

Public Document Pack



Safer Halton Policy and Performance Board

Tuesday, 16 June 2009 6.30 p.m.
Council Chamber, Runcorn Town Hall

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David W R', positioned above a faint rectangular stamp.

Chief Executive

BOARD MEMBERSHIP

Councillor Shaun Osborne (Chairman)	Labour
Councillor John Stockton (Vice- Chairman)	Labour
Councillor Marjorie Bradshaw	Conservative
Councillor Susan Edge	Labour
Councillor Martha Lloyd Jones	Labour
Councillor Keith Morley	Labour
Councillor Margaret Ratcliffe	Liberal Democrat
Councillor Linda Redhead	Liberal Democrat
Councillor Colin Rowan	Conservative
Councillor Mike Shepherd	Liberal Democrat
Councillor Dave Thompson	Labour

*Please contact Ann Jones on 0151 471 7395 or e-mail
ann.jones@halton.gov.uk for further information.*

The next meeting of the Committee is on Tuesday, 22 September 2009

**ITEMS TO BE DEALT WITH
IN THE PRESENCE OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Part I

Item No.		Page No.
1. MINUTES		
2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST (INCLUDING PARTY WHIP DECLARATIONS)		
	Members are reminded of their responsibility to declare any personal or personal and prejudicial interest which they have in any item of business on the agenda, no later than when that item is reached and, with personal and prejudicial interests (subject to certain exceptions in the Code of Conduct for Members), to leave the meeting prior to discussion and voting on the item.	
3. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME		1 - 3
4. A SAFER WAY: CONSULTATION ON MAKING BRITAIN'S ROADS THE SAFEST IN THE WORLD - PRESENTATION		4 - 6
5. 4TH QUARTER MONITORING REPORTS		7 - 107
6. SSP MINUTES		108 - 121
7. DEVELOPMENT OF POLICY ISSUES		
(A) HARRIS STREET PETITION		122 - 125
(B) WORKING PARTY MINUTES		126 - 128
i) Waste Management Working Party Minutes		
ii) MAPS Topic Group		
(C) PAVEMENT CONDITIONS REPORT		129 - 133
(D) UPDATE ON ENFORCEMENT OF THE SMOKE FREE PROVISION OF THE HEALTH ACT 2006		134 - 138
(E) MID TERM REVIEW OF THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY		139 - 194
8. PERFORMANCE MONITORING		
(A) LAA PROGRESS REPORT 2008 - 2009		195 - 207

In accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Act the Council is required to notify those attending meetings of the fire evacuation procedures. A copy has previously been circulated to Members and instructions are located in all rooms within the Civic block.

REPORT TO: Safer Halton Policy & Performance Board

DATE: 16 June 2009

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Corporate and Policy

SUBJECT: Public Question Time

WARD(s): Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To consider any questions submitted by the Public in accordance with Standing Order 34(9).

1.2 Details of any questions received will be circulated at the meeting.

2.0 RECOMMENDED: That any questions received be dealt with.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 Standing Order 34(9) states that Public Questions shall be dealt with as follows:-

- (i) A total of 30 minutes will be allocated for dealing with questions from members of the public who are residents of the Borough, to ask questions at meetings of the Policy and Performance Boards.
- (ii) Members of the public can ask questions on any matter relating to the agenda.
- (iii) Members of the public can ask questions. Written notice of questions must be given by 4.00 pm on the working day prior to the date of the meeting to the Committee Services Manager. At any one meeting no person/organisation may submit more than one question.
- (iv) One supplementary question (relating to the original question) may be asked by the questioner, which may or may not be answered at the meeting.
- (v) The Chair or proper officer may reject a question if it:-
 - Is not about a matter for which the local authority has a responsibility or which affects the Borough;
 - Is defamatory, frivolous, offensive, abusive or racist;
 - Is substantially the same as a question which has been put at a meeting of the Council in the past six months; or
 - Requires the disclosure of confidential or exempt information.

- (vi) In the interests of natural justice, public questions cannot relate to a planning or licensing application or to any matter which is not dealt with in the public part of a meeting.
- (vii) The Chairperson will ask for people to indicate that they wish to ask a question.
- (viii) **PLEASE NOTE** that the maximum amount of time each questioner will be allowed is 3 minutes.
- (ix) If you do not receive a response at the meeting, a Council Officer will ask for your name and address and make sure that you receive a written response.

Please bear in mind that public question time lasts for a maximum of 30 minutes. To help in making the most of this opportunity to speak:-

- Please keep your questions as concise as possible.
- Please do not repeat or make statements on earlier questions as this reduces the time available for other issues to be raised.
- Please note public question time is not intended for debate – issues raised will be responded to either at the meeting or in writing at a later date.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

None.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

None.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 **Children and Young People in Halton** - none.

6.2 **Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton** - none.

6.3 **A Healthy Halton** – none.

6.4 **A Safer Halton** – none.

6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal** – none.

7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

7.1 None.

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

8.1 There are no background papers under the meaning of the Act.

REPORT TO: Safer Halton Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 16th June 2009

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Environment

SUBJECT: A Safer Way: Consultation on Making Britain's Roads the Safest in the World - Presentation

WARD(S) Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To inform the Board of the Consultation Document recently released by the Department of Transport that seeks views on the vision, targets and measures for improving road safety in Great Britain for the period beyond 2010.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That:

Members note the presentation made by officers on the consultation document, comment as appropriate and endorse the proposal for the Strategic Director, Environment in consultation with the Executive Board Member for Planning, Transportation, Regeneration and Renewal to submit any comments to the Department of Transport by the deadline of 14th July 2009.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 The Department of Transport (DfT) has recently circulated a consultation document seeking views on the vision, targets, and measures for improving road safety in Great Britain beyond 2010. Views received in response to this document will, according to the DfT, influence the final shape of its new road safety strategy.

3.2 The document sets out the Government's proposed road safety strategy for the period from 2010 to 2030 and how its plans to approach the task of reducing casualties on our roads in the next 20 years. It also includes proposed targets and key performance indicators for reductions in deaths and serious injuries that are to be achieved by 2020.

3.3 The analysis of data by the DfT has led it identify the following key challenges for the new strategy:

- **reducing the number of road deaths**, which have fallen at a slower rate than serious injuries:

- **pedestrian and cyclist casualties in our towns and cities** – particularly in deprived communities;
- **protecting children**, particularly in deprived areas and young people who are greatly over-represented in the casualty statistics;
- **protecting motorcyclists**, who represent 20% of road fatalities but just 1% of traffic;
- **safety on rural roads**: 62% of all road fatalities in 2007 occurred on rural roads, which carry only 42% of all traffic;
- **variations** in safety from area to area and road to road;
- **poor road user behaviour** amongst a minority, where drink-driving and failure to wear a seatbelt remain a problem;
- **illegal and inappropriate speed**: excessive speed was recorded as a contributory factor in 26% of road fatalities in 2007.

3.4 A presentation is to be given to the Board outlining the content of the consultation document. Responses to this consultation are required by 14th July 2009 and hence this precludes the submission of a detailed report to the Board. It is proposed therefore that the Board note the presentation, comment as appropriate and endorse the proposal for officers to consider the document in detail and prepare a response. This would then be submitted to the Strategic Director, Environment in consultation with the Executive Board Member for Planning, Transportation, Regeneration and Renewal for approval and submission to the DfT.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no direct implications on policy. However, the final strategy will influence future road safety in Halton.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The report informs the Board of the DfT document 'A Safer Way: Consultation on Making Roads the Safest in the World' and upon which a presentation will be made. It sets out the vision, targets and performance measures for improving road safety in Great Britain for the period beyond 2010. While a response may be submitted to the consultation document it is difficult at this stage to determine if there will be any implications for Halton.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children & Young People

There are no direct implications. However, the final strategy could influence the safety of children and young people in Halton.

6.2 Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

There are no direct implications.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

There are no direct implications. However, any casualties saved as a result of the new strategy will help to reduce demands on the health service.

6.4 A Safer Halton

There are no direct implications. However, the final strategy could influence the safety of all road users in Halton.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

There are no direct implications.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 As the report is considering a consultation document there are no identifiable risks for the Council at this stage.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 As the report is considering a consultation document there are no identifiable Equality and Diversity issues.

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

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
A Safer Way: Consultation on Making Britain's Roads the Safest in the World	Department of Highways, Transportation and Logistics, Rutland House, Runcorn or also available at www.dft.gov.uk/consultations	Lisa Scott

REPORT TO: Safer Halton PPB

DATE: 16 June, 2009

REPORTING OFFICER: Chief Executive

SUBJECT: Performance Management Reports for 2008/09

WARDS: Boroughwide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To consider and raise any questions or points of clarification in respect of the 4th quarter performance management reports on progress against service plan objectives and performance targets, performance trends/comparisons, factors affecting the services etc. for;

- Health & Partnerships
- Highways & Transportation
- Environmental & Regulatory Services
- Culture & Leisure

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the Policy & Performance Board;

- 1) Receive the 4th quarter performance management reports;
- 2) Consider the progress and performance information and raise any questions or points for clarification; and
- 3) Highlight any areas of interest and/or concern where further information is to be reported at a future meeting of the Policy and Performance Board.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 The departmental service plans provide a clear statement on what the services are planning to achieve and to show how they contribute to the Council's strategic priorities. The service plans are central to the Council's performance management arrangements and the Policy and Performance Board has a key role in monitoring performance and strengthening accountability.

3.2 The quarterly reports are on the Information Bulletin to reduce the amount of paperwork sent out with the agendas and to allow Members access to the reports as soon as they have become available. It also provides Members with an opportunity to give advance notice of any questions, points or requests for further information that will be raised to ensure the appropriate Officers are available at the PPB meeting.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There are no policy implications associated with this report.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

There are no other implications associated with this report.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

The quarterly performance monitoring reports demonstrate how services are delivering against the objectives set out in the relevant service plan. Although some objectives link specifically to one priority area, the nature of the cross-cutting activities being reported means that to a greater or lesser extent a contribution is made to one or more of the priorities listed below;

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

6.3 A Healthy Halton

6.4 A Safer Halton

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

6.6 Corporate Effectiveness and Efficient Service Delivery

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

N/A

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

N/A

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

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
N/A		

QUARTERLY MONITORING REPORT

DIRECTORATE: Health & Community
SERVICE: Culture & Leisure
PERIOD: Quarter 4 to period end 31st March 2009

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This quarterly monitoring report covers the Culture & Leisure Department fourth quarter period up to 31st March 2009. It describes key developments and progress against 'all' milestones and performance indicators for the service.

Given that there are a considerable number of year-end transactions still to take place a Financial Statement for the period has not been included within this report in order to avoid providing information that would be subject to further change and amendment. The final 2008/09 financial statements for the Department will be prepared and made available via the Council's Intranet once the Council's year-end accounts have been finalised. A notice will be provided within the Members' Weekly Bulletin as soon as they are available.

The way in which traffic light symbols have been used to reflect progress to date is explained in Appendix 5.

It should be noted that this report is presented to a number of Policy and Performance Boards. Those objectives and indicators that are not directly relevant to this Board have been shaded grey.

2.0 KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Halton Council in partnership with Special Olympics Halton hosted the Special Olympics Regional Athletics event to mark the opening of its new state of the art athletics facility. 160 athletes aged from 8 years to 67 years completed against each other to become Regional champions.

The Merseyside Primary Schools Games will be held on 25th June 2009 in Liverpool. Lord Coe will be attending to promote the 2012 Olympic Games.

The Arts Strategy and the Public Arts Strategy have been approved by Executive Board.

The Outline Business Case for Culture and Leisure Provision in the context of Building Schools for the Future has been submitted.

Halton's Got Talent Finals will be held at the Brindley on 11th July 2009.

A Dementia reading group project has been set up to support people with dementia through poetry sessions. There are currently 2 sessions running in Halton, one in the community and one in a residential home. This is currently a pilot, but is planned to expand the project given the indications of its success.

Phase 1 of the refurbishment of Halton Lea Library funded by the Lottery Community Libraries Programme is now complete and the remodelled first floor was re-opened to the public on the 9th March. A reduced library service is being offered from the first floor whilst phase 2 works continue. A self-service facility has been introduced for the issuing and returning of library materials, which will be extended once the building work is complete. The new meeting room facilities, although not currently available, are generating a great deal of interest with enquiries from a range of partners who are keen to deliver a variety of new services. The refurbishment is currently on schedule and the library will reopen in August 2009.

3.0 EMERGING ISSUES

Proposals are in place to extend Leisure Card Facilities to Serving Armed Forces.




Proposals are being evaluated to attempt to re-locate the Runcorn Linnets F.C. back into the Borough.

Plans are being further developed with Bereavement and Registration Services to cope with the possible outbreak of pandemic flu.

Details are being finalised to re-locate the Community Safety Team in Widnes Waterfront accommodation. This will allow the concept of Multi-Agency Provision to be further developed, including representatives from Police representatives, the Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator, Family Intervention Officers, Youth Offending Team, Witness Support and Probation.

The Literature Festival will be held 8th to 13th June 2009.

4.0 PROGRESS AGAINST OBJECTIVES / MILESTONES

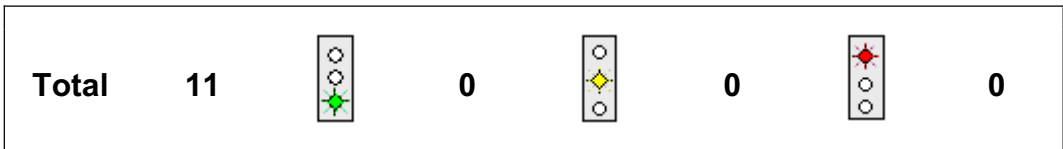
Total	21		19		0		2
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The majority of objectives / milestones for the service have progressed as planned and additional details are provided in Appendix 1.

5.0 SERVICE REVIEW

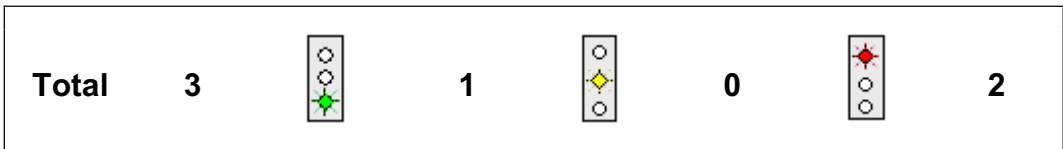
The current Sports and Facilities Strategy runs to 2009. The Strategy will be reviewed with all partners with proposals to establish a revised version up to and including 2012.

6.0 PROGRESS AGAINST KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS



Performance against ‘key’ performance indicators cannot yet be reported due to the unavailability of data at this point in time. Details of these indicators are provided within Appendix 2. This is largely the result of data not yet being released by the CLG for nationally prescribed measures.

6.1 PROGRESS AGAINST OTHER PERFORMANCE INDICATORS



Of the remaining 8 indicators for the service that can be reported this period three can be assigned traffic lights. Further details of these indicators are provided within Appendix 3.

7.0 PROGRESS AGAINST LPSA TARGETS

For further details, please refer to Appendix 4.

8.0 RISK CONTROL MEASURES

During the production of the 2008-09 Service Plan, the service was required to undertake a risk assessment of all Key Service Objectives.

Where a Key Service Objective has been assessed and found to have associated ‘High’ risk, progress against the application of risk treatment measures is to be monitored, and reported in the quarterly monitoring report in quarters 2 and 4.

There are no Service Objectives for this service that have been assessed and found to have associated ‘High’ risks. Therefore, there is no progress to report.

9.0 PROGRESS AGAINST HIGH PRIORITY EQUALITY ACTIONS

During 2007/08 the service was required to undertake an Equality Impact Assessment. Progress against actions identified through that assessment, with associated High priority are to be reported in the quarterly monitoring report in quarters 2 and 4.






There are no High priority actions for this service; therefore, there is no progress to report.

10.0 DATA QUALITY





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, 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.






11.0 APPENDICES

Appendix 1- Progress against Objectives/ Milestones
Appendix 2- Progress against Key Performance Indicators
Appendix 3- Progress against Other Performance Indicators
Appendix 4- Progress against LPSA Targets
Appendix 5- Explanation of traffic light symbols

Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2008/09 Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
CL 1	Increase participation in sport and physical activity, thereby encouraging better lifestyles.	Ensure the Council's Leisure Centres maintain service delivery at nationally recognised standards by applying and achieving the Quest quality standards. Oct 2008		Brookvale Recreation Centre assessment 76%. All centres have shown on improvement on previous performance.
		Increase number of new participants through Sport Physical Activity Alliance (SPAA) delivery plan i.e. sports participation (Jan08-Dec08). Jan 2009		Achieved 1048
		<i>Work with Primary Care Trust (PCT) and other community groups to deliver Big Lottery Fund (BLF) well being Physical Activity projects i.e. cycling projects, Bounce into Action. Mar 2009</i>		All projects now delivering activity
		<i>Deliver sport activity as part of Youth Festival July 08. Jul 2008</i>		Delivered
		Increase number of members in local sports clubs 125 by improving school to club links (Jan08-Dec08). Jan 2009		PESSYP results show 1% increase to 34% against national average of 33%.

Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2008/09 Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
CL 2	Increase the use of libraries, thereby encouraging literacy skills and quality of life opportunities.	Develop plans for £1.3million upgrade of Halton Lea Library. Community Engagement Plan, Business Plan, Capital Plan to be submitted to Big Lottery, April 2008; work to commence on site Sept 2008. Consultation complete.		Phase 1 complete, phase 2 commenced 9 th March 2009, work on schedule for completion August 2009. Consultation complete. Community History and Young People's Steering Groups established
		<i>Hold week long literature festival (in conjunction with the Brindley). May 2008</i>		Held 10 th -22 nd May 2008
		Hold 2 promotional campaigns to increase library membership (Sept08-Feb09). Feb 2009		Promotional/consultation event with a health theme held in Halton Lea Shopping Centre in January Outreach consultation / promotional events undertaken in various locations in Runcorn.
		<i>Roll out Books for Children initiative to distribute free books to young people to encourage the habit of reading. Dec 2008</i>		Roll out of the various DCSF schemes "Booktime", "Boys into Books" has continued.

CL 3	Develop the arts product in Halton which will in turn improve quality of life, self-esteem and encourage new skills.	Produce Public Arts Strategy for Halton to provide a structure for future investment into Public Art. Sep 2008		Completed and approved by Executive Board In February 09
		Produce Arts Strategy for Halton which recognises cultures contribution to quality of life, health and economic regeneration. Sep 2008		Completed and approved by Executive Board in March 09
		<i>Produce drama, music, dance and visual arts programme to contribute to Youth Cultural Festival. Jul 2008</i>		Ran successful range of events throughout the festival at The Stadium and The Brindley, including Halton's Got Talent which will be repeated in 2009.
		<i>Produce programme for Theatre in the Parks as part of Halton's offer for Capital of Culture Year. Jun 2008</i>		Three outdoor performances Of Alice In Wonderland were successfully staged at Wigg Island. The performances drew many first time visitors to Wigg Island and the new visitor centre
CL 4	Increase use and satisfaction with parks and open spaces, promoting healthy lifestyles and providing diversionary activities for young people.	<i>Hold 150 free events in parks over the year to promote the educational and environmental benefits of Haltons Open Spaces. Mar 2009</i>		226 events were held over the year.
		<i>Review SPLASH programme, April 2008 to implement for June 2008 - March 2009. Mar 2009</i>		Reviewed and delivered.
		Obtain Green Flag for 8 sites in the Borough. Sep 2008		Awarded 10 Green Flags.

CL 5	Make Halton a safer and better place to live in by active programmes of community safety and activities to modify drug and alcohol abuse.	<i>Improve the number of new referrals that undertake a screening for hepatitis C. March 2009.</i>		Out of 74 new treatment journeys who were current or previous injectors, 14 were offered and accepted Hep C screening (19%)
		<i>Maintain or improve the sanction detection target for domestic abuse. March 2009.</i>		High number of detections in quarter 4.
		Reduce the number of repeat victims of domestic abuse from the 07/08 baseline. March 2009.		Please see NI 32 below.
		Reduce longest waiting time for alcohol treatment from 16 to 12 weeks. March 2009.		Waiting time is currently 3 months
		<i>Review the structure of the Community Safety Team to ensure it is fit for purpose to respond to the needs of Halton residents. Sep 2008</i>		Review complete with recommendations presented to PPB. MAPS proposals partially implemented.

The following listed “Key” performance indicators cannot be reported at this time,

CL LI4 - % Overall satisfaction of Library Users (Previously BVPI 118c)

CL LI5 - % Of residents satisfied with sport and leisure (Previously BVPI 119a)

NI 17 - Perception of anti-social behaviour

CL LI1 - Domestic burglaries per 1,000 households (Previously BVPI 126)

NI 9 - % of adult population (16+) say they have used their public library service during the last 12 months

NI 10 - % of adult population (16+) who have visited a museum or gallery at least once in the past 12 months


NI 11 - % of adult population (16+) that have engaged in the arts at least 3 times in the past 12 months.


NI 20 - Assault with injury crime rate (per 1000 population)

NI 30 - Re-offending rate of prolific and priority offenders

NI 33 - Arson incidents

NI 8 - % of adult population (16+) participating in sport each week

Ref	Description	Actual 2007/8	Target 08/09	Quarter 4	Progress	Commentary
Quality						
NI 22	Perceptions of parents taking responsibility for the behaviour of their children in the area	N/A	N/A	N/A		Figures still awaited from Place Survey
NI 23	Perceptions that people in the area treat one another with respect and dignity	N/A	N/A	N/A		Figures still awaited from Place Survey
NI 24	Satisfaction with the way the police and local council dealt with anti-social behaviour	N/A	N/A	N/A		Figures still awaited from Place Survey
NI 25	Satisfaction of different groups with the way the police and local Council dealt with anti-social behaviour	N/A	N/A	N/A		Figures still awaited from Place Survey
NI 41	Perceptions of drunk or rowdy behaviour as a problem	N/A	N/A	N/A		Figures still awaited from Place Survey
NI 42	Perceptions of drug use or drug dealing as a problem	N/A	N/A	N/A		Figures still awaited from Place Survey
Service Delivery						
CL LI2	Number of racial incidents recorded by the Authority per 100,000 population (Previously BVPI 174)	42.68	N/A	N/A		Data not yet available
CL LI3	% Of racial incidents that resulted in further action (Previously BVPI 175)	100%	100%	100%		All reports are investigated as a matter of policy.
NI 15	Serious violent crime rate (per 1,000 population)	92 crimes	N/A	63 Crimes		A reduction of 29 crimes (31%). Halton are currently 2nd out of 15 when


Ref	Description	Actual 2007/8	Target 08/09	Quarter 4	Progress	Commentary
		equates to 0.77		equates to 0.53		compared to most similar CDRP family, 0.098 crimes per 1000 population, well below most similar group average Dec 08 – feb 09: (excellent performance).
NI 16	Serious acquisitive crime rate (per 1000 population)	16.47	16.06	18.79		<p>During January 2009 to March 2009 Halton Area reported 415 Serious Acquisitive Crimes achieving a -14.1% DECREASE when compared to the same period during the previous year (483 to 415).</p> <p>Performance against year end target is 17% under target. However, current quarters performance, if sustained, would achieve 2009/10 target reductions in line with Government Office North West targets to achieve a 7.5% reduction from 2007/08 baseline by 2010/11.</p> <p>The number of crimes reported within this quarter is the lowest it has been since April 05 (numbers not available to assess prior to this date). Work to reduce numbers has been significant and numbers recorded reflect this action.</p> <p>When compared to our MSCDRP family we are in 9th position out of 15, with 0.076 per thousand population above most similar average</p> <p>The categories within Serious Acquisitive are</p>

Ref	Description	Actual 2007/8	Target 08/09	Quarter 4	Progress	Commentary
						<p>broken down into the following categories:</p> <p><u>Serious Acquisitive Crime - Burglary in a dwelling</u></p> <p>During January 2009 to March 2009 Halton Area reported 139 Burglary in a dwelling achieving a -3.6% DECREASE when compared to the same period during the previous year (144 to 139).</p> <p>Performance against year end target is 26.2% over target. However the current quarters performance, if sustained, would achieve 2009/10 target reductions in line with Government Odffice North West targets to achieve a 7.5% reduction from 2007/08 baseline by 2010/11.</p> <p>During January 2009 to March 2009 (Quarter 4) Halton Area achieved a 3.6% DECREASE when compared to the same period during the previous year (144 to 139). With the lowest reported numbers during March 2009 since in April 2005 (records before this date not available to assess further).</p> <p>When compared to our MSCDRP family we are in 9th position out of 15 and 0.161 per 1000 households above average.</p> <p><u>Theft of a motor Vehicle</u></p> <p>During January 2009 to March 2009 Halton Area reported 84 theft or unauthorised taking of a motor vehicle achieving a -25.7%</p>



Ref	Description	Actual 2007/8	Target 08/09	Quarter 4	Progress	Commentary
						<p>DECREASE when compared to the same period during the previous year (113 to 84).</p> <p>Performance against year end target is 11.66 % under target. The current quarters performance, if sustained, would achieve 2009/10 target reductions in line with Government Office North West targets to achieve a 7.5% reduction from 2007/08 baseline by 2010/11.</p> <p>This quarters performance is the lowest recorded (data prior to April 05 not available) since April 05, with all months recording particularly low figures.</p> <p>When compared to our MSCDRP family we are in 6th position out of 15. Currently 0.062 per thousand population below MCDPR average.</p> <p><u>Theft from a motor vehicle</u> During January 2009 to March 2009 Halton Area reported 159 theft from a motor vehicle achieving a -16.75% DECREASE when compared to the same period during the previous year (191 to 159).</p> <p>Performance against year end target is 26.6% over target. However, given the current quarters performance, if sustained, would achieve 2009/10 target reductions in line with Government Office North West targets to achieve a 7.5% reduction from</p>


Ref	Description	Actual 2007/8	Target 08/09	Quarter 4	Progress	Commentary
						<p>2007/08 baseline by 2010/11.</p> <p>This quarters performance is the lowest recorded (data prior to April 05 not available) since April 05, with all months recording particularly low figures.</p> <p><u>Robbery</u></p> <p>During January 2009 to March 2009 Halton Area reported 33 Robberies of business and personal crimes achieving a 5.71% DECREASE when compared to the same period during the previous year (35 to 33).</p> <p>Performance against year end target is 37.4% over target. Even with reductions when compared to last year, If performance was to continue as per this quarters performance then the target for 2009/10 target reductions in line with Government Office North West targets to achieve a 7.5% reduction from 2007/08 baseline by 2010/11 would NOT be achieved. Additional action is required in this area of business to become on track for achieving targets in 2009/10.</p> <p>When compared to our MSCDRP family we are in 11th position out of 15. Currently 0.38 per thousand population well above MCDRP average.</p>
NI 18	Adult re-offending rates for those under probation	N/A	N/A	N/A	Refer comment	Data not yet available.

Ref	Description	Actual 2007/8	Target 08/09	Quarter 4	Progress	Commentary
	supervision					
NI 19	Rate of proven re-offending by young offenders	N/A	N/A	N/A	-	Data not yet available
N1 21	Dealing with local concerns about anti-social behaviour and crime by the local council and police	N/A	N/A	N/A	-	Data not yet available
NI 26	Specialist support to victims of a serious sexual offence	N/A	N/A	N/A	-	Data not yet available
NI 27	Understanding of local concerns about anti-social behaviour and crime by the local council and police	N/A	N/A	N/A	-	Figures still awaited from Place Survey
NI 28	Serious knife crime rate	N/A	N/A	92	-	Data submitted by the Police.
NI 29	Gun crime rate	N/A	N/A	0	-	Data submitted by the Police.
NI 31	Re-offending rate of registered sex offenders	N/A	N/A	N/A	-	Data not yet available
NI 32	Repeat incidents of domestic violence	127	121	N/A	-	Further analysis (ie quarter 4) can not be completed due to Police systems being temporarily out of order. However, performance at quarter 3 noted: During April to December 2008 Halton Area reported 74 repeat victims of domestic violence achieving a -30.8% DECREASE when compared to the same period during the previous year (107 to 74). The forecast is following a stable trend and we are in line to achieve the 2.5% reduction target with a projected year end of 99 crimes equating to -25 (-20%) below



Ref	Description	Actual 2007/8	Target 08/09	Quarter 4	Progress	Commentary
						target of 124.
NI 34	Domestic violence - murder	N/A	N/A	N/A	-	Data submitted by the Police.
NI 38	Drug-related (Class A) offending rate	N/A	N/A	N/A		Data not yet available
NI 40	Drug users in effective treatment	527	518	447		Figure is taken from the NTA effective treatment trajectory summary month 9 YTD and is for Dec 08. End of year figure will be available in Aug 09. Target was revised down by the NTA from 532 to 518.
NI 6	Participation in regular volunteering	N/A	N/A	N/A	-	Data not yet available
NI 143	Offenders under probation supervision living in settled and suitable accommodations at the end of their order or licence	N/A	N/A	N/A	-	Data not yet available
NI 144	Offenders under probation supervision in employment at the end of their order or licence	N/A	N/A	N/A	-	Data not yet available
NI 35	Building resilience to violent extremism	N/A	N/A	2.5	-	This is self-assessed (on a score of 1-5 based upon existing national guidance).
NI 36	Protection against terrorist attack	N/A	N/A	N/A	-	Data not yet available
NI 7	Environment for a thriving third sector	N/A	N/A	N/A	-	Next Survey 2010
NI 49	Number of primary fires and related fatalities and non-fatal casualties, excluding	N/A	N/A	N/A	-	Data not yet available

Ref	Description	Actual 2007/8	Target 08/09	Quarter 4	Progress	Commentary
	precautionary checks					

LPSA Ref.	Indicator	Baseline	Target	Perform 07/08	Perform 08/09 4	Traffic light	Commentary
3	The percentage of adults in Halton participating in at least 30 minutes moderate intensity sport and active recreation (including recreational walking) on 3 or more days a week, as measured by Sport England's Active People survey	19.62 (Nov 2006)	20.60 (Nov 2009)	N/a	18.5		This is a disappointing outcome for Halton indicating a reduction in participation. The survey sample was only 500 compared to 1000 when the survey was conducted in 2006. Local evidence collected through targeted intervention and Leisure Facility usage does not show a reduction but rather an increase. For example there has been over 1% year on year visit across Councils Leisure Facilities and an increase in Club Live membership Sept 07 compared to Sept 08 of 253. Most noticeable increase at KLC due to moving the Gym to a larger room. New facilities have opened i.e. 2 ATPs, Tennis Centre & Athletics track all indicating increase in participation.
5	Reducing the harm caused by drug misuse: 1. The number of individuals in Halton who are in contact with structured drug treatment services.	604 (2004/5)	790 (2008/9)	864	742		Figure is provisional for Mar 09. Year end data will be available in Aug 09

LPSA Ref.	Indicator	Baseline	Target	Perform 07/08	Perform 08/09 4	Traffic light	Commentary
	2. The percentage of individuals in Halton starting treatment who are retained in treatment for over 12 weeks.	80% (2004/5)	88% (2008/9)	86%	70%		Figure is for PDU, Dec 08. end of year figure will be available in Aug 09

The traffic light symbols are used in the following manner:

	<u>Objective</u>	<u>Performance Indicator</u>
<u>Green</u>	 <p>Indicates that the <u>objective has been achieved</u> within the appropriate timeframe.</p>	<p>Indicates that the annual 08/09 target <u>has been achieved</u> or exceeded.</p>
<u>Red</u>	 <p>Indicates that that the <u>objective has not been achieved</u> within the appropriate timeframe.</p>	<p>Indicates that the annual 08/09 target <u>has not been achieved</u>.</p>

QUARTERLY MONITORING REPORT

DIRECTORATE: Health & Community
SERVICE: Health & Partnerships
PERIOD: Quarter 4 to period end 31st March 2009

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This quarterly monitoring report covers the Health & Partnerships Department fourth quarter period up to 31st March 2009. It describes key developments and progress against all objectives and performance indicators for the service.

Given that there are a considerable number of year-end transactions still to take place a Financial Statement for the period has not been included within this report in order to avoid providing information that would be subject to further change and amendment. The final 2008/09 financial statements for the Department will be prepared and made available via the Council's Intranet once the Council's year-end accounts have been finalised. A notice will be provided within the Members' Weekly Bulletin as soon as they are available.

It should be noted that this report is presented to a number of Policy and Performance Boards. As such those objectives and indicators that are not directly relevant to this Board have been shaded grey.

The way in which traffic light symbols have been used to reflect progress to date is explained in Appendix 6.

2.0 KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Business Support

An electronic care monitoring board has been established and will meet for the first time in April 2009. It was decided the electronic care monitoring project would be piloted in partnership with one of the new independent providers who have recently been contracted to provide home care services so that data extracted from electronic monitoring systems can be evaluated.

Work with Corporate ICT on the scoping of projects including the use of digital pens, mobile working, the single assessment process and electronic document storage is continuing. The 3 and 5 year ICT Strategy has been received from Corporate ICT and will be reviewed.

The new performance Self Assessment Survey has been received from the Care Quality Commission (CQC) and will be completed and submitted to CQC by 14th May 2009.

Quality Assurance and Supporting People

Throughout January to April 2009, the team have successfully implemented the transfer of domiciliary care services to our newly contracted providers who are now operating within 4 geographical zones across the borough.

Work has been completed on the residential care strategy, new improved residential care contract and specification. Council have approved the new rates for the provision of residential care and discussions are underway with providers regarding sign up to the new contract.

Housing

Work is progressing with City Region partners to develop housing proposals for inclusion in a Multi Area Agreement.

The Governments mortgage rescue scheme has been launched, but at this stage no cases have been dealt with in Halton that meet the eligibility criteria.

A tendering exercise has just been concluded to award a contract to undertake a survey of private sector housing conditions in the Borough, to inform development of the housing strategy.

At it's meeting on the 5th March the Executive Board agreed that the Council would work with partners to develop a sub regional model of Choice Based Lettings for introduction hopefully in 2010. This will mark a significant change in the way social rented housing is allocated in the Borough.

Service Planning & Training

A comprehensive training programme was commissioned and commenced in March 2009 to support the Self Directed Support and Personal Budgets agenda. This programme will run during 2009/10.

Commissioning

Valuing People Now - The Government three-year strategy and delivery plan for learning disability services was published in January and is driving the work plan of the Partnership board, which will be required to report to the Regional Board in March 2010.

Healthcare for all - An action group led by the PCT with social care representation has been set up to address healthcare inequalities for people with learning disabilities. A Senior Commissioning post has been established under the Section 75 agreement, within the Partnership Commissioning Team to support agenda.

Community Enablement Service - Procurement exercise has been undertaken and a new contract will be operational within the extension period for the current service.

Residential Care - A project group has been established to review the needs of residents in two learning disability homes, with a view to promoting more independent living and offer choice.

NSF Long Term Conditions - Consultant has completed review of HICES, Therapy services, pain management service and mapped support for people with LTNC. Final report is being drafted and will inform commissioning intentions.

Older People - Completion of the Assessment and Care Treatment Service business case for the introduction of an early intervention service for people with dementia and older people with depression. This is a joint project between Health and social care and will be commissioned during the first three quarters of 2009/10.

Quarter 4 has seen the continued development of work to implement the National Stroke strategy and specifically the increased investment for a low-level communication support group to help people who have had a stroke.

Consumer Protection

The Council now has four qualified Cremator Operators, which should provide sufficient cover for most emergency situations.

The demand for the Nationality Checking Service provided by the Registration Service has been high both from Halton residents and from those living in neighbouring authorities. This in part has been due to pressure from applicants to submit their applications to the Home Office before their fee increase at the beginning of April. Income during the first month of operation has covered all start-up expenditure.

Bereavement and Registration Services has now moved from the Health and Partnerships Department to the Culture and Leisure Services Department.

3.0 EMERGING ISSUES

Consumer Protection

The production of e-forms is being developed by the Registration Service in partnership with IT to be used in the provision of copies of historical birth and death certificates.

Housing

Consultation by 4NW on proposals under the Regional Spatial Strategy to allocate significantly increased targets across the region for new Traveller sites has now ended. Halton's response was set out in a report to Executive Board on the 19th March, strongly objecting to the target proposed for Halton.

The findings of the homelessness strategy review are currently out to stakeholder consultation, prior to the new strategy being brought to the PPB in early summer.

Commissioning




National Autism Strategy - DH will publish later this year. Work to address support for ASD/C has commenced with the establishment of the Autism Services Development Group (ASDG) supported by the National Autistic Society

Transfer of Commissioning responsibility - ALD service transferred from the PCT to HBC on 1st April. Monitoring of contracts on a quarterly basis will be required alongside work with providers to embed personalisation into working practices.

Learning Disability Supported Living Services - Supporting People contracts end 31/3/10 and it is proposed to begin a procurement exercise in September to tender these services alongside personal care. Ahead of this current arrangements need to be considered to determine the best approach and size of potential contracts.

Older People - The National Dementia Strategy was published during quarter 4 and there are a range of implementation targets that we need to ensure are completed within the Local Authority. A local dementia strategy and action plan will be developed during quarters 1 and 2 of 2009/10.

4.0 PROGRESS AGAINST MILESTONES/OBJECTIVES

Total	19		15		0		4
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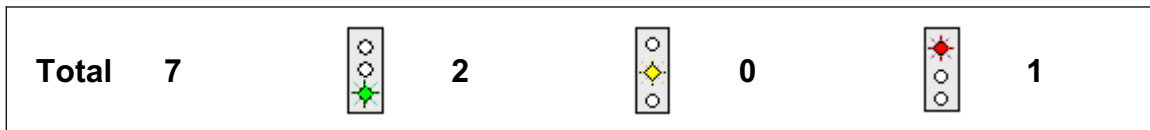
For further details please refer to Appendix 1.

