



Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board

**Wednesday, 20 September 2006 6.30 p.m.
Civic Suite, Town Hall, Runcorn**

Chief Executive

BOARD MEMBERSHIP

Councillor Ron Hignett (Chairman)	Labour
Councillor Dave Leadbetter (Vice-Chairman)	Labour
Councillor Ellen Cargill	Labour
Councillor Keith Morley	Labour
Councillor Christopher Rowe	Liberal Democrat
Councillor Paul Nolan	Labour
Councillor Dave Thompson	Labour
Councillor Tim Sly	Liberal Democrat
Councillor Pamela Wallace	Labour
Councillor Ian Whittaker	Conservative
Councillor Philip Worrall	Liberal Democrat

Please contact Caroline Halpin on 0151 471 7394 or e-mail caroline.halpin@halton.gov.uk for further information.

The next meeting of the Board is on Wednesday, 15 November 2006

**ITEMS TO BE DEALT WITH
IN THE PRESENCE OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Part I

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1. MINUTES	
2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS (INCLUDING PARTY WHIP DECLARATIONS)	
Members are reminded of their responsibility to declare any personal or personal and prejudicial interest which they have in any item of business on the agenda, no later than when that item is reached and (subject to certain exceptions in the Code of Conduct for Members) to leave the meeting prior to discussion and voting on the item.	
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In accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Act the Council is required to notify those attending meetings of the fire evacuation procedures. A copy has previously been circulated to Members and instructions are located in all rooms within the Civic block.

REPORT TO: Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 20 September 2006

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Corporate and Policy

SUBJECT: Public Question Time

WARD(s): Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To consider any questions submitted by the Public in accordance with Standing Order 33(5).
- 1.2 Details of any questions received will be circulated at the meeting.

2.0 RECOMMENDED: That any questions received be dealt with.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 Standing Order 34(11) states that Public Questions shall be dealt with as follows: -
- (i) A total of 30 minutes will be allocated for members of the public who are residents of the Borough, to ask questions at meetings of the Policy and Performance Boards.
 - (ii) Members of the public can ask questions on any matter relating to the agenda.
 - (iii) Members of the public can ask questions. Written notice of questions must be submitted by 4.00 pm on the day prior to the meeting. At any meeting no person/organisation may submit more than one question.
 - (iv) One supplementary question (relating to the original question) may be asked by the questioner, which may or may not be answered at the meeting.
 - (v) The Chair or proper officer may reject a question if it:-
 - Is not about a matter for which the local authority has a responsibility or which affects the Borough;
 - Is defamatory, frivolous, offensive, abusive or racist;
 - Is substantially the same as a question which has been put at a meeting of the Council in the past six months; or
 - Requires the disclosure of confidential or exempt information.

- (vi) In the interests of natural justice, public questions cannot relate to a planning or licensing application or to any matter, which is not dealt with in the public part of a meeting.
- (vii) The Chairperson will ask for people to indicate that they wish to ask a question.
- (viii) **PLEASE NOTE** that the maximum amount of time each questioner will be allowed is 3 minutes.
- (ix) If you do not receive a response at the meeting, a Council Officer will ask for your name and address and make sure that you receive a written response.

Please bare in mind that public question time lasts for a maximum of 30 minutes. To help in making the most of this opportunity to speak:-

- Please keep questions as concise as possible.
- Please do not repeat or make statements on earlier questions as this reduces the time available for other issues to be raised.
- Please note that public question time is not intended for debate – issues raised will be responded to either at the meeting or in writing at a later date.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

None.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

None.

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

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

REPORT TO: Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board
DATE: 20 September 2006
REPORTING OFFICER: Chief Executive
SUBJECT: Executive Board Minutes
WARD(s): Boroughwide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The Minutes relating to the Urban Renewal Portfolio which have been considered by the Executive Board, Executive Board Sub and Executive Board (Transmodal Implementation) Sub Board are attached at Appendix 1 for information.
- 1.2 The Minutes are submitted to inform the Policy and Performance Board of decisions taken in their area.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the Minutes be noted.

3.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 None.

4.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 None.

5.0 RISK ANALYSIS

- 5.1 None.

6.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

- 6.1 None.

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

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

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APPENDIX 1

Extract of Executive Board and Executive Board Sub Committee Minutes Relevant to the Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 8 June 2006

PLANNING, TRANSPORTATION, REGENERATION AND RENEWAL PORTFOLIO

EXB5 NORTH WEST REGIONAL SPATIAL STRATEGY (RSS) UPDATE

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director - Environment providing an update on the current progress on the Submitted Draft Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS).

Due to the new status of RSS as part of the “development plan”, as set out in the new Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, the issues arising in the new RSS were of significant importance to Halton Borough Council and the production of the new Halton Borough Council Local Development Framework (LDF). The RSS would also be used together with the adopted Unitary Development Plan (UDP) in the determination of planning applications. Decisions would now have to be made in accordance with the UDP and the RSS, unless other material considerations indicated otherwise.

The Draft RSS took on board many of the comments made by Halton and the Merseyside Policy unit (MPU). However, there remained a number of areas where further comments would be required as outlined within the report.

Halton had, as normal, prepared an individual response to the Draft RSS and had contributed to the joint Merseyside response. Both these responses would be submitted to Government Office North West (GONW). The Halton response was approved by Executive powers and the Merseyside response was approved by the Merseyside Chief Executives and Leaders Group.

Following the current consultation, the RSS would be taken to an Examination in Public. This was expected to open during the week commencing 31st October 2006. The resulting Panel Report was expected to be published early 2007, with the proposed changes published in Spring 2007, before the RSS document was

finally adopted in approximately Autumn 2007.

RESOLVED: That both the Halton Borough Council response and the Merseyside response to the Draft RSS, as set out in Appendices 1 and 2 be endorsed.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 22nd JUNE 2006

PLANNING, TRANSPORTATION, REGENERATION AND RENEWAL PORTFOLIO

EXB18 DELIVERY REPORTS FOR THE FIRST LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN 2001/2 TO 2005/6

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Environment seeking approval to the Delivery Report of the first Local Transport Plan 2001/02 to 2005/06 (LTP1 DR) for submission to the Government. A copy of the latest draft of the Delivery Report had been circulated with the Agenda.

It was noted that Halton was required to produce a five year Delivery Report (DR) that would cover all five years of LTP1 as well as the previously unreported 2005/06 financial year. The final printed version of the DR had to be with the Department for Transport by 31st July 2006. The purpose of the DR was to compare delivery of transport infrastructure and initiatives with that originally set out in LTP1. Of particular importance was the difference that the plan had made in terms of the strategic priorities set out in the Borough's Corporate Plan.

The Board noted that the draft DR was very much a work in progress and was continually being updated as more information became available.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Delivery Report of the first Local Transport Plan be approved for submission to the Government; and
- (2) the Operational Director of Highways and Transportation be authorised, in consultation with the Executive Board Member for Planning, Transportation, Regeneration and Renewal, to agree amendments to the draft prior to submission to Government.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 20 JULY 2006

PLANNING, TRANSPORTATION, REGENERATION AND RENEWAL PORTFOLIO

EXB24 HALTON LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK: APPROVAL OF PUBLICATION OF CORE STRATEGY ISSUES AND OPTIONS PAPERS FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION

The Board considered a report which sought approval for the publication of the Halton Core Strategy Issues and Options papers for statutory public consultation.

It was noted that a new Planning Act had been introduced in September 2004 which had fundamentally changed the process for producing development plans and the content of them. The Local Development Framework (LDF) was the name given to the portfolio of spatial plans that would be produced under the new Act. It was reported that a number of statutory documents would make up the LDF, of which the Core Strategy was the first document to be produced.

Members were advised of the background work that had commenced and, subject to approval, the Issues and Options papers would be available for public consultation during late July, August and early September 2006. Copies of these reports had been circulated with the Agenda for consideration.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Issues and Options papers be approved for the purpose of statutory public consultation;
- (2) the precise details of public consultation be determined by the Operational Director – Environmental and Regulatory Services;
- (3) the comments received at the partnership consultation stage be noted;
- (4) further editorial and technical amendments that do not materially affect the content of the Issues and Options papers be agreed by the Operational Director – Environmental and Regulatory Services in consultation with the Executive Board Member for Planning, Transportation, Regeneration and Renewal if necessary, before the document is published for public consultation; and

- (5) the results of the statutory public consultation exercise on the Issues and Options papers be reported back to the Executive Board when later approval is sought for statutory public consultation on Preferred Options.

EXB25 HALTON BOROUGH COUNCIL (CASTLEFIELDS VILLAGE SQUARE, RUNCORN) COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER 2006

The Board received a report from the Strategic Director – Environment seeking approval to use Halton Borough Council's statutory powers of compulsory purchase to assist with the comprehensive land assembly needed to achieve the development of the Castlefields Village Square in Runcorn.

The report outlined the negative aspects of the current Castlefields Local Centre and advised the Board of the Castlefields Masterplan which set out the proposals for the establishment of the new Village Square in order to address the current problems. It was noted that the Masterplan envisaged the provision of a public space at the very heart of the Castlefields Estate, bringing together community services and an intersection of roads, paths and transport modes.

The Board considered the background information provided in relation to the following: -

- financial issues;
- details of the scheme;
- land required and negotiations to date;
- the need for the Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) to achieve the required land assembly;
- delivery and funding;
- policy implications;
- the compulsory purchase process;
- related orders; and
- human rights.

An update sheet listing amendments made to the CPO Schedule since the circulation of the Draft on 4th July 2006 was tabled at the meeting with the changes as follows:

- insertion of plot areas in square metres;
- addition of the Post Office as an occupier of the Newsagent, Connexions Greater Merseyside Partnership as an occupier of the Community Centre and Mr Octavio Chung as an occupier of the Take Away;
- addition of Liverpool Housing Trust (LHT) as a reputed owner

- of the Community Centre;
- insertion of new Plot 10, which was a footpath within ownership of English Partnerships (EP);
- insertion of the relevant details regarding who had the benefit of the interest listed in Table 2;
- change to the formatting of Table 3 (Interested Parties and Addresses for Service); and
- general correction of typos and errors.

In addition the tabled document outlined the changes that had been made to the Statement of Reasons since its circulation to Members on 4th July 2006 which were as follows:

- insertion of the relevant details to complete Sections 11 (The Planning Application) and 17 (Related Orders) of the Statement;
- completion of Section 2 (Table of Contents) to include reference to page numbers;
- completion and re-ordering of Section 21 (List of Documents). It was noted that the Statement had been read and the Council had endeavoured to list all of the main policy documents referred to therein;
- insertion of paragraph and section details, which were cross referred to in the text of the Statement; and
- general correction of typos, errors and text for both accuracy and sense.

The Board was informed that no substantive changes had been made to the text of the document.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Council makes a Compulsory Purchase Order under Section 226(1)(a) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004) for the acquisition of all interest in the land (the Order Land) shown edged red and coloured pink on the plan attached to the report in order to secure the comprehensive redevelopment of the site;
- (2) authority be given to the Strategic Director, Environment, in consultation with the Council Solicitor, to take all necessary steps to secure the making and confirmation of the Compulsory Purchase Order and for any other actions necessary to give effect to the land acquisition and the implementation, whether on a voluntary basis or otherwise;

- (3) the Strategic Director, Environment, be authorised to seek and obtain any highway stopping up and/or diversion orders related to the compulsory purchase order; and
- (4) the Strategic Director, Environment, in consultation with the Council Solicitor, be authorised to enter into an Agreement under which English Partnerships indemnify the Council in respect of all external expenditure concerned with the making and implementation of the Compulsory Purchase Order and any other actions necessary to implement the Castlefields Village Square proposal.

EXB26 TRANSPORT INNOVATION FUND BID

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Environment which sought approval for submission of a joint bid with the Merseyside authorities, for funds from the congestion element of the Transport Innovation Fund (TIF).

It was noted that the bid was to help assess the congestion in the area and the effectiveness of congestion management options, which would include road user pricing and improvements to public transport.

The four fundamental criteria for a TIF bid were outlined for the Board's consideration. It was believed that a joint bid would satisfy these requirements. Areas that the bid would focus on were described in the report.

Members were advised that the bid was likely to be in the sum of £550,000 over two years (2007/08 to 2008/09), to be matched by the Merseyside Authorities and Halton, with Halton's contributions being in the region of £90,000 funded from the Mersey Gateway preparation costs.

RESOLVED: That approval be given to a joint Transport Innovation Fund bid, with Merseyside authorities, to secure funding to assess the impact of congestion in the area and options for managing congestion.

EXECUTIVE BOARD SUB COMMITTEE MEETING ON 22 May 2006

PLANNING, TRANSPORTATION, REGENERATION AND RENEWAL PORTFOLIO

ES1 THE SELECTION OF CONSULTANTS TO UNDERTAKE A SCOPING STUDY FOR PUBLIC ART FEATURES WITHIN THE WIDNES WATERFRONT PROGRAMME AREA

As part of an on-going process of environmental uplifts within the Widnes Waterfront (EDZ) Programme area a major project had commenced to improve access to Widnes Wharh, 100 acres of saltmarsh on the north bank of the River Mersey. The Mersey Estuary was one of the most significant wet land habitats for migrating birds in Europe. The Council and its partners had, to date, improved the tow path along the Sankey Canal adjacent to Widnes Wharh and created a section of boardwalk to improve access to the wetlands.

Interpretation of the natural environment and industrial heritage of the area on the north bank of the Mersey Estuary through a series of public art features was considered an important element of the on-going programme to improve visitor access to the Borough's wild spaces.

The Sub-Committee was advised on three dedicated public art consultants who were invited to quote to produce a preliminary study to consider:

- the suitability of the site;
- the scope for community involvement in the project;
- and
- potential funding mechanisms.

A panel consisting of the Widnes Waterfront Programme Manager, EDZ Programme Officer, Culture Services Manager, Arts Officer (Visual Arts), and Team Leader Business Support met to consider the three quotes submitted. The Panel decided that although Public Art was the highest quote at £2,500, they should be awarded the work because they had more relevant experience, were dedicating more human resources to the project, the experience of the individual project team was more relevant, and they were geographically close to the project.

RESOLVED: That permission be granted to appoint Public Arts.

EXECUTIVE BOARD SUB COMMITTEE ON 22 JUNE 2006

**PLANNING, TRANSPORTATION, REGENERATION AND
RENEWAL PORTFOLIO**

**ES 11 NWDA FUNDING WIDNES WATERFRONT ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT ZONE**

The Sub-Committee was advised that the NWDA had approved an investment of £5,597,792, subject to the legal agreement being signed, to aid the successful regeneration of the Widnes Waterfront Economic Development Zone. The funding agreement was for the period April 2006 to the end of March 2009 and would enable a number of important developments to be implemented within the EDZ.

Due to market failure, the NWDA funding was required to support agreed projects within the Widnes Waterfront Programme Area. It would also support some ERDF Funded Projects, which also had a time-restricted nature. It was imperative that the NWDA Funding was made available as soon as possible.

A performance plan would be produced each financial year by the EDZ Team based on the NWDA requirements and format. It would review progress from the previous year, outline planned expenditure for the coming year and stipulate how the scheme would be delivered. This plan would be presented to the Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board and the NWDA prior to implementation.

The key points arising out of the funding agreement were drawn to the Sub-Committee's attention, including the risk of the Council having to repay the funding in the event of any breach of the terms of the funding agreement.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the terms of the NWDA and Widnes Waterfront Economic Development Zone (EDZ) Legal Agreement be approved;
- (2) authorisation be given to enter into individual developments agreements with third parties; and
- (3) the Strategic Director, Environment be authorised to take such actions that are necessary to give effect to the NWDA Funding Agreement and other such decisions as may be as required or authorised under the agreement.

ES 12 STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT - BUILDING INSPECTOR'S REPORT AND ADOPTION

A Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) aimed to develop continuous community involvement throughout the planning process in an effort to improve the quality of development on the ground and achieve a higher level of consensus. It was prepared as part of the requirements of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

On 22nd September 2005, the Executive Board approved the Statement of Community Involvement for further public consultation and submission to the Secretary of State.

On 27th October 2005, the Council undertook a six-week consultation on the submission draft of the Halton Statement of Community Involvement. On the same date, the document was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate. The comments received during the six-week consultation stage were recorded by the Council and forwarded to the Planning Inspectorate. On 25th May 2006, the Council received confirmation from the Planning Inspectorate that the submitted draft of the Statement of Community Involvement was deemed to meet the test of soundness, subject to a number of minor amendments, following the written representations examinations.

The Council's response to the Inspector's report was made available for public viewing on the internet and in paper format at deposit locations around the Borough. All the changes recommended by the Inspector were consistent with suggestions made by the Council in response to comments from consultees after submission for examination.

It was therefore recommended that the Council adopt and publish the Statement of Community Involvement incorporating those changes recommended by the Inspector.

RESOLVED: That the recommendations of the Inspector be accepted and the Sub-Committee resolve to recommend to the Council that it adopts the amended Statement of Community Involvement incorporating the changes required by the Inspector.

EXECUTIVE BOARD (TRANSMODAL IMPLEMENTATION) SUB BOARD ON 3 JULY 2006

PLANNING, TRANSPORTATION, REGENERATION AND RENEWAL PORTFOLIO

EXB1 LAND AT HALE ROAD

The Sub-Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Environment, regarding a parcel of land at Hale Road, Widnes which was currently due to go to auction on 7th July 2006.

Officers outlined proposals in respect of the acquisition of this piece of land together with information regarding its considered value. A recommendation was also put forward about other land that may become available within the Ditton Strategic Rail Freight Park Masterplan area.

The Sub-Board noted that the Council was required to make every effort to acquire land prior to instigating a Compulsory Purchase Order, which could be a lengthy process.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) approval be granted to the terms for the acquisition of the specified parcel of land at Hale Road, Widnes;
- (2) delegated authority be given to the Strategic Director – Environment, in consultation with the Strategic Director – Corporate and Policy and the Planning, Transportation, Regeneration and Renewal Portfolio Holder, to acquire similar land parcels within the Ditton Strategic Rail Freight Park Masterplan area as opportunities arise and in advance of the Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO); and
- (3) any future acquisitions carried out in accordance with (2) above be reported back the Executive (Transmodal Implementation) Sub-Board at the earliest opportunity.

(NB As this decision requires immediate action, it is excluded from the call-in procedure.)

REPORT TO: Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 20 September 2006

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director Health and Community

SUBJECT: Housing Update

WARDS: Boroughwide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 Responsibility for the scrutiny of the strategic housing function has transferred to this Board and as a prelude to its future work, this report seeks to inform the Board about the range of housing functions undertaken by the Council, to provide a summary of recent service developments, and to highlight some of the challenges ahead for the service.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: that the report be agreed.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Range of Functions

3.1 The transfer of the Council stock to Halton Housing Trust (HHT) in December 2005 was a significant event for the Council, marking the end of its role as a direct provider of social housing. However, the Council still retains a number of important statutory and non-statutory housing functions which the following list serves to illustrate -

- The periodic assessment of housing needs and housing conditions in the Borough.
- Development of the Housing Strategy to address the findings of those assessments.
- Working with social landlords and the Housing Corporation to secure appropriate new housing provision.
- Producing a housing allocations policy to prioritise nominations from the waiting list to social landlords (the nominations process is contracted to HHT).
- The provision of a housing advice service (contracted to HHT).
- The statutory homelessness function and development of the Homelessness Strategy (operational services contracted to HHT).

- The provision of financial assistance to improve private sector housing in poor condition.
- The provision of Disabled Facilities Grants and a supporting Care and Repair Agency.
- Taking enforcement action against private sector landlords and Housing Associations, and the licensing of Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs).
- Managing a Landlord Accreditation Scheme.
- Managing the permanent Gypsy site at Riverview.
- The licensing of residential caravan sites.
- Working with the Cheshire Home Energy Efficiency Advice Service to award grants and promote energy efficiency awareness.

Recent Service Developments

- 3.2 Although the time and resources invested in preparing for stock transfer was considerable, a number of service developments were nevertheless implemented over the last year.
- 3.3 Consultants were appointed to undertake a housing needs assessment and the final report has just been produced. A seminar is to be arranged to inform members of the results in detail, but the two headline findings were the emergence of an affordability issue for new households due to recent house price inflation, and the shortage of housing suitable for the rapidly ageing population profile.
- 3.4 The Homelessness Strategy action plan was reviewed and updated by the Homelessness Forum, and a number of new initiatives are now being developed, to be funded largely by Government grant. A protocol for the rehousing of vulnerable young people has been agreed with the 7 larger Housing Associations, which amongst other things should provide more housing choice for care leavers.
- 3.5 A common housing nominations agreement has also been agreed with the same Associations that should improve the role played by them in housing the homeless, and better enable the Council to monitor their performance in providing properties for nomination.
- 3.6 In June Executive Board approved the introduction of a Landlord Accreditation Scheme. With the help of NRF funding an officer was appointed to develop a scheme for Halton, who has been able to generate a reasonable degree of interest from landlords with property in

Halton. This will hopefully be a useful tool in driving up management standards and property conditions in this sector.

The Challenges Ahead

- 3.7 The future agenda for housing policy in Halton has a number of drivers, the most significant of which are Government policy on decent homes, choice based lettings and homelessness prevention, the Regional Housing Strategy, the changing housing market, and the Council's own aspirations to improve housing in the Borough to retain and attract population. The following paragraphs expand on these issues.
- 3.8 The Housing Act 2004 introduced the duty from April 2006 to license HMOs. This is being implemented and a charging policy for this function has been agreed. The Act also did away with the "fitness standard" which for several decades has been the test for the award of grant assistance and for enforcement action in the private sector. This has been replaced by the far more complex Housing Health and Safety Rating System. Consequently there is a need to review the Private Sector Housing Renewal Policy, which is underway.
- 3.9 The Government is shifting its focus from tackling non-decent homes in the social housing sector to non-decent housing in the private sector that is occupied by vulnerable households. This further emphasises the need to review the Renewal Policy and to refocus financial assistance on that priority.
- 3.10 The findings of the Needs Assessment will feed into the emerging Local Development Framework being developed to replace the Unitary Development Plan, pointing to the need to develop an affordable housing policy for the first time in Halton.
- 3.11 Efforts are being made to secure resources to develop a second Extra Care housing scheme for the elderly, in Widnes, but funding bids have so far been unsuccessful and there is also a shortage of development sites of appropriate size and location in Widnes.
- 3.12 The Government has expressed its expectation that by 2010 all authorities and Housing Associations should be operating choice based lettings schemes. Work has started to examine the potential options ranging from a Halton scheme to participation in a sub regional scheme. This development may have resource implications.
- 3.13 There is early anecdotal evidence that the supply of vacant property in the social housing sector is reducing, in part due to the unavoidable temporary effects of the Castlefields regeneration scheme, but probably more as a result of rising house prices restricting the flow of tenants to the owner occupied sector. This may result in longer waiting times for applicants seeking housing, and over the last six months there has already been an increase in the use of Bed and Breakfast to house the

homeless compared to recent years. This will have cost implications and may necessitate a review of the current allocations policy.

- 3.14 Government homelessness policy is emphasising the preventative approach utilising housing options techniques, rather than traditional service models based on reacting to homeless presentations. The Best Value Performance Indicators increasingly reflect this. The Council's homelessness service is carried out by HHT under contract, and moving to the preventative model of service may have cost implications. The options will be examined over the coming year.
- 3.15 Increasingly housing initiatives, policy and political lobbying are being progressed at the sub-regional and regional level, and Halton seeks to play a full role in the relevant fora. The challenge for Halton is to make the case for the modest resources it needs to achieve its own housing ambitions, whilst at the same time supporting the case for more resources for those authorities with significantly greater housing problems than Halton. The danger is that if the regional budget remains static, resources will be further concentrated in these areas of greater need at the expense of authorities like Halton.
- 3.16 Several of the above challenges have potential revenue and capital cost implications that will be difficult to overcome in the present financial climate. The Health PPB scrutiny project in 2004/05 on the impact of the Regional Housing Strategy (see Appendix) noted that the Council's housing capital allocation has been decreasing year on year due to the area not exhibiting the type or scale of problems that the Regional Housing Strategy prioritises. It will therefore be very difficult to meet some of the above challenges.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no policy implications arising from the contents of this report.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Not applicable.

6.0 RISK ANALYSIS

- 6.1 Not applicable.

7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

- 7.1 Not applicable.

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

Document

Place of Inspection

Contact Officer

Not applicable.

APPENDIX

REPORT TO: Health PPB

DATE: 14th June 2005

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director Health and Community

SUBJECT: Scrutiny Topic – The Regional Housing Strategy

WARD(S): Boroughwide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The Board selected the Regional Housing Strategy as an area for scrutiny during 2004/05. This has provided an opportunity to review the current and proposed priorities for housing investment in the North West, the extent to which they reflect Halton's problems, and the options available to the Council for seeking to influence reviews of the Strategy.

2.0 RECOMMENDED –

- 1) that the report be noted, and;**
- 2) that the Action Plan be endorsed.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 The terms of reference for the review were -
- to examine the priorities contained within the current Regional Housing Strategy to determine the extent to which they helped or hindered Halton's strategic housing ambitions, and
 - to determine the most appropriate mechanism for influencing future reviews of the strategy by the Regional Housing Board.
- 3.2 The topic group comprised Councillors Nelson, Horabin, Loftus and Fowler, assisted by the Housing Strategy Manager, and at the time of the first meeting of the group, the Regional Housing Board had just released a consultation paper as a start to the review of the 2003 NW Regional Housing Strategy.
- 3.3 As the period for consultation was relatively short it was decided that a presentation be made to members of both the Health and Safe and Attractive Neighbourhoods PPBs outlining Halton's draft housing strategy, and contrasting its priorities with those contained within the Regional Strategy. This took place on the 22nd February 2005 and was

considered necessary in order to inform members of the joint Merseyside response being prepared by the Merseyside Policy Unit, and to reflect member's views in Halton's own response, both of which had to be submitted by 4th March 2005.

- 3.4 This process inevitably overlapped with and overtook the scrutiny review and it was therefore agreed that instead of holding further scrutiny meetings, a report be prepared summarising the information presented to members on the 22nd February 2005, and advocating a mechanism for influencing future reviews of the NW Regional Strategy.

4.0 THE CURRENT REGIONAL PRIORITIES

- 4.1 The existing NW Strategy was introduced in July 2003 and has the following as its priorities for investment, in descending order of priority.

Priority 1.

Maximising the positive impact of the Market Renewal Pathfinders by continuing to direct mainstream housing capital investment in support of the additional Pathfinder resources as part of the overall package available to those areas. This will apply both to resources for local authorities and for investment via the Housing Corporation for housing associations.

Priority 2.

Supporting the prevention of market failure in other areas at risk from low demand. This investment will be focused on West Cumbria and Furness, Blackpool, Fleetwood and Morecambe.

Priority 3.

Investing to help provide additional affordable housing where the long-term balance of mixed communities is being undermined, as part of broader rural renaissance strategies. Available evidence suggests that this includes the Lake District and Yorkshire Dales National Parks and surrounding parts of South Lakeland, Eden and Allerdale; and other rural communities across the region.

Priority 4.

To invest in improving the condition of housing stock with a sustainable future, complementing other sources of funding, as part of broadly based regeneration strategies, and focusing on areas of concentrated unfitness and disrepair.

Priority 5.

Providing appropriate capital funding for specialist housing provision to meet clearly identified needs, in line with local strategic priorities.

- 4.2 In adopting these priorities the Regional Housing Board acknowledged that it did not have sufficient resources to tackle every housing problem in the North West and so made a conscious decision to focus

resources on what it considered to be the most fundamental problems where its investment could make a discernable difference.

- 4.3 Recognising that these priorities could lead to significant shifts in funding between authorities it introduced a temporary safety net to ensure that for the years 2004/05 and 2005/06, no authority would receive less than 70% of its 2003/04 capital allocation.
- 4.4 There is general agreement across NW authorities that the regional strategy does indeed identify the major problems in the NW housing market. However there is concern that the focus of resources on these priorities to the exclusion of all else will result in many authorities losing significant resources in future years, as their housing markets do not exhibit the extremes of imbalance focused upon by priorities 1, 2 and 3, which attract the lion's share of funding. This will result in the declining ability of these authorities to address the problems and priorities identified in their local housing strategies.
- 4.5 This is the case in Halton where there has been an 11% reduction in the basic capital allocation since 2003/04, although this has been temporarily supplemented by successful bids for top sliced funds to develop equity release loans for private sector improvement works.

5.0 THE PROPOSED REGIONAL PRIORITIES

- 5.1 The Regional Housing Board issued a new draft strategy for consultation on 29th March 2005 with a deadline for responses of 21st April 2005. The priorities contained within the document are broadly similar to those contained in the existing strategy, but there is emphasis throughout the document of developing links between it and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies, and the categorisation of authority areas into one of a number of housing market typologies in order to target priorities and resources spatially.
- 5.2 Halton is one of a sizeable number of authorities categorised as having a "balanced market" which, whilst not meaning that there are no housing problems, does imply that resources will be focussed in other areas where markets are more imbalanced.
- 5.3 The updated priorities are as follows.

Priority 1.1

To maximise the positive impact of the 4 Housing Market Renewal Pathfinders in their broader housing markets.

Priority 1.2

To maximise the positive impact of the emerging market restructuring work in West Cumbria and Furness.

Priority 1.3

To support cohesive strategic activity to tackle the inappropriate supply of housing in Blackpool and Morecambe currently acting as a drag on local economic regeneration.

Priority 1.4

To support cohesive strategic activity to prevent low demand and to tackle inappropriate supply in other areas at risk of market failure, applying and adapting lessons from the Pathfinders (Bolton, Tameside and Knowsley).

Priority 2.

To tackle the shortages of affordable housing in areas of the NW where demand for additional housing is high, and where this impacts adversely on social inclusion and the sustainable growth of local, sub-regional and regional economies.

Priority 3.

To improve the condition of housing stock with a sustainable future as part of broadly based regeneration strategies, particularly in areas of concentrated unfitness and disrepair.

Priority 4.1

To ensure that action under RHS Priorities 1-3 contributes to meeting the housing needs of the NW's diverse communities and individuals needing support.

Priority 4.2

To encourage and support specialist housing provision to meet community and individual needs via targeted action at a local level.

Priority 4.3

To carry out a review of the regional and sub-regional strategies and research, to establish how the evidence base can be built up and whether the Board should develop specialist strategies to sit alongside the RHS.

- 5.4 Under Priority 4 the Board recognises that the Strategy cannot address the support needs of every group in every community as they are as varied as the region itself. Instead it proposes to increase its knowledge base of gaps in provision by analysing the Supporting People strategies that Authorities have recently completed, and then to develop its thinking on the outcomes it wishes to achieve. Meantime agencies like the Housing Corporation will be charged with funding new schemes based on evidenced needs in local strategies.
- 5.5 However, the Board does acknowledge that there has been a significant increase in homelessness in recent years, and intends to make the prevention of homelessness a priority. It has undertaken to

produce a supplementary Regional Homelessness Strategy by the end of 2005.

- 5.6 It is expected that the final version of the strategy will make clear that resources will continue to be increasingly realigned with the priorities, probably via a phased process so that the impact of the loss of resources on some authorities will be cushioned, with the result that areas like Halton that are classified as “balanced markets” will receive a smaller share of the Regional Housing Budget over the next few years.

6.0 HALTON'S STRATEGY

- 6.1 Whilst the market in Halton does not exhibit the extremes of market failure or acute affordability problems that the regional strategy prioritises, there are nevertheless problems that do need attention and which require only modest resources in comparison to the Housing Market Pathfinders.
- 6.2 Although not yet finalised, Halton's strategy is likely to focus on the following priorities:

Improving Housing Conditions

- *Meeting the decent homes standard through transfer of the Council Stock to Halton Housing Trust, and investment in the private sector through equity release loans.*
- *Improving the very worst private sector housing through renovation grants for property that is unfit.*
- *Securing resources to implement the Castlefields Masterplan.*
- *Improving the energy efficiency of the stock through advice services, grants, and promotional activity.*
- *Assessing the need for intervention in the West Bank area through a Neighbourhood Renewal Assessment.*

Meeting Identified Housing Needs

- *Ensuring adequate land supply through the Unitary Development Plan to meet new housing requirements within the Regional Spatial Strategy.*
- *Securing resources to provide new supported housing, focussing on the needs of the homeless, older people, mental health clients and those with a physical and sensory disability.*

Improving Services

- *Developing the current Care and Repair scheme into a full Home improvement Agency and improving the Disabled Facility Grant process.*
- *Increased joint working with RSLs on anti social behaviour.*

- *Increasing capacity to deal with issues in the private rented sector in relation to enforcement and accreditation.*
- *Improving homelessness services in line with the action plan developed within the homelessness strategy.*
- *Gaining an increased understanding of whether or not housing provision meets the needs of the BME community.*

6.3 There is clearly a mismatch between regional priorities 1 and 2, and Halton's priorities. There are no signs of significant market failure on a scale that would be likely to attract investment from the Regional Housing Board. There is emerging anecdotal evidence that recent house price increases in the Borough have led to some affordability problems for first time buyers (which will be explored more fully as part of the Housing Needs survey later this year) but this is common to most authorities in the region.

6.4 There is, however, more linkage between the two sets of priorities when it comes to regional priorities 3 and 4. Priority 3 refers to outcomes such as -

- meeting the decent homes targets
- improving energy efficiency
- improving health through reductions in the incidence of damp, cold, overcrowded or insanitary accommodation

It also refers to developing new tools to tackle private sector improvement such as accreditation schemes and equity release loans, both of which are areas that Halton is developing. However it must also be borne in mind that, according to Halton's 2002 stock condition survey, levels of unfitness in the Borough are low by comparison to many other NW authorities and historically this has been one of the measures that fed into the formula by which resources were distributed.

