

**REPORT TO:** Environment & Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board

**DATE:** 05<sup>th</sup> January 2011

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director (Resources)

**SUBJECT:** Sustainable Community Strategy  
2010 – 11 Mid-year progress report.

**WARDS:** Borough-wide

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 To provide information on the progress in achieving targets contained within the Sustainable Community Strategy for Halton.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDED THAT:**

- i. The report is noted
- ii. The Board considers whether it requires any further information concerning the actions being taken to achieve the performance targets contained within Halton's Sustainable Community Strategy.

## **3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 The Sustainable Community Strategy is the central document for the Council and its partners, providing an evidenced based framework through which actions and shared performance targets can be developed and communicated. An updated Sustainable Community Strategy for Halton is presently at an advanced stage of preparation and will become live from April 2011.

3.2 The coalition government has set out its intention to create greater transparency. This is intended to include the publication of performance as well as financial transactions. It is the government's expectation that Whitehall departments, local authorities and other public bodies will be performance managed by the communities and citizens which they serve. To this end, the coalition has set out its performance measures in government departmental business plans. Many of these performance measures are already included in the Sustainable Community Strategy.

3.3 The current Sustainable Community Strategy included targets which were also in the Local Area Agreement (LAA). In October this year, the coalition government announced the ending of government performance management of local authorities through LAA's.

3.4 Nevertheless, we need to maintain some framework of performance management to:

- measure progress towards our own objectives for the improvement of the quality of life in Halton.
- meet the government's expectation that we will publish performance information.

3.5 Attached as Appendix 1 is a report on progress to the 2010 – 11 mid-year which includes information for those specific indicators and targets that fall within the remit of this Policy and Performance Board.

3.6 In considering this report Members should be aware that:-

- a) All of the measures within the National Indicator Set (NIS) are monitored through Quarterly Departmental Service Plan Monitoring Reports. The purpose of this report is to consolidate information on all measures and targets relevant to this PPB in order to provide a clear picture of progress.
- b) In some cases outturn data cannot be made available at the mid-year point. Additionally, all measures captured through the National Place Survey, which was due to be undertaken this year, have been deleted from the NIS by central government and therefore no further data will be made available in 2010/11. The future requirement for localised perception survey under the transparency agenda is presently subject to consideration.

#### **4.0 CONCLUSION**

4.1 The Sustainable Community Strategy for Halton, and the performance measures and targets contained within it will remain central to the delivery of community outcomes. It is therefore important that we monitor progress and that Members are satisfied that adequate plans are in place to ensure that the Council and its partners achieve the improvement targets that have been agreed.

#### **5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 The Sustainable Community Strategy for Halton is central to our policy framework. It provides the primary vehicle through which the Council and its partners develop and communicate collaborative actions that will positively impact upon the communities of Halton.

## **6.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 The publication by Local Authorities of performance information is central to the coalition government's transparency agenda. This is accompanied by a commitment to reduce top down performance management, with the existing National Indicator Data Set (NIS), replaced from April 2011 with a single comprehensive list of all data that Local Authorities are required to provide to Central Government.
- 6.2 Central Government target setting will be replaced by minimum standards in some areas.
- 6.3 Thus, it still remains to be seen whether the burdens placed on local government will be reduced or simply redefined.

## **7.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

- 7.1 This report deals directly with the delivery of the relevant strategic priority of the Council.

## **8.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

- 8.1 The key risk is a failure to improve the quality of life for Halton's residents in accordance with the objectives of the Sustainable Community Strategy. This risk can be mitigated thorough the regular reporting and review of progress and the development of appropriate actions where under-performance may occur.

## **9.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

- 9.1 One of the guiding principles of the Sustainable Community Strategy is to reduce inequalities in Halton.

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

Document	Sustainable Community Strategy 2006 – 11
Place of Inspection	2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor, Municipal Building, Kingsway, Widnes
Contact Officer	Rob MacKenzie (0151 471 7416)



# **The Sustainable Community**

## **Strategy for Halton**

**2006 - 2011**

### **Mid-year Progress Report**

**01<sup>st</sup> April 2010 – 30<sup>th</sup> Sept 2010**

**Environment & Urban Renewal**







**Policy & Performance Board**

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




This report provides a summary of progress in relation to the achievement of targets within Halton’s Sustainable Community Strategy 2006 - 2011.

It provides both a snapshot of performance for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2010 and a projection of expected levels of performance to the year-end.










