

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

Reporting Period: **Quarter 2 – Period 01st July 2014 to 30th September 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 second quarter of 2014/15 for service areas within the remit of the Environment & Urban Renewal (E&UR) Policy and Performance Board.
- 1.2. Key priorities for development or improvement in 2014-17 were agreed by Members and included in Directorate Plans, for the various functional areas reporting to the Environment & 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

- 2.1 There have been a number of developments within the Directorate during the period which include:

Development & Investment Services

- 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>
- 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%.

Policy, Planning and Transportation.

- The Social Value Policy and Procurement Framework has been presented to, and approved by the Executive Board and is now a joint framework with the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). The wider partnership will also have the opportunity to sign-up to the framework during the next round of Board meetings. This framework allows local benefits to Halton's communities to be taken into account during the procurement process and the policy and framework will now be rolled out across the Council.
- The Councils Whistleblowing Policy and associated guidance has been approved by the Business Efficiency Board and has been uploaded to the Intranet and will feature in the next edition of the Team Brief.
- Work has now commenced to update the Corporate Complaints Procedure following approval by Executive Board of the recommendations made by the Corporate PPB Topic Group in September. This will ensure that existing good practice is strengthened and the process becomes more effective and efficient.
- Works have now commenced to correct defects on the highway network following the Councils successful bid for an additional £259, 000 in specific funding for repairs to potholes.
- A major funding bid to Liverpool City Region (LCR) Local Transport Body (LTB) for steady state bridge maintenance in the Silver Jubilee Bridge (SJB) complex, for £1.1m per year for three years commencing 2016/17, with additional HBC funding of £400k per year, has been developed and an outline business case is now being prepared.
- Real-Time Passenger Information (RTPI) is to be introduced into the Borough during this financial year. The project will be delivered in partnership with Merseytravel and an agreement has been reached to purchase 38 information screens to be installed at bus stops across Widnes and Runcorn. The RTPI system will provide up-to-date real-time public transport information relating to the bus network, both within the Borough and cross boundary into Merseyside.
- Halton Borough Council has also been successful in securing funding for a new AQMA (Air Quality Monitoring Area) monitoring system on Milton Road in Widnes.
- Discussions are now taking place at a Liverpool City Region level to consider a potential bid for funding for alternative fuelled vehicles should the Dept. for Transport take this initiative forward and make funding available.
- Considerable progress has been made in quarter 2 in relation to the successful delivery of the Mersey Gateway Project. This has involved the ongoing development of Merseylink's design proposals and gaining of necessary approvals in addition to preparatory construction works and the completion of investigations, inspections and surveys of the existing infrastructure.

Open Spaces and Waste & Environmental Improvement

- 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.

- 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.
- Since the 1st April, a total of 838 Fixed Penalty Notices have been issues for environmental offences; 807 for littering and 31 for dog fouling offences.
- 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.

Housing Strategy

- The funding bids made by LHT, Plus Dane, and HHT to the Homes and Communities Agency that were reported last quarter have been approved in their entirety. This will result in 365 new dwellings for affordable rent being constructed across 19 sites in Halton.

Nearly 50% of the national Programme funds have been reserved for subsequent in year bids, and we will seek to take advantage of this as and when opportunities arise to maximise housing delivery through continued joint working with local Housing Associations.

- Revisions to the Property Pool Plus Housing Allocations Policy made necessary by the Localism Act, new Regulations concerning Armed Forces personnel and a new Code of Guidance are in the process of being endorsed by the Cabinets of the five local authorities participating in this sub regional scheme. Full details of the changes were reported to Halton's Executive Board on the 4th September. It is envisaged the changes will be implemented by January 2015 after a period of staff training.
- The tender for the provision of housing support at the new Widnes hostel has closed and submissions have now been evaluated. The second stage presentation and interviews will be held on 11th and 12th November 2014 and the contract is due to be awarded in December 2014.

3.0 Emerging Issues

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

Development & Investment Services

- I. The contractor working on the Runcorn Hill Park Pavilion & Widnes Rec Sports Pavilion went into administration on 20th August 2014 and 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.
- II. 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.

Policy, Planning and Transportation.

