

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

DATE: 23rd March 2015

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Communities

PORTFOLIO: Community & Sport

SUBJECT: Community Centres Annual Report 2013/14

WARD(S) Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To provide an annual report on Community Centres for the operating period 2013/14.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That:

- i) the report be noted;
- ii) Members comment on the Community Centres service delivery.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 The Community Centres service consists of five buildings, Castlefields, Ditton, Grangeway, Murdishaw and Upton. The centres deliver programmes of community activity, varying models of community cafés and service outlets, i.e children's centre, youth centre, day services. These centres provide a community hub, a central point at the heart of these communities for residents to enjoy chosen activities and receive services in their neighbourhoods. They are based in the most severely deprived wards in the Borough and are well utilised. Churchill Hall also receives grant funding to support community use.

3.2 The Community Centres are benchmarked through APSE (the Association of Public Service Excellence) against other Civic, Cultural and Community Venues owned and run by other local authorities. This provides performance data but also trend information over a number of years. The timescales for data submissions, verifications and analysis dictates that benchmarking data is not available from APSE until quarter three of the following operating year hence, the timing of presenting the annual performance information to Members.

- 3.3 Whilst, for the reasons set out in paragraph 3.2, there is an unavoidable delay in presenting annual performance data, any financial, operational or other matters relating to Community Centres that needed to be brought to Members' attention would be done so in the relevant operating year, either through the Quarterly Performance Monitoring Reports or other specific Reports as may be necessary.
- 3.4 Halton's community centres have progressed positively overall on their indicators, earning awards in recent years for Castlefields, Ditton & Upton as "Most Improved Centres" with nominations for Grangeway and Murdishaw also. For the operating year 2013/14, Ditton Community Centre won a "Best Performer" award; the centre previously won a "Most Improved Performer" award in 2009 recognising the centre and staff's achievements in delivering a wide range of activities for the community it serves with effective management of the service. The progression to "Best Performer", the highest category of award, shows the continuous improvement within the service to now be the top performer.
- 3.5 The Community Centres service demonstrates continuous improvement through its performance monitoring and has made significant contributions to the Council's efficiency programme. Income generation is a key area of focus to support the future sustainability of the service.
- 3.6 The overall usage has fluctuated in recent years, in 2012/13 Castlefields benefitted from a new community centre which is attributed to the significant increase in that operating year:-
- 2011/12 271,264 Attendances
 - 2012/13 296,980 Attendances
 - 2013/14 267,124 Attendances
- 3.7 The Community Centres service has demonstrated increased financial efficiency over recent years:-

2010/11 Net operating costs - £462k (inclusive of £287k income)
2011/12 Net operating costs - £358k (inclusive of £318k income)
2012/13 Net operating costs - £307k (inclusive of £317k income)
2013/14 Net operating costs - £216k (inclusive of £324k income)

The net operating costs for the service have reduced greatly over recent years, most notably between 2013/14 and the previous year when net costs were reduced by £108k. The combination of reduced costs and increased income presents an efficient trend for the service.

4.0 COMMUNITY CENTRE PROFILES 2013/14

4.1 Castlefields Community Centre

4.1.1 The new community centre was at the heart of the regeneration of Castlefields and has become firmly established as a community hub since opening in March 2012. The investment in infrastructure has provided a vibrant local centre reflected in increased usage level.

4.1.2 Castlefields had a significant increase in usage in 2012/13 of over 100%. This is a complete turnaround from the previous operating year which had a 24% reduction in usage. Usage has steadied now the centre is firmly established and in 2013/14 attendance has further increased by 3,000.

Total annual opening hours	2958
Total aggregate hours main room hired	1168
Total aggregate hours other rooms hired	4815
Total attendance main room	19123
Total attendance other rooms	13841
Total other attendance	15060
Total attendance	48024

4.1.3 Category of usage is broken down as follows:-

Youth & Children	3923
Lifelong Learning	3527
Health & Healthy Living	14453
Arts Development	5819
Sports Development	1705
Statutory Agencies	2655
Events	15942
Total	48024

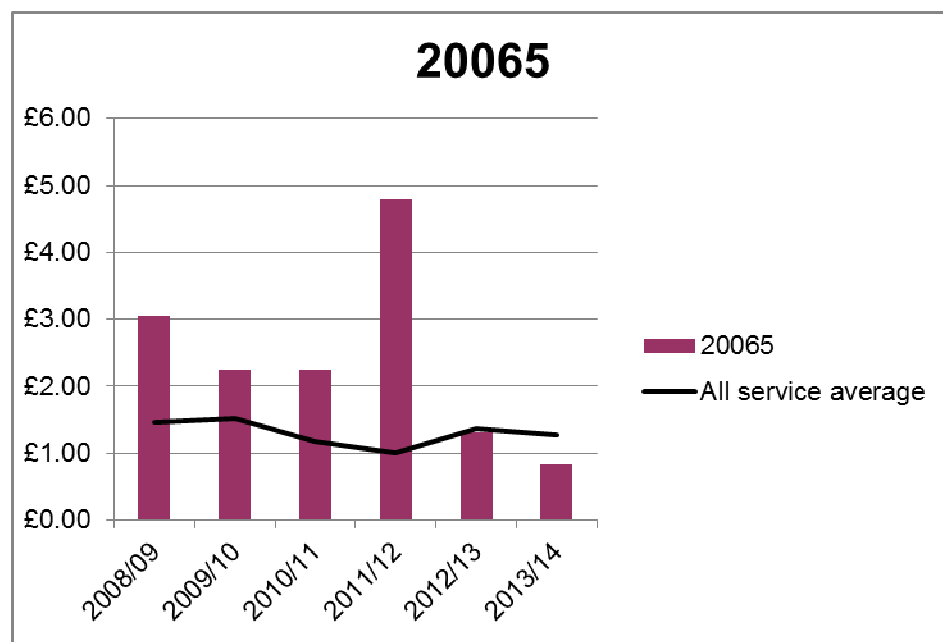
Events have been the largest area of activity for centre usage in 2013/14. During the operating year a partnership Winter Chill event was held, this provided a free slipper and electric blanket exchange and an opportunity to share health and safety and wellbeing advice. During school half terms the Children's Centre service provided a multi sports event with Zumba, boxercise, circuit training and aerobics well attended by a wide age range of children. There have been a number of social events during the period with the emergence of a Castlefields based group Village Life, as well as centre based activities a trip to Blackpool to see the lights, dinner and a show took place. Village Life's social calendar is bringing the residents of Castlefields together supporting a strong sense of community connectedness. Two pensioner Christmas parties were held with 100 people attending and local primary schools proving the carols. Health and healthy living activity provides the second highest category of usage.

4.1.4 Castlefields Direction of Travel Indicators

The following graphs are extracts from the APSE performance data suite and demonstrate the direction of travel on performance. The key performance indicators illustrate centre performance over a six year period, these are used to determine how a centre is performing against other facilities owned and run by local authorities.

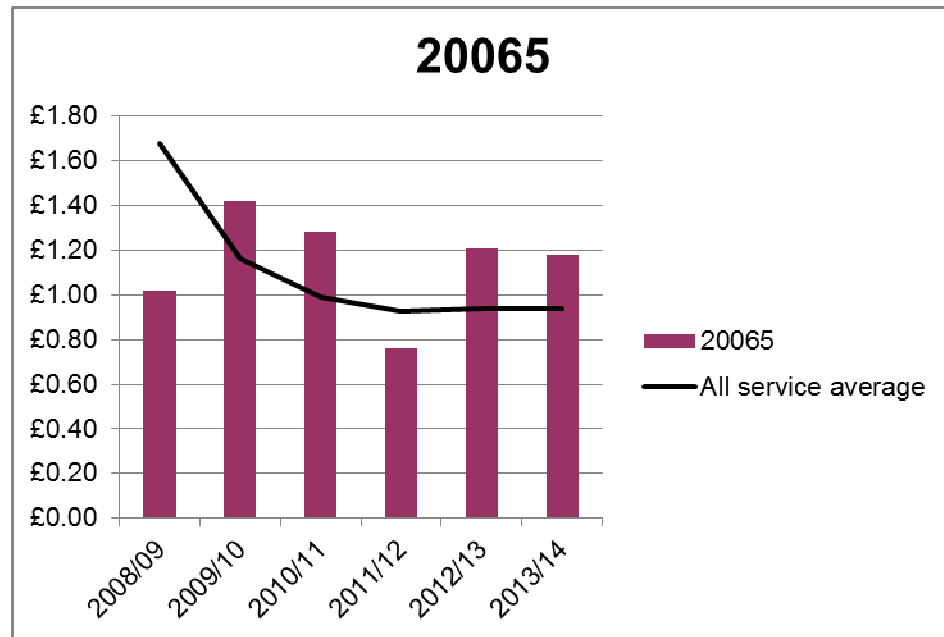
- **Castlefields Net Cost Per User**

The 20065 on the chart is Castlefields pin number in APSE data set, hence 20065 references Castlefields Community Centre.



