

# Environment and Urban Renewal PPB – Priority Based Monitoring Report

Reporting Period: **Quarter 4 – 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 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 fourth quarter of 2020 / 21 for 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 2019-20 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
  - Housing Strategy
- 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 8 of this report.

## 2.0 Key Developments

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

### External Funding / Regeneration

- 2.2 The Council has continued to work closely with the Voluntary and Community Sector in providing support to organisations to apply for emergency funding streams available as a consequence of the COVID pandemic. From information gathered it is understood that 145 projects / individuals have received funding to a total value of just over £1.5M during 2020 – 21
- 2.3 Additionally during Quarter 4 Halton secured just in excess of £8M of external funding with the total for the financial year 2020 – 21 being £13.0M. Officers are now considering the longer-term picture and how external funding opportunities may support the recovery and resilience for the Voluntary and Community sector as funders start to reopen their normal grant programmes.
- 2.4 Construction of Project Violet at Sci-Tech Daresbry continues to programme with completion expected in November 2021 with the Chrysalis loan-funding agreement being agreed during Quarter 4. Additionally the Warburton's new build at Viking Park, 3MG, is continuing and completion is expected in summer 2021.

- 2.5 The Council is currently seeking a Joint Venture partner to deliver the Astmoor Masterplan and planning permission has been granted for 26 new homes at Foundry Lane and development partner City Heart has been appointed.
- 2.6 The Liverpool City Region (LCR) has extended its Town Centre Fund until 31<sup>st</sup> December and works in Halton Lea remain ongoing and these have included
- The planned opening of Unit 39 in May which will provide visitor spaces and cultural, arts and heritage activity to support the Borough of Culture Programme.
  - The planned opening in September of an outpatient clinic at Unit 42 providing dietetics, optometry and audiology services.
  - The relocation of the Citizens Advice Bureau and improvements to highways and pedestrian access to the Shopping City, the opening up of the Town Park entrance and improvements for the East Lane cycleway.
  - Support to new traders to have a retail presence in the 'The Box' in Shopping City and support through 3<sup>rd</sup> Sector grants to support organisations to deliver activity in retail space to stimulate increased footfall and reach targeted groups.

### **Open Spaces and Waste and Environmental Improvement**

- 2.7 During the first part of Quarter 4 both the Parks and the Streetscene sections were affected by absence that was related to Covid-19. The result was that the 2020/21 Winter Works programme (which in the main related to coppice and pruning works) was not completed. Missed works have now been scheduled for winter 2021/22 and regrettably this had led to some public complaint.
- 2.8 The cemeteries and crematorium section were very busy over the Q4 period. The service carried out 357 cremations (2019/20 Q4 = 263) and 87 full body burials (2019/20 Q4 = 107) during the period.
- 2.9 Waste collection services continued to operate through the previous 12 months. As was experienced in the previous 3 quarters, tonnages of waste and recyclable materials collected were significantly higher compared to the same periods in previous years. The table below shows details of the actual increases that were experienced;

| <b>Waste Stream</b> | <b>2019-20 Tonnage</b> | <b>2020-21 Tonnage</b> | <b>Additional Tonnage</b> | <b>Increase</b> |
|---------------------|------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| RESIDUAL WASTE      | 27,047                 | 30,034                 | 2,987                     | 11%             |
| KERBSIDE RECYCLING  | 10,211                 | 12,108                 | 1,897                     | 19%             |
| GARDEN WASTE        | 4,351                  | 5,155                  | 804                       | 18%             |

With more and more people working from home, and with the likelihood that many will continue to do so, it is expected that households will continue to produce increased tonnages of waste and recyclables and this will have both resource and financial implications moving forward.

### **Highways, Transportation & Logistics and Physical Environment**

- 2.10 Throughout 2020 – 21 there has been a steady decline in the condition of the housing network across the borough and this is reflective of the fiscal constraints that have been prevalent for a number of years.

- 2.11 The Environment Agency funded Grant in Aid scheme was brought forward as an emergency scheme due to severe winter flooding events. The Runcorn Road culvert work began in December 2020 and was completed in January 2021. An additional scheme in Arklow Drive is also being progressed as a result of flooding caused by Storm Christoph in January 2021.
- 2.12 Following works being undertaken in regards to repainting and the reconfiguration of carriageways and approaches and parapet renewal works the Silver Jubilee Bridge was successfully reopened to traffic on 26<sup>th</sup> February.
- 2.13 The first 2 weeks of hearings were undertaken in Quarter 4 with regards to the examination of the Delivery and Allocations Local Plan.
- 2.14 The Development Control Committee have continued to meet virtually during quarter 4 and the first live streaming of a meeting took place successfully with a number of applications still under consideration for proposed Housing and Employment schemes.

### 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 Consultation on the Right to Regenerate and the Public request to Order Disposal 1980 s98 by Ministry of Housing, Communities, and Local Government may result in a request to the Secretary of State to direct the Council to dispose of land and buildings that are defined under the Order as unused. Further information will be provided as this becomes known.
- 3.3 There are a plethora of Government Funding streams being released at present and staff are keeping abreast of these opportunities and ensuring that support is given to the relevant HBC Departments to bid for these where appropriate.

#### **Highways, Transportation & Logistics and Physical Environment**

- 3.4 Runcorn Station Quarter works continues to make good progress, with works to the Piazza having now commenced and highways have switched to Picow Farm Road and northern section of Cavendish Street. All agreements to carry out works have now been finalised with Avanti West Coast and Network Rail. Detailed design of the Active Travel Links from Cavendish Street to Dukesfield have commenced along with detailed design of the demolition of the footbridge across the Expressway.
- 3.5 Contractors proposals for site works and pricing information are expected to be received during late April with regards to the new Sankey Swing Bridge to allow access to Spike Island and these will be considered in due course.
- 3.6 Having agreed costs and methodology site works to Hutchinson Sidings Bridge are programmed to Start in May 2021.
- 3.7 Further Examination hearing sessions will take place in May and June. This will take place as a virtual hearing session and livestreamed. Officers will be preparing for this and working to provide the inspectors with the information for the plan to be examined

#### 4.0 Risk Control Measures

- 4.1 Risk control forms an integral part of the Council's Business Planning and Performance Monitoring arrangements. As such Directorate Risk Registers were updated in tandem with the development of the suite of 2019 – 20 Directorate Business Plans.
- 4.2 Progress concerning the implementation of all high-risk mitigation measures relevant to the Board were reported at quarter 2.

