



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

**Monday, 15 September 2014 at 6.30 p.m.
The Board Room - Municipal Building,**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David W R', positioned above a faint rectangular stamp.

Chief Executive

BOARD MEMBERSHIP

Councillor Susan Edge (Chairman)	Labour
Councillor Andrew MacManus (Vice-Chairman)	Labour
Councillor Sandra Baker	Labour
Councillor Lauren Cassidy	Labour
Councillor Harry Howard	Labour
Councillor Peter Lloyd Jones	Labour
Councillor Geoffrey Logan	Labour
Councillor Stan Parker	Labour
Councillor Carol Plumpton Walsh	Labour
Councillor Margaret Ratcliffe	Liberal Democrat
Councillor Joe Roberts	Labour

*Please contact Ann Jones on 0151 511 8276 or e-mail
ann.jones@halton.gov.uk for further information.
The next meeting of the Board is on Monday, 10 November 2014*

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

Part I

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1. MINUTES	
2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST (INCLUDING PARTY WHIP DECLARATIONS)	
Members are reminded of their responsibility to declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interest or Other Disclosable Interest which they have in any item of business on the agenda, no later than when that item is reached or as soon as the interest becomes apparent and, with Disclosable Pecuniary interests, to leave the meeting during any discussion or 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: Employment, Learning, Skills and Community
Policy & Performance Board

DATE: 15 September 2014

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Policy and Resources

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 34(9).
- 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(9) states that Public Questions shall be dealt with as follows:-
- (i) A total of 30 minutes will be allocated for dealing with questions from 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 given by 4.00 pm on the working day prior to the date of the meeting to the Committee Services Manager. At any one 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 your 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 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 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 **Children and Young People in Halton** - none.

6.2 **Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton** - none.

6.3 **A Healthy Halton** – none.

6.4 **A Safer Halton** – none.

6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal** – none.

7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

7.1 None.

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

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

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

DATE: 15 September 2015

REPORTING OFFICER: Chief Executive

SUBJECT: Executive Board Minutes

WARD(s): Boroughwide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The Minutes relating to the Community Portfolio which have been considered by the Executive 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 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

5.1 Children and Young People in Halton

None

5.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

None

5.3 A Healthy Halton

None

5.4 A Safer Halton

None

5.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

None

6.0 RISK ANALYSIS

6.1 None.

7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

7.1 None.

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

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

APPENDIX 1

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 12 JUNE 2014

8	HELP TO WORK SCHEME
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The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise, on the Help to Work Scheme.

The Board was advised that the Government Scheme 'Help to Work' commenced on 28 April 2014. This affected any person that had been on the Work Programme but who had not found employment after two years. The report outlined the conditions required where a person wished to continue to claim Job Seeker's Allowance. It was noted that participation in one of the following options was now mandatory under the new Scheme:

1. To accept a community work placement;
2. To visit a job centre every day; and
3. To take part in further training.

Appendix 1 provided more details on how the scheme would be delivered via Job Centre Plus.

Members were asked to consider the implications for the Council of Option 1 – "to accept a community placement", in the light of the adoption of its Volunteer Policy in 2010. The policy considerations were set out in the report.

RESOLVED: That the Board:

- 1) note the report;
- 2) considered the potential implications outlined in section 4 of the report;
- 3) drew a distinction between Mandatory and Voluntary Work Placements; and
- 4) did not support mandatory work placements, but would continue to support voluntary work placements which aimed to add value and provide individuals with the skills and experience necessary to obtain employment.

REPORT TO:	Employment Learning and Skills and Community PPB
DATE:	15 th September 2014
REPORTING OFFICER:	Strategic Director Children and Enterprise
PORTFOLIO:	Economic Development
SUBJECT:	Presentation on Halton's Work Programme Contracts
WARDS:	Borough Wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to advise Members that there will be a presentation on progress regarding Halton's Work Programme Contracts.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the Board

- (i) Notes the progress made to date on Halton's Work Programme contracts.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Members are advised that on 16th June 2011, the Board supported the decision to enter into contracts with Ingeus and A4E to deliver the (Single) Work Programme in Halton.

Members of the Employment Learning and Skills and Community PPB receive regular updates relating to performance on both contracts through the Quarterly Monitoring Reports. However, it is felt that Members would appreciate a more in depth presentation, which will provide details on how the contracts operate.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

As part of the contract negotiations Members were advised that a balance was found to ensure that the priorities of the organisation are met, whilst at the same time ensuring that the maximum number of residents benefit from a close working relationship between the prime contractors and Halton Borough Council.

The prime contractors see the benefit of working with Halton Borough Council; not least in respect of the networks and expertise that we continue to provide. We have determined that by operating as a sub-contractor has provided an advantage to the Council in that we do have influence and a degree of control in how the contract operates in the Borough.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

The Single Work Programme operates on a payment by results basis. This means that if a person is helped into work, a fee will be provided. In summary only 10% of the total fee will be paid by Government when an individual starts the work programme. A job outcome fee is paid only after an individual has been in work for 6 months. Then a sustainment payment is spread over 1-2 years once this person has been in work longer than 6 months.

This approach resulted in Halton Borough Council being required to invest staff in managing the process, and a return on this investment has only taken place once a person has entered into work.

It is pleasing to note that the Council is starting to see an initial return on its investment, whilst at the same time is continuing to provide a service which helps some of our most disadvantaged residents back into work.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

None.

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

Many aspects of the Work Programme build on a model that has been used for many years through the Halton People into Jobs 'one stop' job brokering and job support initiative.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

There is a relationship between poor health and low levels of wealth in the borough and, therefore, by reducing the number of people on benefits and increasing the income of local people, will help to reduce levels of illness often associated with low levels of income in families.

6.4 A Safer Halton

It is argued that by helping people into work the risk of some individuals resorting to crime and anti-social behaviour is reduced.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

There are a number of opportunities in the pipeline arising from Halton's portfolio of employment sites and this makes Halton an attractive proposition for the prime contractors; i.e. they can see a return on their investment as they can see the availability of jobs in the Borough over the next few years.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

Entering into a 'payment by results contract' required the Council to invest up front in staff resources, accommodation and equipment. However, to mitigate this many of the work programme requirements mirrored services previously provided by the Halton People into Jobs Team. The department set aside contingency resources to offset any delays associated with supporting the individual and then subsequently receiving payment once the individual has started work, and been in work for 6 months.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

There are no equality and diversity issues.

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

None under the meaning of the Act.

REPORT TO:	Employment, Learning and Skills Policy & Performance Board
DATE:	15 September 2014
REPORTING OFFICER:	Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise
PORTFOLIO:	Economic Development
SUBJECT:	International Festival of Business 2014
WARDS:	Borough Wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of this report is to describe the scale and impact of The International Festival of Business 2014 across the Liverpool City Region and to focus upon the specific activities that took place in the Borough of Halton during the Festival

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

- (i) Halton's contribution to the success of International Festival of Business 2014 be noted**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 Background

The International Festival for Business (IFoB) took place across the Liverpool City Region in June and July 2014 and was marketed as a gathering of the world's most inspiring businesses.

Bringing together cities from throughout the UK for 61 days of events, exhibitions and showcases, IFoB was billed as the largest event of its kind in the UK since the Millennium Fair of 2000 and the Festival of Britain in 1951.

A major cultural festival also took place alongside IFoB

3.2 The Impact of IFoB

IFoB 2014 featured more than 400 events in venues across the Liverpool City Region and a further 139 events at venues further afield, covering seven different business sectors.

More than 75,000 business delegates took part in IFoB with more than 15,000 registering for the IFoB Business Club and 10,000 delegates passing through the festival's nerve centre, the IFB Hub. During the

Festival there were more than 1,100 one-to-one business meetings in the Hub.

Key events included the BT Global City Leaders' summit which saw more than 100 mayors, city leaders, politicians and policy advisers come to the City Region for three days to discuss how cities can succeed as economies begin to emerge from an era of austerity.

At International Festival for Business 2014 finale gala dinner at ACC Liverpool to mark the official end of IFB 2014 Chancellor George Osborne announced that there will be an International Festival of Business 2016 hosted again in the Liverpool City Region.

3.3 IFoB Events and Activities in Halton

June 24 2014 : International Festival of Business 2014 'Big Data Day'

'Big Data' refers to any collection of data sets so large and complex it becomes difficult to process using standard data management tools and traditional data processing applications.

Increasingly, the capture, curation, storage, search, sharing, transfer, analysis and visualisation of large data sets impacts upon a broad range of disciplines including meteorology, genomics, complex simulations and biological and environmental research. The manipulation of 'Big Data' is also at the heart of the internet, global finance and business informatics.

Given the national significance of high powered computing at SciTech Daresbury UKTI, the Science Technologies and Facilities Council (STFC) and Halton Borough Council came together to stage a major international event targeting academics, major corporates and niche ICT companies active in the field.

The event, on Tuesday 24 June, attracted 130 speakers and delegates from companies as diverse as Hitachi, Jaguar Land Rover, Vodafone, BT, NTT Europe, IBM and Samsung.

The event featured a plenary session chaired by John Wormersley, Chief Executive of STFC, and the following, themed, sessions :-

- Connected Car and Automotive Services
- Digital Society ; The Connected Consumer
- Internet of Things and Smart Networks
- The Power of Big Data in Improving Population Health
- Using Data to Deliver New Insight and to Build Better Products Faster

The event concluded with a tour of SciTech Daresbury focusing upon The Virtual Engineering Centre, Virtual Touch Laboratory and Visualisation and Virtual Reality laboratory.

A second tour concentrated on the Versatile Electron Linear Accelerator and the role of particle accelerator technology in solving industrial challenges.

June 26 2014 : Addressing the Skills Needs of the Science, Technology and Advance Manufacturing (STAM) Sector

The science, technology and advanced manufacturing (STAM) sector is a key source of high value jobs and innovation in Halton.

Currently there are 221 Science, Technology and Advanced Manufacturing companies in Halton, employing 7,568 individuals.

38% of the local STAM workforce is employed in the chemical sector (2,609 employees) while the digital sector, with 72 individual companies, accounts for 33% of the sector locally.

A key influence upon the continued grow of the sector locally will be the provision of a suitably qualified and flexible workforce. A major event was, therefore, delivered by SOG Ltd, the owners and managers of The Heath Business and Technical Park, and Halton Borough Council to consider the future skills needs of the sector and begin to put in place the measure to ensure the sector has the future workforce it requires.

The specific objectives of the event were :-

- To stimulate the wider debate about the skills needs of the Science, Technology and Advanced Manufacturing Sector.
- To provide a platform to showcase The Heath Business and Technical Park to the local and sub-regional business community.
- To provide local companies with the opportunity to learn more about the skills training and recruitment support available across the Liverpool City Region.
- To provide an opportunity to engage with local young people, particularly young women, in order to engender a greater enthusiasm for careers in Science, Technology and Advanced Manufacturing and to illustrate the range of support that is available to young people wishing to pursue a career in the sector

The event, held at The Heath Business and Technical Park, on Thursday 26 June attracted over 150 delegates.

The central focus of the event was a panel debate, chaired by BBC TV's Business Breakfast correspondent Steph McGovern. The panel included:-

- David Parr : Chief Executive Halton Borough Council
- Derek Twigg : MP for Halton
- Graham Jackson : The Wood Group PSN

- Carol Thomas : SOG Ltd
- Andy Brown : Regional Operations Director ECITB
- Jonathan White : Operations Director Diageo
- Terry Dray : Director of Graduate Advancement and Employer Engagement Liverpool John Moores University

The event also included an exhibition and networking lunch. The exhibition featured both public and private sector organisation that provide employment, recruitment and training support to employers. For example, Job Centre Plus, Riverside College, the local universities and private sector providers were all represented.

