



Executive Board

**Thursday, 12 March 2015 2.00 p.m.
The Boardroom, Municipal Building**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David W R'.

Chief Executive

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

PART 1

Item	Page No
1. MINUTES	
2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST	
Members are reminded of their responsibility to declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interest or Other Disclosable Interest which they have in any item of business on the agenda, no later than when that item is reached or as soon as the interest becomes apparent and, with Disclosable Pecuniary interests, to leave the meeting during any discussion or voting on the item.	
3. HEALTH AND WELLBEING PORTFOLIO	
(A) REQUEST TO EXTEND CONTRACTS FOR SHELTERED HOUSING SERVICES	1 - 5
(B) ADULT SOCIAL CARE CONTRACTS	6 - 13

*Please contact Angela Scott on 0151 511 8670 or
Angela.scott@halton.gov.uk for further information.
The next meeting of the Committee is on Thursday, 26 March 2015*

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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: Executive Board

DATE: 12 March 2015

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Communities

PORTFOLIO: Health & Wellbeing

SUBJECT: Request to extend contracts for Sheltered Housing Services

WARD(S) Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To request that Executive Board suspend relevant procurement standing orders and approve the extension of existing contracts as listed in Appendix 1.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That Executive Board

- 1) acting under Procurement Standing Order 1.8.4 (c) agrees to waive Standing Orders 4.1 to 4.2 for the sheltered scheme and community alarm contracts whose values are up to but not exceeding £172,514; and**
- 2) agrees to an extension of those contracts listed in the Appendix to 31st March 2016 with an option to extend by one further year if necessary.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 There are currently 11 providers delivering 18 housing support services to older people in Halton. 13 services are provided within sheltered housing settings with support provided on site by a scheme manager, and 5 are community alarm services only.

3.2 Existing contracts have been in place since April 2008, and the following considerations have resulted in the request for a further extension to allow the remodelling of services:

- the scheme managers within the sheltered services are employed by the housing provider, and have a dual role to provide housing management and housing support tasks.
- Although unit costs vary between schemes, the majority are considered to be value for money with some very low cost services. It is unlikely that a procurement exercise would realise any efficiencies and the probability is that costs would increase.

- A number of the housing providers are national organisations and as such are able to provide support for seemingly low unit costs, with service costs being absorbed within overall organisational costs and collected through rent charges rather than support charges.
- For the community alarm services, the unit costs currently being paid are lower than the cost of the Council's Lifeline service.

3.3 A benchmarking exercise has been undertaken with neighbouring authorities about their sheltered provision. Of the local authorities contacted, any contractual changes have been made through review and remodelling of services rather than re procurement.

3.4 In Halton there are only two services that may be considered as being above average cost when compared to other local sheltered services. These will be first to be reviewed in 2015/16 with a view to securing efficiencies, with the remaining sheltered services to be reviewed throughout the year.

4.0 BUSINESS CASE FOR THE EXTENSION OF CONTRACTS

4.1 Value for Money

The alternative to contract extensions is a mass procurement process compliant with standing orders. This would result in clear financial detriment to the Council in terms of cost and time of conducting an open tender process.

Sheltered housing services are already considered to represent value for money but further efficiencies may be achieved through remodelling with the existing support providers rather than through a procurement process.

An extension to existing contracts will enable remodelling proposals to be progressed and it is expected that efficiencies will be realised in 2015/16.

4.2 Transparency

In so far as possible without tendering, transparency is being maintained by dealing with report as a Part 1 item.

4.3 Propriety and Security

The extension of the contracts referred to in this report will be compliant with Halton Borough Council's procurement standing orders. Compliance with anti-corruption practices will be adhered to and any of the contracts within the subject of this report will be terminated if there is any occurrence of corruption by any of the organisations or their staff.

4.4 Accountability

The Operational Director for Commissioning and Complex Care has responsibility for these contracts. The contracts will be performance managed and service standards monitored by the Community Directorate's Commissioning and Quality Assurance Teams.

4.5 Position of the contract under the Public Contracts Regulations 2006

These are Part B exempt services under the Public Contracts Regulations 2006 and do not need to be advertised in the OJEU.

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The implementation of the Care Act in April 2015 requires support providers to focus on the achievement of outcomes, better quality and value for money, and improved integration within an evolving system of integrated health and social care services. The remodelling of sheltered housing services will ensure valuable preventative services continue to be delivered to meet this requirement.

6.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Funding for these services is contained within the existing Communities Directorate budget. Service reviews will be undertaken with a view to achieving efficiencies in 2015/16.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

7.1 Children & Young People in Halton

None identified.

7.2 Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

None identified.

7.3 A Healthy Halton

The provision of high quality, effective housing support services enables older people to remain in their own home and to maintain or improve their health and wellbeing outcomes.

7.4 A Safer Halton

Services delivered under these contracts must comply with Halton's Safeguarding Adults Policy and Procedures. Support is provided to individuals to enable them to stay safe in their own home.

7.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

None identified

8.0 RISK ANALYSIS

8.1 The risks associated with remodelling of sheltered housing services is low due to the number of providers delivering services in Halton and extension of these contracts will ensure continuity of support to older people.

The procurement risk is low as the contract value for the extension period for each individual service is below the EU threshold. Procurement advice regarding future contracting arrangements will be sought during the remodelling process.

All contracts are monitored in accordance with the level of risk identified. In the event of non-compliance the contract will be reviewed immediately and necessary remedial action initiated. Financial risk is minimised as services will be delivered within existing budgets.

9.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

9.1 Housing support services are delivered to some of the most vulnerable and socially excluded members of the community. These contracts support the Authority in meeting its duties to promote inclusion and fair access to services for all local residents.

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

None.

APPENDIX

Provider	Service and capacity	Annual contract value
Anchor Trust	Broome Court, Runcorn (36)	£11,850
Halton Housing Trust	Amethyst Living service including Queens Close, Runcorn (32) Brunswick, Runcorn (35) Quarry Court, Widnes (30) community support (63)	£73,632
Hanover Housing	Runnymede Court, Widnes (69) Hanover Court, Runcorn (42)	£9,526
Housing 21	Cannell Court, Runcorn (28)	£6,438
Guinness Northern Counties	Iveagh Close, Runcorn (20)	£6,424
Pentecostal	Fairhaven Court, Widnes (44)	£58,435
Plus Dane	Community Alarm Service (32)	£9,140
Riverside ECHG	Victoria Court, Widnes (30) Southlands Court, Runcorn (40) St Georges Court, Widnes (34) Woodland Court, Widnes (42)	£82,719
Riverside ECHG	Community Alarm Service (32)	£11,365
Your Housing Group	Madeline McKenna Court, Widnes (11) Elaine Price Court, Runcorn (28)	£35,405
Your Housing Group	Community Alarm Service	£960

REPORT TO: Executive Board
DATE: 12 March 2015
REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Communities
PORTFOLIO: Health & Wellbeing
SUBJECT: Adult Social Care Contracts
WARD(S) Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To seek approval from Executive Board to extend the current services provided by external and voluntary sector providers for either a one year period 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2016 or a two year period from 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2017, as identified in appendix 1 and 2. This requires a waiver to Procurement Standing Orders. Each contract will be for 12 months only, but where relevant will offer a twelve month extension if contract objectives are met.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That Executive Board

- 1) **Agree to using Procurement Standing Orders 1.8.3 (d), (e) and (f) to waive Procurement Standing Order 4.1 in respect of voluntary sector contracts with a value not exceeding £172,514, as listed in Appendix 1.**
- 2) **Agree to an extension of existing voluntary sector contracts for a period of 2 years from 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2017 for all contracts listed in appendix 1.**
- 3) **Agree to an extension of existing voluntary sector contracts for a period of 1 year from 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2016 for all contracts listed in appendix 2.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 In Halton there has always been a vibrant voluntary sector and that has been maintained despite the difficult financial landscape they are operating within. The services included within this report are delivered to support the prevention agenda that it is pivotal to the strategic aims of Adult Social Care. These services have played a vital part in helping us to main a level of prevention within the borough and are also well placed to deliver important outcomes linked to the Care Act. It is clear that if the unique and dedicated

services were lost there would be a significant gap in service delivery that would not be filled elsewhere.

3.2 The contracts outlined in Appendix 1 and 2 represent a number of voluntary organisations who deliver a valuable service across health and social care. It is proposed that the Council continues to fund these services.

3.3 Expected changes through the Social Care bill and plans to develop the Better Care Fund have also necessitated a strategic approach which encompasses all of the named organisations. Each of these services will be reviewed in line with the required aims and objectives of the prevention agenda.

3.4 Each of the services listed in the two appendices will, from April 1st 2015, be managed through the Better Care Fund. This will ensure that the services are jointly funded and managed. Therefore they will realise improved efficiency in monitoring and overall performance.

4.0 BUSINESS CASE FOR EXTENSION OF CONTRACTS

4.1 Value for money

The financial contribution from the council is supported by the contribution from local volunteers and as such the services listed in Appendix 1 and 2 provide good value for money. The Council's contribution to all services will be subject to further review in 2015/6.

4.2 Transparency

Contracts will be recorded in the Council's Contract Register accessible via the internet together with the publication of all spend in excess of £500.00.

4.3 Propriety and Scrutiny

The extension of the contracts referred to in this report will be compliant with Halton Borough Council's Procurement Standing Orders. Compliance with anti-corruption practices will be adhered to and any of the contracts within the subject of this report will be terminated if there is any occurrence of corruption by any organisations or their staff.

4.4 Accountability

The contracts will be performance managed and service standards monitored by commissioners and the contracts team.

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 In anticipation of the implementation of the Care Act in April 2015, during 2014/15, the local authority has been engaged with the service providers listed in appendix 1 with a view to achieving; service re-design based on the achievement of outcomes, better quality and value for money, and improved integration within an evolving system of integrated health and social care services
- 5.2 On 17th January 2008, the Department of Health issued a Local Authority Circular entitled 'Transforming Social Care'. The circular set out information to support transformation of social care and at the heart of this change is the personalisation agenda. As we develop community provision within prevention services we will need to consider the implications of personalisation for the whole community.
- 5.3 Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS, July 2010, also sets out plans to radically transform the NHS. This includes development of Clinical Commissioning Groups that means local clinicians having more of a say in how they commission services. This has had a major impact on the voluntary sector as they have had to adapt to a whole new way of working and prepare for commissioning changes in the sector.
- 5.4 Locally, to support these National documents, the Early Intervention and Prevention Strategy identifies the need to support Older People to maintain their independence and a high quality of life. The Learning Disability Commissioning Strategy Mid-term review, The Carers Commissioning Strategy and the Joint Commissioning Strategy for People with Physical and/or Sensory Disabilities all outline the current position and needs of different service areas in the borough. These documents look at the need for a range of support services to help people achieve the best outcomes for them including information, transport, advocacy and health promotion.

6.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The total financial implication of the contracts listed in Appendix 1 is £360,559 per year.
- 6.2 The contracts have been reviewed during the course of 2014/15 to ensure that service objectives are in line with the new Health and Wellbeing and Clinical Commissioning Group Priorities and that services continue to provide value for money.
- 6.3 The cost of the recommended extension to contracts can be met within existing budget allocations.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

7.1 Children & Young People in Halton

None identified.

7.2 Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

Voluntary sector organisations rely significantly on volunteer time to deliver services. The organisations provide training and placement opportunities for volunteers, increasing their skills and employability.

7.3 A Healthy Halton

The services provided by Age UK Mid Mersey and Red Cross deliver direct support from people in their own home or as they are being discharged from hospital. Information and Advocacy is a vital mainstay of helping people to remain healthy and independent in their own homes.

7.4 A Safer Halton

The prevention agenda is well supported by the voluntary sector and Age UK Mid Mersey offer practical help and information to ensure that older people's homes are safe and secure. In addition Red Cross offer practical support for people when they leave hospital.

7.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

None identified.

8.0 RISK ANALYSIS

8.1 The Quality Assurance Team will monitor the grants and ensure the Council and Halton residents receive value for money

9.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

9.1 To receive funding a voluntary sector organisation has to ensure that that acceptable equality and diversity policies are in place.

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

None.

Appendix 1 – two year extension

Name of provider & details of service	Contract start date	Contract end date	Budget 2015/16	Rationale
Vision Support	01/04/15	31/03/17	£42,268 per annum (HBC Base budget £25,000 / Halton CCG £17,268)	This service offers training and specialist equipment for people with a visual impairment. It supports in excess of 300 people and this number is rising. Vision Support are the only provider of its kind in the borough and are successfully meeting agreed outputs and outcomes.
Red Cross – Home from Hospital	01/04/15	31/03/17	£67,152 per annum HBC 50% £33,576 CCG 50% £33,576	This service supports people for a short period during the difficult transition from Hospital to home. The Red Cross support is an important part of discharge management within the hospital and offers its service to help alleviate pressure on beds as well as offering practical support to people when they are at their most vulnerable. Practical help is time-limited, and includes, assistance with food preparation and shopping, ensuring a warm home, assistance with confidence building, outdoor mobility and befriending services, after a period of illness The service is currently being delivered at a very competitive unit cost of just £9.84 per hour.
Halton Speak Out	01/04/15	31/03/17	£73,439 per annum HBC Base Budget	This service is a vital part of the development of engagement with people with a learning disability in the borough. The service has recently been reviewed and the service has had a 10% reduction in annual funding implemented from April 1 st 2015.

Appendix 2 – one year extension

Name of provider & details of service	Contract start date	Contract end date	Budget 2015/16	Funding source
Age UK Mid Mersey – Information Service	01/04/15	31/03/16	£78,000 per annum HBC 50% £39,000 CCG 50% £39,000	Due to the implementation of the new Care Act this service is best placed to be redesigned to build on its current successes and develop in new areas to address the requirements of the Act.
Age UK Mid Mersey – Practical Tasks	01/04/15	31/03/16	£61,000 per annum HBC 50% £30,500 CCG 50% £30,500	Like the service above the practical tasks will offer significant opportunities for redesign in line with the Care Act. This will be linked specifically to the well-being agenda and will maintain its ethos of delivering vital prevention solutions for older people. Practical tasks include; identify and overcome potential hazards in the home, for example, ways to avoid falls, home safety, crime and bogus callers, carbon monoxide poisoning etc. They also give practical help about fitting smoke alarms, providing energy efficient light bulbs, torches, UV security pens. In addition, AGE UK can give information on how to gain further assistance and benefits advice.

Carers Trust (formerly Crossroads) End of Life service	01/04/15	31/03/16	£37,553 per annum (CCG funding)	This service delivers carers respite for people who are supporting someone who is at end of life. The service has been reviewed and a new specification that covers each of the three services listed in this table is being developed. This new specification will be better suited to identify the needs of carers and offer flexible support to help maintain them in this important role.
Carers Trust (formerly Crossroads) Carers Respite, Health	01/04/15	31/03/16	£29,265 per annum (CCG funding)	This service delivers carers respite for people who are supporting someone who is unable to leave their home. The service has been reviewed and a new specification that covers each of the three services listed in this table is being developed. This new specification will be better suited to identify the needs of carers and offer flexible support to help maintain them in this important role.
Carers Trust (formerly Crossroads) Carers respite social care	01/04/15	31/03/16	£40,000 per annum (CCG funding)	This service offers a weekly respite for people who are caring for someone with a limiting illness. This and the two services above will be moved to be part of the Better Care Fund from April 1 st and will be managed through this agreed process.

REPORT TO: Executive Board

DATE: 12 March 2015

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director - Policy & Resources

PORTFOLIO: Resources

SUBJECT: Directorate Performance Overview Reports for Quarter 3
2014 - 15

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To report the Council's performance for the third quarter period to 31st December 2014. The report details progress against key objectives / milestones and performance targets, and describes factors affecting each of the three Directorates. In addition each report contains an update concerning the implementation of mitigation measures for all high-risks that are contained within each of the Directorate Risk Registers.

2.0 RECOMMENDED: That Executive Board

- 1) note the information contained in the reports; and**
- 2) consider the progress and performance information and raise any questions or points for clarification.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 It is essential that the Council maintains a planning and performance framework that allows the identification and on-going monitoring of key activities and performance measures that meet organisational needs. Performance management will also continue to be important in our demonstration of value for money and outward accountability.

3.2 The Directorate Performance Overview Report provides a strategic summary of the key issues arising from performance in the relevant quarter for each Directorate and being aligned to Council priorities or functional areas. Such information is central to the Council's performance management arrangements and the Executive Board has a key role in monitoring performance and strengthening accountability.

3.3 Information for each of the Council's Directorates is contained within the following appendices:

- Appendix 1 - Children and Enterprise
- Appendix 2 - Communities
- Appendix 3 - Policy and Resources

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The Council's Performance Management Framework will continue to form a key part of the Council's policy framework.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

5.1 These reports would also be available to support future scrutiny arrangements of services by Members and Inspection regimes for Ofsted and Adult Social Care.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Existing and future performance frameworks at both local and national level are linked to the delivery of the Council's priorities.

6.2 The introduction of Directorate Overview Reports for Executive Board, reporting key objectives/ milestones and performance indicators will further support organisational improvement.

6.3 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 Council priorities.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 The new revised performance framework for 2012/13 and beyond will allow the authority to both align its activities to the delivery of organisation and partnership priorities and provide appropriate information to all relevant stakeholders in accordance with the "transparency agenda". Performance Indicators are used by external agencies and the public at large in informing any judgement they make as to how the authority is currently performing.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 Minority and disadvantaged groups and geographic areas are involved with and taken into account in all stages of performance management, including planning, data collection and analysis, service delivery, policy and service development and the impact of policies.

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

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

Directorate Performance Overview Report

Directorate: Children and Enterprise

Reporting Period: Quarter 3, 1 October 2014 – 31 December 2014

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This report provides an overview of issues and progress within the Directorate that have occurred during the period of the report. The way in which traffic light symbols have been used to reflect progress to date is explained within Appendix 1 (section 8).
- 1.2 Please note initials have been provided to indicate which Operational Director is responsible for the commentary to aid Members, as requested by the Children and Young People Policy and Performance Board. A key is provided at the end of the report in Appendix 1 (section 8).

2.0 Key Developments

- 2.1 Matching capital spend against appropriate school accommodation (AMc)
Monitoring primary and secondary school place provision with Halton remains a key priority and Halton Borough Council Officers continue to identify any future additional accommodation requirements/surplus place issues, and seek to determine appropriate capital spend against those required demands.
- 2.2 Halton Youth Provision (AMc)
Halton Youth Provision is currently out for tender and there will be a need to ensure the progress made over the last two years, in reducing teenage conceptions and alcohol related hospital admissions is maintained with existing or newly commissioned service.
- 2.3 Early Years Pupil Premium (AMc)
From April 2015, private and voluntary sector early years providers will be able to claim the Early Years Pupil Premium for all eligible 3 and 4 year olds. The Pupil Premium will be paid at a rate of 0.53p per hour and is intended to improve the quality of early years education for the most disadvantaged children in Halton.
- 2.4 Proportion of 16-18 year old identified as NOT in employment (NEET) or Not Known (AMc)
Since April 2014 the Local Authority has been responsible for the tracking of young people aged 16-18 residents within Halton. This information is reported to DfE on a monthly basis. Whilst the NEET position at December 2014 (6.5%) is positive there are a higher proportion of young people identified as Not Known than compared to this time last year (4.9% in Dec-14 compared to 3.6% in Dec-13).
- 2.5 The Enterprise Game (AMc)
The Enterprise Game has been re developed as an education resource to give learners an insight into the world of work, and to help teach teaching professionals and embed

enterprise into their curriculum. Wade Deacon High School hosted the launch of the game in December 2014 with a number of Halton primary schools competing to be Enterprise Champions. The launch was well supported and Councillor Eddie Jones was on hand to advise teams and award the trophy to the winning team from Farnworth C of E Primary School.

2.6 Success for Halton in Chief Inspector of Education's report (GM)

Halton Borough Council has been named by a top Government inspector, after being placed in the top 10 best performing local authorities in the UK for educating white disadvantaged pupils. The annual report of Sir Michael Wilshaw, *Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children Services and Skills* was published in December. Within the report councils are named where outcomes are to be celebrated and **Halton shines, with great results compared to most of its neighbours**. Halton has been highlighted within the report as among the best performing councils, and the only outside of Southern England, for the GCSE achievement of White British pupils eligible for free school meals. This is only 0.2% below affluent Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea. It is also reported an increase of 20% of children in secondary schools judged as good or better and 6% increase in primary pupils, with 86% now attending such schools.

In the schools report Halton is ranked in the top half of local authorities nationally for the percentage of pupils attending good or outstanding primary schools (ranked 45th out of 150) and secondary schools (67th out of 150). The regional report for the North West, ranks Halton as the highest ranking local authority for the percentage of students eligible for free school meals achieving at least 5 A*-C GCSEs including English and maths. 70% of non-free school meals also achieve this, making Halton third, behind Trafford and Wirral, in the whole North West and well above the national average. The report states that Key Stage 4 (KS4) performance of disadvantaged students in secondary schools in the North West is strongest in Halton.

The regional report also commended Halton for work around system leadership. This is excellent news and extend thanks and congratulations to our schools. A link to the report can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ofsted-annual-report-201314-published>

2.7 Promotion of British values as part of spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development (GM)

All maintained schools must meet the requirements set out in section 78 of the Education Act 2002 and promote the spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development of their pupils. Through ensuring pupils' SMSC development, schools can also demonstrate they are actively promoting fundamental British values. Pupils must be encouraged to regard people of all faiths, races and cultures with respect and tolerance.

The school's ethos and teaching, should support the rule of English civil and criminal law and schools should not teach anything that undermines it. If schools teach about religious law, particular care should be taken to explore the relationship between state and religious law. Pupils should be made aware of the difference between the law of the land and religious law.

Schools should promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

All schools are required to demonstrate that they are meeting these requirements. This is a national inspection focus and is linked to the prevention of radicalisation, referred to as the 'Prevent' agenda.

- 2.8 Skills Funding Agency (SFA) Community Learning Mental Health Pilot North West (WR)
The Government's 2014 Autumn Statement announced an additional £5m 2015-16 and £15m in 2016-17 for pilot community learning courses to help adults recover from mild to moderate mental health problems. An invitation to tender was issued at the end of December 2014 and Halton will be submitting a bid. There will be 5 contracts awarded from the 24 North West LAs.
- 2.9 SFA Community Learning Mental Health Pilot North West (WR)
The pre-qualification questionnaire (PQQ) process has now been completed and a tender list of 6 contractors agreed. Works are now progressing well with the preparation of the tender documentation and it is anticipated this will be issued in late January 2015. The enabling contract for the archaeological works has been let and works will start on site in January 2015 in respect of this element of the work. It has been agreed that there will be a stage 2 tender process, the anticipated start on site now being March 2015, with completion being due by May 2016.
- 2.10 Merseylink 'SME cluster' workshop (WR)
A workshop for SME businesses who had expressed an interest to create a cluster in order to collectively bid for the catering contract released by Merseylink took place on 8th October. The event was supported by the Halton Employment Partnership and the Business Innovation and Growth teams. A number of local catering businesses attended and were also offered follow up support.
- 2.11 Corporate Apprenticeship Workshop (WR)
This took place at the Select Stadium on 13th October with the objective of raising awareness of and growing the number of apprentices within Halton Borough Council workforce. About 25 officers attended and heard information from Skills Funding Agency, existing HBC apprentices and the support available through HEP.
- 2.12 Youth Contract Underspend (Youth Employment Gateway) (WR)
Q3 saw the recruitment to and the launch of the Youth Employment Gateway project which aims to support 18-24 year old JSA claimants who are between 1 and 9 months unemployed. Funded by Cabinet Office, the project aims to support 94 people in year one with training and employment.
- 2.13 Licence Acquisition Scheme (WR)
A small pot of funding is being used to fund 10 local unemployed residents to take part in the licence acquisition scheme which 2 local logistics companies deliver (Stobarts and Freight

First). Runcorn residents will access Freight First HEP programme and Widnes will access Stobart HEP programme. Discussions were being finalised in Q3 as to how individuals will be selected for the bespoke employability programme, with a view to it being delivered in Q4. Individuals would not, under their own steam, be able to fund this level of training.

2.14 Halton Veteran's Support Network (WR)

An event that brought various veteran support networks together took place at the Brindley on 1st December. The event was used to highlight the various support available and to raise awareness of quality provision. A city region delivery programme to support ex-service men and women is due to launch in Q4.

2.15 Proposed new Travellers site (WR)

A contract has been let to John Turners and we have approval from the HCA to proceed with the project. It is anticipated that works will commence on site in early February 2015 with completion being due by 31 May 2015.

2.16 Widnes Crematorium (WR)

Replacement cremators – the works are progressing on site, the first cremator became operational in October 2014, the second cremator now due for completion by end of January 2015.

2.17 Moor Lane Business Centre (WR)

Demolition works have now been completed and site is currently being modified to provide additional parking facilities for the Health Centre. It has been agreed that the car park specification will be upgraded to provide a new tarmac surfaced finish laid to falls in order to overcome any drainage issues.

2.18 Picow Farm Depot – Central Records Management Unit (WR)

Works are now complete to the records management unit and the Administration Division have commenced with transferring documentation into the new facility, helping to enhance agile working arrangements.

2.19 Education maintenance programme (WR)

Works are now complete to the vast majority of the maintenance projects which have been taking place within schools over the summer period. There are still a couple of projects to complete but all is progressing well with the remaining works. The draft list of works for 2015/16 has now been established, this will be presented for full approval in early 2015.

2.20 Corporate Maintenance works (WR)

Works are progressing well with the various maintenance projects on the corporate buildings, it is anticipated that these will be completed and the budget fully spent by the end of the financial year. Works are now progressing with the draft list of works for 2015/16, and it is anticipated that this will be issued to the Asset Management Working group for approval in the new year.

2.21 Runcorn Hill Park Pavilion & Widnes Rec Sports Pavilion (WR)

A contract has now been let to Whitfield & Brown in respect of the completion of the project following Globe going into administration. Works recommenced on Runcorn Hill Park Pavilion in November 2014, the completion now being due mid-April 2015. Works are expected to start on Widnes Rec Sports Pavilion in January 2015, with completion expected by end April 2015.

2.22 Consultants Services Contract (WR)

A new three year consultant services contract has been let to Arcus Consulting following a lengthy procurement process. The contract runs from 17 November 2014 for three years with the availability of a one year extension.

2.23 Regeneration non-Town Centres (WR)

SciTech Daresbury:

- Tenders were received September 2014 from Barr, Galliford Try, Grahams Construction, Eric Wright. Start on site is estimated March 2015.
- £5.57m EZ Capital Grant awarded, two payments have been received by the Local Authority.
- £1.1m bid to ERDF for Phase 1b Techspace; bid approved.
- SciTech funding route map workshop brought together relevant stakeholders to consider the current and future skills needs of the campus and consider possible sources of funding to deliver on the skills strategy. A number of spin-off meetings to look at specific funding pots are due to take place.

2.24 European Programme 2014-2020 (WR)

The LCR Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) are having discussions with partners regarding potential new projects where Government funding that could be used as a match is time sensitive, such as Youth Employment Initiative Funding (YEI), this must be spent by end 2017. The eligibility of participants that can be assisted through TEI has been narrowed, and in conjunction with the tight timescale for spend, this is becoming a real challenge.

