



Area Forum (Greasby/Frankby/Irby, Upton, Woodchurch)

Date:	Wednesday, 11 February 2009
Time:	7.00 pm
Venue:	Greasby Methodist Church, Greasby Road, Greasby, Wirral CH49 2PN

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AGENDA

1. **WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES**
2. **MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS FORUM**
3. **AREA CO-ORDINATORS UPDATE (Pages 1 - 32)**
4. **LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK**
5. **INTEGRATED TRANSPORT BLOCK**
6. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**
7. **PARTNER ORGANISATIONS UPDATE**
 - Merseyside Police/Community Safety
 - Fire Service
 - Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
 - NHS Wirral
 - Older Peoples Parliament
8. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

June 2009 (venue to be confirmed)

YOUR SAY 



**Greasby Frankby Irby
Upton and Woodchurch**

Area Forum

Papers for the forum meeting

Wednesday 11th Feb 2009

**Greasby Methodist Church,
Greasby Rd,
Greasby,
Wirral
CH49 2PN**

7.00pm – 9.00pm

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Code of Conduct for Area Forum Meetings.

Indicate to the Chairperson when you would like to speak

Let invited speakers finish what they have to say

Respect others right to be heard

Do not use abusive or offensive language

Do not make any discriminatory remarks

Do not have private conversations while meeting is in progress

Agenda

- 1 Welcome, introductions & apologies
- 2 Minutes & matters arising from previous
- 3 Area co-ordinators update
- 4 Local Development Framework
- 5 Integrated Transport Block
- 6 Public Question Time
- 7 Partner Update
- 8 Date of next meeting:
June 09 (venue to be confirmed)

Section One

Minutes and Matters Arising

Minutes from last meeting and any matters arising

Minutes – Area Forum (Greasby/Frankby/Irby/Upton/Woodchurch) - 13 October 2008

Present	
Chair	Tony Smith
Councillors	Tom Anderson, Gill Gardiner, Peter Reisdorf, Jean Quinn.
Community Representatives	John Smith (Greasby Community Association), Jean Robinson [Overchurch Residents Association], Tony Anderson, Ron Green [GOAL].
Lead Officer	David Smith [Deputy Director of Finance]
Area Service Co-ordinator	Andy Brannan
Street Scene Manager	Mark Traynor.
Wirral University Teaching Hospital Trust.	Pat Higgins.
Wirral Primary Care Trust	John South.
Merseyside Police	Inspector Brian Griffiths.
Merseyside Fire & Rescue	Sarah Patterson
Council Officers	Maureen Cain, Woodchurch Neighbourhood Management Board, .Jo Burrell, Woodchurch Neighbourhood Management Board Co-ordinator.
Observer	Daryl Parker, on behalf of young people.
Apologies	Cllr John George, Inspector Kate Cunningham.

Minute 1 - Welcome, introductions & apologies

The Chair, Councillor Tony Smith, opened the meeting and welcomed forum members and 40 members of the public to the Area Forum meeting in Overchurch. He welcomed Daryl Parker, who was observing the meeting on behalf of young people, and Andy Brannan new Area Service Co-ordinator. He thanked Jean Robinson and the Overchurch Residents' Association for the use of the venue and was pleased to see an excellent turnout with representation from all forum areas. Apologies for absence were received from Councillor John George and Inspector Kate Cunningham. The Chair invited Forum members to introduce themselves.

Minute 2 - Minutes & matters arising from previous forum

The minutes of the Area Forum meeting of 11 June 2008 were incorporated into the Area Forum Co-ordinator's report.

Matters arising.

The Area Forum Co-ordinator's report included updates on matters arising from the previous meeting - Taxis using shops at Greasby Road; improvements to the car park entrance to Arrowe Park Hospital, road safety issues on Hillbark Road, the introduction of a local safety scheme on Thingwall Road, Irby; bin collections in Orrets Meadow Road and Caldwell Drive, Woodchurch, and boy racers and other vehicles parking by the school.

In response to a question on Recycling, Councillor Gardiner reported that a new, all plastic disposal plant is being built on Deeside. There have been talks about the possibility of taking all waste to this new facility, but it is still early days and it has not been built yet.

Jo Burrell referred to a statement in the minutes that Woodchurch has not got a community centre. She wished to clarify that Woodchurch has a Community Centre and a Leisure Centre.

Minute decision: Resolved: That the minutes of the Area Forum meeting of 11 June 2008 be received.

Minute 3 - Area Forum Co-ordinator's report

Andy Brannan, Area Forum Co-ordinator, presented his report. Section One contained the minutes from the last meeting, Section Two included Local Updates, and Section Three gave information on funding.

Wirral has been named as a pilot area for Participatory Budgeting [PB]. The pilot provides a new and innovative way of allocating community initiatives funding. So far, three area forums have been involved in the new initiative and, depending on the success of the pilot, it is likely that the initiative will be extended to this and to other areas.

The Area Forum Co-ordinator drew attention to the Highway Structural Maintenance Programme 2009/2010. Limited resources are available for footway reconstruction and carriageway resurfacing schemes. The Area Forum is invited to identify roads and pavements in Greasby, Frankby, Irby, Upton and Woodchurch that are in need of repair or reconstruction. Projects submitted will be prioritised depending on need and budget availability.

Minute decision: Resolved: To thank the Area Forum Co-ordinator for his report.

Minute 4 – 'You Decide' Initiative

Wirral Council has allocated £250,000 new money to be spent on extra council services in Wirral's eleven area forums through a new project called 'You Decide'. To give everyone a chance to take part, a Borough-wide survey was conducted in September asking residents about the additional Council services they would most like to spend the money on. The survey identified four key areas --

- New trees or street lighting
- Additional litter bins or graffiti removal
- Alley gates or home security features

- Activities for young people e.g. sports or training schemes

Each area forum has been given an allocation £20,000 of new money to spend on extra council services. The priorities identified for this Area Forum are -

- 1) Additional litter bins,
- 2) More activities for young people, particularly around Sports
- 3) Community safety.

People have asked for the Respect bus to visit this more frequently. Suggestions from members of the public on the 'hot spots' they would like the Respect bus to visit, and on the siting of additional litter bins, and should be passed on to the Area Forum Co-ordinator.

Minute 5 Partner Updates.

Merseyside Police: A written report on Upton and Prenton had been incorporated into the Area Co-ordinator's report. Inspector Brian Griffiths reported that since the report had been written, the Police boundaries across Merseyside have been changed. Upton Police Station is now responsible for policing the geographical areas of Greasby and Frankby.

A substantial amount of work has been carried out on young people and alcohol. Unfortunately a small minority of young people can give the majority of young people a bad name with alcohol and with anti social behaviour. In this area forum, twelve young people are currently subject to Acceptable Behaviour Contracts and six young people are subject to ASBOs. Police Officers and PCSO staff have been actively involved in creating diversionary activities for young people to divert them away from anti social activities. One young person has been given a Volunteer of the Year award.

Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service. Copies of a written report were circulated at the meeting. Sarah Patterson commented on aspects of the report under the headings –

Smoke detectors. Fire Officers had visited almost 6,000 homes in Wirral in the last quarter to complete Home Fire Safety checks and provide free smoke detectors where necessary. .

A successful campaign in schools in early summer and close links during the holiday period had seen a 65% decrease in reported anti-social behaviour.

The successful Bonfire Strategy introduced in 2007 will be repeated this year. Presentations on bonfire safety have been given at a number of secondary schools. A Bonfire Poster Campaign is being organised in schools with the aim of educating and informing the children of the dangers of fireworks. The children involved will have an opportunity to win an iPod.

Sarah Patterson thanked the Area Forum for the funding the Fire Service has received from the CIF initiative.

Wirral PCT: An update on Wirral Primary Care Trust had been included in the Area Forum Coordinator's report [pages 26/27].

Wirral University Teaching Hospital. The Area Co-ordinator's report contained an update on Wirral University Teaching Hospital [pages 27/29].

Pat Higginson reported that the Trust is consulting local people on its Draft Public Health Strategy. Although the main focus is on hospital care, the Trust is committed to doing all it can to promote good health, for the staff, as well as the patients in hospital and their carers. The Trust has introduced many measures to encourage people not to smoke on hospital sites.