A key element of the event focused upon attracting young people into the sector.

A series of events were, therefore, staged which attracted 200 + local young people from Halton schools. The Catalyst Discovery Centre delivered a series of workshops focusing upon space science while the ECITB performed a play which about careers in engineering.

A panel of twelve 'real' scientist, engineers and technologists were recruited to speak to the young people in small groups about their work and how they got into their particular field. All of the young people who attended the event had the opportunity to meet with each of the experts.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Liverpool Vision is currently working on a 'Local Benefit Matrix' which is expected to be completed by the end of September which will more precisely quantify the impact of IFoB 2014 to the City Region.

However, The International Festival of Business 2014 gave local employers an opportunity to participate in business event of unprecedented size and scale. It is clear, from anecdotal evidence, that a number of companies benefited directly from participation in the Festival through the winning of new business and forging lucrative alliances.

Halton's two key events focused deliberately upon the science, technology and advanced manufacturing sector the further development of which will make a very real contribution to the realisation of a number of the Council's key strategic objectives.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Financial Implications

Halton Borough Council invested £4,214.00 from existing budgets to support the delivery of two major events in Halton during The International Festival of Business.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

Improving business sustainability and performance will create more employment opportunities for the Borough's young people.

Further 200 + of the Borough's young people participated in events designed to encourage Halton's future employees to consider a career in science, technology and advanced manufacturing.

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

The legacy of the International Festival of Business will make a positive contribution to employment generation across the City Region.

More specifically, the event at The Heath Business and Technical Park on June 26 brought together local employers and training and skills providers to both raise awareness amongst local companies of existing service provision but also to encourage local employers to consider local people when attempting to recruit.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

No implications

6.4 A Safer Halton

No implications

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

The International Festival of Business was an opportunity to showcase a number of development opportunities in Halton to a national and international business audience.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

No implications.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

There are no equality and diversity issues.

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

None under the meaning of the Act.

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

DATE: 15 September 2014

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise

PORTFOLIO: Economic Development

SUBJECT: Growing Economic Prosperity in Halton –
Knowing we Are Making a Difference

WARD(S) Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform members on research being undertaken to identify and prioritise future resources and actions aimed at growing economic prosperity in Halton.

To do this, the report outlines that HBC and its partners should firstly undertake an evaluation of previous regeneration activity and secondly, should undertake a detailed business survey to better understand Halton's business base.

This will enable us to better measure the economic impact of our interventions and ensure that future resources are deployed to maximum benefit.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

The PPB notes work the Council and its partners are undertaking to:

- i) Evaluate existing economic regeneration initiatives;**
- ii) undertake a research project and in-depth business survey aimed at better understanding Halton's business base;**
- iii) Undertake research to determine views from property developers, investors and commercial property agents about their perceptions of the attractiveness and obstacles to inward investment in Halton;**
- iv) complete a desk top exercise which maps existing business support activity provided to local businesses and evaluates the economic impact of these interventions;**
- v) produce a policy report identifying key national policies focused on helping UK businesses to grow and how this**

- relates to Halton activities;**
vi) **produce an action plan identifying key future interventions.**

3.0 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 3.1 Growing the economic prosperity of the borough is a key priority for the Council and its partners. If we grow our economy, it not only increases the wealth and well-being of our residents, it will generate increased revenue for the Council through, for example, increased business rates and Council Tax payments.
- 3.2 Few can argue that the physical transformation of the borough over the last 15 years has been considerable, and Halton Council has successfully adopted a spatial strategy and Master planning approach to supporting the economic regeneration of Halton. This is because, despite being a relatively small borough, it contains a number of important sites and strategic regeneration assets within its boundaries. 'Big opportunities' and 'Big Projects' have been used to drive the economic transformation of the borough. In transforming the borough, the Council has provided sites and locations that are attractive to inward investors.
- 3.3 The Council has also set aside resources to improve and grow the business base in Halton.
- 3.4 It has also worked hard to raise skills and reduce unemployment in the borough because there is recognition that educational attainment and skills have a huge impact on the economic prospects of Halton and there is a strong correlation between skills and qualifications and the potential for increasing business growth and productivity.

Similarly, resources have been set aside to improve the borough's infrastructure to ensure that we are well-connected both physically and digitally.

However, a reduction in human financial and physical resources will require the Council and its partners to review its economic growth strategy. This may result in the Council placing greater emphasis on different priorities.

For example, the balance between place and people orientated interventions may change.

But until we undertake the research, it will be difficult to draw any firm conclusions on what our future strategy should be.

How Will the Evaluation be conducted?

The evaluation of previous regeneration activity will present some considerable challenges mainly due to the time that has passed between the end of regeneration programmes and the gathering of this information.

There may be incomplete and sometimes contradictory programme data on finance given changes to the regional funding and governance landscape.

Some stakeholders and former project managers are no longer available to engage with the evaluation.

Nevertheless, a 'desk top' exercise will be undertaken to ascertain 'what has worked, what has not worked'? The evaluation will be short and sharp and will focus on:

- A review and evaluation of data relating to HBC-led schemes for example, Castlefields, 3MG and the Widnes Waterfront; Information gathered will also consider the human, as well as financial resources the Council as allocated to bring forward these schemes;
- a review of other research undertaken. This could be research already completed at a regional and city region level, for example ex ante evaluations of SRB and ERDF programmes.
Information gathered will be quantitative focusing on for example, costs, jobs created, jobs safeguarded, people trained etc.;
- an analysis over a five year period of borough wide economic indicators, as outlined in the Council's Local Economic Assessment 2013 and Sustainable Communities Strategy;
- an in depth analysis of the contribution Halton has made to the business rates pool over the last 5 years i.e. which businesses pay the most? In which sectors are they based? In which areas of Halton are they based, and would investment in some of our industrial sites lead to uplift in business rates?

Undertaking a Halton Business Survey

The main focus of our research will relate to the undertaking of a Halton Business survey. In 2010, the Council and its partners commissioned ECOTEC to conduct a Business Perceptions Survey across the borough. Whilst this was a useful piece of work, its purpose was to gauge the views of employers in relation to identifying current and potential future skills needs and did not consider other factors that would contribute to the success of our businesses.

It is felt that a comprehensive survey of businesses in Halton is required to not only better understand the needs of businesses in Halton, but also to ensure that our resources are deployed to deliver maximum added value. For example, do we focus on our 'Top 100 Businesses?' Are we sector led etc.?

The survey will seek responses in the following areas:

- Profile of businesses in Halton
- Details on Business growth
- Changes in employment and turnover
- Drivers of, and barriers to, growth Cost pressures
- Financing growth
- Local area and community Satisfaction with the local area
- Potential relocation
- Support for the local economy and community
- Use of business support and advice
- Ways businesses would like to be kept up to date with our services
- Business mentoring
- Areas in which likely to look for support and advice
- Export, Trade and Connectivity
- Relationships with international markets
- Use of public transport
- Innovation
- Innovation activities undertaken or planned
- Constraints to innovation
- Use of the Internet
- Ways in which businesses connect to the internet
- Internet connection speed
- Recruitment and Skills
- Training plans
- Proportion of the workforce qualified to degree level
- Employment of Apprentices

A review of existing data sources will refer to existing intelligence HBC holds on types of businesses and sectors in Halton, as well as, research we have completed on the 'Commercial Property Offer' in Halton. In addition, the work will refer to industry-led research, research in other parts of the North West (New Economy, Business Leaders Team), as well as policy papers produced by the Government i.e. the department for Business Innovation and Skills. We have made an approach to the University of Chester, and we have appointed a post-graduate for 6 months, to work with us to develop this research project.

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 It is expected that the work described above will help Halton to continue to develop an 'evidence-based' approach to economic regeneration.

4.2 It is anticipated that the proposals will complement work that the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority is developing through the Economic Development portfolio, and the implementation of the Local Growth Plan and European Structural and Investment Plan/Fund.

4.3 The Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) is undertaking some evaluation work at City Region level. Although this is at a wider geographic basis, it would be worth having a better dialogue with the LEPs (including Cheshire and Manchester) to better evaluate and understand the contribution Halton makes to the wider City Region economy.

5.0 **OTHER/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 Some existing in-house resources are being set aside to progress this work. The Council's Business Improvement and Growth Team and Customer Intelligence Unit can adjust existing work priorities to support this project. Their role would be to analyse and interpret rather than gather the data.

5.2 It is suggested that a small project management team comprising representatives from Halton Chamber, Riverside College and HBC is established to oversee the development of these proposals.

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

6.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

It is suggested that the research will support schools and colleges in better understanding the employment and career opportunities that local businesses require.

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

Some of the research will focus on the skills local businesses require to sustain and grow their businesses.

6.3 **A Healthy Halton**

N/A

6.4 **A Safer Halton**

N/A

6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

As mentioned some of the research will consider the physical transformation of the borough and how we can build on this success to further improve the borough's urban environment

7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 There is a risk that the project will 'drift' and become less focused on delivery. However, the research project is for a finite period and the brief is to consider how we learn from our previous experience in regenerating the borough, and apply practical steps needed to continue to grow Halton's economy.

8.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 There are no Equality and Diversity issues directly arising from this report.

9.0 **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 & Community Policy and Performance Board
DATE:	15 September 2014
REPORTING OFFICER:	Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise
PORTFOLIO:	Economic Development
SUBJECT:	Improving Halton Economy Dashboard
WARDS:	Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To inform Board Members of the recent analysis of economic data.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

- (i) **The results of the analysis are noted and used as part of the wider evidence to inform HBC economic policy.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

As part of the ongoing standard economic analysis, it became apparent that there had been a positive change in a number of the indicators. These indicators have been pulled into a “dashboard” to show the improvement over the past 12 months (of available data, data period covering 2012 to 2014). These improvements have taken place at a quicker pace when compared to the national trend.

Key points from the dashboard:

- In line with regional and national trends, Halton has rising levels of average pay, GCSE pass rates and new business start-ups. Also in line with regional and national trends, Halton has falling levels of unemployment / job seekers allowance claimants and adults with no qualifications.
- The average weekly pay for full-time workers living in Halton has risen above the North West average for the first time.
- The GCSE pass rate (achieving 5+ A*-C including English and Maths) in Halton has risen above the England figure for the first time.
- The Job seekers allowance claimant rate in Halton has seen a greater decrease over the last 12 months, when compared to the decrease nationally.
- For Job seekers allowance claims in Halton, every breakdown of ‘age of claimant’ and ‘length of claim’ has fallen by at least a quarter over the last 12 months (this is in line with national trends).
- Compared to overall England figures, Halton has seen a greater increase in new business start-ups and overall business premises.

The full dashboard can be found at:

<http://www3.halton.gov.uk/Pages/councildemocracy/pdfs/CensusandStatistics/ImprovingEconomyOfHalton.pdf>

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The dashboard will form part of the wider evidence base that is used to form policies across the whole of the Council.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

N/A

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

N/A

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

N/A

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

N/A

Summary assessment of Implications: *This wording will appear in the Board report.*

The Improving Halton Economy Dashboard shows a summary of a set of indicators that have shown improvement in Halton over the past 12 months (of available data), at a greater speed than the national trends.

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

There are none under the meaning of the Act.

Halton's economy is improving...

