



**Environment and Urban Renewal Policy
and Performance Board**

**Wednesday, 17 November 2021 6.30 p.m.
Council Chamber - Town Hall, Runcorn**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'David WR'.

Chief Executive

BOARD MEMBERSHIP

Councillor Bill Woolfall (Chair)	Labour
Councillor Mike Fry (Vice-Chair)	Labour
Councillor Angela Ball	Labour
Councillor Dave Cargill	Labour
Councillor Andrew Dyer	Green Party
Councillor Robert Gilligan	Labour
Councillor Stan Hill	Labour
Councillor Geoffrey Logan	Labour
Councillor Tony McDermott	Labour
Councillor Tom Stretch	Labour

*Please contact Gill Ferguson on 0151 511 8059 or e-mail gill.ferguson@halton.gov.uk for further information.
The next meeting of the Board is on Wednesday, 16 February 2022*

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

Part I

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2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS (INCLUDING PARTY WHIP DECLARATIONS)	
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.	
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In accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Act the Council is required to notify those attending meetings of the fire evacuation procedures. A copy has previously been circulated to Members and instructions are located in all rooms within the Civic block.

ENVIRONMENT AND URBAN RENEWAL POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD

At a meeting of the Environment and Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board on Wednesday, 22 September 2021 at the Council Chamber - Town Hall, Runcorn

Present: Councillors Woolfall (Chair), Fry (Vice-Chair), Ball, D. Cargill, Dyer, Gilligan, S. Hill, Logan, McDermott and Stretch

Apologies for Absence: None

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: G. Ferguson, T. Gibbs, I Boyd and A. Plant

Also in attendance: None

**ITEM DEALT WITH
UNDER DUTIES
EXERCISABLE BY THE BOARD**

Action

The Board took part in a minute's silence in honour of Councillor Howard, who had sadly passed away last month. The Chair paid tribute to him on behalf of members and colleagues.

EUR10 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 23 June 2021 having been circulated were signed as a correct record.

EUR11 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

It was confirmed that no public questions had been received.

EUR12 EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES

The Board considered the Minutes of the meetings of the Executive Board relevant to the Environment and Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes be received.

EUR13 PETITION REQUESTING SPEED LIMIT CHANGE ON RUNCORN ROAD, MOORE (40 TO 30 MPH)

The Board considered a report of the Strategic

Director, which advised that a petition had been received by electronic delivery requesting alteration of the speed limit on a section of Runcorn Road, Moore from 40 mph to 30 mph.

It was noted that this section of Runcorn Road was:

- relatively flat and had open fields to the southern side;
- the northern side comprised low-density housing, set well back;
- pedestrian movements across the carriageway were minimal;
- the road was generally in good repair, well lit and subject to an environmental 7.5 tonne weight restriction;
- there was low-level of on street parking within the 40mph zone, especially at the eastern end. However there was no evidence or complaints of vehicles mounting the kerb and obstructing the footway;
- Cheshire Road Safety Group, Cheshire Police and external consultants undertook a speed limit review in Halton in 2009. No changes were recommended for Runcorn Road;
- since 2009, automatic traffic counters had been installed on two occasions. Average speeds had reduced in this time which was probably due to the increase in traffic using the route; and
- there had been one recorded injury collision within the relevant section of road since 2009.

At the request of the Council, Cheshire Police had undertaken a site assessment and provided an opinion that, whilst they understood the desire of residents for a lower speed limit, they were concerned that the removal of the change in speed limit would not reflect the character of the road. It was the opinion of the Constabulary that the 40mph section felt open in nature and as such, 40mph was an appropriate speed limit.

Therefore based on the advice from Cheshire Police, traffic specialists and the Council's road safety engineer, it was felt that retaining the existing 40mph speed limit was appropriate for this section of road.

On behalf of the petitioner, Councillor Dyer addressed the Board in support of the petition and read a statement and questions which the petitioner had previously prepared. Councillor Dyer fully supported the request to lower the speed limit and outlined to the Board his reasons for this.

On behalf of the Council, Ian Saxby responded to the questions submitted and it was agreed that Tim Gibbs would contact Cheshire Constabulary regarding speed enforcement at Runcorn Road.

RESOLVED: That

1. following careful consideration and site inspection, Officers advise that the posted speed limit should remain at 40mph for the reasons set out in the report; and
2. a request be made to Cheshire Police to consider this location for regular speed enforcement activity.

Strategic Director
Enterprise,
Community and
Resources

EUR14 LOCAL LIST - HERITAGE ASSETS

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources, which advised that Halton, in partnership with Cheshire West had received £70,000 funding from the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) towards creating a unified Cheshire Local List.

The register would play a key role in local and community identity and gave an understanding and appreciation of Cheshire's past. In addition a Local List approach was considered as a community-driven dataset and it was hoped that engagement with the development of a local list would enable local communities to define local heritage significance on their own terms.

Over the next six months, officers would be working with consultants – Headland Design Associates (HDA) on five target areas in Halton: Appleton, Daresbury, Farnworth, Hale and New Town. In these areas, HDA would work with local volunteers to identify locally significant heritage assets and develop them as proposals for the local list using the online Exegetis Local Heritage List Platform.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

EUR15 ANNUAL REPORT

The Board considered a copy of the Annual Report from the Chair of the Environment and Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board 2020/21.

The full Board met on four occasions during the year and the report set out the work carried out and

recommendations made throughout the Municipal Year April 2020 to March 2021.

RESOLVED: That the Annual Report be accepted.

EUR16 BUS SERVICE IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director Enterprise, Community and Resources, which provided an overview on the recent publication of the Bus Back Better Bus Strategy for England (the Strategy), the associated funding from the Department for Transport (DfT) and the requirement for Bus Service Improvement Plans (BSIPs). It was noted that the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority was the Local Transport Authority for Halton. A BSIP covering the City Region area would be submitted to the DfT by the Combined Authority in October 2021. The report set out Halton's 'ask' of Government in relation to bus service improvement in Halton that would feature in the Combined Authority BSIP.

The Board discussed the recent cuts in the 62 and X1 bus service which was linked to a shortage of bus drivers. They also discussed the impact a shortage of bus drivers could have on the proposed improvements to bus services as outlined in the BSIP.

RESOLVED: That

1. the proposals set out in Appendix 1 for frequency improvements to the current bus network be supported; and
2. the proposals for highway and infrastructure improvements to tackle bus service delay hot-spots (Appendix 2) be endorsed.

EUR17 HALTON DELIVERY & ALLOCATIONS LOCAL PLAN, POST SUBMISSION CHANGES

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources, which provided an update on the Halton Delivery and Allocations Local Plan (DALP). The Plan was submitted to the Secretary of State for independent examination on 5 March 2020. The examination process had taken place between March – June 2021 and a number of issues had been identified and needed to be resolved by 'Main Modifications' to the Plan and subsequent changes to the Policies Map. The report updated Members on the expected changes needed to

make the Local Plan 'sound'. The changes that were discussed were contained in Appendix A of the report.

