

Bidston and Claughton

Area Forum

Area Co-ordinator's Report

Tuesday 2nd October 2007

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Section One	Minutes from last Meeting June 2007	3 - 10
Section Two	Local Updates:	11
	Safer and Stronger Communities	
➤	Alleygates	12
➤	Bogus Callers	13
➤	Agencies combine to tackle underage alcohol sale	13
	Healthier Communities and Older People	
➤	Older People's Parliament News	14
	Children & Young People	
➤	Wirral's students are celebrating	15
➤	Teenagers' challenge of a lifetime	15 - 16
➤	Youth Service Update	16 - 18
	Economic Development & Enterprise	
➤	Wirral company's passion leads to local jobs boost	19
➤	Wirral Council is the first authority in the northwest to launch online web casts of Planning Committee Meetings.	19 - 20
➤	Licensing Act 2003	20
Section Three	Partner Updates	21
➤	Community Safety	22
➤	Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service	23
➤	Merseyside Police	24
➤	Wirral Primary Care Trust	25 - 26
Section Four	Local Transport Update	27 - 34
Section Five	Community Initiatives Fund Area Forum Funding Progress Report	35 - 39 40 - 41
Section Six	Local Area Forum Plan Update/Progress	42 - 43
Section Seven	Streetscene & Waste Update	45 - 50
Section Eight	Equalities and Diversity	51 - 53

Section One

Minutes from last meeting and any matters arising from the previous forum

Minutes - Area Forum (Bidston and Claughton) - 5 June 2007

Present	
Chair	Cllr Denise Roberts
Ward Councillors	John Cocker , George Davies , Steve Foulkes , Ann McLachlan , Harry Smith
Community Representatives	Jean McIntosh
Older People's Parliament Representative	Edith Niblock
Lead Officer	Kevin Miller (Director of Adult Social Services)
Area Service Co-ordinator	Michelle Gray
Street Scene Manager	Mark Traynor
Wirral Primary Care Trust	Dr Abhi Mantgani (Medical Director) , J South (Director Primary Care and Modernization)
Merseyside Police	PC Tony Buckman , Sgt. Paul Harrison
Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service	Sara Lawton
Wirral Hospital Trust	Pat Higgins
Council Officers	Lucy Beed (Corporate Services Department) , Jan Johnson (Minute Taker) , Shaun Stewart (Children and Young People's Department) , Jim Thompson (Community Safety Team) , Anna Wallis, St James Centre
Apologies	Gary Cummings (Area Streetscene Manager) , Pat Landsborough (Claughton Community Group) , Collette McDonagh (Slatey Road Area Residents Association) , Alison Moulder (Bidston Community representative)

Index to Minutes

- Minute 1 - Welcome, introductions & apologies
- Minute 2 - Minutes & matters arising from previous February forum
- Minute 3 - Area co-ordinators report - Area plan update
- Minute 4 - Partner updates - Merseyside Police - Merseyside Fire & Rescue service - Wirral Primary Care Trust
- Minute 5 - Older peoples parliament
- Minute 6 - Wirral hospital trust – engagement strategy
- Minute 7 - Public open forum
- Minute 8 - Any other business
- Minute 9 - Date of next meeting will be Tuesday 2nd October 2007

Minute 1 - Welcome, introductions & apologies

Cllr Denise Roberts, Chair, welcomed everyone to this meeting of the Bidston & Claughton Area Forum, which was being held at St James Centre for the third time.

There were 22 members of the public present. A loop system was available for anyone with a hearing impairment. A round table introduction was held to ensure members of the public were aware who was present. Apologies had been received from Alison Moulder, Colette McDonagh, Pat Landsborough, Ken McDermott and Gary Cummings. Best wishes were extended to Alison, Colette and Ken who had all been unwell.

Minute 2 - Minutes & matters arising from previous February forum

Minutes of the previous meeting in February were agreed as a true record.

A key issue raised throughout a number of forums was pavement and kerb parking and a copy of the report, that went to Committee in March, highlighting the problem was

included in the area co-ordinators report. Michelle was happy to take any questions under item 7 on the agenda and follow them up.

Minute Decision : Resolved that: Michelle be thanked for her update.

Minute 3 - Area co-ordinators report - Area plan update

The Area Co-ordinator drew attention to the key features of her report. Section 1 had already been covered under agenda item 2. Section 2 pages, 15-28, looked at new initiatives. Section 3 pages, 29-30, provided a progress report on allocated funding. This year funding has been advertised in the local press, with a closing date of 15th June for applications to be submitted. Spare applications forms were available to take away this evening. Section 4, page 31, gave an update on Area Plans. Section 5, pages 32-36, detailed a Streetscene and Waste Update and covered issues around parking, road safety campaign and recycling. Section 6, pages 36-37, was a new section to the forum's report entitled Equality and Diversity. The Area Co-ordinator drew attention to the Council's website which contained information on line.

If any organisation wanted to advertise their services or share information Michelle was happy to include it in future reports for the forum.

- AREA PLAN UPDATE Lucy Beed, Performance Management and Improvement Officer, Corporate Services attended the Forum to update on area forum plans.

Plans had now been split into 3 sections. An Introduction giving information on membership, purpose of forum, local places of interest and an area profile. Details of Local Area Agreement priorities, followed by local priority action plans. It also considered Next Steps and listed useful contacts. Although this was primarily a web-based document and would be on the website in a couple of weeks, Lucy had brought a few copies to the meeting as she was aware that not everyone had access to the internet. Further copies could be requested through Michelle and Lucy welcomed any comments or questions.

Q – a member of the public asked an unrelated question about when Bidston Moss site was going to be ready?

A - there would be an open day locally for anybody interested to go along on 31 July.

The Chair confirmed that there would be an opportunity under item 7, Public Open Forum, to answer any general questions from members of the public.

Minute 4 - Partner updates - Merseyside Police - Merseyside Fire & Rescue service - Wirral Primary Care Trust

- WIRRAL PRIMARY CARE TRUST - Abhi Mantgani updated on the work of the Wirral Primary Care Trust since the previous forum in February. The PCT were working very effectively with Wirral Hospital Trust and Social Services. A key aim was the 18 week target, working to get people out of hospital back into communities. Another key development that has happened in Birkenhead is practitioners working with the PCT to develop clinics at various practices, which would be helpful in making it easier for patients to be treated in the community. Technology systems were being updated. Pilot project commenced in Bebington Adult Social Services and was now being expanded to all other areas. In the past all resources have been targeted equitably, however 20% would be used to try and target some resources as a priority. This was an exciting initiative for practitioners and people in the area to target the people who need it most and they would be trying to reach out to people who don't come to practices. The total project comes to over £½m.

- MERSEYSIDE FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE - Sara Lawton of the Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service provided an update on number of home fires, where the aim was to keep the focus on reducing numbers still further. 3545 home safety checks had been carried out. Partnership working was very effective and stations were working with young people on anti social behaviour. On the 8th June 2007 at Leasowe Castle presentation of awards would be held. Smoking cessation initiative, working with landlords and housing association and looking at adapting high rise buildings.

Q – are all visits by fire engineers recorded and logged?

A – yes

Q – any idea what the take up is of fire alarms?

A – through ourselves and partners we have volunteers, Fire Safety Network, trying to engage with members of the community through shopping centres etc. The aim would be to get into every single home on the Wirral. All people have to do is contact the fire station, or access the internet and we will make the necessary arrangements.

- MERSEYSIDE POLICE - Sergeant Paul Harrison provided a local update. He acknowledged that people had some concerns about level of policing and would address those issues. He had been in post for 6 months and had found the main concerns at Laird Street were vehicle crime and anti social behaviour. What have we achieved since I have been here?

A Crime Team had been set up, the profile of which was to target known offenders. They had executed numerous arrests, including 3 cannabis factories. 8 arrests following a large operation in Carrington Street. Use was made of mounted police in Birkenhead Park. There were high incidents of vehicle crime. Ongoing Operation Shed to stop un-roadworthy vehicles, resulted in 75 average month. Operation Tango takes cars from the street that are uninsured and resulted in 610 arrests in the Laird Street area. There were 2 tactical teams and they used covert methods in relation to decoy vehicles, very successfully. Crime and anti social behaviour had gone down. Sergeant Harrison confirmed it would improve further, but it would take time. Lot of work that had been done and there was lot still to be done. He could be contacted via the website or via Laird Street Police Station and would be available to help wherever possible.

Geographically he had split 3 areas into 4 as Beechwood/North End too big as 1 and each area would get 1 dedicated officer and 2 CSO's. Surgeries would be held every month in a prominent place, e.g. Aldi. Teams would go out to identify key people in the neighbourhood to help them.

An acknowledgment was made of Tony Buckman's last day as a police constable after 30 years service. Tony confirmed that he would still be involved with some organisations and work voluntarily in the area. On behalf of the Forum, the Chair thanked him for everything he has done and wished him well for the future.

Q – Councillor Harry Smith reiterated that Tony had spent a lot of 'out of duty' time helping local people and he would be missed. He queried how many of the 610 arrests referred to had resulted in charges?

A – no figures with me

Q – how many at Cannabis factories?

A – all.

Q – pleased to hear about Crime Team. Will this help with the new law that has come out about drinking on the streets?

A – it can not help. We do have anti social legislation.

Councillor Cocker confirmed the length of service from Tony Buckman in the local area but

raised a concern that, generally, there had been a lack of long term continuity. Tony Buckman had direct involvement with some of the other services with young people and people in the area and it would be nice to see other police officers offering that commitment.

Q - Other complaint that consistently comes up is response to emergency calls or lack of response, with no later call out to check the facts. Also think there is a lack of visible presence.

A - In relation to calls generally, calls are graded between 1 and 4. Forward details of any specific incidents and we would investigate.

Q - What are the hours for a tag?

A - Various, generally run by Securicor not by the Police. Breaches are also done by Securicor. A curfew, may be between 10-7, or in line with hours of work.

Q - concern raised about empty lager cans strewn about entry.

A - acknowledge the debris, however those roads policed more than any other apart from Argyle Street on a Saturday night. When there at an incident we would deal with it.. If you forward any information about an offender we would deal with it. The Council also need to be involved in dealing with debris.

Q - Figures quoted around the allocation of CSO's and concern raised about their role currently. Chair of Bidston Rise Tenants Association felt they were never used in Bidston Rise. He had reached agreement about a plan of action with the Police and would like to seize the opportunity to arrange a meeting with Paul Harrison as soon as possible to continue that dialogue.

A - Can I just seize the opportunity to say Bidston Rise does get policed as I direct CSO's down there. Their role was to support police officers, not to do the job for them and not to be inside a police station. They were a form of visible policing, they were a deterrent, they were involved in community engagement.

Q - Has CSOs power to do spot fines for things like graffiti, litter etc, now been taken off them?

A - some have the power to give fines because they've had more training. Others don't have the authority, so there are different levels. Aim was to get them all up to the same level.

Q - the Lead Officer asked about the prioritizing of calls and whether it was possible to let people know of the priority they had been given?

A -if somebody rings 999 they are given a 10 minute response time. They have to be there within 10 minutes.

Q - Councillor George Davies asked about repeat offenders and what happened following arrests in relation to charges. Looking at possibly lobbying Government to change laws in order to be more effective.

A - Sergeant Harrison - confirmed that charging of persons was not done by Police. The decision was made by Crown Prosecution Service at the custody suite.

Q - Councillor Smith asked whether the some of the 610 arrests referred to could be the same offender arrested 10 times?

A - confirmed that raised 10 times would not automatically mean prison.

