

Priority Based Report

Priority: Employment, Learning and Skills

Reporting Period: Quarter 2, Period 01 July 2014 – 30 September 2014

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1** This report provides an overview of issues and progress towards the priority of Employment Learning and Skills, that have occurred during the period of the report. The way in which traffic light symbols have been used to reflect progress to date is explained within the Appendix (section 8).
- 1.2** Please note initials have been provided to indicate which Operational Director is responsible for the commentary to aid Members. A key is provided at the end of the report in Appendix (section 8).

2.0 Key Developments

2.1 Castlefields, Lakeside Phase 1 (WR)

On 11th November 2013 the Council completed on the disposal of the site of the former Barge Public House and adjoining land to Keepmoat Homes. The scheme comprises 66 units for open market sale (OMS) and 20 two bed affordable homes for rent. These 20 units will be owned / managed by Plus Dane Group. In respect of OMS, to date the following has been achieved – 14 sold legally completed, 15 reserved, 37 to sell. Joint publicity achieved at a number of key points. Scheme expected to complete in January 2016. For further information about the development see:

<http://www.keepmoat.com/development/bridgewater-gardens-runcorn>

2.2 Investment Enquiries (WR)

The Business Improvement and Growth (BIG) Team managed 88 commercial property inward investment enquiries in Quarter 2 2014/15 which resulted in 9 conversions (inward investment enquiries 'converted' into actual investment projects). The percentage of inward investment enquiries 'converted' into actual investment projects in Quarter 2 2014\15 was 8%.

2.3 Cemeteries & Crematorium (CP)

In Q2 approval in the form of a section 77 notice for the de-designation of the former Fairfield High School playing fields was given. This means that the council can now create a new cemetery on the site. A report will be going to Executive Board in Q3 to seek the necessary procurement authorisations.

The first of two new cremators was installed in Q2. The new cremator will go into full service in Q3 when work will be begin on replacement of the second cremator.

2.4 Design & Development (CP)

Money was secured from WREN in Q2 which will fund necessary repair works to the lock gates at Spike Island. At present the gates are not working correctly and they are allowing too much water to escape from the canal

2.5 Stadium (CP)

Pitch Activities

- A number of high profile games have figured on SKY this year from the Stadium.
- Widnes Vikings have had their most successful season for many years, they participated in the Semi Final of Challenge Cup and reached Superleague Play Offs for the first time as they finished in the top 8.

- The i-pitch is continuing to be a popular venue for a range of football and rugby clubs in the area with over 60,000 users since it was installed almost three years ago.

Events

- The Marquee Suite was stretched to its limits when it hosted Widnes Vikings 25th Anniversary World Cup Challenge dinner when over 500 people attended the event.
- A further three large weddings have been held in the Marquee Suite
- The stadium continues to be one of the most popular venues in the Borough for weddings with over 10 Weddings taking place in the past quarter.
- The Halton Sports Awards were held at The Stadium recognising success, effort and commitment from our amateur sporting champions.
- The annual Cheshire Youth Cricket Dinner was again held at the Stadium – the turnout of over 300 was the highest numbers ever for this event.

Stadium Fitness

- Current membership is 692.
- Pure Gym has had an impact on the gym figures we are down by 20% since it opened.

2.6 Library Service (CP)

Efficiency Review

A range of possible options have been considered for the future of the service and two were put forward for public consultation in July 2014. The library consultation period ran for a calendar month, from July 14th to August 14th 2014. The total number of responses received was 1011.

The consultation also included questions relating to the mobile and housebound services and use of technology both within, and in order to access the library service. The Council is considered ceasing the mobile library provision but will consult further before a final decision is made, this consultation will commence in October 2014. A proposed staffing structure will be subject to formal consultation with staff commencing in October 2014.

2.7 Universal Free School Meals (UFSM) (CP)

Free school meals for all reception, year 1 and year 2 children was introduced in September. Approximately 1500 additional school children are staying for a school lunch.

Staffing

Providing the additional meals required recruiting additional kitchen additional assistants. Recruiting for staff to work for just 2 hours at lunch time is very difficult as many people need to work a minimum of 16hrs per week.