It was noted that once the Inspector's initial report was received, the required modifications would be known. Full Council would need to consider the modifications and if approved the modifications needed to be subject to formal public consultation for a period of not less than 6 weeks in compliance with the adopted Statement of Community Involvement and statutory regulations. Following the consultation, the Council would compile all representations received and provide a report back to the Inspectors. The Inspectors would then compile their formal report into the soundness of the Halton DALP. The DALP would then return to Executive Board and Full Council for approval.

RESOLVED: That the report and comments upon the suitability of the expected modifications to the Delivery and Allocations Local Plan be noted.

EUR18 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORTS FOR QUARTER 1 OF 2021/22

The Board received a report from the Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources, which presented the Performance Monitoring Reports for Quarter 1 of 2021/22.

The reports related to the following functional areas which reported to the Board and detailed progress against service objectives and milestones, and performance targets and provided information relating to key developments and emerging issues that had arisen during the period:

- Development and Investment Services;
- Highways and Transportation, Logistics and Development Services;
- Waste and Environmental Improvement and Open Space Services; and
- Housing Strategy.

Arising from the discussion the Board requested that the Liverpool City Region be invited to a future meeting to discuss the Mersey Tidal Power project.

RESOLVED: That the first quarter performance monitoring reports be received and noted.

REPORT TO: Environment and Urban Renewal Policy & Performance Board

DATE: 17 November 2021

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community 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 Chair 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: Environment and Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 17 November 2021

REPORTING OFFICER: Chief Executive

SUBJECT: Executive Board Minutes

WARD(s): Boroughwide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The Minutes relating to the relevant 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.

APPENDIX 1

Extract of Executive Board Minutes Relevant to the Environment and Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 16 September 2021

ENVIRONMENT AND URBAN RENEWAL PORTFOLIO

EXB30 DEVELOPMENT OF PRIORY MEADOW, RUNCORN FOR HOUSING

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources, which requested approval to market Priory Meadow for housing on a gifted homes bases.

The report outlined some background and historical information in respect of the site and gave details of the tender opportunity that presented itself. It was noted that the site was one of the last pieces of the Castlefields Masterplan and would make an important contribution to meeting the housing needs of the Borough.

RESOLVED: That Executive Board

- 1) approves the marketing of Priory Meadow;
- 2) agrees to Officers testing the market for gifted homes and entering into legal agreements on this basis; and
- 3) authorises the Operational Director for Economy, Enterprise and Property, and the Operational Director for Legal and Democratic Services to ensure full legal compliance in relation to the project.

Strategic Director
- Enterprise,
Community and
Resources

EMPLOYMENT, LEARNING AND SKILLS, AND COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT AND URBAN RENEWAL PORTFOLIOS

EXB31 PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources, which sought approval of Halton’s Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) 2021 – 2037.

Halton's Playing Pitch Strategy set out the Council's strategy for identifying and meeting the playing pitch and associated facility needs of the Borough from now, through to 2037. It considered how well the existing playing pitch provision and associated facilities met the needs of communities in terms of supply and demand throughout this time period.

It was noted that the Strategy had been produced in accordance with national planning guidance using the Sport England Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance, which was very rigid in its approach and provided robust and objective justification for future playing pitch provision throughout Halton.

Appended to the report was the *Halton Borough Council Strategy and Action Plan* (appendix 1) which set out a series of initial recommendations for further consideration; and the *Halton Borough Council Playing Pitch Strategy Draft Assessment Report* (appendix 2) which set out the latest background information for each sport.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the Assessment Report and the accompanying Strategy and Action Plan be approved;
- 2) the Assessment Report and the accompanying Strategy and Action Plan be published on the Council's website; and
- 3) the Halton Playing Pitch Strategy 2021 – 2037 be the basis for making strategic decisions on future playing pitch provision and associated facilities across the Borough.

Strategic Director
- Enterprise,
Community and
Resources

EXB32 SCHEDULE 12A OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

The Board considered:

- 1) whether members of the press and public should be excluded from the meeting of the Board during consideration of the following items of business in accordance with Sub-Section 4 of Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, because it was likely that, in view of the nature of the business to be

considered, exempt information would be disclosed, being information defined in Section 100 (1) and paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972; and

- 2) whether the disclosure of information was in the public interest, whether any relevant exemptions were applicable and whether, when applying the public interest test and exemptions, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed that in disclosing the information.

RESOLVED: That as, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information, members of the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business, in accordance with Sub-Section 4 of Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 because it was likely that, in view of the nature of the business, exempt information would be disclosed, being information defined in Section 100 (1) and paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

ENVIRONMENT AND URBAN RENEWAL PORTFOLIO

EXB33 FOUNDRY LANE RESIDENTIAL

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources, which provided an update on proposals for residential development at Foundry Lane, Widnes and sought approval to enter into a contractual Development Agreement with an appointed partner.

RESOLVED: That the list of recommendations from 2.1 to 2.5 in the report be approved.

Strategic Director
- Enterprise,
Community and
Resources

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 14 October 2021

ENVIRONMENT AND URBAN RENEWAL PORTFOLIO

EXB37 PRELIMINARY ESTIMATES FOR LIQUID ROAD FUEL CONTRACTS - SUPPLY OF DIESEL, KEROSENE, HVO AND AD BLUE

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources, which

Strategic Director
- Enterprise,

sought approval for the Council to be included in a national procurement exercise, in order to award contracts for the supply of Liquid Road Fuels to Council sites.

It was reported that the Council currently had a Liquid Road Fuel contract and a contract for the provision of Ad Blue in place, with a total expenditure in the region of £488,000 per annum. These contracts supplied Council sites with diesel and Ad Blue and were due to expire on 31 March 2022.

The business case in support of the request was presented to Members in the report. On the subject of climate change, it was noted that the Council was currently developing a Climate Change Action Plan, which would be published in the autumn of 2021. Part of this Action Plan would include plans to transition the Council's fleet from petrol and diesel to lower emission vehicles. As this would take some time to complete, it was important to ensure ongoing service delivery in the meantime, so award of the above contracts was needed.

RESOLVED: That the Board approves the use of Procurement Standing Order 1.4.1, to allow the Council to use a Framework Agreement procured by a Central Purchasing Body (Crown Commercial Services) in compliance with the Public Contracts Regulation 2015, or order to award contracts for the supply of Liquid Road Fuels to Council sites.

EXB38 SCHEDULE 12A OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

The Board considered:

- 1) whether members of the press and public should be excluded from the meeting of the Board during consideration of the following items of business in accordance with Sub-Section 4 of Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, because it was likely that, in view of the nature of the business to be considered, exempt information would be disclosed, being information defined in Section 100 (1) and paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972; and
- 2) whether the disclosure of information was in the

public interest, whether any relevant exemptions were applicable and whether, when applying the public interest test and exemptions, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed that in disclosing the information.