5.0 SERVICE REVIEW

Consumer Protection

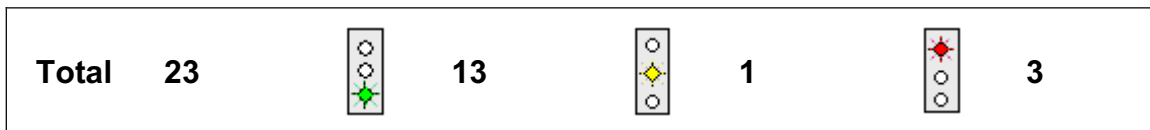
The Registration Service was subject to a “light touch” visit in February 2009 by HM Inspector (Account Manager) to ensure that arrangements under the governance framework were working well and that Halton is meeting national standards. A stewardship report confirming this, for the period 1.4.2008 to 31.3.2009, will be submitted to the Registrar General in April 2009

6.0 PROGRESS AGAINST KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS



For further details please refer to Appendix 2.

6.1 PROGRESS AGAINST OTHER PERFORMANCE INDICATORS



For further details please refer to Appendix 3.

7.0 PROGRESS AGAINST LPSA TARGETS

There are no LPSA targets for this service

8.0 RISK CONTROL MEASURES

During the production of the 2008-09 Service Plan, the service was required to undertake a risk assessment of all Key Service Objectives.

Where a Key Service Objective has been assessed and found to have associated ‘High’ risk, progress against the application of risk treatment measures is to be monitored, and reported in the quarterly monitoring report in quarters 2 and 4. Please refer to Appendix 4.

9.0 PROGRESS AGAINST HIGH PRIORITY EQUALITY ACTIONS




During 2007/08 the service was required to undertake an Equality Impact Assessment. Progress against actions identified through that assessment, with associated High priority are to be reported in the quarterly monitoring report in quarters 2 and 4. Please refer to Appendix 5.



10.0 DATA QUALITY



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, 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.




11.0 APPENDICES




Appendix 1- Progress against Key Objectives/ Milestones
Appendix 2- Progress against Key Performance Indicators
Appendix 3- Progress against Other Performance Indicators
Appendix 4- Progress against Risk Treatment Measures
Appendix 5- Progress against High Priority Equality Actions
Appendix 6- Explanation of traffic light symbols





Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2008/09 Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
HP 1	Ensure that high level strategies are in place, and working to deliver service improvements, and support frontline services to deliver improved outcomes to the residents of Halton	<i>Review Housing and Homelessness Strategies to ensure that the action plans are implemented and that identified needs are met within the resources available Mar 2009</i>		Executive Board adopted the revised housing strategy on the 18 th December 2008. A review of the homelessness strategy was completed in January, and its findings are currently out to stakeholder consultation.
		<i>Review Supporting People Strategy to ensure any change to grant allocation is reflected in priorities Jul 2008</i>		PPB scrutiny project team agreed draft commissioning and procurement plan and communications plan. Draft PPB scrutiny report completed April 2009 - for sign off by Sept 2009.
		Review and update the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) to ensure that the outcomes, with identified priorities are incorporated into the LAA May 2008		Agreed LAA indicators reflect priorities identified in JSNA.



Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2008/09 Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
HP 2	Work with operational managers to make best use of the workforce and IT resources, to improve service delivery and assist services to continuously improve within a robust performance management framework	<i>Review and revise the performance monitoring framework according to changing service needs to ensure that any changing performance measure requirements are reflected in the framework and the performance monitoring cycle Sep 2008.</i>		<p>The new Self Assessment Survey (SAS) has been received from the CQC and work to complete and submit the survey by 14th May 2009 has been allocated across the Directorate.</p> <p>Additionally the new reporting timetable and process for performance has been reported to SMT so that all managers are aware of the implications for determining the Directorate's performance.</p>
		<i>Develop and implement appropriate workforce strategies and plans to ensure that the Directorate has the required staff resources, skills and competencies to deliver effective services Mar 2009</i>		<p>The Training & Development Plan for 2009/10 has been agreed by SMT and the Directorate Workforce Development Plan 2009/10 has been drafted. A new Recruitment and Retention Strategy has been developed. A sub group of the Self Directed Support (SDS) Group is in the process of being established to develop appropriate workforce strategies to ensure that we have a workforce that have the appropriate skills to deliver on the SDS agenda.</p>

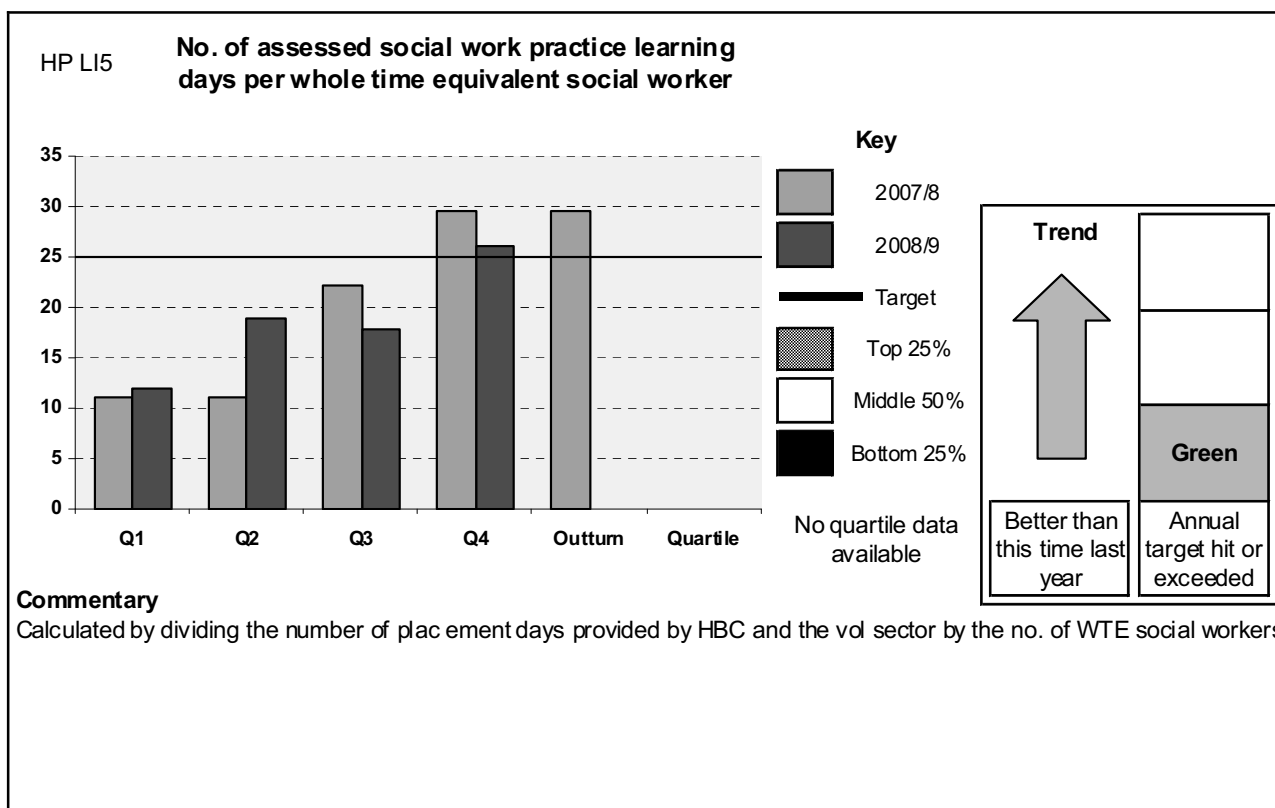
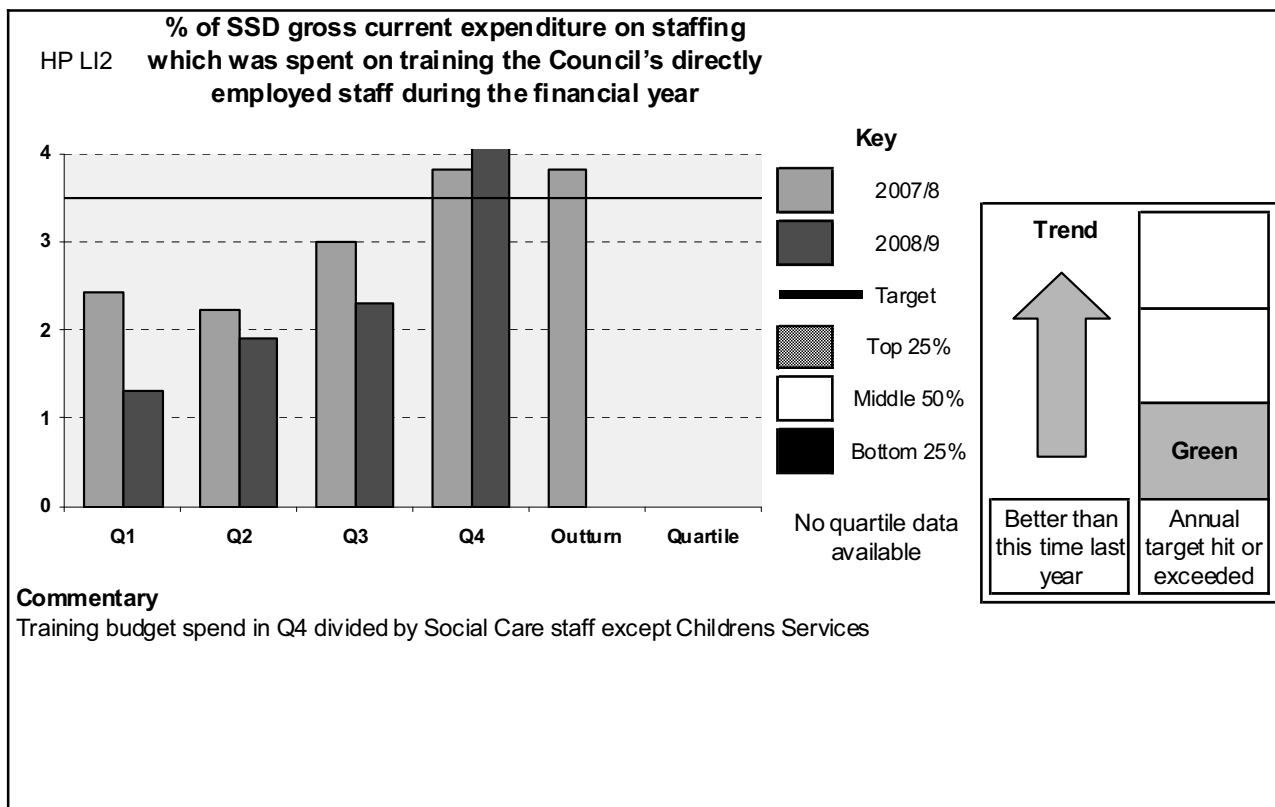
Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2008/09 Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
		<p><i>Review the Directorate IT strategy and business processes in conjunction with Corporate IT to ensure that systems available are accessible and deliver a quick and responsive service to those that need them Jun 2008.</i></p>		<p>The ICT strategy has been received from Corporate ICT and will be submitted to SMT for approval during April 2009</p> <p>The business process review being undertaken by Corporate ICT is not yet completed but has revealed the necessity of implementing mobile working solutions, integrated health and social care data and electronic document management storage solutions</p>
		<p><i>Develop and implement an electronic solution to the Single Assessment Process (SAP) to ensure that data currently written in assessments can be effectively loaded into Carefirst, Health and other agency services information systems Jun 2008.</i></p>		<p>Discussions have taken place with Health about the need to implement electronic SAP solutions and about the need to transfer and share data between different agencies and staff.</p> <p>SAP forms are being developed for use in Carefirst 6 but Health colleagues are yet to indicate how they will implement an electronic system.</p>

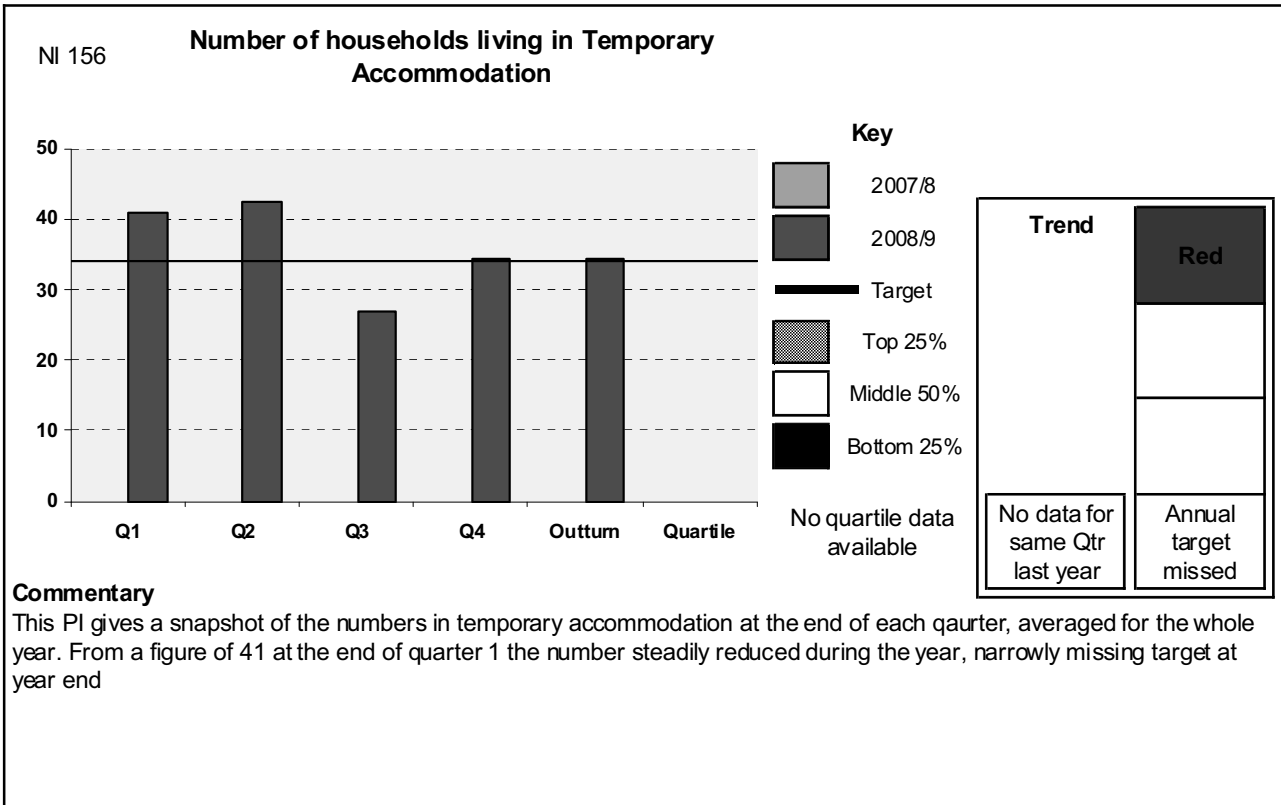
Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2008/09 Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
		<i>Review complaints procedures in light of national guidance to ensure a more consistent and holistic approach, leading to lessons learned being shared will colleagues across the sector Nov 2008.</i>		<p>The new national guidance on complaints has still not been published so the complaints framework has not yet changed.</p> <p>In the interterm in the spirit of working together to resolve complaints an overview of how we can achieve this more effectively will be is used to all staff in April 2009.</p>
HP 3	To deliver high quality Bereavement, Consumer and Registration Services, that are fit-for-purpose and meet the needs, dignity and safety requirements of the Halton community	Develop a project plan to deliver longer-term cemetery provision, based on member decision, and commence delivery in accordance with project plan timeframes, to ensure the continued availability of new grave space to meet the needs of the Community in 2015 and beyond Jun 2008.		Whilst the detailed project plans have not yet been produced, the member decisions (that were required to inform those plans) were made in March 2009. The project plans can now be formulated in early 2009 / 2010.
		Produce an initial Consumer Protection Strategic Assessment, in line with the National Intelligence Model, to support intelligence-led Trading Standards service delivery during 2009/10 Dec2008		Completed. This assessment will now inform the service delivery of the new Warrington and Halton Trading Standards service during 2009 / 2010.

Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2008/09 Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
		Benchmark performance against national standards with relevant benchmarking group to inform improvement plan aimed at supporting continual service improvement Sep 2008.		The Service has benchmarked its performance against the national standards in the GRO/LACORS Good Practice Guide with other "new governance" services. It also took part in a benchmarking exercise of NW Registration authorities that was completed on 19.3.09.
HP 4	Ensure that effective financial strategies and services are in place to enable the Directorate to procure and deliver high quality value for money services that meet people's needs.	<i>Monitor and review Joint Commissioning Strategies to ensure priorities are still met and enhance service delivery and cost effectiveness Mar 2009.</i>		Joint commissioning strategies have been reviewed – work ongoing to monitor progress against priorities in all strategies
		<i>Review contract management and monitoring arrangements across all service areas to ensure contracts are offering value for money Mar 2009.</i>		The scheduled plan of monitoring and contract management is on target from April 09. This system has been reviewed across SP and Adult Social Care and now incorporates additional contract management systems, and increased service user consultation. Emphasis will be focussed on driving up standards of Providers who are rated as "adequate" in line with CSCI recommendations.

Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2008/09 Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
		Commence procurement for new domiciliary care contracts, to enhance service delivery and cost effectiveness, with a view to new contracts being in place April 2009.		The procurement of the domiciliary care contracts is on target to be completed by the end of April 2009. The new domiciliary care contracts will be introduced over a 2-stage process. Stage 1 – Will commence on 30 th March 2009. Stage 2 – Will commence on the 27 th April 2009.
		Commence procurement for new residential care contracts, to enhance service delivery and cost effectiveness, with a view to new contracts being in place April 2009.		The process of negotiations is ongoing with Residential care Providers reference the new dependency models, fees and adapted contracts/ specifications. The residential care strategy will be circulated to the steering group and SMT for further consultation.
		<i>Project team to be established to ensure implementation of the recommendations of the commissioning framework Mar 2009.</i>		Joint Team to be developed through the PCT. Joint PID agreed. Due to go out for quotes in April 09. This work takes into account the requirements set out in the Commissioning Framework.
		<i>Monitor, on a quarterly basis, the financial strategy to ensure that changing service requirements are being met by allocated funding March 2009</i>		Financial Strategy was agreed with SMT and is monitored on a quarterly basis with reports going to SMT on a regular basis

Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2008/09 Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
		Review the usage of Direct Payments against performance target strategy to ensure that targets on uptake are being met March 2009		Usage of Direct Payments has been reviewed and we are in the process of aligning Direct Payments to Individualised Budgets and the Personalisation agenda.
		<i>Assess, on a quarterly basis, the impact of the Fairer Charging Policy strategy to ensure that the charging policy is fair and operates consistently with the overall social care objectives Dec 2008.</i>		Further to the work carried out by the Charging policy consultation group a number of charging policy proposals were presented to members to meet the 2009/10 efficiency requirements – Only one of these proposals was accepted.





The following KPIs have not been included above for the reasons stated: -

NI 127 Self reported experience of Social care users

Q4 information is not available. This years User Experience Survey is for Older People Receiving Home Care. The data will be available at the beginning of June 2009 and is to be reported to The Health and Social Care Information Centre






NI 182 Satisfaction of businesses with LA Regulatory Services




This is a new indicator that forms part of the new National Indicator data set and systems are not currently in place to calculate the out-turn percentage. A target has not been formally set. The indicator is based on survey data and when last collated it was found that 43% of Consumer Protection respondees gave the highest rating whilst 60% gave the second highest rating in answer to the two relevant "satisfaction" questions. The single, year-end return will also include the performance of the Environmental Health and Licensing functions of the Council.

NI 183 Impact of LA Regulatory Services on the Fair Trading Environment

This is a new indicator that forms part of the new National Indicator data set. It is a year-end return based on four factors, two of which are to be provided to local authorities by central government at year-end. The requisite information has not yet been received and it could be as late as mid-May before this indicator is available.





Ref.	Description	Actual 2007/08	Target 2008/09	Quarter 4	Progress	Commentary
Cost & Efficiency						
HP LI1	% of SSD directly employed posts vacant on 30 September	-	8	7.9		The above figure relates to social care vacancies as at 30 th September 2008. A new three-year Recruitment and Retention Strategy has been developed and will be implemented from April 2009.
Fair Access						
HP LI4	No. of initiatives undertaken to raise the profile of the Service in the 5 most deprived wards	-	5	5		<p>So far, initiatives have included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • theatre group commissioned to work with 2 schools exploring consumer issues around the theme of 'Making the Right Decisions' • contribution to Women's Health Day event • promotion of Consumer Direct during National Consumer week • contribution at pre-Christmas gift wrapping events • production / distribution of Christmas shopping tips via the Halton Credit Union • distribution of Consumer Direct promotional material and Doorstep Callers cards via the Benefits Bus
Quality						

Ref.	Description	Actual 2007/08	Target 2008/09	Quarter 4	Progress	Commentary
HP LI6	Percentage of consumer service users satisfied with the Trading Standards Service, when last surveyed	-	90	96		Target exceeded, however despite offering entry into a prize draw for all returned surveys, the Service experienced a very low response rate.
HP LI7	Percentage of Bereavement Service users who rated the staff courteousness / helpfulness as reasonable / good / excellent when last surveyed	-	96	100		The 29 survey forms that were returned included 27 responses to the relevant question about staff's performance. All of these respondents rated this performance as reasonable/good/excellent.
HP LI8	Percentage of general Registration Service users who rated the staff's helpfulness / efficiency as excellent or good, when last surveyed.	-	96	100		The 21 survey forms that were returned included 19 responses to the relevant question about staff's performance. All of these respondents rated this performance as reasonable/good/excellent.
Service Delivery						
HP LI9	The % change in average number of families in temporary accommodation	-	-5	-22		Increased emphasis by the service on homelessness prevention helped reduce homeless acceptances from 221 in 2007/08 to 166 in 2008/09, which in turn helped to reduce the need for placements in temporary accommodation.
HP LI10	Number of households considering themselves homeless for whom advice casework intervention	3	1.6	5.4		294 cases were successfully resolved in 2008/09 which, as mentioned above, led to a reduction in the number of cases being formally accepted a statutorily homeless.

Ref.	Description	Actual 2007/08	Target 2008/09	Quarter 4	Progress	Commentary
	resolved their situation					
HP LI11	Proportion of statutory homeless households accepted as statutory homeless by LA within last 2 years	-	1.2	1.2		Of the 166 homeless acceptances during 2008/09, only 2 were repeat cases.
HP LI12	Has there been a reduction in cases accepted as homeless due to domestic violence that had previously been re-housed in the last 2 years by that LA as a result of domestic violence	-	Yes	Yes		There were no reported cases, so the PI outcome is "YES"
NI 39	Alcohol-harm related hospital admission rates PSA 25	2180	2313	2364.50*		<p>*As at Q3, 2008/09. A significant amount of activity is underway to develop the alcohol programme across both LSPs (Halton and St Helens) Alcohol review completed. The pathways outlined in this report will underpin the delivery of the CSP commitments.</p> <p>Significant increases in funding have been identified from the PCT and supplemented by WNF monies (Halton) and Area Based Grant monies (St Helens) to deliver the alcohol strategy across the PCT.</p> <p>The 2 existing alcohol strategy working groups</p>

Ref.	Description	Actual 2007/08	Target 2008/09	Quarter 4	Progress	Commentary
						<p>have been disbanded and a new joint Halton and St Helens group will be established to ensure that a new combined alcohol strategy is developed, commissioned and properly performance managed. A new alcohol programme lead will be recruited to lead this programme with support from a programme and change management team.</p> <p>Service specifications have been developed to commission some in depth market research and a training needs assessment before the end of March 09.</p> <p>In the run up to Christmas staff from Community Health Services worked with the police and community safety team in Halton to reduce alcohol harm, by targeting pubs in Widnes town centre and offering a triage services in a town centre-based mobile unit, to reduce the number of individuals attending A/E with minor injuries.</p> <p>We have provided training on alcohol awareness, screening, signposting and brief intervention to over 1000 individuals to date (2 year period).</p>
NI 119	Self-reported measure of people's overall health and wellbeing DH DSO	-	-			Data not yet available from Health




**APPENDIX THREE - PROGRESS AGAINST OTHER INDICATORS
Health & Partnerships**

Ref.	Description	Actual 2007/08	Target 2008/09	Quarter 4	Progress	Commentary
NI 120	All-age all cause mortality rate PSA 18	906 M 673 F	805 M 607 F	851.9 M 690.3 F		<p>The data relates to the number of deaths that were registered in the timescale Oct 08 to Dec 08. Due to this future calculations may produce differing number/rates of deaths as further records of deaths are finalised.</p> <p>Current data is speculative. Robust data available in Nov 09. Given good CVD, cancer and infant mortality rates we may achieve the target.</p>
NI 121	Mortality rate from all circulatory diseases at ages under 75 DH DSO	112.27	96.63	64.3		<p>The data relates to the number of deaths that were registered in the timescale Oct 08 to Dec 08. Due to this future calculations may produce differing number/rates of deaths as further records of deaths are finalised.</p>
NI 122	Mortality from all cancers at ages under 75 DH DSO	150.16	138.08	161.7		<p>The data relates to the number of deaths that were registered in the timescale Oct 08 to Dec 08 Due to this future calculations may produce differing number/rates of deaths as further records of deaths are finalised.</p>
NI 123	16+ current smoking rate prevalence PSA 18	1174	1038	687		<p>Smoking cessation is seasonal with most people quitting in Jan. Plans are in place to increase activity from Intermediate Pharmacy and Practices and increase staff levels with 2 whole time Practitioners in order to improve performance.</p>
NI 124	People with a long-term condition supported to be independent and in control of their condition DH DSO	-	-			<p>Survey from which baseline data was collected will next be conducted in Spring 2009.</p>


Ref.	Description	Actual 2007/08	Target 2008/09	Quarter 4	Progress	Commentary
NI 126	Early access for women to maternity services PSA 19	-	-			Data not Available from Health. Data is expected to be available on 21st April '09
NI 128	User reported measure of respect and dignity in their treatment DH DSO	-	-			No data to report. Data will be available at the beginning of June 2009 as it is sourced from the Home Care User Experience Survey for the Health and Social Care Information Centre.
NI 137	Healthy life expectancy at age 65 PSA 17	-	-			This is a Place Survey Indicator.
HP LI13	% of SSD directly employed staff that left during the year.	7.69	8	7.58		The leavers figure has decreased since 2008/09. A number of initiatives have contributed to this including the regular analysis of Exit Interview questionnaires and subsequent recommendations for improvements. A new three-year Recruitment and Retention Strategy has been developed and will be implemented by April 2009. During 2009 the results of job evaluation appeals for social care will be announced and depending on the outcomes, this could have a detrimental effect on leavers.
HP LI14	% of Social Services working days/shifts lost to sickness absence during the financial year.	9.48	9	8.31		Figures included in this report are based on those from April 2008 – January 2009. Final figures for Quarter 4 are not yet available (data should be available on or around April 20 th).
HP LI15	% of undisputed invoices, which were paid in 30 days.	97	97	99		Please note that the above figure is to the end of February 2009 as the year-end position is not yet available.

**APPENDIX THREE - PROGRESS AGAINST OTHER INDICATORS
Health & Partnerships**


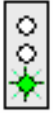


Ref.	Description	Actual 2007/08	Target 2008/09	Quarter 4	Progress	Commentary
NI 12 *	Refused and deferred Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) license applications leading to immigration enforcement activity *	-	-	0*		There were no recorded cases. * Note – this indicator was deleted from the 2008/09 National Indicator set


Key Objective	Risk Identified	Risk Treatment Measures	Target	Progress	Commentary
<p>HP 2 Work with operational managers to make best use of the workforce and IT resources, to improve service delivery and assist services to continuously improve within a robust performance management framework. Milestone – review the Directorate IT strategy and business processes in conjunction with Corporate IT to ensure that systems are accessible and deliver quick and responsive services to those that need them.</p>	<p>Failure to provide IT systems that record activity and care services provided places both the organisation and service users/carers at risk.</p>	<p>Data quality checking mechanisms to reconcile data to care arranged and payments made.</p>	<p>01/03/2009</p>		<p>Cross-match analyses between the Carefirst and MSR systems continue to be undertaken by the Performance and Data Team so that operational teams can check and amend records to ensure a true reflection of the provision of current care packages. Any anomalies are flagged up for further investigation and amendment.</p>
		<p>Managerial control of data inputters to ensure data is loaded accurately in a timely manner.</p>	<p>01/03/2009</p>		<p>Supervision of Data Input staff continues to be overseen by the Data Quality Project Co-ordinator to ensure that data is loaded in a timely manner and in accordance with operational procedures.</p>
		<p>1/4ly performance</p>	<p>01/03/</p>		<p>Reports continue to be submitted to</p>





Key Objective	Risk Identified	Risk Treatment Measures	Target	Progress	Commentary
		monitoring reports to SMT	2009		SMT on a regular basis.
HP4 Milestone – Develop and implement an electronic solution to the Single Assessment Process to ensure that data currently within assessments can be effectively loaded into Carefirst, Health and other agency services information systems	Failure to provide a user interface for professionals to record details of assessments electronically places both the Health and Social Care organisations involved and service users / carers at risk	Monitor progress surrounding outcome of Strategic Review of IT systems and confirm SMT approval to continue.	01/03/2009		The ICT strategy has been received from Corporate ICT and will be submitted to SMT for approval during April 2009
	Failure to enable data in assessments using SAP to be loaded directly into Carefirst places both the Health and Social Care organisations involved and service users / cares at risk.	Monitor progress surrounding outcome of Strategic Review of IT systems and confirm SMT approval to continue	01/03/2009		The business process review being undertaken by Corporate ICT is not yet completed but has revealed the necessity of implementing mobile working solutions, integrated health and social care data and electronic document management storage solutions
					Discussions have taken place with Health about the need to implement electronic SAP solutions and about the need to transfer and share data between different agencies and staff.

Key Objective	Risk Identified	Risk Treatment Measures	Target	Progress	Commentary
	Failure to enable Health and other agency services to download SAP data collected directly into their information systems places both the Health and Social Care organisations involved and service users / carers at risk.	Monitor progress surrounding outcome of Strategic Review of IT systems and confirm SMT approval to continue.	01/03/2009		SAP forms are being developed for use in Carefirst 6 but Health colleagues are yet to indicate how they will implement an electronic system.
	Failure to provide mobile workers with the ability to input data electronically places both the Health and Social Care organisations and service users / carers at risk.	Monitor progress surrounding outcome of Strategic Review of IT systems and confirm SMT approval to continue	01/03/2009		
	Lack of support from Senior Management	Senior manager to be identified as project sponsor, with regular updates to SMT.	01/03/2009		
	Loss of key project staff	Ensure key staff are supported appropriately.	01/03/2009		

Strategy/Policy/Service	HIGH Priority Actions	Target	Progress	Commentary
Contract Monitoring	Monitoring of contracts with provider services – do residential/domiciliary providers employ staff from other backgrounds who have additional language skills which could be used to translate on behalf of service users whose first language is not English	2008/9		Council wide steering considering the needs of all minority groups within the borough to ensure we target services at all groups proportionally.
Cheshire, Halton & Warrington Race Equality Council (CHWREC)	Develop further links with CHAWREC	2008/9		There is scope for further work with CHAWREC, subject to additional funding, and opportunities for this is kept under constant review.
Corporate Equality Scheme	Contribute to a Corporate Working Group to simplify the Authority's equality-related policies/strategies etc to produce a Corporate Equality manual which is relevant and applicable to all Directorates	2008/9		The Directorate is currently contributing to the work being taken forward Corporately on the amalgamation of a number of equality related policies. A working group has been established to take forward this work.
	Health and Community EIA systems to be strengthened and adopted on a Corporate basis	2008/9		The Directorate is currently contributing to the work being taken forward Corporately on the revision of the EIA system. A working group has been established to take forward this work.

Diversity Training	Systems developed and implemented to ensure that all new staff attend Corporate Equality & Diversity training (1 day session); and all existing staff attend condensed Equality session.	2008/9		Corporate Training have developed and implemented mandatory E&D Training for the H&C Directorate. An introductory session is also delivered, at induction, in line with the common Induction Standards.
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The traffic light symbols are used in the following manner:

	<u>Objective</u>	<u>Performance Indicator</u>
<u>Green</u>	 <p>Indicates that the <u>objective has been achieved</u> within the appropriate timeframe.</p>	Indicates that the annual 08/09 target <u>has been achieved</u> or exceeded.
<u>Red</u>	 <p>Indicates that that the <u>objective has not been achieved</u> within the appropriate timeframe.</p>	Indicates that the annual 08/09 target <u>has not been achieved</u> .

QUARTERLY MONITORING REPORT

DIRECTORATE: Environment

SERVICE: Highways, Transportation & Logistics

PERIOD: Quarter 4 to period end 31st March 2009

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This monitoring report covers the Highways, Transportation & Logistics Department fourth quarter period up to year end 31st March 2009. It describes key developments and progress against all objectives and performance indicators for the service.

Given that there are a considerable number of year-end transactions still to take place a Financial Statement for the period has not been included within this report in order to avoid providing information that would be subject to further change and amendment. The final 2008/09 financial statements for the Department will be prepared and made available via the Council's Intranet once the Council's year-end accounts have been finalised. A notice will be provided within the Members' Weekly Bulletin as soon as they are available.

The way in which traffic lights symbols have been used to reflect progress to date is explained within Appendix 6.

It should be noted that this report is presented to a number of Policy and Performance Boards. Those objectives and indicators that are not directly relevant to this Board have been shaded grey.

2.0 KEY DEVELOPMENTS

1. Progress on Mersey Gateway:-

(i) Mersey Gateway Sustainable Transport Strategy

The Mersey Gateway Sustainable Transport Strategy was approved by the Executive Board on 5 March, 2009. The Strategy, in tandem with the Mersey Gateway Regeneration Strategy, is designed to inform the overall planning process for the Mersey Gateway Scheme. The Strategy comprises 9 improvement themes, that will be taken forward in two phases. Phase I is planned for implementation between 2014/15 and 2024/25. Phase II is planned to be implemented beyond 2024/25.

(ii) Mersey Gateway Public Inquiry

The Mersey Gateway Public Inquiry will be held at the Stobart Stadium, Halton, starting on the 19th May 2009 and will last for 8-

10 weeks.

The Pre Mersey Gateway Public Inquiry meeting was held on 24 March, 2009, at the Brindley Art Centre and Theatre. The Inquiry was chaired by the Inquiry Inspector, Mr Alan Gray, and included an item on the pre-Inquiry timetable for the submission of evidence. The Council's and statutory objectors evidence is to be submitted by 21 April and all other evidence by 28 April. The Inquiry will sit Tuesdays to Thursdays 10:00 - 17:00 and Fridays 09:30 – 13:00. There will be no sittings on Mondays. The outline Inquiry timetable will be published w/c 11 May.

An independently managed Public Inquiry Website has been set up, which will be regularly updated with details of the Inquiry documentation/timetable/proceedings etc. Please see link below:-_

<http://www.persona.uk.com/mersey/index.htm>

The Inspector will be making his recommendations to Government in autumn 2009, with a decision expected early next year.

Detailed work is underway in preparing for the procurement phase of the project, which will continue to be progressed as far as is practicable, pending the announcement of the outcome of the Public Inquiry.

2. **Accessible Transport Study:-** The stakeholder consultation event took place 3rd February 2009. The consultant's report will be presented to Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board, in September 2009.
3. **Road Construction:-** Construction of the Upton Rocks Distributor Road (Queensbury Way to A5080 Cronton Road) commenced in September 2008 and is due for completion in May 2009. Phase 2 of the A56/A558 improvement started in December 2008 and involves the widening of Daresbury Expressway up to the Science Park access. Completion of the A56/A558 scheme is due in May 2009.
4. **Regional Funding Advice:-** The North West Region has submitted its advice to Government on Regional Funding Advice (RFA) in February 2009. The advice covers spending priorities for transport, housing and regeneration, economic development and skills priorities. The key elements of the advice on transport spending that affect Halton are as follows:
 - In order to address a 36% over programming problem, the Mottram, Hollingworth and Tintwhistle bypass and the associated Glossop Spur schemes are recommended to be deferred until after 2015/16;

- Those schemes not currently approved by DfT, (e.g. The Silver Jubilee Bridge Major Maintenance Scheme), have been assessed and found to be broadly consistent with the wider regional strategy and policy;
- In response to a proposal to incorporate LTP Integrated Transport and Maintenance Block allocations into the RFA process, the Region considers that there is insufficient evidence to make informed recommendations on the distribution of funding either between the maintenance and integrated transport block allocations, or between these block allocations and the funding for major schemes;
- The Region intends to undertake research to assess the advantages and disadvantages of allocating some of its RFA for schemes costing less than £5m, which for small authorities like Halton, can pose significant funding problems; and
- The Region also identified a number of studies to be undertaken by the Highways Agency ('Strategic Park & Ride', 'Behavioural Change', 'Access to Intermodal Freight Terminals' and 'Housing Growth Points') and priorities for rail option development ('Strategic Park & Ride'; 'Train Lengthening'; 'Core City Station Expansion'; 'Metrolink'; and 'Enhancements between Pennine Lancashire and Manchester and Liverpool and Manchester').

5. Housing Growth Points The DCLG have advised that Halton's Community Infrastructure Fund (CIF2) expressions of interest have not been invited to progress towards a full business plan. However, Halton was successful in gaining funding through the Programme of Development whereby the Mid Mersey Growth Point (Halton, Warrington and St Helens) has been given a total allocation for 2009/10 to 2010/11 of £4.2m; the distribution of this funding is currently being determined. A Growth Point manager is now in post. The Mid Mersey Growth Point Authorities have also submitted a bid for around £50k of funding from the DfT's Strategic Studies Budget to consider the feasibility of 3 schemes as follows:

- Sankey Valley Way and Clock Face Minerals Line pedestrian, cycle and bridle routes (Joint study between all three Authorities – to be led/managed by Warrington);
- Strategic Park and Ride (including P&R at Daresbury), addition of forecast modelling (Study led/managed by Warrington); and
- Daresbury Station Guidance on Rail Infrastructure Projects (GRIP) Analysis: Stages 1, 2 and 3; Output Definition, Pre feasibility and Option Selection (Joint study between Warrington and Halton – to be led/managed by Halton).

If successful, these studies would complement work already being done by Warrington on Strategic Park and Ride in the sub region, together with those schemes in St Helens and Warrington which have been invited to be progressed to full business case

stage for Community Infrastructure Funding (CIF2), and other infrastructure schemes as identified in the Growth Point Programme of Development (PoD).