Kitchen Building work/ New Equipment

In order to cope with the increased capacity of meals to be prepared and served, a list of 29 schools required building work and /or additional new equipment. All but 3 of the projects were completed on time, 3 schools were delayed by 1 day. This was a considerable achievement considering the short time frame available for all the work to be done.

2.8 Waste Collection Services (CP)

As part of an on-going review of properties that are served by a 'sack' waste collection service, a further 350 properties were identified as being suitable for the provision of a wheeled bin service during this quarter. This takes the total number of households that have been provided with wheeled bins to approximately 2,400 since the review commenced. Officers are currently reviewing all remaining 'sack' collection properties and it is expected that this exercise will be completed by the end of March 2015.

2.9 Community Centres (CP)

The new climbing wall was opened at Upton Community Centre at the end of July and is continuing to prove popular with younger people in the area. Sessions on the wall have been very well attended with over 330 people attending 30 sessions in the first two months since opening. Supervision/tuition is provided by six trained instructors, who attended a two

day site specific course. The wall has been manufactured and routes have been set to ensure they adhere to the GCSE Syllabus. There has been a number of schools in the local area that have expressed an interest, with Ashley School and Riverside College already having attended sessions on the wall.

2.10 Community Events (CP)

In July, Council delegates attended the official launch of Wat Phra Singh Buddhist temple, the event was well attended with senior members of the Buddhist faith in Halton from the parent temple in Thailand. The Council has established strong links with the temple that is keen to integrate with the local community. This relationship supports diverse dialogue with our faith community in Halton.

In September, the Community Development Team organised a commemorative event at Runcorn East Railway Station featuring a performance of "It will be over by Christmas". Three local schools participated alongside the Irish Guards, the British Legion and many local community groups. A celebration event was held at Murdishaw Community Centre with 200+ in attendance.

2.11 Area Forums (CP)

Grange, Heath, Mersey & Halton Brook Area Forum held a 'themed event' on the commemorations and focussed on Runcorn's history associated with war. The event was well attended with some fascinating research on local soldiers emerging. The links made and the research uncovered will support future commemorative focus over the next four years.

3.0 Emerging Issues

3.1 Runcorn Hill Park Pavilion & Widnes Rec Sports Pavilion (WR)

The contractor went into administration on 20th August 2014, as such works on site have currently stopped. The site currently has an ongoing security presence and we are in the process of obtaining prices from alternative contractors in order to recommence works on site. This will have a significant effect on the completion date.

3.2 Liverpool City Region Growth Hub (WR)

At a city region level an initial funding package of £550,000 has been agreed between the LEP and BIS (subject to contract) to support the development of a LCR Growth Hub, a virtual organisation providing business support services across the LCR; the LEP plan to recruit a team of 'Business Brokers'. A core team of Business Brokers will be based at the LEP and a single Business Broker will be based within each Local Authority area, embedded either within the Local Authority or local Chamber.

As part of the development of a LCR Growth Hub the LEP has also proposed a pan-Merseyside CRM system to manage investment projects, commercial property enquiries and future grant and business support programmes. The LEP, following a competitive tender exercise, has selected a system called Evolutive. Given the LEP are seeking to integrate all LCR Local Authorities and Chambers and, potentially, private sector partners there are a number of data sharing and other issues to be resolved before such a system would be acceptable to partners.

3.3 Youth Contract Underspend implementation (WR)

This is due to commence in Q3. Recruitment for 3 new posts will take place (closing date 13th October 2014). Depending on applications received, the contract may need to commence using existing resources as Cabinet Office requires activity from October 2014 onwards. The target number of starts for Halton in year 1 is 94.

3.4 'TEEP' (CP)

In accordance with the requirements of The Waste (England and Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2012, from 1st January 2015, every Waste Collection Authority must, when making arrangements for the collection of waste paper, metal, plastic or glass, ensure that those arrangements are by way of separate collection. The requirement to separately collect applies when:

- It is necessary to ensure that waste undergoes recovery operations, and to facilitate or improve recovery; and
- It is technically, environmentally and economically practicable ("TEEP")

The new duties also mean that all reasonable steps must be taken wherever this is necessary to produce high quality recyclates.

