



# Council

Town Hall  
Wallasey

18 March, 2022

Dear Councillor

This supplement for the Council meeting to be held at **6.00 p.m. on Monday, 21 March 2022** in the Floral Pavilion, New Brighton should be read in conjunction with the Council Summons dated 11 March, 2022.

Members of the public are encouraged to view the meeting via the webcast (see below), but for anyone who would like to attend in person, seating is limited therefore please contact us in advance of the meeting if you would like to reserve a seat. All those attending will be asked to wear a face covering (unless exempt) and are encouraged to take a Lateral Flow Test before attending. You should not attend if you have tested positive for Coronavirus or if you have any symptoms of Coronavirus.

Wirral Council is fully committed to equalities and our obligations under The Equality Act 2010 and Public Sector Equality Duty. If you have any adjustments that would help you attend or participate at this meeting, please let us know as soon as possible and we would be happy to facilitate where possible. Please contact [committeeservices@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:committeeservices@wirral.gov.uk)

This meeting will be webcast at  
<https://wirral.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

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## AGENDA SUPPLEMENT

### 5. MATTERS REQUIRING APPROVAL OR CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL

To consider any recommendations and receive reports from the Council's Committees which require the approval or consideration of the Council, and to receive questions and answers on any of those reports.

**A. Wirral Local Plan 2021-37 - Publication of Submission Draft Plan (Regulation 19) and Submission to Secretary of State for Examination (Regulation 22) (Pages 1 - 4)**

The Council is requested to consider the recommendation from the Policy and Resources Committee, considered at the Committee's meeting on 16 March, 2022.

The minute extract is attached.

**B. Pay Policy (Pages 5 - 6)**

The Council is requested to consider the recommendation from the Policy and Resources Committee, considered at the Committee's meeting on 16 March, 2022.

The minute extract is attached.

**6. REPORTS AND DECISIONS FROM COUNCIL COMMITTEES AND PARTNERSHIP ORGANISATIONS**

To receive reports about and receive questions and answers on decisions made by Committees since the last meeting of Council.

**A. DECISIONS TAKEN SINCE THE LAST COUNCIL MEETING (Pages 7 - 12)**

The minutes of the Health and Wellbeing Board, 9 February, 2022 meeting are attached.

Director of Law and Governance

**Audio/Visual Recording of Meetings**

*Everyone is welcome to record meetings of the Council and its Committees using non-disruptive methods. For particular meetings we may identify a 'designated area' for you to record from. If you have any questions about this please contact Committee and Civic Services (members of the press please contact the Press Office). Please note that the Chair of the meeting has the discretion to halt any recording for a number of reasons, including disruption caused by the filming or the nature of the business being conducted.*

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## MINUTE EXTRACT

### POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

16 MARCH 2022

#### 144 WIRRAL LOCAL PLAN 2021 TO 2037: PUBLICATION OF SUBMISSION DRAFT PLAN (REGULATION 19), AND SUBMISSION TO SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXAMINATION (REGULATION 22)

The Director of Regeneration and Place introduced a report which sought approval, by way of a recommendation to Council, to publish the Wirral Local Plan 2021 to 2037- Submission Draft Plan (“the Submission Draft Plan”) for a six-week period to enable representations to be invited on the soundness and legal compliance of the Plan and for the Plan to be subsequently submitted to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (“the Secretary of State”) for Independent Examination, following the conclusion of the publication period under Regulation 19 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended) (“the Regulations”).

The Submission Draft Plan was the document that the Council, subject to Members' approval, would submit to the Secretary of State for Independent Examination and which it would wish to adopt subject to the recommendations of a Planning Inspector.

The publication of the Submission Draft Plan (under Regulation 19 of the Regulations) was the final stage of engagement prior to the Submission Draft Plan being submitted for Independent Examination. The purpose of this stage was to enable any person to make representations (under Regulation 20 of the Regulations) about the Submission Draft Plan. The representations must relate to the ‘soundness’ or legal compliance of the Local Plan and would then go forward to be considered by the Planning Inspector who would be appointed by the Secretary of State to undertake the Independent Examination.

In accordance with National Planning Policy the Council must, through the Local Plan, provide a positive planning policy framework that supported and boosted the economy. The Submission Draft Plan was appended to the report in a separate supplement and its accompanying Policies Map could be viewed online via a link at Appendix 2.

