



Council

Town Hall
Wallasey

11 March 2016

Dear Councillor

This supplement for the Council meeting to be held at **6.00 pm on Monday, 14 March 2016** in the Council Chamber, within the Town Hall, Wallasey, should be read in conjunction with the Council Summons dated 4 March, 2016

Contact Officer: Lyndzay Roberts
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AGENDA SUPPLEMENT

5. MINUTES (Pages 1 - 32)

To approve the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 3 March 2016

7. MATTERS REQUIRING APPROVAL BY THE COUNCIL (Pages 33 - 76)

To consider any recommendations of the Leader, Cabinet, Cabinet Member and Committees which require the approval of the Council. The relevant minutes are attached; copies of the related reports can be provided for Council members on request.

C. Enforcement Policy – Scheme of Delegation (Pages 33-34)

The Cabinet Minute 112 (7 March, 2016) is now attached.

**D. Employment and Appointments Committee Term Reference
(Pages 35 -42)**

The report to Cabinet and Minute 106 (7 March, 2016) is attached and the Council is recommended to approved the revised Terms of Reference.

**E. Quarter 3 Corporate Plan Performance Management Report
(Pages 43-54)**

The report to Cabinet and Minute 107 (7 March, 2016) is attached and the Council is recommended to note the report.

**F. Draft Calendar of Meetings for the 2016/17 Municipal Year
(Pages 55-76)**

The report to Cabinet and Minute 111 (7 March, 2016) is attached and the Council is recommended to approve the Draft Calendar.

10. NOTICES OF MOTION (Pages 77 - 82)

The Council is requested to consider amendments to Notices of Motion submitted in accordance with Standing Order 12(1) and (9).

11. VACANCIES

To receive nominations, in accordance with Standing Order 25(6), in respect of any proposed changes in the membership of committees, and to approve nominations for appointments to outside organisations.

Outside Bodies

The West Kirby Charity

- Victoria Gawith (to be appointed until 18 April, 2019)
- Councillor Geoffrey Watt (to be reappointed until 26 April, 2020)



Head of Legal and Member Services

COUNCIL

Thursday, 3 March 2016

Present: The Civic Mayor (Councillor Les Rowlands) in the Chair
Deputy Civic Mayor (Councillor Pat Hackett)

Councillors	RL Abbey	P Gilchrist	D Realey
	T Anderson	JE Green	L Reecejones
	B Berry	P Hayes	L Rennie
	C Blakeley	K Hodson	D Roberts
	E Boulton	T Johnson	J Salter
	A Brighthouse	AER Jones	T Smith
	P Brightmore	C Jones	W Smith
	D Burgess-Joyce	B Kenny	C Spriggs
	C Carubia	A Leech	J Stapleton
	P Cleary	AR McLachlan	M Sullivan
	W Clements	M McLaughlin	A Sykes
	M Daniel	C Meaden	J Walsh
	A Davies	D Mitchell	G Watt
	G Davies	B Mooney	S Whittingham
	P Davies	C Muspratt	J Williamson
	WJ Davies	S Niblock	I Williams
	P Doughty	T Norbury	KJ Williams
	D Elderton	M Patrick	S Williams
	G Ellis	T Pilgrim	
	S Foulkes	C Povall	

98 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Civic Mayor noted that apologies were received from Councillors Jim Crabtree, Leah Fraser, Robert Gregson, John Hale, Andrew Hodson and Pat Williams.

In relation to Councillor Pat Williams, the Civic Mayor on behalf of the Council wished her a speedy recovery.

RESOLVED:

That the Council's best wishes for a speedy recovery be extended to Councillor Pat Williams.

99 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST / RESTRICTIONS ON VOTING

Councillor Jeff Green declared a Personal Interest in Item No. 6 – Council Budget (in relation to the Schools Budget) by virtue of his Wife's employment.

100 **CIVIC MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Civic Mayor indicated that this was the Budget Council meeting and he understood that feelings would be running high but asked Members to be respectful and indicated that he would not tolerate personal attacks and comments and that he would interject if it was needed.

101 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 14 December 2015 had been circulated to Members and, it was –

Resolved – That the minutes be approved and adopted as a correct record.

102 **PETITIONS (PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 5(2)(D) COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES)**

A. In accordance with Standing Order 21, the Mayor received petitions submitted by –

- (i) Councillor Phil Gilchrist on behalf of 20 signatories, regarding parking issues in Mendell Close
- (ii) David Halley on behalf of 1180 signatories, opposing the proposed closure of Girtrell Court.

B. The following petitions were referred to the Council in accordance with Standing Order 34 (1), having exceeded the threshold of 1500 signatures to trigger a Council debate, in accordance with the Petition Scheme –

- (i) A petition of 3,195 signatures, submitted by Wirral Change, opposing the proposal to decommission the BME Health Improvement Service as part of the budget savings option.

Prior to the Council meeting, notification had been received from the lead petitioner of their intent to withdraw the petition.

- (ii) A petition of 3,054 signatures, submitted by Wirral UNISON opposing the proposed closure of Girtrell Court Respite Home for People with Learning and/or Physical Disabilities, as part of budget savings options.

Paddy Cleary, UNISON, addressed the Council on behalf of the petitioners.

On a motion by the Civic Mayor, seconded by Councillor P Davies, it was then

RESOLVED:

That Mr Paddy Cleary be thanked for his presentation and that his petition along with the petition submitted by Mr Halley be noted and considered during the course of the debate on the Council Budget 2015/2016.

103 COUNCIL BUDGET

In accordance with the agreed Budget Council Procedure, as amended, the Leader of the Council, Councillor Phil Davies, moved the Cabinet's recommended Budget to Council set out in Cabinet Minute 99 from the 22 February 2016, duly seconded by Councillor Ann McLachlan (Deputy Leader)

(i) Minute 99 (Cabinet – 22 February 2016) Council Budget

RESOLVED:

That the following Budget Resolution be agreed and recommended to Budget Council:

BUDGET RESOLUTION 2016/17

Cabinet notes the following:

NATIONAL CONTEXT

1. The 2016/17 Budget is being prepared against the most difficult financial backdrop this Council has ever faced. Local government is under attack from the Conservative's austerity agenda. We believe their vision is of a country where residents in every borough are left to fend for themselves.
2. Their policy of removing the Local Government Revenue Support Grant in its entirety is, in the opinion of this Cabinet, akin to the Government telling every Wirral resident – "don't call us, you're on your own".
3. We believe this policy makes a mockery of the Conservative election campaign slogan "We're all in this together". It shows no understanding of, nor concern for, the plight of those for whom local services are an important and often vital part of life. Those who rely on carers, are looking for safe affordable housing, value our libraries and leisure centres, or enjoy our parks and beaches. Rather than bringing us closer together, this Cabinet contends that this policy simply widens the gap between the rich and the poor.
4. Conservative Council leaders across the country, seemingly fearful of the electoral backlash in May, warned the Government of the danger of its actions. Even backbench Tory MP's spoke about their unease with

this policy. The Prime Minister's own mother joined the protest at the cuts to local grants in her community.

5. It is worth noting, however, no such concern or support came from the Conservatives in Wirral: no campaign, petition or lobby from them – it's always somebody else's responsibility to clean up their mess and the irresponsible £17million overspend we inherited.
6. The Government did indeed respond to the outcry from across the political spectrum, but in a way that only further proved to this Cabinet how indifferent to the needs of the country they really are. The Government announced a £300 million Transitional Fund sweetener – in the words of the minister – *“To help Councils transform from dependence on central government grants to greater financial autonomy”* - but almost exclusively targeted it at Conservative-run Councils, including those containing Mr Cameron's seat in Oxfordshire and the Chancellor's constituency in Cheshire East.
7. Where is Wirral's share? Where is the estimated £2million per year that Wirral should have been entitled to, based on other funding formulas? Where is the money that could have gone towards tackling anti-social behaviour, improving skills and training for our young people, money to support vital services? Cabinet has received no support or heard of no concern from the local Conservative party to challenge this Government policy and support local residents.
8. The funding shortfall for local services will be compounded by the changes proposed for Business Rates. While Westminster and other London Councils can raise business rates from Global PLC's, Banks and Hedge Funds headquartered in their boroughs, the impact on predominantly northern or rural boroughs is frightening. If the government goes ahead with its plan to stop providing additional funding to balance the different levels of business activity across England, it is estimated Wirral could lose a further £6m as a result of this change.

THE WIRRAL CHALLENGE

9. The immediate picture for local government is also challenging. Wirral is required to reduce its spending by at least £129 million before 2020, including a £28 million funding shortfall for the coming year (2016/17). These funding cuts to Wirral come at a time of increasing service demands from an ageing population, complex needs for deprived communities and an increase in costs of providing the services and support which people rely on.

10. Cabinet believes these reductions to be both unfair and unsustainable.
11. However, as residents know, we are a responsible Administration. We refuse to allow this Government to break the services our residents care about and rely on. We are pragmatic, and are able to make the difficult decisions needed to protect the most vulnerable and to deliver the 20 Pledges we committed to in our Wirral Plan.
12. We will continue to lobby government in the strongest possible terms to reverse these policies and to fight for Wirral's fair share and treatment. Once again I call on Elected Members from all parties in Wirral to join me in this effort.

A COLLABORATIVE BUDGET

13. Cabinet will never set its budget in isolation. Time and again we have demonstrated we are an open, progressive Administration who listens.
14. We have listened to residents about what they value most. Once again this Council delivered the most far-reaching consultation and engagement exercise of any authority in the UK, with more than 10,000 local people engaging with us to share their views.
15. Cabinet thanks every resident and organisation who took part in this consultation. We have carefully considered all the responses and feedback we have received.
16. Cabinet also thanks Elected Members – of all parties – who took part in the comprehensive scrutiny process to look in detail at the budget proposals. The feedback from that process has been provided to Cabinet and has proved extremely helpful in making these difficult decisions.

MEETING OUR PLEDGES

17. Regardless of the scale of Conservative Government cuts to this Council's budget, we are a Labour Administration and our budget will be set in a pragmatic and legal framework, with social justice and fairness at its heart. Three core principles have been used to inform our budget, and ensure we make the savings required of us while still achieving the 20 Pledges we have committed to:
 - The vulnerable are safe and protected and we tackle inequality.
 - Wirral is a place where employers want to invest and businesses thrive.

- We have an attractive and sustainable environment, where good health and an excellent quality of life is enjoyed by everyone who lives here.
18. In July 2015, when we launched the Wirral Plan and the 20 Pledges we will deliver over the next five years, we immediately set to work on making them a reality. We have published our first Annual Report, and I am proud of the achievements highlighted in it - £150million in inward investment coming online during 2016, nearly a thousand new jobs, and 230 new homes built or improved already. We have also created a new Local Authority Trading Company, Wirral Evolutions, to deliver Day Services for adults and developed a joint company – Edsential – with Cheshire West and Chester Council to deliver services to schools such as catering, cleaning and school improvement.
 19. There is still more to be done, but we have made a good start towards meeting our 20 Pledges to improve the health, wealth and quality of life enjoyed by Wirral residents.
 20. In 2016/17 - this Council will invest more than £260 million into improving residents' lives – protecting the vulnerable, improving our environment and encouraging growth.
 21. More than £70million will be spent supporting our elderly and disabled residents. Our pledge to support people to live independently will see us invest £5 million into providing high-quality, extra care housing options in Wirral. Extra care homes allow our elderly, frail and vulnerable residents to live with dignity and independence while still having the additional support and care they need.
 22. We will also invest more than £70 million into protecting our young people; keeping them safe and ensuring they can aim for and achieve higher goals. Already this year we have supported 200 more Wirral families looking to become foster carers for the 700 children living in care in the borough. We are taking an innovative approach to making sure our young people have world-class sports and recreation facilities through the new Youth Zone, a £6 million partnership project between the Council and the private sector which is under construction as we speak.
 23. We also know residents expect to be safe, and feel safe. In some parts of the borough, community safety and anti-social behaviour remains a blight on people's lives. We will continue to invest more than £2 million to clamp down on this abhorrent behaviour. This money will be targeted where our resources and those of our partners will have the

biggest impact – pooling resources and putting our Anti-Social Behaviour teams under a single command structure led by the Police.

24. We will be investing around £50 million into making sure Wirral's environment remains a source of great pride for our residents. This will also enable Wirral to play its part in tackling climate change. A renewed drive to increase our recycling rates will continue, we will capitalise on the huge cultural, social and health benefits offered by our fantastic parks and we will continue to clamp down on those who damage our environment through littering and fly-tipping. This year we will go further, and will take the same hard line to tackle those people who allow their dogs to foul pavements and parks. This issue is one which residents have told us is important to them: we have listened and we are taking immediate, sustained action.
25. Creating the thriving economy we want for Wirral will also continue at pace. The regeneration of Birkenhead – turning Wirral's sleeping giant into a fundamental part of the Northern Powerhouse - will help create thousands of jobs for local people. We have worked hard with our partners at the Wirral Chamber of Commerce to help secure a Business Improvement District in Birkenhead – generating an additional £2m in income to deliver improvements such as enhanced security and cleanliness.
26. Efforts to attract inward investment will be joined by our continued support for local high streets and businesses looking to grow and expand within Wirral. In the past 12 months our rates of business start-up have been faster than anywhere else in the Liverpool City Region and we saw an 11% increase in the number of businesses in Wirral. We will retain our successful car parking pricing structure to support local businesses to remain competitive and succeed.

