

Stadium & Hospitality

SERVICE PLAN April 2009 to March 2012

Executive Board Draft 2009

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

To meet Halton's most pressing needs, the Borough Council has identified <u>6</u> <u>key priorities</u>, and a number of associated key Areas of Focus, which, as detailed within the Council's Corporate Plan, are: -

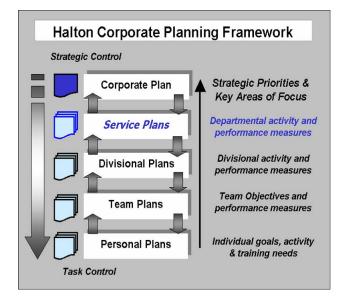
- A Healthy Halton
- Halton's Urban Renewal
- Halton's Children & Young People
- Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton
- A Safer Halton
- Corporate Effectiveness & Business Efficiency

Departmental Service Plans form an integral part of the authority's corporate planning framework, as illustrated below.

This framework ensures that the Council's operational activities are complementary to the delivery of its community aspirations and legal and statutory responsibilities.

Departmental Service Plans are primary documents that communicate:

- The existing and future influences that have informed the shaping of service delivery in the medium term.
- The existing and projected resources that are, or may, be required to deliver services.
- Departmental Service
 Objectives and Key Milestones
 that are to be delivered over the
 next three years.
- Those national and local performance indicators for which the department has a responsibility to report.



Such plans, and the Quarterly Service Plan Monitoring Reports that flow from them, are an essential tool in enabling the public, Elected Members, Senior Management, and staff how well Council departments are performing and what progress is being made in relation to improving the quality of life within the borough and service provision for local people, businesses and service users.

The Strategic Priority and those Areas of Focus that have been most significant in the development of this plan are detailed below: -

Strategic Priority 1:

A Healthy Halton

Area of Focus (1)

Improving the future health prospects of Halton residents, particularly children, through the encouragement of an improved dietary intake and the availability of nutritionally balanced meals within schools and other Council establishments.

Area of Focus (2)

Improving the future health prospects of Halton residents through encouraging and providing the opportunities to access and participate in physically active lifestyles.

Area of Focus (6)

Providing services and facilities to maintain the independence and well-being of vulnerable people within our community.

Area of Focus (7)

Providing services and facilities to maintain existing good health and well-being.

Strategic Priority 6:

Corporate Effectiveness & Efficient Service Delivery

Area of Focus (34)

Attracting and managing financial resources effectively and maintaining transparency, financial probity and prudence and accountability to our stakeholders

2.0 SERVICE PROFILE

2.1 Purpose

The Stadium & Hospitality Division sits within the Environment Directorate and the Head of Service reports directly to the Executive Director for the Environment.

The Stadium & Hospitality Division has responsibility for managing the Halton Stadium and provides the Borough's schools with a flexible value for money service, together with a bespoke Civic Catering Service that is responsive to the needs of the Mayorality.

The Catering Service offers: -

- The provision of a comprehensive catering service to schools that ensure all Central Government guidelines on healthy eating are being adhered to
- A dedicated management support service that is responsive to the requirements of each school/building
- Professional and technical advice on all catering issues, including design and concept issues
- Full catering facilities at two staff restaurants and three coffee shops.
- On-site catering facilities for working lunches, buffets, committee teas etc.

The Halton Stadium

The Halton Stadium is Halton Borough Council's flagship sporting, health and fitness facility. It is a major cultural asset of the Borough, providing a first class venue for multiple sports and leisure provision, it also has successful and well-developed commercial activities and significant community links to various community and sporting groups.

Both service areas, Catering and the Stadium operate to a detailed Business Plan and for the Stadium a comprehensive three-year Marketing and Public Relations plan has also been developed.

