

Environment & Regeneration Performance Monitoring Report - Quarter 1

Directorate: Environment & Regeneration

Departments: **Community & Environment, Planning & Transportation, Economy, Enterprise & Property Services**

Period: Quarter 1- 1st April– 30th June 2025

1.0 Introduction

This quarterly performance monitoring report covers the **Environment & Regeneration Directorate's** first quarter period up to 30th June 2025.

It describes key developments and progress against 'key' milestones and performance indicators for the service in line with the Corporate plan.

2.0 Data Quality Statement

The author provides assurance that the information contained within this report is accurate and valid and that every effort has been made to avoid the omission of data.

Where data has been estimated, it has been sourced directly from partner or other agencies, or where there are any concerns regarding the limitations of its use, this has been clearly annotated.

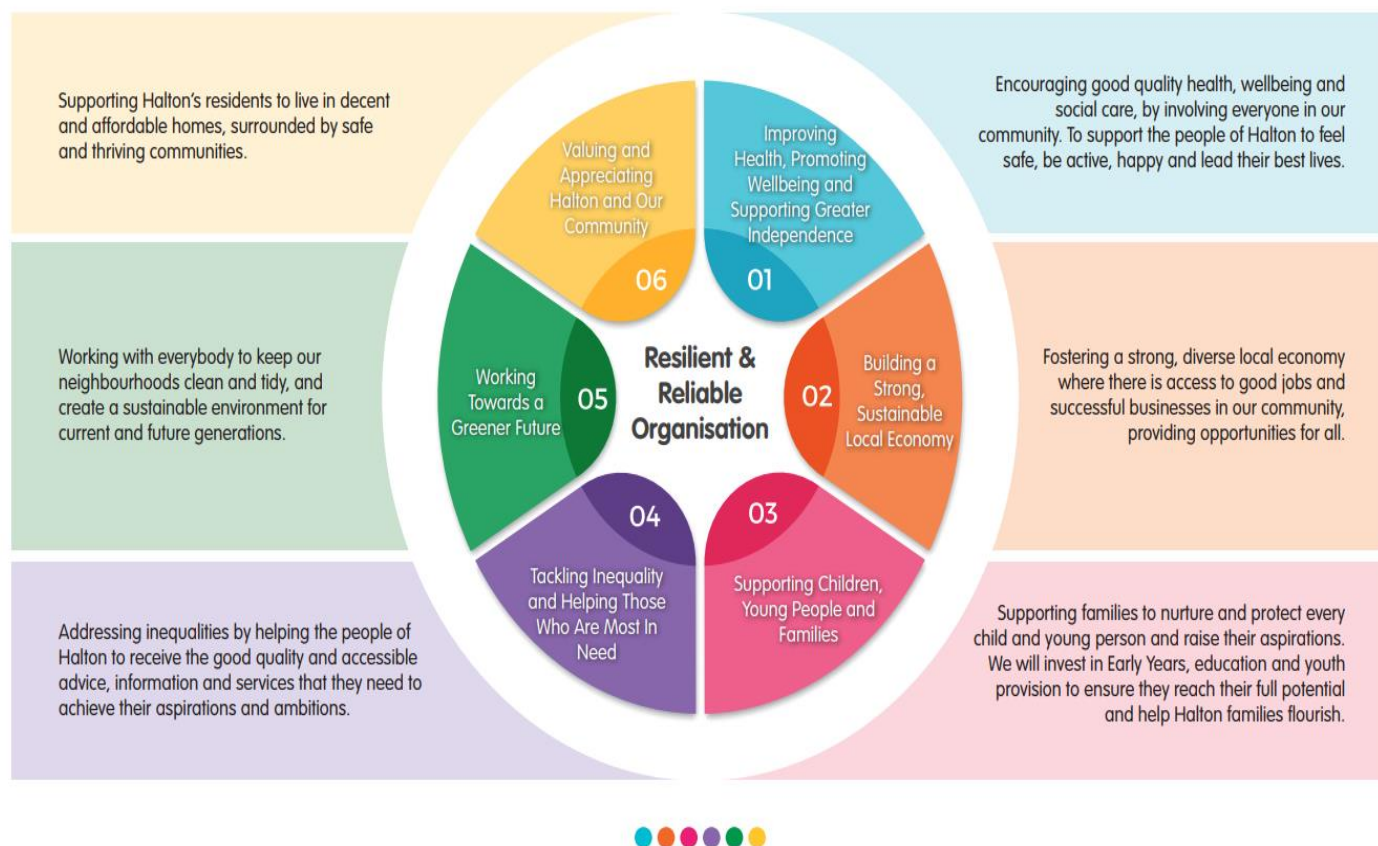
3.0 Appendices

Appendix 1: Progress Against Objectives / Milestones

Appendix 2: Explanation of Symbols


Appendix 3: Progress Against Performance Indicators



Appendix 4: Financial Statement





Appendix 1: Progress Against Objectives / Milestones

Corporate Priority	Priority 2 – Building a strong sustainable local economy. Regeneration
ERD 01	Deliver key regeneration programmes and work with partners to increase social and financial investment.





