

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

**DATE:** 15 September 2014

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

**PORTFOLIO:** Economic Development

**SUBJECT:** Improving Halton Economy Dashboard

**WARDS:** Borough-wide

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 To inform Board Members of the recent analysis of economic data.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That**

- (i) **The results of the analysis are noted and used as part of the wider evidence to inform HBC economic policy.**

## **3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

As part of the ongoing standard economic analysis, it became apparent that there had been a positive change in a number of the indicators. These indicators have been pulled into a “dashboard” to show the improvement over the past 12 months (of available data, data period covering 2012 to 2014). These improvements have taken place at a quicker pace when compared to the national trend.

Key points from the dashboard:

- In line with regional and national trends, Halton has rising levels of average pay, GCSE pass rates and new business start-ups. Also in line with regional and national trends, Halton has falling levels of unemployment / job seekers allowance claimants and adults with no qualifications.
- The average weekly pay for full-time workers living in Halton has risen above the North West average for the first time.
- The GCSE pass rate (achieving 5+ A\*-C including English and Maths) in Halton has risen above the England figure for the first time.
- The Job seekers allowance claimant rate in Halton has seen a greater decrease over the last 12 months, when compared to the decrease nationally.
- For Job seekers allowance claims in Halton, every breakdown of ‘age of claimant’ and ‘length of claim’ has fallen by at least a quarter over the last 12 months (this is in line with national trends).
- Compared to overall England figures, Halton has seen a greater increase in new business start-ups and overall business premises.

The full dashboard can be found at:

<http://www3.halton.gov.uk/Pages/councildemocracy/pdfs/CensusandStatistics/ImprovingEconomyOfHalton.pdf>

#### **4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

The dashboard will form part of the wider evidence base that is used to form policies across the whole of the Council.

#### **5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

N/A

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

N/A

#### **7.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

N/A

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

N/A

**Summary assessment of Implications:** *This wording will appear in the Board report.*

The Improving Halton Economy Dashboard shows a summary of a set of indicators that have shown improvement in Halton over the past 12 months (of available data), at a greater speed than the national trends.

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

There are none under the meaning of the Act.