Co-mingling of waste (i.e. putting recyclables all together into one bin or box as per the Council's current policy) will be permissible after 2015 where it does provide high quality recyclates or where separate collection is not practicable.

A report will be produced for Members to provide evidence to support current or proposed collections systems in order to comply with the relevant legislation.

3.5 Liverpool Road Playing Fields Project (CP)

Unfortunately, construction has been delayed. It is hoped that the building will be operational early in 2015. The Get Active year 1 delivery plan included a number of activity sessions taking place at Liverpool Road; amendments to the Year 1 delivery plan have been agreed with Sport England to ensure that these activities can still be delivered once the building is open.

4.0 Risk Control Measures

4.1 Risk control forms an integral part of the Council's Business Planning and performance monitoring arrangements. During the development of the 2014/15 Business Plan, the service was required to undertake a risk assessment of all key service objectives with high risks included in the Directorate Risk Register.

4.2 As a result, monitoring of all relevant 'high' risks was undertaken during the reporting period with no issues to report.

5.0 Progress against high priority equality actions

5.1 The local authority must have evidence that it reviews its services and policies to show that they comply with the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) which came into force in April 2011. The PSED also requires us to publish this information as it is available.

5.2 As a result of undertaking Equality Impact Assessments no high priority actions were identified for the Directorate during the reporting period.

6.0 Performance Overview

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

Priority: SUPPORTING GROWTH AND INVESTMENT

Key Milestones and Measures

Ref	Milestones	Quarterly progress
EEP2	Undertake a baseline review of business makeup sectors and capacity in Halton by March 2015.	✓
EEP2	Deliver the Business Improvements Districts (BID) Year 2 action plan by March 2015.	✓
EEP2	Agree priority action areas arising from the Mersey Gateway regeneration strategy by July 2014.	✓

SUPPORTING COMMENTARY

EEP 2

Research has been commissioned as reported at the last ELS & C PPB. All outputs associated with BID II Year II Action Plan are on programme and on budget. Priority action areas have been agreed.



DIS LI 06 - Inward Investment Enquiry conversion rate				SCS ELS01- Increase the No. of active enterprises in Halton				SCS ELS 09 Increase the gross weekly earnings by resident			
Current progress	Target	Quarterly progress	Direction of Travel	Current progress	Target	Quarterly progress	Direction of Travel	Current progress	Target	Quarterly progress	Direction of Travel
9%	10%	✓	↓	N/A	2750	N/A	N/A	N/A	£483	N/A	N/A

Supporting Commentary

DIS LI 06, Inward investment enquiry conversion rate percentage - The level of conversions (inward investment enquiries 'converted' into actual investment project) in Q2 was 8% and the cumulative total 9% against a target of 10%. In comparison to the same period last year the conversion rate was 12%.

SCS ELS01, Increase the number of active enterprises within the Borough - This information will be available at year end. The latest data available is for 2013 (2775). However, the trend shows an increase year on year of active enterprises exceeding targets.

SCS ELS09, Increase the gross weekly earnings by resident – This information will be available at year end. The target for Halton is to close the gap to the CIPFA nearest statistical neighbours. The latest data available is at December 2013, which shows Halton having the higher gross weekly earnings of £485 compared to £483 in the Northwest.

