

Environment and Urban Renewal PPB – Priority Based Monitoring Report

Rep

Reporting Period: **Quarter 4 – 1st January 2022 to 31st March 2023**

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This report provides an overview of issues and progress against key service objectives/milestones and performance targets, during the final 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:-

Economy Enterprise & Property

2.2 Regeneration Non-Town Centres

3MG

3MG has completed its final year of delivery where RGF targets are considered and a full audit of job outcomes will determine the precise number of jobs that were generated by that element of the scheme. The final parcels

of land disposal are at or near completion with the sale of HBC Field imminent and the disposal of Linner Cottage complete.

Liberty Park is gaining pace and 107 is now occupied with the present occupiers expressing an interest in part of the remaining site however with this, HBC Field (545) and Viking being Freeport Tax Sites it is anticipated that they will be occupied within 24 months with some 900,000 square feet of floor space will come into use.

HBC Field has received full planning approval and Viking site Exeter is due for completion in the summer of 2023 adding a 195,000 square foot unit to the portfolio of premises in Halton to market.

Sci-Tech Daresbury

The Joint Venture have submitted the reserved matters planning application for Violet Phase 2 (formerly referred to as Ultraviolet). The £25m scheme will provide 80,000 sq ft of office and laboratory space across two new buildings. The JV is also continuing with proposals to secure the expansion land as part of the masterplan delivery.

Murdishaw

Onward homes are currently on site with the retrofit works to the bungalows in Murdishaw and on target to complete in Q2 2023/24. Onward have now entered in to the lease for the former boxing club and continue to work with the local community to establish a CIC. Ongoing environmental improvements are being carried out across the estate.

Astmoor

Joint Venture partnership now active with Development Agreement (DA) at signature stage. Slight delays incurred in 2022 in commencing practical progress – due to land ownership records underpinning the DA. Key stakeholders and initial practical priorities known, along with identified 'quick wins'. Astmoor Regeneration Masterplan remains the over-arching and guiding strategic document to be adhered to.

West Runcorn Employment Growth Area

- The Council is continuing to work with INOVYN (part of the INEOS Group) and on their intention to improve and attract investment at their Runcorn site. This is part of a broader ambition to support longer term growth in green industry and jobs within West Runcorn.
- Recent meetings have been held with the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority to promote the opportunity at INOVYN as part of delivery of the City-Region Innovation Prospectus.
- The Council has a memorandum of understanding with the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority to establish a Liverpool City Region Freeport. An orientation visit by the Central Government DIT and DLUC was undertaken in February 2023.
- The Council have taken preliminary steps to undertake design, feasibility and technical survey work to provide 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. This work will be funded through drawdown of an initial tranche from the provisional allocation of £6.5m of capital seed funding.
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Foundry Lane regeneration project:

Phase 1 of 2 (Council-owned land) at construction Works stage, with all Planning Consents in place, and first housing units scheduled for completion in 2024. Phase 2 of 2 (non council-owned land) currently at Outline Planning Consent (OPC) stage, with land acquisition and flood/highways management priorities currently subject to full Risk Assessment. Phase 2 development Works anticipated to commence in 2024. Project fully financially viable.

Energy Retrofit Programmes

- The team continue to manage a number of grant schemes to enable Halton residents, private landlords and Registered Providers access funds to improve the energy performance and decarbonise homes within the Borough. These schemes are being delivered in partnership with the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority, with grant funding secured from Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy;
- In January - February 2023, the Council wrote to 5,700 of borough's most energy inefficient homes to promote the Sustainable Warmth Fund grant. This grant scheme being available to eligible residents. Delivery of the grant scheme was extended from March 2023 to September 2023.

Business Improvement and Growth

The Business Improvement and Growth Team is going through a period of transition emerging from the special measures that the team were working under through the pandemic. The result of this is that the team has commenced with a communication and engagement plan to improve engagement with the business community which became constrained through the pandemic.

The Business Brief is now a monthly publication focusing upon the quality of the business growth articles rather than getting business critical information to businesses in peril looking for Covid-19 support and grant support.

Business Growth Programme

The Business Growth Programme is working to a close and looks set to achieve and surpass targets which, given its predominant period of activity was through the Covid-19 pandemic is a remarkable achievement and testament to the dedication of the Team.

With ERDF ending this programme will now come to an end and will not formally be replaced however this is not until June.

UK Shared Prosperity Fund

Towards the end of the quarter the Combined Authority issued their outline vision for place based business support which includes an allocation of funding and correlated target and the Business Improvement and Growth Team began scoping and formulating how the programme will be developed and delivered in Halton.

2.3 Asset Management

71 High Street – lease completed 16 Feb 2023 and occupied by Hazelhurst

63 High St – acquisition completed 29 March 2023

Former youth centre, Moorings Close, Murdishaw – lease to Onward 12 Jan 2023

Completion of disposal of land to Feralco 13 Jan 2023

Completion of disposal of Linner Farm and outbuildings Widnes 10 March 2023

2.4 Policy Planning & Transportation

2.5 Highway Development

Asset management information for financial year was updated and explained in last quarter report, along with general team update.

Unfortunately we have been unable to obtain survey results for Public Rights of Way (PROW) prior to the end of the financial year, and we aim to report this next quarter. This is mainly due to some ongoing staff

recruitment/vacancy issues and workloads as previously reported with planning applications and scheme monitoring.

