



# Council

Town Hall  
Wallasey

26 June 2015

Dear Councillor

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council to be held at **6.15 pm on Monday, 6 July 2015** in the Council Chamber, within the Town Hall, Wallasey, to take into consideration and determine upon the following subjects :

**Contact Officer:** Lyndzay Roberts  
**Tel:** 0151 691 8262  
**e-mail:** [lyndzayroberts@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:lyndzayroberts@wirral.gov.uk)  
**Website:** <http://www.wirral.gov.uk>

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## AGENDA

### 1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members of the Council are asked to consider whether they have any disclosable pecuniary interests and/or any other relevant interest, in connection with any matter to be debated or determined at this meeting and, if so, to declare it and state the nature of such interest.

### 2. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

To receive the Mayor's announcements and any apologies for absence.

### 3. PETITIONS (Pages 1 - 2)

A. To receive petitions submitted in accordance with Standing Order 21.

- B. The following petition is referred to the Council for consideration in accordance with Standing Order 34 –

At the time of publication a petition of some 2,740 signatories had been submitted by Rob Oliver of the Friends of Wirral Library Forum calling upon the Leader and the Chief Executive of Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council to maintain a viable library service, staffed by suitably qualified employees for all the people of the Wirral. This matter will be taken subject to achieving the required number of signatures as designated in the Constitution.

The front sheet of the petition is attached and, in accordance with the Petition Scheme, the petition organiser has been invited to address the Council for up to five minutes. The Council should debate the matter for a maximum of 15 minutes before deciding how to respond to the petition.

**4. PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

To deal with questions from members of the public, in accordance with Appendix 1 to Standing Orders.

**5. MINUTES (Pages 3 - 40)**

To approve the accuracy of the minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on 18 May and reconvened on 19 May, 2015.

**6. LEADER'S, EXECUTIVE MEMBERS' AND CHAIRS REPORTS (Pages 41 - 76)**

To receive the written reports of the Leader and Cabinet Members and receive questions and answers on any of those reports in accordance with Standing Orders 10(2)(a) and 11.

Also attached is the Strategic Director of Transformation and Resources' Scrutiny Annual Report 2014/15.

**7. MATTERS REQUIRING APPROVAL BY THE COUNCIL (Pages 77 - 136)**

To consider any recommendations of the Leader, Cabinet, Cabinet Member and Committees which require the approval of the Council. The relevant minutes are attached; copies of the related reports (where not attached) can be provided for Council members on request.

**A. Revised Local Development Scheme**

Delegated decision of Cabinet Member – Economy 17/12/14 (attached) – the report and the revised Local Development Scheme are also attached and the Council is recommended to approve the adoption of the revised Local Development Scheme (part (3) of the resolution). **(Pages 77 - 102)**

**B. The Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2015**

The report is attached (**Pages 103 - 112**) and the Recommendation from Standards and Constitutional Oversight Committee (1 July, 2015) (to follow)

**C. Beechwood and Ballantyne Community Housing Association Transfer of Engagements to Liverpool Housing Trust**

The report is attached (**Pages 113 - 135**) and the Recommendation from the Cabinet meeting (29 June, 2015) (to follow)

**8. MATTERS FOR NOTING (Pages 137 - 140)**

The following matters, determined by the Cabinet, are drawn to the Council's attention in accordance with the Constitution (copies of the related reports can be provided for Council members on request).

**Cabinet – 12 March, 2015**

Minute 153 – Financial Monitoring 2014/15 (Month 10)

Minute 154 – Capital Monitoring 2014/15 (Month 10)

**9. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS**

To consider Members' general questions to the Mayor, Cabinet Member or Committee Chair in accordance with Standing Orders 10 (2)(b) and 11.

**10. MATTERS REFERRED FROM POLICY AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEES (Pages 141 - 144)**

To consider and determine any references from the Policy and Performance Committees and any regulatory Committees.

- A. The Council is advised that the Notice of Motion, 'Consultation That Counts' referred from Council at its meeting on 15 December, 2014 (minute 103 refers) was considered by the Standards and Constitutional Oversight Committee on 3 March 2015 (minute 11 is attached).

In accordance with Standing Order 7 (5) the Council is asked to consider the following recommendation of the Standards and Constitutional Oversight Committee:

"RESOLVED (unanimously): That

- (1) each of the three Strategic Directors be invited to provide commentary on their practices and procedures for recording views expressed during consultations; and

(2) if any clarification is required in respect of (1) above, the Head of Legal and Member Services be authorised to obtain it following consultation with the Chair and Group Spokespersons.”

## **11. NOTICES OF MOTION (Pages 145 - 148)**

Notices of motion submitted in accordance with Standing Order 7(1), are attached. They are listed in the order received, and the full text of each motion is attached. The Mayor, having considered each motion, in accordance with Standing Order 7(4) has decided that they will be dealt with as follows:

**i) The Northern Powerhouse**

To be debated.

**ii) Wirral's Economic Success**

The Civic Mayor to refer to the Policy and Performance - Regeneration and Environment Committee.

**iii) Proposal for a fire station on green belt land in Saughall Massie**

The Civic Mayor to refer to the Policy and Performance - Regeneration and Environment Committee.

**iv) Mental Health Challenge**

The Civic Mayor to refer to the Policy and Performance - Families and Wellbeing Committee.

**v) Merseyside Fire and Rescue funding**

To be debated.

**vi) Implementation of Notice of Motion 'Becoming a Dementia Friendly Council'**

To be debated.

## **12. VACANCIES**

To receive nominations, in accordance with Standing Order 25(6), in respect of any proposed changes in the membership of committees, and to approve nominations for appointments to outside organisations.

- Replace Councillor Bernie Mooney with Councillor Pat Hackett on Mersey Maritime Group Ltd.

**13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

To consider any other items of business that the Mayor accepts as being urgent.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be a stylized 'J' or 'K' followed by a horizontal line.

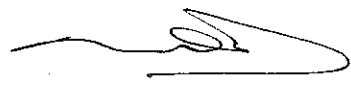
Head of Legal and Member Services

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## Petition to Wirral Council

### Contact details of the Lead Petitioner

(the person the Council will contact with a response to the petition)

Name (please print)	Address (please print)	Signature
		
	el. (home)	work)
	(mobile)	e-mail

### Petition Title

SAVE WIRRAL'S LIBRARY SERVICE
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☐ Please tick the box if this petition links to an petition on the Council's website

We the undersigned petition Wirral Council to:

MAINTAIN A VIABLE LIBRARY SERVICE, STAFFED BY  
SUITABLY QUALIFIED EMPLOYEES, FOR ALL THE PEOPLE  
OF THE WIRRAL

The petition may be presented to your local ward Councillor or sent direct to Committee Services Section, Department of Transformation and Resources, Town Hall, Brighton Street, Wallasey, Wirral CH44 8ED.

### Signatures and details of persons signing this petition:

Name (please print)	Address (please print)	Signature
PLEASE SEE ATTACHED LIST OF SIGNATORIES TO		
AN ON-LINE PETITION ORGANIZED BY MR ROB		
OLIVER ON BEHALF OF FRIENDS OF WIRRAL		
LIBRARIES FORUM :-		

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## COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on Monday, 18 May 2015 and reconvened on Tuesday, 19 May 2015

Present: Civic Mayor (Councillor Steve Foulkes) in the Chair  
Deputy Civic Mayor (Councillor Les Rowlands)

Councillors	RL Abbey	JE Green	C Povall
	T Anderson	R Gregson	D Realey
	B Berry	P Hackett	L Reecejones
	C Blakeley	J Hale	L Rennie
	E Boulton	P Hayes	D Roberts
	A Brighthouse	A Hodson	J Salter
	P Brightmore	K Hodson	Tony Smith
	D Burgess-Joyce	T Johnson	W Smith
	C Carubia	AER Jones	C Spriggs
	P Cleary	C Jones	J Stapleton
	W Clements	B Kenny	M Sullivan
	J Crabtree	A Leech	A Sykes
	M Daniel	AR McLachlan	J Walsh
	A Davies	M McLaughlin	G Watt
	G Davies	C Meaden	S Whittingham
	P Davies	D Mitchell	J Williamson
	WJ Davies	B Mooney	I Williams
	D Elderton	C Muspratt	KJ Williams
	G Ellis	S Niblock	P Williams
	L Fraser	T Norbury	S Williams
	P Gilchrist	M Patrick	

Apologies: Councillors P. Doughty and T. Pilgrim

### Tuesday 19 May 2015

Present: Civic Mayor (Councillor Steve Foulkes) in the Chair  
Deputy Civic Mayor (Councillor Les Rowlands)

Councillors	RL Abbey	JE Green	C Povall
	T Anderson	R Gregson	D Realey
	B Berry	P Hackett	L Reecejones
	C Blakeley	J Hale	L Rennie
	E Boulton	P Hayes	D Roberts
	A Brighthouse	A Hodson	J Salter
	P Brightmore	K Hodson	Tony Smith
	D Burgess-Joyce	T Johnson	W Smith

C Carubia	AER Jones	C Spriggs
P Cleary	C Jones	J Stapleton
W Clements	B Kenny	M Sullivan
J Crabtree	A Leech	A Sykes
M Daniel	AR McLachlan	J Walsh
A Davies	M McLaughlin	S Whittingham
G Davies	C Meaden	J Williamson
P Davies	D Mitchell	I Williams
WJ Davies	B Mooney	KJ Williams
D Elderton	C Muspratt	P Williams
G Ellis	S Niblock	S Williams
L Fraser	T Norbury	
P Gilchrist	M Patrick	

Apologies: Councillors P. Doughty, T. Pilgrim and G. Watt

## 1 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The Members of the Council were invited to consider whether they had any disclosable pecuniary and/or any other relevant interest in connection with any matters to be determined at this meeting and, if so, to declare it and state the nature of such interest.

No such declarations were made.

## 2 **CIVIC MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Civic Mayor thanked all those within the Council and throughout the Borough who had supported him and the Mayoress in the wide variety of activities that they had undertaken throughout his year of office. In particular, the Civic Mayor thanked the staff of Civic Services and the Attendants for their valued assistance, and all those involved in the work of the Civic Mayor's Charity Fund. He stated how grateful, humble and proud both he and the Mayoress were to have served as Civic Mayor and Mayoress.

## 3 **ELECTION OF CIVIC MAYOR 2015/16**

The Civic Mayor invited nominations for election of the Civic Mayor for the ensuing municipal year.

On a motion moved by Councillor Jeff Green, seconded by Councillor Gilchrist and, in the absence of any other nominations, it was:

**Resolved (unanimously) – That Councillor Les Rowlands be elected Civic Mayor of the Metropolitan Borough of Wirral for the 2015/16 municipal year.**

Councillor Rowlands proceeded to make his declaration of acceptance of office and the retiring Civic Mayor (Councillor Foulkes) vacated the Chair. Councillor Rowlands occupied the Chair.

The Civic Mayor welcomed his guests and spoke to his election.

#### 4 **DEPUTY CIVIC MAYOR 2015/16**

The Civic Mayor invited nominations for the appointment of a Deputy Civic Mayor for the ensuing municipal year.

On a motion moved by Councillor Phil Davies, seconded by Councillor Jeff Green, and in the absence of any other nominations, it was:

**Resolved (unanimously) – That Councillor Pat Hackett be appointed Deputy Civic Mayor of the Metropolitan Borough of Wirral for the 2015/16 municipal year.**

Councillor Hackett proceeded to make his declaration of acceptance of office.

#### 5 **ADJOURNMENT**

The Council agreed, without a vote, pursuant to Standing Order 5A (1), that the meeting stand adjourned to 6.15pm on Tuesday, 19 May 2015.

#### **RECONVENED ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING**

Annual Council reconvened at 6.15pm on Tuesday 19 May 2015

#### 6 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The Members of the Council were invited to consider whether they had any disclosable pecuniary interests and/or any other relevant interest in connection with any matter to be debated or determined at this meeting and, if so, to declare it and state the nature of such interest.

No such declarations were made.

#### 7 **CIVIC MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Civic Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting, including the public and the three newly Elected Members and those Members successfully re-elected.

## 8 PETITIONS

In accordance with Standing Order 21, the Civic Mayor received petitions submitted by –

- (i). Councillor Sykes on behalf of 155 signatories calling upon the Council to move the crossing point on Woodkind Hey to make the crossing safer for schoolchildren and other pedestrians.
- (ii). Councillor Sykes on behalf of 52 signatories calling the Council to reinstate the 4-weekly litter picks throughout the village of Thornton Hough.

**Resolved – That the petitions be noted and referred to the appropriate Chief Officer in accordance with Standing Order 34.**

## 9 MINUTES

The minutes of the meetings of the Council held on 16 March, 2015 had been circulated to Members and, it was –

**Resolved – That the minutes be approved and adopted as a correct record.**

## 10 ELECTION RESULTS - 7 MAY 2015

The Chief Executive/Returning Officer presented a summary of the results of the Local Government Elections held on 7 May 2015.

**Resolved – That the report be noted.**

## 11 LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENT

The Leader of the Council confirmed appointments to his Cabinet for 2015/16 as follows:

<b>Portfolio</b>	<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Party</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Ward</b>
Leader	Phil Davies <b>Leader of the Council</b>	Labour	16 Westbourne Grove West Kirby Wirral CH48 4DL	Birkenhead and Tranmere
Governance, Commissioning and Improvement	Ann McLachlan <b>Deputy Leader</b>	Labour	27 Danefield Road Greasby Wirral CH49 3BP	Bidston and St James
Neighbourhoods, Housing and Engagement	George Davies	Labour	46 Shamrock Road Claughton Birkenhead Wirral CH41 0EQ	Claughton

Support Services	Adrian Jones	Labour	10 Elmswood Road Seacombe Wallasey Wirral CH44 8DB	Seacombe
Adult Social Care and Public Health	Christine Jones	Labour	10 Elmswood Road Seacombe Wallasey Wirral CH44 8DB	Seacombe
Leisure, Sport and Culture	Chris Meaden	Labour	19 Inglemere Road Rock Ferry Birkenhead Wirral CH42 4QL	Rock Ferry
Economy	Pat Hackett	Labour	7 Wood Lane Wallasey Wirral CH45 8QP	New Brighton
Children and Family Services	Tony Smith	Labour	27 South Drive Upton Wirral CH49 6LA	Upton
Environment and Sustainability	Bernie Mooney	Labour	30 Brompton Avenue Liscard Wallasey Wirral CH44 0BD	Liscard
Highways and Transport	Stuart Whittingham	Labour	16 Fender Way Prenton Birkenhead Wirral CH43 7ZJ	Upton

The Leader indicated that there would be no changes made to the Cabinet and Portfolio but gave notice to Members that his intention was to review the portfolios and report back to the Council in due course.

The Leader further highlighted his intention to recommend a three year Corporate Plan for approval to Policy Council meeting held on 13 July following consideration by the Cabinet at its meeting in June 2015. The Leader indicated that Plan would be shared with the Political Leader prior to its submission to Cabinet and Policy Council.

**Resolved – That the Cabinet appointments be noted.**

## 12 **MATTERS REQUIRING APPROVAL BY THE COUNCIL**

The Council was requested to consider the reports of the Head of Legal and Member Services and Committee referrals on the following matters –

- (i). Appointments and Constitution of Council Committees and the appointment of Chairs and Vice-Chairs to such Committees.

- (ii). Appointments to Statutory and Advisory Committees, Working Parties and Panels.
- (iii). Appointment of Members (and/or other individuals) to Outside Bodies and Organisations.
- (iv). Policy Council Agenda.

In response to a Members question, the Leader indicated that the position of Chair for the four Policy and Performance Committees would be taken up by the Labour Group.

In respect of the first matter requiring approval, it was moved by Councillor Phil Davies and seconded by Councillor Ann McLachlan –

‘That the recommendations in the report be approved.’

**Resolved (61:1) (One abstention) –**

- (1) That for the 2015/16 municipal year the total number of Committee places (excluding those on the Cabinet and Constituency Committees) shall be 133 and the places shall be allocated in the following proportions:**

Committee	Places	Labour	Conservative	Liberal Dem.	Green
Audit and Risk Management	9	5	3	1	
Employment and Appointments	8	5	2	1	
Licensing Act 2003 Committee	15	10	4	1	
Licensing, Health and Safety and GP	9	5	3	1	
Pensions	10	6	3	0	1
Planning	13	7	4	1	1
Standards and Constitutional Oversight	9	5	3	1	
Coordinating Committee P & P	15	9	5	1	
Families and Wellbeing P & P	15	9	5	1	
Regeneration and Environment P & P	15	9	5	1	
Transformation and Resources P & P	15	9	5	1	

<b>Total</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2</b>
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**(2) That the Chairs of the above Committees be allocated to the Labour Group along with the Vice-Chairs**

**(3) That the nominations for places on committees be submitted by the respective Political Group Leaders to the Head of Legal and Member Services and be as set out in Appendix A to the minutes of this meeting.**

**(4) That the ongoing nominations of Diocesan and Parent Governor representatives on the Coordinating Committee and Families and Wellbeing Policy and Performance Committee be noted.**

In respect of appointments to Statutory and Advisory Committees, Working Parties and Panels it was moved by Councillor Phil Davies, seconded by Councillor Ann McLachlan and –

**Resolved (62:0) (One abstention) - That the numbers be agreed for each appointment to Statutory and Advisory Committees, Working Parties and Panels for the 2015/2016 municipal year, including the proportional split where appropriate, and the nominations be submitted by the respective Political Group Leaders to the Head of Legal and Member Services and be as set out in Appendix B to the minutes of this meeting.**

In respect of appointments to Outside Bodies and Organisations, it was moved by Councillor Phil Davies, seconded by Councillor Ann McLachlan and –

**Resolved (62:0) (One abstention) - That the numbers be agreed for each appointment of Members (and/or other individuals) to all Outside Bodies for the 2015/2016 municipal year, including the proportional split, where appropriate, and the nominations be submitted by the respective Political Group Leaders (and Chief Executive in respect of Council Officer nominations) to the Head of Legal and Member Services and be as set out in Appendix C to the minutes of this meeting.**

In respect of the report of the Head of Legal and Member Services in relation to the proposed agenda for the Policy Council meeting to be held on 13 July 2015, moved by Councillor Phil Davies, seconded by Councillor Ann McLachlan it was –

**Resolved (62:0) (One abstention) – That the proposed agenda for the Policy Council to be held on the 13 July 2015 as set out within the report, be approved.**

## **APPENDIX A COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP 2015-16**

Appendix A Committee Membership 2015/16

Appendix B Statutory and Advisory Committees, Working Parties and Panels  
2015/16

Appendix C Outside Bodies 2015/16



**MEMBERSHIP of COMMITTEES 2015/2016****REGULATORY COMMITTEES****AUDIT AND RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE  
(9 Council Members)**

<b>MEMBERS</b>	<b>DEPUTIES</b>
<b>3 Conservative:</b>  John Hale (S) Chris Blakeley David Elderton	Adam Sykes Kathy Hodson Leah Fraser Geoffrey Watt Steve Williams Paul Hayes Lesley Rennie Jeff Green
<b>5 Labour:</b>  Jim Crabtree (Chair) Ron Abbey (Vice-Chair) Angela Davies Paul Doughty Matthew Patrick	Phill Brightmore Anita Leech John Salter Mike Sullivan Joe Walsh Stuart Whittingham Irene Williams Janette Williamson
<b>1 Liberal Democrat:</b>  Phil Gilchrist (S)	Alan Brighthouse Chris Carubia Dave Mitchell Pat Williams

**EMPLOYMENT AND APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE  
(8 Council Members)**

<b>MEMBERS</b>	<b>DEPUTIES</b>
<b>2 Conservative:</b>  Jeff Green (S) Lesley Rennie	Wendy Clements Steve Williams Andrew Hodson Leah Fraser Geoffrey Watt John Hale Paul Hayes Chris Blakeley
<b>5 Labour:</b>  Adrian Jones (Chair) Phil Davies (Vice-Chair) George Davies Ann McLachlan Moira McLaughlin	Chris Jones Chris Meaden Bernie Mooney Denise Roberts Pat Hackett Brian Kenny Tony Smith Stuart Whittingham
<b>1 Liberal Democrat:</b>  Phil Gilchrist (S)	Alan Brighthouse Chris Carubia Dave Mitchell Pat Williams

## APPENDIX A

### LICENSING, HEALTH & SAFETY AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE (9 Council Members)

MEMBERS	DEPUTIES
<b>3 Conservative:</b>  Andrew Hodson (S) Leah Fraser Geoffrey Watt	Tom Anderson Paul Hayes Wendy Clements Adam Sykes Steve Williams Eddie Boulton Cherry Povall Gerry Ellis
<b>5 Labour:</b>  Bill Davies (Chair) Steve Niblock (Vice-Chair) John Salter Christine Spriggs Mike Sullivan	Jim Crabtree George Davies Phill Brightmore Christina Muspratt Anita Leech Denise Roberts Jean Stapleton Tony Norbury
<b>1 Liberal Democrat:</b>  Pat Williams (S)	Alan Brighthouse Chris Carubia Phil Gilchrist Dave Mitchell

## APPENDIX A

### LICENSING ACT 2003 COMMITTEE (15 Council Members)

MEMBERS	DEPUTIES No provision for deputies
<b>4 Conservative:</b>  Eddie Boulton David Burgess-Joyce Gerry Ellis Andrew Hodson (S)	
<b>10 Labour:</b>  Bill Davies (Chair) Steve Niblock George Davies Brian Kenny Chris Meaden Tony Norbury Denise Realey Denise Roberts John Salter Mike Sullivan	
<b>1 Liberal Democrat:</b>  Pat Williams	

**PENSIONS COMMITTEE**  
**(10 Council Members; 5 co-opted members)**

<b>MEMBERS</b>	<b>DEPUTIES</b>
<p><b>3 Conservative:</b></p> <p>Geoffrey Watt (S)  Kathy Hodson  Cherry Povall</p>	<p>Adam Sykes  John Hale  Eddie Boulton  Andrew Hodson  Bruce Berry  David Elderton  Tracey Pilgrim  Gerry Ellis</p>
<p><b>6 Labour:</b></p> <p>Paul Doughty (Chair)  Ann McLachlan (Vice-Chair)  George Davies  Treena Johnson  Adrian Jones  Brian Kenny</p>	<p>Jim Crabtree  Matt Daniel  Rob Gregson  Anita Leech  Moirra McLaughlin  Bernie Mooney  Jean Stapleton  Stuart Whittingham</p>
<p><b>1 Green:</b></p> <p>Pat Cleary</p>	
<p><b>5 Co-opted members:</b></p> <p>The nominees of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Liverpool City Council</li> <li>• Knowsley MBC</li> <li>• St Helens MBC</li> <li>• Sefton MBC</li> </ul> <p><i>plus</i>  Representative of other Pension Fund employers</p>	

**PLANNING COMMITTEE  
(13 Council Members)**

<b>MEMBERS</b>	<b>DEPUTIES</b>
<b>4 Conservative:</b>  David Elderton (S) Eddie Boulton Paul Hayes Kathy Hodson	  Bruce Berry Wendy Clements Geoffrey Watt Cherry Povall Tom Anderson David Burgess-Joyce Lesley Rennie Chris Blakeley
<b>7 Labour:</b>  Anita Leech (Chair) Denise Realey (Vice-Chair) Phill Brightmore Matt Daniel Steve Foulkes Joe Walsh Irene Williams	  Jim Crabtree Rob Gregson Treena Johnson Christina Muspratt Matthew Patrick Tony Norbury Denise Roberts Christine Spriggs
<b>1 Liberal Democrat:</b>  Dave Mitchell (S)	  Alan Brighthouse Chris Carubia Phil Gilchrist Pat Williams
<b>1 Green:</b>  Pat Cleary	

## APPENDIX A

### STANDARDS AND CONSTITUTIONAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE (9 Council Members; 4 Independent Persons)

MEMBERS	DEPUTIES
<b>3 Conservative:</b>  Chris Blakeley (S) Gerry Ellis John Hale	Paul Hayes David Burgess-Joyce David Elderton Tracey Pilgrim Kathy Hodson Andrew Hodson Leah Fraser Eddie Boulton
<b>5 Labour:</b>  Bill Davies (Chair) Moirá McLaughlin (Vice-Chair) Ron Abbey Denise Roberts John Salter	Jim Crabtree George Davies Rob Gregson Chris Jones Anita Leech Chris Meaden Bernie Mooney Steve Niblock
<b>1 Liberal Democrat:</b>  Phil Gilchrist (S)	Alan Brighthouse Chris Carubia Dave Mitchell Pat Williams
<b>4 Independent Persons:</b>  Professor R S Jones (appointed until 15 July, 2016) Mr C Jones (appointed until 15 July, 2016) Vacancy (appointed until 15 July, 2016) Mr B Cummings (appointed until 15 July, 2016)	

**POLICY AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEES****COORDINATING COMMITTEE****(15 Council Members; 4 co-opted members)**

<b>MEMBERS</b>	<b>DEPUTIES</b>
<b>5 Conservative:</b>  Tom Anderson (S) David Burgess-Joyce Wendy Clements Adam Sykes Steve Williams	Paul Hayes David Elderton Bruce Berry Tracey Pilgrim Leah Fraser Chris Blakeley Gerry Ellis Jeff Green
<b>9 Labour:</b>  Moiria McLaughlin (Chair) Paul Doughty (Vice-Chair) Phill Brightmore Brian Kenny Christina Muspratt Walter Smith Mike Sullivan Jerry Williams Janette Williamson	Ron Abbey Jim Crabtree Rob Gregson Anita Leech Denise Realey Denise Roberts John Salter Irene Williams
<b>1 Liberal Democrat:</b>  Phil Gilchrist (S)	Alan Brighthouse Chris Carubia Dave Mitchell Pat Williams
<b>Co-opted members (when dealing with education matters):</b> <b>2 Diocesan representatives</b> (with voting rights): Roman Catholic – Mr Damian Cunningham Church of England – Vacancy  <b>2 Parent Governor representatives</b> (with voting rights): Mrs H Shoebridge (until 28 October 2015) Mrs Nicola Smith (until 8 February 2017)	



**FAMILIES AND WELLBEING**  
**(15 Council Members; 4 co-opted members)**

MEMBERS	DEPUTIES
<b>5 Conservative:</b>  Wendy Clements (S) Bruce Berry David Burgess-Joyce Paul Hayes Cherry Povall	Tom Anderson Adam Sykes Tracey Pilgrim Steve Williams Geoffrey Watt Leah Fraser John Hale Lesley Rennie
<b>9 Labour:</b>  Moira McLaughlin (Chair) Denise Roberts (Vice-Chair) Phill Brightmore Angela Davies Treena Johnson Tony Norbury Walter Smith Irene Williams Janette Williamson	Ron Abbey Paul Doughty Anita Leech Denise Realey John Salter Christine Spriggs Jean Stapleton Joe Walsh
<b>1 Liberal Democrat:</b>  Alan Brighthouse (S)	Chris Carubia Phil Gilchrist Dave Mitchell Pat Williams
<b>Co-opted members:</b> <b>2 Diocesan representatives</b> (with voting rights): Roman Catholic – Mr Damian Cunningham Church of England – <b>Vacancy</b>  <b>2 Parent Governor representatives</b> (with voting rights): Mrs H Shoebridge (until 28 October 2015) Mrs Nicola Smith (until 8 February 2017)	

