

## Environment and Urban Renewal PPB – Priority Based Monitoring Report

Reporting Period: **Quarter 4 – 1<sup>st</sup> January 2017 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017**

### 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This report provides an overview of issues and progress against key service objectives/milestones and performance targets, during the fourth quarter of 2016/17 for service areas within the remit of the Environment and Urban Renewal (E&UR) Policy and Performance Board.
- 1.2 Key priorities for development or improvement in 2015-18 were agreed by Members and included in Directorate Plans, for the various functional areas reporting to the Environment & Urban Renewal Policy & Performance Board i.e.:
  - Development & Investment Services
  - Open Spaces and Waste and Environmental Improvement
  - Highways, Transportation & Logistics and Physical Environment
  - Housing Strategy
- 1.3 The way in which traffic light symbols have been used to reflect progress to date is explained within Section 8 of this report.

### 2.0 Key Developments

- 2.1 There have been a number of developments within the Directorate during the period which include:-

#### *Development & Investment Services*

- a. Investment Enquiries

The Business Improvement and Growth (BIG) Team managed 62 commercial property inward investment enquiries in Quarter IV 2016/17. The cumulative inward investment enquiries total (Quarter 1 – 4) is 221 against a target of 250. 8 inward investment enquiries were 'converted' (inward investment enquiries 'converted' into actual investment projects) in Quarter 4. The cumulative conversions total (Quarter 1 – 4) is 9% against a target of 10%.

- b. Liverpool City Region Integrated Business Support (LCRIBS) Programme

The Business Growth Programme (previously the "Liverpool City Region Integrated Business Support (LCRIBS) programme") within Halton continues to progress well. There are **147** businesses listed on the Halton LCRIBS database. Of these, **95** are engaged in the programme and are either in or have completed the Diagnostic phase in the programme. Of these **78** are in the Specialist assistance phase. To date **47** businesses have been assisted and **11** jobs created. The targets to date have been met in full. The delivery of the LCRIBS programme within Halton is integrated with the Halton Growth Hub service. LCRIBS interventions are logged on to the City Region Evolutive CRM. To date there have been **504** LCRIBS engagements logged on Evolutive.

c. Business Growth Hub Brokerage Service

March has been designated as 'Growth Hub Month' to raise awareness of the service and promote success to date. A Liverpool City Region (LCR) Growth Hub Showcase event was organised at the end of March 2017 to mark the occasion. Over 100 people attended the Local Growth Hub Showcase at Liverpool Football Club to learn more about the government apprenticeship reforms. David Millet, Head of the Alstom Academy, was one of the speakers and also member of the expert panel for the question and answer session.

There were a number of business support programmes exhibiting – All About STEM, Business Growth Programme, Degree Apprenticeships, Enterprise Hub, Future Energy, Health Enterprise Hub, Innovated to Succeed, LCR 4.0, LCR Manufacturing, Low Carbon Eco Innovatory, New Markets, NPIF, Sensor City and Skills for Growth.

d. Halton Growth Hub

Since the official launch in May 2016 the Halton Growth Hub has responded to **574** business enquiries helping businesses access over **807** initiatives.

Activity for Quarter IV includes engagement with **137** Halton based businesses and undertaking **85** business diagnostics. This activity helped businesses access **132** business initiatives including brokerage to :-

Business Support

Agency / Initiatives	Referrals
Brokerage - Chamber RGF Programme	2
Brokerage - Enterprise Hub / Start Up Programme	19
Brokerage - LCRIBS	26
Brokerage - MSIF	4
Brokerage - New Markets 2	3
Brokerage - Property / Investment	26
Brokerage - Events	5
Brokerage - Training	3
Brokerage - Commercial Support	1
Brokerage - Workforce Development	1
Brokerage - Chamber Services	7
Brokerage - LCR 4.0	1
Brokerage - Skills for Growth	12

(N.B. Short case studies are available if required)

e. Business Improvement District (BID) Programme

Security

Work is ongoing to install the new CCTV system at Halebank. Several obstacles have been overcome, for example a change in the location of the monitoring station for operational reasons and because of difficulties gaining sufficient height and alignment for the cameras to be networked by Wi-Fi across the

estate. Two cameras are currently operational and the system roll out is expected to be completed towards the end of April.

Select Security is responsible for monitoring both the CCTV and the proposed new ANPR system on Astmoor.

The Select Security contract for both Astmoor and Halebank BID areas ended on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016. Select Security will, however, continue to be the security provider until the end of the current BID term in March 2018. Security services are, therefore, continuing as normal. Additional patrols have, however, been introduced at Halebank during the installation of the CCTV system.

An independent audit of the Astmoor ANPR system was undertaken in Quarter 4 2016/17. The audit identified a plethora of problems including bad wiring, outdated PCs and failing analogue cameras. A meeting will take place on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2017 between Select Security's CCTV engineer, the BID team and a recommended supplier to draw up a system specification capable of interfacing with the current Select Security monitoring platform. A tender will then be developed and promoted to local suppliers by the Chamber of Commerce. It is anticipated that the system will be fully functional in late 2017.