In producing the Submission Draft Plan, extensive work and evidence collation had indicated that the needs of the Borough could and should be met within the existing urban areas through an urban intensification approach. Because of this, the ‘exceptional circumstances’ for alterations to be made to Green Belt boundaries did not exist. This approach accords with national planning policy and guidance. The Council’s approved Local Development Scheme (January 2022) identified that the Council intended to submit the Submission Draft Plan for Independent Examination to the Secretary of State between July and September 2022.

At the Independent Examination an Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State would examine the Submission Draft Plan, the evidence supporting it and the representations received under Regulation 20 and would assess whether the Council's proposed Plan was sound and had met the legal requirements to allow it to be formally adopted. The Inspector might suggest further modifications to the Local Plan.

The proposed publication of the Submission Draft Plan was in accordance with the Council's adopted Local Development Scheme and Statement of Community Involvement. The recommended process as set out within the report complied with relevant legislative requirements and was necessary before the Wirral Local Plan could be submitted to the Secretary of State for Independent Examination. The current Wirral Unitary Development Plan ("UDP") was adopted in 2000 and was in need of replacement.

The proposed Local Plan policies, spatial strategy and site allocations were supported by an extensive range of supporting documents and evidence, including a Sustainability Appraisal, Habitat Regulations Assessment and Infrastructure Delivery Plan.

The continued progression of the Local Plan towards adoption would provide for the future development and infrastructure needs of the Borough in a sustainable and appropriate manner and would provide up to date planning policies to guide and support future development proposals. The Government required all local planning authorities to have an up-to-date Local Plan in place by 2023. The Council was subject to the threat of intervention by the Secretary of State in the event the Local Plan was not prepared in a timely manner.

The Committee discussed the proposed delegated authority to the Director to make the necessary modifications to the Wirral Local Plan during the examination in public process.

It was moved by Councillor Tom Anderson, seconded by Councillor Jeff Green that the officer recommendations be agreed.

Following the proposing of suggested amendments in relation to the delegated authority to the Director, the Chair agreed to adjourn the meeting at 19.16pm for consultation and legal advice on the proposed amendments.

Upon resumption of the meeting at 19.39pm, it was moved by Councillor Jean Robinson as an amendment that the recommendations in the report be agreed, subject to the addition of new paragraph 5 being inserted beneath 4(b), to read "Authorise the Director of Regeneration and Place, in consultation with Chair and Spokespersons of Policy and Resources Committee to:", and paragraphs 4(c) and 4(d) becoming paragraphs 5(a) and 5(b).

This amendment was accepted by Councillor Tom Anderson as the mover of the original motion.

The substantive motion was put and agreed (14:1). It was therefore –

**RECOMMENDED (14:1) – That Council:**

- 1. Agree and publish the Wirral Local Plan-Submission Draft and Policies Map (as set out as Appendices 1 and 2 to this report respectively) ("the Wirral Local Plan") for a period of six weeks as soon as practicable for representations to be invited as to soundness and legal compliance in accordance with Regulation 19 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended) ("the Regulations");**
- 2. Agree the submission of the Wirral Local Plan, along with representations received, to the Secretary of State for Independent Examination under section 20 of the Planning Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) ("the 2004 Act"), together with the submission documents prescribed by Regulation 22 of the Regulations, following the conclusion of the Regulation 19 publication period;**
- 3. Note the Sustainability Appraisal, Habitats Regulation Assessment, Equality Impact Assessment, the Local Plan Duty to Co-operate Statement of Compliance, the Regulation 18 Consultation Statement and Local Plan evidence base published alongside Wirral Local Plan;**
- 4. Authorise the Director of Regeneration and Place, in such consultation with the Chair and Spokespersons of Policy and Resources Committee as is practical and appropriate, to:**
  - (a) make non-material typographical, formatting, mapping and other minor amendments to the Wirral Local Plan prior to publication and prior to submission of the Local Plan to the Secretary of State;**
  - (b) produce and submit any supplementary information and documentation to the Local Plan Inspector(s) as may be required to complete the examination and address any issues relating to soundness and legal compliance including statements of common ground with various organisations;**
- 5. Authorise the Director of Regeneration and Place, in consultation with Chair and Spokespersons of Policy and Resources Committee to:**
  - (a) agree such main and other modifications to the Wirral Local Plan during the examination in public process as may be necessary to make the Wirral Local Plan sound and legally compliant, in accordance with section 20(7C) of the 2004 Act; and**
  - (b) write to the Local Plan Inspector(s) appointed to carry out the Independent Examination of the submitted Wirral Local Plan asking them to recommend such main or other modifications to the submitted Wirral Local Plan as may be necessary to make the Wirral Local Plan sound and legally compliant, in accordance with section 20(7C) of the 2004 Act.**