Minute 5 - Older peoples parliament

Edith Niblock, Older People's Parliament rep, briefed the forum on the Parliament. Only a few meetings held to date. Set up primarily so can conduct the business and have formed 6 sub committees dealing with issues such as health and safety, social care and health,

crime and response, housing and environment and transport. There may be other issues for the future. A leaflet was available for people to take away, with members contact details.

Q – is leaflet done in large print?

A – it can be, just get in touch with Michelle Gray or any member of the Community Engagement Team to arrange.

Q – how many members have you got now?

A – Parliament works in line with area forum areas, Edith being the rep for Bidston/Claughton, although some areas had as many as 4.

Minute 6 - Wirral hospital trust – engagement strategy

Pat Higgins, Divisional General Manager for Medicine, Wirral Hospital NHS Trust provided information on the Engagement Strategy to the forum. As Abhi Mantangi alluded to before, there were lots of changes going on in the NHS to the way we deliver services and deliver services together. In a year see a lot of people and are working with Wirral PCT and the Local Authority so that, wherever possible, people can have care closer to home. There were increasing demands on NHS and health and social care services, with an ageing population and increasing number of young adults with complex learning disabilities and mental health needs. Hospitals need to be providing care for the most seriously ill patients. The 5 year plan aimed to:

- treat more patients in less time
- increase income to invest in services
- develop specialist services locally
- £10m investment in equipment and facilities
- Cope with growth in emergencies
- Reduce demand for in-patient beds
- Become more efficient.

Pat gave examples of where investment had been made to delivery services locally with angioplasty procedure, where people don't have to travel to Liverpool and in children's services, so don't need to travel to Alder Hey. The neo natal unit had just been given level 3 status. Next step would be to introduce more single room accommodation which would help in to prevent spread of infection in the hospital. Working in an effective 3-way partnership would reduce the reliance on hospital beds.

Pat briefed that all of these changes were happening with patients at the centre. In moving towards becoming a Foundation Trust, a Board of Governors was being appointed and Pat introduced Joyce Kelly, who would represent Bidston & St James Ward on the Board. There was a vacancy to fill for Claughton. Pat would be delighted to go out to any community groups to talk about the changes and contact details were provided.

Q – how far are we ahead with recruiting membership for the Foundation Trust?

A – would find out figures and feedback for report.

Jean McIntosh gave congratulations for the new Children's A&E department at APH.

Q – has any consideration been given to the problem of smokers in the hospital?

A – all security staff managers aware of this concern and there had been a lot of training for hospital staff. There was a new intake of patients every week plus their relatives. They did offer nicotine replacement therapy, but didn't have the legal right to restrain people on the wards.

Q – there used to be 10 Hackney stands in prominent position, then they were moved on

to the side and number reduced, then moved again to outside maternity, but no Hackney signs put up. Outside the main entrance would have been ideal site for Hackney stands.
A – don't know the reasoning behind this, but would ask Facilities for a response.

Q – Where did £10m for investment come from?

A – this is capital funding provided by Department of Health. Each organization as NHS Trust gets an element of capital funding. This year the main areas of capital expenditure were cardiac catheter lab and the extension of Children's A&E. Next year would expand endoscopy services.

Q – Councillor Foulkes commented that it had been an enjoyable and informative presentation and that the more you tell people about the process of change the more you will be able to achieve. It was essential to pass out into the community, spreading the message. There was an acknowledgement that it was a difficult job when something has to give when spending more on prevention, as the total amount of money is not going to expand.

A – misconception that a reduction in beds equates to less quality. However, this is not the case when done in partnership with PCT and LA.

Q – just been in hospital and some wards closed down at the weekend

A – there would always be peaks in different areas. Do have to provide rules about appropriate people in beds as do have red alert days, when over 90% occupancy and have to look at ways of transferring people.

John South from Wirral PCT confirmed that the changes were not about spending less, but doing it differently and about putting interim services in place so people would not have to go to hospital in the first place.

Minute 7 - Public open forum

Q – congratulations for winning award for staging the Open Golf Tournament.

3 questions to ask.

- Concerned about lack of disabled access and disruption when services terminated at Birkenhead North and passengers had to climb stairs, cross bridge and come downstairs for replacement bus to Liverpool. Would ramps or lifts be installed?

- Was there any further progress on the electrification of the Bidston-Wrexham line?

- Rail links to Birkenhead docks, are you thinking of running those in, are they going ahead?

- Question would be better aimed at Merseytravel Board as they make the policies but we know that Merseytravel pride themselves on their Access Strategy in terms of disabled access. Plans were in place to make it more user friendly and they are being encouraged to put in for Beacon Council status.

- In discussion with Peel Holdings about improving the transport strategy which is a 30-40 year strategy. There would be a £4b investment in the docks area but no specifics yet around times and dates. Aim would be to get freight onto trains rather than roads.

- Merseytravel have confirmed they would be opening new lines from Bidston-Wrexham for passengers.

The Lead Officer suggested, and it was agreed, that as the above were regularly asked questions, an update be provided in every Area Co-ordinator's report.

Q – Question posed to ward councillors - is there any difference to people living on this

side of Laird Street to those living on the other side? Ask because a taxi office was removed due to abuse of licence, on one side of the street, whereas the sex shop remains open on the other side.

A – the shop was not overstepping their licence.

Q – has anybody been in there from the Council?

A – Councillor Foulkes confirmed that any suspicion of an offence of license should be brought to the attention of the appropriate officers.

Councillor Cocker, who also was Chair of the Planning Committee, informed that they were different cases. The planning application for the taxi office would have gone out to consultation, reported to Planning Committee, decision made there. However, the shop would not have gone through this process because it was still a shop and not selling the sort of goods that needed a special licence.

Agreed that Councillor Smith would contact the Enforcement Officer, to investigate, as soon as he had received the information from the audience member.

Q – would Streetscene log all damage to lights, lamp-posts etc?

A – Yes. Streetscene were concerned about all incidents of damage. Work was going on within the Community Safety Team to store information in one database.

Q – are the houses in Carrington Street coming down?

A – currently figures were 62 properties vacant out of 100. Of the rest, 10 were empty properties. Still a problem getting access, but work in progress.

Minute 8 - Any other business - None

Minute 9 - Date of next meeting will be Tuesday 2nd October 2007, will be held in the Cloughton Ward venue to be confirmed

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and speakers for their presentations. The Bidston/Cloughton Area Forum would meet again on Tuesday 2nd October 2007.

Section Two

Local Updates

Area forums provide an opportunity for people who live or work in Wirral to have a greater say on local issues and be more active in decision making and shaping local services. They involve local ward councillors, police, Wirral Primary Care Trust, fire safety representatives along with community representatives and officers from various departments of the council. Forums also provide information about current services, how they can be accessed and ultimately raise awareness of local council initiatives.

This section covers relevant news under the Council's local area agreement themes of safer and stronger communities, healthier communities and older people, children and young people and economic development and enterprise.

Safer & Stronger Communities

Alleygates crash through thousand barrier



The number of alleygates protecting Wirral properties from crimes such as burglary and vandalism is set to hit the thousand mark this month with the commencement of the latest installation phase.

Wirral's Joint Community Safety Team recently canvassed opinion from all residents in the Deveraux Road area of Wallasey ahead of the installation of 48 alleygates in that community and the response was overwhelmingly in favour of their

installation.

As a result of this public backing, the gates are beginning to be put in place in August. Once this phase is finished, the gates will bring a proven high level of protection against crime to some 619 more households.

The alleygating scheme began in Wirral in 2003 when the number of household burglaries was 210 a month on average, with some areas of Wirral suffering a burglary rate which was four times the national average.

By installing the alleygates in areas where burglary was at the highest, the number of break-ins is now down to below the national average and Wirral as a whole suffers less than three burglaries per day amongst its 144,043 households.

By April 2007, there had been a 49.9% drop in the domestic burglary rate or 1,267 fewer offences of domestic burglary compared to 2003 when alleygating began. They are justifiably very popular then and by March next year, there will be a total of 1,060 alleygates installed across Wirral.

Cllr. George Davies, who is the Cabinet member for Housing and Community Safety in Wirral, said: "Alleygates have proven how successful they can be in reducing burglary and the figures justify the investment Wirral has made in installing them so widely; investment that was only possible thanks to Neighbourhood Renewal funding."

Steve McGilvray, Manager of the Joint Community Safety Team, said: "Any burglary is unwanted and alleygates have substantially reduced the number being perpetrated in Wirral. However, it is important to remember at this time of year, when the weather is warmer, opportunist burglars will still take advantage of open windows or doors.

"With this in mind it is important to stress that everyone should still take care and check all windows and doors are securely locked before going out or going to bed."

Wirral Council would like to warn residents about bogus callers apparently posing as council workers.

A group of men are reported to be randomly calling at homes in Birkenhead saying they are collecting unwanted bulky items, such as old washing machines, cookers and bikes.

The men are reported to be distracting residents by asking them to open their back gates so that bulky items can be removed, whilst one of the men steals money and valuables.

The gang appear to be wearing normal clothes, no uniform as such, and drive a large blue truck with a metal cage on the back.

Unless you have made an appointment with Wirral Council's Streetscene to have an unwanted bulky item collected from your home, (Eric Service) then no one should call. If you have booked a collection, we advise you to be cautious. Wirral Council's contractor Biffa will collect on the scheduled day booked in with Streetscene and will wear uniform.

If in any doubt, contact Streetscene on 0151 606 2004 to check if the staff are genuine before allowing them entry on to your property.

Anyone who witnesses suspicious activities of this nature should contact Crimestoppers, anonymously, on 0800 555 111

Agencies combine to tackle underage alcohol sales

Agencies in Wirral are joining forces to try to reduce the risk of harm to young people from alcohol abuse.

Wirral Trading Standards, the Youth Service, police licensing and the Wirral Primary Care Trust are combining to provide new training, free of charge, to off licensees and their staff about underage sales.

The training is part of an ongoing drive to reduce incidents of alcohol-fuelled anti-social behaviour across the borough, as well as tackling related health issues.

John Malone, Trading Standards Manager said: "We want to work with businesses to prevent alcohol getting into the hands of young people. The new training we will be providing will look at the legal position for off licensees but a new element will also deal with the impact alcohol can have on young people's health and well being.

"It is essential that off licensees are aware of the health consequences of selling alcohol to young people. Hospital admissions for injuries caused when drunk, risky sexual behaviour and teenage pregnancy, involvement in crime, violence and anti-social behaviour, school truancy and road traffic accidents."

If any off licensees and their staff want to attend the free training, which will take place at Wallasey Town Hall at 6pm on Wednesday 12th September, they can contact Nick Chesters of Trading Standards on 0151 691 8579.

Healthier Communities & Older People

Find out More log on to www.wirral.gov.uk Or www.ageconcernwirral.org

Wirral Older People's Parliament

Newsletter Issue Four June 2007 – Issue Number 4

News Progress & Information - Following comments at a recent parliament meeting any person receiving un-solicited letters (**Junk Mail**) or Telephone calls (**Silent Calls**) should make contact with the “**Mailing Preference Service**” and or “**Telephone Preference Service**” this is a very simple procedure via the web page, and registration of your address or telephone number should go a long way to clearing this sort of problem. You may still receive mail or telephone calls from companies you may have dealt with in the past, to eliminate this type of contact you will need to contact the organisation concerned and ask to be removed from their data base. Useful telephone numbers are “**OFCOM 020 7981 3000**” or “**Information Commissioners Office 01625 545745**” more detailed information is available at your local library, or CAB Office. Write to your local councillor and ask what provision is available for older people to learn about or even have access too Computers. I believe you will be pleasantly surprised at the volume of information available and the amount of help and support that is available to older people

Regional Devolution At the last Parliament Meeting a question was asked about reports that certain authorities are discussing banding together to draw up a Regional Devolution Plan, what effect this may have on Wirral Borough Council, at this moment true information seems to be sparse to say the least

Transport and Free travel for the elderly This subject has been under discussion for some considerable time and new legislation is to come into force in July of this year. It is yet to be seen if local authorities will all conform in a manner that is fitting for the needs of the elderly population. For instance in many locations even the so called rush hour busses are half empty, so why cannot we who are retired, use our passes on such routes it will not interrupt or compromise those going to work, but could boost the local economy.