Forty 'SelectaDNA' marking kits have been provided by Cheshire Police and will be distributed by PCSOs and the Astmoor Beat Officer across both estates. These supersede the old Smartwater kits. New signage, which in itself is a major deterrent, will also be prominent on both estates.

#### Training

Training courses undertaken in Quarter 4 2016 include Emergency First Aid at Work, a three day First Aid at Work, and First Aid Requalification. A new schedule has been circulated for the period from April 2017, which will include more specialist training including Working at Heights, MIG Welding, Abrasive Wheels and Oxy Cutting Welding

Feedback from previous Health & Safety (H&S) courses has indicated that there are weaknesses in several companies concerning adequate and legally compliant First Aid cover. The BID has addressed this issue by delivering 'Health and Safety Myth Busters Breakfast Seminars' where H&S professionals can network to better understand the requirements to remain legally compliant and avoid prosecution. The BID hopes to run other similar events in the coming months.

The BID Programme has been successful in encouraging several businesses to draw down Skills for Growth grants, which has seen businesses attend specialist and niche courses for which there is insufficient demand for the BID to run a course. Courses have been 80% funded by the Skills for Growth Fund and 20% funded by the BID Programme. In line with all BID training courses, there is no cost associated for eligible BID businesses.

#### Co-ordinated, Promoted and Supported Estate

Thirteen defibrillators have been installed across the two estates and training provided for over 55 employees. Internal directional signage and external signage has been provided identifying each host business as a defibrillator location. All businesses will be provided with a map detailing the location of their nearest machine together with accessibility instructions.

#### Image

Quotes were requested from local tree surgeons to fell thirteen trees, identified as dangerous and a threat to infrastructure on Astmoor. The successful submission came from Treebor Tree Services, who recommended felling 6 trees and lifting the crown/hard pruning on the others. This work was completed over the weekend of 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> March 2017.

Logistics company Kuehne and Nagel, on Edison Road, also sought the help from the Bid Programme to fell trees and shrubs overhanging their boundary that have caused a number of accidents and minor injuries. This work was also completed by Treebor.

The BID has reached agreement with Halton Borough Council to fell overgrown trees and shrubs on adopted land on Davy Road. Clearance of the area facilitated the letting of a 17,000 ft<sup>2</sup> unit at 7 Davy Road to a new tenant. The tenant has since moved in and became operational in April. However, they experienced issues with Merseylink road washers hosing down their vehicles at the stand pipe outside of the unit which resulted in mud and slurry across their entrance and raised concerns about the newly cleaned drain. The BID worked with Merseylink to stop drivers from continuing the practice. Merseylink also restored the entrance to its original condition.

f. Sci-Tech Daresbury

Techspace One completed in January 2017 and the official launch event was held in March 2017 for property agents and companies. There is strong interest from 3 companies who are in initial lease negotiations with the Joint Venture.

The design team have been instructed for the next stage of the developments with a planning application expected in summer 2017.

The Skills Factory submission to the Single Investment Fund (Skills Capital) was successful at Strategic Outline Case and we have been invited to submit a Full Business Case.

Field 54 (adjacent to the A56) has been brought into Halton BC ownership to enable the close down of DSIC Ltd (the company subsequently replaced by the PubSec JV with STFC and HBC). The land will be held by Halton for potential compensatory planting alongside Daresbury Firs.

g. Castlefields

Lakeside Phase 2 continues on site with the scheme now expected to be complete earlier than anticipated in September 2017. The scheme will deliver 79 two and three bedroom homes. Keepmoat are continuing with site investigation and feasibility work for Lakeside Phase 3.

h. 3MG

HBC Field is progressing well. Alstom are on site and the construction of the new Transport Technology Centre is well underway. The Official Opening is being arranged for June 2017. The profile of the remaining land is increasing and we see it as a prime opportunity for Alstom or Jaguar Land Rover suppliers.

Stobart have made excellent progress on their Biomass Facility and began commissioning in March 2017. Stobart also obtained planning consent for a new Biomass Headquarters on Mathieson Road, Widnes.

Stoford are in the process of acquiring the Newstead Road site from Ainscough and have submitted a Single Investment Fund (SIF) bid to the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority (LCR CA).

i. External Funding

The External Funding Team is experiencing an unprecedented demand for funding advice with 132 enquiries having been received in the year 2016/17. Not all enquiries convert into full project support, however, the Team operates a pipeline list of around 30 projects which are receiving more in-depth support with bid-writing.

j. European Programme

Ways to Work Project

The Ways to Work Project is designed to help people of all ages develop their skills, gain training and start employment. The total amount of European Social Fund (ESF) allocated is £29.5m, with HBC accessing £2.1m for the three year project. Project delivery commenced in Halton in January 2016. Claim 5 is due to be submitted in April 2017 and we expect to be claiming approximately £370,000.

New Markets 2

This is a business support programme for more developed businesses to help them access new market opportunities by using specialist consultants for activities such as marketing etc. This project will draw down £5.6m of ERDF for a range of delivery bodies across the City Region including Sci-Tech Daresbury. To date 39 companies have expressed interest in the programme, 11 have engaged on the programme and 3 have progressed to bespoke support.

