



Council

Dear Councillor

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council to be held at **6.00 p.m. on Monday, 10 July 2023** in the Assembly Hall, within the Town Hall, Birkenhead, to take into consideration and determine the following subjects:

Contact Officer: Dan Sharples
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Website: <http://www.wirral.gov.uk>

PLEASE NOTE: public seating is extremely limited, therefore members of the public wishing to attend are asked to register their attendance by emailing committeeservices@wirral.gov.uk.

Wirral Council is fully committed to equalities and our obligations under The Equality Act 2010 and Public Sector Equality Duty. If you have any adjustments that would help you attend or participate at this meeting, please let us know as soon as possible and we would be happy to facilitate where possible. Please contact committeeservices@wirral.gov.uk

This meeting will be webcast at
<https://wirral.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

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. CIVIC MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

3. MINUTES (Pages 1 - 32)

To approve the accuracy of the minutes of the meetings of the Council

held on 20 March 2023, 17 May 2023 and 24 May 2023.

4. PUBLIC AND MEMBER QUESTIONS

To deal with questions, statements and petitions from members of the public, and Members, in accordance with Standing Orders 10, 11 and 12.

A. Public Questions

Notice of question to be given in writing or by email by noon, Wednesday, 5 June 2023 to the Council's Monitoring Officer (via the online form here: [Public Question Form](#)) and to be dealt with in accordance with Standing Order 10.

For more information on how your personal information will be used, please see this link: [Document Data Protection Protocol](#)

Please telephone the Committee Services Officer if you have not received an acknowledgement of your question by the deadline for submission.

B. Statements and Petitions

Notice of statements to be given in writing or by email by 12 noon, Wednesday, 5 June 2023 to the Council's Monitoring Officer (committeeservices@wirral.gov.uk) and to be dealt with in accordance with Standing Order 11.1.

Petitions may be presented to the Council if provided to Democratic and Member Services no later than 10 working days before the meeting, at the discretion of the Mayor. The person presenting the petition will be allowed to address the meeting briefly (not exceeding three minutes) to outline the aims of the petition. The Mayor will refer the matter to another appropriate body of the Council within whose terms of reference it falls without discussion, unless a relevant item appears elsewhere on the Agenda. If a petition contains more than 5,000 signatures, it will be debated at a subsequent meeting of Council for up to 15 minutes, at the discretion of the Mayor. Please give notice of petitions to committeeservices@wirral.gov.uk in advance of the meeting.

Notice of one petition has been received – Statue of Paul O'Grady.

Please telephone the Committee Services Officer if you have not received an acknowledgement of your statement/petition by the deadline for submission.

C. Members' Questions

To consider Members' questions to the Leader or Deputy

Leader of the Council, Committee Chair or a Leader of a Political Group, in accordance with Standing Orders 12.

5. MATTERS REQUIRING APPROVAL OR CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL

To consider any recommendations and receive reports from the Council's Committees which require the approval or consideration of the Council, and to receive questions and answers on any of those reports.

A. CAPITAL OUTTURN REPORT 2022-23

Council is requested to agree to the following recommendation of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 14 June 2023:

That the transfer to and use of earmarked reserves, as detailed in Appendix 3, be approved.

The minute extract and report are attached.

B. 2022-23 BUDGET MONITORING FOR QUARTER FOUR (THE PERIOD TO 31 MAR), 2022-23 OUTTURN

Council is requested to agree to the following recommendation of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 14 June 2023:

That the revised Capital Programme of £178.1 million for 2023/24 be approved, including the virements of budget referred to in Appendix D.

The minute extract and report are attached.

6. REPORTS AND DECISIONS FROM COUNCIL COMMITTEES AND PARTNERSHIP ORGANISATIONS

To receive reports about and receive questions and answers on decisions made by Committees since the last meeting of Council.

A. DECISIONS TAKEN SINCE THE LAST COUNCIL MEETING

The minutes of all committees which have met since 1 March 2023, up until 16 June 2023 are attached below.

Minutes of Committees:

- 01.03.2023 – Audit and Risk Management Committee
- 06.03.2023 – Audit Social Care and Public Health Committee
- 07.03.2023 – Children, Young People and Education Committee

- 08.03.2023 – Economy Regeneration and Housing Committee
- 09.03.2023 – Tourism, Communities, Culture & Leisure Committee
- 14.03.2023 – Environment, Climate Emergency & Transport Committee
- 16.03.2023 – Planning Committee
- 22.03.2023 – Policy and Resources Committee
- 23.03.2023 – Regulatory and General Purposes Committee
- 13.04.2023 – Constitution and Standards Committee
- 19.04.2023 – Planning Committee
- 27.04.2023 – Policy and Resources Committee
- 07.06.2023 – Licensing Act Committee
- 07.06.2023 – Regulatory and General Purposes Committee
- 08.06.2023 – Planning Committee
- 12.06.2023 – Constitution and Standards Committee
- 13.06.2023 – Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee
- 14.06.2023 – Policy and Resources Committee

B. JOINT ARRANGEMENTS AND EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

To receive reports about and receive questions and answers on the business of joint arrangements and external organisations, including the Combined Authority.

7. MOTIONS ON NOTICE (Pages 257 - 260)

Motions submitted in accordance with Standing Order 13.1, are attached. They are listed in accordance with Standing Order 13.2, and the full text of each motion is attached.

Full Council Responsibility for Functions

The full responsibility of functions for Full Council can be found at the end of this agenda.



Paul Satoor, Chief Executive

TIMINGS AND GUILLOTINE

Members are reminded of the following:

Item 2 - under Standing Order 2(iv) Mayor's announcements normally limited to up to 5 minutes.

Item 4A. – under Standing Order 10.7, public questions, up to 2 minutes allowed to put a question and up to 2 minutes for a response. Up to 30 minutes in total allowed for public questions (Standing Order 2(v)).

Item 4B. - under Standing Order 11.1, representations (statements) up to 3 minutes, with public speaking on any one item not exceeding 10 minutes. Up to 20 minutes in total allowed to receive representations (Standing Order 2(vi)).
Petitions – under Standing Order 11.2, present and speak to a petition for up to 1 minute.

Item 4C. – under Standing Order 12.8, questions on notice from Members will not exceed 1 minute and up to 2 minutes for a response.

Item 6 – under Standing Order 2(xii) the total time allowed for questions and answers on decisions of committees is up to 45 minute.

Under Standing Order 9 of the Council Procedure Rules:

The Mayor will adjourn the meeting for a period of ten minutes at a convenient time after one and a half hours.

Where three hours have elapsed after the commencement of any meeting (and in the case of an extraordinary meeting of Council when two hours have elapsed since commencement of the meeting) the Mayor shall interrupt the meeting and the Member speaking must immediately cease doing so and sit down. The meeting shall then dispose of the item then under consideration as if the motion '*That the question be now put*' had been carried (i.e. the debate shall be concluded by the seconder and by the Member who has the right of reply and the vote will then be taken without any further discussion). This rule will not apply to meetings of a quasi-judicial or regulatory nature.

Audio/Visual Recording of Meetings

Everyone is welcome to record meetings of the Council and its Committees using non-disruptive methods. For particular meetings we may identify a 'designated area' for you to record from. If you have any questions about this please contact Committee and Civic Services (members of the press please contact the Press Office). Please note that the Chair of the meeting has the discretion to halt any recording for a number of reasons, including disruption caused by the filming or the nature of the business being conducted.

Persons making recordings are requested not to put undue restrictions on the material produced so that it can be reused and edited by all local people and organisations on a non-commercial basis.

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COUNCIL

Monday, 20 March 2023

Present: The Civic Mayor (Councillor Jeff Green) in the Chair
Deputy Civic Mayor (Councillor Jerry Williams)

Councillors	T Anderson	A Gardner	P Martin
	S Bennett	P Gilchrist	D Mitchell
	J Bird	H Gorman	S Mountney
	M Booth	N Graham	Y Nolan
	A Brame	K Greaney	C O'Hagan
	D Burgess-	EA Grey	A Onwuemene
	Joyce	J Grier	O Osanlou
	H Cameron	P Hayes	S Percy
	I Camphor	A Hodson	C Povall
	C Carubia	K Hodson	L Rennie
	P Cleary	J Hoey	J Robinson
	M Collins	J Johnson	T Smith
	H Collinson	C Jones	P Stuart
	C Cooke	T Jones	Jason Walsh
	T Cox	M Jordan	Joe Walsh
	A Davies	S Kelly	S Williams
	C Davies	B Kenny	J Williamson
	G Davies	D Kenny	V Wilson
	T Elzeiny	J Laing	G Wood
	L Fraser	I Lewis	A Wright

<u>Apologies</u>	Councillors	S Foulkes	J McManus
		E Gleaves	S Powell-Wilde
		J McManus	

88 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Civic Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and those watching the webcast. He then asked Members 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.

Councillor Naomi Graham declared a personal interest by virtue of her partners' employment.

89 **CIVIC MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Civic Mayor announced that apologies had been received from Councillors Steve Foulkes, Emily Gleaves, Julie McManus, Sue Powell-Wilde and Joe Walsh.

The Civic Mayor noted that this was the last Council of the municipal year and that up until this week he had undertaken over 230 engagements and that he would comment further upon his year in office at the Annual Meeting in May.

The Civic Mayor announced that the Andy Day Cup, awarded to the Member of the Council who had shown dedication and selflessness during the Municipal Year in memory of the late Councillor Andy Day, was to be awarded to Councillor Ivan Camphor.

The Civic Mayor then announced that the Andy Corkhill Award, given to an individual, group, school or business that had done something demonstrably of benefit to the environment, was to be awarded to Wirral's Assistant Director for Parks and Environment, Colin Clayton.

The Civic Mayor also announced a new award for Public Servant of the Year, given to Council officers that have gone above and beyond the call of duty for their office, performed their duties to the upmost commitment, dedication and integrity and demonstrably improved outcomes for Wirral residents through their actions. The Public Servant of the Year was awarded to Assistant Chief Executive, David Armstrong.

The Civic Mayor announced that that a number of Members would not be seeking re-election this year and thanked them for their service to the Council and the Borough, Councillors Tom Anderson, Emily Gleaves, Paul Hayes, John Hoey, Chris Jones, David Mitchell, Tony Smith, Joe Walsh, Steve Williams and Alison Wright.

He then invited Councillors Janette Williamson, Tom Anderson, Pat Cleary and Phil Gilchrist to pay their tributes to those retiring Members as Leaders of each political group.

90 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meetings of Council held on 5 December 2022, and 27 February 2023 had been circulated to Members.

The Civic Mayor noted that there were two minor corrections to the minutes of the 27 February 2023 meeting:

- **Minute 77** – the declaration of interest in respect to the receipt of a Pension from Merseyside Police should read Councillor Steve Williams and not Councillor Steve Foulkes.
- **Minute 81** – Councillor Jean Robinson was the seconder of the recommendations and not Councillor Yvonne Nolan.

Resolved – That the minutes of the meetings be approved and adopted as correct records, subject to the following amendments to the minutes of the meeting of 27 February 2023:

- 1. Minute 77 to read Councillor Steve Williams and not Councillor Steve Foulkes in respect of the declaration of interest regarding the receipt of a Pension from Merseyside Police.**
- 2. Minute 81 to read that Councillor Jean Robinson and not Councillor Yvonne Nolan seconded the motion.**

91 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The Civic Mayor informed the Council that six public questions had been received.

Mark Skillicorn asked the Leader of the Council, Councillor Janette Williamson, what the government's reasons or motivations were for pausing Wirral's completed Local Plan hearing to hear Leverhulme's appeals first.

In response Councillor Williamson noted that she could not know what the government's motivations were but that Wirral was in the hands of the Planning Inspectorate who had chosen the dates of the Leverhulme appeals.

Julienne McGeough asked a question to the Leader of the Council regarding trains not stopping at Green Lane and requested an update on any progress in getting trains to stop there.

Councillor Janette Williamson stated that she was continuing to make representations to the Metro Mayor, Steve Rotheram, around the services to Green Lane station.

Charlotte Smith asked a question to the Leader of the Council regarding access to Hoylake Beach for disabled people.

The Leader thanked Charlotte Smith for her question and asked Councillor Liz Grey as Chair of the Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee to respond. Councillor Liz Grey stated that Charlotte Smith had asked similar questions on access at a number of Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committees where the answer to the question had previously been provided.

Charlotte Smith then ask a supplementary question on whether an equality impact assessment would be undertaken regarding access to Hoylake Beach. Councillor Liz Grey responded that any final beach management plan would include an equality impact assessment.

Neil Smith asked a question of the Leader of the Council regarding acting positively for the people of Wirral, particularly those affected by the West Kirby Flood Wall and Hoylake beach.

Councillor Janette Williamson stated that officers have been working closely with the businesses of West Kirby to alleviate concerns regarding lack of parking provision due to the construction of the Flood Wall. With regard to Hoylake beach, she noted that the Chair of the Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee, Liz Grey, had been advocating for a compromise on how the beach was to be managed and had asked officers to develop further options as part of the desire to reach a compromise.

Neil Smith asked a supplementary question on what image Hoylake beach would give to the world when it was shown on television during the Open Golf tournament. Councillor Williamson noted that there were as many people that supported leaving Hoylake beach alone as there were that want it cleared of vegetation.

The Monitoring Officer read out a question on behalf of Nicola Verkade to the Leader of the Council which related to public consultation on Hoylake beach and the council not meeting its deadline to present its findings on Phase one and two of the consultations.

Councillor Janette Williamson explained that work undertaken to determine the Natural Capital Value under 2 extreme climate change scenarios took longer than programmed. The options put forward for Phase 2 at Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee in November 2022 were not approved, leading to further work to develop alternative options.

The Monitoring Officer read out a question on behalf of Frank McArdle to the Chair of the Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee asking her to defend taking part in an alleged illegal mass gathering on Hoylake shore in 2022.

Councillor Liz Grey responded that the event was in no way illegal as the beach was a public space and none of the attendees had damaged any protected habitat.

STATEMENTS AND PETITIONS

The Civic Mayor informed the Council that notice of one public statement had been received from Phil Simpson in relation to motion 1 – “Local Plan Examination”. Phil Simpson was in attendance and spoke in relation to the Planning Inspectorate’s decision to delay the Local Plan Examination in order to hear Leverhulme’s appeals against the Planning Committee’s decision to refuse planning permission for a number of applications for development.

Phil Simpson submitted a petition with 695 signatures against pausing the Local Plan examination in order to hold the Leverhulme Planning Appeal hearings.

The Civic Mayor informed the Council that a petition had been received from Councillor Mary Jordan in relation to a dangerous junction at Spital Cross Roads. Councillor Jordan presented the petition with 590 signatures, asking that a safer road crossing be installed at Spiral Cross Road.

The Civic Mayor informed the Council that a petition had been received from Councillor Karl Greaney regarding the cycle lane initiative at Fender Lane, Moreton. Councillor Greaney presented the petition with 1200 signatures, seeking the Council to re-assess the practicality of the cycle lanes at this location.

Councillor Andrew Hodson presented a petition with 196 signatures against planning applications submitted by Levehulme Estates for green belt developments in Heswall, Gayton and Barnston.

Councillor Lesley Rennie presented a petition with 143 signatures requesting additional measures to prevent illegal access and encampments at The Dips in New Brighton.

Councillor Pat Cleary presented a petition with 84 signatures against planning application APP/22/02189.

Councillor Pat Cleary presented a second petition with 154 signatures requesting additional measure to deal with anti-social behaviour taking place outside St Werburgh’s Church in Birkenhead.

Councillor Mike Collins presented a petition with 89 signatures requesting additional measures to improve road safety when crossing the road to access Pensby Primary School.

Councillor Vida Wilson presented a petition with 81 signatures calling for the Council to use CCTV equipment to tackle fly tipping near Carr Lane.

Councillor Ian Lewis presented a petition with 272 signatures requesting additional measures to install lifts at Wallasey Village Station.

93 **MEMBERS' QUESTIONS**

The Civic Mayor informed the Council that three Member questions had been received.

Councillor Phil Gilchrist asked the Chair of Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee, Councillor Liz Grey, a question regarding what steps had been taken to ensure that the published street sweeping schedules were correct.

Councillor Liz Grey responded that there had been some issues with the database system that held this information and that this system was being tested and corrections would be made as a result.

Councillor Pat Cleary asked the Chair of Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee, Councillor Liz Grey, a question regarding a new capital grants scheme from Natural England to enhance habitats that protect endangered species and asked whether Councillor Grey would request that officers submit a bid for this funding.

Councillor Liz Grey responded that she had already asked officers to apply for all available grants and therefore welcomed Cllr Pat Cleary's suggestion in requesting officers to submit a bid to Natural England for this funding.

Councillor Pat Cleary asked a supplementary question seeking clarification from Cllr Liz Grey that she expected a bid to be submitted. Cllr Grey responded that if it is possible then she would expect officers to make such a bid.

Councillor Allan Brame asked the Chair of Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee, Councillor Liz Grey, a question requesting a brief update on the development of an electric vehicle charging point strategy.

Councillor Liz Grey responded that consultants had recently been appointed to help the Council deliver an electric vehicle strategy over the next six months.

94 **REVISION TO THE APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES 2022/23**

The first matter requiring approval was the revision to the appointment of committees. This was due to the cessation of Paul Connolly as a Councillor and therefore required a change to the proportionality of political groups sitting on committees for the remainder of the municipal year.

On a motion by Councillor Janette Williamson, seconded by Councillor Jean Robinson, it was –

Resolved (unanimously) – That:

- 1. The revised proportionality in the political composition of membership of ordinary committees of the Council as set out in Appendix A of the report be agreed; and**
- 2. The Director of Law and Governance be authorised to act on the instruction of the relevant Group Leaders in relation to the Committee Places to be made vacant.**

95 **CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2023/24 AND 2024/25**

The second matter for approval was in relation to the proposed Calendar of Meetings for the 2023/24 and 2024/25 municipal years, as recommended by the Constitution and Standards Committee of 22 February 2023.

On a motion by Councillor Tony Cox, seconded by Councillor Paul Stuart, it was –

Resolved (unanimously) – That the Calendar of Meetings for the 2023/24 and 2024/25 municipal years be approved

96 **AMENDMENTS TO THE COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES**

The third matter for approval was in relation to amendments to the Council procedure rules.

On a motion by Councillor Tony Cox, seconded by Councillor Amanda Onwuemene, it was –

Resolved (38:21) (1 abstention) – That the following amendments to the Council Procedure be approved:

- 1. Standing order 9.1 and 14 to read where 3.5 hours have elapsed.**
- 2. Standing order 13.1 that the number of motions be limited to 1 per group.**
- 3. Standing order 13.2 so that the first motion on notice listed be rotated so as to allow each political group the opportunity for their motion to be debated first (to be co-ordinated by the Director of Law and Governance), with motions thereafter to be listed in the order of political group size.**

97 **PAY POLICY 2023-2024**

The fourth matter requiring approval was in relation to the Pay Policy Statement for 2023/24 as referred to Council by the Policy and Resources Committee at its meeting on 15 February 2023.

On a motion by Councillor Janette Williamson, seconded by Councillor Jean Robinson, it was –

Resolved (unanimously) – That the Pay Policy Statement for the financial year 2023/24 be approved.

98 **DECISIONS TAKEN SINCE THE LAST COUNCIL MEETING**

The Civic Mayor introduced the minutes of the various Committees which had met from 11 November 2022 to 24 February 2023 and asked for questions to Committee Chairs on any of the minutes being received.

Councillor Mary Jordan asked a question of Councillor Yvonne Nolan, in respect of minute 39 of the Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee held on 11 October 2022, regarding the recommendation made that Wirral was established as a place where people who are living with, or affected by, Dementia can truly 'live well', she asked if Councillor Nolan would work closely with the Chairs of Economy, Regeneration and Housing Committee and Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee, as well as people living with dementia to ensure a joined up approach to ensure that Wirral is dementia friendly. Councillor Yvonne Nolan agreed that the suggestion to work with those Chairs as well as those with dementia was something that she would continue to do.

Councillor George Davies asked a question of Councillor Helen Cameron in respect of minute 59 of the Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee held on 2 February 2023, regarding library asset transfers for Pensby and Irby, he asked why she did not support all libraries as she had voted against the budget which saved them. Councillor Helen Cameron responded that she did not feel that the budget vote had anything to do with the library closures.

Councillor Brian Kenny asked a question of Councillor Kathy Hodson as Chair of Children, Young People and Education Committee, in respect of a statement that she had read out from Councillor Ian Lewis at a meeting of the committee on 24 January 2023. This statement questioned the reality of potential savings for closing play schemes. Councillor Kenny asked why Cllr Hodson had voted against the budget which protected these play schemes. Councillor Kathy Hodson responded that she felt the closure of the three play services in question were never under threat and that they perform an outstanding service.

Councillor Paul Martin asked a question of Councillor Janette Williamson in respect of minute 83 of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 18 January 2023, regarding the report of the Independent Assurance Panel. Cllr Martin asked how Cllr Williamson felt about the second largest political group voting against a legal budget and whether she felt that this would set the Council back with the Panel. Councillor Janette Williamson stated that she hoped that the work that had been carried out since the Independent Assurance Panel had been overseeing the Council would not be detracted from in light of the budget.

Councillor Angie Davies asked a question of Councillor Kathy Hodson in respect of minute 57 of the Children, Young People and Education Committee, held on 24 January 2023, regarding the Budget Workshop Outcomes. Councillor Davies stated that Councillor Hodson had proposed a motion, which was unanimously passed, to oppose any attempts to close play schemes and centres, she asked what evidence Councillor Hodson had considered when voting against the budget. Councillor Kathy Hodson stated that she fully agreed with keeping the play schemes open and refuted the notion that by voting against the budget she had voted against keeping them open.

Councillor Simon Mountney asked a question of Councillor Yvonne Nolan, in respect of minute 71 of the Adult, Social Care and Public Health Committee held on 11 January 2023, regarding the Updated Position Regarding Social Care Delivery Review. Councillor Mountney asked for further information on the cost of this project. Councillor Yvonne Nolan noted that as she had not had notice of the question, she did not have the figures to hand and that a written response would be provided to Councillor Mountney.

Councillor Harry Gorman asked a question of Councillor Tony Jones in respect of minute 47 of the Economy, Regeneration and Housing Committee held on 26 January 2023, regarding Utilisation of Procure Partnerships Framework. Cllr Gorman asked what assurances Councillor Jones could give that these projects would be delivered in a timely manner to ensure that the funding was not lost. Councillor Tony Jones responded that as he had not had notice of the question, he was not able to provide a full answer and a written response would be provided to Councillor Gorman.

Councillor Liz Grey asked a question of Councillor Janette Williamson in respect of minute 84 of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 18 January 2023 regarding Council Tax 2023/23 (Tax Base, Discounts and Exemptions and Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme). Councillor Grey asked if the Conservatives had voted for the increase in Council Tax. Councillor Janette Williamson indicated that they had.

Councillor Helen Collinson asked a question of Councillor Kathy Hodson in respect of minute 57 of the Children, Young People and Education Committee held on 24 January 2023, regarding the Budget Workshop Outcomes. Councillor Collinson asked at what point Councillor Hodson decided that the play centres did not need to be kept open. Councillor Kathy Hodson responded that she did not vote to close any play centre or play scheme.

Councillor Stephen Bennett asked a question of Councillor Kathy Hodson in respect of minute 44 of the Children, Young People and Education Committee held on 6 December 2022, regarding the Update on Wirral School Improvement Strategy 2021-2024. Councillor Bennett asked Councillor Hodson how voting against the Schools' budget at Full Council would help Wirral schools and if she thought it made her position as Chair of the Children, Young People and Education Committee untenable. Councillor Kathy Hodson responded that she did not vote against the School's budget and she did not find her position untenable.

99 **MOTIONS ON NOTICE**

Six motions had been submitted in accordance with Standing Order 13.1, and were determined as detailed in minutes 100 to 105 below.

100 **MOTION - LOCAL PLAN EXAMINATION**

Councillor Janette Williamson moved and Councillor Jean Robinson seconded a motion submitted in accordance with Standing Order 13.

In moving the motion, Councillor Williamson confirmed that she was happy to accept the Conservative Group amendment, which was moved by Councillor Tracy Elzeiny and seconded by Councillor Mike Collins and read as follows:

Insert at the end of the final paragraph:

'which is one of the Council's key priorities and underpins Wirral's ambitious regeneration plans that are primarily focused on the east side of the Borough on brownfield sites.

Council wishes to take this opportunity to reassure residents and Green Belt campaigners that it will defend its position vigorously during both the Local Plan hearings and the Leverhulme appeals.'

Councillor Williamson also confirmed that she was happy to accept the Liberal Democrat Group amendment, which was moved by Councillor Stuart Kelly and seconded by Councillor Allan Brame and read as follows:

Delete: 'Planning Committee' in second paragraph and insert instead: 'Council's'.

Delete: 'being paused' in second paragraph and insert instead:

'sitting for three weeks from 18th April to 12th May 2023 before being paused until September.'

Delete paragraph 3 and replace with:

'Council Applauds all the hard work that has been done to protect the greenbelt on Wirral and regrets the PINS decision will cause unnecessary worry and distress to residents affected in Irby, Pensby, Barnston and Heswall in particular.

Council reaffirms I opposition to the Leverhulme applications for the reasons given in the relevant planning decision notices.

Council remains confident that the Leverhulme applications do not comply with the core planning principles within the NPPF (section 13) or the existing Unitary Development Plan and relevant policies of the emerging Wirral Local Plan.

Council Further notes that the Planning Inspector has raised issues of prematurity and Council is of the view that prematurity is a strong reason to resist these applications.'

Following a debate, and Councillor Williamson having replied, the motion was put and it was –

Resolved (unanimously) – That:

Council notes that the Local Plan was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate, a Government body, for examination and a date has now been set by the Planning Inspectorate for the 18th April 2023 to start the Local Plan hearings.

Council also notes the Council's decision to refuse planning permission has been appealed by Leverhulme and is therefore dismayed and concerned that the Planning Inspectorate has made a decision to begin a public Inquiry on the Leverhulme appeals starting on the 16 May 2023 which will result in the Local Plan examination sitting for three weeks from 18th April to 12th May before being paused until September.

Council applauds all the hard work that has been done to protect the greenbelt on Wirral and regrets that PINS decision will cause unnecessary worry and distress to residents affected in Irby, Pensby, Barnston and Heswall in particular.

Council reaffirms its opposition to the Leverhulme applications for the reasons given in the relevant planning decision notices.

Council remains confident that the Leverhulme applications do not comply with the core planning principles within the NPPF (section 13) or the existing Unitary Development Plan and relevant policies of the emerging Wirral Local Plan.

Council further notes that the Planning Inspector has raised issues of prematurity and Council is of the view that prematurity is a strong reason to resist these applications.

The Leader of the Council seeks the support of members of the Council to write to the Secretary of State and the Planning Inspectorate to urge them to delay the Leverhulme appeals, until such time as the Local Plan examination has been concluded. Council believes that such a step is necessary to reinforce the Council's commitment to protect Wirral's Greenbelt and its Local Plan, which is one of the Council's key priorities and underpins Wirral's ambitious regeneration plans that are primarily focused on the east side of the Borough on brownfield sites.

Council wishes to take this opportunity to reassure residents and Green Belt campaigners that it will defend its position vigorously during both the Local Plan hearings and the Leverhulme appeals.

101 MOTION - SUPPORTING FAMILIES WITH THE COST OF LIVING

Councillor Tom Anderson moved and Councillor Kathy Hodson seconded a motion submitted in accordance with Standing Order 13.

Councillor Janette Williamson moved and Councillor Paul Stuart seconded the following amendment, submitted in accordance with Standing Order 13.3:

In the first paragraph delete 'welcomes' and replace with acknowledges'.

In the second paragraph, insert a comma after the word pandemic and delete 'and'

In the second paragraph, insert after 'global rise in prices':

'and disastrous Kwarteng/Truss budget which added £30bn of debt to the UK, as quoted by the Guardian Newspaper'

In the third paragraph, insert at the start:

'Despite recent disparaging comments from some Conservative members, Council continues to thank all staff for their tireless work.'

Having applied the guillotine in accordance with Standing Order 9.1, the Council did not debate the matter, the amendment was put and agreed (37:22) (1 abstention).

The substantive motion, as amended, was then put and it was –

Resolved (59:0) (1 abstention) – That:

Council welcomes acknowledges the allocation of a further £6m for the Borough’s Household Support Fund and the relaxation of some of the initial restrictions on how it can be used.

In total, this means that since the pandemic, and the global rise in prices, and disastrous Kwarteng/Truss budget which added £30bn of debt to the UK, as quoted by the Guardian Newspaper, Wirral Council will have received £15 million to support those households which are most exposed to rising costs for basic commodities and essentials.

Despite recent disparaging comments from some Conservative members, Council continues to thank all staff for their tireless work, and the voluntary, community and faith organisations that have delivered so much of this support and pledges to continue to work with them to ensure this latest tranche of funding reaches those most in need.

102 **MOTION - WIRRAL: A FAIR TAX COUNCIL**

Councillor Harry Gorman moved and Councillor Judith Grier seconded a motion submitted in accordance with Standing Order 13.

Having applied the guillotine in accordance with Standing Order 9.1, the Council did not debate the matter, and it was –

Resolved (unanimously) – That:

Council notes:

- **The pressure on organisations to pay the right amount of tax in the right place at the right time has never been stronger.**
- **Polling from the Institute for Business Ethics finds that “corporate tax avoidance” has, since 2013, been the clear number one concern of the British public when it comes to business conduct.**
- **Almost two-thirds (63%) of the public agree that the Government and local councils should consider a company’s ethics and how they pay their tax as well as value for money and quality of service provided, when undertaking procurement**

- **Around 17.5% of public contracts in the UK have been won by companies with links to tax havens.**
- **It has been conservatively estimated that losses from multinational profits shifting (just one form of tax avoidance) could be costing the UK some £7bn per annum in lost corporation tax revenues.**
- **The Fair Tax Mark offers a means for business to demonstrate good tax conduct, and has been secured by organisations with a combined annual income of £50bn and more than 6,500 outlets and premises, including many social enterprises and co-operatives.**

Council believes:

- **Paying tax is often presented as a burden, but it shouldn't be.**
- **Tax enables us to provide services from education, health and social care, to flood defence, road safety measures and the promotion of biodiversity. It also fosters social justice by redistributing wealth.**
- **As recipients of significant public funding, local authorities should take the lead in the promotion of exemplary tax conduct; be that by ensuring contractors are paying their proper share of tax, or by refusing to go along with offshore tax dodging when buying land and property.**
- **Where substantive stakes are held in private enterprises, then influence should be wielded to ensure that such businesses are exemplars of tax transparency and tax avoidance is shunned -e.g., no use of marketed schemes requiring disclosure under DOTAS regulations (Disclosure Of Tax Avoidance Schemes) or arrangements that might fall foul of the General Anti-Abuse Rule.**
- **More action is needed, however current law significantly restricts councils' ability to either penalise poor tax conduct or reward good tax conduct, when buying goods or services.**
- **UK cities, counties and towns can and should stand up for responsible tax conduct - doing what they can within existing frameworks and pledging to do more given the opportunity, as active supporters of international tax justice.**

Council resolves to request that the Director of Finance investigates the following issues, with a report to be presented to a future meeting of Policy and Resources Committee:

- **Approval of the Councils for Fair Tax Declaration;**
- **leading by example and demonstrating good practice in our tax conduct, right across our activities;**
- **ensuring contractors implement IR35 robustly and pay a fair share of employment taxes;**

- not using offshore vehicles for the purchase of land and property, especially where this leads to reduced payments of stamp duty;
- conducting due diligence to ensure that not-for-profit structures are not being used inappropriately as an artificial device to reduce the payment of tax and business rates;
- demanding clarity on the ultimate beneficial ownership of suppliers and their consolidated profit & loss position;
- promoting Fair Tax Mark certification for any business in which we have a significant stake and where corporation tax is due;
- supporting Fair Tax Week events in the area, and celebrate the tax contribution made by responsible businesses who say what they pay with pride; and
- supporting calls for urgent reform of UK law to enable local authorities to better penalise poor tax conduct and reward good tax conduct through their procurement policies

103 **MOTION - GREATER INSULATION PROGRAMME NEEDED FOR WIRRAL'S HOUSING**

Councillor Phil Gilchrist moved and Councillor Orod Osanlou seconded a motion submitted in accordance with Standing Order 13.

In moving the motion, Councillor Gilchrist confirmed he was happy to accept the Green Group amendment, which was moved by Councillor Naomi Graham and seconded by Councillor Harry Gorman and read as follows:

Insert after the sixth paragraph:

‘Council also requests:

- The Director of Regeneration and Place to circulate to all Member of the Council and publish on the Council’s website, the existing report on Decarbonising Residential Buildings in Wirral, written by the Energy Saving Trust in March 2021 for Wirral Council and summarised by officers in a report to Housing in November 2021.
- The Director of Regeneration and Place report to the next meeting of Economy Regeneration and Housing Committee regarding the motion passed by Council on 10th October 2022 in order to provide an update’

Having applied the guillotine in accordance with Standing Order 9.1, the Council did not debate the matter, and it was –

Resolved (unanimously) – That

Council notes that the creation of the ‘Department for Energy Security and Net Zero’ was announced by the Prime Minister on 7 February 2023. The ‘Priority Outcomes’ set out at its launch included actions to:

***‘Improve the energy efficiency of UK homes, businesses and public sector buildings to meet the 15% demand reduction ambition.’
‘Deliver current schemes to support energy consumers with their bills and develop options for long-term reform to improve how the electricity market works for families and businesses.’***

Council recognises that this renamed Department replaced the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy. This body had the key role in funding substantial programmes for home insulation schemes and projects throughout the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority.

Council observes that Wirral residents have benefitted through the projects established to retrofit local homes considered by the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority at its meetings of 21 January 2022 (Item 110, Housing Retrofit Funding) with the potential for further funding discussed on 20 January 2023 (Item 100, Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund). These relied on funds channelled through the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority from the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and depended on bids submitted.

Council believes that it is essential that the energy efficiency of homes is improved in Wirral so that residents are able to live in well insulated properties, reduce their carbon footprint, meet their household bills and avoid being plunged into fuel poverty. In order to secure this, the creation and training of an appropriately skilled workforce is essential along with funding streams that are sufficient to enable sustained progress.

Accordingly, Council requests that the Director of Regeneration and Place provides a briefing paper on what is currently known about the energy efficiency of Wirral’s housing stock with a view to supporting all future bids by the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority for funding to enable Wirral’s housing stock to become more energy efficient. The briefing should be drawn up in cooperation with the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority and circulated to Wirral’s MPs.

Council also requests:

- The Director of Regeneration and Place to circulate to all members of the Council and publish on the Council’s website, the existing report on Decarbonising Residential Buildings in Wirral, written by the Energy

Saving Trust in March 2021 for Wirral Council and summarised by officers in a report to Housing in November 2021.

- The Director of Regeneration and Place report to the next meeting of the Economy, Regeneration and Housing Committee regarding the motion passed by Council on 10th October 2022 in order to provide an update.

In order for the Council to respond to future initiatives in a timely matter the arrangements be made for relevant spokespersons of all groups, and the Director of Regeneration and Place to liaise with officers of the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority and its relevant Portfolio Holder to enable these to be progressed.

In the event that funds are released by central government that enable this Council to take them up directly the issue be discussed with the relevant spokespersons and reported to the relevant Policy and Service Committee and Policy and Resources committee as required.

104 **MOTION - REQUEST FOR FURTHER SUPPORT FROM CENTRAL GOVERNMENT**

Councillor Brian Kenny moved and Councillor Paul Stuart seconded a motion submitted in accordance with Standing Order 13.

Councillor Kathy Hodson moved and Councillor Cherry Povall seconded the following amendment in accordance with Standing Order 13.3:

Insert at the end of paragraph two:

‘with Britain’s economy shocked by Coronavirus and then impacted by Putin’s war in Ukraine.’

Delete paragraph three.

In paragraph 4, delete ‘that the Tory Government have consistently shown that they have made the wrong ones, so far as Wirral residents are concerned.’ and replace with:

‘and welcomes the £6 million extension to the Household Support Fund so that Wirral Council can direct Tory Government funding to help those who need it most.’

In paragraph 7, delete ‘introducing’ and replace with ‘extending’.

Having applied the guillotine in accordance with Standing Order 9.1, the Council did not debate the matter, the amendment was put and lost (23:36) (1 abstention).

The substantive motion was then put, and it was –

Resolved (unanimously) – That

This Wirral Council notes the recent survey published by “Together Through This Crisis” initiative. The research from the coalition of organisations including Save the Children, Shelter and 38 Degrees, published recently, found that 24% of people are regularly unable to pay for basics, while nearly 40% of people end the month with no money left.

Council is concerned that thousands of Wirral residents are struggling during the current Cost of Living Crisis.

Council believes that the reason why so many Wirral residents are struggling, is due to the last 13 years of Tory Government economic mismanagement.

Council believes that politics is all about choices, and that the Tory Government have consistently shown that they have made the wrong ones, so far as Wirral residents are concerned.

Council maintains that the cost-of-living crisis means families and children across Wirral are in desperate need of additional support from the Tory Government. Council believes that in the sixth richest Country in the world, including Wirral, children and adults should not be going hungry, and that the energy bill ticking timebomb should be ended, as a matter of urgency.

Mindful that the Spring statement is forthcoming, the Chief Executive and Council Leader are requested to write to both the Prime Minister and the Chancellor, calling for the government to take several steps to respond to the crisis, including introducing universal free school meals and unfreezing housing benefit, together with any other appropriate steps, to protect Wirral residents.

105 **MOTION - PARENTAL LEAVE FOR MEMBERS**

Councillor Daisy Kenny moved and Councillor Janette Williamson seconded a motion submitted in accordance with Standing Order 13.

Having applied the guillotine in accordance with Standing Order 9.1, the Council did not debate the matter, and it was –

Resolved (unanimously) – That

This Council believes that to ensure in so far as possible Members are able to take parental leave at the time of birth or adoption, that reasonable and appropriate arrangements are in place to provide cover during any period of leave taken.

Improved provision for new parents will contribute towards increasing the diversity of experience, age and background of local authority members. It will also assist with retaining experienced members and making public office more accessible to individuals who might otherwise feel excluded from it.

Therefore, this Council resolves that Constitution and Standards Committee be requested to explore the development of a Parental Leave Policy for Members and report back to Council with a recommendation by October.

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COUNCIL

Wednesday, 17 May 2023

Present:

Councillor The Civic Mayor (Councillor Jeff Green) in
the Chair
Deputy Civic Mayor (Councillor Jerry
Williams)

Councillors A Ainsworth I Lewis
P Basnett L Luxon-Kewley
G Bennett C McDonald
S Bennett G McManus
J Bird J McManus
M Booth P Martin
A Brame R Molyneux
H Cameron S Mountney
C Carubia K Murphy
P Cleary A Onwuemene
C Cooke R Pitt
A Davies C Povall
GJ Davies S Powell-Wilde
G Davies H Raymond
S Foulkes M Redfern
A Gardner L Rennie
P Gilchrist J Robinson
H Gorman M Skillicon
N Graham J Stewart Laing
EA Grey K Stuart
J Grier P Stuart
A Hodson M Sullivan
K Hodson E Tomeney
P Jobson V Wilson
J Johnson G Wood
T Jones
M Jordan
S Kelly
B Kenny
D Kenny
T Laing
E Lamb

Apologies

Councillors T Cox C Baldwin
J Walsh B Hall
J Williamson T Murphy

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 noted that apologies for absence were received from Councillors Colin Baldwin, Tony Cox, Brenda Hall, Tony Murphy, Jason Walsh and Janette Williamson.

The Civic Mayor welcomed members to Wallasey Town Hall and spoke of the pride the borough's residents had for the building. He gave thanks to all those who had supported him during his Mayoral year including the Mayoress, his daughters and the civic office.

The Civic Mayor informed Council of the strength of civic pride within Wirral that he had experienced during his mayoral year, which had included events such as the Mayor's Tea Dance, a celebration of Caldy Rugby Club's promotion, a return to Citizenship Ceremonies and significantly, hosting Ukrainian Refugees settled within Wirral and the families hosting them.

The Civic Mayor spoke of the numerous royal events that he had the honour of being involved in during his mayoral year such as the Platinum Jubilee celebrations, the mourning of the passing of Queen Elizabeth II, the proclamation of King Charles III and most recently, the coronation of the King and Queen Consort.

3 **ELECTION OF CIVIC MAYOR 2023/24**

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

On a motion moved by Councillor Paul Stuart, seconded by Councillor Lesley Rennie and, in the absence of any other nominations, it was

Resolved (unanimously) – That Councillor Jerry Williams be elected Civic Mayor of the Metropolitan Borough of Wirral for the 2023/24 municipal year.

Councillor Williams proceeded to make his declaration of acceptance of office and the retiring Civic Mayor, Councillor Green vacated the Chair. Councillor

Williams occupied the Chair. The new Civic Mayor welcomed his guests and spoke to his election.

4 **DEPUTY CIVIC MAYOR 2023/24**

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

On a motion moved by Councillor Lesley Rennie, seconded by Paul Stuart, and in the absence of any other nominations, it was

Resolved (unanimously) – That Councillor Cherry Povall be appointed Deputy Civic Mayor of the Metropolitan Borough of Wirral for the 2023/24 municipal year.

The new Deputy Civic Mayor proceeded to make her declaration of acceptance of office.

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COUNCIL

Wednesday, 24 May 2023

Present:

Councillor The Civic Mayor (Councillor Jerry Williams)
Deputy Civic Mayor (Councillor Cherry Povall)

Councillors A Ainsworth I Lewis
P Basnett L Luxon-Kewley
G Bennett C McDonald
S Bennett G McManus
J Bird J McManus
M Booth P Martin
A Brame R Molyneux
H Cameron S Mountney
C Carubia K Murphy
P Cleary T Murphy
C Cooke A Onwuemene
T Cox R Pitt
A Davies S Powell-Wilde
GJ Davies H Raymond
G Davies M Redfern
S Foulkes L Rennie
A Gardner J Robinson
P Gilchrist M Skillicon
H Gorman J Stewart Laing
N Graham K Stuart
J Green P Stuart
EA Grey M Sullivan
J Grier E Tomeny
B Hall J Walsh
A Hodson J Williamson
K Hodson V Wilson
P Jobson G Wood
J Johnson
T Jones
M Jordan
S Kelly
B Kenny
D Kenny
T Laing
E Lamb

Apologies

Councillors C Baldwin J Johnson

5 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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 the interest.

No such declarations were made.

6 **CIVIC MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Civic Mayor announced that apologies for absence were received from Councillors Colin Baldwin and Jenny Johnson. It was further announced that Councillor Andrew Gardner was due to arrive once the meeting had commenced.

7 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 20 March 2023 had been circulated to Members. On a motion by the Civic Mayor, seconded by Councillor Paul Stuart, it was –

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 20 March 2023 be approved and adopted as a correct record.

8 **ELECTION RESULTS - 4 MAY 2023**

The Chief Executive / Returning Officer presented a summary of the results of the Local Government Elections held on 4 May 2023.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

9 **MATTERS REQUIRING APPROVAL OR CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL**

In accordance with Standing Order 1.3 five matters had been submitted for approval by the Council (see minutes 10 to 13 post).

10 **ADOPTION OF A REVISED COUNCIL CONSTITUTION**

The first item requiring approval was a referral from Constitution and Standards Committee, to adopt a revised Constitution including revisions to the Council Procedure Rules and Overview and Scheme of Delegations of Authority to Officers, alongside the recommendation from the Monitoring Officer for a number of minor amendments.

It was moved by Councillor Tony Cox, seconded by Councillor Phil Gilchrist, that the recommendations as detailed in the report be agreed.

It was then moved by Councillor Jo Bird, seconded by Councillor Pat Cleary, that 'In addition to the amendments identified in the report, that the Constitution be further amended in the following way:

Part 3(B) Responsibility for Functions – Committees (B) para 1 - now include a statement to say:

All committees adhere to the requirements of Section 15 (as amended) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 in their composition for political proportionality. In the appointment of Chairs and Vice Chairs, the Council chooses to apply the principle of proportionality so that the number of Chairs and Vice Chairs appointed represents the same proportionality as its council membership.'

Following a number of members talking to the amendment, the amendment was put to the vote and lost (19:43) (1 abstention).

Councillor Gilchrist spoke as seconder of the original motion, before the motion was put to the vote and carried (62:0) (1 abstention). It was therefore –

Resolved – That

- (1) the amendments to the Constitution recommended by the Constitution and Standards as detailed in paragraphs 3.2 to 3.5 of the report be endorsed.**
- (2) the minor amendments to the Constitution recommended by the Monitoring Officer as detailed in paragraph 3.7 of the report be endorsed.**
- (3) the revised Constitution be adopted.**

11 **APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES**

The second item requiring approval was in relation to the appointment of committees.

On a motion by the Civic Mayor, seconded by Councillor Jean Robinson, it was –

Resolved – That

- (1) the formation of those Committees set out in Part 3(B) of the revised Constitution be agreed and seats on the Committees be allocated as set out in Appendix 1.**
- (2) the Monitoring Officer be authorised as proper officer to carry out the wishes of the Leaders of Political Groups in allocating Members to membership and substitute membership of the committees or other authorities, and to appoint those Members with effect from the date at which the proper officer is advised of the names of such Members.**
- (3) the appointment of sub-committees, panels and statutory/advisory committees be delegated to the appropriate parent Committee of Council.**
- (4) Authority be delegated to the Monitoring Officer, to appoint Members to the Regulatory Panel of the Regulatory and General Purposes Committee and appoint Members to the Licensing Panel of the Licensing Committee, in consultation with the Chair and Spokespersons of these Committees, to enable meetings of either, or both, of these panels, if required, prior to their appointment at the first meetings of each of these committees.**

12 **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRS AND VICE-CHAIRS OF COMMITTEES**

The third matter requiring approval was in relation to the appointment of Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Committees.