#### 5.0 High Priority Equality Actions

- 5.1 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.
- 5.2 The Council's 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>

#### 6.0 Performance Overview

- 6.1 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   | Q4 Progress                         |
|---------|--|-------------------------------------|
| EEP 02a | To prepare a Town Investment Plan for Runcorn <b>by January 2021</b>                                       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| EEP 02b | To prepare a Masterplan and Delivery Strategy for the Astmoor Industrial Estate <b>by September 2020</b>   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| EEP 02c | To deliver the Liverpool City Region Town Centres' Fund in Halton Lea by <b>31<sup>st</sup> March 2021</b> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

#### Supporting Commentary

EEP 02a / 2b







Proposals under the Town Deal initiative to deliver a regeneration programme in Runcorn Old Town have been submitted and a response is now awaited from Government.

Astmoor Masterplan and delivery Strategy is now complete and a joint-venture partner is now being sought to move the project to the delivery phase.

EEP 02c

As described within the Key Developments section of the report the programme to deliver the Town Centres Fund continues to move forward and the extension by the LCR to the end of December 2021 is proving helpful in mitigating the negative effects of the COVID situation.

### Key Performance Indicators

| Ref       | Measure  | 19 / 20 Actual                         | 20 / 21 Target                         | Q4 Actual                               | Q4 Progress   | Direction of travel   |
|-----------|--|--|--|---|---|---|
| EEP LI 04 | Occupancy rates of commercial and investment portfolio.                                      | 99%<br>Investment<br>93%<br>commercial | 99%<br>Investment<br>93%<br>commercial | 100%<br>Investment<br>90%<br>commercial |  |  |
| EEP LI 05 | Occupancy of Widnes Market Hall.   | 84%                                    | 84%                                    | 93%                                     |  |  |
| EEP LI 07 | Number of companies benefitting from the Council's intensive Key Account Management Service. | TBA                                    | TBA                                    | 56                                      |  |  |

### Supporting Commentary



Current Vacancies of commercial and investment portfolio –71 High St Runcorn, 6 Church St Runcorn, Frankie and Bennies the Hive, plot at Black Cat and the former bus depot Moor Lane. Marketing has now commenced for Frankie and Bennie's former unit and 6 Church St

Occupancy levels in the indoor Market remain very strong and traders have been assisted by rent free periods during lockdown and various grants have been used to sustain businesses during a very difficult trading year.

Because of competing priorities the current resource dedicated to KAM is reduced and therefore the number of companies receiving KAM support has remained static.

### Waste and Environmental Improvement

### Key Objectives / milestones





| Ref    | Milestones  | Q4 Progress   |
|--------|---|---|
| CE 03a | Manage greenspace areas as per the agreed specification - <b>March 2021</b> .   |  |
| 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 - <b>March 2021</b> . |  |

### Supporting Commentary

As reported in the Key Developments section this report the Winter Works Programme has been unavoidably disrupted as a result of COVID related staff absence during the quarter 4 period.

Restrictions that have been in place during periods of lockdown 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.

### Key Performance Indicators






| Ref      | Measure   | 19 / 20 Actual | 20 / 21 Target | Q4 Actual | Q4 Progress   | Direction of travel   |
|----------|---|----------------|----------------|-----------|---|---|
| CE LI 05 | Residual household waste per household.               | 607kg          | 610kg          | 634kg     |  |  |
| CE LI 06 | Proportion of household waste recycled and composted. | 40%            | 40%            | 37.8%     |  |  |

### Supporting Commentary

As reported in the Key Developments section of this report the tonnage of household waste has increased. Although there has been an increase in the tonnage of recycled / composted waste as a proportion of all waste the figure has remained relatively static when compared to the previous year.

### Policy, Planning and Transportation

### Key Objectives / milestones

| Ref    | Milestones  | Q4 Progress   |
|--------|---|---|
| PPT 02 | To deliver the 2019/20 LTP Capital Programme <b>March 2021</b>  |  |
| PPT 03 | Ensure continued unrestricted availability of the Highway network and to allow future maintenance to be delivered on a steady state, lifecycle planned basis. |  |
| PPT 04 | Continue to maintain the Highway Authorities statutory duties in accordance with Section 41 and 58 of the Highways Act.                                       |  |
| PPT 05 | Consult on a revised draft Delivery and Site Allocations Local Plan (DALP)  |  |
| PPT 06 | To ensure that at least one exercise is carried out each financial year to test the COMAH plans <b>March 2021</b>   |  |

### Supporting Commentary

See overleaf

PPT 02 / 03 / 04

Works on the LTP continue and Active Travel Scheme works are shortly due to commence at Runcorn Busway to improve cycling links between Halton Hospital and Murdishaw Centre and design work is underway for cycle routes between Murdishaw Centre to Castelfields and the Whitehouse Industrial estate.

Works have also begun to move from design to construction on works to the route from Runcorn Old Town to Sci-Tech Daresbury.

Highways and footways resurfacing and reconstruction works have now been completed on Town Lane to Curlender Way in Hale and a number of footway reconstruction works have been completed including Bishops Way, Shakespeare Rd, and Julian Way with works to Ditchfield Rd being at design stage.

A number of surface dressing works to carriageways are planned for summer 2021 across the borough and highway safety inspections continue to be undertaken.

PPT 05





The DALP was submitted for examination on the 5th March 2020. The Department has been working to complete outstanding evidential documents and is awaiting receipt of the Matters, Issues and Questions from the appointed independent Planning Inspectors. The first two Hearing Sessions have taken place with a further 3 to take place in May and June.

PPT 06

As part of its COMAH testing programme the Council has undertaken an exercise to test compliancy with COMAH Regulations (2015).

This involved 2 of the 9 COMAH sites in the borough which form part of the 3 year testing cycle using a table top format and Microsoft Teams software. The COMAH External Plan was tested and a structured debrief took place and an Exercise Report was produced as part of the validation / learning process. All arrangements were subsequently agreed with the Competent Authority (i.e. The Health and Safety Executive and the Environment Agency).

