

REPORT TO: Employment, Learning & Skills and
Community PPB

DATE: 25th September 2017

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community &
Resources

PORTFOLIO: Economic Development

SUBJECT: Economic Assessment and Halton
Tomorrow

WARDS: Borough Wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To provide Halton's current economic profile and an update Members on proposals to develop a more in-depth economic assessment. In line with future trends and economic forecast models.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the Policy and Performance Board receive and comment upon the update.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 The current economic profile is included at Appendix 1 and the intention is to produce a more in-depth assessment to provide an evidence base for 'Halton Tomorrow'. Halton Tomorrow would be a vision for how Halton's economy will look in the future and will set out future challenges and how the borough might respond to these challenges. The assessment will be based on information specific to Halton and it is proposed will include new data that has not been analysed previously. Reporting will be in the first quarter of 2018, in order to assess the impact of recent major infrastructural changes in the borough. The assessment will constitute a "deep dive" of information in order to understand the issues thoroughly. It will assess the following categories and conclude with Halton's future prospects outlined in a Halton Tomorrow document. It will cover:

1. **The Economic Overview.** An assessment of the major factors that are driving the Halton economy (macro-economic factors) and will set out the impact of these factors in the local context. External shocks are the most significant uncontrolled factor impacting upon the economy. Therefore, it is important to understand what they are and how useful existing environment scanning is at predicting them in order to mobilise and deploy resources appropriately.

2. **Enterprise and Jobs.** An assessment will be completed focusing on the prospects for job growth and business starts in Halton to help us gain an understanding the factors that lead to a strong performance in the labour market, and which factors lead to an individual starting a business. This will enable us to better understand how to direct and allocate resources in order to increase the number (and quality) of jobs in the Halton and increase the number of self-employed – both factors in competitiveness and a strong economy.
3. **The Resident Population.** An understanding of the resident population and where and how support needs to be targeted to ensure a strong performance in the labour market for the coming years. With 40% of the forecast jobs being created not presently existing, we need to ensure that the Halton population is able to take advantage of these opportunities.
4. **Skills.** An assessment will be completed comparing the skill demands from employers in Halton with the labour supply of the resident population. The reason for the focus on resident population is because this is where we want to target intervention to ensure that local people benefit from the opportunities in the future economy. This work will complement work currently being undertaken to develop a Skills Strategy in the City Region.
5. **Land, infrastructure, and transport.** An assessment will be carried out to see how well suited the physical environment of Halton is to take advantage of the opportunities over the following decades. This will include a roads and infrastructure assessment and comprehensive premises study.
6. **Future prospects, Halton Tomorrow.** The above five steps will inform which interventions we need to put in place to meet the needs of Halton as we advance to the middle of the 21st Century. Ensuring that we have the appropriately skilled and trained workforce to meet these demands, will be one of the clear leadership roles that Halton Council can take to delivering a strong, sustainable and relevant economy for the local people of Halton.

3.2 The process for producing the report and proposed structure is as follows:

1. Assess each of the areas as outlined above using established methods of analysis and appraisal in order to gain a deep understanding of the issues and how they impact on the economy of Halton.

2. Verify the findings of stage one through individual consultations with partner organisations, business and residential consultation to ensure we are meeting need.
3. Produce a vision for Halton Tomorrow, together with aims and objectives for the economy of Halton.
4. Final verification with a view to action planning and implementation during 2018.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There are no policy implications associated with this report.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

There are no implications associated with this report.

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

The Economic Assessment and Halton Tomorrow will assist in providing job opportunities for local people and address future employment and skills needs in Halton. It will look at new employment opportunities and self-employment as route into a sustainable and secure future for residents.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

There are no implications associated with this report.

6.4 A Safer Halton

There are no implications associated with this report.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

The analysis of future forecast trends may lead to recommendations for improvement particularly with business premises and infrastructure.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

In line with an orange book assessment there is no likelihood or impact of this work on beyond the team performing the task.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

There are no equality or diversity issues.

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

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
Economic Profile	Research and Intelligence Team, 7th Floor Municipal Building	Richard Parr
UK industrial Strategy	Regeneration Team, 5 th Floor Municipal Building	Paul Corner
Liverpool City Region Skills for Growth Priorities	Regeneration Team, 5th Floor Municipal Building	Paul Corner

Appendix 1 Economic Profile