

## Employment, Learning, Skills and Community PPB – Priority Based Monitoring Report

Reporting Period: **Quarter 2 – 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022 – 30<sup>th</sup> September 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 second quarter of 2022 / 23 for service areas within the remit of the Employment, Learning, Skills and Community (ELSC) 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 Employment, Learning, Skills and Community (ELSC) Policy & Performance Board i.e.
  - Employment, Learning and Skills
  - Library and Culture and Leisure Services
- 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 during the period which include:-

#### 2.2 Employment, Learning and Skills

- A Pathways to Teaching in Adult Learning project was finalised with the Combined Authority in Q2. Halton will be co-ordinating and delivering this project across the 6 Liverpool City Region adult learning services. The project is a means for the local authorities to 'grow their own' tutor base, given the ongoing challenges around recruitment. The Grant Funding Agreement was awarded in September 2022.
- Multiply is a numeracy initiative included as part of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. Halton submitted its Multiply proposal in Q2, with final allocations awarded in Q3. The allocation will include grants to the voluntary and community sector to delivery numeracy activities.
- HPIJ opened a second Runcorn office in Church Street (opposite existing office) to accommodate additional staff as a result of new employment programmes being awarded. The premises are all on the ground floor and easily accessed from the main road.
- Wates will be delivering on the new Widnes Leisure Centre development. Wates personnel attended the Halton Employment Partnership meeting to set out their plans to deliver employment and skills initiatives as part of the project, as well as social value outcomes. They will continue to attend HEP meetings to update members on progress.
- The Apprenticeship Support by Be More Team delivered on the 2<sup>nd</sup> LCR Apprenticeship Graduation this year, with a high profile event held in Q2 at Anfield Stadium. Over 150 people attended, including Steve

Rotherham the Metro Mayor and football legend Dion Dublin. Unfortunately, the Combined Authority have not committed any further funding for the Apprenticeship Team and, after 7 years of managing this service on their behalf, the Apprenticeship service will cease on the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023.

- Registrations on to the JETS employment programme ended in September 2022. The last customers will remain on programme until end of March 2023, when the programme funding finishes.
- Halton, together with the other 5 LAs and the CA, submitted an application for new funding for an Individualised Placement Support for those accessing Primary Care Support programme (IPSPCS). Successful applicants will be informed in Q3. The programme will be for individuals with (mainly) mental health issues wishing to return to work quickly. Co-location in health settings will be an essential part of the programme.

## **Community & Environment**

### **2.3 Culture**

#### **The Brindley Theatre and Events**

The Brindley continues to bounce back from Covid. A lot of the shows which have been postponed are now taking place and there has been an increase in Dance School bookings. Staff levels remain low, but working with recruitment vacancies are moving through the system.

The plans for the Brindley enhancement project are progressing well and RIBA stage 3 is now complete. The Town Centres team submitted the Town Deal Fund bid in August. A decision is expected in November.

Planning is underway for this year's fireworks event. With the pressures on public spending and the cost of living crisis, the Council took an early decision to secure sponsorship for the event. The event will be on 5 November.

#### **Community Centres**

Overall bookings have continued to increase and The Cafés are getting busier each week at Castlefields and Upton Community Centres. Grangeway café which is run by Quigley's and Power in Partnership has had positive reports within the Centre. This generates increased income for the space.

All centres applied for Area Forum Funding to enable us to put on Events to celebrate the Queens Platinum Jubilee, this was a huge success and centres have received good feedback.

#### **Murdishaw Community Centre**

- Of the 2 "new" bookings in July – 1 was a "casual" with SEND R US holding a cook & eat session, the other was a Block booking for a fortnightly "INC" club for young adults with special educational needs/disabilities run by Vibe UK.
- In August the new additional booking was the Centre's "Family Summer Event" on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> August. After a gap of 3 years it was a welcome return of our annual summer event. Despite the rain we had a good turnout with estimates of 300+ people attending the event. We had a mixture of firm favourites courtesy of "Aladdin's Cave" who provided the entertainment and bouncy castle, Halton Sports Development provided coaches who supervised soft archery outside, we also had a selection of stalls in the hall and for the first time we had "Animal Kingdom" bring reptiles, amphibians, meerkats and other unusual creatures. It was good to see so many familiar faces, along with many new attendees, with young and old alike giving positive feedback on how much they enjoyed themselves. Centre staff, Julie & Gill, did a great job serving in the Café. Thanks go to Rachael Prime, Community Development Officer, for supporting the Centre's Area Forum bid, which enabled us to pay for "Aladdin's Cave". Thanks also go to Jane Smith of Onward Homes for covering the cost of "Animal Kingdom" attending.
- Both of the Centre's additional bookings in September were "Casual" bookings. The first being a family 50<sup>th</sup> birthday party. The second was a selection meeting held by East Runcorn Labour Party.

### **Castlefields Community Centre**

- We have a new Morris Dancing Group who have booked to start in September.
- Castlefields Café have provided the catering for the Sure Start Events which here held at Grangeway Community Centre on a monthly basis.
- We held a Bake it Coffee morning in July, offering a variety of cakes and drinks from the Café. We raised £615 for the MNDA Charity.
- HBC Health Improvement Team have held a Promotional Day in September in the Centre offering health advice, this included Blood Pressure Tests and Diabetes Information as well as Fitness and wellbeing information.
- HBC Waste and Recycling Team have held promotional days from the Community Centres offering recycling advice, promotional items.
- We have taken 7 additional party bookings at weekends which has increased income by £600
- Our Café footfall is busier than the last quarter with a lot more passing trade.
- A1 Dance have held their dance practice with us and hired the hall for their Exams
- We have many more going on in the next quarter with some planned events for Halloween and Christmas for our Community to enjoy.

### **Ditton Community Centre**

- Children's centre held a teddy bears picnic fun day in August which was well attended by families from the local area.
- We had a one day dance challenge event in July organised by a local dance school from the area.
- Wonky Gardens held an open day in September to raise funds for the national garden scheme and raised over £200 and were also featured on the BBC Look Northwest Make Difference Awards programme, after winning the community category for the work they do in the community. Angela said it was humbling to win the category, they came together as a group of volunteers because of our physical or mental health, loneliness or isolation. We forged a bond and love our work, our wonky garden and our community.
- We have secured a new booking ladies only boxing on a Tuesday evening.
- We also have a new booking with an organisation called Advanced Solutions 3 hours a week running into next year, which will provide much needed income going into next year.
- We will also be running guitar and ukulele classes that will be held on Tuesday evenings.

