

Environment & Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board Priority Based Monitoring Report

Reporting Period: **Quarter 4 – Period 01st January to 31st March 2014**

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1** This report provides an overview of issues and progress against key service objectives/milestones and performance targets, during the fourth quarter of 2013/14.
- 1.2** Key priorities for development or improvement in 2013-16 were agreed by Members and included in Directorate Plans for the various functional areas reporting to the Environment and Urban Renewal Policy & Performance Board i.e.:
- Development & Investment Services
 - Open Spaces and Waste and Environmental Improvement
 - Highways, Transportation & Logistics and Physical Environment
 - Housing Strategy
- 1.3** The way in which traffic light symbols have been used to reflect progress to date is explained within Section 8 of this report.

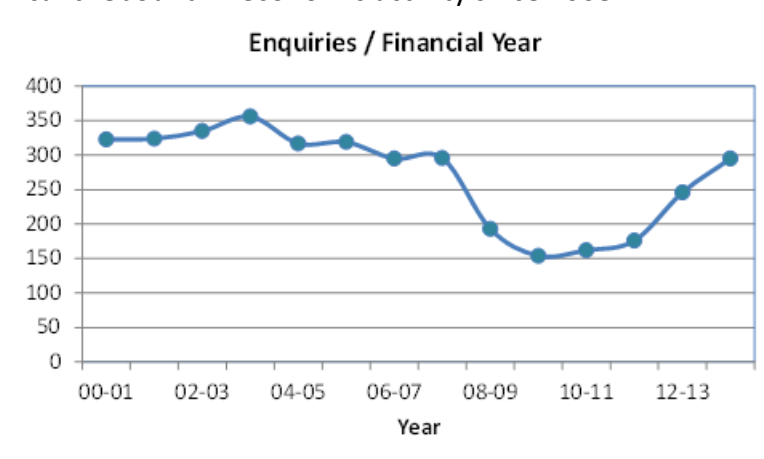
2.0 Key Developments

There have been a number of developments during the period which include:

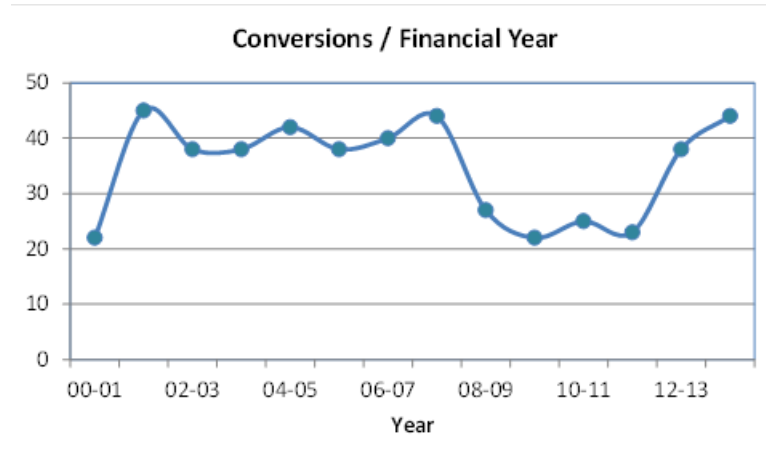
Development & Investment Services (WR)

Investment Enquiries & Conversions

- The number of investment enquiries managed by the Business Improvement and Growth (BIG) Team in the Financial Year 2013/14 (295) is at the highest level since before the onset of the global recession in 2007/08 (296). The level of inward investment enquiries in 2013/14 represents a significant rebound in economic activity since 2008.



- The upward trend in investment enquiries is reflected in the number of conversions (inward investment enquiries 'converted' into actual investment projects) which, at 44 in 2013/14, is the highest level since 2007/08. The percentage of inward investment enquiries 'converted' into actual investment projects in Quarter 4 2013/14, at 19%, considerably exceeds the annual target of 10% and contributes to an actual conversion rate for the full year of 15%.



Liverpool City Region Business Growth Grant Programme

- The Council's Executive Board gave approval on 17 October 2013 to roll out the Liverpool City Region Business Growth Grant in Halton. The scheme can provide grant of between £10,000 and £1,000,000 across the LCR based on a private sector leverage ratio of 5:1 and the creation of sustainable jobs.
- To date, 38 Halton companies have sought support from the schemes. Of that total, 11 formal Expressions of Interest (EOI) and two full applications have been completed. The first full application was externally appraised and approved by the internal Liverpool City Region Business Growth Grant Panel on Monday 31 March 2014. To date, £363,703.00 in grant has been requested.