2.2 Key Messages

SCHOOL CATERING

 Nutritional Guidelines/Healthier Food for Schools and The School Food Trust – continues to drive provision of food in schools, Although the latest guidelines came in to force in September 2008, Halton has for a number of years adopted similar guidelines and had seen a gradual decline in meal numbers, however, this year has seen a dramatic turnaround in meal uptake. Healthy eating contributes significantly to the being healthy

- national outcome for children and provides the confidence, skills, knowledge and understanding to make healthy food choice.
- More active marketing and promotions to both pupils and parents is also having a positive effect on meal numbers, particularly the termly distribution of daily menus sent home to Parents/Guardians.
- A number of secondary schools have introduced a "split lunch" which has reduced queuing time, increased availability of seating, improved ambience and increased chance of peer group interaction. Three secondary schools now operate this system.
- The recent introduction (Jan 08) of a new system for registering for Free Meals, has increased the number of pupils registered by over 1,800, which has resulted in an additional 500+ meals being served each day. The challenge for the service is to now increase the actual uptake figure still further.
- The service is now operating with core staff only and until/unless a rationalisation of surplus pupil places is undertaken then this service will suffer from operating under capacity.

CIVIC CATERING

- The Civic Catering service is still regarded as the exemplar of good practice with surrounding Authorities and this is supported by a number of letters endorsing the quality of service from visiting Civic Dignitaries.
- Following the return of staff to Runcorn Town Hall, a trolley round has been introduced offering hot and cold food, delivered to the work place. This service has been well received and is a more cost-effective alternative than the previous staff restaurant. Further development of this service is planned following consultation with staff.

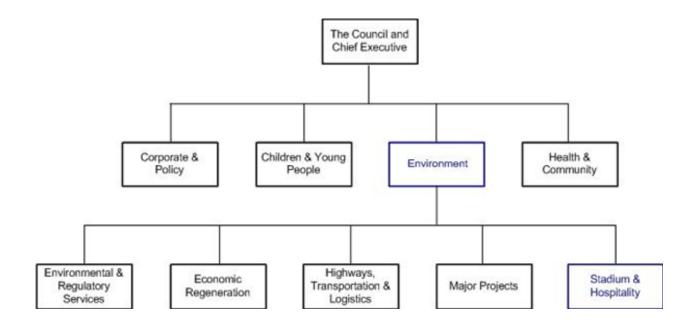
THE STADIUM

- Due to the failure of our main tenant, the Widnes Vikings, to regain Super League status, following the recent licence application, additional pressure continues to be put on the other commercial activities within the Stadium. It is unlikely that the Vikings will be able to gain entry into the top flight until 2012.
- Helping to balance match day revenue is the continued presence of Everton FC Reserves. Everton have exercised their right to extend the existing contract by a further two-years and are keen to start negotiations for a further deal.
- The capital investment in the new internal marquee has been a boost to the commercial activities of the Stadium. The Marquee allows the stadium to offer a room that can accommodate 500+ diners in a formal setting;

this is the largest banqueting facility in Halton, and one of the largest in the Region. Recent events have been very well supported.

- The Stadium played host to a play off match between Wigan and Bradford, this has generated an interest from other Super League Clubs, who plan to develop their grounds in the near future.
- The commissioned energy report from the Carbon Trust has resulted in significant reductions in energy usage at the Stadium and the implemented staff awareness training and general good housekeeping, has now been cascaded to other areas of the Council.

2.3 Organisation Structure



3.0 FACTORS AFFECTING THE SERVICE

3.1 External Factors

Key Developments	Timeframe	Comment(s)
Political		
National healthy eating agenda	Ongoing	A refined school meal service that meets all national requirements. If the present additional external funding for school meals were removed a deficit of over £300,000 would need to be addressed.
Licensing Laws	Unknown at this time	Any revision of drinking promotions (happy hour, etc.) could adversely affect the trading account.
Removal of non-statutory catering provision	Unknown at this time	Civic catering is a non-statutory service; any further rationalisation of some of the services could significantly reduce costs.

Econom	ic			
Super System	League	Franchise	Ongoing	The failure to be included in the first round of franchising will have a negative knock-on effect to related activities within the Stadium.
				By only competing in National League 1 the profile of the Stadium is reduced and therefore consideration for inclusion by the RFL for representative games is weakened.
National Agenda	Healthy	Eating	Ongoing	If the present high profile push on healthy eating escalates the financial impact on the service could be considerable, particularly food cost and labour production costs. All efforts are being made to source external funding

Support.

Social		
Falling pupil numbers/surplus places	Ongoing	Continued falling pupil numbers are placing pressure on the school catering service. This increases the unit cost of meals.

Technological		
Floodlight provision	Sept 2011	If the Vikings are successful in their next Super League Franchise bid then the existing floodlights at the Stadium will need to be upgraded to meet the new LUX requirements for Sky and HD TV.
Smart Card System	Ongoing	The recently introduced smart card system at two secondary schools has resulted in an increase in school meals, if this system where to be introduced in other secondary schools the effect would be significant. An external bid is presently awaiting consideration with the local PCT.

