



Council

Town Hall
Wallasey

5 December 2014

Dear Councillor

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council to be held at **6.15 pm on Monday, 15 December 2014** in the Council Chamber, within the Town Hall, Wallasey, to take into consideration and determine upon the following subjects : -

Contact Officer: Andrew Mossop
Tel: 0151 691 8501
e-mail: andrewmossop@wirral.gov.uk
Website: <http://www.wirral.gov.uk>

AGENDA

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

2. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

3. PETITIONS (Pages 1 - 4)

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

B. The following petitions are referred to the Council for consideration in accordance with Standing Order 34 –

(1) An ePetition and paper petition with a combined total of 4,042 signatories, submitted by Sue Kellett of UNISON asking the

Council to stop dismantling Council services and making even more job cuts.

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

- (2) An ePetition and paper petition with a combined total petition of 3,546 signatories, submitted by Mr M Shipley asking the Council to remove the Wirral Sailing Centre completely from the proposed cuts and keep the valuable work the centre provides for all the community.

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

4. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

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

5. LEADER'S, EXECUTIVE MEMBERS' AND CHAIRS REPORTS

Copies of these reports were considered at the Council meeting on 8 December, 2014 therefore no reports are provided for this Council meeting.

6. MATTERS REQUIRING APPROVAL BY THE COUNCIL (Pages 5 - 28)

To consider any recommendations of the Leader, Cabinet, Cabinet Member and Committees which require the approval of the Council. Copies of the related reports can be provided for Council members on request.

A. Cabinet – 9 December, 2014

- Minute on Budget Options
- Minute on Council Tax Base
- Minute on Budget Council Procedure (The report and proposed procedure are attached) **(Pages 5 – 14)**
- Minute on Amendment to the Treasury Management and Investment Strategy 2014/15 (The report is attached) **(Pages 15 – 20)**

(These minutes will be provided in a supplement to the Council Summons).

B. Decision of the Deputy Leader of the Council – 5 December, 2014

- **Safeguarding Reference Group**

The Council is requested to approve the recommendations of the Deputy Leader of the Council in respect of the proposed re-establishment of the Safeguarding Reference Group.

(The report and delegated decision are attached).

(Pages 21 – 28)

7. MATTERS FOR NOTING

To consider any matters determined by the Cabinet, which are drawn to the Council's attention in accordance with the Constitution.

8. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

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

9. MATTERS REFERRED FROM POLICY AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEES

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

10. NOTICES OF MOTION (Pages 29 - 30)

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

(i). Consultation that Counts

The Civic Mayor to refer to the Standards and Constitutional Oversight Committee

(ii).Government Economic Policies Working for Wirral

To be debated

11. VACANCIES

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

The Council is requested to appoint named deputies and provide names to the Head of Legal and Members Services in respect of the Safeguarding Reference Group subject to approval of item 6B on this agenda.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a horizontal line at the bottom.

Head of Legal and Member Services

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~
3474

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Save Our Services

We the undersigned petition the Council to stop dismantling Council services and making even more job cuts. We request the Council to make the Government fully aware that every Council job that goes, every pay cut, every service closure, sucks spending power out of Wirral's economy, and local shops and businesses lose custom and find it harder to survive. If this continues local neighbourhoods will deteriorate, young people will have nowhere to go, people will be left to fend for themselves, and services currently taken for granted will be available only to those who can afford to pay. Wirral Council needs more money and the Government has choices about how to raise this money. Wirral Council should be fighting to keep its services and the staff who provide them, and be tackling the Government which has chosen to give tax cuts to top rate tax payers that will rise to £4bn per year by 2016/2017 (*the Guardian, March 2012*) and cuts to Corporation Tax that will rise to £8bn per year by 2016/2017 (*Financial Times, July 2014*). **Save Our Services**

Name (please print)
BEVERLEY NIELSON
Melisa Rafferty
HEATHER FREEDMAN
Katrina Awn
Jan Lolley
Adele Kennedy
Jade Allen

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SAVE WIRRAL SAILING CENTRE

①

We, the friends and users of Wirral Sailing Centre and West Kirby Marine Lake, strongly disagree with the proposals to outsource this facility. We want to ensure that the facilities and services continue to be affordable, approachable and inclusive of all parties, and that the current team at Wirral Sailing Centre who are passionate about what they offer and its place in the community are retained.

