

Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Wednesday, 13 March 2019

REPORT TITLE:	2018/19 Quarter 3 Wirral Plan Performance
REPORT OF:	Strategic Commissioner for Environment

REPORT SUMMARY

This report provides the 2018/19 Quarter 3 (October - December 2018) performance report for the Wirral Plan pledges under the remit of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The report, which is included as Appendix 1, provides an overview of the progress in Quarter 3 as well as available data in relation to a range of outcome indicators and supporting measures.

Quarter Three Wirral Plan Performance Summary

- Wirral now has 32 national quality awards including 27 Green Flag Awards, Country Park Accreditation for Wirral Country Park, 2 Charters for the Bereaved – Silver Award for Burials, Gold Award for Cremations at Landican. At the APSE (Association of Public Sector Excellence) 2018 National Awards Wirral was awarded Best Service Team for Cemeteries and Crematorium, and Best Performer Award for Parks, Open Spaces and Horticulture.
- The 2018 Imagine Wirral programme has concluded, with over 250,000 participants in the events and exhibitions overall an estimated economic impact of over £4 million and over 600 volunteers participated in our events during 2018.
- Admission episodes for alcohol related conditions has improved from the previous reporting period (2015-16), however is higher than at the start of the Wirral Plan. Wirral's Alcohol Strategy is being delivered to reduce alcohol consumption to improve resident's health outcomes.
- The percentage of mothers known to be smokers at the time of delivery has worsened from 12% in 2016-17 to 13.5% in 2017-18; higher than the Northwest and National Average. This is viewed as a priority area of action in Wirral and a range of initiatives have been put in place through the Tobacco Strategy to address it.
- 93 more people were helped to lose weight in the first half of 2018-19 (1,496) compared to 1,403 helped in the same period last year. An increase in the number of people eating healthily in Wirral should reduce the prevalence of excess weight and obesity which is a key contributor to premature mortality and avoidable ill health.

- Wirral achieved the most substantial gains Drink Less Enjoy More project (compared to the other participating areas) for reduction in sales of alcohol to customers who are drunk (reducing from 90% sales to 36.8%).
- The Reduce the Strength scheme has now signed up 100 businesses across Wirral. An evaluation of the project demonstrates strong achievement in the key areas set out in the original project plan.
- In the lead up to Bonfire Night a range of services worked with residents to deliver a series of Operation Banger Clean ups. In total around 23 tonnes of combustible waste was collected from hotspot areas across Birkenhead to prevent fires in those areas. The work has contributed to a 35.7% reduction in Anti-Social Behaviour fires.
- In this quarter there were 8 successful funding applications to help organisations to develop and deliver community initiatives. Between September 2017 - September 2018 the total funding secured for Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise organisation is £244,835.
- To date this year 1,090 empty properties have been brought back into use which is performing on target and we envisaged that the pledge target of 1,250 empty properties brought back into use by 2020 will be met.
- The action for Cabinet Approval of the final Core Strategy Local Plan and submission to Secretary of State is off track and will not deliver on time. The Council is fully committed to delivering a high-quality Local Plan within the shortest possible timescale and additional support is being put in place.
- In Quarter 3 low income households have been supported by Energy Projects including the "ECHO" scheme which resulted in 28 replacement boilers installed and the Warm Home Discount resulted in 814 householder applications by Energy Projects Plus totalling just under £114,000 in reduced electricity bills.
- Reports of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) continue to fall, down by a third compared to last year. During this quarter there have been several successful targeted initiatives and campaigns working with residents finding informal and formal resolution with all powers available.
- Merseyside Fire Service have organised eight Community Action days in 2018, with two partnership events between October-December in Oxtown and Moreton and altogether 160 properties and a range of residents engaged.
- Significant support has been put in place with Kingdom to improve performance in enforcing against environmental crime and support a clean borough. The close working relationship and focus has helped drive improved litter and dog fouling enforcement performance during quarter 3.
- For recycling there is a continued a focus using targeted communications on the ten lowest performing rounds to reach the 25% target; the current figure is 21.61%.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee note the content of the report and highlight any areas requiring further clarification or action.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 To ensure Members of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee have the opportunity to scrutinise the performance of the Council and partners in relation to delivering the Wirral Plan.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 This report has been developed in line with the approved performance management framework for the Wirral Plan. As such, no other options were considered.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Wirral Plan is an outcome-focussed, partnership plan which has 18 supporting strategies that set out how each of the 20 pledges will be delivered. For each pledge, a partnership group has been established to drive forward delivery of the action plans set out in each of the supporting strategies.
- 3.2 A Wirral Plan Performance Management Framework has been developed to ensure robust monitoring arrangements are in place. The Wirral Partnership has a robust approach to performance management to ensure all activity is regularly monitored and reviewed.
- 3.3 Data for the identified indicators is released at different times during the year. As a result of this, not all Pledges will have results each quarterly reporting period. Some indicators can be reported quarterly and some only on an annual basis. Annual figures are reported in the quarter they become available against the 2018/19 year end column.
- 3.4 For each of the indicators, a trend is shown (better, same or worse). In most cases, this is determined by comparing the latest data with the previous reporting period i.e. 2017/18 year end. In some cases, i.e. where data accumulates during the year or is subject to seasonal fluctuations, the trend is shown against the same time the previous year. This is indicated in the key at the end of the report.
- 3.5 For some indicators, targets have been set. Where this is the case, a RAGB (red, amber, green, blue) rating is provided against the target and tolerance levels set at the start of the reporting period, with blue indicating performance targets being exceeded.
- 3.6 All Wirral Plan performance reports are published on the performance page of the Council's website. This includes the high-level Wirral Plan overview report and the detailed pledge reports which include updates on progress on all activities set out in the supporting strategy action plans. The link to this web page is: <https://www.wirral.gov.uk/about-council/council-performance>

3.7 Each of the Wirral Plan Pledges has a Lead Commissioner responsible for overseeing effective delivery. The Lead Commissioners for the Pledges in the report at Appendix 1 are as follows:

- Leisure and culture opportunities for all – Lucy Barrow
- Wirral residents live healthier lives – Julie Webster
- Community services are joined up and accessible – Julie Webster
- Good quality housing that meets the needs of residents – Graham Hodgkinson
- Wirral's neighbourhoods are safe – Mark Camborne
- Attractive Local Environment for Wirral residents – Mike Cockburn

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

6.1 There are none arising from this report.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

7.1 The performance management framework is aligned to the Council's risk management strategy and both are regularly reviewed as part of corporate management processes.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

8.1 The priorities in the Wirral Plan pledges were informed by a range of consultations carried out in 2015 and 2016 including the Wirral resident survey.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 The Wirral Plan equality impact assessment can be found at:
<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/communities-and-neighbourhoods/equality-impact-assessments/equality-impact-assessments-2014-15/chief>

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Wirral Plan Environment Committee 2018-19 Quarter 3 Pledge Reports

REFERENCE MATERIAL

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee	21 September 2016
Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee	30 November 2016
Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee	28 March 2017
Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee	4 July 2017
Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee	21 September 2017
Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee	30 November 2017
Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee	28 March 2018
Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee	5 July 2018
Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee	20 September 2018
Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee	29 November 2018