

Environment and Urban Renewal PPB – Priority Based Monitoring Report

Rep

Reporting Period: **Quarter 2 – 1st July 2023 to 30th September 2023**

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This report provides an overview of issues and progress against key service objectives/milestones and performance targets, during the second quarter of 2023 / 24 for those service areas within the remit of the Environment and Regeneration Policy and Performance Board.
- 1.2 Key priorities for development or improvement in 2023 / 24 were agreed by Members and included in Directorate Plans, for the various functional areas reporting to the Environment & Regeneration Policy & Performance Board i.e.:
 - Development & Investment Services
 - Open Spaces and Waste and Environmental Improvement
 - Highways, Transportation & Logistics and Physical Environment
- 1.4 The way in which traffic light symbols have been used to reflect progress to date is explained within Section 7 of this report.

2.0 Key Developments

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

Economy Enterprise & Property

2.2 Regeneration Town Centres

Halton Lea

Halton 5 redevelopment of offices to residential units (113 residential units comprising 14 2 bed and 99 1 bed) is on site.

Riverside – Phase I (Tricorn, local centre & church) – Planning permission has been granted.

Riverside- Phase II Planning Application (which includes Uplands and Town Park) - proposed demolition of dwellings, closure of subways and erection of replacement dwellings(23/00368/Ful) has now been submitted – currently out for consultation

“Changing Places” - Project to improve facilities & access at Halton Lea library is now on site. Tender assessment now complete and with contractor/developer “Parklands” winning with a tender price of £76,545 and is now on site.

Runcorn

Work to progress the programme of projects called “Reconnecting Runcorn” funded by the £23.6m Runcorn Town Deal is progressing with all proposals achieving traction. Most projects are progressing through the design phases, with all the associated surveys, consents, agreements, working with multi-disciplinary consultant teams, with a wide variety of colleagues / Council teams, and numerous external stakeholders involved.

First achievements on site can be reported: Hazlehurst had its official opening of 71 High Street on 9 June, which coincided with a Reconnecting Runcorn public information event at the Brindley, which was well attended by the public, with information stands on all project outputs with all Architects involved presenting.

Contractor Dunkil requires more time to complete the substructure of the Buddhist Temple, with the start of the Peace Garden works subsequently delayed.

The next projects to see a start on site early 2024 are (hopefully): The Brindley Theatre extension, and the new Youth Centre (57 59 High Street). Following the acquisition of a High Street site by Halton Housing, they are also likely to make a start with the construction of 66 new flats early in 2024.

Runcorn Station Quarter

Over the summer months we have received legal advice from DWF to help guide the procurement route and structure for an Operator to successfully manage and operate the Enterprise Hub. A draft Heads of Terms has also been produced.

Runcorn Station Building Development –A detailed delivery programme up to Approval In Principal stage has been produced and is 3 weeks ahead of schedule. A sponsor’s instruction has also been signed by partners along with Client Requirements and Client Remit.

A plan has now been finalised that highlights pockets of land in the Runcorn Station Quarter red line boundary area that are currently unregistered. DLA Piper will now begin to gather the necessary information to make the application on the Council’s behalf to HMLR.

2.3 Regeneration Non-Town Centres

Sci-Tech Daresbury

Discussions are ongoing with LCR Combined Authority in relation to the establishment of an Investment Zone across the LCR with a tax relief and business rates retention site at Sci-Tech Daresbury. The proposal will be reported to Executive Board in Q3. The next phase of development at the campus, Project Violet Phase 2 has been included in the Investment Zone priority projects and a reserved matters planning application has been submitted. The project will be tendered in Q3 and work is ongoing to secure funding ahead of an April 2024 start on site.

Astmoor

The Development Agreement is awaiting signature. The Project Manager has left post and recruitment to replace is under review. The project delivery plan is currently under review and key priority actions for the next quarter will be identified.

Foundry Lane

Developers Cityheart are on site, the final state of remediation is underway and foundations will commence in Q3. The planning for Phase 2 is prepared and awaits confirmation of the S73. The Project Manager has left post and recruitment to replace is under review.

Energy Retrofit Programme

- The team continue to manage a number of grant schemes to enable Halton residents, private landlords and Registered Providers access funds to improve the energy performance and decarbonise homes within the

Borough. These schemes are being delivered in partnership with the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority, with grant funding secured from Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy;

- Delivery of the Sustainable Warmth Fund has been the main focus of activity during this quarter. A delivery extension was provided by Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) from 31st March 2023 to 30th September 2023 to enable completion of home energy improvement works.
- Grant funding been secured from the Home Upgrade Grant Round 2 (HUG2), with a target to improve between 50 – 100 properties 'off gas' properties, with insulation and renewable energy measure. A delivery / managing agent is current being procured by the Combined Authority, with the grant scheduled to launch in Autumn 2023 and run until March 2025.
- Residents' queries and applications for grant funding remain high.

West Runcorn

- The Council is continuing to work with INOVYN (part of the INEOS Group) and on their intention to improve and attract investment at their Runcorn site. This is part of a broader ambition to support longer term growth in green industry and jobs within West Runcorn.
- The Council has a memorandum of understanding with the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority to establish a Liverpool City Region Freeport, which includes Port of Weston.
- The Council continues to work towards undertaking design, feasibility and technical survey work to provide much needed infrastructure to unlock the Port of Weston. This work will be funded through drawdown of an initial tranche from the provisional allocation of £6.5m of capital seed funding.
- A milestone has been achieved with a Executive Board Approval for procurement of a specialist consultancy team to undertake feasibility work.
- Subject to a grant funding agreement with the Combined Authority, it is anticipated this feasibility work will commence in Quarter 3 2023/24.

3MG

Project closure meeting took place in the quarter between HBC and DLUC to discuss the overall outcomes of the project and establish arrangements for closure and completion.

Exeter 195 at Viking Park is near completion and is generating interest in the market. We expect to see a lease agreement soon for this. The sites at 3MG being promoted by a combination of the Liverpool city region growth board and service Halton borough council and the Freeport team which is also co located at Mann island with the investment service.

Borough wide Housing Strategy

Work has begun on preparing a new Borough wide Housing Strategy. An initial scoping period commenced in Quarter 2, with production scheduled to begin in Quarter 4 2023/24 and formal stakeholder and public consultation in 2024/25.

Business, Investment & Growth – Business Support Service

Within the quarter, the Business Improvement & Growth Team has rebranded and is now called the Business Investment & Growth Team. The rebrand was needed a) to align Halton with other services within the Liverpool City Region and b) to more accurately reflect for service that is being provided, namely supporting growing businesses and attracting new investors to the area.

The team has also designed a new programme to replace the Business Growth Programme. This is called the Business Support Service and has eight consultancy streams along with a business start element. The new design office programme means all services for business support are now integral and central to the Business Investment & Growth team leading to a smooth service for businesses needing help.

Initial discussions have taken place on a no prejudice basis with organisations who would like to deliver the Business Support Service. They will then give these contracts will take place in the next quarter where the majority (77%) being available in open market.

53 unique business interactions – 8 one-to-one business meetings, 22 property enquiries and 23 expressions of interest to the Business Support Service.

2.4 Asset Management

Former bus depot Moor Lane Widnes – following a period of marketing a purchaser has been found and legal service have been instructed to complete the transaction.