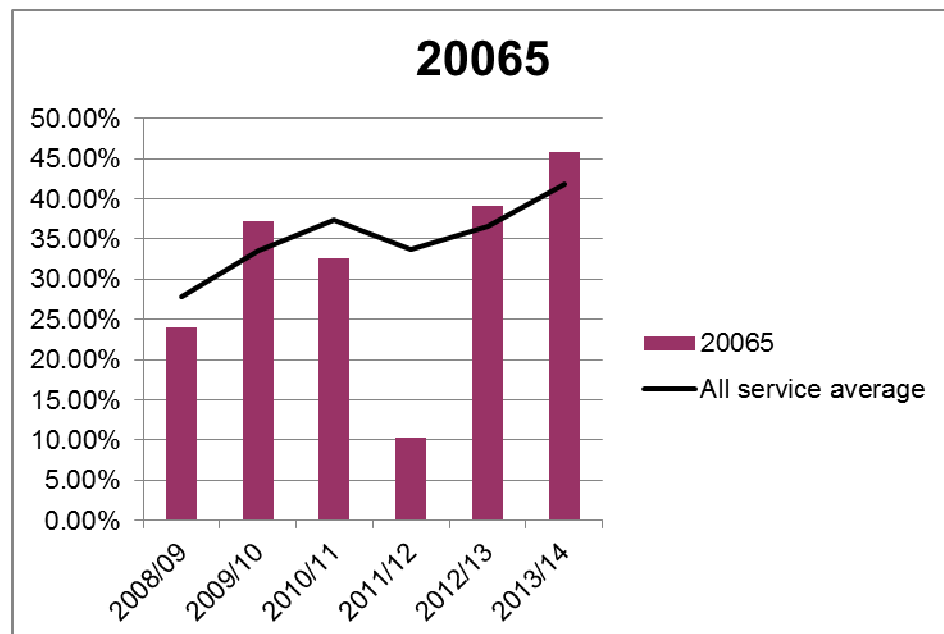
The graph shows the direction of travel of cost per user over the last six years. Castlefields had a particularly negative year in 2011/12 prior to the move to a new centre, as a result the cost per user increased to £4.79. In 2012/13 this reduced significantly to £1.31 and in 2013/14 this has reduced further, down to 83 pence per user. Increased user numbers in the new community centre is largely attributable for this position combined with the overall picture of increased income and reduced costs.

- **Castlefields Total Income Per User**



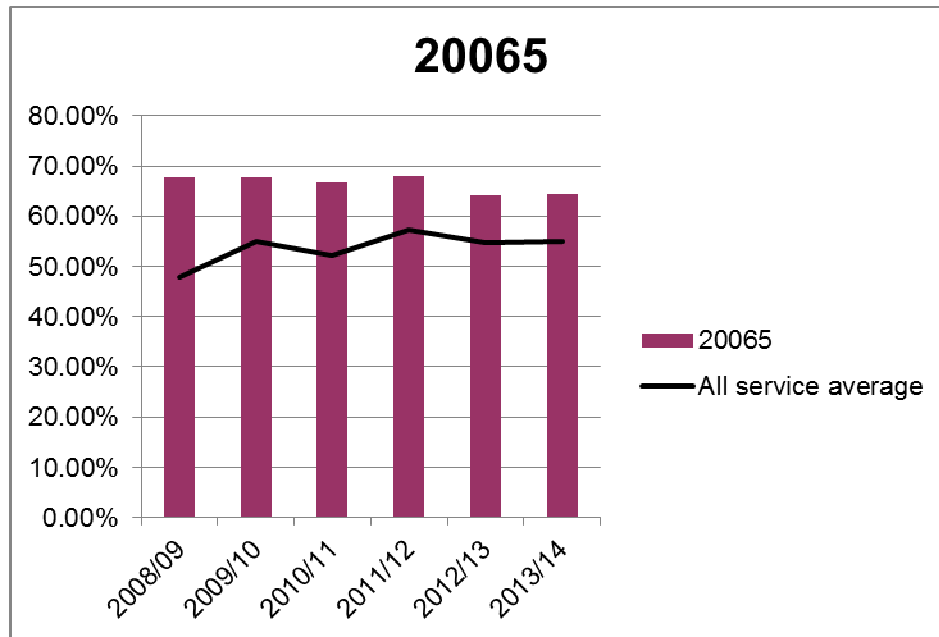
This diagram has a similar picture demonstrating that a fall in usage and a drop in income can have a dramatic impact on a centre's performance. In this case the total income per user was at its lowest in 2011/12 at 76p, 2012/13 showed clear signs of recovery with income per user rising to £1.21. This has steadied with income per user at £1.18 for 2013/14.

- **Castlefields Operational Recovery**



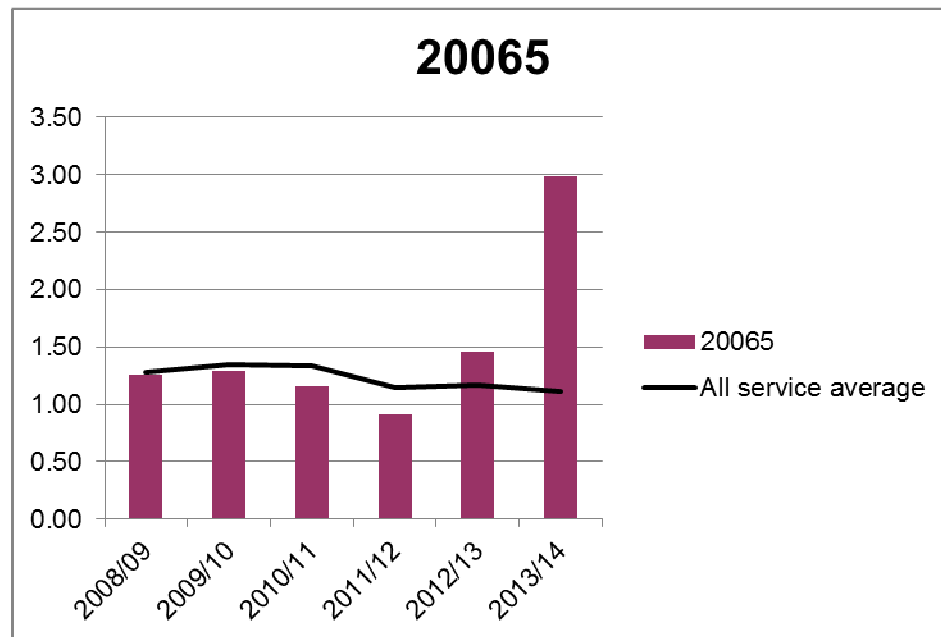
Castlefields operational recovery dipped to the lowest position in the six year period in 2011/12 at 10.35%, as is the trend across the other indicators. This has recovered with a dramatic increase to 39.11% in 2012/13, the key factor in achieving the “Most Improved” Performer award. The positive trend has continued in 2013/14 with operational recovery at 45.90%.

- **Castlefields Staffing Cost as a Percentage of Total Cost**



There is very little variation over the six year period, albeit a positive reduction of just over 3% between 2011/12 and 2012/13. This is typical of a small team where attendance levels are fairly constant and overtime is closely managed, this is unlikely to fluctuate in the future. The increase over the period is attributed to bringing down cost in other areas notably around energy usage which in turn pushes up the staff cost as a percentage of total cost.

- **Castlefields Visits Per Household (Catchment Area)**



This chart demonstrates a decline in visits per household until 2012/13, which correlates with the overall trend at Castlefields. There is a dramatic increase in catchment visits per household in 2013/14 indicating increased local usage. Indeed, Castlefields has the highest catchment visits in this operating year out of the five community centres.

4.1.5 Castlefields Community Centre has benefited from increased usage and income. The centre has Service Level Agreements with Adult Day Services, Children’s Services and Corporate Training. There is a community library, community café and a job club operating, all contributing to increased usage and a vibrant community hub.

4.2 **Ditton Community Centre**

4.2.1 Ditton’s performance in 2013/14 earned the award of “Best Performer” for Civic, Cultural and Community Venues for APSE. This is testimony to the consistent focus on efficiency. Ditton has enjoyed increases in usage and numbers attending over the last few years, in this operating year:-

Total annual opening hours	4100
Total aggregate hours main room hired	1328
Total aggregate hours other rooms hired	5558
Total attendance main room	26155
Total attendance other rooms	49756
Other attendance	2500
Total attendance	78411

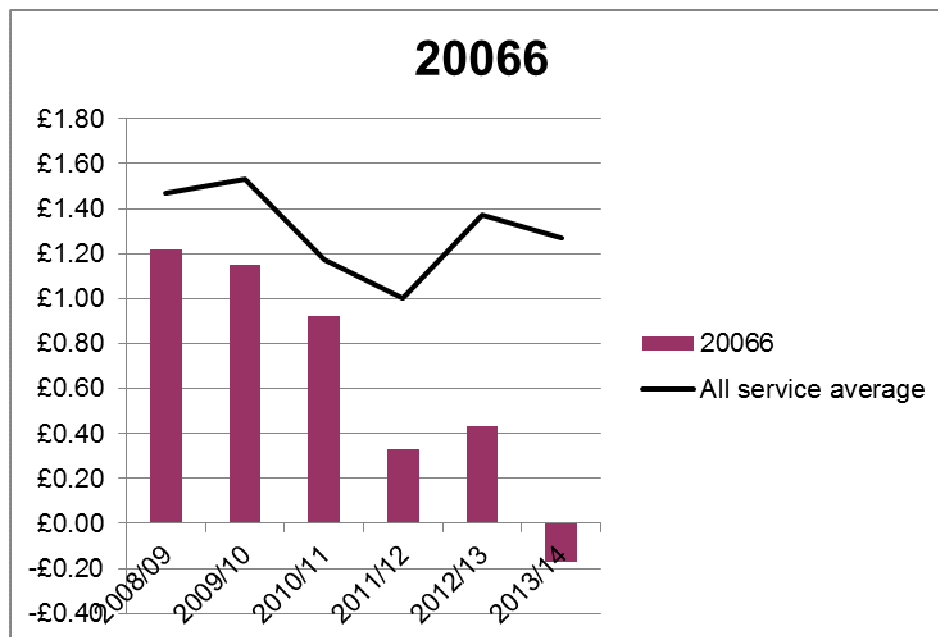
4.2.2 **Category of usage** at Ditton Community Centre is broken down as follows:-

Youth & Children	11969
Lifelong Learning	3029
Health & Healthy Living	14241
Arts Development	35459
Sports Development	4514
Statutory Agencies	283
Other community use	8915
Total	78411

Ditton has the Children's Centre co-located in the community centre occupying approximately 25% of the accommodation with sessional use of other rooms in addition. The user numbers for the Children's Centres are not collated to contribute to the above figures. In addition to the regular programme of activities, during 2013/14 Ditton hosted an annual horticultural show that attracted a large audience from across the area. An allotment project has become established involving the primary school, youth offending team and the children's centre.