Merseyside Business Support Programme

- The Merseyside Business Support Programme continues to engage the Halton business community with 167 companies approaching the Project Team for support. 96 companies have been referred for an initial diagnostic and the creation of an Action Plan for Growth, while 75 businesses have subsequently been referred for more specialist support. The programme is on course to meet the target of 146 Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) assisted.
- A second stage marketing campaign is underway targeting 300+ Halton businesses that have yet to engage with the programme. The programme end date has been extended across the whole of Merseyside from December 2014 to June 2015, however, the extension does not include any additional resources.

International Festival of Business (IFoB) 2014

- The Business Improvement and Growth (BIG) Team are currently facilitating two major events in Halton during International Festival of Business 2014:
 - At Sci-Tech Daresbury on Tuesday 24 June 2014 UKTI, Liverpool Vision, the Science & Technology Facilities Council (STFC) and Halton Borough Council will hold a major national UK Trade & Investment (UKTI) ICT event focusing on 'big data'.
 - On Thursday 26 June 2014, The Heath Business and Technical Park will host an event entitled 'Addressing the Skills Needs of the Science, Technology and Advanced Manufacturing Sector'. The event will feature a panel debate, chaired by BBC Business Correspondence Steph McGovern, an exhibition and events for 200+ young people interested in careers in science and technology.

External Funding

- During the quarter we achieved the following:
 - 33 new funding enquiries received, 111 in total for the year
 - £665,112 secured in external funding this quarter

Key projects for the team include:

Big Lottery Fund Reaching Communities Programme

- Canal Boat Adventure project – considering re-submission c. £300k.
- Hale Village Hall – refurbishment project c. £500k.
- Halton Carers Centre – continuation funding c. £250k.

Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF)

- Norton Priory Museum Trust: stage 2 bid for £3.5m and with match funding target of £1million.
- Exploring Halton's Collections bid submitted for £60,000 for a 'Working Lives' project.
- Runcorn 2015 – working on a bid for c £90,000.

Projects Supported by Waste Recycling Environmental Limited (WREN) funding

- Hale Youth Centre – development of outside play area / multi sports area £42,000.
- Clifton Road Allotments – site improvements £50,000.
- Sankey Canal – Spike Island lock gates £40,000.
- Mersey Gateway Environmental Trust – bid to the Biodiversity Action Fund £250,000.

Sci-Tech Daresbury

- Leading on £1.1m bid to the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) for Phase 1b, referred to as Techspace, with a bid approved in principle.
- Leading on claims for a Regional Growth Fund (RGF) grant, claim 4 due in May 2014.
- Developing a Funding Route Plan with Partners, to link funding to long-term strategic priorities.

Sankey Canal

- The Coastal Communities Stage 2 application has been successful and is in receipt of a £653,000 grant.
- Funding of £11,000 received from Ineos Chlor for interpretation boards.

Connecting Cheshire Superfast Broadband Project

- Continuing to support the Connecting Cheshire Superfast Broadband Project with policy and funding updates, as well as supporting a bid to Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK) scheme worth £2.12m (50% match required).

European programme 2014-20

- Leading on the development of a Halton Action Plan highlighting the key schemes to be brought forward during the 2014-20 programmes.

Open Spaces and Waste and Environmental Improvement (CP)

Waste & Environmental Improvement

- Following a recent procurement exercise, Officers have awarded a Residual Waste Treatment Services contract to WSR Recycling Limited, based in Widnes. The WSR solution will see over 80% of the Council's waste diverted from landfill to other forms of treatment. The contract will commence in April 2014 and will be for the period up to the commencement of the Merseyside and Halton Resource Recovery Contract which is expected to commence in mid-2016.
- The pilot scheme for the issuing of Fixed Penalty Notices for litter and dog fouling offences by the private enforcement company 3GS commenced in mid-February. Since the commencement of the scheme, 219 Fixed Penalty Notices have been issued for littering offences and 4 have been issued for dog fouling offences.
- The 3GS officers are supporting the Council's enforcement officers by carrying out enforcement patrols in town centres, local shopping areas, parks and open spaces. Patrols are also prioritised in areas requested by elected members and in response to litter and dog fouling complaints from members of the public.