6.5 Halton's ambition to improve supported housing provision for certain client groups would, on the face of it, align with regional priority 4. However the supporting text to the priority is less than clear about the Board's investment intentions. It talks about the need for the Board to better understand the distribution of needs, the drivers (in relation to increasing homelessness), and to meet needs wherever possible as part of actions planned under the first 3 priorities. As priority 4 is already the lowest ranking priority, this suggests that the level of resources to be devoted will be modest, and it may be some time before the Board's clear priorities emerge.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR HALTON

7.1 The 2005 Regional Housing Strategy is yet to be finalised, and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies are some way off yet, but based on the consultation draft the following outcomes are likely over the next few years.

- Increased emphasis and greater share of resources to tackle markets with extreme imbalance. None of Halton's neighbourhoods were identified in research undertaken by Birmingham University (CURS) as being at risk of failure.
- Pressure via the developing Regional Spatial Strategy for authorities neighbouring onto Housing Market Renewal Pathfinders to adopt planning restraint policies in respect of new housing starts so not to prejudice regeneration efforts. Halton will argue that its market is not closely related to that of Liverpool.
- Following representations made to the Regional Housing Board and the Housing Corporation, there is now a likelihood that Housing Corporation funding will continue to be made available for the 2006/08 period to meet the requirements of the Castlefields Masterplan, subject to a case for further investment being clearly demonstrated.
- Although involved in a number of initiatives that fit well with Priority 3, the fact that Halton's stock is in comparatively good condition in relative terms may result in a reduced share of the resources under this heading.
- Halton can clearly evidence a range of supported housing needs, but the Board's thinking around Priority 4 is not yet complete, and as the lowest priority the funds available are likely to be modest.

7.2 Although there is currently a lack of clarity about the process for distributing the Regional Housing Budget, it is clear from the above points that Halton will do well to maintain the current level of funding it enjoys. The likelihood is that annual resources will further decline which may impact on the Authority's ability to deliver on the plans set out in its Housing, Homelessness and Supporting People Strategies.

8.0 INFLUENCING THE REGIONAL STRATEGY

8.1 Sections 5, 6 and 7 above deal with the first term of reference for the scrutiny topic. This section deals with the second, which was "to determine the most appropriate mechanism for influencing future reviews of the strategy by the Regional Housing Board".

8.2 The consultation periods for establishing the 2003 Regional Strategy and the current review have been very short, to some extent driven by Government timetables, and for practical reasons officers have had to prepare responses with limited member involvement. Authorities' concerns about the inadequate timescales given for consultation have been conveyed to Government Office and it is to be hoped that the position improves in future years.

- 8.3 Assuming this will be the case it is intended that in future years responses to consultations on the NW Strategy will be considered by the Executive Board by taking into account the views of the appropriate PPBs prior to submission.
- 8.4 The other consideration is whether it is best to work in partnership with the other Merseyside Authorities in preparing sub-regional responses that have the endorsement of the Merseyside Leaders and Chief Executives Groups, and the Merseyside Housing Forum, or for Halton to submit its own responses, or a combination of the two.
- 8.5 Government policy documents increasingly advocate sub-regional working, particularly in relation to housing, and the North West now has a number of sub-regional groups representing Merseyside, Greater Manchester, Cheshire etc.
- 8.6 Authorities within these groupings now co-operate to produce sub-regional responses to major policy consultations that arguably carry more weight than individual authority responses, although the danger is that lack of agreement in some areas can lead to responses that are watered down in order to reach consensus.
- 8.7 Halton has increasingly been working within the Merseyside Partnership on sub-regional issues and, whilst acknowledging that the agenda does tend to be driven by City issues and the NewHeartlands Pathfinder, the concerns of outer authorities like Halton, Knowsley and St. Helens are included and properly reflected in sub-regional responses. Additionally the Merseyside Policy Unit provides an invaluable resource in the collection of views and drafting of responses.
- 8.8 There was a recent discussion within the Merseyside Housing Forum that if authorities are to truly work in partnership on a sub-regional basis, then authorities should refrain from submitting individual responses to consultation documents as this might be interpreted as undermining the sub regional position. It was decided that such a decision would have to be part of a wider debate within the Merseyside Partnership at some future date, as the principle would affect many other service areas in addition to housing.
- 8.9 It is therefore suggested that Halton continue to play its full role in contributing to the development of sub-regional responses, but reserves the right to also submit its own responses as deemed appropriate.

1.2 CONCLUSIONS

- 9.1 The review has highlighted that because Halton's housing market is considered to be "balanced" in relative terms, it is likely to lose resources in future years because of the Regional Housing Board's desire to focus on those areas suffering from extremely imbalanced

markets. This may impact on Halton’s ability to achieve the modest objectives set out in the Housing, Supporting People and Homelessness Strategies, and there is therefore a need to work ever closer with RSLs in the Borough to take maximum advantage of any funding opportunities that may arise.

- 9.2 The Appendix sets out a number of actions that can be, or have recently been, undertaken in an effort to influence the Regional Housing Strategy for the good of Halton which the Board is asked to endorse.

10.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 None.

11.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 If, as anticipated, funding reductions continue then this may impact on the delivery of new supported housing projects and/or the provision of renovation grants and energy efficiency initiatives.

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

<u>Document</u>	<u>Place of inspection</u>	<u>Contact Officer</u>
NW Regional Housing Strategy 2003	Grosvenor House	Housing Strategy Manager
Draft NW Regional Housing Strategy 2005	Grosvenor House	Housing Strategy Manager
Merseyside Sub-Regional Response to Consultation	Grosvenor House	Housing Strategy Manager
Draft Halton Housing Strategy	Grosvenor House	Housing Strategy Manager

ACTION PLAN

Issue	Suggested Action	Timescale
Halton is portrayed as a broadly balanced housing market.	Make representations to the Regional Housing Board (RHB) to stress Halton's uniqueness because of its New Town, and to highlight the imbalances within the market in terms of a high proportion of social rented housing, and high level of low value housing.	Such representations have already been made as part of a Halton response to the review of the 2005 Regional Strategy.
Halton is not perceived as an area with affordability problems.	Halton needs to establish through clearly evidenced research whether or not it has an affordability problem. This will be done as part of a housing needs study.	Financial provision has been made to undertake a housing needs study in 2005/06.
The need for continued support for Castlefields regeneration.	Need to lobby partners (EP, NWDA, Housing Corporation, Regional Housing Board) for continued support, and seek to ensure support is not constrained by priorities within Regional Strategy.	This is ongoing. Representations have already been made to the RHB through both the Halton and Merseyside responses to the consultation, and separate representation has been made to the Housing Corporation. Efforts are also being made to ensure EP and NWDA continue to prioritise the scheme within their funding programmes.

Issue	Suggested Action	Timescale
The draft Strategy is so vague about supported housing as to make it difficult to argue for anything other than further clarity about priorities and resources.	Make representations to RHB seeking more clarity about priorities in finalised strategy than appears in draft, and argue for resources for Merseyside and Halton.	The Merseyside and Halton responses have already argued for increased clarity, and the outcome of these is awaited in the finalised Strategy. The need for future action will be considered in the light of this.
Pressure to introduce planning restraint under the developing Regional Spatial Strategy so not to prejudice the regeneration ambitions of the Newheartlands Pathfinder.	Halton will work within the sub-regional planning and housing groups to argue the case against the need for planning restraint in Halton on the basis that Halton's market interacts very little with that of Liverpool, and would prejudice efforts to build to meet the needs of Halton residents. It will also do so in its own submissions under the RSS consultation.	Although development of the final RSS is a couple of years away, this process has already started through submissions in response to initial scoping consultation.

REPORT TO: Urban Renewal Policy & Performance Board

DATE: 20 September 2006

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Health & Community

SUBJECT: Housing Needs Survey Results

WARDS: Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Board of the key findings and recommendations of the Housing Needs Survey 2006.

2.0 RECOMMENDED: That

- (1) the Board note the findings of the Housing Needs Survey; and**
- (2) the date of the formal presentation to members outlined in 4.1 be noted.**

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Halton Housing Needs Survey was completed at the end of 2005 by housing consultants DCA Ltd. The purpose of the study was to undertake a comprehensive and robust housing market and needs assessment, to obtain high quality information about current and future housing needs at a local authority level. Government guidance recommends that local authorities complete housing needs assessments every 3 to 5 years.
- 3.2 The Survey took the form of a postal questionnaire sent to 11,576 households across the Borough and 300 face to face interviews conducted in the six most deprived wards in the Borough. A response rate of 17.5% was achieved which, although less than anticipated, was sufficient to produce statistically valid results down to ward level.
- 3.3 The research also incorporated a housing market survey utilising the Land Registry and Halifax House Price databases for the Borough and a telephone survey of local estate agents on the supply and cost of private rented housing. Also included was secondary data analysis drawing upon the 2001 Census, Housing Register data, the Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix, household and population projections and other national research.

4.0 KEY STUDY FINDINGS

- 4.1 The detailed results of the Housing Needs Survey will be disseminated to members at a formal presentation by the consultants to be held on 25th October 2006, details of which will be provided to members separately. However, for information, the most significant findings from the Survey are summarised below.
- 4.2 Halton has an ageing population. There is projected to be a 41% increase in the retired population by 2021. This is likely to impact upon the demand for supported housing, support services and adaptations.
- 4.3 There is an emerging affordability issue in the Borough caused by the relationship between local incomes and the realistic supply of entry level housing. The average price of a terraced dwelling has increased by 150% from 2000 to 2005, exceeding local income inflation by over 7 times. Consequently access to the market for first time buyers is very limited. The cheapest 2-bed terrace in the Borough requires a minimum income of £21,900 and 79% of concealed households (i.e. someone living within a household who wishes to move to their own accommodation and form a separate household) earn below £20,000. The Survey identified a need for 176 affordable housing units per annum, after allowing for current re-let supply.
- 4.4 Almost a third of households contain at least one person with a disability or limiting long-term illness. Over half of the people affected have a walking difficulty and 11% are wheelchair users. 12% of households containing someone with a disability or limiting long-term illness felt they needed care or support which is not currently provided.
- 4.5 85% of residents stated that their current home is adequate for their needs, although levels of adequacy are much lower in the social rented stock. 3% of households live in overcrowded conditions, which is in line with the national average. However, levels of overcrowding are higher in the social rented sector (5%). Halton has a small private rented sector (4% of total housing stock) with generally lower quality standards and to which access is restricted by price. Demand for the private rented sector is low.

5.0 STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS

The report recommends that:

- 5.1 There is a need for 176 new affordable housing units annually, which is some 53% of the current 330 annual housing requirement in the Unitary Development Plan (35% of the draft Regional Spatial Strategy's proposed 500 annual requirement). However, targets should be set based on what is sustainable and deliverable and it is recommended that the Authority adopt an affordable housing policy

containing a 25% target for new units to be developed as subsidised affordable housing, applied from the total of all suitable sites, subject to site viability. The target should be split equally between housing for rent and intermediate market housing provided that it is delivered at a cost below the cheapest entry level costs in the general market and that it would be available on a similar basis to subsequent purchasers.

- 5.2 A comprehensive delivery strategy to address future elderly housing and care needs across all tenures is developed.
- 5.3 A register of adapted property and disabled people needing accommodation be developed to facilitate best use of adapted stock and ensure that the needs of disabled households are adequately met and that disabled adaptations are promoted generally.
- 5.4 The Authority should improve the supply of smaller units to address future needs and preferences of increasingly smaller households.

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The Housing Needs Survey provides a robust evidence base, which will influence the future development and review of the Housing Strategy and development control policies.

7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 None arising from this report.

8. RISK ANALYSIS

- 8.1 Not applicable

9. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

- 9.1 The Housing Needs Survey provides evidence of inequalities for certain households, specifically concealed households who are unable to access open market housing and households living in generally poorer condition private rented housing. These issues should be taken into account in the development and review of housing related strategies in order to have a positive impact on social inclusion.

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

10.1	<i>Document</i>	<i>Available for inspection</i>	<i>Contact</i>
	Halton Housing Needs & Housing Strategy Market Assessment Survey Final Report 2006	Housing Strategy Grosvenor House Halton Lea	Joanne Sutton Ext. 4045

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REPORT TO: Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 20 September 2006

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director Health and Community

SUBJECT: Proposed Scrutiny Topic – Supported Housing

WARD(S): Boroughwide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform members of the Health Policy and Performance review of Supported Housing in Halton, initiated in 2005.
- 1.2 To secure agreement for the transfer of this topic to the Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board for scrutiny in 2006/7.

2.0 RECOMMENDED: That the Board accepts Supported Housing as a topic for scrutiny in 2006 for completion in 2007.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 As a result of changes to the portfolios of Policy and Performance Boards in 2006, responsibility for Strategic Housing transferred from Health to Urban Renewal.
- 3.2 Prior to this change, it had been agreed that Supported Housing in Halton would be a topic for scrutiny in 2005/6.
- 3.3 The review commenced in October 2005 and was suspended in March 2006, pending an announcement by the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) on the long term funding arrangements and National Strategy for the Supporting People Programme. The review was due to resume in October 2006 and submit a final report to the Health PPB by July 2007.
- 3.4 A copy of the original report to the Health Policy and Performance Board Report, which sets out the scope and terms of reference for the review, is attached as an appendix to this report.
- 3.5 Members of the original scrutiny group met on four occasions and completed a review of current provision and identified strategic priorities. An initial review of constraints affecting the service area led to the suspension of the review. Central government is expected to publish its long-term strategy for the funding and delivery of the Supporting People Programme. This is fundamental to any review of Supported Housing as the Supporting People Commissioning Body is responsible for agreeing strategic priorities and Supporting People Programme Grant is the main

source of revenue funding for all supported housing services.

3.6 As a result of the suspension, the following key tasks remain outstanding:

- Review of the constraints affecting the development of supported housing services including capital and revenue resources, and the availability of development land.
- Consideration of the deliverability of current priorities, in the light of the review of constraints.

3.7 This report is asking members of this Board to consider accepting Supported Housing as a topic for scrutiny in 2006/7.

3.8 If accepted, a working group would need to be established to evaluate the progress to date and to undertake the outstanding tasks.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 This will be dependent on the outcome of the review.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

5.1 None.

6.0 RISK ANALYSIS

6.1 Not applicable.

7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

7.1 Not applicable.

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

<u>Document</u>	<u>Place of inspection</u>	<u>Contact Officer</u>
Not applicable.		

AGENDA ITEM NO.

REPORT TO: Health Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 13th September 2005

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director Health and Community

SUBJECT: Scrutiny Topic – Supported Housing

WARD(S): Boroughwide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To secure agreement to the terms of reference for the review of Supported Housing under the Board's 2005/06 Scrutiny Programme, and to seek nominations for a working group.

2.0 RECOMMENDED –

- 1) that the terms of reference be agreed, and;**
- 2) that the Board identifies Members to serve on a working group.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 At its meeting on 15th March 2005 the Board agreed that Supported Housing be an area for scrutiny during 2005/06. The appendix provides further detail as to why this area was selected. Priorities for supported housing in the Borough are determined by the Housing Strategy and Supporting People Strategy, which are both informed by the client specific Commissioning Strategies. It is therefore proposed that the review will focus on these documents.

3.2 The terms of reference suggested for the review are as follows –

- To review current provision for supported housing in the Borough.
- To review the priorities for supported housing identified within the Housing and Supporting People Strategies, and to establish that they have been based on the best available information and reflect relative need.
- To review the constraints affecting the development of supported housing services including capital and revenue resources, and the availability of development land.
- To consider the deliverability of current priorities in the light of the review of constraints.

3.3 It is hoped that the review can be concluded with 3 or 4 meeting of a small working group, and the Board is invited to nominate Members to participate in that group.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 This will be dependent on the outcome of the review.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

5.1 None.

6.0 RISK ANALYSIS

6.1 Not applicable.

7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

7.1 Not applicable.

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

Document

Place of inspection

Contact Officer

Not applicable.

Overview and Scrutiny in Halton.

Health PPB.

Topic title: Supported Housing

Officer lead: A McNamara / S Williams

Planned start date: October 2005

Target PPB meeting: 14th March 2006

Topic description and scope:

A review of supported housing provision in Halton, current priorities for development, and the constraints affecting the deliverability of new services.

Why this topic was chosen:

Supported housing schemes are funded via Supporting People to the tune of nearly £8m per annum. It is therefore appropriate to review the programme to ensure resources are being spent wisely, and to consider the potential impact in future years of projected reductions in funding.

Current services and expenditure

Projected expenditure for 2005/06 through Supporting People is £7.78m. This funds 140 different schemes providing support to 2,630 individuals.

Key outputs and outcomes sought

A review of existing supported housing provision and the identification of any shortfall.

A review of identified shortfall in provision to validate current priorities for new provision.

A review of the constraints likely to impact on future levels of service delivery, and an examination of the options for mitigating the impact.

Which of Halton's 5 strategic priorities this topic addresses and the key objectives and improvement targets it will help to achieve.

Improving Health –

Key objective C – to promote a healthy living environment and lifestyles to protect the health of the public, sustain individual good health and well being, and help prevent illness.

Target – improve the health and well being of vulnerable adults, particularly older people, by increasing the number of older people gaining access to a holistic care package.

Increasing Prosperity and Equality –

Key objective C - to enhance the quality of life of older people in a community setting.

Underpinning objective – to enhance quality of life by supporting individuals and communities who experience marginalisation and exclusion.

No relevant improvement target.

Nature of expected/desired PPB input

Involvement by a small number of Members in a working group for approximately 4/5 meetings.

Preferred mode of operation

As above.

Media/Communication implications/opportunities arising from examining this topic.

None at this stage.

Agreed and signed by:

PPB chair----- Officer-----

Date----- Date-----

REPORT TO: Urban Renewal Policy & Performance Board

DATE: 20 September 2006

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Environment

SUBJECT: Derby Road, Widnes

WARDS: Farnworth

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to report the receipt of a petition for improvements to the junction of Derby Road/Peelhouse Lane, Widnes.

2.0 RECOMMENDED: That

- i) the report be noted and the junction continue to be monitored; and**
- ii) the petitioners be informed accordingly.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 Over recent years several requests have been received for traffic signals at the junction of Derby Road/Peelhouse Lane/Farnworth Street, Widnes. A number of these requests have been received via the Area Forum.
- 3.2 Prior to the opening of Watkinson Way, Cheshire County Council had a scheme for the provision of traffic signals at the junction. However following the opening of Watkinson Way this scheme was withdrawn, due to the reduced traffic flows in the area.
- 3.3 Over the last five years there been four injury accidents reported at the junction. One involved a pedestrian on the existing crossing; one involved two vehicles at the junction; another was a Police incident and the other involved a child running into the road in Farnworth Street.
- 3.4 On Wednesday 5 October 2005 a traffic survey was carried out at the junction. The survey counted the vehicles and pedestrians using the junction over a twelve hour period. The survey did not indicate that there was a justification for any additional pedestrian crossing facilities. The busiest crossing point was the existing zebra crossing.
- 3.5 At the present time there is an area of limited waiting on Derby Road, which provides short term parking for the users of the shops and waiting restrictions cover the rest of the area. The desire for a controlled crossing is understood, however it would need to be accompanied by zigzag markings, which would prevent parking outside the shops and contravention of these results in the driver being prosecuted for an endorsible offence. This would cause operational problems for the shops; both for deliveries and short stay customers. The removal of parked vehicles could result in higher traffic speeds, which could create a potentially worse situation.

- 3.6 Whilst the provision of traffic signals would avoid the need for a controlled area, it would be difficult to justify them, given the capital cost which would be in the region of £100,000. Also there would be a larger ongoing revenue cost compared with a zebra crossing.
- 3.7 A lower cost alternative would be to provide a pedestrian refuge near the junction of Derby Road and Farnworth Street, which would enable pedestrians to cross the road in two stages and result in shorter crossing distances. This would not be accompanied by zigzags and hence not cause parking problems for the shops. This would require detailed design and consultation with the bus operators.
- 3.8 Subsequent to the receipt of the petition, Mrs Audrey Foster has submitted a further letter, reaffirming her request for traffic signals incorporating pedestrian crossing facilities and requesting that the existing zebra crossing be re-located or if this is not possible then it should be removed. Although the location of the zebra crossing is not ideal, it cannot be re-located easily without causing problems for the residents of Peelhouse Lane who currently park outside their houses on Peelhouse Lane. Due to it being the most used crossing point (as recorded in the survey), then the Council would be reluctant to remove the facility, which has been there for a large number of years.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Any improvements would ultimately have ongoing revenue implications for the Highways Division

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Resource Implications

- 5.1 The proposals would require further investigation and have implications for staff time and funding.

5.2 Social Inclusion Implications

- 5.2 None

5.3 Sustainability Checklist

- 5.3 None

5.4 Best Value

- 5.4 None

5.5 Legal Implications

- 5.5 If the Council proceeded with a proposal and the business premises complained to the Ombudsman, then it would be difficult to justify the need for a zebra crossing, given the lack of relevant pedestrian accidents and the comparatively low pedestrian vehicle flows. This would not be the situation if traffic signals were installed.

5.6 Crime and Disorder Issues

5.6 None

5.7 Human Rights Act Implications

5.7 None

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

6.1	<i>Document</i>	<i>Available for inspection</i>	<i>Contact</i>
	Petition	Highways & Transportation Department	Stephen Rimmer Ext. 3182
	Further Letter	Rutland House	
	Survey Results	Halton Lea	

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REPORT TO: Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 20 September 2006

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Environment

SUBJECT: Public Consultation: House Extensions
Supplementary Planning Document

WARDS: Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.0 To inform the Urban Renewal PPB of the publication of draft House Extensions Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) for the purposes of statutory public consultation.

1.1 A copy of the House Extensions SPD can be found in **Appendix 1**.

2.0 RECOMMENDED: That the content of the report be noted.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 At the 2nd March 2006 Exec Board it was resolved that the second Local Development Scheme (LDS) for Halton be approved by the Council for submission to the Government Office for the North West (GONW). This document sets out the spatial planning policy priorities for the Council, for the next three years. The GONW has informed the Council that they do not intend to amend the content of the LDS.

3.2 Included within the LDS programme of works is the production of a House Extensions SPD. The purpose of the House Extensions SPD is to complement the Halton Unitary Development Plan (UDP), by providing additional guidance for anyone intending to extend or alter their house or erect a garage or other outbuilding to ensure that all developments:

- a are of exemplary design quality and that any extensions do not spoil the character of the original dwelling, but relate closely to it and harmonise with the existing house in its scale, proportions, materials and appearance;
- b protect residential amenity of neighbouring properties;
- c protect and enhance the built and natural environment;
- d preserve the essential character of the street and surrounding area;
- e avoid the creation of dangerous highway conditions; and
- f safeguard the provision of a reasonable private garden space.

3.3 The new planning system requires that a record be kept of any consultees, their comments and how they have been taken into account,

throughout the production of an SPD. An informal draft of the House Extensions SPD was circulated between 13th June 2006 and 27th June 2006 to a number of key stakeholders for comment. This consultation stage was essentially concerned with seeking technical observations from individuals within organisations that would either use or potentially endorse the document once it becomes an adopted SPD. This consultation was not looking for ratification of the document by those organisations. A list of those consulted, comments received and how these were taken into account is contained in **Appendix 2** of this report.

- 3.4 Another new requirement is that a scoping exercise must be undertaken to see if a Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) is required to assess the environmental effects of the SPD. Between 6th April 2006 and 11th May 2006 a Scoping Report was consulted upon in line with the relevant regulations, the conclusion was that a SEA was not required in relation to this SPD. An additional new requirement in relation to producing a SPD is that a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is produced. The purpose of the SA is to independently assess the contribution that the House Extensions SPD will make to achieve the social, economic and environmental objectives of sustainable development. The SA also refers back to the conclusion and responses received in relation to the Scoping Report. The SA Report (**Appendix 3**) is currently being produced and will be consulted upon at the same time as the Draft House Extensions SPD.
- 3.5 Once the formal public consultation exercise has been conducted, the responses will be recorded and taken into account. It is intended that a further report will be written to the Executive Board, seeking formal adoption of the House Extensions Supplementary Planning Document.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The SPD has been produced to ensure that through its function as a Local Planning Authority, the Council: -
- a) Is in accordance with national and regional planning policy and advice.
 - b) Wherever possible meets the priorities of the community it serves, as set out in the Halton Community Strategy and Corporate Plan.
- 1.2 This SPD directly relates to a number of policies within the Halton Unitary Development Plan. It is particularly intended to provide further detail of what the Council expects in relation to H6, which provides the criteria for new house extensions.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 No other known implications.

6.0 RISK ANALYSIS

6.1 No legal or financial risks to the Council can be identified so long as the statutory procedures for the preparation of SPDs are met.

7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

7.1 The adoption of the draft SPD does will not have any identifiable equality and diversity implications.

8.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

8.1 The alternative options considered with regard to the preparation of this document are set out in the SA Report.

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

<u>Document</u>	<u>Place of Inspection</u>	<u>Contact Officer</u>
Halton Unitary Development Plan, April 2005	Planning & Policy Division, Environmental & Regulatory Services, Rutland House.	Neil Macfarlane
Halton Local Development Scheme 2006	Planning & Policy Division, Environmental & Regulatory Services, Rutland House.	Neil Macfarlane

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House Extensions

Supplementary Planning Document
Public Consultation Draft
September 2006



Halton Borough Council

Draft
House Extensions

Supplementary Planning
Document

Public Consultation
September 2006

Presented 7th September 2006 for public consultation
Between 14th September to 26th October 2006

Responses to be sent to:
Operational Director
Environmental & Regulatory Services
Environment Directorate
Halton Borough Council
Rutland House
Halton Lea
Runcorn
WA7 2GW

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Operational Director
Environmental & Regulatory Services
Environment Directorate
Halton Borough Council
Rutland House
Halton Lea
Runcorn
WA7 2GW

This guidance note should be read in conjunction with the relevant policies of the Development Plan.

I Purpose

1.1 The purpose of the House Extensions SPD is to complement the Halton Unitary Development Plan (UDP), by providing additional guidance for anyone intending to extend or alter their house or erect a garage or other outbuilding to ensure that all developments:

- a are of exemplary design quality and that any extensions do not spoil the character of the original dwelling, but relate closely to it and harmonise with the existing house in its scale, proportions, materials and appearance;
- b protect residential amenity of neighbouring properties;
- c protect and enhance the built and natural environment;
- d preserve the essential character of the street and surrounding area;
- e avoid the creation of dangerous highway conditions; and
- f safeguard the provision of a reasonable private garden space.

1.2 By stating this purpose, the Council will seek to improve through its function as the Local Planning Authority any development proposal that does not provide for, or meet the principles encouraged and required within this SPD and the Halton UDP

1.3 These guidelines are intended to illustrate the criteria that will be applied by the council in assessing proposals for house extensions. They also provide advice for planning and designing domestic extensions in a way that will enhance the appearance of the dwelling whilst maintaining the character and amenity of the neighbourhood.

1.4 This SPD is also intended to encourage residents to follow the practical guidance it contains wherever opportunities arise whether or not formal consent is required.

1.5 **It is important that each section is not read in isolation, as guidance provided in the whole of the document will be applied, as required.**

Application of the Policy

The definition of “house” in the policy includes bungalows, but excludes apartments or maisonettes.

“Extension” means all additions to the house whether attached or not, and includes garages.

This House Extensions SPD also applies to:

- Houses that are listed buildings and buildings in Conservation Areas.
- Houses in the Green Belt.

However, due to the special characteristics of these areas, more stringent controls may need to be applied.

Exceptions may be considered for an extension to provide basic amenities or facilities at ground floor level for a disabled person. However, where possible, the extension should be designed to comply with the guidance. In circumstances where the guidance cannot be adhered to, acceptable proof of disability and a written statement justifying why an exception should be made shall be submitted with any application.

2 Guiding Principles

2.1 This section sets out some of the documents that contain guiding principles that have been used to inform the general principles set out in this document.

By Design

2.2 By Design, Urban Design in the Planning System: Towards Better Practice, is a companion guide to National planning policy guidance. It does not provide policy, but encourages better design. By Design summarises the objectives of urban design as:

- **Character** - A place with its own identity
- **Continuity and enclosure** - A place where public and private spaces are clearly distinguished
- **Quality of the public realm** - A place with attractive and successful outdoor areas
- **Ease of movement** - A place that is easy to get to and move through
- **Legibility** - A place that has a clear image and is easy to understand
- **Adaptability** - A place that can change easily
- **Diversity** - A place with variety and choice

Securing the Future

2.3 Securing the Future: Delivering UK Sustainable Development Strategy, sets out the Government's sustainable development agenda. It sets the following guiding principles for sustainable development:

- Living within environmental limits
- Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society
- Achieving a sustainable economy
- Promoting good governance
- Using sound science responsibly

Building in Context

2.4 The belief underlying 'Building in context' is that the right approach is to be found in examining the context for any proposed development in great detail and relating the new building to its surroundings through an informed character appraisal. It suggests that a successful project will:

- relate well to the geography and history of the place and the lie of the land;
- sit happily in the pattern of existing development and routes through and around it;
- respect important views;
- respect the scale of neighbouring buildings;
- use materials and building methods which are as high in quality as those used in existing buildings; and
- create new views and juxtapositions which add to the variety and texture of the setting.

3 General Principles for all Extensions

3.1 These principles apply to all extensions:

Design in relation to existing dwellings

3.2 An extension should relate closely to, and harmonise with the existing building in its scale, proportions, materials and appearance. In particular:

- The size of the extension should be subordinate to the size of the dwelling as first built.
- The external materials used shall closely match those of the existing dwelling in their design (see diagram 1).



Diagram 1: Poor choice of external materials for the extension

- On prominent elevations, problems of bonding old with new brickwork on the same plane should be overcome by setting the extension back from the main wall of the dwelling.
- The roof of an extension should be pitched to match that of the existing dwelling. Flat roofs are not normally acceptable, except where they are a feature of the original dwelling house. (see diagram 2)
- The windows of any extensions should be in line with existing windows and should match their proportions, size and design. (see diagram 2)



Diagram 2: Examples of side extensions – one with an appropriate pitched roof and well matched windows and one with an inappropriate flat roof and poorly matched windows.

How and where to extend?

3.3 The choice of how and where to extend will depend upon a variety of factors. However, the Council's policies as set out in this booklet will be an indicator as to whether or not a particular proposal will be acceptable.

3.4 The position of the dwelling within its plot will be one of the most important considerations. Is there more space at the side or at the rear? How will the extension relate to the internal arrangement of the house?

3.5 For dwellings in substantial plots, there may be several options where an extension can be accommodated with little affect on neighbouring properties.

3.6 However, a basic principle to follow is that extensions should respect the style and character of the original house and not overwhelm it.

Effect on the street scene and the character of the area

3.7 Apart from its relationship to the existing house, an extension should not be visually detrimental to the existing

character or appearance of the street scene or the surrounding area. In particular:

- Where a house is one of a group, similar in appearance and significant in the street scene, the effect of an extension to that house on the appearance of the group, as well as the individual house should be carefully considered.
- An extension should respect any regularity and width of spaces between existing houses and the visual effect of these spaces when significant in the street scene.
- An extension should respect any regularity in the distance between the road and the frontage walls of existing houses when this distance is a significant factor in the street scene.
- An extension at the rear of a dwelling should not be so extensive in relation to the size of the rear garden or yard that the enlarged house would constitute overdevelopment of the site that would be out of character with the area.

Amenity of neighbours

3.8 An extension should respect the existing standard of daylight and privacy experienced by neighbours, in particular:

- Where principal windows will allow views to other principal windows of a neighbouring property, a minimum distance of 21 metres must be maintained. (see diagram 3)

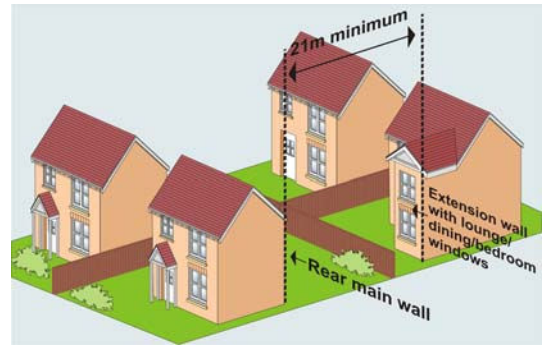


Diagram 3: 21 metres between facing principal windows

- Where principal windows directly face a blank elevation, a minimum distance of 13 metres must be maintained. (see diagram 4)

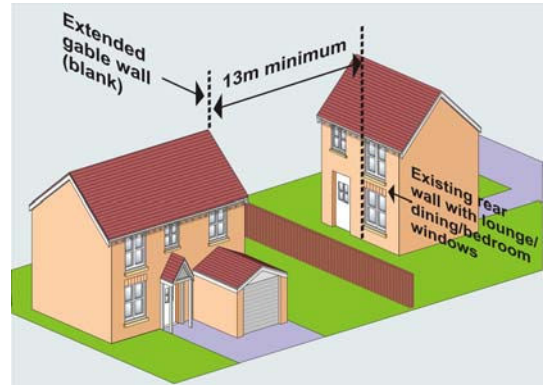


Diagram 4: 13 metres between principal windows and blank wall

- Where the house concerned is more than two storeys, the Council will normally apply a further 3 metres for each additional floor in addition to the distances stated above. For example, a three-storey house will normally require 16 metres (13m + the additional 3m) between a principal window and a blank elevation or 24 metres (21m+3m) between facing principal windows.
- Any new patio area or balcony at first floor levels should not have the potential for an unacceptable degree of overlooking from any main window of a principal room in an adjacent house; nor for the direct sideways overlooking of

neighbouring private garden or yard.

