage of businesses in the City region, which will impede economic performance. The Strategy aims to address an identified gap of 17,000 businesses, creating an environment where we can grow and develop new business opportunities across the City region.

Halton's Work Programme Contracts

The Board received a presentation which provided an update on progress regarding Halton's Work Programme Contracts. The presentation set out the background to the programme, its delivery and the customer journey, performance against targets and challenges and opportunities ahead. The successful programme, works with customers referred via Job Centre plus to help them into employment.

Welfare Reform Scrutiny Topic Group Report

The Board received a report, which proposed ways in which to take forward the recommendations from the Welfare reform Scrutiny topic Group. The Topic Group identified a number of recommendations around four key themes:-

- Adult education and skills, working with job centres and up-skilling the adult population;
- Data and research to gather information about partners experiences, including case studies;
- Information and support given to vulnerable groups; and
- Policy development and partnership working.

The Scrutiny Topic Group will continue to meet and revisit and prioritise its' recommendations to ensure we focus on actions that will have the greatest impact and are achievable, particularly in light of current budget and other resource constraints.

European Programme 2014 - 2020

The Board received a report on the new seven year European Programme. The Liverpool City Region has received approximately £185 million, with an indicative allocation of £16.9 million ring fenced for Halton. EU Regulations for the new programme require all EU funding to be spent on 11 thematic objectives; the Liverpool City Region has agreed that these themes will be taken forward through 5 portfolios:

- Blue/Green Economy
- Business Economy
- Innovation Economy
- Inclusive Economy
- Place and Connectivity

Halton has mirrored the 5 Portfolios in developing its own set of projects under the same themes, covering a number of priorities including, tackling youth unemployment, transport infrastructure, social growth and connectivity, low carbon economy and helping adults back into work.

Rugby League World Cup – USA Tomahawks

The Board considered a report which informed Members of the activities and events which took place when Halton hosted the USA Rugby League Team during the Rugby League World Cup in Autumn 2013. The USA Team engaged with hundreds of pupils, various community groups and attended civic functions with the Mayor. The USA Team presented Halton with an award for being a fantastic host and displaying excellent team spirit.

Community Centres – Annual Report

The Board received an Annual Report on the five Community Centres in Halton located in Castlefields, Ditton, Grangeway, Murdishaw and Upton. The Centres provide programmes of community activities, various models of community cafés and service outlets, i.e. children's centre, youth Centre, day services. The Community Centres are benchmarked as part of APSE (Association of Public Service Excellence) against other Civic, Cultural and Community Venues owned and run by other local authorities. Based on

this performance information, Halton's community centres have progressed positively overall on their indicators earning awards for Ditton & Upton as most improved centres and nominations for Grangeway and Murdishaw in recent years. For the operating year 2012/13, Upton Community Centre was nominated for a Best Performer award and Castlefields Community Centre won the award for the Most Improved Performer.

Vikings in the Community

The Board received a presentation from Mr James Rule, Chief Executive Officer of Widnes Vikings which set out the work undertaken in the local community groups and schools by the Widnes Vikings Rugby League Team. The presentation outlined the following:-

- Community focus – building relationships with residents;
- Influence the Widnes Vikings players have on young children;
- Visits to schools by young players who had recently signed for the Vikings 1st team;
- Partnership work carried out with local amateur rugby league clubs;
- Details of various projects and schemes carried out in local schools;
- Provision of a B-Tech. course in Sports for young people;
- Healthy heart and nutrition project;
- Vikings inspire award;
- Vikings against bullying;
- School games award;
- Community Fit 4 Life and Schools Fit 4 Life; and
- Visits to children's wards in hospitals

Widnes Recreation Ground Development

The Board received a report which set out information regarding development of Widnes recreation Ground. The council are working in partnership with a local school to obtain their input into the design of the new sports facilities including pitches for rugby, cricket and football plus changing facilities.

Members of the Public are welcome at the meetings of the Board. If you would like to know where and when meetings are to be held or if you would like any more information about the Board or its work, please contact Wesley Rourke on 0151 511 8645 or e-mail: Wesley.rourke@halton.gov.uk

REPORT TO: Employment Learning and Skills & Children
Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 23rd June 2014

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise

SUBJECT: Welfare Reform Scrutiny Review Report and
Recommendations

PORTFOLIOS: Economy and Enterprise and Children, Young
People

WARD(S) Borough-wide

1.0 **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1.1 **Members are requested to comment on the actions identified from the review and prioritisation that has taken place and in particular the actions that would require additional resources, which are costed within the report.**

1.2 **Members consider submitting a report to the Council's Executive Board, which presents the work of the topic group on Welfare Reform in relation to Employment, Learning and Skills.**

2.0 **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

2.1 To present the Board with the recommendations from the ELS & C PPB Welfare Reform Scrutiny Topic Group and the process undertaken to prioritise the recommendations. The aim of this work was to identify actions that are most likely to be of most benefit, so that resources can be targeted more effectively.

2.2 To present the outcomes from the prioritisation process to members for their consideration.

3.0 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 At the Employment, Learning, Skills and Community Policy and Performance Board on 11th November 2013, members agreed to endorse the recommendations in the Welfare Reforms Scrutiny Topic Group report.

3.2 On 8th January 2014, the Employment, Learning, Skills and Community Policy and Performance Board, received a report on taking forward the 19 recommendations from the Welfare Reform Scrutiny Topic group. Members recognised that not all of the recommendations would be achievable due to the council's current financial position and budget constraints. ELS & C PPB agreed to continue the work of the Topic

Group and further investigate how the recommendations could be implemented. Members also noted that the recommendations were aligned under four priority themes:-

- Information and support
- Adult Education and Skills
- Data/research/Performance Measures
- Policy Development Areas

3.3 At the Scrutiny Topic Group meeting on 6th February 2014, it was agreed that Wesley Rourke, (Operational Director, Economy, Enterprise and Property) would go through the recommendations with the relevant leads for each area and refine in line with the recommendations from members and bring back to the Welfare Reform Topic Group. This report identifies the prioritisation process followed and the outcomes alongside the Recommendations from the ELS & C PPB Scrutiny Topic Group.

4.0 **PRIORITISATION PROCESS**

4.1 The prioritisation process was broken down into four separate stages. These were:-

- Identifying any completed actions where no further action is identified
- Identifying actions that are on-going.
- Identifying actions that are new.
- Prioritisation Assessment of each action identified as 'new' against set criteria, including cost, impact/benefit, statutory requirement, additionality/added value and deliverability.

4.2 *Stage 1 – Identify Completed Actions*

Of the 16 actions within the report, the first recommendation to, 'produce a resource pack of information relating to welfare reform' was identified as completed. This work was undertaken as part of the work of the Halton Strategic Partnership Board in relation to the welfare reforms.

4.3 *Stage 2 – Identify On-going Actions*

The actions identified as on-going are already funded and resourced, so do not need to be prioritised as part of the work of the Scrutiny Topic Group. There may however be a need at a later time to identify milestones and targets and establish if there is an end point for these actions.

Of the 15 remaining actions recommended by the Scrutiny Topic Group, 8 were identified as on-going. These are listed below and identified in the Topic Group Action Plan in *Appendix 1*.

- Events at library with staff available to support people to access the internet
- Adult education support to help ensure people have necessary IT, literacy and numeracy and budgetary skills.
- Encourage businesses to set up paid internships, work experience placements, apprenticeships and opportunities for voluntary work
- Increase opportunities for voluntary work
- Develop budgeting and It skills as part of curriculum in schools
- Establish public internet access centres where people have support to help access on line services etc
- Develop performance measures to monitor the impact of the welfare reforms over time
- Work with HHT and other housing providers to promote house swaps, expand Property Pool Plus etc

4.3 *Stage 3 – Identify new actions*

The actions identified as new, are those that would need to be resourced if they are to be taken forward. Excluding the 1 completed action and the 8 actions identifies as on-going, there remains 7 actions to be prioritised. These are:

- Advocacy support - Ideal is for duty advisors to be at court picking up cases without representation
- Development and roll out of the Halton Go –ON project
- Credit Union join up days for council staff and work with other employers to do the same
- Support for people through appeals process through working together with health services to get people the information and support they need.
- Support for people with lower levels of disability who are more likely to lose disability benefits as part of the changing criteria through the welfare reforms
- Virtual one Stop Shop approach to benefit advice and support, either through co-location or a single front door approach.
- Consider a review of planning policy to build more one bed homes so residents can down size if needed, to avoid paying bedroom tax

5.0 **PRIORITISATION MATRIX**

5.1 A prioritisation matrix is a simple tool that provides a way to rank the recommended actions, based on agreed criteria that are determined to be important. This will enable us to see clearly which projects are the most important to focus on first and which if any could be withdrawn or put on hold.

5.2 As part of the prioritisation process we identified a number of set

criteria, against which to assess the new actions. The criteria were chosen as each was considered to be an important factor in ranking the recommendations. The criteria chosen were:-

- Cost
- Impact/Benefit
- Statutory/Non statutory
- Deliverability
- Additionality /Added Value

- 5.3 For each of the set criteria, a rating scale of 1, 5 and 9 was established. The description for each of the rating scales as they apply to each criteria, is set out in the prioritisation matrix, attached in **Appendix 2**
- 5.4 Each of the criteria was then placed in descending order of importance. The criteria ranked as of highest importance was then given the highest weighting and so on, with the lowest important criteria given the lowest weighting.
- 5.5 *Stage Four – Prioritisation Process*

The prioritisation matrix was then established with the criteria down the left column and the weight and actions across the top. Each project was evaluated against the first criteria and given a rating. The rating was then multiplied by the weight to give a numerical figure. This process was completed for each of the other criteria in turn and then all the values added together to give an overall numerical value for the action. This process was repeated for all of the actions identified. The resulting completed matrix is attached in Appendix 2

6.0 PRIORTISATION OUTCOMES

- 6.1 The numerical values for each of the projects from the prioritisation process are set out below. The higher scoring projects are the ones we should focus on first and the lower scoring projects should be considered at a later date or possibly be withdrawn.

Project	Prioritisation score
Halton Go –ON project	125
Credit Union join up days	125
Support for people with lower levels of disability	113
Consider a review of planning policy to build more one and two bed homes	113
Virtual one Stop Shop approach	113

to benefit advice and support,	
Work in partnership to support people through appeals process	93
Advocacy support	21

6.2 Based on the outcomes from the prioritisation process the Halton Go-On project and Credit Union join up days, should be the projects to focus on first and as we move down the list the projects would be ones to focus on later. The Advocacy Support project which scored the lowest ranking, may want to be considered for withdrawal, until such time as the significant resources necessary to enable this to happen become available.

7.0 RESOURCES

7.1 For each of the new projects, the project leads were asked to identify the resources required to take forward this action, as shown in the table below. Based on the resources required, a recommendation has been put forward as to whether members should consider taking forward each of the actions.

Project	Prioritisation score	Lead Officer	Resources required to take forward this recommendation	Recommendation to be taken forward? (yes/no/partially)
Development and roll out of "Halton Go-ON" project	125	Shelah Semoff	Halton Go-ON Project has the support of the Halton Strategic Partnership Board and a small resource allocated. However an action plan for its implementation is being written and will need to go through the appropriate approval processes.	yes
Consider organising a credit union join up day for council staff and also work with other employers in the borough to encourage their employees to join the Credit Union.	125	Debbie to speak to Credit Union	The council payroll system is already set up make payments to the Credit Union upon request. Therefore it would be staff time only to organise join up days.	Yes
Consider how we could better support people	113	David Gray	See note 1. Below Publicity for advice agencies when this	

<p>with lower levels of disability who are more likely to lose out with the benefits reforms. (If we have access to data on the people in Halton on low level DLA, we could target early support.)</p>			<p>process starts will be vital but publicity too early could generate considerable anxiety over an extended period of time.</p> <p>Resources; Small budget for publicity materials in Sept/ Oct 2015 would help this client group to gain advice.</p> <p>Resources - Employment of additional staffing resources would assist with this peak of form completion and complex appeal caseload being handled.</p>	<p>Yes (<i>Small budget for publicity materials in Sept/ Oct 2015 - £200</i>)</p> <p>Significant expense for discussion. (<i>Employment of additional staff for form completion/ handling complex appeals - £40,000 approx</i>)</p>
<p>Consider review of planning policy to build one and two bed homes etc.</p>	113	Tim Gibbs	<p>See Note 2. Below There is no need to amend planning policy to require RPs to build smaller accommodation</p>	No
<p>Consider the feasibility of a one stop shop type approach to benefit advice and support, either through co-location of services and/or a one front door approach with referrals to the most appropriate support service. Also explore the possibility of piloting a welfare reform information stall in Halton's market(s)</p>	113	Shelah/ Dave Gray/Hitesh	<p>See Note 3. Below This is seen not as one physical building, rather a joined up advice sector such that appropriate advice services are aware of each other and efficiently refer if necessary between each other.</p> <p>The Advice Services Transition Fund is being used in part to produce a single all-encompassing referral directory, and to enhance links between agencies. Whilst more can always be achieved, links between agencies and awareness are generally good. Resources - No additional resources required</p>	Yes

			<p>The project has a second focus looking at a possible welfare reform information stall in Haltons markets. See Note 4.</p> <p>Resources; Minimal for a leaflet stand, but will need a commitment to maintain and stock this. Resources - Substantial for a full time presence.</p> <p>However, perhaps there is a better solution with a number of one off events, where a number of agencies could attend and work together at a market stall facility. There is a successful track record with the Carers Centre & the Welfare Rights Service trialling this at Widnes Market.</p> <p>Resources - Cost of market stand and a commitment to facilitate the event</p>	<p>Partial (Cost of market stand for occasional events – free (HBC stalls))</p> <p>Partial</p>
Need to consider how we could better support people through the appeals process, by working together with health services to get people access to the information and support they need.	93	Dave Gray	<p>See note 5. below</p> <p>This topic has been debated at length before, and the prevailing view is that it is best left to individual GPs discretion.</p> <p>Resource - Time only</p>	No further action required.
Advocacy support - Duty advisors to be at court picking up those without representation	21	Dave Gray	<p>This would involve significant staff time and be very expensive. A large amount of work could arise from this that would generate significant “back office” casework, of varying merit.</p> <p>Resource - Significant</p>	No

Note 1.