DIFFICULT DECISIONS

27. It is also clear that, once again, we are forced to make far reaching, large scale savings. To ensure the £28million cuts in 2016/17 are delivered in a managed, appropriate way and that they don't place unnecessary strain on services and residents, we have had to take difficult decisions, act prudently and be innovative in how we deliver the outcomes residents expect in new and sustainable ways.
28. Because the scale of the cuts is so extreme, we have taken pragmatic and carefully costed financial management decisions to ensure the shambles of the £17million overspend we inherited does not happen again.

29. Cabinet also notes that generating additional new income - through new homes, new businesses and the extra revenue they generate - means we can protect the front line services residents care about and rely on.
30. Having been forced to cut £156 million from our budget since 2010, and losing the basic revenue support grant entirely by 2020, we are inevitably faced with difficult decisions about how to provide services now and in the future. We have to look at the services and outcomes residents need, but also think about how we will be able to deliver them going forward.
31. The grants that allowed us to do things in a certain way in the past are, in many cases, no longer available. Services funded by and delivered by the Council are becoming increasingly unsustainable for the long term. To ensure the outcomes our residents rely upon can continue to be delivered, we must work closely with our partners in the public, voluntary and private sector to find new ways to deliver higher quality and more cost effective solutions. As we state in the Wirral Plan, the challenge going forward is to deliver improved outcomes for the £2billion which the public sector collectively spends in Wirral.
32. The statutory consultation process in regard to the Girtrell Court budget proposal is ongoing. Rightly, every service-user and their family will be consulted about the service they will receive going forward and therefore we instruct the Director of Adult Social Services to complete the consultation process and, having regard to the feedback from that consultation process, in conjunction with the Cabinet Member for Adult Care and Public Health, make a determination on the most appropriate course of action regarding the proposal.
33. This proposal is not made because of some misplaced ideology or political dogma. When the ward member for Moreton West and Saughall Massie was a member of the last Conservative cabinet - they instructed Council to re-provide residential and respite care from **five** Council-run facilities, not because it was a consequence of government cuts, but because they believed private provision was better. Their resolution to Council is set out below.

“Cabinet recognises that Wirral currently has empty capacity in independent sector residential homes and that unit costs to the Council are higher than our neighbours. Cabinet recognises that there is an opportunity to reduce unit costs and develop the range of care supplied by a wide range of providers...”

“The respite care and interim care currently provided at Maplehome, Pensall, Poulton, Meadowcroft and Fernleigh be reprovided by suitable

voluntary, community, faith-based or organisations [in] the independent sector under the terms of the existing Contract for Residential and Nursing Home Care together with appropriate care for the small number of long term residents in these homes and Manor Road. The Interim Director of Adult Social Services is also instructed to carry out further consultation with service users and their families, and with the small number of long term residents in these homes about the details of that re-provision.”

Conservative-led Administration, Wirral Council, 09 December 2010.

34. Short memories or political opportunism – you decide - but they have clearly performed a ‘U-turn’ on this position in the last few weeks, or maybe they just didn’t tell the residents and service-users they have been courting, that closing respite care facilities was their policy in the first place.

BUDGET PROPOSALS

35. We have listened to local people, and propose the Budget Report for 2016-17 be recommended to Council for approval, with the exception of the following:
36. This Council spends significant sums every year on providing information, advice and guidance regarding welfare rights. We believe there is a better, more efficient way of investing this money and instruct officers to complete a full review of all spend in this area, with a view to ensuring efficiency while at the same time ensuring the best value and best service for the investment we make. The Council’s Welfare Rights service will form part of this review and this savings proposal will therefore be withdrawn while the review takes place.
37. Residents and friends groups have played an active role in the operation and direction of our libraries for many years. Cabinet does not feel that a robust and sustainable plan for delivering library services is yet in place. Cabinet therefore recommends that the projected saving from the library service will be withdrawn to allow for a full review of the options during 2016/17.
38. We have spent the past few months in consultation and negotiations with our Trade Union colleagues and have reached an agreement on the proposed savings related to terms and conditions, upon which Trade Unions are now consulting their Members. This agreement proposes our workforce will continue to take four days unpaid leave – for a further five years – but we will protect our lowest paid colleagues through retaining our pay enhancements and essential car user allowance for the immediate future.

39. Wirral's leisure offer continues to go from strength to strength. We invested £2 million in upgrading the facilities in our leisure centres last year, and will invest a further £2 million in capital funding this year. Already, we have seen a 25% increase in use as more residents take advantage of the opportunity to get fit and keep healthy. Cabinet agrees with the drive to make our leisure centres more sustainable commercially, and equally believes the most vulnerable in our community should also be able to access the facilities and keep fit and healthy. Therefore, we will retain free swimming in school holidays for those young people who receive a pupil premium because their families are most economically disadvantaged.

COUNCIL TAX

40. Throughout his time as Chancellor, George Osborne has known there is a funding crisis in adult social care. But rather than address the problem he made it clear in his Spending Review and all of the financial projections coming out of Whitehall that most eligible Councils in the UK are expected to implement a 2% Adult Social Care Levy. We believe his response is not to fix a crisis, but to ask hard-working Wirral residents to fix it for him.

41. Over the past three years, we were able to freeze Council Tax to help take the pressure off working families. Sadly, this year, in a cynical post-election move, the Government dropped the grant that enables us to repeat that again this year. In our view this is yet another example of the Government telling us, very firmly, local services are 'not their problem', and if we want to provide them for Wirral residents, then we need to raise the funds ourselves.

42. We want to secure the best outcomes for residents, so Cabinet therefore proposes to increase Council Tax by 1.99% for the coming financial year, and to implement the 2% Adult Social Care Levy. These measures will enable the Council to generate over £4 million to further protect services for residents.

CONCLUSION

43. Once again, this budget has been extremely difficult. Ongoing, draconian reductions in funding and a lack of support from Central Government require this Council to make tough decisions. We will continue to lobby Government in the strongest possible terms to rethink these policies and their impact on Wirral.

44. We believe the Government is letting down this borough – residents should rest assured that we will not.
45. I am pleased that once again we have protected the services residents care about and rely on. Over the coming year it is our absolute imperative to put in place an ambitious but deliverable programme of transformation, to take a fresh look at what this Council does and find new, innovative ways of meeting residents' needs and aspirations.
46. I am proud that this Labour Administration has once again met its duty to the people of Wirral – taking tough decisions and setting a balanced budget, identifying innovative solutions to provide sustainable outcomes and is getting on with the job of delivering our 20 Pledges to create a better Wirral for all of our residents.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 Cabinet, having had regard to the budget consultation responses and findings, recommends to Budget Council for approval:-

Revenue Budget (Agenda Item 8A)

- a) The savings for 2016/17, detailed in Appendix 1, being agreed with the removal of the savings proposals in respect of the Welfare Rights Unit £106,000, Libraries £203,000 and £1.2 million relating to Terms and Conditions. It is confirmed that the Public Health contract proposed savings for BME Health Improvement Service £53,000 and On Line Counselling £25,000 will not be taken in 2016/17.
- b) The Budget Growth 2016/17, detailed in Appendix 2, being agreed.
- c) The fees and charges, detailed in Appendix 3, being agreed with delegated authority given to the Acting Section 151 Officer to (i) update the Council Fees and Charges Directory prior to publication before 1 April 2016; (ii) with the relevant Director, in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holder, vary/change existing fees and charges as considered appropriate providing any variation/change can be met from existing approved budgets.
- d) The level of General Fund balances continuing to be based on a locally determined approach to the assessment of the financial risks that the Council may face in the future and that the Council maintains balances at, or above, this level.

- e) The release of reserves, as detailed in Appendix 5, be agreed and be used to fund the 2016/17 Revenue Budget Contingency.

Capital Programme and Financing (Agenda Item 8B)

The new bids as detailed in Appendices 2 and 3 be approved.

Any new bids supported by grant funding not commencing until written confirmation has been received from the granting authority that such grant(s) have actually been approved.

The Capital Programme 2016/19 (as detailed in Appendix 4).

Medium Term Financial Strategy (Agenda Item 8C)

The Treasury Management Strategy 2016-19 including the:-

- i) Treasury Management Strategy 2016-19.
- ii) Adoption of the Prudential Indicators.
- iii) Minimum Revenue Provision policy for 2016/17
- iv) Council Officers listed in Annex G to approve payments from the Council's bank account for all treasury management activities.

The Medium Term Financial Strategy 2016/17-2020/21

- i) The Medium Term Financial Strategy 2016/21.
- ii) To regular updates of the Medium Term Financial Strategy in accordance with the action plan.

Schools Budget (Agenda Item 8D)

The Schools Budget of £243,273,400 having taken account of the views and changes proposed by the Schools Forum that:

- i) The contributions to Combined Budgets should be £1,698,800.
- ii) The use of Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) reserves totalling £568,900 to set the Schools Budget.
- iii) The Schools Funding Formula is submitted to the Education Funding Agency and its make-up is unchanged from decisions made in previous years.
- iv) That the permanent changes to High Needs Places are agreed together with the allocation of High Needs Growth of £532,000.
- v) The necessary steps are taken to trade or cease services when direct central funding is withdrawn at the end of the Summer Term for Minority Ethnic Support, City Learning Centres and Wellbeing.
- vi) Following consultation and discussion with schools and the Schools Forum the school redundancy policy is changed with effect from September 2016. In future the only costs that will be supported centrally will be where staffing decisions are taken as a result of falling school rolls. All other redundancy or severance costs will be charged to the delegated schools budget concerned.

Carbon Budget (Agenda Item 8E)

To ensure the Council better understands and meets its carbon legal obligations and aspirations, a revised 3 or 5 year policy on carbon emissions and management be developed for the borough, having regard to the Wirral Plan and presented for consideration and approval at Policy Council. The current carbon budget be extended until that time.

The Cabinet in making these recommendations has had regard to the Chief Financial Officer Statement regarding the robustness of the estimates made for the purpose of the Budget and the adequacy of the General Fund balances and reserves.

- 2 Cabinet recommends to Budget Council that a separate recorded vote be taken in respect of Council Tax levels for 2016/17 and that :-
 - a) For Wirral Council Services the Council Tax be increased by 3.99% for 2016/17 which includes a 2% increase in respect of Adult Social Care.
 - b) The Wirral Council Tax will include the precepts from the Police & Crime Commissioner for Merseyside and from the Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service.
 - c) Having regard to the fact that the precepts may be determined after the Council has determined its Council Tax levels for 2016/17 authority be delegated to the Acting Section 151 Officer to publish the final Wirral Tax levels for 2016/17.

3 The Statutory Calculations and Resolution

It be noted that in accordance with Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended), that Cabinet on 17 December 2015 calculated the Council Tax Base 2016/17 for the whole of the properties in its area as 90,481.9 (Item T in the statutory formula).

That the following amounts be calculated and approved by the Council for the year 2016/17 in accordance with Sections 32-36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended) ("the Act");

- a) £120,274,139 being the amount calculated in accordance with Section 31A (4) of the Act (amended) as the Council Tax Requirement for 2016/17 (item R in the statutory formula). This amount (D) is determined as being the difference between:
 - i) £798,891,200 this being the aggregate of the amounts calculated in accordance with Section 31A (2) of the Act (as amended), i.e. the aggregate of the amounts that the Council estimates that will be charged to a revenue account for the year in performing its

functions, that are required to be set aside for contingencies and reserves and required to be transferred from its General Fund to its Collection Fund in the year and

- ii) £678,617,061 this being the amount calculated in accordance with Section 31A (3) of the Act (as amended), i.e. the aggregate of the amounts of income that the Council estimates will be credited to a revenue account for the year in accordance with proper practices, the amount of reserves that are estimated to be used to provide for the items referred to in paragraph (a) above, and required to be transferred from its Collection Fund to its General Fund in the year.
- b) £1,329.26 being the amount calculated in accordance with Section 31B (1) of the Act (amended) as the Basic Amount of Council Tax for 2016/17. This amount being calculated as item R divided by item T (as above).
- c) That in accordance with section 36(1) of the Act that the following amounts are calculated for each valuation band in the area:

Wirral – Basic Amount of Council Tax per Valuation Band

A	B	C	D
£886.17	£1,033.87	£1,181.56	£1,329.26
E	F	G	H
£1,624.65	£1,920.04	£2,215.43	£2,658.52

These amounts being the amounts given by multiplying the amount calculated as the Basic Amount of Council Tax by the number which in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act is applicable to dwellings in a particular valuation band which is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation Band D.

It be determined that the amount set in (c) above as the Council's Basic Amount of Council Tax for 2016/17 is not excessive in accordance with the principles determined by the Secretary of State under section 52ZC of the Act (as amended) and that no Referendum to approve the Basic Amount of Council Tax is required. The principles require a Referendum to be held for any increases of 4% or above for those authorities with Adult Social Care responsibilities.

Wirral – Basic Amount of Council Tax Comparison for Referendum

	2015/16	2016/17	Change	Change
	£	£	£	%
Band D	1,278.26	1,329.26	51.00	3.99

To note that the Police and Crime Commissioner for Merseyside and the Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service issue precepts to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act

1992 for each category of dwellings in the Council's area. The Precepts are as indicated in the tables.

Police and Crime Commissioner for Merseyside

A	B	C	D
£108.53	£126.62	£144.71	£162.80
E	F	G	H
£198.98	£235.16	£271.33	£325.60

Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service

A	B	C	D
£48.59	£56.69	£64.79	£72.89
E	F	G	H
£89.09	£105.29	£121.48	£145.78

That having calculated the amounts for Wirral together with the Police and Fire the Council in accordance with Section 30 (2) of the Act hereby sets the following amounts as the total amount of Council Tax for the year 2016/17 for each of the categories of dwellings.