Include IT-Mersey

HBC are also part of a LCR wide consortium bid with the Voluntary Organisation Learning Association (VOLA) who are the lead applicant for a Digital Inclusion Project through the Big Lottery Fund (BLF) Building Better Opportunities call. BLF are an 'Opt In' provider of the European Social Fund who have recently released two calls; 'Digital Inclusion' and 'Financial Inclusion'. The total amount of funding available is £1.6m for Digital and £2.5m for Financial. The consortium bid has been successful and Halton was awarded £62,000. Delivery is due to start in April.

k. Regeneration

The Ten Locks Flight pub on the former Crosville site will open on Monday 10th April 2017. The remainder of the site a coffee shop and public car park are due to open later in the year.

*Open Spaces and Waste and Environmental Improvement*

l. Fixed Penalty Notices

A report was presented to Executive Board in March concerning new powers available to Local Authorities to issue Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN) for fly tipping offences. Members were advised that FPN's would be used for small to medium scale offences whilst large scale offences would be dealt with through the Courts. FPN notices would be fixed at £400 with an early payment discount of £100 where payment is made within 10 days.

The new power to issue FPNs was seen as a more cost-effective way of dealing with fly-tipping offences, which could previously only be dealt with by way of prosecution; which can be a costly and resource-intensive process

Members were advised that FPNs will only be used to deal with small and medium scale fly-tipping offences, with large scale incidents continuing to be dealt with through prosecution.

m. Delayed Winter Vegetation Maintenance

During Q4 there was a major storm event (on 23 February 2017) which resulted in hundreds of trees being blown down. On the day staff worked hard to clear blockages and all highways were cleared by 20:00 on the day. Over the following days and weeks other damaged trees were found and the result was that planned winter work for the period 23 February to 27 March 2017 was not carried out. This work has had to be put back until Q3/4 of 2017/18 year.

## *Highways, Transportation & Logistics and Physical Environment*

### n. Highway Development

Difficulties throughout the year in recruiting to the Flood Risk Engineer post have had an effect on the delivery of the Flood Defence Grant in Aid (FDGiA) programme. The Environment Agency (EA) has been informed and a strategy agreed for re-profiling the funding over future years. A successful appointment has now been made with the post holder commencing work in April 2017. A permanent appointment has also now been made to the Senior Engineer (Section 38 Post).

Work is ongoing on major planning applications for Lead Local Flood Authority/Highways. There is ongoing involvement with the Mersey Gateway project, in regulatory and approval authority roles.

The Council has sent a response to the consultation held by Highways England on the proposed M56 junction 11A. Following a meeting by the Executive Board, 'Option B' has been identified as the Council's preferred layout.

Work is ongoing with Mersey Gateway Crossings Board on the feasibility for future delivery of the West Bank / Widnes Loops link road. Also, further feasibility work has been commissioned on the delinking of the expressways to the Silver Jubilee Bridge on the Runcorn side of the crossing.

The surveys of Halton's Highway Assets are now partially complete for LTP PI16.

The Highways Asset Management Plan (HAMP) has now approved by PPB and Executive Board.

### o. Highway Schemes and Maintenance

Work is ongoing on the Sustainable Transport Enhancement Package (STEP) and Influencing Travel Behaviour (ITB) programmes, to include works to Widnes Town Centre access improvements and cycle links to Heath/Ineos.

These schemes aim to improve sustainable travel, such as cycling, walking and public transport, to and from key sites in and around the borough, including places of work and education. Physical improvements to routes, better lighting, signalled crossings, etc. are also included.

A Department for Transport (DfT) Challenge Fund bid to supplement the existing major maintenance funding was made via Merseytravel, the results of which are due in May 2017.

Securing this funding would enable the remaining outstanding steel arch elements to be painted during the planned closure of SJB that is due to be implemented from autumn 2017, following the Permit to Use (PTU) date of the Mersey Gateway.

### p. Policy and Development Services

An injunction against the residential use of the Gypsy site at Ponderosa in Daresbury was successfully obtained in the High Court in August 2016. The Council received notification on 6th April 2017 from the Court of Appeal that all attempts to challenge the August 2016 decision have been refused. However the Council's injunction remains stayed until Smith's challenge to the PINS decision of October 2016 (dismissing Smith's planning appeal) is heard by the High Court. No trial date has been set at present.

The Local Planning Authority (LPA) received notification from Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) on 16th December 2016 that it may be a 'county matter' and that the planning authority may be liable for designation under section 62A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (aka 'special measures'). County matters are primarily minerals and waste applications. HBC received

two such applications over the period of determination (past two years). On inspection of our records, one application was determined within the time period allowed.

This means that 50% of county matters applications were determined on time and Halton should not be liable for designation, meaning that performance on the speed and quality of its decisions on applications for major developments is within acceptable limits. This information has been sent to the DCLG for them to update their records and on the 13th March 2017, the DCLG confirmed that it would not be designating Halton under 'special measures' and that Halton's data corrections had been accepted by the DCLG.