Express Your View You have the opportunity to write or E-Mail to parliament if you are unable to get along to one of the meetings held throughout 11 local forum areas. Items directly affecting older people will be addressed by the Older Peoples Parliament Officers. You also have the opportunity to assist on one or more of the committee meetings held to assess the various items involved. People in the age group 50+ are a major influential body in the total population of Wirral Borough Council 22 different ward areas, it is important that their wishes are reflected in the decision making process “**Do you have something to say**” ?

Computer Use There are a number of places that encourage computer access and usage for the older generation. Most of the Library's have the required equipment, plus in some community centres there are opportunities for basic tuition.

Ring **Leasowe 630 3486, Rock Ferry 643 1215** or **New Brighton 639 1386** For up to date information, you may also check with your local School or Night School many of them run courses on basic internet access, **you are never too old to learn.**

To learn about your local forum - Tracey Smith 0151 691 8026 (traceysmith@wirral.gov.uk)
To learn more about “the Older Peoples Parliament” - Lesley Howells 0151 666 2220

Children & Young People

Wirral's students are celebrating

Wirral's students are celebrating after yet another year of improvement in A-Levels, AS Levels and Vocational Courses in the borough.

Today's results saw the average pupil's point score raise by 32.4 points – from 729 last year to 762 this year. Wirral also saw a rise of nearly 80 in the numbers of pupils sitting these exams.



Director of Children's Services Howard Cooper was very pleased with the results: "Once again, it looks as though our A-level, AS level and vocational training students in Wirral have surpassed themselves.

"I am extremely proud of all those students who put in so much hard work to achieve these results and I am also proud of the teachers and other school staff who helped and supported them in their studies.

It is particularly encouraging to note that an increasing number of our youngsters are staying on at school to improve their chances of a better career and life. I wish all of them the best of luck in their chosen degree, college course or employment.

Teenagers' challenge of a lifetime

Eight teenagers from Wirral are taking the challenge of a lifetime in a bid to turn their lives around from the risks involved with anti social behaviour, drink or drugs.

The group are canoeing 68 miles from Fort William to Inverness across Scotland's Caledonian Canal. Aged between 15 and 18, the young people were engaged through the Council's Response Service - a support service for at-risk young people. In total the group of seven young men and three young women will complete the six-day course carrying their own equipment and camping gear.

Called The Imagine Project, the expedition, which is jointly funded by the Youth Opportunities Fund and Wirral Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT) will be supported by experienced instructors from Wirral Council's Oaklands Outdoor Education Centre and key staff from the Council's Response Service.

The trip will see the group work as a team developing better health and improved life chances. For many, it is their first experience of working within a group but they represent a growing number of young people determined to tackle substance abuse through making changes to their own lives. Individually the youngsters have already achieved a First Aid and Life Savers award and are aiming for the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award for Outward Bound Achievement.

Pat Rice, Head of Response, said: "These young people first came to Response with some challenging issues, with some of them having personal experience of drug and

alcohol misuse. They were on the brink of becoming disillusioned, and disinterested in life. But now they are healthier, happier and looking forward to this challenge and a great life-changing experience. I'm really proud of what they have achieved so far and I know that they will become valued members of their communities and a really great example to their friends and families".

Terry White, Young Persons Programme Manager said: "The DAAT is committed to reducing the harm caused by substance misuse throughout Wirral. Through this type of partnership work we are able to prevent today's young people, especially the most vulnerable, from becoming tomorrow's drug misusers, which is a key target within the Wirral Drug and Alcohol strategy. This project is an exciting initiative that will result in healthier, happier and more confident young people build resistance against substance misuse,' he added.

Jo Day, Outreach Team Leader for Response, said: "The project, which has been running since May, is about personal, emotional and social development and as a group they have built friendships and their confidence and self-esteem has grown during their time together".

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 and 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. Streetwork 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 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, Italy, Germany 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 Award 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 Award, participants are able to increase their own self confidence and self esteem, make new relationships and develop fresh skills.

During the summer holidays the Youth Service was able to offer an adventure activity programme to youth clubs and associated organisations. Over 160 young people took part in sailing, canoeing, rafting, climbing and adventure course activities which were delivered by both licensed operators and our own staff. Despite the inclement weather there was a 90% take up on the activities offered.

Duke of Edinburgh's Award staff continue to work with a group of Looked After Children in a bid to help them successfully complete their Bronze Awards. In August, most of this group attended a 3 day residential course at The Oaklands Centre where they engaged in a wide variety of outdoor activities. One young woman in particular was identified as having the potential to take a future lead role and will probably be invited back and given a work experience opportunity.

Wirral's D of E Open Award Centre is due to move premises again. Following a decision to vacate the Somerville Site at Gorse Lane we have entered into negotiations regarding the use of the Wirral Alternative Schools Programme new premises at Solar Campus.

In our drive to make the Award available to everyone and to diversify its delivery we are now helping several new units run the Award. This includes Meadowside Special School where we will adapt the Award for pupils with complex 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

The Cavendish Youth centre is open on Monday and Wednesday 7.00 pm – 10.00pm. The summer has seen significant changes with a massive refurbishment. The Club previously on the first floor has relocated to the ground floor and been refitted and improved. Facilities, which are now available to young people, include a computer and fitness suites.

The North End Young People's Project has developed work in Birkenhead Park and liaises closely with the Birkenhead Park Community Projects Officer. During the summer holidays, the young people took part in local outdoor activities and had a very enjoyable trip to Blackpool.

The Fender Youth Action Project undertakes work with young people on the Beechwood and Ballantyne Estates. As well as a football session, a dance class is held at the Recreation Centre on a Wednesday night.

Charing Cross Methodist Youth Club is open on four occasions through out the week Mondays and Wednesdays 6.30 – 9.30 and Thursday 7.00 – 10.00 and Saturdays 4.30 – 7.30. Mondays and Thursday are dedicated to work with special needs young people who come from a wide range of localities and the other two sessions serve the needs of the local community. The programme for both groups include extensive variety of craft workshops, discos and games and the Club makes full use of a garden area to enjoy games and activities in the outdoors.

Economic Development & Enterprise

A Wirral call centre has won a high profile contract with Woolworths because the famous high street retailer was impressed by their passionate approach and the available workforce in Birkenhead.

This exciting development means The Contact Company, based in Birkenhead is now recruiting for jobs to meet the demand of their increasing portfolio of clients.

The company is holding a recruitment open day at Wirral Museum, Birkenhead on 23rd August to recruit up to 100 staff to work on this prestigious contract. They want to recruit local people for jobs which offer flexible hours between 8am and 8pm, seven days a week.

People interested in applying for vacancies can meet staff from The Contact Company and find out more about this type of work on the day.

The Contact Company's Chief Executive, Asif Hamid said: "This contract is further evidence of our growing profile within the competitive contact centre industry and demonstrates the confidence that large blue chip companies have in us to deliver a high quality service.

"The Contact Company operates an added value service at the higher end of the contact centre market and this approach is proving fruitful as we win more contracts like this. We are looking forward to adding to our excellent 125 strong team and are excited to be working with Woolworths" he added.

Wirral Council's Head of Strategic Development, Kevin Adderley said: "The Contact Company has rapidly grown its team in the last year and is now recruiting even more staff to meet demand. This type of work appeals to people who need flexible working hours and is in an attractive location in central Birkenhead. This is a fantastic jobs boost for Wirral."

The Contact Company has been trading since July 2006 and has already won 'New Business of the year' at the Liverpool Daily Post Business Awards and was one of the host call centres for this year's Comic Relief when millions were raised for charity.

Wirral Council is the first authority in the northwest to launch online web casts of Planning Committee Meetings.

All Planning decisions can now be viewed live from anywhere in the world via Wirral Council's website, www.wirral.gov.uk

The new facility uses web cameras at council meetings to capture the live information and send it to a central server, which in turn sends it to anyone that would like to view the meeting via the internet.

The web cast facility also archives each meeting, meaning that recorded meetings can be viewed online at anytime of day, as many times as required. The use of the index points allow you to jump to a specific agenda point or speaker.

Chair of the Planning Committee, Councillor John Cocker, welcomes the move;

"This new facility is very good news for Wirral residents and developers. Now the meetings can be watched live, or at a time that suits you, from the comfort of your own arm chair or from the side of a swimming pool on holiday. Its also going to save many journeys across Wirral to watch the meetings in person, people can now log on and watch at home or at work, saving unnecessary car journeys"

To access the web cast facility, visit www.wirral.gov.uk and click on 'Planning Webcasts' on the right hand menu, or simply click here. The pilot scheme will be running until the end of the January 2008.

Licensing Act 2003

The Licensing Act 2003 has been the responsibility of Wirral Borough Council since 24 November 2005.

In December 2004 a Statement of Licensing Policy was produced which sets out the principles the Council will generally apply to promote the licensing objectives when making decisions under the Act.

It is a requirement of the Licensing Act 2003 that the Council reviews it's Statement of Licensing Policy every three years. The Council welcomes the views of any interested parties and you should feel free to draw the attention of this document, which can be found at www.wirral.gov.uk, to others who may be interested in responding to the consultation.

Full consultation on this document is being undertaken with: -

- The Chief Officer of Police
- The Fire Authority
- Bodies representing local holders of premises licences
- Bodies representing local holders of club certificates
- Bodies representing local holders of personal licences
- Bodies representing businesses and residents
- Other interested parties

You may find it useful to consult the Statutory Guidance issued under Section 182 of the Act when making comments to the Statement of Licensing Policy. The Statutory Guidance is available at www.culture.gov.uk.

Your views are important to the Council in reaching a fair and proportionate Licensing Policy that discharges the Licensing Objectives. Please ensure we receive your views no later than **17 November 2007**. If you have any further enquiries about the Licensing Policy please contact Margaret O'Donnell on 0151 691 8606.

Section Three

Partner Update

Area forums also provide an opportunity to meet partners and organisations who are working to deliver a better, safer and cleaner Wirral.

Merseyside Police, Wirral Primary Care Trust, Wirral Community Safety Team and Mersey Fire and Rescue Service to name just a few, are active members of the forum. This section is to share partner information with forum members and the community.