NAME (please print)	A
ANNELISE NORDAAS	(I
Alie Roberts	
Kimurakua Morgan Wood	f
L Comford	- i
Mdm Tuck	c
Rue Jagot	s
Debi Roberts	
Louise Towers	
Amanda Sherratt	c
Andrea Sherratt	
MICHAEL CULLIGAN	
LUCY WILSON	
GILL TRIVET	
Luzy Milne	

Philippa Phillips

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WIRRAL COUNCIL

CABINET

9 December 2014

SUBJECT:	Budget Council Procedure
WARD/S AFFECTED:	All
REPORT OF:	Head of Legal & Member Services
RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	Leader of the Council
KEY DECISION?	No

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 This report proposes an Agenda and the procedure for the Budget meeting of the Council to be held on 24 February 2015.

2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

2.1 Standing Order 13 provides that the Head of Legal & Member Services:

“shall, prior to the Budget meeting of the Council, consult with the Leaders of each political group and submit to the Cabinet and Council a suggested procedure to be adopted at the budget meeting, but if no such procedure is adopted the normal procedures of the Council in relation to amendments to Cabinet recommendations will apply”.

2.2 The Budget meeting of the Council is scheduled to take place on 24 February 2015.

3.0 Proposed procedure

3.1 The procedure for the Budget meeting of Council is set at Appendix 1 to this report and has been prepared following consultation with all the three Political Group Leaders.

4.0 RELEVANT RISKS

4.1 The Council is under a legal obligation to set a lawful budget. The proposed Budget Council Procedure seeks to facilitate and assist the Council in this regard.

5.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

5.1 No other options were considered given that all three Political Group Leaders were consulted in relation to the proposed Council Budget Procedure.

6.0 CONSULTATION

6.1 All three Political Group Leaders were consulted in relation to the proposed Budget Council Procedure.

7.0 OUTSTANDING PREVIOUSLY APPROVED ACTIONS

7.1 None.

8.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

8.1 None.

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

9.1 There are no such implications arising directly from this report.

10.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

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

11.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

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

No such implications arise.

12.0 CARBON REDUCTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

12.1 None

13.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

13.1 None

14.0 RECOMMENDATION/S

14.1 That Cabinet:

- approves the Agenda and Budget Council Procedure set out at Appendix 1 to this report.
- recommends to Council at its meeting on 15 December 2014 the adoption of the Agenda and Budget Council Procedure set out at Appendix 1 to this report in respect of the Council Budget Council meeting scheduled for 24 February 2015.
- recommends to Council that the Head of Legal and Member Services be authorised to make changes to the Agenda and/or Budget Council Procedure set out at Appendix 1 providing the consent of all the three Political Group Leaders has been obtained.

14.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

14.1 To give effect to Standing Order 13 of the Council Procedure Rules set out in the Council's Constitution.

REPORT AUTHOR: Surjit Tour
Head of Legal & Member Services
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email surjittour@wirral.gov.uk

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - Budget Council Procedure

BACKGROUND PAPERS/REFERENCE MATERIAL

None

BUDGET COUNCIL PROCEDURE

COUNCIL
24 February 2015

- 1. Apologises for absence**
- 2. Declarations of Interest / Restrictions on voting**
- 3. Mayor's Announcements**
- 4. Approval of Minutes**
- 5. Petitions (pursuant to Standing Order 5(2)(d) Council Procedure Rules)**
However, if a petition relates to the setting of the Budget, the member who presents it should be given the opportunity during the main debate to speak to it, in order that the Council can take account of it in that context.
- 6. Suspension of Standing Orders of the Council's Constitution**
 - (i) Standing Order 12(1) relates to 'Motions and Amendments' and provides that:

"A motion or amendment shall relate to a recommendation of a committee submitted in accordance with Standing Order 5.2(i), or to a matter referred to in Standing Orders 7 and 8. It shall not be discussed unless it has been proposed and seconded.