The focus of planning work for the team remains the production of a draft Delivery and Allocations Local Plan (DALP) and supporting its evidence base. Member's Local Development Framework (LDF) Working Parties have been held to take Members through the key policy areas that the DALP will deal with, this includes future land allocations.

q. Traffic and Risk & Emergency Planning/Health & Safety

The LED street lighting conversion programme for this financial year (2016/17) was completed and will be continuing into future years. A programme to convert traffic signals to LED is underway as funds permit. Both of these initiatives will reduce energy and maintenance costs.

The coordination of the works for the Mersey Gateway to try and minimise the impact of the works on the travelling public is increasing. This is continuing to prove a challenge as works are underway at multiple sites throughout the Borough, in order to meet the completion date. The work around Ditton roundabout (where the roundabout is being replaced with a traffic signal controlled junction) and the closure of Watkinson Way between Ashley Way and the Silver Jubilee Bridge are the most challenging. Other sections are re-opening and this is helping to ease pressures on the Runcorn side of the project.

A scheme to train older drivers is underway. This allows older drivers to receive training free of charge to help them deal with the challenges of driving with changes made since they would have first passed their test. .

The Runcorn Site Control of Major Accident Hazards (COMAH) Operators Exercise was postponed in February 2017 due to Storm Doris but has now been rescheduled. The site in Runcorn has been reclassified as having six separate COMAH sites, with exercises now taking place on an annual basis.

### 3.0 Emerging Issues

3.1 A number of emerging issues have been identified during the period that will impact upon the work of the Directorate including:-

*Development & Investment Services*

a. External Funding

The service is currently experiencing a period of bids being rejected for reasons of excessive competition for funds; this combination of increased demand and high competition for funds necessitates an even more strategic approach to ensure the most appropriate and high quality bids are submitted and that productive relationships are forged with key funding bodies. It is increasingly important that we also engage at LCR region level as funders are often looking at partnership approaches to funding applications; engaging at this level also ensures that Halton gets access to its fair share of funding where appropriate. One example of this is we are currently working closely with Liverpool LEP in relation to visitor economy projects and funding streams.

The Team is focusing on ensuring all Halton BC colleagues are aware of the resources that can be provided in relation to securing funding. We continue to meet with management teams and have begun a programme of training which includes a bid-writing masterclass, a Meet the Funder session, training specifically targeted at Faith Organisations and training in evaluating projects. A full training programme for 2017 has been developed and 13 people attended the first Bid-writing Master Class in March.

#### *Open Spaces and Waste and Environmental Improvement*

##### b. Dog Controls Orders

By way of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 all Dog Control Orders are to be replaced with Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs) within 3 years of the Acts introduction. Officers are currently reviewing existing Dog Control Orders with a view to replacing them with PSPOs by October this year. As part of this exercise, Officers will be proposing that additional measures be covered by the new PSPOs to help deal more effectively with dog fouling and other forms of anti-social behaviour caused by irresponsible dog ownership. The proposals will include introducing greater controls in respect of:

- The exclusion of dogs from fenced off children's play areas
- Complying with a direction to put nuisance or dangerous dogs on a lead
- Requiring individuals to evidence that they have a suitable receptacle to pick up dog faeces whilst out walking a dog.
- Fouling

#### *Highways, Transportation & Logistics and Physical Environment*

##### c. Highway Development

The bid for A558 dualling feasibility work was unsuccessful. Further bids have been submitted for LGF 3 - schemes at Widnes Fiddlers Ferry Rd gyratory, Halton Lea and Gorsey Point (Bayer) and station access – applications currently being appraised.

Halton are working with Cheshire East and Cheshire West and Chester to produce a SUDS guide - this will need to go hand in hand with policy amendments as part of Land Allocations Plan  
The Environment Agency (EA) requires Preliminary Flood Risk assessment to be updated by June 2017 – guidance has now been received and work on a template replacement document commenced.

##### d. Mersey Gateway Highway Links

Discussions are ongoing with the Mersey Gateway Crossings Board over the Widnes approaches to SJB and re-configuration of the existing carriageway over the bridge deck.

##### e. Highway Schemes and Maintenance

A new Highways Maintenance Code of Practice was recently published at the end of Q2. Councils have 2 years to implement its recommendations, the most significant of which is a risk based approach to Highway Maintenance.

##### f. Policy and Development Services

#### Government Reform

Housing White Paper

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/housing-white-paper>

Paper has far reaching impacts, but these are too detailed and numerous to set out in this briefing. However reforms can be grouped into three strands:

- Plan properly so the right homes are built in the right places. (Perception that some LAs duck the difficult decisions and fail to produce plans that actually meet their housing need).
- Speeding up the rate of build-out. (Government recognises that country is not building fast enough)
- Diversify the housing market. (At present, around 60% of new homes are built by just 10 companies. Small independent builders can find it almost impossible to enter the market.)