In relation to the election of the Leader of the Council (and Chair of Policy & Resources Committee), it was moved by Councillor Angie Davies, seconded by Councillor Jean Robinson, that Councillor Paul Stuart be elected.

It was moved by Councillor Pat Cleary, seconded by Councillor Harry Gorman, that Councillor Pat Cleary be elected.

The Civic Mayor indicated that there would be no debate and that the Council would vote on the nomination of Councillor Paul Stuart as the first nomination received in time.

Prior to the vote, a number of Members rose to request a recorded vote in accordance with Standing Order 17.4. A recorded vote was then taken on the appointment of Councillor Paul Stuart as Leader of the Council (and Chair of Policy & Resources Committee) as follows:

For

(49) Councillors Ann Ainsworth, Paula Basnett, Gary Bennett, Stephen Bennett, Max Booth, Allan Brame, Helen Cameron, Chris Carubia, Tony Cox, Angie Davies, Graham Davies, George Davies, Steve Foulkes, Phil Gilchrist, Jeff Green, Liz Grey, Brenda Hall, Andrew Hodson, Kathy Hodson, Gail Jenkinson, Paul Jobson, Tony Jones, Mary Jordan, Stuart Kelly, Brian Kenny, Daisy Kenny, Tom Laing, Ian Lewis, Louise Luxon-Kewley, Paul Martin, Grahame McManus, Julie McManus, Simon Mountney, Tony Murphy, Richie Pitt, Cherry Povall, Sue Powell-Wilde, Helen Raymond, Mike Redfern, Lesley Rennie, Jean Robinson, Mark Skillicorn, James Stewart Laing, Kaitlin Stuart, Paul Stuart, Mike Sullivan, Janette Williamson, Vida Wilson and Gill Wood.

Against

(13) Councillors Jo Bird, Pat Cleary, Chris Cooke, Harry Gorman, Naomi Graham, Judith Grier, Ed Lamb, Craig McDonald, Ruth Molyneux, Kieran Murphy, Amanda Onwuemene, Ewan Tomeny and Jason Walsh.

Abstentions

(1) Councillor Jerry Williams

As the motion was clearly carried, the Civic Mayor informed Council that no further vote was required and therefore declared that –

(1) Councillor Paul Stuart be appointed Leader of the Council (Chair of the Policy and Resources Committee).

Having been invited by the Civic Mayor to make his acceptance speech, Councillor Stuart then spoke to his election as Leader.

In relation to the election of the Deputy Leader of the Council (and Vice-Chair of Policy & Resources Committee), it was moved by Councillor Paul Stuart, seconded by Councillor Angie Davies, that Councillor Jean Robinson be elected.

It was moved by Councillor Jo Bird, seconded by Councillor Ed Lamb, that Councillor Jo Bird be elected.

The Civic Mayor indicated that there would be no debate and that the Council would vote on the nomination of Councillor Jean Robinson as the first nomination received in time.

Prior to the vote, a number of Members rose to request a recorded vote in accordance with Standing Order 17.4. A recorded vote was then taken on the appointment of Councillor Jean Robinson as Deputy Leader of the Council (and Vice-Chair of Policy & Resources Committee) as follows:

For

(49) Councillors Ann Ainsworth, Paula Basnett, Gary Bennett, Stephen Bennett, Max Booth, Allan Brame, Helen Cameron, Chris Carubia, Tony Cox, Angie Davies, Graham Davies, George Davies, Steve Foulkes, Phil Gilchrist, Jeff Green, Liz Grey, Brenda Hall, Andrew Hodson, Kathy Hodson, Gail Jenkinson, Paul Jobson, Tony Jones, Mary Jordan, Stuart Kelly, Brian Kenny, Daisy Kenny, Tom Laing, Ian Lewis, Louise Luxon-Kewley, Paul Martin, Grahame McManus, Julie McManus, Simon Mountney, Tony Murphy, Richie Pitt, Cherry Povall, Sue Powell-Wilde, Helen Raymond, Mike Redfern, Lesley Rennie, Jean Robinson, Mark Skillicorn, James Stewart Laing, Kaitlin Stuart, Paul Stuart, Mike Sullivan, Janette Williamson, Vida Wilson and Gill Wood.

Against

(13) Councillors Jo Bird, Pat Cleary, Chris Cooke, Harry Gorman, Naomi Graham, Judith Grier, Ed Lamb, Craig McDonald, Ruth Molyneux, Kieran Murphy, Amanda Onwuemene, Ewan Tomeny and Jason Walsh.

Abstentions

(1) Councillor Jerry Williams

As the motion was clearly carried, the Civic Mayor informed Council that no further vote was required and therefore declared that –

B. Resolved –

(2) That Councillor Jean Robinson be appointed Deputy Leader of the Council (Vice-Chair of the Policy and Resources Committee).

In relation to the appointment of Chairs and Vice-Chairs, it was moved by Councillor Paul Stuart, seconded by Councillor Jean Robinson, that the Chairs and Vice-Chairs as listed in the supplementary agenda be appointed for the 2023/24 municipal year.

An amendment was moved by Councillor Pat Cleary, seconded by Councillor Ewan Tomeny, that Councillor Cleary be appointed as Chair of Pensions Committee. Following further members indicating that they wished to move amendments, the Civic Mayor adjourned the meeting at 18:53pm.

The meeting resumed at 19.11pm.

The original amendment from Councillor Pat Cleary was withdrawn.

An amendment was then moved by Councillor Amanda Onwuemene, seconded by Councillor Jason Walsh, that the appointments as detailed in the supplementary agenda be agreed, subject to the following changes:

Councillor Amanda Onwuemene be appointed Chair of the Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee.

Councillor Naomi Graham be appointed Vice-Chair of the Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee.

Councillor Pat Cleary be appointed Chair of Pensions Committee.

Councillor Chris Cooke be appointed as Vice-Chair of Regulatory and General Purposes Committee.

Following a number of members speaking to the amendment, and Councillor Paul Stuart exercising his right of reply as mover of the original motion, the amendment was put to the vote and lost (12:50) (1 abstention).

The original motion was then put to the vote and was carried (50:12) (1 abstention). It was therefore –

C. Resolved –

- (3) That Chairs and Vice-Chairs be appointed to Committees as referred to in the list circulated in the supplementary agenda, and that the appointments be as set out below.**

Committee	Chair	Vice-Chair
Policy and Resources	Paul Stuart	Jean Robinson
Adult Social Care and Public Health	Janette Williamson	Phil Gilchrist
Children, Young People and Education	Sue Powell-Wilde	Chris Carubia
Economy, Regeneration and Housing	Tony Jones	Andrew Hodson
Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport	Liz Grey	Max Booth
Tourism Communities, Culture and Leisure	Helen Cameron	Paul Martin
Audit and Risk Management	Jenny Johnson	George Davies
Pensions	Julie McManus	Cherry Povall
Planning	Stuart Kelly	Steve Foulkes
Regulatory and General Purposes	Andrew Hodson	Stephen Bennett

13 **APPOINTMENTS AND NOMINATIONS TO OTHER BODIES AND ORGANISATIONS**

The fourth matter requiring approval was in relation to the appointment of Members (and/or other individuals) to outside bodies and organisations.

On a motion by Councillor Paul Stuart, seconded by Councillor Jean Robinson, it was –

Resolved – That Council authorises the Monitoring Officer as proper officer to carry out the wishes of the Leaders of Political Groups in allocating Members to membership and substitute membership where relevant, of the Outside Bodies listed at Appendix 1, and to appoint those Members with effect from the date at which the proper officer is advised of the names of such Members.



POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 14 June 2023

REPORT TITLE:	CAPITAL OUTTURN REPORT 2022-23
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

REPORT SUMMARY

This report details the Capital Outturn for 2022/23 and the resources used to fund the Programme. It recommends that this Committee agree the revised 2023/24 Capital Programme which takes account of re-profiling, virements, additional funding requirements and grant variations identified since the Capital Programme was formally agreed on 28th February 2022.

The report supports the delivery of the Wirral Plan 2021 - 26 as the Capital Programme contributes towards projects that support all five Wirral Plan priorities.

This matter is a key decision which affects all Wards within the Borough.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Policy and Resources Committee is requested to recommend to Council that:

- 1 the revised Capital Programme of £178.1 million for 2023/24, including the virements of budget referred to in Appendix D of this report be approved,
- 2 note the financing of the Programme for 2022/23 and
- 3 note the additional year-end re-profiling of £38.2m from 2022/23 to 2023/24.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 Regular monitoring and reporting of the Capital Programme enables decisions to be taken faster, which may produce revenue benefits and will improve financial control in Wirral Council.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 Other reporting frequencies could be considered, but quarterly reporting is a standard practice.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Monitoring 2022/23

- 3.1 The Capital Programme 2022/23 was considered by Policy and Resources Committee on 15 February 2022 and approved by Council on 28 February 2022. The Programme contributes towards projects that support all five Wirral Plan 2021-26 priorities. Government grant announcements and scheme affordability. It was highlighted that the Council's revenue budget position limited the scope for unsupported capital expenditure.
- 3.2 Policy and Resources Committee received regular updates in respect of capital monitoring throughout the year. The last monitoring report, for Quarter 3, was considered by Policy and Resources Committee on 27 February 2023. Since then, work has been on-going in order to conclude the accounts for the financial year.
- 3.3 During the year the Programme was regularly reviewed which resulted in schemes being deferred to 2023/24 along with the supporting funding. This resulted in reduced Treasury Management costs through a reduced need to borrow in 2022/23.

Capital Outturn

- 3.4 The capital expenditure for the year was £60.9m compared to the Revised Programme of £86.3m which was reported in February 2023 (Quarter 3). This is summarised in Table 1.
- 3.5 The outturn also includes the Formula Capital schemes delegated to schools.
- 3.6 As a result of the £17.437m borrowed to finance the capital programme in 2022/23, the General Fund will be charged with its first repayment via the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) in 2023/24 of £0.609m. This will bring the total MRP charge for 2023/24 to £6.423m for borrowing associated with delivering the Capital Programme.
- 3.7 **Capital Programme 2022/23 Position by Directorate**

Table 1: Capital Outturn 2022/23 – Position by Directorate

Programme	Q3			
	Forecast	Actual	Variance	Variance
	£m	£m	£m	%
Adult Care & Health	1.248	0.649	-0.599	-48%
Children, Families & Education	7.402	7.021	-0.381	-5%
Corporate Schemes	3.780	2.930	-0.850	-22%
Neighbourhoods	27.685	23.842	-3.843	-14%
Regeneration & Place	40.643	22.762	-17.881	-44%
Resources	5.544	3.733	-1.811	-33%
Total	86.302	60.937	-25.365	-29%

Capital Programme 2022/23 Position by Committee

Table 2: Capital Outturn 2022/23 – Position by Committee

Programme	Forecast			
	Q3	Actual	Variance	Variance
	£m	£m	£m	%
Adult Social Care & Health	1.248	0.649	-0.599	-48%
Children, Young People & Education	7.402	7.021	-0.381	-5%
Economy, Regeneration & Housing	30.390	17.473	-12.917	-43%
Environment, Climate				
Emergency & Transport	31.810	26.518	-5.292	-17%
Policy & Resources	11.356	7.241	-4.115	-36%
Tourism, Communities, Culture & Leisure	4.096	2.035	-2.061	-50%
Total	86.302	60.937	-25.365	-29%

3.8 Tables 1 and 2 show the 2022/23 outturn position on the Capital Programme analysed on a Directorate and then Committee basis. A number of variations have arisen since the original programme was agreed at the end of February 2022 and subsequently revised in quarterly reporting. These include the re-profiling of expenditure into and out of the 2022/23 financial year, inclusion of additional grant funded schemes and variations to spend forecasts. Appendix A of this report categorises the movement in the programme through to 2022/23 outturn.

3.9 As noted above, the main movements in this year's programme are with regard to the deferral of funding into future years (£123.6 million). Such deferrals reduced the borrowing costs incurred during 2022/23 and also delayed the resultant Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) charges into future years. Schemes that have seen significant budget deferral activity specifically within Quarter 4 are detailed within Appendix B of this report.

Scheme Updates

- 3.10 Schemes are subject to an ongoing review to ensure that a deliverable programme is in place, that they are compatible with the Wirral Plan 2021/2026 priorities and to try and identify any savings. Current progress on the more significant schemes is provided in Appendix C of this report.
- 3.11 Scheme costs are constantly monitored by project officers. Due to record high inflationary pressures within the economy, financial monitoring of schemes is of utmost importance to identify any potential budgetary issues that may arise such as an increase in the cost of building materials. Any such pressures that are identified will be reported that may jeopardise the delivery of a scheme. It will then be determined as to whether the scheme must apply for additional funding to complete the project, or whether the scheme becomes no longer viable from a financial perspective. Similarly, should a contractor become insolvent in the current financial climate, a decision will need to be taken regarding the future of the scheme.

Grant Funded Schemes

- 3.12 Since the Capital Programme was last reported, the following grants have been awarded to either enable the following schemes to take place, or to further the funding available for existing schemes within the programme. There is no request for new Council funding to be considered as part of these schemes. In the event of any notable grant awards being achieved in the future, the relevant schemes will be introduced into the Capital Programme via the regular monitoring reports.
- **Future High Streets Fund (FHSF) - Birkenhead– £2.225m**
A further award to the Conway Street Project, to expand the scope of the project from that currently supported via the FHSF monies.
 - **Birkenhead Regeneration Delivery Fund– £1.517m**
Liverpool City Region Combined Authority grant for the purchase of land from Network Rail. The objective of the project is to reduce the severance between the town centre and a major housing site at Hind Street through the removal of two flyovers, with related works including preferred highway alignment and a green travel corridor linking Hind Street to Wirral Waters.
 - **Air Quality Control – £0.120m**
Funding from The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to develop and/or implement measures that deliver air quality benefits in the near future (one to two years).
 - **Arts Council Capital Libraries Investment Fund - £0.125m**
Funds to enable libraries to develop more flexible library spaces and which aim to:
 - Increase and improve digital access within communities
 - Connect libraries to their communities
 - Increase potential for transformation

- Increase library use
 - Increase sustainability of libraries.
- **Sustainable Urban Development Leasowe to Seacombe Corridor – £1.447m and £1.452m**
European Regional Development Fund award to create cycle links between the planned investment in Wirral Waters and Seacombe Ferry Terminal to the north and Woodside Ferry Terminal to the south.
 - **West Kirby Flood Alleviation - £4.440m**
Additional Environment Agency Grant. Due to a range of factors, construction progress and the cost has been affected and as a result of the necessary contract variations to accommodate this, the target cost of the contract has increased.

3.13 Virements

Appendix D of this report lists the budget virements that have been identified where schemes have been identified as not requiring the full budget allocation as originally expected. This resource is to be reallocated to schemes that require additional resource to fully complete the works.

3.14 Capital Financing

Table 3 Financing the Capital Programme 2022/23

Source of Financing	Programme 31 Dec 2022 £m	Actual 31 Mar 2023 £m	Variance £m
Borrowing	32.149	17.437	-14.712
Grants/Contributions	50.028	39.978	-10.050
Capital Receipts	3.580	2.930	-0.650
Revenue/Reserves	0.545	0.592	0.047
Total	86.302	60.937	-25.365

- 3.15 The re-profiling referred to earlier has seen the schemes and associated funding deferred until 2023/24. A permanent saving only occurs if schemes cease, otherwise the full budget will be required in 2023/24 when the re-profiled expenditure is incurred.

Capital Receipts

- 3.16 The Capital Receipts Reserve contains the proceeds of fixed assets sales that are available to meet the future capital investment. Table 4 shows the movements in the Capital Receipts Reserve during 2022/23. Receipts for the year totalled £6.951m (including receipts relating to debt repayments and earmarked receipts) with a balance of £2.979m available at 31 March 2023.

- 3.17 In accordance with the Capital Receipts flexibilities introduced by the Government capital receipts generated between 1 April 2016 and 31 March 2025 can be used to support transformation of services that results in efficiencies. This flexibility was utilised within 2022/23 as shown below.

Table 4: Capital Receipts Reserve

	£'000
Balance as at 1 April 2022	6,182
Total Receipts Received	6,951
Receipts Applied to Debt Repayment	-4,469
Receipts Used for Capital Financing	-2,930
Other Movements	-2,755
Balance as at 31 March 2023	2,979

- 3.18 The Capital Receipts Reserve contains the proceeds of fixed asset sales that are available to meet future capital investment. Not all receipts can be applied to fund any Transformational activity however, as some may be ringfenced to apply for example to educational schemes.

Compliance with Prudential Indicators

- 3.19 The Authority confirms that it has complied with its Prudential Indicators for 2022/23, which were originally approved on 28 February 2022 as part of the Capital Strategy 2022/23 and revised on 27 February 2023 as part of the Capital Strategy 2023/24. Details can be found in Appendix F.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The capital expenditure for the year 2022/23 amounted to £60.937m. This was funded from borrowing of £17.437m, Capital Grants of £39.978m, Capital Receipts of £2.930m and other revenue/reserve contributions of £0.592m.
- 4.2 As a result of the £17.427m borrowed to finance the Capital Programme in 2022/23, the General Fund will be charged with its first repayment via the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) in 2023/24 of £0.609m. This will bring the total MRP charge for 2023/24 to £6.423m for borrowing associated with delivering the Capital Programme.
- 4.3 The re-profiling of schemes from 2022/23 to 2023/23 has seen the funding similarly re-profiled. This includes the planned borrowing which has been deferred and has contributed towards the cost reductions in Treasury Management activities within the revenue budget. A permanent saving only occurs if schemes cease, otherwise the full budget will be required in 2023/24 when the re-profiled expenditure is incurred.
- 4.4 Chief Officers involved in procurement activity must comply with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules, Financial Regulations, and the Council's Employees Code of Conduct. They must also have due regard to any guidance provided by Corporate Procurement.

4.5 The full revised Capital Programme can be found in Appendix E to this report.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Council must set the budget (of which the Capital Programme is part of) in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and approval of a balanced budget each year is a statutory responsibility of the Council. Sections 25 to 29 of the Local Government Act 2003 impose duties on the Council in relation to how it sets and monitors its budget. These provisions require the Council to make prudent allowance for the risk and uncertainties in its budget and regularly monitor its finances during the year. The legislation leaves discretion to the Council about the allowances to be made and action to be taken.
- 5.2 Members must bear in mind their fiduciary duty to the Council Taxpayers of Wirral. Members must have adequate evidence on which to base their decisions on the level of quality at which services should be provided.
- 5.3 Where a service is provided pursuant to a statutory duty, it would not be lawful to fail to discharge it properly or abandon it, and where there is discretion as to how it is to be discharged, that discretion should be exercised reasonably.
- 5.4 The report sets out the relevant considerations for Members to consider during their deliberations and Members are reminded of the need to ignore irrelevant considerations. Members have a duty to seek to ensure that the Council acts lawfully. Members must not come to a decision which no reasonable authority could come to; balancing the nature, quality, and level of services which they consider should be provided, against the costs of providing such services.
- 5.5 Once a budget is in place, Council has delegated responsibility to the Policy and Services Committees to implement it. The Committees may not act contrary to the Budget without consent of Council other than in accordance with the Procedure Rules set out at Part 4(3) of the Constitution.
- 5.6 It is essential, as a matter of prudence that the financial position continues to be closely monitored. In particular, Members must satisfy themselves that sufficient mechanisms are in place to ensure both that savings are delivered, and that new expenditure is contained within the available resources. Accordingly, any proposals put forward must identify the realistic measures and mechanisms to produce those savings.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

6.1 There are no staffing, IT or asset implications arising directly from this report.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

7.1 The possibility of failure to deliver the Capital Programme will be mitigated by regular programme review by a senior group of officers, charged with improving performance. The Investment and Change Board (ICB) has established the Capital

Programme Board (CPB), which will provide enhanced Capital Programme review. The most recent CPB meeting took place in March.

- 7.2 The possible failure to deliver the Capital Budget is being mitigated by:
- (1) Senior Leadership / Directorate Teams regularly reviewing the financial position.
 - (2) Availability of General Fund Balances.
 - (3) Where possible, reprofiling of projected Capital expenditure

7.3 In terms of individual scheme specific risks, these are identified as part of the original business case application and any potential risks to deliverability should be flagged as part of the ongoing scheme review process.

7.4 Within the reviews undertaken by the CPB, schemes which encounter difficulties or additional delivery risk will be subject to additional scrutiny and were necessary escalation to ICB.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

8.1 This is an in-year report. Consultation takes places as part of considering the Capital Programme and over the planning and implementation of the specific schemes within the Programme.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no direct equality implications from this report.

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

10.1 Capital bids are welcomed that support the Council's Climate Emergency Plan that was compiled following the declaration of a Climate Emergency by the Council in May 2019. Within the existing Capital Programme there are projects that positively contribute to environmental issues. The environmental and climate implications, both positive and negative, are reported for each scheme separately to the relevant policy and service committee.

10.2 The programme also includes projects that focus on environmental initiatives such as energy efficient buildings, sustainable and green travel infrastructure, energy efficient street lighting, urban tree planting and flood alleviation works.

11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH IMPLICATIONS

11.1 The Community Wealth Building Strategy is a key part of how the Authority will tackle economic, social and health inequalities across the borough and make a major contribution to improving the economic, social and health outcomes on the Wirral. Schemes contained within the Capital Programme include several regeneration projects that look to improve the economic outlook for the borough, including job creation, training facilities and enhanced transport links. The Community Wealth Building implications are reported for each scheme separately to the relevant policy and service committee.

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APPENDICES

Appendix A Movement Between Q3 Forecast and Outturn Position
Appendix B Significant Variations – Additional Reprofitting at March 2023
Appendix C Scheme Updates
Appendix D Virements Within Quarter 4
Appendix E Revised Capital Programme 2023/24
Appendix F Prudential Indicators 2022/23

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the UK 2021/22.
Local Government Act 2003 and subsequent amendments.
Local Government (Capital Finance and Accounting) Regulations 2008.
Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

This report is being considered by the Policy and Resources Committee in accordance with 1.2(a)(i) of the Policy and Resources Committee Terms of Reference:

Formulate, co-ordinate and implement corporate policies and strategies and the medium-term financial plan (budget), which includes responsibility for any decision:

(i) that relates to such matters to the extent that they are not reserved to full Council.

Policy and Resources Committee is recommended to refer the decision to Council in accordance with 2(a)(i)(1) of the Functions Reserved to Council:

The Council reserves to itself the following functions (in accordance with the rules and procedures contained in this Constitution):

(i) The Budget – The approval or adoption of a plan or strategy for the control of the local authority's borrowing, investments, or capital expenditure or for determining the authority's minimum revenue provision, which includes the overarching annual: -

- (1) Capital Programme
- (2) Capital Financing Strategy

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Cabinet – 2019/20 Capital Outturn Report	27 July 2020
Council – 2020/21 Capital Monitoring Q1	19 October 2020

Council – 2020/21 Capital Monitoring Q2	7 December 2020
Budget Council – 2020/21 Capital Monitoring Q3	1 March 2021
Council - 2020/21 Capital Outturn Report	6 September 2021
Budget Council – 2021/26 Capital Programme	1 March 2021
Budget Council - 2021/22 Capital Financing Strategy	1 March 2021
Council – 2021/22 Capital Monitoring Q1	18 October 2021
Council – 2021/22 Capital Monitoring Q2	6 December 2021
Council – 2021/22 Capital Monitoring Q3	28 February 2022
Council – 2021/22 Capital Outturn Report	11 July 2022
Council – 2022/27 Capital Programme	28 February 2022
Council – 2022/27 Capital Financing Strategy	28 February 2022
Council – 2022/23 Capital Monitoring Q1	10 October 2022
Council – 2022/23 Capital Monitoring Q2	5 December 2022
Council – 2022/23 Capital Monitoring Q3	27 February 2023

Appendix A

Movement Between Q3 Forecast and Outturn Position

Programme	Forecast Q3 £m	Additional Grant £m	Funding Adjustments (inc Virements) £m	New Bids £m	Scheme Reduction £m	Reprofiling to Future Yrs £m	Actual Spend 31 Mar 23 £m
Adult Care & Health	1.248	-	0.111	-	-	-0.710	0.649
Children, Families & Education	7.402	-	0.991	-	-	-1.372	7.021
Corporate Schemes	3.780	-	-0.200	-	-0.650	-	2.930
Neighbourhoods	27.685	4.661	0.325	-	-	-8.829	23.842
Regeneration & Place	40.643	5.189	2.420	-	-	-25.490	22.762
Resources	5.544	-	-0.052	-	-	-1.759	3.733
Total	86.302	9.850	3.595	0.000	-0.650	-38.160	60.937

Appendix B

Significant Variations in Quarter 4

Table B1 - Schemes with Significant Budget Deferral Adjustments in Quarter 4

Directorate	Scheme	Q4 Budget Deferral £'000
Adult Care and Health	Better Care Fund (Disabled Facilities Grant)	433
Children, Families & Education	High Needs Provision Capital	382
	Transforming Care - Therapeutic Short Breaks	863
Neighbourhoods	Highway Maintenance	2,350
	Traffic Signal LED Upgrade	511
	West Kirby Flood alleviation	2,505
Regeneration & Place	Active Travel Tranche 2	1,517
	Birkenhead Regeneration Delivery Fund	9,010
	Community Asset Transfer	500
	Emslie Morgan (Solar Campus)	447
	Future High Streets Fund - New Ferry	427
	Future High Streets - Birkenhead	2,824
	Moreton Youth Club & Library	493
	New Ferry Regeneration Strategic Acquisitions	1,224
	Office Quarter Building Fit-Out	635
	Soft Play Areas Leisure Centres	410
	Sustainable Urban Development - Leasowe to Seacombe Corridor	3,016
	Town Deal Fund - Birkenhead	2,698
	Wirral Tennis Centre - Facility Upgrade	515
Resources	Digital Foundations Programme	402
	Enterprise Resource Planning	630
Various	Total of Other Deferrals Across Programme	6,368
	Total Budget Deferral in Q4	38,160

Table B2 - Summary of Significant Programme Variations in Quarter 4

Directorate	Scheme	Q4 Budget Deferral £'000	Department Comments
Adult Care and Health	Better Care Fund (Disabled Facilities Grant)	433	The Better Care Fund (DFG) element is underspent as result of a proposed project not starting. As the project lead has left Wirral Council it is suggested that this DFG funding is rolled into a wider Technology Enabled Care (TEC) project that is planned from Q2 2023. This TEC is focussed on driving efficiencies within Supported Living. It meets the DFG criteria as it enables people to stay in their own homes for longer, with greater levels of choice and independence. Additional grant monies of c.£74k are also due to be paid to Wirral from the Department of Health & Social Care, again focussing solely on technology to support independent living.
Children, Families & Education	High Needs Provision Capital	382	Good progress is anticipated in the next 12-18 months wth regards to these works. The mobile classroom at Ganney Meadow and work on Foxfield are two particular schemes that have required their budget allocations to be reprofiled into 2023/24.
	Transforming Care - Therapeutic Short Breaks	863	Agreed a purchase on a property in Wallasey, which is delayed due to probate issues.

**Q4
Budget
Deferral
£'000**

Department Comments

**Directorate
Neighbourhoods**

Scheme

Highway Maintenance

2,350

End of year budget carry over was mainly due to the fact a good portion of the funding was not available until very late in the year, so the works programmed had been based on a assumption, which was under the actual amount received. Planning for major schemes starts in January of each year, with works orders issued by June any money received after that date is difficult to fit in, given contractor resource and permit notice lead in and the weather (time of year) is a major factor.

Traffic Signal LED Upgrade

511

Consultation has delayed delivery of schemes due to objections received and modifications required to designs. There has been a need to report unresolved objections through committee and officer decision reports.

West Kirby Flood alleviation

2,505

The anticipated completion date is July 2023 due to a number of unforeseen factors, including global increases in the cost of construction materials, significant variations in ground conditions along the promenade, design changes and the temporary relocation of the RNLI lifeboat station.

**Regeneration &
Place**

Active Travel Tranche 2

1,517

Programme slipped due to delay in feedback from Active Travel England/Department for Transport with regard to programme reprofile required due to cost increases and following feedback from public consultation and committee resolution.

Birkenhead Regeneration
Delivery Fund

9,010

This wide ranging funding incorporates a variety of projects all of which are at different stages of completion and/or awaiting commencement of works.

Directorate Regeneration & Place	Scheme	Q4 Budget Deferral £'000	Department Comments
	Community Asset Transfer	500	Due to the extended consultation that is required as part of the Community Asset Transfer process. Once achieved, the transfer can progress.
	Emslie Morgan (Solar Campus)	447	Challenges with resources to get this project to tender stage. Now about to go to tender so progress can now be made on scheme within 23/24.
	Future High Streets Fund - New Ferry	427	The programme has been reprofiled to allow for the redesign and changes to the original scheme. Highway improvement works were also paused to coordinate this with housing development works that will be starting in 23/24. Designs for two further sites are being finalised ready for submission to the planning authority in the summer. Work on the scheme will progress across 23/24 and 24/25
	Future High Streets - Birkenhead	2,824	Wirral Growth Company are working through RIBA 3 design stage for Birkenhead Market and this should conclude in May 23. Slippage aspect is owing to costs for the demolition of House of Fraser which was rescheduled for 23/24. The tender for the demolition contractor closes in May 23 and it is anticipated this work will commence in summer 23.
	Moreton Youth Club & Library	493	Slippage linked to progress of the wider development. The scheme is a small part of a wider regeneration scheme which is still going through planning process.

Directorate Regeneration & Place	Scheme Town Deal Fund - Birkenhead	Q4 Budget Deferral £'000	Department Comments
		2,698	Grant funding agreements on some schemes have not been entered in to as quickly as anticipated (12 months ago) as projects required further development. This has meant an adjustment to the forecast. However, the projects are still all on track to deliver within the government timeframe (deadline March 26).
	Wirral Tennis Centre - Facility Upgrade	515	This is a very sizeable scheme and works now on site and due to complete in 2023/24 - delays are due to resources and construction supply chain issues.
	Wirral Tennis Centre - Facility Upgrade	515	This is a very sizeable scheme and works now on site and due to complete in 2023/24 - delays are due to resources and construction supply chain issues.
Resources	Digital Foundations Programme	402	Resource commitments to other projects resulted in the timescales needing to be extended and subsequent milestone payments slipping into 23/24
	Enterprise Resource Planning	630	Slippage is due to the fact that the business case included Oracle HCM which the Council decided not to adopt. We are looking to see if we are able to use the budget to fund a Zellis upgrade.

Appendix C

Capital Programme – Directorate Schemes with Highest Spend in 2022/23

C1 Adult Social Care & Health

- **Telecare & Telehealth Ecosystem (£0.631m)** –The Telecare and Telehealth Ecosystem element of the funding has been spent on equipment designed to enable people to remain safely in their own homes. The equipment “packages” typically consist of a series of sensors that work together to establish the routines and habits of the resident and report changes that provide an early indication of illness or deterioration of a long-term condition. Alarm buttons are also supplied in the event of an emergency. The equipment links to a base unit that collects the information and relays it to an alarm receiving centre. Currently over 2200 homes are equipped with this new digital equipment, with another 2300 homes to be converted to digital systems by Q1 2025. The slight variance is a result of judicious use of funding and negotiating with suppliers to obtain the best prices.

C2 Children, Families & Education

- **School Condition Allocation (SCA) (£4.860m)** – £2.4m of spend on Kingsway Academy adaptations/ Claremount move phase 1 and Castleway & Leasowe Early Years schemes. £0.83m of spend on roof replacements for various schools. Still experiencing effects of the historic backlog in jobs and increased financial costs due to inflation rises and construction supply chain issues.
- **High Needs Provision Capital (£1.117m)**– To deliver additional classroom provision for Special Educational Needs (SEN) pupils across several Special schools. Current programme includes number of high cost construction projects including 0.712m spend on Hayfield mobile classroom for SEN provision.

C3 Neighbourhoods

- **Combined Authority Transport Plan (CATP) (£0.904m)**- The spend in year relates to delivery of schemes which meet the priorities of the Road Safety Working Group including implementation of the borough wide 20mph speed limit project and other key projects relating to local safety, traffic signal, pedestrian access and public rights of way improvements.
- **Highway Maintenance (£4.588m)** – Funding was only fully disbursed in late November, resulting in not all of the allocation being spent within 2022/23. Works within year included Hot Rolled Asphalt, Surface dressing, Micro-asphalt Footway schemes and Drainage works.

- **Key Route Network City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (£1.144m)** – Works funded via Liverpool City Region Combined Authority include resurfacing, plane and inlay surfacing works at various locations across Wirral. Within the scheme is an allocation for ‘Low Carbon Birkenhead,’ surface treatment works at various locations across Wirral delivering a safer transport network with less accidents and fatalities. Funding was not confirmed until mid-way through 2022/23 therefore an underspend was expected and accepted by the funding body.
- **Wallasey Embankment Toe Reinforcement (£0.740m)** - This scheme comprised the importation and placing of approximately 9,000 tonnes of light rock armour along approximately 1.1km of the toe of the Wallasey Embankment, to prevent undermining of the existing coastal defence structure. The scheme was carried out between the months of July and August 2022 and was completed on time and within budget.
- **West Kirby Flood Alleviation (£13.010m)** – Piling work, construction of the flood wall and promenade construction were the main costs in the 22-23 financial year, with adverse ground conditions causing the need for more steel reinforcement to concrete slabs. All of the precast concrete units are now in place with the majority of the promenade resurfaced. Foundation work is currently underway for the floodgates with installation to follow.

C4 Regeneration & Place

- **Aids, Adaptations and Disabled Facility Grant (£5.863m)** – This is a ring fenced grant received for the provision of aids and adaptations which is operated on a rolling basis where works can be committed in one year and expenditure incurred the next or across financial years.
- **Birkenhead Regeneration Delivery Fund (£3.697m)** – the scheme incorporates a variety of projects all of which are at different stages of completion and or awaiting commencement of works. Funding allocated to enable the delivery of the 'Brownfield First' development strategy in support of The Local Plan. Spend has commenced against individual programmes which are as follows:
 - Hamilton Park Enabling Works
 - Town Centre – Wirral Growth Company
 - Dock Branch Park
 - Waterfront
 - Hind Street
- **Strategic Acquisition Fund (£2.043m)** - Spend includes the purchase of Hind Street and associated works. This scheme is closely linked to the progressing of regeneration initiatives with use intended to fund potential acquisitions.

- **Sustainable Urban Development - Leasowe to Seacombe Corridor (£1.700m)** - The spend is for the delivery of Work Package 6 active travel schemes and included a land purchase from network rail to facilitate the delivery of Phase 4.
- **Town Deal Fund Birkenhead (£1.720m)** – This £25m fund is to enable access to capital grants to support the regeneration of Birkenhead. It encompasses a number of projects to be delivered both internally and by external organisations. A Treasury compliant ‘Green Book’ business case has been prepared and approved for each of the projects. Grants will be paid out to the organisations delivering the external projects via Grant Funding Agreements. All projects funded by this Grant are on track to be delivered by March 2026. Robust monitoring and evaluation arrangements are in place.

C5 Resources

- **Customer Experience Improvements Project (£0.566m)** – The project remains on track to deliver corporate CRM solution. The expenditure to date related to salary recharges for the project team and is as forecasted.
- **Digital Foundations Programme (0.608m)** - 2022-23 spend is for the milestones that have been delivered as part of the Microsoft engagement which is modernising our IT Service and improving our Cyber Security
- **Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) (£2.034m)** – The in year spend is milestone payments to Insight Direct UK Ltd and NAMOS Solutions Ltd for the ERP implementation. It also contains capitalised salary costs and Oracle Licenses.

Appendix D

Virements within Quarter 4

Directorate	Scheme	Proposed Virement £'m	Proposed Reallocation	Reason
Regeneration and Place	Bebington Oval Facility Upgrade	0.155	Wirral Tennis Centre 3G Pitch	In the period since the 3G Pitch was approved inflationary price increases, within the construction sector, have resulted in a significant increase to the overall project cost.
Neighbourhoods	Highway Maintenance	0.190	Bridges excluding Dock Bridge	Adjustment to the recording of a grant. The original allocated by the Liverpool City Region was to 'Bridges excluding Dock Bridge'.
Neighbourhoods	Combined Authority Transport Plan	0.016	STEP	Required to cover final year end spend.
Neighbourhoods	Wirral Way Widening	0.014	Essential H&S works at Wirral Country Park	Additional spend incurred due to an increase in material costs between receipt of quotes and completion of work.
Neighbourhoods	Highway Maintenance	0.025	Highways Asset Management System	The project has expanded, due the increase in work and performance reporting required to meet the requirements of the grant funding agreement, city region sustainable transport settlement which if not met, could mean withdrawn of current funding or reduced funding in subsequent years. It was therefore necessary to accelerate and expand the asset management system roll out, so that the necessary IT infrastructure is in place to meet this essential performance reporting.
Regeneration and Place	Health & Safety Condition Surveys	0.002	Beechwood Recreation Centre (809.50) Girtrell Court Demolition (25.00) Leasowe 3G Pitches (1.000)	Required to cover final legacy spend. All schemes are now completed.
Regeneration and Place	Strategic Acquisition Fund	1.421	New Ferry Regeneration Acquisition Fund	This virement is needed to support the acquisition and demolition of properties to complete the site assembly work to provide a residential redevelopment opportunity.

Directorate	Scheme	Proposed Virement £'m	Proposed Reallocation	Reason
Regeneration and Place	Legal Case Management System	0.052	Capitalisation of Legal Salaries	The Legal Case Management system is near completion with approx. £5k spend left for 23/24. The 'Capitalisation of Salaries' exceeded the approved budget of £200k at year-end. The virement is to cover the overspend.
Regeneration and Place	Health & Safety Condition Surveys	0.004	65 The Village	65 The Village has been subject to long discussions with a group who manage an adjacent building, the Capital Allocation was made in order to enable an Asset Transfer. The works revealed that significantly more Capital would be required prior to occupation and a successful transfer circa: £170k. The overspend was due to additional structural, damp issues within the first phase of work, the virement will not cause any financial issues going forward. Whilst working with the Community Group on developing their Business Plan this has not been forthcoming, in the next couple of months we would look at potential disposal.

Appendix E

Revised Capital Programme 2023/24

	Revised 23/24 Programme £'000	Borrowing £'000	Capital Receipts £'000	Grants £'000	Other £'000	Total Funding £'000
2023-24 PROGRAMME						
Adult Care and Health						
Better Care Fund (Disabled Facilities Grant)	433			433		433
Citizen and Provider Portal/Integrated I.T.	63	52		11		63
Extra Care Housing	1,645			1,645		1,645
Liquidlogic - Early Intervention & Prevention	214	214				214
Telecare & Telehealth Ecosystem	1,529			1,529		1,529
Total Adult Care and Health	3,884	266	-	3,618	-	3,884
Children, Families & Education						
Basic Needs	1,028			1,028		1,028
Children's System Development	760	760				760
Family support	157	157				157
High Needs Provision Capital	4,392			4,392		4,392
PFI	52	52				52
School Condition/Modernisation	9,198			9,198		9,198
School Place Planning	1			1		1
Special Educational Needs and Disabilities	478			478		478
Transforming Care - Therapeutic Short Breaks	863			863		863
Total Children, Families & Education	16,929	969	-	15,960	-	16,929

	Revised 23/24 Programme £'000	Borrowing £'000	Capital Receipts £'000	Grants £'000	Other £'000	Total Funding £'000
2023-24 PROGRAMME						
Neighbourhoods						
Air Quality Control DEFRA	120			120		120
Allotment Sites Expansion	72	72				72
Arts Council Capital LIF	21			21		21
Ashton Park Lake	144	144				144
Birkenhead Park World Heritage Project Team	85	85				85
Bridges excluding Dock Bridge	894	328		566		894
Catering Units	160	160				160
Cemetery Extension & Improvements (Frankby)	142	142				142
Churchyard Boundary & Landican Cemetery Structural	56	56				56
Climate Emergency Budget	52	52				52
Coastal Defence - Meols Feasibility Study	100			100		100
Combined Authority Transport Plan	3,712	198		3,514		3,712
Coronation Park Sustainable Drainage	222	40		182		222
Defibrillators	13	13				13
Dock Bridges replacement	210	210				210
Essential H&S Access Improvements - Wirral Country Park	1	1				1
Fitness Equipment	4	4				4
Flaybrick Cemetery Pathway	200	200				200
Future Golf - Project 1.1	188	-				-
Grange Cemetery	45	188				188
Highway Maintenance	7,213	45				45
Key Route Network (LGF3) - Operate Key Roads/Routes Efficiently	166	344		6,869		7,213
Key Route Network CRSTS	1,757	36		130		166
Levelling Up Parks Fund-Woodchurch	38			1,757		1,757
Library Radio Frequency Identification Kiosks	80			38		38

	Revised 23/24 Programme £'000	Borrowing £'000	Capital Receipts £'000	Grants £'000	Other £'000	Total Funding £'000
2023-24 PROGRAMME						
Neighbourhoods (Continued)						
Lyndale Ave Parking & Safety Measures	124	124				124
Moreton Sandbrook Drainage	203	203				203
New Brighton Gym Equipment	3	3				3
New Ferry Rangers Community Clubhouse	843	792		51		843
Parks Machinery	2136	2136				2,136
Parks Vehicles	580	580				580
Parks Workshop & various machinery	135	135				135
Play Area Improvements	177	177				177
Plymyard Cemetery Roadways	75	75				75
Plymyard Playing Field	134				134	134
Quick Win Levy	15			15		15
Removal of remaining analogue CCTV circuits-21-22	4	4				4
Solar Campus 3G	30	30				30
Street Lighting Column - Replacement or Upgrade	483	483				483
Street Lighting -Illuminated Lighting and Signage	27	27				27
Studio refurbishment Les Mills classes	15	15				15
Surface Water Management Scheme	57			57		57
Tower Road National Productivity Investment Fund (NPIF)	157	157				157
Traffic Signal LED Upgrade	1166			1166		1,166
Tree Strategy	64	64				64
Urban Tree Challenge Fund	147	147				147

	Revised 23/24 Programme £'000	Borrowing £'000	Capital Receipts £'000	Grants £'000	Other £'000	Total Funding £'000
2023-24 PROGRAMME						
Neighbourhoods (Continued)						
Wallasey Embankment Toe Reinforcement	618			618		618
West Kirby Flood alleviation	2,505	2,505				2,505
Williamson Art Gallery Catalogue	56	56				56
Williamson Art Gallery Ventilation 21-22	288	288				288
Wirral Tennis Centre - 3G Pitch	1,065	305		760		1,065
Wirral Way Widening	70	70				70
Woodchurch Sports Pavillion	1,756	756		1,000		1,756
Total Neighbourhoods	28,628	11,537	-	16,964	127	28,628
Regeneration & Place						
Active Travel Tranche 2	1,517			1,517		1,517
Aids, Adaptations and Disabled Facility Grants	2,521			2,521		2,521
Arrowe Country Park - New Machine Shed & Wash Bay	109	109				109
Arrowe Country Park Depot: Re-Surfacing, Material Bays & Barrier	27	27				27
Bebington Oval Facility Upgrade	527	527				527
Birkenhead Market Construction	13,300			13,300		13,300
Birkenhead Regeneration Delivery Fund	24,034	3,071		20,963		24,034
Birkenhead Regeneration Framework	315	315				315
Birkenhead Town Centre Masterplanning & Housing Delivery	290	290				290
Business Investment Fund	585	585				585

	Revised 23/24 Programme	Borrowing £'000	Capital Receipts £'000	Grants £'000	Other £'000	Total Funding £'000
2023-24 PROGRAMME						
Regeneration (Continued)						
Capitalisation of Regen Salaries	971	971				971
Changing Places Toilets	137	30		107		137
Clearance	191			191		191
Community Asset Transfer	500	500				500
Concerto Asset Management System	25	25				25
Connecting Wirral Waters: Detailed Design	42	42				42
Consolidated Library Works Fund	279	279				279
Demolitions	1,346	1,346				1,346
Depot Welfare Improvements	45	45				45
Empty Property Grant Scheme	315	315				315
Emslie Morgan (Solar Campus)	447	447				447
Energy efficient buildings	370	370				370
FHSF New Ferry 21-22	3,112			3,112		3,112
Floral Pavilion	100	100				100
Future High Streets - Birkenhead	12,403			12,403		12,403
Health & Safety - Condition Surveys	1,715	1,715				1,715
Heswall Day Centre (part only)	50	50				50
Housing Infrastructure Fund (Enabling Infrastructure)	1	1				1
Hoylake Golf works depot demolish and replace	1	1				1
Landican Chapels	40	40				40
Leisure Capital Improvement Programme	470	470				470
Lever Sports Pavilion	-	-				-
Liscard Town Centre Delivery	10	10				10
Major Infrastructure Development & Strategic Transport	210	210				210

	Revised 23/24 Programme £'000	Borrowing £'000	Capital Receipts £'000	Grants £'000	Other £'000	Total Funding £'000
2023-24 PROGRAMME						
Regeneration (Continued)						
Maritime Knowledge hub	12,351	7,926		4,425		12,351
Moreton Youth Club & Library	993	993				993
New Brighton Masterplan for Marine Promenade	45	45				45
New Ferry Regeneration Strategic Acquisitions	1,342	1,342				1,342
Office Quarter Building Fit-Out	5,248	5,178			70	5,248
Parks and Countryside DDA	421	421				421
Pool Covers	252	252				252
Property Pooled Plus I.T System	20	20				20
Soft Play Areas Leisure Centres	410	410				410
Strategic Acquisition Fund	2,992	1,192		1,800		2,992
SUD - Leasowe to Seacombe Corridor	3,016	225		2,791		3,016
TAG Bus Case-A41 Corridor North	192			192		192
TAG Bus Case-Wirral Waters outline	39			39		39
Town Centre scheme - New Ferry	5			5		5
Town Deal Fund - Birkenhead	15,189	124		15,065		15,189
Town Fund B'head	53			53		53
UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF)	176			176		176
Vale Park Toilets	100	100				100
West Kirby Concourse/Guinea Gap Reception upgrade	351	351				351
West Kirby Marine Lake/Sailing Centre – accommodation	93	93				93
West Kirby Masterplan	58	58				58

	Revised 23/24 Programme £'000	Borrowing £'000	Capital Receipts £'000	Grants £'000	Other £'000	Total Funding £'000
2023-24 PROGRAMME						
Regeneration (Continued)						
Wirral Tennis Centre - Facility Upgrade	515	515				515
Wirral Waters Investment Fund	7,000	7,000				7,000
Woodchurch Capital Asset Transfer	330	330				330
Total Regeneration & Place	117,196	38,466	-	78,660	70	117,196
Resources						
Creative & Digital Team - specialist software and hardware	9	9				9
Customer Experience Improvements Project	738	738				738
Digital Foundations Programme	1,302	1,302				1,302
ERP	6,130	6,130				6,130
Legal Case Management System	8	8				8
Local Digital Cyber Fund	163			163		163
Replacement of ITSM	173	173				173
Upgrade of WIFI Network	97	97				97
Worksmart I.T.	116	116				116
IT Client Refreshment, Laptops, Desktops & Tablets	2,685		2,685			2,685
Total Resources	11,421	8,573	2,685	163		11,421
Total Programme	178,058	59,811	2,685	115,365	197	178,058

Appendix F

Prudential Indicators 2022/23

(a) Adoption of the CIPFA Treasury Management Code

This indicator demonstrates that the Authority adopted the principles of best practice.

