

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

DATE: 23rd March 2015

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Children & Enterprise

PORTFOLIO: Economic Development

SUBJECT: Children & Enterprise Directorate Business Planning 2015 -18

WARDS: Boroughwide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To present the final draft Directorate Business Plan to Members for approval.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

That the Board

- i. Notes the contents of the report; and**
- ii. Approves the Employment, Learning and Skills elements of the Directorate Business Plan. The Children and Families aspects will be taken to the Children, Young People & Families PPB**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 Each Directorate of the Council is required to develop a medium-term business plan, in parallel with the budget, that is subject to annual review and refresh.
- 3.2 Whilst providing a Directorate context each of the Directorate Business Plans contains appendices identifying specific Departmental performance measures and targets that will provide a focus for the on-going monitoring of performance throughout the 2015 – 16 financial year.
- 3.3 Key priorities for development or improvement for the various functional areas reporting to this Policy & Performance Board were considered by the Board at its' meeting in November 2014.
- 3.4 It should be noted that plans can only be finalised once budget decisions have been confirmed in March and that some target information may need to be reviewed as a result of final outturn data becoming available post March 2015.

3.5 The priorities for the Directorate proposed for the Business Plan 2015-18 are as follows:

- *Integrated Commissioning of services to meet the needs of children, young people and families in Halton*
- *Effectively supporting the child through the Halton Levels of Need Framework when additional needs arise*
- *Improving achievement and opportunities for all through closing the gap for our most vulnerable children and young people*
- *Driving the economic prosperity of Halton to the benefit of residents and the workforce*

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Business Plans continue to form a key part of the Council's policy framework and will need to reflect known and anticipated legislative changes.
- 4.2 Elected Member engagement would be consistent with existing "Best Value Guidance" to consult with the representatives of a wide range of local persons with regards to formulating plans and strategies.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Directorate Plans identify resource implications.
- 5.2 Such plans will form the foundation of the performance monitoring reports received by Elected Members and Management Team on a quarterly basis.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCILS PRIORITIES

- 6.1 The annual review of medium-term business plans is one means by which we ensure that the strategic priorities of the Council inform, and are informed by, operational activity.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

- 7.1 The development of a Directorate Plan will allow the authority to both align its activities to the delivery of organisational and partnership priorities and to provide information to stakeholders as to the work of the Directorate over the coming year.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

- 8.1 Directorate Business Plans, and the determination of service objectives, are considered in the context of the Council's equality and diversity agenda.

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

There are no relevant background documents to this report.