2.6 Planning

Following the adoption of the local plan, the Council have now received a number of major housing applications for the allocated sites.

Planning Policy

Team working on future guidance and reviewing existing guidance documents. The team have also been considering the implementation of Bio diversity Net Gain.

2.7 Community & Environment

2.8 Waste Management

School Litter Pick Activities

Throughout March the Waste Management Team carried out 4 school litter pick activities.

For each session the team took out a class size group to an area close to the school and carried out litter picking. Pupils were provided with litter pickers, hoops and Hi-Viz vests and each school received a certificate of participation. 170 pupils and teachers took part and more than 50 bags of rubbish were collected over all the sessions.

Community Engagement

The Waste Management Team organized a 'Recycling Q&A' to a number resident groups. The sessions were an opportunity to discuss any issues and also to provide residents with information on waste and recycling.

Community Walkabouts

The Waste Management Team was involved in 6 walkabouts along with a total of 50 volunteers.

The walkabouts are in joint working with local Housing Associations and other partner agencies.

During the walkabouts the Council's Community Engagement Officers engage with residents, carry out 'door knocking' and report back any issues that may need to be actioned.

Skip Schemes

The Waste Management Team organized 2 skip schemes in this last quarter.

The schemes, which were requested by Ward Councilors and delivered with Area Forum funding, saw three skips on each site for General Waste, Wood and Mixed Metals. Residents filled 23 skips over the 2 schemes.

2.9 Crematorium & Cemeteries

Nothing to report at this time

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:-

Economy Enterprise & Property

3.2 Regeneration Non-Town Centres

Investment Zones

As part of the Spring Budget, the Government announced plans to enter discussions with places to host twelve high growth Investment Zones across the UK. Liverpool City Region Mayoral Combined Authority was identified as one of eight places in England which has been shortlisted to begin discussions with Government to co-develop proposals for an Investment Zone. Investment Zones will be a locally led intervention aimed at boosting productivity, increasing innovation, and creating more jobs and opportunities for local people. They will be founded on partnership between central and local government and research institutions. The zone is likely to have a focus on the Health & Life Sciences sector with clear links to the assets and capabilities at Sci-Tech Daresbury.

3MG

The disposal of HBC Field is due to complete in the first quarter of 2023 and this will herald an intensive period of work for the team with support to the developer as required once the legal formalities are concluded. There will also be an audit from Halton appointed accountants to verify the number of jobs created by the scheme and this will form part of the programme close down which will include an independent verification by DLUC.

There are a number of parcels of land which will remain in the ownership of HBC and we will be actively marketing them for disposal thus effectively extending the programme beyond 2023 but on a scaled-down basis.

3.3 Business Improvement and Growth

Business Growth Programme

As mentioned will be closed at the end of June this year in parallel to the closing of all UK ERDF programmes and measures are in place to ensure the continuation of more general business support from the mainstreamed Business Improvement and Growth Team..

UK Shared Prosperity Fund

As mentioned under the section on progress “Towards the end of the quarter the Combined Authority issued their outline vision for place based business support which includes an allocation of funding and correlated target and the Business Improvement and Growth Team began scoping and formulating how the programme will be developed and delivered in Halton.” And this will require a significant resource from the Business Improvement and Growth Team to scope and develop. This will be developed in conjunction with local partners (notably HEP partners) and Liverpool City Region partner authorities. Housing Strategy, the team will commission a housing strategy on behalf of Halton Council and partners. More will be reported through 2023 / 2024

3.4 Policy Performance Transportation

Planning: Planning Application Statistics (Q4 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. Additional assistant Planners have been recruited and have taken up post in Q4.

Total Applications Received: (Includes those Withdrawn and Returned) 122	
Applications Decided 164	Applications On-Hand (Undecided) 232
Pre-Applications Received 26	Pre Applications Closed 32

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 Q4 2022/23 are shown in Appendix 3.

3.5 Community & Environment Services

3.6 Waste Management

The Council has commissioned a piece of work to model a range for future waste collection scenarios. The outcome of this piece of work will see a report produced that will set out the cost implications, recycling performance, carbon benefits etc of a number of different modelled waste collection options. The report will be used to help inform future decisions on service changes required to meet new legislative requirements arising from the Environment Act 2021 (weekly collection of food waste, collection of a consistent set of recyclable materials etc).

3.7 Crematorium & Cemeteries

Nothing to report at this time

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 Q4	Supporting Commentary
To prepare the Town Investment Plan Business Case(s) for Runcorn by 31st July 2022		All business cases have now been approved by government.
To prepare a Halton Lea Levelling Up Bid by July 2022		A bid was submitted. The bid was unsuccessful, but positive feedback was received which will be used to develop future funding bids. The status of a round 3 of Levelling Up Funding is not known
To prepare a governance structure for Halton Lea to oversee a range of programmes from stakeholders by September 2022		A partnership board has been established to identify and coordinate priorities in the Halton Lea area and investigate funding opportunities. The board has met twice.



