

# TOPIC BRIEF TEMPLATE (Part I)

## TOPIC TITLE

Workforce and Skills for the Science, Technology and Advanced Manufacturing Sector in Halton

**PPB(s) responsible:** Urban Renewal & Employment, Learning and Skills

**Officer Lead:** Siobhan Saunders **Tel** 0151 906 4804

**Support Officer:** Tim Leather\Martin Gratton **Tel** 01928 516126

**Planned start/end dates** April 2009 **Target PPB meeting** TBC

## Topic description and scope

- Identify the current, and model the future, skills needs of the science, technology and advanced manufacturing sector in Halton.
- Identify any disparity between the anticipated future skills needs of the sector and the anticipated provision of a competent and flexible local workforce
- Audit the current and anticipated supply of demand led training specific to the needs of the sector within Halton
- Assess whether existing demand led training will meet the skills needs of the sector in Halton
- Identify opportunities, in partnership with public planning/funding bodies (e.g. LSC and its successor, the Skills Funding Agency), FE and HE sector and the private sector, to improve the provision of demand led training
- Explore in-work training opportunities within existing companies within the science, technology and advanced manufacturing sector locally, including Apprentices and Train to Gain.

## Why this topic was chosen

The Borough of Halton already has a vital critical mass in the science, technology and advanced manufacturing sector.

- *Daresbury Science and Innovation Campus; one of the UK's two premier large-scale research facilities*
- *Daresbury Innovation Centre; high specification incubation facilities for small technology based businesses and university spinouts*
- *The Cockcroft Institute; the National Centre for Accelerator Science*
- *The Heath Business And Technical Park; the former global headquarters of the ICI now home to over 175 individual businesses many in the fields of science and research.*
- *The presence of a great many existing businesses, many based at The Heath, at the cutting edge of science and innovation*
- *The imbedded skills base of the existing chemical industry*
- *Proximity to the Northwest's premier FE and HE facilities*
- *An unrivalled position at the heart of the Northwest's communications network*
- *A portfolio of existing facilities and development land to attract new and expanding companies in the sector.*

The sector has therefore been recognised, alongside logistics, as key to the future prosperity of the Borough.

Within this context, it is vital that the sector has access to a highly skilled, motivated and flexible workforce.

It is equally vital that the young people of the Borough are able to take advantage of the employment opportunities within the sector through access to appropriate training pathways.

### **Key outputs and outcomes sought**

#### Outputs

1. A clear understanding of :-
  - The current and future skills demands of the science, technology and advanced manufacturing sector in Halton
  - The current provision of training locally specific to the needs of the sector
  - Any disparity between the demand for, and the supply of, a highly skilled workforce over the medium and long term
  - The mechanisms necessary to support the recruitment needs of the sector which will also to make employment opportunities within the sector available to the people of Halton.
2. The establishment of a clear set of job profiles where people can easily find the skills/qualifications that local business require for local jobs
3. Identification of good practice

#### Outcomes:

A body of skills related intelligence around the science, technology and advanced manufacturing sector that will foster an understanding of the skills position of the borough.

### **Which of Halton's 5 strategic priorities this topic addresses and the key objectives and improvement targets it will help to achieve**

A Healthy Halton, Key objectives B, C, E  
Urban Renewal, Key objectives A, D, E.  
Children and Young People, Key Objectives D, E.  
Employment Learning and Skills, Key objectives B, C and D

### **Nature of expected/desired PPB input**

Working group reports to be considered by full PPB

### **Preferred mode of operation**

Joint Councillor and officer working group  
Review of recent skills surveys  
Skills Audit of Science, Technology and Advanced Manufacturing Sector in Halton  
Primary research  
1-2-1 sessions with main agencies and providers  
Recommendations for action developed

**Media/communication implications**

Science, technology and advanced manufacturing is a key growth sector for the Borough of Halton. The work of the group will maximise the media/communication possibilities associated with the sector.

**Agreed and signed by:**

**PPB Chair .....** **Officer .....**

**Date:.....**

**Date:.....**