### **Grangeway Community Centre**

- The Princes Trust in partnership with the fire service came in to sort out the little garden at the side of the building. They tidied it up and it is now much improved. The Mayor visited once it was completed to thank the young people for their hard work.
- The garden is now being maintained by the young people from Youth Justice and Households into work.
- Quigley's Café has started a Breakfast Club from 8 o'clock each school day offering a reasonably priced breakfast at 50p per item. Having the café open brings in a lot more footfall to the Centre.
- During the school summer holidays PIP had a three week summer school with sports and other activities.
- Mako also had summer activities offering animation creations club and Lego and computer programming.
- More groups have finally returned to the centre after COVID including bowls, over 50's and active pensioners.
- Liverpool Museum visited with their mobile exhibition unit which was used to help people with memory loss to stimulate their memories with interactive film content. This was visited by several care homes who brought along their residents to take part in the activity.
- Sure Start to Later Life are holding their Monthly events at Grangeway which are very popular with the local community.

## **Upton Community Centre**

- Jmet, education has begun a block booking, Monday to Wednesday, except school holidays. The young people will be working towards a sport qualification and as well as English and Maths qualifications.
- Sure Start to later life have had their monthly event, Upton CC provided the food for their event this time and are due to continue providing this from now on.
- The Church of God have begun a new block booking on a Sunday for 6 hours. They are using rooms for worship as well as the sports hall for some fun at the end of their day.
- Vibe have started to use the climbing wall now that the service has been completed. They have used the wall several times before the school holidays and inside the holidays. For Summer holiday activities.
- Elite Coaching Solutions have used the sports hall for 2 weeks in August for children's activities Upton provided lunches every day that they were in the centre
- Queens Ladies only boxing has begun a block booking on a Sunday morning. 9.30am to 11am.
- We held our annual Macmillan Coffee morning at the end of September. Which was well attended.

## **2.4 Leisure Centres**

### **Brookvale**

- New 20mm rubber flooring cover in main corridor. Improvement for facility, gives the centre a more pleasing aspect for the customers and from H&S perspective reduces the risks of accidents from old tiled flooring.
- Halton's Multi Agency Forum for Asylum Seekers and Refugees, 15 June at Halton Stadium. Looking into how leisure services can support current asylum and refugee services within the community.
- Active Soccer Camp, 3 days May, 3 days July, 5 days August. Attendance of 60+ children, HBC provide a percentage of free spaces to local children in conjunction with funding from the Council CYP. Successful camps have taken place for many years at site with David Todd and his team providing affordable provision within the borough.
- Majorettes Shows brought new customers to sites as well as return business, highlights the facilities and promotes larger event bookings.
- To celebrate significant investment from Football Foundation, the Council and work with partners, Everton in the Community, Cheshire Police and Onwards Housing assisted with official opening event of Brookvale's 3G Pitch. VIPs attended the event and teams from Halton and around the North West took part in a Premier Kicks Tournament.
- Halloween Roller Disco planned, in partnership with Cheshire Police and Onward Homes on 31st October 2022. Also, swim free for 100 young people, part of Operation Treacle to reduce ASB within the local community. It will provide young people and families with an opportunity to enjoy Halloween in a safe environment.
- EITC Monday Football. Starting in October, £5000 funded by Cheshire Police. EITC reduced resources in Halton and Wirral. Free football sessions, will continue, on the 3G pitch to local children aged 8-16. One session dedicated for mixed participation another is for girls only as want to increase participation in this area. Provides pathways into local teams and clubs.
- Riverside Housing Community Fund- submitted application for Gymnastics sessions for ages 4-7 and 8-14 year olds. If successful, sessions would run for 12 months. A gymnastics coach available.

### **Kingsway**

- Ramadan, social gathering 7 May for local refugee families. Opportunity for the local families to get together, as they have had limited socialising opportunities since the start of the pandemic. The Mayor attended. Over 100 people attended the event.
- Ramadan/Refugee family activities, social gathering and fun day booked in for local refugee families, starting 14 May for a period of 10 weeks (1 session per week). Session to include bouncy castle and sports equipment for children to take part in activity.
- New floor cleaning/scrubbing machine. Compact design means we can deep clean all areas of the building; unable to use the previous machine in some areas due to size. This will help to improve cleaning standards across the site. A full review of the cleaning schedule/task list to take place.
- Ladies only swim in planning stages. 3 sessions requested for local Muslim women. Private hire booking

- Morris dancing event, 24 April, great income generator and huge footfall through the day. Fills the sports hall on an otherwise quiet day. More bookings planned in the future. The hirer was pleased with the venue and the service received from the staff. Great secondary spend through vending sales etc.
- Cheshire Junior Netball Leagues, booking secured for another year. Season starting Oct 2022, increases footfall throughout the centre. The event is great for secondary spending. The income gained is excellent and ensure 100% occupancy for the sports hall on Sunday from October through to May
- Halton Swim Club hosted galas, such as, Micro League Swimming Gala, the competition is for swimmers aged 9 to 12 years. A minimum of four boys and 4 girls are needed in each of the 9, 10, 11- and 12-years age groups. 120 swimmers took part.
- Dance Festival - 250 children attended across 2 days, from dance schools across the North West. Income, secondary spend and footfall increased, some of the benefits of hosting this event. More events scheduled in the future.
- £1 Junior Swims throughout holidays. Allowed more children access to affordable sports/fitness activities throughout the summer. User figures and secondary spend increase as a result. Some anti-social behaviour issues, review of user numbers to help alleviate issues.
- Pool rules and photography procedure/policy under review.
- Activities for Syrian refugee groups. Weekly throughout July at Kingsway, local Syrian families invited to use the facility as a 'fun day' with bouncy castle and other activities available to them free, 4 hours a week on Saturdays. All funded by 'A Better Tomorrow'.
- Kops (keep on playing sport) n Kids, Thursday and Friday in August, providing free activities for 8-15 year old in Halton. Good secondary spend, 309 children attended 1 or more sessions. Multi-Flex, last week in August, fills the hall space during off-peak times in the summer.
- Timetable changes Kingsway 8th – 28th August. Timetables amended to enable Main Pool to open all day every day. Had queues of customers waiting to access Learner Pool, used the Main Pool as an alternative until space was available. Increased user figures and reduced negative customer feedback.
- Futsal after school club restarted after summer break, 4:30pm on a Wednesday. This adds some variety to the programme.
- Halloween Party – 28th October. Cheshire Police funding decoration on the back corridor leading to the gymnasium where the bouncy castle and some games will be ready for children to use. Fancy dress welcomed. Free children's activities help to reduce ASB in the local area.