Total Council Tax for Wirral

A	B	C	D
£1,043.29	£1,217.18	£1,391.06	£1,564.95
E	F	G	H
£1,912.72	£2,260.49	£2,608.24	£3,129.90

CONSERVATIVE GROUP BUDGET AMENDMENT 2016/2017

Proposed by Councillor Jeff Green
Seconded by Councillor Lesley Rennie

Wirral's Conservative Group believes the long term economic security of its residents is essential and therefore welcomes the success of the Government's long-term economic plan. In May 2010 the country was borrowing over £150 billion a year and unemployment had increased by nearly half a million. Britain had suffered the deepest recession since the war and had the second biggest structural deficit (spending more than income received) of any advanced economy.

The Government had to make a realistic assessment about the state of the British economy and this involved taking difficult decisions to reduce the deficit and control spending. Thanks to the hard work of the British people, including Wirral's entrepreneurs and residents, this long-term economic plan is working. The structural deficit is down by more than half, there are 2.7

million more private sector jobs and there are over 900,000 more businesses ultimately resulting in more families with the security of a regular pay packet.

In Wirral the stability and economic security of the Government's long term economic plan has resulted in the following benefits for Wirral and our residents:

- Mersey Waters Enterprise Zone designation
- Nearly £10 million of Regional Growth Fund monies being allocated to Wirral which has led to the safeguarding or creation of in excess of 1500 jobs
- Funding the building of Wirral Metropolitan College's Built Environment Skills and Enterprise Centre
- Over £2 million of additional Regional Growth Fund resources secured ensuring the development of 120,000 sq ft of floor space along the A41 corridor
- Wirral now has 7,400 individual enterprises; an 11.1% improvement in the business base since 2011
- Wirral had increased its Gross Value Added (GVA) by 7%, a higher level than anywhere else in the country
- In addition, the number of new business start-ups in Wirral exceeded the national average by 7% and almost one in three of these new businesses work in the professional, scientific and technical sectors, a figure which is only exceeded by Aberdeen
- A £200 million polar research ship for the Government-funded Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) build contract secured by Cammell Laird
- £400 million for the Northern Powerhouse Investment Fund

We therefore believe Wirral Council should be well placed to take advantage of the Government's incentive to local authorities to keep the additional business rates it receives.

We are disappointed that the Labour Administration continues to talk down Wirral and ignore the opportunities created for Wirral residents by the Government's economic achievements. This is particularly disappointing when closer inspection of the Council's finances reveals the Administration has mismanaged its own budget set for 2015/2016 by spending £9.6 million more than it intended and has chosen to hide this in plain sight with budget revisions within the financial year.

We also note the self-serving and repeated tendency of the current Labour administration to blame everyone else for their inability to effectively manage the Authority.

This is particularly evident in repeated misleading comments regarding the 'so called' £17 million 'inherited' overspend. This figure was based on projected spending at 30th June 2012 for the Financial Year 2012/2013. The figures used in this budget equated to the then Labour Administration's own Council spending totals and assumptions proposed by Cllr Foulkes and seconded by Cllr Davies at an emergency Cabinet called to discuss the HESPE PIDA

Follow Up report on 13th February 2012 and introduced as an item of 'any other business'.

This was the culmination of nine months of a Labour Administration's budget preparations and was two hours prior to Cllr Foulkes and Cllr Davies being ejected from office by a vote of 'No Confidence' at a full Council meeting. The actual overspend reported in July 2013 relating to 2012/2013 was in fact £4.7 million.

For the avoidance of doubt, once again, the projected overspend of the Labour Administration's 2015/2016 budget, as at 30th June 2015, was at £12.5 million. The actual overspend for 2015/2016 is £9.6 million covered by a combination of Reserves and Balances.

We believe values of honesty and transparency must apply to the budget making process and therefore express our dismay that despite using the freedom provided by the Government to raise up to 2% (£2.3 million for Wirral) via an Adult Social Care Precept on residents Council Tax Bills. When comparing the proposed Labour Administration Budget to the projected 2015/2016 spend, residents in Wirral will only see an additional £0.1million year on year increase spent on adult social care by this Labour Administration.

We note:

The Council has at February 2016 has £108 million 'Cash in the Bank'

The Labour Administration Budget envisages;

- £86 million in Reserves
- £9 million unallocated in a 'Transformation Reserve'
- £11.5 million in 'General Fund Balances'

In addition to the above we also note the hard working taxpayers of Wirral are being charged a **further £11.2 million 'Revenue Budget Contingency'** (page 146 of Budget Cabinet 22nd February refers). We believe this can only be explained as a 'cost of incompetence' and has been introduced in anticipation of the Labour Administration, yet again, being unable to effectively manage a portfolio of change.

Wirral Conservative Group's budget amendment will deliver security for our residents, improvement of Wirral's physical environment and real opportunities for local people to influence Council spending and decision making. A Council that:

- Offers security and opportunity to all our residents
- Keeps children and young people safe
- Protects our most vulnerable residents
- Reduces waste

- Encourages local residents to influence decisions that affect their local area.

Conservatives know that every pound the Council spends or hoards in its reserves and balances is money taken from the pockets and family budgets of Wirral Taxpayers and therefore it is incumbent on the Council to demonstrate it uses that money wisely and fairly in a way that is going to improve the lives of all of Wirral's residents.

Council Tax Changes

We believe pensioners on fixed incomes who have worked hard all of their lives, played by the rules and paid their taxes should be protected from the whittling away of the income they need to enjoy their retirement. In order to protect pensioners from the Labour Administration's 3.99% Council Tax increase we will limit the percentage increase over 70's households pay to the percentage increase of the State Pension (2.9%).

1)	'Cap' Council Tax rises to the same as increases to the State Pension (2.9%) in all properties except Band H	£130,000
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The evidence of improved outcomes for children who have been removed from difficult situations and placed in Foster Care are well known: healthier living, improved life chances, improved educational achievement and perhaps the greatest outcome of all, being kept safe. Vulnerable children in Wirral need more potential suitably skilled Foster Carers to step forward. The Conservative Group believe we should, on behalf of our community, thank Wirral residents who step up to this challenge.

2)	As evidence of the Wirral Community's thanks and to provide a further incentive to encourage potential Foster Carers to come forward, we will exempt all Wirral Council registered Foster Carers who have been active in the last 12 months from the Wirral element of Council Tax increase	£50,000
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Protecting our vulnerable residents

We completely reject the proposition that the users, residents and families, dependant on the services of Girtrell Court, should be cut loose from Council scrutiny and left to the tender mercies of the Labour Cabinet Member and her Officers. We believe users, residents and families deserve certainty around this essential service and can find no justification for closing Girtrell Court. We therefore remove this Labour Administration cut.

3)	Reject the budget option to close Girtrell Court	£155,000
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In the past the Conservative Group have invested heavily in monitoring and improving the quality of the independent social care sector in Wirral and we remain deeply concerned about the number of Wirral Care Homes still rated inadequate by the Care Quality Commission. We believe our elderly residents and their families deserve better and that the Council must commit itself to raising the quality of the provision available for those residents within our community that require social care.

4)	Strengthen the existing Quality Assurance Team in order to increase monitoring and improvement work with the independent care sector across Wirral	£120,000
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As further evidence of the whole Council's commitment to improving social care in Wirral we will re-instate elected Member led visits to care homes in Wards across the Borough. The key test Members will be required to answer is; would you be content if a member of your family were to be using this service?

Visits will be co-ordinated and reported to Constituency Committees; residents will know when these visits have taken place by listing them on the Council's website along with regular discussion and Q&A sessions at Constituency Committees. Reports of visits conducted will, as a matter of course, go to the Families and Wellbeing Policy and Performance Committee.

Keeping children and young people safe

The Conservative Group believe the Council has no higher purpose than keeping our children safe from harm. We are deeply concerned regarding the capacity of the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) to manage all of the referrals it receives or to pilot innovative new ways of doing more investigatory and assessment activities with children and families.

We want to ensure all the Borough's children are safe and should any child be at risk from harm they are identified at the earliest opportunity and timely, effective interventions are put into place

5)	Fund five additional experienced children's Social Workers in the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub. The Impact of this investment to be assessed within next 12 months.	£250,000
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We believe it is essential that young children learn key lessons regarding keeping safe on our roads and basic road sense. We believe that being left to navigate, unaided, automated pelican & puffin crossings for young children is not in itself a certainty of their safety. We have therefore deleted the administration's cut to school crossing patrols and urge recruitment of 'lollipop ladies' to focus on crossings at or on the way to infant and primary schools.

6)	Re-instate school crossing patrols at the 40 locations across the Borough that the Labour budget proposal cuts this from this service	£90,000
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Empowering Wirral Residents

In order to encourage greater community involvement across Wirral and to drive down crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB) even further we will learn from effective pilots being delivered in Upton Ward as part of the Wirral West Constituency Committee initiative to tackle ASB. We believe local councillor led community initiatives such as reinvigorated Neighbourhood Watch or diversionary activities are generating good outcomes for relatively small targeted amounts of taxpayers money. We will therefore allocate to each Constituency Committee an additional £12,000 to support innovative community generated approaches to tackling ASB.

7)	£12,000 for each Constituency Committee to generate community based activity to tackle anti-social behaviour	£48,000
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We believe the Labour Administration's record on Wirral's highways and pavements, residential street and pavement cleaning, street lighting and the condition of our parks, play areas and sports pitches is shameful. Wirral residents have a right to expect better from their Council. We will therefore invest in the following.

8)	£200,000 devolved to Constituency Committees for road and pavement improvements	£200,000
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We will increase the frequency of the street sweeping schedule in residential areas from its current once every 12 weeks (four times per year) to a 6 weekly cycle. and introduce an immediate programme to replace existing Council litter bins with divided bins to allow residents to recycling their litter.

9)	The totals listed alongside this item include £600,000 for street sweeping, £60,000 for 100 divided litter bins (25 per Constituency Committee) & £115,000 for their increased waste management costs. The latter two items to be funded from the Waste Development Fund	£775,000
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We note the utter failure of the Administration to recognise the growing issue of 1,723 street lights not working until it was too late. The Conservative Group believe that despite warnings from then Lib Dem Cllr Stuart Kelly and others the pursuit of this cut was obvious to all except the Labour Administration and that it has had a real impact on residents sense of security and safety.

10)	Re-introduction of street lighting inspections & budget for consequential repairs.	£165,000
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A further example of lack of planning or foresight by the Labour Administration is the dangerous nonsense of 198 grit bins, which were requested by residents via Area Forums, to be unfilled. We trust our residents' judgments and believe they are our partners when shaping services.

11)	Re-instate the funding to fill all 198 of the Borough's grit bins scrapped in the Labour Administration's budget proposal	£30,000
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Wirral residents love their local parks, sport pitches and play areas. Conservatives are committed to ensuring residents have opportunities to improve their parks and ensure equipment in children's play areas is well maintained and safe and that sports pitches are also well used and safe. We will therefore, in coordination, with Constituency Committees, provide the opportunity for families, individuals, teams and Friends Groups to bid for resources to improve the facilities they use.

12)	Parks, sport pitches and children's play area improvement fund £50,000 per Constituency Committee	£200,000
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We will also require an urgent report from officers to discuss putting in place mechanisms to allow residents who report inoperative street lights, potholes or defective pavements to receive a £10.00 credit to their Council Tax bill if these failings are not fixed within 14 working days.

Economic Security & Tackling Fraud

Local businesses & enterprises remain the beating heart of our local economy. We believe the decision of the Labour Administration to withdraw the popular 'Free After Three' Conservative initiative was a mistake and to improve footfall in our local shopping areas should be re-introduced. We are also aware of the irritation of local residents who, unlike residents in many progressive Councils, still have to use the right change or pay 'over the odds' to secure a local parking space. We therefore believe the Council should emulate other Authorities and provide for a cashless payment method at our car parks.

13)	Re-introduce the Conservative 2010 'Free After Three' initiative at all Council car parks and off street parking.	£150,000
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14)	Utilising money from the Council's Transformation Fund to undertake a comprehensive car parking procurement exercise to include cashless systems for paying for car parking	£150,000
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We believe that the Council still requires the capability to crack down on any remaining benefit fraud including: single person discounts, local Council Tax support scheme, discretionary housing payments, falsely claimed grants and procurements.

15)	Establish an Anti-Fraud Unit within the Finance Department (over time this unit to become self-financing)	£60,000
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We welcome the Administration's decision to reject the closure of the Council's Welfare Rights Unit and we believe its scope should be widened to provide a named officer to work with our Armed Forces Veterans on discharge with housing, schools, and training. We believe this is the very least we can do for those brave service personnel willing to lay down their lives to protect us all

Savings

We believe all elements of the Council; Councillors, The Council Bureaucracy and Council staff need to play their part and do all we can to ensure Council spending is kept under control.

Delete / reduce the following items:

	Delete the following post - Executive Support Officer to the Leader of Wirral Council	£56,000
	Reduce Councillors Training Budget from £36,900 to £6,900.	£30,000
	Remove 'Alternative Support to Councillors' Budget and the free taxi facility for journeys to and from the Town Hall	£70,000

Whilst not providing a saving this year, we believe Council Officers should develop a detailed plan to reduce the overall number of Councillors by one third. This will deliver a saving in excess of £283,000

	Reduction of 2.5 posts from the 14.9 FTE in the Strategy, Policy and Planning Team	£100,000
	Reduction of 2.5 posts from the 14 FTE in the Press, Marketing and Destination Management Team	£100,000
	Reduce the Officer Training Budget	£100,000
	Terms and conditions – essential car users allowance	£600,000
	Terms and conditions - enhancements	£600,000

We believe the Council and the 'Wirral Partnership' responsible for £2 billion of public expenditure in Wirral along with neighbouring Authorities should look to utilise their resources to better share services. This could include but not be limited to IT, HR, payroll, finance, legal services, procurement, Member and Officer training.

