

REPORT TO: Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 19 September 2007

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director – Environment &
Strategic Director – Corporate and Policy

SUBJECT: Formalising Relationships Between the Urban Renewal PPB and Urban Renewal SSP

WARDS: Boroughwide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To encourage the Urban Renewal PPB to move closer to the Halton Partnership/LSP's Urban Renewal Specialist Strategic Partnership (SSP)

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

- (1) Members consider the options available to them to meet the Chief Scrutiny Advisor's advice on how to better align the PPB and the Urban Renewal SSP; and**
- (2) take the appropriate actions.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Chief Scrutiny Advisor has requested that the Policy Board consider a closer working relationship with the Urban Renewal SSP because:
- 1) PPBs and SSPs are structured on the same basis of Halton's 5 strategic priorities and, though they have differing roles, are interested in the same subject matter and issues. It makes sense for them to cooperate and to establish a constructive and complementary relationship to help ensure the best outcomes for local people
 - 2) the forthcoming Local Government etc. Act and the Police and Justice Act envisage a greater role for PPBs (or overview and scrutiny committees - OSCs - in the parlance more familiar to many other Councils) in the overview and scrutiny of LSPs. In the Halton context, this includes the SSPs. It is important that PPBs and SSPs understand and appreciate each others' roles and that SSPs welcome and come to develop a positive rather than a defensive view of the attentions of PPBs.
 - 3) there is a glaring gap in the performance monitoring role of PPBs. While they monitor performance of service plans regularly, there is no

systematic overview and scrutiny (O&S) of performance strategically e.g. against the higher level aims, objectives and indicators set out in the Community Strategy and Corporate Plan. Hence attention may be paid by PPBs to the time it takes to process invoices or the number of staff training days while, for instance, the (invented) fact that the population is dying like flies could be ignored. This is not terribly sensible.

3.2 In order to get the ball rolling in establishing a fruitful and trusting relationship between PPBs and SSPs and to prepare for new roles envisaged in the legislation, it is suggested that they should meet. I am aware that this approach is favoured by the Council's Leader and his deputy, who Chairs the LSP. The proposal for some kind of joint meeting was also raised at the recent Overview and Scrutiny Coordination Panel (OSCoP) meeting which brings together the PPB Chairs and some other Members. Those present were not averse to the idea but were resistant to their being any prescription or requirement to hold such meetings. Part of my purpose in setting out the rationale for having some kind of PPB/SSP meeting was to seek your help in encouraging PPBs along this path. There are good reasons for tailoring the format of suit liaison to suit different circumstances, including:

- a) informal joint PPB/SSP meetings involving the Chair and Vice Chair and perhaps a few other members of each SSP rather than being too much of a set piece involving all SSP members to discuss the more strategic performance information including a Community Strategy performance review, a 'trajectory' review, risk assessment, an outline of the respective roles of the SSP and the PPB and how their relationship might develop, results from the latest Best Value satisfaction survey, etc..
- b) the co-option of an SSP member onto the Urban Renewal PPB in order to maintain the desired relationship.

3.3 In recognition of the fact that the Urban Renewal SSP, unlike all other SSPs, is currently chaired by the Chair of the Urban Renewal PPB so that close working is already ensured, and in view of the fact that all diaries are becoming increasingly congested, it is recommended that the latter course of action would be the most appropriate for this PPB. This is a solution which it is considered would meet the objectives set out in paragraphs 3.1 to 3.5 above.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Not applicable

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no financial or other implications

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

Not applicable

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

Not applicable

6.2 A Healthy Halton BC

Not applicable

6.3 A Safer Halton

Not applicable

6.4 Halton's Urban Renewal

As set out in the report

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

Not applicable

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

Not applicable

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

9.1 Not applicable