

## Environment and Urban Renewal PPB – Priority Based Monitoring Report

Reporting Period: **Quarter 1 – 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022**

### 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This report provides an overview of issues and progress against key service objectives/milestones and performance targets, during the first quarter of 2022 / 23 for those service areas within the remit of the Environment and Urban Renewal (E&UR) Policy and Performance Board.
- 1.2 Key priorities for development or improvement in 2022 / 23 were agreed by Members and included in Directorate Plans, for the various functional areas reporting to the Environment & Urban Renewal Policy & Performance Board i.e.:
  - Development & Investment Services
  - Open Spaces and Waste and Environmental Improvement
  - Highways, Transportation & Logistics and Physical Environment
- 1.3 The emergence of the global COVID19 pandemic early in 2020 has had a significant and unavoidable impact upon Council services the full extent of which is yet to become known. The Council, along with key partner agencies, has prioritised its resources upon mitigating the serious risks to public health, the protection of vulnerable residents, and the social cohesion of the local community. In developing appropriate responses to emerging national and local priorities this situation is likely to remain the case for the foreseeable future.
- 1.4 The way in which traffic light symbols have been used to reflect progress to date is explained within Section 7 of this report.

## 2.0 Key Developments

2.1 There have been a number of developments within the Directorate during the period which include:-

### External Funding / Regeneration

## 2.2 Regeneration Town Centres

### Runcorn Town Deal

Work is progressing, led by Amion, to complete the Towns Fund project business cases for sign off by the Section 151 officer and submission to Government by the beginning of August. Unlock Runcorn and the Community Housing project have requested and received a 3 month extension for this work. DWF have been appointed to provide Subsidy Control advice for each of the projects.

Further project development on all seven Towns Fund projects continues including working to RIBA 2 for the Runcorn Station Quarter the enterprise centre, the community housing project and the equivalent for Unlock Runcorn and RIBA 3 for Brindley Theatre and the Creative and Digital Skills Centre.

Work continues on the renovation of 71 High street, the first phase of the Digital and Creative Skills centre which currently should be completed late August/early September.

### Halton Lea

The LCR town centre funding has almost completed however the Health Hub has required some additional steel to support the partitions which has resulted in a further delay; works now due to complete in August with the unit opening in September.

A levelling up capital funding bid up to £20m for Halton Lea will be submitted by the deadline of 12:00 noon on Wednesday 6 July 2022.

## 2.3 Regeneration Non-Town Centres

### Sci-Tech Daresbury

- Project Violet, now completed and continues to progress towards full occupancy. Currently at 85%.
- The JV continues to progress proposals for the next phases of delivery of the masterplan including Ultra Violet lab space and a new canal crossing at Keckwick Lane.

### Murdishaw

- There have been some delays in commencing on site with the refurbishment and retrofit of the bungalows due to procurement and cost challenges. These have been discussed with local customer champions and it is anticipated to be on site in the next quarter.
- The community design team continue to work with Onward on developing a business case for a new facility in the former Boxing Club. Proposals also in development for the improvement of the Gorsewood area.
- Grounds maintenance across the estate has been co-ordinated across Onward and Riverside with ongoing liaison with HBC Open Spaces. Generally positive response from the community to the improvements delivered.

### West Runcorn Employment Growth Area

- Identified as a priority within the Mersey Gateway Regeneration Plan, West Runcorn is becoming an increasing focus for work of Departmental officers.
- INOVYN (part of the INEOS Group) have [made public](#) their intention to develop a Hydrogen Centre of Excellence at their Runcorn site. This would represent a significant investment in research and development in Halton and support longer term growth in green industry and jobs. The Council are providing business and regeneration support to the project.
- The Liverpool City Region Combined Authority has now submitted the Full Business Case for establishing a LCR Freeport. This includes the opportunity for a new custom site at Port of Weston, a significant brownfield employment site.
- The business case includes a provisional allocation of £6.5m of capital seed funding towards much needed infrastructure to unlock the Port of Weston through improved surface access to the Port to make the site more attract for investment and also reduce commercial traffic within residential areas.
- Officers are now working with the Combined Authority and other partners to progress infrastructure design and feasibility works, subject to securing seed funding.

### Home Energy Retrofit Programmes

- In line with objectives and targets set out with the Halton Climate Change Action Plan 2022 – 2027, delivery and administration of home energy retrofit grant schemes is becoming a growing task for officers. Present schemes include:
  - £1.04 Million Green Homes Grant – Target to improve 129 homes. Delivery commenced in October 2021 with completion extended by BEIS to September 2022; and
  - £4.65 Million Sustainable Warmth Fund - Target to improve 442 homes. Currently in mobilisation phase with completion by March 2023.

### 3MG

3MG has entered its final year of delivery with the final land disposal of HBC Field imminent. Liberty Park is gaining pace and 107 is now occupied. Over the next 24 months some 700,000 square feet of floor space will come into use.

A planning application has been submitted for HNB Field and has entered a period of consultation.

### Astmoor

A Joint Venture partner has now been appointed – Langtree PLC – to work with the Council to implement the Astmoor Regeneration Masterplan. The inception meeting has taken place and the project is currently at contract stage. The initial project priority will be to map supply against demand – and subsequently act upon this. This project is cost-neutral to the Council (other than legal costs).

### Foundry Lane:

The Foundry Lane project will transform a failed industrial estate in Halebank, Widnes, into a thriving housing estate of mixed tenure, high quality homes – circa 350 in total – keying into the existing Barratt Homes estate immediately adjacent. The project will run from 2022 to 2027. The project is currently at a critical stage – with financial viability now secured via the injection of LCR Combined Authority grant funding from the Brownfield Land Fund. Now that this funding is in place, ‘spade in ground’ will occur in July 2022.

