



**The Sustainable Community  
Strategy for Halton  
2011 - 2016**

**Full Year Progress Report  
01<sup>st</sup> April – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012**







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This report provides a summary of progress in relation to the achievement of targets within Halton's Sustainable Community Strategy 2011 - 2016.

It provides both a snapshot of performance for the period 01<sup>st</sup> April 2011 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012 and a projection of expected levels of performance to the year-end.

The following symbols have been used to illustrate current performance as against the 2011 – 12 targets and as against performance for the same period last year.

	Target is likely to be achieved or exceeded.		Current performance is better than this time last year
	The achievement of the target is uncertain at this stage		Current performance is the same as this time last year
	Target is highly unlikely to be / will not be achieved.		Current performance is worse than this time last year

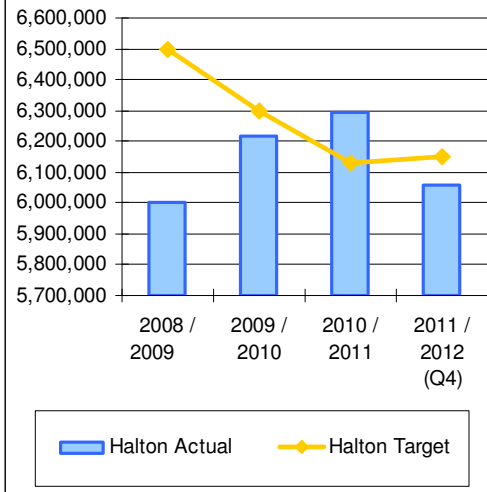
## Environment & Urban Renewal in Halton

Page	Ref	Descriptor	2011 / 12 Target	Direction of travel
4	ER 1	a) Number of Local bus passenger journeys originating in the authority area NI 177		
5		• Number of passengers on community based accessible transport PPT LI 28		
6	ER 2	Percentage of buses starting route on time		
		• Percentage of buses on time at intermediate timing points		
7	ER 3	Average Number of days to repair street lighting faults		
		a) Non Distribution Network Operators		
		b) Distribution Network Operators		
8	ER 4	Percentage of road carriageway where maintenance should be considered		
		a) Principal Carriageways		
		b) Non-Principal Carriageways		
		c) Unclassified Carriageways		
9	ER 5	Satisfaction with the standard of maintenance of trees, flowers and flower beds		
10	ER 6	Residual household waste per household (Kgs)		
11	ER 7	% of household waste recycled / composted		
12	ER 8	Percentage of municipal waste land filled		
13	ER 9	Satisfaction with the standard of cleanliness and maintenance of parks and green spaces		
14	ER 10	Number of Green Flag Awards achieved for Halton		
15	ER 11	Improved local biodiversity – active management of local sites.		
16	ER 12	To regenerate 5 hectares of urban sites per annum for the next five years		N/A
17	ER 13	To make sure there is a 5 year rolling supply of housing land available for 2000 homes over 5 years	N/A	N/A

SCS / ER1a

Number of Local bus passenger journeys originating in the authority area (000) (NI 177)

**NI 177: Number of Local bus passenger journeys originating in the authority**



2010/11 Actual	2011/12 Target	2011/12 Qtr 2	2011/12 Qtr 4	Current Progress	Direction of Travel
6, 293	6, 150	3, 037	6,060		

**Data Commentary:**

The figures for this indicator are actuals from the financial year 2011/12 and are provided by the bus operators in the Borough.

**Performance Commentary:**

The bus network continues to experience a decline in passenger numbers following the withdrawal of a number of commercial and supported services. This is in response to a combination of factors including the government’s deficit reduction strategy and increases in operator’s costs, more particularly for fuel and insurance. This situation is likely to persist with further cuts approved for 2012 – 12 and because from the 1st April 2012 Bus Service Operators Grant (BSOG) paid to the operators to offset the cost of fuel will be reduced by 20% to 34.57 pence per litre from 43.21pence per litre. This will have a significant negative impact on their operating costs.

The Council has also reduced or withdrawn the subsidy on a number of supported services to achieve an approved level of savings which. This has resulted in a total withdrawal of some services affecting approximately 41,000 passenger journeys per year.