6. **KickStart Round:-** Guidance has now been received from DfT and a bid is proposed with both Halton Borough Transport and Arriva (North West) to further improve local bus services within Runcorn.
7. **Rail Improvements:-** The new multi storey car park at Runcorn Station is now operational and a new off peak and weekend tariff has been introduced. A bid has been made through DfT's Strategic Studies Budget for funding towards a study into the feasibility of a new railway station at Daresbury, (see item 5). Improvements to the Halton Curve are included in the Mersey Gateway Sustainable Transport Strategy (see item 1), however, it should be noted that the opportunity will be taken to accelerate this project should funding become available.
8. **Major Bridge Maintenance:-** In order to maximise efficiency in the delivery of an increased programme of major bridge maintenance on the Primary Route Network, it was viewed advantageous to appoint a single Partnering contractor. The term of the contract will be for an initial four-year period plus a potential two-year extension with an estimated minimum value of works of £12m. The HBC Bridge Maintenance Partnership Contract was originally awarded to Wrekin Construction in January 2009. Although the financial viability of Wrekin was independently confirmed as satisfactory both in August 2008 (when shortlisting) and December 2008 (shortly before award), in early March HBC discovered that Administrators had been appointed to take over Wrekin's operations. At that point the Contract was still in a preliminary stage and Wrekin had not commenced any work on site nor established any site facilities. As a result, HBC elected to offer the Contract to the organisation whose overall tender submission was evaluated to be the second most advantageous. This company is Balvac Ltd who is part of the Balfour Beatty Group. Balvac have confirmed the continued validity of their tender offer which was a very narrow second place behind Wrekin's and we have now sanctioned award of the HBC Bridge Maintenance Partnership Contract to them. It is felt that the course of action we have taken has mitigated the adverse effects to the bridge maintenance programme to an absolute minimum and we are confident that we can retrieve the delay in delivering the work.
9. **Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan:-** the draft Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) has now been put out for consultation. A Sustainability Appraisal is being prepared, of which the Scoping Report is also being consulted upon.
10. **Liverpool City Region (LCR) Transport Governance Review**
The Local Transport Act 2008 (LTA) established the Merseyside Passenger Transport Authority as an Integrated Transport

Authority (ITA), and amongst other things presented new opportunities to improve transport governance and delivery arrangements and hence the provision of transport and highway services. The Transport Working Group, which provides a lead on transport matters in the Liverpool City Region (LCR) is proposing to commission consultants to review governance arrangements in the LCR. This is an important review as it will consider what highway, transport or traffic management powers should be transferred to the ITA, it could therefore have significant implications for transport services and delivery within Halton. It should also be noted that the Transport Working Group has decided to explore the potential benefits of producing a Joint Local Transport Plan for the LCR.

11. Liverpool City Region Multi Area Agreement

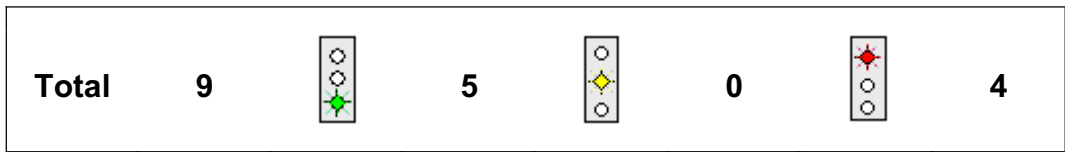
A LCR Multi Area Agreement (MAA) is in preparation, which will create a framework within which the six city region local authorities, the ITA, Government and its agencies, can cooperate to deliver improved economic performance. The first stage of the MAA incorporating the ‘Story of Place’ and Employment and Skills Platform has been agreed and is now being developed to include Housing, Economic Development and Transport Platforms. The MAA Transport Platform is entitled, ‘Transport for a Growing City Region’. The Transport Platform is still in the development stage; however, it is intended to be incorporated into the full MAA in early summer. Key components of the document are the ‘Asks’ of Government, which if agreed, would enable barriers to the implementation of transport strategies to be addressed. These ‘Asks’ are expected to be:

- Improving access to employment and opportunities;
- Improving capacity and connectivity in the LCR network; and
- Low Carbon Transport City – reducing emissions and addressing climate change.

3.0 EMERGING ISSUES

Nothing to report this quarter.

4.0 PROGRESS AGAINST OBJECTIVES / MILESTONES

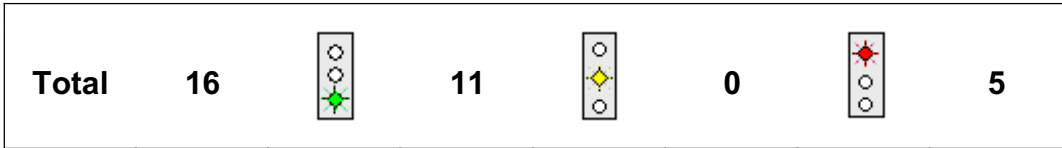


For further details, please refer to Appendix 1.

5.0 SERVICE REVIEW

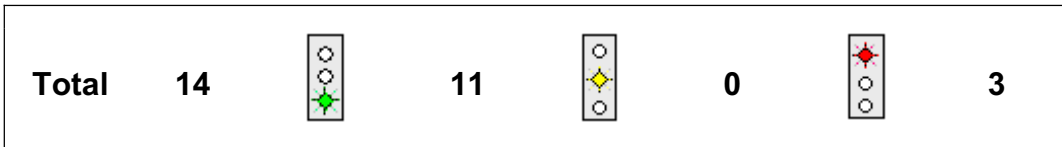
Energy Costs:- Options to reduce the costs of street lighting are still being investigated, these include the removal of unnecessary lit signage and the installation of more energy efficient lighting infrastructure. It is intended that these options will make an energy saving of £50,000.

6.0 PROGRESS AGAINST KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS



For further details, please refer to Appendix 2.

6.1 PROGRESS AGAINST OTHER PERFORMANCE INDICATORS



For further details, please refer to Appendix 3.

7.0 PROGRESS AGAINST LPSA TARGETS

There are no LPSA targets for this service

8.0 RISK CONTROL MEASURES

During the production of the 2008-09 Service Plan, the service was required to undertake a risk assessment of all Key Service Objectives.

Where a Key Service Objective has been assessed and found to have associated 'High' risk, progress against the application of risk treatment measures is to be monitored, and reported in the quarterly monitoring report in quarters 2 and 4.

Please refer to Appendix 4 for details

9.0 PROGRESS AGAINST HIGH PRIORITY EQUALITY ACTIONS

During 2007/08 the service was required to undertake an Equality Impact Assessment. Progress against actions identified through that assessment, with associated High priority are to be reported in the quarterly monitoring report in quarters 2 and 4.




Please refer to Appendix 5 for details.




10.0 DATA QUALITY




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, 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.

11.0 APPENDICES




Appendix 1- Progress against Objectives/ Milestones
Appendix 2- Progress against Key Performance Indicators
Appendix 3- Progress against Other Performance Indicators
Appendix 4- Progress against High Risk Treatment Measures
Appendix 5- Progress against High Priority Impact Assessments
Appendix 6- Explanation of traffic light symbols



Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2008/09 Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
HT 1	Mersey Gateway – Complete the procedural processes to achieve all necessary orders for the construction of Mersey Gateway within the timescales required.	Publish all necessary orders to enable the construction of the Mersey Gateway to proceed in accordance with timescales set. May 2008		All orders and applications were published in May 2008.
		<i>Complete Public Inquiry into objections raised to enable scheme to progress in accordance with required timescales. Feb 2009</i>		Public Inquiry is due to start on the 19 th May 2009 and will last 8-10 weeks. Essentially, the delay was as a result of the DfT's Road Strategy Division ongoing deliberations over the Council's application for a Road User Charging Order to introduce charges on the SJB. The application was made on 16 December 2009. It was the TWA Orders Unit view that it would take a while for the road user charging order to catch up procedurally with the others made by Halton earlier in the year and that it would not, therefore, be possible to start a combined inquiry into all the linked applications in March 2009.
HT 3	LTP Capital Programme - Deliver the LTP Capital Programmes to ensure that the transport system is maintained and developed to meets local needs	To deliver the 2008/09 LTP Capital Programme. Mar 2009		The 2008/09 LTP Capital Programme has been delivered.

Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2008/09 Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
HT 4	Local Transport Plan 2 – Submit progress reports as required by DfT and monitor progress against the Council’s transport objectives to meet statutory requirement and ensure progress is maintained.	Submit Mid Term Review. July 2008		The final draft of the LTP Mid Term Review was submitted to DfT in July 2008.
HT 5	Silver Jubilee Bridge Maintenance Major Scheme – Secure funding, complete procurement and deliver works to enable the bridge and associated structures to reach a steady state of maintenance.	Funding secured, procurement means established and delivery programme initiated May 2008.		<p>A number of contracts, procured through competitive tendering, have been completed in advance of award of the Bridge Maintenance Partnership Contract.</p> <p>Balvac Ltd have now been appointed as the single partnering contractor, (31-3-09) and are mobilising to address the major maintenance works programme for 2009/10.</p>
		Review progress, revise SJB maintenance Strategy document and deliver 2008/09 works programme. Mar 2009		<p>DfT have consented to a carry over of an element of funding into 2009/10 to allow procurement of a Partner Contractor to deliver the majority of the maintenance works programme over the 3 year period of Section 31 PRN Grant funding.</p> <p>The works programme for 2009/10 has been expanded to include works carried over from 2008/09. The revised programme is on</p>




Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2008/09 Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
				target and the revised SJB maintenance strategy is in draft. The milestone therefore has been met.
HT 6	Vehicle Fleet Replacement Programme - Secure procurement and funding methods and deliver new fleet to improve the quality of the service offered.	Complete first phase of vehicle replacement programme, which involves replacing 45 vehicle & plant items. Jun 2008		The volatility of the supply chain during the 1st quarter had a knock on effect throughout the year and resulted in the late arrival of various Fleet items.
		Complete acquisition method options appraisal for the second phase of the replacement programme, which involves the balance of fleet items due for replacement. Oct 2008		The 2008 vehicle replacement programme has largely been completed, but due to the economic downturn and manufactures specification changes the delivery of a couple of specialist vehicles has been delayed.
HT 7	Improving the quality and accessibility of public transport services in Halton to encourage the use of sustainable transport and increase its accessibility by vulnerable groups	<i>Implement School Pathfinder Scheme, which involves widening the range and availability of home to education and training transport. This is subject to funding being made available in March 2008. Apr 2008</i>		<p>Pathfinder funding bid for additional home to school travel provision was submitted to the DCSF in 2007. DCSF took the decision not to fund any of the bids from authorities.</p> <p>Halton Strategic Partnership is funding a major review into the future availability of accessible transport services in Halton. Consultants have been appointed and the results of the review will be</p>




Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2008/09 Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
				<p>reported in September 2009.</p> <p>Additional accessible vehicle resources have been introduced to the HBC passenger fleet and that operated by HCT. The two fleets are being better co-ordinated as part of the "Door 2 Door" service.</p>







Ref	Description	Actual 2007/8	Target 08/09	Quarter 4	Progress	Commentary
<u>HTL LI6</u>	No. of passengers on community based accessible transport	209702	190000	227040		There was an error in the calculation of the actual figure for 2007/08, (it is higher than previously shown). Performance for 2008/09 has been very good and has resulted in the 08/09 target being well exceeded. New targets will be set for future years.
<u>NI 167</u>	Congestion during morning peak times	N/A	N/A	N/A		DfT have agreed that Halton should comply with Variant 3 which only requires monitoring of the indicator using DfT data without targets being set.
<u>NI 175</u>	a) To increase the percentage of households who live in the top five most deprived wards in the Borough, who do not have access to a car living within 40 minutes travel time to Whiston Hospital from 29% in 2005 to 40% in 2007 and 100% in 2008, 2009 & 2010	100	100	100		Halton Borough Council Priorities Funding remains in place for the continuation of the pre-bookable discounted taxi service for patients and visitors wishing to access Whiston and Warrington Hospitals.
	b) To increase the percentage of households who live in the top five most deprived Wards in the Borough who do not have access to a car living within 40 minutes travel time to Warrington Hospital from 0% in 2005 to 20% in 2007 and 100% in 2008, 2009 &	100	100	100		Halton Borough Council Priorities Funding remains in place for the continuation of the pre-bookable discounted taxi service for patients and visitors wishing to access Whiston and Warrington Hospitals.







Ref	Description	Actual 2007/8	Target 08/09	Quarter 4	Progress	Commentary
	2010.					
	c) To increase the percentage of 16-19 learners who live in the top five most deprived Wards in Halton living within 30 minutes travel time by public transport to the Bridgewater Campus from 84% in 2005 to 90% in 2007 and 89% by 2010.	86	87	82		The percentage of households living in the top five most deprived Wards in Halton living over 30 minutes travel time by public transport of Riverside College's Runcorn Campus remains below target. This is a reflection of the recent lack of funding opportunities such as DfT "Kickstart" funding. The DfT have however announced a new round of "Kickstart" funding, and Halton BC is working with Arriva (North West) to develop a "Kickstart" proposal to provide improved bus service links to Riverside College's Runcorn Campus. This bid will need to be submitted in July 2009, and if successful funding will be available in 2010/11.
	d) To increase the percentage of 16-19 learners who live in the top five most deprived Wards in Halton living within 30 minutes travel time by public transport to the Widnes Campus from 89% in 2005 to 95% in 2007 and 93% by 2010.	89	91	86		The percentage of households living in the top five most deprived Wards in Halton living over 30 minutes travel time by public transport of Riverside College's Widnes Campus remains below target. This is a reflection of the recent lack of funding opportunities such as DfT "Kickstart" funding. The DfT have however announced a new round of "Kickstart" funding, and Halton BC is working with Halton Borough Transport Ltd to develop a "Kickstart" proposal to provide improved bus service links to Riverside



Ref	Description	Actual 2007/8	Target 08/09	Quarter 4	Progress	Commentary
						College's Widnes Campus. This bid will need to be submitted in July 2009, and if successful funding will be available in 2010/11.
<u>NI 176</u>	Percentage of people of working age living within a catchment area of a location with more than 500 jobs by public transport and/or walking	N/A	N/A	N/A		Target to be set.
<u>NI 177</u>	Number of local bus passenger journeys originating in the authority area in one year	5,940,000	6,565,000	5,816,000		The drop in patronage is possibly due to the economic downturn. Target may have to be adjusted.
<u>HTL LI10</u>	No. of people killed or seriously injured (KSI) in road traffic collisions. (Previously BVPI 99ai)	50	72	44		Indicator is measured on a calendar year basis. Target has been exceeded.
<u>HTL LI11</u>	No. of children (<16) killed or seriously injured (KSI) in road traffic collisions. (Previously 99bi)	4	13	11		Indicator is measured on a calendar year basis. Target has been exceeded.
<u>HTL LI12</u>	No. of people slightly injured in road traffic collisions. (Previously 99ci)	493	540	477		Indicator is measured on a calendar year basis. Target has been exceeded.
<u>HTL LI15</u>	Condition of Unclassified Roads (% unclassified road network where structural	8	9	8		Target has been met. Halton is currently within the top quartile for unclassified road condition.



Ref	Description	Actual 2007/8	Target 08/09	Quarter 4	Progress	Commentary
	maintenance should be considered). (Previously BVPI 224b)					
NI 47	People Killed and Seriously Injured	10.7%	-1.4%	14.9%		This indicator is based on a 3 year rolling average. Good performance is typified by a positive change, poor performance will return a negative figure suggesting an increase in the number of people killed or seriously injured in traffic collisions, compared with the previous 3 year rolling average. This year's outturn (14.9%) is a positive figure and greater than the target; therefore the target has been exceeded.
NI 48	Children Killed and Seriously Injured	29.5%	6.7%	9.7%		This indicator is based on a 3 year rolling average. Good performance is typified by a positive change, poor performance will return a negative figure suggesting an increase in the number of children killed or seriously injured in traffic collisions, compared with the previous 3 year rolling average. This year's outturn (9.7%) is a positive figure and greater than the target; therefore the target has been exceeded.
NI 168	Percentage of principal road network where structural maintenance should be considered	TBC	2%	1%		Target has been exceeded. Halton is one of the top performing authorities for principal road condition.






Ref	Description	Actual 2007/8	Target 08/09	Quarter 4	Progress	Commentary
<u>NI 169</u>	Non principal roads where maintenance should be considered	4%	6%	3%		Target has been exceeded. Halton is one of the top 10% best performing authorities for classified roads.
<u>NI 178</u>	Bus service punctuality, Part 1: The proportion of non frequent scheduled services on time (%): a) Percentage of buses starting route on time b) Percentage of buses on time at intermediate timing points Part 2: For frequent services, the excess waiting time (minutes)	 97.4 84.8 N/A	 97.5 85.2 N/A	 96.6 83.19 N/A	  	 Target has been missed mainly due to delays on routes affected by the Liverpool 'Big Dig'. Target has been missed mainly due to delays on routes affected by the Liverpool 'Big Dig'. Target to be set

Ref	Description	Actual 2007/8	Target 08/09	Quarter 4	Progress	Commentary
HTL LI1	Number of third party compensation claims received due to alleged highway / footway defects	108	120	97		Number of claims well within target and continuing to show a year on year reduction.
HTL LI2	Increase MOT test facility turnover by 5% per annum (£)	160,000	168,000 (+5%)	186,000		Income levels have remained buoyant throughout what has been a difficult trading year. Despite the economic difficulties the annual target has been exceeded.
HTL LI3	% of pedestrian crossings with facilities for disabled people (Previously BVPI 165)	67.35	67	67.35		Performance in 2007/08 has been maintained in 2008/09 and has resulted in the target being met.
HTL LI4	No. of temporary traffic control days caused by roadworks per km. (Previously BVPI 100)	0.31	0.6	0.4673		Figure is well within the target.
HTL LI5	% of footpaths and ROWs that are easy to use. (Previously BVPI 178)	94.15	96	88%		The performance has reduced due to the increased number of 'alleygates' whereby rights of way have been closed. In the light of this a new target will be considered.
HTL LI7	% of bus stops with Quality Corridor accessibility features. (No. of stops – 603)	33.8	36	44.14		Efforts during 2009/10 will be focused on improving bus stops on the Core Bus Route Network as identified in the Halton Bus Strategy 2006/7 – 2010/11.
HTL LI8	% of people satisfied with local public transport information. (Previously BVPI 103)	N/A	N/A	N/A		Measured on a tri-annual basis, the next survey is to be carried out 2009/10.
HTL	% of people satisfied with	N/A	N/A	N/A		Measured on a tri-annual basis, the next



Ref	Description	Actual 2007/8	Target 08/09	Quarter 4	Progress	Commentary
LI9	local bus services. (Previously BVPI 104)					survey is to be carried out 2009/10.
HTL LI13	Average number of days taken to repair street lighting fault: non DNO. (Previously BVPI 215a).	6	5	5		Target has been achieved.
HTL LI14	Average number of days taken to repair street lighting fault: DNO. (Previously BVPI 215b)	29.54	40	24.73		Target has been exceeded.
HTL LI16	% of footways not in good condition (across categories 1 & 2) (Previously BVPI 187)	50	25	N/A		DfT have accepted Halton's proposal for a locally derived performance indicator that will take account of footway condition across the whole Borough and as such this indicator is no longer relevant. The definition and formula calculation of the proposed indicator are currently being developed.
HTL LI17	Damage to roads and pavements (% dangerous damage repaired within 24 hours)	99.58	98	98.47%		Figure is within target.
HTL LI19a	No of sites with new bus shelters	46	24	56 (10 in 08/09)		Target has been exceeded.
HTL LI19b	No of sites with replacement bus shelters	44	57	50 (6 in 08/09)		Target has not been met due to delay in implementation of the busway study.
HTL LI20	Percentage of schools with School Travel Plans in place	69.4	76	87.3		Target has been exceeded.

Ref	Description	Actual 2007/8	Target 08/09	Quarter 4	Progress	Commentary
HTL LI21	Percentage of employers (> 100 employees) with Green Travel Plans in place	33	24	56		Target has been exceeded.
HTL LI22	Proportion of LGV's that pass the annual MOT test first time	100%	90%	82%		A change in vehicle testing technology by VOSA has had a negative impact on the first time pass rates nationally. Although the target has been missed the outturn still exceeds the national average first time pass rate figures.

Objective Reference	High Risk Identified	Target/Deadline	Progress	Commentary
HTL 5	<p>Risk Identified: Absence of Major Maintenance funding due to lack of positive DfT response to Major Scheme Bid</p> <p>Control Measures: Implement first three years of maintenance strategy using LTP funding confirmed through PRN Bid</p> <p>Continue to press DfT for Programme Entry approval of MSB to allow delivery of remainder of maintenance programme</p>	<p>March 2011</p> <p>September 2010</p>	<p></p> <p></p>	<p>Award of the HBC Bridge Maintenance Partnership to undertake all major bridge maintenance in the Borough has been made to Balvac Ltd who are mobilising resources to commence delivery of the PRN funded programme of maintenance.</p> <p>Major works have also been completed or initiated in advance of the formation of the Partnership through normal competitive tendering processes.</p> <p>DfT have been advised of the changes to the funding profile associated with the procurement of a single Partner contractor and have given approval to carrying an element of 2008/09 PRN Grant funding into 2009/10.</p> <p>Correspondence with DfT with regard to answering queries related to the Major Scheme Bid and its relationship with Mersey Gateway continue to be ongoing.</p>

Strategy /Policy / Service	HIGH Priority Actions	Target	Progress	Commentary
Transport Coordination	Develop and implement a programme of Equality and Diversity training	March 09		All Transport Co-ordination Section Staff are undergoing diversity and equality training. This is to be rolled out to transport operators.
	Co-ordinate rolling programme of Equality Impact assessments on all Strategy, Policy, and Service Areas	March 09		This is being addressed as part of the Halton Accessible Transport Review which is currently underway.
	Develop and implement a system of stakeholder engagement, participation and consultation	March 09		This is being addressed as part of the Halton Accessible Transport Review which is currently underway.
	Evaluate accessibility of all buildings	March 09		This is not within the remit or capability of the Transport Co-ordination section and this action should probably be addressed by Property Services. However, as part of our current work to update the HBC Commuter Plan, a basic transport audit of main council sites has been undertaken. The results of this transport audit could be shared with Property Services to support any accessibility evaluation.
	Collect and manage data to inform the Directorate Equality Strategy	March 09		Transport Co-ordination and Halton Community Transport are now systematically collecting diversity / equality data on all clients who are using client transport services in the Borough. This will be reported on an annual basis, as part of the Directorate Equality Strategy.

The traffic light symbols are used in the following manner:

	<u>Objective</u>	<u>Performance Indicator</u>
<u>Green</u>	 <p>Indicates that the <u>objective has been achieved</u> within the appropriate timeframe.</p>	<p>Indicates that the annual 08/09 target <u>has been achieved</u> or exceeded.</p>
<u>Red</u>	 <p>Indicates that that the <u>objective has not been achieved</u> within the appropriate timeframe.</p>	<p>Indicates that the annual 08/09 target <u>has not been achieved</u>.</p>

QUARTERLY MONITORING REPORT

DIRECTORATE: Environment
SERVICE: Environmental & Regulatory
PERIOD: Quarter 4 to period end 31st March 2009

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This quarterly monitoring report covers the Environment & Regulatory Services Department second quarter period up to 31 March 2009. It describes key developments and progress against all objectives and performance indicators for the service.

Given that there are a considerable number of year-end transactions still to take place a Financial Statement for the period has not been included within this report in order to avoid providing information that would be subject to further change and amendment. The final 2008/09 financial statements for the Department will be prepared and made available via the Council's Intranet once the Council's year-end accounts have been finalised. A notice will be provided within the Members' Weekly Bulletin as soon as they are available.

The way in which traffic light symbols have been used to reflect progress to date is explained in Appendix 6.

It should be noted that this report is presented to a number of Policy and Performance Boards. Those objectives and indicators that are not directly relevant to this Board have been shaded grey.

2.0 KEY DEVELOPMENTS

PLANNING

Planning Policy

The Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment was published in February 2009.

The Waste Development Plan Document (DPD) completed public consultation on strategy and site issues. Public consultation on Preferred Options is timetabled for September 2009.

The Planning for Risk SPD completed public consultation and is due for adoption in September 2009.

A significant amount of progress has been made on the Core Strategy DPD and associated evidence base. This DPD will be placed on public consultation in September 2009.

Representations were submitted to 4NW on 27th March in response to the stakeholder consultation on Gypsy and Traveller pitch provision figures proposed for Halton. This followed the Exec Board Report of 19th March. The Sandymoor SPD was adopted in February 2009.

Development Management

Development Management Summary Stats for Q4:

Applications Received - 203

Applications Decided - 113

Applications on hand (undecided) - 115

N.B. There are certain applications (such as tree preservation orders) that are not counted in the statutory CLG speed of processing statistics (NI 157). This accounts for the difference between the figures reported above and the figures given for NI157.

Summary of major applications received (but not necessarily decided) over the last Quarter.:

09/00018/FUL

Proposed development of 74 No. new dwellings (for rent and shared ownership) comprising a mix of apartments, bungalows and 2, 3 + 4 bed houses on land Opposite Murdishaw Community/Play Centre Barnfield Avenue Runcorn Cheshire. Received 14/01/2009.

09/00096/FUL

Proposed redevelopment of garage, filling station, former drill hall and adjacent land to provide 31 No. apartments in two buildings , including car parking and amenity space areas (resubmission of 08/00195/FUL) at Surrey St Garage/drill Hall And Surrounding Land Surrey Street/Greenway Road Runcorn Cheshire WA7 5TT. Received 10/03/2009.

09/00101/OUT

Outline application with landscape matters reserved for Class A1 Foodstore (total floorspace 10,885sq.m) with associated parking and servicing facilities at Ashley Retail Park Lugsdale Road Widnes Cheshire WA8 7YT. Received 13/03/2009.

09/00129/OUT

Outline application (with all matters reserved) for residential development of up to 469 No. dwellings on Land At Sandymoor Runcorn Cheshire. Received 27/03/2009.

09/00144/OUT

Outline application (with landscaping matters reserved) for the erection of 15 No. dwellings with access and associated works at Eight Towers Weates Close Widnes Cheshire WA8 3RH. Received 23/03/2009.

These applications are those that result in the biggest changes to the built infrastructure of the Borough. More information on any application can be found on the online planning system <http://www.halton.gov.uk/planningapps>

LANDSCAPE SERVICES

The service restructure that has seen the creation of distinct yet inter-related operation units (Parks, Streetscene, External Contracts) was completed in the final Quarter of 2008/9. The new units are working very well and improvements are evident on the ground.

The Division had provided a landscape maintenance service to the Halton Housing Trust since the creation of that organisation in December 2005. During that period the Division has delivered a good quality service to the Housing Trust. Halton Housing Trust went through a Competitive Dialogue Contract Award process during the year 2008/9. The Landscape Services Division took part in that process. Three organisations, including the Landscape Services Division made it through to the final stage. Unfortunately the Division was beaten by four percentage points into second place. The Landscape Services Division actually put in the cheapest price. The winning contractor was Vale Contract Services. The Division completed its contract with the Halton Housing Trust on the 31st March 2009. Five staff TUPE Transferred to Vale Contract Services. A further three who were due to transfer had secured alternative employment within HBC. The loss of the contract does not adversely effect the Landscape Services Division as it was delivered by a self contained team.

During Q4 the Landscape Services Division underwent a Service Review as part of the Council's efficiency Review. The service was chosen to act as a pilot for future reviews. The results of the review will be published in Q1 of 2009/10.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

The authority is required by law to appoint a public analyst(s) to undertake formal analysis of food in accordance with food law. The authority has a procedure for the appointment of public analysts. the formal appointment process for the Lancashire County Analyst was completed and they now have the legal status of our public analyst

In April 2009 the Food Standards Agency (FSA) will launch a new system for Local Authorities to record and report data regarding the regulatory food safety function. This will include changes in the data recorded by the authority and the manner in which the returns are submitted. Work to make the necessary amendments to the data requirements has been ongoing during 2008-2009.

The core regulatory function of the team will now be monitored as part of the authority's Comprehensive Area Assessment by a new national indicator 184. This outcome measure will assess the number of food premises in the area which are broadly compliant with food hygiene law. This data will be reported via the FSA's Local Authority Enforcement Monitoring System. There is at present no set target of expected performance. At present about 70% of premises in Halton are broadly compliant with food law.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

The Waste Management and Recycling Contract (WMRC) procurement project completed its final stage during quarter 4 with technical, legal and financial evaluations of the final submitted bid documents. A preferred bidder is to be announced in April with the new contract due to commence on 1st June 2009.

Participants submitted detailed solutions for the future Resource Recovery Contract (RRC) during March. Evaluation of the detailed solutions for this contract, which will provide future facilities for the treatment of residual waste, are now being concluded and the results will be provided to members in future reports.

During this last quarter 3,000 households were added to the green waste collection service, taking the total number of properties served to 37,800. A further 3,000 properties were provided blue wheeled bins for recycling, taking the total number of properties with blue wheeled bins to 42,000.

During this quarter 17 Fixed Penalty Notices were issued for litter offences and 6 were issued for dog fouling offences. Of those issued 13 were paid, 5 elected to go to court and 5 were still in process at the time of writing this report.

3.0 EMERGING ISSUES

PLANNING

Work continues on the emerging Single Regional Strategy with consultation on the Principles and Issues Paper closing on 30th April 09.

LANDSCAPE SERVICES

The Landscape Services Division design team currently has a very large workload. Projects such as Playbuilder, the Runcorn Town Hall Park project and Parks for People have stretched the section. It was agreed in Q4 that a temporary position of Landscape Architect be created for a period of 2 years so that the Division can deliver the Council's projects.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Over this quarter there have not been any significant new or emerging issues for the contaminated statutory function. Major development and the implementation of the Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy continue to form the section's workload. There are currently four active Part 2A sites at various stages within the assessment and remediation process.

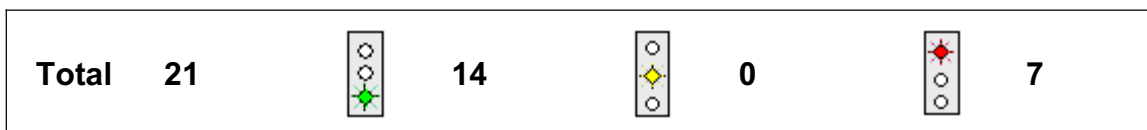
In March 2009 the Food Standards Agency issued guidance that childminders that served food as part of their service should be included in Local Authority intervention programmes. Previously this category of premises had been considered relatively low risk and had not been included on the intervention programme. The effect of this guidance will be to add approximately 120 premises to the intervention programme for 2009-2010. Whilst many of these premises may ultimately be rated as low risk, there is still an expectation from the Food Standards Agency that each premises will receive an intervention to determine the risk rating for food safety and standards.

The primary purpose of the Health and Safety at Work Act (HSWA) is to control risks from work activities. The role of the Enforcing authorities (EA's) is to ensure that duty holders manage and control these risks and thus prevent harm to people at work and those affected by work activities. HSE and LAs both have a duty to 'make adequate arrangements for enforcement' under Section 18 of HSWA. S18 guidance sets out the standards that HSC requires EA's to meet in order to comply with their duty to make "adequate arrangements for enforcement" and has mandatory status. The HSE and Local Authorities Enforcement Liaison Committee (HELTA) have issued a consultation document on S18 guidance to replace existing guidance on 'Priority Planning. The new guidance will be issued under S18 HSWA and will provide the necessary detail to help LA's comply with the S18 Standard on Priorities and Planning. The new guidance requires a shift of focus in terms of interventions as it reflects HSE new strategy and the key outcomes of the Hampton review. It sets out a new approach of effective Health and safety regulation by justified risk. The document recognises that a new system will require changes in LA systems, internal management and work recording systems therefore HELTA are to introduce the new guidance from September 2009 and to risk rate in April 2010.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

A full review of Halton's Waste Management Strategy is due to take place in 2010. Officers are currently considering options for carrying out that review and reports on the project will be presented to members throughout 2009/10.

4.0 PROGRESS AGAINST MILESTONES/OBJECTIVES



14 milestones have been achieved during the year whilst 7 have not. For further details please refer to Appendix 1.

5.0 SERVICE REVIEW

PLANNING

The Policy Team took advantage of the free service from the Planning Advisory Service to review the work undertaken so far on the Core Strategy Preferred Options DPD. In the North West only Lancaster City Council has an adopted Core Strategy and therefore it was felt important to examine best practice in other regions with adopted Core Strategies to ensure Halton benefited from this experience. Senior officers from Chelmsford in Essex provided recommendations for improvements to the process and those recommendations have now been actioned. This innovative method of sharing experience will ensure Halton remains as efficient as possible in plan making.

LANDSCAPE SERVICES




During the 2008/9 year the Landscape Services Division went through a restructure which was designed to enable it to effectively deal with current demands and priorities. In the final Quarter of the year the Division was chosen as a pilot for a service review as part of the Efficiency Review. A findings and recommendations report will be presented in the first Quarter of 2009/10.

In Q4 the Halton and St Helen's PCT began its funding for two additional Playground Maintenance Operatives. The individuals were recruited in March 2009. The funding will last for 5 years and will enable the Council to create and maintain five additional playground facilities. The Head of the PCT recently spoke at a national conference about this innovative project.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH




From 6 April 2008 the existing statutory arrangements in relation to stray dogs (The Dogs Act 1906) were repealed, and the statutory duties under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, which used to be jointly administered by the Police, fell solely to local authorities. Local Authorities retained their existing daytime statutory duties in relation to the seizure of stray dogs, but also assumed sole responsibility for providing an out of hours service. In order to harmonise standards and provide transparency to service users, as well as providing economies of scale it was agreed to adopt a subregional approach involving Halton, Knowsley, Liverpool and Sefton Borough Councils. As part of a general review of animal control procurement kennelling services and stray dog collection, were included in a two-part tender for three years, having an optional extension of up to 12 months. The Out of Hours Stray Dog Collection Service had been awarded to Animal Wardens Ltd and the kennelling contract was awarded to RSPCA (Liverpool Branch). In the interests of animal welfare, and in order to promote responsible dog ownership, the consortium introduced a two-tier fee with respect to reclaiming kennelled dogs, with a much lower fee for those claimed within two days, than those claimed after two days and up to seven days. It is anticipated this will improve the number of strays re-united with their owners, whilst also reducing costs. The two services are scheduled to commence in May 2009 running until at least May 2012.

6.0 PROGRESS AGAINST KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Total	13		3		N/a		8
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3 “Key” Performance Indicators met their targets whilst 8 did not. 2 new national indicators have been reported for the first time for which no targets had been set. For further details please refer to Appendix 2.

6.1 PROGRESS AGAINST OTHER PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Total	20		3		N/a		2
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3 “Other” Performance Indicators met their targets for the year whilst 2 did not. 12 new indicators were reported for the first time for which targets had not been set. The remaining 3 indicators cannot be reported at this time. For further details please refer to Appendix 3.

7.0 PROGRESS AGAINST LPSA TARGETS

For details against progress towards LPSA targets, please refer to Appendix 4.

8.0 RISK CONTROL MEASURES

During the production of the 2008-09 Service Plan, the service was required to undertake a risk assessment of all Key Service Objectives.

Where a Key Service Objective has been assessed and found to have associated ‘High’ risk, progress against the application of risk treatment measures is to be monitored, and reported in the quarterly monitoring report in quarters 2 and 4.

Please refer to Appendix 5.

9.0 PROGRESS AGAINST HIGH PRIORITY EQUALITY ACTIONS

During 2007/08 the service was required to undertake an Equality Impact Assessment. Progress against actions identified through that assessment, with associated High priority are to be reported in the quarterly monitoring report in quarters 2 and 4.

There were no high priority equality actions established for this service.

10.0 DATA QUALITY




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, 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.