## APPENDIX A

### REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT (15 Council Members)

MEMBERS	DEPUTIES
<b>5 Conservative</b>  Steve Williams (S) Gerry Ellis John Hale Tracey Pilgrim Adam Sykes	Eddie Boulton David Elderton Tom Anderson Kathy Hodson Geoffrey Watt Bruce Berry David Burgess-Joyce Cherry Povall
<b>9 Labour:</b>  Mike Sullivan (Chair) Jerry Williams (Vice-Chair) Jim Crabtree Matt Daniel Rob Gregson Steve Niblock Denise Realey Christine Spriggs Jean Stapleton	Phill Brightmore Anita Leech Christina Muspratt Tony Norbury Matthew Patrick Joe Walsh John Salter Irene Williams
<b>1 Liberal Democrat:</b>  Dave Mitchell (S)	Alan Brighthouse Chris Carubia Phil Gilchrist Pat Williams

**TRANSFORMATION AND RESOURCES  
(15 Council Members)**

<b>MEMBERS</b>	<b>DEPUTIES</b>
<b>5 Conservative:</b>  Adam Sykes (S) Tom Anderson Bruce Berry Leah Fraser Tracey Pilgrim	David Burgess-Joyce Geoffrey Watt Kathy Hodson Gerry Ellis Wendy Clements Cherry Povall Andrew Hodson Steve Williams
<b>9 Labour:</b>  Janette Williamson (Chair) Paul Doughty (Vice-Chair) Steve Foulkes Rob Gregson Brian Kenny Christina Muspratt Matthew Patrick John Salter Joe Walsh	Phill Brightmore Anita Leech Treena Johnson Denise Realey Denise Roberts Christine Spriggs Mike Sullivan Irene Williams
<b>1 Liberal Democrat:</b>  Chris Carubia (S)	Alan Brighthouse Phil Gilchrist Dave Mitchell Pat Williams

## APPENDIX A

### **CONSTITUENCY COMMITTEES**

#### **BIRKENHEAD**

**(18 Council Members)**

**(plus up to 6 co-opted Community Representatives)**

<b>WARD</b>	<b>MEMBERS</b>
Bidston and St James	Jim Crabtree, Brian Kenny, Ann McLachlan
Birkenhead and Tranmere	Pat Cleary, Phil Davies, Jean Stapleton
Claughton	George Davies, Steve Foulkes, Denise Roberts
Oxton	Alan Brighthouse, Paul Doughty, Pat Williams
Prenton	Angela Davies, Tony Norbury, Denise Realey
Rock Ferry	Bill Davies, Chris Meaden, Moira McLaughlin
Co-opted (Subject to review)	Mr Frank Field MP

#### **WALLASEY**

**(18 Council Members)**

**(plus up to 6 co-opted Community Representatives)**

<b>WARD</b>	<b>MEMBERS</b>
Leasowe and Moreton East	Ron Abbey, Treena Johnson, Anita Leech,
Liscard	Matt Daniel, Bernie Mooney, Janette Williamson
Moreton West and Saughall Massie	Bruce Berry, Chris Blakeley, Steve Williams
New Brighton	Rob Gregson, Pat Hackett, Christine Spriggs
Seacombe	Adrian Jones, Chris Jones, John Salter
Wallasey	Leah Fraser, Paul Hayes, Lesley Rennie
Co-opted Community Representatives (Subject to review)	Miss Alex Cooke, Mr John Carson, Mr Ken Harrison, Mr Brian Higgins, Mr Tony Jones, Mr Keith Raybould

## APPENDIX A

### **WIRRAL SOUTH** **(15 Council Members)** **(plus up to 6 co-opted Community Representatives)**

<b>WARD</b>	<b>MEMBERS</b>
Bebington	Christina Muspratt, Walter Smith, Jerry Williams
Bromborough	Steve Niblock, Joe Walsh, Irene Williams
Clatterbridge	Cherry Povall, Tracey Pilgrim, Adam Sykes
Eastham	Chris Carubia, Phil Gilchrist, Dave Mitchell
Heswall	Andrew Hodson, Kathy Hodson, Les Rowlands

### **WIRRAL WEST** **(15 Council Members)** **(plus up to 6 co-opted Community Representatives)**

<b>WARD</b>	<b>MEMBERS</b>
Greasby, Frankby and Irby	Tom Anderson, David Burgess-Joyce, Wendy Clements
Hoylake and Meols	Eddie Boulton, Gerry Ellis, John Hale
Pensby and Thingwall	Phill Brightmore, Louise Reecejones, Michael Sullivan
Upton	Matthew Patrick, Tony Smith, Stuart Whittingham
West Kirby and Thurstaston	David Elderton, Jeff Green, Geoffrey Watt
Co-opted Community Representatives (Subject to review)	Jackie Hall (Hoylake and Meols Ward) John Smith (Greasby Frankby and Irby Ward) Vacancy (Pensby and Thingwall Ward) Elise Wong (Upton Ward) David Wade (West Kirby and Thurstaston Ward)

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## STATUTORY AND ADVISORY COMMITTEES, WORKING PARTIES AND PANELS – MEMBERSHIP 2015/2016

**Note:** figures in brackets indicate the political ratio, i.e. (Labour: Conservative: Liberal Democrat); asterisk indicates party spokesperson. Statutory Committees should be appointed proportionately or if not proportionate should be appointed with no councillors voting against. Advisory Committees or working parties need not be proportionate.

### (1) STATUTORY COMMITTEES AND PANELS

(listed under relevant portfolio)

#### (a) ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND PUBLIC HEALTH

##### (i). Discharge from Guardianship by Wirral Council under the Mental Health Act 1983 Panel (2:1:0)

(Members appointed from membership of the Policy and Performance Families and Wellbeing Committee)

Councillor Denise Roberts  
Councillor Moira McLaughlin  
Councillor Bruce Berry

##### (ii). Health and Wellbeing Board

3 Political Group Leaders plus, as co-optees, the Cabinet Members for Adult Social Care and Public Health, Councillor Chris Jones and Children and Family Services, Councillor Tony Smith

Group Leaders' nominees as deputies, Councillor Ann McLachlan, Councillor Lesley Rennie and vacancy

#### (b) CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

##### (i). Complaints Panel (School Curriculum and Related Matters) (2:1:0 plus named deputies)

Councillors Tony Smith Jim Crabtree	Deputies – Councillors Paul Doughty Walter Smith Bernie Mooney
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Councillor Wendy Clements	Deputies – Councillors Paul Hayes Cherry Povall
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##### (ii). Education Staff Panel (4:2:1 plus named deputies)

Councillors Paul Doughty Tony Smith Walter Smith Bernie Mooney	Deputies – Councillors Chris Meaden
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Councillors Wendy Clements Deputy – Councillor Paul Hayes  
Cherry Povall

Councillor Pat Williams Deputies – Councillors Alan Brighouse  
Chris Carubia

**(iii). Headteacher Appointments Panel**  
(3:1:0 plus named deputies)

Councillors Bernie Mooney Deputies – Councillors Jim Crabtree  
Walter Smith Janette Williamson  
Tony Smith

Councillor Wendy Clements Deputy – Councillor Cherry Povall

**(iv). School Appeals Panel**

Lay Chairs: Mrs A Barker, Mrs S Reynolds, Mr J Smallthwaite, Mr D Spencer,  
Mrs J Turner, Mrs H A Wells and Mrs H Welsh

**(v). Standing Advisory Committee on Religious Education (SACRE)**  
(4:2:0)

Councillors Tony Smith Deputies – Councillors Phill Brightmore  
Walter Smith Jim Crabtree  
Bernie Mooney Denise Roberts  
Moirra McLaughlin

Councillors Wendy Clements Deputy – Councillor Paul Hayes  
Cherry Povall

**(vi). Wirral Schools Forum (Funding Consultative Group)**  
Observers (2:1:0)

Councillor Bernie Mooney  
Councillor Tony Smith  
Councillor Wendy Clements

**(vii). Wirral Children's Trust Board (2:1:0)**

Cabinet Member – Councillor Tony Smith  
and Councillors Chris Meaden and Wendy Clements

**(viii). Adoption / Fostering Panels**

Adoption: Councillor Tony Smith (Chair)  
Fostering: Councillors Christina Muspratt, Cherry Povall and Phil Gilchrist



**(c) SUPPORT SERVICES**

**Independent Remuneration Panel** (4 persons who are not members of the Council and who are not disqualified from being a member)

Don Latham (Chair), Ray Allan, Nunzia Bertali, Pauline Brown

**(2) ADVISORY COMMITTEES AND WORKING PARTIES**

(listed under relevant portfolio)

**(a) CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES**

**(i). Youth and Play Service Advisory Committee**

(8 Council Members - 3:3:2)

Councillors	Tony Smith Chris Meaden Walter Smith	Deputy –	Councillor Jean Stapleton
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Councillors	Paul Hayes Wendy Clements Cherry Povall	Deputy –	Councillor Tracey Pilgrim
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Councillors	Chris Carubia Pat Williams	Deputy –	Councillor Phil Gilchrist
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**(ii). Corporate Parenting Group (2:2:2)**

Councillors Chris Meaden, Tony Smith  
Councillors Cherry Povall, Wendy Clements  
Councillors Alan Brighthouse, Pat Williams

**(iii). Headteachers and Teachers Joint Consultative Committee**

(7 Council Members - 3:2:2)

Councillors	Denise Roberts Tony Smith George Davies	Deputies – Councillors	Jim Crabtree Moira McLaughlin Bernie Mooney
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Councillors	Wendy Clements Cherry Povall	Deputy – Councillor	Paul Hayes
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Councillors	Dave Mitchell Pat Williams	Deputies – Councillors	Alan Brighthouse Phil Gilchrist
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**(iv). Safeguarding Reference Group** (established by Council 15 December, 2014)

The Leader of the Council; the Leaders of the second and third largest groups on the Council; the Cabinet Member for Children and Family Services, the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health, the Chair and

spokespersons from Families and Wellbeing Policy and Performance Committee.

Deputies for Members – Councillors Ann McLachlan, Lesley Rennie, vacancy

The Chief Executive, the Strategic Director for Families and Wellbeing, the Director of Children's Services, the Head of Children's Specialist Services, the Director of Adult Social Services, the Head of Adult Social Services Delivery, the Corporate Safeguarding Manager, a representative of the Head of Legal and Member Services, the independent chair of Wirral LSCB and the SAPB.

**(b) ECONOMY**

**(i). Wirral Trade Centre Working Party (1:1:1)**

3 Political Group Leaders or their nominees.

**(ii). Birkenhead Business Improvement District Steering Group**

Councillor Jean Stapleton

Kevin Adderley - Strategic Director: Regeneration and Environment

**(c) ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY**

**Wirral Climate Change Group (1:1:1)**

Councillor Bernie Mooney

Councillor Tom Anderson

Councillor Dave Mitchell

**(d) GOVERNANCE, COMMISSIONING AND IMPROVEMENT**

**(i). Members' Development Steering Group (1:1:1)**

Councillors Tony Norbury (Chair)

Councillors Wendy Clements

Councillors Phil Gilchrist

**(ii). Members' Equipment Steering Group (2:2:2)**

Councillors Stuart Whittingham and Ann McLachlan

Councillors Jeff Green and Steve Williams

Councillors Alan Brighouse and Chris Carubia

**(e) LEISURE, SPORT AND CULTURE**

**(i). Birkenhead Park Advisory Committee (4:2:2)**

Councillors Chris Meaden, George Davies, Denise Roberts, Jean Stapleton

Councillors Cherry Povall, David Elderton

Councillors Pat Williams, Alan Brighouse

**(ii). Hilbre Island Nature Reserve Management Committee (2:4:2)**

Councillors Jerry Williams, Tony Smith

Councillors Gerry Ellis, John Hale, Jeff Green, Geoffrey Watt

Councillors Alan Brighthouse and Chris Carubia

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**APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES 2015/2016**  
**(grouped under portfolio or Committee)**

**Note:** Where ratios are quoted, the first figure refers to the entitlement of the Labour group, then Conservative, then Liberal Democrat.

**(A) LEADER**

**(i). Liverpool City Region Cabinet**

Leader of the Council, Councillor Phil Davies

**(ii). Liverpool City Region Combined Authority**

Leader of the Council, Councillor Phil Davies  
Councillor Ann McLachlan (substitute member)

**(iii). Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Scrutiny Panel (2:0:0)**

Councillors Anita Leech and Mike Sullivan\*

\*Appointed as Authority Scrutiny Link

**(iv). Liverpool City Region Boards**

Employment and Skills Board                      Councillor Pat Hackett

Housing and Spatial Planning Board      Councillor George Davies

**(v). Liverpool City Region Local Enterprise Partnership - Director**

Leader of the Council – Councillor Phil Davies

**(vi). NW Regional Leaders' Board (Nomination)**

3 places available for Merseyside Authorities. Appointees for the 2015/2016 municipal year to be notified

**(vii). Local Strategic Partnership Assembly**

Group Leaders:      Councillors      Phil Davies  
(or their nominees)                      Jeff Green  
   Phil Gilchrist

and Chief Executive

**(B) ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND PUBLIC HEALTH**

**(i). Age UK**

Councillor Chris Jones

**(ii). Arch Initiatives - Wirral Management Committee (1:1:1)**

Councillor Denise Roberts  
Councillor Steve Williams  
Councillor Dave Mitchell

**(iii). Cheshire and Wirral NHS Partnership Trust: Appointed Governor**

Councillor P N Gilchrist (Appointed for 3 years until 10 October 2016)

**(iv). Clatterbridge Cancer Centre NHS Foundation Trust**

Councillor Matt Daniel (Appointed for 3 years until end of September 2015)

**(v). John Lloyd Corkhill Trust**

Councillor Chris Jones

**(vi). Merseyside Society for the Deaf (1:1:0)**

Councillor John Salter  
Councillor David Elderton

**(vii). Wallasey Day Centre Advisory Body (3:0:0)**

(Notified on 26 May 2015, that body no longer exists, appointments not required)

**(viii). Wirral University Teaching Hospital Foundation Trust - Governors (1:1)**

Councillor Kathy Hodson )  
Councillor Christina Muspratt ) Appointed for 3 years until 18 September 2016

Deputy: Director of Adult Social Services

*(Members appointed to the trust cannot also be members of the Policy and Performance Families and Wellbeing Committee)*

**(C) CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES**

**(i). Birkenhead Sixth Form College Governing Body**

Councillor Denise Roberts (1 Nov 2011 to 31 Oct 2015)

**(ii). C E Gourley VC Endowment Fund**

Councillors Geoffrey Watt  
Gerry Ellis

**(iii). Lower Bebington School Lands Foundation (1:1:1)**

Councillor Christina Muspratt  
Councillor Cherry Povall  
Councillor Phil Gilchrist

**(iv). National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children**

Councillor Tony Smith

**(v). Oaklands Centre Management Committee (2:1:1)**

(Will transfer to the new shared school traded services company from September 2015)

Councillors Walter Smith  
Tony Smith  
Councillor Tracey Pilgrim  
Councillor Chris Carubia

**(vi). St Bridget's Educational Trust**

Councillor Gerry Ellis

**(vii). West Kirby Residential School**

Councillor Eddie Boulton

**(viii). Wirral Metropolitan College Governing Body**

(The Council does not have a designated place on the Governing Body)  
Julia Hassall (Director of Children's Services) has been appointed independently for a 4 year term until 23 October, 2018)

**(ix). Wirral Play Council Executive Committee (1:1:0)**

Councillor Chris Meaden  
Councillor Wendy Clements

**(x). Wirral Play Partnership (1:1:1)**

Councillor Chris Meaden  
Councillor Cherry Povall  
Councillor Pat Williams

**(D) ECONOMY**

**(i). Chrysalis (General Partner) Limited - Director**

Councillor Ann McLachlan

**(ii). Conservation Area Advisory Committees**

<u>Conservation Area</u>	<u>Councillor(s)</u>
Bromborough Pool	Steve Niblock
Oxton	Paul Doughty
Barnston	Phillip Brightmore
Caldy	Jeff Green
Frankby	Wendy Clements
Gayton and Heswall	Kathy Hodson
Thornton Hough	Cherry Povall

Thurstaston	David Elderton
Wellington Road, New Brighton	Pat Hackett, Rob Gregson, Christine Spriggs
Saughall Massie	Steve Williams
Port Sunlight	Steve Niblock
Rock Park	Chris Meaden
Bidston	Jim Crabtree
Eastham	Chris Carubia
Hoylake Meols Drive/King's Gap	Gerry Ellis
Friends of Birkenhead Park	Jerry Williams
West Kirby Society	David Elderton
Bromborough Society	Irene Williams
Mount Wood	Angela Davies, Tony Norbury, Denise Realey
Clifton Park	Jean Stapleton
Lower Bebington	Jerry Williams

**(iii). Lairdsid e Communities Together**

Councillors    Phil Davies  
                     Chris Meaden

**(iv). Mersey Maritime Group Ltd (1:1:0)**

Councillor    Bernie Mooney  
Councillor    Lesley Rennie  
Councillor    Phil Davies (Co-opted Member)

**(v). Mersey / Dee Alliance (1:1:1)**

Councillor    Pat Hackett        (or nominee)  
Councillor    Steve Williams    (or nominee)  
Councillor    Dave Mitchell     (or nominee)

**(vi). North Birkenhead Development Trust (Director)**

Councillor Ann McLachlan

**(vii). Wirral Chamber of Commerce**

Leader of the Council – Councillor Phil Davies  
Strategic Director: Regeneration and Environment – Mr K Adderley

**(viii). Wirral Citizens' Advice Bureau (1:1:1)**

Councillor    Jean Stapleton  
Councillor    David Elderton  
Councillor    Alan Brighthouse  
Plus Strategic Director: Regeneration and Environment (Mr K Adderley) (or nominee)

**(ix). Wirral Council for Voluntary Service - Management Committee (1:1:0)**

Councillor    Denise Roberts  
Councillor    David Elderton



**(E) ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY**

**(i). Liverpool Airport Consultative Committee**

Councillor Steve Niblock

**(ii). Local Government Association Coastal Issues Special Interest Group**

Councillor Stuart Whittingham  
(Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport)

**(iii). Manchester Port Health Authority**

Councillor John Salter  
(Deputy – Vacancy)

**(iv). Mersey Port Health Committee (3:2:1)**

Councillors	Ron Abbey	Deputies – Councillors	Bernie Mooney
	John Salter		Denise Roberts
	Stuart Whittingham		

Councillors	Steve Williams	Deputies – Councillors	David Burgess-Joyce
	Gerry Ellis		John Hale

Councillor	Dave Mitchell	Deputy – Councillor	Alan Brighthouse
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**(v). Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority (1:1:0)**

Councillor	Irene Williams*
Councillor	Steve Williams.

*\*Nominated for the purposes of Section 41, Local Government Act 1985*

**(F) GOVERNANCE, COMMISSIONING AND IMPROVEMENT**

**(i). Wirral Multicultural Organisation (1:1:1 plus a Ward Councillor)**

Councillor	Ann McLachlan
Councillor	Tracey Pilgrim
Councillor	Dave Mitchell
Councillor	Phil Davies (Ward Councillor)

**(G) HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT**

**(i). Merseytravel Committee of the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority (Not an Approved Duty) (3:1:0)**

Councillors	Ron Abbey*
	Steve Foulkes
	Jerry Williams
Councillor	Les Rowlands

*\*Nominated for the purposes of Section 41 of the Local Government Act 1985*

**(ii). National Parking Adjudication Service Joint Committee**

Councillor Stuart Whittingham  
(Deputies – Councillors Lesley Rennie and Dave Mitchell)

**(iii). Wirral Cycle Forum (1:1:1)**

Councillor Christina Muspratt  
Councillor Wendy Clements  
Councillor Phil Gilchrist

**(iv). Wirral Pedestrian Forum (1:1:1)**

Councillor Stuart Whittingham  
Councillor Kathy Hodson  
Councillor Phil Gilchrist

**(H) LEISURE, SPORT AND CULTURE**

**(i). Beechwood Play and Community Centre Joint Management Committee**  
(Will move outside the Council's control within the next twelve months)

Councillors Jim Crabtree  
Denise Roberts  
Ann McLachlan  
Brian Kenny

**(ii). Charing Cross Play, Youth and Community Centre Joint Management Committee**

Councillors Phil Davies  
Denise Roberts  
Jean Stapleton  
Chris Meaden

**(iii). Gautby Road Play & Community Centre Joint Management Committee**  
(Bidston and St James Ward Councillors)

Councillors Jim Crabtree  
Ann McLachlan  
Brian Kenny

**(iv). The Lauries Centre**

Councillor Jean Stapleton

**(v). Leasowe Play, Youth & Community Association Joint Management Committee**

Councillors Ron Abbey  
Treena Johnson  
Anita Leech

**(vi). Mayer Trust, Bebington**

(Appointments to this body will be subject to review as the Trust is currently reviewing its constitution)

Councillors    Jerry Williams  
                      Cherry Povall  
                      Dave Mitchell

**(vii). Merseyside Cultural Forum**

Councillor Chris Meaden (Cabinet Member for Leisure, Sport and Culture)

**(viii). New Ferry Village Hall Joint Management Committee**

(Bromborough Ward Councillors) – (Will move outside the Council's control within the next six months)

Councillors    Joe Walsh  
                      Steve Niblock  
                      Irene Williams

**(ix). Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Society**

Councillor Denise Roberts

**(x). Seacombe Community Association (Council)**

Councillor J Salter

**(xi). Tam O'Shanter Cottage Trust**

Councillors    Denise Roberts  
                      Chris Meaden  
                      George Davies  
                      Steve Foulkes  
                      Bruce Berry

**(xii). Woodchurch Community Centre Joint Management Committee**

(Upton Ward Councillors) – (Will move outside the Council's control within the next six months)

Councillors    Matthew Patrick  
                      Stuart Whittingham  
                      Tony Smith

**(I) LICENSING, HEALTH AND SAFETY AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

**(i). North Western Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority**

Councillor Bernie Mooney

**(J) NEIGHBOURHOODS, HOUSING AND ENGAGEMENT**

**(i). Beechwood & Ballantyne Community Housing Association – Board**

Councillors Brian Kenny  
Paul Doughty

**(ii). Leasowe Community Homes Management Board**

Councillors Treena Johnson  
Adrian Jones  
Anita Leech  
Bernie Mooney  
Christine Spriggs

**(iii). Magenta Living – Board members (3:1)**

Councillors Stuart Whittingham  
Bill Davies  
Steve Foulkes  
Councillor Jeff Green

**(iv). Magenta Living: Community Fund Working Group**

Councillor George Davies (Cabinet Member)  
Ian Platt (Head of Housing)  
Tom Sault (Head of Financial Services)

**(v). Magenta Living: Governance and Membership Committee**

Councillor George Davies

**(vi). Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority (3:1:0)  
(Not an Approved Duty)**

Councillors Denise Roberts\*  
Steve Niblock  
Jean Stapleton  
Councillor Lesley Rennie

*\*Nominated for the purposes of Section 41 of the Local Government Act 1985*

**(vii). Merseyside Police and Crime Panel (1:1)**

Councillors Moira McLaughlin  
Cherry Povall

**(viii). Wirral Community Safety Partnership (1:1:1)**

Councillors George Davies  
Leah Fraser  
Alan Brighthouse

**(ix). Wirral Council and Riverside Challenge Fund Working Group**

Councillor George Davies  
(Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods, Housing and Engagement)  
Mr K Adderley (Strategic Director: Regeneration and Environment) or deputy  
Mr S Tour (Head of Legal and Member Services) or deputy

**(K) SUPPORT SERVICES**

**(i). Birkenhead Market Limited/Birkenhead Market Services Limited  
– Director**

Vacancy

**(ii). Local Government Association: General Assembly (3:1:0)**

Councillors Phil Davies  
George Davies  
Ann McLachlan  
Councillor Jeff Green

**(iii). North Western Local Authorities Employers' Organisation**

Councillor Adrian Jones  
(Deputy – Councillor Phil Davies)

**(iv). SIGOMA (LGA Special Interest Group of Metropolitan Authorities)**

Leader of the Council, Councillor Phil Davies, or nominee

Councillor George Davies is the Leader's current nominee, and the other Group Leaders or their nominees have been authorised to attend as observers.  
(Councillor Chris Blakeley is an observer.)

**(v). West Kirby Charities** (the Council is able to nominate up to 8 trustees)

Councillor D M Elderton	(appointed until 7 September 2017)
Councillor E Boulton	(appointed until 16 October 2017)
Mr David Stevenson	(appointed until 30 October 2018)
Vacancy	(appointed until 18 October 2016)
Councillor Geoffrey Watt	(appointed until 26 April 2016)
Vacancy	5(appointed until 30 October 2015)
Vacancy	(appointed until 18 April 2019)
Mrs Gill Conlon	(appointed until 30 January, 2017)

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**COUNCIL  
6 JULY 2015**

## **CABINET PORTFOLIO SUMMARY REPORT**

<b>REPORT OF</b>	<b>Councillor Phil Davies</b>
<b>CABINET PORTFOLIO</b>	<b>Leader of the Council</b>
<b>CO-ORDINATING CHIEF OFFICER</b>	<b>Eric Robinson, Chief Executive</b>

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report is an update from the Cabinet Portfolio Holder to Members of the Council on matters relevant to his portfolio.

#### **1. COUNCIL PLAN: 2020 VISION**

Council will meet on the 13<sup>th</sup> July to debate and consider a new Council Plan for Wirral. I am proud as Leader of Wirral Council to have led the development of an ambitious plan which will deliver the following priorities:

- Wirral is a place where the vulnerable are safe and protected, every child gets a good start in life and older residents are respected and valued
- Wirral is a place where employers want to invest and businesses thrive
- Wirral has an attractive and sustainable environment, where good health and an excellent quality of life is enjoyed by everyone who lives here

We can only deliver these priorities by working with our partners, local businesses and our communities. Over the next five years we will face significant reductions in our budget and will have to identify savings of approximately £120 million. However, by the end of this Plan, in 2020, the Council will still be investing £200 million a year into improving the lives of Wirral residents and we need to be creative and think differently about how the Council can achieve improved outcomes through working with others.

It is essential that we use the combined power and influence of the whole public sector in Wirral; with total investment estimated to be in the region of £2 billion every year. Over the next few weeks I will be meeting with our partners to discuss these priorities and those of our partners, in order that we can develop a Wirral Plan that maximises our collective resources to make a real difference to the lives of our residents and communities.

#### **2. COMBINED AUTHORITY**

##### **Liverpool City Region Combined Authority**

The Annual General Meeting of the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority took place on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2015 where I was re-elected as Chair. I am delighted to continue in this role and lead the region in driving forward our ambitions to grow the City Region economy.

The Combined Authority has now been up and running for over a year, and I welcome the progress and achievements made in collaborative working during this first year.

Setting up the Combined Authority in April 2014 was a significant step for the City Region, and has enabled us to build up a firm basis for partnership working, and to move forward with discussions on devolved powers and funding

There have been a number of successes during our first year of operation, including progress in the following:

**Strategic Transport plans and projects** – including input to the Northern Transport Strategy which has the aim of radically improving connectivity across the Northern city regions, to accelerate growth, as part of the Northern Powerhouse agenda;

**Economic Development** - The City Region welcomed the agreement of £262m Liverpool City Region Growth Deal in July to support economic development and provide the conditions for further business growth. Further Local Growth Funds of £31.6m were allocated to the City Region in January 2015 for 2016/17 in respect of capital investment funds, business growth funding and low carbon capacity funding;

In September 2014, the City Region agreed a City Region approach to Inward Investment which is now being implemented and developed by the individual local authorities and the LEP;

**Employment and Skills** - Through the work of the Employment and Skills Board, delivery has commenced on the innovative Youth Employment Gateway Programme, designed to support young people into work. Another key achievement has been the process for allocating the £41m of Skills Capital Funding which the City Region received as part of the Local Growth Deal in July 2014. Projects are now being recommended for approval and further strands of activity are currently being managed;

**Housing and Planning** - The Housing and Spatial Planning Group is moving forward collaboratively and has overseen the endorsement and monitoring of the delivery of the Local Investment Plan for housing.