- The Council uses the '45-degree rule' to help assess impact upon the amenities of the neighbouring properties and to protect from overshadowing or obstruction, caused by large extensions on or close to the boundary. The code is principally applied to single storey rear extensions and side extensions where building lines are staggered. (see diagrams 5, 6 & 7)



Diagram 5: The '45-degree Rule' applied to a semi detached or terraced property

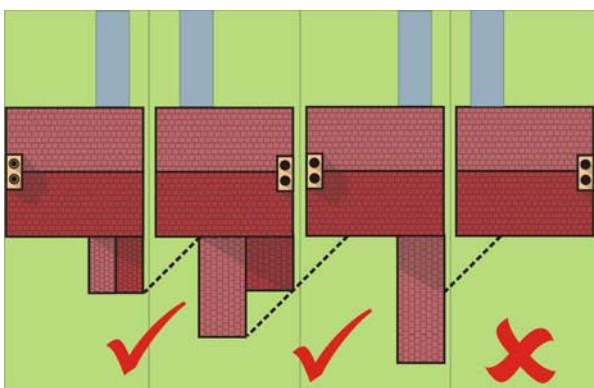


Diagram 6: The '45-degree Rule' applied to a detached property

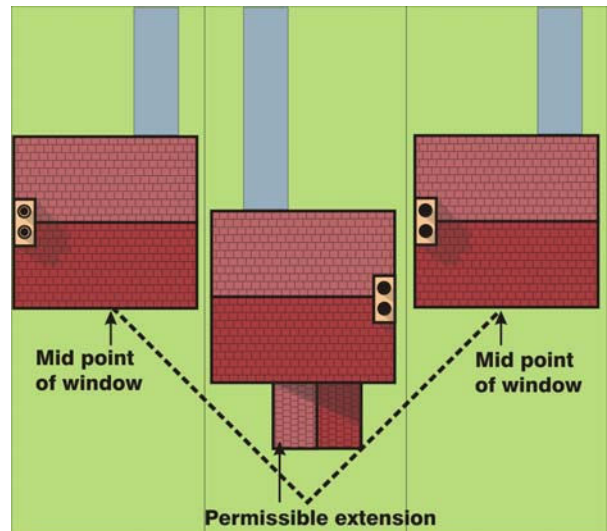


Diagram 7: The '45-degree Rule' applied to staggered properties

Note: a principal window is a main window of a living room, dining room, conservatory or a bedroom.

Building Control

3.9 Building regulation requirements should be taken during the design of any alteration or extension. More advice on the building regulations may be obtained from the Council's Building Control Division, contact details can be found in the Appendix.

4 Front Extensions & Porches

4.1 These principles apply to front extensions and porches:

- Front extensions should respect the existing property, and neighbouring properties, regarding design, size and siting.
- Any extension to the front elevation must be designed to harmonise with the existing property.
- Proposals should not result in the loss of existing parking provision.
- If the buildings on the street follow an established pattern or clear building line, front extensions are more likely to be considered to adversely affect the appearance of the street scene.
- Where planning permission is required, conversions of integrated or attached garages will not normally be allowed if two off road parking spaces cannot be provided.
- Porch extensions should also match the original design of the property.
- The height of the porch should not exceed the sill height of the first floor windows.



Diagram 8: Inappropriate porch extension.

5 Side Extensions

5.1 To avoid terracing and / or an unbalanced effect, two storey and first floor side extensions to a semi detached, linked detached or end terrace property, should incorporate the following principles:

- The extension should not exceed more than 50% of the width of the frontage of the original dwelling.
- A minimum of 800mm shall be retained between the sidewall of the extension and the inside of the plot boundary to allow for access to the rear for bin and cycle storage. (see diagram 9)
- A minimum gap of 800mm shall be retained between the sidewall of the first floor and the plot boundary. (see diagram 9)



Diagram 9: Good side extension with 800mm retained between the sidewall of an extension and the plot boundary

- The extension shall be set back a minimum of 1 metre from the main front elevation of the existing dwelling. (see diagram 10)
- The roof of the extension shall have a lower ridge height, than the existing house. (see diagram 10)



Diagram 10: Good side extension - set back 1m and with lower ridge height

- A minimum of two off road car parking spaces shall be provided.

Other considerations

5.2 This policy is designed to prevent extensions at the side of detached or semi detached houses from joining up with neighbouring houses to create a continuous terrace effect. Whilst there is nothing wrong with terraced housing as such, the aim of the policy is to protect street scene and the amenities of areas that were originally designed and laid out as detached or semi detached developments. Such areas can provide attractive views between houses to trees and the scene beyond, and they permit the penetration of sunlight and daylight into the street and into gardens and rooms opposite the gaps. Closure of these important gaps between dwellings can alter the character of a residential street leading to a reduction in the amenity enjoyed by residents and passers by. (see diagram 11)



Diagram 11: Inappropriate side extensions which have led to a 'terracing effect'

- 5.3 For detached properties the lower ridge height and first floor front elevation set back may not be required but this is based on a case-by-case assessment.
- 5.4 This policy also ensures that the extension is subordinate to the existing dwelling and harmonises with it.

Corner plots

5.5 Even though a corner plot may seem to have more garden space to the front and side, they should remain open, with clear views to be seen when travelling around the corner. The Council will normally expect all extensions on corner plots (single and two storeys) to meet all the following criteria:

- Corner extensions should not project beyond the front elevations

of those properties on adjacent roads. (see diagram 12)

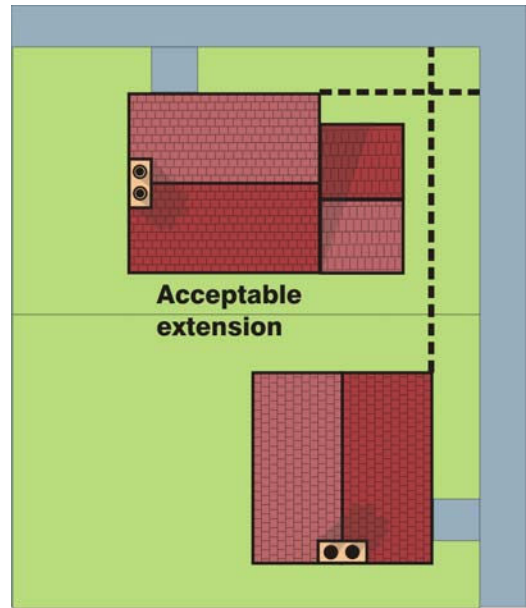


Diagram 12: Appropriate corner extension not projecting beyond either properties front elevation

- The width of the extension should not be more than half the width of the original frontage of the property.
- The width of the extension should not be more than half the width of the garden / plot between the property and adjacent highway.
- The extension should have a pitched roof to match the design of the main roof.

6 Rear Extensions

6.1 When considering rear extensions the Council will use the 45-degree rule. This will help to assess the impact of any rear extension upon the amenities of the neighbouring properties and to protect them from overshadowing or obstruction, caused by extensions on or close to the boundary.

Single storey rear extensions

6.2 These principles apply to single storey rear extensions:

- An extension will not normally be allowed if it projects more than a 45 degree line from the middle of the nearest affected neighbouring window or exceeds a maximum of 4 metres.
 - To comply with the 45-degree code, extensions should be designed so as not to cross the 45-degree line from the neighbours nearest habitable room (living, dining, conservatory or bedroom) window. The 45-degree line shall be drawn in the horizontal plane, and taken from the middle of the neighbour's window. The line will show the maximum width and / or depth that a proposed extension can build up to avoiding obstruction from light or views. (see diagram 13)
 - The council when assessing single storey rear extension will consider the impact on the neighbouring property and take into account differences in land levels.
 - The council will also take into consideration the height of a proposed extension when assessing an application.

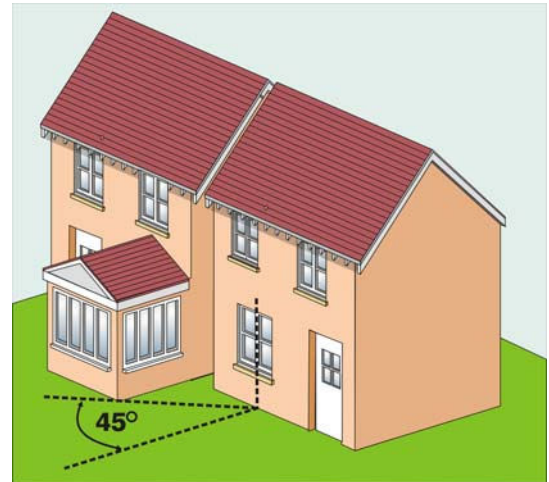


Diagram 13: 45-degree rule

Two storey rear extensions

6.3 The following principles apply to two storey rear extensions:

- Two storey extensions along shared boundaries shall not project at first floor level by more than 2 metres.
- In any other case, the following sizes shall be applied:

Distance between extension and adjoining property	Maximum projection at first floor level
1m	2.5m
2m	3m
3m or more	4m

- Where properties have a staggered building line and a neighbouring property is set forward in the plot, the maximum projection will be measured from the rear building line of that neighbour's property.

7 Dormer Extensions

- 7.1 Wherever possible dormer windows should be restricted to the rear of the dwelling in order to preserve the character of the street scene. This may not be so important where front dormers are already a common feature of other buildings in the street.
- 7.2 Side dormers will not normally be permitted where they allow overlooking or adversely affect the streetscene.
- 7.3 Where dormers are on the front or rear elevation of the dwelling or readily visible from public space, their scale and design are particularly important and the following criteria will apply:

- They should not normally exceed more than one third of the width of the roof.
- They should not project above the ridge of the roof (see diagram 14).
- Dormers which wrap around the side ridges of a hipped roof are not acceptable.
- The face of a dormer should be set back by a minimum of 1 metre behind the main wall.
- A dormer should not extend to the full width of the roof, but should be set in from the side/ party walls. Two smaller dormers may be better than one large one (see diagram 15).
- Dormer windows should vertically line up with existing windows and match their style and proportions.
- Flat dormer roofs are not acceptable unless considered appropriate to the particular building or the street scene.
- Dormer cheeks should normally be clad in materials to match the existing roof.



Diagram 14: Examples of dormer window extensions



Diagram 15: Examples of dormer window extensions

8 Parking & Garage Space

- 8.1 Extensions will not normally be allowed if they have the potential to reduce off-road parking. In most circumstances a minimum of two off-road parking spaces should be provided. The size of a parking space should be a minimum of 2.4 metres x 5 metres.
- 8.2 It is preferable that at least one parking/garage space is provided behind the building line, and that the driveway can accommodate at least one vehicle length of 5 metres. This should not include any service verge or footpath. Where a garage has been provided adequate space shall be given to allow for a parked car and for a garage door to be opened (see diagram 16). Where space is restricted the use of roller or sectional garage doors which require less space may be more appropriate than 'up and over' doors.
- 8.3 Where the extension or alteration will create a 5-bedroom property three off road parking spaces will be required unless there are other material considerations.
- 8.4 Consideration of parking arrangements is particularly important if you are thinking of either converting an integrated or attached garage to living accommodation or building on or over an existing garage or driveway. Extensions which prevent the parking
- of cars within the curtilage of the dwelling will not be acceptable.
- 8.5 An extension should not be constructed in a position where it would interfere with an adequate standard of visibility for road users to the detriment of highway safety.
- 8.6 Property boundaries, including extensions should be 300mm clear of the highway boundary (including footpath and service verge) so that foundations do not interfere with service apparatus.

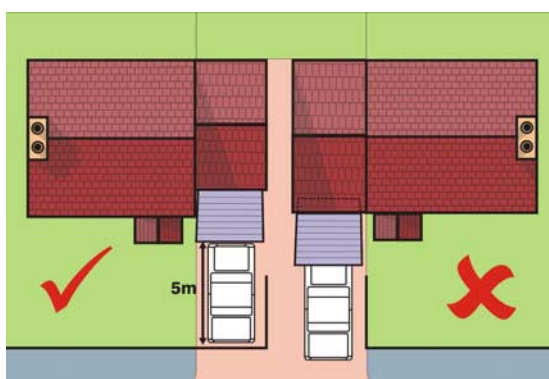


Diagram 16: Examples of parking spaces

- 8.4 Consideration of parking arrangements is particularly important if you are thinking of either converting an integrated or attached garage to living accommodation or building on or over an existing garage or driveway. Extensions which prevent the parking

9 Garden Space

9.1 Enough private garden space should be left after any extensions have been built to accommodate various leisure pursuits, to ensure that enough space is kept between neighbouring houses to avoid a cramped overcrowded feel and to prevent overlooking between windows.

9.2 The minimum garden area acceptable to the Council is 50 Sq.m of usable garden space, and this should be private enclosed space e.g. rear garden. In most cases it will be necessary to keep a larger area to avoid cramped appearance and to maintain the character of the area. Large trees within gardens may restrict options to extend especially if the trees are protected by a Tree Preservation Order.

9.3 Generally rear extensions will encroach onto garden space to a greater extent than side extensions. If the garden is already quite small (approximately 50m²), a rearwards extension may not be advisable.

the canopy of such trees or in close proximity must be accurately shown on the submitted plans, and include the crown spread.

Trees

9.4 Proposals that would require the felling of protected trees, trees in conservation areas or other trees that contribute significantly to the character of an area or that could endanger its health (for example by severing its roots), are very rarely considered to be acceptable. Instead, alternative methods of providing additional accommodation should be explored.

9.5 Extensions will not normally be allowed where the extension will be overshadowed by surrounding tree, as this could lead to pressure to remove these trees.

9.6 Proposals that would result in the felling of trees or would extend within

10 Other Considerations & Information

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Green Belt

- 10.1 Extensions should not result in disproportionate additions over and above the size of the original building. The interpretation of this policy will vary according to the character of the property, but as a general guide, extensions, which increase the volume of the original house by more than about one third, are unlikely to be acceptable.
- 10.2 Special regard should be given to matters of siting, height, scale, design and use of materials in order to maintain the openness and visual integrity of the Green Belt.
- 10.3 Planning applications for extensions should be accompanied by drawings that demonstrate the size/ volume of the original building. Very special circumstances will have to exist to justify any exception to the strict control of development in the Green belt. It is the responsibility of the applicant to provide this justification.

Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas

- 10.4 Extensions to listed buildings and/ or within Conservation Areas are likely to be particularly sensitive. In particular, the design standards applied may be stricter than those previously outlined in this policy document. Most works to listed buildings will require Listed Building consent, even if they do not require planning permission.

OTHER INFORMATION

Building Regulations

- 10.5 In addition to the need for planning permission, house extensions may also require approval under the Building Regulations. These regulations are designed to ensure appropriate standards of design and construction are employed. Approval under these regulations is a separate issue and for further advice, please contact the Council's Building Control Division on 0151 471 7360.

The Party Wall Act

- 10.6 The Act provides a framework for preventing and resolving disputes in relation to party walls, boundary walls and excavations near neighbouring buildings. It does not resolve boundary disputes but is intended to manage the process of work to or up to the party boundary and includes reference to the right of access to neighbouring properties to carry out works. An explanatory booklet is available should further details be required.

Neighbours

- 10.7 The council always recommends that you consult neighbours affected by the proposals before submitting the plans to the council. This may facilitate minor amendments and resolve any unknown issues. In any event, the council will formerly notify neighbouring properties inviting comments, and a period of 21 days is allowed for such comments to be made in writing to the council.

11 The Planning Application

Do you need to apply for planning permission?

- 11.1 If you live in a house, you can make certain types of minor changes to your home without needing to apply for planning permission. These rights, are called "permitted development rights". However, Permitted Development Rights will not apply if your property is Listed or in the grounds of a Listed building; in a Conservation Area; and/or has had the Permitted Development Rights removed.
- 11.2 If you are in any doubt as to whether you require planning permission please write in with details of your proposal including sketches and sizes to: Planning & Policy Division, Environmental and Regulatory Services, Rutland house, Halton, Lea, Runcorn, Cheshire, WA7 2GW.
- 11.3 Further information in relation to planning permissions and Permitted Development Rights can be found on the Planning Portal website at www.planningportal.gov.uk or on the Council's website at www.halton.gov.uk
- 11.4 It should also be noted that house extensions may require building regulations approval regardless of whether or not they need planning permission. More advice on the building regulations may be obtained from the Council's Building Control Division, contact details can be found in the Appendix.

If you build something, which needs planning permission, without obtaining it first, you may be forced to put things right at a later date. This may prove troublesome and costly. You might even need to remove an unauthorised building!

What to submit with your application

11.5 When you are preparing your application, you should include the following information:

- 3 copies of the completed planning application forms. Blank copies are available online or from Halton Direct Link receptions. You can also apply on line at www.planningportal.gov.uk
- 3 copies of the location plan, (OS based) showing your property in relation to neighbouring properties and its position in the street, with numbers of nearby houses clearly indicated, to scale of not less than 1:1250. You should outline the boundaries of your property (including land to the front, rear and sides) in red with any other adjoining land in your ownership outlined in blue.
- 3 copies of the plans and elevations of the house as existing
- 3 copies of the plans and elevations showing the extension proposal, to a scale of 1:100 or 1:50.
- A block plan to a scale of not less than 1:500 showing the distances from the extension to your plot boundaries and showing any other features such as trees, outbuildings. The block plan should show the relationship of the extensions to neighbouring windows. It should also show the means of access and parking arrangements. Note the block plan should be based upon accurate survey measurements. On sloping sites, plans showing proposed levels may be required. (Diagram 15 provides an example of a block plan)

Please note all plans and elevation drawings should be produced in a metric scale.

special site characteristics warrant a relaxation. Officers will always be pleased to advise.

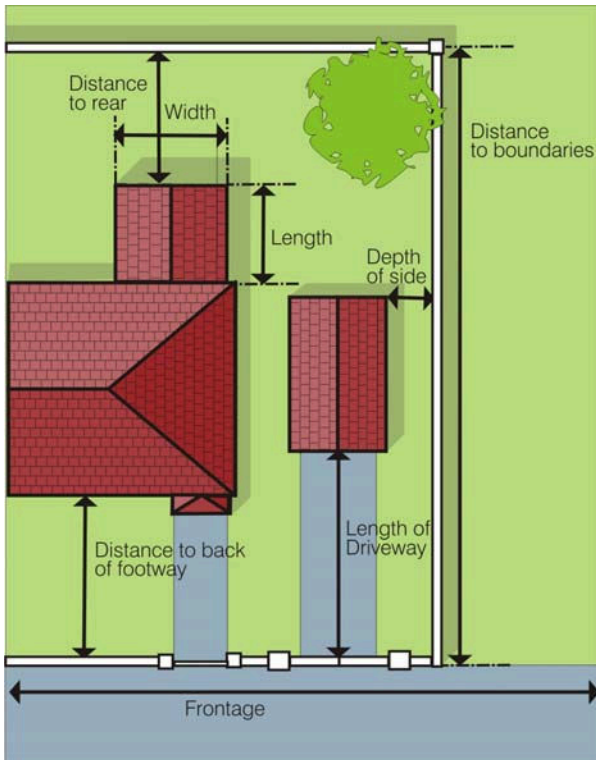


Diagram 15: A typical block plan for a rear extension and garage is shown on the following page.

- A covering letter with any other relevant information in support of you application.
- I copy of the correct Certificate of Ownership, signed and dated.
If you are not the sole owner of all the land to which the application relates the owner/s must be told about your application, this is done by serving Notice No. 1 on each owner.

NOTE: All applications requiring planning permission must be accompanied with the appropriate fee, which must be submitted with the application forms and plans. Unless the fee is correct, and the forms and certificate are correctly filled in, including accurate plans, the application cannot be registered and will be returned.

11.6 Please note that the advice contained in this document is not binding in every case, so there may be occasions where

12 Policy Background

12.1 This SPD has been produced to ensure that through its function as a Local Planning Authority, the Council complies with national and regional guidance and advice and contributes, wherever possible, to meeting the priorities of the community it serves.

National Policy

12.2 *Planning Policy Statement 1 (PPS1): Creating Sustainable Communities*, states that 'good design ensures attractive, usable, durable and adaptable places and is a key element in achieving sustainable development. Good design is indivisible from good planning.'

12.3 *Planning Policy Guidance note (PPG) 3: Housing*, states that new housing and residential environments should be well designed and should make a significant contribution to promoting urban renaissance and improving quality of life. PPG3 further suggests that the Council and developers should think imaginatively about designs and layouts that make more efficient use of land without compromising the quality of the environment.

12.4 'Better Places to Live: A Companion Guide to PPG3: By Design' published by the DETR in 2000 provides specific urban design advice to help deliver the objectives of PPG3. This companion guide considers the principles of urban design and the features of urban form, together with advice on the design and layout of successful residential housing developments, such as understanding character, privacy, orientation and safety.

12.5 Additional good practice guidelines include 'Planning - A Guide for Householders' published by the DETR (2002). This document states that the purpose of the planning system is to protect amenity and the environment in

the public interest. Further advice contained in this document states that a well-designed building or extension is likely to be much more attractive to you and to your neighbours and it is also likely to add value to your house when you sell it. The guidance for householders specifically suggests that extensions often look better if they use the same materials and are in a similar style to the existing buildings and in some instances the Council's design guides or advisory leaflets may help you or you may wish to consider using a suitably qualified, skilled and experienced designer.

Regional Policy

12.6 One of the core principles of Regional Planning for the North West (RPG13), which is now by virtue of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004) the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS), is good design. Policy DP3 states that 'new development must demonstrate good design quality and respect for its setting'. It goes on to state that local authorities should set out guidance that ensures more innovative design to create a high-quality living and working environment, especially in housing terms, which incorporates: more efficient use of energy and materials; more eco-friendly and adaptable buildings; sustainable drainage systems; community safety and 'designing out' of crime; and appropriate parking provision and best practice in the application of highway standards.

12.7 Policy DPI of the Draft RSS (2006) states that all proposals and schemes must demonstrate excellent design quality, sustainable construction, efficiency in resource use and respect for their physical and natural setting.

Local Policy

- 12.8 The Halton Unitary Development Plan (UDP), which was adopted in April 2005, contains a number of strategic aims and objectives. These are set out in Part I of the UDP. In relation to environmental quality, these include creating a safe and healthy Halton, and ensuring that future development is of a quality of design that enhances the built environment and encourages the use of energy efficient design. At the centre of these strategic aims and objectives is the desire of the Council to create sustainable places that all people will want to live and work within.
- 12.9 Part 2 of the UDP contains policies that seek to implement the broad aims and objectives contained within Part I of the UDP. The proposed SPD is intended to support Policy H6, which states that proposals for house extensions will be permitted where:
- a the proposal would not unacceptably alter the appearance or character of the original dwelling but relate closely to it and harmonise with it in terms of their scale, proportions, materials and appearance;
 - b the proposal would not create dangerous highway conditions by obstructing visibility for pedestrians or drivers of motor vehicles; and
 - c Reasonable private garden space is provided for use by the residents of the extended property
- 12.10 However, other policies within the UDP may also be relevant to some developments so this SPD. Therefore, this SPD should be read in conjunction with all the relevant policies of the Development Plan.
- 12.11 The intended SPD will be produced to contribute to the priorities, principles, objectives and targets of the Halton Community Strategy (2006). This strategy coordinates the resources of the local public, private and voluntary organisations towards common purposes.
- 12.12 Two of the main priorities set out in this strategy cover issues that are expected to be raised in the proposed SPD, within the priority to *Halton's urban renewal* one of the objectives to support and sustain thriving neighbourhoods and open spaces that meet people's expectations and add to their enjoyment of life. Within the priority to *a Safer Halton* one of the objectives is to create and sustain better neighbourhoods that are well designed, well built, well maintained and valued by the people who live in them, reflecting the priorities of residents to improve public perceptions and attractiveness.
- 12.13 Halton Borough Council is signed up and committed to contributing to achieving the priorities of the Community Strategy. The Council's priorities are set out in the Corporate Plan. This plan also has five priorities, including 'safe and attractive neighbourhoods' and 'promoting urban renewal'.
- 12.14 The intended SPD is being produced to help meet this target and others set out within the Council's Corporate Plan. The priorities in the Community Strategy and the Corporate Plan are based on the priorities set by the people of Halton. These were identified through community involvement via area panels, focus groups, and a telephone questionnaire. The Corporate Plan was based on the same community involvement and statistical information compiled for the State Of Borough Report, 2005.

Appendix I: Contacts and Useful Information

General information

To access a downloadable copy of the Planning Policy Guidance notes or Planning Policy Statements detailed in Section 2, or for further general planning information visit the Department of Communities and Local Government website at www.communities.gov.uk or for a hard copy contact the Department of Communities and Local Government by phone on 0870 1226 236.

To access a downloadable copy of 'By Design, Urban Design in the planning system: Towards Better Practice' and 'Safer Places', documents relating to urban renewal, urban design and creating sustainable communities, and general planning information visit The Department of Communities and Local Government website at www.communities.gov.uk.

For information relating to urban design there are several documents available. Design at a Glance: A quick reference to national design policy, Design Review and The Value of Good Design can be downloaded free of charge from the CABE website at <http://www.cabe.org.uk/publications/> and The Urban Design Compendium produced by English Partnership and the Housing Corporation can be ordered online free of

charge from English Partnerships at www.englishpartnerships.co.uk Urban Design Guidance: urban design frameworks, development briefs and masterplans, produced by the Urban Design Group, and From Design Policy to Design Quality, produced by the RTPi, can be purchased from Thomas Telford Ltd.

Further information on the Secured By Design initiative, including details relating to the standards required for a development to receive Secured By Design accreditation may be found at www.securedbydesign.com

For information regarding any development affecting a historic building or conservation area 'Building In Context' will be able to provide advice. It is available from English Heritage and the CABE and can be downloaded free of charge from <http://www.cabe.org.uk> or for a hard copy contact English Heritage at: Customer Services Department, PO Box 569, Swindon, Wiltshire, SN2 2YP, Tel: 0870 333 1181, Fax: 01793 414 926

You can find out about the planning system and how it works at www.planningportal.gov.uk

Local information

For advice relating to submitting a planning application, for pre-application discussion or to purchase a copy of this SPD or any other SPD contact:

Planning & Policy Division
Environmental & Regulatory Services
Halton Borough Council
Rutland House
Halton Lea
Runcorn
WA7 2GW

Tel: 0151 424 2061

Fax: 0151 471 7314

Email: dev.control@halton.gov.uk or
forward.planning@halton.gov.uk

Website:

www.halton.gov.uk/developmentcontrol or
www.halton.gov.uk/forwardplanning

If further highways or transport information is required, please contact the:

Highways Division
Environmental & Regulatory Services
Halton Borough Council
Rutland House
Halton Lea
Runcorn
WA7 2GW

Tel: 0151 424 2061

Fax: 0151 471 7521

If further information is required relating to accessibility or building control please contact:

Building Control Division
Environmental & Regulatory Services
Halton Borough Council
Rutland House
Halton Lea
Runcorn
WA7 2GW

Tel: 0151 424 2061

Fax: 0151 471 7314

Website: www.halton.gov.uk/buildingcontrol

If further information is required in relation to trees in development, please contact:

John White (Trees & Woodlands Officer)
Landscape Division
Environmental & Regulatory Services
Landscape Services Department
Picow Farm Depot
Picow Farm Road
Runcorn
WA7 4UB

Tel: 0151 424 2061

Website: www.halton.gov.uk



House Extensions

Draft Supplementary Planning Document
Statement of Consultation
September 2006



Halton Borough Council

House Extensions

Draft

Supplementary Planning Document

Statement of Consultation

Environmental & Regulatory Services
Environment Directorate
Halton Borough Council
Rutland House
Halton Lea
Runcorn
WA7 2GW

Introduction

Under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 it is a requirement to prepare and publish a Statement of Consultation for a range of planning policy documents, including Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs). This is a reflection of Government's desire to "strengthen community and stakeholder involvement in the development of local communities". The Council has recently adopted the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI), this sets out how the public will be consulted on new planning policy and significant planning applications. This Statement of Consultation has been prepared to meet the requirements of the SCI, and also aims to reflect the intentions of Government planning guidance for reporting on community involvement in the plan making process.

This Statement of Consultation sets out the comments and representations made, and the response to them, in respect of Partnership Consultation Stage conducted by Halton Borough Council, in relation to the House Extensions SPD. The Partnership Consultation Stage took place between 13th June and 27th June 2006. This Statement of Consultation has been produced in accordance with Regulation 17 (1) and 18 (4) of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004.

The period of formal public participation on the draft House Extensions SPD will be conducted between 14th September and 26th October 2006. The document will be made available at various deposit locations throughout the Borough, along with a copy of the public notice of 'SPD Matters and Public Participation', Representations Forms, the Sustainability Appraisal Report and an explanatory letter. Each of the aforementioned documents has also been made available on the Council website and in various formats upon request.

Statutory consultees (as outlined in Planning Policy Statement 12 - Local Development Frameworks, Appendix E) will be consulted specifically via letter with an individual copy of the draft SPD attached. In addition, those individuals on the Council's Local Development Framework consultation database that had requested to be informed of the publication of the draft SPD will also be sent a covering explanatory letter, a copy of the public notice of SPD Matters and Public Participation, and a Representation Form.

Partnership Consultation

Partnership consultation period: 13th June – 27th June 2006

Date of consideration of representations: 28th June 2005 - 30th June 2005

Note – All paragraph and page references relate to the numbers as set out in the partnership consultation draft

Consultee	Date comments received and how responded	Comments	Response
Alasdair Cross Planning & Policy Division Environmental & Regulatory Services	19/06/06 Written comments	Para. 1.5 - Change the second 'guidance' to 'document'.	This text has been amended.
		Application of the Policy – Change 'for the disabled' to 'for a disabled person'.	This text has been amended.
		Should there be an introduction to the Guiding Principles section?	Text has now been inserted to explain the Guiding Principles section.
		Para 2.1 – Change 'is aimed at promoting' to 'promotes'.	This text has been amended.
		Para.2.1 provide further information in relation to 'PPGs'.	This text has been amended.
		Para 2.2 is this section in relation to 'Securing the Future' relevant?	It is felt that this document still provides one of the overarching principles for all development (ie sustainable development).
		Diagram 2 – this doesn't do justice to how bad the 2 nd extension is. Consider altering the point of view.	Diagram has been amended.
		Diagram 4 – insert the word 'blank' to 'extended gable wall'.	Diagram has been amended.
		Diagram 9 – the diagram should be made clearer so that it shows 800mm on each side of the boundary.	Diagram has been amended.

Consultee	Date comments received and how responded	Comments	Response
Alasdair Cross Planning & Policy Division Environmental & Regulatory Services <i>Continued . . .</i>		Diagram 9 – as this text refers to semi-detached and terraced properties should the diagrams not also show a terrace or semi-detached property.	Diagram has been amended.
		Diagram 10 – this diagram should show room for 2 off road parking spaces.	Diagram has been amended.
		Section 5 –Should a policy to consider linked detached or the creation of linked detached properties be included?	The text in this section has been amended to include linked detached properties.
		Para. 7.3 bullet 1 – does this apply individually or cumulatively?	It is felt that the text contained in this bullet point is sufficient and a change has not been made.
		Para. 7.3 bullet 2 – could a diagram be included to show this?	Diagram to be included.
		Para 7.3 bullet 5 – insert ‘to’ between ‘extend’ and ‘the’.	This text has been amended.
		Para 7.3 bullet 5 – insert reference to diagram 14.	This text has been amended.
		Para. 8.3 – would it be appropriate to say that ‘where space is tight the use of roller or sectional garage doors that require less room may be more appropriate than ‘up and over’ doors.	This text has been amended.
		Diagram 15 – should be amended to show the distance from the garage rather than the porch.	Diagram has been amended.
		Para. 11.3 – this paragraph should be rephrased for clarity.	This text has been amended.

Consultee	Date comments received and how responded	Comments	Response
Alasdair Cross Planning & Policy Division Environmental & Regulatory Services <i>Continued . . .</i>		Para. 11.4 – The old SPG had a useful example of a block plan highlighting key information required should this also be included.	Diagram to be included.
Neil Macfarlane Planning & Policy Division Environmental & Regulatory Services	14/06/06 Written comments	Para. 8.5 – is the term ‘property boundary’ correct as this suggests a garden wall or fence should be 300mm clear of the highway boundary.	This is the correct terminology.
		Para. 9.2 – how will this principle work for areas where a covenant states that gardens can not be enclosed?	It is felt that many such covenant would relate to front gardens and in this case would not be included within this principle.
		Para. 10.5 – Contact details should be referred to or included here.	Contact details have now been included.
		Para. 11.3 – Amend address.	Address amended
		Section 11 blue box – should this also refer to building control as there are likely to be extensions that do not require planning but may need building control.	Further text inserted in relation to building control.
		Para 11.4 bullet 1 – Provide further detail as to what a ‘set’ is.	Further detail has been included.
		Para 11.4 bullet 2 – Should this be changed from ‘A’ to ‘4’ location plans.	This text has been amended.
		Para 11.4 bullet 2 – Should this also make clear that the plan must be OS based and include at least 2 street names?	This text has been amended to include OS based however, it not felt necessary to require 2 street names.

Consultee	Date comments received and how responded	Comments	Response
Neil Macfarlane Planning & Policy Division Environmental & Regulatory Services <i>Continued . . .</i>		Para 11.4 bullet 3 & 4 – should further information be given as to how many plans should be included?	This text has been amended.
		Para 11.4 bullet final bullet – should this state ‘a signed and dated copy’ of the correct certificate and should it also make reference to the possible need to notify the owners?	This text has been amended.
		Local Information Section – refer to development control website before forward planning.	This text has been amended.
Dave Tierney Building Control Division Environmental & Regulatory Services	14/06/06 by email	The SPD needs to give further consideration to window design in relation to extensions & loft conversions.	Further text has been added to both section 2 and 11 in relation to the need to consider building regulation requirements.
Phil Watts Environmental & Regulatory Services	14/06/06 by email	There should be an agreed format for the Local Information Section i.e. Joanne Dutton - Senior Planning Officer, Planning And Policy Division, Environmental And Regulatory Services John White - Tree and Woodlands Officer, Landscape Division, Environmental And Regulatory Services	This text has been amended.
Steve Williams Housing Strategy Policy & Support Department	22/06/06 by phone	Generally happy with this document.	Acknowledged no change needed.

Consultee	Date comments received and how responded	Comments	Response
Steve Williams Housing Strategy Policy & Support Department <i>Continued . . .</i>		Some concern over the 45-degree rule, which may restrict some of the house extensions that are required for those who are less able.	The 45-degree rule is felt to be important in terms of general amenity for neighbouring properties. However, exceptions may be made for those who are less able as set out in section I of the SPD.