4.2.3 **Ditton Direction of Travel Indicators (APSE reference 20066)**

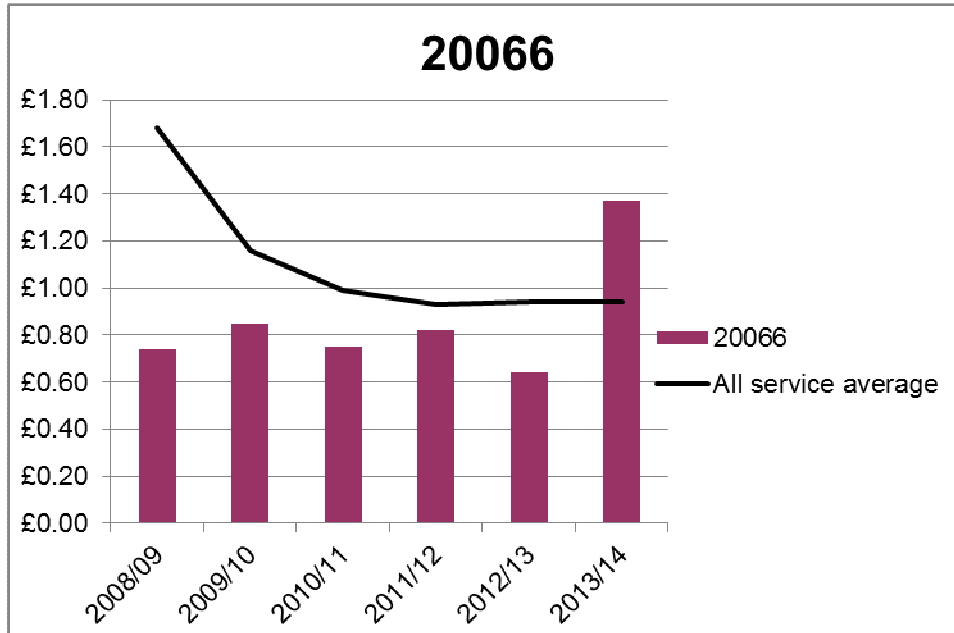
- **Ditton Net Cost Per User**



This graph demonstrates a positive direction of travel owing to increasing income and a steady footfall until 2011/12. Ditton has consistently overachieved on income positively impacting against this indicator and goes some way to explain the slight dip in 2012/13 when income was in line with the target. The figure in 2012/13 was 43 pence net cost per user, the lowest across Halton's five community centres. However, in 2013/14 this figure is now -17 pence. This means that for every user there is a net gain of 17

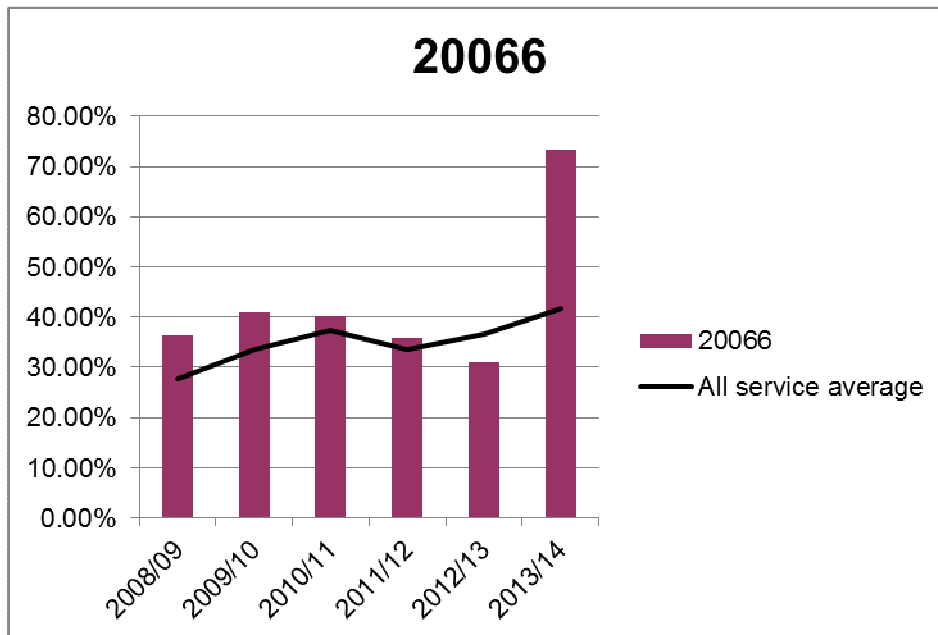
pence and not a net cost incurred. A unique position across Halton's community centres and indeed, the APSE benchmarking set.

- **Ditton Total Income Per User**



2011/12 saw a five pence increase on income per user achieving 82p however, this dropped in 2012/13 to 64p. In 2013/14 the trend was reversed generating £1.37 income per user, an increase of 75 pence.

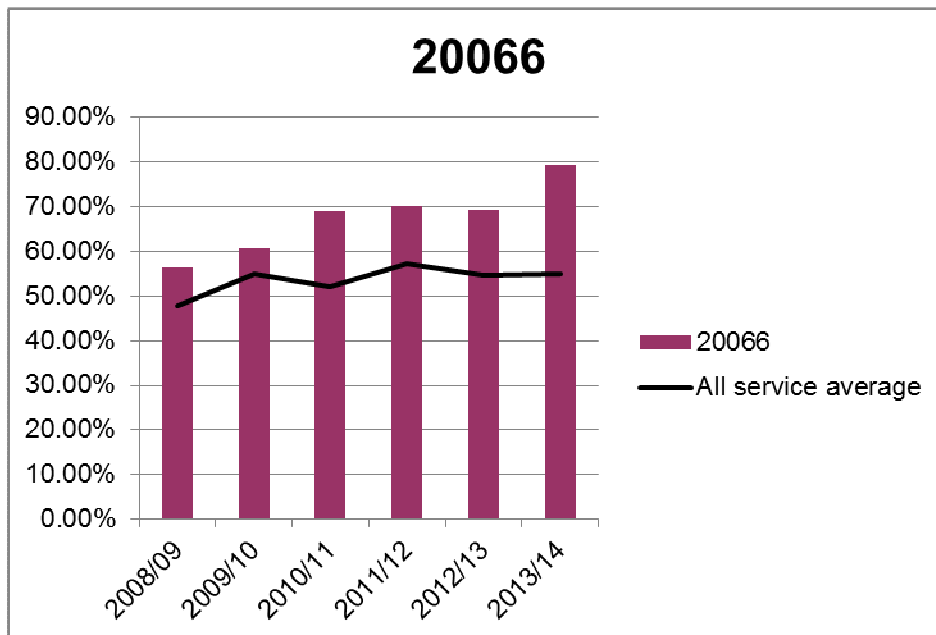
- **Ditton Operational Recovery**



Ditton experienced a drop in operational recovery in 2012/13 of 30.90% which correlated with the income indicator and overall picture of performance for Ditton during this period. The service identified a key target

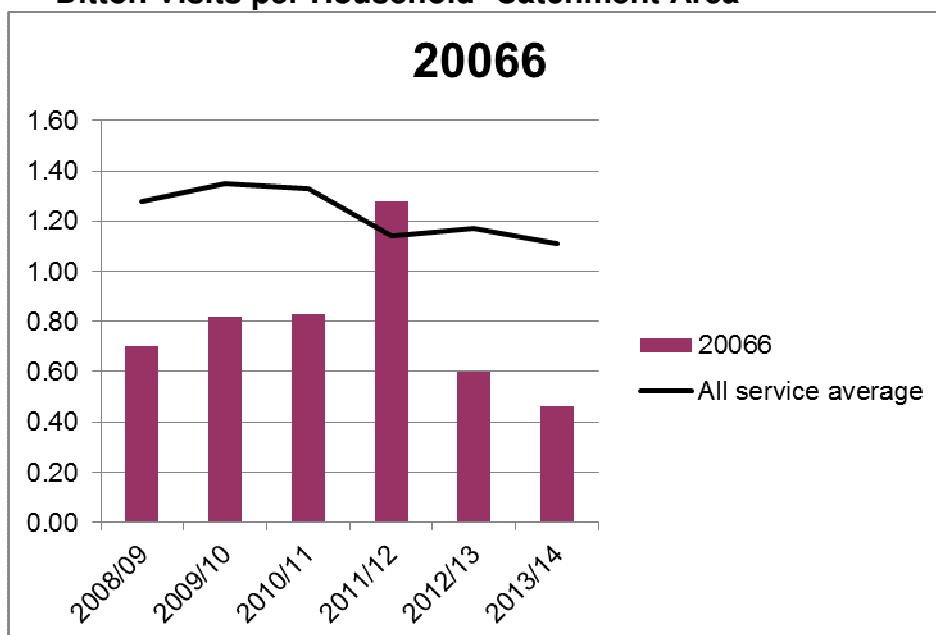
for Ditton to reverse this trend and in 2013/14 achieved 73.28%, the largest leap in improvement across the six year trend.

