



Tourism, Communities, Culture & Leisure Committee

Date:	Tuesday, 25 July 2023
Time:	6.00 p.m.
Venue:	Committee Room 1 - Birkenhead Town Hall

Contact Officer: Anna Perrett
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AGENDA

- 1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**
- 2. APOLOGIES**
- 3. MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members are asked to consider whether they have any disclosable pecuniary interests and/or any other relevant interest in connection with any item(s) on this agenda and, if so, to declare them and state the nature of the interest.

4. MINUTES (Pages 1 - 12)

To approve the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 22 June 2023.

5. PUBLIC AND MEMBER QUESTIONS

Please telephone the Committee Services Officer if you have not received an acknowledgement of your question/statement by the deadline for submission.

5.1 Public Questions

Notice of question to be given in writing or by email by 12 noon, 20 July 2023 to the Council's Monitoring Officer via this link: [Public Question Form](#) and to be dealt with in accordance with Standing Order 10.

For more information on how your personal information will be used, please see this link: [Document Data Protection Protocol for Public Speakers at Committees | Wirral Council](#)

Please telephone the Committee Services Officer if you have not received an acknowledgement of your question by the deadline for submission.

5.2 Statements and Petitions

Notice of representations to be given in writing or by email by 12 noon, 20 July 2023 to the Council's Monitoring Officer (committeeservices@wirral.gov.uk) and to be dealt with in accordance with Standing Order 11.1.

Petitions may be presented to the Committee if provided to Democratic and Member Services no later than 10 working days before the meeting, at the discretion of the Chair. The person presenting the petition will be allowed to address the meeting briefly (not exceeding three minute) to outline the aims of the petition. The Chair will refer the matter to another appropriate body of the Council within whose terms of reference it falls without discussion, unless a relevant item appears elsewhere on the Agenda. If a petition contains more than 5,000 signatures, it will be debated at a subsequent meeting of Council for up to 15 minutes, at the discretion of the Mayor.

Please telephone the Committee Services Officer if you have not received an acknowledgement of your statement/petition by the deadline for submission.

5.3 Questions by Members

Questions by Members to be dealt with in accordance with Standing Orders 12.3 to 12.8.

SECTION A - BUDGET AND PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

- 6. 2023/24 BUDGET MONITORING FOR QUARTER ONE (THE PERIOD TO 30 JUNE 2023) (Pages 13 - 26)**
- 7. TOURISM, COMMUNITIES, CULTURE AND LEISURE COMMITTEE PERFORMANCE REPORT (Pages 27 - 34)**

SECTION B - KEY AND OTHER DECISIONS

- 8. COMMUNITY SAFETY ANNUAL REPORT (Pages 35 - 46)**

SECTION C - WORK PROGRAMME / OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

- 9. WORK PROGRAMME (Pages 47 - 54)**
- 10. EXEMPT INFORMATION - EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

The following items contain exempt information.

RECOMMENDATION: That, under section 100 (A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined by paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A (as amended) to that Act. The Public Interest test has been applied and favours exclusion.

- 11. TOURISM, COMMUNITIES, CULTURE AND LEISURE COMMITTEE PERFORMANCE - EXEMPT APPENDIX (Pages 55 - 60)**

Terms of Reference

The terms of reference for this committee can be found at the end of this agenda.

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TOURISM, COMMUNITIES, CULTURE & LEISURE COMMITTEE

Thursday, 22 June 2023

1 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Chair welcomed attendees and viewers to the meeting and reminded everyone that the meeting was webcast and retained on the Council's website.

2 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor Tom Laing, Councillor Paul Martin and Councillor Kaitlin Stuart.

3 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members are asked to consider whether they have any disclosable pecuniary interests and/or any other relevant interest in connection with any item(s) on this agenda and, if so, to declare them and state the nature of the interest. No interests were declared.

4 MINUTES

The Chair requested that the word 'business' be changed to 'organisation' in relation to Community Asset Transfer.

Resolved – That subject to the above changes, the minutes of the meeting held on 9 March 2023 be approved and adopted as a correct record.

5 PUBLIC AND MEMBER QUESTIONS

6 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The Chair informed Members that several public questions had been received and she would ask those in attendance to present theirs first.