The Council has previously approved the adoption of the CIPFA Treasury Management Code 2021 Edition.

(b) Capital Expenditure

This indicator is set to ensure that the level of proposed capital expenditure remains within sustainable limits and in particular, to consider the impact on Council Tax.

	31/03/2023 Actual £'000	31/03/2024 Estimate £'000	31/03/2025 Estimate £'000
Expenditure	60,937	178,058	45,512

Capital expenditure has or will be funded as follows:

Capital Financing	31/03/2023 Actual £'000	31/03/2024 Estimate £'000	31/03/2025 Estimate £'000
Capital receipts	2,930	2,685	7,795
Grants and Contributions	39,978	115,365	15,166
Revenue and Reserves	592	204	7,050
Borrowing	17,437	59,804	15,501
Total Funding	60,937	178,058	45,512

(c) Capital Financing Requirement (CFR)

Estimates of the Authority's cumulative maximum external borrowing requirement for 2022/23 to 2024/25 are shown in the table below:

Capital Financing Requirement	31/03/2023 Actual £m	31/03/2024 Estimate £m	31/03/2025 Estimate £m
General Fund	375.3	420.5	419.0

(d) Gross Debt and the Capital Financing Requirement:

In order to ensure that over the medium-term debt will only be for a capital purpose, the Authority should ensure that debt does not, except in the short term, exceed the total of Capital Financing Requirement in the preceding year plus the estimates of any additional capital financing requirement for the current and next two financial years. This is a key indicator of prudence.

Debt	31/03/2023	31/03/2024	31/03/2025
	Actual	Estimate	Estimate
	£m	£m	£m
Borrowing	284.7	312.4	321.6
PFI liabilities	31.2	28.0	24.8
Total Debt	315.9	340.4	346.4
Borrowing in excess of CFR?	No	No	No

Total debt is expected to remain below the CFR during this period.

(e) Authorised Limit and Operational Boundary for External Debt

The Operational Boundary for External Debt is based on the Authority's estimate of most likely, i.e., prudent, but not worst case scenario for external debt. It links directly to the Authority's estimates of capital expenditure, the capital financing requirement and cash flow requirements and is a key management tool for in-year monitoring. Other long-term liabilities relate to the Private Finance Initiative that are not borrowing but form part of the Authority's debt.

The Authorised Limit for External Debt is the affordable borrowing limit determined in compliance with the Local Government Act 2003. It is the maximum amount of debt that the Authority can legally owe. The authorised limit provides headroom over and above the operational boundary for unusual cash movements.

There were no breaches to the Authorised Limit and the Operational Boundary, as set in the Capital Financing Strategy report (Council meeting 28 February 2022) during 2022/23.

	Operational Boundary (Approved) 31/03/2023	Authorised Limit (Approved) 31/03/2023	Actual External Debt 31/03/2023
	£m	£m	£m
Borrowing	469.0	479.0	284.7
Other Long-term Liabilities	52.0	57.0	31.2
Total	521.0	536.0	315.9

(f) Ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream

This is an indicator of affordability and highlights the revenue implications of existing and proposed capital expenditure by identifying the proportion of the revenue budget

required to meet financing costs. The ratio is based on costs net of investment income.

Ratio of Finance Costs to Net Revenue Stream	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
	Actual	Estimate	Estimate
	%	%	%
Ratio	5.590	6.98	7.16

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MINUTE EXTRACT

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 14 June 2023

6 CAPITAL OUTTURN REPORT 2022-23

The Director of Finance introduced the report which detailed the Capital Outturn for 2022/23 and the resources used to fund the Programme. It asked that the Committee recommended that Council agree the revised 2023/24 Capital Programme which took account of re-profiling, virements, additional funding requirements and grant variations identified since the Capital Programme was formally agreed on 28th February 2022.

Members of the Committee raised several queries regarding the delivery of different capital projects including the Enterprise Resource Planning System, Regeneration and Highway Maintenance which the Chief Executive undertook to seek responses via the relevant Director to the relevant Committees. The Director of Finance further assured the Committee that any capital virements are either decided by or reported to Policy & Resources Committee.

Resolved – That

- (1) Council be recommended to approve the revised Capital Programme of £178.1 million for 2023/24, including the virements of budget referred to in Appendix D.**
- (2) Council be recommended to note the financing of the Programme for 2022/23.**
- (3) Council be recommended to note the additional year-end reprofiling of £38.2m from 2022/23 to 2023/24.**

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POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 14 June 2023

REPORT TITLE:	2022/23 BUDGET MONITORING FOR QUARTER FOUR (THE PERIOD TO 31 MARCH), 2022/23 OUTTURN
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

REPORT SUMMARY

This report provides a summary of the year-end revenue position for the 2022/23 financial year as at the end of March 2023. The report provides Members with an overview of budget performance to enable the Committee to take ownership of the budgets and provide robust challenge and scrutiny to Officers on the performance of those budgets.

The year-end revenue outturn for 2022/23, represents an adverse variance against directorate revenue budgets of £11.970m, which is a small £0.392m improvement on the quarter 3 forecast.

This matter affects all Wards within the Borough and is a key decision.

RECOMMENDATION/S

The Policy and Resources committee is recommended to:

1. Note the draft, unaudited 2022/23 outturn adverse variance of £11.970m;
2. Note the draft unaudited 2022/23 funding adverse variance of £1.078m;
3. Recommend to Council to agree the transfer to and use of earmarked reserves, as detailed in Appendix 3; and
4. Note the progress on delivery of the 2022/23 savings programme.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 Regular monitoring and reporting of the revenue budgets and savings achievements enables decisions to be taken in a timely manner, which may produce revenue benefits and will improve financial control of the Council.
- 1.2 This report presents timely information on the full year financial position for 2022/23, prior to final audit engagement.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 The Policy & Resources Committee has previously determined the budget monitoring process and this report details the agreed course of action.
- 2.2 In striving to manage budgets, available options have been evaluated to maintain a balance between service delivery and a balanced budget.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 At the meeting on 28 February 2022, the Council agreed a net revenue budget for 2022/2023 of £330.6m to be met by government grants, council tax, business rates and flexible use of capital receipts. The Quarter 1 monitoring report, presented on 7 September 2022 to Policy & Resources Committee, highlighted growing in-year pressures of £5.3m, which had risen to £11m by Quarter 2 and £12.4m by Quarter 3. Several potential mitigations were identified that could be used to present a balanced budget at the end of the year. This report sets out the updated revenue financial position at the end of the year.

Economic Context

- 3.2 The economic backdrop has changed considerably since the Council set its 2022/23 budget back on 28 February 22, with significant emerging pressures, beyond Council control, placing large, unforeseen strains on budgets.
- 3.3 Quarter 4 continued to be characterised by high energy and commodity prices, high inflation and the associated impact on consumers' cost of living. Annual headline CPI registered 10.1% in March with RPI at 13.5%. Both rates exceeded expectations of a decline in inflation rates.
- 3.4 During the quarter, the Bank of England increased the official Bank Rate to 4.25%; an uplift of 0.5% in February and then another 0.25% in March. The Bank's Committee noted that continued evidence of more persistent pressures will require further tightening in monetary policy.

Quarter 4 Revenue Outturn Position

- 3.5 At the end of 2022/23, there is an adverse position of £11.970m on the Council's directorate net revenue budget, of £330.58m. Table 1 provides a summary of the outturn revenue position, with mitigations (detailed in Table 3) to achieve a balanced budget position at the end of the year.

TABLE 1 2022/23 REVENUE BUDGET & OUTTURN

	Budget		Outturn		Variance		Adverse/ Favourable
					(+ Fav / - Adv)		
	£000	£000	£000	%	£000	%	
Adult Care & Health	114,962	114,617	345	0%			Favourable
Chief Executive Office	1,786	1,859	-73	-4%			Adverse
Children, Families & Education	79,234	82,705	-3,471	-4%			Adverse
Law & Governance	5,821	6,009	-188	-3%			Adverse
Neighbourhoods Services	46,189	55,656	-9,467	-20%			Adverse
Regeneration and Place	37,775	37,681	94	0%			Favourable
Resources	44,813	44,023	790	2%			Favourable
Total Directorate Surplus / (Deficit)	330,580	342,550	-11,970	-4%			Adverse
Budget Funding	-330,580	-329,502	-1,078	0%			Adverse
Total Council Surplus / (Deficit)	0	13,048	-13,048				Adverse
Total Mitigation	0	-13,048	13,048				Favourable
Approved contribution from earmarked reserves to General Fund Balances		-2,500	2,500				Favourable
Total Surplus (Transfer to General Fund)	0	-2,500	2,500				Favourable

- 3.6 Table 2 highlights key reasons for the directorate variances.

TABLE 2: Summary of Directorate Variances

	£000
Inflationary Impact	-7.30
Children's social care	-3.40
COVID 19 recovery	-1.80
Delayed implementation of agreed savings	-1.50
Other mitigating variances	2.03
TOTAL	-11.97

- 3.7 There was an unexpected adverse £1.078m variation against the funding that supports the revenue budget, which relates to an adjustment of Business Rates Section 31 grants. This was caused by the Valuation Office Agency reducing the Rateable Value of a number of large retail businesses during the year, which affected the relief they were eligible for and in turn the compensatory S31 grants due to the Council. This was an unusual variance, but this will be monitored closely during the course of 2023/24.
- 3.8 It was imperative that the Council reported a supported balanced position at the end of the year. At the end of the financial year, several mitigations have been identified and are set out to demonstrate that a balanced budget can be presented. The table below identifies where these mitigations have been found. Noting that where there is an ongoing deficit into future years, the medium-term financial plan (MTFP) has been updated to reflect the recurrent pressure.

TABLE 3: 2022/23 MITIGATION

Mitigation	£000
Use of Earmarked Reserves	10,048
Use of Contingency Fund	3,000
TOTAL	13,048

- 3.9 For further details on individual directorate positions please see Appendix 1.

Progress on delivery of the 2022/23 savings programme.

3.10 In terms of savings, £15.9m of the £18.2m savings targets were delivered in year, representing 87% of the total savings target. A further 4% of savings were delivered through alternative means (mitigation) with 9% of savings delayed and unachieved within the year. The table below summarises the progress by Directorate:

TABLE 4: SUMMARY OF DELIVERY OF 2022/23 SAVINGS

Directorate	Approved Saving	Delivered	Delivered through mitigation	Delayed/unachieved in year
Adult Care & Health	3.890	3.890	0.000	0.000
Chief Executive Office	0.110	0.060	0.050	0.000
Children, Families & Education	3.150	2.800	0.050	0.300
Law & Governance	0.659	0.659	0.000	0.000
Neighbourhoods Services	5.251	3.484	0.519	1.248
Regeneration and Place	1.838	1.715	0.123	0.000
Resources	3.338	3.338	0.000	0.000
TOTAL	18.236	15.946	0.742	1.548

3.11 Full details on the progress on specific savings can be found in Appendix 2.

Reserves and Balances

Earmarked Reserves

- 3.12 On 1 April 2022, earmarked reserves totalled £104.9m. Following the year-end audit this figure was revised down to £97.2m, with some reserves reclassified as creditors (further details can be found in Appendix 3). Of the total earmarked reserves, nearly half were spent in 2022/23, on the activities for which they were established. Some of the reserves are committed over a longer period and have been set aside now to support the Council's financial sustainability and have little or limited impact on future years budgets.

TABLE 5: SUMMARY OF EARMARKED RESERVES

Directorate	Opening Balance £000	Use of Reserve £000	Contribution to Reserve £000	Closing Balance £000
Adult Care & Health	7,721	-846	454	7,329
Children, Families & Education	5,150	-1,489	0	3,661
Law & Governance	355	-85	0	270
Neighbourhoods Services	1,652	-1,351	0	301
Regeneration and Place	7,580	-911	9,504	16,173
Resources	17,712	-5,078	818	13,452
Other Corporate	57,016	-34,041	7,670	30,645
Total	97,186	-43,801	18,446	71,831
General Fund Balances	10,680	0	2,500	13,180

- 3.13 The £18.4m contributions to reserves in 2022/23 includes the establishment of the following new reserves:
- **Wirral Growth Company Profit:** This new reserve holds £8.5m of accrued profits from Wirral Growth Company LLP for the period to 31 March 2023.
 - **Covid Additional Relief Fund:** The £4.3m Covid Additional Relief Fund was provided by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to enable Local Authorities to apply relief to Business Rates bills of those businesses who met locally defined criteria but had not benefitted from any of the previous Covid support funding for businesses. The relief was applied to business rates bills during 2022/23 but this money is held in reserve to offset the timing difference of impact of the resulting Collection Fund deficit on the General Fund impact in 2023/24.
 - **Treasury Management Equalisation:** This £0.4m reserves has been created to offset potentially higher interest costs in the future, and to mitigate fluctuations in investment values in some of the Treasury investment portfolio.

- 3.14 Appendix 3 provides a full list of all earmarked reserves.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 This is the Quarter 4 budget monitoring report that provides information on the revenue outturn for the Council for 2022/23. The Council has robust methods for reporting and forecasting budgets in place and alongside formal Quarterly reporting to Policy & Resources Committee, the financial position is routinely reported at Directorate Management Team meetings and corporately at the Strategic Leadership Team (SLT). In the event of any early warning highlighting pressures and potential overspends, the SLT take collective responsibility to identify solutions to resolve these to ensure a balanced budget is reported at the end of the year.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Council must set the budget in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and approval of a balanced budget each year is a statutory responsibility of the Council. Sections 25 to 29 of the Local Government Act 2003 impose duties on the Council in relation to how it sets and monitors its budget. These provisions require the Council to make prudent allowance for the risk and uncertainties in its budget and regularly monitor its finances during the year. The legislation leaves discretion to the Council about the allowances to be made and action to be taken.
- 5.2 The provisions of section 25, Local Government Act 2003 require that, when the Council is making the calculation of its budget requirement, it must have regard to the report of the chief finance (s.151) officer as to the robustness of the estimates made for the purposes of the calculations and the adequacy of the proposed financial reserves.
- 5.3 It is essential, as a matter of prudence that the financial position continues to be closely monitored. In particular, Members must satisfy themselves that sufficient mechanisms are in place to ensure both that savings are delivered and that new expenditure is contained within the available resources. Accordingly, any proposals put forward must identify the realistic measures and mechanisms to produce those savings.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

- 6.1 At this time, there are no additional resource implications as these have already been identified for the proposals agreed and submitted. However, where the budget is unbalanced and further proposals are required, then there will be resource implications, and these will be addressed within the relevant business cases presented to the Committee.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 7.1 The Council's ability to maintain a balanced budget for 2022/23 was dependent on a stable financial position. The delivery of the budget was subject to ongoing variables both positive and adverse which gave a level of challenge in achieving this outcome.
- 7.2 In any budget year, there is a risk that operation will not be constrained within relevant budget limits. Under specific circumstances the Section 151 Officer may issue a Section 114 notice but that position has not been reached at the present time. The issuing of a Section 114 notice bans all new spending with the exception of protecting vulnerable people and statutory services and pre-existing commitments.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

- 8.1 Consultation has been carried out with the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) in arriving at the governance process for the 2022/23 budget monitoring process and the 2022/23 budget setting process. This report will also be shared and reviewed by the Independent Panel.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 Wirral Council has a legal requirement to make sure its policies, and the way it carries out its work, do not discriminate against anyone. An Equality Impact Assessment is a tool to help council services identify steps they can take to ensure equality for anyone who might be affected by a particular policy, decision or activity.
- 9.2 At this time, there are no further equality implications as these have already been identified for the proposals agreed and submitted. However, where the budget is unbalanced and further proposals are required, then there may be equality implications associated with these, and these will be addressed within the relevant business cases presented to the Committee.

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 This report has no direct environmental implications; however due regard is given as appropriate in respect of procurement and expenditure decision-making processes that contribute to the outturn position.

11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 In year activity will have incorporated community wealth implications. Consideration would have taken account of related matters across headings such as the following:
- **Progressive Procurement and Social Value**
How we commission and procure goods and services. Encouraging contractors to deliver more benefits for the local area, such as good jobs, apprenticeship, training & skills opportunities, real living wage, minimising their environmental impact, and greater wellbeing.
 - **More local & community ownership of the economy**
Supporting more cooperatives and community businesses.

Enabling greater opportunities for local businesses.
 Building on the experience of partnership working with voluntary, community and faith groups during the pandemic to further develop this sector.

- **Decent and Fair Employment**
 Paying all employees a fair and reasonable wage.
- **Making wealth work for local places**

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 – Directorate Summary Financial Positions
 APPENDIX 2 – Delivery of the 2022/23 Saving Programme
 APPENDIX 3 – Earmarked Reserves

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Policy & Resources Committee Report 5 Oct 22: 2023-24 Budget Update
 Bank of England – Monetary Policy Report
 CIPFA’s Financial Management Code
 Guidance on flexible use of capital receipts

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Policy and Resources Committee	15 February 2023
Policy and Resources Committee	9 November 2022
Policy and Resources Committee	7 September 2022
Policy and Resources Committee	13 July 2022
Council	28 February 2022
Policy and Resources Committee	15 February 2022
Policy and Resources Committee	17 January 2022
Policy and Resources Committee	1 December 2021
Policy and Resources Committee	30 November 2021

APPENDIX 1 - Directorate Summaries

1 Adult Care and Health

- 1.1 As at the end of March 2023 (Quarter 4), the outturn position for Adult Care and Public Health is a favourable variance of £0.345m against a budget of £114.962m. This position includes the full achievement of the £3.89m savings target.

TABLE 1 2022/23 Adult Care and Public Health – Service Budget & Outturn

	Budget	Outturn	Variance		Adverse/ Favourable
	£000	£000	(+ Fav / - Adv) £000	%	
Adult Social Care Central Functions	8,211	6,982	1,229	15%	Favourable
Older People Services - WCFT	52,444	55,053	-2,609	-5%	Adverse
Mental Health & Disability Services - CWP	52,010	50,313	1,697	3%	Favourable
Other Care Commissions	93	-563	656	705%	Favourable
Delivery Services	1,947	2,662	-715	-37%	Adverse
Public Health	-262	-262	0	0%	Favourable
Wirral Intelligence Service	519	432	87	17%	Favourable
Directorate Surplus / (Deficit)	114,962	114,617	345	0%	Favourable

- 1.2 **Central Functions:** A favourable variance of £1.229m is reported for 2022/23. The staffing budgets are reported here with slippage against a small number of vacancies and delays in recruitment. This is an improved position from quarter 3 following the recruitment freeze. Movement from the Better Care Fund reserve and the underspend against the 2022/23 BCF schemes is also reflected here.
- 1.3 **Older People Services:** An adverse variance of £2.609m is reported for 2022/23. The variance reflects the pressure within community care of discharging clients from hospital into short term residential settings.
- 1.4 At the start of the financial year activity data shows Older People client numbers of 5,566 receiving some form of support. This figure has grown throughout the financial year to the current level of 6,211 – this is an increase of 11.6% over the last 12 months. While some of this increase is within lower cost care packages, for example Assistive Technology, the figure includes an increase of 5% against residential and nursing placements. Demographic growth of 2% was built into the budget at the start of the financial year.
- 1.5 The cost of these placements has also increased with providers requiring additional top up payments to support inflationary pressures and commissioning of additional hours to support high need from clients discharged from hospital. Top ups funded by DASS have increased by 10% since the start of the financial year and the cost of

additional hours supporting residential and nursing placements has increased by 55% during the financial year. This has added a pressure of £1.2m to the outturn.

- 1.6 Funding for winter discharge has supported some of these costs alongside funding new schemes to support growth in the domiciliary care market. The longer term impact of these projects is not yet known, but shortage of capacity within the domiciliary care market continues to create a budgetary pressure within the service.
- 1.7 Overall the costs against residential and nursing care has increased by 13% from the forecast at the start of the financial year. This has been partly offset by a favourable movement in the expected cost of domiciliary care.
- 1.8 Total savings of £1.981m have been validated against the target of £1.945m which is £0.036m over target.
- 1.9 **Mental Health & Disability Services:** A favourable variance of £1.697m is reported for 2022/23. Savings made in 2021/22 have had a cumulative impact on 2022/23 and the outturn has benefited from a review of the recording of joint funding arrangements within the system. The outturn for joint funding contributions against complex care cases has improved by 22% from the forecast at the start of the financial year. While there has been a negative impact within Older People services there is still an overall improvement of 8%. The budget will be realigned accordingly for the new financial year.
- 1.10 The outturn reflects full achievement of the £1.945m savings target attributed to complex care services for the current financial year.
- 1.11 **Other Care Commissions:** A favourable variance of £0.656m is reported for 2022/23. This area contains services accessed across all client groups, for example the Early Intervention and Prevention services.
- 1.12 **Delivery Services:** An adverse variance of £0.715m is reported for 2022/23. This is a new service area set up since quarter 2 to report the delivery of in-house provisions, currently the recently transferred day services from Wirral Evolutions. The adverse position reflects the full year impact of the revised pay award, the cost of which would be incurred irrespective of the transfer back in-house.
- 1.13 **Public Health:** A balanced position (following contribution to reserves) is reported for 2022/23. The Public Health Grant for 2022-2023 is £30.99m an increase of £0.857m from the 2021/22 allocation of £30.142m.
- 1.14 **Wirral Intelligence Team:** A favourable variance of £0.087m is reported for 2022/23 against part year vacancy within the team.

Budget Virements

- 1.15 There have been no budget virements requiring committee approval in quarter 4.

2. Chief Executive Office

- 2.1 As at the end of March 2023 (Quarter 4), the outturn position for Chief Executive Office is an adverse variance of £0.073m against a budget of £1.786m. This is due to increased costs from the pay award, over and above the original 3% built into the 2022/23 budget and which will be mitigated corporately.

TABLE 2: 2022/23 Chief Executive Office – Service Budget & Outturn

	Budget £000	Outturn £000	Variance (+ Fav / - Adv)		Adverse/ Favourable
			£000	%	
Chief Executive Office	160	118	42	26%	Favourable
Comms & Marketing	963	1,076	-113	-12%	Adverse
PAs/Exec. Support	663	665	-2	0%	Adverse
Directorate Surplus / (Deficit)	1,786	1,859	-73	-4%	Adverse

- 2.2 **Chief Executive Office:** A favourable variance of £0.042m is reported for 2022/23. This relates to employees costs due to realignment of the savings associated with this Directorate in the final quarter.
- 2.3 **Comms & Marketing:** An adverse variance of £0.113m is reported for 2022/23. The advertising and publicity budget has been reduced to contribute towards the overall savings for this Directorate. Advertising income was impacted by COVID-19 last financial year, and inflationary pressures have impacted income generation in this area during the year as local businesses who typically used this service limited expenditure to essential items as costs rose. £0.050m of the £0.110m was unachievable in 2022/23. This was mitigated corporately through utilising the remaining COVID-19 funding for employees within Comms and Marketing as they were seconded to fixed term posts relating to the COVID-19 response.

Budget Virements

- 2.4 There have been no budget virement in quarter 4.

3. Children, Families and Education

- 3.1 As at the end of March 2023 (Quarter 4), the outturn position Children, Families and Education is an adverse variance of £3.471m against a budget of £79.234m.
- 3.2 Over the year, there was a trend of increasing numbers of children in care, after a period of reducing numbers, particularly in young people placed in high-cost residential settings and more recently into independent fostering. This has now stabilised and number are being to reduce again.
- 3.3 Previously reported costs of £1.1m from the pay award, over and above the original 3% built into the 2022/23 budget and SEND Assisted Travel contract, demand and inflation pressures have also affected led to significant adverse variances. Some mitigations have been taken to reduce the full impact of these adverse variances. The reduction in national insurance contributions from November 2022 , along with additional grant and income for the Early Help Service and use of specific reserves. The outturn position reflects delivery of most of the 2022/23 saving proposals.

TABLE 3: 2022/23 Children, Families & Education-Service Budget & Outturn

	Budget	Outturn	Variance		Adverse/ Favourable
			(+ Fav / - Adv)		
	£000	£000	£000	%	
Children and Families	50,141	54,178	-4,037	-8%	Adverse
Early Help and Prevention	11,196	10,065	1,131	10%	Favourable
Modernisation and Support	4,675	4,129	546	12%	Favourable
Schools - Core	13,222	14,333	-1,111	-8%	Adverse
Directorate Surplus / (Deficit)	79,234	82,705	-3,471	-4%	Adverse

- 3.4 **Children and Families:** The Service Area outturn is an adverse variance of £4.037m. Since the budgets were agreed at the start of the year, an increase in children in care rate with a post-covid impact on demand and inflationary price uplifts have placed significant pressures on the service. Increases in Residential Care and more recently independent fostering combined with the impact of the higher pay award adding further costs to the adverse position. The underlying pressures of the service that relate to cost of living /inflation, have been included in the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP and the 2023/24 budget.

The expenditure for this service includes £27.952m on care costs. Overall, performance data indicates that the Children Looked After (CLA) rate having been stable in previous years and declined over the last year increased during the year. This has now reduced in the last few months. An increase in care numbers was anticipated to occur in 2023/24 due to post covid impact, it now appears that this along with cost of living is impacting the service earlier resulting in the increase in CLA rate and pressures in costs.

TABLE 4: Number of Children in Care

Mar-21	Jun-21	Sep-21	Dec-21	Mar-22	Jun-22	Sep-22	Dec-22	Mar-23
821	819	814	795	786	770	789	804	766

- 3.5 **Early Help & Prevention:** A favourable variance of £1.131m is reported for 2022/23. The favourable variance is mainly due to staff vacancies and appointments at the lower range of the salary scale. In addition, the Family Matters service achieved the budgeted grant income and claimed the extra from the full activity grant. This was being invested and contributed to social care activities during the course of the year leading to an underspend in Early Help to mitigate the overspend in Childrens and Families. Further grant income in Contextual Safeguarding and Youth Offending Service has also contributed to the overall service.
- 3.6 **Modernisation and Support:** A favourable variance of £0.546m is reported for 2022/23. The favourable variance is mainly due to staff vacancies and appointments at the lower range of the salary scale. Commissioned services were reviewed during the year to release further efficiencies.
- 3.7 **Schools – core:** An adverse variance of £1.111m against a budget of £13.222m is reported for 2022/23. There is an adverse variance mainly in relation to the Children’s Assisted Travel (£1.429m), which is due to the pressure from the contract renewal effective from September 2022 and the pressure from the demand increase. The contracts have not been uplifted for the past 4 years, and together with the current inflation rate and the fuel price increase, the new contracts are significantly higher than anticipated. This adverse variance is partly offset by the favourable variances of Teacher Retirement Costs (£0.185m) and European Funded SEND Inclusion Programme (£0.185m).

Budget Virements

- 3.8 There have been no budget virements requiring committee approval in quarter 4.

TABLE 5: 2022/23 Children, Families and Education–Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG)

	Budget	Outturn	Variance		Adverse/ Favourable
			(+ Fav / - Adv)		
	£000	£000	£000	%	
DSG Expenditure:					
Schools Block	119,142	118,519	623	1%	Favourable
Schools Block De-delegated	1,820	1,745	75	4%	Favourable
Central School Services Block	2,120	2,124	-4	0%	Adverse
High Needs	52,379	55,520	-3,141	-6%	Adverse
Early Years	20,184	20,983	-799	-4%	Adverse
Total Gross Surplus / (Deficit)	195,645	198,891	-3,246	-2%	Adverse
DSG Income:					
	-	-			
	195,355	195,818	463	0%	Adverse
Movement in DSG Reserve	-290	-3,073	2,783	-960%	
Total Net Surplus / (Deficit)	0	0	0	0%	

- 3.9 An adverse variance position for 2022/23 is resulting from the High Needs block with an adverse position of £3.141m. The adverse variance is mainly due to an increase in demand and complexity. Demand on this budget is expected to grow in line with the requests for Education.
- 3.10 **Schools Block:** A favourable variance of £0.623m is due to the academy conversion of three primary schools in the last quarter in 2022/23. The DSG grant income is reduced to balance off this variance.
- 3.11 **Early Years:** An adverse variance of £0.799m is reported for 2022/23 due to the actual activity hours being higher than budget expectation. The DSG Grant income budget for the Early Years is increased as the funding will be adjusted to match the actual activities.
- 3.12 **DSG income:** A favourable variance of £0.463m is reported for 2022/23 due to the grant adjustments in the Schools and Early Years blocks as above.
- 3.13 The 2021/22 financial year closed with a DSG reserve cumulative deficit position of £1.690m. The 22/23 budget include an anticipated in-year deficit balance of £0.290m to be added to the reserve balance, however, the outturn position is overspend of £3.073m thus delivering a cumulative £4.763m deficit position at the end of 2022/23 This is mainly due to the pressure from High Needs block. It was announced in December 2022 that the statutory override that separated DSG deficits from the authority's wider finances was extended further 3 years and due to expire at the end of 2025/26.

- 3.14 In 2023-24, the Council is participating in the Delivering Better Value (DBV) in SEND (Special Educational Need and Disabilities) programme which is the DfE's support package to help local authorities maintain effective SEND services while functioning sustainably. The aim of the DBV programme is to improve delivery of SEND services for children and young people and to ensure that this is done so within budget.

4 Law & Governance

4.1 As at the end of March 2023 (Quarter 4), the outturn position for Law and Governance is a small adverse variance of £0.188m against a budget of £5.821m

TABLE 6: 2022/23 Law & Governance – Service Budget & Outturn

	Budget	Outturn	Variance		Adverse/ Favourable
			(+ Fav / - Adv)		
	£000	£000	£000	%	
Law & Governance (Corporate)	320	294	26	8%	Favourable
Legal Services	3,214	3,295	-81	-3%	Adverse
Democratic & Member Services	1,435	1,399	36	3%	Favourable
Coroner Services	730	802	-72	-10%	Adverse
Electoral Services	440	539	-99	-23%	Adverse
Registrar Services	-186	-188	2	-1%	Favourable
Licensing	-132	-132	0	0%	Favourable
Directorate Surplus / (Deficit)	5,821	6,009	-188	-3%	Adverse

4.2 **Electoral Services:** An adverse variance of £0.099m is reported for 2022/23. There is a shortfall of £0.030m from a grant that is no longer received. Two By-Elections have occurred this year which have cost £0.032m and a small budget shortfall due to the pay increase. The balance is made up of multiple variances across the service caused by the pressure of increased costs.

Budget Virements

4.3 There have been no budget virements requiring committee approval in quarter 4.

5 Neighbourhood Services

5.1 As at the end of March 2023 (Quarter 4), the outturn position for the Neighbourhoods Directorate is £9.467m adverse against a budget of £46.189m. The reasons for this are detailed in the table below.

TABLE 7: Summary of Neighbourhood Services variances

	£000
Customer Behaviour Changes	
Parking income shortfall due to hybrid working	590
Mitigated through COVID-19 Reserves	-572
Leisure income shortfall due to reduction in numbers	1,293
Sub-Total	1,311
Macro-Economic Conditions	
Nationally agreed Pay Award	1,055
Additional unforeseen energy costs due to inflation - £657K relates to Street Lighting	1,249
Waste Contract Inflation increases	1,013
Mitigation due to a reduction in contribution to reserves relating to the Waste Levy	-600
Highways Maintenance Increases (Cost of materials and supply chain costs)	900
Repairs and Maintenance - Leisure	265
Tennis Centre Costs not covered by income	178
Additional employee costs - Leisure	384
Sub-Total	4,444
Delays in implementation	
Parking relating to new sites delayed subject to agreement of parking strategy	500
Holding costs relating to C A T of Woodchurch	202
Holding costs relating to C A T of Libraries	372
Sub-Total	1,074
Other	
Floral Pavilion income shortfall due to coastal works and increased cost pressures	2,054
Mitigated in part through one-off Leisure budget to aid recovery	-500
Highways Winter Gritting pressures	380
Highways Developer Income Shortfalls	448
Other smaller adverse variances	256
Sub-Total	2,638
TOTAL	9,467

5.2. Income remains less than it was in 2019/20 due a reduction in footfall and direct debit numbers. There was some improvement from Quarter 2 onwards due to new pricing structures, and slight increases in footfall now that areas are fully operational. However, income for the year was around 75% of 2019/20 levels.

5.3 The 2022/23 budget incorporates £5.26m of savings. Work commenced to achieve these savings following agreement at Budget Council in February. As at Quarter 4, the Directorate has achieved £4.00m of these savings. Savings relating to Community Asset Transfer (CAT) of Woodchurch (£0.202m) and Community Asset Transfer of Libraries (£0.380m) were not achieved this year due to holding costs

whilst the process took place. In addition to this savings relating to Floral Pavilion (£0.350m) were not achieved due to shortfalls in income generation.

- 5.4 As part of the 2022/23 budget savings, some library assets, two golf courses and Woodchurch Leisure Centre were recommended by Members to be available for CAT as an amendment to the budget. Members agreed that some libraries would remain open until 1 November 2022 to enable a potential CAT. On 25 October 2022, Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee agreed to commence negotiations to transfer the assets of Pensby Library to Pioneer People and Prenton Library to St Stephen’s Church. It was also agreed that further negotiations would commence with the other groups until 9 December 2022, with recommendations relating to these being reported at a future Committee. On 9 March 2023 it was agreed to commence negotiations to transfer the assets of Wallasey Village Library and Irby Library. Negotiations relating to the other sites will be reported at a future Committee in 2023/24.
- 5.5 There were some holding costs and decommissioning costs following closure of the libraries on 1 November 22 that have also not been budgeted. These were to be £0.093m are reflected within Regeneration Directorate as they have responsibility for running the assets from November 2022. The total additional costs relating to CAT have been covered from the £3m contingency for non-achieved savings.

TABLE 8: 2022/23 Neighbourhoods – Service Budget & Outturn

	Budget	Outturn	Variance		Adverse/ Favourable
			(+ Fav / - Adv)		
	£000	£000	£000	%	
Cross Cutting funding & Neighbourhoods Management Team	-5,959	-5,950	-9	0%	Adverse
Community Safety and Transport	3,363	4,028	-665	-20%	Adverse
Highways and Infrastructure	5,269	7,863	-2,594	-49%	Adverse
Leisure, Libraries and Customer Engagement	7,611	12,844	-5,233	-69%	Adverse
Parks and Environment	35,905	36,871	-966	-3%	Adverse
Directorate Surplus / (Deficit)	46,189	55,656	-9,467	-20%	Adverse

- 5.6 **Community Safety and Transport:** An adverse variance of £0.665m is reported for 2022/23. £0.223m relates to the adjustment for the national public sector pay award. £0.360m mainly relates to adverse variances within Transport due to increased demand and tender price increases. The remaining adverse variance relates to income shortfalls. During the first part of the year, some team members were engaged in activities associated with the longer-term response to the pandemic in addition to their usual monitoring and response team duties. This resulted in additional pressures within the Community Patrol team which were funded from

carried forward planned COVID-19 tranche funding. In addition, some of the teams were engaged in functions associated with the Community Safety Partnership and were being funded from the reserve for these activities. This is temporary funding utilised in 2022/23 only, which will mitigated lead in pressures associated with the savings.

- 5.7 **Highways and Infrastructure:** An adverse variance of £2.594m is reported for 2022/23. This is made up of the following variances:
- £0.179m adverse variance relates to the adjustment for the pay award.
 - £0.590m adverse variance relates to a shortfall in car parking income as ticket sales remain low due to an increase in hybrid working and changes in customer behaviour.
 - £0.5m adverse variance relates to Car Parking charges at the proposed new sites which has not yet been implemented. This is pending a further report being brought to Members for proposed charges in new locations which will be informed by the strategic parking strategy but based upon the need to efficiently manage parking and traffic within the borough and recover the costs of the service.
 - £0.380m adverse variance relates to winter gritting due to increases in cost of service provision. A pressure statement has already been submitted to address this.
 - £0.448m adverse variance relates to a shortfall in income from developers. There has been a reduction in developers commencing new sites in 2022/23 due to the global economic situation.
 - £0.657m adverse variance relates to an increase in street lighting energy costs due to a rise in prices nationally.
 - £0.900m relates to Highways Maintenance cost increases. This is partially mitigated through capitalising up to £0.354m of costs.
- 5.8 Several remedial actions have temporarily mitigated the position this year:
- £0.160m due to additional income in relation to fees from utility companies for temporary traffic order road closures and capitalisation of costs relating to schemes.
 - £-0.328m due to opportunities for capitalisation of salaries within the Design Team and Highways & Infrastructure.
 - £0.572m of the carried forward Covid tranche funding has been utilised to mitigate the car parking shortfall this year. As this is one-off funding, plans are in development to fully mitigate any recurrent shortfall in 23/24 and will be brought forward in that year.
- 5.9 **Leisure, Libraries and Customer Engagement:** An adverse variance of £5.233m is reported for 2022/23. This is made up of the following adverse variances.
- £0.267m relates to the adjustment for the proposed pay award. This has resulted in a Council wide financial impact, and as Leisure, Libraries and Customer Engagement has the largest workforce, this area has been impacted the most.
 - £1.293m within Sports and Recreation relating to income pressures as it has still to see full recovery of membership and casual user numbers, which reduced as a consequence of the pandemic.

- £1.554m within Theatre, Hospitality and Catering services, this mainly relates to income pressures due to recovery from the pandemic and cost of living pressures. However £0.150m is due to income pressures at the Sail Loft which relate to coastal works. The actual adverse variance within this area is £2.054m, however £0.5m of additional pressure was allocated to Neighbourhoods as a one off budget adjustment in 2022/23. This has been used to mitigate the position in part this year.
- £0.635m relates to energy pressures due to inflationary increases.
- £0.202m of this relates to ongoing holding costs for Woodchurch Leisure Centre
- £0.380m relates to ongoing holding costs for Libraries whilst the Community Asset Transfer process is finalised.
- £0.178m relates to costs for the Tennis Centre whilst the site was refurbished
- £0.256m relates to additional maintenance costs
- £0.386m relates to additional employee costs
- £0.082m relates to other smaller adverse variances within the remaining areas,

5.10 Overall footfall is approximately 75% of 2019/20 levels which has adversely impacted income generation. This level of reduced recovery rate is consistent with national averages. At the start of the year, it was expected that income would not fully recover to pre pandemic levels and as such a £0.5m income contingency budget was set aside. This has been used to mitigate the overall position within Floral Pavilion.

5.11 The service has faced pressures associated with energy price increases and a rise in general costs due to increasing inflation. In a response to mitigate and improve footfall, the following initiatives were implemented in 2022/23:

- The reviewed all expenditure with a view to reducing or stopping non-urgent expenditure to mitigate the risk of further lost income. Costs relating to supplies and premises have been reviewed and areas where efficiencies can be achieved have been identified. To seek to compensate for these challenges, the service is looking to further maximise income generation and the identification of new opportunities as follows:
- Memberships & Income – A drive on usage and memberships including bespoke offers at appropriate sites such as the new Europa Gym, and the introduction of offers for targeted groups.
- Golf – Two council eighteen-hole golf courses are currently not in use (Hoylake and Brackenwood) and two leisure courses are also not in use at Kings Parade (Foot golf and Chip and Put). Together with price and membership remodelling, this has seen the anticipated transition of players to our two remaining sites at Arrowe Park (predominantly) and the Warrens – successfully reducing costs while increasing income.
- Introduction of activities aimed at children and young people such as holiday camps and pool-based inflatables at selected sites to improve income generation. This increased income generation at Guinea Gap during Quarter 2 and 3, which has significantly contributed to the improved position.
- A new marketing campaign was launched in the final month of Quarter 2 to promote the service and the new “Active Wirral” brand, which demonstrates attractive rates and benefits compared to competitor offers.

- Additional income has been generated which is aligned to corporate outcomes to improve health and wellbeing, this includes funding from NHS / Social Care / third sector partner organisations.
- Work is still underway to introduce pool covers at pool sites to improve energy conservation.
- Working with national sporting governing bodies such as the Football Association and Lawn Tennis Association to identify and introduce delivery models that generate income and reduce cost for example the new 3G pitch builds / new operating model for tennis at Wirral Tennis & Sports Centre, and the introduction of wider offers for children and young people through soft play and interactive activity. Capital work is currently underway at Wirral Tennis & Sports Centre. However, the impact of this on income generation will not be reflected until next financial year when the work is finalised.

- 5.12 Floral Pavilion is reporting an adverse position of £1.551m after the mitigation of £0.5m. £0.149m relates to the Sail Loft, as income has been impacted by coastal works and cost of living pressures and the remainder relates to projected income shortfalls within the Theatre. This is due non achievement of some savings and income targets within this area. There were no further issues with the other catering sites in 2022/23. The Directorate has taken action to mitigate the costs through reducing staffing expenditure and reviewing expenditure against non-essential items to ensure the budget can still be balanced.
- 5.13 **Parks & Environment:** An adverse variance of £0.966m is reported for 2022/23. £0.381m relates to the nationally agreed pay award.
- 5.14 Waste and Environment is reporting an adverse variance of £0.409m. £0.965m is due to overall increases in the borough wide waste collection and disposal costs, which is linked to rises in inflation and the Consumer Price Index (CPI) rate and £0.048m is due to the cost of leaf fall. The adverse variances are mitigated in part through other favourable variances within Waste and Environment and a reduction in contribution to reserves relating to the Waste Levy of £0.600m.
- 5.15 Parks and Tree Management is reporting an adverse variance of £0.479m. £0.356m of this relates to Tree Management due to increased demand and clean-up operations following Storm Arwen which has cost the Council an additional £0.250m. The remaining adverse variance relates to Parks. This is due to inflationary increases and changes to specifications following a review of the contract. This is mitigated in part through utilising the remaining reserve relating to this area. The adverse variance has reduced from Quarter 2 due to a review of planned preventative maintenance and non-essential expenditure. The service will aim to mitigate the remaining adverse variance within Parks through maximising income generating opportunities within Cemeteries within the final Quarter and through favourable variances relating to Regulatory Services.
- 5.16 Regulatory Services is reporting a favourable variance of £0.317m. This is due to employees, as the service has faced challenges in recruiting and retaining staff due to current market demand. To address this the service has appointed apprentices in Quarter 2 who will be trained in these roles and fill the skills gaps. Some employee costs are funded through COVID-19 grants as they completed work on the outgoing COVID-19 response which has resulted in a favourable variance in 2022/23.

Budget Virements

5.17 There have been no budget virements requiring committee approval in quarter 4.

6. Regeneration & Place

6.1 As at the end of March 2023 (Quarter 4), the year-end position for Regeneration & Place is a favourable position of £0.094m on a budget of £37.775m. This compares to a £0.013m favourable position as at Quarter 3.

TABLE 9: 2022/23 Regeneration and Place – Service Budget & Outturn

	Budget	Outturn	Variance		Adverse/ Favourable
			(+ Fav / - Adv)		
	£000	£000	£000	%	
Regeneration	24,614	25,371	-757	-3%	Adverse
Housing	6,540	5,757	783	12%	Favourable
Asset Management & Investment	5,033	5,031	2	0%	Favourable
Planning	1,074	1,008	66	6%	Favourable
Special Projects	114	114	0	0%	
Local Plan	400	400	0	0%	
Directorate Surplus / (Deficit)	37,775	37,681	94	0%	Favourable

6.2 **Regeneration:** An adverse variance of £0.757m is reported for 2022/23. This includes capitalisation of staff who are supporting the delivery of assets of £1.0m, with £0.3m delivered within Housing capitalisation (for a total £1.3m delivered against a savings target of 1.4m). Use of agency in delivering the regeneration programme has increased costs by £0.6m (which has been significantly reduced for 23-24). This is partially offset by £0.1m favourable position on the Levy budget (which has formed a part of the 23-24 savings).