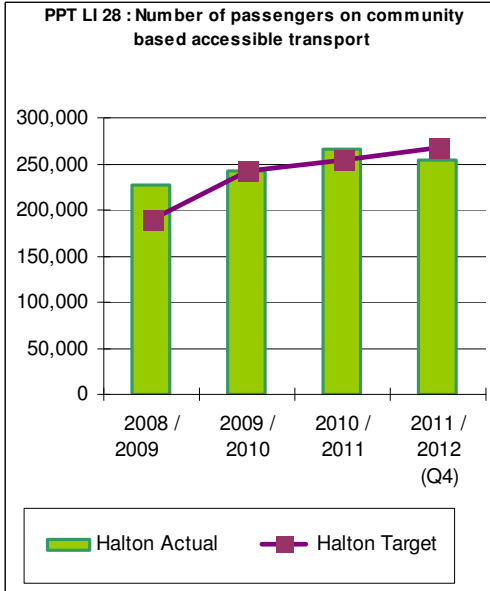
It should be noted that operators have withdrawn approximately 26,000 commercial passenger miles from the network in the Borough since October last year. In addition, operators have also indicated that there has been a drop in social journeys undertaken due to the current economic climate.

**Summary of Key activities taken or planned to improve performance:**

The Council has recently submitted applications to Department for Transport under the Local Sustainable Transport Fund. These bids identified a significant number of measures to improve links into the employment sites in the Borough and also retail and leisure sites. There is also an aspiration within the bid to improve cross boundary links to neighbouring areas. Council Officers will continue to meet with operators to identify possible improvements to the existing network and identify ways forward to implement changes.

SCS / ER1b

Number of passengers on community based accessible transport PPT LI 28



2010/11 Actual	2011/12 Target	2011/12 Qtr 2	2011/12 Qtr 4	Current Progress	Direction of Travel
266, 230	267, 000	122,437	<b>253,682</b>		

**Data Commentary:**

The data above is actual patronage numbers and is provided by the operator and taken from the Council’s in house scheduling system.

**Performance Commentary:**

Q4 has seen an improvement on Q2. However, figures did not achieve the expected target for the year. The decline in the usage of community transport is attributed to the recent introduction of a passenger charging regime on the services. The decline in patronage specifically relates to services operated by Halton Community Transport. In comparison patronage levels on HBC fleet transport for 2011/12 have increased on 2010/11 patronage levels.

**Summary of Key activities taken or planned to improve performance:**

A recent marketing exercise carried out by the operator has had a positive impact on passenger figures for the second half of the year.

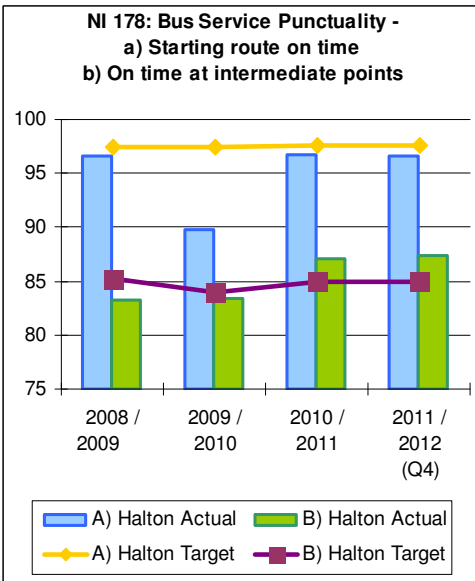
Work has also been carried out to improve the efficiency of the Council’s in house fleet services. This has resulted in an increase in patronage through efficient scheduling of spare capacity within existing fleet resources.

SCS / ER2

Percentage % of Bus services running on time: (NI 178)

a) Percentage of buses starting route on time

b) Percentage of buses on time at intermediate timing points



2010/11 Actual	2011/12 Target	2011/12 Qtr 2	2011/12 Qtr 4	Current Progress	Direction of Travel
a) 96.77	97.60	88.58	<b>96.56</b>		
b) 87.10	85.00	87.11	<b>87.30</b>		

**Data Commentary:**

This data is actual data and is taken from timing checks carried out by a member of the Transport Co-ordination Team.

