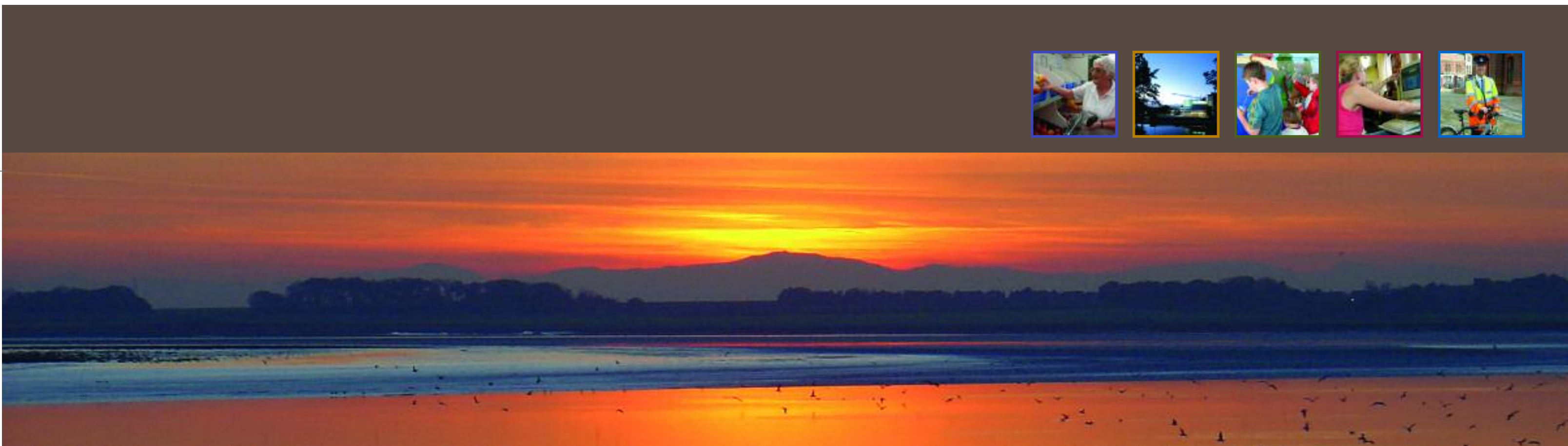
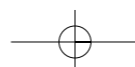


ANNUAL REPORT 2005-2006
the HALTON STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP



Halton Strategic **PARTNERSHIP**



The Halton Strategic Partnership is the local strategic partnership for Halton, and brings the public, private, community and voluntary sectors in the area together.

Over the past five years the Partnership has been helping these organisations to work better together to tackle our five strategic priorities:

- Improving health
- Promoting urban renewal
- Enhancing life chances and employment
- Increasing wealth and equality
- Ensuring safe and attractive neighbourhoods

To help us tackle these priority areas, we receive Neighbourhood Renewal Fund from the Government which allows us to try out new ways of working and improve services for the people of Halton.

To request this document in alternative formats please contact us on **0151 471 7528**.

This annual report outlines the ways in which we've been working to tackle our priorities, how the community are involved in the Partnership, and how we are performing against our targets.

2005/06 was the last year of the original community strategy, and we are now working towards a new one - with a new set of shared priorities. You can find out more in the "Looking Forward" section towards the back of this report.

It's all happening in Halton...



Welcome to the Halton Strategic Partnership's annual report for 2005/06. The last year has seen us finishing our work towards Halton's original set of shared priorities, and a huge amount of work has taken place to plan our vision for the next five years.

The process involved all our partners and stakeholders to make sure everyone had a say in our plans, and as a result we've now launched our new Community Strategy for 2006-2011.