## 2.4 External Funding

Focus in the quarter has been on:

Levelling Up Fund – supporting the development of a submission for Halton Lea

Town Deal – supporting the submission of the first claim

Welcome Back Fund – completing the reporting and claim for this funding allocation

Celebrating Halton's Heritage – leading on the delivery and reporting for this Lottery-funded scheme

Destination Marketing Programme LCR – leading on Halton's element of this programme

UKSPF – developing intelligence on this and disseminating to members/officers

Supporting a range of community organisations to submit funding bids

Statistics for the quarter:

Funding secured - £114,994 (last quarter £270,677)

Requests for support received – 27 (last quarter 21)

Bids submitted to the value of £3.6m

Monitoring programmes to the value of £37.3m

## 2.5 Community & Environment

Waste & Environmental Improvement

Open Spaces (incl Cemeteries & Crematoria)

**\*No return provided for Quarter 1**

## 2.6 Transport

LCR is to introduce a flat bus fare of £2 across all adult fares. This will include Halton and will be funded through the recently announced Bus Service Improvement grant from DFT.

Highway Schemes and Maintenance

Dukesfield Active Travel link commenced. Works on Runcorn Station Quarter were completed. A New Improvement Tem contract was procured within the period. Procurement work continuing on a new Highway maintenance contract.

Highway Development

Work continues on the teams statutory roles, including supporting development process from Local Plan to construction, in addition to supporting scheme funding and development. Survey results for highway condition and Public Rights of Way (PROW) are reported annually and not currently available for this financial year.

All Highways teams are commissioning/supporting commencement of business case/design work for East Runcorn Connectivity scheme (A558 dualling etc) and Runcorn Old Town improvements.

There are some ongoing staff retention/recruitment issues.

Highway Structures

The team continues to contribute towards the development of HBC schemes involving highway structures, such as RSQ (including Active Travel Link), East Runcorn Connectivity, Busway Cycle improvements and the Spike Island access bridge replacement.

Liaison with developers over new highway structures is ongoing at several sites in Sandymoor (Vistry) and Daresbury (Redrow). Site work for installation of ducting (for LCRCA's high-speed fibre system) through the SJB was completed in April.

The annual programme of general inspections for HBC's highway structures commenced in April.

In April, the major maintenance and re-configuration work undertaken on SJB over recent years was recognised in the Institution of Civil Engineers North West awards, winning the 'Constructability' category.

Scheme preparation for major maintenance works to be undertaken this year on the Halton Lea busway viaducts is underway.

## **2.6 Planning and Policy:**

### Local Plan

Following adoption of the local plan further work is being undertaken into future work programme.

### Planning Applications

The Council have received the inspectors decision in relation to the golf Course in Widnes. This decision has refused the application and supported the case put by the Council.

## **3.0 Emerging Issues**

3.1 A number of emerging issues have been identified during the period that will impact upon the work of the Directorate including:-

### **Regeneration / External Funding**

#### **3.2 Regeneration – Town Centres**

Currently the team are focused on the Runcorn Towns Fund £23.6m and a Levelling up bid for Halton Lea. This limits the short term capacity to look at other potential Town Centre Projects.

The Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill had its first reading on 11 May 2022, which looks at how to deliver against some of the items set out in the Levelling Up White Paper and how to incorporate some of the proposals for planning reform outlined in the earlier Planning for the Future White Paper where they support Levelling Up. Currently included are changes to outdoor seating arrangements, rental auctions to fill vacant commercial property, such as shops and changes to compulsory purchase powers. The Bill will also empower local authorities to double the standard council tax rate on any home left empty for longer than a year, rather than two.

#### **3.3 External Funding**

Focus for this quarter will be on keeping track of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and what this means for Halton; ensuring the Levelling Up bid for Halton Lea is uploaded as soon as the portal goes live; setting up systems for Town Deal monitoring; and starting to deliver on the SIF Destination Marketing programme for Halton.

### 3.4 Community & Environment

Waste & Environmental Improvement  
Open Spaces (incl Cemeteries & Crematoria)

**\*No return provided for Quarter 1**

### 3.5 Highway Structures

The contractor's feasibility report for the SJB floodlighting scheme was received in April. An item has been submitted to Exec Board (July) seeking budget and procurement approval.

#### Planning Application Statistics (Q1 22/23):

Given the number of cases on hand a backlog of applications is leading to an increase in time taken to process applications. This will start to hold up development and investment in the borough.

Work is being undertaken to increase resources however this will take time.

Total Applications Received: (Includes those Withdrawn and Returned) 156	
Applications Decided 142	Applications On-Hand (Undecided) 230
Pre-Applications Received 15	Pre Applications Closed 21

N.B. There are certain applications (such as tree preservation orders) that are not counted in the statutory CLG speed of processing statistics. This accounts for the difference between the figures reported above and the figures given for PPT LI 04.

The Major applications determined in Q1 2022/23 are shown in Appendix 3.

### 4.0 High Priority Equality Actions

4.1 Equality issues continue to form a routine element of the Council's business planning and operational decision making processes. Additionally the Council must have evidence to demonstrate compliance with the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) which came into force in April 2011.

4.2 The Council's latest annual progress report in relation to the achievement of its equality objectives is published on the Council website and is available via:

<http://www4.halton.gov.uk/Pages/councildemocracy/Equality-and-Diversity.aspx>

## 5.0 Performance Overview

5.1 The following information provides a synopsis of progress for both milestones and performance indicators across the key business areas that fall within the remit of the Board.