- 6. Endorse the Wirral Local Plan-Submission Draft as a material consideration to be used in the determination of planning applications, with appropriate weight given in accordance with paragraph 48 of the National Planning Policy Framework; and**
- 7. Agree in principle to consider the use of the Council's Compulsory Purchase Order Powers, where required, to assist with the delivery of regeneration projects set out in the Wirral Local Plan**

# Agenda Item 5b

## MINUTE EXTRACT

### POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

16 MARCH 2022

#### 146 PAY POLICY REPORT 2022-2023

A report of the Director of Resources on the Council's Pay Policy Statement was considered, the purpose of which was to provide transparency with regard to the Council's approach to setting pay by identifying:

- The methods by which salaries of all employees were determined;
- The detail and level of the salary package of its most senior staff;
- The Head of Paid Service's responsibility for ensuring the provisions set out in this statement were applied consistently throughout the Council and recommending any amendments to Full Council.

The Council was required by Section 38 of The Localism Act 2011 to prepare a Pay Policy Statement for each financial year.

The report highlighted key changes in the 2021/22 Statement, including the new Living Wage rate of £9.90 per hour; variations to pay grade and progression through pay grade.

**RECOMMENDED – To Council the approval of the Pay Policy Statement for the financial year 2022/23.**

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## HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

Wednesday, 9 February 2022

Present: Councillor Y Nolan (Chair)

Councillor Yvonne Nolan	Chair
Councillor Janette Williamson	Wirral Council
Councillor Wendy Clements	Wirral Council
Councillor Phil Gilchrist	Wirral Council
Paul Satoor	Chief Executive
Graham Hodkinson	Director of Care and Health
Elizabeth Hartley (in place of Simone White)	Assistant Director for Early Help and Prevention
Julie Webster	Director of Public Health
Simon Banks	Chief Executive, NHS Wirral Clinical Commissioning Group
David Hammond (in place of Karen Howell)	Wirral Community NHS Foundation Trust
Supt Martin Earl	Merseyside Police
Louise Healey	Job Centre Plus
Micha Woodworth (in place of Karen Prior)	Healthwatch Wirral
Matthew Swanborough (in place of Janelle Holmes)	Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
Michael Norton (in place of Sue Higginson)	Wirral Met College

### 53 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Members of the Board were asked whether they have any personal or prejudicial interests in connection with any application on the agenda and, if so, to declare them and state the nature of the interest.

The following declarations were made:

Councillor Wendy Clements	Personal interest in Item 8 'Early Years and Health' by virtue of her employment in early years in Wirral.
Louise Healey	Personal interest in Item 9 'Overview of Council Lifelong Learning Delivery 2019/20' as a governor for Wirral Lifelong Learning.

### 54 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Tom Anderson, Simone White, Karen Prior, Mike Maier, Sir David Henshaw, Mike Maier, Abel Adegoke, Warren Ward, Karen Howell, Michael Brown, Tim Welch, Dr Faouzi Alam, Sue Higginson and Janelle Holmes.

55 **MINUTES**

**Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 15 December 2021 be agreed.**

56 **PUBLIC AND MEMBER QUESTIONS**

The Chair reported that no public questions, statements or petitions had been submitted.

**At the request of the Chair, the Board agreed to rearrange the order of business**

57 **OVERVIEW OF COUNCIL LIFELONG LEARNING DELIVERY 2019/20**

The Head of Integrated Learning, Skills and Employment introduced the report of the Director of Children, Families and Education which set out the Lifelong Learning Services' developments, summary of delivery and learner achievements in the 2019/20 academic year which was its first full academic year funded by the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority. It was outlined that the report had been submitted to Children, Young People and Education Committee in September 2021 and referred to Health and Wellbeing Board to emphasise the role it played in the wider determinants of health. Further detail on the service was provided to the Board including the work delivered with the third sector including volunteering, employability and mental health & wellbeing.

The Board heard from Kerry Corrigan who had enrolled in the Lifelong Learning programme in 2020 studying Understanding Mental Health and Wellbeing, English and Functional Skills Level 1, Teaching Assistant Level 1 and Teaching Assistant Level 2. The Board heard how Kerry had been supported by the tutors through her study journey, including throughout lockdown when she was loaned a laptop to continue her course, and following completion was now volunteering at her daughter's school to gain the necessary experience and put her learning into practice.