**Key Performance Indicators**

| Ref       | Measure  | 19 / 20 Actual | 20 / 21 Target | Q4 Actual         | Q4 Progress   | Direction of travel   |
|-----------|--|----------------|----------------|-------------------|---|---|
| PPT LI 02 | Net additional homes provided  | 450            | 552            | See comment below | N/A   | N/A   |
| PPT LI 03 | Number of affordable homes delivered (gross)   | 75             | --             |                   | N/A   | N/A   |
| PPT LI 04 | Processing of planning applications (%) as measured against targets for,                 |                |                |                   |   |  |
|           | a) 'major' applications  | 100%           |                | 80.52%            |  |   |
|           | b) 'minor' applications  | 92.85%         |                | 63%               |   |   |
|           | c) 'other' applications  | 88.17%         |                | 71.4%             |   |   |
| PPT LI 06 | No. of people killed or seriously injured (KSI) in road traffic collisions. (5 Year Av.) | 31.2           | N/A            | 28.8              |  |  |

| Ref       | Measure   | 19 / 20 Actual | 20 / 21 Target | Q4 Actual                  | Q4 Progress | Direction of travel |
|-----------|---|----------------|----------------|----------------------------|-------------|---------------------|
| PPT LI 07 | No. of children (<16) killed or seriously injured (KSI) in road traffic collisions. (5 year Av.)  | 4.0            | N/A            | 4.2                        |             |                     |
| PPT LI 08 | No. of people slightly injured in road traffic collisions. (5 Year Av.)   | 238            | N/A            | 219                        |             |                     |
| PPT LI 12 | Damage to roads and pavements (% above intervention levels) repaired within 24 hours.   | 100            | 100            | 100                        |             |                     |
| PPT LI 15 | % of network where structural maintenance should be considered:<br>a) Principal Roads<br>b) Non-Principal Roads<br>c) Unclassified Roads  | 1.6<br>2<br>4  | 2<br>4<br>9    | See comment                | N/A         |                     |
| PPT LI 16 | The proportion of non-frequent scheduled bus services on time (%):<br>a) Percentage of buses starting route on time<br>b) Percentage of buses on time at intermediate timing points | TBA<br>TBA     | 99.00<br>95.00 | See comment<br>See comment | N/A<br>N/A  | N/A<br>N/A          |
| PPT LI 18 | % of bus stops with Quality Corridor accessibility features. (No. of stops – 603)   | 461 (79%)      | 472 (81%)      | 461 (79%)                  |             |                     |

### Supporting Commentary

#### PPT 02/03

Completions were monitored for 2019/20 as at 31st July 2020 and reported in August 2020. Completions have reverted to being monitored annually as at 31st March 2021 and will be reported in the first Quarter of each year

#### PPT 04

The processing of planning applications has shown a downward trend when compared to 2019 – 20. However Officers have been working to reduce the accumulated backlog and following the use of agency staff and the appointment of a new member of staff processing times have improved considerably in quarter 4 with 100% of major and minor, and 95% of other applications being determined on time.

#### PPT 06/07/08

Whilst the five year average total number of people, and of children killed or seriously injured (KSI) in traffic accidents has remained fairly static there has been a reduction in the number of people slightly injured.



PPT 12/ 15

Repairs to damage of roads and pavement remains on track but as reported within the key developments section of this report available resources are negatively impacting upon the proportion of the network where structural maintenance should be considered.

PPT 16/18

Due to the COVID pandemic bus punctuality checks were postponed and the initial lockdown period forced operators to significantly reduce service frequency as a result of much reduced passenger numbers.

The number of bust stops with accessibility features has remained static as alternative COVID related initiatives have taken precedence and a number of shelters are now due to be installed in 2021 - 22.

## 7.0 Financial Statements

### ECONOMY ENTERPRISE & PROPERTY DEPARTMENT

#### Revenue Operational Budget as at 31 March 21

|  | Annual<br>Budget<br>£'000 | Actual<br>£'000 | Variance<br>(Overspend)<br>£'000 |
|--|---------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Expenditure</b>                             |                           |                 |                                  |
| Employee Related Expenditure                   | 4,430                     | 4,384           | 46                               |
| Repairs & Maintenance                          | 2,103                     | 1,891           | 212                              |
| Premises                                       | 97                        | 97              | 0                                |
| Energy & Water Costs                           | 691                       | 627             | 64                               |
| NNDR   | 463                       | 487             | (24)                             |
| Rents  | 166                       | 168             | (2)                              |
| Economic Regeneration Activities               | 13                        | 13              | 0                                |
| Security                                       | 471                       | 430             | 41                               |
| Supplies & Services                            | 352                       | 308             | 44                               |
| Supplies & Services - Grant                    | 691                       | 682             | 9                                |
| Grants to Voluntary Organisations              | 111                       | 111             | 0                                |
| Covid-19 Discretionary Business Support Grants | 2,417                     | 2,417           | 0                                |
| Capital Finance                                | 155                       | 155             | 0                                |
| Transfer to Reserves                           | 1,035                     | 1,035           | 0                                |
| <b>Total Expenditure</b>                       | <b>13,195</b>             | <b>12,805</b>   | <b>390</b>                       |
| <b>Income</b>                                  |                           |                 |                                  |
| Fees & Charges Income                          | -1,010                    | -1,001          | (9)                              |
| Rent - Commercial Properties                   | -671                      | -468            | (203)                            |
| Rent - Investment Properties                   | -39                       | -39             | 0                                |
| Rent - Markets                                 | -315                      | -315            | 0                                |
| Government Grant                               | -3,585                    | -3,585          | 0                                |
| Reimbursements & Other Grant Income            | -872                      | -879            | 7                                |
| Schools SLA Income                             | -480                      | -480            | 0                                |
| Recharges to Capital                           | -216                      | -216            | 0                                |
| Transfer from Reserves                         | -996                      | -1,061          | 65                               |
| <b>Total Income</b>                            | <b>-8,184</b>             | <b>-8,044</b>   | <b>(140)</b>                     |
| <b>Net Operational Expenditure</b>             | <b>5,011</b>              | <b>4,761</b>    | <b>250</b>                       |
| <b>Covid Costs</b>                             |                           |                 |                                  |
| Staffing                                       | 0                         | 59              | (59)                             |
| Repairs & Maintenance                          | 0                         | 81              | (81)                             |
| Security                                       | 0                         | 16              | (16)                             |
| Supplies & Services                            | 0                         | 85              | (85)                             |
| Reopening High Street Safely                   | 0                         | 25              | (25)                             |
| <b>Covid Loss of Income</b>                    |                           |                 |                                  |
| Rent - Commercial Properties                   | -316                      | 0               | (316)                            |
| Rent - Investment Properties                   | -5                        | 0               | (5)                              |
| Rent - Markets                                 | -470                      | 0               | (470)                            |
| <b>Government Grant Income</b>                 |                           |                 |                                  |
| General Covid Funding                          | 0                         | -1,032          | 1,032                            |
| Reopening High Street Safely                   | 0                         | -25             | 25                               |
| <b>Net Covid Expenditure</b>                   | <b>-791</b>               | <b>-791</b>     | <b>0</b>                         |
| <b>Recharges</b>                               |                           |                 |                                  |
| Premises Support                               | 1,777                     | 1,777           | 0                                |
| Transport Support                              | 28                        | 28              | 0                                |
| Central Support                                | 2,082                     | 2,082           | 0                                |
| Asset Rental Support                           | 1,308                     | 1,308           | 0                                |
| Recharge Income                                | -6,592                    | -6,592          | 0                                |
| <b>Net Total Recharges</b>                     | <b>-1,397</b>             | <b>-1,397</b>   | <b>0</b>                         |
| <b>Net Departmental Expenditure</b>            | <b>2,823</b>              | <b>2,573</b>    | <b>250</b>                       |