The Combined Authority created the provision to facilitate Associate Membership, and subsequently welcomed Warrington and West Lancashire Councils as Associate Members during the year, helping us to build strong strategic collaboration across our wider economic area.

### **3. WIRRAL WATERS ENTERPRISE ZONE**

Work continues on the development of an investment plan for the Enterprise Zone. The two live projects- the new Wirral Metropolitan College campus and Tower Wharf- are currently on site. The fund will utilise the business rate uplift generated by first phase developments in Wirral Waters into supporting key catalyst projects that will drive economic growth and employment.

### **4. PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK**

The Council now has in place a Property Development Framework that enables support for key development projects where viability remains a problem. This framework is designed to unlock development and projects will be considered on a case by case basis. The first project supported by the fund is expected to go live in late summer 2015.



**CABINET PORTFOLIO SUMMARY REPORT**

<b>REPORT OF</b>	<b>Councillor Ann McLachlan</b>
<b>CABINET PORTFOLIO FOR</b>	<b>Governance, Commissioning and Improvement</b>
<b>CO-ORINDATING CHIEF OFFICER</b>	<b>Joe Blott, Strategic Director-Transformation and Resources</b>

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report is an update from the Cabinet Portfolio Holder to Members of the Council on matters relevant to her portfolio.

**1. ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT**

The Council's draft Annual Governance Statement for 2014/15 was presented to Audit and Risk Management Committee in June 2015. The statement evidences the continued progress to further strengthen our internal governance controls and demonstrates the improvement the Council has made during 2014-15 to address the Council's existing governance issues. The Council's improved position was also highlighted through our success in winning the 'Most Improved Council' award at the 2015 LGC Local Government awards in March 2015, which enabled us to showcase and receive recognition for our improvements by our peers.

The Council has identified four remaining governance issues which include business continuity arrangements, corporate procurement arrangements, absence management and culture. Further work is required to sufficiently improve these issues and plans have been developed to deliver these improvements. A final version of the Annual Governance Statement with an action plan to address the governance issues will now be signed off by the Leader and Chief Executive and reported to Cabinet and Audit and Risk Management Committee in September 2015. I will continue to receive regular reports on the progress that is being made to address these issues to ensure that improvements are being delivered.

**2. POLICY PAPERS**

The Policy and Strategy Team have established a new policy package. The policy package encompasses three Directorate policy briefings, which will be brought to the relevant Policy and Performance Committees four times throughout the municipal year, in alignment with key updates released by Central Government. The directorate policy briefings will provide Members with the latest position on emerging policy and legislative developments to support the committees work programme and future scrutiny work. This is a great new initiative which will help keep Members informed and will assist in driving policy discussions at Policy and Performance Committees.

### **3. CORPORATE RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY**

The Council's Corporate Risk Management Policy was fundamentally re-written in 2013/14 as part of the Council's wider improvements to corporate governance and to support our objective of being an organisation that is 'risk aware, not risk averse'. The refreshed Corporate Risk Management Policy was formally adopted by Cabinet in June 2015 and sets out our overall attitude to risk, confirms our commitment to managing it, provides a high level view of the risk management process and sets out our corporate requirements around how risk is to be handled.

An example where effective risk management has delivered tangible results in Wirral is relation to the Council's exposure to legal liability. Wirral's arrangements for managing liability risk, which are respected nationally, involve a holistic approach- from the early identification of exposures, right through to the effective management of litigated claims. The Council's Senior Risk & Insurance Officer has been key to the development of this approach. The success of Wirral's arrangements, and the benefit which authorities across the country have gained from him sharing his expertise, have been recognised in him winning the 2015 'Professional of the Year' award issued by Alarm (the national forum for risk management in the public sector).

The refreshed Corporate Risk Management Policy will be updated annually to reflect changes within the Council itself and to incorporate improvements in risk management practice.

**CABINET PORTFOLIO SUMMARY REPORT**

<b>REPORT OF</b>	<b>Councillor George Davies</b>
<b>CABINET PORTFOLIO FOR</b>	<b>Neighbourhoods, Housing and Engagement</b>
<b>CO-ORDINATING CHIEF OFFICER</b>	<b>Kevin Adderley, Strategic Director-Regeneration and Environment</b>

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report is an update from the Cabinet Portfolio Holder to Members of the Council on matters relevant to his portfolio.

**1. ENABLING NEW HOUSING SUPPLY**

2014/15 saw the completion of 322 affordable housing units in Wirral, exceeding the target of 300 units.

Hillside Court in Tranmere, a Regenda development of 8 two-bed bungalows for Affordable Rent has commenced on site. The development will see investment of 0.79million. Another scheme, Urmson Road in Liscard for Wirral Methodist Housing Association has also commenced on site. This development is for 12 two-bed apartments for Affordable Rent and will see investment of £1.37million.

**2. ENERGY EFFICIENCY**

The Liverpool City Region Collective Energy Switch was shortlisted by the UK Housing Awards which took place in London in April. The Switch received recognition in the Campaign of the Year category. The fourth round of switching took place in March and resulted in the best-ever energy bill saving for residents, which averaged £275 for each household. 936 Wirral households registered for the offer with scheme manager Energy Projects Plus.

Energy Projects Plus have begun their face-to-face engagement with residents in four areas of Birkenhead & Tranmere, where up to a quarter of households suffer from fuel poverty. Staff from Energy Projects Plus are speaking to residents about possible solutions to fuel poverty. In tandem, they're also training staff from local agencies to better understand how residents can be supported to reduce energy bills.

The Council has submitted its two-yearly progress report to Government under the Home Energy Conservation Act. The report provides an update on activity in the Borough to reduce energy use in housing and ultimately to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. The report shows that energy efficiency programmes have had a positive impact in the Borough. In Wirral between 2008 and 2012 (latest data), average standard electricity consumption in homes has fallen by 7.2% and average gas consumption has fallen by 19.4%. CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from the domestic sector have fallen in Wirral by 13.3% between 2005 and 2012, compared to average 10.5% decreases in both the Liverpool City Region and the North West.

### **3. SELECTIVE LICENSING**

The Council will be commencing its Selective Licensing Scheme in 4 areas within Tranmere, Birkenhead and Wallasey on 1<sup>st</sup> July aimed at radically improving the quality of private rented property and the standard of management of properties in these areas.

Private landlords in these areas will legally require a license if they want to continue to rent a property in these areas.

Work is ongoing with teams across the Council and external agencies including Street-scene, Anti-social behaviour team and Environmental Health to ensure that landlords and tenants are aware of their obligations and to give them skills so that they are better able to manage their properties and obligations

### **4. HOUSING REGENERATION IN BIRKENHEAD**

On the 30<sup>th</sup> of April 2015, the Council took possession of the remaining privately owned interests at Milner Street in Birkenhead. This followed the confirmation of a Compulsory Purchase Order and finalises the assembly of the St James Gate site currently being redeveloped by Keepmoat. Following the demolition of the remaining houses, this popular housing redevelopment should be completed later this year. Keepmoat are currently developing plans for their next phase of development on Station & Tyrer Streets close to Birkenhead North Station.

### **5. CONTROLLED DRINKING ENVIRONMENT – DEVELOPMENT OF 2 PILOT SERVICES**

A successful bid was submitted to Public Health, by the Supported Housing and Homeless Division, for the development of two Controlled Drinking Environments (CDE's), one located at Birkenhead YMCA and the second at Mary Cole House (Wirral Churches Ark).

The services have been operational for slightly over 12 months and have achieved significant successes: Between January and December 2014, there were 3922 attendances across both CDE's; since the CDE's became operational, alcohol-related crime has reduced by 30% in the Birkenhead area when compared with previous years; 12 Clients have undertaken detoxification as consequence of attending the CDE's; 2 Clients have attended Community Rehabilitation Projects; 10 Clients have been assisted to engage with Arch Initiatives.

### **6. EMERGENCY ACCOMMODATION FOR 16 & 17 YEAR OLDS**

During 2014 the Supported Housing Division of the Regeneration & Environment Directorate and colleagues from CYPD worked in partnership to develop a scheme intended to provide emergency accommodation for homeless 16/17 year olds. A Six-bedroomed accommodation, located in Wallasey, was leased to Your Housing Group (YHG), a Supporting People funded provider of high-quality services for young people. YHG completed significant internal refurbishment and, in May 2014, the service began accepting clients.

Since opening in May 2014, the service has accommodated 37 16 & 17 year olds, with 6 people currently in residence. Of these 37 16 & 17 year olds that have left the service: 87% have moved-on in a positive, planned manner; 100% to claim appropriate benefits; 83% to access Education, Training or Employment; 27% signposted to other agencies for specialist support; 32% to access substance misuse support

## **7. LIVERPOOL CITY REGION SINGLE HOMELESS WITH COMPLEX NEEDS PROJECT**

In June 2014, Central Government announced the opportunity for local authorities to bid for funding in order to give them the resources to work with partners such as health and probation services and Jobcentre Plus; and the space to innovate to improve services for those who would not be eligible for the main homelessness duty (primarily single people without dependents).

Wirral, along with the other Merseyside Councils were successful in their application for funding and have been awarded £262,000 to develop a cross-authority service that will provide intensive support to entrenched, chaotic rough sleepers.

## **8. HOME FROM HOME SERVICE**

Officers within Supported Housing have been working in partnership with Adult Social Care to develop a service to offer short term accommodation as an alternative to Residential Care or prolonged stay in hospital. Four flats have been made available by Social Landlords and have been adapted to meet the requirements of people with a range of disabilities (People who will benefit from the service include those recovering from temporary situations, like broken limbs / hips, or people trying to rebuild their life and skills after serious incidents such as amputations, stroke or head injury). The service is intended for clients who would require preparatory or installation work for adaptations in their normal home. Whilst adaptations are taking place Home from Home will provide an opportunity for recovery work in a natural setting. People will be supported to live sustainable and independent lives through access to housing, health and social care services, in a friendly and supportive setting rather than remaining in hospital or a care home.

## **9. MAINSTAY -SUPPORTED HOUSING GATEWAY**

In 2012, the Liverpool City Region (LCR), received £280,000 funding from DCLG to facilitate work across the six LCR LA's to reduce levels of homelessness, and to enable a coordinated response to the issues of homelessness across the local authority areas. The 6 LCR LA's agreed the need for the development of a single point of access to homeless services for vulnerable people and commissioned Capita to develop a web-based referral system, implementation to be supported by Liverpool YMCA.

The Gateway system acts as a "virtual" single point of access for homeless people needing accommodation based or floating support services. People who require these services can now present at an 'assessment point' (provided at a range of services across the Borough) and they will receive a common assessment and as a result will be referred to the most appropriate service(s) that will meet their need.

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## **CABINET PORTFOLIO SUMMARY REPORT**

<b>REPORT OF</b>	<b>Councillor Adrian Jones</b>
<b>CABINET PORTFOLIO FOR</b>	<b>Central and Support Services</b>
<b>CO-ORDINATING CHIEF OFFICER</b>	<b>Joe Blott, Strategic Director- Transformation and Resources</b>

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report is an update from the Cabinet Portfolio Holder to Members of the Council on matters relevant to his portfolio.

#### **1. ASSET MANAGEMENT**

Good progress is being made to move the three major disposal sites to the market, this follows some challenging work. Significant Capital receipts are expected at the end of the process. Office rationalisation continues at a pace and is resulting in more efficient workspaces and improved working environments for staff.

A completed lease agreement with Tranmere Rovers Football Club will relocate training and academy facilities to the Solar Campus site and includes the enhancement of community pitches.

Sensitive negotiations continue with a range of development opportunities across the Borough with retail companies, training providers and partner organisations.

#### **2. HEALTH, SAFETY & RESILIENCE**

The Health Safety & Resilience Team were instrumental in delivering an effective plan for ensuring the safety and wellbeing of over 70,000 spectators who came to view the Three Queens event on bank holiday Monday 25th May 2015. There has been over whelming positive feedback on the event experience as a whole with specific mention of the park & ride service and also the role of over 90 volunteers ambassadors who acted as stewards for the event.

The Health, Safety & Resilience Team are now part of a new service area called Corporate & Community Safety, which sits in the Transformation & Resources Directorate. This is a result of an organisational restructure and has placed the Health, Safety & Resilience team in with the Community Safety Team and the Councils Anti-Social Behaviour Team. Mark Camborne has management responsibility for this service area.

#### **3. IT**

There has been significant progress over the past three months with major projects having been delivered, including:

- The council achieved its PSN accreditation three months earlier than planned. This was due, in no small part, to the significant investment that the council has made in its ICT

infrastructure and the extraordinary efforts of the officers in the ICT Service and the council's external partners and suppliers.

- The capacity of the council's internet connection has been increased so that it can handle more high speed data.
- We have negotiated new contracts for our mobile and fixed telephone services and made significant savings.
- WiFi has been rolled out to leisure sites across the borough.
- Security risk management utilities have been deployed to reduce the risk of malicious attack from external sources.

#### **4. HUMAN RESOURCES/ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

##### **Remodelling and change**

The remodelling work is in its final stages of delivery. We are also supporting the setting up and TUPE transfer of staff to Local Authority Company set up by Council to deliver day services and schools traded services company.

We continue to work and support staff and Trade Unions to mitigate the impact of the Government's austerity measures.

##### **HR Policy Development**

Following recent consultation with Trade Unions, it is intended to take a revised disciplinary policy to Transformation and Resources Policy and Performance Committee in July. The committee will also be advised about legislative changes in relation to Shared Parental Leave.

#### **5. LIVERPOOL AND WIRRAL CORONER SERVICE**

On 2 April 2015, the Liverpool and Wirral Coroner Area was formally established under The Coroners and Justice Act 2009 (Alteration of Coroners Areas) Order 2015. The Order formalises the interim coroner arrangements that have been in place since 1 January 2014. Andre Rebello is the Senior Coroner for Coroner Area. The Coroner's Office and Court is located at Gerard Majella Courthouse, Boundary Street, Liverpool, L5 2QD. However, any Wirral family wishing to have an inquest held on the Wirral can request one and it will be held unless otherwise agreed by the Senior Coroner and family at the Town Hall, Birkenhead.

On 21 May, both Councils undertook a joint recruitment exercise for a new Area Coroner, who would support the Senior Coroner in his role. The interview panel included the Cabinet Portfolio Members with responsibility for the coroner service of both Councils. The panel recommended that Anita Bhardwaj be appointed and the recommendation was duly endorsed by the Chief Coroner and Lord Chancellor.

The operation of both the Wirral and Liverpool Coroner Services as a single service since 1 January 2014 has proven to be very successful both in terms of service improvement but also financially.



**CABINET PORTFOLIO SUMMARY REPORT**

<b>REPORT OF</b>	<b>Councillor Bernadette Mooney</b>
<b>CABINET PORTFOLIO FOR</b>	<b>Environment &amp; Sustainability</b>
<b>CO-ORDINATING CHIEF OFFICER</b>	<b>Kevin Adderley, Strategic Director- Regeneration and Environment</b>

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report is an update from the Cabinet Portfolio Holder to Members of the Council on matters relevant to her portfolio.

**1. TRADING STANDARDS ENFORCEMENT UPDATE**

As part of a long and intensive investigation by Trading Standards officers following complaints received from six consumers, four of whom are Wirral residents, on Tuesday 2 June 2015, a serial fraudster was sentenced to four years and six months imprisonment at Liverpool Crown Court having pleaded guilty on the day of trial to fifteen charges of Fraud and other Consumer Protection offences.

**2. LOW SCORING CHINESE TAKEAWAYS, RATED 0-1-2 FOR FOOD HYGIENE**

In September 2014 30 Chinese speaking businesses identified as remaining below and struggling to meet a satisfactory National Food Hygiene Food Rating score of at least 3 were engaged with as part of a community based project to improve their food hygiene.

From the 30 premises originally engaged with, 16 businesses who have remained in the same ownership have now been inspected as part of the national inspection regime and 12 of those businesses have improved their food hygiene rating score to at least 3. To date this equates to a 75% success rate of premises achieving at least “satisfactory”. From these 12 premises 4 businesses have also achieved the higher score of 4 or 5. Three premises have changed ownership and one business has closed. Appropriate enforcement action will be taken for the remaining premises who continue to fail to meet a satisfactory food hygiene score rating of at least 3. Given the success of this engagement exercise this project will be extended in 2015 to tackle other takeaways that are struggling to meet a minimum score of 3.

**3. UPDATE REDUCING THE STRENGTH CAMPAIGN (RtS)**

Of the 23 independently trading off sales premises in the “7 beats” area of Birkenhead 20 have been visited. 6 have mandatory conditions now placed on their licence preventing them from selling super strength beer/lager and cider with an abv. above 6.5%, 1 has agreed a voluntary undertaking and two more have agreed a voluntary inclusion by the end of June. Delays in recruitment has prevented the full time allocation of resources to this project but every effort is being made to maintain the progress being made.

The RtS campaign has also identified intelligence concerning other legislative breaches and wider criminal activity within this area. This has enabled multi-agency working to develop to deal with the illegal activities that have been identified. To date one premise has surrendered their licence due to significant licensing breaches, 3 food premises have been closed for significant pest infestations and ongoing investigations are taking place to deal with a number of other breaches.

#### **4. OUT OF HOURS ON CALL SERVICE TO DEAL WITH ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR LINKED TO NOISE FROM MUSIC AND PARTIES**

On 4 May 2015 the Environmental Health Service began an out of hours on call service to help tackle anti-social behaviour linked to noise from music and parties. The launch has been initially low key as Officers needed to trial the service support required from Community Patrol and as required the Police. The current system will utilise a rota of Environmental Health Officers to be on call from 5pm to 8am Monday to Friday and 24 hours a day on Saturday and Sunday. To date Officers, with support from Community Patrol, have attended a number of calls relating to loud music in Birkenhead, Wallasey and Woodchurch. Where possible and when safe to do so Officers will attempt to speak with offenders and persuade them to turn down and lower the level of noise related activities that are having a detrimental effect on our communities. Officers will also have access and be able to serve legal notices and will be able gather evidence to prosecute while on call. In certain circumstances effective action to deal with noise related anti-social behaviour will require on-site support from Community Patrol and or the Police. This service will be progressively promoted as the service is tested and analysed to determine work stream demands and Officer capacity.

#### **5. LITTER ENFORCEMENT CONTRACT**

The Council has recently awarded the contract for the new Litter Enforcement Service, which is due to commence in early July 2015. This month, in the build-up to the start of the new service, the Cabinet Member will launch an anti-littering awareness campaign. The campaign will make clear the Council's position that littering will not be tolerated and set out the costs incurred by the Council to clean litter up. The campaign will set out how the Litter Enforcement Service will work; explaining the role of the litter enforcement officers and the fines to be issued to those caught littering. Waste and Environment officers will work with councillors, stakeholders and service providers to plan the deployment of enforcement operations to key locations where littering occurs.

#### **6. IMPROVING THE COUNCIL'S RECYCLING PERFORMANCE**

The policy changes agreed by Cabinet earlier this year were all implemented from April, residents can now obtain new grey recycling bins free of charge, reduced cost for a replacement green residual waste bins and free additional brown garden waste (with a delivery charge). Residents now also receive a free bin repair service upon request. The Council has also appointed 5 Neighbourhood Recycling Officers, whose role is to work with residents to help them recycle more and to identify locations where recycling activity can be increased.

All of these initiatives have been established as part of the Council's drive to improve recycling performance and forms part of a new waste management strategy that will also include a major recycling awareness campaign that will be targeted towards locations where participation can be improved.

The Cabinet Member is also working with officers and colleagues at Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority (MRWA) to consider future waste collection streams that will enable the Council to achieve the joint recycling and waste management target for the City Region of 50% recycling by 2020.

## **7. BENEFITS PLAN COMING FROM BIFFA CONTRACT EXTENSION**

Following the securing of the contract extension with Biffa, officers are implementing the significant contract price reductions and service enhancements agreed as part of the extension. These include reductions to the contract value of £500k in 2014/15 and £200k for 2015/16, waived costs for the enhanced weekend cleansing requirements at New Brighton, the absorption of property uplift costs (for new housing development) and the recruiting of a jointly funded contract monitoring officer post. Officers are also now working with Biffa's management to explore opportunities for further efficiencies from the contract as part of the secured extension.

## **8. SUCCESSFUL CLEANSING PLAN FOR THREE QUEENS EVENT**

Part of the preparations for the Three Queens event included a comprehensive cleansing plan which was developed in partnership between Waste & Environment officers and Biffa's supervision and accepted by the event's leadership team.

The subsequent visiting of the Three Queens was a hugely successful event with very large crowds attending the riverside to observe the ships. The cleansing plan worked well during the event despite the larger than expected crowds and effectively clearance post event.

The Council received a number of compliments from people attending the event about the clean and tidy conditions to watch the event. The Council has again demonstrated how well it can manage the highest profile events for which cleansing plays such an important part.

## **9. "WE'RE WATCHING YOU" CAMPAIGN**

The "We're Watching You" campaign has now been running for 6 months and has led to an average 43% reduction in dog fouling in the areas targeted (a 56% reduction in the Birkenhead Constituency, 46% reduction in the Wallasey Constituency, 33% in Wirral West Constituency and 36% in Wirral South Constituency).

The campaign is now moving to Constituency areas rather than Borough-wide, so each campaign will be focussed in one Constituency area at a time. This has been done to increase visibility in each area, concentrate resources and improve efficiency by reducing the officer time taken to install posters, leaflet properties, audit dog fouling and remove posters at the end of each campaign.

The first of these Constituency-based campaigns is due to be installed by the end of this week (by Friday 19 June) in Woodchurch. Woodchurch was chosen as it has been an area that has actually seen an increase in instances of dog fouling during a campaign. The team anticipates that greater visibility will help to reduce the levels of dog fouling. After Woodchurch, the campaign will move to Prenton in July/August, to coincide with an event run by Magenta to encourage responsible dog ownership.

## **10. “EAT WELL WIRRAL” CAMPAIGN**

The Council recently won a prestigious Municipal Journal award on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June for its innovative and highly regarded projects to encourage healthier eating. The ‘Eat Well Wirral’ campaign has successfully helped to promote healthy eating among families living in some of the most disadvantaged areas in Wirral, and has provided support to local takeaway owners to enable them to change cooking practices to make their offer healthier. The success of the pilot project will act as a platform to roll this project out further, to enable us to deliver sustainable long-term health benefits for our most deprived communities. The award is a fantastic achievement and well deserved in recognition of the project teams work.

**CABINET PORTFOLIO SUMMARY REPORT**

<b>REPORT OF</b>	<b>Councillor Christine Jones</b>
<b>CABINET PORTFOLIO FOR</b>	<b>Adult Social Care &amp; Public Health</b>
<b>CO-ORDINATING CHIEF OFFICER</b>	<b>Graham Hodgkinson, Director of Adult Social Services</b>

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report is an update from the Cabinet Portfolio Holder to Members of the Council on matters relevant to her portfolio.

**1. BETTER CARE FUND**

A section 75, pooled budget is now agreed and in place with the CCG. Significant progress has been made with regard 7 day working proposals and investment in a range of community services including intermediate care to support the reduction of demand for urgent hospital admissions. The Council is currently out to tender for 110 Intermediate Care and Transitional Care beds (40 additional places). Commissioning specifications have been completed for a remodelled Rapid Community Service and multi-disciplinary team. These services will help prevent admissions and provide a 4-hour response for those individuals who can be supported more effectively outside of hospital.

**2. CARE ACT - UPDATE**

The Care Act 2014 came into force on 1 April. It now replaces numerous previous laws, to provide a coherent approach to adult social care in England. By embedding and extending personalisation in social care and increasing the focus on wellbeing and prevention it will enable local authorities and partners to have a wider focus on the whole population in need of care and support.

For people who need care and support, and their carers, this means there will be a need for better access to information and advice, and other approaches to promote independence and improve wellbeing.

Adult Social Care is working stakeholders to implement the Act. The Project plan reflects the broad themes of the Act which includes Wellbeing, Prevention, Integration, Information and Advice, Market Management (relating to commissioning activities), Care Management, Finance, and Safeguarding.

**3. CARERS COMMISSION**

Work has now been completed on the joint health and care commission (DASS, Public Health and CCG) "Carers Health and Wellbeing Service". This is complemented by other service commissions

where carers have been included for advice and information, and advocacy. The joint commission has been led by Adult Social Care.

The new service offers carers practical support to help them back into employment, carer's grants, training and offers both planned and unplanned support through a range of commissioned providers.

#### **4. DAY SERVICES - WIRRAL EVOLUTIONS/LAC**

On Friday 22 May, the new Local Authority Company, Wirral Evolutions was launched.

Staff, parents and carers have been part of the co-design of the service. The company will take over the running all Day Services and Day Opportunities for people in Wirral, and will act as an independent body accountable to its shareholders and stakeholders.

**CABINET PORTFOLIO SUMMARY REPORT**

<b>REPORT OF</b>	<b>Councillor Chris Meaden</b>
<b>CABINET PORTFOLIO FOR</b>	<b>Leisure, Sport and Culture</b>
<b>CO-ORDINATING CHIEF OFFICER</b>	<b>Clare Fish, Strategic Director- Families &amp; Wellbeing</b>

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report is an update from the Cabinet Portfolio Holder to Members of the Council on matters relevant to her portfolio

**1. WILLIAMSON ART GALLERY & BIRKENHEAD PRIORY**

The Cabinet has decided to reverse the previously agreed budget option, to facilitate the exploration of a new management arrangement for the Williamson and the Priory through a service level arrangement with National Museums Liverpool. Discussions around these arrangements are currently taking place and will hopefully lead to new opportunities for the development of community galleries alongside the already existing gallery spaces. The Council will also work with the Friends Group and Members of the Strategic Shadow Board in developing ideas for the future. It is anticipated that a proposal and timeline will emerge by the end of July 2015 for discussion with the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member

**2. FLORAL PAVILION**

The Floral continues to provide a diverse range of entertainment for the people of Wirral. Work is currently underway to look at various ways in which the current subsidy can be reduced as well as exploring new opportunities for future productions and events.

**3. LIBRARIES**

The changes to our 15 Community Libraries have been in place since the 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2015 and since that time staff and users have been working to maximise the use of the sites and I am pleased how well this change has gone. We are keeping this change under review and I am encouraged by the supportive reaction we have received from groups and individuals that have come forward to help the service. It is positive that we are working with local interested groups so quickly and I hope this trend will very much continue.

Our Library service continues to successfully provide a wide range of activities that support the cultural and learning aspects of a Library service. Once again we will be promoting the Summer Reading Challenge focused on children and I am pleased that we have 15 young volunteers who are helping promote and encourage reading amongst the borough's young. This is a great way of getting children involved in reading and then supporting others to get involved and I do hope as in previous years Wirral will see big numbers taking up this reading challenge.