Environmental

Protecting our environment

Awareness of Climate Change is growing and the Council is committed to taking a lead and setting an example in tackling the associated problems. A corporate Climate Change Action Plan is being prepared, but each department can make its own contribution.

Consideration will be given throughout the life of the Service Plan to ways in which support can be given to the action plan and to identify and implement opportunities to reduce any contribution to Climate Change and to promote best practice in the reduction of carbon emissions.

The Council has signed up to the Local Authority Carbon Management Programme in the early part of 2007/08. The programme will guide the Council through a systematic analysis of its carbon footprint, outline opportunities to help manage carbon emissions, develop Action Plans for realising carbon and financial savings; and embed carbon management into the authority's day-to-day business.

As part of the programme the Council has developed a Carbon Management Strategy and Implementation Plan to reduce energy bills and carbon emissions over the next five years. Through the Strategy and Implementation Plan, Council services will need to encourage closer examination of their policies around procurement, transport and the use of renewable energy.

The Councils waste management section is working to appoint volunteer 'Recycling Champions' across all services, to ensure that all employees, members and contractors are encouraged to use recycling facilities that exist within their working environment. The Council will continue to seek, and to take advantage of all opportunities to promote recycling and effective waste management within the community.

3.2 Service Developments

- A recent review has endorsed the Healthy Stadia Award won in 2007. A
 Healthy Stadium is understood to be,
 - "....one which promotes the health of visitors, fans, players, employees and the surrounding community. It is a place where people can go to have a positive, healthy experience playing or watching sport"
- The "Smoke Free Plus" award has also been maintained; this ward is to an organisation for going "above and beyond new legislation".
- The Stadium has also maintained the coveted Food Charter Award in recognition of an excellent healthy service.
- The Stadium, Stadium Coffee Shop, Runcorn Town Hall Civic Kitchen and Municipal Canteen all scored a maximum 3 stars for hygiene following Environmental Health inspections.
- The School Meals Service achieved Hospitality Assured accreditation the benchmark that recognises high standards of customer service in the hospitality industry in November 2007. The recent annual inspection has resulted in a significant increase in the assessment score.
- A number of benchmarking exercises have been conducted concerning the food procurement for school meals and civic catering. This resulted in a full review of the food purchasing arrangements with Cheshire County Council and new arrangements are now in place. A number of new suppliers now service our catering outlets, increasing quality and reliability at the same time as reducing costs.

3.3 Efficiency Improvements

- The closure of the Runcorn Town Hall and Lowerhouse Lane staff canteens has resulted in a reduction in the actual service overspend of around £35K per year. Alternative provision is proving both popular and cost-effective.
- The recent Stadium sponsorship by The Stobart Group will realise the budget provision of £50K per year.
- Halton has previously had a food procurement partnership with Cheshire County Council, new arrangements are now in place with SNUPI, the University Purchasing Consortium, that is more advantageous to HBC.
- The Carbon Trust has conducted a no cost survey of energy usage at the Stadium. The scope covered electricity, gas and water usage and has helped establish base line consumption data. This report made a number of recommendations on how consumption could be reduced. Following a successful "invest to save" bid, a number of the recommendations have

been implemented and the twelve-month effect has seen a reduction of over 16% in energy usage at the Stadium.

3.4 National Regional and Sub-regional Focus

School Catering

With recent published statistics regarding obesity, this service is constantly under the public spotlight. Central Government is taking an active interest in the school meal service and guidelines have been implemented that examine and scrutinise in detail the nutritional content of a school meal. Criteria will be issued early December that will outline the requirements for taking part in a "Free School Meals" pilot scheme, Halton has already registered a serious interest in this pilot

Our school meal service is being used as an example of good practice.

The Halton Stadium

It is vitally important for the Stadium to maintain its profile during whatever period that the Vikings remain in the National League rather than the Super League.

The Stadium has an excellent relationship with both the Rugby League and Football League supported by the decision to hold a number of representative matches here during 2008, the most recent being the selection match for the Under 18's English Football Team, it is hoped this will be the stepping stone to the Stadium hosting a full under 18's match within the next two-years.