We note the Council spends £2.4 million on its energy costs. We will therefore require Officers to bring forward a report on how Wirral can become self-sufficient in energy use.

Despite the wealth of UNISON and UNITE we have not called for the withdrawal of Council support for its four Full Time Trades Union Officials this year. We will however, at a time of great change and uncertainty within the Council, require them to produce an Annual Report of their activities to be delivered and discussed at Full Council.

We welcome the fact that since Conservative Councillors first raised the issue of £35 million of hard working Wirral Taxpayers money being loaned to other Councils at 'mates rates' this has now reduced to £4 million at February 2016. We believe this is yet another example of sunlight being the best disinfectant and would require the Administration to bring all of Wirral's Taxpayers money home.

Reducing the cost of failure:

The Wirral public will note the discipline and management of the Strategic Change Programme (SCP) delivered £10.725 million of cashable benefits in the 2010/11 financial year. The Conservative Group remains disappointed that the Labour Administration formed in May 2011 did not actively manage the SCP and the opportunity it provided to reduce year on year revenue expenditure was ignored and eventually wasted.

Last year we warned that unless there was greater ambition, discipline, rigor, risk management and political accountability the identified change portfolio would not deliver the structural changes required to the Council. At that time we also recommended the establishment of a Strategic Change Board on an all-party basis to be led by the Leader of the Council.

Whilst it gives us no pleasure to point out 'we told you so' – it is deeply disappointing that £9.6 million in the proposed Change Programme for 2015/2016 was not delivered in 2015/16. In fact £11.2 million has been added to the 2016/2017 budget as a 'hedge' against the Labour Administration yet again failing to deliver its attempts at a portfolio of change.

Balances & Reserves

The budget proposed by the Labour Administration will see £11.5 million in General Fund Balances, £9million in a Transformation Reserve and yet a further £11.2 million in a 'Revenue Budget Contingency'. In total this adds up to £31.7 million

We still believe the establishment of a Strategic Change Programme Delivery Board, using effective Programme & Project Management techniques coupled to a professional Change & Benefits Management approach will improve the delivery and adoption of Transformational Change and cashable benefits delivery. So once again we propose the establishment of a Strategic Change Board on an all-party basis to be led by the Leader of the Council. In our view the establishment of such an approach will mean that the combined total of £31.7 million, from the £11.5 million in General Fund Balances, £9 million Transformation Reserve and the further £11.2 million 'Revenue Budget Contingency', can safely be reduced to £31 million.

For the avoidance of doubt it should be noted that this budget amendment will:

- **Offer security and opportunity to all our residents**
- **Keep children and young people safe**
- **Protect our most vulnerable residents**
- **Bear down on unnecessary spending and reduce the likelihood of failure**
- **Provide opportunities for residents to influence decisions that affect their local area.**

The statutory calculations associated with the decision to increase the Wirral Council element of the Council Tax by 3.99% for 2016/17 which includes the 2% increase in respect of Adult Social Care follow:-

The Statutory Calculations and Resolution

That for the financial year 2016/17 the Council will ensure that those pensioner households over 70, and in properties Bands A to G, will have the increase in Council Tax liability, excluding the consequences of any police and fire increases capped at 2.9%. This applies where:

(i) the Council Tax payer pays Council Tax in Wirral as their main home and all individuals in the household that are counted as resident for Council Tax purposes are aged 70 or over on 1 April 2016 (but where the qualifying age criterion is met after 1 April 2016 eligibility will be effective from the relevant birth date only);

(ii) this reduction will be calculated after deduction of all other Council Tax discounts and reliefs;

(iii) application must be made for the reduction where the potential claimant is not in receipt of Council Tax Benefit;

No pensioner household in receipt of full Council Tax Benefit will qualify for the reduction.

That for the financial year 2016/17 the Council will ensure that active Wirral Council foster carer households will not have to meet the Wirral Services increase in Council Tax liability, excluding the consequences of any police and fire increases. This applies where:

(i) the Council Tax payer pays Council Tax in Wirral as their main home and they are registered for Wirral Council foster care placements on 1 April 2016 (eligibility will be effective for the period as an active foster carer);

(ii) this reduction will be calculated after deduction of all other Council Tax discounts and reliefs;

(iii) application must be made for the reduction where the potential claimant is not in receipt of Council Tax Benefit;

It be noted that in accordance with Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended), that Cabinet on 17 December 2015 calculated the Council Tax Base 2016/17 for the whole of the properties in its area as 90,481.9 (Item T in the statutory formula).

That the following amounts be calculated and approved by the Council for the year 2016/17 in accordance with Sections 32-36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended) (“the Act”);

d) £120,274,139 being the amount calculated in accordance with Section 31A (4) of the Act (amended) as the Council Tax Requirement for 2016/17 (item R in the statutory formula). This amount (D) is determined as being the difference between:

i) £799,658,200 this being the aggregate of the amounts calculated in accordance with Section 31A (2) of the Act (as amended), i.e. the aggregate of the amounts that the Council estimates that will be charged to a revenue account for the year in performing its functions, that are required to be set aside for contingencies and reserves and required to be transferred from its General Fund to its Collection Fund in the year and

ii) £679,384,061 this being the amount calculated in accordance with Section 31A (3) of the Act (as amended), i.e. the aggregate of the amounts of income that the Council estimates will be credited to a revenue account for the year in accordance with proper practices, the amount of reserves that are estimated to be used to provide for the items referred to in paragraph (a) above, and required to be transferred from its Collection Fund to its General Fund in the year.

e) £1,329.26 being the amount calculated in accordance with Section 31B (1) of the Act (amended) as the Basic Amount of Council Tax for 2016/17. This amount being calculated as item R divided by item T (as above).

f) That in accordance with section 36(1) of the Act that the following amounts are calculated for each valuation band in the area:

Wirral – Basic Amount of Council Tax per Valuation Band

A	B	C	D
£886.17	£1,033.87	£1,181.56	£1,329.26
E	F	G	H
£1,624.65	£1,920.04	£2,215.43	£2,658.52

These amounts being the amounts given by multiplying the amount calculated as the Basic Amount of Council Tax by the number which in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act is applicable to dwellings in a particular valuation band which is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation Band D.

It be determined that the amount set in (c) above as the Council's Basic Amount of Council Tax for 2016/17 is not excessive in accordance with the principles determined by the Secretary of State under section 52ZC of the Act (as amended) and that no Referendum to approve the Basic Amount of Council Tax is required. The principles require a Referendum to be held for any increases of 4% or above for those authorities with Adult Social Care responsibilities.

Wirral – Basic Amount of Council Tax Comparison for Referendum

	2015/16	2016/17	Change	Change
	£	£	£	%
Band D	1,278.26	1,329.26	51.00	3.99

To note that the Police and Crime Commissioner for Merseyside and the Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service issue precepts to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for each category of dwellings in the Council's area. The Precepts are as indicated in the tables.

Police and Crime Commissioner for Merseyside

A	B	C	D
£108.53	£126.62	£144.71	£162.80
E	F	G	H
£198.98	£235.16	£271.33	£325.60

Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service

A	B	C	D
£48.59	£56.69	£64.79	£72.89
E	F	G	H
£89.09	£105.29	£121.48	£145.78

That having calculated the amounts for Wirral together with the Police and Fire the Council in accordance with Section 30 (2) of the Act hereby sets the

following amounts as the total amount of Council Tax for the year 2016/17 for each of the categories of dwellings.

Total Council Tax for Wirral

A	B	C	D
£1,043.29	£1,217.18	£1,391.06	£1,564.95
E	F	G	H
£1,912.72	£2,260.49	£2,608.24	£3,129.90

LIBERAL DEMOCRAT GROUP – 2016/17 BUDGET AMENDMENT

Proposed by: Cllr Phil Gilchrist
Seconded by: Cllr Alan Brighthouse

Council notes the Cabinet recommendation with the following observations:

Council recognises that a number of the suggested economies and changes in service levels have proved impracticable. A number of service changes have been found to be unreasonable or unrealistic, especially the suggested changes to library services.

A thorough examination of the plans to reorganise the School Crossing Patrol service is required. This cannot rely on the promised full risk assessment alone but work in each community to take account of the road conditions and concerns of parents. The pressure on schools' budgets is such, along with pensions and national insurance, that any proposals to require them to contribute remain unreasonable.

Council, therefore, agrees to reinstate for 2016/17 the amount of £90,000 removed from the School Crossing Patrols budget. As an amount has been set aside to cover savings deemed to be high risk, Council agrees to the use of the Revenue Budget Contingency to fund the cost of reinstating the School Crossing Patrol budget saving.

Council recognises that the change from in-house services to the commissioning of services from other bodies is a long established process from which lessons are still being learned.

Council believes that the closure of the Lyndale School and the anguished debate about the re-provision of services at Girtrell Court underline the need to work closely with service users and their families. Council has a duty of care to ensure their concerns are fully addressed.

In the case of Girtrell Court, Council requests that the Director of Adult Social Services and the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health

produce regular reports to Members. These must set out how a range of sufficient quality alternative services is to be achieved. Members would be failing in their duty if they were not to seek assurance about the quality, availability and capacity of the alternatives.

Council notes the release of various reserves and balances to assist the setting of this year's budget. Council is well aware of the criticism frequently tossed in the direction of local authorities regarding the accumulation of funds that are resting in various accounts and believes this aspect must be tackled head on.

Council has a duty to ensure that these are reviewed, not just in the run up to Budget Cabinet, but during the year. Council, therefore, requests an examination of these funds and a report in November on that work.

Council recognises that successive capital programmes have had a degree of slippage. In addition to this, Council is aware of the potential capital receipts most likely to be available over the next year.

The Capital Programme as set out should be augmented by the early release of £1million to enable a programme of investment in road improvements and road safety. Such an investment programme should examine the real benefits that would result from the introduction of 20mph zones, traffic calming and road widening to provide adequate access to properties. These can be drawn up, considered and assessed in close cooperation with the Constituency Committees so that, amongst other issues, the damage to verges and footways by over-riding and the inconvenience caused to residents can be addressed.

Council believes that the promotion of Wirral's leisure economy and tourism needs to be augmented. Council requests an examination of the amounts of £175,300 in the budget for the Press Office and £224,300 for Corporate Marketing with a view to achieving greater added value, the aim being to release funding spent on staffing into promotional activity.

Finally, Council recalls the principle of spending 'less money on ourselves'. Council calls on the Leader to reduce the budget allocated to his Executive Support Officer ('Services to Members') and re-direct those funds to the Welfare Rights Service so that the income of the most vulnerable can be enhanced and people receive help where it is most needed. The aim should be to secure an additional £40,000 for these services to boost their capacity.

Council approves the statutory calculations associated with the decision to increase the Wirral Council element of the Council Tax by 3.99% for 2016/17 which includes the 2% increase in respect of Adult Social Care.

The Statutory Calculations and Resolution

It be noted that in accordance with Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended), that Cabinet on 17 December 2015 calculated the Council Tax Base 2016/17 for the whole of the properties in its area as 90,481.9 (Item T in the statutory formula).

That the following amounts be calculated and approved by the Council for the year 2016/17 in accordance with Sections 32-36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended) (“the Act”);

- a) £120,274,139 being the amount calculated in accordance with Section 31A (4) of the Act (amended) as the Council Tax Requirement for 2016/17 (item R in the statutory formula). This amount (D) is determined as being the difference between:
- i) £798,891,200 this being the aggregate of the amounts calculated in accordance with Section 31A (2) of the Act (as amended), i.e. the aggregate of the amounts that the Council estimates that will be charged to a revenue account for the year in performing its functions, that are required to be set aside for contingencies and reserves and required to be transferred from its General Fund to its Collection Fund in the year and
 - ii) £678,617,061 this being the amount calculated in accordance with Section 31A (3) of the Act (as amended), i.e. the aggregate of the amounts of income that the Council estimates will be credited to a revenue account for the year in accordance with proper practices, the amount of reserves that are estimated to be used to provide for the items referred to in paragraph (a) above, and required to be transferred from its Collection Fund to its General Fund in the year.
- b) £1,329.26 being the amount calculated in accordance with Section 31B (1) of the Act (amended) as the Basic Amount of Council Tax for 2016/17. This amount being calculated as item R divided by item T (as above).
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It be determined that the amount set in (c) above as the Council’s Basic Amount of Council Tax for 2016/17 is not excessive in accordance with the principles determined by the Secretary of State under section 52ZC of the Act (as amended) and that no Referendum to approve the Basic Amount of Council Tax is required. The principles require a Referendum to be held for

any increases of 4% or above for those authorities with Adult Social Care responsibilities.

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A	B	C	D
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£89.09	£105.29	£121.48	£145.78

That having calculated the amounts for Wirral together with the Police and Fire the Council in accordance with Section 30 (2) of the Act hereby sets the following amounts as the total amount of Council Tax for the year 2016/17 for each of the categories of dwellings.

Total Council Tax for Wirral

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E	F	G	H
£1,912.72	£2,260.49	£2,608.24	£3,129.90

Budget Debate

Following a debate and Councillors Phil Gilchrist, Jeff Green and Phil Davies having replied, the Civic Mayor indicated that card votes would be taken in accordance with the Budget Council Procedure.

In respect of the Liberal Democrat Budget Amendment, the Council divided as follows –

For the motion (22) Councillors T Anderson, B Berry, C Blakeley, E Boulton, A Brighthouse, D Burgess-Joyce, C Carubia, P Cleary, W Clements, D Elderton, G Ellis, P Gilchrist, J Green, P Hayes, K Hodson, D Mitchell, T Pilgrim, C Povall, L Rennie, A Sykes, GCJ Watt, S Williams.