- **Ditton Staffing Cost as a Percentage of Total Cost**



Staffing costs as a percentage of total cost has gone up steadily over the six year period. The steady increase in costs is a culmination of staff increments and additional hours to cover for absenteeism allied to costs coming down in other areas notably around energy management particularly since replacing oil fired heating with gas boilers in 2010/11. Whilst staffing represents a large expense for the service; accessibility, usage and income benefits from this model of service delivery.

- **Ditton Visits per Household- Catchment Area**



2011/12 saw a peak in visits per household and then a sharp drop in 2012/13. The declining trend is repeated in 2013/14 with 0.46 visits per household. Increasing this figure will be a key area of focus for Ditton in future operating years.

4.3 Grangeway Community Centre

4.3.1 Grangeway Community Centre has two distinct areas of activity, the community centre and the Hub where Catch 22, Young Addiction and Banardo's are co-located to deliver integrated youth provision. Grangeway Community Centre is known across Cheshire for its popular Wrestling events which are well attended by the wider community, In addition to the events the club train at the centre weekly. The Main Hall at Grangeway is a popular venue for dancing and pensioner groups and the centre benefits from a Centre Members Committee which hosts social events.

4.3.2 Attendances at Grangeway fell significantly in 2011/12 due to both karate and zumba ceasing at the centre as well as a fall in numbers attending some sessions such as years ahead, sequence dancing etc. Similarly, Adult Day Services withdrew from using the centre hence a low figure in the statutory agency category. 2012/13 operating saw this trend continue and 2013/14 has had a further reduction by 2302 in overall attendance. In considering Grangeway/s usage a key factor is 50% of the space/usage is not included in the APSE figures as it is exclusive youth provision and therefore has a bearing on Grangeway's performance. In addition to this, within the community centre we have Sure Start to Later Life and Children's Centre services co-located, whilst this means the services are accessible at a local level it further reduces the available space for community use. This is a positive arrangement as it optimises usage and generates income for the community centres service but is a factor in considering the centre's usage figures.

In February 2014 a new café was launched for a six month pilot. This is a public/private sector initiative generating income for the centre and it is hoped regenerates usage numbers at Grangeway. The café continues to operate after a slow start and has extended the arrangement until February 2016.

In addition to the regular programme of activities, during 2013/14 Grangeway hosted a Big Picnic fun day which attracted 120 local residents, the nice weather meant the event could be held outdoors. The centre held a dog show organised with Grange Community Forum which proved popular offering free micro chipping and nail clipping for pets, £300 was raised for Halton Haven and Pounds for Poundies. The National Citizenship Programme (NCS) spent two weeks in the summer renovating the rear garden space for the benefit of centre users.

The overall usage of Grangeway in 2013/14:-

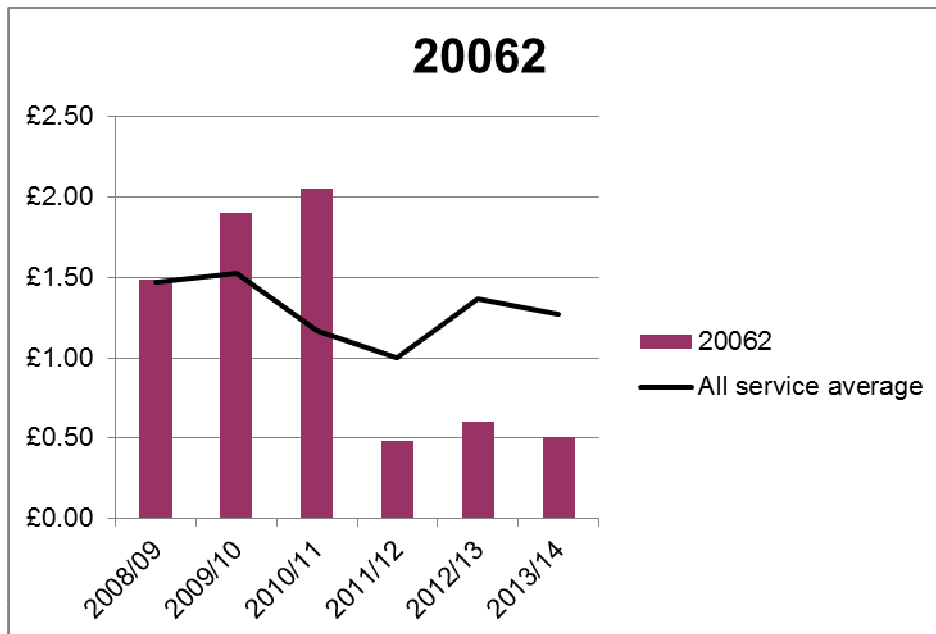
Total annual opening hours	3670
Total aggregate hours main room hired	1636
Total aggregate hours other rooms hired	3006
Total attendance main room	31251
Total attendance other rooms	9138
Other attendance	9961
Total attendance	50350

4.3.3 **Category of usage** at Grangeway Community Centre is broken down as follows:-

Youth & Children	1685
Lifelong Learning	1696
Health & Healthy Living	12734
Arts Development	19151
Sports Development	10910
Statutory Agencies	1500
Other community use	2674
Total	50350

4.3.4 **Grangeway Direction of Travel Indicators (APSE reference 20062)**

- **Grangeway Net Cost Per User**

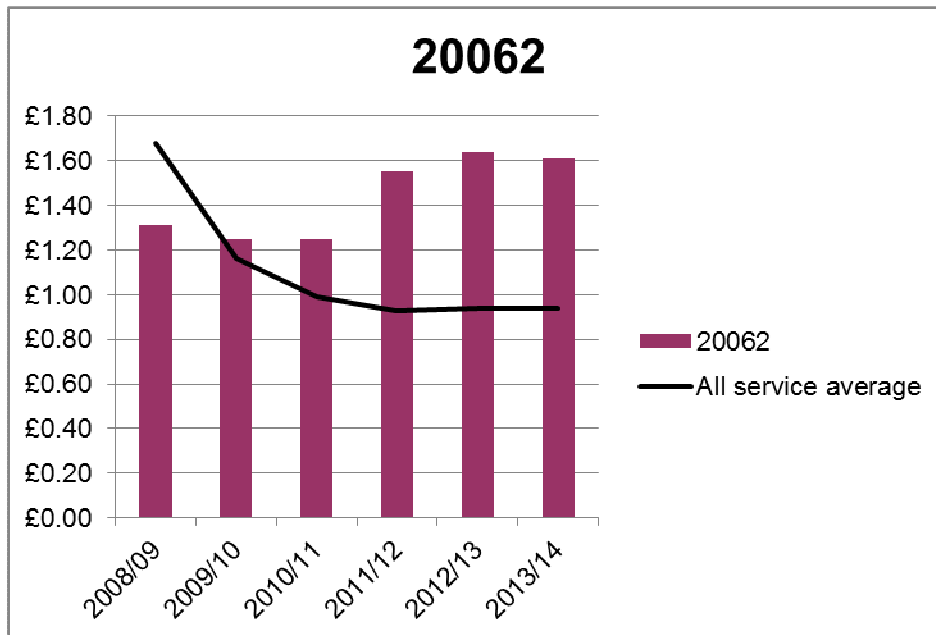


Net cost per user dropped dramatically in 2011/12 year due to overall expenditure costs reducing by £63,097 from the previous operating year. This is in the main was due to efficiency savings however, good energy housekeeping and a reduction in supplies and services budget has also contributed. Allied to this drop in expenditure was increased income from the

previous year of around £10,000 to deliver a vastly improved net position. This improvement in centre performance led to Grangeway Community Centre being shortlisted in the Association of Public service excellence (APSE) Civic Cultural and Community Venues performance networks as Best Performer 2011/12.

