



The Sustainable Community Strategy

for Halton

2011 – 2016

Mid-Year Progress Report
01st April – 30th Sept 2013







**Document Contact
(Halton Borough
Council)**



























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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 1st April 2013 to 31st March 2014 and a projection of expected levels of performance to the year-end.

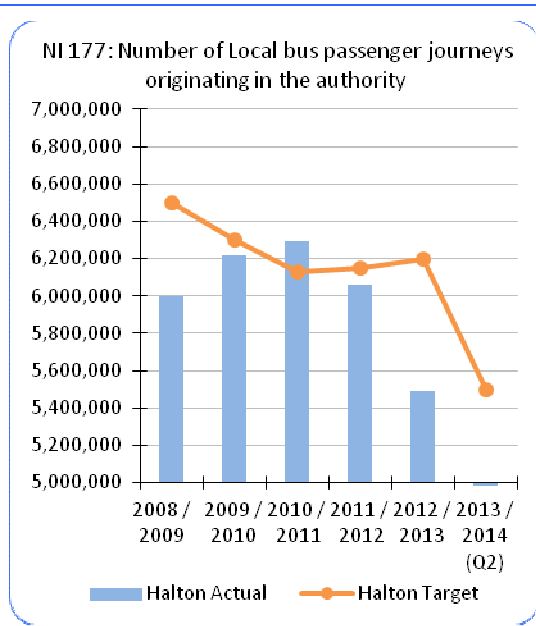
The following symbols have been used to illustrate current performance as against the 2013 / 2014 target and as against performance for the same period last year.

	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

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

SCS / ER1a

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



2012/13 Actual	2013/14 Target	2013/14 Quarter 2	2013/14 Quarter 4	Current Progress	Direction of Travel
5,491	5,500	2,640			

Data Commentary:

The figures for this indicator are actuals for the financial year 2013/14 and are provided by the bus operators in the Borough.

Performance Commentary:

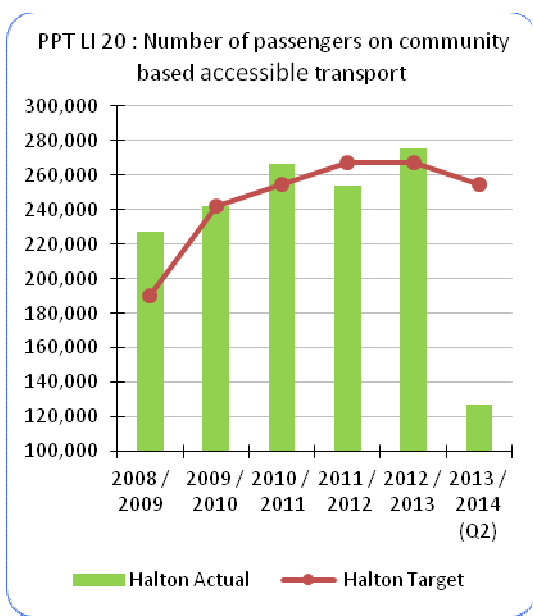
Bus patronage is declining in the Borough. Bus operators have indicated the reasoning for this is the current economic climate. Over recent years there have been a significant number of services totally withdrawn due to their non-commercial viability. This has resulted in an adverse effect on passenger numbers.

Summary of Key activities taken or planned to improve performance:

The Council will continue to work with the operators in identifying ways of stemming the decline in bus usage within Halton. Proposals include, identifying funding opportunities for increased marketing of bus services together with real time passenger information, cross-boundary ticketing and smart card technology to improve seamless and cost effective travel across the network.

SCS / ER1b

Number of passengers on community based accessible transport



2012/13 Actual	2013/14 Target	2013/14 Qtr 2	2013/14 Qtr 4	Current Progress	Direction of Travel
275,518	255,000	126,796			

Data Commentary:

The data above is actual patronage numbers using data from Halton Community Transport and from the Council's in house fleet.

Performance Commentary:

Although it is anticipated that passenger numbers will recover during the third quarter, Community Transport Passenger numbers have fallen in Q2 compared to Q1 due a number of contracts not operating over the reporting period.