Open Space Services

- The Heritage Lottery Funded (HLF) work commenced in Q4 2013/14 at Runcorn Hill & Heath Park. The works will include a new park pavilion and café, refurbishment of the lakeside and the bowls pavilions, new and refurbished paths and environmental restoration of the heathland. As part of the project a number of events, activities, and volunteering sessions have been held. They have all been well attended.
- As part of the Sankey Interlocks Project (restoration of Sankey Canal between Spike Island and Fiddlers Ferry Marina) the design team were successful with a bid to the Coastal Communities Fund (BIG Lottery) for £650,000 to install a lift bridge at Fiddlers Ferry Marina which will facilitate job creation along the canal in both Halton and Warrington. The project is a joint venture between Halton and Warrington with Halton leading on the design and development aspects.

- The design team was commissioned by Your Housing to create a new play area at Sanders Hey, Brookvale in Runcorn. The £70,000 scheme will be maintained by Your Housing.
- Work started in Q4 on the commemorative statute for Runcorn's highly decorated First World War Hero, Thomas Alfred "Todger" Jones. The commissioned artist began to create a clay version of the statue from which a mould will be made so that the bronze statue can be cast. The statue will be unveiled at Memorial Gardens in Greenway Road on 3 August 2014 as part of the Great War Commemorations.
- A Real Ale Festival was held in Victoria Park on the 7 and 8 of March 2014.

Highways, Transportation & Physical Environment (MN)

Highways

- In March 2014, Government announced a further addition to HBC's highway maintenance funding in 2014/15 by allocating an exceptional payment of £231k from a national pot of £183.5m to help address the consequences of the wettest winter on record. This is split across revenue (£146k) and capital (£85k).

Bridge & Highway Maintenance

- The Council has now developed its major funding bid to the Liverpool City Region (LCR) Combined Authority (previously the Local Transport Body (LTB)) for steady state bridge maintenance in the Silver Jubilee Bridge (SJB) complex (£1.1m/yr. for 3 years commencing 2016/17).
- This was submitted to Merseytravel at the end of March and subject to Merseytravel's consideration of this, it is expected that the preparation of an Outline Business Case will begin in June with acceptance of full Major Scheme Business Case anticipated in February 2015.

Physical Environment

- The Delivery and Allocations Local Plan (DALP) Scoping Document was approved by Executive Board on 6 January 2014 for Public Consultation (Reg. 18). This scoping work sets out the likely contents of this future planning policy document that, once produced, will contain the detail of the sites allocated for housing, employment, retail and other uses plus development management policies that are still required (carried forward from the Unitary Development Plan).
- This consultation was undertaken between the 10 February 2014 and 25 March 2014, over a 6 week period and the Executive Board will receive a report on the outcome of this consultation at a future meeting.
- The Infrastructure Plan has been updated. This plan was originally prepared in 2011 and has been reviewed and published for comment alongside the DALP Scoping Document. Further information can be found via the following link:

<http://www3.halton.gov.uk/Pages/planning/policyguidance/DALP.aspx>

- Monitoring of housing completions for 2013/14 has been undertaken. A total of 301 housing completions were recorded with 31 losses/demolitions giving a net dwelling gain for the year of 270, just under half of the policy target of 552. Annual employment monitoring is nearing completion as is a resurvey of the borough's retail centres.
- On the 5 March 2014, the Council resolved to become a constituent member of the Liverpool City Region (LCR) Combined Authority (CA) whose remit covers those strategic economic developments, regeneration, transport and employment and skills functions that can be better delivered collaboratively across the LCR. In becoming part of the CA, which was to come into being on 1 April 2014, Halton is required to transfer its Local Transport Authority Powers over to the CA. This will essentially cover the responsibility for issues including:
 - Concessionary travel
 - Bus stop infrastructure provision
 - Supported bus services
 - Public transport information provision
 - Any issues surrounding rail transport
- These services will, however, continue to be delivered by this Council with a period of transition for the transfer of responsibility to the CA covering the next 3 years.
- Halton is party to two new LSTF bids for the 2015/16 programme, with the DfT announcing the successful bidders in July/Aug 2014
- The Liverpool City Region (LCR) is submitting a bid to the DfT for £3.6m to deliver sustainable transport solutions. As this round of funding is for revenue only and for 1 year only, the development and promotion of sustainable scheme options were limited. The general theme of the LCR bid, therefore, is for Sustainable Transport Solutions. If the bid is successful, it will allow Halton to temporarily engage two Business Travel Advisors to provide solutions to businesses located within the Strategic Sites as defined in the LCR Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) areas and support local job seekers with real travel solutions to attending interviews, further education and employment.
- The Mid-Mersey partnership (St Helens, Warrington and Halton) are also submitting an LSTF application with the theme similar to the LCR bid. However, the focus is to provide Travel Plans to new residential developments and to Halton residents living in Social Housing. The total value of the scheme is £370k.

