APSE – Demonstrating value for money and an update on Halton's Service Review.

HALTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Managing parks on the age of financial austerity.

Manchester Town Hall – Manchester - 13th April 2011

Paul Wright

Open Space Services - Divisional Manager

Open Space Services Division

HALTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Halton Borough Council's Efficiency Review

In January 2009 external consultants brought in to look at the structure of the entire Council. Halton Borough Council had to save £5 Million from its Budgets just to stand still.

The following year Halton learned that it would have to take £20 Million out of its budgets in year 2011/12 and recently we have calculated that we need to take out £15 Million next year.

The greenspace functions were evaluated in 2009. The result was the creation of Open Space Services in February 2010. In total £531,000 was taken out of the budgets.

HALTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Since the review

Continued to deliver a quality service.

Retained 12 Green Flag Awards

Balanced the budget

Had a positive review report (APSE)

In December 2010 the service was Redesigned yet again. The functions of Bereavement Services and the events Service, including Rangers was merged With effect from 1st April 2011 saving £300,000.

Survived?.

The New Structure – April 2011

The new Open Space Service structure represented a reduction of seven Managerial and technical staff.

The New Structure – April 2011

How did we survive?

1. **Be able to Demonstrate cost effectiveness and quality.**
2. **Have Member support.**
3. **Have Senior Management Support.**
4. **Have support of colleagues in other Divisions.**
5. **Have strong support from the local community.**
6. **Have evidence to back up your claims.**

**APSE Performance Networks data
Proved invaluable.**

The Future?

1. We must be seen to offer value for money.
2. We must continue to demonstrate our cost effectiveness.
3. We must continue to deliver an excellent service.
4. We must do all of this with ever smaller budgets.