Mary Jordan read out a question regarding Bromborough Civic Centre, noting that it had been a popular facility for the community and queried what consultation the Council had carried out to ascertain what local people want to see in their community; with whom they had consulted, what was the sample size, how has the data been analysed and what conclusions were drawn. The

Chair responded to say that Public Consultation had been undertaken and the Council had invited expressions of interest in a Community Asset Transfer. Two Business Cases had been submitted, and the views expressed in the two business cases will be taken into account by the Council when making any decision.

Mo Miller asked a question relating to Bromborough Civic Centre asking if any evaluation had been done on the costs, both financial and social, of disposal of Bromborough Civic Centre despite it having a viable future as a community asset. The Chair responded to say that the evaluation of the business plans and disposal is included in the exempt appendices to the report and is available to members of this committee so they can take a fully informed decision on the matter of Bromborough Civic Centre.

Irene Crowther asked a question relating to Bromborough Civic Centre, noting that the Committee had previously considered the centre as part of the Community Asset Transfer and that the report on this issue indicated that there was a viable community future for the Civic Centre, with both bids including a community Library in their planning. Mrs Crowther asked that if a decision is made to dispose of the Civic Centre and Library, would that not be a contravention of the Libraries Act by not considering Bromborough Library on an equal footing with other libraries considered for closure. The Chair responded to say that there had been public consultation before the Council decided to close any libraries, that the library had been closed because it was no longer required for an efficient and comprehensive library service and because of the need to make savings to balance the budget. Bromborough Library has been included, along with all the other libraries in Wirral, in the same process and therefore the Council does not believe that there is any contravention of the Libraries Act.

Susan Smith asked a question relating to Bromborough Civic Centre and queried if the committee voted for the option of disposing of Bromborough civic centre and library, what did the council intend to put in place to ameliorate the social isolation, poor mental health, low educational outcomes, poor provision for young people and poor health amongst the elderly. The Chair responded to say that there was already a significant number of services available to support the community in Bromborough including a Children's centre, youth centre etc. 43 services and activities are registered on Wirral infobank for the CH62 area specifically, and 205 for Bromborough, Bebington, Eastham and Port Sunlight areas. There were two community connectors assigned to the Bromborough area as well as vibrant local community organisations.

John Brace asked a question relating to the proposals to make the libraries at libraries of St James (Bidston and St James ward) and Beechwood (Bidston and St James) self-service (as opposed to staffed as they are at present) which is a recommendation in agenda item 8 (Libraries: Implementation of

New Operating Model). Mr Brace asked when the recommendations would be implemented, would this lead to job losses and how likely would the changes impact members of the public. The Chair responded to say that the majority of changes approved have now been implemented. Beechwood Library currently remains as a Council staffed library localised discussions continue for a co-located venue for a Library in the area. And following positive discussions with North Birkenhead Development Trust (St James) it was agreed that this would be the first Community Partner Library offer to commence with an effective date of 1st May. The revised opening hours offers an increase of 14 hours per week from the previous council staffed offer. No members of staff will be lost within the library service as a consequence of these 2 sites being self-service.

The Chair read out a question on behalf of Percy Hogg relating to Bromborough Civic Centre, noting that this was very similar to a question also received by Kate Hare. Mr Hogg stated that a petition previously been presented to the Committee and more people were signing up to volunteer to help run the library. Mr Hogg queried why this was being ignored. The Chair responded to say that the Council was aware of the strength of feeling in Bromborough and the two business cases and confirmed the library was closed because it was no longer required for an efficient and comprehensive library service and because of the need to make savings to balance the budget.

The Chair read out a question on behalf of Andrew Waring. The question related to Brackenwood Golf Club team who had worked hard to keep it as a managed area while a Community Asset Transfer could be arranged. Mr Waring wanted to know why a historical site could used for football pitches, noting that is it is a green area and should stay that way. The Chair responded to say that the Council had a deficit of playing pitches and explained the negotiations which had taken place with Brackenwood Golf Club. If the report's recommendation for Brackenwood Golf course was to be approved, then the area would remain as open space and be used for playing pitches (for a variety of sports), Biodiversity Net Gain and public access.

6.1 Statements and Petitions

Keith Marsh presented a petition of 1,807 signatures against building a sports hub at Brackenwood Golf Course and made a statement in relation to the Community Asset Transfer of Brackenwood Golf Course.