### Development and Investment Services

#### Key Objectives / milestones

#### Key Performance Indicators

Ref	Objective
EEP 02	Environment and Urban Renewal

Milestone	Progress Q1	Supporting Commentary
To prepare the Town Investment Plan Business Case(s) for Runcorn <b>by 31<sup>st</sup> July 2022</b>		Work is in progress. The Government deadline for submission of the seven project business cases is 4 <sup>th</sup> August 2022, however the Unlock Runcorn and the community homes projects have an agreed 3 month submission extension.
To prepare a Halton Lea Levelling Up Bid by <b>July 2022</b>		Metro Dynamics have completed a draft Investment Plan for Halton Lea.
To prepare a governance structure for Halton Lea to oversee a range of programmes from stakeholders by <b>September 2022</b>		Work is underway to prepare a governance structure for Halton Lea and this should be in place by September 2022. The levelling up bid is currently taking priority.

Ref	Objective
EEP 03	Corporate

Milestone	Progress Q1	Supporting Commentary
Commence Construction of new Leisure Centre on site by <b>31<sup>st</sup> October 2022</b>		Works ongoing to obtain vacant possession of the land, Enterprise have vacated, only hair Essentials now remain, service diversion works should be commencing late summer.
Commence Construction of Extension to St Patrick's Nursing Home by <b>31<sup>st</sup> Dec 2022</b>		Project is currently at early stages of design, likely to be a D&B contract, anticipating start on site towards year end
Deliver agreed programmed maintenance programme to Corporate Buildings by <b>31<sup>st</sup> March 2023.</b>		Programme approved by the AMWG, currently progressing with the various projects, anticipated budget will be fully expended by year end.
Deliver agreed programmed maintenance programme to schools by <b>31<sup>st</sup> March 2023.</b>		Programme approved by Council, currently progressing with the various projects, many will be undertaken through the summer holiday period, anticipated the budget will be fully expended by year end.
Complete refurbishment of 71 High Street, Runcorn by <b>30<sup>th</sup> September 2022</b>		Works are currently progressing on site, anticipated that the work will be complete in early September

Ref	Description	Actual 2021 / 22	Target 2022 / 23	Quarter 1 Position	Current Progress	Direction of Travel	Supporting Commentary
EEP LI 03	Commercial and investment portfolio – rent receivable against the budget to monitor receipt of income of rents and service charges.	Investment £44,300 Commercial £574,916	Investment £53,467 Commercial £663,613	Investment £20,779 Commercial £110,507			No 5 Granville St Runcorn – new tenant secured to commence 1 July. Other vacant units, former Frankie and Bennies unit at the Hive. A shortfall of income is predicted over the year of £116,000 to exclude the income from the lease of no 29 – 31 Moor Lane, Widnes (Enterprise) which ended 14 June 2022.
EEP LI 04	Occupancy rates of commercial and investment portfolio.	100 % Investment 89% commercial	100 % Investment 90% commercial	100% Investment 92% commercial			There are 8 vacant properties which will be on the market or unable to market until refurbishment works eg 71 High St Runcorn or where negotiations have not been concluded
EEP LI 05	Occupancy of Widnes Market Hall.	95%	96%	92%			There has been a couple of traders leave the Market in the 1 <sup>st</sup> quarter hence the figure is currently down on year end.

## Waste and Environmental Improvement

### Key Objectives / milestones

Ref	Milestones	Q1 Progress
CE 03a	Manage greenspace areas as per the agreed specification - <b>March 2022</b> .	*No information provided for Quarter 1
CE 04a	Continue to deliver communications and awareness raising initiatives to ensure that participation with the Council's recycling services is maximised and that residents comply with the requirements of the Council's Household Waste Collection Policy - <b>March 2022</b> .	*No information provided for Quarter 1

#### Supporting Commentary

\*No information provided for Quarter 1

### Key Performance Indicators

Ref	Measure	21 / 21 Actual	22 / 223 Target	Q1 Actual	Q1 Progress	Direction of travel
CE LI 05	Residual household waste per household.	625KG	625KG	*No information provided for Quarter 1	*No information provided for Quarter 1	*No information provided for Quarter 1
CE LI 06	Proportion of household waste recycled and composted.	39.3%	40%	*No information provided for Quarter 1	*No information provided for Quarter 1	*No information provided for Quarter 1

#### Supporting Commentary

\*No information provided for Quarter 1

**Policy, Planning and Transportation**

**Key Objectives / milestones**

Ref	Objective
PPT 02	Highway programmed maintenance.

Milestone	Progress Q1	Supporting Commentary
Ensure continued unrestricted availability of the Highway network and to allow future maintenance to be delivered on a steady state, lifecycle planned basis.		<p>Surface dressing of carriageways at Clifton Lane, Rocksavage Way and Beechwood Avenue. Southern Expressway completed in the period.</p> <p>Carriageway Resurfacing Bridge Street, A56, Norman Road, Warrington Road, completed and carriageway reconstruction of Leigh Avenue from Kingsway to Fredrick street were also completed. Resurfacing schemes at Ditchfield Road/Everite Road and Birchfield Road are currently being programmed by the contractor. Design work underway on schemes at Bridgewater Expressway and site on the Busway, Runcorn.</p> <p>Design work in progress for footway resurfacing schemes at Kingsway, Hale Road, Frank Street, Castle Street, Sea Lane, Arkwright road. Resurfacing to Caldwell Road footways due to commence.</p>

Ref	Objective
PPT 03	Highway Routine and reactive maintenance

Milestone	Progress Q1	Supporting Commentary
Continue to maintain the Highway Authorities statutory duties in accordance with Section 41 and 58 of the Highways Act.		Ongoing highway safety inspection continuing to maintain a safe and serviceable Highway

Ref	Objective
PPT 04	Ensure that Control of Major Accident Hazards (COMAH) Plans are tested each year

Milestone	Progress Q1	Supporting Commentary
To ensure that at least one exercise is carried out each financial to test the COMAH plans <b>March 2021</b>		

### Key Performance Indicators

Ref	Description	Actual 2021 / 22	Target 2022 / 23	Quarter 1 Position	Current Progress	Direction of Travel	Supporting Commentary
PPT LI 01	Percentage of third party compensation claims due to alleged highway / footway defects successfully defended. Annual Calculation.	Not available	Not available	N/A	N/A		Figures not available
PPT LI 02	Net additional homes provided	136	350	N/A		N/A	Indicator monitored annually as at 1 <sup>st</sup> April. Target changed to 350 p.a. (2014~37) following adoption of Delivery & Allocations Local Plan. Delivery is currently ahead of target requirement.

