



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

**Monday, 10 November 2014 at 6.30 p.m.  
Council Chamber, Runcorn Town Hall**

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

**Chief Executive**

**BOARD MEMBERSHIP**

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

*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 Wednesday, 7 January 2015*

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

**Part I**

<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Page No.</b>
<b>1. MINUTES</b>	
<b>2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST (INCLUDING PARTY WHIP DECLARATIONS)</b>	
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.	
<b>3. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME</b>	<b>1 - 3</b>
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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:** 10 November 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:** 10 November 2014

**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.

**Extracts of Executive Board Minutes Relevant to the Employment, Learning and Skills and Communities Policy and Performance Board**

**EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING ON 7 July 2014**

<b>EXB27</b>	<b>EFFICIENCY REVIEW OF HALTON'S LIBRARY SERVICE</b>
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The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Communities, which sought approval to commence a public consultation on proposals for the future delivery arrangements for Halton's Library Service.

The Board was advised that an Efficiency Review of the Library Service had previously been carried out which realised savings of £157,500. A fresh Library Service review, as part of the current Wave 5 of the Efficiency Programme had been conducted by the Efficiency Programme Board. Information had been gathered which had helped to construct two options which would be the subject of public consultation and which were detailed in the consultation document attached to the report.

It was reported that, in conducting the Efficiency Review, Officers and the Programme Board had drawn on demographic and other data on local need, to ensure that the revised service would meet the needs of current and future users of the Library Services. However, it was noted that the focus of the review, and of the two proposed options, had been on opening hours. In addition, the consultation would seek the public's view on the viability of maintaining the universal Mobile Library Service and the need to address services to the elderly, given the ageing population profile of the Borough.

The Board was advised that, once analysed, the responses would be reported to Executive Board for decision on the future of the service.

RESOLVED: That the Board

- 1) notes the content of the report;
- 2) approves the documents attached to the report as the basis for public consultation on the future delivery of the Library Service; and
- 3) approves the consultation period outlined in the report.

**EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING ON 4 SEPTEMBER 2014**

<b>EXB56</b>	<b>WELFARE REFORM SCRUTINY REVIEW REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS</b>
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The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise, which presented the recommendations of the Welfare Reform Scrutiny Topic Group.



Councillor Sue Edge, Chair of the Topic Group, attended the meeting to present the report. The Board was advised that the report, attached at Appendix 1, was commissioned by the Employment, Learning, Skills and Community Policy and Performance Board, following changes to the welfare system introduced by the Welfare Reform Act 2012.

It was reported that the Scrutiny Review was conducted between June and September 2013. The original recommendations were adjusted through a prioritisation exercise, which took account of financial and budgetary restrictions. The report contained a summary of the recommended actions, for Members' consideration.

RESOLVED: That the recommendations of the Welfare Reform Scrutiny Topic Group be noted.

## **EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING ON 18 SEPTEMBER 2014**

<b>EXB63</b>	<b>SCI-TECH DARESBUY ENERPRISE ZONE FUNDING</b>
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The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise, which provided an update on funding for the development of Sci-Tech Daresbury.

The Board was advised that Sci-Tech Daresbury was allocated as a strategic site in Halton's Core Strategy and was an international hub for world class science. In August 2011, part of Daresbury was named as one of the eleven new Enterprise Zones, the aim of which was to attract new businesses with simplified planning rules, super-fast broadband and reductions in business rates.

It was reported that in February 2014, Sci-Tech Daresbury was shortlisted for £3.57m of Enterprise Zone (EZ) Capital Grant which would be used to facilitate the next stage of development. Details of the DCLG claw back arrangement for any increase in the value of the development as a result of the grant were outlined in the report.

In addition, it was noted that in June 2014, an application for £1.128m European Regional Development Funding (ERDF) was approved by the DCLG, subject to match funding. An offer letter would be issued once match funding and State Aids were confirmed. The offer would be made to Langtree as the developer, with the intention that the Council be acknowledged as the delivery partner, receiving £25k towards the funding and monitoring service it would provide to Langtree.

Members were advised that there were financial implications for the Council in accepting ERDF funding, minor breaches of the agreement could result in DCLG having the right not only to discontinue funding for the future but to also demand the return of funding prior to any breach of the agreement. In this respect the Council's direct liability would be limited to the 25k it would receive as delivery partner.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the offer of £3.57m of EZ Capital Grant (EZ) from the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) be accepted;
- 2) the offer of £25k of European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) from DCLG be accepted;
- 3) the Council be given authority to enter into a back to back contract with Joint Venture partners for the delivery of the project; and
- 4) the Council agrees to entering into a claw back agreement with Joint Venture partners in accordance with the EZ offer.

<b>EXB64</b>	<b>YOUTH EMPLOYMENT GATEWAY – KEY DECISION</b>
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The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise, on the Youth Employment Gateway Programme (the Programme).

The Board was advised that the Liverpool City Region (LCR) had secured £5.9 m of Government investment to deliver a programme to reduce youth unemployment across the LCR over the next three years. Each local authority had been allocated a sum to deliver the scheme in their respective area, as set out in table 1.

It was reported that the Programme aimed to support young people aged 18-24 years that had been unemployed for between 2 and 9 months. A detailed explanation of how the Programme would work was contained in Appendix 1. Members noted that Appendix 2 outlined how young people would be referred to the Programme and how the local authority would contribute to it. The Programme afforded an opportunity to provide young people with a coherent support package to help them into sustained work.

Reason(s) For Decision

Youth Employment Gateway would assist young people in Halton to find employment or training aimed at supporting their future career prospects.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

One option that the Council could consider was to tender for a training provider to undertake the management and delivery of the Programme in Halton. However, it was felt that many of the functions required to deliver the Programme in Halton could be fulfilled through slight adjustments to existing structures within the Council's Employment, Learning and Skills division. In addition, going out to tender would delay the implementation of the Programme.

Implementation Date

1 October 2014.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the offer of Youth Employment Gateway Funding be accepted;
- 2) delegated authority be given to the Operational Director, Economy, Enterprise and Property, in consultation with the Portfolio holder for Economic Development, to accept the contract/offer letter; and
- 3) the use of Youth Employment Gateway funding be authorised to develop an employment support programme in Halton.

## **EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING ON 2 OCTOBER 2014**

<b>EXB67</b>	<b>EFFICIENCY REVIEW OF HALTON'S LIBRARY SERVICE</b>
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The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Communities, which reported the findings of the public consultation on the proposals for the future delivery arrangements for the Library Service in Halton.

The Board was advised that, following an in-depth review by the Efficiency Programme Board, a consultation exercise was undertaken in which the public and stakeholders had the opportunity to comment on two proposals for the future delivery of the Service. It was reported that both the Library Service and the Efficiency Programme Board were keen to ensure that as part of any recommendations for the future, two key criteria were met. These were detailed as all four of the Borough's libraries remaining open and that any new arrangements were able to deliver strategic objectives contained within the Council's adopted Library Strategy, as set out in the report.

It was noted that, given the first criteria of keeping all four libraries open, the focus of the consultation had been on library opening hours. In addition, views were also sought on the viability of maintaining the universal mobile library service and the need to address the services to the elderly and the housebound. The Board was further advised that further consultation would begin immediately on this before any final decision was made.

Details of the consultation responses were attached at Appendix 1 and a proposed schedule of opening hours were attached at Appendix 2, for Members' information.

### Reason(s) For Decision

The recommendations relating to Library opening times contained within the report had been developed following a period of public consultation, details of which could be found in the report.

There were 1011 individual responses to the questionnaire; 84% of respondents preferred 'Option 1'. While the majority of people selecting Option 1 as their preference also agreed with the opening times as stated in the questionnaire, a number of comments were received suggesting minor amendments to the proposed hours. These suggestions included a range of comments relating to earlier opening

times (i.e. before 10am), and moving the late night opening (until 7pm) from Monday to another weekday.

As a result of the number of people selecting Option 1, and the suggested alternatives, the recommended opening hours were as included in the report.

#### Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

The public consultation questionnaire included two possible options for opening hours. Option 2 was preferred by only 12% of respondents and consequently this option had been rejected on the basis of the public consultation.

#### Implementation Date

It was anticipated that any new opening arrangements would be implemented across the library service in March/April 2015.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the contents of the report be noted;
- 2) the results of the public consultation on the future delivery of the Library Service be noted; and
- 3) the service delivery model, outlined in the report, be approved.

<b>EXB68</b>	<b>NORTON PRIORY HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND BID</b>
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The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Policy and Resources, which sought approval in principle for the Council to fund the installation of a proposed Biomass boiler as part of the Norton Priory Museum re-development.