Milestone	Progress Q1	Supporting Commentary
Deliver Widnes Town Centre UKSPF funded by March 2026.		No spend yet in Q1. Anticipated spend in Q2. New Street art project - commission brief sent, not yet in contract Music Trail – in house work started, external not yet in contract Albert Square – in house work started, external not yet in contract

		Market Enhancement - commission brief sent, not yet in contract Widnes Road Public Realm – not yet in contract
The following Runcorn Town Deal funded projects to be completed or in contract by March 2026 – Creative and Digital Skills Centre, Health and Education Hub, Unlock Runcorn, Rutland Street, Connectivity Project, Enterprise Centre.		Health and Education Hub in contract Creative and Digital Skills Centre 57 59 in contract Creative and Digital Skills Centre 63 65 not yet in contract Unlock Runcorn not yet in contract Rutland Street not yet in contract Connectivity not yet in contract Enterprise centre not yet in contract Deadline for spend has been extended to March 2027 by Government
Submit Runcorn Regeneration plan by December 2025 following further guidance from government being signed off by Runcorn Neighbourhood Board, Stakeholders and Executive Board.		Work is ongoing on this but the deadline is not until December.




Corporate Priority	Priority 2 – Building a strong sustainable local economy Regeneration
ERD 02	Support development & growth at Sci-tech Daresbury


Milestone	Progress Q1	Supporting Commentary
Assist JV to secure £9.5m funding from the CA by July 2025 for Project Violet Phase 2 and commence delivery by March 2026		The Outline Business Case and appraisal has been submitting to the CA for consideration and is currently being reviewed. The CA are aiming to pass this to the external panel before end July.
Make the CPO to bring forward circa 30 acres of future development land by January 2026		Work is ongoing to compile all the necessary documentation for the CPO.

Corporate Priority	Priority Six – Valuing and Appreciating Halton and our Community Regeneration
ERD 03	Providing new homes that meet Halton's needs.





Milestone	Progress Q1	Supporting Commentary
Undertake public consultation on Draft Borough wide Housing Strategy by August 2025		On target. Presentation to Elected Members took place in June.
Agree Housing Delivery Plan for Halton with SPP partners by March 2026.		On Target
Sign Development Agreement with Halton Housing Trust for Runcorn Waterfront Development by December 2025		On Target
Complete Phase 1 Housing delivery of 63 houses (30 shared ownership and 33 for social rent) at Foundry Lane by November 2026.		On Target. Started on site in March 2025 and expected contract duration is 18 months.

Corporate Priority	Priority Two – Building a Strong, Sustainable Local Economy Business Investment & Growth
ERD 04	To provide support to all Halton’s businesses and encourage start-ups.




Milestone	Progress Q1	Supporting Commentary
Deliver key sector network events (including Green, Logistics and Advance Manufacturing) and workshops to create an environment for businesses to come together to collaborate and create Growth. Target to engage 160 unique businesses 25/26		Delivered 1 Green Growth and 1 Logistics network and 1 sustainability workshop. To date 47 unique businesses have engaged in these events.
Provide specialist business support to 20 Halton Businesses by March 2026		<p>Diagnostics have been undertaken for 13 companies and specialist business support is being delivered to 9 companies currently. There are 71 enquiries for business support under the UKSPF programme.</p> <p>Under the previous UKSPF Programme 2023-2025, 67 companies were supported in total, with 24 supported in Q4 of 24/25.</p>
Provide a series of workshops to support 10 business start ups by March 2026		There are currently 18 enquiries for start-up support and initial advice has been provided to 18 individuals.

		<p>In depth support has been provided resulting in 2 start up to date with future workshops planned.</p> <p>Under the previous UKSPF programme, 15 business start-ups were supported following a series of workshops.</p>
The business Investment and growth team will identify and account manage the 50 local priority companies ensuring that they meet each of the businesses on one occasion during the financial year to provide relevant signposting and support		Work is currently ongoing to identify the priority companies and meetings with businesses are ongoing.



Corporate Priority	Priority One – Improving Health, Promoting Wellbeing and Supporting Greater Independence Programmes Office
ERD 05	Maximise new external funding opportunities and effectively manage and monitor existing funding programmes

Milestone	Progress Q1	Supporting Commentary
Deliver 4 training sessions to internal and external partners during 25/26 to upskill colleagues in bid-writing and monitoring. Target is to upskill 20 people throughout the year.		A suite of training courses was delivered in April and May 25 and due to be repeated in October 25. 15 people attended courses to date.
Complete and maintain a Regeneration Pipeline Tracker and liaise with CA colleagues to ensure Halton's key projects are profiled. Moving 10 projects through the discover stage each year.		Regeneration Pipeline tracker established – being used to pilot Phase 1 of the new Project Management System. Mapping details of CA colleagues and roles to set up meetings from Sept 25
Support 6 grant funding submissions per quarter – 3 internal and 3 external and monitor the success rate.		4 bids were submitted this quarter – 2 internal HBC and 2 for external partners – total value £2.3m
Submit successful (no clawback) bi-annual claims to Government for the Town Deal Programme and quarterly to the CA for UK Shared Prosperity Programme.		Town Deal claim submitted end May 25 covering the period Sept 24-Mar 25 – no issues raised by MHCLG UKSPF claims for Quarter 1 25-26 prepared and with Audit for sign off. CA colleagues have had sight of draft claims.

Corporate Priority	Priority Two – Building a Strong, Sustainable Local Economy Visitor Economy
ERD 06	To commission and deliver a Place-making Strategy for the borough to incorporate Visitor Economy, Inward Investment and Regeneration opportunities to highlight Halton as a great place to live, work, invest, study and visit.



Milestone	Progress Q1	Supporting Commentary
Commission the production of Place-Making Strategy by December 2025 following a workshop with key stakeholders and approval from Executive Board by March 2026		Place Making workshop held in June with internal colleagues and CA. Place Strategy brief developed to be published July 25. Commission to be awarded in Sept.
Deliver the Destination Halton Marketing programme, including Visit Halton and Marketing Halton to March 2026 with 3 campaigns throughout the year with key themes.		Work programme produced by DM agency in May 25; first campaign developed around food/drink offer <i>Home Grown in Halton</i> to be launched in July 25
Secure £300k in external funding by March 2026 to support the delivery of Culture26, including an Arts Council bid and an NLHF bid themed on Lewis Carroll.		Meeting with Arts Council July 25; bid to be submitted Sept 25 potentially under Place Partnership funding. Conversations being held with NLHF about a bid for £250k; stakeholder workshop held June 25. Bid to be submitted Sept 25.