Ref	Description	Actual 2021 / 22	Target 2022 / 23	Quarter 1 Position	Current Progress	Direction of Travel	Supporting Commentary
PPT LI 03	Number of affordable homes delivered (gross)	22	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Indicator monitored annually as at 1 <sup>st</sup> April. Target is expressed as a percentage of development on qualifying sites (subject to viability).
PPT LI 04	Processing of planning applications (%) as measured against targets for,						The current trend is downwards with all targets missed.  The section is endeavouring to increase the number of planning officers which, if achieved, is expected to restore matters.
	a)'major' applications	100%	100%	36.36%			
	b)'minor' applications	100%	96%	57.14%			
	c)'other' applications	94.7%	98%	81.39%			
PPT LI 05	To ensure a rolling five year supply of housing land. Deliverable supply (units) as a % of rolling 5 year requirement.	140%	100%				Figures not currently available
PPT LI 06	No. of people killed or seriously injured (KSI) in road traffic collisions. (5 Year Av.)	25.2	N/A	24.8			Slight reduction continues. Q4 data being used as Q1 data is incomplete.

Ref	Description	Actual 2021 / 22	Target 2022 / 23	Quarter 1 Position	Current Progress	Direction of Travel	Supporting Commentary
PPT LI 07	No. of children (<16) killed or seriously injured (KSI) in road traffic collisions. (5 year Av.)	3.6	N/A	3.2			Slight reduction continues to a record low. Q4 data being used as Q1 data is incomplete.
PPT LI 08	No. of people slightly injured in road traffic collisions. (5 Year Av.)	197	N/A	189			Reduction in casualty numbers continues. Q4 data being used as Q1 data is incomplete.
PPT LI 09	No. of people slightly injured in road traffic collisions.	168	N/A	173			Slight upturn in casualty numbers, although numbers are small so prone to fluctuation. Q4 data being used as Q1 data is incomplete.
PPT LI 10	Damage to roads and pavements (% above intervention levels) repaired within 24 hours.	100%	100%	100%			
PPT LI 11	% of network where structural maintenance should be considered:						Reported annually
	a)Principal Roads	1.9	2.00%				Reported annually
	b)Non-Principal Roads	2	4.00%				Reported annually
	c)Unclassified Roads	3	9.00%				Reported annually

Ref	Description	Actual 2021 / 22	Target 2022 / 23	Quarter 1 Position	Current Progress	Direction of Travel	Supporting Commentary
PPT LI 12	Bus service punctuality, Part 1: The proportion of non-frequent scheduled services on time (%):						Nil checks carried out in Q1. Checks will be carried out in from Q" onwards
	a)Percentage of buses starting route on time	Data unavailable	99%	99%			Nil checks carried out in Q1. Checks will be carried out in from Q" onwards
	b)Percentage of buses on time at intermediate timing points	Data unavailable	95%	86.86%			Nil checks carried out in Q1. Checks will be carried out in from Q" onwards
PPT LI 13	% of footpaths and Public Rights of Way (PROW) which are easy to use.	79%	80%				Reported annually
PPT LI 14	% of bus stops with Quality Corridor accessibility features. (No. of stops – 603)	78% 455	80%	83.7			Site require identification and design

### Appendix 3: Major Planning Applications Determined

Tim_Major_Decided_Apps				
REFVAL	PROPOSAL	ADDRESS	DECSN	DATEDECISS
21/00016/OUT	Outline application, with all matters other than access reserved for the erection of two semi-detached dwellings and four detached dwellings on the existing church field and the retention of the existing scout hut at	Hough Green Scout And Guide Group Hall And Church Field Hall Avenue Widnes Cheshire WA8 8XR	REF	10/06/2022
21/00102/FUL	Proposed demolition of existing facilities and development of new clubhouse incorporating changing facilities, gym, social areas and ground floor boat and canoe storage at	Boat House Cholmondeley Road Runcorn Cheshire WA7 4XT	PER	07/06/2022
21/00166/OUT	Outline planning application, with all matters reserved, for laboratory and office space (Use Class E(g)(i) and E(g)(ii)) development with associated car parking and landscaping at	Ultraviolet Sci Tech Daresbury Keckwick Lane Daresbury Warrington Cheshire WA4 5LR	PER	17/06/2022
21/00337/REM	Application for the approval of reserved matters (scale, access, appearance, layout and landscaping) comprising the development of 338 residential dwellings together with public open space and the provision of infrastructure submitted pursuant to planning permission 16/00495/OUTEIA at	Daresbury North Land Adjacent To Delph Lane Daresbury, Cheshire	PER	29/06/2022
21/00470/REM	Application for the approval of reserved matters (appearance, landscaping, layout and scale) of permission 20/00352/HBCOUT (Outline application for residential development (Use Class C3) up to 86 dwellings with all matters reserved except for access) at	Former Tarmac Site And Former Stobart Site Foundry Lane Widnes Cheshire WA8 8YZ	PER	13/05/2022
21/00471/FUL	Proposed development comprising 233 dwellings, reconfiguration of Golf Course, demolition of existing club house and associated buildings and erection of new club house and green keepers store, creation of new vehicular accesses, roads, car parking, green footpath link and ancillary development at	Widnes Golf Club Highfield Road Widnes Cheshire WA8 7DT	OTH	10/05/2022
21/00613/FUL	Proposed development comprising 5no. 3 storey residential blocks containing 33 no. Use Class C3 - 1 and 2 bedroom apartments with access, parking, landscaping and associated works at	Former Site Of Express Dairies Perry Street / Sewell Street Runcorn Cheshire	PER	04/04/2022
21/00681/FUL	Proposed new salt barn to house salt for Highways use, constructed in durable timber pre fabricated unit at	Picow Farm Depot Picow Farm Road Runcorn Cheshire	PER	22/04/2022