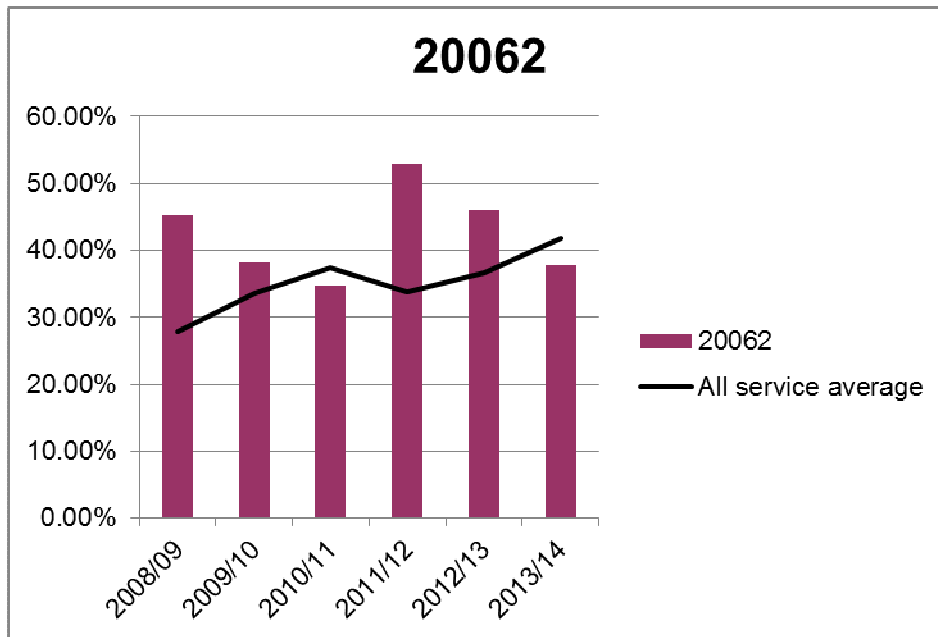
This figure has increased slightly in 2012/13, this is not surprising as there was no further high level efficiency reductions to impact in the formula. At its peak, net cost per user at Grangeway was £2.05 in 2010/11, in the operating year 2012/13 this reduced to 60 pence and in 2013/14 a further reduction to 51 pence was achieved, a positive overall direction of travel. Indeed, Grangeway has the lowest net cost per user across the five community centres.

- **Grangeway Total Income Per User**



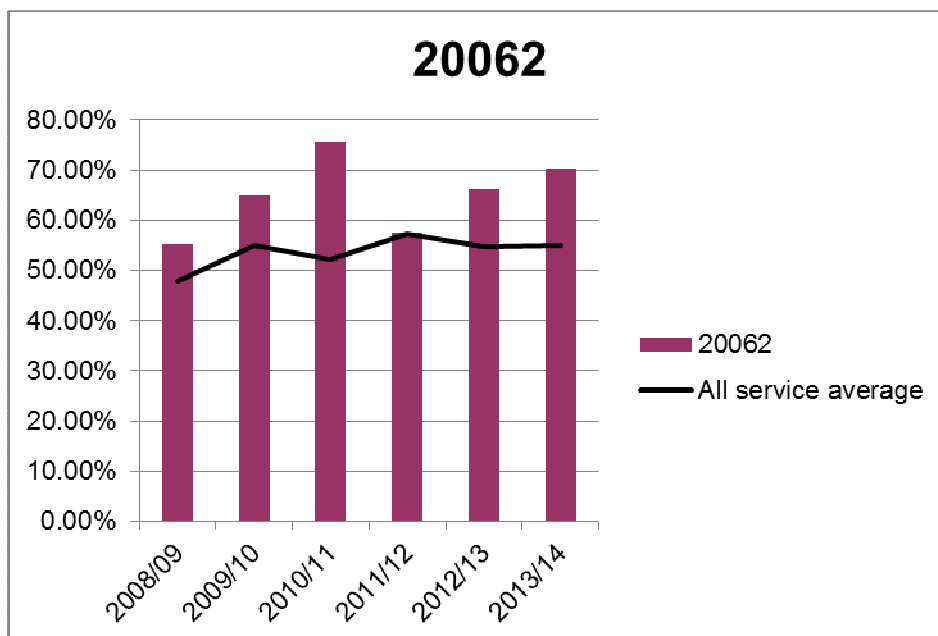
Grangeway has experienced a positive upward trend and direction of travel over the six year period. Income has increased by co-locating service providers whilst maintaining levels of community usage. At the lowest point in the six years this was £1.25 and at its highest £1.64 in 2012/13. In the last operating year this was £1.61 a marginal reduction of 3 pence income per user. Grangeway's income level per user is the highest across the five community centres.

- **Grangeway Operational Recovery**



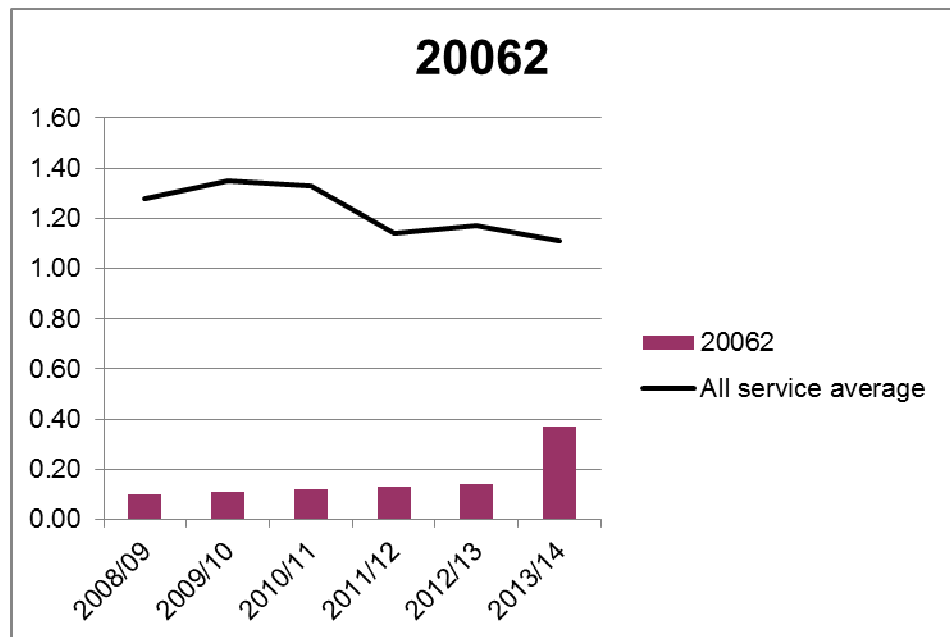
Grangeway was the first Halton Community Centre to achieve over a 50% operational recovery in 2011/12. Whilst this was a fantastic achievement this would be a difficult position to maintain. The following operating year (2012/13) had a dip to 45.93%, 2013/14 has also had a dip to 37.80%. The average operational recovering rate across the benchmarking group is 36.65%. Whilst the centre is still achieving slightly higher than the average this will be an area of focus moving forward.

- **Grangeway Staffing Cost a Percentage of Total Cost**



The staffing cost as a percentage of total cost reduced significantly in 2011/12, this was due to efficiency savings. In 2012/13, the budget had reduced in line with the efficiency savings which has translated into an increase in staffing as a percentage of total cost of the budget in this reporting year; similarly this is the position for 2013/14 although this has increased. Grangeway is a large facility with a lean budget which emphasises the staffing costs however, performance in this indicator is below the service average and tackling this moving forward will be a key objective.

- **Grangeway Visits Per Household –Catchment Area**



Visits per household in the catchment area has risen significantly, the varied programme of events and activities particularly other community use which pertains to events, the community café, meetings and forums which tend to have local participation is key to this although the graph shows performance is still below the service average.

4.4 Murdishaw Community Centre

4.4.1 Murdishaw Community centre has an annual programme of events which is firmly established with centre users and a highlight to the centre's calendar. The centre also benefits from having a Board of Directors (including four Local Councillors) and an active Project Group to provide structured involvement in decision making and future planning for the centre. This model of governance has charitable status and has enabled access to external sources of funding.

4.4.2 Usage is down on the previous year from 26,348 to 25,420 however, bookings are slightly up with the number of hours the centre was booked increasing marginally.

Total annual opening hours	2988
Total aggregate hours main room hired	1278
Total aggregate hours other rooms hired	3970
Total attendance main room	15419
Total attendance other rooms	11007
Total other attendance	431
Total attendance	26857

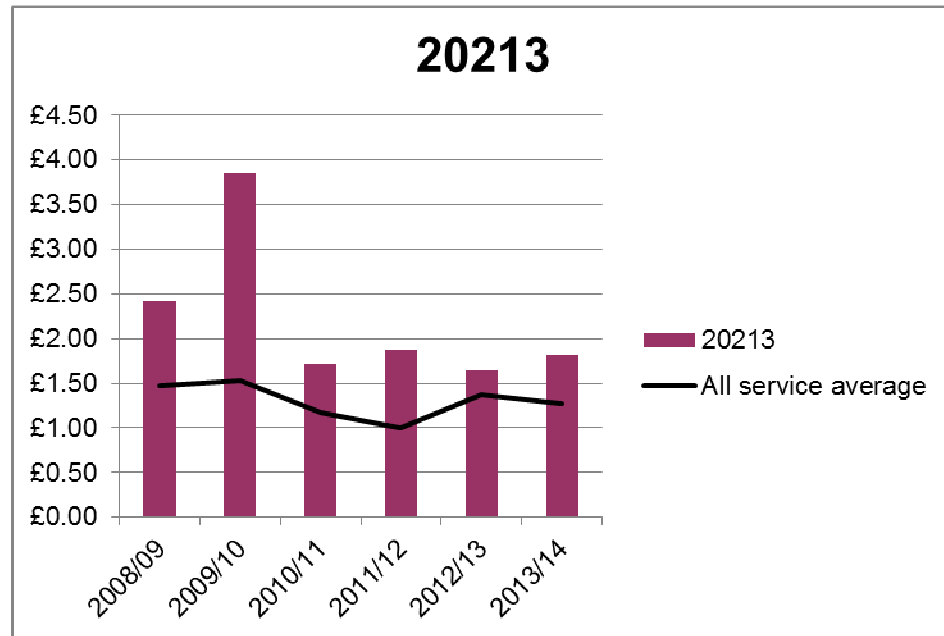
4.4.3 **Category of usage** at Murdishaw Community Centre is broken down as follows:-

Events	6171
Youth & Children	1927
Lifelong Learning	845
Health & Healthy Living	3024
Arts Development	581
Sports Development	86
Statutory Agencies	11193
Other community use	3030
Total	26857

Murdishaw benefits from an established programme of events delivered by the Board of Directors in addition to the regular programme of activities. In 2013/14 the centre held a summer fun event with 300 in attendance, hosted North Cheshire Rail Users Group commemoration event, annual Halloween event which is a sell-out and a barn dance in March which 85 people attended.

