

**REPORT:** Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board

**DATE:** 21<sup>st</sup>. January 2009

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director, Environment

**SUBJECT:** Policy & Performance Board Work Programme  
2009/2010

**WARDS:** Boroughwide

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 To consider progress on the 2008/9 Topic Reports and to consider the possible 2009/10 work programme.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDED THAT:**

- (1) Members of the Policy and Performance Board indicate target topic areas for potential scrutiny in 2009 – 2010;**
- (2) details of the topic briefs subsequently be agreed by the Chair and Vice Chair of the PPB in conjunction with the Operational Director for Major Projects.**

## **3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 Each year the PPB identifies a number of areas which it intends to scrutinise in detail as part of its work programme for the year.

3.1.1 At the meeting of the Board on 23<sup>rd</sup>. January 2008 it was agreed that the topics to be considered in 2008/9 would be:

- Implications of the De-linking of the Silver Jubilee Bridge
- Workforce skills for the logistics industry (Jointly with the Employment, Learning and Skills PPB)
- The future of Town Centre Management (from 2007/8)
- review of Supported Housing in Halton (from 2004/5)

3.2 Each of the Topic Groups has met and established their work programme. The De-linking Topic Group will present an interim report to the Policy Board at its meeting on 18<sup>th</sup>. March 2009 and are likely to want to continue their work into 2009/10. Each of the other Groups is targeting a report to that same Policy Board meeting with the exception of the Supported Housing Topic Group which is still awaiting the Government White Paper on the topic.

#### **4. 2009-10 Work Programme**

- 4.1 Members are asked to target attention on a specific number of areas. Good practice based on experience suggests that 2/3 Topics is manageable. The process is that following their adoption by this Board the topics selected are worked up as detailed topic briefs and agreed with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the PPB in conjunction with the lead officer for this Board, the Operational Director, Major Projects Department.
- 4.2 In considering which are good topics to include in the work programme Members will need to keep in mind the Overview and Scrutiny Guide/Toolkit. Guidance on Topic Selection is attached as an aide-memoire. In particular the Board's attention is drawn to paragraphs 12, 13 and 14 which relate to added value, capacity and resources.
- 4.3 It should be remembered that much of the work of this PPB will be cross-cutting and will impact or be of relevance to other PPBs.
- 4.4 It should also be noted that Performance Monitoring of the Reporting Departments (Economic Regeneration, Major Projects, Planning, Highways and Transportation, Housing) will in any case be received by this PPB.
- 4.5 It has been suggested by the Strategic Director, Environment, that the following might be appropriate issues to review at this time:
- Implications of the De-linking of the Silver Jubilee Bridge, carried over from 2008/9 (Highways and Transportation)
  - A joint group with Employment and Skills on Workforce and Skills for the developments at Daresbury (Economic Regeneration and Planning)
  - The Local Development Framework Working Party (Planning) to which all Members are invited
- 4.6 Members will doubtless be able to think of other suitable areas for scrutiny and the Board is asked to discuss all of these and other suggestions in the context of existing workloads.

#### **5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 None at this stage.

#### **6.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 None at this stage

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

7.1 There are no background papers within the meaning of the Act.

## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

### Topic Selection Checklist

*This checklist leads the user through a reasoning process to identify a) why a topic should be explored and b) whether it makes sense to examine it through the overview and scrutiny process. More “yeses” indicate a stronger case for selecting the Topic.*

#	CRITERION	Yes/No
<b><i>Why? Evidence for why a topic should be explored and included in the work programme</i></b>		
1	Is the Topic <b>directly aligned with and have significant implications for at least 1 of Halton's 5 strategic priorities &amp; related objectives/Pis, and/or a key central government priority?</b>	
2	Does the Topic <b>address an identified need</b> or issue?	
3	Is there a <b>high level of public interest or concern about the Topic</b> e.g. apparent from consultation, complaints or the local press	
4	Has the Topic been <b>identified through performance monitoring</b> e.g. Pis indicating an area of poor performance with scope for improvement?	
5	Has the Topic been <b>raised as an issue requiring further examination through a review, inspection or assessment, or by the auditor?</b>	
6	Is the Topic area likely to have a <b>major impact on resources or be significantly affected by financial or other resource problems</b> e.g. a pattern of major overspending or persisting staffing difficulties that could undermine performance?	
7	Has some <b>recent development or change</b> created a need to look at the Topic e.g. new Government guidance/legislation, or new research findings?	
8	Would there be <b>significant risks</b> to the organisation and the community <b>as a result of <u>not</u> examining this topic?</b>	
<b><i>Whether? Reasons affecting whether it makes sense to examine an identified topic</i></b>		
9	<b>Scope for impact</b> - Is the Topic something the Council can actually influence, directly or via its partners? Can we make a difference?	
10	<b>Outcomes</b> – Are there clear improvement outcomes (not specific answers) in mind from examining the Topic and are they likely to be achievable?	
11	<b>Cost: benefit</b> - are the benefits of working on the Topic likely to outweigh the costs of doing so, making investment of time & effort worthwhile?	
12	<b>Are PPBs the best way to add value</b> in this Topic area? Can they make a distinctive contribution?	
13	Does the organisation have the <b>capacity</b> to progress this Topic? (e.g. is it related to other review or work peaks that would place an unacceptable load on a particular officer or team?)	
14	Can PPBs contribute meaningfully given the <b>time</b> available?	