According to national data around unemployment, businesses, pay and qualifications – Halton's economy has been improving at a quicker pace when compared to England

Levels of:

- Average pay
- New businesses
- GCSE pass rates (5+ A*-C inc Eng & Maths)

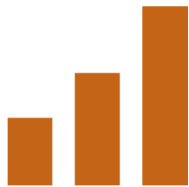
...are all **rising**

Levels of:

- JSA claimants
- JSA claimants (18-24 year olds)
- Adults with no qualifications

...are all **falling**

Average weekly pay (full time workers) – above NW average for first time



£484.7

GCSE pass rate – above England figure for first time



62.5%

Unemployment rate – fallen more than the England rate over last 12 months



4.8% to 3.5%

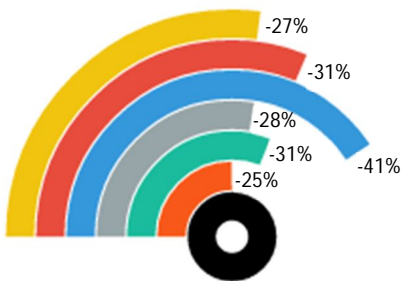
75 more business premises in Halton – in 2013, compared with 2012



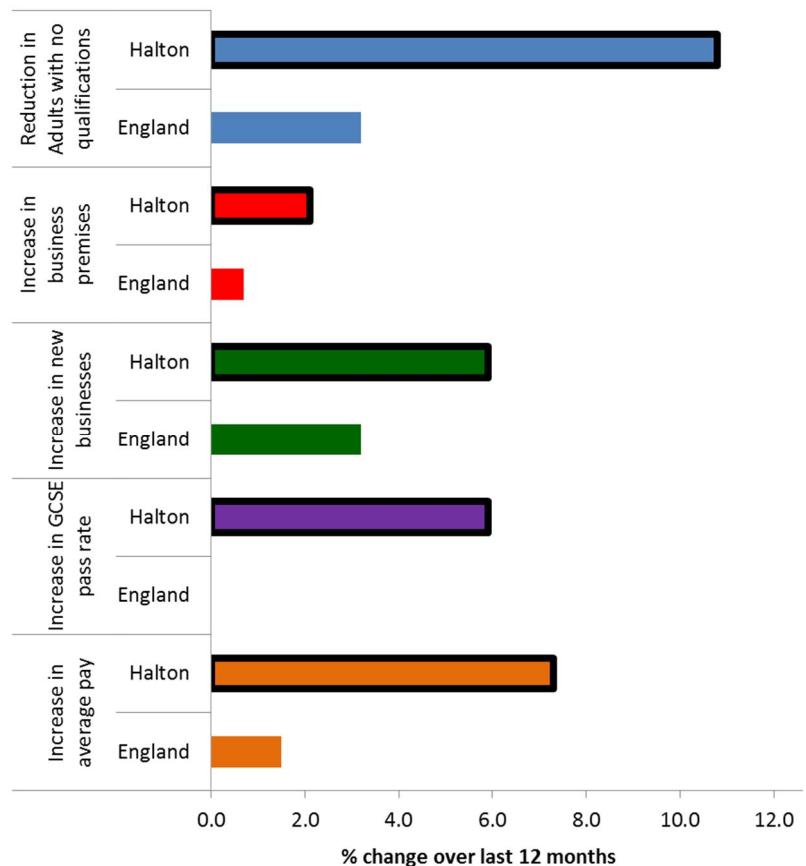
75

Economic indicators, % change over the last 12 months of available data (Halton and England)

Each element of JSA claimant (age and duration) has decreased by at least a quarter over the last 12 months



- Total
- Youth
- Aged 18-24, claiming for over 6 months
- 25+, claiming for over 6 months
- Claiming for over 6 months
- Claiming for over 12 months



REPORT TO:	Employment, Learning Skills and Community Policy and Performance Board
DATE:	15 September 2014
REPORTING OFFICER:	Strategic Director Children and Enterprise
PORTFOLIO:	Economic Regeneration
SUBJECT:	Liverpool City Region Enterprise Strategy
WARDS:	Borough Wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To report upon the strategic plans currently being developed across the Liverpool City Region to increase business density.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

- (i) **Progress towards the development of a coherent, Liverpool City Region wide, strategy to increase the number of viable business, and thereby close the employment and GVA gap between the City Region and the rest of the UK, be noted.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 Background

In November 2013 the Liverpool City Region (LCR) Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) produced a discussion document entitled 'Liverpool City Region Enterprise Strategy and Programme'. That document outlined the disparity between business density, and as a consequence employment and GVA, between the LCR and the rest of the UK.

Figure 1: Business Density

	2005	2008	2011	Change 2005-11
UK	559.5	582.2	572.8	+13.3
LCR	369.7	401.5	384.2	+14.5
Halton	366.7	404.6	382.0	+15.3
Knowlsey	243.7	276.5	286.6	+42.9
Liverpool	367.3	395.5	369.9	+2.6
Sefton	434.5	457.4	440.9	+6.4
St Helens	334.2	378.4	370.3	+36.1
Wirral	401.6	436.5	414.2	+12.6

Source : Liverpool City Region Local Enterprise Partnership

The LCR has 32% fewer businesses than the UK average. GVA per capita for the LCR is 25% below the UK average.

Figure 2 : GVA Per Capita

	GVA £billion	GVA Growth	GVA per Capita £'s	GVA per Capita Growth
	2011	2006-11	2011	2006-11
UK	1,310.2	12.7%	20,873	8.8%
LCR	23.1	9.1%	15,615	9.1%

Source : Liverpool City Region Local Enterprise Partnership

Despite a plethora of business support initiatives and interventions funded by the public sector in the last ten years, the LCR business base has only increased at the same rate as the UK average. In short the gap is not closing. For example, between 2011 and 2013 LCR business density increased by 3.2% compared with a UK figure of 4.3%.

Similarly, business start levels in the LCR track well below the UK average and business start rates have been slower to recover from the recession than the UK average. Five year business survival rates in the LCR are also significantly lower

Self-employment levels in the LCR are at 9.9% of the population, compared with 13.2% nationally. This figure has shown some improvement in the last 7 years, but it has been almost exclusively growth in male self-employment. Female self-employment is just 4.6% of the female population compared with 8.5% nationally, a significant disparity and the lowest performance of any City Region in the UK.

Micro business (0-4 employees) rates are significantly below the UK average at 71.6% of businesses compared to 75.9% nationally whilst other business categories are above the national average.

Understanding the causes of this stubborn deficit is critical to determining the tactical responses to be promoted to address the challenge. However, the underlying strategic imperative is clear. The City Region is short of 18,500 businesses

3.2 LCR Enterprise Strategy : Objectives

The LCR, therefore, is seeking to increase the number of businesses operating in the region to UK average levels within a generation. The shortfall currently stands at 18,500 and assuming an up-lift in UK

business density in the next 20 years this will equate to at least 20,000 businesses in 20 years.

3.3 Proposed Interventions

- Intervention 1 : Establish a City Region Enterprise Strategy and Programme.
 - The LCR will develop both an Enterprise Strategy that sets out the priorities required to create 20,000 new enterprises within 20 years and an Enterprise Programme that sets out all of the activity and interventions to deliver these priorities. The Enterprise Programme will incorporate all of the EU Programme 2014-2020.

LEP Recommendation : LEP and partners develop an Enterprise Strategy and Programme working through the LEP Board and Business Growth Hub Boards with LA Chief Executives/Regeneration Directors to agree accountability and resources.

- Intervention 2 : Simplification, Coherence and Commercialisation of Business Support
 - Simplification : The business support landscape in the City Region is cluttered. Over 300 services from almost 100 providers working to individual project targets, with little shared intelligence, systems and little cross referral.
 - Coherence : Many business interventions take place in complete isolation, with no imperative to share information or cross refer.
 - A one stop shop for all business support services at LCR level : The LEP have proposed a Federal Growth Hub for business support coordinated at a LCR level with ownership of performance at Local Authority level. Specific business support will be led the Local Authority and/or Chambers working together
 - Commercialisation: Recent government policy has focused upon the migration of business support from the public to the private sectors. The Growth Hub model, proposed for the LCR, encourages businesses to move from publicly funded business support to more bespoke commercial support

LEP Recommendation : Simplification, Coherence and Commercialisation is built into all funded business support and monitored by the LEP Board and Business Growth Hub Boards

- Intervention 3 : Stimulate Entrepreneurial Aspiration in Schools, Colleges and Universities.
 - Liverpool City Region has a higher than average proportion of people in the 10-25 age group and they represent a key cohort of future entrepreneurs. Young people need to understand business, and their own potential, to aspire to success in business.

LEP Recommendation : LEP to commission a best practice study to develop a comprehensive and sustained enterprise programme for Schools, Colleges and Universities embedded in the City Region Growth Plan – working closely with ESB, LA, FE and HE partners.

▪ Intervention 4 : Start More Sustainable Businesses

- There have been, and continue to be, a range of business start-up programmes across the City Region, based on both local and national initiatives. Too often these programmes have been volume driven and based on achieving start up rather than sustainable business.
- The City Region has the lowest level of female self-employment in the UK. Raising the aspirations of women to run their own business and then providing the support to help them realise this ambition is critical.
- Creating the right environment for business is vital, whether through managed workspace, business networks and mentoring.

LEP Recommendation : LEP to work with LA, FE and HE partners, and other providers to establish best practice in business start-up programmes and apply these and sustainability criteria to a coherent programme of business start support across the City Region.

▪ Intervention 5 : Drive Business Growth in New Markets and Products

- Only 30% of all SMEs within the LCR trade significantly outside the region, one of the lowest levels in the UK. Businesses within the LCR must be encouraged to develop their products and services to take them successfully into new markets.

LEP Recommendation : LEP and partners to develop a range of services to support business growth and survival including the New Markets ERDF Programme and include proposals for such in the 2014-2020 EU Programme and Local Growth Plan under a Federal Growth Hub Proposal.

▪ Intervention 6 : Create an Entrepreneurial Business Environment

- Ecosystem : The LCR must create an environment and ecosystem that supports entrepreneurial activity.
- Sectors and Infrastructure : Investment in the City Region's Competitive Growth Sectors and in the fabric of the City Region helps to improve the attractiveness of the location for investment and increase the competitiveness of the location for business operations.
 - Finance : Securing finance is cited by business as a significant barrier to growth. The LCR should develop demand side interventions that help businesses to meet lending criteria

thresholds through investment readiness and identification of a broad range of funding mechanisms.

LEP Recommendation :-

- (a) *LEP and partners to consider the Business Finance report from EKOS and incorporate agreed position into EU 2014-2020 programme and Local Growth Plan.*
- (b) *LEP and partners support and engage in the University of Liverpool's Entrepreneurial Ecosystem project and use to inform future programmes and activity through EU and Growth Plan.*

▪ Intervention 7 : Attraction of New Inward Investment

- Place Marketing: Promotion of the City Region as an attractive location to invest, work, study, live and visit should be increasingly promoted to corporate businesses, commercial advisors, state, institutional and private investors and the media.
- Business Development : The LCR's key competitive strengths and opportunities in growth sectors need to be coherently marketed to stimulate leads and enquiries.
- Existing Investors: Relationships with existing major inward investors should be actively developed and strategies for their further local investment and development actively supported.

LEP Recommendation : LEP and partners to develop a single Inward Investment Strategy for the City Region to deliver a coherent programme of inward investment marketing, promotion, business development and account management.

3.4 Activity to Date

Liverpool City Region Growth Hub

The Liverpool City Region Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) has developed a proposal to create a 'Growth Hub' for the city region. A Growth Hub is not a physical entity but rather a virtual organisation to provide business support services across the City Region.