Ref	Objective
EEP 03	Corporate















Milestone	Progress Q4	Supporting Commentary
Commence Construction of new Leisure Centre on site by 31st October 2022		Works commenced on site with the service diversion works on Moor Lane in October 2022, site mobilisation was carried out in December and the formal start on site was 9 th January 2023, completion being 3 rd February 2025.
Commence Construction of Extension to St Patrick's Nursing Home by 31st Dec 2022		The project has been delayed whilst the consultation takes place with families. Design works are continuing but we are now looking to decarbonise the buildings and are applying for additional funding

Deliver agreed programmed maintenance programme to Corporate Buildings by 31st March 2023.		Budget fully committed, agreed works completed.
Deliver agreed programmed maintenance programme to schools by 31st March 2023.		All agreed projects now complete.
Complete refurbishment of 71 High Street, Runcorn by 30th September 2022		Completed.

Appendix 2: Progress Against Performance Indicators


Ref	Description	Actual 2021 / 22	Target 2022 / 23	Quarter 4 Position	Current Progress	Direction of Travel	Supporting Commentary
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EEP LI 01	Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions indicator (Tonnes CO ₂ e).	9770 tonnes CO ₂ Actual 2020/21	9672 tonnes CO ₂ target 2021/22	9327 tonnes CO ₂ Actual 2021/22			<p>The emissions for 2021/22 were 9,327 tonnes which equated to a 4.5% overall reduction on the 2020/21 emissions.</p> <p>Emissions associated with both fleet transport and business mileage increased as was to be expected as the previous year saw significant periods of lockdown.</p> <p>Emissions associated with street lighting saw the biggest reduction from the previous year of almost 20%, and since the baseline year of 2006/7 emissions associated with street lighting have been reduced by 81%.</p> <p>The breakdown of emissions is as follows:- School Buildings 2703t, Corporate buildings 4070t, Unmetered supply 1203t, Fleet Transport 1181t, & Business Mileage 170t.</p> <p>The target for 2022/23 has been set at 9233 tonnes CO₂e, a 1% reduction from 2021/22.</p> <p>The annual figure for this i is a year behind and therefore only reported in the following year.</p>
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Ref	Description	Actual 2021 / 22	Target 2022 / 23	Quarter 4 Position	Current Progress	Direction of Travel	Supporting Commentary
EEP LI 02	Capital receipts	£280,000	£1.5m based on an estimate for the amount and timing of receipts as at 20/5/2021	£660,000			Transactions underway, sites at Desoto Road and Queensway Widnes. Sale completions Linner Farm Cottage, Halebank Road Widnes and land Ditton Road Widnes
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 £44,300 Commercial £643,046			A shortfall of income was projected to exclude the income from the lease of no 29 –31 Moor Lane Widnes. The shortfall has been improved by the completion of rent review at lease at Venture Fields Widnes
EEP LI 04	Occupancy rates of commercial and investment portfolio.	100 % Investment 89% commercial	100 % Investment 90% commercial	100 % Investment 93% commercial			There are 6 vacant properties which will be on the market or vacant until negotiations are concluded
EEP LI 05	Occupancy of Widnes Market Hall.	95%	96%	85%			In the past 12 months we have had a number of traders leave and others downsize, resulting in 18 more vacant units than 12 months ago. The reason being the very difficult trading conditions currently being faced. The introduction of parking charges to the main car park area has also impacted on the situation.
EEP LI 06	Unit Costs – office accommodation space (reported annually).	1317sqm	1251sqm	N/A			This is only reported on an annual basis, figures will only be available in the 2 nd quarter as such it is too early to determine the outcome.
EEP LI 07	Reduce ex traders debt at Widnes Market-target by each year	£37,919	£36,023	£29,833			This is a new KPI so there are no figures for last year. Out of 27 returns, 23 of them were rated as either good or excellent.
EEP LI 07a	Surveys on repair & maintenance works, % rated good or excellent	New KPI	75%	85%			This is a new KPI so there are no figures for last year. Out of 27 returns, 23 of them were rated as either good or excellent.

Policy, Planning and Transportation


Ref	Objective
PPT 01	Local Transport Plan (LTP) Capital Programme – Deliver the LTP Capital Programmes to ensure that the transport system is maintained and developed to meets local needs.

Milestone	Progress Q4	Supporting Commentary
To deliver the 2019/30 LTP Capital Programme March 2022		Active Travel schemes at Runcorn Busway to improve cycling links between Halton Hospital and Murdishaw Centre scheme completed in the period Construction work underway to take the current LCWIP route from Runcorn Old town to Daresbury Sci Tech. Design work ongoing for Active Travel, Murdishaw Centre to Whitehouse Industrial Estate, Murdishaw Centre to Runcorn East Station and then to Halton Lea to provide dedicated cycling facilities on the Busway. Feasibility/Design works in progress for East Runcorn Connectivity, Whitehouse Access Link, and A56 carriageway Reconstruction. Site investigation topographical survey, drainage investigation and repair all underway Runcorn Station Quarter Dukesfield Active Travel Link completion due earlier next Quarter.

Ref	Objective
PPT 02	Highway programmed maintenance.







Milestone	Progress Q4	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.		Ditchfield Road Everite Road junction reconstruction completed in the period. Design of 23/24 carriageways commenced for Prescott Road, Penn Lane, Victoria Road, and Caldwell Road. Design work progressing for footway resurfacing schemes at Kingsway, Hale Road, Castle Street, Sea Lane, Arkwright road, and Frank Street

Ref	Objective
PPT 03	Highway Routine and reactive maintenance















Milestone	Progress Q4	Supporting Commentary
Continue to maintain the Highway Authorities statutory duties in accordance with Section 41 and 58 of the Highways Act.		Winter Service training completed in the period.

