

REPORT TO: Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 17th June 2009

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director Corporate and Policy

SUBJECT: Local Area Agreement Refresh and 2008-09 Performance Report

WARDS: Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To report on progress towards meeting Local Area Agreement targets at the end of the first year of the Agreement.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION THAT:

- i. The report is noted.
- ii. The Board considers whether it requires any further information on the actions being taken to deliver the LAA targets.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 The revised Local Area Agreement (LAA) was signed off by the Secretary of State in June 2008. The purpose of the LAA is to agree a set of targets for Halton with government and local partners. Named partners have a duty to co-operate in striving to achieve these targets. There are 32 indicators in the LAA, together with statutory education and early years targets. The agreement covers the period April 2008 to March 2011.

3.2 The Agreement was "refreshed" in March 2009. The indicators and targets were reviewed with Government Office. There were a number of gaps and estimates in the original agreement, and the principle changes were to fill these gaps using information that had become available between June 2008 and March 2009 such as the results of the Places Survey. A summary of the changes is attached as appendix 1. It is not expected that there will be many further changes, except in one area. The economic downturn will inevitably have an impact on the likelihood of achieving some targets relating to the economy and housebuilding, and the government has identified a list of indicators for which targets will be reviewed before the end of March 2010, by which time the impact of the downturn will be clearer.

3.3 A report on progress over the first year of the Agreement is attached at Appendix 2, covering those indicators which fall within the responsibilities of this particular Policy and Performance Board. This is based on the targets in the refreshed agreement.

3.4 In reading the report members should bear in mind that:

1. All the national indicators are built into the quarterly service plan monitoring reports. The intention of this report is pick out the LAA indicators from the different service plans so that it is possible to see a clearer picture of progress overall.
2. Certain indicators are only reported some time after year end, so in those cases no progress report is yet available. There are also some survey based indicators for which no further data will be available until the survey is repeated in 2010.

4.0 CONCLUSION

4.1 The Local Area Agreement reflects the priorities in our community strategy for improving the quality of life in Halton. It is the main mechanism by which government will performance manage local areas. It is therefore important that we monitor progress, and that members are satisfied that adequate plans are in place to ensure that the improvement targets are achieved.

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The Local Area Agreement acts as a delivery plan for the sustainable community strategy and as such is central to our policy framework.

6.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Achievement of our Local Area Agreement targets has direct implications for our comprehensive area assessment. Further consideration of any areas of under-performance may give rise to other implications for the Council and its partners.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

7.1 This report deals directly with progress and delivering one of our five priorities.

8.0 RISK ANALYSIS

8.1 The key risk is failure to improve the quality of life for residents of Halton in accordance with the objectives of our community strategy. This risk can be mitigated by regular reporting of performance, and reviewing the action being taken where under-performance occurs.

9.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

9.1 One of the guiding principles of the LAA is to reduce inequalities in Halton.

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

10.1 Document:

Local Area Agreement 2008. Place of inspection 2nd floor Municipal Building.
Contact officer – Rob MacKenzie (0151 471 7416)

CHANGES TO HALTON'S LAA OUTCOMES FRAMEWORK – March 09

Ref	Description	Reason for Change
NI 5	Overall satisfaction with the area	Targets now agreed, provisional data became available early 2009 following Places Survey.
NI 7	Environment for a thriving third sector	Targets now agreed, data became available early 2009 following survey conducted by Office of the Third Sector.
NI 8	Adult participation in sport	Had used local data, now have national data which became available early 2009 following Sports Participation survey.
NI 16	Serious acquisitive crime rate	Minor typing error corrected.
NI 17	Perceptions of anti-social behaviour	Small changes to targets as provisional Places Survey data now being used instead of local data.
NI 20	Assault with injury crime rate	Presentation style was changed by GONW, and more up to date data was made available.
NI 30	Re-offending rate of prolific and priority offenders.	Presentation style changed.
NI 32	Repeat incidents of domestic violence	Small changes to targets as national definitions now being used instead of local data.
NI 33	<i>Arson Incidents</i>	<i>No change.</i>
NI 39	Alcohol-harm related hospital admission rates – Rate per 100 000 admissions	Baseline updated which impacted on targets.
NI 40	Drug users in effective treatment	Baseline updated which impacted on targets.
NI 53	Prevalence of breastfeeding at 6-8 weeks from birth	Baseline has been changed, but targets remain the same as previously agree.
NI 56	<i>Obesity among primary school age children in Year 6</i>	<i>No Change.</i>
NI 63	<i>Stability of placements of looked after children</i>	<i>No Change.</i>
NI 80	Achievement of a Level 3 qualification by the age of 19	Baseline has been changed, but targets remain the same as previously agree.
NI 111	First time entrants to the Youth Justice System aged 10-17	Small changes to targets as baseline supplied has been revised by GONW.