As a flavour of the content of the paper, key changes include:

- a) Neighbourhood Planning Bill proposes to allow the Secretary of State to require local planning authorities to review local plans and other local development documents at prescribed intervals - Every 5 years.
- b) Statement of Common Ground between LAs on cross boundary issues like housing
- c) Consult on options for introducing a standardised approach to assessing housing requirements
- d) Ensure all authorities can dispose of land with the benefit of planning permission which they have granted to themselves. Gov will consult on extending LAs flexibility to dispose of land at less than best consideration

#### Other Reforms

The following government publications put forward other reforms:

- **The government publishes consultation (until 01/05/2017) relating to Build to Rent.** February 2017: Planning and Affordable Housing for Build to Rent - A consultation paper ([pdf](#)) ([link](#)).
- **DCLG publishes the “government response to consultation” with respect to starter homes regulations.** February 2017: Government response to the technical consultation on starter homes regulations ([pdf](#)) ([link](#)).
- **DCLG publishes the “government response to consultation” with respect to rural planning, along with a further consultation (until 02/05/2017) relating to agricultural PD rights.**
- **DCLG publishes the “government response to consultation” with respect to additional storeys in London.**
- **DCLG publishes the “government response to consultation” with respect to application fees, small sites register, local plans, testing competition, financial benefits, s106 dispute resolution, PD rights for schools, and statutory consultation.** February 2017: Summary of responses to the technical consultation on implementation of planning changes, consultation on upward extensions and Rural Planning Review Call for Evidence ([pdf](#)) ([link](#)).

Key changes include:

#### Fee Increase

Gov is bringing forward a package of measures in the Housing White Paper to address concerns about local authority resourcing, including a **20% increase in planning application fees in July 2017**. Alongside these measures, Gov will continue to engage with areas interested in reforming their planning service and committing to performance improvements, in return for greater fee flexibility."

#### Intervention in Local Plans

The PCPA 2004 ([link](#)) amended the TCPA 1990 to allow **the Secretary of State (SOS) to intervene in local plans**. For info, further amendments to this power were made by the Localism Act 2011 ([link](#)), and by the Housing and Planning Act 2016 ([link](#)). For example, the SOS:

*"may direct a local planning authority to review their existing plan, or to modify an emerging plan or submit the document for his approval". Furthermore, the SOS "may also arrange for a document to be prepared or revised for a local planning authority that is failing to do".*

In terms of the **criteria** for such an intervention, the "consultation" document proposed that the government will "**prioritise intervention**" where:

- "there is under delivery of housing in areas of high housing pressure".
- "the least progress in plan-making has been made".
- "plans have not been kept up-to-date".
- "intervention will have the greatest impact in accelerating local plan production".

#### **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 2016 – 17 Directorate Business Plans.

Progress concerning the implementation of all high-risk mitigation measures were reported in Quarter 2.

#### **5.0 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.

The Council's latest annual progress report in relation to the achievement of its equality objectives is published on the Council website and is available via:

[http://www3.halton.gov.uk/Pages/councildemocracy/pdfs/EandD/Equality\\_-\\_objectives\\_progress\\_report\\_-\\_April\\_2013.pdf](http://www3.halton.gov.uk/Pages/councildemocracy/pdfs/EandD/Equality_-_objectives_progress_report_-_April_2013.pdf)

## 6.0 Performance Overview

The following information provides a synopsis of progress for both milestones and performance indicators across the key business areas that have been identified by the Directorate.

### Policy, Planning and Transportation

#### Key Objectives / milestones

Ref	Milestones	Q4 Progress
PPT 01	Review progress against LCR SJB maintenance strategy and deliver 2016/17 major bridge maintenance works programme, <b>March 2017</b> .	
PPT 02	Adopt the Delivery and Site Allocations Local Plan (DALP) <b>March 2017</b> .	
PPT 03	To deliver the 2016/17 LTP Capital Programme <b>March 2017</b> .	
PPT 04	To manage the Flood Defence Grant in Aid (FDGiA) capital programme of scheme delivery, and preparation of funding bid for future years. <b>March 2017</b> .	

#### Supporting Commentary

##### PPT 01

The major maintenance works, principal inspections and other structural monitoring activities have been completed on SJB for Year 1.

##### PPT 02

Target taken from the adopted Local Development Scheme 2016. The DALP is available as an unpublished draft document with policies under preparation. A public consultation of the draft document is expected in early 2017.

##### PPT 03

Works completed on site for the two footbridge GRP re-decking schemes on East Lane, Runcorn.

The LTP Highway Capital programme consists of two main strands:

- Integrated Transport: STEP schemes are continuing to be developed for; Widnes Town centre connectivity; Runcorn town Centre to the Heath business park which is now at ECI and Runcorn East Station Car Park improvements. These projects are likely to commence from Q2 onwards in the New Year. The programme of bus accessibility improvements are continuing as is the improvements to the East/West bus priority routes along Liverpool road. We have successfully completed resurfacing and other minor improvement works at Liverpool Rd / Chestnut Lodge in Feb with further bus priority routes being developed to lead from Liverpool Road/Chestnut Lodge junction to Ditton Road along Hale Road.
- Highway Maintenance: The carriageway and footway programmes of resurfacing and reconstruction have been phased over the course of the year and delivery to the full budget allocation has been completed.