Appendix 3: Major Planning Applications Determined







Appendix 2: Progress Against Performance Indicators

Ref	Description	Actual 2021 / 22	Target 2022 / 23	Quarter 4 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	Not available	N/A	N/A	Not available
PPT LI 02	Net additional homes provided	152	350	N/A	N/A	N/A	Indicator monitored annually as at 1 st April. Target is 350 p.a. (2014~37) following adoption of Delivery & Allocations Local Plan.
PPT LI 03	Number of affordable homes delivered (gross)	22	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Indicator monitored annually as at 1 st 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, 'Major applications'	100%	100%	70.5%			<p>The statistics shown on the left are for the full year 22/23 For the quarter 1/1/23 to 31/3/23 the outcomes are: Major 100% Minor 79% Other 72.5%</p> <p>As can be seen the final quarter shows a significant improvement driven by the acquisition of new staff. Whilst targets for the year 22/23 have been missed we are confident that the coming quarters and years will see targets consistently achieved</p>
	'Major applications'	100%	96%	61.7%			
	'Major applications'	100%	98%	64%			

Appendix 3: Major Planning Applications Determined

Ref	Description	Actual 2021 / 22	Target 2022 / 23	Quarter 4 Position	Current Progress	Direction of Travel	Supporting Commentary
PPT LI 05	No. of people killed or seriously injured (KSI) in road traffic collisions. (5 Year Av.)	28.8	N/A	25.4			Slight reduction in KSIs following recent upturn
PPT LI 06	No. of children (<16) killed or seriously injured (KSI) in road traffic collisions. (5 year Av.)	4.2	N/A	2.8			Child KSIs have fallen to a record low. The last recorded child KSI was in July 2022.
PPT LI 07	No. of people slightly injured in road traffic collisions. (5 Year Av.)	219	N/A	171			5 year average for slightly injured road casualties continues its decline.
PPT LI 08	No. of people slightly injured in road traffic collisions.	157	N/A	152			Numbers slightly injured for the previous 12 months has fallen slightly.
PPT LI 09	% of network where structural maintenance should be considered:						<p>For PPT LI09 Percentage of highway network where structural maintenance should be considered a 9% figure is reported for unclassified roads (now only just meeting target, where's previously at 3%). This is based on Gaist video survey rather than previous type of CVI survey for which there have been survey quality issues nationally. Decline in the reported condition is likely due to a number of factors including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey type change (different categorisation of conditions) • Poor (wet) winters resulting in some actual decline in condition • Surveys only completed on unclassified roads every 3 years <p>Principal roads have shown some improvement in this year's survey and no change to non-principal roads</p>
	a) Principal Roads	1.9	2.00%	1			
	b) Non-Principal Roads	2	4.00%	2			
	c) Unclassified Roads	3	9.00%	9%			

Appendix 3: Major Planning Applications Determined


Ref	Description	Actual 2021 / 22	Target 2022 / 23	Quarter 4 Position	Current Progress	Direction of Travel	Supporting Commentary
PPT LI 10	Bus service punctuality, Part 1: The proportion of non-frequent scheduled services on time (%):						<p>a) Indicator is slightly down on Q3. Operators have indicated that delays due to roadworks have been the main cause for the performance of the indicator</p> <p>b) Although the target has not been met there has been an improvement on Q3 performance.</p> <p>Operators continually monitor and make the required adjustments to schedules.</p>
	a) Percentage of buses starting route on time	Data unavailable	99%	94.2			
	b) Percentage of buses on time at intermediate timing points	Data unavailable	95%	78.46			
PPT LI 11	% of footpaths and Public Rights of Way (PROW) which are easy to use.	Data unavailable	Data unavailable	Data unavailable	N/A	N/A	Data unavailable
PPT LI 12	% of bus stops with Quality Corridor accessibility features. (No. of stops – 583)	78% 455	80%	84.36			Indicator performing above expectations with further funding secured for the new financial year to carry out further improvements.

Appendix 3: Major Planning Applications Determined


Waste and Environmental Improvement

Key Objectives / milestones

Ref	Objective
CE 03	Manage and Maintain the Borough's green space areas so that they continue to function to their intended purpose.





Milestone	Progress Q4	Supporting Commentary
Manage greenspace areas as per the agreed specification - March 2023 .		Despite on-going challenges the Open Space T was able to deliver all works within the Council's agreed specification for green space management.

Ref	Objective
CE 04	Implementation of actions to ensure that the Council achieves its waste related targets and objectives.

Milestone	Progress Q3	Supporting Commentary
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 - March 2023 .		Activities to meet this objective remained on-going throughout the year. As per the Key Developments section of the report, a number of waste and environmental related activities took place in this last quarter which involved community

Appendix 3: Major Planning Applications Determined

Appendix 2: Progress Against Performance Indicators

Ref	Description	Actual 2021/22	Target 2022/23	Quarter 4	Current Progress	Direction of Travel	Supporting Commentary
CE LI 05	Residual household waste per household.	625kg	625kg	609kg			This is an estimated figure but it does show that household waste levels are lower than the previous year and the annual target will be met.
CE LI 06	Household waste recycled and composted.	40%	40%	359%			This is an estimated figure but it does show that recycling levels are lower than in the previous year and the annual target will be met.