The number of Public Governors continues to grow, and it would be particularly useful for more young people to become Public Governors. Application forms were available at the meeting

Community News: John Smith drew attention to the report on page 33 of the Area Co-ordinator's report. He invited contributions to the next edition of **Greasby Messenger** by the closing date of 15 November. Bulb planning in the centre of Greasby will take place on Saturday, 18 October from 9.30 am. Offers of help would be welcome and donations of bulbs can be left at Greasby Library.

Coffee Morning in Greasby: Ron Green invited all residents of Greasby to attend a Coffee Morning in the Library between 10 and 12 am, on Saturday, 18 October. The objective is to give local residents the opportunity to state what they want to see in Greasby connected with the outdoors, eg. benches, notice board etc. Funding opportunities will be explored to provide what people want.

The **GOAL** group has just received a grant in excess of £32,000 for a games area, which will be sited alongside the pavilion in Coronation Park. The pavilion has been refurbished in the past two/three years and restoration work has been completed following fire damage. A CIF grant has been used to upgrade the electrical heaters and sockets.

In conjunction with the CSO, and funded by GOAL, a group of young people have been taken on a trip to Alton Towers, as a diversionary activity. The reported incidents in and around Coronation Park have reduced. Outreach youth workers visit Greasby on Monday and Wednesday evenings, and invite young people to go into the pavilion. The Bonus Ball competition in Greasby Post Office continues to be successful, and raises a small amount of funding to support local activities.

Overchurch Residents' Association. Jean Robinson reported on activities in the Community Shop. There will be a free event for children between the ages 7 to 13 on 1 November from 9.30 am. Daryl Parker is one of the young people who instigated the event and have made all the posters. Daryl and other young people have been asked to do a disco. An event for younger children will be organised in the next couple of months.

Jean Roberts thanked Daryl and the other young people for freely giving their time to support the project.

Minute decision: Resolved: To thank representatives for their reports and updates.

Minute 6 - Public question time.

The Chair reported that questions have been submitted in writing on the topics –

- Dog fouling along the shops on Ford road, Upton. Is there a chance of receiving additional dog fouling bins.
- There should be safety railings along the shops on Ford Road from Owens Health and Fitness Centre in Upton Village, and the need for people to walk on the road
- Dog fouling in Woodlands Park, off Warwick Road.
- Vehicles parking on the kerb in Warwick Road and causing problems for residents, particularly at times when children are being dropped off and collected from school

The Chair advised that the questions will be passed on to the relevant Council Officers and feedback will be given at the next Area Forum meeting.

Questions raised at the meeting –

Q The double yellow lines outside the school need to be repainted. Which school?

A Cllr Tom Anderson undertook to address the issue.

Q Parking on the corner and the need for speed cameras in the area. Is this the same school?

A [Inspector Griffiths]: Tickets are issued.

[Cllr Quinn] I would advise members of the public to request that an Enforcement Officer visits the area at school opening and closing times. Problems encountered at other times should be brought to the attention of Streetscene. Someone can go and give fixed penalty notices to people that park there.

Q Are there anymore plans for erect more Dog fouling signs:

A (Cllr Gardner: Dog fouling signs are available to deter the problem, and if you phone Street Scene the dog wardens will go to the area and address the issue, and hopefully people will put the signs up.

We are getting some signs to put on the litter bins, so people are aware if you pick up you can put in any litter bin in Wirral. To raise awareness of that. A lot of new initiatives are going through and hopefully will be in place by the end of the month).

Q This building is appalling, acoustically. You [forum members] might be able to hear, but all of us [in the audience] are finding it very difficult to hear and understand what is being said.

Q How much information does the public have on the Health front? It is very rare we get mentioned in Irby. Other areas deserve a mention as well. Most of the Community Representatives on the forum talk about Greasby.

Q Roads, highways. The council are asking for people to tell us what roads should be repaired but isn't that the job of the council to find out themselves what roads they should fix. There are a large number of roads that need to be resurfaced and signs made clearer, and foliage cut back, so you can see where you are going,

A [Cllr Quinn] I agree we should not have to wait for you to tell us what to do about Streetscene. The 'You Decide' money is about you asking for extra things in Wards, it is not about routine work that should be done on a regular basis. Roads are inspected every year. It may be you have a local road that is not in as good condition as it might be, and if so, it will be in the programme. 'You Decide' is about additional things.

Q Carbon monoxide. Is it the Fire Service install the carbon monoxide detectors? I have been given one and don't know how to fix it, who would fix it and advise where to put it?

A (Jean Robinson: I have a Carbon Monoxide detector myself. They are usually placed by the fire, however there should be instructions included with it. If your detector doesn't come with instructions please contact the manufacturer who supplied it)

Q Between Thingwall and Upton, an elderly gentleman walks up and down daily in all sorts of weather. I am concerned. Someone needs to keep an eye on him.

[Maureen Cain stated that she knows the elderly gentleman. There is nothing to worry about. He lives in Thingwall and walks daily to the cemetery because his wife has recently passed away and he goes to visit the cemetery].

- Q When will lights be put up in the MUGA in Woodchurch?
- A [Chair]We will take your details and come back to you with an answer.
- Q The four Adventure and Nature Play areas mentioned on page 15 of the report. Do you know where these will be located?
- A The Area Co-ordinator will take details and come back with a response.
- Q Our property has been targeted by someone with a high powered air rifle which has caused damage and stress to my family. What is being done to address incidents in the past ten days on the Overchurch?
- A [Inspector Griffiths]. If the member of public can give me the details at the end of the forum I will take our name and follow up on the enquiry.
- Q In July I rang about the trees in Warwick Road. I have rung the council's Streetscene Department and spoke to Mr Alan Young five times since July. It's so dark I have to have the lights on all the time in the summer.
- A [Jean Robinson] The trees in Gainsborough Road are going to be cut back this year. Some trees belong to Wirral Partnership Homes and some to Wirral Council. WPH have been out to visit, but unless there is a danger to people or property, they will not do anything. It costs £8,000 a tree. They are cutting back trees along Gainsborough Road and Moreton Road, behind the sandstone wall. Brian Smith is the officer responsible.
- Q There is a general lack of response to queries when I ring the Streetscene Department.
- A [Cllr Quinn]. If you are contacting Streetscene you should at least get an acknowledgement. I agree that is not right, and I would like to see that happening. I don't know about any particular case but I will make enquiries if you give me the details at the end of the meeting and I will follow it up.
- Q What is being done about youths from surrounding areas who are causing chaos on the Woodchurch/Overchurch? Estate? They are not from this estate, it is the youths and girls from surrounding areas. People look down their noses at this estate. Some of their parents should come into my house on Saturday night and see what I have to put up with.
- A [Insp. Griffiths] There have been ongoing meetings regarding this area. Certainly last Friday and Saturday, I have got some officers down there and that will continue for as long as it can. What is being suggested is to get a clause in the ABC contract which says you are not to go in a particular area. I will say now, if I can get an ABC on someone and aim towards working with that young person, the majority of young people, if you get early intervention and get away from the drinking habits, they are great. Keep them away from the hard core. An ABC not to go into a particular geographic area or not to take drugs in particular places. It's a very small minority who spoil it for the majority.
- Q Can someone explain if there is a Community Centre in Woodchurch and whats the difference between the Community Centre and the Leisure Centre as it wasn't answered fully in the minutes of the last forum?
- A [member of the public] There is a Community Centre in Woodchurch, it is on the same site as the leisure centre. The community centre can hold private functions, however it does not have a Licence for drinking. The leisure centre does have a license for drinking which can be used for functions in the community centre. If you want to hire for a licensed function speak to the manager of the Leisure Centre.

Q Can we have an update on the Pathways Programme. Overchurch was not included in the programme?

A [Chair]We will have to go back to the people who run the programme and ask why that was.

Q What was the outcome of the road improvement scheme on Thingwall Road?

A [Cllr Quinn] There was a public consultation and public opposition resulted in the original proposals being dropped. There were no objections to the revised plan, which will involve 30 mph flashing signs and enhanced markings on the road surfaces. There is a full update included in these minutes.

Q What is happening on St Benedict's site?

