

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 CYPO2	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)