Against the motion (37) Councillors R Abbey, P Brightmore, M Daniel, A Davies, G Davies, P Davies, W Davies, P Doughty, S Foulkes, P Hackett, T Johnson, AER Jones, C Jones, B Kenny, A Leech, A McLachlan, M McLaughlin, Mrs C Meaden, B Mooney, C Muspratt, S Niblock, T Norbury, M Patrick, D Realey, L Reecejones, D Roberts, J Salter, PA Smith, W Smith, C Spriggs, J Stapleton, M Sullivan, J Walsh, S Whittingham, I Williams, KJ Williams, J Williamson

One abstention – Councillor SL Rowlands.

The motion was therefore lost (22:37) (One abstention).

In respect of the Conservative Budget Amendment, the Council divided as follows –

For the motion (17) Councillors T Anderson, B Berry, C Blakeley, E Boulton, D Burgess-Joyce, W Clements, D Elderton, G Ellis, J Green, P Hayes, K Hodson, T Pilgrim, C Povall, Mrs L Rennie, A Sykes, GCJ Watt, S Williams.

Against the motion (42) Councillors R Abbey, A Brighthouse, P Brightmore, C Carubia, P Cleary, M Daniel, A Davies, G Davies, P Davies, W Davies, P Doughty, S Foulkes, P Gilchrist, P Hackett, T Johnson, AER Jones, C Jones, B Kenny, A Leech, A McLachlan, M McLaughlin, Mrs C Meaden, D Mitchell, B Mooney, C Muspratt, S Niblock, T Norbury, M Patrick, D Realey, L Reecejones, D Roberts, J Salter, PA Smith, W Smith, C Spriggs, J Stapleton, M Sullivan, J Walsh, S Whittingham, I Williams, KJ Williams, J Williamson

One abstention – Councillor SL Rowlands

The motion was therefore lost (17:42) (One abstention)

In respect of the Cabinet Budget Resolution, the Council divided as follows –

For the motion (37) Councillors R Abbey, P Brightmore, M Daniel, A Davies, G Davies, P Davies, W Davies, P Doughty, L Foulkes, P Hackett, T Johnson, AER Jones, C Jones, B Kenny, A Leech, A McLachlan, M McLaughlin, Mrs C Meaden, B Mooney, C Muspratt, S Niblock, T Norbury, M Patrick, D Realey, L Reecejones, D Roberts, J Salter, PA Smith, W Smith, C Spriggs, J Stapleton, M Sullivan, J Walsh, S Whittingham, I Williams, KJ Williams, J Williamson.

Against the motion (22) Councillors T Anderson, B Berry, C Blakeley, E Boulton, A Brighthouse, D Burgess-Joyce, C Carubia, P Cleary, W Clements,

D Elderton, G Ellis, P Gilchrist, J Green, P Hayes, K Hodson, D Mitchell, T Pilgrim, C Povall, Mrs L Rennie, A Sykes, GCJ Watt, S Williams.

One abstention – Councillor SL Rowlands.

The motion was therefore carried (37:22) (One abstention).

In respect of the Council Tax Levels 2016/17, the Council divided as follows –

For the motion (42) Councillors R Abbey, A Brighthouse, P Brightmore, C Carubia, P Cleary, M Daniel, A Davies, G Davies, P Davies, W Davies, P Doughty, S Foulkes, P Gilchrist, P Hackett, T Johnson, AER Jones, C Jones, B Kenny, A Leech, A McLachlan, M McLaughlin, Mrs C Meaden, D Mitchell, B Mooney, C Muspratt, S Niblock, T Norbury, M Patrick, D Realey, L Reecejones, D Roberts, J Salter, PA Smith, W Smith, C Spriggs, J Stapleton, M Sullivan, J Walsh, S Whittingham, I Williams, KJ Williams, J Williamson

Against the motion (17) Councillors T Anderson, B Berry, C Blakeley, E Boulton, D Burgess-Joyce, W Clements, D Elderton, G Ellis, J Green, P Hayes, K Hodson, T Pilgrim, C Povall, Mrs L Rennie, A Sykes, GCJ Watt, S Williams.

One abstention – Councillor SL Rowlands

The motion was therefore carried (42:17) (One abstention)

MINUTE EXTRACT CABINET – 7 MARCH 2016

112 ENFORCEMENT POLICY



“Making sure our residents can enjoy a clean and safe environment is one of our key pledges for 2020. An effective enforcement policy which helps to clamp down on those people who purposefully harm our environment is particularly important.”

Councillor Bernie Mooney

Reason for Decision:

The amendment to the Council’s Enforcement Policy relating to littering and dog fouling is linked to the Council’s Pledge to have an attractive local environment. The amendment to paragraph 5.4 provided examples in respect of littering and dog fouling where a robust approach to enforcement action will be taken by the Council.

The amendment to the Council’s Scheme of Non-Executive Delegation of Functions to Officers by the insertion of paragraph 10(f) provides a more efficient and effective service and enables Directors, following consultation with and the approval of the Head of Legal and Member Services, to authorise suitably qualified and/or experienced Council officers within their relevant area of management to conduct, prosecute, defend and appear in legal proceedings on behalf of the Council before the Magistrates Court in accordance with Section 223 of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended.

Decision:

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL that:

- (1) the amendment to the Council’s Enforcement Policy at paragraph 5.4 as detailed in bold type within the document attached and marked Appendix 2 to the report be approved.**

- (2) **an amendment to the Council's Scheme of Non-Executive Delegation of Functions to Officers set out in Part 3, Schedule 4A, Part 1, paragraph 10 of the Council's Constitution namely the insertion of paragraph 10(f) as detailed in bold type within the document marked Appendix 3 and attached to the report.**

Purpose:

Councillor Bernie Mooney introduced a report, the purpose of which was to seek Cabinet approval to an amendment to paragraph 5.4 of the Council's current Enforcement Policy 2014 - a copy of which was attached and marked as Appendix 1 to the report - with specific reference to the enforcement of littering and dog fouling. The report also sought a recommendation from Cabinet to Council for the approval of an amendment to the Council's Scheme of Non-Executive Delegation of Functions of Officers set out in Part 3, Schedule 4A, Part 1, paragraph 10 of the Council's Constitution.

Local Authorities are required by the Regulators' Code to publish an enforcement policy explaining how they respond to non-compliance.



LEADER OF THE COUNCIL
COUNCILLOR PHIL DAVIES

CABINET

MONDAY 7 MARCH 2016

EMPLOYMENT AND APPOINTMENTS
COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

Councillor Phil Davies, The Leader of The Council, said:

“Making sure that Elected Members have appropriate and robust oversight regarding the make-up and design of the Council’s senior management structure has never been more important. Achieving the 20 Pledges we committed to in our Wirral Plan demands a fundamental shift in the way this Council operates.”

“The new Operating Model for the organisation which is in development is at the heart of that change; ensuring that the Council’s Employment and Appointment Committee is empowered to effectively monitor the implementation of the Operating Model is vital to ensuring a Member-led authority.”

REPORT SUMMARY

This report proposes changes to the current Employment and Appointments Committee Terms of Reference in order that the Committee has the authority to consider and agree changes to senior management structures in relation to the Council’s new operating model.

Cabinet are asked to agree the proposal and recommend its approval to Full Council.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That Cabinet Recommends to Council on 14 March 2016 the approval of the Terms of Reference for the Employment and Appointments Committee, attached at Appendix One, and that the Council’s Constitution be amended accordingly.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

The Council is required to agree any proposed changes to the Terms of Reference for the Employment and Appointments Committee. The revised terms of reference will ensure effective and timely implementation of the Council's new operating model.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

The Employment and Appointments Committee is the appropriate Committee to consider and agree changes to senior management structures and therefore no other options were considered appropriate.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Wirral Plan

The Wirral Plan sets out what we plan to do to improve the lives of the people of Wirral over the next five years and is clear that in order to achieve it the Council needs to modernise and work in a completely different way, ensuring it has the right attitudes, abilities, skills and approach.

The Operating Model

A new operating model is required to reflect the fundamental change in how the Council must work, plan, and deliver in the future.

To deliver the Wirral Plan and the underpinning strategies and plans, we need an operating model that will enable us to achieve change which is effective, appropriate and delivered at pace. This will also involve a review of senior management roles and responsibilities, structures and services. Working with partners, we need to have the appropriate skills, resources and commercial awareness to support delivery of the Wirral Plan.

The Council needs to ensure that it has the appropriate decision making and governance in place to enable the effective and timely implementation of the new operating model.

Further information about the principles of the new operating model will be brought to the next Cabinet meeting on 21 March 2016. A detailed report on the proposed new Operating Model and senior management structure will be presented to the Council's Employment and Appointments Committee in due course when this is finalised. However, to enable this to happen, the current Terms of Reference of the Committee need to be amended in accordance with Appendix One

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising from this report. Any financial implications related to the new operating model will be brought to the Employment and Appointments Committee.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The Council is required to approve any amendment to the Terms of Reference for the Employment and Appointments Committee. Any legal implications related to the new operating model will be brought to the Employment and Appointments Committee.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

There are no resource implications arising from this report. Any resource implications related to the new operating model will be brought to the Employment and Appointments Committee.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

The Council is required to approve any amendment to the Terms of Reference for the Employment and Appointments Committee.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

Affected staff and the Trade Unions will be consulted on the proposed changes to the Council's operating model. Feedback from consultation will be brought to the Employment and Appointments Committee.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

An EIA will be undertaken on the new operating model. This will be brought to the Employment and Appointments Committee.

REPORT AUTHOR: **Tony Williams**
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APPENDICES

Appendix One: Proposed amendment to the Council's Constitution

REFERENCE MATERIAL

N/A

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date

Proposed amendment to the Council’s Constitution

The change proposed seeks to include a further provision with the remit of the Committee and does not make any other change to the existing provision.

PART 3 - RESPONSIBILITY FOR FUNCTIONS

Table 2 (pages 59-64)

<p>Employment and Appointments Committee</p>	<p>8 Members of the Authority</p> <p>Where the matter to be considered relates to the dismissal of the Head of Paid Service, Monitoring Officer or Chief Finance Officer, the Employment and Appointments Committee membership shall include a minimum of two Independent Persons on the Committee as determined and defined by The Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2015 (SI 2015/881) or as may be amended from time to time.</p>	<p>Appointment of Chief Officers and Deputies.</p> <p>To act as the Appeals Body in respect of misconduct of chief officers.</p> <p>Functions relating to Pensions as an Employer.</p> <p>To provide advice, views or recommendations to Full Council on a matter proposing the dismissal of the Head of Paid Service, Monitoring Officer or Chief Finance Officer in accordance with the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2015 (SI 2015/881) or as may be amended from time to time.</p> <p>To approve, amendment and/or revise Council employment/ workforce policies and schemes. To monitor and exercise oversight of workforce performance and management matters.</p> <p>The Chairperson shall, in consultation with Party Spokespersons and the Head of Human Resources and Organisation Development, have authority to make minor amendments to employment/ workforce policies and schemes.</p> <p>PROPOSED AMENDMENT:</p>	
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		<p>Include the following:</p> <p>To consider and approve substantive changes to the Council’s senior management structure proposed by the Chief Executive/Head of Paid Service where the overall cost of the restructure can be met from existing approved budgets. Where the overall cost cannot be met from existing approved budgets, the Committee shall make a recommendation to Council as appropriate.</p> <p>For the avoidance of doubt, Chief Officers are posts are above Spinal Column Point 74 on the Council’s pay scales.</p>	
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PART 3 – SCHEDULE 2

Scheme of Delegation of (non-Executive) Functions to Committees

(Pages 83-96)

PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

Paragraph 8 (page 94)

Insert new paragraph:

- (7) To consider and approve substantive changes to the Council’s senior management structure proposed by the Chief Executive/Head of Paid Service where the overall cost of the restructure can be met from existing approved budgets. Where the overall cost cannot be met from existing approved budgets, the Committee shall make a recommendation to Council as appropriate.**

For the avoidance of doubt, Chief Officers are posts are above Spinal Column Point 74 on the Council’s pay scales.

MINUTE EXTRACT CABINET – 7 MARCH 2016

106 EMPLOYMENT AND APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE



“Making sure that Elected Members have appropriate and robust oversight regarding the make-up and design of the Council’s senior management structure has never been more important. Achieving the 20 Pledges we committed to in our Wirral Plan demands a fundamental shift in the way this Council operates.”

“The new Operating Model for the organisation which is in development is at the heart of that change; ensuring that the Council’s Employment and Appointment Committee is empowered to effectively monitor the implementation of the Operating Model is vital to ensuring a Member-led authority.”

Councillor Phil Davies

Reason for Decision:

The Council is required to agree any proposed changes to the Terms of Reference for the Employment and Appointments Committee. The revised terms of reference will ensure effective and timely implementation of the Council’s new operating model.

Decision:

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL – that the Terms of Reference for Employment and Appointments Committee, attached at Appendix One to the report be approved, and that the Council’s Constitution be amended accordingly.

Purpose:

Councillor Phil Davies introduced the report that proposed changes to the current Employment and Appointments Committee Terms of Reference in order that the Committee had the authority to Consider and agree changes to senior management structures in relation to the Council’s new operating model.

Cabinet noted that to ensure delivery of the Wirral Plan and the underpinning strategies and plans, Wirral Council needed an operating model that would enable it to achieve change that was effective, appropriate and delivered at pace. This would also involve a review of senior management roles and responsibilities, structures and services. Working with partners, the report identified that the Council would need the appropriate skills, resources and commercial awareness to support delivery of the Wirral Plan.