John Richardson made a statement relating to Brackenwood Golf Course, noting that at a previous committee there was a desire from Members and Brackenwood Golf Club to keep the golf club open and spoke of disappointment regarding the recommendations in the report and associated rents. Mr Richardson asked for a meaningful resolution to keep the Golf Course open.

Ann Edwards made a statement regarding Brackenwood Golf Course, stating its history and positive impact on the Community. Mrs Edwards confirmed the hard work to move forwards with the Community Asset Transfer and stated concerns regarding the report recommendations coming Back to Committee.

Robin Clarke made a statement regarding Brackenwood Golf Course, querying pitch provision and confirmed the steps taken by Brackenwood Community Golf to move forward the Community Asset Transfer and voiced concerns about the process.

Luke Agnew made a statement which related to the environmental impact of closing Brackenwood Golf Course, asking Committee to keep the golf course a symbol of our commitment to biodiversity, to a diversity of interests, and to a sustainable future.

Adam Mellor made a statement which related to Bromborough Civic Centre, noting that is the asset is disposed of, it cannot be brought back and noting that there is a clear gap in provision in South Wirral.

Alison Roberts on behalf of Steve Taylor-Smith made a statement regarding a Community Asset Transfer to Bromborough Civic Community Group. She noted that the transfer will offer the long-term viability of the centre, noting that it was an important part of the community.

Cherry Povall made a statement of the future of Bromborough Civic Centre and access to foodbanks, commenting that assets should be transferred to community groups, not larger organisations. The Bromborough Civic Community group had put together a viable business plan and will keep it as a community asset. Also queried was the amount of business rates charged to local businesses.

Jean Robinson made a statement relating to Woodchurch Leisure Centre and business cases noting that not all the information was available to the Committee due to previous exempt reports.

Janette Williamson made a statement relating to Woodchurch Leisure Centre, stating that there was insufficient information available for the Committee to make a decision.

Liz Grey made a statement relating to Woodchurch Leisure Centre asking the Committee to reject the demolition of the building, stating that until recently it was heralded as an aquatic centre of excellence.

7 **QUARTER 4 REVENUE AND CAPITAL MONITORING BUDGET REPORT**

The Senior Finance Business Partner introduced the report of the Director of Neighbourhoods. The report provided a summary of the year-end revenue

position for the 2022/23 financial year as at the end of March 2023 for the Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee. The report also provided Members with an overview of budget performance to enable the Committee to take ownership of the budgets and provide robust challenge and scrutiny to Officers on the performance of those budgets.

Members were informed that the year-end revenue outturn for 2022/23 represents an adverse position of £5.890m on the Committee net revenue budget of £5.359m

Members queried the footfall in leisure facilities and were informed that the performance monitoring report would be presented to the July Committee. A further query was made regarding the Council overspend and members were advised that a report was being presented to Policy and Resources Committee and Council regarding this. Members also discussed the option of building new leisure facilities and maintenance of existing premises. Members were informed there is a comprehensive programme in place to tackle update of leisure services as well as maintenance of buildings. The Terms of Reference for the committee was mentioned and a request that any subsequent reports mirror this.

On a motion by the chair, seconded by Councillor Angie Davies it was -

Resolved – That

(1) the draft, unaudited 2022/23 outturn adverse variance of £5.890m be noted.

(2) the draft, unaudited 2022/23 capital variance be noted.

(3) Subject to the inclusion of Environmental Health and Trading Standards the transfer to and use of earmarked reserves, as detailed in Appendix 2 be approved.

(4). the progress on delivery of the 2022/23 savings programme be noted.

8 2023/24 BUDGET AND BUDGET MONITORING PROCESS

The Director of Finance introduced the report, which set out how the 2023/24 budget would be monitored through the Committee system, which will facilitate the Policy and Services Committees (the Committees) to take ownership of their specific budgets and present appropriate challenge and scrutiny of Officers on the management and performance of those budgets.

Members queried the public health transfer of £7m from Public Health to the Tourism Communities Culture and Leisure Committee and were assured of a response from the director and raised the issue of any reports accurately reflecting the terms of reference of the Committee.