The terms of any amendment or notice of motion shall not be varied except with the agreement of the Council."

 - (ii) Standing Order 12(9) relates to 'Amendments' and provides that:

"Subject to Standing Order 7(5) an amendment to a motion or recommendation of the Cabinet or of a Committee shall be relevant to the motion or recommendation under consideration and shall be either
 - (a) to refer or refer back a subject of debate for consideration or reconsideration as the case may be;
 - (b) to leave out words;
 - (c) to leave out words and insert or add others;
 - (d) to insert or add words.

as long as the effect of any amendment is not to negate the motion or recommendation.”

- (iii) Standing Order 12(10) relates to ‘Amendments to be dealt with in order’ and provides that:

“Only one amendment may be moved and discussed at a time”.

For the purposes of the Budget Debate, Council is requested to suspend:

- (a) Standing Orders 12(1) insofar as it relates to amendments;
- (b) Standing Order 12(9); and
- (c) Standing Order 12(10).

7. Council Budget

The Budget Debate will only consider:

- (i) the Cabinet’s Budget Recommendations/Minutes, which shall include any additional paragraphs/ recommendations (e.g. those relating to precepts), together with any other recommendation(s)/minute(s) from the Cabinet meeting to be held on 10 February 2015 (and/or any other relevant Cabinet meeting) that require approval by the Council; and
- (ii) any Alternative Budget Proposal(s) or Amendment(s) to the Cabinet’s Budget Recommendations/Minutes referred to at (i) above duly lodged with the Head of Legal & Member Services on or before **12.00 noon on Friday, 20 February 2015**.
- (iii) Budget Debate shall be conducted in accordance with the Budget Debate Process set out at Annex 1 to this Appendix.

8. Appointments

Council shall consider any recommendations referred for appointment, approval and/or designation (as appropriate).

9. Vacancies

Council shall consider any appointments to be approved or any changes proposed to existing appointments.

10. Any Urgent Business

Council to consider any urgent business approved by the Mayor

Budget Debate Process

1. Cabinet Minute

- a. The Cabinet's Budget Recommendations/Minute(s) referred to at 7(i) of the Budget Council Procedure is formally moved by the Leader of the Council.
- b. The Cabinet's Budget Recommendations/Minute(s) is formally seconded.

2. Alternative Budget Proposal(s)/Amendments

- a. The Mayor will advise Council that Alternative Budget Proposal(s) or Amendments (submitted in accordance with 7(ii) of the Budget Council, Procedure) are to be proposed by both the other two Political Group Leaders and the Green Party Member (if applicable).

First Alternative Budget Proposal(s) or Amendment

- b. The Mayor will invite the Group Leader of the largest opposition political group to first propose his Alternative Budget Proposal(s) or Amendment.
- c. The Group Leader of the largest opposition political group formally moves his Alternative Budget Proposal(s) or Amendment.
- d. The Alternative Budget Proposal(s) or Amendment is formally seconded.

Second Alternative Budget Proposal(s)/Amendment

- e. The Mayor will invite the Group Leader of the other opposition political group to propose his Alternative Budget Proposal(s) or Amendment.
- f. The Group Leader of the other opposition political group formally moves his Alternative Budget Proposal(s) or Amendment.
- g. The Alternative Budget Proposal(s) or Amendment is formally seconded.

Third Alternative Budget Proposal(s) or Amendment
(If applicable)

- h. The Mayor will invite the Green Party Member to propose his Alternative Budget Proposal(s) or Amendment.
- i. The Green Party Member formally moves his Alternative Budget Proposal(s) or Amendment.
- j. The Alternative Budget Proposal(s) or Amendment is formally seconded.

In the event that there is no seconder, the Third Alternative Budget Proposal(s) or Amendment(s) shall not be debated or voted upon.

3. Debating and Voting

The moved and seconded Cabinet's Minute and Alternative Budget Proposal(s)/Amendments shall be debated together (in accordance with the Rules of Debate set out below) and a vote then taken on each of them in turn.