2.25 Castlefields, Lakeside Phase 1 (WR)

11 November 2013 the Council completed on the disposal of the site of the former Barge Public House and adjoining land to Keepmoat Homes. The scheme comprises of 66 units for open market sale (OMS) and 20 two bed affordable homes for rent. These 20 units will be owned/managed by Plus Dane Group. In respect of OMS, to date 23 sold legally completed, 39 reserved, 4 to sell. Joint publicity achieved at a number of key points. Scheme expected to complete December 2015. For further information about the development see: <http://www.keepmoat.com/development/bridgewater-gardens-runcorn>

2.26 Castlefields, Canalside (WR)

March 2013 planning permission was granted to the Council for works to former Busway Canal Bridge. This grants planning consent to form a new road and cycleway over the existing bridge to provide access to potential new development at 'Canalside'. In the same month a

structural assessment of the bridge also passed; although bridge parapets need some upgrading. Work to the bridge deck and parapet commenced November 2014 and are complete, aside from final painting. Keepmoat have constructed a road to the bridge which is nearing completion. This was agreed as part of the sites disposal. A second vehicular link to Canalside has a number of benefits and will help market the site. Further works to the Daresbury Expressway bridge are due to commence March 2015 to further improve access. Over the last few months, clearance works to the redundant Busway Carriageway and embankment have been undertaken by HBC Open Spaces team to open up the site, and also enable assessment of the carriageway by Highways planned for winter 2014-15.

2.27 3MG (WR)

The A5300 link road was completed September 2014. Planning permission was granted for HBC Field on 8 September 2014. Executive Board approved the appointment of IDI Gazeley on 20 November 2014 as the preferred developer. A new planning application has been submitted for the latest Rail Sidings scheme and this will be considered by Development Control Committee in spring 2015. The rail scheme is progressing through Network Rail's approval process. Good progress is being made on the proposals for a Biomass Plant and a new bridge which will span Stewards Brook.

2.28 Investment Enquiries (WR)

The Business Improvement and Growth (BIG) Team managed 32 commercial property/inward investment enquiries in quarter 3 which resulted in 7 conversions (inward investment enquiries converted into actual investment projects). The percentage of enquiries converted for quarter 3 was 21.87%. Cumulative total of enquiries for 2014-15 at end of quarter 3 was 193 against the annual target of 200. Cumulative conversions rate is 11% against the annual target of 10%.

2.29 LCR Business Growth Grant Programme (WR)

The LCR Business Growth Grant can provide a grant of between £10k and £1m to eligible companies across the LCR based on private sector leverage ratio of 5:1 and the creation of sustainable jobs. To date 60 Halton companies have sought support from the schemes. Of that 28 formal expressions of interest have been received and 11 full applications appraised and approved by the Council's internal grant panel. Local companies currently contracted to receive the grant are:

- Converge IT
- WSR Limited
- The Protein Works
- Tall Security Print Ltd
- Merseyside Printing Company Ltd
- Ineos Technologies (Vinyls) Ltd
- Helsby & Longden Ltd

The total project value of received live projects is £6,339,563 which equates to £1,026,775 of grant requested. To dates, £254,249 has been paid to local companies, and £198,607 recovered from the LEP.

Whilst the current LCR Business Growth Grant Programme is fully committed, the combined Merseyside Chambers of Commerce have applied under the government's RDF round 6 for funds to deliver a scheme offering grants up to £75k and Merseyside Special Investment fund have applied for funds to deliver a scheme offering grants between 375k and £1m. Local authorities were precluded from making applications under RGF round 6. It is anticipated that Central government will announced in February 2015 where the above applications have been successful. The sum of £15m has also been included in the LCR 'City Deal' to continue the current scheme for a further two years.

2.30 Merseyside Business Support Programme (WR)

The Merseyside Business Support Programme continues to engage the Halton business community. To date, there have been 257 enquiries for assistance to the programme. Of these 114 are currently engaged on the programme. The project is now collecting information on jobs created/safeguarded and the financial impact of the support. To date businesses have reported 64 jobs created (57% of target) and 16 jobs safeguarded (27% of target). Ten businesses have reported an increase in gross value added of £3,016,554.

3.0 Emerging Issues

3.1 Childcare Sustainability (AMc)

The statutory requirement to increase provision of places for vulnerable 2 year olds continues. It is important that there is a balance of private, voluntary and independent providers wherever possible, situated appropriately within the borough to ensure that supply meets demand and that the quality of provision is Good or better in terms of Ofsted Inspection outcomes. Halton Borough Council Officers will continue to work collaboratively with settings to ensure this is the case. Where sustainability or viability is an issue, local authority officers will work with settings to identify solutions.

3.2 Admissions to Hospital for Substance Misuse (AMc)

Halton continues to see a small increase in the number of under 20 year old young people admitted to hospital for substance misuse. The largest group continues to be age 16 and above. The main substances used in relation to hospital admissions, continues to involve prescription or over the counter medication.

3.3 Complex Dependency (AMc)

Four Cheshire LA's put together a funding proposal under the Transformation Challenge Award 2015-16 . The award was based on encouraging places that have ambitious plans to work in partnership across the public sector and with the voluntary and community sector or private sector to re-design services. Warrington have led on this approach called Tackling Complex Dependency in Cheshire it was confirmed in November that proposal was successful.

The programme is to establish a ground breaking multi-agency approach to tackling 'complex dependency' across families and individuals within Cheshire. With a clear focus on prevention this integrated model of service delivery will tackle the root causes of crisis in

6,625 families (36,833 individuals) with complex needs. This will lead to better outcomes, reduced costs, and an exemplar that can be adopted and adapted in other localities across the country. This is not a troubled families model or a small-scale pilot as traditionally understood. It will build on good practice but make a genuine leap forward towards a whole system approach that will rewire the way public agencies interact with each other around common goals and cohorts. This scale of ambition will achieve benefits at greater scale than could be achieved on a smaller footprint of single agency approach.

3.4 Expanded Troubled Families Programme (AMc)

In June 2013, the Government announced plans to expand the Troubled Families programme to reach 400,000 additional families across England. The expanded programme aims to reach families with multiple problems earlier and provide help that can prevent problems escalating to crisis point. The expanded programme aims to reach over three times as many families - 1290 families in Halton over the next 5 years compared with 375 over the last 3 years. Nationally, £200M has been committed to fund the first year of the expanded programme and a first wave of 51 early starters began to deliver the expanded programme in September 2014. In August 2014, the Department of Communities & Local Government announced that a second wave of early starters will start delivering the expanded programme from January 2015, of which Halton is a part of with a target of identifying 65 families and working with them by 31st March 2015.

The expanded Programme retains the current Programme's focus on multiple problems (poor school attendance, youth crime, anti-social behaviour and unemployment) but also aims to reach out to families affected by a broader range of problems, including domestic abuse and health problems. Crucially, the expanded programme also aims to reach families with younger children who need help and assist them in tackling problems before they reach crisis point. There is a clear expectation that doing this will reduce costs to the public purse.

3.5 SEND Update (AMc)

To date, Halton LA has conformed with all the Statutory compliance required by 1st September 2014. This required all LA's to have a process for acquiring an Education and Health Care plan, A Local Offer on our website and Conversions arrangements to change Statements of Educational Need into Plans by April 2018.

To date our ECHP process has met with approval from stakeholders and our finalised plans have been produced. The Local Offer is beginning to grow with particular emphasis on participation from all users. The appointment of dedicated staff is starting to impact on converting of statements into Plans.

The areas for development are; Personal Budgets, the Local offer and the participation of stakeholders in the SEND Reforms.

Additionally, in December 2014, it was announced by the DFE, LA's would anticipate an inspection around its compliance with the SEND reforms. A framework for this inspection is anticipated post May 2014.

3.6 Revised Ofsted Inspection Framework for Children's Homes (TC)

A Consultation by Ofsted has recently concluded in a revised inspection framework for children's homes published in November 2014. The new framework is expected to be produced in March and will be implemented in April 2015. The framework will present greater challenge to homes to evidence the progress that young people make whilst in their care and the impact the care has on their overall development. Please use the link below for details.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ofsted-announces-new-plans-for-inspection-of-childrens-homes>

3.7 Ofsted Inspection inspections of services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers (TC)

The Local Authority experienced an Ofsted Inspection in November 2014. The report into the findings will be published on 3 February 2015, and will make some recommendations as to how the service should develop and in what areas. There will likely be new developments in the next quarter, as an Ofsted action plan will be developed and implemented.

3.8 Children's Attainment -Assessment without levels (GM)

With last year's announcement by the Department for Education (DfE) that levels will no longer be used to assess children's attainment, schools have until the end of the current academic year to identify and start to put into place an alternative assessment system. The new national curriculum, which will be assessed for the first time at the end of Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 in the summer of 2016, has end of year expectations for each year but this is the only assessment guidance that exists at present. The DfE has consulted on performance descriptors for the end of KS1 and end of KS2 but the definitive documentation is not due to be published until this summer at the earliest.

3.9 Tracking Children's Progress (GM)

Tracking progress is an issue causing concern for headteachers and many are looking to their current tracking system provider to introduce a new product that will provide the answers as to how to assess as well as track progress. The difficulty is that there is a wide variety of systems being developed and marketed and as yet there is no evidence as to how effective any of them are. School Improvement Officers are providing regular forums for headteachers to share information as well as to brief them on what they believe to be the best.

3.10 LCR Growth Hub (WR)

The LCR LEP has developed a proposal to create a "Growth Hub" for the city region. This is not a physical entity but rather a virtual organisation to provide business support services across the LCR. Government is very prescriptive with the respect to the form and function of the Growth Hub model they will support. The prescribed model suggests a preminent role for local Chambers support by local authorities. Halton Borough Council and Halton Chamber of Commerce and others are discussing in detail how the Growth Hub might work in Halton and how best the model might serve the needs of the local business community.

At a city region level an initial funding package of £550k has been agreed between the LEP and BIS to support the development of a LCR Growth Hub. The LEP are obliged to undertake a full OJEU procurement exercise to appoint the partners who will deliver the Growth Hub locally. It is the intention of the LEP to appoint partners to a framework for five years to deliver the hub and other business support services. The Council and Chamber will work together to submit a tender response to deliver the Growth Hub in Halton.

As part of the development of a LCR Growth Hub the LEP has proposed a pan-Merseyside computerised record management system to manage investment projects, commercial property enquiries and future grant and business support programmes. The BIG team has contracted to roll out the new system locally.

3.11 LCR Inward Investment Strategy (WR)

The LCR LEP has proposed the creation of a stand-alone inward investment agency for the City Region called "Invest Liverpool". Any such agency, however, would have to be resourced by the six Local Authorities, primarily through the provision of secondees. To resource such an agency, given the current demands placed upon local authorities budgets, is unrealistic. It is, therefore, proposed that existing inward investment activity across the LCR be formalised. Once the resource currently utilised to support inward investment activities across the LCR has been identified, it can be used as match to draw down additional resources from the European Programme 2014-20. To accelerate the process the LEP have issued a tender for a private sector consultancy to work with the local authorities to identify the LCR offer.

3.12 Aerospace/Automotive Cluster (WR)

The first meeting of a small cluster group, made up of local companies involved in very specialist, high tech aspects of the aerospace and automotive industries will take place 5 March 2015. It is intended that in the future, the group will be private sector led and meet on a regular basis to discuss matters of shared interest and promote the sector further locally, regionally and nationally.

3.13 Runcorn Retail Business Improvement District (WR)

A Business Improvement District (BID) proposal, encompassing Runcorn Old Town, Trident Retail Park and Runcorn Shopping Centre has been proposed. Groundwork Cheshire have been appointed to facilitate the development of a BID Business Plan, manage a major consultation exercise and oversee a ballot of all businesses within the programme area. The proposal will be launched at the Brindley on 5 February 2015 and a ballot will be held in July 2015. It is anticipated that, subject to a successful ballot, the BID will be in place by September 2015.

3.14 Corporate Accommodation (WR)

Work is continuing with the move towards full agile working arrangements which is helping further rationalise office accommodation. John Briggs House will be vacated mid-January 2015. Discussions are currently ongoing with the Police in respect of them purchasing the site. It is anticipated that this will go to Executive Board for approval in February 2015. The

vacating a sale of this site will significantly reduce our revenue expenditure and help generate income.

3.15 Capital Works (WR)

The Construction Design and Management (CDM) Regulations 2015 will come into force 1 April 2015. These will have a significant impact on projects as they place additional Health & Safety responsibilities on clients and create a new role of Principal Designer which is likely to be required on the majority of projects, as opposed to the current CDM-C role which is only required on the larger scale projects. There are likely to be some cost implications in respect of this which are currently being assessed. It is anticipated these will be minimal.

The new public procurement regulations are due to come into force later this year. These are likely to have a significant impact on some of the procurement processes which we currently undertake as the pre-qualification questionnaire (PQQ) stage of the process will be removed for a significant element of the workload undertaken. The regulations are designed to give SME's more of an opportunity to obtain work in the public sector, which is welcome. It is likely to result in higher numbers of submissions requiring evaluation which could impact on the workload.

The revised carbon reduction commitment (CRC) scheme has now come into force. This has resulted in Halton dropping out of the scheme. It had been anticipated this would save the Council slightly in excess of £150k per annum in payments, however it has emerged that an alternative payment arrangement is to be introduced, which will have a similar impact, as such there will be no overall cost saving.

3.16 Coastal Communities Fund, joint project with Warrington Borough Council (WR)

The project aims to increase support to businesses based along the Sankey Canal from Spike Island through to Warrington. There are two members of staff in place and the project has commenced. There have been some issues with the installation of the Marsh House Bridge at Fiddlers Ferry which is being dealt with by Warrington Borough Council. Halton is also working on another joint contract with Warrington (the Highways & Maintenance contract) with Tarmac and it is hoped that the two projects will have some synergies, particularly around the creation of apprenticeships.

3.17 Woodlands Building (WR)

Canal Boat Adventure Project was due to take on the lease for the Woodlands Building, however there have been some delays to this due to issues at the organisation.

3.18 Castlefields, Lakeside Phase 2/3 (WR)

With the success of Phase 1, it is important that momentum within private housing market continues on Castlefields and the Masterplan is realised. As such with planning and other lead in times, attention has been focussed on bringing Lakeside Phase 2/3 to market. A three month period of exclusivity was entered into with Keepmoat Homes on 8 December 2014 to allow them time to undertake site surveys and to develop their plans. Subject to an appropriate offer being made, this will be presented for a formal Council decision on disposal.

3.19 Castlefields, Canalside (WR)

In June 2014 the Council (as land owner) has provided a submission to the Local Plan Allocations Document for Canalside to be allocated a residential development for up to 250 homes. This would provide certainty for the land and any future disposal and extend beyond the life of the Regeneration Programme. Interest in the purchase of the Canalside is starting to emerge but at this stage no formal approach has been made. Marketing / disposal of Canalside is currently not anticipated until 2017 although this situation could change to capitalise on any growth in the housing market. It is anticipated that an agent will be instructed by December 2015 to aid the marketing and disposal of the site.

3.20 Merseylink SME 'Catering Cluster' (WR)

Following the October clustering workshop, a catering cluster of local SME businesses was created and the cluster was successful in obtaining a catering contract through the Merseylink project. It is hoped to run further clustering workshops around facilities management/cleaning in Q4.

3.21 Corporate Apprentices (WR)

Following the workshop in October a number of teams within the council have taken steps to potentially create apprenticeship posts within their teams. In addition, current HBC vacancies have been analysed to determine which could lend themselves effectively to an apprenticeship. This information has now been shared with the Portfolio Holder and next steps will be agreed in Q4.

3.22 Merseylink Visitor Centres (WR)

Both the Runcorn and Widnes centres are due to open in Q4. The Catalyst will be home to the Widnes Visitor Centre whilst Halton Lea Library will provide the location for the Runcorn centre. Initially, Wigg Island was earmarked for the Runcorn side but accessibility and the safety of the volunteers has meant a re-think and Halton Lea has been identified as a suitable information point for the project. Around 45 volunteers have been trained to date and a further volunteer recruitment campaign will commence in Q4.

4.0 Risk Control Measures

4.1 Risk control forms an integral part of the Council's Business Planning and performance monitoring arrangements. As such Directorate Risk Registers were updated in tandem with the development of the suite of 2014 – 15 Directorate Business Plans.

4.2 Progress concerning the implementation of all Directorate high-risk mitigation measures relevant to this Policy and Performance Board was reported at quarter two.

5.0 Progress against high priority equality actions

5.1 Equality issues continue to form a routine element of the Council's business planning and operational decision making processes. Additionally the Council must have evidence to

demonstrate compliance with the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) which came into force in April 2011.

- 5.2 The Councils latest annual progress report in relation to the achievement of its equality objectives was published on the Council website during quarter 4 and is available via: http://www3.halton.gov.uk/Pages/councildemocracy/pdfs/EandD/Equality_-_objectives_progress_report_-_April_2013.pdf

6.0 Performance Overview

6.1 The following information provides a synopsis of progress for both milestones and performance indicators across the key business areas that have been identified by each Directorate.

Priority: Integrated Commissioning of services to meet the needs of children, young people and families in Halton

Key Milestones and Measures

Hospital Admissions for Substance Misuse & Alcohol				Teenage conceptions quarterly rate				Percentage of educational settings graded good or better			
Current progress	Target	Quarterly progress	Direction of Travel	Current progress	Target	Quarterly progress	Direction of Travel	Current progress	Target	Quarterly progress	Direction of Travel
?	N/A	15 (2011-13)	N/A	✓	N/A	29.5	↑	N/A	78%	83%	N/A













Supporting commentary

Hospital Admissions – Data provided for Q3 is a different measurement than seen in previous quarters, and that the target was set against. The current rate is 15.0 per 10,000 (2011-13)

compared to 14.9 per 10,000 in 2009-11). Consistent calculation of the data will be required for providing appropriate trend and comparator information.

Teenage Conceptions – Data provided for Q3 is a different measurement than seen in previous quarters as rolling quarterly average is no longer available. Rate for Q3 2013: 29.5, this is a continued reduction from the position in Q2 2012: 35.0.

The latest published data (31/08/2014) shows that Halton had 81% of maintained schools graded as good or outstanding, in line with the national average. Locally calculated at 31 December 2014 shows that further progress has been made with 83% of the schools graded good or better.

Ref	Milestones	Quarterly progress
LAS1	Evaluate the outcomes of school inspections through the School Development Panel, and summarised within the Ofsted summary reports, to ensure that learning resulting from the inspection process is effectively shared with schools	
LAS1	Undertake categorisation process for all schools and identify actions, including levels of support and intervention, required to improve inspection outcomes by October 2014	
LAS1	Review the performance of all schools and Early Years settings with a specific focus on those currently graded as satisfactory/ requiring improvement by October 2014.	
LAS2	Conduct the annual analysis of school performance data for all primary, secondary and special schools during September – December 2014 (with further reviews undertaken at key points in the performance data release cycle).	
LAS2	Ensure appropriate deployment of School Improvement support for identified schools and settings, including school to school support as appropriate.	
COPS1	Complete the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) which provides a comprehensive review of Early Years provision in Halton by April 2014, and implement the action plan to ensure sufficient provision in all areas and age groups.	
COPS1	Review and improve the quality of childcare provision, in particular child minders through targeted training and support by August 2014.	
COPS1	Ensure that priorities in capital spend are in line with the Government Guidance and agreed by all representative bodies	
COPS2	Evaluate and monitor the sustainability on current school provision following the transfer of maintained schools to academies and the introduction of Free Schools, working in partnership with all schools to ensure diversity for parents by March 2015.	
COPS2	Evaluate and monitor the impact on current post-16 provision sufficiency and sustainability through the development of Academies and Free Schools by March 2015.	
COPS3	Strengthen the understanding and links with colleagues in Health and Adult services to ensure effective commissioning by March 2015.	
COPS3	Support Public Health in the commissioning of a new comprehensive open access sexual health services and ensure young people's sexual health needs are met by October 2014.	

Ref	Milestones	Quarterly progress
COPS3	Facilitate up to 12 Teens and Tot programmes in hotspot schools by March 2015.	

Supporting Commentary

LAS1: The Operational Director for Learning and Achievement attends the regular meetings of the School Development Panel, providing an opportunity to carefully monitor schools' experience of the inspection process, areas for celebration and areas for development. The invitation is issued to Head teachers and Chairs of recently inspected schools, including academies and free schools. In addition headteachers are invited to share their experiences of inspection with colleagues and school improvement colleagues at headteacher meetings.

LAS1: The performance of all schools is monitored as new data becomes available. Schools have been categorised based upon a scale of A to E (outstanding to special measures). Ofsted outcomes are included as part of the data set, as well as feedback from school improvement and other officers working with the school. 2014 / 15 category letters have been sent to all schools, including academies and the free school. The categorisation of private and voluntary settings is undertaken by the Early Years Consultant Teachers (EYCTs). This is an on-going process with categories subject to change depending upon the context of the setting at the time that the Red, Amber, Green (RAG) rating is undertaken. The categorisation of schools and settings determines the level of support (and intervention) provided.

LAS1: This is an ongoing process (see above). 83% of Halton schools were graded as good or better (published reports December 2014) compared to 79% nationally. 8 schools were judged to require improvement. These schools are receiving targeted support, including work with system leaders (Teaching Schools, Local and National Leaders of Education).

The Early Years settings with an inspection grade which is good or above are; Full Day Care = 88%, Pre-schools = 85%, Childminders = 78%. Early Years settings are RAG rated and those rated as RI/satisfactory (red/amber) are targeted to receive further support from their Early Years Consultant Teachers.

LAS2: The analysis of school performance data has been completed. This data is used to inform the categorisation process and the deployment of school improvement support. National 2014 data continues to be released so analysis will continue.

LAS2: Support for schools has been reviewed in light of new performance data; Ofsted ratings and link officer knowledge of any school emerging issues. This analysis has informed the deployment of school and setting improvement support. This includes the deployment of Local and National Leaders of Education, National Leaders of Governance and Specialist Leaders in Education and other support through the Teaching School. Officers continue to broker school to school support.

COPS1: Review undertaken and action plan currently being progressed.

COPS1: Training has been provided for childcare providers and a further training programme of support has been identified.

COPS1: Capital spend approved by executive board and approved works progressing.

COPS2: Academy transfers continue to be monitored and Local Authority Officers are involved with the conversion programmes thereby ensuring sustainability and diversity.








COPS3: Work has begun addressing the Transitional needs of young people with Adult Commissioning colleagues. This includes early identification as well as potential opportunities for future joint commissioning of support services.

Special Educational Needs and/or disability (SEND) mediation and disagreement resolution service has been commissioning which covers the local authority and the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG).

Further work is ongoing in relation to the detail of the personal budgets and personal health budgets linked to the SEND reforms above.

COPS3: This has now been completed and the new service is up and running Warrington Hospital NHS Trust. We are developing participation working with the Trust's new C Card Co-ordinator ensuring more young people's needs are met in Halton.

COPS3: Five programmes have now completed and the awards night is being held on the 12th February 2015. A further five groups will start in February 2015 and which will include The Heath School, Runcorn for the 1st time. Two further schools have delayed the start of their programme, due to recent changes in leadership team and difficulty identifying appropriate young people for the programme.

Ref	Measure	13/14 Actual	14/15 Target	Current	Direction of Travel	Quarterly progress
LPI06 LAS	Percentage of primary schools below the floor standard (60% achieving L4+ English and Maths at KS2)	12%	8%	8%		
LPI07 LAS	Percentage of secondary schools below the floor standard (40% achieving 5+ A*-C GCSE including English and Maths)	0%	0%	0%		
COP L105	Under 18 conception rate, reduction in conceptions from 2009 baseline (140 conceptions)	92	136	59		
SCS SH04	Reduce the number of Young People who repeatedly run away in Halton	141	N/A	185		N/A

Supporting Commentary

LPI06 LAS & LPI07 LAS: 4 primary schools did not meet the 65% attainment floor in 2014. All secondary schools met the 45% attainment floor standard (raised from 40% in 2013).

COP LI05: Halton continues to reduce teenage conceptions and has seen a reduction of 11 conceptions, compared to the same period in 2012.

SCS SH04: Halton still has a similar profile of young people that are missing from home and care. There has been 88 return interviews undertaken and there are four young people currently in direct work. There have been three young people from this quarter were risks around Child Sexual Exploitation have been identified.

Priority: Effectively supporting the child's journey through the Halton Levels of Need framework when additional needs arise

Key Milestones and Measures




Children subject to CP Plan for 2nd or subsequent time				Social Work Assessments completed within 45 working days				Number of multi-agency interventions (CAF) in place and operating			
Current	Target	Quarterly progress	Direction of Travel	Current	Target	Quarterly progress	Direction of Travel	Current	Target	Quarterly progress	Direction of Travel
?	10%	17%	↓	✘	90%	70.4%	N/A	?	300	257	↓

Supporting Commentary

NI065: We are trying to implement a system to monitor those on a plan for a second or subsequent time at the point of request for conference.

CFS LI02: Principal Managers continue to monitor single assessments on a weekly basis to ensure improved performance. Performance during since October seen a significant improvement,

however, meeting the end of year target is unlikely given the performance in the earlier stages of the year.







Ref	Milestones	Quarterly progress
CFS1, CFS3	Implement revised social work service structure supported by career pathway and training strategy	
CFS2	Implement multi-agency early help teams supported by revised performance framework	
COPS4	Review and strengthen the Inspiring Families programme as part of the early help model by September 2014.	

Supporting Commentary

CFS1 & CFS3: This was implemented from 1 September 2014 and has been completed.

CFS2: Three locality early intervention teams were in place by 1st September 2014, covering Widnes, Runcorn East and Runcorn West. Two early intervention officers joined CART to support the one front door approach. Communication on changes was undertaken throughout September and October at various forums. Further work being developed to bring multi-agency partners staffing into teams. In addition, work is ongoing on the new performance framework and reporting channels for early intervention teams.

COPS4: The HBC phase of Early Intervention Locality teams came into place in September 2014. An Early Intervention Strategy board has been set up in the Autumn of 2014 this will report into the Health and Well Being Board and Children's Trust.

Ref	Measure	13/14 Actual	14/15 Target	Current	Direction of Travel	Quarterly progress
NI 64	Child Protection Plans lasting 2 years or more	2.3%	0%	0%		
NI 66	Children in Care cases reviewed within timescale	97%	100%	99%		
NI 67	Child Protection cases reviewed within timescale	100%	100%	99%		

Supporting Commentary

NI64: There is a system in place where we monitor families subject to a plan for more than nine months to ensure cases are not subject to drift.

NI66: One family had a review undertaken out of timescale.

NI67: Two families had reviews undertaken out of timescale.

Priority: Improving achievement and opportunities for all through closing the gap for our most vulnerable children and young people

Key Milestones and Measures

Placement stability: 3 or more placements				Care Leavers in Employment, Education or Training at 19, 20 and 21				Number of families involved in Inspiring Families			
Current progress	Target	Quarterly progress	Direction of Travel	Current progress	Target	Quarterly progress	Direction of Travel	Current progress	Target	Quarterly progress	Direction of Travel
	7.4%	7.5%			75%	62%			375	375	N/A




Supporting Commentary

NI62: 17 young people have had 3+ placements. This is due to a range of issues including insufficient number and skill in foster care placements, challenging behaviour, and a move to a long term placement or adoption

NI148: This indicator continues to present challenges with nine young people not in EET due to illness/ pregnancy/parenting and seven due to other circumstances such as custody and refusal to engage.

COP LI06: All families have been allocated workers and are currently being worked with.