The Board welcomed the presentation and thanked Kerry for providing the important lived experience. The Director of Public Health emphasised the opportunity through the health and wellbeing strategy to create links across the sector and utilise the Lifelong Learning Service as part of health provision when appropriate for someone accessing health services who would benefit from the service.

**Resolved – That**

**(1) the report be noted.**

**(2) the services' planned improvements be supported, and the contribution made to improving the lives of adults in Wirral's more deprived communities during 2019/20 be recognised.**

58 **COMMUNITY, VOLUNTARY AND FAITH SECTOR REFERENCE GROUP UPDATE**

The Head of Legal Services introduced the report of the Director of Law and Governance which provided the latest updates and proposals from the Community, Voluntary and Faith (CVF) Sector Reference Group. The Chair and members of the CVF Reference Group outlined the reports submitted to the Board on behalf of the Group, which detailed proposals in relation to local infrastructure and environmental development.

The Board was informed of the existing work taking place in Wirral in relation to environmental activities including the work of Grow Wellbeing, which displayed the positive impact greenspace has on health and wellbeing and formed part of the evidence for the proposals detailed in the report of the Reference Group. A further update was provided on the Family Hub model with real life examples of the benefits it had already brought to Wirral outlined to the Board including bereavement support and educational achievements.

The Board expressed its support for the work that was taking place in Wirral and the exploration of its further development. The benefits of aligning community groups with health practitioners was recognised including the role of social prescribing, and it was proposed that the preventative work being undertaken in Children's Services aligned with the work of the Reference Group and that further information be shared with the Group.

**Resolved – That the report be noted.**

## 59 MARMOT COMMUNITIES PROGRAMME UPDATE

The Director of Public Health introduced the report which provided an update on the Marmot Community Programme, led by Cheshire and Merseyside Health and Care Partnership and Directors of Public Health, working in partnership with the Institute of Health Equity (IHE), University College London, summarising the key messages and areas for action to achieve progress in reducing inequalities, identified by the Institute of Health Equity in their interim report for Cheshire and Merseyside and which it was reported would be used to shape the Wirral Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

The working group previously established by the Board to develop the strategy would consider its length of time, its focus on the wider determinants of health, the inclusion of high level outcome framework indicators to monitor progress and its alignment with partnerships such as the Integrated Care Board, Lifelong Learning and Community Safety Partnership. The Working Group would be meeting frequently over the coming months to enable it to develop this work in time to report back to the Health and Wellbeing Board in June 2022.

**Resolved – That the continued development of Wirral's Health and Wellbeing Strategy, based on the recommendations of the Public Health Annual Report 2021, detailed in Appendix 1, and the findings, recommendations and actions developed by the Institute of Health Equity Marmot Community programme for Cheshire and Merseyside be supported.**

## 60 BETTER CARE FUND

The Lead Commissioner for Integrated Services introduced the report of the Director of Care and Health which set out the content of the Better Care Fund forward plan for 2021/22 and sought to demonstrate how national conditions had been met. The Board was informed that submitting the plan to NHS England was a mandatory requirement, and that following a 'light touch' approach in 2020/21 in light of the system pressures caused by Covid-19, a full response was required for 2021/22. The Board was informed of the detail of the plan as well as the key Council strategies it linked in with including the Early Intervention and Prevention agenda and Mental Health Strategy.

The Board welcomed the demonstration of learning from experiences and use of focus groups. Further information was sought in relation to Disabled Facilities Grants which would be shared with members of the Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee.

**Resolved – That the report be noted.**

## 61    **EARLY YEARS AND HEALTH**

The Head of Early Years introduced the report of the Director of Children, Families and Education which provided an overview of the early years sector in Wirral, including the importance of the earliest years of life, the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on children, their parents/carers and the early years sector and also set out partnership plans for Covid recovery and embedding a robust Early Years Strategy to support children under 5 to fulfil their potential.

