

REPORT TO: Employment, Learning & Skills and
Community PPB

DATE: 19th February 2018

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community &
Resources

PORTFOLIO: Employment Learning & Skills and
Community

SUBJECT: Economic Assessment and Halton
Tomorrow

WARDS: Borough Wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 Update Members on progress with Halton Tomorrow, in line with future trends and economic forecast models.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the Policy and Performance Board receive and comment upon the update.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 We are in the process of producing a more in-depth assessment to provide an evidence base for 'Halton Tomorrow'. Halton Tomorrow is a vision for how Halton's economy will look in the future and will set out future challenges and how the borough might respond to these challenges. The assessment is based on information specific to Halton and we have analysed new data that has not been analysed previously. We propose to make a presentation on 19th February 2018 highlighting the following:

1. **The Economic Overview.** An assessment of the major factors that are driving the Halton economy (macro-economic factors) and will set out the impact of these in the local context. External shocks are the most significant uncontrolled factor impacting upon the economy. Key themes include, Employment and Jobs, Skills, Population, Land and Infrastructure concluding in future prospects for Halton.
2. **Enterprise and Jobs.** We have analysed patterns of change in the labour market over recent years and assessed future demand for skills and provision of employment. This provides and understanding how to direct and allocate resources in order to increase the number (and quality) of jobs in the Halton and

increase the number of self-employed – both factors in driving competitiveness and a strong economy.

3. **The Resident Population.** We have analysed the population of Halton, the Liverpool City Region and the country assessing the changes in demographics and gaining an understanding about how this will impact on service provision in coming years.
 4. **Skills.** An assessment has been completed comparing the skills demands from employers in Halton with the labour supply of the resident population. The focus on resident population is because this is where we want to target intervention to ensure that local people benefit from the opportunities in the future economy.
 5. **Land, infrastructure, and transport.** An assessment has been made about how well-suited the physical environment of Halton is to take advantage of the opportunities over the coming decades. This will include a comprehensive Premises study.
 6. **Future prospects, Halton Tomorrow.** The above five steps have been assessed to see what we need to put in place to meet the needs of Halton as we advance to the middle of the 21st Century. The key driver for this is ensuring that we have the appropriately skilled and trained workforce to meet these demands. The aim is to deliver a strong, sustainable and relevant economy for the local people of Halton.
- 3.2 The process for producing the report and proposed structure is as follows:
1. Produce a final report by 31st March 2018
 2. Produce a key issues paper by 31st March 2018
 3. Produce a vision for Halton Tomorrow, together with aims and objectives for the economy of Halton.
 4. Final verification with a view to action planning and implementation from April 2018 onwards.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There are no policy implications associated with this report.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

There are no implications associated with this report.

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

The Economic Assessment and Halton Tomorrow will assist in providing job opportunities for local people and address future employment and skills needs in Halton. It will look at new employment opportunities and self-employment as a route into a sustainable and secure future for residents.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

There are no implications associated with this report.

6.4 A Safer Halton

There are no implications associated with this report.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

The analysis of future forecast trends may lead to recommendations for improvement particularly with business premises and infrastructure.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

In line with an orange book assessment there is no likelihood or impact of this work beyond the team performing the task.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

There are no equality or diversity issues.

9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

| Document | Place of Inspection | Contact Officer |
|--|--|------------------------|
| Economic Profile | Research and Intelligence Team, 7th Floor Municipal Building | Richard Parr |
| UK Industrial Strategy | Regeneration Team, 5 th Floor Municipal Building | Paul Corner |
| Liverpool City Region Skills for Growth Priorities | Regeneration Team, 5 th Floor Municipal Building | Paul Corner |