Completion of lease renewal for Unit 37 Astmoor Runcorn for the Bridge School

Completion of the lease renewal with Espositos Café at Victoria Park Widnes

Completion of the underlease for part second floor Rutland House with the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities

2.5 Policy Planning & Transportation

2.6 Highway Development

- Dukesfield Active Travel route completed linking Dukesfield to Runcorn Station Quarter via Waterloo Bridge.
- Procurement of a new Highway maintenance contract completed with an award made to Tarmac (joint contract with Warrington)
- SJB major maintenance scheme under preparation. This comprises steelwork painting on the suspended span of the bridge (below the bridge deck / carriageway).
- Arrangements have been made for the biannual cable loading testing exercise on SJB in October.
- Preparations have been made for the Principal Bridge Inspections to 4 canal bridges in Runcorn. The work will be undertaken in October, under licence from the Bridgewater Canal Company using a pontoon.
- the new Spike Island access bridge, which is due to be installed in the Autumn. Steelwork fabrication and foundation design arrangements have been progressed for
- Redrow and their contractor George Cox commenced work on the new junction onto the A558 from Keckwick Lane, this work includes a bridge for the New Farm underpass. The Daresbury Expressway is expected to re-open on 23 October.

2.7 Planning

- Q2 has seen some large housing applications determined by the Planning Committee, with a total of 813 dwellings consented:
 - 22/00318/FUL – Miller Homes site in North Widnes – 328 homes
 - 22/00377/FUL – Prospect Homes site in North Widnes – 99 homes
 - 22/00602/COU – 17 units in Runcorn Old Town
 - 22/00462/FUL - 50 no. affordable dwellings at Stockham Lane, Runcorn
 - 22/00543/OUTEIA - outline planning permission for 250 dwellings at Sandymoor, Runcorn
 - 23/00128/FUL – 69 dwellings at Palacefields, Runcorn (Riverside Housing Scheme)
- The Major applications determined in Q2 2022/23 are shown in Appendix 3.

Total Applications Received: (Includes those Withdrawn and Returned) 120	
Applications Decided 141	Applications On-Hand (Undecided) 198
Pre-Applications Received 39	Pre Applications Closed 40

N.B. There are certain applications (such as tree preservation orders) that are not counted in the statutory CLG speed of processing statistics. This accounts for the difference between the figures reported above and the figures given for PPT LI 04.

2.8 Community & Environment

Community Engagement

The Waste Team carried out a summer engagement campaign where officers visited 15 locations and engaged with over 1,000 residents. The campaign included talking to residents about waste and recycling matters and giving out information leaflets and offering advice. These campaigns aim to help reduce confusion around what can be recycled in blue bins in order to lower contamination.

The campaign also included social media messages around recycling and what to do with extra waste during the summer holidays and these messages reached an audience of over 9,000.

Community Walkabouts

The Waste Team was involved in a further 8 community 'walkabouts' along with more than 60 volunteers during this quarter. The walkabouts are in joint working with local Housing Associations and other partner agencies.

Community Engagement Officers meet at an arranged location and walk around the estate to discuss/make note of any issues they find, engage with residents, door knock, pass out information and report back anything that may need to be actioned.

Veteran's Clean Ups

Through a Service Level Agreement that the Council has with a local Veterans Group, Officers supported the scheduling and delivery 11 Community Clean-Ups during this quarter. These clean ups take place in various areas of the Borough with volunteers carrying out litter picking, cleaning and rubbish removal alongside the local Veterans Group volunteers.

2.9 Cemeteries

A new 'Statutory Declaration' system, in line with recommended best practice by the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management (ICCM), has been implemented by the Council for the legal transfer of 'Exclusive Rights of Burial' to a new owner on the death of the original owner for a grave plot in one of Halton's cemeteries. This is a far more robust system than was previously used, and better protects the Council and families from legal challenges.

2.10 Open Spaces

Parks

The park tennis courts at Runcorn Hill and Victoria Park have recently been subject to renovation works to the value of more than £58k through a project that was managed by the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) and funded by the UK Government and LTA Tennis Foundation. Halton has benefitted from being part of a programme of the biggest ever investment in parks tennis facilities across Britain, with millions of pounds of external funding going towards transforming over 2000 courts.

The 8 courts at the 2 parks in Halton have undergone extensive work to ensure viability for years to come; including repainting, new nets and a new gate system. Working with local Tennis Clubs, the new Council project will provide a significant boost to sporting facilities, improve the tennis offer in the borough and provide more opportunities for children and adults to get active.

As well as weekly free park tennis sessions, with equipment provided, the new courts will host Local Tennis Leagues, giving people the opportunity to get involved in friendly and social local competitions.

All courts will be available to book via the [LTA website](#). New booking systems and gate access technology means it is now easier to get on court by booking in advance to guarantee availability.

Design and Development

Birchfield Gardens refurbishment - A contract has been awarded to a main contractor and specialist sub-contractor. Work will commence this winter with completion expected by early summer 2024.

Sankey Canal Repair Works - A contract has been awarded for the localised minor masonry repair and vegetation removal works. The appointed contractor is preparing to commence works but no exact start date has been agreed as of yet. It is however anticipated that the works will be completed by Summer 2024.

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:-

Economy Enterprise & Property

3.2 Regeneration Town Centres

None detailed

3.3 Regeneration Non-Town Centres

None detailed

3.4 Business Improvement and Growth

None Detailed

3.5 Programmes Office

- Continue to establish Programmes Office function and requirements within the Dept; then start to roll this out to other Depts
- Continue to embed the Team - now at full complement – with clear roles and responsibilities
- Manage substantial workload going forward, prioritising projects and tasks
- Key pieces of work:
 - Town Deal Monitoring
 - UKSPF Monitoring
 - Destination Marketing programme delivery and monitoring

- Catalyst NLHF bid submission (£800k)

3.6 Policy Performance Transportation

Highways

- The architectural lighting scheme for the SJB has been installed and is being tested. It is expected the first public display of the new lights will be on 5 November alongside the firework display.
- SJB under-deck steelwork painting scheme –technical assessments of the access scaffold and construction loading on the bridge. Are underway and discussions with contractors and consulting engineers are ongoing.
- There a number of vacancies in the streetworks team, this is causing delays with the processing of permits for utility companies and others who need to book road space to undertake works on the highway.
- A new red light / speed on green traffic signal camera will be installed in Q3 on the Widnes Gyratory (south bound side). This is paid for by the Police and Crime Commissioner. Surveys show that many drivers jump the red light in this location, and this leads to the blocking of the junction. It is expected the camera will improve junction capacity, as well as road safety.

Planning

- The Local Plans Team Leader has accepted a role with another local authority. An interim arrangement has been put in place from within the team and the team are working on a work programme to provide monitoring on the local plan and production of ancillary guidance documents.

3.7 Community & Environment Services

***None provided**

4.0 High Priority Equality Actions

- 4.1 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.
- 4.2 The Councils 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>

5.0 Performance Overview

5.1 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

Ref	Objective: To develop, coordinate and deliver major regeneration programmes To deliver Runcorn Towns Fund programme.
EEP 03	Environment and Urban Renewal

Milestone	Progress Q2	Supporting Commentary
Spend the £23.6m by 31st March 2026 .		Projects across the programme are working through key stages. Early 2024 will see the first projects start on site. At this point in time it looks like all projects can be delivered, with all budget spend in time.
To secure additional funding for key projects (Enterprise Centre and Creative and Digital Skills Centre) by September 2023 . To secure vacant possession by July 2024 .		Additional YIF funding for the Creative and Digital Skills Centre was not achieved. The new youth centre at 57-59 High Street – part of the CDSC – will be delivered with only town deal funding. A review of the proposal for 63-65 High Street has been made to bring the overall project within budget. The funding from Liverpool City Region CA for the RSQ Enterprise facility is still unsecured, discussions are ongoing. Commercially sensitive negotiations are ongoing to achieve vacant possession of a shop on the High Street.
To review all projects (program and budgets) to make key delivery decisions by September 2023 .		All projects were shown at the Reconnecting Runcorn 2023 public information event 9 June in the Brindley. An update report to the Runcorn Town Deal Board 14 September 2023 noted progress on all projects in detail. Various projects are now going through a procurement process to find a contractor to start delivery early 2024, with other projects developing proposals in detail before submitting planning applications.