Corporate Priority	Priority Five – Working Towards a Greener Future. Property Services
ERD 10	Reduce Carbon Emissions from the Council's Property Portfolio


Milestone	Progress Q1	Supporting Commentary
Deliver the solar connection to the Leisure Centre by March 2026		Works ongoing in respect of getting out to tender for the solar farm. Anticipated tender date September 2025, actual connection to leisure centre likely to be after March 2026.
Carry out decarbonisation measures on a minimum of 2 buildings to produce carbon emission reductions to contribute towards 1.5% by March 2026		Proposed decarbonisation works at Picow Farm Depot currently out to tender, works should commence on site in Autumn, subject to costs being within the funding envelope.

		Rooftop solar installation works currently being priced up, with a view to getting three sites delivered prior to March 2026
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Corporate Priority	Priority One – Improving Health, Promoting Wellbeing and Supporting Greater Independence. Priority Two – Building a Strong, Sustainable Local Economy. Priority Three – Supporting Children, Young People and Families. Priority Four - Tackling Inequality and Helping Those Who Are Most in Need. Priority Five – Working Towards a Greener Future. Priority Six - Valuing and Appreciating Halton and our Community Planning & Development
ERD 11	Create and maintain statutory plans, generated through community consultation, that guide decisions on future development proposals and address the needs and opportunities of the area





Milestone	Progress Q1	Supporting Commentary
Delivery of the DALP during the plan period (2037)		A number of SPD scoping reports have proceeded to be shared with residents and stakeholders following a statutory consultation process to develop the following SPD's as part of maintaining the DALP and adhering to the current LDS. Transport and Accessibility Social Value in Planning House Extensions
Publication of the LCR LTP4 in 2025		The LCR LTP4 is in its final drafting stage, and it is expected to be publicly consulted on later in the year.

Corporate Priority	Priority Two – Building a Strong Sustainable Local Economy. Planning & Development
ERD 12	Providing new homes that meet Halton's needs



Milestone	Progress Q1	Supporting Commentary
Number of homes granted planning permission		The Planning Policy team submits quarterly reports to Government (DELTA) and have recorded the following for April to June 2025 – 360 units

Number of annual completions of market and affordable homes		Indicative number of market and affordable homes total 60 affordable homes of various types 348 market housing
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Corporate Priority	Priority Two – Building a Strong Sustainable Local Economy. Planning & Development
ERD 13	Provide an efficient Planning service that supports business investment in Halton

Milestone:	Progress Q1	Supporting Commentary
60% major determined within 13 weeks (or agreed extension)		87.5 % 7 out of 8 determined within an agreed timescale
70% minor application determined in 8 weeks (or agreed extension)		93.8 % 15 out of 16 determined within agreed extension
70% other application determined in 8 weeks (or agreed extension)		100% 70 out of 70 determined within agreed extension
30 number of applications per development management (DM) officer.		The average case load including active applications and pre application is 29.





Corporate Priority	Priority Four - Tackling Inequality and Helping Those Who Are Most in Need. Logistics
ERD 14	Deliver travel choices that are safe, inclusive, affordable, and low carbon

Milestone	Progress Q1	Supporting Commentary
Review roll-out of bus franchising in neighbouring boroughs.		Uncertain as to Halton's involvement with the LCR franchising model. Talks are ongoing with key stakeholders.
Undertake preparations for franchising Halton's network including route design, identifying a timetable and frequencies.		As above.


Corporate Priority	Priority Four - Tackling Inequality and Helping Those Who Are Most in Need. Logistics
ERD 15	Deliver travel choices that are safe, inclusive, affordable, and low carbon

Milestone	Progress Q1	Supporting Commentary
Within available budgets, ensure all areas of Halton have access to a bus service		All areas of Halton are covered by a minimum of 1 bus service per hour.
Monitor the punctuality of bus services <i>Baseline 96%</i> <i>Target 97%</i>		93% - 1.4% up against previous quarter. Although highway works in Liverpool and along the A56 in Daresbury have had a negative impact on service punctuality, alterations to services have improved performance in Q1. Ongoing liaison with operators.
Monitor the cost of bus fares in Halton		£2.00 flat fare across the LCR.



Corporate Priority	Priority Four - Tackling Inequality and Helping Those Who Are Most in Need. Logistics
ERD 16	Maintain Corporate Fleet Availability

Milestone	Progress Q1	Supporting Commentary
Provision of transport arrangements as requested by Council services: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refuse collection vehicle fleet availability Daily delivery of community meals Service users transported – children Service users transported - adults 	   	Refuse Collection Fleet availability 100% Supporting note: Refuse have two spare vehicles to cover operational safety inspections/services, breakdowns and damage. <u>Total Meals delivered</u> 9652 over 92 days average 104.9 each day. Supporting note: Meal's delivery numbers fluctuate on a month-by-month basis Q4: 2024/25 8765 meals delivered Q1: 2025/26 9652: 887 increase in meals delivered.




Corporate Priority	Priority One - Improving Health, Promoting Wellbeing and Supporting Greater Independence. Logistics
ERD 17	Deliver travel choices that are safe, inclusive, affordable, and low carbon.