## **Comments on the above figures**

Finance worked closely with the Department in year to ensure that a balanced budget was achieved, this has resulted in a final underspend against available budget of £0.250m

Whilst effective control over expenditure was maintained, income remained a budget pressure, as the majority of the income is generated externally.

The saving measures put forward by the Department for 2020/21 have been met.

The department consists of 134.4 staff, of which 73 are externally funded, through grant/capital or external sources. The department put a hold on all vacancies until the next financial year. This helped towards meeting the staff turnover saving target of £0.092m

Due to the closure of The Brindley and other corporate buildings the security budget is under budget this financial year.

The negative variance in recent years for energy and water costs was addressed at budget setting time. Due to the majority of staff now working from home the budget is showing a positive variance this financial year.

The Repairs & Maintenance Programme is under budget this financial year. An assessment was carried out to identify work that was not committed and which can be delayed until the next financial year to help achieve a balanced budget position. The department also undertook an exercise to establish what expenditure was capital in nature, this has now been reclassified within the capital programme in order to make a saving on the revenue budget.

Some buildings have been acquired as part of a particular regeneration scheme and currently remain vacant. As a result, in the interim, operating costs will have to be funded by base budget until the buildings are demolished. This with the additional cost of NNDR on empty buildings, caused a significant budget pressure.

Adult Learning Division has contributed £0.212m as match funding towards the Ways to Work Programme. During the last 5 years this has generated £2.9m in matching funding, creating an employment programme of £5.5m

Commercial Property rent continues to be the main budget pressure for the department. During the last few years, the Council has disposed of many properties, either in preparation for regeneration projects but also to generate capital receipts. This loss of rent has been reflected in the setting of the 2021/22 budget income targets.

Grant conditions have allowed the Council to recharge staff time to projects, resulting in the Department over achieving on transfer from reserves income this financial year.

## **Covid Costs**

The majority of the costs for COVID are related to loss of income. The market tenants and some commercial property tenants were given a rent free period for a majority of the year.

Additional costs for the department relate to the purchase of PPE equipment, adaptations to corporate buildings plus security on the Ice Rink whilst it was being used as a morgue.

## ECONOMY ENTERPRISE & PROPERTY DEPARTMENT

### Capital Projects as at 31 March 21

| Project Title                                | 2020/21<br>Capital<br>Allocation<br>£'000 | Actual<br>£'000 | Total<br>Allocation<br>Remaining<br>£'000 |
|--|---|-----------------|---|
| 3MG  | 72  | 39              | 33  |
| Foundry Lane Residential Area                | 150                                       | 154             | (4)                                       |
| Kingsway House Moves                         | 13  | 17              | (4)                                       |
| Equality Act Improvement Works               | 93  | 83              | 10  |
| Widnes Market Refurbishment                  | 290                                       | 249             | 41  |
| Broseley House                               | 35  | 34              | 1   |
| Solar Farm                                   | 705                                       | 701             | 4   |
| Solar Farm Extension                         | 61  | 75              | (14)                                      |
| The Croft                                    | 30  | 31              | (1)                                       |
| Kingsway Learning Centre Improved Facilities | 499                                       | 449             | 50  |
| Kingsway Learning Centre Equipment           | 281                                       | 183             | 98  |
| Halton Lea TCF                               | 371                                       | 21              | 350                                       |
| Sci Tech Daresbury – Project Violet          | 6,389                                     | 4530            | 1,859                                     |
| Runcorn Town Centre Redevelopment            | 750                                       | 2102            | (1,352)                                   |
| Property Improvements                        | 200                                       | 202             | (2)                                       |
|  |   |                 |   |
| <b>Totals</b>                                | <b>9,939</b>                              | <b>8,870</b>    | <b>1,069</b>                              |

**Kingsway Learning Centre Improved Facilities** – Works to upgrade the centre have been completed and include a new lift, some room reconfiguration to create a dedicated Learner Break Out area and reception, new lighting, carpets and redecoration to all adult learning rooms and the staff kitchen.

**Kingsway Learning Centre Equipment** – All equipment has now been ordered and much of it installed, including new Clever Touch screens, banks of laptops and iPad, digital display screens in the corridor, glass display cabinets, new furniture and the procurement of an art mural (yet to be created).

**Runcorn Town Centre Redevelopment** – Allocation was used towards a site acquisition in the Runcorn Station Quarter to support the emerging masterplan proposals.

**3MG** – Alstom are investing in their site including an additional rail siding. CDP are preparing a planning application for their site. Liberty Park has strong interest in the 108,000sqft unit. Warburton's construction at Viking Park is proceeding well.

**Sci Tech Project Violet** – Construction is well underway on the 48,000 office space, with completion expected in November, Chrysalis loan funding agreement has been signed. Outline planning application has been submitted for the next 150,000 sq ft on the remaining JV land.

**Broseley House** – There is currently only one remaining tenant in the building who is due to vacate the premises by 30 June 2021. The Council is currently in the final stages of evaluating the tender returns in respect of the demolition of the building. The lowest tender return is well within the budget estimate, this has still to be checked however. All demolition works should be complete by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021.

**Equality Act** – Projects have been completed at Kingsway Learning Centre, 45A Moorfield Road, The Brindley and the Market, the budget has been underspent this year however due to delays with some works due to COVID. Projects not completed out of the 2020/21 budget will roll over to 2021/22.