The following symbols have been used to illustrate current performance as against the annual target and as against performance for the same period last year.

	Target is likely to be achieved or exceeded.		Current performance is better than this time last year
	The achievement of the target is uncertain at this stage		Current performance is the same as this time last year
	Target is highly unlikely to be / will not be achieved.		Current performance is worse than this time last year

**URBAN RENEWAL**

Page	NI	Descriptor	2009/10 Target	2010/11 Target	Direction of Travel
6	5	Overall satisfaction with local area	n/a	n/a	n/a
6	154	<u>Net additional homes provided</u>			
7	175	<u>Access to services and facilities by public transport walking and cycling</u>			
9	186	<u>Per Capita CO2 Emissions in LA area</u>	N/A		
11	192	<u>Household waste collected and recycled</u>			

**Non Local Area Agreement Measures / Targets**

12	UR1	<u>Assist in maintaining the current baseline of 59,000 jobs in Halton</u>			
13	UR2	<u>To bring 10 hectares of derelict land back into beneficial use annually</u>			
14	UR3	<u>Facilitate the relocation of businesses affected by the construction of the Mersey Gateway Bridge (Business identified - 78)</u>			

**NI 5 Increase residents overall satisfaction with their local area**

Baseline (Year)	09 – 10 Actual	2011 Target	2010 – 11 Cumulative outturn data				Current Progress	Direction of Travel
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
70% (2008)	N/A Place Survey	73.4%	N/A	N/A	-	-	Refer to comment	

**Data Commentary**

This is collated through The Place Survey, carried out every two years. The scheduled survey for 2010 has been cancelled by the Coalition Government



**General Performance Commentary**

Not applicable.

**Summary of key activities undertaken / planned during the year**

There is no Place Survey for Autumn 2010 given a recent Ministerial Announcement. Due to this announcement we will not be reporting these measures for the rest of the year. Consideration will be given to whether there is need for a slimmer local survey in 2011 following clarification of the government's reporting requirements (April 2011) and our own performance management needs.

**NI 154 Build additional homes within Halton**

Baseline (Year)	09 – 10 Actual	2011 Target	2010 – 11 data				Current Progress	Direction of Travel
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
522 (07/08)	114	159	99	34	-	-		

**Data Commentary**

Data collated is gross completions on development sites greater than 10 dwellings (large sites) as reported for the Mid Mersey Growth Point.

**General Performance Commentary**

Quarter 2 has seen 34 gross completions: 28 of these completions are for affordable housing;

Currently 135 dwellings are under construction on 8 major sites with a total capacity of 436 dwellings; 66% are for affordable housing; all 135 dwelling anticipated to be completed by end March 2011. Castlefields regeneration team indicate only 88 deck access flats are to be demolished this year resulting in the target net build of 159 being achieved.

Apartment schemes stalled due to economic climate.

Future Sites:

A large site at Derby Rd, Widnes anticipated to provide 123 dwellings – after delays, remediation work is now on track and build start anticipated start in Q4.

It is essential that several new sites start building because of the time lag from start to first build completions.



### **Summary of key activities undertaken / planned during the year**

LAA housing indicator NI 154 target revised downward - from 518 to 159 – agreed with GONW.

Halton is working in partnership with Mid Mersey Growth Point group who have established a robust framework for the collation of housing market data.

Kick-start support for 69 affordable homes has not been awarded re. the Halton Brook site at Runcorn (capacity: 114 dwellings). This could impact on the programme of works, but road works have commenced. A timetable of development indicates developers are due to commence building on sites 1 & 2 in December 2010.

**NI 175** Improve access to services and facilities by public transport, walking and cycling. Targets set for access to Whiston and Warrington Hospitals (100%) and Runcorn and Widnes campuses of Riverside College (89% and 93% respectively)

Baseline (Year)	09 – 10 Actual	2011 Target	2010 – 11 Cumulative outturn data				Current Progress	Direction of Travel
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
A: 29% B: 0% C: 84% D: 89% (2007/8)	A: 100% B: 100% C: 93% C: 98%	A: 100% B: 100% C: 89% D: 93%	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	-	-		

**Data Commentary**

This indicator is reported on an annual basis.

**General Performance Commentary**

Access to Whiston and Warrington Hospital

100% maintained due to WNF to sustain links to work and hospital links discounted taxi service. To be maintained for 2010/11 as funding has been secured for this period.