##### PPT 04

Difficulties throughout the year in recruiting to the Flood Risk Engineer post, have had an effect on the delivery of the Flood Defence Grant in Aid (FDGiA) programme. EA have been informed and a strategy

agreed for reprofiling funding over future years. A successful appointment has now been made with the post holder due to commence work in April 17.

### Key Performance Indicators

Ref	Measure	15 / 16 Actual	16 / 17 Target	Q4 Actual	Q4 Progress	Direction of travel
PPT LI 02	Net additional homes provided.	471 (2015/16)	552	N / A	N / A	N / A
PPT LI 03	Number of affordable homes delivered (gross).	146 (2015/16)	138	N / A	N / A	N / A
PPT LI 04	Processing of planning applications (%) as measured against targets for, a) 'major' applications b) 'minor' applications c) 'other' applications	100.00% 70.00% 86.00%	60.00% 80.00% 80.00%	77.8% 88.9% 100%	  	  
PPT LI 08	No. of people killed or seriously injured (KSI) in road traffic collisions. (5 Year Av.) .	38.60 (2015)	46.00 (2016)	41.2		
PPT LI 09	No. of children (<16) killed or seriously injured (KSI) in road traffic collisions. (5 year Av.).	5.20 (2015)	6.20 (2016)	5.4		
PPT LI 11	The percentage change in number of people killed or seriously injured during the calendar year compared to the previous year. Figures are based on a 3 year rolling average, up to the current year.	-7.20% (2015)	-5.60% (2016)	-3.80%		
PPT LI 13	Damage to roads and pavements (above intervention levels) repaired within 24 hours.	100.00%	98.00%	100%		
PPT LI 16	% of network where structural maintenance should be considered: a) Principal Roads b) Non-Principal Roads c) Unclassified R pads d)	1.00% 2.00% 2.00%	2.00% 4.00% 9.00%	1.00% 1.00% 3.00%	  	  

Ref	Measure	15 / 16 Actual	16 / 17 Target	Q4 Actual	Q4 Progress	Direction of travel
PPT LI 17	Bus service punctuality, Part 1: The proportion of non-frequent scheduled services on time (%):					
	a) Percentage of buses starting route on time	94.88%	98.50%	96.22%		
	b) Percentage of buses on time at intermediate timing points	90.07%	94.50%	86.52%		
PPT LI 20	% of bus stops with Quality Corridor accessibility features. (No. of stops – 603).	70.00% (422 Bus Stops)	75.00% (452 Bus Stops)	73% (434 Bus stops)		

### Supporting Commentary

#### PPT LI 02 & 03

Reported annually in Q1 for the previous year.

#### PPT LI 04

There has been an issue with late responses from statutory consultees and applicants not submitting the correct supporting documents on time.

#### PPT LI 08

Another small fall in casualty numbers

#### PPT LI 09 & 11

After a small rise, casualty figures have fallen, although given such small numbers it is volatile.

#### PPT LI 13

Figures confirmed via monthly KPI results from Contractor.

#### PPT LI 16

In line with the Highways Asset Management Plan consideration needs to be given to further overall long term investment and highway condition.

#### PPT LI 17a & b

- This indicator continues to perform well with services departing the terminus on time. It has improved significantly on last year.
- This indicator is down on last year which operators report to be due to road works both in the Borough and in neighbouring authorities. Operators continue to monitor services to make adjustments to improve reliability.

#### PPT LI 20

Figure is slightly down on the expected target due to the construction of 2 new accessible bus stops at Wren Close following a request from passengers which meant funding used for converting bus stops was novated to accommodate the request.

## Open Spaces and Waste and Environmental Improvement

### Key Objectives / milestones

Ref	Milestones	Q4 Progress
CE 05	Woodland Expansion - Additional 200m2 of Woodland planted Borough wide - <b>March 2017</b> .	
CE 06	Continue to deliver communications and awareness raising initiatives to ensure that participation with the Council's recycling services is maximised and that residents comply with the requirements of the Council's Household Waste Collection policy - <b>March 2017</b> .	
CE 07	Continue to review and assess the effectiveness of the Council's Environmental Enforcement Plans and Policies and maintain actions to ensure that the Council continues to effectively prevent and tackle a range of waste and environmental offences - <b>March 2017</b> .	

### Supporting Commentary

#### CE 05

An additional woodland area exceeding 200m2 was planted at Phoenix Park in Q4.

#### CE 06

Actions to achieve this milestone have been on-going throughout the year. Initiatives have included holding a number of community events to engage residents in raising awareness of recycling and waste prevention, and directly mailing households in areas where residents have failed to comply with the Council's waste collection procedures. A number of participation surveys and 'door knocking' exercises have been undertaken to engage with residents in areas where poor take-up of recycling services was evident.