Milestone	Progress Q1	Supporting Commentary
Monitor uptake of travel training and report.		8 referrals during the reporting period with 7 individuals (87.5%) taking up the travel training offer. This is down from 16 referrals and 14 successful uptakes in the previous quarter (similar to Q1 2023/24) due to exam period. 41 individuals have taken part in weekly classroom-based sessions, 13 have taken part in weekly outdoor practical group sessions (up from 8 in the previous quarter) and 18 individuals have taken part in 1-2-1 ITT sessions in the same time frame (up from 10 in the previous quarter).



Corporate Priority	Priority Five - Working Towards a Greener Future Highways
ERD 18	Deliver travel choices that are safe, inclusive, affordable, and low carbon



Milestone	Progress Q1	Supporting Commentary
Identify a pipeline of infrastructure schemes according to need / policy drivers		Current pipeline of schemes identified historically and funding via CRSTS1 is available and secured
Securing funding for infrastructure schemes in the pipeline		Conversations occurring with LCR regarding the following 5 year Capital Programme April 2027- March 2032 known as TCR. Starting work on outline pipeline programme over Summer 2025.

Corporate Priority	Priority Five - Working Towards a Greener Future Highways
ERD 19	Deliver travel choices that are safe, inclusive, affordable, and low carbon

Milestone	Progress Q1	Supporting Commentary
Secure funding for highway maintenance to protect the asset		None in the period
Update and monitor a highway asset management plan		Ongoing
Deliver highway improvement and maintenance schemes		A number of staff have resigned creating pressure in the delivery team to ensure the available funding is invested in a timely manner. Recruitment of suitable permanent replacements is proving difficult and temporary staff are also proving to be difficult to find, we are currently investigating alternative delivery methods


Corporate Priority	Priority One – Improving Health, Promoting Wellbeing and Supporting Greater Independence Traffic
ERD 20	Deliver travel choices that are safe, inclusive, affordable, and low carbon

Milestone	Progress Q1	Supporting Commentary
Programme of education relating to road safety		Road Safety delivered training to 105 KS1 pupils, 210 KS2 pupils and 480 KS3 pupils. 160 children received learn to ride cycle training and Bike ability engaged with 450 children in the Borough. Road Safety targeted a number of schools with chronic congestion issues. All SXP sites are manned except one – St Michaels Road, Widnes, due to difficulties with recruitment (has been advertised 4 times).
Safety cameras and speed indication devices		Same number as previous quarter. Two SiDs are currently under repair – Bluetooth issues with one, solar panel problems with the other. All fixed camera sites still being operated by CRSG are functioning and red-light camera at Watkinson Way is working well.

Analysis of collision sites		Collision analysis is ongoing. A number of sites have been identified and half a dozen small-scale Local Safety Schemes have been implemented.
Road safety audits for new schemes		No new RSAs but Highways have taken on board recommendations from last RSA (Queensway / SJB) and have amended the design.


Corporate Priority	Priority Five – Working Towards a Greener Future Environment Services
ERD 27	Provide a clean, safe, and attractive environment

No comparable data for 23/24 LAMS inspections across parks and public open spaces were introduced in June 2024 after testing completed in Q1.


Milestone:	Progress Q1	Supporting Commentary
<p>Environmental standards to be measured using the Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE) Land Audit Management System (LAMS) system scoring.</p> <p>Ensure that inspections of sites across the Council's Parks and Public Open Spaces are carried out bi-monthly throughout the year with results uploaded to APSE for benchmarking purposes.</p> <p>Quarterly target 120 inspections</p>	 N / A	<p>Total area of managed green space is 985 hectares across 3,720 sites plus 780km highway network (593km of roads plus 187km of independent footpaths).</p> <p>137 Inspections were carried out in Q1, a new KPI hence direction of travel will be noted from Q2.</p> <p>Results showed that inspected areas met the following quality standards;</p> <p>Grade A – 40 sites (29%) Grade B – 93 sites (68%) Grade C – 4 sites (3%)</p>

Corporate Priority	Priority Five – Working Towards a Greener Future Environment Services
ERD 28	Provide clean, safe and attractive Cemeteries







No comparable data for 23/24 LAMS inspections across parks and public open spaces were introduced in June 2024 after testing completed in Q1.


Milestone:	Progress Q1	Supporting Commentary
<p>Environmental Standards to be measured using the Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE) Land Audit Management System (LAMS) system scoring</p> <p>Ensure that inspections across the Council's four Cemeteries are carried out bi-monthly throughout the year with results uploaded to APSE for benchmarking purposes.</p> <p>Quarterly target 50 cemetery inspections.</p>	 N / A	<p>60 Inspections were carried out in Q1, a new KPI hence direction of travel will be noted from Q2.</p> <p>Results showed that inspected areas met the following quality standards;</p> <p>Grade A – 33 sites (55%) Grade B – 24 sites (40%) Grade C – 3 sites (5%)</p>

Corporate Priority	Priority Five – Working Towards a Greener Future Environment Services
ERD 29	Safety within Parks and Open Spaces

Milestone:	Progress Q1	Supporting Commentary
<p>Ensure the safety of play equipment on Council managed sites across the borough by carrying out regular inspections and carrying out any remedial works required.</p> <p>Target to carry out 1,000 inspections quarterly.</p>	 N / A	<p>The Council is responsible for 42 playgrounds, 37 MUGGAS and 5 boulders, which are inspected weekly.</p> <p>1,063 inspections were carried out in Q1.</p> <p>Following the inspections, it was identified that 52 interventions were required to carry out safety, repair or improvement works. The total cost of these interventions was £4,325 (Parts and materials only – does not include staff costs)</p> <p><i>NB direction of travel n/a as uncontrollable impacts from inspections</i></p>