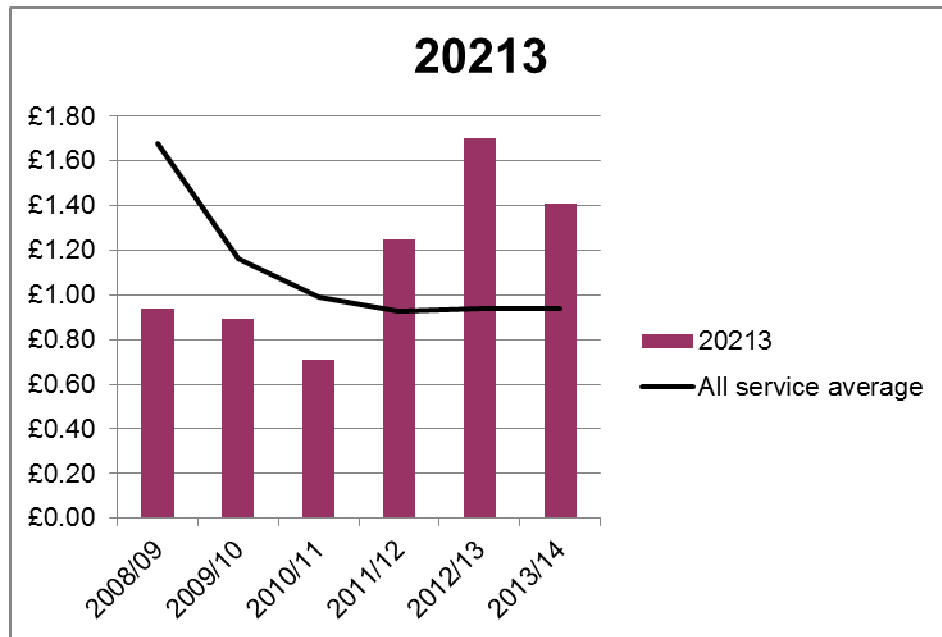
4.4.4 Murdishaw Direction of Travel Indicators (APSE reference 20213)

- **Murdishaw Net Cost Per User**



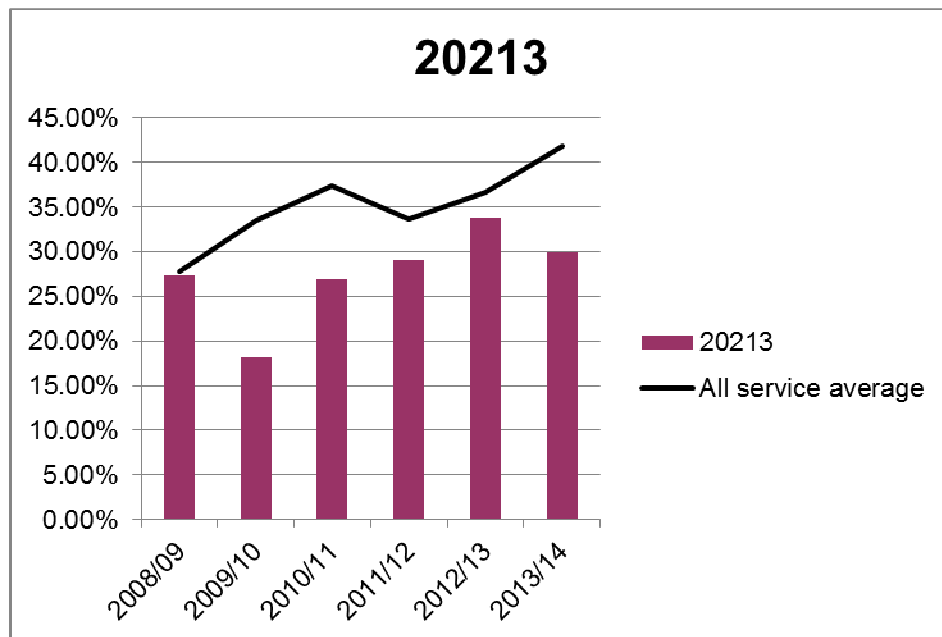
In 2012/13 the net cost per user had reduced to its lowest ever at £1.64. In 2013/14 this cost has increased to £1.82, this indicates the ratio of centre users hasn't increased in proportion to the ratio of cost increases given the regular user numbers are up in this period. Murdishaw has made good progress in this category, at its peak net costs per user was £3.85 in 2009/10 however, the APSE service average is £1.27 and Murdishaw currently has the highest net cost per user across the service. In part, the model of governance may be a contributing factor to this, the Board of Directors attracts funds to resource community initiatives, events and improvements to the centre, this income is dealt with separately by the Board hence, whereby other centres will receive some income to support such activities this wouldn't feature in Murdishaw Community Centres budget and may give some context to the variation.

- **Murdishaw Total Income Per User**



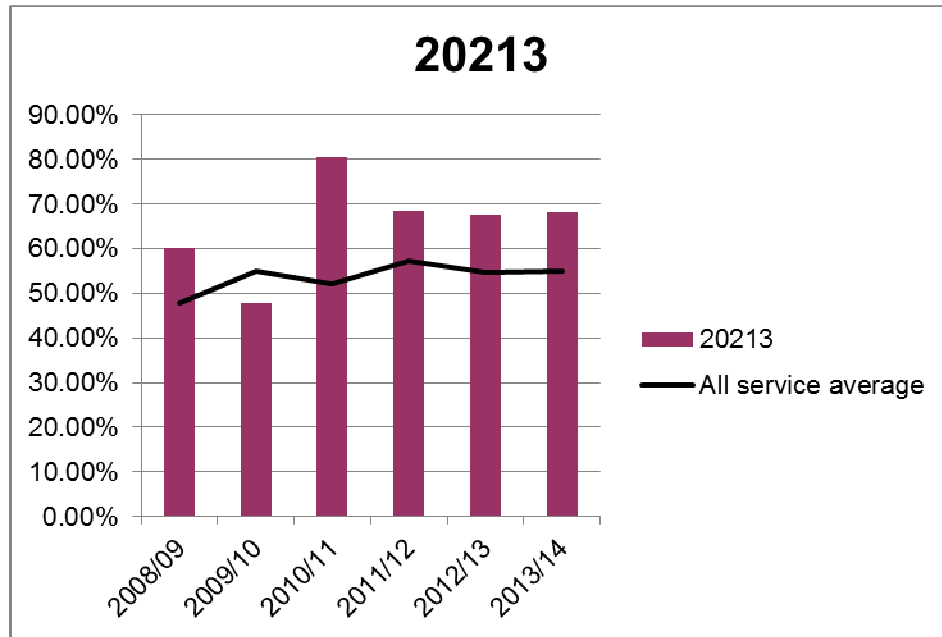
Total income per user increased significantly in the previous operating year (2012/13) to £1.70, a continued trend from 2011/12 as the graph shows. The dramatic increase would be difficult to maintain and as predicted the figure has reduced in this operating year (2013/14) to £1.41, albeit the second highest over the last six years. This demonstrates strong performance for Murdishaw in this performance indicator, only Ditton has a higher income level per user and the APSE service average is 94 pence.

- **Murdishaw Operational Recovery**



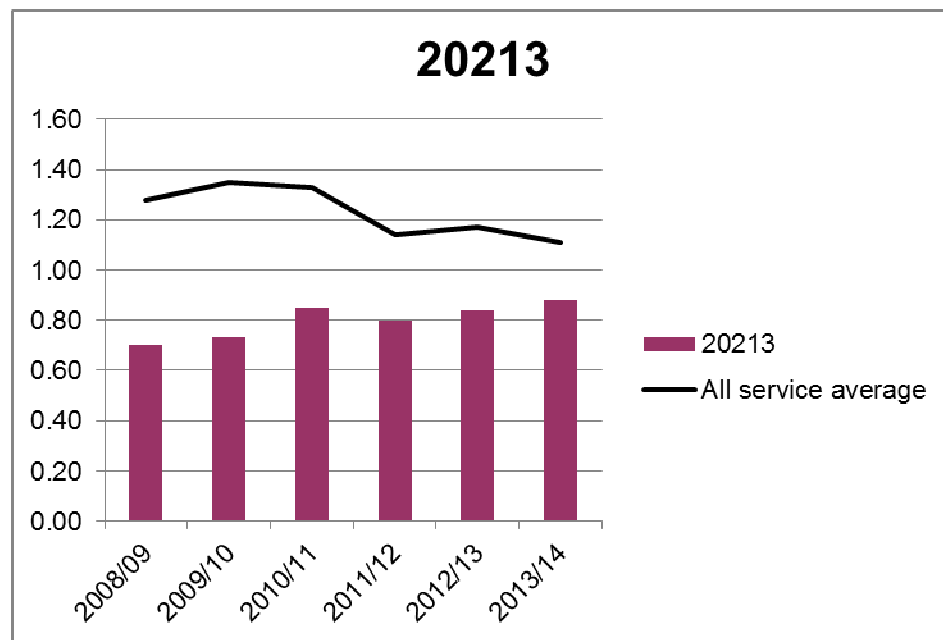
Operational recovery has fluctuated at Murdishaw in the last couple of years as the graph indicates. There was a significant drop in performance in 2009/10 when Play Services withdrew from Murdishaw creating vacant space. The position improved in 2012/13 when Adult Day Services occupied the accommodation. In 2013/14 operational recovery is at 29.89%, the lowest across Halton’s five community centres and below the APSE service average of 41.82%. This is a key area of focus to be tackled in supporting future sustainability.