**Performance Commentary:**

- a) This indicator has improved on Q3 levels but is slightly down on the previous year's performance. This was due to poor performance in the early part of the year. However the indicator does continue to perform within the Traffic Commissioners recommended target of 95%
- b) This indicator has continued to show improvement and achieved the target for this year. The indicator has also showed an improvement on last year's figures.

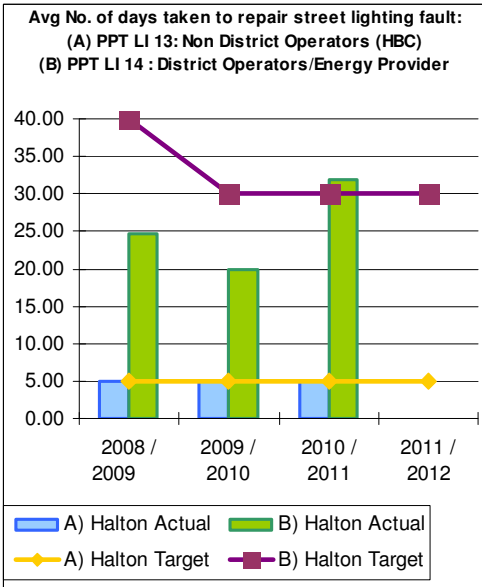
**Summary of Key activities taken or planned to improve performance:**

The Council continues to meet with the operators to discuss the results of the timing checks carried out. Both the dominant operators in the Borough are in the process of upgrading their ticketing machine systems to a GPS based system to enable more effective monitoring of the performance of services within the Halton. The information received from the ticket machine will enable operators to schedule services more accurately as they will have actual running time information.

SCS / ER3

Average Number of days to repair street lighting faults:

- a) Non - Distribution Network Operators (HBC – street lighting term maintenance contract)
- b) Distribution Network Operators



2010/11 Actual	2011/12 Target	2011/12 Qtr 2	2011/12 Qtr 4	Current Progress	Direction of Travel
a) 5.00 b) 32.00	a) 5.00 b) 32.00	a) 4.00 b) 15.00	a) 6.00 b) 29.00	a) b)	a) b)

**Data Commentary:**

This is actual data for year-end derived from Halton Mayrise repair records system.

**Performance Commentary:**

a) The non-DNO repairs have suffered from insufficient resources being assigned to the task by the contractor. This has now been taken up with them and they have brought in additional resources to improve the situation.

b) Whilst Scottish Power have met the target, this level of performance may not continue as they are re-organising their contractors. Officers will continue to monitor their performance.

**Summary of Key activities taken or planned to improve performance:**

The Electricity (Standards of Performance) Regulations were revised by Ofgem (Office of the Gas and Electricity Markets) in autumn 2010. These standards set out service levels that must be met by each distribution network operator and have been set to guarantee a level of service that is reasonable to expect companies to deliver in all cases.

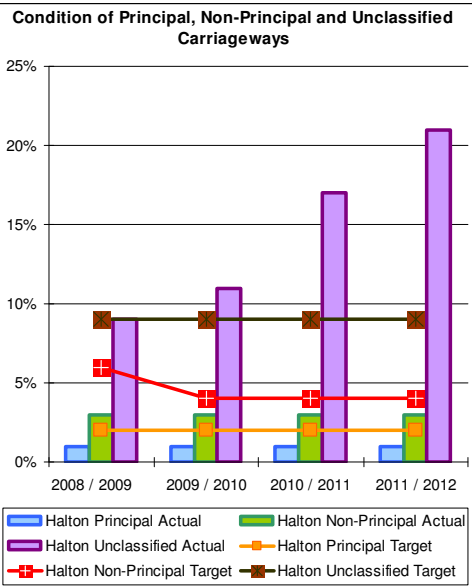
These standards, and the availability of operator resources, will significantly influence the response from Scottish Power, our local Distribution Network Operator (DNO), and are wholly outside of the control of the local authority. As such any targets in relation to the repair of DNO faults will need to be subject to annual review.

