



Cllr. Ron Hignett
Chairman

Annual Report Environment and Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board April 2010 – March 2011

“I would first like to thank all of the Members of the Environment and Urban Renewal PPB for their efforts and support throughout the year. The Board has scrutinised a substantial volume of work in increasingly challenging times. These efforts have undoubtedly helped with the continued regeneration of the Borough and its environment.

With a broader remit than previous years, the Board has had to consider and respond to a wider range of issues and it has managed to do this admirably. This demonstrates not only a very high level of commitment but also a positive attitude to examining and resolving matters that are brought before Members. I am convinced that the Board’s experience and abilities combine to improve the quality of life in Halton and the opportunities afforded to its communities.”

Councillor Hignett
Chairman, Environment and Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board

MEMBERSHIP AND RESPONSIBILITIES

During 2010/11 the Board comprised eleven Councillors –

Councillor Ron Hignett (Chairman)	Labour
Councillor Keith Morley (Vice-Chairman)	Labour
Councillor Philip Balmer	Independent
Councillor Peter Blackmore	HLIP
Councillor Ellen Cargill	Labour
Councillor John Gerrard	Labour
Councillor Mike Hodgkinson	Liberal Democrat
Councillor Paul Nolan	Labour
Councillor Christopher Rowe	Liberal Democrat
Councillor Dave Thompson	Labour
Councillor Kevan Wainwright	Labour

The Environment and Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board’s primary function is to focus on the work of the Council (and its partners) in seeking to bring about the Environmental and Urban Renewal of the Borough. It is also charged with scrutinising progress against the Corporate Plan in relation to the Environment and Urban Renewal Priority.

The Board is responsible for scrutinising performance and formulating policy in relation to the following areas:

- Highways Transportation & Logistics
- Landscape Services, Parks & Countryside, Cemeteries & Crematoria
- Environmental and Regulatory Services

- Major Projects
- Economic Regeneration and Business Development
- Waste Management
- Contaminated Land
- Sustainability, Climate Change and Biodiversity
- Physical Environment

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

The full Board met 5 times during the year. As well as considering Executive Board decisions relevant to the work of the Environment and Urban Renewal Board, agreeing the Service Plans of the relevant Departments and monitoring their general activities and performance against them, set out below are some of the main activities and issues which the Board has worked on during the year.

Corporate Responsibilities

- The PPB received the minutes of the Urban Renewal SSP.
- The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Resources which provided information on the progress towards meeting Halton's Sustainable Community Strategy targets at 2009-10 financial year end.
- The Board considered a report which gave Members an update on the progress of the new Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) 2011 – 2026 and presented the emerging vision, key objectives and long term priorities that the plan sought to deliver upon. The Board was advised that an updated SCS for Halton was currently at an advanced stage of preparation and would become 'live' from April 2011.
- The Board considered a report which informed Members of a petition relating to traffic conditions in Falkirk Avenue, Upton Rocks, Widnes. The petition requested that the Council build a new road to divert traffic away from Falkirk Avenue. A number of potential courses of action had been investigated and were outlined in the report. Traffic conditions will continue to be monitored.
- The Board was advised that a petition signed by 99 people had been received via Pastor Frank Wilding of Brook Chapel, Boston Avenue, requesting traffic calming measures (speed bumps) be installed in Castle Rise, Runcorn. The request was examined and declined.
- The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Resources which provided an update on Business Planning for the period 2011-14 and the Directorate priorities, objectives and targets for services for this period that fell within the remit of the Board.
- The Board considered a report which informed Members of a petition that had been received from a group of residents who lived at 1 to 8 The Copse, requesting that the Council provide lighting on the access way to their houses.

Highways and Transportation

- The PPB agreed nominations of Members to sit on the Council's Public Transport Advisory Panel for the 2010/11 municipal year.
- The Board agreed that the Chair and Vice Chair of the Environment and Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board sit on the Consultation Review Panel as may be required from time to time.

- The Board considered a report which outlined the current practice relating to the provision of grit storage bins and manual gritting of footpaths, and proposed improvements for the delivery of the service in the future.
- The Board considered a report on the impact of Government funding reductions on the Cheshire Safer Roads Partnership (CSRП) and how these would affect Halton
- The Board considered a report which advised the Members of the progress that had been made during 2009/10 on implementing the capital programme of schemes to support the strategies and policies contained within Halton's second Local Transport Plan (LTP2).
- The Board considered a report which gave details of road traffic collision and casualty numbers within the Borough in the year 2009 and recommended a continuance of road traffic collision reduction work.
- The Board received an update on the implications of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 for Halton and information on the status of the various plans and funding arrangements which supported its introduction. The Board considered a report on the progress on the development of Halton's Surface Water Management Plan (SWMP), the Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (PFRA) and the timescales in relation to other flood risk management related matters.
- Members considered a report the establishment of the Mersey Gateway Environmental Trust, as part of the mitigation scheme for the Mersey Gateway which provided an update on progress in the establishment of the Trust and the reasons for its establishment.

Economic Regeneration and Business Development

- The Board considered a report which provided an update on the 3MG skills and recruitment project which involved the Halton Employment Partnership (HEP) handling the recruitment for the new Tesco chilled distribution centre and the Norbert Dentressangle recycling unit associated with it.
- The Board considered a report which gave Members an update on the implementation of the Construction Employment Integrator Model (now re-named Construction Halton). The report also set out the action plan for the next phase of the Project to March 2011.

Environmental and Regulatory Services

- The Board considered reports which provided members with a copy of the draft Household Waste Collection Policy for comment and endorsement. Adoption of the Policy was recommended and a Waste Management Topic Group was established to scrutinise the process.
- The Board considered a report which outlined revisions to the Council's policy on memorial safety testing in the light of new guidance issued by The Ministry of Justice. In addition, the report also assessed a partnership approach with Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council for the use of Widnes crematorium by Knowsley residents. Members were also updated on the progress in developing new cemetery space in Halton.
- The Board considered a report which outlined the Council's powers in relation to the collection of abandoned shopping trolleys and proposed that recommendations be

made in respect of the adoption of an Abandoned Shopping Trolley Policy.

- The Board received a presentation which provided Members with information on the Rewards for Recycling Scheme. The Board was advised that in October 2009 the Council became only the second local authority in the UK to introduce the Recycle Bank 'Rewards for Recycling Scheme' and the first to introduce the scheme to an established kerbside multi-material recycling service.

Housing

- The Board considered a report which sought its views on the proposal by Plus Dane Housing Association to introduce a local lettings policy to allocate the new properties being constructed as part of the Castlefields Village Square redevelopment

WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2011/2012

The Board has decided that during the current municipal year (2011/12) it will carry out Topic reviews examining the following areas:

The Board was advised that the Household Waste Collection Policy would be considered by the Executive Board on 17th March 2011. It was suggested that Members of the Board may wish to scrutinise the new Household Waste Collection Policy following its adoption. Furthermore, a review of waste collection operations meant that the Waste Management Topic Group needed to be re-established. It was resolved that the Divisional Manager Waste and Environmental Improvement, in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Board, reconstitute the membership of the Waste Management Topic Group.

Members of the Public are welcome at the meetings of the Board. If you would like to know where and when meetings are to be held or if you would like any more information about the Board or its work please contact Mick Noone on 0151 471 7370 or mick.noone@halton.gov.uk