New claimants of disability benefits aged 16/64 can only claim PIP not DLA. However those in this age group now on DLA will from Oct 2015 to Sept 2017 (subject to slippage) be assessed for PIP with their DLA claims ceasing. The picture is far from clear but in general those receiving the Low Rate Care Component of DLA are at most risk of losing their award. Currently PIP new claims are taking 7/8 months and often longer to be assessed. This indicates the strains in the system and that the system is currently regularly found wanting. Slippage is quite likely. Currently good local service networking means that those affected by reforms are easily signposted or referred to an appropriate agency. Difficulties will not be confined to those receiving this component of DLA, and the need for help could be quite widespread. Much will depend on the timescales used for PIP case loading and the quality of medicals given/decisions taken.

Note 2.

There is no need to amend planning policy to require RPs to build smaller accommodation since they are reliant on the authority's support to secure HCA grant for any new developments. This means the Council is already in a strong position to influence the tenure, type and size of accommodation that is built. The bids for Halton recently submitted by RPs under the HCA's 2015/18 Affordable Housing Programme are strongly skewed toward the provision of smaller accommodation, due to RP's own ambitions to increase their capacity to help those affected by the bedroom tax to downsize.

Note 3.

Halton is fortunate in being a small borough geographically with a well-developed advice sector. The voluntary and third sector has a developed awareness through Halton & St Helens VCA. The statutory sector and advice agencies have a very good awareness and dialogue with each other through the Halton Information and Advice Providers group (HIAP).

Note 4.

The project has a second focus looking at a possible welfare reform information stall in Halton's markets. It would seem wrong to limit it purely to welfare reform and it could be envisaged to have a wider advice capacity/ expertise. At the most basic it could be purely a leaflet stand. However it could be resourced with staff to give expert advice. This brings with it accountability and the need for a skilled staffing resource. Whilst these projects often bring a flood of initial enthusiasm, it is a long term commitment that is required and a structured management commitment to prevent the service being ad hoc.

Note 5.

Increasingly as part of the benefits application/ appeals process, people are being asked to gather medical evidence to support their claims. Whilst the focus is not always on GPs to supply this, they are for many people the most apparent and readily available source of medical expertise on their patients. Currently there is a "patchwork quilt" of responses when GPs are asked for evidence. Some GPs simply say no and there are some practices where this is expected. Some GPs charge for a letter with fees varying from £10 to £130 being asked for. The value of such letter is not known until they are paid for and read. Other GPs appreciate that the link between income and well-being and will write accurate letters for their patients if requested without charge. Trying to ensure all GPs are willing to provide evidence is not without risk. In some neighbouring areas a policy has been adopted not to provide any evidence under any circumstance. This topic has been debated at length before, and the prevailing view is that it is best left to individual GPs discretion.

7.2 In summary:-

Actions recommended to be taken forward, that require NO additional financial resources but require staff time only:-

- Development and roll out of "Halton Go-ON" project **Resources required** – Staff time only
- Credit union join up day for council staff – **Recommendation** - Info sent out

- electronically with payslips **Resources required** – Staff time only
- Consider the feasibility of a one stop shop type approach to benefit through a one front door approach with referrals to the most appropriate support service. Also explore the possibility of piloting a welfare reform information stall in Halton's market(s)
Partial Recommendation :- A commitment to a number of one off events, where a number of agencies could attend and work together at a market stall facility. There is a successful track record with the Carers Centre & the Welfare Rights Service trialling this at Widnes Market.
Resources required - Cost of market stall (free) and a commitment from staff to facilitate the event.

Actions recommended to be partially taken forward, that require additional financial resources:-

- Consider how we could better support people with lower levels of disability who are more likely to lose out with the benefits reforms. **Recommendation:- Partial** - Publicity for advice agencies when this process starts will be vital but publicity too early could generate considerable anxiety over an extended period of time. **Resources:** Small budget for publicity materials in Sept/ Oct 2015 would help this client group to gain advice. **Approximate cost- £200**
- Consider how we could better support people with lower levels of disability who are more likely to lose out with the benefits reforms. **Resources – Significant** with the employment of additional staffing resources which would assist with this peak of form completion and complex appeal caseload being handled. **Resources :** Employment of additional staff for form completion/ handling complex appeals . **Approximate Cost -£40,000**

Actions NOT recommended to be taken forward:-

- Advocacy support - Duty advisors to be at court picking up those without representation

8.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 Existing policies are endorsed by the report.

8.0 **OTHER/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 The recommendations highlighted using the prioritisation matrix will require some resources to undertake, however most of the work can be done within existing resources. The prioritisation process has made it more clear which actions are likely to be of most benefit so that we can target resources more effectively.

9.0 **IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

9.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

The welfare reforms will continue to impact upon children, young people and families in the borough due to potential new charges to families such as the bedroom tax, contribution to council tax costs, possible loss in income etc

9.2 **Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

The Welfare Reforms will result in an overall loss of money to residents and therefore will result in less money in the local economy. Also people who may not have worked for many years due to ill health etc will now potentially be required to seek work. This will be a real challenge particularly for HPIJ. As the welfare reforms require applications to be made online, then there may also be a need for more access to IT and improvements in residents' IT skills.

9.3 **A Healthy Halton**

Elements of the Welfare Reform Scrutiny Review impact on this priority, for example, people being taken off disability benefits and required to seek work opportunities. Also changes to the benefits system is likely to cause stress for some vulnerable groups, for example those with mental health problems, which may impact upon their health and well being.

9.4 **A Safer Halton**

Due to reductions in household income and the potential impact on vulnerable groups, such as those with substance misuse issues, there could be a corresponding rise in crime, in particular domestic abuse.

9.5 **Halton's Environment and Regeneration**

The welfare reforms will result in less money in the economy which may impact upon existing and new development. On the positive side Halton has a good supply of local labour skills to support economic growth and regeneration.

10.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

10.1 The report and recommendations support the Council's strategic priority of Employment, Learning, Skills and Community. The welfare reforms present a number of risks to children and families in the borough, due to families being likely to have less money and increasing demands on that income

11.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

11.1 The implementation of the recommendations will help to mitigate against the impacts of the welfare reforms on the residents of Halton.

ELS & C PPB Welfare Reform Scrutiny Review
ACTION PLAN

Action No.	Action	Who	Timescale	Progress Update
PRIORITY ONE Information and Support				
1	Produce a resource pack of information relating to welfare reform	Steve Doore	Completed	Completed and attached in Annex 3
2	Need more advocacy support. Ideal is for duty advisors to be at court picking up those without representation. We don't have the capacity to represent everyone in need.	David Gray	New action	This is an ideal although very expensive and time consuming service that isn't practical and can't be resourced at this time
3	Development and roll out of "Halton Go-ON" project	Partnership Steering Group with support from Shelah Semoff	New action	Report currently drafted and once agreed by the steering group will go through relevant partner approval before project launched
4	Consider organising a credit union join up day for council staff and also work with other employers in the borough to encourage their employees to join the Credit Union.	Wesley Rourke/ Debbie Houghton	New action	This work can be considered as part of the development of the Child and Family Poverty Strategy
5	Need to consider how we could better support people through the appeals process, by working together with health services to get people access to the information and support they need.	Julia Rosser (health)/ David Gray	New action	Currently there is an inconsistent service from GPs. Some will provide the information at the request of the individual at no cost, others charge up to £100+, others will only provide info at the request of DWP and not to the individual.

6	Consider how we could better support people with lower levels of disability who are more likely to lose out with the benefits reforms. (If we have access to data on the people in Halton on low level DLA, we could target early support.)	Wesley Rourke/ David Gray	New action	Under the new benefits regime some people will lose their benefits as the rules have changed substantially. However welfare rights will assist people with Mandatory reconsiderations and appeals. Actions might include awareness raising (such as that ongoing with Halton disability forum), and promoting the services that can help more.
7	Consider the feasibility of a one stop shop type approach to benefit advice and support, either through co-location of services and/or a one front door approach with referrals to the most appropriate support service. Also explore the possibility of piloting a welfare reform information stall in Halton's market(s)	Peter McCann	New action	Co-location of services would be very expensive and there is no commitment to do so at this time. A virtual one stop shop with one front door type approach where people phone one provider but are then referred to other providers as appropriate is more feasible. CAB are producing a directory which will help with the referral process but already have good informal referral processes in place.
8	Consider one day event(s) at library with support staff to assist people access internet services	Library staff/ Peter McCann	On-going	Library staff already support people in accessing IT. Currently the only benefit accessed on line is relatively straight forward to complete. Hence demand is not currently there for putting welfare rights staff in libraries. Keep under review however it would need to be resourced if a decision was made to put such a service in place in the future
PRIORITY TWO				
Adult Education and Skills				
9	Adult education support to help ensure people have the necessary IT, literacy and numeracy skills and budgetary	Siobhan Saunders	On-going	IT, literacy and numeracy classes are offered by ELS Adult Learning at Acorn and Kingsway Learning Centres and at other venues across the borough. Managing Money classes are delivered by Adult Learning in Children's Centres.

	skills			<p>Employability Programmes, including the HEP Award, are also delivered in ELS venues.</p> <p>Work Programme and National Careers Service clients are regularly referred to this provision to assist them in improving their skills and employment prospects and to move them nearer to the job market.</p>
10	Encourage other employers to set up paid Internships, similar to that run by Halton Borough Council. Also encourage businesses to offer work experience placements and opportunities for voluntary work.	Wesley Rourke	On-going	<p>Halton Borough Council does not offer paid internships. The HEP team have arranged a couple of unpaid voluntary internships for clients earlier this year which have now come to an end.</p> <p>As part of its employer engagement activity, the HEP team do work with local employers to source work experience placements and graduate internships for unemployed residents. These are normally unpaid and are undertaken on a voluntary basis and priority for the placements is given to Work Programme clients (required as part of WP contracts).</p> <p>As part of the People Plan and the Talent Strategy, there are plans to work with council departments to recruit volunteers, graduates and apprentices.</p>
11	Service providers could do more to maximise the skills that voluntary staff can bring to an organisation. They have now increased the number of hours that you can do on a voluntary basis	Wesley Rourke/John Gallagher	On-going	<p>The HEP Manager has recently been able to gain support from HBC Senior Management to help increase the number of work experience placements across the Council.</p> <p>As part of the People Plan and the Talent Strategy, there are plans to work with council departments to recruit volunteers, graduates and apprentices.</p>
12	Greater need to provide opportunities for residents to develop budgeting and IT skills, particularly important as new benefits system will rely on online systems. (Sue Riley (JCP) to take up with each LA in the sub region. Will take time	Gill Bennett/ Steve Nyakatawa – Lead for schools working with Trading Standards	On-going	Curriculum support packs developed and currently being promoted to schools through Trading Standards

	so don't want payday lenders to benefit from this. Sue must set up a plan that reflects problems in Halton.)			
13	Establish public internet access centres where the public have support to help them access on line services and access application forms for benefits, jobs etc	Siobhan Saunders / Library staff	On-going	<p>IT drop in sessions are delivered by ELS Adult Learning at Acorn and Kingsway Learning Centres/ Community Centres and Children's Centres. The contents of these sessions are determined by the needs of the learners. CV workshops and two-week employability courses are also delivered at both Learning Centres. HPIJ Advisers also deliver workshops in job searching, job applications and interview skills to Work Programme clients at several venues across the borough. (HPIJ deliver 2 Work Programme contracts for Halton for Ingeus and A4E)</p> <p>Public PCs are provided at HPIJ's offices in Rutland House and Moor Lane to enable clients to job search and make online job applications.</p> <p>Public PCs area also available in Halton's Libraries where staff can give support. There are also a number of work Clubs across the Borough offering similar facilities and support.</p>
PRIORITY THREE				
Data/Research/Performance Measures				
14	Measure the impact of the benefit reforms in Halton	Debbie Houghton/ Wesley Rourke	On-going	As part of the work of the Topic Group, set a baseline for performance measures which will tie into the agreed framework for delivery.
PRIORITY FOUR				
Policy Development Areas				
15	Open day HHT, so people can	The Strategic	On-going	All HAs are required to offer free membership for their tenants

	turn up and look to swap houses. Could we get all HAs together and hold a bigger event.	Housing Partnership		to one of a small number of national online exchange schemes (Abitas, Locata, Homeswapper, House Exchange.). HHT held a first event in September but attendance was poor. A second event is planned for 30 th October, involving HHT, Riverside, LHT, Plus Dane and Guinness so the HAs are already working together on this. This is core business for the HAs
	Consider how to better engage with private landlords re making available one bed properties. Links between private sector HA and public sector HA.	Strategic Housing partnership	On-going	The homeless service already makes as much use as it can of the private sector to accommodate homeless households, but it also is experiencing a shortage of smaller properties. Not sure how much demand there would be for private sector tenancies from HA sector given the unfavourable comparison in terms of rent levels, security of tenure, maintenance and management etc.
	Consider expanding Property Pool Plus to include private sector	Strategic Housing Partnership	On-going	There is already a facility for private landlords to advertise on PPP and we have started to use this in Halton, <u>but only for 'accredited' landlords.</u>
16	Consider review of planning policy to build one and two bed homes etc. However we recognise that should Government policy change around bedroom tax, these properties may no longer be as desirable.	Strategic Housing Partnership/ Tim Gibbs	Keep under review.	Keep under review. However one bedroom properties would no longer be as desirable if the bedroom tax policy changed