House Extensions

Draft Supplementary Planning Document

Sustainability Appraisal
September 2006



Halton Borough Council

Draft
House Extensions
Sustainability Appraisal Report

Public Consultation
September 2006

Presented for public consultation
between 14th September and 26th October 2006

to:
Operational Director
Environmental & Regulatory Services
Environment Directorate
Halton Borough Council
Rutland House
Halton Lea
Runcorn
WA7 2GW

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I Summary and outcomes

Non-technical summary

- 1.1 This document contains the information relating to the appraisal of the draft House Extensions Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) in relation to how it contributes to meeting environmental, social and economic objectives. Put simpler, this document assesses how the SPD contributes towards achieving development that ensures a better quality of life for everyone, now and for future generations. The technical name for this document is a Sustainability Appraisal or SA for short. The SA is required to be produced because of new government guidance and legislation relating to the planning system.
- 1.2 The objectives that are used to test whether the House Extensions SPD contributes towards achieving sustainability have been taken from the information gathered during the production of the Core Strategy SA and from other documents that identify the sustainability priorities of the local community. The main source of these objectives is the Community Strategy, produced by the Halton Strategic Partnership in consultation with the people of Halton, which was based on a new State of the Borough Report and a telephone survey of residents.
- 1.3 The objectives that are used to test the sustainability of the SPD are set out in a table (Appendix A), this table is called the Sustainability Appraisal Framework (SAF). This table sets out how the Council will measure each of the objectives to see if quality of life in Halton is improving. Earlier this year, in advance of producing the full SA, the Council asked a number of bodies if they agreed with the objectives that we included in the SAF. These bodies agreed with us, all their comments and how the Council responded is set out in Appendix B.
- 1.4 At the same time as asking these bodies about the SAF, we also asked if they agreed with us if we needed to produce a Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) of the SPD. The SEA is like an SA but looks in more detail at the effects that the SPD could have on the environment. SEA is required by a European Directive on plans and programs that could have a significant effect on the environment. The Council made an initial screening of whether a full SEA was needed to be produced, and decided it was not. The bodies agreed with us. This decision has been set out in the House Extensions SPD – Statement of Determination, which can be found in Appendix C.
- 1.5 The Council then tested the draft SPD against the objectives in SAF, to appraise if the SPD contributes to achieving sustainability. This is set out in a table (Appendix D). The appraisal recognises that the SPD is supplementary policy and will not make dramatic changes to the way that we live, but will make small changes to the way buildings and places are designed. Therefore, the SPD will not significantly affect any of the environmental, social or economic objectives set out in the SAF.
- 1.6 Overall the appraisal shows that the SPD will have a positive effect upon contributing towards achieving sustainability, but there are several objectives that are difficult to test the SPD against because the Council is unsure how the SPD will affect those objectives. The appraisal also tells us that the positive effects will mainly only be seen in the longer term because the SPD will make gradual changes to places over many years as new development happens.

- 1.7 This SA is not the end of the process, if you think that the appraisal has missed something out, or hasn't properly realised the effect that the SPD could have on a particular objective then let us know by following the instructions in section 1.10 – 'How to comment on the Appraisal'. A final SA, which includes all the comments received on this appraisal, will be published alongside the SPD when it is adopted. Sources of further information about the process and purpose of Sustainability Appraisals can be found in Appendix F.

Statement on the difference the process has made

- 1.8 Although the scope of the SPD is not significant, it is supplementary policy, providing practical guidance in relation to policies contained within Halton Unitary Development Plan (UDP), the SA process has made a valuable contribution to the process of producing the SPD. Firstly it focused attention at the pre-production scoping stage to identify the key areas that the SPD needed to address. This was achieved through the analysis of baseline information. This process has helped to shape the purpose of the SPD, which has provided a strong foundation upon which the rest of the SPD has been constructed.
- 1.9 By testing the SPD against the SAF it has helped to recognise the limitations of the SPD and how these might be overcome through additional planning policies or by other means (such as the need for better training within the planning section to understand 'design' better). The 'testing' process has also helped create a sharper more responsive SPD focused upon its purpose and contributing to achieving sustainability. The SA process has made a real difference to help ensure a quality end product.

How to comment on the Appraisal

- 1.10 If you would like to make comments on the SA or the SPD, which it has been produced to appraise, please complete one of the representation forms, which can be obtained from places of inspection, from the Council's website or by contacting the forward planning section. Representations may be accompanied by a request to be notified at a specific address of the adoption of the SPD and hence the publishing of the final SA. The formal period of public participation in relation to the SPD and this SA, commences on 14th September 2006, for a six week period until 26th October 2006.

2 Sustainability Appraisal Rationale

Approach taken

- 2.1 The methodology selected to be applied within this Sustainability Appraisal (SA) has been chosen to ensure that the SPD, and the Local Development Framework (LDF) as a whole, is tested against the most appropriate sustainability criteria.
- 2.2 SA is fundamentally based on an objectives-led approach whereby the potential impacts of a plan are gauged in relation to a series of objectives for sustainable development. In other words, the objectives provide a methodological yardstick against which to assess the effects of the SPD. The Sustainability Appraisal Framework (SAF) – as the Guidance refers to it – consists of objectives and associated targets and indicators, the SAF is set out Appendix A.
- 2.3 The methodology of the SA has therefore been drawn from the information collected during the production of the LDF and the priorities, objectives and targets of other documents such as the Community Strategy, the sub-regionally agreed Merseyside objectives and the regional sustainability framework – ‘Action for Sustainability’. This approach has been agreed by both the Council and the Statutory Environmental Bodies and has been used for earlier SAs, which have assessed earlier SPDs. However, the SAF used in these earlier documents has now been updated using the information collected as part of the production of the Core Strategy.
- 2.4 It is our intention that the objectives, targets and indicators that form the SAF within this document will be broadly consistent throughout all future SAs that the Council undertakes. However, as the SAF evolves there may be situations that require the framework to be reviewed. These situations could

include:

- a new baseline information emerging that better reflects the current objectives in the sustainability framework,
- b changes to the objectives in the sustainability framework, and
- c direction from a consultation body that information within the framework needs amending, such as through consultation on this SA Report.

When the SA was carried out?

- 2.5 The SA process began in January 2006 with the production of the SA Scoping Report; this document was consulted upon between Thursday 6th April 2006 and Thursday 11th May 2006. The responses to the Scoping Report were considered and have informed and lead to the production of this document. The SA process has been an integral part of the production of the SPD, and has been prepared to enable its publication to coincide with the public consultation on the draft House Extensions Supplementary Planning Document.

Who carried out the SA?

- 2.6 Halton Borough Council has conducted the entire process of the production of the SA, with consultation at the appropriate stages with statutory consultation bodies (for the SA and SEA process) and other stakeholders as necessary. This approach was felt to be commensurate to the intended purpose of the SPD. Responses to the Scoping Report, particularly those from the statutory consultation bodies, acknowledged the scope of the SPD and did not raise any significant issues that would deem it necessary for the SA to be produced externally / more independently.

Who was consulted, when and how?

2.7 The scope of the SA was formally consulted upon between Thursday 6th April 2006 and Thursday 11th May 2006. The consultation was targeted at those who the Council felt were best placed to further shape the SA process and the purpose of the proposed SPD. A list of those consulted, their comments and the how these have been addressed in the SA is contained in Appendix B.

3 Background

Purpose of the SA process and the SA Report

3.1 The House Extensions SPD will form part of the Halton Local Development Framework (LDF). This document will not form part of the Statutory Development Plan for Halton. To be able to be formally adopted as part of the Halton LDF, the process of forming the SPD must comply with Part Five of The Town and Country (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004. Part five requires the production of a SA for SPDs. The purpose of preparing a SA is to encourage sustainable development, through improved integration of sustainability considerations throughout the preparation and adoption of land use plans and policies.

Purpose of House Extensions SPD (Draft)

3.2 The purpose of the House Extensions SPD is to complement the Halton Unitary Development Plan (UDP), by providing additional guidance for anyone intending to extend or alter their house or erect a garage or other outbuilding to ensure that all developments:

- a are of exemplary design quality and that any extensions do not spoil the character of the original dwelling, but relate closely to it and harmonise with the existing house in its scale, proportions, materials and appearance;
- b protect residential amenity of neighbouring properties;
- c protect and enhance the built and natural environment;
- d preserve the essential character of the street and surrounding area;
- e avoid the creation of dangerous highway conditions; and
- f safeguard the provision of a reasonable private garden space.

3.3 The geographical coverage of the SPD is therefore borough wide.

Compliance with the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Regulations

3.4 In accordance with the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulation 2004, the SA Scoping Report included a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) screening statement. The Council's intermediate determination of the statement was that the proposed SPD was unlikely to have a significant environmental effect and accordingly does not require a SEA to be produced. The four statutory agencies (English Nature, Environment Agency, English Heritage and Countryside Agency) were consulted as part of the pre-production scoping stage and they agreed with the Council's determination, their comments are set out in Appendix B.

3.5 Therefore a formal determination can be made that the House Extensions Supplementary Planning Document is unlikely to have significant environment effects and accordingly does not require a Strategic Environmental Assessment. This decision has been set out in the House Extensions SPD – Statement of Determination, which can be found in Appendix C.

4 Sustainability objectives, baseline and context

Relationship to other relevant plans and programmes

4.1 In producing the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Scoping Report for the Core Strategy the Council considered a large number of relevant plans, policies and programmes. However, in relation to the proposed SPD a smaller number of documents with a specific relationship to housing and house extensions have been identified.

National Planning Statements

4.2 Government guidance in **Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 1: Creating Sustainable Communities**, states "Planning authorities should plan positively for high quality design." Good design should contribute positively to making places better for people. Design which is inappropriate in its context should not be accepted.

4.3 **Planning Policy Guidance note (PPG) 3: Housing**, states that new housing and residential environments should be well designed and should make a significant contribution to promoting urban renaissance and improving quality of life. PPG3 further suggests that the Council and developers should think imaginatively about designs and layouts that make more efficient use of land without comprising the quality of the environment.

4.4 **Draft PPS3: Housing**, promotes the creation of places, streets and spaces which meet the needs of people, which are attractive, have their own distinctive identity, and positively improve local character. It also promotes the use of designs and layouts that are inclusive, safe, take account of public health, crime prevention and community safety,

ensure adequate natural surveillance and make space for water where there is flood risk.

4.5 **'Better Places to Live: A Companion Guide to PPG3: By Design'** published by the DETR in 2000 provides specific urban design advice to help deliver the objectives of PPG3. This companion guide considers the principles of urban design and the features of urban form, together with advice on the design and layout of successful residential housing developments, such as understanding character, privacy, orientation and safety.

4.6 Additional good practice guidelines include **'Planning - A Guide for Householdors'** published by the DETR (2002). This document states that the purpose of the planning system is to protect amenity and the environment in the public interest. Further advice contained in this document state that a well-designed building or extension is likely to be much more attractive to you and to your neighbours and it is also likely to add value to your house when you sell it. The guidance for householders specifically suggests that extensions often look better if they use the same materials and are in a similar style to the existing buildings and in some instances the Council's design guides or advisory leaflets may help you or you may wish to consider using a suitably qualified, skilled and experienced designer.

Regional Spatial Strategy & Sustainability Framework

4.7 One of the core principles of Regional Planning for the North West (RPG13), which is now by virtue of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004)

the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS), is good design. Policy DP3 states that 'new development must demonstrate good design quality and respect for its setting'. It goes on to state that local authorities should set out guidance that ensures more innovative design to create a high-quality living and working environment, especially in housing terms, which incorporates: more efficient use of energy and materials; more eco-friendly and adaptable buildings; sustainable drainage systems; community safety and 'designing out' of crime; and appropriate parking provision and best practice in the application of highway standards.

- 4.8 Policy DPI of the Draft RSS (2006) states that all proposals and schemes must demonstrate excellent design quality, sustainable construction, efficiency in resource use and respect for their physical and natural setting.
- 4.9 Action for Sustainability is the North West Regional Sustainability Framework, produced by the North West Regional Assembly (NWRA), the main goal of the framework is to improve the quality of life within the region.

Unitary Development Plan

- 4.10 The Halton Unitary Development Plan (UDP), which was adopted in April 2005, contains a number of strategic aims and objectives. These are set out in Part I of the UDP. In relation to environmental quality, these include creating a safe and healthy Halton, and ensuring that future development is of a quality of design that enhances the built environment and encourages the use of energy efficient design. At the centre of these strategic aims and objectives is the desire of the Council to create sustainable places that all people will want to live and work within.
- 4.11 Part 2 of the UDP contains policies that seek to implement the broad aims and objectives contained within Part I of the

UDP Plan. The proposed SPD is intended to support Policy H6, which states that proposals for house extensions will be permitted where:

- a the proposal would not unacceptably alter the appearance or character of the original dwelling but relate closely to it and harmonise with it in terms of their scale, proportions, materials and appearance;
- b the proposal would not create dangerous highway conditions by obstructing visibility for pedestrians or drivers of motor vehicles; and
- c Reasonable private garden space is provided for use by the residents of the extended property

- 4.12 The UDP was subject to a SA at two key stages in its production. These were the UDP First Deposit and Second (Revised) Deposit stages. This process has helped to ensure that the policies that this SPD is based upon contribute towards achieving sustainable development.

Community Strategy & Corporate Plan

- 4.13 The intended SPD will be produced to contribute to the priorities, principles, objectives and targets of the Halton Community Strategy (2006). This strategy co ordinates the resources of the local public, private and voluntary organisations towards common purposes.
- 4.14 Two of the main priorities set out in this strategy cover issues that are expected to be raised in the proposed SPD, within the priority to *Halton's urban renewal* one of the objectives to support and sustain thriving neighbourhoods and open spaces that meet peoples expectations and add to their enjoyment of life. Within the priority to *a Safer Halton* one of the objectives is to create and sustain better neighbourhoods that are well designed, well built, well maintained and valued by the people who live in them, reflecting

the priorities of residents to improve public perceptions and attractiveness.

4.15 Halton Borough Council is signed up and committed to contributing to achieving the priorities of the Community Strategy. The Council's priorities are set out in the Corporate Plan. This plan also has five priorities, including 'safe and attractive neighbourhoods' and 'promoting urban renewal'.

4.16 The intended SPD is being produced to help meet this target and others set out within the Council's Corporate Plan. The priorities in the Community Strategy and the Corporate Plan are based on the priorities set by the people of Halton. These were identified through community involvement via area panels, focus groups, and a telephone questionnaire. The Corporate Plan was based on the same community involvement and statistical information compiled for the State Of Borough Report, 2005.

Baseline Information

4.17 The baseline information for this SPD can be put into two categories. Firstly, information relating to specific housing and house extension issues that will be covered by the intended SPD; and secondly, other generic sustainability baseline information that is consistently applied as a baseline to all appraisals within Halton and that was collected as part of the production of the SA of the Core Strategy.

Residential Issues

4.18 The composition of the population in Halton in terms of age and household size is also changing, with the following points being particularly relevant for housing taken from the 2001 census:

- The number of households has increased by 3,000 from 45,857 in 1991 (although the Council's own

council tax records suggest an increase of nearly 6,000 to 51,000);

- The over 75-year-old group has increased by 17%;
- The average household size has fallen from 2.8 in 1991 to 2.44 in 2001; and
- The proportion of single person households has increased from 22.7% to 27% over the same period.

4.19 Additional Population and housing baseline information taken from the 2001 census is set out below:

Household Composition 2001

- One person households 27.3%
- Couples with no children 16.5%
- One parent families with children 13.6%
- Families with children 30.5%

Housing Tenure

- Total dwellings 2004 51,855
- Private 71.9%
- Council 12.9%
- Housing Association 15.2%

Housing Type 2001

- Detached 19.2%
- Semi detached 33.0%
- Terraced 37.5%
- Other (flats etc.) 10.3%

Generic sustainability baseline information

4.20 The Council has identified a range of generic sustainability baseline information that it feels needs to be considered by all SA applied to land use plans and policies. This baseline information can be found in Appendix 2 of the Core Strategy SA Scoping Report. The key elements of this baseline information have been included within the Sustainability Appraisal Framework (SAF), which can be found in Appendix A.

Predicted future baseline information

4.21 The current generic baseline information will continue to be used

until such a time as it is felt a review of the baseline is required. Situations that may require the baseline information to be reviewed could include

- a new baseline information emerging that better reflects the current objectives in the sustainability framework,
- b changes to the objectives in the sustainability framework, and
- c direction from a consultation body that baseline information needs amending.

4.22 It is felt that the current generic baseline information represents a competent rational for assessing the sustainability issues that are relevant to Halton and the wider area, specific baseline information to assess the effect of the proposed SPD.

Difficulties in collecting data and limitations of the data

4.23 Ideally the baseline information, found in Appendix 2 of the Core Strategy SA Scoping Report and in the SAF (Appendix A of this document), should relate to 2006, unfortunately due to the time it takes to collate data this has not been possible in many cases. As far as possible the most up date information has been used for each set of data provided.

4.24 The information tables also contain some omissions because, in some cases, it has not been possible to establish the most appropriate targets, figures or sources. Some difficulties in collecting data have also been associated with the reliance on external bodies to collect the data. For example, where external bodies have collected data for their own purposes, in the future the data may not be available, or not available in the same format, in order to make reliable comparisons. Where possible the Council will look to overcome these problems by including information that is known to be collected by the Council

or will be collected by the Council in the future. This may require further monitoring and data collection to be undertaken in the future.

4.25 It should be noted that the baseline information, found in Appendix 2 of the Core Strategy SA Scoping Report, represents a 'work in progress' in the sense that it will be added to / amended as new indicators / sources of baseline information come to the attention of the Council.

Sustainability Issues

4.26 In determining an appropriate SA approach to apply to this SPD, it is important to draw upon sources that identify those sustainability issues that are relevant to Halton and the wider area. This can be achieved by identifying issues that are based upon sound quantitative analysis; and / or involved extensive community participation.

4.27 The key sustainability issues for Halton and the wider area include:

- **Unemployment** - 'Halton: Gateway to Prosperity' 2005-2008
- **Disparity in employment** - 'Halton: Gateway to Prosperity' 2005-2008
- **Access to Employment** - State of the North West Economy (Sub-regional Report) (Oct 2004)
- **The need to raise the levels of education & skills** - The State of the Borough (Jan 2005)
- **The need to foster enterprise and entrepreneurship** - The State of the Borough (Jan 2005)
- **Reliance on a narrow economic base and low wage economy** - 'Halton: Gateway to Prosperity' 2005-2008
- **The need to improve the Economy** - The State of the Borough (Jan 2005)

- **The need to revitalise the Town Centres** – Community Strategy (2006)
 - **The image of the Borough** - 'Halton: Gateway to Prosperity' 2005-2008
 - **The need to improve health & life expectancy** - North West Public Health Observatory & Community Strategy (2006)
 - **Long-term ill** – 2001 Census & Community Strategy (2006)
 - **Ageing residents & the need to grow the health-care sector** – Department of Health
 - **Perception of crime levels and fear of crime** - 'Quality of Life Survey' of 1999
 - **Increased demand for affordable housing** - Land Registry and Housing Needs Study
 - **Providing an appropriate and balanced housing supply** – Draft Housing Strategy 2005/06 to 2007/08
 - **Providing appropriate sites to meet the needs of Gypsies and Travellers** - Circular 01-2006 'Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites'
 - **Improve access to Services from the East of Runcorn** – Local Transport Plan 2
 - **Improve access to Services in Widnes** – Local Transport Plan 2
 - **Improve access to Services to those who do not own cars**
 - **Community facilities**
 - **Amount, location and access to Recreational Space** - PMP Open Space study
 - **Population** - Nomis
 - **Deprivation** - 2004 Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD)
 - **Water quality** - Environment Agency
 - **Conserving biodiversity, habitats and species-** Securing The Future - Delivering UK Sustainable Development Strategy
 - **SSSI** - English Nature, April 2005
 - **Waste Management** - Halton's Waste Management Strategy 2004
 - **Transport congestion & pollution** – Local Transport Plan 2
 - **Air Quality** – Local Transport Plan 2
 - **Design quality in development** - Housing Audit (CABE, 2005)
 - **Protecting cultural & built heritage** – English Heritage (2005)
 - **Obtaining energy from renewable sources** - Securing The Future - Delivering UK Sustainable Development Strategy
 - **Requiring energy efficiency improvements** - Securing The Future - Delivering UK Sustainable Development Strategy
 - **Ensuring the most effective use of land** – Draft RSS (2006)
 - **Water resources** - Securing The Future - Delivering UK Sustainable Development Strategy
 - **Climate change** - Securing The Future - Delivering UK Sustainable Development Strategy
 - **Industrial legacy** - Community Strategy (2006)
- 4.28 The issues highlighted blue are those issues which are considered to be of particular importance with regard to the proposed House Extensions SPD

5 Plan issues and options

Main strategic options considered and how they were identified

5.1 Three strategic options for delivering the purpose of the draft SPD were considered. These were identified and considered as part of the Housing Extensions SA Scoping Report. This approach was taken as it was felt important that before the Council resources were committed to progressing the policy response selected to deliver the intended purpose of the SPD, the option selected was:

- a based on which would address the issues identified in the scoping report;
- b most likely to contribute to achieving sustainable development, and
- c supported by the statutory consultation bodies and other stakeholders.

5.2 In summary, the options considered during the pre-production scoping stage were identified based on the preliminary purpose and geographical coverage of the intended SPD. Significantly the coverage of the SPD is borough wide and does not directly relate to an identified geographical area. The preliminary purpose and coverage were consulted upon, and neither has been amended as a result of responses to the SA Scoping Report consultation exercise, however, the purpose of the SPD has been slightly amended to reflect changes made during the drafting of the SPD. The comments received in relation to the Pre-Production Scoping Report consultation and the Council's responses are contained in Appendix B.

5.3 The preferred option identified and selected in the Scoping Report is the option appraised within this SA. For comprehensiveness the options

considered at that stage in the process are contained in Appendix E.

How social, environmental and economic issues were considered in comparing the options and choosing the preferred option.

5.4 As stated in 5.1 the purpose and coverage of the intended SPD were tested as part of the Scoping Report and have not been amended as a result of the SA Scoping Report consultation exercise. The report included the formal screening exercise required by Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) regulations. This exercise made an initial assessment of the characteristics of the proposed SPD, and its (environmental) effects, and of the area likely to be affected by it. This assessment demonstrated that the purpose and coverage of SPD would not have a significant environmental effect.

5.5 This process also contributed to identifying the limited scope of the SPD, that it will only provide additional practical guidance to policies that have already been scrutinised and consulted upon through the plan making process, which are adopted in the Unitary Development Plan (UDP). This recognised that the UDP itself had been through the Sustainability Appraisal process. The screening process identified that the purpose of the SPD is to promote sustainable development by creating a more pleasant, healthier and safer environment. The statutory SEA bodies and other stakeholders have agreed with the Council's conclusions during the screening process.

5.6 The preferred option for delivering the purpose of the intended SPD has been established and tested through the Scoping Report, it is recognised as contributing to achieving sustainability

and that its scope is only to provide additional practical guidance. This is felt to represent a sufficient scrutiny of comparison of the options identified. It also establishes that the preferred option that has been selected is commensurate to the scope of the intended SPD.

Other options considered, and why these were rejected

5.7 This was established and consulted upon as part of the Scoping Report. The relevant extract is contained in Appendix E.

Proposed mitigation measures

5.8 No proposed mitigation measures were considered necessary at this stage in the process, because of the scope of the SPD and its purpose of providing supplementary practical guidance to the adopted UDP.

6 Assessment of the social, environmental and economic effects of the draft House Extensions SPD

Significant sustainability effects of the draft SPD

- 6.1 The Scoping Report, which incorporated the formal SEA screening statement, established that the intended SPD was unlikely to have a significant environmental effect. Additionally, the screening statement established that the intended scope of the SPD will be to provide additional practical guidance to policies within the adopted UDP. Within the context of this, an assessment of the likely social, environmental and economic effects can be made to accompany the draft House Extensions SPD, this is set out in Appendix D.
- 6.2 The assessment tests the likely effects that the proposed SPD will have on the social, environmental and economic objectives, indicators and targets set out within the Sustainability Appraisal Framework (SAF). These objectives, indicators and targets have been derived from the Community Strategy, the sub-regionally agreed Merseyside objectives and the regional sustainability framework – ‘Action for Sustainability’. This will ensure that the SPD is tested against local, sub-regional and regional priorities. The SAF was established in the Scoping Report and is contained in Appendix A.

Consideration of sustainability issues in developing the draft SPD

- 6.3 The pre-production stage enabled the identification of the social, environmental and economic issues relevant to Halton and to the intended purpose of the SPD, this was mostly through the collection and analysis of baseline information. This process influenced the preliminary purpose of

the SPD (which has now been slightly amended during the drafting of the SPD) and the preferred option to achieve its delivery. Additionally, the approach taken in relation to the SA, was also identified. These issues were 'tested' and consulted upon through the Scoping Report consultation. The outcome of this consultation led to the production of the draft SPD which has continued to take into account the relevant social, environmental and economic problems that can be addressed through the purpose of the SPD.

Proposed mitigation measures

- 6.4 No proposed mitigation measures were considered necessary after the testing of the SPD against the objectives contained within the SAF because the assessment did not identify any issues that could be suitably mitigated for. Additionally, the scope of the SPD and its purpose of providing supplementary practical guidance to the adopted UDP means that necessary policy checks are in place that afford greater protection to areas such as protected wildlife habitat, which the SPD is supplementary to.

Uncertainties and risks

- 6.5 The assessment of the likely effects that the proposed SPD will have on the social, environmental and economic objectives (as set out in Appendix D) identified that the effect of the SPD on a number of objectives was difficult to determine. This creates a degree of uncertainty in relation to the effects of the SPD. Additionally, the incremental cumulative nature of the changes that the SPD will make to places is difficult to test and predict against the objectives in the SAF.

7 Implementation

Links to other tiers of plans and programmes and the project level

7.1 The strategy for implementation of the proposed SPD, once adopted as a formal SPD will include Council Officer training in relation to the guidance set out in the SPD. This is to ensure that its purpose is achieved more consistently across the Borough. The SPD will also be actively signposted by relevant Officers to ensure that the general public and the development industry is fully aware of the content of the SPD, and take it into account within their proposals.

Proposals for monitoring

7.2 The objectives, targets and indicators contained within the SAF will be monitored as part of the Council's Annual Monitoring Report. This will bring together the monitored data from their source, such as the Regional Sustainable Development Framework for the North West monitoring report, and collect data deficits where appropriate.

Appendix A: Sustainability Appraisal Framework

	Objective	SEA Directive	Detailed Criteria	Indicator	Target	Baseline Data
Economic	1. To continue reducing the unemployment rate in Halton and increase the economic activity rate	Social inclusiveness Economic development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it encourage new employment that is consistent with local needs? 	Population employment in and unemployment	To bring Halton's employment and unemployment rates in line with England and Wales rate by 2021.	40% of people aged 16-74 in Halton are economically active and in full time employment, whilst 4.5% are economically active and unemployed. Compared to 40.6% of people aged 16-74 in England & Wales who are economically active and in full time employment with 3.4% economically active and unemployed. (Source: Office of National Statistics, April 2001)
				Job Density	To bring Halton's job density in line with England and Wales densities by 2016.	The 2003 job density, the ratio between total jobs to working age people, in Halton (0.76) is lower than the regional (0.81) and national average (0.83). (Source: Nomis)
	2. To improve educational attainment and opportunities for life long learning and employment	Social inclusiveness Economic development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it provide improved access to vocational training, education and skills for young people? Will it provide improved skills and knowledge in the workplace? 	% of 15 yr olds achieving five or more GCSE's at grades A-C or equivalent	Increase proportions achieving five or more GCSE's at Grades A*-C to 60% by 2010. (Community Strategy)	49.1% (2005) (Source: Department for Education and Skills)
				% of adults educated to NVQ level 2, 3 or 4	Increase the % of adults qualified to Level 3 to 70% by 2010. Reduce the number of adults with no qualifications to 10% by 2010. (Community Strategy)	NVQ2 and above: Halton – 54.3%, GB – 61.5% NVQ3 and above: Halton – 33.1%, GB – 43.1% NVQ4 and above: Halton – 15.7%, GB – 25.2% (Source: Local Area Labour Force Survey, Nomis, Mar 2003-Feb 2004)
	3. To encourage sustainable economic growth and business	Economic development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it encourage the growth of indigenous businesses? 	Total number of VAT registered businesses	To increase the number of VAT registered businesses by 15% by 2010. (Community Strategy)	2,185 (2004) (Source: Nomis)

	Objective	SEA Directive	Detailed Criteria	Indicator	Target	Baseline Data
Economic	business development		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it improve the number of new, competitive businesses that last? Will it provide or contribute to the availability of a balanced portfolio of employment sites? 	Percentage of business registrations and de-registrations	To increase the % of VAT registrations whilst decreasing the % of de-registrations	10.8 % VAT registrations and 9.8% de-registrations (Source: InterDepartmental Business Register (IDBR), Nomis, 2004)
	4. To improve the competitiveness and productivity of business	Economic development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it improve business development and enhance competitiveness? 	Gross Value Added (GVA) per head	Sustain levels of GVA at above the regional norm. (Community Strategy)	GVA per head for Halton and Warrington was £17,190 (Source: Merseyside Economic Review, 2005)
	5. To enhance the vitality and viability of the three town centres (Runcorn Old Town, Halton Lea and Widnes)	Economic development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it provide an improvement to one or more of the town centres? 	Footfall within the town centre	Increase footfall through each town centre by 25% by 2010. (Community Strategy)	Average weekly footfall within Halton Lea of 292,605 Average monthly footfall for Widnes 595,747 (July – Nov 2005) Average monthly footfall for Runcorn Old Town 187,207 (July – Nov 2005) (Source: Halton Lea – Brandspace, Runcorn and Widnes – Halton Borough Council Footfall Counters)
				Vacancy rates within the town centre	Decrease vacancy levels year on year.	Number of vacant units in 2005 Halton Lea – 35 Widnes – 4 Runcorn Old Town – 41 (Source: Town Centre Survey 2005, Halton Borough Council)
	6. To improve the overall image of the Borough in order to attract investment.	Economic development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it encourage inward investment? 	Number of investment enquiries and the number of conversions (enquiries that are translated into actual, completed investment or expansion projects).	To increase the number of investment enquiries and the number of conversions.	317 enquiries 42 conversions (2004/5) (Source: Economic Development, Halton Borough Council)

	Objective	SEA Directive	Detailed Criteria	Indicator	Target	Baseline Data
Social	7. To improve health and reduce health inequalities	Population and human health, Social inclusiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it improve the standard of healthcare, particularly for the elderly? Will it support healthy lifestyles? 	Years of healthy life expectancy	Narrow the gap between life expectancy, at birth, in Halton and the national average by at least 10% by 2010. (Community Strategy)	Halton: Males – 73.90 years Females – 78.21 England: Males – 76.0 years Females – 80.6 (2000-2002) (Source: North West Public Health Observatory)
				Number of people who have a long-term illness	To reduce the % of residents in Halton with a long-term illness to within 1.5% of the England & Wales % by the 2011 Census.	21.5% of residents in Halton considered themselves to have a limiting long-term illness, compared to 18.2% for England and Wales as a whole. (Source: 2001 Census)
	8. To improve safety and reduce crime, disorder and fear of crime	Social inclusiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it encourage crime-sensitive design? Will it target, reduce and sustain a reduction in crime? Will it reduce the likelihood of violence and antisocial behaviour? 	Recorded crimes per 1,000 population	To reduce number of offences per 1,000 pop.	Halton offences per 1,000 population: Violence against the person 04/05 – 23 Sexual offences 04/05 – 1 Robbery 04/05 – 1 Burglary dwelling 04/05 – 4 Theft of a motor vehicle – 7 Theft from a vehicle – 11 (Source: Basic Command Unit - Recorded Crime for Six Key Offences 2004/05, Crime in England & Wales 2004/5, Home Office)
				Number of people reporting fear of crime	Reduce levels of expressed fear of crime and anti-social behaviour by 25% by 2010. (Community Strategy)	16.4% of people in Halton thought reducing crime would improve their local area. Just under three tenths (29.2%) of residents stated that they feel 'fairly unsafe' (17.3%) or 'very unsafe' (11.9%) when they are outside in their local area after dark.(Source: Halton Strategic Partnership Consulting the Communities of Halton 2005, March 2005)

	Objective	SEA Directive	Detailed Criteria	Indicator	Target	Baseline Data
Social	9. To provide well designed, good quality, affordable and resource efficient housing	Social inclusiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it provide for affordable housing for local people? Will it ensure that new housing is of a high standard of design and layout? Will it provide safe, secure and decent housing? 	Proportion of different housing types and tenures	To meet the requirements set out in the most up-to-date Housing Needs Survey.	Housing Type 2001: Detached 19.2% Semi detached 33.0% Terraced 37.5% Other (flats etc.) 10.3% Housing Tenure 2004: Private 71.9% Council 12.9% Housing Association 15.2% (Source: Annual Monitoring Report, Halton Borough Council, 2005)
				Average household income	To increase average household income in Halton to 90%+ of the national average by 2010. (Community Strategy)	The average household income in Halton is £27,898 which is 89.4% of the UK average (UK average salary is £31,200). (Source: Merseyside Economic Review, 2006)
	10. To improve access to basic goods, services and amenities	Social inclusiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it improve transport provision and accessibility? Will it provide for local retail needs? Will it improve public access to services and amenities? 	Percentage of new residential development within 30 minutes public transport time of a GP, hospital, primary and secondary school, employment and a major retail centre.	To ensure that all new housing development is within 30 minutes public transport time of a GP, hospital, primary and secondary school, employment and a town centre.	% of housing completions 2004/5 within 30 minutes public transport time of key services: GP – 100% Hospital (Halton) – 48% Primary School – 100% Secondary School – 100% Employment – 100% Town centre – 100% (Source: Annual Monitoring Report, Halton Borough Council, 2005)
11. To ensure access to high quality public open space and natural	Social inclusiveness Biodiversity, fauna and flora. Cultural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it ensure that all people have access to public open space within a reasonable 	Number and area of Local Nature Reserves (LNRs)	Ensure no loss of LNR (number or area).	10 LNRs covering an area of 142.02ha (Source: Halton Borough Council, 2004)	

