

REPORT TO: Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 06th January 2010

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director Corporate and Policy

SUBJECT: Local Area Agreement Performance Report

WARDS: Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To provide information on the progress towards meeting Halton's Local Area Agreement (LAA) targets to September 2009.

2.0 RECOMMENDED THAT:

- i. The report is noted
- ii. The Board considers whether it requires any further information concerning the actions being taken to achieve Halton's LAA targets.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 The revised LAA was signed off by the Secretary of State in June 2008. The LAA contains a set of measures and targets agreed between the Council, local partner agencies (who have a duty of co-operation in achieving targets) and government. There are 32 indicators within the LAA along with statutory and education and early years targets. The current agreement covers the period April 2008 to March 2011.

3.2 The Agreement was refreshed in March 2009 following a review with Government Office North West. It is not expected that there will be many significant changes to the agreement excepting those areas affected by the downturn in the national economy, such as measures relating the local economy and house-building. As a consequence of this government has identified a list of indicators for which targets will be reviewed before the end of March 2010.

3.3 Attached as Appendix 1 is a report on progress to the 2009 – 10 mid-year which includes those indicators and targets that fall within the remit of this Policy and Performance Board.

3.4 In considering this report Members should be aware that:-

- a) All of the measures within the National Indicator Set are monitored through Quarterly Departmental Service Plan Monitoring Reports. The purpose of this report is to consolidate information on all measures and targets relevant to this PPB in order to provide a clear picture of progress.

- b) In some cases outturn data cannot be made available at the mid-year point and there are also some Place Survey based indicators for which information will not become available until 2010 i.e. the next date the survey is due to be undertaken.

4.0 CONCLUSION

- 4.1 The Sustainable Community Strategy for Halton, and the Local Area Agreement contained within it, is the main mechanism through which government will performance manage local areas. It is therefore important that we monitor progress and that Members are satisfied that adequate plans are in place to ensure that the Council and its partners achieve the improvement targets that have been agreed.

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Local Area Agreement acts as the delivery plan for the Sustainable Community Strategy for Halton and is therefore central to our policy framework.

6.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The achievement of Local Area Agreement targets has direct implications for the outcomes in relation to Comprehensive Area Assessment judgements.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

- 7.1 This report deals directly with the delivery of the relevant strategic priority of the Council.

8.0 RISK ANALYSIS

- 8.1 The key risk is a failure to improve the quality of life for Haltons residents in accordance with the objectives of the Sustainable Community Strategy. This risk can be mitigated thorough the regular reporting and review of progress and the development of appropriate actions where under-performance may occur.

9.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

- 9.1 One of the guiding principles of the Local Area Agreement is to reduce inequalities in Halton.

10.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPAERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

Document Local Area Agreement 2008 – 11

Place of Inspection 2nd Floor, Municipal Building, Kingsway, Widnes

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A Local Area Agreement For Halton

June 2008 – April 2011



Urban Renewal

Mid-Year Progress Report

01st April – 30th September 2009

Performance Overview

This report provides a summary of progress in relation to the achievement of targets for Halton Local Area Agreement.

It provides both a snapshot of performance for the period 01st April to 30th September 2009 and a projection of expected levels of performance to the period 2011.

The following symbols have been used to illustrate current performance against 2009 and 2011 target levels.



Target is likely to be achieved or exceeded.









The achievement of the target is uncertain at this stage



Target is highly unlikely to be / will not be achieved.

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Performance Overview**URBAN RENEWAL**

NI	Descriptor	09/10 Target	2011 Target
154	<u>Net additional homes provided</u>		
175	<u>Access to services and facilities by public transport walking and cycling</u>		
186	<u>Per Capita CO2 Emissions in LA area</u>		

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NI 154 Net additional homes provided

Baseline (2007/08)	2009 - 10			2011	
	Target	Mid-year Actual	Progress	Target	Projected
522	518	87	x	518	x

Data Commentary

Progress of major development sites (10 or more units) updated. The position reported is actual data for the period 01st April - 30th September 2009.

General Performance Commentary

Planning Applications received

3 new planning applications (Total of 81 properties)

- Daresbury Hall - Runcorn
- Surrey Street Garage - Runcorn
- Avondale Drive. Former our Lady of Perpetual Succour – Widnes.