		WA7 4UD		
22/00020/FUL	Proposed change of use to Use Class C2, extensions and adaptations of former public house to provide temporary accommodation comprising 5 No. houses, 5No. apartments and 3No. studio's and welfare facilities for individuals and families at	The Castle 194 Warrington Road Widnes Cheshire WA8 0AP	PER	10/06/2022
22/00028/S73	Application under Section 73 of the Town and Country Planning Act to remove condition 10 of permission 10/00419/OUT (Proposed Class A1 Foodstore, petrol filling station and associated parking and servicing facilities) to permit the removal of the existing Combined Heat and Power Plant (CHP) to enable Tesco to remove the CHP unit as part of their wider sustainability ambitions and commitment to reach net zero at	Ashley Gateway Retail Park Tesco Extra Lugsdale Road Widnes WA8 7YT	PER	13/05/2022
22/00106/S73	Application under Section 73 of the Town and Country Planning Act to vary conditions 21 and 22 of permission 21/00010/S73 (Application under Section 73 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to vary condition 1 of permission 19/00240/FUL and amended by application 20/00611/NMA to refer to revised plans Unit 1 Site Layout Plan M3151-100-101 Rev E, Unit 1 Site Location Plan M3151-101 Rev E, Unit 1 Landscape Proposals SF2922 LL01 Rev H, Unit 1 Landscape Proposals SF2922 LL02 Rev E, and Security Gatehouse M3151-108 to suit occupiers requirements for additional parking, fire engine access direct to the service yard, a security gatehouse and an additional sprinkler tank) to allow occupation of the unit on the basis that the highways works will be completed by 16th May 2023 at	Unit 1 Land Off Gorsey Lane Widnes Cheshire	PER	19/05/2022

## 7.0 Financial Statements

## ECONOMY ENTERPRISE & PROPERTY DEPARTMENT

### Revenue Operational Budget as at 30 June 2022

	Annual Budget	Budget to Date	Actual	Variance (Overspend)	Forecast Outturn
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<b>Expenditure</b>					
Employee Related Expenditure	5,179	1,288	1,294	(6)	(25)
Repairs & Maintenance	2,286	706	706	0	0
Premises	92	90	90	0	0
Energy & Water Costs	913	136	202	(66)	(264)
NNDR	533	533	537	(4)	(4)
Rents	190	10	10	0	0
Economic Regeneration Activities	37	0	0	0	0
Security	485	65	65	0	0
Supplies & Services	275	213	218	(5)	20
Supplies & Services - Grant	1,231	117	117	0	0
Grants to Voluntary Organisations	49	18	18	0	0
Transfer to Reserves	254	40	40	0	0
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>11,524</b>	<b>3,216</b>	<b>3,297</b>	<b>(81)</b>	<b>(273)</b>
<b>Income</b>					
Fees & Charges Income	-787	-95	-95	0	0
Rent - Commercial Properties	-847	-81	-48	(33)	(133)
Rent - Investment Properties	-53	-21	-21	0	0
Rent - Markets	-799	-199	-193	(6)	(25)
Government Grant	-1,285	-164	-164	0	0
Reimbursements & Other Grant Income	-1,424	-39	-39	0	1
Schools SLA Income	-452	0	0	0	0
Recharges to Capital	-295	-13	-13	0	0
Transfer from Reserves	-628	-314	-380	66	264
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>-6,570</b>	<b>-926</b>	<b>-953</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>107</b>
<b>Net Operational Expenditure</b>	<b>4,954</b>	<b>2,290</b>	<b>2,344</b>	<b>(54)</b>	<b>(166)</b>
<b>Recharges</b>					
Premises Support	1,474	369	369	0	0
Transport Support	27	6	6	0	0
Central Support	2,082	521	521	0	0
Asset Rental Support	4	0	0	0	0
Recharge Income	-6,258	-1,564	-1,564	0	0
<b>Net Total Recharges</b>	<b>-2,671</b>	<b>-668</b>	<b>-668</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Net Departmental Expenditure</b>	<b>2,283</b>	<b>1,622</b>	<b>1,676</b>	<b>(54)</b>	<b>(166)</b>

### Comments on the above figures

Financial Management continue to work closely with the Department and remain focused on achieving a balanced budget at year end. Current estimates suggest that for most services, net

expenditure will be contained within budget, but this will continue to be closely monitored as the year progresses and updates will be provided accordingly

By carefully monitoring the accounts, the department is utilising grant/external funding where possible to try and relieve the pressure on the core budget. This is reflected in employee expenses this quarter where various projects have been identified and staff time has been charged accordingly. All vacancies in the department have been put on hold to help achieve the staff turnover saving target of £0.099m.

To date the Department is reporting net spend is over the approved budget by £0.054m. The longer term forecast through to the end of the year estimates net spend will be above the budget by £0.166m.

Due to the ongoing rise in utility bills expenditure for Energy and Water Costs are projected to be over budget at the end of the financial year. Latest forecasts show an increase of 207% increase in Gas Costs and 64% electricity costs and this is reflected in the forecast. Increase in forecast energy costs will be met through an earmarked reserve.

As the economy looks to recover from the impact of the coronavirus pandemic the financial challenges of commercial property rent present a significant financial challenge. As the working from home environment continues there is less need for office accommodation. The savings put forward for 2022/23 covering commercial property income £25k will not be achieved this financial year.

In previous years repairs and maintenance expenditure has been under budget to help the Department achieve an overall balanced position. An assessment has been carried out on forecast spend for the current year and the maintenance programme is showing the budget will be utilised in full.