		None of the projects raise substantial issues that might cause risk to timely delivery.
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Ref	Objective: To deliver Runcorn Station Quarter
EEP 04	Environment and Urban Renewal





Milestone	Progress Q2	Supporting Commentary
To provide a new station building by December 2025		Funding is still to be obtained from CRSTS for stage 5-8 (detailed design and build). Planning consent is also still to be obtained
To progress an Ad Medium Filum application with DLA Piper for various pieces of land within the red line boundary		On going

Ref	Objective
EEP 05	Corporate Resources: To maximise and maintain external funding resources To oversee the successful delivery of the Council's externally funded (economic regeneration) programmes, including employment, learning and skills and other schemes identified as corporate priorities.

Milestone	Progress Q2	Supporting Commentary
To establish the Programmes Office Team, ensuring the full team is in place and competent, with clear roles and responsibilities.		Team now at full complement; regular meetings held to ensure workloads and roles are understood
To establish/get endorsed a Business Justification Case for all bids over £50,000 to ensure the relevance and deliverability of externally funded schemes. All bids to be logged with the Programmes Office and all officers		Business Justification Case circulated to Dept managers; discussions started with senior Dept managers; two bid-writing training courses delivered for colleagues.

within the department to attend the Bid-Writing course before drafting any bids.		
To ensure effective systems are in place and understood for the monitoring of the Town Deal programme to minimise the risk of clawback/non-compliance		Monitoring systems well established; comprehensive Project Guide developed and distributed to project leads; bi-annual claim being completed; DLUHC assurance documentation being completed and risk registers developed

Ref	Objective
EEP 06	Corporate Resources: To provide a comprehensive and strategic asset management service Manage the Council's commercial and investment portfolio, implement the Council's disposal programme, support the Council's regeneration team for delivery of projects, provide asset valuation and associated financial reports to feed into the close down process.

Milestone	Progress Q2	Supporting Commentary
Commence re tender process July 2023 for the contract for external property consultants to provide provision of estate management service.		Procurement instructed, working on the option for a direct award from the Crown Civil Service framework
Complete the asset management reporting to meet the timetable of financial close down by 30 April 2023 .		Reports were provided by 30 June to Finance and queries on reports by 9 July. Task not complete by end of April. Timescale for completion of reporting to be reviewed for 2024
Commence the re tender process July 2023 for the contract to appoint property advisers to prepare asset valuations.		Tender process commenced with instruction to Procurement. Tender process is timetabled with Procurement colleague during Q3
By 30 June commence marketing of 'hand back' sites in Widnes for disposal.		Site investigation reports are underway, for Phase 1 Site investigations 3 out 5 are prepared and Phase 2 reports underway. Progress made with UU to identify easements. Legal colleagues working on the wording of the easements. Both UU easements and site investigations are required prior to marketing the sites

EEP 10	Corporate Priority: To design, manage and deliver a place-based business support programme for Halton
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Milestone	Progress Q2	Supporting Commentary
Scheme in Place September 2023	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Scheme fully designed with commissioning commenced & called the Business Support Service
Scheme finalised March 2025	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	On track for March 2025 completion

Ref	Objective
EEP 11	Corporate Priority: Secure funding, support procurement and ground-breaking to take place for Ultraviolet at Sci Tech Daresbury Commissioning of Ultraviolet

Milestone	Progress Q2	Supporting Commentary
Funding Secured Q3 2023 / 2024	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The Joint Venture have agreed terms with The Chrysalis Fund and discussions are ongoing with the CA to secure Investment Zone funding.
Procurement Q4 2023 / 2024	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The project is being tendered using the Procure Partnerships Framework. Initial phase was completed this quarter and the tender will be put to market in Q3.
Groundbreaking Q1 2024 2025	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Currently on target for a start on site in April 2024.

Appendix 2: Progress Against Performance Indicators


STRATEGIC ISSUES	BASELINE POSITION	OUTCOMES AT END OF YEAR 1	OUTCOMES AT END OF YEAR 3	INTERVENTIONS	KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS
High Unemployment	2.7% of economically active people are unemployed (2021 Census)			HBC's contribution: HPIJ delivery of Welfare to Work & Health programmes (Ways to Work, Restart, Work & Health Programme, Pioneer and Supported Internships Programme)	Percentage unemployed (aged 16-64 years). Percentage of economically inactive of working age
Low wage residents	Data not available from Census 21?			Employers signing up to the LCR Fair Employment Charter	Percentage of employees' earnings below real living wage.

	Data from Adzuna – median salary in Halton is £26,000 which is 14.3% less than the national average of £30,000 (although there has been a YOY increase of 8% in Halton)				
Low-income households	Data??			HBC's contributions: HPIJ delivery of Welfare to Work & Health programmes (Ways to Work, Restart, Work & Health Programme, Pioneer & Supported Internships Programme). Better off calculations for HPIJ jobseekers. In work support to help households increase their hours or change their job.	Percentage employees who are local (FTE) employed on contract for one year or the whole duration of the contract, whichever is shorter.
Good employment	Data not available from Census 21? Current Data from Adzuna – 26.93% in Permanent Employment, 9.68% in Contract Employment and 63.39% unspecified			Employers signing up to the LCR Fair Employment Charter HBC's contribution: Employer Engagement Strategy to be updated to recognise and celebrate 'good' employers in the borough.	Proportion of employed in permanent and non-permanent employment. Adzuna data??
(appropriate) External Funding Maximised	Some bids are logged, some are not. No strategic view on whether bids should be made. Officers writing bids which can take then away from core work; not always using skills of Programmes Office.	All potential bids registered on a Business Justification form. All relevant officers in Department trained in bid-writing. All project leads logging funding bids on central system.	Increase in appropriate funding secured. No resource issues in delivering. No clawback issues.	6 bid-writing courses p.a. scheduled. 3 monitoring and evaluation courses p.a. scheduled. Central log of all bids maintained.	to establish a Business Justification Case for all bids over £50,000 to ensure the relevance and deliverability of externally funded schemes – to be signed off monthly by OD. All bids to be logged with the Programmes Office and all officers within the Dept to attend the Bid-Writing course before drafting any bids.

Climate change agenda and carbon emissions	CO2 emissions for 2021/22 amount to 9327 tonnes	Reduce emissions by 1%. Actual emissions 8740 tonnes therefore reduction of 6.3%	Reduce emissions by a further 5%	Submit a funding bid and obtain funding to carry out decarbonisation works to various buildings. Continue to deliver the LED lighting replacement programme.	Percentage reduction in CO2 emissions from Council activities
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Policy, Planning and Transportation

Ref	Objective
PPT 01	Local Transport Plan (LTP) Capital Programme – Deliver the LTP Capital Programmes to ensure that the transport system is maintained and developed to meets local needs.

