



POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Monday, 27 June 2022

REPORT TITLE:	WIRRAL PLAN UPDATE
REPORT OF:	CHIEF EXECUTIVE

REPORT SUMMARY

This report provides an update on the Wirral Plan 2021-26 which was approved by Council on 6 September 2021. The Plan was adopted part way through the year reflecting the Council's re-set from the emergency management arrangements in response to the pandemic back to resumption of normal business delivery during 2021/22.

The report provides a high-level summary of delivery progress made for the months since the plan was approved and also provides a refresh of the proposed plan priorities for 2022/23. The Wirral Plan is a key document of the Council's policy framework, setting out the vision and priorities for Wirral as a place. The Plan has been aligned with the Council's Improvement Plan which sets out the vision and priorities for organisational change and improvement that will ensure the Council is in the best shape to lead Wirral partners in achieving the Wirral Plan vision.

The Wirral Plan was developed following engagement with Members, staff and partners in 2020/21. As the Council moves to a Whole Council Election scheme in 2023, there is an opportunity to re-set the Wirral Plan as a four-year plan for the full term of the new administration. This work will be conducted during 2022/23 to enable a new 2023/27 plan to be adopted from Summer 2023.

The report affects all wards in the borough and is a key decision.

RECOMMENDATION/S

The Policy and Resources Committee is recommended to:

1. Note the progress made against Wirral Plan deliverables as set out in Appendix 2.
2. Endorse the refreshed Wirral Plan 2022/23 priorities, as set out in Appendix 3, and recommend their approval by Council in July.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 The Wirral Plan sets out the Council's ambition and priorities for Wirral. As a key document in the Council's policy framework, there is a need for the Wirral Plan to be monitored and reviewed to ensure its vision and priorities remain appropriate for the borough. The Plan reflects what people have told us is important to them and will be used to help staff understand their role in helping to deliver our corporate priorities.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 The constitution specifies the need for the Council to produce a Plan for Wirral. The Wirral Plan meets this requirement and sets out the vision and priorities for the Council and its partners. Wirral Plan Refresh 2022/23 considers the key priorities for the Council in view of the emerging challenges and opportunities the borough will face in the next 12 months.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Wirral Plan was approved by Council on 6 September 2021 and is included as Appendix 1 to this report. The Plan sets out the vision for the borough: **'To create equity for people and place and opportunities for all to secure the best possible future for our residents, communities and businesses'**. The Plan is built around the following five strategic priorities for the Council and its partners:
- Sustainable Environment
 - Brighter Futures
 - Inclusive Economy
 - Safe and Pleasant Communities
 - Active and Healthy Lives
- 3.2 The approval of the plan mid-year reflected the need for the Council to re-set its strategic direction and priorities emerging from the Covid 19 pandemic. 2021/22 has effectively been a transitional year as the Council and other public sector providers have moved from the emergency response system put in place to deal with Covid to a more business-as-usual footing as we adapt to living with Covid 19. As the plan has not been in operation for a full year, a brief, high-level summary of progress against the five strategic priorities is attached to this report as Appendix 2.
- 3.3 As part of the annual review process, there is a need to refresh the plan to ensure it continues to meet the needs of the borough and remains relevant to emerging issues and priorities. A summary Wirral Plan Refresh is included as Appendix 3 which sets a series of priorities for delivery in 2022/23. The implementation of these priorities will be worked up in more detail by the Policy and Service committees as part of their normal work programming.
- 3.4 A performance management framework will be developed which reviews progress against 2022/23 plan deliverables as well as relevant performance indicators and measures. A suite of population level outcome indicators has been identified that will be monitored to understand performance against plan priorities. Performance will be

reviewed through an interim performance report in the Autumn 2022 and at year end in Spring 2023.

- 3.5 The Wirral Plan approved in September was a five-year plan for 2021-26. This one-year refresh for 2022/23 is in advance of the Council moving to a Whole Council Election Scheme in May 2023 that will see an administration elected for four years. This change provides a clear opportunity to move the Council's planning cycle to four years to align with the election of a new administration. Therefore, it is proposed that officers work with the Council's political leadership during 2022/23 to develop a new four year plan for adoption following the elections in May 2023.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report. The Wirral Plan provides the strategic framework upon which the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) and Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) are based.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no legal implications arising directly from this report. The Wirral Plan is a key document in the Council's Policy Framework in line with the Council's constitution. It sets the priorities and guides decision-making in respect of the MTFS, Council budget and policy.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

- 6.1 There are no resource implications arising directly from this report.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 7.1 The Corporate Risk Register is maintained in the context of the Wirral Plan and the Council's ability to deliver it effectively. The Corporate Risk Register is maintained and reported regularly through Audit and Risk Management Committee and will also be reported to Policy and Resources Committee in the new municipal cycle.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

- 8.1 The Wirral Plan reflects what people have told us are the important priorities for Wirral. Ongoing engagement will take place with staff, residents, businesses and partners as part of a collaborative approach to deliver the aims set out within the Plan. The 2022/23 Wirral Plan Refresh has been worked up in collaboration with the Council's political leadership.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 Wirral Council has a legal requirement to make sure its policies, and the way it carries out its work, do not discriminate against anyone. An Equality Impact Assessment is a tool to help council services identify steps they can take to ensure equality for anyone who might be affected by a particular policy, decision or activity.

9.2 The fundamental and core purpose of the Wirral Plan is to tackle inequalities and improve equity for all our residents. The plan seeks to address the existing socio-economic and health inequalities in the Borough, to do things differently and make a fairer, more inclusive Wirral. Specific Equality Impact Assessments will be undertaken against all new initiatives and projects developed to support plan implementation.

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

10.1 The Wirral Plan reflects the Council's strong commitment to improve the environment, with clear actions to address environment and climate emergency. All new initiatives and projects that support plan implementation will be assessed to ensure opportunities are harnessed that deliver on the Council's climate emergency agenda.

11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH IMPLICATIONS

11.1 Wirral has some stark economic, social and health inequalities. The Wirral Plan is committed to addressing this – by shaping an economy that benefits all our residents and one which keeps money within Wirral and delivers a prosperous, inclusive economy where local people can get good jobs and achieve their aspirations. With Community Wealth Building at its heart, the Wirral Plan sets out how to tackle this and makes a major contribution to improving the economic, social and health outcomes of the borough.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Wirral Plan 2021-26
Appendix 2 – Wirral Plan Delivery Progress 2021-22
Appendix 3 – Wirral Plan 2022-23 Refresh
Appendix 4 – Wirral Plan Indicative Performance Measures

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Council Constitution
Corporate Risk Register

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Council	6 September 2021
Policy and Resources Committee	28 July 2021