Community Safety

- Stealth software - the Joint Community Safety Team, working in conjunction with the IT Department of the Children and Young Person's Department, have a roll-out programme of software being loaded onto all computers belonging to the Authority e.g., schools, libraries, One Stop Shops, Community Centres. In the event of a computer being stolen, it notifies a central control point where the machine is being used. The police are alerted and procedures are in place for the machine to be recovered and, if appropriate, person(s) arrested.
- Smartwater Project - most schools now have their valuable equipment marked with Smartwater which identifies which school the property came from. All operational police officers on the Wirral have been equipped with special torches which identify Smartwater marked property. In addition, Trading Standards attend Car Boot Sales with police officers and check for Smartwater marked property.
- DVLA Project - whenever Parking Wardens, Community Support Officers, Police Officers see vehicles with items on display a letter is forwarded to the registered keeper to remind them of their responsibility and they should remove items on view in the future to ensure their vehicles are not going to be targeted by thieves. Most thefts from vehicles are committed by opportunists.
- 'Talking CCTV' launched 31/5/2007. Funding was secured from the government's Respect Task Force enabling broadcasting systems to be attached to existing CCTV cameras at key site. The systems enable operators in the Council's CCTV Control Room to prevent and challenge anti-social and criminal behaviour by broadcasting directly to members of the public and giving out key messages relating to crime and disorder.
- Reparation initiative launched on 13/6/2007. A partnership between Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team, Wirral Youth Offending Service (YOS), BT and Virgin Media using young people engaged with YOS through reparation to repaint streetboxes affected by graffiti and flyposting. Residents can report streetboxes requiring repainting to 'It's Your Call' on 606 2020 or at any One Stop Shop.
- Housing Associations / Registered Social Landlords signed-up to Respect Housing Management Standard on 26/6/2007 as part of a local Consortium. Eighteen RSLs in partnership with Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team signed-up to the Standard as part of a local Wirral RESPECT Consortium. The Standard is commitment to challenging unacceptable behaviour and promoting good behaviour. The Consortium now meets regularly to share intelligence and best practice and develop initiatives.
- Operation Safe Space launched 18/7/2007. A new partnership initiative, led by Merseyside Police, aiming to increase the use of parks and open spaces. This involved enforcement activities across hot-spot parks by the police and diversionary activities throughout the summer in multi-use games areas.
- Youth RESPECT Team appointed to Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team launched on 27/7/2007. The Team consists of youth workers and play workers with the focus of preventing and reducing ASB by young people. They are identifiable by their distinctive red jackets

**Bob Little Information, Communication & Evaluation Manager Wirral Council Wirral
Joint Community Safety Team Telephone Number: 0044(0)151 606 5444 e-mail:
boblittle@wirral.gov.uk**

Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service

Young people dig it Project



An exciting new community facility that has been designed and put together by young people at Bromborough Fire Station. Around 30 young people have put their heart and soul into a market garden which is now growing vegetables, fruit and plants and also contains a pond, wildlife area and borders.

The Dig It project was established last year after the Fire Service and South Wirral Young People's Project engaged with young people in the area to see what activities would be an alternative to hanging around the streets. They said they would like to develop a market garden where they could learn to grow vegetables and how to cook them.

Since then the young people have designed the garden, put together bids for funding and worked with contractors to develop their landscaping skills. They have also designed a community kitchen that has also been completed.

Station Manager Myles Platt said it had been fantastic to see how much the young people have developed as a result. He said: "I'm extremely impressed by them. Some of them have some challenging personal circumstances and this is a real outlet for them. It has given them a sense of responsibility and achievement. A couple have moved on and got employment and this project has helped them to do that by developing their practical and social skills."

The initiative has cost more than £50,000 and has received support from various funds and local companies. These include the Urban Green Land Initiative; Youth Opportunities Fund; Wirral Partnership Homes; Riverside Housing; Eastham Oil Refinery; Local Area Forums Community Initiatives Funds; BT It's Your Community Award; UniLever Green Machine; and Uniqema.

Merseyside Police

Your neighbourhood team:

Your Neighbourhood Inspector is Paul Harrison

Your Neighbourhood Team is: Sgt Graham Bell and Sgt Eddie Porter

Bidston and St James ,Constable Martin Ford, PCSO Lara Ledsham-Tunna and PCSO Russell Portbury

Beechwood and Balantyne estates, Constable Paul Farnworth, PSCO Matt Jones, PCSO David Egan

Nocturum and Claughton, Constable Tim Sproston, PCSO Scott Beufort-Dysart, PCSO Alan Roe

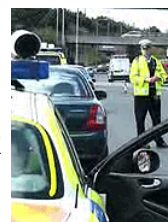
Dedicated Officers will: ,Tackle your priority issues, Tackle Anti-Social Behaviour, Deliver a premium service to victims , Engage with and educate young people through school liaison , Promote Community intelligence,

For all emergencies always call 999. For non emergencies or enquiries call 0151 709 6010. If you would like to pass information to the police anonymously then please call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

If you would like to help us and become a Police Community Volunteer, please contact Sgt Kate Roberts, our Volunteer Co-ordinator on 0151 606 5448.

To contact your Neighbourhood Dedicated Officers: Tel: 0151 709 6010. Laird Street Police Station, Laird Street, Birkenhead, CH41 7AJ. Opening hours: Monday – Friday, 10am - 6pm.

Latest road policing operation results: Police officers carried out a roads policing operation on Wirral's roads around Laird Street in Birkenhead on Thursday 12th July. The operation was carried out in partnership with Vehicle Operator Services Agency, H.M. Revenue and Customs, Department of Work and Pensions, Wirral Council Taxi Licensing Department and Highways Enforcement Department and the DVLA.



During the course of the operation: Officers stop checked 133 vehicles, 3 vehicles were seized and removed from the road, 9 Fixed penalty notices issued, 15 drivers were breathalysed with negative results, 15 vehicles were immediately prohibited from driving – 2 were given delayed prohibitions, 78 vehicles had their fuel examined, 32 taxis were examined – 2 were suspended from working and 3 were issued with condition notices and 31 vehicles checked – 1 seized for transporting waste without a license.

Wirral Primary Care Trust

Primary Care Trust (PCT) Small Grants Programme to support Community Initiatives Fund

During 2007 the PCT will be supporting the Local Authorities Community Initiatives Fund (CIF) and will allocate 5K across Bidston and Claughton Area Forum (covers St James and Noctorum). The funding will be allocated to health promoting activity, which meets the needs of local people within the area. Voluntary and Community sector groups are invited to submit applications through the current CIF application criteria. All proposals will need to meet funding limits and priorities, determined by each area forum.

The PCT Funding must address following health themes:

Wirral taste for health – improving access to healthy, affordable foods and helping people to develop shopping and cookery skills.

Wirral active – encouraging people to participate in activities that are enjoyable and health enhancing.

Smoke free Wirral – providing support for people to stop smoking and protecting children from second hand smoke.

Damage Limitation – providing diversionary activities for young people to reduce harm related to alcohol misuse.

If you feel you can support the delivery of some of the above health themes and wish to apply for funding please contact the Council Community Engagement Team on 0151 691 8650 or email : engage@wirral.gov.uk

Primary Care Practice developments update

Cavendish Medical Centre continues to explore alternative sites for re-location of their premises.

Wirral Primary Care Trust Involvement Strategy 2007 - 2010

The Primary Care Trust is currently developing its 'Involvement Strategy' which will set out its plans towards:

Involving patients: as consumers of health care services and using their views to influence Primary Care Trust commissioning and help shape current and future health services.

Involving citizens: to provide legitimacy and accountability for health policy and health care service provision decision making.

Winning hearts and minds: enabling people to take a more active role in their own health and wellbeing.

A summary version of the Involvement Strategy will be available for the public.

Wirral Primary Care Trust Commissioning Strategy 2007 – 2010

The PCT is currently developing its commissioning strategy. Further information regarding the strategy will be provided at the Forum.

The PCT would like to invite you to “Have your say”; we want to know what you think of your health service?

Wirral Primary Care Trust (PCT) is responsible for commissioning health services in Wirral. We want to know what you as a patient think of the services you have received, be it your family doctor, dentist, optician, pharmacist or community based service such as district nursing. We also want to know if you have any ideas for making services even better.

Your comments will be used to improve our services so that they continue to meet your needs and the needs of local people.

How can you submit comments to the PCT?

We aim to give all our patients and members of the public an opportunity to contact us through a variety of methods. You can go to our public web-site by clicking on to the icon on the home page, or you can place your comments on our on-line form. The following is a list of approaches you can use when contacting us to ‘Have your Say’.

- You can call in person to our PALs office at Laurie’s Centre, 136 Claughton Road, Birkenhead, Wirral CH41 6EY
- Call us on our freephone 0800 085 1547
- Write to us at FREEPOST HAVE YOUR SAY
- e-mail us at <mailto:Haveyoursay@wirralpct.nhs.uk>
- Have Your Say on line form at www.wirralpct.nhs.uk and go to home page and click on ‘Have Your Say’ document. Click on left hand side box ‘Have your say request form’ and you will then be guided through the ‘Have Your Say’ process.
- SMS text on 07781472493

What happens next?

If you provide your contact details when submitting your comments you will receive acknowledgement and if appropriate, after 21 days you will receive a formal response to your comments.

Section Four

Local Transport Update

Local Transport Plan (LTP) sets out the transport strategy for Merseyside.

The LTP is a document prepared by the five local authorities and Merseytravel.

The second LTP covers the period between 2006/2007 and 2010/2011 and contains a five year programme and a comprehensive set of performance indicators and targets.

Transport

Wrexham Bidston Electrification

The Forum will be familiar with the Local Transport Plan which sets out the transport strategy for Merseyside. The LTP is a document prepared by the 5 local authorities and Merseytravel.

The second LTP covers the period between 2006/7 and 2010/11 and contains a five year programme and a comprehensive set of performance indicators and targets.

Included within the LTP is reference to the electrification of the Wrexham Bidston rail line to link it to the existing Mersey electrics network.

The electrification of the Wrexham Bidston (Borderlands) Line involves the extension of the electrified network to all or part of the line between Bidston and Wrexham.

It also included the construction of new stations at Deeside and Woodchurch.

In 2005 consultants First Class Partnerships and Mott Mac Donald had looked at the physical infrastructure and what was needed to electrify the line.

Both considered a number of options with the Mott Mac Donald report being more detailed but indicating greater costs.

During 2006 consultants Faber Maunsells had provide Benefit Cost Ratios for a number of options.

Earlier this year (Jan 07) Neil Scales, Director General of Merseytravel attended the Streetscene and Transport Services Overview Committee to update members on the scheme and indicated that the following actions need to be taken to progress the scheme;

- (1) Further discussions with the Welsh Assembly – Neil Scales has been discussing the issues with WAG.
- (2) Clear indication of the costs of the Project with Network Rail undertaking work which would give a clearer understanding of the work that had been carried out to date using the GRIP (Guide to Rail Investment Projects) scale. They had been asked to provide an estimate of the cost of taking forward the design to a higher GRIP level. This study is currently underway.
- (3) Merseytravel would be considering this project along with other possible rail projects which would require funding through the Regional Funding Allocation process.
- (4) The development of greater costing detail was important to be able to provide a greater certainty of the Benefit Cost Ratio as the intention would be to include the project in the Regional Funding Review which was likely to take place in the next two years. This would effectively cover the English element of the funding profile.
- (5) The overall capital funding of the project if approved would however come from a combination of English and Welsh Government finance. A separate application to the Welsh Assembly would be required.
- (6) Revenue funding was a separate issue. It was likely that a revenue funding gap would exist and a means of bridging the gap would need to be identified.

Future updates will be provided to the Forum as the project progresses. If any of the area forums want more information on any aspects of the capital programme we could come along at the next round of forums in February/June 2008 a presentation if the forums think that this would be useful.

Julie Barnes, Principal Officer (Forward Planning & Strategy) Technical Services, traffic management Division, Forward Planning/travelwise. Julie Barnes@wirral.gov.uk or 0151 606 2004

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL CABINET - 28TH MARCH 2007
REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF TECHNICAL SERVICES
LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN PROGRAMME 2007/08

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 Following the announcement by the Department for Transport (DfT) in December 2006, approving a Local Transport Capital Expenditure Settlement for Wirral of £6,549,000 for 2007/08, this report sets out a draft transport capital programme in line with the Local Transport Plan (LTP) targets.