CRITERIA	WEIGHT	DESCRIPTION	RATING SCALE	ACTIONS						
				1 Advocacy Support	2 Go On Project	3 Credit Union join up day	4 Partner support appeals	5 Targeted support people disability	6 Virtual one stop shop benefits advice	7 Planning policy – more one bed homes
Cost	5	How much would the action cost to deliver? Would the project generate savings to the council?	1 = Significant cost and funding not already allocated 5 = Some costs upfront but would generate savings in the longer term 9 = No cost or costs can be met within existing resources	1x5 = 5	9x5 = 45	5x5 = 25	5x5 = 25	5x5 = 25	5x5 = 25	5x5 = 25
Additionality/ Added Value	5	Does it add value? Could the action be delivered by other partners?	1 = no/uncertain 5 = Some added value but not significant 9 = Significant benefits and added value identified	1x5 = 5	5x5 = 25	9x5 = 45	5x5 = 25	9x5 = 45	9x5 = 45	9x5 = 45
Impact/Benefit	4	Will the action support people to move a step closer to being in a position to be able to access a job?	1 = no/uncertain 5 = Yes but not significantly 9 = Yes and will make a significant contribution	1x4 = 4	9x4 = 36	9x4 = 36	9x4 = 36	9x4 = 36	9x4 = 36	9x4 = 36
Statutory/Non Statutory	4	Is the action required to meet legal compliance or regulatory	1 = not required/mandated 9 = required or mandated	1x4 = 4	1x4 = 4	1x4 = 4	1x4 = 4	1x4 = 4	1x4 = 4	1x4 = 4

		mandates?								
Deliverability	3	Do the council/and or partners have the resources and staff available within existing budgets to deliver this action? Is this action already planned to happen anyway?	<p>1 = Would need to identify new resources to deliver this action</p> <p>5 = Could easily be done by existing staffing and budgetary resources</p> <p>9 = Resources already allocated and action planned to happen</p>	1x3 = 3	5x3 = 15	5x3 = 15	1x3 = 3	1x3 = 3	1x3 = 3	1x3 = 3
Total Project Score				21	125	125	93	113	113	113

REPORT TO:	Employment, Learning and Skills Policy and Performance Board
DATE:	23 June 2014
REPORTING OFFICER:	Strategic Director Policy & Resources
SUBJECT:	Performance Management Reports for Quarter 4 of 2013/14
PORTFOLIO:	Resources
WARDS:	Boroughwide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To consider, and raise any questions or points of clarification, in respect of performance management for the fourth quarter period to 31st March 2014
- 1.2 Key priorities for development or improvement in 2013-16 were agreed by Members and included in Directorate Plans, for the various functional areas reporting to the Board as detailed below:
 - Employment, Enterprise and Property Services
 - Community and Environment Services

The report details progress against service objectives and milestones and performance targets and provides information relating to key developments and emerging issues that have arisen during the period.

2.0 RECOMMENDED: That the Policy and Performance Board

- 1) Receive the fourth quarter performance management reports;**
- 2) Consider the progress and performance information and raise any questions or points for clarification; and**
- 3) Highlight any areas of interest and/or concern where further information is to be reported at a future meeting of the Board.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 Departmental objectives provide a clear statement on what services are planning to achieve and to show how they contribute to the Council's strategic priorities. Such information is central to the Council's performance management arrangements and the Policy and Performance Board has a key role in monitoring performance and strengthening accountability.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no policy implications associated with this report.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no other implications associated with this report.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Departmental service objectives and performance measures, both local and national are linked to the delivery of the Council's priorities. The introduction of a Thematic Priority Based Report and the identification of business critical objectives/ milestones and performance indicators will further support organisational improvement.

6.2 Although some objectives link specifically to one priority area, the nature of the cross - cutting activities being reported, means that to a greater or lesser extent a contribution is made to one or more of the Council priorities.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 Not applicable.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 Not applicable.

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

None under the meaning of the Act

Employment, Learning, Skills & Community Priority Based Report

Reporting Period: Quarter 4, Period January 2014 – March 2014

1.0 Introduction

1.1 This report provides an overview of issues and progress against key service objectives/milestones and performance targets, during the fourth quarter of 2013/14; for services areas within the remit of the Employment, Learning Skill & Community Policy & Performance Board.

The report has been structured using the key priorities listed below:

- Supporting Growth and Investment.
- Raising Skill Levels and Reducing Unemployment.
- Enhancing Residents' Quality of Life.

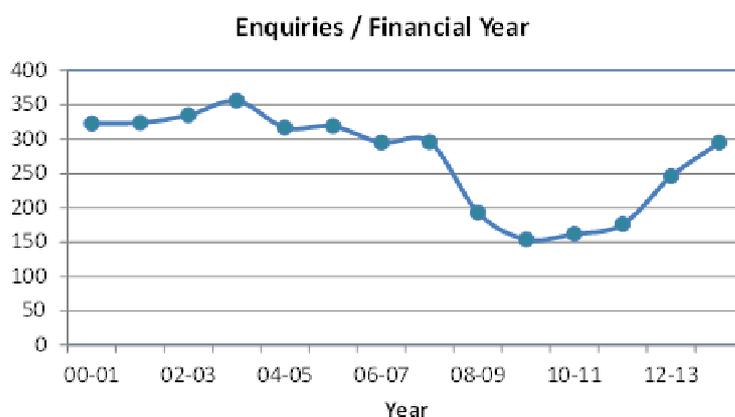
1.2 The way in which traffic light symbols have been used to reflect progress to date is explained within the Appendix (Section 8.0). Please also note initials have been provided to indicate which Operational Director is responsible for commentary to aid members understanding, as shown in the key in the Appendix (Section 8.0).

2.0 Key Developments

2.1 SUPPORTING GROWTH AND INVESTMENT (WR) (CP)

Investment Enquiries

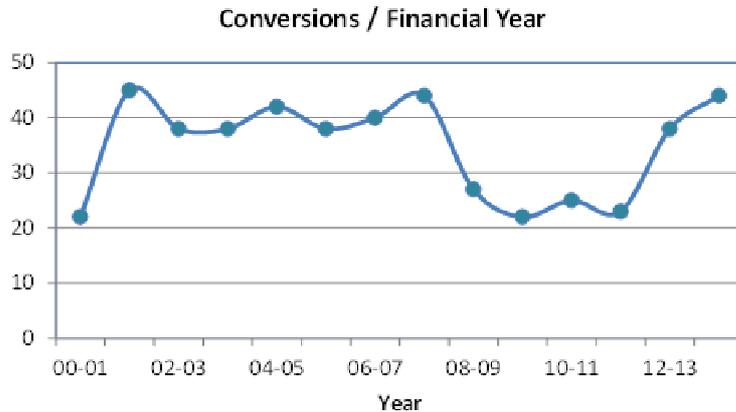
The number of investment enquiries managed by the Business Improvement and Growth (BIG) Team in the Financial Year 2013/14 (295) is at the highest level since before the onset of the global recession in 2007/08 (296). The level of inward investment enquiries in 2013\14 represents a significant rebound in economic activity since 2008.



Conversions (inward investment enquiries 'converted' into actual investment projects)

The upward trend in investment enquiries is reflected in the number of conversions which, at 44 in 2013/14, is the highest level since 2007/08. The percentage of inward investment enquiries 'converted' into actual investment projects in Quarter 4 2013\14 at

19% considerably exceeds the annual target of 10% and contributes to an actual conversion rate for the full year of 15 %



Liverpool City Region Business Growth Grant Programme

The Council's Executive Board gave approval on October 17 2013 to roll out the Liverpool City Region Business Growth Grant in Halton. The scheme can provide grant of between £10,000.00 and £1,000,000.00 across the LCR based on a private sector leverage ratio of 5:1 and the creation of sustainable jobs.

To date 38 Halton companies have sought support from the schemes. Of that total 11 formal Expressions of Interest (EOI) and 2 full applications have been completed. The first full application was externally appraised and approved by the internal Liverpool City Region Business Growth Grant Panel on Monday 31 March.

To date £363,703.00 in grant has been requested.

Merseyside Business Support Programme

The Merseyside Business Support Programme continues to engage the Halton business community with 167 companies approaching the Project Team for support. 96 companies have been referred for an initial diagnostic and the creation of an Action Plan for Growth while 75 businesses have subsequently been referred for more specialist support. The programme is on course to meet the target of 146 SMEs assisted.

A second stage marketing campaign is underway targeting 300+ Halton businesses who have yet to engage with the programme.

The programme end date has been extended across the whole of Merseyside from December 2014 to June 2015. However, the extension does not include any additional resources.

International Festival of Business (IFoB) 2014

The Business Improvement and Growth (BIG) Team are currently facilitating two major events in Halton during International Festival of Business 2014 :-

- At SciTech Daresbury on Tuesday 24 June UKTI, Liverpool Vision, STFC and Halton Borough Council will hold a major national UKTI ICT focusing on 'big data'
- On Thursday 26 June The Heath Business and Technical Park will host an event entitled 'Addressing the Skills Needs of the Science, Technology and Advanced Manufacturing Sector'. The event will feature a panel debate, chaired by BBC

Business Correspondence Steph McGovern, an exhibition and events for 200+ young interested in careers in science and technology.

External Funding

During the quarter we achieved the following:

- 33 new funding enquiries received; 111 for the year in total
- £665,112 secured in external funding this quarter

Key projects for the team include:

Big Lottery Fund

Reaching Communities Programme:

- Canal Boat Adventure project – considering re-submission c £300k
- Hale Village Hall – refurbishment project c £500k
- Halton Carers Centre – continuation funding c £250k

Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF)

- Norton Priory Museum Trust: stage 2 bid for £3.5m and with match funding target of £1million.
- Exploring Halton's Collections, bid submitted for £60,000 for a 'Working Lives' project
- Runcorn 2015 – working on a bid for c £90,000

WREN

Currently supporting the following projects.

- Hale Youth Centre – development of outside play area / multi sports area £42,0000
- Clifton Road Allotments – site improvements £50,000
- Sankey Canal – Spike Island lock gates £40,000
- Mersey Gateway Environmental Trust – bid to the Biodiversity Action Fund £250,000

Sci-tech Daresbury

Leading on £1.1m bid to ERDF for Phase 1b Techspace; bid approved in principle
Leading on claims for RGF grant – claim 4 due in May 2014.

Developing a Funding Route Plan with Partners to link funding to long-term strategic priorities.

Sankey Canal

The Coastal Communities Stage 2 application successful; received a grant of £653,000.

Funding of £11,000 received from Ineos Chlor for interpretation boards.

Connecting Cheshire SFBB project

Continuing to support with policy and funding updates; supporting a bid to BDUK worth £2.12m (50% match required).

European programme 2014-20

Leading on the development of a Halton Action Plan highlighting the key schemes to be brought forward during the 2014-20 programme.

2.2 RAISING SKILLS LEVELS AND REDUCING UNEMPLOYMENT (WR)

Completion of the Annual Self-Assessment Report, which was uploaded to the Skills Funding Agency portal.

Development of a Community Learning Strategy, in partnership with Riverside College Halton. This is a requirement of SFA funding.

Quarterly reviews of DWP Work Programme – further Notice to Improve was given from A4E following poor performance, for example, in achievement of jobs for those customers on Employment Support Allowance.

National Apprenticeship Week 3-7th March – a number of promotional activities and events took place in Halton and the LCR Apprenticeship Hub ‘bus’ visited Riverside College.

ApprenticeSHIP ‘Tall Ships Challenge’ competition was opened and a successful Halton resident was selected to take up the Hub sponsored place for a Halton apprentice to sail on board a Tall Ship as part of IFB in June.

Nominations opened for both the National and LCR Apprenticeship Awards.

Planning for the LCR Graduation Apprenticeship Ceremony got underway. This event, taking place in Q1 will mark the success of those apprentices that have achieved level 3 or 4 apprenticeships during the 2012/13 academic year. A number of Halton VIPs will be in attendance.

Continued to support Sci-Tech Daresbury with their Skills Strategy. A joint Apprenticeship Hub/LEP meeting was held at Sci Tech; following this, it has been agreed that apprenticeship awareness breakfast events will take place periodically moving forward. Additionally, National Apprenticeship Service gave a presentation to Sci Tech businesses in Q4.