Housing Strategy (PMcW)

- Following a procurement exercise the contract for the provision of support services to adult victims of domestic abuse has been awarded to the Changing Lives organisation. The contract commences 1st July 2014 for 2 years, with an option to extend by up to 3 further years.

3.0 Emerging Issues

A number of emerging issues have been identified during the period that will impact upon the work of the Council including:

Development & Investment Services (WR)

European Programme 2014-20

- Two project proposals have developed for the forthcoming EU Programme 2014-20, a successor programme to the current ERDF 4.2 Merseyside Business Support Programme (MBSP). A project entitled 'Maximising the Benefits of ICT' has also been developed to compliment the roll out of superfast broadband locally.
- In all likelihood a successor ERDF 4.2 Merseyside Business Support Programme (MBSP) will remain a pan-Merseyside programme with local delivery.
- The pan-Merseyside decision to 'opt-in' to a range of national programmes, for example the Manufacturing Advisory Service (MAS) Growth Accelerator (GA) and UK Trade & Investment (UKTI), will also impact upon the proposals for business support provision locally.

Liverpool City Region Growth Hub

- The Liverpool City Region Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) has developed a proposal to create a 'Growth Hub' for the city region. A Growth Hub is not a physical entity but rather a virtual organisation to provide business support services across the City Region.
- The creation of a Growth Hub will allow the City Region to access new UK Government funds. However, Government is very prescriptive with respect to the form and function of the Growth Hub model they will support. This must include management and strategic coordination and a one stop shop. The prescribed model suggests a pre-eminent role for local Chambers support by Local Authorities. To quote from the guidance:
- "Local Chambers must be involved in the design and governance of all Growth Hubs receiving funding from the W2GH programme. It is also assumed the chambers will be responsible for delivering the one stop shop function expected of all Growth Hubs, but HMG will consider relaxing this rule where LEPs put forward persuasive arguments for alternative arrangements."
- A Growth Hub would generate additional funding which can be used as match towards ERDF funding for the services considered to be most needed.

Open Spaces and Waste and Environmental Improvement (CP)

Waste and Environmental Improvement

- As part of the Government's budget of 19 March 2014, it was announced that Landfill Tax will rise in line with RPI inflation from 1 April 2015. There was no long-term plan mentioned, but the Government intends to provide further longer-term certainty about the future level of landfill tax rates once certain consultations have taken place.

- As result of the residual waste treatment contract, referred to under 'Key Developments', the waste diverted from landfill will result in an estimated cost avoidance of an additional £50,000 per annum, which would have been incurred had the Council continued to send waste to landfill for disposal in 2015/16.
- Following the Government's recent announcement that it would not be publishing any guidance on the need to provide separate collections of dry recyclable materials by 2015, a working group comprising of members of local authority waste networks and the Waste & Resources Action Programme (WRAP), are to publish a recycling collection 'Route-map' for local authorities.
- The 'Route-map', will help with the requirements of the Waste Regulations 2011 (amended 2012)' and is being developed to help local authorities understand what recycling services they are legally obligated to provide the under waste laws. The Waste Regulations state that by 2015, councils will need to provide separate collections of dry recyclable materials when they are necessary to 'facilitate or improve recovery' and demonstrate that services are 'technically, environmentally and economically practicable' (TEEP).