The department is projecting to under achieve on market rental income targets this financial year. During the last few months the occupancy rate has slightly dropped to 94%. This may be linked to the recent introduction of customers having to pay for parking outside the market. Hopefully this will not have a lasting effect on footfall and income will be back in line with budget before year-end.

	2022-23 Capital Allocation £'000	Allocation to Date £'000	Actual Spend £'000	Total Allocation Remaining £'000
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<b>Expenditure</b>				
3MG	164	3	3	161
Property Improvements	213	57	57	156
Equality Act Improvement Works	425	13	13	412
Widnes Market Refurbishment	6	6	6	0
Broseley House	21	7	7	14
Woodend - Former Unit 10 Catalyst Trade Park	500	5	5	495
Solar Farm Extension	11	0	0	11
Murdishaw Redevelopment	31	0	0	31
Foundry Lane Residential Area	2,117	916	916	1,201
Astmoor Regeneration	14	4	4	10
Kingsway Learning Centre Improved Facilities	36	0	0	36
St Paul Mews	500	500	526	(26)
Halton Lea TCF	501	0	0	501
Runcorn Town Centre Redevelopment	2,089	504	504	1,585
Runcorn Station Quarter Phase 2	530	0	0	530
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,158</b>	<b>2,015</b>	<b>2,041</b>	<b>5,117</b>

## PLANNING, PROVISION & TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

### Revenue Operational Budget as at 30 June 2022

	Annual Budget	Budget to Date	Actual	Variance (Overspend)	Forecast Outturn
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<b>Expenditure</b>					
Employees	4,961	1,259	1,219	40	158
Efficiency Savings	-100	0	0	0	0
Premises	173	62	61	1	2
Hired & Contracted Services	105	-31	51	(82)	(328)
Supplies & Services	141	119	175	(56)	(222)
Street Lighting	1,682	62	93	(31)	(125)
Highways Maintenance	3,131	391	290	101	404
Fleet Transport	1,375	304	321	(17)	(66)
Bus Support - Halton Hopper Tickets	50	10	1	9	37
Bus Support	498	108	83	25	101
Grants to Voluntary Organisations	31	15	15	0	0
NRA Levy	882	220	220	0	0
LCR Levy	69	70	70	0	0
Contribution to Reserves	399	-1	0	(1)	(4)
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>13,397</b>	<b>2,588</b>	<b>2,599</b>	<b>(11)</b>	<b>(43)</b>
<b>Income</b>					
Sales & Rents Income	-93	-14	-3	(11)	(45)
Planning Fees	-563	-358	-431	73	290
Building Control Fees	-224	-44	-40	(4)	(16)
Other Fees & Charges	-916	-250	-229	(21)	(84)
Grants & Reimbursements	-170	-39	-63	24	95
Government Grant Income	-76	-14	-14	0	0
Halton Hopper Income	-50	-13	-3	(10)	(39)
School SLA's	-46	-8	-5	(3)	(11)
Recharge to Capital	-317	-46	-6	(40)	(161)
LCR Levy Reimbursement	-882	-220	-220	0	0
Contribution from Reserves	-559	-559	-559	0	0
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>-3,896</b>	<b>-1,565</b>	<b>-1,573</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Net Operational Expenditure</b>	<b>9,501</b>	<b>1,023</b>	<b>1,026</b>	<b>(3)</b>	<b>(14)</b>
<b>Recharges</b>					
Premises Recharges	534	134	134	0	0
Transport Recharges	661	155	171	(16)	(63)
Asset Charges	1,099	0	0	0	0
Central Recharges	1,581	395	395	0	0
Transport Recharge Income	-4,240	-1,032	-1,123	91	362
Central Recharge Income	-871	-218	-218	0	0
<b>Net Total Recharges</b>	<b>-1,236</b>	<b>-566</b>	<b>-641</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>299</b>
<b>Net Departmental Expenditure</b>	<b>8,265</b>	<b>457</b>	<b>385</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>285</b>

Comments on the above figures

The department is currently projecting to be the approved budget by £0.285m by the end of the financial year and the reasons are detailed below.

Budget holders are working closely with the Finance Officer to try to ensure a balanced budget is achieved. Wherever possible capital expenditure has been prioritised in order to relieve pressure on the revenue budgets.

Employee spend is projected to be largely under budget this financial year due to a number of vacancies across the whole department, in particular the Highways and Traffic divisions. Vacant posts are currently being held however a restructure is imminent to relieve the pressure on the service. Across the department, there are 96.5fte's and of these, 14.4fte's are currently vacant, including a Divisional Manager post. It is important to note, however, that 3fte's are currently being filled via a contractual shared Building Control service between Halton and Knowsley.

Hired and contracted services and supplies and services are projected to be over budget due to survey costs and plans that have been required in the Planning division. Halton also has a contract with MEAS (Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service) which is hosted by Sefton LA. This is used to provide Halton with advice in relation to ecology, waste, environmental impact assessments and local plans. To have this advice internally would cost Halton more than the contract, but at the moment, it is significantly over the allocated budget. Legal fees are also currently projected to be over budget due to external legal advice needing to be procured in relation to judicial reviews where decisions have been challenged.

Street lighting is currently projected to be over budget by the end of the financial year but this is subject to change. Due to the significant increase in utility costs for 2022/23 the budget is expected to be fully utilised, therefore underspends against budget experienced over the last couple of years are not expected to materialise again. There is a capital street lighting upgrade programme in place that if implemented quicker could help to reduce costs and produce a revenue saving.

Highways maintenance costs are currently projected to be under budget. However, this is liable to change and will be monitored closely throughout the year, with capital funding being utilised where appropriate.

Fleet transport costs are projected to be over budget this financial year. This is mostly due to a large increase in the purchase of parts and the time it takes to receive orders, this in turn has an impact on the costs recharged out to other services within the Council.