**Widnes Market** – The outdoor roofing, gutters and downpipes replacement project has been completed on site, however there are still some small sections to be done. The practical completion payment has not yet been received until these works have been done.

**Solar Farm** - The Construction of the Solar Farm was completed in Aug 2020 with formal handover to the Council in early September following completion of the commissioning tests. To date has system has produced 463,000kwh of electricity which is in line with expectations.

**Property Improvement** – Capital works has been carried out on the Old Police Station, Widnes Market and Glendale.

**The Croft** – The purchase of the Croft Public House is now complete.

## **COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT**

### **Revenue Budget as at 31 March 2021**

|                                     | <b>Annual<br/>Budget<br/>£'000</b> | <b>Actual<br/>£'000</b> | <b>Variance<br/>(Overspend)<br/>£'000</b> |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| <b>Expenditure</b>                  |                                    |                         |   |
| Employees                           | 13,296                             | 12,626                  | 670                                       |
| Premises                            | 2,176                              | 1,936                   | 240                                       |
| Supplies & Services                 | 1,088                              | 910                     | 178                                       |
| Book Fund                           | 155                                | 135                     | 20  |
| Hired Services                      | 541                                | 484                     | 57  |
| Food Provisions                     | 137                                | 127                     | 10  |
| School Meals Food                   | 775                                | 775                     | 0   |
| Transport                           | 157                                | 145                     | 12  |
| Other Agency Costs                  | 181                                | 170                     | 11  |
| Waste Disposal Contract             | 6,188                              | 6,136                   | 52  |
| Grants to Voluntary Organisations   | 41                                 | 20                      | 21  |
| Grant to Norton Priory              | 172                                | 174                     | (2)                                       |
| Capital Financing                   | 262                                | 312                     | (50)                                      |
| Rolling Projects                    | 56                                 | 56                      | 0   |
| <b>Total Expenditure</b>            | <b>25,225</b>                      | <b>24,006</b>           | <b>1,219</b>                              |
| <b>Income</b>                       |                                    |                         |   |
| Sales Income                        | -733                               | -354                    | (379)                                     |
| School Meals Sales                  | -815                               | -617                    | (198)                                     |
| Fees & Charges Income               | -3,318                             | -2,983                  | (335)                                     |
| Rents Income                        | -101                               | -118                    | 17  |
| Government Grant Income             | -1,077                             | -1,154                  | 77  |
| Reimbursements & Other Grant Income | -597                               | -590                    | (7)                                       |
| Schools SLA                         | -1,221                             | -1,328                  | 107                                       |
| Internal Fees Income                | -280                               | -126                    | (154)                                     |
| School Meals Other Income           | -279                               | -89                     | (190)                                     |
| Catering Fees                       | -114                               | -73                     | (41)                                      |
| Capital Salaries                    | -173                               | -166                    | (7)                                       |
| Transfers from Reserves             | -189                               | -227                    | 38  |
| <b>Total Income</b>                 | <b>-8,897</b>                      | <b>-7,825</b>           | <b>(1,072)</b>                            |
| <b>Net Operational Expenditure</b>  | <b>16,328</b>                      | <b>16,181</b>           | <b>147</b>                                |

## Revenue Budget as at 31 March 2021...continued

|                                     | <b>Annual Budget</b> | <b>Actual</b> | <b>Variance (Overspend)</b> |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|
|                                     | <b>£'000</b>         | <b>£'000</b>  | <b>£'000</b>                |
| <b>Covid Costs</b>                  |                      |               |                             |
| Community Development               | 0                    | 1             | (1)                         |
| Community Safety                    | 0                    | 8             | (8)                         |
| Leisure & Recreation                | 0                    | 13            | (13)                        |
| Open Spaces                         | 0                    | 324           | (324)                       |
| Schools Catering                    | 0                    | 17            | (17)                        |
| Waste & Environmental Improvement   | 0                    | 540           | (540)                       |
| Shielding Hub                       | 0                    | 25            | (25)                        |
| Surge Enforcement Scheme            | 0                    | 88            | (88)                        |
| Winter Grant Scheme                 | 0                    | 500           | (500)                       |
| <b>Covid Loss of Income</b>         |                      |               |                             |
| Commercial Catering                 | -58                  | 0             | (58)                        |
| Community Development               | -189                 | 0             | (189)                       |
| Leisure & Recreation                | -658                 | 0             | (658)                       |
| Open Spaces                         | -354                 | 0             | (354)                       |
| Schools Catering                    | -165                 | 0             | (165)                       |
| Stadium                             | -542                 | 0             | (542)                       |
| Waste & Environmental Improvement   | -32                  | 0             | (32)                        |
| <b>Government Grant Income</b>      |                      |               |                             |
| General Covid Funding               | 0                    | -2,927        | 2,927                       |
| Surge Enforcement Grant             | 0                    | -87           | 87                          |
| Winter Grant Scheme                 | 0                    | -500          | 500                         |
| <b>Net Covid Expenditure</b>        | <b>-1,998</b>        | <b>-1,998</b> | <b>0</b>                    |
| <b>Recharges</b>                    |                      |               |                             |
| Premises Support                    | 1,640                | 1,640         | 0                           |
| Transport Support                   | 2,360                | 2,192         | 168                         |
| Central Support                     | 4,170                | 4,170         | 0                           |
| Asset Rental Support                | 3,558                | 3,558         | 0                           |
| Recharge Income                     | -488                 | -488          | 0                           |
| <b>Net Total Recharges</b>          | <b>11,240</b>        | <b>11,072</b> | <b>168</b>                  |
| <b>Net Departmental Expenditure</b> | <b>25,570</b>        | <b>25,255</b> | <b>315</b>                  |

### Comments on the above figures

The net Department spend is £0.315m under budget as at 31 March 2021.

The Department has been greatly affected by Covid-19 during the past year. Many services were halted for the majority of the year, whilst others have had to make changes to working methods and service delivery, all of which have had an impact on the Department's budgetary position. As such, the Department outturn for 2020/21 has changed considerably from 2019/20, with the caveat that there are many uncertainties around when and how service provision can begin to return to normal.

Employee expenditure is £0.670m under budget at the end of the year. Underspend against budget relates to a large number of unfilled vacancies in the Leisure Centres, The Brindley and within Open Spaces. Site closures and reductions in service delivery during Covid have allowed vacancies across the Department to be held open for longer than usual which has also contributed to the underspend.