On a motion by the chair, seconded by Councillor Angie Davies it was -

Resolved – That

- 1. the process for in-year monitoring of the 2023/24 budget be noted.**
- 2. Subject to all budget reports being brought to this committee reflecting the terms of reference as laid out on the constitution, the Committee agrees to establish and appoint a Budget Monitoring Panel to comprise of the Committee Chair and Spokespersons, with sessions to be led by the relevant Director/Assistant Director.**

9 LIBRARIES: IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW OPERATING MODEL

The Strategic Library Manager presented the report of the Director of Neighbourhood Services. This report provided members of the Tourism, Communities, Culture & Leisure Committee (TCCL) with a progress update on the implementation plan for the Wirral's public library service (New Model).

At the TCCL Committee on 25th October 2022, it was resolved that the proposed New Library Model be developed. The New Model was the mechanism to drive the delivery of The Library Strategy 2021- 26. Together these products would strive to provide a balanced, sustainable, modern, and fit for purpose Library Service in Wirral which would ensure that all residents have access to a comprehensive and efficient service.

Members thanked officers for the comprehensive report and the new model as well as discussing the video calling booths, and the triage process for this. Members were informed that these were being rolled out across sites and noted that satisfaction in the service was high. It was noted that difficult decisions had been made, and queried if the stats could go into Power B.I so that Members could view them.

Resolved – that the proposed approach, work to date and the ongoing implementation plan of the Library new operating model be supported.

10 COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER

The Assistant Director for Special Projects presented the report of the Director of Resources which updated Members on the community asset transfer (CAT) of Hoylake Municipal Golf Course and made recommendations on community asset transfer (CAT) matters relating to Bromborough Civic Centre, Woodchurch Leisure Centre and Brackenwood Golf Course. It built upon the

CAT decisions made by this committee at its meetings of 16 June 2022, 25 October 2022, 2 February 2023 and 9 March 2023.

Members were informed that recommendations within the report enabled the Committee to make decisions on the assets that were in scope for Community Asset Transfer (CAT). If Committee resolved to transfer Brackenwood Golf Course to Brackenwood Community Golf Limited, and Bromborough Civic Centre to one of the two groups who had submitted business plans, then under the Constitution, this must be a recommendation to the Policy and Resources Committee, for their decision, as the asset values are over £500,000.

The Assistant Director for Special Projects gave a comprehensive overview of each recommendation and Members agreed to consider and discuss the three recommendations separately.

Brackenwood

Members discussed any financial loss in relation to Community benefits and discussed the viability and maintenance of a hybrid approach. Also discussed was the potential pressures on the Oval and were advised that there was a list of potential hub sites for other sports facility locations. Members were advised that several of these locations were subject to a Community Asset Transfer process which was pending decision. Members also discussed the issues surrounding parking provision and environmental impact, including a baseline for bio-diversity.

On a motion by the chair, seconded by Councillor Ruth Molyneux it was,

Resolved- That

(1) the Director of Finance be authorised to conclude negotiations on the heads of terms in exempt Appendix 2, for the transfer of Brackenwood Golf Course to Brackenwood Community Golf Limited, once an increase in the rent proposal from the company is agreed, and some provision for very small football/tennis pitches has been explored. This should form part of the recommendation to Policy and Resources Committee as the Asset value is £950k which is above the value that can be agreed by this Committee or the Director of Resources.

Bromborough Civic Centre

Members discussed the three options and asked for clarity on several of the options. Members then agreed to discuss the exempt items in a closed session and moved the exemption.

It was therefore, resolved - That, under section 100 (A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined by paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A (as amended) to that Act. The Public Interest test has been applied and favours exclusion.

Following the resumption of the open session, on a motion moved by the Chair, seconded by Councillor Jenny Johnson, it was –

Resolved – That

(2) since the committee is minded to try and move towards a Community Asset Transfer for Bromborough Civic Centre, this item be moved to the July committee to enable a workshop to be convened so as to give both business cases the examination they deserve.

Woodchurch Leisure Centre

On a Motion by Councillor Angie Davies and Seconded by Councillor Paul Jobson it was –

Resolved (7:4) – That,

(3) the consideration of the future of Woodchurch Leisure Centre had been ongoing for quite some time and now requires urgent consideration and determination. To that end, the business case is to be referred to the Director of Finance for his immediate attention, following which a report is to be brought to the meeting of Policy and Resources Committee on 12 July for determination, ensuring that members are acquainted with all key facts.

