

REPORT TO: Environment and Regeneration Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 12th November 2025

REPORTING OFFICER: Executive Director Environment and Regeneration

PORTFOLIO: Environment and Urban Renewal

SUBJECT: Environmental Fund Update

WARD(S) Borough Wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

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

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

2.1 The Board notes the wide range of projects that have benefitted from the fund, as set out in Appendix 1.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

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

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

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

3.3 The fund has been in operation since 2015, and over that period has generated £7,936,270.74.

3.4 A number of projects have been funded and implemented, as set out in Appendix 1. These provide a number of interventions, for example improvements to open space, (Town Park in Runcorn and Runcorn

Hill). These projects not only provide visual improvements and open up access, including walking and cycling routes, but also have wider health benefits, encouraging people to use their local spaces more. Other projects include supporting the regeneration of Runcorn Station Quarter and Runcorn Town Centre.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The fund seeks to advance the Council's environmental priorities.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 It adds considerable value by acting as matched financing for external funding bids.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Improving Health, Promoting Wellbeing and Supporting Greater Independence

Projects fund a variety of initiatives to support health, wellbeing and the outdoors.

6.2 Building a Strong, Sustainable Local Economy

Projects such as the café at Pickerings Pasture will lead to employment opportunities.

6.3 Supporting Children, Young People and Families

Funding outdoor space schemes will help bring families together in play and social life.

6.4 Tackling Inequality and Helping Those Who Are Most In Need

Not directly applicable.

6.5 Working Towards a Greener Future

Projects such as The Runcorn Station Quarter Enterprise Hub is funding solar panels as part of the regeneration of the building.

6.6 Valuing and Appreciating Halton and Our Community

The fund allows for money to be spent on improving the lives of Halton residents in a number of ways, as listed in Appendix 1.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

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

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

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

9.0 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 Funding solar panels: match funding for the renewable community energy fund and undergoing a survey to monitor the air quality in Halton are examples of funded projects tackling climate change.

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

‘None under the meaning of the Act.’