3.5 Equality and Diversity

Halton Council is committed to ensuring equality of opportunity within all aspects of its service delivery, policy development and as an employer. This commitment is reflected in a range of policies, strategies and framework documents that underpin the work of the Council in its day-to-day operation and in the services that it delivers.

This commitment is encapsulated in the equal opportunities policy that the Council has adopted. The policy sets out the Council's approach to promoting equal opportunities; valuing diversity and encouraging fairness and justice; and providing equal chances for everyone in Halton to work, learn and live free from discrimination and victimisation. The Council will combat discrimination throughout the organisation and will use its position of influence in the Borough, wherever possible, to help to identify and overcome discriminatory barriers that may exist.

Each year Departments undertake Equality Impact Assessments to examine the equality implications of all of their policies, procedures and practices. As a result an Equality Action Plan is developed to identify those issues that demand attention. This forms a contribution to the overall Corporate Equalities Plan.

As a result of such assessments any high priority actions that have been identified, that fall within the life of this plan, are detailed in section 5.

3.6 Risk Management

Risk Management, which forms a key element of the strategic management and performance management processes of the Council, is a business discipline that is used to effectively manage potential opportunities and threats to the organisation in achieving its objectives.

Risk assessments are the process by which departments identify those issues that are, or may be, likely to impede the delivery of service objectives. Such risks are categorised and rated in terms of both their probability, i.e. the extent to which they are likely to happen, and their severity i.e. the potential extent of their impact should they occur.

Against each key objective the overall initial and residual risk assessment (before and after the risk control measures have been identified) is shown. The risk mapping exercise scores the potential impact on the key objective (severity) and the likelihood (probability) of the risks happening to arrive at a number. Such numbers are then translated into a Low, Medium or High category.

Risk Score	Overall Level of Risk
1 – 4	LOW
5 – 10	MEDIUM
11 – 16	HIGH

Following such assessments a series of risk treatment measures are identified that will mitigate against such risks having an adverse impact upon the delivery of the departmental objectives.

Mitigation measures for those risks that were initially assessed as high have been included within this plan. As such their implementation will be monitored through the Quarterly Departmental Service Plan Monitoring Report process.

3.7 Unforeseen Developments

Whilst every effort has been made to identify those significant developments that may influence or impact upon the service during the life of this plan the possibility exists that unforeseen developments may occur that need to be considered as and when they arise. Such developments will be detailed and commented upon as appropriate in the sections dealing with key developments or emerging issues within the relevant Service Plan Quarterly Monitoring Reports.

In addition to the normal reporting cycle the service may also report 'by exception' to the appropriate Policy and Performance Board when unforeseen

developments occur. Where a more immediate decision is required due to the pressing nature of any unforeseen development, this will be referred to Management Team and the Executive Board for attention. The respective Policy and Performance Boards will be kept informed of any developments of this nature.

All reports to the Policy and Performance Boards, with the exception of Part II items, are publicly available documents and can be accessed through the Council's website at http://www2.halton.gov.uk/

4.0 RESOURCES

4.1 Budget Summary and Service Costs

To be inserted

4.2 Human Resource Requirements

No changes envisaged.

4.3 ICT Requirements

Smart cards have proved to be a benefit to increasing school meals. To introduce this system in to secondary schools, there will be a shared cost in the region of £35K per school. A bid is awaiting consideration with the local PCT.

4.4 Accommodation and Property Requirements

No changes envisaged.

5.0 SERVICE PERFORMANCE

As detailed in the introduction to this plan, the primary purpose of the Service Plan is to provide a clear statement on what individual services are planning to achieve and to show how this contributes towards achieving the corporate priorities of the Council and / or it's statutory responsibilities. The service utilises a variety of measures and targets to enable performance against the service plan to be tracked, monitored, and reported. Details of these measures and targets are given below.

- Objectives and Key Milestones. These show the major events in the work of the Department that are planned to take place during 2008–11, such as the launch of new initiatives progress on major projects or the delivery of business critical activity. Objectives and Milestones are clearly linked to the appropriate Key Areas of Focus in the Corporate Plan 2006-11.
- National Performance Indicators. This is a national set of 198 indicators that have been prescribed by Central Government that are intended to measure the extent to which authorities are operating effectively and efficiently and are delivering upon both national and local priorities.
- Local Performance Indicators. These are indicators that have been developed by the Council and any relevant non-statutory indicators that have been adopted from national or other sources.
- Local Area Agreement. The Local Area Agreement (LAA) is a three-year agreement based on Halton's Community Strategy. The second round LAA commenced on 1st April 2008, and included within it are improvement targets for the Borough of Halton to which both the Council, and its partners will contribute.