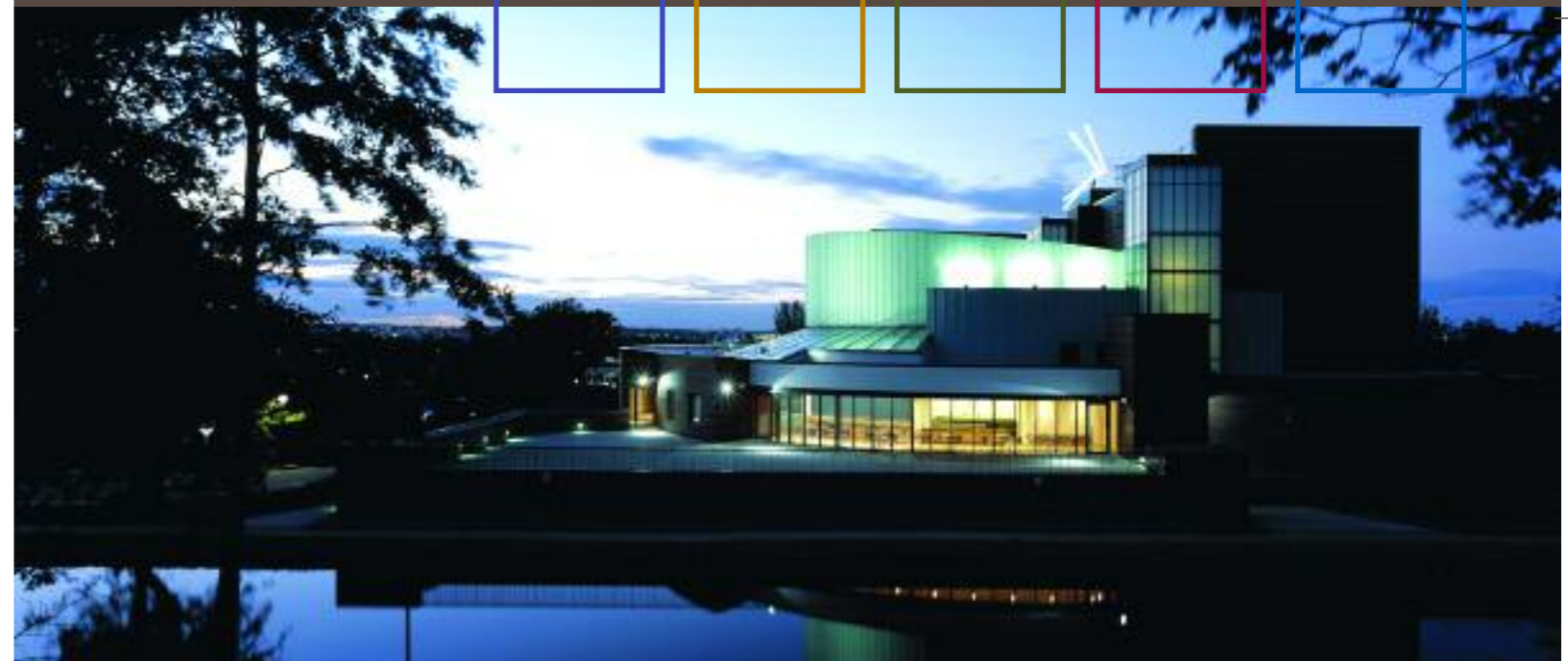
The last year has seen partnership working between Halton's organisations growing in strength, resulting in better services for the people of Halton. We've also made many physical improvements to the borough, and after many years of campaigning, £209m of Government funding has been secured for the Mersey Gateway project, bringing a new crossing of the River Mersey a step closer.

We will still face many challenges in coming years, but with strong partnership working and support from the community we can tackle these head-on and help Halton to fulfill its great potential.

Councillor Rob Polhill
Chair of the Halton Strategic Partnership



Chair's foreword



The Halton Health Partnership aims to create a healthier community and work with partners and local people to promote good health, not simply an absence of disease.

Spreading the message...

Halton's first 'Health Week' took place in January 2006, and the launch event featured Olympic swimmer Steven Parry giving a presentation to a range of Halton's health professionals. Oscar the Robot returned to Halton to spread the healthy lifestyle message, and took part in events in schools, leisure centres, workplaces and supermarkets – a novel way of engaging with the public that also helps to secure good publicity for the messages.