RESOLVED: That as, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information, members of the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business, in accordance with Sub-Section 4 of Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 because it was likely that, in view of the nature of the business, exempt information would be disclosed, being information defined in Section 100 (1) and paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

DEPUTY LEADER'S PORTFOLIO

EXB39 PROPOSED LEISURE CENTRE, MOOR LANE, WIDNES - UPDATE REPORT

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Enterprise, Communities and Resources, which gave an update on progress in respect of the proposed Leisure Centre on Moor Lane.

Strategic Director
- Enterprise,
Community and
Resources

Approval was sought in respect of investing in air source heat pump technology, in order to help maximise the benefit of connection to the Council owned solar farm at St Michael's Golf Course, to help reduce carbon emissions that would be associated with the facility.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the report is noted; and
- 2) approval be given for the installation of air source heat pumps run on electricity, in order to provide heat and hot water and to connect the building to the solar farm at St Michael's Golf Course, in order to generate maximum benefit in respect of reducing carbon emissions associated with the facility.

REPORT TO: Environment and Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 17 November 2021

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director Economy, Community and Resources

PORTFOLIO: Resources

SUBJECT: Performance Management Reports for Quarter 2 of 2021/22

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 second period to 30th September 2021
- 1.2 Key priorities for development or improvement in 2021 - 22 were agreed by Members and included in Directorate Plans, for the various functional areas reporting to the Environment and Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board as detailed below:
- Development and Investment Services
 - Highways and Transportation, Logistics and Development Services
 - Waste and Environmental Improvement and Open Space 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 second 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 At the time at which annual business plans are developed, Directorate Risk Registers are also refreshed and updated.

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

Not applicable

Environment and Urban Renewal PPB – Priority Based Monitoring Report

Reporting Period: **Quarter 2 – 1st July 2021 to 30th September 2021**

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This report provides an overview of issues and progress against key service objectives/milestones and performance targets, during the second quarter of 2021 / 22 for those service areas within the remit of the Environment and Urban Renewal (E&UR) Policy and Performance Board.
- 1.2 Key priorities for development or improvement in 2021 / 22 were agreed by Members and included in Directorate Plans, for the various functional areas reporting to the Environment & Urban Renewal Policy & Performance Board i.e.:
- Development & Investment Services
 - Open Spaces and Waste and Environmental Improvement
 - Highways, Transportation & Logistics and Physical Environment
- 1.3 The emergence of the global COVID19 pandemic early in 2020 has had a significant and unavoidable impact upon Council services the full extent of which is yet to become known. The Council, along with key partner agencies, has prioritised its resources upon mitigating the serious risks to public health, the protection of vulnerable residents, and the social cohesion of the local community. In developing appropriate responses to emerging national and local priorities this situation is likely to remain the case for the foreseeable future.
- 1.4 The way in which traffic light symbols have been used to reflect progress to date is explained within Section 7 of this report.

2.0 Key Developments

There have been a number of developments within the Directorate during the period which include:-

External Funding / Regeneration

REGENERATION NON TOWN CENTRES

2.1 External Funding

Funding Secured - £12,567m – this includes two grants of £6 million and £6.5 million respectively that the team secured from the European Social Fund on behalf of LCR for employment support schemes

Bids Submitted – to the value of £1m; this includes a Changing Places Toilets bid of £195,000 from HBC, developed in conjunction with Property Services

Draft Bids – bids in progress to the value of £6m

Pipeline Projects – projects being supported but not yet at bid stage to the value of £19m

Monitored Projects – bids being monitored to the value of £41m, including now the £23m Town Fund for the development of Runcorn Old Town

New funding enquiries for this quarter – 11

Developed a Strategic Funding Matrix which will include the key funds being released as part of the Government's Shared Prosperity Fund, for example, Levelling Up. The Matrix will be used to monitor progress on each fund, as well as helping to ensure Halton doesn't miss out on any key funding.

The Team is also supporting the development and monitoring of the National Lottery Heritage Fund Grant for Celebrating Halton's Heritage which is programme being run as part of Halton's Borough of Culture year. The Team is also supporting the planning of the Borough of Culture handover to Knowsley in November 2021 and the LCR Cultural Awards to be held at Cronton Playhouse in March 2022.

The Team supported the last round of ESF Community Grants and three grants were funded in Halton to the value of £60,000.

Sci-Tech Daresbury

- Construction of Project Violet is continuing to programme due to complete in November 2021.
- Overall occupancy is now at 95% and we continue to see strong interest in the available space on campus.
- The JV are progressing the masterplan for the wider development of the campus.

Murdishaw

- The project groups continue to progress activities focussed on environmental improvements, the local centre and the bungalows. The Steering Group has met twice. A Community Design Team of residents meets regularly to progress suggestions for the local centre project.
- Onward Homes hosted a consultation event to share the proposals for 130 bungalows on the estate. Onward are in the process of applying for the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund for the retrofit programme (external insulation) but have also proposed improvements including pitched roofs, windows and other external works.

3MG

- Alstom have been extending their facility including an additional rail siding.
- Warburton's opened on 6 September 2021.
- 3MG has been identified as a Tax Site in the LCR Freeport bid. This would provide additional incentives for developers to build at 3MG.
- CDP are working up a planning application to be submit before Christmas.

Priory Meadow

- Executive Board approved the disposal of priory meadow and instead of taking a land receipt we would take gifted homes.
- A Solicitor experienced in gifted homes contracts has been appointed to advise the Council.
- Homes England have been asked to expedite the clawback which is on the site.

Foundry Lane

- Cityheart Ltd appointed as Development Partner January 2021 following open procurement process.
- Development Agreement being drawn up (detailed Heads of Terms agreed).
- Outline Planning Consent in place.
- Advanced negotiations underway with LCR Combined Authority regarding Brownfield Land Fund application.
- Phase 1 scheme design and associated Full Planning Consent current practical priority.

Astmoor

- SIF application to the CA for £110k re site investigation studies on 5 HBC owned sites that includes 4 handback sites being utilised.
- The Council has gone to the market to seek a Joint Venture partner to deliver the Astmoor Masterplan via a Competitive Procurement with Negotiation (CPN) route. Appointment anticipated January 2022. (Ongoing legal advice being sought from Sharpe Pritchard LLP).
- Discretionary Business Rate Relief Scheme in operation.

2.2 Green Growth Programme

In July 2021, utilising an existing Regeneration Officer post (within the established structure), a Green Growth Project Officer was appointed. The role was created in recognition that the next decade is likely to see to an unprecedented period of public and private investment to support the de-carbonisation of the UK economy. This will require significant investment in infrastructure, skills and innovation. Investment Halton can be ready to secure.

The purpose of Green Growth Programme is to provide a dedicated resource to develop a pipeline of externally focussed projects arising from UK Govt. and Liverpool City-Region net-zero carbon targets and associated strategies. By aligning with these strategies, such as the UK Govt. Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution will also help unlock funding and investment opportunities.

