

REPORT TO: Environment and Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 16th November 2022

REPORTING OFFICER: Operational Director – Policy, Planning & Transportation

PORTFOLIO: Environment and Urban Renewal

SUBJECT: Environmental Fund Update

WARDS: Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To update the Board on the expenditure of the Environmental Fund.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the Board notes the wide range of projects that have benefited from the fund, as set out in Appendix 1.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 Planning permission for the Runcorn Thermal Power Station (TPS) Plant was granted in September 2008. The Plant is subject to a legal agreement entered into under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

3.2 The legal agreement contains a provision that the owner of the Plant agrees to pay the Council an annual lump sum payment for every tonne of fuel received and processed. The legal agreement states:

“that the lump sum payments shall be used by the Council to fund environmental matters as may be specified from time to time by the Council within the Borough of Halton for the benefit of its residents generally and which may include measures to improve public transport, highway network improvements, travel plan monitoring, waste recycling and wider community improvements such as landscaping and nature conservation measures.”

3.3 To date, the fund has generated £5,035,120.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The fund provides a mechanism to advance the Council’s environmental priorities. It also adds considerable value by acting as a source of matched financing to support bids for external funding. In this way, the effectiveness of the fund can be multiplied.

4.2 The projects that have been funded are set out in Appendix 1. These interventions benefit both Runcorn and Widnes, and the Borough as a whole. Many of the environmental improvements that are funded have wide ranging benefits including health improvement, encouraging people to use their local spaces more, improving access to open space, and encouraging walking and cycling. As an example, the policy objectives of encouraging walking and cycling include: tackling climate change; improving air quality; reducing congestion improving health and well-being; improving access to employment opportunities.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

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

6.0 RISK ANALYSIS

6.1 There are no legal or financial risks that arise from the subject of this report.

7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

7.1 There are no equality and diversity implications arising from the subject of this report.

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

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
S.106 legal agreement	Municipal Building	Andrew Plant