The Halton Health Partnership also received awards for the way they have been promoting healthy living in Halton with success at the North West Public Health Awards and the Chartered Institute of Public Relations Excellence Awards.

Looking after the young...

The Healthy Schools Project involved schools throughout Halton in a range of healthy eating activities, aiming to increase understanding of how to lead a healthy lifestyle. This included a 'health day' at The Heath Secondary School which saw more than 1000 pupils involved, and healthy lunchboxes have been developed in line with the 'Food In Schools Guidelines'.

And Halton's older people...

The Vulnerable Adults Task Force has been delivering a range of services that aim to reduce time spent in hospital and enhance the quality of life at home for older people. The project carried out more than 800 small DIY jobs last year to help people get the most out of home life.

Promoting healthy lifestyles...

The 5-a-day message has been heavily promoted across Halton, and 53 'Cook and Eat' sessions took place to encourage people to try new ways of eating healthily. Organised health walks took place across the borough to get people into the habit of exercising, and regular sports sessions were provided for young people with disabilities.

Working with the Community...

Halton's Health and Community Care Forum continued to bring together the community and voluntary organisations that provide health and social care services in Halton. The Forum provides an important link to mainstream service providers and helps to keep the voluntary sector well informed.

Key Statistics

- The death rate from cancer in people under 75 has fallen by 18% since 1996
- The number of admissions to residential nursing homes has dropped from 117 in 2003 to 74 in 2005
- The number of carers for children with disabilities has doubled between 2003 and 2006

IMPROVING HEALTH



Case Studies

Vulnerable Adults Task Force

Older people in Halton are being helped to keep their independence through a range of support and preventative services at home, in doctors' surgeries, at hospitals and in the community.

Five-a-day

Practical community-based programmes are helping to tackle obesity issues and promote fruit and vegetable consumption. "Cook and Taste" sessions have been used to highlight the range of options that are available, and poster and leaflet campaigns have promoted the message across Halton.

The Urban Renewal Partnership has been aiding the physical transformation of Halton, and making it a place where people are proud to live and see a promising future for themselves and their families.

Changing the face of Halton...

The Streetscapes and Shopfronts Project has transformed run-down parts of Halton and given them an attractive and fresh look. Businesses have been given grants to improve the look of their shops in the town centres, and work has been carried out to remove eyesores across the area.

The Strategic Routeways project has transformed the roads into Halton by planting specimen trees, shrubs and bulbs and providing new signage and fencing. The Partnership's work to tackle contaminated land has continued, with more land brought into use for the people of Halton. Residents of Castlefields have benefited from a new youth activity park providing an exciting leisure opportunity and benefiting the wider community.

Developing our waterfront...

The Mersey Waterfront Regional Park has seen significant developments this year, with Wigg Island benefiting from a new visitor centre and the development of Widnes Warth Nature Reserve. The Waterside Development Strategy has also been assisting a range of projects by carrying out vital research to support their development.

Taking care of business...

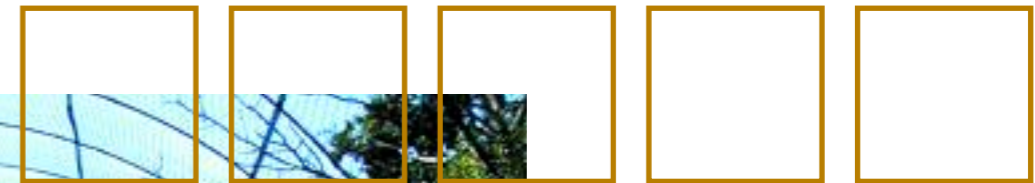
The Widnes Waterfront Economic Development Zone has continued its work to transform more than two hundred acres of low quality industrial land into a new business location for Halton, and aims to generate more than 2,700 new jobs for the area. Planning permission has recently been granted to three separate developers to create around 180,000 sq ft of new office, distribution and light-industrial space on the site.

Businesses on trading estates in Halton have also been supported through a programme of advice and funding to improve premises and upgrade security.