Sitting within the Employment, Enterprise and Property Department, the Programme will draw upon a small virtual team of skills including project management, external funding and business support. Projects will be aligned with existing regeneration, investment and development activities.

In particular projects will be brought forward through the delivery of the borough's major infrastructure and regeneration priorities as principally set out in the Mersey Gateway Regeneration Plan. This includes supporting local business and not-for-profit (voluntary, community and faith sector) partners to directly benefit.

Business Improvement and Growth

2.3 Economic Assessment

An updated version of the economic assessment has been completed and is in the process of being consulted with partners. The main sectors of the report are summarised as follows:

1. Economic Vision for Halton
2. Population analysis
3. Labour Market and Skills analysis focusing on, Occupations Inactivity, Workless Households Highest Level of qualification Earnings Vacancies
4. Business Sector Analysis focusing on the sectors of Manufacturing Haulage Professional, Scientific and Health Arts, Leisure and Recreation. An assessment of the Business Stock, Starts and Success Business Survival
5. Impact of Future Developments

2.4 Trading On Grants

The a new grant scheme is in development which will be delivered as from October of this year concentrating on businesses emerging from the pandemic and providing support to enable them to grow and create jobs. They will be targeted at businesses who employ 10 or more full time staff and medium sized businesses. In previous rounds there was no support for medium sized businesses.

Please refer to Quarter 1 reporting for figures on previous grant schemes.

2.5 Business Engagement

A pilot programme of sector-focused business engagement is under development with a view to delivery taking place from quarter 3 2021 / 2022. The initial focus is Green Growth and Storage and logistics.

2.6 Business Growth Programme – Phase 2

Delivery of the Halton element of Business Growth Programme Phase 2 commenced in January 2019 and runs up to December 2021.

Halton Borough Council is contracted to deliver:-

Output	Figure
Company Receiving Support (C1) – revised by CA and reduced from 95 to 84 due to COVID lockdown impact	84
Jobs Created (C8) revised total – The CA are looking at more sustainability in the current climate	131

Performance Against Output Targets To Date

OUTPUT	FIGURE
Number of enquiries to date	205
Number of Businesses currently being supported (C1)	20
Number of Businesses supported and claimed (C1)	60
Potential businesses in pipeline for support	8
Total Number of enquiries come through but have been withdrawn due to the following reasons:	117
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not eligible – 17 • Not engaging – 90 • Unsuitable - 10 	

2.7 Regeneration Town Centres

An announcement was made 15th July 2021 and Runcorn will receive up to £23.6million for the seven projects included in its Town Investment Plan subject to the business cases being approved. Runcorn Town Board agreed the funding Heads of Terms on 4th August 2021 and there is now 12 months to work up green book compliant business cases for each one of the projects. The long stop date for submission is 4th August 2022 and Government will release funding once the project business case has been agreed and signed off.

The overarching aim of the Towns Fund is to drive the sustainable economic regeneration of towns to deliver long term economic and productivity growth through investment in regeneration, skills and enterprise infrastructure and connectivity projects. The seven projects included in the Runcorn Town Investment Plan were:-

- Runcorn Station Quarter
- Unlock Runcorn
- Brindley Theatre Enhancement
- Town Centre New Homes
- High Street Connectivity
- Health and Education Hub
- Creative and Digital Skills Centre.

Amion have been commissioned to review each of the projects to identify potential issues and challenges faced by each project in producing a robust, fundable business case. The project-specific issues and recurring themes across the programme have been reported to the Runcorn Town Investment Board. Commissioning of further work is now required to support the business case development of each of the projects.

Asset Management

Completion 28 June 2021 of the disposal 4/5 Dock Road Widnes by way of land lease (omitted from the Q1 report)

Completion 8 September 2021 of disposal of land to Aldi at Green Oaks Way Widnes

Settlement of the overage payment under the lease to Carpenters (formerly LPW Technology Limited) at Venture Fields Widnes

Highways, Transportation & Logistics and Physical Environment

2.7 Structures

Concrete repairs at Hutchinson's Sidings Bridge were completed in early September. This concludes the Council's LGF1 programme of major maintenance works for the Silver Jubilee Bridge complex. A final Project Change Request has been submitted to the Combined Authority to agree programme and financial changes for 2021/22. These matters have already been agreed in principle.

General inspections to the Council's bridges are substantially completed (and will be during Q3). Arrangements are being made for Principal Inspections to be undertaken during Q3 and Q4.

Preparatory arrangements are underway for the next maintenance interventions within the SJB complex and across the Council's bridge stock.

Highway Schemes and Maintenance

Progress on Active Travel and Maintenance schemes update included in appendix 1. Works on Runcorn Station Quarter ongoing.

2.8 Highway Development

Work continues on the teams other statutory roles, including supporting development process from Local Plan to construction, in addition to the supporting scheme funding and development, on behalf of the Council as Highway Authority and Lead Local Flood Authority functions/schemes. This includes a consultation for a second phase of on street Electric Vehicles charging points currently ongoing.

All Highways teams are commissioning/supporting commencement of business case/design work for East Runcorn Connectivity scheme (A558 duelling etc.).

Open Spaces and Waste and Environmental Improvement

2.9 Waste Management

National 'Recycle Week' took place between the 20th and 26th September. This year's theme was "Step It Up" - focusing on messages around Climate Crisis. The Council supported the campaign by providing information and advice in 'The Newsroom' on our website and posting daily messages on the Council's social media platforms. The messages focussed upon the significant reduction in CO2 emissions that can be achieved from recycling and the positive effect upon climate change that can be achieved as a result. Information and advice was also provided in respect of the materials that can and cannot be recycled through the Council's blue bin scheme in order to help increase the quantity of recyclables collected and also to improve the quality of the material collected in order to help reduce 'contamination' levels.

2.10 Open Spaces

RSQ Piazza – The new public realm / open space is on programme and should be substantially completed by January 22.

Town Park – The Holt Lane entrance improvement works are due to commence on site in November. The next phase of path improvements (Palacefields Avenue side) are due to be tendered before the end of the year.

Runcorn Hill – The replacement footbridge over the cove walk is due to be installed this month.

Arley Woodland Park – Phase 1 boundary improvements and signage are currently being installed on site.

Runcorn Cemetery – The Seafarers Memorial garden and Covid Memorial are completed and officially open.