A [Chair]The site was bought by a private developer about 12 months ago with the intention of applying for planning consent to build housing. Due to the credit crunch, I understand the builder is not proceeding at the moment. The site was formerly owned by the Diocese of Shrewsbury, not Wirral Council. The building is an eyesore and we have suggested that it is knocked down and the cost of demolition is recharged to the developer. So far, nothing has happened. The Fire Service are raising awareness of the dangers and are advising young people not to go on to the site. There is security on site.

The Chair proposed that a progress report is given at the next meeting of the Area Forum.

Q You are supposed to have an item Any Other Business on the agenda. You mentioned the credit crunch. Has Wirral Council invested in the Icelandic banks?

A [David Smith} We do have some money that is invested, but not in one of the Icelandic banks. We are reasonably hopeful of getting the money back, but it is a small investment. The problem is the situation is changing on a daily basis so it is very difficult to see to what extent that money is at risk. We do not have shares in the Icelandic Bank. We get money in from Council Tax and pay money out and any balance in the current account is invested to earn interest. Wirral has been affected, as have most Local Authorities.

Q The You Decide funding. How was it publicised and who decided the priorities.

A To ensure everyone had the chance to take part and complete the survey there were a number of ways to fill in the survey. The questionnaires were conducted via an independent research company called Mott McDonald. They were used to ensure that the results remain independent. There were a number of ways to complete the questionnaire including an online paper based surveys and on street interviews conducted by Mott McDonald. With a deadline of September, the questionnaire asked residents about what additional council services they would most like to spend the money on.

Minute 7 – Date of next meeting

Minute decision: Resolved: That the next meeting is held on 11 February 2009 at a venue to be confirmed.

The Chair apologised for the poor acoustics and gave an assurance that efforts would be made to improve the situation at future meetings.

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting.

Matters arising

1. The Chair reported that questions have been submitted in writing on the topics –

- **Dog fouling along the shops on Ford road, Upton. Is there a chance of receiving additional dog fouling bins?**

A verbal update will be given on the evening.

- **There should be safety railings along the shops on Ford Road from Owens Health and Fitness Centre in Upton Village , and the need for people to walk on the road**

The extending of safety railings is dependent on an accident analysis of the area. New railings were installed by the traffic lights and school 2 years ago when the junction was improved. The traffic analysis completed at the time showed the accident rate to be higher towards the lights and there wasn't the need to go the fitness centre.

- **Dog fouling in Woodlands Park, off Warwick Road.**

There is currently adequate dog fouling signs in Woodlands Park. However these signs are frequently vandalised. Woodlands Park has an active friends group and the Councils Parks and Countryside Department will work closely with the group to address the issues around dog fouling.

- **Vehicles parking on the kerb in Warwick Road and causing problems for residents, particularly at times when children are being dropped off and collected from school**

This is a Wirral wide problem. Currently 6 roads in the Borough are taking part in a pilot to issue spot penalties to any cars parked on verges. If successful, this pilot could be rolled out to the whole of Wirral.

Yellow lines have been installed around Royden Road to help congestion and parking issues, especially during peak and school hours.

2. The double yellow lines outside Overchurch school need to be repainted. Cllr Tom Anderson undertook to address the issue.

The issue of double yellow lines outside Overchurch School will be presented to the next Streetscene Overview and Scrutiny Committee. It is being proposed that the yellow lines outside the schools should be extended. If granted, extending the yellow lines would hopefully tackle any parking issues which occur during school hours.

3. How much information does the public have on the Health front? It is very rare we get mentioned in Irby. Other areas deserve a mention as well. Most of the Community Representatives on the forum talk about Greasby.

There are representatives from Wirral Primary Care Trust and Wirral University Teaching Hospital Trust at each Area Forum. The role of these representatives is to inform the public of any relevant health related issues and listen to the concerns of Wirral residents.

The Community Representatives who attend the forums all applied to be official partners. These positions were open to everyone within the area forum

area. Unfortunately for this forum there were no applicants from residents representing groups in the Irby area.

4. When will lights be put up in the MUGA in Woodchurch?

There were a number of 'user groups' in discussions with Wirral Council about raising the funds needed to install lights in the MUGA. Unfortunately due to a number of key people leaving the user groups, these discussions did not progress any further.

5. The four Adventure and Nature Play areas mentioned on page 15 of the report. Do you know where these will be located? The Area Co-ordinator will take details and come back with a response.

The 4 refurbished play areas are:

Harrison Park (Wallasey), Port Causeway (Bromborough), Whitfield Common (Heswall) and Meols Recreation Ground (Meols). Friends of Meols Wreck have also secured an additional £30,000 to go towards refurbishing the playing area.

Full consultation will be undertaken with the users of all the play areas to ensure that work carried out in the refurbishment will meet the needs of all the users.

6. Our property has been targeted by someone with a high powered air rifle which has caused damage and stress to my family. What is being done to address incidents in the past ten days on the Overchurch?[Inspector Griffiths]. If the member of public can give me the details at the end of the forum I will take our name and follow up on the enquiry.

Officers liaised directly with the resident who raised the issue at the end of the forum. Following the forum there have been no further reports of such damage to the property.

7. There is a general lack of response to queries when I ring the Streetscene Department [Cllr Quinn]. If you are contacting Streetscene you should at least get an acknowledgement. I agree that is not right, and I would like to see that happening. I don't know about any particular case but I will make enquiries if you give me the details at the end of the meeting and I will follow it up.

Councillor Quinn's enquiry revealed that the Streetscene call-centre had a record of 3 contacts from the resident concerned on 24th July, 26th August and 23rd September and the message was conveyed to the appropriate officer in Technical Services immediately.

In cases of repeated contact about the same matter the call-centre protocol is to escalate the matter to a manager for follow up action. However the matter was not escalated to a manager on this occasion. In addition the officer from Technical Services did not respond to the resident at the time but planned work had been programmed in the area for the autumn and the requested action would be carried out during that work. That did in fact happen. Thus the call-centre does have the appropriate customer service protocol which has now been further reinforced.

In addition Councillor Quinn has ensured that officers in the Technical Services Department also follow a customer service mail protocol which

requires them to respond to a resident's request within 10/15 working days telling them what the planned action is. This does not always mean that the actual action can be carried out within 10/15 working days

- 8. Can we have an update on the Pathways Programme. Overchurch was not included in the programme? [Chair] We will have to go back to the people who run the programme and ask why that was.**

The Pathways areas were determined by Wirral Councillors according to the guidance provided by Government Office for the North West and using the 1992/93 Index of Multiple Deprivation.

Government Office for the North West asked each council in Merseyside to identify a set number of households within one or more area(s) of their borough, where they were ranked amongst the most deprived according to the Index of Multiple Deprivation.

Deprivation in Wirral at that time was highest in Birkenhead, Seacombe and Tranmere wards and they were automatically selected for Wirral. However, the number of household in Birkenhead, Seacombe and Tranmere fell short of the number allowed by Government Office and there were also 'pockets of deprivation' within other wards. Consequently in an effort to maximise resources to Wirral a selection process took place to determine the remaining Pathways areas for the borough.

This selection was based on identifying as many clusters of deprived households as possible (no less than 1,000 in a cluster) within the target numbers allocated and this was how the 13 Pathways areas of Wirral were selected

- 9. What is happening on St Benedict's site? [Chair] The site was bought by a private developer about 12 months ago with the intention of applying for planning consent to build housing. Due to the credit crunch, I understand the builder is not proceeding at the moment. The site was formerly owned by the Diocese of Shrewsbury, not Wirral Council. The building is an eyesore and we have suggested that it is knocked down and the cost of demolition is recharged to the developer. So far, nothing has happened. The Fire Service are raising awareness of the dangers and are advising young people not to go on to the site. There is security on site.**

The Chair proposed that a progress report is given at the next meeting of the Area Forum

A verbal update will be given on the night of the forum.

Section Two

Local Updates

-----Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service-----



The Fire Service on Wirral is delivered through 6 community fire stations located at Birkenhead, Bromborough, Heswall, Upton, West Kirby and Wallasey.

We are committed to innovative and imaginative change in order to help make our communities safer and stronger. We are also committed to integrated working with other authorities, agencies and the voluntary sector to improve public safety and well being.

