

REPORT TO: Environment and Urban Renewal Policy
and Performance Board

DATE: 24th February 2021

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director – Enterprise,
Community and Resources

PORTFOLIO: Physical Environment

SUBJECT: Environmental Fund Update

WARDS: Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To update the Board on the expenditure of the Environmental Fund.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the Board notes the wide range of projects that have benefited from the fund, as set out in Appendix 1.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 Planning permission for the Runcorn Energy from Waste (EfW) Plant was granted in September 2008. The Plant is subject to a legal agreement entered into under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

3.2 The legal agreement contains a provision that the owner of the Plant agrees to pay the Council an annual lump sum payment for every tonne of fuel received and processed. The legal agreement states:

“that the lump sum payments shall be used by the Council to fund environmental matters as may be specified from time to time by the Council within the Borough of Halton for the benefit of its residents generally and which may include measures to improve public transport, highway network improvements, travel plan monitoring, waste recycling and wider community improvements such as landscaping and nature conservation measures.”

3.3 The fund has been in operation since 2015, and over that period has generate £3,471,740.

3.4 A number of projects have been funded and implemented and these set out in Appendix 1. These provide a number of interventions, for example, improvements to open space, (Town Park in Runcorn and Runcorn Hill). These improvements not only provide visual improvements and open up access, but also can have wider health benefits, encouraging people to use their local spaces more. Other projects have included the implementation of walking and cycling routes.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The fund seeks to advance the Council's environmental priorities. It adds considerable value by acting as matched financing for external funding bids.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no other implications arising from the subject of this report.

6.0 RISK ANALYSIS

6.1 There are no legal or financial risks that arise from the subject of this report.

7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

7.1 There are no equality and diversity implications arising from the subject of this report.

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

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
S.106 legal agreement	Municipal building	Andrew Plant