Corporate Priority	Priority Five – Working Towards a Greener Future Environment Services
ERD 30	Increase the Council's recycling rate and reduce the amount of waste produced per household

Milestone:	Progress Q1	Supporting Commentary
600kgs of waste produced per household per year.	 	Waste production is subject to season variation. This is an estimated figure, but it does show that household waste levels per household in Q1 (155kgs) are slightly lower than those in Q1 in the previous year (157kgs).
To achieve the national 44.4% average of waste recycled	 	<p>This is an estimated figure, but it does show that recycling levels in Q1 (39.6%) are marginally lower than in Q1 in the previous year (39.8%).</p> <p>In terms of the target to achieve the national recycling rate average, it is unlikely that this will be met in 2025/26. However, the Council's plans for both service redesign, the introduction of planned new recycling services, together with enhanced communication and behaviour change initiatives, will help the Council work towards improving recycling performance and the future achievement of this target.</p>
To reduce the levels of waste contamination in blue recycling bins.	 N / A	<p>Total tonnes of material collected in blue bins in Q1 2484.76</p> <p>Total tonnage of non-target material (contamination) - 800.09</p> <p>Percentage of contamination in blue bins is 32%</p> <p>Cost of disposing of contaminated material £80,081.07</p> <p><i>NB This is a new indicator, and Members will be provided with quarterly updates on progress with helping to reduce contamination levels.</i></p>
Implementation of weekly food waste collections to all households in Halton from April 2026. Target Milestones:		Orders in place for the delivery of food waste vehicle fleet and caddies.

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Procurement of fleet and receptacles Q1 25/26. 2. Household collection timetable designed Q3 25/26. 3. Resident communication and engagement framework mobilised by Q3 25/26. 		<p>Work to design new food waste collection rounds commenced in Q1.</p>
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4.0 Financial Statements

ECONOMY ENTERPRISE & PROPERTY DEPARTMENT

Revenue Operational Budget at 31 May 25

	Annual Budget	Budget to Date	Actual Spend	Variance (Overspend)	Forecast Outturn
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Expenditure					
Employees	4,124	773	710	63	376
Agency - covering vacancies	0	0	85	(85)	(270)
Repairs & Maintenance	1,690	133	150	(17)	(98)
Premises	173	136	136	0	(1)
Energy & Water Costs	1,080	93	87	6	37
NNDR	659	629	629	0	0
Rents	157	0	0	0	1
Economic Regeneration Activities	88	0	0	0	0
Security	603	4	3	1	3
Supplies & Services	383	63	62	1	8
Supplies & Services - Grant	576	97	97	0	0
Grants to Voluntary Organisations	72	11	12	(1)	(1)
Total Expenditure	9,605	1,939	1,971	(32)	55
Income					
Fees & Charges Income	-561	-103	-103	0	0
Rent - Commercial Properties	-883	-158	-158	0	0
Rent - Investment Properties	-38	-8	-8	0	0
Government Grant	-594	-55	-55	0	0
Reimbursements & Other Grant Income	-120	-241	-241	0	0
Schools SLA Income	-55	0	0	0	0
Recharges to Capital	-454	0	0	0	0
Transfer from Reserves	-602	-522	-522	0	0
Total Income	-3,307	-1,087	-1,087	0	0
Net Operational Expenditure	6,298	852	884	(32)	55
Recharges					
Premises Support	2,738	456	456	0	0
Transport	26	5	5	0	0
Central Support	2,878	480	480	0	0
Asset Rental Support	4	0	0	0	0
HBC Support Costs Income	-9,342	-1,557	-1,557	0	0
Net Total Recharges	-3,696	-616	-616	0	0
Net Departmental Expenditure	2,602	236	268	(32)	55

Comments on the above figures

Finance communicates with the department on a regular basis to manage and analyse spending, identifying potential savings that could support current and future priorities. In an era of constrained budgets, achieving these goals is essential. The report forecasts that the department will be under the approved budget by £0.055m at year-end.

Supporting Information

Through diligent account monitoring, the success of utilising grant and external funding to alleviate pressure on the core budget is evident in employee expenses. Specific projects have been identified, and staff time has been allocated accordingly. Ensuring at all times that the department is compliant with the grant conditions. This approach will continue throughout the year.

To fulfil statutory and contractual obligations and support the borough's regeneration, maintaining a complete staff establishment is essential. However, the challenge of filling surveyor and project manager roles, even with a market supplement, continues to result in a lack of suitable candidates. Consequently, the engagement of agency personnel has been necessary, anticipated to cost £0.270m this financial year. Without these personnel, the borough's regeneration efforts would be hindered, potentially leading to a loss of business rates and council tax. Where possible, these costs are reimbursed through capital and external funding grants.

The recruitment of agency staff has increased commercial rental income by enabling the completion of pending rent reviews. All units at The Hive are now tenanted, which should result in this income budget being balanced for 25/26 providing there is no increase in inflation.

The costs associated with empty properties within the borough continue to be a budget pressure. In addition to the loss of rental income whilst the properties remain vacant, the department incurs additional costs for utilities, repairs, and maintenance. As of the end of May costs are £0.121m, although this does include annual NNDR charges so spend should not continue quite at this level. To reduce the expense, actions need to be taken to accelerate the leasing or explore temporary uses for properties, such as short-term rentals or community projects, which will generate some income and reduce costs. Some properties are in poor condition and require refurbishment before any letting could be considered.

Although the department has seen a significant increase in energy costs over the last few years, the department is forecasting that it will be £0.037m under budget by year-end.