APPENDIX 1

Ref	Description	Reason for Change
NI 112	Under 18 conception rate	Updated baseline, targets remain the same.
NI 115	Substance misuse by young people	Survey data now available and being used.
<i>NI 116</i>	<i>Proportion of children in poverty (To be reviewed in 2010)</i>	<i>No change.</i>
NI 117	16-18 year old not in education, training or employment WNF Reward Indicator (To be reviewed in 2010)	National data now available and being used.
<i>NI 120</i>	<i>All-age all cause mortality</i>	<i>No change.</i>
<i>NI 123</i>	<i>16+ current smoking rate prevalence</i>	<i>No change.</i>
NI 139	People over 65 who say that they receive the information, assistance and support needed to exercise choice and control to live independently.	Places survey data now available and being used.
<i>NI 142</i>	<i>Number of vulnerable people supported to maintain independent living</i>	<i>No change.</i>
NI 150 C4	Adults in contact with secondary mental health services in employment	This indicator has been deferred and used as a placeholder due to lack of relevant data available. Will be reviewed in the next refresh.
NI 153	Working age people claiming out of work benefits in the worst performing neighbourhoods WNF Reward Indicator (To be reviewed in 2010)	Minor typing error corrected.
<i>NI 154</i>	<i>Net additional homes provided (To be reviewed in 2010)</i>	<i>No change.</i>
NI 163	Working age population qualified to at least Level 2 or higher WNF Reward Indicator	Baseline has changed and targets reviewed, taking into account the economic climate.
NI 171	VAT registration rate (To be reviewed in 2010)	National data now available and being used.
<i>NI 175</i>	<i>Access to services and facilities by public transport walking and cycling</i>	<i>No change.</i>
<i>NI 186</i>	<i>Per capita CO2 emissions in LA area</i>	<i>No change.</i>
<i>NI 192</i>	<i>Household waste recycled and composted</i>	<i>No change.</i>

APPENDIX 1

PLEASE NOTE THAT TWO INDICATORS HAVE BEEN DELETED FROM HALTON'S LAA. THESE ARE:-

Ref	Description	Comment
NI 124	People with long-term condition supported to be independent and in control of their condition	Data unavailable
NI 173	People falling out of work and on to incapacity benefits	Data unavailable

**Halton Local Area Agreement Annual
Progress Report
2008 - 09**

Urban Renewal

This report provides a summary of progress in relation to the achievement of targets for Halton Local Area Agreement.

It provides both a snapshot of performance at 2008 – 09 year-end and a projection of expected levels of performance to the period 2011.

The following traffic light convention has been adopted to illustrate both current and projected performance in relation to each of those measures and targets within the LAA.

Traffic light convention 2008 / 09



2008 – 09 target has been achieved or exceeded.



2008 – 09 target has not been achieved

Traffic light convention for 2011 projection



2011 target is likely to be achieved or exceeded.



The achievement of the 2011 target is questionable



2011 target is highly unlikely to be / will not be achieved.

The following indicators are not included within this performance report:



NI	Descriptor	Reason
5	Overall satisfaction with the area	Survey Based Data. Next survey to be undertaken in 2010.
175	Access to services and facilities by public transport walking and cycling	Data not available 2008/09

Performance Overview

Ref	Description	08 / 09 Target	2011 Target
154	Net additional homes provided		

URBAN RENEWAL

NI 154 Net additional homes provided

Baseline 2007 – 08	2008 - 09			2011	
	Target	Actual	Progress	Target	Projected
522	518	397		518	

Supporting information / commentary

As anticipated, the outturn figures for 2008/9 show the impact of the 'credit crunch' on the house building industry in terms of lower numbers of dwelling completions than in previous years a reduction of 27% on last years completion rates.

The availability of development finance to fund construction and the availability of personal mortgages for the purchase of completed dwellings have led to far fewer completions and the cessation of speculative building.

Discussions with partners from the house building industry in the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment stakeholder workshops indicate that house builders are only finishing units that were already under construction and are now only 'building to order' on the Borough's large housing sites.

These comments have been substantiated by annual site visits for housing monitoring undertaken in April 2009. At the present time there is sufficient land available now for house building to accommodate 5613 units (2008 Housing Baseline Report). A positive change in the current economic climate is required to stimulate the housing market sufficiently to bring housing completions back on target. For this reason an amber traffic light has been allocated to indicate the position in 2011.