Premises costs are £0.240m under budget at the end of 2020/21. Utilities and repair costs have reduced considerably whilst sites have been closed. The outturn position is under budget due to ongoing closures at The Brindley and Runcorn Swimming Pool, a reduction in services offered at the Stadium and reduced energy usage at the Leisure Centres due to restricted capacity.

Spend on Supplies and Services is £0.178m under the revised budget and spend on hired services is £0.057m under budget. This underspend has been generated by reduced spending on services that were temporarily halted during the pandemic.

Rolling Projects spend partially relates to emergency works to the Sankey Canal which have been necessitated by the closure of Fiddlers Ferry Power Station and has been funded centrally by the Council.

Reduced income has been received for School Meals sales during 2020/21 due to schools being closed for large parts of the year. It was extremely challenging to estimate the income which was likely to be received during the year as the service was subjected to considerable disruption since resuming fully in September, as many schools had to send large numbers of children home to self-isolate. Sales income was also affected by the economic downturn and an increase in free school meals numbers. These factors meant that any projections relating to the School Meals service were subject to a high degree of uncertainty and changed considerably during 2020/21 financial year.

Sales and Fees & Charges income is £0.379m and £0.335m less than the budgeted target at the end of the financial year. This relates to continued shortfalls in income in the Leisure Centres and the Stadium, offset by an increase in income for Cemeteries, the Crematorium and green waste licences.

Internally generated income for room bookings, school meal costs and catering is £0.385m under the budgeted target for the year. It is likely this will have a continued impact on the department's budget in the future if there is to be ongoing changes to staff working from home and meetings taking place virtually. The income loss for the department will be offset by reduced spend across all Council services. This area of the budget will be reviewed once it is known how the impact of covid will affect working arrangements across the Council.

The Department has incurred £0.928m of additional costs due to Covid-19 for the 2020/21 financial year. £0.296m of these costs relate to the rental of the ice rink for use as a temporary morgue and the installation of a temporary cremator to cope with additional service demand. There were also £0.020m of additional costs incurred due to the School Meals service requiring to operate throughout the school holidays, and £15k of food costs relating to the Shielding Hub for distribution to vulnerable residents. The majority of the additional costs are in relation to waste disposal, £0.539m caused by a significant increase in the amount of waste generated from households during lockdown. This has increased considerably from the estimated cost at the start of the year due to the Liverpool City Region being subject to Tier 3 restrictions at various times of the year as well as part of a national lockdown. There were also additional costs incurred relating to PPE and cleaning requirements in buildings which were open to the public.

Covid-19 related net income losses across the Department for 2020/21 amounted to £1.998m, which was covered by a government grant. The areas of the largest losses included Leisure Centres, Community Centres, The Brindley and School meals as these services were closed for the majority of the year.

During 2020/21 any additional costs and loss of external income that can be attributed to Covid-19 have been covered by government grant funding. This includes a grant of £0.231m awarded by the Arts Council to assist with the running costs of The Brindley, as well as to purchase equipment to enable the theatre to reopen safely in 2021/22.

Another Covid grant announced by the Government in late 2020 was the Winter Grant scheme for £0.500m, which has been utilised to provide free school meals vouchers for children of the borough.



## Capital Projects as at 31 March 2021

| <b>Project Title</b>                           | <b>2020/21<br/>Capital<br/>Allocation<br/>£'000</b> | <b>Actual<br/>£'000</b> | <b>Total<br/>Allocation<br/>Remaining<br/>£'000</b> |
|--|---|-------------------------|---|
| Stadium Minor Works                            | 69  | 60                      | 9   |
| Children's Playground Equipment                | 128   | 128                     | 0   |
| Landfill Tax Credits                           | 10  | 0                       | 10  |
| Upton Improvements                             | 13  | 0                       | 13  |
| Crow Wood Play Area                            | 90  | 22                      | 68  |
| Crow Wood Pavilion                             | 1   | 1                       | 0   |
| Peelhouse Lane Cemetery                        | 389   | 368                     | 21  |
| Victoria Park Glass House                      | 25  | 21                      | 4   |
| Sandymoor Playing Fields                       | 3   | 1                       | 2   |
| Town Park                                      | 246   | 23                      | 223   |
| Open Spaces                                    | 542   | 331                     | 211   |
| Bowling Greens                                 | 5   | 4                       | 1   |
| Widnes & Runcorn Cemeteries – Garage & Storage | 3   | 0                       | 3   |
| Litter Bins                                    | 26  | 26                      | 0   |
| Brookvale Recreation Centre Pitch              | 488   | 11                      | 477   |
| Moor Lane Leisure Centre                       | 1,986   | 1,089                   | 897   |
| Stadium Decarbonisation Scheme                 | 1,200   | 0                       | 1,200   |
| <b>Totals</b>                                  | <b>5,224</b>  | <b>2,085</b>            | <b>3,139</b>  |

### Comments on the above figures.

**Stadium Minor Works** – There have been major works carried out to modernise the Bridge Suite, including upgrading to energy efficient LED lighting.

**Children's Playground Equipment** - This is an ongoing project which includes spend on improvements within the Borough's playgrounds.

**Crow Wood Park** – The park building and the external works are substantially complete and the next phase of landscaping works is now under way.

**Open Spaces Schemes** – This covers spending on a variety of externally funded ongoing projects, including works to Sunnybank Park, Birchfield Gardens and several projects in the Runcorn Hill area. In addition, work commenced in January 2021 on the Seafarers & Covid Memorial Garden at Runcorn Cemetery.

**Peelhouse Lane Cemetery** – Cemetery is now completed and operational.

**Victoria Park Glass House** – Works to the glass house and gardens are now complete. The garden area has now been handed over to the Volunteer group to take over the day to day running.

**Sandymoor Playing Fields** – The project is now completed and has been handed over to The Parish Council.

**Widnes & Runcorn Cemeteries - Garage & Storage** – Work at both sites has now been completed, with the exception of some final establishment works. There will be a retention payment due in 2021/22.

**Town Park** – The southern paths phase is complete and design work for the next phase near Palacefields Avenue and Stockham Lane is underway.

**Bowling Greens** – All works at the bowling greens have now been completed.

**Brookvale Recreation Pitch** – The Football Foundation Grant application decision is not due until July 2021 so significant spend on this project will not commence until then.