11 APPOINTMENT TO BIRKENHEAD PARK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Legal Officer presented the report of the Director of Law and Governance which asked Committee to review the continuing need for the Birkenhead Park Advisory Committee and to appoint Members and named deputies to serve on those for the 2023/24 municipal year.

Resolved – that the Monitoring Officer be authorised as proper officer to carry out the wishes of the Group Leaders in allocating Members to membership of the Birkenhead Park Advisory Committee and to appoint those Members in accordance with the rules on political balance, with effect from the date at which the proper officer is advised of the names of such Members.

12 **APPOINTMENT OF HERITAGE CHAMPION**

The Legal officer presented the report of the Director of Law and Governance, which asked Committee to consider the appointment of a Member Champion for Heritage. Members were informed that it was not possible to appoint Councillor Jerry Williams formally to be a Heritage Champion because he is not a Member of this Committee and as such is disqualified under the Constitution.

Resolved – that, a Member Champion in relation to matters concerning the Borough’s heritage should not be appointed, since the Mayor has offered to continue to carry out those functions as part of his Mayoral duties.

13 **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Legal Officer introduced the report of the Director of Law and Governance, which requested that newly composited Committee review the 2023-24 work programme moving into the 202324 municipal year. It was proposed that issues on the existing work programme that are for information purposes only can be considered via other means, such as briefing notes or workshops.

The Chair requested that a further report on the Third Sector be brought to Committee.

Resolved – that the report be noted and an update on the third sector be added to the work programme.

14 **EXEMPT INFORMATION - EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

15 **COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER - EXEMPT APPENDICES**

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Addendum to Minutes

Answers to supplementary questions.

Mary Jordan asked a supplementary question, recalling that the wake of the Capital Directive a list of assets could be sold was drawn up and querying what was the rationale for selecting Bromborough Civic Centre and if other assets are on that list that could realise the Council much needed funds.

Answer A report went to Policy and Resources Committee on 12 July regarding a strategic disposal list. You can view this at:

<http://democracy.wirral.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=907&MId=10190>

The Director of Finance identified this asset for disposal for the reasons given in the Tourism, Communities Culture & Leisure Committee report on 22 June 2023. You can view this report at:

<https://www.democracy.wirral.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=956&MId=10052>

Part of that reason is in relation to the asset value, but the asset disposal list contains assets from across the Borough to meet the required repayment of the capitalisation directive.

Mo Miller asked a supplementary question asking why having already provided savings to Wirral Borough Council, should Bromborough be targeted again, despite it now having a viable future as a community asset.

Answer The report to the Tourism, Communities Culture & Leisure Committee on 22 June 2023 explains the reasons why a disposal of this asset is being made by the Director of Finance. Bromborough is not being targeted. You can view this at:

<https://www.democracy.wirral.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=956&MId=10052>

Susan Smith asked a supplementary question querying what services are there specifically provided for older people in Bromborough. People like me who are not of the age to want to use age UK?

Answer A list of activities and services for older people in Bromborough is available at: <https://www.wirralinfobank.co.uk>

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TOURISM COMMUNITIES CULTURE AND LEISURE COMMITTEE

TUESDAY, 25 July 2023

REPORT TITLE:	2023/24 BUDGET MONITORING FOR QUARTER ONE (THE PERIOD TO 30 JUNE 2023)
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOODS

REPORT SUMMARY

This report sets out the financial monitoring information for the Council as at Quarter 1 (30 June) of 2023/24. The report provides Members with an overview of budget performance, including progress on the delivery of the 2023/24 saving programme and a summary of reserves and balances, to enable the Committee to take ownership of the budgets and provide robust challenge and scrutiny to Officers on the performance of those budgets.

At the end of Quarter 1, there is a forecast adverse position of £1.821m on the Committee's revised net revenue budget, of £13.911m. This position is based on activity to date, projected trends in income and expenditure and changes to Council funding.

The report contributes to the Wirral Plan 2021-2026 in supporting the organisation in meeting all Council priorities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee is recommended to:

1. Note the Directorate forecast adverse position of £1.821m presented at Quarter 1.
2. Note the progress on delivery of the 2023/24 savings programme at Quarter 1.
3. Note the forecast level of reserves and balances at Quarter 1.
4. Note the forecast capital position presented at Quarter 1.