11.0 APPENDICES






<p>Appendix 1- Progress against Key Objectives/ Milestones Appendix 2- Progress against Key Performance Indicators Appendix 3- Progress against Other Performance Indicators Appendix 4- Progress against LPSA targets Appendix 5- Progress against Risk Treatment Measures Appendix 6- Explanation of traffic light symbols</p>
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Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2008/09 Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
EAR 1	Continue Borough-wide Playground Refurbishment Project to ensure compliance with national standard.	Establish funding and agree 2 playground refurbishments (which will take place in the financial year 08/09). Jun 2008		Playgrounds at Hale Park and Crow Wood Park have been refurbished.
		<i>Monitor and report the success of playground refurbishment. Mar 2009</i>		Playground refurbishment monitored and reported.
EAR 2	Continue to improve Parks, Sports Grounds, Open Spaces and Local Nature Reserves (LNR's).	Secure 8 Green Flag Awards (1. Hough Green Park, 2. Pickerings Pasture LNR, 3. Phoenix Park, 4. Rock Park, 5. Runcorn Hill Park & LNR, 6. Victoria Park, 7. Victoria Promenade, 8. Wigg Island Community Park). Jul 2008		In 2008/9 10 Green Flag Award's were secured.
		Secure funding, from the National Lottery Fund, for Runcorn Hill Park & LNR restoration. Jun 2008		Funding for the masterplan phase was secured.
EAR 3	To prepare and adopt a local development framework (LDF) and to review the LDF on a regular basis ensuring that an up to date development plan is available (statutory requirement). To achieve this by producing the following targets:-	Adoption of the Planning for Risk SPD. (This document decides how new developments, which could create significant potential off site accidental risks, should be balanced against the benefits they will bring). Apr 2008		Public consultation has been completed. The draft SPD is being updated. Adoption is planned for September 2009.
		Adoption of the Core Strategy. (The Core Strategy will set out a vision, spatial objectives and		The emerging Local Development Scheme (LDS) 2009 indicates publication of Core Strategy




**APPENDIX ONE - PROGRESS AGAINST OBJECTIVES/MILESTONES
Environmental & Regulatory**





Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2008/09 Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
		core policies for the future development of the Borough to 2021). Jan 2009		Preferred Options for public consultation in September 2009, with adoption in October 2011. The Milestone opposite, taken from the LDS 2007, refers to the publication of a Core Strategy Preferred Options document by Jan 2009.
		Adoption of the Southern Widnes Regeneration Area SPD. (This document provides the policies and proposals for the comprehensive development/redevelopment of the Southern Widnes area). Mar 2009		Adoption is now going to be September / October 2009 in the emerging Local Development Scheme 2009. The delay has been due to the need to consider options and traffic routes for the Silver Jubilee Bridge and new Mersey Gateway.
EAR 4	Implementation of actions to meet the objectives of the Council's Waste Management Strategy	Extension to kerbside multi-material recycling service. (The new scheme will see the existing paper collection scheme, in designated areas, increased from four-weekly to fortnightly collections to include cardboard, plastic bottles, cans, glass bottles and jars). By no later than Sep 2008		The scheme was extended to a further 20,000 properties in August 2008.
		Extension to kerbside green waste collection service. (The extension will cover an additional 3000 homes). Jun 2008		See key developments - Although the milestone date was not met, the target to extend the green waste collection service in 2008/09 was met with the roll out

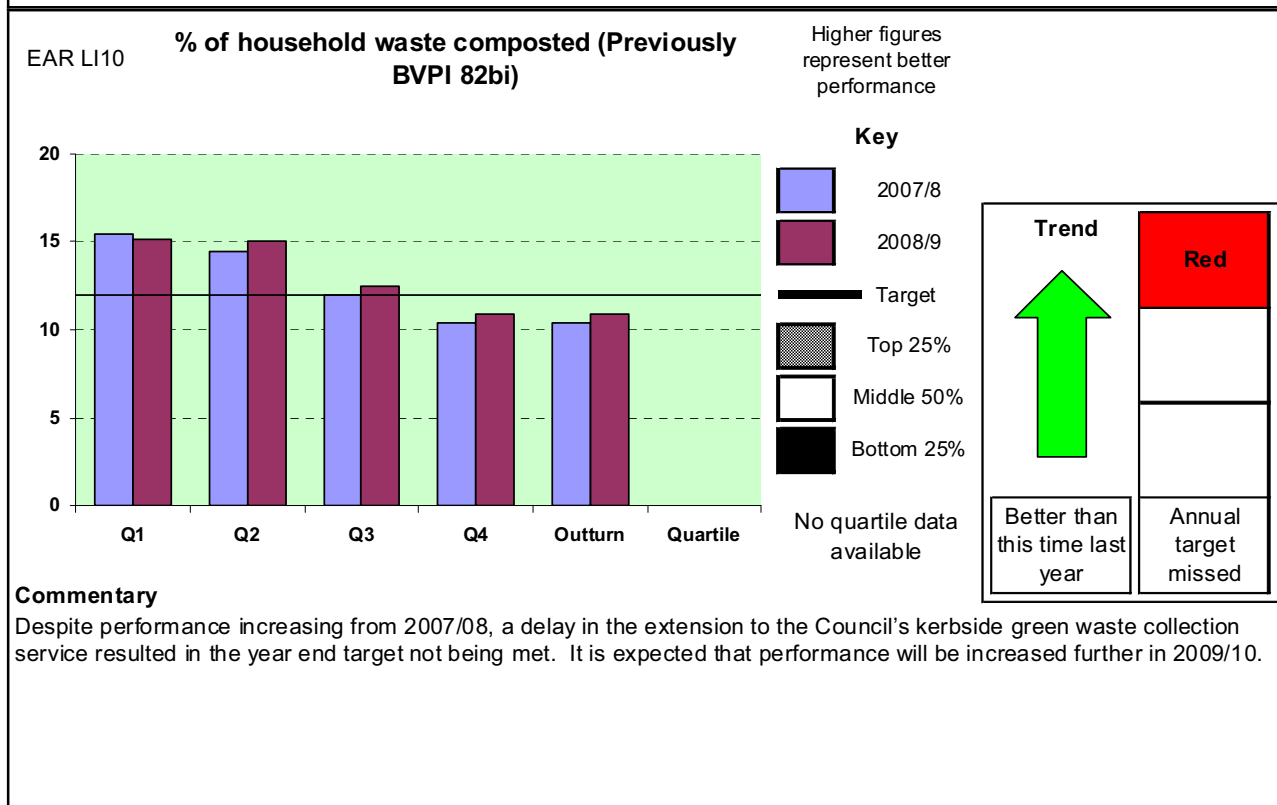
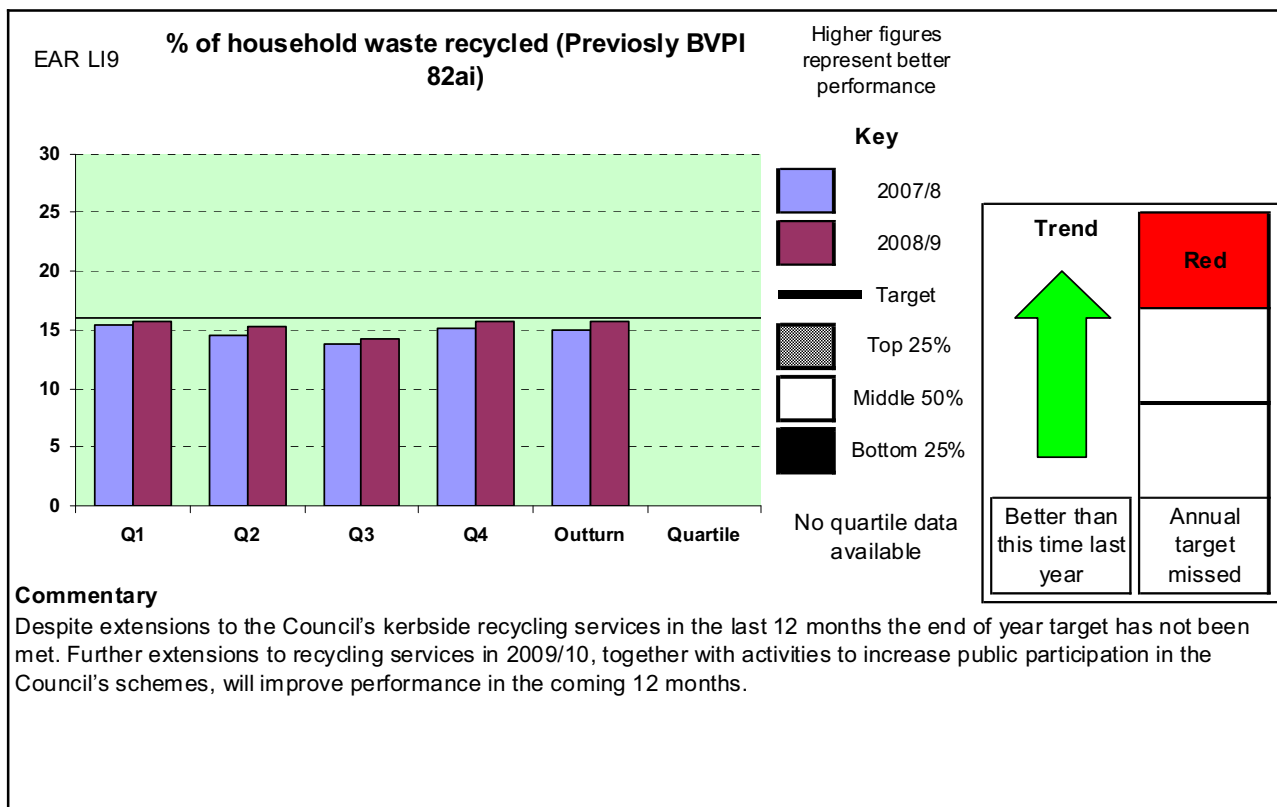
APPENDIX ONE - PROGRESS AGAINST OBJECTIVES/MILESTONES
Environmental & Regulatory

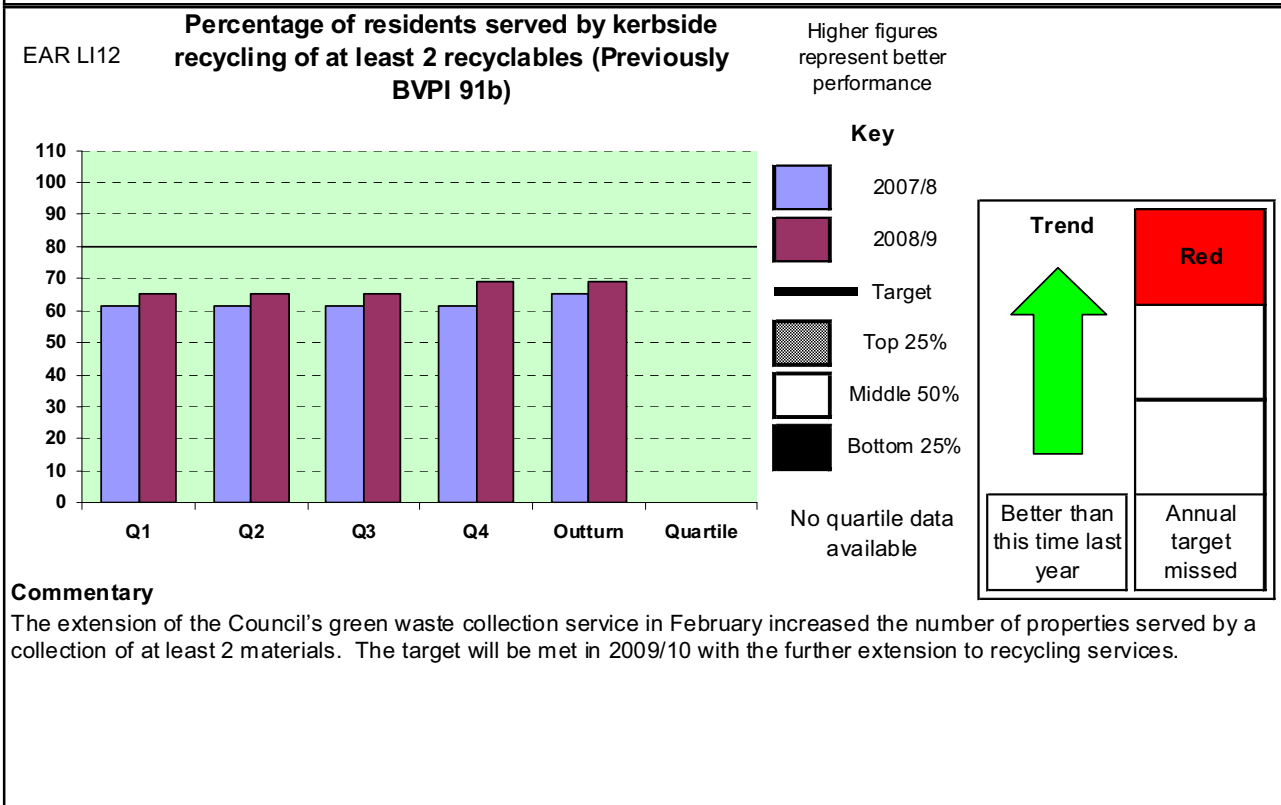
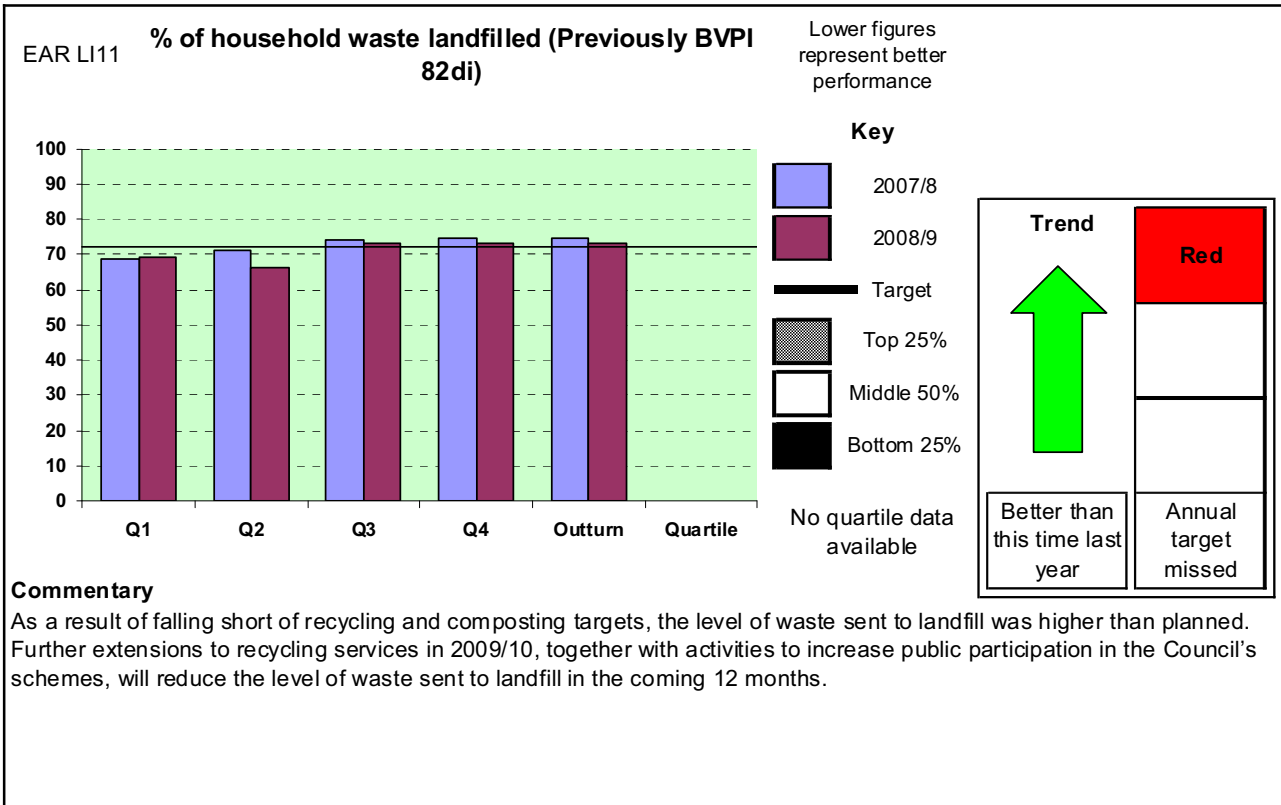
Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2008/09 Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
				of the service to a further 3,000 properties taking place in February 2009.
		Extension to the network of neighbourhood recycling 'Bring Sites'. (These are sites where residents can bring materials to be recycled e.g. glass, paper, but no shoes or light bulbs. An additional two sites will be implemented). Oct 2008		Additional recycling facilities were installed in 2008/09 including sites in the Halton Lea, Heath and Windmill Hill wards.
		Development and delivery of a co-ordinated Environmental Education Campaign. (This will promote environmental stewardship to residents and businesses). Oct 2008		Although the milestone date was not met, in this last quarter work commenced on the delivery of a comprehensive communications campaign to change public perception and behaviour relating to waste and recycling.
		Extension to wheeled bin kerbside paper recycling collection service (the extension will provide blue bins to all suitable properties) by no later than Mar 2009		See key developments – this target was met.
		Introduction of pilot kerbside battery recycling collection scheme. By no later than Oct 2008		This scheme is now to be implemented in 2009/10
		Develop a Waste Prevention Strategy Sep 2008		A draft strategy has been developed which is to be published in 2009/10.

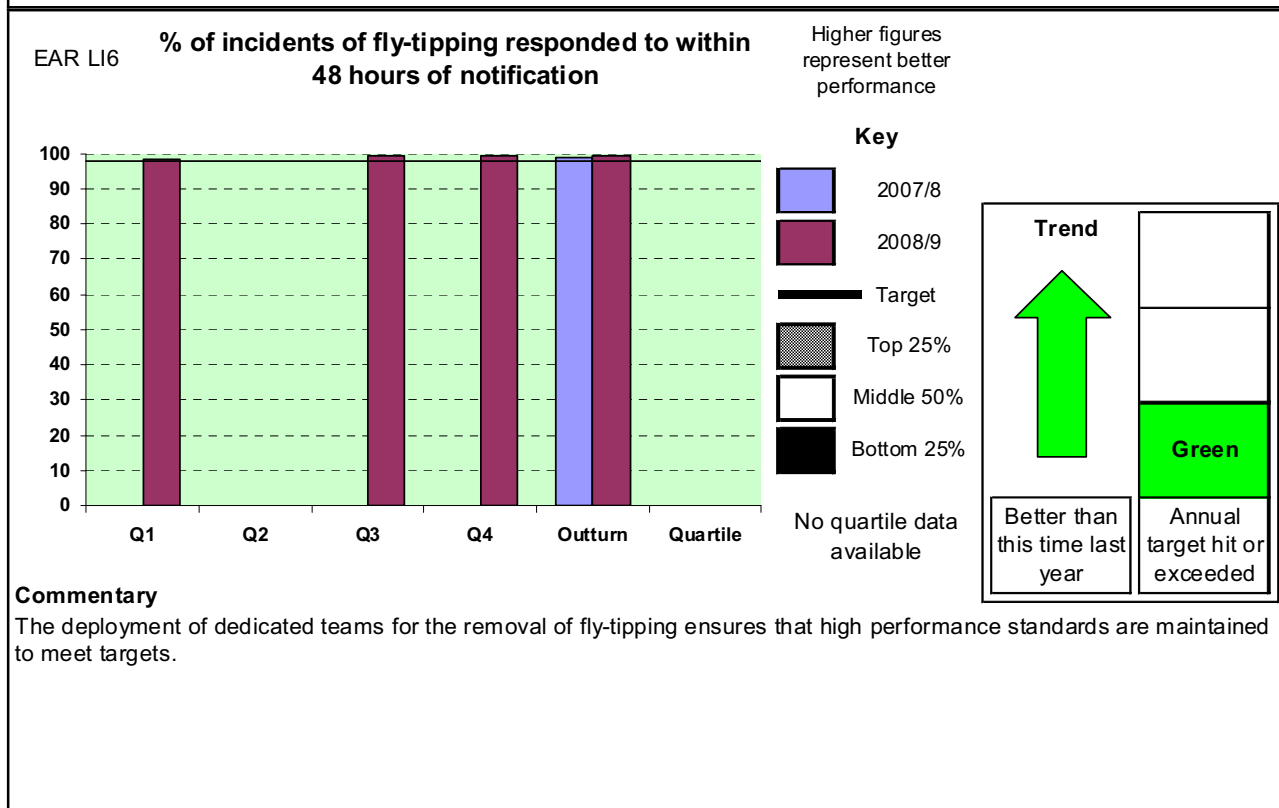
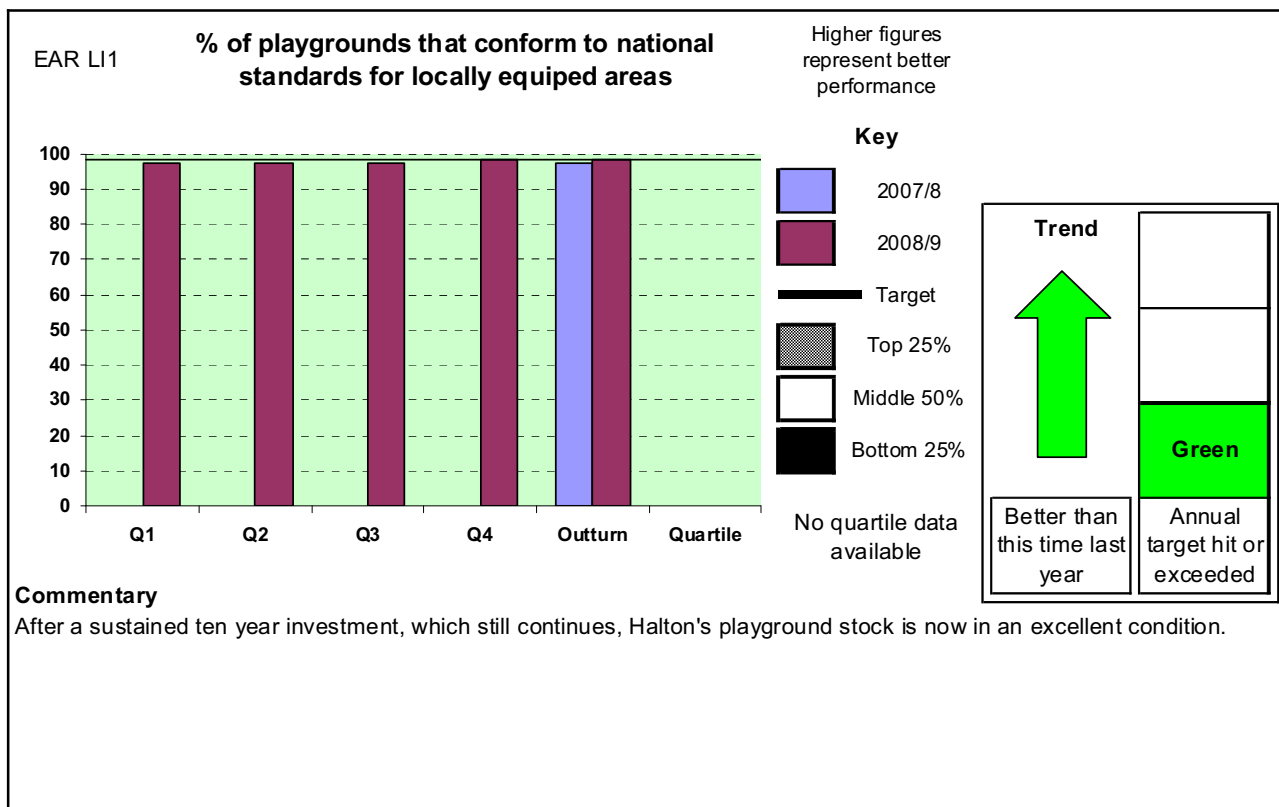
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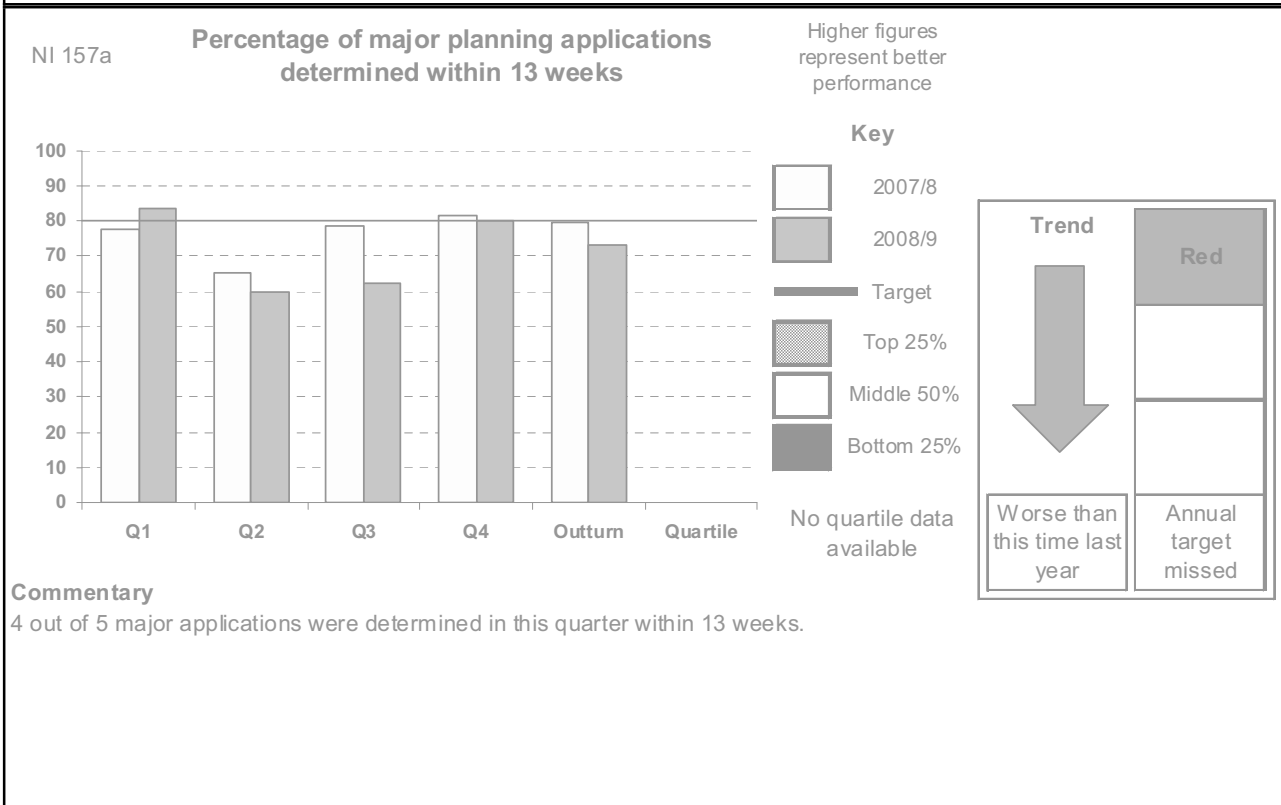
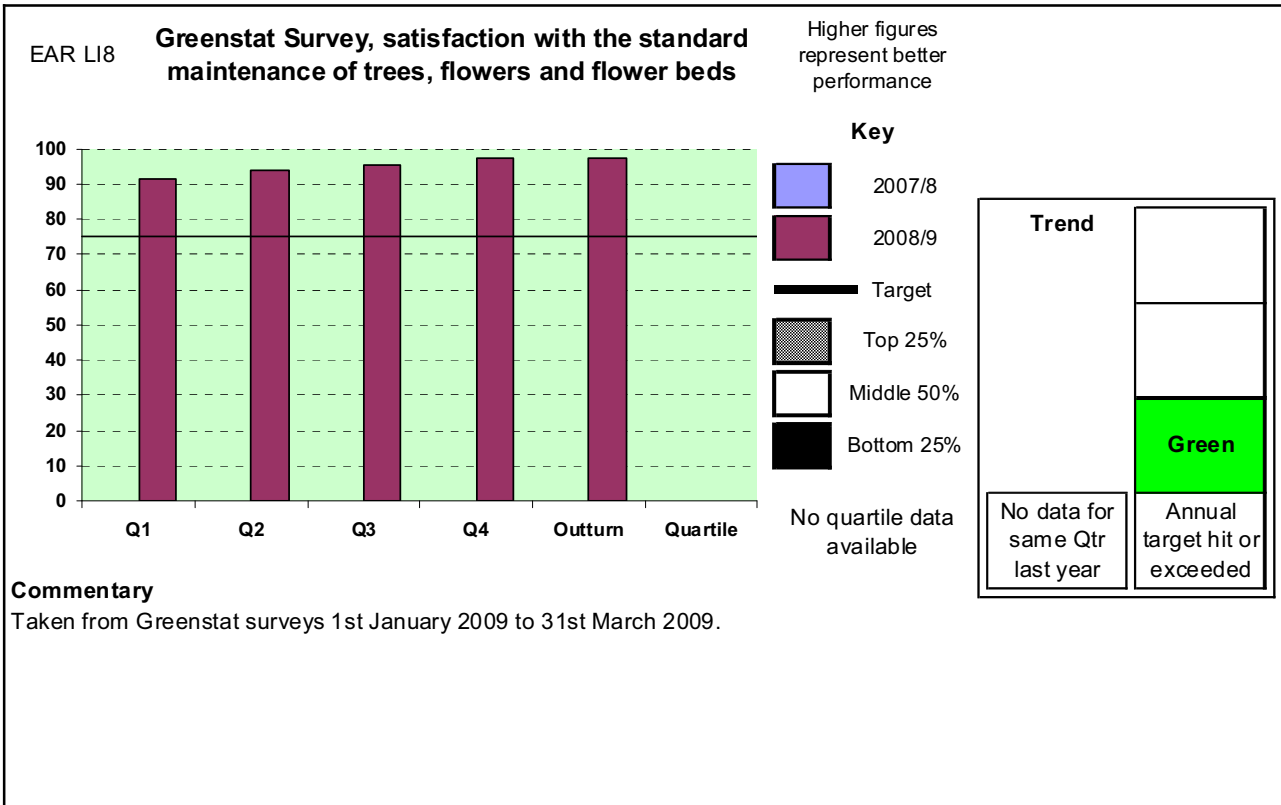
Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2008/09 Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
EAR 5	To procure waste management facilities/services to meet the requirements of the Council's Municipal Waste Management Strategy.	Commencement of new Waste Management and Recycling Contract. (This contract will allow economies of scale to be derived in waste transfer, recycling and household waste sites as Halton joins in joint procurement with the other Merseyside Authorities). Oct 2008		See key developments
EAR 6	To develop and publish an integrated Environmental Nuisance Prevention and Enforcement Strategy. (This strategy will allow a co-ordinated response from the Service to reported nuisances and their remedy. A key aim is the attendance of one officer to deal with all nuisance issues on site).	Develop a Strategy in consultation with relevant HBC officers and external agencies and other stakeholders. Jan 2009		Work is continuing with the development of a strategy, a draft of which is anticipated to be produced in the first quarter of 2009/10.
EAR 7	Carry out local Streetscene environmental improvements. (Street Scene is part of the Council's Environment Directorate that incorporates a number of services that have an important impact on the "street" and public open spaces in terms of their appearance	Undertake 20 small scale environmental improvements. Will include items such as installation of new street furniture, repair of existing street furniture and improvements to soft landscape. Dec 2008.		20 Smallscale environmental improvements have been undertaken.

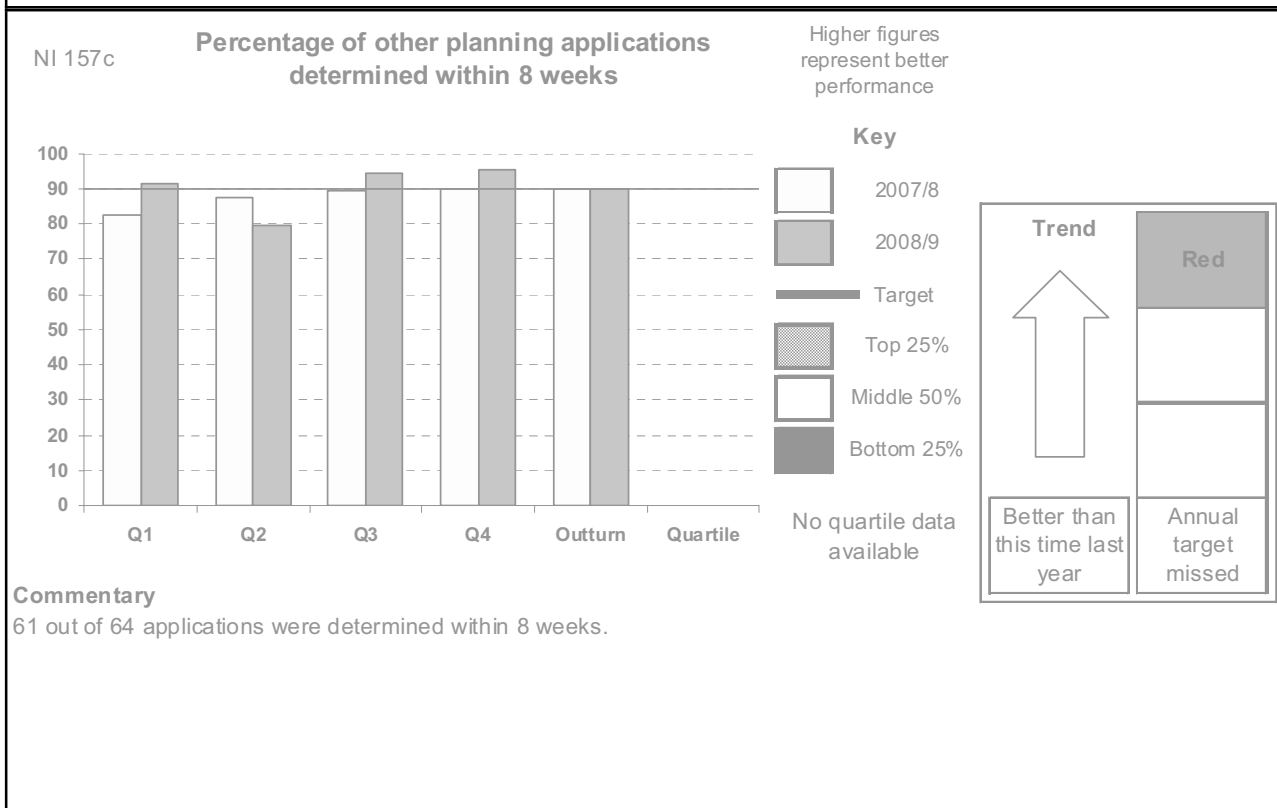
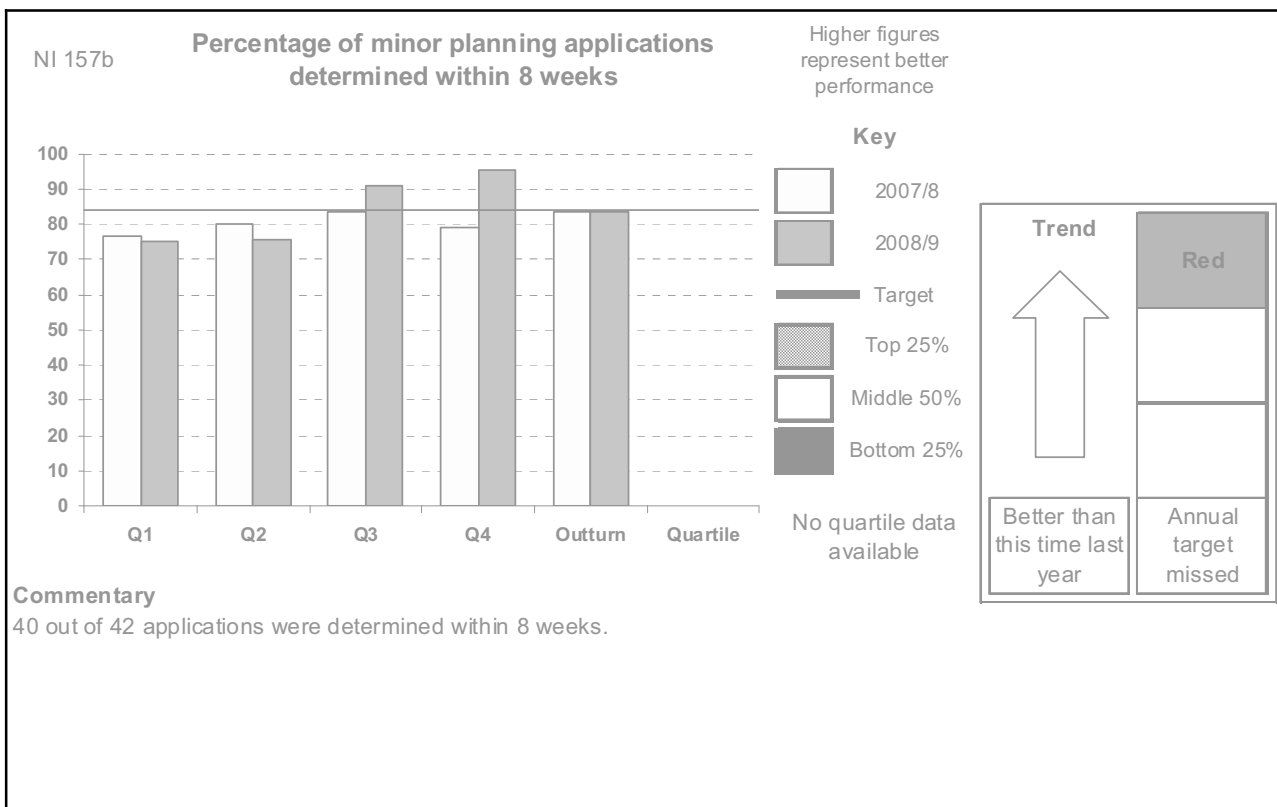
Service Plan Ref.	Objective	2008/09 Milestone	Progress to date	Commentary
EAR 8	Implement the Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy. Take a strategic approach to inspecting the borough for potentially contaminated land under the provisions contained in Part IIA of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, and to describe and publish this in a written strategy.	<i>Continue to identify and classify potentially contaminated sites from available data. Mar 2009</i>		Potentially contaminated sites have been identified and classified. A draft dataset is available.
		<i>Continue comparing the potentially contaminative land uses to information on pathways and receptors and categorise into risk categories A B and C. (Ordered and rational manner to identify and prioritise sites. Categories are a broad risk assessment with A as the highest category and 1400 potential sites). Mar 2009</i>		Progressed has continued as planned.
		<i>Complete the identification of the Group A, B and C sites. Mar 2009</i>		Identification has been completed.
		<i>Commence detailed inspections of high risk sites (group A) Mar 2009</i>		Inspections at high risk sites have commenced.