Key Statistics

- The work on the Castlefields shared bus way is underway
- 2.5km of canal side pathway improvements have been completed
- The Government has approved the Mersey Gateway scheme for entry into its programme of major schemes

PROMOTING URBAN RENEWAL



Case Studies

Contaminated Land

Making previously contaminated land usable again is providing widespread opportunities for regeneration across Halton. The project's work allows a range of additional job opportunities and leisure facilities to be made available to the people of Halton.

Streetscapes and Shopfronts

Streets and businesses in Halton's town centres have benefited from a series of improvements and grants, making the shopping experience in Halton more pleasant, modern and welcoming.

In the last year the Halton Learning Partnership has worked to enhance the development, training and employment opportunities of local people, encouraging everyone to reach their full potential.

Providing opportunities for the young...

The Speech and Language project has been developing the skills of staff working with small children. This has been done by joining up the approach to speech and language programmes across agencies and developing a creative way of carrying out statutory health checks. Schools have been given up-to-date information on pupil attendance through the Attendance Issues Initiative, which helps to show which pupils are at risk of underachievement and exclusion. The new system means that schools can better understand the issues they face, and action can be taken to provide support to pupils where needed.

Extended work experience placements have offered students at key stage 4 the chance to take up structured work experience placements linked to a future career path, whilst still fulfilling the requirements of the national curriculum.

Helping people into work...

Placements have been provided to people in search of work, with job-focused training provided where necessary. Mobile resources have been used to reach wards where residents face barriers in getting into work and accessing support. Projects have also worked with local employers to help them promote the skills and employment prospects of local people.

Getting people involved through sport...

The Halton Sports Partnership has continued to motivate and engage people in a wide range of sports, and has helped clubs in Halton access funding and gain accreditations. The Halton Sports Awards took place for the third year, rewarding some of Halton's top performers and the dedicated coaches and organisers that support them.

Key Statistics

- At least 50% of pupils achieved level 5 or above in English and Maths in 2005
- Unemployment in Halton has dropped from 6.2% in 1997 to 2.9% in 2005

ENHANCING LIFE CHANCES AND EMPLOYMENT



Case Studies

Extended Work Experience
Students at Key Stage 4 in Halton have been able to access a structured work experience placement linked to a future career path, whilst fulfilling the basic requirements of the National Curriculum.

Training and Employment Issues
Dedicated teams have used mobile resources to take services out into key target areas across Halton, providing advice and guidance on how to access employment and training opportunities to residents.

The Wealth and Equality Partnership has been working to help people maximise their income, tackle poverty and housing issues in Halton, and help build successful, inclusive communities.

Helping to manage the money...

The Benefits Bus has continued its work to help people access the benefits they are entitled to, and has been a major source of help for older people by using mobile technology to visit them in their homes. The Bill Payment Service has been helping residents take control of their finances, and the Citizens Advice Bureau have provided an enhanced network of advice outreaches throughout the borough – making sure that help is available where people need it most.

Going the extra mile...

The Accessible Transport Scheme provided more than 3,200 passenger journeys to Halton's Independent Living Centre, and 3,600 passenger journeys to employment and training opportunities. As well as supporting people who would otherwise struggle to complete their journey, the scheme has provided opportunities to integrate into the community when it would otherwise be difficult.

Building from grassroots...

Four Estates Limited has continued its work at grassroots level across four social housing estates in Halton. Their work has improved peoples' lives through community engagement and the development of community projects. Strong partnerships with local community groups and agencies have been built, and issues that affect the lives of the entire community are being tackled.

Supporting older people...

Age Concern's Information Outreach Service almost doubled its targets this year, holding 236 outreach sessions and making 183 home visits to older people. These provide a valuable support network and act as a gateway to further services if necessary, helping to look after the interests of some of Halton's most vulnerable residents. A pilot project based around neighbours helping isolated older people has also been developed as a way of providing further support.

