

Public Document Pack



Safer Policy and Performance Board

Tuesday, 20 June 2023 at 6.30 p.m.
Boardroom - Municipal Building, Widnes

S. Young

Chief Executive

BOARD MEMBERSHIP

Councillor Norman Plumpton Walsh (Chair)	Labour
Councillor Chris Carlin (Vice-Chair)	Labour
Councillor Sandra Baker	Labour
Councillor Laura Bevan	Labour
Councillor Irene Bramwell	Labour
Councillor Dave Cargill	Labour
Councillor Louise Goodall	Labour
Councillor Alan Lowe	Labour
Councillor Margaret Ratcliffe	Liberal Democrats
Councillor Aimee Skinner	Labour
Councillor Pamela Wallace	Labour

Please contact Kim Butler on 0151 511 7496 or e-mail kim.butler@halton.gov.uk for further information.

The next meeting of the Board is on Tuesday, 12 September 2023

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

Part I

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1. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS	
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3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST (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.

SAFER POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD

At a meeting of the Safer Policy and Performance Board on Tuesday, 7 February 2023 at the Council Chamber - Town Hall, Runcorn

Present: Councillors N. Plumpton Walsh (Chair), Baker, Begg, Bevan, Carlin, Loftus, A. McInerney, Ratcliffe and Wall

Apologies for Absence: Councillor V. Hill and Bramwell

Absence declared on Council business: None.

Officers present: S. Ashcroft, K. Butler, N. Goodwin and P. Wright.

Also in attendance: Councillor Martha Lloyd-Jones

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

SAF15 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Action

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and provided some feedback from the Cheshire Police and Crime Panel meeting which he attended along with Councillor Martha Lloyd-Jones on 3 February 2023.

The Panel received a report regarding the Police and Crime Commissioner's proposed Precept (the Commissioner's element of Council Tax) for 2023/24. A letter was sent back to the Commissioner to request consideration to lowering the threshold for Halton residents.

SAF16 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 8 November 2022 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

Paul Wright

An update was provided an update on "Operation Treacle" which was Cheshire Police's Halloween and Bonfire initiative. The Police recorded a 1% increase in incidents between 30 October 2022 – 6 November 2022. One of the key issues was off road bikes and of those reported, 55% of incidents occurred in Halton. Further information would be shared in due course.

At the last meeting it was requested that future Board meetings would be held at alternative venues in Runcorn

and Widnes and it was confirmed that the next meeting would be held in Widnes.

SAF17 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

It was reported that no questions had been received.

SAF18 ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR STRATEGY

Due to apologies received from Cheshire Constabulary, this item was deferred to a future meeting.

SAF19 REFRESHED POLICE AND CRIME PLAN FOR CHESHIRE

The Board received a report on the refreshed Police and Crime Plan for Cheshire 2021-2024 which was launched on 20 January 2023. It was noted that although no one from Cheshire Constabulary was able to attend the meeting they had expressed an interest in attending a future meeting.

The Police and Crime Commissioner committed to engage and listen to residents and refresh the Police and Crime Plan to ensure it reflected the priorities of Cheshire's communities. The six priorities for policing and crime in Cheshire remained the same in the refreshed plan and were outlined:

- Prevent and tackle crime;
- Make Cheshire's roads safer;
- Deliver justice for victims of crime;
- Protect vulnerable and at risk people;
- Improve public confidence in policing; and
- Modernise our Police Service.

The Community Safety Team continued to work in partnership with the Police and Crime Commissioner's Office on the delivery of work in Halton.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

SAF20 COMMUNITY SAFETY AND PROTECTION DIVISION

The Board received a report from the Operational Director, Community and Green Spaces which provided an update on progress of the new Community Safety and Protection Division. It was noted that Nicola Goodwin had been appointed as the Divisional Manager and the priority was to articulate the Division's service needs and framework for delivery.

The report highlighted some updates on the Community Safety and Protection Division which included:

- Domestic Abuse Service – this service had transferred to the Council as of 11 January 2023;
- Emergency Planning – PROTECT duty to be implemented in Spring 2023. This was otherwise known as “Martyn’s Law” and was in response to the Manchester Arena incident;
- Anti-Social Behaviour – ongoing partnership work with local policing units to raise awareness of the Anti-Social Behaviour Victim and Witness Support Service, the Multi Agency Meeting and the Tasking and Co-ordination Meeting and the Anti-Social Behaviour Pathway; and
- Enforcement – this was a new service in the Division and during last quarter (October-December), there had been 79 incidents of waste related offences and environmental crime which included fly-tipping and dog fouling.

Members raised concerns about enforcement and Halton’s lack of zero tolerance against issues such as dog fouling, anti-social behaviour, parking etc and provided examples of such problems in areas across the Borough. It was the view of the Members that perpetrators should be issued with fines instead of warning letters.

Examples were given of joint working initiatives between the Council and the Police and how they had worked well. Comments were taken on board and consideration would be given to more joint working opportunities.

With regards to parking issues, Members commented that PCSO’s needed to be vigilant, in particular to “hot spots” and busy built up areas. It was also suggested that delivery companies e.g. Amazon, supermarkets, pharmacies and take-aways should issued with letters, to remind them not to park on grass verges.

As the new division evolved, the Board would continue to receive further update reports in due course.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

SAF21 DOMESTIC ABUSE AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE

The Board considered a report regarding the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Service and the activities being supported across the Borough. The report was presented by the Domestic Abuse Manager.

In January 2023, the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Service transferred to the Council and the three elements to the service were:

- Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVA's). The main purpose of this service was to address the safety of victims at high risk of harm from intimate partners, ex-partners or family members to secure their safety and the safety of their children.
- Domestic Abuse Accommodation Service. In January 2023, this service was awarded to SHAP, a Charity that had provided housing and supported young and vulnerable people across Merseyside for over 40 years. The purpose was to reduce the impact of domestic abuse on individuals, families and the community and to enable people of all ages affected by domestic abuse to be safer to cope and to recover.
- Listening Ear Domestic Abuse Services for Children, Young People and Families. This service responded to children and young people who had been impacted by domestic abuse and would contribute to a co-ordinated approach. It provided a "DiAmond", a therapeutic service for children, young people and families where domestic abuse had been an issue within 12 months of a referral. This was an enhanced service offer in Halton which included therapeutic interventions and counselling for children and young people affected. Eligibility was for children and young people who resided in Halton and for those aged up to 25 years if they had additional needs. The referral pathway came via MARAC, Integrated Contact and Referral Team screening and domestic abuse supported accommodation requests.

Arising from discussions, it was noted that:

- A Partnership event had been arranged to take place on 5 April 2023 to review the Halton Domestic Abuse Partnership Strategy and formalise its action plan. Members were invited to attend and further details would be circulated in due course.

- There needed to be a better understanding of how technology could help victims of abuse.
- Members raised concerns that there needed to be more support in place to help parents who were victims of abuse from their child.
- There had been a marked deterioration of behaviour and discipline in schools since the Pandemic. The Chair said he would be interested to see a research paper on this issue.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

Meeting ended at 7.45 p.m.

REPORT TO: Safer Policy & Performance Board

DATE: 20 June 2023

REPORTING OFFICER: Executive Director, Environment & Regeneration

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:	Safer Policy and Performance Board
DATE:	20 June 2023
REPORTING OFFICER:	Executive Director – Environment & Regeneration
PORTFOLIO:	Community Safety
SUBJECT:	Annual Report April 2022 – May 2023
WARD(S)	Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To receive the Annual Report of the Safer Policy and Performance Board and to note the many contributions made to the ongoing work of the Board.

2.0 RECOMMENDED: That the report be approved.

3.0 POLICY AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 There are no direct implications for this priority.

4.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

- 4.1 **Children and Young People in Halton**
- 4.2 **Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton**
- 4.3 **A Healthy Halton**
- 4.4 **A Safer Halton**
- 4.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

There are no direct implications for these priorities.

5.0 RISK ANALYSIS

- 5.1 There are no direct implications for this priority.

6.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

- 6.1 There are no direct implications for this priority.

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

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

ANNUAL REPORT**SAFER HALTON POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD****APRIL 2022 – MAY 2023**

<p>Councillor Norman Plumpton-Walsh</p>	<p>Creating a ‘Safer Halton’ remains a key priority for the Council and its partners and empowers confidence in our residents and visitors that they are supported and protected from harm.</p> <p>The Safer Halton Policy and Performance Board is focussed on meeting the needs of our communities to help keep them safe and it seeks to explore and anticipate emerging issues, working closely with Partners.</p> <p>I and the other Elected Members are satisfied that we have considered, responded to, and reported on the main issues affecting Halton but also looked at any potential new areas that may not have previously been scrutinised.</p> <p>I thank my colleagues who sit on the Board for their contributions to the work of the PPB and to those officers and guests who presented to the Board. We have been extremely fortunate to have excellent support and reporting from our officers.</p> <p>Finally, I want to make clear that Halton is a relatively safe place to live, visit and work due to the combined efforts of the Council and its many partners and that commitment will be just as robust in the year ahead.</p> <p>Councillor Norman Plumpton-Walsh Chairman, Safer Halton Policy and Performance Board</p>
<p>MEMBERSHIP AND RESPONSIBILITIES</p> <p>During the municipal year 2022-2023 the Board comprised of 11 elected members: Cllr Norman Plumpton-Walsh (Chair) Cllr Valerie Hill (Vice-Chair) Cllr Sandra Baker Cllr Victoria Begg Cllr Laura Bevan Cllr Irene Bramwell Cllr Chris Carlin Cllr Kath Loftus Cllr Angela McInerney Cllr Margaret Ratcliffe Cllr Andrea Wall</p>	

The Safer Halton Policy and Performance Board is responsible for scrutinising performance and formulating policy in relation to Community Safety, Channel and Prevent activities, Domestic Abuse, Safeguarding Adults, Environmental Health, issues related to Asylum Seekers and Refugees, Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking, and the Safer Halton Partnership. The Board is also represented on the Safer Halton Partnership and Cheshire Police & Crime Panel.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

The full Board met three times during the year, with the September 2022 meeting being cancelled.