It was reported that pre-Covid, work had been undertaken to produce an Early Years Strategy to address anomalies in the previous Ready for School programme and to integrate the outcomes of co-production with key stakeholders including parents and carers into the strategy. Whilst Covid-19 had delayed the development of the strategy, the work identified as priorities had been ongoing and the report detailed this work, including tackling health inequalities. The Board further received a presentation on the work of the Early Years' Service throughout and since the Covid-19 pandemic, this included detail on:

- The My Child Can online resource used to engage parents and share information and advice, the website for which had been visited 1.3 million times from March 2020 to March 2021 and the social media platforms having 5,900 followers.
- Wirral's Parenting Journey with work undertaken to identify points in time when they should access advice and support.
- The First 1001 Days Pathway initiative which would be led by voluntary organisations and link in with the Marmot Programme
- The 'Start the Conversation' Communication and Language Pathway which had been co-produced with families
- The development of a Wirral Early Years Strategy 2022-25

The Board welcomed the presentation and assurances that much of the ongoing work was fitting into the overarching Health and Wellbeing Strategy as it emerged. It was reported that Brook had identified a delay in maturity for children transitioning from primary to secondary and the Chair requested a further report on the impact of covid on socialisation and peer support.

**Resolved – That**

- (1) the partnership response to delivering early years support and services to children under 5 and their parents/carers throughout the pandemic be noted.**
- (2) the development of the Early Years Strategy be noted and the next steps for its launch, implementation and delivery be noted.**

**62 LOCAL AREA SEND INSPECTION UPDATE**

The Assistant Director for Education introduced the report of the Director of Children, Families and Education which gave an overview of the Wirral local area response to the findings from the joint local area inspection into the effectiveness of the local area in implementing the special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) reforms as set out in the Children and Families Act 2014.

The Board was informed of the findings of the inspection, with some of the strengths identified including vulnerable young people being helped quickly and needs identified well, children with physical disabilities identified early and swift actions put in place to support their educational needs and early help professionals are well trained with the necessary support available. The Board was also informed that there were areas requiring improvement, with issues in assessment pathways and delays in the completion of Education, Health and Care Plans and the annual review process, as well as issues with communication and co-production with parents and carers. The inspection also highlighted the lack of joint commissioning of services in the area and effective strategic oversight to ensure effectiveness of plans, as well as differences in the quality of provision for SEND across the area and disparity of offer in different schools.

Work was undertaken in the weeks following the inspection to address some of the areas of concern highlighted and these were summarised to the Board. These included:

- Needs analysis and data – effective partnership working in collaboration resulting in the identification of a dedicated resource to support development of a robust data set across the Council and CCG
- Assessment and planning – ongoing development of a new and inclusive pathway around the concept of three waves of support
- Co-production and communication – development of a new local offer website for parents and carers co-produced with parents, carers, young people and partner agencies

The Council's response would be monitored by the Department for Education, Care Quality Commission and OFSTED, and regular updates would be brought back to the Health and Wellbeing Board with young people, parents, carers and schools invited to contribute. The Board recognised the value of co-production and the need to work together across the system with the Health and Wellbeing Board being seen as a valuable forum for that discussion to take place.

**Resolved – That**

- (1) the actions carried out to date, and the proposed actions to be included in the development of the Written Statement of Action to be submitted to Ofsted be endorsed.**
- (2) the Director of Children, Families and Education be requested to submit a progress report to the Board at the start of the 2022/23 municipal year.**

63 **ICS UPDATE**

The Chief Officer of NHS Wirral Clinical Commissioning Group introduced the report which provided an update on the development of the Integrated Care System and the associated changes to the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). It was reported that subsequent to the publication of the report, a number of changes had been announced which were brought to the Board's attention. This included the establishment of the Integrated Care Board (ICB) being delayed to 1 July 2022 and the appointment of Graham Irwin as the designate Chief Executive of the ICB, who would lead the interview for the appointment of the Wirral Place Director with a closing date of 15<sup>th</sup> February. The Board was assured that the delay to the introduction of the ICB had no effect to the Clinical Commissioning Group workforce employment commitment, but the transfer would now not happen until April 2022.

The role of the Board within the new arrangements was clarified, with it retaining its statutory functions whilst also shaping the strategic direction in relation to improving health and care outcomes for residents.

**Resolved – That the report be noted.**

64 **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Head of Legal Services introduced the report of the Director of Law and Governance which provided the Board with its current work programme and gave opportunity to propose additional items for consideration at future meetings.

On a motion proposed by Matthew Swanborough, seconded by Councillor Yvonne Nolan, it was –

**Resolved – That**

- (1) the work programme be noted.**
- (2) a report on the impact of the formation of the Integrated Care System be added to the work programme for consideration in July 2022.**