Highways Transportation & Physical Environment (MN)

Highways

- The winter maintenance season for highways finished on 10 April 2014. At the end of the season 26 gritting runs will have been undertaken with salt usage totalling 660 tonnes. Due to this year's relatively mild temperatures this is a reduction in gritting runs of 58% and salt usage of 43% compared to the 2012/13 season.
- The Council is undertaking a review to ensure that the borough has sufficient land available to meet its needs to 2028 and beyond with a report on the findings expected to be available by the end of May 2015.
- The cost of energy is a continuing concern as the rates are increasing at a rate higher than inflation. High speed roads in the borough (i.e. those with speed limits of 40mph or more) already have their lighting switched off between midnight and 6:00am.
- Additionally, a number of traffic signal controlled junctions, particularly within Astmoor and Whitehouse are reaching the end of their life and substantial investment (about £0.5M) is required to keep them operating, otherwise it may be necessary to turn them off.
- Investigations are taking place around introducing a permit scheme which will increase our control of road works carried out by the Statutory Undertakers. It will be based on the Merseyside Authorities Permits Scheme, which has been developed by St Helens MBC. It is anticipated to be operational from mid-2015.
- With the formation of the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority, there is a need to produce a Joint Local Transport Plan for the LCR as opposed to having one for Halton and one for Merseyside, as currently happens. The potential resource implications involved in producing this document are difficult to determine at this stage but it will have to be treated as a priority over the next 10 to 11 months so that an agreed and approved LTP can be ready for the period beginning 2015/16.

4.0 Risk Control Measures

Risk control forms an integral part of the Council's Business Planning and performance monitoring arrangements. As such Directorate Risk Registers were updated in tandem with the development of the suite of 2014 – 15 Directorate Business Plans.

Progress concerning the implementation of all high-risk mitigation measures will be monitored in Quarter 2 (14-15).

5.0 Progress Against Equality Actions

Equality issues continue to form a routine element of the Council's business planning and operational decision making processes. Additionally, the Council must have evidence to demonstrate compliance with the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) which came into force in April 2011.




The Council's latest annual progress report in relation to the achievement of its equality objectives was published on the Council website during quarter 4 and is available via [http://www3.halton.gov.uk/Pages/councildemocracy/pdfs/EandD/Equality -
objectives progress report - April 2013.pdf](http://www3.halton.gov.uk/Pages/councildemocracy/pdfs/EandD/Equality-_objectives_progress_report_-_April_2013.pdf).

6.0 Performance Overview

The following information provides a synopsis of progress for both milestones and performance indicators across the key business areas that have been identified by the Directorate.

6.1 Development and Investment Services

Key Objectives / Milestones

Ref	Milestones	Q4 Progress
EEP 01	Continue to market the Lakeside and Canalside development sites	
	Continue the development of Mossbank Park	
	Commence development of SciTech Phase 1 by June 2013	

Supporting Commentary

Lakeside Phase 1: On the 11th November 2013, the Council completed on the disposal of the site of the former Barge Public House and adjoining land to Keepmoat Homes. This was followed by an immediate start on site by the developer.

The scheme comprises a total of 86 two, three and four bedroom homes starting at £90,000. Joint publicity with Keepmoat was gained in early December 2013, with the Executive Board Member for Physical Environment taking a leading role.

In January 2014, Plus Dane confirmed that it is in the process of agreeing Heads of Terms with Keepmoat to purchase 20 x 2 bedroom homes at Bridgewater Gardens. These will be offered for affordable rent and replaces the 'private market rent' properties. The remaining 66 units on the development will be marketed by Keepmoat for private sale.









This approach delivers the sustainable mixed community we envisaged for Castlefields and has been funded by Plus Dane's own finance and £360,000 grant from the Homes and Communities Agency. Further HCA grant demonstrates that a focus on delivery has meant Castlefields has picked up funds destined for elsewhere in Merseyside.

The site is progressing well with the sales office opening earlier than anticipated in February. Keepmoat has reported that sales are exceeding expectations with little print marketing. Analysis will be undertaken of where buyers are moving from. A number of early bird reservations have already been placed. The scheme was expected to take 3 years to complete but Keepmoat is currently assessing accelerating the build out to meet demand. For further information about the development see: <http://www.keepmoat.com/development/bridgewater-gardens-runcorn>

Mossbank Park is now known as Venture Fields – Construction work on the Pure Gym site started January 2014 and is expected to be completed for hand over for fit out in May 2014.

Both planning applications for Tech Space and Site Connectivity at Daresbury Sci-Tech received approval on 2 December 2013. The programme is on target for a start on site in Autumn 2014. Scottish Power are well advanced. Two buses have been acquired and are now in operation. Positive discussions have been held with the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) to identify a series of actions for the Enterprise Zone.