Work with Merseylink on the implementation of their Employment & Skills Delivery Plan continued successfully; each strand of work has its own sub group, the leads of which sit on the Employment & Skills Governance Board. A range of pre-employment and volunteering programmes as well as a Timebank application process have been developed and will go live once financial close is reached. Merseylink appointed a new Employment & Skills Co-ordinator to work with HEP.

The efficiency review of the division continued, with a staff briefing held in February. Staff were categorised into one of 3 areas – at risk, assimilation, no change. A consultation period was followed by a round of interviews.

During Q4, the service received notification that Greater Merseyside Connexions Partnership had not been successful in winning the new National Careers Service contract. Currently, the division is a subcontractor to GMCP. Economic Solutions has won the contract and it is not yet known if they will subcontract. The division is not currently a subcontractor for Economic Solutions.

During Q4, some accommodation changes were made for adult learning staff at Kingsway Learning Centre. This enabled office space for a growing number of tutors to be improved as well as the creation of additional classroom space. Final moves will not be completed until Q1.

2.3 ENHANCING RESIDENTS' QUALITY OF LIFE (CP)

THE STADIUM 2014 (CP)

Pitch

Widnes Vikings league season started in February, they have made their best ever start to a SL campaign winning all their games at home so far. The executive Suite Level and Karalius Suite hospitality has been full for all the games.

Liverpool Ladies have taken up residency in the office accommodation on the first floor and have started training here.

The pitch is used on a regular basis and most evening bookings are for community use, in excess of £100K has been generated this year in pitch bookings.

A half term rugby training camp for children has been organised and run by Widnes Vikings.

The only disappointment with the SL campaign to date is the level of spectators, given the Vikings have had such a good start the spectator levels has not grown since last year.

Conference facilities

The Crucial Crew event has been held at the Stadium for the 10th year, this event sees over 1,500 school children attend the Stadium for a multi-agency training exercise outlining a range of dangers to children.

Merseyside Police have used the Stadium for 'Drug' exercise with their dogs.

Cheshire Police have also held a number of training events in various areas of the Stadium.

The South West Concourse bar has been modernised, enabling it to be utilised as part of the fitness offer via Stadium Fitness.

As an ongoing refurbishment programme the Bridge Suite has been decorated and a new carpet fitted.

We had the annual Maureen King Pink Ball in February and again it was a great success raising over £8000 for the Breast Cancer Campaign.

Fitness Suite

It has been very busy since January especially the Ladies gym the feedback from new members is excellent. The work is still continuing on the concourse bar but is already being used by Stadium Fitness members for Karate, Aero biking, Kick Boxing and Kettle size classes. The walls in this area are to be padded out, this work is due to be completed by the end of May, and this area will then be used by the police and Liverpool Ladies.

Type of membership	Jan 2014	April 2014
FULL	725	963

FULL JUNIOR GYM	33	39
CASUAL JUNIOR GYM	741	814
CASUAL ADULT	1790	1793
HLC *	127	20

HLC user number will be low in April due to this being the month for card renewal.

Table Tennis

In February the Stadium held the Cheshire Schools Table Tennis Competition, schools and colleges from all over Cheshire took part, In March we also held the Merseyside School games, both events was attended by the Mayor and Consort of Halton.

LIBRARY SERVICE (CP)

Efficiency Review

The To Be phase of the review is still progressing

Memory Boxes

The Memory Box collection was launched at the beginning of February. 10 themed boxes contain local photographs, books, replicas of posters, labels and pictures plus smell bottles, music CDs and objects of the time. The collection aims to stimulate the memories of those suffering from Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia and are being widely used for reminiscence therapy. The collection is available for individuals or organisations to borrow and has proved so popular that a further 20 memory boxes are now being developed.

Centenary of the outbreak of World War 1

Halton Libraries working in partnership with Cheshire Museums and Cheshire Archives held a series of events to commemorate the First World War between January and March 2014. The Great War Touchscreen Kiosk was displayed at Halton Lea and Widnes Libraries and contained collections of images from across historic Cheshire. The photographs showed different aspects of the Great War, the men who went away to fight and never returned, the people left behind and the war memorials. Special information panels about local Victoria Cross war heroes Thomas Alfred 'Todger' Jones and Thomas Mottershead were also displayed and two Community Collection Road shows were staged to gather and record local people's Great War photographs, documents, objects and oral history.

World Book Day

Library staff delivered a special assembly at West Bank School to celebrate World Book Day and the award winning author Tim Bowler visited Bankfield School. Tim talked to the whole of Year 8 about his writing and books and the students were given a sneak preview of his latest book, Night Runner which is not due to be published until August. 60 young people then took part in an exclusive writing workshop, one student said, "Tim was inspirational and I loved his books"

Reading Activists

This externally funded project for Young Volunteers officially came to an end in March. Young volunteers attended a celebration event to mark the occasion and were presented with certificates and thanked for their hard work and involvement in planning and organising events for young people over the last 3 years. Over the course of the

project 124 young people have volunteered as Reading Activists and 3052 young people have taken part in 65 events.

In this quarter the Reading Activists have been filming book reviews and have organised and supported the “Day of the Darleks” activity at Widnes Library which was attended by 100 children, young people and parents.

Although the Big Lottery Funding for this programme has now ended the Reading Agency has received a gift from the Paul Hamlyn Foundation which has identified £700K to develop a Reading Challenge for 13 to 24 year olds. This sustainability funding is to support young people’s activities as a continuation of the hubs developed through the Big Lottery funding. Halton is one of only 15 authorities nationally whose young people will work with the Reading Agency to develop and test the Challenge over the next 10 months. The Challenge aims to increase young people’s reading enjoyment, skills, confidence and employability through reading and volunteering opportunities.

In addition to the funding for the development of the Reading Activists Challenge, libraries have also been offered grants from the Cabinet Office’s Social Action Fund to build on the work of young volunteers supporting the Summer Reading Challenge. Halton’s allocation of £900 will be used to attract and train new volunteers.

SPORT AND RECREATION (CP)

Sport in Halton 2014 booklet produced and distributed. Providing information on the programmes and activities available to support participation in sport and physical activity in Halton during 2014. Includes a calendar of Sports Coach courses, workshops and leadership training. Guidance on levels of physical activity; Sports club and volunteer support programmes; Sports Development Grants and a list of sports club contacts.

Get Active Project annual review document produced, providing examples of local community physical activity and sports projects, case study, and information on the benefits of being physically active.

The Sports Development Team continues to work with schools, sport clubs and organisations to provide a variety of practical and theory high quality coaching sessions. Examples this quarter include: Walking football for the Over 50s; warm up activity for 1000 pupils attending crucial crew project; jog club; boxercise; bootcamp and Health and Active club for pupils and their parents.

Construction of the new Sports Pavilion on Widnes Recreation Playing fields commenced during March. The building works are scheduled for completion during October. The Playing fields will remain operational for junior football teams until the end of April. The construction company are communicating with the adjacent school and local residents.

3.0 Emerging Issues

3.1 SUPPORTING GROWTH AND INVESTMENT

European Programme 2014-20

The BIG Team have developed, in detail, two project proposals for the forthcoming EU Programme 2014-20; a successor programme to the current ERDF 4.2 Merseyside Business Support Programme (MBSP) and a project entitled 'Maximising the Benefits of ICT' designed in part to compliment the roll out of superfast broadband locally.

In all likelihood a successor ERDF 4.2 Merseyside Business Support Programme (MBSP) will remain a pan-Merseyside programme with local delivery.

The pan-Merseyside decision to 'opt-in' to a range of national programmes, for example Manufacturing Advisory Service (MAS) Growth Accelerator (GA) and UK Trade & Investment (UKTI) will also impact upon the proposals for business support provision locally.

Liverpool City Region Growth Hub

The Liverpool City Region Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) has developed a proposal to create a 'Growth Hub' for the city region. A Growth Hub is not a physical entity but rather a virtual organisation to provide business support services across the City Region.

The creation of a Growth Hub will allow the City Region to access new UK Government funds. However, Government is very prescriptive with respect to the form and function of the Growth Hub model they will support. This must include management and strategic coordination and a one stop shop. The prescribed model suggests a preeminent role for local Chambers support by Local Authorities. To quote from the guidance :-

"Local Chambers must be involved in the design and governance of all Growth Hubs receiving funding from the W2GH programme. It is also assumed the chambers will be responsible for delivering the one stop shop function expected of all Growth Hubs, but HMG will consider relaxing this rule where LEPs put forward persuasive arguments for alternative arrangements."

A Growth Hub would generate additional funding which can be used as match towards ERDF funding for the services considered to be most needed.

3.2 RAISING SKILLS LEVELS AND REDUCING UNEMPLOYMENT (WR)

Employment Learning and Skills (WR)

Following on from production of the SAR, the associated Quality Improvement Plan will be produced. This will also need submitting to Skills Funding Agency and will be the key document that the service will work towards in terms of making improvements in adult learning and skills development.

Key dates for the diary: April 29th LCR Apprenticeship Graduation Ceremony; 17 & 18 June World Skills UK The Skills Show Experience at Aintree Racecourse aimed at 14-14 year old; Tall Ships Challenge June 2014; LCR Apprenticeship Awards Ceremony 20th June. All events will request attendance from Halton VIPs

Merseylink to achieve financial close end of Q4/start of Q1 2014/15. The launch of the Timebank Brochure and application process will be done simultaneously. The DM Employment, Learning & Skills Chairs a number of the Working Groups. The next activity will be to plan the next Meet the Buyer Event and a Clustering Workshop for SMEs who may wish to bid for work packages. Both activities should take place in Q1.

Sport and Recreation (CP)

The Councils Leisure Centres continued to perform well, despite stiff competition from new Gym providers. Annual visits dropped by less than 2% (school swimming at Kingsway Leisure Centre decreased, attributed to the poor wet changing facilities at the centre, which are in need of refurbishment).

On 1st April 2014, DC Leisure Management Ltd, who manage the Councils Leisure facilities, changed their name to Places for People Management Ltd. Over the next 12 months all facilities will phase in the use of Places for People as their customer facing brand.

The Sports and Recreation Team are working with Open Space colleagues to support the Sports Pavilion project at Widnes Recreation Playing Field. They will be producing activity programme and action plan for improving the playing field quality.

4.0 Risk Control Measures

Risk control forms an integral part of the Council's Business Planning and performance monitoring arrangements. During the development of the 2013/14 Business Plan, the service was required to undertake a risk assessment of all key service objectives with high risks included in the Directorate Risk Register.

As a result, monitoring of all relevant 'high' risks was undertaken during Q4 reporting with no issues to report.

5.0 Progress against high priority equality actions

The Council must have evidence that it reviews its services and policies to show that they comply with the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) which came into force in April 2011. The PSED also requires us to publish this information as it is available.

As a result of undertaking a Departmental Equality Impact Assessments no high priority actions were identified for the Directorate for Quarter 4 2013/14.

6.0 Performance Overview

6.1 The following information provides a synopsis of progress for both milestones and performance indicators across the key thematic priority areas.

Supporting Growth & Investment (WR)

Key Milestones

Ref	Milestones	Q4 Progress
EEP2	Deliver the BID Year 5 action plan by March 2014	

Supporting Commentary

EEP 02: (WR)

All outputs associated with the BID year 1 Action Plan are on programme and on budget

Key Performance Indicators

Ref	Measure	12/13 Actual	13/14 Target	Q4	Current Progress	Direction of Travel
SCS ELS01	Increase the number of active enterprises within the Borough	2715 (2012)	2675	2775		
SCS ELS02	Increase the proportion of business diversity in the following sectors: Knowledge Economy, Superport, Low carbon/green, Visitor Economy	26%	26%	27.03% (March 2013)		
DIS LI 05	Number of inward investment enquiries per annum	246	180	295 Cumulative		
DIS LI 06	Inward investment enquiry conversion rate percentage	15%	10%	15%		

Supporting Commentary

SCS ELS01: (WR)

This is the latest data released on 3rd October 2013 which is a snapshot of the Inter Departmental Business Register (IDBR) taken on 12 March 2013. To download and view the current data in excel format, click on the link below, the Information is taken from: (table B1.1)

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/publications/re-reference-tables.html?edition=tcm%3A77-313744>

SCS ELS02: (WR)

The latest data released on 3rd October 2013 is a snapshot of the Inter Departmental Business Register (IDBR) taken on 12 March 2013. To download and view the current data in excel format, click on the link below, the Information is taken from: (table B1.1)

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/publications/re-reference-tables.html?edition=tcm%3A77-313744>

The following standard categories have been chosen as a proxy for these priorities:

- Professional, Scientific and Technical
- Information and Communication

- Transport and Storage

DIS LI05: (WR) 295 investment enquiries were managed in 2013/14 the highest level since 2007\08 and the onset of the global recession in 2008. During quarter 4 there were 62 enquiries.

DIS LI06: (WR) The number of conversions which in 2013/14, is the highest level since 2007/08. The percentage of inward investment enquiries 'converted' into actual investment projects in Quarter 4 2013\14 at 19% considerably exceeds the annual target of 10% and contributes to an actual conversion rate for the full year of 15%.