#### CE 07

A review of the Council's arrangements for reducing incidents of fly-tipping, litter and dog fouling, and the subsequent issuing of Fixed Penalty Notices for such offences, continued throughout the year. A number of initiatives were carried out to help achieve this overall objective which has included themed targeted campaigns. A new initiative was also introduced which saw Council Officers and Police Officers carrying out joint enforcement patrols to tackle a range of environmental offences.

### Key Performance Indicators

Ref	Measure	15 / 16 Actual	16 / 17 Target	Q4 Actual	Q4 Progress	Direction of travel
CE LI 09	Residual household waste per household.	578 Kgs	593 Kgs	591 Kgs		
CE LI 10	Household waste recycled and composted.	42.00%	42.00%	41.35%		
CE LI 11	Satisfaction with the standard of cleanliness and maintenance of parks and green spaces.	N / A (Survey was not undertaken in 2015/16)	92.00%	N / A	N / A	N / A

Ref	Measure	15 / 16 Actual	16 / 17 Target	Q4 Actual	Q4 Progress	Direction of travel
CE LI 12	Improved Local Biodiversity – Active Management of Local Sites.	50.94%	56.00%	30.77%		

### Supporting Commentary

#### CE LI 09 & 10

This is an estimated figure as end of year waste data was not available at the time of writing this report. Although marginally, estimated performance shows that this target may not be achieved. Estimated performance appears in line with 2015/16 performance, however, only once verified data is available can it be certain whether the target will be met and how performance compares to 2015/16.

#### CE LI 11

Question to go in next Halton 2000 survey.

#### CE LI 12

The overall score for the period 2015 – 16 for all Local Wildlife Sites in positive management is 30.77. Over the last few years however that the score is being heavily influenced by those sites outside of council ownership and therefore we cannot influence them. Therefore we now also count the HBC owned sites and the non HBC owned sites separately. The score for HBC owned sites is 61.54 and the non HBC owned sites is zero as we have received no feedback from the owners. Some of the privately owned sites may be in positive management but I have no evidence to prove that they are.

### Development and Investment Services

#### Key Objectives / milestones

Ref	Milestones	Q4 Progress
EEP 01a	Commence development of Beyer Site by - <b>March 2017</b> .	
EEP 01b	Complete Asset Review by – <b>June 2016</b> .	
EEP 01c	Complete Widnes Market Hall refurbishment by - <b>March 2017</b> .	
EEP 01d	Complete Phase 1 of Fairfield Primary by - <b>March 2017</b> .	
EEP 01e	Start Term Contracts by – <b>June 2016</b> .	
EEP 03a	Refresh Markets Business Plan <b>by September 2016</b>	
EEP 03b	Establish Service Level Agreement with third sector regarding external funding provision by June 2016	
EEP 03c	Develop a charging policy for business and funding support <b>by September 2016</b>	
EEP 03d	Completion of Tech Space Development (SciTech Daresbury) <b>by September 2016</b>	
EEP 03e	Complete site preparation Eastern Plots (SciTech Daresbury) <b>by September 2016</b>	

## Supporting Commentary

### EEP 01a

Site investigation work commenced in January 2017. The Development Agreement with Marshall's has been signed.

### EEP 01b

Asset Review is complete. Preparing report for Executive Board to seek agreement to asset disposals plan.

### EEP 01c

Roofing work has now been reissued for pricing, returns due back in April, refurbishment works therefore delayed.

### EEP 01d

Phase 1 complete, phase 2 ongoing, due for completion in June 2017

### EEP 01e

Complete and contractors appointed.

### EEP 03a

Market business plan was updated in June 2016 and is due to be updated April 2018

### EEP 03b

Initial discussions have been held with 3rd Sector representatives. However, it has proved to be difficult to arrive at a consensus position

### EEP 03c

A detailed 'Review of Options for Charging Policy and Income Generation' was completed in December 2016. The options contained within that report have been evaluated and a more concise list of potential options are being developed

### EEP 03d

The building is now complete and being marketed to companies.

### EEP 03e

The Joint Venture has agreed to tender the site preparation works as opposed to extending the existing contract.

## Key Performance Indicators

Ref	Measure	15 / 16 Actual	16 / 17 Target	Q4 Actual	Q4 Progress	Direction of travel
EEP LI 01	Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions indicator (Tonnes CO2E).	21,124 tonnes CO2e (actual 14/15)	19,675 tonnes CO2e	19,874 tonnes CO2e (actual 15/16)	N / A	N / A
EEP LI 02	Occupancy of HBC industrial Units.	TBC	90.00%	88%		N / A
EEP LI 03	Occupancy of Widnes Market Hall.	TBC	95.00%	84%		N / A

Ref	Measure	15 / 16 Actual	16 / 17 Target	Q4 Actual	Q4 Progress	Direction of travel
EEP LI 14	Number of inward investment enquiries per annum.	174	250	221		
EEP LI 15	Inward investment enquiry conversion rate per annum (%).	N / A	10%	9%		N / A
EEP LI 16	Land developed for regeneration / housing (acres).	19	10	10		
EEP LI 17	Land prepared for regeneration (acres).	30	30	17		
EEP LI 18	Number of funding enquiries per annum.	94	60	132		
EEP LI 19	% of successful funding bids.	80%	70%	58.8%		