Appendix 3: Major Planning Applications Determined

7.0 Financial Statements

ECONOMY ENTERPRISE & PROPERTY DEPARTMENT

Revenue Operational Budget as at 31 March 2023

	Annual Budget	Actual	Variance (Overspend)
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Expenditure			
Employee Related Expenditure	5,605	5,460	145
Repairs & Maintenance	2,211	2,285	(74)
Premises	92	102	(10)
Energy & Water Costs	1,059	1,059	0
NNDR	549	664	(115)
Rents	192	161	31
Economic Regeneration Activities	17	0	17
Security	486	548	(62)
Supplies & Services	822	621	201
Supplies & Services - Grant	740	740	0
Grants to Voluntary Organisations	162	162	0
Capital Finance	30	30	0
Transfer to Reserves	1,007	1,007	0
Total Expenditure	12,972	12,839	133
Income			
Fees & Charges Income	-906	-913	7
Rent - Commercial Properties	-801	-785	(16)
Rent - Investment Properties	-44	-44	0
Rent - Markets	-793	-766	(27)
Government Grant	-1,042	-1,042	0
Reimbursements & Other Grant Income	-1,612	-1,615	3
Schools SLA Income	-384	-362	(22)
Recharges to Capital	-153	-149	(4)
Transfer from Reserves	-2,248	-2,248	0
Total Income	-7,983	-7,924	(59)
Net Operational Expenditure	4,989	4,915	74
Recharges			
Premises Support	1,474	1,474	0
Transport Support	27	28	0
Central Support	2,082	2,082	0
Asset Rental Support	1,399	1,399	0
Recharge Income	-6,258	-6,258	0
Net Total Recharges	-1,276	-1,275	0
Net Departmental Expenditure	3,713	3,640	74

Appendix 3: Major Planning Applications Determined

Comments on the above figures

As at 31 March 2023 net expenditure for the department was £0.074m below the approved budget for the year. An improvement on the forecast overspend position of £0.164m estimated at the end of December 2022.

The Department recognises the significant financial challenges they face and will continue to face into the near future, particularly given the elevated levels of inflation for commodities including fuel, energy, materials, and increased wage demands.

Financial Management continue to work closely with the Department and remain focused on achieving a balanced budget at year end. By carefully monitoring the accounts, the department has utilised grant, external funding and capital funding where possible to try and relieve the pressure on the core budget.

Across the Investment & Development Division several posts remained vacant in year due to a restructure that has taken place. Temporary measures have been taken where it has been possible to find the appropriate skill set required. The delay in recruitment of staff has improved the Employee budget position this quarter. The 2022/23 pay award was agreed in October and budgets updated accordingly.

The impact of increased energy and fuel costs continued to be monitored during the year. £0.156m was required from Council Reserves to fund the additional costs above budget. Latest forecasts show a further increase of 75% in gas costs and 52% electricity costs for 23/24 which have been allowed for in the approved budget.

Challenging income targets are particularly damaging to the Department, as unlike some other sectors the Council do not have the ability to passport additional costs pressure onto tenants as contracts are in place for a number of years and rent reviews can only take place when a review is due.

The Asset Management Service has incurred one off expenses this year, due to the vacant unit at The Hive that was previously occupied by Frankie & Benny's. Costs relating to NNDR, repairs and maintenance and service charges have had to be paid by HBC until the unit is leased. Negotiations are currently taking place with a new tenant.

Adult Learning Division has contributed £0.131m as match funding towards the Ways to Work Programme this financial year creating an employment programme to date of £6m.

Due to adverse trading conditions in the retail sector which have been worsened by inflation and increased utilities costs, the department under achieved on market rental income targets this budget year. During the last few months, the occupancy rate has dropped to 88%. This may be linked to the introduction of customers having to pay for parking outside the market.

The School Cleaning Service Level Agreement (SLA) did not cover its costs this budget year due to the need to employ agency staff to cover sickness and leave and the pay award. A review of SLA charges has been undertaken ahead of the next budget year.

The savings put forward to provide additional office space for external agencies at Rutland House was not achieved this budget year. This budget pressure will continue into financial year 2023/24. It is important that any future savings put forward can be delivered and will not create an added budget pressure.

Appendix 3: Major Planning Applications Determined

ECONOMY ENTERPRISE & PROPERTY DEPARTMENT

Capital Projects as of 31 March 2023

Project Title	2022/23 Capital Allocation £'000	Actual £'000	Total Allocation Remaining £'000
3MG	164	25	139
Murdishaw	31	1	30
Equality Act Improvement Works	200	247	(47)
Widnes Market Refurbishment	6	6	0
Broseley House	21	12	9
Solar Farm Extension	11	3	8
Foundry Lane Residential Area	2,117	3,569	(1,452)
Kingsway Learning Centre Improved Facilities	36	0	36
Halton Lea TCF	388	353	35
Property Improvements	213	189	24
Astmoor Regeneration	14	14	0
Woodend Unit 10 Catalyst Industrial Estate	500	518	(18)
Runcorn Station Building Development	110	60	50
St Paul Mews	500	515	(15)
Waterloo Building	0	7	(7)
UK Shared Prosperity Fund	45	28	17
Runcorn Town Centre Redevelopment	3,239	1,451	1,788
Totals	7,595	6,998	597

3MG – 3MG produced one major capital receipt in the form of the disposal of Linner Cottage in 2022 / 2023 however the anticipated disposal of HBC Field was delayed into 2023 / 2024 due to a boundary change with the land being disposed of. This means there will be a reduction in the size of plot disposed of, but the capital receipt will remain the same. The sale will complete in the first quarter of 2023 / 2024.