Ref	Measure	13/14 Actual	14/15 Target	Current	Direction of Travel	Quarterly progress
SCS ELS 02	Increase the proportion of business diversity in the following sectors: Knowledge Economy, Superport, Low carbon/green, Visitor economy	27.03% (March 2013)	27%	N/A	N/A	N/A
SCS ELS 03	Increase the number of people classed as self-employed	6% (Local Economic Assessment HBC July 2013)	7%	6%		

Supporting Commentary

SCS ELS 02 - This information will be available at year end. This is the latest data released in October 2013 and is a snapshot of the Inter Departmental Business Register (IDBR) taken on 12 March 2013. To download and view the current data in excel format, click on the link below, the Information is taken from: (table B1.1)

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/publications/re-reference-tables.html?edition=tcm%3A77-313744>

The following standard categories have been chosen as a proxy for these priorities:

- Professional, Scientific and Technical
- Information and Communication
- Transport and Storage

SCS ELS 03 - HBC does not own this NI data. However, **3** customers accessing HPIJ's Enterprising Halton service have become self-employed during Quarter 2. *The latest data available is for June 2014 at 6% based on the Local Economic Assessment HBC.*

Priority: RAISING SKILLS LEVELS AND REDUCING UNEMPLOYMENT

Key Milestones and Measures

Ref	Milestones	Quarterly progress
EEP3	Deliver the Work Programme via subcontract arrangements to Prime Contractors A4E and Ingeus Deloitte in line with the contract	
EEP3	Complete SciTech skills for growth action plan by March 2015.	
EEP3	Implement Corporate Apprenticeships framework by November 2014.	
EEP3	Identify skills bank requirements from Mersey Gateway project by July 2015.	

Supporting Commentary

EEP3

Deliver Work Programme via subcontract arrangements to Prime Contractors A4E and Ingeus Deloitte in line with the contract - Job starts and job outcome targets haven't been achieved on the Ingeus or A4e contract during this period although contracted minimum performance levels (MPL's) for specified 3 payment groups were achieved on both contracts during quarter 2. There was a reduction in anticipated referrals during this period and staff absences have also impacted on delivery during this quarter across both contracts.

Complete SciTech skills for growth action plan by March 2015 - The Skills group are meeting to investigate the development of an area plan for ESF funding. Skills Strategy meetings with Sci-Tech Daresbury continued in Q2. A Skills Funding Route Map workshop also took place in Q2 to start to flesh out some actual skills delivery at the campus.

Implement Corporate Apprenticeships framework by November 2014 - COMT have approved an Apprenticeship Strategy for HBC. It is expected that this will be financially supported through the next round of ESF monies. A corporate briefing is scheduled for 13th October 2014.

Identify skills bank requirements from Mersey Gateway project by July 2015 - All KPIs associated with the Employment & Skills Delivery Plan are on target to be achieved.

Current progress	Target	Quarterly progress	Direction of Travel	Current progress	Target	Quarterly progress	Direction of Travel	Current progress	Target	Quarterly progress	Direction of Travel
117	1572			96.30%	90%		N/A	3.3%	4.8%		

Supporting Commentary

ELS LI03 – Number of starts on the DWP Work Programme.






62 starts on the Ingeus contract and 24 starts on the A4e contract in quarter 2. Referrals from DWP have been lower than indicative flows throughout this and the previous year; therefore fewer customers have started on the work programme which has been out of our control. There continues to be an increase in the number of customers in receipt of Employment Support Allowance, approx. 60% of all referrals received are ESA claimants.

ELS A2 – Overall success for learners through adult learning programme.

854 learners are active during Quarter 2, generating 1528 enrolments. To date, 1519 of those learners have been retained with a 96.30% success rate. This figure includes learners completing their learning in July 2014 and the new intake for the academic year which begins 1st August 2014. This is a new measure this year and therefore there is no comparable data.

SCS ELS07 – Reduce the percentage of people registered unemployed and seeking employment (JSA Claimants).

HBC does not own this NI data. The latest data available from ONS relates to September 2014, the number of JSA claimants is 2,390 (3.0%). Data taken from the NOMIS website.

Ref	Measure	13/14 Actual	14/15 Target	Current	Direction of Travel	Quarterly progress
ELS A1	The number of new apprenticeship starts in Halton Borough Council	361	5	5	N/A	
ELS LI04	Number of new starts into permitted/paid work for local people with disabilities (over 12 month period)	14 (Cumulative)	12	12		
SCS ELS04	Reduce the proportion of people with no qualifications	12.1% (Jan to Dec 2012)	11%	10.9%		
SCS ELS05	Increase the percentage of people achieving NVQ level 4 and above	25.1% (Jan to Dec 2013)	24.5%	25.1%	N/A	N/A
SCS ELS08	Reduce the percentage of the working age population claiming out of work benefits	15%	16.5%	N/A	N/A	N/A

Supporting Commentary

ELS A1 The number of new apprenticeships starts in Halton Borough Council - These apprentices work in 2 different divisions, (both within the communities directorate). 2 (open spaces) 3 (waste management).