3.0 Emerging Issues

3.1 A number of emerging issues have been identified during the period that will impact upon the work of the Directorate including:-

Regeneration / External Funding

3.2 External Funding Team

The Team is currently supporting the following:

- Seeing an increase in requests for support for capital schemes now that community groups are starting to meet again
- Researching and maintaining a Strategic Funding Matrix of key large-scale funds that HBC may consider bidding for
- Leading on rollout of Activity Plan and Monitoring for Welcome Back Fund (ERDF)
- Continuing the monitoring of the Ways to Work ESF Programme
- Supporting a SIF bid for a Hydrogen project in partnership with Ineos.
- Continuing to support Halton's Borough of Culture Programme, including the evaluation of this and future legacy planning

3.3 Asset Management

Enforcement on Empty Properties (Council tax Liabilities) – working with colleagues in Finance to recover outstanding Council Tax by application to the Courts to take possession and dispose of the property. The properties are vacant and have a legal charge against the owner.

Ending commercial lease by forfeiture for rent arrears – the moratorium preventing landlords to forfeit a commercial lease and bring it to an end for non-payment of rent has been extended by the Government to 25 March 2022.

Government have announced commitment to a binding arbitration process to rent arrears disputes where arising from the Covid pandemic. The process may impact on the approach the Council takes towards recovering rent arrears from its commercial tenants.

3.4 Planning and Policy

The Inspectors response to the Local Plan will contain modifications required to make the Plan capable of being found sound. A formal round of public consultation on these modifications is required.

Planning Application Statistics (Q1 21 – 22):

Total Applications Received: (Includes those Withdrawn and Returned) 160	
Applications Decided 178	Applications On-Hand (Undecided) 188
Pre-Applications Received 33	Pre Applications Closed 38

N.B. There are certain applications (such as tree preservation orders) that are not counted in the statutory CLG speed of processing statistics. This accounts for the difference between the figures reported above and the figures given for PPT LI 04.

The Major applications determined in Q2 2021/22 are shown in Appendix A

4.0 High Priority Equality Actions

- 4.1 Equality issues continue to form a routine element of the Council's business planning and operational decision making processes. Additionally the Council must have evidence to demonstrate compliance with the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) which came into force in April 2011.
- 4.2 The Councils latest annual progress report in relation to the achievement of its equality objectives is published on the Council website and is available via:



<http://www4.halton.gov.uk/Pages/councildemocracy/Equality-and-Diversity.aspx>

5.0 Performance Overview

- 5.1 The following information provides a synopsis of progress for both milestones and performance indicators across the key business areas that fall within the remit of the Board.

Development and Investment Services

Key Objectives / milestones

Ref	Milestones	Q2 Progress
EEP 02a	To prepare the Town Investment Plan Business Case(s) for Runcorn by 31st March 2022	
EEP 02d	To prepare a Halton Lea Investment Plan by September 2021	







Supporting Commentary
EEP 02a

An announcement was made 15th July 2021 and Runcorn will receive up to £23.6million subject to the project business cases being approved. The funding Heads of Terms were accepted by the board on 4th August 2021 and the seven project business cases now need to be submitted by 4th August 2022.

EEP 02b

There has been progress towards developing the investment plan however, an approach to utilise external resources to mirror the Runcorn Town Deal investment plan has been agreed. LCR approval sought to utilise Town Centre Fund underspend for completion by December 2021

Key Performance Indicators

Ref	Measure	20 / 21 Actual	21 / 22 Target	Q2 Actual	Q2 Progress	Direction of travel
EEP LI 03	Commercial and investment portfolio – rent receivable against the budget to monitor receipt of income of rents and service charges.	Investment £39,325 Commercial £319,573	Investment £44,740 Commercial £609,270	Investment £22,150 Commercial £164,706	 27% of the target	
EEP LI 04	Occupancy rates of commercial and investment portfolio.	100 % Investment 90% commercial	100 % Investment 90% commercial	100 % Investment 90% commercial		
EEP LI 05	Occupancy of Widnes Market Hall.	93%	94%	97%		

Supporting Commentary**EEP L1 03**

The income received has been affected by request from a number of occupiers for further rent holidays and non-payment of rent due to Covid situation. Asset management are working with colleagues in income recovery. The tenant of no 5 Granville Street has vacated and the unit is on the market. Other vacant units are, 6 Church Street Runcorn to be used for HPIJ and the former Frankie and Bennies unit at the Hive. It is unlikely that the units will be re-let until Q3. It is uncertain whether the income target will be achieved by Q4


EEP L1 04



There are 8 vacant properties which will be on the market or unable to market until refurbishment works e.g. 71 High St Runcorn or clarifying planning status e.g. the former bus depot Moor Lane Widnes have been completed.

EEP L1 05

The Market management team continue to proactively engage with potential traders as a result the current rate has gone up to 97% with only 5 stalls vacant.

Policy, Planning and Transportation**Key Objectives / milestones**

Ref	Milestones	Q2 Progress
PPT 01	To deliver the 2019/30 LTP Capital Programme March 2022	

PPT 02	Ensure continued unrestricted availability of the Highway network and to allow future maintenance to be delivered on a steady state, lifecycle planned basis.	
PPT 03	Continue to maintain the Highway Authorities statutory duties in accordance with Section 41 and 58 of the Highways Act.	

Supporting Commentary

PPT 01

Sud North South Widnes route funded through LCRC is designed and work to be programmed to facilitate improved walking and cycling along a route including for Appleton Village/Fredrick Street junction and Birchfield road roundabout area. Works are due to commence for Active Travel schemes at Runcorn Busway to improve cycling links between Halton Hospital and Murdishaw Centre. Design work underway for cycle way routes from Murdishaw Centre to Castlefields and White House industrial estate. Works to take the current LCWIP design to construction have begun for the route from Runcorn Old town to Daresbury Sci Tech.

PPT 02

Surface dressing of carriageways completed during Summer 2021 with contractor RMS

- Derby Road, Warrington Road, Queensbury Way, and Moughland Lane, however due to weather extremes Clifton Lane, Rocksavage Way and Beechwood Avenue. Southern Expressway will be completed in Spring 2022











Carriageway Resurfacing design works in progress for Bridge Street, Norman Road, Runcorn Road, Prescot Road, Ditchfield Road, Leigh Avenue, Warrington Road



Footway Reconstruction Programme in design Elm Grove, Cherry Sutton, Ditchfield Road with carriageway resurfacing works programmed for February 2022

PPT 03

Ongoing highway safety inspection continuing to maintain a safe and serviceable highway.