We have an **Integrated Risk Management Plan** which is a local strategic plan that outlines the measures intended to be taken to continue the modernisation and improvement of services to the people of Merseyside. Past and current I.R.M.P can be viewed online at www.merseyfire.gov.uk or copies of the latest plan are available at local community fire stations across the district, public libraries and One-Stop shops.

There were a number of public consultation meetings held at fire stations across the district and we would like to thank all those that attended for their input. This input will be considered as part of the consultation process before a final draft is published. The subsequent document will inform you of any new responsibilities that the service and the authority must comply with and will also demonstrate how we intend to provide compliance and any effects that it will have on the Service, its partners and our community.

Community engagement remains the cornerstone of our proactive activities, in particular the delivery of the **Home Fire Safety Checks** and the provision of free smoke detectors where necessary. We continue to improve our effectiveness by utilising intelligence led targeting of **HFSCs**. Unfortunately there are still some vulnerable groups within the communities we serve which have proven difficult to access. To ensure all efforts are made to reach these targeted properties, MFRS has developed a collaborative strategy with partner agencies to access these groups throughout the coming year.

The Service has set challenging performance targets and we are pleased to report that Wirral stations regularly achieve and exceed these targets.

During the last quarter the Fire Service visited nearly **6,000** homes on Wirral to complete Home Fire Safety Checks.

Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service has set a goal to become an environmentally regenerative service. We will carry out investigations to reduce our carbon footprint with the ultimate aim of becoming carbon positive. The aim of which is to leave the climate in better shape at the end of each year. This goal will take a sustained effort over a number of years and will require radical change in how we operate as a business, whilst we maintain our high levels of service, intervention and response to the people of Merseyside.

The Fire Service are committed to working in partnership to achieve strategic objectives within the Local Area Agreement.

The Fire Service has been working with partners to develop facilities at Wallasey Fire station as part of an integrated healthier lifestyle project. Work is nearing completion on a new **Lifestyle Centre** which will incorporate a Wirral HeartBeat gym and new community meeting and welfare facilities. It is envisaged that this will be available for use early 2009.

Another such initiative, utilising forum funding, is the development of a **Beacon Programme** running out of Birkenhead Fire Station. This is run 1 day a week for 12 weeks and is designed for children aged 11-16yrs. This is a partnership project to engage young people at risk of exclusion from mainstream education and involvement in arson related crime. The course participants are given a learning experience outside the school environment to build their confidence and self-esteem. The course combines practical drill ground and scenario based training with classroom centred activities and workshops-including community fire safety.

In conjunction with Merseyside Police and other partners we are working towards reducing road traffic accidents across the district through the development of an educational training package, which is to be delivered to students by FS personnel. Fire Support Network volunteers will also be utilised in the overall strategy to assist in reducing speeding and other contributory factors of road traffic collisions.

Fire Support Network is a non-profitable registered charity which works in partnership with the Fire Service on Merseyside to promote fire safety to the local communities through volunteers and partner organisations. Volunteer roles vary from working directly with the fire-fighters, leafleting and replacing batteries in smoke detectors to providing an after fire care service and fund raising.

Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer can register online at www.firesupportnet.org.uk or contact via telephone on 0151 296 4600.

The **F.S.N** are currently developing campaigns targeted towards the older people in the community and working with other relevant agencies to publicise further the facilities available to older people and the need to maintain fire safety in the home.

We are currently working closely with Wirral PCT on the **Smoke Free Homes Campaign**, the aim of which is to encourage smokers to make a pledge not to expose their family and friends to second hand smoke in their homes and cars, this will also assist in the reduction of accidental fires in properties and vehicles due to smoking related material. This scheme is currently being rolled out across the district, half of which is now included with the other station areas to follow shortly.

Community Fire Stations

- **Birkenhead:** Exmouth Street. Birkenhead.CH41 4AX. 0151 296 5325
- **Bromborough:** Dock Road South. Bebington.CH62 4SQ 0151 296 5925
- **Heswall:** Telegraph Road, Heswall, CH60 OAF. 0151 296 5805
- **Upton:** Arrowe Park Road. Upton.CH49 OUF. 0151 296 5895
- **West Kirby:** The Concourse. West Kirby. CH48 4HX. 0151 296 5955
- **Wallasey:** Mill Lane. Wallasey. CH44 5UE. 0151 296 6180

For a FREE Home Fire Safety Check, including FREE smoke alarm installation if required please contact Fire Service Direct on FREEphone 0800 731 5958

-----Merseyside Police-----

Local policing Priorities

1) Anti social behaviour particularly relating to young People and alcohol 2) Speeding Vehicles (various Roads) and 3) Parking – Particular near schools



We've Listened

I had staff concentrating on seizing alcohol from young people in the run up to the Christmas period. The following was recovered.

Lager/Beer 63 cans/bottles, cider 4 large (3 litre) bottles and 2 x bottles of vodka.

Normally after Christmas sees seizures of more exotic alcohol that has been taken by young people from their home addresses after the Christmas period so I would ask that if you have children who might be tempted please ensure that alcohol is kept safe. The reason why I reiterate this message time and time again is because of the dangers that young people who are drunk get themselves into. Statistically young people are far more likely to be victims of crime.

The other area priority is Roads Policing and 21 summons/Fixed Penalties were issued by my staff at Upton in roads nominated by you. These include Mount Road and Waterpark Road. Added to this are prosecutions by patrol blocks and the area roads policing team.

If you wish to nominate a road please let us know via the website or contact details

New Greasby Dedicated officer

With effect from 5th January Constable John Goodwin will replace Constable Lyndsey Harper as dedicated officer for Greasby Arrowe and Frankby. John has previous community based experience in Oxton and has worked from Upton on the patrol cars for the last few years

There is also a new surgery running every Wednesday at Greasby Methodist Church at 10 am.

Drugs Operation.

A Wirral wide Operation targeting drug using offenders was run in December. Four addresses on this area were targeted in Woodchurch, Greasby and Prenton. Cocaine, Heroin and Cannabis along with cash was recovered.

If you have any information regarding drugs please phone Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 and if you or someone you know is having problems with drug use contact the ACT Helpline on 0800 028 1300. Wirral has some of the best drug treatment services in the country so I would urge people to seek help.

Drink Drive Campaign

The annual Christmas drink drive campaign ran over December. There were 54 arrests over Wirral for drink drive offences. This is actually less than in other months but many more persons were breath tested. It would seem as there were no more crashes than usual that the vast majority of people were sensible. To receive either an electronic or a hard copy of this or any Wirral monthly newsletter please supply name and address or e-mail to ABCU.CitizenFocus@merseyside.police.uk or contact us via phone or your local station.

-----Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team----- **September 2008 – January 2009**

In addition to ongoing enforcement action against the perpetrators of anti-social behaviour, specific activity has included:

□ Graffiti busting campaign given green light (September 2008)

A new anti-graffiti campaign was launched as part of Wirral's strategy to tackle anti-social behaviour and improve the environment and quality of life for local residents. This new approach saw a partnership between the Council's Streetscene service, Anti-Social Behaviour Team and Together Neighbourhood Management Pathfinder based in Tranmere; working closely with Wirral Youth Offending Service and Probation Services and supported by Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service. This wider service for the first time allows homeowners, tenants and small business to have general graffiti removed for free. The Council's tough stance on removing racist and other offensive graffiti within 24 hours remains. A key element of this new approach is a detailed strategy that focuses not only upon the prompt and effective removal of graffiti, but also gathering intelligence on the perpetrators and taking robust enforcement action, coupled with strengthening preventative work in schools targeting the peak age group for committing graffiti of 14-17 years old. Information campaigns and reward schemes will also feature as part of the new approach.

□ Anti-Social Behaviour Advice Surgeries

A six-month programme of advice surgeries for residents in the private sector suffering with anti-social behaviour concluded in October 2008. This saw the Anti-Social Behaviour Team's Respect Bus taken into communities and staffed with Enforcement Officers who took complaints directly from the public and provided comprehensive advice.

□ Community Mobile Police Station relocated to Birkenhead (October 2008)

The station, a 40 x 12 x 10 foot converted shipping container, was relocated to north Birkenhead to tackle anti-social and criminal behaviour. The specially made unit is equipped with a public enquiry desk and a wide range of literature for community safety, support groups and local activities and is a partnership between Wirral Council and Merseyside Police. The unit is managed by a Community Development

Officer, who is based within Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team, and whose role it is to co-ordinate multi-agency activity within the deployment area.