Key Statistics

- There has been a 3 point increase in average household income since 2000

INCREASING WEALTH AND EQUALITY



Case studies

Grassroots Development

People of all ages are being provided with opportunities for exercise, healthy living and social inclusion through a variety of activities at community centres. Residents are also provided with opportunities to get involved in training programmes and environmental action to improve their local area.

Accessible Transport

Residents of Halton who find it difficult to travel are able to access services, training and employment by using a dedicated transport service. This improves the range of choices available and helps more people to live independently.

The Safer Halton Partnership has been working to ensure pleasant and secure neighbourhoods, attractive and safe surroundings, and good quality local amenities for Halton.

A safer and cleaner Halton...

The Multi-skilled Maintenance Team has been improving the liveability of areas around the town centres, and in turn helping to reduce anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime. The Pride of Place Team has been improving facilities for young people through maintenance of play areas, and high visibility patrols by Police Officers and Community Support Officers are providing reassurance and reducing the fear of crime.

Cutting anti-social behaviour...

Halton's Anti-social Behaviour Plan has been tackling the issues facing the area in three ways:

- Engagement with young people
- Education to change behaviours
- Enforcement where action is necessary

The Youth Splash Programme provided a wide range of free activities for young people in Halton during the school holidays. Schemes on offer engaged young people in healthy, challenging and educational activities. Examples included swimming, basketball coaching, drama workshops, skate ramps and street dance. Events were very well attended, and the scheme has been proven to reduce levels of anti-social behaviour.

Tackling drugs and alcohol...

Cheshire Constabulary, Halton Borough Council and other key partners have been working together closely to tackle the supply of drugs in Halton with significant success. Work has taken place throughout the year to prepare Halton's new Ashley House Centre for its opening in late 2006. It will provide a one-stop-shop for all Halton's drug and alcohol services, and will improve the help given to people seeking treatment. A range of high profile campaigns also took place during the course of the year to inform people about the risks involved in drugs.

Supporting victims of domestic violence...

A 24-hour helpline has offered support to victims of domestic abuse, and the service has been successfully promoted using eye-catching taxi adverts to promote the free telephone number. A range of support services are also in place to assist those in need of help.

Key Statistics

- The number of thefts of vehicles has fallen from 8.1 per 1,000 population in 2003 to 5.76 per 1,000 population in 2006
- The number of residents who had a fear of crime dropped by 28% between 2000 and 2004
- The number of road traffic casualties has fallen by 43% between 2000 and 2004

ENSURING SAFE AND ATTRACTIVE NEIGHBOURHOODS



Case studies

Ashley House

Halton's new one-stop-shop for drug and alcohol services will provide a high quality treatment system that supports individuals and communities. The development of the new centre will provide services in a way that meet individual needs.

Blue Lamp

Teams of Police Constables and Community Safety Officers are attached to Neighbourhood Policing Units operating across Halton, meaning that they can be located where they are most needed in local communities. The uniformed presence helps to reassure communities and deter crime.

Engaging with the Community

Working closely with the community is an important part of the Halton Strategic Partnership's work. Over the last twelve months a Community Engagement Practitioners Network has been set up to share best practice and provide training, guidance and advice. The group also provides an engagement toolkit as a resource for people who aren't used to engaging with groups or individuals.

Halton Together is the Community Empowerment Network for Halton, and helps the community and voluntary sector to have a collective voice. Halton Together members have played an active role in the production of the new Community Strategy for Halton, and will help to shape the new Local Area Agreement for the area.

There will also be an important role for the sector in the emerging neighbourhood management arrangements.

You can find out more information on their website at www.hvatogether.org.uk or by calling **01928 592 405**.

The community engagement section of the Partnership website can be found at www.haltonpartnership.net/communityengagement.

The Forums encourage residents from each area to get involved in making decisions about their own neighbourhoods. They provide a link in the chain of local democracy so that views, comments and concerns on local issues can be put across to the organisations providing services for local people.

They work together with the Council and Parish Councils, health bodies, the local police, housing associations, voluntary organisations and local businesses, tackling things like crime and disorder, social exclusion and improving the environment.