#### **4. LEISURE SERVICES**

Phase 1 of the refurbishment works at West Kirby Concourse is now complete and the new state-of the art fitness suite was opened by The Mayor on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2015. Phase 2, which includes the upgrading of the catering facilities and aerobics suite, will be completed by the end of July 2015. We have had 3500 users of the Fitness Suite in 12 days and 280 new customers in terms of sign ups to an Invigor8 product.

The new facilities at Guinea Gap continue to go from strength to strength with over 1200 new customers signed up on to the Invigor8 membership scheme. The Information Manager to the Community Safety Partnership is reporting a shift of ASB away from Seacombe area towards New Brighton. We hope to show in subsequent weeks that the opening of the GG facility is directly contributing towards a reduction in the ASB. Sport Development is now operating a Doorstep Club on Tuesday evenings attracting up 35 young people each week ages 14yrs to 22 years.

A bid for £150k has been submitted to Sport England to enhance the capital project monies for the refurbishment of the changing facilities at West Kirby Marine Lake. The new changing facilities will be DDA compliant and augment the existing facilities at the Lake.

The National Citizens Service project is in its 5<sup>th</sup> year of delivery and the first cohort of this year's students will be put through their paces in mid-July. Reports from the previous 'projects' indicate that the children engaged in the scheme (16 – 19 years) gain life changing experiences that they will remember all their lives. Local communities benefit also, in that the children get involved in the development of local projects. Sports Development is holding an open day in on Thursday July 23<sup>rd</sup> between 2 – 4pm when councillors and officers will be able to see at first hand the NCS project in 'full swing', meet the young people and witness the grand opening of the refurbished toilet and shower block at Thurstaston.

#### **5. PARKS & COUNTRYSIDE SERVICE**

Our successful Junior Rangers summer outreach programme, which we ran in partnership with the Pyramids Shopping Centre in Birkenhead, recently, won a Purple Apple Marketing award for Corporate Social Responsibility. The programme will be taking place again this year throughout the school summer holidays. The Rangers will be running sessions every Thursday for six weeks and you will be delighted to hear that the Gruffalo will be making an appearance during one of the sessions. Virtual Guided Tours of New York's Central Park will also feature and we will also be providing virtual guided tours of Birkenhead Park to a New York audience.

The Mayor recently visited Harrison Park in Wallasey to present certificates to local people aged between 16 and 24 who have taken part in the Princes Trust training scheme. These young people have recently renovated the fountain in Harrison Park, painted the football pavilion and created planters for the park; this is a great example of partnership working with the Friends of Harrison Park, Parks and Countryside staff and the Princes Trust. Thanks to all involved.

You may also have heard that there are now Fairies in Vale Park. It is fantastic to see the fairies visitors (children and grandchildren) being enlightened by this wonderful fairy village. The wishing stone, stolen years ago by the trolls, has been returned with the help of our wonderful Parks & Gardens staff and I would like to thank everyone involved at Vale Park.

In the recent Charter for the Bereaved Assessments, we have been assessed as providing a strong 'Silver' standard for burials and Landican's crematorium achieved the 'Gold' standard accreditation. These standards are used to help to achieve a dignified bereavement service for everyone who uses our services.



The Parks & Countryside Team, in partnership with members of Wirral's strong and active Allotments community have carried out a great deal of very positive work together over the last year to improve the council's allotments processes and create a 5 year allotments partnership strategy and improvement plans. I would like to thank everyone involved for their input. Allotments are important for people's health and wellbeing as well as contributing to climate resilience and biodiversity. The formal consultation on the draft strategy is now underway.

Play Area refurbishments have been completed at Oakdale Park, Earlston Gardens, The Puddydale and Eastham Rake Play Area.

Bee-friendly planting of white, pink and blue lavenders has been undertaken at Vale Park, Wallasey Central Park and Rake Lane Cemetery.

Work is under way on producing the new ten year Wirral Playing Pitch Strategy, with summer sports data collection taking place in June and July.

The wildflower meadow at the Red Noses and Yellow Noses on New Brighton seafront is looking blooming lovely. Now in its fourth year the meadow is a partnership project between Landlife and Wirral Council Parks and Countryside Service and is funded by the Marine Point development.

Our Parks & Countryside horticultural apprentices have all now successfully completed their Horticulture NVQ level 2, which is great news. Over the last 18 months of so, our Parks & Countryside apprentices have gained experience across the wide range of work our Parks & Countryside service carries out including caring for our country parks, highway verge maintenance, planting out of bedding, mowing, general horticulture, fine turf work and maintenance of machines and equipment. To continue this positive work, four of our apprentices will soon be starting Advanced Apprenticeships in the Parks and Countryside team. I would like to thank all of our current apprentices and hope they will all find their time with us has been helpful in their future careers

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**CABINET PORTFOLIO SUMMARY REPORT**

<b>REPORT OF</b>	<b>Councillor Pat Hackett</b>
<b>CABINET PORTFOLIO FOR</b>	<b>Economy</b>
<b>CO-ORDINATING CHIEF OFFICER</b>	<b>Kevin Adderley, Strategic Director- Regeneration &amp; Environment</b>

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report is an update from the Cabinet Portfolio Holder to Members of the Council on matters relevant to his portfolio.

**1. BIRKENHEAD TOWN CENTRE**

Neptune Developments have submitted their master plan for the Town Centre and this was considered and agreed by Cabinet in March 2015 for the purposes of consultation and a test of lawfulness. This work is continuing and when complete a further report will be brought back to Cabinet.

**2. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING**

Devonshire Park has now received the Independent Examiner's report and this is being considered. If the Examiner's recommendations are accepted then this will move to the referendum stage.

**3. MERSEY DEE ALLIANCE (MDA)**

Work continues to influence key stakeholders for the improvement of the transport network across the Mersey Dee Alliance area, particularly rail modernisation. For Wirral one of the main priorities is the improvement of services on the Wrexham to Bidston line - allowing better access for residents to employment opportunities. Cross border skills will also be a priority for the Alliance moving forward.

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**CABINET PORTFOLIO SUMMARY REPORT**

<b>REPORT OF</b>	<b>Councillor Stuart Whittingham</b>
<b>CABINET PORTFOLIO FOR</b>	<b>Highways and Transport</b>
<b>CO-ORDINATING CHIEF OFFICER</b>	<b>Kevin Adderley, Strategic Director- Regeneration and Environment</b>

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report is an update from the Cabinet Portfolio Holder to Members of the Council on matters relevant to his portfolio.

**1. MAINTENANCE PROGRAMMES FOR 2015/16 AND THE POTHOLE REPAIR FUND**

Delivery of the current year's Structural Maintenance Programme has now commenced, with the following work either underway or programmed for the coming months:

Hot Rolled Asphalt carriageway resurfacing	June to August
Microasphalt carriageway surface treatment	June to August
Surface Dressing of carriageway	July
Footway surface treatment	June to August
Footway reconstruction	June to March

The Pothole Fund works, for which £452,652 was available in 2014/15, have been completed. Using a combination of that fund, our own pre-patching for the surface treatment programme for 2014/15 and in responding to safety defects in the carriageway, the Council carried out permanent repairs to a total of 11,944 potholes in 2014/15.

**2. HIGHWAY SERVICES CONTRACT**

The first year of the new contract with BAM Nuttall has now been completed, and whilst there are always lessons to be learned in developing new relationships and aligning systems and processes, the arrangements have enabled provision of a service which has proved satisfactory and the contractor has met the performance criteria set for the first year, which has earned BAM Nuttall the first six-month extension to the contract.

The Council's use of the new Highways Maintenance Efficiency Programme (HMEP) contract and procurement tools has been recognised nationally through Finalist status in the Government Opportunity (GO) Annual Awards and a Commendation in the MJ Annual Excellence Awards; both in the Innovation in Procurement category. Service Managers are fully engaged in HMEP, and are providing advice and guidance to other Councils across the country as they procure their own highway services contracts.

### **3. MAJOR SCHEME SUBMISSION – DOCK BRIDGES**

The DfT announced in March that Wirral Council has been successful in securing a grant of £6.408m through the Local Highway Maintenance Challenge Fund for the replacement of the 'A' and 'C' bridges on the A554, Tower Road. Mott MacDonald Ltd has been appointed to assist the Council in drawing-up the necessary contract documentation with a view to a construction contract being awarded in early 2016 for works completion in 2018. Cabinet will be considering a report in July 2015 to formally accept the DfT grant and to approve the withdrawal of the scheme from the Local Growth Fund (LGF) major schemes programme, so that the previously identified indicative LGF funding may be considered for other schemes in the City Region.

### **4. LOCAL SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT FUND (LSTF)**

The DfT funded LSTF programme ended across Merseyside on the 31st March.

Wirral residents are continuing to benefit from the Mind Your Business, Travel Solutions and Business Travel Support Projects during 2015/16 from funding secured through the Public Health Innovation Fund. The new programme continues to support residents to access employment through the provision of travel passes, cycles and personalised journey plans, as well as working with local businesses to encourage safe and sustainable travel to work to reduce the number of people killed and seriously injured on our roads. The programme places increased emphasis on the importance of active travel and increased levels of employment on the health of Wirral residents.

### **5. LIVERPOOL CITY REGION TRANSPORT PLAN FOR GROWTH**

The Liverpool City Region's Transport Plan for Growth was approved by the Combined Authority on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2015; The Transport Plan for Growth is the key policy framework for future transport provision and consolidates Merseyside and Halton Local Transport Plans (LTPs) to provide a strategic direction for transport which supports growth, regeneration and carbon reduction.

### **6. LIVERPOOL CITY REGION GROWTH DEAL - SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT ENHANCEMENTS PACKAGE (STEP)**

The Business Plan to support the £13.8m Sustainable Transport Enhancements Package (STEP), to deliver the first 2 years of the growth deal programme was approved by the Combined Authority on the 17<sup>th</sup> April. The programme will provide the Council with £900k of capital investment for transport improvements in 2015/16, and a further £800k in 2016/17, and Cabinet will receive a report to approve the use of the grant and the programme in July. Additional funding allocated to Merseytravel will also be utilised to enhance Wirral's public transport network.

The LCR partnership has also been invited to bid for STEP Revenue money to support the STEP Capital schemes, the funding will be available for 12 months. Wirral Council submitted 6 bids to the value of £103,500. Merseytravel are seeking clarification and further details from bidders and the outcome of these submissions are anticipated to be announced in late June.

### **7. STREET LIGHTING STRATEGY DELIVERY**

The Council has now awarded contracts to Macleans for the supply of approximately 7,500 LED units and to SSE for their installation. It is expected that the first units will begin to replace traditional lamps for the higher wattage lighting on our network in July, and the programme will be completed by March 2016.

The Council has managed to secure an interest-free loan for the majority of the £2.9 million to complete this work, which will considerably reduce the revenue cost of financing this capital investment.

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**CABINET PORTFOLIO SUMMARY REPORT**

<b>REPORT OF</b>	<b>Councillor Tony Smith</b>
<b>CABINET PORTFOLIO FOR</b>	<b>Children and Family Services</b>
<b>CO-ORDINATING CHIEF OFFICER</b>	<b>Julia Hassall, Director of Children's Services</b>

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report is an update from the Cabinet Portfolio Holder to members of the Council on matters relevant to his portfolio.

**1. CHILDREN'S SPECIALIST SERVICES**

The new permanent Head of Specialist Services commenced employment in Wirral on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2015. Since starting, the two major priorities have been to continuously improve practice and to progress the redesign of the service.

The redesign is to improve the experience of children and their families who need specialist support and intervention, including children who need to be looked after by the Council. Children in care will in future receive their social work support from four dedicated children in care teams located in three bases in Birkenhead, South and West Wirral and Wallasey. The plan is to transform service delivery with minimum disruption to the children and families we work with. Where children's cases need to transfer between teams, this will take place throughout the summer to ensure children and families are properly introduced to their new workers and their case files are audited.

Our focus is on safely implementing the social work reorganisation; and through this ensuring that there is increasingly strong, consistent and improving social work practice which provides good outcomes for Wirral's most vulnerable children, supported by a stable workforce which is well led, at every level.

**2. SCHOOLS**

On 1 June 2015 new organisational arrangements for working with schools were implemented. A School Commissioning Manager now leads the service which delivers statutory functions in respect of schools. This includes making arrangements to meet children's special educational needs and / or disabilities, school admission arrangements, ensuring sufficient school places, and making sure there are arrangements in place for improving school performance.

Regarding school performance, consultation has taken place with primary and secondary head teachers to introduce a new approach to providing school to school support. The consultation has taken into account the findings of the North West HMI Annual Report published in December 2014, which stated that Teaching Schools and system leaders were not impacting significantly on improving underperforming schools. All schools have been allocated to one of three localities; Birkenhead,

South and West Wirral and Wallasey. School support will be strategically overseen by the School to School Partnership Board. Locality Boards will monitor and evaluate the support of system leaders working with specific schools. Head teachers have been asked to volunteer to join the Locality Boards; the response has been overwhelming.

### **3. TARGETED SERVICES**

There is a strong focus on making sure that our youngest children receive the best start in life, evidenced through their readiness for school. An Early Years Strategic Steering Group has been set up with key partners to reflect the importance of this priority and to ensure that resources for children pre-birth up to five years of age in Wirral are aligned to meet this common goal. The findings of the recent consultation into early years and children's centres will be presented to Cabinet in July. This will position the service to be ready to take the next steps with partners, to achieving its ambitious outcomes.

The Birkenhead Children's Centre cluster was re-inspected in April 2015 and received a judgement of 'requires improvement' with Ofsted noting that "since January the pace of improvement has rapidly gathered speed". The report indicated key strengths such as the Local Authority's role in holding leaders to account being more effective, the good range of services that are supporting parents more effectively, especially those most in need, and the processes to check the quality of practice that are now in place. Ofsted also commented on the improved Advisory Board, offering suitable support and challenge. There is strong capacity for improvement and a keen focus on achieving this.

### **4. WIRRAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD**

At its most recent meeting on 9 June 2015, Wirral Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB) members agreed their four priorities for 2015 / 16. They are that:

- Children and young people feel safe and are safe, and that communities and professionals understand that safeguarding is everyone's business. We will know when we are making a difference when more people know what to do if they are worried about a child and when we ask children and young people their views, more will tell us they feel safer and what is making the difference.
- Children and young people are engaged in positive relationships, which are not exploitative. We will know that we are making improvements when children and young people tell us; when more people from different professions and walks of life raise concerns when they see something which makes them uneasy, and when there are fewer children being sexually exploited, because people know this is not tolerated in Wirral.
- The needs of children, young people and their families are identified and responded to early. We will know this is effective when children and families tell us, when more children and young people remain safely within their own families, and when there are more children and young people living good lives, where they reach their full potential.
- Fewer children and young people witness or experience domestic violence, and consequently, more children and young people are living in family homes where they feel safe. We will know we are making progress when children, young people and their parents tell us what works and that services and support are provided at the right time and in the right way, and when professionals and people in the community know what to look for and know what to do.

# WIRRAL COUNCIL

## COUNCIL MEETING

06 JULY 2015

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>Scrutiny Annual Report 2014/15</b>
<b>WARD/S AFFECTED:</b>	<b>ALL</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>Joe Blott, Strategic Director – Transformation and Resources</b>
<b>RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER:</b>	<b>Cllr Ann McLachlan (Governance &amp; Improvement)</b>
<b>KEY DECISION?</b>	<b>NO</b>

### 1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report provides a summary of the work undertaken by the Council's Overview and Scrutiny function for the municipal year 2014/15. The report captures the progress made and highlights the key pieces of work delivered.

### 2.0 BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

- 2.1 Overview and Scrutiny is a legal requirement for local authorities under the Local Government Act 2000 and a key indicator of good governance. Effective scrutiny also provides significant opportunities to improve the Council's decision-making, service provision and cost-effectiveness.
- 2.2 Wirral Council commits to the principles of good corporate governance through the development, adoption and implementation of its Code of Corporate Governance. Scrutiny has a key role in meeting a number of supporting principles which promote good governance including:
- *'Being rigorous and transparent about how decisions are taken and listening and acting on the outcome of constructive scrutiny',*
  - *'Exercising leadership through a robust scrutiny function which effectively engages local people and all local institutional stakeholders, including partnerships, and develops constructive and accountability relationships.'*
- 2.3 Wirral discharges its scrutiny function through four Policy and Performance Committees. There is one committee aligned to each of the Council's three Strategic Directorates and a fourth Coordinating Committee responsible for Coordinating all scrutiny activity and dealing with call-ins.

## **4.0 STATEMENT OF THE CHAIR OF COORDINATING COMMITTEE**

- 4.1 The Council's Scrutiny function has continued to develop and strengthen during the last year, and it is encouraging to see more elected members involved in the in-depth panel work.
- 4.2 The Council's in-house scrutiny training for new members has been delivered and this included an elected member perspective on scrutiny, which was well-received. In addition, Committee Chairs are taking advantage of specific training offered to develop agenda setting and chairing skills as well as delivering scrutiny in times of austerity.
- 4.3 One of the ways that scrutiny can contribute to developing policy is through pre-decision scrutiny and this is something that the Policy and Performance committees will be looking to progress through the coming municipal year.

Cllr Moira McLaughlin

## **5.0 OVERVIEW OF PROGRESS 2014/15**

- 5.1 During 2014/15 Wirral's scrutiny function continued to build on the foundation established with the introduction of new arrangements in 2013/14.
- 5.2 The significant achievements of 2014/15 include:
- Major improvements in Health Scrutiny facilitated by the creation of the Health and Care Performance Panel by the Families and Wellbeing Committee.
  - The detailed and comprehensive pre-decision scrutiny of the Future Council budget options during the autumn.
  - The increase in partnership scrutiny across wider geographical boundaries in relation to the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority (LCRCA) and Joint Health Scrutiny of the service change proposals relating to the Clatterbridge Cancer Centre.
- 5.3 Overall the number of in-depth reviews (initiated and completed in-year) reduced slightly from 10 initiated and 7 completed in 2013/14 to 7 initiated and 6 completed in 2014/15. This is mainly due to the increased time and work dedicated to the scrutiny of the budget options emerging through the Future Council process. The pre-decision scrutiny of budget options increased notably in 2014/15 with each of the committees establishing dedicated task and finish sessions around the key savings proposals.
- 5.4 The number of Elected Members engaged in task and finish work outside regular committee meetings continued to increase from 27 in 2013/14 to 31 in 2014/15. This wider participation demonstrates the increased interest and willingness of Members to engage in focussed sessions that provide the opportunity to go into more depth than is usually possible at regular committee meetings.
- 5.5 With the largest scope of the Policy and Performance Committees, the Families and Wellbeing Committee continued to drive the largest workload of the Council's scrutiny work programme. The committee successfully implemented a number of measures to reduce the size of agendas at regular meetings, through the circulation of reports

for noting outside formal agendas and the introduction of Spotlight briefing sessions (see 6.5 below).

- 5.6 The number of meetings dedicated to the call-in of key decisions increased significantly during the year. This post-decision scrutiny dominated the workload of the Coordinating Committee, impacting on its ability to undertake any real horizon-scanning or more strategic, cross-cutting work.
- 5.7 Committee Chairs continued with the established practice of holding agenda setting meetings prior to formal committee meetings, with party spokespersons being invited to these. This provided the opportunity for all groups to influence the shape of agendas and the scrutiny work programme throughout the year.
- 5.8 Agendas continued to include a mix of items in line with the agreed work programmes of the committees. Regular update reports were provided in relation to the delivery of the work programme. In addition, there was continuity with the inclusion of standing items to review budget delivery performance as well as performance against the Corporate and Directorate Plans.

## **6.0 KEY WORK COMPLETED IN 2014/15**

### **6.1 Scrutiny of Budget Options**

The detailed review of the Future Council budget options ensured these savings proposals received comprehensive pre-decision scrutiny. The Chair of the Coordinating Committee convened a meeting of all Chairs and Spokespersons to agree a consistent approach with the work being delivered alongside the public consultation. A significant amount of time was invested in a series of detailed evidence gathering sessions with the key officers and relevant stakeholders. Visits were incorporated into sessions where the budget options were site-specific. A detailed report was produced by each of the Directorate Policy and Performance Committees with feedback and recommendations being provided to Cabinet to inform its decision-making.

### **6.2 Joint Health Scrutiny - Clatterbridge Cancer Centre**

Clatterbridge Cancer Centre has announced proposals for the development of a new Cancer Centre in Liverpool, which will operate as the hub supporting a network of cancer services. In July 2014, members of the Families and Wellbeing Policy & Performance Committee resolved that the proposals were “a substantial variation to service”. A Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee was established in partnership with seven other neighbouring local authorities to consider the proposals. The Joint Committee was convened for a period of six weeks and met on five occasions. The meetings heard evidence from senior officers and clinicians, patient representatives and staff members. The evidence related to quality of care, quality of facilities, access and transport, patient views, research facilities, project management and construction and financial sustainability. The Joint Committee concluded by supporting the proposed future model of cancer services for Cheshire and Merseyside. It was also proposed that a Joint Scrutiny Committee be established to oversee the delivery of the new build project in Liverpool and refurbishment of the Wirral site.

### 6.3 Wirral Health Scrutiny

The Families and Wellbeing Policy & Performance Committee is responsible for discharging the Council's statutory duty to undertake health scrutiny and is required to review and scrutinise any matter relating to the planning, provision and operation of health services in the Borough. During the municipal year, a standing panel was established to review the performance of health and social care providers and commissioners. The Health and Care Performance Panel has seven members and met on six occasions between October 2014 and May 2015. A number of sessions have been held with representatives of the local health partners to hold them to account for the services they provide to the residents of Wirral. In addition, members have fully engaged in reviewing the draft Quality Accounts, which are produced by the local health providers as an annual statement of the quality of services provided.

In addition, good practice suggests that health scrutiny should develop constructive relationships with bodies such as the Care Quality Commission, Wirral Healthwatch and Wirral Health and Wellbeing Board. A draft protocol has been developed to promote effective joint working at a local level between Healthwatch, the Health and Wellbeing Board and health scrutiny.

### 6.4 Attainment Sub-Committee

The Families and Wellbeing Policy and Performance Committee has established the Attainment Sub-Committee to scrutinise the Council and its partners in raising educational attainment and improving outcomes of young people in terms of their education, training and social and economic wellbeing. This Sub-Committee has 7 members and met three times during the municipal year. Reports considered by members included the following:

- The outcomes of Ofsted assessments of schools in Wirral;
- School standards report for early years foundation stage, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2, including a focus on narrowing the gap;
- Transforming early years provision;
- Child poverty pilot projects;
- The delivery of alternative education provision;
- Overview of potential interventions regarding closing the gap.

### 6.5 Spotlight Sessions

During the municipal year members agreed to hold Spotlight sessions, which, in an informal setting, enables a topic to be explored in greater detail than time would allow during a formal Committee meeting. The sessions particularly lend themselves to the horizon-scanning agenda. Four sessions were held during the municipal year:

- Navigating the new NHS – led by Fiona Johnstone;
- Implementation of the Care Act 2014 in Wirral – led by Graham Hodkinson;
- The provisions of the Children and Families Act 2014 – led by Julia Hassall;
- An information session led by CRI, the providers of drug and alcohol services.

## 6.6 Safeguarding Children

Members of the Families and Wellbeing Policy & Performance Committee have undertaken a detailed review of the Council's safeguarding arrangements for children. This review is giving members the opportunity to assure themselves that the Council and partners have adequate safeguarding mechanisms in place and that those processes work in practice. The review will provide challenge to the adequacy of those procedures. The task & finish group, comprising 5 members, has met on seventeen occasions in order to plan and undertake the evidence-gathering for review. Meetings have been held with a range of partner organisations and Council staff as well as families who have experience of the system. The evidence-gathering phase of the review is now complete. The report is scheduled to go to the Policy & Performance Committee meeting in September.

## 6.7 Car Parking Review

A review of Car Parking was added to the Regeneration and Environment Policy & Performance Committee's work programme in 2013. A Task & Finish Review Panel was set up and a series of meetings held between January and July 2014. A key outcome from the review was a series of Objectives and Principles proposed by the Review Panel, to provide a framework for the future strategy of Car Parking in Wirral. The final report was presented to the Regeneration and Environment Policy & Performance Committee in September 2014 before being referred to Cabinet where all of the Panel's recommendations were accepted.

## 6.8 Review of Wirral Apprenticeships Programme

This review was set up by the Regeneration and Environment Policy and Performance Committee in October 2013. The purpose of the review was to ensure that funding allocated to the Apprentice Programme was being used effectively and was providing the best outcomes for apprentices through all available opportunities. The Panel made a number of recommendations around key themes including the requirement for support of apprentices, the availability and quality of information and guidance available to young people, getting young people ready for work, the Wirral Apprentice Policy and barriers to those who were considering an apprenticeship. The final report was presented to the Regeneration and Environment Policy & Performance Committee in September 2014 before being referred to Cabinet where all of the Panel's recommendations were accepted.

## 6.9 Local Welfare Assistance Scheme

As part of Cabinet's budget resolutions, £900,000 was held in a reserve for local welfare assistance following the Government's decision to withdraw direct funding effective from April 1st 2015. The objective of the Scrutiny Review was for the Review Panel to make appropriate recommendations to Cabinet on how the fund could be used to deliver local welfare assistance from August 1st 2015 when Wirral's scheme expires. An evidence day was conducted on 9th April 2015 involving detailed question and answer sessions with key officers from the Council. Members also invited a number of key representatives from key third sector organisations to help inform recommendations. The final report was referred by the Review Panel to Cabinet for consideration of the recommendations made.

## 6.10 Coastal Strategy

A scoping meeting for the Coastal Strategy Scrutiny Review was convened in March and this review will re-commence in the new municipal year.

## 6.11 Decisions called-in

During 2014/15, five decisions were called-in for further scrutiny which generated an extra seven meetings for the Coordinating Committee. This demonstrates a key component of the scrutiny function with the Executive being held to account for its decision-making. A summary of these call-ins is included in the table below:

	<b>Decision Called-in</b>	<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
1	Delegated decision – Lease of office space at, Birkenhead Fire Station	Decision revised in light of call in, no meeting required.	Decision revised
2	Cabinet decision – Financial Monitoring (public health expenditure)	7 <sup>th</sup> August & 18 <sup>th</sup> September 2014	Decision upheld
3	Cabinet decision – Leisure Facilities Pricing Structure	7 <sup>th</sup> August & 23 <sup>rd</sup> September 2014	Decision upheld
4	Cabinet decision – Outcome of the Lyndale School Consultation	2 <sup>nd</sup> October 2014	Decision upheld
5	Cabinet decision – Early Years and Children's Centres	15 <sup>th</sup> October, 12 <sup>th</sup> November 2014 and 12 <sup>th</sup> February 2015	Decision upheld

## 7.0 SCRUTINY IN 2015/16

- 7.1 The new municipal year will provide opportunities to further develop and improve the Scrutiny Function. A key focus for development in 2015/16 is to identify greater opportunities for pre-decision scrutiny, providing scrutiny members with an opportunity to review proposals earlier in the planning process. This has the potential to improve decision making and reduce the likelihood of decisions being called in. This approach requires clear forward planning and a longer lead in time to decision-making.
- 7.2 An important goal in the coming year is for scrutiny to engage more with the public and service users as part of the evidence gathering process from the outset. Examples of this approach have been used to good effect in the past such as the Review into the Outcomes for Looked After Children. However, there is a need to place greater emphasis on service user feedback as a key starting point in developing the methodology for each review and how the voice of the public and service users will be heard.
- 7.3 As the Corporate Plan is in the final year of its delivery cycle, a new Council Plan is currently being developed for 2016 onwards. This will provide a new framework for the Council within which priorities for the scrutiny work programme will need to be selected and prioritised.