ELS LI04 Number of new starts into permitted/paid work for local people with disabilities (over 12 month period) - 12 customers with disabilities were supported into paid employment during this quarter.

SCS ELS04 Reduce the proportion of people with no qualifications - HBC does not own this NI data. The latest data available is for the period Jan 13-Dec 13 at 8,300 which equates to 10.9%. The data is reported annually in arrears. This figure has continued to decrease in Halton and is currently lower than the North West (11%) and marginally higher than Great Britain (9.3%) with a gap of only 1.6% compared to 2.4% in 2012.

SCS ELS05 Increase the percentage of people achieving NVQ Level 4 and above - HBC does not own this NI data. However, NVQ level 4 in the borough has risen. The latest data available is for the period Jan 13 –Dec 13 at 19,100 (25.1%) people achieving NVQ4. Halton has seen a continuous increase year on year since 2008.

SCS ELS08 HBC does not own this NI data, JCP have not published for a few months.

Key Milestones and Measures

Ref	Milestones	Quarterly progress
CE1	Continue to implement the Sports Strategy (2012-15) by March 2015.	
CE1	Active people survey results show an increase in participation rates from 2009/10 baseline by March 2015.	
CE2	Identify areas for improvement in line with the Business Plan and Marketing Plan by January 2015.	
CE4	Implement the new library strategy (2013-16) by March 2015.	
CE4	Deliver a programme of extended informal learning opportunities including support for digital inclusion meeting identified local targets by March 2015.	
CE5	Woodland Expansion - Additional 200m2 of Woodland planted Borough wide - March 2015. (AOF 18, 19) KEY	
CE7	Continue to review and assess the effectiveness of the Council's Environmental Enforcement Plans and Policies and maintain actions to ensure that the Council continues to effectively prevent and tackle a range of waste and environmental offences March 2015. (AOF 20)	

SUPPORTING COMMENTARY

CE1: A monthly report is produced by the Sport and Recreation Team highlighting the key areas of work under the Strategy headings. Community Sports coaches delivered 370 hours coaching; 2378 coaching contacts and 84 training opportunities. 1 workshop delivered 10 attendees; 8 clubs attended funding and information clinic. A full list of activities can be found in the Community and Environment QMR.

CE1: The results will be published in December 2014.

CE2: A number of areas have been targeted for this year; the programmed improvement in these areas should have a positive impact on the financial performance of the Stadium.






CE4: Strategy priority - Inspiring a community of readers and learners (Summer Reading Challenge) Children aged four to eleven took part in this year's Summer Reading Challenge which aimed to keep them reading throughout the summer holidays. In total 870 children joined in with 461 finishing the challenge. This is a 5% increase of children taking part in last year's challenge and a 14% increase in the completion rate. A list of further activities can be found in the Community and Environment QMR.

CE4: The Library Service has supported various online GoOn activities this quarter. IT Clinics have been delivered at both Halton Lea and Widnes Libraries with 28 sessions having taken place with 171 attendances. 22 workclubs sessions supported by GMB have been delivered this quarter with 209 attendances.

CE5

Plans are underway to create two forests of remembrance. The first trees will be planted in Q3/Q4.

CE7: The work is on-going and Members will receive updates throughout the financial year.

Ref	Measure	13/14 Actual	14/15 Target	Current	Direction of Travel	Quarterly progress
CE LI4	Diversity – number of community groups accessing stadium facilities	N/A	15	24	N/A	
CE LI6	Number of new members of the library service during the last 12 months	N/A	7,000	1,777		
CE LI6a	Number of physical and virtual visits to libraries (annual total)	675,989	680,000	170,759		

SUPPORTING COMMENTARY

CE LI4: The stadium is now an integral part of the local community and is used by many and varied community user groups.

