

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

DATE: 19th February 2018

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Enterprise, Communities
and Resources

PORTFOLIO: Economic Development

SUBJECT: Scrutiny Topic Group Items 2018/19

WARD(S) Borough-wide

1.0 **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to propose the establishment of a topic group for Members to work on during 2018/2019.

2.0 **RECOMMENDATION: That:**

- i) Members agree to the establishment of a topic group.
- ii) Members nominate representatives of the PPB to sit on the Topic Group;
- iii) Interim reports are presented to the ELS and Community PPB, no later than September 2018

3.0 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 Each year the PPB identifies a Scrutiny Topic that has the potential to inform and or change service delivery and may result in an amendment or improvement of a Council policy. Given reduced resources it is only possible to choose one topic area.

3.2 Three suggestions are proposed, but Members may also wish to consider other topics that are not contained in this report.

3.3 “**Creating Better Jobs**” The starting point for this topic is an acknowledgment that a significant number of new jobs have been created in the borough over the last five years. This has led to a gradual reduction in the number of people seeking work. However, if the economy is to grow and thrive in the future, then there needs to be a drive towards the creation of better paid, quality jobs.

3.4 ‘**The Impact of Soft or Hard Brexit’ on Halton.** Research and data are starting to emerge in respect of the possible impact of Brexit on the UK economy. This topic group would consider how the impact

will be different depending upon the type of business, its ownership and sector in which the business operates. This is a complex subject, and, at the time of writing a detailed impact analysis nationally is not available.

A third topic “***promoting employment and opportunity in the Healthy New Town***” This could look specifically at how the implementation of a Masterplan for the Healthy New Town at Halton Lea should be used to further promote and enhance job opportunities for local people.

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 There are no further policy implications at this stage.

5.0 **OTHER/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

6.0 **IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL’S PRIORITIES**

6.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

6.2 **Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

There are a number of implications for this priority, although the Topic Groups will consider the implications in more detail.

However, by promoting a more efficient and proactive client-led approach to Inward Investment, this should lead to greater levels of investment and jobs in Halton.

6.3 **A Healthy Halton**

N/A

6.4 **A Safer Halton**

N/A

6.5 **Halton’s Urban Renewal**

N/A

7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 There are no risks identified. However, in preparing for this Scrutiny Topic, the following key questions will be applied to ensure that Member and Officer time is used effectively.

1. Have we chosen the right topic?

2. What are we looking at?
3. Why are we looking at this topic?
4. What do we hope to achieve?
5. Is the topic geared towards Halton's top priorities?

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

There are no background papers under the meaning of the Act.