The LAA contains 86 key targets addressing all of the priority issues identified in both the Community Strategy, and the Council's Corporate Plan. Of the 86 key targets, 34 are mandatory and also included are the 12 LPSA targets to which the Council signed up.

Many of the objectives contained within the current service plans are designed to support the achievement of LAA targets. A full version of Halton's LAA can be viewed on the Halton Strategic Partnership Website at http://www.haltonpartnership.net/site/images/stories//laa final (march 2007).pdf

Progress against the achievement of LAA targets is reported to all stakeholders at regular intervals. Following the establishment of the LAA, plans are being formulated to ensure that in future years the LAA and the Council's service plans are completely aligned.

5.1 Service Objectives

(NB Other than by exception those service objectives and/or Key Milestones shown in *italics* will only be reported at Quarter 2 (half-year) and Quarter 4 (year-end.)

Corporate Priority:	A Healthy Halton
Key Area (s) Of Focus:	AOF 2 Improving the future health prospects of Halton residents through encouraging and providing the opportunities to access and participate in physically active lifestyles. AOF 6 Providing services and facilities to maintain the independence and well-being of vulnerable people within our community. AOF 7 Providing services and facilities to maintain existing good health and well-being.

Service	SH 1 - Increase the community usage of the stadium and to maintain and improve the health of Halton
Objective:	residents.

	Key Milestones	Responsible Officer
2009 - 10	 Identify areas for improvement in line with the Business Plan and Marketing Plan.(this will drive the development of milestones for 2009/10). Oct 2009. (AOF2) 	HOS – Stadium & Hospitality
	 Visit Riverside College Halton and local Sixth Forms to advise and promote to students the leisure facilities available at The Stadium. Sep 2009. (AOF2) 	HOS – Stadium & Hospitality
	 Measure customer satisfaction with Stadium Community Services. January 2010 AOF2) 	HOS - Stadium & Hospitality Services
	 Promote off peak opportunities at the start of each quarter to charitable and community organisations to utilise Stadium facilities at a reduced price. Quarterly. (AOF6 & 7) 	HOS - Stadium & Hospitality Services
	 Formulate proposals for event(s) linked to the London Olympics 2012. Sep 2009. (AOF2 & 7) 	HOS - Stadium & Hospitality Services
2010 - 11	 Identify areas for improvement in line with the Business Plan and Marketing Plan (this will drive the development of milestones for 2010/11). Oct 2010. (AOF2) 	HOS – Stadium & Hospitality
2011 -12	 Identify areas for improvement in line with the Business Plan and Marketing Plan.(this will drive the development of milestones for 2011/12). Oct 2011. (AOF2) 	HOS Stadium & Hospitality Services

Risk Assessment	Initial	Low	Linked	SH 1 110 8 11
	Residual	Low	Indicators	SH LI10 & 11

Corporate Priority:	Corporate Effectiveness & Efficient Service Delivery
Key Area (s) Of	AOF 34 Attracting and managing financial resources effectively and maintaining transparency, financial
Focus:	probity and prudence and accountability to our stakeholders

Service	SH 2 - Increase the Stadium turnover and improve efficiency to reduce the level of Council
Objective:	contribution.

		Key Milestones			Responsible Officer		
	 Review and identify areas for improvement in line with the Business Plan and Marketing Plan. October 2009. (AOF34) 						
	Host a pitch base	ed "Pop Concert" Sep 2	2009. (AOF34)		HOS – Stadium & Hospitality		
	Host a wedding fayre in July 200	ayre in February 2009 9. (AOF34)	and October 200	9 and a business	HOS – Stadium & Hospitality		
	 Continue to develop promotional strategy to attract a minimum of 4 large corporate events annually to the Stadium (new Marquee Suite). (AOF34) 						
		I consumption on to the (it is not permitted for fo			HOS – Stadium & Hospitality		
	Extend concours09 (AOF34)	e bar opening hours (o	on match days) by 3	30 minutes. April	HOS – Stadium & Hospitality		
2010 - 11	• Review and identify areas for improvement in line with the Business Plan and Marketing Plan. October 2009. (AOF34)						
2011 - 12	• Review and identify areas for improvement in line with the Business Plan and Head of Star Marketing Plan. October 2011. (AOF34) Hospitality S						
Risk Assessment	Initial Residual	Medium Medium	Linked Indicators	SH LI10, 15 16 & 2	1		

Corporate Priority:	A Healthy Halton
Key Area (s) Of Focus:	AOF 1 Improving the future health prospects of Halton residents, particularly children, through the encouragement of an improved dietary intake and the availability of nutritionally balanced meals within schools and other Council establishments.

