

Halton Strategic Partnership

Partnership progress report – Quarter 1 2005/06

Section 1: Chair's report

- **Contaminated Land** – Discussions have now taken place with all parties involved, in order to progress this issue. EA have now given a commitment to give a final decision by September, 2005.
- **Widnes Waterfront EDZ** – Landscaping programme of work is ongoing and site works have been completed.
- **Greening Employment Areas** – New signage ordered for Astmoor Industrial Estate. Work has commenced to remove the Warrington Road 'grot spot' on Riverview Ind. Estate. A mobile CCTV display vehicle has given practical demonstrations of the effectiveness of proposed CCTV system and benefit for resident businesses.
- **Housing Sustainability** – Project Officer has been appointed, to commence August, 05. IT connection with another RSL has been set up. Initial approach made to RSL partners, to fund a permanent post (to maintain the database and ensure continuation of the project).
- **Mersey Waterfront Regional Park** – Waterfront Maintenance Team have been maintaining the waterfront sites and the two Promenades at Widnes and Runcorn have been nominated for Green Flag Awards. Consultants have been commissioned to progress the design and tendering of the various elements of the Widnes Warth Nature Reserve and the Architect has been commissioned to fine tune the detailed design of the new Wigg Island Visitor Centre, and to prepare tender documents.
- **Runcorn Town Park** – Survey work completed. Draft Matersplan and Delivery Strategy completed.
- **Site Purchases** – No activity scheduled for this quarter.
- **Strategic Routeways** – No activity this quarter. Planting will take place over the Winter period.
- **Town Centre Streetscape/Shopfront Improvements** – The design phase has now begun for Victoria Road and consultations are underway with business owners regarding commercial property renewal grants scheme.
- **Urban Renewal Support** – Satisfactory completion of 04/05 commitments and April SSP meeting. Systems have been adapted to facilitate the shift of responsibility from LSP to SSP. Attendance at several community consultation meetings, in order to progress the Community Strategy.
- **Waterside Development Strategy** – No activity scheduled for this quarter.

Section 2: progress against key objectives

Objective	Progress
To improve the number and availability of job opportunities for local people (link to Life Chances Objective B).	Progress to date is in line with targets. Business Improvement Areas grant scheme is operational, as is Greening Employment Areas scheme; New Mersey Crossing still receiving positive support, although decision deferred - if successful and leads to 'yes' vote, will encourage job opportunities for local people, as will development of the Runcorn Town Park; Strategic Routeways project is designed to encourage business settlement/development in the borough; Streetscape/Shopfront Improvement project has been extended and will generate increased retail business and thereby jobs; Waterside Development Strategy will lead to business development and leisure opportunities, thus encouraging job opportunities.
To promote the sustainable development and regeneration of Halton economy.	As above: sustainable development and regeneration of Halton economy will support job opportunities.
To improve the appearance of the borough and promote a more positive image and perception of Halton.	Progress to date is in line with targets. Greening Employment Areas scheme aims to improve the appearance of business sector areas in Halton and promote a more positive image and perception, as will regeneration of Runcorn Town Park, Strategic Routeways improvements, Streetscape/Shopfront Improvements and regeneration initiatives resulting from the Waterside Development Strategy.
To attract and deploy additional investment in Halton, in particular to regenerate and revitalise the borough's town centres and waterfront areas, and to concentrate on the areas of highest need and deprivation.	Waterside Development Strategy now approved. Sub-strategies have been identified and additional funding support is being sought. Town Centre Streetscapes/ Shopfront Improvement project has now been extended to Victoria Road, enhancing and revitalising the borough's town centre areas – however, this project will ultimately suffer from a shortage of funding opportunities due to NWDA issues. EDZ and Castlefields programmes of work are also being held up by NWDA funding issues.
To ensure that sustainable housing is available to meet the needs of people in the borough.	Progress to date is in line with targets.
To improve the accessibility, affordability and integration of transport within Halton.	Progress to date is in line with targets.
To gain approval and funding for a second Mersey Crossing.	A decision is awaited in advance of the Summer 2005 recess.
To reclaim and make most productive use of derelict and contaminated land in the borough.	Youth Activity Park at Castlefields is in progress and on target. Detailed discussions have now taken place with EA re. the proposed DEFRA bid, and the formal determination of golf course will now hopefully be agreed by September, 2005.

Business Imp. Area	£951	£15,000	£50,000	£50,000	£0	Grant approvals delayed.	Received
Contaminated Land	£37,500	£37,500	£150,000	£150,000	£0	n/a	Received
EDZ (Widnes W'front)	£34,901	£0	£199,000	£199,000	£0	n/a	Received
Enterprise Centres	£0	£0	£300,000	£300,000	£0	Plans being determined but development will complete.	Delayed
Greening Emp. Areas	£1,028	£1,250	£10,000	£10,000	£0	n/a	Received
Housing Sustainability	£2,474	£2,000	£8,000	£8,000	£0	n/a	Received
M'side W'front Reg. Pk.	£7,500	£6,250	£100,000	£100,000	£0	n/a	Received
Site Purchases	£0	£0	£150,000	£150,000	£0	Q4 spend.	Received
Strategic Routeways	£0	£0	£50,000	£50,000	£0	Q3/4 spend.	Received
Town Centre Streetscape/Shopfront Improvements	£58,566	£20,000	£320,000	£320,000	£0	n/a	Received
U R Support	£5,000	£5,000	£20,000	£20,000	£0	n/a	Received
W'side Dev. Strategy	£913	£0	£10,000	£10,000	£0	n/a	Received

Total	Spend to date	Budget to date	Year end estimate	2005/06 budget	Under/overspend
	£148,833	£87,000	£1,367,000	£1,367,000	£0