Key Performance Indicators

Ref	Measure	20 / 21 Actual	21 / 22 Target	Q2 Actual	Q2 Progress	Direction of travel
PPT LI 02	Net additional homes provided	97	552	N/A	N/A	N/A
PPT LI 03	Number of affordable homes delivered (gross)	25	N/A	Monitored Annually	N/A	N/A
PPT LI 04	Processing of planning applications (%) as measured against targets for,					
	a) 'major' applications	100%	100%	100%		
	b) 'minor' applications	100%	96%	80%		
	c) 'other' applications	94.7%	98%	95.6%		
PPT LI 05	No. of people killed or seriously injured (KSI) in road traffic collisions. (5 Year Av.)	28.8	N/A	26.2		
PPT LI 06	No. of children (<16) killed or seriously injured (KSI) in road traffic collisions. (5 year Av.)	4.2	N/A	4		

Ref	Measure	20 / 21 Actual	21 / 22 Target	Q2 Actual	Q2 Progress	Direction of travel
PPT LI 07	No. of people slightly injured in road traffic collisions. (5 Year Av.)	219	N/A	212		
PPT LI 08	Damage to roads and pavements (% above intervention levels) repaired within 24 hours.	100%	100%	TBC	TBC	TBC
PPT LI 09	% of network where structural maintenance should be considered: a) Principal Roads b) Non-Principal Roads c) Unclassified Roads	TBC TBC TBC	TBC TBC TBC	TBC TBC TBC	TBC TBC TBC	TBC TBC TBC
PPT LI 10	The proportion of non-frequent scheduled bus services on time (%): a) Percentage of buses starting route on time b) Percentage of buses on time at intermediate timing points	Data unavailable	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC
PPT LI 11	% of bus stops with Quality Corridor accessibility features. (No. of stops – 603)	79%	80%	TBC	TBC	TBC

Supporting Commentary

PPT L1 02/ PPT L1 03

Completions are monitored annually as at 31st March and reported in the first Quarter of each year.

PPT L1 04

The results for this Quarter are better than the same Quarter in the previous year.

The results for the last 6 months show Majors as 100%, Minors 90% and Others 95.8% which is improved compared to the same period last year and indicates that it is likely that targets for the year will be met or will at least be an improvement on the previous 12 months.

PPT L1 05

KSIs across all ages continue to fall

*Q1 figures, Q2 data not available from Cheshire Police

PPT L1 06

Welcome fall in Child KSIs

*Q1 figures, Q2 data not available from Cheshire Police

PPT L1 07

*Q1 figures, Q2 data not available from Cheshire Police

PPT L1 08 – PPT L1 11



Figures reported annually as at 31st March and reported in the first Quarter of each year.

Appendix A: Major Planning Applications Determined

REFVAL	PROPOSAL	ADDRESS	DECSN	DATEDECISS
20/00479/FUL	Proposed extension to existing warehouse, small two storey office extension for warehouse and canopy extension above loading doors at	Brenntag UK Limited Pickerings Road Widnes Cheshire WA8 8XW	PER	29/09/2021
21/00001/FUL	Proposed erection of three storey 20 bed specialist unit and 2 no. two storey 4 bed step down houses with associated parking and site improvements at	Former Greenoaks Farm Industrial Estate Warrington Road Widnes Cheshire WA8 0SY	PER	17/09/2021
21/00278/FUL	Proposed demolition of existing store and replacement by new food store with associated car parking, access, external plant and landscaping at	Aldi Foodstore Ltd Green Oaks Way Widnes Cheshire WA8 6UF	PER	03/09/2021
21/00356/FUL	Proposed industrial development comprising two warehouse buildings with B2 and B8 Use Classes and ancillary E(g)(i) Office space, including service yards, car parking, landscaping and associated access infrastructure at	Shell Green Bennetts Lane Widnes Cheshire WA8 0GW	PER	24/09/2021

Waste and Environmental Improvement

Key Objectives / milestones

Ref	Milestones	Q2 Progress
CE 03a	Manage greenspace areas as per the agreed specification - March 2022.	
CE 04a	Continue to deliver communications and awareness raising initiatives to ensure that participation with the Council's recycling services is maximised and that residents comply with the requirements of the Council's Household Waste Collection Policy - March 2022.	

Supporting Commentary**CE 03a**





Despite on-going challenges the Open Space Service was able to deliver all works within the Council's agreed specification for green space management.

CE 04a

Covid 19 Restrictions have impacted upon the ability to deliver the full range of communications and awareness raising activity, such as householder engagement, school visits and roadshows. However, messages and advice about waste and recycling have been regularly posted on the Council's social media sites.

As per the Key Developments section of this report, a campaign to help increase recycling was carried out during National Recycling Week in September.

Key Performance Indicators

Ref	Measure	20 / 21 Actual	21 / 22 Target	Q2 Actual	Q2 Progress	Direction of travel
CE LI 05	Residual household waste per household.	625KG	625KG	340KG		
CE LI 06	Proportion of household waste recycled and composted.	39.3%	40%	43%		

Supporting Commentary**CE L1 05**

This is an estimated figure which shows that household waste levels are slightly higher than in Q3 in the previous year. As previously reported, residual waste production has been higher than normal during the pandemic and it is unclear what impact this will have on the achievement of this annual target. (Note - This is a cumulative figure)

CE L1 06

This is an estimated figure and is subject to seasonal variation. It is unclear what impact the COVID 19 situation will continue to have on waste production for the remainder of the year and it is difficult to predict annual recycling performance at this stage and whether this target will be met.




7.0 Financial Statements

*Not available at this time





8.0 Application of Symbols

Symbols are used in the following manner:

Progress Symbols

<u>Symbol</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

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.

REPORT TO:	Environment & Urban Renewal PPB
DATE:	17 November 2021
REPORTING OFFICER:	Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources
PORTFOLIO:	Environment & Urban Renewal
SUBJECT:	Presentation on the Mersey Tidal Project
WARD(S)	Borough wide

1.0 **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 To receive a presentation from the Martin Land of the Combined Authority on the Mersey Tidal Project

2.0 **RECOMMENDATION: That the Board note the presentation.**

3.0 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 Members will receive an update on the Mersey Tidal Project.

3.2 The presentation will highlight the programme, the next stages for the project, and any planned communications.

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 There are no further policy implications.

5.0 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 There are no financial implications.

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

6.1 The Mersey Tidal Project complements the environmental aspects of the Council's priorities. The project is expected to provide the Liverpool City Region with a clean source of energy generation.

7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 There are no risks identified

8.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 There are no equality and diversity issues directly related to the

presentation.

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

None under the meaning of the Act		
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REPORT TO: Environment and Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 17 November 2021

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources

SUBJECT: Household Waste Recycling Centres - Vehicle Access Policy

WARD(S): Borough-wide

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to provide Members with information in respect of Halton's Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) and to ask Members to endorse proposed changes to the current HWRC Vehicle Access Policy and associated Vehicle Permit Scheme.

2. RECOMMENDED: That

1. Members endorse the proposals set out within the report; and

2. A report be presented to the Executive Board recommending that:

- i. the HWRC booking system, as currently operating and as detailed within the report, be formally adopted as a replacement for the Vehicle Permit Scheme;**
- ii. the number of visits that can be made to the Council's HWRCs in a commercial type vehicle, van or a large trailer be limited to one per week; and**
- iii. the Council's Household Waste Recycling Centre Access Policy be amended accordingly to reflect the proposals set out in paragraphs 2.2.1 and 2.2.2 above.**

3. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1** In accordance with the requirements of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, the Council has a statutory duty to provide places where residents in its area may deposit their own household waste free of charge. In meeting this duty, the Council provides two Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs); one at Johnson's Lane in Widnes and one Picow Farm Road in Runcorn.
- 3.2** The Council's sites are provided for household waste only and waste generated through commercial operations or 'paid for' services (trade

waste) is not permitted. If trade waste is deposited at the Council's HWRCs it would result in the Council incurring additional costs that should be borne by those charging for the removal and disposal of such waste.

