

REPORT TO: Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 18th June 2008

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Environment

SUBJECT: Policy & Performance Board Topic Issues Work Programme 2008/2008

WARDS: Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The meeting of this Board on 23rd January 2008 agreed the Topic Issues which it wished to pursue in 2008/9. This report seeks approval to the draft Topic Briefs covering those issues then selected and asks Members to consider the membership of the relevant Topic Groups.

2.0 RECOMMENDED: That

- (1) Members of the Policy and Performance Board agree details of the Topic Briefs which have been considered by the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Board; and**
- (3) consideration be given to the composition of each Topic Group.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

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

3.2 At the meeting of the Board on 23rd. January 2008 it was agreed that the three topics to be considered in 2005/6 would be:

- A joint group with Employment and Skills on Workforce and Skills for the Logistics Industry: Lead Officers - Siobhan Saunders (Economic Regeneration) and Sally McDonald (Major Projects Department).
- The Implications of De-linking the Silver Jubilee Bridge: Lead Officer - Mick Noone (Highways and Transportation).
- The Topic Group on 'Supported Housing' can be expected to report in 2008-9 Lead Officers – Steve Williams and Angela McNamara. (Group Members - Councillors Wallace (Chairperson), Whittaker, E. Cargill)

3.3 Draft Topic Briefs have been written and discussed with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Board. They are attached as Appendix 1 for consideration.

3.4 Members are asked to consider and agree these Briefs, and to agree the composition and membership of the Topic Groups.

3.5 Topic Groups will meet through the 2008-9 Council year and be expected to report back to this Board at its last meeting of the year.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 None at this stage.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

5.1 None at this stage

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

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

TOPIC TITLE: Workforce and Skills for the Logistics Industry

PPB(s) responsible: Urban Renewal & Employment, Learning and Skills

Officer Lead: Siobhan Saunders Tel 0151 906 4804

Support Officer: Sally McDonald Tel 0151 906 4871

Planned start/end dates June 2008 Target PPB meeting March 2009

Topic description and scope

To identify the future skill needs within the logistics sector in Halton and, to assess whether existing activity will meet those needs, including the identification of opportunities for improved performance. In addition, to explore in-work training opportunities within logistics companies in the borough.

Why this topic was chosen

The realisation of a major regeneration project of the magnitude of 3MG is dependent upon a number of key determinants without which the project will fail.

In the case of the 3MG project a number of key determinants are in place, for example the availability of sufficient land, a strong and dynamic public\private sector partnership, connectivity to the nation's key transport infrastructure etc.

However, without ready access to a pool of skilled, motivated and flexible employees the capacity of the 3MG project will be compromised.

It is, therefore, vital that the Council and its partners put in place the necessary mechanisms to ensure that the 3MG project does not fail for want of a workforce and that local people are fully supported to access the new employment opportunities afforded by the project and in so doing contribute to the vitality of the wider community of Halton.

Key outputs and outcomes sought

Outputs:

A clear understanding of -

- The current demand for skills from logistics sector related companies in Halton
- The likely future demand for logistics skills
- The kinds of companies locating to the 3MG site over the next 5 to 10 years
- Some recommendations as to how these future employment opportunities within logistics can be made, particularly for Halton's long term unemployed adults residents.

The establishment of a clear set of job profiles where people can easily find the skills/qualifications that local business require for local jobs

Identification of good practice

Outcomes:

A body of skills related intelligence around the logistics sector that will foster an understanding of the skills position of the borough.

Which of Halton’s 5 strategic priorities this topic addresses and the key objectives and improvement targets it will help to achieve?

A Healthy Halton, Key objectives B, C, E
Urban Renewal, Key objectives A, D, E.
Children and Young People, Key Objectives D, E.
Employment Learning and Skills, Key objectives B, C and D

Nature of expected/desired PPB input

- Working group reports to be considered by full PPB

Preferred mode of operation

Joint Councillor and officer working group
Review of recent skills surveys/logistics assessment
1-2-1 sessions with main agencies and providers
Attendance at 3MG Skills Group meeting
Recommendations for action developed

Media/communication implications

Logistics is a key growth sector for the borough of Halton and the 3MG development has already featured in local and regional press. This PPB Topic should help maximise the media/communication possibilities associated with 3MG, in particular the 3MG website, newsletters and press releases.

