

REPORRT TO: Business Efficiency Board

DATE: 7 January 2009

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director – Corporate and Policy

SUBJECT: Comprehensive Area Assessment – Update

WARDS: Borough-Wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The purpose of the report is to update Members of the Board on matters relating to the Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA).

2.0 RECOMMENDED: That the report be noted.

3.0 BACKGROUND

3.1 The Board recently received a presentation from the Council's external audit team on the arrangements for the forthcoming CAA.

3.2 CAA looks at how well local services are working together to improve the quality of life for local people. It will make independent information available to people about their local services, helping them make informed choices and influence decisions.

3.3 CAA is to be introduced in April 2009 with first reports to be published in November 2009. There are a number of trials taking place across the country at present.

3.4 Whilst the final CAA assessment framework is still being worked on by the Audit Commission, matters are starting to become clearer around how results will be presented and, therefore, some of the potential implications for the area, the Council and its partners. The Strategic Director – Corporate and Policy will present an update report to the Board at the meeting.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no direct policy implications associated with the report however future CAA reports may have influence on overall Council policy and priorities.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

5.1 None

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

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

7.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

7.1 Children and Young People in Halton

The assessment will look at all services and how the Council and its partners work together to deliver first class services to local people.

7.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

The assessment will look at all services and how the Council and its partners work together to deliver first class services to local people.

7.3 A Healthy Halton

The assessment will look at all services and how the Council and its partners work together to deliver first class services to local people.

7.4 A Safer Halton

The assessment will look at all services and how the Council and its partners work together to deliver first class services to local people.

7.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

The assessment will look at all services and how the Council and its partners work together to deliver first class services to local people.

8.0 RISK ANALYSIS

8.1 There are no direct risks associated with this report. Although clearly the Council's reputation and perceptions of the area could be affected by any future judgements.

9.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

- 9.1 Equality and diversity issues will be key components of the CAA process. The Council and its partners will need to demonstrate that they are actively considered in policy making and resource allocation processes.