Ref	Milestones	Quarterly progress
CFS4	Implement the Care Leaver Action Plan.	
CFS4	Revise and implement a multi-agency strategy for children in care.	
LAS3	Analyse, evaluate and report end of Key Stage attainment outcomes for Children in Care by December 2014.	N/A
LAS3	Through data analysis RAG rate with schools the end of Key Stage attainment gaps between FSM and non-FSM pupils and identify areas of need and support required by December 2014.	N/A

Ref	Milestones	Quarterly progress
LAS3	Analyse the levels of absence, including persistent absence, across all phases on a termly basis.	
LAS3	Ensure families in Halton can access an education and healthcare plan by September 2014.	
COPS4	Analyse, evaluate and report on performance outcomes for both national and local criteria measures on 20% Inspiring Families by September 2014.	










Supporting commentary






CFS4 – Action plan implemented. Additional actions identified and a revised plan being developed.

CFS4 – Revised strategy is in final draft format and will be endorsed at the Children in Care Partnership Board in March 2015.

LAS3 - The attainment data for Children in Care compared to that of their non-Children in Care peers locally and nationally has been reported in previous quarter. However, following benchmarking data published in December 2014 which compares Halton with the North West and nationally indicates that Halton Children in Care have achieved above their peers both regionally and nationally in Reading, Maths and in the combined measure. They achieved in line for Maths. There are small gaps between Halton Children in Care and their peers regionally and nationally on KS4 outcomes. KS4 outcomes are the main area of focus.

LAS3 - This target has been met. The Local Offer was published by 1 September 2014 deadline and advice on how to apply for a plan and the application form were published. We have had four Partnership meetings to date where applications have been considered.

Ref	Measure	13/14 Actual	14/15 Target	Current	Direction of Travel	Quarterly progress
SCS CYP16	Percentage of Children in Care achieving expected outcomes at KS2 and KS4		N/A	See below	N/A	N/A
NI 58	Emotional and behavioural health of Children in Care, average SDQ score	13.8	14	Q4 onwards	N/A	N/A
NI 61	Timeliness of placement for Children in Care for adoption following an agency decision that the child should be placed for adoption	67%	N/A	61.5%	N/A	
NI 63	Stability of placement of Children in Care; long-term placement	84% (prov)	80%	62.9%		
NI 147	Care Leavers in suitable accommodation at 19, 20 and 21	92% (prov)	90%	90.5%		
SCS CYP	Early Years Foundation Stage percentage good level of development	37%	42%	46%		
SCS CYP02	Proportion achieving level 4 KS2 Reading, Writing and Maths	78%	81.5%	79%		

Ref	Measure	13/14 Actual	14/15 Target	Current	Direction of Travel	Quarterly progress
CYP10	Achievement gap at KS2 Reading, Writing and Maths FSM and peers	14%	11.5%	15%		
SCS CYP11	Achievement gap at KS4 FSM and peers	26%	23%	24%		
NI104	SEN/non-SEN achievement gap at KS2 Reading, Writing and Maths		33%	N/A	N/A	N/A
NI105	SEN/non-SEN achievement gap at GCSE 5+ A*-C including English and Maths		27%	N/A	N/A	N/A
NI087	Secondary school persistent absence rate		5%	0.34% 1 half term data 2014-15 academic year		N/A
NI 114	Rate of permanent exclusions from school	0.22% (13/14 academic year)	0.35%	0.017%	N/A	N/A

Supporting Commentary

KS2 Progress of CIC: 80% achieved 2 levels of progress in Reading and Writing; 60% achieved 2 levels of progress in Maths

KS4 Progress of CIC: 55% achieved 3 levels of progress in English and 27% achieved 3 levels of progress in Maths

NI61 – 8 of 13 children adopted within 12 months of decision. Delays were due to complex family histories which presented challenges in the family finding process.

NI63 – This reflects some of the challenges listed in response to the NI62 above.

NI147 – Four care leavers are not in suitable accommodation due to the choice they make or being in custody.

SCS CYP – 46% of Halton children achieved a Good level of Development. Although this is a pleasing 9% increase on the 2013 outcomes, the national outcome was 60% (having increased by 8%). Intensive training is being delivered to the EY sector and reception teachers. Briefings are being delivered to headteachers to explain the Early Years assessment process and Good level of development in further detail.

SCS CYP02 - Halton's attainment at level 4+ KS2 compares well to national in all areas. Following a 1% gain, 79% of Halton children attained L4+ combined reading, writing & mathematics, the same as national.

CYP10 – The latest RAISE data indicates a 15% gap between the attainment at level 4+ in reading, writing and maths combined of Halton FSM and non-FSM pupils compared to a national gap of 16%.

SCS CYP11 – There has been a further closing of the gap compared to 2013 and Halton’s gap is narrower than national based upon proxy data which indicates a 27% gap nationally compared to 24% in Halton.

Priority: Driving the economic prosperity of Halton to the benefit of residents and the workforce

Key Milestones and Measures












Investment Enquiry conversion rate				SCS ELS01 Increase the No. of active enterprises in Halton				SCS ELS 09 Increase the gross weekly earnings by resident			
Current progress	Target	Quarterly progress	Direction of Travel	Current progress	Target	Quarterly progress	Direction of Travel	Current progress	Target	Quarterly progress	Direction of Travel
	10%	11%			2750	N/A			£483	£512	

Supporting Commentary:

DIS LI06 – The percentage of inward investment enquiries ‘converted’ into actual investment projects in Quarter 3 2014\15 was 22%. The cumulative conversions to date are at 11 % against an annual target of 10%.

SCS ELS01 – This information will be available at year end.

SCS ELS09 – The latest data is £512.5 at December 2014 from the NOMIS website - Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings resident analysis. The figure is the gross weekly pay for full-time workers in Halton which is £30 higher per week compared to the North West; and slightly below the figure for Great Britain by £7.70.

Ref	Milestones	Quarterly progress
EEP1	Commence Crossville development by March 2015.	
EEP1	Commence construction of road at Johnson's Lane and introduce end user to site by March 2015.	
EEP1	Commence work on site for project Techspace by September 2014.	
EEP1	Acquisition and preparation of Lord Daresbury plot and hostel site by March 2015.	
EEP2	Undertake a baseline review of business makeup sectors and capacity in Halton by March 2015.	
EEP2	Deliver the Business Improvements Districts Year 2 action plan by March 2015.	
EEP2	Agree priority action areas arising from the Mersey Gateway regeneration strategy by July 2014.	
EEP3	Deliver the Work Programme via subcontract arrangements to Prime Contractors A4E and Ingeus Deloitte in line with the contract	
EEP3	Complete SciTech skills for growth action plan by March 2015.	
EEP3	Implement Corporate Apprenticeships framework by November 2014.	
EEP3	Identify skills bank requirements from Mersey Gateway project by July 2015.	

Supporting Commentary

EEP1 – Work is ongoing with the developer to progress this site. However, this is a complex development, hence the delay to the start of the scheme.

EEP1 – The project is on course to meet the start date for the road and end user for the site.

EEP1 – The tenders have been received and are being evaluated. Anticipated contract award in December 2014. Start on site January 2015. However, enabling works have commenced on site.

EEP1 – Lord Daresbury plot purchased in June 2014. Hostel plot due to be acquired in December 2014. Preparation works to commence before March 2015.

EEP2 – Research has been commissioned as reported at the last ELS & C PPB.

EEP2 – All milestone within the BID II Business Plan are on programme and on budget

EEP2 – Priority action areas have been agreed.

EEP3 – Some job starts and job outcome targets haven't been achieved on the Ingeus or A4e contract during this period but contracted minimum performance levels (MPL's) for specified 3 payment groups were achieved on both contracts during quarter 3.







There continues to be a reduction in referrals against indicative profiles during this period. 41% of referrals received on the Ingeus contract against profile and 61% of referrals received on the A4e contract against profile for quarter 3.

EEP3 – An action plan has been produced and is currently being implemented.

EEP3 – A corporate apprenticeship awareness event took place in Q3 and was well attended. However, a corporate apprenticeship framework has still not been adopted – but particular vacancies within the council have been identified as possible apprenticeship opportunities.

EEP3 – All KPIs associated with the Employment & Skills Delivery Plan are on target to be achieved.

Ref	Measure	13/14 Actual	14/15 Target	Current	Direction of Travel	Quarterly progress
DIS LI05	Number of inward investment enquiries per annum	295 (Cumulative)	200	193		
ELS A1	The number of new apprenticeship starts in Halton Borough Council	361	5	5	N/A	
ELS A2	Overall success for learners through the adult learning programme	New measure	90%	90.07%	N/A	
ELS LI03	Number of starts on DWP Work Programme	1473 811(A4E) (Cumulative) 662 (Ingeus) (Cumulative)	454 (A4E) 1118 (Ingeus Deloitte)	79 (A4E) 210 (Ingeus Deloitte)		
ELS LI04	Number of new starts into permitted/paid work for local people with disabilities (over 12 month period)	14 (Cumulative)	12	31		
ELS LI15	Number of new business start-ups in the Borough	54 (Cumulative)	20	12		
ELS LI17	Ensure that all monthly reviews of performance of the work programme contract are undertaken	New measure	100%	100%		N/A
SCS ELS01	Increase the number of active enterprises within the Borough	2775	2750	N/A	N/A	N/A
SCS ELS02	Increase the proportion of business diversity in the following sectors: Knowledge Economy, Superport, Low carbon/green, Visitor economy	27.03% (March 2013)	27%	N/A	N/A	N/A
SCS ELS03	Increase the number of people classed as self-employed	6% (Local Economic Assessment HBC July 2013)	7%	5.7%		
SCS ELS04	Reduce the proportion of people with no qualifications	12.1% (Jan to Dec 2012)	11%	10.9% (Jan 13 – Dec 13)		
SCS ELS05	Increase the percentage of people achieving NVQ level 4 and above	24.5% (Jan to Dec 2012)	24.5%	25.1% Jan 13 – Dec 13		
SCS ELS07	Reduce the percentage of people registered unemployed and seeking employment (JSA claimants)	4.1% (January 2014)	4.8%	2.6%		

Ref	Measure	13/14 Actual	14/15 Target	Current	Direction of Travel	Quarterly progress
SCS ELS 08	Reduce the percentage of the working age population claiming out of work benefits	15%	16.5%	18.9% (May 2014)		
SCS CYP03	Proportion achieving 5+ GCSEs A*-C including English and Maths	62%	64%	57%		
SCS CYP04	Achievement of Level 3 qualification at 19	51.8% (12/13)	55%	N/A	N/A	N/A
SCS CYP05	Percentage of 16-18 year olds not in education, employment or training	8.4%	9.5%	6.5% (Dec 2014)		
NI 79	Achievement of Level 2 qualification at 19	85.3% (12/13)	75%	N/A	N/A	N/A

Supporting Commentary

DIS LI 05 - The Business Improvement and Growth (BIG) Team managed 32 commercial property inward investment enquiries in Quarter 3 2014/15 which resulted in 7 conversions (inward investment enquiries 'converted' into actual investment projects). The cumulative total of enquiries (Quarter 1 + Quarter 2 + Quarter 3) currently stands at 193 against an annual target of 200

ELS A1 – This is a corporate measure as these apprentices work in 2 different divisions, (both within the Communities directorate - 2 (open spaces), 3 (waste management)).

ELS A2 – 758 learners are active during Quarter 3, generating 1118 enrolments. To date, 1068 of those learners have been retained with a 90.07% success rate.

ELS LI03 - 60 starts on the Ingeus contract in quarter 3, 26 starts on the A4e contract in quarter 3. Referrals from DWP have been lower than indicative flows throughout this and the previous year; therefore fewer customers have started on programme which has been out of our control. There continues to be an increase in the number of customers in receipt of Employment Support Allowance, approx. 60% of all referrals received are ESA claimants.

ELS LI04 – 14 customers with disabilities/health conditions were supported into paid employment during this quarter.

ELS LI15 – 6 new trading starts were assisted in Halton during quarter 3. In addition 11 Halton residents accessed pre-start support and 11 jobs were created during this quarter.

ELS LI17 - Monthly reviews completed with A4e and Ingeus throughout quarter 3.

SCS ELS 03 - HBC does not own this NI data. However, 3 customers accessing HPIJ's Enterprising Halton service became self-employed during Quarter 2. The latest data available is for Sept 2014 at 6.4% taken from the NOMIS website – ONS annual population survey for those aged 16-64.

SCS ELS 04 - In Quarter 3, 85 adults have achieved a qualification with HBC's Employment, Learning and Skills Division. In addition, 73 qualifications have been taken and results are awaited. HBC does not own this NI data. The latest data available is for the period Jan 13-Dec 13 at 8,300 which

equates to 10.9%. The data is reported annually in arrears. This figure has continued to decrease in Halton and is currently lower than the North West (11%) and marginally higher than Great Britain (9.3%) with a gap of only 1.6% compared to 2.4% in 2012.

SCS ELS 05 (Revised NI 165) - HBC does not own this NI data. However, NVQ4 level in the borough has risen. The latest data available is for the period Jan 13 –Dec 13 at 19,100 (25.1%) people achieving NVQ4. Halton has seen a continuous increase year on year since 2008.

SCS ELS 07 – HBC does not own this NI data. The latest data available from ONS relates to December 2014, the number of JSA claimants is 2,061 (2.6%). A reduction of 329. Data taken from the NOMIS website.

SCS ELS 08 – The latest data available is up to May 2014 from the NOMIS website. The total number of claimants of working age population in Halton is 15,210 which equates to 18.9%.

SCS CYP03 – The Halton figure for the key indicator of 5 A* - C GCSEs including English and maths is 57%. Whilst this is a drop compared to 2013, Halton performance is still above the 55% national average. (Many other LAs experienced similar declines resulting in a national decline.)

SCS CYP05 - December 2014 figure reported – Annual figure, reported in Q4.

Priority: Asset Management

Key Milestones and Measures

DIS LI01 Occupancy of HBC Industrial Units				DIS LI02 Occupancy of Widnes Market Hall				NI 185 Greenhouse gas emissions			
Current progress	Target	Quarterly progress	Direction of Travel	Current progress	Target	Quarterly progress	Direction of Travel	Current progress	Target	Quarterly progress	Direction of Travel
	85%	82%			95%	82%			24,425 tonnes CO2e	N/A	N/A

Supporting Commentary



DIS LI01 – The Investment Estate continues to perform well with 93% of the Industrial Estate and 94% of the Commercial Estate occupied.

DIS LI02 – The retail environment remains challenging. However, compared with this time last year fewer traders have left the market and there has not been any change year on year.

NI 185 - The figures associated with the emissions from 2014/15 will not be available until the 2nd quarter 2015/16. As such the figures indicated are based on the 2013/14 data. The figures for 2013/14 show an overall decrease in emissions of 5.61% since 2012/13, and are 5.5% below the target figure for the year. The overall emissions figure of 23,078 tonnes is broken down into the following 5 categories:-

School Buildings	8734t
Corporate Buildings	6935t
Unmetered supply	5696t
Fleet Transport	1311t
Business Mileage	402t


School Buildings, Corporate Buildings, The unmetered supply and Fleet Transport all saw a reduction in emissions from 2012/13 of 4.52%, 9.66%, 3.3% and 2.23% respectively, emissions in respect of business mileage increased by 2%.

Ref	Milestones	Quarterly progress
EEP1	Review accommodation in light of budget decisions by July 2014.	
EEP1	Identify further property to be considered for sales and implement asset disposals by March 2015.	

Supporting Commentary

EEP1 - The tenders have been received and are being evaluated. Anticipate contract to be awarded in January 2015, and start on Site March 2015. The delay is as a result of completed the funding arrangements and value engineering to ensure the project is affordable. However, enabling works have commenced on site.

EEP1 – Lord Daresbury plot was purchased in June 2014. Hostel plot due to be acquired in March/April 2015. Preparation works to commence before March 2015.

Ref	Measure	13/14 Actual	14/15 Target	Current	Direction of Travel	Quarterly progress
EEP01	Reduce the average unit cost per work station year on year	N/A	£5,005 (-3%)	N/A	N/A	

Supporting Commentary

EEP 01 - The figures for this measure are calculated annually and will be available at year end. However, further rationalisation of desk layout is being implemented.

7.0 Financial Summaries

CHILDREN'S ORGANISATION & PROVISION DEPARTMENT

SUMMARY FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2014

	Annual Budget £'000	Budget to Date £'000	Expenditure to Date £'000	Variance to Date (overspend) £'000
<u>Expenditure</u>				
Employees	3,762	2,584	2,512	72
Premises	611	200	198	2
Supplies & Services	2,809	1,317	1,158	159
Transport	5	4	4	0
School Transport	916	620	610	10
Commissioned Services	2,772	1,559	1,547	12
Agency Related Expenditure	1,475	1,348	1,348	0
Nursery Education Payments	2,570	2,570	2,570	0
Schools Contingency	170	170	170	0
Special Education Needs Contingency	975	975	975	0
Early Years Contingency	1	0	0	0
Total Expenditure	16,066	11,347	11,092	255
<u>Income</u>				
Fees & Charges	-380	-105	-103	-2
Rent	-55	-13	-13	0
HBC Support Costs	-79	-79	-79	0
Transfer to / from Reserves	-1,042	-1,042	-1,042	0
Dedicated Schools Grant	-6,898	-5,174	-5,174	0
Reimbursements & Other Income	-845	-699	-718	19
Schools SLA Income	-202	-196	-199	3
Total Income	-9,501	-7,308	-7,328	20
Net Operational Budget	6,565	4,039	3,764	275
<u>Recharges</u>				
Premises Support Costs	181	136	136	0
Transport Support Costs	288	144	144	0
Central Support Service Costs	836	506	506	0
Asset Rental Support Costs	4,940	0	0	0
Total Recharges	6,245	786	786	0
Net Expenditure	12,810	4,825	4,550	275

Comments

Employees is below budget to date due to vacancies across Divisions, including Integrated Youth Support Services and Post 14-19 Participation Strategy. The majority of the underspend relates to vacancies for case workers within IAG (Information Advice Guidance) service provision. All the posts but one vacancy have now been filled, and any saving will be utilised and earmarked to provide funding for IAG service provision. The remaining underspend is due to reduction in staff hours and staff on maternity.

Supplies & Services is below budget to date as there has been a conscious effort to limit spends on controllable budgets.

Commissioned Services is below budget to date within contracts expenditure, due to recommissioning of contracts.

School Transport is projected a small underspend at year end due to offsetting contract costs against the Rights to Sustainability Grant.

Reimbursements & Other Income is showing an overachievement of income due to extra monies received within Place Planning & Provision Division's Technical Services. Income relates to payment for services such as Health & Safety training.

Budgets will be monitored closely during the remainder of the year and it is expected that net spend will remain below budget at year end.

CHILDREN'S ORGANISATION & PROVISION CAPITAL PROJECTS

SUMMARY FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2014

	2014/15 Capital Allocation £'000	Allocation To Date £000's	Expenditure to Date £'000	Variance to Date (overspend) £'000
Schools				
Asset Management (CADS)	10	5	5	0
Capital Repairs	1,191	795	795	0
Fire Compartmentation	39	2	2	0
Asbestos Management	25	20	20	0
Schools Access Initiative	100	63	63	0
Education Programme General	88	68	68	0
Lunts Heath - Basic Need	36	31	31	0
Inglefield – Basic Need	50	2	2	0
Fairfield - Basic Need	983	0	0	0
Halebank	20	8	8	0
St Bedes Junior – Basic Need	36	0	0	0
School Modernisation Projects	683	407	407	0
Ashley School -ASD Provision	369	351	351	0
Beechwood Primary	93	92	92	0
Two Year Old Capital	334	163	163	0
Universal Infant School Meals	259	229	229	0
	4,316	2,236	2,236	0

Comments on the above figures

All Capital projects are progressing as planned with the remaining Capital Repairs programme anticipated to be completed by end of 2014-15. Education Programme (General Works) continue with any Emergency Health & Safety issues on an ad hoc basis as and when required.

Schools Access Initiative works completed (waiting on schools to submit invoices) and Schools Modernisation work is anticipated to be completed by end of financial year.

Basic Need projects For St Bedes, Beechwood and Inglefield have now been completed (awaiting final payments).

Universal Free school Meals works has now been completed (awaiting final payments).

LEARNING & ACHIEVEMENT DEPARTMENT

SUMMARY FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2014

	Annual Budget £'000	Budget to Date £'000	Expenditure to Date £'000	Variance to Date (overspend) £'000
<u>Expenditure</u>				
Employees	3,410	2,384	2,269	115
Premises	9	0	0	0
Supplies & Services	701	429	350	79
Agency Related Expenditure	33	15	0	15
Independent School Fees	1,541	1,512	1,512	0
Inter Authority Recoupment	752	44	44	0
Speech Therapy	120	68	0	68
Capital Financing	2	0	0	0
Total Expenditure	6,568	4,452	4,175	277
<u>Income</u>				
Fees & Charges	-157	-130	-139	9
Transfer to / from Reserves	-76	-76	-76	0
Dedicated Schools Grant	-3,708	-2,781	-2,781	0
Government Grant Income	-176	-63	-63	0
Reimbursements & Other Income	-110	-82	-78	-4
Inter Authority Income	-578	-1	-1	0
Schools SLA Income	-39	-29	-34	5
Total Income	-4,844	-3,162	-3,172	10
NET OPERATIONAL BUDGET	1,724	1,290	1,003	287
<u>Recharges</u>				
Premises Support Costs	157	117	117	0
Transport Support Costs	15	11	11	0
Central Support Service Costs	727	544	544	0
Asset Rental Support Costs	0	0	0	0
Total Recharges	899	672	672	0
Net Expenditure	2,623	1,962	1,675	287

Comments

Staffing expenditure is currently below budget to date as there are a number of vacancies within the Department. There is an Early Years Consultant and a Primary Support & Intervention Lead vacancy within the 0-19 Division. There are also various vacancies within the Inclusion Division relating to Education Psychologists. These posts are however currently being advertised and are expected to be filled imminently.

Supplies & services expenditure is currently below budget to date due to a conscious effort by staff to limit non-essential controllable spend. This is being monitored and we believe that this trend will continue until the end of the financial year.

Agency related expenditure is currently below budget as there has again been a conscious effort to spend only what is deemed as essential in these areas. We also believe that this trend will continue for the rest of the financial year.

Speech Therapy is below budget to date and will continue to be so for the remainder of the year. A limited contract is currently in place which it is planned will be extended to provide greater services.

Budgets will be monitored closely throughout the year and it is expected that net spend will remain below budget at year end.

CHILDREN & FAMILIES DEPARTMENT

SUMMARY FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 DECEMBER 2014

	Annual Budget £'000	Budget to Date £'000	Expenditure to Date £'000	Variance to Date (overspend) £'000
<u>Expenditure</u>				
Employees	8,393	6,669	7,003	(334)
Premises	375	257	208	49
Supplies & Services	1,347	827	762	65
Transport	33	28	26	2
Commissioned Services	342	174	173	1
Agency Related Expenditure	258	248	444	(196)
Residential Placements	1,969	1,093	2,826	(1,733)
Out of Borough Adoption	80	72	96	(24)
Out of Borough Fostering	414	401	651	(250)
In house Foster Carer Placements	1,721	1,372	1,493	(121)
In house Adoption	552	482	1,101	(619)
Care Leavers	316	237	290	(53)
Family Support	125	107	137	(30)
Contingency	713	713	0	713
Capital Financing	6	0	0	0
Total Expenditure	16,644	12,680	15,210	(2,530)
<u>Income</u>				
Fees & Charges	-113	-88	-97	9
Adoption Placements	-43	0	0	0
Transfer to / from Reserves	-216	-216	-216	0
Dedicated Schools Grant	-76	0	0	0
Reimbursements & Other Income	-334	-311	-309	(2)
Adoption Reform Grant	-90	-90	-90	0
Total Income	-872	-705	-712	7
NET OPERATIONAL BUDGET	15,772	11,975	14,498	(2,523)
<u>Recharges</u>				
Premises Support Costs	349	262	262	0
Transport Support Costs	72	48	48	0
Central Support Service Costs	2,864	2,129	2,129	0
Asset Rental Support Costs	44	0	0	0
Total Recharges	3,329	2,439	2,439	0
Net Expenditure	19,101	14,414	16,937	(2,523)

Comments

Employee related expenditure is above budget to date, which is in the main due to agency staff being utilised, particularly within Child Protection & Children in Need. It is expected that the use of agency staff will reduce during the final quarter of the financial year, as vacant posts have now been filled, staff are returning from maternity leave and the new staffing structure is taking effect.

Agency related expenditure is above budget to date, which in the main relates to the individual budgets for Children with Disabilities. Throughout this financial year we have seen a steady increase in the number of children who now receive individual budgets, but fewer are joint funded due to Halton Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) tightening their criteria for Continuing Healthcare eligibility.

Expenditure relating to Out of Borough Residential placements is above budget to date, which is expected to be the trend for the remainder of the financial year. This is a volatile budget which is influenced by a number of factors, such as, unforeseen emergency placements and some long term placements ending earlier or continuing longer than originally anticipated. Although every effort is made to utilise in house services, this is not always possible, resulting in a high demand for long term, Out of Borough Residential placements, which are at a higher cost than in house placements. We have also seen an increase in demand for Out of Borough Fostering placements, which has resulted in expenditure being above budget to date. As with residential placements, every effort is made to utilise Foster Carers within the Borough. Depending on the needs of the individual child this is not always possible, which results in Out of Borough places being sought at a much higher cost. This is likely to be the trend for the rest of the financial year.

Expenditure relating to In-house Adoption is currently above budget to date, which is due to increased demand, particularly around Special Guardianship and Residence Orders. We have also seen an increase in a number of Special Guardianship allowances, which has resulted in a rise in the actual cost. There has also been an increased demand for In-house Fostering as more children enter the service, resulting in the costs for the Basic Allowance, going above budget to date. This is likely to be the trend for the rest of the financial year.

Expenditure relating to Care Leavers is slightly above budget to date. This is due to a number of children who have left care continuing to need a package of support until their 18th birthday. This has resulted in them living in Semi Independent Residential Care.

It is recommended the remaining Council 2014/15 contingency budget of £0.713m be transferred to the department in order to reduce the budget pressures the service is faced with. The budget will be apportioned amongst services within the final quarter of the financial year.

For the Department overall, outturn will result in spend being above budget. The Managers will continue to try and reduce budget pressures throughout the year, by utilising In-house services where possible and by keeping controllable expenditure to a minimum. Based on existing service use we envisage net expenditure for the Department overall to exceed annual budget by approximately £3.3m.