The Board was advised that the Heritage Lottery Fund had confirmed the success of a bid to allow for the refurbishment and extension of the Museum. It was reported that as part of the design work, a mechanical and electrical services report had been completed which included an assessment of the most appropriate type of heating system. A number of options had been considered, as set out in the report.

It was reported that the most attractive proposition would be the installation of a Biomass boiler, which would be able to take advantage of the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) payment scheme. Estimated costs, tariff levels and RHI payments were detailed in the report for Members' consideration.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the funding of the Biomass boiler at Norton Priory Museum be supported in principle, subject to further assessment of the financial returns following the detailed design of the boiler; and

- 2) Council be requested to approve the addition of the Biomass boiler project to the 2014/15 Capital Programme.

**EXB70**

**BUSINESS RATES PROPOSAL – UNIT 3 ARAGON COURT, MANOR PARK**

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise, which detailed a request for Business Rates relief.

The Board was reminded that in April 2013, the Government had introduced a Business Rates Retention Scheme, which enabled Councils to keep a proportion of the business rates revenue as well as growth on the revenue that was generated within their area.

The Board was advised of a request for Business Rates Relief from a company that had agreed a long lease on premises in Manor Park, Runcorn, the details of which were set out in the report.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the proposals set out in the report be approved; and
- 2) subject to the required outcomes being delivered regarding capital investment and job creation, approval be given on an exceptional basis to the award of Business Rate Relief to Jem Recycling Group for the period of six months at the level as set out in the report.

**REPORT TO:** Employment, Learning and Skills and  
Community PPB

**DATE:** 10 November 2014

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director Children and Enterprise

**PORTFOLIO:** Economic Development

**SUBJECT:** Adult Learning Provision in Halton 2014/15

**WARDS:** Borough Wide

### **1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to advise Members on the current position of Adult Learning activity within the borough.

### **2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the Executive Board**

(1) Notes the impact and potential of the 2014/15 adult learning programme.

### **3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

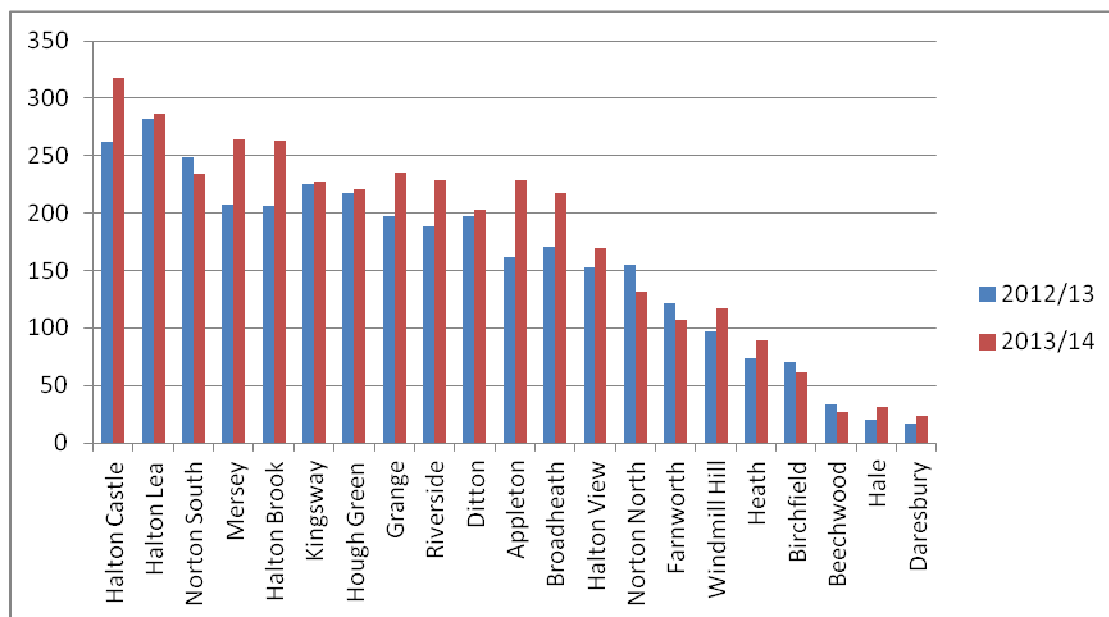
- 3.1 Members are advised that the Adult and Family Learning curriculum offer has been amended for the 2014/15 academic year to better align with the council's priorities and reflect on the wider economy.
- 3.2 The 2014/15 curriculum contains more accredited provision with a bigger focus on progression routes into further or higher education. Longer courses spanning a full academic year, such as Counselling and a Teaching Assistant course are now offered. It is expected that delivering one course over 3 terms rather than 3 shorter courses will have an impact on the number of learners that will be supported during the coming year.
- 3.3 All ICT provision is now being accredited with Functional Skills qualifications starting at Entry Level 1 and progressing through to Level 2 ECDL.
- 3.4 Those established curriculum areas which produce good quality outcomes for learners with lower skills still remain for example, Family Learning, volunteer reading programme.
- 3.5 Some popular engagement courses such as cake decorating also remain.
- 3.6 All other leisure courses have been cut for 2014/15 with alternative half day workshops being offered in these areas.
- 3.7 Table 1 shows the profile of adults attending Adult / Family learning programmes in 2013/14

Learners 2013/14	Accredited Adult Learning	Non-accredited Adult Learning	Family Learning
Number of enrolments	557	993	350
Number of qualifications	424		81
Learners with a disability / difficulty	32%	31%	16%
Learners from ethnic backgrounds	2%	1%	1%
Male learners	26%	27%	6%
Under 25	9%	6%	13%
25-34	27%	23%	43%
35-44	21%	22%	28%
45-54	24%	19%	10%
55-64	15%	15%	4%
65+	4%	15%	2%

3.8 Table 2 shows the demographic profile of adults attending Adult / Family learning programmes in 2013/14

Learners 2013/14	Accredited Adult Learning	Non-accredited Adult Learning	Family Learning
Disadvantaged Wards	17%	23%	24%
LSOAs	38%	38%	45%

3.9 Graph 1 shows engagement figures per ward for academic years 2012/13 and 2013/14



- 3.10 Members of the Employment Learning and Skills and Community PPB receive regular updates relating to adult learning performance 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 provision is currently delivered.

#### **4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 Analysis of the Skills for Life 2011 survey shows that IT skill levels are lower in Halton compared to the national average and development of these skills must remain a priority in Halton with a borough wide focus on digital inclusion.

#### **5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 Recent change in Skills Funding Agency funding has led to a move away from fully grant funded activity with more emphasis on a payment by results basis. The service is now required to draw down funding based on the number of qualifications achieved, with only a small amount devolved on a grant basis, specifically for community learning. This has led to an increase in the delivery of qualification based courses and a decrease in the number of non-accredited, leisure type courses being offered to residents.

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

##### **6.1 Children and Young People in Halton**

The relationship between adult skills and children's achievement is well documented. Family learning data shows that children who are involved in family learning enjoy higher attainment. Feedback shows that parents also feel better able to support children's learning and are more confident to work in partnership with schools. These outcomes could potentially support other initiatives such as Inspiring Families and offer supplementary interventions to develop skills of both children and parents. A national enquiry into Family Learning in England and Wales, 'Family Learning Works', outlines recommendations for England which include:

- Family Learning should be integral to school strategies to raise children's attainment and to narrow the gap between the lowest and highest achievers
- Key government departments should include Family Learning in their policies and strategies in order to achieve cross-departmental outcomes

##### **6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton**

Community learning is a key element of employment, learning and skills strategies to engage those furthest from the labour market and improve employability. There is some provision to support marginalised residents but more investment is needed for these groups to ensure equality of opportunity.

##### **6.3 A Healthy Halton**



There is a relationship between poor health and low skill levels. By increasing learners' skills and confidence levels, community learning can contribute to an increase in adults enjoying better health. Evidence of impact measures collected within the service show that learners on leisure type courses enjoy improved mental health and wellbeing.

**6.4 A Safer Halton**

Learners on Family Learning programmes have options to study units to keep children healthy and safe. Childcare learners study Safeguarding units in more depth and this knowledge contributes to a safer community as well being applied professionally.

**6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal**

None.

**7.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 The removal of core council funding and a potential review of children's centre learning may have implications in reaching those in most need of skills development.

**8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 Whilst there is good provision to engage those working at Entry 3 – Level 2 skill levels, further investment is needed to engage those furthest away from the labour market

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

None

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	Employment Learning and Skills and Community Policy Performance Board
<b>DATE:</b>	10 <sup>th</sup> November 2014
<b>REPORTING OFFICER:</b>	Strategic Director Children and Enterprise
<b>PORTFOLIO:</b>	Economic Development
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	European Programme 2014-2020
<b>WARD(S)</b>	Borough-wide

## 1.0 **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) Programme for Halton 2014 to 2020 and to advise on the processes that the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) is coordinating to support the implementation of the programme.