Halton Community Transport has reported that historically, demand for dial-a-ride services also falls during the summer period.

Summary of Key activities taken or planned to improve performance:

It is anticipated that passenger numbers will recover during the third quarter, patronage levels will increase during Q3 with the start of the new school term.

Halton Community Transport continues to promote its services and an explanatory leaflet has been produced and distributed on how services can be accessed.

Further information about Community Transport in Halton and transport options and contact details can be found on the following websites:

- <http://www.haltoncommunitytransport.co.uk>
- [Halton Borough Council website](#)

SCS / ER2

Percentage % of Bus services running on time:

- a) Percentage of buses starting route on time
- b) Percentage of buses on time at intermediate timing points

<p>Bus Service Punctuality: a) Starting route on time b) On time at intermediate points</p>	2012/13 Actual	2013/14 Target	2013/14 Qtr 2	2013/14 Qtr 4	Current Progress	Direction of Travel
	a) 97.74	97.80	96.89		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	b) 89.31	97.40	89.28		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
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:						
Both indicators have improved on Q1 and it is anticipated the indicator will see further improvement towards 2012/13 performance levels.						

Summary of Key activities taken or planned to improve performance:

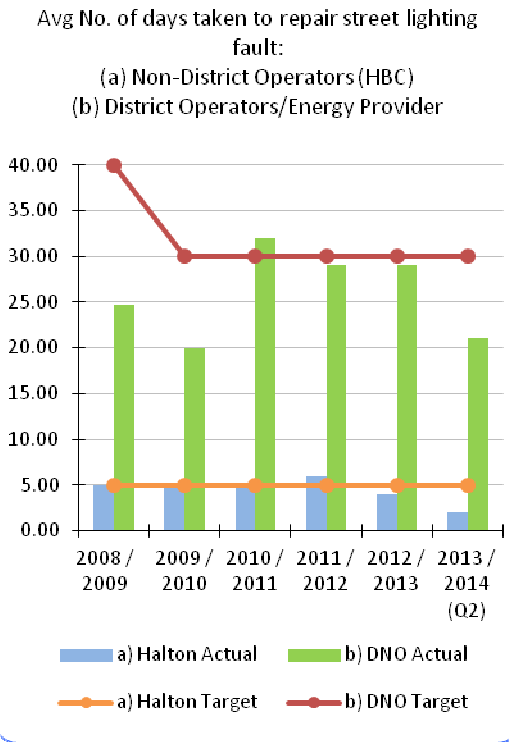
The Council will continue to work with the operators in carrying out punctuality checks and service providers will continue to evaluate GPS data taken from the Electronic Ticketing Machines as part of their operational procedures.

This information provides operators with real time data which enables them to make informed decisions on the scheduling of services.

SCS / ER3

Average Number of days to repair street lighting faults:

- a) Non-Distribution Network Operators (HBC)
- b) Distribution Network Operator (DNO)



2012/13 Actual	2013/14 Target	2013/13 Qtr 2	2013/14 Qtr 4	Current Progress	Direction of Travel
a) 4.00	a) 5.00	a) 2		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	↑
b) 29.00	b) 30.00	b) 21		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	↑

Data Commentary:

This actual data is derived from Halton’s Mayrise repair records system.

Performance Commentary:

The performance levels are generally better during the summer period (lighter nights) and reduce during the winter period (darker nights) due to more faults being reported. Also District Network Operator (DNO) faults can be affected by other faults on their network being given a higher priority (properties affected).

Summary of Key activities taken or planned to improve performance:

Performance of the contractors is continuing to be monitored to ensure work is on target, however, we cannot force the Distribution Network Operator (DNO) to provide increased resources to meet the target.

