

Implementation of High Risk Mitigation Measures (Environment & Urban Renewal PPB) – Quarter 2 to 30th September 2016

The purpose of this report is to provide an update concerning the implementation of mitigation measures for those areas of risk which have been assessed as high within the Directorate Risk Register(s) that are relevant to the remit of this Board.

Business Area – Policy Planning and Transportation

Assessment of current risk – (Transport) ¹			Impact (Severity)	Likelihood (Probability)	Score (I x L)		
PR R16	Failure to maintain and make available the Councils highway network could lead to adverse consequences for road users and others. (Strategic Priority: Safer Halton / Halton's Urban Renewal)		3	4	12		
Risk control measure(s)		Lead Officer	Timescale Review	Residual Impact	Residual Likelihood	Residual Score	
R16 a	Delivery of prioritised maintenance programme		Mick Noone Operational Director (Policy, Planning & Transportation)	Annually	2	6	6
R16 b	Availability of capital and revenue funding						
R16 c	Timely and effective use of Variable Message Signs						
R16 d	Coordination of works to minimise impact.						

Progress update

This year's prioritised maintenance programme remains on track to be delivered as planned. To date carriageway schemes have been completed as scheduled with additional footway and footpath works due for completion in February 2016. Next year's work is presently at an advanced stage of programming and whilst Silver Jubilee Bridge programmed maintenance works are currently on track this can be affected by poor weather conditions.

Integrated Transport Budget (capital) funding is available for a range of highway infrastructure improvements and is being targeted at schemes to improve network capacity, safety and sustainable transport initiatives. Works continue to be planned to minimise disruption and to co-ordinate with Mersey Gateway traffic restrictions across the Borough.

We are currently in the process of re-writing our Highway Asset Management Plan (HAMP) with the aim to bring it in line with Highway Maintenance Efficiency Programme (HMEP) recommendations. The DfT and Ministers are currently indicating that LA's who's HAMP does not adhere to this guidance are likely to see their funding cut in the future starting in 2015/16, however as yet this has not been confirmed.

¹ NB – Risks associated with the Mersey Gateway Project are monitored through the Corporate Risk Register

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The HAMP is a living document so it is not necessary or expected that all local authorities have them 100% complete by March. However, the Council will need to demonstrate positive intent and progress and a future aim to achieve the recommendations.

The availability of revenue budget remains problematic due to the ongoing fiscal pressures being experienced across all service areas of the Council which will inevitably have an impact upon what can be delivered. As a consequence revenue funding continues to be used in a targeted way paying particular attention to the ongoing safety of the highways infrastructure.

Variable Message Signage continues to be used across the borough to provide highway and other information in order to assist in the free flow of traffic and provide general road safety information. Work is now being undertaken to assess the provision of an integrated VMS approach across the Liverpool City Region.

The coordination of works continues to be managed effectively through quarterly meetings with utility providers and weekly progress meetings with Merseylink.. These regular exchanges of information are a valuable means by which the potential negative impact of works can be considered and, as far as possible, minimised.

Business Area – Community and Environment

Assessment of current risk			Impact (Severity)	Likelihood (Probability)	Score (I x L)	
1	Unwillingness of public to participate in Council recycling services or comply with Council policies will result in increased costs being incurred.		4	3	12	
Risk control measure(s)		Lead Officer	Timescale Review	Residual Impact	Residual Likelihood	Residual Score
1a	<i>Produce a Waste Prevention Plan to set out initiatives to help reduce the amount of waste produced in Halton.</i>	Jimmy Unsworth /	Quarterly	4	2	8
1b	<i>Ensure sufficient resources are in place to deliver comprehensive community engagement, education and promotional campaigns</i>					
1c	<i>Work closely with officers from other Council Departments, external organisations and community groups to deliver projects to encourage residents to participate in Council waste recycling and waste reduction schemes and initiatives.</i>					
1d	<i>Consideration of policies and initiatives to incentivise and encourage residents to participate in Council recycling services and initiatives.</i>					

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Progress update

The current Waste Prevention Plan is being reviewed and updated to ensure that it remains fit for purpose. The Plan indicates the actions that the Council will take with regard to reducing the amount of waste produced by households and sets out specific waste prevention, reduction and re-use initiatives. It also highlights the need for effective communications and awareness raising to encourage behaviour change.

Following a staffing restructure, an additional Community Engagement Officer was appointed in April 2016 to help support the Council Council's educational, promotional and awareness raising initiatives, and to increase the Council's capacity for directly engaging with householders, schools, local community groups and partner organisations.

The Council's Household Waste and Recycling Collection Policy was updated in February 2015. The Policy sets out the Council's approach to reducing waste levels in Halton and the services it will provide to encourage waste minimisation and increased recycling. Key to achieving this is a restriction on the amount of residual waste that the Council will collect from each household.