## 2.0 **RECOMMENDATION: That:**

- 2.1 Members note the update on the European (Structural and Investment Funds) programme 2014 – 2020.

## 3.0 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 3.1 Members have previously received a presentation on the key elements of the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF)/ European Programme, and the priorities and themes that have been developed by the Council and partners.

- 3.2 This resulted in Halton preparing a 'position paper' aimed at presenting to the LEP how Halton could contribute to the delivery of the European Programme (Appendix 1).

The governance arrangements for the programme have now been agreed by Government and these arrangements are outlined in more detail in (Appendix 2).

### **Key Points**

- The first meeting of the EU Sub-Committee, which will oversee the programme in the City Region has taken place. Councillor Dave Cargill is one of three representatives of the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority on this Sub-Committee.

- A technical officer group known as the EU Delivery Group sits below this group.
- A LEP led EU Pre-Launch event is planned for 8<sup>th</sup> December to provide more details on the bidding process including: timetable, requirements, project details.
- A series of bidding calls based on themes will be announced commencing in January 2015.
- It is anticipated that project approvals will commence in September 2015.
- An 'Opt-In' model has been developed to allow LEPs and their partners to join national organisations, such as Growth Accelerator, UK Trade and Investment (UKTI), The Manufacturing Advisory Service (MAS), Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), Skills funding Agency (SFA) and The Big Lottery Fund to deliver key priorities. By opting-in to a service offer from a national organisation a LEP commits part of its European allocation to the programme and the 'Opt-In' organisation will match fund the service and provide administrative support.
- LCR LEP representatives are working with the 'Opt-In' agencies described above to develop a 'roles and responsibilities' document, which will define how much LCR European Funding will be set aside for each 'Opt-In' and what type of provision LCR wish to buy.

### **Issues**

- The Partner update that was released by Government in August is vague and not detailed enough at this stage. See appendix 2 Indicative timetable from National Government.
- No papers have been released on services Opt-In's will deliver.
- There are some budget restrictions as money cannot be moved between thematic objectives (although there will be a mid-term review in 2018 which may provide opportunity to do this) but can be moved between years provided that spend is moved forward and not pushed back.

## **Next Steps**

The next steps for Halton are as follows:

- Representatives to attend all relevant meetings, EU Sub-Committee monthly meetings (Delivery Group monthly meetings (initial meeting due 16<sup>th</sup> September) and LEP Core Team fortnightly meetings.
- Continue to work with partners to identify and agree suitable projects.
- External Funding Team and Portfolio Leads to identify potential match funding opportunities in order to maximise the benefit to Halton that the European programme provides.
- Any commitments identified as potential match funding utilising Council resources, would ultimately need to be brought back to the Council's Executive Board for consideration.

### **4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 This is in line with the Council's Corporate Priorities and with the requirement to lever as much external funding as possible into the borough to support the communities of Halton.

4.2 It is proposed that the Operational Director for Economy, Enterprise and Property will take the lead on the day to day management of the programme and will be supported by the External Funding Team who will offer a borough-wide service helping with application writing, funding claims and the ongoing monitoring.

Whilst Halton has an allocation it is imperative that all Halton's applications are realistic and robust and meet the eligibility criteria and that they are underpinned by a comprehensive monitoring system.

It is therefore, anticipated that additional support will be required from the Council's Internal Audit and Accountancy Divisions.

### **5.0 OTHER/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 Further information will be released in the next couple of months. Therefore, further reports will be provided.

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

### 6.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

There is a significant opportunity for the EU programme to benefit all of the Council's priorities. Specific projects will be developed to support Children and Young People, targeting the resources where they are most needed.

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

Overall the EU programme will assist in providing job opportunities for local people and will go some way in addressing the level of unemployment in Halton. The projects being developed will support the local economy, local businesses and the local community which in turn will skill up Halton's workforce and create more jobs locally. The relevant key challenges which LCR wishes to use EU funding to help address are:

- Economic competitiveness: £8.2bn output gap
- Business base: deficit of 18,500 businesses
- Economic activity: deficit of 35,000 economically active working age individuals
- Employment: deficit of 46,200 people in employment
- Skills base: deficit of 82,000 individuals holding NVQ4 qualifications, 32,600 more individuals with no qualifications
- Job creation: need for 90,000 additional jobs

### 6.3 **A Healthy Halton**

The EU programme will promote healthier communities through jobs opportunities, the development of green transport and housing initiatives.

### 6.4 **A Safer Halton**

The EU programme will complement the initiatives of the Mersey Gateway Regeneration Strategy and the good work of the Police and Community Safety and through its projects look to reduce the fear of crime.

### 6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

The EU programme will act as a catalyst to attract developers and new businesses to the area by creating an attractive, well-accessed and serviced area, which provides a safe and attractive environment for employees and visitors.

7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 There is some risk that the Council and its partners will not be in a position to access the EU grant funding if it cannot source the match funding required.

8.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 It is anticipated that reference to Equality and Diversity principles will be a prerequisite for any funding available. In fact, the theme 'Inclusive Economy' focuses on supporting disadvantaged either to enter into the work place or remain in the work place.

8.2 European Regulations governing use of the ESIF require that all activities supported using ESIF must be committed to following the framework of Public Sector Equality Duty.

Halton must ensure that activities have due regard to equality and are able to promote the three elements of that Duty: eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations. The equality duty covers the following nine groups with protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