They also play an important role by consulting local people. This improves the Forum's knowledge of what is important to people who live and work in different parts of Halton.

Each Area Forum receives funding from the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund and Halton Borough Council. This money has funded a range of success stories in the last year including:

- New play areas and ball parks
- Resurfacing a range of pathways
- Provision of additional dog bins
- Lighting improvements
- Hedge laying, environmental improvements and new planters
- Improved security using fencing and alley gates

Area Forums

Area Forums were set up by Halton Borough Council in 2002 to help local people make a difference in their communities. There are seven Area Forums in Halton, and each meets at least three times a year at various venues in the local community.

In addition the forum funding has been used to bring in match funding from other organisations for larger projects.

You can find out more by contacting Halton Borough Council's Committee Services Section on **0151 424 2061**, or by contacting the Area Forum Projects Co-ordinator Janice Weston on **01928 583912**.

Neighbourhood Renewal Fund Allocations 2005 - 2006

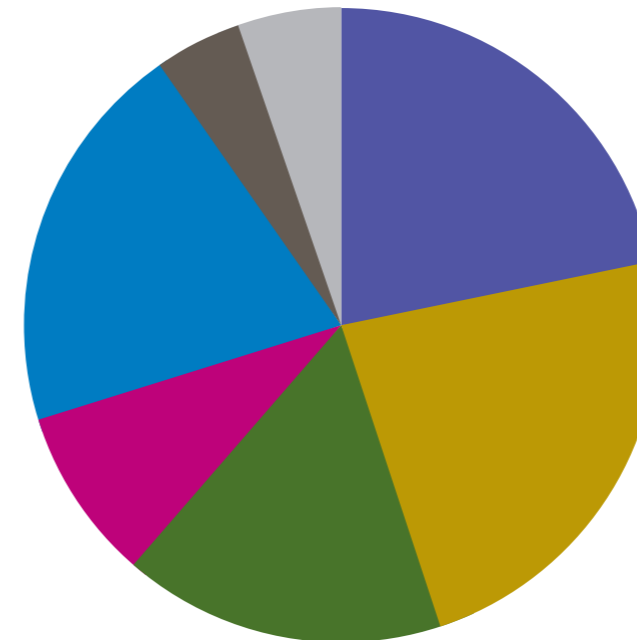
In 2005-06 Halton received £6,718,434 of Neighbourhood Renewal Fund. This was distributed across the five priorities, the Area Forums, the Central Support Team and the Halton Festival.

As well as the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund, partner organisations put money into a number of projects that helped to extend and develop the services they provide.

A number of projects were also able to use the work of the Halton Strategic Partnership to attract additional funding from other sources such as the Big Lottery Fund, charitable trusts and Central Government.

Neighbourhood Renewal Fund 2005 - 2006

	£
Health	1511072
Urban renewal	1367000
Life chances and employment	1234491
Wealth and equality	517811
Safe and attractive neighbourhoods	1367823
Area Forums	300000
Central Support Team and Halton Festival	420237
TOTAL	6718434



Progress against Community Strategy Improvement Targets 2005/06

The following targets are contained within Halton's 2002 - 2006 Community Strategy.

These improvement targets contribute to Halton's five strategic priorities and are used by the Government to measure the Partnership's performance on an annual basis.

The Partnership is required to monitor and report on its own performance and submit an annual report to Government Office North West, which clearly compares the current year's performance with that of previous years. The following table provides a summary of progress against each target for 2005-06.