7.4 With the success of the Families and Wellbeing Committee's Spotlight Sessions as a vehicle for horizon-scanning, there is the potential for the other committees to schedule sessions like this in 2015/16. The policy areas to focus on will include local policy initiatives as well as national policy drivers identified from the Queen's speech and other announcements by the new government.

7.5 There is likely to be further progress with partnership scrutiny and working more across local authority boundaries, both in terms of the LCRCA and other partnership frameworks. With the likelihood of further proposals in terms of substantial variations to the provision of health services, there is a strong chance of further joint health scrutiny work across the Cheshire and Merseyside footprint.

## **7.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

7.1 N/A

## **8.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

8.1 N/A

## **9.0 CONSULTATION**

9.1 N/A

## **10.0 OUTSTANDING PREVIOUSLY APPROVED ACTIONS**

10.1 N/A

## **11.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS**

11.1 N/A

## **12.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL; IT; STAFFING; AND ASSETS**

12.1 N/A

## **13.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

13.1 N/A

## **14.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

14.1 Has the potential impact of your proposal(s) been reviewed with regard to equality?  
No, the report is for information to Members and there are no direct equalities implications.

## **15.0 CARBON REDUCTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

15.1 N/A

## **16.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

16.1 N/A

## **17.0 RECOMMENDATION/S**

17.1 Members are requested to note the contents of this report.

## **18.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S**

18.1 To provide Members with a summary of the work undertaken by the Council's Overview and Scrutiny function during the municipal year 2013/14.

**REPORT AUTHOR:** Scrutiny Support Team  
Contact: Mike Callon  
Telephone: 691 8379  
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## **APPENDICES**

N/A

## **SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)**

<b>Council Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Council – Reports from Policy and Performance Committee Chairs</b>	<b>10/03/14</b>
<b>Council – Reports from Policy and Performance Committee Chairs</b>	<b>16/12/13</b>
<b>Council – Reports from Policy and Performance Committee Chairs</b>	<b>14/10/13</b>
<b>Scrutiny Annual Report to Council</b>	<b>14/07/14</b>
<b>Council – Reports from Policy and Performance Committee Chairs</b>	<b>20/10/14</b>
<b>Council – Reports from Policy and Performance Committee Chairs</b>	<b>08/12/14</b>
<b>Council – Reports from Policy and Performance Committee Chairs</b>	<b>16/03/15</b>

## **DELEGATED DECISION OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ECONOMY**

**17 DECEMBER, 2014**

### **LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK - APPROVAL OF PUBLICATION OF ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT**

The report of the Strategic Director – Regeneration and Environment seeks approval for the publication of the Council's statutory Monitoring Report, which reports on the impact of land use planning policies and the preparation of local plans and other planning documents during 2013/14. It also advises that copies of the Monitoring Report must be made available for public inspection on the Council's website by the end of December 2014.

The report also recommends that Council is recommended to approve the revisions to the future timetable for the preparation of the Core Strategy Local Plan, set out in the revised Local Development Scheme attached to the report.

#### **Resolved –**

**(1) That the Monitoring Report for 2013/14 and its accompanying background documents and data tables be approved and made available for public inspection and published on the Council's website.**

**(2) That revised calculations are published on the Council's website, as an Addendum to the Monitoring Report, with the approval of the Portfolio Holder, as soon as the national 2012-based household projections are made available.**

**(3) That Council is recommended to approve the adoption of the revised Local Development Scheme attached to this report and to resolve that the revised Scheme will come into effect on the day following the date that the Council resolution is passed.**

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# WIRRAL COUNCIL

## DELEGATED DECISION

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b><i>LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK FOR WIRRAL – MONITORING REPORT 2013/14</i></b>
<b>WARD/S AFFECTED:</b>	<b><i>ALL</i></b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b><i>STRATEGIC DIRECTOR REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT</i></b>
<b>RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER:</b>	<b><i>COUNCILLOR PAT HACKETT, ECONOMY</i></b>
<b>KEY DECISION?</b>	YES

### 1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report seeks approval for the publication of the Council's statutory Monitoring Report, which reports on the impact of land use planning policies and the preparation of local plans and other planning documents during 2013/14. Copies of the Monitoring Report must be made available for public inspection on the Council's website by the end of December 2014.
- 1.2 The report also recommends that Council is recommended to approve the revisions to the future timetable for the preparation of the Core Strategy Local Plan, set out in the revised Local Development Scheme attached to this report.

### 2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

- 2.1 Section 35 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires the Council to make a statutory report on the progress made in the preparation of Local Development Documents and on the extent to which the policies set out in existing Local Development Documents are being achieved.
- 2.2 Section 113 of the Localism Act 2011 amended this requirement such that local planning authorities must now publish this information direct to the public at least yearly in the interests of transparency. The local planning authority is no longer required to send the report to the Secretary of State but the Secretary of State retains powers to make regulations prescribing the timing, content and form of reports.
- 2.3 Previous Monitoring Reports have been published on the Council's website at <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/my-services/environment-and-planning/planning/local-development-framework/annual-monitoring-reports>
- 2.4 The Council must report to the public at least annually with each report covering a period of up to twelve months from the end of the period covered by the last monitoring report. The Council's last Monitoring Report was published in December 2013.
- 2.5 National regulations require the Council to make reports on:
- the approval or adoption of local plans and supplementary planning documents;
  - the stage that each local plan or supplementary planning document has reached against the timetable specified for document preparation in the Council's Local Development Scheme and the reasons for any delay;

- the delivery of net additional dwellings or net affordable dwellings against any number specified in a local plan within each reporting period and since the policy was first published, adopted or approved;
- any adopted local plan policy that the Council is not implementing, alongside the reasons for not implementing it and the steps (if any) that the Council intend to take to secure that the policy is implemented;
- the making of any neighbourhood development orders or neighbourhood development plans;
- the collection and expenditure of any Community Infrastructure Levy, in the manner set out in the Community Infrastructure Regulations; and
- details of the action taken to co-operate with other local planning authorities and prescribed bodies on strategic matters to secure the sustainable development or use of land.

- 2.6 Up-to-date information collected for monitoring purposes must be made available for public inspection at the local planning authority's principal office (and at any other such places as the local planning authority consider appropriate) and published on the local planning authority's website, as soon as possible after the information becomes available.
- 2.7 The Government's Open Data policy for local government recommends that data (unless private or sensitive) is made available on-line in open and machine-readable formats so that it can be easily re-used by residents, businesses and other interested parties.
- 2.8 Council on 13 February 2013 (Minute 108) resolved that the Portfolio Holder be given authority to approve the publication of future monitoring information on the Council's website, in line with the requirements of relevant national regulations.

### **3.0 MONITORING REPORT FOR 2013/14**

- 3.1 The draft Monitoring Report for Wirral for 2013/14, which has been prepared in line with previous formats, is attached to this report.
- 3.2 This year's Monitoring Report is accompanied by a separate report setting out the monitoring undertaken for the Joint Waste Local Plan for Merseyside and Halton and by the documents associated with latest revision to the Council's Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment, which national guidance also expects to be made publicly available in an accessible format.
- 3.3 A summary of the main findings is set out below:

#### **Progress on Policy Delivery**

- 3.4 The national recession continues to have a noticeable impact.
- 3.5 Although gross housing completions decreased from 640 to 500 during 2013/14, net performance increased from 252 to 302 as the number of demolitions fell from 355 to 181. The number of demolitions is expected to further reduce as existing targeted programmes come to a close.
- 3.6 The capacity of land with planning permission for new housing, outside Wirral Waters (which has outline consent for 13,521 new dwellings) decreased to 1,933 dwellings in April 2014.

- 3.7 While site works have begun for the construction of a new College Campus at Tower Quays, the programme for future housing development at Wirral Waters is still uncertain.
- 3.8 In the absence of the requirement for new dwellings set out in the former Regional Spatial Strategy and pending the completion of the Council's Strategic Housing Market Assessment, the Council's housing land supply has been assessed against the most recent 2008-based and 2011-based national household projections, the latest revisions to the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment and the initial findings from the ongoing Core Strategy and Community Infrastructure Levy Economic Viability Study.
- 3.9 The analysis shows a supply of between 4.6 and 4.0 years at April 2014 or between 7.0 and 6.1 years, including a 20% buffer in line with paragraph 47 of the National Planning Policy Framework, excluding the additional capacity at Wirral Waters.
- 3.10 The most up-to-date national household projections for 2012, originally expected to be published in November 2014, are now expected to be published towards the turn of the year. It is therefore recommended that revised calculations are published on the Council's website, as an Addendum to the Monitoring Report, as soon as the 2012-based projections are made available.
- 3.11 This analysis will need to be re-assessed following the completion of the latest Strategic Housing Market Assessment, which is now expected to report towards the middle of 2015 (section 7 below refers).
- 3.12 While indicators for business numbers and key benefits claimants have continued to recover, very little new commercial development took place during 2013/14 and there was a net loss of employment floorspace, to demolition and other uses.
- 3.13 The amount of new retail and leisure floorspace has also significantly reduced, with the only major completions being the extension to the Lidl in Rock Ferry and the conversion of the former bingo hall in Moreton to a gym and fitness centre, which led to no overall increase in leisure floorspace.
- 3.14 The Monitoring Report for the first nine months of the Joint Waste Local Plan shows that the City Region is already progressing towards self-sufficiency, with five new consents delivering new capacity, the majority of which will recycle or recover value from commercial and industrial wastes, none of which were located in Wirral.

### **Progress on Plan Preparation**

- 3.15 The Joint Waste Local Plan for Merseyside and Halton, was adopted by Council resolution on 15 July 2013 (Minute 7 refers) and came into force on 18 July 2013.
- 3.16 Progress on the Core Strategy Local Plan was last formally reported as part of a Delegated Decision published on 20 June 2013.
- 3.17 An initial series of proposed modifications to the Proposed Submission Draft Core Strategy were made available for public comment between 24 July and 13 September 2013.
- 3.18 A further series of proposed modifications, to policies for Gypsies and Travellers and to policies for Town Centres, were approved for consultation in a Delegated Decision published on 25 November 2014.

- 3.19 Given the latest progress on the Core Strategy, it is now appropriate to revise the timetable contained within the Council's Local Development Scheme, which has now been used as the basis for the information within the AMR (see section 7 below).
- 3.20 No other Local Plans are scheduled for preparation until the Core Strategy has been adopted.
- 3.21 The Council has now designated three local neighbourhood planning forums, at Devonshire Park, at Hoylake and at Leasowe, who are now preparing their own planning proposals for their respective designated areas.
- 3.22 The Devonshire Park Neighbourhood Planning Forum submitted their proposed Neighbourhood Plan to the Council in November 2014, following public consultation in May 2013.
- 3.23 A revised Statement of Community Involvement was adopted by Council resolution on 10 March 2014 (Minute 90 refers), following public consultation during July and September 2013.

#### **4.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

- 4.1 Failure to report at least annually and to provide for the ongoing collection, analysis and publication of monitoring information would place the Council in breach of a statutory duty.
- 4.2 The Open Government Licence provides for the data to be provided as is and offers no warranty against any errors or omissions or against any loss, injury or damage of any kind caused by its use.
- 4.3 No data which could identify any individual will be published in contravention of the Data Protection Act 1998.
- 4.4 The findings of the Monitoring Report are used as evidence in future decisions on planning applications and to inform the content of the emerging Core Strategy Local Plan.

#### **5.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 5.1 National regulations require the publication of monitoring information as soon as possible after the information becomes available.
- 5.2 Not providing data in open, machine-readable format would be contrary to the recommendations set out in the Government's 'Code of Recommended Practice for Local Authorities on Data Transparency' (DCLG, September 2011).

#### **6.0 CONSULTATION**

- 6.1 There is no requirement for public consultation on the content of monitoring reports, which are a factual statement of progress during the previous monitoring year. Copies of annual monitoring information must, however, be made available for public inspection at a principal office and on the Council's website.
- 6.2 The scope of future monitoring, in addition to any statutory requirements, is subject to public consultation as part of the preparation of statutory local plans, such as the



Council's Core Strategy, which must include a series of indicators for monitoring the delivery and effectiveness of local plan policies.

- 6.3 Consultation on the draft Monitoring Plan to accompany the publication of a Revised Proposed Submission Draft Core Strategy is expected to take place towards the middle of 2015.
- 6.4 The methodology for the preparation of the accompanying Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment was made subject to public consultation for six weeks between 6 January and 21 February 2014.
- 6.5 There is no requirement to consult on the contents of the Council's Local Development Scheme.

## **7.0 OUTSTANDING PREVIOUSLY APPROVED ACTIONS**

- 7.1 The Delegated Decision published on 20 June 2013 reported on the items that still needed to be resolved before the Core Strategy Local Plan could be recommended for approval and submission to the Secretary of State for public examination, including the completion of:
  - a sub-regional assessment of the accommodation needs of gypsies and travellers;
  - a Core Strategy and Community Infrastructure Levy Economic Viability Study
  - a review of the floorspace guidelines with existing centres and thresholds for local centre impact assessments set out in Policy CS25 – Hierarchy of Retail Centres and Policy CS28 – Retail Impact Assessments; and
  - an up-to-date assessment of future housing needs, to replace the housing requirement previously contained within the Regional Spatial Strategy.
- 7.2 The Merseyside and West Lancashire Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment was reported to Cabinet on 11 September 2014 (Minute 51 refers).
- 7.3 Recommended revisions to the floorspace guidelines and impact thresholds and the associated policies for town centres, were approved in the Delegated Decision published on 25 November 2014.
- 7.4 The implications of the initial baseline findings of the Core Strategy and Community Infrastructure Levy Economic Viability Study will be reported to Cabinet in January 2015. The final version will need to rely on the findings of the revised Strategic Housing Market Assessment, which is expected to be reported towards the middle of 2015.
- 7.5 The completion of the revised Strategic Housing Market Assessment, which has been extended to take account of the latest national household projections to be published in November 2014, is expected to be reported towards the middle of 2015.
- 7.6 A recommended review of the Council's Local Development Scheme, setting out the proposed revised timetable for the final stages of the preparation of the Core Strategy Local Plan, is attached as an Appendix to this report.

## **8.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS**

- 8.1 There are no implications for voluntary, community and/or faith groups, other than the provision of more accessible public information.

## **9.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL; IT; STAFFING; AND ASSETS**

- 9.1 There are no financial, IT, staffing or asset implications arising from this report, beyond the need to make continued provision for statutory monitoring and data storage.
- 9.2 The publication of data in a machine readable format on the Council's website will not incur any additional costs.
- 9.3 Annual monitoring, analysis and reporting and the preparation of the Council's Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment has been undertaken using existing resources within the Forward Planning Section of Regeneration and Planning.
- 9.4 Monitoring the Joint Waste Local Plan for Merseyside and Halton has been funded as part of the shared service provided by the Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service at Sefton Council.
- 9.5 The continued preparation of the Core Strategy Local Plan will be undertaken using existing resources for Regeneration and the Environment.

## **10.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1. The publication of monitoring information at least annually is a statutory requirement under the Section 35 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended).
- 10.2 The findings of the Monitoring Report can be a material consideration in future development management decisions.
- 10.3 The Council must make any up-to-date information collected for monitoring purposes available to the public as soon as possible after the information becomes available.
- 10.4 The Community Infrastructure Regulations 2010 also require the Council to publish a report on its website no later than 31 December following the end of the reported year.
- 10.5 The Open Government Licence provides for the Council's right to be identified as the source of the data and for the Council to be protected from any liabilities arising from its use.
- 10.6 Section 15 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires the Council to prepare and maintain a Local Development Scheme, to set out the timetable for the preparation of development plan documents such as Local Plans. The Secretary of State has the power to direct amendments to the Scheme to ensure effective coverage of the area.
- 10.7 The revised Local Development Scheme must be approved by a resolution of Full Council specifying the date from which the Scheme is to have effect and the Council must make the Scheme and any more up-to-date information on the timetable available to the public, as soon as it becomes available.

## **11.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

11.1 Has the potential impact of your proposal(s) been reviewed with regard to equality?

(a) Yes and impact review is attached at –

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/my-services/community-and-living/equality-diversity-cohesion/equality-impact-assessments/eias-april-2014/eias-regeneration-envir>

11.2 Although the Monitoring Report and its accompanying document and data tables includes information on indicators related to population, housing, economic activity and social conditions it does not in itself have any equalities implications other than providing an additional source of accessible up-to-date public information.

11.3 The adoption of a revised Local Development Scheme, which only sets out the timetable for the preparation of the Local Plan, will not have any equalities implications.

## **12.0 CARBON REDUCTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

12.1 The Monitoring Report includes information on indicators relating to development rates, travel, environmental quality, energy, minerals and waste management but does not in itself have any carbon reduction implications.

12.2 The approval of a revised Local Development Scheme will have no direct implications for carbon reduction.

## **13.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

13.1 The Monitoring Report includes information on recorded outcomes arising from the application of national and local planning policies and from local planning decisions in Wirral.

13.2 The findings of the Monitoring Report can be a material consideration in future development management decisions.

13.3 The Monitoring Report and the adoption of a revised Local Development Scheme will not have any community safety implications.

## **14.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

14.1 That the Monitoring Report for 2013/14 and its accompanying background documents and data tables are approved and made available for public inspection and published on the Council's website.

14.2 That revised calculations are published on the Council's website, as an Addendum to the Monitoring Report, with the approval of the Portfolio Holder, as soon as the national 2012-based household projections are made available.

14.3 That Council is recommended to approve the adoption of the revised Local Development Scheme attached to this report and to resolve that the revised Scheme will come into effect on the day following the date that the Council resolution is passed.

## 15.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

15.1 To enable the Council to meet the statutory requirements of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) and the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (SI 2012, No. 767).

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## APPENDICES

Draft Monitoring Report 2013/14  
Wirral Committed Residential Sites April 2014  
Wirral Housing Completions 2013/14  
Wirral Additional Housing Completions April 2013  
Wirral Employment Land April 2014  
Wirral Business Completions 2013/14  
Wirral Business Losses 2013/14  
Wirral Retail Completions 2013/14  
Joint Waste Local Plan Monitoring Report 2014  
Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment 2014 and Appendices  
Draft Local Development Scheme December 2014

## REFERENCE MATERIAL

[Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004](#) (Section 35 and Section 15 refers)  
[Localism Act 2011](#) (Section 113 refers)  
[Town and Country Planning \(Local Planning\) \(England\) Regulations 2012](#) (Regulation 34)  
[Community Infrastructure Regulations 2010](#) (Regulation 62 refers)  
National Archives [Open Government Licence](#) for public sector information  
[Code of Recommended Practice for Local Authorities on Data Transparency](#) (DCLG, September 2011)  
[National Planning Policy Framework](#) (DCLG, March 2012)

## SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Cabinet – Annual Monitoring Report 2010 (Minute 229)	25 November 2010
Cabinet – Annual Monitoring Report 2011 (Minute 244)	8 December 2011
Cabinet – Annual Monitoring Report 2012 (Minute 156)	20 December 2012
Council – Local Development Framework – Annual Monitoring Reports (Minute 108)	11 February 2013
Delegated – Annual Monitoring Report 2013	23 December 2013



**WIRRAL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**SECTION 15**

**PLANNING AND COMPULSORY PURCHASE ACT 2004**

**LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME FOR WIRRAL**

**XXXX 2015**

**BROUGHT INTO EFFECT  
BY RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL  
ON XX XXXX 2015**

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## **1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The Local Development Scheme for Wirral is a statutory document setting out the programme for the preparation of the Council's Local Plans, produced in accordance with section 15 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.
- 1.2 The Council's Local Plans will form part of the statutory Development Plan for the area and will play a major role in the determination of individual planning applications and in other decisions taken by the Council and by others under the Town and Country Planning Acts.

## **2 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The first Local Development Scheme for Wirral was approved by the Secretary of State on 31 March 2005 and came into effect on 20 May 2005. Subsequent reviews took place in July 2006, July 2007 and January 2010.
- 2.2 This current document replaces the Local Development Scheme adopted by the Council on 13 February 2012.
- 2.3 Local Development Schemes no longer need to be approved by the Secretary of State before they can come into effect.

## **3 THE DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR WIRRAL**

- 3.1 The statutory Development Plan for the Metropolitan Borough of Wirral currently comprises the 'saved' policies in the Unitary Development Plan for Wirral, adopted by the Council in February 2000 and the Joint Waste Local Plan for Merseyside and Halton, adopted in July 2013.

### **Unitary Development Plan for Wirral (February 2000)**

- 3.2 The Unitary Development Plan will gradually be replaced by documents contained within the emerging Local Plan for Wirral.
- 3.3 A list of the policies and proposals that are no longer in force, following the adoption of the Joint Waste Local Plan, can be viewed on the Council's website at <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/downloads/6015>
- 3.4 The remaining policies of the Unitary Development Plan, including the Written Statement and Proposals Map, can be viewed through the Council's website at <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/my-services/environment-and-planning/planning/local-development-framework/unitary-development-plan>.

## **Joint Waste Local Plan for Merseyside and Halton (July 2013)**

- 3.5 The Joint Waste Local Plan was adopted by each of the six partner councils to come into effect from 18 July 2013. The Joint Waste Local Plan was adopted by Wirral Council on 15 July 2013
- 3.6 The documents associated with the adoption of the Joint Waste Local Plan can be viewed on the Council's website at <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/my-services/environment-and-planning/planning/local-development-framework/joint-merseyside-waste-development-plan>

## **4 THE WIRRAL LOCAL PLAN**

- 4.1 The Local Plan for Wirral is part of a collection of documents that will set out the Council's policies for the development and use of land within the Metropolitan Borough of Wirral.
- 4.2 These documents currently include:
- the Local Development Scheme;
  - a Statement of Community Involvement;
  - the remaining policies in the Unitary Development Plan;
  - the Joint Waste Local Plan for Merseyside and Halton;
  - a series of Supplementary Planning Guidance Notes and Supplementary Planning Documents to support the delivery of existing adopted Development Plan policies;
  - a Proposals Map; and
  - a series of Monitoring Reports.
- 4.3 Over time, these documents will also include:
- a Core Strategy Local Plan;
  - a Land Allocations and Heritage Local Plan;
  - a series of Neighbourhood Planning documents, including Neighbourhood Development Plans, prepared by the local community;
  - a series of additional and replacement Supplementary Planning Documents, to support the delivery of the Core Strategy;
- 4.4 Adopted Local Plans, Neighbourhood Development Plans and the Proposals Map will have status alongside the Unitary Development Plan, as part of the statutory Development Plan for Wirral, until the Unitary Development Plan is fully replaced.
- 4.5 A list of the Local Development Documents that have already been adopted is provided at Appendix 1.
- 4.6 This review of the Local Development Scheme provides for the completion of the Core Strategy Local Plan, which will set out the

strategic policies for the area, with which Neighbourhood Plans will need to be in general conformity.

- 4.7 The completion of the Core Strategy Local Plan is intended to be followed by the preparation of a site-specific Land Allocations and Heritage Local Plan, which will be the subject of a future revision to the Local Development Scheme.

### **Key Milestones**

- 4.8 The future timetable for the preparation of the Core Strategy is set out in Appendix 2.
- 4.9 A continuously up-dated record of progress will be made available on the Council's website at <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/my-services/environment-and-planning/planning/local-development-framework/local-development-scheme>
- 4.10 The information takes account of the changes introduced by in the Localism Act 2011.

## **5 CORE STRATEGY LOCAL PLAN**

- 5.1 The Core Strategy Development Plan Document is intended to set the long term vision, objectives and spatial strategy for future development in the Borough over the next 15 years.
- 5.2 The Core Strategy will also provide the strategic framework for other area-based or site-specific matters to be addressed in subsequent Local Plans and in Neighbourhood Planning documents.
- 5.3 The Core Strategy is now at the final stages of preparation.
- 5.4 Public consultation on Issues, Vision and Objectives took place in February 2009, on Spatial Options in January 2010, on Preferred Options in November 2010, on Settlement Area Policies in January 2012 and on the Proposed Submission Draft in December 2012.
- 5.5 An initial series proposed modifications to the Proposed Submission Draft were made available for public comment between 24 July and 13 September 2013.
- 5.6 A further series of proposed modifications, to policies for Gypsies and Travellers and to policies for Town Centres, is expected to be published for consultation towards the end of 2014.
- 5.7 Reports of consultation are available for each stage of the process undertaken so far and can be viewed on the Council's website at <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/my-services/environment-and-planning/planning/local-development-framework/core-strategy-development-plan>

- 5.8 Appendix 2 sets out the amended timetable for the remaining stages of the production of the Core Strategy.
- 5.9 The timetable prior to the submission of the Core Strategy to public examination will largely be determined by the completion of key evidence base documents related to housing requirements and development viability.
- 5.10 The timetable following submission of the Core Strategy will be determined by the Planning Inspector appointed to undertake the independent public examination of the soundness of the proposals.
- 5.11 The target date for the adoption of the Core Strategy, following submission to public examination in October 2015, is now December 2016.
- 5.12 Links to documents forming part of the evidence base to the Core Strategy can be viewed at <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/my-services/environment-and-planning/planning/local-development-framework/evidence-base>.

## **6 SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENTS**

- 6.1 The Local Development Scheme is no longer required to set out the timetable for the preparation of Supplementary Planning Documents.
- 6.2 The Council consulted on the proposed content of new documents for housing, employment, town centres and telecommunications in July 2013.
- 6.3 The latest progress on the preparation of Supplementary Planning Documents can be viewed on the Council's website at <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/my-services/environment-and-planning/planning/local-development-framework/supplementary-planning-documents>

## **7 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING DOCUMENTS**

- 7.1 Neighbourhood Planning documents are prepared by the local community and adopted by the Council, to provide further detail on planning proposals within local areas.
- 7.2 Three neighbourhood forums have so far been designated for neighbourhood areas at Devonshire Park, Hoylake and Leasowe.
- 7.3 The Devonshire Park Neighbourhood Forum consulted on a draft Neighbourhood Plan in May 2013 and expects to submit their final proposals to the Council for independent examination in November 2014.
- 7.4 The Hoylake Community Planning Forum expects to publish their draft Neighbourhood Plan towards the end of 2014.

7.5 Unity in Our Community, the most recently designated neighbourhood forum, are yet to publish their proposals for Leasowe.

7.6 Progress on the preparation of neighbourhood planning documents can be viewed on the Council's website at <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/my-services/environment-and-planning/planning/local-development-framework/neighbourhood-planning>

## **8 RESOURCES**

8.1 Future land use planning policy documents are prepared by the Forward Planning Team in the Council's Regeneration and Environment Directorate, which reports to the Council's Cabinet Member for the Economy.

## **9 RISK ASSESSMENT**

9.1 The principal risks to the delivery of the timetable set out in this Local Development Scheme are set out in Appendix 3 and will be kept under constant review.

9.2 The risk register will be regularly updated on the Council's web site at <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/my-services/environment-and-planning/planning/local-development-framework/local-development-scheme>.

## **10 MONITORING & REVIEW**

10.1 Progress on Local Plan preparation is reviewed annually in the Council's Monitoring Reports.

10.2 Previous Monitoring Reports can be viewed on the Council's website at <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/my-services/environment-and-planning/planning/local-development-framework/annual-monitoring-reports>.