ECONOMY, ENTERPRISE & PROPERTY DEPARTMENT

SUMMARY FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2014

	Annual Budget £'000	Budget to Date £'000	Expenditure to Date £'000	Variance to Date (overspend) £'000
<u>Expenditure</u>				
Employees	4,376	3,162	3,220	(58)
Repairs & Maintenance	2,730	1,941	1,944	(3)
Premises	49	42	43	(1)
Energy & Water Costs	614	394	368	26
NNDR	613	604	590	14
Rents	458	390	391	(1)
Marketing Programme	36	21	17	4
Promotions	62	34	33	1
Supplies & Services	1,469	735	701	34
Agency Related Expenditure	76	42	43	(1)
Grants to Non Voluntary Organisations	148	148	148	0
Other Expenditure	0	0	0	0
Total Expenditure	10,631	7,513	7,498	15
<u>Income</u>				
Fees & Charges	-544	-379	-388	9
Rent - Markets	-759	-563	-561	(2)
Rent - Industrial Estates	-691	-516	-525	9
Rent - Commercial	-563	-366	-364	(2)
Transfer to / from Reserves	-660	-588	-568	0
Government Grant - Income	-1,959	-1,277	-1,277	0
Reimbursements & Other Income	-90	-116	-122	6
Recharges to Capital	-297	-92	-92	0
Schools SLA Income	-553	-562	-573	11
Total Income	-6,116	-4,439	-4,470	31
NET OPERATIONAL BUDGET	4,515	3,074	3,028	46
<u>Recharges</u>				
Premises Support Costs	1,409	1,065	1,065	0
Transport Support Costs	30	17	17	0
Central Support Service Costs	1,970	1,483	1,483	0
Asset Rental Support Costs	2,414	0	0	0
Repairs & Maint. Rech. Income	-2,448	-1,836	-1,836	0
Accommodation Rech. Income	-2,652	-1,990	-1,990	0
Central Supp. Service Rech. Income	-1,457	-1,093	-1,093	0
Total Recharges	-734	-2,354	-2,354	0
Net Expenditure	3,781	720	674	46

Comments

Achieving staff turnover savings within the Department remains an issue this financial year, as there has been marginal turnover of staff. The staff savings turnover target set for Building & School Cleaning and Caretakers Service cannot be achieved as the services need to be fully staffed at all times.

Energy & Water Costs have continued to be under budget at the end of Quarter 3 following on from improvements that have been implemented throughout the Council buildings over the last few years.

NNDR budgets are under budget, as most of the Investment Properties are now fully occupied with HBC not being liable for empty rates.

In order to ease budget pressures spending has continued to be restricted in year on Supplies & Services. Promotions and Marketing has also been kept to a minimum in an effort to achieve a balanced budget position for the Department.

Income levels within the Asset Management Division have remained constant during quarter two and quarter three, as there has not been much change with the occupancy rates of the Investment Properties.

As rental income can fluctuate in year, close monitoring will continue on these volatile budgets.

The number of schools buying into the School Cleaning SLA has increased this financial year, resulting in the service over achieving on income.

Work has continued with Managers to deal with any in-year budget pressures. In overall terms it is anticipated that net expenditure will be under the overall Departmental budget by year-end.

ECONOMY ENTERPRISE & PROPERTY CAPITAL PROJECTS

SUMMARY FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31st December
2014

	2014/15 Capital Allocation £'000	Allocation To Date £000's	Expenditure to Date £'000	Variance to Date (overspend) £'000
Economy, Enterprise & Property Dep't				
Castlefields Regeneration	925	174	174	0
3MG	2,909	1,578	1,578	0
Widnes Waterfront	1,000	0	0	0
Johnsons Lane Infrastructure	466	15	15	0
Decontamination of Land	6	0	0	0
Sci Tech Daresbury	2092	1,377	1,377	0
Queens Arms	23	20	11	9
Former Crossville Depot	518	0	0	0
Moor Lane Demolition	150	11	11	0
Moor Lane Property Purchase	160	160	161	(1)
Former Fairfield Site – Demolition	2	2	2	0
Fairfield High Site - Contingency	51	49	49	0
Peel House Lane Cemetery	20	0	0	0
Peel House Lane Roundabout & Cemetery Access	155	0	0	0
Travellers Site - Warrington Road	1658	30	30	0
Widnes Town Centre Initiative	60	22	22	0
Lower House Lane Depot – Upgrade	444	410	401	9
Disability Discrimination Act/Disabled Access	150	38	38	0
Grand Total	10,789	3,886	3,869	17

Comments

Queens Arms – Works have now been completed on site with no further expenditure expected.

Lower House Lane Depot Upgrade – Works have now been completed on site (final account is due in before year-end).




Former Crossville Depot - There are a number of technical issues to overcome (including protection of the high pressure gas main as well as treatment of contamination), therefore work is not likely to start in this financial year.

Travellers Site - Approval has now been granted to proceed with the works with the anticipated completion date of the scheme being 31 May 2015.

Widnes Waterfront & Bayer - Heads of terms have now been agreed with the contractor and envisaged the remediation works to be started in the last quarter of the current financial year.




8.0 Appendix 1 – Explanation for use of symbols

8.1 Symbols are used in the following manner:

Progress	Milestone	Measure
Green 	Indicates that the milestone is on course to be achieved within the appropriate timeframe.	Indicates that the annual target is on course to be achieved.
Amber 	Indicates that it is uncertain or too early to say at this stage whether the milestone will be achieved within the appropriate timeframe.	Indicates that it is uncertain or too early to say at this stage whether the annual target is on course to be achieved.
Red 	Indicates that it is highly likely or certain that the objective will not be achieved within the appropriate timeframe.	Indicates that the target will not be achieved unless there is an intervention or remedial action taken.

8.2 Direction of Travel Indicator

Where possible measures will also identify a direction of travel using the following convention:

Green 	Indicates that performance is better as compared to the same period last year.
Amber 	Indicates that performance is the same as compared to the same period last year.
Red 	Indicates that performance is worse as compared to the same period last year.
N/A	Indicates that the measure cannot be compared to the same period last year.

8.3 Key for Operational Directors

WR Wesley Rourke, Operational Director, Economy Enterprise and Property Service (EEP)

AMc Ann McIntyre, Operational Director, Children's Organisation and Provision Service (COPS)

TC Tracey Coffey, Operational Director, Children and Families Service (CFS)

GM Gill Bennett, Divisional Manager, 0-19 Learning (LAS)

Directorate Performance Overview Report

Directorate: Communities Directorate

Reporting Period: Quarter 3 – Period 1st October – 31st December 2014

1.0 Introduction

1.1 This report provides an overview of issues and progress within the Directorate that have occurred during the third quarter 2014/15.

2.0 Key Developments

2.1 There have been a number of developments within the Directorate during the third quarter which include:

I COMMISSIONING AND COMPLEX CARE SERVICES

Mental Health Services

Operation Emblem was originally set up following a successful trial across Halton and Warrington, as a pilot in late 2013. This project, operated jointly between Cheshire Police and the 5BoroughsPartnership NHS, funded by NHS Halton CCG and supported by Halton Borough Council. The scheme was designed to reduce the large number of inappropriate detentions under section 136 Mental Health Act 1983 (this gives the police the power to detain anyone found in a public place who appears to be mentally disordered and in need of care or treatment). There had been a particular problem in the Northern Division of the Cheshire Police force (which covers Halton), with substantial numbers of people being detained but only relatively low numbers of people then going on to be offered psychiatric help.

Under this scheme, police officers were supported by specialist mental health nurses to assess and triage people who were liable to be detained; this was initially for specified shifts for four days a week. After 12 months, it is clear that Operation Emblem has been extremely effective; the numbers of people being detained under this legislation has dropped by up to 90%, and of those, around 90% are now receiving the psychiatric help that they need. This indicates that the right people are now receiving the appropriate support, and it is proving an effective means of fast tracking people in crisis to specialist help.

The project has now been extended from four days a week to provide full time cover, and it is being rolled out across the whole of Cheshire.

Mental Health Crisis Care Concordat: this policy directive was published by Central Government in February 2014, and requires all relevant organisations to work together to reduce the impact of mental health crisis on individuals and their families, and to ensure that appropriate services and supports are in place. Each locality was required to submit

a declaration by the end of December 2014, committing itself to achieving the aims of the Concordat, and then to have an action plan in place by April 2015.

As a whole, the Halton mental health system has signed up to the declarations submitted across the local authority areas in both Cheshire and Merseyside; this is because, for planning and commissioning reasons, Halton straddles both areas. Halton is actively engaged in supporting the Cheshire partners in developing its action plan; in addition, however, Halton has made its own separate declaration and is developing a local action plan, which will be designed to reflect fully the plans developed across Cheshire and Merseyside. This will be reported on more fully in the next Quarterly Monitoring Report.

GP pilot: for twelve months, the Mental Health Outreach Team has been operating a pilot programme with three local GP surgeries, taking referrals about and working with people with lower level mental health needs, intervening at an earlier stage and aiming to reduce the need for more complex support in the future. This continues to show very promising results and measures are now being taken, in partnership with the CCG, to develop this as a Borough-wide service.

Full Mental Health Review: A major review of mental health services has been commissioned covering 5 regional CCGs and LAs. This review will take an in-depth look into the successes, gaps, and opportunities around the acute care pathway (ACP). This work will also take into consideration mental health acute psychiatric beds. The results and recommendations will be completed by June 2015.

New planning and governance arrangements for mental health services: a new Mental Health Oversight Group - consisting of senior managers from key stakeholders - has now been developed, with responsibility for leading the strategic development of local mental health services, and monitoring and holding to account all organisations responsible for the delivery of those services. A Mental Health Delivery Group, accounting to the above group, has also been set up, with the primary responsibility of delivering the Halton Mental Health Action Plan.

Housing

Subject to contract, the Salvation Army submitted the winning tender for the provision of the housing support service at the new homeless accommodation scheme in Albert Road, Widnes.

Plus Dane submitted the winning tender to retain the contract for the floating housing support service. Both contracts are due to commence in April 2015.

Other developments within the Commissioning and Complex Care Division

Emergency Duty Team: detailed work is now being undertaken to review the role, function and effectiveness of the current arrangements for delivering emergency social service support out of hours. This service is currently delivered in partnership with St Helens Borough Council, and covers both children's and adults services; changes in legislation and increased demands on the service mean that it is timely that this service is comprehensively reviewed. In addition, Warrington Borough Council have indicated that they would like to join the partnership, and they are contributing their own information to the review as a part of this potential development.

II PREVENTION AND ASSESSMENT SERVICES

Making It Real

We have developed a steering group to take forward the 'Making it real: Marking progress towards personalised, community based support' in relation to the 'Personalisation' agenda. This helps check our progress and decide what we need to do to keep moving forward to deliver real change and positive outcomes for people. We met with members of the TLAP programme (Think Local Act Personal) and they helped us facilitate a 'Making It Real Live' event that took place on the 4th of June. The event was well attended and involved people using services, a wide cross sector of partners and other agencies, including the independent sector and voluntary agencies. From the event, we developed an action plan and identified leads to take forward task finish groups which the steering group will oversee. A follow up event was successfully held on the 12th of December 2014 to update those attending of the work progressed since the original event. Our action plan has been uploaded onto the TLAP website.

Winterbourne View

Winterbourne View Review Concordat: Programme of Action was published by the Department of Health in December 2013. Halton CCG and Council are in the process of developing a localised action plan – this will be monitored through the Winterbourne View Strategic Group then reported to the Learning Disability Partnership Board and CCG Quality and Integrated Governance Committee.

- Department of Health have issued Winterbourne View – Time for Change (November 2014), report detailing 11 recommendations to act as a driver for change to make a reality of the Winterbourne pledge. The Council and CCG continue to work on implementing the recommendations.
- Halton has a strategic task group set up to ensure those placed out of area are managed and monitored appropriately with professionals tasked with reassessing those individuals to enable them to return to Halton. This work has been on-going with successful placements now achieved locally with the co-work of the care management teams, health colleagues and the Positive Behaviour team.
- Joint Health and Social Care Learning Disability SAF is scheduled for submission in January 2015.
- Autism Self Assessment Framework is scheduled for submission in March 2015
- Bryon Unit 5 Borough Partnership Inpatient bed usage currently being monitored. Usage in 2014/15 has returned to previous levels; prior to 2013/14, the bed usage at Bryon Unit was low, approx. 4/5 admissions per year; in 2013/14 this increased to over 10 admissions. The number of admissions for 2014/15 is less than 5 at present. At the end of Q4 a brief overview of bed admissions will be provided.
- Winterbourne View Inpatient review programme – Halton Borough Council and Halton CCG commissioners attended reviews at Calderstones Secure Inpatient Facility in December 2014. All inpatients will be reviewed by January 2015.

Learning Disability Nursing Team

The team continue to work proactively with individuals, their family, carers and professionals such as GPs and allied Health professionals. Progress to date:

- The team continue to seek the view of customers on their experiences with team members. These are in easy read format and show consistently positive results
- A nursing team member has recently supported a lady with Learning Disabilities to return to live within the Halton Borough.
- A nursing team member has delivered Learning Disability awareness training to the dignity and safeguarding champions at Warrington Hospital to support people with learning disabilities accessing the acute trust. The feedback from this was very positive
- Two team members have just completed another successful men's group. Educating people with learning disabilities around relationships, personal hygiene, consent and the law, and awareness of physical health.
- The team have been completing peer observations and management observations to ensure the service provided is of a high quality.
- A team member has been training carers alongside the Health Improvement Team to support people with a learning disability to make healthy lifestyle choices
- Team members have been working with GPs to look at their learning disability register and cleanse the data.
- To support the transition of an individual from an inpatient setting, visits have taken place with potential placements and providers to ensure the placement is of high quality with good outcomes and timely support for the individual.
- Individual one to one work has been successfully completed with a client. This work was in understanding Diabetes, the work was completed in easy read and visual format.

Making Safeguarding Personal

Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP) has prompted a whole system review in the context of safeguarding adults. Significant development work has been undertaken to embed the MSP principles into future day to day practice. This development work focuses on developing effective communication with adults at risk to fully understand what they wish to achieve when the safeguarding process is invoked. It also considers the best approach to recording whether these desired outcomes have been realised, the experience or journey for those people and also considers alternative, previously untried personalised approaches to supporting people to a resolution of their circumstances.

Achievements:

- Reports to Halton Safeguarding Adults Board (HSAB) re involvement in the Project and challenges highlighted – full support and commitment from the Board
- MSP Steering group and Practitioners group (champions) developed to take approach forward, to consider how to embed within day to day practice and evaluation process
- Inter-Agency Policy reviewed and re-designed, including specific reference to MSP; Annual report includes approach via MSP. Procedures have been re-designed, including guidance to support staff in new approach.
- Electronic recording system reviewed and re-designed by MSP Practitioner group to support the change to person-centred practice, capturing outcomes during the adults at risk journey through the safeguarding process and also including a series of questions to record the person's experience to identify what difference has been made.

- Evidence of personalised tools being used within the safeguarding process to support the adult at risk to be involved in resolving their own circumstances ie. 'What's working, what's not working' tool. Re-design of electronic recording system will signpost/link staff to these tools.
- Care Concerns model implemented to ensure that referrals meet the safeguarding adults thresholds-ongoing

III COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT SERVICES

Waste & Environmental Improvement

'TEEP'

During this quarter, an assessment has been carried out to test the Council's compliance with the requirements of the Waste (England and Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2012 to separately collect 4 key material streams: paper, metal, plastic and glass. The assessment process and the outcome will be the subject of a report to the Council's Executive Board.

Bonfire Removal Initiative

The 2014 Bonfire Removal Initiative again resulted in a reduction in unauthorised bonfires across Halton. The initiative covered Mischief Night and Bonfire and ran from Monday 27th October 2014 through to Friday 7th November 2014. The Bonfire Removal Initiative sets out to improve community safety by removing unauthorised and uncontrolled bonfires before they are ignited. Cheshire Fire and Rescue Services data shows the number of attended unauthorised bonfires in Halton in 2014 was 52% lower than in 2013, with only 27 incidents in 2014 compared to 31 the previous year.

Area Forums

In January, Corporate Services Policy PPB received a report on Area Forums Delivery. Key highlights within the report were that in the last financial year:

- 147 Area Forum projects were delivered across the Borough - the largest category of expenditure was on 'Community' projects
- A further £592,202 was levered in to match Area Forum funding - meaning that for every £1 of Area Forum funding a further £1.10 was levered into the Borough.

Community Development

In January, the Employment, Learning & Skills PPB received a report on the Community Development Service. Key highlights within the report were that in the last financial year:

- The Community Development (CD) team had supported 133 groups,
- 991 volunteers were involved in the service,
- 14,624 residents benefitted from CD activity
- The CD team levered in £288,387 of external funding to support community groups activity. Hence, for every £1 it costs to provide CD a further £1.30 was brought into the Borough.
- The CD team administers starter, community development and youth grants - 14 new groups were supported with start-up grants of £150. 15 existing groups were supported with their project/group costs, 14 young people were supported with

bursaries of £250 and 12 voluntary youth groups were supported with their project/group costs.

- Members of the Ditton, Broadheath, Hale & Hough Green Area Forum have agreed to pilot an initiative that would see no public Area Forum meetings held for their area in the 2015/16 financial year.

Community Centres

With the support of Area Forum funding, a pilot scheme for delivering improved meals provision for young and old at Upton Community Centre is to be delivered. Should the scheme be successful, consideration will be given to extending the initiative to other community centres.

Open Space Service

Parks

Improvement and refurbishment works restarted at Runcorn Hill & Heath Park as part of the Heritage Lottery Funded scheme that will create an enhanced visitor attraction and one that the Borough's residents and visitors from around the region will be able to enjoy for years to come. The works had stalled earlier in the year when the contractor went into receivership. The new café/visitor centre should be completed in Q1 of 2015/16.

As part of the Runcorn Hill & Heath Park project, two officers funded by the Heritage lottery Fund have been employed to facilitate community involvement. In Q3 they hosted 4 events which have had an attendance of approximately 400. They have worked with a number of local community groups, including scouts, guides and cubs totalling 105 attendees. They have facilitated regular weekly school visits and 153 pupils have undertaken conservation tasks working towards various awards. Groups of between 2 and 6 volunteers have been out on site every week carrying out management tasks on the heathland of Runcorn Hill Park.

Funding was secured in Q3 from Waste Recycling Environment Limited (WREN) that will allow the service to refurbish the locks at Spike Island. It is essential that the locks are refurbished as they are essential for keeping the water levels in the canal where they should be. The works form part of the Sankey Interlocks project, the aim of which is to bring the section of canal between Spike Island and Fiddlers Ferry Marina back into navigation.

Streetscene

Thirty-four new street litter bins were installed throughout the Borough in Q3. Many of the new bins have a section for items that can be recycled. The bins have been funded from the Area Forums and they have replaced worn out street furniture which has improved the visual aspect of many streets and neighbourhoods. In Q4 a further 134 bins will be installed.

Cemeteries & Crematorium

The first of two new cremators was brought into use at Widnes Crematorium in Q3. The second will be completed in Q4. The new cremators are far more fuel efficient and should half the gas consumption thereby delivering a saving on operating costs.

The required permissions were obtained in Q3 that have allowed progress to begin in earnest on the creation of a new cemetery for Widnes. The new cemetery will be called

Peel House Cemetery and it will be located on the former Fairfield High School playing fields.

Brindley, Arts & Events

The Brindley had its busiest period in its ten year history in Q3. Performances have sold well and the annual pantomime was sold out on most evenings. The Brindley now opens for the Bonfire Night firework display and has become a popular venue for spectators.

Stadium

Pitch Activities

The Stadium has continued to attract regional and national events. These include:

- RFL Men's Final – 5 games in one day
- RFL Ladies' Final – 2 games in one day
- RFL and Junior Finals – 4 games in one day
- National Conference Final
- Liverpool won Premiership for second year 12th October
- Liverpool played Linkoping Ladies in UEFA championship league
- Everton's last game against Man City – Everton relegated
- Halton Spartans American Football first game

Events

- Widnes Vikings 89 Dinner – 500 in marquee
- Fawty Towers in conjunction with the Brindley
- Launch Ball of Sam's Diamonds Charity
- Teva Riverside College
- Pensioners Parties
- Christmas Parties
- Halton Business Fayre

Miscellaneous

- North West Contracts upgraded from single to double box
- 'Wife to be' extended Box contract for another two years
- Opening of the Legends Bar
- New Halton Suite opened
- Adam Gill and Doreen Quayle received award from Regional Ambulance for saving life using defibrillator

Stadium Fitness

Fitness Suite

- Impact on membership figures this is due to the opening of the new Pure Gym. Stadium fitness monthly fee is £16.00 while Pure Gym is £9.99.
- Ladies gym is still very busy; there are currently more female members than male ones. Ladies only gym is only £10.99 a month or £40.00 for 4 months.

Type of membership	April 2014	Dec 2014
FULL	963	682
FULL JUNIOR GYM	39	20
CASUAL JUNIOR GYM	814	893
LADIES ONLY	--	417

Table Tennis

In November the Stadium held the Cheshire Schools Table Tennis Competition. Schools and colleges from all over Cheshire took part.

Library Service

Efficiency Review

Formal consultation with staff on proposed roles, rotas, structure and operating arrangements ran for a 30-day period from 13 October to 12 November 2014. All staff will be provided with the final structure, rotas and job descriptions and notified of their status in mid-January. Implementation date for the new structure is anticipated to be 12 April 2015.

The Executive Board met on 11th December to consider the future of the mobile library service, which included details of the responses to the public consultation exercise. It was agreed that the Council will withdraw the mobile library service. It is expected that the cessation of the service will coincide with the implementation of the library service's new structure in April.

Digital access/workforce development

Now that Universal Credit has been launched in Halton it is even more important for libraries to continue to offer free access to computer facilities and to assist customers getting online. The Library Service offers individual support as well as weekly IT Clinics and Work Clubs.

The service is currently rolling out training to all staff focussing on the libraries' role in supporting people to access information and services online in life-critical areas such as careers and job seeking; health, personal financial information and benefits. Central to this offer is helping people to use vital government online information services.

This Universal Information Offer aims to bring together government and non-government sources of information, which have been researched by information professionals in public libraries, giving a level of quality assurance to the customer and to ensure that staff are continually developing their skills to provide the help some people need to access information and services online.

Sport and Recreation

Children in Care Free Swim Scheme

Launched in December, over 220 membership cards have been distributed. In partnership with the Councils Leisure Centre operator, Places for People Leisure, the scheme is for children in care under the age of 18. The membership entitles not just the fostered child, but the foster parents and their children to a free swim at 'All Welcome'

times at the Council's three swimming pools. All children in Halton under the age of eight can already swim for free if accompanied by a paying adult.

The Merseyside Sporting Champions Dinner

Took place on Friday 28 November at the Britannia Adelphi Hotel, Liverpool. The awards aim to raise the profile of sporting achievements across Merseyside and raise money for the local sports council bursary funds. The evening was hosted by Steve Hothersall from Radio City and special guest former Liverpool FC player Jan Molby. Halton had 6 nominees, Halton Sports Award winners, that competed against the five other boroughs of Merseyside, Knowsley, Liverpool, Sefton, Wirral and St Helens. Kieran Henry (Mersey Storm wheelchair RL club) won the Merseyside Young Volunteer of the Year.

American Football Team, Halton Spartans

Established a team to play in a competitive league. Supported with Constitution, Bank Account, Risk Assessments, Insurance, League Requirements, Funding, Coach Qualifications. The team will play their home fixture at Select Security Stadium, following their very successful first fixture on 14 December, when 500 attended.

Runcorn Cycling club

The Club continues to develop and now has over 80 members. Lucy Martin, GB cyclist, met with the club to provide advice and promote their club sessions.

School Meals

Revised Food Based Standards for Lunches from January 2015

New nutritional standards have been introduced in January 2015. These new standards apply to all maintained schools, academies, pupil referral units and free schools.

The national school food standards are in place to ensure that food provided to pupils is nutritious and of high quality: to promote good nutritional health in all pupils; protect those who are nutritionally vulnerable and promote good eating behaviour. Providing good quality school food improves children's health behaviour and performance.

Full details of the standards are available at www.schoolfoodplan.com/standards

Currently all HBC schools comply with and have exceeded the new food standards since 2006.

Milk now must be served as part of a school lunch. Halton has served milk as part of school lunch since 2006.

One big challenge that Halton schools have is to increase the consumption of wholegrain rice and pasta, pulses and salmon.

Halton School catering service has received 2 prestigious awards for their menus served. Only reputable quality food suppliers are used and their catering staff are continually being trained in new recipes and methods and share good practice between schools.

1500 extra free infant lunches are being served every day. Since September every child (Reception, years 1 and 2 only) has been receiving a free delicious hot meal every day. Free school meals save parents over £440 per year!

Parents are now reporting that their children are eating a wider variety of food at home and are much less fussy eaters due to the wide variety of food that they are eating at school.

Fresh Fruit Mix is served every day these are very popular with children. Like adults they also prefer fruit already cut up for them.

A wide range of vegetables are served the most popular are broccoli and sweet corn. Additional vegetables are also included in the tomato sauce for homemade pizzas and spaghetti bolognese.

The new Food Standards are great guidelines for children's diets. Halton's children can still enjoy the traditions of a Roast Dinner being served every Wednesday and Fish and chips on a Friday. Alternatives are always available on these days. School Lunchtime is a really enjoyable time of day.

A 2 course hot school meal and drink costs junior children only £11.00 per week. A typical week's packed lunch costs at least £14 per week.

Only 1 % of packed lunches from home are nutritionally balanced. Children need a hot tasty nutritionally balanced lunch every day to give them more energy and concentrate better. Key highlights of the meal service:

- The numbers of children having a school meal keeps on increasing!!
- An award winning service using quality ingredients from reputable suppliers
- All freshly prepared in each school
- We use the same fruit and vegetable supplier as many prestigious restaurants and hotels in the North West
- We use British Meat and Poultry
- Halton was the first local authority in the country to use Free range eggs
- Sustainable fish certified by MSC
- Low Fat Minced Beef
- All chicken we use is whole chicken breast
- Award winning pork sausages
- Really Tasty and Nutritionally Balanced meals

Further information on free meals and eligibility for such can be sourced from Student Services Team, TEL 0151511 7188 or Halton Direct Link in Runcorn or Widnes or at website www.halton.gov.uk/schoolmeals. Free school meals applications are also available from schools.

Community Safety

During October, November and December, Halton saw a 2.7% reduction in Anti social behaviour (ASB) when compared to the same period in 2013.

Operation Treacle (October Mischief Planning) and RESPECT weeks of action were delivered during the busy period of Mischief Night and Halloween in October. During this period we saw:

- 53% decrease in bonfire clearances.
- Over 90 ASB dispersals were issued over the period, primarily in the Palacefields and Murdishaw area to combat the problem of youth ASB.
- 55% decrease in deliberate fires for 2014.
- 49% increase in ASB during Mischief Night (30th October) and Halloween (31st October). Criminal Damage has also increased by 4%.

Mischief Night falls on a Friday in 2015.

During October the Government introduced new ASB legislation, which includes community trigger, Criminal Behaviour Orders, Public Space Protection Orders, Closure Notice/Orders and Dispersals). During this period total crime went down by 5%.

3.0 Emerging Issues

3.1 A number of emerging issues have been identified during the third quarter that will impact upon the work of the Directorate including:

I COMMISSIONING AND COMPLEX CARE SERVICES

Mental Health Services

Mental Health Act Code of Practice: a full and detailed review of the Code of Practice to the Mental Health Act has been conducted by the Department of Health, and Halton Borough Council made a substantial contribution to the national consultation. The revised Code will be issued in Quarter 4 and will then be the subject of detailed training for key staff; relevant policies and procedures will also need to be revised.

Review of the Acute Care Pathway (ACP): the ACP was developed within the 5Boroughs in 2013 as a model for the delivery of services to people under the age of 65 with complex mental health problems. The CCGs across the footprint of the 5Boroughs - supported by the Local Authorities - are now taking forward a review of the ACP as a whole, to establish the level of positive outcomes that have been achieved.

Redesign of Borough Council services for people with mental health problems: given the positive results coming from the pilot programme run by the Mental health Outreach Team with GP surgeries, the decision has been made to review in detail the way that social services as a whole are provided for local residents with mental health problems. Although there will always be a need to provide comprehensive support to people with the most complex needs and levels of risk, the intention is to establish the extent to which social services can engage at an earlier stage with people and reduce the need for complex interventions. This should result in greater opportunities to support partner agencies – particularly the police, children’s services and the local housing bodies – to manage and support people whose needs can be very challenging, but who do not fit the criteria for referral to the specialist psychiatric services. This review will also involve a detailed examination of the pathways into step-down services with lower levels of support,

to ensure that the right services are provided to people at the right time. The Review is designed to complement the review of the ACP, described above.