□ Parents 4 Parents support group launched (October 2008)

A new support group run by parents for parents with children engaged, or at risk of engaging, in anti-social behaviour, was launched with the support of Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team. The group provides a friendly non-judgemental atmosphere for parents to share experiences and be given support; offering a ear to listen or a shoulder to cry on if needed. The group specifically offers a weekly drop-in service; speakers on relevant topics; signposting to services and one-to-one and group discussions. The group is run by four committed parents who have come together, with the support of Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team's parenting service, to provide a route for parents who want help and support from other parents who understand the difficulties of dealing with difficult behaviour by children and young people. Parents 4 Parents can be accessed by contacting Bobbie Crawford (Parenting Co-ordinator) or Alison Sendall (Parenting Support & Intervention Worker) on 606 5773 or 606 5757.

□ 'Sportsmobile' launched to tackle anti-social behaviour in hot spot areas (October 2008)

The Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Team and Sports Development Unit launched an exciting new project aimed at preventing and tackling anti-social behaviour; the 'sportsmobile'. The vehicle is equipped with sporting equipment, staffed by Sports Development Workers, and deployed into hot-spot areas to divert young people from anti-social behaviour. A lighting rig on the roof allows for dark and poorly lit spaces to be floodlit. Seventeen young people, who were successful in winning a photograph competition run by Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team at last year's Wirral Show, were adorned on the vehicle.

□ Wirral Family Intervention Project celebrated a year's successful operation (November 2008)

Launched in 2007, the Family Intervention Project (FIP) was created to work with the most problematic families engaged in anti-social behaviour, by both challenging unacceptable behaviour and providing and co-ordinating support and interventions to address the underlying causes of their behaviour. In the last year, more than 30 families have been referred and more than 80% of the families allocated to Project Workers have engaged with the service. Complaints of anti-social behaviour across the families has reduced by 71%. School attendance has also improved. The project has recently recruited for additional Project Workers due to the demand for the service. The FIP is delivered on behalf of the Council by registered charity Action for Children (formerly NCH). The project delivers support to families through outreach work in their homes and through dispersed tenancies.

□ Respect Watch Scheme for Bidston Rise (November 2008)

Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team, in partnership with Merseyside Police and landlord Wirral Partnership Homes, has designated the Bidston Rise area of Birkenhead as a Respect Watch Scheme area. The initiative is designed to protect residents who have already suffered at the hands of anti-social individuals and includes a Local Lettings Agreement with residents. The scheme will run for 12 months and covers over 400 properties within this area.

□ New powers to tackle anti-social behaviour (December 2008)

Community safety partners in Wirral received significant new powers to tackle anti-social behaviour. New Closure Order powers came into force nationally that enable a property where persistent disorder is reported to be closed temporarily. The powers work in a similar way to current 'Crack House' Closure Order powers that allow premises, where the misuse of Class A drugs is causing serious disorder to local residents, to be closed for a period of time. The new Closure Order powers for persistent nuisance or disorder allow for any premises to be closed for a three month period where there is significant and persistent disorder or persistent serious nuisance to a community. The powers, which are available to both police and local authorities, are tenure-neutral and therefore apply to any tenure, including owner-occupied properties. Premises can also include residential properties, common areas adjacent to properties, factories, shops, pubs and clubs, public buildings, community centres or halls and car parks. Properties closed can remain sealed for a further three months, up to a maximum of six months, but other interventions will be used alongside the power to resolve the problem in the longer-term.

-----Community Safety Update-----

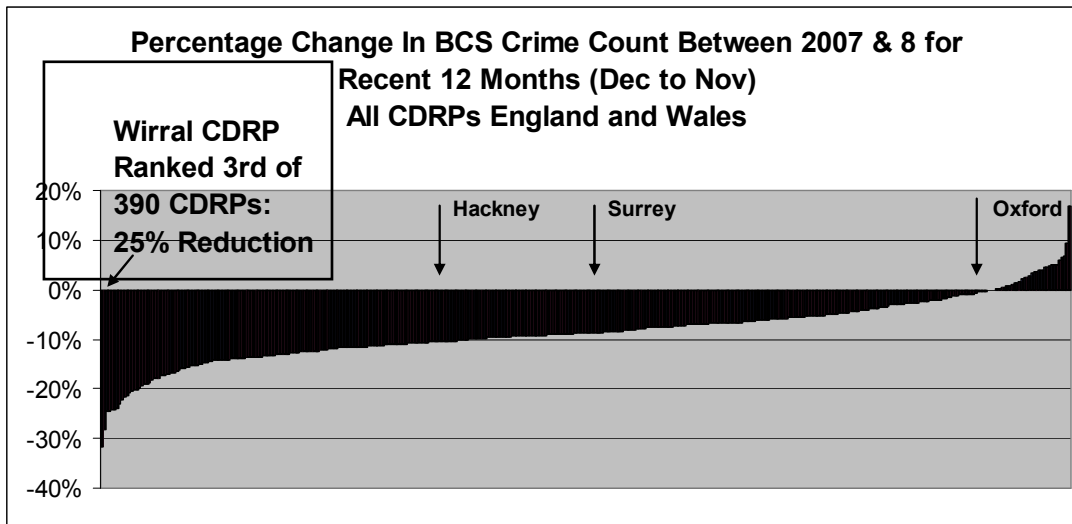
Assessment of Wirral Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership

The Assessments of Policing and Community Safety (APACS) framework was introduced in April 2008 and applies to all police forces in England and Wales. It covers key services delivered by the police working on their own or in partnership, complementing (but not substituting) performance arrangements being developed by other partners. These are used to assess and monitor performance to the public and, critically, to help partners in England and Wales deliver and improve performance against national and local priorities.

Crime rates can change as a national trend due to environmental factors such as improved security. It has therefore been increasingly important to measure performance against other areas using the same criteria with data which is as recent as possible.

Local Area Agreements have been made between Wirral Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership and Government Office. Local measures, as well as the '198 National Indicator' measures have been used to monitor and ensure improved performance. Overall performance is monitored by APACS measures

British Crime Survey Comparator Crime is a measure taken from a basket of crime categories. Although this is no longer a target, it is still monitored in Wirral as it reflects the trends measured nationally by the British Crime Survey. Government Office targeted reductions of 20% by March 2008 were met and surpassed.



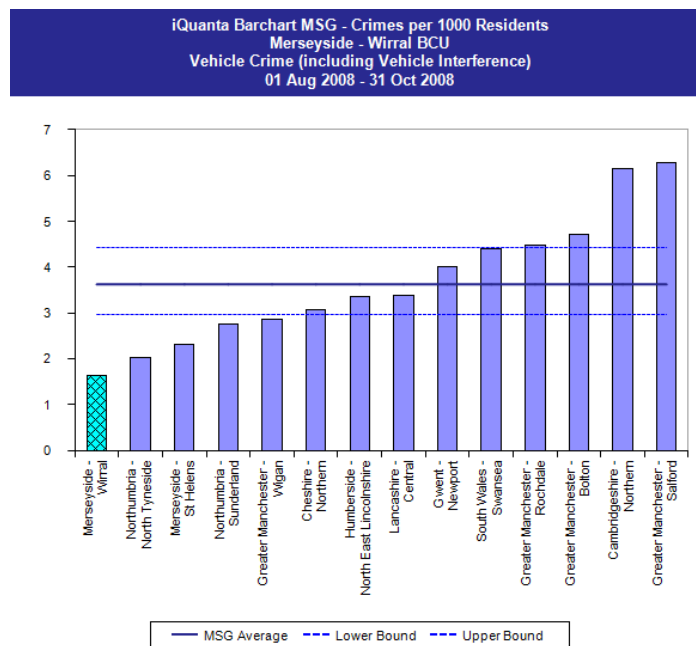
Theft of a Vehicle

Despite being a stretch target, performance has been sufficiently dramatic that the Partnership is confident the target of 941 car thefts in 2009/10 will be easily met.

Success in reducing the rate of car theft has meant that the forecast for 2008/9 is to be less than 600 crimes. This equates to a 75% drop in the annual number of thefts from vehicles in the three years since the target baseline.

