



**Employment, Learning and Skills Policy  
and Performance Board**

**Monday, 11 September 2006 at 6.30 p.m.  
Town Hall, Runcorn**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'David W R'.

**Chief Executive**

**BOARD MEMBERSHIP**

<b>Councillor Eddie Jones (Chairman)</b>	<b>Labour</b>
<b>Councillor Frank Fraser (Vice-Chairman)</b>	<b>Labour</b>
<b>Councillor Ellen Cargill</b>	<b>Labour</b>
<b>Councillor Susan Edge</b>	<b>Labour</b>
<b>Councillor David Findon</b>	<b>Conservative</b>
<b>Councillor Mike Hodgkinson</b>	<b>Liberal Democrat</b>
<b>Councillor Harry Howard</b>	<b>Labour</b>
<b>Councillor Stan Parker</b>	<b>Labour</b>
<b>Councillor David Lewis</b>	<b>Conservative</b>
<b>Councillor Margaret Ratcliffe</b>	<b>Liberal Democrat</b>
<b>Councillor John Stockton</b>	<b>Labour</b>

*Please contact Lynn Derbyshire on 0151 471 7389 or e-mail [lynn.derbyshire@halton.gov.uk](mailto:lynn.derbyshire@halton.gov.uk) for further information.*

*The next meeting of the Board is on Monday, 6 November 2006*

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

**Part I**

<b>Item No.</b>		<b>Page No.</b>
<b>1. MINUTES</b>		
<b>2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS (INCLUDING PARTY WHIP DECLARATIONS)</b>		
	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.	
<b>3. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME</b>		<b>1 - 2</b>
<b>4. EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES</b>		
	The Executive Board and Executive Board Sub Committee have not considered any items relating to the remit of the Employment, Learning and Skills Policy and Performance Board since the last meeting.	
<b>5. DEVELOPMENT OF POLICY ISSUES</b>		
(A) LOCAL AREA AGREEMENTS		<b>3 - 6</b>
(B) VOLUNTARY SECTOR GRANTS		<b>7 - 8</b>
(C) COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT		<b>9 - 16</b>
(D) CITY EMPLOYMENT STRATEGIES		<b>17 - 20</b>
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(A) QUARTERLY MONITORING REPORTS		<b>21 - 24</b>

***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:** Employment, Learning and Skills Policy and Performance Board

**DATE:** 11 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 bear 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:** Employment, Learning & Skills Policy and Performance Board

**DATE:** 11 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.**

## **3.0 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.



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

**DATE:** 11 September 2006

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director, Health and Community

**SUBJECT:** Voluntary Sector Grants

**WARD(S):** Borough-wide

### **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 To receive a presentation from Halton Citizen's Advice Bureau (CAB) about their work and contribution to Halton's priorities.

### **2.0 RECOMMENDED: That**

- (1) the presentation be noted; and**
- (2) Members of the PPB comment on the work of the CAB, particularly in relation to the service offered for the amount of grant received.**

### **3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 In 2005/06 the Prosperity and Equality PPB received presentations from all the voluntary sector organisations in receipt of a grant of £5000 or over.

3.2 Of such organisations the CAB and Halton Voluntary Action (HVA) received the major grants. For 2006/07 CAB received £179,755 and HVA £75,000.

3.3 Both these organisations have three year Service Level Agreements that terminates in March 2007. The agreements are currently under review. Because of this it was felt timely for this Board to consider the work of these two organisations. The CAB have been asked to attend the September Board Meeting and HVA the November meeting. The November meeting will also receive the 2005/06 annual report on the other groups receiving grants.

### **4.0 POLICY AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 None at this stage.

### **5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 There are no financial implications as the grant has already been approved for 2006/07.

5.2 The work of the CAB should impact greatly on social inclusion and anti-poverty and diversity issues. These should be highlighted in the presentation.

**6.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

6.1 None directly. The PPB, however, will monitor that the grant is being spent appropriately and the Council and Halton people receive value for money.