3.3 In September 2010, the Council's Executive Board approved a Household Waste Recycling Centre Access Policy and the implementation of a Vehicle Permit Scheme (Minute EXB48/2010 refers). The Policy and Vehicle Permit Scheme were introduced to help deter and prevent the depositing of 'trade waste' at the HWRCs by placing controls on access to sites in commercial type vehicles or with large trailers (those between 2 and 3 metres).

3.4 Under the Vehicle Permit Scheme, Halton residents who wish to access the sites using commercial type vehicles or with large trailers are required obtain a permit to do so. The scheme provided for two types of Permits as detailed below;

3.4.1 **Annual Permits** - available to residents of the borough who **own** a 'commercial-type' vehicle or large trailer and who wish to deposit rubbish, recyclables or smaller segregated household waste items. These permits are valid for one calendar year and allow unlimited visits.

3.4.2 **Temporary Permits** - available to residents of the borough who **own or are hiring or borrowing** a 'commercial-type' vehicle or large trailer and who wish to deposit materials other than those described in paragraph 3.4.1, such as bulky waste (furniture etc.), rubble and hardcore, scrap metal (white goods etc.), televisions and large electrical items, wood (fences etc).

When originally adopted in 2010, the Council's Policy entitled householders to 12 Temporary Permits in a 12 month period, however, in April 2018, the Executive Board approved that the Vehicle Permit Scheme be amended and the number of Temporary Permits that each household would be eligible to receive be reduced from 12 per year to 6 per year (Minute EXB141/2018 refers).

3.5 On 24th March 2020, following the Government's instructions in respect of non-essential journeys, and given that visits to HWRCs were not one of the four reasons for people being able to leaving their home at that time, the Council's two HWRCs were closed. When the sites re-opened on 4th May 2020, they were operated in accordance with strict guidelines and control measures that were put in place to ensure compliance with social distancing rules and the safety of staff and site users.

3.6 The HWRC control measures included a restriction on the number of vehicles allowed on site at any one time. Access to the centres was also limited to cars only with commercial type vehicles, vans and large

trailers being initially excluded from visiting the sites. The reason for this decision was due to the expected high demand and excessive queuing (which proved to be the case) and, given that vans can hold more waste and take longer to unload than cars, allowing vans access would have extended the already predicted lengthy queue times.

- 3.7 The Council began allowing visits to its HWRCs in commercial type vehicles or with large trailers from Monday 13th July 2020. The Vehicle Permit Scheme has been suspended since that date, and instead, a HWRC booking system was developed and has been in place to control visits to the sites in certain vehicle types. Initially, a limit was placed on the number of bookings that could be made at each centre per day, however, the daily threshold on visits was never reached at each centre and it is therefore the intention that, moving forward, the limitation on daily bookings be removed.
- 3.8 Bookings to visit a HWRC can be made over the telephone by calling the Council's Contact Centre and can also be requested by completing an online request form via the Council's website. When requesting a booking, householders must state which HWRC they wish to visit, the date that they intend to do so, and the materials that they will be depositing. Once the request has been verified by a Customer Services Advisor, the booking is made and confirmation is provided to the householder. Site attendants are notified of bookings by way of a report that is automatically generated and sent via email at 4pm each day. The report details the registration number of the vehicles that are booked in for the following day, and the waste types to be deposited by each.
- 3.9 The HWRC booking system was developed in-house. It has worked well and it has been the subject of little complaint. Indeed, Officers have received comments from some van owners that it is more convenient than the previous paper-based permit scheme. Whilst the paper-based permit scheme worked well, the HWRC booking system is considered to provide increased controls and prevention of abuse as it enables Officers to monitor visits and identify when either a vehicle or a household has used up their 6 'bulky household/DIY waste' visits. If they then attempt to make more than 6 in a 12 month period they are refused entry.
- 3.10 The system also allows Officers to monitor the permitted weekly visits for general waste and recyclables. As the daily van booking report produced for site attendants shows the type of waste that an individual should be bringing to the site, if the waste to be deposited is different than the householder had stated when making their booking, (ie they attempt to deposit 'bulky waste' after stating that they were taking 'general waste') they will be challenged by site attendants and the details reported to the Council's Enforcement Officers.
- 3.11 Whilst the HWRC booking system was originally introduced to control the number of vans accessing the HWRCs, and due to the suspension

of the Vehicle Permit Scheme, over time, as more vehicles have been permitted onto our HWRCs, and queuing/waiting times have reduced, the booking system is no longer required to control the flow of vans for that purpose. However, it is being recommended that the system be continued. It is accepted that householders are required to make a booking on each occasion that they wish to visit one of the Council's sites, and no 'same day' bookings can be accepted, however, overall, Officers consider that it has proven to be more effective and efficient than the original paper-based Permit Scheme. Further, residents do not need to travel to the Council's One Stop Shops to apply for permits and the requirement to print paper based permits is also eliminated; with the associated costs of doing so being avoided.

- 3.12 In addition to moving away from the Vehicle Permit Scheme and the implementation of the HWRC booking system, one other element of the Household Waste Recycling Centre Access Policy has also not been applied since the sites re-opened. Under the Council's current Policy (as stated in para 3.4.1 above) residents can make unlimited visits in a van or with a large trailer to deposit general waste and recyclable materials, however, since May 2020 visits have been restricted to a maximum of one per week. It is considered that one visit per week to deposit general waste and recyclable materials is sufficient to meet a householder's requirements.
- 3.13 Members of the Board are asked to consider and endorse that the HWRC booking system, as currently operating and as detailed within the report, be formally adopted as a replacement for the Vehicle Permit Scheme, and that, the number visits that a householder can make to a Halton HWRC in a commercial type vehicle or with a large trailer be limited to one per week.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Whilst savings are undeterminable, it is envisaged that the HWRC booking system and changes to the HWRC Access Policy will result in reduced costs being incurred by the Council, as a result of the increased controls with regards to the disposal of 'trade waste' at HWRCs and also from savings realised by moving away from a paper-based vehicle permit scheme.

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The proposals contained within this report would constitute changes to existing Policy.

7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

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

8. IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

8.1 Children and Young People in Halton

No direct impact

8.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

No direct impact

8.3 A Healthy Halton

No direct impact

8.4 A Safer Halton

No direct impact

8.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

No direct impact

9.0 RISK ANALYSIS

9.1 The key risk is that failure to have in place adequate controls to restrict trade waste from entering HWRCs will leave the authority vulnerable to significant additional disposal costs.