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

None

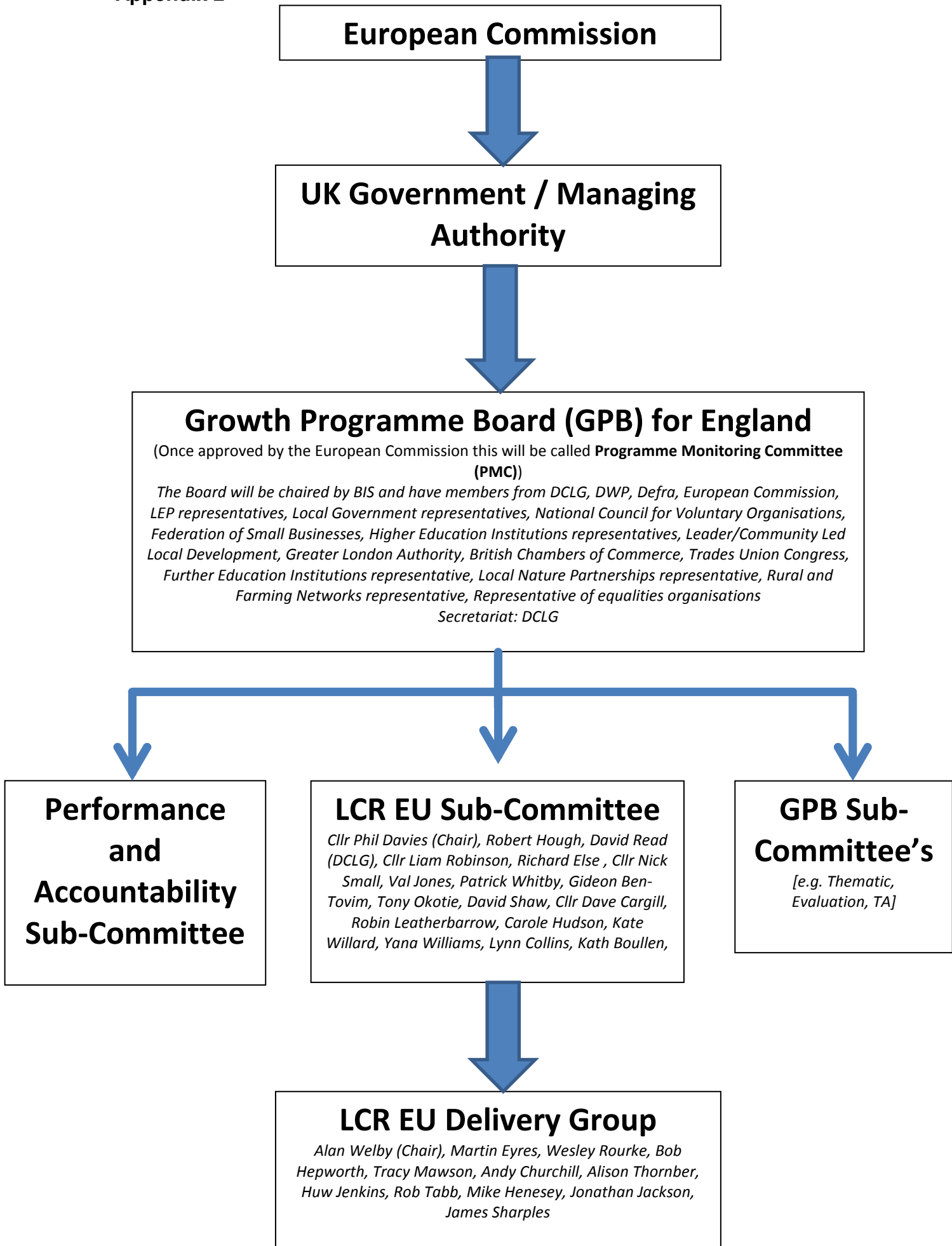
## Glossary

<b>European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF)</b>	<p>The European Structural and Investment Funds are provided for investment by member states of the European Union to reduce differences in economic performance within and between the member states. The European Structural and Investment Funds available to the United Kingdom in 2014 – 2020 comprise the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) supports businesses to grow and to create new businesses.</li> <li>▪ The European Social Fund (ESF) supports people to gain skills and qualifications to gain employment and prioress in work.</li> <li>▪ The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) supports rural areas.</li> </ul>
<b>Programme Monitoring Committee</b>	<p>The Programme Monitoring Committee (PCM) is responsible for monitoring the implementation of the Operational Programme. PMC's are made up of representatives of government and key stakeholders. A single PMC, the Growth Programme Board will be established covering ESF and ERDF. The EAFRD and EMFF operational programmes will have their own PMCs but elements of these funds will be taken forward in conjunction with the Growth Programme Board to ensure activities area aligned and make the maximum contribution to local growth.</p>
<b>LCR EU Sub-Committee</b>	<p>Government is committed to the principle of localism and giving local organisations greater control over ESIF investment. As part of this each Local Enterprise Partnership area will convene an EU Sub-Committee, which will be a sub-group of the Programme Monitoring Committee. The committees will work with the Managing Authority to ensure that the investment of ESIF is in line with local priorities. The committees will have members drawn from a range of sectors and interests including the public sector, the private sector and the voluntary and community sector.</p>
<b>Community Led Local Development</b>	<p>Community Led Local Development will be focused on the specific needs and opportunities of a particular area, usually much smaller than the average Local Enterprise Partnership, and typically through small local community projects. It could be related to a particular theme, such as urban mobility, local energy plans or labour market issues, or to a particular target</p>

	group, such as young people or migrants. It can be used across urban, rural and coastal areas.
<b>Opt-In's</b>	National, government-funded programmes are a key source of match funding for ESIF funds. In the 2007-2013 ESIF programmes almost all of the ESF activity has been managed by national public bodies that have used their own budgets to provide match funding for ESF and procured provision. For the 2014-2020 period, government has decided that automatically top-slicing ESIF to match national programmes will be minimised. Instead Local Sub-Committees will be given the opportunity to allocate some of the ESIF allocation to their area to national bodies who will provide match funding and work with the committee to agree how this is spent to best meet local needs. This process is known as an 'Opt-In'.



Appendix 2



**REPORT TO:** Liverpool LEP

**DATE:** June 2014

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Wesley Rourke

**SUBJECT:** Halton in Europe – Halton Position Paper on the European Structural Funds Programme 2014-20

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 To set out the inclusive process followed in Halton to develop proposals to deliver Halton's contribution to the wider LCR European Programme.
- 3.2 To put into context Halton's contribution to the wider Liverpool City Region European Programme and the significant role that we will play in delivering the required outcomes.

## **2.0 KEY ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 Halton will work closely with the LCR EU Team to support the delivery of the LCR ESIF Strategy
- 2.2 As a more developed region within LCR, Halton expects to have representatives within the refreshed EU governance structures, namely the local EU Committee and the technical group.
  - 2.2.1 Halton has mirrored Liverpool LEP's five Portfolio approach and has appointed lead contacts for all its Portfolios who will filter all Halton bids to the Programme
- 2.3 Portfolio leads will work with approved ERDF and ESF projects to support delivery in Halton to ensure that agreed performance targets are met, with the support of a dedicated European Funding Development post at Halton Borough Council.

## **3.0 Background**

- 3.1 The new 2014–2020 European Structural Programme consists principally of ERDF (European Regional Development Fund) and ESF (European Social Fund) funding. UK Government has devolved European Union (EU) funding in England to the 39 LEPs (Local Enterprise Partnerships). LCR (Liverpool City Region) has been working to produce an EU Investment Plan that sets out how they intend to spend their allocation of EU funding which equates to approximately £185m over the seven year period. Halton has been supporting the development of the LCR European Structural and Investment Strategy, which was submitted to Government in January 2014. This will form part of the National Operational Programme for England for the period 2014 – 2020.
- 3.2 Although part of the Liverpool City Region governance arrangements, Halton is categorised, for European Structural Fund purposes, as a 'more developed' region, with an associated, separate allocation of European and Structural Investment Funds (ERDF, ESF and EAFRD) of approximately £17m. This is because Government allocated resources based on the regional geography of 2006 (when Halton was classed as part of Cheshire) and apportioned resources for Halton accordingly. Given that the Liverpool LEP will be

required to distinguish between the resources set aside for Halton and the rest of the City Region, it is logical to develop a European Funding Action Plan for the Borough.

#### 4.0 Halton’s role in delivering the European Structural and Investment Fund (ESIF) for the Liverpool City Region 2014 – 2020

4.1 Whilst Halton is distinct from the wider LCR in its allocation as a more developed region, we share many of the challenges and opportunities identified within the LCR wide ESIF Strategy. Therefore, local partners felt this an opportune moment to provide a succinct and high-level strategic paper, which not only emphasises the complementarity between Halton’s key priorities and the five agreed LCR ESIF portfolios, but also demonstrates the significant contribution that Halton’s proposed projects and programmes can and will make to delivering The Liverpool City Region Growth Plan and Strategic Economic Plan to drive new job creation and growth in the City Region, as summarised in **Appendix 1**.

4.2 Together with our partners, including the Halton Employment Partnership, Skills Group, Employment, Learning and skills Partnership and the Halton Strategic Partnership Board, we have been able to profile the more specific nature of Halton’s contribution to the wider LCR European outcomes. In particular, Halton has the significant asset of Sci-Tech Daresbury, which is of importance, not only to Halton and the LCR, but also to the surrounding LEPs; this has been recognised through the Atlantic Gateway partnership. In our view, it is an asset of such national and international significance that it will require support on a different scale than that being available within the notional allocation of ESIF funds to Halton.

#### 5.0 Halton’s position in the LCR Governance Structures

5.1 Halton’s status is reflected in the Combined Authority protocols for the City Region namely “Arrangements are currently in place to ensure that any European resources attributed to Halton complement the Merseyside Phasing in area/transition area”. Therefore, we propose to continue with the recognition of Halton as a more competitive region with representative within the LCR governance structure

5.2 We would now welcome more detailed discussions with the **LEP** to further promote the complementarity between Halton and wider City Region priorities as outlined above.

#### 6.0 Halton Priority Projects

6.1 The diagram below shows the key building blocks to delivering economic prosperity, which we have used to inform the process of developing our proposals under the European programme.



- 6.2 The proposals developed reflect tried and tested models that will deliver economic growth and prosperity for Halton and the wider LCR. Partners in Halton have played a full and active role in developing proposals, including the Halton Employment Partnership (HEP), The Skills Group, Employment, Learning and Skills Specialist Strategic Partnership (ELS SSP) and Halton's Strategic Partnership Board (LSP). In addition a Steering Group of both internal and external partners has been meeting for the last year to identify and develop priority projects, and a stakeholder event was held in February 2014 to discuss draft Portfolios in more detail.
- 6.3 The table in **Appendix 2** identifies the thinking to date in relation to the projects that Halton would want to bring forward as part of the European Programme 2014-20. We have built in flexibility around these proposals, so, where appropriate, they can dovetail with proposals across the wider LCR and compliment the work undertaken through the opt-ins. A SWOT analysis of Halton's contribution to the wider LCR European Programme has been completed and is attached in **Appendix 3**.

### **7.0 Opt-Ins**

- 7.1 Halton expects to be part of the six opt-ins (MAS, GA, UKTI, DWP, SFA and Big Lottery Fund) under consideration by the LCR ESIF partnership.
- 7.2 Due to Halton's manufacturing focus and Sci Tech Daresbury, Halton will require higher level skills which go above level 5.

### **8.0 Financial Instruments**

- 8.1 Halton will await the outcome of the evaluation work the LEP has commissioned in respect of the future management and delivery of the financial instruments, which are currently operating in the LCR. Halton, where possible, will be aligning itself with the rest of the LCR. However, it is imperative that we can see a benefit to using the financial instruments, as they represent a significant proportion of the Halton allocation.