The Board's work programme during 2022-2023 covered the scrutiny of relevant Executive Board decisions relevant to the Boards business, scrutinising the performance of the Safer Halton Partnership and relevant partners under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, together with monitoring performance against these service plans. Covers the following:

OVERVIEW & SAFER HALTON PARTNERSHIP

The Board received an update report on the Community Safety & Protection division's implementation in February 2023 setting out progress to date and advising on some of the Division's hi-lights. This report provides an overview from across the period 1st April 2022 to 31st May 2023 however, with a caveat of it has been a period of significant change both in terms of functions and personnel.

The division has brought together a range of service areas to join community safety services. As a whole it provides support and services to residents when they most need it; from being at risk of harm, having experienced trauma, or are vulnerable. The division also strives to tackle negative behaviour, shift outcomes and generate safer neighbourhoods and communities.

The division operates in a multi-agency environment working intensely with internal and external stakeholders such as social care, police, and integrated offender management, youth justice partners, housing providers, third sector partners, commissioned services, government agencies and funding bodies. At the centre of this work is the Safer Halton Partnership, a statutory partnership to fulfil obligations of a community safety partnership with each local authority area must have. The partnership is getting back on track in a post-Covid environment and has identified key pieces of work to reflect on delivery and refresh and renew the strategy moving forward. Strategic needs assessments are being sourced to inform strategy development, delivery/action plan and outcomes framework which will articulate the Boroughs needs and position Halton to optimise on future work programmes and funding opportunities.

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR & WITNESS SUPPORT

During the course of the year, the service has continued to work with partners in raising awareness of the anti-social behaviour pathway and received referrals to deliver support to clients. The level of support is tailored to need and ranges from light touch to intense and involves supporting action against perpetrators supporting the best victim journey/experience by:-

1. Providing victims and witnesses up to date information
2. Helping victims and witnesses to express the effect of the crime on them
3. Offer practical and emotional support tailored to their needs

This work involves supporting the development of victim impact statements and evidential statements often required in progressing community protection notices, injunctions, evictions and premises closures.

The service also responds to Community Trigger, now referred to as anti-social behaviour case review which provides a mechanism for residents to request a multi-agency case review of anti-social behaviour experienced.

The service has led or supported on multi-agency approaches and responses to anti-social behaviour in the Borough including vacant and derelict buildings and hot spot areas. Key areas of focus have been:-

- Runcorn Buses and Busway
- Trident Retail Park
- Castleview House
- Trinity House
- Clear, Hold, Build in Murdishaw
- West Bank

Measures have included co-ordination and deployment of CCTV provision, co-ordinating multi-agency meetings on approaches to derelict/void building and arson.

The service has a role in Community Behaviour Orders and Injunction consultation meetings, facilitating and advising on the process with partners, Charing meetings and supporting case conferences. A review and refresh has further developed guidance which will be a continued piece of work.

The lead officer Chair's the Police Accountability Meetings and has provided a critical friend role to the development of Cheshire Constabulary's Race Action Plan.

ASYLUM & REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT

This has been a developing area of work for the Council in recent years with support to resettlement programmes and a presence of asylum seekers in the Borough.

There is a multi-agency partnership which brings together key players across all sectors whom provide services or support to those that are entitled to access services with the third sector being pivotal to those that have no recourse to public funds.

Establishing a function to deliver on this area of work is new to the Division and a dedicated post has been introduced and is currently out to recruitment.

DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICE

The board received a comprehensive update on the service in February 2023 advising the Independent Domestic Abuse Advocates service had transferred into the Council from being an externally commissioned service. The team consists of five members of staff whom are now employed directly as local authority employees.

The main purpose of Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVA) is to address the safety of victims at high risk of harm from intimate partners, ex-partners or family members to secure their safety and the safety of their children.

Serving as a victim's primary point of contact, IDVAs normally work with their clients from the point of crisis to assess the level of risk, discuss the range of suitable options and develop safety plans. They are pro-active in implementing the plans, which address immediate safety, including practical steps to protect themselves and their children, as well as longer-term solutions. These plans will include actions from the Multi-agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) as well as sanctions and remedies available through the criminal and civil courts, housing options and services available through other organisations.

Halton is the second highest in England for domestic abuse incidents per capita. The demand on the service is extremely high and exceeds current capacity. The service will be re-structured to increase provision which will be sourced through external funding means.

The other elements of the Domestic Abuse service is the accommodation offer and counselling support. The Council works with SHAP to provide the accommodation offer and Listening Ear for the therapeutic services for children and families impacted by Domestic Abuse.

A Halton Domestic Abuse conference took place on 5th April 2023, led and facilitated by Safer Lives and attended by over 90 delegates. The morning session provided a range of informative presentations setting out the context of domestic abuse in Halton and objectives and delivery from varying perspectives, older people and children's services, accommodation, Police and Police and Crime Commissioner. The afternoon session provided workshops to develop Halton's multi-agency delivery plan for the Domestic Abuse Strategy. A follow up session will be organised in the autumn.

EMERGENCY PLANNING

The Board considered a report of the Operational Director – Policy, Planning & Transport, in July 2022 which provided a briefing on the statutory obligations fulfilled by the Emergency Planning team. Members received a presentation which detailed the following legislation:-

Civil Contingencies Act 2004

Control of Major Accident Hazard Regulations (COMAH) 2015

Major Accident Hazard Pipeline (MAHP) Regulations 1996

Members noted that Halton had a number of Emergency Plans in place with the aim to ensure resilience, these Plans are regularly updated and tested. The Board was advised on examples of local risks, details of the exercises that take place at COMAH sites in the borough, information on Emergency Centres and the work the Emergency Planning team carry out with partner agencies both within Cheshire as part of Cheshire Resilience Forum and Cross-Border.

As part of the duties of the Civil Contingencies Act 2004, the authority has a duty to ensure the resilience of the Council's response to an emergency situation. Part one of the act is designed to deal with preparations by local responders for localised emergencies, such as risk of serious damage to human welfare or the environment. Part two is designed for use in very serious emergencies, which affect a larger geographical area.

The Act divides local responders into two categories, imposing a different set of duties on each. Category one organisations are at the core of the response to the majority of emergencies (e.g. Emergency Services, Local Authorities, and NHS England).

As a category one responder the Council is subject to a full set of civil protection statutory duties and is required to:-

- assess the 'risk of emergencies' occurring and use this to inform
- contingency planning;
- put in place Emergency Plans;
- put in place Business Continuity Management (BCM) arrangements;
- put in place arrangements to make information available to the public regarding civil protection matters and maintain arrangements to 'warn, inform and advise the public in the event of an emergency;
- share information with other local responders to enhance co-ordination;
- co-operate with other local responders to enhance co-ordination and efficiency;
- provide advice and assistance to businesses and voluntary organisations regarding Business Continuity Management.
- lead and support recovery from any incidents

The Authority has produced a number of Emergency Plans, with the aim to minimise the impact of major incidents within the Borough. These plans are produced to reassure the community and limit the consequences. These plans are updated and validated regularly, as part of the Emergency Planning continuous work programme.

ENFORCEMENT

Enforcement is another area within the newly formed division that will further evolve. An Enforcement Manager has been appointed and will join Halton in July 2023. The role will be key to leading transformation of the service and consider corporate needs for Enforcement to design the service. A significant element of this work will be to scope a model for tackling parking enforcement to position the Council to apply for the transfer of powers to the local authority. The aim is to strengthen the team in both resources

and powers in order to deal with a wider range of issues. Increased resources will also allow the team to become more pro-active as opposed to re-active which has previously been hindered due to the depletion of Officer numbers since the austerity measures have been imposed. A more equipped and pro-active team will not only allow for greater enforcement results but will also help the Council towards achieving safe and secure neighbourhoods with attractive, safe surroundings, good quality local amenities, and the ability of people to enjoy life where they live.

The Waste Enforcement transferred over from Environment Services as of 1st February 2023 in line with the inception of the new division, during 2022/23, the waste enforcement team have been involved with investigating 240 incidents including waste related offences ranging from:-

- a single refuse sack in an entry to fly-tipping of large amounts of building waste, green waste etc
- dog fouling complaints
- dogs in dog exclusion zones
- littering complaints
- storage and management of commercial waste generated from business premises
- incorrect/nuisance storage of waste receptacle
- waste being stored on private land

and other forms of environmental crime. As a result of these investigations and speaking with suspects, witnesses, carrying out interviews under caution in accordance with the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE), Officers have been able to take 197 actions which has included the use of fixed penalty notices, issuing of statutory notices and issuing of advisory and warning letters.

Officers have also spent time engaging with residents and private landlords when waste, particularly bulky items have been disposed of in the rear entries behind resident's properties. Thanks to the work of the enforcement officers, residents have been made to take responsibility for their own waste and dispose of it correctly. This has included items such as settees, armchairs, washing machines, fridge freezers, fencing, gates, bricks, paving stones and general domestic refuse, and although this may not have resulted in formal enforcement action being taken (usually due to insufficient evidence to secure a prosecution) it has relieved the pressure on the Councils limited resources, negating the need for the items to be collected and disposed of by the Waste Management operatives at what would have been a significant cost to the Council.

In addition to the day to day enforcement activities, the team were also involved in a number of partnership working initiatives. This has included clean-ups and resident engagement working with our colleagues in various Housing Associations in both Widnes and Runcorn and a joint campaign in the West Bank area of Widnes were our Enforcement Officers, along with Officers from the Widnes LPU (Local Policing Unit) knocked on every property in West Bank to discuss concerns around waste management issues and anti-social behaviour. All properties were also given a letter addressing some of the issues and providing details regarding waste collections and contact numbers to report any issues. Officers have since continued to monitor West Bank and deal with any day to day issues that may arise.