10.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

10.1 There are no equality and diversity issues as a result of this report.

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

11.1 Executive Board Report - Household Waste Recycling Centres Vehicle Permit Scheme and Access Policy - 23rd September 2010

11.2 Executive Board Report - Household Waste Recycling Centres - 19th April 2018

REPORT TO:	Environment & Urban Renewal PPB
DATE:	17 November 2021
REPORTING OFFICER:	Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources
PORTFOLIO:	Environment & Urban Renewal
SUBJECT:	Presentation Runcorn Town Deal
WARD(S)	Mersey & Weston

1.0 **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 To receive a presentation from the Operational Director Economy, Enterprise and Property on the Runcorn Town Deal.

2.0 **RECOMMENDATION: That the board notes the presentation and proposed next steps.**

3.0 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 3.1 Members will receive an update on the Town Deal Award
- 3.2 It is anticipated that the Operational Director will summarise the proposed projects contained within the Runcorn Town Investment Plan. The presentation will also highlight the programme timeline to include the next stages required to develop business cases for each project as well as emerging work on programme management and communications

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 There are no further policy implications.

5.0 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 There are no financial implications.

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

- 6.1 The work being undertaken to deliver the Runcorn Town Deal complements a wide range of the Council's priorities, for example an improved and quality urban environment, increased jobs and skills for local people, as well as enhanced leisure and cultural facilities. The Town Deal board and proposed projects involve a number of key strategic partners that are working collaboratively to support the

borough's economic regeneration and growth agenda.

7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 There are no risks identified

8.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 There are no equality and diversity issues directly related to the presentation.

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

None under the meaning of the Act		
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REPORT TO:	Environment and Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board
DATE:	17 November 2021
REPORTING OFFICER:	Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources
PORTFOLIO:	Environment & Urban Renewal
SUBJECT:	Alternative Fuel Infrastructure - Update
WARDS:	Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 Following an earlier report to Board in June 2021, this report provides an update on two projects relating to electric vehicles and the installation of electric vehicle charging points.
- 1.2 Project 1 - Residential Electric Vehicle Charging Points
- 1.3 An extensive consultation has been undertaken with a number of communities regarding the installing of on-street electric vehicle charging points in their area. Endorsement is sought for a bid to OZEV to provide up to six Electric Charging Points the locations set out in paragraphs 3.3 – 3.8 of this report.
- 1.4 Project 2 - Electric Taxi Support Project
- 1.5 The Board is asked to note progress on the Taxi Support Project.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the Board supports the initiatives outlined in this report.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 In October 2019 Halton Borough Council approved a notice of motion, declaring a “Climate Emergency” in wider support of the LCRCA “Climate Emergency” declaration of May 2019. This Council agreed to support a number of actions to reduce Halton’s carbon emissions, one of which was; *“To help promote support from our communities for environmental change that will help reduce or eliminate carbon emissions and help raise public awareness”*.
- 3.2 In Autumn 2019 The Office of Zero Emission Vehicles (OZEV) invited applications for the Residential “On-Street” Charging Point fund. The focus of this particular fund was to reduce the barriers to electric vehicle ownership due to the lack of personal parking spaces. The Council was successful in its bid, and a number of areas where car ownership was

high, access to driveways was low have had on-street charging points delivered (phase one). A second phase of roll-out is now proposed.

Project 1 - Residential Electric Vehicle Charging Points,

- 3.3 Following the June PPB update, an extensive consultation has been undertaken with a number of communities on installing on-street electric vehicle charging points in their area.
- 3.4 The Office of Zero Emissions (OZEV) funding criteria states that locations with little or no off road parking, or Local Authority owned car parking (where overnight parking for residents is not restricted) should be targeted for deployment.
- 3.5 It is proposed to make a further bid to OZEV to provide a further six electric charging points in each of the following locations highlighted below:
 - Mersey Road, Runcorn
 - Brindley Street Car Park, Runcorn*
 - Catalyst Museum Car Park, Widnes*
 - Sharp Street, Widnes
 - Crow Wood Place Car Park, Widnes
 - Bechers Hough Green, Widnes
 - Wharford Lane, Sandymoor

*Further site investigations required. Alternative nearby locations may be considered.

- 3.6 If the bid is successful, 7kw chargers will be installed (typical for overnight charging) and where the location is a car park we are exploring the option of putting in a combination of 7kw and 22kw electric charge points (e.g.; five x 7kw and 1 x 22kw).
- 3.7 It is envisaged delivery of the charge points will be in partnership with Connected Kerb (who successfully delivered phase one), subject to procurement process via KCS framework, and delivery could start in early March 2022.
- 3.8 Members will be aware that the phase one was delivered during 2020. Users of the charge points do report that it is sometimes difficult to use the points due to other (non electric) vehicles parking in these locations. With this in mind, at the time of installation it is proposed that a limited number of the bays (1-2 at each location) are marked for EV use only, and this will be followed up by a supporting Traffic Order to allow enforcement. The number of bays marked can be increased in the future, as EV use increases. It is proposed to take a similar approach on future phases of implementation.
- 3.9 Project 2; - Electric Taxi Project,

- 3.10 An EV Taxi awareness day at Halton Stadium during September. Over a dozen vehicles were on display for the drivers to view and test-drive. Approximately 70 drivers attended the event and feedback showed that most found it very useful and informative.
- 3.11 A considerable number of drivers took the opportunity to test drive both car and van (disability accessible) options and it is understood that a number of enquiries have been made with a view to leasing or purchasing an Ultra Low Emission Vehicle (ULEV).
- 3.12 The intention is to develop an incentive scheme to encourage taxi drivers to convert to electric vehicles, subject to funding being identified.
- 3.13 The type of scheme under consideration will be presented to the Board at the meeting, to seek members' views.
- 3.14 The project will also delivery of two 50kw rapid chargers (Runcorn Station Quarter and Widnes (location to be determined) to allow taxis to re-charge quickly.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Electric vehicles and associated charging infrastructure has seen an increased profile due to the climate change agenda, improving air quality, zero carbon emissions, and better health and wellbeing.
- 4.2 Halton is adding to its existing electric charging Ppint network. Funding is available to install new infrastructure and to reduce inequality to access. The criteria currently used in prioritising areas for charging points including:
- Property Type (Flat, Apartment, Terrace, Mews)
 - Vehicle Ownership levels
 - Proximity to Electrical connections and sub stations

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no other implications arising from the subject of this report.

6.0 RISK ANALYSIS

- 6.1 Financial risks arise from the need to meet conditions attached to any funding and the timescale for scheme delivery.

7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

- 7.1 The first of these two projects seeks to reduce the barrier to owning and charging an electric vehicle, either for personal or business use. The projects will provide sufficient infrastructure in areas of the Borough where private, off road parking is not available and is a barrier to Electric Vehicle ownership. There are no equality or diversity issues identified,

appertaining to the second project that is to promote electric powered taxis in the Borough.

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

None under the meaning of the Act.