1.2 This report is identified in the Forward Plan.

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 Members will be familiar with the Local Transport Plan (LTP) for Merseyside, which sets out the transport strategy for Merseyside. The second LTP (LTP2) covers the period between 2006/07 and 2010/11 and contains a 5-year programme and a comprehensive set of performance indicators and targets.

2.2 Future funding allocations will be dependent upon the successful delivery of the LTP targets over the coming years. Therefore, it is necessary for Wirral's transport capital schemes to deliver the outcomes necessary to help meet this aim.

3.0 PROGRAMME REVIEW

3.1 The second Merseyside LTP was submitted to the Government in March 2006. LTP2 contains 41 targets – some of which are mandatory. In order to ensure that these targets are managed effectively, they are delegated between the various Merseyside LTP sub-groups. As such, the sub-groups are responsible for the targets' monitoring and reporting.

3.2 For LTP2, the Government introduced four 'shared priority' areas: Congestion, Road Safety, Accessibility and Air Quality/ Environment. Each target, and indeed each transport scheme, is likely to contribute to the delivery of more than one of these 'shared priorities', however, there is generally one that can be identified as the 'main' priority.

3.3 Consequently, the LTP programme for 2007/08 (see Appendix) is presented differently to last year. Members will note that the main budget headings reflect the four shared priorities and that the sub-headings more closely reflect the LTP2 objectives and policies. To ensure effective monitoring, each is owned by the LTP sub-group that is responsible for the respective targets.

3.4 Whilst it is essential that each of the proposals help towards meeting the delivery of the various LTP2 targets, it is evident that some schemes contribute towards a greater number of targets than others. In order to inform the funding allocations for 2007/08 consideration has been given to target delivery, however, the relative significance of each target also has to be borne in mind, along with the highway responsibilities that the authority has in terms of statutory duties.

3.5 Therefore, to assist the continued development of future transport capital programmes, a further piece of work will be undertaken over the coming months to develop an improved appraisal framework. This framework will provide a transparent process and help further improve scheme

prioritisation, whereby ensuring funding will be allocated to projects that have the most benefits for LTP2 delivery and/or statutory obligations.

- 3.6 This framework will also be applied to longer-term projects that might be introduced into the LTP process in the future. To justify future schemes, such as specific junction improvements, it will be necessary to have a clear framework upon which decisions are based. Consequently, should appraisal of a particular project, in terms of LTP delivery, not provide strong justification then the project may not receive funding prioritisation in the LTP programme and it might be necessary for alternative funding to be acquired for the project's implementation to be pursued.
- 3.7 Should Members, through the Area Forums, be aware of potential junction or transport projects that might be considered in this appraisal process, I would appreciate any suggested locations to be forwarded to me by the end of June 2007. As the success of any project will be dependent upon its appraisal against LTP criteria, I would appreciate if members would also include the reasoning for their nominations and what element(s) of the LTP strategy each project would help to deliver.

4.0 SHARED PRIORITIES, TARGETS AND SCHEMES

4.1 Congestion

4.1.1 This shared priority contains schemes and initiatives that are primarily focussed on reducing/managing levels of congestion and the negative impact of the motor vehicle, and/or promoting public transport and the effective movement of freight. This is particularly relevant in terms of the LTP Person Delay Indicator on part of the A552 corridor between Prenton and Birkenhead. This shared priority also has a supporting role to the authority's Network Management Duties under the Traffic Management Act 2004, which require highway authorities to manage and ensure the expeditious movement of traffic.

4.1.2 Measures might include:

- Strategic highway improvements
- Parking (demand) management
- Area traffic control
- Intelligent transport systems
- Bus priorities
- Park and ride schemes
- Strategic signing on freight routes.

4.1.3 The following table shows the respective LTP2 performance indicators and targets associated with congestion:

TARGET NO.	INDICATOR	LTP2 TARGET VALUE
LTP2	Change in area wide road traffic	9.2% cap on growth to 2010/11
LTP5	Bus punctuality	90% by 2012/13
LTP6	Changes in peak traffic flows to LCC (7-10a.m.)	7% cap on growth to 2010/11
LTP7	Congestion (Person Delay)	6.4% increase in traffic leading to a 4.3% increase in journey time over the life of the LTP2
BVPI 102	P.T. patronage (bus, rail)	Bus: 1% growth to 2010/11 Rail: 7.9% growth to 2010/11
BVPI 104	Satisfaction with local buses	65% by 2009/10
L1	Sustainable transport as the final mode for air passengers	12% - 2008/09, 14% - 2010/11
L2	HGV journey times on designated freight routes	Capped at 1/3 rd of increase in traffic levels
L3	Limit current number of car parking spaces in LCC	16,500 public off-street cap
L4	% of network below threshold speeds during peak periods	Monitoring only
L5	Extent of peak spreading	Monitoring only
L6	Road works coverage	Monitoring only
L7	Park & Ride usage	35% increase by 2010/11

4.2 Road Safety

4.2.1 This shared priority not only contains the more traditional types of scheme to reduce road accident casualties but also those to ensure a safe and well maintained highway asset. Road safety measures undertaken as part of the LTP strategy can also contribute to the Council's road safety stretched target.

4.2.2 Road safety schemes can be split into two principal types: Those that meet accident reduction criteria and those that are not required to meet such criteria. The former are essential Local Safety Schemes (LSS) to reduce road accident casualties and can comprise of speed reductions schemes and junction / route improvements. Non-criteria safety schemes include Safer Routes to School, street lighting and structural maintenance programmes. In order to enhance previous years' road safety programmes, a NEW budget heading of "Community Projects" has been included in the LTP capital programme for 2007/08 to fund initiatives such as "20 is Plenty" and recognise recent concerns raised by elected Members in this area.

4.2.3 The following table shows the respective LTP2 performance indicators and targets associated with road safety.

TARGET NO.	INDICATOR	LTP2 TARGET VALUE
PI 99 (X)	Total killed and seriously injured casualties	40% reduction by 2010
PI 99 (Y)	Child killed and seriously injured casualties	55% reduction by 2010
PI 99 (Z)	Total slight casualties	No change in absolute numbers to 2010
BVPI 187	Footway condition	Wirral – 18%
BVPI 223 (96)	Principle Road Condition	National survey data processing problems; DfT aware of issue & effects on target setting.
BVPI 224a (97a)	Non-Principle Classified Road Condition	Target to be set after June 2007
BVPI 224b (97b)	Unclassified Road Condition	Wirral – 4% by 2010

4.3 Accessibility

4.3.1 New to LTP2, the Access Plan sets out a strategy to ensure access health care, education and jobs and opportunities created through regeneration. It is anticipated that external funding will provide the main expenditure for this work therefore the LTP programme is relatively modest.

4.3.2 The LTP partners will:

- Pursue improved bus services
- Review the role of Demand Responsive Transport (DRT)
- Build upon the expertise of the Community Transport Sector
- Continue the TravelWise campaign
- Encourage the development of Travel Plans with businesses and schools

4.3.3 The following table shows the respective LTP2 performance indicators and targets associated with accessibility:

TARGET NO.	INDICATOR	LTP2 TARGET VALUE
LTP1	National Accessibility Indicators	Monitoring only
L8	No. of rural households within 800m of an hourly or better bus service	Minimum 95% standard to be maintained through LTP2 period
L9	No. of rail stations upgraded to meet preset standards for (a) facilities & (b) access	By 2010/11: (a) 15; (b) 5
L10	BVPI 165 (accessibility of pedestrian crossings)	Wirral – 96% by 2010/11
L11	Bus based physical access (a) % low floor vehicles (b) % near level boarding via access kerbs	(a) 88% by 2010/11 (base 35%) (b) 32% by 2010/11 (base 12%)
L12	Affordability – Index of transport usage costs	Monitoring only
L13	Accessibility – Economic impact: Accessibility of workless residents	Average 1% per annum improvement (target)

	to employment locations	developed with Job Centre Plus)
L14	Accessibility – Education: % NEET group to access post 16 establishment	Average 1% per annum improvement (target developed with Learning & Skills Centre)
L15	Crime / fear of crime on and around public transport: (a) No. of broken window incidents reported on PT (b) Proportion of people who are discouraged from PT use at night	Monitoring only

4.4 Air Quality/Environment

4.4.1 The final shared priority is to improve air quality, the quality of life and the environment. The aim of this priority area is to support sustainable travel modes to provide alternatives to the private car, including walking and cycling, as well as works to improve local environmental conditions.

4.4.2 This shared priority contains:

- Local environmental works, e.g. Home Zones and relevant junction improvements
- Walking schemes, i.e. pedestrian signals, dropped crossings and pedestrian refuges and signing
- Cycleways and cycle storage facilities

4.4.3 The following table shows the respective LTP2 performance indicators and targets associated with air quality / environment:

TARGET NO.	INDICATOR	LTP2 TARGET VALUE
LTP3	Cycling – Index of usage	10% increase by 2010/11
LTP4	Mode share of journeys to school	Due 2007
LTP8	Pollutant concentrations within AQMAs	28%, 13% and 10% reductions in emissions at receptor sites in AQMAs
L16	Estimated transport related emissions (tonnes/year) of CO, nitrogen oxides & particulate matter	Monitoring only
L17	Vehicle mileage in the AQMA or area of exceedance	7% traffic growth cap (AQMA1) and 9.2% traffic growth cap (AQMA2)
L18	Environmental standard of bus fleet (Euro111 or equivalent)	70% of fleet to meet standard by 2011 (baseline 35%)
L19	Physical Activity Indicator	Monitoring only

4.5 Transportation Planning

4.5.1 In addition to the four shared priorities above, the LTP programme contains an additional budget heading of transportation planning. Due to the constantly evolving range of demands linked to the LTP delivery, this funding stream ensures that effective forward planning can take place.

4.5.2 The type of projects under this heading include:

- Preliminary design of schemes and measures that are in the forward programme
- Acquisition of land
- Research to inform strategy development and identify future schemes.

5.0 DRAFT 2007/08 TRANSPORT CAPITAL PROGRAMME

5.1 Wirral Council's total 2007/08 Local Transport Capital Expenditure Settlement of £6,549,000 is made up as follows:

• Maintenance Block	£2,515,000
• Bromborough Pool Bridge (PRN)	£ 500,000
• Integrated Transport Block	£3,534,000
	TOTAL £6,549,000

5.2 The Maintenance block includes road, footway and bridge structural maintenance works. The Integrated Transport block covers the remaining elements of the LTP programme, including walking

and cycling, local safety schemes, highway and public transport improvements, and traffic management schemes.

5.3 The Appendix shows Wirral's draft 2007/08 programme set in the context of the LTP2 shared priorities and policy headings. For additional information, it also includes the comparable levels of funding that were approved for 2006/07.

5.4 Due to the necessary level of analysis required for some of the budget heads, I am, however, unable to provide a breakdown of all elements of the programme at this time. Therefore, I propose to bring a separate report to elected Members in the Committee cycle in May 2007 covering cycling, pedestrian improvements, road safety, school travel and structural maintenance. These block allocations are highlighted in the Appendix with an asterisk (*) as being subject to a more detailed report.