Key to target ratings

- Achievement Likely
- Achievement Difficult
- Achievement Unlikely

IMPROVING HEALTH

Target	Rating	Target	Rating
Agree a formal response to the recommendations of the Halton Health Study		Increase the number of carers supported who have children with disabilities in order to increase the choice and access to a range of short breaks whilst providing help to carers of children with disabilities and terminally ill children	
Narrow the gap between life expectancy at birth in Halton and the national average by 10% by 2010 - FEMALE		Increase the number of older people helped to live at home aged 65 or over	
Narrow the gap between life expectancy at birth in Halton and the national average by 10% by 2010 - MALE		Reduce the number of supported residents aged 65 or over in residential/nursing care	
Reduce the death rate from coronary heart disease, strokes, and related diseases by 40% by 2010		Increase the percentage of items of equipment and adaptations costing less than £1,000 delivered within 3 weeks	
Reduce the death rate from cancer in people under 75 by at least 20% by 2010		Increase the percentage of people receiving a statement of their needs and how they will be met	
Reduce the years of life lost from lung cancer by 20% by 2010		Reduce the number of people aged 75 or over in an acute hospital bed whose discharge is delayed per 1,000 population	
Reduce the overall death rate in Halton by 10% by 2010		Increase the number of short break schemes for children with disabilities in order to increase the choice and access to a range of short breaks whilst providing help to carers of children with disabilities and terminally ill children	
Reduce health inequalities by 10% as measured by infant mortality		Demonstrate satisfaction with services provided to children with disabilities	
Reduce adult smoking rates to 21% or less by 2010	No local data is available		
Reduce the conception rate amongst women aged 15 - 17 by at least 55% in 2010			

The targets contained within this table have been summarised - the full version can be found in the Annual Performance Review on our website.

PROMOTING URBAN RENEWAL

Target	Rating	Target	Rating
Delivery of Castlefields Regeneration Masterplan	Green	Improve the vitality and of the town centres as measured by a survey of residents	Green
Develop proposals for revamping Runcorn Town park into a modern country park for Halton	Green	Improve the appearance and perception of the area by 10% measured through a survey of businesses every 3 years	Green
Complete the Widnes Waterfront EDZ Masterplan	Green	Delivery of the Halton Bio-diversity Plan in 2003 - 2010	Green
Commence the physical development and regeneration of the borough's waterfront by 2006	Green	Reclaim 40 hectares of derelict or contaminated land	Yellow
Produce a Watersides Strategy and improve 10 kilometres of canal and riverside frontages by 2006 - 2007	Yellow	Ensure sufficient housing is built per annum to meet the UDP housing figures and conforms with regional planning guidance	Green
Secure the necessary planning or Parliamentary approvals by 2006 to allow the new Mersey Crossing to proceed	Green	Ensure all social housing conforms to the Government's decency standard by 2010	Green
Revitalise the three town centres	Green	By 2010 bring all social housing into a decent condition, with most of this improvement taking place in deprived areas and for vulnerable households in the private sector	Green
Increase footfall through the town centres year on year	Yellow		
Improve the vitality of the town centres as measured by average town centre rents	Green		
Improve the vitality and of the town centres as measured by vacancy rates	Green		

The targets contained within this table have been summarised - the full version can be found in the Annual Performance Review on our website.

ENHANCING LIFE CHANCES AND EMPLOYMENT

Target	Rating	Target	Rating
Improve children's communication, social, and emotional development so that by 2008 50% of children reach a good level of development at the end of the Foundation Stage	Green	By 2008, 60% of those aged 16 to achieve the equivalent of 5 GCSEs at grades A* - C	Yellow
Provide high quality childcare places for all three and four year old children	Green	By 2008, 60% of those aged 16 to achieve the equivalent of 5 GCSEs at grades A* - C	Green
Raise standards in English so that by 2006, 85% of 11 year olds achieve level 4 or above	Yellow	Increase the proportion of 19 year olds who achieve at least level 2 by 3%	Green
Raise standards in Maths so that by 2006, 85% of 11 year olds achieve level 4 or above	Red	Increase participation in adult community education programmes offered by the local authority by 3%	Green
Raise standards in English and Maths to reduce the proportion of schools in which fewer than 65% of pupils achieve level 4 or above	Yellow	Reduce the borough unemployment figure to the regional average	Yellow
Raise standards in English in secondary education so 85% of 14 year olds achieve level 5 or above	Yellow	Demonstrate progress on increasing the employment rate	Green
Raise standards in Maths in secondary education so 85% of 14 year olds achieve level 5 or above	Yellow	Increase the employment rate of lone parents	Yellow
Raise standards in Science in secondary education so that by 2007, 80% of 14 year olds achieve level 5 or above	Yellow	Demonstrate progress on increasing the employment rate of people aged 50 or over.	Green
Raise standards in English in all schools so at least 50% of pupils achieve level 5 or above	Green	Demonstrate progress on increasing the employment rate of those with the lowest qualifications	Green
Raise standards in Maths in all schools so at least 50% of pupils achieve level 5 or above	Green	Demonstrate progress on increasing the employment rate of those living in the local authority wards with the poorest initial labour market position	No local data is available
Raise standards in Science in all schools so at least 50% of pupils achieve level 5 or above	Yellow	Reduce the percentage of working age population in Halton with no qualifications	Red
		Build an enterprise society in which small firms of all kinds thrive and achieve their potential	Green

