

REPORT TO: Urban Renewal Policy & Performance Board

DATE: 21 November 2006

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Corporate and Policy

SUBJECT: Presentation on the Strategic Progress of the Council's Corporate Plan

WARDS: Boroughwide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To receive a presentation on the strategic progress of implementing the Council's Corporate Plan (2006-11)

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

- 1) The presentation be received;**
- 2) The Board questions/comments on performance to date towards achieving the strategic objectives of the Council and its key partners;**
- 3) The Board provide a view on how members would wish to be involved in developing the new Local Area Agreement; and**
- 4) In the light of proposed new duties in the Local Government Bill the Board consider its relationship to the Halton Strategic Partnership.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 The overall policy direction for the Borough is captured in the Corporate Plan and Community Strategy. These were adopted by Council in May 2006 and have a timeframe of five years. The Corporate Plan sets out the Council contribution towards achieving social, economic and environmental well being for the people of Halton. It sets out the Council's priorities, 40 key areas of focus and 70 indicators through which strategic progress can be monitored. Attached is a data annex showing progress to date. Key issues will be drawn out in the presentation.

3.2 Since the plan was adopted, the Council has also set in place a Local Area Agreement (LAA). This is an agreement with Central Government that spells out the priorities and targets for local well being, based on outcomes which reflect local and national priorities. It is an important part of the delivery chain for the Community Strategy and Corporate

Plan. Arising out of the new Local Government Act all local authorities are required to develop with their partners a new Local Area Agreement for next year. The new LAAs will be part of a whole performance system for local government. It includes LAAs, a new Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) to replace Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) as well as sweeping away most existing performance indicators and reporting systems and replacing them with a new, single set of performance indicators. It is vital that members play a key part in developing the new Agreement which will need to be agreed with Government by June 2008.

- 3.3 A part of the changes that will be wrought by the new local Government Bill is the need for any Council to develop new relationships with partners and partnerships in its area. Local authorities are expected to take a leading role on LSPs with involvement of Members on both LSPs and thematic partnerships. In advance of this Halton has already taken steps to increase representation of members from the Executive and PPBs on the Halton Strategic Partnership Board and the Specialist Strategic Partnerships. Council's must prepare a LAA as the delivery plan for the community strategy and partners (named in the Bill) will have a duty to cooperate. The Council's overview and scrutiny role will be extended to cover the partners with a duty to cooperate in the delivery of the LAA. Hence the nature of relationships between members and the LSP in Halton becomes of ever increasing significance.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Corporate Plan is the key overarching framework document for planning how the Council will make its contribution to improving life in the borough. It sets the context within which all the Council's decisions should be made. From it flows the service plans and budget decisions, which shape how the Council commissions and delivers its services. Hence, the Corporate Plan is the primary enabling policy for all that the Council does

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Plan has four key components: a long-term vision for the area focusing on the outcomes that are to be achieved; contributions that identify shorter-term priorities and activities that will contribute to the achievement of long-term outcomes; a commitment to implement service plans; and, arrangements for monitoring the implementation of the Plan and its review. The Plan forms the key basis for the Council's performance management arrangements and for reporting progress to local communities.

6.0 RISK ANALYSIS

6.1 The Plan aims to focus attention and resources on critical areas, provide more robust action plans and better-informed decision-making. It should also foster a culture that ensures the commitment and resources of the Council to produce positive outcomes. Therefore, it is important to regularly assess progress and use the results of monitoring to inform risk analysis.

7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

7.1 The Corporate Plan is the key overarching framework document for planning the future of the borough. As such, it is important that it gives a lead on the values of the borough. Chief amongst these is a commitment to equality and diversity.

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

| Document | Place of Inspection | Contact Officer |
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