Service Objective: SH 3 - Increase the number of Pupils having a school lunch, to raise awareness, and increase levels, of healthy eating

		Key Milestones			Responsible Officer	
	 Deliver an early a 2009. (AOF1) 	HOS – Stadium & Hospitality				
	 Extend the cashle reduces queing ti consumption Sep 	nal schools which Il spend and food	HOS – Stadium & Hospitality			
2009 - 10	To conduct a ben performance. good and producing ind schools. Dec 200	HOS – Stadium & Hospitality				
	 Conduct a question learn of perceived Dec 2009. (AOF1 	HOS – Stadium & Hospitality				
	 Deliver an early a 2010. (AOF1) 	HOS – Stadium & Hospitality				
2010 - 11	 Extend the cashle reduces queuing consumption Sep 	HOS – Stadium & Hospitality				
	 Deliver an early a 2011. (AOF1) 	HOS – Stadium & Hospitality				
2011 -12	Extend the cashle reduces queuing consumption Sep	HOS – Stadium & Hospitality				
Risk Assessment	Sessment Initial Medium Linked SH LI1, 3, 8a & b, 18, NI 52 Indicators					

5.2 Performance Indicators and Targets (Statutory & Local Indicators):

Ref ¹	Description	Corp. Plan	2007/8		6/07 Quar All Englan		Halton Halton 2008/9 2008/9		Halton Targets		
IXGI	Description	Priority		Тор	Middle	Bottom	Target	Actual	09/10	10/11	11/12
Corpora	Corporate Health										
There ar	There are presently no indicators of this type identified for the service										
	Efficiency										
SH LI5	No. Of meals served versus hourly input of labour	CP6 AOF34	8.52	-	-	-	8	TBC	8.5	9.0	9.5
SH LI16	Increase in the turnover of the Stadium (£m's)	CP6 AOF34	2.221	-	-	-	2.65	TBC	2.70	2.85	3.25
<u>SH</u> Ll21	Council contribution to Stadium operating costs (£100K's)	CP6 AOF34	7.27	-	-	-	9.15	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC
F	air Access										
There ar	e presently no indicators of this type	identified f	or the servi	ice							
Quality											
SH LI3	Number of catering staff achieving a formal qualification	CP1 AOF1	9	-	-	-	50	TBC	50	50	50
SH Ll22a	Food cost per primary school meal (pence)	CP1 AOF1	62.4	-	-	-	70.0	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC
SH Ll22b	Food cost per secondary school meal (pence)	CP1 AOF1	88.9	-	-	-	90.0	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC
Service	Delivery			•	•						
SH LI1	% Of schools complying with National Nutritional Guidelines (66 Schools)	CP1 AOF1	100	-	-	-	100	TBC	100	100	100
SH LI8a	% Take up of free school meals to those who are eligible - Primary Schools	CP1 AOF1	86	-	-	-	88	TBC	90	92	94
SH LI8b	% Take up of free school meals to those who are eligible - Secondary Schools	CP1 AOF1	68.8	-	-	-	60	TBC	65	70	75

¹ Key Indicators are identified by an **underlined reference in bold type.**

Ref ¹	Description	Corp. Halton Plan 2007/8		2006/07 Quartiles (All England)			Halton 2008/9	Halton 2008/9	Halton Targets		
IVEI	Description	Priority	Actual	Тор	Middle	Bottom	Target	Actual	09/10	10/11	11/12
<u>SH</u> Ll10	No. of people accessing stadium facilities (1,000's)	CP1 AOF2	568	-	-	-	628	TBC	660	696	770
SH LI11	Uptake of the Halton Leisure card scheme	CP1 AOF2	208	-	-	-	200	TBC	225	250	300
<u>NI 52a</u>	Take up of school lunches (%) – primary schools	CP1 AOF1	46	ı	-	-	50	TBC	55	57.5	60
NI 52b	Take up of school lunches (%) – secondary schools	CP1 AOF1	TBC	-	-	-	48	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC
SH LI18	Average number of healthy food initiatives per school	CP1 AOF1	4	-	_	-	5	TBC	5.5	6.0	6.5

5.3 Data Quality Arrangements

Good quality data provides the foundation for managing and improving services, determining and acting upon shared priorities, and accounting for performance to inspecting bodies and the local community.