Again, working with the Widnes LPU, Officers also carried out patrols in Victoria Park over a number of weekends to address concerns relating to dogs off leads, dog fouling and anti-social behaviour, and to deal with the local 'stand in the park' group in relation to the unauthorised display of banners/advertisements on the councils property, in this case the parks band stand, an offence in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (control of advertisements) (England) Regulations 2007. Officers have since continued to carry out patrols in the park throughout the working week. Officers were also asked to provide a presence, again along with the Police, throughout the morning of the remembrance Sunday parade/service to ensure that all of the PSPO conditions were adhered to and to address any anti-social behaviour issues, at a time of particularly high foot fall.

Officers have attended Runcorn Hill in a joint initiative with Runcorn LPU, Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service and VIBE UK Youth Charity, who work with young people to build learning and resilience to make informed positive life choices and working with young people aged 13-17 years from across Runcorn and Widnes that have been in trouble with the police, at risk of committing a crime, or they are/have been involved in anti-social behaviour. This initiative was spearheaded by reports of anti-social behaviour including the lighting of fires and small scale vandalism to the bowling green and surrounding facilities.

As part of the teams multi-agency work Officers have also attended various estate walkabouts (usually fortnightly) in Widnes and Runcorn throughout the year with the local housing providers, elected members and local policing units, again speaking with and engaging with residents, forging good relationships with residents and partner agencies and addressing any incidents and/or concerns of anti-social behaviour, waste issues and any other forms of environmental crime such as dog fouling.

Alcohol Licensing also sits with Enforcement, this role works in close liaison with the Council's Licensing Team and Police Licensing Officer to support Licensees in fulfilling their responsibilities and dealing with non-compliance. This also involves working with the Pub Watch scheme to tackle concerns and trends and multi-department and agency working as required to work towards a safe practice of alcohol sales and a safe night time economy environment.

OTHER KEY DEVELOPMENTS

The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) Office works closely with the community safety partnerships across the county and levers funding to support targeted work. Halton benefits from additional funding from the PCC to support the boroughs work on domestic violence and the PCC makes funds available to be bid for by community organisations to tackle crime, anti-social behaviour and enable safer communities.

The PCC has a Police and Crime Plan to 2024, <https://www.cheshirepcc.gov.uk/SysSiteAssets/media/downloads/what-the-commissioner-does/police-and-crime-plan/police-and-crime-plan-2022-refresh---website.pdf>

There are six key priorities:-

1. Prevent and tackle crime
2. Make Cheshire's roads safer
3. Deliver justice for victims of crime
4. Protect vulnerable and at risk people
5. Improve public confidence in policing
6. Modernise Cheshire's police service

There is a broader work programme including the Criminal Justice Board, other focussed areas of work for example waste crime, violence against women and girls, safer streets, child exploitation, cybercrime. The PCC Office will lead on securing resources to support priorities across Cheshire.

A current key area of focus is Serious Violence Duty. As part of the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act, the Serious Violence Duty was introduced in April 2022. With this duty, key public bodies in every police force area are now required to produce and implement a strategy to work together to deal with serious violence. It affects police forces, local authorities, criminal justice agencies and health organisations. The PCC is leading a co-ordinated approach to this work across Cheshire and governance arrangements have been agreed with a strategic and operational group now established. The work to date has supported understanding and preparation through multi-agency workshops. Developing a strategic needs analysis and service mapping is currently progressing to inform the strategy moving forward; further updates will be provided in due course.

The PCC is scheduled to attend the Board in September 2023.

REPORT TO:	Safer Policy & Performance Board
DATE:	20 th June 2023
REPORTING OFFICER:	Corporate Director, Chief Executives Delivery Unit
PORTFOLIO:	Leader
SUBJECT:	The Big Conversation Update
WARD(S)	Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To share with the Safer Policy & Performance Board the approach to 'The Big Conversation', which is integral to formulating a new Council Corporate Plan, to take effect from April 2024.

2.0 RECOMMENDED: That

- 1) the report be noted; and
- 2) that the Safer Policy and Performance Board endorses the approach to facilitate 'The Big Conversation'.

3.1 Background

It was agreed at Management Team on February 21st 2023 and at Executive Board on March 16th 2023 that we would provide adequate opportunity for meaningful consultation and ultimately produce a Corporate Plan which is totally unique and meaningful to the people of Halton.

- 3.2 This would take the form of 'The Big Conversation' and would incorporate the opportunity for all to feedback via hard copy form, electronically or face to face, between now and the end of the year.

3.3 The Big Conversation: Reimagine Halton - we don't have all the answers!

'The Big Conversation' is all about engaging with the public so that they understand the challenges that the Council is facing.

It is an approach between the Council and everyone who lives or works in Halton to work together in order to create an improved borough in all aspects of everyday life.

3.4 Corporate Plan Survey Themes:

- Effective support for all those in need
- A strong and vibrant economy bringing prosperity to all
- Strong, safe and happy communities that can shape their future
- A Cleaner and greener environment
- Active, healthy and longer lives for all

3.5 Survey Questions:

- What do you think of the 5 themes?
- What can you do to help us to achieve these?
- What can the Council do to achieve these?
- Are there any other themes that you think are missing?
- Ideally, how do you want to access Council services?
- Any other comments?

Targeted engagement of different audiences, for example, Children and Young People: What would make Halton a better place for you to play, live and grow up?

3.6 Data Analysis

All feedback and responses will be scrutinised and evaluated. The 2 facilitators from North West Employers (used in December 2022) will then be invited back to meet with members from both Management Team and Executive Board in order to work through this, summarise accordingly and establish a number of key objectives, which in turn will form the organisation`s new Corporate Plan.

3.7 Revised Timescales:

- January – March 2023: Update Management Team/Executive Board and also communicate with the wider audience, namely Divisional Manager`s and all elected members
- May – December 2023: The Big Conversation takes place
- May – June 2023: consult HBC Workforce
- December 2023 – January 2024: analyse data and identify the key learning points/issues
- January – March 2024: compose the Corporate Plan and seek approval
- April 2024: the New Corporate Plan is launched

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no specific policy implications at this stage; however ultimately there will be a new contemporary and relevant Halton Borough Council Corporate Plan.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.0

- 5.1 There is a potential financial implication around the resources required for the delivery of 'The Big Conversation' and the evaluation of the data and qualitative content that it results in.

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

- 6.1 The Corporate Plan is Halton Borough Council's key strategic document. This plan sets out the main vision, themes and values of the Council.

'The Big Conversation' will help to determine the Council's new set of priorities, which will be translated into the plan.

7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

- 7.1 The major risk is that we do nothing and roll out the same priorities as we have done in previous years. To this end the current Corporate Plan is a losing relevance and doesn't fully engage with either the workforce or the people of Halton in the contemporary environment.

- 7.2 The Council is serious about 'Reimaging Halton' aligned with that commitment, this is a perfect opportunity to undertake a meaningful piece of work which will engage the people of Halton and together with our workforce determine a set of new priorities, which will make a difference and take Halton forward over the next 3 – 5 years.

8.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

- 8.1 Equality and Diversity may well be a specific Corporate Plan priority, but if not then it will certainly underpin the Plan. An Equality Impact Assessment will be undertaken as part of the policy development process.

9.0 **CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 At this stage there is nothing specific to highlight within the context of this report; however there is a distinct possibility that as a result of 'The Big Conversation' climate implications will form one, or a key part of one, of the Council's key priorities.

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

None under the meaning of the Act.



**The Big
Conversation
update....**



Background

The Big Conversation is all about engaging with the public so that they understand the challenges that the Council is facing.

It is an approach between the Council and those who live or work in Halton to work together in order to create an improved borough in all aspects of everyday life.

It also links to 'Reimagine Halton' which will see the Council looking in detail at what we do, how we do it and why we do it – and whether taking a different approach could be more efficient, productive or deliver a better outcome.

www.halton.gov.uk



Consultation

* Different consultation approaches will be utilised dependent on the audience – consultation tools will range from an on-line questionnaire, to iwalkers, along with attendance in person at various forums and meetings. These will also be available offline via libraries, community centres, one stop shops, etc.

* In the first instance we`ll be sending out an on-line survey.

* It is important that we provide some framing to the questions we are asking in order to manage expectations.

Consultation

- Background to the Big Conversation – creation of a web page, a user friendly place to hold some of the background information in terms of key data, statutory and discretionary responsibilities.

List of Stakeholders:

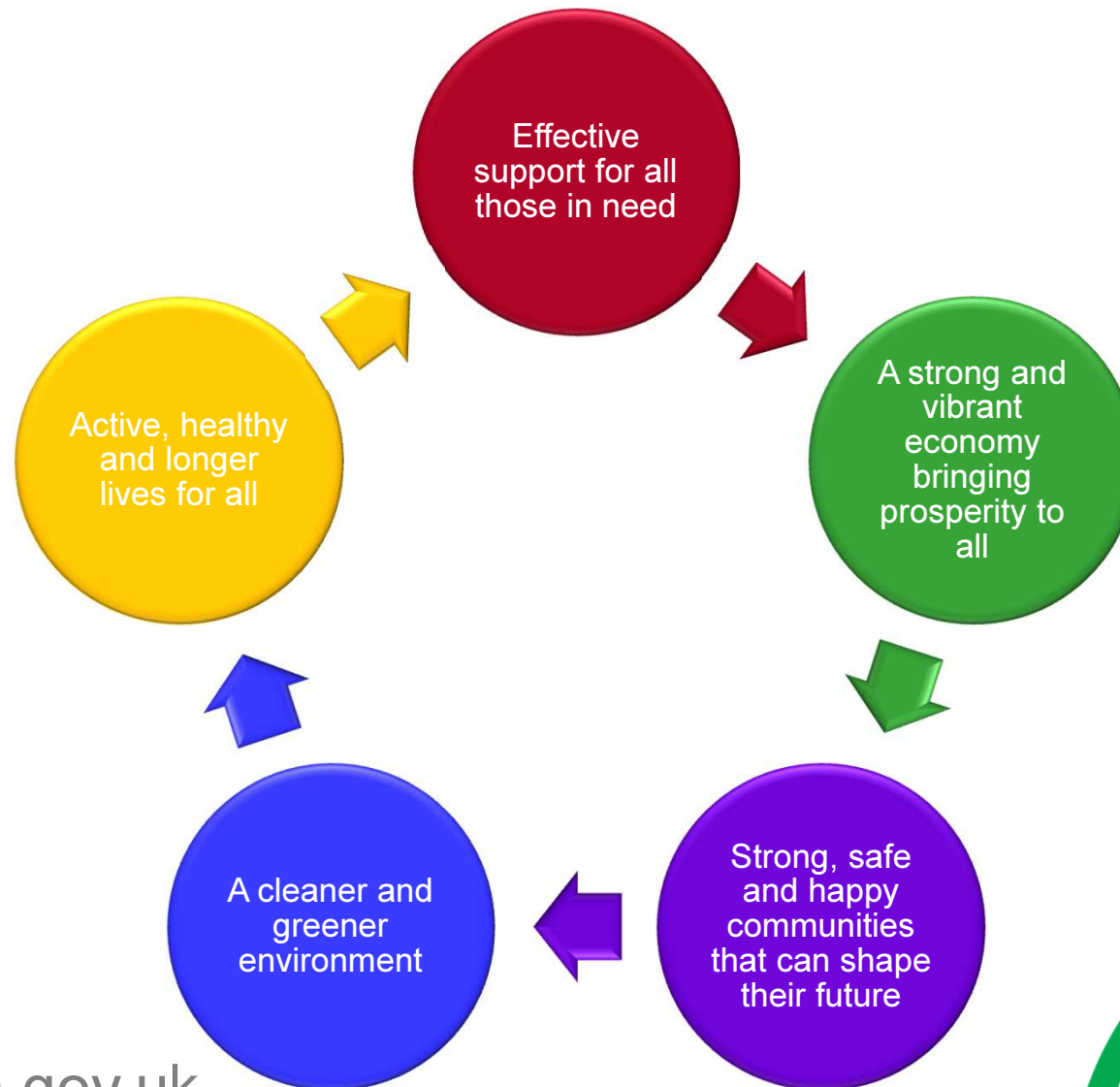
Public/customers, HBC Workforce, Elected Members, Partners, Voluntary Sector, Community Sector, Independent Sector, Businesses, Schools (Heads), Hard to Reach Groups – eg. children and young people/refugees/asylum seekers/travellers/disabled people/people with mental health/minority ethnic groups

Local Authority 'Corporate Plan' suggested themes

In order that the survey doesn't consist of a 'blank sheet' or a 'wish list', highlighting generic themes provides a starting point leading to more meaningful comments and discussion.

These were established via evidence based data from within the Council, along with an in-depth trawl of numerous existing Local Authority Corporate Plans across the country.

'Corporate Plan' Survey Themes



www.halton.gov.uk



The Survey Questions:

- What do you think of the 5 themes?
- What can you do to help us to achieve these?
- What can the Council do to achieve these?
- Are there any other themes that you think are missing?
- Ideally, how do you want to access Council services?
- Any other comments?

Targeted engagement of different audiences, eg. Children and Young People: What would make Halton a better place for you to play, live and grow up?

Publicity & Promotion

- Initially targeting HBC staff (two thirds reside within the Borough – will help to spread the word)
- Inside Halton magazine (June edition)
- Members Briefings & attendance at PPB`s
- iWalkers
- Stickers on Council vehicles eg. Bin lorries
- Constant monitoring throughout

Revised Timescales

- January – March 2023: Update Management Team/Executive Board and also communicate with the wider audience, namely Divisional Manager`s and all elected members
- May – December 2023: The Big Conversation takes place
- May – June 2023: consult HBC Workforce
- December 2023 – January 2024: analyse data and identify the key learning points/issues
- January – March 2024: compose the Corporate Plan and seek approval
- April 2024: the New Corporate Plan is launched

REPORT TO:	Safer Policy and Performance Board
DATE:	20 th June 2023
REPORTING OFFICER:	Executive Director - Environment and Regeneration
PORTFOLIO:	Community Safety
SUBJECT:	Presentation on County Lines
WARD(S)	Borough wide

1.0 **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 To provide an informative presentation to the board on County Lines.

2.0 **RECOMMENDATION: That**

The presentation is received and Members comment and raise any questions.

3.0 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 County Lines is a term used to describe organised distribution of illegal drugs across networks. It's often where illegal drugs are transported from one area to another, often across police and local authority boundaries (although not exclusively), usually by children or vulnerable people who are coerced into it by gangs.

3.2 The presentation will provide an insight into County Lines and the work going on in Halton and the wider foot print to tackle county lines and its impacts.

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 None at this stage; the work links to the multi-agency community safety and combatting drugs obligations.

5.0 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 None to report.

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

6.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

Children and young people are often targeted by serious organised crime networks involved in County Lines activity.

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

Awareness raising, education and being informed to mitigate and reduce harm from becoming involved and seeking support are imperative for Halton's young people.

6.3 **A Healthy Halton**

County Lines is a distribution of illegal substances which negatively impacts the outcomes for all those involved.

6.4 **A Safer Halton**

County Lines significantly impacts on those communities impacted.

6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

Crime negatively impacts neighbourhoods, communities and towns. The multi-agency working to combat and reduce drug related crime is imperative to supporting safer and desirable neighbourhoods.

7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 None at this stage.

8.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 None to report.

9.0 **CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 None to report.

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

None under the meaning of the Act.

REPORT TO: Safer Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 20th June 2023

REPORTING OFFICER: Executive Director - Environment and Regeneration

PORTFOLIO: Community Safety

SUBJECT: Dog Control

WARD(S) Borough wide

1.0 **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 To provide Members with details of the Council's measures to help tackle irresponsible dog ownership and dog control within the borough, and;
- 1.2 To ask Members to endorse the continuation of the Dog Control Public Spaces Protection Order first introduced in 2019.

2.0 **RECOMMENDED: That**

- 1) **Members note and comment upon the measures in place to deal with irresponsible dog ownership and dangerous dogs in the Borough;**
- 2) **Members endorse the Dog Control Public Spaces Protection Order attached as Appendix 1;**
- 3) **A report be presented to the Executive Board recommending that the Dog Control Public Spaces Protection Order attached as Appendix 1 remains in force in Halton; and**
- 4) **Members endorse that the Dog Control Public Spaces Protection Order presented to Executive Board is amended, as may be necessary, to reflect the outcome of the results of a planned public consultation exercise on the proposed Order.**

3.0 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

Public Spaces Protection Order

- 3.1 Dog fouling and other forms of anti-social behaviour associated with irresponsible dog ownership have a detrimental effect on local people. Further, a lack of control over dogs can represent a danger to individuals, and in particular, young people. The Council recognises that the vast majority of dog owners and walkers are responsible, pick up after their dogs and keep them under proper control, however, there is a minority

who do not. In order to reduce the risk of nuisance or harm to the public, and to ensure that members of the local community can enjoy a clean and safe environment, the Council introduced a Dog Control Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) in 2019. In accordance with Legislation, a consultation process was carried out which revealed support for the dog control powers proposed by the Council.

3.2 The PSPO was introduced in accordance with the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. In producing the Order, officers had regard to the “Public Space Protection Orders Guidance for Councils” issued by the Local Government Association. Legislation requires that PSPOs need to be periodically reviewed and approved.

3.5 A copy of the Council’s adopted PSPO is attached as Appendix 1. In summary, the control measures contained within the PSPO relate to;

Dog Fouling

If a dog defecates at any time on land to which the Order applies and a person who is in charge of the dog at that time fails to remove the faeces from the land forthwith, that person shall be guilty of an offence.

Exclusion of Dogs

It will be an offence for any person in charge of a dog to take the dog onto or permit the dog to enter or remain on land within a dog exclusion zone.

Dogs on Leads

A person in charge of a dog shall be guilty of an offence if at any time he/she does not keep the dog on a lead of not more than 2 metres in length.

Dogs on Leads by Direction

A person in charge of a dog shall be guilty of an offence if at any time he/she does not comply with a direction given by an authorised officer to put and keep the dog on a lead of not more than 2 metres in length.

Restriction on Number of Dogs Walked at a Time

A maximum number of dogs that can be walked by one person at any one time.

Evidence of the Means to Pick Up Dog Faeces

Any person in control of a dog must carry with them bags as an appropriate means of collecting foul and must provide evidence of this if requested to do so by an authorised officer.

3.6 Members are advised that the land to which each of the individual Provisions of the PSPO Order apply is set out in four Schedules;

- Schedule 1 imposes four requirements on dog owners which apply borough-wide and cover any public spaces to which the public has access.
- Schedule 2 sets out the Dogs on Leads Areas. These are locations where it is believed that there are specific issues in allowing dogs to run free at any time, and in particular, a concern that if dogs were allowed off a lead in the identified areas it may cause nuisance or even injury to members of the public or other animals.
- Schedule 3 lists the Dog Exclusion Areas. These are locations where, in the interests of members of the local community, and in particular children, the Council considers that dogs should not be allowed to enter; such as play areas. The Council has always considered it inappropriate for dogs to be taken into cemeteries and these too are covered by this Provision and Schedule.
- Schedule 4 contains plans of five locations listed in Schedules 2 or 3. The five Plans have been produced for areas where the Provisions of Schedule 2 or Schedule 3 both apply, or where either applies to only part of an area, and they have been produced to remove any ambiguity that may arise as a result.

Dangerous Dogs

3.7 The following section of the report is intended to advise Members on the issue of dealing with dangerous dogs.

Dog attacks and dogs out of control

The enforcement of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 is, in the main, a police function although the council also have enforcement powers and can intervene in certain circumstances.

The police are responsible for dealing with live incidents where a dog is dangerous and out of control in a public place. A dog is considered dangerous and out of control if any member of the public has reasonable apprehension that the dog will injure them. If a dog attacks a human causing injury to a person or an assistance dog this is considered an aggravated offence and will be the responsibility of the police to investigate.