**CABINET MEMBER –
TRANSFORMATION AND
RESOURCES**

CLLR ANN MCLACHLAN

CABINET

MONDAY, 7 MARCH 2016

**2015/16 QUARTER 3 CORPORATE
PLAN PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT
REPORT**

Councillor Ann McLachlan, Cabinet Member - Transformation and Improvement (and Deputy Leader of the Council), said:

“When we commit to delivering actions to improve the lives of Wirral people, as we have in our Wirral Plan for 2020, it is vitally important that we track our progress towards achieving them.

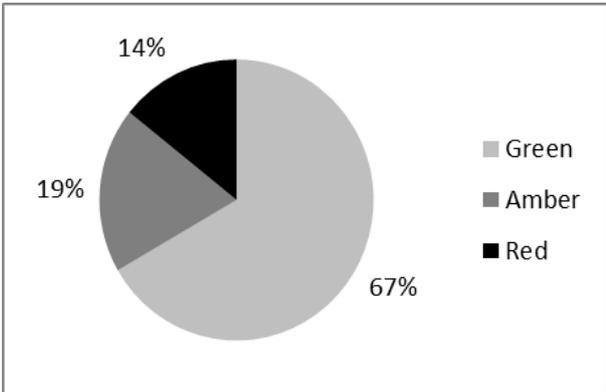
“This report is an excellent example of that robust monitoring: it helps us make sure we are in the best possible place to achieve what we have promised, identify where we need to focus our attention and to hold ourselves to account.”

REPORT SUMMARY

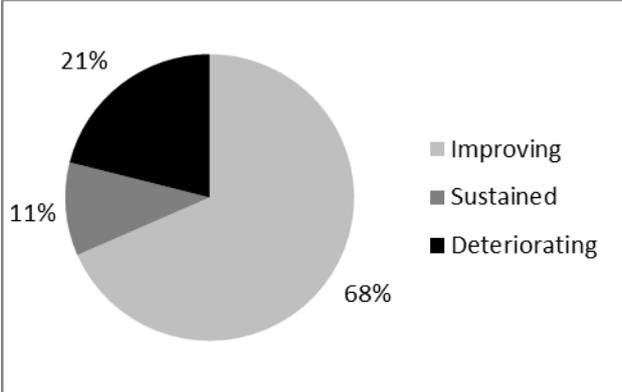
This report sets out the Council’s Quarter 3 (October to December 2015) performance against the delivery of the 2015/16 Corporate Plan (as approved by Council 8 December 2014). The report is attached as Appendix 1 and sets out progress against a suite of agreed indicators. The indicators are related to a range of pledges under the three Wirral Plan themes of People, Business and Environment. This performance report affects all wards within the borough. It is not a key decision.

Corporate Plan performance is monitored against the targets set at the start of the year. For each measure, a Red, Amber or Green (RAG) rating is assigned depending on the performance level against the target. The report also shows the direction of travel illustrating for each indicator whether performance is improving, deteriorating or sustained.

Of the 21 reportable indicators, 14 are rated Green, 4 are rated Amber and 3 are rated Red. For indicators rated Amber and Red, the responsible officer has indicated the corrective action being put in place to get performance back on track. Of the 19 indicators where it is possible to indicate a Direction of Travel, 13 are improving, 4 are deteriorating and 2 are showing performance sustained. In terms of the Direction of Travel, this shows an improved performance on the last quarter when 9 were improving, 8 were deteriorating and 2 were showing sustained performance. The charts set out below show the breakdown in terms of the RAG and Direction of Travel ratings:



RAG Rating Breakdown



Direction of Travel Breakdown

RECOMMENDATION/S

Cabinet Members are requested to note the contents of this report and highlight any areas requiring further clarification or action.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 To ensure Cabinet Members have the opportunity to review the Council's performance.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 None - the report follows a standard format in line with the performance management framework for the Corporate Plan.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 Whilst the Corporate Plan 2015/16 has been superseded by the Wirral Plan 2020 Vision, it still forms the basis of the in-year performance management framework. A new Performance Management Framework is being developed for the Wirral Plan from April 2016 onwards.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are none arising from this report.

4.0 LEGAL

- 5.1 There are none arising from this report.

5.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

- 6.1 There are none arising from this report.

6.0 RELEVANT RISKS

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

7.0 ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION

- 8.1 N/A

8.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 There are no equality implications. The report is provided for information.

REPORT AUTHOR: Mike Callon

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - 2015/16 Quarter 3 Corporate Plan Performance Report

REFERENCE MATERIAL

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Cabinet	17 December 2015
Cabinet	10 September 2015
Cabinet	29 June 2015
Cabinet	15 January 2015
Cabinet	08 December 2014

APPENDIX 1 - 2015/16 QUARTER 3 CORPORATE PLAN PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORT

2015-16 Corporate Performance Indicators		Year End Target 2015/16	Q3 2015/16				Year End Forecast	DoT	Corrective Actions (Red or Amber) Context (Green/where provided)
PI Ref	PI Title		Target	Actual	Period	RAG			
Investing in our future									
RECP02	To maintain local environmental quality (LEQ) of litter, detritus, & graffiti in main gateways and shopping areas	93.5%	93.5%	95.00%	Apr-Dec	Green	93.5%	↔	
RECP03	Number of new affordable homes	250	150	230	Apr-Dec	Green	250	↔	
RECP04	Number of adaptations completed	2000	1500	1995	Apr-Dec	Green	2000	↑	
RECP05	Number of interventions to improve private rented sector properties	400	300	759	Apr-Dec	Green	900	↑	<i>Over-performance is due to initial implementation of additional Selective Licensing and Healthy Homes activity and more staff contributing to this output, the year-end forecast has been revised to reflect this.</i>
RECP06	Increase the number of jobs created and safeguarded via Invest Wirral	975	475	655	Apr-Dec	Green	975	↑	<i>Performance during 2015/16 has consistently achieved or exceeded trajectory figures and cannot be readily compared to performance progress from this time last year because of the unusually high volume of Regional Growth Fund (RGF) Grant Applications awarded. Current performance remains on track to meet or exceed the 2015/16 year-end target.</i>
RECP07	Gross Value Added per head of population	£13,213	£13,213	£13,589	2014	Green	£13,589	↑	<i>This data is annual for 2014 and was released in December 2015. Wirral's new GVA per head figure has outperformed the target by 2.8%.</i>

RECP08	Percentage of working age people claiming out-of-work benefits (economic in-activity)	13.6%	14.1%	13.1%	Apr-Jun	Green	13.4%	↑	Latest performance data represents Q2 2015/16 showing Wirral is performing at 13.1% and is on track to meet or exceed the end of year target for 2015/16. Q3 (July-Sept 2015) performance is not available until February 2016. Data for this indicator is reported on a calendar year basis.
RECP18	Develop and deliver the Wirral Selective Licencing Scheme (WSLS)	100%	83%	83%	Apr-Dec	Green	100%		
Promoting Independence									
CSC003	Rate of Children in Need (CIN) per 10,000	350.0	369.0	388.8	Dec-15	Amber	399.7	↑	<p>There has been a slight improvement in the rate of Children in Need since the previous quarter; however the high number of referrals into social care has had an impact. The following actions are being taken to improve this measure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuing to ensuring the Threshold of Need is understood internally and externally and associated correct intervention is applied rigorously. A series of multi-agency workshops are scheduled to take place in March to increase understanding of roles, responsibilities and thresholds. • A review of Children In Need cases that have been in place longer than 6 months remains ongoing. • The Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub screening process for domestic abuse referrals has been strengthened through a joint triage with social care and police. • Work continues to ensure we consistently utilise were appropriate the early help offer. This will ensure that cases are stepped down to early help with clear plans reducing the re-referral rate.

CSC008	Rate of Looked After Children per 10,000	96.2	97.2	99.0	Dec-15	Green	99.8	↑	The number of children in care is high and we are seeking to safely reduce the overall number of children in care by strengthening and supporting families, this is the focus of the Children in Care Task Force. Children in care need support from a dedicated team of social workers who can provide stable and enduring relationships, so that all children in care can achieve permanence. The reorganisation of Specialist Services supports these aims through the Children in Care teams. Decisions for a child to become looked after are taken by senior managers to ensure consistency in the application of thresholds. Legal Advice and Action meetings ensure that assessments and plans are clear as to the reasons for the child becoming looked after . Wirral uses a number of options to secure permanence which are tracked to ensure drift and delay is minimised.
ADCP07	Permanent Admissions of older people (65+) to residential and nursing care homes, per 100,000 population	696.9	710.9	738.3	Apr- Dec	Green	780	↑	
ADCP11	Proportion of new requests for support resolved by advice and information	50%	50%	58%	Apr- Dec	Green	57%	↑	

ADCP16	Proportion of people who have received short term services to maximise independence requiring no ongoing support	75%	75%	74%	Apr- Dec	Green	75%	↓	
PHCP01	Rate of attendance at A&E for injury and assault where alcohol was a factor. PHOF 2.18: Alcohol-related admissions to hospital.	820	820	710.8	Jan - Dec 15	Green	820	↑	<i>Performance continues on a positive downward trajectory, one that it has generally sustained for the last two years. Work is planned that will look at achieving a better understanding of the factors that may be driving this downward trend so that it can be sustained.</i>
PHCP02	NHS Health Check programme by those eligible – Health Check offered (PHOF 2.22i)	20%	10%	14.7%	April - Sept 15	Green	20%	↑	Numbers of invitations issued by practices is on target. Uptake of invitations offered however, is currently below target (although similar to C&M average) and improving performance for this programme continues to be a challenge. Factors that are likely to have contributed to this are as follows: - Data quality: All but 2 practices have now switched over to EMIS (data holding), this has increased the data quality and simplified data collection. - GP Confidence in NHS Health Check programme: Core group of practices remain unconvinced as to its value Actions taken to address performance issues update: - Point of Care testing pilot has now been completed and data is currently being analysed - Training for frontline staff to be revamped during February and March will take into account any changes as directed by Public Health England - Re-issuing comparative GP performance profiles - All publicity materials have now been distributed. A video will be shown in various settings, including screens in GP practices, dentists etc.
PHCP03	NHS Health Check programme by those eligible – Health Check take up (PHOF 2.22ii)	55%	55%	30.6%	April - Sept 15	Red	55%	↑	

PHCP04	Proportion of opiate drug users that left drug treatment successfully who do not re-present to treatment within 6 months	10%	10%	8.6%	Jun 14-May 15 (completions) June 14 - Nov 15 (re-presentations)	Amber	10%	↓	<p>The reporting period now includes the data from the first 4 months of the new service when the system went through considerable re-organisation and mobilisation, resulting in some major disruption, with a consequence impact on performance. Analysis of the performance data for this period does show a reduction in the numbers completing treatment so it has been anticipated that, as this worked through the monitoring system it would be reflected in a drop in performance. A drop in performance has now continued for some months. However this is the 3rd month when performance has levelled out so at this time this drop off has not been substantial. Commissioners and provider are monitoring these trends closely, and there are some encouraging indications that performance will begin on an upward trajectory over the next 3 or 4 months. The current Wirral performance is higher than the national average of 7.3% (currently in the Top Quartile range for Comparator Local Authority's).</p>
PHCP05	Proportion of non-opiate drug users that left drug treatment successfully who do not re-present to treatment within 6 months	53%	53%	41.8%	Jun 14-May 15 (completions) June 14 - Nov 15 (re-presentations)	Amber	53%	↓	<p>The performance of this indicator has shown a further reduction since the previous month. Performance has been interrogated at contract review meetings (see above) and although the reduction has been noted by both commissioner and provider, analysis of factors influencing this performance provide cause for some confidence that this will now level out and begin to move to an upward trajectory. This will continue to be monitored closely but still remains above the national average of 38.7%. (currently in the top quartile range for comparator Local Authorities). As above, this performance will continue to be affected by transitional factors for several more months.</p>

TRCP02	Projected Delivery of Council budget savings	£29.273m	-	£21.125m	Apr 15 - Dec 15	Green	£29.273m	N/A	
TRCP03	Performance Appraisals completed by September 2015	80%	80%	51%	Apr 15 - Sep 15	Red	51%	↑	This PI has a target completion date of September, therefore the 2015/16 out turn of 51% remains, however as at 3 February 2016 performance appraisals have been completed for 76% of all staff and 89% of managers. Performance against this measure is being reviewed by the Strategic Leadership Team in advance of the 2016 appraisals cycle.
TRCP04	Sickness Absence: The number of working days/shifts lost due to sickness absence (cumulative)	9.75	6.7	7.46	Apr 15 - Nov 15	Red	11.77	↓	It is forecast that the year-end sickness absence will be 2.02 days above the 9.75 day target. This is a reduction from the Q2 year-end forecast of 12.06 days. Management action continues to be taken to reduce the level of sickness absence across the Council. This includes changes to the Council's sickness policy and triggers from October 2015, Strategic Director-led sessions with managers to set expectations and the development of an employee wellbeing plan. On-going performance is being monitored closely on a monthly basis to ensure that these activities are having a positive impact.
Direction of Travel (DoT) Key		 Performance Improving				 Performance Deteriorating		 Performance sustained	

MINUTE EXTRACT CABINET – 7 MARCH 2016

107 2015/16 QUARTER 3 CORPORATE PLAN PERFORMANCE
MANAGEMENT REPORT



“When we commit to delivering actions to improve the lives of Wirral people, as we have in our Wirral Plan for 2020, it is vitally important that we track our progress towards achieving them.