Access to Runcorn and Widnes Campuses of Riverside College

All targets exceeded. This was due to the introduction of four new college bus services operated by Halton Transport Ltd. Services operated commercially with some funding provided from Riverside College directly to the bus company.


**Summary of key activities undertaken / planned during the year**

Funding for the Hospital Link service has been secured for this financial year (10/11), maintaining the target of 100%.

Funding for 4 new college services introduced in 09/10 has also been secured for 2011 - 12 helping to maintain the current levels of accessibility.

C1 service registered as a commercial service by the operator, Supertravel Ltd.



Baseline (Year)	09 – 10 Actual	2011 Target	2010 – 11 Cumulative outturn data				Current Progress	Direction of Travel
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
10.1 tonnes per capita (2007/8)	N / A figures from DEFRA annually	4%	N / A	N / A	-	-	?	

**Data Commentary**

The previous target has been reduced to 4% with agreement of Halton Borough Council’s Executive Board, as the previous target was wholly unachievable.

**General Performance Commentary**

There have been a number of projects undertaken throughout the year which have had a positive impact on reducing carbon emissions.

**Summary of key activities undertaken / planned during the year**

Installation of voltage optimisation equipment is continuing, 8 sites now have equipment installed, saving in the region of 250 tonnes of CO2 in total pa. An additional 7 sites will be fitted within the next 12 months.

Automatic Meter Reading (AMR) installation programme now almost complete; as such nearly all sites have half hourly consumption data available to view through a web portal. This gives us tools to proactively monitor consumption trends, helping us identify abnormal levels of consumption.

New Sustainable Projects Officer has started working with information from the AMR web portals and is thus beginning to work with building managers to help educate and train personnel in terms of good energy management; help identify areas for improving energy efficiency.

Various refurbishment projects have been carried out this year where improved levels of energy efficiency have been built in, examples being Halton Lea Library refurbishment and window replacement programme at Rutland House.

Energy audits undertaken by the Carbon Trust have been completed. A number of energy saving suggestions have come from these, which are now being investigated further. Some of these will be carried out, funding permitting.



Planned activities over the next 12 months:

Installation of voltage optimisation equipment at a further 7 sites to take place, with further bids to be placed for an ongoing programme of installation.

A number of new projects to come on-line which have had energy efficiency measures built in, e.g. Municipal Building ground/first floor refurbishment project & new primary school at Upton All Saints.

An HBC Policy & Performance Board report recommending the way forward in term of energy management within buildings will go to Exec Board for approval. This outlines a series of recommendations on improving energy management to try and embed it into the decision making process within the Council, and ensure it is brought into the monthly reporting cycle by managers.

**NI 192****Increase the level of municipal waste recycled or composted by the local authority**

Baseline (Year)	09 – 10 Actual	2011 Target	2010 – 11 Cumulative outturn data				Current Progress	Direction of Travel
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
25.1% (2007/8)	<b>29.97</b> %	34%	<b>39.95%</b> estimated	<b>39.07%</b> estimated	-	-		

**Data Commentary**

This indicator measures % of household waste 'arisings' sent by the Authority for reuse, recycling or composting.

In the absence of current data being available an estimated figure has been established based upon data for the same period in 2009/10. Accepting that this will only provide an indication of our current position there are no known factors that would suggest that there will be any significant deviation from this estimate.

**General Performance Commentary**

Waste production is subject to seasonal variation and whilst performance in Q2 exceeds the end of year target, performance is likely to decrease. Indications at this stage are that the year-end target will be achieved.

**Summary of key activities undertaken / planned during the year**



In June 2010, a further 9,000 properties were added to the Council's multi-material recycling collection service. Approximately 5,000 residents were provided with wheeled bins and 3,000 provided recycling boxes. The remaining properties are multi-occupancy dwellings which were provided with communal recycling containers.

During Q2 the **RecycleBank** 'rewards for recycling' scheme was extended to a further 36,000 households across the borough. The scheme rewards residents with points for recycling through the blue wheeled bin recycling service. Points can then be exchanged for money off goods/services at 120+ local shops, businesses, restaurants and leisure/entertainment outlets. Early indications show an increase in both the number of households using their blue bins for recycling and the amount of recyclable materials collected.

New arrangements for the recycling of street litter and other bulky waste materials are also contributing to increased recycling performance.

Communication/engagement programmes will continue to be delivered, increasing the % of participation in Council's recycling and composting services.