### **Key Contacts for Halton:**

#### **Steph Davies, Lead Funding Officer, External Funding Team**

Email: [steph.davies@halton.gov.uk](mailto:steph.davies@halton.gov.uk)

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#### **Wesley Rourke, Operational Director, Economy Enterprise and Property**

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Tel: 0151 511 8645

Last updated: June 2014

Appendix 1: Halton's contribution to the LCR ESIF and LGP

Appendix 2: SWOT Analysis

## Appendix 1

HALTON PRIORITY	LINK TO LCR ESIF	LINK TO LCR LOCAL GROWTH PLAN	HALTON 'OFFER' EARLY PROJECTS
<p><b>Blue Green Economy Indicative Projects</b></p> <p><b>Portfolio Lead - Jim Yates, Assistant to the Chief Executive, Chief Executive's Office</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Heat Networks – decentralised energy network East Runcorn</li> <li>2. Retrofit - development of a domestic and industrial energy efficiency programme</li> <li>3. Hydrogen Fuel Network, and infrastructure project that is part of a wider plan to develop Ultra Low Carbon transport capability in the City Region</li> <li>4. Green Networks helping businesses to take up micro technologies/ renewable technologies</li> </ol>	<p>SEAP project support</p> <p>Energy Performance Certificates target for all residential housing stock to achieve EPC "C" rating</p> <p>Low Carbon supply chain development</p> <p>Install measures to address power supply issues to allow growth in key economic locations</p> <p>Business diversification support into Low Carbon sector</p>	<p>Support the Government's and LCR carbon reduction targets and support local air quality management objectives.</p> <p>Through the SEAP Programme Group and Viridis, reduce energy consumption and efficiency, with a consequential impact on fuel poverty.</p> <p>Develop further capabilities for sustainable growth solutions using research and development across sectors.</p>	<p>Decentralised energy network East Runcorn</p>
<p><b>Business Economy Indicative Projects</b></p> <p><b>Portfolio Lead – Tim Leather, Lead Officer, Business Improvement and Growth</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Winning new business via Government manufacturing advisory service networks, such as MAS and UKTI; develop new market/investment opportunities; support to increase sales; business to business networks</li> <li>2. Business start-ups Support and Entrepreneurial Culture programmes</li> <li>3. Business Support and</li> </ol>	<p>Business Start-Up &amp; High Growth Start-Up</p> <p>Growth Ambitions &amp; Investment Readiness</p> <p>Target Groups and Social Enterprise</p> <p>Promoting enterprise in schools and to under-represented groups</p> <p>Investment Readiness</p>	<p>Business support and growth with a particular focus on growth areas and keeping an international focus.</p> <p>Supporting competitive businesses to thrive and grow</p> <p>Winning new</p>	

<p>Investment Readiness</p> <p>4. Skills Development – support to develop current and future workforce via higher level apprenticeships and higher level skills/qualifications</p>	<p>Support</p> <p>Supply Chain Development</p> <p>Marketing &amp; New Business Skills</p> <p>Entrepreneurial Skills</p>	<p>business, encouraging business start-up &amp; entrepreneurial culture</p> <p>Business support &amp; investment readiness</p>	
<p><b>Innovation Economy Indicative Projects</b></p> <p><b>Portfolio Lead - Wesley Rourke Operational Director, Economy, Enterprise &amp; Property</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Business Support Hub</li> <li>2. Procurement Support Programme</li> <li>3. Access Programme for STFC Facilities</li> </ol>	<p>Innovation for Business Growth; Higher level skills for growth, Physical research and innovation infrastructure, including incubation space, R&amp;D centres/business interfaces and facilities to support collaborative research.</p> <p>Promotion of Science offer across LCR and NW.</p>	<p>Harnessing and Exploiting Science Technology and Innovation Assets: Enabling Activity “Developing an Innovation Eco System”</p> <p>To continue working with knowledge sector partners to promote the delivery of specialist facilities – including incubation and grow-on space – to support business growth in research and innovation intensive activities</p>	<p>Sci-Tech Daresbury – International Science Infrastructure: Scientific Computing; Accelerator Science; Nuclear Physics</p>
<p><b>Inclusive Economy Indicative Projects</b></p> <p><b>Portfolio Lead - Siobhan Saunders, Divisional Manager, Employment, Learning &amp; Skills</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Tackling Youth Unemployment (NEET (Not in Employment, Education, Training) 16-24 year olds</li> <li>2. Helping adults back into work 24+</li> <li>3. Skills Development: ‘Knowledge Economy Pathway’</li> <li>4. Social Growth &amp; Connectivity</li> </ol>	<p>Removing barriers to work and transition to work, including work support, work experience, careers guidance, transport etc.</p> <p>Personalised support for young people and adults to include information advice and guidance, re-employability programmes</p>	<p>Skills Development to ensure we have an appropriately aligned workforce to identified growth sectors.</p> <p>Workforce development with businesses recognising the value</p>	

<p>5. Halton Community Services: Supported Employment Project, Assistive Technologies Project, SureStart to Later Life 'Age and Opportunities' Project</p>	<p>and targeted support for people with particular barriers to address exclusion</p> <p>Support employees and residents to achieve skills and qualifications linked to growth sectors</p>	<p>of investing in skills</p> <p>Commitment to tackle unemployment, particularly youth unemployment, and promote resilience.</p> <p>Commitment to work with health providers and welfare to work contractors to ensure that the correct support is in place for residents with work-limiting health conditions.</p> <p>Continue to develop support to encourage growth in Apprenticeships opportunities and take up by residents across all levels.</p>	
<p><b>Place and Connectivity Indicative Projects</b></p> <p><b>Portfolio Lead – Mick Noone, Operational Director, Policy, Planning &amp; Transportation</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To kick start the delivery of the Mersey Gateway Sustainable Transport Strategy via the delivery of a turn up and go Rapid Transit Public Transport Network which will also provide for a range of other sustainable transport schemes, including an improved cycle network linking Halton and the wider LCR, to enable residents to better access employment opportunities.</li> <li>2. Realtime/Smartcard/Intelligent Transport System (ITS) will complement Project 1 by enabling seamless travel through smart ticketing and the development of a realtime</li> </ol>	<p>Investments in ticketing technologies and information systems</p> <p>Measures to address congestion / over-crowding</p> <p>Public transport network improvements</p>	<p>Focused transport investment to Support economic growth particularly via sustainable transport investments and low carbon logistics.</p> <p>To contribute to improving connectivity, improving the passenger experience, and enabling goods and freight to move around the region and connect to external markets.</p> <p>The Mersey Gateway is in the Top 100</p>	

<p>network information system to facilitate well informed travel choices.</p> <p>3. Extension of SFBB programme</p> <p>*Projects in this Portfolio may need repackaging as initiatives to improve accessibility to work</p>		<p>Global Infrastructure projects as compiled by KPMG; and seeks to bring forward and connect key logistics and freight sites throughout the City Region to create jobs and stimulate economic growth.</p>	
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## Appendix 2

## Halton SWOT Analysis

<p><b>STRENGTHS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Previous track record in delivering European Programmes</li> <li>• Halton is of national and international significance for connectivity for business, logistics &amp; freight</li> <li>• Halton has a strong foundation in partnership working and good relationships with businesses</li> <li>• The potential to build a larger, nationally significant and differentiated innovation economy</li> <li>• Potential to expand high productivity sectors</li> <li>• Significant knowledge assets including Sci-Tech Daresbury and The Heath</li> <li>• Strong governance structure</li> <li>• Opportunities that can build upon the strength and significant work of the Voluntary and Community sector in Halton, including developing social enterprises</li> <li>• Significant sustainable transport infrastructure</li> <li>• Successful delivery model and processes in place, for example through the Mersey Gateway team</li> </ul>	<p><b>WEAKNESSES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Halton was outside the 2007-13 phasing-in governance and programme arrangements so not necessarily tied into existing networks/committees etc.</li> <li>• Legacy of hard to treat brownfield land and industrial activity</li> <li>• High share of public sector employment</li> <li>• Skills gaps, technical, high-level and generic across the workforce</li> <li>• Persistent pockets of deprivation, social exclusion and health inequalities</li> <li>• Out-migration of population, particularly young people including graduates and key workers</li> <li>• Whilst the new Mersey Gateway will be a significant asset to Halton and the wider LCR, the build period will result in some traffic problems and may impact on businesses and employees in the short term</li> <li>• Across the LCR we need to get 46,200 residents into employment in order to achieve employment rates equivalent to national averages.</li> </ul>
<p><b>OPPORTUNITIES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exploitation of the national and internationally significant Sci Tech Daresbury Enterprise Zone</li> <li>• Building relationships/delivering joint projects with other LCR authorities, cross LEP working</li> <li>• Tried and tested models of delivery which can be replicated/extended</li> <li>• 2014 International Festival of Business</li> <li>• Improving educational attainment</li> <li>• Growth sectors with the potential to offer a range of occupational opportunities across all levels</li> <li>• The Silver Jubilee Bridge 10 year Major Maintenance Scheme is of cross LEP significance, as a major road link from Cheshire to Merseyside and beyond.</li> <li>• Major investments to start including The Mersey Gateway</li> <li>• Unique, Halton led opportunity for link to the h2 network for LCR</li> </ul>	<p><b>THREATS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Without full and direct participation, Halton will not be able to deliver its priority EU funded projects.</li> <li>• Ageing population with significant implications for the labour force and public service requirements</li> <li>• Out-migration of population, particularly young people including graduates and key workers</li> <li>• Loss of accumulated skills from the older workforce</li> <li>• Change in the nature of employment from full-time to part-time</li> <li>• Costs of bringing brownfield land back into use</li> <li>• Future constraints on employment land availability</li> <li>• Reduction in public sector funding and staffing resources to help support business growth and investment. The delivery of future programmes will have to form part of a comprehensive business support programme which is adequately resourced</li> </ul>

