

REPORT TO: Environment and Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 13th November 2024

REPORTING OFFICER: Executive Director - Environment & Regeneration

PORTFOLIO: Environment and Urban Renewal

SUBJECT: Environmental Fund Update

WARD(S) Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To update the Board on the expenditure of the Environmental Fund.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the Board notes the wide range of projects that have benefited from the fund, as set out in Appendix 1.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 Planning permission for the Runcorn Energy from Waste (EfW) Plant was granted in September 2008. The Plant is subject to a legal agreement entered into under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

3.2 The legal agreement contains a provision that the owner of the Plant agrees to pay the Council an annual lump sum payment for every tonne of fuel received and processed. The legal agreement states:

“that the lump sum payments shall be used by the Council to fund environmental matters as may be specified from time to time by the Council within the Borough of Halton for the benefit of its residents generally and which may include measures to improve public transport, highway network improvements, travel plan monitoring, waste recycling and wider community improvements such as landscaping and nature conservation measures.”

3.3 The fund has been in operation since 2015, and over that period has generate £6,909,919.76.

3.4 A number of projects have been funded and implemented and these set out in Appendix 1. These provide a number of interventions, for example, improvements to open space, (Town Park in Runcorn and Runcorn Hill). These improvements not only provide visual improvements and open up access, but also can have wider health benefits, encouraging people to use their local spaces more. Other projects have included the

implementation of walking and cycling routes.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The fund seeks to advance the Council's environmental priorities. It adds considerable value by acting as matched financing for external funding bids.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 None identified.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 All bids to the environment fund must support at least one of the following Council's priorities:

- Improving Health, Promoting Wellbeing and Supporting Greater Independence
- Building a Strong, Sustainable Local Economy
- Supporting Children, Young People and Families
- Tackling Inequality and Helping Those Who Are Most In Need
- Working Towards a Greener Future
- Valuing and Appreciating Halton and Our Community

6.2 As shown in Appendix 1, the Fund finances projects that benefit all priorities.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 None identified.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 There are no equality and diversity implications arising from the subject of this report.

9.0 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

9.1 The Fund finances projects that help tackle climate change for example contributions to the solar farm, walking and cycling routes, and tree planting / open space enhancement schemes.

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

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
S106 Legal Agreement	Municipal Building	Andrew Plant