In recognising this, the Council has developed a Corporate Data Quality Strategy that will provide a mechanism by which the authority can be assured that the quality of its data remains robust and fit for purpose. This strategy, which will remain subject to periodic review, establishes the key dimensions of good quality data and identifies five Key Corporate Objectives namely:

Objective 1

To provide assurance to all stakeholders that the quality of data used in decision making and in accounting for and reporting the performance of the authority, either directly or through partnership arrangements, is wholly fit for purpose.

Objective 2

That, through a rigorous process of monitoring, review and refinement, the authority's arrangements for securing data quality remain relevant, reliable and robust and that exemplary arrangements for securing data quality are achieved within the medium term

Objective 3

That arrangements for securing data quality are widely shared, communicated and understood by all of those with data quality responsibility and that relevant staff are provided with timely and appropriate guidance and support.

Objective 4

That all departments, partners and agencies that deliver services on behalf of the Council use complete, accurate and verifiable data which is collected and communicated in an effective and timely manner.

Objective 5

That all data used in the calculation of nationally prescribed performance indicators is definition compliant and verifiable and that no such indicators will be amended or qualified as a result of work undertaken by inspecting bodies.

In supporting the delivery of the corporate strategy the department will ensure that appropriate systems and processes are in place to secure the quality of its data and that such systems are subject to periodic and risk based review. In so doing the department will pay particular attention to the six key dimensions of good quality data i.e. that data is

• Accurate For its intended purpose;

Valid
 By being consistently recorded and used in compliance with predetermined definitions and rules;

• **Reliable** By reflecting stable and consistent data collection processes;

• **Timely** By being made available as soon as possible after the activity or event and in line with organisational requirements;

• **Relevant** For the purpose intended;

• **Complete** In that the monitoring of incomplete, missing or invalid data is avoided.

The Directorate has developed a Performance Management and Data Strategy, which is reviewed and updated on an annual basis. It outlines how the robust Performance and Information Technology management framework operates within the Directorate to provide transparent, accurate and timely services and information

The Strategy underpins the Health & Directorate's commitment to managing and providing IT services and performance information and complements and supports the: -

- Directorate Service Plans
- Corporate Quality Assurance Framework

6.0 PERFORMANCE REPORTING

As detailed in the introduction to this plan, the primary purpose of the Service Plan is to provide a clear statement on what individual services are planning to achieve and to show how this contributes towards achieving the corporate priorities of the Council and or delivering it's statutory responsibilities.

It is imperative that the Council and interested members of the public can keep track of how the Council and its Departments are progressing against objectives and targets, and that mechanisms are in place to enable councillors and managers to see whether the service is performing as planned.

As a result Departmental progress will be monitored through:

- The day to day monitoring by Strategic Directors through their regular interaction with Operational Directors;
- Provision of Quarterly progress reports to Corporate and Directorate Management Teams;
- The inclusion of Quarterly Service Plan Monitoring reports as a standard item on the agenda of all the Council's Policy and Performance Boards.
- Publication of Quarterly Service Plan monitoring reports on the Councils intranet site.

In demonstrating it's commitment to exploiting the potential of Information and Communications Technology to improve the accessibility of its services and related information an extensive range of documentation, including this plan and it's associated quarterly monitoring reports, are available via the Council's website

http://www2.halton.gov.uk/content/councilanddemocracy/council/plansandstrat egies

Additionally information and assistance can be accessed through any of the Council's Halton Direct Link facilities (HDL) or the Council's libraries.

7.0 STATUTORY AND NON-STATUTORY PLANS

Halton Stadium Business Plan
Halton Stadium Marketing & Public Relations Strategy
School Meals Business Plan
School Meals School SLA
Community Strategy
Halton BVPP 2007/08

Appendix 1 – Equality Impact Assessments – High Priority Actions

No high priority actions have been identified within the Departmental Equality Action Plan.