6.3 **Housing:** A favourable variance of £0.783m is reported for 2022/23. This includes grant awards being allocated which have been able to offset pressures and temporarily fund some council services. As per 6.2, capitalisation of housing staff also delivered £0.3m.

6.4 **Asset Management & Investment:** A favourable variance of £0.02m is reported for 2022/23. Income pressures of over £0.7m exist across the rental accommodation within Birkenhead, with income being at 50% of budgeted income targets, principally at Europa House (£0.3m) and Birkenhead Market (£0.3m). These are partially offset with reduced spend on unoccupied buildings, with reduced maintenance and running costs (£0.5m). Holding costs for assets awaiting Community Asset Transfer (£0.1m) recently transferred from Neighbourhoods have been offset by one-off backdated rate relief (£0.2m) on some listed building assets and the write-back of a no longer needed provision (£0.08m) relating to a now settled penalty fee.

Budget Virements

6.5 There have been one budget virements since Quarter 3, of £0.087m from Resources relating to the transfer of the Concierge Service to Assets.

7. Resources

7.1 As at the end of March 2023 (Quarter 4), the outturn position for Resources is a favourable variance of £0.790m against a budget of £44.813m.

TABLE 10: 2022/23 Resources– Service Budget & Outturn

	Budget	Outturn	Variance		Adverse/ Favourable
			(+ Fav / - Adv)		
	£000	£000	£000	%	
Finance & Investment	23,133	22,063	1,070	5%	Favourable
HR & OD and Payroll	3,788	3,114	674	18%	Favourable
Digital & Improvement	7,466	9,739	-2,273	-30%	Adverse
Revenues & Benefits	2,215	2,374	-159	-7%	Adverse
Audit, Risk & Business Continuity	537	545	-8	-1%	Adverse
Strategic Change	7,674	6,188	1,486	19%	Favourable
Directorate Surplus / (Deficit)	44,813	44,023	790	2%	Favourable

- 7.2 **Finance & Investment:** A favourable variance of £1.070m is reported for 2022/23. There was an underspend on net Treasury activities of £0.126 million, which is attributable to lower debt management costs and an increase in investment returns. Reserves were used to offset some of the pressures from the Expected Credit Losses (ECL) and the resilience budget was released to contribute towards the overall council position.
- 7.3 **HR & OD:** A favourable variance of £0.674m is reported for 2022/23. This is due to a temporary non-recruitment of posts in adherence of the vacancy freeze and in anticipation of recurrent staffing savings in 2023/24.
- 7.4 **Digital & Improvement:** An adverse variance of £2.273m is reported for 2022/23. . This is an ongoing pressure resulting from loss of income from schools choosing to procure IT services with external suppliers. Printing Services are consistently unable to achieve their income target as the volume of printing reduces due to continued use of digital solutions. Both areas are subject to an ongoing review which will result in options for the services coming forward in 2023/24.
- 7.5 **Revenues & Benefits:** An adverse outturn variance of £0.159m is reported. There is a shortfall in Housing Benefit subsidy received from central government in respect of local housing allowance. This is countrywide phenomenon and not a Wirral specific issue. This relates to Supported Accommodation and is partially mitigated through Housing Benefits Overpayments.
- 7.6 **Strategic Change:** A favourable outturn variance of £1.486m is reported for 2022/23. This is due to the pause and reset of the Strategic Change Portfolio to ensure focus on priority areas that only achieve beneficial outcomes from 2023/24.

Budget Virements

7.7 There have been no budget virements requiring committee approval in quarter 4.

Appendix 2 - Delivery of the 2022/23 saving programme.

Saving Proposal	Approved Saving	Delivered	Delivered through mitigation	Delayed/unachieved in year	Comment
Adults Care & Health					
Adult Care & Health demand mitigations	£3.890m	£3.890m	£0.000m	£0.000m	Adult Care and Health have worked closely with both NHS Wirral Community Health and Care Foundation Trust (WCHFT) and Cheshire and Wirral NHS Partnership Trust (CWP) to achieve savings targets set each year. Regular meetings occurred throughout the year to discuss their approach and progress. All savings achieved have been validated and are reflected within the outturn.
Total Adult Care & Health	£3.890m	£3.890m	£0.000m	£0.000m	

Saving Proposal	Approved Saving	Delivered	Delivered through mitigation	Delayed/ unachieved in year	Comment
Chief Executive Office					
Service Redesign	£0.110m	£0.060m	£0.050m	£0.000m	Savings have been identified through deletion of vacant post and reduction marketing budget. Mitigation to be achieved as some employees have been seconded to work on the COVID-19 response and funded through Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF).
Total Chief Exec Office	£0.110m	£0.060m	£0.050m	£0.000m	

Saving Proposal	Approved Saving	Delivered	Delivered through mitigation	Delayed/unachieved in year	Comment
Children Families & Education					
Reduction of Historic Teacher's Pensions Costs	£0.200m	£0.200m	£0.000m	£0.000m	Saving is fully achieved. This historic commitment reduces year on year as the cohort ages budget has been reduced accordingly.
Alternative Accommodation Provision for Children Looked After	£1.000m	£0.900m	£0.000m	£0.100m	Two projects were previously forecast to come on-stream towards the end of the financial year are now expected to be completed in the new financial year. Reserve funding has been utilised to mitigate the delay.
Utilisation of demand reserve for COVID pressures	£0.467m	£0.467m	£0.000m	£0.000m	Saving is fully achieved. Reserve has been drawdown and utilised.
Children's Services Redesign and posts deletion/closure	£0.294m	£0.294m	£0.000m	£0.000m	Saving is achieved.Redesign has been completed and posts deleted.

Saving Proposal	Approved Saving	Delivered	Delivered through mitigation	Delayed/ unachieved in year	Comment
Reduction in adoption orders	£0.050m	£0.000m	£0.050m	£0.000m	Approved saving has been delayed but will be achieved 2023-24. The savings was to be found by a reduction in Wirral's Adoption in Merseyside (AIM) budget allocation due to falling numbers of adoption placements, as a historic backlog has been cleared. Whilst some of this has come through in 2022/23, the full impact is expected to occur in 23/24. An update from in-year monitoring is that an underspend is reported for the Service Level Agreement (unrelated to placements). This will mitigate / offset the impact of the budgetary saving not being implemented as originally planned. The savings are expected to be delivered by underspend in AIM during the year and Wirral's contribution to AIM budget being reduced in 23/24.
Reduction in Looked After Children (LAC) numbers	£0.564m	£0.564m	£0.000m	£0.000m	Saving is achieved. Headline rate of LAC has fallen.
Review of Youth Offending Service (YOS)	£0.025m	£0.025m	£0.000m	£0.000m	Saving is fully achieved. Service has been redesigned and saving achieved.

Saving Proposal	Approved Saving	Delivered	Delivered through mitigation	Delayed/ unachieved in year	Comment
Special Educational Needs (SEND) Transport Review	£0.150m	£0.050m	£0.000m	£0.100m	Working with families and young people is continuing to reconfigure services.
Increase funding for placements from CCG and SEND	£0.200m	£0.100m	£0.000m	£0.100m	There are ongoing discussions for funding from Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) and health partners. Wirral has been successful in bidding for capital funding for valuing care residential which is included in the accommodation strategy savings. We expect Health contribution towards the funding of the unit. A more detailed focus on individual placements is also increasing funding where appropriate. Funding is now actively explored on all new placements. With joint funding 50% contribution agreed for a recent high cost placement.
Redesign of Youth Offer	£0.200m	£0.200m	£0.000m	£0.000m	Saving is fully achieved. Youth redesign is implemented.
Total Children Families & Education	£3.150m	£2.800m	£0.050m	£0.300m	

Saving Proposal	Approved Saving	Delivered	Delivered through mitigation	Delayed/unachieved in year	Comment
Law and Governance					
Capitalisation of salaries	£0.200m	£0.200m	£0.000m	£0.000m	Saving is fully achieved.
Removal of individual ward member budgets	£0.184m	£0.184m	£0.000m	£0.000m	Saving is fully achieved.
Reduction in the Number of Committees	£0.150m	£0.150m	£0.000m	£0.000m	Saving is fully achieved.
Whole Council Elections	£0.125m	£0.125m	£0.000m	£0.000m	Saving is fully achieved. Budget has been removed with a contribution to reserve each year to smooth the effective of the four yearly elections and any by-elections.
Total Law & Governance	£0.659m	£0.659m	£0.000m	£0.000m	

Saving Proposal	Approved Saving	Delivered	Delivered through mitigation	Delayed/unachieved in year	Comment
Neighbourhood Services					
Highways Operational Services - Income Exploration	£0.030m	£0.000m	£0.030m	£0.000m	This saving was not achieved due to income shortfalls within Highways arising from increases in supply chain costs. This saving was mitigated through identification of additional costs that could be capitalised.
Closure of Europa Fun/Leisure Pool & Enhanced Gym Offer	£0.266m	£0.266m	£0.000m	£0.000m	Fun Pool has remained closed since March 2020, therefore this saving is expected to be fully achieved. A new staffing structure was put in place last financial year to reflect the reduced costs associated with running a gym in place of the fun pool.
Catering Pod at Leasowe Leisure Centre for Football Traffic	£0.021m	£0.015m	£0.000m	£0.006m	Catering pod has been purchased and located at Leasowe. Trading commenced mid September to coincide with the football season when income generation opportunities are greatest. Since commencing trading, £0.015m of income has been achieved in 2022/23. However this was only implemented mid year and income should be fully achieved in line with the saving in future years.

Saving Proposal	Approved Saving	Delivered	Delivered through mitigation	Delayed/unachieved in year	Comment
Fleet efficiencies in Transport - going green	£0.020m	£0.000m	£0.020m	£0.000m	This saving will be achieved through a review and replacement of some fleet vehicles with newer models which are more efficient. There is a risk associated with this saving due to increased inflation impacting fuel bills. Mitigation was achieved through opportunities that have arisen since April 2022 in relation to a review of the transport fleet and income generation.
Capitalisation of Highways salaries	£0.015m	£0.015m	£0.000m	£0.000m	Saving achieved. Full year costs of £0.015m have been identified which relate to employees currently working on capital projects.
Highways maintenance Contracts	£0.025m	£0.025m	£0.000m	£0.000m	Savings have been achieved. Maintenance spend has been reduced this year as expenditure was only incurred for essential works.

Saving Proposal	Approved Saving	Delivered	Delivered through mitigation	Delayed/unachieved in year	Comment
Street Lighting Service Savings	£0.050m	£0.050m	£0.000m	£0.000m	Saving achieved.
Car park maintenance 1 year budget reduction	£0.050m	£0.050m	£0.000m	£0.000m	Saving achieved.
Eco and Forest School Income	£0.020m	£0.000m	£0.020m	£0.000m	Income generation plans were finalised during 2022/23. To date no income has been achieved but it is expected that this will be achieved from 2023/24 onwards. Mitigation has been achieved through a current vacancy within the Forest Schools service area of Parks.
Tree management Team Commercial Offer	£0.025m	£0.000m	£0.025m	£0.000m	Due to the unforeseen departure of the Tree Manager, delays have been encountered to progress the saving meaning the service had to put temporary cover in to complete this project. £5K of income has been generated this year. It is expected that the full saving will be achieved from 2023/24 onwards. Mitigation will be achieved through a vacant Tree Manager post whilst work continues to generate the income associated with this saving.
Rent of Café - Royden	£0.010m	£0.010m	£0.000m	£0.000m	The site has been operational from August 2022 and this saving has been fully achieved in 2022/23.

Saving Proposal	Approved Saving	Delivered	Delivered through mitigation	Delayed/ unachieved in year	Comment
Income increase on allotments	£0.050m	£0.050m	£0.000m	£0.000m	Saving is fully achieved.
Increase in charges for Waste and Environmental services.	£0.462m	£0.462m	£0.000m	£0.000m	Saving is fully achieved.
Removal of Vacancies in Environmental and Waste team	£0.100m	£0.100m	£0.000m	£0.000m	Saving is fully achieved.
Suspension of Climate Emergency Initiatives	£0.125m	£0.125m	£0.000m	£0.000m	Saving is fully achieved.
Remodelling of Street Cleansing: Plus special events	£0.214m	£0.214m	£0.000m	£0.000m	Saving is fully achieved.
Review of overtime budget in Parks	£0.015m	£0.015m	£0.000m	£0.000m	Saving is fully achieved.
Reduce grass cutting from 10 to 8 cuts	£0.100m	£0.100m	£0.000m	£0.000m	Saving is fully achieved.
Cease community firework displays	£0.030m	£0.030m	£0.000m	£0.000m	Saving is fully achieved.

Saving Proposal	Approved Saving	Delivered	Delivered through mitigation	Delayed/ unachieved in year	Comment
Income Strategy - Cemeteries and crematorium service	£0.053m	£0.053m	£0.000m	£0.000m	Saving is fully achieved.
Fund ASB Post from PCC grant	£0.050m	£0.050m	£0.000m	£0.000m	Saving is fully achieved.
Review Engagement Officer secondment	£0.035m	£0.035m	£0.000m	£0.000m	Saving is fully achieved.
Introduce Overnight Camper Van Parking Charge in New Brighton	£0.035m	£0.001m	£0.000m	£0.034m	The option went live on 8th July. An Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO) allows for comments to be received during the first 6 months and amendments to be made if required. Income to date is £600, no penalties have been issued to campervans parking in contravention as compliance has been achieved.
Deletion of Vacant Posts	£0.302m	£0.302m	£0.000m	£0.000m	Saving is fully achieved.
Reduction in budget for office related expenditure	£0.023m	£0.023m	£0.000m	£0.000m	Saving is fully achieved.

Saving Proposal	Approved Saving	Delivered	Delivered through mitigation	Delayed/ unachieved in year	Comment
Review of Leisure service	£0.178m	£0.130m	£0.048m	£0.000m	This has been fully achieved from EVR/VS requests within the service.
Increase catering across all Leisure Sites	£0.060m	£0.000m	£0.000m	£0.060m	This saving has not been achieved this year, as catering income across leisure has only achieved £35K against an existing income target of £104K.
Outdoor Water Sports Offer at West Kirby Marine Lake	£0.015m	£0.000m	£0.000m	£0.015m	This saving has not been achieved this year, as income generated by West Kirby Marine Lake is only £0.162m against a target of £0.266m

Saving Proposal	Approved Saving	Delivered	Delivered through mitigation	Delayed/unachieved in year	Comment
Temporary Closure and Remodelling of Bidston Tennis Centre	£0.114m	£0.000m	£0.000m	£0.114m	The tennis centre closed for refurbishment works from April 2022. However ongoing costs were incurred through premises costs, some of these have been recovered through charges to the LTA & Elections for occupying the site. Additional costs of £0.178m will need to be recovered through the contingency fund
Review of Golf Offer	£0.328m	£0.328m	£0.000m	£0.000m	Prices have been increased from April 2022 and sites linked to this saving have closed. Savings have been achieved through deleting posts relating to employees who have now left the Authority and through additional income from the revised price offer. Approximately £0.100m additional income has been achieved due to retention rates with customers transferring to Arrowe Park and Warrens.
Exercise referral programme	£0.100m	£0.013m	£0.000m	£0.087m	Only £0.013m of additional exercise on referral income has been achieved this year. This shortfall is due to the discontinuation of grants announced in Q1 of 2022/23

Saving Proposal	Approved Saving	Delivered	Delivered through mitigation	Delayed/unachieved in year	Comment
Floral pavilion - plans to reduce subsidy	£0.350m	£0.000m	£0.000m	£0.350m	This saving has not been achieved this year due to shortfalls in income generation because of cost of living pressures & delays in implementing new business models. There is a legacy saving of £0.5m within the Floral pavilion budget that was left in its accounts following the unsuccessful attempt to outsource the venue in 2018/19. The Theatre has continuously struggled to mitigate the effect of this saving being left in the budget. Income wise, the Theatre had a record breaking pantomime year and is continuing with a third party options appraisal to identify opportunities to redevelop the non-profitable areas of the site, in particular the conferencing centre as part of the New Brighton Masterplan.
Transport efficiencies	£0.070m	£0.040m	£0.030m	£0.000m	Savings to date have been achieved through mitigation as employees associated with this saving are still in post.

Saving Proposal	Approved Saving	Delivered	Delivered through mitigation	Delayed/unachieved in year	Comment
Reduction in Community Patrol Service	£0.150m	£0.100m	£0.050m	£0.000m	Savings were delayed due to lead in pressures due to employees working notice periods. This saving will be fully achieved this year through mitigation and funding from Reserves.
Cessation of Constituency Team and Remodelling of Section	£0.346m	£0.300m	£0.046m	£0.000m	The restructure of this area is now complete and employees have moved to new roles from Q2 onwards. Due to these delays, mitigation is being achieved through the Community Safety Grant
Review of Neighbourhoods Service Directorate	£0.360m	£0.110m	£0.250m	£0.000m	Savings were delayed due to lead in pressures due to employees working notice periods. This saving will be fully achieved this year through mitigation.

Saving Proposal	Approved Saving	Delivered	Delivered through mitigation	Delayed/unachieved in year	Comment
Permanent Closure and Demolition of Woodchurch Leisure Centre	£0.402m	£0.200m	£0.000m	£0.202m	Only £0.200m of this saving was achieved this year, leaving a shortfall of £0.202m. The adverse variance against Woodchurch for 2022/23 is £0.202m, which is in line with what was projected. This was due to holding costs whilst the CAT process was completed and was projected at the beginning of the year. The shortfall is mitigated from contingency this year.
Reprovision of the Library Service	£0.652m	£0.272m	£0.000m	£0.380m	Only £0.272m of this saving was expected to be achieved from Nov-Mar whilst the CAT process was completed. The remaining £0.380m of this relates to costs from April to October whilst the libraries were still operational. The actual adverse variance against Libraries for the year was £0.372m, which will be mitigated from Contingency this year.
Total Neighbourhood Services	£5.251m	£3.484m	£0.519m	£1.248m	

Saving Proposal	Approved Saving	Delivered	Delivered through mitigation	Delayed/unachieved in year	Comment
Regeneration & Place					
Cease support for Community Alarms	£0.200m	£0.200m	£0.000m	£0.000m	Saving is fully achieved.
Reconfiguration of Commissioned Homelessness accommodation	£0.115m	£0.115m	£0.000m	£0.000m	Saving is fully achieved.
The Closure Public Conveniences	£0.050m	£0.050m	£0.000m	£0.000m	Saving is fully achieved.
Corporate buildings - holding costs	£0.050m	£0.050m	£0.000m	£0.000m	Saving is fully achieved.
Capitalisation of Regeneration Staff Salaries	£1.423m	£1.300m	£0.123m	£0.000m	91% of saving achieved. Remaining saving mitigated through vacancies and within overall funding package for Regeneration (which includes use of reserves)
Total Regeneration & Place	£1.838m	£1.715m	£0.123m	£0.000m	

Saving Proposal	Approved Saving	Delivered	Delivered through mitigation	Delayed/unachieved in year	Comment
Resources					
To reduce heating in occupied council buildings by 2 degrees	£0.113m	£0.113m	£0.000m	£0.000m	Saving is fully achieved.
One Stop Shop establishment review	£0.099m	£0.099m	£0.000m	£0.000m	Saving is fully achieved.
Review of Treasury activity	£0.500m	£0.500m	£0.000m	£0.000m	Saving is fully achieved.
Revenues & Benefits Review and Restructure	£0.750m	£0.750m	£0.000m	£0.000m	Saving is fully achieved.
Strategic Change revenue budget reduction	£0.650m	£0.650m	£0.000m	£0.000m	Saving is fully achieved.

2010

Saving Proposal	Approved Saving	Delivered	Delivered through mitigation	Delayed/ unachieved in year	Comment
Restructure of Commercial Income Team	£0.230m	£0.230m	£0.000m	£0.000m	Saving is fully achieved.
Review of Finance Team Structure	£0.050m	£0.050m	£0.000m	£0.000m	Saving is fully achieved.
Cease Business Rates Contribution	£0.696m	£0.696m	£0.000m	£0.000m	Saving is fully achieved.
Modernisation of Information & Communications Technology Service	£0.050m	£0.050m	£0.000m	£0.000m	Saving is fully achieved.

Saving Proposal	Approved Saving	Delivered	Delivered through mitigation	Delayed/ unachieved in year	Comment
Review of Business Support Unit	£0.020m	£0.020m	£0.000m	£0.000m	Saving is fully achieved.
Review of Internal Audit - Efficiencies and Income	£0.080m	£0.080m	£0.000m	£0.000m	Saving is fully achieved.
Reduction in Learning & Development Budget	£0.100m	£0.100m	£0.000m	£0.000m	Saving is fully achieved.
Total Resources	£3.338m	£3.338m	£0.000m	£0.000m	

Appendix 3 - Earmarked Reserves 2022/23

Adult Care and Public Health

Reserve	Opening Balance £000	Use of Reserve £000	Contribution to Reserve £000	Closing Balance £000
Adult Social Care – Safeguarding	106	-98	38	46
Public Health Ringfenced Grant	6,594		318	6,912
Champs Innovation Fund	352	-283	0	69
Champs Covid-19 Contact Tracing Hub	433	-229	0	204
Better Care Fund	236	-236	0	0
Implementation of Charging Reform	0	0	98	98
Total	7,721	-846	454	7,329

Children, Families and Education

Reserve	Opening Balance £000	Use of Reserve £000	Contribution to Reserve £000	Closing Balance £000
Intensive Family Intervention Project	505	-100	0	405
School Improvement -	1,094	-237	0	857
Schools Causing Concern	500	0	0	500
SEND OFSTED Inspection Improvement Action Plan	1,051	-171	0	880
Children’s Centre – Outdoor Play	92	0	0	92
Help for Young People	36	-10	0	26
Looked After Children Education Services	211	-100	0	111
Local Safeguarding Children’s Board	23	0	0	23
SEND - High Needs	248	-138	0	110
YOS - Remand & Mobile Youth Centre	157	-36	0	121
Early Help & Play Development	123	-6	0	117
DRIVE Safelives & Domestic Abuse Hub	50	0	0	50
Children’s Transformation	32	-32	0	0
Children IT data system	127	0	0	127
Mersey & Cheshire ICS Pilot	20	0	0	20
Care Leaver Accommodation Development	358	-155	0	203
Wirral Apprentice Programme	53	-34	0	19
Looked after Children Placement Reserve	470	-470	0	0
Total	5,150	-1,489	0	3,661

Law and Governance

Reserve	Opening Balance £000	Use of Reserve £000	Contribution to Reserve £000	Closing Balance £000
Licensing Reserve	60	-60	0	0
Taxi, Marriage & Scrap Metal Licences	145	-25	0	120
Electoral Reserve	150	0	0	150
Total	355	-85	0	270

Neighbourhoods

Reserve	Opening Balance £000	Use of Reserve £000	Contribution to Reserve £000	Closing Balance £000
Community Safety Initiatives	195	-152	0	43
Health & Safety Flood Prevention	455	-455	0	0
Parks Tree Maintenance	187	-187	0	0
Environmental Health	300	-260	0	40
Climate Emergency	100	-100	0	0
Les Mills Classes	89	-35	0	54
Litter Enforcement - development of initiatives	49	-49	0	0
Weed Spraying : Mitigate against additional costs	41	-41	0	0
Birkenhead Park World Heritage Site Lottery Bid	40	-40	0	0
Coastal Protection	35	0	0	35
Sports Development Reserve	22	0	0	22
Environmental Health F.S.A. Backlog	28	-28	0	0
Trading Standards	25	0	0	25
Hilbre Island - Legacy	21	0	0	21
Health & Safety Armed Forces Welfare Pathway	14	0	0	14
BikeSafe	10	-2	0	8
Repairs & Maintenance upgrades on Public Conveniences	8	0	0	8
LAMPS to Concerto system replacement	2	-2	0	0
Library Donations	1	0	0	1
Storeton Quarry	30	0	0	30
Total	1,652	-1,351	0	301

Regeneration and Place

Reserve	Opening Balance £000	Use of Reserve £000	Contribution to Reserve £000	Closing Balance £000
Selective Licensing	1,354	-34	113	1,433
Wirral Ways to Work	496	0	129	625
Regeneration and Inward Investment	1,423	-38	0	1,385
Urban Development Corporation Bid	410	-333	0	77
Building Control Fee Earning	468	-61	13	420
HMO Licence Fees	164	0	0	164
Major Infrastructure Project Development	183	-121	0	62
Property Repairs rental income	276	0	0	276
DCLG Empty Shops Grant	41	0	0	41
ERDF 4.2 Match Funding	18	0	0	18
Europa Centre Dilapidations	83	-83	0	0
A/M GMT – Community Fund CAT	76	-76	0	0
Licence Survey Work	56	-56	0	0
Emergency Maintenance and Work in Default	206	68	0	274
Heritage Fund	12	-12	0	0
Resettlement Programme Grant	992	0	794	1,786
Supporting People Programme	141	-141	0	0
Homelessness	180	-14	0	166
Domestic Abuse Bill Grant	602	0	0	602
Economic Growth	342	0	0	342
Birkenhead Future High Street funding	57	-10	0	47
Wirral Growth Company Profit	0	0	8455	8,455
Total	7,580	-911	9,504	16,173

Resources

Reserve	Opening Balance £000	Use of Reserve £000	Contribution to Reserve £000	Closing Balance £000
Commercial Management	205	0	0	205
Discretionary Housing Payments	185	0	280	465
HR/OD Talent Management	50	0	0	50
HR Reserve – Schools	41	0	0	41
Transformation Challenge Award	4	-4	0	0
Asset Consolidation Staff Relocation Contingency	111	-30	0	81
ICT Records Management	288	-29	0	259
Business Rates Equalisation Reserve (100%) rates retention pilot)	7,000	0	0	7,000
Enterprise Zone Contingency Fund	29	0	0	29
Financial Resilience Reserve	887	-787	0	100
Financial Instrument Equalisation Reserve	2,123	-2,065	0	58
Year 2 of EVR/VS Termination Payments	1,883	-323	0	1,560
Social Care Fund	3,340	-1,840	0	1,500
Digital Transformation	1,566	0	0	1,566
Treasury Management Equalisation	0	0	360	360
Community Asset Transfer Support Fund	0	0	178	178
Total	17,712	-5,078	818	13,452

Other Corporate

Reserve	Opening Balance £000	Use of Reserve £000	Contribution to Reserve £000	Closing Balance £000
Covid-19	14,062	-13,724	0	338
Insurance Fund	9,772	-2,450	1,680	9,002
NNDR3 S31 grants	11,794	-11,794	0	0
Enterprise Zone Investment	610	-345	74	339
Local Council Tax Support Grant	3,943	-1,517	0	2,426
Local Income Tax Guarantee	272	-272	0	0
Freeport Zone Investment	0	0	3	3
Covid Additional Relief Fund	0	0	4,334	4,334
Schools Capital	256	0	430	686
Schools Balances	16,307	-3,939	1,149	13,517
Total	57,016	-34,041	7,670	30,645

GRAND TOTAL (excluding DSG)	97,186	-43,801	18,446	71,831
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Notes on Reserves adjustments:

1. Champs Innovation Fund: Opening balance previously reported as £3,163k. Following audit of accounts, opening balance revised to £352k with remainder reclassified as a creditor.
2. Champs Covid-19 Contact Tracing Hub: Opening balance previously reported as £3,894k. Following audit of accounts, opening balance revised to £433k, with remainder reclassified as a creditor.
3. Project ADDER (Addiction, Diversion, Disruption, Enforcement, Recovery): Opening balance previously reported as £872k. Following audit of accounts, opening balance revised to £0; reclassified as a creditor.
4. Community Safety Initiatives: Opening balance previously reported as £801k. Following audit of accounts, opening balance revised to £195k, with remainder reclassified as a creditor.

Notes on New Reserves:

1. **Wirral Growth Company Profit:** This reserve holds £8.455m of accrued profits from Wirral Growth Company LLP for the period to 31/03/23.
2. **Covid Additional Relief Fund:** The Covid Additional Relief Fund was provided by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to enable Local Authorities to apply relief to Business Rates bills of those businesses who met locally defined criteria but had not benefitted from any of the previous Covid support funding for businesses. The relief was applied to business rates bills during 2022/23 but this money is held in reserve to offset the timing difference of impact of the resulting Collection Fund deficit on the General Fund impact in 2023/24.
3. **Treasury Management Equalisation:** This has been created to offset potentially higher interest costs in the future, and to mitigate fluctuations in investment values in some of the Treasury investment portfolio.
4. **Community Asset Transfer Support Fund:** £0.178m has been transferred to reserve to support community organisations to ensure they can be sustainable during the first year of taking over former Council assets, and to fund holding costs of assets to be transferred in 2023/24.
5. **Schools Capital:** £0.430m of ringfenced schools' money is held in reserve on behalf of two schools to disaggregate from school revenue balances money they have earmarked to fund capital expenditure on a new roof and a classroom expenditure.

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MINUTE EXTRACT

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 14 June 2023

6 **2022-23 BUDGET MONITORING FOR QUARTER FOUR (THE PERIOD TO 31 MAR) 2022-23 OUTTURN**

The Director of Finance introduced the report which provided a summary of the year-end revenue position for the 2022/23 financial year as at the end of March 2023. The report provided Members with an overview of budget performance to enable the Committee to take ownership of the budgets and provide robust challenge and scrutiny to Officers on the performance of those budgets. The year-end revenue outturn for 2022/23, represented an adverse variance against directorate revenue budgets of £11.970m, which was a small £0.392m improvement on the quarter 3 forecast.

It was clarified that there were £8.5m of profits from the Wirral Growth Company, and that legal advice was being sought as to how the funding needed to be treated, such as being earmarked for regeneration, capital receipts or general revenue reserves. It was further reported that the Capital Programme report considered by the Committee in February 2023 suggested that it be used for Birkenhead Market if approved, but that those reserves were not committed, and further technical advice was needed before any decision could be made.

Further information was sought on the timescale for the decision on how the funding could be allocated and members were advised that it would be as soon as the technical advice had been attained. The profit from the Wirral Growth Company was listed in the reserves for Regeneration and Place and it was queried whether this indicated that it was to be used for that purpose. The Director of Finance clarified that it was listed in Regeneration and Place as a placeholder as it had not yet been allocated within a budget whilst advice was sought, and in any case it would be reported back to Policy & Resources Committee for approval of allocation.

On a motion moved by Councillor Jo Bird, seconded by Councillor Paul Stuart, it was –

Resolved – That

- (1) the draft, unaudited 2022/23 outturn adverse variance of £11.970m be noted.**
- (2) the draft unaudited 2022/23 funding adverse variance of £1.078m be noted.**
- (3) Council be recommended to agree the transfer to and use of earmarked reserves, as detailed in Appendix 3.**

- (4) the progress on delivery of the 2022/23 savings programme be noted.**
- (5) Wirral Growth Company Profit be moved from Regeneration and Place reserves to Resources reserves.**

AUDIT AND RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 1 March 2023

Present: Councillor S Mountney (Chair)

Councillors S Kelly T Cox
Jason Walsh S Powell-Wilde
A Davies

48 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Chair opened the meeting and reminded everyone that the meeting was being webcast and a copy was retained on the Council's website.

49 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Independent Member Joanne Byrne.

50 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were asked to consider whether they had any disclosable pecuniary interests and/or any other relevant interest in connection with any item(s) on this agenda and, if so, to declare them and state what they were.

Councillor Sue Powell-Wilde declared a personal interest in Item 9 ((Minute 56) 2021/22 Statement of Accounts for Wirral Council Merseyside Pension Fund and Annual Governance Statement) as she was a member of the Merseyside Pension Fund.

51 MINUTES

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 17 January 2023, be approved.

52 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

One question had been received from Mr Graham Lowsby concerning the 'Hoylake Golf Resort', and whether the Chair believed that the outcome of the Internal Audit investigation fully answered the motion as it was proposed.

The Chair responded that the Chief Internal Auditor was briefed to investigate the governance and financial arrangements associated with the 'Hoylake Golf Resort' with an emphasis on the timeline, governance and decision making provided throughout the initiative. The investigation was completed fully in

accordance with this brief which was concerned about the process followed rather than the merit of the decision.

Mr Lowsby asked as a supplementary question whether the investigation indicated that there were any lessons learnt.

The Chair replied that a written answer would be provided.

53 **STATEMENTS AND PETITIONS**

There were no statements or petitions.

54 **QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS**

There were no questions from Members.

55 **INTERNAL AUDIT UPDATE REPORT**

The Chief Internal Auditor presented his report which identified and evaluated the performance of the Internal Audit Service and included details of any issues arising from the actual work undertaken during the period 10 January to 13 February 2023. Of particular note was the ongoing work to support the development of control of the new finance system Oracle Fusion so that data was transferred in a secure way.

Members questioned the scheduling of school audits and were informed that the rolling programme developed a risk score which set priorities and all schools were covered within a four-year period.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

56 **CORPORATE RISK MANAGEMENT UPDATE**

The Continuity & Compliance Manager presented the report of the Director of Finance which provided an update on activity related to the Corporate and Directorate Risk Registers and the Council's risk management arrangements. It was noted that the Directorate Business Plan production was underway and Risk Management Workshops were taking place.

Members discussed the details on particular risks and requested detail at future workshops of the detail below the risk scores.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

57 **WHISTLEBLOWING ANNUAL UPDATE**

The Principal Lawyer: Litigation & Governance presented the report of the Director of Law and Governance which was an annual report required by the Council's Whistleblowing Policy. The report summarised the number / nature of the concerns raised under the Whistleblowing Policy, details of the service(s) to which the concerns relate, and the steps being taken to investigate the concerns further, and any relevant matters or issues that had arisen in connection with the Whistleblowing Policy. It was noted that there was a minimum number of complaints and they were related to two areas. They had been investigated.

Members questioned the methods available for reporting concerns.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

58 **2021/22 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR WIRRAL COUNCIL, MERSEYSIDE PENSION FUND AND ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT**

The Senior Finance Manager presented the report of the Director of Finance which brought the final Accounts and the Audit Findings Reports of both Wirral Council and Merseyside Pension Fund as required by the Council's Constitution. The report also presented the Annual Governance Statement for consideration and approval by the Committee. It was reported that the audit was substantially complete besides the Value for Money section which was expected in June 2023.

A representative from the external auditors Grant Thornton discussed the Council accounts audit with Members and informed them that they expected to give an unmodified audit report from the draft presented in October 2022.

Resolved: That

- (1) the changes to the draft Accounts, and the External Audit Findings Reports for Wirral Council and Merseyside Pension Fund be noted.**
- (2) the final Accounts (Council and Merseyside Pension Fund) be approved as presenting a true and fair view of the Council's and Merseyside Pension Fund's income and expenditure for the year and its overall financial position.**
- (3) the Annual Governance Statement 2021/22 be approved.**
- (4) the Letters of Representation for Wirral Council and Merseyside Pension Fund be approved.**

ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Monday, 6 March 2023

Present: Councillor Y Nolan (Chair)

Councillors A Davies S Mountney
C Davies C O'Hagan
T Elzeiny A Onwuemene
P Gilchrist Jason Walsh
M Jordan

83 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair welcomed attendees and viewers to the meeting and reminded everyone that the meeting was webcast and retained on the Council's website for two years. The Chair thanked officers for their hard work and contribution over the year. The Vice Chair echoed the sentiments and also extended thanks to the Chair for her hard work.

84 APOLOGIES

No apologies for absence were received

85 MEMBER DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were asked to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests and any other relevant interest and to state the nature of the interest. The following declarations were made:

Councillor Mary Jordan	Personal interest by virtue of her employment in the NHS, and her involvement as a trustee for 'Incubabies'.
Councillor Chris Davies	Personal Interest by Virtue of his role as a governor of Wirral University Teaching Hospital Foundation Trust
Councillor Angela Davies	Pecuniary interest by virtue of her employment with Cheshire and Wirral Partnership for items 6,7 and 20 and left the meeting during consideration of these items
Councillor Tracy Elzeiny	Personal interest by virtue of her employment in the NHS.

Councillor Yvonne Nolan	Personal interest by virtue of her role as a governor of Clatterbridge Cancer Centre and Cheshire and Wirral Partnership.
Councillor Clare O'Hagan	Personal interest by virtue of her employment in the NHS.
Councillor Ivan Camphor	Personal interest by virtue of being a General Practitioner at Heatherlands Medical Centre, Medical Secretary for Mid-Mersey Medical Committee and a GP representative for Cheshire Mid-Mersey and his involvement as trustee for 'incubabies'.
Councillor Mary Jordan	Personal interest by virtue of her employment in the NHS and trustee of 'incubabies'
Councillor Jason Walsh	Personal interest by virtur of a family members employment in the NHS

86 **MINUTES**

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 31 January 2023 be approved.

87 **PUBLIC AND MEMBER QUESTIONS**

A question was received from Mark Sutton on behalf of shared lives. The question asked, as the shared lives model was returning back into council ownership, could the committee clarify how they came to the decision on only offering a 5% uplift in pay when the current rate of inflation is over 10% which has been granted to the rest of the carer sector on Wirral.

The chair responded to say that the Council had proposed a 5% uplift on the placement rate in line with other specialist service offers and were moving to a banded funding model agreed at committee in June 2022. Where Shared Lives carers are currently offered individual support hours these will increase to Real Living Wage level £10.90 per hour, so an increase of 10.1%.

88 **NATIONAL SUBSTANCE MISUSE GRANT FUNDING UPDATE**

The Director of Public Health presented the report which updated Members on the progress in the delivery of three grant allocations from central Government to tackle drug-related harms as part of the National Drug Strategy (2021).

These are:

- The ADDER (Addiction, Diversion, Disruption, Enforcement and Recovery) Programme
- Inpatient Detox funding
- The Individual Placement Support (IPS) programme (an employment support programme).

This report also briefed Members on the continuation of the Inpatient Detox, and IPS programmes and confirmed funding allocations for 2023/24, and the replacement of the ADDER grant with the Supplementary Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery grant (SSMTR) for 2023/24 and 2024/25.

In addition, under the National Drugs Strategy local areas have been mandated to establish Combatting Drugs Partnerships to oversee and co-ordinate local delivery of the national strategy. The report updated committee on the successful establishment of the Wirral Combatting Drugs Partnership and provided an update on the work underway to produce a drug strategy for Wirral, which will shape future work to reduce drug-related harm.

Members noted the work being done in Wirral to reduce drug harm, and queried partnership work in the Community, especially in Primary Care as well as support offered to younger teenagers. Members were informed that the service provider, Wirral Way to Recovery have clinics in 8 General Practices as well as having coverage in all primary care networks in Wirral. Regarding children and young people there is a response service available, and officers were working with colleagues in Children and Young Peoples service to expand and strengthen this offer.

Also queried was the level of mental health treatment offered and it was confirmed that more focus had been given on those with mental health needs.

Resolved – That

1. the Supplementary Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery (SSMTR) grant funding of £2,267,750 for 2023/24 from the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) be accepted and the proposed delivery plan for this funding be approved.

2. the proposed utilisation of the 2023/24 Inpatient Detoxification (IPD) grant of £111,364 be approved.

3. the continuation of the Individual Placement Support Grant of £145,800 in 2023/24 and £151,632 in 2024/25 be approved.

4. the Director of Law and Governance be authorised to finalise the legal documentation arising from the acceptance of the grant funding referred to in recommendations 1 to 3.

89 **SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES COMMISSION**

The Director of Public Health presented the report which sought agreement to progress the commissioning intentions for Sexual and Reproductive Health Services in Wirral.

Wirral Council is legally obliged to provide, and make arrangements for the provision of, open access to Sexual and Reproductive Health Services.

Commissioning arrangements expired at the end of the financial year 2023/24. Good sexual and reproductive health is an important component of overall health and wellbeing, and a pillar of wider work to reduce health inequalities in Wirral.

Members queried waiting times and noted that a next day consultation service would be helpful. Also observed was the importance of being able to access a non-judgemental service.

Resolved – That

1. the Director of Public Health be authorised to commence the re-commissioning of the Sexual and Reproductive Health Services for an initial period of five years (1st April 2024 – 31st March 2029) with the option of two one-year extensions. The expenditure for the services will be no more than £20,300,000 (£2,900,000 per annum) over the seven-year term.

2. the Director of Public Health be delegated to formalise the agreement with the successful party/ies following the commissioning process

90 **CARERS SERVICES AND CARERS STRATEGY**

Members received an update on the Wirral Adults Carers Strategy. A report had previously been submitted in July 2022, in which approval was granted to co-produce a new Wirral Adult Carers Strategy and establish a Carers Partnership Board, which will oversee the development of Carers Strategy.

The Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee had requested that the renewal of the Wirral Adults Carers Strategy be co-produced and were confident that the final Wirral Adult Carers Strategy provides a good starting point from the co-production events. The Carers Partnership Board will update the strategy as it is developed further and undertake an annual review of progress.

The 2021 Census information on unpaid Carers was expected to be released in January 2023 and it is important to include some of the local data before finalising the Strategy. Although only partial data had been released so far,

the data on the age, gender, geographical location etc. would be included in future refreshed versions once released. Members were informed that the Wirral Adult Carers Strategy was ready for consultation with key stakeholders.

Councillors raised concerns about unidentified carers in Wirral, including access to training and benefits advice – as well as GPs being aware of patients who are acting as carers. It was noted that the communications for this should be robust, especially around support services and respite services. Also discussed were frailty and social prescribing services.

Committee also queried how many carers attended the co-production events and asked officers if the strategy could be written in a way that addresses carers directly. Officers commented that the board, once established would include carers champions.

Resolved – That the final Wirral Adult Carers Strategy 2023-2026 be approved, recognising there will be continuous development with stakeholders, to be overseen by the Carers Partnership Board.

91 **OUTCOME OF ANNUAL RATES AND FEES ENGAGEMENT EXERCISE**

This report provided Members with the outcome of the annual engagement exercise with the Local Community Care Market for fee rates paid to care providers for 2023/2024.

The service areas that the rates and fees cover are Residential and Nursing care, Supported Living, Extra Care, Care and Support at home, Direct Payments, Shared Lives and Specialist residential placements. The report also took in to account the National Fair Cost of Care Market sustainability exercise which requires the Council to undertake a cost of care exercise with its community care market. The result of the exercise has been shared with the Department of Health and Social care. Members were informed that the fair cost of care in subsequent years will be determined by the level of funding received each year.

Resolved – That the rates as set out in sections 4.2, 4.3 and 4.4 of this report be approved and applied, with effect from 1 April 2023, to services commissioned by Wirral Council and jointly commissioned services between Wirral Council and NHS Cheshire and Mersey Integrated Care Board (Wirral Place), in relation to Residential and Nursing Care, Supported Living, Extra Care, Care and Support at Home, Direct Payments and Shared Lives.

92 **WIRRAL ADULT SOCIAL CARE QUALITY AND SUSPENSION POLICY**

Further to a report brought to Committee in November 2022, a draft Quality and Suspension Policy had been prepared for Commissioning, Contracts and Quality Monitoring of Providers for agreement by Committee.

The Policy identified how Wirral Council ensured its compliance with its duty under the Care Act 2014 to commission care services of a good quality. In that, those services which do not have a good quality rating from either the Care Quality Commission (CQC) or from the Councils Independent Quality Assessment - Provider Assessment and Market Management Solutions (PAMMS), will be suspended and have restrictions on new referrals for placements from Wirral Council, until such time that they have a good quality rating or show an improving direction towards a good rating. As there were often capacity issues in the market, especially in the right place to meet carer needs, Providers that Require Improvement (RI) Care Quality Commission (CQC) rated services would need to be commissioned to allow for people to receive the type of care that they require. However, this was to be ordered on a case-by-case basis, and with close contractual and social care monitoring of the new placement. In addition, the Policy identified that Wirral Council will publish the details of any provider that is suspended to new placements. This is seen as an important factor in providing quality information to people and their families before making a decision regarding placing their relative in a home.

Members gave their approval of the suspension policy, and the move to a system that was more transparent. In regard to the ratings issue, and the possibility that ratings may be available to the public. Members were informed that the recommendation gave officers the ability to take action. It was noted that providers went through a legal process with the CQC in terms of their ratings.

Resolved – That the principles set out in the Draft Quality and Suspension Policy (Appendix 1) covering Commissioning, Contracting and Quality Monitoring of Providers be agreed, the suspension of those Providers/Services without a good quality rating be supported, and the Director of Care and Health be authorised to agree the final version of the Policy.

93 **SOCIAL CARE SERVICES TRANSFER PROGRESS REPORT**

The Assistant Director for Care and Health presented the report which updated Members on a report brought to committee on 11 January 2023 regarding social care services currently delivered by Wirral Community Health and Care NHS Foundation Trust (WCHCFT).

Members were presented with an update regarding arrangements required after the Council had made an offer of a short-term extension to the arrangements and included subsequent correspondence from WCHCFT.

Members were updated of the transfer progress so far, including a robust programme of work. The transfer date identified as the earliest possible date is 1st July. The appendix of the report set out the workstreams. The staff consultation was undertaken by the Community Trust and once the staff list for transfer was confirmed, consolation would commence. The transfer will be under Transfer of Undertakings (protection of Employment) (TUPE). Areas of focus were I.T kit, as well as estate requirements as staff were co-located. Both of these areas were flagged as complex areas of work. Comprehensive communications plans are supplemented by single point contacts. The themes are collated and questions and answers and sent out to staff for information. There was still outstanding confirmation required regarding pensions, but costs for this has been factored in.

