

PERFORMANCE CONSIDERATIONS

(2nd Quarter 2006/07)

SERVICE: Highways & Transportation (*Road Safety ONLY*)

Overview

The half-yearly report comments on the progress towards achieving the set of objectives, milestones and performance targets set out in the service plan. However, there are no key or other service objectives that come within the remit of the Safer Halton PPB to report. There are seven performance indicators that are relevant to this PPB but quarterly figures are only available for three of them. Therefore, an overall assessment of progress towards achieving the set of targets is not possible.

Areas of Further Consideration

- The audit of the performance indicator that calculates the % of pedestrian crossings with facilities for disabled people revealed that the 100% figure reported should have been 80.9%. This was due to resurfacing work at some sites had increased the kerb heights but had not been picked up when the indicator was calculated. This has now been corrected and the Audit Commission are satisfied with the reliability of the current figure produced. However, the amended figure may affect Halton's top quartile ranking but this will not be known for certain until the quartile rankings for all English local authorities are produced at the end of 2006.

SERVICE: Environment & Regulatory Services (*Waste Management and Environmental Health ONLY*)

Overview

The half-yearly report comments on the progress towards achieving the set of objectives, milestones and performance targets set out in the service plan that fall within the remit of the Safer Halton PPB. All the key objectives are on course to be met and 7 out of the 9 performance indicator targets relevant to this Board look set to be achieved. Therefore, the prospects for the year at this stage are very good. Some of the key developments and emerging issues that will impact on the service highlighted in the 1st quarter monitoring report remain and will be the focus of further scrutiny by the Board at future meetings.

Areas of Further Consideration

- A Strategic Flood Risk Assessment is currently being undertaken to highlight all areas in the Borough where flooding issues could threaten regeneration development opportunities. Therefore, the date or period when the findings are expected to be available maybe of interest to the Board.
- The monitoring report raises some doubt about meeting the target of 100% score against a checklist of enforcement best practice for Environment Health due to a staff vacancy

(Performance Indicator: BV 166a). It maybe of interest to the Board to know what the implications are (if any) if the target is not met or whether the results could focus attention on particular aspects of enforcement practice.

- There is surprise expressed regarding the reduction in the level of satisfaction with cleanliness in the parks (*Performance Indicator: LI 03*) compared to last year and further analysis will be undertaken to understand the reasons for the decline. In January 2007 the results of the General Best Value Survey (currently underway) will become known and will be of interest to the Board to see if there is any correlation between the results and trends highlighted by the two surveys.
- The volume of household waste collected per head of population (*BV: 84a*) is higher compared to the same period last year and Halton looks set to remain in the bottom 25% of local authorities. Whilst Halton's recycling % is increasing and the % of household waste land filled is reducing, the overall amount of household waste collected per head is not reducing. This is a concern and is an area that the Board may wish to scrutinise further.

SERVICE: Culture & Leisure (*Community Safety & the Drug Action Team ONLY*)

Overview

The half-yearly report comments on the progress towards achieving the set of objectives, milestones and performance targets in the service plan that come within the remit of the PPB. The only objective relevant to the Safer Halton priority was to establish a single point for drug users and those in recovery by mid-2006 which was achieved with the opening of Ashley House in September.

Areas of Further Consideration

- There are a set of key performance indicators relating to burglaries, domestic violence, violent and vehicle crime and Library standards that are reported quarterly. These come from a number of sources but were not available when this briefing paper was prepared. However, if they are received before the Safer Halton PPB agenda goes on deposit, they will be included in the 2nd quarter monitoring report.

SERVICE: Health & Partnerships (*Registration Service, Consumer Protection & Bereavement Services ONLY*)

Overview

The half-yearly report comments on the progress towards achieving the set of objectives, milestones and performance targets set out in the service plan that fall within the remit of the Safer Halton PPB. All the key objectives are on course to be met and the majority of performance indicator targets relevant to this Board look set to be achieved. Therefore, the prospects for the year at this stage are very good. The key developments and the emerging issues highlighted in the quarterly monitoring report do not point to any serious issues that will have an adverse impact upon the service.

Areas of Further Consideration

- The exercise to temporarily make safe large numbers of headstones in the cemeteries and work on phase 2 in Widnes to prepare a section of land for burial ground are both scheduled to start in the autumn 2006.
- The next section of land to be used as burial ground in Runcorn cemetery will require preparation work to provide drainage. Therefore, the level of investment needed for the drainage work and the timescale for this work maybe of interest to the Board.
- The implementation of the Action Plan to improve access to the Consumer Protection Service for people who are socially excluded (*Key Objective: HP16*) has experienced delay. There will be an attempt to make up for lost ground and therefore, an update (possibly at the next quarter) on the success of these steps and whether the delay presents any risks to achieving the key objective would be appropriate.
- As part of the prevention measures to protect vulnerable adults from doorstep crime, funding has been secured to pilot a 'No Cold-callers Zone' in one street. The pilot is presently in the planning stage and the proposed launch date will need to be reported to the Board when it is known.