6.0 FINANCIAL AND STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Future levels of LTP funding will be dependent upon the successful delivery of the LTP programme and successful progress towards meeting the LTP2 targets. Running parallel to this, the level of funding via the LTP process is expected to reduce nationally. In terms of Wirral, it is likely that the annual LTP allocations will reduce by over £600,000 between 2007/08 and 2010/11.

6.2 Staff from my Department will continue to provide Wirral's input to the LTP and its strategic development. However, delivery of the transport capital programme will continue to have an impact on staffing requirements, particularly in the areas of work that require detailed accident analyses and public consultation prior to the scheme identification and implementation. It may be necessary, therefore, to appoint consultants to undertake certain categories of work so that I have the required flexibility to deliver the proposed programme of works.

6.3 Revenue implications – There will be increased maintenance costs or, in some instances, savings arising from specific projects. Where these arise, they will be detailed when projects are brought to Members for approval. However, it is recognised that levels of revenue funding available to the authority are not comparable to the level of capital infrastructure that is being implemented as part of the transport strategy.

7.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no specific ethnic minority, elderly persons or equal opportunities implications arising directly from this report. The transport strategy, which underpins the LTP, includes measures to assist the transport needs of all sections of the community.

7.2 In addition, the Accessibility Plan within LTP2 identifies current transport barriers to key destination across Wirral. This work will inform the identification of potential transport proposals to improve opportunities for all people.

7.3 Wirral's highway and transport proposals consider the needs of people with disabilities and impaired mobility, as set out in the Merseyside Code of Practice on Access and Mobility, which takes full account of the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995.

8.0 PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

8.1 In accordance with DfT guidelines, the LTP2 is closely aligned with the Unitary Development Plan (UDP) and other strategic and local policies, including the Regional Transport Strategy, Wirral's Tourism Strategy and local environmental, social and economic regeneration strategies.

8.2 The Merseyside authorities are currently developing a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) regarding land use and transport, which will improve linkages within the planning approvals' process. It is intended that the SPD be approved and implemented in the near future and will be reported to Members separately in due course. Members will note that the SPD was particularly noted by the

Government in the settlement letter as “indicative of forward thinking on the links between transport and planning”.

9.0 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 Most of the schemes in the Transport Capital Programme have positive Community Safety Implications, either through improvements in road safety (e.g. introducing physical changes to the highway) or improvements in personal safety (e.g. installing better street lighting).
- 9.2 LTP2 directly addresses the Government’s shared priority of road safety, which links closely with the council’s Local Performance Service Agreement (LPSA) to reduce traffic accidents.
- 9.3 Furthermore, LTP2 complements the Housing Market Renewal Initiative by helping to improve the street environment.
- 9.4 The LTP2 complements the majority of the Council’s corporate objectives, however, it is directly linked to that of ‘Improving Transport’.

10.0 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

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

11.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 Sustainability and LA21 issues are common threads running through all the transport policies.
- 11.2 Specific elements of LTP2 include:
- Sustainable Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the strategy;
 - Joint working with health authorities and the promotion of walking and cycling;
 - Reduction of transport related pollution;
 - Encouraging greater use of public transport and non-motorised modes of transport;
 - Development of Travel Plans with schools and businesses; and
 - Merseyside ‘TravelWise’ – the initiative that is specifically helping to make an important contribution to people’s behaviour change and the promotion of alternative modes of travel to the private car.

12.0 ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT

- 12.1 No background papers have been used in the preparation of this report.

13.0 LOCAL MEMBER SUPPORT IMPLICATIONS

- 13.1 The LTP contains a Wirral-wide transport strategy and implementation plan.

14.0 RECOMMENDATION That:

- (1) the transport capital programme for 2007/08 be approved;
- (2) Members inform the Director of Technical Services of potential future highway/transport schemes, for inclusion in the forthcoming appraisal framework, by the end of June 2007; and
- (3) in view of the fact that the capital allocation is valid for only one year, the Director of Technical Services, in consultation with party spokespersons, be authorised to arrange the redistribution of funding between budget heads according to the changing demands of the programme.

DAVID GREEN, DIRECTOR TECHNICAL SERVICES

Section Five

Community Initiative Fund 2007/2008 Area Forum Funding Progress Report

Every year each area forum has funding to give out to small community groups within their ward area. This funding is to help and support services that benefit the community. This section provides an update on how some of this money has been spent in this area.

Applications granted for financial year 2007/2008

All applications were assessed by a panel (see below) membership decided and approved by each of the area forums against agreed and publicised criteria, and in making their recommendations the panels referred to any local priorities set by their particular area forum.

Bidston and Claughton	2 nd July 2007	Councillor Denise Roberts, Councillor Harry Smith and Councillor George Davies Community Representatives Jean McIntosh, Pat Landsborough and Alison Moulder Advisory Officer Michelle
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Applications to Area Forums

The availability of the funding was publicised widely, including an advertisement in the Wirral Globe, publicity leaflets at Information including leisure centres, One Stop Shops and libraries etc across all of the wards and through the area forums.

Projects funded/not funded through the Bidston and Claughton forum only

SA	12	Noctorum Community Association	To place a bicycle shelter in St Peters School grounds.	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	Panel are happy to support the Noctorum Community Association, however consider that this bid did not meet the criteria as well as other bids. Panel requested the applicant to submit a bid in the next round of funding that would be better suited for the community and that would support young people.
SA	45	Wirral Scorpions JFC	To purchase new training, match, first aid equipment and sundries for the two new teams at the club.	£350.00	£0.00	£0.00	£350.00	Panel considered this to be a good project that will encourage more young people from the local area to develop their skills and improve their fitness levels, and agreed to award £350.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund.

SA	53	St James Area Regeneration Action Team (Starat) / What Allotments Need Today (Want)	To purchase a second hand steel container to secure plot holders gardening equipment and for general use.	£0.00	£93.38	£500.00	£593.38	Panel fully supported all the hard work and development carried out at the allotments, and considered this to be an excellent idea. Panel agreed to award £500.00 from the Local Agenda 21 Fund and £93.38 from the Community Safety Fund.	Jean McIntosh
SA	56	Beechwood Community Association	To purchase two computers with printers.	£1,568.00	£0.00	£0.00	£1,568.00	Panel fully support the work of the association, and consider that purchasing this equipment would improve services for all residents on the Beechwood Estate. Agreed to award £1,568.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund.	Councillor Harry Smith
SA	64	9th Birkenhead North Brownies	To contribute towards the purchase of equipment for the group.	£435.00	£0.00	£0.00	£435.00	Panel fully support the work the group does with young people and felt that the purchase of this equipment would encourage healthy activity. Awarded £435.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund.	
SA	71	Laird Street Baptist Church / Family Support Centre	To provide three disabled access ramps.	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	Panel considered this to be a good project, but felt that this amount could not be funded through the forums. Panel suggested that the applicant contact the Council's Access Officer on 0151 691 8212 for further advice on disabled access, and the possible purchase of a portable ramp - which may be a cheaper solution.	

SA	72	Birkenhead Park FC (Rugby Union)	To contribute towards the sports development programme working with young people in schools and the community and to provide equipment for new teams and activities at the club.	£1,750.00	£0.00	£0.00	£1,750.00	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to contribute £1,750.00 towards this from the Community Initiatives Fund.	Pat Landsborough
SA	102	Birkenhead St Marys Cricket Club	To contribute towards cost of repairing and adding security features to the club roof.	£565.88	£1,934.12	£500.00	£3,000.00	Panel considered this to be an excellent project and were happy to support the cricket club, with this being their first application for funding. Panel agreed to award £3,000.00 (£565.88 from the Community Initiatives Fund; £1,934.12 from the community Safety Fund and £500.00 from the local Agenda 21 Fund).	
SA	107	North Birkenhead Development Forum	To contribute towards annual community fun day at Ilchester Square Park.	£491.50	£0.00	£0.00	£491.50	Panel considered this to be a good project that will involve all residents and provide useful information to the community on local services. Agreed to award £491.50 from the Community Initiatives Fund.	
SA	118	Northenders Café Club	To provide evening activities for young people aged 9-16 years during the school holiday period.	£854.00	£0.00	£0.00	£854.00	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £854.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund.	Councillor Harry Smith, Pat Landsborough, Jean McIntosh

Projects that put requests into more than one forum for funding, including Bidston & Claughton Forum

Id		Organisation	CIF Awarded	CS Awarded	LA21 Awarded	Total Awarded
MA	36	Families need Fathers (FNF) - Wirral	£2,750.00	£0.00	£0.00	£2,750.00
MA	42	The Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre (RASA)	£1,900.00	£0.00	£0.00	£1,900.00
MA	47	Sundowns	£1,950.00	£0.00	£0.00	£1,950.00
MA	52	Wirral Festival of Music, Speech and Drama	£642.00	£0.00	£0.00	£642.00
MA	60	New Ferry Gautby Road (NFGR) Table Tennis Club	£1,167.00	£0.00	£0.00	£1,167.00
MA	77	Wirral Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB)	£4,625.00	£0.00	£0.00	£4,625.00
MA	91	Wirral Squash Development Association	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
MA	99	JoJoes Out of School Club	£1,334.00	£0.00	£0.00	£1,334.00
MA	106	North Birkenhead Development Trust	£545.00	£722.50	£0.00	£1,267.50
MA	114	Victim Support and Witness Service Merseyside	£150.00	£2,850.00	£243.00	£3,243.00
MA	121	Wirral Raynet	£0.00	£700.00	£0.00	£700.00
MA	122	PTFA Elleray Park School	£1,000.00	£0.00	£3,950.00	£4,950.00
MA	123	South Wirral Young Persons Project (Wirral Youth Service)	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
MA	126	Parkside United JFC	£566.00	£0.00	£0.00	£566.00

COMMUNITY INITIATIVE FUND

	Original Budget for 2007/08 (including carry forward from 2006/07)	Total funding agreed at panel meetings held in July 2007	Funding to be re-advertised in September 2007	Funding to be carried forward to 2008/09
Bidston and Claughton	£11,024.07	£7,964.38	£3,059.69	Nil

COMMUNITY SAFETY FUND

	Community Safety Fund Allocation (Including carry forward from 2006/07)	Total funding agreed at panel meetings held in July 2007	Funding to be re-advertised in September 2007	Funding to be carried forward to 2008/09
Bidston and Claughton	£3,000.00	£3,000.00	Nil	Nil

LOCAL AGENDA 21 FUND

	Local Agenda 21 Funding Allocation (Including carry forward from 2006/07)	Total funding agreed at panel meetings held in July 2007	Funding to be re-advertised in September 2007	Funding to be carried forward to 2008/09
Bidston and Claughton	£1,500.00	£1,500.00	Nil	Nil

Bidston and Claughton Area Forum Funding Progress Report

Received From	Project Details	Decision	Progress Report
North Birkenhead Neighbourhood Forum (NBNF)	To supply resources to the Good Food Project, for a community based horticultural initiative targeting training, education and health. The funding will be used for education of year 6 children from Bidston Avenue and Portland Schools and open age for the children of Kilgarth.	Forum considered this to be a good project that fits with the priorities in its area plan, and agreed to award £500.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund.	In 2006 the children from Portland School have visited the allotment site and sown vegetable seeds and have since potted them on. The funding was used to purchase plastic greenhouses, gardening equipment and seeds. We have had very positive feedback from the children, school and the parents for this worthwhile project.
Ridgeway Morris Dancers	To extend current group to include the Bidston and Birkenhead area.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to contribute £500.00 towards this from the Community Initiatives Fund.	We are extremely grateful for the funding, which was used towards costs on new costumes.
Beechwood Joint Management Committee	To replace damaged flooring in toilets and art room.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to contribute £1,000.00 towards this from the Community Initiatives Fund.	As a result of the funding the centre has been able to replace damaged flooring in the boys and girls toilets and art room, enabling us to meet health and safety targets. These improvements will provide a more pleasant environment for our current users and enable us to market the venue to prospective users

Received From	Project Details	Decision	Progress Report
Laird Street Baptist / Family Support Centre	To provide a new path.	Panel considered this to be a good project, and agreed to contribute £2,000.00 towards this from the Community Initiatives Fund.	The tarmac path has been laid and completed along the side of the
Victim Support & Witness Service Merseyside	To train / recruit 15 volunteers to work with children and their families who are affected by crime in their local area, and to cover volunteer's travel expenses.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £218.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund.	The grant enabled us to recruit and train 15 volunteers to deliver services to children and their families affected by crime (over 900 families across Wirral and 97 in this forum area).
Birkenhead Park FC (Rugby	To continue the Birkenhead Park FC Regeneration Project, specifically the promotion of the Birkenhead area as a sports hub for the local population.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to contribute £2,000.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund.	The construction of the new facilities continues and the new all weather pitch has attracted considerable use from a wide variety of users from the community. The new multi purpose community room will enable us to offer a range of indoor activities.

