

REPORT TO: Employment, Learning and Skills and Community Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 30 May 2012

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director – Policy & Resources

SUBJECT: Sustainable Community Strategy Year End Progress Report 2011/12.

PORTFOLIO: Resources

WARDS: Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To provide information on the progress in achieving targets contained within the 2011- 2016 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 taken to achieve the performance targets contained within Halton's 2011–16 Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS).

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 The Sustainable Community Strategy, a central document for the Council and its partners, provides an evidenced-based framework through which actions and shared performance targets can be developed and communicated.

3.2 The previous Sustainable Community Strategy included targets which were also part of the Local Area Agreement (LAA). In October 2010 the coalition government announced the ending of government performance management of local authorities through LAAs. Nevertheless, the Council and its Partners need to maintain some form of effective performance management framework 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.

3.3 Thus, following extensive research and analysis and consultation with all stakeholder groups including Elected Members, partners and the

local community and representative groups, a new SCS (2011 – 2016) was approved by the Council on 20th April 2011.

- 3.4 The new Sustainable Community Strategy and its associated “living” 5 year delivery plan (2011-16), identifies five community priorities that will form the basis of collective partnership intervention and action over the coming five years. The strategy is informed by and brings together national and local priorities and is aligned to other local delivery plans such as that of the Halton Children’s Trust. By being a “living” document it will provide sufficient flexibility to evolve as continuing changes within the public sector continue to emerge, for example the restructuring of the NHS and public health delivery, implementation of Local Economic Partnerships and the delivery of the ‘localism’ agenda.
- 3.5 As such, articulating the partnership’s ambition in terms of community outcomes and meaningful measures and targets to set the anticipated rate of change and track performance over time, will further support effective decision making and resource allocation.
- 3.6 Placeholder measures have also been included where new services are to be developed or new performance information is to be captured, in response to legislative changes; for which baselines will be established in 2011/12 or 2012/13, against which future services will be monitored.
- 3.7 An annual ‘light touch review’ of targets contained within the SCS, will also ensure that targets remain realistic over the 5 year plan to ‘close the gaps’ in performance against regional and statistical neighbours.
- 3.8 Attached as Appendix 1 is a report on progress to the 2011-12 year end position which includes a summary of all indicators within the new Sustainable Community Strategy and additional information for those specific indicators and targets that fall within the remit of this Policy & Performance Board.
- 3.9 Further detail is contained in the report with corporate templates for each of the measures bringing together all relevant pieces of performance information in one place – considering the levels of performance that have been achieved over time to date. These templates also provide a contextual backdrop in relation to performance nationally, regionally and by our statistical neighbours where available. These show for a majority of measures, a continued trajectory of continuous improvement as shown by the upward direction of travel arrow, where performance is better than this time last year; or where performance has been maintained. A summary of key activities taken or planned to be taken to improve performance by the Council and its Partners is also stated for each measure by respective Lead Officers.

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.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

7.1 This report deals directly with the delivery of the relevant strategic priorities 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 through 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 PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

Document	Sustainable Community Strategy 2011 – 26
Place of Inspection	2 nd Floor, Municipal Building, Kingsway, Widnes
Contact Officer	Hazel Coen DM (Performance & Improvement)

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Year End Progress Summary for 2011/12