However, Government is very prescriptive with respect to the form and function of the Growth Hub model they will support. This must include management and strategic coordination and a one stop shop.

The prescribed model suggests a preeminent role for local Chambers support by Local Authorities. Halton Borough Council and Halton Chamber of Commerce and others are, therefore, discussing in detail how the Growth Hub might work in Halton and how best the model might serve the needs of the local business community.

Inward Investment Protocol

The LEP and Local Authority partners are currently debating the development of an Inward Investment Protocol for the LCR. The LEP proposes a co-ordinated agency approach, resourced centrally but led by the LEP, to 'sell' the LCR.

The LEP have, therefore, issued a tender inviting the private sector to recommend how the LCR might deliver an inward investment service.

Liverpool City Region CRM System

The LCR LEP has appointed Alcium to deliver a new CRM system for the city region. The system, Evolute, is already used by many LEP's and individual LA's. The system, if adopted by all LA's, the LEP and partners would provide a single city region-wide CRM system capable of:-

- Company client relationships
- Enquiry Handling
- Project management
- Funding Applications Monitoring and Reporting
- Aftercare
- Land and Property Database
- On line property search
- Jobseekers and apprenticeship management
- Event Management
- On-line Questionnaires
- Business Directory
- Reporting and Analysis tools

The annual cost for per organisation is expected to be £3,500.00 (for 10 users per organisation). However, the LCR LEP has agreed to waive the fee for the first year.

The LEP have also suggested that Evolute will be used to manage the EU Programme 2014-20 and future rounds of Regional Growth Fund (RGF) and other funding streams.

Financial Instruments

EKOS Consulting were appointed by the LEP to consider access to sources of business finance within the LCR. EKOS are proposing that the LCR LEP invests £12 million in the North West Fund and a further £3 million to set up a LCR Access to Finance Hub. The Finance Hub will be a one stop shop for all business funding requests in the LCR and will include the following elements:-

- LCR Investment Fund : LCR element of the NW Fund. NW Fund expect to draw down £70 m from the NW LEP's which will be used to draw down a comparable amount from EIB.

- LCR Investor Readiness Programme : To up-skill business leaders to better understand the financial markets and how to use development finance.
- LCR Business Angel Network : LCR doesn't have its own Angel Network. The network will be 'owned' by the public sector.
- Accessing Alternative Finance Programme : EKOS suggest a number of vehicles including crowd funding and Tax Incentive Schemes which are little understood by business.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The rationalisation and simplification of the delivery of business support across the LCR will impact not only upon business performance in Halton but also upon the way that Halton Borough Council and partners currently deliver a business support service.

The Council are, therefore, actively discussing with Halton Chamber of Commerce and Enterprise and others how best to, for example, implement the Growth Hub model locally.

Increasing commercialisation of business support national will also impact upon service delivery locally. The Council will increasingly interface with a greater range of private sector providers as business support is gradually migrated from the public to the private sectors.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Financial Implications

There will be financial implications associated with the implementation of a shared pan-Merseyside CRM. The cost is likely to be £3,500.00 per year per Local Authority although the cost will only be incurred after the first twelve months of operation

The financial ramifications of the roll out of the LCR Growth Hub and Inward Investment Protocol have yet to be quantified.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

Growth in the LCR business base will result in greater employment opportunities for the Borough's young people.

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

Growth in the LCR business base will result in greater employment opportunities for the community of Halton.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

Access to sustainable employment will impact positively upon the health of the Borough.

6.4 A Safer Halton

No implications.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

Increasing the LCR business base will stimulate demand for land and premises in Halton which may, potentially, be a catalyst for urban renewal.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

No implications.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

There are no equality and diversity issues.

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

None under the meaning of the Act.

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

DATE: 15 September 2014

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director Children & Enterprise

SUBJECT: Performance Management Reports for Quarter 1 of 2014/15

WARDS: Boroughwide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To consider, and raise any questions or points of clarification, in respect of performance management for the first quarter period to 30th June 2014.
- 1.2 Key priorities for development or improvement in 2014-17 were agreed by Members and included in Directorate Plans, for the various functional areas reporting to the Board as detailed below:
- Enterprise, Employment and Skills
 - Community and Environment

The report details progress against service objectives and milestones and performance targets and provides information relating to key developments and emerging issues that have arisen during the period.

2.0 RECOMMENDED: That the Policy and Performance Board

- 1) Receive the first quarter performance management reports;**
- 2) Consider the progress and performance information and raise any questions or points for clarification; and**
- 3) Highlight any areas of interest and/or concern where further information is to be reported at a future meeting of the Board.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 Departmental objectives provide a clear statement on what services are planning to achieve and to show how they contribute to the Council's strategic priorities. Such information is central to the Council's performance management arrangements and the Policy and Performance Board has a key role in monitoring performance and strengthening accountability.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no policy implications associated with this report.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no other implications associated with this report.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Departmental service objectives and performance measures, both local and national are linked to the delivery of the Council's priorities. The introduction of a Thematic Priority Based Report and the identification of business critical objectives/ milestones and performance indicators will further support organisational improvement.

6.2 Although some objectives link specifically to one priority area, the nature of the cross - cutting activities being reported, means that to a greater or lesser extent a contribution is made to one or more of the Council priorities.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 Not applicable.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 Not applicable.

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

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

Priority Based Report

Priority: Employment, Learning and Skills

Reporting Period: Quarter 1, Period 01 April 2014 – 30 June 2014

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This report provides an overview of issues and progress towards the priority of Employment, Learning and Skills, that have occurred during the period of the report. The way in which traffic light symbols have been used to reflect progress to date is explained within the Appendix (section 8).
- 1.2 Please note initials have been provided to indicate which Operational Director is responsible for the commentary to aid Members. A key is provided at the end of the report in Appendix (section 8).

2.0 Key Developments

2.1 Regional activities (WR)

The Employment, Learning and Skills Division was commissioned to support a number of agencies with their own strategic developments as a result of its outstanding grades for outcomes for learners and leadership & management in its last Ofsted. 2 staff spent a day with Brent Council advising them of how we have developed the Halton Employment Partnership. Then 18 colleagues from NW adult learning services attended a Learning Raid delivered by the division. Good practice was shared and evaluations were very complimentary. Both of these activities resulted in income being received. Halton hosted the national Metaregen network its Regeneration strategy with the group. Hosting of events helps the division to increase its reputation on a regional/national level.

2.2 Merseylink (WR)

The Timebank Brochure was launched in Q1 and 12 applications from across the council, voluntary and community sector and the education sector were submitted. Outcomes will be known in Q2. Working in partnership with Merseylink staff, the Skills for Life and Employability team has delivered Volunteer Information Sessions and 39 individuals have taken part in the Mersey Gateway Volunteer Training programme in Q1. The volunteers also participated in additional training workshops in preparation for the opening of the Mersey Gateway Visitor Centres in the Autumn. Bespoke Merseylink pre-employability programmes were designed for Traffic Management and Business Administration and 24 learners participated in the programmes. On completion of the programmes, all learners were successfully offered an interview that will take place in early July, the outcomes of which will be available in Q2.

2.3 Merseyside Business Support Programme (WR)

The Merseyside Business Support Programme continues to engage the Halton business community with 183 companies approaching the Project Team for support. 91 companies have been referred for an initial diagnostic and the creation of an Action Plan for Growth

while 75 businesses have subsequently been referred for more specialist support. The programme has, to date, achieved 55 12 hour support outputs and is on course to meet the target of 146 SMEs assisted.

2.4 Library Service

Efficiency review

The Efficiency Programme Board has now agreed to consult on two options for the future of the library service. The estimated staff savings arising are in the region of £400,000 or £500,000. The public consultation will run from 14 July to 14 August 2014.

Centenary of the outbreak of World War 1

Following the successful Great War exhibition and Community Road Show events at Halton Lea and Widnes Libraries earlier in the year the WW1 centenary events have continued with a special tea dance held in Widnes Library. The event attended by 40 people took place on 11 June and included songs and music performed by an organist, dancing demonstrations, refreshments and a display of authentic WW1 artefacts. Material contributed by members of the public to the Cheshire Great War Stories Roadshows formed part of the "Halton Remembers 1914-18 Archive Exhibition" held at The Brindley during June. The unique Great War stories, photographs, documents, medals, guns and other fascinating artefacts have all been documented and will be added to the archive collection in due course.

Runcorn New Town at 50

On 10 April 1964 Runcorn was designated a New Town by National Government with the primary purpose of providing housing and employment for people from Liverpool and North Merseyside. It was a decision that would change and shape the lives of many residents, new and old. 50 years on, a series of events was held to mark this anniversary and provide opportunities for residents to share their memories and reflect upon an important part of Halton's shared history. An exhibition of photographs, models, newspaper articles, documents and maps brought together from the local archive was held at Halton Lea Library and Runcorn Shopping Centre. In addition a film documentary was screened in various community venues and the library. The feedback and memories gathered from the events will be added to the community history archive.

National Bookstart Week 2014

During June the Library Service celebrated National Bookstart week with "My hero" themed rhyme times. Children came dressed up as their favourite hero's and joined in the fun with special guests' firemen and PCSOs. National Bookstart Week aims to encourage parents and children to read together on a daily basis. The events, activities and resources helped families to see the benefits of reading together every day, while engaging them with the fun theme of 'My Hero'. This year's events were supported by HarperCollins publishers who provided special copies of the book Super Duck by Jez Alborough to give away. 134 children and parents attended the Rhymetimes during this week.

3.0 Emerging Issues

3.1 National Careers Service (WR)

The current National Careers Service contract will expire at the end of September 2014. Staff have been placed at risk of redundancy as it is not certain that we would be part of the subcontractor chain. The current contract does not fully cover staff costs – the new funding model for the new contract is even more financially constrained.

3.2 Adult Learning (WR)

New curriculum offer for the 2014/15 academic year – in order to fully maximise funding levels the current curriculum has been evaluated in terms of class sizes, success rates, income generated and quality of provision and a revised curriculum has been developed. The new prospectus will be launched in Q2. We will be offering more year long courses, which generate greater levels of income as well as offering more full cost recovery courses.

3.3 Liverpool City Region Growth Hub (WR)

The Liverpool City Region Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) has developed a proposal to create a 'Growth Hub' for the city region. A Growth Hub is not a physical entity but rather a virtual organisation to provide business support services across the City Region. However, Government is very prescriptive with respect to the form and function of the Growth Hub model they will support. This must include management and strategic coordination and a one stop shop.

The prescribed model suggests a preeminent role for local Chambers support by Local Authorities. Halton Borough Council and Halton Chamber of Commerce and others are, therefore, discussing in detail how the Growth Hub might work in Halton and how best the model might serve the needs of the local business community

3.4 Inward Investment Protocol (WR)

The LEP and Local Authority partners are currently debating the development of an Inward Investment Protocol for the LCR. The LEP proposes a co-ordinated agency approach, resourced centrally but led by the LEP, to 'sell' the LCR. The LEP have therefore, issued a tender inviting the private sector to recommend how the LCR might deliver an inward investment service.

4.0 Risk Control Measures

4.1 Risk control forms an integral part of the Council's Business Planning and performance monitoring arrangements. During the development of the 2014/15 Business Plan, the service was required to undertake a risk assessment of all key service objectives with high risks included in the Directorate Risk Register.

4.2 3MG (WR)

The Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) and BIS have approved 3MGs proposal to re-profile the jobs to start in 2015 and issued a new offer letter in June 2014. DCLG have set an interim milestone which states that Heads of Terms (HoT) need to be

agreed with an end user by 31 March 2015. The risk of not achieving HoT by March 2015 is highly likely to result in claw back. A meeting has been arranged with the Stobart Group on 16 July 2014 to discuss the implications as they will be responsible for repaying their £4.5m grant, the Council would also have to find £4.5m. Stobart and the Council will work closely to ensure the milestone is met and jobs are realised within the given time periods.