Incidents that do not result in injury are considered a non-aggravated offence and can either be investigated by the police if they attended the incident, or in the case where the incident is reported after the event, the

council can also investigate and prosecute. An attack on another dog is not in itself an offence but the circumstances of such an incident are likely to be such that any persons in the vicinity would also have reason to fear that they may also be injured.

In one recent incident the council successfully prosecuted the owner of two Alsatian dogs who were being walked off a lead in Phoenix Park and became dangerous and out of control resulting in a fatal attack on another dog. The owner was convicted of allowing a dog to be dangerous and out of control in a public place he was subject to a 20 week curfew and was required to pay the victim £1200 compensation.

On conviction for a dangerous dog offence the court can impose either a destruction order or a contingent destruction order. A contingent destruction order imposes conditions on the way in which a dog is kept. It is an offence not to observe those conditions. In the Phoenix park incident a contingent destruction order was imposed on one of the dogs. The order required the dog to be kept on a lead and muzzled at all times whilst in public and must only be walked by a person aged over 18. The owner is no longer in possession of the second dog involved in the case.

The police also have the powers to seize dangerous dogs.

Banned Breeds

The police also enforce the breed specific provisions of the Dangerous Dogs Act. It is prohibited to keep, breed, sell, gift or abandon certain breeds of dog. These are specified by law as;

- Pit Bull Terriers
- Japanese Tosas
- Dogo Argentinos
- Fila Brazilieros

The police also have the powers to seize such dogs.

Stray Dogs

The council also have a statutory responsibility under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 to collect stray dogs. This service is provided by a contractor Animal Wardens Ltd on behalf of Liverpool, Sefton, Knowsley and Halton Council's.

In general, there has been a decline in stray dog numbers since compulsory dog chipping was introduced in 2016. In 2015 our contractor collected 426 stray dogs. Last year 131 stray dogs were collected. Most dogs that are microchipped with correct details can be returned to the owner without the need for the dog to be taken to kennels. Most dogs that get seized either have no microchip or the details are not up to date. The contractor uses a network of local rescue centres to attempt to find a new

home for any dogs that are unclaimed.

Dog Breeding

The breeding of dogs as a business activity and the breeding of more than 3 litters a year is a licensable activity. It is an offence to operate a business of breeding dogs without a license. The council are responsible for enforcing licensing provisions and investigating the activities of illegal dog breeders and so called puppy farms.

Recommendations

- 3.8 The Public Spaces Protection Order introduced in 2019 was subject to public consultation that attracted a high level of response. Overall, the consultation results showed support for Council's proposals. The PSPO was subsequently supported by the Safer PPB and agreed to be introduced by the Executive by Executive Board.

Members are advised that Officers consider that the current PSPO, attached as Appendix 1, remains fit for purpose and there are no material changes to the Order that had been in place for a number of years. Consultation with the public and statutory consultees is required to take place in respect of the continuation of this PSPO. Statutory consultees will be contacted individually and public consultation will be carried out via the Council's website and publicised via its social medial platforms.

It is recommended that Members endorse the PSPO attached as Appendix 1, and also that, the results of a consultation exercise on the PSPO be reflected in a report on the final PSPO to be recommended to the Executive Board for consideration and approval.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 As there is no material change to the Dog Control PSPO introduced in 2019, the continuation of it would represent no new Policy implications.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no new financial implications as a result of this report.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children & Young People in Halton

None identified

6.2 Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

None identified

6.3 A Healthy Halton

By enhancing its ability to deter irresponsible behaviour by some dog owners, the Council will be making a positive contribution towards improving the safety and the appearance of the local environment, which shall in turn have an overall beneficial effect on health and wellbeing.

6.4 A Safer Halton

Effective use of its regulatory powers will demonstrate that the Council is committed to dealing with anti-social behaviour caused by irresponsible dog owners. This will have a positive impact upon the Safer Halton Priority.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

No direct impact, but improving the safety and attractiveness of local neighbourhoods should make the borough a more attractive location for investment.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 If the Council fails to continue to have in place control measures to effectively tackle anti-social behaviour caused by irresponsible dog owners, the risks of nuisance or harm to the public would be significantly increased.

7.2 Furthermore, failure to make best use of legislative powers available to deal with such anti-social behaviour may lead to criticism of the Council; thereby damaging its reputation.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 The Council aims to be consistent and evenhanded in all regards. Taking enforcement action to help control anti-social behaviour caused by irresponsible dog owners is not intended to have either a positive or negative impact upon equality and diversity or apply differently to any particular group.

8.2 The PSPO will not apply to;

8.2.1 A person who is registered as a blind person in a register compiled under section 29 of the National Assistance Act 1948; or

8.2.2 A person with a disability affecting their mobility, manual dexterity or ability to lift, carry or move everyday objects and who relies upon a dog trained by a prescribed charity for assistance.

9.0 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

None identified

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

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
Environment & Urban Renewal Policy & Performance Board Report 27 th June 2018: Public Spaces Protection Order – Dog Control	Municipal Building Kingsway Widnes	Kim Butler
Safer Policy & Performance Board Report 19 th February 2019: Public Spaces Protection Order – Dog Control	Municipal Building Kingsway Widnes	Kim Butler
Executive Board Report 18 th July 2019: Public Spaces Protection Order – Dog Control	Municipal Building Kingsway Widnes	Kim Butler



ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR, CRIME AND POLICING ACT 2014, SECTION 59

The Borough of Halton Dog Control Public Spaces Protection Order 2023

The Borough Council of Halton (in this Order called “The Council”) hereby makes the following Order under Section 59 of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014:

1. COMMENCEMENT AND DURATION

This Order comes into force on **[Date to be inserted]** and will remain in force for a period of 3 years until **[Date to be inserted]**, unless extended by further Orders under the Council’s statutory powers or unless revoked, in whole or in part, and superseded by further Order.

2. PENALTIES AND DEFINITIONS

- A person who fails to comply with any obligation imposed by this Order is guilty of a criminal offence by virtue of section 67(1) of the Anti-social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014 and liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale or a Fixed Penalty Notice of a maximum £100.
- “Person(s) in charge” means the person who has the dog in his possession, care or company at the time the offence is committed or, if the dog is not accompanied by a person, the owner or person who habitually has the dog in his possession.
- “an Authorised Person” means an employee, partner agency or contractor of Halton Borough Council who is authorised in writing by Halton Borough Council for the purposes of giving directions under the Order.
- “The Restricted Area” is the land identified in Schedule 1 of this Order.

3. OBLIGATIONS ON PERSONS IN CHARGE OF DOGS IN THE RESTRICTED AREA

The following Provisions apply to all persons in charge of dogs in the Restricted Area except those specifically exempted by paragraph 6 of this Order.

i. Fouling of Land

If a dog defecates at any time on any land to which this Provision of the Order applies a person who is in charge of the dog must remove the faeces from the land forthwith unless:

- (a) he/she has reasonable excuse for failing to do so; or
- (b) the owner, occupier or other person or authority having control of the land has consented (generally or specifically) to his/her failing to do so.

For the purposes of this Provision of the Order:

- Placing the faeces in a receptacle on the land which is provided for the purpose, or for the disposal of waste, shall be sufficient removal from the land;
- Being unaware of the defecation (whether by reason of not being in the vicinity or otherwise), or not having a device for or other suitable means of removing the faeces shall not be a reasonable excuse for failing to remove the faeces.

ii. Dogs on Leads by Direction

A person in charge of a dog on any land to which this Provision of the Order applies must comply with a direction given to him/her by an Authorised Person of the Council to put and keep the dog on a lead that shall be of fixed length and of not more than 2 metres unless:

- (a) he/she has reasonable excuse for failing to do so; or
- (b) the owner, occupier or other person or authority having control of the land has consented (generally or specifically) to his/her failing to do so.

An Authorised Person may only give a direction under this Provision if such restraint is reasonably necessary to prevent a nuisance or behaviour by the dog that is likely to cause annoyance, disturbance or harm to any other person, or to a bird or another animal.

iii. Maximum Number of Dogs

A person in charge of more than one dog must not, at any time, and at the same time, take more than 4 dogs onto, or permit more than 4 dogs to enter or to remain on, any land to which this Provision of the Order applies unless:

- (a) he/she has reasonable excuse for doing so; or
- (b) the owner, occupier or other person or authority having control of the land has consented (generally or specifically) to his/her failing to do so.

iv. Means to Pick up Dog Faeces

A person in charge of a dog on land to which this Provision of the Order applies must have with them appropriate means to pick up dog faeces deposited by that dog and must provide evidence of this if asked to do so by an Authorised Person unless

- (a) he/she has reasonable excuse for failing to do so; or
- (b) the owner, occupier or other person or authority having control of the land has consented (generally or specifically) to his/her failing to do so.

This obligation is complied with if, after a request from an Authorised Person, the person in charge of the dog produces an appropriate means to pick up dog faeces forthwith.

For the purposes of this Provision, “appropriate means” shall be defined as being a receptacle, bag or sack which has been specifically made for the purposes of picking up and properly disposing of animal faeces, or is of such type or design so as to allow it to be used for such purposes.

4. DOGS ON LEADS

A person in charge of a dog on any land to which this Provision of the Order applies must keep the dog on a lead that must be of fixed length and of not more than 2 metres unless:

- (a) he/she has reasonable excuse for failing to do so; or
- (b) the owner, occupier or other person or authority having control of the land has consented (generally or specifically) to his/her failing to do so.

This Provision of this Order shall apply only to the Dogs on Leads Areas specified in Schedule 2.

2. DOG EXCLUSION

A person in charge of a dog must not take it onto, or permit the dog to enter or to remain on, any land to which this Provision of this Order applies unless:

- (a) he/she has reasonable excuse for doing so; or

- (b) the owner, occupier or other person or authority having control of the land has consented (generally or specifically) to his/her failing to do so.