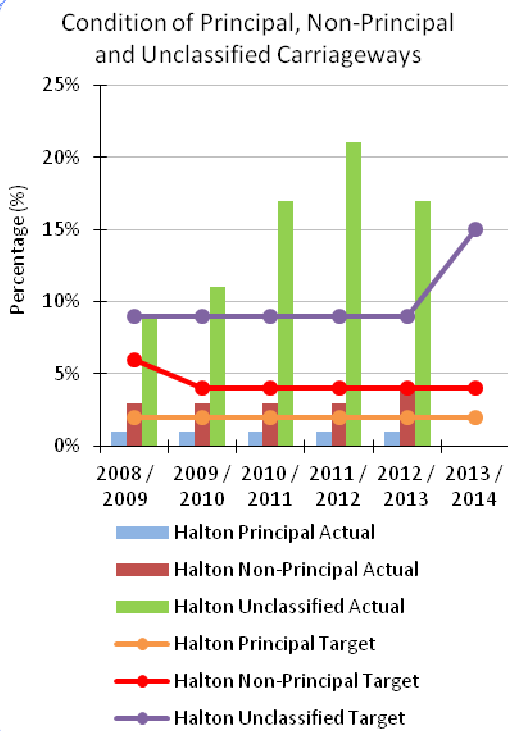
The District Network Operator (DNO) requires longer to complete repairs due to the need to arrange for excavations to locate power cables and this can involve a number of operations. Halton Borough Council repairs, on the other hand, usually involve the replacement of lamps and hence can be carried out relatively quickly.



SCS / ER4

Percentage of road carriageway where maintenance should be considered (PPT LI 17)

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



2012/13 Actual	2013/14 Target	2013/14 Qtr 2	2013/14 Qtr 4	Current Progress	Direction of Travel
a) 1 b) 4 c) 17	a) 2 b) 4 c) 15	Data Reported in Q4		N/A	N/A

Data Commentary:

The data required to report on this measure is based upon Scanner survey of the Principal and non-Principal carriageway network and Course Visual Inspection of the Unclassified Carriageway network. These surveys are conducted on an annual cycle and as the data is not available until March, the measure can only be reported annually in Q4.

Performance Commentary:

These measures will be reported in Q4 due to the availability of data.

Summary of Key activities taken or planned to improve performance:

The highway network is the Council’s biggest physical asset and its effective maintenance is considered by local residents and businesses to be very important.

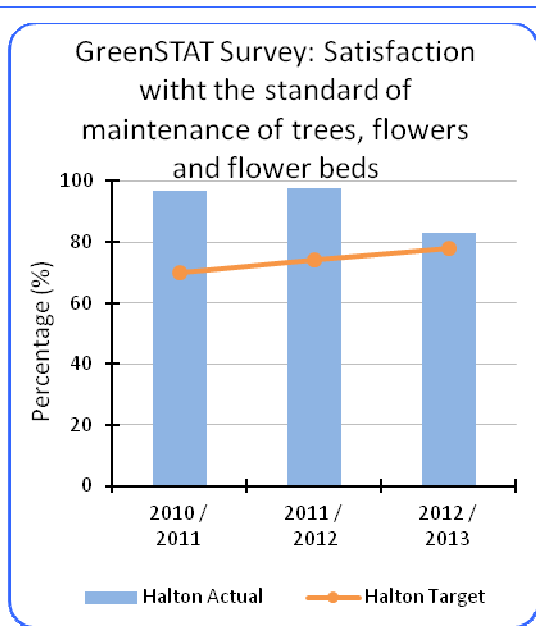
Future targets for carriageway condition are considered appropriate to road classification although achieving these targets has become and will continue to be increasingly challenging in the context of rising costs and reducing funding.

Despite this, for 2013/14 it is expected that target expectations for (a) and (b) should be satisfied and that improvement should be made as regards meeting target expectations for (c).

A summary of carriageway structural and preventative maintenance work committed to in the last 3 years is as follows:

Year	Carriageway Structural Work (\$am)	Carriageway Preventative Work (\$qm)
2013/14	33,200	111,200
2012/13	32,000	90,500
2011/12	30,625	118,000

The long range Met Office predictions for winter 2013/14 have not yet been received but should the conditions encountered in winter 2010/11 and the two preceding years be repeated this could have significant repercussions for meeting carriageway condition targets in 2013/14 and following years.



2012/13 Actual	2013/14 Target	2013/14 Qtr 2	2013/14 Qtr 4	Current Progress	Direction of Travel
83%	N/A			N/A	N/A

Data Commentary:

The figure represents actual data for the period taken from the GreenSTAT Survey.