## **11 USEFUL CONTACTS**

11.1 The Forward Planning Team can be contacted:

by post, at: Wirral Council Regeneration and Planning Service, North Annexe, Wallasey Town Hall, Brighton Street, Wallasey CH44 8ED

by telephone, at: 0151 691 8110

or through the Council's website, at: <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/my-services/environment-and-planning/planning/local-development-framework>

## 12 BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

12.1 The following documents provide additional information on Local Development Framework processes and requirements:

- Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (HMSO 2004, Chapter 5)
- Localism Act 2011 (HMSO 2011, Chapter 20)
- The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (HMSO SI 2012 No.767) (as amended)
- The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (HMSO, SI 2004 No 1633)
- The Conservation (Natural Habitats &c) Regulations 1994 (HMSO, 1994 No 2716) (as amended)
- The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended) (HMSO SI 2010 No.490)
- [The National Planning Policy Framework](#) (March 2012) and associated practice guidance (as continuously updated)

## **Appendix 1 – Adopted Local Development Documents**

### *1. Local Plans*

#### **Unitary Development Plan for Wirral – Adopted February 2000**

<http://www.wirral.gov.uk/udp> (Written Statement)

<http://www.wirral.gov.uk/udpmaps/index.html> (Proposals Map)

#### **Joint Merseyside and Halton Waste Local Plan – Adopted July 2013**

<http://www.wirral.gov.uk/downloads/6018> (Written Statement)

<http://www.wirral.gov.uk/downloads/6019> (Maps and Plans)

### *2. Statement of Community Involvement*

#### **Statement of Community Involvement - Adopted March 2014**

<http://www.wirral.gov.uk/downloads/6732>

### *3. Supplementary Planning Documents*

#### **SPD1 – Designing for Development by Mobile Phone Operators – Adopted October 2006**

<http://www.wirral.gov.uk/downloads/1285>

#### **SPD2 – Designing for Self-Contained Flat Development and Conversions – Adopted October 2006**

<http://www.wirral.gov.uk/downloads/1279>

#### **SPD3 – Hot Food Takeaways, Restaurants, Cafes and Drinking Establishments – Adopted October 2006**

<http://www.wirral.gov.uk/downloads/1282>

#### **SPD4 – Parking Standards - Adopted June 2007**

<http://www.wirral.gov.uk/downloads/1310>



## Appendix 2 – Core Strategy Timetable

<b>Document Name:</b> Core Strategy Local Plan		<b>Status:</b> Development Plan Document
<b>Purpose:</b> To provide the long-term vision, objectives and spatial strategy for the Borough and the framework for future Development Plan Documents		
<b>Coverage:</b> Borough wide		<b>Time Period:</b> 15 years
<b>Chain of Conformity:</b> National Planning Policy Framework		<b>Post Adoption Monitoring &amp; Review:</b> Annual Monitoring Report 5 Yearly Assessment
<b>Departmental Responsibility:</b> Environment and Regeneration Directorate		<b>Contact:</b> Andrew Fraser, Forward Planning Manager 0151 691 8218
<b>Key Milestones</b>		<b>Key Stakeholders (Regulation 2 bodies):</b>  Cheshire West and Chester Council Liverpool City Council Sefton Borough Council Flintshire County Council Other Liverpool City Region Authorities Liverpool City Region Local Enterprise Partnerships Liverpool City Region Local Nature Partnership Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service Homes and Communities Agency Highways Agency Merseytravel Environment Agency Natural England Natural Resources Wales Marine Management Organisation English Heritage Merseyside Police and Crime Commissioner North West Ambulance Service Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service HM Coastguard and RNLI Office of Rail Regulation and Network Rail Civil Aviation Authority Health and Safety Executive National Health Service Organisations Conservation Area Advisory Committees Local Amenity Societies and Friends Groups Wirral Community Networks Wirral Wildlife Developers and Landowners Utilities and Infrastructure Providers Local Business Organisations Neighbourhood Forums Other General Consultation Bodies
<b>Preparation (Regulation 18):</b>		
<b>Commencement:</b>	July 2005*	
<b>SA Scoping:</b>	July 2006*	
<b>Initial Consultation:</b>	September 2007*	
<b>Issues Vision and Objectives:</b>	February 2009*	
<b>Spatial Options: (Regulation 18)</b>	January 2010*	
<b>Preferred Options: (Regulation 18)</b>	November 2010*	
<b>Settlement Areas: (Regulation 18)</b>	January 2012*	
<b>Publication (Regulation 19)</b>		
<b>Proposed Submission Draft:</b>	December 2012*	
<b>Initial Modifications:</b>	July 2013*	
<b>Further Modifications:</b>	December 2014	
<b>Re-Publication: (Regulation 19)</b>	July 2015	
<b>Representations: (Regulation 20)</b>	July 2015	
<b>Submission (Regulation 22)</b>		
<b>Submission: (Regulation 22)</b>	October 2015	
<b>Pre-Hearing Meeting:</b>	December 2015	
<b>Hearing: (Regulation 24)</b>	February 2016	
<b>Main Modifications (if required)</b>	April 2016	
<b>Inspectors Report: (Regulation 25)</b>	November 2016	
<b>Adoption: (Regulation 26)</b>	December 2016	



### Appendix 3 – Risk Assessment

Risk	Description	Control Measures
Political	Risk of political approval being withheld and/or change of leadership and/or direction and/or political priorities	Consultation and involvement of Members in the Local Plan preparation process in order to provide ownership, leadership and commitment to future implementation
Financial - constrained Council budgets, increases in Planning Inspectorate fees	Risk of inadequate financial provision hindering progress and scope of work required	Regularly report on budget requirements and minimise financial expenditure to ensure value for money, including joint and partnership working wherever feasible.
Staff turnover and recruitment difficulties	Staff turnover is difficult to predict. Risk of loss of key staff to other employment would severely affect our ability to progress the Local Plan work programme in a timely manner	Take prompt action to fill vacancies with staff with the appropriate skills. If considered appropriate, secure additional resources through use of consultants, temporary staff and internal secondment
Staff absence (e.g. long term sickness/maternity leave)	Reduced capacity causing slippage in programme	<p>Consider interim arrangements such as temporary appointments, use of agency staff or secondment, subject to resources</p> <p>The adequacy of staffing levels will be evaluated through the ongoing monitoring of the preparation of the Local Plan</p>
Lack of in-house skills for specialised areas of policy work/background studies	<p>Slow progress causing a slippage in programme</p> <p>Evidence base challenged or undermined</p> <p>Quality compromised</p>	<p>Obtain training for areas where expertise is lacking</p> <p>Review staffing requirements as part of annual service reviews</p> <p>Expand partnership working, where possible</p> <p>In some cases it will be more efficient to engage consultants where specialist skills are required to short timescales and in-house development is unrealistic</p>
Pressure on staff time due to competing work streams	Diverts team from Local Plan work causing slippage in programme	<p>Ensure Local Plan is recognised as a corporate priority</p> <p>Identify key staff to be “shielded” from other work, wherever possible</p>

<b>Risk</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Control Measures</b>
Legal	<p>Risk of non-compliance with legal procedures and requirements and/or judicial review leading to adopted Local Plan being quashed and additional workloads</p> <p>Changes in plan-making requirements/procedures can also result in delays</p>	<p>Ensure relevant legislation/ regulations are checked and complied with at each stage</p> <p>It is not possible to easily plan for further changes to the planning system. The Council will endeavor to deal with new requirements with minimum disruption to the timetable as part of ongoing monitoring</p>
Third Parties	<p>Risk of comments and representations from third parties causing delay (including lengthening of examination) and/or additional expense from unexpected volumes and/or unforeseen issues arising, with need for additional evidence and/or consultation</p>	<p>Consultation and involvement of relevant stakeholders</p> <p>Ensure timetable is realistic but has some flexibility built in</p> <p>Monitor progress against LDS</p> <p>Consider the need for additional resources as part of ongoing monitoring</p>
Joint working with other internal departments and/or external authorities causes delay	<p>Key milestones in programme not met</p> <p>Duty to Co-operate not met</p>	<p>Ensure timescales for Local Plan realistically reflect partner authorities ability to contribute to joint working</p> <p>Ensure commitment to milestone dates and resource allocation is obtained from relevant parties in advance</p>
Capacity of the Planning Inspectorate	<p>Examination and/or Inspectors Report is delayed</p> <p>Key milestones in programme not met</p>	<p>Close liaison with the Planning Inspectorate to ensure early warning of any problems</p> <p>The Council has sought to minimise the volume of issues to be resolved at examination, through ensuring a robust evidence base and wide pre-submission public consultation.</p>
Soundness – Local Plan found unsound by Planning Inspectorate	<p>Inspectors modifications required</p> <p>Local Plan cannot be adopted without significant additional work, possibly including repeated stages of preparation and consultation</p>	<p>Ensure Local Plan is legally compliant, founded on a robust evidence base, accompanied by appropriate assessments and appraisals and well-audited community and stakeholder engagement. Timetable allows for possible consultation on main modifications, if required.</p> <p>Use of self-assessment toolkit (published by national advisor PAS)</p> <p>Maintain awareness of best practice</p>

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## **WIRRAL COUNCIL**

### **STANDARDS AND CONSTITUTIONAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**

**1 July 2015**

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS REQUIRED UNDER THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES (Standing Order) (England) (Amendment) REGULATIONS 2015</b>
<b>WARD AFFECTED:</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>MONITORING OFFICER</b>
<b>KEY DECISION?</b>	<b>NO</b>

#### **1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report provides details of changes that must be made to the Council Constitution to give effect to The Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2015 (SI2015/881) (“the Regulations”).
- 1.2 The Regulations came into force on 11 May 2015 and requires the Council to make certain changes to its Constitution relating to disciplinary action/arrangements relating to the Head of Paid Service, Monitoring Officer and Chief Finance Officer.
- 1.3 The changes to the Constitution must be made no later the first ordinary meeting of Council after 11 May 2015 (as prescribed by the Regulations).

#### **2.0 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The Council is required under the Regulations to review its Constitution and give effect to the Regulations which specifically relate to changes to the procedure for disciplining and dismissing statutory officers.
- 2.2 Statutory officers for these purposes are the Head of Paid Service, the Section 151 Officer and the Monitoring Officer (“Statutory Officers”).
- 2.3 There have been for some time concerns that the Designated Independent Person process (“DIP”) (required to be followed for the Statutory Officers) is in practice complex and expensive. It was suggested that it placed Councils, as the employer, at a great disadvantage in comparison to the position of the employee, particularly given that the recommendation of the DIP must be followed.
- 2.4 In 2013, the government conducted a consultation to remove the appointment of the DIP to investigate allegations of misconduct by the Statutory Officers.
- 2.5 The consultation resulted in the Regulations being enacted which provide that the final decision to dismiss any of the Statutory Officers must now be taken by Full Council;

and before taking such a decision, the Council must invite at least two Independent Persons to be members of a Panel and take into account any recommendation of that Panel.

- 2.6 The 'Panel' is defined under the Regulations as a committee appointed by the Council for the purposes of advising the Council on the dismissal of relevant officers of the Council – namely, the Council's Employment and Appointments Committee and the Chief Officers Employment Disciplinary Sub-Committee.
- 2.7 Under the Regulations, the Council is required to include a minimum of two Independent Persons on these Committees for the purposes of dealing with disciplinary action against any of the Statutory Officers. There is no maximum number of Independent Persons that has been prescribed under the Regulations.
- 2.8 The appointment of the Independent Persons must be made at least 20 working days before the meeting of Full Council convened to consider whether or not to approve a proposal to dismiss any of the Statutory Officers.
- 2.9 For the purposes of the Regulations, the Independent Persons appointed to the Standards and Constitutional Oversight Committee (pursuant to the Localism Act 2011) shall also be the Independent Persons capable of appointment to the Council's Employment and Appointments Committee and the Chief Officers Employment Disciplinary Sub-Committee.
- 2.10 To ensure there is no undue delay in appointments, procedure and practice in dealing with disciplinary matters, the Regulations do permit the use, in priority order, of other Independent Persons. The order is as follows:
  1. An Independent Person who has been appointed by the Council and who is a local government elector;
  2. Any other Independent Person who has been appointed by the Council, and
  3. Any Independent Person who has been appointed by another Council or Councils
- 2.11 The Council's current Independent Persons are
  - Brian Cummings;
  - Chris Jones; and
  - Ronald Samuel Jones.
- 2.12 Invitations to all the current Independent Persons appointed to the Standards and Constitutional Oversight Committee to be also appointed to the Council's Employment and Appointments Committee and the Chief Officers Employment Disciplinary Sub-Committee for the purposes of the Regulations shall be sent providing Council's approves the proposed changes/recommendations set out in this report.
- 2.13 All three current Independent Persons are local government electors.

- 2.14 Unless two or all of the current Independent Persons confirm they do not wish to be considered for the appointment (under the Regulations), the Council will not seek to make any more Independent Person appointments under the Regulations using the above mentioned priority order at this time.
- 2.15 It is therefore proposed that (subject to paragraph 2.12 and 2.14 above) all current (and any future) Independent Person appointments made under section 28(7) Localism Act 2011, be appointed to the Council's Employment and Appointments Committee and the Chief Officers Employment Disciplinary Sub-Committee for the purposes of the Regulations.
- 2.16 However to ensure legal and procedural efficacy, authority is sought from Council for an appropriate Chief Officer of the Council to invite another relevant Independent Person(s) (in priority order) for the purposes of the Regulations should the number of Independent Persons appointed fall below the minimum of two as prescribed by the Regulations. It is proposed that the Chairperson of the Employment and Appointments Committee, in consultation with the spokesperson of the other political groups, have delegated power to formally appoint and co-opt such Independent Person(s) to the Council's Employment and Appointments Committee and the Chief Officers Employment Disciplinary Sub-Committee. All such appointments shall be reported to the next Ordinary meeting of Council after the appointment is made.
- 2.17 Any remuneration, allowances or fees paid by the Council to an Independent Person appointed to the Council's Employment and Appointments Committee and the Chief Officers Employment Disciplinary Sub-Committee pursuant to the Regulations must not exceed the level of remuneration, allowances or fees payable to that Independent Person in respect of that their normal role with respect to standards and the Member Code of Conduct matters. Currently, the Council pays each Independent Person an allowance of £25 for each meeting of the Standards and Constitutional Oversight Committee attended, together with travel expenses only incurred in undertaking their role. It is proposed that this be extended to their role on the Council's Employment and Appointments Committee and the Chief Officers Employment Disciplinary Sub-Committee.
- 2.18 The Council's Employment and Appointments Committee and the Chief Officers Employment Disciplinary Sub-Committee remain committees of the Council and therefore the proportionality rules still apply. Any recommendations arising from these Committees considerations would include the views of the Independent Persons.
- 2.19 At the relevant meeting of Full Council, it would need to show before it took the decision to dismiss any of the Statutory Officers that it had taken into account of:
- Any advice, views or recommendations of the Council's Employment and Appointments Committee and the Chief Officers Employment Disciplinary Sub-Committee (as applicable);
  - The conclusions of any investigation into the proposed dismissal; and
  - Any representations from the relevant Statutory Officer.

- 2.20 The proposed changes required to the Constitution are set out at Appendix 1 to this report.

### **3.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

- 3.1 The Council has a legal obligation to comply with the Regulations. Failure to comply would render any disciplinary decision/action considering/proposing the dismissal of any of the Statutory Officers challengeable.

### **4.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 4.1 No other options were considered. The changes proposed give effect to the Regulations.

### **5.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS**

- 5.1 There are no implications for Voluntary, Community and Faith groups arising from this report.

### **6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL; IT; STAFFING; AND ASSETS**

- 6.1 The Regulations supersede and change the terms and conditions of the Statutory Officers in that it removes their previous entitlement to have disciplinary matters relating to dismissal addressed under the DIP process.
- 6.2 The Head of Human Resources and Occupational Development will formally advise the Statutory Officers of the changes once the changes are approved.

### **7.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 The legal implications are set out within this report.

### **8.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 There are no specific discrimination issues arising from this report.

### **9.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 There are no carbon reduction implications in this report.

### **10.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1 There are no planning and community safety implications in this report.

### **11.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 11.1 That the Committee recommends to Council:



- a) That the proposed changes to the Council's Constitution be approved.
- b) That the Monitoring Officer be authorised to invite the Council's current Independent Persons appointed under section 28(7) Localism Act 2011 to be considered for appointment to the Council's Employment and Appointments Committee and the Chief Officers Employment Sub-Committee where matters relating to the dismissal of the Head of Paid Service, Monitoring Officer or Chief Finance Officer are to be considered.
- c) Upon any of the said Independent Persons referred to in b) above confirming in writing to the Monitoring Officer their willingness to be considered for appointment to the Council's Employment and Appointments Committee and the Chief Officers Employment Sub-Committee pursuant to The Local Authority (Standing Order) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2015, their appointment shall be deemed to take effect.
- d) Where the number of Independent Persons appointed to the Council's Employment and Appointments Committee and the Chief Officers Employment Sub-Committee under the Regulations falls below two and undue delay and/or a significant adverse impact is likely to arise in relation to the matter relating to the dismissal of the Head of Paid Service, Monitoring Officer or Chief Finance Officer:
  - i. a relevant Chief Officer of the Council shall be authorised to invite (in priority order) up to two Independent Person(s) as defined by The Local Authority (Standing Order) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2015 to be considered for appointment to the Council's Employment and Appointments Committee and the Chief Officers Employment Sub-Committee; and
  - ii. the Chairperson of the Employment and Appointment Committee, in consultation with the relevant spokespersons of the other political groups, shall have delegated power to appoint and co-opt the Independent Person(s) duly invited under d)(i) above to the Council's Employment and Appointments Committee and the Chief Officers Employment Disciplinary Sub-Committee so as to give effect to The Local Authority (Standing Order) England) (Amendment) Regulations 2015.
- e) That the Head of Human Resources and Occupational Development shall have delegated power to make such changes considered necessary, in consultation with the Chairperson of the Employment and Appointments Committee, to any employment/disciplinary policies, arrangements and practices so as to give effect to The Local Authority (Standing Order) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2015.

## **12.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION**

12.1 The recommendations are considered necessary to give effect to the Regulations.

**REPORT AUTHOR:** **Surjit Tour**  
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and Monitoring Officer  
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## **APPENDICES**

**Appendix 1 – Proposed changes to the Constitution – The Local Authority (Standing Order)(England)(Amendment) Regulations 2015**

## **REFERENCE MATERIAL**

The Local Authority (Standing Order)(England)(Amendment) Regulations 2015

Explanatory Note to the said Regulations

**Proposed Changes to the Constitution:  
The Local Authority (Standing Order)(England)(Amendment) Regulations 2015**

Section	Committee	Current Position	Proposed Changes
<b>Table 2</b>  <b>RESPONSIBILITY FOR COUNCIL FUNCTIONS</b>  Page 56 of the Constitution	Employment & Appointments Committee	Membership: 8 Members of the Authority  Functions:  Appointment of Chief Officers and Deputies.  To act as the Appeals Body in respect of misconduct of chief officers.  Functions relating to Pensions as an Employer.	Membership - Include:  Where the matter to be considered relates to the dismissal of the Head of Paid Service, Monitoring Officer or Chief Finance Officer, the Employment and Appointments Committee membership shall include a minimum of two Independent Persons on the Committee as determined and defined by The Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2015 (SI 2015/881) or as may be amended from time to time.  Functions – Include:  To provide advice, views or recommendations to Full Council on a matter proposing the dismissal of the Head of Paid Service, Monitoring Officer or Chief Finance Officer Committee in accordance with the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2015

			(SI 2015/881) or as may be amended from time to time.
	Chief Officers Employment Disciplinary Sub-Committee	<p>Functions:</p> <p>To receive reports from a designated independent person investigating allegations of misconduct against the Head of Paid Service, the Monitoring Officer or Chief Finance Officer To investigate and take disciplinary action in respect of allegations of misconduct against Chief Officers.</p>	<p>Membership - Include:</p> <p>The Membership of the Chief Officers Employment Disciplinary Sub-Committee shall be determined by the Employment and Appointments Committee.</p> <p>Where the matter to be considered relates to the possible dismissal of the Head of Paid Service, Monitoring Officer or Chief Finance Officer, the Chief Officers Employment Disciplinary Committee membership shall include a minimum of two Independent Persons as determined and defined by the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2015 (SI 2015/881) or as may be amended from time to time.</p> <p>Functions – Include:</p> <p>To provide advice, views or recommendations to Full Council on a matter proposing the dismissal of the Head of Paid Service, Monitoring Officer or Chief Finance Officer Committee in accordance with the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2015</p>

			(SI 2015/881) or as may be amended from time to time.
<p><b>PART 3 –</b></p> <p><b>SCHEDULE 2</b></p> <p><b>SCHEME OF DELEGATION OF (NON-EXECUTIVE) FUNCTIONS TO COMMITTEES</b></p> <p>Page 90 of the Constitution</p>	<p>8. Employment &amp; Appointments Committee</p>	<p>(1) The appointment of Chief Officers and Deputies in accordance with the Employment Procedure Rules.</p> <p>(2) To recommend to Council on the designation of the Monitoring Officer and the Chief Finance Officer.</p> <p>(3) To act as the Committee which makes recommendations to Council on the appointment of the Head of Paid Service (Chief Executive).</p> <p>(4) To hear and determine appeals in connection with disciplinary action or dismissal of Chief and Deputy Chief Officers.</p> <p>(5) To exercise any of the Council's functions as an Employer under the Local Government Pension Scheme.</p>	<p>Include:</p> <p>(6) To provide advice, views or recommendations to Full Council on a matter proposing the dismissal of the Head of Paid Service, Monitoring Officer or Chief Finance Officer Committee in accordance with the Local Authorities (Standing Orders)(England) (Amendment) Regulations 2015 (SI 2015/881) or as may be amended from time to time.</p>
	<p>9. Chief Officers Employment</p>	<p>The Council delegates to and confers upon the Sub-Committee the following duties,</p>	<p>Amend:</p> <p>(1) To receive and consider reports</p>

	Disciplinary Sub-Committee	<p>powers and authorities:-</p> <p>(1) To receive and consider reports from an independent person designated to investigate allegations of misconduct against the Council's Head of Paid Service, the Monitoring Officer or Chief Finance Officer and act as the dismissing committee.</p> <p>(2) To investigate and take disciplinary action in respect of the misconduct of Chief Officers and Deputies, (subject to their right of appeal to the Employment and Appointments Committee)</p>	<p><del>from an independent person designated to investigate allegations of misconduct against the Council's Head of Paid Service, the Monitoring Officer or Chief Finance Officer and act as the dismissing committee.</del></p> <p>Include:</p> <p>(3) To provide advice, views or recommendations to Full Council on a matter proposing the dismissal of the Head of Paid Service, Monitoring Officer or Chief Finance Officer Committee in accordance with the Local Authorities (Standing Orders)(England) (Amendment) Regulations 2015 (SI 2015/881) or as may be amended from time to time.</p>
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# WIRRAL COUNCIL

## CABINET 29<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2015

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>BEECHWOOD AND BALLANTYNE COMMUNITY HOUSING ASSOCIATION TRANSFER OF ENGAGEMENTS TO LIVERPOOL HOUSING TRUST</b>
<b>WARD/S AFFECTED:</b>	<b>BIDSTON AND ST JAMES</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>STRATEGIC DIRECTOR REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT</b>
<b>RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER:</b>	<b>COUNCILLOR GEORGE DAVIES</b>
<b>KEY DECISION?</b> <i>(Defined in paragraph 13.3 of Article 13 'Decision Making' in the Council's Constitution.)</i>	YES <i>(delete as applicable)</i>

### 1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Wirral Council, as a Member of Beechwood and Ballantyne Community Housing Association Ltd (BBCHA), of proposed changes to undertake a Transfer of Engagements (ToE) of BBCHA to Liverpool Housing Trust (LHT). It also sets out the ongoing dialogue which has been undertaken with tenants and the lead petitioners following a petition which was presented to the Cabinet Member immediately before Cabinet's consideration of this subject on the 4<sup>th</sup> June and a further petition which was submitted to the Cabinet Member at a meeting with lead petitioners on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2015.
- 1.2 BBCHA has been undertaking a review of its current arrangements since May 2014. In particular BBCHA has been considering how best to mitigate the key risks it is exposed to, and ensure the long term protection of services and investment in the Beechwood and Ballantyne neighbourhoods in an increasingly hostile environment.
- 1.3 The BBCHA Board considered a range of possible options for its future and agreed in October 2014 that the best option was to enter into formal negotiations with LHT for a possible transfer. The BBCHA Board presented a detailed 'ask' to LHT, focussed on improving services and homes in Beechwood and Ballantyne, and during negotiations a detailed business case was developed.
- 1.4 Formal consultation was undertaken with BBCHA tenants from 26<sup>th</sup> March 2015 for a period of 6 weeks. The resulting feedback showed that the majority of tenants are supportive of the ToE on the understanding that services they receive are not

compromised.

- 1.5 Consultation with other key stakeholders including the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) and funders has been completed with no barriers to progressing the transfer being raised. The BBCHA Board undertook a due diligence exercise and no areas of concern in terms of LHT was reported. The BBCHA Board has also received independent legal advice and support from Trowers and Hamlins and they have confirmed that due process was followed.
- 1.6 After on-going discussions with Officers, BBCHA and LHT, a report was submitted to Cabinet on 4th June for them to consider the rationale of why BBCHA was proposing to undertake a ToE to LHT, a business case which set out the potential benefits of BBCHA transferring to LHT compared to staying as it is now, along with a report on the consultation undertaken, responses received by local tenants affected and the response to these issues raised.
- 1.7 Immediately prior to the Cabinet Meeting, the Cabinet Member was presented with a petition of 271 signatories from tenants and residents from Beechwood and Ballantyne. The petition was dated by 23rd February 2015.
- 1.8 In light of the late petition Cabinet agreed to defer the decision presented until the Council had been given the opportunity to review the petition further and undertake discussions with tenants and BBCHA and report those discussions back to the next Cabinet to inform any decisions made.
- 1.9 At a subsequent meeting with the lead petitioners a further petition was presented which was different to the first and had 428 signatories. A meeting was also arranged by BBCHA in the Community to discuss concerns in response to the petitions. This report deals with both petitions presented to the Council and also sets out the questions raised at the Community meeting.

## **2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES**

- 2.1 In 2005 the tenants of the former Estate Management Board (EMB) for Beechwood and Ballantyne chose the LHT group in a competitive stock transfer process. During this contest tenants had the choice to vote between a number of possible landlords including the LHT Group and Wirral Partnership Homes (now called Magenta Living). Tenants of the former EMB strongly desired a transfer to LHT Group. In April 2011 BBCHA became part of the Symphony Housing Group via the amalgamation of the Contour and Vicinity Housing Groups. Symphony Housing Group is now one of the largest social housing providers in the North West and is united as a federated partnership.
- 2.2 Since the stock transfer BBCHA have met the promises made to tenants at transfer, invested around £20m in the area and continued to work in partnership with the Council both on a formal constitutional basis and in informal relationships with many departments across the Council. BBCHA have consistently performed well and delivers high standards of service, and whilst it is a strong position as an organisation it is unable deliver the efficiencies of scale that a larger organisation can. The Board also has ambitions for the future which are much greater than the current organisation's financial capacity will allow. The Board would very much like to build more new homes on the estate and address key issues including brown field



sites and derelict buildings. It would also like to maintain the close relationship with Wirral Borough Council and develop a closer one with other partners in health and employment to benefit the community. The Board believes that these ambitions are unlikely to be delivered without a different arrangement being in place.