This Provision of this Order shall apply only to the Dog Exclusion Areas specified in Schedule 3

3. EXEMPTIONS

Nothing in this Order shall apply to:

- (a) A person who is registered as a blind person in a register compiled under section 29 of the National Assistance Act 1948; or
- (b) A person with a disability affecting their mobility, manual dexterity or ability to lift, carry or move everyday objects and who relies upon a dog trained by a prescribed charity for assistance.

THE COMMON SEAL of

HALTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

was hereunto affixed in the presence of:

Authorised

Signatory

SCHEDULE 1

THE RESTRICTED AREA

Any land within the administrative area of Halton Borough Council, which is open to the air, including covered land which is open to the air on at least one side, and to which the public are entitled or permitted to have access with or without payment.

SCHEDULE 2

DOGS ON LEADS AREAS

Widnes Parks and Play Areas

- Crow Wood Park, Bancroft Road, Widnes, Cheshire. WA8 3LL
- Hale Park, Town Lane, Hale Village, L24 (in part) shown coloured yellow on Plan A in Schedule 4.
- Hough Green Park, Royal Avenue, Widnes, Cheshire, WA8 8HL
- Spike Island Park, Widnes, WA8 0DF (in part) shown coloured yellow on Plan B in Schedule 4
- Upton Green, Widnes, WA8 4NS, shown coloured yellow on Plan C in Schedule 4.
- Victoria Park, Birchfield Avenue, Widnes, Cheshire, WA8 6PX (Except in the fenced dog exercise area)

Runcorn Parks and Play Areas

- Palacefields Ball Play, Palacefields Avenue, Runcorn.
- Ridding Lane Ball Court, Runcorn, WA7 6PF
- Rock Park, Runcorn, WA7 5SU
- Town Hall Park, Runcorn, WA7 5TD (in part) shown coloured yellow on Plan D in Schedule 4.
- Runcorn Hill Park, Runcorn, WA7 4SS (in part) shown coloured yellow on Plan E at Schedule 4.
- Wellington Street Play Area, Runcorn, WA7 1LB
- Roehampton Drive Multi-Sports Area, Hallwood Park Runcorn, WA7 2GT
- Roehampton Drive Playground, Hallwood Park Runcorn, WA7 2GT

Gardens

- Birchfield Gardens, Birchfield Road, Widnes.
- West Bank Promenade, St Mary's Road, West Bank, Widnes.

Widnes Allotments

- Avondale, Alongside 4 Birtley Court, Widnes, WA8 7WA
- Rear of 5 Cunningham Road, Widnes, WA8 8EE
- Deansway, Between 128 -130 Hale Road, Widnes, WA8 8SY
- Derby Road, Rear of 12 Factory Lane, Widnes, WA8 9FW
- Dykin Road, at the side of garage at 36 Hilary Close, Widnes, WA8 3HT
- Hale Bank, at the side of 31 Halebank Road, Widnes, WA8 8NA

- Hale Road, to rear of 253 – 269 Hale Road, Widnes, WA8 8QB
- Halton View, at the side of 1 Halton View Road, Widnes, WA8 0TS
- Lancaster Road, at the side of 2 Lancaster Road, Widnes, WA8 9TY
- Side of 14 Laurel Bank, Widnes, WA8 6QB

Runcorn Allotments

- Clifton Road, Beechwood Avenue, Runcorn, WA7 4SB
- Dukesfield, Leinster Road, Runcorn, WA7 1ER
- Haddocks Wood, Off Warrington Road, Runcorn, WA7 1RE
- Heath Road, Runcorn, WA7 5TA
- Oak Drive, Runcorn, WA7 5HE
- Weston Road, Runcorn, WA7 4JU

SCHEDULE 3

DOG EXCLUSION AREAS

Widnes Cemeteries

- Peel House Cemetery, Peel House Lane, Widnes.
- Widnes Cemetery, Birchfield Road, Widnes.

Runcorn Cemeteries

- Runcorn Cemetery, Greenway Road, Runcorn.
- Runcorn Cemetery Extension, Langdale Road, Runcorn.
- Halton Cemetery, East Lane, Runcorn.

Formal Gardens

- Chinese Friendship Gardens, Runcorn Town Hall, Heath Road, Runcorn, WA7 5TD (in part) shown coloured red on Plan D in Schedule 4.
- Town Hall Grounds Formal Gardens, Runcorn, WA7 5TD, shown coloured red on Plan D in Schedule 4.

All land within the Council's administrative area comprising any fenced (and/or hedged and/or walled) Children's Play Areas, Multi-Sport Areas listed below;

Widnes Playgrounds

- Caldwell Road, Caldwell Road, Widnes. WA8 7EA
- Crow Wood Park, Bancroft Road, Widnes. WA8 3LL
- Hale Park Play Area, Hale Park, Town Lane, Hale Village, Liverpool, L24, shown coloured red on Plan A in Schedule 4.
- Halebank Recreation Ground, Blackburne Avenue, Widnes.
- Hough Green Park, Royal Avenue, Widnes. WA8 8HL
- King George's Park, Dundalk Road, Widnes.
- Plumbley Gardens, Off Liverpool Road, Widnes.
- Stewards Avenue, Widnes.
- St Marie's Community Park, Ann Street West, Widnes.
- Spike Island Catalyst, West Bank, Widnes WA8 0DF, shown coloured red on Plan B in Schedule 4.
- Upton Playground, Bechers, Hough Green, Widnes, shown coloured red on Plan C in Schedule 4.

- Upton Rocks Park (Junior), Queensbury Way, Upton Rocks, Widnes.
- Upton Rocks Park (Toddler), Queensbury Way, Upton Rocks, Widnes.
- Victoria Park (Toddler), North End of Victoria Park, Near Lockett Road, Widnes.
- Victoria Park (Junior), North End of Victoria Park, Near Lockett Road, Widnes.
- West Bank Promenade, St Mary's Road, West Bank, Widnes.

Widnes Multi-Sport Areas

- Arley Drive Pitches, Widnes.
- Crow Wood Park, Bancroft Road, Widnes. WA8 3LL
- Derwent Road, Royal Avenue, Widnes.
- Frank Myler Recreation Grounds, Widnes.
- Frank Myler Sport & Recreation Ground Pitches, Widnes.
- Grizedale Ball Play, Grizedale, Widnes.
- Halebank Recreation Ground, Clapgate Crescent, Widnes
- Hale Park, Town Lane, Hale Village, Liverpool, L24 (in part) shown coloured red on Plan A in Schedule 4.
- Hough Green Park (Tennis), Royal Avenue, Widnes. WA8 8HL
- Kingsway Wavertree Avenue and Squires Avenue, Widnes.
- Kingsway CRMZ, Vicarage Road Widnes WA8 7QL
- King Georges Park Games Area, Dundalk Road, Widnes.
- King George V Recreation Ground Pitches, Widnes.
- Leigh Recreation Pitches, Lowerhouse Lane, Widnes
- Prescott Road Pitches, Widnes
- Spike Island, West Bank, Widnes, shown coloured red on Plan B in Schedule 4.
- St. Marie's Community Park, Ann Street West, Widnes.
- Upton Rocks Park, Queensbury Way, Upton Rocks, Widnes.
- Upton Multi-Use Games Area, Bechers, Widnes. shown coloured red on Plan C in Schedule 4.
- Victoria Park Wheel Play, Birchfield Avenue, Widnes. WA8 6PX
- Victoria Park Basketball, Birchfield Avenue, Widnes. WA8 6PX
- Victoria Park Tennis, Birchfield Avenue, Widnes. WA8 6PX
- Victoria Park Interactive Water feature, North end of Victoria Park, Near Lockett Road, Widnes.

Runcorn Multi-Sport Areas

- Castle Rise Youth Activity Park, Off Halton Road, Runcorn.
- Egerton Street Ball Play, Egerton Street, Runcorn.
- Haddocks Wood Pitches, Runcorn WA7 1RE