**Moor Lane Leisure Centre** – Works currently on hold due to potential compulsory purchase orders (CPO) on site and major work will now begin in 2021/22.

**Stadium Decarbonisation Scheme** – Scheme now due to commence in 2021/22.

## POLICY, PLANNING & TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

### Revenue Operational Budget as at 31 March 21

|   | Annual Budget | Actual        | Variance (Overspend) |
|---|---------------|---------------|----------------------|
|   | £'000         | £'000         | £'000                |
| <b>Expenditure</b>                        |               |               |                      |
| Employees                                 | 4,751         | 4,304         | 447                  |
| Efficiency Savings                        | -300          | -300          | 0                    |
| Premises                                  | 161           | 108           | 53                   |
| Hired & Contracted Services               | 133           | 467           | (334)                |
| Supplies & Services                       | 85            | 141           | (56)                 |
| Street Lighting                           | 1,673         | 1,087         | 586                  |
| Highways Maintenance                      | 2,534         | 2,716         | (182)                |
| Fleet Transport                           | 1,363         | 1,090         | 273                  |
| Bus Support - Halton Hopper Tickets       | 197           | -1            | 198                  |
| Bus Support                               | 603           | 444           | 159                  |
| Capital Financing                         | 1,252         | 1,267         | (15)                 |
| Grants to Voluntary Organisations         | 61            | 61            | 0                    |
| NRA Levy                                  | 67            | 66            | 1                    |
| LCR Levy                                  | 882           | 882           | 0                    |
| <b>Total Expenditure</b>                  | <b>13,462</b> | <b>12,332</b> | <b>1,130</b>         |
| <b>Income</b>                             |               |               |                      |
| Sales & Rents Income                      | -133          | -83           | (50)                 |
| Planning Fees                             | -546          | -588          | 42                   |
| Building Control Fees                     | -217          | -172          | (45)                 |
| Other Fees & Charges                      | -904          | -807          | (97)                 |
| Grants & Reimbursements                   | -145          | -322          | 177                  |
| Government Grant Income                   | -473          | -483          | 10                   |
| Halton Hopper Income                      | -197          | -14           | (183)                |
| School SLA's                              | -45           | -41           | (4)                  |
| Recharge to Capital                       | -317          | -241          | (76)                 |
| LCR Levy Reimbursement                    | -882          | -882          | 0                    |
| Contribution from Reserves                | -362          | -362          | 0                    |
| Efficiency Savings                        | -28           | 0             | (28)                 |
| <b>Total Income</b>                       | <b>-4,249</b> | <b>-3,995</b> | <b>(254)</b>         |
| <b>Net Operational Expenditure</b>        | <b>9,213</b>  | <b>8,337</b>  | <b>876</b>           |
| <b>Covid Costs</b>                        |               |               |                      |
| Employees                                 | 0             | 116           | (116)                |
| Bus Support                               | 0             | 25            | (25)                 |
| PPE & Equipment                           | 0             | 81            | (81)                 |
| EATF Grant Expenditure                    | 0             | 13            | (13)                 |
| Additional Home to School Transport       | 0             | 49            | (49)                 |
| Covid Bus Support Grant                   | 0             | 25            | (25)                 |
| Contribution from Capital Reserves        | 0             | 387           | (387)                |
| <b>Covid Loss of Income</b>               |               |               |                      |
| Fees & Charges                            | -75           | 0             | (75)                 |
| Grants & Reimbursements                   | -37           | 0             | (37)                 |
| <b>Government Grant Income</b>            |               |               |                      |
| Covid Bus Support Grant                   | 0             | -25           | 25                   |
| EAT Grant                                 | 0             | -13           | 13                   |
| Additional Home to School Transport Grant | 0             | -49           | 49                   |
| Government Grant Income                   | 0             | -721          | 721                  |
| <b>Net Covid Expenditure</b>              | <b>-112</b>   | <b>-112</b>   | <b>0</b>             |
| <b>Recharges</b>                          |               |               |                      |
| Premises Recharges                        | 572           | 572           | 0                    |
| Transport Recharges                       | 692           | 620           | 72                   |
| Asset Charges                             | 9,766         | 9,766         | 0                    |
| Central Recharges                         | 1,733         | 1,733         | 0                    |
| Transport Recharge Income                 | -4,299        | -4,136        | (163)                |
| Central Recharge Income                   | -857          | -857          | 0                    |
| <b>Net Total Recharges</b>                | <b>7,607</b>  | <b>7,698</b>  | <b>(91)</b>          |
| <b>Net Departmental Expenditure</b>       | <b>16,708</b> | <b>15,923</b> | <b>785</b>           |

## Comments on the above figures

As at 31 March 2021 the department net spend was £0.785m below the approved budget. Financial Management worked closely with the Department in year to ensure that budgets were managed as proactively as possible.

Whilst effective control over expenditure was maintained, income was a constant budget pressure, as the majority of the income is generated externally and subject to fluctuations as a result of the pandemic.

Employee net spend was below budget by £0.447m due to a number of vacancies across the whole department, in particular the Highways / Planning and Traffic divisions. Vacant posts are currently being held and not advertised in a bid to achieve in-year savings. Across the department, there are 96.5fte's and of these 14.4fte's are currently vacant, including a Divisional Manager post. It is important to note however that 3fte's are currently being filled via a contractual shared Building Control service between Halton and Knowsley. It is anticipated that the majority of the vacant posts will be filled following a complete restructure in 2021/22.

Hired and contracted services, as well as supplies and services, are over budget due to additional survey costs and plans which have been required in the Planning division. Halton also has a contract with MEAS (Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service) which is hosted by Sefton LA. This is used to provide Halton with advice in relation to ecology, waste, environmental impact assessments and local plans. To have this advice internally would cost Halton more than the contract, but now, it is significantly over the allocated budget. Legal fees are also over budget due to external legal advice for unauthorised traveller sites at Factory Lane, Widnes.

Street lighting energy costs came in significantly under budget in this financial year, it has been difficult over the past year to forecast the energy cost due to the poor timing and receipt of energy bills.

Highways maintenance budgets were monitored closely throughout the year but spend was over the approved budget by £0.182m. These budgets are difficult forecast throughout the year due to the reactive nature of the work.

Fleet transport costs are under budget as projected this financial year. This is mostly due to fleet being replaced for newer models that are much more efficient and this has led to a reduction in consumables such as vehicle parts, tyres and fuel. This in turn then has an impact on the costs recharged out to other services within the authority.