2.3 The BBCHA Board therefore undertook a review of future options and considered the significant risks the association is exposed to through its current operating arrangements. These risks were identified as:

- An increasingly hostile financial environment which is placing income under pressure. During 2013 this was particularly acute with the introduction of the first phase of welfare reforms and the impact this had on tenancy turnover, which directly increased costs by £200,000 (relating to 100 homes becoming empty and the costs associated with reletting them).
- Restrictive bank loan covenants which limit the ability to invest in homes as planned. In 2013-14 investment spends had to be reduced by £180,000 to ensure there was sufficient headroom in place for loan compliance. This headroom was significantly eroded due to the rapid increase in empty homes and the only option was to reduce investment spend.
- The 2014-15 investment plan had to be condensed into the final four months of the year to help BBCHA avoid a repeat of the previous year's problems. This decision helped reduce BBCHA's risk of potential loan breaches and also ensured the organisation was not committed to financial spend it could not pull out of if necessary.
- Pressure to deliver front line services and also deliver all the corporate and governance requirements of an independent organisation within current resources. The challenge for BBCHA is to meet all the same operational and regulatory requirements that a larger registered provider has to meet but without the specialist staffing resources to do so.
- BBCHA generates rental income from 823 homes. When compared to a much larger organisation BBCHA spends a higher proportion of its overall income on things like corporate services (i.e. human resources, ICT systems and infrastructure, internal audit, regulatory and financial services). This essentially means less money is available to spend on things that are important to tenants.
- Becoming more flexible, creative and agile to respond to changing customer needs as well as meeting government and regulator expectations. Within BBCHA there is little flexibility to respond to changing demands or requirements and simultaneously maintain an effective front line service.

2.4 Given all these risks the BBCHA Board felt that it was better to consider the future options from a relatively strong position than wait for a future time when the position of the organisation is likely to be much weaker. The Board therefore agreed that they needed to find a way of delivering what is required, reduce the likelihood of risks materialising and deliver better value for money for customers. The Board with the support of an independent critical friend, David Tolson Partnership, began the process to consider all the viable options for BBCHA's future.

- 2.5 To help the Board determine a possible future they considered five options. These options were reviewed by the Board who concluded that options such as BBCHA staying as it is and BBCHA demerging from Symphony and seeking to join another organisation could be discounted immediately as they either did not address the risks outlined or could, in fact, create further risks to BBCHA. The options that had the strongest support were BBCHA increasing its stock holdings, forging a formal partnership with LHT or transfer to LHT and for BBCHA to cease to exist as a separate entity. In order to assess each preferred option the BBCHA Board developed a set of criteria on which to assess each option e.g. securing the need to retain community identity and build upon the legacy, better value for money, increasing investment into the area, removing key risks.
- 2.6 Following this assessment of all the options the BBCHA Board agreed the only viable option to pursue was to pursue a transfer with LHT. If this was not possible the Board also agreed to pursue the less favourable option to form a formal partnership with LHT.
- 2.7 Throughout the discussions about the options the BBCHA Board considered how best to approach any potential transfer of engagements and who indeed would be a preferred partner. BBCHA have always had a close relationship with LHT which has worked to the benefit of both organisations. The Beechwood Ballantyne EMB chose the LHT Group in a competitive process back in 2005 and since then this relationship has been cemented. Most recently, BBCHA signed a service level agreement with LHT to handle all tenant telephone enquiries which has resulted in improved service standards and reduced BBCHA's direct costs of running services. LHT have recently funded and built 18 new homes on the Beechwood estate and are building a further 11 homes in 2015 on a long standing derelict site offering tenants more housing choices. These homes are managed by BBCHA but owned by LHT. The Board felt that these initiatives clearly demonstrate the long standing commitment LHT has offered BBCHA and its tenants through investment and service provision.
- 2.8 LHT themselves have a physical presence on the Wirral with 489 homes they own and provide services to and over the years have developed a number of new build schemes within the Wirral area. LHT see the clear benefits of the possible transfer as it would change how they operate in the Borough if they were to become the fourth largest landlord on Wirral. They are already members of the Property Pool Plus Choice Based Lettings arrangements and are keen to build upon the existing close relationships they have with Council officers and further develop relationships with Health and the Care Commissioning Groups for Wirral. LHT can see the benefit of having a closer relationship with BBCHA for their tenants in Wirral and the close geographical connection is another reason why BBCHA are a logical organisation to join with.
- 2.9 A further consideration was the fact that LHT are members of the same Group and therefore the risks were felt to be minimised in any negotiation or transfer talks. Both BBCHA and LHT use the same computerised systems and processes for the running of housing management and property maintenance services. The same policies and procedures are in place for financial and treasury management and staff benefit from the same terms and conditions including pension arrangements. These factors reduce the potential risk of any transfer impacting negatively on service delivery and maximise the ability to realise benefits and minimise costs associated with a transfer.

Because of all this, the Board decided not to approach any other partner to explore future options for BBCHA.

### 3.0 BBCHA PROPOSAL AND BUSINESS CASE

- 3.1 The decision to enter negotiations and transfer talks with LHT was agreed by the BBCHA Board in October 2014 following the approval of a set of specific commitments they would want delivered by LHT if the option to transfer was pursued. A formal approach was made by the BBCHA Board and considered by LHT's Board at their November 2014 meeting and they agreed to enter formal negotiations.
- 3.2 The BBCHA Board set up a formal Negotiation Panel consisting of independent and tenant Board Members to work with officers and their independent advisor (David Tolson Partnership) to begin discussions of how the key commitments would be delivered and any added benefits to customers and the BBCHA neighbourhoods. Four specific commitments were put forward in the form of an 'ask' of LHT; namely a summary of these asks are included as Appendix 1 to this report however included the same level of investment in BBCHA homes over 30 years as if BBCHA was still the landlord; a Master Plan for the Beechwood and Ballantyne area for the future to address specific areas that BBCHA is unable to financially resource such as providing more new homes; delivering high quality local services that demonstrate value for money to stakeholders; and an involvement and engagement strategy to ensure the community are engaged with monitoring performance and service improvements.
- 3.3 A detailed business case was considered and approved in February 2015 by BBCHA's Board. The Board concluded that the business case responded to the 'asks' it set out and was compelling enough to progress the ToE subject to tenant consultation. Members can view the full business case in the Council Web Library at <http://democracy.wirral.gov.uk/ecCatDisplay.aspx?bcr=1&sch=doc>.
- 3.4 The headlines contained within the Business Case on the implications include:-

If the Transfer went ahead	If the Transfer did <b>NOT</b> take place
Between 20 to 25 new affordable homes built over the next 3 years, including smaller homes to improve the choices available to customers.	No new homes would be built by BBCHA alone would need to work in partnership with other providers.
BBCHA loan will be repaid with savings in interest and repayments totalling £455,000 per annum for 8 years. This money will be invested in homes and services.	30 year investment plan delivered but BBCHA would have to prioritise what additional areas to invest in, based on consultation and available resources each year.
Development and delivery of a Neighbourhood Master Plan following consultation with customers. It is predicted that tenants will raise the need to address things like antisocial behaviour, improved play areas for children, improved employment opportunities for local people and tackling the derelict pub sites and garages across the neighbourhood	Repayment of loan continues and existing loan restrictions still apply. Restrictions remain on the level of investment that can be made to homes based on the loan requirements and the need to give financial headroom limiting the ability to use surpluses fully. However, year on year as the loan is repaid the position becomes more positive.

In order to align rent increase dates LHT's Board will be asked in December 2015 to consider not increasing rents for Beechwood Ballantyne in May 2016, the next increase being due in April 2017. This would mean that customers would not pay an additional £90,500 in 2015-2016 in rent increase charges - no rent increase for 11 months.	In consultation with customers BBCHA would need to choose what is a priority and develop a longer-term plan to tackle environmental issues and improve the landscape. However, this could take over 5 to 10 years as finances become available.
Additional stock investment of £660,000 would be allocated over the next 5 years. This could address tenant demand for things like an upgrade to downstairs toilets, more energy efficiency works etc.	BBCHA would require additional staffing and support to a cost of £150k per annum to reduce the organisations exposure to risks of failing to comply with regulation and legislation requirements

#### **4.0 BBCHA TENANT AND STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION**

- 4.1 As part of the process for considering a transfer of engagements to LHT, BBCHA undertook a formal 6 week consultation process involving a wide range of stakeholders. The consultation process commenced formally on 26<sup>th</sup> March and ran until 11<sup>th</sup> May 2015. The process adopted included a number of methods to encourage participation from stakeholders including formal letters, meetings with Wirral Borough Council and shareholders, open events for the public and updates on progress being posted on BBCHA's website, tenant's newsletter, twitter and Facebook. This process followed the requirements of the Homes and Communities Agency and was shaped based on advice sought from Trowers and Hamlins (BBCHA's legal advisors).
- 4.2 Members should note however prior to the formal consultation with stakeholders a range of information advising of the up to date negotiations and activity of BBCHA was undertaken, this is detailed within Appendix 1 of this report.
- 4.3 134 contacts were made to BBCHA asking about the transfer (121 of these were contacts from tenants). Some of these included repeat contact from the same stakeholders. Those who contacted BBCHA were predominately tenants but contact was also made by community groups, commercial leaseholders and residents. This gives an overall response rate from tenants of 15% (based on BBCHA's 823 homes).
- 4.4 In summary, of the 121 tenants, 91 (76%) had no major concerns about the transfer as long as services were guaranteed to be maintained and no changes to tenancy rights take place. 21 tenants simply wanted more information about why a transfer was being considered and 9 tenants (7%) expressed direct opposition to the transfer proceeding.
- 4.5 No petition was submitted to BBCHA for consideration however some specific concerns were raised directly by a shareholder and a commercial leaseholder. Their main concerns were about ensuring leaseholders rights were protected and that the shops and commercial units owned by BBCHA would be retained. Following liaison

with council members and BBCHA clear assurances were given and the matter was resolved to the satisfaction of all parties.

## **5.0 PETITIONS RECEIVED BY THE COUNCIL**

- 5.1 Just immediately prior to Cabinet on the 4th June a petition was received by the Cabinet member. In light of the late submission of the petition Cabinet agreed to defer the decision presented until the Council has been given the opportunity to review the petition further and discuss the issues with the petitioners so this could be fed back to Cabinet to inform any future decision.
- 5.2 The reason for the petition was stated as *“We the Tenants & Residents of the Beechwood and Ballantyne Estate do not want Beechwood and Ballantyne Housing Association to transfer its assets to the Liverpool Housing Group. We want you to find another organisation other than Liverpool Housing Group by using a more transparent method of selection that is acceptable to the Tenants and Residents of the Beechwood & Ballantyne Estate”*.
- 5.3 The council reviewed the petition which included 271 signatures. 233 were verified as valid (the 38 discounted signatures were due to people signing multiple times or where there was no signature, no name or address or could be verified by Council or BBCHA tenant records). Of the 233 verified signatories, 144 are BBCHA tenants; the remaining 89 were either residents of the Beechwood and Ballantyne Estate or did not live in the area. 13 BBCHA tenants who had signed the petition subsequently contacted BBCHA during the formal consultation period. 2 now felt positive about the transfer, 6 had neutral views as long as their rights were protected and 5 remained opposed to a transfer taking place.
- 5.4 Given the fact that there were concerns raised by tenants who would be directly affected by the proposal, Officers from the Council along with the Cabinet Member, Ward Members, Officers from BBCHA, a Board Member and LHT met with the four lead petitioners to discuss the concerns raised via the petition.
- 5.5 At this meeting a further petition was presented to the Cabinet Member which had 428 signatories. This petition was different to the first one received with the reason stated as *‘ We the Tenants and Residents of Beechwood and Ballantyne Estates do not want the Beechwood and Ballantyne Housing association to transfer their assets to the Liverpool Housing Trust. We believe BBCHA should have provided an independent Tenant Advisor (ITA) which is common practice in any stock transfer explaining the process and the role of the shareholders which we are being told is key for the transfer to take place’*.
- 5.6 The council reviewed the further petition which included 428 signatures. 368 were verified as valid (the 60 discounted signatures were due to people signing multiple times or where there was no signature, no name or address or could not be verified by Council or BBCHA tenant records). Of the 368 verified signatories, 267 are BBCHA tenants; the remaining 101 were either residents of the Beechwood and Ballantyne Estate or are operating businesses in the area. 20 BBCHA tenants who had signed the petition had also contacted BBCHA during the formal consultation period. 13 were supportive of the transfer, 3 had neutral views either way as long as their rights were protected and 4 were opposed to a transfer taking place.

5.7 The petitioners were given the opportunity to set out their concerns with regards to the BBCHA proposal. Those concerns are set out below and the responses that were given to the petitioners from those in attendance:-

- ***LHT were not part of the Symphony Group when this was considered and voted for as part of the stock transfer to BBCHA; Why can't BBCHA demerge from LHT***

The Estate Management Board (EMB) for Beechwood & Ballantyne selected LHT through a competitive stock transfer process in 2005 which resulted in the selection of LHT Group. Tenants had the choice to vote between a number of possible landlords including LHT Group (now Symphony Housing Group). Tenants strongly desired a transfer to LHT Group and once this vote was made the EMB chose LHT as the transferring organisation within this Group structure. In order for this to happen LHT had to agree to put in place a bond of £1.6m. This bond enabled BBCHA to be established as a separate organisation within LHT Group (BBCHA was not considered viable as a stand-alone organisation without this bond in place).

LHT and BBCHA have an existing strong relationship. LHT have long standing and financial commitments to the Estate and have supported BBCHA via the bond, they are investing in the estate already and have built and own 18 new homes already which BBCHA manage to offer more choice to tenants and are proposing will complete a further 11 this year, LHT also handle all tenants telephone enquiries which has resulted in improved service standards and reduced BBCHA direct costs.

BBCHA can't continue as they are, this is not a decision that has been taken lightly by the Board, BBCHA have had to make harsh decisions on cutting investment, 6 people have been made redundant, BBCHA have retendered all contracts to make savings. All savings that could be made have been made but there if BBCHA continue as they are then this will mean cuts to services and reduced investment as more money will have to be taken from tenants rents to pay for back office costs which BBCHA can't absorb as they are too small an organisation. This will have no real benefits to the community though and less investment will be able to be made.

Demerging from the Group is an option which was considered by the Board, during the stage when some of the petitioners were Board Members and was dismissed due to the fact the regulator (Homes and Communities Agency) would not authorise a demerge as the Group is not in any financial difficulty and it would make BBCHA more vulnerable/would not be secure; it would cost £300,000 to demerge which is money that BBCHA does not have available and it would not make any financial sense to do this due to the issue of the Bond which is currently in place.

- ***The Community Assets which form part of the transfer are being given away to LHT and the work which the former EMB and community Association undertook is not being protected for future generation of the estate;***

Nothing is being proposed to be taken away from the Community. The Community assets will still be available and all leaseholders of the buildings and shops have been given reassurances via letters from BBCHA that their current lease arrangements will still be protected under LHT for the duration of their lease terms. The current protection via their leases would be protected and will not be affected by the proposal.

LHT acknowledged that there is some work to do with the community to build a rapport and trust as individuals obviously have no direct relationship at present and this was something which LHT are committed to working with the community on if the proposal goes ahead. They have experience of this elsewhere and have worked with many communities/business on community assets and supporting those to be sustained in the Community and examples where given.

- ***The process undertaken by BBCHA has not be fair, tenants were not included in the discussions and the decision and the Consultation was done during Purdah therefore there was no opportunity to lobby councillors;***

During the process of considering the future options of BBCHA, Board members have been actively involved in determining the best options for the organisation and this was directly influenced by all members including tenant members (three of which have subsequently been involved in directly opposing the decision they approved up to August 2014). The BBCHA Board have satisfied itself that it has a sound business case to recommend the transfer of assets to LHT. During all these discussions some of Lead Petitioners had been involved with in depth discussions on the risks BBCHA were facing and the options.

An explanation of purdah was given to those present and it was advised there was no political aspect to the engagement with residents on the proposal. The Consultation started before purdah was in place therefore there was no reason why tenants could not have approached Councillors.

- ***No tenant advisor was appointed to help assist tenants as was the case when the stock transfer to BBCHA took place.***

It was confirmed that this proposal is not a stock transfer similar to the one which was done in 2005. It is a transfer of engagement and therefore has a legal definition therefore there is no requirement to provide an Independent Advisor to tenants, there is no vote on this. As long as no rights are being changed and the same protection is being given to tenants/stakeholders and they are in no worse a position in the transfer of engagement to another company then by law there is no right for tenants to vote on the subject. BBCHA has however engaged with

tenants though on the proposal to ensure that people are aware that there are no changes and they will get as a minimum the same service but it is intended following discussions with the community on priorities that there will be additional benefits which will be realised.

## **6.0 FEEDBACK ON THE BBCHA MEETING HELD IN THE COMMUNITY**

6.1 Whilst BBCHA had undertaken a 6 week consultation process which began on 26th March 2015 upon hearing that the first petition had been submitted, they were concerned that some of their tenants had signed this petition but that the petition was also dated 23rd February 2015 and predated the information which was sent to and shared with tenants and stakeholders about the business case and the reason for the transfer of engagement. Whilst the findings of the petition in terms of opposing the transfer are at direct odds with the results of the BBCHA consultation process, BBCHA wished to be open and transparent and therefore sent a letter to all of its stakeholders inviting them to a further meeting on Thursday 18th June at 7pm to discuss the proposal so any concerns or queries could be raised direct with Officers.

6.2 A Council Officer was in attendance at the meeting in the Community to observe what concerns were raised and the answers that were given. The full range of questions asked at the meeting along with the responses given is attached as Appendix 2 to this report however in summary they include:-

- ***If the proposal went ahead will the estate come under Liverpool Council***  
No. BBCHA or LHT are not governed by any Council and they are organisations in their own right.
- ***Will we be better off? Is this the best offer with LHT?***  
Yes. At present there is a covenant from Barclays Bank which restricts BBCHA on what it can spend so this limits what they can spend on investment. The Banks do this to protect and have comfort that they will get their loans paid back. It is proposed LHT will pay this off and then the money can be released to spend on investment in homes and the surrounding area.
- ***Why can't you tackle the vacant pubs on the estate? Are these earmarked for Housing? If you can't get the pubs off the owners will it still be viable to build?***  
The pubs are owned by private owners and the council has been working with them and doing work on enforcement for fly tipping. It is intended that LHT would work with these private owners to address the unused sites and if agreement can be reached for them to sell the sites then they would be developed for new homes. As part of the proposal the whole estate would be to assess land available from the pub sites, old garage sites, other land, these would all be looked at for a range of solutions i.e. housing and looking at improving the landscape/greenspace on the estate.
- ***Don't we have the right to demerge from the Group?***  
BBCHA can demerge from the Symphony Group but the regulator won't agree to this as they will say BBCHA is already in a stable group and it would cost a



significant amount of money for this to be undertaken which means less again to invest in the area and services. The choice of who potentially could be an alternative is very restricted and this is not because of LHT or BBCHA but it is set by the regulator/Government. This process of transfer is not the same as the old stock transfer so it is not a beauty contest or a right to vote.

- ***If LHT take over will you close the local office?***

LHT have given assurances that there are no plans to close down the local office; they have given firm confirmation that for the next 5 years they would not close the office. LHT could not give any firm guarantees for in 15-20 years which no one could due to the nature of not knowing what in the future may impact on this.

- ***Many of the Units and Shops are on peppercorn rents to support local businesses, will they stay the same or will they be on one rent/will they increase in the long term?***

BBCHA confirmed that all the commercial premises/shops have been sent letters confirming that all the current rights and protection they have now in their lease will remain the same and LHT will honour this, it is part of the transfer. LHT gave reassurances that they have worked with other businesses in areas where they own buildings and have arrangements in place and if the shops are unviable then they have looked at renewing leases on not increasing rent where businesses have struggled but they are meeting a fundamental service for the community.

6.3 In summary, all of the issues that have been raised via the petitions, the meetings with the Lead petitioners and the Community have been answered and addressed and there are no valid outstanding concerns that should have any direct impact on Cabinets decision.

6.4 LHT is performing well and is in good financial health. During due diligence it was confirmed that LHT is a strong organisation with consistently high levels of performance and a solid financial position to ensure the long term protection of BBCHA assets.

6.5 By joining LHT BBCHA would ensure greater long term security for the Beechwood and Ballantyne area and also deliver some immediate benefits for the area as outlined in detail in the Business Case. In summary the key benefits to be realised in the short term include:

- Between 20 to 25 new affordable homes built over the next 3 years, including smaller homes to improve the choices available to customers.
- BBCHA loan will be repaid with savings in interest and repayments totalling £455,000 per annum for 8 years
- Development and delivery of a Neighbourhood Master Plan following consultation with tenants and local stakeholders to address key issues on the estate
- Additional stock investment of £660,000 would be allocated over the next 5 years.

- 6.6 LHT themselves have a physical presence on the Wirral with 489 homes they own and provide services to. LHT see the clear benefits of the possible transfer as it would change how they operate in the Borough if they were to become the fourth largest landlord on Wirral. They are already members of the Choice Based Lettings arrangements and are keen to build upon the existing close relationships they have with Council officers and further develop relationships with Health and the Care Commissioning Group's for Wirral.
- 6.7 Whilst it is acknowledged that the concerns raised by petitioners are issues which they feel need to be considered and addressed, the business case, the confirmation given in writing by BBCHA to local business/community groups who have leases within the commercial premises and the rationale for the transfer to LHT which has been both relayed to tenants affected and is outlined within this report provides a compelling argument against the petitioners request for the transfer to not go ahead, to seek a transfer to another organisation outside of Symphony Housing Group or for an Independent Tenants Advisor to be appointed.

## **7.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

- 7.1 If the transfer does not take place BBCHA would continue to provide services to customers. However, it is envisaged that maintaining services and the focus on improving them would become increasingly difficult. BBCHA would need to increase its staffing resources in order to allow for the completion of a number of corporate functions, this would result in an additional cost (up to £150,000 per annum, £700,000 over five years discounted) which would mean more pressure on front line service budgets and the ability to improve homes. These costs would not benefit customers but would be required to provide administration support, work on policies and performance, communications, and finance. If BBCHA were to stay as there are it would seek to renegotiate the current loan agreement after repaying a proportion of the outstanding loan but this would limit cash capacity and would result in an increase in interest costs and less money being spent on investment to benefit the tenants and wider community.
- 7.2 If the transfer does not take place the risk is that BBCHA could be forced into a transfer at a later date. If this was to happen it is likely that this transfer would not be of BBCHA's choosing and would be undertaken from a weakened bargaining position resulting in fewer benefits for tenants than those secured in the current transfer proposal with LHT. This has been the experience of other small registered providers locally and nationally including Venture Housing.
- 7.3 If the transfer was to take place with LHT the risks are considered low in terms of ensuring future investment and service standards for customers. Due diligence has confirmed that LHT are a financially healthy organisation with more resources at its disposal to support the long term sustainability of the Beechwood and Ballantyne area than BBCHA has capacity for now and in the future.
- 7.4 WBC would no longer have a shareholding position through BBCHA and there would no longer be a BBCHA Board. However, LHT would become the 4<sup>th</sup> largest housing provider on the Wirral and as such would be a more influential partner with whom to work with in delivering Borough wide priorities.

## **8.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS**

- 8.1 The Business Case includes a commitment to continue building partnership working with local organisations, this is something which has been reinforced at the meetings with the lead petitioners and also in the meeting held with the local community. The neighbourhood master planning exercise proposed in the Business Case includes the need to work collaboratively with a range of local organisations which would include voluntary, community and faith groups. These groups alongside tenants would be involved in influencing and shaping the longer terms plans for the area. The Business Case also outlines clearly the need to ask local people how they want to be involved in determining how the neighbourhood's performance is monitored and how the additional investment is spent in the area. Engaging with voluntary, community and faith groups in deciding what the area will look like would be an important part of this consultation process committed to by LHT.

## **9.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL; IT; STAFFING; AND ASSETS**

- 9.1 I would say there are no direct resource, financial, IT, staffing or asset implications for the Council arising from this report. The financial benefits to the Beechwood and Ballantyne Communities are detailed elsewhere within this report. The majority of BBCHA staff share common terms and conditions with LHT including pensions. Member's attention is drawn however to the impacts that would affect BBCHA as an organisation and the staff currently employed by them as outlined below.
- 9.2 Those staff affected in BBCHA is protected under TUPE and a clear consultation and engagement process is in place to ensure a smooth transition to their new employer. It is not envisaged that any redundancies will be required as BBCHA has already streamlined all its services in the previous two years.
- 9.3 BBCHA share common ICT systems, payroll processes and housing management and maintenance arrangements. No issues are expected to materialise and no substantial costs will be incurred due to the transfer.

## **10.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1 The legal implications are set out in the main body of the report.

## **11.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 11.1 The ToE of BBCHA does not relate to any services provided by the Council however the transfer in itself does not result in the reduction or removal of any services to the local community. The transfer focuses on maintaining current service provision and enhancing the services provided to tenants. Within the Business Case the development and delivery of more services to support vulnerable households including providing specialist welfare advice service and Tenant Support is confirmed. It was therefore concluded that an Equality Analysis of the transfer was not merited or required.

## **12.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS**

- 12.1 None.

## **13.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

13.1 None.

#### **14.0 RECOMMENDATION/S**

14.1 Cabinet is recommended to:

- a. Agree to support the ToE of BBCHA to LHT.
- b. Authorise relevant Council officers to vote on the proposal (and associated matters) proposed and referred to in this report at the forthcoming BBCHA Special General Meeting.
- c. Refer this on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2015 to Council.

#### **15.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S**

15.1 That Wirral Council, as a Member of BBCHA, indicate their agreement to the proposed transfer of engagements to Liverpool Housing Trust.

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#### **APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 Consultation Report

Appendix 2 Notes on key issues from the meeting in the BBCHA Community

#### **REFERENCE MATERIAL**

None

#### **SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)**

Council Meeting	Date

<b>Title</b>	<b>BBCHA/LHT Transfer Consultation Outcome Report</b>
<b>Purpose of Report</b>	To summarise the feedback received from stakeholders during the 6 week consultation period about the potential transfer of BBCHA to LHT (running from 26 <sup>th</sup> March to 11 <sup>th</sup> May 2015).
<b>Executive Summary</b>	n/a
<b>Links to Key Corporate/Business Objectives</b>	Best for People Best for Customers Best for Value for Money
<b>Financial/Efficiency Implications</b>	The business case previously presented and approved by Board outlines the significant efficiency and financial benefits to the community if the transfer was to proceed.
<b>Equality &amp; Diversity Considerations</b>	The consultation process included a variety of communication methods to gain stakeholder feedback. This ensured that as many people as possible could give their views in whatever way they preferred (included Facebook, email, text messaging, open events, face to face contact).
<b>Risk/Risk Management Considerations</b> ----- <b>High/Medium/Low</b>	Medium Ensuring stakeholders are well informed and feel able to ask questions about the possible transfer is important in influencing the decision to vote for or against by shareholders. We also want tenants to feel confident that the benefits are attractive and worth pursuing and that their tenancy is secure no matter who is landlord.
<b>Implications for Member Organisations</b>	Direct implications on LHT
<b>Health &amp; Safety Implications</b>	Venues and activities were devised to ensure accessibility and safety for staff and stakeholders.
<b>Recommendation</b>	The Board are asked to approve the report which will be sent to Wirral Borough Council as part of the Cabinet paper for approval.
<b>Author/Contact Person</b> <b>Tele/email</b>	Fiona Wilkie Acting Lead Officer <a href="mailto:fwilkie@bbcha.org.uk">fwilkie@bbcha.org.uk</a> 0151 606 6275

## BBCHA/LHT Transfer Consultation Outcome Report

### 1. Introduction and Background

As part of the process for considering a transfer of engagements to LHT, BBCHA undertook a formal 6 week consultation process involving a wide range of stakeholders. This process followed the broad requirements of the Homes and Communities Agency and advice sought from Trowers and Hamlins (BBCHA's legal advisors).