### **Fitness**

- To bring our Teen Gym offer in line with all other providers, will enhance the product and encourage more teens and their families to be active.
- Two Fitness Advisors appointed to KLC, will increase class timetable
- BRC, new gym layout, Synergy is a big piece of kit that required bolting down to the floor. Moved it to create more functional and free weight space, following customer feedback. Also created a new function are with the addition of the ski erg.
- Jubilee gym challenges, 70 exercise challenges.
- Jubilee open day, fantastic feedback and attendance - BRC 237 attendees and 20 at Tea dance, partnership working with Onward Housing.
- Teen Gym (11-15 year olds) Responsible Person - introduced new procedure to enable teens to have better access with an adult, thus increasing the Teen Gym product and encouraging families to be active together. Will enhance the membership and increase participation of Teens within the borough.
- 1st April price increase, website update. Customers given notice 2 week prior
- Squash online booking now available. Hoping to reduce amount of phone calls at 7am, this is one of the busiest times at reception with only one receptionist. Easier for customers to see the booking time slots and pre pay online. When they arrive to site, they can be through reception quicker.
- Swim Loyalty card introduced, new incentive to encourage customers to join on memberships. Customers get one month to complete 9 swims to get the 10th free.
- Adult swim is £4.40 x 9 = £39.60, membership £23.50 swim or £26 for everything.
- Working with Health Improvement Team, building the partnership with the team so there is a clear pathway for residence, with health conditions, to access leisure facilities

- Lifestyle advisors to direct customers to the FA team once GP referral sessions end to continue their programme.
- Swim 4 health (10-week swimming pass) relaunch.
- New rotas in place starting August, new staff members, increased floor cover and additional classes. More sales and personal training appointments available to customers. New fitness timetable, customer feedback forms given out, data collected, changes will be made to encourage more participation.
- Fitness machines and equipment moved from Runcorn Swimming Pool to Brookvale Recreation Centre. New layout at BRC to accommodate kit. Benefit to customers as now more resistance kit
- Fitness Membership - Kingsway Leisure Centre 1,611, Brookvale Recreation Centre 921
- National Fitness Day activities planned across Halton on 21st September Offered free health checks, free day passes for the gym, free swimming and also free Group workout classes.
- Escape Pain class, running well with 6 attending each week, pathway onto memberships been discussed due to health conditions of patients
- Club live figures at end June KLC – 1572; BRC – 869

### **Aquatics**

- Drowning Prevention Week (RLSS) 18 – 25 June. All LTS customer received FREE water safety session during normal weekly swimming lessons. The session included fun and colourful resources and children learned essential life-saving skills, including how to help themselves and others if/when in difficulty in the water. All children received a free RLSS certificate. Customers given the opportunity to enter a photo competition, taking a photo of themselves with their certificate and tagging the leisure centre. Prizes include a month's free swimming lessons and/or ZOGGS merchandise. The campaign was popular with LTS customers and we have received positive feedback from children/young people and parent/carers. Key water safety messages shared online and on site
- Work experience pack created - includes induction; sign off sheets, risk assessment template, tasks sheet (students to complete over the course of the placement). Existing documentation was inconsistent and no clear process/procedure for training, booking and monitoring. The pack will ensure we deliver a standardised programme/induction for all students. The task sheets ensure students are involved and given the chance to feedback/reflect on what they have learnt. A streamlined and efficient process will encourage more managers to support work experience students, which benefits the leisure industry on a wider scale. Work experience student booked w/c Monday 27 June (2 weeks).
- Educational course bookings - SEQ Level 1 Swimming Assistant and NPLQ; SEQ Level 1 Swimming Assistant Teacher course July 2022
- NPLQ and Trainer/Assessor course June and July 2022. Provides opportunities for Halton residents to upskill/train and embark on a career in the leisure industry. Income generation – room hire.
- Risk assessment update for swimming lessons, swimming instructors can be in possession of either NRASTC or NPLQ. Stops employees attending duplicate training sessions and reduce workload/admin required. Support recruitment of swimming instructors, removing barriers and opening applications to a wider group of individuals. Swimming Instructors with an NPLQ will not need to complete the NRASTC, making the induction process quicker and more efficient.
- Risk assessment update for staff training, easing of COVID restrictions/updated guidance from RLSS. Support delivery of staff training across all leisure centres, whilst controlling the spread of COVID-19. Minimises dismantling of equipment (risk of damage) and reduces delays to staff training sessions (set up of equipment etc.). Ratios increased, however remain lower than pre-pandemic levels, to ensure quality training & development for all staff.
- Swimming Instructor recruitment ongoing – trying to increase the number of swimming instructors available. Limit cancellations and increase stability. (National shortage with other authorities also having large waiting lists - latest survey 82.35% with recruitment difficulties).
- Workforce Development Pathway (WFDP). WFDP requires a progression of grades and positions within the organisation and candidates progress and receive further training. Reviewed – recruitment, selection, ER processes etc. Address the barriers/challenges to swimming instructor recruitment. Swimming Instructors needed to maintain and grow the 'Learn to Swim' programme. The WFDP is essential to avoiding service

cancellations and minimising loss of income. A continuous recruitment/training pathway is required to ensure the 'Learn to Swim' programme sufficiently staffed and meeting consumer demand.