**7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

7.1 To receive a grant, organisations have to demonstrate that acceptable equality and diversity policies are in place.

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

8.1 None under the meaning of the Act.

**AGENDA ITEM NO.**

<b>REPORT:</b>	Employment, Learning & Skills Policy and Performance Board
<b>DATE:</b>	11 <sup>th</sup> September 2006
<b>REPORTING OFFICER:</b>	Strategic Director – Health & Community
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Community Development
<b>WARDS:</b>	Boroughwide

**1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT:**

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to inform the Employment, Learning & Skills Policy and Performance Board of the contribution that the Community Development Service has made in the delivery of the Cultural and Leisure Service Plan and the five key Corporate Priorities over the last year.

**2.0 RECOMMEND: That the report be noted.****3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION:**

- 3.1 The community development team has been delivering services on a neighbourhood basis since January 2003. Each community development officer is responsible for an Area Forum and wherever possible they are based within the patch. The team work with local residents, community groups and various organisations and agencies across Halton to positively tackle issues that affect the quality of life for residents.
- 3.2 The Community Development Team currently consists of:-
- Senior Community Development Officer
  - Four full-time Development Officers
  - Two part-time development officers

With the appointment of the community Development Officer for Area Forum 5 at the beginning of December 2005 the team is fully staffed for the first time in many years. Cover for the vacant posts has been provided by the existing team members; this has enabled the delivery of a service across all wards in the borough. This is a demonstration of staff commitment to the delivery of a good service.

- 3.3 To ensure that the service is managed effectively and in line with best practice, Performance Indicators have been set and Monitoring and Evaluation systems have been developed. Each community Development Officer has prepared and distributed an annual report for their ward councillors, which included these monitoring figures, a short outline of support given to community organisation and details of funding secured as a result of their involvement. Below is a summary of achievements in the year 2005 – 2006.
- 3.4 In 2005 – 2006 the community development team provided support to 125 community organisations assisting with 75 community led initiatives directly benefiting 4,453 individuals in Halton. The number of local people involved in this community activity increased from 597 in 2004 –2005 to 1,016 in 2005 – 2005.
- 3.5 The Community Development Officers are active in developing and facilitating partnership activities at a neighbourhood and borough wide level. Improving networking and co-ordination with partners and other stakeholder groups this has assisted with improved targeting of resources and better service delivery to local communities. Progress is now measured quarterly and show partners and numbers of initiatives involved in. Figures are not available for the full year however figures from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2006 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2006 show that we were working in partnership with 65 organisations on 103 different projects and initiative. The comparable period last year showed we were working with 51 partners.
- 3.6 Community development provides support to community organisations enabling them to access funding from local and national sources. The community development officers have worked with local groups and other partners to attract £265,764 in external funding and £9,827 from internal funding pots for local projects and initiatives, a total of £275,591
- 3.7 Community development administers two streams of internal funding, Starter and Community Development Grants and Voluntary Youth Grants.

#### Community Development and Starter Grants

These grants are available for pump priming and the delivery of community led initiatives.

In 2005 – 2006 the budget was £6,900  
24 grants were awarded

Total Allocated £6,899

## **Voluntary Youth Organisations Grants and Bursaries for Young People**

Voluntary youth grants are available to voluntary/community organisations that organise activity by and with young people in Halton. The Bursaries are available to young people between the ages of 13 – 18 who live in Halton and are pursuing personal development through recognised development courses like the Duke of Edinburgh Awards.

In 2005 – 2006 the budget was £20,000

21 grants were awarded

Total Allocated £20,190

(Appendix 1)

- 3.8 A two-year project funded through the European Community (ERDF) to support the delivery of Community Development on a neighbourhood basis ended in March 2006. Community Development secured £49,000 in European Funding, over 2 years, for the Community Initiatives & Capacity Building Project, this funding facilitated the transition to neighbourhood working by the community development team.

The provision of the service at a neighbourhood level has enabled us to improve contact and support to community organisations, increasing their capacity to work in partnership with each other and other stakeholders and agencies in their local areas.

The impact of this can be seen in the successes outlined above and in the increased number and range of community organisations who have accessed the support available.

- 3.9 Some of key achievements in the neighbourhoods during 2005/06 are
- Area 1 Broadheath, Ditton, Hale and Hough Green**
- Funding advice and support has been given to Widnes Horticultural Society to enable the holding of their Annual Show in September 2006.
  - The Hough Green Gardening Project have been assisted to develop and adopt a constitution and relevant policies and procedures. This has enabled the group to apply for funding to improve the site for the disabled users
  - The HEARTS Theatre Group have been helped to raise funding for improved lighting equipment to hold their annual pantomime at Upton Community Centre.
  - Friends Of Hale Park have been given advice and support to become a constituted group; to prepare a 5 year development plan for the park; undertake consultation with local people and park users and to prepare funding applications for park improvements.