Comparable statistics are not available for theft of a vehicle, but when measured together with **Theft From A Vehicle** and **Vehicle Interference** and compared to demographically similar areas:

Wirral has the lowest vehicle crime rate per population in our most similar family;

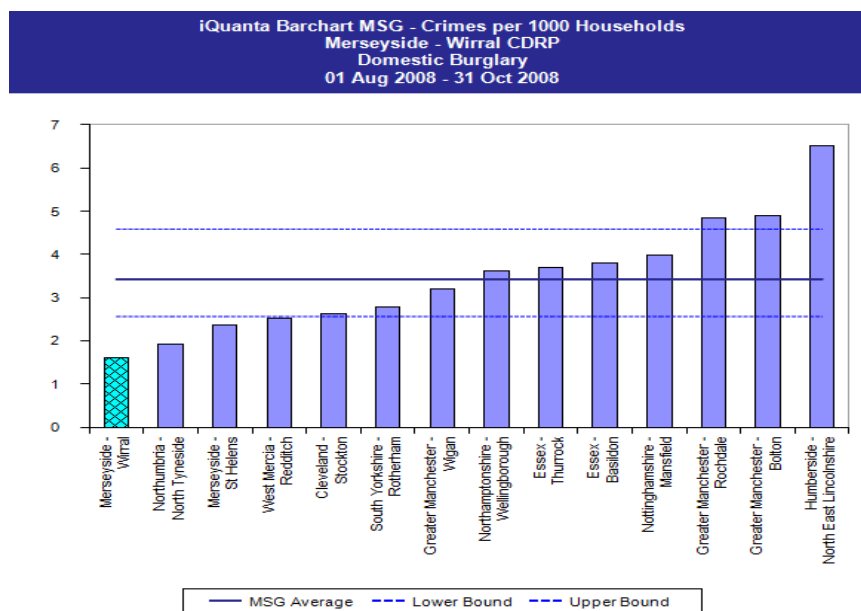


Burglary

This stretch target is for domestic burglary. Performance has been consistently beyond targets every year since they were set. The target for 2008/09 is 1500 burglaries whilst the year end projection is only 837. This means that the final target of 1205 burglaries in 2009/10 will also be achieved. This has meant the rate of burglaries for Wirral has been reduced 67% over four years from 2539 to 837.

Compared to demographically similar areas:

Wirral has the lowest domestic burglary rate per population in our most similar family;



Domestic Violence

There are two LAA Stretch targets for domestic violence. The first is to increase the number of crimes reported to the Police, and the second to reduce the number of victims reporting abuse who have previously reported in the past twelve months. These two targets are specifically aimed to promote reporting this 'hidden' crime and thus enable victims to access support more easily. The support is provided as a package by a wide range of agencies coordinated to reduce the likelihood of repeated victimisation. One of the difficulties in combating domestic violence has been the high incidence of under-reporting and hence the cycle of abuse being allowed to continue.

The LAA target is to increase the number of domestic violence victims reporting to the Police from 3325 in 2006/07 to 5522 that is projected to be achieved by 2008/09.

- This is a 66% increase in two years.

The LAA target to decrease the victims reporting to the Police who have reported in the previous 12 months is also forecast to be achieved by the end of 08/09. This achievement would mean repeat victimisation is reduced from 43% to 26%.

These two LAA targets have been met through the dedication of a wide range of agencies increasing their commitment and care for victims, focussed and coordinated through the MARAC process.

-----Wirral Council-----

Area Forum:

Bebington and Clatterbridge	3rd February 2009
Oxton and Prenton	3rd February 2009
Greasby/Frankby/Irby, Upton, Woodchurch	11th February 2009
Liscard and Seacombe	11th February 2009
Heswall and Pensby & Thingwall	12th February 2009
Bidston and Claughton	12th February 2009
New Brighton and Wallasey	16th February 2009
West Wirral	16th February 2009
Bromborough and Eastham	17th February 2009
Birkenhead & Tranmere and Rock Ferry	25th February 2009
Leasowe, Moreton and Saughall Massie	25th February 2009

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF TECHNICAL SERVICES

REVIEW OF ALLOCATION OF INTEGRATED TRANSPORT FUNDING TO AREA FORUMS

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 This report is at the request of the Council's Cabinet, which met on 4th September 2008. It invites your Area Forum to give comment as to whether or not it wishes to receive de-centralised funding in 2009/10 of a proportion of the Local Transport Plan Capital Budget known as the Integrated Transport Block.

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 At the Cabinet meeting held on 12th June 2008, a report was considered on the de-centralisation of Integrated Transport funding to Area Forums. Cabinet subsequently agreed to continue the allocation of funding to the two Forums for Heswall/Pensby/ Thingwall and Bromborough/Eastham for the current year 2008/09.

2.2 The success of this initiative piloted in 2007/08 in these two Area Forums, was also reported upon with the Cabinet Member for Streetscene and Transport Services welcoming the positive feedback.

2.3 Cabinet resolved (inter alia).

- the positive consultation feedback from the two pilot Forums and strong support for the continued de-centralisation of funding in future years be noted; and
- officers be requested to consult the remaining nine Forums in the next cycle of meetings to determine if they wish to receive de-centralised funding for 2009/10 based on the success of this pilot initiative.

3.0 REPORT

3.1 For the Heswall, Pensby and Thingwall Forum, the improvements introduced in 2007/08 were as follows:

- a pedestrian refuge at Barnston Road near to its junction with Border Road.

3.2 For the Bromborough and Eastham Forum, the improvements introduced in 2007/08 were as follows:

- contribution to a Traffic Calming scheme at Winstanley Road, New Ferry;
- direction signing at the junction of Bebington Road/Howell Road;
- lowered kerb crossings at Tarvin Road, Kelsall Avenue and Delamere Avenue.

3.3 For the remainder of the Integrated Transport allocation apportioned between the remaining nine Forums, a variety of highway improvements were introduced focusing on improved pedestrian facilities and speed reduction measures as set out in the Walking and Cycling Capital Programme 2007/08 approved by Cabinet on 28th June 2007 (Minute 93 refers).

3.4 The total budget for the Integrated Transport block is £180,000. Apportioned across the eleven Area Forums this would equate to around £16,300 per Area Forum. This is the value of the budgets this financial year which both Heswall, Pensby and Thingwall and Bromborough and Eastham are allocating to schemes similar to those carried out in 2007/08. Officers will report verbally on these schemes at your meeting.

3.5 This funding and the rationale behind its use is not to be confused with the "You Decide" initiative. The Integrated Transport Block is a composite part of the Local Transport Plan Capital Fund and can only be used to bring about improvements to the movement of traffic and pedestrians and to assist in enhancing road safety.

3.6 The "You Decide" initiative however can be used as community-based funding to a current financial ceiling of £20,000 per Area Forum. This means that should each Area Forum choose to have their own individual share of £16,300 as previously mentioned, the "You Decide" monies could be added to the Integrated Transport Block allocation making a total allocation of £36,300. This level of funding would clearly enable schemes of a greater degree of complexity and cost to be introduced.

3.7 Where any identified traffic management engineering schemes cross Area Forum boundaries, neighbouring Forums could combine their funds together to facilitate an even larger scale scheme, for example $2 \times £36,300 = £72,600$, which would fund a large area speed reducing scheme or possibly a set of traffic signals.

3.8 In arriving at a decision on the way in which the Integrated Transport Block is distributed, it must be borne in mind that there is no guarantee of the "You Decide" initiative funding being available in subsequent years.

4.0 SUMMARY

4.1 During the last financial year and being similarly piloted this year, two of the eleven Area Forums decided that they would prefer to benefit locally by having part of the LTP Integrated Transport Block decentralised and put at their disposal for consideration of local schemes. This arrangement was reached based on a similar consultation exercise to this held in 2006.

4.2 It has been accepted by the Council that this initiative has proved popular and that officers now consult with the remaining nine Area Forums to determine if they wish to receive decentralised funding for 2009/10.

4.3 The sum of money is in the region of £16,300 per Area Forum and can typically be used to provide lowered kerb crossings, modest local signposting and road lining schemes. In some instances depending upon physical constraints it may be possible to provide for a central road island to help people cross the road and/or introduce pedestrian safety barriers.

4.4 Should you Area Forum decide that it wishes to go along with this approach, this will be reported back to the Cabinet.