Appendix 2

Halton Corporate Plan (2006 – 2011) – Council Priorities and Key Areas of Focus.

A Healthy Halton

1	Improving the future health prospects of Halton residents, particularly children, through the encouragement of an improved dietary intake and the availability of nutritionally balanced meals within schools and other Council establishments.
2	Improving the future health prospects of Halton residents through encouraging and providing the opportunities to access and participate in physically active lifestyles.
3	Delivering programmes of education to improve the health of Halton residents.
4	Helping people to manage the effects of ill health, disability and disadvantage.
5	Actively managing the environmental factors that are detrimental to good health.
6	Providing services and facilities to maintain the independence and well-being of vulnerable people within our community.
7	Providing services and facilities to maintain existing good health and well-being.

Halton's Urban Renewal

8	Exploiting the benefits of inward investment opportunities by creating a physical environment that is both attractive and responsive to the needs of existing and potential business.
9	Maintaining and developing local transport networks that meet the needs of resident's, businesses and visitors to Halton.
10	Revitalising the economy by sustaining and developing an environment that compliments the core brand values of existing and potential investors.
11	Maintaining levels of affordable housing provision within Halton that provides for quality and choice and meets the needs and aspirations of existing and potential residents.
12	Providing opportunities for recreation and fostering conservation by developing attractive and accessible parks and open spaces.

Children & Young People in Halton

13	Improving the educational attainment of pupils in Halton, by providing effective teaching and school support
14	To improve outcomes for looked after children by increasing educational attainment, health, stability and support during transition to adulthood.
15	To deliver effective services to children and families by making best use of available resources
16	To provide transport facilities that meets the needs of children & young people in Halton accessing education and training.
17	Provide an effective transition for young people from school to employment, through opportunities for work related learning, and post 16 education, voluntary and community work.
18	To reduce the conception rate amongst women under 18 by providing awareness, education and relevant support
19	To ensure a safe environment for children where they are supported and protected from abuse and neglect

Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

20	To increase self-confidence and social inclusion by providing opportunities to adults to engage in basic skills learning.
21	To improve access to employment by providing opportunities to enhance employability skills and knowledge
22	Working with employers to identify and secure opportunities for the unemployed.
23	To provide transport facilities that meets the needs of those people in Halton accessing employment and training.
24	To sustain current employment levels by providing practical and financial advice and assistance to those from disadvantaged groups
25	To increase employment opportunities and business start ups in Halton, by developing an enterprise culture

A Safer Halton

26	Actively encouraging socially responsible behaviour by engaging with Halton's young people and by providing opportunities for them to access and take part in affordable leisure time activities.
27	Reducing the physical effects of anti-social and criminal behaviour
28	Providing and maintaining a highways and footpath network that is safe, accessible, and meets the needs and expectations of those living, working or visiting in Halton.
29	Improving the quality of community life by enhancing the visual amenity of Halton's neighbourhoods.
30	Improving the social and physical well-being of those groups most at risk within the community

Corporate Effectiveness & Efficient Service Delivery

31	Working with partners and the community, to ensure that our priorities, objectives, and targets are evidence based, regularly monitored and reviewed, and that there are plausible delivery plans to improve the quality of life in Halton, and to narrow the gap between the most disadvantaged neighbourhoods and the rest of Halton.
32	Building on our customer focus by improving communication, involving more service users in the design and delivery of services, and ensuring equality of access.
33	Ensuring that we are properly structured organised and fit for purpose and that decision makers are supported through the provision of timely and accurate advice and information.
34	Attracting and managing financial resources effectively and maintaining transparency, financial probity and prudence and accountability to our stakeholders
35	Implementing and further developing procurement arrangements that will reduce the cost to the Council of acquiring its goods and services.
36	Ensuring that the Council's land and property portfolio is managed efficiently
37	Ensuring that Council buildings are safe and accessible, meet the needs of service users and the organisation, and comply with legislative requirements
38	Exploiting the potential of ICT to meet the present and future business requirements of the Council, and ensure that customer access is improved by means of electronic service delivery.
39	Ensuring that human resources are managed and deployed to their best effect and improving the relevance, availability and use of HR information
40	Ensuring that the Council has the right people with the right skills and who are informed and motivated and provided with opportunities for personal development and engagement.