Key Performance Indicators

Ref	Measure	12/13 Actual	13/14 Target	Q4	Current Progress	Direction of travel
DIS LI 05	Number of inward investment enquiries per annum	246	180	295 (Cumulative)		
DIS LI 06	Inward investment enquiry conversion rate percentage	15%	10%	15%		
DIS LI 01	Occupancy of HBC Industrial Units.	86%	85%	85%		
DIS LI 02	Occupancy of Widnes Market Hall.	92%	90%	84%		

Supporting Commentary

295 investment enquiries were managed in 2013/14, the highest level since 2007/08 and the onset

of the global recession in 2008. During quarter 4 there were 62 enquiries. The number of conversions in 2013/14, is the highest level since 2007/08.



The percentage of inward investment enquiries ‘converted’ into actual investment projects in Quarter 4 2013/14 at 19% considerably exceeds the annual target of 10% and contributes to an actual conversion rate for the full year of 15%.

Occupancy of our industrial estates remains high and recent upturn in the market suggests that the target for 2013/14 will be met. Three new traders have started at the market this calendar year with a further four traders offered stalls however, three traders have reduced their stalls.

6.2 Open Spaces and Waste and Environmental Improvement

6.2.1 Open Spaces

Key Objectives / Milestones



Ref	Milestones	Q4 Progress
CE 05	Runcorn Hill Park (Parks for People bid) – Deliver project subject to success of funding bid. March 2014.	
	Woodland Expansion - Additional 200 square metres of Woodland planted Borough wide - March 2014.	

Supporting Commentary

The major physical works at Runcorn Hill Park project commenced on site during Q4 2013/14 with further works to be completed over the next four years.

The planting for the woodland expansion has been completed with 200 square metres planted on behalf of Preston Brook Parish Council at Bridgewater Grange.

Key Performance Indicators




Ref	Measure	12/13 Actual	13/14 Target	Q4	Current Progress	Direction of travel
CE LI 19	Number of Green Flag Awards for Halton.	12	12	12		

Supporting Commentary

The 12 Green Flag Award parks were awarded in July 2013.

6.2.2 Waste Management

Key Objectives / Milestones

Ref	Milestones	Q4 Progress
CE 6	Continue to review and assess the effectiveness of projects and initiatives to help improve energy efficiency and reduce CO ₂ emissions - March 2014 .	
	Develop and publish a Waste Communications Plan and implement actions arising from the Plan - March 2014 .	
CE 7	Continue to develop Action Plans and Protocols with External Agencies to effectively prevent and tackle a range of waste and environmental offences - March 2014 .	

Supporting Commentary







In this financial year, approximately 3,500 households were changed from a sack collection service to a wheeled bin service. This service change was part of the on-going review of properties that may be suitable for wheeled bin collections. The roll out of wheeled bins to further properties will take place over forthcoming periods.

The opportunities to reduce energy usage in corporate buildings have continued to be explored. Individual building performance charts, comparing all monitored sites, now provide building managers with feedback on the relative progress towards the achieving energy usage targets.

A Waste Communications Plan has been produced with a number of actions arising that have been completed or implemented, including the development of specific Waste Management Facebook and Twitter accounts, as well as the delivery of interactive education programmes to primary schools.

Officers are continuing to work on joint operations with external organisations and enforcement agencies such as local Housing Associations, Cheshire Police and the Environment Agency to tackle waste and environmental related nuisance. In February 2014, the Council was involved in a Multi-agency 'roadside check' of waste carriers with Cheshire Police, Customs & Excise, HMS Court Bailiffs and the Vehicle Inspectorate.

Key Performance Indicators

Ref	Measure	12/13 Actual	13/14 Target	Q4	Current Progress	Direction of travel
CE LI 14	Residual household waste per household (Previously NI191). (Kgs)	633 Kgs	700 Kgs	624 Kgs		
CE LI 15	Household waste recycled and composted (Previously NI192). (%)	37.3%	40%	38.53%		
CE LI 16	Municipal waste land filled (Previously NI193). (%)	58%	60%	57.17%		

Supporting Commentary


LI 14 - This is an estimated figure but indications are that this target has been met with the estimated figure for 2013/14 lower than the target and also being lower than the previous financial year.

LI 15 - Despite an increase in recycling compared to 2012/13, performance is slightly short of this year's target, where the amount recycled and composted should be equal to or higher than the target for the year. The new waste treatment services contract referred to in 'Key Developments' will ensure a significant increase in recycling performance in 2014/15.