Members queried the costings of the project, as well as the challenges of undertaking the transfer with shorter time scales than originally requested. Concerns were raised that patient's welfare should not be adversely affected and sought assurances that the transfer would not compromise this.

On a motion by Councillor Nolan, seconded by Councillor Davies it was -

Resolved (9:2) – That

- 1. the planned arrangements for the service transfer and the project plans as detailed within the report and its appendices be endorsed.**
- 2. the Director of Care and Health be authorised to make the necessary arrangements for the transfer.**

94 **SOCIAL CARE CHARGING POLICY REVIEW**

This report provided information regarding the Social Care Policy Review. Members were informed that the Council had a current Adult Social Care charging and financial assessment policy which came into effect on 1 April 2015.

It covered charging information for both residential care and non-residential care. This report set out the result of an officer review of the provisions of the current policy. Further to the review, it was proposed that Adult Social Care should operate with two key charging policies.

The current policy was split in two and strengthened to include more information which allows for a clear and transparent approach to charging, the two key policies drafted are:

- Residential Charging Policy – Appendix 1
- Community Services Charging Policy (previously referred to as Non-Residential) – Appendix 2

The adoption by the Council of a revision to current policy is recommended. Both charging policies will be subject to public consultation, therefore this was an in-principal decision, pending feedback from the consultation process. The new policies do not fundamentally change existing policy, they do however provide significantly more detail to enable people to make decisions regarding charging. Examples were provided to help make the policy more understandable to people that contribute towards their social care costs. The new policy did not directly impact current charging arrangements.

Members noted the complexity of the charging policy and requested that any future documents be presented in an accessible, readable format.

Resolved – that

1. the draft charging policies, as set out in Appendix 1 and 2 of the report be approved and the Director of Care and Health be authorised to undertake public consultation on both policies.

2. the Director of Care and Health be authorised, in consultation with the Chair and Spokespersons to finalise both policies following receipt of any feedback from the public consultation.

95 **ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND PUBLIC HEALTH 2022/23 REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING FOR QUARTER 3**

The director of Care and Health presented the report which set out the financial monitoring information for the Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee as at Quarter 3 (1 Apr – 31 Dec) 2022/23.

The report provided Members with an overview of budget performance for this area of activity, including progress on the delivery of the 2022/23 saving programme and a summary of reserves which enabled the Committee to take ownership of the budgets and provide robust challenge and scrutiny to Officers on the performance of those budgets.

Managing a budget requires difficult decisions to ensure that a balanced position could be presented. Regular Member engagement, which this report formed part of, was considered essential to deliver effective governance and

financial oversight. At the end of Quarter 3, there is a forecast adverse position of £0.603m on the Committees net revenue budget of £114.962m with mitigations to balance the budget at year end. This position was based on activity to date, projected trends in income and expenditure and potential mitigation to offset areas of adverse variance.

Table 1 set out areas under pressure, with activity data in section 3 showing that there had been a significant increase in demand for services for residential and nursing services and a shortfall in domiciliary care provision and a growth in extra care housing.

Resolved – that the report be noted.

96 **ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND PUBLIC HEALTH PERFORMANCE REPORT**

The Assistant Director of Care and Health presented the report, which provided Members with a performance update, further to input from Members regarding the design and content and covered the Quarter 3 period of October-December 2022.

Members were informed that overall, people accessing services had increased to 8,664 which was reflected by pressure in the system. Care Home placements were noted as higher at 1,856, which had been a consistent feature over the past 6-12 months. Domiciliary care was highlighted, with a light increase month on month. It was noted that this was a challenging part of the sector. Careers in domiciliary care were being promoted. Another area of note was Assistive technology, with the total number of people accessing these services increasing to 4,405 people.

Queries were raised regarding bed occupancy, which was at 89% and if there was any correlation between length of hospital stays, especially over 21 days. It was confirmed that whilst there are some patients who stay in hospital awaiting care packages, intermediate care beds are expected to be at high occupancy at all times.

Members requested that 'good news stories' be considered to make domiciliary care a desirable career. Also discussed was the 'no criteria to reside' classification as well pressure on services including patients waiting in Hospital for care services. A query was also raised regarding the response time for Home First.

Resolved – that the report be noted.

97 **REABLEMENT SERVICE DESIGN MODEL – PROGRESS UPDATE**

The Assistant Director of All Age Independence presented the report of the Director of Care and Health.

The report provided Members with a progress update on the engagement and planned design of an in-house Reablement Service Model, working collaboratively with Wirral Community Health and Care (WCHC) NHS Foundation Trust, in line with the Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee on 11 October 2022 resolution relating to this matter.

The review focused on gaining a greater understanding of how individuals were supported through the reablement system, generating greater understanding of the evidence relating to what works best and meets people's expectations. This report described the in-house Reablement Service Design Model in three phases:

- Scoping Phase - This provided an overview of the scope of work and guiding principles to frame the model.
- Engagement and Planning Phase – This provided an overview of the key stakeholders identified, engaged with, and planned, providing valuable insight to enable greater alignment of services to improve outcomes for people accessing or in need of reablement.
- Service Modelling Phase – This will provide the in-house Reablement Service Design Model, based on robust data analysis, financial modelling, assumptions, risks, constraints, and interdependencies that added value to a person's experience.

Members were asked to note the update and advised that they would receive a final report in June.

Resolved – that the report be noted.

98 **ADULT SOCIAL CARE – ANNUAL COMPLAINTS REPORT 2021/2022**

The Assistant Director for All Age Independence presented the report of the Director of Care and Health. Members were informed that it was a statutory requirement for the Council to produce an Annual Report about complaints made by, or on behalf of people who receive support or services from Adult Social Care.

The Annual Report also provided a mechanism by which the Council can monitor the quality and effectiveness of our services. The report provided an overview and analysis of all complaints received during the reporting period 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022 including:

- Numbers of complaints received.
- Key themes identified.
- Responding to complaints (including performance data against statutory requirements).
- Overview of complaints escalated to the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman.
- Learning from complaints.

Members were informed that three themes had been identified in 2021/22 and these were, standards of care delivered by commissioned providers, financial and charging concerns and Social Work concerns. 89% of these complaints were resolved at local complaints resolution stage and the response time had slightly increased from 62 to 64 days due to the complexity of investigations. 64% of complaints were either partially or fully upheld, which is similar to previous years. Based on recommendations by committee, a list of 41 learning points had been recorded.

Members noted that the number of complains had reduced over the past few years and queried what work is being done to respond to complaints in a timely manner. Also queried was the number of ombudsman complaints upheld, and the themes found within these complaints.

Resolved – that the report be noted.

99 **ALL AGE DISABILITY SERVICE REVIEW – PROGRESS UPDATE**

The Assistant Director for All Age Independence presented the report of the Director of Care and Health, which provided Committee with a progress update on the All-Age Disability Services review that was presented to the Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee on 14 June 2022.

The aim was to conduct a comprehensive review of all age learning disability and/or autism support. The review focussed on gaining a greater understanding of how individuals are supported through the system across their life course.

The report described the All-Age Disability Services review in three phases: -

- Scoping Phase - This provides an overview of the scope of work and guiding principles to frame the review.
- Initiation, Planning and Engagement Phase – This provides an overview of the key stakeholders identified, engaged with, and planned, all providing valuable insight to enable greater alignment of services to improve outcomes

throughout the life course journey of a person that best meet their needs and aspirations.

- Implementation Phase – This provides an overview of the work to co-produce a plan which details the outcomes of the review, provides a set of recommendations and actions for improved outcomes for people with a disability that is likely to lead to a reduction in demand and contribute to the efficiency target set of £1M.

Members were informed that the final plan would be brought to committee in June and requested that a joint workshop be held in April 2023 to assist officers with the implementation plan. A spotlight was shone on the engagement plan and highlighted the need for early information and informed decision making for service users. It was noted that the use of technology for younger people can be empowering and give reassurance to parents and carers. An example was provided of a service user not being presented with the option of college when they left school.

Resolved – that the report be noted.

100 **WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE**

The Head of Legal Services presented the work programme update report which in co-operation with the other Policy and Service Committees, was responsible for proposing and delivering the annual committee work programme. The work programme aligns with the corporate priorities of the Council, in particular the delivery of the key decisions which are within the remit of the Committee.

Members requested briefings be circulated to Members regarding Children's drug services and under 18 Mental Health.

Resolved – that the Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee work programme for the remainder of the 2022/23 municipal year be noted.

101 **EXEMPT INFORMATION - EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Resolved – That, under section 100 (A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business on the grounds it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined by paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A (as amended) to that Act. The Public Interest test has been applied and favours exclusion

102 **EXEMPT APPENDIX 3 - NATIONAL SUBSTANCE MISUSE GRANT FUNDING**

Resolved – That the exempt appendix be noted.

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CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 7 March 2023

Present: Councillor K Hodson (Chair)

Councillors H Collinson D Kenny
C Cooke S Powell-Wilde
C Carubia V Wilson
C Povall A Wright
S Bennett H Gorman (for E
Gleaves)

64 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting as well as those watching the webcast.

65 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Emily Gleaves.

66 MEMBERS CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Members were asked to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests and any other relevant interest and to state the nature of the interest.

Councillor Sue Powell-Wilde declared a personal interest as a foster carer.

67 MINUTES

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 24 January 2023 be approved as a correct record.

68 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The Chair informed the committee that no public questions had been received.

69 STATEMENTS AND PETITIONS

Mr Jon White delivered a statement on behalf of Inclusion 2024.

70 **MEMBER'S QUESTIONS**

The Chair informed the Committee that no questions from Members had been received.

71 **2022/23 BUDGET MONITORING FOR QUARTER THREE (THE PERIOD TO 31 DEC 2022)**

The Senior Finance Business Partner presented the report of the Director of Children, Families and Education. The report set out the financial monitoring information for the Children, Families and Education Committee as at quarter 3 (31 December) of 2022/23. The report provided Members with an overview of budget performance, including progress on the delivery of the 2022-23 saving programme and a summary of reserves to enable the Committee to take ownership of the budgets and provide robust challenge and scrutiny to Officers on the performance of those budgets.

It was outlined that the forecast outturn position for Children, Families and Education at the end of December 2022 (Quarter 3) was an adverse variance of £3.116m against a budget of £79.234m,

There had been significant movements since the last report for quarter 2, largely due to the continued trend of increasing numbers of children in care, after a period of reducing numbers, particularly in young people placed in high-cost residential settings and more recently into independent fostering. Previously reported costs of £1.1m from the employers proposed pay award, over and above the original 3% built into the 2022-23 budget and SEND Assisted Travel contract, demand and inflation pressures remained. Some mitigations had been taken to reduce the full impact of these adverse variances. The proposed reduction in national insurance contributions from November 2022 had been factored in, along with additional grant and income for the Early Help Service and use of specific reserves. The outturn position reflected delivery of most of the 2022/23 saving proposals.

Resolved – That:

- 1. the forecast revenue position presented at Quarter 3 be noted.**
- 2. the progress on delivery of the 2022-23 savings programme at Quarter 3 be noted.**
- 3. the forecast level of reserves at Quarter 3 be noted.**
- 4. the forecast capital position presented at Quarter 3 be noted.**

72 **QUARTER 3 PERFORMANCE REPORT AND FINANCIAL MONITORING**

The Head of Operations (Interim) presented the report of the Director for Children, Families and Education. The report provided the latest performance information for Children's Services. Where available, national, regional and statistical neighbour benchmarking data had been included in the report for comparison. The Performance Report (Appendix A) had been structured around eight indicator groups and the data contained in the report related to Quarter 3 of the 2022/23 financial year.

Members sought further information on a number of performance issues detailed within the report including criteria for missing children, persistent absences, health assessments and dental checks, social workers leaving the borough and the level of casework they had. Members were assured that robust systems had been put in place to track missing children and that the challenge of dealing with persistent absences was being worked on. A lot of work had taken place regarding initial health assessments with the assessments team and with health partners and IT issues had been identified and resolutions had been found. Members were also assured that work had been undertaken to improve the attendance of children at dental appointments. Officers noted that there had been a real issue with workforce retention for both Adult and Children's social care nationally. Work was ongoing with the Department for Education and officers from Wirral were staying involved with as much of this work.

Resolved – That the content of the Performance Report attached in Appendix A be noted.

73 **SEND TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME UPDATE**

The Interim Deputy Director for Children's Services introduced the report of the Director of Children, Families and Education. The report updated Members on the progress of the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Transformation Programme. The report noted that in September 2022, the SEND Service implemented a refreshed Education Health and Care (EHC) Needs Assessment to Annual Review process, which included revised decision-making processes, increased capacity within the team, a new model for working with parent carers and families, and more rigorous performance oversight. Throughout quarter 3 (September to December 2022) the SEND Service had focused on improving service compliance, communication, and quality.

Members queried the assessment process, and alternative providers for Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs), officers noted that the assessment process can be initiated by services, parents or the young person. They noted that a very small number did not require a plan after being assessed. Officers clarified that it was a statutory requirement for Local

Authorities to carry out EHCPs and that schools could not bring in their own providers.

Members asked about numbers of children that had been placed in the last year and how many had disagreed with their placement. Officers noted that 267 children had been placed with 86% getting their preferred choice.

Clarification was sought over the term 'Assistant Educational Psychologist' and Members were informed that they would be trainee Educational Psychologists. It was noted that there was a pattern of trainees remaining with the organisation that they trained with and that it was hoped that this would be the case for these roles.

Resolved – That:

- 1. The Committee having reviewed and scrutinised the report, the progress made to date on the actions in the Wirral Statement of Action be noted; and**
- 2. A further monitoring report be received at a future date.**

74 **CHILDRENS PARTNERSHIP ACCOMMODATION PROGRAMME UPDATE REPORT**

The Assistant Director of Children and Families presented the report of the Director of Children, Families and Education. The report provided an update on the Children Partnership Accommodation Programme which had been established in August 2020 with the vision to “improve the local offer and availability of options of high quality provision that meets the need of children looked after”. The report noted that four projects sat within the programme, with the Director of Children, Families and Education as Senior Responsible Officer. These projects aimed to encourage resilience in the supply of placements locally. Officers across the Council from social care, commissioning, legal, procurement, finance, housing, assets, regeneration had made significant progress over the past 12 –18 months leading to a mixed model of enhancing provision locally.

Members congratulated officers on the work undertaken to date.

Resolved – That:

- 1. The contents of the report be noted; and**
- 2. The Director of Children, Families and Education be requested to bring an update report to the Committee on the progress of the Programme in 12 months.**

75 REVIEW OF POST 16 PROVISION

The 14-19 Strategy Head of Service presented the report of the Director of Children, Families and Education. The report informed Members of the complex post 16 education and learning landscape across Wirral.

Wirral young people making the transition at age 16 into further education and training had several options and pathways including school sixth form, further education (including study programme provision) and Apprenticeships. Post 16 opportunities were accessible in borough however, young people could choose to travel to learn in a neighbouring local authority or beyond.

Young people's post 16 participation rates in the Borough were currently at or above subregional and regional averages. Challenges currently exist with recognised apprenticeship participation where the position was one of building back following the national pandemic and structural national changes to the apprenticeship model of delivery.

The quality of locally delivered post 16 education delivered by Wirral based further education college's, school sixth forms and independent providers was in the main rated good or outstanding by Ofsted. Wirral had one school sixth form provision inspected as requires improvement.

Levels of attainment for Wirral young people at the age of 19 were comparable to national rates, with improvements made in the past 3 years for young people from Wirral's most deprived communities. The inequality attainment gap was at or below national averages.

Members queried if there was an increasing need for apprenticeships due to the various regeneration projects across Wirral. They were informed that there were a high number of apprentices coming through Wirral Met College.

Members asked if the figures for post 16 education included information on young people with special educational needs and disabilities. They were informed that there was further data available which would be shared with Members.

Members expressed concerns over T-Levels and what they meant to employers as qualifications. The 14-19 Strategy Head of Service stated that it was still early in their use but that they were becoming more recognised. He noted that it was a challenge to get young people to commit to a specific industry early on. He noted that a T-Level was equivalent to three A-Levels.

Resolved – That:

- 1. The report be noted.**

2. The services' plan to review the sufficiency of post 16 education options based on continued demographic growth for the next 4 to 5 years be given the support of the committee.

76 **PROGRESS ON CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER AND CARE LEAVERS STRATEGY 2022-2025**

The Permanence Service Head of Service presented the report of the Director of Children, Families and Education. The report provided Members with an overview of progress made to deliver the priorities as set out in the Children Looked After and Care Leavers Strategy, as agreed on 10th March 2022. The Strategy set out a vision to “ensure children looked after and care leavers are valued listened to and supported to be aspirational and achieve their full potential” and four key priorities to children looked after and care leavers. These priorities were:

1. Emotional and physical health and wellbeing – making sure you are happy and healthy all the way through your childhood and into adulthood.
2. Independence and transition to adulthood – Focussing on helping you learn ‘life skills’ from an early age and getting everything in place so you can be supported if you need it after you turn 18
3. Positive Lived Experiences – Making sure there are enough of the right people to look after you in suitable homes whether this is a short or long stay/time.
4. Education and Employment – Ensuring that you do well and have the right support in school and have the right opportunities to access employment.

Underpinning each priority would be the fundamental principle to listen to the ‘voice of the child and young people’.

The report highlighted progress which had been made since the report was approved in March 2022 and the role of the Corporate Parenting Board in oversight and monitoring of the priorities.

Resolved – That the progress made to date be endorsed by the committee.

77 **JOINT TARGETED AREA INSPECTION INTO CHILDREN AND FAMILIES WHO NEED HELP**

The Director of Children, Families and Education presented her report. The report summarised the findings of the joint targeted area inspection (JTAI) of the multiagency response to children and families who need help. The inspection took place from 12 to 16 December 2022. It was carried out by inspectors from Ofsted, the Care Quality Commission (CQC) and His

Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS).

The findings letter of the inspection, published on 16 February 2023 was included under Appendix A of the report.

Members noted that those present at a verbal summary of the report by the investigator had heard positive feedback and felt the investigator had been pleased with Wirral's progress. They felt that it made a significant difference for Members to see how much progress had been made over the past few years.

Members debated how best to get information to parents on the services available.

Resolved – That the contents of the report be noted.

78 **THE PROVISION OF FOOD AND ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN IN SCHOOL HOLIDAYS DURING THE COVID 19 PANDEMIC AND BEYOND - WORKING GROUP FINDINGS REPORT**

The Head of Legal Services introduced the report of the Director of Children, Families and Education. The report noted that during the COVID 19 pandemic, the committee had agreed that a working group be established on the recommendation of the Policy and Resources Committee, who had agreed a proposal for a project co-ordinated on behalf of the Council by local charity Neo Community, working in partnership with schools and local community based feeding groups and organisations, to provide food and activities to children eligible for Free School Meals over the school holidays. This built upon learning from the operation of the Edsential Holiday Activity Fund over the summer, providing for adaptation of a successful model of delivery.

A recommendation arising from the December 2020 report, was that the committee establish a Working Group with key partners to explore options in relation to supporting children with free school meals in the medium to longer term. This report provided the final recommendations of the Working Group.

The Head of Legal Services noted that the report had been published with an incorrect recommendation and that recommendation three should read:

“the working group be dissolved and ongoing work of the HAF programme be reported to members on a regular basis.”

Members agreed this amended wording.

Resolved – That:

- 1. The work as reported to the Holiday Activity Fund working group undertaken by Edsential and Wirral Council be acknowledged and supported;**
- 2. The work undertaken to include children who are not entitled to free school meals and the long term planning to continue with this be noted and supported; and**
- 3. the working group be dissolved and ongoing work of the HAF programme be reported to members on a regular basis.**

79 **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Head of Legal Services introduced the report of the Director of Law and Governance which provided the Committee with an opportunity to plan and review its work across the municipal year.

Resolved – That the work programme be noted.

ECONOMY REGENERATION & HOUSING COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 8 March 2023

Present:

Councillor T Jones (Chair)

Councillors	P Martin	A Hodson
	G Wood	I Lewis
	G Davies	L Rennie
	J Robinson	J Grier
	D Burgess-Joyce	D Mitchell

54 **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

The Chair opened the meeting and reminded everyone that the meeting was being webcast and a copy is retained on the Council's website for two years.

55 **APOLOGIES**

No apologies for absence were received.

56 **MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members were asked to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests and any other relevant interest and to state the nature of the interest.

No such declarations were made.

57 **MINUTES**

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 26 January 2023 be approved as a correct record.

58 **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

The Chair indicated that 9 questions had been received.

Sue Percy asked if the Council had a requirement for a volumetric assessment of water needs as part of the submission process for planning applications for new developments. The Chair stated that an answer would be given in writing within 10 working days of the meeting.

Peter Milner asked a question relating to the proposed Active Travel Scheme on Birkenhead Road in Seacombe, he stated that there was already a cycle

lane in place and that it was not heavily used. He felt that by removing parking spaces on the road, it would have an adverse effect on older and less physically able customers of the Soccer Dome business. He queried why the proposal was deemed necessary.

In response, the Chair explained that the current cycle path was not compliant with current design guidance, and that the promenade route was a leisure route and not suitable for year round use as it was not lit. He also noted that the proposed route would provide a key link between Birkenhead, Wallasey and New Brighton that would encourage less car use to key destinations. By way of a supplementary question Peter Milner suggested other sites that would be more suitable for a cycle path and queried why the money for this scheme could not be used on additional cycle paths elsewhere. The Chair stated that he would ask officers to respond in writing.

Piara Miah asked a question relating to the site at 92 Grange Road in Birkenhead and queried how the Council would ensure that any new delivery partners would work collaboratively with the Council to give priority to local jobs, supply chains and with housing offered to those that need it the most.

The Chair responded that the procurement process used required all prospective developers to complete a statement on Social Value. This included local labour recruitment and local supply chain opportunities. He noted that the Draft Birkenhead 2040 Framework set out the potential for over 9,500 new homes over the next 15 years. Prospective developers were required to demonstrate how their proposed housing would contribute to meeting local housing needs.

As a follow-up question, Piara Miah asked how many jobs had been created from this project. The Chair stated that a written answer would be provided.

Frank Brennan asked a question related to the proposed Active Travel Scheme on Birkenhead Road in Seacombe. He was concerned that the proposal would threaten employment opportunities in the vicinity and increase congestion. He queried how the scheme met with the Wirral Local Plan objectives.

The Chair explained that good active travel infrastructure encourages people to move from driving to cycling. He noted again that the current cycle path was not to current standards. There would be no change to the road layout itself so there would be the same capacity for motor vehicles.

Mr Brennan asked a supplemental question querying what consideration had been given to the loss of employment opportunities that the scheme would cause. The Chair stated that a further response would be provided to Mr Brennan in writing.

Becky Biddulph asked a question related to the proposed Active Travel Scheme on Birkenhead Road in Seacombe. She asked what consideration the Council had given to the vulnerable users of the Soccer Dome business on Birkenhead Road and stated that the number of car parking spaces that would be removed due to the scheme would be 24 and not 9.5 as claimed by officers.

The Chair explained that currently there was 354 metres of available parking space on Birkenhead Road and that under the proposed scheme, this would be reduced to 297 metres with a loss of 57 metres, this equated to 9.5 car parking spaces based on a 6 metre average vehicle parking length. He noted that there was free and unrestricted parking available on various streets in the immediate vicinity. He indicated that the Council would be happy to explore the possibility of providing disabled parking bays outside the Soccer Dome and stated that Disabled Badge holders could park on double yellow lines for up to 3 hours where safe to do so and that patrons who wished to load/unload could do so on double yellow lines where it was safe to do so.

Becky Biddulph asked a supplementary question regarding whether being asked to park further away was safe for customers with large groups of children, especially during the winter with dark evenings. The Chair stated that he would ask officer to respond to her in writing.

Sarah Christmas asked a question related to the proposed Active Travel Scheme on Birkenhead Road in Seacombe. She stated she ran a physiotherapy and massage business from the Soccer Dome and asked what consideration had been given to her patients with mobility issues being able to easily access her treatment room.

The Chair responded that the Council would be happy to explore installing disabled parking bays outside of the Soccer Dome and noted that Disabled Badge holders can park on single or double lines for up to 3 hours where it is safe to do so.

As part of her supplemental question, Sarah Christmas noted that most of her patients were not registered as disabled but injured through sport. The Chair noted that he would ask officers to respond in writing.

Alister Brace submitted a question related to the proposed Active Travel Scheme on Birkenhead Road in Seacombe. Mr Brace was not in attendance and his question was read out by the Lead Principal Lawyer. In the written question Mr Brace asked how the proposed scheme supported the Council's ambitions to offer Brighter Futures, an Inclusive Economy and encourage Active and Healthy Lives as described in the Wirral Plan.

The Chair responded that sustainable travel was at the heart of the Birkenhead 2040 framework. He noted that Seacombe had one of the lowest

car ownership levels in Wirral and therefore provision of safe active travel routes was essential. He noted the physical benefits of active travel compared to journeys by car.

Nicola Porter asked a question related to the proposed Active Travel Scheme on Birkenhead Road in Seacombe. She wished to know how the scheme would benefit her and her children if she could not park close by to the Soccer Dome.

The Chair responded that there were a number of roads near to the Soccer Dome with free and unrestricted parking available. He also noted that as part of the scheme, all existing street lighting would be reviewed and repaired where necessary.

Graham Owen asked a question related to the proposed Active Travel Scheme on Birkenhead Road in Seacombe. He wished to know how the expense of the scheme could be justified while the Council was looking to save money elsewhere.

The Chair responded that the funding for this scheme had been made available by the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority via the Department for Housing and Levelling Up and the European Regional Development Fund. He noted that this funding could only be used for active travel projects and could not be spent on other matters.

As part of a supplementary response, Graham Owen stated that he felt the Council were putting this scheme before the wellbeing and mental health of those that use the Soccer Dome, he asked why this was being done. The Chair responded that he would ask officers to respond in writing.

59 STATEMENTS AND PETITIONS

Statements:

Simon O'Brien, the Liverpool City Region Cycling & Walking Commissioner, delivered a statement supporting the proposed Active Travel Scheme on Birkenhead Road in Seacombe.

A statement from Chris Hargreaves of Peel L&P supporting the proposed Active Travel Scheme on Birkenhead Road in Seacombe was read out by the Lead Principal Lawyer.

A statement from Cllr Paul Stuart expressing concerns regarding the proposed Active Travel Scheme on Birkenhead Road in Seacombe was read out by the Lead Principal Lawyer.

Petitions:

Frank Brennan presented a petition of 733 signatures to the committee which stated that it opposed the proposal to upgrade the existing cycle track along the east side of Birkenhead due to the loss of parking bays along the road.

The Chair thanked Mr Brennan for his petition.

Ben Furfie presented a petition of 455 signatures to the committee which gave support to the proposals to upgrade the cycle path on Birkenhead Road, arguing that the scheme represents a brighter vision for the future of Wirral.

The Chair thanked Mr Furfie for his petition.

60 **QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS**

Cllr Ian Lewis asked a question regarding a motion to relocate the Birkenhead Kennels from the site on Corporation Road that was approved by Council in October 2019. He asked for an update the progress made so far.

The Chair responded that officers had been engaging with the Kennels during the past 12 months and that discussions were ongoing regarding the Master Plan proposals. Efforts would continue to find a suitable alternative site for them.

61 **SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT WORK PACKAGE 7: BIRKENHEAD ROAD - PROPOSED ACTIVE TRAVEL SCHEME**

The Lead Commissioner for Strategic Transport and Technology introduced the report of the Director of Regeneration and Place which considered the objections and expressions of support received regarding the proposed active travel scheme on Birkenhead Road in the Seacombe ward. The report noted that the purpose of the Birkenhead Road scheme was to create an environment that was safe for both pedestrians and cyclists and to help embed walking and cycling as part of new long-term commuting habits.

Members queried whether the funding for this scheme was necessary and if the option to “do nothing” was considered. They were informed that if the scheme was rejected then the funding would be returned to the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority.

Members asked what was going to happen to the trees that would be removed under this scheme and if the trees closest to Seacombe Ferry were due to be removed as there were 11 mature trees on the site presently. It was explained that officers were working with the Council’s Tree Team to see where new trees could be located inline with the Council’s tree strategy. Officer offered to come back to Members with information on the specific trees

that would be moved. The Design and Commissioning Senior Manager confirmed that the trees near the rear car park of Seacombe Ferry would remain under this proposal.

Members queried if there were any figures that would indicate what economic effect increased cycling or walking might have on an area. The Lead Commissioner for Strategic Transport and Technology noted that there were a number of national studies that showed that people walking or cycling were likely to spend more money in an area as they are likely to visit more often.

Members questioned if the consultation process included a contact method other than on-line. They were assured that 360 letters had been sent out to local businesses and letters with details of the consultation and included information on how to contact the Council if they did not wish to use an electronic form of contact.

Councillor J Robinson indicated that she had alternative recommendations to those on the report. The suggested recommendations were shared with Members.

On a motion proposed by Councillor J Robinson and seconded by Councillor P Martin, it was -

Resolved (10:1) – That

In light of the risks identified in Paragraph 7.2 of the report and the concerns raised in terms of the consultation and design, accessibility and impacts on other environmental factors to create the Birkenhead Scheme (removing mature trees), the Director of Regeneration and Place be requested to:

- 1. Seek an extension of time for delivery on this scheme; and**
- 2. Consider other design options, taking into consideration the concerns raised with a view to enable a meaningful consultation to take place (to include residents and local businesses)**

62 DISPOSAL OF THE FORMER MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (MOD) LAND ON OLD HALL ROAD, BROMBOROUGH

The Birkenhead Portfolio Regeneration Lead introduced the report of the Director of Regeneration and Place which set out a route for the disposal of the former Ministry Of Defence (MOD) land on Old Hall Road Bromborough.

It was reported that the land previously formed part of a portfolio of sites that were bound by an option to purchase in favour of the Wirral Growth Company

but under revised arrangements the Council has full unfettered control over the site.

In response to Member questions on the site, assurances were given that the land was no longer considered contaminated, and that surveys to show this would be available to developers. It was also noted that the land had the benefit of outline planning consent and there was a related planning obligation. Subsequent reserved matters approval would be accompanied by further detailed on the planning obligation requirements. Example planning obligation requirements were a minimum of 20% affordable homes, enhancements to open space within the country park as well as provision of cycle ways and footpaths as part of a detailed travel plan along with new bus stops on Old Hall Road and an agreement to enhance biodiversity on site or to make an off-site contribution.

Members sought clarity and were given assurances that by allowing this site to be developed, it would reduce the pressure to build further property elsewhere such as on the green belt.

On a motion by Councillor G Davies and seconded by Councillor P Martin, it was –

Resolved – That

- 1. Policy and Resources Committee be recommended to declare that the former Ministry of Defence, Old Hall Road, Bromborough site is surplus to the Council's requirements and that authority be given to the Director of Regeneration and Place to secure its disposal on the best terms achievable; and**
- 2. Delegated authority be given to the Director of Law and Governance, in consultation with the Director of Regeneration and Place, to secure the associated legal documentation that will be required to finalise the disposal of the site.**

63 **REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET / MONITORING FOR QUARTER THREE**

The Senior Finance Business Partner presented the report of the Director of Regeneration and Place which provided an overview of budget performance, including progress on the delivery of the 2022-23 saving programme and a summary of reserves to enable the Committee to take ownership of the budgets and provide robust challenge and scrutiny to officers on the performance of those budgets.

Resolved – That:

- 1. The forecast revenue position at Quarter 3 be noted.**
- 2. The progress on delivery of the 2022-23 savings programme at Quarter 3 be noted.**
- 3. The forecast level of reserves at Quarter 3 be noted.**
- 4. The capital forecast position of £30.39m at Quarter 3 be noted.**

64 WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE

The Lead Principal Lawyer introduced the report which reminded members that the Economy, Regeneration and Housing Committee was responsible for proposing and delivering an annual committee work programme. This work programme was to align with the corporate priorities of the Council, in particular the delivery of the key decisions which were within the remit of the Committee.

Resolved - that the content of the Economy, Regeneration and Housing Committee work programme for the remainder of the 2022/23 municipal year be noted

65 FREEPORTS AND MARITIME INNOVATION AND GROWTH PROJECTS

The Head of Economic Growth presented the report of the Director of Regeneration and Place. The report provided Members with an update regarding the status of Liverpool City Region Freeport ('LCR Freeport') and sought authorisation for the Director of Law and Governance to negotiate, finalise and sign the Memorandum of Understanding ('MoU') between the Council, The Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, Liverpool City Region Combined Authority (LCRCA), Liverpool City Region Freeport Governing Body, Halton Borough Council, and St Helens Borough Council. The MoU sets out the terms, principles and practices that will apply to the working relationship between the parties in respect of the delivery and administration of the Liverpool City Region Freeport.

The report also sought approval to establish a Wirral Freeport Investment Fund. The arrangements for Freeports allow for any growth in business rates above an agreed baseline within the designated Freeport Tax Site area to be retained by the Council as Billing Authority over a guaranteed 25-year period and re-invested to stimulate further development. Proposals for funding would be subject to a full and robust appraisal process and considered and decided on a case-by-case basis.

Members queried the finances of the project and the way that funds were allocated. They were provided with a breakdown of Seed Capital funding for the Liverpool City Region and Wirral's share of this.

In response to concerns raised by Members on the possible impacts to Wirral business that fall outside of the Freeport zone, The Head of Economic Growth assured them that the project was trying to attract businesses to invest in vacant property and that any business that was looking to expand would be eligible if they wished to move into the Freeport site.

A further discussion was had regarding assurances that businesses moving into the site would share Wirral's values and targets such as the net-zero target, as well as offering support to the Metro Mayor, employment charter and investment strategy. Members were informed that there were strong gateway policies, and that businesses would have to demonstrate that they meet the criteria for which would include fair employment, net zero targets for the Liverpool City Region as well as the equivalent policies for each local site.

Councillor J Robinson noted that she had a question that related to one of the exempt appendices and therefore on a motion by Councillor P Martin and seconded by Councillor J Robinson, it was –

Resolved – That, under section 100 (A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business on the grounds it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined by paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A (as amended) to the Act. The Public Interest test had been applied and favoured exclusion.

On a motion by Councillor D Mitchell and seconded by Councillor P Martin, it was -

Resolved (10:1) – That

- 1. Authority be delegated to the Director of Law and Governance (in consultation with the Director of Regeneration and Place, and the Director of Finance):**
 - (a) to negotiate, finalise and sign the Memorandum of Understanding (substantially in accordance with the draft set out in the exempt Appendix 2 to the report) relating to the terms, principles and practices that will apply to the working relationship between the parties regarding the delivery and administration of the Liverpool City Region Freeport.**

(b) To negotiate and complete any associated legal documentation which aligns with the principles set out in the proposed Memorandum of Understanding.

2. The Business Case for establishing the Wirral Freeport Investment Fund be endorsed.

3. Policy and Resources Committee be recommended to approve that:

(a) the Wirral Freeport Investment Fund is established from 1 April 2023 (or as soon as regulations designate the Wirral Waters Tax Site for business rates retention purposes) and is managed and operated according to the arrangements detailed within this report and accompanying Business Case and the principles set out in the draft Retained Business Rates Strategy which forms a component of the Memorandum of Understanding.

(b) growth in business rates above the baseline within the Wirral Freeport Tax Site is held to a ring-fenced reserve which would fund:

- investment in approved projects and the future repayment of capital borrowing for investments made by the Wirral Freeport Investment Fund;**
- the annual costs required to resource the administration and management of the Wirral Freeport Investment Fund from financial year 2023/24;**
- the Council's pro-rata annual contribution to the Liverpool City Region (LCR) Freeport Management Team costs from financial year 2024/25;**

66 LIVERPOOL CITY REGION COMBINED AUTHORITY BROWNFIELD LAND, 92 GRANGE ROAD, BIRKENHEAD

The Chair re-opened the meeting to the public.

The Birkenhead Portfolio Regeneration Lead introduced the report of the Director of Regeneration and Place which set out the activities undertaken to develop and deliver the 92 Grange Road project. It was noted that the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Brownfield Housing Fund was time limited to March 2025 and would support the Council by enabling access to significant funding to support the regeneration of Birkenhead.

Members queried how long the procurement process would take and received a response that it had begun around September 2022 with the deadline for outline scheme proposals to be submitted to the Council ending on 10th March 2023.

On a motion by Councillor D Mitchell and seconded by Councillor G Davies, it was -

DECISION:

Resolved – That

- 1. The current LCRCA Brownfield Land allocation for this project as set out in the exempt appendix 2 be ring fenced for this purpose.**
- 2. The Director of Regeneration and Place be authorised to;**
 - a. Progress the appointment of a delivery partner for the 92 Grange Road, Birkenhead project further to the ongoing mini-tendering process via the Homes England Housing Delivery Partner Dynamic Purchasing System, in consultation with the Director of Law and Governance; and**
 - b. Offer the selected delivery partner deficit funding to support the delivery of the Council’s objectives regarding this site, should the need for such funding be demonstrated and justified.**
- 3. The Director of Law and Governance be authorised to finalise the legal documentation arising out of the implementation of the above recommendations.**

67 FUTURE HIGH STREET FUND PROGRAMME - EUROPA RESIDENTIAL PHASE 1

The Birkenhead Portfolio Regeneration Lead introduced the report of the Director of Regeneration and Place which set out the activities undertaken to develop one element of the Birkenhead Future High Street programme, namely the Europa Residential scheme.

The report noted that the Future High Street Fund (FHSF) was time limited to March 2024 and will support the Council by enabling access to significant funding to support the regeneration of Birkenhead including that of private sector investment.

On a motion by Councillor G Davies and seconded by Councillor P Martin, it was -

Resolved – That

1. The current Future High Street Fund Allocation for this project as set out in the exempt Appendix 2 to the report be ring fenced for this purpose.
2. Policy and Resources Committee be recommended to approve that the Director of Regeneration and Place be authorised to:
 - a. Progress the appointment of a delivery partner for the Europa Residential Phase 1 project further to the ongoing mini-tendering process via the Homes England Housing Delivery Partner Dynamic Purchasing System, In consultation with the Director of Law and Governance; and
 - b. Pursue and accept other avenues of funding and proceed to award of contract in the event that a suitably appraised and acceptable bid exceeds the Future High Street Fund allocation for this project.
3. The Director of Law and Governance be authorised to finalise the legal documentation arising out of the implementation of the above recommendations.

68 **EXEMPT INFORMATION - EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Resolved – That, under section 100 (A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business on the grounds they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined by paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A (as amended) to that Act. The Public Interest test has been applied and favours exclusion.

69 **FREEPORTS AND MARITIME INNOVATION AND GROWTH PROJECTS - EXEMPT APPENDICES**

Resolved – That the exempt appendices be noted.

70 **ITEM OF URGENT BUSINESS - BIRKENHEAD TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION - PROPOSAL TO CONSIDER THE PURCHASE OF A STRATEGIC ACQUISITION**

The Director of Regeneration and Place introduced the report.

Resolved – That the recommendation as detailed in the report be approved.

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TOURISM, COMMUNITIES, CULTURE & LEISURE COMMITTEE

Thursday, 9 March 2023

Present: Councillor H Cameron (Chair)

Councillors N Graham J Grier
S Percy A Brame
KJ Williams P Martin (In place of
M Collins J Laing)
J Johnson Y Nolan (In place of
T Smith)
T Elzeiny (In place
of I Camphor)

65 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Chair welcomed attendees and viewers to the meeting and reminded everyone that the meeting was webcast and retained on the Council's website.

66 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor Jerry Williams, Councillor James Laing and Councillor Ivan Camphor.

67 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were asked to consider whether they have any disclosable pecuniary interests and/or any other relevant interest in connection with any item(s) on this agenda and, if so, to declare them and state the nature of the interest. No interests were declared.

68 MINUTES

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 2 February 2023 be approved and adopted as a correct record.

69 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Gail Jenkinson attended the meeting to ask a question on whether the impact of the loss of library services could be considered before it becomes a budget

proposal in future years to save residents the distress of losing lifelines to social interaction and mental wellbeing.

The Chair responded that the context to this was that the External Assurance Report produced by CIPFA and published in November 2021 (as a requirement of the Council's request for a capitalisation directive) highlighted the following: "Overall Council spending is high compared to similar unitary authorities. This is particularly the case for cultural and related leisure services, where spending in Wirral per head is the highest of the 15 other statistical neighbour councils". It was for this reason that non-statutory services were a key focus of Council savings plans in 2022/23 and 2023/24. An equality impact assessment (EIA) was a tool that helped organisations such as the Council ensure that any decisions, practices, and policies are fair, and did not discriminate against any protected groups. Each budget saving and the impacts of, were considered against the 9 protected characteristics where appropriate, as defined by the Equality Act 2010: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race and ethnicity, religion or belief, biological sex, and sexual orientation. An Equality impact Assessment is not a legal requirement; however, The Council did have a legal obligation to take the Public Sector Equality Duty (Section 149) when we make our decisions and deliver our services. EIA's were therefore undertaken to assist with the Council's responsibility under equality law. Equality implications were considered at every stage of the process, however, depending on the proposal it was sometimes not possible to be as precise as we would like, until impacts emerge. The Equality Duty was an ongoing obligation and did not stop when an EIA is produced. Factors that were considered as part of the EIA budget process included, but weren't limited to workforce, communities, and services. As part of the budget process, equality implications were given sufficient weight alongside any other important considerations. Decision makers should consider the impacts and if they feel that the decision would be discriminatory, or the impact too great, they could ask Officers for more information, to reconsider or to not accept the proposal.

As your question references Libraries and Greasby Library in particular; Wirral Libraries were pleased to report that the budget options that affected the Service were not being taken forward and there were no plans to close or relocate any libraries at present. The Council could now move forward to ensure full delivery of our Library Strategy which will provide a balanced, sustainable, modern, and fit for purpose Library Service which will ensure that all Wirral residents have access to a comprehensive and efficient service. To that end, there would be extended opening hours in most of our libraries including community libraries. Greasby for example, would now be open four weekdays and every Saturday morning and the extended offer equated to an additional 91 hours per week across the Library Service. A range of activities (most of them free of charge) would be continued to be offered and plans were underway to deliver events for World Book Night and an exciting Summer Reading Challenge for children over the summer holidays.

A supplementary question was asked on whether, given that the majority of single parents and family carers are women, could it be considered discriminatory to propose the closure of libraries. The Chair agreed that a written response would be provided within 10 working days.

70 **STATEMENTS AND PETITIONS**

No statements or petitions had been received.

71 **QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS**

There were no questions by Members.

72 **COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER: FORMER LIBRARIES**

The Director of Resources introduced the report which made recommendations in relation to the community asset transfer matters (CAT) of the former libraries at Irby Village and Wallasey Village. It was reported that in relation to the transfer of Irby library, further works had been identified which needed to be done by the Council prior to the transfer of the asset. These related to the heating system and insulation of the building. The estimated cost was £20,000. It was therefore recommended that the capital sum to support the transfer was increased from £20,000 to £40,000 to cover the cost of the additional works. There was surplus budget in the approved funding for CAT to fund this increase.

Members recognised that producing business plans could be daunting for small business so the officer support and guidance throughout the CAT process was appreciated.

Resolved – That

(1) the capital allocation to support the transfer of Irby Library be increased from £20,000 to £40,000.

(2) the Director of Resources be authorised to conclude the transfer of the assets of Wallasey Village Library to the Wallasey Village Library and Community Centre, and Irby Library to the Friends of Irby Library based on the agreed terms reported in the exempt appendices 1 and 2 of this report.

73 **ASSET TRANSFER OF WIRRAL TRANSPORT MUSEUM**

The Head of Regeneration Delivery introduced the report of the Director of Regeneration and Place which proposed to transfer the Wirral Transport Museum to Big Heritage, a locally based non-profit organisation. It was

reported that this would be a 25 year lease contracted out of the Landlord and Tenant Act 1954. It was reported that the asset cost the council around £85,000 per year and so the transfer would represent a saving of that amount. Wirral Transport Museum was operated by volunteers and had a steady stream of visitors, Big Heritage had a wealth of experience operating visitor attractions across the region and there was a projected visitor increase from 6,000 to 40,000 per year.

In response to Member queries, the Head of Regeneration Delivery gave assurance that Big Heritage would continue to work with the skilled volunteers and that there had been a lot of interaction and consultation between the two groups. The Chair noted that a key focus had been to ensure that the groups that were so passionate about the transport museum saw this as an opportunity and that there was a future for the asset going forward.

The Assistant Director – Special Projects reported that an annual monitoring report was required from Big Heritage so that the Council had oversight of visitor numbers and costs and could consider actions to be taken where necessary.

Due to a need to discuss information contained in the exempt appendices, on a motion by the Chair, seconded by Councillor Judith Grier it was -

Resolved – That under section 100 (A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined by paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A (as amended) to that Act. The Public Interest test has been applied and favours exclusion.

Following the exempt session, the press and public were invited back into the meeting.

