

Implementation of High Risk Mitigation Measures (Environment and Urban Renewal PPB) – Quarter 2 to 30th September 2018

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 which are relevant to the remit of this Board.

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>	Divisional Manager (Waste and Environmental Improvement)	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>					

Progress update

The increasing cost of dealing with residual waste and the financial benefits that can be realised from reducing the amount of waste produced in Halton means that promoting waste prevention and encouraging residents to make full use of the recycling services and facilities provided by the Council remains a key focus for this service area. A Waste Communications and Engagement Plan is currently being developed that will set out the programme of activities that will be undertaken to help achieve the Council's objectives in this regard.

The Council employs two Community Engagement Officers who are proactively involved in delivering regular programmes of activity to help support the Council's educational and awareness raising initiatives. These initiatives are intended to ensure that residents understand the importance of recycling and help maximise participation in recycling services. Activities include direct engagement with members of the public via events held in public spaces and buildings, targeted householder engagement through 'door knocking' exercises and the delivery of information leaflets to households.

Implementation of High Risk Mitigation Measures (Environment and Urban Renewal PPB) – Quarter 2 to 30th September 2018

In April 2018, a 'Kerbside Recycling Guide' booklet was delivered to households across the borough. The aim of providing this booklet was to help householders understand the full extent of materials that can be recycled through the kerbside collection service and also how items should be presented for collection. Increasing awareness of these issues will increase recycling levels, improve the quality of the recyclable materials collected and help save money by reducing disposal costs.

A programme of waste awareness and education is delivered to schools across the borough and social media is increasingly being used to help promote waste prevention and encourage increased use of the Council's recycling services.

Community engagement and recycling activity is also undertaken with external partners. Examples include the 'Recycle Right' campaign that is being delivered in partnership with the Merseyside Recycling & Waste Authority and community recycling events that are often delivered in conjunction with the relevant Housing Association.

The Council's Household Waste and Recycling Collection 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. Maintaining a restriction on the amount of residual waste that the Council will collect from each household and having in place sufficient measures to ensure that residents remain aware of and compliant with the Council's service requirements are key elements of the Policy. The Council's Waste Management Policies continue to be subject to periodic review and updating as necessary.

Implementation of High Risk Mitigation Measures (Environment and Urban Renewal PPB) – Quarter 2 to 30th September 2018

Assessment of current risk – (Transport) ¹			Impact (Severity)	Likelihood (Probability)	Score (I x L)	
ECR R17	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
R17 a	Delivery of prioritised maintenance programme	Operational Director (Policy, Planning & Transportation)	Annually	2	6	6
R17 b	Availability of capital and revenue funding					
R17 c	Timely and effective use of Variable Message Signs					
R17 d	Coordination of works to minimise impact.					

Progress update

Halton's Highway Safety Inspection Policy Framework is in place, this is in conjunction with the Highways Asset Management Plan.

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 Signs continue to be used regularly to help manage the flow of traffic and minimise disruption on the road network as a result of maintenance and urgent works, events and other incidents.

Highway works are managed through permits to help coordinate maintenance to highways including works by utility providers. This alleviates the congestion and disruption that can occur when such works are necessary and allows a greater degree of planned co-ordination of the wider highway network and use of alternative routes etc.

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