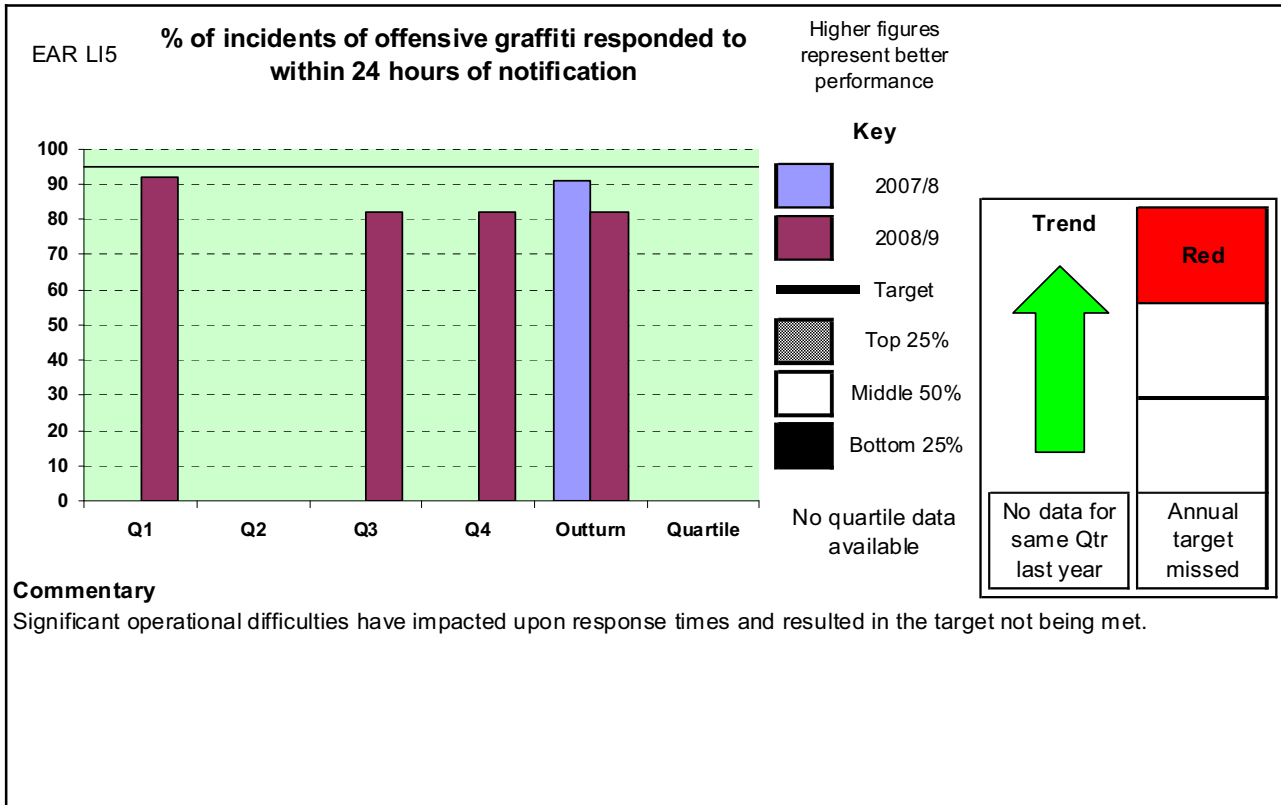














NI 159, Supply of ready to develop housing sites. The 2008/9 outturn is 137.9%. This is the first year that this has been reported and no target was set. This now forms a baseline for future targets.

NI 170, Previously developed land that has been vacant or derelict for more than 5 years. The 2008/9 outturn is 2.28%. This is the first year that this has been reported and no target was set. This now forms a baseline for future targets.

Ref.	Description	Actual 2007/08	Target 2008/09	Quarter 4	Progress	Commentary
Quality						
EAR LI3	Number of Green Flag Awards achieved for Halton	6	9	10		Ten parks were awarded Green Flag Awards in 2008/9.
EAR LI7	% of residents satisfied with the cleansing standards in Halton	-	75	N/a	N/a	Figure not available
EAR NI 182	Satisfaction of businesses with local authority regulation services BERR DSO	-	-	82	N/a	This indicator covers Trading Standards, Environmental Health and Licensing This indicator measures whether businesses think they have been treated fairly and helpfully by local authority regulators. By specifically measuring this, the aim is to inspire local authorities to recognise the important contribution regulatory services make to local and national priorities, and inspire regulatory services to recognise their own role in supporting local business. The figure reported is based upon satisfaction surveys undertaken by environmental health.
EAR LI13	Resident satisfaction with parks and open spaces (Previously BVPI 119e)	-	75	97.14		Resident satisfaction as recorded by Greenstat continues to be very high. A recent Halton 2000 survey result recorded 87% satisfaction. Slightly less than the Greenstat result's, which are mostly carried out face to face, but up from 71% when the last survey was done.
EAR LI2	Greenstat Survey, satisfaction with the standard of cleanliness and maintenance	-	88	94.28		Satisfaction continues to improve.

**APPENDIX THREE - PROGRESS AGAINST OTHER INDICATORS
Environmental & Regulatory**

Ref.	Description	Actual 2007/08	Target 2008/09	Quarter 4	Progress	Commentary
	of parks and green spaces					
Service Delivery						
EAR LI18	% of new reports of abandoned vehicles investigated within 24 hours (Previously BVPI 218)	94.58	100	96.24		Despite performance being higher than in previous years, the year end target has not been met. Operational changes have been put into place to ensure that performance will be improved in the coming year.
NI 154	Net additional homes provided PSA 20	-	518	395		Performance has been adversely affected by the availability of credit in the mortgage market that has led to reduced demand for new property build.
NI 155	Number of affordable homes delivered (gross) PSA 20	-	-	80	N/a	This is the first year that this performance indicator has been reported and no target was set. It will inform the LDF document in which future targets will be set.
NI 184	Food establishments in the area which are broadly compliant with food hygiene law	-	-	72	N/a	There is at present no set target of expected performance. At present about 72 % of premises in Halton are broadly compliant with food law. The team is committed to making realistic improvements in this rate, however there are factors outside the control of the team that influence compliance rates. In particular these include profitability of businesses and high management and staff turnover. It is recognised by the FSA that such factors will be a particular influence in urban and more deprived areas.
NI 189	Flood and coastal erosion risk management	-	-	N/a	N/a	This indicator will be reported by the Environment Agency according to the DCLG document "National Indicators for Local Authorities and Local Authority Partnerships: Handbook of Definitions 1 April 2008.





**APPENDIX THREE - PROGRESS AGAINST OTHER INDICATORS
Environmental & Regulatory**





Ref.	Description	Actual 2007/08	Target 2008/09	Quarter 4	Progress	Commentary
NI 190	Achievement in meeting standards for the control system for animal health Defra DSO	-	-	N/a	N/a	It is intended that an indicator measuring the degree to which a local authority is meeting the standards of performance agreed in the Animal Health and Welfare Framework Agreement will be introduced from 2009/10. The Framework Agreement is currently being reviewed and the proposed indicator will reflect the outcome of this review.
NI 191	Residual household waste per head Defra DSO	-	-	889.79	N/a	This indicator measures the kilogrammes of waste produced per household, and replaces the previous indicator that measured kg of waste per head of population. Overall in 2008/09 there has been a reduction in the level of waste produced in Halton compared to the previous year.
NI 192	Household waste recycled and composted	-	-	26.69	N/a	Despite extensions to the Council's kerbside recycling services in the last 12 months the end of year target has not been met. Further extensions to recycling services in 2009/10, together with activities to increase public participation in the Council's schemes, will improve performance in the coming 12 months.
NI 193	Municipal waste land filled Defra DSO	-	-	73.56	N/a	As a result of falling short of recycling and composting targets, the level of waste sent to landfill was higher than planned. Further extensions to recycling services in 2009/10, together with activities to increase public participation in the Council's schemes, will reduce the level of waste sent to landfill in the coming 12 months.

**APPENDIX THREE - PROGRESS AGAINST OTHER INDICATORS
Environmental & Regulatory**



Ref.	Description	Actual 2007/08	Target 2008/09	Quarter 4	Progress	Commentary
NI 195	Improved street and environmental cleanliness levels of, a) litter b) detritus c) graffiti d) fly posting	- - - -	- - - -	9 5 1 0	N/a N/a N/a N/a	Street Scene services will keep this area under review. Future targets will be based on these figures.
NI 196	Improved street and environmental cleanliness – fly tipping	-	-	3	N/a	The total number of enforcement actions taken in 2008/09 has increased from 2007/08, however, there has been an increase in the number of fly-tipping incidents dealt with by the authority. The Council's grading is therefore categorised as '3' or 'Good'.
NI 197	Improved local biodiversity – active management of local sites Defra DSO	-	-	16	N/a	Actions have been taken in line with the Biodiversity Action Plan and Natural Assets Strategy. Future targets will be based on this figure.

LPSA Ref.	Indicator	Baseline	Target	Perform 07/08	Perform. 08/09 Q4	Traffic light	Commentary
7	Improving health and well-being: The number of people reporting to the NHS stop smoking services who had set a quit date and who are still not smoking at the four weeks review (during the year 1 April to 31 March)	850 (2005/6)	2000 (2008/9)	1119	N/a	N/a	Awaiting data from the PCT. Figure expected to be available in Q2 2009/10.

Key Objective	Risk Identified	Risk Treatment Measures	Target	Progress	Commentary
EAR 3 To prepare and adopt a local development framework (LDF) and to review the LDF on a regular basis ensuring that an up to date development plan is available (statutory requirement). To achieve this by producing the following targets:-	Production of unsound plans resulting in abortive costs and repetition of work.	Consultation with relevant internal officers and external experts to ensure proper evaluation of requirements to pass tests of soundness	08/04/2008		Chief Officers Steering Group have been consulted on 3 occasions, the Members Working Party on 2 occasions, to review and provide input into the draft Core Strategy.
	Risk of changes to central/regional & Local Authority Governed Policy affecting the agreed strategy.	Final strategies should be flexible to account for such changes and continual monitoring of policy should be maintained to keep abreast of any potential changes	08/04/2008		Sustainability appraisal undertaken to ensure flexibility of final strategies
	Failure to produce strategy could jeopardise future government funding e.g. planning delivery grant.	Ensure delivery of strategies in line with government requirements.	08/04/2008		Strategies delivered.
EAR 4 Implementation of actions to meet the objectives of the Council's Waste Management Strategy	Overall failure to meet the commitments of the Waste Management Strategy	Waste Action Plans to be developed to meet performance targets	08/09/2008		The Council's Waste Action Plan was approved in July 2007. The Plan set out a programme to deliver enhanced recycling services, which continue to be rolled out, to meet targets (see key developments).

Key Objective	Risk Identified	Risk Treatment Measures	Target	Progress	Commentary
		Monitoring and control measures in place to ensure that targets and pledges are met.	08/09/2008		Monitoring of performance is an on-going activity within the Waste Management Division to ensure that targets and pledges are met.
	Unwillingness of Public to participate will result in targets not being met	Sufficient resources in place to deliver a continual and comprehensive consultation, promotional and educational campaigns.	Ongoing		A comprehensive communications campaign, to change public perception and behaviour to increase public participation with recycling schemes, is being delivered to support the on-going promotional, awareness raising and educational activities.
EAR 5 To procure waste management facilities/services to meet the requirements of the Council's Municipal Waste Management Strategy.	Failure to meet recycling targets and the requirements of the European Landfill Directive - Leading to financial penalties.	Proper procurement process to ensure waste management infrastructure in place, and continual monitoring of performance against targets	08/07/2008		See key developments
	Failure to identify and develop potential partnerships - Leading to missed opportunities, loss of potential economies of scale and targets not being met.	Proper consideration of options and negotiations with potential partners to ensure that partnership arrangements are delivered that reflect the best interests of the Council	08/09/2008		Halton has been effectively represented at the Merseyside Joint Waste Strategy Group

The traffic light symbols are used in the following manner:

	<u>Objective</u>	<u>Performance Indicator</u>
<u>Green</u>	 <p>Indicates that the <u>objective</u> <u>has been achieved</u> within the appropriate timeframe.</p>	<p>Indicates that the annual 08/09 target <u>has been achieved</u> or exceeded.</p>
<u>Red</u>	 <p>Indicates that that the <u>objective</u> <u>has not been achieved</u> within the appropriate timeframe.</p>	<p>Indicates that the annual 08/09 target <u>has not been achieved</u>.</p>

SAFER HALTON PARTNERSHIP

At a meeting of the Safer Halton Partnership Tuesday, 24 February 2009 in the Civic Suite, Town Hall, Runcorn

Present	S. Blackwell	Cheshire Police
	Cllr D. Cargill	Police Authority
	S. Eastwood	HBC Health and Community
	G. Finchett	Cheshire Police
	D. Houghton	HBC Policy and Partnerships
	A. Jones	Halton Borough Council
	N. Mannion	Neighbourhood Management
	S. Milner	PCT
	Cllr Osborne	Ditton Ward
	S. Wallace-	
	Bonner	Health & Community
	Cllr Wright	Ditton Ward
	C Frazer	Halton Neighbourhood Office
	K Taylor	Senior Probation Officer
	P Burke	Youth Offending Team
	N Sharpe	HHT
	H Patel	Citizens Advice Bureau
	J Hartley	Illegal Money Lending Team
	B Kennett	Community Safety Team
	P Kilgour	Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service

Action

SHP27 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chief Superintendent Gary Finchett of Cheshire Police Authority welcomed everybody to the meeting and introductions were made.

SHP28 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from David Parr, Clare Myring, Chris Edwards, Mike Andrews, Dwayne Johnson and Lorraine Butcher – Halton Borough Council, and Anna Collins – Cheshire Police Authority, Sean Henshaw – Cheshire Fire & Rescue Services and Derek Robertson.

SHP29 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 November 2009 were agreed as a correct record, with the following comment made in relation to:

SHP 17 - Task Group Updates (Alcohol) -

With regards to the Enforcement Task Group's Action Plan, it was noted that this had not progressed. It was agreed that the exact status would need to be clarified and contact would be made with David Parr in this regard. Inspector Jed Manley and Inspector Simon Blackwell would present the Plan at the next SHP.

And the following should be deleted in relation to:

SHP 17 - Task Group Updates (Neighbourhood Management) -

RESOLVED: That

(2) on completion of the consultation of 'Assessing the Need' a report be presented to the Board on the findings.

SHP30 PRESENTATION - TRADING STANDARDS

The Partnership received a presentation by Joanne Hartley entitled 'Loan Sharks and Supporting Victims'.

The presentation outlined the following:

- What a loan shark was and characteristics displayed by them; and that they operate in all areas without boundaries;
- Types of people affected and their lifestyles;
- Relationships between illegal money lenders and their clients;
- What the Loan Shark Project was;
- Current objectives of the Loan Shark Project regarding enforcement and financial inclusion;
- The challenges facing the Loan Shark Project;
- Raising awareness of the Project through branding, poster campaigns, advertising and through dedicated Police Officers working exclusively on the Project;
- Addressing the issues and using current legislation such as Consumer Credit Act 1974, Proceeds of Crime Act 2002, Theft Act 1968 – demanding money with menaces/blackmail; Injunctions and Anti-social Behaviour Orders;
- Statistics regarding targets, victims and arrests;
- Why people use a loan shark and what it is like for their victims;
- Examples of loan shark arrests; and

- Partnerships working with the Loan Shark Project; Credit Unions, CAB's, Money Advice and other Agencies, and Housing Associations.

Following the presentation a video was shown of a reconstruction of a victim of a loan shark, which explained the unfortunate process of how she became involved with him and the terror that pursued.

Following queries it was confirmed that the project was not linked to the credit crunch advice line provided by Halton Borough Council, as they were specialist in offering support only, not financial advice. The project was however working in conjunction with the Credit Union.

It was noted that Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service offered their assistance in distributing the leaflets in the area.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the presentation be received; and
- 2) Joanne Hartley be thanked for her informative presentation.

SHP31 PRESENTATION - WORKING NEIGHBOURHOODS FUND (WNF) COMMISSIONING POT

The Partnership was presented with a report on the WNF Alcohol Harm Reduction Programme: 2008/2011 Overview of years 2 and 3 of the programme.

The money was originally allocated to the Halton Alcohol Strategy Working Group (ASWG) to help deliver different elements of Halton's Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy. This group has now been disbanded and was to be replaced with a new alcohol strategy commissioning group, which covers both Halton and St Helens. The new group would be responsible for ensuring that a new combined alcohol strategy was developed across both boroughs. The group would ensure that the different elements of that strategy were effectively commissioned and performance managed by key stakeholders. Overall responsibility for this WNF alcohol programme would rest with that group.

The report covered the following:

- Details of 08/09 Allocation = £100k already approved
- Details of the proposed 09/10 allocation = £400k
- Details of the proposed 10/11 allocation = £500k (2nd year of a 2 year allocation)

The report continued to provide more details of the proposed projects, which are listed below:

- 1) CYP alcohol outreach service = £100k
- 2) ACCE project with 15-25 yr olds = £50k
- 3) NMT befriending project 'Street Mates' = £100k
- 4) Licensing and enforcement work = £50k
- 5) Alcohol arrest referral scheme = £50k
- 6) Domestic violence and alcohol project = £50k

The group discussed the report and proposed future projects and endorsed the proposals in principle, however it was felt that not enough information was provided in support of item number 3, the befriending project 'Street Mates', and that this would certainly need discussing in more detail.

It was agreed therefore that a more detailed report would be submitted to the group, in consultation with the respective Directors, before the Partnership could offer its full support of all proposals.

With regards to the Anti Social Behaviour monies, the group felt that the same applied and that they would like to dedicate more time to this item as well.

It was agreed that a special meeting of the SHP would be arranged mid March to discuss the WNF Commissioning Pot in more detail. All members of the group would be informed of the time and date and they would advise of their availability accordingly. It was agreed by all that those who were able to attend this meeting would have the dedicated authority to make decisions on behalf of the Partnership as a whole.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) a special meeting of the SHP be arranged for mid March to discuss the Commissioning Pot in more detail; and
- 2) those who are able to attend will have the delegated authority to act and make decisions on behalf of those who are not.

SHP32 TASK GROUP UPDATES -

Arising from the Task Group Updates, the following was noted:

- **Neighbourhood Management** – HBC Executive Board had confirmed its support for the development of neighbourhood management to 2010 and the investigation of the development of a detailed business case beyond that date. A Partnerships Celebration Event had been arranged for 26th February 2009 at 6.30 pm in the Stobart Stadium.
- **Engagement and Liveability Report** – From now on the Runcorn and Widnes Blue Lamp Reports would be removed from the SHP Agenda and be included on the Members Information Bulletin.
- **Prolific and Other Prolific Offending Team (PPO)** – Karen Taylor, Senior Probation Officer, was introduced to the group. Following the retirement of Val Snelson from the Group, it was suggested to replace her with Norman Oldham. It was agreed that an invite would be sent to him through the Halton Bench in this regard.
- **Domestic Abuse** – Alcohol related abuse still an issue. Types of victims are indiscriminate; it had nothing to do with where you live.
- **Alcohol** – Hospital admissions amongst young people were still high.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the Task Group Updates be noted; and
- 2) an invitation to join the Partnership be sent to Mr Oldham.

Chief Executive

SHP33 DRUG TREATMENT PLAN & EXECUTIVE SUMMARY 2009/10

The Group received the Safer Halton Partnership Drug Treatment Plan 2009/10, which presented the findings of the needs analysis that supported the drug treatment plan for 2009/10, and also advised of the strategic priorities for the 2009/10 treatment plan.

A multi-agency panel would review the plan and

feedback had been provided to Partnerships in February. The final plans were due to be submitted to the National Treatment Agency for approval and sign off by the end of March 2009.

The Partnership was provided with the Executive Summary for the Drugs Treatment Plan 2009/10 which set out how prevalent drug use was, the types of drugs used, the treatment system, equality and diversity issues and hospital episode statistics, along with the results of the work force skills audit, links with community safety, service user and carers satisfaction rates and instances of hidden harm.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the report be noted; and
- 2) The SHP supports the strategic priorities for the 2009/10 drug treatment plan.

SHP34 SAFEGUARDING VULNERABLE ADULTS

The Partnership received a report from the Strategic Director, Health and Community, which provided an update on key issues and progression of the agenda for the protection of vulnerable adults in Halton.

It was commented that the 'Away Day' event was deemed a success thanks to the commitment of the members who had attended. Councillors present at this meeting expressed an interest in attending the next 'Away Day'. Strategic Director Dwayne Johnson would be contacted on their behalf in this regard.

Furthermore, it was noted that the Haringey case of the death of 'Baby P' was being considered to seek any learning available to inform Safeguarding Adults/Adult Protection arrangements in Halton.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the report's contents be noted; and
- 2) The Strategic Director, Health and Community be contacted with regards to including the SHP Councillors' on the next 'Away Day' event.

Chief Executive

SHP35 MID TERM REVIEW OF THE COMMUNITY STRATEGY

The Partnership received a report on the mid term

review of the Community Strategy and was asked to consider and where appropriate amend the draft text, in particular the aim, objectives and targets for the mid term review of the Safe and Attractive Neighbourhoods section of the Community Strategy.

It was agreed that any comments arising following consideration of the above report would be forwarded to Debbie Houghton by Friday 13th March 2009.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the Partnership considers and where appropriate amend the draft text, in particular the aim, objectives and targets for the mid term review of the Safe and Attractive Neighbourhoods section of the Community Strategy; and
- 2) any comments arising from the above be forwarded to Debbie Houghton by 13th March 2009.

Chief Executive

SHP36 REVIEW OF PARTNERSHIP PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

The Partnership considered a report on the review of Partnership Performance Management Framework, which updated the SHP board on the progress to date with the review of the Halton Strategic Partnership Performance Management Framework and how this links to the Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA) for the Safer Halton Partnership.

Comments were also requested on the proposed structure of the SNA and the role of the SHP task groups in performance monitoring and it was noted that this was the priority at present.

It was further noted that the SNA report for period 1 April to 31 December 2008 was just received by the group at this meeting so it had not been reviewed in advance. The Group were asked to note that the SNA was a restricted confidential document and must not be circulated outside the group without first being agreed with the Chairs.

The following points were noted during discussions:

- The targets would be broken down by task groups to give more ownership and accountability;
- Although monthly reporting was preferable for some targets to keep the document living, quarterly reports

would be more appropriate for most targets;

- It would be each task group Chairman's responsibility to ensure that performance is discussed at the respective task group meetings and underperformance challenged and acted upon; and
- Performance would be reported back to the SHP as updates of the SNA. Feedback from the task groups would be fed into the SNA.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) The Board noted and approved the revised performance management framework proposed by the Halton Strategic Partnership Board;
- 2) The SHP considers the strategic needs assessment template put forward for comment and approval;
- 3) The SHP notes the links between the SNA and the performance management framework put forward by the Halton Strategic Partnership Board; and
- 4) The role of the task groups in the performance management process would be discussed in more detail with the task group chairs who meet as part of the SHP performance management group.

Chief Executive

SHP37 SHP FUNDING REPORT

The Partnership received a report on the Draft SHP Expenditure for 2009/10 and 2010/11, which requests them to consider the comments received to date, which were attached as Appendix 1 and to discuss the draft spending profile put forward for approval.

Subject to the comments received, the SHP were asked to approve the recommended funding profile, for Working Neighbourhoods Fund and Safer and Stronger element of the Area Based Grant, as set out in the report. The proposals were for a two-year funding agreement.

It was noted that responses received to date were included in the appendices on pages 108,109 and 115 for information. No further comments were received at the SHP meeting and the recommendations were approved subject to satisfactory SLAs being completed and signed off by the SHP chairs.

RESOLVED: That the recommendations be approved subject to satisfactory SLAs being completed and signed off by the SHP chairs.

SHP38 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

The following items were attached for information:

- (A) Policing Crime Bill – December 2008
- (B) Alcohol Related Disorders
- (C) Contact Point Information

RESOLVED: That the items be noted.

SHP39 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Economic Slowdown – As a result of this there has been an increase in the crime figures within the Borough. Chief Inspector Finchett would provide details to Halton Borough Council's Management Team.

Community Safety Team Office Move – A query was raised with regards to when this would happen. In response it was noted that the timescales were being discussed between the Police and HBC.

RESOLVED: That the items be noted.

Meeting ended at 4.30 p.m.

SAFER HALTON PARTNERSHIP

At a meeting of the Safer Halton Partnership Thursday, 12 March 2009 in the Marketing Suite, Municipal Building

Present	M. Andrews	Community Safety Manager, HBC
	S. Blackwell	Cheshire Police
	Cllr D. Cargill	Police Authority
	C. Edwards	Cheshire Probation
	G. Finchett	Cheshire Police
	S. Henshaw	Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service
	D. Houghton	HBC Policy and Partnerships
	A. Jones	Halton Borough Council
	N. Mannion	Neighbourhood Management
	S. Milner	Halton & St Helens PCT
	Cllr S. Osborne	Ditton Ward
	D. Parr	Chief Executive, HBC

Action

SHP40 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chief Inspector Gary Finchett welcomed everybody to the meeting and the introductions were made. He thanked all for their attendance and confirmed that this special meeting was being held to discuss specific details relating to the Neighbourhood Management ‘befriending Project’ and the Anti Social Behaviour work overview of year two.

SHP41 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Garath Jones, Clare Myring, Steve Eastwood, Dwayne Johnson - Halton Borough Council, Councillor Wright, Hitash Patel - Citizen’s Advice Bureau, Anna Collins – Cheshire Police, Noel Sharpe - Halton Housing Trust and Christine Frazer – Riverside Housing.

SHP42 COMMUNITY ALCOHOL SERVICE - TO BE PILOTED IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD MANAGEMENT AREAS

The Partnership received a report on the project specification and rationale behind this. The report also included information on the Alcohol Profile for Halton.

It was reported that Halton has more alcohol related harm than in most other Local Authorities in the North West and the North West has more alcohol related harm than any other region in the UK. There are alcohol related problems in all wards in Halton and the LSP would be spending more

money, within the borough as a whole, to tackle this alcohol related harm.

Although misuse of alcohol was a problem right across all socio-economic groups, these groups who were already multiply disadvantaged, usually because of their poor socio-economic circumstances, were more adversely affected by their misuse of alcohol than groups that had more personal and economic resources at their disposal. Because of this, alcohol misuse contributes to maintaining health inequalities within the borough. The three Neighbourhood Management Areas have the highest level of deprivation in our borough. There were also more people drinking at the most harmful levels in our most deprived wards, Windmill Hill was used as an example. These people are also least likely to respond to traditional health education messages or make use of mainstream public services that could help them. It was commented that if we are to help these residents and contribute to closing the health inequality gap, there was a need to target additional resources at these communities and to work in partnership with them in innovative ways that are best suited to local circumstances to 'divert' people away from drinking at harmful levels.

It was recommended that a 'bottom-up' approach was needed which ensured that the community was at the centre of activity by:

- engaging with local networks, neighbourhood management partnerships, local community forums and community groups;
- working with local residents and agencies to increase capacity;
- understanding and working with communities;
- involving the community in the delivery of services at a local level; responding to and supporting local initiatives; and
- removing barriers and improving access to mainstream services – both physical and personal.

It was commented that many of the services that were provided were under utilised and/or misused, because the people for whom they were designed were not involved in their development.

Furthermore, there was a wealth of evidence that engaging with local communities offered the best means by which health professionals/community organisations can begin to tackle the social determinants of health. Whilst

community development was a key element of this process, it was only part of the process.

The project would build on existing community assets and draw on local people/local intelligence to identify community needs using a variety of methods, which would ensure that their concerns and aspirations were heard. The project would then form a much wider programme to tackle alcohol misuse across the borough, but it would be specifically tailored to meet the needs of these communities. If the methods piloted in the NMAs prove successful, they would be rolled out to other areas of deprivation within a greater number of wards as was already done the Men's Health Service.

In summary the aim of the project was to reduce alcohol related harm in the NMAs using a holistic approach underpinned by community engagement principles. The objectives are to proactively engage with the community and to identify people within the target groups: young people, single parent households, homeless people, socially isolated and/or living alone, the elderly, those in debt/living in insecure housing circumstances and those recently made redundant/long term unemployed.

It was noted that the cost for the project would amount to £100,000 per year for two years. An existing data base would be utilised and further developed in order to evidence interventions, activities, training data together with evidence detailing how the views of the community had shaped responses. From this data, quarterly returns would be submitted for review.

Following the presentation one Member raised concerns over the cost of employing three staff over the two years, which would consume most of the £200,000 budget, and that this money could be spent elsewhere or invested into existing successful community projects.

In response it was noted that this project was needed in order to bring existing services that were offered to the attention of people who fall in the hazardous drinking zone. This would need to be done through home visits by qualified Health Trainers, in order to make contact with these people who were unaware that they were in need of help and therefore did not use the community services available to them. The Health Trainers would in effect compliment the social care team by providing a link between them and the alcohol victim thus enhancing the service provided by offering support, guidance and assistance.

The group was asked to bear in mind that considering that the alcohol figures would be worse now than in 2004, that this project would be a worthwhile investment for the reasons already stated and would eventually help reduce alcohol related hospital admissions in the borough, which were the highest in the whole of the UK amongst the male population.

Having expressed their views and following clarifications and explanations on the budget, it was agreed by all that the Partnership supports the project as mentioned in the report.

RESOLVED: That the Partnership supports the proposals for the Community Alcohol Service to be piloted in the Neighbourhood Management Areas.

SHP43 ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR COMMISSIONING MONEY

The Partnership received a report on the WNF Perceptions of Community Safety and Anti Social Behaviour Programme 2008/2011, overview of year two.

The paper advised that the Halton Community Safety Team had been allocated £1 million pounds over 3 years to tackle ASB, Community Safety and Local Area Agreement (LAA) priorities within Halton. The overall responsibility for the commissioning and performance monitoring lies within that team and the Community Safety Manager would ensure that the different elements of the programme are effectively commissioned and performance managed by key stakeholders and thematic groups.

The report advised of the 2008/09 allocation already approved (95k) based on the initial SLA and listed the distribution of the monies. The proposed allocation for 2009/10 (£350k) was also listed showing the allocation of the monies.

The proposed projects included the following:

- 1) Witness Support Service and Future Development - (continued outreach and publicity, increasing operational capacity, more specialist support, working with young victims and witnesses and other developments);
- 2) Task Groups, Alcohol Misuse;
- 3) Anti Social Behaviour Strategy;
- 4) Kooldown Programme;
- 5) Neighbourhood Management Boards; and
- 6) Community Reassurance Campaign.

It was noted that the projects summarised all met the criteria of LAA and ASB strategies and gave Halton a balanced, intelligent led process that would build on the previous good work. The programme of projects also complemented what the internal and external partners were implementing and allowed a stable platform to deliver on its obligations under the Crime and Justice Pioneer area status.

The overriding theme of the schemes outlined is that they were not seen as short term solutions but as a principle of embedding working practices that could be sustained if funding streams change.

The funding of the projects for the years 2010/11 would be reviewed as part of ongoing strategic needs assessment to ensure that the commissioning money was used effectively. The needs assessment would be renewed at least every 6 months to ensure that it was current and relevant; this would then inform the spending for the final year of the monies.

As the places survey would only be carried out every 2 years, there would also be a need to carry out an assessment of the places survey data after the first 12 months to allow for the assessing of direction of travel for the future.

An enquiry was received with regards to the opening date of the Community Safety Team's new premises. In response it was confirmed that the new office on the Widnes Waterfront would be operational from the summer. Also, it was confirmed that the advert for the Alcohol Enforcement Officer would go out soon, and it was hoped that they would be in the post by 1st May 2009.

Chris Edwards of Cheshire Probation Service advised that his service is looking at how to deliver some services in a more localised way to get closer to their clients. Therefore, he would be speaking with partners to explore how to progress this over the coming months.

Further comments were invited, all agreed that the report was informative and offered their support for the projects.

RESOLVED: That the Partnership offered their support for the allocation of the 2009/10 ASB monies and projects involved.

Meeting ended at 11.47 a.m.

REPORT TO: Safer Halton Policy & Performance Board

DATE: 16 June 2009

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director – Environment

SUBJECT: Petition for the Installation of Alleygates Adjacent to 22 Harris Street and to the rear of 29 St Ambrose Road

WARD(S) Halton View

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To advise members of the receipt of a petition containing 24 signatures, and the proposed course of action.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That:

- i) **The receipt of the petition be noted and the residents advised of the action proposed in paragraph 3.6.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 A petition (attached as Appendix 1) has been forwarded to the Council stating the following: We the undersigned residents of Harris Street, are requesting that alleygates be erected at the bottom west side of Harris Street closing the access to St Ambrose Road.

The reasons for this request is as follows.

1. Gangs of youths are using Harris Street as a short cut from St Ambrose Road to Halton View Road.
2. Vandalism to property
3. Bottles, cans, beer glasses, chip papers, carrier bags all left on the road in the street.
4. Car windscreens smashed (Police involved).
5. Vehicles broke in to (Police involved).
6. Wing mirrors smashed off cars (Police involved).
7. Foul language.
8. Spitting on cars, front doors, and foot paths.
9. The path is seldom used, and never at night since a girl was attacked there.

3.2 The petition contains 24 signatures, all of which are residents of Harris Street (this pathway only runs down the side of one property located on Harris Street number 22).

3.3 A Community Safety Alleygate report has been drafted relating to

this area (attached Appendix 2) which, details the level of crime and anti-social behavior incidents as reported to Cheshire Police.

- 3.4 The Police crime statistics assessed for the purpose of a gating order only considers Police Crime Statistics relating directly to the area to be enclosed and only relates to incidents that can be directly attributed to the pathway itself over a 12-month period. Subsequently, the incidents as mentioned by the petition relating to car crime in particular are not pertinent to a gating order and would not be admissible as evidence to support a gating order.
- 3.5 Legislation was brought in a number of years ago under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000) which would allow a full closure. However, this is a lengthy process, where an area first must be designated by the Secretary of State, which can take many months, followed by a local Order for the path concerned, and potentially an automatic Public Inquiry, should objections be received. (Members may recall a number of paths at Kendal Road estate being closed using this process).
- 3.6 Working within Neighbourhoods and communities is seen as the first option before gating orders should be considered. Therefore, preventative work and more visible policing should be encouraged.
- 3.7 It is suggested that the Police should be requested to visit this location more frequently to discourage the gathering of young people and residents should be encouraged to report incidents of crime and disorder to Cheshire Police.

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 There are no policy implications.

5.0 **OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 There are no other implications.

6.0 **IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

6.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

It is alleged that anti-social behaviour by youths is causing a disturbance to the residents of Harris Street, Widnes. Should a Gating Order be implemented this would prevent such youths from gaining access to the path.

6.2 **Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

There are no direct implications for Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton.

6.3 **A Healthy Halton**

There are no direct health implications, however, the recommendation will help build a case for a Gating Order, which could help relieve residents' stress caused by anti-social behaviour. Removal of pedestrian routes such as this, may discourage people from walking. However, in this case, for most users, the possible gating of the path would result in only a short additional walk.

6.4 **A Safer Halton**

Recommendation (i) will help build a case for a Gating Order which if pursued could help reduce crime and anti-social behaviour.

6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

None identified.

7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 There are no risks associated with the proposed action.

8.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 In cases such as this there is potential that gating a route may cause particular inconvenience for users of wheelchairs or mobility scooters.

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

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
Gating Orders Report 21 June 2007 Police Crime Statistics	Halton Community Safety Partnership 6-8 Church Street Runcorn WA7 1LT	Mike Andrews / Sarah Ashcroft

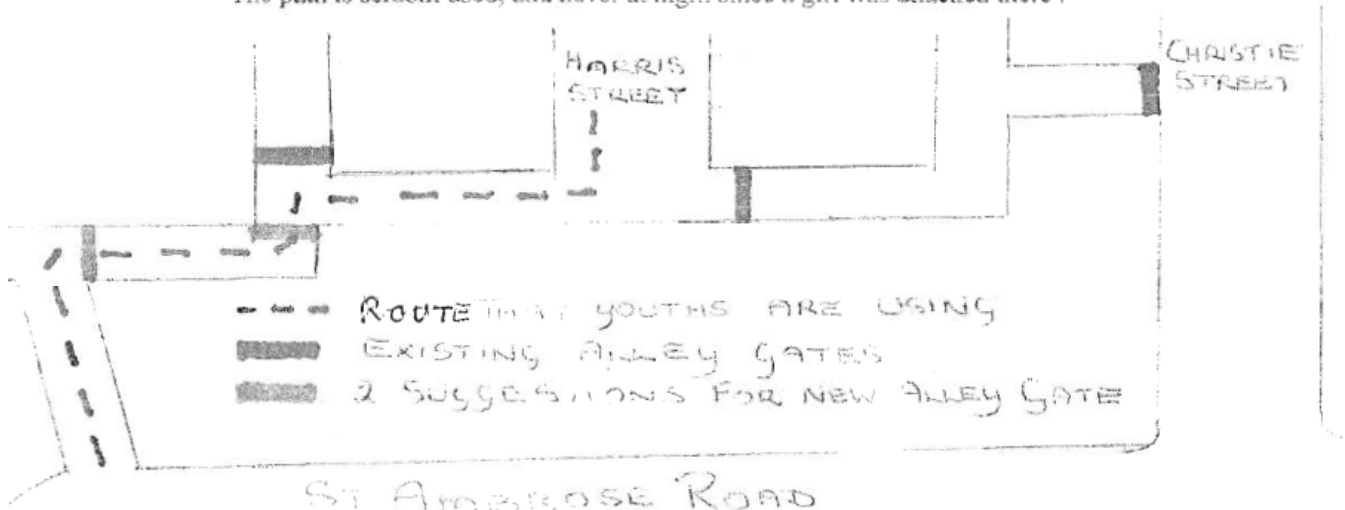
To whom it may concern.

We the undersigned residents of Harris Street, are requesting that alley gates be erected at the bottom west side of Harris St closing the access to St Ambrose road.

The reasons for this request is as follows.

1. Gangs of youths are using Harris Street as a short cut from St Ambrose Road to Halton View Road.
2. Vandalism to property.
3. Bottles, cans, beer glasses, chip papers, carrier bags all left on the road in the street.
4. Car windscreens smashed (police involved)
5. Vehicles broke in to (police involved)
6. Wing mirrors smashed off cars (police involved)
7. Foul language.
8. Spitting on cars, front doors, foot paths.

The path is seldom used, and never at night since a girl was attacked there .



- Swain 17, HARRIS STREET
- Connor 15 HARRIS ST.
- J. George 12, Harris St
- E. O'Neill 3 HARRIS ST
- N. Fickins 5 HARRIS ST
- N. Greylish 7 HARRIS ST.
- S. Baynton 9 Harris St.
- E. H. Gray 11. HARRIS ST.
- P. Danley 13 HARRIS ST.
- L. Yates 21 HARRIS ST.
- R. Gleave 23 HARRIS ST.
- C. S. Harris 1 " "
- Ally 19 Harris Street.

- E. Lifer 25 HARRIS STREET
- N. Atkinson 27 HARRIS ST
- Lee Bamford 27 HARRIS ST
- G. Johnson 20 HARRIS ST
- L. Nigahan 14 Harris St. KAVUQU
- Chaturani 16. Harris ST
- Abraham 10 Harris St.
- A. Boett 8 HARRIS ST
- Mark Lee 6 HARRIS ST.
- 18 HARRIS ST
- 24 HARRIS ST

**WASTE MANAGEMENT WORKING PARTY MEETING
11 MAY 2009 AT 6 PM
STOBART STADIUM**

Present: Cllr Stockton
Cllr Redhead
Cllr Shepherd
Jimmy Unsworth Head of Waste Management Services

Apologies: Cllr Thompson
Cllr Osborne

1. Apologies

As Above.