The Repairs and Maintenance program is under continuous review to ensure it stays within budget. This financial year is particularly challenging because the 2025/26 budget did not include an inflation adjustment. An exercise was conducted with the service to distinguish between capital and revenue expenditures, and the budgets have been adjusted accordingly. Despite these adjustments, revenue expenditure is projected to exceed the budget by £0.098m by the end of the year.

Approved 2025/26 Savings

Please see Appendix A for details of progress towards achieving budget efficiency savings agreed by Council in March 25.

ECONOMY, ENTERPRISE AND PROPERTY DEPARTMENT

APPENDIX A

Service Area	Net Budget £'000	Description of Saving Proposal	Savings Value		Current Progress	Comments
			25/26 Agreed Council 01 February 2023 £'000	25/26 Agreed Council 05 March 2025 £'000		
Asset Management		Accelerate the lease or sale of surplus land, non-operational buildings, surplus space within building, etc. to either generate lease rentals or capital receipts to help fund capital schemes and thereby reduce future capital financing costs.	0	100	U	It is currently too early to establish if this can be achieved. Although all options will be explored.

Capital Budget at 31 May 25

Scheme Detail	2025/26 Original Allocation £000	2025/26 Revised Allocation £000	31 May Actual Spend £000	31 July Forecast Spend £000	30 Sept Forecast Spend £000	30 Nov Forecast Spend £000	31 Jan Forecast Spend £000	Cumulative Forecast Spend 31 March 2025 £000
Equality Act Improvement Works	300.0	303.5	0.0	75.0	75.0	76.0	77.5	303.5
Foundry Lane Residential Area	2,639.5	3,381.3	470.8	80.8	200.0	248.4	2,000.0	3,381.3
Property Improvements	200.0	231.1	33.7	39.4	39.4	39.4	39.4	231.1
Town Deal	7,190.4	10,091.0	1,384.0	500.0	3,000.0	1,153.2	500.0	10,091.0
Port of Weston	3,940.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Sci-tech Daresbury Project Violet	2,200.0	2,200.0	0	0	0	0	0	2,200.0
Runcorn Waterfront Residential Development	0.0	82.0	0	0	0	0	0	82.0
Kingsway Leisure Centre Demolition	0.0	708.0	11	139.4	558.0	0.0	0.0	708.0
Changing Places	0.0	17.0	0	17	0	0	0	17.0
UK Shared Prosperity Fund	0.0	101.2	0	10	30	30	31.2	101.2
Total Economy, Enterprise & Property	16,469.9	17,115.1	1,899.3	166.4	588.0	30.0	31.2	17,115.1

Comments on above figures

Foundry Lane

Work has commenced on site.

Sci-Tech Daresbury Project Violet

Project Violet is currently being reviewed and a full business case is in development. The programme anticipates a procurement exercise and the revised delivery programme proposes a 26 month build with construction commencing in August 2025 and completion in Q4 2026.

Property Improvements

Various works undertaken as and when required.

Changing Places

Works complete, retention monies left to pay.

Town Deal

Although at different stages work is progressing with all Town Deal funded projects.

1. The Brindley extension started on site August 2024, with the new drainage in place, foundation put down, steelwork up and new floors put in.
2. The youth centre -part of the Creative and Digital Skill centre - started September 2024, with the new build now well advanced including all external facades, and most steelwork in the wintergarden in place.
3. The Health Hub started work on site April 2025, after the library vacated to temporary location. The steelwork for the mezzanine is up, following installation of drainage.
4. The Runcorn Street art was delivered in May 2025.
5. The construction of the Temple Hall started March 2025, with foundation now complete.
6. The construction of two canal trip boats is underway at a boatyard in Liverpool.
7. The over 55s apartment block under construction at High Street is now receiving doors and windows, and external insulation.
8. Design work progresses on the remaining projects.

Kingsway Leisure Centre Demolition

The demolition works commenced in Spring 2025, following relocation of the Leisure Centre and period of decommissioning of the building.

Port of Weston

This scheme is no longer going ahead.

UKSPF

New reduced allocation for 25/26 which is for town centre improvements.

COMMUNITY & GREENSPACE

Revenue Budget as at 31 March 2025

	Annual Budget £'000	Budget to Date £'000	Actual Spend £'000	Variance (Overspend) £'000	Forecast Outturn £'000
Expenditure					
Employees	15,296	2,506	2,410	96	580
Agency - in addition to establishment	16	16	69	(53)	(237)
Premises	3,304	416	440	(24)	(139)
Supplies & Services	3,101	258	287	(29)	(176)
Transport	117	2	4	(2)	(10)
Other Agency Costs	240	63	81	(18)	(111)
Other Expenditure	172	0	0	0	6
Waste Disposal Contracts	7,121	0	0	0	(22)
Grants to Voluntary Organisations	41	9	7	2	16
Transfers to Reserves	97	0	0	0	0
Total Expenditure	29,505	3,270	3,297	(27)	(93)
Income					
Sales Income	-1,342	-268	-275	7	42
Fees & Charges Income	-6,019	-1,524	-1,510	(14)	(89)
Rental Income	-1,111	-174	-159	(15)	(85)
Government Grant Income	-3,861	-1,288	-1,288	0	0
Reimbursement & Other Grant Income	-801	-115	-115	0	0
SLA Income	-23	0	0	0	0
Internal Fees Income	-223	0	-18	18	155
Capital Salaries	-236	-6	0	(6)	(35)
Transfers From Reserves	-30	0	0	0	0
Total Income	-13,646	-3,375	-3,365	(10)	(12)
Net Operational Expenditure	15,859	-105	-68	(37)	(105)
Recharges					
Premises Support	1,657	276	276	0	0
Transport	2,433	424	429	(5)	(29)
Central Support	4,297	716	716	0	0
Asset Rental Support	199	0	0	0	0
HBC Support Costs Income	-843	-141	-141	0	0
Net Total Recharges	7,743	1,275	1,280	(5)	(29)
Net Departmental Expenditure	23,602	1,170	1,212	(42)	(134)

Comments on the above figures

Net spend against the Community and Greenspaces department is forecast to be £0.134m over the approved budget profile by the end of the 2025/26 financial year.