	Objective	SEA Directive	Detailed Criteria	Indicator	Target	Baseline Data
Social	natural greenspace	flora, Cultural heritage and landscape	a reasonable distance from where they live? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it improve access to natural greenspace? 	Number of Green Flag Parks	To maintain and if possible increase the number of Green Flag Parks.	5 parks in Halton have Green Flag Awards. (Source: the Civic Trust – Green Flag Awards, 2005)
	12. To reduce social exclusion, deprivation and social inequalities	Social inclusiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it reduce poverty and social exclusion in those areas most affected? 	Index of Deprivation	For Halton to become less deprived and to move outside the 40 most deprived districts in England by 2010. (Community Strategy)	Halton is ranked 21 st , out of 354, in the average of ward scores where rank 1 is the most deprived. (Source: Indices of Deprivation 2004, Office of the Deputy Prime Minister)
Environmental	13. To protect, improve and where necessary, restore the quality of inland, estuarine and coastal waters	Water and soil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it improve the quality of controlled waters? 	Water quality (chemical & biological) classification of rivers, canals, estuaries and coastal waters and percentage lengths in different classes	To increase the % of rivers, canals, estuaries and coastal waters that classified as either good or fair year on year.	Halton: Biology 2004 Good – 0% Fair – 13.18% Poor – 79.39% Bad – 7.4% Chemistry 2004 Good – 11.0% Fair – 60.43% Poor – 20.55% Bad – 8.02% (Source: Environment Agency)
	14. To protect, enhance and manage biodiversity	Biodiversity, Fauna & Flora	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it protect sites and habitats of nature conservation value from inappropriate development? Will it improve the number and diversity of sites and 	Number and total area of internationally and nationally designated nature conservation sites	To maintain the number and total area of internationally and nationally designated nature conservation sites	1 RAMSAR – 918.7ha 3 SSSI – 923.99ha 61 SINC – 742.65ha The RAMSAR site is also designated as a SSSI site therefore 918.7ha of the SSSI sites is also contributed as a RAMSAR. (Source: Annual Monitoring Report, Halton Borough Council, 2005)

	Objective	SEA Directive	Detailed Criteria	Indicator	Target	Baseline Data
Environmental			diversity of sites and habitats of nature conservation value in the Borough?	Condition of SSSIs	95% of SSSI land should be in favourable or recovering condition by 2010. (Public Service Agreement (PSA) target)	Flood Brook Clough SSSI - 100% unfavourable recovering (01/04/05) Mersey Estuary SSSI - 99.95% favourable, 0.05% unfavourable recovering (Various 08/02- 03/04) Red Brow Cutting SSSI - 100% favourable (06/01) (Source: English Nature)
	15. To minimise the production of waste and increase reuse, recycling and recovery rates.	Water and soil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it result in a reduction in the amount of waste requiring treatment and disposal? 	Level and % of household waste recycled	Waste Strategy 2000 set national recycling targets To recycle or compost at least 30% of household waste by 2010, and 33% of household waste by 2015.	During 2004/05, 8885.57 tonnes (13.65%) of household waste arising was sent for recycling. (Source: Annual Monitoring Report, Halton Borough Council, 2005)
				Total annual amount of municipal waste generated and % recycle or composted.	Ensure 30% of waste is recycled or composted by 2010. (Community Strategy)	Total municipal waste(04/05) – 65,083 tonnes Total municipal waste recovered – 8885 (14%) Total municipal waste composted – 5957 (9%) Total municipal waste landfilled – 50240 (77%) (Source: Annual Monitoring Report, Halton Borough Council, 2005)
	16. To reduce the need to travel and improve choice and use of sustainable	Air, Human Health, Climatic factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it minimise the need to travel? Will it reduce car use and encourage the use of integrated 	Number and total area of Air Quality Management Areas and population living in AQMAs	To maintain 0 AQMAs	0 AQMAs (2005) (Source: Local Air Quality Management website)

	Objective	SEA Directive	Detailed Criteria	Indicator	Target	Baseline Data
Environmental	transport modes, whilst protecting, and where necessary, improving local air quality		and public transport? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it improve air quality? 	Travel to work by mode	To reduce the number of people travelling to work by car or van by 10% by 2011 and by 20% by 2021.	Percentage of people in Halton aged 16 - 74 in employment who usually: Work at or from home – 6.16% Travel to work by: Underground, metro, light rail, Tram or Train – 1.31% Bus, mini bus or coach – 7.12% Motorcycle, scooter or moped – 1.07% Driving a car or a van – 62.42% Passenger in a car or van – 9.06% Taxi – 0.65% Bicycle – 2.03% On foot – 9.78% Other – 0.41% (Source: 2001 Census)
	17. To protect, enhance and manage the rich diversity of cultural and built environment and archaeological assets	Cultural heritage and landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it safeguard sites of archaeological importance? Will it preserve and enhance buildings which contribute to Halton's heritage? 	Number of Listed Buildings and Number and Area of Conservation Areas	To maintain the number of Listed Buildings and Number and Area of Conservation Areas	Halton has 122 Listed Buildings 2 of which are Grade I listed, 17 are Grade II* listed and the remaining are Grade II listed. Halton has 10 Conservation Areas and the total area is 92. 78ha. (Source: English Heritage and Halton Borough Council)
				Number of Conservation Areas covered by an up-to-date Conservation Area Appraisal	To increase the number of Conservation Areas covered by an up-to-date Conservation Area Appraisal	Currently there are 0 Conservation Areas covered by an up-to-date Conservation Area Appraisal (Source: Halton Borough Council)
				Number of buildings and Scheduled Ancient Monuments 'at risk'.	To reduce the number of buildings 'at risk' to 0 by 2016.	There are 2 buildings 'at risk' in Halton these are Daresbury Hall which is Grade II* Listed and the Undercroft of West Range at Norton Priory which is a scheduled monument. (Source: English Heritage, Buildings 'at risk' Register, 2005)

	Objective	SEA Directive	Detailed Criteria	Indicator	Target	Baseline Data
Environmental	18. To use land, energy, and water resources prudently and efficiently, and increase energy generated from renewable sources	Water and soil, Climatic factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it enable development to re-use brownfield land and convert existing buildings? • Will it encourage prudent and efficient use of energy? • Will it use water efficiently and with care? • Will it encourage the development of appropriate types of renewable energy resources? 	Proportion of housing built on previously developed land per year	PPG3 set a target of 60% of dwellings on PDL by 2008.	61% of new and converted dwellings on PDL in 2004/05 42% in 2004 49% in 2003 28% in 2002 (Source: Annual Monitoring Report, Halton Borough Council, 2005)
				Proportion of energy generated from sustainable and renewable sources	Energy White 2003 set a national target that 10% of the UK's electricity supply comes from renewable sources by 2010, 15% by 2015 and 20% by 2020.	Halton has capacity for the generation of 6.5MW from renewable sources. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biomass: PDM (2 10MW) • Co-firing of Biomass: Shell Green Generation Plant (4.20MW) • Sewage Gas: Runcorn CHP (0.26MW) (Source: renewables northwest)

Appendix B: Statement of Consultation: Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Sustainability Assessment (SA) process

Draft Supplementary Planning Document (SPD): House Extensions
Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Sustainability Appraisal (SA) -
Statement of Consultation

SA Pre-production Scoping Report (incorporating SEA screening statement): Thursday 6th April 2006 to Thursday 11th May 2006

Date of consideration of representations: 1st June 2006

Consultee	Date comments received and how responded	Comments	Response
English Heritage	04/05/06 by post	For the purposes of the SEA consultation, English Heritage will confine its advice to the question, 'Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment?' in respect to our concern, cultural heritage. Our comments are based on the information supplied in the Scoping Report. The Screening Statement indicates that the Council considers the SPD 'is unlikely to have a significant environmental effect.' On the basis of the information supplied, and in the context of the criteria set out in Schedule 1 of the Environmental Assessment Regulations [Annex II of SEA Directive], English Heritage concurs with the Council that the preparation of a Strategic Environmental Assessment is not required.	No changes required.
English Nature	No comment made		
The Countryside Agency	10/04/06 by post	The topic covered by the SPD would be unlikely to affect the Agency's environmental interests. The Agency does not wish to comment on the document. We should explain that the absence of comment is simply an expression of our remit and priorities, and should not be taken as implying a lack of interest or indicating either support for, or objection to, the plan.	No changes required.
The Environment Agency	11/05/06 by email	We agree with the Council (pg15) that the document is unlikely to have a significant environmental effect and therefore is unlikely to require a Strategic Environmental Assessment.	No changes required.

Date comments received and how responded	Comments	Response	
The Environment Agency continued . .		In developing the Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) the Environment Agency would urge the Council to consider the issue of flood risk. Where an extension is located in flood zone 2/3 we would refer the applicant/Council to the national flood risk standing advice. This can be found at www.pipernetworking.com and recommends that floor levels are set no lower and provides guidance on flood proofing measures.	To be considered during the preparation of the

Appendix C: SA of House Extensions SPD - Statement of Determination

CI Requirements of the SEA Regulations

The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulation 2004 (from now on referred to as 'the regulations'), places an obligation on the Council to undertake a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) on land use and spatial plans. Part of this process includes a screening exercise to determine the need for a SEA to be undertaken, by assessing if the proposed plan is likely to have any significant environmental effects. This screening process stage is particularly relevant where the plan being proposed can be considered to be small scale. The House Extensions Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) can be considered to be a small-scale land use plan.

C2 Screening Process Methodology

The regulations provide a set of criteria for determining the likely significant effects on the environment of land use and spatial plans. These criteria are derived from Annex 2 of SEA Directive (2001/42/EC) and are set out in Schedule 1 of the regulations and can be summarised as:

1. The characteristics of plans and programmes, having regard, in particular, to:
 - a The degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources;
 - b The degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy;
 - c The relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development;
 - d Environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme; and
 - e The relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (for example, plans and programmes linked to waste management or water protection).
2. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to:
 - a The probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects;
 - b The cumulative nature of the effects;
 - c The transboundary nature of the effects;
 - d The risks to human health or the environment (for example, due to accidents);
 - e The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected);
 - f The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to:
 - i. Special natural characteristics or cultural heritage;
 - ii. Exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values; or
 - iii. Intensive land-use; and
 - g The effects on areas or landscapes, which have a recognised national, [European] Community or international protection status.

These criteria will form the framework of the screening process

C3 Screening Process for Supplementary Planning Document (Draft): House Extensions

The purpose of the House Extensions SPD is to complement the Halton Unitary Development Plan (UDP), by providing additional guidance for anyone intending to extend or alter their house or erect a garage or other outbuilding to ensure that all developments:

- a are of exemplary design quality and that any extensions do not spoil the character of the original dwelling, but relate closely to it and harmonise with the existing house in its scale, proportions, materials and appearance;
- b protect residential amenity of neighbouring properties;
- c protect and enhance the built and natural environment;
- d preserve the essential character of the street and surrounding area;
- e avoid the creation of dangerous highway conditions; and
- f safeguard the provision of a reasonable private garden space.

The intended geographical coverage of the SPD is Borough wide. Using the criteria in Schedule I of the regulations as a framework, the requirement for a need to carry out an SEA on the intended House Extensions SPD can be determined.

C4 House Extensions SPD - Statement of Determination

(as required by Regulation 11 of The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004)

Halton Borough Council in consultation with the statutory environmental consultation bodies (the Countryside Agency, English Heritage, English Nature and the Environment Agency) has determined that the House Extensions SPD is not likely to have significant environmental effects and, accordingly, an environmental assessment will not be carried out as part of the Sustainability Appraisal process.

The SA Scoping Report, (Incorporating the Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Statement), for the House Extensions SPD was available for consultation between Thursday 6th April 2006 and Thursday 11th May 2006.

Reasons for this Determination

Using the criteria, detailed in Schedule I of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment the following assessments have been made.

I. The characteristics of proposed House Extensions SPD	
Criteria	Assessment
(a) The degree to which the SPD sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources.	The SPD is intended to be supplementary and complementary to the adopted planning policy contained in the UDP.
(b) The degree to which the SPD influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy	It is intended that the scope of the SPD will be to provide additional practical guidance to policies that have already been scrutinised and consulted upon through the plan making process.

1. The characteristics of proposed House Extensions SPD	
Criteria	Assessment
(c) The relevance of the SPD for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development	By seeking to improve the design and quality of all new house extensions and alterations this SPD will help promote the image of the Borough, promote the use of more sustainable materials and hopefully improve the well being of residents.
(d) Environmental problems relevant to the SPD	The intended SPD is primarily concerned with improving the quality of the design of the built and local environment. However, promoting the use of more sustainable materials and construction methods is likely to improve the environmental quality of the development.
(e) The relevance of the SPD for the implementation of [European] Community legislation on the environment (for example, plans and programmes linked to waste management or water protection)	There are no direct linkages with the implementation of European Community legislation.

2. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected by the proposed House Extensions SPD	
Criteria	Assessment
(a) The probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects	<p>The probable effect of the intended SPD will be to improve the design of the built environment within the Borough.</p> <p>Once adopted as part of the Halton Local Development Framework (LDF), the short to medium term effects of the intended SPD will be incremental. It is intended that in the longer term the guidance will become incorporated into the mainstream design thinking of planning and design professionals operating within the Borough.</p> <p>As part of the LDF the intended SPD will be subject to annual review and its relevance and effectiveness will be monitored. The LDF system allows for the SPD to be amended, replaced or deleted relatively easily if required.</p>
(b) The cumulative nature of the effects	The likely cumulative nature of the effects from the intended SPD is improving the quality of the built environment within the Borough to create a safe, secure and pleasant environment for people to live within.
(c) The transboundary nature of the effects	There are no transboundary effects from the SPD due to the intended scope of its purpose and the geographical coverage it will have.
(d) The risks to human health or the environment (for example, due to accidents)	There are no significant or likely risks to human health or the environment from the intended SPD.
(e) The magnitude and spatial	The intended SPD is not site specific or time constrained.

2. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected by the proposed House Extensions SPD	
Criteria	Assessment
extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)	Effects from the SPD will therefore be incremental and Borough wide, although the impact of this guidance will be concentrated in existing and new residential areas.
<p>(f) The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Special natural characteristics or cultural heritage; ii. Exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values; or iii. Intensive land-use. 	<p>The intended SPD is not site specific. It will not impact upon areas of value or vulnerability as identified in i - iii.</p> <p>The SPD will provide guidance to existing planning policies and be seen with the context of part of the LDF and not part of the Development Plan, which contains policies relating to safeguarding and enhancing the built and natural environment.</p>
(g) The effects on areas or landscapes, which have a recognised national, [European] Community or international protection status.	The intended SPD is not site specific and would be supplementary to adopted planning policy. The practical guidance it will contain will be considered in the context of planning policies relating to safeguarding and enhancing areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, community or international protection status. Therefore the SPD is not likely to have a negative effect on such areas, but will seek to provide additional guidance on enhancing such areas, i.e. through acknowledging local distinctiveness in the design of new development.

In accordance with Part 2(9) of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, the Council, as the responsible authority consider that the intended Supplementary Planning Document: House Extensions is unlikely to have a significant environmental effect and accordingly does not require a Strategic Environmental Assessment.

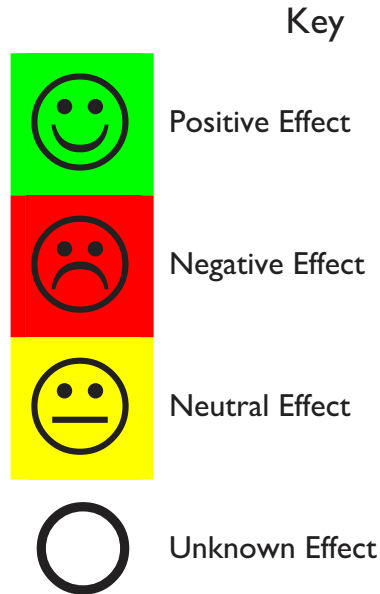
This determination has now been subject to consultation with the statutory environmental consultation bodies, none of the bodies have disagreed with the Council's determination.

Further Information










A copy of this determination and the accompanying statement of reasons may be inspected at each of the following locations Runcorn Town Hall; Widnes, Halton Lea & Ditton libraries; Runcorn Tourist Information Centre; and Halton Lea & Widnes Halton Direct Links and can be viewed or downloaded free of charge from the Council's website at www.halton.gov.uk



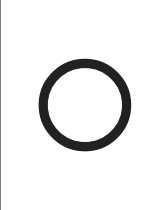
If you require any further help or information, please feel free to contact the Spatial Planning Team on 0151 907 8300 or at forward.planning@halton.gov.uk

Appendix D: Testing the Purpose of the House Extensions SPD against the Sustainability Appraisal Framework



	Objective	Nature of Effect	Additional Comments
Economic	1. To continue towards reducing the unemployment rate in Halton and increasing the economic activity rate		This SPD is not expected to have any effect on the unemployment or economic activity rate in Halton.
	2. To improve educational attainment and opportunities for life long learning and employment		This SPD is not expected to have any effect on the educational attainment and opportunities for life long learning in Halton.
	3. To encourage sustainable economic growth and business development		This SPD is not expected to have any effect on sustainable economic growth and business development in Halton.
	4. To improve the competitiveness and productivity of business		This SPD is expected to have a neutral impact on the competitiveness and productivity of business within Halton.
	5. To enhance the vitality and viability of the three town centres (Runcorn Old Town, Halton Lea and Widnes)		This SPD is expected to have a neutral impact on the vitality and viability of the three town centres.
	6. To improve and promote the overall image of the Borough in order to attract investment.		The improved design and quality of house extensions should improve the perception of the residential areas of the Borough and should help to improve the overall

	Objective	Nature of Effect	Additional Comments
			image of the Borough.
Social	7. To improve health and reduce health inequalities		The improved design, layout, and quality of house extensions will improve the perception of residential areas, improve residents living environments and will help to increase feelings of well-being.
	8. To improve safety and reduce crime, disorder and fear of crime		The improved design, surveillance and security of new house extensions will help to provide places that will contribute to reassuring communities and reducing the fear of crime.
	9. To provide good quality, affordable and resource efficient housing		The improved quality and design, and the greater consideration of residential amenity will help to provide good quality housing.
	10. To improve access to basic goods, services and amenities		This SPD is expected to have a neutral impact on access to basic goods, services and amenities.
	11. To ensure access to high quality public open space and natural greenspace		This SPD is not expected to have any effect on access to high quality public open space and natural greenspace in Halton.
	12. To reduce social exclusion, deprivation and social inequalities		This SPD is not expected to have any effect on social exclusion, deprivation and social inequalities in Halton.
Environmental	13. To protect, improve and where necessary, restore the quality of inland, estuarine and coastal waters		This SPD is not expected to have any effect on the quality of inland, estuarine and coastal waters.
	14. To protect, enhance and manage biodiversity		The direct / indirect of this SPD on biodiversity is difficult to quantify. However, it is likely that any negative impacts on biodiversity would be mitigated by the use of other policies from within the UDP.
	15. To minimise the production of waste and increase reuse, recycling and recovery rates.		The direct / indirect of this SPD on the production of waste and the increase reuse, recycling and recovery of waste is difficult to quantify. However, it is likely that this will managed through the use of other policies from within the UDP.

	Objective	Nature of Effect	Additional Comments
Environmental	16. To improve air quality by reducing the need to travel and improving choice and use of sustainable transport modes and reducing air pollution from other sources		This SPD is not expected to have any effect on air quality or the need to travel.
	17. To protect, enhance and manage the rich diversity of the cultural and built environment and archaeological assets, whilst maintaining and strengthening a local distinctiveness through the enhancement of the character and appearance of the local landscape, townscape and coast		The improved quality, layout and design and the greater consideration of residential amenity and local characteristics will help to improve the built environment and maintain local distinctiveness.
	18. To use land, energy, and water resources prudently and efficiently, and increase energy generated from renewable sources		The direct / indirect of this SPD on land, energy, and water resources is difficult to quantify. However, it is likely that this will be managed through the use of national guidance and other policies from within the UDP.

Appendix E: Options Considered

Extract of Pre-Production Scoping Report

As a Local Planning Authority, it is important to consider the options available for meeting the purpose of the intended SPD. The options considered are:

Option 1: Do nothing

This approach relies on existing policy within the UDP and government advice, such as that contained within 'Better Places to Live: A companion guide to PPG3: By Design' or the 'Urban Design Compendium', produced by English Partnerships and the Housing Corporation, to help inform planning decisions and applications. Alternatively another agency or function of the Council could produce guidance we can subsequently adopt.

In seeking to achieve sustainable forms of development, it is important that practical guidance is produced that will have sufficient weight to promote better design within Halton. This can only really be achieved if a SPD is adopted. It would be difficult for another agency or function of the Council to lead on the production of what is essentially a planning document. Therefore although this option is rejected, it is necessary to ensure that all relevant agencies and functions of the Council are closely consulted throughout the production of the SPD, as their knowledge relating to housing and house extension in particular will assist in creating an effective SPD.

Option 2: Adopt government documents as SPD

Another option is to seek adoption of Government documents as SPD. There are four documents which each (in part) contributes to meeting the purpose of the intended SPD. These are: Planning – A Guide to Householders; Better Places to Live, By Design: a Companion Guide to PPG3; the Urban Design Compendium, and; Places, Streets and Movement: a companion guide to Design Bulletin 32.

It is possible to adopt these documents as SPD for Halton, but firstly it would be difficult to amend them after a consultation exercise; secondly, the combined length of the documents would be difficult to digest by those involved in the planning and design of development, and; thirdly, the documents would not have the flexibility to respond to local circumstances. Therefore, it would not be the most effective means to deliver more sustainable places. It is clearly important that these four documents are used as a basis for developing a specific tailored document for Halton.

Option 3: Produce a House Extensions SPD

This option is to produce a House Extensions SPD. This would be produced to meet the specific purpose and objectives of the need for its production.

This is the most likely option to create more sustainable places, although the SPD must take into account national documents that relate to housing and house extensions.

The intended SPD must be shaped throughout by those who are involved in seeking to meet the same objectives as those set out in the intended purpose of the proposed SPD. It is therefore proposed to progress with option 3.

Appendix F: Further Information

Further information relating to the purpose of the intended SPD:

To access a downloadable copy of the Planning Policy Guidance notes or Planning Policy Statements detailed in Section 2, or for further general planning information visit the Department of Communities and Local Government website at <http://www.communities.gov.uk/> or for a hard copy contact the Department of Communities and Local Government by phone on 0870 1226 236.

To access a downloadable copy of 'Better Places to Live, By Design: a Companion Guide to PPG3' and 'Safer Places', documents relating to urban renewal, urban design and creating sustainable communities, and general planning information visit the Department of Communities and Local Government website at <http://www.communities.gov.uk/>.

For information relating to urban design there are several documents available. Design at a Glance: A quick reference to national design policy, Design Review and The Value of Good Design can be downloaded free of charge from the CABE website at <http://www.cabe.org.uk/publications/> and The Urban Design Compendium produced by English Partnership and the Housing Corporation can be ordered online free of charge from English Partnerships at www.englishpartnerships.co.uk Urban Design Guidance: urban design frameworks, development briefs and masterplans, produced by the Urban Design Group, and From Design Policy to Design Quality, produced by the RTPI, can be purchased from Thomas Telford Ltd.

Further information on the Secured By Design initiative, including details relating to the standards required for a development to receive Secured By Design accreditation may be found at www.securedbydesign.com

For information regarding any development affecting a historic building or conservation area 'Building In Context' will be able to provide advice. It is available from English Heritage and the CABE and can be downloaded free of charge from <http://www.cabe.org.uk> or for a hard copy contact English Heritage at: Customer Services Department, PO Box 569, Swindon, Wiltshire, SN2 2YP, Tel: 0870 333 1181, Fax: 01793 414 926

You can find out about the planning system and how it works at www.planningportal.gov.uk

Further information regarding Sustainability Appraisals and the Strategic Environmental Assessment can be found in the following documents:

- The Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive: Guidance for Planning Authorities (for land use and spatial plans), October 2003
- A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive, September 2005
- Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents, November 2005

Are available via the Department of Communities and Local Government website at <http://www.communities.gov.uk/>. This website also contains a general introduction to SEA and SA. The Department of Communities and Local Government can be contacted on 020 7944 4400.

- Strategic Environmental Assessment and Biodiversity: Guidance for Practitioners, June 2004; and
- Strategic Environmental Assessment and Climate Change: Guidance for Practitioners, May 2004

Are available via the Environment Agency website at www.environment-agency.gov.uk or telephone 08708 506 506

REPORT TO: Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 20 September 2006

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Corporate and Policy

SUBJECT: Local Area Agreements

WARDS: Boroughwide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 A Local Area Agreement (LAA) is a 3-year protocol that sets out the priorities for a local area, agreed between central government and the area itself, as represented by the lead local authority and other key partners through Local Strategic Partnership. Government has stipulated that Halton will be in Round 3 of the programme. This means that an Agreement must be negotiated by next April. The purpose of this report is to update the Board on the process and progress to date.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

(1) the report and the outline of the process be noted; and

(2) comments to Executive Board on the draft Agreement be provided prior to its approval and submission to Government by end of September.

3. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 LAAs are meant to join up, focus and simplify the administration of neighbourhood renewal activity which utilises external funding. They provide a framework for partnerships to grow and develop and are a tool for driving efficiency. Whilst currently limited in scope, there is every indication that Government would like to extend LAAs in the future to cover elements of mainstream and statutory activity. Normally, LAAs are based upon four blocks established around the shared priorities for Government:

- Enterprise & Economic Development
- Healthier communities, and older people
- Safer and stronger communities
- Children and young people

3.2 The concept of an LAA is that it will spell out the priorities and targets for local well being, based on outcomes which reflect local and national

priorities. These then form the basis of an agreement between an LSP and government departments that sets out the aims and funding requirements for activities that lie outside mainstream services – the special initiatives. This approach acts as the basis for a negotiated settlement between an LSP and government on the overall level and pattern of ‘additional’ spending in an area over a given timeframe, say three years. Once established, the local area agreement helps to bring vertical alignment between national and local priorities. Overall they reduce the complexity of funding arrangements by allowing more flexibility in the use of government monies and streamlining bureaucracy. As a starting point the Government has set out in its guidance a range of key mandatory outcomes and targets that every LAA must include. It is then for local discretion what other outcomes should be pursued in pursuit of local goals, which should derive from the Community Strategy. Members will be aware that the priorities agreed in the Community Strategy largely mirror the four blocks, with the addition of Urban Renewal. Government allow local flexibility in how LAAs are structured. Therefore, the starting point for the Halton LAA is that it is being framed around our agreed five priorities rather than the four blocks.

- 3.3 There is the opportunity within LAAs to request enabling measures (previously called freedoms & flexibilities). This is where we would wish to remove government-imposed barriers which would get in the way of delivering LAA outcomes and targets. These are not intended to alter legislation, or request central intervention on matters which should be settled locally.
- 3.4 LAAs do not carry with them extra funding, apart from a reward element. However, this is merely a rebranding of the financial rewards of local public service agreements (LPSA 2). Halton has already negotiated its LPSA2 and agreed its targets and arrangements for dividing pump-priming monies. Therefore, the LPSA2 will be incorporated into the LAA.
- 3.5 Government has set out a fairly specific timetable for the process leading to the adoption of an LAA. This is as follows:
 - By end September - areas submit first draft LAAs to GONW. These must include outcomes, indicators and indicative targets, funding streams, the business case for Enabling Measures, a draft Statement of Community Involvement, and partnership arrangements.
 - By December, final drafts must be received by GONW. Ministerial sign-off will be during February 2007, with LAAs being implemented from April 2007.
- 3.6 It is clear that we have in place many of the building blocks in Halton that will enable a strong and robust LAA to be put in place. These include established governance framework for the Halton Strategic Partnership. The Priorities Process, our strategic planning process is

complete, and we have a new Community Strategy framed around the LAA structure. The Community Strategy has 54-shared outcomes, which already address the LAA Mandatory Outcomes, as dictated by central government. As already mentioned, we have already successfully negotiated our LPSA 2 and put in place arrangements for sharing out the pump priming monies. The 12 LPSA2 targets have been put in place behind the Community Strategy and will be passported into the LAA. In addition we have a Safer and Stronger Communities Fund Mini-LAA already in place, which will be an important component of our final LAA.

- 3.7 The LSP has the task of managing the process forward and shaping the agreement. The following key steps and milestones to help trace the path for the rest of the year:
- Draft LAA end of August
 - Consideration and comments from PPBs and SSPs
 - Halton Strategic Partnership Board Endorse LAA September
 - Executive Board Endorse Draft LAA September
 - Submit draft LAA to GONW end of September
 - Negotiation Process Oct/Nov
 - Exec Board/LSP Formal Endorsement to Final LAA (Dec)
 - Final Submission – Xmas
- 3.8 This is obviously only a skeleton of the process and overlays a great deal of activity. There was a major partnership event in July to consider the framework for the agreement. Partners have put in a great deal of work over the summer to draw up the first draft of the LAA. Attached as an Annex to this report is the initial draft of the Agreement. Executive Board will consider this on 21 September prior to its submission to Government Office by the end of the month.
- 3.9 Members will observe that the Agreement is largely a re-presentation of the agreed Community Strategy and is based on the outcomes and funding embedded in existing plans and strategies. In considering their comment, in particular members may wish to focus on the outcome framework within the document that relates to their portfolio, and how it could help the Council to achieve its key objectives.
- 3.10 Underpinning the outcomes framework is an attempt to “prioritise the priorities” by articulating a small number of transformational issues that demonstrate the crosscutting and joined up approach to achieving the Halton vision. These four issues – liveability, anti-social behaviour, alcohol harm, and employment and skills – are largely self selecting based on expressed community needs, the State of halton Report and the recent LSP review. By focussing on these many of the overall outcomes and targets would be achieved. The LAA would look to provide a greater focus on these areas, particularly given the impact they have across all priorities. For each area we need to look at:

- What we are doing?
- What are the barriers to progress?
- What could we do as a Partnership to address those issues that we aren't already doing? e.g. shared targets, pooled budgets, co-location,
- What could the Government do to help us?

3.11 On the latter point, the agreement identifies a number of enabling measures that we would like Government to consider to remove barriers to our progress. The overall objective would be to push harder in those issues that we know will have a positive impact across the priorities in the Community Strategy.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 A Local Area Agreement (LAA) is a 3-year agreement that sets out the priorities for a local area, agreed between central government and the area, represented by the lead local authority and other key partners through Local Strategic Partnership. The LAA provides a service improvement tool for helping to implement Halton's adopted Community Strategy.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

5.1 None.

6.0 RISK ANALYSIS

6.1 The LAA includes proposals for a robust risk management process. This will focus attention and resources on critical areas, provide more robust action plans and better-informed decision-making. It is intended to carry this forward through a partner seminar examining risk management of the Agreement in October.

7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

7.1 The LAA will be based on the same values that underpin the Community Strategy and the Council's Corporate Plan, of which a commitment to equality and diversity is paramount. The LAA reinforces this value-driven system of partnership working.

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

8.1 There are no background documents under the meaning of this Act.

(Draft 1: 24 August 2006)

Halton Local Area Agreement:

Introduction

A Local Area Agreement (LAA) is three-year agreement, based on local Community Strategies that set out the priorities for a local area agreed between Central Government (represented by Government Office North West - GONW) and a local area, represented by its Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) – in our case the Halton Strategic Partnership. LAAs relax central government constraints and allow better decision-making at the local level. Greater freedoms provide the opportunity to think innovatively, and develop new solutions to local priorities.

To be effective our LAA must reflect local circumstances and needs. It should act as a vehicle to:

- engage and involve local communities;
- involve active participation of all stakeholders in Halton;
- be prepared and implemented by a broad 'local strategic partnership', through which the local authority can work with other local bodies;
- be based on a proper assessment of needs and the availability of resources.

This LAA has been prepared in accordance with these principles. The Community Strategy is key, and provides an overarching framework through which the corporate, strategic and operational plans of all the partners can contribute. The LAA provides a mechanism by which key elements of the strategy can be delivered over the next three years.

Background

Halton has inherited more than its share of issues, many rooted in the area's industrial past. Making the borough a better place to live and work presents some major challenges and opportunities for us all. This LAA sets out the steps we need to take together to bring about real improvements that will change lives for the better. In particular, we need to achieve real progress on five strategic themes that are set out clearly in the Community Strategy and mirrored in this LAA:

- A Healthy Halton
- Halton's Urban Renewal
- Halton's Children and Young People
- Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton
- A Safer Halton

These priorities have been derived from what local people feel is important, and from the facts and figures about conditions in Halton.

Halton is a largely urban area of 118,900 people. Its two biggest settlements are Widnes and Runcorn that face each other across the River Mersey, 10 miles upstream from Liverpool. The population of Halton was decline for over

a decade, but has recently started to increase. Between 1991 and 2002 the estimated Borough population decreased by 6,500 people from 124,800 to 118,300 in 2002. However, in 2003 there was a small increase in the population and between 2003 and 2004 the estimated population increased 500 people.

As a result of its industrial legacy, particularly from the chemical industries, Halton has inherited a number of physical, environmental and social problems. The Council has been working hard to resolve these issues ever since the Borough was formed in 1974. Gaining unitary status in 1998 has helped to co-ordinate more activity over a wider front and increased the resources the Council, and its strategic partners, have been able to invest in Halton. However, there still remains much to be done.