Total completions (87) include the following site completions

3 sites completed – Total building completions this quarter 46 dwells.

- Sunningdale Park - Widnes
- Hedge Hey - Castlefields
- Caesars Close – Castlefields

Sites under construction. Improvement in build this quarter

- Forest Brook, Runcorn. (LHT and Riverside Housing)– Total Site (74) nearly $\frac{3}{4}$ of site under construction. 50 dwellings under construction. Affordable housing.
- Swans Reach, Runcorn. (David Wilson Homes)– Total site (90) halfway through build to date .17 under construction, 11 completions. Average sales 2 dwellings per month.
- Lawson House, Runcorn. (Morris Homes) – Renovation of old hotel into 20 apartments expected completion summer 2010. 4 apartments sold to date. 2 of these with shared equity. A pleasing indication for sale of apartments as it is unusual for sales off plan. All houses on site now under construction. Sales going well.

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- Worrall Gardens, Widnes. (Rowland Homes). Total site expected completion in January 2010. Apartment block (12 dwells) expected completion in November & 3 townhouses expected completion January 2010.
- Ascot Gardens, Widnes. (David Wilson Homes) – Approx ¼ of site under construction (total site 90 dwells). This period 9 dwellings under construction and 7 completions. Uncertainty for the rest of the site. No build programmed for remaining ¾ of site at this time, there may be a possibility of looking to amend planning application to reduce the amount of 5 bed properties there is a difficulty in selling these.

Castlefields affordable housing building well – expect site completions within the next few months. Total 52 dwells

- Princess Close
- Richards Close – formerly Oak Lodge .

Apartments building now halted

- Evolution – Percival Lane Runcorn. 2 apartment blocks build halted . Base slabs completed. Total of 56 apartments
- The Deck – Mersey Rd, Runcorn (Just over ½ of site completed to date). Block 7 build halted . Base block completed. Require 10 apartments to be sold before build will continue. Only 2 sold to date.
- Appleton Village – Building halted 33 apartments. Awaiting improvements in market. Hoping to continue built in spring 2010

Sites not started with planning permission.

- Generally sites planned for apartments not intending to carry out planning permission on hold.
- Castlefields sites. Demolition of deck access flats programmed for end of 2009 and into early 2010.
- Halton Brook Neighbourhood Centre (114 dwellings). First phase of overall site new planning Application received on the 06/10/09 - 09/00430/FUL (Site 2) pending approval for 26 affordable dwellings.
- Former British Legion (20 dwellings). Programmed to carry out ground investigations in next few months. Result of this will enable a better estimate of start date.
- Panorama Hotel, Castle Road, Runcorn (15 dwellings) – From site visit, existing building demolition now in progress due to fire damage. Information from agent, client not intending to proceed with planning permission.

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- RMC House, St Marys Road, Widnes (108 dwellings) – Spoken with Mr Basnet of EBL . Discussions well under way for COU to residential care home (C2) with Cosmopolitan Housing Association

Summary of key activities undertaken / planned during the year

Performance has been adversely affected by the availability of credit in the mortgage market that has led to reduced demand for new property build. Indications from a telephone survey of house-builders with active planning applications indicates that 87 dwellings on major housing sites (Sites of 10 dwellings or greater) have been completed to date (September 2009).

Figures for the financial year 09/10 will be available in April 2010.

Anecdotal evidence from our housing partnership is that houses are being built 'to order'. In that if people want to buy a home on a new build site the developer will build it. However due to cash flow constraints developers are not building out the whole site. There are signs that developers are becoming more bullish, especially on Greenfield housing sites where there is a lower financial risk to development and we have had a number of pre-application enquiries about housing development.

It is anticipated that a revised target for this indicator will be negotiated with GONW.

NI 175 Access to services and facilities by public transport walking and cycling

Baseline (2007/08)	2009 - 10			2011	
	Target	Mid-year Actual	Progress	Target	Projected
1A – 100%	100%	Annual figures	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	100%	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1B – 100%	100%		100%		
1C – 86%	82%		89%		
1D – 89%	86%		93%		

Data Commentary

The data for this indicator is collected on an annual basis and as such the progress shown is an estimate of current performance.

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General Performance Commentary

A commentary on actual performance will be provided at year end when the annual data is available.