### Supporting Commentary

#### EEP LI 01

The figures are only produced on an annual basis. The figures for 2015/16 show an overall decrease in emissions of 5.9% since 2014/15 and are 4.9% below the target for the year. The overall emissions of 19,874 tonnes is broken down into the following five categories:-

School Buildings 7730t, Corporate buildings 5781t, Unmetered supply 4637t, Fleet Transport 1370t, Business Mileage 356t. There was a reduction in emissions across all areas other than fleet transport which saw a 15.7% increase. Street Lighting had the largest annual reduction in the amount of 12%. The target for 2016/17 has now been revised to 19,675 tonnes CO2e The annual figure for this indicator is a year behind and therefore only reported in the following year.

#### EEP LI 02

The Council has now sold most of its industrial units. Only one remains, the 'Black Cat' units which are behind the former Moor Lane business centre.

#### EEP LI 03

This quarter 11 new trader applications have been considered resulting in 4 new traders. In addition 2 current businesses have expanded at the market. Two traders have left the market and one has downsized from two to one stall.

#### EEP LI 14

The cumulative inward investment enquiries total is 221 against a target of 250.

#### EEP LI 15

8 inward investment enquiries were 'converted' in Quarter 4. The cumulative conversions total is 9% against a target of 10%.

#### EEP LI 16

This comprises the Crosville Site Runcorn, and developments on the Widnes Waterfront at Johnson's Lane.

#### EEP LI 17

This comprises land at Murdishaw, Picow Farm Road 3MG and Venturefields - it excludes Gorse Point

#### EEP LI 18

The number of funding enquiries is higher than in previous years, totalling 132 for this financial year.

#### EEP LI 19

After a frustrating Q3, the total funding secured in Q4 is a much improved total of £757,323 bringing the annual total of funding secured to £8,106,968.

### Housing Strategy

#### **Key Performance Indicators**

Ref	Measure	15 / 16 Actual	16 / 17 Target	Q4 Actual	Q4 Progress	Direction of travel
CCC4	The % of households accepted as statutorily homeless who were accepted as statutorily homeless by Halton within the last 2 years.	0	0	0		
CCC5	Number of households living in Temporary Accommodation.	15	17	1		
CCC6	Households who considered themselves as homeless, who approached the LA housing advice service, and for whom housing advice casework intervention resolved their situation (the number divided by the number of thousand households in the Borough).	5.1	5.5	6.62		

#### **Supporting Commentary**

##### CCC 4

The Authority places strong emphasis upon homelessness prevention and achieving sustainable outcomes for clients.

This target is no longer collected, therefore, the Authority will cease reporting on this priority from Q1 2017/18. Additional priority targets will be added to reflect the true picture of homelessness within the Borough.

##### CCC 5

National and Local trends indicate a gradual increase in homelessness, which will impact upon future service provision, including temporary accommodation placements. The changes in the TA process and amended accommodation provider contracts, including the mainstay assessment, have had a positive impact upon the level of placements and positive move on process.

The Housing Solutions Team is community focused and promote a proactive approach to preventing homelessness. There are established prevention measures in place which are fully utilised by the Housing Solutions team to ensure vulnerable clients are fully aware of the services and options available.

The emphasis is focused on early intervention and empowerment to promote independent living and lifestyle change.

CCC 6

The Housing Solutions Team promotes a community focused service, with emphasis placed upon homeless prevention. The officers now have a range of resources and options that are offered to vulnerable clients threatened with homelessness. The team strives to improve service provision across the district. Due to the early intervention and proactive approach, the officers have continued to successfully reduce homelessness within the district.

## 7.0 Financial Statement

The Council's 2016/17 year-end accounts are currently being finalised. The year-end position for each Department will therefore be made available via the Intranet by 30th June 2017.

## 8.0 Application of Symbols

Symbols are used in the following manner:

### Progress Symbols

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Objective</u>	<u>Performance Indicator</u>
Green 	Indicates that the <u>objective is on course to be achieved</u> within the appropriate timeframe.	<i>Indicates that the annual target <u>is on course to be achieved.</u></i>
Amber 	Indicates that it is <u>uncertain or too early to say at this stage</u> whether the milestone/objective will be achieved within the appropriate timeframe.	<i>Indicates that it is <u>uncertain or too early to say at this stage</u> whether the annual target is on course to be achieved</i>
Red 	Indicates that it is <u>highly likely or certain</u> that the objective will not be achieved within the appropriate timeframe.	<i>Indicates that the target <u>will not be achieved</u> unless there is an intervention or remedial action taken.</i>

### Direction of Travel Indicator

Green 	Indicates that performance <b>is better</b> as compared to the same period last year.
Amber 	Indicates that performance <b>is the same</b> as compared to the same period last year.
Red 	Indicates that performance <b>is worse</b> as compared to the same period last year.
N / A 	Indicates that the measure cannot be compared to the same period last year.