Halton shares many of the social and economic problems more associated with its urban neighbours on Merseyside. The latest Index of Multiple of Deprivation (IMD) for 2004, not only contains some of the latest data available, but also is one of the most comprehensive sources of deprivation indicators, as some 37 different indicators are used. It shows for example that overall, Halton is ranked 21st nationally (a ranking of 1 indicates that an area is the most deprived), but this is 3rd highest on Merseyside, behind Knowsley and Liverpool, and 5th highest in the North West. St Helens (36th), Wirral (48th) and Sefton (78th,) are way down the table compared to Halton.

The Index of Multiple of Deprivation for 2004 suggests that Deprivation has improved in the Borough. In 2004 the IMD ranked Halton as 21st most deprived Authority in England for rank of average score compared to a rank of 16th in the 2000 Index. The proportion of Halton's population in the top category (i.e. the top 10% of wards in 2000 and the top 20% of super output areas in 2004) has also decreased from 54% in 2000 to 50% in 2004. However, there is still room for improvement. Halton's concentration of deprivation has gone up from 38th position in 2000 to 20th worse in England in 2004. Concentration is a key way of identifying hot spots of deprivation within an area. Within Halton there are 6 super output areas in the top 975 Super Output Areas in England, i.e. within England's top 3% most deprived. The highest neighbourhood is ranked 193rd out of 32,482 and is situated in southern Widnes. Clearly there remains much to do.

- Claimant unemployment in the Borough has fallen from 5.0% in January 2000 to 3.1% in November 2005. However, Halton still had the 5th highest claimant count rate in the North West in November 2005. The claimant count rate only includes those people who are eligible for Jobseekers allowance and therefore underestimates the true number of people who are unemployed. The Annual population Survey for April 2004-March 2005 estimates that the unemployment rate in Halton was 7.3% compared to an England average of 4.7%
- The employment rate, i.e. the proportion of the potential workforce actually working at 68.5% in the 2004- 2005 Annual Population Survey Halton is in the bottom 6 of 43 Local Authority districts in the North West. The Borough rate is also significantly lower than the England average of 74.7%.
- Life expectancy in the Borough has increased in the past decade. Between 1992-1994 and 2002-2004 Female life expectancy in the Borough increased from 77.8 years to 78.1 years. Life expectancy at birth for men in Halton also increased

over the same time period from 72.7 in 1992-1994 to 74.1 in 2002-2004. However, despite the increase in Life expectancy Halton has not kept pace with other Authorities. Over a decade Halton has fallen from a rank of 382 for females to 424 out of 432 authorities with 432 being the lowest rank. For men the ranking has fallen from 352 to 397.

- Standardised Mortality Rates for all causes, all ages, ranks Halton 4th highest out of 354 English Local Authorities for 2001/02 . At 124 it is 24% above the national average.
- GCSE passes in the Borough are improving between 1997 and 2005 the percentage of pupils achieving 5+ A*-C increased by 16.5 percentage points to 49.3%. The difference with the national rate has reduced to 8%. Pupils gaining no GCSE passes (or equivalent) was 4% in 2005 compared to 2.6 % nationally. Skills among the workforce remain low, with a quarter of all workers lacking any qualifications.

Bespoke research to get a better picture of life in Halton was commissioned in 2005. The Local Futures Group produced a 'State of the Borough' Audit of economic, social and environmental conditions. This is a timely and necessary assessment of the challenges and issues that face Halton. Performance is assessed according to how well the borough scores on a range of carefully selected benchmark indicators of economic, social and environmental well-being. It provides a perspective on the state of Halton by looking at how it compares with other districts, how it rates within the North West region, and also how it performs compared to the country as a whole.

The Audit demonstrates that the borough is performing well in terms of its current economic performance and structure. However, the level of human capital and trends in economic growth may present problems for the future. This is particularly so given the district's poor performance in terms of social and environmental indicators, which may create difficulties attracting the best qualified people to the borough. Halton's performance on education and skills, and low levels of home ownership points to problems of inclusiveness, with groups of residents not sharing in the current levels of economic prosperity.

Moving Forward

This local area agreement sets out a clear vision of making changes across many issues that will make a big difference to life in Halton. It aims to give people opportunities and choice. We want to build people's aspirations and abilities so they can exercise greater control and choice in their lives. Having done so we want to ensure we provide the quality of life and opportunities locally so that people choose to live and work here. The following table sets out the strategic framework proposed for the Halton LAA:

<p>Vision</p>	<p>Halton will be a thriving and vibrant borough where people can learn and develop their skills, enjoy a good quality of life with good health; a high quality, modern urban environment; the opportunity for all to fulfil their potential; greater wealth and equality; sustained by a thriving business community; and within safer, stronger and more</p>
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	attractive neighbourhood.
Priorities	<p>A Healthy Halton - To create a healthier community and work to promote well being - a positive experience of life with good health</p> <p>Halton's Urban Renewal - To transform the urban fabric and infrastructure, to develop exciting places and spaces and to create a vibrant and accessible borough</p> <p>Halton's Children and Young People - To ensure that in Halton children and young people are safeguarded, healthy and happy</p> <p>Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton - To create an economically prosperous borough that encourages investment, entrepreneurship, enterprise and business growth</p> <p>A Safer Halton - To ensure pleasant safe and secure neighbourhood environments where people can enjoy life.</p>
Approach	<p>Closing the gap between the most deprived communities in the borough and in Halton overall.</p> <p>Tackling inequality and promoting community cohesion, so that no community is disadvantaged.</p> <p>Making what we do sustainable so that our quality of life is protected and enhanced for the benefit of current and future generations.</p> <p>Investing in preventative activity that stops problems occurring rather than paying for actions to fix things that are going wrong. We need to invest more in success, rather than in failure.</p>
Principles	<p>Leadership – the Partnership's role is to give clear strategic leadership to the borough and enable people to make the necessary contribution to make a difference.</p> <p>Fair and inclusive – promoting equal access to opportunities and facilities. This includes the need to positively target activity at the most deprived geographical areas or particular groups of people.</p> <p>Good value – being economical, efficient and effective in delivering 'Best Value' for the public.</p> <p>Collaborative – this is about collective responsibility for making things better and embedding partnership approaches in everything that we do.</p> <p>Evidence-based – ensuring we learn from best practice elsewhere and make good use of research about what works in addressing the borough's priorities.</p>

This vision and approach arises directly out of the newly agreed community strategy: *Making It Happen In Halton – A Community Strategy For A Sustainable Halton*. The LAA takes this as its the starting point.

Approach

The Halton LAA is framed around the five priorities agreed in the Community Strategy and set out above. These encompass the four blocks suggested by Government but take a wider view of what the priorities are for Halton. The urban renewal agenda is included because revitalising the physical fabric of the borough underpins our regeneration agenda.

Also relevant are the cross cutting themes that Halton has adopted which are pertinent to each of our five blocks. We want to shift our focus to prevention measures, to promoting positive lifestyles and the many excellent aspects of life in Halton, and to more timely interventions to help people at the times when they most need support. Our ways of working will focus on:

- Poverty and material deprivation
- Choice and quality in neighbourhoods and housing
- Equality of opportunity for everyone and ending discrimination.
- Policies and programmes that look forward and help to achieve sustainable development

We want to sharpen up service delivery and focus on the things that will make the most difference. The key measure of whether service delivery is transformed is how far and how fast we can narrow the gap in outcomes for the most disadvantaged in Halton, as measured by comparison with both Halton and national averages. The Halton Strategic Partnership will be accountable for achieving the outcomes set out in the agreement.

The LAA has developed out of the established partnership structure and strategic planning process. It is important that it adds value to the established landscape of partnership plans and activity. It can do this by helping to refocus current activity and drive concerted actions on key challenges, neighbourhoods and target beneficiaries. Using evidence and intelligence we intend to close the gap between the most deprived people and places and national norms.

Transformational Issues

The question that the Halton Strategic Partnership has been addressing is: What added value can be brought by an LAA to existing partnership frameworks and activity? The partnership believes that the answer lies in using the LAA to focus in on a small number of issues which, if we were successful at addressing, would make a significant improvement to the quality of life in the Borough. These transformational issues have been identified on the basis of two criteria:

- those where progress has not been as significant as we would have liked – identified from statistics, public perception and concern, areas for focus in recent LSP reviews.

- those which would have a positive impact across a range of our objectives and targets.

We want the LAA to bring a greater concerted effort to those key issues. We want the LAA to focus on our most intractable problems, and in doing so make a significant impact upon them. These issues need to be supported by the partnership and it has been agreed that the following four areas best fit the two criteria outlined above - Employment & Skills; Alcohol Harm reduction; Anti-Social Behaviour; and, Liveability

In addressing these through the LAA we will address the following questions:

- What are the barriers to progress?
- What is it we could be doing but are not?
- What does best practice elsewhere suggest we could be doing?
- What freedoms and flexibilities would we need to make greater progress?
- Are we using all our resources as effectively as we could?

We intend to use the “energy” and focus an LAA brings to make measurable progress in those intractable areas. Our intention is to use these as a means to exemplify the joined up nature of how the Halton Strategic Partnership addresses key issues which cut across all five blocks of the LAA. The following table gives a summary of the current position on the four transformational issues

Alcohol Harm

Why is this an issue?

Alcohol misuse can be a source of considerable harm. The National Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy identifies certain critical harms connected to alcohol misuse:

- Health – up to 22,000 premature deaths per year
- Crime and antisocial behaviour – 1.2 million associated violent incidents per year
- Loss of productivity and profitability – calculated at £6.4bn. per year
- Harms to family and society – between 780,000 and 1.3 million children are affected by parental alcohol problems

Halton itself suffers from more than its fair share of alcohol related issues. The table below taken from a recent study on alcohol misuse in the North West conducted by the North West Public Health Observatory, highlights Halton’s position against some of the key indicators for alcohol. On all indicator Halton ranks in the worst 5 districts (out of 43 areas)

During 2005 an alcohol survey of year 10 and 11 pupils in Halton was carried out. These were a few of the results:

- A higher than average proportion of 15-16 year olds are drinking alcohol in Halton – 92%. (North West 88% and 93% across Cheshire).
- 40% of teenagers surveyed claim to drink in pubs.
- 50% of teenagers surveyed claim to get their alcohol from their parents.

How will we work to address this issue across the LAA?

The cost of alcohol misuse, both social and economical provides serious cause for concern in Halton, particularly given the latest statistics. We know that if we can reduce alcohol harm across the borough we will make an impact on improving a range of associated issues. For example, these would include health, crime and community safety, employment, liveability, regeneration and educational attainment.

How will we work differently?

No single partnership or agency can act alone on such a complex issue. In order to meet the significant challenge of reducing the harm caused by alcohol the different components of the partnership structure in Halton must recognise the relevance of alcohol to their core business and must include it as a cross-cutting issue.

A multi-agency task group has been established and a comprehensive Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy developed. An Alcohol Intervention officer is about to be appointed, whose primary purpose will be to ensure the delivery and implementation of the Strategy and Action Plan.

How do we propose to deliver on this area?

In order to deliver on this area of the LAA we intend to focus on 5 key priorities, which bring together the strategic priority areas identified in Halton's Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy. These are **Health, Crime and Licensing, Children and Young People, Workplace and Communities and Regeneration**. Under each area we have picked the key outcomes and targets that we feel the LAA can help us to achieve. This action plan will be monitored and delivered by the Alcohol Task Group and will sit alongside the main Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy and action plan. Relevant SSPs will also need to take responsibility for outcomes relating to their priority area.

Employment & Skills

Anti-Social Behaviour

Why is this an issue?

The government has made a commitment to tackle anti-social behaviour. In March 2003, the Home Secretary announced new powers to deal with anti-social behaviour. Amongst these provisions are powers to close premises connected with drug abuse, new powers for Registered Social Landlords and Local authorities to deal with troublesome tenants, a new range of orders to address the behaviour of perpetrators of anti-social behaviour and in some cases, address parental responsibility, and extended use of the Fixed Penalty procedure for cases of anti-social behaviour including litter and graffiti.

Social responsibility, respect for others and appropriate community behaviour are fundamental requirements of a thriving and successful community. The majority of our communities recognise this and contribute positively to community life, however, a minority do not. The conduct of this minority adversely affects the ability of people to enjoy the communities and facilities where they live, work and visit. This is not acceptable. This behaviour is often termed anti-social behaviour. Anti-social behaviour is not welcome in Halton and will not be tolerated.

How will we work to address this issue across the LAA?

The LAA mirrors the strategic priorities of the Community Strategy. These strategic

priorities were arrived at through public consultation as to what our communities consider important and the careful analysis of research data that provides an indication of prevailing conditions in the Borough. The Anti-social Behaviour Strategy, whilst perhaps centred within the strategic priority of 'Ensuring safe and attractive neighbourhoods', relies for its success on the commitment and complementary working practices of a number of partner agencies within and outside of Halton Borough Council. It is therefore an overarching strategy embracing all 5 strategic priorities in achieving the strategic vision.

How will we work differently?

Survey data provides information in four key areas:-

- Misuse of Public Space
- Disregard for community / personal well-being
- Acts directed at people
- Environmental damage

These are robust categories that encompass the experiences of people living, visiting and working in Halton. The LAA will develop a rounded response to ASB through:

- Integration of the strategy into the statutory framework for joint agency co-operation set out in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, s17 "*It shall be the duty of each authority to which this section applies, to exercise its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder.*"
- Accessing partnership resources to maximise service provision
- Seeking and ensuring commitment to a Borough-wide response to Anti-social Behaviour
- Facilitating the flow of appropriate information to enable effective interventions. The law allows for information sharing for any legitimate purpose where this has a legal basis. *Data Protection Act. 1998*
- Recommending the realignment of mainstream resources to improve multi-agency service delivery and response to Anti-social Behaviour
- Providing the structure for continuous improvement of the multi-agency response by developing common protocols and assessment pathways
- Identifying and addressing the capacity, knowledge and skill requirements of key staff

How do we propose to deliver on this area?

Prevent & Deter

- Identifying those perpetrators of A.S.B. or those at risk of becoming perpetrators of A.S.B. and intervening at an early stage to bring about behavioural change.
- Identifying appropriate routes to divert the focus of groups and individuals, towards positive pro-social activity.
- Minimising the opportunity for anti-social behaviour by addressing the factors that support it. These may be physical e.g. 'uncared for' environment, or social e.g. influenced by alcohol or substance misuse.

Protect And Punish

- Use of civil and criminal legal remedies where appropriate:
- Harassment Notices and Orders, Anti-social Behaviour Orders, Injunctions, Housing Related Measures (demoted tenancies, possession proceedings etc.), Crack House Closures. Fixed Penalty Notices for Disorder and Litter etc.
- Providing support to the vulnerable and support to the vulnerable and ensuring that complainants and witnesses are supported and informed throughout the process.

Rehabilitation

- The ASB Task Group is committed to ensuring that there are a range of activities within Halton aimed at encouraging and reinforcing positive citizenship and pro-social behaviour. These will include activities aimed at wide groups e.g. community projects and citizenship programmes within schools as well as other activities targeted at groups who are at risk of social inclusion.
- In addition it is recognised that A.S.B. is not age restricted and adult education is equally important in shifting attitudes.
- The need to take this work to the street or neighbourhood level, a factor recognised by the national 'Respect' agenda, will be crucial in making this strategy work

Liveability

Why is this an issue for Halton?

The visual quality of an area, namely the way an area looks, including levels of litter and rubbish, scruffiness of gardens and the prevalence of high rise flats or open space, is of crucial importance in determining quality of life in a local area.

A recent Mori poll which asked people what most needs improving in their own local area, found liveability issues are still top of the public priority list, well ahead of health and education. In Halton, the opinions of 2,500 local residents were surveyed in 2005. Removing rubbish, and cleaning the streets and verges was felt to be the biggest environmental improvement, which could be made. In the 2005 LSP consultation, residents thought that one of the most effective factors in improving the environment was to 'improve local parks and make them safer and tidier'.

How will we work to address the issue across the LAA?

The quality of the local environment impacts on people's health, their fear of crime, and the social and economic vibrancy of the area. Poor quality spaces are visible indicators of decline and disadvantage. Graffiti, street litter, abandoned vehicles, dog fouling drag down a local area and there is evidence that their presence signals a spiral of decline, which can undermine communities. It is only through partners working together to tackle these issues and their causes, that we are to bring about improvements in the liveability agenda and quality of life for local residents.

How will we work differently?

Working in partnership delivering joint initiatives has proven to particularly effective and this approach will be developed across partner agencies, and in particular through the Safer Halton Partnership. The recent police drug raids, were supported by other partners, who following the raids, successfully helped to deliver local environment improvements, and re-assure the local community.

Three of the more deprived areas of the Borough have been selected for the neighbourhood management pilot. A neighbourhood management board has been established and neighbourhood boards will soon follow. By tailoring services to meet the needs of local communities across the LAA, it is hoped that we can make a significant difference to their quality of life. Neighbourhood management is seen as an opportunity for partners to work more closely together and pilot new ways of working, which if successful can be rolled out across the Borough.

How do we propose to deliver on this area?

The recently revised Safer and Stronger Communities Fund Agreement, sets out a number of liveability targets across the Borough and more specific targets for the

neighbourhood management pilots areas. The SSCF Agreement will be monitored by the performance management group, of the Safer Halton Partnership (SHP) and the SHP, engagement and liveability task group, which will take the lead in delivering on the liveability agenda

Obviously, this is merely a very short summary position. At Annex G is a more considered position paper on each of these topics.

Funding

Halton partners have noted the funding arrangements for LAAs. The mandatory pooling by Government of a number of external funding streams is welcomed. It is felt that this will simplify the performance management arrangements, reduce the transaction costs of programme management and lead to efficiencies.

The Halton Strategic Partnership does not propose to pool any other funding streams within the LAA in Year 1. Some local and specific pooling of funding by partners will take place, as indeed it does now. However, we do not seek to embed these pooling arrangements within the auspices of the Agreement. Instead Partners intend to concentrate their efforts on wider moves to align appropriate budgets behind the Agreement. This position will be reviewed for Years 2 and 3 of the Agreement and we will seek to pool additional funding in years 2 and 3 of the agreement where this is helpful in achieving the outcomes agreed.

Partners are committed where appropriate to align the use of resources (including funds, personnel, buildings and land use) to support the aims of the LAA. Annex A outlines our current thinking on aligning and pooling funding in the LAA. Our approach has been mainly to align funding in this first year.

Enabling Measures

Halton takes a pragmatic view of the opportunity offered to negotiate freedoms and flexibilities. The development process has identified a number of key enabling measures, which would benefit the LAA in its operation. These potential freedoms and flexibilities are set out in Annex C of the Agreement, and will be the subject of negotiation with GONW.

Sustainability

The focus in Halton is to build a sustainable community that balances and integrates social, economic and environmental progress; that meets current expectations and prepares for future needs; and that respects the diversity of the place and people. Sustainability is about linking cohesion into the mainstream of service delivery and ensuring that our vision can be delivered over time and in the face of conflicting demands and diminishing resources. It involves more than changing plans and policies as it involves changing hearts and minds. This is one of our greatest challenges. What is important is that foundations are properly and securely laid at the outset for enabling any project or initiative to make an impact into the future. The LAA has been developed by adopting this approach.

The vision for the future is of a Halton that has sustained itself. This is a place where people want to live and work. It is somewhere that provides a high quality living environment, sensitive to a range of needs, and recognises the diversity of its residents. This Strategy is all about giving people opportunities and choice. We want to build people's aspirations and abilities so they can exercise greater control and choice in their lives. Having done so we want to ensure we provide the quality of life and opportunities locally so that people choose to live and work here.

In short, we want to build a sustainable community that balances and integrates social, economic and environmental progress; that meets current expectations and prepares for future needs; and that respects the diversity of the place and people. The Partnership has identified the following components as being crucial to success.

- (a) *Respect and Enjoyment*
- (b) *Thriving Places*
- (c) *Well Planned*
- (d) *Accessibility*
- (e) *Well Served*
- (f) *Well Run*

Developing the LAA

The process to develop the LAA was important. It was vital that the process was inclusive. Many people and groups were involved so we could build a clear picture on what was important and how we should go forward. From the outset the Halton Strategic Partnership Board has been engaged in leading the development of the LAA. We have ensured wide involvement across agencies and sectors. This process of engagement with people and partners was vital. It is only if there is a shared view of the challenges that Halton faces, and a broad sense of ownership of the resulting strategy, that there will be any chance of its ambitions being realised.

Halton established a Lead Officer Group to lead the development of the LAA. This is made up of key leaders from all partners, including the VCS. This cross agency corporate steering group - has met regularly to co-ordinate the development of the LAA and ensures a consistent and holistic approach. In addition, a wide variety of organisations, teams and individuals have been involved in developing the detail for each of the blocks. This process has been actioned through the SSPs – our well-established thematic working groups. Wherever possible we have ensured that the work has been integrated into existing cross-agency structures, e.g. the Older Peoples Local Implementation Team. Within each block various methods have been used to engage people – workshops, mini-conferences etc. Regular activities have involved monthly LOG meetings to discuss the focus and content of the LAA, backed up by regular meetings with GONW to test this; thematic partnership meetings to discuss the detail, agree outcomes, map resources and relationships, and identify enabling measures; all partner seminars and workshops to develop coherence and consensus around the overall agreement; and a micro-website for as part of an overall communication effort to keep all partners in touch with progress (already set up on www.haltonpartnership.net).

Key milestones in the process include:

- An early decision to align our Community Strategy with the LAA blocks. We were also able to use the consultation that had been done on the Community Strategy to inform the LAA.

- Extensive briefing across sectors; putting in place the appropriate project management structures and disciplines; identifying lead officers and forming working groups and teams;
- Across agencies and across the 5 blocks stimulating thinking to clarify our ambitions and develop them into a cohesive statement, together with identifying the key challenges to Government and ourselves;
- 14 July – an all-partners conference at Halton Stadium to agree the ambitions and the challenges;
- July/August – cross agency teams for each block focused on developing the outcomes framework for the block; identifying appropriate indicators, and proposals for pooled funding and freedoms and flexibilities.
- September – meetings of the Halton Strategic Partnership Board and the Council’s Executive Board Cabinet to endorse the LAA.

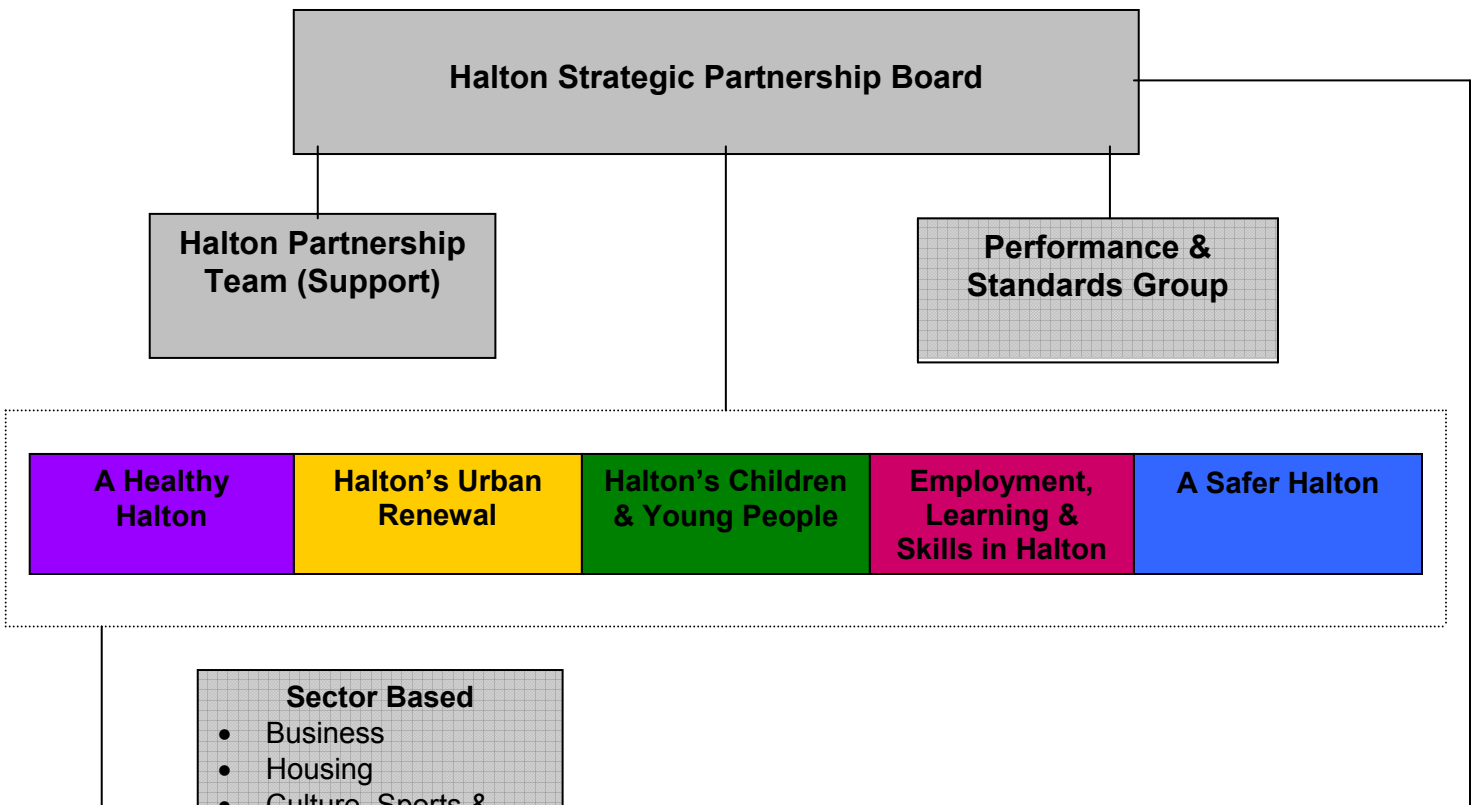
Governance

Halton already has in place well established and robust partnership arrangements. These are based on a Strategic Board supported by five thematic partnerships, a performance management group and a number of specialist subsidiary partnerships. This includes representation at all levels by all stakeholders including significant representation from the voluntary and community sectors. The structure has been recently reviewed, refreshed and rationalised through an overhaul of governance arrangements supported by Manchester Business School. The current governance structure is considered wholly fit for purpose, and can be represented as follow



Halton Strategic **PARTNERSHIP**

The Virtual Organisation



The Halton Strategic Partnership Board (HSPB) brings together representatives from all sectors of life in the borough. It is the strategic level Board and a key part of the broad-based Halton Partnership. It serves the function of a 'local strategic partnership' (LSP) for the area.

The Halton Strategic Partnership Board, the Community Strategy, and the LAA provide a common sense of direction for the community and an overarching framework within which different partnerships, organisations and groups can co-operate together, committed to common goals and dedicated to improving life for people in the Borough. Taking action is one thing, but unless it is focused on the right things it is unlikely to yield the right results. This is why the Partnership invested a good deal of time and resources sounding out public opinion and gathering the facts and figures needed to identify the overall priorities for the borough. All of this is reflected in the LAA.

In 2005 the State of Halton report was researched and published, highlighting a range of challenges and opportunities facing Halton. Its findings have been checked and challenged by the Partnership and tested against public opinion. This led to the identification of a number of priorities for the borough over the medium term which, in combination, addresses the overall aim of making it a better place to live and work.

The Partnership also works to improve the quality of life at a neighbourhood level. It does this by working through the seven geographical Area Forums established by the Council and supported by the partners. A Local Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy has been produced for each area, highlighting the concerns of local people and outlining actions to be taken to tackle issues at a local level. Many of those actions build on and link with the five Specialist Strategic Partnerships' plans, while others

are unique to their particular area. Each plan has devolved resources to draw on to help deliver these actions.

Halton is enthusiastic about extending neighbourhood management as a means to engage and empower local communities. This will address problems in deprived neighbourhoods by managing and co-ordinating resources and services to achieve a greater combined impact. A sound neighbourhood approach will lay the foundations for delivery of improvements to liveability and public services, transforming neighbourhoods and empowering local people. Halton already has many front line services organised on a neighbourhood basis. Community Support Officers, policing, community development workers, housing management, street-scene teams and youth workers are organised on an area basis. Children's Centres will also co-ordinate service delivery at a local level. A neighbourhood focus will provide management and co-ordination mechanisms for joining these, and other services such as health and social care up on a local basis. This Community Strategy provides a framework through which these arrangements can be brokered.

Strategic Priorities

The vision for Halton as set out in the Community Strategy, and mirrored in this LAA is:

Halton will be a thriving and vibrant borough where people can learn and develop their skills, enjoy a good quality of life with good health; a high quality, modern urban environment; the opportunity for all to fulfil their potential; greater wealth and equality; sustained by a thriving business community; and within safer, stronger and more attractive neighbourhood.

The key challenge is how best to frame the response to the challenges that Halton faces through the LAA. To do this challenges have been grouped into the five key themes, which are in the Community Strategy itself: These are

- A Healthy Halton
- Halton's Urban Renewal
- Halton's Children and Young People
- Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton
- A Safer Halton

We intend to focus heavily on these key issues and through the LAA to channel extra resources year on year into efforts to achieve challenging targets in each chosen priority area. If we succeed in this enterprise, we will realise our Vision for Halton. It is worth restating our overall aspirations for each of these five blocks of activity.

A HEALTHY HALTON

Our overall aim

To create a healthier community and work to promote well being - a positive experience of life with good health (not simply an absence of disease), and offer opportunities for people to take responsibility for their health with the necessary support available.

Why health?

Statistics show that health standards in Halton are amongst the worst in the country and single it out as the aspect of life in the borough in most urgent need of improvement. The population is ageing which could put even greater demands on the health and social care services. At the same time lifestyle choices in the borough, especially among the young, in terms of diet, smoking, alcohol, exercise and other factors continue to give cause for concern for the future.

Key Objectives

- A To understand fully the causes of ill health in Halton and act together to improve the overall health and well-being of local people**
- B To lay firm foundations for a healthy start in life and support those most in need in the community by maximising and promoting autonomy.**
- C To promote a healthy living environment and lifestyles to protect the health of the public, sustain individual good health and well-being, and help prevent and efficiently manage illness**
- D To reduce the burden of disease in Halton by concentrating on lowering the rates of cancer and heart disease, mental ill health and diabetes and addressing the health needs of older people**
- E To remove the barriers that disable people and contribute to poor health through ensuring that people have ready access to a wide range of social, community and housing services, and cultural and sporting activities that enhance their quality of life**

HALTON'S URBAN RENEWAL

Our overall aim

To transform the urban fabric and infrastructure, to develop exciting places and spaces and to create a vibrant and accessible borough that makes Halton a place where people are proud to live and see a promising future for themselves and their families.

Why urban renewal?

Modern day Halton has inherited an exceptional legacy of obsolete and poor quality land, buildings and physical infrastructure that undermine the development potential and attractiveness of the area. Putting this right is a key to greater prosperity and boosting the image of the borough.

Key Objectives

- A To create and sustain a twenty first century business environment with the required variety and quality of sites, premises and infrastructure that**

can support high levels of investment and economic growth and increase Halton's competitiveness

- B To revitalise the town centres to create dynamic, well-designed high quality commercial areas that can continue to meet the needs of local people, investors, businesses and visitors**
- C To support and sustain thriving neighbourhoods and open spaces that meet peoples expectations and add to their enjoyment of life**
- D To ensure Halton designs in and maintains high levels of accessibility to places and spaces so that opportunity and need are matched, and provides excellent connectivity to the wider world through transport and ICT links.**
- E To enhance, promote and celebrate the quality of the built and natural environment in Halton, including tackling the legacy of contamination and dereliction, to further improve the borough's image**

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE IN HALTON

Our overall aim

To ensure that in Halton children and young people are safeguarded, healthy and happy, and receive their entitlement of high quality services that are sensitive to need, inclusive and accessible to all.

Why children and young people?

Children and young people are the future of Halton. In time they will become the adults that take responsibility for all aspects of life in the borough. Therefore, it is vital that we should invest in Halton's future by investing in them. This will make sure they have the best possible start in life, have places to go and things to do that are positive and life enhancing, and the opportunity to fulfill their potential and succeed.

Key Objectives

- A. To ensure all children and young people in Halton enjoy a healthy lifestyle that helps them to achieve physical and emotional well being**
- B. To ensure all children and young people in Halton grow up and thrive in safe environments, communities, homes and families**
- C. To ensure all children and young people in Halton participate and enjoy, learning to develop socially and achieving their full potential**
- D. To ensure all children and young people in Halton engage in enterprising behaviour, are confident and make positive decisions about their lives and their communities**
- E. To ensure all children and young people in Halton have positive futures after school by embracing life long learning, employment opportunities and enjoying a positive standard of living**

EMPLOYMENT LEARNING & SKILLS IN HALTON

Our overall aim

To create an economically prosperous borough that encourages investment, entrepreneurship, enterprise and business growth, and improves the education, skills and employment prospects of our residents and workforce so they can share in the all the opportunities Halton affords.

Why employment, learning and skills?

A strong economy provides the key foundation for any prosperous and successful place. It provides jobs, opportunities, wealth and aspirations for local people. There is a sustained mismatch between the needs of local business and the skills of local people. This means that opportunity and need are out of balance and contribute to the widespread deprivation in Halton. Sustainable economic growth and prosperity requires a commitment to encourage and support a vibrant business sector and a commitment to employment, learning and skills to satisfy all stakeholders in Halton.

Key Objectives

- A To foster a culture of enterprise and entrepreneurship and make Halton an ideal place to start and grow economic activity**
- B To develop a culture where learning is valued and raise skill levels throughout the adult population and in the local workforce**
- C To promote and increase the employability of local people and remove any barriers to employment to get more people into work**
- D To develop a strong, diverse, competitive and sustainable knowledge-based local economy**

A SAFER HALTON

Our overall aim

To ensure pleasant safe and secure neighbourhood environments, with attractive, safe surroundings, good quality local amenities, and the ability of people to enjoy life where they live.

Why a Safer Halton?

Crime and the fear of crime affect everybody's lives. It is a major concern according to every survey of Halton residents. These surveys also show that cleaner, tidier neighbourhoods would make the biggest difference to improving life for people in their local area. We want Halton to be a clean, green, safe and attractive place to live. People should tolerate, value and respect each other, their property and the places where they live.