Order of Speakers

- a. The Leader of the Council will speak to the Cabinet Budget Recommendations/Minute(s) (15 Minutes).
- b. The Portfolio Holder for Children's Services will speak to the Schools' Budget element of the Cabinet Budget Recommendations/Minute(s). (7 Minutes).
- c. The Group Leader of the largest opposition political group will speak to the First Alternative Budget Proposal(s)/Amendment (15 Minutes).
- d. The Group Leader of the other opposition political group will speak to the Second Alternative Budget Proposal(s)/Amendment (15 Minutes).
- e. If applicable, the Green Party Member will speak to the Third Alternative Budget Proposal(s)/Amendment (15 Minutes).
- f. Other members wishing to speak shall indicate to the Mayor, who will call them to speak in the order determined by the Mayor (Each Member - 3 Minutes).

- g. The budget debate shall end with the Seconders, **unless** they have spoken earlier. (Each Seconder - 7 Minutes)

Right of Reply

- h. If applicable, the Proposer of the Third Alternative Budget Proposal(s)/Amendment will be invited to exercise his right of reply. (5 Minutes).
- i. The Proposer of the Second Alternative Budget Proposal(s)/Amendment will be invited to exercise his right of reply. (5 Minutes).
- j. The Proposer of the First Alternative Budget Proposal(s)/Amendment will be invited to exercise his right of reply. (5 Minutes).
- k. The Leader of the Council will be invited to exercise his right of reply. (5 Minutes).

Speakers

Speakers will be allocated the following time:

The Leader of the Council speaking to the Cabinet's Budget Recommendation(s)/Minute(s)	15 minutes
The Portfolio Holder for Children's Services (speaking on the Schools' Budget element)	7 minutes
The Group Leaders of the opposition political groups and Green party Member (if applicable) speaking to their respective Alternative Budget Proposal(s)/ Amendment	15 minutes
Other speakers	3 minutes
Seconder of an Alternative Budget Proposal(s)/Amendment (as applicable)	7 minutes
The Seconder of the Cabinet Budget Recommendation(s)/Minutes(s)	7 minutes
The Group Leaders of the opposition political groups and Green Party Member (if applicable) – right of reply	5 minutes
The Leader of the Council – right of reply	5 minutes

(For the avoidance of any doubt the times mentioned in the table above shall not affect the Mayor's discretion to permit a speaker to speak beyond the allotted time).

4. Voting

The order of voting shall be as follows (and subject to 4(d)(ii) below):

a. If applicable, Third Alternative Budget Proposal(s)/ Amendment

A vote will be taken on the Third Alternative Budget Proposal(s)/Amendment.

b. Second Alternative Budget Proposal(s)/Amendment

A vote will be taken on the Second Alternative Budget Proposal(s)/Amendment.

c. First Alternative Budget Proposal(s)/Amendment

A vote will be taken on the First Alternative Budget Proposal(s)/Amendment.

d. Substantive Cabinet Recommendation(s)/Minute(s)

- (i) If all the Alternative Budget Proposal(s)/Amendments to the Cabinet's Budget Recommendation(s)/Minute(s) fall, a vote will be taken on the Cabinet's Budget Recommendation(s)/Minute(s).
- (ii) If the Cabinet's Budget Recommendation(s)/Minute(s) are amended or an Alternative Budget Proposal(s) carried pursuant to 4a–c above, that decision will be regarded as an in-principle decision, which will automatically come into effect five working days after the date of the decision, *unless* the Leader of the Council informs the Head of Legal & Member Services in writing within that time that he objects to the decision becoming effective and provides a written submission setting out his reasons why.

Council shall adjourn the matter to 6.15pm, 3 March 2015 when the Council will reconsider its decision having regard to Leader of the Council's written submission.

At that the adjourned meeting the Council can:

- (i) accept the Cabinet Budget Recommendation(s)/Minute(s) (without amendment); or
- (ii) approve a different decision that does not accord with the Cabinet Budget Recommendation(s)/Minute(s).

The Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 requires a recorded vote (i.e. names of all cllrs voting and how they voted) to be taken in respect of all votes.