**Area 2 Appleton, Kingsway and Riverside**

- Support has been given to the Victoria Park Steering Committee to carry out community consultations to satisfy Heritage Lottery requirements.
- Support and advice given to the Kipling House Community Management Committee to secure the sustainability of the project. This has included training for the management group in marketing and supporting volunteers and assistance with funding applications.
- Providing support to the West Bank Community Forum to enable them to organise a number of successful community events and initiatives. The forum has entered the Britain in Bloom competition and have organised a community clean up day and undertaken community consultation around local facilities. The forum will be moving into office space in the newly opened Transporter House.
- The Widnes Fellowship Centre has been given assistance to successfully apply for funding to improve the kitchen facilities at their premises.

**Area 3 Birchfield, Farnworth and Halton View.**

- Community Development continue to support the North Widnes Allotment Association, helping them apply for funding and attract new members.
- Friends of Crow Wood Park have received assistance with developing the membership of their group, to improve networking with other partners, putting on activities and events in the park and to raise funding for park improvements.
- Moorfield Junior Bowls have been given support and information to allow them to set up as an independent group. They have adopted a constitution and relevant policies and procedures to enable them to access funding. The group actively promotes positive opportunities for young and old people to engage in community activity.

**Area 4 Grange, Halton Brook, Heath, Mersey**

- Grangeway Centre Members group has been assisted with rewriting their constitution and their Annual general meeting.
- Support has been given to a number of different groups in Halton Brook to assist with the effective running of their organisations, accessing funding etc. Groups worked with have included; 2 morris dancing groups, a junior football club, the residents association & carnival committee.
- The Heath Festival Group were assisted with funding application to hold a flower festival in September 2005.
- Ongoing support is being given to Friends of Runcorn Hill to enable to continued development of the park, including community consultations to support funding applications and events and initiatives like the arts festival and support to community activities around the band stand.
- Capacity building support has been given to Cheshire Asbestos Victim Support Group to assist with preparation for future working, including funding applications for sustainability and employing staff.

### **Area 5 Castlefields, Norton North, Norton South and Windmill Hill**

- Providing support to Tenants 4 Tenants Group, helping with development of an action plan and accessing training provided through HVA to enable the group become credible and to sustain activity.
- In partnership with the community centre staff, Age Concern and Norton Priory a small group of older isolated people have been involved in activity around the Priory and the Community Centre. It is hoped to develop this work to enable the group to become independent.
- Halton Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, a new support group, has been assisted in developing and adopting a constitution and all relevant policies and procedures.
- Support has been given to Brookvale Community Association to identify and apply for funding for computer equipment for the IT suite in the local community centre. The group are also looking at developing other services at the centre like a community laundry and fruit & vegetable shop.
- The Telematics Centre is being supported with developing a Big Lottery "Reaching Communities" Bid to secure the future for this well used and effective community ITC project.

### **Area 6 and 7 Beechwood, Halton Lea and Daresbury**

- Providing support and developing local networks for the Dorset Gardens Extra Care Housing project team. This has included providing community mapping for the estate, the development of an activity and participation plan for the residents when the project opens and integration with neighbours and local groups.
- Support is being given to a number of existing and new groups in Hallwood Park including the Community Forum, Tots and Teas, the local adult darts and football teams. All have been assisted with funding for events and activities and issues around effective running of their organisation.
- In partnership with the area forum, ward councillors and Cosmopolitan Housing possible improvements are being looked at on the Halton Lodge Estate to provide activities for young people.
- Capacity building support is being given to the CO Awareness group, helping with funding applications, marketing and publicity.

### **Boroughwide Initiatives and Projects**

- The Halton Community Development Practitioners Forum provides a mechanism for networking, sharing of best practice and common issues, and facilitates a cohesive approach to community development across all sectors. Community Development provides the lead and the forum meets quarterly. There are 68 individual members on the mailing list, representing 26 local agencies and 12 Council departments all involved in delivering community development activity in the borough. The meetings are well attended and valued by participants. Two Key outcomes from 2005/06 are the distribution of a Community Development Directory and establishing stronger links with the Regional Community Development Network; .