Further information on the GreenSTAT survey and GreenSpace, the charitable organisation behind it, can be found via:

<http://www.green-space.org.uk>

Performance Commentary:

Please refer to the commentary below.

Summary of Key activities taken or planned to improve performance:

For many years the Open Space Service collected satisfaction data through the Greenstat system. This system was created by Green Space, the charity that championed public parks nationally. Greenstat allowed users to comment on park facilities either on line or by filling in a paper questionnaire.

With the limited resources available, Greenstat was the ideal way of gathering such data and Green Space was heavily reliant on local authority membership but due to the cuts that Councils have had to make, it unfortunately lost members and earlier this year went into receivership. An official statement was made via the website on 21st March 2013:

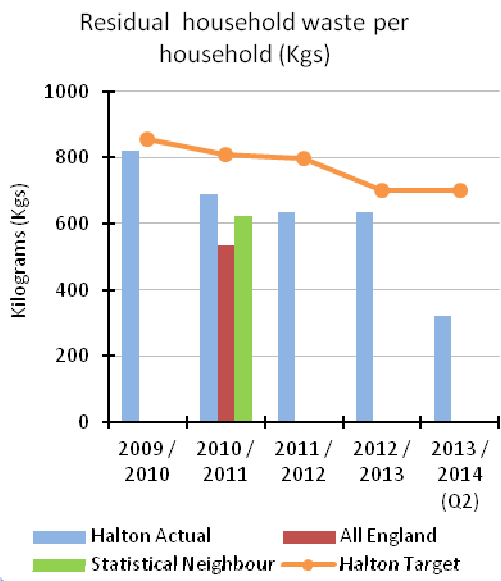
<http://www.green-space.org.uk/downloads/PressReleases/2013/GreenSpace%20official%20stakeholder%20statement.pdf>

The receivers took down the Greenstat system which means satisfaction data can no longer be gathered in the way that it was. The Council could look to create a system of its own but there are more pressing ICT projects that need to be progressed.

As a consequence of the above this indicator will no longer be reported to the Environment & Urban Renewal SSP.

SCS / ER6

Residual household waste per household (Kgs)



2012/13 Actual	2013/14 Target	2013/14 Qtr 2	2013/14 Qtr 4	Current Progress	Direction of Travel
633 Kgs	700 Kgs	321 Kgs (Estimated)			

Data Commentary:

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

Performance Commentary:

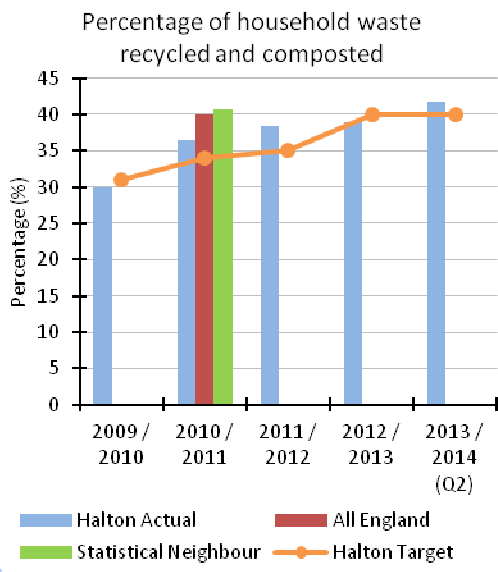
This is an estimated cumulative figure and early indications are that this target will be met.

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 residual 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 resident behaviour. A Waste Prevention Plan has been developed to support the Council’s efforts to reduce levels of waste produced.

SCS / ER7 % of household waste recycled and composted



2012/13 Actual	2013/14 Target	2013/14 Qtr 2	2013/14 Qtr 4	Current Progress	Direction of Travel
37.30%	40%	41.77% (Estimated)			

Data Commentary:

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

Performance Commentary:

This is an estimated figure but early indications are that this 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 concentrate efforts to minimise waste production within the borough, increase recycling levels and reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill.