WIRRAL COUNCIL

CABINET

9 DECEMBER 2014

SUBJECT	AMENDMENT TO THE TREASURY MANAGEMENT AND INVESTMENT STRATEGY 2014/15
WARD/S AFFECTED	ALL
REPORT OF	DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES
RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER	COUNCILLOR PHIL DAVIES
KEY DECISION	YES

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The original Treasury Management and Investment Strategy 2014/15 was approved by Cabinet as part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2014/17 on 12 February 2014. The UK is implementing the final bail-in provisions of the EU Bank Recovery and Resolution Directive to commence in January 2015, a year ahead of most other countries. Credit rating agencies have stated they plan to review EU banks' ratings in line with each country's implementation of the directive.
- 1.2 Many UK banks have standalone credit ratings in the "BBB" category with uplifts for potential Government support taking them into the "A" category. There is a realistic risk that some major UK banks' credit ratings will this financial year fall below our current minimum investment criteria rating of A-, if this uplift is removed. As a precursor to this the Investment element of the Strategy should be amended.

2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The recent EU Bank Directives agreed in Brussels coupled with the Banking Reform Act 2014 are intended to shield taxpayers from another round of crippling bank bailouts of the kind that took place in 2008 and also avoid a re-run of the Eurozone crisis where troubled banks and heavily indebted governments have become inextricably linked.
- 2.2 Basically a "Bail-In" forces banks on the verge of collapse to require their shareholders, bondholders and biggest customers to contribute cash before falling back on taxpayer bailouts under this agreement.

- 2.3 Under the regime being created, a clear pecking order for this support is set out: shareholders are first; certain types of bondholders; and then customers who have deposits over the guaranteed level of €100,000 (£85,000). These three types of creditors would need to take minimum losses of 8% of a troubled bank's total liabilities.
- 2.4 Under the Deposit Guarantee Directive 2014/49/EU it has been deemed that "Public authorities have much better access to credit than citizens, so should not be eligible for protection".
- 2.5 Secured bonds are exempt from bail-in. However, traditional local authority term deposits and call accounts do not fall under this category.
- 2.6 The loss incurred by creditors depends on the bank's actual losses and the proportion of secured bonds and other liabilities that are exempt from a bail-in. The greater these elements, the higher the loss to the creditor.
- 2.7 The Council's Treasury management advisors have suggested 2 alternative courses of action:
- Option 1 – the preferred option is to amend the Treasury management Strategy to allow investment in lower rated banks; or
- Option 2 – prepare to invest without using any of the major UK banks.
- 2.8 Conducting Treasury Management investment activities without using major UK banks would lead to a number of practical difficulties. Given the Deposit Scheme Directive is European wide there is a risk of there being insufficient foreign banks meeting the investment criteria. There may also arise a need to utilise/increase use of non-bank deposit sources of investment such as covered bonds, repurchase agreements and non-financial corporate bonds. These may contain risks of their own including reduced liquidity resulting in increased likelihood of temporary borrowing costs being incurred.
- 2.9 A credit rating within the 'BBB' range per the Fitch rating agency definition is an institution with 'good credit quality'. BBB+ is the highest rating in this class. The 'A' rating is defined as 'high credit quality' with A- the lowest rating in this class. The change in allowable investment criteria from an A- to BBB+ credit rating whilst a lower rating still allows for investment in banks with good credit quality and is a reduction of one 'notch' in the existing investment criteria.
- 2.10 The EU Bank and Recovery Directive does not increase the risk of a UK bank defaulting. The change only increases the potential loss to local authorities if a default occurs as losses will be borne by a smaller number of creditors.

3.0 RELEVANT RISKS

3.1 Treasury Management activities involve a degree of financial and reputational risk. The Treasury Management Strategy prioritises security, liquidity and yield in that order. The change in policy to invest in institutions with a minimum credit rating of BBB+ whilst involving some increase in risk still ensures the authority is investing in institutions of good credit quality. The authority continues to mitigate treasury management risk by placing counterparty limits on deposits, by using a range of suitably rated institutions and engaging advisors to assess market conditions and potential risks and opportunities.