Resolved – That

- (1) the Heads of Terms for an Agreement for Lease, Museum Lease, Tramway Operation Agreement and Option Agreement in relation to the landholding of Wirral Transport Museum, East Side of Taylor Street Birkenhead to Big Heritage CIC substantially in accordance with the Heads of Terms as set out in Appendix 1 of this report be approved.**
- (2) the Director of Law and Governance, in consultation with the Director of Regeneration and Place be authorised to:**
 - (a) Negotiate and finalise the legal document associated with this Heads of Terms**

- (b) (b) Seek any necessary regulatory approvals from the Secretary of State in relation to the tramway operation.**

74 **CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE STRATEGY**

The Director of Neighbourhood Services introduced the report which set out the Customer Experience Strategy and how it would be achieved over the following four years. The Customer Experience Strategy was one of a suite of five strategies that shaped the Council's new operating model and delivery on its improvement plan. One of the key underpinning principles of the Wirral Plan was "Relationships -Working with residents, partners, businesses and communities for a better Wirral". The Customer Experience Strategy set out how the Council would engage with all customers to improve those relationships.

Members welcomed the strategy but raised concerns over customers who were digitally excluded. In response, the Director of Neighbourhood Services outlined that there would be different channels of communication and that sometimes there was enough information on the website but for more complex issues kiosks would be introduced in libraries for residents to have face to face appointments with trained members of staff to support them.

In response to Member queries around volunteers being trained to support residents it was outlined by the Senior Manager – Engagement that the strategy included details of digital inclusion partnerships and so assets that had been transferred to volunteer groups would receive support in offering guidance to members of the public and it was further emphasised by the Assistant Director – Leisure Libraries and Customer Engagement that the Council would explore all avenues to distribute the strategy such as social prescribers.

Resolved – That

- (1) the Customer Experience Strategy as set out in appendix one of the report be approved.**

- (2) the Customer Charter as set out in appendix two of this report be approved.**

75 **TCCL QUARTER 3 REVENUE AND CAPITAL MONITORING BUDGET REPORT**

The Senior Finance Business Partner introduced the report of the Director of Neighbourhood Services which set out the financial monitoring information for the Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee as at quarter 3 (1 Oct-31 Dec) of 2022-23. The report provided Members with an overview of budget performance, including progress on the delivery of the 2022-23 saving

programme and a summary of reserves to enable the Committee to take ownership of the budgets and provide robust challenge and scrutiny to Officers on the performance of those budgets.

At the end of Quarter 3, there was a forecast adverse position of £3.373m on the Committees net revenue budget, of £5.259m. This position was based on activity to date, projected trends in income and expenditure and potential mitigation to offset areas of adverse variance.

Members discussed the depletion of the earmarked reserves and were given assurance that these were dedicated to specific projects such as the purchase of gym equipment and were not the same as corporate reserves.

In response to a Member query, the Assistant Director – Leisure, Libraries and Customer Engagement reported that the expenditure for 3G pitches at Wirral Tennis Centre and Woodchurch Sports Pavilion had been delayed for the next financial year due to the delay in approval from the local lead flood authority following changes in the scope of the pitches.

Resolved – That

- (1) the forecast revenue position presented at Quarter 3 be noted.**
- (2) the progress on delivery of the 2022-23 savings programme at Quarter 3 be noted.**
- (3) the forecast level of reserves at Quarter 3 be noted.**
- (4) the forecast capital position presented at Quarter 3 be noted.**

76 TOURISM, COMMUNITIES, CULTURE AND LEISURE PERFORMANCE REPORT

The Assistant Director, Neighbourhoods, Safety & Transport introduced the report of the Director of Neighbourhood Services which provided information in relation to community safety. The report encompassed community safety delivered by the Council and partner organisations in Wirral. The Assistant Director, Neighbourhoods, Safety and Transport detailed the three areas the report covered which were Violence, Acquisitive Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour

In response to a Member query, it was reported that help points had been put in place in areas where there was a high risk of violence, particularly against women and girls and that calls went through to a control room where operators could see the caller on cameras and speak with them to offer help and advice.

Following a discussion on the provision of youth spaces and services, it was reported that the community safety partnership had representatives from youth services who vocalised the need for these spaces. The Assistant Director, Neighbourhoods, Safety and Transport outlined that there were a lot of fantastic activities available across the Wirral but there were a core of younger people that these weren't right for and that the Council needed to find ways to engage them.

Resolved – That the content of the report be noted.

77 **THIRD SECTOR COMMISSIONING AND COMMUNITY, VOLUNTARY AND FAITH SECTOR SUMMARY UPDATE REPORT**

The Director of Neighbourhood Services introduced the report of the Assistant Chief Executive which provided a summary update of spend and activity on the Community, Voluntary and Faith Sector (CVF) and third sector commissioning. It was reported that this was an initial report and that guidance from Members to inform future reports would be welcomed. Activities within the CVF sector ranged from high level strategic partnership work through to small scale activities that supported individuals and small community groups and that the work the sector undertook was valued highly and made a significant contribution to meet the needs of communities.

Members welcomed the report and queried why there was only mention of grant funding and not the commissioning and contracting work as this was an essential part of work with the CVF sector. It was noted that smaller organisations weren't always aware of grant funding and opportunities available, and that valuable work could be missed out on. Members requested that future reports include detail on how the Council is accessible to small organisations and more granularity on the financial information in respect of spend on each organisation and geographical spend.

On a motion by Councillor Helen Cameron, seconded by Councillor Jenny Johnson it was -

Resolved – That the summary report be considered as an interim position statement and a further update report be presented to Committee within 6 months to build on the work of the Health & Wellbeing board around local infrastructure and to;

- A) Respond to concerns around VCSE organisations' capacity to evidence need and how we aim to support them with streamlined processes.**
- B) Specify the circumstances when grant funding may be preferred over commissioning services or contracts.**

- C) Outline the decision processes on grant funding to the VCSE sector, in order to;
- ensure any measures of the intended benefits are established in advance.
 - evaluations against these measures are proportionate to the funding value.
- D) Clarify how risks associated with VCSE funding are considered at a corporate level.

78 **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Chair invited the Heritage Champion, Councillor Jerry Williams to update Committee on heritage achievements over the 2022/23 Municipal Year. He thanked local heritage groups for their outstanding work and support. It was reported that Birkenhead Park and Port Sunlight Conservation Areas were awaiting a decision about their acceptance onto the World Heritage Site tentative list. Other projects such as the endeavour to secure National Battlefield Status for Brunaburh, uncovering a Viking ship in Meols and Heritage and Community Street Naming were detailed.

Members thanked Councillor Williams for his hard work undertaken as Heritage Champion.

Resolved – That the Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee work programme for the remainder of the 2022/23 municipal year be noted.

79 **EXEMPT INFORMATION - EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Resolved – That under section 100 (A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined by paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A (as amended) to that Act. The Public Interest test has been applied and favours exclusion.

80 **EXEMPT APPENDICES - COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER: FORMER LIBRARIES**

Resolved – That the content of the appendices be noted.

81 **EXEMPT APPENDICES: ASSET TRANSFER OF WIRRAL TRANSPORT MUSEUM**

Resolved – That the content of the appendices be noted.

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ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 14 March 2023

Present:

Councillor EA Grey (Chair)

Councillors	S Foulkes	V Wilson
	S Percy	H Gorman
	T Smith	N Graham
	A Gardner	O Osanlou
	L Fraser	T Cox

63 **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

The Chair welcomed attendees and viewers to the meeting and reminded everyone that the meeting was webcast and retained on the Council's website for two years.

64 **APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies for absence.

65 **MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members were asked to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests and any other relevant interest and to state the nature of the interest.

Councillor Steve Foulkes wished it to be noted for transparency that he held a role as Deputy Holder of Portfolio for Transport and Air Quality but did not wish to state a personal or pecuniary interest.

66 **MINUTES**

The Chair highlighted that minute 55 should read that the work local communities and traders do across Wirral was appreciated by the Chair, the Leader of the Council, and staff across the organisation.

The Chair noted that under the work programme item, Car Free Day had been included but this was no longer a single day but a rolling programme of events across the combined authority.

Resolved – That subject to the above changes, the minutes of the meeting held on 30 January 2023 be approved and adopted as a correct record.

67 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The Chair indicated that 6 public questions had been received.

Children from Pensby Primary School asked a question about when a crossing would be considered on Pensby road between Greenbank drive and Ashlea road. The Chair thanked the children for attending and asking their important question and reported that the Combined Authority Transport Plan Programme report being considered later in the meeting included a full review list of locations of requests for road safety improvements from the community. This location was included on the list and confirmed the proposal to introduce a 20mph speed limit but also mentioned that The Council would undertake a pedestrian crossing assessment in the area.

Hannah Crook asked a question about the lack of speeding measures outside Heswall Primary School. The Chair responded that Wirral Council had introduced a 20mph speed limit outside Heswall primary School and provided a fully trained School Crossing Patrol to assist the school community. It was outlined that Wirral Council's Road Safety Team were proactively working with Heswall Primary School and Merseyside Police to develop education initiatives and interventions. Monitoring of the speed and parking complaints were being undertaken.

A supplementary question was asked about road closure for St George's Primary School in Wallasey and whether this could be done for Heswall Primary too, the Chair stated that a written response would be provided within 10 working days.

Kelly Newell asked a question about when changes to the traffic system at Spital would be made following her son being involved in a tragic accident which had left him with life changing injuries in 2020. The Chair thanked Kelly for asking her question and suggestions on improving road safety, a topic close to the Chair's heart, and gave assurance that officers were working hard on this location, and it was progressing as fast as possible whilst ensuring the best possible outcome. The Chair outlined that it was vital that any changes made did not end up causing more harm than good and so the preliminary studies must be done properly.

David Cross asked what risk assessments the Council had conducted at the Three Stags Crossroads and suggested the use of rumble strips as a traffic calming measure. The Chair responded that the proposed scheme would be considered further down the agenda - alongside schemes at other locations - for inclusion in the appropriate transport programmes to be delivered in 2023-

24 and beyond and thanked Mr Cross for the suggestion of rumble strips but outlined that such measures could only be used in areas where the noise impact would be minimal.

Lisa Anderson asked if the Committee would ensure the whole of the junction was made safe on Spital Road after her father lost his life following an accident. The Chair empathised with Lisa and agreed that all possible means of making roads safer should be put in place as soon as possible. The Chair reported that the area would be considered as part of the junction improvement scheme proposed at Spital Crossroads which was due to be considered further down the agenda.

Councillor Mike Collins asked if money from the Active Travel fund could be used to provide a crossing that the children and community of Pensby were asking for. The Chair replied that Active Travel Funding was provided for the delivery of named schemes which had been approved by Active Travel England on behalf of the Department for Transport and as such once the funding had been awarded it could not be used for the delivery of other schemes.

68 **STATEMENTS AND PETITIONS**

Councillor Mary Jordan made a statement which urged the Committee to work with residents to make the junction at Spital Crossroads safe for all users and echoed the concerns and comments made by the public questioners.

The Chair read a statement which thanked the members of the public that had attended Committee and shared their stories and concerns. The Chair gave assurance that officers were working hard to address the concerns about road danger and any delay was due to the need to ensure no mistakes were made and the best possible solutions were put in place.

The Chair informed the Committee that a petition had been received from Hannah Crook in relation to a crossing being needed for Heswall Primary School on Whitfield Lane.

A second petition had been received in relation to twinning Birkenhead Park with Central Park with over 260 signatures.

A third petition had been received from Pensby Primary School requesting traffic calming measures be put in place on Pensby Road.

69 **QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS**

There were no questions by Members.

WEST KIRBY FLOOD ALLEVIATION - VARIATION OF CONSTRUCTION PHASE CONTRACT AND ACCEPTANCE OF FLOOD DEFENCE GRANT FUNDING

The Director of Neighbourhood Services introduced the report which provided an update on the delivery of the West Kirby Flood Alleviation project and sought approval for an increase in the construction contract sum and acceptance of additional grant funding.

Following approval from the Committee in November 2021, a contract was awarded to Volkerstevin Ltd on 22 April 2022 under the Environment Agency's collaborative delivery framework, it was reported that due to a range of factors, construction progress and the cost had been affected and as a result of the necessary contract variations to accommodate this, the target cost of the contract had increased from £9.64m to £14.28m. The Director of Neighbourhood Services outlined that no additional Council funding was required and had received approval of a bid for additional grant funding from the Environment Agency which totalled £4.4m.

In response to a Member query on the liaison with the RNLI, the Assistant Chief Executive reported that there was a good working relationship with the RNLI however a key piece of information on how one of their vehicles returned to the station was shared late in the process and the Council had proposed a solution to address this.

The Senior Manager – Flood and Coastal Risk Management gave details of areas where costs had been minimised and savings had been made across the project and gave assurance that there was no further anticipated increase in costs and that the project was still on track to be completed within the timescales set out.

Members raised concern over how the project had impacted the local economy.

Members and Officers put on record their thanks to Colin Clayton, Assistant Director Parks and Countryside, who was due to retire, for his significant contribution and work during his time at the Council and wished him well for the future.

It was moved by the Chair, seconded by Councillor Steve Foulkes that the officer recommendations as detailed in the report be approved with the addition of a fourth recommendation thanking officers for their hard work throughout the project.

Councillor Andrew Gardner indicated that he was supportive of the motion and proposed a friendly amendment that the report be referred to the Audit & Risk Management Committee so that consideration can be given to reviewing

concerns relating to the procurement of the construction contract and the increase in cost of the project. The Chair accepted this as a friendly amendment.

The substantive motion was then put and agreed by assent. It was therefore -

Resolved – That

- (1) additional Flood Defence Grant Funding and Local Levy Grant Funding of £4,400,000 provided by the Environment Agency be accepted.**
- (2) a variation in the value of the construction contract with VolkerStevin Ltd for the West Kirby Flood Alleviation Scheme from £9,640,000 to £14,282,000 be approved.**
- (3) the Director of Law and Governance be authorised to negotiate and finalise the associated grant funding agreements and contract variations.**
- (4) Officers be thanked for the considerable amount of work put into the project.**
- (5) the report be referred to the Audit & Risk Management Committee so that consideration can be given to reviewing concerns relating to the procurement of the construction contract and the increase in cost of the project.**

71 **CITY REGION SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT SETTLEMENT HIGHWAY STRUCTURAL MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME 2023-24**

The Director of Neighbourhood Services introduced the report which requested approval for the disbursement of grant funding from the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority's (LCRCA) City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) for 2023/24 into Wirral Council's Capital Programme for Highways Structural Maintenance and Bridge Maintenance. The report also requested approval for the disbursement of the indicative funding for years 2024/25, 2025/26 and 2026/27 in the same programme. The report contained a recommendation of acceptance of an indicative highway condition matrix that will be used to inform future programme investment decisions.

The schemes recommended to be delivered under the programme included Plan and inlay with hot-rolled-asphalt, surface treatments, footway reconstruction and bridge maintenance.

In response to Member queries, the Senior Highway Maintenance Manager reported that where possible, materials were replaced like for like and consultation had been undertaken with vulnerable groups through the active travel forum. It was reported that the funding provided long term planning abilities and things such as dividing wards into 12 zones and tackling en bloc was something that would be considered in the future.

The Senior Highway Maintenance Manager informed Members that when roads were resurfaced, the markings could be reassessed to support any traffic calming or active travel measures in place in coordination with the network team.

Resolved – That

- (1) the proposed programme of works for Wirral’s Carriageways, Footway Improvements and Bridge Maintenance for 2023/24, using grant funding allocated to Wirral Council by Liverpool City Region Combined Authority (LCRCA) in the 2023/24 City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS), Combined Authority Transport Plan Programme (Highways Structural Maintenance), as set out in Appendix 2 to this report be approved.**
- (2) the indicative RAG-rated highway network condition matrix as set out in Appendix 3 to this report, be approved to be used by the Director of Neighbourhood Services as one of the decision tools when developing highway structural maintenance programmes.**
- (3) the Director of Neighbourhood Services be authorised to:**
 - (a) accept the grant funding and any subsequent additional grant allocated to the council in the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) Combined Authority Transport Plan programme (Highways Structural Maintenance)**
 - (b) in consultation with the Chair and Party Spokespersons of the Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee, to revise or amend the delivery or implementation of the work programmes, as deemed necessary, having due regard for the available resources and applicable risk-based prioritisation of locations selected for intervention and treatment.**
- (4) the Director of Law and Governance be authorised to negotiate and finalise any grant funding agreements on behalf of the council, amongst the relevant subject areas over the next 4 years, as set out in Appendix 1 to this report.**

The Director of Neighbourhood Services introduce the report which sought approval of the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) Combined Authority Transport Plan (CATP) programme for 2023/24 as well as the indicative recommended CRSTS CATP programme for 2024-2027.

The schemes delivered under the programme covered three main schemes which were the Local Safety Schemes, Active Travel improvements and Traffic signal and pedestrian facility improvements. The Director of Neighbourhood Services reported that the Council had a statutory duty to take steps to reduce and prevent collisions. Officers carry out an annual review to determine where schemes or improvements may help to reduce and prevent collisions.

In response to a Member query on proposed experimental schemes, the Senior Network Manager outlined that the schemes may create network capacity issues but would be made permanent if successful.

Members noted that due to the allocation of funding being predictable, programmes could be scheduled for 5 years ahead and that there was a necessity to build infrastructure to promote active travel and to ensure that the funding was used.

Resolved – That

- (1) the proposed City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement Combined Authority Transport Plan programme for 2023/24 as set out in Appendix A to this report be approved.**
- (2) the indicative City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement Combined Authority Transport Plan programme for 2024/27 as set out in Appendix B to this report be approved.**
- (3) The Director of Neighbourhood Services be authorised to:**
 - (a) accept the grant funding allocated to Wirral Council by Liverpool City Region Combined Authority for the 2023/24 City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement Combined Authority Transport Plan programme and any related grant funding subsequently awarded.**
 - (b) in consultation with the Chair and Spokespersons of the Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee amend the programme having regard for available resources and risk-based prioritisation of schemes.**
- (4) the Director of Law and Governance be authorised to negotiate and finalise any grant funding agreements associated with these recommendations.**

73 **ECET QUARTER 3 REVENUE AND CAPITAL MONITORING BUDGET REPORT**

The Senior Finance Business Partner introduced the report of the Director of Neighbourhood Services which set out the e financial monitoring information for the Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee as at quarter 3 (1 Oct – 31 Dec) of 2022-23. The report provided Members with an overview of budget performance, including progress on the delivery of the 2022-23 saving programme and a summary of reserves to enable the Committee to take ownership of the budgets and provide robust challenge and scrutiny to Officers on the performance of those budgets.

At the end of Quarter 3, there was a forecast adverse position of £2.928m on the Committees net revenue budget, of £63.782m. This position was based on activity to date, projected trends in income and expenditure and potential mitigation to offset areas of adverse variance. Income generation had not yet returned to pre pandemic levels in Quarter 3 due to footfall and usage in some areas which remained less than it was in 2019/20. There had been some improvement since Quarter 2 due to new pricing structures, and slight increase in footfall now that most areas were fully operational but there was a risk of further impact in Quarter 4.

Resolved – That

- (1) the forecast revenue position presented at Quarter 3 be noted.**
- (2) the progress on delivery of the 2022-23 savings programme at Quarter 3 be noted.**
- (3) the forecast level of reserves at Quarter 3 be noted.**
- (4) The forecast capital position presented at Quarter 3 be noted.**

74 **LIVERPOOL CITY REGION'S ZERO WASTE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK 2040**

The Director of Neighbourhood Services introduced the report which sought endorsement of the adoption of the Liverpool City Region (LCR) Zero Waste Strategic Framework 2040 which would minimise waste-related carbon emissions through actions to prevent, reduce, recycle and re-use resources and will encourage a circular economy. The strategy will link into the LCR Pathway to Net Zero Strategy and Wirral's own target to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2041 (through the Cool2 Climate Strategy for Wirral). The strategic framework outlined the proposed LCR strategy and aims to provide a single LCR voice on all zero waste actions. The strategy covered all material resources and waste issues for the LCR and, accordingly, took a wide view to encompass both business and household waste.

In response to concerns raised by Members about the level of detail in the framework, the Assistant Director, Parks and Countryside outlined that if the framework was to be approved, officers would work in partnership with authorities across the city region to develop the strategy with the detail required. It was anticipated that the strategy would be presented to the Committee for consideration in September 2023.

The Chair moved the officer recommendations as detailed in the report, seconded by Councillor Steve Foulkes.

Councillor Tony Cox moved an amendment, that the following sentence be added, 'further and more comprehensive data to be provided and the strategic framework as set out in the appendix needs to have firm actions appended to points which were currently no more than high level aims.' This was seconded by Councillor Andrew Gardner.

The amendment was put and lost (4:7).

The original motion was then put and agreed unanimously. It was therefore –

Resolved – That the Liverpool City Region Zero Waste Strategic Framework 2040, to reduce waste-related carbon emissions be endorsed.

75 **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Chair introduced the report of the Director of Law and Governance which provided the Committee with an opportunity to plan and review its work across the municipal year.

The Chair asked that a report on Blue Flag Beaches and an update on Liverpool airport on the consultation regarding changes to flight paths be added to the work programme.

Resolved – That with the inclusion of Blue Flag Beaches and Liverpool airport consultation, the Environment Climate Emergency and Transport Committee work programme be noted.

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PLANNING COMMITTEE

Thursday, 16 March 2023

Present:

Councillor S Kelly (Chair)

Councillors S Foulkes
G Davies
T Elzeiny
H Gorman
K Hodson
M Jordan

B Kenny
P Martin
J McManus
P Stuart
A Wright

123 **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

The Chair welcomed Members of the Planning Committee, Officers and members of the public to the meeting.

124 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

No apologies for absence were received.

125 **MINUTES**

The Director of Law and Governance submitted the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting and the Strategic Applications Sub Committee meeting which were both held on 9 February 2023.

Resolved – That the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting and the Strategic Applications Sub Committee meeting which were both held on 9 February 2023 be approved.

126 **MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members of the Committee were asked whether they had any personal or prejudicial interests in connection with any item on the agenda and if so, to declare them and state what they were.

Councillor Kathy Hodson declared a personal interest in item 5, by virtue of their position as Chair of Children, Young People and Education Committee.

Councillor Steve Foulkes declared a prejudicial interest in Item 9 by virtue of their employment at Unilever. He indicated that he would leave the chamber during the discussion of the matter.

Councillor Mary Jordan declared a prejudicial interest in Item 9 by virtue of them receiving a pension from Unilever and their previous employment there. She indicated that she would leave the chamber during the discussion of the matter.

127 **APP/22/01323: GRAZING LAND LEASOWE ROAD, WALLASEY VILLAGE, WIRRAL, ERECTION OF 14 HOMES TOGETHER WITH ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, ACCESS, INTERNAL ROADS, LANDSCAPING AND ASSOCIATED WORKS**

The Development Management Manager presented the report of the Director of Regeneration and Place in relation to the above application for consideration.

Objectors to the application, Phil Pilkington and Sharon Edwards, addressed the Committee.

Ward Councillors Ian Lewis and Lesley Rennie addressed the Committee.

The Applicant, Rebecca Hilton addressed the Committee.

On a motion by the Chair and seconded Councillor Kathy Hodson it was –

Resolved (11:1) – that the application be refused on the following grounds.

In the opinion of the Local Planning Authority the proposal would represent an unacceptable form of development, by virtue of the proximity of the proposed dwelling to the rear of 19 Greenleas Road, which would result in an overbearing impact that would be detrimental to the amenities to the occupants of 19 Greenleas Road. This is contrary to policies HS4 of the adopted Wirral Unitary Development Plan and the National Planning Policy Framework.

128 **RVC/22/01426; THE BEACON PROJECT ALBERT ROAD, HOYLAKE, WIRRAL, CH47 2AB, VARIATION OF CONDITION 8 AND 12 OF PREVIOUSLY APPROVED APP/19/00065**

The Development Management Manager presented the report of the Director of Regeneration and Place in relation to the above application for consideration.

On a motion by Councillor Kathy Hodson and seconded by Councillor Steve Foulkes it was –

Resolved (11:1) – that the application be approved subject to the following conditions.

1. The development hereby permitted shall begin not later than 3 years from the date of this decision.

2. No development involving the use of any facing materials shall take place until samples of the materials to be used in the construction of external surfaces of the building have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. Development shall be carried out in accordance with the approved details.

3. No development shall commence until the final detailed sustainable drainage design¹, for the management and disposal of surface water from the site based on the principles and details identified in the following documents has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority, in consultation with the Lead Local Flood Authority: - Drainage Strategy and Flood Risk for Proposed Development The Beacon, Albert Road, Hoylake, Wirral (July 2018 rev 03 /LRD29750/Sutcliffe)

4. Prior to the occupation of any properties, a completed Operation and Maintenance Plan with appended as-built drawings must be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority in consultation with Lead Local Flood Authority along with evidence of arrangements to secure funding and maintenance of the sustainable surface water drainage system for the lifetime of the development through an appropriate legally binding agreement. The approved Operation and Maintenance Plan shall be implemented prior to first occupation of any of the approved dwellings, or completion of the development, whichever is the sooner. (Details submitted DIS/22/00911)

5. A suitable scheme of fume extraction shall be submitted in writing to and approved by the Local Planning Authority prior to any building/renovation work commencing. When designing the fume extraction system reference should be made to the Defra document: Guidance on the Control of Odour and Noise from Commercial Kitchen Exhaust Systems

6. The ground floor commercial premises shall not be used except between the hours of :- 08:00 hours and 22:00 hours Mondays to Thursday 08:00 hours and 11:30 hours Friday and Saturdays 10:00 hours and 22:00 on Sundays and Bank Holidays without the written consent of the Local Planning Authority.

7. The development hereby permitted shall be carried out in accordance with the approved plans received by the local planning authority on 31st January 2018 and listed as follows: 02-02-000, 02-02-001, 02-02-002, 02-

02-003, 02-02-004, 02-03-000, 02-03-000, 02-03-001,02-03-002,02-05-004,02-05-004,02-05-003,02-05-002,02-05-001,

8. NO DEVELOPMENT SHALL TAKE PLACE until details of secure covered cycle parking and/or storage facilities have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. These facilities shall be provided in accordance with the approved details and made available for use prior to the first use of the development hereby permitted and shall be retained for use at all times thereafter.

9. Prior to the commencement of development a Construction Management Plan shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The provisions of the Construction Management Plan shall be implemented in full during the period of construction and shall not be varied unless otherwise agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority.

10. No development shall take place until a Site Waste Management Plan, confirming how demolition and construction waste will be recovered and re-used on the site or at other sites, has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The approved Plan shall be implemented in full unless otherwise agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority.

11. Prior to the first occupation of the dwellings arrangements for the storage and disposal of refuse including recycling facilities, and vehicle access thereto, shall be made within the curtilage of the site, in accordance with details to be submitted to and agreed in writing by the local planning authority. The approved details shall be implemented in full unless otherwise agreed in writing with the local planning authority.(submitted DIS/22/00911)

12. The proposed development shall be carried out in accordance with the phasing plan received by the Local Planning Authority on 1 September 2022 (Phasing Plan March 2019 Rev A) unless otherwise agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority.

**13. Development shall not be commenced until a Travel Plan has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The provisions of the Travel Plan shall be implemented and operated in accordance with the timetable contained therein unless otherwise agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority.
(Details submitted DIS/22/00911)**

129 APP/22/01656; LAND ADJACENT TO OAK COTTAGE NOCTORUM ROAD, NOCTORUM, PRENTON, WIRRAL, CH43 9UQ, THE ERECTION OF A

SEMI-DETACHED VILLA ON LAND ADJACENT TO OAK COTTAGE, WITH ASSOCIATED PARKING PROVISION AND ACCESS (2NO. DWELLINGS)

The Development Management Manager presented the report of the Director of Regeneration and Place in relation to the above application for consideration.

On a motion by Councillor Steve Foulkes and seconded by Councillor George Davies it was –

Resolved – that the consideration of this application be deferred to the next meeting of the Planning Committee to allow members of the public further time to fully consider recent changes to the application.

130 **APP/22/01700; REDCOURT MANOR, 7 DEVONSHIRE PLACE, OXTON, WIRRAL, CH43 1TX, CONVERSION OF EXISTING GYMNASIUM OUTBUILDING WITHIN GROUNDS OF EXISTING SCHOOL TO 2 TWO-BED RESIDENTIAL UNITS**

The Development Management Manager presented the report of the Director of Regeneration and Place in relation to the above application for consideration.

Ward Councillor Allan Brame addressed the Committee.

On a motion by the Chair and seconded by Councillor Mary Jordan it was –

Resolved (9:3) – that the application be refused on the following grounds.

The proposed will have a detrimental impact on the setting of the nearby grade 2 listed building (Redcourt) contrary to UDP policy CH1 and section 16 (Proposals affecting heritage assets (paras 194 199 to 202) of the National Planning Policy Framework due to the cladding material proposed and flat roofed design which would introduce an element which is unsympathetic and alien to the character and design of the original grade 2 listed residential dwelling.

131 **APP/22/01951; ELECTRICITY SUB STATION, SUNLIGHT WAY, BROMBOROUGH, WIRRAL, CH62 4TG, DEMOLITION OF EXISTING BUILDINGS AND DEVELOPMENT OF ADJOINING HIGH-BAY (UP TO 31.5M HIGHT) AND LOW BAY (UP TO 11M IN HEIGHT) WAREHOUSES, WITH CONVEYOR LINK, ON THE EXISTING UNILEVER SITE, TO ACCOMMODATE MECHANICAL HANDLING EQUIPMENT, WITH ASSOCIATED OFFICES, EXTERNAL HGV BAYS AND ACCESS (B8 USE)**

Councillor Steve Foulkes and Councillor Mary Jordan declared a prejudicial interest in this matter and left the room during its consideration (minute 34 refers).

The Development Management Manager presented the report of the Director of Regeneration and Place in relation to the above application for consideration.

A representative of the Applicant, Madeleine Mcleod, addressed the Committee.

On a motion by the Chair and seconded by Councillor Paul Stuart it was –

Resolved – that the application be approved subject to the following conditions.

1. The development hereby permitted shall be begun before the expiration of three years from the date of this permission.

2. Except where modified by the conditions attached to this planning permission, the development hereby approved relates to and shall be carried out in accordance with the following approved plan:

Location Plan Dwg No. 20464-RPS-S1-XX-DR-0100 Rev P03 Dated 25/10/22

Services to be diverted plan Dwg No. 20464-RPS-S1-XX-DR-A-0102 Rev P03 Dated 25/10/22

Demolition Plan Dwg No. 20464-RPS-S1-XX-DR-A0103 Rev P03 Dated 25/10/22

Proposed Site Plan Dwg No. 20464-RPS-S1-XX-DR-A-0104 Rev P03 Dated 26/10/22

Proposed Floor Plan Dwg No. 20464-RPS-S1-XX-DR-A-0105 Rev P04 Dated 26/10/22

Proposed Office Plan Dwg No. 20464-RPS-S1-XX-DR-A-0106 Rev P03 Dated 26/10/22

Proposed Elevations Dwg No. 20464-RPS-S1-XX-DR-A-0107 Rev P03 Dated 26/10/22

Proposed Building Sections Dwg No. 20464-RPS-S1-XX-DR-A-0108 Rev P02 Dated 15/09/22

Proposed Site Sections Dwg No. 20464-RPS-S1-XX-DR-A-0109 Rev P02 Dated 28/10/22

Conveyor Link Layout Dwg No. 20464-RPS-S1-XX-DR-A-0110 Rev P02 Dated 28/10/22

Proposed Roof Plan Dwg No.20464-RPS-S1-XX-DR-A-0111 Rev P02 Dated 28/10/22

Proposed Cycle Shelter Details Dwg No. 20464-RPS-S1-XX-DR-A-0112 Rev P01

**Proposed Bin Store Dwg No. 20464-RPS-S1-XX-DR-A-0113 Rev P02
Dated 31/10/22**

**Proposed Fence Line Dwg No. 20464-RPS-S1-XX-DR-A-0114 Rev P02
Dated 31/10/22**

**Landscape Design Strategy Dwg No. JSL3843-RPS-XX-EX-DR-L-9001
Rev P04 Dated 10/11/22.**

3. Development shall not commence until a Demolition and Construction Method Statement, together with supporting plan has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The approved Demolition and Construction Method Statement shall be adhered to throughout the demolition/ construction period. The Demolition and Construction Method Statement and plan shall, where applicable, provide for:

i. details of temporary traffic management measures, temporary access, routes and vehicles (if any);

ii. vehicle cleaning facilities;

iii. the parking of vehicles of site operatives and visitors;

iv. the loading and unloading of plant and materials; and,

v. storage of plant and materials used in constructing the development.

4. The development shall not be brought into use until the areas indicated on the submitted plans to be set aside for parking and servicing have been surfaced, drained and permanently marked out or demarcated in accordance with the details and specifications shown in drawing number 20464-RPS-SI-XX-DR-A-0104 Rev P03 Proposed Site Plan. The parking and servicing areas shall be retained as such thereafter.

5. The development shall not be brought into use until the areas indicated on the submitted plans to be set aside for cycle parking have been provided in accordance with the details and specifications shown in drawing number 20464-RPS-SI-XX-DR-A-0104 Rev P03 Proposed Site Plan. The cycle parking shall be retained as such thereafter.

6. The development shall not be brought into use until a Travel Plan has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Council as Local Planning Authority. The Plan shall include immediate, continuing and long-term measures to promote and encourage alternative modes of transport to the single-occupancy car. For the avoidance of doubt, the Travel Plan shall include, but not be limited to: a) Involvement of employees b) Information on existing transport policies, services and

facilities, travel behaviour and attitudes c) Access for all modes of transport d) Targets for mode share e) Resource allocation including Travel Plan Co-ordinator and budget f) A parking management strategy g) A marketing and communications strategy h) Appropriate measures and actions to reduce car dependence and encourage sustainable travel i) An action plan including a timetable for the implementation of each such element of h above j) Mechanisms for monitoring, reviewing and implementing the travel plan

The Approved Travel Plan shall be implemented in accordance with the timetable contained therein and shall continue to be implemented as long as any part of the development is occupied and in use. An annual report shall be submitted to the Council no later than 1 month following the anniversary of the first occupation of the development for a period of 5 years. The annual report shall include a review of the Travel Plan measures, monitoring data and an updated action plan.

7. The development hereby permitted shall not be occupied until details of bird boxes to include number, type and location on an appropriately scaled plan as well as timing of installation, has been provided for approval and implemented in accordance with those details.

8. Prior to commencement of development a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The CEMP shall address and propose measures to minimise the main construction effects of the development and, amongst other things, shall include details of ecological mitigation. The CEMP shall include the agreed method statements to mitigate or avoid adverse environmental impacts: Breeding birds- no tree or scrub removal between 1 March and 31 August inclusive, unless informed by a suitably qualified ecologist; Reasonable Avoidance Measures for protection of badger hedgehog (Protected Species (NERC, 2006)); and Methods for removal of the invasive species cotoneaster (Schedule 9 of Wildlife and Countryside Act) and buddleia which could include methods such as digging out, turning upside down on tarpaulin and leaving for an extended period before burying after the plant is confirmed as dead. It is imperative this is done outside of the fruiting period for cotoneaster to ensure no contamination.

9. Prior to the commencement of development the production of a full and detailed Landscape and Ecological Management Plans shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority, which covers management of the site in perpetuity or for the duration of the development is required. The Plan should include the following: Description and evaluation of the features to be managed; Ecological trends and constraints on site which may influence management;

**Aims and objectives of management;
Appropriate management options for achieving aims and objectives;
Prescriptions for management actions;
Preparation of a work schedule (including an annual work plan and the means by which the plan will be rolled forward annually);
Personnel responsible for implementation of the plan;
Confirmation of funding and ownership; and,
Details of a programme of monitoring and remedial measures triggered by monitoring.**

10. Noise mitigation measures shall be undertaken in line with the noise mitigation measures outlined in paragraph 5.7 of the submitted Noise Impact Assessment.

11. The development hereby permitted by this planning permission, including all components of the sustainable drainage system, shall be carried out in accordance with the approved Drainage Design Report, Project Marula, Port Sunlight / Version P03 / dated 12 January 2023 / ref: 20464-RPS-SI-XX-RP-D-0030 / by RPS Group For the avoidance of doubt, the surface water discharge rate from the development shall be no more than 13.4 l/s. The approved scheme shall be fully constructed prior to occupation in accordance with the approved details, phasing and timetable embodied within the approved Sustainable Drainage Strategy, or within any other period as may subsequently be agreed, in writing, by the Local Planning Authority in consultation with the Lead Local Flood Authority.

12. The development hereby permitted by this planning permission, including all components of the sustainable drainage system, shall be carried out in accordance with the approved final Sustainable Drainage Strategy, including any phasing embodied within, and maintained in perpetuity in accordance with an agreed Operation and Maintenance Plan, to be submitted for each development phase, approved by the Local Planning Authority, in consultation with the Lead Local Flood Authority. The approved drainage scheme shall be fully constructed prior to occupation in accordance with the approved details, phasing and timetable embodied within the approved final Sustainable Drainage Strategy, or within any other period as may subsequently be agreed, in writing, by the Local Planning Authority in consultation with the Lead Local Flood Authority. 'As built' drainage design/layout drawings and a final Operation and Maintenance Plan, confirming asset details and maintenance arrangements, shall be submitted to the Lead Local Flood Authority, in accordance with any approved phasing, prior to occupation.

13. No development, except for site enabling works, shall commence until a remediation strategy to deal with the risks associated with

contamination of the site in respect of the development hereby permitted, has been submitted to, and approved in writing by, the local planning authority. This strategy will include the following components: Additional site investigation scheme, based on the information already submitted, to provide information for a detailed assessment of the risk to all receptors that may be affected, including those off-site.

The results of the site investigation and the detailed risk assessment referred to in (1) and, based on these, an options appraisal and remediation strategy giving full details of the remediation measures required and how they are to be undertaken.

A verification plan providing details of the data that will be collected in order to demonstrate that the works set out in the remediation strategy in (2) are complete and identifying any requirements for longer-term monitoring of pollutant linkages, maintenance and arrangements for contingency action. Any changes to these components require the written consent of the local planning authority. The scheme shall be implemented as approved.

14. Piling or any other foundation designs using penetrative methods shall not be permitted other than with the express written consent of the local planning authority, which may be given for those parts of the site where it has been demonstrated that there is no resultant unacceptable risk to groundwater. The development shall be carried out in accordance with the approved details.

15. Prior to any part of the permitted development being brought into use, a verification report demonstrating the completion of works set out in the approved remediation strategy and the effectiveness of the remediation shall be submitted to, and approved in writing, by the local planning authority. The report shall include results of sampling and monitoring carried out in accordance with the approved verification plan to demonstrate that the site remediation criteria have been met.

16. Before the scheme is brought into use, the applicant shall submit a report to the local planning authority for its written approval. This report shall detail the lighting scheme to be used on site. The approved scheme shall be implemented in full.

132 **APP/22/00215; ASHLEA, 37 THURSTASTON ROAD, HESWALL CH60 6SB, DOUBLE STOREY SIDE EXTENSION. EXISTING CONSERVATORY TO BE DEMOLISHED.**

The Development Management Manager presented the report of the Director of Regeneration and Place in relation to the above application for consideration.

The Ward Councillor Andrew Hodson addressed the Committee.

On a motion by the Chair and seconded by Councillor Steve Foulkes it was –

Resolved (8:4) – that the application be approved subject to the following conditions.

1. The development hereby permitted shall be begun before the expiration of 3 years from the date of this permission.

2. The development hereby permitted shall be carried out in accordance with the approved plans received by the local planning authority on 07 February 2023 and listed as follows:

Drawing no: 010 P3 (Proposed Basement Plan), dated: 07 February 2023;

Drawing no: 011 P4 (Proposed Ground Floor Plan), dated: 07 February 2023;

Drawing no: 012 P6 (Proposed First Floor Plan), dated: 07 February 2023;

Drawing no: 013 P5 (Proposed Loft Floor Plan), dated: 07 February 2023;

Drawing no: 014 P5 (Proposed Roof Plan), dated: 07 February 2023;

Drawing no: 015 P7 (Proposed Elevations), dated: 07 February 2023; and

Drawing no: 016 P5 (Proposed Elevations), dated: 07 February 2023.

3. No surface water from any increase in the roof area of the building /or impermeable surfaces within its curtilage shall be allowed to drain directly or indirectly to the public sewerage system.

4. Prior to the balcony hereby approved being brought into use, a 1.7m high x 2.38m long timber privacy screen shall be installed along the south facing side of the balcony with a 1.7m high x 1m long return installed on the west facing balcony frontage all of which shall be retained as such thereafter unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

5. The ground floor and first floor side windows and first floor rear window shall not be glazed otherwise than with obscured glass (windows to be fixed shut or non-opening up to a height of 1.7m and top hung, opening inwards or outwards) and thereafter be permanently retained as such.

133 **REVIEW OF THE STATUTORY WIRRAL BROWNFIELD LAND REGISTER**

The Development Management Manager presented the report of the Director of Regeneration and Place in relation to the above application for consideration.

The Chair informed members that ward specific queries should be sent directly to the report author for a response.

On a motion by Councillor Steve Foulkes and seconded by the Chair it was –

Resolved – that

The Planning Committee approve that:

- (1) The sites listed in Appendix 2 to the report be removed from Part 1 of the Council's Brownfield Land Register;**
- (2) The sites listed in Appendix 3 to the report be added to Part 1 of the Brownfield Land Register;**
- (3) The sites listed in Appendix 4 to the report be updated and continue to be included on Part 1 of the Brownfield Land Register; and**
- (4) The sites listed in Appendix 5 to the report remain unchanged and continue to be included on Part 1 of the Brownfield Land Register.**

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 22 March 2023

Present: Councillor J Williamson (Chair)

Councillors T Anderson L Rennie
P Cleary B Kenny (In place
EA Grey of P Stuart)
T Jones C Carubia (In place
Y Nolan of P Gilchrist)
J Robinson J Bird
H Cameron M Booth
K Hodson
J Johnson

107 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting as well as those watching the webcast.

108 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received by Councillor Paul Stuart and Councillor Phil Gilchrist.

109 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were asked to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests and any other relevant interest and to state the nature of the interest.

Councillor Jean Robinson declared a personal interest as a Director on Wirral Growth Company.

110 MINUTES

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 15 February 2023 be approved as a correct record.

111 PUBLIC AND MEMBER QUESTIONS

The Chair confirmed that no public questions, statements, petitions or questions by members had been received.

With the consent of the Committee, the Chair altered the order of business.

112 STRATEGIC PLANNING AND IMPROVEMENT UPDATE

The Head of Corporate Office introduced the report of the Chief Executive which provided an update on the Council's continuing improvement programme. It included the outcome of the Local Government Association's (LGA) Corporate Peer Challenge re-visit conducted in November 2022, as well as an in-year review of progress delivering against the Wirral Plan and the Council's Improvement Plan which were both agreed at Council on 11 July 2022.

The refreshed Wirral Plan also included a number of key priorities for 2022/23 in line with current and emerging issues and challenges. An interim progress report, highlighting the achievement against these priorities was included as Appendix 3. It was reported that a year-end report would be compiled and reported in Summer/Autumn as a new Wirral Plan was refreshed to align with the new Council administration following the local elections in May.

The Committee noted the planned withdrawal of the Independent Assurance Panel and welcomed the progress the Council had demonstrated via its Improvement Plan.

Resolved – That the Council's progress made to date be endorsed and further collaborative working in support of the Council's on-going improvement be supported.

113 WORK PROGRAMME

The Director of Law and Governance introduced the report which provided the Committee with an opportunity to plan and regularly review its work across the municipal year.

It was requested that a list of the Council's assets including their existing value following revaluation and a comparison to their previous value, be circulated to all members.

Resolved – That the work programme be noted.

114 COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER

The Chief Executive introduced the report of the Director of Law and Governance which set out a referral from Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee relating to the Community Asset Transfer process.

The Tourism, Communities, Culture & Leisure Committee authorised the Director of Resources to enter into negotiations on the basis of the re-submitted business plans contained in the exempt Appendix 2 of this report to agree Heads of Terms for the transfer of the former library asset at Higher

Bebington Library to the Co-op Academy Bebington. It also authorised the Director of Resources to market the site of the former Hoylake Library for sale or commercial leasing on the basis that it is surplus to the requirements of the Committee and agreed to the removal of the former Woodchurch Library asset from the CAT process.

It therefore subsequently recommended that Policy & Resources Committee agree that Higher Bebington and Woodchurch Libraries be appropriated by the Council for educational purposes, and that the site of the former Hoylake Library be marketed for sale or commercial leasing.

Resolved – That

(1) Higher Bebington Library be appropriated by the Council for educational purposes.

(2) The former Woodchurch library asset be appropriated by the Council for educational purposes.

(3) The site of the former Hoylake Library be marketed for sale or commercial leasing.

115 DISPOSAL OF THE FORMER MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (MOD) LAND ON OLD HALL ROAD, BROMBOROUGH

The Regeneration and Place Portfolio Lead introduced the report of the Director of Law and Governance, which set out a referral from Economy, Regeneration and Housing Committee. The report detailed a proposed disposal of the former Ministry Of Defence (MOD) land on Old Hall Road Bromborough. The land previously formed part of a portfolio of sites that were bound by an option to purchase in favour of the Wirral Growth Company but under revised arrangements the Council had full unfettered control over the site. The matter had been referred to Policy and Resources Committee as the disposal of land was likely to be sold for more than £500,000.

Resolved – That the former Ministry of Defence, Old Hall Road Bromborough site be declared surplus to the Council’s requirements and that authority be given to the Director of Regeneration and Place to secure its disposal on the best terms achievable.

116 EXEMPT INFORMATION - EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Chair outlined that the remaining three items included exempt information within their appendices. Committee indicated that the detail within those appendices was material to the debate.

