

### Brief

Study considered the feasibility of relocating Halton Business Forum from the Old Town Hall in Victoria Square, Widnes, on behalf of Halton Borough Council.

The Business Forum is a one-stop-shop for local businesses providing a range of services through Halton Chamber of Commerce & Enterprise, Business Link for Greater Merseyside and Halton Borough Council Regeneration Department.

Three options were considered

- A stand-alone business centre
- Occupation of space in a larger office
- Locate in larger regeneration scheme.

### Activities

- Investigated the potential for widening the partnership, identifying new organisations to join the Forum
- Identified the spatial needs of existing and potential partners
- Assessed the office property market in Halton
- Considered demand for serviced offices in the Borough
- Identified suitable sites and premises
- Assessed the funding implications - both revenue and capital.

### Outcome

Demand identified for new serviced offices in Widnes.

Recommendation to develop new Forum building at Widnes Waterfront, the Borough's economic development zone, based on cost and space suitability.

Alternative option was to accommodate a refurbished former research complex, to the south of Widnes.