HBC was in negotiations to dispose of a plot of land in the north of the site but that petered out due to Central

Government funding requirements and there are a small number of remaining plots that will form a portfolio of sites to be disposed of in 2023 / 2024.

Murdishaw – The Council have worked in partnership with Onward Homes to develop a community scheme which includes the establishment of a new CIC who will run a new venture from the former boxing club. A scheme of environmental improvements has been initiated across the estate with some signage improvements completed. Key priorities for the scheme include improvements to the external space at Murdishaw Community Centre and improvements to the Gorsewood area and external area adjacent to the former boxing club.

Appendix 3: Major Planning Applications Determined

Equality Act - There are a number of access type schemes using the equality act budget this year. At quarter 3 it was anticipated that the budget would underspend and £0.100m was moved forward to 23/24.

Widnes Market Refurbishment – All Capital works are now complete, and all retentions paid.

Broseley House - All works are complete on site and invoices fully paid.

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

Foundry Lane – Project progressing on schedule with all ground remediation works now complete. Due to pre grant expenditure and additional costs for the land swap with Beesley & Fildes, it was agreed by Executive Board that the programme will be increased by £1.7m. This increase was placed in the Capital Programme for 23/24 and will need to be brought forward to 22/23.

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

Halton TCF – This LCR funded programme is now complete.

Property Improvements- There are a number of projects against this scheme including re-roofing the Fitness Suite at the Stadium, lift replacement at Kingsway Learning Centre, and re-roofing 73 High Street.

Astmoor Regeneration – Project is now complete. Woodend Unit 10 Catalyst Trade Park - Works nearing completion, anticipated completion by end of May, following which tenants can commence their fit-out.

St Paul Mews - Awaiting final tenant to be re-located, following which demolition of buildings will take place following a tender exercise.

Waterloo Building - Awaiting decision from Planning in respect of demolition, subject to approval being granted demolition will follow after a tender exercise.

Shared Prosperity Fund – Halton submitted an Investment Plan to the CA for three strands of its UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) programme – Town Centres; Local Culture, Arts and Heritage; Green, Resilient, Safe Communities. This amounts to £0.608m up to March 2025 and is a mix of capital and revenue.

Runcorn Town Centre Redevelopment – The Town Deal programme covers a number of projects to strengthen the town centre economy, including Brindley Theatre Enhancement, Creative and Digital Skills Centre, Health and Education Hub, High Street Connectivity, Town Centre New Homes, Station Enterprise Facility, and Unlock Runcorn. Business cases for all projects have been submitted and approved. Work will continue on site for the next 3 years.

Appendix 3: Major Planning Applications Determined

PLANNING, PROVISION & TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

Revenue Operational Budget as at 31 March 23

	Annual Budget	Actual	Variance (Overspend)
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Expenditure			
Employees	4,834	4,823	11
Efficiency Savings	-100	-100	0
Premises	187	139	48
Hired & Contracted Services	333	506	(173)
Supplies & Services	217	419	(202)
Other Expenditure	0	2	(2)
Street Lighting	1,713	1,414	299
Highways Maintenance - Routine & Reactive	1,130	1,478	(348)
Highways Maintenance - Programmed Works	1,512	1,304	208
Fleet Transport	1,392	1,526	(134)
Bus Support - Halton Hopper Tickets	50	15	35
Bus Support	498	486	12
Capital Financing	0	0	0
Grants to Voluntary Organisations	31	31	0
NRA Levy	69	69	0
LCR Levy	882	882	0
Contribution to Reserves	984	984	0
Total Expenditure	13,732	13,978	(246)
Income			
Sales & Rents Income	-93	-123	30
Planning Fees	-563	-917	354
Building Control Fees	-224	-235	11
Other Fees & Charges	-936	-1,047	111
Grants & Reimbursements	-343	-343	0
Government Grant Income	-175	-175	0
Halton Hopper Income	-50	-13	(37)
School SLA's	-46	-43	(3)
Recharge to Capital	-317	-155	(162)
LCR Levy Reimbursement	-882	-882	0
Contribution from Reserves	-755	-755	0
Total Income	-4,384	-4,688	304
Net Operational Expenditure	9,348	9,290	58
Recharges			
Premises Recharges	534	534	0
Transport Recharges	662	746	(84)
Asset Charges	9,839	9,839	0
Central Recharges	1,581	1,583	(2)
Transport Recharge Income	-4,240	-4,746	506
Central Recharge Income	-871	-871	0
Net Total Recharges	7,505	7,085	420
Net Departmental Expenditure	16,853	16,375	478

Appendix 3: Major Planning Applications Determined

Comments on the above figures

Department net spend came in at £0.478m under the approved budget at the end of the 2022/23 financial year. Budget holders have worked closely with the Finance Officer 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 was under budget at year end however there has been an increase in agency staff due to the number of vacancies within the area. The 2022/23 pay award has now been agreed and cost an additional £0.131m within the PPT department, this has been included in the above employee expenditure.

