

REPORT TO: Corporate Services Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 5 January 2010

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Corporate & Policy

SUBJECT: Locality Working Topic Progress report

WARDS: Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To advise on progress with the review of Locality Working.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION:

2.1 To note the report

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 At the Board's September meeting it was resolved :

That the Executive Board be recommended to accept Option 1 – complete closedown, and a Working Party be set up with the Business Efficiency Board to consider the future of locality working in Halton.

This was reported to Executive Board on 3 December 2009 which resolved:

- (1) *Executive Board support the creation of a Working Group to consider how locality working should operate and be funded in Halton when Neighbourhood Management funding ceases to be available from Central Government; and*
- (2) *the Working Group receive evidence from a wide range of partners across Halton and report their findings to the Local Strategic Partnership and Executive Board*

Nominations to the working group were confirmed following the meeting of the Business Efficiency Board on 11 November 2009, and meetings have taken place on 26th November and 15th December.

So far, the working group has considered the scope of the review, the lessons from the Neighbourhood Management pilot and some of the options for taking forward locality working. It is also looking at whether and how any future arrangements might be supported from within existing resources. Key partner agencies will be invited to the next meeting to enable them to contribute their views to the review.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The Council and its partners have made policy commitments to narrowing the gap between the most deprived areas and the rest of the Borough. The adoption of locality working should be aimed at addressing this, and would be consistent with government policy, for example the Communities in Control White Paper.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There will be costs associated with the adoption of a locality working model. These will need to be identified as ideas are firmed up, before Executive Board is able to make a final decision on the way forward.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 **Children and Young People in Halton**

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

6.3 **A Healthy Halton**

6.4 **A Safer Halton**

6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

Locality working should aim to support the delivery of objectives under all of the Council's key priority areas.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

The main risk is failure by the Council to deliver the desired improvements in its five priority areas, including the targets in the current Local Area Agreement (LAA) for which it has lead responsibility, and in the Sustainable Community Strategy. This would be reflected in an adverse Comprehensive Area Assessment by the Audit Commission. The introduction of an appropriate locality working model would be one way of mitigating this risk.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

Locality working should aim to reduce geographical inequalities within the Borough.

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

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
Communities in Control White Paper	Municipal Building	Rob MacKenzie

