

**REPORT TO:** Employment Learning Skills and Community  
Policy and Performance Board

**DATE:** 24th March 2014

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director Children and Enterprise

**PORTFOLIO:** Economic Development / Neighbourhood Leisure  
and Sport

**SUBJECT:** Employment Learning and Skills – Business  
Planning 2014-17

**WARDS:** Borough-wide

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to present business priorities for the Employment Learning and Skills and Community Policy Performance Board.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That**

(1) Members give consideration to the priorities presented.

## **3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 At its meeting in November, Members were advised that each Directorate of the Council is required to develop a medium-term business plan, in parallel with the budget, that is subject to annual review and refresh. A report elsewhere on this agenda makes reference to the Children and Enterprise Directorate Plan 2014 -2017

3.2 However, Members are invited to identify a small number of priorities for development or improvement (possibly 3-5) that they would like to see reflected within those plans

3.3 Whilst providing a Directorate context each of the Directorate Business Plans will contain appendices identifying specific Departmental activities and performance measures and targets that will provide a focus for the on-going monitoring of performance throughout the 2014 – 15 financial year.

3.4 It is important that Members have the opportunity to provide input at this developmental stage of the planning process, particularly given on-going budget pressures, to ensure that limited resources remain aligned to local priorities.

3.5 To assist with the discussion, the Operational Director for Economy Enterprise and Property and the Operational Director for Community and Environment will present key priorities for their respective departments. As in previous years, a briefing note has been prepared, which will provide a strategic context and will give options and information on the level and type of intervention which can be delivered

3.6 It is worth noting that a robust evidence base has been used to develop these priorities. For example, Members will be familiar with the Local Economic Assessment and Skills for Life Survey, as they were discussed at the November meeting.

3.7 With regard to the Employment Learning and Skills priorities, whilst a number of priorities will continue from last year, there will be a strong 'read across' to the development of an Action Plan for Halton referred to later on this agenda.

3.8 Emerging strategic themes include:

- Welfare Reform and The Work Programme;
- Skills Development (Sector Pathways e.g. the Knowledge Economy; Logistics;
- Business Improvement and Growth;
- The 'Green Economy';
- Single Local Growth Plan

Emerging service delivery priorities include:

- Improving engagement with key companies in the borough;
- Facilitating the International Festival of Business in 2014;
- Delivering and further developing the Business Improvement Districts Model;
- Delivering grant support schemes to businesses through the Regional Growth Fund and European regional Development Fund;
- Managing and improving the company and property service enquiry database.

3.9 With regard to the communities priorities for this PPB, these are as follows:

- **Library Service Strategy**
  - Inspiring a community of readers and learners
  - Employment, enterprise and developing online skills
  - Extending access through innovation and new technology
  - Providing a relevant and responsive library service
  - Workforce development

- **Sport and Recreation**
- Management of the Leisure Management Contract, DC Leisure are responsible for the day to day operations of the Council 3 Leisure Centres.
- Sports Development Team – development of programmes and activities to support the local sporting infrastructure.

#### **4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

It is anticipated that the discussion with Members of the Policy Performance Board will inform departmental work plans, as well as future agenda items for this committee.

#### **5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

None

#### **6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

- 6.1 This exercise ensures that the delivery of our services reflect Members' key issues and priorities. This work focuses on ensuring that the interventions we develop are based on need and demand, as well as greatest impact on corporate outcomes.

#### **7.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

- 7.1 There are no identified risks arising from this report.

#### **8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

None

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

<b>DOCUMENT</b>	<b>Place of Inspection</b>	<b>Contract Officer</b>
<b>Local Economic Assessment</b>	<b>Municipal Building</b>	<b>W Rourke 0151 511 8645</b>