4.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

4.1 The alternative option of retaining a minimum credit rating of A- is discussed in paragraphs 2.8 and 2.9 above.

5.0 CONSULTATION

5.1 There has been no specific consultation in respect of this report.

6.0 OUTSTANDING PREVIOUSLY APPROVED ACTIONS

6.1 Not applicable.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

7.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

8.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

8.1 The Council will continue to invest on the basis of security, liquidity and yield.

9.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are none arising from this report

10.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are no equality implications arising directly from this report so an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) is not required.

11.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

12.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

12.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

13.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

13.1 That Cabinet approve the amendment in respect of the Annual Investment Strategy in Appendix 1. This is the inclusion of a specific proviso relating to banks and other organisations with a long term credit rating of BBB+.

14.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

14.1 If the Strategy is not amended, in the event of Government support being withdrawn for failing banks thus affecting their credit ratings, the Council would not be able to make any further investments with any major UK bank which would limit the investment opportunities available.

REPORT AUTHOR: Reg Huyton
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Email reghuyton@wirral.gov.uk

APPENDICES

Revised table of non-specified investments

BACKGROUND PAPERS

CIPFA Treasury Management Code 2011 Edition.
EU Bank Recovery and Resolution Directive

REFERENCE MATERIAL / SUBJECT HISTORY

Council Meeting	Date
Cabinet - Treasury Management and Investment Strategy 2014/17	12 February 2014

Non-Specified Investments

Instrument	Maximum maturity	Max %/£M of portfolio	Capital expenditure?
Term deposits with banks, building societies which meet the specified investment criteria (on advice from TM Adviser)	2 years	15% per Counterparty	No
Term deposits with local authorities	5 years	15% per Counterparty	No
CDs and other negotiable instruments with banks and building societies which meet the specified investment criteria (on advice from TM Adviser)	5 years	15% per Counterparty	No
Investments with organisations which do not meet the specified investment criteria (subject to an external credit assessment and specific advice from TM Adviser)	3 months	£5m per counterparty	No
	1 year	£1m per counterparty	No
	2 years	£1m per counterparty	Yes/no
	<i>Specific Proviso (for new investment) Banks and other organisations whose lowest long term credit rating from the 3 main agencies is BBB+</i>	<i>100 days</i>	<i>10% of total investments per Counterparty</i>
Deposits with registered providers of Social Housing with a credit rating of BBB- or higher	5 years	15% per Counterparty	No
Gilts	5 years	25% per Counterparty	No
Bonds issued by multilateral development banks	5 years	15% per Counterparty	No
Sterling denominated bonds by non-UK sovereign governments	5 years	15% per Counterparty	No

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WIRRAL COUNCIL

DELEGATED DECISION

SUBJECT:	Safeguarding Reference Group
WARD/S AFFECTED:	All
REPORT OF:	Strategic Director Families and Wellbeing
RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	Councillor Tony Smith Councillor Chris Jones
KEY DECISION	No

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1

The report proposes that the Safeguarding Reference Group is re-established and revitalised as a working group under the Council's constitution. The purpose of the Safeguarding Reference Group will be to ensure that the most senior leaders of the Council, through its leading Members and Chief Executive, are informed about key safeguarding issues in order to carry out their responsibilities of safeguarding Children and Adults in Wirral. This proposal follows the consideration of findings from the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in Rotherham.

2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

2.1 SAFEGUARDING REFERENCE GROUP

2.2 Purpose

The Council has a principal responsibility to do all in its power to ensure that Wirral children and vulnerable Adults are kept safe. It is the Children and Young People's Department for Wirral that has the lead responsibility for child protection. The Council, through the Department of Adult Social Services is the lead agency for safeguarding vulnerable adults although close partnership arrangements exist to deliver the agenda. The purpose of the Safeguarding Reference Group is to ensure that the Council, through its leading Members and Chief Executive, are enabled to carry out their responsibilities of safeguarding Children and Adults in Wirral.

2.3 Accountability

The Safeguarding Reference Group will be accountable, through the Leader of the Council, to the Cabinet and through that to full Council.

It is recognised that safeguarding is a multidisciplinary function. Wirral's Children's Trust is multi-agency and has a responsibility, amongst other

things, for Children staying safe along with the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB). In relation to vulnerable Adults, there are multi agency responsibilities supported through the Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board (SAPB).