- **Murdishaw Staffing Cost as a Percentage of Total Cost**



This graph shows consistent performance over the last three operating years. Murdishaw has a staff establishment of 87 hours per week with regular weekly usage of 100.9 hours in 2013/14 hence, some additional costs for staffing were incurred in this operating year.

- **Murdishaw Visits Per Household- Catchment Area.**



Visits per household in the catchment area have altered very little over the six year period, overall it's an upward trend, continued in 2013/14.

4.5.1 Upton Community Centre

4.5.1 Upton Community Centre is the only community centre with a Sports Hall which attracts sports teams from the local and wider community. There are nine junior football teams in addition to senior block booking sessions that ensure the hall is booked out every night of the week between 5 and 10 pm and has a waiting list. The centre has a thriving Taekwondo Club based at Upton and have a key role in developing young talent through their junior 'Tigers' club. In addition to the Sports Hall, Upton has a diverse programme of activity ranging from arts classes to musical minis, cake decorating and majorettes. Each year the centre has a pantomime delivered by a local theatre group based at the nearby All Saints C of E primary School. Upton has a range of group rooms which are ideal to deliver lifelong learning and training activities. Upton Community Centre is strengthening links with the Children's Centre in order to further develop and promote child and family activities, stay and play and courses such as ICT and preparation for work for parents.

4.5.2 Upton has maintained steady opening hours and seen a slight increase in new bookings.

Total annual opening hours	4900
Total aggregate hours main room hired	1902
Total aggregate hours other rooms hired	3842
Total attendance main room	28861
Total attendance other rooms	28801
Other attendance	6000
Total attendance	63482

4.5.3 **Category of usage at Upton Community Centre** is broken down as follows:-

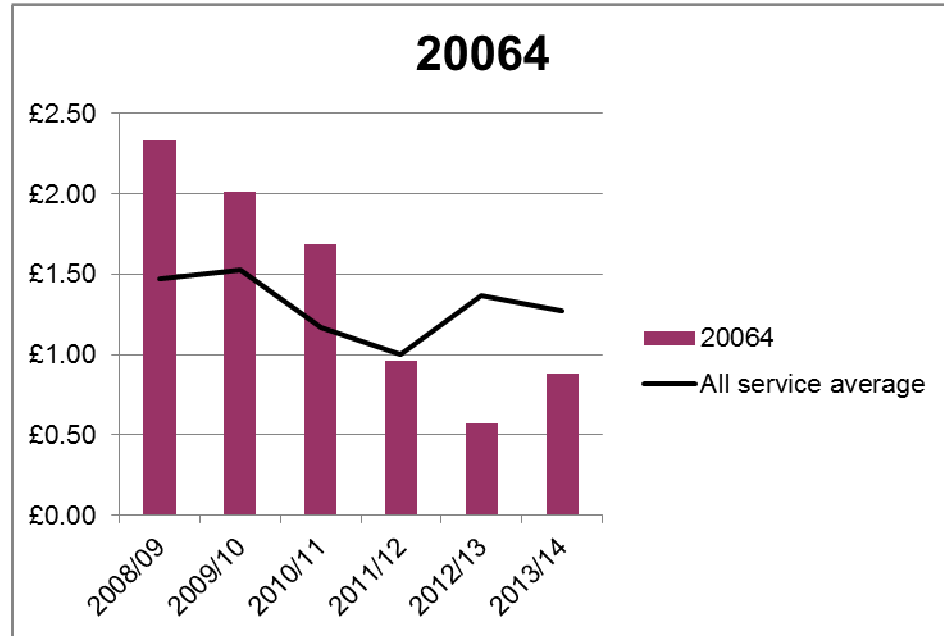
Youth & Children	10173
Lifelong Learning	5836
Health & Healthy Living	17786
Arts Development	5008
Sports Development	14833
Statutory Agencies	3241
Other community use	6605
Total	63482

Overall there has been a reduction in attendance in the last operating year but conversely an increase in the numbers of hours the centre is booked. This indicates longer hours of usage with a reduction in numbers attending sessions.

In addition to the regular programme of activities, in 2013/14 Upton hosted a Family Fun Day in partnership with the Children's Centre Service, over 300 people attended. The centre hosted an annual taekwondo event on behalf of local group Supreme Taekwondo in partnership with Sports England, over 200 people attended this event and the centre has been booked to host this again in 2015. McMillan volunteers and fundraisers are active all year round in Upton Community Centre, the annual coffee morning event raised just over £1000.

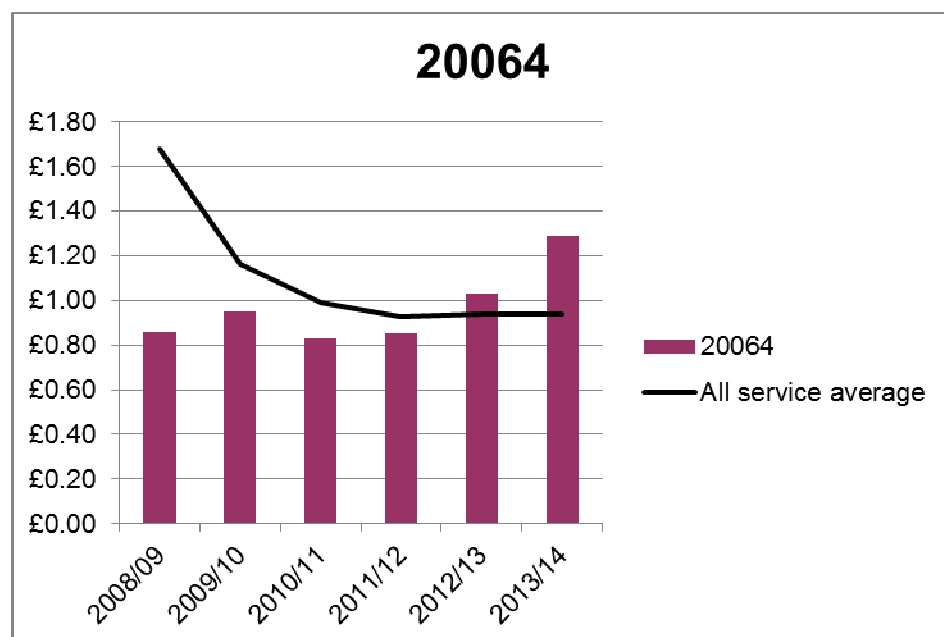
Upton Direction of Travel Indicators (APSE reference 20064)

4.5.4 • Upton Net Cost Per User



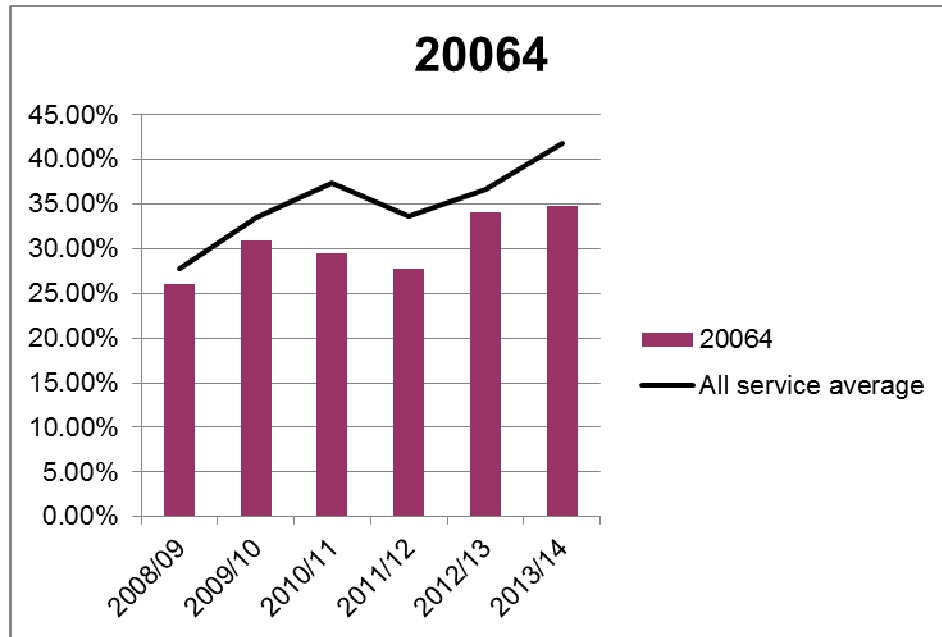
Upton achieved its lowest net cost per user in 2012/13 at 57 pence; in 2013/14 this has increased to 88 pence. The APSE service average is £1.27. Over the six year period the trend has been positive in the main due to efficiency savings, managing staff overtime and sickness and reduced premises related costs such as energy costs.

