

**REPORT:** Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board  
**DATE:** 21 March 2007  
**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director, Environment  
**SUBJECT:** Widnes Waterfront EDZ Performance Plan  
**WARDS:** Kingsway, Riverside and Halton View

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 To agree the Widnes Waterfront Economic Development Zone (EDZ) Northwest Development Agency (NWDA) Performance Plan for the financial year 2007/08.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That Members agree the annual Widnes Waterfront NWDA Performance Plan for 2007/08.**

## **3.0 BACKGROUND**

3.1 For NWDA schemes that last more than 1 year it is a requirement of the scheme approval that the delivery organisation, in this case Halton Borough Council (HBC), prepares an Annual Performance Plan. This is attached as an appendix.

3.2 This Performance Plan is for the second year of a three-year programme. The plan has been rolled forward from last year and must be agreed with the NWDA before new expenditure is incurred for which grant will be claimed.

3.3 The Performance Plan summarises what the Widnes Waterfront Scheme is intending to achieve in the year 2007/08.

3.4 It provides output detail and clarifies how HBC intends to deliver and achieve them.

3.5 The Performance Plan will also enable the EDZ Programme Manager to review the progress and activity in the EDZ as a key part of the monitoring and evaluation process.

## **4.0 LOCATION**

4.1 The Widnes Waterfront is situated between the conurbations of Liverpool and Manchester. It has excellent road links to both cities with the M62 and M56 bisect the borough.

4.2 The proposed Mersey Gateway will run from the Central Expressway in Runcorn to the Eastern bypass in Widnes and ultimately Speke Road.

It will be located immediately to the west of the EDZ improving access to the area for car owners and users of public transport.

- 4.3 The Widnes Waterfront programme area is situated between Widnes Town Centre and the waterfront environment. Since the construction of large-scale factories, plant and infrastructure in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> Century, the riverside environment has been cut off from the remainder of the town. Proposals for the EDZ will help improve the link between the waterfront and the Town Centre.

## **5.0 KEY PROJECTS IDENTIFIED FOR 2007/08**

### **Projects approved in 2006/07 and continuing into 2007/08**

- HBC Langtree Access Road
- HBC Tanhouse Lane Improvements (phased)
- Forward Construction Office Development
- Forward Construction Industrial Development
- WRL Heron Phase 2

### **Projects rolled forward from 2006/07 to 2007/08**

- Gyrotory Improvements
- Linear Park
- Landscaping Improvements

### **New Projects for 2007/08**

- Arts Strategy
- Croda Colloids site
- Utilities

- 5.1 These projects are detailed in Appendix 1, the Draft Performance Plan. There will be a presentation of the Plan and an update on the progress of the Widens Waterfront programme to Members at the meeting.

## **6.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 None at this stage.

## **7.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 The performance plan needs to be agreed by Halton Borough Council, the Urban Renewal SSP and the North West Development Association before projects can be appraised and the allocation spent.

## **8.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

- 8.1 There are no background papers within the meaning of the Act.