1.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 Regular monitoring and reporting of the revenue budgets and savings achievements enables decisions to be taken in a timely manner, which may produce revenue benefits and will improve financial control of Wirral Council.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 The Policy & Resources Committee has previously determined the budget monitoring process and this report details the agreed course of action.
- 2.2 In striving to manage budgets, available options have been evaluated to maintain a balance between service delivery and a balanced budget.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 At the meeting on 27 February 2023, the Council agreed a net revenue budget for 2023/2024 of £366.6m to be met by government grants, council tax, and business rates. This report sets out the updated revenue financial position at Quarter 1 for the Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee.

Economic Context

- 3.2 There remains considerable uncertainties in the economy at the start of 2023/24. High inflation and rising interest rates continue to place significant pressures on Council finances and restrict the ability to forecast and plan, with confidence, for the future.
- 3.3 In April, prices were 8.7% higher than a year ago (based upon consumer price index (CPI)). Inflation has been around 10% since last summer, well above the Bank of England's 2% target.
- 3.4 To help inflation return to the Bank of England's 2% target, interest rates have been increased to 5.0%. Higher interest rates should help to reduce the demand for goods and services in the economy. Which, in turn, will help slow the rate of inflation.
- 3.5 The Bank of England expect inflation to fall to around 5% by the end of this year, with the expectation for inflation to continue to fall next year and meet the target of 2% by late 2024.

Quarter 1 Forecast Revenue Outturn Position

3.6 Table 1 presents the forecast outturn as a net position, i.e. expenditure minus income. Favourable variances (underspends) are shown as negative values and adverse variances (overspends) are shown as a positive value.

3.7 At the end of Quarter 1, there is a forecast adverse variance of £1.821m against the Tourism, Community, Culture and Leisure Committee's revised net revenue budget of £13.911m, which is equivalent to a variance of 13% from the annual budget.

TABLE 1: 2023/24 REVENUE BUDGET & FORECAST OUTTURN

	Budget £000	Forecast Outturn £000	Variance (+ Adv / - Fav)	
			£000	%
Neighbourhood Safety	3,569	3,946	377	11%
Leisure, Libraries and Theatre	8,524	9,968	1,444	17%
Culture and Visitor Economy	418	418	0	0%
Regulatory Services	2,620	2,620	0	0%
Cross Cutting Funding and Neighbourhoods Management Team	-1,220	-1,220	0	0%
Net Committee Expenditure	13,911	15,732	1,821	13%

Significant aspects of revenue variances by directorate

3.8 The projected adverse position is in part impacted by macroeconomic factors which mean some historic income and savings targets are now unviable. Alternative options for service delivery have been considered previously and will be reviewed to assist in mitigating the current position. The significant areas of note are as follows:

- Neighbourhood Safety and Transport: adverse variance of £0.377m. £0.170m relates to income shortfalls due to third parties making alternative arrangements. In addition, there is a further shortfall of £0.207m which relates to a reduction in the number of schools choosing to renew the Community Patrol services. A changed delivery model provided a technological solution rather than a physical patrol service. This resulted in schools choosing not to buy back the service in its new format.
- Theatre Hospitality and Catering Services – an adverse variance of £1.444m is forecast for 2023/24. This represents a projected improvement on 2022-23 position of circa £0.610m. Within the budget, there remains £0.550m of unachieved legacy saving from the proposal to outsource the Floral Pavilion in 2018, and an additional income target of £0.350m from 2021/22. The new management team have reduced costs through improved operations and

improved income generation through innovating the programme of shows, events and other activities taking place at the venue. The projected shortfall is due to anticipated reductions in income. Rising costs of supplies, goods, services, and utilities has significantly impacted the spend attributed to the service. This will be monitored during the year through management of employee rotas and by limiting non staffing costs to essential items only. Whilst the financial position of the Floral Pavilion is improving, both income and costs could continue to be affected by the current national financial climate with rising interest rates and high inflation having the potential to impact consumer spending decisions. Due to the ongoing adverse financial position it will be necessary to carry out a review of the Service.

Progress on delivery of the 2023/24 savings programme.