Although it takes significantly longer to repair faults outside of our control at present the DNO faults within the borough are not particularly high i.e. approximately 50 – 60 per year. As such it is considered likely that there would be a minimal impact upon the quality of life, and any associated fear of crime, within the community.

SCS / ER4

Percentage of road carriageway where maintenance should be considered

- a) Principal Carriageways
- b) Non-Principal Carriageways
- c) Unclassified Carriageways



2010/11 Actual	2011/12 Target	2011/12 Qtr 2	2011/12 Qtr 4	Current Progress	Direction of Travel
a) 1	a) 2	Data Reported in Q4	a) 1	a)	a)
b) 3	b) 4		b) 3	b)	b)
c) 17	c) 9		c) 21	c)	c)

**Data Commentary:**

The data required to report on this measure is based upon Scanner surveys of the Principal and non-Principal carriageway network and Coarse Visual Inspection of the Unclassified Carriageway network.

**Performance Commentary:**

Performance against this measure should be viewed in the context of 3 successive exceptionally severe winters.

Sound existing construction and the investment made in the structural maintenance, supported by additional Department for Transport grant funding, has enabled Principal and Non-Principal Roads to withstand deterioration due to severe winter weather.

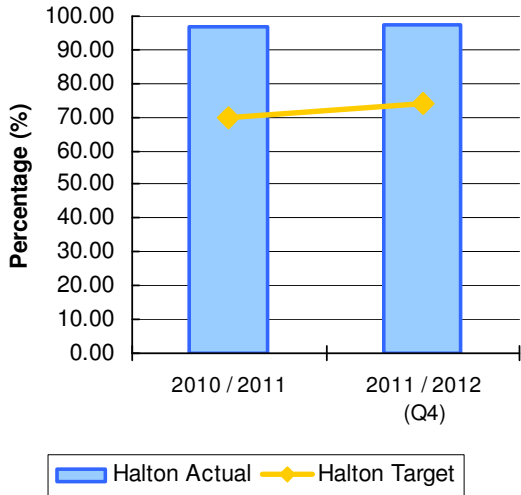
Although the condition of unclassified roads appears to indicate a marked fall in performance (a trend which is mirrored by other LA's) it should be recognised that because only a third of the unclassified network is surveyed each year, this figure will not take account of the increased maintenance programme carried out in the last 2 years. Therefore this should be reflected in the measured condition reported next year and beyond.

**Summary of Key activities taken or planned to improve performance:**

The reallocation of funding to target the unclassified road network will help to improve future performance on this aspect. However 2012/13 will see a significantly reduced maintenance revenue budget. Additionally, given the recent mild winter it is unlikely that the authority will receive any additional DfT pothole funding which it has received in the past two years. Both of these factors are likely to influence future performance on the measures.



**CE LI 18: Greenstat-Survey Satisfaction with the standard of maintenance of trees, flowers and flower beds**



2010/11 Actual	2011/12 Target	2011/12 Qtr 2	2011/12 Qtr 4	Current Progress	Direction of Travel
96.68%	74.00%	96.88%	97.5%		

**Data Commentary:**

Quarter 4 figure represents actual data for the period taken from the Greenstat Survey.

**Performance Commentary:**

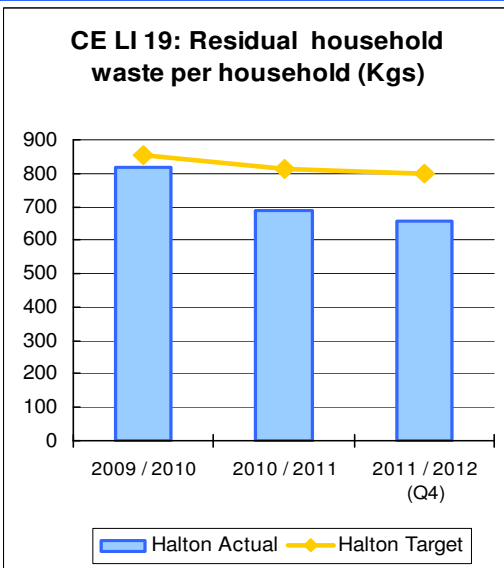
Satisfaction with Halton’s parks and open spaces remains high. The Open Space Service also benchmarks its activities through APSE. In December 2011 based upon the benchmarking data that was submitted for year 2010/11 the service was recognised as the ‘Best Performer for Parks and Horticulture’

**Summary of Key activities taken or planned to improve performance:**

It is hoped that in the short-term levels of public satisfaction can be sustained through the continued maintenance programme. However public perception rates can be influenced by a range of factors and as resources continue to decrease it is more appropriate to establish an acceptable level of satisfaction as opposed to a year on year increase.