Raising Skills Levels & Reducing Unemployment (WR)

Key Milestones

Ref	Milestones	Q4 Progress
EEP3	Deliver Work Programme via sub contract arrangements to Prime Contractors A4E and Ingeus Deloitte in line with the contract	

Supporting Commentary

EEP 03: (WR)

Job Start and Job Outcome targets for Ingeus were achieved against most customer groups except customer group 6 – ESA customers.

Job Start and Job Outcome targets were not achieved. A formal notice to improve was received from A4E in November 2013. A performance improvement plan was submitted and approved by A4e to increase performance by 31st March 14. Progress to be reviewed in April.

Key Performance Indicators

Ref	Measure	12/13 Actual	13/14 Target	Q4	Current Progress	Direction of Travel
SCS ELS03	The number of people classed as self-employed	6.2%	6.5%	6% (Local Economic Assessment HBC July 2013)	N/A	
SCS ELS04	Reduce the proportion of people with no qualifications	11.5% Jan to Dec 2011	11.5%	12.1% (Jan to Dec 2012)		
SCS ELS05	Increase the percentage of people achieving NVQ Level 4 and above	24.5%	24.0%	24.5% (Jan to Dec 2012)		

Ref	Measure	12/13 Actual	13/14 Target	Q4	Current Progress	Direction of Travel
SCS ELS07	The percentage of people registered unemployed and seeking employment (JSA Claimants)	5.2%	4.8% (March 2014)	4.1%		
SCS ELS08	The percentage of the working age population claiming out of work benefits	16.87%	17% Under review with JC Plus	15%		
ELS LI 03	Number of starts on DWP work programme	1271 489 (A4E) 782 (Ingeus)	1572 454 (A4E) 1118 (Ingeus)	1473 811 (A4E) Cumulative 662 (Ingeus) Cumulative		
ELS LI 04	Number of new starts into permitted work for local people with disabilities (over 12 months)	14	20	14 Cumulative		

Supporting Commentary

- SCS ELS 03:** (WR) HBC does not own this NI data. The latest data available from ONS relates to 2011/2012. However, 15 learners accessing HPIJ's Enterprising Halton service have become self-employed during Quarter 4. Quarter 2 is the latest data available for July 2013 at 6% based on the Local Economic Assessment HBC, which is marginally down compared to the same period for 11/12 at 6.4%.
- SCS ELS 04:** (WR) HBC does not own this NI data. However, 51 learners have achieved full Functional Skills qualifications from Quarter 1 to Quarter 4. The latest data available (Jan to Dec 2012) is 12.1% which is an increase from 11.5% compared to the same period in 2011. Source: ONS annual population survey from www.nomisweb.co.uk
- SCS ELS 05:** (WR) HBC does not own this NI data which is only available from the Skills Funding Agency 18 months after learners achieve the qualification. The latest data available (Jan to Dec 2012) is 24.5% which has marginally increased from 24% compared to the same period in 2011. Source: ONS annual population survey from www.nomisweb.co.uk.
- SCS ELS 07:** (WR) In January 2014, there were 3292 individuals who were registered unemployed and on JSA. Whilst this was a slight increase on December's figures, it was a decrease of 23.4% on January 2013 figures, which is excellent.
- SCS ELS 08:** (WR) The number of the working age population claiming out of work benefits (JSA, ESA and lone parent benefit) in Q4 was 12,252 (9 more than in Q4), which is 15% and demonstrates the direction of travel is positive.

ELS LI 03: (WR) 110 starts on the Ingeus contract in quarter 4. Referrals from DWP have been lower than indicative flows throughout the year; therefore fewer customers have started on programme which has been out of our control. There continues to be an increase in the number of customers in receipt of Employment Support Allowance. A4e referrals/starts were put on hold as part of the improvement notice during quarter 4. A4e referrals will be switched back on from 1st April.

ELS LI 04 (WR) 2 individuals started permitted work this quarter. Resources have been set aside to encourage new starts in to permitted work through the work programme contracts.

Enhancing Residents' Quality of Life (CP)

Key Milestones

Ref	Milestones	Q4 Progress
CE1	Implement the new Sports Strategy (2012-2014) - March 2014 .	
CE4	Undertake CIPFA PLUS Survey (Public Library User Survey for Children) due to take place September 2013 .	

Supporting Commentary

CE1: The Councils Sport and Recreation Team continue to deliver and support activity against the key themes and objectives contained in the Sports Strategy. The service produces a detailed monthly report on the key areas of work delivered under each theme.

Quarter 4 activities included:

Community Sports coaches delivered 195 hours coaching/training; 1278 coaching contacts and 56 training opportunities.

3 workshops delivered 44 attended, 41 volunteers supported, 22 coaching bursaries awarded. Other activities included; Sport in Halton 2014 booklet produced and distributed.

- 8 clubs received Club Accreditation support
- Funding clinic, 6 Sports clubs received information/guidance, 3 community groups received financial support – 46 funding/info appointments during 2013/14
- CSLA course (30hrs training) delivered to 14 candidates
- On-going support to community exercise classes, over 50 groups
- Athlefit course facilitated – 20 coaches qualified
- Winter Olympic theme curling support for 2 groups
- Affiliation to Street Games; 2 Doorstep clubs approved
- Halton health walk schedule for April – June distributed to over 200 contacts
- 171,928 Leisure centre visits during Jan/Feb/Mar. Total annual visits 1 April – 31 March 2013/14 666,202

- 1496 total 2013/14 Leisure Card applications; 16,771 leisure centre visits by HLC holders during 2013/14
- 6 Sportivate activities operating (sport sessions for 14 – 25 year olds). 485 total number of young people registered in sessions during 2013/14
- 6 sport grant awards this quarter. 2013/14 awards to 12 group grant benefits to 3400 members and 24 individual bursaries supporting the boroughs elite athletes (15 different sports)

The community coaches annual contacts 11,811 young people, 1217 adults, supported 556 adults to deliver activity.

CE4: The survey was undertaken between 17th February 2014 and 1st March 2014, the resulted are now being analysed and will be available shortly.

Key Performance Indicators

Ref	Measure	11/12 Actual	12/13 Target	Q4	Current Progress	Direction of Travel
<u>CE LI 6</u>	Number of active users of the library service during the last 12 months.	16,468	23,000	16,339		
<u>CE LI 6a</u>	Number of visits to libraries (annual total).	621,109	600,000	133,836 Annual 675,989		
<u>CE LI 7</u>	Percentage of the adult population (16+) participating in sport each week (Previously NI8).	21.7%	24%	23.1		

Supporting Commentary

CE LI6: 70,026 registered users, current figure of 16,339, having using the service in the last 12 months. This is down slightly (1%) on the equivalent quarter last year, however the number of new borrowers joining in this quarter has risen by 5.4%

CE LI6a: The Quarter 4 figure is lower than last year's equivalent quarter, however the annual target has been achieved.

CE LI7: The annual return for this target was released in December 2013 the 24% target was not achieved, but did see an increase on previous year. The Councils Sports Development Team continues to work with partners to provide opportunities and support for residents to engage in sport and physical activity.

7.0 Financial Statements

These are expected end of June 2014.

8.0 Appendix – Explanation for use of symbols

Symbols are used in the following manner:

<u>Progress</u>	<u>Objective</u>	<u>Performance Indicator</u>
Green 	Indicates that the <u>objective is on course to be achieved</u> within the appropriate timeframe.	<i>Indicates that the annual target <u>is on course to be achieved</u>.</i>
Amber 	Indicates that it is <u>uncertain or too early to say at this stage</u> , whether the milestone/objective will be achieved within the appropriate timeframe.	<i>Indicates that it is <u>uncertain or too early to say at this stage</u> whether the annual target is on course to be achieved.</i>
Red 	Indicates that it is <u>highly likely or certain</u> that the objective will not be achieved within the appropriate timeframe.	<i>Indicates that the target <u>will not be achieved</u> unless there is an intervention or remedial action taken.</i>

Direction of Travel Indicator

Where possible performance measures will also identify a direction of travel using the following convention

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

Key for Operational Director Lead

WR – Wesley Rourke - Operational Director Economy, Enterprise & Property
 CP – Chris Patino - Operational Director Community and Environment

REPORT TO: Employment Learning and Skills Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 23 June 2014

SUBJECT: Sustainable Community Strategy Quarter 4 year-end Progress Report 2013-14

PORTFOLIO: Resources

WARDS: Boroughwide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide information to the Employment, Learning and Skills Policy & Performance Board on the progress in achieving targets contained within the 2011 – 2016 Sustainable Community Strategy for Halton.

2.0 RECOMMENDED THAT:

- I. The report is noted
- II. The Board considers whether it requires any further information concerning actions taken to achieve the performance targets contained within Halton's 2011-16 Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS).

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Sustainable Community Strategy, a central document for the Council and its partners, provides an evidenced-based framework through which actions and shared performance targets can be developed and communicated.
- 3.2 The previous Sustainable Community Strategy included targets which were also part of the Local Area Agreement (LAA). In October 2010 the coalition government announced the ending of government performance management of local authorities through LAAs. Nevertheless, the Council and its Partners need to maintain some form of effective performance management framework to:-
- Measure progress towards our own objectives for the improvement of the quality of life in Halton.
 - Meet the government's expectation that we will publish performance information.
- 3.3 Thus, following extensive research and analysis and consultation with all stakeholder groups including Elected Members, partners and the local community and representative groups, a new SCS (2011 – 2016) was approved by the Council on 20th April 2011.

- 3.4 The new Sustainable Community Strategy and its associated “living” 5 year delivery plan (2011-16), identifies five community priorities that will form the basis of collective partnership intervention and action over the coming five years. The strategy is informed by and brings together national and local priorities and is aligned to other local delivery plans such as that of the Halton Children’s Trust. By being a “living” document it will provide sufficient flexibility to evolve as continuing changes within the public sector continue to emerge, for example the restructuring of the NHS and Public Health delivery, and the delivery of the ‘localism’ agenda.
- 3.5 As such, articulating the partnership’s ambition in terms of community outcomes and meaningful measures and targets to set the anticipated rate of change and track performance over time, will further support effective decision making and resource allocation.
- 3.6 Placeholder measures have also been included where new services are to be developed or new performance information is to be captured, in response to legislative changes; for which baselines for will be established in 2011/12 or 2012/13, against which future services will be monitored.
- 3.7 Attached as Appendix 1 is a report on progress for the period to year-end 31st March 2014, which includes a summary of all indicators for the Employment, Learning and Skills priority within the SCS.
- 3.8 An annual ‘light touch review’ of targets contained within the SCS, has also been conducted to ensure that targets remain realistic over the 5 year plan to ‘close the gaps’ in performance against regional and statistical neighbours. This review has been conducted with all Lead Officers being requested to review targets for 2014/15, 2015/16 and 2016/17. Targets were thus updated where appropriate in the light of actual/ anticipated performance. All SCS measures are included in the draft medium term Directorate Business Plans 2014-15
- 3.10 The Employment, Learning and Skills Policy and Performance Board is also asked to consider the inclusion of any additional measures to the above set to “narrow gaps” in performance where appropriate or respond to legislative/ policy changes; thereby ensuring that all measures remain “fit for purpose”.

4.0 CONCLUSION

- 4.1 The Sustainable Community Strategy for Halton, and the performance measures and targets contained within it will remain central to the delivery of community outcomes. It is therefore important that we monitor progress and that Members are satisfied that adequate plans are in place to ensure that the Council and its partners achieve the improvement targets that have been agreed.

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The Sustainable Community Strategy for Halton is central to our policy framework. It provides the primary vehicle through which the Council and its partners develop and communicate collaborative actions that will positively impact upon the communities of Halton.

6.0 ATTACHED DOCUMENTS

6.1 The publication by Local Authorities of performance information is central to the coalition government's transparency agenda.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCILS' PRIORITIES

7.1 This report provides information in relation to the Council's shared strategic priorities.

8.0 RISK ANALYSIS

8.1 The key risk is a failure to improve the quality of life for Halton's residents in accordance with the objectives of the Sustainable Community Strategy. This risk can be mitigated through the regular review and reporting of progress and the development of appropriate interventions where under-performance may occur.

9.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

9.1 One of the guiding principles of the Sustainable Community Strategy is to reduce inequalities in Halton.

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

Document Sustainable Community Strategy 2011 – 26

Place of Inspection 2nd Floor, Municipal Building, Kingsway, Widnes

Contact Officer Mike Foy (Performance & Improvement Officer)



The Sustainable Community Strategy

for Halton

2011 – 2016

End of Year Progress Report

01st April – 31st March 2014

Document Contact (Halton Borough Council)	Tim Gibbs (Divisional Manager Development Services) Municipal Buildings, Kingsway Widnes, Cheshire WA8 7QF tim.gibbs@halton.gov.uk
--	---

This report provides a summary of progress in relation to the achievement of targets within Halton's Sustainable Community Strategy 2011 - 2016.

It provides both a snapshot of performance for the period 1st April 2013 to 31st March 2014 and a projection of expected levels of performance to the year-end.

The following symbols have been used to illustrate current performance as against the 2013 / 2014 target and as against performance for the same period last year.