Employee spend continues to be an area providing underspend for the department into the new financial year, forecast spend being £0.580m under the approved budget profile. There continue to be vacancies held for restructures taking place contributing to the underspend. However, due to the nature of the services within this department, agency and service expenditure will also rise in order to facilitate the very visible services provided to the residents of Halton.


In previous years Waste Disposal Contracts have contributed to an underspend for the department, however, due to the rise in costs last year, it is unlikely to see an underspend going forward. As the size of the contracts are very large, small percentage changes to the invoices can have significant impacts on the outturn position of the department and with invoices being received several periods after the costs are incurred, the outturn position may change throughout the year.


Estimated spend on premises costs is forecast to be £0.139m over budget in 2025/26. Premises costs have been built into the 2025/26 budget for Halton Leisure Centre, which did provide an underspend in the previous financial year. Higher stadium utility costs were offset from this and therefore will continue to be a budget pressure this year. There is more focus on internal services that can be provided (See £0.155m overachieved Internal Fees Income at outturn), and should this continue it can be utilised to offset the premises costs going forwards.


Supplies and Services is forecasting an overspend of £0.176m which is a budget pressure throughout the Department, and is primarily caused by inflationary cost increases of key goods and services over recent years. There is a risk if the Council were to contain these costs within the budget profile there would be a reduction in the service provided.

One of the key pressures within the 2025/26 financial year, as Halton Leisure Centre is a new site there is potential that it does/does not meet budgeted expectations and could have significant impacts on the outturn position.

APPROVED BUDGET SAVINGS COMMUNITY AND GREENSPACES DEPARTMENT

Service Area	Net Budget £'000	Description of Saving Proposal	Savings Value		Current Progress	Comments
			25/26 Agreed Council 01 February 2023 £'000	25/26 Agreed Council 05 March 2025 £'000		
Stadium & Catering Services – School Meals	12	Cease to deliver the school meals service, which has made significant	12	0		School meals service has ceased and is reflected in the 25/26 budget.

Service Area	Net Budget £'000	Description of Saving Proposal	Savings Value		Current Progress	Comments
			25/26	25/26		
			Agreed Council 01 February 2023 £'000	Agreed Council 05 March 2025 £'000		
		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.				
Green Waste		Green Waste – increase green waste charges from £43 to £50 per annum,	0	100		Green waste charges have been increased to £50.

Service Area	Net Budget £'000	Description of Saving Proposal	Savings Value		Current Progress	Comments
			25/26 Agreed Council 01 February 2023 £'000	25/26 Agreed Council 05 March 2025 £'000		
		to bring Halton onto a comparable basis with charges levied by neighbouring councils.				
Area Forums		Area Forums – cease the funding for Area Forums.	0	170		Area forum budgets have been removed in 25-26
Total Community & Greenspace Dept			12	270		

Planning, Provision and Transportation Department

Revenue Budget as at 31st May 2025

	Annual Budget £'000	Budget to Date £'000	Actual Spend £'000	Variance (Overspend) £'000	Forecast Outturn £'000
Expenditure					
Employees	5,975	967	947	20	125
Efficiency Savings	-100	-17	0	(17)	(100)
Premises	188	62	56	6	38
Hired & Contracted Services	380	3	15	(12)	(74)
Supplies & Services	117	41	65	(24)	(148)
Street Lighting	1,643	1	32	(31)	(191)
Highways Maintenance - Routine & Reactive	1,803	99	169	(70)	(425)
Highways Maintenance - Programmed Works	812	43	0	43	259
Fleet Transport	1,467	206	201	5	32
Bus Support - Halton Hopper Tickets	14	0	0	0	(3)
Bus Support	506	36	36	0	0
Agency Related Expenditure	8	1	1	0	3
Grants to Voluntary Organisations	31	31	31	0	0
NRA Levy	75	0	0	0	0
LCR Levy	1,553	0	0	0	0
Contribution to Reserves	359	0	0	0	0
Total Expenditure	14,831	1,473	1,553	(80)	(484)
Income					
Sales & Rents Income	-97	-16	-11	(5)	(27)
Planning Fees	-798	-198	-159	(39)	(232)
Building Control Fees	-251	-39	-33	(6)	(35)
Other Fees & Charges	-971	-193	-186	(7)	(40)
Reimbursements & Grant Income	-174	-36	-36	0	0
Government Grant Income	0	-4	-5	1	0
Halton Hopper Income	-15	-3	-2	(1)	(6)
Recharge to Capital	-210	0	0	0	0
LCR Levy Reimbursement	-1,553	0	0	0	0
Contribution from Reserves	-129	-129	-129	0	0
Total Income	-4,198	-618	-561	(57)	(340)
Net Operational Expenditure	10,633	855	992	(137)	(824)
Recharges					
Premises Support	739	123	123	0	0
Transport	808	118	120	(2)	(13)
Central Support	2,505	420	420	0	0
Asset Rental Support	918	0	0	0	0
HBC Support Costs Income	-6,347	-1,067	-1,094	27	165
Net Total Recharges	-1,377	-406	-431	25	152
Net Departmental Expenditure	9,256	449	561	(112)	(672)

Comments on the above figures

Financial Position

As at 31 May 2025 it is forecast net spend will be £0.672m over the approved 2025/26 budget.