CE LI6/LI6a: Performance in Q2 is down on the corresponding period last year, this reflects a change in the staff structure, but is an improvement on Qtr 1. As usage is also seasonal it is still too early to say at this stage whether the annual target will be achieved.

7.0 Financial Summaries

Economy, Enterprise & Property Department

SUMMARY FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30th SEPTEMBER 2014

	Annual Budget £'000	Budget to Date £'000	Expenditure to Date £'000	Variance to Date (overspend) £'000
<u>Expenditure</u>				
Employees	4,339	2.13	2,167	-38
Repairs & Maintenance	2,615	1,195	1,206	-11
Premises	44	41	41	0
Energy & Water Costs	621	293	272	21
NNDR	616	601	590	11
Rents	418	276	272	4
Marketing Programme	35	10	10	0
Promotions	58	33	31	2
Supplies & Services	1,619	473	457	16
Agency Related Expenditure	76	29	29	0
Grants to Non Voluntary Organisations	132	132	132	0
Other Expenditure	7	7	7	0
Total Expenditure	10,580	5,218	5,214	4
<u>Income</u>				
Fees & Charges	-490	-284	-290	6
Rent - Markets	-759	-376	-377	1
Rent - Industrial Estates	-651	-375	-382	7
Rent - Commercial	-591	-240	-237	-3
Transfer to / from Reserves	-589	-504	-504	0
Government Grant - Income	-2,059	-733	-733	0
Reimbursements & Other Income	-51	-73	-77	4
Recharges to Capital	-311	-69	-69	0
Schools SLA Income	-564	-464	-476	13
Total Income	-6,065	-3,118	-3,145	28
NET OPERATIONAL BUDGET	4,515	2,101	2,069	32
<u>Recharges</u>				
Premises Support Costs	1,409	722	722	0
Transport Support Costs	30	11	11	0
Central Support Service Costs	1,970	995	995	0
Asset Rental Support Costs	2,414	0	0	0
Repairs & Maint. Rech. Income	-2,448	-1224	-1224	0
Accommodation Rech. Income	-2,652	-1326	-1326	0
Central Supp. Service Rech. Income	-1,457	-728	-728	0
Total Recharges	-734	-1550	-1550	0
Net Expenditure	3,781	551	519	32

Comments on the above figures:

Achieving staff turnover savings within the Department will continue to remain an issue this financial year. Whilst, there were a few vacancies within the Department at the beginning of the year, these vacancies are now filled. The staff savings turnover target set for Building & School Cleaning and Caretakers Service cannot be achieved as the services need to be fully staffed at all times.

Repairs & maintenance costs have increased during Quarter 2. This is a result of the final dilapidation costs for Midwood House coming in over budget.

Energy & water costs have continued to be under budget at the end of Quarter 2 as a result of improvements that have been implemented throughout the Council buildings over the last few years.

In order to ease budget pressures spending has continued to be restricted in year on Supplies & Services. Promotions and Marketing has also been kept to a minimum in an effort to achieve a balanced budget position for the Department.

The adverse variance relating to Asset Management income in previous years has alleviated this financial year, as a result of the closure of Moor Lane. The sale of Seymour Court is finally complete. The remaining Industrial Properties show the income budgets marginally under budget at this point in the year. Commercial property rental income will not be achieved this year, due to the sale of a commercial property on Mersey View Road. As rental income can fluctuate in year, close monitoring will continue on these volatile budgets.

The volume of schools buying into the School Cleaning SLA has increased this financial year, resulting in the service over achieving on income.

Service charges were set on occupancy rates at the end of last year. As tenancy levels have now increased within the Industrial Estates, the level of service charge income has increased this quarter. This, together with the fees charged by Asset Management providing services to schools and other establishments has contributed towards the over achievement of fees and charges income.

Work will continue with Managers to deal with any in-year budget pressures. In overall terms it is anticipated that net expenditure will be marginally under the overall Departmental budget by year-end.