The targets contained within this table have been summarised - the full version can be found in the Annual Performance Review on our website.

INCREASING WEALTH AND EQUALITY

Target	Rating
Narrow the gap with other areas of the country by tackling deprivation in Halton	■
Cut the proportion of children growing up in poverty	■
Reduce the gap between average household income in Halton and the UK average by at least 2 points by 2006 and by at least 3 points, to 90 or more by 2010	No local data is available

The targets contained within this table have been summarised - the full version can be found in the Annual Performance Review on our website.

ENSURING SAFE AND ATTRACTIVE NEIGHBOURHOODS

Target	Rating	Target	Rating
Reduce substance misuse and implement recommendations of the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy	■	Improve and expand neighbourhood management and warden schemes across Halton	■
Increase the total numbers of people accessing treatment for drugs misuse	■	Complete the alleygating programme by 2005	■
Reduce average drug treatment waiting times by April 2004	■	Lead the delivery of cleaner, safer, and greener public spaces - Deposits of Litter & Detritus	■
Reduce domestic burglary	■	Lead the delivery of cleaner, safer, and greener public spaces - Abandoned vehicles	■
Reduce vehicle crime	■	Lead the delivery of cleaner, safer, and greener public spaces - Green Flag Awards	■
Reduce vehicle theft	■	Lead the delivery of cleaner, safer, and greener public spaces - Environmental Services	■
Reduce theft from a vehicle	■	Lead the delivery of cleaner, safer, and greener public spaces - Satisfaction Survey of Parks & Open Spaces	■
Reduce violent crime	■	Reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured in Great Britain in road accidents by 40%	■
Reduce the incidence of crime around the priority areas in the Community Safety Strategy	■	Reduce the number of children killed or seriously injured in Great Britain in road accidents by 40%	■
Achieve a 5% reduction in the fear of crime	■	Reduce the numbers of deliberately started bin, rubbish & grass fires in Halton by 20% annually	■
Implement the recommendations of the Anti-social Behaviour Bill	■	Reduce the numbers of deliberately started car fires in Halton by 10% annually	■
Work in partnership to tackle domestic violence	■	No local fire and rescue authority having a fatality rate from accidental fires in the home of more than 1.25 times the national average by 2010	■
Work in partnership to tackle Hate Crime	■		
Reduce the rate of re-offending of all young offenders	■		
Reduce the number of youth nuisance calls	■		
Raise the level of residents' overall satisfaction with the attractiveness of the neighbourhood/area where they live	■		

The targets contained within this table have been summarised - the full version can be found in the Annual Performance Review on our website.

LOOKING FORWARD

The Halton Strategic Partnership is now focused on a new set of priorities that have been agreed for the next five years. They make up the new Community Strategy for Halton, and are:

- A Healthy Halton
- Halton's Urban Renewal
- Halton's Children and Young People
- Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton
- A Safer Halton

You can find out more about the work of the partners in Halton by looking at our website at www.haltonpartnership.net.

We also produce a monthly e-mail newsletter to keep people up to date on our work - if you'd like to subscribe please let us know by e-mailing lsp@halton.gov.uk.



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