4.5 The alternative to not decentralising the funding is for it to be administered centrally as now and for larger, more expensive schemes to be put in on a Borough-wide basis based on a priority assessment so some areas will benefit but others would not.

4.6 Those two Area Forums currently holding their own budget receive officer input to guide them in their decision making process and this would be made available if the initiative was expanded to cover all Area Forums.

4.7 Should Area Forums decide to have their own de-centralised share of Integrated Transport funding, there is no restriction of neighbouring Area Forums combining funding or providing match funding from “You Decide” or other sources.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The overall works, estimated to cost in the region of £180,000, will be financed from the 2009/10 Transport Capital Programme. The decision to be taken is whether or not each Area Forum wishes to have a one-eleventh share of around £16,300.

6.0 STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no additional financial or staffing implications arising directly from this report. Staff will assist in any decision-making process. Future maintenance costs will be met from the Highway Maintenance Revenue Budget.

7.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

7.1 None directly from this report, however some schemes can have a positive effect on assisting disabled, visually impaired persons and persons with prams and pushchairs to cross the road.

8.0 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

8.1 Introducing traffic calming features will ensure that vehicle speeds are moderated at all times.

8.2 Typical schemes in the programme are designed to support the Council's endorsement of the Local Transport Plan.

9.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

9.1 None arising directly out of this report.

10.0 PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are no specific planning implications arising directly from this report.

11.0 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are no specific human rights implications arising directly from this report.

12.0 ANTI-POVERTY IMPLICATIONS

12.1 There are no specific anti-poverty implications arising directly from this report.

13.0 SOCIAL INCLUSION IMPLICATIONS

13.1 There are no specific social inclusion implications arising directly from this report.

14.0 LOCAL MEMBER SUPPORT IMPLICATIONS

14.1 This report has implications for all Wards.

15.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

15.1 No specific background papers have been used in preparation of this report other than Cabinet minutes.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Area Forum is requested to:

- (i) Note the type of traffic management schemes which can be funded through the Local Transport Plan Integrated Transport Block allocation;
- (ii) Provide views as to whether or not it wishes to receive a decentralised one-eleventh share of the Local Transport Plan Integrated Transport Block Allocation equating to approximately £16,300 per Area Forum to carry out scheme(s) of a traffic management/road safety nature in the local area.

DAVID GREEN, DIRECTOR
TECHNICAL SERVICES

BRIEFING NOTE FOR LOCAL AREA FORUMS – FEBRUARY 2009

The Trust is pleased to be able to participate in the Local Area Forums and welcomes the opportunity to brief Wirral residents and our partner organisations on topical issues. Representing the Trust will be an Executive Director or Senior Manager and the elected Public Governor for the host constituency.

- Controlling Infection.....
 - Our Elective Surgical Unit at Clatterbridge remains MRSA bloodstream infection free – this Unit can undertake most planned surgical procedures including joint replacements.
 - Our Women’s Services Unit at Arrowe Park is also MRSA bloodstream infection free
 - Reducing the incidence of MRSA and Clostridium difficile is a very high priority for the Trust and staff continue to implement a comprehensive action plan to achieve this including a new 8 bed isolation unit for medical patients diagnosed with C.diff.
 - For the three months July – September 2008 the number of Clostridium difficile cases reported at the Trust reduced by 37% - from 124 cases to 78.
 - Our recently launched publicity campaign - ‘Working Together to Keep It Clean’ - aims to raise the Infection Control profile even higher at the Trust and to raise awareness amongst staff, patients and visitors of how important it is to ‘Keep it Clean’
 - In partnership with local GPs, our staff are working towards a more prudent use of broad-spectrum antibiotics that, if over-used, can make C.difficile infection more likely to develop.

- Improving Our Standards.....
 - The Trust was awarded the accolade of ‘Best Hospital*’ in the Dr Foster Good Hospital Guide 2008 which compares services and treatment outcomes at all hospitals across the country.
 - For the second year running we have been named as one of the country’s Top 40 performing hospitals by an independent benchmarking company that compares our performance in 20 key areas – including infection rates, mortality rates and waiting times – against other, similar hospitals.
 - In the 2007/08 Healthcare Commission Annual Health Check we scored ‘excellent’ for our use of resources and ‘good’ for the quality of our services
 - Our Women’s Services achieved a ‘hat-trick of excellence’ when they were awarded **CNST Level 3** accreditation. Of the 156 Maternity Units in the country, only 17 others have achieved Level 3 and our Unit is the **only one** to have achieved 100% in every standard at every level.
Clinical Negligence Scheme for Trusts (CNST) Level 3 is evidence that our maternity services are extremely safe, well-managed and overall ‘first-class’.
This follows the Unit’s score of ‘best performing’ in the Healthcare Commission’s Maternity Services Review and being named ‘best in the region’ in a national survey of new mothers and mothers-to-be at the end of 2007

- **An external assessment of our standards by the Patient Environment Action Team resulted in the following scores being awarded to the Trust for 2008 -**

	<i>Environment</i>	<i>Food</i>	<i>Privacy & Dignity</i>
<i>Arrowe Park</i>	Excellent	Good	Good
<i>Clatterbridge</i>	Excellent	Good	Excellent

Providing New Services.....

- The Trust has just announced a major capital investment in services for Women and Children at Arrowe Park Hospital. Due to commence in May this year, the £10million scheme will create a 'centre of excellence' by bringing together under one roof, all acute hospital services for women and children. More information on this exciting development will appear in a special supplement to appear with the 'Wirral News' newspapers in w/c 9th February
 - A state of the art ward (Ward 14) to treat patients diagnosed with urological conditions has recently opened at Arrowe Park Hospital after a £1.4million up-grade.
 - The Trust is a designated Urology Cancer Centre for Wirral, Chester and Northern Cheshire patients requiring major cancer surgery
 - We were the first NHS organisation in Merseyside and Cheshire to offer a new laser technique – the *greenlight laser* – that is transforming the treatment of prostate conditions for men
 - A brand new, multi-million £ Dialysis Unit has opened at Clatterbridge Hospital to treat patients with renal (kidney) conditions.
 - We now provide Sexual Health services in the community – closer to where people live and work
- **Easy to Use Website.....**
 - Our new-look, easy access website can provide lots of useful information for patients, the public, staff and GPs about the Trust and its services go to www.whnt.nhs.uk
 - The website is speech enabled for browsers with sight related problems
 - The new, easy click, 'email a patient' facility continues to be a popular feature
- **Come and Join Us!**
 - As a Foundation Trust we are keen to involve our Public Members in helping us to shape future services – we currently have more than 7,000 Public Members and are keen to recruit more. Public Members can get involved as much or as little as they like – from just receiving 'Public Membership News', our regular newsletter, to participating in surveys or standing for election as a Public Governor. To join, simply complete a form or join on-line @ www.whnt.nhs.uk
- **For more information.....**
 - The Trust has published its Annual Report and Accounts for 2007/08. This can be accessed via our website www.whnt.nhs.uk or a copy can be obtained from the Membership Office at Arrowe Park Hospital ☎ 0800 0121 356

-----Equality and Diversity-----

Events

The Council's first staff diversity event took place on Thursday 6th November 2008 in the Civic Hall, Wallasey Town Hall, as part of National Diversity week.

The Deputy Mayor of Wirral, Councillor Andrew Hodson opened the event along with Jim Wilkie Deputy Chief Executive, Wirral Council.

We were fortunate to be visited by Carole Eniffer from the Home Office who made a special trip from London to be with us. She attended in support of the Hate Crime promotion campaign that is currently underway. Andy Pownall from Government Office North West (GONW) also attended the event.



The Equality Watch team are delighted to report that over 400 people visited the town hall throughout the course of the day. Over 50 volunteers helped by staffing stalls and over 20 artistes performed.

The Equality Watch team would like to thank **EVERYONE** who took part and all those who took time out of their working day to visit the event.

The layout of the civic hall embodied the six equality strands. Community groups and council sections shared tables to reflect this. Some services that are 'cross cutting' were also in attendance:

Sexual Orientation - Wirral LGB&T forum (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender) and Terrence Higgins Trust

Age- Age Concern, Connexions and POPIN (Promoting Older People's Independence Network)

Gender - Trans Wirral, Women's Enterprise Breakthrough and Men's Health Group

Disability - WIRED (Wirral Information Resource for Equality & Disability) Access Improvements (Corporate Services/Technical Services), WIRED also arranged for PSS, Advocacy in Wirral and Merseyside Society for Deaf People to be in attendance.