Halton Hopper tickets were largely under budget due to the loss of Halton Transport at the end of 2019/20 and the impact of the pandemic on the demand for public transport. This meant that expenditure on bus tickets was minimal with a corresponding impact on the amount of income generated by selling the tickets to the public.

Bus support costs for the year are less than the approved budget as costs usually funded from base have been switched to available covid grant funding.

Sales income came in under target this financial year due to a lack of permit income and external fuel sales.

Fees and charges did not achieve income targets due to a lack of education related income. There was also an under achievement of contaminated land enquiries income due to the current national position

The over achievement of reimbursement income is as a result of a review of balance sheet items which has allowed the department to release funds into the revenue budget.

## **COVID Costs and Loss of Income**

Employees worked additional hours to provide support to the various sections within the authority, which increased staffing expenditure. There has also been a significant increase in overtime within the Logistics division, which is all in relation to transportation. This has now ended and has been reflected in the above figures.

Bus Support had additional costs in 2020/21 due to services having to be provided during school holidays for the children who were identified as being in a key worker family.

There has also been a large increase in transfers to capital reserves due to two of the main capital contractors increasing costs during the pandemic. Costs are in relation to contractors having to spend additional time cleaning tools and machinery, additional time for loading and unloading, staggered starts and finishes. Lastly travel time to pick up materials has increased significantly due to plant closures being put in place due to lack of staff, this has meant contractors have had to travel further afield in order to pick up required materials.

Lowerhouse Lane Depot was closed for the best part of three months and therefore the income received was slightly under budget. This affected MOT, repairs and taxi testing income targets.

The Highways division achieved a lower amount of supervision fees because the work being carried out by third parties is not at the same level as in previous years.

**POLICY, PLANNING & TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT**  
**Capital Projects as at 31 March 21**

| <b>Project Title</b>                        | <b>2020/21<br/>Capital<br/>Allocation<br/>£'000</b> | <b>Actual<br/>£'000</b> | <b>Total<br/>Allocation<br/>Remaining<br/>£'000</b> |
|---|---|-------------------------|---|
| <b>Local Transport Plan</b>                 |   |                         |   |
| Total Bridge & Highway Maintenance          | 4,810   | 1,639                   | 3,171   |
| Integrated Transport                        | 1,368   | 550                     | 818   |
| STEP Schemes                                | 0   | 156                     | (156)   |
| SJB MM - Arch Painting                      | 641   | 320                     | 321   |
| SJB - Deck Reconfiguration                  | 453   | 498                     | (45)  |
| SJB - Decoupling                            | 10,247  | 8,752                   | 1,495   |
| KRN - Earle Rd Gyratory                     | 233   | 0                       | 233   |
| Widnes Loops                                | 4,258   | 1,466                   | 2,792   |
| <b>Total Local Transport Plan</b>           | <b>22,010</b>                                       | <b>13,381</b>           | <b>8,629</b>  |
| <b>Halton Borough Council Schemes</b>       |   |                         |   |
| Street Lighting                             | 527   | 17                      | 510   |
| Lighting Upgrades                           | 957   | 212                     | 745   |
| Silver Jubilee Bridge - Lighting            | 500   | 7                       | 493   |
| Risk Management                             | 355   | 71                      | 284   |
| Fleet Vehicles                              | 1,086   | 312                     | 774   |
| SUD Green Cycle                             | 469   | 455                     | 14  |
| Windmill Hill Flood Risk Management Scheme  | 218   | 54                      | 164   |
| <b>Total Halton Borough Council Schemes</b> | <b>4,112</b>  | <b>1,128</b>            | <b>2,984</b>  |
| <b>Totals</b>                               | <b>26,122</b>                                       | <b>14,509</b>           | <b>11,613</b>                                       |

**Comments on the above figures**

Due to long-term vacancies, ongoing now for two financial years, and new additional workload from government grants, Highways are under capacity in terms of staff resourcing available to capital projects. This has led to some slippage of programmes

**Highway Maintenance** - The KRN (Key route network) is due to be completed in 2021/22 which is Leigh Avenue reconstruction from Kingsway to Deacon Road plus other locations yet to be decided by the CA (combined authority).

**Integrated Transport Block** - Work has not yet been completed on various projects contained within this block, but progress is expected to be made in 2021/22.

**STEP** - this programme did not actually overspend despite there not being an allocation for it in 2020/21. The expenditure was offset using Challenge Fund monies.

**SJB MM – Arch Painting** – the remainder of this pot was used to offset the contribution required on the SJB LGF grant

**SJB Deck Reconfiguration** – again the expenditure on this was offset using Challenge Fund monies

**SJB Decoupling (Runcorn Station Quarter)** – work has progressed very quickly this financial year and is anticipated to be completed from a Highways element around November 21.

**KRN Earle Rd Gyrotory** – this project came in under budget and is now complete

**Widnes Loops** – work has not yet been completed. There is still the demolition of three buildings and alignment of Waterloo Road to be done

**Street Lighting** – final have not yet been received in full from Scottish Power therefore the budget will be moved into 2021/22 to offset them when they arrive

**Lighting Upgrades** – similar to street lighting above there is an ongoing issue with Jones Lighting but again they are behind with billing

**SJB Lighting** – this project is currently at the feasibility stage and therefore only just started. It is expected to be completed in 2021/22

**Risk Management** – 50% of the remaining balance is for a salt barn (new salt storage facilities at Picow Farm Road, Runcorn). This will improve the storage of the salt, which will in turn ensure the quality of the salt does not deteriorate whilst it is in storage. This project has been delayed and is not expected to be completed now until 2022/23




**Fleet Vehicles** – 2020/21 was a year in which few vehicles needed to be purchased. This is in part due to an excellent maintenance scheme which means that some vehicles can be ran on past their initial replacement date if possible. This budget will be required in future years as the Council have a number of high value replacements due in the coming years which will need to be funded (for example a number of refuse collection vehicles).

**Windmill Hill Flood Risk** – currently on site with Lambros and work is expected to be finalised in Q1 2021/22.





## 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 <b>is better</b> as compared to the same period last year.   |
| Amber  | Indicates that performance <b>is the same</b> as compared to the same period last year. |
| Red    | Indicates that performance <b>is worse</b> as compared to the same period last year.    |
| N / A  | Indicates that the measure cannot be compared to the same period last year.             |