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	Employment, Learning and Skills and Community Policy and Performance Board
<b>DATE:</b>	10 <sup>th</sup> November 2014
<b>REPORTING OFFICER:</b>	Strategic Director Children and Enterprise
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Northern Futures, Growth Deals and the Adonis Review
<b>PORTFOLIOS:</b>	Economic Development Physical Environment
<b>WARDS:</b>	Borough-wide

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

The purpose of this report is to update Members on several recently announced policy initiatives and to advise on Halton's response.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATION**

The PPB notes the work the Council has been undertaking to respond to these initiatives.

## **3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

### **3.1 Northern Funds Review**

The Northern Funds Futures initiative was announced in a speech by the Deputy Prime Minister on 4<sup>th</sup> July. He has written to all Council Leaders asking for ideas on what the Government should be doing to support growth in the North. The initiatives are linked to the Chancellor's Powerhouses of the North concept which argues for improvements to transport infrastructure between the North's major cities.

The Deputy Prime Minister's focus appears to be on ways to create a "Northern Hub", focussed on a group of cities or one "Super City".

Halton's response to the request has been to emphasise the key strategic assets that the Borough holds and how they could be further developed to make a real contribution to transforming the economic future of the North.

Halton's response focuses on the following key themes:-

Science and Innovation; Transport Infrastructure; Logistics and Distribution; Digital Infrastructure; Business Improvement and Growth and the Low Carbon Economy.

The themes are supported by a number of “high-level” projects.

Our response emphasises the point that a focus on cities should also reflect the contribution that adjoining areas can make to growing the economy of the North and improving connectivity between cities and the outlying areas would deliver more equitable growth.

### **3.2 Growth Deals**

Government has announced the first instalment of “Growth Deals” (LEPs) for the Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) in England. The first wave of Growth Deals has allocated £6b. Growth Deals are part of the Government’s response to the Heseltine Review which proposed devolving spending from Central Government to Local Partners. The money is not “new” but is a limited devolution of budget lines.

The Liverpool City Region received £46m 2015/16 £30.4 per head and £232m or £153.4 per head 2015/21. This compares favourably with the country average, but not when compared with the major cities of Birmingham Leeds and Manchester.

LEPs were asked to identify a series of projects which were then included in a competitive bidding process which was overseen by Central Government.

Government has recently encouraged a further devolvement of resources through “Growth Deal 2”.

Halton’s response has been to refer the LEP to previously agreed initiatives which formed part of the earlier Local Growth Plan submission to Government. It is felt that this document adequately captures Halton’s key strategic regeneration priorities.

### **3.3 The Adonis Review**

Labour has published its review of local economic growth “Mending the Fractured Economy”, known to many as the Adonis Review. The review considers policies to promote growth in England and is regarded as the document which will influence Labour’s Economic policy in the run-up to the General Election.

The main proposal is to give more control and funding to Local Enterprise Partnerships for housing, transport and employment schemes; giving combined Authorities greater control on how additional revenue from business rates is spent; setting a target of 25% of all Government contracts being awarded to Small Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs); expanding apprenticeships in science, technology and maths; creating a national funding

framework for innovation policy; establishing a network of Small Business Investment Companies.

#### **4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

The recent referendum on Scotland's independence has re-energised the debate on devolving powers and responsibilities to local areas. Members may feel that some of the discussions are reminiscent of previous initiatives such as the Northern Way and The Regional Government Agenda.

Whatever the future governance arrangements in the North may be, it is important that Halton continues to develop its evidence-based approach to economic regeneration. Halton's success in attracting resources to the Borough has been focussed on developing deliverable schemes based on need and demand, set within a strategic regeneration framework of inter-linked schemes. These schemes can then be "Brought off the Shelf" to meet funding /opportunities and policy opportunities that arise.

#### **5.0 OTHER/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no other implications arising from this report.

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

Halton Borough Council has long recognised that improving the Borough's economy is the key to making Halton a better place to live and work.

A greater say in how resources are allocated will allow us to play a greater role in continuing to develop a multi-themed approach to growing the economy of Halton.

#### **7.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

There are no risks arising from this report.

#### **8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY**

There are no equality and diversity points arising from this report.

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

There are no background papers.

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	Employment Learning and Skills and Community Policy Performance Board
<b>DATE:</b>	10th November 2014
<b>REPORTING OFFICER:</b>	Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise
<b>PORTFOLIO:</b>	Economic Development
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Youth Employment Gateway
<b>WARD(S)</b>	Borough-wide

### 1.0 **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Members with information on the Youth Employment Gateway Programme, which is due to commence in October.

### 2.0 **RECOMMENDATION: That:**

- 1) Members support the development of an Youth Employment Gateway Programme in Halton.**

### 3.0 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 3.1 The Liverpool City Region secured £5.9million of Government investment to deliver a programme to reduce youth unemployment across the City Region over the next three years. Knowsley Council is acting as the Accountable Body on behalf of the other City Region Local Authorities. However, each Local Authority has been given an allocation (see table 1) to deliver their scheme in respective areas. Allocations are based on volume and percentage of 18-24 year olds on Job Seekers' Allowance (JSA). Whilst the programme is scheduled to start on 1<sup>st</sup> September, it is acknowledged that, in order to proceed, Local Authority officers will be seeking to obtain the necessary permissions from their respective cabinets in the next two-three weeks.
- 3.2 The programme aims to support young people aged 18-24 years old, who have been unemployed between 2 and 9 months. This is pre-Work Programme support.
- 3.3 A more detailed explanation of how the Youth Employment Gateway Programme would work is contained in appendix 1. Appendix 2

outlines how young people will be referred to the programme and how the Local Authority would be expected to contribute to the programme.

- 3.4 However, in summary, this contract will enable the Employment, Learning and Skills Division to work with all levels of young unemployed individuals in the borough, whilst providing the shorter term unemployed with access to an already established range of employment-related interventions and outstanding employability courses. The programme will also encourage young people to consider self-employment as a career option.

#### 4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The Programme provides an excellent opportunity to provide our young people with a coherent support package to help them into sustained work. It will also test the comparative effectiveness of two models of delivery: 1) individualised budgets and 2) personalised budgets.
- 4.2 Given, current policy thinking on devolved budgets to (City) Regions; it presents an opportunity to demonstrate to Government that the Liverpool City Region has the capacity, infrastructure and expertise to manage contracts of this nature.

#### 5.0 **OTHER/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 By participating in the programme, Halton will receive a **grant** of £142,900 for phase 1 of the programme (duration from October 2014 to August 2015) and a **grant** of £295,855 for phase 2 of the programme (duration from September 2015 to August 2016). It is important to note that payments are made in advance, but of course, would be subject to satisfactory completion of programme targets.
- 5.2 The Council's Employment Learning and Skills Division is leading on the development and implementation of the YEG in Halton. This is because there is the potential to deliver the programme in a cost effective way, given the synergy that exists between this programme and other help into work and training initiatives that the division provides.

Where possible existing staff resources are being utilised. However, Members are advised that additional staff costs are required to deliver the programme, more so in phase 2 when target referral numbers increase significantly. These costs will be paid using the grant above. It is anticipated that three additional posts will be created. Due regard has been given to the Council's staffing protocol in respect of the redeployment of staff deemed to be 'at risk'.

Members are reminded that 95% of the Council's Employment Learning and Skills division is no longer Council mainstream funded and this provides a mechanism for drawing income to the service to support with the long-term sustainability of the service.