Bus support costs are projected to be under budget by the end of the financial year. This is being monitored closely, contracts that were previously held by Halton Borough Transport and put in place urgently are due to be reviewed.

Sales income is projected to be under the budget target by the end of the financial year due to a decrease in income generated at Lowerhouse Lane Depot for external fuel sales. This is being closely monitored.

Planning income is expected to come in higher than anticipated based on current projections. Although given it is only three months into the financial year this is subject to change as projections are updated.

Building control income is currently projected to not achieve its budget target but again this is being monitored as it could change once the reconciliation process between Halton and Knowsley takes place at the end of the financial year. The recharge of salaries to capital schemes is unlikely to achieve the set income target this financial year due to a lack of traditional capital projects, and therefore there is less opportunity to capitalise.

### **Capital Projects as at 30 June 2022**

	2022-23 Capital Allocation £'000	Allocation to Date £'000	Actual Spend £'000	Total Allocation Remaining £'000
<b><u>Local Transport Plan</u></b>				
<b>Total Bridge &amp; Highway Maintenance</b>	4,473	46	46	4,427
<b>Integrated Transport</b>	1,553	226	226	1,327
<b>CRSTS (City Region Sustainable Travel Settlement)</b>	3,306	0	0	3,306
<b>SJB MM – Arch Painting</b>	321	0	0	321
<b>SJB – Decoupling</b>	0	0	260	(260)
<b>EATF Runcorn Busway</b>	1,546	279	279	1,267
<b>East Runcorn Connectivity</b>	5,569	145	145	5,424
<b>Total Local Transport Plan</b>	16,768	696	956	15,812
<b>Halton Borough Council Schemes</b>				
Street Lighting	853	0	0	853
Lighting Upgrades	2,530	0	0	2,530
Silver Jubilee Bridge - Lighting	469	1	1	468
Risk Management	495	21	21	474
Fleet Vehicles	5,760	368	368	5,392
SUD Green Cycle	197	191	191	6
LCWIP (Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan) / Dukesfield	0	0	425	(425)
<b>Total Halton Borough Council Schemes</b>	10,304	581	1,006	9,298
<b>Total Capital Expenditure</b>	<b>27,072</b>	<b>1,277</b>	<b>1,962</b>	<b>25,110</b>

**Comments on the above figures.**

The SJB MM (Silver Jubilee Bridge Major Maintenance) arch painting programme has now been completed, it was delayed due to various unforeseen circumstances.  
Works are continuing for the lighting upgrade programme.

Funding has been agreed from LCR in relation to LCWIP Daresbury and Dukesfield however the formal grant funding agreements have not been received at this time, they are expected during Q2 of the financial year.

The Runcorn Station Quarter works are almost completed and this is reflected in the low level of expenditure in Q1. Spend on capital projects is following the normal profile of expenditure being low in the first quarters and then increasing from Q3 onwards. This is expected to continue this financial year.

**COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT**  
**Revenue Budget as at 30 June 2022**

	Annual Budget £'000	Budget to Date £'000	Actual £'000	Variance (Overspend) £'000	Forecast Outturn £'000
<b>Expenditure</b>					
Employees	15,391	3,650	3,548	102	102
Premises	2,543	856	858	(2)	(8)
Supplies & Services	1,398	229	363	(134)	(280)
Hired & Contracted Services	890	121	44	77	51
Book Fund	140	77	63	14	56
Food Provisions	404	167	175	(8)	(33)
School Meals Food	1,872	370	370	0	0
Miscellaneous Transport Costs	115	2	2	0	0
Other Agency Costs	156	59	57	2	8
Other Expenditure	0	1	1	0	(1)
Waste Disposal Contracts	6,538	0	0	0	2
Grants to Voluntary Organisations	67	18	12	6	26
Grant to Norton Priory	172	87	87	0	0
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>29,686</b>	<b>5,637</b>	<b>5,580</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>(77)</b>
<b>Income</b>					
Sales Income	-1,309	-287	-290	3	14
School Meals Sales	-2,480	-188	-188	0	0
Fees & Charges Income	-5,546	-1,777	-1,715	(62)	(249)
Rental Income	-205	-43	-43	0	0
Government Grant Income	-358	-329	-329	0	1
Reimbursements & Other Grant Income	-597	8	6	2	11
Schools SLA Income	-2,227	-37	-43	6	23
Internal Fees Income	-247	-15	-15	0	4
School Meals Other Income	-251	-2	-2	0	0
Catering Fees	-88	-1	-1	0	0
Capital Salaries	-173	0	0	0	0
Transfers From Reserves	-80	-4	-5	1	5
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>-13,561</b>	<b>-2,675</b>	<b>-2,625</b>	<b>(50)</b>	<b>(191)</b>
<b>Net Operational Expenditure</b>	<b>16,125</b>	<b>2,962</b>	<b>2,955</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>(268)</b>
<b>Recharges</b>					
Premises Support	1,496	374	374	0	0
Transport	2,324	589	589	0	0
Central Support	4,449	1,112	1,112	0	0
Asset Rental Support	146	0	0	0	0
HBC Support Costs Income	-511	-128	-128	0	0
<b>Net Total Recharges</b>	<b>7,904</b>	<b>1,947</b>	<b>1,947</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Net Departmental Expenditure</b>	<b>24,029</b>	<b>4,909</b>	<b>4,902</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>(268)</b>

### **Comments on the above figures**

The net Department spend is marginally under the approved budget at the end of Quarter 1 with the outturn net position estimated to be £0.268m over the approved budget.

Employee spend is under budget for the first quarter as staff absences within services such as leisure remain unfilled, linked to some services demand still being short of pre covid levels and the current difficulty in recruitment.