Milestone	Progress Q2	Supporting Commentary
To deliver the 2019/30 LTP Capital Programme March 2023.		<p>Sud North South Widnes final phases at Birchfield Road roundabout and Appleton Village completed. Desing works progressing well on Active Travel schemes at Runcorn Busway to improve cycling links between and Murdishaw centre and Halton Lea utilizing SCAPE.</p> <p>Construction work ongoing for LCWIP route from Runcorn Old town to Daresbury Sci Tech.</p> <p>Construction work in progress for Active Travel, Murdishaw centre to Whitehouse Industrial Estate, Murdishaw Centre to Runcorn East Station and then to Halton Lea to provide dedicated cycling facilities on the Busway.</p> <p>Feasibility/Design works in progress with SCAPE for East Runcorn Connectivity and A56 carriageway Reconstruction. Runcorn Station Quarter Dukesfield Active Travel Link construction work progressing.</p>

Ref	Objective
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PPT 02	Highway programmed maintenance.
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Milestone	Progress Q2	Supporting Commentary
Ensure continued unrestricted availability of the Highway network and to allow future maintenance to be delivered on a steady state, lifecycle planned basis.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>Carriageway resurfacing completed at Ditchfield Road Everite Road junction, Bridgewater Expressway and Caldwell Road. Design work ongoing for carriageway resurfacing/reconstruction at Prescott Road, Penn Lane, Victoria Road. and Main street</p> <p>Footway Resurfacing completed at Caldwell Road, Penn Lane Castle Street, Mayfair Grove, St Michaels road, Castlefields Avenue East.</p> <p>Footway design work on going at Prescott Road, Kingsway, Victoria Road, Lunts Heath Road,Dans Road, South Lane, Picow Street, Castlefields Avenue east, Prescott Road, Sea Lane, Ridgeway, Poplar Close Lapwing Grove, Derby Road, Stonebarn Lane.</p>

Ref	Objective
PPT 03	Highway Routine and reactive maintenance









Milestone	Progress Q2	Supporting Commentary
Continue to maintain the Highway Authorities statutory duties in accordance with Section 41 and 58 of the Highways Act.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ongoing highway safety inspection continuing to maintain a safe and serviceable Highway.

Appendix 2: Progress Against Performance Indicators



Ref	Description	Actual 2022 / 23	Target 2023 / 24	Quarter 2 Position	Current Progress	Direction of Travel	Supporting Commentary
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PPT LI 01	Percentage of third party compensation claims due to alleged highway / footway defects successfully defended. Annual Calculation.	Not available	Not available	Not available			Figures not available
Ref	Description	Actual 2022 / 23	Target 2023 / 24	Quarter 2 Position	Current Progress	Direction of Travel	Supporting Commentary
PPT LI 02	Net additional homes provided	152	350	N/A	N/A	N/A	Indicator monitored annually as at 1st April. Target is 350 p.a. (2014 to 2037) as per the Delivery & Allocations Local Plan.
PPT LI 03	Number of affordable homes delivered (gross)	22	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Indicator monitored annually as at 1st April. Target is expressed as a percentage of development on qualifying sites (subject to viability).
PPT LI 04	Processing of planning applications (%) as measured against targets for, 'Major applications' 'Major applications' 'Major applications'	 71% 62% 64%	 100% 96% 98%	 67% 75% 62%	   		 There has been a backlog of applications going through. It is expected that these results will improve in the next quarter

PPT LI 05	To ensure a rolling five year supply of housing land. Deliverable supply (units) as a % of rolling 5 year requirement	130%	100%	N/A	N/A	N/A	DALP Policy Requirement (Annual) = 350 (a). Policy 5 Year Requirement (a) x5 = 1750 (b). 5 Year Deliverable Supply (2023-2027) = 2779 (c). (c/b as a %)
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Ref	Description	Actual 2022/23	Target 2023/24	Quarter 2 Position	Current Progress	Direction of Travel	Supporting Commentary
PPT LI 06	No. of people killed or seriously injured (KSI) in road traffic collisions. (5 Year Av.)	28.8	N/A	26.8			Welcome fall in KSIs (all ages). Numbers are historically low.
PPT LI 07	No. of children (<16) killed or seriously injured (KSI) in road traffic collisions. (5 year Av.)	4.2	N/A	3.4			Child KSI have fallen again although given the small numbers involved they are prone to statistical fluctuations.
PPT LI 08	No. of people slightly injured in road traffic collisions. (5 Year Av.)	219	N/A	166			5 year average for slights has fallen. These numbers are very low, even compared with a decade ago.
PPT LI 09	No. of people slightly injured in road traffic collisions.	157	N/A	158			Rolling 12 month total of slight casualties has plateaued. Difficult to envisage them falling much lower in short to medium term.

Appendix 2: Progress Against Performance Indicators

PPT LI 10	Damage to roads and pavements (% above intervention levels) repaired within 24 hours.	100%	100%	100%			No commentary provided
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	PROPOSAL	ADDRESS	DECSN	DATEDECISS
22/00157/FUL	Proposed phase 2 extension to approved planning application 20/00607/FUL comprising an additional 10 mixed-use light industrial units (totalling 1180sqm), 24 parking spaces, associated refuse and cycle storage, and landscaping with access to site via existing crossover at	Land To The East Of Canalside Court Warrington Road Runcorn WA7 1RD	REF	14/07/2023
22/00370/REM	Application for the approval of reserved matters (access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale) of permission 20/00337/OUTEIA (Outline planning permission, with all matters reserved except for access, for the residential led mixed use development of the site, comprising of residential (Use Class C3), employment (Use Class B1) and local centre uses (Use Class A1-A4/D1) and associated infrastructure, landscaping and land remodelling) for erection of 97 No. dwelling houses and associated works at	Land North Of Red Brow Lane Warrington WA4 4BB	PER	02/08/2023
23/00127/S73	Application under Section 73 of the Town and Country Planning Act to vary planning condition 3 of outline planning application 21/00166/OUT (Outline planning application, with all matters reserved, for laboratory and office space (Use Class E(g)(i) and E(g)(ii)) development with associated car parking and landscaping) to substitute approved Parameters Plan ref: 20565_P-101 Rev: D dated 27.1.21 for Parameters Plan ref: 20565_P-101 Rev: E dated 27.1.21 at	Daresbury Laboratory Keckwick Lane Daresbury Warrington Cheshire WA4 4AD	PER	15/09/2023
23/00128/FUL	Proposed demolition of existing buildings (including 26 existing dwellings, the existing local centre incorporating the Bethesda Church, and part of the Tricorn Public House), the infilling of the existing subway; the construction of a new local centre (comprising 63 extra-care dwellings, with associated communal facilities, ground floor retail floorspace (Use Class E) and 2 bungalows (extra care)); a replacement church / community facility (Use Class F1 / F2 / E); the change of use of the retained Tricorn Public House and associated Stables into 10 dwellings; the erection of a further 59 dwellings together with improved public realm, play facilities, improvements to open space, hard and soft landscaping works; and other associated infrastructure and works at	Land Within And Adjacent To And Surrounding Palacefields Local Centre Runcorn	PER	21/09/2023
23/00134/FUL	Proposed extension to current storage facility at	Diageo Packaging	PER	21/07/2023


Appendix 3: Major Planning Applications Determined

		Whitehouse Industrial Estate Murdishaw Runcorn WA7 3BE		
23/00221/S73	Application under Section 73 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to vary Conditions 9, 10, 11B, 12 and 13 of permission 21/00498/FUL (Proposed erection of industrial/storage building for use class B2 / B8 purposes, parking and servicing areas, bunds, fencing, landscaping, ancillary works and retrospective permission for the retention of previously installed bunds) at	Bowman Works Gorse Lane Widnes Cheshire WA8 0YZ	PER	18/08/2023


Waste and Environmental Improvement

Key Objectives / milestones

Ref	Objective
CE 03	Manage and Maintain the Borough's green space areas so that they continue to function to their intended purpose.

Milestone	Progress Q2	Supporting Commentary
Manage greenspace areas as per the agreed specification - March 2023 .		The Environment Services Division was able to deliver all works within the Council's agreed specification for green space management.