- Support has been given to the Halton Ostomy Support Group – to enable them to alter their constitution and improve their committee skills to help the group become more sustainable. They are now known as the North West Cheshire & Merseyside Ostomy Support Group.
- Providing Support to the Widnes Rugby League Heritage Group to develop constitution and relevant policies and procedures. Initial funding has been secured to begin the collection of artefacts and memorabilia to establish the collection and develop a mobile exhibition.
- Identified and applied for funding to develop a range of services and consultations for disabled people who are members of the Halton Speak Out Group. The group have received capacity building support, which has enabled them to develop an action plan for future activities and services.
- The Community Development team delivered two half day training sessions for members of the Friends of Groups, covering group officers roles, holding good meetings, policies and procedures for effective running etc.
- In partnership with the LSP support staff community development is revising the Community Engagement website and toolkit and has contributed to the consultation database.
- The Community Development Officers based in the three neighbourhood pilot areas have provided mapping information and local profiles to the Neighbourhood Management project team.

#### **4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 None at this stage.

#### **5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 None at this stage.

#### **6.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

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



**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - GRANTS AWARDED 2005 - 2006**

Community Development administers two streams of internal funding, Starter and Community Development Grants and Voluntary Youth Grants and Bursaries.

**Community Development and Starter Grants**

These grants are available for pump priming and the delivery of community led initiatives.

In 2005 –2006 the budget was £6,900  
24 Grants have been awarded

**Total £6,899.20p**

**Starter Grants**

Ward	Group Name	Total Awarded
Castlefields	T4T The Peoples Association	£ 100
Kingsway	Kipling House Management Committee.	£ 150
Castlefields	Friends of Wigg Island	£ 150
Ditton	Halebank Allotments Association	£ 150
Riverside	Ditton West Community Association	£ 150
Borough Wide	CO Awareness	£ 150
Castlefields	The Hermit Group	£ 150.20
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£1,000.20</b>

**Community Development Grants**

Ward	Group Name	Total Awarded
Hough Green	Millennium Arts Project	£ 400
Hough Green	Friends of Hale Park	£ 250
Widnes Wide	Widnes Fellowship Group	£ 400
Borough Wide	Halton Diabetes UK Voluntary Group	£ 400
Norton North	Residents at Primrose Brook	£ 400
Heath	Friends of Runcorn Hill	£ 400
Borough Wide	Halton Speak Out	£ 261
Mersey	Holy Trinity Tot's & Kids	£ 400
Mersey	Open Door	£ 400
Daresbury	Hatton & District Show Society	£ 265
Kingsway	Moor Lane Cornerstone Forum	£ 155
Ditton	Hough Green Gardening Project	£ 400
Borough Wide	Halton Ostomy Group	£ 400
Borough Wide	Widnes Rugby League Heritage Group	£ 350
Hough Green	HEARTS Theatre Group	£ 400
Broadheath	Halton Disabled Swimmers Club	£ 400
Kingsway	Kingsway Tenants & Residents Group	£ 217
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£5,898</b>

## Voluntary Youth Organisations Grants and Bursaries for Young People.

Voluntary youth grants are available to voluntary/community organisations who organise activity by and with young people in Halton. The Bursaries are available to young people between the ages of 13 – 18 who live in Halton and are pursuing personal development through recognised development courses like the Duke of Edinburgh Awards.

In 2005 – 2006 the budget was £20,000  
21 Grants & Bursaries have been awarded

**Total £20,190**

### Voluntary Youth Organisation Grants

Wards Covered	Group Name	Total Awarded
Borough Wide	Halton Autistic Family Support	£2,500
Runcorn Wide	1 <sup>st</sup> Runcorn Boys Brigade & Girls Association	£1,000
Halton Lea	Four Estates Ltd.	£1,000
Farnworth & Appleton	17 <sup>th</sup> St. Likes Brownies	£ 370
Widnes Wide	West Bank Bears JARLFC	£1,500
Ditton & Hough Green	Hough Green Scouts & Guide Group	£ 800
Widnes Wide	West Bank Bears ARLFC	£1,500
Widnes Wide	Moorfields ARLFC	£2,500
Castlefields	Castlefields Community Forum	£ 500
Castlefields & Halton Lea	1 <sup>st</sup> Halton Scout Troop	£1,000
Widnes Wide	Widnes Bayer FC	£1,000
Ditton & Hough Green	Hough Green Scouts & Guide Group	£1,500
Runcorn Wide	North West Cheshire Scout Fellowship	£ 300
Mersey	1 <sup>st</sup> Weston Point Scout Group	£1,000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£16,470</b>

