

PERFORMANCE CONSIDERATIONS

(3rd Quarter 2006/07)

SERVICE: Highways & Transportation (*Road Safety ONLY*)

Overview

These comments relate to the Road Safety elements in the service plan that fall within the remit of this PPB. The monitoring reports shows that the objectives and performance targets are on course to be achieved and therefore, the prospects for the service delivering on its commitments are very good.

SERVICE: Environment & Regulatory Services (*Waste Management and Environmental Health ONLY*)

Overview

These comments relate to those functions in the service plan that comes within the remit of this PPB. The monitoring reports shows that all the key objectives and the majority of the performance targets look set to be achieved. Therefore, the prospects for the year at this stage are very good. A number of key developments and emerging issues that will impact on the service are being satisfactorily progressed although one or two aspects might benefit from some further consideration.

Areas of Further Consideration

- The recommendations of the Hampton report are being implemented and one aspect will be the establishment of the Local Better Regulation Office (LBRO) by the end of 2007. The LBRO will have statutory powers to issue guidance to local authorities in respect of the Hampton Report, tackle inconsistencies in enforcement practice and ensure local authority regulatory services and enforcement codes are consistent with the Hampton Code of Practice. Therefore, clarification on whether the impact of the LBRO raises any resource/service implications for the Council would be helpful.
- It is unclear if the % of abandoned vehicles investigated within 24 hours will achieve this year's target of 85%. Because abandoned vehicles add to the fear of crime as well as being a hazard in themselves, quick investigations of reports of abandoned vehicles is essential. Therefore, the factors that affect the Council's ability to investigate reports need to be highlighted to see if anything can be done to improve performance.

SERVICE: Culture & Leisure (*Community Safety & the Drug Action Team ONLY*)

Overview

There are no key objectives specific to Community Safety or Drug Treatment/Action highlighted in the monitoring report and therefore, an overview of progress is not available for the 3rd quarter. There is mixed picture regarding the crime performance indicators in terms of them achieving their targets. However, while robberies per 1000 population (*BV 127b*) will not hit its target, Halton's figure will still be in the top 25% of local authorities. Conversely, while participation in drug treatment programmes (*BV 198*) is on course to achieve its target, Halton's performance looks likely to remain in the bottom 25% of local authorities.

SERVICE: Health & Partnerships (*Registration Service, Consumer Protection & Bereavement Services ONLY*)

Overview

These comments relate to those elements in the Health & Partnership service plan that fall within the remit of the Safer Halton PPB. The majority of the objectives and all the performance targets look set to be achieved and therefore, the prospects for the year appear to be good. However, there is a financial matter highlighted in the monitoring report that may benefit from further consideration.

Areas of Further Consideration

- There is a significant income shortfall projected concerning the Cemeteries and Crematoria. Although it is difficult to forecast patterns or trends given the nature of the service, an indication of the possible reasons for the downturn, whether the situation is unique to Halton and if there is anything the Council can do in the circumstances to try and address the shortfall maybe appropriate.