Therefore, on a motion by the Chair, seconded by Councillor Jean Robinson, it was –

Resolved – That, under section 100 (A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined by paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A (as amended) to that Act. The Public Interest test has been applied and favours exclusion.

117 **EDSENTIAL**

The Director of Finance introduced the report which provided an update on Edsential and the proposed Annual Business Plan for 2023-2024. The report detailed that Edsential was a jointly owned Community Interest Company with Cheshire West and Chester Council providing a range of services to the education sector. The Council, Cheshire West and Chester Council and the Company were parties to a Shareholders Agreement dated 1 December 2015 which provided that the Company shall provide each shareholder a Business Plan for each financial year for approval.

It was reported to the Committee that following the financial impact of the closure of schools during the Pandemic on Edsential, Policy and Resources on 10th November 2021 authorised a Covid related funding support grant of £643,000 and an interest bearing loan of £857,000, with the 2022/23 business plan devised to allow the company to reset its activities post Covid and make agreed repayments against the loan. The Committee was further advised that the autumn's inflationary spike in respect of food ingredient prices, energy and wage costs had impacted levels of return, and therefore the proposed 2023/24 Annual Business Plan set out a number of measures which the company believed would enable it to trade at a level to recover its position.

Officers and members had reviewed the business plan and felt that further analysis was required to gain a better understanding of the assumptions and therefore the outcome of the further work should be reported back to Policy and Resources or Shareholder Board before the agreement of the 2023/24 Annual Business Plan.

The Committee debated the contents of the report and the proposed Annual Business Plan in detail.

Councillor Pat Cleary suggested an addition to the officer recommendations, so that the second recommendation included an additional sentence: 'This report to include a list of and details around the options available to the council regarding the future provision of services provided by Edsential.'

Councillor Jenny Johnson suggested an alteration to the officer recommendation, to delete reference to Shareholder Board as she felt the matter warranted further consideration by Policy and Resources Committee.

The Chair confirmed that she had no objection to either suggestion. Therefore, on a motion by the Chair, seconded by Councillor Jean Robinson, it was –

Resolved – That

(1) the draft annual business plan for 2023-2024 submitted by Edsential CIC in accordance with the requirements of the Shareholders Agreement be noted.

(2) the Director of Finance, in consultation with the Director of Law and Governance, be requested to engage with the company to establish a deeper understanding of the company's functioning with a view to suggesting revisions to the Annual Business Plan for 2023 – 2024 and to report back to a future meeting of this committee with recommendations relating to such a revised annual business plan. This report to include a list of and details around the options available to the council regarding the future provision of services provided by Edsential.

118 **FUTURE HIGH STREET FUND PROGRAMME - EUROPA RESIDENTIAL PHASE 1**

The Regeneration and Place Portfolio Lead introduced the report of the Director of Law and Governance, which set out a referral from Economy, Regeneration and Housing Committee. The report of the Director of Regeneration and Place set out the activities undertaken to develop one element of the Birkenhead Future High Street programme, namely the Europa Residential scheme.

Committee was asked to delegate the decision to appoint a delivery partner to the Director of Regeneration and Place. The matter had been referred to Policy & Resources Committee as the value of the land was considered to be in excess of £500,000 and the appointment of a development partner would involve the development and onward transfer of the land in accordance with the objectives set out in paragraph 3.8 of the report.

Resolved – That

(1) the Director of Regeneration and Place be authorised to progress the appointment of a delivery partner for the Europa Residential Phase 1 project further to the on-going mini-tendering process via the Homes England Housing Delivery Partner Dynamic

Purchasing System in consultation with the Director of Law and Governance.

- (2) the Director of Regeneration and Place be authorised to pursue and accept other avenues of funding and proceed to award of contract in the event that a suitably appraised and acceptable bid exceeds the Future High Street Fund allocation for this project.**

119 **FREEPORTS AND MARITIME INNOVATION AND GROWTH PROJECTS**

The Regeneration and Place Portfolio Lead introduced the report of the Director of Law and Governance, which set out a referral from Economy, Regeneration and Housing Committee. The report of the Director of Regeneration and Place sought approval to establish a Wirral Freeport Investment Fund. Government arrangements for Freeports allowed for any growth in business rates above an agreed baseline within the designated Freeport Tax Site area to be retained by the Council as Billing Authority over a guaranteed 25-year period and re-invested to stimulate further development. The Council would be able to use this growth to fund borrowing to increase investment within the Tax Site and bring forward regeneration more quickly and promote further growth.

A Business Case had been endorsed by Economy Regeneration and Housing Committee which set out the strategic, economic, financial and commercial case for establishing the Fund, as well as the proposed governance and management arrangements required to enable operation and oversight of the Fund. Proposals for funding would be subject to a full and robust appraisal process and considered and decided on a case-by-case basis as they came forward.

The Committee debated the merits of the project in detail.

Resolved (13:2) – That

- (1) the Wirral Freeport Investment Fund be established from 1 April 2023 (or as soon as regulations designate the Wirral Waters Tax Site for business rates retention purposes) and be managed and operated according to the arrangements detailed within this report and accompanying Business Case and the principles set out in the draft Retained Business Rates Strategy which formed a component of the Memorandum of Understanding.**
- (2) agreement be given to the growth in business rates above the baseline within the Wirral Freeport Tax Site is held to a ring-fenced reserve which would fund:**
- **Investment in approved projects and the future repayment of capital borrowing for investments made by the Wirral Freeport**

Investment Fund;

- **The annual costs required to resource the administration and management of the Wirral Freeport Investment Fund from financial year 2023/24; and**
- **Wirral Council's pro-rata annual contribution to the Liverpool City Region Freeport Management Team costs from financial year 2024/25.**

120 COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER - EXEMPT APPENDICES

Resolved – That the exempt appendices be noted.

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REGULATORY AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Thursday, 23 March 2023

Present: Councillor A Hodson (Chair)

Councillors	C O'Hagan	D Burgess-Joyce
	S Bennett	M Collins
	C Davies	L Fraser
	J Hoey	S Williams
	C Jones	C Cooke
	D Kenny	D Mitchell
	M Booth	K Greaney

30 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and those watching the webcast.

31 APOLOGIES

No apologies for absence had been received.

32 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members of the Committee were asked to declare any disclosable pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests in connection with any item on the agenda and state the nature of the interest.

No such declarations were made.

33 PUBLIC AND MEMBER QUESTIONS

The Chair reported that no questions, statements or petitions had been received from members of the public or from any Members.

34 MINUTES

Resolved – That the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 1 February 2023 be approved.

35 MINUTES OF THE REGULATORY PANEL

Resolved – That the accuracy of the minutes of the meetings of the Regulatory Panel held on 13 January and 2 February 2023 be approved.

36 **AMENDMENT TO HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE LICENCE CONDITIONS**

The Director of Law and Governance submitted a report for the Committee to consider an amendment to the Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licence conditions and the Private Hire Vehicle Licence conditions so that the requirement to display a vehicle identification card within a Hackney Carriage Vehicle or Private Hire Vehicle no longer applies with effect from 27 March 2023.

The Licensing Manager reported that it had been identified that the information on the card was not easily accessible to passengers in the rear of Private Hire Vehicles as it was usually displayed on the dashboard of the vehicle. The Licensing Manager further advised that whilst it may be more visible inside a Hackney Carriage Vehicle, details of the licence number of this type of vehicle is also displayed on a light box inside the vehicle and the information identifying the vehicle is replicated on the light box. Members of the Committee were informed that details of both Hackney Carriage and Private Hire vehicles are also displayed on licence plates attached to the vehicle and details of the driver are on the badge worn by the driver and carried within the vehicle.

The Licensing Manager informed Members of the Committee that should the condition be removed this would result in an approximate saving of £2,722 during the financial year 2023/24 which could be taken into account when determining vehicle licence fees.

In response to questions from Members, the Licensing Manager advised that officers had raised the question regarding the necessity to have the window card and following some deliberation it had been considered that there would be no risk to the public in removing the requirement.

Resolved (by assent) – That the Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licence conditions and the Private Hire Vehicle Licence conditions be amended so that the requirement to display a vehicle identification card within a Hackney Carriage Vehicle or Private Hire Vehicle no longer applies with effect from 27 March 2023.

37 **REVIEW OF LICENCE FEES FOR HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE DRIVERS**

The Director of Law and Governance submitted a report requesting that the Committee consider and approve revised fees in respect of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Driver Licences.

The Licensing Manager reported that a significant gap had been identified between the income received from the licence fees and the costs associated with the provision of these statutory functions.

Members were informed that the review had identified that the current application fee did not take into account the full cost of administering the whole application process for Hackney Carriage or Private Hire Driver licences.

The Licensing Manager reported that the fees for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licensing functions had previously been reviewed on an annual basis and following a review undertaken in March 2019 it had been identified that there had been no reason to amend the fees as the income received had been sufficient to cover the costs. The Committee had therefore not amended the level of fees since 2018. Following the review undertaken in February 2023 it had been identified that in order to recover the costs there was a need to increase the fees as there had been a projected gap of £56,299.00. It had been calculated that the proposed fees as set out in Appendix 2 to the report could generate sufficient income to recover the costs of administering the functions related to Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Driver Licences.

Members discussed the current fees and proposed fees in respect of change of address and replacement licences and raised concerns regarding the significant increase in the fee for new applicants. In response, the Licensing Manager referred to the increase for renewal which would affect current drivers which was from £132 to £187, replacement licences were not frequently requested and were now emailed, therefore the significant increase was the fee for new applicants which was to cover costs which had not been accounted for previously and in effect there was no increase as they are new applications and this was a one off fee for the application process.

In response to concerns that the increase in fees may discourage new applications for drivers and that current drivers may leave, the Licensing Manager advised that this was a risk and would be kept under review and that there had been a reduction in licensed drivers since 2019. The numbers of current Private Hire drivers and Hackney Carriage Drivers were provided which were 1,150 and 275 respectively and within this figure some Hackney Carriage Drivers also held Private Hire Driver licences. It was hoped that the efficient and effective service provided would encourage applicants to come to Wirral and that the fees would be value for money.

Members queried the numbers of drivers currently and prior to the Covid-19 pandemic and the Licensing Manager advised that some licensed drivers had left, however the new case management system did not provide previous numbers to make a comparison.

The Licensing Manager further confirmed that the fees would be kept under review.

On a motion by Councillor M Collins and seconded by Councillor D Burgess-Joyce, it was -

Resolved – That the licence fees in respect of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Driver Licences be approved as set out in Appendix 2 attached to the report, subject to the amendment of retaining the current £10 fee for replacement licences with effect from 1 April 2023.

38 **THANKS TO COUNCILLOR DAVE MITCHELL**

The Chair expressed his thanks to Councillor Dave Mitchell for his 40 years' service, having been an excellent Councillor for his ward and for his help and contributions to this Committee and the Council.

Councillor Mitchell expressed his thanks to officers and Members of the Committee.

CONSTITUTION AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Thursday, 13 April 2023

Present: Councillor T Cox (Chair)

Councillors A Onwuemene P Gilchrist

Apologies Councillors P Hayes
P Stuart
J McManus

30 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Paul Hayes, Cllr Julie McManus, Cllr Paul Stuart and Independent Member Professor Ronald Jones.

31 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Members were asked to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests and any other relevant interest and to state the nature of the interest. No such declarations were made.

32 MINUTES

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on be approved on 22 February 2023 be held as a correct record.

33 PUBLIC AND MEMBER QUESTIONS

No public questions or statements were received in advance of the committee meeting.

34 AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

The Head of Democratic and Member Services introduced the report of the Director of Law and Governance. The report provided a summary of the discussions held by the Governance Working Group in respect to proposed changes to the Constitution. The proposed changes were in relation to: Sharing written responses to public questions with the public (SO 10.9 (c) and 12.6 (c)), sharing of motions and amendments without notice (SO 14(h)), acceptance of grant funding by Officers, and Questions to members appointed to Joint Authorities at Council meetings (SO12.1).

Members commented that these changes would allow for further transparency within the council by including written responses to questions within minutes for meetings.

On a motion by the Chair, seconded by Councillor Onwuemene, it was,

Resolved - that the suggested amendments to the Standing Orders as detailed in sections 3.2 to 3.5 of the report be incorporated into the Constitution and presented for approval at the Annual Council Meeting in May 2023.

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 19 April 2023

<u>Present:</u>	Councillor	S Kelly (Chair)	
	Councillors	S Foulkes	M Jordan
		G Davies	B Kenny
		T Elzeiny	P Martin
		H Gorman	P Stuart
		K Hodson	A Wright
<u>In attendance:</u>	Councillors	S Powell-Wilde	
<u>Apologies</u>	Councillors	J McManus	

134 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Chair welcomed Members of the Planning Committee, Officers and members of the public to the meeting.

135 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Julie McManus, she was deputised by Councillor Sue Powell-Wylde.

136 MINUTES

The Director of Law and Governance submitted the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 16 March 2023.

Resolved – That the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 16 March 2023 be approved.

137 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members of the Committee were asked whether they had any personal or prejudicial interests in connection with any item on the agenda and if so, to declare them and state what they were. No such declarations were made.

138 APP/22/01656: LAND ADJACENT TO OAK COTTAGE NOCTORUM ROAD, NOCTORUM, PRENTON, WIRRAL, CH43 9UQ, THE ERECTION OF A SEMI-DETACHED VILLA ON LAND ADJACENT TO OAK COTTAGE, WITH ASSOCIATED PARKING PROVISION AND ACCESS (2NO. DWELLINGS).

The Development Management Manager presented the report of the Director of Regeneration and Place in relation to the above application for consideration.

Objector to the application, Mr Matthew Gilbert, addressed the Committee.

Ward Councillor Gillian Wood addressed the Committee.

A representative of the applicant, Mr Simon Halliwell, addressed the Committee.

On a motion by Councillor Steve Foulkes and seconded by Councillor Kathy Hodson it was –

Resolved (9:3) – that the application be refused on the following grounds.

The loss of this previously undeveloped site for a residential development, particularly one that has a higher density than the prevailing character of the area, would have a clear adverse impact on the character of this area and therefore conflicts with Wirral Unitary Development Plan Policy HS4 and HS5 and the National Planning Policy Framework, in particular Paragraph 124d.

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Thursday, 27 April 2023

Present:

Councillor

Councillors	T Anderson	P Stuart
	P Gilchrist	H Cameron
	P Cleary	L Rennie
	EA Grey	K Hodson
	T Jones	J Johnson
	J Robinson	

Apologies

Councillors J Williamson and J Bird

121 **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

122 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received by Councillor Jeanette Williamson and Councillor Jo Bird.

123 **MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members are asked to consider whether they have any disclosable pecuniary interests and/or any other relevant interest in connection with any item(s) on this agenda and, if so, to declare them and state the nature of the interest.

Councillor Jean Robinson declared a personal interest by virtue of her position as a board member of Wirral Growth Company LLP.

124 **EXEMPT INFORMATION - EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Resolved – That, under section 100 (A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business on the grounds it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined by paragraph 3 of Part I of

Schedule 12A (as amended) to that Act. The Public Interest test has been applied and favours exclusion.

125 **PROPOSAL TO CONSIDER THE PURCHASE OF A STRATEGIC ACQUISITION**

The Director of Regeneration and Place presented the report which set out the case for the purchase of a strategic acquisition. Following a debate, two amendments to the recommendations set out within the report were suggested. It was moved by Councillor Jean Robinson and seconded by Councillor Tom Anderson, that the recommendations within the report be agreed, with the inclusion of the two amendments.

Following a discussion it was therefore –

Resolved (unanimously) – That the amended recommendations be agreed.

LICENSING ACT COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 7 June 2023

Present:

Councillors	S Bennett (Vice-Chair)	K Murphy
	C Cooke	M Redfern
	G Davies	J Stewart Laing
	B Hall	K Stuart
	L Luxon-Kewley	M Sullivan
	C McDonald	E Tomeny

Apologies

Councillors	A Hodson (Chair)	R Pitt
	M Jordan	

Vice-Chair in the Chair

1 **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

The Vice-Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and those watching the webcast.

2 **APOLOGIES**

The Vice-Chair confirmed apologies had been received from Councillors A Hodson (Chair), M Jordan and R Pitt.

3 **MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members of the Committee were asked to declare any disclosable pecuniary and non pecuniary interests, in connection with any application on the agenda and state the nature of the interest.

No such declarations were made.

4 **MINUTES**

Resolved – That the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 16 November 2022 be approved.

5 **MINUTES OF THE LICENSING PANEL**

Resolved – That the accuracy of the minutes of the meetings of the Licensing Panel (now re-named as the Licensing Act Sub Committee) held on 19 December, 20 December 2022, 6 January and 18 January 2023 be approved.

6 **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

The Vice-Chair indicated that one question had been received from John Brace relating to a refund in respect of an application he had made for a Temporary Event Notice.

In response, the Legal Advisor to the Committee explained that the payment would be refunded as of 9 June 2023 and should be received a few working days after this date.

7 **STATEMENTS AND PETITIONS**

The Vice-Chair reported that there had been no statements or petitions submitted.

8 **QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS**

The Vice-Chair reported that there had been no questions submitted from Members.

9 **APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE LICENSING ACT SUB-COMMITTEE**

The Director of Law and Governance submitted a report in respect of the appointment of Members to the Licensing Act Sub-Committee.

It was reported that the Terms of Reference of the Licensing Act Committee as contained in the Council's Constitution (approved by Council on 24 May 2023), required this Committee to act as the administrative committee, acting under statutory delegation pursuant to the Licensing Act 2003, and to be responsible for making decisions as a Licensing Authority under the Licensing Act 2003 and Gambling Act 2005.

It was further reported that the Terms of Reference also allowed for the convening of Licensing Act Sub-Committees of three members of the Licensing Act Committee, with responsibility for the Council's functions to deal with applications, determinations and reviews of licences, permissions and any related matter in respect of the Licensing Act 2003 or the Gambling Act 2005 within statutory timescales.

On a motion by Councillor Mike Sullivan and seconded by Councillor Chris Cooke it was –

Resolved –

- (1) That the Terms of Reference of the Licensing Act Sub-Committee as referred to in paragraphs 1.1 and 1.2 of the report be noted and that each Licensing Act Sub-Committee be comprised of three Members drawn from the fifteen Members of the Licensing Act Committee with the Chair appointed on the day of each meeting.**
- (2) That the Director of Law and Governance (Monitoring Officer) be given delegated authority, in consultation with the Chair and Spokespersons to convene Licensing Act Sub-Committees as and when required for the purposes of carrying out the Council's functions to deal with applications, determinations and reviews of licences permissions and any related matter in respect of the Licensing Act 2003 or the Gambling Act 2005. Up to two further Members of the Licensing Act Committee may attend as observers.**
- (3) That the term of membership of the Licensing Act Committee be continued until such time as a new Licensing Act Committee is appointed.**

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REGULATORY AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 7 June 2023

Present:

Councillors	S Bennett (Vice-Chair)	J Stewart Laing
	C Cooke	K Stuart
	G Davies	M Sullivan
	B Hall	E Tomeny
	L Luxon-Kewley	A Gardner (In place of M Jordan)
	C McDonald	D Kenny (In place of R Pitt)
	K Murphy	I Lewis (In place of A Hodson, Chair)
	M Redfern	

Apologies:

Councillors	A Hodson (Chair)
	M Jordan
	R Pitt

Vice-Chair in the Chair

1 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Vice-Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and those watching the webcast.

2 APOLOGIES

The Vice-Chair confirmed apologies had been received from Councillors A Hodson (Chair) with Councillor I Lewis deputising, M Jordan with Councillor A Gardner deputising and R Pitt with Councillor D Kenny deputising.

3 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members of the Committee were asked to declare any disclosable pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests in connection with any item on the agenda and state the nature of the interest.

No such declarations were made.

4 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The Vice-Chair indicated that one question had been received from John Brace relating to the report in respect of the Honorary Freedom of the

Borough as to why the year had been omitted from the list of past recipients in respect of The Hillsborough 96.

In response, the Civic and Electoral Services Manager explained that this was a typing error and had been noted.

5 **QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS**

The Vice-Chair reported that there had been no statements or petitions received or any questions submitted from Members.

6 **MINUTES**

Resolved – That the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 23 March 2023 be approved.

7 **MINUTES OF THE REGULATORY PANEL**

Resolved – That the accuracy of the minutes of the meetings of the Regulatory Panel (now re-named as the Licensing Panel) held on 3 March 2023, 5 April 2023, 28 April 2023 (am) and 28 April 2023 (pm) be approved.

8 **APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE LICENSING PANEL AND THE CHARITABLE TRUSTS SUB-COMMITTEE**

The Director of Law and Governance submitted a report in respect of the appointment of Members to the Licensing Panel and the Charitable Trusts Sub-Committee.

It was reported that the Terms of Reference of the Regulatory and General Purposes Committee as contained in the Council's Constitution (approved by Council on 24 May 2023), required this Committee to appoint five of its members, politically balanced, to the Charitable Trusts Sub-Committee which has responsibility for discharging the Council's functions as corporate trustee of The Wirral Borough Council Mayor's Charity.

It was further reported that the Terms of Reference as amended at Council on 24 May 2023 also allowed for the convening of Licensing Panels of between three and five Members of the Regulatory and General Purposes Committee, exempt from political balance but not formed solely by members of one political Group, with the responsibility for the Council's functions to deal with applications, determinations and reviews of licences or registrations and any related matter, in respect of any licensed activity that is the responsibility of the Authority (other than under the Licensing Act 2003 or the Gambling Act 2005).

Members were advised that to allow effective management of applications, etc within relevant statutory timescales or otherwise in a timely manner, where the required decision was outside of officer delegated powers, a Licensing Panel could be convened consisting of between three and five Members of the Committee to consider and determine the matter. The setting up and running of Panels is an administrative function managed by the Council's Democratic Services Team and it was proposed to Members that they delegate authority to the Director of Law and Governance (Monitoring Officer) to convene such Panels as and when required in consultation with the Chair and Spokespersons.

The allocation of five seats on the Charitable Trusts Sub-Committee would be 2 Labour, 1 Conservative, 1 Green and 1 Liberal Democrat and it would be for the political groups to decide who they wished to nominate to the places on the Charitable Trusts Sub-Committee allocated to their group.

On a motion by Councillor Brenda Hall and seconded by Councillor Chris Cooke it was –

Resolved –

- (1) That the Terms of Reference of the Charitable Trusts Sub-Committee and the Licensing Panel as referred to in paragraphs 1.1 to 1.3 of the report be noted.**
- (2) That the Director of Law and Governance (Monitoring Officer) be authorised to carry out the wishes of the Group Leaders in allocating Members to membership of the Charitable Trusts Sub-Committee and to appoint those Members with effect from the date at which the proper officer is advised of the names of such Members.**
- (3) That the Director of Law and Governance (Monitoring Officer) be given delegated authority, in consultation with the Chair and Spokespersons, to convene Licensing Panels as and when required for the purposes of carrying out the Council's functions to deal with applications, determinations and reviews of licences or registrations, and any related matter, in respect of any licensed activity that is the responsibility of the Authority (other than under the Licensing Act 2003 or the Gambling Act 2005) and that it be agreed that the term of membership be continued until such time as a new Regulatory and General Purposes Committee is appointed.**

The Director of Law and Governance submitted a report requesting that Members of the Committee give consideration as to whether to recommend to Council that the title of Honorary Alderman be conferred on former Councillors Tony Smith and Dave Mitchell.

The Civic and Electoral Services Manager reported that former Councillor Tony Smith had been a Member of the Council from May 1995 representing Bebington Ward as a Labour Party Member and served as the Member for Upton Ward since 2004 until May 2023 and had served as Mayor of Wirral for the Municipal Years 2019-20 and 2020-21. Former Councillor Tony Smith had also been a Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion and Children's Services during his service to Wirral Council.

It was reported that former Councillor Dave Mitchell had been a Member of the Council from May 1983, representing Eastham Ward as Liberal Democrat Member until May 2023. Former Councillor Dave Mitchell had served as Mayor of Wirral for the Municipal Year 2013-14, had been the Chair of Planning Committee when the Wirral Waters development had been approved and was also a Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation. He was also a member of the Mersey Port Health Authority, the North Western Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority and had also served on the Merseytravel Committee.

The Council had previously determined that former Members who had served twenty years on the Council or a predecessor Council were eligible for nomination to this award and therefore former Councillors Tony Smith and Dave Mitchell were eligible to have the title of Honorary Alderman conferred upon them.

On a motion by Councillor Mike Sullivan and seconded by Councillor Andrew Gardner it was –

Resolved – That the conferment of the title of Honorary Alderman on former Councillors Tony Smith and Dave Mitchell be recommended to Council in accordance with Section 249(1) of the Local Government Act 1972.

10 **HONORARY FREEDOM OF THE BOROUGH (POSTHUMOUS AWARD) – PAUL O'GRADY MBE DL**

The Director of Law and Governance submitted a report requesting that Members of the Committee recommend to Council that Paul O'Grady MBE DL be posthumously admitted as Honorary Freeman of this Borough at an Extraordinary Council meeting to be held on 10 July 2023.

The Civic and Electoral Services Manager reported that this was a very significant step for the Council to take. Very few people had been awarded

this status and it should only be awarded to someone who had made an exceptional contribution to the Borough. Paul O'Grady MBE DL, Comedian, Broadcaster, Actor and Writer, who was born and raised in Birkenhead and who sadly passed away on 28th March 2023 aged 67 is considered to be within this category.

In respect of a query raised, it was noted that the year The Hillsborough 96 had been granted the title of Honorary Freeman or Freewoman of the Borough was 2017, which had been inadvertently omitted from the report.

On a motion by Councillor James Stewart Laing and seconded by Councillor Louise Luxon-Kewley it was –

Resolved –

- (1) That in pursuance of the provisions of Section 249(5) of the Local Government Act 1972 and in recognition of his dedicated service to the Borough, that Paul O'Grady MBE DL be posthumously admitted as an Honorary Freeman of this Borough at an Extraordinary Council Meeting to be held on 10 July 2023; and**
- (2) That officers be requested to take the necessary actions associated with (1) above and arrange a small civic reception for family representatives of Paul O'Grady MBE DL and some invited guests on a mutually agreeable date following the Extraordinary Meeting of Council on 10 July 2023.**

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PLANNING COMMITTEE

Thursday, 8 June 2023

<u>Present:</u>	Councillor	S Kelly (Chair)	
	Councillors	S Foulkes H Gorman C Baldwin B Kenny J Stewart Laing	G McManus S Powell-Wilde A Gardner (in place of M Booth) S Mountney (in place of K Hodson) Jason Walsh

1 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Chair welcomed Members of the Planning Committee, Officers, members of the public and those watching the webcast to the meeting.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor K Hodson who was deputised by Councillor S Mountney and Councillor M Booth who was deputised by A Gardner.

3 MINUTES

The Director of Law and Governance submitted the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 19 April 2023 and the minutes of the Strategic Applications Sub-Committee held on 27 April 2023.

Resolved – That the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 19 April 2023 and the minutes of the Strategic Applications Sub-Committee held on 27 April 2023 be approved.

4 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members of the Committee were asked whether they had any personal or prejudicial interests in connection with any item on the agenda and if so, to declare them and state what they were.

No such declarations were made.

5 APP/23/00471: GRAZING LAND LEASOWE ROAD, WALLASEY VILLAGE, WIRRAL, CH45 8LP, ERECTION OF 13 DWELLINGS TOGETHER WITH ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, ACCESS, INTERNAL ROADS, LANDSCAPING AND ASSOCIATED WORKS

The Development Management Manager presented the report of the Director of Regeneration and Place in relation to the above application for consideration.

Objectors to the application, Sharon Edwards and Pat Richie, addressed the Committee.

Ward Councillors Ian Lewis and Lesley Rennie addressed the Committee.

The Applicant, Dave Dargan addressed the Committee.

On a motion by the Chair and seconded Councillor Steve Foulkes it was –

Resolved (unanimously) – that the application be approved subject to the following conditions:

1. The development hereby permitted shall begin not later than 3 years from the date of this decision.

2. Except where modified by the conditions attached to this planning permission, the development hereby approved relates to and shall be carried out in accordance with the following approved plan:

- Location Plan PL.001(B)
- Existing Site Plan PL.002(B)
- Proposed Site Plan 1:500 PL.003(K)
- Proposed Site Plan 1:200 PL.004(H)
- Proposed Street Elevations PL.005(D)
- Proposed Boundary Location and Details PL.006(D)
- Unit Type 1 – 3B6P House – Plans and Elevations PL.007(E)
- Unit Type 2 – 3B6P House – Plans and Elevations PL.007-01(C)
- Unit Type 2a – 3B6P House – Plans and Elevations PL.007-02(A)
- Unit Type 2b – 3B6P House – Plans and Elevations PL.007-03(A)
- Indicative External Works PL.0013(A)
- Indicative Landscaping Plan PL.0012(D)
- Proposed Finished Floor Levels PL.0015(C)

3. Prior to the commencement of development an Affordable Housing Scheme shall be submitted and approved by the Local Planning Authority in writing. As part of this affordable housing scheme, and this development. At least 20% (At least 3 units) of the development shall form Affordable Housing Units within the development. The affordable housing shall be retained in accordance with the approved scheme.

4. Prior to development above damp proof course level proposed site levels shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The approved details shall be implemented before the development is brought into use.

5. Notwithstanding any description of the materials in the application, no development shall be commenced above damp-proof course levels until samples of the materials to be used in the construction of the external

walls and roof(s) of the building(s) have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. All roofing and external facing materials used in the construction of the development shall conform to the materials thereby approved.

6. Windows identified as obscure glazing in the approved drawings, shall be installed as such before the proposed dwellings are brought into use and shall not be altered, and maintained as such in perpetuity. This shall be level 4 obscurity or above.

7. The development shall be carried out in accordance with the submitted flood risk assessment (ref: Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Management Strategy / ref: HYD779_GREENLEAS.CLOSE_FRA&DMS / rev 3.0 / dated 20 April 2023 / by BETTS HYDRO Consulting Engineers) and the following mitigation measures it details:

- Finished floor levels shall be set no lower than 5.00 metres above Ordnance Datum (AOD)
 - Incorporation of flood resilience and resistance measures and materials into the developments design and construction.
 - Safe access and egress from the site during all flood event scenarios.
- These mitigation measures shall be fully implemented prior to occupation and subsequently in accordance with the scheme's timing/ phasing arrangements. The measures detailed above shall be retained and maintained thereafter throughout the lifetime of the development.

8. Prior to the commencement of development, a Construction and Environmental Management Plan shall be submitted to and approved in writing by The Local Planning Authority. The provisions of the Construction and Environmental Management Plan shall be implemented in full during the period of construction and shall not be varied unless otherwise agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority.

9. Prior to the removal of the existing footway a full scheme of works for the reinstatement to standard footway levels of the existing vehicle access on Leasowe Road from the highway that is rendered obsolete by the development shall be submitted and approved in writing by the LPA. The development shall not be occupied until the approved works have been completed in accordance with the approved scheme.

10. No development, except for site enabling works including site clearance, groundworks, and foundations, shall commence until a full scheme of works and timetable for the construction of the new highways and/or amendment of the existing highway made necessary by this development, including new carriageways, footways, street lighting,

surface water drainage, traffic signs, road markings, traffic calming (including the introduction of a 20mph Traffic Regulation Order), tactile paved pedestrian crossings, street furniture, access onto the adjacent highway has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The approved works shall be completed in accordance with the Local Planning Authority written approval prior to occupation of the development.

11. Any tree or scrub clearance shall be conducted outside of the breeding bird season (March – September). If this is not possible then a breeding bird survey should be conducted by a suitably qualified ecologist prior to works commencing. If nesting birds are discovered, then the area around the nest shall be isolated and works halted until nesting has finished.

12. All construction activities shall comply with general environmental best practice measures including:

- the measures set out in the Environment Agency's Pollution Prevention Guidelines;
- excavations should be sealed overnight or should have at least one shallow sloping side allowing animals to escape should they fall in;
- an ecologist shall be contacted for advice should any protected species be discovered during construction; and,
- appropriate measures to suppress dust should be put in place during hot, dry, or windy weather;
- broadleaved trees, hedgerows and the ruderal vegetation on site are suitable to be used by nesting birds. Therefore, vegetation removal should be undertaken outside of the breeding bird season (which is from March to August inclusive). If this is not possible, a suitably experienced ecologist should check the habitat for breeding bird activity no more than 48 hours before clearance. If nesting activity is found, it will need to be left in situ until the nesting effort has been completed.

13. Prior to development reaching damp-proof course level and installation of landscaping features a Biodiversity Enhancement Plan (including stock details and quantities) demonstrating a Biodiversity Net Gain will be provided to the LPA for approval in writing, and should include clearly marked-up plans showing:

- bat and bird nesting boxes; and,
- the creation of habitats through planting of native trees, hedgerows and grassed areas.

The approved plan shall be fully implemented as approved.

Reason: to maintain the landscape and biodiversity value of the site and comply with Policy NC7 of the Wirral Unitary Development Plan Adopted

2000) and comply with Section 15 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

14. The development hereby permitted by this planning permission, including all components of the sustainable drainage system, shall be carried out in accordance with the approved Drainage Layout shown on:

- 23010-AJF-ZZ-ZZ-DR-D-001 dated March 2023 – Proposed Surface Water Drainage Layout – Sheet 1 / by AJF Structural Engineering; and,
- 23010-AJF-ZZ-ZZ-DR-D-002 dated March 2023 – Proposed Surface Water Drainage Layout – Sheet 2 / by AJF Structural Engineering.

For the avoidance of doubt, the surface water discharge rate from the development shall be no more than 2.0 l/s.

The approved scheme shall be fully constructed prior to occupation in accordance with the approved details, phasing and timetable embodied within the approved Sustainable Drainage Strategy (shown on the Drainage Layout drawings), or within any other period as may subsequently be agreed, in writing, by the Local Planning Authority in consultation with the Lead Local Flood Authority.

15. The development hereby permitted by this planning permission, including all components of the sustainable drainage system, shall be carried out in accordance with the approved final Sustainable Drainage Strategy, including any phasing embodied within, and maintained in perpetuity in accordance with an agreed Operation and Maintenance Plan, to be submitted for each development phase, approved by the Local Planning Authority, in consultation with the Lead Local Flood Authority.

The approved drainage scheme shall be fully constructed prior to occupation in accordance with the approved details, phasing and timetable embodied within the approved final Sustainable Drainage Strategy, or within any other period as may subsequently be agreed, in writing, by the Local Planning Authority in consultation with the Lead Local Flood Authority. 'As built' drainage design/layout drawings and a final Operation and Maintenance Plan, confirming asset details and maintenance arrangements, shall be submitted to the Lead Local Flood Authority, in accordance with any approved phasing, prior to occupation.

Reason: To ensure satisfactory sustainable drainage facilities are provided to serve the site and that maintenance arrangements are in place to ensure an acceptable standard of operation for the lifetime of the development in accordance with Paragraphs 167 and 169 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

16. In the event that previously unidentified contamination is found at any time when carrying out the approved development immediate contact must be made with the Local Planning Authority and works must cease in that area. An investigation and risk assessment must be undertaken and where remediation is necessary a remediation scheme must be prepared, submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

Following completion of the remedial works identified in the approved remediation strategy a verification report must be prepared, submitted to and approved in writing of the Local Planning Authority.

17. Prior to development above damp proof course level a scheme of landscaping shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The approved landscaping shall be carried out prior to the occupation of any part of the development. Any trees or plants that within a period of five years after planting, are removed, die or become, in the opinion of the Local Planning Authority, seriously damaged or defective shall be replaced with others of a species, size and number as originally approved in the first available planting season unless the Local Planning Authority gives its written consent to any variation.

18. Prior to occupation of the approved houses, refuse and cycle provision shall be provided within the rear gardens of each house and made available for use, and the provision shall be maintained as such thereafter.

19. The residential houses hereby approved shall be constructed to incorporate the noise mitigation measures identified within the Environmental Noise Survey by Red Acoustics (ref: R1577-REP01-PB)

20. Prior to occupation of each individual house hereby approved, the car parking spaces associated with that individual house, shown on approved drawing PL.004(H), shall be provided and made available for use, and shall be maintained as such thereafter.

21. Prior to development above damp proof course level a Management Plan to cover the areas of the site that are not buildings, private amenity space or highway shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The Management Plan shall include details of appearance, landscaping, lighting, use, accessibility, security and maintenance of these areas.

Prior to occupation of the residential units hereby approved the Management Plan shall be enacted, and the development shall be operated in accordance with the approved Management Plan thereafter.

22. No development shall take place until a Site Waste Management Plan, confirming how demolition and construction waste will be recovered and re-used on the site or at other sites, has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The approved Plan shall be implemented in full unless otherwise agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority.

- 6 **APPH/22/01521: DEE HAVEN, 94 CALDY ROAD, CALDY, WIRRAL, CH48 2HZ, REFURBISHMENT OF EXISTING DWELLING, ERECTION OF NEW SINGLE STOREY REAR EXTENSION WITH ASSOCIATED LANDSCAPING, INCLUDING DEMOLITION OF EXISTING GARAGE AND OUTBUILDINGS, CREATION OF ADDITIONAL PARKING SPACE AND REMOVAL OF PART OF BOUNDARY WALL TO FACILITATE SAME, AND ERECTION OF GARDEN STORE AT REAR.**

The Development Management Manager presented the report of the Director of Regeneration and Place in relation to the above application for consideration.

The Applicant addressed the Committee.

On a motion by the Chair and seconded by Councillor Steve Foulkes it was –

Resolved (unanimously) – that the application be approved subject to the following conditions:

1 The development hereby permitted shall begin not later than 3 years from the date of this decision.

2 The development hereby permitted shall be carried out in accordance with the approved plans received by the local planning authority on 12 January 2023 and 10 March 2023 and listed as follows:

**B104 E (Proposed Ground Floor Plan), dated: 12 January 2023;
B105 D (Proposed First Floor Plan), dated: 12 January 2023;
B106 C (Proposed Roof Plan), dated: 12 January 2023;
B107 B (Proposed Front and West Side Context Elevations), dated: 12 January 2023;
B108 C (Proposed East Side and Rear Elevations), dated: 12 January 2023; and
B109 D (Proposed West Side Elevation and Garden Store Plan and Elevations), dated: 10 March 2023.**

3 No development involving the use of any facing or roofing materials shall take place until samples of the materials to be used in the construction of external surfaces of the building have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. Development shall be carried out in accordance with the approved details.

4 No external lighting shall be installed until details of the proposed lighting scheme to include type, location and illuminance level has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority, thereafter development should be carried out in accordance with the approved details.

5 No tree, shrub or hedgerow felling is to be carried out on the site between 1 March and 31 August in any year. If it is necessary to undertake works during the bird breeding season then all buildings, trees, scrub, hedgerows and vegetation are to be checked first by an appropriately experienced ecologist to ensure no breeding birds are present. If present, details of how they will be protected are required to be submitted for approval.

6 Prior to construction, a scheme for the provision of bird nesting and bat boxes within the development shall be submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority. The boxes so approved shall be completed and available for use prior to first use of the development and shall thereafter be retained.

- 7 **APP/22/00334: CAMELL LAIRD, CAMPBELTOWN ROAD, BIRKENHEAD, WIRRAL, CH41 9BP, CONSTRUCTION OF A BUILDING FOR EMPLOYMENT PURPOSES CLASS E(G)III, B2 AND B8, ALONG WITH A GATEHOUSE ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE INCLUDING: SERVICE YARD, CAR PARKING, DRAINAGE AND HARD AND SOFT LANDSCAPING**

The Development Management Manager presented the report of the Director of Regeneration and Place in relation to the above application for consideration.

The Applicant's Agent addressed the Committee.

On a motion by the Chair and seconded by Councillor Steve Foulkes it was –

Resolved (unanimously) – that the application be approved subject to the following conditions:

1. The development hereby permitted shall be begun before the expiration of three years from the date of this permission.

2. Except where modified by the conditions attached to this planning permission, the development hereby approved relates to and shall be carried out in accordance with the following approved plans:

P21-2391_01-A Detailed Soft Landscaping Proposals

P21-2391_02-A Detailed Soft Landscaping Proposals

Proposed Boundary Treatments Site Plan P403 Rev. D

Proposed Elevations Dwg no. P200 rev. D

Gatehouse Information Dwg no. P110 rev. B

Proposed Roof Plan Dwg no. P101 rev. B

Proposed Floor Plan Dwg no. P100 rev. C

**Proposed Site Plan Dwg no. P402 rev. E
Proposed Surface Treatments Site Plan Dwg no. P404 rev. C
Proposed External Lighting Layout Dwg No. 2390/E01 rev. P1
Site Location Plan Dwg no. P401 rev. B**

3. Notwithstanding any description of materials in the application, no above ground construction works shall take place until samples and / or full specification of materials to be used externally on the building(s) have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. Such details shall include the material type, colour and texture. The development shall be carried out only in accordance with the agreed schedule of materials and method of construction.

4. Prior to commencement of development, a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) document shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority in consultation with Natural England. The CEMP should address and propose measures to minimise the main construction effects of the development and, amongst other things, should include details of ecological mitigation, pollution prevention and soil resource management. The CEMP would normally be expected to include the agreed method statements to mitigate or avoid adverse environmental impacts. The CEMP should include, but not be limited to, the following:

- pollution prevention measures as set out in paragraph 6.3.3 of the shadow HRA report (Information for a Habitats Regulations Assessment, RPS, ECO02904 March 2023, Rev E, Final);**
- details of construction lighting, designed to avoid light spillage into the adjacent Liverpool Bay SPA;**
- details of measures to reduce significant noise effects to waterbirds during construction. These details should include the location and specification of acoustic fencing to be installed upon site boundary; and**
- details of the Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) that will be employed onsite throughout construction period to assist with avoidance of visual disturbance effects to waterbirds within the adjacent Liverpool Bay SPA, as set out in paragraph 6.4.9 of the shadow HRA (Information for a Habitats Regulations Assessment, RPS, ECO02904 March 2023, Rev E, Final).**

5. A scheme of noise control for any plants and equipment to be installed on site shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority prior to the development is brought into use. The approved scheme shall be implemented before the plant and machinery is brought into operation and the approved noise protection measures shall thereafter be retained unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

6. The development shall be undertaken in full accordance with the recommended mitigation measures set out under section 7 of the approved Air Quality Assessment (Hoare Lee, Revision 01, 18 February 2022). This shall include a Dust Management Plan which shall be submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority prior to the commencement of development and the scheme constructed in accordance with the approved details.

7. The development shall not be brought into use until a Travel Plan has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Council as Local Planning Authority. The Plan shall include immediate, continuing and long-term measures to promote and encourage alternative modes of transport to the single-occupancy car. For the avoidance of doubt, the Travel Plan shall include, but not be limited to: a) Involvement of employees b) Information on existing transport policies, services and facilities, travel behaviour and attitudes c) Access for all modes of transport d) Targets for mode share e) Resource allocation including Travel Plan Co-ordinator and budget f) A parking management strategy g) A marketing and communications strategy h) Appropriate measures and actions to reduce car dependence and encourage sustainable travel i) An action plan including a timetable for the implementation of each such element of h above j) Mechanisms for monitoring, reviewing and implementing the travel plan.

The Approved Travel Plan shall be implemented in accordance with the timetable contained therein and shall continue to be implemented as long as any part of the development is occupied and in use. An annual report shall be submitted to the Council no later than 1 month following the anniversary of the first occupation of the development for a period of 5 years.

The annual report shall include a review of the Travel Plan measures, monitoring data and an updated action plan.

8. Construction of the development authorised by this permission shall not begin until the Local Planning Authority (LPA) has approved in writing a full scheme of works and timetable for the construction of the new highways and/or amendment of the existing highway made necessary for this development, including new carriageways, footways, street lighting, surface water drainage, traffic signs, road markings, traffic calming, tactile paved pedestrian crossings, street furniture, access onto the adjacent highway, road safety audit and monitoring. The approved works shall be completed in accordance with the LPA approval prior to the occupation of the development.

9. Prior to the commencement of development, a Construction Management Plan shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority (LPA). The provisions of the Construction

Management Plan shall be implemented in full during the period of construction and shall not be varied unless otherwise agreed in writing by the LPA.

10. The parking provision shown on the approved Proposed Site Plan (Dwg no. P402 rev. E) shall be provided prior to first occupation of the building hereby approved. The parking area shall be hardsurfaced and shall be made available for its intended use at all times thereafter unless otherwise agreed in writing by the local planning authority.

11. The development permitted by this planning permission shall be carried out in accordance with the principles set out within the flood risk assessment (Rev 1, 02/12/2021, Tier Consult). The measures shall be fully implemented prior to the first use of the development and in accordance with the timing / phasing arrangements embodied within the scheme, or within any other period as may subsequently be agreed, in writing, by the local planning authority in consultation with the lead local flood authority.

12. Prior to the commencement of development, details of a sustainable surface water drainage scheme and a foul water drainage scheme shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The drainage schemes must include:

- (i) An investigation of the hierarchy of drainage options in the National Planning Practice Guidance (or any subsequent amendment thereof). This investigation shall include evidence of an assessment of ground conditions and the potential for infiltration of surface water in accordance with BRE365;**
- (ii) A restricted rate of discharge of surface water agreed by the local planning authority (if it is agreed that infiltration is discounted by the investigations);**
- (iii) Levels of the proposed drainage systems including proposed ground and finished floor levels in AOD;**
- (iv) Incorporate mitigation measures to manage the risk of sewer surcharge where acceptable; and**
- (v) Foul and surface water shall drain on separate systems.**

The approved schemes shall also be in accordance with the Non-Statutory Technical Standards for Sustainable Drainage Systems (March 2015) or any subsequent replacement national standards.