“This report is an excellent example of that robust monitoring: it helps us make sure we are in the best possible place to achieve what we have promised, identify where we need to focus our attention and to hold ourselves to account.”

Councillor Ann McLachlan

Reason for Decision:

To ensure Cabinet Members have the opportunity to review the Council’s performance.

Decision:

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL - That the contents of the report be noted.

Purpose:

The report set out the Council’s Quarter 3 (October to December 2015) performance against the delivery of the 2015/16 Corporate Plan (as approved by Council 8 December 2014). The report was attached as Appendix 1 and set out progress against a suite of agreed indicators. The indicators were related to a range of pledges under the three Wirral Plan themes of People, Business and Environment. The performance report affected all wards within the borough. It was not a key decision.

Corporate Plan performance was monitored against the targets set at the start of the year. For each measure, a Red, Amber or Green (RAG) rating was assigned depending on the performance level against the target. The report

also showed the direction of travel illustrating for each indicator whether performance was improving, deteriorating or sustained.

Of the 21 reportable indicators, 14 were rated Green, 4 were rated Amber and 3 were rated Red. For indicators rated Amber and Red, the responsible officer had indicated the corrective action being put in place to get performance back on track. Of the 19 indicators where it was possible to indicate a Direction of Travel, 13 were improving, 4 were deteriorating and 2 were showing performance sustained. In terms of the Direction of Travel, this showed an improved performance on the last quarter when 9 were improving, 8 were deteriorating and 2 were showing sustained performance.



**CABINET MEMBER –
TRANSFORMATION AND
IMPROVEMENT**

**COUNCILLOR
ANN MCLACHLAN**

CABINET

Monday 7 March 2016

**DRAFT CALENDAR OF MEETINGS FOR
THE 2016/17 MUNICIPAL YEAR**

Councillor Ann McLachlan, Cabinet Member - Transformation and Improvement (and Deputy Leader of the Council), said:

Delivering the Wirral Plan requires this Council to operate efficiently, effectively and with open, flexible but robust democratic processes. We have made huge improvements in our governance in recent years and this report demonstrates again that we are taking a systematic and planned approach to our future business.

REPORT SUMMARY

This report recommends draft dates for Council, Cabinet and Committee meetings (“Council meetings”) for the municipal year 2016/2017. The report also describes various issues that have been taken into account in compiling it.

Other meetings that do not constitute a meeting of the Council and therefore don’t require inclusion in the Calendar of Meeting are set out at Appendix 2. Notification of these other meetings is given now so as to enable Members to manage their diaries.

The Wirral Plan: A 2020 Vision sets out a shared partnership vision to improve outcomes for Wirral residents. Delivery of the priorities and outcomes described in the Plan is dependent on the efficient operation of the democratic process to scrutinise

and make the decisions required and the requirement for the scheduling of Council meetings which take these decisions.

The decision required is not a key decision

RECOMMENDATION/S

That Cabinet recommends to Council:

- (a) the relevant draft Calendar of Meetings for the 2016/17 Municipal Year set out at Appendix 1 for approval, and unless amended at the meeting of Council on 14 March, 2016, be confirmed as the Calendar of Meetings for the Municipal Year 2016/17; and
- (b) The other meetings detailed set out at Appendix 2 be noted and Members diarise those meetings as appropriate.
- (c) Any proposed amendments to the Calendar of Meetings and Appendix 2 be submitted to the Head of Legal & Member Services by 10am on Friday, 4 March 2016.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 The Council must approve and publish a Calendar of Meetings for the 2016/17 Municipal Year.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 No other options were considered beyond those outlined in the report.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 Members are asked to consider the applicable draft Calendar of Meeting for the municipal year 2016/17 and provide details and reasons of any changes (if any) they would like to see to the draft calendar.
- 3.2 Convening an extraordinary Council meeting or changing a scheduled meeting can often prove difficult given the demands placed upon Members. Matters are compounded by the membership of committees, etc being limited to a specific number of Members (and deputies) which impacts upon availability. It is therefore important that the Calendar of Meetings comprehensively captures Council meetings in such a way that it enables the Council to manage and discharge its functions in a timely and costs effective manner.
- 3.3 Access to information rules and regulations shall apply to meetings detailed in the Calendar of Meetings. However, such rules and regulations do not apply in respect of those meetings detailed in Appendix 2 - Other Meetings.
- 3.4 Dates are not included in the Calendar for Member training. A programme of dates will be drawn up by the Member Training Steering in due course and circulated to Members.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Council is required to ensure there are sufficient resources to administer all Council meetings in accordance with relevant legislation and the Council's Constitution.

5.0 LEGAL

- 5.1 The Council is under a duty to publish a Calendar of Meetings in respect of each municipal year.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

- 6.1 The Council is required to ensure there are sufficient resources to administer all Council meetings in accordance with relevant legislation and the Council's Constitution.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 7.1 Council has previously decided that the Cabinet, Regulatory Committees, Policy and Performance Committees and Constituency Committees meet a certain number of times in the municipal year to discharge the Council's functions. It is proposed that the Cabinet has at least ten ordinary meetings and one 'budget' meeting during the municipal year.
- 7.2 It is not possible to pre-empt or predict the exact number of Council meetings that are required and when they will need to take place. Additional Council meetings will be convened when necessary (and in accordance with the Council's Constitution) to ensure that the Council discharges its duties, obligations and responsibilities.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION

- 8.1 The Leader of the Council has been consulted and agreed the Cabinet dates. The Constituency Managers have been consulted on the dates for Constituency Committees.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 Has the potential impact of your proposal(s) been reviewed with regard to equality?

No, as there are no equality implications.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Draft Calendar of Meetings for the 2016/17 Municipal Year

Appendix 2 – Other Meetings

REFERENCE MATERIAL

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Council	16 March 2015
Cabinet	15 January 2015
Cabinet	2 December 2013
Council	13 May 2013

MAY - 2016/17 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS Draft (2)

Sunday	1	
Monday	2	Bank Holiday
Tuesday	3	
Wednesday	4	
Thursday	5	Local Election
Friday	6	
Saturday	7	
Sunday	8	
Monday	9	
Tuesday	10	
Wednesday	11	
Thursday	12	
Friday	13	
Saturday	14	
Sunday	15	
Monday	16	ANNUAL COUNCIL (PART 1)
Tuesday	17	ANNUAL COUNCIL (PART 2)
Wednesday	18	
Thursday	19	
Friday	20	
Saturday	21	
Sunday	22	
Monday	23	
Tuesday	24	
Wednesday	25	Licensing Act 2003 Cttee; Licensing, H&S and GP Cttee
Thursday	26	Birkenhead Constituency Cttee
Friday	27	Employment and Appointments Cttee (provisional)
Saturday	28	
Sunday	29	
Monday	30	Bank Holiday
Tuesday	31	Half Term

Wednesday	1	
Thursday	2	Planning Committee
Friday	3	
Saturday	4	
Sunday	5	
Monday	6	Cabinet
Tuesday	7	
Wednesday	8	
Thursday	9	Wallasey Constituency Cttee
Friday	10	
Saturday	11	
Sunday	12	
Monday	13	Audit and Risk Management Cttee
Tuesday	14	
Wednesday	15	
Thursday	16	Wirral South Constituency Cttee
Friday	17	
Saturday	18	
Sunday	19	
Monday	20	Pensions Cttee
Tuesday	21	Policy and Performance - Coordinating Cttee
Wednesday	22	
Thursday	23	Planning Committee
Friday	24	
Saturday	25	
Sunday	26	
Monday	27	Cabinet (Policy)
Tuesday	28	
Wednesday	29	Policy and Performance Cttee - Families and Wellbeing
Thursday	30	Wirral West Constituency Cttee

Friday	1	
Saturday	2	
Sunday	3	
Monday	4	
Tuesday	5	Policy and Performance Cttee - Regeneration and Env
Wednesday	6	Standards and Constitutional Oversight Cttee
Thursday	7	Employment and Appointments Cttee
Friday	8	
Saturday	9	
Sunday	10	
Monday	11	COUNCIL (Policy)
Tuesday	12	Policy and Performance Cttee - Transformation and Resources
Wednesday	13	Health and Wellbeing Board
Thursday	14	
Friday	15	
Saturday	16	
Sunday	17	
Monday	18	Cabinet
Tuesday	19	
Wednesday	20	
Thursday	21	Planning Cttee
Friday	22	SCHOOL SUMMER HOLIDAYS
Saturday	23	
Sunday	24	
Monday	25	
Tuesday	26	
Wednesday	27	
Thursday	28	
Friday	29	
Saturday	30	
Sunday	31	

AUGUST

2016

Monday	1	
Tuesday	2	
Wednesday	3	
Thursday	4	
Friday	5	
Saturday	6	
Sunday	7	
Monday	8	
Tuesday	9	
Wednesday	10	
Thursday	11	
Friday	12	
Saturday	13	
Sunday	14	
Monday	15	
Tuesday	16	
Wednesday	17	
Thursday	18	Planning Cttee
Friday	19	
Saturday	20	
Sunday	21	
Monday	22	
Tuesday	23	
Wednesday	24	
Thursday	25	
Friday	26	
Saturday	27	
Sunday	28	
Monday	29	Bank Holiday
Tuesday	30	
Wednesday	31	

SEPTEMBER

2016

Thursday	1	
Friday	2	
Saturday	3	
Sunday	4	
Monday	5	Cabinet
Tuesday	6	
Wednesday	7	
Thursday	8	
Friday	9	
Saturday	10	
Sunday	11	
Monday	12	
Tuesday	13	
Wednesday	14	
Thursday	15	Planning Cttee
Friday	16	
Saturday	17	
Sunday	18	
Monday	19	Pensions Cttee
Tuesday	20	Policy and Performance Cttee - Regeneration & Env
Wednesday	21	Policy and Performance Cttee - Transformation & Resources
Thursday	22	Policy and Performance Cttee - Families & Wellbeing Cttee
Friday	23	
Saturday	24	
Sunday	25	
Monday	26	Audit and Risk Management Cttee
Tuesday	27	
Wednesday	28	Wallasey Constituency Cttee
Thursday	29	Birkenhead Constituency Cttee
Friday	30	

OCTOBER

2016

Saturday	1	
Sunday	2	
Monday	3	Cabinet
Tuesday	4	Policy and Performance - Coordinating Cttee
Wednesday	5	Wirral South Constituency Cttee
Thursday	6	Wirral West Constituency Cttee
Friday	7	
Saturday	8	
Sunday	9	
Monday	10	
Tuesday	11	
Wednesday	12	Licensing H&S and GP Cttee
Thursday	13	
Friday	14	
Saturday	15	
Sunday	16	
Monday	17	COUNCIL
Tuesday	18	
Wednesday	19	
Thursday	20	Planning Cttee
Friday	21	
Saturday	22	
Sunday	23	
Monday	24	Half Term
Tuesday	25	
Wednesday	26	Licensing Act 2003 Cttee
Thursday	27	
Friday	28	
Saturday	29	
Sunday	30	
Monday	31	

NOVEMBER

2016

Tuesday	1	
Wednesday	2	
Thursday	3	
Friday	4	
Saturday	5	
Sunday	6	
Monday	7	Cabinet
Tuesday	8	
Wednesday	9	
Thursday	10	
Friday	11	
Saturday	12	
Sunday	13	
Monday	14	Pensions Cttee
Tuesday	15	
Wednesday	16	Health and Wellbeing Board
Thursday	17	Planning Cttee
Friday	18	
Saturday	19	
Sunday	20	
Monday	21	Standards and Constitutional Oversight Cttee
Tuesday	22	Audit and Risk Management Cttee
Wednesday	23	Licensing, H&S and GP Cttee
Thursday	24	Employment and Appointments Cttee
Friday	25	
Saturday	26	
Sunday	27	
Monday	28	Policy and Performance Cttee - Families & Wellbeing
Tuesday	29	Policy and Performance Cttee - Regeneration & Env
Wednesday	30	Policy and Performance Cttee - Transformation & Resources

DECEMBER

2016

Thursday	1	
Friday	2	
Saturday	3	
Sunday	4	
Monday	5	
Tuesday	6	
Wednesday	7	
Thursday	8	Cabinet
Friday	9	
Saturday	10	
Sunday	11	
Monday	12	
Tuesday	13	
Wednesday	14	
Thursday	15	Planning Cttee
Friday	16	
Saturday	17	
Sunday	18	
Monday	19	COUNCIL
Tuesday	20	
Wednesday	21	
Thursday	22	
Friday	23	
Saturday	24	Christmas Eve
Sunday	25	Christmas Day
Monday	26	Boxing Day
Tuesday	27	Bank Holiday
Wednesday	28	
Thursday	29	
Friday	30	
Saturday	31	

JANUARY

2017

Sunday	1	New Years Day
Monday	2	Bank Holiday
Tuesday	3	
Wednesday	4	
Thursday	5	
Friday	6	
Saturday	7	
Sunday	8	
Monday	9	
Tuesday	10	
Wednesday	11	
Thursday	12	
Friday	13	
Saturday	14	
Sunday	15	
Monday	16	Cabinet; Policy & Performance Cttee - Families & Wellbeing
Tuesday	17	
Wednesday	18	Planning Cttee
Thursday	19	Birkenhead Constituency Cttee
Friday	20	
Saturday	21	
Sunday	22	
Monday	23	Pensions Cttee
Tuesday	24	Policy and Performance Cttee - Regeneration & Env
Wednesday	25	Licensing, H&S and GP Cttee
Thursday	26	Wallasey Constituency Cttee
Friday	27	
Saturday	28	
Sunday	29	
Monday	30	Audit and Risk Management Cttee
Tuesday	31	Policy and Performance Cttee - Transformation & Resources