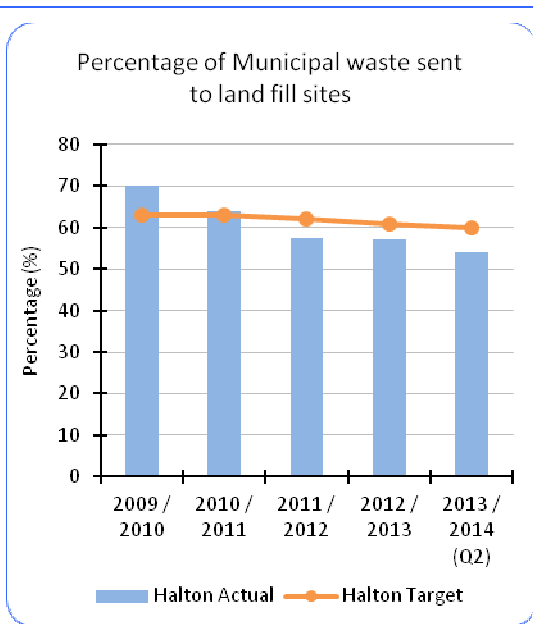
Whilst kerbside multi-material recycling services are provided to all properties in the borough, there are areas where participation rates remain relatively low and further work will be needed to increase participation and recycling performance.

Increased participation will require a significant change in resident behaviour. Raising awareness on waste matters and changing people’s behaviour will be vital if we are to be successful in reducing the Council’s costs of dealing with waste and this will best be achieved through direct and comprehensive community engagement activities. In order to support the Council’s efforts to reduce waste sent to landfill for disposal, a Waste Communications Plan has been developed which sets out how we will engage with members of the local community and the messages that will be used to promote and encourage waste minimisation and increased recycling.

The continuing roll out of the Alternate Bin Collection scheme and the implementation of the Council’s ‘no side waste’ policy will encourage increased use of the Council’s recycling services and further improve recycling performance. Limiting the amount of residual waste we collect, by not taking additional ‘side waste’ presented alongside wheeled bins for collection, will encourage residents to accept responsibility for their waste, to think about minimising what they produce and to recycle as much as possible by making better use of the services provided by the Council.

SCS / ER8

Percentage of municipal waste land filled



2012/13 Actual	2013/14 Target	2013/14 Qtr 2	2013/14 Qtr 4	Current Progress	Direction of Travel
58%	60%	54.17% (Estimated)			

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. The figures for Q4 are estimated until they are validated through www.wastedataflow.org.

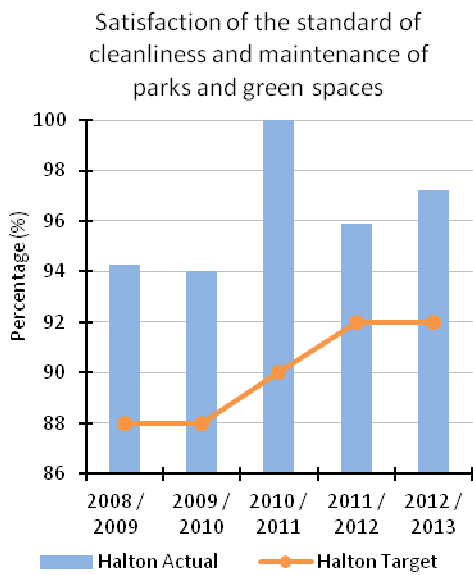
Performance Commentary:

This is an estimated figure but early indications are that this target will be met.

Summary of Key activities taken or planned to improve performance:

As all households in the borough have access to multi-material recycling services, sustaining and further increasing the % of municipal waste sent to landfill for disposal performance will require an increase in the number of households using the services provided. Increased participation and recycling will require significant change in the behaviour of many residents.

A number of initiatives are planned to encourage more residents to reduce the amount of waste that they produce, and recycle more, including further educational and community engagement initiatives, the further roll out of the Alternate Bin Collection scheme and the implementation of the Council's 'no side waste' policy.



2012/13 Actual	2013/14 Target	2013/14 Qtr 2	2013/14 Qtr 4	Current Progress	Direction of Travel
97.23%	N/A			N/A	N/A

Data Commentary:

The figure represents actual data for the period captured through the GreenSTAT survey.