Section Six

Local Area Forum Plan Update

The area forum plan is a useful tool for everyone who has an interest in improving the local area as it will not only provide area forum members with a work programme of actions to be addressed, but will also ensure that local people have a means of monitoring the impact and progress of the area forum and the difference it is making to quality of life in the area.

Area forum plans form part of a much wider agenda for improving local services across the whole of Wirral and will influence the work of the local strategic partnership and the ongoing development of Wirral's local area agreement.

This section provides an update on some of the issues that have been resolved for this area forum.

CABINET – 20 JUNE 2007 REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF TECHNICAL SERVICES

ROAD SAFETY

The Local Transport Capital Programme, which was considered and approved by Cabinet on 28th March 2007, sets out project details relating to proposed schemes within the areas of road safety, school travel, structural road maintenance, walking and cycling.

The Local Transport Plan (LTP) for Merseyside, which sets out the transport strategy for Merseyside. The second LTP (LTP2) covers the period between 2006/07 and 2010/11 and contains a five year programme and a comprehensive set of performance indicators and targets

On 28th March 2007, Cabinet approved the report (Minute 310) on the Local Transport Plan (LTP) Programme described how, in accordance with Government guidance, the new LTP is constructed to relate to four “shared priorities” – Road Safety, Congestion, Accessibility and Air Quality/Environment.

Consequently, the LTP programme for 2007/08 has been revised to match these priorities and more effectively reflect LTP objectives and policy areas.

This shared priority contains the more traditional types of scheme to reduce road accident casualties as well as those to ensure a safe and well-maintained highway asset. Road safety measures undertaken as part of the LTP strategy can also contribute to the Council’s road safety stretched target

WALKING AND CYCLING

The following programmes comprising of pedestrian signal controlled crossings, dropped kerb crossings, pedestrian refuges, pedestrian signing and public rights of way, are proposed to encourage walking through better environments where it safe and attractive to walking

The Walking Strategy deals with the following specific programmes and recommends works/allocations for each of the following headings:-

	<u>Allocation</u>
Pedestrian Signals	£140,000
Walking/Pedestrian Dropped Crossing	£26,000
Pedestrian Central Refuges	£26,000
Signing for Pedestrians	£10,000
Public Rights of Way	£15,000

	£217,000

Area Forum – Heswall, Pensby, & Thingwall	£16,300
Area Forum - Bromborough & Eastham	£16,300

Further details of this report will be included in the Bidston and Claughton Area Forum Plan for 07/08. Please contact Michelle Gray on 0151 691 8213 or email michellegray@wirral.gov.uk for more information.

Section Seven

Streetscene Update

Wirral Council's Streetscene department is the main point of contact for people wishing to report issues affecting their area such as recycling, condition of roads, street lighting etc.

This section provides a report on the recent activities carried by the Streetscene department.

Residents Parking Zones The Residents' Parking Zones consultations for seven pilot areas have been completed. The seven areas were:

- **Atherton Street area, New Brighton** – near to New Brighton train station and a small number of businesses.
- **Alexandra Road area, West Kirby** – Near to boating lake, beach, shops and Coronation Gardens.
- **Grasmere Drive area, Wallasey** – Just outside of Liscard resident parking scheme. Near to local shops.
- **Barnston Lane area, Moreton** – To the north of an existing small scheme. Within Moreton town centre where there is generally low provision for commercial off-street parking.
- **Probyn Road/Ponsonby Road, Wallasey Village** – Near to train station.
- **Acacia Grove area, West Kirby** – Mixed residential/commercial use, close to train station, shopping centre and leisure areas.
- **Brookfield Road/Brookfield Gardens, West Kirby** – primarily residential with displaced parking related to nearby businesses and train station.

The findings of the consultation were recently reported to Wirral Council's Cabinet. The resolution is that Residents' Parking WILL NOT be implemented in the 7 pilot areas as the majority of residents involved did not want the schemes. Wirral Council will now write to all those involved.

In future, people will refer to their Area Forum Coordinator to request a Residents' Parking Scheme. Area Forum Coordinators will be provided with information in time for the next meetings. (Not October's meetings)

School children win road safety prize: In conjunction with Merseyside Police and Radio City, Wirral Council have presented a £1000 prize to Rock Ferry High School for their outstanding entry in our Road Safety video competition. Pupils from Wallasey School, Park High School, Rock Ferry High School, and Woodchurch High School scripted, directed, filmed and edited videos, aimed at getting road safety messages across to other young people.

All of the films were excellent and we couldn't possibly pick the winner - so we gave the opportunity to Wirral's young people to vote online for their favourite video, and Wallasey were the clear winners. The videos can still be viewed online on Radio City's website www.radiocity.co.uk/roadsafety

Traffic Safety Schemes – the following safety schemes have recently been completed:

- St. Peters Way, Noctorum - 20mph/Traffic Calming Scheme
- Portsunlight Train Station to Clatterbridge Hospital - Cycle Route (including 3 Toucan Crossings :- Brimstage Road, Bebington, Church Road, Bebington, Bromborough Road, Bebington)
- Arrove Park - Ambulance Priority Scheme (substantially complete)
- Hoylake Road nr. Danger Lane, Moreton- Puffin Crossing
- Townfield Lane, Oxton- Puffin Crossing (substantially complete)

Puffin Crossings have been proposed at the following locations:

- Hoylake Road / Stuart Avenue, Moreton - Conversion of existing zebra crossing, 13m West of its junction with Stuart Avenue
- Laird Street / Miriam Place, Brikenhead - 8m North-West of its junction with Miriam Place

- Irby Road / Fishers Lane, Pensby - Conversion of existing pedestrian refuge, 29m North of its junction with Fishers Lane
- Townfield Lane / Calverly Close, Oxton - 60m West of its junction with Calverly Close
- Eastham Rake / Plymyard Avenue, Eastham - 16m South-West of its junction with Plymyard Avenue

Recycling update: All Wirral Residents' should have recently seen a "Recycling Update" wrapped around the Wirral Globe Newspaper. To re-cap:

Grey bins – recycling: Since the roll out of the grey recycling bin across Wirral, the recycling rates for the borough have rocketed! The latest figures show that approximately 32% of Wirral's waste is being recycled, as opposed to 12% this time last year.

Grey bins have been rolled out gradually over the last 9 months and now 95% of properties are on the scheme. Those who live in flats or multiple occupancy housing will be joining the scheme soon. The grey bin is for plastic bottles, glass bottles, jars, cans and tins, paper and card and other dry recyclables. Whilst food waste, plastic bags, plastic containers, foil and textiles go in the green bin as normal, and garden waste goes in the brown bin.

Message from Director of Technical Services: "I would like to thank all the residents of Wirral for their support and participation so far. I am aware that there were teething problems to begin with, as all major changes take time to get used to, but now the system is working excellently and our latest recycling figures prove that."

Also, certain households who received their grey bins very early on in the scheme will be receiving literature very shortly, informing them that there has been a slight change in what they can put in their grey bin. As they were the first to get the bins, it was thought that the MRF recycling facility at Bidston would be able to process foil and certain plastic containers. However, foil and certain plastic containers such as yogurt pots are not able to be separated from the other materials very well. They tend to end up in the paper stream which increases the risk of the paper bails being rejected from the mill that finally recycle the paper. Therefore the only form of plastic that we can accept in the grey bin is all types of plastic bottles. All other kinds of plastic can not be recycled in your grey bin scheme. Neither can foil, or foil lids.

Brown bins – garden waste: 17,000 Wirral Households were taking part in a combined food and garden waste brown bin pilot. People on this pilot will have originally received a small brown kitchen caddy, along with their brown bin, and instructions about how food waste and garden waste could be put in the brown bin. These households will have recently received information telling them that the pilot scheme has now finished, and that brown bins will be for garden waste only from now on.

The pilot has concluded that is it better to collect garden waste only in our brown bins. This is because processing a combined collection of food and garden waste is a complicated and expensive way of collecting organic waste. If successful it could have helped reduce the amount of organic waste sent to landfill and increased Wirral's recycling rate. Unfortunately, due to a combination of the following factors, the scheme hasn't helped us to reach these targets:

- The composting units have struggled to maintain consistency with the biological reaction necessary for this type of enclosed composting.
- We've actually received very little food waste from residents as a whole, which meant the scheme was not cost-effective.

- Residents had concerns over putting food waste directly into a bin without wrapping.

Due to the above issues, the Council did not receive the benefit it expected in terms of weight of recycling, and now plans to reassess food recycling. There are many new options available, but these depend on facilities offered by Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority, with whom we are working to research and develop the best options.

Home Composters: We are offering low cost composters to Wirral households, in conjunction with Recycle Now. Up to a third of an average household bin can be composted. Items such as fruit and veg peelings, shredded paper, teabags, flowers and cardboard egg boxes can be easily composted at home.

www.recyclenow.com/compost 0845 077 0757

Footway works completed: Wakefield Drive, Leasowe, The Laund, Wallasey Derwent Drive, Liscard, Dalmorton Road (part) New Brighton (in progress), awarden Avenue, Liscard, Bassenthwaite Avenue, Claughton, Nursury Close, Oxton (in progress), Well Lane, Bebington, Riviera Drive, Rock Ferry.

Future footway works planned: Upton Road (part) Claughton, Grafton Street (part) Birkenhead, Burlingham Avenue, West Kirby, Fieldway, Bebington, Croxteth Avenue, Liscard, Sussex Close, Pensby & Thingwall, Hillfield Drive, Pensby & Thingwall, Mere Farm Grove, Oxton, Lord Street (part) Birkenhead, Chester Street (part) Birkenhead, Downham Road (part) Birkenhead, Oak Road, Bebington, Reedville Road, Bebington, Richardson Road, Rock Ferry

Carriageway resurfacing completed: Sherlock Lane, Poulton, Brompton Avenue, Wallasey, Haydock Road, New Brighton Chadwick Street, Moreton, Wharfedale Road, Wallasey, Aysgarth Road, Wallasey, The Laund, Wallasey, Perrin Road. Wallasey, Acres Road, Bebington, Richmond Close, Bebington, Devonshire Road (part) Birkenhead, Townsend/Challis/Curlender Road, Bidston, Bedford Road (part) Rock Ferry, New Chester Road (part) Rock Ferry Bridge Street, (part) Birkenhead, Argyle Street, (part) Birkenhead, Mount Road (part) Bebington.