Key Objectives

- A To investigate and tackle the underlying causes of crime and disorder and respond effectively to public concern by reducing crime levels**
- B To improve the understanding of alcohol and drug/substance misuse problems, their impact in Halton, and reduce the harm they cause**
- C To create and sustain better neighbourhoods that are well designed, well built, well maintained, safe and valued by the people who live in them, reflecting the priorities of residents**
- D To understand and tackle the problem of domestic abuse in all its forms**

Cross Cutting Issues

This LAA is concerned with addressing social exclusion. This is about what happens when people face a multitude of problems such as poor housing, high crime, poor health, worklessness, discrimination and poor relationships. These problems link and reinforce each other creating a vicious circle for people. Often they are clustered in specific neighbourhoods. However, this strategy tries to take a positive view of the future. Past approaches have very much concentrated on dealing with Halton's failings and problems. Significant change is unlikely if we continue to focus in this way. It will be better to shift our focus to prevention measures, to promoting positive lifestyles and the many excellent aspects of life in Halton, and to more timely interventions to help people at the times when they most need support.

Overall poverty, unemployment and material deprivation are diminishing in crude terms. However, Halton continues to display high rates of benefit dependency. At the same time many people are still not claiming their full entitlements which would allow them to enjoy a minimum standard of living. Therefore, information, advice, guidance and advocacy are crucial in allowing people to access the help they need to navigate an extraordinarily complicated benefits system. This is not only beneficial for the

recipients themselves but also for the local economy as research shows that most transfer payments are spent locally. High levels of personal debt also characterise Halton, with up to 10% of households struggling to support debt levels. This in turn impacts on people's health and well being and the positive contribution they can make to the local economy. Therefore, debt advice and innovative community finance initiatives are a continuing need.

Whilst the population of Halton has stabilised in recent years, its most prominent future feature will be the rate at which it ages. The next ten years will see a reduction in teenagers by 20% and a dramatic rise in the over 60s (27%) and over 75s (19%). This presents new risks for social exclusion and shifting demands for services. Single person households will rise, and single parenthood will become even more common. One result is likely to be a marked increase in social isolation which will have profound effects on people's health and involvement in their communities.

There is already growing pressure on housing in Halton. The underpinning reasons for homelessness – including family breakdown and mental health problems – are still with us. Choice and quality in housing will be key across all tenures and in all parts of Halton. This is essential if we are to mitigate the housing element of social exclusion and concentrate on preventing homelessness and the damage it does, especially to children.

Halton is committed to equality of opportunity for disabled people and to ending discrimination. The passing of the Disability Discrimination Act in 1995 has given a new focus to our commitment to disabled people. Underlying this Community Strategy is a commitment to turn policy into practice. We want to identify and support all family carers and cared for people with disabilities in Halton by striving to improve their quality of life and life chances. We want disabled people living and working in Halton to be able to realise their full potential. We will make progress towards this by removing barriers and changing the attitudes which prevent disabled people from gaining access to employment and to the services provided by partners. Disability is a social issue and impairment becomes a disability because of the social and physical barriers that the individual faces. . For example using a wheel chair only becomes disabling if the bus cannot accommodate a wheelchair or kerbs are too high. Our efforts will be focussed on removing these barriers

The Halton Strategic Partnership want to develop policies and programmes which leave a lasting and positive effect on future generations of people in Halton. We also want to look forward and help to achieve sustainable development both locally and more widely to promote regional, national and global aims.

Given its dependence on the chemical industry, Halton has always been sensitive to the need to improve and protect the environment. Halton's ambitious Local Agenda 21 was one of the most comprehensive in the UK. It sets out Halton's contribution to meeting national and international commitments, and to tackling worldwide environmental issues such as climate change. It looks at ways we can manage our resources better, and avoid the many local problems that adversely affect our quality of life. It also considers practical ways in which we can all contribute to making Halton more sustainable. This Community Strategy sets out clearly our ambitions for a sustainable future for Halton. Underpinning all of the proposed actions is the belief that changes in our behaviour are needed to make a significant impact on long term sustainability.

The people of Halton, and a focus on responding to their full range of needs, is the key cross cutting theme that underpins this strategy. The needs analysis allows us to

anticipate likely changes and plan accordingly. We want to sustain progress and increasingly provide a much greater range of opportunities, and the ability to take advantage of them. We want to sharpen up service delivery and focus on the things that will make the most difference. The key measure of whether service delivery is transformed is how far and how fast we can narrow the gap in outcomes for the most disadvantaged in Halton, as measured by comparison with both Halton and national averages.

Resources Management

All the objectives and targets outlined here are achievable. How well and how quickly this happens depends crucially on the availability of resources and how smartly they are used. That means money, people, physical resources, proper intelligence and information, allied with the strength of will to use them in the best way. A key purpose of this Strategy is to ensure that the resources available are targeted and used effectively to bring about improvements in the borough. This means:

- Being clear and agreeing about what we need to achieve so we are all pulling in the same direction
- Maximising the funding we can generate or draw in to benefit Halton and developing our own resources and the capacity to help ourselves
- Co-operating to be more effective, cutting out duplication and waste, and pooling the budgets, knowledge and efforts of different organisations and groups where this makes sense
- Listening and responding to what matters most to people locally
- Targeting what we do to where it can make most difference
- Doing the kind of things that experience has shown will really work and be successful
- Checking on progress, letting people know how we are doing, and adjusting where necessary to keep on track

Without the tools and the will to do the job, the improvements set out in this Strategy will not happen.

The LAA runs for three years. It is an important step, but only a step, in a much longer journey to build a better future for people in Halton. If we succeed in achieving our targets they will translate into real improvements for local people. This is why it is important to know how we are doing and what progress we are making in meeting the improvement targets we have set ourselves. By monitoring progress closely we can identify and build on successes, provide necessary assistance or support where progress has not met expectations, and adjust our efforts and resources to adapt to changing circumstances.

The forward programme of the Partnership in pursuit of the LAA will be reviewed and updated to ensure it responds to changing circumstances. As well as the high level scorecard, each Specialist Strategic Partnership will have a more detailed action plan. This will contain a richer hierarchy of outcomes, outputs, targets and milestones. Each Partnership will be accountable for its own performance and the Board will seek qualitative monitoring reports on how work is progressing. One of the key features of the LAA is the understanding of how each of the themes are linked and impact on each other. The LAA establishes the importance of a number of key crosscutting themes – especially the transformational issues - that are common across all Partnership activity. A Performance and Standards Group reporting directly

to the Board has been established. This group takes responsibility for all aspects of performance management and ensure proper oversight, scrutiny and accountability of all activities that take place under the auspices of the Partnership and this LAA.

Without proper information, and making it easily accessible to people, we are working in the dark in trying to bring about improvement in Halton. This covers information about local needs and conditions, and what people think is most important for their communities. It is about the information we need to understand what is likely to work well in achieving our targets for Halton. It's about keeping people – local people and partner organisations – in the picture about the progress we are making together.

The Partnership has made a big commitment to improving the way information is gathered, used and shared. Of particular note are:

- a) A data observatory has been set up to hold key statistical information on all aspects of living conditions in Halton. This will keep data at a variety of spatial levels – super output area, ward, neighbourhood and district level – and allow for comparison with our neighbours and regional and national averages. It will greatly help people to understand the geography and nature of disadvantage in Halton. It will be especially useful in informing the spatial targeting of activity under this LAA.
- b) The Partnership is setting up a database of consultation and community engagement in Halton. This will enable people to access a rich source of attitudinal data on a range of issues. It will also help people to plan and execute better community engagement in the borough. This is a key underpinning of this LAA.

Managing Risk

The Partnership recognises the scale of its ambition and is realistic in its expectations of what can be achieved given the scale of resources being deployed. It also recognises that risk management must be an integral part of the performance management framework and business planning process. This will increase the probability of success (and reduce the likelihood of failure) by identifying, evaluating and controlling the risks associated with the achievement of its objectives.

The risk management process focuses attention and resources on critical areas, provides more robust action plans and better informed decision-making. It also fosters a culture where uncertainty does not slow progress or stifle innovation and ensures the commitment and resources of the Partnership to produce positive outcomes.

As part of implementing this LAA the Partnership will use its agreed Risk Management Strategy and establish a Strategic Risk Register. This will set out the risk management objectives, the role and responsibilities for risk management of the Board and individual SSPs, and will the categorise risks and the approach to risk management action plans.

The risk management objectives include the;

- Adoption of Risk Management as a key part of the LAA
- Identification, evaluation and economic control of strategic and operational risks

- Promotion of ownership through increased levels of awareness and skills development

The Partnership's risks can be broadly categorised as either "strategic" or "operational". Strategic risks cover those threats or opportunities which could impact upon the achievement of medium and long-term goals. The review of strategic risks will be carried out in October/November 2006 when the LAA has been adopted. This will be followed up by an assessment of operational risks through each of the SSPs as part of their Action Planning of the LAA implementation process.

Equality & Diversity

The Partnership is determined to deliver its vision of a better future for Halton's people. We are committed to equality for everyone regardless of age, sex, caring responsibilities, race, religion, sexuality, or disability. We are leaders of the community and will not accept discrimination, victimisation or harassment. This commitment to equity and social justice is clearly stated in the adopted equal opportunities policy of the Partnership. This states that the Partnership:

- is committed to promoting equal opportunities in Halton
- values diversity and encourages fairness and justice
- wants equal chances for everyone in Halton to work, learn and live free from discrimination and victimisation
- will combat discrimination and will use its position of influence in the borough, wherever possible, to help overcome discriminatory barriers

As well as accepting our legal responsibilities, we are committed to broad principles of social justice. The Partnership is opposed to any form of discrimination and oppression. Our policies will apply to all of those who come into contact with us. This includes current users of directly provided services, users of services provided on our behalf, potential users of services, other agencies and professionals, employees and job applicants, and the general public.

The Partnership wants to create a culture where people of all backgrounds and experience feel appreciated and valued. Discrimination on the grounds of race, nationality, ethnic or national origin, religion or belief, gender, marital status, sexuality, disability, age or any other unjustifiable reason will not be tolerated. As a Partnership we are committed to a programme of action to make this policy fully effective.

Partners will work collaboratively to develop effective procedures and policies to combat all forms of unlawful discrimination and to share good practice. They will ensure that all services are provided fairly and without discrimination. Reasonable adjustments will be made so that services are accessible to everyone who needs them. People's cultural and language needs will be recognised and services will be provided which are appropriate to these needs. Partners will monitor the take up of services from different sections of the population. The information collected will be used to inform service planning and delivery. Equality Impact Assessments will also be carried out on Partnership policies and services to assess how policies and services impact on different sections of the community. The results of the Equality Impact Assessments will highlight areas for improvement, which will be dealt with through the Partnership Improvement Plan.

Involving the Voluntary and Community Sector

The voluntary and community sector (VCS) are an integral part of the structure and activities of the Halton Strategic Partnership, and have been since its inception. A Compact governing relationships between the public sector and VCS has been in place for several years. A protocol governing these relationships within the LSP structure was agreed in 2005. In addition, the Partnership has spent a considerable time over the last year in developing a radical new approach to community engagement in the borough. The VCS plays a powerful role in developing the LAA, and will do so in its implementation. The HSP Board has already agreed that compact-plus principles will underpin the governance and operation of the LAA. HVA Together (the CEN) has taken the responsibility of working with partners to develop the Statement of Community Involvement that maps out the principles of this relationship in the LAA.

To develop our ambitions and priorities we have drawn on the consultation for the Community Strategy and analysis of all consultation exercises over the last year. Over the last 12 months the Halton Strategic Partnership has developed and agreed its Protocol with the voluntary sector. This build on the previous work to develop and implement Compact arrangement in Halton. We have worked closely with HVA Together (our Community Empowerment Network) to involve the voluntary and community sectors in the development of the LAA. At the outset there were briefings with the Halton Together Executive. In September, Halton Together organised a series of Forum meetings which focused on developing the LAA and the involvement of groups and individuals. Representatives of groups and networks have been involved both in the Lead Officers Group and the SSPs developing each block.

In response to developing the LAA and the subsequent challenge to deliver and achieve the outcomes, Halton Together has established its forums, corresponding to the blocks. This enables it to select its nominees to the SSPs and also provides a forum for them to debate issues and give feedback.

Within the agreement we have outcomes and indicators to show the growth and vibrancy of the sector and its capacity to contribute to the delivery of the LAA. Extensive consultation and engagement has taken place with the Voluntary and Community Sector on this. Annex E includes our Compulsory Statement of Community Involvement, and contains the detailed descriptions of the following:

- The governance arrangements for involving the Voluntary and Community Sector in the development of the Local Area Agreement;
- Summaries of the key issues arising from feedback from four major consultation events carried out on a Block-by-Block basis with the Voluntary and Community Sector;
- An explanation of how Voluntary and Community Sector will be critical to the delivery of the Agreement, together with key examples of Key Innovations and targets which demonstrate how community engagement is embedded within the Agreement

Priority Areas

In order to focus on “closing the gaps” we needed to identify a coherent set of priority geographic areas. In the past, available analysis has largely been at ward level. We now have excellent information available at the ward level of around 25,000 people

and are developing information at the “Super Output Area” level of around 3,000 people

The following wards have been selected as those for which “closing the gap” targets across the LAA will be monitored. The wards were identified on the basis of census and IMD data:

- A
- B
- C
- D
- E
- F

Progress in outcomes will be monitored to evidence “closing the gap” between these wards and Halton average outcomes. These wards have amongst the highest Multiple Deprivation Index scores in Halton and in England. In all of the priority wards, over xx% of the ward population are in Super Output Areas (SOA’s) that are amongst the 10% most deprived in England. All six wards have unemployment rates above the Halton average of 3.5%. All priority wards have Long Term Limiting Illness rates above the national.

For some targets, there are additional parts of Halton with poor outcomes in particular areas. In these cases the individual target specifies which additional areas are involved. During the first year of the Agreement, we will refine this analysis to look at smaller Super Output Areas to identify patches of poor outcomes within wards across Halton, and looking at neighbourhoods which “make sense” to local people.

Detailed maps of the key target outcomes across Halton, down to “Super Output Area” level, are being developed as part of the Halton Data Observatory development. These will enable very targeted approaches to achieving improvements in these outcomes. Some of our neighbourhoods face particularly widespread and deep difficulties. Areas of Halton have already benefited from local initiatives such as SRB. We will use a new government grant (the Neighbourhood Element) to co-ordinate local services and support community engagement, starting in neighbourhoods in the six eligible LAA priority wards. It will employ innovative neighbourhood management practices and models to deliver sustainable change. This will include the reconfiguration of local public services so that they better meet the needs of local people, and thereby help to close the gap by reducing a number of deprivation differentials, which exist between the area and more affluent parts of Halton.

Performance management arrangements

The LAA sets out clear targets for outcomes in the five thematic block areas and on key cross-cutting transformational issues. The Halton Strategic Partnership Board (HSPB) has delegated responsibility for developing and monitoring delivery of the annual LAA Action plan to the Performance and Standards Group (PSG). The PSG will review delivery of the LAA targets and operational plan actions on a six-monthly basis, with lighter-touch intermediate quarterly reviews of financial performance. The HSPB and PSG are supported by a dedicated performance management capacity from the Halton Strategic Partnership Team. They will continue to be supported by the Council’s Corporate Policy and Performance Team. The existing performance

management framework of the Partnership has been updated and revised to take account of the needs of LAA management. This is attached at Annex D.

The performance management framework will be comprehensive, strategic and operational. It will test the vision and approach of the LAA, including its preventative, sustainable and targeted aspects, and the priorities. This will include taking account of existing and emerging borough wide, regional and national frameworks and initiatives that provide useful information and intelligence about the performance of Halton. It is designed to plan, monitor and review in a timely manner and will include targeted and LAA-wide evaluations. During the first year of LAA we will develop an annual trajectory for each of the three years of the Agreement, building on the trajectory analysis produced for the LSP review in 2006.

Our thematic partnerships – the SSPs - will be responsible for the delivery of the relevant “block” outcomes of the LAA. SSPs will review their arrangements to ensure these are “fit for purpose” to ensure delivery of the LAA. Responsibility for individual targets in the LAA will be clearly designated in the action plan to be developed before the spring, with particular lead partners with named lead officers. Each partner’s normal accountability and corporate governance procedures apply to the initiatives they take responsibility for.

The role of the PSG is to:

- Prepare an annual LAA action plan for Board approval
- Review, and where necessary challenge, the annual action plans prepared by thematic partnerships (SSPs) and recommend their approval to the BSP Board
- Monitor performance against LAA targets twice a year and monitor financial performance quarterly
- Ensure effective arrangements are in place to collect and analyse information to support the development, monitoring and delivery of the LAA
- Undertake performance management action as outlined below

The Halton Partnership team supports the PSG. It is advising on the development and maintenance of information systems and analysis to support the LAA and its implementation. The Team will help join-up the performance management arrangements across all partnerships and help to ensure that action is effectively coordinated

The SSPs - thematic partnerships - are responsible for the overall delivery of the relevant block outcomes. They are primarily accountable for delivery against the LAA. Their role is to:

- Prepare an annual action plan for the block for submission to the PSG
- Monitor performance against LAA targets twice a year and monitor financial performance quarterly
- Undertake performance management action as outlined below.

SSPs are reviewing their arrangements to ensure that they are adequate for managing delivery of the relevant LAA outcomes. They will agree how responsibility for individual targets in the LAA is allocated to a lead partner and named lead officer. All agencies contributing to the delivery of a target will be expected, as part of their normal accountability and governance arrangements, to ensure:

- Appropriate delivery plans are in place

- Robust data on performance against target is collected and reported in accordance with overall arrangements for monitoring the LAA
- Under-performance against agreed targets and outcomes can be promptly addressed.

All action plans will include appropriate tracking of performance at six-monthly or more frequent interval (except where outcome data is only available annually – for example, for school examination results). A "monitoring level" will also be set for targets: this will be the level that triggers performance management action. The PSG will agree all targets and "monitoring levels" through its oversight of annual action plans.

Ladder of intervention

Our annual planning cycle is designed to fit with the established budgetary and project management cycles of partners in Halton. In summary, the planning cycle for the LAA is as follows:

Timing	Activity	Outputs
July- Sept	Annual review of progress against LAA outcome targets and delivery of previous year's action plan	Report to HSP Board Annual report. Financial report.
Aug – Oct	Draft action plans submitted by SSPs (covering proposed activities, outcomes and funding arrangements). PSG to challenge prioritization and plausibility.	Feedback to SSPs. Report to HSP Board on draft plans, including recommendations for changes. Financial report.
Nov	Mid-year (Apr-Sept) update on spending and activities (against action plan) from SSPs.	Exception / summary report to HSP Board. Performance report. GONW Monitoring Meeting
Dec	Finalised action plans submitted by SSPs. PSG challenge as appropriate.	Final proposed operational plan to HSP Board. Financial report.
Feb/March	Quarter 3 (Oct-Dec) update on spending and activities (against action plan) from SSPs	Exception / summary report to HSP Board. Financial report.
May	End of year update on spending and activities (against action plan) from SSPs	Exception / summary report to HSP Board. Performance report.

Tackling under-performance will be the greatest challenge for the performance management regime in the wider LAA context. A three-stage process is proposed for

the LAA. This ladder of intervention will be reviewed over time. However, from the outset we intend to put in place systems which provide clear monitoring and reporting and make available a mutually accountable and supportive approach to enable partners to improve performance. This reporting would result in a clear picture of performance against the LAA in our annual report and then provides the basis for future planning as LAA implementation rolls forward.

For specific funding streams, performance management action could be triggered when performance against a particular target fails to achieve the agreed "monitoring level".

- Stage 1 If a six monthly monitoring report shows that performance against the action plan or a particular target has failed to achieve the agreed "monitoring level", the lead partner will be expected to take appropriate action, working as appropriate with other agencies. It will be asked to report on progress to the relevant SSP within three months.
- Stage 2. If a six monthly monitoring report shows that performance against the action plan or target has failed to achieve the agreed monitoring level for two consecutive six monthly periods, the SSP will be expected to agree with the relevant agencies a plan to tackle the under-performance. It will be asked to report on progress to the PSG within three months.
- Stage 3. If performance continues to fall below expected levels despite action by the SSP, the PSG will nominate one of its members to agree a revised plan to tackle under-performance, details of which will be reported to the PSG within three months.

The PSG will retain the right, in consultation with the relevant SSP, to trigger performance management action at either Stage 1, 2 or 3 in other circumstances where there is evidence of under-performance against target. The PSG will report every six months to the Board on all performance management actions at Stages 2 and 3. These arrangements will be implemented and tested during the first year of the LAA 2006/7.

Partnership Strategies and Plans

Delivering on the LAA also means ensuring that all our strategies and plans together. The main strategies and plans which underpin our priorities are:

- Local Development Framework.
- Integrated Equality & Diversity Policies.
- Economic Development & Tourism Strategy.
- Town Centre Strategies.
- Local Transport Plan.
- Crime and Disorder Reduction Plan
- Education Development Plan.
- Children & Young People's Plan.
- Health Strategy.
- Sport Strategy.
- Joint Commissioning Strategy for Older People.
- Air Quality Action Plan.
- Climate Protection and Sustainable Energy Strategy.

- Household Waste Management Strategy.
- Halton Community Strategy.
- Crime and Drugs Strategy.
- Housing Strategy.
- The National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services
- Healthy Schools Standards and Plan
- Local Safeguarding Children Board Plan
- Looked After Children Strategy
- Building Bridges Strategy for Children with Disabilities
- Halton and Warrington Youth Justice Plan
- The Local Delivery Plans of the Health Trusts
- Cheshire Fire Service Plan
- Cheshire Constabulary Plan
- Cheshire Probation Plan
- Cheshire Criminal Justice Board Plan
- Safer Halton Partnership Plan

The LAA is linked to this whole range of other plans, strategies and reports. These fit together as a system designed to achieve progress on Halton's key strategic priorities and to deliver improvement for local people.

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Halton Local Area Agreement – Initial Outcomes Framework

Children & Young People

<u>Children & Young Peoples LAA Block</u>							
Outcomes	Indicators	Links	Baselines 2006/07 (Unless otherwise stated)	Targets 2007/08 (including any stretch targets, and their annual unstretched targets)	Targets 2008/09 (including any stretch targets, and their annual unstretched targets)	Targets 2009/10 (including any stretch targets, and their annual unstretched targets)	Lead partner
Raise standards in English, maths, and science in secondary education	By 2008 all schools to ensure that at least 50% of pupils achieve level five or above in each of English, maths and science at KS3	CYPP outcome 3 Aim 5 Community Strategy C&YP KS3 Target Floor Target 3 Worklessness Attainment Priority	87.5% (1 school did not achieve target)	100% of schools achieve target	100% of schools achieve target	100% of schools achieve target	
Raise standards in English, maths, and science in secondary education	By 2007, 85% of 14 year olds achieve level 5 or above in English, math's and ICT (80% in science) nationally, with this level of performance sustained to 2008.	Community Strategy C&YP KS3 Target Floor Target 3 Worklessness Attainment Priority	English 72% Maths 71% ICT 69% Science 66%	English 85% Maths 85% ICT 85% Science 80%	English 85% Maths 85% ICT 85% Science 80%	English 85% Maths 85% ICT 85% Science 80%	
Raise standards in English and maths	by 2006, 85% of 11 year olds achieve level 4 or above in English and Maths, with this level of performance sustained to 2008	CYPP Outcome 3 Aim 3 Community Strategy C&YP KS2 Target Floor Target 2 Worklessness Attainment Priority	English 78% Maths 73%	English 85% Maths 85%	English 85% Maths 85%	English 85% Maths 85%	

Outcomes	Indicators	Links	Baselines 2006/07 (Unless otherwise stated)	Targets 2007/08 (including any stretch targets, and their annual unstretched targets)	Targets 2008/09 (including any stretch targets, and their annual unstretched targets)	Targets 2009/10 (including any stretch targets, and their annual unstretched targets)	Lead partner
Raise standards in English and maths	by 2008, the number of schools in which fewer than 65% of pupils achieve level 4 or above in English and Maths is reduced by 40%.	Community Strategy C&YP KS2 Target Floor Target 2 Worklessness Attainment Priority	16.3% English 26.5% Maths	9.8% English 15.9% Maths	8.2% English 14.3% Maths	6.1% English 12.2% Maths	
Help achieve economic well-being	Reduce Percentage of 16-18 year olds not in education, employment or training to fewer than 7%	CYPP Outcome 5 Aim 1 Community Strategy C&YP Engaged target Worklessness NEET Priority	10.5%	7.3%	7%	6.8%	
Ensure children have a healthy start in life	To increase to at least 85% the percentage of children fully immunised by their second birthday	CYPP Outcome 1 Aim 1 Community Strategy C&YP Health target No link to 4 intractables	80.1%	82%	83.5%	85%	
Tackle the underlying determinants of ill health and health inequalities	By reducing the under-18 conception rate by 50% by 2010 as part of a broader strategy to improve sexual health (1998 Baseline)	CYPP Outcome 1 Aim 3 Community Strategy C&YP Health target No link to 4 intractables TP Priority Floor Target 5	-7.0% (2004 data)	-15%	-30%	-50%	

Outcomes	Indicators	Links	Baselines 2006/07 (Unless otherwise stated)	Targets 2007/08 (including any stretch targets, and their annual unstretched targets)	Targets 2008/09 (including any stretch targets, and their annual unstretched targets)	Targets 2009/10 (including any stretch targets, and their annual unstretched targets)	Lead partner
Ensure children are protected from accidental death and injury.	To reduce the number of children killed or seriously injured in road accidents to 13 per year (or below)	CYPP Outcome 2 Aim 2 Community Strategy C&YP Safety target Floor target 6 No link to 4 intractables	16	15	14	13	
Help children develop healthy lifestyles	To stabilise the growth in obesity rates in the under 11's	CYPP Outcome 1 Aim 4 Community Strategy C&YP Obesity target No link to 4 intractables	7.7% Under 3 Baseline and targets to be agreed during 2006-07				
Make sure children are ready for school	To increase to 60% the percentage of children whose personal, social and emotional development is assessed as "good" at the end of the Foundation Stage	Community Strategy C&YP Foundation target Floor Target 1 Worklessness	50%	53%	57%	60%	

Outcomes	Indicators	Links	Baselines 2006/07 (Unless otherwise stated)	Targets 2007/08 (including any stretch targets, and their annual unstretched targets)	Targets 2008/09 (including any stretch targets, and their annual unstretched targets)	Targets 2009/10 (including any stretch targets, and their annual unstretched targets)	Lead partner
To help children attend and enjoy school	To reduce unauthorised absence towards the national average in both primary and secondary schools by 6% and 10% respectively	CYPP Outcome 3 Aim 2 Community Strategy C&YP Attendance target Worklessness Attendance Priority	Primary 5.65 Secondary 9.52	Primary 5.54 Secondary 9.20	Primary 5.43 Secondary 8.88	Primary 5.31 Secondary 8.56	
Achieve stretching standards in education	To increase the number of pupils achieving 5+ GCSEs at Grades A*-C to at least 60% by 2008	CYPP Outcome 3 Aim 5 Community Strategy C&YP Attainment target LPSA2 Target Floor Target 4 Worklessness Attainment Priority	49.2%	60%	62.5%	65%	
Achieve stretching standards in education	By 2008, in all schools at least 30% of pupils aged 16 to achieve the equivalent of 5 GCSEs at grades A* – C by 2008.	Community Strategy C&YP Attainment target LPSA2 Target Floor Target 4 Worklessness Attainment Priority	87.5% (1 school did not achieve target)	100% of schools achieve target	100% of schools achieve target	100% of schools achieve target	

Outcomes	Indicators	Links	Baselines 2006/07 (Unless otherwise stated)	Targets 2007/08 (including any stretch targets, and their annual unstretched targets)	Targets 2008/09 (including any stretch targets, and their annual unstretched targets)	Targets 2009/10 (including any stretch targets, and their annual unstretched targets)	Lead partner
Ensure children are safe from crime and anti-social behaviour	To increase the reported perception of safety after dark by at least 15% by 2008	CYPP Outcome 2 Aim 4 Community Strategy C&YP Protect target Anti-Social Behaviour	75%	86.25%	89%	92%	
Prepare young people for employment	To increase the number of 19 year olds with Level 2 qualifications by at least 30%	CYPP Outcome 5 Aim 2 Community Strategy C&YP Employability target Worklessness	55%	60%	65.5%	71.5%	
Give young people the chance to make a positive contribution	To increase to 25% the number of 13-19 year olds that are reached by the youth service, and who have a youth centre or project open at least one night each week within a mile of their home	CYPP Outcome 4 Aim 1 Community Strategy C&YP Accessibility target Anti-Social Behaviour	19.3%	21.5%	23%	25%	
Living in households free from low income	To reduce the proportion of children living in homes with a relatively low income by at least 40%	Community Strategy C&YP Equity target Worklessness	27.5%	23.5%	20%	16.5%	

Outcomes	Indicators	Links	Baselines 2006/07 (Unless otherwise stated)	Targets 2007/08 (including any stretch targets, and their annual unstretched targets)	Targets 2008/09 (including any stretch targets, and their annual unstretched targets)	Targets 2009/10 (including any stretch targets, and their annual unstretched targets)	Lead partner
Ensure young people live in decent homes and a sustainable community.	To reduce the number of care leavers who live in temporary accommodation to at least 15%	CYPP Outcome 5 Aim 3 Community Strategy C&YP Care target No link to 4 intractables	32%	26%	21%	15%	
Achieve stretching educational standards inclusively	To reduce the proportion of pupils with statements of special education needs to 2.8%.	CYPP Outcome 3 Aim 5 Community Strategy C&YP Statements target SEN Priority Worklessness	3.0%	2.95%	2.9%	2.8%	
Engage in law abiding and positive behaviour	To reduce year on year the number of first time entrants to the youth justice system	CYPP Outcome 4 Aim 2 Community Strategy C&YP Crime target Anti-Social Behaviour	369	362	354	347	
<u>OTHER POTENTIAL TARGETS</u>	(FOR CONSISTENCY RE ENABLING MEASURES)						

Have security, stability and are cared for	Number of LAC adopted during the year as % of those looked after for 6 months or more	CYPP Outcome 1 Aim 2	9.5%				
Have security, stability and are cared for	Reduce ratio of children looked after per 10,000 child population	CYPP Outcome 2 Aim 5	Baseline and targets to be completed once information available				
Choose not to take illegal drugs	Young people with a substance misuse problem choose to have treatment and this increases to 60% from the current baseline by 2008	CYPP Outcome 1 Aim 5	Baseline and targets to be completed once information available				
Have security, stability and are cared for	Children with disabilities will have improved security, stability and care within their home environment by all eligible families being offered a carers' assessment by 2009	CYPP Outcome 2 Aim 5	Baseline and targets to be established in 2006-07				
Develop self-confidence and successfully deal with significant life changes and challenges	100% of young people with disabilities progress into further education, work or other positive destinations each year	CYPP Outcome 4 Aim 4	Baseline and targets to be established in 2006-07				

Safe from bullying and discrimination	More children feel safer from bullying and discrimination within schools by the continued implementation of anti-bullying policies, the establishment of good local baseline information and systems for self-reporting which are monitored and reviewed by 2009	CYPP Outcome 2 Aim 3	Baseline and targets to be established in 2006-07				
Be Healthy	Modal share in travel to school (need to put performance indicator in here)	CYPP Outcome 1 aim 4 LAA Mandatory Target Community Strategy C and YP obesity target	Baseline information and targets to be agreed based on findings of school census January 2007				
Be healthy	Healthy Schools Target	CYPP Outcome 1 Aim 2 CYPP Outcome 1 Aim 4 Community Strategy C and YP obesity target	Baseline and targets to be completed once information available				

<u>LPSA2</u>							
Improved opportunities and levels of participation in ETE Looked after Children							
	<i>Indicators</i>	<i>Links</i>	<i>Baselines 2006/07</i>	<i>Targets 2007/08</i>	<i>Targets 2008/09</i>	<i>Targets 2009/10</i>	<i>Lead partner</i>
Target 1	Increase the % school attendance of children who have been looked after for at least 12 months	No Direct Link Worklessness LAC Priority	89.6%	91%	92.6%	93.5%	
Target 2	Increase % of LAC under 16, looked after for more than 2.5 years, that have been in their current placement for at least 2 years (LAC 24)	No Direct Link Worklessness	77%	81.5%	83%	85%	
<u>Improve educational attainment at Key Stage 4</u>							
	<i>Indicators</i>	<i>Links</i>	<i>Baselines 2006/07</i>	<i>Targets 2007/08</i>	<i>Targets 2008/09</i>	<i>Targets 2009/10</i>	<i>Lead partner</i>
Target 1	The percentage of year 11 pupils gaining 5 GCSEs at grades A*-C or DfES agreed equivalents, including English and Maths	Community Strategy C&YP Attainment target Floor Target 4 Attainment Priority	32.5%	36.5%	40.5%	42.5%	