5Boroughs locality-based service: following an internal restructure, the 5Boroughs are moving to develop a more borough-based approach to the delivery of their services, so as to match local commissioning requirements more exactly. This is welcomed by the Borough Council and it should continue the effective engagement by the 5Boroughs in local strategic planning processes.

Halton Supported Housing

Halton Supported Housing Network continues to work to bring back people to the borough, closer to family and friends. The shop in Widnes should be open in the next 5 weeks and we are in the process of selecting goats for our cheese and milk production.

Carers Respite

A new specification is being developed to cover a range of areas related to Carers respite. This new specification is aimed at improving outcomes as well as value for money. It is envisaged that the specification will be completed by February 2015.

Information Model

Work has begun on co-producing an information model that will help local people to navigate through the challenges of accessing information. This work is being carried out as a response to the implementation of the Care Act that comes into operation in April 2015.

II PREVENTION AND ASSESSMENT SERVICES

The Personal Budgets Outcomes and Evaluation Tool (POET)

POET is a survey that has been developed over the last 10 years by In Control and Lancaster University as a way of measuring what is and isn't working with personal budgets. The Government recommends that all councils use the tool. Two surveys have been carried out in Halton – one with Personal Budget (PB) recipients (73 respondents) and the other with carers of PB holders (62 respondents). Surveys were conducted by the Direct Payments Team, mostly over the telephone but also face-to-face and via post. Responses were inputted directly onto the In Control website system to allow them to complete analysis and reporting. The report from the survey feedback from In Control is being analysed and will be taken through the respective reporting mechanisms.

Independent Living Fund (ILF)

The Independent Living Fund (ILF) delivers financial support to disabled people so they can choose to live in their communities rather than in residential care. On 8th December 2014 the High Court upheld the Government's decision to close the ILF. This will affect approximately 18,000 disabled people across Britain and more specifically 54 people in Halton. On 30th June 2015, funding for ILF users will be transferred to the Local Authority to administer. A task and finish group will be set up to ensure that all ILF recipients in Halton are assessed prior to the transfer and to develop a transition plan. ILF are working with Halton to ensure a timely transfer.

III COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT SERVICES

Leisure Management Contract

The current Leisure Management Contract expires January 2016. A paper is to be presented outlining options for the leisure provision in Halton; this will be a Key decision.

DCLG to consult against HWRC charges

Proposals preventing councils from charging residents to use household waste recycling centres (HWRCs) have been announced by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG). A public consultation document published in January invites views on how HWRCs at risk of closure can remain open without local authorities resorting to charging residents for the service. An increasing number of councils in England have implemented or discussed charges for HWRC use in response to cuts to local government funding and a requirement to save money on 'essential' services. The consultation claims that long-standing legislation enshrined in both the Civic Amenities Act 1967 and the Environmental Protection Act 1990 require local authorities to provide free-to-use HWRCs for their residents. Under proposals outlined in the document, DCLG intends to prevent local authorities charging any entry or exit fee for using a 'discretionary HWRC' service, as well as any fee relating to the quantity of household waste and recycling that is deposited. Apparently the rules would not prevent authorities from charging for household waste deposited by non-residents, waste delivered from commercial premises or non-household waste or recycling from both residents and non-residents. The consultation is due to end on February 18th 2015 and seeks views from councils, waste disposal authorities, the waste industry and the Local Government Association.

Defra to consult on new anti-waste crime measures

The government has given senior waste industry representatives an outline of its plans to consult on new regulations aimed at curbing waste crime. Defra officials outlined some of the proposals likely to be included in a planned consultation on new regulations, which would make it easier for the Environment Agency to prosecute perpetrators of waste crime. These include giving the Environment Agency greater powers to suspend licences of sites that are operating outside of the law, and increased intervention at poor performing sites which are thought to be at risk of non-compliance. Defra is also looking to consider new laws to allow the Environment Agency to re-charge waste sites for the clean-up costs of illegal sites, similar to the way in which water polluters are made to pay for pollution. It is expected that a consultation on the measures will be launched before the General Election, although Defra is continuing to assess the impact of any new measures on existing regulations.

4.0 Risk Control Measures

Risk control forms an integral part of the Council's Business Planning and performance monitoring arrangements. During the development of the **2014/15** Business Plan, the service was required to undertake a risk assessment of all key service objectives with high risks included in the Directorate Risk Register.

As a result, monitoring of all relevant 'high' risks will be undertaken and progress reported against the application of the risk treatment measures in Quarters 2 and 4.

5.0 Progress against high priority equality actions








There have been no high priority equality actions identified in the quarter.

6.0 Performance Overview

The following information provides a synopsis of progress for both milestones and performance indicators across the key business areas that have been identified by the Communities Directorate. The way in which the Red, Amber and Green, (RAG), symbols have been used to reflect progress to date is explained at the end of this report.

Commissioning and Complex Care Services

Key Objectives / milestones

Ref	Milestones	Q3 Progress
CCC1	Continue to monitor effectiveness of changes arising from review of services and support to children and adults with Autistic Spectrum Disorder. Mar 2015. (AOF 4)	
CCC1	Continue to implement the Local Dementia Strategy, to ensure effective services are in place. Mar 2015. (AOF 4)	
CCC1	Continue to implement 5Boroughs NHS Foundation Trust proposals to redesign pathways for people with Acute Mental Health problems and services for older people with Mental Health problems. Mar 2015 (AOF 4)	
CCC1	The Homelessness Strategy be kept under annual review to determine if any changes or updates are required. Mar 2015. (AOF 4, AOF 18)	
CCC1	Conduct a review of Domestic Violence Services to ensure services continue to meet the needs of Halton residents. Mar 2015 (AOF11)	
CCC2	Ensure Healthwatch is established and consider working in partnership with other Councils to deliver this. Mar 2015 (AOF 21)	
CCC3	Undertake on-going review and development of all commissioning strategies, aligning with Public Health and Clinical Commissioning Groups, to enhance service delivery and continue cost effectiveness, and ensure appropriate governance controls are in place. Mar 2015. (AOF 21 & 25)	

Supporting Commentary

CCC1 - Services / Support to children and adults with Autism

The Autism Strategy group continues to monitor the progress of the Autism Strategy 2012 – 2016 action plan.

Key milestones have been:

- Autism Capital Funding completed to develop and amend local services to meet the needs of individuals with Autism.
- Autism Self-Assessment will be submitted in March 2015.
- Supported Accommodation being developed through 2014/15 to meet the needs of individuals with autism.

CCC 1 Dementia Strategy

During Q3 the Dementia Partnership Board identified funding and endorsed the decision to commission an Admiral Nurse service in Halton to further strengthen community dementia provision. This action will be progressed during Q4.

During Q3 achievement of the 67% diagnosis rate target was a priority, supported by the roll out of the NHSE Data Quality Tool Kit. The Dementia Partnership Board continues to work with local GP Practices to achieve this target by end of March 2015.

It was agreed in December 2014 that 'ward rounds' will be undertaken by a consultant psychiatrist in two residential care homes, commencing in February 2015.

CCC 1 Mental Health

The Council continues to work closely with both the 5Boroughs and the CCG to monitor the delivery of the Acute Care Pathway (ACP) and the Later Life and Memory Service. A detailed review of the effectiveness of the ACP is being put in place, developed by the CCG but fully supported by the Council. In addition a review is taking place of the roles and tasks of the social work and outreach services (see above), which will feed directly in to the ACP review.

CCC 1 Homelessness Strategy

The 2013/18 Homelessness Strategy has been implemented and a number of actions within the action plan have been achieved. The designated sub groups will continue to meet on a bi monthly basis to discuss and implement the strategic action plan. The focus is presently around improving the monitoring & performance of the service, with further emphasis to develop prevention initiatives around Health. The strategy will be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure it is a working document that captures future change, trends and demands

CCC 1 Domestic Violence

This has now been completed with the commencement of the new Halton Domestic Abuse service on 1st July 2014.







CCC 2 HealthWatch

Healthwatch continues to develop and events for local residents are scheduled. Discussion with partner Councils related to advocacy services are underway to ensure the best possible service is delivered. A report is going to the Council's Executive Board in the near future with options to the provision of advocacy.

CCC 3 Review and development of commissioning strategies to align with Public Health and Clinical Commissioning Groups

Work in this area is progressing as scheduled. The Integration agenda continues to move towards greater alignment around governance and the integrated approach to performance management. For example, new Governance arrangements for Mental Health and other work streams have been put in place.

Key Performance Indicators

Ref	Measure	13 / 14 Actual	14 / 15 Target	Q3 Actual	Q3 Progress	Direction of travel
CCC 4	Adults with mental health problems helped to live at home per 1,000 population	2.64	3.5	2.57		
CCC 5	The proportion of households who were accepted as statutorily homeless, who were accepted by the same LA within the last 2 years (Previously CCC 6).	0	1.2	0		
CCC 6	Number of households living in Temporary Accommodation (Previously NI 156, CCC 7).	11	12	4		

Supporting Commentary

CCC 4 Adults with mental health problems helped to live at home per 1,000 population

This month's figures are part of a continuing trend, arising from the reduced numbers of people who are managed through the 5Boroughs Partnership, following the introduction of the Acute Care Pathway last year. The redesign of the social care services (described earlier) is anticipated to increase this figure.

CCC 5 The proportion of households who were accepted as statutorily homeless, who were accepted by the same LA within the last 2 years

Merseyside Sub Regional, No Second Night Out scheme which provides an outreach service for hard to reach clients and rough sleepers. The service has proven invaluable and the organisation has successfully worked in partnership with Halton to identify and assist this vulnerable client group.

The contract is due to end March 2015 and each Authority is looking to develop an exit strategy to ensure that adequate services are made available to sustain a zero tolerance towards repeat homelessness within the district and facilitate reconnection with neighbouring authorities.

CCC 6 Number of households living in Temporary Accommodation

The changes in the TA process and amended contracts for accommodation providers has had a positive impact upon allocation placements and resulted in the reduction of TA accommodation.







The Housing Solutions Team has taken a proactive approach to preventing homelessness which has had a positive impact upon service provision and reducing the level of homelessness within the district.


There are established prevention measures in place and the Housing Solutions team will continue to promote the services and options available to clients to reduce and prevent homelessness.

The emphasis is focused on early intervention and further promotes independent and sustainable living.

The improved service process has developed stronger partnership working and contributed towards an effective move on process for clients. The Authority will strive to sustain the reduced TA provision.

Prevention and Assessment Services**Key Objectives / milestones**

Ref	Milestones	Q3 Progress
PA 1	Fully implement and monitor the effectiveness of the complex care pooled budget March 2015 . (AOF 2,3,4,10,21)	
PA 1	Continue the integrated provision of frontline services including multidisciplinary teams, care homes, safeguarding services and urgent care March 2015 (AOF 2,3,4,10,21)	
PA 1	Develop a Care Management Strategy to reflect the provision of integrated frontline services for adults March 2015 (AOF 2,3,4,10,21)	
PA 1	Work within adult social care to focus on preventative service to meet the needs of the population March 2015 (AOF 2,3,4,10,21)	
PA 1	Develop an integrated approach to the delivery of Health and Wellbeing across Halton March 2015 (AOF 2,3,4,10,21)	
PA 2	Continue to establish effective arrangements across the whole of adult social care to deliver personalised quality services through self-directed support and personal	

	budgets March 2015 (AOF 2, 3,4,10,21)	
PA 2	Continue to review the quality of commissioned services and continue to develop the role of the integrated safeguarding unit March 2015 (AOF 2, 3,4,10,21)	

Supporting Commentary

PA 1 Complex care pooled budget

Fully implemented.

PA 1 Integrated provision of frontline services

These teams are now fully operational.

PA 1 Develop a Care Management Strategy

The Care Management Strategy has been presented to Senior Management Team; it will now follow a period of consultation and be presented to respective boards and partners.

PA 1 Work within Adult Social Care focussing on Preventative Services

The Initial Assessment team (IAT) continues to work closely with Sure Start/Bridge Building Teams and Telecare. IAT is starting to look at better signposting and capturing information that ensures positive outcomes for people using services. There has been improved delivery of stair-lifts for people with end of life care needs.

PA 1 Develop an integrated approach to the delivery of Health and Wellbeing across Halton

The Health Improvement Team (HIT) has now transferred to the local authority and is working well.

PA 2 Personalisation/Self-directed Support







To ensure effective arrangements for 'Personalisation' across adult social care, we have developed a steering group to take forward the 'Making it Real' agenda. TLAP (Think Local Act Personal) supported us to facilitate a 'Making It Real Live' event that took place on 4th June. From the event we developed an action plan and have now identified leads to take forward task finish groups which the steering group will oversee. The Action Plan has now been loaded on the TLAP website. A follow up event was now held in December 2014 to update those attending the original event. This work is ongoing with work-streams adopting a co-production approach working with people who use services.

PA 2 Integrated Safeguarding

Continuing to develop and embed a care and safeguarding dashboard which will enable professionals to receive up to date information across the Halton landscape.

Key Performance Indicators

Ref	Measure	13 / 14 Actual	14/15 Target	Q3 Actual	Q3 Progress	Direction of travel
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Ref	Measure	13 / 14 Actual	14/15 Target	Q3 Actual	Q3 Progress	Direction of travel
PA 2	Numbers of people receiving Intermediate Care per 1,000 population (65+)	81.31	82	58.3		
PA 3	Percentage of VAA Assessments completed within 28 days	87.69%	85%	87.2%		
PA 7	Percentage of items of equipment and adaptations delivered within 7 working days	96.3%	97%	96.3%		

Supporting Commentary

PA 2 Numbers of people receiving Intermediate Care per 1,000 population (65+)

On track to meet end of year target. Please note though current figures are approximate as awaiting further data from Whiston hospital team.

PA 3 Percentage of VAA Assessments completed within 28 days






We are on track to meet this target.

PA 7 Percentage of items of equipment and adaptations delivered within 7 working days

Performance continues to improve. It is expected that target will be met.

Community and Environmental Services

Key Objectives / milestones

Ref	Milestones	Q3 Progress
CE 1	Continue to implement the Sports Strategy (2012-15) March 2015. (AOF 1 & 2)	
CE 2	Identify areas for improvement in line with the Business Plan and Marketing Plan January 2015. (AOF 1, 2, 19 & 22)	
CE 3	Deliver a promotion and educational campaign - September 2014 and January 2015. (AOF 1)	
CE 4	Implement the new Library Strategy 2013-16 March 2015. (AOF 6, 7, 13, 14, 22)	
CE 4	Deliver a programme of extended informal learning opportunities including support for digital inclusion meeting identified local targets March 2015 (AOF 6, 7, 13, 14, 22)	

Supporting Commentary

CE 1 – Sports Strategy Implementation

The Councils Sport and Recreation Team continue to deliver and support activity against the key themes and objectives contained in the Sports Strategy. The service produces a monthly report to highlight the key areas of work

Quarter 3 activities include:

Community Sports coaches delivered 200 hours coaching; 2224 coaching contacts and 80 training opportunities. Safeguarding and First Aid workshops delivered - 32 attendees, 10 coaching bursaries, 9 bursaries and 1 group grant. Other activities included;

- Get Active project launch at Upton CC 50 participants registered
- 200 new participants registered with Get Active project, Touch Rugby, Athlefit and Swim4Health new sessions
- Supported Halton Disability Sports Coordinator and established links with local sports clubs
- On-going support to community exercise classes, over 50 groups. Q3: new participants supported 30 male, 61 female: 91 total (390 cumulative total).
- Merseyside Sports Awards 6 nominations – 1 award winners
- 136,766 Leisure centre visits during Oct/Nov/Dec. Total visits since 1 April 2014 434,895
- 1,261 Halton Leisure Card applications

- 8 Sportivate activities operating 73 participants (sport sessions for 14 – 25 year olds)
- How to deliver engaging sessions for young people workshop – 12 attendees from 6 different organisations

CE 2 Business and Marketing Planning

A number of areas have been targeted for this year, the programmed improvement in these areas should have a positive impact on the financial performance of the Stadium.

CE 3 Promotion and Educational Campaign

A number of promotional activities have taken place, the Universal Free School Meals have been introduced very smoothly and over 1,500 additional meals are being served on a daily basis compared to this time last year. Banners. Parental leaflets, Advertisements in local press, Leaflet drops. Parents evenings , Tasting sessions have been used to raise the awareness of UIFSM and also of the quality of Halton School Catering Service.

CE 4 New Library Strategy

Strategy priority - Inspiring a community of readers and learners

Just 6 Minutes

Research has shown that Just 6 Minutes absorbed reading has a significant impact on stress. Halton Libraries are participating in the latest North West Reading promotion “Just 6 Minutes” to help improve stress levels, improve health and provide a feel good factor with mood boosting book recommendations.

Memory Bags

Following the popularity of the Memory Boxes which are suitable for residential homes and small groups, the library service has now introduced memory bags which are smaller and more portable than the boxes and can be used by individuals in their own homes.

Reading Activists Project

The young volunteers planned and organised the Christmas Extravaganza event at Widnes Library providing games, crafts, stories, balloon animals, badge making and lots of fun for the Under 11's. Over 150 children and parents participated in the event.

Schools - 7 schools have been engaged in activities with the service this quarter with 550 children and young people participating in class visits.

Reading Groups – 15 Reading Group sessions have been held this quarter with 83 attendees.

Rhymetime

Over 990 children and parents attended 38 Rhymetime sessions in this quarter.

Other events

The library service attended Moorfields Primary Reading Afternoon engaging with 60 children; provided themed “Wimpy Kid” activities during half term with 40 participants and undertook sessions for the Children’s Centre Terrific 2’s and Brownies.








CE 4 Extended Informal Learning Opportunities

The Library Service has worked in partnership with O2 to provide 2 workshops covering the topics of CV & Interviews and Digital Confidence and Online Safety.

IT Clinics has been delivered at both Halton Lea and Widnes Libraries with 21 sessions having taken place with 116 attendances.

17 workclubs sessions supported by GMB have been delivered this quarter with 221 attendances.

Key Performance Indicators

Ref	Measure	13 / 14 Actual	14 / 15 Target	Q3 Actual	Q3 Progress	Direction of travel
CE LI 4	Diversity – number of community groups accessing stadium facilities	N/A	15	22		N/A
CE LI 6	Number of new members of the library service during the last 12 months	N/A	7,000	1,140		N/A
CE LI 6a	Number of physical and virtual visits to libraries (annual total)	675,989	680,000	137,841		N/A
CE LI 7	% of adult population (16+) participating in sport each week (Previously NI8).	23.1%	24%	N/A	N/A	N/A
CE LI 8	% Take up of free school meals to those who are eligible - Primary Schools	85.12%	85%	84.59%		
CE LI 9	% Take up of free school meals to those who are eligible - Secondary Schools	75.81%	75%	75.48%		

Supporting Commentary

CE LI 4 Diversity – number of community groups accessing stadium facilities

This represents an excellent result at this time of year.

CE LI 6 Number of new members of the library service during the last 12 months

Performance has fallen this quarter in line with seasonal usage. It is uncertain at this stage whether the annual target will be achieved.

CE LI 6a Number of physical and virtual visits to libraries (annual total)

Performance has fallen this quarter in line with seasonal usage. It is uncertain at this stage whether the annual target will be achieved.

CE LI 7 Percentage of adult population (16+) participating in sport each week

No results published during this quarter.

CE LI 8 Percentage Take up of free school meals to those who are eligible - Primary Schools




This figure is astounding; the UIFSM's has increased the number of pupils taking a lunch by around 1,500 per day.

CE LI 9 Percentage Take up of free school meals to those who are eligible - Secondary Schools

Another excellent result, Halton has the fourth highest uptake in Secondary Schools in the country.




APPENDIX: Explanation of Symbols

Symbols are used in the following manner:

Progress		<u>Objective</u>	<u>Performance Indicator</u>
Green		Indicates that the <u>objective is on course to be achieved</u> within the appropriate timeframe.	<i>Indicates that the annual target <u>is on course to be achieved</u>.</i>
Amber		Indicates that it is <u>uncertain or too early to say at this stage</u> , whether the milestone/objective will be achieved within the appropriate timeframe.	<i>Indicates that it is <u>uncertain or too early to say at this stage</u> whether the annual target is on course to be achieved.</i>
Red		Indicates that it is <u>highly likely or certain</u> that the objective will not be achieved within the appropriate timeframe.	<i>Indicates that the target <u>will not be achieved</u> unless there is an intervention or remedial action taken.</i>

Direction of Travel Indicator

Where possible performance measures will also identify a direction of travel using the following convention

Green		Indicates that performance is better as compared to the same period last year.
Amber		Indicates that performance is the same as compared to the same period last year.
Red		Indicates that performance is worse as compared to the same period last year.
N/A		Indicates that the measure cannot be compared to the same period last year.

Performance Overview Report - Policy & Resources Directorate

Reporting Period: **Quarter 3 – Period 01st October 2014 to 31st December 2014**

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This report provides an overview of issues and progress within the directorate that have occurred during the period.

2.0 Key Developments

- 2.1 There have been a number of developments within the Directorate during the period which include:

Finance

1. The Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) was considered by Executive Board on 20th November 2014, which set out an expected funding gap of up to £42m over three years (2015-2018) and the key assumptions upon which this was based. The Council's 2015/16 base budget has been prepared within the framework of the MTFS.
2. The Government announced the Local Government Finance Settlement on 18th December 2014 which provided details of the provisional Settlement Funding Assessment for Halton for 2015/16. Overall the settlement inclusive of specific grants was broadly in-line with that forecast as part of the MTFS. As outlined in the MTFS this will require budget savings of £19M to be achieved. No indicative funding announcements have been made for the years post 2015/16. A Comprehensive Spending Review is expected in summer 2015 which will outline Government public spending plans for the following 2-3 years.
3. On 20th November 2014 Executive Board recommended initial 2015/16 budget reductions of £11.3m which approved by Council on 10th December 2014. Many of these budget proposals can be implemented immediately and will contribute to keeping spend within budget for the current financial year.
4. In October 2014 the benefits service started to receive Real Time Information Referrals from the Department of Work and Pensions. Cases are referred where Housing Benefit claimants have failed to declare, or under-declared, earnings or private pension payments. The number of cases is around 60 per month and they are being examined and overpayments are being raised for recovery where appropriate. In general the processing of HB claims and changes of circumstances remains amongst the highest in Merseyside and Greater Manchester at 14 days and 3 days respectively.
5. The Unannounced OFSTED Inspection of Children's Social Care took place in December 2014 and as first point of Contact for Children's Safeguarding the Contact Centre processes and staff were also examined. The initial feedback on the Contact Role is extremely positive indicating that staff were professional and knowledgeable and had a clear understanding of safeguarding thresholds.

6. The significant reforms to Welfare Benefits continue to result in a high demand for advice and the outcomes achieved by the Welfare Rights Team at tribunal continue to be extremely positive. Not with standing this delays in the processing of claims by government departments continue to cause hardship for residents.
7. The Council has been successful in a joint bid to secure funding from the DCLG for a Counter Fraud Analyst post. The post will undertake proactive forensic analysis, investigation and awareness-raising in areas identified with a high risk of fraud across the four Cheshire local authorities. A recruitment process for the post is currently underway.
8. The Finance Support Team is providing assistance to system users in advance of an upgrade to the Agresso finance system which is due to become live in January 2015.
9. Schools are to be given the opportunity to have direct access to the Agresso system under the new Finance Service Level Agreement. This development will allow schools to have real-time access to the latest budgetary information and will also streamline the process for paying school invoices. Full training is to be provided to each school that buys into the Finance SLA.
10. Since April 2013 the Council has handled all pre-litigation Public Liability (PL) & Employers' Liability (EL) claims in-house up to the value of £25,000. This arrangement has delivered a substantial saving on claims handling costs and assists the defence of claims through the insurance team's knowledge of the Council and the local area. The in-house claims handling arrangements are subject to annual audit by the Council's insurers. The most recent audit was completed in November 2014 and resulted in an overall Technical Service Proficiency score of 99%, which the insurer categorises as an "excellent" rating.
11. The Procurement Division successfully completed two external assignments during the quarter, further promoting the use of Halton's Risk Based Sourcing model, and enabling two neighbouring council's to build significant process efficiency into their procurement operations. The Council's approach continues to be recognised and referenced by the Cabinet Office, with the Council's approach having contributed to Procurement reforms to be implemented by the Cabinet office in the first half of 2015.
12. Two very successful business briefings have taken place in the Borough (November 2014 and early January 2015), both being very well attended, enabling the Council to grow its supplier base to maximise competition in procurement of supplies and services, and also to help Halton's local business base to access opportunities with the Council and beyond.

Human Resources and Organisational Learning and Development

13. Agreement was reached with the trade unions during the quarter to enter into a local agreement to continue with the deduction from salary for four days for a further twelve months. Additionally, agreement was reached to change to mileage payable from NJC rates to HMRC rates. This is expected to achieve savings in the region of £800,000 in 2015/16.

14. Although initially due to commence during the third quarter, ILM Level 3 in Coaching has been delayed due to the departure of the lead trainer in this subject area. An alternative trainer has been identified and work is on-going to offer the qualification in 2015.
15. In the second quarter of the year audits were undertaken by Internal Audit with regard to safeguarding and sickness management, while External Audit reviewed payroll processes. The review carried out on safeguarding and sickness management has resulted in an Action Plan now being developed.

ICT and Administration Support Services

16. In collaboration with Directorates, the deployment of Electronic Records Management and the development of new and improved central reporting systems based upon the SharePoint Access solutions are in place linked to systems such as the "I Want" portals for Finance, ICT, Admin, Print and HR. Making services more accessible, this initiative has had a significant impact in reducing staff time and duplication across the authority.
17. The service has also focused upon further developing opportunities for on-going income generation through the development of externally focused ICT applications. These opportunities include the development of a clouds-based solution for Schools, support to the Halton Clinical Commissioning Group, the Mersey Gateway Project and now the delivery of the Agresso Financial Management System within Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council, creating a collaborative and shared financial management solution between both authorities all hosted and managed within Halton. This project has now led to further opportunity within the Records Management Unit for the scanning and indexing of all Sefton Invoices.
18. In order that ICT can be used to maximum effect the service has also delivered a broad range of training surgeries for staff and the continued emphasis on the use of electronic documents has resulted in a considerable reduction in the use of printed material and associated costs such as a reduction in the number of printers required.
19. The Council continues to maintain Public Services Network Compliance which meets security requirements and has undergone a number of external audits during 2014 and into 2015 with the final audit expected in March 2015. This is a significant investment and demonstrates the Councils on-going commitment to maintaining a secure electronic environment and supports the authority's on-going Information Governance arrangements together with innovative remote working solutions linked to the Halton Cloud services.

Legal and Democratic Services

20. Substantial work has been carried out during the quarter to embed the scrutiny arrangements for the Liverpool City Region. As the lead authority, Halton has achieved this by utilising existing resources within Democratic Services. As the

function gains momentum, the impact on the service may need to be reviewed. In addition, Officers from other disciplines working within Halton have supported the scrutiny process in specialist areas. This support operates alongside resources supplied by each of the constituent authorities.

Policy, Planning and Transportation.