LI 16 - This is an estimated figure but indications are that this target has been met with the estimated figure for 2013/14 lower than the target and also being lower than the previous financial year.

6.3 Highways, Transportation & Logistics (MN)

Key Objectives / Milestones

Ref	Milestones	Q4 Progress
PPT 01	Review progress, revise SJB maintenance strategy document and deliver 2013/14 major bridge maintenance works programme. March 2014	
PPT 02	To deliver the 2013/14 LTP Capital Programme. March 2014	
PPT 03	Develop and consult on a local flood risk strategy for Halton by November 2013 and progress to adoption by March 2014 .	
PPT 06	Progress the Delivery and Site Allocations Local Plan (DALP) towards adoption. March 2014	
PPT 07	Mersey Gateway - Enter into Project Agreement and Demand Management Participation Agreement – November 2013 . Mersey Gateway – Full business case approval, Financial close and Contract award and mobilisation – November 2013 .	

Supporting Commentary

The 2013/14 major bridge maintenance works programme was delivered with individual work delivery being adjusted in line with budget availability as Target Costs for individual Task Orders were agreed. The Department for Transport (DfT) has given outline approval to transfer £202k of Grant from 2013/14 to 2014/15 to reflect works which were delayed.



















Over 25 integrated transport schemes have been delivered by the LTP programme including neighbourhood-based access improvements and minor improvements to walking and cycling routes across the borough. Bus stop upgrades have also been undertaken with 65% (392) of the bus stops now having quality corridor accessibility features.



In addition, the road maintenance element of the LTP has included 23 footway reconstruction schemes and 6 major carriageway resurfacing schemes.

Following review by the Environment Agency and initial partner consultation, the draft Flood Risk Management Strategy is currently being updated to take account of our local partners' developed strategies and to ensure a consistent approach and structure for the document across the Cheshire Mid-Mersey sub-region. This has delayed public consultation on the strategy, which is now expected to commence in May 2014.

Work in regards to the Mersey Gateway Board has now been completed. Financial Close occurred on 28th March 2014. There will be no further reporting on Mersey Gateway items as part of any departmental reports as the Mersey Gateway Crossings Board have a separate Governance Agreement with the Council which deals with reporting.

Key Performance Indicators

Ref	Measure	12/13 Actual	13/14 Target	Q4	Current Progress	Direction of travel
PPT LI 01	Number of third party compensation claims received due to alleged highway / footway defects.	150	110	132		
PPT LI 11	Damage to roads and pavements (% dangerous damage repaired within 24 hours).	74	98	99		
PPT LI 04	% Processing of planning applications as measured against targets for:					
	a) 'major' applications < 13 weeks	66.7	60	83.3		
	b) 'minor' applications < 8 weeks	30.9	83	74.2		
	c) 'other' applications	70.4	83	83.6		
PPT LI 05	To ensure a five year rolling supply of housing land available for 2,760 homes over 5 years. Measure as supply of ready to develop housing sites (%).	111 (April 2012)	100	111 (April 2012)		
PPT LI 15	Bus service punctuality:					
	a) Percentage of buses starting route on time	97.74	97.80	98.05		
	b) Percentage of buses on time at intermediate timing points	89.31	97.40	91.60		
PPT LI 17	No. of passengers on community based accessible transport	275,518	255,000	253,357		

Ref	Measure	12/13 Actual	13/14 Target	Q4	Current Progress	Direction of travel
PPT LI 19	Number of local bus passenger journeys originating in the authority area in one year (000's)	5,491	5,500	5,522		

Supporting Commentary

There have been 132 third party claims received this year. Although this has exceeded the target, it represents a 12% decrease since 2012/13. It should be noted that the numbers of successful claims remains a low proportion of all the claims the authority has received.

This activity is now being undertaken through the new Highways term contract with Lafarge Tarmac under a new suite of incentivised performance indicators. This greater degree of contractual control in combination with new methods of reporting and instructing P1 & P2 work has brought performance back in line with target.

The performance of the planning application processing has steadily improved over the last few quarters as a result of investments made in the service. Earlier in the year, Halton faced the risk of designation by the Government as an authority to be placed in 'special measures', however this was avoided. The Government intends to increase the threshold for designation to any authority processing less than 40% of major applications within 13 weeks.

