

REPORT TO: Business Efficiency Board

DATE: 7 January 2009

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director – Corporate and Policy

SUBJECT: Efficiency Programme - 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 development and implementation of the Council's Efficiency Programme.

2.0 RECOMMENDED: That the report be noted and regular update reports be brought to this Board.

3.0 BACKGROUND

3.1 The Executive Board at its meeting on 20th November 2008 made the following decision in relation to the Efficiency Programme –

“That

- approval be given to develop an efficiency programme based the elements outlined in paragraph 3.2 of the report;
- the Strategic Director – Corporate and Policy, in consultation with the Corporate Services Portfolio Holder, be authorised to extend the contract arrangements with KPMG, to support the Programme Office in delivering the programme with the final arrangements being reported back to this (*the Executive*) Board;
- the Strategic Director – Corporate and Policy, in consultation with the Corporate Services Portfolio Holder, be authorised to draw up a Staffing Protocol to outline the options available to staff throughout the process; and
- the detailed delivery programme be brought to this Board for approval with regular progress reports being submitted to the Business Efficiency Board.”

3.2 Preparatory work has been taking place to ensure that delivery of the programme commences in the New Year. This is important to ensure that initial savings for the programme are realised in 2009/10 and that substantial savings are realised in 2010/11 and beyond. The Executive

Board requires that regular progress reports are made to the Business Efficiency Board.

- 3.3 At the time of writing this report the final detail of the programme and its governance arrangements was being completed. The Strategic Director – Corporate and Policy will make a presentation to the Board outlining those arrangements and the Board’s role.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The council’s Medium Term Financial Strategy shows the need to achieve significant cashable efficiency savings over the next three years. The Efficiency Programme will be key to achieving these in a way that both protects and enhances frontline services.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Close liaison with staff and trade unions will be vital as the programme is developed and implemented.

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 Efficiency Programme will be directed at ensuring the Council delivers on its priorities and protects frontline services.

7.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

The Efficiency Programme will be directed at ensuring the Council delivers on its priorities and protects frontline services.

7.3 A Healthy Halton

The Efficiency Programme will be directed at ensuring the Council delivers on its priorities and protects frontline services.

7.4 A Safer Halton

The Efficiency Programme will be directed at ensuring the Council delivers on its priorities and protects frontline services.

7.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

The Efficiency Programme will be directed at ensuring the Council delivers on its priorities and protects frontline services.

8.0 RISK ANALYSIS

- 8.1 There is a risk if the Council does not deliver an effective Efficiency Programme that in order to balance its budget that it will have to make cuts in frontline services. There is also a risk that any investment the Council makes in developing and delivering an Efficiency Programme does not result in sufficient savings being made. Careful programme and project management will be needed to ensure that does not happen.

9.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

- 9.1 Equality impact assessments will be required and undertaken in relation to each of the work streams to measure any potential impact on all groups within Halton's community.