3.9 Table 2 presents the progress on the delivery of the 2023/24 approved savings. For savings rated as Amber, an equal amount of temporary in-year mitigation has been identified to cover any shortfalls which may occur. For saving rated as red, a bid will need to be made from the contingency fund set up for non-achieved savings at the end of the year.

3.10 In terms of savings, £0.852m of the £1.115m savings targets are either delivered or on track to be delivered, representing 76% of the total savings target with a further 24% or £0.263m anticipated to be delivered through alternative means. The table below summarises the progress for the Committee:

TABLE 2: SUMMARY OF PROGRESS ON DELIVERY OF 2023/24 SAVINGS

Directorate	Approved Saving £m	Green £m	Amber £m	Red £m	Mitigation £m
Tourism, Community, Culture and Leisure	-1.115	-0.852	-0.263	0.000	-0.263

Significant variances by directorate.

- **Review of Neighbourhoods Staffing Structure** - The saving of £0.425m has been delayed whilst work is carried out to ensure there is no overlap with the corporate enabling services saving. EVR/VS requests are still being considered. Therefore, savings will not materialise until Quarter 2. The cost of the delay will be mitigated through vacancy control and through restricting non staffing expenditure to essential items only.
- **Development of the events programme at Williamson Art Gallery.** Total saving approved was £0.070m. £0.050m of this saving relates to Community Asset Transfer of the Tram Museum which was agreed at TCCL Committee on 9th March. Holding costs continue to be incurred until the process is completed and will be mitigated. The remaining £0.020m relates to additional income from events at the Williamson, this is on target to be achieved but due to income trends it will not be clear how much will be achieved this year.

Earmarked Reserves

- 3.11 On 1 April 23, earmarked reserves for the Committee totalled £0.237m. Of the total earmarked reserves, approximately half will be spent in 2023/24, on the activities for which they were established. There will be cases however where some of the reserves will be committed over a longer period and have been set aside now to support the Council's financial sustainability and have little or limited impact on future years budgets.

TABLE 3: SUMMARY OF EARMARKED RESERVES

Reserve	Opening Balance £000	Use of Reserve £000	Contribution to Reserve £000	Closing Balance £000
Community Safety	57	0	0	57
Environmental Health	95	-70	0	25
Leisure, Libraries and Customer Engagement	77	-54	0	23
Public Conveniences	8	0	0	8
Total	237	-124	0	113

Capital Monitoring

- 3.12 Capital budgets are the monies allocated for spend on providing or improving non-current assets, which include land, buildings and equipment, which will be of use or benefit in providing services for more than one financial year.

TABLE 4: 2023/24 Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee – Capital Budget & Forecast Outturn

Capital Programme	2023/24			2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
	Budget 01/04/23 £000	Q1 Forecast Budget £000	Variance £000	Budget £000	Budget £000	Budget £000
Leisure	5,563	3,714	-1,849	2,036	0	0
Library	1,293	862	-431	431	0	0
Museum	344	229	-115	115	0	0
Parks	145	97	-48	48	0	0
Total	7,345	4,902	-2,443	2,630	0	0

- 3.13 Table 4 summarises the forecast expenditure against Capital Budgets. A full breakdown of each Capital Scheme with details can be found in Appendix 1. The favourable variance of £2.443m relates to slippage of schemes within Libraries, Museums and Leisure which have been reprofiled into 2024/25 financial year.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 This is the Quarter 1 budget monitoring report that provides information on the forecast outturn for the Council for 2023/24. The Council has robust methods for reporting and forecasting budgets in place and alongside formal Quarterly reporting to Policy & Resources Committee, the financial position is routinely reported at Directorate Management Team meetings and corporately at the Strategic Leadership Team (SLT). In the event of any early warning highlighting pressures and potential overspends, the SLT take collective responsibility to identify solutions to resolve these to ensure a balanced budget can be reported at the end of the year.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Council must set the budget in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and approval of a balanced budget each year is a statutory responsibility of the Council. Sections 25 to 29 of the Local Government Act 2003 impose duties on the Council in relation to how it sets and monitors its budget. These provisions require the Council to make prudent allowance for the risk and uncertainties in its budget and regularly monitor its finances during the year. The legislation leaves discretion to the Council about the allowances to be made and action to be taken.
- 5.2 The provisions of section 25, Local Government Act 2003 require that, when the Council is making the calculation of its budget requirement, it must have regard to the report of the chief finance (s.151) officer as to the robustness of the estimates made for the purposes of the calculations and the adequacy of the proposed financial reserves.
- 5.3 It is essential, as a matter of prudence that the financial position continues to be closely monitored. In particular, Members must satisfy themselves that sufficient mechanisms are in place to ensure both that savings are delivered and that new expenditure is contained within the available resources. Accordingly, any proposals put forward must identify the realistic measures and mechanisms to produce those savings.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