- I. The next phase of bridge maintenance work within the SJB Complex will involve repair of defective concrete elements below deck level for the Runcorn Approach Viaduct West. Following a recent Principal Bridge Inspection, monitoring of the movement of the structure is also to take place as there is a fear that the bearings are not working correctly and may require replacement.
- II. The ongoing road works in connection with the Daresbury Expressway Local Pinch Point Scheme are causing delays and disruption to traffic, particularly during peak hours, affecting journey times for commuters and for public transport and the Council continues to receive complaints about delays and the consequent effects of increased traffic through Moore village and Sandymoor. Temporary 3-way signals are being used to control traffic so work can be carried out in safety and unfortunately delays are inevitable but every effort is being made to manage the situation in conjunction with the Police.
- III. In order to reduce energy and maintenance costs a project is being investigated to convert some traffic signals to LED operation. All new installations are now LED, which is important as the number of installations will increase, particularly as a result of the Pinch Point schemes and the Mersey Gateway as they will become the Council's responsibility for maintenance.

Open Spaces and Waste & Environmental Improvement

- I. During Q2 the contractor working on the restoration of existing buildings and the new park centre at Runcorn Hill Park went into receivership. This resulted in all work stopping. A new contractor is expected to be appointed in Q3.
- II. Unfortunately the Liverpool Road Playing Fields Project 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.
- III. 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”)
- IV. 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.

Housing Strategy

- I. Halton’s Housing network continues through the Efficiency Review process. Day Services are due to start a new commercial venture in Simms Cross Widnes. Adult Placement Service has put forward service development proposals to increase the support for people with Dementia.

4.0 Risk Control Measures

- 4.1 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 High Priority Equality Actions

5.1 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

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 the Directorate:

Development and Investment Services

Key Objectives / milestones

Ref	Milestones	Q2 Progress
EEP1	Commence Crossville development by March 2015 .	?
EEP1	Commence construction of road at Johnson's Lane and introduce end user to site by March 2015 .	?
EEP1	Commence work on site for project Techspace by September 2014 .	✓
EEP1	Acquisition and preparation of Lord Daresbury plot and hostel site by March 2015 .	✓

Supporting Commentary









Commence Crossville development by March 2015 - The main risk to this project is that the costs of protecting the gas main and undertaking the remediation required to satisfy the financial institutions escalates, affecting the appraisal and making the project financially unviable.

Commence construction of road at Johnson's Lane and introduce end user to site by March 2015 - HBC highways have tendered the new access road and work should start on site in October 2014. The GPF loan agreement (to fund the road construction) has been signed and the first claim has been made. The sale of a 6.54 acres plot for Ballast Phoenix has been approved by Council subject to planning and EA permit. It is currently in legal. The main risk is that the road construction isn't completed in time for Ballast Phoenix to gain access to their site.

Commence work on site for project Techspace by September 2014 - The tenders have been received and are being evaluated. Anticipated contract award in December 2014, Start on Site January 2015. However, enabling works have commenced on site.

Acquisition and preparation of Lord Daresbury plot and hostel site by March 2015 - Lord Daresbury plot purchased in June 2014. Hostel plot due to be acquired in December 2014. Preparation works to commence before March 2015.

Key Performance Indicators

Ref	Measure	13 / 14 Actual	14 / 15 Target	Q2 Actual	Q2 Progress	Direction of travel
DIS LI 01	Occupancy of HBC industrial units.	85%	85%	93%		
DIS LI 02	Occupancy of Widnes Market Hall.	84%	95%	82%		
DIS LI 05	Number of investment enquiries per annum.	295 (Cumulative)	200	161 (Q1+Q2) 88 (Q2)		
DIS LI 06	Inward Investment enquiry conversion rate percentage.	15%	10%	9%		

Supporting Commentary

DIS LI 01 Occupancy of HBC Industrial Units - The occupancy of industrial and commercial properties occupied during quarter 2 has already exceeded the 14/15 target of 85% and is higher in comparison to the same period last year of 89%.


DIS LI 02 Occupancy of Widnes Market Hall - Trading in the market continues to be tough. A long standing trader has down sized and a number of other traders have terminated their agreements. A further three units will become vacant when shop mobility vacates. January traditionally sees a number of further voids as struggling traders tend to hang on for the Christmas trading period before handing in their notice.

DIS LI05 Number of investment enquiries per annum - The number of investment enquiries managed by the BIG Team in Q2 has increased dramatically in comparison to the same period last year of 126 cumulative. The cumulative figure at 161 (Q1 + Q2).

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%.

Open Spaces and Waste & Environmental Improvement

Key Objectives / milestones

Ref	Milestones	Q2 Progress
CE 05	Woodland Expansion - Additional 200m ² of Woodland planted Borough wide - March 2015 .	





Supporting Commentary

Woodland Expansion

Work has begun on the planting plans for the winter period.