Ref	Objective
CE 04	Implementation of actions to ensure that the Council achieves its waste related targets and objectives.

Milestone	Progress Q2	Supporting Commentary
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 - March 2024 .		Activities to meet this objective have remained on-going. Please see key developments sections of the report.

Appendix 2: Progress Against Performance Indicators

Ref	Description	Actual 2022/23	Target 2023/24	Quarter 2	Current Progress	Direction of Travel	Supporting Commentary
CE LI 18	Residual household waste per household.	625kg	625kg	314kg	U		Waste production is subject to season variation. This is an estimated figure but shows that levels are in line with those in Q2 in 2022.
CE LI 19	Household waste recycled and composted.	39.3%	40%	39.6%	U		This is an estimated figure but it does show that recycling levels are slightly higher than in Q2 in the previous year.

7.0 Financial Statements

ECONOMY ENTERPRISE & PROPERTY DEPARTMENT

Revenue Operational Budget at 30 September 2023

	Annual Budget	Budget to Date	Actual Spend	Variance (Overspend)	Forecast Outturn
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Expenditure					
Employees	5,311	2,666	2,633	33	65
Repairs & Maintenance	1,940	983	990	(7)	(11)
Premises	122	110	116	(6)	(10)
Energy & Water Costs	1,768	680	570	110	207
NNDR	793	684	645	39	39
Rents	170	127	128	(1)	(1)
Economic Regeneration Activities	37	3	3	0	0
Security	509	187	202	(15)	(30)
Supplies & Services	356	183	190	(7)	(14)
Supplies & Services - Grant	962	262	262	0	0
Grants to Voluntary Organisations	105	53	53	0	0
Capital Finance	0	0	0	0	0
Transfer to Reserves	38	38	38	0	0
Total Expenditure	12,111	5,976	5,830	146	245
Income					
Fees & Charges Income	-840	-409	-449	40	81
Rent - Commercial Properties	-906	-356	-334	(22)	(43)
Rent - Investment Properties	-44	-22	-20	(2)	(5)
Rent - Markets	-852	-429	-406	(23)	(46)
Government Grant	-1,229	-318	-318	0	0
Reimbursements & Other Grant Income	-990	-413	-416	3	6
Schools SLA Income	-300	-284	-235	(49)	(49)
Recharges to Capital	-251	-63	-70	7	14
Transfer from Reserves	0	-732	-732	0	1
Total Income	-5,412	-3,026	-2,980	(46)	(41)
Net Operational Expenditure	6,699	2,950	2,850	100	204
Recharges					
Premises Support	2,006	1,003	1,003	0	0
Transport	23	12	12	0	0
Central Support	1,710	856	856	0	0
Asset Rental Support	4	0	0	0	0
HBC Support Costs Income	-7,728	-3,864	-3,864	0	0
Net Total Recharges	-3,985	-1,993	-1,993	0	0
Net Departmental Expenditure	2,714	957	857	100	204

Comments on the above figures

Budget monitoring is undertaken on a monthly basis with budget holders to ensure that unapproved overspends are avoided, developing action plans to achieve efficiencies and address areas of budget pressure. Finance works closely with the department to manage and analyse underspending to identify potential savings that could help meet current and future years' priorities.

Comparison to Previous Quarter

Economy, Enterprise & Property outturn has improved from a forecasted outturn of £0.125m over budget to £0.204m under budget at the end of the financial year with a current figure of net spend being £0.100m under budget for the second quarter of the year. A positive variance of £0.329m.

Supporting Information

The Department consists of 154fte of which 66fte are core funded, with a staff turnover savings target of £0.134m. There has continued to be delays in recruiting across the department, and so the projection is currently that the department will be under budget by £0.065m at financial year-end.

By carefully monitoring the accounts, the department has utilised grant/external funding where possible to try and relieve the pressure on the core Council budget. This is reflected in employee expenses this quarter where various projects have been identified and staff time has been charged accordingly. This process will continue throughout the year. As in Quarter 1 it is important to note that forecasts include an allowance for the 2023/24 pay award.

As inflation is running much higher than originally predicted at the time of budget setting, the department will be expected to absorb any price increases that may arise from within the budget allocations made. This is proving difficult for repairs and maintenance due to the continued increase in the price of materials. The Repairs and Maintenance programme is constantly under review to keep within budget. However, there is a risk that unexpected events may occur which require expenditure to be incurred, that has not been allocated for.

The Asset Management Service has incurred one off expense this year, due to the vacant unit at The Hive, that was previously occupied by Frankie & Benny's. Costs relating to NNDR, Repairs and Maintenance and Service Charges have had to be paid by HBC until the unit is leased.

Due to the energy costs budget increasing significantly in 2023/24, the department is forecasting that it will be £0.207m under budget in year as costs have not risen as much as expected, but costs are still predicted to be £0.502m higher than 2022/23, which is an increase of over 50%. The forecast will change over the following two quarters depending on the change in energy usage over this time.

This financial year has witnessed an increase in the security costs. This is due not only to inflation, but the need for additional security in Halton Lea, due to anti-social behaviour. The need for security at all locations is reviewed on a regular basis and if necessary, advice is provided from the Police.

As in previous years, and the long recovery from the impact of the coronavirus pandemic, the financial challenges of commercial property rent continue to present a significant financial challenge, though the second quarter of the year has seen an increase in the amount of commercial property income. This is due to Agency Staff within Asset Management being able to focus predominantly on the rent reviews and licence fees.

There is also a focus within the team to fill the vacant properties within the portfolio. The current projection is that the income target will not be achieved by £0.046m. This is a £0.144 lower than the figure projected in Quarter 1

Due to adverse trading conditions in the retail sector which have been made worse due to inflation and increased utilities costs, the department is projecting to under achieve on market rental income targets this budget year. The occupancy rate is approximately 89%.

The School Cleaning Service Level Agreement (SLA) is not covering its costs this budget year due to the need to employ agency staff to cover sickness and leave and the pay award. A review of SLA charges has been undertaken ahead of the next budget year. The demand for the service is also decreasing as schools move to Academies.

Approved 2023/24 Savings

Please see Appendix A for details of progress towards achieving budget efficiency savings agreed by Council in February 2023.

ECONOMY ENTERPRISE & PROPERTY DEPARTMENT

Capital Projects as of 30 September 23

	Capital Allocation £'000	Allocation to Date £'000	Actual Spend £'000	Total Allocation Remaining £'000
Expenditure				
3MG	151	12	12	139
Murdishaw	30	0	0	30
Equality Act Improvement Works	282	84	84	198
Kingsway Learning Centre Improved Facilities	36	0	0	36
Halton Lea TCF Roof Top Garden	35	0	0	35
Property Improvements	223	23	23	200
Waterloo Building Runcorn	93	0	0	93
Woodend - Former Unit 10 Catalyst Trade Park	200	161	161	39
Foundry Lane Residential Area	2634	1303	1303	1331
Police Station Demolition	406	0	0	406
Runcorn Station Building Development	515	30	30	485
UK Shared Prosperity Fund	17	0	0	17
Runcorn Waterfront Residential Development	291	0	0	291
Changing Places	212	52	52	160
Town Deal	2,740	585	586	2154
Total Capital	7,865	2,250	2,251	5,614

Murdishaw – The department has worked in partnership with Onward Homes to develop a community scheme which includes the establishment of a new CIC who will run a new venture from the former boxing club. A scheme of environmental improvements has been initiated across the estate with some signage improvements completed. Discussions are ongoing with Community Development and Murdishaw Community Centre to make improvements to the external space and refurbish the allotment space to allow for the local community to develop its allotment project.