The Open Space Service will continue to manage its sites to the highest standards that it can achieve within the resources allocated to it.

SCS / ER6 Residual household waste per household (Kgs)



2010/11 Actual	2011/12 Target	2011/12 Qtr 2	2011/12 Qtr 4	Current Progress	Direction of Travel
688.86	700	333	655.18		

**Data Commentary:**

This indicator monitors the authority’s performance in reducing the amount of waste produced per household.

Although this report covers the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2011 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012, actual data is only currently available for April 2011 to January 2012. Data for February and March 2012 is estimated and is based upon data for the corresponding periods in 2011.

**Performance Commentary:**

Based on an estimated figure the annual target will be met.

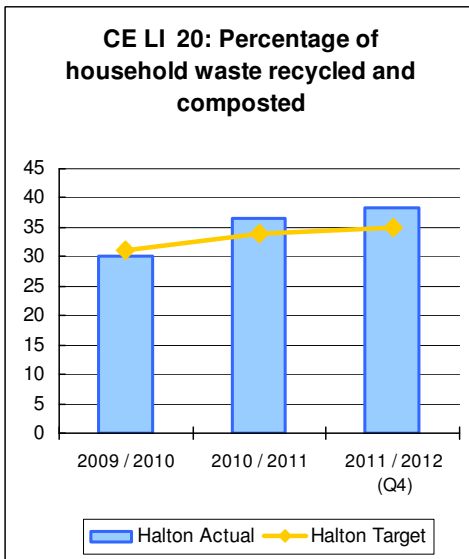
**Summary of Key activities taken or planned to improve performance:**

Given the financial pressures faced by the Council, and the increasing costs associated with landfill, a key challenge over the short and medium term will be to continue to reduce the levels of waste produced per household.

Despite annual improvements in performance against this indicator, the level of waste produced per household in Halton is amongst the highest in the country. Reducing the levels of waste produced in Halton will therefore be particularly challenging and require a significant change in residents’ behaviour. This will only be achieved through further educational and community engagement initiatives. Communications and awareness raising campaigns are on-going and will continue to be delivered to help promote waste reduction.

Such initiatives include:-

- Interactive recycling roadshows covering the benefits of recycling and services available, waste minimisation topics such as Love Food Hate waste, and how to recycle household waste.
- Engagement with hard to reach groups, such as multi-occupancy dwellings, and supporting rewards for recycling and assisting residents with setting up reward accounts.
- A number of educationally focused interventions including visits to schools to engage directly with children in assembly settings, school trips to the Materials Recovery Facility and the provision of support and advice to schools, including all primary schools within the borough.
- Engagement with Council staff through the Composting Champion Scheme to promote facilitated waste reduction through work and home composting.



2010/11 Actual	2011/12 Target	2011/12 Qtr 2	2011/12 Qtr 4	Current Progress	Direction of Travel
38.01%	40.00%	42.12%	38.42%		

**Data Commentary:**

This indicator measures the % of household waste which has been sent by the authority for reuse, recycling or composting.

Although this report covers the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2011 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012, actual data is only currently available for April 2011 to January 2012. Data for February and March 2012 is estimated and is based upon data for the corresponding periods in 2011.