Key Performance Indicators

Key Objectives / milestones

Ref	Milestones	Q2 Progress
CE 05	Woodland Expansion - Additional 200m ² of Woodland planted Borough wide - March 2015 .	
CE 06	Complete the borough wide roll out of the Alternative Bin Collection service to all suitable properties September 2014 .	
CE 06	Continue to deliver communications and awareness raising initiatives to ensure that participation with the Council's recycling services is maximised and that residents comply with the requirements of the Council's Household Waste Collection policy March 2015 .	
CE 07	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 .	

Supporting Commentary

CE 05

Plans are underway to create two forests of remembrance. The first trees will be planted in Q3/4.

CE 06

The borough-wide roll-out of the Alternate Bin Collection scheme to all suitable properties requires the complete reconfiguration of all existing waste and recycling collection schedules. This reconfiguration is to be carried out through the completion of a 'Route Optimisation' exercise, using specialist software, which will produce the most cost effective waste collection routes.







Unfortunately, due to delays caused by unavoidable operational and technical issues this target timescale will not be met and the roll-out of the ABC service will be now completed in 2015.

This work is on-going and includes direct delivery of information to households and articles in local media, including Inside Halton.

CE07

This work is on-going and Members will receive updates throughout the financial year.

Key Performance Indicators

Ref	Measure	13 / 14 Actual	14 / 15 Target	Q2 Actual	Q2 Progress	Direction of travel
CE LI 13	Residual household waste per household (Previously NI191).	624 Kgs	650 kgs	315.96 kgs		
CE LI 14	Household waste recycled and composted (Previously NI192).	38.53%	40%	42.97%		
CE LI 16	Municipal waste land filled (Previously NI193).	57.17%	60%	18.78%		

Supporting Commentary

CE LI 13

This is a cumulative figure however, performance in Q2 is in line with the corresponding period from last year and early indications are that this target will be met.

CE LI 14


Performance in Q2 is in line with the corresponding period from last year and early indications are that this target will be met.


CE LI 15

This is a cumulative figure and will change however, as a result of the introduction of new contractual arrangements for the treatment and subsequent diversion of waste from landfill, as reported in Q1, this target will be significantly exceeded.

Highways, Transportation & Logistics

Key Objectives / milestones

Ref	Milestones	Q2 Progress
PPT 01	Review progress against SJB maintenance strategy and deliver 2014/15 major bridge maintenance works programme. March 2015.	













PPT 02	To deliver the 2014/15 LTP Capital Programme March 2015 .	
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Supporting Commentary

PPT 01: Schemes continue to be developed and programmed whilst technical problems with the Shock Transmission Units refurbishment has extended the expected delivery date.

PPT 02: Design and construction work on a programme of sustainable transport improvements is underway.

Key Performance Indicators

Ref	Measure	13 / 14 Actual	14 / 15 Target	Q2 Actual	Q2 Progress	Direction of travel
PPT LI 01	Number of third party compensation claims received due to alleged highway / footway defects.	132	110	51		
PPT LI 04 (ex NI 157)	Processing of planning applications as measured against targets for:					
	a) 'major' applications	83.3%	60%	*68.75%		
	b) 'minor' applications	74.2%	85%	82.5%		
	c) 'other' applications	83.6%	85%	96.4%		
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	110	N / A	N / A	N / A
PPT LI 15	Bus service punctuality, Part 1: The proportion of non-frequent scheduled services on time (%):					
	Percentage of buses starting route on time	98.05%	98.0%	98.68%		
	Percentage of buses on time at intermediate timing points	91.60%	87.50%	93.30%		

Ref	Measure	13 / 14 Actual	14 / 15 Target	Q2 Actual	Q2 Progress	Direction of travel
PPT LI 17	No. of passengers on community based accessible transport	253,357	267,000	120,783		
PPT LI 19	Number of local bus passenger journeys originating in the authority area in one year (000's)	5,522	6,200	2,699		

Supporting Commentary

PPT LI 01: The number of claims to date, 51 in total, is less than at the same point in Q2 2013-14 and also less than half of the target at the mid-point of the current financial year (2014/15).

It should also be noted that the numbers of successful claims made against the Council remains a low proportion of all the claims that have been received.

PPT LI 04: The processing of planning applications is showing a positive trend when compared to this time last year with annual targets on track to be achieved.

PPT LI 05: Figures will be reported in Q1 2015/16

PPT LI 15:

- a) Currently the indicator is performing above expectation. Operators continue to monitor service schedules through the use of on vehicle monitoring equipment
- b) Improvements made through smarter scheduling continue to provide improvement on performance.