Forecasting demand for staffing over the coming year is difficult at this stage given the uncertainty on service demand linked to both covid, cost of living crisis and future pay awards. This is particularly relevant in the case of casual staff and therefore for now a prudent position has been adopted in estimating costs over the remainder of the year. Financial Management will continue to work with service managers to help provide more accuracy on forecasts going forward.

Premises costs are £0.002m under budget at the end of Quarter 1 linked to NNDR costs. Whilst the forecast outturn position is currently projected to be £0.008m under budget, there is uncertainty with regard to future energy costs especially at the leisure centres, the position will be closely monitored and the forecast updated if costs increase further. Runcorn swimming pool has closed but premises costs will continue to be incurred in the short term.

Additional premises costs are expected for Brookvale Leisure Centre and Halton Lea Library. A £20k feasibility study (Brookvale) and £20k building works (remove Café and re-instate as library) have not been budgeted which will impact on the overall outturn variance.

Spend on Supplies and Services is currently £0.134m over budget as covid costs are still being incurred in 2022/23 relating to additional cleaning requirements.

Invoices for 2021/22 waste disposal contracts are still to be received, expected during Q2. Whilst costs were estimated at financial year-end, any variance in the actual cost when invoices are received will impact on this year's financial position.

No invoices have yet been received for the waste disposal contracts in 2021/22. Estimated expenditure is therefore calculated based on the average cost per tonne in 2020/21 plus estimated additional tonnage in the current year. Any changes to these costs could have a large impact on the Department's outturn position.

Food Provision/School Meals Food is £0.008m over budget at Q1 due to increases in food costs, these are projected to continue for the rest of the financial year.

Fees & Charges Income is £0.062m over budget at the end of Quarter 1. This relates to historic shortfalls in income in the Leisure Centres and the Stadium and lower demand following the impact of the pandemic over the last couple of years. There has been a delay to date in the invoicing for school meals and this will be updated over the coming months. Currently there are not expected to be significant variances against this area but the position will be closely monitored given the impact the cost of living crisis could have on the service.

### Capital Projects as at 30 June 2022

<b>Project Title</b>	<b>2022/23 Capital Allocation £'000</b>	<b>Allocation to Date £'000</b>	<b>Actual Spend £'000</b>	<b>Total Allocation Remaining £'000</b>
Stadium Minor Works	37	10	6	31
Halton Leisure Centre (Moor Lane)	6,296	620	618	5,678
Brookvale Pitch Refurbishment	70	10	10	61
Stadium decarbonisation scheme	0	0	117	-117
Open Spaces Schemes	450	100	78	372
Children's Playground Equipment	80	0	0	80
Upton Improvements	13	0	0	13
Crow Wood Park Play Area	39	10	9	30
Landfill Tax Credit Schemes	340	0	0	340
Runcorn Town Park	256	30	26	230
Widnes Crem - Replacement Cremator	200	140	139	61
Spike Island / Wigg Island	1,988	0	0	1,988
Litter Bins	20	0	0	20
<b>Totals</b>	<b>12,909</b>	<b>920</b>	<b>1,003</b>	<b>8,787</b>

### Comments on the above figures

#### **Moor Lane Leisure Centre**

Service diversion works commenced and CPO completed. Construction contract has not been signed yet (expected October 2022). Project to go out for prices Aug 2022. Construction start date November 2022.

#### **Brookvale Pitch Refurbishment**

The scheme is now complete. There is a retention payment that may be held until Quarter 4. (% of Football Foundation funding grant is held until all conditions met/discharged).

#### **Stadium Decarbonisation Scheme**

Grant-funded project to reduce the DCBL Stadium's carbon footprint. This involved replacing the gas boilers with air source heat pumps and installing LED lighting and additional installation. Additional costs over and above grant levels will be funded from borrowing.

#### **Open Spaces**

This covers spending on a variety of externally funded projects, including Arley Drive/Halton Housing Trust and Fairfield History projects.

#### **Children's Playground Equipment**

This is an ongoing project which includes spend on improvements within the Borough's playgrounds.

#### **Crow Wood Park**

Project to include replacement park building and upgrade to paths. The main contract for new park building has ended but a small amount of work to the building is required and will be done separately along with a small landscape contract to complete paths.

**Landfill Tax Credits Schemes**

Currently used to support improvements for a rolling programme of existing playgrounds/open space schemes across the Borough. There are no projects currently identified and minimal spend if any against this code is anticipated in 2022/23.

**Runcorn Town Park**

Project to renew park infrastructure. Works are behind schedule due workload/capacity issues due to Runcorn Station Quarter project taking priority. For 2022/23 there will be another major INEOS funding bid to continue the infrastructure replacement works.

**Widnes Crematorium replacement Cremator**

Installation works on site are progressing to programme. The new unit commissioned and fully operational with staff trained to use new systems. The likely final cost will be circa £230k due to a change of supplier plus some small additional works to the building in order to accommodate the new unit.

## 8.0 Application of Symbols

Symbols are used in the following manner:

### Progress Symbols

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Objective</u>	<u>Performance Indicator</u>
Green 	Indicates that the <u>objective is on course to be achieved</u> within the appropriate timeframe.	<i>Indicates that the annual target is on course to be achieved.</i>
Amber 	Indicates that it is <u>uncertain or too early to say at this stage</u> whether the milestone/objective will be achieved within the appropriate timeframe.	<i>Indicates that it is uncertain or too early to say at this stage whether the annual target is on course to be achieved</i>
Red 	Indicates that it is <u>highly likely or certain</u> that the objective will not be achieved within the appropriate timeframe.	<i>Indicates that the target will not be achieved unless there is an intervention or remedial action taken.</i>

### Direction of Travel Indicator

Green 	Indicates that performance <b>is better</b> as compared to the same period last year.
Amber 	Indicates that performance <b>is the same</b> as compared to the same period last year.
Red 	Indicates that performance <b>is worse</b> as compared to the same period last year.
N / A 	Indicates that the measure cannot be compared to the same period last year.