

## **COUNCIL**

**15<sup>th</sup> JULY 2013**

### **CABINET PORTFOLIO SUMMARY REPORT**

<b>REPORT OF</b>	<b>COUNCILLOR PAT HACKETT</b>
<b>CABINET PORTFOLIO FOR</b>	<b>ECONOMY</b>
<b>CO-ORINDATING CHIEF OFFICER</b>	<b>KEVIN ADDERLEY</b>

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

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

#### **1. REGIONAL GROWTH FUND**

The Council were successful in October 2012 in securing £5m of RGF monies to support the offshore wind engineering supply chain to maximize investment and employment opportunities for Wirral residents. Following a lengthy due diligence process, the programme is now live and the first grant offer has been made to a local engineering company. Invest Wirral has developed a pipeline of private sector projects for this programme and also for the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) led RGF programme which offers general financial assistance to support business growth.

#### **2. ENTERPRISE ZONE**

Significant progress continues on Wirral Waters Enterprise Zone. £5.5m of Local Infrastructure Funding has been provisionally awarded by the Government to remediate key sites. The International Trade Centre (ITC) site is now fully remediated and work is expected to start on Phase 1 in early 2014.

Work continues with government departments, including BIS and UKTI, to target specific sectors and businesses, particularly in maritime/ offshore engineering and automotive sectors and the Council has applied for ERDF funds to support this investment activity.

#### **3. EXTENSION TO WORKLESSNESS CONTRACT**

The Council is extending this contract supplied by Reachout until March 2014 to assist people into employment. The investment of £504,000 will see 20 weekly work clubs across Wirral retained and a minimum of 408 people supported into employment.

#### **4. HOYLAKE GOLF RESORT**

This was relaunched at the British Women's Open in September 2012 and Legal and Technical advisors have just been appointed by the Council to undertake a competitive dialogue procurement which is intended to identify a preferred developer by June 2014.

#### **5. LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK**

In June 2013 a series of modifications were agreed to the Core Strategy following consultation.

Studies to address outstanding issues related to housing numbers, gypsies and travellers and development viability are ongoing. The results and any further recommended modifications will be reported to Members when the final reports are available, towards the end of the year, before the Plan is submitted to the Secretary of State for public examination. The report on development viability will also advise on the ability to charge a Community Infrastructure Levy on new developments.

#### **6. JOINT WASTE DISPOSAL LOCAL PLAN FOR MERSEYSIDE AND HALTON**

The Joint Waste Local Plan for Merseyside and Halton, which is the first Local Plan to be successfully produced as a result of collaborative working with the Councils of Halton, Knowsley, Liverpool, St Helens and Sefton, is now recommended for adoption, following the positive report received from the Planning Inspector.

#### **7. BDUK – “MERSEYSIDE CONNECTED”**

This project seeks to deploy broadband infrastructure in areas across Merseyside which lack or have poor coverage. It is planned to appoint a supplier in August 2013 and then to complete the project by June 2015.