- 5.3 The division will also, where appropriate, commission support through the existing Halton Employment Partnership network.

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

### 6.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

N/A

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

Overall the YEG programme will assist in providing job opportunities for local people and will go some way to address the high levels of Youth unemployment in Halton.

### 6.3 **A Healthy Halton**

N/A

### 6.4 **A Safer Halton**

N/A

### 6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

N/A

## 7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

- 7.1 There are risks to the Council in entering into an agreement with Knowsley MBC, (the accountable body for this initiative). These same risks have been acknowledged and accepted previously, for example, previous RGF, ERDF and GPF agreements. The risk is that the Council may be asked to repay the grant if programme targets are not met. In mitigation, Members are advised that the phase 1 targets are relatively modest and, therefore, this allows for a period of transition.

At the time of writing, the six Local Authorities were considering the most appropriate contract which will be used as the legal framework for delivering this programme.

## 8.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

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

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

None under the meaning of the Act.



## Appendix 1 – Youth Employment Gateway - PROGRAMME DELIVERY

The purpose of the Youth Employment Gateway (YEG) funding is to support 18-24 year olds into sustained employment. Beneficiaries will be offered the opportunity to join the programme on a voluntary basis<sup>1</sup> from 8 weeks of unemployment and will remain 'on-programme' until they have found a job or until they join the Work Programme after nine months of unemployment.<sup>2</sup> The precise referral process from Jobcentre Plus advisers still needs to be developed.

As a secondary outcome the YEG programme will also aim to test the comparative effectiveness of two models of delivery: 1) individualised budgets and 2) personalised budgets.

### 1) Individualised budget

In this model the beneficiary will receive an upfront guidance interview which will introduce the young person to the programme, identify the young person's aspirations and needs and agree a plan of interventions. The plan will include regular 1:1 reviews with the guidance officer and any interventions identified will be funded through a centralised budget held by the guidance team.

### 2) Personalised budget

In this model the beneficiary will receive an upfront guidance interview which will introduce the young person to the programme and identify the young person's aspirations and needs, with a plan of interventions. The plan will include regular 1:1 reviews with the guidance officer and any interventions identified.

The young person will then be provided with a personalised training and support account with a set value per beneficiary. The account will be accessible through an App through which the young person will be able to book/access relevant support packages. All provision/training purchased through the App will be signed off by the relevant guidance officer as relevant and appropriate.

The App will offer other functionality for the young person, potentially including job search and job alerts.

Should the beneficiary enter employment with unspent monies in their personalised budget then this resource will be available to the young person to purchase relevant training and support during their first six months of employment alongside any planned investment by employers.

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<sup>1</sup> Participants will have to meet JCP requirements for Jobseekers

<sup>2</sup> This element of the model may need to be amended should any significant changes be made to existing mandatory provision for this age group.

Across both services Guidance staff will also continue to provide follow up support to the young person during their first six months in employment including meeting the costs of training where appropriate.

The development of the App and the commissioning of the relevant framework contract are likely to take at least 6-8 months, making the delivery of Personalised Budgets impractical until the start of 2015 at the earliest. In order to allow for any delays and to ensure sufficient time for App testing, the programme will utilise both programme delivery models, and in so doing, will provide a useful test between the two methods of provision.

Delivery of support to each cohort will be managed by a guidance team within each Local Authority (either directly employed or contracted). The size of the team within each area will be dependent upon the size of the local cohort identified for that local authority area.

In addition there is a proposal for activity on the demand-side to boost the take up and delivery of Wage Incentive Subsidies for employers. As this activity will cut across all individuals in the Youth Employment Gateway and those not e.g. Work Programme, it will be a stand-alone strategic piece of work. This activity does not form part of this paper.

Delivery of the Youth Employment Gateway will also be based on a two-staged programme approach.

This two stage approach is reflected in the likely time arrangements outlined below.

Stage 1 – Individualised Budgets	
Size of Cohort: 1,180	All beneficiaries recruited to the programme will access Individualised Budgets. This element of the programme will run until December 2016 in order to provide for any beneficiaries joining in August 2015 who subsequently require 6 months of support and six months of in-work provision.
Starters to commence: September 2014 – August 2015	

Stage 2 – Personalised Budgets	
Size of Cohort: 7,500	All beneficiaries recruited to the programme will access Personalised Budgets. This element of the programme will run until December 2017 in order to provide for any beneficiaries joining in August 2016 who subsequently require 6 months of support and six months of in-work provision.
Starters to commence: September 2015 – August 2016	

Irrespective of whether they join at stage 1 or 2; all Youth Employment Gateway participants will receive an end-to-end support programme with the following key unifying themes:

- Access to the same levels and type of support
- Empowering individuals and employers to play a more active role in combating youth unemployment
- Building the resilience of individuals to take more responsibility for the choices and actions they take
- Bringing labour market support and demand together
- Increasing personalisation of services
- Full access to a host of funded mainstream interventions

The programme as outlined currently focuses on young people who have been unemployed for 8 weeks or more (excluding vulnerable groups). Whilst this still gives up to 7 months to work with a young person, every effort should be made to maximise the time a young person can spend on programme in order to provide early intervention and continuity.

The project has the following outputs and outcomes over a period of up to 3 years. These figures relate to the Youth Contract Underspend investment and potential match funding:

- 8,680 young people accessing support
- 4,368 young people helped and supported directly into work
- 3,071 young people sustained in work for 6 months or more
- A testing of a personalised budget approach accessed through a new mobile phone/web application.

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

**DATE:** 10<sup>th</sup> November 2014

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director Policy & Resources

**SUBJECT:** Business Planning 2015-18

**WARDS:** Boroughwide

### **1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 To offer a timely opportunity for Members to contribute to the development of Directorate Business Plans for the coming financial year.

### **2.0 RECOMMENDATION**

**That the Board receive the information provided and indicates any areas of service activity that are considered relevant to plan development.**

### **3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 3.1 Each Directorate of the Council is required to develop a medium-term business plan, in parallel with the budget, that is subject to annual review and refresh. The process of developing such plans for the period 2015-2018 has now begun.
- 3.2 At this stage Members are invited to identify a small number of priorities for development or improvement (possibly 3-5) that they would like to see reflected within those plans. Strategic Directors will then develop draft plans which will be available for consideration by Policy and Performance Boards early in the New Year.
- 3.3 Whilst providing a Directorate context each of the Directorate Business Plans will contain appendices identifying specific Departmental activities and performance measures and targets that would provide a focus for the on-going monitoring of performance throughout the year.
- 3.4 It is important that Members have the opportunity to provide input to the process at the early stages in order that their knowledge of local and organisational issues forms an integral element of plan development.
- 3.5 It should be noted that plans can only be finalised once budget decisions have been confirmed in March and that some target information may need to be reviewed as a result of final outturn data becoming available post March 2015.

- 3.6 To assist the Board the Operational Director (Economy, Enterprise and Property) will give a short presentation on the issues and challenges facing the areas that fall within the Boards remit over the period of the next plan and will circulate the outline of that presentation in advance of the meeting.
- 3.7 The timeframe for plan preparation, development and endorsement is as follows:

<b>Receiving Audience</b>	<b>Information / Purpose</b>	<b>Timeframe / Agenda on Deposit</b>
<b>PPB</b>	Discussion with relevant Operational / Strategic Directors concerning emerging issues, proposed priorities etc.	Autumn 2014
<b>Directorate SMT's</b>	To receive and endorse advanced drafts of Directorate Plans	SMT dates to be agreed with all Strategic Directors
<b>Management Team</b>	To receive and comment upon / endorse advanced drafts of Directorate Plans	December 2013
<b>PPB's</b>	Receive advanced draft plans including details of relevant departmental service objectives/milestones and performance indicators	January / March PPB cycle
<b>Executive Board</b>	To receive advanced drafts of Directorate Plans for approval	26 <sup>th</sup> March 2015

#### **4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 Business Plans form a key part of the Council's policy framework and as such will be developed taking account of known and anticipated changes within the Council's operating environment.

#### **5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 Directorate Plans will identify known or anticipated resource requirements relating to finance, HR, ITC and accommodation needs.
- 5.2 Arrangements for the provision of Quarterly Priority Based Performance Monitoring Reports to Members would continue. Such reports would routinely contain information concerning key developments and emerging issues and departmental objectives and performance indicators.

## **6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCILS PRIORITIES**

- 6.1 The business planning process is one means by which the progression of the Councils strategic priorities is integrated into the operational activities of Departments and Divisional Teams throughout the organisation.

## **7.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

- 7.1 The development of a Directorate Plan will allow the authority to both align its activities to the delivery of organisational and partnership priorities and to provide information to stakeholders as to the work of the Directorate over the coming year.
- 7.2 Risk Assessment will continue to form an integral element of Directorate Plan development. This report also mitigates the risk of Members not being involved in setting service delivery objectives.

