



Councillor Hignett

ANNUAL REPORT URBAN RENEWAL POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD JUNE 2007 – MARCH 2008

“I would first like to thank all of the Members of the Urban Renewal PPB for their support throughout the year. The Board has considered a substantial volume of work through which the Council and its partners has contributed hugely to the regeneration of the Borough. Through scrutiny, debate and discussion the Board has appraised and approved a wide variety of actions which have contributed massively to improving the quality of the physical environment of Halton. It has also contributed to the corporate debate on key policy issues, lending an Urban Renewal perspective to matters such as Health and sub-regional issues. What now remains is to communicate this good news to the community.”

Councillor Hignett
Chairman, Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board

MEMBERSHIP AND RESPONSIBILITIES

During 2007/8 the Board comprised eleven Councillors –

Councillor R. Hignett (Chairman)	Labour
Councillor K. Morley (Vice Chairman)	Labour
Councillor P. Blackmore	Liberal Democrat
Councillor J. Bradshaw	Conservative
Councillor E. Cargill	Labour
Councillor D. Leadbetter	Labour
Councillor P. Murray	Conservative
Councillor P. Nolan	Labour
Councillor C. Rowe	Liberal Democrat
Councillor T. Sly	Liberal Democrat
Councillor D. Thompson	Labour

The Urban Renewal Policy & Performance Board’s primary function is to focus on the work of the Council (and its Partners) in seeking to bring about the Urban Renewal of the Borough. It is also charged with scrutinising progress against the Corporate Plan in relation to the Urban Renewal Priority. It is responsible for evaluating performance and formulating policy in relation to the following areas:

- Highways and Transportation,
- Environmental Health and Planning,
- Economic Regeneration and
- Major Projects, with the additional responsibility for
- the Park Ranger service (as from 2005/6)
- Contaminated Land (as from 2005/06)
- Strategic Housing (as from 2006/07).

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

The full Board met six times during the year. As well as considering Executive Board decisions relevant to the work of the Urban Renewal Board, agreeing the Service Plans of the relevant Departments and monitoring their general activities and performance against them, set out below are some of the main activities and issues that the Board has worked on during the year:

Corporate Responsibilities

- A special meeting of the Board considered proposals put forward by the Post Office for the closure of several Post Offices in Halton, and made representations accordingly.
- The Board also invited a representative of the Post Office to attend a meeting to discuss the move of the Halton Lea Post Office to W.H. Smith. Again, representations were made.
- It was agreed that the Halton Public Transport Advisory Panel would comprise the following Members for the Municipal Year 2007/2008: Cllr Hignett (Chair); Cllr Morley; Cllr Polhill; and Cllr Sly.
- The Board considered and made recommendations to the Executive Board on Travellers' Site Provision in the Borough.
- It was resolved that an invite be issued to the Urban Renewal SSP to attend two meetings during each Municipal Year to give an update on their progress.
- The Board considered details of the Action Plan for the Liverpool City Region 2008-2011 (formerly the Merseyside Action Plan).
- The Board received reports on the strategic progress of implementing the Council's Corporate Plan (2006-11) and the adoption of the LAA (Local Area Agreement).
- The Board considered and supported a report which provided an overview of the requirement to produce a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) in line with Department of Health guidance.

Highways and Transportation

- The Board reviewed the Transport Asset Management Plan (TAMP) 2007 and agreed that it be submitted to the Executive Board with a recommendation of adoption.
- The Board considered and noted the Local transport Plan Settlement 2008/11.
- The Board was advised of, and agreed to, the outcome to two Consultation Review Panel (CRP) meetings over the 2006/2007 financial year for Halton Village and Birchfield Road, Widnes
- The Board was consulted on an amendment to the approved Birchfield Road Quality Transport Corridor Improvement Scheme.

- The Board received a petition for traffic calming on Stratton Park. It declined the request due to it being contrary to the Council's policy on Traffic Calming, but passed an alternative scheme of enhanced signing and road markings to the local Area Forum for consideration.

Major Projects Department

- Progress on the implementation of the Castlefields and Widnes Waterfront Regeneration programmes (including a 3D animation for the Waterfront) was considered and noted.
- The Board reviewed and approved the Widnes Waterfront North West Development Association Performance Plan for 2008/9.
- The Board considered and approved the Castlefields Tree Strategy.
- The Board received a presentation on progress on regenerating contaminated land and approved the Council's Contaminated Land Strategy and Action Plan 2008-13.
- The Board considered the 'Urban Renewal Strategic Review and Action Plan 2007-10' and their comments were referred to the Executive Board for consideration.

Economic Regeneration

- The Board received a report on the future of the Fireworks Festival. It commented to the Executive Board that it should remain at its current location and that work should be undertaken to resolve various issues.

Planning

- The Board considered and agreed the Sandymoor Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) for a statutory period of public consultation

Other

- The Board reviewed the Natural Assets Strategy, which was adopted in 2000, together with associated DVDs entitled 'Swifts in Halton' and 'Pickering's Pasture'. The review was recommended to be published.

WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2007/8

- The topic report on 'Raising Additional Revenue from Existing Services' was considered and actions endorsed.
- Work progressed on The 'Future of Town Centre Management' topic.

WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2008/9

The Board agreed the following topic ideas to be considered by the 2008/9 PPB for inclusion in their work programme for the coming year.

- Workforce and Skills for the Logistics Industry (Joint Group with Employment, Learning and Skills PPB); and
- Implications of de-linking the Silver Jubilee Bridge; and
- Housing Strategy (continuation of);

Members of the Public are welcome at the meetings of the Board. If you would like to know where and when meetings are to be held or if you would like any more information about the Board or its work please contact Committee Services in the first instance, telephone 0151 424 2061 extension 1125 or email Lynn.Caims@Halton.gov.uk