2.4 Membership, Chairing and Attendance

As a working group of the Cabinet, its membership can be drawn from all parties represented on the Council.

The proposed membership of the Safeguarding Reference Group is:

The Leader of the Council;
The Leaders of the second and third largest groups on the Council;
The Cabinet member for Children and Young people
The Cabinet member for Adult social services
The Chair and spokespersons from Families and Wellbeing Policy and Performance committee;
The Chief Executive.
The Strategic Director for Families and Wellbeing
The Director of Children's Services
The Head of Children's Specialist Services
The Director of Adult Social Services
The Head of Adult Social Services Delivery
The Corporate Safeguarding Manager
A representative of the Director of Law, HR and Asset Management;
The independent chair of Wirral LSCB and the SAPB.

It is proposed that the Group is chaired by the Leader of the Council.

2.5 Terms of Reference

Detailed Terms of Reference will be presented to the first meeting of the Safeguarding Reference Group for debate and agreement. They will then be presented to Cabinet for approval.

It is important that the Safeguarding Reference Group does not duplicate or overlap the functions already carried out by the LSCB, the SAPB, the Children's Trust or the Families and Wellbeing Policy and Performance Committee. The terms of reference are therefore likely to include:

- Consideration of the Annual Report and Business Plan on Safeguarding
- Consideration of the progress of recommendations from Serious Case Reviews or Critical Incident Reviews undertaken by Wirral LSCB or SAPB;
- Consideration of any safeguarding issues appertaining specifically to Wirral Council services (such as social care, schools, children's centres, day centres or commissioned services) raised through the activities of the LSCB and SAPB.

2.6 Meetings

It is proposed that there are four standing meetings per year which will receive the Annual Reports on Safeguarding, and receive interim reports on Safeguarding in Wirral Council services.

In addition to these standing arrangements, a meeting will be convened on receipt from the LSCB or SAPB of any Serious Case Review or Critical Incident Review report concerning a Wirral child or vulnerable adult.

2.7 Confidentiality

Current advice regarding confidentiality on these matters is as follows:

- The Annual Reports on Safeguarding Children and Adults will be public documents. They will take the form of a report to Families and Wellbeing Policy and Performance Committee and will be published on the Council's website. Serious Case Reviews are public documents. They are published on the Wirral LSCB website when they have been submitted to the National Panel for Serious Case Reviews. Similar arrangements apply to Serious Case Reviews concerning adult. Reports will be redacted where necessary to protect the identity of the family. The learning from Critical Incident Reviews would be available to share.

3.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 3.1 There are risks that the most senior leaders of the Council, through its leading Members and Chief Executive are not sufficiently informed about key safeguarding issues, both nationally and locally, in order to carry out their responsibilities of safeguarding children and adults in Wirral.

4.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 Not applicable to this report

5.0 CONSULTATION

- 5.1 Not applicable to this report

6.0 OUTSTANDING PREVIOUSLY APPROVED ACTIONS

- 6.1 There are none arising directly from this report

7.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

- 7.1 This sector provides important links for vulnerable people to access support and provide input to the work of both the Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board and the Local Safeguarding Children Board.

8.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL; IT; STAFFING; AND ASSETS

- 8.1 There are costs to undertaking Serious Case Reviews and supporting the work of both the Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board and the Local

Safeguarding Children Board. At present there would be insufficient funds available in the Safeguarding Board budgets to meet the cost of a Serious Case Review. The Safeguarding Board budgets are based on contributions from partner agencies as well as the Council. Discussions have taken place at both Safeguarding Boards this month and an agreement reached to meet further to discuss the issue of resourcing this work.

9.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 There could be a finding against the Council if there is a successful claim made that the council failed in its safeguarding duties.

10.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 Not applicable

11.0 CARBON REDUCTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 There are none arising directly from this report

12.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 12.1 Consideration needs to be given as to

13.0 RECOMMENDATION/S

- 13.1 To re establish the Safeguarding Reference Group
- 13.2 To appoint those members referred to at paragraph 3.3 in the report as members of the Safeguarding Reference Group.
- 13.3 To appoint named deputies for each of these members as appropriate.