ECONOMY ENTERPRISE & PROPERTY CAPITAL PROJECTS
SUMMARY FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30th September 2014

	2014/15 Capital Allocation £'000	Allocation To Date £000's	Expenditure to Date £'000	Variance to Date (overspend) £'000
Economy, Enterprise & Property Dep't				
Castlefields Regeneration	925	40	40	0
3MG	2,909	1040	1040	0
Widnes Waterfront	1,000	0	0	0
Sci-Tech Daresbury	2,093	988	988	0
Johnsons Lane Infrastructure	466	14	14	0
Decontamination of Land	6	0	0	0
Former Crossville Site	518	0	0	0
Widnes Town Centre Initiative	60	19	19	0
Fairfield High Site - Contingency Costs	33	34	34	0
Queens Arms	23	12	12	0
Former Fairfield Site Demolition	162	0	1	(1)
Travellers Site - Warrington Road	776	29	29	0
Lower House Lane Depot – Upgrade	444	381	383	(2)
Moor Lane Property Purchase	160	160	160	0
Moor Lane Demolition	150	7	7	0
Disability Discrimination Act/Disabled Access	150	51	31	20
Grand Total	9,875	2,775	2,758	17

Comments

Castlefields Regeneration - £200k committed for canal bridge upgrade in Q3 and CPO payments will still be made.

3MG - Estimated Autumn start on rail sidings works (estimated cost of £2.5m). Widnes Waterfront & Bayer - Heads of terms being agreed & remediation to start in Q3 and updated cash flow profile to be provided.

Former Crossville Site - There are a number of technical issues to overcome including protection of the high pressure gas main and treatment of the contamination (galigui) to significant depths. Work is not likely to start this calendar year.

Widnes Town Centre Initiative - Budget has been allocated to initiatives within Widnes Town Centre including: Commercial Property Renewal Grants, Changes to Widnes Outdoor Market and ICT Infrastructure

Former Fairfield Site Demolition - Section 77 consent has finally been confirmed by the DFE. Technical and proprietary work has commenced.

Moor Lane Demolition - Works has now been completed on site, however due to additional works undertaken final account is still to be confirmed with the main contractor.

Disability Discrimination Act / Disabled Access - Three projects funded from the budget are now complete, others are on site. There are two significant contributions towards to capital schemes at Liverpool Road Playing Fields and Runcorn Hill which have been delayed but should be spent within the 4th quarter.

COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

Revenue Budget as at 30 September 2014

	Annual Budget £'000	Budget To Date £'000	Actual To Date £'000	Variance To Date (overspend) £'000
<u>Expenditure</u>				
Employees	12,471	6,046	6,070	(24)
Other Premises	1,453	739	701	38
Supplies & Services	1,546	818	784	34
Book Fund	192	118	116	2
Promotional	9	4		4
Other Hired Services	1,259	503	482	21
Food Provisions	701	335	328	7
School Meals Food	1,914	696	678	18
Transport	55	27	11	16
Other Agency Costs	652	95	87	8
Waste Disposal Contracts	5,012	1,433	1,456	(23)
Leisure Management Contract	1,467	618	660	(42)
Grants To Voluntary Organisations	333	153	149	4
Grant To Norton Priory	222	111	113	(2)
Rolling Projects	25	13	13	0
Capital Financing	19	0	0	0
Total Spending	27,330	11,709	11,648	61
<u>Income</u>				
Sales Income	-2,199	-1,085	-1,017	(68)
School Meals Sales	-2,049	-798	-822	24
Fees & Charges Income	-2,766	-1,478	-1,393	(85)
Rents Income	-187	-147	-153	6
Government Grant Income	-31	-13	-13	0
Reimbursements & Other Grant Income	-516	-191	-204	13
Schools SLA Income	-82	-80	-83	3
Room Hire Income	-121	-52	-62	10
School Meals Other Income	-2,935	-277	-317	40
Rolling Projects	-25	-25	-25	0
Meals On Wheels	-192	-81	-76	(5)
Catering Fees	-225	-83	-50	(33)
Capital Salaries	-53	-26	-27	1
Transfers From Reserves	-27	0	0	0
Total Income	-11,408	-4,336	-4,242	(94)
Net Controllable Expenditure	15,922	7,373	7,406	(33)
<u>Recharges</u>				
Premises Support	2,048	1,046	1,048	(2)
Transport Recharges	2,393	782	807	(25)
Departmental Support Services	9	0	0	0
Central Support Services	3,149	1,612	1,613	(1)
Asset Charges	3,197	0	0	0
HBC Support Costs Income	-357	-357	-357	0
Net Total Recharges	10,439	3,083	3,111	(28)
Net Departmental Total	26,361	10,456	10,517	(61)

