

Implementation of High Risk Mitigation Measures (Environment and Urban Renewal) – Quarter 2 to 30th September 2020

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 and are relevant to the remit of the Environment and Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board.

Business Area – Policy, Planning and Transportation

Assessment of current risk		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. <i>(Strategic Priority: Safer Halton / Halton's Urban Renewal)</i>	3	4	12		
Risk control measure(s)		Lead Officer	Timescale Review	Residual Impact	Residual Likelihood	Residual Score
<i>R17 a</i>	<i>Delivery of prioritised maintenance programme</i>	Operational Director (Highways and Transportation)	Annually	2	3	6
<i>R17 b</i>	<i>Timely and effective use of Variable Message Signs</i>					
<i>R17 c</i>	<i>Coordination of works to minimise impact.</i>					

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.

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Business Area –Community and Environment

Assessment of current risk		Impact (Severity)	Likelihood (Probability)	Score (I x L)		
ECR R35	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
R35 a	<i>Produce a Waste Prevention Plan to set out initiatives to help reduce the amount of waste produced in Halton.</i>	Operational Director	Quarterly	4	2	8
R36 b	<i>Ensure sufficient resources are in place to deliver comprehensive community engagement, education and promotional campaigns</i>					
R37 c	<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>					
R37 d	<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 means that reducing the amount of waste generated in Halton and recycling as much of what is produced as possible remains a key focus. The Council employs two Community Engagement Officers who are actively involved in activities and delivering initiatives to promote waste prevention and encouraging residents to make full use of the recycling services and facilities provided by the Council. The Council is now signed up to the Liverpool City Region-wide 'Recycle Right' Campaign, which is aimed at removing any confusion over what residents can recycle and is intended to help improve the quality and level of recycling materials collected. As well as working in partnership with other regional local authorities on encouraging improved participation in recycling services, Officers work very closely with Housing Associations and community groups on numerous waste and recycling initiatives.

The primary method used by Officers to engage with local residents and community groups over waste matters involves direct face to face interaction through, for example, visits to householders at their homes or events at community venues. Due to COVID 19 local restrictions, Officers have been somewhat constrained in their ability to carry out engagement activity. Some reduced activity is continuing but this is limited to only being able make telephone calls or send advisory letters. The review of existing waste and recycling policies, together with consideration of introducing new ones, remains on-going.