**Performance Commentary:**

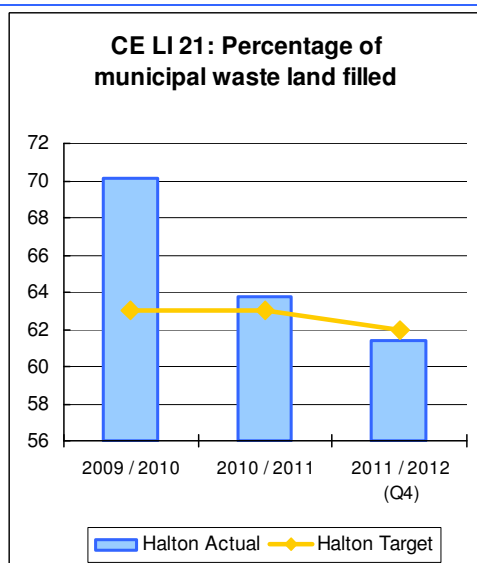
Whilst there has been an increase in recycling performance overall the end of year target has not been achieved. The original 2011/12 target for this indicator was 38%, however this was revised and increased as a result of the performance in 2010/11.

**Summary of Key activities taken or planned to improve performance:**

Given the financial pressures faced by the Council, and the increasing costs associated with landfill, a key challenge over the short and medium term will be to increase recycling performance, thereby reducing the level of waste sent for disposal.

Whilst kerbside multi-material recycling services have been extended to all properties within the last 3 years, and over 500 tonnes more recyclable waste was collected at the kerbside in 2011/12 compared to the previous year; there are areas where participation rates remain relatively low and further work will be needed to increase recycling performance and participation.

Increased participation will require significant change in residents' behaviour and will only be achieved through further educational and community engagement initiatives. The roll out of the Alternate Bin Collection scheme to other areas of the borough will also encourage more residents to recycle more of the waste that they produce.



2010/11 Actual	2011/12 Target	2011/12 Qtr 2	2011/12 Qtr 4	Current Progress	Direction of Travel
63.79	62.00	58.40	61.36		

**Data Commentary:**

This indicator measures the % of Municipal waste which has been sent to landfill for disposal. Municipal Waste is all the waste produced/collected by the Council when carrying out its functions e.g. Household Waste, Commercial Waste, litter and Fly-tipping waste.

Although this report covers the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2011 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012, actual data is only currently available for April 2011 to January 2012. Data for February and March 2012 is estimated and is based upon data for the corresponding periods in 2011.

**Performance Commentary:**

This is an estimated figure, however indications are that the annual target will be met. The total amount of municipal waste land filled this year is significantly less than in 2010/11 (by 2,737 tonnes), therefore the direction of travel is shown as green.

**Summary of Key activities taken or planned to improve performance:**

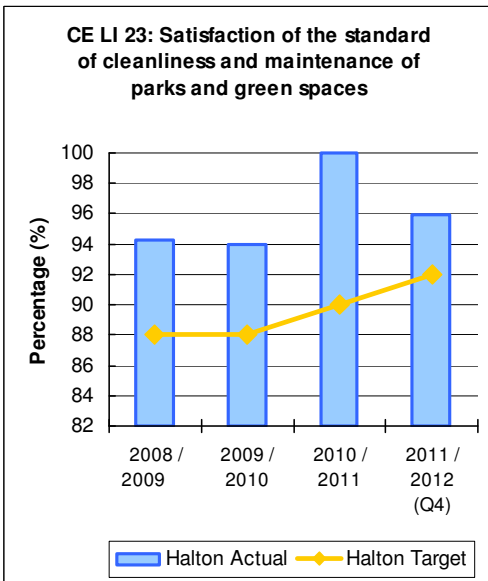
Given the financial pressures faced by the Council, and the increasing costs associated with landfill, a key challenge over the short and medium term will be to reduce the level of waste sent for disposal.

The reduction in the % of municipal waste sent to landfill for disposal has been achieved through a number of activities that have resulted in both a reduction in the level of waste produced in Halton (SCS ER 6) and an increased amount of waste that has been recycled (SCS ER 7). These activities have included educational and awareness raising campaigns, the provision of enhanced recycling services to all households in the borough, the Council's 'rewards for recycling' scheme, the pilot Alternate Bin Collection scheme and new contractual arrangements that have resulted in the recycling of both commercial waste and waste generated from the Council's Open Space Services operations.

Now that all households in the borough have access to multi-material recycling services, sustaining and further improving performance will require an increase in the number of households using the services provided. Increased participation will require significant change in residents' behaviour and will only be achieved through further educational and community engagement initiatives. The roll out of the Alternate Bin Collection scheme to other areas of the borough will also encourage more residents to reduce the amount of waste that they produce.