2. Notes of Meeting 20 January 2009

Following on from discussions at the previous meeting of 24th February 2009, members agreed that the initial priority areas for scrutiny and policy development in would include;

- The provision of bins and charging
- 106 Agreements
- Waste prevention issues

Cllr Stockton suggested that members were provided with regular updates on progress against key performance indicators and targets. JU confirmed that this would be included as an agenda item for future meetings.

Cllr Shepherd expressed concerns regarding fly-tipping and the issue for the RSL's. It was suggested that a borough-wide analysis be undertaken. JU will set up a meeting with RSL's to discuss.

3. Waste Management Divisional Update

a. Waste Contract Procurement

A new recycling contract with Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority will start on the 1st June 2009. JU confirmed that whilst there has been a delay with the commencement date, this has allowed a more robust procurement process and ensured high quality value for money services. For Halton, the contract will see improvements to the Household Waste Recycling Centres, material recycling and green waste composting facilities. JU advised that a report will be presented to members outlining further details of the services and costs associated with this contract in the near future.

Action

JU

b. Kerbside Recycling Services

JU distributed a copy of a document *Kerbside Recycling Collection Services in Halton*. This was a document that was circulated at a recent Members' Seminar and JU gave the following summary as set out below:

- February 2009 – 3,000 green bins were rolled out taking the total number of households to 37,000.
- March 2009 – 3,000 blue bins were rolled out taking the total number of households to 42,000.
- July 2009 – The multi-material recycling service will be rolled out to a further 16,000 households, taking the total to 42,000.
- A pilot scheme to deliver multi-material recycling collections to areas that cannot have blue bins will be introduced in August. One of the pilot areas will be Windmill Hill.

Cllr Redhead asked about getting a bigger blue bin, JU confirmed bigger blue bins are available for residents to apply for.

JU updated on the Communications Campaign and advised that the 'doorstepping' exercise has been taking place across the borough. The doorstepping teams are using a questionnaire that has been developed to find out the barriers that may prevent people for participating in Council recycling services and to gather people's views and understanding of the Council's schemes. Cllr Redhead noted another Councillor had asked for a copy of the questionnaire but was told he couldn't have one. JU was unaware of this but assured Cllr Redhead as to the content.

As part of the campaign every household in Halton will receive an information pack that will include generic recycling information together with different messages determined by what service are provided in their area.

Members discussed issues with storing recyclable materials inside properties. JU advised that boxes or durable sacks will be used in the pilot scheme that can be stored outside. JU will write to Members in the relevant areas to inform them of the pilot.

JU

4. Scrutiny and Development of Waste Collection Policies

The group discussed the development of a draft Waste Collection Policy document.

JU asked Members for views on charging for bins. Members confirmed that before policy recommendations could be agreed many aspects needed to be considered, including concessions and for what bins and when charges may apply. Members also discussed the issue of bins in communal areas, the responsibility of landlords to keep areas secure and whether landlords should be responsible when bins go missing. JU is to carry out research into practices in other authorities and provide information at the next meeting.

JU advised that as part of the process to produce a Local Development Framework document, a Planning Obligations SPD (Supplementary Planning Document) is to be produced and adopted in 2011. This SPD will set out the contributions to be made by developers towards services. JU will explore opportunities for securing contributions for waste related services in the interim.

In relation to schools education, JU advised that a Borough-wide programme will be implemented once all residents have access to kerbside recycling services. In the meantime, activities are on-going in many schools upon request. Cllr Redhead noted that this has to be a year on year on process.

It was noted that problems with bins not being taken back into properties after collections is continuing in some areas. JU will look at enforcement policies and bring proposals to the next meeting for discussion.

Timetable

- | | | |
|-----------|--|-----------|
| <p>5.</p> | <p>First draft of Waste Collection Policy document will be brought to the next meeting, with a target of presenting a draft to the Policy and Performance Board in November.</p> | <p>JU</p> |
| <p>6.</p> | <p>A.O.B</p> <p>None.</p> | <p>JU</p> |

REPORT TO: Safer Halton Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 16th June 2009

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director Environment

SUBJECT: Footway Condition and Structural Maintenance Programme

WARDS: All Wards

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 Members have requested a report on the condition of footways in Halton in response to a recent press release from the Chartered Society of Physiotherapists (CSP), which highlighted the condition of footways nationally to publicise problems that broken pavements pose to older and infirm people.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

2.1 The decision of Executive Board on 19th March 2009, to prioritise footway reconstruction within the Highways Capital Maintenance block budget allocation, doubling the area of footways to be reconstructed for the next two years, be endorsed.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 Performance Indicator BVPI 187

The press release from CSP alleged that Halton's pavements were the "worst in the Northwest" and that 50% of our pavements are in need of repair. Their press release uses data from best value performance indicator (BVPI) 187. This indicator, which measures the condition of walking routes, has its limitations in that it reports only on a small percentage of the footway network, where structural maintenance should be considered. These are the higher use, category 1 and 2 footways, i.e. those usually associated with main distributor, classified roads and town centres, totalling around 46 Km in length and forming less than 5% of the footway network in Halton. It does not generally include footways in residential areas or along unclassified roads. Although the indicator has been dropped from the new National Indicator set, it is acknowledged that the condition of footways is a very valuable indicator, not only in terms of accessibility and safety, but also in the contribution that well maintained footways make to the appearance of local neighbourhoods, and also of

the level of public satisfaction with the Borough's highways service provision. We therefore propose to develop a new local indicator that will measure the condition of all footways and which will be used as the basis for reporting performance for future service monitoring.

Data for BVPI 187 is based on Detailed Visual Inspection surveys (DVI), which identify the detailed condition of footways in terms of a wide range of visible defects within defined lengths. The indicator reports the percentage of surveyed footways that exceed a Condition Index (CI) of 20. The index is set relatively low and can easily be triggered by minor defects such as cracked flags, minor depressions or surface fretting.

Historically, Halton has recorded an average score for this BVPI as shown in the table below. However in 2007/08 the indicator jumped to 50%, double the previous year's score. This was despite positively targeting the footway reconstruction programmes over the same period, toward the treatment of the worst sections of category 1 and 2 footways, as identified in the BVPI surveys.

BVPI 187	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
Average of all authorities	25.33	24	24	22.4
Average of Unitaries	25.48	21	23	22.5
Halton	25	22	25	50

This significant change in value was queried immediately and Jacobs Babbie, who undertake Halton's pavement management functions, were asked to re-visit and verify the results. Unfortunately, Jacobs Babbie reported no errors were apparent in either the survey methodology or data analysis and there had been no change in the collection of the data from previous years.

3.2 Factors affecting the survey.

However, there are a number of factors that appear to have had a bearing on the results of the survey:

1. The surveys undertaken in 2006 and 2007 were immediately prior to the commencement of significant pre-planned programmes of footway maintenance works:

- In the Ditton area of Widnes where 18 separate sections of footway have since been reconstructed
- In Grangeway and Boston Avenue where Quality Transport Corridor improvement works were carried out during 2007/08

2. The wide footways in these areas have required a higher than normal level of expenditure, and therefore works have tended to be phased over a period of three or four years, having the effect of delaying an overall

improvement in the percentage of footways that record above the CI threshold.

3. Because the survey also records relatively minor defects, and the condition index threshold is set quite low, footways that are otherwise perfectly serviceable have been included in the results. This applies mainly to existing 'Bitmac' footways, which on site inspection, do not require further structural work.

3.3 Footway Safety Inspections and Repairs

Members will be aware that regular safety inspections of the whole highway network are carried out, every street in the Borough being inspected four times per year. Any safety defects identified during this walked inspection are repaired within 24 hours. Other "serviceability" related defects, i.e. those that might affect the ability of the network to meet the needs of users in the longer term, are also recorded and are subject to further inspection and assessment for repair or reconstruction as necessary' within routine or structural maintenance programmes.

3.4 Footway survey and reconstruction programme

Whilst recent footway reconstruction programmes have targeted the Category 1 and 2 footways, the condition of the major part of the footway network must also be considered. A comprehensive "coarse" survey, comprising an assessment of 1620 footways across the whole Borough, was carried out during summer 2008. The aim was primarily to get a full and accurate picture of the condition of the full network, but also to enable a comparison to be made of the relative condition of 'residential pavements' with the BVPI 187 footways.

Similar to the BVPI survey, it is a 'scored' system based on surface and kerb condition, but also takes into account pedestrian usage and the 'importance' of the route in the road hierarchy. Because the BVPI survey is restricted solely to category 1 & 2 footways this 'comparative' attribute is not measured. The recorded scores range from zero (footways requiring no treatment) to 40. Only 7% of the network scores greater than 12. This equates to around one hundred sites. Below this value, the distribution of scores 'evens out' with more sites registering an equal score, making prioritisation more difficult below this level.

The 'coarse' survey will be used as a guide, to target more detailed visual inspections of the identified footways, which can then be prioritised on a more precise basis, for reconstruction or repair. This will ensure that footways in most need of repair will be treated first. However, it should be noted that other factors may also need to be taken into account in the preparation of annual footway reconstruction programmes such as the co-ordination of works with carriageway surfacing, utility works or quality corridor improvement schemes.

3.5 Local performance indicator

The survey will also assist in the development of a new local indicator of footway condition, to replace the restricted scope of BVPI 187. This will allow year-on-year comparison of footway condition across the **whole network** and demonstrate trends in improvement or deterioration Boroughwide. It will have the advantage of taking account of the condition of **all** of the Borough's walking routes, rather than reporting on just a 'static' restricted sample of 5% of the network, and will identify trends and inform future maintenance programmes on a fair and equitable basis.

3.6 Footway reconstruction budget

In recent years footway reconstruction annual programmes have comprised approximately 20 schemes funded from the available budget. The Highways Capital Programme which was approved by Executive Board on 19 March 2009 included proposals to increase funding for footway structural maintenance, achieved through a re-profiling of the footway / carriageway allocations. This should enable approximately double the area of footway reconstructions to be undertaken for the next two years and will make real in-roads into the top one hundred sites identified in the recent footway survey described in 3.4 above.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There are no policy implications in relation to this report.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Resource implications in connection with the footway reconstruction programme are as described in paragraph 3.6. Future footway reconstruction programmes will be prepared using the borough-wide condition survey as described in paragraph 3.4 and will therefore include a greater proportion of footways within residential areas. This will impact positively on the sustainability of the environment within the local communities.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 **Children and Young People in Halton**

There are no direct implications in relation to this report.

6.2 **Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton**

There are no direct implications in relation to this report.

6.3 **A Healthy Halton**

There are no direct implications in relation to this report.

6.4 A Safer Halton

The approved increase in funding for footway structural maintenance will enable both a greater area, and more reconstruction schemes to be completed at an earlier date than would have otherwise been achievable. This will improve pedestrian safety in those areas.

6.5 Halton’s Urban Renewal

The approved increase in funding will result in an improvement in the appearance of the Borough’s public spaces and will improve accessibility within local neighbourhoods.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

There are no specific risks in relation to this report.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

The improved pedestrian safety resulting from the proposed increase in funding will have a positive differential impact on those groups in the community who are disadvantaged due to age or disability.

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

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
BVPI 187 Footway Condition Indicator – graphical output for 2007-07 & 2007-08	Highways Division Rutland House Halton Lea, Runcorn	Dave Cunliffe
2008 Halton Footway Survey	Highways Division Rutland House Halton Lea, Runcorn	Dave Cunliffe
Footway Reconstruction Programmes 2005-06 to 2008-09	Highways Division Rutland House Halton Lea, Runcorn	Ian Munro

REPORT TO: Safer Halton Policy & Performance Board

DATE: 16 June 2009

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director Environment

SUBJECT: Update on Enforcement of the Smoke free Provisions of the Health Act 2006

WARDS: Borough Wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 At the January meeting the board resolved that a report be submitted to a future meeting on the enforcement of the smoking ban.
- 1.2 To inform the Board of enforcement activity undertaken in the Borough since the introduction of the Smoke Free legislation.
- 1.3 To inform the Board of the proposed future funding of continuing Smoke Free enforcement from the Healthy Communities funding within the Primary Care Trust.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

That the requested report be noted

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 Introduction
The smoke free provisions of the Health Act 2006 came into force in England on July 1st 2007. The Government provided funding to Environmental and Regulatory Services of Halton BC of £11,951 in 2006/07 and £58,338 in 2007/08 to ensure compliance.
- 3.2 A smoke free legislation Action Plan was produced in association with the Primary Care Trust and a major publicity campaign was launched in November 2006 including local radio news coverage, press coverage in local media, dissemination of free posters, stickers and information packs for both the public and businesses in the Borough. Free breakfast presentations were made to businesses, *Proud to be Smoke Free* banners were given out to local schools and a series of publicity events all over the Borough were organised in a 100 day countdown.
- 3.3 In June 2007 two smoke free enforcement officers were appointed. The smoke free enforcement officers commenced visits immediately, to all

premises considered to be high risk according to guidance produced by the Government, the Department of Health and LACORS (Local Authority Coordinators of Regulatory Services). Officers visiting businesses in the Environmental Health Department as part of their programmed inspections and response to complaints, also informed about the requirements of the legislation from November 2006.

3.4 By July 1st, as a result of the comprehensive campaign programme and schedule of visits, there was reasonable knowledge of the legislation throughout the Borough. Discussions at breakfast meetings and at licensing forums showed that businesses supported firm and consistent enforcement to ensure that a level playing field was available to all businesses. Enforcement intelligence and strategy was also shared with our neighbouring Merseyside and Cheshire authorities to this end.

3.5 Enforcement

The Health Act and associated legislation create the following main offences:

- Failure to display no-smoking signage
- Smoking in a smoke free place
- Failure to prevent smoking in a smoke free place

Where advice, guidance and written warnings fail to secure compliance the following actions may be taken:

1. **Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN)** may be issued for

- Failure to display no smoking sign
- Smoking in a smoke free workplace

A person may request to be tried for the offence in court instead of paying the fixed penalty.

2. **Prosecution** Where all other enforcement approaches fail to secure compliance legal proceedings may be instigated for:

- Failure to display no smoking signage
- Failure to prevent smoking in a smoke free place
- Intentional obstruction of an authorised officer
- Failure to give an authorised officer facilities, assistance or information.

The decision to prosecute is not taken lightly, but in accordance with the Departmental Enforcement Policy, the Crown Prosecution Services 'Code for Crown Prosecutors' and the Environmental Health Merseyside Enforcement Protocol.

A total of **3,352** visits have been made since June 2006 to a total of **1,650** premises.

829 of these premises are enforced by the Health & Safety Executive, not by Halton BC Environmental Health Department and represent the number of additional visits made by this authority.

658 visits were to public houses and clubs

126 visits were to restaurants and cafes

39 to hotels and guest houses

60 visits to work vehicles

A total number of **207** service requests relating to smoke free were addressed. These may be complaints or requests for advice.

A total of **9 fixed penalty notices** were served: 2 to taxi drivers, 3 to works drivers, 3 to members of the public, 1 to HGV driver.

A total of **5 cases** have been referred to the Magistrates court, 4 to publicans allowing smoking on their premises and one to a wagon driver for both smoking and litter offences.

- 3.6 One of the smoke free enforcement officers left the post in October 2007 for an external post. The remaining officer, was appointed to another post within The Environment and Regulatory Services Department in August 2008. Smoking enforcement is now undertaken in the main by officers within Environmental Health as part of their day to day duties. It is fortunate the former smoke free enforcement officer has been able to work occasionally with officers and with Community Police to maintain our Smoke free enforcement, but the government funding for this work has now been exhausted.
- 3.7 The relatively low number of formal legal action taken over nearly two years since the introduction of the legislation is testament to the effective and comprehensive publicity campaign run before July 1st 2007 and the firm approach taken by officers in the initial six months. The public have also been largely supportive of the legislation and in many cases have been self- policing.
- 3.8 However, officers have reported that in recent months there has been a spate of complaints about premises allowing smoking in e.g. pubs. There is concern that in the current economic climate and possible intelligence about the absence of dedicated smoke free officers working in the Borough, some businesses are seeking to gain advantage.
- 3.9 Smoke Free Halton Programme**
- 3.9.1 *Smoke Free Halton* is a programme that links communities with high levels of health inequalities into key local and government priorities around smoking cessation and tobacco control.

- 3.9.2 Smoking prevalence in England in 2007 (General Household Survey) was 22% for men and 20% for women. For Halton the figure is 25% for men and 27% for women. Smoking prevalence in Halton's Super Output Areas is even higher. Marsh & McKay (1994) demonstrated that the single most effective measure to reduce hardship amongst low income people in the UK would be to free them from their smoking habit.
- 3.9.3 The Smoke Free Halton Programme currently being planned the Primary Care Trust (PCT), recognises the significant role that smoke free enforcement will play in ensuring 100% compliance with smoke free legislation and therefore normalising smoke free lifestyles in the Borough.
- 3.9.4 The smoke free enforcement officer would also lead in a number of smoke free public health projects such as 'Smoke Free Homes' and the establishment of a 'Healthy Workplace Award' in Halton that will encompass other public health issues such as obesity, physical activity & positive mental health.
- 3.9.5 By appointing a smoke free enforcement officer within Environmental Health, we can utilise the experience built up here from 2006 and take advantage of the daily contact officers here have with all businesses in Halton. Some of these relationships have developed over many years with trust & personal guidance to long standing businesses.
- 3.9.6 Funding is now being finalised for an enforcement officer in Halton by the PCT under the Smoke Free Halton Programme.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This will contribute to National Indicator 123: Rate of self reported quitting smoking age 16 years and over per 100,000 increased to 2,400 by 2011 and to the local PCT target of 2,600 adult quit smoking in 2013. In addition enforcement will strengthen the normalising of smoke free lifestyles
- 5.2 There are no additional financial implications as a result of this report

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

None as a result of this report

6.0 RISK ANALYSIS

- 7.1 Any potential negative impact upon the Councils reputation from poor or misdirected enforcement has not materialised.

7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

The enforcement concordat and existing enforcement policies have been subject to an equality impact assessment and if applied correctly and monitored should not have nor are intended to have any differential effects.

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

There are no background papers within the meaning of the Act

REPORT TO: Safer Halton Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 16 June 2009

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director Corporate and Policy

SUBJECT: Mid-term Review of the Sustainable Community Strategy

WARDS: Boroughwide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To provide the Board with an amended version of the Sustainable Community Strategy for comment.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Policy and Performance Board considers the draft mid-term review of the Sustainable Community Strategy and that any observations or comments the Board makes are reported to Executive Board.

3.0 BACKGROUND

Local Authorities are required to prepare and implement a Sustainable Community Strategy. We are expected to work with partners through the Local Strategic Partnership to agree priorities and to engage and involve local communities. The current Sustainable Community Strategy was adopted in 2006. It contains a long-term vision and objectives with delivery targets for the period 2006-2011. Since it was prepared a number of changes have taken place making it necessary to conduct a mid-term review of the Sustainable Community Strategy. This is an update, not a complete revision. Recent perception surveys and the revised State of the Borough Report (2009) confirm that the underlying vision and priorities from 2006 remain relevant. Widespread engagement has therefore not been undertaken for this mid-term review. However, in 2010/11 work will commence on a full review and roll forward of the strategy with wide engagement, linking up with work being done on the Local Development Framework Core Strategy.

The main objectives of this mid-term review were:

- i. To explain what our vision statement means – what will Halton be like in 2025 if we are successful? The statutory guidance on the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007

requires that a Sustainable Community Strategy should include a long-term vision for the area.

- ii. To review the indicators and targets for each priority. Since the current strategy was produced the National Indicator set and LAA targets have been introduced. The aim is to have a single coherent set of indicators and targets in the Sustainable Community Strategy which encompasses both LAA targets and key local targets.
- iii. Incorporate the Housing and Homelessness Strategy (a requirement of the Statutory Guidance referred to above)
- iv. To ensure that appropriate cross-cutting targets are agreed, covering social inclusion, cohesion, equalities and closing the gap.

4.0 WAY FORWARD

The attached draft of the mid-term review has been drawn up following consultation with partners and will be considered by the Halton Strategic Partnership Board on 20 May 2009. Any resulting changes will be reported verbally to the Board. The revised Sustainable Community Strategy has to be adopted by full Council (Local Government Act 2000). Following consultation with the Policy and Performance Boards it is planned to take the final draft to the full Council meeting on 22 July with a recommendation from Executive Board for final adoption.

5.0 CONCLUSION

The opportunities and challenges facing Halton are well-known. The Sustainable Community Strategy sets out the steps we need to take to bring about real improvement and how we will measure progress. The Local Area Agreement is a set of targets agreed with Government which reflects the Community Strategy. The mid-term review is an opportunity to bring these together in a single coherent document.

6.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The Sustainable Community Strategy is the primary policy document for the Council and its partners who have a statutory duty to have regard to it.

7.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

The delivery of the Strategy will require the application of resources by all the partners in Halton, and consideration of impact on priorities is already part of the Council's budget setting process.

8.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

The Community Strategy sets out our priorities for Children and Young People, Employment Learning and Skills, Healthy Halton, Safer Halton and Urban Renewal in Halton.

6.0 RISK ANALYSIS

The key risk to the revision of the Strategy is lack of consensus. This is mitigated by consulting key partners and Policy and Performance Boards.

The risks to delivery of the Strategy are set out in the Partnership Risk Register.

10.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

Addressing inequality is a key theme in the Strategy.

11.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None.

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MAKING IT HAPPEN IN HALTON – A SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY FOR A SUSTAINABLE HALTON

What is a Sustainable Community Strategy?

A key role for local authorities and their partners is to produce a Sustainable Community Strategy for their area. This should aim to enhance the quality of life of local communities through actions to improve the economic, social and environmental well being of the area and its inhabitants. They must also:

- allow local communities to express their aspirations, needs and priorities;
- co-ordinate the actions of the council and of the public, private, voluntary and community organisations that operate locally;
- focus and shape the existing and future activity of those organisations so that they effectively meet community needs; and
- contribute to the achievement of sustainable development both locally and more widely.

They must have four key components:

- a long-term vision for the area focusing on the outcomes that are to be achieved;
- an action plan identifying shorter-term priorities and activities that will contribute to the achievement of long-term outcomes;
- a shared commitment to implementing the action plan, and proposals for doing so;
- arrangements for monitoring the implementation of the action plan, for periodically reviewing the Sustainable Community Strategy, and for reporting progress to local communities.

Sustainable community strategies will reflect local circumstances and needs. They will:

- engage and involve local communities;
- involve active participation of councillors within and outside an Executive Steering Group;
- be prepared and implemented by a broad 'local strategic partnership', through which the local authority can work with other local bodies;
- be based on a proper assessment of needs and the availability of resources.

This Sustainable Community Strategy has been prepared in accordance with these principles. It lies as the centrepiece of a portfolio of documents which help define the task for partners in improving life in Halton. The portfolio includes:

- The State of Halton Audit
- Consulting the Communities of Halton
- Priority Baseline Reports
- A Local Development Framework
- A Community Engagement Strategy
- The joint strategic needs assessment for Health
- The joint strategic needs assessment for Community Safety
- The Halton Economic Review

The Sustainable Community Strategy provides an overarching framework through which the corporate, strategic and operational plans of all the partners can contribute. Of particular note is the newly emerging relationship between the Sustainable Community Strategy and the Local Development Framework. This is the replacement for the Unitary Development Plan, made up of a Core Strategy and individual planning documents for particular areas or issues. It gives a more flexible and responsive approach to planning in Halton.

Importantly, the Local Development Framework takes forward the land use elements of the Sustainable Community Strategy. It takes into account all of the plans and strategies which affect the quality of life in Halton (such as health, housing and education) and impact upon future development. The Sustainable Community Strategy is based on the socio-economic profile of the borough and listening to the views and aspirations of the local community. The Local Development Framework provides a vehicle through which the planning process can enable these to happen.

FOREWORD

The Halton Strategic Partnership brings together key representatives from all the major organisations that are vital to building a better future for Halton. Its role is to agree on a common purpose and a common sense of direction which is set out in this Sustainable Community Strategy. Having done so, it provides a framework through which organisations, groups and individuals can co-operate to achieve our common goals. The Partnership is committed to making life better for everyone who lives, works, invests or visits the borough.

This is a refresh of Halton's second Sustainable Community Strategy and whilst we can take pride in what has been achieved to date, there is still much more to do. This document sets out a vision of the Halton we would like to see emerge by 2025. It sets out the steps we need to take together to bring about real improvements that will change lives for the better. Those steps concentrate on the things that matter most to most people. The Strategy is about focusing on the issues that will make the biggest difference in the long-term.

This Strategy is relatively short. However, it is based on a significant body of research and consultation. This document outlines some key goals, some headline actions, and a scorecard of key performance measures by which we will be judged. It aims to guide the development and implementation of more detailed plans and actions to be undertaken by the Council, the Police, Health Agencies and others. Everyone has a role to play in making it happen in Halton. Working together we can make a difference and build a better future for the borough.

INTRODUCTION

Halton has inherited more than its share of issues over the years, many rooted in the area's industrial past. Making the borough a better place to live and work presents some major challenges and opportunities for us all.

This Sustainable Community Strategy is for all the communities of Halton. It sets out the steps we need to take together to bring about real improvements that will change lives for the better. In particular, we need to achieve real progress on five strategic themes that are set out clearly in this plan:

- A Healthy Halton
- Halton's Urban Renewal
- Children and Young People in Halton
- Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton
- A Safer Halton

These priorities have been derived from what local people feel is important, and from the facts and figures about conditions in Halton. However, the strategy also recognises that Halton is not insular or isolated. Halton is an important component in the development of a thriving and successful Liverpool City Region, and more widely in a dynamic and sustainable North West region. Halton can only succeed as part of a successful and thriving North West. This Sustainable Community Strategy builds upon the wider strategic developments which are taking place in the region. Partners from Halton play a key role in shaping sub-regional and regional plans and arrangements. This connectivity – both strategically and operationally – is an important part of the Halton approach.

Halton's local strategic partnership (LSP) – the Halton Strategic Partnership has developed the Strategy. As partners we have built on existing collaboration and are fully committed to working more effectively together and with the community to help improve the quality of life for people in our borough.

This Strategy outlines key goals for the borough, some of the headline actions to be taken, and measures by which progress can be judged. It guides the development of more detailed plans and actions – to be undertaken by the Council, Health Trusts, the Police, Fire Service, community and voluntary sector, and others – whose actions are the important step that makes a difference to people on the ground. We all have a part to play in making it happen.

ABOUT THE HALTON STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP BOARD

The Halton Strategic Partnership Board brings together representatives from all sectors in the borough. It is the strategic level Board and a key part of the broad-based Halton Partnership. It serves the function of a 'local strategic partnership' (LSP) for the area. Local Strategic Partnerships are promoted by the Government and designed to help ensure that action taken at local level by a whole range of groups and organisations is properly 'joined up' and meets the needs of local communities.

The Halton Strategic Partnership Board, and this Sustainable Community Strategy, provides a common sense of direction for the community and an overarching framework within which different partnerships, organisations and groups can co-operate together, committed to common goals and dedicated to improving life for people in the Borough.

Members of the Halton Strategic Partnership Board

Halton Borough Council
Cheshire Police
Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service
Halton & St Helens Primary Care Trust
Greater Merseyside Learning and Skills Council
Halton Housing Partnership
Halton Sports Partnership
Riverside College Halton
Halton Voluntary Action/Community Empowerment Network
Jobcentre Plus
North West Development Agency
Faith Community
Greater Merseyside Connexions Service
Halton Association of Secondary Heads
Halton Chamber of Commerce and Enterprise
Government Office North West

PLANNING A BETTER FUTURE FOR HALTON

This Sustainable Community Strategy is about what is most important for Halton and about working together to improve the quality of life for all who live and work in the borough. It sets out key priorities and shows the direction we need to progress in together, and gives us challenging improvement targets to work towards. It provides an overall guide and framework for the activities of partners and other organisations in Halton. It will guide the development of more specific plans and projects working across Halton.

To make real progress we will need to pool ideas and resources, and work even more closely and effectively together. Working in partnership and concentrating on what matters most will make the difference in planning a better future for Halton. This includes:

- knowing where we are heading, focusing on the priorities and agreeing clear objectives
- working productively together, sharing understanding of the borough's problems and their root causes, and joining up and co-ordinating our efforts to tackle them
- championing Halton's cause in the wider world, lobbying at regional and national levels, and working with wider UK and European partners for mutual benefit
- learning from experience, finding out and putting into practice what works best
- checking on our achievements, monitoring progress and keeping on track

The process to develop this Strategy was important. It was vital that the process was inclusive. Many people and groups were involved so we could build a clear picture on what was important and how we should go forward. Some of the key steps included:

- A review of our achievements since the first Sustainable Community Strategy was launched in 2002, and an honest assessment of how well partnership arrangements have worked
- Commissioning new State of Halton reports to look objectively at statistical conditions and changes and trends in social, economic and environmental conditions
- A major telephone survey of residents was carried out to seek their views on what life is like in Halton
- A review of regional and national strategies, and those of partners, was carried out to assess the likely impact of this activity in Halton

- An inclusive process of debate and discussion on the way forward took place with members, officers, officials and volunteers of all the organisations involved with the partnership
- A thematic assessment of the challenges facing the borough, and a thorough review of outcomes, outputs and targets was carried out. These helped to demonstrate how the strategy and partnership working could make a difference in the future.

This process of engagement with people and partners was vital. It is only if there is a shared view of the challenges that Halton faces, and a broad sense of ownership of the resulting strategy, that there will be any chance of its ambitions being realised.

WHAT IS HALTON LIKE?

Halton is a largely urban area of 119,500 people. Its two biggest settlements are Widnes and Runcorn that face each other across the River Mersey, 10 miles upstream from Liverpool.

Since 2001 the population of Halton has increased steadily to its current estimate of 119,500 (2007) and is projected to continue to increase to 124,200 in 2016. Following national and regional trends, Halton has an ageing population, which is increasingly making up the majority of residents in the borough.

As a result of its industrial legacy, particularly from the chemical industries, Halton has inherited a number of physical, environmental and social problems. We have been working to resolve these issues ever since the borough was formed in 1974. Gaining unitary status in 1998 has helped to bring together more wide reaching activities and has increased the resources that the Council and its strategic partners, have been able to invest in Halton.

Halton shares many of the social and economic problems more associated with its urban neighbours on Merseyside. The Index of Multiple Deprivation for 2007 is one of the most comprehensive sources of deprivation indicators, as some 37 different indicators are used. It shows for example that overall, Halton is ranked 30th nationally (a ranking of 1 indicates that an area is the most deprived), which is third highest on Merseyside, behind Knowsley and Liverpool, and 10th highest in the North West, although this is an improvement on being fifth highest in 2004). Other authorities, St Helens (47th), Wirral (60th) and Sefton (83rd), are all way down the table compared to Halton.

The Index of Multiple Deprivation for 2007 suggests that deprivation has improved in the borough, since ranking 21st in 2004 there has been a decrease in 2007 to the 30th most deprived Authority in England. The proportion of Halton's population in the top category (i.e. the top 20% of super output areas) has also decreased from 50% in 2004 to 47 % in 2007. However, there is still room for improvement. Halton's concentration of deprivation has improved from 20th worst in England in 2004 to 27th in 2007. Concentration is a key way of identifying hot spots of deprivation within an area. Of England's 975 'Super Output Areas', which form the top 3% most deprived areas within England, eight are situated in Halton. The most deprived neighbourhood in Halton is ranked 306th out of 32,482 and is situated in Central Runcorn. Much has been done but clearly there is still much to do. Highlights of the key successes and challenges to date are:

- Claimant unemployment in the borough had fallen from 5.0% in January 2000 to 3% in December 2007, but this was still the 3rd highest claimant count rate in the North West. Due to the current economic climate, recent trends in unemployment have shown a sharp rise over the past twelve months, up to 4.8% in December 2008 and 5.9% in March 2009. The claimant count rate only includes those

people who are eligible for Jobseekers allowance and therefore underestimates the true number of people who are unemployed. The Annual population Survey for July 2007-June 2008 estimates that the unemployment rate in Halton was 6.8% compared to an England average of 5.4%, at a time when claimant unemployment averaged 3.1%.

- The employment rate, i.e. the proportion of the potential workforce actually working at 70.4% in the 2007-2008 Annual Population Survey shows that Halton is in the bottom 12 of 43 Local Authority districts in the North West. The borough rate is also significantly lower than the England average of 74.5%.
- Life expectancy in the borough has improved in the past decade. Between 2001-2003 and 2004-2006 female life expectancy in the borough increased from 78.2 years to 78.4 years. Life expectancy at birth for men in Halton also increased over the same time period from 73.9 in 2001-2003 to 74.3 in 2004-2006. This increase in life expectancy in Halton has kept pace with other Authorities. Between 2001 and 2006 Halton has risen from a rank of 374 for females to 370 out of 376 authorities with 376 being the lowest rank. For men the ranking has risen from 371 to 356. Standardised Mortality Rates for all causes, all ages, ranks Halton 2nd highest (i.e. worse) out of 354 English Local Authorities for 2006. At 127 it is 27% above the national average.
- GCSE passes in the borough are improving, between 1997-2008 the percentage of pupils achieving 5+ A*- C increased by 38.3 percentage points to 71.1%. This is now greater than the national rate of 65.3%. Pupils gaining no GCSE passes (or equivalent) was 2% in 2008 compared to 1.4% nationally. Skills among the workforce remain low, with 20% of working age people lacking any qualifications in 2007.

OUR VISION FOR HALTON

Halton will be a thriving and vibrant borough where people can learn and develop their skills, enjoy a good quality of life with good health; a high quality, modern urban environment; the opportunity for all to fulfil their potential; greater wealth and equality; sustained by a thriving business community; and within safer, stronger and more attractive neighbourhoods.

How Halton will look in 2025 depends on a variety of factors, both local and national. True, the Halton Strategic Partnership will be able to influence the outcome through how successful its joint working on cross cutting issues has been, but the over riding influence will be the state of the national economy at the time and how quickly Halton will have been able to leave the effects of the current recession behind. Recessions traditionally last 12 –18 months on average, but their effects on the economy, employment levels and wealth can take 3 – 4 years to recover their pre-recession position.

Physically, the main change in this period will be the completion of the second Mersey crossing upstream from the existing road bridge. This will help relieve the Borough's road network of the regional traffic currently using and congesting the existing bridge at peak times. The new bridge will help open up sites in the south Widnes/north Runcorn corridor for employment development that could create many hundreds of new jobs taking advantage of the improved traffic flows. 3MG will also be able to capitalise on this extra capacity to establish itself as one of the most computerised transport interchanges in the UK.

However the Borough's success in 2025 will not just be dependent on new physical facilities (not understating their importance) but also on the social, community and environmental characteristics of the time. Halton Strategic Partnership enthusiastically embraces the Government's agenda on such issues as:

- Social inclusion and community cohesion
- Closing the gap between the most deprived parts of the Borough and the most affluent.
- Equality and diversity among the population
- Sustainability
- Climate change
- Improving the health of local residents
- Improving life skills and opportunities for Halton residents

Closing the gap between the poorer and richer parts of the Borough embraces many of these issues because the spatial pattern is repeated. The worst health, the lower employment levels and lower skill levels are concentrated in the more deprived areas. Initiatives such as Neighbourhood Management with the backing of the Halton Strategic Partnership are very important in tackling these issues.

Paradoxically the gap appears to widen in times of economic growth because at such times all areas improve but the more affluent areas tend to improve more, thereby widening the gap. However when times are harder, for example in the recession, then the gap is less pronounced. This emphasises the importance of intervention as market forces cannot be relied on to narrow the gap.

A Healthy Halton

Of the five priorities, poor health continues to be the one that affects most people, with 33% of Halton's population placed in the worst 4% for health deprivation in England. The cancer rates and life expectancy figures, particularly for women, are among the worst in the country.

To overcome this we envisage a focused effort by all the partners that will improve Halton's overall position by concentrating on the areas with the worst health outcomes. The target will be to reduce early deaths.

Halton's Urban Renewal

Modern day Halton has inherited an exceptional legacy of obsolete and poor quality land, buildings and physical infrastructure that undermines the development potential and attractiveness of the area. Putting this right is a key to greater prosperity and boosting the image of the borough.

To achieve our vision we will

- Work with partners and the local community to support The Mersey Gateway scheme to fully realise its benefits. This will be a major focus over the coming years
- Provide affordable housing for sale and rent for those who need it most.
- Upgrade and fully utilise the borough's rail, road, commercial waterways and power infrastructure in order to maximise the potential for economic development.

Children and Young People in Halton

For children and young people, three specific ambitions have been set, which better define what we are trying to achieve for children and young people.

These are that:

- Every Young Person is successful when they leave school
- Children and young people will do well whatever their needs and wherever they live
- Children and young people are physically, emotionally and sexually healthy.

Work will continue on specific responsibilities or issues, which affect specific groups of children or young people. These chosen ambitions are relevant to all children and encapsulate some of the specific difficulties experienced by particular cohorts of children and young people. Each ambition is a condition of well being for all children and young people that no one single agency can

achieve on its own. Rather a coherent partnership approach is vital if we are to succeed in making the necessary difference to each of these outcomes.

Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton - Our long-term vision

Historically, high economic inactivity rates across the borough, with particular pockets of high deprivation and social exclusion, have been endemic in the local economy. Progress has been made in recent years but the current economic downturn has meant rising levels of unemployment and inactivity with worklessness rates currently standing at 17.8% in Halton, with some wards experiencing levels as high as 30.6% against a national average of 11.7%.

Our vision is the creation of a strong economy able to compete in the challenging global market. This can only be achieved by targeted investment in skills, a vibrant employment market and creating a strong culture of entrepreneurship. Our target will be to ensure that no area of Halton has unemployment at more than 20% above the borough average and to reduce the number of adults of working age claiming out of work benefits in the worst performing neighbourhoods.

A Safer Halton - Our long-term vision

We want to make Halton a great place to live with an attractive quality of life and excellent local environment. However, this is very much dependent on reducing current levels of crime, tackling anti-social behaviour and improving the local environment in our neighbourhoods. Halton has seen a 16% reduction in total recorded crime from 2005 and 2008. In the same time period vehicle crime has reduced by 29% and criminal damage by 34%. The Safer Halton Partnership - with its focus on action at the neighbourhood level - has contributed to these welcome reductions. However, this remains a pressing problem for most people in Halton, and fear of crime remains at unacceptable levels and impacts upon too many lives.