5.0 Progress against high priority equality actions




- 5.1 The local authority must have evidence that it reviews its services and policies to show that they comply with the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) which came into force in April 2011. The PSED also requires us to publish this information as it is available.
- 5.2 As a result of undertaking Equality Impact Assessments no high priority actions were identified for the Directorate during the reporting period.

6.0 Performance Overview

- 6.1 The following information provides a synopsis of progress for both milestones and performance indicators across the key business areas that have been identified by each Directorate.

Priority: Supporting growth and investment

Key Milestones and Measures

Ref	Milestones	Quarterly progress
EEP2	Undertake a baseline review of business makeup sectors and capacity in Halton by March 2015.	
EEP2	Deliver the Business Improvements Districts Year 2 action plan by March 2015.	
EEP2	Agree priority action areas arising from the Mersey Gateway regeneration strategy by July 2014.	

SUPPORTING COMMENTARY

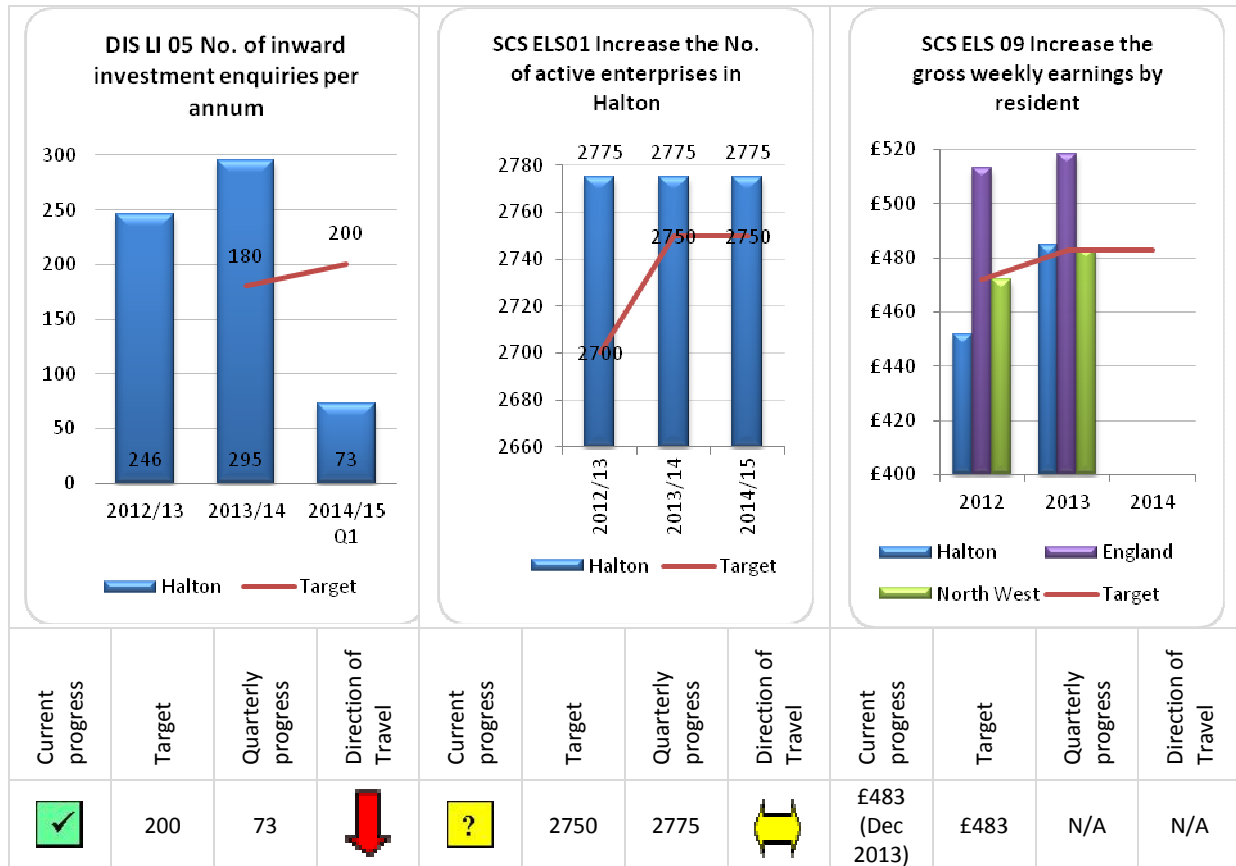
EEP 2 - The Council has recently appointed a graduate intern from the University of Chester who will be engaged, for a period of six months, to undertake a research project designed to better understand the sectoral makeup of the Borough, to canvass the business community to ascertain their business support needs and to identify the key one hundred companies within the Borough who would most benefit from more proactive and intensive business support from the Council and partners. Identification of the one hundred key companies in the Borough will involve the application of a number of academic models together with an analysis of the Business Improvement and Growth Team's existing company database.

The graduate will also audit and map existing business support provision in Halton in order to identify any obvious gaps. The business support audit will then be mapped against a typical business lifecycle, for example from pre-start to start-up to post start to growth to high growth. The mapping

exercise will seek to identify weaknesses in provision across the business lifecycle and will inform the development of future service delivery.

All outputs associated with Business Improvements Districts (BID) II Year I Business Plan are on programme and on budget.

Mersey Gateway regeneration Strategy - Regeneration Group meeting in July 2014.



Ref	Measure	13/14 Actual	14/15 Target	Current	Direction of Travel	Quarterly progress
SCS ELS 02	Increase the proportion of business diversity in the following sectors: Knowledge Economy, Superport, Low carbon/green, Visitor economy	27.03% (March 2013)	27%	N/A	N/A	N/A
SCS ELS 03	Increase the number of people classed as self-employed	6% (Local Economic Assessment HBC July 2013)	7%	5.7%		

Supporting Commentary

DIS LI 05 - In comparison to the same period last year the figure has reduced from 81; however Investment enquiries in Quarter 1 2014\15 are on target.

SCS ELS LI 01 – March 2013 is the latest data available from the NOMIS website.

SCS ELS 02 – This is the latest data released on 3rd October 2013 is a snapshot of the Inter Departmental Business Register (IDBR) taken on 12 March 2013. To download and view the current data in excel format, click on the link below, the Information is taken from: (table B1.1)

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/publications/re-reference-tables.html?edition=tcm%3A77-313744>

The following standard categories have been chosen as a proxy for these priorities:

- Professional, Scientific and Technical
- Information and Communication
- Transport and Storage





SCS ELS 03 - HBC does not own this NI data. This figure is the latest data available taken from the NOMIS website for the period April 2013 – March 2014. However, 3 customers accessing HPIJ's Enterprising Halton service have become self-employed during Quarter 1. This is a decrease in comparison to previous years (2011/12 - 6.4%, 2012/13 – 6%). A possible explanation could be due to the instability of the current economic climate.

SCS ELS09 NI 166 - HBC does not own this NI data. The latest data available (Dec 2013) is £484.70 which is an increase from £452.00 compared to the same period in 2012. Source: ONS annual population survey from www.nomisweb.co.uk

The gap between the North West and Halton has steadily decreased over the years with the current data in December 2013 having marginally surpassed the North West Gross Weekly Pay of £483 for the first time since 2002. The Gross Weekly Pay for Halton residents has increased by £30 to £484.70 in 2013 compared to the same period in 2012.

Priority: Raising skills levels and reducing unemployment

Key Milestones and Measures

Ref	Milestones	Quarterly progress
EEP3	Deliver the Work Programme via subcontract arrangements to Prime Contractors A4E and Ingeus Deloitte in line with the contract	
EEP3	Complete SciTech skills for growth action plan by March 2015.	
EEP3	Implement Corporate Apprenticeships framework by November 2014.	
EEP3	Identify skills bank requirements from Mersey Gateway project by July 2015.	

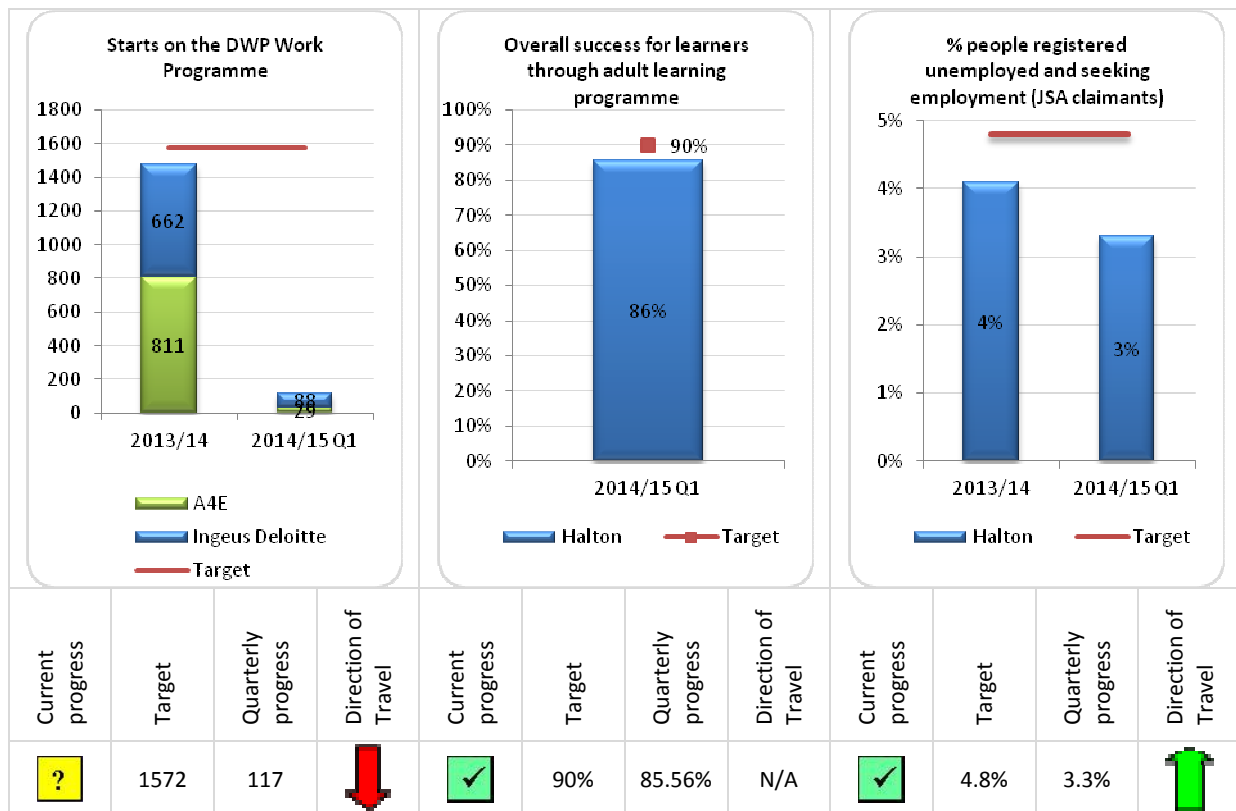
SUPPORTING COMMENTARY

EEP 3 - Job starts and job outcomes have been achieved against the contracted minimum performance levels (MPL's) this quarter on the Ingeus contract.

Job starts and job outcome targets haven't been achieved on the A4e contract this quarter. There was a reduction in anticipated referrals during this period and staff have undergone an intense transition period whilst A4e's new MI system (Connect for Work) was implemented which has impacted on performance.