14.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 14.1 To ensure that the most senior leaders of the Council, through its leading Members and Chief Executive, are informed about, and consider key safeguarding issues, in order to carry out their responsibilities of safeguarding Children and Adults in Wirral.

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APPENDICES

None

BACKGROUND PAPERS/REFERENCE MATERIAL

Report of the Director of Children’s Services and the Director of Adults services.
Proposal to establish a Safeguarding Reference Group 15th April 2010 Cabinet
An Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in Rotherham (1997-2013)
Professor Alexis Jay

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date

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EXECUTIVE MEMBER DECISION FORM

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY: Deputy Leader of the Council

KEY DECISION NO

PORTFOLIOS AFFECTED: Adult Social Care and Public Health and Children and Family Services

WARDS AFFECTED: ALL

SUBJECT: SAFEGUARDING REFERENCE GROUP

1. RECOMMENDATION:

1. To re establish the Safeguarding Reference Group
2. To appoint those members referred to at paragraph 3.3 in the report as members of the Safeguarding Reference Group.
3. To appoint named deputies for each of these members as appropriate.



2. REASONS FOR THE DECISION

To ensure that the most senior leaders of the Council, through its leading Members and Chief Executive, are informed about, and consider key safeguarding issues, in order to carry out their responsibilities of safeguarding Children and Adults in Wirral.

3. STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

The recommendations are made further to legal advice from the Deputy Monitoring Officer and the Section 151 Officer has confirmed that they do not incur unlawful expenditure. They are also compliant with equality legislation and an equality analysis and impact assessment has been completed. The recommendations reflect the core principles of good governance set out in the Council's Code of Corporate Governance.

4. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

<p>Signed: </p> <p>Executive Member: Cllr Ann McLachlan</p> <p>Date: 5th December 2014</p>	<p>Signed: </p> <p>Chief Officer: Strategic Director: Families and Wellbeing</p> <p>Date: 5/12/2014</p>
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A list of background papers on this issue is held with:

Contact Officer: Simon Garner 0151 666 5575

Date: 5 December 2014

Date of Publication:

Date of Expiry of Call-In Period: Page 27

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Council – 15 December 2014

Motions

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

1. CONSULTATION THAT COUNTS

Proposed by Councillor Phil Gilchrist
Seconded by Councillor Dave Mitchell

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

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

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

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

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

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

2. GOVERNMENT ECONOMIC POLICIES WORKING FOR WIRRAL

Proposed by Councillor Jeff Green
Seconded by Councillor Lesley Rennie

Council notes that since 2010, the Conservative-led Government has been working to a long-term economic plan to turn Britain around.

Council further notes that when Labour left Government there was a record peacetime deficit, increased unemployment and a welfare system that didn't reward work – they had even doubled income tax on the poorest by abolishing the 10p tax band.

Council acknowledges that the Government's economic policies have delivered the following achievements:

- The deficit cut by over a third
- Income tax cut for over 25 million people
- Benefits capped to reward work
- 1.8 million more people in employment
- The state pension increased by £800
- More children in good and outstanding schools
- 50,000 families with a home thanks to Help to Buy

Council further acknowledges that we are now seeing the tangible benefits of these Government policies working for Wirral people including:

- Wirral having the lowest rate of Job Seekers Allowance Claimants in the Liverpool City Region at 2.0% (October 2014), the lowest rate since December 2004.
- 2,600 people in Wirral coming off JSA since October 2013 and earning a wage for themselves and their families.
- Nearly £10 million of Regional Growth Fund monies being allocated to Wirral which has led to the safeguarding or creation of in excess of 1500 jobs.
- Building work commencing within the Wirral Waters Enterprise Zone on Wirral Metropolitan College's Built Environment Skills and Enterprise Centre, Tower Road South.
- Over £2 million of additional Regional Growth Fund resources secured ensuring the development of 120,000 sq ft of floor space along the A41 corridor.

Council is therefore dismayed that the Labour Administration continues to deny the significant economic benefits delivered to Wirral people from the Coalition Government's economic policies.

Council therefore instructs the Chief Executive to write to the Prime Minister congratulating him on these achievements.