Taking the successes to date and working to improve on them, the Safer Halton Partnership aims to increase the confidence of communities in their neighbourhoods through coordinated enforcement and communication. Safeguarding adults is a key issue for the partnership, therefore policy and performance is scrutinised by the Safer Halton Partnership Board at every meeting. And whilst further guidance on the National review of 'No Secrets' is still awaited, work on the views of service users and carers, training and protecting adults will continue. Improving local conditions and encouraging people to get involved to help shape what happens in their local area is key to the partnership. With the continued provision of Area Forums, Police Community Action Meetings (CAMs), Community Watch Schemes and 'Face the People' Sessions, the Safer Halton Partnership offers opportunities for local people to have their say and help make a difference.

WHAT IS THE FOCUS?

Taking action is one thing, but unless it is focused on the right things it is unlikely to yield the right results. This is why the Partnership invested a good deal of time and resources sounding out public opinion and gathering the facts and figures needed to identify the overall priorities for the borough.

Between 2000 and 2009, five separate State of Halton reports have been researched and published, highlighting a range of challenges and opportunities facing Halton. Their findings have been checked and challenged by the Partnership and tested against public opinion. This led to the identification of a number of priorities for the borough over the medium term which, in combination, addresses the overall aim of making it a better place to live and work. These include:

- Improving Health
- Improving the skills base in the borough
- Improving educational attainment across the borough
- Creating employment opportunities for all
- Tackling worklessness
- Tackling the low wage economy
- Improving environmental assets and how the borough looks
- Creating prosperity and equality of opportunity
- Reducing crime and anti-social behaviour
- Improving amenities for all age groups
- Furthering economic and urban regeneration
- Tackling contaminated land
- Creating opportunities/facilities/amenities for children and young people
- Supporting an ageing population
- Minimising waste/increasing recycling/bringing efficiencies in waste disposal
- Increasing focus on community engagement
- Running services efficiently

The key challenge is how best to frame the response to these through the Sustainable Community Strategy. To do this challenges have been grouped into five key themes as set out in the vision, which are:

- A Healthy Halton
- Halton's Urban Renewal
- Children and Young People in Halton
- Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton
- A Safer Halton

Each of these thematic areas has been examined more closely in a series of Baseline Reports, which identify in detail the issues where we need to concentrate our improvement efforts. The Partnership intends to focus heavily on these key issues and to focus its future investment into achieving the challenging targets in each chosen theme.

To help do this, five Specialist Strategic Partnerships (SSPs) have been established. Their task is to design and deliver strategies and action plans to address priorities. Their plans are based on the information from the Baseline Reports and on the expertise of the Partnership members. Each of the five major themes is addressed in turn in the next part of this Strategy.

The Partnership also works to improve the quality of life at a neighbourhood level. It does this by working through the seven geographical Area Forums established by the Council and supported by the partners. Each Area Forum has dedicated resources to draw on to help deliver improvements in their area and expenditure proposals are expected to support one or more of the five priorities.

Halton is enthusiastic about extending neighbourhood management as a means to engage and empower local communities. This will address problems in deprived neighbourhoods by managing and co-ordinating resources and services to achieve a greater combined impact. A sound neighbourhood approach will lay the foundations for delivery of improvements to liveability and public services, transforming neighbourhoods and empowering local people. Halton already has many front line services organised on a neighbourhood basis. Community Support Officers, policing, community development workers, housing management, street-scene teams and youth workers are organised on an area basis. Children's Centres will also co-ordinate service delivery at a local level. A neighbourhood focus will provide management and co-ordination mechanisms for joining these, and other services such as health and social care up on a local basis. This Sustainable Community Strategy provides a framework through which these arrangements can be brokered.

A Healthy Halton

Our overall aim: To create a healthier community and work to promote well being and a positive experience of life with good health, not simply an absence of disease, and offer opportunities for people to take responsibility for their health with the necessary support available.

Why Health?

Statistics show that health standards in Halton are amongst the worst in the country. Because of this health has been singled out as a priority in most urgent need of improvement across the borough. As previously discussed the population in Halton is ageing which could put even greater demands on health and social care services. At the same time lifestyle choices in the borough especially amongst the young, in terms of diet, smoking, alcohol, exercise and other factors continue to give cause for concern for the future.

Key Objectives

- A. To understand fully the causes of ill health in Halton and act together to improve the overall health and well-being of local people.
- B. To lay firm foundations for a healthy start in life and support those most in need in the community by increasing community engagement in health issues and promoting autonomy.
- C. To reduce the burden of disease and preventable causes of death in Halton by reducing smoking levels, alcohol consumption and by increasing physical activity, improving diet and the early detection and treatment of disease.
- D. To respond to the needs of an ageing population by addressing the needs of older people, improving their quality of life and thus enabling them to lead longer, active and more fulfilled lives.
- E. To remove the barriers that disable people and contribute to poor health by working across partnerships to address the wider determinants of health such as unemployment, education and skills, housing, crime and environment.

Background

The recent State of the Borough Report identifies Halton as one of the most deprived districts in England. In terms of health deprivation the borough currently ranks 371st out of 408 districts in the country. The Index of Multiple Deprivation identifies 53 'Super Output Areas' in Halton that fall within the top 20% of most health deprived wards nationally and that approximately 40,000 people (33% of the population) live in the top 4% most health deprived wards in England.

When compared with other areas in England, Halton is within the worst 10% of areas for life expectancy. In particular female life expectancy is the third

worst in England (78.4). Male life expectancy (74.3) is also 3 years less than the national average.

The two biggest killers in Halton are heart disease and cancer. Heart disease is still the single biggest cause of premature death in Halton, and more people have it in this borough than they do in other boroughs across the country. For those under 75, men are more likely to have heart disease than women.

In terms of cancer, Halton has the worst early death rate in the country (167.8 per 100,000 population). Lung cancer remains the leading cause of cancer death in Halton. There has also been a steady increase in the number of women developing breast cancer and death rates from the disease have increased recently. Breast cancer is the second largest cause of cancer death in Halton.

Some of the reasons why Halton residents suffer disproportionately high death rates from major causes of death include poor diet, high smoking rates and inadequate levels of physical activity.

In recent years, the burden of ill health caused by alcohol consumption has also increased significantly. Recent statistics show that approximately 24% of adult residents in Halton binge drink. Whilst twice as many men as women drink above safe limits the number of women doing so has increased significantly from 6.9% in 2001 to 12.4% in 2006.

The latest Alcohol Profiles for England show that Halton is amongst some of the worst districts in the country in terms of months of life lost due to alcohol, alcohol specific and attributable mortality and hospital admissions due to alcohol.

In 2003 the Halton Health Partnership appointed a team of consultants from Lancaster University to examine the reasons for Halton's poor health record. Whilst there was much speculation around the role of Halton's industrial legacy and existing levels of pollution, the study revealed that economic, social and lifestyle factors were largely responsible for the high rates of illness and death.

When taking these factors into consideration, it becomes easier to understand why some communities suffer disproportionately from poorer health than others. Therefore, we would expect to set specific neighbourhood targets where appropriate.

During 2008 Halton & St. Helens Primary Care Trust produced two key documents, 'Ambition for Health' and the 'Commissioning Strategic Plan'.

Ambition for Health is a key document for Halton & St. Helens Primary Care Trust in terms of improving the health of the local population. The document sets out key "ambitions" that are based on understanding of the needs of the local population. These are as follows:

- To support a healthy start in life
- To reduce poor health that results from preventable causes
- To ensure that when people do fall ill from some of the major diseases, they get the best care and support
- To provide services which meet the needs of vulnerable people
- To make sure people have excellent access to services and facilities
- To play our part in strengthening disadvantaged communities

Following on from this Halton & St. Helens Primary Care Trust then produced the Commissioning Strategic Plan. This document turns the Ambition for Health goals into action by delivering transformational change in a number of key areas that support the strategic priorities.

The six priority areas identified in the Commissioning Strategic Plan are:

- Alcohol
- Obesity
- Early detection: Diabetes, respiratory, heart disease, cancer
- Early Detection: Depression
- Prevention: Tobacco Control
- Safety, Equality and Efficiency: Planned and Urgent Care

In addition to this, addressing the wider determinants of ill health is a key issue for Halton if it is to effectively respond to national and local targets. This will mean working across partnerships to achieve our goals. The list below highlights some of the areas where further joint working is required:

- Taking steps to reduce unemployment in areas with poor health statistics
- Improving educational attainment and increasing access to training opportunities for those living in deprived areas
- Improving the quality and provision of social housing
- Improving access to services such as social and leisure facilities, supermarkets, health services and transport.
- Understanding how knowledge and perceptions of health related issues can affect the local population
- Reducing social isolation
- Reducing crime and improving community safety
- Maximising community resources and facilitating effective community engagement and participation

Individuals also have a role to play in improving their own health and well being. Lifestyle factors such as a poor diet, smoking, and lack of exercise can all have a negative impact on an individual's health. Actions and services aimed at increasing participation in sport and leisure activities and promoting a healthy diet and lifestyle can contribute towards improving the health of local people. However, whilst agencies can work together to improve access, affordability, and quality of services, it is also important to encourage local residents to play an active role in improving their own health.

Well being is about more than health. It is about the ability to enjoy a range of activities that actually make life worth living. This is about having access and the ability to enjoy culture in all its forms - sport, arts, libraries, leisure, entertainment, hobbies, friends and family, and shopping. We aim to enhance these opportunities for people. Happy people are more likely to be healthy people and vice versa.

We therefore also need to address all of the determinants of mental health and well-being for different population groups. Children and young peoples emotional and mental well-being is addressed within Children's Trust structures.

Linkages to other priorities

Halton's Urban Renewal

A high quality built environment is an important contributory factor in determining the health and well-being of local people. Good quality, accessible buildings, served by a good quality transport infrastructure create a more vibrant community where people are proud to live and work. In turn this contributes to the health and well-being of local residents.

Children and Young People in Halton

Improving the health and well-being of children and young people is a key priority. Being healthy as a child can have an influence on long term health outcomes. The Healthy Halton Specialist Strategic Partnership works closely with the Children and Young Peoples partnership to address issues such as childhood obesity and teenage pregnancy. In addition low educational attainment is one of the key determinants of poor health outcomes and leads to many health inequalities within neighbourhoods.

Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

Improving access to employment opportunities is a key determinant in improving the health of the local population. Being in employment increases choice and opportunity and enhances quality of life. Areas of high unemployment are shown to have higher levels of poor health therefore anything we can do to increase wealth creating factors within those communities will automatically improve health outcomes. Linked to this is the need to increase access to learning opportunities and offering people the chance to improve their skills thereby improving their chance of gaining employment.

A Safer Halton

Personal experience of crime and anti-social behaviour can have a significant impact on our health and well-being. Tackling crime is high on the public agenda and a key priority for neighbourhoods. One of the key areas for both the Health Partnership and the Safer Halton Partnership is the current issues surrounding alcohol harm. Both partnerships are working together to address these issues.

Improvement Targets

Halton Local Area Agreement Indicators relating to Health

By 2011 we aim to:

- Increase adult participation in sport from 20.13% (2006 baseline) to 24.02%: Sport: NI 8.
- Slow the rate of increase in alcohol-harm related hospital admissions from 2180 in 2007/08 to 2323 in 2009/10 and 2309 by 2010/11: Alcohol related hospital admissions: NI 39.
- Increase the number of drug users in effective treatment from 513 (2007/08 baseline) to 544: Drug Treatment: NI 40.
- Increase the prevalence of breastfeeding at 6-8 weeks from birth from 12.1% (Quarter 2 2008) to 23%: Breastfeeding: NI 53.
- Reduce obesity in primary school age children from 22.4% to 21.3%: Obesity NI: 56.
- Reduce the conception rate in girls under 18 by 55%, compared to 1998: Conception: NI 112.
- Reduce the number of young people misusing substances from 12.6% in 2008 to 9.8% in 2011: Substance Misuses: NI 115
- Reduce all age all cause mortality for Males from 906 per 100,000 population (2007/08 baseline) to 755: Life expectancy: NI 120.
- Reduce all age all cause mortality for females from 673 (2007/08 baseline) to 574 by 2010/2011: Life expectancy: NI 120.
- Increase the number of people age 16+ who have stopped smoking from 914 per 100,000 population (2007/08 baseline) to 1128: Lifestyle: NI 123.
- Improve the number of people over 65 who say that they receive the information, assistance and support needed to exercise choice and control to live independently from 30.4% (2008 base) to 32.8%: Independent living: NI 139
- Improve the number. of vulnerable people supported to maintain independent living from a Baseline in 2007/08 of 98.17%, to a target of 99.04% in 2011: NI 142
- No. of adults in contact with secondary mental health services in employment – target to be set by March 2010.: Mental Health: NI150

Local targets

- Reduce the death rate in under 75s from circulatory disease by 57% from 1995-97 baseline in 2009-2011
- Reduce the death rate from Cancer (in under 75s) by 25% in 2009-11 from 1995-97 baseline
- Increase the number of people with a long term condition supported to be independent and in control of their condition from 43% (07/08 baseline) to 49% (2010/2011): Managing long term conditions: NI 124

Halton's Urban Renewal

Our Overall aim: To transform the urban fabric and infrastructure, to develop exciting places and spaces and to create a vibrant and accessible borough that makes Halton a place where people are proud to live and see a promising future for themselves and their families.

Why Urban Renewal?

Modern day Halton has inherited an exceptional legacy of obsolete and poor quality land, buildings and physical infrastructure that undermines the development potential and attractiveness of the area. Putting this right is a key to greater prosperity and boosting the image of the borough. This is why Urban Renewal is Halton Borough Council's second most important priority.

Key Objectives

- A. To create and sustain a twenty first century business environment with the required variety and quality of sites, premises and infrastructure that can support high levels of investment and economic growth and increase Halton's competitiveness;
- B. To promote regional employment sites at 3MG, Daresbury and the Widnes Waterfront;
- C. To secure the commencement of the construction of the Mersey Gateway bridge;
- D. To revitalise the town centres; to create dynamic, well-designed high quality commercial areas that can continue to meet the needs of local people, investors, businesses and visitors;
- E. To support and sustain thriving neighbourhoods and open spaces that meet people's expectations and add to their enjoyment of life;
- F. To ensure Halton designs in and maintains high levels of accessibility to places and spaces, so that opportunity and need are matched, and provide excellent connectivity to the wider world through transport and ICT links;
- G. To enhance, promote and celebrate the quality of the built and natural environment in Halton including tackling the legacy of contamination and dereliction, to further improve the borough's image.

Background

Halton helped maintain the momentum of the industrial revolution in the 19th Century and was a cradle to both invention and innovation. Reflecting this industrial and manufacturing history, Halton has a legacy of ageing infrastructure, obsolete and redundant buildings, a relatively poor built and

natural environment, an overly mature housing stock and an under-provision of modern amenities to support a far more discerning population.

Much has already been achieved to green the environment, both within the town centres and at our gateway approaches. Town centres have experienced new private sector investment, whilst small businesses have taken advantage of grant assistance to rejuvenate tired, rundown or unproductive premises. Award-winning leisure facilities have been provided around the borough and new housing and jobs are being provided because of the confidence in Halton's future.

The business environment is expanding thanks to developments on the Widnes Waterfront, 3MG, Daresbury, The Heath and the key infrastructure development of the Mersey Gateway river crossing:

- The Widnes Waterfront is located in South Widnes, fronting onto the River Mersey. The programme aims to regenerate 80 ha., of low quality industrial land, supported by a cocktail of funding opportunities. Work includes commercial, retail and leisure developments, together with environment, infrastructure and public realm enhancements - all of which will have been completed by 2015. This programme has been identified as a North West Strategic Site and supports the borough's Employment, Learning & Skills priority amongst others;
- 3MG (Mersey Multi-modal Gateway) in Ditton is quickly becoming a regionally and nationally significant intermodal freight park which anticipates an approximate total investment of £100m. This major scheme will create up to 5,000 new jobs and 3 million sq.ft of rail-related distribution facilities by 2015. In addition, the Stobart Group have acquired the Mersey Gateway Port at Weston in Runcorn, which will offer an integrated transport and logistics facility;
- The Mersey Gateway project will provide a landmark new bridge over the River Mersey between Runcorn and Widnes. It will transform the borough of Halton, improve the lives of local people and create new opportunities for business and investment in Halton, Cheshire, the Liverpool city-region, the north west and beyond. The new bridge will cross the river 1.5km east of the Silver Jubilee Bridge (SJB), be a tolled crossing, have three lanes in each direction and be linked to the major road systems in the area, keeping traffic moving and raising the profile of the borough. The Mersey Gateway bridge is due to open to the public in 2014 and will overcome one of the biggest congestion problems in the region. Modifications will be made to the existing SJB to improve facilities for local public transport, walking and cycling;
- The Mersey Gateway Regeneration Strategy will support and promote significant developments in both Runcorn and Widnes Town Centres, continuing regeneration programmes such as the Canal Quarter (Runcorn), Ashley Retail Park and Windmill Centre (Widnes), which are under way in both towns;

- The Daresbury Science & Innovation Centre is a state-of-the-art facility offering high quality office, workshop and laboratory space. The Innovation Centre aims to bring together science and technology-based businesses into an innovative scientific environment. The building provides facilities and specialist support critical to young businesses whether at the creation, growth or acceleration stages of their development.

Exciting new expansion developments are also anticipated at The Heath Business Park and the Halton Lea and Widnes retail areas.

Halton together with our partners in St.Helens and Warrington has been awarded Growth Point Status. This will help foster increasing partnership working across traditional boundaries, better integrating the provision of new housing and employment opportunities across the sub-region whilst promoting sustainable development and the timely provision of supporting infrastructure (including Green Infrastructure).

Two large sites for private sector-residential developments in the borough over the past decade have been at Upton Rocks, Widnes and Sandymoor, Runcorn. The focus of these developments has been a concentration on the executive end of the housing market, in order to encourage managerial and professional socio-economic groups to move to the borough. However, land remediation has cleared the way for housing development at Halebank and plans are being progressed to develop residential accommodation at the Canal Quarter in Runcorn, where leisure and retail facilities will also be delivered along the banks of the Bridgewater Canal. In addition, a £130 million major sustainable regeneration programme is taking place in Castlefields, where high quality mixed-tenure housing is replacing grim deck access flats. The existing local centre will be demolished and redeveloped to create a new community hub centred around a Village Square, offering shops, residential accommodation and health and community facilities – all amidst many and varied environmental and leisure enhancements, including the very successful Phoenix Park. Further housing renewal opportunities have been identified including areas of Runcorn New Town and West Bank, Widnes.

The creation and maintenance of high quality places and spaces that support a twenty- first century economy and lifestyles which are accessible and well connected, is a pre-requisite of Halton's Sustainable Community Strategy and its Urban Renewal Strategy. Much of this is dependent upon the borough's extensive expertise for land reclamation, which has been developed out of need to address and overcome the borough's legacy of contamination from the chemicals industry. This is detailed in the Borough's Contaminated Land Remediation Strategy.

Land is being reclaimed at the rate of approximately 10 hectares per annum. Much of this reclamation is located on the historical chemical sites adjacent to and part of the Widnes Waterfront. For example, Moss Bank Park and further additions to the Trans Pennine trail have been completed adding valuable

amenity space within a modern industrial environment. Development of new 'Alternative Technologies' by Halton, to make safe the severe contamination on these sites, will provide the economic solution to bring forward significant industrial and intermodal developments in the borough, e.g. as in the Widnes Waterfront and the 3MG Intermodal Logistics Park.

Environmental improvements and better quality open spaces, in addition to a better quality built environment and transport offer, are vital as steps to promote Halton's assets. A positive image is a key requirement if we are to boost the confidence and aspirations of local people and business.

Linkages to Other Priorities

A Healthy Halton

Providing a better, cleaner and greener built environment where employment and leisure opportunities are fostered and resident prosperity overcomes health issues associated with deprivation. Improved access to hospitals.

Children and Young People in Halton

Creating an environment that provides the basis in which our children are able to flourish

Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

Developing employment opportunities for all in a thriving business environment where skills meet business needs. Improved access to further education facilities

A Safer Halton

Instilling pride in our local community where residents feel safe and cherish their neighbourhoods, wishing to help eradicate violence and unsocial elements

Improvement Targets

Halton LAA Indicators relating to Urban Renewal

By 2011 we aim to:

- Assist in raising residents' overall satisfaction with the area from 70% in 2008 to 73.4% in 2010 (baseline and target provisional pending publication of final places survey data): Residents' Satisfaction: NI 5.
- Reduce per capita CO2 emissions within the local authority area, from 10.1 tonnes per capita in 2007/08, (based on Defra 2005 data) to 8.98 tonnes per capita, by 2010/11 (based on Defra 2008 data): Climate Change: NI 186.
- Ensure 34% of municipal waste is recycled or composted by the local authority by 2010/11 compared to 25.1% in 2007/08: Waste: NI 192.

- Build additional homes within Halton at an annual rate of 518 between 2008/2009 and 2010/2011: Housing: NI 154.
- Improve access to services and facilities by public transport, walking and cycling. Targets set for access to Whiston and Warrington Hospitals (100%) and Runcorn and Widnes comprises of Riverside College (89% and 93% respectively): Transport: NI 175.

Local Indicators

- ***Assist in achieving an increase in the numbers of jobs in Halton by?????***
- To bring 10 hectares of derelict land back into beneficial use annually.
- Facilitate the relocation of businesses affected by the construction of the Mersey Gateway Bridge.

Children and Young People in Halton

Our Overall Aim: Halton's ambition is to build stronger, safer communities which are able to support the development and learning of children and young people so they grow up feeling safe, secure, happy and healthy, and are ready to be Halton's present and Halton's future

Why Children and Young People?

Children and young people are the future of Halton. In time they will become the adults that take responsibility for all aspects of life in the borough. Therefore, it is self-evident that we should invest in Halton's future by investing in them. This will make sure they have the best possible start in life, have places to go and things to do that are positive and life enhancing, and the opportunity to fulfil their potential and succeed.

Key Objectives

Halton's Children's Trust has identified three entrenched areas, where a strong partnership approach is needed to improve outcomes for children and young people. These will form the foundation for the new Children and Young People's Plan 2009-12. These areas under which the key outcomes can be clustered, are:

- A. Children and young people do well wherever they live and whatever their needs
- B. Children and young people are physically, emotionally and sexually healthy
- C. Young people are successful when they leave school

Background

Development in early childhood, success while at school through educational and other achievement, and the acquisition of important, employable skills, are key determinants of individuals' life and employment chances. They have a major effect on people's ability to access employment, the income they earn, their aspirations, behaviour, health and longevity, and on the range of positive choices they are able to make in life.

The Government policy, Every Child Matters: Change for Children, describes a vision of improving outcomes for all children and young people and narrowing the gap between those who do well and those who do not. In Halton, as elsewhere, this requires radical change in the whole system of children's services including:

- The improvement and integration of front line services - in early years settings, schools, the health service and play and recreation - and to raise standards of achievement for all learners

- More specialised help to promote opportunity, prevent problems and act early and effectively if and when problems arise
- The further development of services around children, young people and families through the delivery of better and more easily accessible services may involve co-location through, for example, extended schools, children's centres, and the bringing together of professionals in multi-disciplinary teams
- Dedicated and enterprising leadership striving for the highest standards at all levels of the system
- The development of a shared sense of responsibility across agencies for safeguarding children and protecting them from harm
- Listening to children, young people and their families when assessing and planning service provision, as well as in face-to-face delivery

To bring about improvement in the life chances and employment prospects for children and young people in Halton, we need to remove socio-economic barriers to early development, and deliver the Every Child Matters agenda through the Children's Trust, and through better joint commissioning and integrated delivery of services through the widely agreed Children's and Young People's Plan.

The key agencies that have an impact on children and young people need to build on existing cooperation. Firstly we need to develop policies based on evidence of what works most effectively that are focused on delivering the outcomes highlighted above. Then we must create a model of what measures and services to enhance life chances and employment need to be like to make the most positive impact in Halton. Finally, we should devise an action plan to make any changes needed to shift from the measures and services that exist now, to what they need to be in the future.

Linkages to other Priorities

A Healthy Halton

Children's health is a key priority mainly because being healthy is the best basis from which children can go on and develop throughout their lives. Education is a key influence on health and affects health-related behaviour such as smoking, drinking, drugs and exercise. To tackle the issues such as obesity and teenage pregnancy in Halton, Children and Young People work closely with the Health Partnership to ensure there is a joined up approach.

Halton's Urban Renewal

Investment in Halton's urban fabric and infrastructure will help to make Halton a place where our children and young people will want to live as adults. Also the provision of access to quality transportation links for education and leisure opportunities is a key priority.

Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

Increasing the number of young people in education, employment and training will involve close working with partners from Employment, Learning & Skills. Employment opportunities and training offers a number of key options to our young people post-16 as they look for the best pathway going forward.

A Safer Halton

The provision of pleasant, safe and secure neighbourhoods will provide children and young people with a safe environment in which to play, grow and prosper. Providing positive activities for young people are delivered through the Safer Halton Partnership to discourage crime and anti social behaviour.

Improvement Targets

Halton Local Area Agreement Indicators relating to Children & Young People

By 2011 we aim to:

- Increase the stability of placements for looked after children from 69% in 2008 to 81.5% by 2011: Children in Care: NI 63.
- Reduce the proportion of children in poverty from 27% in 2008 to 24.2% by 2011: Children in Poverty: NI 116.
- Reduce obesity among primary school age children in Year 6 from 22.4% in 2008 to 21.3% by 2011: Child Obesity: NI 56.
- Reduce the under 18 conception rate by 55% by 2011 from the 1998 figure: Teenage Pregnancy: NI 112.
- Increase the proportion of young people achieving a Level 3 qualification by the age of 19 from 33.5% in 2008 to 42.2% by 2011: Level 3 Qualification: NI 80.
- Reduce the number of 16-18 year olds not in education, employment or training from 11.5% in 2008 to 7.7% by 2011: Not in education, employment or training: NI 117.
- Reduce the number of first time entrants aged 10-17 entering the Youth Justice System from 249 in 2007/08 to 234 by 2010/11: First time entrants: NI 111.
- Reduce the number of young people misusing substances from 12.6% in 2008 to 9.8% in 2011: Substance Misuses: NI 115

Local indicator

- Reduce the gap of attainment of 5 A*-C GCSEs (including English and Maths) by 25% between those living in the worst 10% Lower Super Output Areas nationally and the Halton average by 2011
- Reduce the number of children killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents: Road Traffic Fatality: NI 48

Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

Our overall aim: To create an economically prosperous borough that encourages investment, enterprise and business growth, and improves the opportunities for learning and development together with the skills and employment prospects of both residents and workforce so that they are able to feel included socially and financially.

Why Employment, Learning and Skills?

A robust economy lays the foundation for any prosperous and successful place and provides jobs, opportunities, wealth and aspirations for local people. Historically, in Halton there has been a sustained mismatch between the needs of local business and the skills of local people, low rates of entrepreneurship and high levels of welfare dependency, meaning that opportunity and need are out of balance and contributing to the widespread deprivation in Halton. Sustainable economic growth and prosperity requires a commitment to encourage and support a vibrant business sector together with a renewed commitment to creating sustainable employment, and high quality learning and skills opportunities to satisfy all stakeholders in Halton.

Key Objectives

- A. To foster a culture of enterprise and entrepreneurship and make Halton an ideal place to start and grow economic activity
- B. To develop a culture where learning is valued and raise skill levels throughout the adult population and in the local workforce
- C. To promote and increase the employability of local people and remove any barriers to employment to get more people into work
- D. To develop a strong, diverse, competitive and sustainable knowledge-based local economy.
- E. To maximise an individual's potential to increase and manage their income, including access to appropriate, supportive advice services.

Background

Despite a range of local and national initiatives, Halton is still characterised by widespread deprivation. Attainment at school, in further education and the acquisition of employable skills are key determinants of individuals' life and employment chances. They have a major effect on people's ability to get a job, on the income they earn, on their aspirations, behaviour, health and longevity, and on the range of positive choices they are able to make in life. This means that the creation of a strong economy able to compete in today's challenging global market can only be achieved by continuing targeted investment in skills, a vibrant employment market and a strong culture of entrepreneurship.

Research shows that the skill base of the local area is relatively poor compared to Great Britain as a whole and to other surrounding local economies. Halton has a relatively low percentage of adults with further education qualifications and a high number of adults experiencing problems with numeracy and literacy. Looking to the future, estimates indicate that the majority of new jobs will require some form of recognised education qualification. Over 95% of new jobs will need qualifications of at least NVQ 2 level and over 70% at NVQ 3 and above. In addition, in an increasingly technologically developed society and in a borough where up to 30% of adults experience some form of difficulty with literacy there is a danger that a digital divide is created between those able to access and navigate jobs and services and those who cannot.

High economic inactivity rates across the borough, with particular pockets of high deprivation and social exclusion, are endemic in the local economy. Halton continues to display higher than average rates of benefit dependency, whilst at the same time many people are not claiming their full entitlements which would enable them to enjoy a minimum standard of living. Targeted information, advice and advocacy are crucial to allow people to access the support, whether related to work or to benefits, they need for the benefit of both themselves and local economy.

The Halton economy is heavily reliant upon a narrow range of industry sectors and, in common with the rest of the UK, is becoming susceptible to national and global pressures, which may have a negative effect upon the business sector, employment opportunities and could increase the numbers of individuals and families at risk of becoming financially and socially at risk.

Linkages to Other Priorities

A Healthy Halton

Being out of work or suffering financial exclusion have been shown to be significant contributors to health inequalities, whilst being in employment has been proven to have significant benefits for an individual's physical and mental health. By providing opportunities for skills, training and employment and enabling people to move from inactive benefits to employment, the Employment, Learning and Skills priority contributes towards improving the Health and mental wellbeing of Halton's residents.

Halton's Urban Renewal

Halton residents will need a high quality, responsive skills and training infrastructure to take full advantage of the new opportunities for employment and business development being afforded through Halton's programme of Urban Renewal.

Children and Young People in Halton

In addition to the importance of attainment at school, it is vital that Children and Young People are offered a wide range of good quality learning, skills and employment opportunities in order for them to fulfil their potential to

succeed and to ensure that they are not at risk of poverty or financial disadvantage.

A Safer Halton

By enabling people to become engaged in employment, learning and skills opportunities, they are encouraged to move away from becoming involved in anti-social behaviour or crime. The Employment, Learning and Skills priority aims to ensure that positive progression routes to training and employment are available to all Halton residents to enable them to improve their life chances.

Improvement Targets

Halton Local Area Agreement Indicators relating to Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

By 2011 we aim to:

- Reduce the proportion of working age people claiming out of work benefits in the worst performing neighbourhoods from 31.5% in 2007/2008 to 28.5% by 2010/2011: Benefits: NI 153.
- Increase the proportion of the working age population qualified to at least Level 2 from 60.1% in 2007/2008 to 67.5% by 2010/2011: Level 2 Qualification: NI 163.
- Maintain the VAT registration rate at 42.8% through to 2010/2011: VAT Registration: NI 171.

Local Indicators

- Reduce the proportion of adults with no qualifications by 15%.
- Increase the proportion of adults qualified to Level 3 by 25%.
- Increase average household income in Halton to more than 90% of the national average.
- Increase the rate of self-employment by 20%.
- Ensure unemployment in any Lower Super Output Area is less than 20% above the borough average.

A SAFER HALTON

Our overall aim: To ensure pleasant, safe and secure neighbourhood environments, with attractive, safe surroundings, good quality local amenities, and the ability of people to enjoy life where they live.

Why a Safer Halton?

Crime and the fear of crime affect everybody's lives. It is a major concern according to every survey of Halton residents. These surveys also show that cleaner, tidier neighbourhoods would make the biggest difference to improving life for people in their local area. We want Halton to be a clean, green, safe and attractive place to live. People should tolerate value and respect each other, their property and the places where they live.

Key Objectives

- A.** To investigate and tackle the underlying causes of crime and disorder and respond effectively to public concern by reducing crime levels
- B.** To improve the understanding of alcohol and drug/substance misuse problems, their impact in Halton, and reduce the harm they cause
- C.** To create and sustain better neighbourhoods that are well designed, well built, well maintained, safe and valued by the people who live in them, reflecting the priorities of residents
- D.** To understand and tackle the problem of domestic abuse in all its forms
- E.** To reduce the levels of crime that disproportionately affects some of the more deprived areas within the borough

Background

The Safer Halton Partnership has a wide-ranging remit focused on two major concerns of Halton people. Crime and the local environment have consistently been two areas the public have raised as high priorities in successive consultations over the last few years.

We want to make Halton a great place to live with an attractive quality of life and excellent local environment. However, this is very much dependent on reducing current levels of crime, tackling anti-social behaviour and improving the local environment in our neighbourhoods. Recent years have seen a 16% reduction in total recorded crime from 2005 and 2008. In the same time period vehicle crime has reduced by 29% and criminal damage by 34%. The Safer Halton Partnership - with its focus on action at the neighbourhood level - has contributed to these welcome reductions. However, this remains a pressing problem for most people in Halton, and fear of crime remains at unacceptable levels and impacts upon too many lives.

At the same time, whilst general satisfaction levels with Halton as a place to live have risen, it is the condition of their local environment which is of most concern to residents. Therefore, the Strategy aims to increase the confidence of communities in their neighbourhoods. This is about improving local conditions and encouraging people to get involved in helping to shape what happens in their local area. Area Forums, Police Community Action Meetings (CAMs), Community Watch Schemes and 'Face the People' Sessions, offer opportunities for local people to have their say and help make a difference. They also help make the police, council and others more accountable to residents, check that the priorities are right; that they respond to local concerns, and will take more effective action against the issues that most impact on their quality of life.

Tackling the causes as well as the symptoms of neighbourhood issues are a responsibility shared by all partners. Increasingly, they will look to better co-ordinate their activity through neighbourhood management arrangements to have a greater impact. This will increase the effectiveness of work that can prevent and intervene early in the conditions which lead to dissatisfaction.

Linkages to other priorities

A Healthy Halton

Personal experience of crime or anti social behaviour can have a significant impact on our health and mental wellbeing. Tackling crime is high on the public agenda and a key priority for neighbourhoods.

Halton's Urban Renewal

When designing and planning new buildings such as housing estates and shopping areas, it is important that we consider community safety issues and design out crime. This may be through better lighting, CCTV, removing inappropriate planting etc

Children and Young People in Halton

Providing positive activities for young people and raising their aspirations will make them less likely to commit crime or anti social behaviour. Working with young people and their families is vital if we are to change behaviour, where their behaviour has already become a problem.

Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

Creating employment opportunities and training for residents to access jobs is key to driving down crime. In particular those who have already committed crime, or have drug and alcohol problems are much less likely to re-offend if they can gain employment.

Improvement Targets

Halton Local Area Agreement Indicators relating to a Safer Halton

By 2011 we aim to:

- Increase residents overall satisfaction with their local area from 70% in 2008 to 73% in 2010 (baseline and target provisional pending publication of the final Places Survey data): Overall satisfaction: NI 5.
- Increase voluntary and community sector satisfaction from 22.2% (2007/8) to 29.7% (2010/11) by creating a strong environment in which it can thrive: Thriving third Sector: NI 7.
- Reduce acts of serious acquisitive crime from 16 per 1000 population in 2007/08 to 15 per 1000 population by 2010/11: Serious acquisitive crime: NI 16.
- Reduce the perceptions of anti social behaviour from 24% in 2008 to 21% by 2010/11: Perceptions of anti social behaviour: NI 17.
- Reduce the assault with injury crime rate by 7.5% compared to 2008/09: Assault with injury: NI 20.
- Reduce the re-offending rate of prolific and priority offenders by 19% each year until 2011: NI 30.
- Reduce the repeat incidents of domestic abuse from 127 in 2007/08 to 108 by 2010/11: Repeat incidents of domestic violence: NI 32.
- Reduce the number of arson incidents from 1277 in 2007/08 to 855 by 2010/11: Arson: NI 33.
- Slow the rate of increase in alcohol-harm related hospital admissions from 2180 in 2007/08 to 2323 in 2009/10 and 2309 by 2010/11: Alcohol related hospital admissions: NI 39.
- Increase the number of drug users in effective treatment from 513 in 07/08 to 544 by 10/11: Drug users in effective treatment: NI 40.

Local Target

- Reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents: People killed or seriously injured: NI 47.
- Reduce the number of incidents of anti-social behaviour in the worst 5 Lower Super Output Areas compared with the rest of the Borough from 97.88 per 1000 population in 2007/08 to 83.2 per 1000 population by 2010/11 (total of 11% reduction).

Cross Cutting Issues

Introduction

The Sustainable Community Strategy is concerned with addressing local needs in order to make the 2025 vision a reality. This strategy tries to take a positive view of the future. It will be better to shift our focus to prevention measures, to promote positive lifestyles and the many excellent aspects of life in Halton, including more timely interventions to help people at the times when they most need support. At the same time a number of issues that cut across the key priority areas contained within this Strategy must be kept in mind as we meet the challenges faced within each priority area.

The Halton Strategic Partnership wants to develop policies and programmes which leave a lasting and positive effect on future generations of people in Halton. We also want to look forward and help to achieve sustainable development both locally and more widely to promote regional, national and global aims. Our approach will be guided by the following principles:

- Anti-discrimination
- Equality of opportunity
- Independence not dependence
- Individual needs
- Accountability
- Integration
- Involvement in decision making

The people of Halton and a focus on their full range of needs, is the key cross cutting theme that underpins this strategy. Analysing needs allows us to anticipate likely changes and plan accordingly. We want to sustain progress and increasingly provide a much greater range of opportunities, and the ability to take advantage of them. We want to sharpen up service delivery and focus on the things that will make the most difference. The key measure of whether service delivery is transformed is how far and how fast we can narrow the gap in outcomes for the most disadvantaged in Halton, as measured by comparison with both Halton and national averages.