Prior to occupation of the proposed development, the drainage schemes shall be completed in accordance with the approved details and retained thereafter for the lifetime of the development.

13. No tree felling, scrub clearance, hedgerow removal, vegetation management and / or ground clearance is to take place during the period 1 March to 31 August inclusive. If it is necessary to undertake works during the bird breeding season then all trees, scrub, hedgerows and

vegetation are to be checked first by an appropriately experienced ecologist to ensure no breeding birds are present. If present, details of how they will be protected are required to be submitted for approval, and the approved details adhered to in full.

14. The development hereby permitted shall not be occupied until details of bird boxes to include number, type and location on an appropriately scaled plan as well as timing of installation, has been provided for approval and implemented in accordance with those details.

15. The development permitted by this planning permission shall be carried out in accordance with the principles set out within section 5.4.2. of the Ecological Impact Assessment (Ref: August 2022RSE_5581_R1_V1_ECIA). The measures shall be fully implemented prior to the construction of the development and in accordance with the timing / phasing arrangements embodied within the report, unless otherwise agreed in writing, by the local planning authority.

15. Prior to the commencement of development, the applicant should submit a method statement on the removal of Cotoneaster, an invasive species, which includes the following information:

- A plan showing the extent of the plant(s).
- The method(s) that will be used to prevent the plant/s spreading further, including demarcation.
- The method(s) of control that will be used, including details of post-control monitoring.
- How the plants will be disposed of after treatment/removal.

16. Notwithstanding the approved plans a revised landscaping scheme which shall include coastal shrubland or other suitable alternative habitat along the eastern side of the site shall be submitted to and approved by the local planning authority. The approved scheme shall be implemented in full prior to the development being brought into use. Any trees of plants that within a period of five years of planting, are removed, die or become, in the opinion of the local planning authority, seriously damaged or defective shall be replaced with others of a species, size and number as originally approved within the first available planting season.

17. The development permitted by this planning permission shall be carried out in accordance with the recommendations set out in section 13 of the Ground Investigation Report (Ref: TE1338-TE-00-XX-RP-GE-001-V0, Version 01, Tier Consult).

18. If, during the undertaking of site works, contamination not previously identified is found to be present, then further site works shall be

suspended until the extent of contamination has been determined and defined in agreement with the local planning authority. Written Agreement shall then be obtained from the local planning authority to enable onsite works to recommence within the area(s) not affected by the contamination identified.

Works shall not recommence with the defined area of contamination until the developer has submitted and obtained written approval, from the local planning authority, of a remediation strategy detailing how the identified contamination shall be dealt with. The remediation strategy shall be implemented as approved.

19. Prior to any part of the permitted development being brought into use, a verification report demonstrating the completion of works set out in the approved remediation strategy and the effectiveness of the remediation shall be submitted to, and approved in writing, by the local planning authority. The report shall include results of sampling and monitoring carried out in accordance with the approved verification plan to demonstrate that the site remediation criteria have been met.

20. No development shall take place on site until a Site Waste Management Plan confirming how demolition and construction waste will be recovered and re-used on the site or at other sites, has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The approved plan shall thereafter be implemented in full unless otherwise agreed in writing.

21. No development shall commence until a final detailed sustainable drainage design for the management and disposal of surface water from the site, has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority, in consultation with the Lead Local Flood Authority. The details of the 'Final' Sustainable Drainage Strategy must be based on the principles and details identified in Proposed Foul and Surface Water Drainage Layout (T_21_2487-55-01 rev P2 dated 1 March 2022 – drawing produced by Tier Consult).

The final Detailed Sustainable Drainage Design will be required to comply with DEFRA's technical standards for sustainable drainage systems and the SuDS Manual and include:

- Justification of final design
- The new outfall/headwall shown on the Proposed Foul and Surface Water Drainage Layout drawing (T_21_2487-55-01 rev P2 dated 1 March 2022) is shown as outside the red line boundary; therefore written confirmation / evidence is required to prove / confirm the surface water outfall / headwall is situated within land owned / controlled by the applicant or provision of evidence of a legal agreement between the applicant and the land owner is required.

- Provision of evidence of any licences and agreements that must be obtained / required for provision of a new outfall / headwall into The River Mersey at an uncontrolled discharge rate.
- Drawings to include:
 - Final layout of roads, buildings, finished floor levels, external levels and boundaries;
 - Final layout of sewers; outfalls; SuDS; flow control details (must match flow control in calculations) hatched above ground storage areas with depths indicated;
 - Overland flow paths designed for exceedance of the 1 in 100 plus climate change event, system blockages, etc. An impermeability of 100% for the whole site area (including soft landscaped areas) should be used in all cases when determining exceedance flows;
 - Invert levels (to OS datum), manhole and pipe sizes; pipe gradients; SuDS; emergency overflows and annotation that correlates to the hydraulic calculations;
- Hydraulic modelling for final drainage strategy to include:
 - System performance for following return periods; 1, 30, 100 plus appropriate current climate change allowance;
 - Demonstration of sufficient storage for the 1 in 100 year (plus climate change) critical rainfall event with a limiting discharge rate as stated in the above referenced drainage strategy;
 - Design criteria summary, Full network details table, pipe and manhole schedules, contributing area summary, control/storage structure details, results summary print outs;
 - Flow control device design calculations demonstrating compliance with limiting discharge rate as stated in the above referenced drainage strategy at the correct design head;
 - Volumetric runoff co-efficient (Cv) should be set to '1';
 - Apply the correct climate change allowance: For further information on the correct climate change allowance to apply you should refer to 'Flood Risk Assessments: Climate Change Allowances'.
- Timetable demonstrating completed SuDS construction prior to occupation
- Construction phase surface water management plan

22. The development hereby permitted by this planning permission, including all components of the sustainable drainage system, shall be carried out in accordance with the approved final Sustainable Drainage Strategy, including any phasing embodied within, and maintained in perpetuity in accordance with an agreed Operation and Maintenance Plan, to be submitted for each development phase, approved by the Local Planning Authority, in consultation with the Lead Local Flood Authority.

The approved drainage scheme shall be fully constructed prior to occupation in accordance with the approved details, phasing and timetable embodied within the approved final Sustainable Drainage Strategy, or within any other period as may subsequently be agreed, in writing, by the Local Planning Authority in consultation with the Lead Local Flood Authority.

'As built' drainage design/layout drawings and a final Operation and Maintenance Plan, confirming asset details and maintenance arrangements, shall be submitted to the Lead Local Flood Authority, in accordance with any approved phasing, prior to occupation.

8 APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO STRATEGIC APPLICATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE

A report by the Director of Law and Governance recommended that the Planning Committee establish a Strategic Applications Sub Committee with the Terms of Reference as set out within the report.

It was reported that the Constitution, as approved by Council, required the establishment of the Strategic Applications Sub-Committee. The members of the Sub-Committee may comprise between 6 and 9 members of the Planning Committee, politically balanced.

On a motion by the Chair and seconded by Councillor S Powell Wilde it was -

Resolved (unanimously) that –

(1) the Terms of Reference of the Strategic Applications Sub-Committee, as referred to in paragraphs 3.1 and 3.2 of the report, be noted.

(2) the size of the Strategic Applications Sub-Committee, having regard to the options referred to at paragraph 5.3 of the report be set at 7 members of the Planning Committee with 3 Labour Members, 2 Conservative Members, 1 Green Member and 1 Liberal Democrat Member.

(3) the Monitoring Officer be authorised as proper officer to carry out the wishes of the Group Leaders in allocating Members to membership and substitute membership of the Strategic Applications Sub-Committee and to appoint those Members with effect from the date at which the proper officer is advised of the names of such Members.

CONSTITUTION AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Monday, 12 June 2023

Councillors	G Bennett	T Murphy
	P Gilchrist	M Sullivan
	J Grier	T Cox
	T Laing	

1 **NOMINATION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR OF THE CONSTITUTION AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

Jill Travers, Director of Law and Governance welcomed members of the Constitution and Standards Committee to the meeting and sought nominations for the role of Chair of the Committee for the 2023/24 Municipal Year.

It was moved by Councillor Gary Bennett, seconded by Councillor Mike Sullivan that Councillor Tony Cox be appointed Chair.

No other nominations were received.

Resolved – That Councillor Tony Cox be appointed Chair of the Constitution and Standards Committee for the 2023/24 Municipal Year.

Councillor Tony Cox in the Chair

The Chair invited nominations for the role of Vice Chair of the Constitution and Standards Committee for the 2023/24 Municipal Year.

It was moved by Councillor Tom Laing and seconded by Councillor Mike Sullivan that Councillor Phil Gilchrist be appointed Vice Chair.

No other nominations were received.

Resolved – That Councillor Phil Gilchrist be appointed as Vice Chair of the Constitution and Standards Committee for the 2023/24 Municipal Year.

2 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

No such apologies were received.

3 **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

Members were asked to consider whether they had any disclosable pecuniary interests and/or any other relevant interest in connection with any item(s) on this agenda and, if so, to declare them and state what they are.

No declarations were made.

4 **MINUTES**

Resolved – That the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 13 April 2023 be agreed.

5 **PUBLIC AND MEMBER QUESTIONS**

The Chair reported that there had been no public questions, statements or petitions submitted.

6 **APPOINTMENT OF PANELS STATUTORY ADVISORY COMMITTEES AND WORKING PARTIES 2023/24**

Jill Travers, Director of Law and Governance introduced the report. The purpose of the report was to enable the Constitution and Standards Committee to review the continuing need for various panels, statutory / advisory committees and working parties, and to appoint members and named deputies to serve on those (including the statutory committees and panels) that are to be retained in 2023/2024.

The Chair informed officers of the procedure followed in previous years. Councillor Phil Gilchrist suggested that the Member Steering Group should be made up of both members from the Constitution and Standards Committee and members who are not part of that committee, so that the Committee did not work in isolation. He felt that this had worked well during the last municipal year.

Following a discussion, the Chair suggested that all members of the Constitution and Standards Committee make up the membership of the Governance Working Group and that the Monitoring Officer be given authority to contact group leaders in regard to the Member Steering Group, both of which would be made up of seven members.

Resolved – That the Monitoring Officer, as proper officer be authorised to carry out the wishes of the Group Leaders in allocating Members to membership of the Statutory and Advisory Committees listed in the report and to appoint those Members with effect from the date at which the proper officer is advised of the names of such Members.

7 **MEMBERS SUPPORT STEERING GROUP ANNUAL REPORT**

Steve Fox, Head of Democratic and Member Services, introduced the report. The purpose of the report was to enable the Constitution and Standards Committee to be appraised of the work during the 2022/2023 municipal year and ongoing planned work of the Members Support Steering Group. The Constitution and Standards Committee would receive the report at the first meeting of each municipal year.

The Chair commented that there had been significant changes in the make up of the Council over recent years with 23 new Members being elected to the Council in May 2023. He suggested that the comprehensive work undertaken by Members and Officer in development the Member Learning & Development Strategy 2023-2027 had resulted in a new member induction program which was well thought through and flexible.

Councillor Grier welcomed the fact that many training opportunities were online and further asked if new members were provided with information on alternative methods of travel to in person meetings. Steve Fox responded that this was actively promoted through the Member Support Team who were on hand to assist and advise any Member.

Resolved – That the report be noted and endorsed.

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ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 13 June 2023

1 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting as well as those watching the webcast.

2 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Baldwin. Councillor Bennett was in attendance as substitute.

3 MEMBER DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Gail Jenkinson declared in interest in agenda item 8 'Direct Payment Support Services' due to a client being in receipt of direct payments.

Councillor Keiran Murphy declared a personal interest in agenda item item 8 'Direct Payment Support Services'.

4 MINUTES

Resolved – That the minutes of the meetings held on 6 March 2023 be approved as a correct record.

5 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The Chair reported that there were no public questions, statements, petitions or questions by members.

6 COMMUNITY REABLEMENT SERVICE

The Assistant Director – All Age Independence presented the report of the Director of Adult Care and Health.

The purpose of this report was to seek the Committee's approval of the Adult Social Care Community Reablement Model.

This was designed to add value to a person's experience with the reablement system.

The report Community Reablement Model contained within the comprehensive Target Operating Model attached in Appendix 1. This was split into six sections: -

1. Context
2. Design model
3. People
4. Financial
5. Governance & Reporting
6. Appendix

Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee on 11 October 2022, approved in principle the establishment of an Adult Social Care reablement service delivered by the Council. The Council had a hybrid model of reablement. The assessment element was provided by the Wirral Community Health and Care NHS Foundation Trust, as part of Wirral Social Work contract, this returns to the Council on 1 July 2023.

The delivery element was provided by independent sector community domiciliary care providers as part of a full Care and Support at Home offer which covers reablement, domiciliary care and Continuing NHS Health Care.

The model would enable greater alignment and joining up of services to improve outcomes for people accessing or in need for reablement to live well in their communities, and to aspire to more active, fulfilling, and independent lives as possible.

The model will focus on providing high quality community reablement services that would enable greater opportunity to direct resources to those who would benefit the most, and was designed to enable people to maximise their independent living skills in order that they can continue to live their lives as independently as possible and to reduce their need for long term social care support.

The approach to supporting people who require reablement services in Wirral will benefit from learning from other areas. This ensures that best practice in personalised care and support is offered to people to meet their goals and aspirations, and to achieve better outcomes.

Members noted the value of support of carers and queried the level of training required. They also discussed the line between rehabilitation and reablement. Members requested the an annual review and reporting be brought back to Committee and were informed that this would form part of the performance monitoring report brought to committee on an quarterly basis.

Resolved – that the Adult Social Care Community Reablement Target Operating Model as set out in Appendix 1 of this report be approved.

7 COMMUNITY EQUIPMENT AND TELECARE

The Assistant Director – All Age Disability presented the report of The Director of Care and Health.

The report requested approval to recommission the Wirral Independence Service (WIS) within quarter 2 of financial year 2023/2024. The current contract ends in June 2024 and there are no further contract extensions available. This is a joint commission with NHS Cheshire and Merseyside Integrated Care Board (Wirral Place) (NHSCMICB) and is managed via the Better Care Fund. The WIS is inclusive of:

- The provision of Community Equipment.
- Technology Enabled Care and Response service.
- Carers emergency card.
- Falls Pick up service.
- Falls prevention service.
- Provision of Paediatric equipment.
- Education equipment for schools.

Members were informed that; the Wirral Health and Care system must ensure that it had a fully operational and responsive community equipment and technology enabled care (TEC) service to meet local needs to meet its statutory duties. That the use of TEC formed a key part of the Councils approach to digital care and early intervention and prevention services. That the Council had a duty to ensure value for money and to tender will ensure that best value is sought. And a longer contract length of up to 10 years, would support the successful tenderer to invest in local infrastructure and support social value

Members queried the social value of the tender and were informed that there was a 15% weighting for social value. Members noted that this was not especially high and asked for Real Living Wage and Union Representation to be considered as well. Members were informed that any tender would be subject of an Officer decision Notice.

Resolved – that,

- 1. The re-commission of the Wirral Independence Service on a 5-year contract (with options for a 3-year, plus a 2-year contract extension) with a total contract value of £4.2m annually, up to £42m over 10-years be approved.**

- 2. The director of Adult Social Care and Health be authorised to award the contract to the most economically advantageous tenderer.**

8 DIRECT PAYMENT SUPPORT SERVICES

The Assistant Director – All Age Disability presented the report of The Director of Care and Health.

It was a statutory duty as defined by the Care Act 2014, to offer a person a Direct Payment as a cash alternative to a directly commissioned care and support service where a person has been assessed as having eligible needs. This applies both to carers and people in need of care and support.

The regulations of the Children Act 1989 also placed a duty on Local Authorities to offer a Direct Payment to disabled children.

The review of Direct Payments was presented to the Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee on 29 November 2022 and approval was given to explore how a Personal Assistant (PA) register could best be delivered with the intention of increasing the numbers of people, carers and families choosing to use a Direct Payment. The report set out the options as they related to the Personal Assistant (PA) register as identified by the Direct Payments working group.

The review had been a collaborative exercise and included, as equal partners, officers of the Council, people with lived experience, and representatives from Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (CWP) and the Wirral Community Health and Care NHS Foundation Trust (WCHCFT).

Members queried the financial targets, and whether the approach of direct payments over commissioned services and were informed that it was a matter of choice and allows for empowerment and choice, especially when moving into further education and employment. It was noted that direct payments had been reviewed by the Committee over a five-year period.

Resolved – that,

- 1. The proposed service model (Appendix 1) and implementation plan (Appendix 2) be endorsed**
- 2. The Director of Adult Social Care and Health be authorised to progress with implementation of phase 2 of the proposed service model as detailed in Appendix 1 , commence the proposed procurement exercise and award the contract.**

3. A further report be brought to a future Committee with proposals for implementation of the remaining phases of the model.

9 **WIRRAL DRUGS STRATEGY**

The Director of Public Health presented the report, which sought approval of the Wirral Drugs Strategy which set out a vision for uplifting communities and enabling all people in Wirral to live healthier lives free from the harmful impacts of drugs.

There was to be a focus on improving the health of people who use drugs, and preventing the early deaths that are seen too often. Prevention will be key, as will a vision for a positive narrative for recovery, combatting the stigma associated with drug use, and strengthening the voice of people with lived experience. The report enabled Committee to adopt the 4-year Wirral Drugs Strategy which placed collective responsibility for local system partners to align policy, strategy, and resources wherever possible to protect and improve the health of residents. Strategic planning helps local system partners work together to establish a clear vision, prioritise resources, determine a clear direction of travel, and to set goals and outcome targets. One option could be to not develop a local Strategy; however, the absence of a local strategic plan could exacerbate the burden of ill health, impacting negatively on health outcomes, inequalities, system pressures and the local economy.

Members queried Mental Health support and trauma therapy as well as the impact of organised crime on individuals. Also discussed was the support services in place for addiction to prescription drugs and other sources of addiction such as gambling. It was noted that officers were developing a response for gambling, counselling, harm prevention. There was a separate service for tobacco, smoking prevention services.

Also discussed was primary care, family engagement, support for young people as well as joined up services with the police and probation services. Members requested that an annual report be brought back to committee to update Members on progress and implementation.

Resolved – that the Wirral Drugs Strategy 2023-2027 as set out as Appendix 1 to this report be approved and that the Director of Public Health submit a report on an annual basis to enable the Committee to monitor progress.

10 **SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES COMMISSION – FINANCE UPDATE**

The Director of Public Health presented the report, which updated Committee on the report presented on the 6th of March 2023 regarding the

recommissioning of sexual and reproductive health services in Wirral. The Director of Public Health had been authorised by the Committee to commence the re-commissioning of Sexual and Reproductive Health Services for an initial five-year period from the 1st of April 2024 with the option for two one-year extensions to a value of £20,300,000 over the seven-year term and award a contract to the successful party/ies following this process. However, additional financial pressures likely to be experienced by providers had since been identified, and the report asked Committee for approval to increase the maximum financial value of the contract.

Members noted the increased value of £809,078 over the seven-year term. and queried the 15% social value element and increased weighting.

Resolved - that the Director of Public Health be authorised to commence the recommissioning of the Sexual and Reproductive Health Services, as otherwise agreed at the Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee of 6th of March 2023 at an increased value of £21,109,078 from £20,300,000. An increased value of £809,078 over the seven-year term.

11 ALL AGE DISABILITY REVIEW

The Assistant Director – All Age Disability presented the report of The Director of Care and Health which informed Committee of the findings and recommendations for greater alignment of All Age Disability Service. The scoping, initiation, planning and engagement phase is complete.

There was a greater reliance in Wirral on more traditional care services, which lead to Wirral being a higher spend Council on disability services. This also meant that outcomes achieved for people with disabilities did not always help them to achieve aspirational targets or to be as independent as they could be. This was be improved through better alignment, joining up planning, and collaboration between services. The experiences of people supported across the life course was greatly improved by focussing upon their aspirations and life goals in a more effective and clear manner.

Wirral was a high spend Council on adults with a disability and there are opportunities to optimise outcomes for people. Effectively supporting young people and their families through transition from Children’s to Adult’s Services means reduced reliance on more traditional and intensive accommodation-based services. It would enable effective planning to meet housing and employment needs alongside education and training opportunities. This should contribute to improving outcomes for individuals and families.

Four main themes have emerged from engagement with those who have lived experience either as people supported, carers or practitioners of the system. A summary of these engagements and graphic visualisations of engagement

sessions can be found in Appendix 1 of this report. The four emerging themes were:

- a. Starting Earlier from 14 and better joined up planning;
- b. Housing Options;
- c. Training, Volunteering and Employment; and
- d. Better, Accessible & Relevant Information for people, parents and carers.

The deliverables and milestone plan set out in this report were aligned with these themes in appendix 4.

Members were pleased to note that lived experiences had formed part of the review, and discussed the fact that many types of disability were included but noted that it was difficult to name them all individually. All discussed were housing options, day services and shared lives.

Resolved – that the priorities and indicative timeframe for the All Age Disability Review, as listed in Appendix 4 to this report be approved.

12 **QUALITY CARE UPDATE**

The Assistant Director – All Age Disability presented the report of The Director of Care and Health which sought to seeks to provide a comprehensive update on the progress and impact of Care Quality Improvement interventions undertaken by the Quality Improvement Team in relation to the Adult Social Care commissioned care services.

Members were informed that the report focussed on;

- Current Care Quality Commission (CQC) rating position and movement
- Provider Assessment Market Management System (PAMMS) implementation, progress, and improvement/feedback journey
- Publication of placement suspensions and CQC ratings
- Quality Improvement Team Plan 2023
- Enhanced Health in Care Homes Quality Improvement strategy

Members raised concerns that there was no published deadline for safeguarding referrals and were informed that there was a strict deadline for investigations and that this would be addressed. Members queried funding and wages, but noted that there were distinct signs of progress within the report.

Resolved – that, the positive feedback from providers who have received a PAMMS assessment to date be acknowledged and the report be noted.

13 **2022/23 REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING FOR QUARTER 4 (1 APR – 31 MAR)**

The Director of Care and Health introduced the 2022/23 Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring which set out the financial monitoring information for the Committee as at Quarter 4 (1 Apr – 31 Mar) 2022/23. The report provided Members with an overview of budget performance for this area of activity, including delivery of the 2022/23 saving programme and a summary of reserves to enable the Committee to take ownership of the budgets and provide robust challenge and scrutiny to Officers on the performance of those budgets.

Members noted that at the end of Quarter 4, there was a reported favourable position of £0.345m on the Committees net revenue budget of £114.962m. The outturn reflects full achievement of the £3.89m 2022/23 savings target.

Resolved – that,

1. the favourable revenue outturn at Quarter 4 be noted.
2. the delivery of the 2022/23 savings programme at Quarter 4 be noted.
3. the reserves allocated to the Committee for future one-off commitments be noted.
4. the level of reserves at Quarter 4 be noted

14 **2023/24 BUDGET AND BUDGET MONITORING PROCESS**

The Director of Care and Health introduced the report which set out how the 2023/24 budget will be monitored through the Committee system, which will facilitate the Policy and Services Committees (the Committees) to take ownership of their specific budgets and present appropriate challenge and scrutiny of Officers on the management and performance of those budgets.

Members were informed that the 2023/24 Council budget was agreed at Full Council on 27 February 2023. This budget was made up of savings proposals, pressures/growth items and funding that were based on actual known figures or best estimates available at the time. At any point during the year, these estimated figures could change and need to be monitored closely to ensure, if adverse, mitigating actions can be taken immediately to ensure a balanced budget can be reported to the end of the year.

The Council has a legal responsibility to set an annual balanced budget, which sets out how financial resources are to be allocated and utilised. In order to successfully do so, engagement with members, staff and residents is undertaken. The recommendations in this report informed that approach. Managing and setting a budget will require difficult decisions to ensure that a balanced position can be presented. Regular Member engagement, which this report forms part of, is considered essential in delivering effective governance and financial oversight.

Members queried the tables set out in the appendices and discussed suicide prevention and domiciliary care services.

Resolved – that,

1. the process for in-year monitoring of the 2023/24 budget be noted
2. the establishment and appointment a Budget Monitoring Panel to comprise of the Committee Chair and Spokespersons, with sessions to be led by the relevant Director/Assistant Director be agreed.

15 **ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND PUBLIC HEALTH PERFORMANCE REPORT**

The Assistant Director – Adults Care and Health presented the Adult Social Care and Public Health Performance Report. The report was designed based on discussion with Members through working group activity in December 2022. Members' requests have been incorporated into the report presented at this Committee meeting.

Members discussed the Quality Care Commission total for people in residential care as well as the inspection ratings and queried how many of these were transitional. It was agreed this detail could be added to future report.

Resolved – that the report be noted.

16 **APPOINTMENT REPORT**

The Head of Legal Services presented the report which enabled the Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee to review the continuing need for various panels, statutory / advisory committees and working parties, and to appoint members and named deputies to serve on those (including the statutory committees and panels) that are to be retained in 2023/2024, as well as appoint a Member Champion for Domestic Abuse.

In relation to the appointment of a Member Champion for Domestic Abuse, it was moved by Councillor Phil Gilchrist seconded by Councillor Onwuemene that Councillor Onwuemene be appointed.

It was moved by Councillor Williamson, seconded by Julie McManus that Councillor Williamson be appointed.

A vote was had on the appointment of Councillor Onwuemene as Member Champion for Domestic Abuse. The vote was lost (2:8).

A vote was then held on the appointment of Councillor Williamson as Member Champion for Domestic Abuse. The vote was won (7:0 with 3 abstentions). It was therefore,

Resolved – that,

- 1. the Monitoring Officer be authorised as proper officer to carry out the wishes of the Group Leaders in allocating Members to membership of the Statutory and Advisory Committees, Sub-Committees and Panels detailed within the report and to appoint those Members with effect from the date at which the proper officer is advised of the names of such Members.**
- 2. Councillor Janette Williamson be appointed a Member Champion for Domestic Abuse.**

17 **ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND PUBLIC HEALTH WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE**

The Head of Legal Services presented the work programme update report. Following the whole-Council elections, the newly composited Committee was invited to review the 2023-24 work programme moving into the 2023/24 municipal year. It was proposed that issues on the existing work programme that are for information purposes only can be considered via other means, such as briefing notes or workshops.

Members requested a joint Committee workshop in relation to supporting dementia services, as well as a report on extra care housing be brought to a further committee.

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 14 June 2023

Present:

Councillor P Stuart (Chair)

Councillors	J Robinson	H Cameron
	J Williamson	S Mountney
	P Gilchrist	L Rennie
	EA Grey	P Cleary
	A Davies	J Bird
	S Powell-Wilde	K Hodson (In place of JE Green)
	T Jones	A Onwuemene (In place of H Gorman)

1 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting as well as those watching the webcast.

2 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Jeff Green and Harry Gorman. Councillors Kathy Hodson and Amanda Onwuemene were in attendance as substitutes.

3 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were asked to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests and any other relevant interest and to state the nature of the interest.

Councillor Jean Robinson declared a personal interest in item 8 '2022-23 Budget Monitoring For Quarter Four (The Period To 31 Mar), 2022-23 Outturn' as a Director on the Wirral Growth Company.

4 MINUTES

Resolved – That the minutes of the meetings held on 22 March 2023 and 27 April 2023 be approved as a correct record.

5 PUBLIC AND MEMBER QUESTIONS

The Chair reported that there were no public questions, statements, petitions or questions by members.

6 CAPITAL OUTTURN REPORT 2022-23

The Director of Finance introduced the report which detailed the Capital Outturn for 2022/23 and the resources used to fund the Programme. It asked that the Committee recommended that Council agree the revised 2023/24 Capital Programme which took account of re-profiling, virements, additional funding requirements and grant variations identified since the Capital Programme was formally agreed on 28th February 2022.

Members of the Committee raised several queries regarding the delivery of different capital projects including the Enterprise Resource Planning System, Regeneration and Highway Maintenance which the Chief Executive undertook to seek responses via the relevant Director to the relevant Committees. The Director of Finance further assured the Committee that any capital virements are either decided by or reported to Policy & Resources Committee.

Resolved – That

(1) Council be recommended to approve the revised Capital Programme of £178.1 million for 2023/24, including the virements of budget referred to in Appendix D.

(2) Council be recommended to note the financing of the Programme for 2022/23.

(3) Council be recommended to note the additional year-end re-profiling of £38.2m from 2022/23 to 2023/24.

7 HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT FUND

The Head of Revenues and Benefits introduced the report of the Director of Finance which provided a summary of the proposed spend of government's Household Support Fund (£6,098,690) for the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024, which was available to support those most in need with the cost of food, energy (heating, cooking, lighting), water bills (including sewerage) and other essentials. The report also provided a summary of the spend of the Household Support Fund (£3,049,356.09) for the period 1 April 2022 to 30 September 2022 and sought endorsement of the final allocation. It was reported that there was a typo in recommendation 2 which should read paragraphs '3.10 to 3.26' as opposed to '3.10 and 3.26'.

Following a query, it was clarified that the reason the uptake for the financial support with fuel in the spring 2022 allocation was slower was due to the time it took for the increased bills to feed through, with higher uptake seen in the second half of the year. Members were advised further reporting of the Household Support Fund would be taken to the Health and Wellbeing Board which following a request, would include data on how it was distributed across the Borough.

Resolved – That

(1) the indicative local allocation of the Household Support Fund (April 2023 to March 2024) as outlined in the report.

(2) authorise the Director of Finance to distribute the local allocation of Household Support Fund having regard to indicative local allocation and taking into account the guidance provided by the Department of Work & Pensions (DWP) and the outline plan referred to at paragraphs 3.10 to 3.26 of the report.

(3) the final local allocation of the Household Support Fund (April 2022 to September 2022) as detailed in the report be noted.

8 2022-23 BUDGET MONITORING FOR QUARTER FOUR (THE PERIOD TO 31 MAR), 2022-23 OUTTURN

The Director of Finance introduced the report which provided a summary of the year-end revenue position for the 2022/23 financial year as at the end of March 2023. The report provided Members with an overview of budget performance to enable the Committee to take ownership of the budgets and provide robust challenge and scrutiny to Officers on the performance of those budgets. The year-end revenue outturn for 2022/23, represented an adverse variance against directorate revenue budgets of £11.970m, which was a small £0.392m improvement on the quarter 3 forecast.

It was clarified that there were £8.5m of profits from the Wirral Growth Company, and that legal advice was being sought as to how the funding needed to be treated, such as being earmarked for regeneration, capital receipts or general revenue reserves. It was further reported that the Capital Programme report considered by the Committee in February 2023 suggested that it be used for Birkenhead Market if approved, but that those reserves were not committed, and further technical advice was needed before any decision could be made.

Further information was sought on the timescale for the decision on how the funding could be allocated and members were advised that it would be as soon as the technical advice had been attained. The profit from the Wirral Growth Company was listed in the reserves for Regeneration and Place and it was queried whether this indicated that it was to be used for that purpose. The Director of Finance clarified that it was listed in Regeneration and Place as a placeholder as it had not yet been allocated within a budget whilst advice was sought, and in any case it would be reported back to Policy & Resources Committee for approval of allocation.

On a motion moved by Councillor Jo Bird, seconded by Councillor Paul Stuart, it was –

Resolved – That

- (1) the draft, unaudited 2022/23 outturn adverse variance of £11.970m be noted.**
- (2) the draft unaudited 2022/23 funding adverse variance of £1.078m be noted.**
- (3) Council be recommended to agree the transfer to and use of earmarked reserves, as detailed in Appendix 3.**
- (4) the progress on delivery of the 2022/23 savings programme be noted.**
- (5) Wirral Growth Company Profit be moved from Regeneration and Place reserves to Resources reserves.**

9 2023/24 BUDGET AND BUDGET MONITORING PROCESSES

The Director of Finance introduced the report which set out how the 2023/24 budget would be monitored through the Committee system, which would facilitate the Policy and Services Committees to take ownership of their specific budgets and present appropriate challenge and scrutiny of Officers on the management and performance of those budgets.

Resolved – That the process for in-year monitoring of the 2023/24 budget be noted.

10 TREASURY MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23

The Director of Finance introduced the report which fulfilled the Council's legal obligation under the Local Government Act 2003 to have regard to both the CIPFA Code and the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) Investment Guidance, by providing the annual Treasury Management Strategy Statement on likely financing and investment activity. The CIPFA Code also recommended that Members were informed of treasury management activities at least twice a year.

There was an underspend in the 2022/23 financial year on net Treasury activities of £0.126 million, which was attributable to lower debt management costs and an increase in investment returns. This underspend was incorporated into the Revenue Outturn report.

Further information was sought by members on benchmarking the Council's risk appetite, borrowing to and from other Local Authorities and Environmental, Social and Governance investments.

Resolved – That the Treasury Management Outturn report for 2022/23 be noted.

11 APPOINTMENT OF SUB-COMMITTEES

The Director of Law and Governance introduced the report which enabled the Committee, in accordance with the relevant statutory provisions and the terms of the Constitution, to appoint Members to the three Sub-Committees of the Policy and Resources Committee for 2023/2024, which were Senior Officer Appointments and Staffing Sub-Committee, Finance Sub-Committee and Shareholder Board.

It was clarified that only three members had served on the Shareholder Board during 2022/23, but that 5 members was more politically inclusive as it enabled a representative of the Liberal Democrat group to be appointed.

Resolved – That

(1) the Senior Officer Appointments and Staffing Sub-Committee be appointed for 2023-24 with the terms of reference as referred to in paragraph 3.1 of this report and consist of:

- (i) the Leader (Chair of Policy & Resources Committee), or in their absence the Deputy Leader (Vice-Chair), who shall chair the Sub-Committee;**
- (ii) a member from each of the other Political Groups represented on the Policy & Resources Committee; and**
- (iii) the Chair, or in their absence the Vice-Chair, of the Policy & Services Committee with terms of reference most closely associated with the post concerned (or if that committee concerned is deemed to be the Policy & Resources Committee then the Deputy Leader (Vice-Chair).**

(2) the Finance Sub-Committee be appointed for 2023-24 with the terms of reference identified with 5 members of the Policy and Resources Committee.

(3) the Shareholder Board be appointed for 2023-24 with the terms of reference identified with 5 members of the Policy and Resources

Committee.

(4) the Contain Outbreak Management Fund Working Group not be re-established, and that the Director of Public be requested to present a summary outcome report to the Health and Wellbeing Board.

(5) the Monitoring Officer as Proper Officer be authorised to carry out the wishes of the Group Leaders in allocating Members to membership and substitute membership of those sub-committees, listed in resolutions (1) to (4) above and to appoint those Members with effect from the date at which the Proper Officer is advised of the names of such Members.

12 **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Director of Law and Governance introduced the report which provides the Committee with an opportunity to plan and regularly review its work across the municipal year and sought a review of the future items for consideration.

Following a discussion, it was proposed that items on Real Living Wage accreditation and climate emergency risk management be added to the work programme as briefings, and that a list of Council assets and their latest valuation be shared with members of the Policy & Resources Committee.

Resolved – That with the inclusion of the items suggested, the work programme be noted.

Council – 10 July 2023

Motions

The following motions have been submitted in accordance with the notice required by Standing Order 13.1 and are listed in accordance with Standing Order 13.2.

1. WIRRAL SUPPORTS FULL DEMOCRACY

Proposed by Councillor Angie Davies

Seconded by Councillor Paul Stuart

Following the 2022 Elections Act, voters must now show a document from a small list of photo identification for every general or parliamentary by-election across the UK, and for local elections in England.

The Electoral Commission recently published an interim analysis¹ into the roll out of Voter ID, that came into effect for England's local elections that happened in May of this year.

This analysis states that approximately 14,000 people were turned away from polling stations because they lacked the right ID to vote. [These elections excluded Scotland, Wales, London and Birmingham who did not have scheduled elections in May, so this figure is likely to increase]

In addition, the report said that a survey they ran reported that 4% of people who did not vote, specified it was because of the new voter ID requirements, Worryingly, this indicates that those denied a vote in future elections could be considerably higher and could run into the hundreds of thousands.

The study also warned of “concerning” signs that voters with disabilities, people who are not in employment and those from particular ethnic groups could be disproportionately affected by the policy.

In Wirral, just over half of the people turned away because they did not produce some valid ID, did not return to vote. This is not right in a democratic society. We want all our citizens to be easily able to exercise their democratic right to vote in all elections and not be excluded from having their say. No legitimate voter should be locked out democracy because of the Conservative government's disgraceful attempt at voter suppression and who are desperate to stop people from holding them to account by any means possible.

Council call upon the government to repeal Voter ID legislation in full and ask the Leader of the Council to write to the Secretary of State for the Department of Levelling up, Housing and Communities to demand that this legislation is reversed to ensure that all Wirral citizens who are eligible to vote can fully participate in democracy.

¹ Source: <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/who-we-are-and-what-we-do/our-views-and-research/our-research/voter-id-may-2023-local-elections-england-interim-analysis>

2. HELPING WIRRAL RESIDENTS WITH INFLATIONARY PRESSURES

Proposed by Councillor Jeff Green

Seconded by Councillor Lesley Rennie

Council notes that the effects of worldwide inflationary pressures are putting additional strain on household budgets in the UK.

Council thanks those staff working with our vulnerable residents, along with the many voluntary, community and faith groups who are helping those most affected.

For those households which are eligible, the help that has been made available by the UK Government is a lifeline, including:

- Energy bills support scheme
- Pensioner Cost of Living Payment
- Disability Cost of Living Payment
- Household Support Fund

Council therefore requests that, to ensure more of our residents are able to access the support available, the relevant Chief Officer is requested to actively promote this support across all the Council's communication channels on a regular basis.

3. GILL NETTING IN WIRRAL

Proposed by Pat Cleary

Seconded by Judith Grier

Council notes the harmful effects of the use of gill nets upon fishing populations and other marine life, especially Porpoises and fish-eating birds such as Grebes and Divers.

Council acknowledges how nets are left unattended, suspended in the water over the tide and work by entangling fish by the gills as they try and reverse out of a net they cannot pass through. Because gill nets are non-selective they can catch and kill a wide variety of fish, including young fish, fish of protected species, and non-target species. Discarded bycatch is a common site on Wirral's beaches and has recently been commented on by visitors to Wirral's beaches.

Council notes how other authorities such as Cornwall Council, Devon County Council and Northumberland County Council have banned gill netting as part of a wider trend towards the phasing out of gill netting and supports the introduction of a bylaw in consultation with the Fisheries Authorities.

Furthermore, Council notes that permits currently issued by the Council to facilitate vehicular access enables equipment such as gill nets to be brought on to our beaches.

Council therefore requests that

1. The Chair of the Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee writes to the Chief Executive Officer for North West Inshore Fisheries and to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to request that the matter be reviewed as a matter of urgency; and
2. The Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee reviews council permits for vehicular access to Wirral's beaches with a view to specifically excluding the transport of gill nets and gill net trapped fish.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-merseyside-65720586>

<https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/638507>

4. CALL FOR BANKING HUBS

**Proposed by Councillor Phil Gilchrist
Seconded by Councillor Allan Brame**

Council recalls that in October 2022 a motion was considered proposed by Councillor Gilchrist and seconded by Councillor Mitchell, with the title 'Bank and cash services that meet local needs'.

Council supported this motion and, as a result, officers made enquiries of the Link organisation on how access to cash machines could be maintained.

Council recognises that the closure of bank branches has continued with the loss of the HSBC in Bromborough this July. The closure of Lloyds in Prenton is now planned to take place in October. The withdrawal of branches appears to be endless as branches are singled out for closure.

Council appreciates that Post Offices can offer services for depositing cash by arrangement with the banking sector and the Link organisation and that transactions can be made through on line banking and by telephone.

However, Council remains concerned that there is inadequate distribution of post office services to fulfil these functions. There remains a need for residents to obtain financial advice and have face to face discussions with representatives of the banks. Council believes that it is in the best interests of Wirral's people for 'banking hubs' to be developed in Wirral.

Council requests that the Director of Finance writes to the Link organisation and to the banking sector to secure their development.

<http://democracy.wirral.gov.uk/documents/g9596/Printed%20minutes%2010th-Oct-2022%2018.00%20Council.pdf?T=1>

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Full Council – Responsibility for Functions

1. Introduction

Full Council is the primary decision-making body of the Council and, as such, is responsible for the exercise of all of the functions that are held by the local authority.

Whilst decisions in relation to these functions could be made by the Council, and indeed some functions can only be carried out by the Full Council, in order to operate more effectively as an organisation, most of the Council's functions are exercised through delegation to a committee, sub-committee or an officer, or to another local authority.

This part of the Constitution contains the remits of the Council, Committees, Sub-Committees and Panels and also contains the Scheme of Delegation to Officers.

2. Council Functions

The Council reserves to itself the following functions (in accordance with the rules and procedures contained in this Constitution):

- (a) All non-delegable functions as defined by the Local Authorities (Committee System) (England) Regulations 2012 including: -
 - (i) **The Budget** – The approval or adoption of a plan or strategy for the control of the local authority's borrowing, investments or capital expenditure or for determining the authority's minimum revenue provision, which includes the overarching annual:-
 - (1) Capital programme
 - (2) Capital investment strategy
 - (3) Medium term financial plan
 - (4) Treasury management strategy,except for any amendment, modification, variation or revocation which—
 - (aa) is required for giving effect to requirements of the Secretary of State or a Minister of the Crown in relation to a plan or strategy submitted for approval, or to any part submitted; or
 - (bb) is authorised by a determination made by the local authority—
 - in pursuance of arrangements made for the discharge of functions as set out in the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules set out at Part 4(3) of this Constitution (including virements); and
 - at the time when the local authority approves or adopts the plan or strategy, as the case may be.

(ii) **Policy Framework (Required)** – The making or revoking or amending the following policies, plans and strategies required to form a part of the Council’s Policy Framework:

- (1) Annual Library Plan;
- (2) Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy;
- (3) Development Plan Documents;
- (4) Licensing Authority Policy Statement;
- (5) Policies made under the Gambling Act (including any resolution relating to casinos);
- (6) Local Transport Plan;
- (7) Plans and alterations which together comprise the Development Plan;
- (8) Sustainable Community Strategy; and
- (9) Youth Justice Plan;

except for any amendment, modification, variation or revocation which—

- (aa) is required for giving effect to requirements of the Secretary of State or a Minister of the Crown in relation to a plan or strategy submitted for approval, or to any part submitted; or
- (bb) is authorised by a determination made by the local authority—
 - in pursuance of arrangements made for the discharge of functions as set out in the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules set out at Part 4(3) of this Constitution; and
 - at the time when the local authority approves or adopts the plan or strategy, as the case may be.

(iii) Making of a Members Allowance Scheme and amending the same.

(iv) Determination of Mayor’s and Deputy Mayor’s allowances.

(v) Making a request for single member electoral wards to the Local Government Boundary Commission.

(vi) Resolution to change a scheme for elections.

(vii) Making an order giving effect to the recommendations made in a Community Governance Review.

(viii) Conferring voting rights on co-opted members of Overview and Scrutiny Committees (if any).

- (b) **Policy Framework (Choice)** - The making or revoking or amending the following policies, plans and strategies reserved by Council to form a part of the Council's Policy Framework
 - (i) The Council Plan.
- (c) Setting the Council's Council Tax requirement
- (d) Electing the Mayor and Deputy Mayor
- (e) Appointing the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council (Chair and Vice-Chair of Policy & Resources Committee)
- (f) Agreeing or amending the committee structure, the remit/terms of reference of committees, their size and membership
- (g) Confirming the appointment (or dismissal) of the Head of Paid Service, Monitoring Officer and Chief Finance (Section 151) Officer.
- (h) Confirming the appointment of the Independent Persons.
- (i) Making, amending, revoking, re-enacting or adopting bylaws and promoting or opposing the making of local legislation including bylaws or personal bills.
- (j) Appointment of the Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer.
- (k) Significant changes to the Council's Constitution, including adopting and amending standing orders, Rules of Procedure, Contract Procedure Rules, Financial Regulations, Codes and Protocols that make up the Constitution.
- (l) All other matters which by law are reserved to the Council including: -
 - (i) Ombudsman reports where there has been a finding of maladministration with injustice and the report has been rejected
 - (ii) Statutory officer reports of the Monitoring Officer, Chief Financial Officer and Head of Paid Service and External Auditor's public interest reports.
- (m) Conferring the title of Honorary Freeman and Honorary Alderman.
- (n) Approving the Annual Senior Officer Pay Policy Statement.
- (o) Changing the name of the Borough.
- (p) Appointment of representatives of the local authority not otherwise delegated to a Committee.
- (q) Nomination of councillors and other persons to outside bodies
- (r) Consideration of reports from committees or any other body constituted by the Council.

- (s) To receive the minutes of committees and sub-committees acting under delegated powers for question and comment.
- (t) Making recommendations to the Secretary of State on the Borough boundaries, ward boundaries, electoral divisions, ward or polling districts; and
- (u) any other function which must by law be reserved to full Council.

Note

For the avoidance of doubt, the Full Council retains ultimate responsibility for the actions and decisions of all its Committees and also retains the ability to exercise all its powers whether or not they have also been delegated to a Committee or Officer. Full Council shall not, however, exercise a power that has been delegated without first ensuring that such a step is in the best interests of the Council and in accordance with the rules set out in the Articles of this Constitution. The Council's ability to exercise its powers will not override or supersede any decision or action already taken and implemented by a Committee or Officer acting under delegated authority.