	Target is likely to be achieved or exceeded.		Current performance is better than this time last year
	The achievement of the target is uncertain at this stage		Current performance is the same as this time last year
	Target is highly unlikely to be / will not be achieved.		Current performance is worse than this time last year

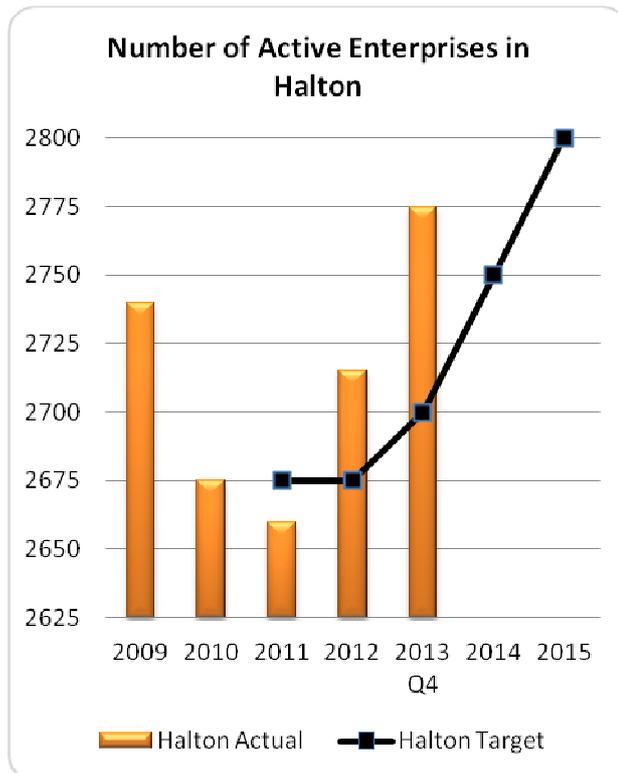
Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

Page	Ref	Descriptor	2013 / 14 Progress	Direction of Travel
	ELS 1	Increase the number of active enterprises within the Borough (NEW 2011)		
	ELS 2	Increase the proportion of business diversity (NEW 2011)		
	ELS 3	Increase the number of people classed as self-employed (NEW 2011)		
	ELS 4	Reduce the proportion of people with no qualifications		
	ELS 5	Increase the percentage of people achieving NVQ Level 4 and above (Revised NI 165)		
	ELS 6	Increase the percentage of adults using a library (NI 9) (PLACEHOLDER)	N/A	N/A
	ELS 7	Reduce the percentage of people registered unemployed and seeking employment (JSA claimants) (NI 152)		
	ELS 8	Reduce the percentage of the working age population claiming out of work benefits (Revised measure)		
	ELS 9	Increase the gross weekly earnings by residents (NI166)		

SCS / ELS1

Increase the number of active enterprises within the Borough (New measure)

2012/13 Actual	2013/14 Target	2013/14 Qtr 2	2013/14 Qtr 4	Current Progress	Direction of Travel
2715	2700	2775	2775		

**Data Commentary:**

Used to show growth of active enterprises within the Borough.
Targets based on current information and subject to known funding level. Targets will require review should funding or priorities be changed.

Performance Commentary:

To date, in this financial year, Halton's 'Enterprising Halton' Service has supported 54 people into self-employment. Working in partnership with Blue Orchid Halton Borough Council has delivered a range of 'Kick Start' courses as well as offering National Careers Service interventions and follow up appointments to new Business Start Ups. 54 Start-up businesses in Halton have also benefit from a £400.00 Business Start Up Grant.

A tracking exercise was completed in June 2013 to ascertain the number of business starts from 2012-2013 that were still trading and to provide any post-start support that may be required to help sustainability. 87% of businesses contacted were still trading and these were offered workshops on sales and marketing to enhance their business.

Summary of Key activities taken or planned to improve performance:

Halton Borough Council, through the Halton Employment Partnership (HEP) initiative, provide a range of services to support local people to both establish new businesses and to support micro-businesses to become sustainable during the first three years of their existence.

Enterprising Halton Business Start-Up and Post-Start Support

Halton Borough Council are part of a consortia encompassing the Cheshire and Warrington sub-region which will deliver enhanced start up support and post start support provision utilising European funding under ERDF Priority 4.1.

The primary delivery agency in Halton will be Blue Orchid, supported by The Princess Trust and others.

The provision will include 12 hour pre-start support and/or 12 hour post start support for recent starts or

companies less than three years old. An individual company cannot have both pre and post-start support but could have an element of each.

Output measures are not only number of starts but also the provision of advice without the necessity for the support to result in the creation of a new business. The programme is, therefore, far more flexible than previous programmes.

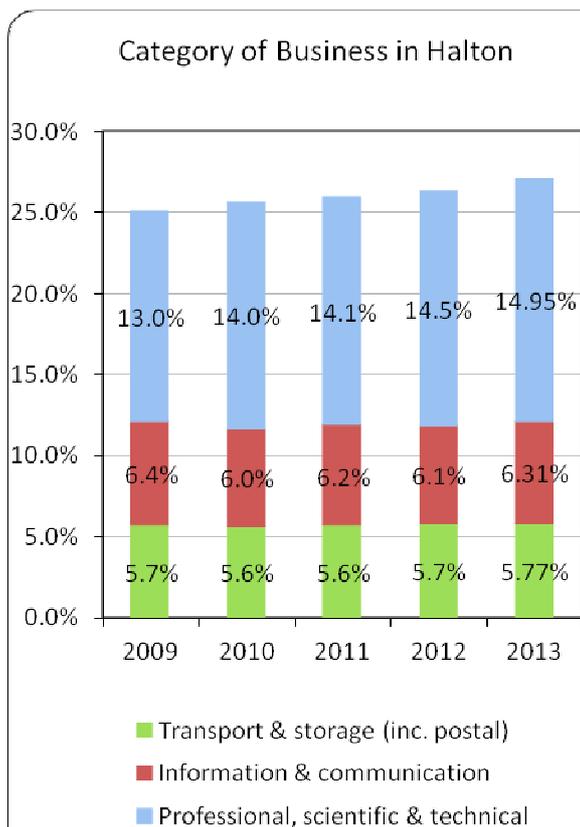
This financial year Halton's Enterprising Halton Service has supported 54 people into self-employment. Working in partnership with Blue Orchid, who Halton match-funds to support enterprise development, Halton has delivered a range of 'Kick Start' courses as well as offering National Careers Service interventions and follow up appointments to new Business Start Ups, some of which have also benefitted from the £400 Business Start Up Grant.

Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

SCS / ELS2

Increase the proportion of business diversity in the following sectors: (New Measure)

- Knowledge / Economy,
- Super port
- Low Carbon/ green
- Visitor Economy



2012/13 Actual	2013/14 Target	2013/14 Qtr 2	2013/14 Qtr 4	Current Progress	Direction of Travel
26.34% Oct 2012	25.5%	27.03% (March 2013)	27.03% (March 2013)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

Data Commentary:

The measure is in line with the Liverpool City Region priority agreed sectors for growth.

Standard categories are used to classify businesses, which enables diversity of business within the local area to be measured. These particular categories have been chosen as areas of focus for growth and as representative of the four larger sectors within the local area. The following standard categories have been chosen as a proxy for these priorities:

- Professional, Scientific and Technical
- Information and Communication
- Transport and Storage

Targets based on current information and subject to known funding level. Targets will require review should funding or priorities be changed.

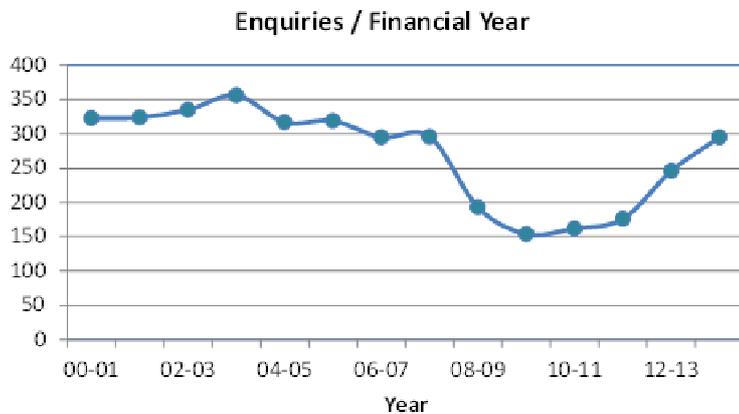
Performance Commentary:

The latest data released on 3rd October 2013 is a snapshot of the Inter Departmental Business Register (IDBR) taken on 12 March 2013.

Summary of Key activities taken or planned to improve performance:**Inward Investment Enquiries**

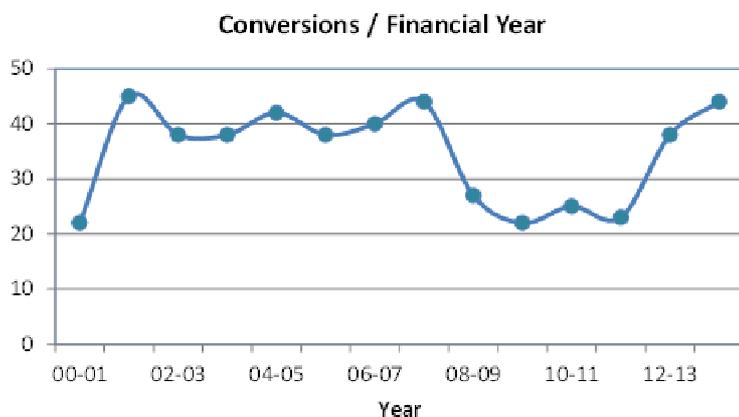
The number of investment enquiries managed by the Business Improvement and Growth (BIG) Team in the

Financial Year 2013/14 (295) is at the highest level since before the onset of the global recession in 2007/08 (296). The level of inward investment enquiries in 2013\14 represents a significant rebound in economic activity since 2008.



Conversions (inward investment enquiries ‘converted’ into actual investment projects)

The upward trend in investment enquiries is reflected in the number of conversions which, at 44 in 2013/14, is the highest level since 2007/08. The percentage of inward investment enquiries ‘converted’ into actual investment projects in Quarter 4 2013\14 at 19% considerably exceeds the annual target of 10% and contributes to an actual conversion rate for the full year of 15 %



To complement the business start- up and post start-up measures described in ELS-1 The Business Improvement and Growth (BIG) Team deliver the following business support programmes in Halton :-

The Merseyside Business Support Programme

Halton Borough Council deliver the Halton element of the ERDF funded Merseyside Business Support Programme (MBSP) through the provision of consultancy support to SME’s who have been in existence for more than one year and a day. The Halton element will deliver an initial evaluation followed by either the provision of a professional business mentor or more specific intervention which meets the particular needs of individual businesses. The programme will, therefore, focus upon second stage growth and as such will seek to engage with established SME’s who have the ambition and capability to grow and expand.

It is anticipated that the following outputs will be achieved :-

Businesses assisted to improve their performance

146

Number of businesses with improved performance	94
Jobs created	115
Jobs safeguarded	60

To date the programme has :-

- Received 167 enquiries
- Completed 96 diagnostics and Action Plans
- Referred 75 companies for specialist intervention

A second stage marketing campaign is underway targeting 300 + Halton businesses who have yet to engage with the programme. The programme end date has been extended across the whole of Merseyside from December 2014 to June 2015. However, the extension does not include any additional resources.

Liverpool City Region Business Growth Grant

The Council's Executive Board gave approval on October 17 2013 to roll out the Liverpool City Region Business Growth Grant in Halton. The scheme can provide grant of between £10,000.00 and £1,000,000.00 across the LCR based on a private sector leverage ratio of 5:1 and the creation of sustainable jobs.

To date 38 Halton companies have sought support from the schemes. Of that total 11 formal Expressions of Interest (EOI) and 2 full applications have been completed. The first full application was externally appraised and approved by the internal Liverpool City Region Business Growth Grant Panel on Monday 31 March. To date £363,703.00 in grant has been requested .

Growth Accelerator

The Borough Council have also engaged with the private sector deliverers of the government's 'Growth Accelerator' programme. Formerly, the 'High Growth Programme' government invited the private sector to tender for the delivery of the 'Growth Accelerator'. The contract was awarded to Grant Thornton, Oxford Innovation, PERA and Winning Pitch.

The Growth Accelerator is available only for 'companies with genuine potential for rapid and sustainable growth. Businesses with the capacity, commitment and intent to double turnover or employment within three years'. The Borough Council are working with Winning Pitch and PERA locally to target companies who will benefit for the intensive coaching programme associated with the Growth Accelerator

International Festival of Business 2014

The BIG Team are currently facilitating two major events in Halton during International Festival of Business 2014 :-

- At SciTech Daresbury on Tuesday 24 June UKTI, Liverpool Vision, STFC and Halton Borough Council will hold a major national UKTI ICT focusing on 'big data'
- On Thursday 26 June The Heath Business and Technical Park will host an event entitled 'Addressing the Skills Needs of the Science, Technology and Advanced Manufacturing Sector'. The event will feature a panel debate, chaired by BBC Business Correspondence Steph McGovern, an exhibition and events for 200+ young interested in careers in science and technology

EMERGING ISSUES

EU Structural Funds 2014-20

The BIG Team have developed, in detail, two project proposals for the forthcoming EU Programme 2014-20;

a successor programme to the current ERDF 4.2 Merseyside Business Support Programme (MBSP) and a project entitled 'Maximising the Benefits of ICT' designed in part to compliment the roll out of superfast broadband locally.