Further information on the GreenSTAT survey and GreenSpace, the charitable organisation behind it, can be found via:

<http://www.green-space.org.uk>

Performance Commentary:

Please refer to the commentary below.

Summary of Key activities taken or planned to improve performance:

For many years the Open Space Service collected satisfaction data through the Greenstat system. This system was created by Green Space, the charity that championed public parks nationally. Greenstat allowed users to comment on park facilities either on line or by filling in a paper questionnaire.

With the limited resources available, Greenstat was the ideal way of gathering such data and Green Space was heavily reliant on local authority membership but due to the cuts that Councils have had to make, it unfortunately lost members and earlier this year went into receivership. An official statement was made via the website on 21st March 2013:

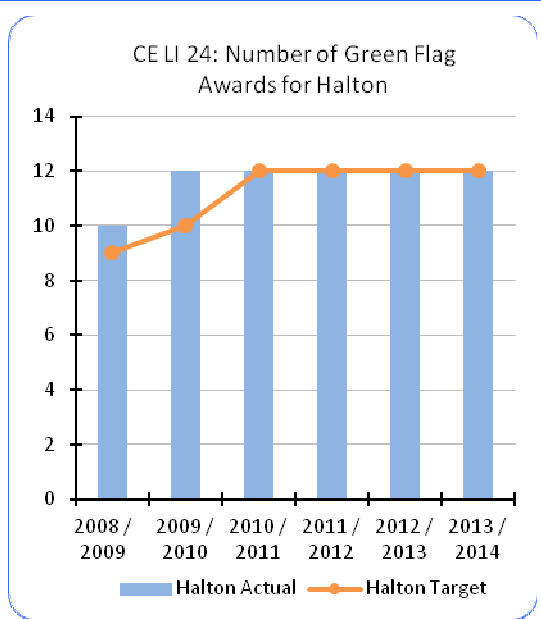
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The receivers took down the Greenstat system which means satisfaction data can no longer be gathered in the way that it was. The Council could look to create a system of its own but there are more pressing ICT projects that need to be progressed.

As a consequence of the above this indicator will no longer be reported to the Environment & Urban Renewal SSP

SCS / ER10

Number of Green Flag Awards achieved for Halton



2012/13 Actual	2013/14 Target	2013/14 Qtr 2	2013/14 Qtr 4	Current Progress	Direction of Travel
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.

Further information on the Green Flag Award Programme, and the Keep Britain Tidy organisation, can be found on the website:

<http://greenflag.keepbritaintidy.org>

Performance Commentary:

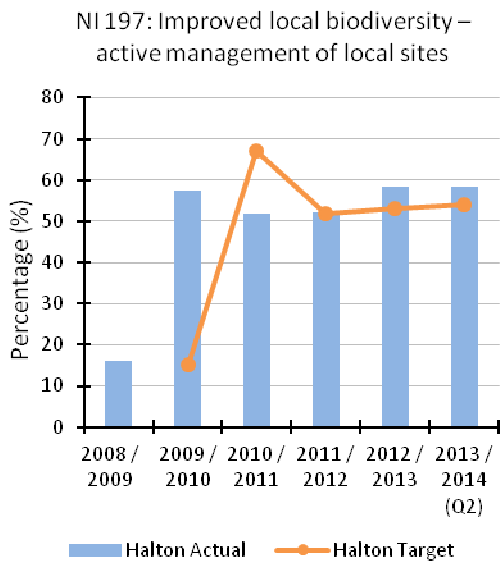
The figure has remained static at 12 for the past three years. The Council does not have the resources to increase the number so at best the number will remain the same.

Summary of Key activities taken or planned to improve performance:

There are no plans to improve performance in this area.

SCS / ER11

Improved local biodiversity – active management of local sites.



2012/13 Actual	2013/14 Target	2013/14 Qtr 2	2013/14 Qtr 4	Current Progress	Direction of Travel
58.49%	54%	58.49%			

Data Commentary:

Data for 2013/14 is not reported until after the end of the year.

Performance Commentary:

Data is collected and reported at end of year.