- Lifeguard Performance Assessments (LPAs). Full review and update of Lifeguard Performance Assessments (policy documents, procedure and LPA document). Ensures standards met and all staff deliver excellent customer service.
- Poolside rules review completed. Leisure Attendants and Operation Managers reviewed rules (within the Pool Safety Operations Plan/Procedure). A full breakdown of poolside rules (including example) to be shared with all staff. Ensure consistency in the supervision and management of Active Halton swimming pools. Consistent approach important to ensure we offer a fair, inclusive and safe environment for all customers.
- School Swimming Training – Swimming Instructors completed training for the launch of the Active Halton 'School Swimming' programme (2022-2023). New operating/delivery model for school swimming. Training focused on teaching methods, swimming lesson delivery, progressive practices and the national curriculum requirements. Additional support with lesson planning, behaviour management and fundamental movement skills.
- Improvement in school swimming delivery across sites, aim to increase the progression/attainment of pupils and the percentage of pupils meeting national curriculum requirements by the end of Key Stage 2.
- 'Learn to Swim' programme - Review completed to avoid 'bottle necking' and to support the service in meeting increased demand for swimming lessons. There has been an increase in the number of members progressing to the higher stages and therefore demand for spaces in stages 4-7 has led to classes reaching full capacity at KLC. Regular programme reviews required to meet demand, retain customers as they progress through the programme.
- Swimming assessments to be completed once per month at each site (8 spaces). Reducing the influx of new customers joining the programme via swimming assessments to 8 per month will ease pressure on the programme and ensure spaces are available to existing customers who need to move stages. This will aid customer retention.
- Duckling customers offered a space in stage 1 for September 2022 cohort joining the programme. Spaces reserved for duckling customers opens up spaces in Ducklings (pre-school) for a new cohort in September 2022.
- Learn to Swim figures KLC – 739 (88% occupancy), BRC – 396 (78% occupancy). Numbers increased from June 2022. BRC increase due to increase in programme (number of spaces)
- Limited number of classes/spaces at BRC, limited number of classes/spaces in the higher stages at KLC.

## 2.5 Library Service

- New operational management teams are now in place in Runcorn and Widnes and are working to rebuild services and reconnect with communities as part of the recovery from the pandemic.
- Regeneration project that includes moving Runcorn library into a new theatre / library culture facility is progressing. Plans for the building are available on the dedicated [website](#)
- Working in partnership with Eat@TheHeath group at The Heath Business Park and Open 360 to reduce digital exclusion in Halton by offering digital training to those who attend these groups; highlighting Halton Libraries free access to public pcs and wifi.
- Data Bank – gifting data to those digitally excluded due to poverty. Good Things Foundation provides data. Halton Libraries have received some of the sim cards and to start gifting in September.
- 800 school children visited libraries as part of the class visit programme.
- Rhyme Time attendance figures for Runcorn consistently highest of all service points and increased further from beginning of 2022 and now higher than pre-covid figures. - with steady amounts of an average of 175 adults and children monthly for Halton lea, Rhyme Time and Saturday Stories combined.
- Launched 'Halton Home Ed Monthly Meet Up' in Halton lea on Monday afternoon, using flexible events space and themed resource eg. Lego, reading sparks bag. This has been a popular group which has an attendance group from further afield than our other regular events with members travelling from Warrington and Liverpool to attend.

- Lego club attendance, average regular 25 attendees per weekly session with customer requests for a further session or calmer session. Currently looking at launching 'Quiet Lego' on Friday PM's.
- Local organisations including the HealthWatch Team, Deaf Awareness and Nighthop 'Borrow a Person' all using library space to host monthly drop in sessions for our users and community.
- Good Yarn weekly adult session launched at Widnes and Runcorn with average attendees of 10 per week.
- Social Media- a 'back to basics' campaign launched in June assigned to re-highlight key attributes including removal of fines, 20 issues per account, free reservations, online resources.
- Before the schools broke up for the Summer holidays we welcomed 91 children and their teachers to Ditton Library on class visits.
- During the Summer holidays 536 children signed up for our 'Gadgeteers' Summer Reading Challenge across Halton Libraries.
- The Summer also saw us run a series of activities across Halton Libraries, including circuit bugs, origami rockets and robots and electro dough. As a result of our partnership work with Halton Housing we were able to offer 300 free packed lunches at some of our events and Rhyme Time sessions.
- As part of our work on Celebrating Halton's Heritage, Widnes Library worked with Digital Arts Box CIC, to host and facilitate an open research session which explored people's memories of Widnes Market via newspaper articles and archives. We also held an open animation session for children where they learnt about and had a go at stop gap animation. The results of both of these were used by Digital Arts Box CIC to create, "Animating Halton's Heritage – Memories of Widnes Market":  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P0NWtO2siH4>
- Widnes Library was pleased to welcome a range of organisations offering outreach during Quarter 2, including the Apprenticeship Support Summer Roadshow by Be More, The Women's Organisation and Nighthop.
- Rhyme Time attendance figures for Widnes and Ditton libraries have continued to grow, with an average now of over 200 attendees across the 2 libraries each month.
- Following the continuing growth in the popularity of our Lego club at Widnes Library, at the beginning of September we launched Ditton Library's Lego Club (every Monday 3.30pm-5pm) which has already welcomed over 40 creators.
- Widnes Library was delighted to be chosen to host one of "The World Reimagined" globes. The globe at Widnes Library was created by the very talented pupils at St Michael's Catholic Primary School in Widnes.

### 3.0 Emerging Issues

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

#### Employment, Learning & Skills

#### 3.2 Employment, Learning & Skills

- Once funding allocations for Multiply are awarded, the Adult Learning Team will work in partnership with the Community Development Team to award small grants to the VCS for the delivery of numeracy activities. In addition, a programme of numeracy provision will be offered directly by the Team.
- During Q3, steps will be taken to close down the Apprenticeship Support by Be More ESF/SIF project. In addition, the team will finalise a full evaluation of the contract, which will be made available to the CA and other stakeholders. The existing Be More website will be replaced by a much more comprehensive Be More Portal, which will be managed by Combined Authority staff.
- HPIJ will commence demobilisation of the JETS programme from early Q3.



- If successful, recruitment of specialist staff for the IPSPCS programme will take place in Q3; staff will require quite different skills from existing advisor roles.
- Preparations for an Ofsted inspection will continue in Q3 with an adult learning inspection being imminent. A real focus will be on safeguarding of young people accessing the service in particular.

## **Community & Environment**

### **3.3 Culture Services**

#### **The Brindley Theatre and Events**

- With the cost of living increasing significantly, this could impact on the number of tickets sold and the takings in the café and bar. This could go on for some time. The Brindley will may become a one of treat as opposed to a frequent option for many customers.
- The Brindley enhancement project is likely to lead to an increase in Business Rates and Energy bills from 2024. We are working with the design team to understand the options for including energy saving features and reducing future costs and our carbon footprint. This may require an additional upfront investment, in order to save the Council costs in the future.
- Hire costs are increased every year in line with inflation. Some items are being hired out at prices considerably more than local suppliers are charging. The rates are now set and have been agreed by Executive Board for 2023/24. However, before the rates are set for 2024/25 there will be a piece of work undertaken to compare rates of other Local Authority owned theatres.