SCS / ER9

Satisfaction with the standard of cleanliness and maintenance of parks and green spaces.



2010/11 Actual	2011/12 Target	2011/12 Qtr 2	2011/12 Qtr 4	Current Progress	Direction of Travel
100%	92.00%	97.05%	95.9%		

**Data Commentary:**

Quarter 4 figure represents actual data for the period captured through the Green Stat survey.

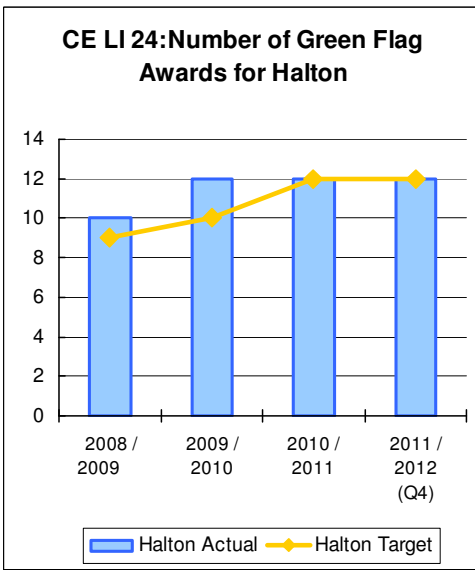
**Performance Commentary:**

Figure taken from Greenstat Survey is slightly down on Q2 but is still ahead of target.

**Summary of Key activities taken or planned to improve performance:**

The Open Space Service will continue to manage its sites to the highest standards that it can achieve within the resources allocated to it.

The Open Space Service also benchmarks its activities through APSE. In December 2011 based upon the benchmarking data that was submitted for year 2010/11 the service was recognised as the 'Best Performer for Parks and Horticulture'.



2010/11 Actual	2011/12 Target	2011/12 Qtr 2	2011/12 Qtr 4	Current Progress	Direction of Travel
12	12	12	12		

**Data Commentary:**

The Green Flag Award scheme is the benchmark national standard for parks and green spaces in the UK and applications must be made by the organisation that manages the park/green space.

The Green Flag Award is given on an annual basis. A park or green space must maintain and improve on previous standards to be guaranteed a subsequent award.

**Performance Commentary:**

Despite a difficult financial climate Halton has managed to retain its twelve green flag award parks.

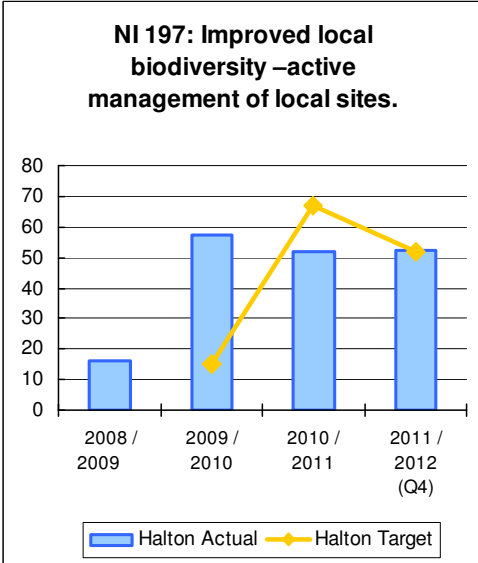


**Summary of Key activities taken or planned to improve performance:**

The following Parks are managed and maintained to Green Flag Award standard.

- Clinton Woods Local Nature Reserve (LNR)
- Hale Park
- Hough Green Park
- Pickerings Pasture LNR
- Phoenix Park
- Rock Park
- Runcorn Hill Park & LNR
- Runcorn Town Hall Park
- Spike Island
- Victoria Park
- Victoria Promenade
- Wigg Island Community Park

All twelve Green Flag Award parks retained the award. At present, Halton has no plans to have more than twelve green flag award parks.