In all likelihood a successor ERDF 4.2 Merseyside Business Support Programme (MBSP) will remain a pan-Merseyside programme with local delivery. The pan-Merseyside decision to 'opt-in' to a range of national programmes, for example Manufacturing Advisory Service (MAS) Growth Accelerator (GA) and UK Trade & Investment (UKTI) will also impact upon the proposals for business support provision locally

EU Assisted Areas Map

Halton, unlike most of the LCR, is not an Assisted Area. Assisted Areas are those locations where regional aid may be granted under EU legislation.

The current Assisted Areas Map came into effect on 13 February 2007, and remains in force until 31 December 2013. The 2014-2020 UK Assisted Areas map is due to come into effect in January 2014, although June 2014 is more realistic.

The Borough Council developed, on behalf of the LCR, the submission to government describing the proposed new Merseyside Assisted Area. The proposed new map includes all of the Borough's employment areas.

Combined Merseyside Local Authority

The Merseyside LA's have worked together to create a 'combined authority for the Liverpool City Region'. This is not the same as creating a single Metropolitan Council but rather a working arrangement to 'deliver improvements in economic development, regeneration and transport across the sub-region'. The arrangement will allow the LCR LA's to bid for part of the £2 billion Single Local Growth Fund (SLGF)

The Liverpool City Region Combined Authority came into existence on April 01 2014 a Combined Authority for the LCR has the potential to radically change the way economic regenerations services are delivered in the City Region

Liverpool City Region Growth Hub

The Liverpool City Region Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) has developed a proposal to create a 'Growth Hub' for the city region. A Growth Hub is not a physical entity but rather a virtual organisation to provide business support services across the City Region.

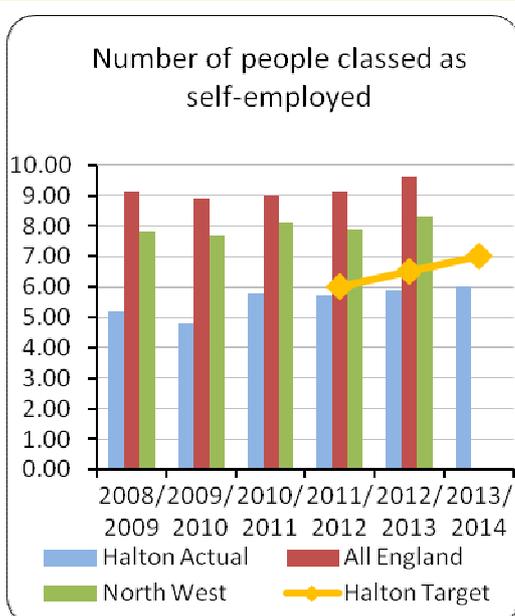
The creation of a Growth Hub will allow the City Region to access new UK Government funds. However, Government is very prescriptive with respect to the form and function of the Growth Hub model they will support. This must include management and strategic coordination and a one stop shop. The prescribed model suggests a preminent role for local Chambers support by Local Authorities. To quote from the guidance :-

"Local Chambers must be involved in the design and governance of all Growth Hubs receiving funding from the W2GH programme. It is also assumed the chambers will be responsible for delivering the one stop shop function expected of all Growth Hubs, but HMG will consider relaxing this rule where LEPs put forward persuasive arguments for alternative arrangements."

A Growth Hub would generate additional funding which can be used as match towards ERDF funding for the services considered to be most needed.

SCS / ELS3

Increase the number of people classed as self-employed (New measure)



2012/13 Actual	2013/14 Target	2013/14 Qtr 2	2013/14 Qtr 4	Current Progress	Direction of Travel
5.9% Dec 2012	7.0%	6% (Local Economic Assessment HBC July 2013)	Nomis data not yet available	?	↔

Data Commentary:

To show that the authority is supporting entrepreneurship by showing how much Halton has increased the number of people classed as self-employed.

Source NOMIS: % self-employed of those aged 16-64.

Self-employed information for the borough is available from the NOMIS website via the annual Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES). This measure is reported between September and December for the previous year.

Targets based on current information and subject to known funding level. Targets will require review should funding or priorities be changed.

Performance Commentary:

HBC does not own this NI data. The latest data available from ONS relates to 2011/2012. However, 54 customers accessing HPIJ's Enterprising Halton service have become self-employed during quarter 1 and quarter 4.

Summary of Key activities taken or planned to improve performance:

This financial year, Halton supported 54 people into self-employment as part of the Enterprising Halton programme. Working in partnership with Blue Orchid, who Halton match-funds to support enterprise development, Halton has delivered a range of 'Kick Start' courses as well as offering National Careers Service interventions and follow up appointments to new Business Start Ups, some of which have also benefitted from the £400 Business Start Up Grant.

A tracking exercise was completed in June 2013 to ascertain the number of business starts from 2012-2013 that were still trading and to provide any post-start support that may be required to help sustainability. 87%

of businesses contacted were still trading and these were offered workshops on sales and marketing to enhance their business.

HBC will continue to match fund Blue Orchid's BSUS ERDF programme to support local residents during 2014-2015.

The removal of HBC core funding from the Division from April 2014, will result in there being no funding to offer business start-up grants in future.

DWP's New Enterprise Allowance (NEA) Scheme continues to be available to Halton residents up to Dec 2014. Lone Parents and customers in receipt of Jobseekers / Employment Support Allowance can access the programme at day 1 of receiving their benefit. NEA is not available to Work Programme customers.

SCS / ELS4

Reduce the proportion of people with no qualifications.

2012/13 Actual	2013/14 Target	2013/14 Qtr 2	2013/14 Qtr 4	Current Progress	Direction of Travel
11.5% (Jan to Dec 2011)	11.5%	12.1% (Jan to Dec 2012)	12.1% (Jan to Dec 2012)		

Data Commentary:

To show that Halton is fostering a culture where learning is valued this indicator would assist by showing the number of residents without any qualifications decreasing.

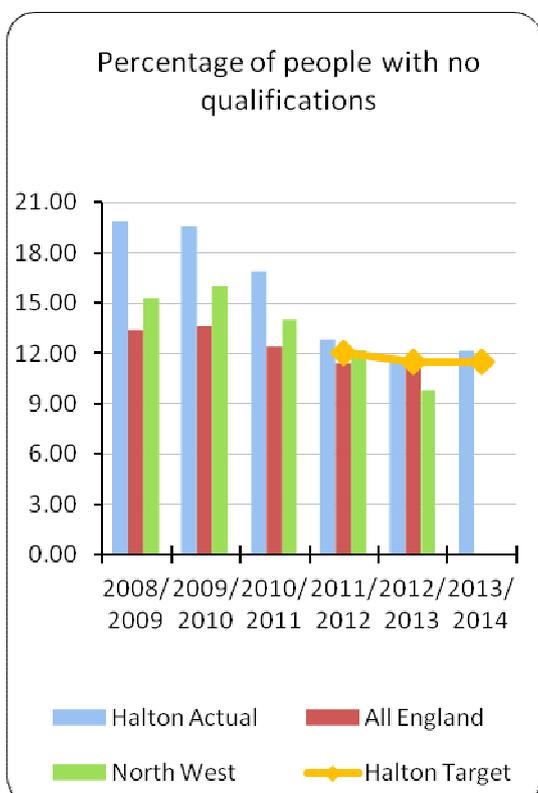
The latest data available (Jan to Dec 2012) is 12.1% which is an increase from 11.5% compared to the same period in 2011. Source: ONS annual population survey from www.nomisweb.co.uk

The percentage is a proportion of the resident population of area aged 16-64.

Targets based on current information and subject to known funding level. Targets will require review should funding or priorities be changed.

Performance Commentary:

- HBC does not own this NI data. However, **74** learners previously with no qualifications have achieved full Functional Skills qualifications from Q1-Q4 within Halton Borough Council's Employment, Learning & Skills Division
- **151** learners achieved an Employability Skills Award at Entry Level 2, Entry Level 3 or Level 1 from Q1-Q4 within Halton Borough Council's Employment, Learning and Skills Division
- **138** learners have achieved a Personal Development Award at Entry Level 2, Entry Level 3 or Level 1 from Q1-Q4 within Halton Borough Council's Employment, Learning and Skills Division
- **48** learners achieved Level 1 Awards in vocational sectors ie Customer Service, Hospitality, Retail and Contact Centre Operations from Q1-Q4 within Halton Borough Council's Employment, Learning and Skills Division
- **64** learners achieved Functional Skills or Supporting a Child's Learning & Development qualifications while attending community learning programmes in their children's school (Q4 pending results)
- **148** learners achieved vocational qualifications Q1-Q3 in subject areas such as Floristry, IT, Counselling and Garment Construction



- | | |
|--|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q4 vocational qualifications and community learning qualifications are awaiting verification but can be reported end April 2014. |
|--|---|

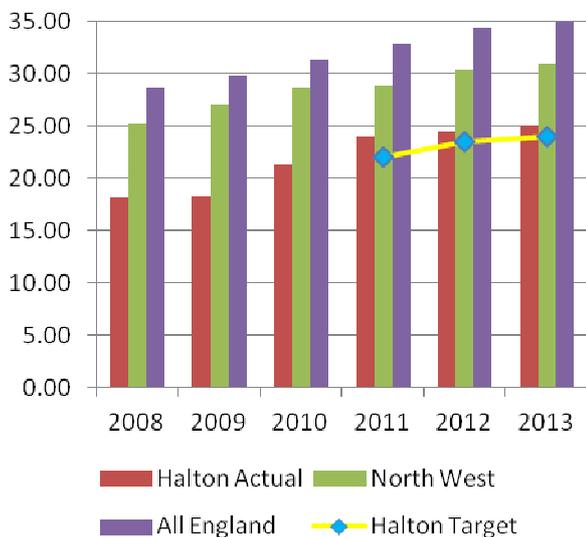
Summary of Key activities taken or planned to improve performance:

- HBC's Employment, Learning & Skills Division has and will continue to deliver a range of qualification bearing courses. In addition to the Functional Skills qualifications, it has also delivered employability/personal development qualifications and accredited courses in Supporting Your Child's Learning and the Diploma in Childcare & Education. Forthcoming activity for the Division will include delivery of a range of pre-employment, accredited programmes to support the new Mersey Gateway project. This will include an accredited Volunteer Training programme and pre-employment courses in Traffic Management, General Construction and Admin.

SCS / ELS5

Increase the percentage of people achieving NVQ Level 4 and above (Revised NI 165)

Percentage of people achieving NVQ level 4 and above



2012/13 Actual	2013/14 Target	2013/14 Qtr 2	2013/14 Qtr 4	Current Progress	Direction of Travel
24.0% Jan to Dec 2011	24.0%	24.5% (Jan to Dec 2012)	25.1% (Jan to Dec 2013)		

Data Commentary:

Qualifications data are only available from the APS for calendar year periods, for example, Jan to Dec 2005.

Data shows the number of people achieving NVQ Level 4 and above qualifications show that residents within the borough are reaching a high level of educational attainment. NVQ4 equivalent and above: e.g. HND, Degree and Higher Degree level qualifications or equivalent.

Source: ONS annual population survey.

% is a proportion of resident population of area aged 16-64.

Targets based on current information and subject to known funding level. Targets will require review should funding or priorities be changed.

* 27 students in 2012/13 and 3 in 2013/14 with home postcodes in WA7 or WA8 completed a level 4 or higher with full achievement at Riverside College Halton

** 161 Halton residents are currently studying at level 4 or higher at Riverside College with 60 due to complete by the end of 2013/14

Incl. 30 successful*
+161 working towards**

Performance Commentary:

- There has been an increase in the range of courses and places offered at level 4 and above at Riverside College. Courses include: Counselling; DTLLS; Advanced Practice in Early Years; Business and Management; Health and Social Care; IT and Systems Development; and Sport.
- The curriculum areas provide progression for level 3 students and employment opportunity on completion at levels 4,5 and 6.

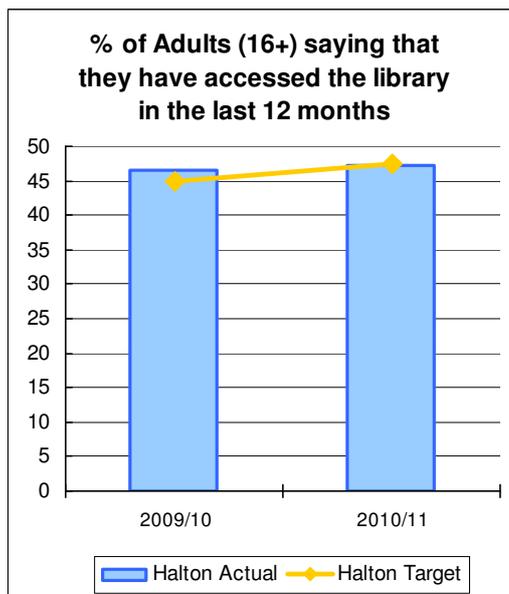
	There has been an increase of 15 more learners study at Higher Education level in the Borough at Riverside College.
--	---

Summary of Key activities taken or planned to improve performance:

- Engineering from September 2014 start
- Further develop progressive partnership with Staffordshire University which includes identification of students who would benefit from studying STEM at SU
- Achieve successful outcome for Higher Education Review to confirm high quality of provision and student experience

SCS / ELS6 Increase the percentage of adults using a library (NI 9)

2012/13 Actual	2013/14 Target	2013/14 Qtr 2	2013/14 Qtr 4	Current Progress	Direction of Travel
Satisfaction Rate Adults 94%	-				Placeholder measure

**Data Commentary:**

The data source for this target is no longer available.