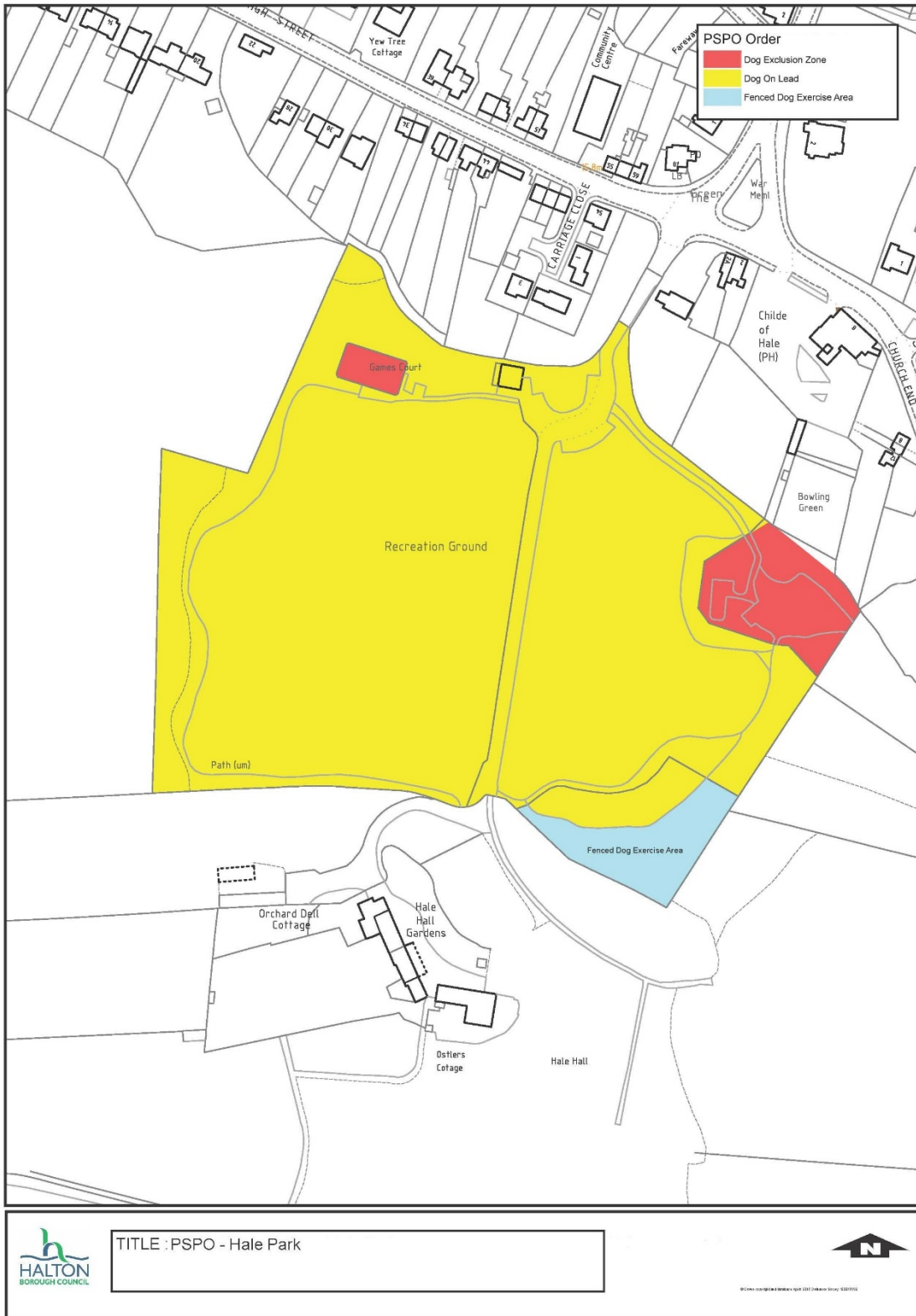
- Phoenix Park, Youth Activity Park (T), Castlefields Avenue East, Castlefields, Runcorn.
- Queen Elizabeth II Playing Field Pitches, Runcorn.
- Rock Park Ball Play Area, Rock Park, Union Street, Runcorn, WA7 5SX
- Runcorn Hill Park Pitches, Runcorn, WA7 4SS, as referred in Schedule 4.
- Runcorn Hill Park – Tennis Court, Highlands Road, Runcorn, shown coloured red on Plan E in Schedule 4.
- Russell Road Wheel Play, Russell Road, Runcorn. WA7 4BG
- Multi-Use Games Area, The Glen, Runcorn.
- The Glen, Palacefields Avenue, Runcorn.
- Multi-Use Games Area, Town Hall Grounds, Heath Road, Runcorn, WA7 5TD, shown coloured red on Plan C in Schedule 4.
- Windmill Hill Avenue South Ball Play Area, Runcorn.

Runcorn Playgrounds

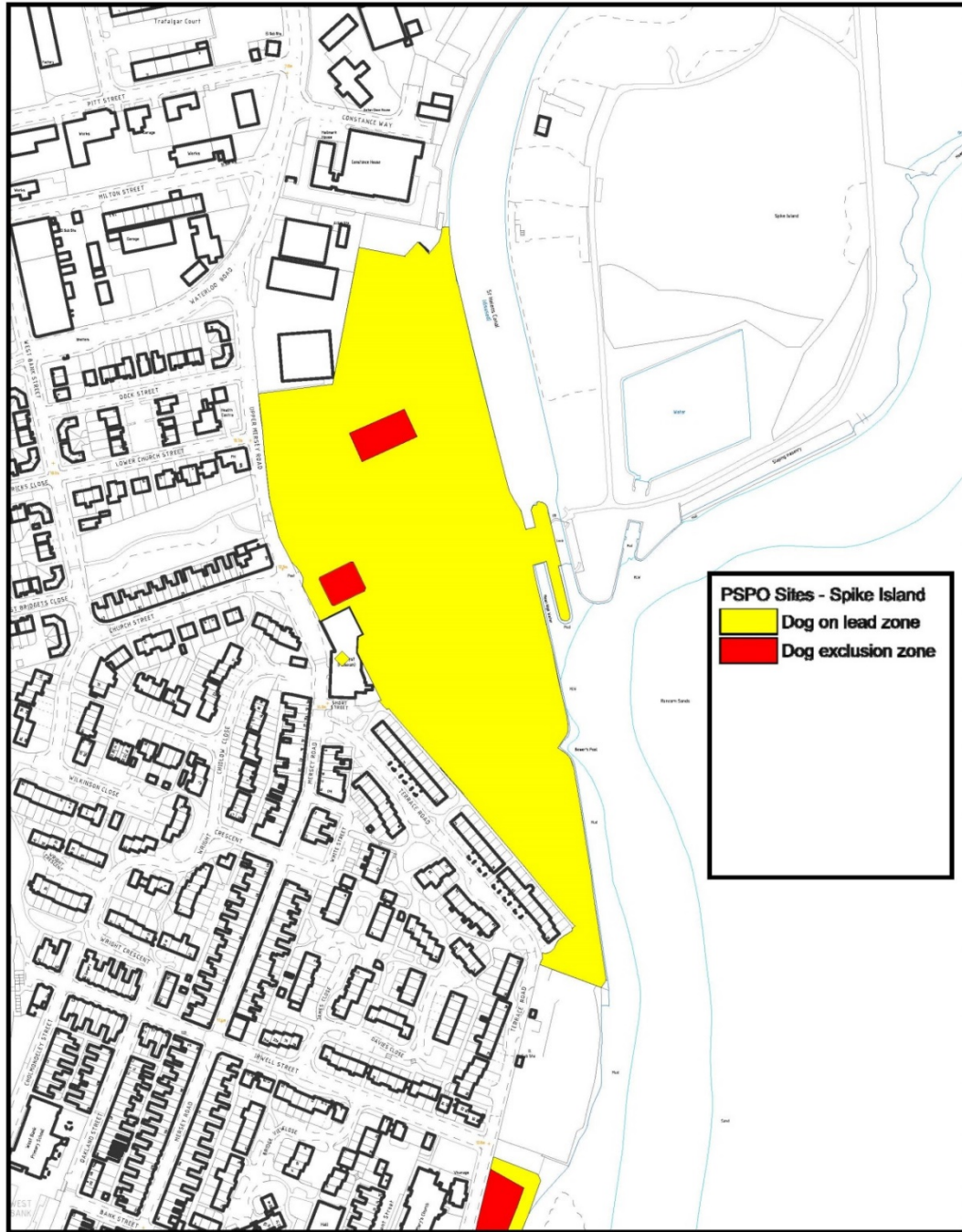
- Castle Rise Playground, Off Halton Road, Runcorn.
- Castner Avenue, Weston Point, Runcorn.
- Cavendish Street, Runcorn.
- Coronation Road, Preston Brook, Runcorn.
- Hale View Playground, Hale View, Runcorn. WA7 4BS
- Hill View, Beechwood, Runcorn,
- Leinster Gardens, Runcorn. WA7 1EG
- Murdishaw Play Centre (1 Old), Barnfield Avenue, Runcorn.
- Murdishaw Play Centre (2-New), Barnfield Avenue, Runcorn.
- Newmoore Lane, Sandymoor, Runcorn.
- Norton Cross, Broadfields, Runcorn.
- Park Road, Runcorn.
- Phoenix Park Play Area, Castlefields Avenue East, Castlefields, Runcorn.
- Pitts Heath Lane, Sandymoor, Runcorn.
- Rock Park Play Area, Union Street, Runcorn, WA7 5SX
- Six Acre Lane, Moore.
- Town Hall Grounds, Heath Road, Runcorn, WA7 5TD (in part) shown coloured red on Plan D in Schedule 4.
- Town Park, Runcorn.
- Trinity Park, Parker Street, Runcorn.
- Walsingham Drive, Sandymoor, Runcorn.
- Weaver Road, Weston Village, Runcorn.
- Woodlands Play Centre, Castlefields, Runcorn.

