

## COUNCIL

15<sup>th</sup> JULY 2013

### CABINET PORTFOLIO SUMMARY REPORT

REPORT OF	COUNCILLOR C. MEADEN
CABINET PORTFOLIO FOR	HEALTH & WELLBEING
CO-ORDINATING CHIEF OFFICER	FIONA JOHNSTONE

#### 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. CULTURAL SERVICES

- The £1.25M refurbishment of the Williamson Art Gallery is nearing completion. This will enable more works of art to be displayed. The café which is operated by a social enterprise is proving popular.
- Proposals are being developed for a community asset transfer of the Tramway Museum to a voluntary transport organisation.
- The Floral Pavilion has just issued its latest programme of shows and events. A review is being undertaken of the operation of the facility looking at future income opportunities and expenditure. This will be completed in October 2013.
- The first phase of restructuring work has been completed to improve the facilities at Birkenhead Priory including the disabled access.
- Proposals for creating business space at the building at Pacific Road are being explored to create employment opportunities.

#### 2. LIBRARY ONE STOP SHOPS

- Wirral Libraries continue to provide a large range of literary and cultural events for Wirral. In the past few weeks there has been successful visits by well known children/teen authors - Cathy Cassidy, (*Book: Chocolate Box Girls*) and Kate Maryon (*Book: Invisible Girl*). Early June saw over 1400 people at Seacombe Library on a Saturday on a Royal Birthday themed day getting new Library members and local interest. June also saw the launch of National Bookstart Week with events held to inspire our young children to take up reading. Under a theme of "Fairy Tales" Bebington Library hosted the launch with 40+ under 5's dressed in theme listening to stories with their parents all to help promote reading from a very early age. The regular programme of events has also recently included the Schools Paperback Award, the Leasowe Mid Summer Reading event which we held along with colleagues of The Reader Organisation and the Library Summer Reading Challenge (*5<sup>th</sup> July*) and Books on Prescription (*11<sup>th</sup> July Wallasey Village*) where Wirral is cited as a model of good practice in the high profile area of health and well being.
- At a recent Society of Chief Librarians Seminar on the future of libraries it was pleasing that Sue Charteris in her presentation was positive about Wirral's work in innovatively developing its Library service using different models to reflect site size and service required. This is shown in our work at Leasowe

with The Reader Organisation. The next Library One Stop merged site will be at Rock Ferry (*in August*) with a more open plan approach including a revamped community space. This builds on our successful developments at Eastham, Heswall and Moreton. Encouragingly Moreton has already seen a sizeable increase in its Library usage since it opened as a merged site in April 2013 and this has also seen an increase in Voluntary and Community group's presence such as CAB and HealthWatch.

### **3. LEISURE**

- The Leisure Management staff have been working closely with the team of Leisure Consultants – 'V4' commissioned to undertake a 'Review of the Leisure Centres, Sports Development and Golf Courses' currently managed and operated by Wirral Council. A report will be presented to Cabinet in September.
- The Sports Development Unit has been commissioned by 'Catch 22' to deliver a two year National Citizen Service programme, targeting school leavers (16/17 year olds). The programme will consist of a home and away residential team building experience and the development and delivery of a social action community project. The two year grant was valued at £372,000.

### **4. PUBLIC HEALTH**

- The national health checks programme has been re launched to local GPs with a go live date of the 1<sup>st</sup> July. Healthchecks is a mandated service for the Council to commission and we have decided to commission the service via local GP surgeries. All local people aged 40-74 without a previous diagnosis of heart disease will be called for an annual check every five years. The Healthchecks programme asks local people about their alcohol consumption and will help us to provide help earlier to people who are concerned about their alcohol consumption.
- As part of the development of the Health and Wellbeing Board, we held a session on Asset Based Community Development which was well received. Work is now taking place to grow a number of projects in the borough to test this approach out and a further session is planned for the 12<sup>th</sup> September to develop our local approach.
- Following my appointment as portfolio holder for public health, I have been undertaking a round of visits to a number of the services that the Public Health team commissions. I have been to visit the community programme commissioned from Wirral Community Trust to support people to make positive lifestyle choices; the drug and alcohol treatment services commissioned from Cheshire and Wirral Partnership Trust and a range of third sector organisations working with former drug users and alcoholics to support engage them with the recovery agenda.