Equality Act Budget- It is anticipated that the equality act budget will be fully spent by year end as the department have a number of projects that are currently on site or have yet to start which should be complete by year end.

Kingsway Learning Centre - There are plans for a PA system to be installed in October.

Property Improvements- It is anticipated that the Property Improvement budget will be fully spend by year end, the department have a number of projects which have been allocated to that budget, some of which are on site some of which have yet to commence on site nevertheless they will be complete by year end.

Waterloo Centre - Approval has now been obtained to demolish the building, as such works will commence prior to Christmas with the demolition. Final costings will be known during quarter 3.

Woodend - All works are complete except for the installation of the new gas supply which has been ordered and will hopefully be done prior to Christmas. The cost of the gas supply is circa £40k.

Foundry Lane – Project progressing on schedule with all ground remediation works now complete. Slight underspend against projected expenditure at 2022/23 year-end due to remediation works delays incurred during Q2 and Q3. Expenditure will fall back into line in 2023.

Police Station Demolition – Legal are in the process of finalising the overage payment for Cheshire Police

Runcorn Station Building Development –A detailed delivery programme up to Approval In Principal stage has been produced and is 3 weeks ahead of schedule. A sponsor’s instruction has also been sent to partners to be signed off.


UKSF – Halton submitted an Investment Plan to the CA for three strands of its UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) programme – Town Centres; Local Culture, Arts and Heritage; Green, Resilient, Safe Communities. This amounts to £608k up to March 2025 and is a mix of capital and revenue.

Runcorn Waterfront Development - Preparation work is currently ongoing in respect of getting all the tender documentation ready to go through a procurement exercise in respect of the demolition of both Belvedere and Churchill Hall. It is hoped that the tender documents will be issued via the Chest in November with a realistic start on site not being until the New Year.

Changing Places - The changing places facility at the Stadium is now complete and operational. Works are progressing well on site at Victoria Park with completion due in late October. Works have also started on site at Halton Lea Library, completion being due by the end of November.

The Town Deal programme –. The Town Deal programme covers a number of projects to strengthen the town centre economy, including Brindley Theatre Enhancement, Creative and Digital Skills Centre, Health and Education Hub, High Street Connectivity, Town Centre New Homes, Station Enterprise Facility, and Unlock Runcorn. Business cases for all projects have been submitted and approved. Work will continue on site for the next 3 years.

ECONOMY, ENTERPRISE AND PROPERTY DEPARTMENT APPENDIX A

Ref.	Service Area	Net Budget £'000	Description of Saving Proposal	Savings Value			Current Progress	Comments
				23/24 £'000	24/25 £'000	25/26 £'000		
EEP1	Capital Works Team	N/A	Increase the level of fee income by increasing the percentage charged or charging by time, including those works	10	0	0		On target.

			not currently charged for.					
EEP4	Cleaning Services – Council Buildings	580	Review cleaning arrangements, with a focus on only emptying bins and cleaning toilets daily.	0	100	0		Until the accommodation review is complete, only limited savings will be made in 2024/25
EEP2	Caretaking & Security Services	641	A review and restructuring of caretaking arrangements.	0	52	0		Restructure will take place in 24/25. It is anticipated the full saving will not be met in year.
			Reduce security cover at Halton Lea to provide opening/closing and then static guarding 7.00am to 7.30pm Monday to Friday, and 9.30am to 3.00pm on Saturdays to cover the opening hours of Halton Direct Link.	35	0	0		Cannot achieve savings for security due to anti-social behaviour in Halton Lea. Police have advised security is kept on site until this is resolved.
EEP5	Corporate Buildings	927	Generate additional rental income by providing additional office space for external organisations at Rutland House, by letting out the remaining three floors.	120	0	0		Reflected in 2023/24 budget.
EEP6	Facilities Management	165	Restructure the team in light of an expression of interest for retirement.	44	0	0		Reflected in 2023/24 budget.
EEP8	Technical Support & Market Team	392	Restructuring of the team	98	0	0		Reflected in 2023/24 budget.
Total Economy, Enterprise & Property Department				307	152	0		

POLICY, PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

Revenue Budget as at 30 September 2023

	Annual Budget	Budget to Date	Actual Spend	Variance (Overspend)	Forecast Outturn
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Expenditure					
Employees	5,149	2,260	2,393	(133)	(251)
Efficiency Savings	-100	-100	-100	0	0
Premises	211	117	85	32	65
Hired & Contracted Services	115	183	208	(25)	(50)
Supplies & Services	133	64	125	(61)	(123)
Street Lighting	1,766	390	213	177	355
Highways Maintenance - Routine & Reactive	1,583	382	535	(153)	(306)
Highways Maintenance - Programmed Work	1,712	509	394	115	230
Fleet Transport	1,410	645	748	(103)	(207)
Bus Support - Halton Hopper Tickets	52	24	5	19	38
Bus Support	458	231	231	0	0
Grants to Voluntary Organisations	31	30	30	0	0
NRA Levy	73	72	71	1	2
LCR Levy	882	441	441	0	0
Contribution to Reserves	359	0	0	0	0
Total Expenditure	13,834	5,248	5,379	(131)	(247)
Income					
Sales & Rents Income	-101	-38	-23	(15)	(30)
Planning Fees	-738	-374	-301	(73)	(146)
Building Control Fees	-242	-121	-58	(63)	(126)
Other Fees & Charges	-932	-527	-467	(60)	(119)
Grants & Reimbursements	-179	-206	-206	0	0
Government Grant Income	-197	-177	-177	0	0
Halton Hopper Income	-54	-13	-1	(12)	(25)
Recharge to Capital	-317	-108	-13	(95)	(190)
LCR Levy Reimbursement	-882	-441	-441	0	0
Contribution from Reserves	-489	-489	-489	0	0
Total Income	-4,131	-2,494	-2,176	(318)	(636)
Net Operational Expenditure	9,703	2,754	3,203	(449)	(883)
Recharges					
Premises Support	509	254	254	0	0
Transport	591	265	320	(55)	(111)
Central Support	1,432	716	716	0	0
Asset Rental Support	686	0	0	0	0
HBC Support Costs Income	-885	-443	-443	0	0
Transport Recharge Income	-3,764	-1,759	-2,063	304	609
Net Total Recharges	-1,431	-967	-1,216	249	498
Net Departmental Expenditure	8,272	1,787	1,987	(200)	(385)

Comments on the above figures

Financial Position

The current position for the PPT department is net spend is £0.200m over the profiled budget with a projected full financial year outturn of £0.385m over the approved budget.

Comparison to Previous Quarter

The projected outturn is forecast to differ from Q1 as the report is now showing that the department will be further over budget by the end of the financial year, moving from a projected £0.111m over to the updated £0.385m. The reasons for this will be broken down further later in this report.

Supporting Information

As in previous years budget holders are working closely with the Finance Officers to ensure a balanced budget is achieved. Wherever possible capital expenditure is being prioritised in order to relieve pressure on the revenue budgets.

Employee expenditure is predicted to be over budget at the end of the financial year due to the increased demand of drivers for client transport. This is then offset in the income section where the staffing expenditure is then recharged out to other departments. This Q2 report now includes a projection for the outstanding 23/24 pay award so the outturn reflects the increased staffing costs with no additional budget.

Supplies and services and contracted services are projected to be over budget as in previous years. Halton has a contract with MEAS (Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service) which is hosted by Sefton LA which is used to provide Halton with advice in relation to ecology, waste, environmental impact assessments and local plans. Although the expenditure on the contract is over the allocated budget, it would cost Halton considerably more to provide this advice in house. Legal fees are also projected to be over budget due to external legal advice being required in the Planning section.