Skills Strategy meetings with Sci-Tech Daresbury continued in Q1. Further work is still to be done to firm up some specific projects and funding streams. The Skills group continue to work on the action plan and interventions, in particular the School Champion.

COMT have approved an Apprenticeship Strategy for HBC. It is expected that this will be financially supported through the next round of ESF monies.



Ref	Measure	13/14 Actual	14/15 Target	Current	Direction of Travel	Quarterly progress
ELS A1	The number of new apprenticeship starts in Halton Borough Council	361	5	5	N/A	✓
ELS LI04	Number of new starts into permitted/paid work for local people with disabilities (over 12 month period)	14 (Cumulative)	12	5	↑	✓
SCS ELS 04	Reduce the proportion of people with no qualifications	12.1% (Jan to Dec 2012)	11%	10.9% (Jan 13 – Dec 13)	↑	✓
SCS ELS05	Increase the percentage of people achieving NVQ level 4 and above	24.5% (Jan to Dec 2012)	24.5%	25.1% Jan 13 – Dec 13	↑	✓
SCS ELS 08	Reduce the percentage of the working age population claiming out of work benefits	15%	16.5%	15.4%	↑	✓

ELS A1 – This is a new measure for this year, therefore there is no comparable data. Previously, the measure related to the number of new apprenticeship starts in Halton. However, this year, it is now related to Halton Borough Council only. During this quarter we have had 5 new apprenticeships starts.

ELS A2 – 909 learners are active during Quarter 1, generating 1462 enrolments. To date, 1423 of those learners have been retained with a 85.56% success rate. This figure is expected to increase on completion of the 451 learners currently continuing on summer term courses. This is a new measure this year so there is no comparable data.

ELS LI 03 - The figure is lower compared to the same period last year however, 88 starts on the Ingeus contract and 29 starts on the A4e contract in quarter 1.

Referrals from DWP have been lower than indicative flows throughout this and the previous year; therefore fewer customers have started on programme which has been out of our control.

There continues to be an increase in the number of customers in receipt of Employment Support Allowance, approx. 60% of all referrals received are ESA claimants.

A4e referrals were switched back on from 1st April following a freeze on referrals due to underperformance however only 6 referrals were received in April and only 6 referrals were received in May due to system errors.

ELS LI 04 - 5 customers with disabilities were supported into paid employment during this quarter.

This is an increase compared to the same period last year of 3.

SCS ELS 04 - HBC does not own this NI data. However, **77** full qualifications were achieved by learners participating in Halton Borough Council's adult learning programmes in Q1. In addition, 50 Unit accreditations have been achieved in Q1.

The latest data available is (Jan 13 to Dec 2013) at 10.9%. Taken from the NOMIS website. In comparison to the same period in previous years this is the lowest figure since 2011. (2011 - 11.5%, 2012 - 12.1%).






SCS ELS 05 (Revised NI 165) - HBC does not own this NI data which is only available from the Skills Funding Agency 18 months after learners achieve the qualification. The latest data available is (Jan 13 to Dec 2013) at 25.1%. Taken from the NOMIS website. Trend shows a marginal increase in comparison for the same period year on year. (2011 - 24%, 2012 – 24.5%).

SCS ELS 07 - This is the latest data available at June 2014 from the NOMIS website. 3.3% is the total percent of only JSA claimants in Halton aged 18 - 64, which equates to 2,663 JSA claimants.

SCS ELS 08 - The latest data available is at November 2013 from the NOMIS website. 15.4% equates to 12,520 of the working age population aged 16-64 claiming out of work benefits in Halton.

Priority: Enhancing residents' quality of life

Key Milestones and Measures

Ref	Milestones	Quarterly progress
CE1	Continue to implement the Sports Strategy (2012-15) by March 2015.	
CE1	Active people survey results show an increase in participation rates from 2009/10 baseline by March 2015.	
CE2	Identify areas for improvement in line with the Business Plan and Marketing Plan by January 2015.	
CE4	Increase the use of libraries promoting reader development and lifelong learning, thereby encouraging literacy skills and quality of life opportunities.	
CE4	Deliver a programme of extended informal learning opportunities including support for digital inclusion meeting identified local targets by March 2015.	






SUPPORTING COMMENTARY

CE1: Community Sports coaches delivered 373 hours coaching; 6183 coaching contacts and 234 training opportunities. 2 workshops delivered 35 attendees; 7 clubs attended funding and information clinic. Full list of activities available in the Community and Environment QMR.

CE1: Interim results, published in June, show progress has been made on the 2013/14 baseline.

CE2: Continued analysis of market trends held drive the business planning for the Stadium.

CE4: The Library Service has supported Spring Online activities this quarter. IT Clinics has been delivered at both Halton Lea and Widnes Libraries with 22 sessions having taken place with 150 attendances. Workclubs sessions supported have been delivered this quarter with 79 attendances. Festival of Learning events (Adult Learning Week) have been delivered this quarter with workshops ranging from Tai Chi and Family History to various Online activities, these were attended by 25 people.

Ref	Measure	13/14 Actual	14/15 Target	Current	Direction of Travel	Quarterly progress
CE LI4	Diversity – number of community groups accessing stadium facilities	N/A	15	17	N/A	
CE LI6	Number of new members of the library service during the last 12 months	N/A	9,234	1,363		
CE LI6a	Number of physical and virtual visits to libraries (annual total)	675,989	721,000	143,698		

CE LI4 The number of community groups accessing Stadium facilities continues to grow, the Stadium is seen as an integral part of the local and wider community.

CE LI6/LI6a Performance in Q1 is down on the corresponding period last year, it is too early to say at this stage whether the annual target will be achieved.

ECONOMY, ENTERPRISE & PROPERTY DEPARTMENT

SUMMARY FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2014

	Annual Budget £'000	Budget to Date £'000	Expenditure to Date £'000	Variance to Date (overspend) £'000
<u>Expenditure</u>				
Employees	4,356	1,029	1,052	(23)
Repairs & Maintenance	2,411	581	579	2
Premises	41	35	36	(1)
Energy & Water Costs	567	143	138	5
NNDR	582	468	467	1
Rents	426	164	163	1
Marketing Programme	35	7	6	1
Promotions	53	9	8	1
Supplies & Services	1,416	223	208	15
Agency Related Expenditure	33	13	14	(1)
Total Expenditure	9,920	2,672	2,671	1
<u>Income</u>				
Fees & Charges	-481	-113	-114	1
Rent - Markets	-759	-167	-169	2
Rent - Industrial Estates	-573	-169	-169	0
Rent - Commercial	-560	-64	-64	0
Transfer to / from Reserves	-199	-190	-190	0
Government Grant - Income	-1,916	-202	-202	0
Reimbursements & Other Income	-38	-38	-38	0
Recharges to Capital	-312	0	0	0
Schools SLA Income	-569	-20	-19	(1)
Total Income	-5,407	-963	-965	2
NET OPERATIONAL BUDGET	4,513	1,709	1,706	3
<u>Recharges</u>				
Premises Support Costs	1,409	343	343	0
Transport Support Costs	30	4	4	0
Central Support Service Costs	1,970	507	507	0
Asset Rental Support Costs	2,414	0	0	0
Repairs & Maint. Rech. Income	-2,448	-612	-612	0
Accommodation Rech. Income	-2,652	-663	-663	0
Central Supp. Service Rech. Income	-1,457	-364	-364	0
Total Recharges	-734	-785	-785	0
Net Expenditure	3,779	924	921	3

Comments

Achieving staff turnover savings within the Department will continue to remain an issue this financial year. Whilst, there are a few vacancies within the Department which will contribute towards the savings, the staff savings turnover target set for Building & School Cleaning and Caretakers Service cannot be achieved as the services need to be fully staffed at all times.

Energy & Water Costs are under budget at the end of Quarter 1 as a result of improvements that have been implemented throughout the Council buildings over the last few years.

In order to ease budget pressures spending has been restricted in year on Supplies & Services. Promotions and Marketing has also been kept to a minimum in an effort to achieve savings for the Department.

The adverse variance relating to Asset Management income in previous years has alleviated this financial year, as a result of the closure of Moor Lane and the impending sale of Seymour Court. The remaining Industrial Estates and Commercial Properties show the income budgets marginally under budget at this point in the year. As rental income can fluctuate in year, close monitoring will continue on these volatile budgets.

Market rental income is slightly above budget at the end of Quarter 1. Both market hall and open market income has remained stable during the first quarter of the year.

Work will continue with Managers to deal with any in-year budget pressures. In overall terms it is anticipated that net expenditure will be slightly under the overall Departmental budget by year-end.

CHILDREN & ENTERPRISE CAPITAL PROJECTS**SUMMARY FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30th June 2014**

	2014/15 Capital Allocation £'000	Allocation To Date £000's	Expenditure to Date £'000	Variance to Date (overspend) £'000
Economy, Enterprise & Property Dep't				
Castlefields Regeneration	725	20	20	0
3MG	2,909	227	227	0
Widnes Waterfront	1,200	0	0	0
SciTech Daresbury- Power Infrastructure	1,916	314	314	0
Sci-Tech Daresbury – Transport	177	0	0	0
Sci-Tech Daresbury – Site Connectivity	1,662	0	0	0
Johnsons Lane Infrastructure	466	3	3	0
Decontamination of Land	6	0	0	0
Former Crossvile Depot	518	0	0	0
Widnes Town Centre Initiative	60	9	9	0
Fairfield High Site - Contingency Costs	33	19	19	0
Queens Arms	23	8	9	(1)
Former Fairfield Site Demolition	162	0	0	0
Travellers Site Warrington Road	776	0	0	0
Lower House Lane Depot – Upgrade	444	150	150	0
Moor Lane Property Purchase	160	0	0	0
Moor Lane Demolition	150	5	5	0
Disability Discrimination Act/Disabled Access	362	21	21	0
Grand Total	11,749	776	777	(1)

Comments - Economy Enterprise & Property

Johnsons Lane Infrastructure – The road design has now been completed and with Tarmac to price. There is an unknown electricity cable running across the site which has slowed progress.

Former Crossville Depot: There are numerous technical issues, including protection of the high pressure gas main and treatment of the contamination (galigui) to significant depths.

Decontamination of Land – Contractors can claim the capital allocation at any time during the next 12 months,

Widnes Town Centre Initiative – It is proposed that the full capital allocation will be spent this financial year.

Queens Arms - All works are now complete.

Travellers Site - Works out to tender, likely to be a significant funding shortfall.

Fairfield High Contingency – It is anticipated that the full capital allocation will be spent this financial year.

Disability Discrimination Act/Disabled Access - To date £170k allocated, further projects to follow in due course. There may be a possible underspend on this budget at year-end, further details will be known in Quarter 2.

Moor Lane Demolition - Works on site, slight underspend envisaged, but this can be offset against the demolition of the property mentioned below.

Moor Lane Property Purchase - Property in process of being purchased at £160k, it will have to be demolished, the cost of this has yet to be determined.

Lower House Lane Depot - Works nearing completion. Full costs will be known shortly.

COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT**Revenue Budget as at 30 June 2014**

	Annual Budget £'000	Budget To Date £'000	Actual to Date £'000	Variance To Date (overspend) £'000
<u>Expenditure</u>				
Employees	12,249	3,026	3,036	(10)
Other Premises	1,459	535	507	28
Supplies & Services	1,546	462	439	23
Book Fund	192	58	57	1
Promotional	265	66	64	2
Other Hired Services	1,052	171	160	11
Food Provisions	706	167	164	3
School Meals Food	1,643	373	367	6
Transport	55	14	4	10
Other Agency Costs	676	89	87	2
Waste Disposal Contracts	5,012	76	80	(4)
Leisure Management Contract	1,437	349	390	(41)
Grants To Voluntary Organisations	333	116	111	5
Grant To Norton Priory	222	111	112	(1)
Capital Financing	19	0	0	0
Total Spending	26,866	5,613	5,578	35
<u>Income</u>				
Sales Income	-2,327	-600	-562	(38)
School Meals Sales	-2,368	-160	-173	13
Fees & Charges Income	-2,793	-677	-618	(59)
Rents Income	-127	-135	-149	14
Government Grant Income	-31	-5	-5	0
Reimbursements & Other Grant Income	-444	-27	-31	4
Schools SLA Income	-82	-71	-68	(3)
Internal Fees Income	-110	-21	-32	11
School Meals Other Income	-2,165	-15	-50	35
Meals On Wheels	-192	-40	-38	(2)
Catering Fees	-226	-43	-29	(14)
Capital Salaries	-53	-13	-13	0
Transfers From Reserves	-27	0	0	0
Total Income	-10,945	-1,807	-1,768	(39)
Net Controllable Expenditure	15,921	3,806	3,810	(4)
<u>Recharges</u>				
Premises Support	2,048	547	547	0
Transport Recharges	2,393	155	173	(18)
Departmental Support Services	9	0	0	0
Central Support Services	3,149	844	844	0
Asset Charges	3,197	0	0	0
HBC Support Costs Income	-356	-356	-356	0

Net Total Recharges	10,440	1,190	1,208	(18)
Net Departmental Total	26,361	4,996	5,018	(22)

Comments on the above figures:

The net budget is £22,000 over budget profile at the end of the first quarter of 2014/15.

Staffing expenditure is over budget profile by £10,000 for the first quarter of the year. This is primarily due to the quarterly target for premium pay of £14,100. There has been some spending on agency staffing in Open Spaces to cover absences and vacancies although this spend is not expected to continue.

Other Premises and Supplies & Services expenditures are collectively currently £51,000 under budget to date. The main reasons are due to lower spend on rates across the division and lower than expected spend in the quarter on landscaping works and equipment within school meals. It is likely that landscaping works and equipment budgets will be spent later in the year.

The Leisure Management contract is £41,000 over budget profile. If spend continues at the same rate the full year effect is likely to be in the region of £160,000 over budget. Last financial year the contract was £81,000 overspent, however £32,000 reserves were used to partially offset this.

Sales and Fees & Charges across the Department are currently underachieving and will continue to be a pressure this year. In particular stadium sales and trade waste income is still less than anticipated but the underachievement is less than previous years due to the target having been reduced.




The majority of invoices relating to waste disposal for the quarter have not yet been received so close monitoring will be undertaken throughout the next quarter to ascertain an accurate position moving forward.

Capital Projects as at 30 June 2014

	2014/15 Capital Allocation £'000	Allocation To Date £'000	Actual Spend To Date £'000	Allocation Remaining £'000
Stadium Minor Works	30	7	1	29
Widnes Recreation Site	2,515	630	630	1,885
Open Spaces Schemes	189	108	108	81
Children's Playground Equipment	79	1	1	78
Upton Improvements	63	0	0	63
Crow Wood Play Area	13	0	0	13
Runcorn Hill Park	311	153	153	158
Runcorn Cemetery Extension	9	0	0	9
Cremators Widnes Crematorium	396	1	1	395
Landfill Tax Credit Schemes	340	14	14	326
Litter Bins	20	0	0	20
Total Spending	3,965	914	908	3,057




7.0 Appendix – Explanation for use of symbols

7.1 Symbols are used in the following manner:

Progress		Milestone	Measure
Green		Indicates that the milestone is on course to be achieved within the appropriate timeframe.	Indicates that the annual target is on course to be achieved.
Amber		Indicates that it is uncertain or too early to say at this stage whether the milestone will be achieved within the appropriate timeframe.	Indicates that it is uncertain or too early to say at this stage whether the annual target is on course to be achieved.
Red		Indicates that it is highly likely or certain that the objective will not be achieved within the appropriate timeframe.	Indicates that the target will not be achieved unless there is an intervention or remedial action taken.

7.2 Direction of Travel Indicator

Where possible measures will also identify a direction of travel using the following convention:

Green		Indicates that performance is better as compared to the same period last year.
Amber		Indicates that performance is the same as compared to the same period last year.
Red		Indicates that performance is worse as compared to the same period last year.
N/A		Indicates that the measure cannot be compared to the same period last year.

7.3 Key for Commentary

WR Wesley Rourke, Operational Director, Economy Enterprise and Property Service (EEP)

CP Chris Patino, Operational Director, Communities and Environment (CandE)

REPORT TO:	Employment, Learning, Skills and Communities Policy & Performance Board
DATE:	15 th September 2014
REPORTING OFFICER:	Strategic Director, Communities
PORTFOLIO:	Neighbourhood, Leisure and Sport
SUBJECT:	Monitoring Report for Voluntary Sector Funding 2013/14
WARD(S)	Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To receive the retrospective performance information report for Voluntary Sector Core Funding in 2013/14.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS: That Members of the Executive Board

- i) Note the contents of the report.
- ii) Notes the proposed actions for Cheshire, Halton & Warrington Race & Equality Centre (CHAWREC) in relation to their reduction in activity during 2013/14, in Appendix 1.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 The Council awarded eleven Core Grants in 2013/14 to:

	2013/14
Cheshire Asbestos Victim Support Group	£8,000
Cheshire, Halton & Warrington Race & Equality Centre	£4,000
Cheshire Victim Support	£5,000
Halton Citizens Advice Bureaux	£133,000
Halton & St Helens Voluntary Action	£40,276
Halton Talking Newspapers	£1,000
Relate Cheshire & Merseyside	£9,000
Runcorn, Frodsham & District Mencap	£2,590
Samaritans of Warrington, Halton & St Helens	£4,000
Vision Support	£7,850
Widnes & Runcorn Cancer Support Group	£13,000

TOTAL	£227,716
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All organisations are subject to a Service Level Agreement. Those organisations who received under £5,000 provide 6 monthly performance monitoring information and those who receive £5,000 or above provide quarterly performance monitoring information.

3.2 Appendix one provides the performance breakdown for the individual organisations for the period 1st April 2013 to 31st March 2014.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 None at this stage.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The recommended grants do not exceed the current budget allocations in the general grants budget.

5.2 The work of the voluntary sector organisations receiving grants impacts greatly on health improvements, social inclusion, community involvement, anti-poverty and diversity issues.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

The service delivery from organisations receiving core grant in many cases is cross cutting in the context of the Council's strategic priorities. There are significant levels of welfare rights and debt handling support provided which impacts on anti-poverty issues for the Borough.

6.1 Children & Young People in Halton

The work delivered by Relate Cheshire & Merseyside in preventing family breakdown and offering counselling to teenagers has a direct impact on those children and young people in the Borough.

The Samaritans is open to all age ranges and does receive calls from young people in the Borough looking for support.

Widnes & Runcorn Cancer support group offer support to all members of families affected by the disease, encompassing young members of families.

Cheshire, Halton & Warrington Race & Equality Centre have addressed the issue of racism with a 'Schools Stand Up 2 Racism Project' which included a Halton school. Online training has been created as a free resource for schools, along with advice about embedding race equality into the curriculum.

6.2 Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

The voluntary sector organisations have a significant reliance on volunteer time to deliver services. The organisations provide training opportunities for volunteers to enable the delivery of service and improve their skills and employability. The CAB in particular have experienced local volunteers gaining local employment as a result of the training and experience.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

Widnes & Runcorn Cancer Support have a major impact on the health and well being of our residents diagnosed and in remission from cancer through the support, advocacy and therapies they are able to offer.

Cheshire Asbestos Victim Support Group works with sufferers and their families to support them through the illness, offering welfare support and recreational breaks (respite caravan) for sufferers and their families.

Vision Support provide a resource centre for visually impaired people and offer home visits and welfare rights support.

Halton Talking Newspaper enables their clients to receive news on a weekly basis including emergency information, pharmacy opening times, current affairs etc.

6.4 A Safer Halton

Cheshire Victim Support provide support to victims of crime through to pre trial preparation and court attendances which can be daunting for residents left vulnerable from crimes against them.

Cheshire, Halton & Warrington Race and Equality Centre work with minority groups in the Borough to contribute to a cohesive and integrated community in Halton. They offer support to individuals experiencing discrimination and will support in challenging discriminatory practice and will help people through tribunal processes.

Runcorn, Frodsham & District Mencap provides a community meeting point for adults and children with learning disabilities in Halton, offering a safe environment for residents to engage in community activity and participate in skill development and recreational activity.

6.5 Environment and Regeneration in Halton

None directly.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 The PPB will monitor how the grants are being spent and ensure that the Council and Halton residents receive value for money.

8.0 EQUALITY & DIVERSITY ISSUES

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

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

9.1 None under the meaning of the Act.

Appendix 1



Voluntary Sector Core Funding

Monitoring Information 2013/14

1st April 2013 to 31st March 2014

Monitoring 2013/14

Cheshire Asbestos Victims Support Group
3 Fryer Street, Runcorn Cheshire WA7 1ND

£8,000

Activity	Total 2013/14
New clients	89
Telephone enquiries	1,159
Letters/emails/fax	5,905
Home/office visits	136
Website hits	47,733
Referrals received from other organisations	89
Welfare Rights obtained	£400,063
Civil Claims DETR etc	£1,424,178
Volunteer hours per year	1,994
No of volunteers over the year	10
Respite caravan – number of weeks used	27

HBC Priorities met by organisation
A Healthy Halton
A Safer Halton

Cheshire Halton & Warrington Race and Equality Centre
17 Cuppin Street, Chester, CH1 2BN

£4,000

Activity	Total 2013/14
Attend CHEWS Equality meeting	3
Attend Chief Executives Advisory Group on Gypsies & Travellers	1
Attend Halton Equalities, Engagement & Cohesion Group	2
Casework (no of individuals)	3

HBC Priorities met by organisation
A Healthy Halton
A Safer Halton
Children & Young People in Halton
Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

The proposed action in relation to CHAWREC's performance is to improve activity during 2014/15. The Halton Advice Services Transition Fund project has now started - CHAWREC are working with Halton CAB and Age UK to deliver this. As part of the programme they will be starting outreach surgeries, which should encourage more cases from the Halton area. Part of the work will involve delivery of training for volunteers in the Halton area.