21. A report has been prepared for Management Team regarding the proposed new statutory 'Prevent' duty contained in the recent Counter-Terrorism and Security Bill which is currently being fast-tracked through Parliament. The new duty will require local authorities to have due regard in exercising its functions to the need to prevent people being drawn into terrorism.
22. Data is being prepared to meet the publishing requirements of the Public Sector Equality Duty. The documents will be published during quarter 4 2014/15 and made available on the Council's external website. Additionally the revised Corporate Plan will be presented for consideration by Executive Board in January 2015 prior to its submission to Full Council.
23. Work continues on developing a Halton Cares Foundation, established to provide social investment and strategic charitable grant-making. The Foundation is a partnership between Halton Borough Council, Halton Chamber of Commerce, Halton & St. Helens VCA the Community Foundations for Lancashire & Merseyside and It is anticipated that the final proposals will be put to members and partners in March 2015.
24. On behalf of Go-ON Northwest Halton is hosting a Pan-Cheshire Digital Inclusion Conference on the 13th February at the Stadium. This will bring together interested parties from across the sectors to share best practice, gain practical tips and ideas on how to increase the basic online skills on people in the sub-region. The Council will incur no costs for the event which will further promote the Stadium facilities to a wide audience.
25. Work is nearing completion on integrating the Council's Housing Land Availability (HLA) and Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) systems. This has involved creating/merging records for thousands of individual units and should streamline the production of these important documents in the future.
26. The Bus services supported by the RGF and LSTF funds on the whole have been successful; the 200 service which serves a large proportion of Runcorn's employment sites is close to becoming a commercial (unsubsidised) service. The 329 from St Helens via Warrington to Daresbury will cease when the fund ends in March 2015, however identified savings within the RGF transport pot of money will support the 21 bus service which operated from Warrington to Halton for 6-9 months to continue the sustainable links from Bank Quay Station.
27. The first Quality Bus Partnership (QBP) will be introduced into the Borough under the current Liverpool City Region Better Bus Area (BBA) partnership. The QBP will provide for a number of improvements on the corridor between Widnes Town Centre and St Helens Town Centre and provide an improved co-ordinated 20

minute frequency and allow for reciprocal ticket arrangements between Halton Transport and Arriva.

Public Health

28. A local Cancer Strategy has recently been developed and sets out key actions to address this priority and improve outcomes. The national Be Clear on Cancer campaign is being rolled out with a team of volunteers working with local people. Halton CCG has prioritised cancer as a key area for the new Primary Care Model. A project plan and working group are taking this forward.
29. A range of weight management services are delivered for children and adults on an individual or group level, such as the fresh start programmes, active play and introduction to solid food parties. The Halton Healthy Weight management care pathways for children and adults have been reviewed and opportunities to enhance provision identified. We are also working with the CCG to improve uptake in bowel cancer screening and again this is part of the Primary Care Model work.
30. We are also working with the CCG to improve uptake in bowel cancer screening and again this is part of the Primary Care Model work. HPV Vaccination protects girls from cervical cancer in later years. Uptake remains good for HPV vaccination. Changes to the national schedule for HPV vaccination may further improve opportunities to improve uptake locally.
31. The Family Nurse Partnership team has been recruited and began to start work with first time teenage mothers in November 2014. Work is underway to ensure the safe transition of the Health Visiting service to be commissioned by the Local authority by October 2015. To date we have had a successful workshop with all providers and partners on the 0-19 child pathway.
32. Current child development status shows an improvement from 37% in 2013/14 to 46% this quarter. We expect this figure to continue to improve. Since 2010/11 breastfeeding has increased by 11.3%. Halton has a Child Poverty Strategy and Action Plan in place and is part of the City Region Child Poverty Commission.
33. There is a wide range of work underway to address this area including Children's Centres Programmes, healthy eating, working with food banks, increasing breastfeeding, increasing free school meal uptake, plain packaging for cigarettes, smoking prevention, work with mums and tots, support for the New Shoots Food Co-op, Credit Crunch Cooking, work with Housing Trusts around welfare reforms, Healthy Homes/ Warm Homes initiatives, work with the CAB and Supporting Residents at Risk of Home Repossession project.

3.0 Emerging Issues

3.1 A number of emerging issues have been identified during the period that will impact upon the work of the Directorate including:

Financial Management

- a) The new Accounts and Audit Regulations, expected to come into effect from 1st April 2015, will from 2017/18 bring forward the publication date for the Councils accounts from 30th September to 31st July and work will now be programmed to meet this new requirement.
- b) The Department for Works and Pensions (DWP) have confirmed that Universal Credit (UC) will be rolled out in Halton for families from March 2015. This is a significant development for the DWP because these types of UC claims are more difficult to administer, and the Benefits Service will monitor the impact because of the effect on Council Tax Reduction claims.
- c) The Department for Works and Pensions (DWP) have launched the Fraud and Error Reduction Incentive Scheme (FERIS) in November 2014. This scheme will offer threshold based financial rewards to councils who further tackle Fraud and Error (F&E) in their Housing Benefit (HB) caseload. . The first period of FERIS will commence on 1st December 2014 and run to 31st March 2015, and the second period will be for 2015/16 year.
- d) The Benefits Service has successfully applied to the DWP for maximum start-up FERIS funding of £15,821. The DWP will provide monthly extracts of our data to determine the level of reductions that are achieved and this is another new area of work that will require close monitoring.
- e) Prior to year-end a review of all cases subject to an award of discretionary non-domestic rate has been undertaken. The Executive Board will consider the potential extension, reduction or removal of awards of relief from 31st March 2016.
- f) As part of Halton Housing Trusts Digital First programme they have decided to end the current Service Level Agreement (SLA) with the One Stop Shops with effect from April 2015. However under a revised SLA the One Stop Shops will still provide tenants with the facility to make automated payments.
- g) Discussions with Cheshire Police continue to have Police Contact points available at the main Widnes and Runcorn One Stop Shops. These free-standing contact points are interactive touchscreen systems that allow communication with a Force Operator via telephone or web-chat and also provide access to an A – Z database of Frequently Asked Questions.
- h) Working age claimants presently receiving Disability Living Allowance are soon to have their claims reassessed against the criteria for the new replacement Personal Independence Payment. It is anticipated that many of the 6, 770 claimants within Halton will be seeking assistance through this transition from Welfare Rights Advisors.

- i) In order to support the protection of vulnerable people from financial abuse The Council is to sign up to a free service offered by CIFAS (the UK's Fraud Prevention Service) which will help safeguard those individuals under the Council's care who are subject to a court order of protection under the Mental Capacity Act 2005. Under this system, when requests for credit or other services are made to a CIFAS member organisation in the names of these people, an alert will be issued so that the provider will be aware of the disabilities of the individual and can take appropriate action. This will help prevent vulnerable individuals being subject to identity fraud and will also help prevent them from entering into finance agreements which they are unable to afford.
- j) The Council is submitting an application to BACS to obtain 'Bureau Approved' status. If the application is successful the Council will be able to offer financial services to external organisations, such as academy schools. This will provide an opportunity for the Council to generate additional income through service level agreements. The Council already provides a BACS payment service to the Mersey Gateway Crossings Board.
- k) The Government is to close the Independent Living Fund (ILF) on 30th June 2015. This will result in funding being devolved to the Council to meet the support needs of approximately 50 ILF users. The intention of this reform is to allow the care and support needs of existing ILF users to be met by local authorities in a consistent way through personalised budgets and direct payments.
- l) The funding transferred to the Council for 2015/16 will be received as part of the s.31 grant and will not be ring-fenced. No advice has yet been received in regard to funding for 2016/17. All ILF users transferring will therefore have their needs assessed and met through the Council's existing eligibility and charging regime.
- m) The contract for the e-tendering portal 'The Chest' currently used by Halton and many other North West authorities is reaching the end of its term. A regional procurement exercise has been conducted and supplier submissions are to be evaluated throughout January. The outcome of this exercise will be a portal that reflects changes in procurement rules and practice. Some existing or potential suppliers may need support in adapting to a new system and the Procurement Division will respond to this as appropriate.

Human Resources and Organisational Learning and Development

- n) Preparations continue to deal with major changes to the Teachers' Pension Scheme from 1st April 2015 which will require advance communication with all affected. Additionally the Division continues to support the transfer of staff to the Department of Work and Pensions as a Single Fraud Investigation Service is established.

ICT and Administration Support Services

- o) Data centre improvements and the development of the second data centre facility located at Picow Farm Records Management Unit (RMU) will predominantly become the focus over the following 12 month cycle as the facilities are linked and become highly resilient through a technology known as active/active data management whilst improving corporate facilities and bringing enhanced and innovative user based access solutions.
- p) The upgrade of Schools Networking together with the continued delivery of an enhanced Virtual Learning Environment into all schools will further enhance the quality of provision to the education sector, both within Halton and commercially.
- q) Additionally the wider implementation of the Halton Cloud Computing Platform and the development of the Agresso Financial Platform, Scanning, Records Management, SharePoint extranet data sharing and access arrangements will continue in order to maximise income generation opportunities and further support the delivery of holistic and integrated services to the community.
- r) In addition to extending the capacity of the I-Want portals the website developments will continue within the new SharePoint 2013 Platform and the ever expanding second data centre at Picow Farm Road, which will strengthen the Council's ICT infrastructure resilience and business continuity arrangements.

Legal and Democratic Services

- s) Preparations are well underway for the forthcoming General and Local elections in May and work continues on revising the Council's Constitution.

Policy, Planning and Transportation.

- t) The Halton Strategic Partnership is supporting on going work to ensure the sustainability of the Safe in Town scheme. Whilst the funding for the initial pilot came from partnership funding, the current project is funded by the PCC and CCG, and is due to finish on the 31st March 2015 and discussions are underway to identify further funding from various Partners. The scheme currently has 504 individuals and over 80 different types of premises signed up, including venues in both Runcorn and Widnes.
- u) The Planning Advisory Service (PAS) is running a programme for Authorities who have adopted Core Strategies with housing policy figures based on their (now deleted) Regional Strategies. Halton is to receive free consultancy services (ARUP) to review our current position and advise on the risks and pitfalls associated with the differing options for moving forward (i.e. retain Core Strategy, review elements of Core Strategy, or produce new Local Plan).

- v) The Transport Plan for Growth which merges and updates the Merseyside and Halton Local Transport Plans is nearing completion and is due to be submitted to the LCR Chief Executives early in February. The plan works alongside the existing LTP3 and sets out how the LCR Transport priorities support economic growth.

Public Health

- w) Current child development status shows an improvement from 37% in 2013/14 to 46% this quarter and it is expected that this figure will continue to improve.
- x) Since 2011 the rate of breastfeeding has increased by 11.3%. To support further progress in this area Halton has a Child Poverty Strategy in place and is part of the City Region Child Poverty Commission. In addition there is a wide range of work underway including Children's Centre Programmes, healthy eating and Free School Meal initiatives, smoking prevention projects such as cessation and plain packaging and work with Housing Associations and the voluntary sector around welfare reforms and Healthy / Warm Home interventions.

4.0 Risk Control Measures

Risk control forms an integral part of the Council's Business Planning and performance monitoring arrangements. As such Directorate Risk Registers were updated in tandem with the development of the suite of 2014 – 15 Directorate Business Plans.

Progress concerning the implementation of all Directorate high-risk mitigation measures was reported in Quarter 2.

Risk Registers are currently being reviewed for 2015 – 16 in tandem with the development of next year's Directorate Business Plans.

5.0 Equality Actions

Equality issues continue to form a routine element of the Council's business planning and operational decision making processes. Additionally the Council must have evidence to demonstrate compliance with the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) which came into force in April 2011.

The Council's latest annual progress report in relation to the achievement of its equality objectives was published on the Council website during quarter 4 and is available via:




http://www3.halton.gov.uk/Pages/councildemocracy/pdfs/EandD/Equality_-_objectives_progress_report_-_April_2013.pdf

6.0 Performance Overview

The following information provides a synopsis of progress for both milestones and performance indicators across the key business areas that have been identified by the Directorate:

Financial Management

Key Objectives / Milestones







Ref	Milestones	Q3 Progress
FS 01	Report Medium Term Financial Strategy to Executive Board November 2014 .	
FS 03	Complete the Draft Abstract of Accounts for certification by Chief Financial Officer by 30th June 2014 .	
FS 03	Publish the Abstract of Accounts by 30th September 2014 .	

Supporting Commentary

Medium Term Financial Strategy was reported to Executive board on 20th November and the 2013/14 Statement of Accounts certified by Chief Finance Officer on the 30th June 2014 and shared with External Auditor on the same day.

Audit of the Statement of Accounts commenced 1st July 2014 and following approval by the Business Efficiency Board and receipt of an unqualified audit opinion they have been published on the Councils website on 30th September.

Key Performance Indicators

Ref	Measure	13 / 14 Actual	14 / 15 Target	Q3 Actual	Q3 Progress	Direction of travel
FS LI 04	Proportion of Council Tax that was due that was collected.	95.82%	95.00+	83.62%		
FS LI 05	The percentage of Business Rates which should have been received during the year that were received.	97.08%	95.00+	82.58%		
FS LI 06	Achieve investment returns for the year higher than benchmark.	0.95%	0.34%	0.45%		

Supporting Commentary

FSLI 04: This represents a slight reduction of 0.21% on the same point last year

FSLI 05: This represents and an increase of 4.07% on the same point last year. However, Business Rates have wide fluctuations in collection rates due to the nature of the service.

FSLI 06: Target reflects the 7 day Interbank Bid Rate. Above benchmark returns are also being achieved against 1 month, 3 month and 6 month rates. Rates that are being offered by investment institutions are lower than last year and this will inevitably impact upon final year-end performance.

Human Resources & Organisational Development

Key Objectives / Milestones













Ref	Milestones	Q3 Progress
HRLD 01	To further enhance the i-Trent system capabilities March 2015 .	

Supporting Commentary

E-Payslips have now been rolled out across the Council where possible and the arrangement is also now available to schools. Work continues to encourage those schools who have not yet taken advantage of the E Payslip to do so.

The service is also working towards the implementation of E-P60s.

Key Performance Indicators

Ref	Measure	13 / 14 Actual	14 / 15 Target	Q3 Actual	Q3 Progress	Direction of travel
HRLD LI 01	The number of working days / shifts lost due to sickness (Corporate).	11.24	8.5	7.67		
HRLD LI 05 ¹	The percentage of top 5% of earners that are:					
	a) women	55.47	50	55.81%		
	b) from BME communities	2.80	1.5	2.83%		
	c) with a disability	0.68	8.0	0.71%		
HRLD LI 06	No of staff declaring that they meet the Disability Discrimination Act as a % of the total workforce.	1.49	10.0	1.46%		
HRLD LI 07	Minority of Ethnic Community staff as a percentage of the total workforce.	1.13	1.0	1.00%		

Supporting Commentary

HRLDLI 01: This figure is subject to change as we move through the financial year; However, this figure is lower than the same period last year.








HRLDLI 05: There is a slight increase across all three areas in comparison to the same period in the previous year.

HRLDLI 06: There is a slight increase in this category. Achievement of the 10% target will depend on applicants for vacant positions.

HRLD LI 07: Although this figure is slightly lower than the same quarter in the previous year (2013/2014), it is on target.

¹ The performance targets for these measures takes account of local demographic profiles.

ICT Infrastructure**Key Objectives / Milestones**









Ref	Milestones	Q3 Progress
ICT 01	SharePoint and Records Management enhancement March 2015.	
ICT 01	Continued Social Care Systems Service Support Programme March 2015.	
ICT 01	Schools Cloud Services developments March 2015.	
ICT 01	Interactive Web Services and further SharePoint Integration March 2015.	
ICT 01	Development of commercial ICT opportunity within desktop, hosting and DR provision March 2015.	
ICT 02	Continued development of document management and distribution services March 2015.	
ICT 04	Conduct & Evaluate point of contact Satisfaction survey for ICT & Support Services March 2015.	

Supporting Commentary

All projects are presently on track. The SharePoint and Records Management software development has been completed is now operational with additional enhancements to complement operational processes are being undertaken, with data transfer of over 7.5 million documents underway into the new 2013 solution.

The rollout of Corporate Tablet use is progressing with Windows 8.1 Tablet devices in proof of Concept stage, whilst iPads are managed within the Councils Mobile Device Management Platform.


Key Performance Indicators

Ref	Measure	13 / 14 Actual	14 / 15 Target	Q3 Actual	Q3 Progress	Direction of travel
ICT LI 1	Average availability of the Council's operational servers (%).	99.9	99	99.9		
ICT LI 2	Average availability of the Councils WAN infrastructure (%).	99	99	99		
ICT LI 4	% Of all responsive repairs completed within 2 working days.	94	80	81		
ICT LI 8	Average working days from order to completion of a new PC.	5	5	7		

Supporting Commentary

Although 2 measures are showing slightly lower performance when compared to the same period last year all indicators are showing a high level of performance and annual targets should be achieved or exceeded.







Legal & Democracy**Key Objectives / Milestones**

Ref	Milestones	Q3 Progress
LD 02	To ensure that all members have been given the opportunity of a having a Member Action Plan (MAP) meeting.	

Supporting Commentary

MAP meetings continue to take place as we move throughout the year.

Key Performance Indicators

Ref	Measure	13 / 14 Actual	14 / 15 Target	Q3 Actual	Q3 Progress	Direction of travel
LD LI 03	Average Time taken to issue prosecutions from receipt of full instructions (working days).	10	10	10		
LD LI 04	Average time taken to send out first draft business lease from receipt of complete instructions from Property Services (working days).	20	20	20		
LD LI 05	Average time taken to file application for Care proceedings at Court from receipt of all written evidence from client department (working days).	1	3	1		

Supporting Commentary

All measures are showing sustained levels of performance when compared to the same period last year.









Policy, Planning & Transportation**Key Objectives / Milestones**

Ref	Milestones	Q3 Progress
PPT 01	Review progress against Silver Jubilee Bridge (SJB) maintenance strategy and deliver 2014/15 major bridge maintenance works programme. March 2015.	
PPT 02	To deliver the 2014/15 Local Transport Plan (LTP) Capital Programme March 2015.	

Supporting Commentary

SJB Schemes continue to be developed and programmed although such work may be impacted by adverse weather. Although there were initial problems with the refurbishment of Shock Transmission Units this should now be complete by financial year-end.





Key Performance Indicators

Ref	Measure	13 / 14 Actual	14 / 15 Target	Q3 Actual	Q3 Progress	Direction of travel
PPT LI 02	Net additional homes provided.	270	552	Figure available at year-end	N / A	N / A
PPT LI 03	Number of affordable homes delivered (gross).	N / A	125	As above	N / A	N / A
PPT LI 04	Processing of planning applications as measured against targets for:					
	a) 'major' applications	83.3%	60%	100%		
	b) 'minor' applications	74.2%	85%	93.5%		
	c) 'other' applications	83.6%	85%	95.5%		
PPT LI 11	Damage to roads and pavements (% dangerous damage repaired within 24 hours).	99%	98%	100%		
PPT LI 12	Average number of days taken to repair street lighting fault: non-DNO (Street lights controlled by the authority).	4	5			

Supporting Commentary

The processing of planning applications is now showing an extremely positive level of performance as is the repair of damage to roads an pavement. .







Public Health**Key Objectives / Milestones**

Ref	Milestones	Q3 Progress
PH 01(a)	Work with the public and service providers to raise awareness of the early signs and symptoms of bowel, breast and lung cancer so we can identify it an early stage in the population. March 2015	
PH 01(b)	Reduce obesity rates in the local population, thereby reducing the incidence of bowel cancer through promoting healthy eating and screening programmes for adults and children via a range of services. March 2015	
PH 01(c)	Meet the target for the take up of the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccination in girls 11-13, to reduce cervical cancer rates by working proactively with the School Nursing Service and GPs. March 2015	
PH 01(d)	Work proactively with GPs, all service providers, Alcohol Liaison Nurses and teachers in schools to reduce the number of people drinking to harmful levels and alcohol related hospital admissions given the rise in pancreatic and liver cancer rates. March 2015	

Supporting Commentary

- (a) Early detection of cancers remains a priority for Halton Health & Wellbeing Board and sits within its underlying action plans. The national Be Clear on Cancer campaign continues to be rolled out with a team of volunteers working with local people. We are working closely with Halton CCG to develop additional early detection programmes along the lines of a Cancer Rehabilitation programme. We are still working towards improving access to staging data from the local hospitals.
- (b) A range of weight management services are delivered for children and adults on an individual or group level, such as the fresh start programmes, active play and introduction to solid food parties. The Halton Healthy Weight management care pathways for children and adults is under review with opportunities to enhance provision being identified. Community Food Workers have been reviewed and the Dietetic Service is currently out to tender.
- (c) Uptake remains good for HPV vaccination. Changes to the national schedule for HPV vaccination (reduction from 3 to 2 dose schedule) may further improve opportunities to improve uptake locally.
- (d) An alcohol harm reduction strategy for Halton has been developed and was launched during alcohol awareness week (17-23 November). The strategy was developed in partnership with colleagues from health, social care, education, voluntary sector, police and the community safety team. The strategy sets out actions across the life course to reduce alcohol related harm and reduce hospital admissions. Good progress has been made related to reducing Under 18 admission rates locally. Alcohol health education sessions are being delivered in all local schools

Key Performance Indicators

Ref	Measure	13 / 14 Actual	14 / 15 Target	Q3 Actual	Q3 Progress	Direction of travel
PHLI 01 (SCS HH5a)	All age all-cause mortality rate per 100,000 males (previously NI 120a) 2011.	145.1 July 13 to June 14	140	126 (Oct – Sep 2014)		
PHLI 02	A good level of child development.	37%	40%	46% (2013/14)		
PHLI 03 New SCS Measure Health 2013-16)	Falls and injuries in the over 65s. (Public Health Outcomes Framework).	2,850.4 (Jan 13 – Dec 13)	2,847	2,8341.1 (Oct – Sept 2014)		
PH LI04 (SCS HH 1)	Admissions which are wholly attributable to alcohol AAF=1, rate per 100,000 population.	947.5 (2013/14)	1,038	Info not yet available	N / A	N / A
PH LI05 (New)	Mental health: Self-reported wellbeing.	N / A	69%	Info not yet available	N / A	N / A

Supporting Commentary

PHLI 01. There is some progress with a slight decrease in the mortality rate from cancers. It is too early to identify an ongoing trend, although the activity against the Cancer Action Plan will maximise reduction going forward.

PHLI 02. Quarter 3 has shown an increase in the number of children reaching a good level of child development by school age. There has been a lot of work in this area, for example piloting an integrated assessment between education and health and parenting programmes that contribute to this improvement.




PHLI 03. Although there has been a slight rise in the rate of falls and injuries, it is not significantly higher. Also the figure is still considerably lower than the 2013/14 figure. The slight increase can be attributed to a higher level of people being present in either hospital or residential care settings, both of which see a higher level of falls compared to people who live at home. Work is ongoing to address this area of concern.

PHLI 04/05. Data is not yet available for these measures.




7.0 Application of Symbols

Symbols are used in the following manner:

Progress Symbols

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Objective</u>	<u>Performance Indicator</u>
Green 	Indicates that the <u>objective is on course to be achieved</u> within the appropriate timeframe.	<i>Indicates that the annual target <u>is on course to be achieved</u>.</i>
Amber 	Indicates that it is <u>uncertain or too early to say at this stage</u> whether the milestone/objective will be achieved within the appropriate timeframe.	<i>Indicates that it is <u>uncertain or too early to say at this stage</u> whether the annual target is on course to be achieved</i>
Red 	Indicates that it is <u>highly likely or certain</u> that the objective will not be achieved within the appropriate timeframe.	<i>Indicates that the target <u>will not be achieved unless there is an intervention or remedial action taken</u>.</i>

Direction of Travel Indicator

Green 	Indicates that performance is better as compared to the same period last year.
Amber 	Indicates that performance is the same as compared to the same period last year.
Red 	Indicates that performance is worse as compared to the same period last year.
N / A	N / A
	Indicates that the measure cannot be compared to the same period last year.

REPORT TO: Executive Board

DATE: 12 March 2015

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Policy and Resources

PORTFOLIO: Resources

SUBJECT: Pensions Discretions Policy

WARDS: N/A

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The Council approved a written policy statement on the discretions it intends to exercise under the Local Government Pension Scheme (LPGS) in July 2014.

This report sets out proposed amendments to that statement and recommends that the amended Pensions Discretions Statement, once approved, be adopted as the Pensions Discretions Statement for 2015/16.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

- 1) the Board approve the amended Pensions Discretions Statement for 2014/15 and that this Statement is then adopted for 2015/16; and**
- 2) those discretions be exercised by the appropriate Strategic Director, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Resources and Operational Director Financial Services. (In the case of applications from Strategic Directors/Chief Executive, replace appropriate Strategic Director with Chief Executive/Strategic Director, Policy and Resources respectively.)**

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Councils Pensions Discretions Statement was approved in July 2014. Since then, the Appointments Committee approved changes to the Councils Staffing Protocol, specifically in relation to the ability to augment (give added years) an employee's pensionable service on early retirement.
- 3.2 The Local Government Pension Scheme changes introduced in April 2014, removed this ability as pensions are no longer calculated on service but on career average earnings. As an alternative, it is possible to give additional pension contributions (APC's) up to £6,500 per year (April 2014 figure). However, due to cost, it was agreed that no

employer funded APC be given. This statement has been amended to reflect this.

3.3 In addition, a new discretion is needed on the position of a Shared Cost APC (SCAPC) whereby the employer can contribute a proportion of funding towards the purchase of additional pension. It is recommended that the only circumstances in which the Council do this is where employees choose to purchase pension lost as a result of the four days unpaid leave (usually taken as part of the Christmas closure) and in such circumstances, the employer will contribute 2/3rds and the employee will contribute 1/3. This figure is set in the pensions regulations.

3.4 As it is a requirement that the Council review the Pensions Discretions Statement on an annual basis, it is recommended that this amended Statement be approved for 2015/16.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The Council is required to publish a written policy statement on how it will exercise its discretions provided by the scheme. The policies adopted seek to achieve the correct balance between cost to the council tax payer, good employee relations and staff recruitment and retention

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are financial implications for the Council in considering the application of these discretions. Each case will be different. The proposed policy changes state that a business case will be required when such a discretion is exercised balancing the interests of the Council with the interests of the individual. It is proposed that any exercise of that discretion should be done in consultation with the Resources Portfolio Holder and the Operational Director Financial Services.

6.0 RISK ANALYSIS

6.1 This report and recommended changes ensure that the Council complies with the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013.

7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

7.1 The recommendations will apply equally to all staff who are members of the LGPS. Employees have a right of appeal if they feel they have been treated incorrectly/unfairly.

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

None under the meaning of the Act.

**PENSIONS DISCRETIONS
STATEMENT 2014 (amended)
and 2015**

HALTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

The Executive Board approved the Pensions Discretions Statement for Halton Borough Council for 2014 in July 2014. This statement is now amended to reflect the decision taken by the Appointments Committee on 4th February 2015 not to award additional pension contributions in cases of early retirement in the interest of the efficiency of the service. This has been removed from the Staffing Protocol.

In addition, this statement includes (Regulation 16 (2e and 16 (4d)) concerning the Councils position on sharing the cost of additional pensions contributions, which had been omitted from the previous Statement.

This statement is also confirmed as the Council Discretions Statement for 2015.

Therefore the Executive Board is therefore asked to re-approve the Discretions Statement for 2015 including the position on this additional Regulation for 2014 and 2015.