## **8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

- 8.1 There are no equality and diversity issues directly related to this report. However such matters will continue to be reported annually through the performance monitoring process.

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

There are no relevant background documents to this report.

**Employment Learning and Skills and Community Policy and  
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**Members Briefing Note – 10<sup>th</sup> November 2014**

The purpose of this briefing note is to provide members of the PPB with an overview of key strategic issues facing the Board over the medium-term.

As you will appreciate this briefing cannot cover all aspects of the delivery of services across all of functional areas that fall within the remit of this Board but will provide details of the primary drivers that will shape the work of services in supporting and delivering the Council's organisational priorities and business needs.

***Strategic Context***

- **Ongoing Financial Constraints**
- **Difficult Choices**
- **Things that we must do**
- **Lots of change and uncertainty**
- **Maintaining Stability**

The Council continues to operate in an extremely difficult financial climate. We will need to ensure that we continue to meet our statutory responsibilities across all areas of our operations and the Economy, Enterprise and Property Department and the Community and Environment Department will continue to play a key supporting role in this endeavour, for example through effective financial management and the integration of national policy initiatives with

***PPB Areas of Responsibility***

- **Consider each area in turn**
- **Key issues for each**
- **Overview**

efficient arrangements for service delivery.

An overview is provided for each priority for comment and discussion. Members are advised that some priorities will resonate in other PPBs, for example, Environment and Urban Renewal and Resources.

**Employment Learning and Skills and Community Policy and  
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- 1. Welfare Reform the Work Programme**
- 2. Private Sector Interface**
- 3. Youth Unemployment - Youth Employment Gateway**
- 4. Mersey Gateway Employment Schemes**
- 5. Sector Skills**

**Overview**

**1. Welfare Reform - The Work Programme**

Welfare reform is a key priority for Government and will have a major impact on driving economic growth. The Work Programme was introduced in 2011 with the underlying principle of 'making work pay'.

The Work Programme provides an advice and employability service to long term unemployed people. Those eligible for the Work Programme are mandated for up to two years to the provision offered through our Halton People into Jobs, (HPiJ) team. The Work Programme has required a very different type of employment model to be adopted by the Council's Employment Learning and Skills Division.

Firstly, the Job Centre Plus mandatorily refers long term unemployed residents to the Work Programme. Secondly, income is generated per customer, so the more customers the Employment Officers within HPiJ see, the more income that can be generated. It is a performance oriented model that is driven by volume (quantity). The emphasis is on advising customers and supporting them into employment as quickly as possible.

Despite initial difficulties in managing the Work Programme, the income that the team has earned from getting customers into employment has been significant and has allowed the division to continue to provide a broader employment support offer.

Government is considering extending Work Programme contracts. This would mean HPiJ managing the contract for a further 2-3 years. Our prime contractors are keen to work with us beyond the Work Programme, notably in employment and health related matters. However, before committing to this, an evaluation of our involvement in the Work Programme will be required.

**2. Private Sector Interface**

Government continues to focus on private sector employment rather than public employment. The emphasis is still on rebalancing the economy both from a sector-led and a geographic perspective and a move to 'shift power to local communities and businesses'; 'increase confidence to invest'; and 'tackle barriers to growth'.

New business support initiatives have been introduced which are designed to encourage private sector enterprise, and create sustainable private sector jobs.

Government policy is to transfer business support services from the public to the private sector. As a consequence, a number of business support measures are channelled through Local Enterprise Partnerships. However, in the Liverpool City



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Region good working relationships exist between the LEP and the Local Authorities and many business support schemes are led by respective Councils as follows:

**Halton Business Support Programme**

The Halton Business Support Programme, which finishes in September 2015, offers free support to Halton businesses. The programme consists of an initial diagnostic phase which produces an action plan for the business. A subsequent phase offers specialist support for specific areas. Requests for assistance with sales / marketing, strategic business planning and options for ecommerce have been prominent. The scheme is highly successful and continues to engage the Halton business community with 190 companies approaching the Project Team for support. 100 companies have been referred for an initial diagnostic and the creation of an Action Plan for Growth. The programme has, to date, achieved 55 12 hour support outputs and is on course to meet the target of 146 SMEs assisted.

The programme has assisted a range of Halton businesses of Micro to Medium size. A key priority will be to seek funding to continue this activity during the course of this business planning period.

**Liverpool City Region Business Growth Grant Programme**

The Liverpool City Region Business Growth Grant has been providing grant of between £10,000.00 and £1,000,000.00 to eligible companies across the LCR based on a private sector leverage ratio of 5:1 and the creation of sustainable jobs.

**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 of Commerce with 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. This is an important piece of work as it will shape how business support is provided in the future.

**Inward Investment**

The LEP and Local Authority partners are currently debating the development of an Inward Investment Protocol for the Liverpool City Region. The LEP proposes a co-ordinated agency approach, resourced centrally but led by the LEP, to 'sell' the LCR. It will be necessary for Halton to take a proactive role in these discussions to ensure that Inward Investment interventions are actioned at the most appropriate spatial level.

**3. Youth Unemployment – Youth Employment Gateway**

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The Liverpool City Region secured £5.9million of Government investment to deliver a programme to reduce youth unemployment across the City Region over the next three years. The programme is called the Youth Employment Gateway. The purpose of the Youth Employment Gateway (YEG) funding is to support 18-24 year olds into sustained employment. Beneficiaries will be offered the opportunity to join the programme on a voluntary basis<sup>1</sup> from 8 weeks of unemployment and will remain 'on-programme' until they have found a job or until they join the Work Programme after nine months of unemployment.<sup>2</sup>

Each Local Authority has been given an allocation to deliver their scheme in respective areas. Allocations are based on volume and percentage of 18-24 year olds on Job Seekers' Allowance (JSA). This will be a major area of activity for the Council over the next 2-3 years drawing in approximately £450,000 of grant.

**4. Mersey Gateway Employment Schemes**

The Mersey Gateway Regeneration Strategy highlights the potential physical regeneration benefits that can be obtained following the construction of the bridge and the subsequent traffic improvements.

The removal of the current congestion will open the Borough to new investment opportunities which have previously not been available.

Following construction, both temporary land, and land previously used for highways will be available for development, adjacent sites will benefit from improved proximity to a major road network. Economic growth is located around excellent transport links and with the MG Halton will be able to benefit economically.

Post construction the main economic benefits stem from:

- New development sites being available adjoining the MG
- Improved image of Halton, through the quality of the build and landscaping
- Consistent connectivity between M56 & Liverpool
- Greater opportunities for redevelopment and regeneration of older commercial areas through improved location

However, the scheme proposes 470 permanent full-time equivalent jobs on site during the construction phase. Therefore, a number of employment and employability schemes are being developed including the Volunteer Information Sessions and the Mersey Gateway Volunteer Training programme.

Bespoke Mersey Link pre-employability programmes have also been designed for Traffic Management and Business Administration programmes.

**5. Sector Skills**

Sector skills development will continue to focus on Halton's key growth areas i.e.

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<sup>1</sup> Participants will have to meet JCP requirements for Jobseekers

<sup>2</sup> This element of the model may need to be amended should any significant changes be made to existing mandatory provision for this age group.

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Infrastructure (including construction);  
Logistics and distribution;  
Digital Infrastructure;  
Science and Innovation.  
Low Carbon Economy

These themes are presented in more detail in Halton's response to the Northern Futures debate (October 2014).

The Construction Halton initiative acknowledges that the forecast scale of development and other construction related activity in the borough offers significant potential for moving people from benefits into work.

The aims of Construction Halton are to provide a mechanism that will ensure people from disadvantaged groups and areas within Halton are able to access jobs and training opportunities arising in the construction industry.

Continuation of the Science Halton initiative - the combined Science, Technology & Advanced Manufacturing (STAM) Steering Group and Halton Science Action Group is a priority.

Through our work on the Enterprise Zone at Daresbury working with colleagues at the Science Technology Facilities Council (STFC) and Langtree we have now developed a Skills Strategy for Sci-Tech Daresbury.

Halton's strategic position and proximity to a wide range of water, as well as other infrastructure assets is being further exploited with the proposed developments Widnes Waterfront and 3MG.

Delivering fibre broadband to all premises will bring considerable benefits to Halton's residents and businesses. Fibre broadband will offer a step change to SME businesses allowing them to live and work locally while competing globally.

We are working with partners in the City Region to exploit the commercial opportunities for low carbon and the marine economy associated with the port, river, off shore renewables, hydrogen resources, specifically for decentralised low carbon energy, transport and resource efficiency.