#### **Community Centres**

- It is important to continue to grow the usage in the community centres to ensure sustainability going forward, all opportunities will be taken to secure tenants and bookings.

### **3.4 Leisure Services**

- Runcorn Swimming Pool officially closed Thursday June 16. Despite efforts at staff retention and recruitment, it became impossible with current staffing levels to keep the swimming pool open, whilst providing the level of safety and service required. The leisure centre service had to close its swimming facilities several times, it did not have sufficient qualified lifeguards to open and maintain services across all Council leisure sites. The shortage of lifeguards is not unique to Halton (recent survey 90.91% are having difficulty recruiting). It will take time, working with our partners, to increase the number of qualified lifeguards.
- Majority of staff at Runcorn Swimming Pool accepted other positions in Leisure.
- All Runcorn Swimming Pool members received a refund for their June Direct Debit payment and offered July free if taking a membership out at another site. Refunded 58 customers in June 14 retained a membership.
- Contacted RSP Aqua Ladies who would of liked a AM session at BRC but unable to offer this at present due to instructor and lifeguard availability.
- Following the Council's decision in March to close Runcorn Swimming Pool, the closure was put on hold to give any interested third parties the opportunity to come forward with a costed and sustainable business plan to take over the running of the pool. The opportunity for groups / companies to submit expressions of interest closed on Friday 1 July. No valid Expressions of Interest (EOI). Second EOI, seeking a partner to lease the building for another use, advertised 20.09.22 – 14.10.22. The building remains closed.
- September - staff resource issues, due to a delay with recruitment. Closure of main pool at Kingsway on Sundays was required to relieve pressure on team and minimise service delays throughout the week. Staff wellbeing important, resources incredibly stretched. Recruitment ongoing combined with training offer.
- Employment Opportunities for 16-21 year old in education or unemployed. October 2022 NLPQ Course, partnership working with OBA, Cheshire Police and Onward Homes. Funding for 12 local young people to qualify as a Lifeguard. Given the shortage of LAs within the country and the huge impact it is having on recruitment, retention of staff, service delays and decreasing the value of our membership it is important that we identify and provide pathways into employment, plugging gaps within the leisure sector to secure a stable service moving forwards for the residents of Halton.

- ILM Aquatics Trainee – Ways to Work (12-month pilot). Two, six month posts (30 hours per week) added to the establishment (leisure services). Offer training/employment opportunities for local residents, which in turn will support service delivery/resources across Active Halton leisure centres. A scheme such as this looks to provide people with the relevant training/skills to pursue a career in the leisure industry.
- Violence at Work Training to be provided to staff, increase the knowledge and skills on how to deal with certain situations meaning we are creating a safer environment for our employees.
- Cost of living, energy price rises, shortage of pool chemicals, general maintenance and repair of buildings continue to impact service delivery. Staff commended for their commitment and resilience during exceptional circumstances.

### **Sports Development**

- Implementing new measures during Covid restrictions was costly in time and money and many instructors have not recovered.
- Health of some pre-Covid regulars means they are no longer able to attend; some are waiting treatments, appointments or operations.
- Class absenteeism is high. Older participants are much more likely to miss a class if not 100% or concerned for their own or others health.
- Cost of living is putting all costs up to deliver classes, including fuel, equipment, and room hire.
- Making a class cost effective is now very challenging for instructors, a fine line, forced to increase their prices but balancing losing participants, if class price is too high. In some situations, a handful of clients have agreed to pay a higher price to keep class running and make it financially viable for instructor. This has resulted in others being unable to attend, widening the divide of those who can and cannot afford to take part.

### **3.5 Library Service**

- Increase in costs across the book supply chain are putting pressure on the book fund that will limit buying this year.
- Allocation of money to deliver the upgrade of the public PC offer is also contributing to this.
- Delays in recruitment are affecting service delivery particularly outreach services and the Home Library Service.

## **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**

The following information provides a synopsis of progress for both milestones and performance indicators across the key business areas that have been identified by the Directorate.



## Employment, Learning & Skills















### Key Objectives / milestones





Ref	Objective
EEP 01	Employment Learning and skills

Milestone	Progress Q2	Supporting Commentary
To manage and sustain employment support programmes Work Programme by <b>March 2023</b>		A number of employment programmes are in operation with some being funded beyond March 2023.
To deliver a Liverpool City Region Apprenticeship Graduation Ceremony by <b>September 2022</b>		A very successful Apprenticeship Graduation took place on the 15 <sup>th</sup> September 22, with over 150 apprentices and guests in attendance.
To develop, in partnership with the CA/LCR CAs, a Pathways to Teaching in Adult Learning route way by <b>September 2022</b>		LCR CA confirmed acceptance of the Pathways to Teaching proposal in September, with the Grant Agreement signed between HBC and the CA. A co-ordinator has also been appointed to begin the implementation of this LCR wide project.

### Appendix 2: Progress Against Performance Indicators


Ref	Description	Actual 2021 / 22	Target 2022 / 23	Quarter 2 Position	Current Progress	Direction of Travel	Supporting Commentary
EEP LI 08	Number of Enrolments (Adult Learning).	698	2500	1264			The figures for Quarter 2 are Adult Learnings Full year figures as we report in academic years – Aug/Jul. Confident that this figure will continue to rise this year with the introduction of new courses (including level 3 and Pathways to Teaching Programmes) and the recruitment of a new IT tutor. Plans to implement ESOL programmes are in motion for after October half term.


