REPORT:	Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board
DATE:	23 January 2008
REPORTING OFFICER:	Strategic Director, Environment
SUBJECT:	Policy & Performance Board Work Programme 2008/2008
WARDS:	Boroughwide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To consider progress on the 2007/8 Topic Reports and to consider the possible 20008/9 work programme.

2.0 RECOMMENDED: That

(1) **Members of the Policy and Performance Board indicate target topic areas for potential scrutiny in 2008–2009 together with the membership of each Topic Group; and**

(2) **details of the Topic Briefs subsequently be agreed by the Chair and Vice Chair of the Urban Renewal PPB in conjunction with the Operational Director, Major Projects Department.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 Each year the PPB identifies a number of areas which it intends to scrutinise in detail as part of its work programme for the year.

3.1.1 At the meeting of the Board on 25th. January 2007 it was agreed that the topics to be considered in 2007/8 would be:

- The Future of Town Centres Management Councillors Leadbetter, (Chairperson), Sly, Nolan, Thompson, Rowe
- Income Generation (Carried over as appropriate) Councillors Hignett Leadbetter, Thompson, Sly, and Morley

3.1.2 Additionally the Urban Renewal Policy Board inherited a Topic Group from the Health Policy and Performance Board on a review of Supported Housing in Halton, which had commenced in October 2005. The review had been suspended in March 2006, pending an announcement by the Department of Communities and Local Government on the long term funding arrangements and National Strategy for the Supporting People Programme. The Urban Renewal Board revived the Group in September 2006. (Members on this Group in 2007-8 are Councillors Wallace (Chairperson), Whittaker and E. Cargill)

3.2   Each of the Topic Groups has met and established their work programme. Each Group is targeting a report to the Policy Board at its meeting on 19th. March 2007, with the exception of the Supported Housing Topic Group which is still awaiting the Government White Paper on the topic.

4.   2008-9 Work Programme

4.1   Given that detailed scrutiny cannot be carried out on everything, Members are asked to target attention on a specific number of areas. The recommendation of the Chief Scrutiny Advisor is that good practice based on experience suggests that 2/3 Topics is manageable. Following their adoption by this Board these are then to be worked up as detailed topic briefs and agreed with the Chair of the PPB in conjunction with the lead officer for this Board, the Operational Director, Major Projects Department. The Council's Chief Scrutiny Advisor further suggests that this action is considered now so that an early start can be made on the scrutiny work.

4.2   In considering which are good topics to include in the work programme Members will need to keep in mind the Overview and Scrutiny Guide/Toolkit. Guidance on Topic Selection is attached as an aide-memoire. In particular the Board's attention is drawn to paragraphs 12, 13 and 14 which relate to added value, capacity and resources.

4.3   It should be remembered that much of the work of this PPB will be cross-cutting and will impact or be of relevance to other PPBs.

4.4   It should also be noted that Performance Monitoring of the Reporting Departments will in any case be received by this PPB.

5.0   Future Work Areas

5.1.1   It must be remembered that Housing Strategy now falls within the remit of this PPB, and that a Topic Group on the 'Supported Housing' topic can be expected to report in 2008-9

5.1.2   It has been suggested by the Strategic Director, Environment, that the following might be appropriate issues to review at this time:

- Housing Growth Point (Runcorn Docks) Lead Officers : Phil Watts/Alasdaire Cross (Planning)
- A joint group with Employment and Skills on Workforce and Skills for the Logistics Industry: Siobhan Saunders (Economic Regeneration) and Sally McDonald (Major Projects Department).
- The Implications of De-linking the Silver Jubilee Bridge: Mick Noone (Highways and Transportation).

5.0   POLICY IMPLICATIONS

5.1	None at this stage.

**6.0	OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

6.1	None at this stage

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

7.1	There are no background papers within the meaning of the Act.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

Topic Selection Checklist

This checklist leads the user through a reasoning process to identify a) why a topic should be explored and b) whether it makes sense to examine it through the overview and scrutiny process. More "yeses" indicate a stronger case for selecting the Topic.

#	CRITERION	Yes/No
	Why? *Evidence for why a topic should be explored and included in the work programme*	
1	Is the Topic **directly aligned with and have significant implications for at least 1 of Halton's 5 strategic priorities & related objectives/PIs, and/or a key central government priority?**	
2	Does the Topic **address an identified need** or issue?	
3	Is there a **high level of public interest or concern about the Topic** e.g. apparent from consultation, complaints or the local press	
4	Has the Topic been **identified through performance monitoring** e.g. PIs indicating an area of poor performance with scope for improvement?	
5	Has the Topic been **raised as an issue requiring further examination through a review, inspection or assessment, or by the auditor?**	
6	Is the Topic area likely to have a **major impact on resources or be significantly affected by financial or other resource problems** e.g. a pattern of major overspending or persisting staffing difficulties that could undermine performance?	
7	Has some **recent development or change** created a need to look at the Topic e.g. new Government guidance/legislation, or new research findings?	
8	Would there be **significant risks** to the organisation and the community **as a result of <u>not</u> examining this topic**?	
	Whether? *Reasons affecting whether it makes sense to examine an identified topic*	
9	**Scope for impact** - Is the Topic something the Council can	

	actually influence, directly or via its partners? Can we make a difference?	
1 0	**Outcomes –** Are there clear improvement outcomes (not specific answers) in mind from examining the Topic and are they likely to be achievable?	
1 1	**Cost: benefit** - are the benefits of working on the Topic likely to outweigh the costs of doing so, making investment of time & effort worthwhile?	
1 2	**Are PPBs the best way to add value** in this Topic area? Can they make a distinctive contribution?	
1 3	Does the organisation have the **capacity** to progress this Topic? (e.g. is it related to other review or work peaks that would place an unacceptable load on a particular officer or team?)	
1 4	Can PPBs contribute meaningfully given the **time** available?	