**UR 1 Assist in maintaining the current baseline of 59,000 jobs in Halton until 2011**

Baseline (Year)	09 – 10 Actual	2011 Target	2010 – 11 Cumulative outturn data				Current Progress	Direction of Travel
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
59,000 jobs (2008)	N / A	59,000 jobs	58,000	58,000	-	-		

**Data Commentary**

Data is only currently available annually two years in arrears, the latest being 2008 (ONS) to the nearest 1000. Total jobs include employees, self-employed, government-supported trainees and HM Forces aged 16-64.

**General Performance Commentary**

In terms of impact of the recession re. the economy, the lowest claimant rate for Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) was November 2007, when it was 2,132 (2.7%). After that there was a gradual rise until November 2008, when the increase became much larger. In January 2010 it reached 4870 (6.3%). Since, there has been a reduction and latest figure available for Aug. 2010 is 3890 (5%).



How this compares to national JSA unemployment rate –  
 Nov 2007 Halton was 38% higher  
 Jan 2010 Halton was 53% higher  
 Aug 2010 Halton was 35% higher.

**Summary of key activities undertaken / planned during the year**

A number of key programmes underway that are leading/have led to job creation include:

- 3MG. Recruitment for Tesco complete with 377 jobs advertised and filled of which 75% were Halton residents. Total number of jobs is 450.
- Widnes Waterfront leisure development is due to complete next year.
- Bayer site purchased and will be brought forward for job creation uses.
- Widnes Shopping Park now opened which ultimately will create 650 jobs. Phase 2 of this development is yet to be commenced.
- Enterprising Halton supported 154 new business start-ups in 09/10.

**UR 2**      **To bring 10 hectares of derelict land back into beneficial use annually**

Baseline (Year)	09 – 10 Actual	2011 Target	2010 – 11 Cumulative outturn data				Current Progress	Direction of Travel
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
10 Hectares Per Annum Over 21 Years	Under Review	10 hectares	N/A	N/A	-	-		

**Data Commentary**

Data collected annually.

**General Performance Commentary**


Many of the main remediation sites have now been decontaminated and developed. However, the commencement of the new Mersey Gateway bridge will create areas requiring remediation, as de-linking is implemented. This is yet to be quantified. However, there are other areas still requiring remediation, e.g., the Bayer Crop Sciences site.

Progress may be affected subject to the ongoing Strategic Review (Wave 3), as expertise for this area of work lies with the Council’s Major Development Projects team. This will, therefore, need to be monitored.

**Summary of key activities undertaken / planned during the year**

Data for this local indicator is currently under review within the SCS development process as funding availability will impact on the area of land able to be reclaimed.

<b>UR 3</b>	<b>Facilitate the relocation of businesses affected by the construction of the Mersey Gateway Bridge (businesses identified 78)</b>
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Baseline (Year)	09 – 10 Actual	2011 Target	2010 – 11 Cumulative outturn data				Current Progress	Direction of Travel
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
Not relevant	1	77	1	1	-	-	?	

### Data Commentary

The data is 'actual' and relates to the period 2010-11.

### General Performance Commentary

The level of performance is in line with the activities agreed with the MG Officer Project Board.

### Summary of key activities undertaken / planned during the year

The Mersey Gateway was one of the major infrastructure projects called in under the Governments Comprehensive Spending Review in June this year, it did receive a positive outcome with the Chancellor's announcement in October that the Mersey Gateway Project is to receive Government support.

It is understood that the full details of the funding arrangements and the extent of the Government's contribution to the project will be forthcoming in January 2011.

In addition the Council is still awaiting the outcome of the Public Inquiry together with the Secretaries of State's decision on the consents and Orders which, again, is expecting early in 2011. On receipt of the satisfactory consents and Orders it is the Council's intention to continue the land acquisition process through implementation of the Transport and Works Act Order and Compulsory purchase Orders to assemble all the remaining land required for the construction and operation of the proposed Mersey Gateway Bridge and associated infrastructure. In the majority of cases this is likely to be carried out through the GVD procedure for those interests that have not acquired by agreement. Although the acquisitions will be through the implementation of compulsory purchase powers, as far as possible, regard will still be had to the Mersey Gateway Relocation Strategy.

On confirmation of the Orders and Consents and confirmation of the funding arrangements the Mersey Gateway Team will then be in a position to progress the procurement process and invite formal expressions of interest from potential concessionaires/design, build, fund and operate companies