Supplies and services and contracted services are over budget as in previous years 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 over budget due to external legal advice needing to be procured in relation to judicial reviews where decisions have been challenged.

The street lighting contract has seen an increase of 103% for a two year fixed term ending March 2024. In order to help reduce running costs, lights are being turned off 12am – 6am on some routes and over 80% of HBC owned street lighting stock of around 20,500 columns have been upgraded to LED. There remains a capital street lighting upgrade programme in place and the remaining upgrades will be taking place over the next year. Due to these efficiencies expenditure has managed to come in within budget and will be closely monitored going forwards into the new financial year.

Highways maintenance budgets came in over budget. Capital has been utilised where appropriate. The report is broken down into routine and reactive schemes and also programmed works so the various areas can be looked at in more detail. Routine and reactive works came in over budget whereas the programmed works schemes came in under.

Fleet transport has overspent which in turn an impact on the costs has recharged out to other Council departments. It is worth noting that the Council has seen a large increase in costs for fuel and parts, also the time it takes from placing an order and receiving the goods has grown.

Bus support costs came in under budget at the end of the financial year. This is being monitored closely and contracts that were previously held by Halton Transport and were put in place urgently, are due to be reviewed. Mersey Gateway has also provided funding for some routes to take the pressure off the budget.

Sales income came in over budget target due to income generated from the auctioning of retired fleet vehicles. This is not income that can be predicted as the team are trying to run fleet on as long as possible in order to reduce costs.

Planning income was higher than anticipated. This is mainly due to a number of high-income one-off planning schemes; the level of income is not expected to be repeated in future years as it has been offset with higher staffing costs in the 2023/24 budget.

The recharge of salaries to capital schemes again did not achieve its income target this financial year due to a lack of traditional capital projects, and therefore there is less opportunity to capitalise. There is a relationship between the under achievement of income and the lack of staff within the Highways division which means staff are not available to carry out works on capital schemes.

Appendix 3: Major Planning Applications Determined

Capital Projects as at 31 March 2023

Project Title	2022/23 Capital Allocation £'000	Actual £'000	Total Allocation Remaining £'000
Local Transport Plan			
Total Bridge & Highway Maintenance	2,448	1,182	1,266
SJB Major Maintenance	320	0	320
Integrated Transport	1,553	689	864
CRSTS (City Region Sustainable Travel Settlement)	3,306	2,680	626
SJB - Decoupling	275	275	0
Runcorn Busway	1,546	1,628	(82)
East Runcorn Connectivity (ERC)	1,500	1,290	210
A56 Reconstruction (Delph Lane)	950	3	947
Dukesfield ATL (Waterloo Bridge)	1,800	3,054	(1,254)
LCWIP Phase 2 Daresbury	0	115	(115)
Total Local Transport Plan	13,698	10,916	2,782
Halton Borough Council Schemes			
Street Lighting	853	178	675
Lighting Upgrades	530	261	269
Silver Jubilee Bridge - Lighting	0	10	(10)
Risk Management	495	38	457
Fleet Vehicles	2,500	686	1,814
SUD Green Cycle	517	534	(17)
Widnes Loops	17	18	(1)
Total Halton Borough Council Schemes	4,912	1,725	3,187
Totals	18,610	12,641	5,969

Comments on the above figures.

Dukesfield ATL (Waterloo Bridge) came in over budget however it was agreed with Liverpool City Region (LCR) that the CRSTS under spend of £0.626m could be used to offset some of the variance as both pots of money came from the same overall grant. The remainder came from Highways reserves.

A late agreement was received for a new scheme LCWIP Phase 2 Daresbury therefore this is the first time the allocation has been shown on these reports. Due to the delay there has been little expenditure in 2022/23 with most of the works expected 2023/24 onwards.

Works on the A56 Delph Lane have not commenced properly as there have been problems with Redrow who were leading on this piece of work and they have now entered an agreement with HBC for the Council to deliver the works in 2023/24.

East Runcorn Connectivity is progressing and the under spend has been carried forward into 2023/24 as the scheme will be ongoing for a number of financial years.

Runcorn Busway is expected to complete in the next couple of months. This will be the end of Phase 1 and further allocations / works is expected in the future.

Appendix 3: Major Planning Applications Determined

COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT

Revenue Budget as at 31 March 2023

	Annual Budget	Actual	Variance (Overspend)
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Expenditure			
Employees	15,756	14,936	820
Premises	2,544	2,841	(297)
Supplies & Services	1,488	1,655	(167)
Hired & Contracted Services	453	475	(22)
Book Fund	147	142	5
Food Provisions	354	371	(17)
School Meals Food	1,872	2,069	(197)
Miscellaneous Transport Costs	115	133	(18)
Other Agency Costs	209	204	5
Other Expenditure	0	15	(15)
Waste Disposal Contracts	6,538	6,438	100
Grants to Voluntary Organisations	57	16	41
Grant to Norton Priory	172	173	(1)
Rolling Projects	0	20	(20)
Capital Financing	1,077	1,094	(17)
Total Expenditure	30,782	30,582	200
Income			
Sales Income	-1,196	-1,199	3
School Meals Sales	-2,730	-2,739	9
Fees & Charges Income	-5,351	-5,299	(52)
Rental Income	-209	-171	(38)
Government Grant Income	-359	-363	4
Reimbursements & Other Grant Income	-792	-818	26
SLA Income	-2,227	-1,785	(442)
Catering Fees	-88	-108	20
Internal Fees Income	-227	-289	62
Capital Salaries	-106	-75	(31)
Transfers From Reserves	-1,221	-1,314	93
Total Income	-14,506	-14,160	(346)
Net Operational Expenditure	16,276	16,422	(146)
Recharges			
Premises Support	1,496	1,496	0
Transport Support	2,325	2,433	(108)
Central Support	4,449	4,449	0
Asset Rental Support	3,519	3,519	0
Support Costs Income	-511	-511	0
Net Total Recharges	11,278	11,386	(108)
Net Departmental Expenditure	27,554	27,808	(254)