However, a note of caution should be exercised over the longer term performance of both these indicators, it is anticipated services will be severely affected due to the Mersey Gateway project.

PPT LI 17: Although lower than the same period in Q2 2013/14, passenger figures have seen a slight increase on Q1 2014/15 performance. This is due to increased passenger journeys made on the in house fleet vehicles.

PPT LI 19: Passenger numbers are slightly up when compared to Q2 in the same period last year, 2013/14.

Historically during Q2 there are fewer passenger journeys, due to the summer holiday period, being made and this number tends to improve during quarters three and four of the financial year.

7.0 Financial Summaries

ECONOMY, ENTERPRISE & PROPERTY DEPARTMENT Revenue Budget 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	2,130	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

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 DEPARTMENT
Capital Projects as at 30th September 2014

	2014/15 Capital Allocation £'000	Allocation To Date £000's	Expenditure to Date £'000	Variance to Date (overspend) £'000
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.

POLICY, PLANNING & TRANSPORTATION

Revenue Budget as at 30th September 2014

	Annual Budget	Budget To Date	Actual To Date	Variance To Date (overspend)
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<u>Expenditure</u>				
Employees	4,810	2,484	2,489	(5)
Other Premises	205	60	53	7
Hired & Contracted Services	433	191	200	(9)
Supplies & Services	314	161	160	1
Street Lighting	1,914	673	667	6
Highways Maintenance	2,383	1,670	1,666	4
Bridges	96	44	42	2
Fleet Transport	1,385	546	546	0
Lease Car Contracts	516	342	342	0
Bus Support – Halton Hopper Tickets	177	136	136	0
Bus Support	541	310	310	0
Out of Borough Transport	51	10	9	1
Contribution to Reserves	163	163	163	0
Finance Charges	406	215	215	0
Grants to Voluntary Organisations	68	34	34	0
NRA Levy	58	29	29	0
Total Expenditure	13,520	7,068	7,061	7
<u>Income</u>				
Sales	-253	-196	-198	2
Planning Fees	-506	-253	-273	20
Building Control Fees	-186	-93	-113	20
Other Fees & Charges	-1,008	-411	-421	10
Rents	-8	0	0	0
Grants & Reimbursements	-523	-298	-316	18
Efficiency Savings	-60	0	0	0
School SLAs	-39	-39	-37	(2)
Recharge to Capital	-312	0	0	0
Total Income	-2,895	-1,290	-1,358	68
Net Controllable Expenditure	10,625	5,778	5,703	75

<u>Recharges</u>				
Premises Support	528	327	327	0
Transport Recharges	596	290	290	0
Asset Charges	7,946	0	0	0
Central Support Recharges	2,385	977	977	0
Departmental Support Recharges	-432	-216	-216	0
Income				
Support Recharges Income – Transport	-2,884	-1,552	-1,552	0
Support Recharges Income – Non Transport	-2,385	-1,078	-1,078	0
Net Total Recharges	5,754	-1,252	-1,252	0
Net Departmental Total	16,379	4,526	4,451	75

Comments on the above figures:

In overall terms revenue spending at the end of quarter 2 is below budget profile. This is due to a number of expenditure and income budget areas.

Other Premises is below budget to date mainly due to lower than expected utility bills and lower than expected NNDR for Lower House Lane Depot within the Logistics division.

Planning fees and Building Control fees are currently above budget due to a number of one off applications including the Redrow housing development in Widnes.

Grants and reimbursements is currently above target due to work carried out by Transport Co-ordination to source and arrange travel arrangements for the schools. As this is a demand led service there is no guarantee this favourable trend will continue to the end of the year.

At this stage of the year it is anticipated that overall spend will be within the Departmental budget at the financial year-end.

POLICY, PLANNING & TRANSPORTATION

Capital Projects as at 30th September 2014

	2014/15 Capital Allocation £'000	Allocation To Date £'000	Actual Spend To Date £'000	Allocation Remaining £'000
<u>Local Transport Plan</u>				
Bridges & Highway Maintenance				
Bridge Assessment, Strengthening & Maintenance	1,114	250	147	967
Road Maintenance	1,388	400	337	1,051
Total Bridge & Highway Maintenance	2,502	650	484	2,018
Integrated Transport	1,020	50	34	986
Total Local Transport Plan	3,522	700	518	3,004
<u>Halton Borough Council</u>				
Street lighting – Structural Maintenance	200	50	40	160
Risk Management	120	30	27	93
Fleet Replacement	1,121	500	483	638
Total Halton Borough Council	1,441	580	550	891
<u>Grant Funded</u>				
Surface Water Management Grant	195	1	0	195
Mid Mersey Local Sustainable Transport	399	5	4	395
Total Grant Funded	594	6	4	590
Local Pinch Point Fund				
A558 Access Improvements	2,253	130	126	2,127
Total Capital Programme	7,810	1,416	1,198	6,612

Repairs and maintenance on the Silver Jubilee Bridge have been postponed until the summer holidays to avoid excess traffic congestion regarding the construction of the Mersey Gateway. Costs should reflect this from quarter 3 onwards.