EEP LI 09	Number of People supported into work (HPiJ).	333	750	167			167 customers were supported into employment across all employment programmes in Q2. Cumulative number of customers supported into work 320 via HPIJ
EEP LI 10	Percentage of learners achieving accreditation.	15%	20%	28%			The figures for Quarter 2 are Adult Learnings Full year figures as we report in academic years – Aug/Jul. The recruitment of a new IT tutor and introduction of a wider curriculum (Level 3 and ESOL) will further increase the number of learners achieving accreditation.
EEP LI 11	Total number of job starts on DWP Work and Health and JETS programmes (Ingeus).	142	257	74			74 customers were supported into employment on Work and Health and JETS programme in Q2. Cumulative number of customers supported into work 157
EEP LI 12	Total number of job starts on DWP Restart programme (G4S). (New)	N/A	265	61			61 customers were supported into employment on Restart programme in Q2. Cumulative number of customers supported into work 115
EEP LI 13	Number of Businesses Supported.	1091	500	52			The figures provided comprise 22 property enquiries, 30 Business Growth Programme enquiries
EEP LI 14	Number of individuals supported into paid work placements (ILMs)	47	100	11			11 ILM's commenced in Q2. Recruitment constraints within HBC/HR have impacted on ILM starts in Q2.
EEP LI 15	Number of adult learners who feel prepared for choosing the next steps (e.g. into employment, another course, college/university etc.)	90%	100%	95%			The figures for Quarter 2 are Adult Learnings Full year figures as we report in academic years – Aug/Jul. New and innovative ways at capturing learner voice and increasing learner participation and autonomy are included in wider curriculum planning this year - confident that the new academic year will see another increase.

EEP LI 16	Number of adult learners who have progressed onto another course	49%	52%	12%			The figures for Quarter 2 are Adult Learnings Full year figures as we report in academic years – Aug/Jul. The reduction is a direct result of the staffing difficulties and staff absences in the last academic year which have continued into 22/23. The Adult Learning Service has now recruited a new IT tutor which means that a large number of Entry Level learners will now progress onto Level 1 IT.
EEP LI 17	Deliver supported internships	N/A	10	11		N / A	The figures for Quarter 2 are Adult Learnings Full year figures as we report in academic years – Aug/Jul. The service has recruited a new work coach and three volunteers to support with the delivery of this programme and maintain a holistic approach to achievement.
EEP LI 18	% Increase coverage in top 7 disadvantaged wards (New)	N/A	10%	10%		N / A	The figures for Quarter 2 are Adult Learnings Full year figures as we report in academic years – Aug/Jul. Targeted marketing has taken place to increase participation in these wards, including face to face recruitment activities and increased presence on social media for targeted areas.

### Community Services







Ref	Objective
CE 02	<b>Develop a confident, energetic library service. Create a team that deliver pioneering projects with communities, from vibrant spaces &amp; online. Establish the library service as an organisation embracing change, leading learning, - and contributing to a thriving Halton.</b>



Milestone	Progress Q2	Supporting Commentary
Create a digital offer that utilises up to date technology and hardware options to ensure residents are able to access information,		This is an essential part of the library service now since Covid and will continue to be moving forward.

communication, & learning opportunities that support personal growth and individual ambition. <b>March 2022</b>		
Working in partnership, deliver an ambitious cultural programme that builds on the legacy of the Borough of Culture festival season, securing external funding to maximise impact, value & potential. <b>March 2022</b>		The Cultural Strategy has been drafted and is undergoing final amendments before being presented to Executive Board.

## Key Objectives / milestones

### Key Performance Indicators

Ref	Description	Actual 2021/22	Target 2022/23	Quarter 2	Current Progress	Direction of Travel	Supporting Commentary
CE LI 07	Number of active users (physical & digital resources) of the library service during the last 12 months.	1,592,264		<b>433,693</b>			Will achieve the annual target
CE LI 08	Number of physical and virtual visits to libraries (annual total)	1,697,359		<b>510,823</b>			Will achieve the annual target
CE LI 09	Increase in percentage of the population taking part in sport and physical activity at least twice in the last month (KPI 1 from Active Lives survey)	75.6%	76%				Data published April 2022; this indicator was not reported at local level. However, Activity levels of 150 minutes per week <b>58.6%</b> for Nov 2020 – Nov 2021, which has increased, compared to 53.6% previous 12 months. Next report expected April 2023. This data includes five months of notable restrictions (two-and-a-half months of full national lockdowns and two-and-a-half months of significant restrictions) and seven months of limited restrictions (three months of easing restrictions and

							four months with no legal restrictions). Encouraging seeing 72.9% of adults doing more than 30 minutes of exercise a week (74,800 residents – pre pandemic rate 74.5%). Nationally activity levels continue to fall among young adults, however, levels are recovering among older adults 55+. Older adults are generally more resilient and the drop seen during the pandemic has recovered. Growth in walking for Leisure has been key to recovery for this age group.
CE LI 10	Percentage of people physically inactive (KPI 2 from Active Lives survey)	31.5%		27.9%			Data published April 2022 for period Nov 2020 – Nov 2021 data <b>27.9%</b> compared to 31.5% previous report. Thus, less residents are inactive (North West 28.7%, Merseyside 30.1%). Next report expected April 2023. (Pre pandemic rate 25.5%) Nationally the gap in activity levels between those that live in deprived areas has seen bigger drops in activity levels than those in more well-off areas, Halton appears to be recovering well. Adults with disability or long term health condition have seen activity level drop compared to pre pandemic, thus recovery is expected to be slower for this group, (additional support will be required).