Summary of key activities undertaken / planned during the year

A and B) Halton Borough Council Priorities Funding remains in place for the continuation of the pre-bookable discounted taxi service for patients and visitors wishing to access Whiston and Warrington Hospitals.

C) The Council is currently in discussions with Arriva and Runcorn College to improve bus links to the college.

D) Halton Transport have recently introduced new services as follows:

- 41 from Windmill Hill – Murdishaw – Palacefields – Beechwood
- 43 from Windmill – Castlefields – Halton Lea – Grangeway;
- 44 From Liverpool – Hough Green – Cronton – Kingsway; and
- 45 From Liverpool – Hale – Queensbury Way – Cronton – Kingsway

The impact of these improvements will be reported at year end.

NI 186 Per capital CO2 emissions in LA area

Baseline (2005)	2009 - 10			2011	
	Target	Mid-year Actual	Progress	Target	Projected
9.9 tonnes per capita	7.52% (9.16 tonnes)	N/A	?	11.1% (8.8 tonnes)	✓

Data Commentary

Data is provided by DEFRA. The 2005 baseline was updated in September 09 on the DEFRA website (http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/what_we_do/lc_uk/loc_reg_dev/ni185_186/ni185_186.aspx). The figures quoted above relate to the new data, so differ from those in the LAA, although the overall percentage reductions remain the same. GONW have approved these figures.

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General Performance Commentary

Currently Halton is performing well against this target using the data from DEFRA, however GONW have indicated that this indicator will be measured on actions rather than on the DEFRA data. We are currently pulling together an LSP action plan for NI186.

Summary of key activities undertaken / planned during the year

The Council has been proactive in reducing carbon emissions from its own operations as well as working with others to help reduce wider emissions. In 2007 the Council took part in the Carbon Trust Local Authority Carbon Management Programme. The Programme involved the Council working together with Carbon Trust advisors to identify specific actions in a Carbon Management Plan, which would lower our carbon emissions over the next five years. A number of initiatives have now been implemented including installation of Multi Functional Printer Devices (MFDs), across its buildings to replace the need for photocopiers, individual printers, and faxes, The Council has removed over 400 standalone printers and replaced them with a reduced number of devices which are more energy efficient. The project has also resulted in the Council using less toner cartridges and those used are all recycled. As well as reducing consumption, project has resulted in financial savings in excess of £60,000 for the Council.

Refurbishment work carried out at Runcorn Town Hall incorporated energy saving measures including increased insulation to reduce energy loss, improved lighting controls and energy saving lights, photo voltaic panels which convert sunlight into energy and solar shading to reduce the need for air conditioning in the summer. Consumption is anticipated to reduce by 20% resulting in savings of £15,000.

A programme of work has also been undertaken at the Stobart Stadium together with staff running and Energy Awareness Campaign to turn off equipment when not in use. The work has included the introduction of sensory and energy efficient lighting, improved heating and boiler controls and the installation of a power perfecter. This has resulted in a reduction in consumption of 24% and a financial saving of £25,000

Energy Awareness campaigns have also been undertaken Councils buildings and employees act as Energy Champions to advice staff in actions they can take to reduce their consumption.

In the future energy efficient measures will be built into future building refurbishments and will be a significant feature of the Building Schools for the Future Programme.

The new vehicle fleet include more energy efficient vehicles and across the fleet bio fuels have been introduced. In terms of staff travel pooled bikes have been introduced, along with a car sharing scheme and campaigns to encourage employees to use public transport, where appropriate.

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This year the council are also working with the Energy Saving Trust (EST) to help further reduce CO2 emissions.

The Energy Saving Trust is funded by Government to work with local authorities and help them to assist householders and businesses to reduce energy and tackle climate change. As part of this work we will be training staff to drive more fuel efficiently using the 'smarter driving' initiative. This work will help the Council to develop a strategy to reduce consumption in the wider community. The Council aims to consult with partners, local residents and business on what the key priorities should be. The aim is to consult in the principles of a Strategy by February 2010, with a draft Strategy being introduced by May 2010. Formal consultation would commence in June 2010 with a final Strategy agreed for publication by November 2010.

The council are currently working with LSP partners to update the action plan for NI186. This will include activity from partners and also proposals for new partnership working.