Agreed and signed by:

PPB Chair Officer

Date:..... Date:.....

Topic Title: The Implications of De-linking the Silver Jubilee Bridge

PPB(s) responsible: Urban Renewal

Officer Lead: Mick Noone Tel: 0151 471 7370 or internal extension 3003

Support Officer: Jonathan Farmer 0151 424 2061 extension 3018

Planned start/end date: July 2008; Target PPB meeting March 2009

Topic description and scope:

A review of the proposed de-linking (removal) of highways in Runcorn and Widnes which are required to allow the construction of the Mersey Gateway to proceed and to enable the Key Objectives of the scheme to be met. To consider the potential social, environmental and economic impacts of this de-linking and the potential opportunities afforded by it.

Terms of Reference

- To consider the Mersey Gateway Key Objectives as the criteria against which the review of the de-linking should take place.
- To review the extent of the de-linking works, proposed changes to the highway network and the likely implications for movements of traffic including public transport, pedestrians and cyclists.
- To consider the areas of land that could be made available for development subsequent to de-linking in order to maximize opportunities that are currently constrained by the presence of the existing highway infrastructure.
- To review the Mersey Gateway Regeneration Strategy Options as they relate to de-linking.
- To consider the potential impacts on residents and businesses directly or indirectly affected by the de-linking and potential opportunities to improve their environment
- **To consider potential improvements to the local highway network and provision for sustainable transport in the context of the above opportunities.**
- To safeguard the interests of local communities during the extended Mersey Gateway and SJB de-linking construction/demolition periods.

Why this topic was chosen:

The Mersey Gateway is a £390m proposal to provide a new crossing of the river Mersey. It will require major changes to existing highway infrastructure, including some of the Borough's more major road structures that will have to be demolished or amended to accommodate the new bridge. It will also reduce traffic flows significantly on the Silver Jubilee Bridge to a point where existing structures and roads will no longer be necessary. These changes will release land for development and provide new opportunities for movement but they will also have a potential impact on local residential and business communities, especially during the construction phases. It is therefore appropriate to consider what the potential impacts of the de-linking are likely to be.

Key outputs and outcomes sought

Outputs:

A clear understanding of –

- The Key Objectives of the Mersey gateway scheme
- The proposed changes to the highway network that will take place in order to accommodate the Mersey Gateway and realize its objectives
- The potential impacts on local communities associated with construction (and demolition) works
- The potential land that will become available for development as a consequence of the de-linking
- The potential regeneration options available for Widnes and Runcorn Old town as set out in the Mersey Gateway Regeneration Strategy
- The Mersey Gateway Sustainable Transport Strategy and its links with the de-linking
- Some recommendations on how local community interests should be protected, how accessibility to services and facilities can be maximized and on how development should proceed in areas affected by de-linking.

Outcomes:

The identification of any significant risks and opportunities invited by the de-linking proposals together with the need for further mitigation measures.

Which of Halton’s 5 strategic priorities does this topic address and what are the key objectives and improvement targets it will help achieve?

A Healthy Halton, Key Objectives C and E
Urban Renewal, Key Objectives A, D and E
Children and Young People, Key Objectives A and E
Employment learning and Skills, key Objectives A and C

Nature of expected/desired PPB input

Involvement by a small number of Members and officers in a working group for approximately 4 or 5 meetings. Working Group reports to be considered by PPB as appropriate.

Preferred mode of operation

As above but with presentations by others as necessary, for example on the Regeneration Strategy Options and the MG Sustainable Transport Strategy.

Media/Communication implications/opportunities arising from examining this topic.

None at this stage.

Agreed and signed by:

PPB Chair **Officer**

Date **Date**