Relate Cheshire & Merseyside
151 Dale Street, Liverpool, L2 2AH

£9,000

Activity	Total 2013/14
Appointments made	319
Appointments kept	247 (inclusive of repeat appointments)
Females seen	104
Males seen	84

HBC Priorities met by organisation
A Healthy Halton
A Safer Halton
Children & Young People in Halton

Cheshire Victim Support
Widnes Police Station, Kingsway, Widnes, WA8 7QJ

£5,000

Activity	Total 2013/14
Volunteer hours per year	584
No of volunteers over the year	10.75
Telephone enquiries & letters/e-mails/fax	6,964
Home visits	119
Office visits	14
Pre Trial visits	52
Court Attendances	360

HBC Priorities met by organisation
A Healthy Halton
A Safer Halton
Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

Cheshire Vision Support

Halton Independent Living Centre, Collier Street, Runcorn, WA7 1HB
£7,850

Activity	Total 2013/14
Client visits to Resource Centre inc family visits	1,285
Telephone enquiries from service users & their families	606
Other agencies visits to centre	355
Other agencies telephone calls	484
Home visits to new and existing service users	1,086
Users receiving tele-friending service	884
Welfare Rights inc. DLA and back pay	£89,665
Volunteers involved in service delivery	175
Total number of volunteer hours	2,142
Number of sessions delivered at resource centre (computer training, awareness training, computer club, braille, social groups, activity groups)	1,126

HBC Priorities met by organisation

A Healthy Halton

A Safer Halton

Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

Halton District Citizens Advice Bureau

Unit 3, Victoria Building, Lugsdale Road, Widnes, WA8 6DJ

£133,000

Activity	Total 2013/14
Number of unique users	5,546
Number of cases worked on	12,804
Welfare Rights	£670,651
Debt written off	£1,255,783
Debt handled	£6,296,874
Gains (employment)	£3,560
Volunteer hours	14,358
Number of volunteers (on average)	14
Telephone enquiries	1,201
Personal visits	3,258
Home Visits	172
Tribunals attended	0
Court attendances	28

HBC Priorities met by organisation

A Healthy Halton

A Safer Halton

Children & Young People in Halton

Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

Halton Talking Newspapers

c/o Halton Community Partnership Centre, Old Police Station, Mersey Road, Runcorn, Cheshire, WA7 1DF

£1,000

Activity	Total 2013/14
Number of individuals receiving a weekly 'Talking Newspaper' (average)	73.5
Number of volunteers	29
Volunteer hours (average)	553

HBC Priorities met by organisation

Children & Young People in Halton

Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

A Healthy Halton

Halton & St Helens VCA

Sefton House, Public Hall Street, Runcorn WA7 1NG

£40,276

Activity	Total 2013/14
No of volunteers involved in VCA activities	13
No of volunteer hours	107.5
Volunteer enquiries by telephone	460
Volunteer enquiries by email	12,803
Volunteer enquiries – face to face	1,124
Volunteers recruited (for placements)	881
Volunteers placed	209

HBC Priorities met by organisation

A Healthy Halton

A Safer Halton

Children & Young People in Halton

Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

Runcorn, Frodsham & District Mencap
The Acorn Club, Laburnam Grove, Runcorn, WA7 5EX

£2,590

Activity	Total 2013/14
No of volunteers (average)	41.5
Average no of attendees per week:	
Monday drop in group	25
Keep Fit	30
Bingo	50
Thursday Youth Club	8
Saturday disco	45
Gardening & maintenance to building	4
Art class/trips	45

HBC Priorities met by organisation
A Healthy Halton
A Safer Halton
Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

Samaritans

46 Arpley Street, Warrington, WA4 1LX

£4,000

Activity	Total 2013/14
Counselling calls	16,863
Counselling by email	758
Volunteer hours per year	6,327
No of volunteers over the year	60.5 (average)
Personal visits to centre	4

HBC Priorities met by organisation
A Healthy Halton
A Safer Halton
Children & Young People in Halton
Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

Widnes & Runcorn Cancer Support Group
21-23 Alford Street, Widnes, Cheshire, WA8 7TR

£13,000

Activity	Total 2013/14
Counselling hours	167
Listening Centre	1,526
Information centre - patients	158
Volunteer hours per year	3,313
No of volunteers over the year	44.75
Information phone calls	206
Listening phone calls	561
HUGS club	1,098
Hand in Hand	46
Bosom Buddies Breast Cancer	251
Therapies and workshops	530
Exercise inc. Swimming and Walking	403
Mens group	255
Runcorn Open Arms Club	703

HBC Priorities met by organisation
A Healthy Halton
A Safer Halton
Children & Young People in Halton
Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

CASE STUDIES

Cheshire Asbestos Victims Support Group

Mr X was referred to the group by the lung Specialist Nurse after being diagnosed with Mesothelioma. Brian our Client Advisor went out to see him and his wife the next day. All the documentation was completed and exposure was traced to his trade as an electrician for over 25 years. The meeting lasted approx. 3 hours. Mr X received his weekly Industrial Injuries Benefit which was backdated to the day of his diagnosis. Mr. X passed away only months after diagnosis, leaving his wife struggling to cope with finances. A Civil Claim has now been settled; therefore Mrs. X can now comfortably retire, to spend time with her children and grandchildren. Mr & Mrs X would have been lost without the information, help and support. The group helped to relieve some of the stress and anxiety during this already stressful time.

Cheshire Halton & Warrington Race and Equality Centre

We received three new enquiries during this six month period from Halton based clients. None of these have progressed into cases. The first was a previous client who had returned to us to ask for advice on a court case that had gone to Europe and involved a breach of human rights on the basis of race discrimination. We provided him with advice and support, but were unable to pursue the case because of its complexity and the nature of the representation involved. The second was a non-employment case regarding his granddaughter's education at special school - this was not pursued because we do not deal with non employment cases since we started to charge as we cannot charge for contentious matters. The last was a racial harassment case, where we were asked to maintain a record but the client did not wish to take action.

Relate Cheshire & Merseyside

Mr X, 43, and Mrs X, 39, have been married for 13 years and have two children aged 7 and 10. Mrs X works at a school and also does some evening work, and Mr X is an electrician. The couple came for counselling because Mr X had had a brief affair with an ex-girlfriend who he had met again on the internet. Although the couple had said that they loved each other and wanted to rebuild the marriage, Mrs X was having difficulty coming to terms with the affair and felt that she was the one making all the effort. The counsellor worked with them to explore how the affair had started and discovered that Mr X suffered from depression. This and the way that Mrs X dealt with it was part of the reason for his connecting with his ex-girlfriend and the counselling enabled them to examine this, and their relationship in more depth. The couple led very busy and stressful lives and in fact spent very little time together. Through counselling, Mr and Mrs X worked on changing the ways in which they communicate with each other and on making time to talk issues through. Making quality time for each other proved more difficult but not impossible, and with a little forward planning and the help of grandparents, they managed to have a couple of nights out together. By the last session Mr X had booked them a night away in a hotel and they both felt as if they were taking positive steps forward together.

Cheshire Victim Support

Terry lives in Runcorn and has experienced ongoing difficulties with a neighbour. The problems included harassment and assault by the neighbour. An attempt has been made previously to resolve this matter through mediation but this has been ineffective as the neighbour has continued to harass Terry, which has left him feeling vulnerable and cautious about leaving his house. In this case both parties are home owners; making relocation more complex than in rented accommodation.

We have met with Terry helped him with a combination of emotional and practical support in the form of window shock and personal alarms. We have liaised with the Police and referred Terry to Halton antisocial behaviour team for further support. We will continue to provide Terry with emotional support as this is an on-going case. Terry is starting to feel more confident about things as the problem is being approached by multiple agencies all working together to resolve the situation.

Cheshire Vision Support

Phone calls/letters made on behalf of clients by Rehab Assistants have included contacting BT over an increased bill, advising Deafness Support Services that a ladies flashing doorbell wasn't working, chasing a ladies request for a carers break, referring for retraining with a long cane and writing a letter regarding a TV licence. Two ladies have been awarded the Blue Badge and another has received a £26 reduction in her Council Tax. One lady was taken to purchase a new fridge/freezer. A lady, due to go on holiday, appreciated help with finding a bag to take and writing two lists for her - things to buy and things to take. Referrals included, mobility training, IT lessons, social groups and radio/cassette from BWFB. VS was remembered in the collection at a lady's funeral. Her family remembered how their mother loved the home visits from the Rehab Assistant before dementia took hold and she was admitted into a care facility.

Halton District Citizens Advice Bureau

Client A was referred to the CAB by Open Mind Mental Health Services. Client A is a single parent of six children. Client A suffers from severe panic attacks and anxiety. Client A was referred to the CAB for advice around Debts. When the CAB adviser contacted Client A it was discovered that the client was not receiving benefit payments. CAB adviser visited Client A at home as the client would have struggled to attend an appointment at an alternative location.

CAB adviser provided client with a food parcel to help the family manage to eat until benefit payments were reinstated.

Adviser contacted Tax Credits and found out that the benefits had been stopped due to an overpayment. Adviser worked with Client and tax credits which resulted in the overpayment being written off. Client was also referred

to CAB debt specialist who negotiated with creditors to arrange an affordable repayment plan for Client.

Client B was referred to the CAB by HBC Children's Social Care for advice around numerous debts including rent and council tax which was subject to bailiff action. There was also an issue around benefits not being paid. Client B lives with her 9 year old child in housing association accommodation. Client B had been in full time employment but had been forced to leave work due to her Mental Health. Client B was being harassed by creditors which was exacerbating her mental health issues and making it increasingly more difficult for her to cope with taking care of her daughter.

The CAB: Supported with application for benefits, negotiated with Council Tax re Bailiff action, provided Client B with a food voucher, provided specialist debt advice and provided emotional support. As a result of CAB intervention the client had correct benefits put in place with backdated payment. Bailiff action was stopped and court action and potential eviction were prevented. A debt relief order is now in place for Client B meaning that she is less stressed about her debts and is more able to cope with caring for her daughter.

The feedback from Client B is as follows: If it wasn't for the CAB I don't know what I would have done. The amount of support and help I received from my adviser was great. Even helped me to realise and accept that I needed help and provided me with a food parcel and now I will be donating food to help others in my situation.

Halton Talking Newspaper

Mr B required a digital speaker to be able to use the new memory sticks we were supplying, as he didn't have a computer. I arranged a date to visit and along with a colleague (CRB checked) went to visit him and his wife.

The new speaker enabled Mr. B to start listening again to the Runcorn news which he had missed out on when the changeover happened. Both Mr and Mrs B. have lived in Runcorn all their lives and now it is more difficult for them to get out and about the local news is even more important, especially the obituaries!!!

They were delighted with the new speaker as it is much better quality than the tapes and they can both listen together again, although this did seem to cause some disagreement between themselves as to where to start listening.

If we had not been able to provide the new speaker to this couple they would have missed out on all the local news and events that are important to them, and had difficulty keeping up to date with conversations about local goings on when they visited their local clubs.

Halton & St Helens VCA

Vol ID: 4270 stated she went on to volunteer after contacting VCA. She was very satisfied with the information she received and contacting VCA made it easier to get into volunteering. VCA gave help & advice on choosing the right

opportunity. She stated that - "I am very pleased with the advice and help I received from VCA. I love the fact that you not only try to help organisations by finding volunteers for them, but as well you are helping the volunteers to find the right position to match their needs and interests. I would recommend VCA to friends who want to volunteer. Keep up the good work".

Runcorn Frodsham & District Mencap

Christine began a programme of Fresh Start sessions to help improve her eating habits and increase her regular exercise regime. She would have been reluctant to take part if the classes not been in familiar surroundings like the Acorn Club.

This enabled her to lose over a stone in weight and improve her over all fitness and body shape which has certainly boosted her self-esteem and confidence. She now takes part in several exercise programmes set up around the Halton area, extending her social life as well as improving her health.

If this service was not available, the service user would have continued to eat a poor diet, leading to ill health. She would also become more isolated leading eventually to loneliness and depression.

Samaritans

Due to the organisational policy on client confidentiality no outcome case studies could be provided.

Widnes & Runcorn Cancer Support

Dave says – 'I just like to drop in on a Monday and a Friday. The house is empty on those days and I don't like to be in on my own. I can get a bit down, just thinking'. Dave likes to drop in for a cuppa and chat – and as he points out – the centre is near enough to home to allow him to walk here and get a breath of fresh air.

Up until now that's been enough although he is aware of the counselling service offered at the centre and may consider accessing it – 'depending on what happens next'.