In short, we want to build a sustainable community that balances and integrates social, economic and environmental progress; that meets current expectations and prepares for future needs; and that respects the diversity of the place and people. The Partnership has identified the following components as being crucial to success.

(a) Respect and Enjoyment

The communities of Halton have a strong sense of community identity and belonging. They also tolerate and respect differences, and believe in 'live and let live'. Co-operation, collaboration and helpfulness are vital. There needs to be plenty of things to do and places to go - culture, leisure, sport, community, shopping - for all members of the community, young and old alike. People

should feel their chances in life are good and crime, drugs or anti-social behaviour does not taint their lives.

(b) Thriving Places

The local economy has to flourish and provide a range of opportunities for all Halton people for both training and work. The economic infrastructure has to be top quality with a variety of land and premises (industrial, commercial and retail) available to support economic prosperity, growth and change. In addition, we want to see a strong business sector, which feels valued locally, and is well supported to create new enterprises and new jobs which can benefit local people.

(c) Well Planned

We need to retain a clear sense of place and retain features that make Halton distinctive. We want to see buildings and open spaces that are accessible, well designed and of the highest quality. Places and spaces that are safe, valued and promote a feeling of well-being. The housing market has to be dynamic and inclusive with a range of options available that are affordable for local people.

(d) Accessibility

People make places work, and all the communities and facilities of Halton (jobs, schools, town centres, health) need to be well connected and well served by the transport network. We need appropriate levels of car parking in the right places, a well managed and maintained road network, and a properly functioning public transport network to help people get about and reduce car dependency. We need to further develop opportunities for walking and cycling, and ensure our connection to the outside world through motorways, railways, ports and airports remain excellent. The further development of technology and digital opportunities will also enable Halton to be more accessible to the world.

(e) Well Served

People need to have good access to a range of services that are appropriate to their needs and that make their lives worthwhile. This includes good schools, further and higher education opportunities and lifelong learning, high quality health, leisure and social care facilities, including quality services for vulnerable adults, children and families. In addition a good range of information, advice and signposting is needed, and wherever possible services should be situated together to make access easier.

(f) Well Run

There has to be a sense of pride, responsibility and civic values which present themselves in a place that is well governed and managed. This includes democratic, representative and accountable governance through Halton Borough Council with community wellbeing at its heart. It also encompasses effective community engagement and enabling active participation by local people in the decisions that affect their lives. A strong and vibrant voluntary and community sector is a sign of success along with effective partnerships that lead by example.

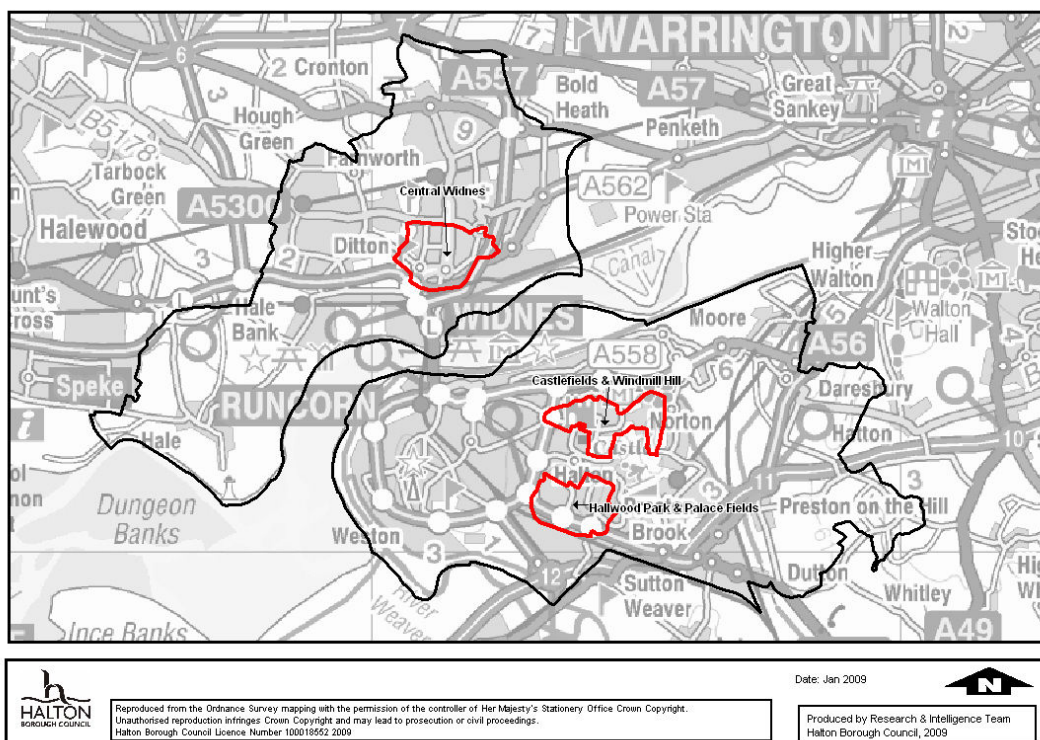
The objectives and targets outlined in this Strategy and all the improvements aspired to need to be adequately resourced in order to make happen. A key purpose of this Strategy is to ensure that the resources available are targeted and used effectively to bring about improvements in the Borough.

Issues

1. Social Exclusion

This is about what happens when people face a multitude of problems such as poor housing, high crime, poor health, worklessness, discrimination and poor relationships. These problems link and reinforce each other creating a vicious circle for people. Often they are clustered in specific neighbourhoods.

Since 2006 Halton has received ring-fenced funding from the 'neighbourhood element' part of the then Safer & Stronger Communities block of the Local Area Agreement. The money is to develop Neighbourhood Management in those areas of the Borough that fall within the 3% most deprived nationally under the Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2005. The funding runs until 2010. In Halton work is focused on three pilot neighbourhoods, each of which falls within the above category; Central Widnes, Hallwood Park & Palace Fields and Castlefields & Windmill Hill. The map below shows the boundaries for these 3 neighbourhoods.



Neighbourhood Management is designed to help close the gap between the most deprived parts of the Borough and the rest, with regards to health, education, employment and crime. The development of neighbourhood management in Halton is being directed by a strategic partnership board that

consists of many of the key local service providers and partners. This board reports directly to the Halton Strategic Partnership Board

One key example of this is the effort to reduce worklessness in the neighbourhood management areas. The gap between out of work benefit claimants within the neighbourhood management areas and Halton overall had reduced since 2006, but has increased slightly in the last months, probably as a result of the economic downturn.

According to the latest Index of Multiple Deprivation in 2007 Halton has again improved its overall deprivation score but it remains amongst the 30 most deprived areas of England. Halton has become less deprived overall on a national scale but the gap between the most affluent and deprived areas of the borough is growing. Serious progress must be made to increase wealth and to narrow the gap for those who are most disadvantaged if residents are to enjoy the quality of life that many others take for granted.

Overall poverty, unemployment and material deprivation have diminished in crude terms. However, Halton continues to display high rates of benefit dependency, which may increase in the current economic climate. At the same time many people are still not claiming their full entitlements which would allow them to enjoy a minimum standard of living. Therefore, information, advice, guidance and advocacy are crucial in allowing people to access the help they need to navigate an extraordinarily complicated benefits system. This is not only beneficial for the recipients themselves but also for the local economy as research shows that most transfer payments are spent locally. Halton is also characterised by high levels of personal debt, with up to 10% of households struggling to support debt levels. This in turn impacts on people's health and well being and the positive contribution they can make to the local economy. Therefore, debt advice and innovative community finance initiatives are a continuing need.

2. Economic Climate

The adverse economic climate now has major implications for us all. The Halton Strategic Partnership has a role to put in place measures to support residents and businesses and where possible provide intervention measures to try and prevent house repossessions, loss of jobs, etc. Where they do occur we need to ensure services are there to help pick up the pieces, whether this is access to training, benefits, debt advice, target hardening against burglary, alcohol abuse support or counselling.

On top of the implications of the current economic climate on the residents of Halton, there are implications for partners in terms of meeting its Local Area Agreement (LAA) targets by March 2011. Several of Halton's LAA indicators are likely to be severely affected by the current climate, with others indirectly impacted upon.

3. Climate Change

Halton has adopted a climate change indicator, per capita CO₂ reduction, as part of its LAA. This cross cutting indicator includes CO₂ emissions from

domestic housing, business and the public sector and road transport. Local, regional and national partners and organisations will work together to encourage and influence residents, businesses and other organisations to make CO2 reductions and also to put our own house in order.

There has already been much progress around tackling climate change. Halton is committed to the Carbon Strategy and Reduction Plan and a target of reducing CO2 by 20% by 2015. As part of the strategy, we have invested in a number of areas to reduce energy costs and consequently CO2 emission reductions.

4. Sustainability

The goal of sustainable development – integrating and improving environmental, economic and social outcomes both now and in the future – is at the heart of the strategy. This Strategy sets the overall strategic direction and long-term vision for the economic, social and environmental well-being of Halton through to 2025 that will contribute to the overall sustainable development across the UK.

Part of Halton's success has been its ability to change and evolve, and its resilience in the face of adversity. It has had to cope with the loss of much of the manufacturing industry it formerly depended on. The effect of this was dramatic, leading to population loss and a legacy of deprivation across the communities of Halton. However, the position has stabilised and welcome signs of an improvement can now be seen. This resilience is the key to the future. The Halton Strategic Partnership sees this as one of the strengths on which a sustainable future can be built.

The vision for the future is of a Halton that has sustained itself. This is a place where people want to live and work. It is somewhere that provides a high quality living environment, sensitive to a range of needs, and recognises the diversity of its residents. This Strategy is all about giving people opportunities and choice. We want to build people's aspirations and abilities so they can exercise greater control and choice in their lives. Having done so we want to ensure we provide the quality of life and opportunities locally so that people choose to live and work here.

5. Equality & Diversity

Building stronger communities through community engagement must be a key outcome for the strategy. There has been much progress in this area of work since 2006. For example, an Equalities and Community Cohesion Group now meets regularly and reports to the Halton Strategic Partnership.

The Partnership is determined to deliver its vision of a better future for Halton's people. We are committed to equality for everyone regardless of age, sex, caring responsibilities, race, religion, sexuality, or disability. We are leaders of the community and will not accept discrimination, victimisation or harassment.

This commitment to equity and social justice is clearly stated in the adopted equal opportunities policy of the Partnership. This states that the Partnership:

- is committed to promoting equal opportunities in Halton
- values diversity and encourages fairness and justice
- wants equal chances for everyone in Halton to work, learn and live free from discrimination and victimisation
- will combat discrimination and will use its position of influence in the borough, wherever possible, to help overcome discriminatory barriers

As well as accepting our legal responsibilities, we are committed to broad principles of social justice. The Partnership is opposed to any form of discrimination and oppression and looks to enhance quality of life by supporting individuals and communities who experience marginalisation and exclusion. Our policies apply to all of those who come into contact with us. This includes current users of directly provided services, users of services provided on our behalf, potential users of services, other agencies and professionals, employees and job applicants, and the general public.

The Partnership wants to create a culture where people of all backgrounds and experience feel appreciated, valued and able to participate fully and constructively in the life of the local community. Discrimination on the grounds of race, nationality, ethnic or national origin, religion or belief, gender, marital status, sexuality, disability, age or any other unjustifiable reason will not be tolerated. As a Partnership we are committed to a programme of action to make this policy fully effective.

Halton is committed to equality of opportunity for disabled people and to ending discrimination. The passing of the Disability Discrimination Act in 1995 has given a new focus to our commitment to disabled people. Underlying this Strategy is a commitment to turn policy into practice. We want to identify and support all family carers and cared for people with disabilities in Halton by striving to improve their quality of life and life chances. We want disabled people living and working in Halton to be able to realise their full potential. We will make progress towards this by removing barriers and changing the attitudes which prevent disabled people from gaining access to employment and to the services provided by partners.

Partners will work collaboratively to develop effective procedures and policies to combat all forms of unlawful discrimination and to share good practice. They will ensure that all services are provided fairly and without discrimination. Reasonable adjustments will be made so that services are accessible to everyone who needs them. People's cultural and language needs will be recognised and services will be provided which are appropriate to these needs. Partners will monitor the take up of services from different sections of the population. The information collected will be used to inform service planning and delivery. Equality Impact Assessments will also be carried out on Partnership policies and services to assess how policies and services impact on different sections of the community. The results of the

Equality Impact Assessments will highlight areas for improvement, which will be dealt with through the Partnership Improvement Plan.

6. Population

Following national and regional trends, Halton's population continues to age with older people making up an increasing proportion of the population:

Younger people (0-14 year olds):

projected to grow by 2% (2006-2021).

Working age (15-64 year olds):

projected to decline by 2% (2006-2021).

Older people (65+):

projected to grow by 43% from 16,400 in 2006 to 23,500 in 2021.

The growth in older people will increase the demands for both formal and informal support. While small decreases in the working age population mean there are fewer people to provide and pay for this additional support.

7. Housing

The priorities set out within the Halton Housing Strategy 2009-11 mirror the priorities contained within the Sustainable Community Strategy.

It is recognised that many housing objectives can make a contribution to more than one of the Sustainable Community Strategy's aims and objectives. This is a summary of some of the main areas that link to the Sustainable Community Strategy. A full breakdown of these areas is set out in the table attached to the Housing Strategy.

The Government and the regional housing board have identified the "big issues" for housing for the next decade. Halton does not necessarily exhibit these problems to the same degree as other areas, so the challenge for Halton is to develop solutions and secure resources for local problems that are not reflected in national or regional policy.

Partnership working will be key to this process and we will endeavour to work with partners across local authority boundaries to seek joint solutions to common issues and to help shape sub regional policy.

There is an emerging affordability issue in the Borough, caused by the relationship between house prices and local incomes. Consequently the demand for social rented housing has increased in recent years but the number of available social rented dwellings has declined. Equally the private rented sector cannot fully meet the demands of those unable to afford to buy or access social rented housing due to low supply and high rents.

Other housing demand issues include a mismatch between demand for private sector terraced housing and the number of terraces available (which could result in market decline in poorer areas) and the predicted demographic change in the elderly population which is likely to result in increased demand for supported housing and related services.

In terms of housing condition, the private sector is generally in good condition although there are concentrations of older terraced housing with the potential to fall into decline without investment by the owners. The condition of privately rented property is generally poorer.

Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) are on target to meet the 2010 target of making all homes decent, which in turn should improve energy efficiency. Although vacancy levels are generally comparable with national and regional figures the proportion of private sector dwellings vacant for more than six months is a growing cause for concern.

Overcrowding is higher in the social rented than owner occupied sectors, though there is potential to alleviate this through making better use of the housing stock.

In relation to local populations and communities, Halton has a very small Black and Minority ethnic population, although the demographics of that population are rapidly changing due to Eastern European migration.

Although homelessness remains an issue in Halton, the number of presentations has dropped considerably since the last Housing Strategy was produced. Recent prevention service developments for homeless people are proving successful and should have a positive impact on acceptances and the number of people in temporary accommodation.

Worklessness is an issue on many social housing estates across Halton and the Council is working with RSL partners to develop projects aimed at tackling worklessness on these estates.

The Council is improving provision for Gypsies and Travellers in accordance with the recommendations of the Cheshire Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment, with the development of a 14 pitch transit site.

Supply and demand analysis for particular client groups reveals a need for increased accommodation for the elderly, particularly extra care accommodation, making better use of the existing stock of adapted dwellings and a range of accommodation for people with mental health problems offering varying levels of support.

Government expenditure on housing is set to increase nationally; however, this will be specifically targeted at housing growth and affordable housing at the expense of private sector renewal. It will also be targeted at specific interventions developed at a sub regional level.

The Council is likely to receive a reduced capital allocation over the term of the Strategy and there is uncertainty over the levels of funding available for adaptations and new supported housing schemes.

8. Community empowerment and engagement

It is now recognised that both individuals and whole communities can and should take some responsibility for improving quality of life. This requires action especially through Local Government and other public and voluntary sector services, to empower local communities so that they develop skills and can access resources to play their part effectively.

9. Cross Cutting Targets

There are many key targets that we work towards achieving in partnership, all of which are included in the improvement targets in each of the five priority areas within this document. See pages 19, 24, 28, 32 and 35 for detailed target information.

HOW WILL WE MAKE IT HAPPEN IN HALTON?

All the objectives and targets outlined here are achievable. How well and how quickly this happens depends crucially on the availability of resources and how smartly they are used. That means money, people, physical resources, proper intelligence and information, allied with the strength of will to use them in the best way. A key purpose of this Strategy is to ensure that the resources available are targeted and used effectively to bring about improvements in the borough. This means:

- Being clear and agreeing about what we need to achieve so we are all pulling in the same direction
- Maximising the funding we can generate or draw in to benefit Halton and developing our own resources and the capacity to help ourselves
- Co-operating to be more effective, cutting out duplication and waste, and pooling the budgets, knowledge and efforts of different organisations and groups where this makes sense
- Listening and responding to what matters most to people locally
- Targeting what we do to where it can make most difference
- Doing the kind of things that experience has shown will really work and be successful
- Checking on progress, letting people know how we are doing, and adjusting where necessary to keep on track

Without the tools and the will to do the job, the improvements set out in this Strategy will not happen.

Money

The organisations that make up the Partnership already spend hundreds of millions of pounds of public money each year in Halton. Much of this goes to maintain essential services like health, policing, schools, transport and waste collection that we tend to take for granted. The way money is spent on these statutory services – ‘mainstream budgets’ – has to be steadily re-focused to achieve the specific objectives and improvement targets within this Strategy. The Sustainable Community Strategy provides a tool to help partners refocus their budgets.

The Strategy also provides a framework to help identify and secure additional funding for the borough from a variety of sources. It sets out shared policy objectives along with clear aims and targets across the five agreed key themes. This gives a framework in which partners can make budgetary decisions that reflect Halton's priorities.

Halton received Neighbourhood Renewal Funding, which provided tremendous support (more than £30million) to the aims of the Sustainable Community Strategy. In 2007 Halton was awarded a further £16million from the Working Neighbourhood Fund, to continue with the important projects already serving the communities needs, up until 2011.

Local Area Agreements provide a mechanism for the partners to genuinely work together to achieve the same goals and to spend the resources discussed above. They provide an opportunity to map resources and activity, streamline current processes, pool and align budgets, eliminate duplication, attract new funding and to target activity to where it is most needed to achieve the overall vision for Halton. In particular agreements will target funding at the most deprived neighbourhoods and towards specific at-risk groups.

People & Assets

Allied to cash, the efforts, skills and determination of people living and working in the borough are key to success. This applies to individuals interested or already active in helping their local community as well as to those who work in public, voluntary and other organisations serving Halton. We need to boost skills and knowledge and stimulate confidence and motivation that will strengthen the Borough's capacity to help itself. We must ensure that we are organised and co-operate in ways that are effective and deliver real benefits. Also, we need to provide better ways for people to work collaboratively and across organisational boundaries to increase their own job satisfaction and their impact on the challenges they deal with.

Most of the steps we need to take in moving Halton forward will involve some use of land, buildings, equipment and materials. Hundreds of millions of pounds are currently invested in publicly owned physical resources of various kinds within the borough. We need to make optimum use of these assets, cutting out any unnecessary duplication and ensuring they are well adapted to local requirements.

In particular we have to respond to the rise of consumerism and the desire of people to access a range of services through a single portal. The advent of Halton Direct Link, Health Care Resource Centres, extended schools and Children's Centres provide models of exemplary service delivery which are highly valued by local people. Increasingly, partners will need to look at much greater efforts towards co-location and joint use of facilities. Not only is this more cost efficient, but it gives partners a proper customer focus.

Intelligence

Without proper information, and making it easily accessible to people, we are working in the dark in trying to bring about improvement in Halton. This covers information about local needs and conditions, and what people think is most important for their communities. It is about the information we need to understand what is likely to work well in achieving our targets for Halton. It's about keeping people – local people and partner organisations – in the picture about the progress we are making together.

The Partnership has made a big commitment to improving the way information is gathered, used and shared. Of particular note are:

- a) A data 'Observatory' that holds key statistical information on all aspects of living conditions in Halton. The Observatory provides data at a variety of spatial levels – super output area, ward, neighbourhood and district level – and allow for comparison with our neighbours and regional and national averages. It will greatly help people to understand the geography and nature of disadvantage in Halton.
- b) The Partnership has a database of consultation and community engagement in Halton. This will enable people to access a rich source of attitudinal data on a range of issues. It will also help people to plan and execute better community engagement in the borough.
- c) The Partnership website provides an easy to access source of material on all aspects of the Halton Strategic Partnership's work throughout the borough. The site covers the full range of activities from events and award ceremonies to new policy changes. There are dedicated sections for each of the priority areas that outline the aims and objectives plus provide access for meeting minutes. There is also a newly added policy section, developed to keep partners up to date with any changes.

MANAGING RISKS

The Partnership recognises the scale of its ambition and is realistic in its expectations of what can be achieved given the scale of resources being deployed. It also recognises that risk management must be an integral part of the performance management framework and business planning process. This will increase the probability of success (and reduce the likelihood of failure) by identifying, evaluating and controlling the risks associated with the achievement of its objectives.

The risk management process focuses attention and resources on critical areas, provides more robust action plans and better informed decision-making. It also fosters a culture where uncertainty does not slow progress or stifle innovation and ensures the commitment and resources of the Partnership to produce positive outcomes.

As part of implementing this Sustainable Community Strategy the Partnership will adopt a Risk Management Strategy and establish a Strategic Risk Register. The Strategy will set out the risk management objectives, the role and responsibilities for risk management of the Board and individual Specialist Strategic Partnerships, and will categorise risks and the approach to risk management action plans.

The risk management objectives include the;

- Adoption of Risk Management as a key part of the Sustainable Community Strategy
- Identification, evaluation and economic control of strategic and operational risks
- Promotion of ownership through increased levels of awareness and skills development

The Partnership's risks can be broadly categorised as either "strategic" or "operational". Strategic risks cover those threats or opportunities which could impact upon the achievement of medium and long-term goals.

A major review of strategic risks was carried out in 2006 when this Sustainable Community Strategy was adopted. That was followed up by an assessment of operational risks through each of the Specialist Strategic Partnerships as part of their action planning and Local Area Agreement process.

HOW WILL WE KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING?

The targets in this plan are a first step towards aligning our vision for Halton in 2025. If we succeed in achieving our targets they will translate into real improvements for local people, building on the work done to date. This is why it is important to know how we are doing and what progress we are making in meeting the improvement targets we have set ourselves. By monitoring progress closely we can identify and build on successes, provide necessary assistance or support where progress has not met expectations, and adjust our efforts and resources to adapt to changing circumstances.

A range of high level outcomes have been set in the Strategy. These provide a benchmark and clarity in how our progress can be measured in the future. For all five themes there are several key objectives and a small number of key targets for each. In particular these reflect the government floor targets, local public service agreements and key desired outcomes. Together these form a 'score card' for the Sustainable Community Strategy.

We want to be judged by what we do and not by what we say. Every year the progress on the Sustainable Community Strategy will be reviewed and the scorecard published as part of our Annual Report. This will allow for scrutiny of the work of the Partnership. Local people are the best judges of how well we are doing. The Partnership works on their behalf and they are best placed to venture an opinion on how the quality of life in Halton rates. As well as the scorecard the Partnership will repeat its Quality of Life survey at regular intervals to track public perceptions of how well the Strategy is being implemented. This regular dialogue is a key part of our performance-monitoring framework. We genuinely want to know what people think of the things we do, how we go about tasks and what we should pay attention to in the future.

The forward programme of the Partnership in pursuit of the Strategy will be reviewed and updated to ensure it responds to changing circumstances. As well as the high level scorecard, each Specialist Strategic Partnership will have a more detailed action plan. This will contain a richer hierarchy of outcomes, outputs, targets and milestones. Each Partnership will be accountable for its own performance and the Board will seek qualitative monitoring reports on how work is progressing. One of the key features of the Strategy is the understanding of how each of the themes are linked and impact on each other. The Strategy establishes the importance of a number of key crosscutting themes that are common across all Partnership activity. A Performance and Standards Group reporting directly to the Board has been established. This group takes responsibility for all aspects of performance management and ensure proper oversight, scrutiny and accountability of all activities that take place under the auspices of the Partnership and this Sustainable Community Strategy.

ENGAGING THE PEOPLE OF HALTON

Wholesale improvement in the quality of life enjoyed by local people can only come about if a significant part of the community is involved in making it happen. This can take place informally, in many different ways within the community itself. However this has to be complemented by action taken with the support of a variety of public, voluntary and other bodies.

The views of the public were an important factor in deciding the overall themes and direction of this Sustainable Community Strategy. Channels of communication like the borough's Area Forums and the Police Community Action Meetings provide extra ways to share, discuss and resolve local issues. A whole range of services actively consult with and involve their customers, and staff from a range of organisations work closely with local people on a day-to-day basis.

The Halton Strategic Partnership sees itself, through this Strategy and the actions of partners, as providing leadership. This can only be achieved if they remain in touch with the people and communities they represent and serve. The Strategy aims to create an environment in which everyone can get involved in making things happen in Halton. We want to foster active participation by as many people and agencies as possible. The Partnership will look for ways to make itself more accountable to communities through events, panels, area forums and open and transparent decision-making processes. A number of steps define this:

Customer focus – Services and processes have to be designed around the needs of the people who actually use them. At the same time users need to have an appropriate role in specifying the services that are delivered.

Consultation & engagement – Partners will create specific and purposeful opportunities for people to give their views on what is needed and how it should be delivered. Wherever possible people should be actively involved in decision-making, service specification and design.

Communication – Letting people know what is happening, how they can get involved and encouraging dialogue between partners and local communities is vital. Various media and methods will be used in appropriate and sensitive ways to build and maintain the communication effort.

The Partnership has spent a considerable effort in developing an inclusive approach to engagement through its bespoke strategy and network arrangements. Full details are available on the Partnership website. Community empowerment is about members of a community feeling able to achieve their own goals, with some measure of control over the processes and strategies to attain these. It is a process whereby communities are encouraged to become increasingly self-reliant in improving their neighbourhoods and livelihoods. It is a cyclical, participatory process where local people co-operate in formal or informal groups to share their knowledge and experiences and to achieve common objectives. It is a process rather

than a blueprint, and one that underpins this Sustainable Community Strategy.

THE WAY FORWARD

This Sustainable Community Strategy highlights key objectives for each strategic theme and improvement targets by which success can be judged. These targets collectively form the Partnership Scorecard. We will report back to partners and the public each year on progress against this Scorecard.

If we succeed in achieving our targets, they will translate into real improvements for local people, including:

- longer, healthier lives
- a better urban environment and reasons to feel pride in Halton
- higher standards of education and skills and the greater employment and other life chances that go with them
- fewer people trapped by poverty, excluded or held back through some form of deprivation or disadvantage
- the freedom to feel safe and enjoy life in an attractive neighbourhood

Back cover

If you have any queries or comments you would like to make about this Sustainable Community Strategy, please contact:

The Halton Strategic Partnership Team,
c/o Halton Borough Council,
Municipal Building,
Kingsway,
Widnes,
WA8 7QF

Telephone 0151 424 2061
or email lsp@halton.gov.uk

You can find out more detail on the work of the Partnership on our website:
www.haltonpartnership.net

REPORT TO: Safer Halton Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 16th 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 were 34 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)

APPENDIX 1

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.
NI 116	<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.
NI 120	<i>All-age all cause mortality</i>	<i>No change.</i>
NI 123	<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.
NI 142	<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.
NI 154	<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.
NI 175	<i>Access to services and facilities by public transport walking and cycling</i>	<i>No change.</i>
NI 186	<i>Per capita CO2 emissions in LA area</i>	<i>No change.</i>
NI 192	<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**

Safer Halton

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
7	Environment for a thriving third sector	Survey Based Data. Next survey to be undertaken in 2010.
17	Perceptions of anti-social behaviour	
20	Assault with injury crime rate	Finalised June 2009, to be introduced 2009/10

Performance Overview

Ref	Description	08/08 Target	2011 Target
16	Serious acquisitive crime rate	Green	Yellow
30	Re-offending rate of prolific and priority offenders	Green	Green
32	Repeat incidents of domestic violence	N/A	Yellow
33	Arson incidents	Green	Yellow
39	Alcohol related hospital admission rates	Red	Yellow
40	Drug users in effective treatment	Red	Yellow
8	Adult participation in sport	Red	Yellow
192	Household waste recycled and composted	Red	Green

SAFER HALTON

NI 16 Serious acquisitive crime rate

Baseline 2007 – 08	2008 - 09			2011	
	Target	Actual	Progress	Target	Projected
16.47 (per 1000 population)	16.05 (per 1000 population)	Refer data below		15.23 (per 1000 population)	
1968	1918			1820	

Supporting information / commentary

Overall improving trend - but targets not met at year end.

Performance against year end target is **17% under target**. However, current quarters performance, if sustained, would achieve 2009/10 target reductions in line with Government Office North West targets to achieve a 7.5% reduction from 2007/08 baseline by 2010/11.

The categories within Serious Acquisitive are broken down into the following categories:

Serious Acquisitive Crime - Burglary in a dwelling

Performance against year end target is **26.2% over target**. However the current quarters performance, if sustained, would achieve 2009/10 target reductions in line with Government Office North West targets to achieve a 7.5% reduction from 2007/08 baseline by 2010/11.

Theft of a motor Vehicle

Performance against year end target is **11.66 % under target**. The current quarters performance, if sustained, would achieve 2009/10 target reductions in line with Government Office North West targets to achieve a 7.5% reduction from 2007/08 baseline by 2010/11.

This quarters performance is the lowest recorded (data prior to April 05 not available) since April 05, with all months recording particularly low figures.

When compared to our MSCDRP family we are in 6th position out of 15. Currently 0.062 per thousand population below MCDPR average.

Theft from a motor vehicle

Performance against year end target is **26.6% over target**. However, given the current quarters performance, if sustained, would achieve 2009/10 target reductions in line with Government Office North West targets to achieve a 7.5% reduction from 2007/08 baseline by 2010/11.



This quarters performance is the lowest recorded (data prior to April 05 not available) since April 05, with all months recording particularly low figures.

SAFER HALTON

Robbery

Performance against year end target is **37.4% over target**. Even with reductions when compared to last year, if performance was to continue as per this quarter's performance then the target for 2009/10 target reductions in line with Government Office North West targets to achieve a 7.5% reduction from 2007/08 baseline by 2010/11 would NOT be achieved. Additional action is required in this area of business to become on track for achieving targets in 2009/10.

NI 30 Re-offending rate of prolific and priority offenders


Baseline 2007 – 08	2008 - 09			2011	
	Target	Actual	Progress	Target	Projected
19% Reduction in offences from 82 baseline (no more than 66 offences)	19% Reduction in offences from 85 baseline (no more than 69 offences)	Refer Comment		Ratio of 1.16	

Supporting information / commentary

Quarter 4 performance has yet to be received. However data received at period three noted a stable trend and is in line to achieve the reduction target with a projected year end of 66 offenders in effective treatment against the target of 66. Halton's target is set at a 19% reduction in the re-offending rate of PPOs on the Scheme. In real terms it is a reduction in re-offending from 82 (07/08) convictions of those on the Scheme, to 66.

SAFER HALTON

NI 32 Repeat incidents of domestic violence



Baseline 2007 – 08	2008 - 09			2011	
	Target	Actual	Progress	Target	Projected
28% (2008/09)	N/A	Refer comment	N/A	27%	

Supporting information / commentary

Quarter 4 performance has yet to be received. Performance at quarter 3 noted: During April to December 2008 Halton Area reported 74 repeat victims of domestic violence achieving a **-30.8% DECREASE** when compared to the same period during the previous year (107 to 74). The forecast is following a stable trend and we are in line to achieve the 2.5% reduction target with a projected year end of 99 crimes equating to -25 (-20%) below target of 124.

The baseline figure was agreed with GONW in March 2009. This means that at performance can only be reported in terms of comparison of repeats between 2007/08 and 2008/09. Once the figures for repeats to MARAC for 2008/09 are available it will allow a target to be set for 2009/10.

NI 33 Arson incidents

Baseline 2007 – 08	2008 - 09			2011	
	Target	Actual	Progress	Target	Projected
1277	1024 (-20%)	Refer comment		855 (-33%)	

Supporting information / commentary



Data for period 4 has not been received from partners.

Data received for period 3 is as follows: The forecast is following a stable trend and is in line to achieve the reduction target with a projected year end of 60 crimes equating to -51 (-45.9%) below the target of 111.

Detailed analysis on the hot spot areas down to specific locations in accordance with the targets has not been provided by partners, this has been included in the recommendations as an area for improvement.

SAFER HALTON

NI 39 Alcohol-harm related hospital admission rates



Baseline 2007 – 08	2008 - 09			2011	
	Target	Actual	Progress	Target	Projected
2180	2313	2251.98* * 9 months worth of data		2309	

Supporting information / commentary

A significant amount of activity is underway to develop the alcohol programme across both LSPs (Halton and St Helens).

Significant increases in funding have been identified from the PCT and supplemented by WNF monies (Halton and Area Based Grant monies (St Helens) to deliver the alcohol strategy across the PCT

NI 40 Drug users in effective treatment

Baseline 2007 – 08	2008 - 09			2011	
	Target	Actual	Progress	Target	Projected
513	518 (1%)	476 Sept 07 to Aug 08		544 (3%)	

Supporting information / commentary

No. of problematic drug users in effective treatment and nos. of all drug users (18+) has been steadily declining over the year. Improvement plans discussed with commissioners and to be implemented by service providers still having little effect.

Needs analysis for 2009/10 treatment plan undertaken and completed by DAAT.

SAFER HALTON

NI 8 Adult participation in sport

Baseline 2007 – 08	2008 - 09			2011	
	Target	Actual	Progress	Target	Projected
20.13% (2006)	22.13%	18.5%		24.13%	

Supporting information / commentary

Sports Participation and Sports Volunteer & Club Development Projects have achieved the majority of Year 1 targets. These projects will continue in the coming year, they aim to increase participation and are the focus for new community intervention. In addition In Pursuit of Sport programme attracted over 100 applications from community groups/individuals wanting to try a sport for the first time or increase activity within its current membership. (This project will be fully evaluated in the next quarter with a view to making a similar offer over the summer months). The introduction on 1st April of free swimming for those aged 60 and over should have a positive effect on this indicator. The following proxy indicators can be introduced and progress can be measured quarterly against 31st March 09 baseline.

- 1) Increase usage at Kingsway Leisure Centre; Brookvale Recreation Centre and Runcorn Swimming Pool by at least 1%
- 2) Number of free swims for those aged 60 and over &
- 3) Number of Leisure Cards issued.

NI 192 Household waste recycled and composted

Baseline 2007 – 08	2008 - 09			2011	
	Target	Actual*	Progress	Target	Projected
25.1% (2007/08)	28%	26.69% (*Estimated)		34%	

Supporting information / commentary

Extensions to the Council's kerbside recycling services in the last 12 months have increased overall performance compared to the previous year. The direction of travel is up however, although only estimated information is available at this stage it is unlikely that the 2008/09 will be met.

Further extensions to recycling services in 2009/10, together with planned activities to increase public participation in the Council's schemes, will improve performance and the 2010/11 is likely to be achieved.



Cllr. Shaun
Osborne
Chairman

ANNUAL REPORT SAFER HALTON POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD APRIL 2008 – MARCH 2009

“Safety, and people’s perception of being safe in all its form remain a major issue in Halton. The Board has, and will continue to focus its energy on making Halton residents feel safe. I would like to offer my sincere thanks to Board members who have worked hard to this end.

The Board has had a very challenging programme of monitoring, scrutiny, and policy development, because ‘Safer Halton’ is a truly cross-cutting agenda. I believe it is making a considerable contribution to improving the way the Council and its partners work together to improve the quality of life in Halton. I thank everybody who has contributed to the work of the Board in 2008/09.”

Councillor Shaun Osborne
Chairman, Safer Halton Policy and Performance Board

MEMBERSHIP AND RESPONSIBILITIES

During 2008/9 the Board comprised eleven Councillors – Councillors Osborne, Stockton, M Bradshaw, Edge, M Lloyd Jones, Morley, M Ratcliffe, Redhead, Rowan, Shepherd, Thompson.

The Board is responsible for scrutinising performance and formulating policy in relation to Community Safety and Drugs Team, Bereavement Services, Registration and Consumer Affairs, Risk and Emergency Planning, Environmental and Regulatory Services, Road Safety and Waste Management.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

The full Board met 5 times during the year. Special Board meetings considered budget implications for 2009/10 and provision of grave spaces.

The main initiatives of the Board’s work for 2008/09 are as follows: -

Community Safety

The Board continued its scrutiny and policy development role in this crucial area. The Family Intervention Project, Witness Support, Youth Crime and Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults were all considered by the PBB, with relevant recommendations made. Contributions were made to the formulation of Policing Objectives. The Board received a presentation on the excellent progress to achieving a Multi-Agency Problem Solving Team, an initiative the PPB had instigated in its previous Municipal Year. The Drug Treatment Plan was approved, and consideration was given to the provision of alcohol abuse services, an issue highlighted for attention in 2009/10.

Environmental and Regulatory Service Issues

The PPB monitored the performance of waste management, the implementation of a waste management strategy and re-cycling performance. The Board contributed to the Litter and Dog Fouling enforcement policy, and the implementation of the Fixed Penalty Notices Policy.

Road Safety

The major issues considered related to Road Traffic Collisions, Incidents of Objects being thrown from footbridges, and the performance of the Cheshire Safer Roads Partnership.

Bereavement Services/Consumer Protection/Registration Services

The PPB contributed to the development of new services relating to Civil Funerals and the Nationality Checking Service. Cemetery provision for 2015 and beyond was a major issue, with recommendations made to Executive Board for approval.

WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2008/09

The PPB proposed the following topics for the work programme for 2009/10: -

- Waste Management
- Cemetery Provision
- Enclosure of Footbridges
- Anti-Social Behaviour
- Domestic Abuse and violence relating to alcohol
- MAPS

Members of the Public are welcome at the meetings of the Board. If you would like to know where and when meetings are to be held or if you would like any more information about the Board or its work please contact Howard Cockcroft (0151 471 7461) or e-mail at Howard.cockcroft@halton.gov.uk