The street lighting expenditure is projected to come in under budget as per the previous financial year. Various actions have been taken to decrease the amount of power being used such as lights being turned off 12am – 6am on some routes and over 80% of HBC owned street lighting stock of around 20,500 columns have been upgraded to LED. Current estimates are based on last year's spend, and this will be confirmed over the next quarter once the use increases over the winter months.

Highways maintenance budgets are projected to be over budget. Capital is again being utilised where appropriate. The report is again broken down into routine and reactive schemes and programmed works so the various areas can be looked at in more detail. Contractor and material costs for maintenance continues to increase in line with current high inflation levels and is having a negative impact.

Fleet transport has seen an increase in costs across fuel and parts when compared to the Q1 projected figure. This then has a knock-on effect to the costs being recharged out to the other areas of the authority. There is also a significant delay in the time it takes from placing an order and receiving the goods. Every effort is being made to prolong fleet replacements, but this also has a negative impact on the cost of repairs.

There is a slight downturn in the number of applications being received. However, this has been mitigated by Government increasing planning fees at a higher rate than forecast. In Q1 it was shown that this would help to balance the income target, however, it is now anticipated that this will not be the case, and the target will not be achieved.

Building control income is currently under its income target but it is hoped that a number of major housing schemes will soon be approved and therefore this will filter through to the income. Again, this is being monitored closely by Halton and Knowsley as part of the Building Control shared service and will be updated for future reports once an income reconciliation exercise has taken place between both parties.

Other fees and charges are not expected to meet income targets due to the Planning division not achieving S106 related fee income. This is currently being reviewed to see if this can be improved in Q3.

As in previous years the recharge of salaries to capital schemes will not achieve its income target due to a lack of traditional capital projects and therefore there is less opportunity to capitalise. There is a relationship between the under achievement of income and the lack of staff within the Highways division which means staff are not available to carry out works on capital schemes and therefore cannot be recharged out to generate income.

Approved 2023/24 Savings

Savings that were put forward for 2023/24 can be seen in Appendix A at the end of this report

Risks/Opportunities

Across the whole department inflation has significantly driven costs up and every division is bearing the cost of this. The Highways and Logistics divisions are seeing the largest impact of this when purchasing materials / fuel / parts for vehicles etc.

Capital Projects as at 30 September 2023

Project Title	2023-24 Capital	Allocation to Date	Actual Spend	Total Allocation Remaining
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	Allocation £'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Local Transport Plan				
Total Bridge & Highway Maintenance	3,133	114	114	3,019
Integrated Transport	549	0	0	549
CRSTS	7,140	1,148	1,148	5,992
SJB – Decoupling	0	0	0	0
Runcorn Busway	239	68	68	171
East Runcorn Connectivity (ERC)	1,577	1,488	1,488	89
A56 Reconstruction	947	0	0	947
Dukesfield ATL (Waterloo Bridge)	0	1,493	1,493	(1,493)
LCWIP Phase 2 Daresbury	5,783	842	842	4,941
ATF3 Murdishaw to Whitehouse	3,000	0	0	3,000
ATF4 Widnes Town Centre				
Accessibility	122	0	0	122
SUD Green Cycle	0	2	2	(2)
Total Local Transport Plan	22,490	5,155	5,155	17,335
Halton Borough Council Schemes				
Street Lighting	876	7	7	869
Lighting Upgrades	1,269	121	121	1,148
Silver Jubilee Bridge - Lighting	531	0	0	531
Risk Management	578	1	1	577
Fleet Vehicles	6,280	1,240	1,240	5,040
SUD Green Cycle	0	0	0	0
Widnes Loops	0	3	3	(3)
Total Halton Borough Council Schemes	9,534	1,372	1,372	8,162
Total Capital Expenditure	32,024	6,527	6,527	25,497

The East Runcorn Connectivity (ERC) project is currently being redefined which will focus on the major maintenance of the A56 and 5 active travel links within Halton. The scheme is on track and communication is in place with LCR to secure additional funding for detailed design and full costing profiling. This will include consultation with members, shareholders and public which is currently taking place in October 23.

Dukesfield and Waterloo Bridge are now reopened. The original grant funding has now been fully spent and conversations are under way with LCR in relation to further funding for this financial year to offset the expenditure.

CRSTS replaces the historical grant funding from the DfT. It is broken down into various areas such as carriageway maintenance, footway maintenance, street lighting and structures. Expenditure is low in Q1 and Q2 as payments will mostly occur towards the end of the financial year as in previous reports.






The A56 project is in support of the new junction completion for the Redrow development which overlaps with the ERC scheme mentioned above. This scheme is in abeyance until further funding for the ERC is announced, therefore expenditure will be minimal.

LCWIP Phase 2 Runcorn to Daresbury is currently underway on Long Benton Way. A change request is currently being put to the CA as the allocation of £5.7m is not anticipated to be fully spent due to reduced scope of the scheme.

ATF3 Murdishaw to Whitehouse is currently not on site but is due to start imminently.

The fleet replacement scheme is being utilised only when necessary, as every vehicle is being retained if it is cost effective. Only when vehicles are past the point of being economically viable for repair are they then replaced. With the rise of inflation there has been a significant increase in the cost of new vehicles when ordered in comparison to previous financial years. There are also exceptionally long lead times when orders are placed to the time of them being delivered due to the worldwide shortage of semiconductors.

**POLICY, PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT
APPENDIX A**

Ref.	Service Area	Net Budget £'000	Description Of Saving Proposal	Savings Value			Current Progress	Comments
				23/24 £'000	24/25 £'000	25/26 £'000		
PPT 1	Fleet Management & Maintenance	400	Reduction in the annual contribution to the Fleet Replacement Reserve.	40	0	0		Budget has already been removed and saving will be met in full
PPT 2	Transport Coordination	484	Reduction in the provision of subsidised bus grants. Currently, 14 bus services are subsidised through contracts where there are no commercial services. Passenger utilisation of routes would be assessed to see where reductions can be applied with the least impact upon services.	50	0	0		Budget has already been removed but the expenditure is expected to see a significant rise as mentioned in the Q1 report. However, this is being met by a contribution from Mersey Gateway.
PPT 4	Schemes and Maintenance	1,056	Reduction of 6% in the programmed road maintenance budget.	60	0	0		Budget has already been removed and saving will be met in full
PPT 5	School Crossings	70	Approach the Schools Forum to seek a contribution of at least 50% towards school crossing service	35	0	0		Still waiting to take a report to Schools Forum to discuss further action
PPT 6	Traffic	N/A	Consider introducing civil traffic enforcement for traffic	0	150	0		This is a complex piece of work to take

			violations. Employ private sector civil enforcement officers to issue fines and generate income. It would take 12 months to apply for powers from the DFT and put the scheme in place. The Environment & Urban Renewal Policy & Performance Board will consider this via a Topic Group.					forward, it requires DfT to grant powers to Halton. The project also needs resourcing, and the department is still awaiting capacity from the Accelerated Growth project. No savings were eligible for 23/24 financial year.
Total Policy, Planning & Transportation Department				185	150	0		