FEBRUARY

2017

Wednesday	1	
Thursday	2	Wirral South Constituency Cttee
Friday	3	
Saturday	4	
Sunday	5	
Monday	6	
Tuesday	7	
Wednesday	8	
Thursday	9	Wirral West Constituency Cttee
Friday	10	
Saturday	11	
Sunday	12	
Monday	13	
Tuesday	14	
Wednesday	15	Policy and Performance Coordinating Cttee
Thursday	16	Planning Cttee
Friday	17	
Saturday	18	
Sunday	19	
Monday	20	Budget Cabinet HALF TERM
Tuesday	21	
Wednesday	22	
Thursday	23	
Friday	24	
Saturday	25	
Sunday	26	
Monday	27	Cabinet
Tuesday	28	

MARCH

2017

Wednesday	1	Standards and Constitutional Oversight Cttee
Thursday	2	
Friday	3	
Saturday	4	
Sunday	5	
Monday	6	BUDGET COUNCIL
Tuesday	7	Employments and Appointments Cttee
Wednesday	8	
Thursday	9	COUNCIL (BUDGET RESERVE)
Friday	10	
Saturday	11	
Sunday	12	
Monday	13	
Tuesday	14	Audit and Risk Management Cttee
Wednesday	15	Health and Wellbeing Board
Thursday	16	Planning Cttee
Friday	17	
Saturday	18	
Sunday	19	
Monday	20	COUNCIL
Tuesday	21	Pensions Cttee
Wednesday	22	Licensing, H&S and GP Cttee
Thursday	23	Policy and Performance Cttee - Families & Wellbeing
Friday	24	
Saturday	25	
Sunday	26	
Monday	27	Cabinet
Tuesday	28	Policy and Performance Cttee - Transformation & Resources
Wednesday	29	Policy and Performance Cttee - Regeneration & Env
Thursday	30	Birkenhead Constituency Cttee
Friday	31	

APRIL

2017

Saturday	1	
Sunday	2	
Monday	3	
Tuesday	4	
Wednesday	5	Policy and Performance Coordinating Cttee
Thursday	6	Wallasey Constituency Cttee
Friday	7	
Saturday	8	
Sunday	9	
Monday	10	
Tuesday	11	
Wednesday	12	Planning Cttee
Thursday	13	
Friday	14	Good Friday
Saturday	15	
Sunday	16	Easter Sunday
Monday	17	Easter Monday
Tuesday	18	
Wednesday	19	
Thursday	20	Wirral South Constituency Cttee
Friday	21	
Saturday	22	
Sunday	23	
Monday	24	
Tuesday	25	
Wednesday	26	
Thursday	27	Wirral West Constituency Cttee
Friday	28	
Saturday	29	
Sunday	30	

MAY

2017

Monday	1	Bank Holiday
Tuesday	2	
Wednesday	3	
Thursday	4	
Friday	5	
Saturday	6	
Sunday	7	
Monday	8	ANNUAL COUNCIL (PART 1)
Tuesday	9	ANNUAL COUNCIL (PART 2)
Wednesday	10	
Thursday	11	
Friday	12	
Saturday	13	
Sunday	14	
Monday	15	
Tuesday	16	
Wednesday	17	
Thursday	18	
Friday	19	
Saturday	20	
Sunday	21	
Monday	22	
Tuesday	23	
Wednesday	24	
Thursday	25	
Friday	26	
Saturday	27	
Sunday	28	
Monday	29	Bank Holiday
Tuesday	30	
Wednesday	31	

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Other meetings

Pre-Council Group Meetings

- Monday 4 July 2016
- Monday 10 October 2016
- Monday 12 December 2016
- Monday 27 February 2017
- Monday 13 March 2017

Youth Parliament

- Tuesday 8 November 2016

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MINUTE EXTRACT CABINET – 7 MARCH 2016

111 DRAFT CALENDAR OF MEETINGS FOR THE 2016/17 MUNICIPAL YEAR



“Delivering the Wirral Plan requires this Council to operate efficiently, effectively and with open, flexible but robust democratic processes. We have made huge improvements in our governance in recent years and this report demonstrates again that we are taking a systematic and planned approach to our future business.”

Councillor Ann McLachlan

Reason for Decision:

The Council must approve and publish a Calendar of Meetings for the 2016/17 Municipal Year.

Decision:

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL that

- (1) the relevant draft Calendar of Meetings for the 2016/17 Municipal Year set out at Appendix 1 (as amended) be confirmed as the Calendar of Meetings for the Municipal Year 2016/17; and**
- (2) the other meetings detailed set out at Appendix 2 be noted and Members diarise those meetings as appropriate.**

Purpose:

Councillor McLachlan introduced a report recommending draft dates for Council, Cabinet and Committee meetings (“Council meetings”) for the Municipal Year 2016/2017. The report also described various issues that had been taken into account in compiling it.

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services brought to Members attention that an alternative date would be sought for the meeting of the Planning

Committee currently scheduled for the 23 June (the recently announced date for the European Referendum). The revised date, either the 22 or 28 June, would be confirmed to Council.

Other meetings that did not constitute a meeting of the Council and therefore did not require inclusion in the Calendar of Meetings were set out in Appendix 2 of the report. Notifications of those other meetings were given to enable Members to manage their diaries.

The Wirral Plan: A 2020 Vision set out a shared partnership vision to improve outcomes for Wirral residents. Delivery of the priorities and outcomes described in the Plan was dependent on the efficient operation of the democratic process to scrutinise and make the decisions required and the requirement for the scheduling of Council meetings which took these decisions.

The decision required was not a key decision.

Amendments to Notices of Motion

The Council is requested to consider the following amendments, submitted in accordance with Standing Order 12(1) and (9)

(1) Notice of Motion No. 1 – LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Amendment

Proposed by Councillor Phil Gilchrist

Seconded by Councillor Dave Mitchell

Add new paragraph after paragraph 6...

Council notes that in the announcement of the Settlement 8 February 2016, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government set out 'indicative figures'.

Council understands that the idea was and is that councils should apply for a four year budget, extending to the end of the Parliament. Further, it appears that councils have until 14 October 2016 to respond to this. As part of this process, councils were either asked or expected to translate the 'certainty' of a four year settlement into 'efficiency savings'.

Council, therefore, requests officers to establish through the Local Government Association and SIGOMA what this means and what process is being followed.

The Secretary of State also stated that *"Many councils felt that too much time has passed since the last substantial revision of the formula which assesses a council's needs, and the costs it can be expected to incur in delivering services."*

He went on to say that *"On the needs formula itself, it is nearly 10 years since the current formula was last looked at thoroughly. There is good reason to believe that the demographic pressures affecting particular areas – such as the growth in the elderly population – have affected different areas in different ways, as has the cost of providing services. So I can announce that we will conduct a review of what the needs assessment formula should be in a world in which all local government spending is funded by local resources not central grant, and use it to determine the transition to 100% business rates retention."*

Council requests that...

- a) urgent work is undertaken to find out what is meant by the 'review of the needs assessment formula' referred to;
- b) compilation of the information necessary to submit a case for a fair assessment of Wirral's needs is undertaken. This shall, amongst other issues, address the difficulties in achieving the growth in the 'New Homes Bonus' and 'Business Rates' in the timescales being specified;

c) officers submit a formal request for a meeting with the Secretary of State, requesting that he meet with a Wirral delegation to discuss the realistic appraisal of Wirral's needs.

(2) Notice of Motion No. 2 – REGENERATION AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

Amendment

Proposed by Councillor Steve Williams

Seconded by Councillor Andrew Hodson

Insert new paragraph 3:

Council also recognises the significant contribution Government has made to Wirral and the wider City Region to support the Region's ongoing recovery. This support has taken a variety of forms, a snapshot includes:

- Mersey Waters Enterprise Zone Designation
- Devolution
- £232 million for the City Region's Growth Deal
- £400 million for the Northern Powerhouse Investment Fund
- £50 million to support Transport for the North
- £150 million to support the delivery of smart and integrated ticketing across local transport and rail services in the North

(3) Notice of Motion No. 2 – REGENERATION AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

Amendment

Proposed by Councillor Pat Cleary

Seconded by Councillor Alan Brighthouse

Insert new paragraph after paragraph 1...

Council believes that the prospects for the regeneration of Birkenhead will be strengthened if proposals are developed through an open and meaningful consultation with local residents, if the Constituency Committee is consulted at the earliest stages of any projects and that effective, timely and widespread consultation is undertaken about future investment plans. Officers are requested to develop mechanisms to establish this for consideration.

Retain original paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 as new paragraphs 3, 4 and 5.

(4) Notice of Motion No. 3 – GIRTRELL COURT

Amendment

Proposed by Councillor Phil Davies

Seconded by Councillor Chris Jones

Insert new paragraph at start of motion:

‘Council believes that it is important to offer service users and their families a choice of respite care provision. People want the ability to choose the type of care and support which is right for them. At present they are unable to do this. This is not about a building or provider, it’s about the person.’

Delete paragraph 2 and replace with the following:

‘Council notes that a detailed debate on Girtrell Court took place at Budget Council on the 3rd March and a clear way forward was agreed. This involves statutory consultation with service users and their families followed by a clear new service offer and events for carers and cared for people to meet potential new providers. Services will be commissioned to meet all of the identified needs at that stage. Authority will be delegated to the Director, in conjunction with the Cabinet Member, to make decisions in order to avoid undue delays which would prolong uncertainty. We are not imposing deadlines on when this process will be complete and, in the meantime, Girtrell Court will remain open.’

(5) Notice of Motion No. 3 – GIRTRELL COURT

Amendment

Proposed by Councillor Phil Gilchrist

Seconded by Councillor Alan Brighthouse

Add new paragraphs after paragraph 3...

Notwithstanding the decision of Council of 3rd March, Council believes that the rights of Members to scrutinise the decision remain available for their exercise under Part 3, Schedule 4A and 4B of the Constitution.

In view of the concerns of the families and users of Girtrell Court, any ‘decision’ of the Council Officer/Cabinet Member shall be set out, together with all background and supporting material and published for such examination and scrutiny.

(6) Notice of Motion No. 5 – BACKING OUR COASTAL COMMUNITIES

Amendment

Proposed by Councillor Bernie Mooney

Seconded by Councillor Pat Hackett

Delete paragraphs 1, 3, 4 and 5 and add the following:

Council welcomes any support given to develop and boost growth, jobs and prosperity in our local coastal communities. Council recognises that during the floods of December 2013 the authority had to find emergency funds to assist New Brighton with repairs and recovery of £250K from its own budget. The Government offered initial support through a grant system and also the Bellwin Scheme, but later said that the nature of the assets damaged meant that the Council could not utilise these grant schemes.

Government (DCLG) did eventually allocate a Repair and Renewal Grant of £88K for New Brighton but this left a significant short fall for the Council of £162K. Also at the end of August 2015, 100 homes in Wirral were flooded, with some of them being part of coastal communities, but once again the Government refused to allow any of these households to apply retrospectively to the £50m Flood Relief Grant made available to households in Cumbria, saying that the Wirral floods did not justify widening the scope of the Flood Relief Fund.

This shows that once again this Conservative Government says one thing and does the complete opposite.

Council believes that we should support our coastal communities, but the Government has failed to give the coastal communities of Wirral a fair and equal opportunity.

(7) Notice of Motion No. 6 – SUPPORTING VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC ABUSE

Amendment

Proposed by Councillor Janette Williamson

Seconded by Councillor George Davies

Delete last paragraph and replace with:

Council recognises the hard work of our officers and the staff of Wirral Women's and Children's Aid in successfully securing funding from central Government for helping victims of domestic abuse, and Council fully supports Wirral's pledge of zero tolerance to domestic abuse and its recent Lover not Fighter campaign which is aimed at raising awareness around domestic abuse and its effect on children. Council welcomes the recent government defeat in the Court of Appeal over their attempts to restrict access to Legal Aid to victims of domestic abuse. However, Council notes with grave concern the continued and sustained reduction in Local

Government funding by the Conservative government together with cuts to the police and the third sector, and draconian Welfare Reforms, are having a deeply damaging effect on both victims of domestic abuse and the funding and delivery of services designed to help victims find support and independence. Council instructs the Chief Executive to write to Communities Minister, Baroness Williams of Trafford asking her to lobby her own government against subjecting Wirral Council to further cuts, and ask for further funding be given to develop and protect our vital domestic abuse services.

(8) Notice of Motion No. 7 – TACKLING FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION

Amendment

Proposed by Councillor Janette Williamson

Seconded by Councillor Treena Johnson

Add:

Council condemns all violence towards women and girls and acknowledges that 1,700 victims have been referred to specialist services since 2013.

Council notes that simply legislating against a cultural practice without acknowledging cultural sensitivities risks driving that practice underground.

Council supports working with the communities involved in FGM, through highly trained and professional practitioners and asks that funding be made available to Wirral to work collaboratively with the government in keeping our girls and women safe from FGM.

(9) Notice of Motion No. 8 – SETTING CLEAR TARGETS FOR WIRRAL WATERS

Amendment

Proposed by Councillor Chris Blakeley

Seconded by Councillor Lesley Rennie

Insert the following at the end of the original Notice of Motion:

Council notes that Peel Holdings have been willing to engage with Members, often on an ad-hoc basis, most recently with Councillor Chris Blakeley and former councillor Ian Lewis, but believes they must now engage with all relevant parties, and the wider Wirral Community (including residents, employers, business organisations, trade unions and potential suppliers).

Council would welcome and support a programme of public information and engagement.

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