Comments on the above figures:

The net budget is £61,000 over budget profile at the end of the second quarter of 2014/15.

At the midpoint of the year employee's expenditure is over budget profile by £23,500. Spending on agency staffing in open spaces and waste management continues, covering absences and vacancies but spending is not at the same level as the last quarter nor the previous year. The other main cause of the overspend is due to savings targets including premium pay of £28,200.

Other premises and supplies & services expenditures are collectively currently £72,000 under budget at this stage. There are various reasons for this such as advertising, uniforms, hired services, rates, utility bills and equipment all being lower than expected at this point of the year.

Waste Disposal Contracts are expected to overspend throughout the year. In recent years Halton has successfully increased the amount of waste recycled however this now results in a recycling bonus payment at the end of the financial year. The amount of which is as yet unknown however it was £103,000 for 2013/14 and so it can be anticipated a similar amount will be due at the end of this financial year. The department will strive to ensure the additional costs are met within its overall budget if possible, if not, underspends within the Directorate will have to be used to ensure an overall balanced budget is achieved.




Sales, fees & charges and catering fees across the Department continue to struggle against set targets. The social club in the stadium has now closed and due to the opening of Pure Gym, membership to the Stadium fitness gym has declined. Expenditure budgets have been adjusted where possible to alleviate the problem and reduce income targets. The main areas struggling are stadium bars, open spaces non contracted works and playing fields and some lettings for community centres.

Capital Projects as at 30 September 2014

	2014/15 Capital Allocation £'000	Allocation To Date £'000	Actual Spend To Date £'000	Allocation Remaining £'000
Stadium Minor Works	30	15	6	24
Widnes Recreation Site	2,515	1,258	1,043	1,472
Children's Playground Equipment	79	15	4	75
Upton Improvements	63	35	34	29
Crow Wood Play Area	13	0	0	13
Runcorn Hill Park	311	236	233	78
Runcorn Cemetery Extension	9	0	0	9
Cremators Widnes Crematorium	396	198	105	291
Open Spaces Schemes	189	130	138	51
Playground Third Party Funding	340	17	17	323
Litter Bins	20	0	0	20
Total Spending	3,965	1,904	1,580	2,385




8.0 Appendix – Explanation for use of symbols

8.1 Symbols are used in the following manner:

Progress		Milestone	Measure
Green		Indicates that the milestone is on course to be achieved within the appropriate timeframe.	Indicates that the annual target is on course to be achieved.
Amber		Indicates that it is uncertain or too early to say at this stage whether the milestone will be achieved within the appropriate timeframe.	Indicates that it is uncertain or too early to say at this stage whether the annual target is on course to be achieved.
Red		Indicates that it is highly likely or certain that the objective will not be achieved within the appropriate timeframe.	Indicates that the target will not be achieved unless there is an intervention or remedial action taken.

8.2 Direction of Travel Indicator

Where possible measures will also identify a direction of travel using the following convention:

Green		Indicates that performance is better as compared to the same period last year.
Amber		Indicates that performance is the same as compared to the same period last year.
Red		Indicates that performance is worse as compared to the same period last year.
N/A		Indicates that the measure cannot be compared to the same period last year.

8.3 Key for Operational Directors

WR Wesley Rourke, Operational Director, Economy Enterprise and Property Service (EEP)

CP Chris Patino, Operational Director, Communities and Environment (CE)