



Cllr. Sue Edge
Chairman

ANNUAL REPORT (Employment Learning & Skills and Community) POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD **APRIL 2010 – MARCH 2011**

“ This has been my first year as Chair of the Employment Learning and Skills and Community Board, and as such I would like to take this opportunity to thank Members of this committee for the support you have shown me in helping me to take on this new role. Your guidance and input has been invaluable during a period of significant change for the organisation.

I would also like to thank you for the quality of the discussions that we have had on a variety of topics during the year. Your commitment, knowledge and awareness of a wide range of complex issues has been remarkable.

I would also like to thank the officers for working with me to ensure that agendas and papers have not only reflected the role and remit of the PPB but have reflected the needs and aspirations of our residents. As you will see in the report below we have been required to consider a number of topics and these have been presented in an informative and considered way.

Together I believe that the PPB has fully demonstrated its value in supporting the organisation to develop its policies in respect of Employment learning and Skills and Community initiatives in Halton.”

Councillor *Sue Edge*
Chairman, Employment Learning and Skills and Community Policy and Performance Board

MEMBERSHIP AND RESPONSIBILITIES

During 2010/11 the Board comprised eleven Councillors – Councillors Edge, (Chair) Lloyd-Jones (Vice Chair), Austin, Carlin, Findon, Horabin, Howard, MacManus, Parker, Roberts, and Rowe.

The primary function of the PPB is to focus on the work of the Council (and its Partners) in seeking to improve economic prosperity in Halton, the skills and employment prospects of its residents, and their access to good sporting and cultural amenities, to scrutinise progress against the Corporate Plan in relation to the Employment Learning and Skills priority.

Employment, Learning and Skills Priority.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

The full Board met four times during the year, and set out below are some of the main initiatives that the Board has worked on during the year.

Reports that were prepared by the ELS and C PPB and presented to The Executive Board are as follows: -

The Scrutiny Review of Employment Practices for people with learning

or physical disabilities or mental health issues.

The purpose of the report was to:

- Review current employment opportunities for people with a learning or physical disability or mental health issues in Halton
- Develop an understanding of the financial processes around employment for these specific groups
- Consider best practice and local examples in terms of supporting people into employment
- Develop an understanding of corporate responsibilities in supporting vulnerable people into employment
- Devise a series of recommendations and accompanying action plan to improve the authority's performance in relation to supported employment opportunities

A further report was considered by the Executive Board on **Barriers to Work**. It was reported that a Scrutiny Topic Group was established to analyse the results of research commissioned by the ELS SSP into levels of worklessness in our more deprived neighbourhoods, to understand them in some depth, and to develop appropriate recommendations as to how local employment initiatives, training & skills programmes and business start-up services can be re-focussed to address the perceived barriers to employment identified by residents in the neighbourhood management areas that was captured by the research.

Throughout the year the ELS PPB received reports on the following: -

Halton People into Jobs 10th Anniversary was a report on progress achieved by Halton People into (HPiJ) Jobs during the 10 years that it has been providing a job brokering service for employers and residents seeking work in Halton. It was reported that over the last 10 years HPiJ had assisted more than 6,000 residents into employment. It was noted that the estimated cost of providing the HPiJ service, including Council central overhead recharges, in the current financial year is circa £900,000. The anticipated job outcomes for the year are anticipated to be approximately 500. Therefore, the expected cost per job is likely to be circa £1,800 which is well below the reported average cost per job of £4,000 offered by other providers.

The PPB received an evaluation report on the **3MG skills and recruitment project** which involved the Halton Employment Partnership handling the recruitment for the new Tesco chilled distribution centre and the Norbert Dentressangle recycling unit associated with it.

Members received a progress report on the **Enterprising Halton Programme** its aim is to promote a culture of enterprise across the Borough and supporting the creation of new business start ups since it was launched in April 2007. The Enterprising Halton Programme is now well established as an Enterprise development support project that is very much valued by potential entrepreneurs, new business start ups, and the private sector led Enterprise Board, the Chamber of Commerce and Jobcentre Plus.

The Comprehensive Spending Review and Employment Learning and Skills

A report on the policy developments relating to the Employment Learning and Skills agenda arising out of the CSR was provided

The report was used to inform the PPB's scrutiny topic "Deficit Policies and the impact of the recession".

Construction Halton

Members of the PPB received a first report on the implementation of the Construction Employment Integrator model (now re-named Construction Halton).

Construction Halton is focused on facilitating a range of measures to deliver community benefits from construction related work, in the form of employment, apprenticeships, training and work experience opportunities.

The aims of Construction Halton are to provide a mechanism that will:-

- ensure people from disadvantaged groups and areas within Halton are able to access jobs and training opportunities arising in the construction industry; and
- promote the growth of local SMEs through supply chain linkages.

The Board considered a report on the development of the **Halton Child & Family Poverty Strategy** and sought endorsement of the draft strategy.

The Board considered a report on proposed **work priorities** in respect of Employment Learning and Skills agenda for the next financial year.

These are: -

- Maximising Single Programme Opportunities;
- Focus On Employer Facing Services;
- Halton Employment Partnership;
- Construction Halton;
- Science Halton;
- The Science Halton Routeway;
- Other Opportunities e.g. Regional Growth Fund; ERDF Business; and
- Support Programme.

The Board considered a second report on the implementation of the **Construction Halton project**. The report also shared the recruitment and training workflow model highlighting the Council Departments and partner organisations that would be involved when undertaking procurement exercises and negotiating planning agreements, focussed on achieving Construction

Halton job and training outcomes

The Board also received a presentation on **procurement** which

- Set out what had been done so far externally i.e. Partnership with Halton Chamber of Commerce and Local Businesses Engagement;
- Highlighted the engagement with businesses – that there had been 349 attendees, covering 248 local business and that 65 people had attended more than one event. Feedback from the event had also been very positive;
- Outlined The Chest Registration – that there had been a 33% increase since June 2010, from 279 to 415 as at 28 February 2011 and 136 new local businesses had also registered;

The Board considered a report which outlined the delivery of **Community Development in 2009/10**.

It was reported that the purpose of Community Development was to build relationships with our communities, to help groups and networks of people take joint action on matters that concerned them. It was also about enabling individuals to influence the decisions that affected their lives.

The Board were informed that to do this the Community Development combined a number of aspects which were outlined in the report for information. The Board was advised of the service performance and service development which detailed the following:

- Starter Grants;
- Community Development Grants;
- Voluntary Youth Organisation Grants; and
- Bursaries.

The Board also received a report which outlined the **Annual Report for Voluntary Sector Funding**. The report provided performance information on the 12 organisations Core Grant supported in 2009/10, which were detailed in the report for information.

	<p>WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2011/12</p> <p>The Board has decided that during the current municipal year (2011/12) it will carry out Topic reviews examining the following areas: Apprenticeships; Barriers to Employment from an Employer perspective; Assessment of the Impact of the Government's Deficit policies on Employment learning and Skills in Halton.</p> <p>Members of the Public are welcome at the meetings of the Board. If you would like to know where and when meetings are to be held or if you would like any more information about the Board or its work please contact (Wesley Rourke, Operational Director, Economy, Enterprise and Employment)</p>