## 6.0 Financial Statements

### ECONOMY ENTERPRISE & PROPERTY DEPARTMENT

#### Revenue Operational Budget as at 30 September 2022

	Annual Budget	Budget to Date	Actual	Variance (Overspend)	Forecast Outturn
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<b>Expenditure</b>					
Employee Related Expenditure	5,159	2,529	2,609	(80)	60
Proposed Pay Award 2022/23	220	0	0	0	0
Repairs & Maintenance	2,306	1,216	1,216	0	0
Premises	92	90	90	0	0
Energy & Water Costs	919	284	387	(103)	(207)
NNDR	533	533	535	(2)	(2)
Rents	179	102	99	3	5
Economic Regeneration Activities	37	0	0	0	0
Security	485	211	211	0	0
Supplies & Services	494	398	398	0	6
Supplies & Services - Grant	1,192	415	415	0	0
Grants to Voluntary Organisations	113	72	72	0	0
Capital Finance	30	30	30	0	0
Transfer to Reserves	254	127	127	0	0
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>12,013</b>	<b>6,007</b>	<b>6,189</b>	<b>(182)</b>	<b>(138)</b>
<b>Income</b>					
Fees & Charges Income	-864	-144	-144	0	0
Rent - Commercial Properties	-842	-297	-235	(62)	(124)
Rent - Investment Properties	-53	-31	-31	0	0
Rent - Markets	-797	-391	-382	(9)	(18)
Government Grant	-690	-412	-412	0	0
Reimbursements & Other Grant Income	-1,451	-351	-351	0	0
Schools SLA Income	-410	-381	-345	(36)	(36)
Recharges to Capital	-237	-36	-36	0	0
Transfer from Reserves	-1,717	-1,174	-1,277	103	207
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>-7,061</b>	<b>-3,217</b>	<b>-3,213</b>	<b>(4)</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Net Operational Expenditure</b>	<b>4,952</b>	<b>2,790</b>	<b>2,976</b>	<b>(186)</b>	<b>(109)</b>
<b>Recharges</b>					
Premises Support	1,474	737	737	0	0
Transport Support	27	13	13	0	0
Central Support	2,082	1,041	1,041	0	0
Asset Rental Support	4	0	0	0	0
Recharge Income	-6,258	-3,129	-3,129	0	0
<b>Net Total Recharges</b>	<b>-2,671</b>	<b>-1,338</b>	<b>-1,338</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Net Departmental Expenditure</b>	<b>2,281</b>	<b>1,452</b>	<b>1,638</b>	<b>(186)</b>	<b>(109)</b>

Comments on the above figures



To date the Department is reporting net spend to be over the approved budget by £0.186m. The longer term forecast through to the end of the year estimates net spend will be above the budget by £0.109m.

By carefully monitoring the accounts, the department is utilising grant/external funding where possible to try and relieve the pressure on the core Council 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.

The 2022/23 pay award has yet to be agreed but the additional cost to the department over and above the approved budget is forecast at £0.220m. The cost of which will be funded from Council reserves. This figure being based on 184 full time equivalent staff, although some of these will be grant funded.

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 Council reserves.

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 to provide additional office space for external agencies at Rutland House will not be achieved this financial year.

In previous year's 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 School Cleaning Service Level Agreement (SLA) is not covering its costs this financial year due to the need to employ agency staff in order to cover sickness and leave. A review of SLA charges will be undertaken ahead of the next financial year.

The department is projecting to under achieve on market rental income targets this financial year. During the last few months the occupancy rate has dropped to 92%. This may be linked to the introduction of customers having to pay for parking outside the market. There is a slight improvement on quarter 1 projections due to one off events held on a Sunday.

## **ECONOMY ENTERPRISE & PROPERTY DEPARTMENT**

### **Capital Projects as at 30 September 22**

	<b>2022-23 Capital Allocation £'000</b>	<b>Allocation to Date £'000</b>	<b>Actual Spend £'000</b>	<b>Total Allocation Remaining £'000</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
3MG	164	6	6	158
Property Improvements	213	169	169	44
Equality Act Improvement Works	300	34	34	266
Widnes Market Refurbishment	6	6	6	0
Broseley House	21	7	7	14
Woodend - Former Unit 10 Catalyst Trade Park	500	21	21	479
Solar Farm Extension	11	0	0	11
Murdishaw Redevelopment	31	0	0	31
Foundry Lane Residential Area	2,117	932	932	1,185
Astmoor Regeneration	14	10	10	4
Kingsway Learning Centre Improved Facilities	36	0	0	36
St Paul Mews	500	500	515	(15)
Halton Lea TCF	388	353	353	35
Runcorn Town Centre Redevelopment	2,089	959	959	1,130
Runcorn Station Building Development	530	77	77	453
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,920</b>	<b>3,074</b>	<b>3,089</b>	<b>3,831</b>

**3MG** - Spend will be back-ended in the financial year, the largest of which is HBC field where the completion has been put back to Feb 2023. A more comprehensive forecast will be presented at the end of quarter three.”

**Property Improvements-** All the budget will be spent by year end. There are a number of projects against this code including Reroofing the Fitness suite at the Stadium, lift replacement at Kingsway Learning Centre, and reroofing 73 High Street. There will also likely be some roofing works done at the Municipal Building against this budget.

**Equality Act Budget-** There are a number of access type schemes using the equality act budget this year so the department is anticipating the budget will be fully spent at year end.

**Widnes Market Refurbishment** - All Capital works have now been completed and all retentions paid

**Broseley House** - All works are complete on site, the only outstanding payment is the retention monies of circa £5,000 due in December 2022.

**Woodend Unit 10 Catalyst Trade Park** - No further spend is likely until the last remaining tenant vacates the property then the department will progress with demolition work.

**Solar Farm Extension** - It has now been operational for 2 years. No major issues have been identified. The system is performing in line with expectations in terms of energy produced and income.

**Murdishaw** - Work is ongoing to develop proposals for a community garden in the outdoor space at Murdishaw Community Centre. Funding is allocated to the project as match funding with a potential Awards for All bid to

be submitted in the next quarter. Environmental Improvements are ongoing in partnership with Onward and Riverside Housing.

**Foundry Lane** – There has been a delay in finalising the Development Agreement due to summer holiday leave commitments. The land will be transferred to the developer very soon. It is anticipated that the allocation will be spent in full this financial year.

**Kingsway Learning Centre Improvement Works** – Majority of the refurbishment works completed; redecoration works to the meeting rooms to be carried out.

**St Paul Mews** - No further spend is likely until the last remaining tenant vacates the property then the department will progress with the demolition work.

**Halton Town Centre Fund** - This LCR funded programme is now complete

**Runcorn Town Centre Redevelopment** - Options reports for the seven Towns Fund projects are now complete. Business Cases for four of the projects were submitted early August. The remaining business cases will be submitted at the beginning of November.