BLOCK - Healthier Communities and Older People

Outcomes	Indicators	Baselines 2006/07 (Unless otherwise stated)	Targets 2007/08 (including stretch targets, and their annual unstretched targets)	Targets 2008/09(including stretch targets, and their annual unstretched targets)	Targets 2009/10 (including stretch targets, and their annual unstretched targets)	Lead partner
Improved Health and reduced health inequalities:	Reduce health inequalities between Halton and the England population by narrowing the gap in all-age, all-cause mortality by at least 10% by 2010 (2009-11)	2002-2004 Data Period England: 650.3 Halton: 809.4 Gap: 24.4%	2003-2005 Data Period Gap: 24.1%	2004-2006 Data Gap: 23.8%	2005-2007 Data Gap: 23.4%	Notes: Calculated using 3 yr all cause mortality rates for 2002-04, and projections for England to 2009-11. Calculated assuming gap by 2009-11 is 22% (10% reduction)
Reduce premature mortality rates and reduce inequalities in premature mortality rates between wards/neighbourhoods with a particular focus on reducing the risk factors for heart disease, stroke and related diseases (CVD) (smoking, diet and physical activity)	<p>Reduce premature mortality rates from heart disease and stroke and related diseases so that the absolute gap between the national rate and the rate for the district is reduced by X% by 2010 [x to be agreed as part of the contribution to the reduction in the gap between the Spearhead Group and the England average (national PSA target)]:</p> <p>Reduce the death rates from All Circulatory Diseases (in under 75s) by 53% by 2010 (2009-11)</p> <p>Reduce the death rate from all cancers (in under 75s) by 26% by 2010 (2009-11)</p> <p>Reduce health inequalities within Halton, by narrowing the gap in all-age, all-cause mortality between the 20% of wards experiencing the highest rate and the Halton average by at least 25%</p> <p>Reduce adult smoking rates to under 22%. With</p>	<p>2003-2005 Data Period 112.0 per 100,000</p> <p>2003-2005 Data Period 168.2 per 100,000</p> <p>2003-2005 Data Period Halton: 803.7 Highest wards: 1368.4 Gap: 70.3%</p> <p>2004 estimate: 34%</p>	<p>2004-2006 Data Period 107.6 per 100,000</p> <p>2004-2006 Data Period 163.1 per 100,000</p> <p>2004-2006 Data Period</p> <p>Gap: 67.3%</p> <p>2005: 33%</p> <p>10</p>	<p>2005-2007 Data Period 103.2 per 100,000</p> <p>2005-2007 Data Period 158.0 per 100,000</p> <p>2005-2007 Data</p> <p>Gap: 64.4%</p> <p>2006: 32%</p>	<p>2006-2008 Data Period 98.8 per 100,000</p> <p>2006-2008 Data Period 152.9 per 100,000</p> <p>2006-2008 Data</p> <p>Gap: 61.5%</p> <p>2007: 31%</p>	<p>Calculated using 3 yr all cause mortality rates for 2003-05, and target reduction required by to 2009-11. Interim years assuming linear trend to target.</p> <p>Calculated using local death files and pop'n estimates. Annual trajectory figures based on linear progression to target of gap of 52% (i.e. 25% reduction) by 2010 (2009-11)</p> <p>Baseline taken from HDA's modelled estimates (2004). <i>Note</i> this is not routinely updated on an annual basis, and is not a survey. Local lifestyle survey results due autumn 2006 – figures could be updated then Reduction in prevalence based on approximately 1,000 successful quitters per year. Prevalence of 22% very ambitious based on HDA estimates.</p>

BLOCK - Healthier Communities and Older People						
Outcomes	Indicators	Baselines 2006/07 (Unless otherwise stated)	Targets 2007/08 (including stretch targets, and their annual unstretched targets)	Targets 2008/09 (including stretch targets, and their annual unstretched targets)	Targets 2009/10 (including stretch targets, and their annual unstretched targets)	Lead partner
Provide customer focus in service delivery	Improve public satisfaction with the quality of health and social care services year on year					
Lay firm foundations for future good health	Reduce the proportion of low birth weight babies by 10%	2004 Births: 8.4%	2005: 8.3%	2006: 8.1%	2007: 7.9%	Based on 10% reduction by 2010 (from 2004) with linear progression to target.
Improve sexual health of young people	Reduce the rate among girls under 18 by 55%	2004 Data: 43.8 per 1,000	2005: 39.7 per 1,000	2006: 35.7 per 1,000	2007: 39.7 per 1,000	Calculations based on 55% reduction being met by 2010 based on 1998 baseline. Trajectory plans for gradual decrease to 2008 – then steeper reduction once impact of programmes is fully established
Enhance the well being of Halton people	Increase take up of cultural and sporting activities by adults by 5%					
Improve the living environment to support healthy living	All social housing to have affordable heating systems and insulation levels that exceed the national minimum guidelines	SAP rating of all RSL Stock 2004 is 66	SAP rating 66	SAP rating 69	SAP rating 74	
The outcomes framework for Supporting People is being developed within the Supporting People Strategy						

by ODPM will be ready in the early summer						
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Employment Learning & Skills Block

Indicators	Baselines 2006/07	Targets 2006/07 (including stretch targets, and their annual unstretched targets)	Targets 2007/08 (including stretch targets, and their annual unstretched targets)	Targets 2008/09 (including stretch targets, and their annual unstretched targets)	Targets 2009/10 (including stretch targets, and their annual unstretched targets)	Targets 2010/11	Community Strategy (Five Year Total)	Lead partne r
An improvement by 2007/8 of at least one percentage point in the overall employment rate for those living in the wards in Halton with the worst labour market position.	Where do we find employment rate data by ward?							
Ensure unemployment rate in any ward is less than 20% above the borough average	3.5% borough average 4.2 = 120%	20	30	60	76	76	262 people in specific wards	
Increase headline employment rate in Halton by 2%	68.5% (2005)	200	240	280	340	70.5% 370	1,430 extra people	

Reduce economic inactivity rate by 10%	26.1% (04-05)	100	200	300	500	23.5% 800	1,900 extra	
Increase number of adults qualified to 4/5 by 15%	11,400 (03-04)	50	50	200	600	810	1,710 extra	
Increase number of adults qualified to Level 3 by 25%	12,700 (03-04)	125 366 college	250 377 college	600 377 college	1,000 377 college	1,200	3,175 extra 1497 college	
Increase number of adults qualified to Level 2 by 15%	30,000 (04-05)	100 896 college	300 966 college	600 986 college	1200 1006 college	2400	4,500 extra 3854 college	
Reduce number of adults with no qualifications by 15%	18,000 economically active (04-05)	100 345 college	200 366 college	500 371 college	700 376 college	1200	2,700 reduction 1458 college	
Increase rate of self-employment by 20%	3,900 (04-05)	30	100	150	200	300	780 extra	
Increase number of VAT registrations by 15%	235 p.a. (2004)	235	240	250	260	270	270 p.a.	

Urban Renewal LAA Block							
Outcomes	Indicators	Links	Baselines 2006/07 (Unless otherwise stated)	Targets 2007/08 (including any stretch targets, and their annual unstretched targets)	Targets 2008/09 (including any stretch targets, and their annual unstretched targets)	Targets 2009/10 (including any stretch targets, and their annual unstretched targets)	Lead partner
Sustain levels of Gross Value Added (GVA)/capita at or above the regional norm.							
increase the numbers of jobs in Halton by 10%	.		58,000 (2004)			5800 extra	
Increase prime rents on commercial property by 15%							

Outcomes	Indicators	Links	Baselines 2006/07 (Unless otherwise stated)	Targets 2007/08 (including any stretch targets, and their annual unstretched targets)	Targets 2008/09 (including any stretch targets, and their annual unstretched targets)	Targets 2009/10 (including any stretch targets, and their annual unstretched targets)	Lead partner
Bring 50ha of derelict land back into beneficial use			10	10	10	10	HBC
Facilitate bringing to market of at least 100,00 sq. m. of new and replacement commercial floorspace			40,000	20,000	20,000		
Increase footfall in town centres by 25% across the borough							
Ensure the decency standard is met by all social housing			-				

Outcomes	Indicators	Links	Baselines 2006/07 (Unless otherwise stated)	Targets 2007/08 (including any stretch targets, and their annual unstretched targets)	Targets 2008/09 (including any stretch targets, and their annual unstretched targets)	Targets 2009/10 (including any stretch targets, and their annual unstretched targets)	Lead partner
Ensure 50% of all new housing is built on brownfield sites							
Increase proportion of buses starting route on time to 98% .							
Ensure 40% of municipal waste is recycled or composted							

Outcomes	Indicators	Links	Baselines 2006/07 (Unless otherwise stated)	Targets 2007/08 (including any stretch targets, and their annual unstretched targets)	Targets 2008/09 (including any stretch targets, and their annual unstretched targets)	Targets 2009/10 (including any stretch targets, and their annual unstretched targets)	Lead partner
Improve the satisfaction rate of residents on quality of the built and natural environment by 10%							

BLOCK - SAFER AND STRONGER COMMUNITIES						
Outcomes	Indicators	Baselines 2006/07 (Unless otherwise stated)	Targets 2007/08 (including stretch targets, and their annual unstretched targets)	Targets 2008/09 (including stretch targets, and their annual unstretched targets)	Targets 2009/10 (including stretch targets, and their annual unstretched targets)	Lead partners
Reduce overall crime in line with Halton's Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership targets and narrow the gap between the worst performing wards/neighbourhoods and other area across Halton (Source ((PSA I) SSCF Agreement))	Reduction in overall British Crime Survey comparator recorded crime by 17.5 (PSA1)	Baseline 03104 79.7 offences per 1000 population Expect 12% reduction by 2006/7	17.5%	7%	15%	Cheshire Police
	Reduce violent crime rates from serious woundings and common assault	Baseline 03/04 2,133	07/08 1,913	4%	8%	Cheshire Police
	Reduce criminal damage by 20%	03/04 baseline 36.8 offences per 1000 population 14% reduction expected 06/07	20%	5%	10%	Cheshire Police
	Reduce burglary from dwellings by 40%	Baseline 5 offences per 1,000 population 2003/04	25% reduction by 2007 from 2003/04 baseline. 40% reduction by 2008	6%	12%	Cheshire Police
	Reduce the number of thefts of vehicles (source LPSA2)	03/04 baseline 753	07/08 588 17% by 2008	7%	15%	Cheshire Police

	Reduce the number of thefts from vehicles (source SSCF Agreement)	03/04 baseline 1108 12% by 2007	07/08 749 17% by 2008	7%	15%	Cheshire Police
	Increase the perception of safety after dark (source SSCF Agreement)	2003 baseline 50%	Increase by 15%			Cheshire Police/HBC
	Reduce the proportion of adult and young offenders, and prolific and other priority offenders who re-offend:					
	POPO		79% POPO			
	overall		8% by 2007			
	young people (under 18) Source SSCF Agreement)		5% by 2007	7%		
Reassure the public, reducing the fear of crime	<u>Indicators to be agreed in negotiations</u> Reduce levels of expressed fear of crime and anti-social behaviour by 25%	Not in SSCF Agreement but is one to reduce perception and reports of asb being an issue of concern to residents by 7%				

Reduce the harm caused by illegal drugs	Increase the total numbers of individuals in treatment (Source LPSA2)	2004/05 baseline 604	665	790	810 (based on current funding)	DAT
	Increase the retention rate in treatment for 12 weeks (LPSA2)	04/05 baseline 80%	85%	88%	89% (based on current funding)	DAT
	Increase number of young people with a substance misuse problem choosing to have treatment	Baseline37	59	94	150	DAT
	Increase number of young people and their families accessing specialist support services	Baseline 7 in 2005	20	40	60	DAT
	Reduce public perception of local drug dealing or drug use as a problem (SSCF Mandatory)	Establish baseline				
	To arrest five offenders for supplying class A drugs per month					

Build Respect in communities and reduce anti-social behaviour	The following indicators should draw on data in the Local Government User Satisfaction Survey					
	Increase in percentage of people who feel informed about what is being done to tackle anti-social behaviour in their local area	Not in SSCF Agreement are we proposing to add these?				
	Increased percentage of people who feel that parents in their local area are made to take responsibility for the behaviour of their children					
	Increased percentage of people who feel that people in their area treat them with respect and consideration					

	<p>Reduce the perception and reports of anti-social behaviour being an issue of concern to residents (SSCF Mnandatory)</p> <p>Reduction in the number of incidents of anti-social behaviour recorded by the police, classified as drunkenness and criminal damage to public and private property</p>	<p>Baseline 2005 33.6%</p> <p>7% reduction by end of 06/07 from baseline</p>	2007/8 27%			
<p>Empower local people to have a greater choice and influence over local decision making and a greater role in public service delivery</p>	<p>Increase Percentage of residents who feel they can influence decisions affecting their local area (SSCF Mandatory)</p> <p>Maintain the capacity of the local VCS in the borough as measured by volume of public service delivery CSSCF Mandatory)</p> <p>Growth of the local VCS by 1% per year</p>	<p>2005 baseline 30% (Consulting Communities in Halton Survey)</p> <p>2005/06 baseline 1.3%</p>	33%			

	Increase number of people who feel that their local area is a place where people from get on well together by 4% CSSCF Mandatory)	2005 baseline 80% (consulting Communities in Halton survey)	84%			
	Increase the number of people recorded as or reporting that they have engaged in formal volunteering on an average of at least two hours per week over the past year by 10%	Baseline 2005 26% (Consulting Communities of Halton Survey)	2007/08 29%			
Cleaner, greener and safer public spaces	Improve environmental quality, as measured by BVPI 199 and 89 in combination, which measure perceptions of Cleanliness	2004 baseline 57.9% (very or fairly satisfied)	Increase by 10% 2004 baseline			
	Increase the number of parks and green spaces with Green Flag Award Increase the number of residents satisfied with local parks and open spaces (BV119e)	2006 baseline 5 03/04 baseline 71% 06/07 target 74%	2007 7			
	A An increase in the percentage of abandoned vehicles removed within 24 hours from the point where the local authority is legally entitled to remove the	<u>NOT IN SSCF AGREEMENT but proposed by Phil Watts</u>				

	vehicle (BVPI 1218b)					
Improve the quality of the local environment by reducing the gap in aspects of liveability between the worst wards/neighbourhoods and the district as a whole, with a particular focus on reducing levels of litter and detritus	Reduce detritus and litter density to 16% (BVPI 100(a))	Baseline 03/04 22.3%	19% 2007			
Improved quality of life for people in the most disadvantaged neighbourhoods; service providers more responsive to neighbourhood needs; and improved service delivery	<p>Percentage of residents in Halton's NM Pilot areas reporting an increase in satisfaction with their neighbourhoods</p> <p>Implement a local management scheme in all neighbourhoods in Halton by 2011</p> <p>Raise satisfaction levels with the neighbourhood area where people live to above 63%</p> <p>Increase the rate of people involved in community activities by 30%</p>					

Road Safety	Reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured in road collisions	Baseline (1994 – 1998 average) 157 KS1	34% reduction by 2007			
	Reduce the number of children killed or seriously injured in road collisions by 46%	Baseline (1994 – 1998 average) 33 KS1	41% reduction by 2007			
Increase domestic fire safety and reduce arson	Reduce deliberate number of incidents of vehicle arson to non-derelict vehicles (LPSA2)	200 (Jan – Dec 05) baseline	140			
	Reduce fly tipping (flycapture) (LSPA2)	Baseline April 05/Feb 06 2,100	1890			
	Reduce nuisance fires		8% 2007 10% 2008			

BLOCK - SAFER AND STRONGER COMMUNITIES						
Outcomes	Indicators	Baselines 2006/07 (Unless otherwise stated)	Targets 2007/08 (including stretch targets, and their annual unstretched targets)	Targets 2008/09 (including stretch targets, and their annual unstretched targets)	Targets 2009/10 (including stretch targets, and their annual unstretched targets)	Lead partner
Implement a strategic approach to reduce the harm caused by domestic abuse	Increase awareness of domestic abuse throughout the community					
	To ensure that within the local authority area a minimum of 1 refuge place per 10,000 population is available (BVPI 225)					
	Reduce the percentage of cases accepted as homeless due to domestic abuse that had previously been rehoused in the last two years by that local authority as a result of domestic abuse (BVPI 225)	05/06 7%	-8%	-8.5%		Halton Housing Trust
	Reduce the number of violent crimes (common assault and other wounding) which are domestic abuse related	Baseline data needed	Reduce by 2% from baseline by 2007/08			Cheshire Police
	Increase the number of victims of domestic abuse accessing support by 20%	05/06 270	324			Relationship Centre
	Increase by 5% the					

	number of victims being referred onto a support service (LCJB)	36 per month	38			Cheshire Police
	Increase by 5% arrest and charge of perpetrators where a crime has been committed (LCJB)	Baseline				
	Reduce by 10% the occurrence of prosecutors not offering evidence at trial (LCJB)	8	7			Cheshire Police
	Reduce the attrition rate by 50% (LCJB)	41	20.5			Cheshire Police
	Provision and effectiveness of services to help victims and prevent domestic abuse					
	To deliver a programme of multi-agency training covering front line and managerial staff from within housing, social services, education health and police (BUPI225)					
	To increase the number of incidents of domestic abuse reported to the police (directly or through a third party) by 10% (LPSA2)	Baseline 04/05 1613	07/08 1774			Cheshire Police
	Increase by 5% the proportion of incidents of domestic abuse,	Baseline 273	287			Cheshire Police

	<p>which result in sanctioned detections from a baseline in 2005/06 (LPSA2)</p> <p>To reduce the proportion of the total number of domestic abuse reported annually to the police (directly or through a third party) in the same period who are repeat victims (LPSA2)</p>	Baseline 03/04 23%	18% (actual 05/06 12.7%)			Cheshire Police
Develop a strategic approach to address the harm caused by alcohol	the Alcohol Task Group will develop a set of key indicators from which targets will be set					

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Enabling Measures – C&YP Block

Request	LAA Outcome or target to which the request relates	The problem or obstacles that the request seeks to overcome	How the request would remove the obstacle or alleviate the problem	How will this help to meet outcome/target	What other options may be available to achieve this
<p>Mini Trust – carry over a reasonable (agreed with GOL) level of unspent resources from pooled funding from one financial year to another.</p>	<p>All targets which will sit within the Strategies and Action Plans of the mini-trusts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in the under-18 conception rate by 50% by 2010 (Preventative mini-trust) • Reduce percentage of 16-18 year olds not in employment, education or training to fewer than 7% (Preventative mini-trust) • Increase to 60% percentage of children whose personal, social and emotional development is assessed as “good” at the end of the foundation stage (CAMHS mini-trust) • Reduce the number of care leavers who live in temporary accommodation to 15% (LAC mini-trust) • Increase the school attendance of children who have been looked after for at least 12 months (LAC mini-trust) • Increase the % of LAC under 16 that have been in their current placement for at least 2 years (LAC mini-trust) • Children with disabilities will have improved security, stability and care within their home environment by all eligible families being offered a carers’ assessment by 2009 (CwD mini-trust) • 100% of young people with disabilities progress into further 	<p>The mini-trusts are at different stages of development. This means that initiatives developed under the mini-trust action plans may not be fully actioned or operational until later in any financial year. Inability to carry forward reasonable levels of pooled funding would impede the planning, development and commissioning services to improve these outcomes.</p>	<p>Carry-over of resources for the mini trusts would enable effective service development and commissioning, including commissioning regarding cross-cutting issues.</p>	<p>Lifting year-on-year restrictions would improve outcomes by offering the ability to redesign service delivery and increase portfolios of support available.</p>	<p>This could not be achieved without the facility to carry over unspent resources from one financial year to another.</p>

Request	LAA Outcome or target to which the request relates	The problem or obstacles that the request seeks to overcome	How the request would remove the obstacle or alleviate the problem	How will this help to meet outcome/target	What other options may be available to achieve this
	education, work or other positive destinations each year (CwD mini-trust)				
Request to report overall spend only and not spend against blocks or individual outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All targets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reporting spending against blocks and/or individual outcomes causes duplication of work and lack of clarity, particularly where there are cross-cutting targets and initiatives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Being able to report only overall spend, whilst continuing to report performance against individual blocks and outcomes, would increase efficiency and enable resources to be targeted towards service delivery. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The flexibility to target resources more efficiently would enable investment in services, including the development of cross-cutting initiatives which would improve outcomes across a number of targets and themes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Without the relaxation of reporting requirements an increasing amount of resources will need to be spent reporting, reducing the resources available for service planning and development.
Freedom to extend the age range for Connexions interventions from 13-19 to 11-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce percentage of 16-18 year olds not in employment, education or training to fewer than 7% Increase the number of 19 year olds with level 2 qualifications by at least 30%. Reduce the proportion of children living in households with a relatively low income by at least 40% 	The current age range restricts the ability to provide early interventions for those young people identified as needing additional support early in their secondary school career.	Extending the age range to 11-19 would enable targeted support to be provided for young people identified as at risk of becoming NEET using recognised early indicators. The early intervention would complement other support, including earlier vocational experience, and be in keeping with a growing preventative focus.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The provision of targeted early support for those young people identified as being at risk of becoming NEET would help reduce the risk and therefore improve the long-term outcomes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current school support services could be extended to include employment outcomes. However, it would be preferable for Connexions services to be extended as it would avoid duplication and utilise Connexions specialist knowledge.

<p>To be released from the requirement to create new childcare places in every children's centre where need is already adequately met, and for flexibility in the models of childcare provision at different centres.</p>	<p>No targets in CYPP or Community Plan relate to childcare or children's centres, apart from "100% of all children attending nurseries and other early years settings are safe, well cared for and take part in learning activities"</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The requirement prevents flexibility regarding the development of children's centres offering services to older children, and could lead to a duplication of services in some areas and a surplus of childcare places. This reduces the capacity to develop services based on analysis of local need. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Halton's children's centre developments are based on a clear analysis of local need, which identified a gap in services for older children (in the 5+ age group, particularly those over 10) This enabling measure would help target resources towards meeting locally identified need and reduce the risk of having to resource surplus childcare places. 	<p>Need target here</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Services for older children would need to be developed on a smaller scale. If childcare places continue to be provided at every children's centre regardless of local need, parents could be requested to access childcare at a children's centre with surplus places rather than their nearest centre.
<p>Flexibility on CF/YPSM/TP – Pool budget and single finance and performance reporting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduction in the under-18 conception rate by 50% by 2010 Young people with a substance misuse problem choose to have treatment and this increases to 60% from the current baseline by 2008 More children feel safer from bullying and discrimination within schools by the continued implementation of anti-bullying policies, the establishment of good local baseline information and systems for self-reporting which are monitored and reviewed by 2009 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The preventative mini-trust has responsibility for monitoring and improving outcomes regarding these three areas. Administering and reporting on each of the 3 funding streams individually does not achieve best value from the resources. Separate budgets for each funding stream restricts flexibility in developing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shared finance and performance reporting would enable best use to be made of resources, enabling the targeting of resources into commissioning services which would contribute to improved outcomes. Pooled budget would enable flexibility, and the commissioning of services across the preventative agenda. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a recognition that joint commissioning using the Commissioning Framework is an effective way of identifying and improving shared and cross-cutting outcomes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Without the flexibility to pool these preventative budgets and streamline reporting mechanisms the preventative mini-trust would need to use more resources for administrative processes rather than commissioning services. It would also prevent joint commissioning being progressed.

		<p>preventative services, particularly regarding cross-cutting issues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is currently no consistency between the three relevant reporting mechanisms, leading to duplication of work and difficulty in reporting against cross-cutting themes. 			
<p>Flexibility on benefits –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residence Order Allowance • Special Guardianship Allowance • Adoption Order Allowance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the percentage of LAC who have been looked after for more than 2.5 years that have been in their current placement for at least 2 years <p>NB this will actually have a negative rather than positive impact on this measure. It is suggested that the following indicators are used:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of LAC adopted during the year as % of those looked after for 6 months or more • Reduce ratio of children looked after per 10,000 child population 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Families on Income Support currently gain little or no benefit from allowances paid to them to help financially support children they are looking after. The allowances are counted as income for benefits purposes, and allowances paid by the local authority are therefore deducted from benefit payments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full benefit of the allowances would be gained by all families, rather than those on benefits being disadvantaged. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is acknowledged that children and young people who are cared for away from home thrive best in stable, long term placements with minimum statutory intervention. The relaxation of these restrictions would enable more children and young people to move out of the care system. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are no other options to achieve additional financial support to people caring for children and young people, other than to increase the rate of allowance paid by the Local Authority to those carers in receipt of benefits. This would result in an inconsistent approach and would divert resources from other support services for looked after children and young people.

Request	LAA Outcome or target to which the request relates	The problem or obstacles that the request seeks to overcome	How the request would remove the obstacle or alleviate the problem	How will this help to meet outcome/target	What other options may be available to achieve this
<p>Incapacity Benefit - Reward the Halton LSP for a reduction in IB recipients. Savings could be counted if the individual did not go through Pathways to Work, and would be 50% of the saving. This could then be that allocated to the LSP, or added onto Deprived Area Funding or somehow related to city employment strategies.</p> <p>Incapacity Benefit - Ability to provide financial incentives for IB stock who are non-</p>					

Pathways to Work eligible. However, there are questions as to where this money would come from.

Permitted Work Rules -

Ability to dis-apply the earnings disregard rules in targeted areas (NB – Gill is checking if this is needed)

Data Sharing -

There is a need to give greater freedom around data sharing protocols, ie in the case of seconded JCP staff where they lose access to data, particularly around individuals . Data should be able to be shared if it stays within the JCP 'family'

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FUNDING : LOCAL AREA AGREEMENTS**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

Category	Funding Stream	Halton In Receipt (Year)	Value in 2006/07	Timescale	Comments
Centrally Pooled (Mandatory)	Children's Services Grant Kerbcraft Key Stage 3 – Behaviour and Attendance Key Stage 3 – Central Co-ordination Neighbourhood Renewal Fund Neighbourhood Road Safety Initiative Neighbourhood Support Fund Positive Activi5tes for Young People Primary Strategy Central Co-ordinator School Travel Advisers School Development Grant (Local Authority retained element only)	Many of these grants have been in place for a number of years. In all cases where budget figures have been provided the grants will be in place in 2006/2007 and 2007/2008. Future levels of funding cannot be provided beyond this period.	£462,000 £30,000 £68,300 £332,835 £802,500 - - - £326,486 £17,000 £1,131,667	Due to the comprehensive spending review and the review of national review of school funding most funding sources are only guaranteed until 31 st March 2008. For Standards Fund grants the period of eligible expenditure is 31 st August 2008.	Funding for Kerbcraft up to 31 st March 2007
Centrally Pooled (Discretionary)	Connexions Extended Schools (Standards Fund) Teenage Pregnancy Grant Children's Fund School Improvement Partners		£1.4 million £253,576 £106,000 £483,453 £22,695		Connexions Funding given relates to 2006/2007
Aligned *	14-19 Funding and Organisational Pilots Big Lottery Funding Building Schools for the Future Change Up Direct Schools' Funding		£280,000 - N/A - £83,600,034	The estimated	Relates to GMLSC Grant for 2006/2007 –

	Community Champions Fund		(gross)	figure for	
	LAA Pump Priming Grant		-	(£87,361,297	
	LAA Reward		-	(gross) for	
	LEA Music Services		-	2007/2008	
	Millennium Volunteers		143,176	These budgets are	
	School Meals		N/A	only available until	
	Youth Opportunity Fund		£162,631	31 st August 2008	In addition to the
			£34,000	for School Meals	revenue there is
				and Music	£62,000 capital
				Services and 31 st	
				March for Youth	
				Opportunity Fund	

* Local partners can choose to align the above funding streams that they receive. In some cases these cannot be pooled centrally because they are mainstream or other public funding streams that are given to local authorities, Non Departmental Public Bodies (NDPBs) or other bodies with few if any restrictions on how it is to be spent. This means that the decision to align this funding is for these bodies to make. That said, central government strongly encourages them to do so. In other cases it is because departments have specific reasons that they do not at present want these grants pooled within LAAs. For locally aligned funding, grants retains their existing terms and conditions and reporting arrangements.

REPORT TO: Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 20 September 2006

REPORTING OFFICER: Operational Director-Policy & Performance

SUBJECT: Performance Monitoring Reports for the 1st quarter (2006/07)

WARDS: Boroughwide

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The 1st quarter monitoring reports for the Council services that come within the remit of this Policy & Performance Board were published last month and are available in both electronic and hard copy formats. These reports enable the Board to scrutinise progress towards achieving the service plan objectives, milestones and performance targets. Therefore, the purpose of this report is to draw attention to particular aspects contained in the full versions of the monitoring reports and to act as a 'signpost' to assist Board Members carry out their performance management function.

2. RECOMMENDED: That the Policy & Performance Board

- 1) **Scrutinise service performance and progress towards achieving objectives and targets and raise any questions or points for clarification in respect of the information contained in the quarterly monitoring reports; and**
- 2) **Highlight areas of interest and/or concern that require further information or action to be reported at a future meeting of the Policy and Performance Board where appropriate.**

3. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 The performance considerations attached as Appendix 1, highlights the key findings in the quarterly monitoring reports for the services listed below:

Environment Directorate

1. Highways & Transportation
2. Economic Regeneration
3. Major Projects
4. Environmental & Regulatory Services

Health & Community Directorate

1. Culture & Leisure Services

4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Any policy implications arising from emerging issues or key developments that will impact upon the service or any action required to address performance issues, will be identified in the respective quarterly monitoring report.

5. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Any other implications associated with issues connected with the service will be identified in the respective quarterly monitoring report.

6. RISK ANALYSIS

6.1 The risk control measures associated with the service objectives that were initially assessed as having 'HIGH' risks are summarised in the quarterly monitoring reports to monitor their implementation.

7. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

7.1 The actions identified arising from the Equality impact/needs assessments that are regarded as 'HIGH' priority for each service are in the Equality Action Plans and progress on their implementation is included in the respective quarterly monitoring reports.

8. REASON(S) FOR DECISION

Not applicable

9. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

Not applicable

10. IMPLEMENTATION DATE

Not applicable

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

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
Quarterly monitoring reports for:		
1. Highways & Transportation	Municipal Building 2 nd floor	Mike Foy-Senior Performance Management Officer
2. Economic Regeneration		
3. Major Projects		
4. Environmental & Regulatory Services		
5. Culture & Leisure Services		

PERFORMANCE CONSIDERATIONS

(1st Quarter 2006/07)

SERVICE: Highways & Transportation (*excluding Road Safety*)

Overview

At the end of the 1st quarter, the prospects this year for the service to achieve its key objectives and performance targets appear to be very good. There are no specific issues of concern associated with the key developments and emerging issues highlighted in the quarterly monitoring report that would suggest specific attention is required at this stage.

Areas of Further Consideration

- The recommendations from the Transportation & Access best value review are outlined in the monitoring report. An action plan has been prepared and therefore, progress towards achieving the action plan will form part of the existing performance monitoring arrangements.
- The quarterly budget summary refers to the under spend in the staffing costs for the Highways Section due to staff turnover and delays with filling vacancies. Therefore, the Board may wish to clarify what the implications and potential risks (if any) are for the service.

SERVICE: Economic Regeneration (*excluding Business Development and Adult Learning*)

Overview

Overall the prospects for the service achieving the key objectives and performance targets that fall within the remit of the Urban Renewal PPB appear to be very good. The key developments and the emerging issues in the quarterly monitoring reports do not suggest that there are any serious issues associated with them. However, there are a couple points that the Board may wish to note or consider further which are highlighted in the box below.

Areas of Further Consideration

- An interim report on the Halton property study was produced by The BE Group (Consultants) in July and therefore, the Board may wish to be informed of any provisional findings/conclusions reached by the consultants that are of particular interest.
- Research and surveys associated with the Business Improvement Districts (BIDS) are referred to in both the Key Developments and Emerging Issues sections of the quarterly monitoring reports. Therefore, the Board might wish to clarify when they can expect the reports to be presented to them for consideration.

- A key stage in improving the environment and image of the borough (*Key Objective ER 07*) was the completion of the Victoria Sq. night time plan proposals by the end of June 2006. The key milestones are all on course to be completed however; the Board may welcome an update on the overall progress towards achieving the key objective.

SERVICE: Major Projects

Overview

At the end of the 1st quarter, the prospects this year for the service to achieve all its key objectives and milestone deadlines appear to be very good. There are no issues of concern highlighted in the quarterly monitoring report associated with either the key developments, emerging issues or the key objectives, which requires further scrutiny over and above the normal monitoring of performance against targets and deadlines.

Areas of Further Consideration

- The monitoring report refers to negotiations with English Partnership and the North West Development Agency to secure 'gap' funding regarding the development of the Canal Quarter in Runcorn. (*Key objective LR03*). The Board will be able to review progress on the negotiations as part of the quarterly monitoring process.

SERVICE: Environmental & Regulatory Services (*Landscape Services, Planning Services and Building Control ONLY*)

Overview

The majority of the key objectives and performance targets that come within the remit of the PPB are reported to be on course to be achieved and therefore, the prospects for the year are good. There are no key developments reported that would have an adverse effect on the service although there are some emerging issues that are likely to have an impact in some areas. (*See the box below*)

Areas of Further Consideration

- The quarterly monitoring report comments that no appropriate other funding agencies have currently been identified as part of the key objective to continue with the Borough-wide Playground Refurbishment Project. The Board might wish to clarify that if this remains the position, whether it could have any future implications or risks for the project.
- A satisfaction survey was undertaken in July in respect of a range of issues associated with Street Scene. Therefore, the Board may wish to clarify when the survey findings are expected to be available

- The performance indicator relating to the score against the quality of planning services checklist is around 95% and within the top 25% of local authorities. It is unclear at this stage if the target will be met however, to achieve a score of 100%, an arrangement for permanent and continual specialist design advice in the form of consultants or employing direct staff will need to be available. This will have financial implications and the Board may want to consider whether this is a realistic option worthy of further discussion in the current climate.
- The budget summary refers to the lower than expected level of income from Building Control fees due to increased competition from the private sector. Therefore, further consideration of what the implications and risks to the service could be if the situation remains unchanged maybe appropriate. The Board may also wish to be informed if there are any options that could be considered to improve the service's ability to compete in the market place.
- The quarterly monitoring report describes the EC Directive on the conservation of natural habitats, wild fauna and flora as a developing problem associated with the need to carry out Appropriate Assessments. This will impact upon land use plans and therefore, further scrutiny by the Board maybe necessary.

SERVICE: Culture & Leisure (*Parks & Countryside ONLY*)

Overview

The quarterly monitoring reports refers to Halton's achievement of six Green Flag Awards for excellence in open spaces and the effective partnership working between Landscape Services and Parks & Countryside. However, there are no other references to Parks & Countryside and therefore, there is no overview of progress towards achieving the key objectives and performance targets that form part of this PPB's remit provided.

Areas of Further Consideration

None highlighted

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