SCHEDULE 4

PLAN A – Hale Park



PLAN B – Spike Island

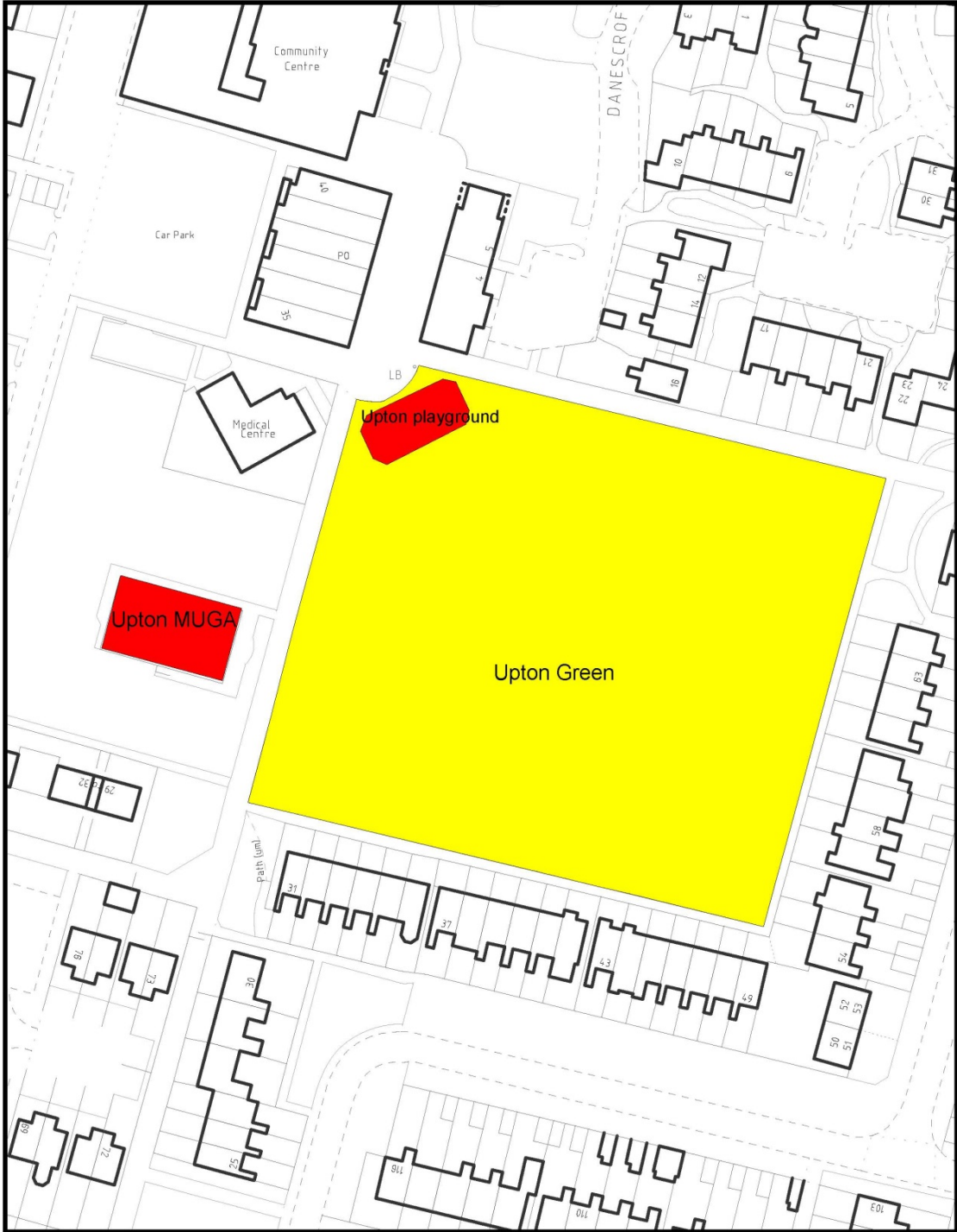


TITLE: PSPO Sites Spike Island



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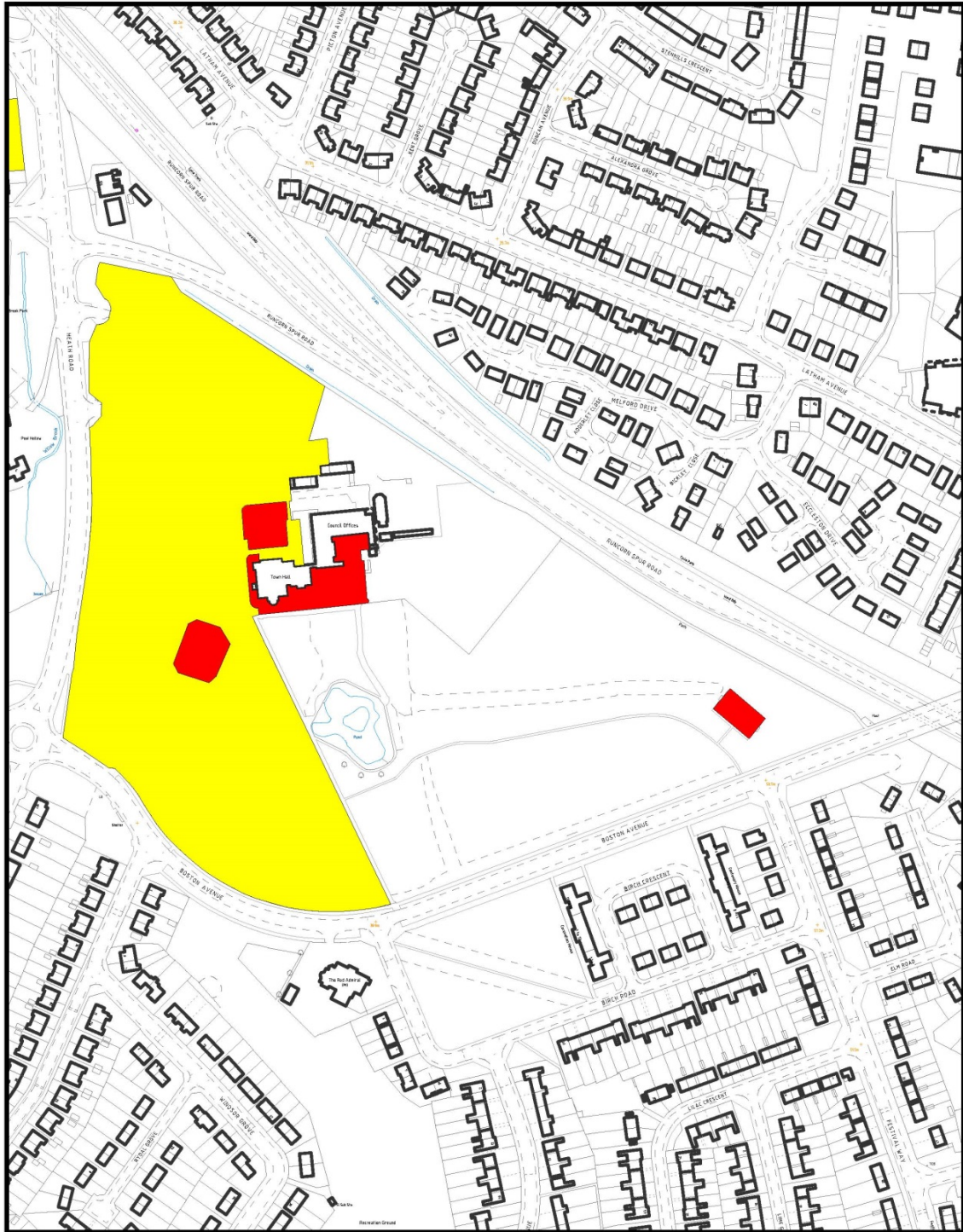
PLAN C – UPTON GREEN



	TITLE PSPO Site - Upton Green	PSPO Site - Upton Green	
		 Dog on lead zone	

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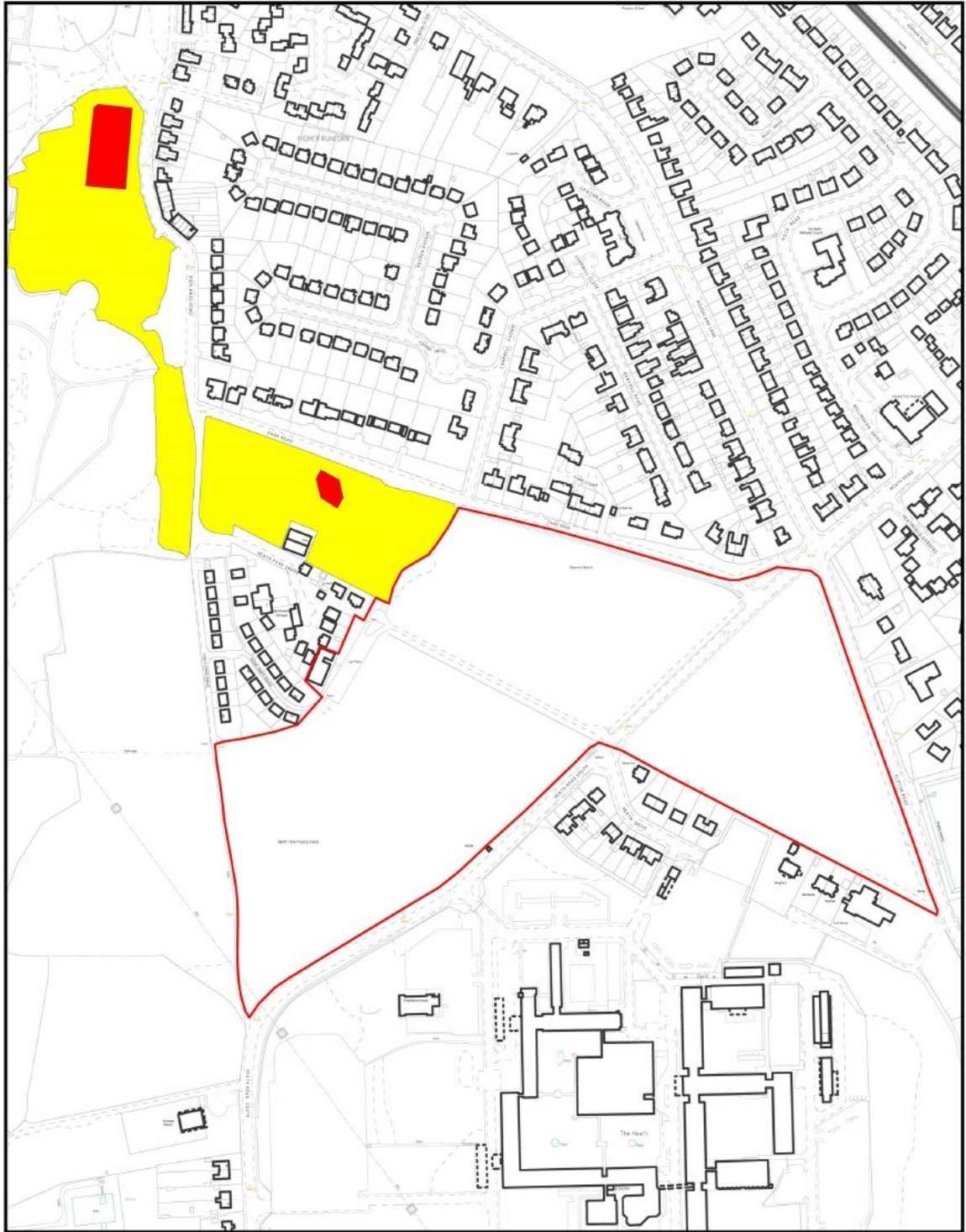
PLAN D – Runcorn Town Hall







	PSPC Sites - Runcorn Town Hall	
		Dog on lead zone
		Dog exclusion zone



PLAN E – Runcorn Hill Park



	 Dog on lead zone	PLEASE NOTE Dogs are also excluded from the sports pitches located within the area bordered in red.
	 Dog exclusion zone	


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