As an alternative measure satisfaction levels of adults using the service (CIPFA PLUS Survey, public library user survey) were collected in Autumn 2012, this survey will be repeated every three years. Data from this will be used to provide information around the uptake of library services.

Performance Commentary:

No targets have been set against this data as the data source (NI9) is no longer available.

Library satisfaction levels taken from the CIPFA PLUS Survey were collected in 2012-2013 and the survey will be undertaken again in 2015-16, this is therefore a placeholder measure where the target will be to improve performance from 2012 to 2015.

Summary of Key activities taken or planned to improve performance:

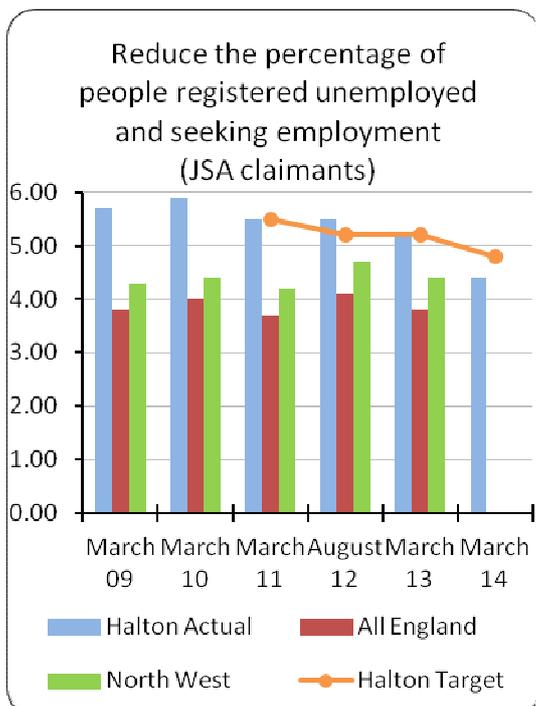
The Library Service continues to offer a wide range of activities and events to encourage the use of the service through its buildings, outreach and online.

This includes: assisting and providing access to people getting online, 1 to 1 support, IT Clinics and work clubs; working with children and young people to instil a love of reading through Bookstart, Summer Reading Challenge, contact with schools and the Reading Activists programme; supporting health and well-being through the provision of resources such as Books on Prescription, Mood Boosting collections and memory boxes.

SCS / ELS7

Reduce the percentage of people registered unemployed and seeking employment (JSA claimants) NI 152

	2012/13 Actual	2013/14 Target	2013/14 Qtr 2	2013/14 Qtr 4	Current Progress	Direction of Travel
	5.2% (February 2013)	4.8% (March 2014)	4.4%	4.1% (January 2014)		
Data Commentary:						
<p>JSA claimant count records the number of people claiming Jobseekers Allowance (JSA) and National Insurance credits at Jobcentre Plus local offices. People claiming JSA must declare that they are out of work, capable of, available for and actively seeking work during the week in which the claim is made.</p> <p>The percentage figures express the number of claimants resident in an area as a percentage of the population aged 16-64 resident in that area. Data is available one month in arrears.</p> <p>Targets based on current information and subject to known funding level. Targets will require review should funding or priorities be changed.</p>						
Performance Commentary:						
<p>In January 2014, there were 3292 individuals who were registered unemployed and on JSA. Whilst this was a slight increase on December's figures, it was a decrease of 23.4% on January 2013 figures, which is excellent.</p>  						

**Summary of Key activities taken or planned to improve performance:**

- Jobcentre Plus is an active member of all ELS & SSP sub-groups
- The Governments 'Get Britain Working' measure have seen an increase:
- Work Experience for the operational year - 2953 across Merseyside
- SBWA that have been hosted during the operational year – 1281 across Merseyside.
- Wage Incentives – 1518 across Merseyside
- Work Clubs (All Digital) – 10
- JCP have rolled out across the Borough with Claimant Commitment a new process for customers claiming JSA to focus more on customer needs to improve employment prospects.
- An event was delivered to Halton partners to support Claimant Commitment roll out and update on Universal Credit 02/04/14

- JCP continue to issue Wage Incentive vouchers to eligible customers, to self market themselves to prospective employers. The up take of employers employing Youth customers through wage incentives is steadily increasing.
- JCP have 7 Internet Access Devices (P.C. with Internet access) across the Halton JCP offices for customers to access to jobsearch and to make claims to benefit.
- JCP are working with NAS promoting Apprenticeships with employers
- JCP sit on the strategic NEET Groups to support vulnerable customers
- JCP hosted a Work Programme Returner and Youth Event informing customers about training and opportunities in collaboration with Riverside College. 22 partners attended with 249 customers attending and 94 customers registering for training courses and 5 moving into a Work Experience Placement.
- JCP sit on the Inspiring Families Strategic Board and work jointly with the programme a JCP advisor supports the programme with data updates and delivery to families in outreach locations in both Widnes and Runcorn .
- JCP Advisers are in Children's Centres to offer advice and support to customers with families
- Jobcentre Plus refers eligible customers to the ESF Support for Families with Multiple Problems programme to enhance customers' skills\jobsearch and to move them closer to the Labour market.
- JCP work with Prolific Offender Team and Probation to support ex-offenders into employment and sit on the Strategic Integrated Offender Management Programme working with Police and Probation
- JCP are working with Riverside College to provide the opportunity of Traineeships for our local Youth.
- JCP working collaboratively with the HEP Group on moving customers into employment and supporting the planning stages for the new Bridge construction to fully utilise any vacancies that become available to fill them with local labour.
- JCP are members of the Mersey Link Employability Group
- JCP working collaboratively with the Skills Group on moving customers into training
- JCP work with HBC Adult Learning Team to offer training to customers
- JCP are supporting Halton Disability Partnership with a Jobsfair they are organising focusing on the Care Sector vacancies and personalisation.
- JCP are working with Ashley House to focus on the Substance Misuse strategy and forge better relations for three way interviews to better support service users into employment (an event was held for JCP/CRI/RSL's/Service Users to promote organisational rolls.

SCS / ELS8

Reduce the percentage of the working age population claiming out of work benefits (Revised measure)

2012/13 Actual	2013/14 Target	2013/14 Qtr 2	2013/14 Qtr 4	Current Progress	Direction of Travel
16.9% Mar 2013	March 2013 17%	15.74%	15%		

Data Commentary:

Out of work benefits includes Job seekers allowance, ESA (Incapacity Benefits), Lone parents and other income related benefits.

Data is taken from the Department for work and Pensions claimant figures via the office of National statistics NOMIS reporting system, www.nomisweb.co.uk.

Data is available quarterly and is released six months in arrears.

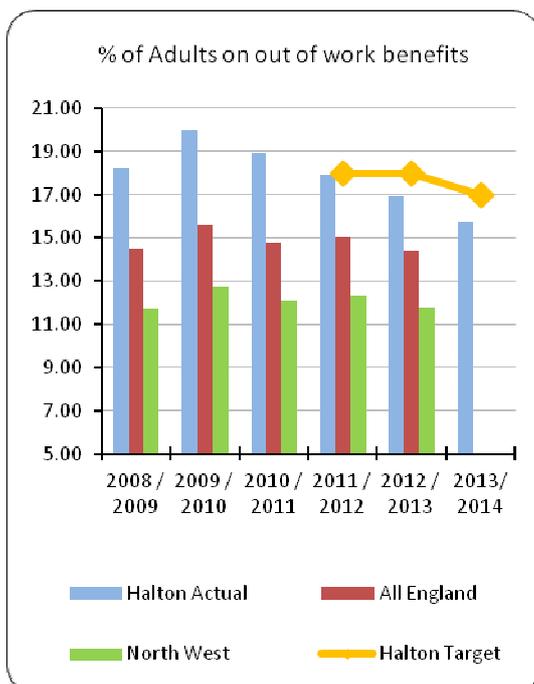
Targets based on current information and subject to known funding level. Targets will require review should funding or priorities be changed.

Performance Commentary:

The Employment Support Allowance and Incapacity Benefit statistics for August 2013 is 7410.

The Income Support (Lone Parents) statistics for August 2013 is 1550.

The number of the working age population claiming out of work benefits (JSA, ESA and lone parent benefit) in Q4 was 12,252 (9 more than in Q3), which is 15% and demonstrates the direction of travel is positive.

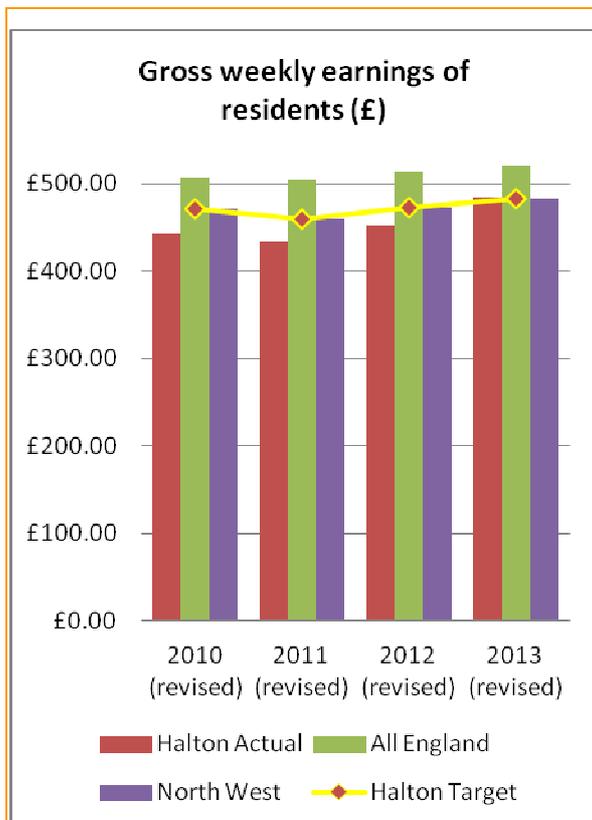
**Summary of Key activities taken or planned to improve performance:**

- JCP work closely with all Halton Children Centres to support lone parents and families with jobsearch advice and support. Personal Advisers are currently undertaking outreach work in Runcorn\Widnes Children Centre's.
- Jobcentre Plus sit on the Advisory Boards of the Children Centre's to support Economic agenda and have had input in to the recent Ofsted Inspections where partnership working was recognised as outstanding.
- JCP hosted an internal event to support Personal Advisers knowledge of the provision that is available to support IS Lone Parents back into work.
- Jobcentre Plus has membership of the Local Authorities Child Poverty Groups.
- Jobcentre Plus has a Disability Employment Adviser in each site to support customers who require additional support to move closer to the labour market. There are programme such as Work Choices which support customers with the highest needs and helps move them into employment.

- JCP have specialist ESA advisers in each site to support this customer group.
- Disability Confident was launched by Government on 18/7/2013 with the aim of reducing the employment gap between disabled and non disabled customers which is currently at 30%. A regional event was held on 19th March 2014 in Manchester. A local event will be planned for employers within the region.
- JCP are working with National and local organisations and employers on a 'Disability Awareness' campaign to promote the employment of people with disabilities and the 'two ticks' disability symbols are being reviewed with local employers.
- Access to Work can support customers with equipment requirements to support a return to employment for customers with disabilities.
- JCP have worked with Riverside College and HBC Adult Learning Team to deliver bespoke training tailored to ESA customers
- JCP working with Carers Centre to better support carers into employment and training opportunities. JCP to present at the next Carers Forum in November to promote opportunities, incentives and support available.

SCS / ELS9

Increase the gross weekly earnings by residents (NI166)



2012/13 Actual	2013/14 Target	2013/14 Qtr 2	2013/14 Qtr 4	Current Progress	Direction of Travel
£432.30 (Dec 2011)	Close the gap with NW average	£452.50p (Dec 2012)	£485 (Dec 2013)		

Data Commentary:

The gross median weekly earnings of residents showing an increase would show that people are able to maximise their potential and rise out of poverty. Data obtained from www.Nomisweb.co.uk.

No lead partner or responsible officer identified to set targets.

Performance Commentary:

Since 2011 the average earnings gap for residents between Halton and the North West has been narrowing. The provisional figures for 2013 point to residents' pay rising above the North West average for the first time.

The provisional 2013 data was released in Dec 2013. At this time, the 2012 data was also revised (so the provisional figure of £452.5 from 2012 has been revised slightly).

Estimates for 2011 and subsequent years use a weighting scheme based on occupations which have been coded according to Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) 2010 that replaced SOC 2000. Therefore care should be taken when making comparisons with earlier years.

Summary of Key activities taken or planned to improve performance:

The gap between the average weekly earnings in Halton and the rest of the North West has narrowed. Further work is required to evaluate the reasons for this, and there may be a number of interconnected factors. For example, it is probable that there is a correlation between this narrowing of the gap and the increase in high quality housing provision in the borough, leading to the increase in 'higher earners' in the borough.

In addition, the success of a wide range of employability measures has seen a gradual decline in the number of people out of work and small rises in income levels in the borough.