Religion or belief - Merseyside of Council Faiths

Race - BRM Partnership (Black & Racial Minority), Irish Community Care Wirral Change, Wirral Multicultural Organisation, BME Supporting People

Cross cutting services – Streetscene, Human Resources, Staff Diversity Forums, Pensions, Customer Services (including One Stop Shops and Call Centre) Unison, Hate Crime, Child Support Agency (CSA)

A huge variety of activities took place with a whole host of performances throughout the day including demonstrations of tai chi and yoga, chinese lion dance, bag piper, service users from several of our day centres performing 'sign-along', Bengali musician, multi cultural band, cultural food, Indian dancers and our very own Tony Excell as DJ and Brian Jones as master of ceremonies!!

Equality Watch Scheme Consultation

The Council's Equality Watch Team want your views on the draft 2009 – 2012 Action Plan. A public consultation process is now underway for people to have their say on Wirral Council's Equality Watch Scheme 2009 – 2012. The Equality Watch Scheme is the Council's equality and diversity action plan for the period April 2009 to March 2012, covering all six equality strands, also taking into consideration multi-forms of discrimination

The Equality Watch Scheme details the actions that will be taken across the whole Council to eliminate any discriminatory practices and to promote equality and recognise diversity within employment and service delivery. The scheme will also provide the framework for the Council achieving the different levels of the Equality Standard for Local Government.

The Equality Watch Scheme replaces the Council's Race, Disability and Gender Equality Schemes. However, this proposed scheme does take into account the Council's statutory equality duties under the Race Relations Act 1976, the Sex Discrimination Act 1975, and the Disability Discrimination Act 2005. The Equality Watch Scheme also gives appropriate regard to the forthcoming Single Equality Act relating to sexual orientation, age, religion or belief.

The Equality Watch Scheme will be co-ordinated by the Council's Corporate Equality and Diversity Co-ordinator, who will be supported by the Corporate Equality Watch Team and Departmental Equality Lead Officers. The Council will also work in partnership to actively promote involvement of external stakeholders, including voluntary and community sector projects and peers within other public sector organisations. An Equality Watch Review Group will be established made up of members from a variety of stakeholders.

The three year action plan is split into four sections and will be reviewed on an annual basis. More information can be found at www.wirral.gov.uk or contact the Equality Watch Team on **0151 691 8064** or email equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk

The deadline for comments is 27 February 2009

-----Local Strategic Partnership Website-----

We are very pleased to announce that the new Local Strategic Partnership website is now live.

We would really appreciate it, if you could browse the website and let me have your views. Some areas of the website are still under development, it is expected that the site will be fully operational by March 2009. Your input and ideas would be really helpful, particularly at this initial stage.

The website address is <http://wirral-lsp.org/>.

Please can you inform as many people as possible.

Thanks.

- Maxine Joynson 0151 691 8266 maxinejoynson@wirral.gov.uk
- Michelle Gray 0151 691 8213 michellegraygray@wirral.gov.uk

-----Wirral Youth Service Update-----

Wirral Youth Service provides opportunities, which are open to all Wirral young people. Youth work helps young people learn about themselves, others and society, through informal educational activities which combine fun, challenge and learning. The Service works with young people aged 13-19 years, and specifically targeted young people aged 20 until their 25th birthday who have additional needs and need support with transition into adult life/services.

The Youth Service in Wirral works with many young people in a variety of different settings, these include:

- Youth clubs
- Street work projects
- "Kontaktabuses"
- "Wirral Youth Theatre" and Youth Arts
- "Response" – Advice, support, advocacy and information service and Substance Misuse Service
- International exchanges
- Duke of Edinburgh's Award
- Outdoor activities
- Projects in schools
-

The Service is flexible and able to respond to the needs of young people and offers opportunities that are both universal and targeted. Youth work on Wirral is delivered through joint working between the Local Authority, voluntary organisations and other agencies.

Youth workers work with young people in many different localities in Wirral. Having a variety of youth clubs and street work projects allows youth workers to work with young people in their neighbourhoods, meet their specific needs and respond to

issues that are important to them.

Much of the work of the Youth Service takes place in one of sixteen open access youth clubs located across the Borough. Street work teams of youth workers make contact with young people who do not access the service elsewhere, build relationships with them and in negotiation with the young people, develop programmes which address their specific needs. This work is delivered on the streets, through project work and on mobile Kontaktabuses.

Response

Response is a Borough wide Youth Service provision, providing counselling, support, advocacy and information for young people. Many of these young people have complex needs requiring intensive support from the service including homelessness, abuse, poor health and poverty.

The agency also has a team of specialist workers providing support to young people who have drug and alcohol problems. The team work with those individuals in a variety of settings including outreach street work and one to one work in their homes or wherever young people feel safe. The team also deliver educational programmes within schools and other youth settings on the risk, consequence and health implications of substance misuse. Partnership work plays an important role in targeting vulnerable, hard to reach groups of young people. Service level agreements and regular joint working ensures the needs of young people are met.

International Work

Each year the Youth Service runs a comprehensive programme of International Youth Exchanges. Young people from Wirral take part in a number of international opportunities including, Hong Kong and the Azores.

Duke of Edinburgh's Award

The Youth Service is the Licensed Operating Authority for the whole of Wirral. Awards can be gained through a variety of approved operating units and access organisations made up of a combination of youth centres, schools, an open award centre and a selection of voluntary groups. Young people in Wirral consistently gain over 450 awards per year at bronze, silver and gold levels.

The DofE is available to all young people aged between 14 and 25 with the emphasis being the development of young people's leisure time. By taking part in the DofE, participants are able to increase their own self confidence and self esteem, make new relationships and develop fresh skills.

Duke of Edinburgh's Award staff continue to work with a group of Looked After Children who after successfully achieving their Bronze Award are now working towards their Gold. This group recently successfully bid for Youth Opportunity Funding to enable them to visit the Czech Republic. This visit, which involved studying social and foster care in a former communist state, satisfied the requirements of their DofE Gold Residential

A newly formed Bronze group is hoping to complete their expedition at the Oaklands centre in the forthcoming expedition season.

In our drive to make the DofE available to everyone and to diversify its delivery we are now helping several new units to run the Award. This includes Meadowside

Special School and the Observatory School where we will adapt the Award for pupils with learning difficulties.

Wirral Youth Theatre/Youth Arts

Wirral Youth Theatre operates across the Borough to enable young people to access a wide range of performing arts related activities. Art forms such as drama, dance, music, technical theatre and new media are used to help young people to develop personally and socially as well as developing theatre and media related skills. A peer education company within the Wirral Youth Theatre have performed in parks and youth clubs a play about risk taking behaviour this is now going into schools

Greasby/Frankby/Irby, Upton and Woodchurch.

Greasby Youth Club has taken part in a series of workshops around sexual health, healthy eating, drug and alcohol misuse and bullying. They are pulling together the evidence for HPYU's Bronze Award. The Pavilion is used to for structured group work and for young people who don't want to access the youth club but just want to sit down and have discussions.

Fender Youth Club has been running a Virtual Babies course every Thursday with nine young people on course; young people attended two sexual health sessions run by Response. The computer suite is open and online. As well as the youth club having access to it, Job Club which is run during the day, use it to search for jobs, write CV's. Fender jointly ran an employment fare with Motivate and Reach Out; targeting people aged 16 – 25. Organisations that attended where Response, Job Centre Plus and Connexions, 33 young people attended.

Deeside Young People's Project has continued to work in the mid and west Wirral areas using street work and the Kontakta Bus to engage with young people. As a result of funding the young people received from the Youth Capital Fund, a new high tech Kontakta Bus is operational. On a Friday night, in areas where numbers of young people congregate, the youth workers focus on promoting personal safety, harm reduction for alcohol and drug use and reducing anti social behaviour. DYPP has developed a positive working relationship with the Police, targeting those at risk of offending and involved in risk taking behaviour. A successful joint youth service/police school holiday positive activities programme has been developed.

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