The programme of spend regarding surface water management is dependent on uptake by members of the public. This in turn is affected by local weather conditions.

Contracts have recently been signed regarding the A558 improvements, works have now started and costs should begin to show from the next 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
Expenditure				
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
Income				
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)
Recharges				
Premises Support	2,048	1,046	1,048	(2)
Transport Recharges	2,393	782	807	(25)
Departmental Support Services	9	0 000	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.

COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

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

COMMISSIONING & COMPLEX CARE DEPARTMENT

Revenue Budget as at 30th September 2014

	Annual Budget	Budget To Date	Actual To Date	Variance To Date (overspend)
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Expenditure				
Employees	7,463	3,573	3,521	52
Premises	304	158	159	(1)
Supplies & Services	1,905	922	922	0
Carers Breaks	423	312	309	3
Transport	170	79	77	2
Contracts & SLAs	149	57	53	4
Payments To Providers	3,816	1,555	1,556	(1)
Emergency Duty Team	103	26	25	1
Other Agency Costs	795	320	312	8
Total Expenditure	15,128	7,002	6,934	68
Income				
Sales & Rents Income	-384	-202	-225	23
Fees & Charges	-173	-99	-72	(27)
CCG Contribution To Service	-810	-405	-374	(31)
Reimbursements & Grant Income	-663	-155	-156	1
Transfer From Reserves	-848	0	0	0
Total Income	-2,878	-861	-827	(34)
Net Operational Expenditure	12,250	6,141	6,107	34
Recharges				
Premises Support	192	80	80	0
Transport	436	218	218	0
Central Support Services	1,685	842	842	0
Asset Charges	76	38	38	0
Internal Recharge Income	-1,685	0	0	0
Net Total Recharges	704	1,178	1,178	0
Net Departmental Total	12,954	7,319	7,285	34

Comments on the above figures:

Net operational expenditure is £34,000 below budget profile at the end of the first quarter of the financial year.

Employee costs are currently £52,000 below budget profile. This results from savings made on vacant posts, specifically in relation to Mental Health and Day Services. These posts have now either been filled, or are in the process of being filled. It is therefore not anticipated that the spend below budget profile will continue at this level for the remainder of the financial year, and will not impact on the 2015/16 budget year.

Income is below target to date. There is an anticipated shortfall on Fees & Charges income due to the temporary closure and refurbishment of a homeless facility. Additionally, income received from the Clinical Commissioning Group is projected to be below target. This income relates to Community Health Care funded packages within Day Services and the Supported Housing Network. The income received is dependent on the nature of service user's care packages, and is out of the direct control of the service. This shortfall is partly offset by an over-achievement of trading income from Day Services ventures, which is reflected in income above target to date of £23,000 for Sales and Rents.

At this stage in the financial year, it is anticipated that a balanced budget overall will be achieved for the year. Whilst income is projected below target, this will be offset by in-year savings in other areas, principally staff turnover savings, Day Services trading income, and the Bredon respite contract.




Capital Projects as at 30th September 2014

	2014/15 Capital Allocation £'000	Allocation To Date £'000	Actual Spend To Date £'000	Allocation Remaining £'000
ALD Bungalows	100	0	0	100
Lifeline Telecare Upgrade	100	0	0	100
Halton Carer's Centre Refurb.	50	10	10	40
Section 256 Grant	55	0	0	55
Community Capacity Grant	216	0	0	216
Total Spending	521	10	10	511





8.0 Explanation of Symbols

Symbols are used in the following manner:

Progress Symbols

<u>Symbol</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.	<i>Indicates that the annual target <u>is on course to be achieved</u>.</i>
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.	<i>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</i>
Red 	Indicates that it is <u>highly likely or certain</u> that the objective will not be achieved within the appropriate timeframe.	<i>Indicates that the target <u>will not be achieved</u> unless there is an <u>intervention or remedial action</u> taken.</i>

Direction of Travel Indicator

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.