### 2. Consultation Process and Timetable

The consultation process commenced formally on 26<sup>th</sup> March and ran until 11<sup>th</sup> May 2015. The consultation process adopted included a number of methods to encourage participation from stakeholders including formal letters, meetings with Wirral Borough Council and shareholders, open events for the public and updates on progress being posted on BBCHA's website, twitter and Facebook.

The consultation with stakeholders included the following formal actions:

Date	Details
12 <sup>th</sup> January 2015	A letter sent to all tenants and leaseholders explaining that the BBCHA Board was considering negotiations with LHT and that over the coming months more information would be provided.
9 <sup>th</sup> February 2015	Meeting with Wirral Borough Council Officers, Symphony Housing Group and BBCHA to explain the rationale behind the possible transfer.
26 <sup>th</sup> March 2015	Meeting with Wirral Borough Council Officers, BBCHA and LHT to provide an update on progress and the outline business case.
26 <sup>th</sup> March 2015	More detailed information on how the negotiations were progressing was sent to all BBCHA tenants. Included frequently asked questions, summary of benefits, comments card and freepost envelope. Letter advertised the open sessions and how to get in touch with BBCHA. Mirrored information was also placed on BBCHA website, twitter and Facebook.
31 <sup>st</sup> March 2015	Meeting with Wirral Borough Council Officers and Councillors to provide a briefing on the business case.
8 <sup>th</sup> April 2015	Invitation sent to all shareholders to attend a consultation/communication meeting to outline the business case. Invitation included a full copy of the business case document.
15 <sup>th</sup> April 2015	Tenants newsletter published outlined key benefits that could be realised with the transfer took place compared to BBCHA staying as it is.
16 <sup>th</sup> April 2015 (Thursday)	Open session held at BBCHA office in the early evening. Advertised via mailshot, twitter, website and Facebook. Staff and Board Members also talked to local people about the transfer outside the main shopping area.

17 <sup>th</sup> April 2015 (Friday)	Open session held at BBCHA office at lunch-time. Advertised via mailshot, twitter, website and Facebook. Staff and Board Members also talked to local people about the transfer outside the main shopping area.
18 <sup>th</sup> April 2015 (Saturday)	Open session held at BBCHA office at lunch-time. Advertised via mailshot, twitter, website and Facebook. Staff and Board Members also talked to local people about the transfer outside the main shopping area.
22 <sup>nd</sup> April	Letter sent to all BBCHA tenants providing an update on the consultation process so far giving answers to the common questions asked. Invited tenants to contact BBCHA if had any further queries.
22 <sup>nd</sup> April	Letter sent to all commercial leaseholders confirming their position in relation to the transfer and to confirm no plans are being contemplated regarding shutting the shops.
24 <sup>th</sup> April 2015	Meeting held with BBCHA shareholders, BBCHA and LHT officers to outline the business case and answer questions.
28 <sup>th</sup> April 2015	Meeting with Wirral Borough Council Officers to provide an update on the consultation process to date.

Throughout the process BBCHA staff and Board Members have responded to emails, text messages and direct contact from tenants and other stakeholders asking questions about the possible transfer. All questions and comments were formally recorded by staff and Board Members and these were logged on BBCHA's contact system.

It should be noted that prior to the consultation process commencing tenants reported to BBCHA that a petition had been started by a tenant shareholder who opposed the transfer. The Acting Lead Officer met with the person organising the petition and during this meeting asked them to engage in the consultation process and to voice their concerns directly to officers so that issues could be addressed and discussed. No petition was submitted to BBCHA for consideration and no specific concerns were submitted other than they were opposed to any transfer.

### **3. Summary of Comments and Feedback from Stakeholders about the Transfer**

134 contacts were made to BBCHA asking about the transfer. (A small number of these include repeat contact from the same people).

Of those who contacted BBCHA 121 contacts were from BBCHA tenants (90%) and 14 contacts were from other people living and working in the area (including those living with other social landlords, owner occupiers and 2 commercial leaseholders). This gives an overall response rate from tenants of 15% (based on BBCHA's 823 homes).

Stakeholders in the main wanted to know how the transfer would directly affect them and asked for clarification about the impact it could have on them and sought reassurance.

The table below shows the most common questions or queries raised by stakeholders. A much more detailed report is included in appendix 1.

<b>What common questions did stakeholders ask about?</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>% of all BBCHA tenants who made contact</b>	<b>Response provided</b>
Overall no concerns as long as services can be guaranteed to be maintained and no changes to tenancy rights take place	98 (7 are not tenants)	76%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Right to Buy and Right to Acquire confirmed is protected</li> <li>- Repairs service confirmed will be of the same standard</li> <li>- Home support service will be retained</li> <li>- Local office retained</li> <li>- No changes to tenancy agreement will take place</li> <li>- No increase in rent charges other than outlined in tenancy agreement</li> <li>- Will still address ASB</li> <li>- Shops will not be shut</li> <li>- Will continue investing in the area including building more homes and addressing issues like vacant land and play areas</li> </ul>
General enquiry about why the transfer was being considered	24 (3 non-tenants)	17%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provided information on why LHT chosen</li> <li>- Provided information about the Boards decision and the risks BBCHA are exposed to</li> <li>- Provided information on potential benefits</li> <li>- Reiterated information previously sent out</li> </ul>
Opposed to transfer including being unhappy about consultation process	13 (4 non-tenants)	7%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provided additional information including Business case Summary and offered discussions with officers</li> <li>- Provided details about consultation process being followed</li> <li>- Number of comments did not give specific reasons why opposed so general information given</li> </ul>

\* The percentage of responses received has been divided by the total number of contacts made by tenants to BBCHA.



A Shareholder meeting was arranged on 24<sup>th</sup> April to discuss the Business Case in more detail. Of the 6 shareholders who attended the meeting 4 were tenants.

The main questions raised included:

<b>Questions/Comments</b>	<b>Answers</b>
The need to retain the identity of the estate and the legacy of investment already made	Reassurance that LHT will deliver a local neighbourhood service run from the retained local office on Beechwood
Why has LHT been selected? Tenants should have been given a choice.	Outlined relationship with LHT past and present and the proven service history in the area. The need to minimise the risks and costs associated with entering into transfer talks is less with LHT as part of the same Housing Group. Any move to approach another partner would require a demerger from Symphony Housing Group.
Concern that this was taking place during election time and impact on the ability of people to lobby councillors	Confirmed WBC representation on the BBCHA Board including councillors and their involvement in developing the decision reached so far and the ongoing dialogue with ward and local councillors via the WBC representative on the BBCHA Board

#### **4. Outcome following the consultation process**

Officers have reviewed the comments and questions received so far from stakeholders and considered if anything needed to be revised in the transfer of engagements negotiations. Comparing the feedback received with the reassurances built into the transfer the conclusion is that the key concerns highlighted by tenants are protected and addressed (i.e. the ability to exercise their right to buy, security of tenure, continuity of services received).

#### **5. Recommendation**

The Board are asked to note the outcome of consultation process.

This report will be shared with Wirral Borough Council as part of their report to Cabinet about the transfer.

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### **Key Issues Raised at the Meeting held between BBCHA, LHT and the Community RE the proposed BBCHA Transfer of Engagement to LHT**

Below is a summary of the discussions held with the BBCHA Community at a meeting on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2015 at The Chapel, Beechwood Drive, Beechwood in respect of the proposal for BBCHA to undertake a transfer of engagement to LHT. Officers from the Council were present to capture the key issues raised. These notes are a reflection of the discussions and are set out to inform members of the key concerns and the responses in order for Cabinet to make an informed decision.

#### **Notes From BBCHA Meeting in the Community**

BBCHA asked for a Local Community Member of the Estate to chair the meeting to ensure that all parties got the opportunity to raise and discuss any concerns. Officers from the Council were present to observe the concerns raised by those present to report back to Cabinet for them to consider in any final decision made. Ward members along with a Board member were also present. A total of 16 people attend the meeting, consisting of 9 tenants of BBCHA, 6 owner occupiers and 1 tenant of another registered provider who lived on the estate.

The Lead Officer for BBCHA set out the background on austerity measures BBCHA were facing and the Government policy resulting in the environment that BBCHA now find themselves currently in. The background to the financial situation was set and the clear difficulties which BBCHA are in to secure long term investment and delivery of services for the benefit of the community. The process and options which were considered by the Board were set out and the reasons why the option to transfer to LHT was approved by the BBCHA Board to secure long term investment and security for the tenants of BBCHA and the community as a whole.

All who attended were advised of the petitions which had been received by Council and the Lead Officer addressed the concerns that had been raised through these.

Queries raised at the meeting included:-

***Will the estate come under Liverpool Council as they had heard that Joe Anderson was talking on the radio and it seemed that this was a done deal?***

No. Neither BBCHA nor LHT are governed by any Council and they are organisations in their own right. There are a number of other registered providers

who have the word Liverpool in their company name e.g. Liverpool Mutual Homes and South Liverpool Housing Trust which have stock in the Liverpool Area. It may be the particular radio talk was about one of these organisations.

***Will we be better off? Is this the best offer with LHT?***

Yes. At present there is a covenant from Barclays Bank which restricts BBCHA on what it can spend so this limits what they can spend on investment. The banks do this to protect themselves and have comfort that they will get their loans paid back. It is proposed LHT will pay this off and then the money can be released to spend on investment in homes and the surrounding area.

***Why are homes being remortgaged?***

The homes are not being remortgaged; they were mortgaged at the point the stock transferred from Wirral Council back in 2005 and this was to fund the stock transfer process and investment of the stock.

***Are you bankrupt? Is this why you have to transfer?***

BBCHA is not bankrupt. The transfer is protecting the position of the estate and company. Income is under threat; empties have increased costs have increased. BBCHA is a small organisation and can't absorb costs like larger companies can.

***Why can't you tackle the vacant pubs on the estate? Are these earmarked for Housing? If you can't get the pubs off the owners will it still be viable to build?***

The pubs are owned by private owners and the Council has been working with them and doing work on enforcement for fly tipping. It is intended that LHT would work with these private owners to address the unused sites and if agreement can be reached for them to sell the sites then they would be developed for new homes. As part of the proposal the whole estate would be to assess land available from the pub sites, old garage sites and other land. These would all be looked at for a range of solutions such as housing and looking at improving the landscape/greenspace on the estate.

***Why do you need to build more homes?***

To offer a greater choice on the estate as there are limited options for people who need to move to smaller accommodation, so it is meeting needs.

***Don't we have the right to demerge from the Group?***

BBCHA can demerge from the Symphony Group but the regulator won't agree to this as they will say BBCHA is already in a stable group and it would cost a significant amount of money for this to be undertaken which means less again to invest in the area and services. The choice of who potentially could be an alternative is very restricted and this is not because of LHT or BBCHA but it is set by the

regulator/Government. This process of transfer is not the same as the old stock transfer so it is not a beauty contest or a right to vote.

***Will the BBCHA logo change and be on the office, who will be in charge and will there be a competition to design a new logo?***

***If LHT Take Over will you close the local office?***

LHT would take over the stock and office and their logo would be used. LHT have given assurances that there are no plans to close down the local office, they have given firm confirmation that for the next 5 years they would not close the office. LHT could not give any firm guarantees for in 15-20 years which no one could, due to the nature of not knowing what in the future may impact on this.

***Many of the Units and Shops are on peppercorn rents to support local businesses, will they stay the same or will they be on one rent/will they increase in the long term?***

***Is it feasible for people to meet with other areas to get comfort/reassurance ?***

BBCHA confirmed that all the commercial premises/shops have been sent letters confirming that all the current rights and protection they have now in their lease will remain the same and LHT will honour this, it is part of the transfer. LHT gave reassurances that they have worked with other businesses in areas where they own buildings and have arrangements in place and if the shops are unviable then they have looked at renewing leases on not increasing rent where businesses have struggled but they are meeting a fundamental service for the community.

LHT were more than happy for anyone who was interested for people to talk to other businesses who they have worked with.

***Three questions were asked that did not directly related to the proposals being discussed and have not been included in this note.***

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## **CABINET**

**12 MARCH 2015**

### **153 FINANCIAL MONITORING 2014/15 (MONTH 10)**

Councillor Phil Davies introduced a report by the Acting Section 151 Officer which set out the revenue position for 2014/15, which at Month 10 showed a projected General Fund overspend of £0.77 million (0.3% of the net revenue budget). It was noted that this was an improvement of £50,000 on the Month 9 projected overspend. Councillor Phil Davies informed that he was very pleased to see that the overspend was reducing further and that the Council was on course to, more or less, balance the books.

The Cabinet noted that the Adult Social Services projected overspend had decreased in the month by £30,000 to £2.74 million and management actions required to contain budget pressures had reduced by £0.7 million. The overspend was the result of slippage or non-delivery of in year savings and continued demand pressures. The forecasted overspend within Children's Services had remained the same in Month 10 as in the previous month at £196,000. The overspend largely related to the non-achievement of in year transport savings as well as the costs of external placements. The Families and Wellbeing Directorate had implemented a number of management actions to help compensate and/or limit any adverse variances.

#### **RESOLVED: That**

- (1) Cabinet notes that at Month 10 (January 2015), the full year forecast projects a General Fund overspend of £772,000;**
- (2) Cabinet notes the changes in budget allocations relating to the re-allocation of the capital financing impairment charges (as outlined in the report) which do not impact on the General Fund position; and**
- (3) Cabinet notes the risks relating to non-delivery of savings detailed within the report and the continued requirement for mitigation and actions to be identified.**

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## **CABINET**

**12 MARCH 2015**

### **154 CAPITAL MONITORING 2014/15 (MONTH 10)**

Councillor Phil Davies introduced a report of the Acting Section 151 Officer which set out the capital position for 2014/15 at Month 10 (January 2015).

The Cabinet noted that the actual spend against the Capital Programme which was summarised in the report in Table 1. A number of variances had been identified which impacted upon the forecast outturn and these were highlighted in the report in Table 2. The report provides information on the progress in delivering the 2014/15 Capital Programme and the sources of financing.

Councillor Phil Davies informed that he was pleased to see that the Cabinet Member for Support Services had been working hard to release capital receipts which would be reinvested in other Council Services. He thanked Councillor Adrian Jones for being so vigilant.

Councillor Phil Davies invited each Cabinet Member to provide information on important capital projects coming to fruition within each of their portfolios and they responded as follows:

Councillor Chris Meaden informed that the Guinea Gap Leisure Centre in Wallasey had reopened on Monday and the planned leisure facilities in West Kirby would open later in the year. Capital funding had been earmarked to redevelop the Marine Lake in New Brighton.

Councillor Stuart Whittingham referred to major highway improvement works which were actually detailed in the Strategic Directors report at paragraphs 3.26, 3.27 and 3.28. He informed that the Council was investing in the Borough's highway network and now had some of the best roads in the country.

Councillor Chris Jones referred to the Somerville Primary School project and informed that as a consequence it was now a fantastic place for children to go.

Councillor Pat Hackett referred to the recent infrastructure works carried out in New Brighton and informed that it showed the Council's commitment to improving the seafront.

Councillor Bernie Mooney informed that the whole report was a reflection of the Council and the good works it was doing.

Councillor Tony Smith referred to the capital project that was progressing well at Ellera Park Primary School, the new Foxfield Special School which opened in March 2015 and the project to provide two additional classrooms and remodelling works at Fender Primary School. He thanked all of those involved in these projects and informed that the Council was continuing to update all of the schools in the Council's administrative area.

Councillor Ann McLachlan made reference to the project to bring Birkenhead Town Hall “back to life”, relocating staff there and disposing buildings no longer required, thereby realising capital receipts. She informed that the Council would continue to renew and refurbish some of its buildings, using what it had to best advantage and ensuring that “the Wirral £” went further.

**RESOLVED: That**

- (1) the spend to date at Month 10 of £25.8 million, with 83% of the financial year having elapsed be noted; and**
- (2) Cabinet agrees and refers to Council:**
  - (a) The revised Capital Programme of £39.6 million in (Table 1);**
  - (b) The re-profiling in respect of the schemes referred to in Table 2 of £5.785 million.**

## STANDARDS AND CONSTITUTIONAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

3 MARCH 2015

### 11 NOTICE OF MOTION - CONSULTATION THAT COUNTS

The Committee was informed that the Civic Mayor had referred the following Notice of Motion to it for consideration at the meeting of the Council held on 15 December 2014:

#### **‘NOTICE OF MOTION - CONSULTATION THAT COUNTS**

**Proposed** by Councillor Phil Gilchrist

**Seconded** by Councillor Dave Mitchell

Council recognises that the recent consultation about the options for the future of the Lyndale School led to issues being raised about the nature and practice of ‘consultation’.

During this process, there was a distinction drawn between the notes taken at meetings and ‘high level’ notes. Whilst the inclusion of these points was contained in the subsequent reports, there is a pressing need to capture the full import and quality of points raised by the public during consultations.

Council also understands that the nature of and status of ‘pre-consultation’ was also questioned at a recent meeting of the Policy and Performance Co-ordinating Committee.

Council believes that, in the interests of good governance, there is a need for clarity to ensure that full records of consultations are effectively kept.

Council considers that guidance needs to be developed on the proper capture and reporting of points raised during consultations. The issue of the chairing of such consultations also needs to be considered.

Council requests that the Standards and Constitutional Oversight Committee examine the practices with a view to establishing procedures which Wirral’s citizens and Councillors can be fully conversant with and have confidence in.’

Councillor P Gilchrist was in attendance at the meeting and introduced his Motion. He made reference to the recent consultation exercise the Council had carried out on the proposal to close the Lyndale School and detailed the procedures that had been adopted. In particular, he informed that the relevant Cabinet Member had not wanted to Chair the consultation meetings, as had been the practice during other consultations the Council had carried out, as he just wanted to listen to what was being said. Consequently, Councillor Gilchrist informed that he was of the view that the quality of the recorded proceedings may not have been of a good enough standard as they had been recorded in “a bland manner”. He also made reference to the consultations on Children’s Centres that had only just commenced.

Councillor Gilchrist's concern was that there did not appear to be any protocols or guidance on how notes of the Council's consultation meetings should be formatted and recorded so that the salient points were not lost.

Councillor M McLaughlin moved the following Motion which was seconded by Councillor D Roberts:

'That this Committee requests that a preliminary report be presented to it setting out whether the Council has a protocol in place to capture information coming forward from consultation meetings.'

The Head of Legal and Member Services and Monitoring Officer informed that he was not aware of any protocols to capture information provided at consultation meetings but there may be issues around the accuracy of the Minutes taken at such meetings. He considered that there may be resource issues and that defining 'rules' may end up being counter-productive as consultations need to be informative and comprehensive.

The Head of Legal and Member Services and Monitoring Officer also informed that there was no requirement for the Cabinet Member to Chair consultation meetings.

Councillor Gilchrist proposed the following Amendment which was seconded by Councillor M McLaughlin:

'That each of the three Strategic Director be invited to provide commentary on their practices and arrangements for recording views expressed during consultations.'

The Committee noted that some consultations had to be extensive and this depended on the subject of the consultation and exactly what the duties were that the Council had to discharge, so there most probably was not a set procedure adopted in respect of them all.

Members agreed that if they considered that the Strategic Directors' position statements were not adequate the Committee, via its Working Group, would embark on a piece of work. They understood the difficulties of asking the Strategic Directors to produce a common approach.

The Head of Legal and Member Services and Monitoring Officer referred to the need to produce equality impact assessments, along with Committee reports and informed that he would ask the Strategic Directors to provide a range of consultation examples.

The Amendment was put to the vote and carried unanimously. It then became the substantive Motion.

**RESOLVED (unanimously): That**

- (1) each of the three Strategic Directors be invited to provide commentary on their practices and procedures for recording views expressed during consultations; and**
- (2) if any clarification is required in respect of (1) above, the Head of Legal and Member Services be authorised to obtain it following consultation with the Chair and Group Spokespersons.**

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## Council – 06 July 2015

### Motions

The following motions have been submitted in accordance with the notice required by Standing Order 7(1) and are listed in the order received.

#### 1. **THE NORTHERN POWERHOUSE** *(to be debated)*

**Proposed** by Councillor Jeff Green

**Seconded** by Councillor Lesley Rennie

Council will be aware of the Cities and Devolution Bill designed to provide for the devolution of powers to cities with elected metro mayors to build a Northern Powerhouse.

Council understands that the Chancellor, the key architect of the country's economic recovery, has made it clear that he wants to harness the individual successes of the north into a combined Northern Powerhouse able to challenge the South providing jobs and opportunities for individuals and economic security for their families.

Council recognises that this is a once in a generation opportunity for the hardworking families of Wirral; a Chancellor who represents a seat in North West England and one that is prepared to devolve significant powers and budgets to our region in order to improve the lives of hardworking families.

Council believes that the opportunity provided by the Government must not be squandered.

Council further believes that any devolution of power and budget to the City Region must be balanced by providing a direct opportunity to hold those with authority accountable.

Therefore Council recommends that the Leader of the Council advises the next meeting of the Combined Authority to engage enthusiastically in the development of the Northern Powerhouse; provide clarity to this Council about the details of any devolution of power and budget it is seeking from the Government and confirm its support for a directly elected Metro Mayor.

#### 2. **WIRRAL'S ECONOMIC SUCCESS** *(the Civic Mayor to refer to the Policy and Performance - Regeneration and Environment Committee)*

**Proposed** by Councillor Jeff Green

**Seconded** by Councillor Lesley Rennie

Council notes that:

- (1) Latest information reports that Wirral has 7,400 total enterprises; an 11.1% improvement in the business base since 2011 and the number of total jobs in Wirral currently stands at 113,000 which is the highest figure for 8 years.

- (2) Wirral currently has 3,118 Jobseekers Allowance claimants, a reduction of nearly 3,000 since April 2014. 530 of these Jobseekers are aged 18-24, a reduction of nearly 1,300 since April 2014; this is a reduction in rate of 5.2% which is nearly triple the national average.

Council expresses its relief that the British Electorate has returned a Conservative Government and given it a mandate to continue its support to businesses and the long term economic plan.

Council wishes to congratulate all those local Wirral entrepreneurs, workers and businesses who are contributing to the economic success of Wirral and the country as a whole.

Council therefore instructs the Chief Executive to write to the Chair of the Wirral Chamber of Commerce and invites him to share his thoughts on what the Council can do to further support our local businesses in continuing the Government's vision of more people with the security of a regular wage and the chance to get on.

**3. PROPOSAL FOR A FIRE STATION ON GREEN BELT LAND IN SAUGHALL MASSIE** *(the Civic Mayor to refer to the Policy and Performance - Regeneration and Environment Committee)*

**Proposed** by Councillor Chris Blakeley

**Seconded** by Councillor Bruce Berry

Council acknowledges the overwhelming public opposition to the proposal by Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service for a fire station on green belt land in Saughall Massie, as demonstrated by:

- The 200 people who attended a public meeting arranged by MFRS, and a further 270 who were unable to gain admission to the venue.
- The opposition of the Saughall Massie Village Area Conservation Society and the Wirral Society.
- The 970 people who have, so far, signed a petition against the proposal.

Council impresses upon Cabinet:

- (1) To maintain protection of Wirral's Green Belt, as set by agreed policies and stop inappropriate development.
- (2) Not to gift, sell or lease the land concerned in Saughall Massie, because of the value it has for the community.
- (3) To ask officers to continue to work co-operatively with Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service in identifying and facilitating a more suitable brown field site for operational purposes and to maintain the amenity of the local people.



**4. MENTAL HEALTH CHALLENGE** *(the Civic Mayor to refer to the Policy and Performance - Families and Wellbeing Committee)*

**Proposed** by Councillor Tom Anderson

**Seconded** by Councillor Lesley Rennie

Council notes that:

- (1) mental health is becoming an increasing concern, with one in five people having a mental health condition at any one time.
- (2) only a quarter of people with a mental health condition receive any treatment for it.
- (3) mental ill-health has economic and social cost of £105bn a year, accounting for 28% of the total burden of disease but only 13% of NHS spending.
- (4) mental health provision is not just about supporting those with the most severe conditions but providing an integrated and holistic support to the community.

Furthermore, Council notes the excellent initiative of several leading mental health charities in developing the “Mental Health Challenge” and the resources they are giving to local authorities.

Council therefore resolves to take on the mental health organisations challenge by:

- (a) Appoint an elected member as ‘mental health champion’ across the Council.
- (b) Identify a lead officer for mental health to link in with colleagues across the Council.
- (c) Follow the implementation framework for the mental health strategy where it is relevant to the Council’s work and local needs.
- (d) Work to reduce inequalities in mental health in our community.
- (e) Work with the NHS to integrate health and social care support.
- (f) Promote wellbeing and initiate and support action on public mental health for example through our joint health and wellbeing strategy.
- (g) Tackle discrimination on the grounds of mental health in our community.
- (h) Encourage positive mental health in our schools, colleges and workplaces.
- (i) Proactively engage and listen to people of all ages and backgrounds about what they need for better mental health.
- (j) Sign up to the Time to Change pledge.

## **5. MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE FUNDING** *(to be debated)*

**Proposed** by Councillor Phil Davies

**Seconded** by Councillor Matt Patrick

Council notes the Conservative Government's announcement of a Summer budget on July 8th.

Council recognises the unprecedented challenge before Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority, who due to continued cuts to their funding are faced with the closure of West Kirby and Upton Fire Stations, both of the emergency facilities in Wirral West Constituency.

Council requests Wirral MPs, as a matter of urgency, to raise this matter with the appropriate minister with a view to revisiting the grant allocation to stop these closures.

## **6. IMPLEMENTATION OF NOTICE OF MOTION 'BECOMING A DEMENTIA FRIENDLY COUNCIL'** *(to be debated)*

**Proposed** by Councillor Tom Anderson

**Seconded** by Councillor Tracey Pilgrim

Council:

- (1) notes that the Notice of Motion 'Becoming a Dementia Friendly Council' was brought to Council on 14th July 2014 and was subsequently referred to the Families and Wellbeing Policy and Performance Committee at its meeting on 9 September 2014 where it was unanimously endorsed.
- (2) expresses disappointment in the delay in bringing this back to Council, finally being resolved and endorsed at Council on 8th December 2014.
- (3) acknowledges that it's been 12 months since this Motion was first introduced and concludes that it is unacceptable that little has been done to promote and implement the sentiments contained within the original Motion.

Council therefore instructs the Chief Executive to:

- (a) fully implement the will of Elected Members as set out in the original Notice of Motion 'Becoming a Dementia Friendly Council,' without delay.
- (b) conduct an investigation into why this Notice of Motion has not been driven forward by Chief Officers and report his findings to the Policy and Performance Co-ordinating Committee.