Appendix 3: Major Planning Applications Determined

Comments on the above figures

The net department spend is £0.254m over the approved budget for the year.

This differs greatly from the forecast underspend position of £0.346m estimated at the end of Q3. The difference is predominantly to do with income estimates and further information is provided within the report.

Employee spend is £0.820m below the budget due to the number of vacancies within the department resulting from delays and difficulty in recruitment. This reflects vacancies within School Meals, Leisure and Stadium Services.

Premises costs are £0.297m over budget at the end of the year. Costs for utilities across all sites but in particular for Leisure services and Crematorium are overspent due to the increased cost of electricity and gas.

Spend on Supplies and Services is £0.167m over budget. This includes Crematorium spend for the decommissioning of the temporary cremator plus equipment costs.

Food Provisions, especially School Meals food is overspent by £0.197m due to the increasing inflationary food costs from suppliers.

Invoices relating to 2021/22 waste disposal contracts were received in Q3 2022/23 and were much lower than had been forecast in finalising the 2021/22 accounts. Charges for 2022/23 waste disposal contracts are calculated based on the average cost per tonne in the previous year. Therefore, the total outturn is £0.1m below the approved budget.

School Meals SLA income has underachieved by £0.442m, although mitigated by vacancies against budget for the service.

Transport recharges outturn overspend for 2022/23 is £0.108m due to fuel and other cost increases.

Appendix 3: Major Planning Applications Determined

Capital Projects as at 31 March 2023

Project Title	2022/23 Capital Allocation £'000	Actual £'000	Total Allocation Remaining £'000
Stadium Minor Works	37	16	21
Stadium decarbonisation scheme	0	145	(145)
Brookvale Pitch Refurbishment	70	42	28
Halton Leisure Centre	3,296	3,239	57
Children's Playground Equipment	80	40	40
Landfill Tax Credit Schemes	340	0	340
Upton Improvements	13	0	13
Crow Wood Park Play Area	39	27	12
Crow Wood Park Pavillion	0	1	(1)
Open Spaces Schemes	450	170	280
Runcorn Town Park	256	282	(26)
Widnes Crem, Replacement Cremator	200	242	(42)
Spike Island / Wigg Island	60	1	59
Litter Bins	20	20	0
TOTAL	4,861	4,225	636

Comments on the above figures

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 was completed in March 2022 with retentions paid in April 2023 over and above the approved budget.

Brookvale Pitch Refurbishment

The scheme is now complete but awaiting retentions invoice of approx £0.032m for the practical completion. There is a slight overspend due to additional fence panel/gate request works.

Halton (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. The Leisure Centre contract start date was 09/01/23 for a 108 week build. Spend to date includes all works associated with the PCSDA and CPO etc.

Children's Playground Equipment

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

Landfill Tax Credits Schemes

Currently used to support improvements for a rolling programme of existing playgrounds and Open Space Schemes across the Borough. There were no projects identified in 2022/23.

Upton Improvements

Open space improvement works undertaken. Work has been delayed due to contractor workload and difficulty obtaining materials. No revised date set yet for when this may be spent.

Appendix 3: Major Planning Applications Determined

Crow Wood Park & Pavillion

The main contract for the new park building has ended. A small amount of work to the building is required plus additional landscape contract to complete the paths - this is ongoing with some work from Property Services and Open Spaces team to complete.

Open Spaces

This covers spending on a variety of externally funded projects, including Arley Drive/Halton Housing Trust and Fairfield History projects. Schemes on this code are progressing, although slightly behind the expenditure profile due to resource issues.

Runcorn Town Park

Project to renew park infrastructure. Project is ongoing with the next phase carried over to financial year 23/24. Some carry forward will be needed to complete work in season and for contingency payments plus some small sums for retention payments from previous phases. Anticipated further successful bids to the INEOS EfW fund for future phases.

Widnes Crematorium replacement Cremator

Contract works on the new cremator are complete. The over spend is as a result of the original budget of £0.200m being based on the quote from a company that later had to drop out of the process because they failed to meet the financial solvency requirements HBC needed. The company who could meet our financial requirements quote was an additional £0.031m. A further £0.010m overspend is as a result of repairs required to unforeseen damage to the original building slab under the old cremator when it was removed.

Spike Island / Wigg Island Recovery Works




The programme is slightly behind due to staff capacity issues. Waiting for a consultancy agreement to be put in place so the scheme can progress using external help.

Appendix 3: Major Planning Applications Determined




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