The figures presented were released in 2013 and the performance symbol used reflects the view of how the indicator is currently progressing, although revised figures not yet available due to legacy of a vacant post. However the monitoring of consents / completions for 2013/14 has now been completed and new figures will be reported in Q1 2014/15. The 5 year requirement is becoming increasingly difficult to achieve as cumulative undersupply since 2010 (1,080 units), due to market conditions, inflates the 5 year requirement i.e. target at April 2014 = 4,608 units (2,760 policy figure + 1,080 undersupply + 20% NPPF buffer / 5 = 922 units per year).

Operators have made significant investment in vehicle telematics which enable more detailed monitoring of bus services. This allows for better informed decisions to be made on the scheduling and timing of routes to ensure more journeys are operating to time.

As a result of this investment, both indicators have performed well, with the percentage of buses starting routes on time exceeding the target and the percentage of buses on time at intermediate timing points, although not meeting this financial year's target, improving on the previous year's performance.

Journeys taken on community based transport (operated by Halton Community Transport) have decreased by 12.63% which in the main is attributed to a loss of Dial-A-Ride passengers caused by shortened operating hours (2-3 hours per vehicle per day) and also due to further passenger fares increases.


The re-scheduling and re-planning of Community Based Accessible services ensures that we look at the mix of work allocated to both in-house fleet and external contractors. As the in-house fleet is a fixed asset with a fixed cost, it is always ensured that this resource is utilised to an optimum level.

Also, with improved flexibility from adult day services around arrival and departure times at community based venues, it has been possible to provide an increased number of passengers on in-house fleet which has enabled us to withdraw two costly minibus contracts and several taxi contracts. Overall, this equates to a reduction of approximately 8% from the 2012/13 actual to the Q4 2013/14 actual figure.

Bus patronage figures have risen slightly during 13/14 with the target being achieved. One operator reports that journeys are slightly up due to passengers taking up the multi-journey ticket option.

6.4 Housing Strategy (P.McW)

Key Objectives / Milestones

Ref	Milestones	Q4 Progress
CCC 3	Continue to negotiate with housing providers and partners in relation to the provision of further extra care housing tenancies, to ensure requirements are met (including the submission of appropriate funding bids). March 2014	

Supporting Commentary

Construction has commenced on Halton Housing Trust's second extra care scheme at the Pingot Centre. The development will offer 50 apartments, of which 32 will be allocated for social housing rent, 12 for shared ownership and six for outright sale, whilst five supported bungalows will also be built on site.

There are no plans to support further schemes at this stage, given the revenue implications for the Council.







7.0 Financial Statements

The Council's 2013/14 year-end accounts are currently being finalised.

The year-end position for each Council Department will therefore be made available via the Intranet, by 30 June 2014.

8.0 Appendix - Explanation for use of symbols

Symbols are used in the following manner:

<u>Progress</u>	<u>Objective</u>	<u>Performance Indicator</u>
Green 	Indicates that the <u>objective is on course to be achieved</u> within the appropriate timeframe.	Indicates that the annual target <u>is on course to be achieved</u> .
Amber 	Indicates that it is <u>uncertain or too early to say at this stage</u> , whether the milestone/objective will be achieved within the appropriate timeframe.	Indicates that it is <u>uncertain or too early to say at this stage</u> whether the annual target is on course to be achieved.
Red 	Indicates that it is <u>highly likely or certain</u> that the objective will not be achieved within the appropriate timeframe.	Indicates that the target <u>will not be achieved</u> unless there is an <u>intervention or remedial action</u> taken.
Direction of Travel Indicator		
<i>Where possible <u>performance measures</u> will also identify a direction of travel using the following convention:</i>		
Green 	<i>Indicates that performance is better as compared to the same period last year.</i>	
Amber 	<i>Indicates that performance is the same as compared to the same period last year.</i>	
Red 	<i>Indicates that performance is worse as compared to the same period last year.</i>	
N/A	<i>Indicates that the measure cannot be compared to the same period last year.</i>	

Key for Operational Director lead:

(MN)	Mick Noone	Operational Director, Policy, Planning & Transportation
(CP)	Chris Patino	Operational Director, Community & Environment
(PMcW)	Paul McWade	Operational Director, Commissioning & Complex Care
(WR)	Wesley Rourke	Operational Director, Economy Enterprise & Property