For ease, the Statement has been re-presented to enable easier understanding and, following the re-negotiation of the Staffing Protocol, the position with regard to discretionary payments for early termination of employment is re-stated here. This brings both policies together.

**COMPULSORY POLICY STATEMENTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT
PENSION SCHEME REGULATIONS 2013**

Regulation 16 (2e) & 16 (4) (d)

Ability to contribute to a shared cost additional pension contribution (APC) scheme.

Explanation:- where an active scheme member wishes to purchase extra annual pension of up to £6,500 (figure as at 1st April 2014) by making Additional Pension Contributions (APC) the employer may voluntarily contribute towards the cost of purchasing that extra pension via a Shared Cost Additional Pension (SCAPC).

HBC decision:-

A SCAPC will only be entered into when the member decides that they wish to make an APC in order to repay the loss of pension which they have suffered from the purchase of unpaid leave relating to the changes to Terms and Conditions.

As long as the member enters into the APC contract by the 31st March of the leave year in which they wish to repay the loss of pension (i.e. 31st March 2015 for the unpaid leave purchased in 2014/15) then the Council will contribute two thirds of the cost of repayment. All other APC contracts will be funded in full by the member.

Regulation 30 (6)

Ability to award Flexible Retirement

Explanation:-

A member who is aged 55 or over and with their employers consent reduces their hours/or grade, can then, but only with the agreement of the employer, make an election to the administering authority to receive all or part payment of their accrued benefits without having retired from that employment.

HBC decision:-

The Council will adopt this discretion and will assess applications from those employees aged 55 and over who reduce their hours by 25% (not for a grade reduction). Applications will be considered on the basis of future service provision and cost. The decision to release benefits will be taken by the appropriate Strategic Director.

Regulation 30 (8) - Waive Actuarial Reduction on Flexible Retirement and early retirement (age 55+)

Explanation:-

Employers can elect to waive some or all of the reduction on benefits if a member chooses to take flexible retirement and take their benefits before Normal Pension Age (NPA)

HBC decision:-

HBC will only waive actuarial reduction on flexible retirement in exceptional circumstances.

Transitional Protections – Regulation 1 (1)(c) Schedule 2

Power of the Employing Authority to “switch on” the 85 year rule for a member voluntarily drawing benefits on or after age 55 and before age 60.

Explanation:- a member who meets the 85 year rule and elects to draw their pension benefits from age 55 will no longer require their employers consent if they retire after 31st March 2014. However, certain members will lose some 85 year rule protections if they wish to draw their pension between age 55 and 60.

An employer may decide to “switch on” protection to the 85 year rule for a member who voluntarily retires from age 55 but before age 60 and meet any additional cost of the retirement.

HBC decision:-

In exceptional circumstances, where this is in the interest of the Council and the costs of allowing such requests are considered against the benefits to the Council, that the Council will pay the additional cost of an unreduced pension.

Regulation 31

Ability to grant additional pension to an active member or within 6 months of ceasing to be an active member by reason of redundancy or business efficiency.

Explanation:- an employer may decide to award a member additional pension up to a limit of £6500 per year (current amount, will increase each April) payable from the same date as their pension is payable.

HBC decision:-

The Council will not award additional pension.

NON COMPULSORY DISCRETIONS

Regulation 9 (3)

Contributions Payable by an Active Member.

Explanation:-

Employers must assess the appropriate rate of contribution band, in a reasonable and consistent manner and review the contribution bands on any material change in pay.

HBC decision:- The Council will review contribution bands annually or at a significant change unless an employee exercises their right to appeal their band allocation when the review may be done earlier.

**Regulation 22 0(7) & (8)
Re-employed and Re-joining Deferred Members**

Explanation:-

This provision permits an employer the discretion to extend the statutory 12 month window within which a scheme member can elect to aggregate deferred LGPS benefits into their current employment.

HBC decision:- The Council will not normally extend the time limit beyond 12 months.

**Regulation 100 (6)
Inward Transfer of Pension Rights**

Explanation:-

This provision allows an employer the discretion to extend the statutory 12 month window within which a scheme member can elect to transfer benefits from another scheme into their current scheme.

HBC decision:- The Council will not normally extend the time limit beyond 12 months.

**Regulation 30 (5)
Ability to Waive Actuarial Reduction on Compassionate Grounds**

HBC Decision:- The Council will consider, on a case by case basis, exercising its discretion to waive some or all of the reduction. This will be where it is felt to be in the best interests of the Council as well as the employee (deferred member) and the costs of allowing such requests will be considered against the benefits to the Council.

**Discretion under the
Local Government (Early Termination of Employment) (Discretionary Compensation)
(England and Wales) Regulations 2006.**

The Council is required to formulate, publish and keep under review a statement of policy on how it will exercise its discretion under the Local Government (Early Termination of Employment) (Discretionary Compensation) (England and Wales) Regulations 2006. Such a statement is contained in the Councils Staffing Protocol. It is reproduced here for completeness.

By virtue of regulation 7 (1) of the Local Government (Early Termination of Employment) (Discretionary Compensation) (England and Wales) Regulations 2006 Scheme employers are required to formulate a Statement of Policy on whether it intends to base a redundancy payment on an employee's actual weeks' pay where this exceeds the statutory weeks' pay limit and whether to make a termination payment (inclusive of any redundancy payment) of up to a maximum of 104 weeks' pay (regulation 6 of the Local Government (Early Termination of Employment) (Discretionary Compensation) (England and Wales) Regulations 2006.

The Council will pay a redundancy payment based on actual weeks' pay where this exceeds the redundancy payment and will enhance payments in line with the multiplier applicable at that time and contained in the Councils Staffing Protocol. Currently 1.9 for the period 1st January 2015 – 31st March 2016.

REPORT TO: Executive Board

DATE: 12 March 2015

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Communities

PORTFOLIO: Physical Environment

SUBJECT: Halton YMCA – Direct Award of Contract for Housing Support

WARD(S): Grange

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the granting of a Direct Award of a contract for the delivery of housing support services at Halton YMCA from 1st April 2015 to March 2016 to Halton YMCA, to enable remodelling of the current service.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the Board

- 1) To ensure the stability and continuity of the service, support the recommendation to grant a Direct Award to Halton YMCA for the delivery of Housing Support services from 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2016;**
- 2) notes the proposed changes to the service specification; and**
- 3) notes the financial efficiencies to be secured through this course of action.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 The Council awarded Halton YMCA a contract from the 1st April 2012 for the provision of a housing support service to 66 residents at Halton Lodge YMCA. This followed a procurement exercise where the YMCA was the only bidder. Funded through the Council's Supporting People budget the contract value is £408,636 per annum.

3.2 The contract is now in its final year and ordinarily officers would have retendered the service. However a set of circumstances has arisen in which the Council's interest may be best served by not retendering the service at this particular point in time.

3.3 By way of background Board members will recall that a Scrutiny

Review of homelessness services was undertaken in 2012 with a report presented to Board in July 2012. During the course of the Review it was noted that a number of service users at the YMCA appeared not to need or use the level of support on offer, and some seemed reluctant to move on due to the quality of the accommodation.

- 3.4 This was resolved by varying the support contract to require the YMCA to only accept clients referred via the Housing Solutions Team and to require where possible 'move on' to independent living within six months of admission. However, the consequent increased throughput of clients, coupled with the increasing success of the Housing Solutions Team with other homeless prevention measures, has resulted in high vacancy levels in the YMCA.
- 3.5 Vacancy levels have averaged around 50% during the last six months, and the associated loss of rental income has led to the service becoming economically unviable.
- 3.6 This is not a situation that could be allowed to continue and over the last few months negotiations have been ongoing with the YMCA to devise a new service model that could provide a lasting solution.
- 3.7 At the same time Halton YMCA has been developing a partnership arrangement with Fylde YMCA which is in a much stronger position organisationally and financially, with the longer term aim of Fylde YMCA registering as a Housing Association and acquiring the Halton YMCA building from the National YMCA.
- 3.8 Fylde Coast YMCA is a sizeable organisation with a national reputation comprising YMCAs in areas such as St. Annes, Lancaster, Kirkham, Carlisle, Thornton, Poulton, Lytham, Fleetwood and Preston. It employs 559 staff with an annual turnover of £8.4m, and has a prestigious outdoor facility known as Lakeside in the Lake District. It also manages leisure services on behalf of Fylde Borough Council.
- 3.9 Provisional agreement has now been reached for a new service model that would see around half the accommodation used to house clients with higher level support needs, and half the accommodation used as intermediate move on accommodation for those who have undergone the support programme but who still need some support before moving on to live independently, or new clients with lesser support needs. Stays in both types of accommodation would be up to 6 months, only longer where justified and agreed by the Council
- 3.10 Key fob access and a new second entrance to the building will ensure access to the two types of accommodation is segregated and controlled. Access to the accommodation offering higher support will be restricted to Council nominations.

- 3.11 It has also been agreed that a new performance element should be introduced into the contract to reflect occupancy levels. 90% of the contract sum would be paid as now, as a monthly block payment to ensure regular income for the YMCA to manage and staff the scheme. The remaining 10%, or a proportion of it depending on occupancy levels, would be paid quarterly in arrears.

The revised annual cost would be as follows –

Total Annual Fee	£275,000
------------------	----------

of which

Block Payment (90%)	£247,500
Performance Payment (10%)	£ 27,500

- 3.12 This represents a saving to the Council of £133,636 in 2015/16, rising by up to a further £27,500 if YMCA does not maintain high occupancy levels. It is therefore proposed for the following reasons that the Council makes a Direct Award of a further one year contract to the YMCA, running from 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2016.

- Based on the previous procurement exercise there is every chance that a new procurement exercise will again generate insufficient or no competition, particularly given the current high vacancy levels and lack of financial viability.
- Benchmarked service costs suggest tendering is unlikely to result in lower costs than those offered by the YMCA. Higher tendered costs are all the more likely given the high vacancy levels for which tenderers would build in significant contingencies.
- There is the opportunity for the Council to achieve savings sooner rather than later by extending the current contract but on significantly reduced costs.
- It would be prudent to test the effectiveness of the new service model with the existing provider to ensure its effectiveness before market testing the service.

- 3.13 The Direct Award will be effected using a '*Voluntary Ex-Ante Transparency Notice*' (VEAT) which will permit this direct award without going out to procurement. The Authority will give sufficient information as to the justification for this Direct Award without advertising in the Official Journal of the European Union (*OJEU*) and observe a minimum 10 day standstill period before the contract is awarded.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 This method of procurement complies with the Authority's Procurement Policy and EU requirements.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The award of the one year contract at the reduced rate offered by the YMCA would produce a minimum saving of £133,636 against the current budget.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

Homeless young people are the main client group for this service, and the continued provision of the service by a reliable and trusted provider will provide a vital safety net for those unfortunate enough to find themselves homeless.

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

The service provides practical support to help individuals to prepare for living independently, and support them to engage with education, training and employment services to improve their future prospects.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

Experiencing homelessness has an adverse effect on an individual's health. One element of the service is to encourage individuals to adopt a healthy lifestyle and diet.

6.4 A Safer Halton

None identified.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

None identified.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 Awarding a contract without competition makes it difficult to demonstrate value for money and transparency. However for the reasons outlined in section 3.12 it is believed that the Direct Award of the contract will in this case offer the optimum solution.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 None identified.

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

None.

REPORT TO: Executive Board

DATE: 12 March 2015

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director - Children and Economy

PORTFOLIO: Physical Environment

SUBJECT: Advertising Screen – The Hive

WARD(S) All

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 Executive Board consider and support the location of a LED advertising screen on land at The Hive Widnes, in partnership with Silver Blades (Ice Rink)

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

- 1) the Board support the location of an LED advertising screen on land at The Hive, Widnes, in partnership with Silver Blades (Ice Rink), on the terms set out in this report;**
- 2) a grant to Silver Blades as set out in Section 4, to be funded from the Council's share of advertising income, be approved; and**
- 3) detailed terms and conditions, including any permissions required, be agreed with the Operational Director, Legal & Democratic Services and the Operational Director, Finance in consultation with the Portfolio Holder and the Leader.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Hive is a popular and thriving leisure location in Halton. It is important to advertise and market the facilities at the Hive to maintain and improve footfall.
- 3.2 The Council has an opportunity to provide an LED advertising screen on land to the rear of the Hive. The screen would be clearly visible from Ashley Way. The actual location of the screen is yet to be finalised but it will be visible to tens of thousands of vehicles every day.

- 3.3 The screen will offer the opportunity to advertise upcoming events at the Hive. It will also be available to the Council and third parties to advertise. Members may have seen similar signs at the junction of the M5/M6, on the M4 into London and at other locations around the country.
- 3.4 The screen may also encourage other larger advertisers to locate similar screens in Halton, giving the Borough a modern and vibrant feel consistent with a Borough on the move in the digital age.

4.0 BUSINESS CASE

- 4.1 The estimated capital cost of the screen is £100,000. Silver Blades have agreed to fund half (£50,000). Silver Blades have asked the Council to contribute a grant of £50,000 to meet the remaining costs. In return the Council will be entitled to advertising rights of 10 minutes per day for 365 days p.a. This would enable the Council to use the screen to support local events, inform the public in respect of council services or support advertising from selected third parties etc.
- 4.2 All the annual revenue costs, including the cost of power and content management (circa £25,000 p.a.), would be met from advertising income generated and Silver Blades would operate the screen and sell advertising. The Council would have a veto over the advertising content.
- 4.3 Any income after deducting operating costs would be shared on the following basis
- 1st £100,000 to Silver Blades
 - Anything between £100k - £150k to HBC
 - Anything over £150k – split 50:50 Silver Blades / HBC

It is estimated this would deliver a potential income to the Council of in the region of £25 - 50,000 p.a. The arrangement would be an open book arrangement with full auditing rights for the council.

- 4.4 With proper maintenance, the manufacturers of such LED advertising screens usually provide a guarantee of up to 10 years, but the estimated operational life of such a screen is actually in excess of 10 years.
- 4.5 The screen would be sited on land owned by the Council, however, the potential rental for use of the site will be waived as part of the income sharing arrangement outlined above.

- 4.6 Detailed terms and conditions, including any permissions that may be required, would be agreed with the Operational Director, Legal & Democratic Services and the Operational Director, Finance in consultation with the Portfolio Holder and the Leader.

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The provision of a screen would enhance the environment of the Borough and support the further economic development of the Borough.

6.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 As set out above

7.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

- 7.1 **Children & Young People in Halton** □ The Hive has provided alternative activities for young people in the Borough.
- 7.2 **Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton** □ The Hive has provided additional employment for Halton residents.
- 7.3 **A Healthy Halton** □ The Hive has provided alternative activities for young people in the and has helped improve physical activity which aids good health and well being.
- 7.4 **A Safer Halton** □ The Hive has provided alternative activities for young people in the Borough and has helped reduce ASB
- 7.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal** The Hive has provided the opportunity to regenerate a former derelict area of Widnes Waterfront

8.0 RISK ANALYSIS

- 8.1 The risk to the Council is the loss of the £50,000 grant, this risk is mitigated as the Council will own the asset (the screen) should Silver Blades withdraw.
- 8.2 The Council will also have access to advertising revenue which would significantly outweigh the risks, should Silver Blades withdraw before the end of the 10 year period.

9.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

- 9.1 The Hive offer facilities for able bodied and mobility impaired residents. Silver Blades, in particular, offers a high standard of facilities for mobility impaired residents.

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

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

REPORT TO:	Executive Board
DATE:	12 March 2015
REPORTING OFFICER:	Strategic Director, Policy & Resources
PORTFOLIO:	Transportation
SUBJECT:	Partial Revocation of Existing Waiting & Loading Restrictions School Way, Widnes
WARDS:	Halton View

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To report on objections that have been received following public consultation on a proposed Traffic Regulation Order which would revoke parts of both the Halton Borough Council (Various Roads, Widnes)(Prohibition of Waiting) Order 2011 and the Halton Borough Council (Various Roads, Widnes)(No Loading) Order 2011 in School Way, Widnes and to propose a course of action following this consultation.
- 1.2 The report was considered by the Environment and Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board (E&UR PPB) on 28th January 2015, which supported the recommendation.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS: That the Board approves the introduction of a Traffic Regulation Order to revoke part of both the Halton Borough Council (Various Roads, Widnes) (Prohibition of Waiting) Order 2011 and the Halton Borough Council (Various Roads, Widnes) (No Loading) Order 2011 relating to School Way, Widnes as in Appendix 'D' and that the objectors be notified accordingly.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 At the request of residents and ward councillors and to address parking congestion and associated safety concerns adjacent to Moorfield Primary School, in 2011 this Council introduced continuous 'At Any Time' waiting and Monday to Friday, 8am to 9:30am and 2:30pm to 3:30pm loading restrictions on the full length of School Way, Widnes and the area of its junction with Whalley Grove and Nursery Close. All frontage properties were consulted directly on the proposals and no objections were received.
- 3.2 Since the introduction of the restrictions, there have been repeated contacts with adjacent residents and their ward councillors via telephone conversations, email and site meetings requesting minor alterations to the restrictions to permit a degree of local parking. These culminated in the introduction of three experimental 'gaps' in the restrictions as shown in Drg. No 8971A in Appendix 'A'.
- 3.3 In order to formalise the arrangements, after considering all the public comment received up to that time, in November 2014, using delegated powers and after consultation with the ward councillors, the Executive Board member – Transportation and Cheshire Police, the Operational Director (Highways, Transportation and Logistics) issued approval to advertise the introduction of a Traffic Regulation Order to revoke limited parts of both the Halton Borough Council (Various Roads, Widnes)(Prohibition of Waiting) Order 2011 and the Halton Borough Council (Various Roads, Widnes)(No

Loading) Order 2011 relating to School Way, Widnes as shown graphically in Appendix 'B'. This proposed Order would have formalised and made permanent two of the three previously experimental 'gaps', whilst closing the third, retaining the vast majority of the 2011 restriction coverage. The 'gap' intended for closure was that closest to Whalley Grove, on the north side of School Way.

- 3.4 The proposed modifications to provide limited areas for unrestricted waiting were intended as a compromise between the various views expressed by adjoining residents over recent years. However, in response to the November 2014 proposals and consultation, 10 objections were received. One originated from residents of 1 Whalley Grove (at the south-west corner of the School Way/Whalley Grove junction) who wanted to retain all the experimental 'gaps' near their home and it opposed the closing of the 'gap' closest to Whalley Grove, on the north side of School Way. The letter of objection is reproduced as Objection 1 in Appendix 'C'.
- 3.5 As shown on the drawings, 1 Whalley Grove is a property with an off-road driveway leading from School Way to a garage, and frontage parking on Whalley Grove. However, there are two core tenets in the letter of objection:

[1] There is *"..no parking space outside of our home,"*. This is not strictly correct as examination of the site plan in the Appendices will show. In addition, outside of the short school opening and closing times, parking on the double yellow lines to load and unload vehicles is permitted.

[2] *"..we are yet to be given an actual reason as to why this change is happening now."* There is a need to formally decide if the waiting and loading restrictions introduced in 2011 are to be permanently altered or retained in their original form. Whilst experiments have been conducted in providing unrestricted parking space on School Way adjacent to this property, (*"...the yellow line-free zone..."*), parking in this area is not acceptable to the majority of the objectors (see below).

- 3.6 The greater number of objections, reproduced as Objections 2 to 10 in Appendix 'C', cover basically similar issues stating that the presence of vehicles parking in 'gaps' on opposite sides of School Way creates a chicane effect which:

[1] Prevents the free flow of traffic especially at school opening/closing times.

[2] Leads to obstruction of driveways.

[3] Prevents larger vehicles such as refuse vehicles, coaches, fire engines and ambulances accessing properties including Moorfield Infant School.

[4] Blocks sightlines along School Way, a problem compounded by the relative narrowness of the route.

[5] Creates confrontation between highway users.

In view of these responses, it is recommended that just one 'gap' be retained and formalised, that being the one on the south side of School Way adjacent to No.1 School Way and as shown in Appendix D, Plan No. 8971B.

- 3.7 Several objectors express concerns as to the lack of enforcement action on the existing waiting and loading restrictions, by Cheshire Police. It is, therefore, recommended that Cheshire Constabulary be contacted with a view to greater priority being given to this location.
- 3.8 Six objectors request various extensions of the coverage of the existing waiting and loading restrictions. However, such action would create further enforcement problems for

the Police, serve to displace parking into areas presently unaffected and prove an inconvenience to visitors to the area. It is not recommended that any extension of the existing restrictions is sought at this time.

- 3.9 One objector refers to the introduction of residents-only parking, but this is counter to existing Council policy.

4.0 CONSULTATION

- 4.1 No further consultation is required for the recommended action to be implemented.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The total cost of implementing the recommended alterations to the existing waiting and loading restrictions is approximately £500. This cost would be met by annual traffic management revenue allocations.

6.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no direct policy, social inclusion, sustainability, value for money, legal or crime and disorder implications resulting from this report.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

7.1 Children & Young People in Halton

There are no direct implications on the Council's 'Children and Young People in Halton' priority.

7.2 Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

There are no direct implications on the Council's 'Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton' priority.

7.3 A Healthy Halton

There are no direct implications on the Council's 'A Healthy Halton' priority.

7.4 A Safer Halton

There are no direct implications on the Council's "A Safer Halton" priority.

7.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

There are no direct implications on the Council's 'Urban Renewal' priority.

8.0 RISK ANALYSIS

- 8.1 It is not believed that the recommended alterations to the existing waiting and loading restrictions will introduce any additional risk to highway users.

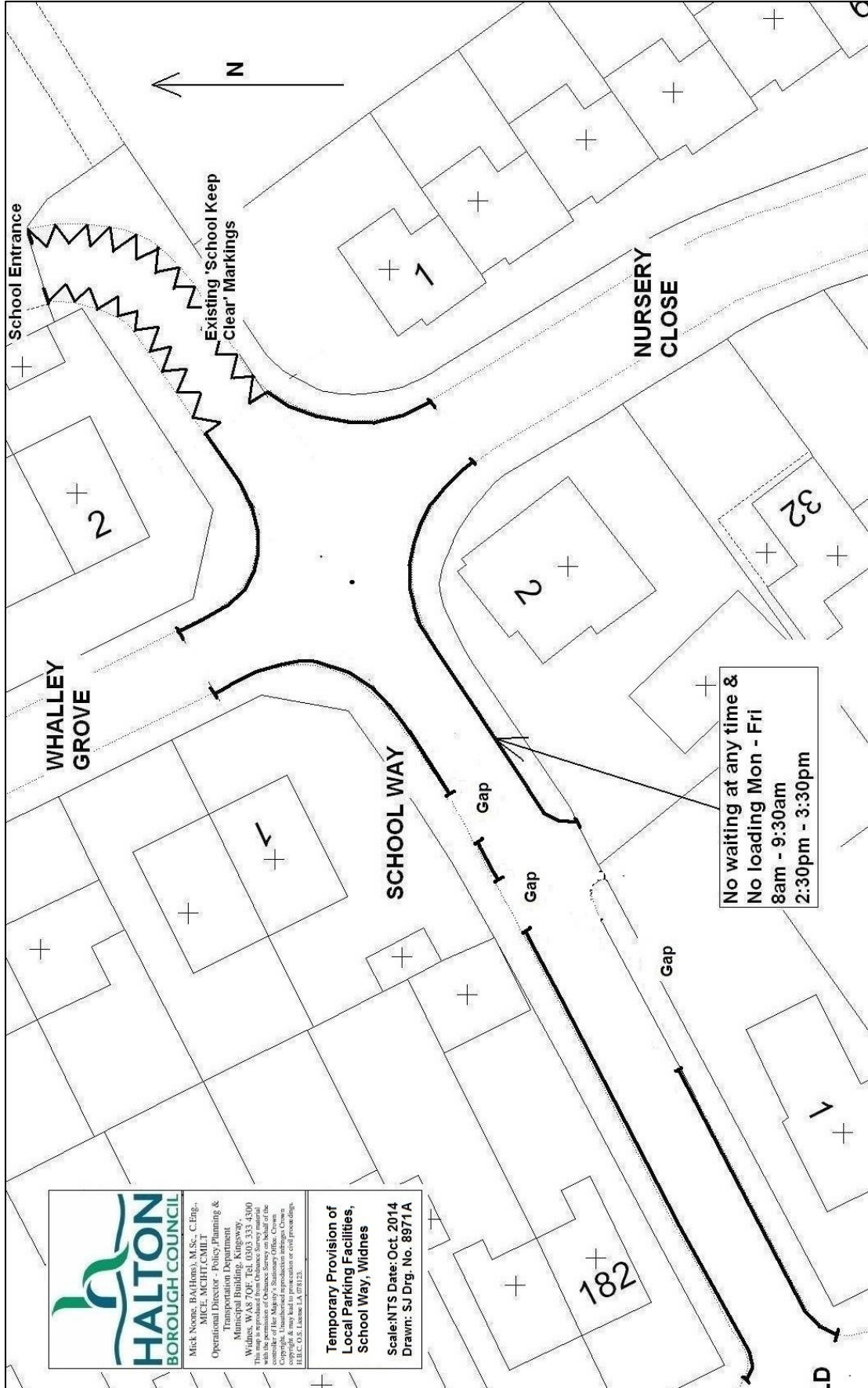
9.0 EQUALITY & DIVERSITY ISSUES.

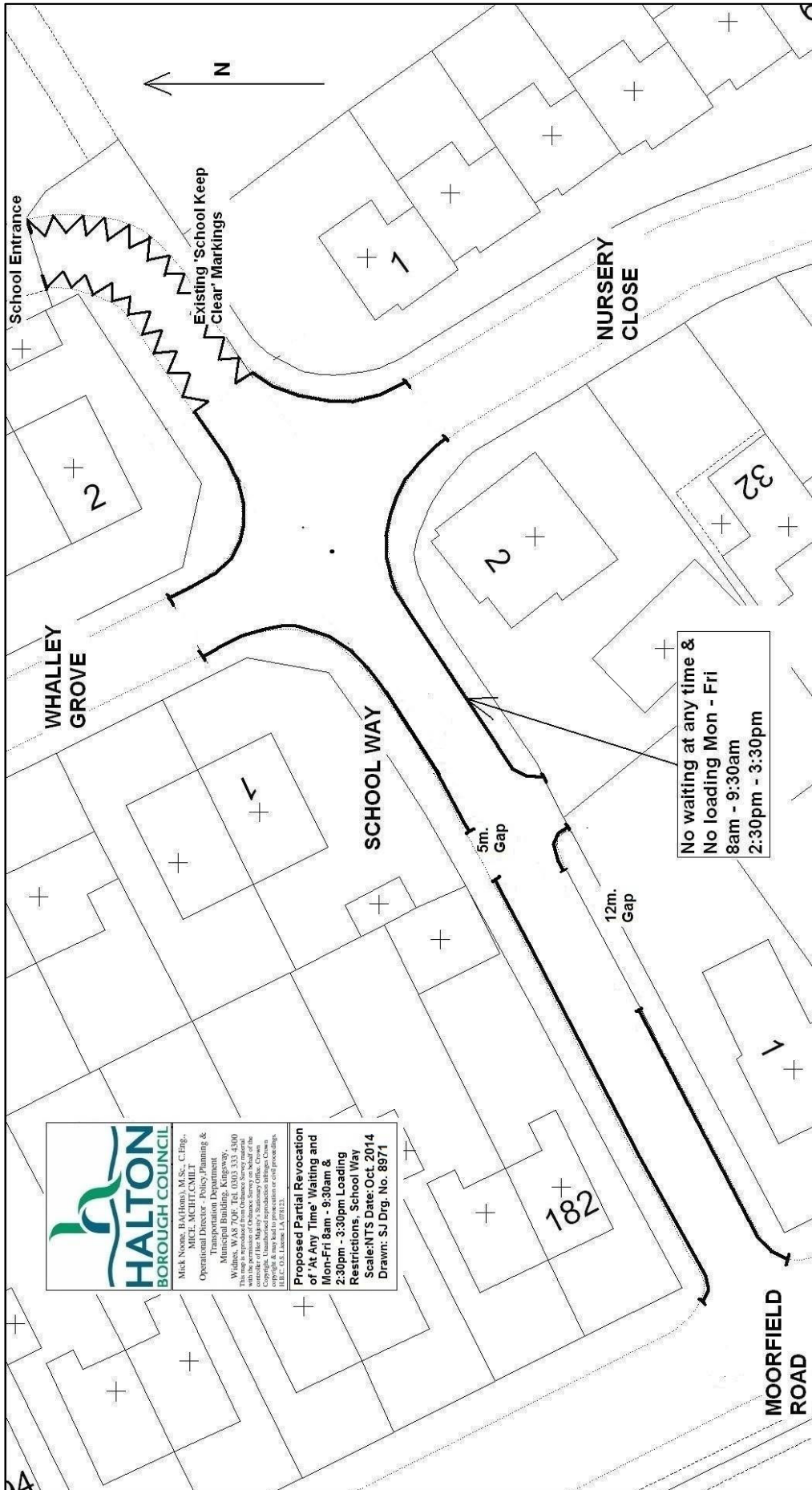
- 9.1 There are no direct equality and diversity issues associated with this report.