Carriageway resurfacing planned: Raby Mere Road (part) Clatterbridge, Derwent Drive, Liscard, Neville Road, Bromborough, Dibbins Hey (part), Clatterbridge, Wirral Mount, Clatterbridge, Patterdale Road, Clatterbridge, Bassenthwaite Avenue, Claughton, Laburnum Road, New Brighton, Sandheys Road, New Brighton, Mount Road (access link to hospital entrance) Clatterbridge, Telegraph Road/Pensby Road, Heswall, Dock Road, Seacombe (part).

Carriageway Retread sites completed:

WESTBANK ROAD
WILLAN STREET
BRIMSTAGE LANE
KNOWSLEY ROAD/VICTORIA DRIVE
WILLOWBROW ROAD
THINGWALL ROAD SERVICE ROAD HSE 51 - 77
CALDWELL DRIVE
MEADOW CRESCENT
FLAXHILL
BLACKHEATH DRIVE
WILKES AVENUE
HALSBURY/WOBURN ROAD
ALLERTON GROVE
HALDANE ROAD

PRENTON
OXTON
CLATTERBRIDGE
ROCK FERRY
CLATTERBRIDGE
PENSBY & THINGWALL
UPTON
UPTON
MORETON WEST & sm
LEASOWE
LEASOWE
NEW BRIGHTON
BIRKENHEAD & TRANMERE
CLAUGHTON

Carriageway Retread sites programmed:

GRANT ROAD
MACKENZIE ROAD

LEASOWE
LEASOWE

HARVEST LANE
DEVONSHIRE ROAD

MORETON
WEST KIRBY

Carriageway Surface Treatment sites completed (or due to be completed within the next 2-3 weeks)

TEEHY CLOSE
NAPIER ROAD
INGLEBY ROAD
WOODFORD ROAD
BRILL STREET
NEWLING STREET
TRINITY STREET
ABERDEEN STREET
CRAVEN STREET
RODNEY STREET
HELENA STREET
FOX STREET
BRASSEY STREET
RABY DRIVE/RABY AVE
STATION ROAD (PART)
GOTHAM ROAD
GRANBY CRESCENT
SILSTON CLOSE
ORSTON CRESCENT
ELTON DRIVE
RADFORD AVENUE
BRADDEN CLOSE
BENTY HEATH LANE (PART)
RIDGEVIEW ROAD
MANOR HILL
HEATHER BROW
LYNDHURST/DAWLISH/GREENHEYS/SOUTH ROAD
WOODLANDS ROAD
DRAYTON CLOSE
PORTO HEY ROAD
SOUTH HEY ROAD
SHAWS DRIVE
WHITEHEATH WAY
GREENHEATH WAY
BLACKHEATH DRIVE
CARTMEL DRIVE
SEAFORTH DRIVE
SHEEN ROAD
RATHMORE ROAD
BARKER ROAD
PORTAL ROAD
CUMBERLAND/CALDER/BOWNESS
COLLEGE DRIVE
NORTHBROOKE/DOMVILLE
KILN ROAD
ROBIN WAY
BRIDGE FARM CLOSE
GLEBE HEY ROAD
BIG MEADOW ROAD
MONKSWAY
FLECK LANE
LYNDHURST ROAD

BEBINGTON
BROMBOROUGH
BROMBOROUGH
BROMBOROUGH
BIDSTON & ST JAMES
BIRKENHEAD
BIRKENHEAD
BIRKENHEAD
BIRKENHEAD
BIRKENHEAD
BIRKENHEAD
BIRKENHEAD
BIDSTON & ST JAMES
CLATTERBRIDGE
CLATTERBRIDGE
CLATTERBRIDGE
CLATTERBRIDGE
CLATTERBRIDGE
CLATTERBRIDGE
CLATTERBRIDGE
CLATTERBRIDGE
CLATTERBRIDGE
CLAUGHTON
CLAUGHTON
CLAUGHTON
GREASBY,FRANKBY & IRBY
GREASBY,FRANKBY & IRBY
GREASBY,FRANKBY & IRBY
GREASBY,FRANKBY & IRBY
GREASBY,FRANKBY & IRBY
HOYLAKE & MEOLS
LEASOWE
LEASOWE
LEASOWE
MORETON WEST & SM
MORETON WEST & SM
NEW BRIGHTON
OXTON
PENSBY & THINGWALL
PENSBY & THINGWALL
PRENTON
ROCK FERRY
UPTON
UPTON
UPTON
UPTON
UPTON
UPTON
WEST KIRBY & THURSTASTON
WEST KIRBY & THURSTASTON
WALLASEY

Carriageway Surface Treatment sites programmed: Vyner Road North, Bidston & St James, Wroxham Way, Upton, Seabank Road (part) Liscard

Footway Surface Treatment sites completed (or due to be completed within next 2-3 weeks)

RUSSELL STREET
CRAVEN STREET
RODNEY STREET
HELENA STREET
FOX STREET
KNOWLES STREET
JULIET AVE
PORTIA AVE
MIRANDA AVE

BIRKENHEAD
BIRKENHEAD
BIRKENHEAD
BIRKENHEAD
BIRKENHEAD
BIRKENHEAD
BEBINGTON
BEBINGTON
BEBINGTON

CRESSIDA AVE
BEATRICE AVE
ROSALIND AVE
NAPIER ROAD
NEW FERRY ROAD
INGLEBY ROAD
CECIL ROAD
BEVERLEY ROAD
SHOREFIELDS
APSLEY AVENUE
DEARNFORD AVE
DEARNFORD CLOSE
BRINLEY CLOSE
BRONINGTON AVE
SPRINGHILL AVE
REDBROOK CLOSE
MILLERSDALE CLOSE
WHARFDALE AVE
DARLEYDALE DRIVE
MALLOWDALE CLOSE
WENSLEYDALE AVE
EDALE CLOSE
SWALEDALE CLOSE
LYNDHURST/DAWLISH/GREENHEYS/SOUTH ROAD
WOODLANDS ROAD
DOWNHAM DRIVE
SHAWS DRIVE
WILKES AVE
FLAXHILL
HARVEST LANE
CARTMEL DRIVE
SEAFORTH DRIVE
HOLLAND ROAD
BARKER ROAD
THINGWALL DRIVE
DEMESNE ST& BORO ROAD EASTSEACOMBE
RANKIN STREET
LIMEKILN LANE
BIG MEADOW ROAD
NORTHBROOKE /DOMVILLE ROADUPTON
HILLSIDE ROAD
FLECK LANE
DEVONSHIRE ROAD
KIRBY PARK

BEBINGTON
BEBINGTON
BEBINGTON
BROMBOROUGH
BROMBOROUGH
BROMBOROUGH
BROMBOROUGH
BROMBOROUGH
BROMBOROUGH
BROMBOROUGH
EASTHAM
EASTHAM
EASTHAM
EASTHAM
EASTHAM
EASTHAM
EASTHAM
EASTHAM
EASTHAM
EASTHAM
EASTHAM
GREASBY, FRANKBY & IRBY
GREASBY,FRANKBY & IRBY
HESWALL
HOYLAKE & MEOLS
LEASOWE & MORETON EAST
MORETON WEST & SM
MORETON WEST & SM
MORETON WEST & SM
MORETON WEST & SM
NEW BRIGHTON
PENSBY & THINGWALL
PENSBY & THINGWALL

SEACOMBE
SEACOMBE
UPTON

WEST KIRBY & THURSTASTON
WEST KIRBY & THURSTASTON
WEST KIRBY
WEST KIRBY

Section Eight

Equalities & Diversity

The Equality Standard for Local Government (ESLG) provides a framework for local authorities to deliver continuous improvement in relation to fair employment and equal access to services.

The standard has six strands or pillars:

- Race
- Disability
- Gender
- Age
- Sexual Orientation
- Religion or belief

New equality and diversity policy and strategy for Wirral Council

The Equality Standard for Local Government (ESLG) provides a framework for local authorities to deliver continuous improvement in relation to fair employment and equal access to services.

The standard has six strands or pillars and these are: Race, Disability, Gender, Age, Sexual Orientation and Religion or belief

Wirral has a new equality and diversity policy which sets out the council's commitment to fair employment and equitable service delivery and includes detailed statements in relation to all six strands of the equality standard. It also sets out the legislative framework within all local authorities must operate.

The council currently has a statutory duty to produce schemes which address any negative impact in respect of race, disability and gender, all of which can be found on the Council's website.

Main site www.wirral.gov.uk
or use the following link http://10.107.1.50/Personnel/EO_Policy.htm

Alongside its new equality and diversity policy, Wirral has introduced an equality and diversity strategy. The strategy recognises that Wirral has particular challenges in relation to this area of work, and that the council must work at all levels to progress this important agenda.

The authority has mechanisms to ensure all departments regularly discuss equalities. There is, for example, a cross-cutting corporate group which meets regularly to assess the progress of departments through the equality agenda. In this way the council works to address any areas of weaknesses in employment practice or service delivery.

Council staff diversity forums go from strength to strength

An employee diversity forum has long been established within the council. This group consists of staff from across the local authority and brings together issues relating to the six strands of the equality standard.

The group meets regularly before the council's corporate group, in order for the forum's views to inform strategic discussions. For more information about the employee diversity forum please contact Steve Russell (Chair) on 0151 691 8656 or email steverussell@wirral.gov.uk

More recently, two further staff diversity forums have been set up specifically designed to align to a particular strand, the gender diversity forum (women's group), and disability diversity forum.

The gender diversity forum has met twice since their inaugural meeting in May with the next meeting scheduled for 19th September. The focus of this meeting will include agile working and transforming working practices to meet the future and addressing the gender imbalance within the top 5% of staff within the Council.

For more information please contact Christina Bebbington (temporary Chair) on 0151 691 8063. or email christinabebbington@wirral.gov.uk

The disability diversity forum has met three times since their inaugural meeting in May discussions have included terms of reference for the group and discussing council communications aimed at raising awareness about the reasonable adjustments to which people with disabilities are entitled.

For more information please contact Ged Smyth (temporary Chair) on 0151 691 8217 or email gedsmyth@wirral.gov.uk

If you are interested in finding out more about what the council is doing about equality and diversity please visit the council's website where you can also have your say.

Wirral Black and Racial Minority Partnership established

The Wirral Black and Racial Minority Partnership (WBRMP) held its inaugural meeting on the 18th July 2007.

The aim of the WBRMP is to provide Wirral Black and Racial Minority communities with a co-ordinated voice to enable them to become more involved in local issues that affect their lives.

The Partnership has recently agreed its constitution and appointed officers. Presently, they are being supported by the Wirral Voluntary and Community Sector Network, Community Engagement Team at Bebbington CVS.

The Partnership is hoping to hold their official launch on 3rd October this year in The Laurie's Centre.

Current members of the Partnership include; Wirral African and Caribbean Community Voice, Wirral Cultural Diversity Group, Irish Community Care, Wirral Change, Wirral Sikh Association amongst others.

If you are interested in the work of the Partnership or wish to join please contact Julie Johnson or Karen Livesey 0151 645 4038.

Mayoral reception for Wirral's leading BME community members

The Mayor of Wirral, Councillor Phil Gilchrist, held a reception for Wirral's leading BME community members at on 6th September in the Round Room, Wallasey Town Hall.

The council recognises the growing diversity in Wirral and wanted to provide a forum to meet with those who represent both the established and the emerging minority communities.

Although informal, the reception offered an opportunity to discuss any issues that are of concern and a selection of senior council officers were in attendance.