**SCS / ER11** Improved local biodiversity – proportion of local sites where positive conservation management has been or is being implemented (Former NI 197)

	2010/11 Actual	2011/12 Target	2011/12 Qtr 2	2011/12 Qtr 4	Current Progress	Direction of Travel
	51.85%	52.00%	Data available at Q4	52.3%		
<b>Data Commentary:</b>						
Data for 2011/12 is not reported on until after the end of the year.						
<b>Performance Commentary:</b>						
In 2010/11 year there was a change in the way data was collected which resulted in a lower score when compared to the previous year. It would be fair to say that the way in which data is now collected is far more robust than was previously the case and it is pleasing to see that even under the new rules Halton has improved its score and has met its target. The implementation of positive conservation management serves as a widely accepted and cost effective proxy for assessing improvements in biodiversity.						

**Summary of Key activities taken or planned to improve performance:**

Over the last two years there has been debate nationally about what ‘under positive management’ actually means. It appeared that site visits and biological recording activities had been counted as under positive management. Through the Wildlife Trusts it has now been confirmed that positive management can only be recorded if actual positive practical tasks to the primary habitat of the site have been undertaken at sites.


Halton Borough Council will continue to work with its partner Cheshire Wildlife Trust to bring more local nature sites into positive management.

The Council’s Open Space Services are part of a Shared Service Level Agreement (across Halton, Warrington, Cheshire East, Cheshire West and Chester) which supports the Local Wildlife Sites Partnership.

Work with the Cheshire Wildlife Trust during the year has centred on a review of Local Wildlife Sites Citations (corrections of existing data) and the development of a revised and improved Site Selection Criteria and the continued systematic review of designated / existing Local Wildlife sites in Halton, including ecological survey works and biological recording and the provision of management information. This intelligence will allow the more effective management of sites as we move forward.

SCS / ER12

To regenerate 5 hectares of urban sites per annum for the next five years

	2010/11 Actual	2011/12 Target	2011/12 Qtr 2	2011/12 Qtr 4	Current Progress	Direction of Travel
No chart available	14.1 hectares	5 hectares	Not available at Qtr 2	Year End Position not yet available		N/A

**Data Commentary:**

Data is obtained from the annual National Land Use Database Site Survey and database categories A, B, & C to F definitions. This is not yet available at the time of preparing this report.

**Performance Commentary:**

2011 saw a reduction in the amount of recorded Derelict and under-used land. Reductions were concentrated in category B (vacant buildings) and E (land & buildings in use but with redevelopment potential)

**Summary of Key activities taken or planned to improve performance:**

Ultimately performance against this indicator is primarily dependent upon the redevelopment of previously developed land by private developers.

In providing a supporting role in facilitating such development the Core Strategy seeks to prioritise the use of previously developed land for both housing and employment purposes and opportunities to secure funding for land remediation continue to be sought as and when they arise.



**SCS / ER13** To make sure there is a 5 year rolling supply of housing land available for 2000 homes over 5 years (New)

	2010/11 Actual	2011/12 Target	2011/12 Qtr 2	2011/12 Qtr 4	Current Progress	Direction of Travel
No chart available	New indicator	100%	-	Year End Position not yet available	N/A	N/A

**Data Commentary:**

The purpose of this indicator is to ensure that sufficient land is being brought forward to deliver the Borough’s targets for building new homes. This equates to 400 homes per annum.

Figures are calculated as at 1<sup>st</sup> April each year. However, these do not become available until the second quarter period. Data is taken from the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) which is a requirement of the National Planning Policy Framework and is updated each autumn.

The measure is calculated in accordance with the definition for former National Indicator NI 159.

**Performance Commentary:**

Housing targets and the requirement to maintain a 5 year supply originate from the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) and national guidance. The former is due to be revoked and the latter has been updated with the publication of the National Planning Policy Framework.

The Core Strategy examination has imposed the retention of the RSS housing figures with the effect of increasing the 5 year requirement to accommodate past under-performance. The Examination also called into question previous assumptions about certain identified sites which may result in a reduction in reported supply.

**Summary of Key activities taken or planned to improve performance:**

Whilst the planning system can seek to identify and allocate additional land, its contribution to the 5 year supply is dependent upon developers gaining planning permissions and bringing sites forward for development.

The Core Strategy Examination is recommending additional land be identified for development around Widnes and Hale. This will be brought forward through the next Development Plan.