Summary of Key activities taken or planned to improve performance:



The figure is likely to remain the same until Q4. The majority of conservation tasks are carried out during the winter period.

Halton Borough Council continue to work with its partner [Cheshire Wildlife Trust](#) to bring more local nature sites into positive management, with planned works at local wildlife sites and [local nature reserves](#) from October 2012 onwards.

These works include woodland management tasks over the winter period and heather moorland restoration. This work is supported via local businesses who agree to allow employees to volunteer to work on the local nature sites as part of their corporate responsibility agendas.

SCS / ER12

To regenerate 5 hectares of urban sites per annum for the next five years (PPT LI 08) (New)

	2012/13 Actual	2013/14 Target	2013/14 Qtr 2	2013/14 Qtr 4	Current Progress	Direction of Travel
No Chart Available	8 Ha	8 Ha	4 Ha			

Data Commentary:

Data is normally obtained from the annual National Land Use Database (NLUD) Site Survey and database categories A, B, & C to F definitions.

The purpose of the indicator is to ensure the best use of the Halton’s land assets and promote sustainable growth and development. Reduced resources have led to the NLUD survey having not yet been completed however monitoring of housing completions shows 205 completions on previously developed land giving an assumed total in excess of 8 Ha having been redeveloped.

Performance Commentary:

A number of brownfield sites across the Borough have either been granted planning consent or works have commenced on site following the discharge of conditions. Examples include:

- Widnes Waterfront,
- A new Lidl store, Auto-centre and Restaurant at the Vestric House redevelopment, Halton Lea in Runcorn
- Applications for affordable housing on sites at Pingot Day Centre, Widnes, Queens Hall, Widnes.

Summary of Key activities taken or planned to improve performance:



Work continues on the following activities to affect and improve the performance of this indicator:

- Delivery of Key Areas of Change within the Core Strategy Local Plan through specific schemes and partnerships.
- Work to achieve the target of 40% of housing development to be delivered on brownfield land set out in the Core Strategy (Policy CS3 – Housing Supply and Locational Priorities)
- Promotion of brownfield sites for redevelopment through Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment and emerging Local Economic Prosperity Strategy & Investment Framework.
- Granting of planning consent on appropriate brownfield sites.
- Delivery of further regeneration activity at Widnes Waterfront, 3MG and Runcorn Old Town.



SCS / ER13

To make sure there is a 5 year rolling supply of deliverable housing land available for 5 years' worth of housing against the housing requirement

No Chart Available	2012/13 Actual	2013/14 Target	203/14 Qtr 2	2013/14 Qtr 4	Current Progress	Direction of Travel
	119%	100%	111%			

Data Commentary:

The purpose of this indicator is to ensure that sufficient *SUPPLY* of land is available to deliver the Borough's targets for building new homes.

Figures are calculated as at 1st April each year however these do not become available until at least 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.

The measure is calculated in accordance with the definition for former National Indicator NI159 plus a 20% buffer (would be 5% but for previous under-performance in *DELIVERY*) in line with National Planning Policy Framework (Para 47) requirements. The basic requirement is for 552 units per annum = 3,309 units (552 x 5 years +20%), however as the indicator comprises previous over/under performance the numeric requirement changes year to year.

Performance Commentary:

Good performance is any figure over 100% as this indicates that there is sufficient land available to meet the borough's housing needs for the next five years. The figures show that enough land is available to meet the policy figure requirement plus 20% as this is the 100% figure. Performance is 11% over the required position.

Figures are taken from Table 1, page 22 in the [Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment April 2012](#) (published May 2013).

Summary of Key activities taken or planned to improve performance:

Whilst the planning system can seek to identify and allocate additional land, only the proportion of units considered deliverable within 5 years contribute to the 5 year supply. This is dependent upon developers gaining planning permission and bringing sites forward for development.

The Core Strategy states that a partial Green Belt review will be required to identify additional land around Widnes and Hale (to provide development land for the full Core Strategy plan period and beyond (15 years +). Work on this evidence has commenced. The allocation of housing land will be brought forward through the next Delivery and Allocations Local (Development) Plan to 2028.