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 to relieve pressure on the revenue budgets.

The projected figures in this report are very much subject to change as there is currently a major departmental staffing restructure in progress. Therefore, it is anticipated that vacant posts will be filled from October onwards, but this is not certain. Figures will change in further reports depending on recruitment processes.

Employee expenditure is predicted to be under budget at the end of the financial year due to vacant posts not being filled until part way through the financial year.

Efficiency savings for PPT are not expected to be met and more information is provided about this further down the report.

Supplies and services and contracted services are projected to be over budget as in previous years due to there being no budget for software licences, and maintenance of computer systems, yet these are a requirement for the department to carry out its day-to-day tasks

The street lighting expenditure is projected to come in over budget. 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. However, this has been offset a small amount by new developments that have become adopted and therefore added to the energy bill.

Highways maintenance budgets are projected to be over budget. Capital funding is 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.

Planning income is again projected to be under achieved. Following on from the 2024/25 financial year there is a downturn in the number of applications being received. Although, Government increased Planning Fees rates towards the end of 2023/24 this has not offset the lack of large development agreements there has been in previous years. This forecast is based on the income that has been received so far this financial year and what is likely to be achieved going forward. Building control income is projected to follow the same path.

Fees and charges income is projected to not achieve its income target, but this is an ever-changing area as it is fully dependent on the amount of permit applications etc that is received. It is anticipated that the high level of permit income that was seen in previous years will not continue. Transport income recharges will be over on its income target, but these are offset by overspends in the other departments.

Approved 2025/26 Savings

Savings that were put forward for 2025/26 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. Budgets have also been top sliced in order to help balance the overall council budgets. The Highways / Traffic and Logistics divisions are seeing the largest impact of this when purchasing materials / fuel / parts for vehicles etc.

Planning, Provision and Transportation Department

Capital Budget as at 31st May 2025

Scheme Detail	2025/26 Original Allocation £000	2025/26 Revised Allocation £000	31 May Actual Spend £000	31 July Forecast Spend £000	30 Sept Forecast Spend £000	30 Nov Forecast Spend £000	31 Jan Forecast Spend £000	Cumulative Forecast Spend to 31 March 2026 £000
Bridge and Highway Maintenance	839.2	839.2	0.0	210	210	210	209	839.2
Runcorn Busway	1,233.8	1,233.8	0.0	411	411	411	0	1,233
ATF3 Murdishaw to Whitehouse	3,000.0	3,000.0	192.0	2,564	0.0	0.0	0.0	2,756.0
ATF4 - Widnes Town Centre Accessibility	114.5	114.5	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
A56 Reconstruction	943.7	943.7	0.0	472	472	0.0	0.0	944.0
Dukesfield	1,256.8	1,256.8	0.0	1,257	0.0	0.0	0.0	1,257.0
LCWIP Phase 2 Daresbury	3,862	3,861.8	0.0	0	544	544	0	1,088.0
Pot Hole Funding	968	968.4	1.0	242	242	242	241	968.4
CRSTS	4,405	4,405.1	37.0	1,092	1,092	1,092	1,092	4,405.0
Street Lighting - Structural Maintenance	1,025.1	1,025.1	0.0	50	50	50	50	200.0
Street Lighting - Upgrades	728.4	728.4	0.0	25	25	25	25	100.0
East Runcorn Connectivity	5,851.7	5,851.7	1,270.0	1,527	1,527	1,528	0	5,851.7
Risk Management	712.9	712.9	0.0	50	0	0	0	50.0
Widnes Loops	0.0	0.0	65.0	0	0	0	0	65.0
Fleet Replacements	4,482.0	4,482.0	31.0	492	492	492	492	1,999.0
Total Policy, Planning & Transportation	29,423.4	29,423.4	1,596.0	8,392.0	5,065.0	4,593.7	2,109.6	21,756.3

Comments on the above capital figures

Additional funding for Dukesfield ATL (Waterloo Bridge) has been agreed with Liverpool City Region and therefore this will be fully utilised in the next month or so as work has already completed and therefore expenditure can be claimed.

CRSTS (City Region Sustainable Travel Settlement) replaced the historical grant funding from the DfT. It is broken down into various areas such as carriageway maintenance, footway maintenance, street lighting and structures. Halton has recently been informed by the Combined Authority (CA) that the underspend from previous years will be carried forward into 2025/26, but this is not yet showing on the report as it hasn't been actioned yet.


The East Runcorn Connectivity (ERC) scheme is on track and additional funding from LCR has been secured. The grant funding agreement has now been signed off by both parties and claims are currently being completed.

The A56 project is in support of the new junction completion for the Redrow development which overlaps with the ERC scheme mentioned above. Progress has been slow on this scheme for various reasons and expenditure will increase into Summer 25/26.

LCWIP Phase 2 (Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan) Runcorn to Daresbury is currently underway on Long Benton Way. A change request has been submitted to LCR as expenditure is not projected to reach the original budget of £5.7m.

POLICY, PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT




APPENDIX A

Service Area	Net Budget £'000	Description of Saving Proposal	Savings Value		Current Progress	Comments
			24/25 £'000	25/26 £'000		
Highways		LED Advertising Screens – install LED advertising screens at appropriate locations within the Borough in order to generate advertising revenue. The estimated annual income is the Council's share of advertising revenue net of capital financing costs for the installations.	0	100		It is not anticipated that this income will be achieved this financial year as the LED screens are no closer to being installed.
Total PPT Dept			0	100		




Appendix 2: Explanation 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.
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.
Red		Indicates that it is <u>highly likely or certain</u> that the objective will not be achieved within the appropriate timeframe.

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.