## **COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT**

### **Revenue Budget as at 30 September 2022**

	<b>Annual Budget £'000</b>	<b>Budget to Date £'000</b>	<b>Actual £'000</b>	<b>Variance (Overspend) £'000</b>	<b>Forecast Outturn £'000</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>					
Employees	15,412	7,300	6,966	334	303
Proposed Pay Award 2022/23	640	0	0	0	0
Premises	2,543	1,272	1,317	(45)	(90)
Supplies & Services	1,398	750	800	(50)	(100)
Hired & Contracted Services	890	44	156	(112)	(225)
Book Fund	140	108	93	15	30
Food Provisions	404	817	801	16	32
School Meals Food	1,872	925	721	204	409
Miscellaneous Transport Costs	115	47	49	(2)	(3)
Other Agency Costs	156	92	69	23	(51)
Other Expenditure	0	2	5	(3)	(5)
Waste Disposal Contracts	6,538	3,269	3,268	1	2
Grants to Voluntary Organisations	67	16	41	(25)	48
Grant to Norton Priory	172	172	174	(2)	(1)
Rolling Projects	0	10	20	(10)	(20)
Capital Financing	0	4	4	0	0
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>30,347</b>	<b>14,828</b>	<b>14,484</b>	<b>344</b>	<b>329</b>
<b>Income</b>					
Sales Income	-1,309	-678	-608	(70)	(141)
School Meals Income	-4,958	-2,275	-2,086	(189)	(378)
Fees & Charges Income	-5,546	-3,318	-3,298	(20)	(41)
Rental Income	-205	-75	-75	0	0
Government Grant Income	-359	-500	-664	164	329
Reimbursements & Other Grant Income	-597	-214	-149	(65)	(130)
Catering Fees	-88	-44	-45	1	2
Internal Fees Income	-247	-30	-38	8	16
Capital Salaries	-173	-46	-46	0	0
Transfers From Reserves	-742	-26	-24	(2)	0
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>-14,224</b>	<b>-7,206</b>	<b>-7,033</b>	<b>(173)</b>	<b>(343)</b>
<b>Net Operational Expenditure</b>	<b>16,123</b>	<b>7,622</b>	<b>7,451</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>(14)</b>
<b>Recharges</b>					
Premises Support	1,496	748	748	0	0
Transport	2,324	1,144	1,196	(52)	(104)
Central Support	4,449	2,225	2,225	0	0
Asset Rental Support	146	0	0	0	0
HBC Support Costs Income	-511	-255	-255	0	0
<b>Net Total Recharges</b>	<b>7,904</b>	<b>3,862</b>	<b>3,914</b>	<b>(52)</b>	<b>(104)</b>
<b>Net Departmental Expenditure</b>	<b>24,027</b>	<b>11,484</b>	<b>11,365</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>(118)</b>

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

The net department spend is £0.119m under budget at the end of Quarter 2 with the estimated net spend for the year being forecast at £0.118m over the approved budget.

Net employee spend is below the budget to date by £0.303m, due to the number of vacancies within the department resulting from delays and difficulty in recruitment.

The 2022/23 pay award has yet to be agreed but the additional cost to the department over and above the approved budget is forecast at £0.640m. The cost of which will be funded from Council reserves. This figure being based on 425 full time equivalent staff.

Premises costs are £0.045m over budget at the end of Quarter 2. Savings were identified at Q1 due to NNDR bills remaining the same as in previous years, however, the forecast outturn position is currently projected to be £0.090m over budget due to significant increases in both electricity and gas costs. This has impacted all of the sites managed by the Department, especially at Leisure Centres. Runcorn swimming pool has closed but premises costs will continue while the building remains under Council control.

Additional premises costs are expected for Brookvale Leisure Centre and Halton Lea Library. A £0.020m feasibility study (Brookvale) and £0.030m building works (remove Café and re-instate as library) have not been budgeted for.

Spend on Supplies and Services is currently £0.050m over budget and spend on Hired Services is £0.112m over budget. This includes £0.050m domestic violence contribution to Sanctuary Scheme, £0.025m cemetery and crematory re-saleable spend which is offset by income from Sanctum Vaults purchases, £0.020m for the decommissioning of a temporary cremator, and £0.043m equipment including £0.008m/month for container hire. Some of this spend will be offset by Government Grant income where possible.

Invoices for 2021/22 waste disposal contracts are still to be received, expected during the next quarter. 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.

The cancellation of certain events, such as the Vintage Rally means that the associated income targets will not be achieved, while some costs for these events have already been incurred.

Transport recharges are expected to be higher than budgeted due to fuel and other cost increases resulting in a forecast net overspend against budget at year-end of £0.104m.

## Capital Projects as at 30 September 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	9	28
Halton Leisure Centre (Moor Lane)	6,296	950	938	5,358
Brookvale Pitch Refurbishment	70	40	38	32
Stadium decarbonisation scheme	0	0	117	(117)
Open Spaces Schemes	450	130	128	322
Children's Playground Equipment	80	5	2	78
Upton Improvements	13	0	0	13
Crow Wood Park Play Area	39	10	10	29
Landfill Tax Credit Schemes	340	0	0	340
Runcorn Town Park	256	110	110	146
Widnes Crem - Replacement Cremator	200	200	234	(34)
Spike Island / Wigg Island	60	0	0	60
Litter Bins	20	0	0	20
<b>Totals</b>	<b>7,861</b>	<b>1,455</b>	<b>1,586</b>	<b>6,275</b>

### Comments on the above figures

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

The estimated cost of the new leisure centre has increased significantly due to the current levels of inflation, scarcity of materials etc. A report has been issued to the Executive Board detailing the increased costs and a decision is imminent. It is likely that the decision will be to continue with the project as there are wider implications for the regeneration of the whole Kingsway area. The draft report indicates the increased annual revenue cost of borrowing from £1m to £2m given the construction cost and interest rate rises.

#### **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) but the remaining spend will be in the current financial year.

#### **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. The scheme is currently over budget by £0.117m, the cost of which will have to be funded through capital receipt reserves or increased 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. This is still delayed due to team workload. Possibly will run to end of 2022/23.

**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 from INEOS funding 2021/22 has not yet completely spent. The works are behind schedule due workload/capacity issues within D&D Team due to RSQ project taking priority. For 2022/23 there will be another major INEOS funding bid to continue the infrastructure replacement works, Bid has not yet been submitted but it is anticipated that next phase will carry over to 2023/24 assuming bid is successful.

**Widnes Crematorium replacement Cremator**

Installation works on site are progressing to programme. The new unit commissioned and fully operational with staff trained to us new systems. The final cost is £0.234m (increase due to a change of supplier plus some small additional works to the building in order to accommodate the new unit).




**Wigg/Spike Island Recovery Works**

Projects are at the commencement stage. The extent of works and exact split for works contracts is being assessed.





## 7.0 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 <u>is on course to be achieved</u>.</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 <u>uncertain or too early to say at this stage</u> 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 <u>will not be achieved</u> 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.