### Youth Bursaries

Ward	Activity Funded	Total Awarded
Farnworth	Ballet Training	£ 520
Broadheath	Dance School Expenses	£ 500
Halton View	Dance School Expenses	£ 500
Brookvale	Piano Lessons	£ 400
Hough Green	Scouts Euro Camp	£ 600
Hough Green	Scouts Euro Camp	£ 600
Hough Green	Scouts Euro Camp	£ 600
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£3,720</b>

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

**DATE:** 11 September 2006

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director of Environment

**SUBJECT:** City Employment Strategies

**WARD(S):** Borough-wide

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To provide a briefing on the recent government City Employment Strategies initiative.

**2. RECOMMENDED: That**

- 2.1 Policy and Performance Board identify key issues it wishes to see addressed in the City Employment Strategy for Greater Merseyside.

**3. SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 3.1 As part of the government proposals contained in 'A new deal for welfare: empowering people to work' published in January 2006, the concept of city employment strategies was outlined. Recently the government has issued more details on this and has invited the local authorities that have the worst worklessness problems to become bid to become national 'City Employment Strategy' pilots – though areas need not be a 'city' to bid. The exact number of pilots is unknown but it has been indicated that the number will be relatively low i.e. some areas will miss out.
- 3.2 In essence, the concept is that local consortia are formed of public, private and voluntary sectors which will work together to target those wards (not SOAs) with the highest levels of worklessness i.e. worklessness above 25% of working age population. No definitive list of wards has yet been release by the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) but there are 4 Halton wards that should definitely fall into this category (Windmill Hill, Castlefields, Riverside, Halton Lea) with another 2 just below 25% (Grange and Kingsway). Consortia groups are about cooperation rather than setting up separate stand-alone regeneration companies.
- 3.3 A new Deprived Areas Funding (DAF) programme will provide c£80,000 per ward towards this work for the period of October 2006 to March 2008 – the money has to be spent in the identified wards. There will be a similar pro rata amount for the following 12 months. Should

local consortia hit their agreed targets there will be a share out of a performance grant but there is no detail on this. In areas where a consortium is approved, it will decide how DAF is spent. In other areas, it will be at the sole discretion of Job Centre Plus. Where a consortium is approved, the targets must be reflected within the LAA. Consortia should be private sector lead.

- 3.4 This level of funding is much less than the previous money the DWP has previously been spending in such areas, for example through Action Teams that end this October. It is also unclear whether this is all DWP money or whether some of it is European Social Fund (ESF). This is significant because it is only DWP, then it can be increased by ESF to make a bigger pot. Also, it has been specified that the DAF money can only be used to purchase activity from the private or voluntary sectors.
- 3.5 As to how city employment strategies will add value to what exists is the subject of much debate. At the local authority level, most authorities have partnership groups such as an LSP that are already working along similar lines to that of a consortium. Also, the amount of money in DAF is actually a reduction in what has been available before. However, the initiative does give real scope for extensive cross boundary working where a number of eligible local authorities are adjacent. There is also the opportunity to re-open the debate for freedoms and flexibilities that have previously been refused.
- 3.6 A number of advantages for a city region approach have been identified.
  - A consortium would be the vehicle to implement the city region employment programmes that have been identified. Indeed, Liverpool City Region had already discussed the establishment of a 'welfare to work trust' to cover such activity and a consortium could provide the same function.
  - It would facilitate the identification and roll out of employment related best practice across the area.
  - The potential for joint commissioning of all employment research (potential cost savings)
  - The potential of joint commissioning and procurement (potential cost savings)
  - Greater opportunity to engage the private sector through the Merseyside Employers Group that was represented at the meeting.
- 3.7 In terms of disadvantages the main concern was that the DAF money could be lost from each local authority area – but the DAF rules prohibit this. There were also concerns about how the consortia would have public accountability and be scrutinised – the suggestion being its activities should be reported to the Merseyside Leaders meeting.

