

**REPORT TO:** Environment and Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board

**DATE:** 25<sup>th</sup> June 2014

**REPORT OF:** Strategic Director Policy and Resources

**PORTFOLIO:** Resources

**SUBJECT:** Sustainable Community Strategy Quarter 4 Progress Report 2013 - 14

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 To provide information to the Environment and Urban Renewal Policy & Performance Board on the progress in achieving targets contained within the 2011 – 2016 Sustainable Community Strategy for Halton.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDED THAT:**

- 1. the report is noted; and**
- 2. the Board considers whether it requires any further information concerning actions taken to achieve the performance targets contained within Halton's 2011-16 Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS).**

## **3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 The Sustainable Community Strategy, a central document for the Council and its partners, provides an evidenced-based framework through which actions and shared performance targets can be developed and communicated.

3.2 The previous Sustainable Community Strategy included targets which were also part of the Local Area Agreement (LAA). In October 2010, the coalition government announced the ending of government performance management of local authorities through LAAs. Nevertheless, the Council and its Partners need to maintain some form of effective performance management framework to:-

- Measure progress towards our own objectives for the improvement of the quality of life in Halton.
- Meet the Government's expectation that we will publish performance information.

3.3 The new Sustainable Community Strategy and its associated "living" 5 year delivery plan (2011-16) identifies five community priorities that will form the basis of collective partnership intervention and action over the five year period.

- 3.4 The strategy is informed by and brings together national and local priorities and is aligned to other local delivery plans such as that of the Halton Children's Trust. By being a "living" document it will provide sufficient flexibility to evolve as continuing changes within the public sector continue to emerge, for example the restructuring of the NHS and Public Health delivery, and the delivery of the 'localism' agenda.
- 3.5 As such, articulating the partnership's ambition in terms of community outcomes and meaningful measures and track performance over time, will further support effective decision making and resource allocation.
- 3.7 Attached as Appendix 1 is a report on progress for the period to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014, which includes a summary of all indicators for the Environment and Regeneration priority within the SCS.

#### **4.0 CONCLUSION**

- 4.1 The Sustainable Community Strategy for Halton, and the performance measures and targets contained within it will remain central to the delivery of community outcomes. It is therefore important that we monitor progress and that Members are satisfied that adequate plans are in place to ensure that the Council and its partners achieve the improvement targets that have been agreed.

#### **5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The Sustainable Community Strategy for Halton is central to our policy framework. It provides the primary vehicle through which the Council and its partners develop and communicate collaborative actions that will positively impact upon the communities of Halton.

#### **6.0 ATTACHED DOCUMENTS**

- 6.1 The publication by Local Authorities of performance information is central to the coalition government's transparency agenda.

#### **7.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCILS' PRIORITIES**

- 7.1 This report provides information in relation to the Council's shared strategic priorities.

#### **8.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

- 8.1 The key risk is a failure to improve the quality of life for Halton's residents in accordance with the objectives of the Sustainable Community Strategy. This risk can be mitigated through the regular review and reporting of progress and the development of appropriate interventions where under-performance may occur.

## **9.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

9.1 One of the guiding principles of the Sustainable Community Strategy is to reduce inequalities in Halton.

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

Document                      Sustainable Community Strategy 2011 – 26

Place of Inspection    2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Municipal Building, Kingsway, Widnes

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