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

- 10.1 Report to Environment & Urban Renewal Policy & Performance Board, 28th January

2015 (Item 7B, Minute EUR 36) - Objections to Partial Revocation of Existing Waiting & Loading Restrictions School Way, Widnes.





HALTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
 Mick Neeves, BA(Hons), M.Sc., C.Eng.,
 MICE, MCHT, CMLT
 Operational Director - Policy, Planning &
 Transportation Department
 Municipal Building, Kingsway,
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**Proposed Partial Revocation
 of 'At Any Time' Waiting and
 Loading Restrictions, School Way
 Mon-Fri 8am - 9:30am &
 2:30pm - 3:30pm**
 Scale: NTS Date: Oct. 2014
 Drawn: SJ Drg. No. 8971

No waiting at any time &
 No loading Mon - Fri
 8am - 9:30am
 2:30pm - 3:30pm

OBJECTION 1:

AUTHOR'S NAME WITHHELD

1 Whalley Grove
Widnes
Cheshire
WA8 3HH

28-11-14

Dear Sir,

I am writing to you regarding the proposal for changing the location of the yellow lines on School Way.

We strongly oppose this move as it will leave us with no parking space for outside of our home, the same home that we are paying council tax for and have been for around 50 years and so far, we are yet to be given an actual reason as to why this change is happening now.

When Mr Steve Johnson and Councillor McInerney came to view the situation, they proposed moving the yellow line-free zone further forward toward the school which we would have been able to accept, however this now appears to have changed with no consideration or notification to ourselves – the most affected property. We would ask that this be given further deliberation as there is nothing apparently wrong with the current situation, so we cannot understand why, as a council, you would like to add further cost to yourselves and us as tax payers.

I would also like to point out that there has been no change to the school parking situation as cars are still parking on the yellow lines, double parking, etc. but we have not complained about this as it is for a short time in the mornings/afternoons and so, whilst inconvenient, it can be dealt with.

During school holidays, it is only ourselves that will suffer, due to having nowhere to park. We would like to suggest that, should you decide to go ahead with this scheme regardless of our protests, you at least provide us permits to park our cars there and we think that taking this in to consideration is the least that you could do.

Yours faithfully

OBJECTION 2:

From Headteacher, Moorfield Primary School:

Dear David,

The Halton Borough Council (Partial Revocation of Waiting and Loading Restrictions) Order 2014

I am writing in response to a letter dated 19 November 2014 that was sent to local residents in School Way, Whalley Grove and Nursery Close.

I wish to place on record the school's point of view on the proposed order.

As you will know, there are continued concerns regarding both the access of residential housing and the school and overall safety along School Way. In my opinion the current existing order still falls short of the requirements in this case. For example, the availability of parking on School Way causes regularly access problems for deliveries trying to attend the school, including the refuse collection, but most often access for buses taking the children to and from visits. The first of those is a general inconvenience, the second requires our children to board / alight the bus transfers quite often from Moorfield Road, thus increasing the hazards and risks posed to their individual safety.

My second concern around parking on School Way surrounds the access for emergency vehicles attending on site. Whilst we have not had any access problems to this point, nevertheless we did have cause for an ambulance call out in the month of October; fortunately on that occasion the ambulance gained access with no problems. However, should there be a need for a Fire Engine, then we may encounter some difficulties and that does not bare thinking about.

My final concern around parking surrounds pupil safety. With the system as it exists there is heightened danger of a near miss or an actual accident. Parents continue to try and cram into very limited parking spaces; several continue to ignore the present markings and rules with no checks being made, despite the fact we advertise the use of Moorfield Sport and Social Club and Dykin Road.

For the reasons outlined above, it is my wish that the Council consider the most stringent of parking restrictions possible along School Way, and in order to protect the good will of our neighbours, also into Whalley Grove and Nursery Close, as we do have parents that continue to block both of these roads and park across driveways.

Yours sincerely.

Mr A Williams, Headteacher

OBJECTION 3:

RESIDENT FROM 2 SCHOOL WAY

Sent: 24 November 2014 13:48
To: David Parr
Cc: Tom McInerney; Rob Polhill;
Subject: URGENT - PUBLIC ORDER NOTICE URN00049ORES

Dear David

RE: SCHOOL WAY, WIDNES (PARTIAL REVOCATION OF WAITING AND LOADING RESTRICTIONS) ORDER 19 NOV 2014

Please explain. This revocation order does not make sense. What are you "revoking"? Order URN 00049ORES dated 14 Nov 2011 has already been revoked by the removal of the yellow lines in School Way for parking bays. This removal took place without a "revocation order" being notified to the public. The recent notification of changes cannot be applied as a "revocation order" as you are not revoking the original public order.

You are yet again making changes without going through the process of revoking the original public order notice which should have been applied before any work was carried out. A public order asking for objectives/agreements to the "removal of the yellow lines" has not yet been put into place and you are only asking for objectives/agreements to work you have already undertaken without public notification. All yellow lines would need to be reinstated and then a revocation order could be issued accordingly. There has not yet been any agreement to the removal of yellow lines in School Way.

I await your reply

2 School Way, Widnes

Sent: 07 December 2014 13:37
To: John Tully **Cc:** David Parr
Subject: OBJECTION - PROPOSED ORDER DATED 19 NOV 2014 FOR SCHOOL WAY

Dear David/John

I refer to the recent notice, re the above, which I received dated 19 Nov 14 from yourselves.

I OBJECT to the proposed order and the previous removal of yellow lines in School Way on the grounds of health and safety and the overturning of Traffic Regulation Order "URN 00049ORES" which was passed in 2011 putting down yellow lines on both sides of School Way for the full adopted length. This order was passed by yourselves after following the correct procedure by notifying residents and the public, who were able to have their say, due to notification within the correct timescales by the media and in writing. School Way became much safer for residents and the public, especially the school children having much clearer views when accessing School Way, Whalley Grove and Nursery Close. This order was overturned without any revocation orders been issued. The removal of yellow lines in School Way has since caused health and safety issues due to a chicane in School Way, caused by parking bays, which are also obstructing the entrance to my driveway. This chicane is also a concern for emergency vehicles accessing these roads and the school.

I therefore propose that "all yellow lines are reinstated" and the removal of the parking bays, which were put down without any consultation to the residents, ensuring clearer visibility/safety for the residents/public who require access to School Way, Nursery Close, Whalley Grove and the School. All of those residents/public should have had a say in the original order being revoked. This would remove the chicane in School Way ensuring safer access especially for emergency vehicles who at the moment have to negotiate a chicane and illegal parking. Unless there was unlawful parking there would be fewer health and safety issues and no necessity for police patrols.

The police have also agreed that the introduction of yellow lines have helped immensely with traffic problems. Since the removal of yellow lines it has been necessary to involve the police to regularly patrol this area. There was never a need for police presence when School Way had yellow lines both sides for full adopted length.

I also do not feel the "Statement of Reasons" given by the council are not justifiable.

Many thanks

2 School Way, Widnes

Sent: 11 December 2014 10:17

To: John Tully

Subject: ADDENDUM TO PREVIOUS E-MAIL DATED 8 DEC 14

Dear Mr Tully

Would you please include the following addendum to my previous e-mail i.e OBJECTION TO:- PROPOSED ORDER DATED 19 NOV 2014 FOR SCHOOL WAY

MY STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR MY OBJECTION TO THE ABOVE PROPOSAL

Parked and stopped vehicles block sightlines for drivers, cyclists and pedestrians with the problem being compounded by the relative "narrowness of School Way" especially when entering/exiting School Way and on the approach to the entrance of Moorfield Primary School, Whalley Grove and Nursery Close. The effect of the "Prohibition of Waiting Order 2011" served to protect sightlines for drivers and pedestrians, which has prevented congestion and has also reduced the incidence of confrontation between drivers and guarantees access for emergency and refuse vehicles. This I feel is why it is of the utmost importance that parking is not allowed in School Way.

Many thanks

2 School Way, Widnes

OBJECTION 4:

RESIDENT FROM 15 NURSERY CLOSE

Hallo all

I have put below my response to the consultation on parking at Moorfield Road Junior School. I am including Derek Twigg as he was involved at the start of this saga, that has now been running for years.

I have sent the letter today to the Chief Executive of Halton Council, Mr Parr.

Best wishes

Chris Lewis

Reference: School Way Parking

Hallo Mr Parr

I am writing in response to the consultation on the partial revocation of waiting and loading restrictions in School Way, Widnes.

Summary of Response

The consultation was sent to only a minority of those that are affected and as such there is a great danger that the outcome of the consultation will not be accepted by the majority of all those affected. The suggestions put forward do not reduce the safety hazards to the public including schoolchildren, nor for emergency access, to an acceptable level. It also does not cover the dangerous parking in the entrance to Nursery Close. However, if the Councillors and its servants progress the plans as put forward then they must take the responsibility for any future incidents, to the public or property, caused by the inadequate measures resulting. The police must also take responsibility if any incident results from its failure to enforce the law in this area.

This whole matter requires a permanent solution that is acceptable to the majority of the area served by School Way and then implemented correctly to have legal enforcement. More unacceptable (and costly) changes that do not satisfy these criteria are not the way forward.

Background

Several years ago I was instrumental, with the local police, the Council and Derek Twigg MP to have the double yellow lines/zigzags applied to the corners of Nursery Close/School Way/Whalley Grove. However, the Council decided it wanted to extend the double yellow lines throughout Nursery Close and School Way (and perhaps Whalley Grove). Residents complained and only the corners and throughout School Way were applied. This showed the residents of Nursery Close and Whalley Grove how safe School Way could be made particularly for children. I understand the lines had been put down incorrectly so had to be amended. In addition two residents in School Way then said they wanted parking places in the road, not an unreasonable request. Another change was then made, without general consultation, by creating a long parking length on the south side and a short length on the north side. Questions on the costs of all these changes have not been answered.

Current Position

Unfortunately vehicles parking on these lengths of road where the double yellow lines have been removed, without full consultation, create a hazard in two ways. First of all it creates a single carriageway and so prevents the free flow of traffic to enter and leave through School Way. In particular at school start/finishing times queues of cars back up into Nursery Close and Whalley Grove where children and adults have to cross the roads. This situation is as bad as when cars were able to park/wait on the corners. Second, the parking limits allow parking on both sides of School Way close to each other so that it results in a chicane. It would not be possible sometimes for wider emergency vehicles to enter Whalley Grove/School Way or the School.

The Consultation

I was led to believe two things from Councillor Tom McInerney firstly that the consultation would be sent to all residents concerned. I took this to mean School Way, Nursery Close, Whalley Grove and the School. All these have a valid interest in the parking in School Way. This has not happened and is unsatisfactory. (Most people from Nursery Close for example will drive through School Way and not see the notices.) I was also led to believe that the parking spots in School Way would be separated. From the very limited dimensions on the plan there is only a two metre separation of the parking lengths so the chicane remains.

I can understand that some residents in School Way want a parking length in the road. (However, the parking length on the south side is usually occupied by workers to the school.) This must compromise the safety for the reasons above. However, if the Council agree with this, and accept the safety implications, then the two lengths should be as short as possible, that is one car length, and separated as much as possible. That is not the case in the proposal.

Other Point

Cars are parking at the entrance to Nursery Close on both sides of the Close. This happens both at school times and frequently at other times. Cars leaving Nursery Close have to take a middle of the road course. Some vehicles coming into Nursery Close (particularly large ones) wrongly cut off the corner. Recently a collision was just averted. Parking should be banned at all times along the west side of Nursery Close up until the first house entrance. This will remove this hazard.

The Police

All the above assumes people, especially those taking children to/from the School, obey the rules. A persistent minority do not. The police accept this is happening when they are not there but refuse to do anything about it. In particular they will not appear after the majority of parents arrive to apprehend this minority and prevent this most dangerous parking/waiting happening. No fixed penalty tickets have been issued so there is no deterrent and they will continue to park illegally. This seems part of a police policy (including PCSOs) in Widnes to ignore illegal parking and is shown by observing in the town centre, and the extremely low level of parking tickets issued. I understand that the Council only have limited powers, if any, to tackle this problem.

Some of the police officers say there are few complaints from the residents in Nursery Close, etc. This is because most residents have stopped complaining because the police take no action.

Conclusions

Without some serious effective actions by the Council and the Police then this area will continue to be a danger to road users and the public. I am very willing to meet with whoever and wherever both to put my views and listen to the reasons why the Council will not make this area as safe as possible.

Circulation

I am circulating a hard copy of this to Mr. Parr, but am also emailing copies to local Councillors, Halton Planning Office, Derek Twigg MP, the Police and the Chair of the Residents' Committee.

Author's Name Withheld

15, Nursery Close, Widnes, Cheshire WA8 3HB

OBJECTION 5:

To:

David Parr
Chief Executive
Municipal Building
Kingsway
Widnes WA8 7QF

RE: THE HALTON BOROUGH COUNCIL (SCHOOL WAY, WIDNES) (PARTIAL REVOCATION OF WAITING AND LOADING RESTRICTIONS) ORDER 2014

I OBJECT to the above on the following grounds:-

The chicane in School Way due to parked vehicles is blocking sightlines for drivers and is compounded by the relative "narrowness of School Way" obstructing the free flow of traffic in and out of School Way, especially for emergency vehicles. Our objections are on the grounds that the effect of yellow lines on both sides of School Way prevented a chicane and prevented incidence of confrontation between drivers and guarantees access for emergency and refuge vehicles as well as every day traffic especially residents and the school.

I therefore request the yellow lines in School Way to be reinstated as per the original Prohibition of Waiting Order 2011".

NAME: Residents: **Author's Name Withheld**

ADDRESS: 2 Whalley Grove
Widnes
Cheshire

SIGNATURE:

DATE: 16/12/14

OBJECTION 6:

To:

David Parr
Chief Executive
Municipal Building
Kingsway
Widnes WAB 7QF

RE: THE HALTON BOROUGH COUNCIL (SCHOOL WAY, WIDNES) (PARTIAL REVOCATION OF WAITING AND LOADING RESTRICTIONS) ORDER 2014

I OBJECT to the above on the following grounds:-

I object to the above proposal on the grounds that School Way is too "narrow" to allow any parking whatsoever. Parked vehicles in School Way are obstructing the free flow of traffic and are causing visibility and health and safety issues on a very busy and well used road. The same problems are also occurring at the entrance to Nursery Close.

I therefore request that the yellow lines in School Way are reinstated, as per the original public order, also that yellow lines are extended on both or one side of the entrance to Nursery Close as vehicles parking opposite one another are causing the same problem as in School Way impeding access to these roads, especially for emergency vehicles.

An incident has already occurred when an ambulance was impeded by parked traffic which could have resulted in dire consequences.

NAME: **Author's Name Withheld**

ADDRESS: 4 Nursery Close
Widnes
Cheshire

SIGNATURE:

DATE: 16-12-2014

OBJECTION 7:

To:

David Parr
Chief Executive
Municipal Building
Kingsway
Widnes WAB 7QF

RE: THE HALTON BOROUGH COUNCIL (SCHOOL WAY, WIDNES) (PARTIAL REVOCATION OF WAITING AND LOADING RESTRICTIONS) ORDER 2014

I OBJECT to the above on the following grounds:-

I object to any parking whatsoever in School Way. My reasons are the parking in School Way is causing a chicane which is obstructing safe access for vehicles entering and exiting School Way and are blocking sightlines. School Way is far too narrow for vehicles to park and I wish the yellow lines to be put back down as per the initial public order. I also feel that the yellow lines on the corners of Whalley Grove/Nursery Close should be extended as parking in these roads, including School Way, are impeding access for traffic, especially emergency vehicles.

NAME:

ADDRESS: 9 Whalley Grove
Widnes
WAB 3HH

SIGNATURE: **Author's Name Withheld**

DATE:

12.12.14

OBJECTION 8:

F.A.O DAVID PARR, CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Page 1 of 2

Committee Services



From: [Redacted]
Date: 16/12/2014 16:51:10
To: [Redacted]
Subject: double yellow lines

REC-1762 -



e7-58

Dear sir,

I would like to bring to your attention the double yellow lines in School Way, as it stands there are gaps in the yellow lines on both sides of the road, This is causing a bottle neck when cars park there, and causing traffic to meet head on.

As i live in Nursery Close and have to use School Way, to get back and to, to my property i think there is an accident waiting to happen.

Thank you

10 Nursery Close,
Widnes,
Cheshire,
WA83HB,

Author's Name Withheld



OBJECTION 9:

Committed Services

To:
David Parr
Chief Executive
Municipal Building
Kingsway
Widnes, WAB 7GF

Re: The Halton Borough Council (School Way, Widnes) (Partial Revocation of Waiting and Loading Restrictions) Order 2014

I object to the above on the following grounds:

There seems to have been an immense amount of messing around with road markings in the almost ten years I've lived here. None of the restrictions are ever enforced and as a consequence the waiting parents pay no attention what so ever. The turn from Moorfield Road into School Way is, if not concealed, then it is "difficult", made even worse by the slalom course created by parked cars on the already too narrow road.

Apparently Moorfield Social Club allows its parking area to be used. This isn't close enough for little Johnny. The real problem continues around the corner into Nursery Close and Whalley Grove. Narrow roads continually blocked by parked cars. Some parents are there for up to two hours at lunchtime. A fire engine struggled to get through to a fire towards the end of Nursery Close. An elderly neighbour who's wife was long-term ill struggled with access for ambulances. My own 80 year-old mother, after my father's car was denied access to my drive by a car parked right across, got out and politely asked him to move and was given 'a mouthfull'. In the same situation I've got out and knocked on the window as the driver continued to ignore me and was told "I'll only be a couple of minutes".

You should take some measure to address the real problem. Parents assume that they have the right to park where they want for however long they want. The residents continue to have to put up with any behaviour the parents see fit to dole out. I ask one simple question: the catchment area for a primary school is how big? Surely walking distance is the catchment area. Why does this havoc have to be created three times a day? Fortunately I'm working, it's the retired who put up with this every day.

No amount of changing the stripes on the road, zig-zag, single, double, white or yellow is going to make any difference. The parents need to be informed that they can't use any of the three roads due to the havoc they've collectively created for years.

Using a scan of your own map I'd like to demonstrate my favourite anecdote of parking mothers. Parked in the middle of the crossroad, got out fiddled with the bags and coats of the two children, walked with them to the school gates, walked back and drove away. Oblivious to the other cars around her, parked or otherwise. If that doesn't demonstrate parents self-obsession then I don't know what will.



If I might make a suggestion, this sort of sign might be required at the entrance to School Way.



It would of course need to be enforced!

Author's Name Withheld

Name:.....

Address: 1 NURSERY CLOSE, WIDNES

Signature: [Handwritten Signature]

Date: 29th November 2014

OBJECTION 10:

Committed Services

To:

David Parr
Chief Executive
Municipal Building
Kingsway
Widnes WA8 7QF

RE: THE HALTON BOROUGH COUNCIL (SCHOOL WAY, WIDNES) (PARTIAL REVOCATION OF WAITING AND LOADING RESTRICTIONS) ORDER 2014

I OBJECT/AGREE to the above on the following grounds:-

I THINK THE REVOCATION OF THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS OF THE ABOVE TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER IS NOT WHAT I AM HOPING FOR OR WANT. I HAVE OUTLINED ON THE DIAGRAM WHERE I WANT DOUBLE YELLOW LINES INSTALLED -

I LIVE AT 32 NURSERY CLOSE AND EACH DAY FROM HOURS 9AM LUNCH TIME AFTERNOON SCHOOL WAY WHALLEY CLOSE NURSERY CLOSE HAVE TO PUT UP WITH AN ENORMOUS AMOUNT OF TRAFFIC PARKED ON BOTH SIDES OF THE ROADS I AM UNABLE TO GET OUT OF MY DRIVEWAY AT THE TIMES MENTIONED ABOVE. I THINK FOR ALL CONCERNED WITHIN THE PARKING AREAS DOUBLE YELLOW LINES SHOULD BE REINSTATED SO THAT SCHOOLWAY WHALLEY CLOSE NURSERY CLOSE CAN HAVE ACCESS TO AND FROM THEIR OWN DRIVEWAY. IF THERE WAS AN EMERGENCY AT ANY TIME FIRE, AMBULANCE ETC THE SITUATION WOULD TURN OUT TO BE A DISASTER. (NO PARKING PERIOD)

NAME:

ADDRESS:

32, NURSERY CLOSE
WIDNES
CHESHIRE

SIGNATURE:

Author's Name Withheld

DATE:

25.11.2014

Details of Proposed Order:

[a] Partial revocation of parts of both the Halton Borough Council (Various Roads, Widnes)(Prohibition of Waiting) Order 2011 and the Halton Borough Council (Various Roads, Widnes)(No Loading) Order 2011 in School Way, Widnes.

[b] Details: Revocation of the following section of the above traffic regulation Orders: School Way, south side starting from 24m. for a distance of 12m., measured from the east kerb line of Moorfield Road, Widnes.

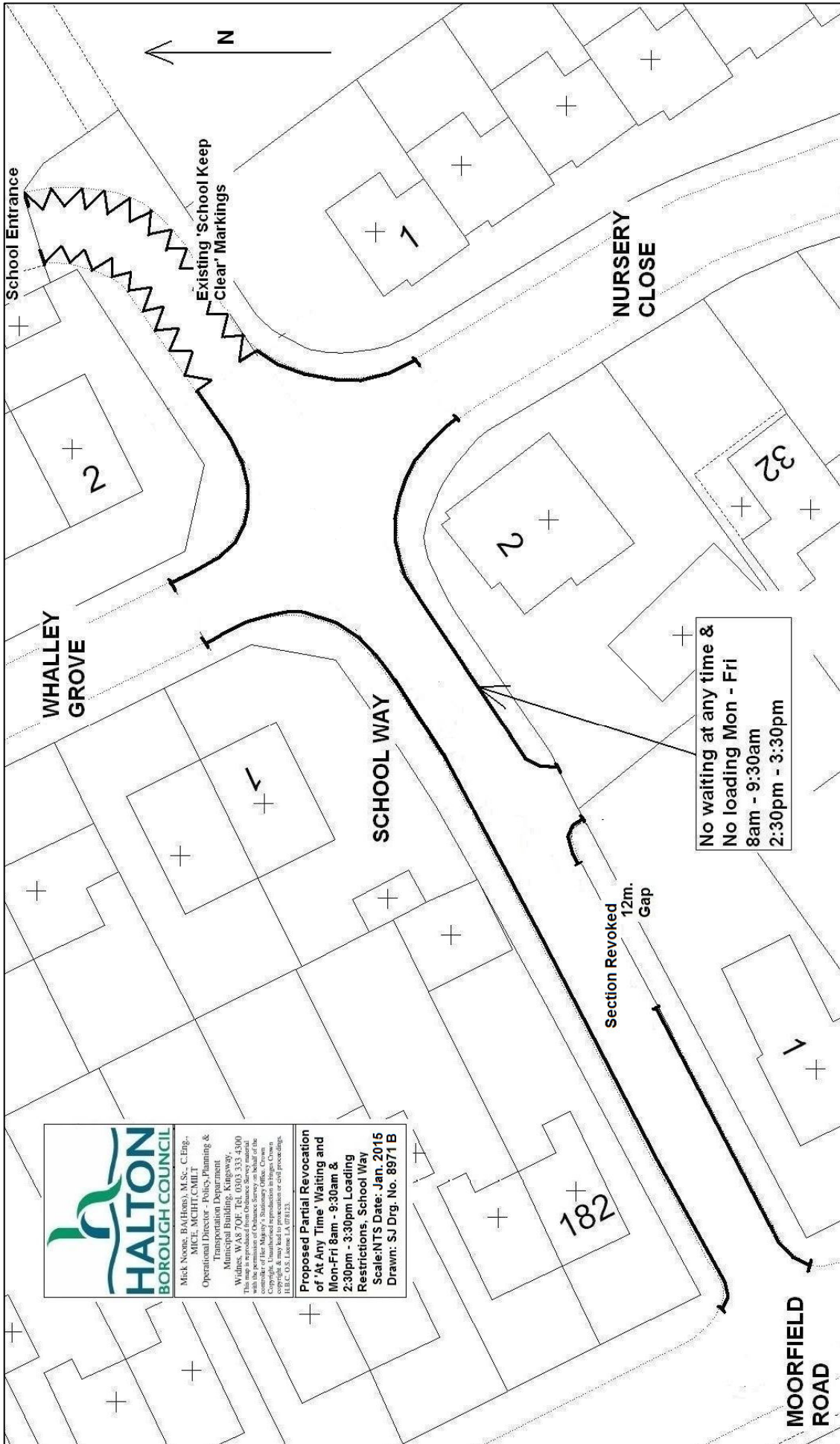
[c] Plans: Drg. No. 8971B for deposit only (below)

[d] Exemptions: Standard

[e] Date to be advertised: ASAP

[f] Date to be effected: ASAP

[g] Advertising code: 2050 1625 W041



HALTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
 Mick Noone, BAH(Hons), M.Sc., C.Eng.,
 MICE, MCHT, CMILT
 Operational Director - Policy, Planning &
 Transportation Department
 Municipal Building, Kingsway,
 Widnes, W45 7DF, Tel: 0303 333 4300
 Fax: 0303 333 4301
 Email: mick.noone@halton.gov.uk
 This plan is prepared in accordance with the
 provisions of the Town and Country Planning
 Act 1990, and the Town and Country Planning
 Regulations 1988, and is submitted to the
 Council for its consideration and approval.
 I, E.C. O'S. License LA 07123. Kingsway, Widnes

**Proposed Partial Revocation
 of 'At Any Time' Waiting and
 Mon-Fri 8am - 9:30am &
 2:30pm - 3:30pm Loading
 Restrictions, School Way**
 Scale: NTS Date: Jan. 2015
 Drawn: SJ Drg. No. 8971 B

No waiting at any time &
 No loading Mon - Fri
 8am - 9:30am
 2:30pm - 3:30pm