Community and Greenspace

Revenue Budget as at 30 September 2023

	Annual Budget	Budget to Date	Actual Spend	Variance (Overspend)	Forecast Outturn
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Expenditure					
Employees	17,085	7,607	7,428	179	358
Premises	3,685	1,483	1,479	4	8
Supplies & Services	1,598	837	882	(45)	(90)
Hired & Contracted Services	607	231	286	(55)	(111)
Book Fund	140	86	86	0	0
Food Provisions	371	117	181	(64)	(127)
School Meals Food	1,965	841	858	(17)	(32)
Miscellaneous Transport Costs	117	55	68	(13)	(26)
Other Agency Costs	601	182	209	(27)	(53)
Other Expenditure	0	0	0	0	0
Waste Disposal Contracts	6,885	106	57	49	98
Grants to Voluntary Organisations	67	18	14	4	8
Grant to Norton Priory	172	86	87	(1)	(1)
Capital Financing	201	41	0	41	83
Total Expenditure	33,494	11,690	11,635	55	115
Income					
Sales Income	-3,962	-1,950	-1,402	(548)	(1,095)
Fees & Charges Income	-5,752	-3,488	-3,614	126	251
Rental Income	-221	-98	-108	10	19
Government Grant Income	-695	-646	-774	128	256
Reimbursements & Grant Income	-665	-383	-389	6	12
SLA Income	-2,391	-2,260	-2,139	(121)	(242)
Internal Fees Income	-592	-96	-176	80	161
Capital Salaries	-173	-46	-46	0	0
Transfers From Reserves	0	51	51	0	0
Total Income	-14,451	-8,916	-8,597	(319)	(638)
Net Operational Expenditure	19,043	2,774	3,038	(264)	(523)
Recharges					
Premises Support	1,825	913	913	0	0
Transport	2,046	1,027	1,047	(20)	(41)
Central Support	3,856	1,933	1,933	0	0
Asset Rental Support	199	0	0	0	0
HBC Support Costs Income	-540	-274	-274	0	0
Net Total Recharges	7,386	3,599	3,619	(20)	(41)
Net Departmental Expenditure	26,429	6,373	6,657	(284)	(564)

Comments on the above figures

Financial Position

The net department spend is £0.284m over budget at the end of Quarter 2 and the estimated outturn overspend against budget for 2023/24 is £0.564m.

Net employee spend is estimated to be under the approved budget at the end of the financial year. The forecast outturn includes the pay increase proposal of £1,925 for all grades (a 3.5% increase for DM and above scales has already been agreed). Whilst the proposed pay deal is over what had been included within the budget this is mitigated by the number of vacancies within leisure services and reduced casual usage in line with 2022/23 actual data.

Food Provisions is overspent due to the increasing inflationary food costs from suppliers.

Whilst it is currently forecast that waste disposal spend will be within the approved budget for the year this comes with a certain amount of caution. Waste disposal forecast cost is based on estimated tonnage of waste and the department is still waiting on invoices to be presented for previous years.

Sales income for the year is expected to underachieve compared to the budgeted income target. Shortfalls in income at the Stadium, school meal sales plus a reduction in room hire at Community Centres and Libraries are forecast to contribute towards lower income levels.

Additional grant Income has been received from Sport England under the Swimming Pool Support Fund initiative to ensure the continued provision of leisure centres in the Borough.

School Meals SLA income is forecast to underachieve over the course of the year, but this will be mitigated by reduced staffing costs.

Trade Waste fee charges are expected to overachieve with the increased uptake of green waste collections.

Approved 2023/24 Savings

Please see Appendix A for details of progress towards achieving budget efficiency savings agreed by Council in February 2023.

Capital Projects as at 30 September 2023

Project Title	2023/24 Capital Allocation £'000	Allocation to Date £'000	Actual Spend £'000	Total Allocation Remaining £'000
Stadium Minor Works	34	17	18	16
Brookvale Pitch Refurbishment	28	14	13	15
Halton Leisure Centre	15,056	7,528	8,014	7,042
Open Spaces Schemes	851	426	137	714
Children's Playground Equipment	105	53	15	90
Upton Improvements	13	0	0	13
Crow Wood Park Play Area	12	2	1	11
Landfill Tax Credit Schemes	340	30	0	340
Runcorn Town Park	284	142	106	178
Spike Island / Wigg Island	1,023	512	20	1,003
Pickerings Pasture Café	520	250	0	520
Litter Bins	20	5	0	20
Totals	18,286	8,978	8,324	9,962

Comments on the above figures

Halton (Moor Lane) Leisure Centre

The project is making good progress and on track. Total project cost has increased slightly due to increase in provisional sum items. Totals costings for the project are continually being reviewed.

Open Spaces

This covers spending on a variety of externally funded projects: Birchfield Gardens refurbishment, Upton Rocks access works, The Big Halton Forest, and some small minor works contracts. Spending is behind target due to capacity issues.

Children's Playground Equipment

This is an ongoing project which includes spend on improvements within the Borough's playgrounds.

Upton Improvements

Open space improvement works undertaken. Work has been delayed due to capacity issues.

Crow Wood Park

The main contract is now completed, outstanding balance will cover final and retention payments.

Landfill Tax Credits Schemes

Currently used to support improvements for a rolling programme of existing playgrounds/open space schemes across the Borough.

Runcorn Town Park

Project to renew park infrastructure. Project is ongoing with 2 contracts on site. Carry forward to complete work in season and for contingency payments. INEOS funding of £300k was deferred - £10k each to 2023/24 & 2024/25 plus £280k to 2025/26

Wigg/Spike Island Recovery Works

The programme was slightly behind due to staff capacity issues. However, a consultancy is in place and have begun site investigation works ahead of finalising designs/contract documentation for tender.

Pickerings Pasture Café

Creation of Café Facility at Pickerings Pasture, a Local Nature Reserve (LNR), which would be operated as a franchise. The Council has been asked to include £520k within the Council's Capital Programme to fund the construction of the café facility. Funded over seven years, the capital financing cost would be £87,500 per annum. This sum could be realised through a bid to the Environment Fund (paying £87,500 pa for seven years). Once completed and opened the café would generate income for the Council from the franchise rental, which could be used to offset the running costs of Pickerings Pasture.

COMMUNITY & GREENSPACE DEPARTMENT

APPENDIX A




Ref.	Service Area	Net Budget £'000	Description of Saving Proposal	Savings Value			Current Progress	Comments
				23/24 £'000	24/25 £'000	25/26 £'000		
COMM 1	The Brindley Theatre	64	Reduce Box Office opening hours from 10am-5pm Monday-Friday to 10am-2pm. Currently 80% of tickets are purchased online or by telephone and this is increasing each year.	10	0	0		Box Office core opening hours were reduced to 5 hours (Mon – Fri) 10am – 3pm. They will be realigned to 4 hours daily 11am – 3.00pm (Mon – Fri) from 1 September onwards.
			Replace all non-LED lighting in the building. This is estimated to reduce on-stage energy costs by 75%.	10	0	0		
COMM 3	Sport & Recreation	471	Restructuring the roles and responsibilities of the Sports Development Team	0	36	0		On track to meet savings identified for 2024/25.
COMM 4	Stadium & Catering Services	751	Franchise the concourse only catering services to an external operator.	50	0	0		
			An organisational restructure is currently	40	0	0		

Ref.	Service	Net	Description of Saving	Savings Value			Current	Comments
			being implemented for Stadium & Catering Services to reflect recent service changes.					
COMM 6	Area Forums	170	Reduce the base budget provision to £50k temporarily for one year, with all unspent monies in 2022/23 (currently £120k) being carried forward to be spent by the relevant Area Forums in 2023/24. The base budget position will then be reviewed for 2024/25.	120	-120	0	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Implemented in 2023/24 budget setting.
COMM 5	Stadium & Catering Services – School Meals	12	Cease to deliver the school meals service, which has made significant losses of over £200,000 for a number of years and is forecast to make a similar loss by year-end. Work would be undertaken with schools over the next two years to support them to secure an alternative means of delivery, whether in-house or via an external provider.	0	0	12	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Work underway in school meals being delivered through alternative means
Total Community & Environment Department				230	-84	12		




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