- 3.8 All the Merseyside authorities were invited to bid and all took part in the final submission. At the time of writing, the government has just announced that the Greater Merseyside bid has been approved, though no detail has been received as yet.

## **Conclusions**

- 3.9 The consortia approach gives Merseyside the opportunity that many have been looking for over recent years – to really join up the employment work across the whole area and to raise standards.

## **4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 Being part of a city region consortium City would help the Council and the LSP achieve targets within the Community Strategy and Corporate Plan, most notably under the Employment, Learning and Skills Theme.

## **5. RISK ANALYSIS**

- 5.1 As with any partnership working, there will be concerns regarding potential loss of local control. However, as stated above the DAF money is ring-fenced and so will remain in the borough. However, there will still be issues regarding governance and how the consortium would relate to the work of LSPs. Perhaps the biggest issue is not with the consortium itself, but in the longer term funding of the identified best practice activities in that Halton being outside the Objective One area will not have access to larger amounts of money now and in the future – though the Council is lobbying about this, particularly in relation to future European funding.

## **6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

- 6.1 Equality and Diversity are written large in City Employment Strategies guidance. This specifically requires targeting of activity towards those most marginalised from the employment market.

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

**DATE:** 12 September 2006

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Operational Director-Policy & Performance

**SUBJECT:** Performance Monitoring Reports for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter (2006/07)

**WARDS:** Boroughwide

## **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 The 1<sup>st</sup> 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. Economic Regeneration

### ***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**

<b>Document</b>	<b>Place of Inspection</b>	<b>Contact Officer</b>
<b>Quarterly monitoring reports for:</b>		
1. Economic Regeneration	Municipal Building 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor	Mike Foy-Senior Performance Management Officer
2. Culture & Leisure Services		



## PERFORMANCE CONSIDERATIONS

(1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2006/07)

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

### **Overview**

Overall the prospects for the service achieving the key objectives and most of the performance targets that fall within the remit of the Employment, Learning & Skills PPB appear to be 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 some points that the Board may wish to note or consider further which are highlighted in the box below.

### **Areas of Further Consideration**

- The monitoring report has highlighted in the Emerging Issues section a 6.5% reduction in income in the Adult Learning Team's learning and skills budget for the coming academic year. The Board may wish to consider the implications and risks posed (if any) as consequence of the expected reduction in income.
- The report also refers to the Government's invitation to areas with very high levels of worklessness to seek pilot status for city employment strategies. There is very little extra money involved and although the report suggests that Halton is eligible to participate in the project, the Board may wish to clarify whether it is the intention to do so.
- The number of vacancies was down during the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter, which has affected the service performance in regard to helping the number of local people into jobs (*ECO RLI 1*). The reduction in the number of jobs was mainly in the retail sector and therefore, the Board may wish to explore whether this is due to seasonal variations or the continuation of a local economic trend that might have adverse implications for Halton's capacity to place local people in jobs in the future.
- The current target set for Halton's contribution to the number of jobs safeguarded, as a direct result of the service being provided was based on the large number of people finding work last year that would otherwise have been made redundant due to closures or downsizing. Halton's performance last year was very good and reflects how well the service was able to react and respond. The service is unable at the moment to forecast whether the target will be met and if last year was untypical, the Board may wish to focus further on this performance indicator as the year progresses.

**SERVICE: Culture & Leisure** (*excluding Parks & Countryside, Community Safety and the Drug Action Team*)

**Overview**

The vast majority of the objectives and performance targets are reported to be on course to be achieved and therefore, the prospects for the service this year are encouraging based upon the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter information contained in the monitoring report. There is also a range of key developments highlighted that presents a positive picture of what is happening within the service. There are no issues of concern raised in connection with the Library Service and Halton Castle in the Emerging Issues section of the monitoring report although some additional information might be of interest to the Board. (*See the box below*)

**Areas of Further Consideration**

- The Board may wish to know whether a date (provisional or otherwise) for implementing the plan to increase the Mobile Library Service by operating on Saturdays, has been identified.
- Similarly, it maybe of interest for the Board to know whether there is a provisional timeframe in hand if it is the intention to submit a Heritage Lottery Bid for the future development of Halton Castle.