• Upton Total Income Per User



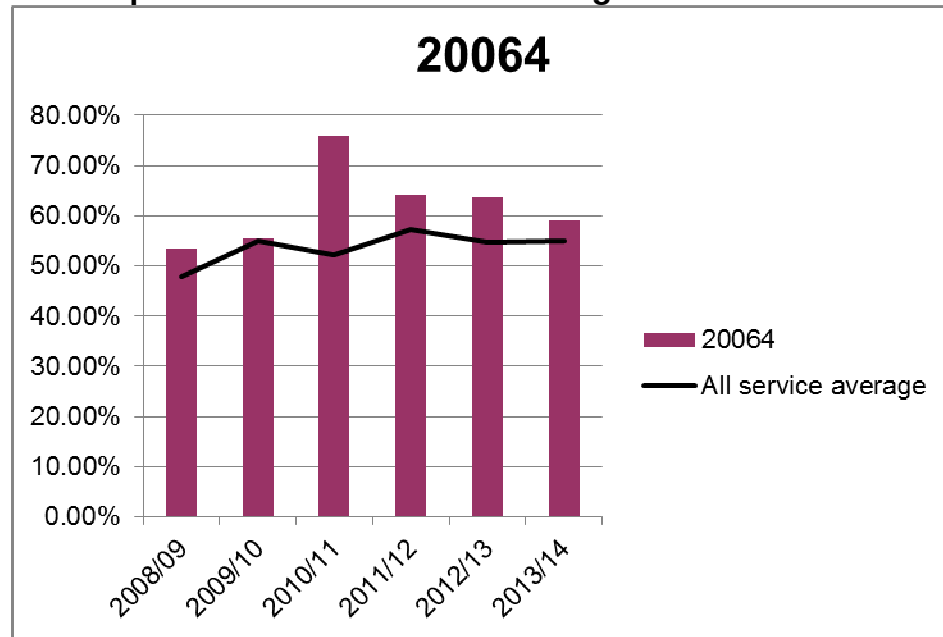
Total income per user has a continued positive trend travelling from £1.03 in 2012/13 to £1.29 in 2013/14. The APSE service average is 94 pence, added to this the overall trend has been a challenge to maintain income levels, only Upton & Ditton increased their income per user in this operational year.

- **Upton Operational Recovery**



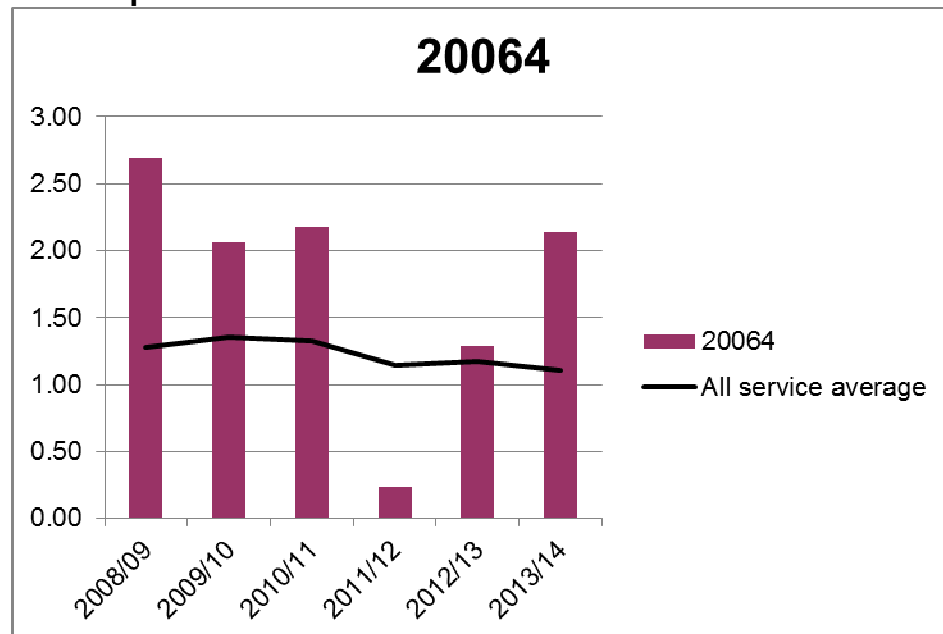
Operational recovery has remained consistent with the previous year at 34.82% and continues a positive direction of travel. The service will be striving to increase this further to attain the APSE service average of 41.82%.

- **Upton Staff Costs as a Percentage of Total Cost**



This demonstrates staffing costs are the most significant service cost. This spiked in 2010/11 due to the efficiency programme and costs initially associated with reducing staff. Staffing costs have remained steady in the previous two operating years and have reduced marginally in 2013/14 with performance at 59.08%. The APSE service average is 54.97%.

- **Upton Visits Per Household – Catchment Area**



This indicator saw a significant dip in 2011/12 which generated a key area of focus. A detailed post code assessment in 2012/13 provided further analysis and targeted approaches to increase usage from within the catchment area were delivered. The 2012/13 data demonstrated an increase and 2013/14 has increased further to 2.14% continuing the

positive direction of travel. The APSE service average for this indicator is 1.11%.

4.5.5 **Catering Provision**

The catering is direct provision operating four days a week providing breakfast and lunch. This service is well used by the local community and is a valuable space where people meet and socialise.

5.0 **SERVICE SUMMARY & FUTURE CHALLENGES**

5.1 Overall, in 2013/14 the five community centres had 267,124 visits and generated income of £324k. Comparatively, the centres perform well however, the service strives for continuous improvement with key targets to increase capacity, usage and income. Securing service level agreements and fixed income for the centres is a key objective.

5.2 Since the 2013/14 operating year further improvements have been implemented in the service;

5.2.1 Upton has a climbing wall installed in the sports hall, an IT suite in the café offering 6 public access computers, refurbished café space, new sports equipment including indoor bowls, table tennis and badminton. Moving forward, in March 2015 Upton is piloting the delivery of healthy eating initiative and a programme of activities for different sections of the local community, such as older people, which will complement the Council's strategic priorities. The Centre will also offer healthy lunches for school children in the summer holidays. If successful, these programmes would be looked to be rolled out to other Community Centres

5.2.2 Ditton Community Centre has now become the home of 8th Widnes Scouts. Beavers, Cubs and Scouts hold their weekly sessions at the centre with regional events for the scouts planned at Ditton.

5.2.3 Murdishaw has benefitted from a heating system upgrade and refurbishment in parts of the building. The centre also hosted a commemorative event for North Cheshire Railway Users Group following a theatre production of "It will be over by Christmas" on the platform at Runcorn East.

5.3 Community centres have had an increased role in supporting youth education providers with neighbourhood delivery. Since March 2014, Connexions, Progress Sports and Power in Partnership are operating from Community Centres.

5.4 A strategic plan for café provision across the five centres is being developed. This will consider the current range of models of delivery and market test for future arrangements considering direct provision, partnership arrangements through Service Level Agreements or commercial procurement.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children & Young People in Halton

Community centres provide a platform for intergenerational activity, community activity and youth service delivery. The service hosts auditions for Halton's Got Talent each year engaging with hundreds of young people; signposting to culture and performing arts activities and showcasing youth hubs to increase participation.

6.2 Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

Community centres provide employment opportunities within the service, community delivery points for training and employment initiatives and lifelong learning. Future job funds and work experience placements for young people and adults with learning disabilities are offered all year round in the community centres.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

Community centres contribute to a whole area approach to health and wellbeing. They provide a nucleus to support community activity and access to services in neighbourhoods. Community cafes, health initiatives, health based activity in community centres such as physical activity, smoking cessation, breathe easy, stroke association, community gardening, healthy eating, cook & taste, weight management. ? of usage in community centres is directly health outcome related. Community Centres are SHOP (Safer Homes for Older People) and HELPS (Home Equipment at Low Price) outlets providing low cost safety equipment.

6.4 A Safer Halton

A sense of community and community connectedness reduces residents' fears of crime where they live, they are likely to feel a stronger sense of belonging and safety in an environment where the communities know each other, are active and there are established links to other stakeholders like police, housing, community wardens, etc. Community Centres provide a community hub and platform for this. Community centres are safe, accessible facilities located in the heart of our communities. They serve both the local and wider community and promote participation, inclusion and cohesion. All centres are designated Emergency Rest Centres, Hate Crime Reporting Centres and designated Safe in Town facilities.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

Community Centres contribute to wider community initiatives and regeneration in the areas they are sited. There are numerous community gardening and local environmental projects across the service working jointly with key stakeholders.

7.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

7.1 None.

8.0 RISK ANALYSIS

8.1 Community centres provide cohesion to those communities they serve. Accessing services and participating in community life contributes to resident's health and wellbeing by providing support, enhancing skills and building connected communities. Not providing community centres or reducing the services and activities provided through them could have a detrimental effect on current and potential future users and would result in poorly served and disconnected communities.

9.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

9.1 The service is open and accessible to all Halton's residents.

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

10.1 None.