- 6.1 At this time, there are no additional resource implications as these have already been identified for the proposals agreed and submitted. However, where the budget is unbalanced and further proposals are required, then there will be resource implications, and these will be addressed within the relevant business cases presented to the Committee.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 7.1 The Council's ability to maintain a balanced budget for 2023/24 is dependent on a stable financial position. That said, the delivery of the budget is subject to ongoing variables both positive and adverse which imply a level of challenge in achieving this outcome.
- 7.2 In any budget year, there is a risk that operation will not be constrained within relevant budget limits. Under specific circumstances the Section 151 Officer may issue a Section 114 notice but that position has not been reached at the present time.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

- 8.1 Consultation has been carried out with the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) in arriving at the governance process for the 2023/24 budget monitoring process and budget setting process. This report will also be shared and reviewed by the Independent Panel.
- 8.2 Since the budget was agreed at Full Council on 27 February, some proposals may have been the subject of further consultation with Members, Customer and Residents. The details of these are included within the individual business cases or are the subject of separate reports to the Committee.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 Wirral Council has a legal requirement to make sure its policies, and the way it carries out its work, do not discriminate against anyone. An Equality Impact Assessment is a tool to help council services identify steps they can take to ensure equality for anyone who might be affected by a particular policy, decision or activity.
- 9.2 At this time, there are no further equality implications as these have already been identified for the proposals agreed and submitted. However, where the budget is unbalanced and further proposals are required, then there may be equality implications associated with these, and these will be addressed within the relevant business cases presented to the Committee.

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 This report has no direct environmental implications; however due regard is given as appropriate in respect of procurement and expenditure decision-making processes that contribute to the outturn position.

11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 In year activity will have incorporated community wealth implications. Consideration would have taken account of related matters across headings such as the following:

- **Progressive Procurement and Social Value**
How we commission and procure goods and services. Encouraging contractors to deliver more benefits for the local area, such as good jobs, apprenticeship, training & skills opportunities, real living wage, minimising their environmental impact, and greater wellbeing.
- **More local & community ownership of the economy**
Supporting more cooperatives and community businesses.
Enabling greater opportunities for local businesses.
Building on the experience of partnership working with voluntary, community and faith groups during the pandemic to further develop this sector.
- **Decent and Fair Employment**
Paying all employees a fair and reasonable wage.
- **Making wealth work for local places**

REPORT AUTHOR: Sarah Cox
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APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 – Breakdown of Capital Spend
APPENDIX 2 – Breakdown of Revenue Spend

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Bank of England – Monetary Policy Report – August 2022
DLUHC External Assurance Reports
CIPFA’s Financial Management Code

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Policy and Resources Committee	12 July 2023
Policy and Resources Committee	14 June 2023
Policy and Resources Committee	15 February 2023
Policy and Resources Committee	18 January 2023
Policy and Resources Committee	09 November 2022
Policy and Resources Committee	13 July 2022
Council	28 February 2022

Policy and Resources Committee	15 February 2022
Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee	26 October 2020
Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee	23 November 2020
Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee	21 January 2021
Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee	3 March 2021
Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee	16 June 2021
Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee	2 September 2021
Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee	17 September 2021
Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee	18 January 2022
Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee	8 March 2022
Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee	16 June 2022
Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee	25 October 2022
Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee	01 December 2022
Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee	02 February 2023
Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee	09 March 2023
Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee	22 June 2023

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Appendix 1 – Breakdown of Capital Programme

Area	Scheme	2023/24			2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
		Budget 01/04/23	Q1 Forecast Budget £000	Variance £000	Budget £000	Budget £000	Budget £000
Leisure	Bebington Oval Facility Upgrade	527	351	-176	176	0	0
	Catering Units	160	107	-53	53	0	0
	Defibrillators	13	9	-4	4	0	0
	Fitness Equipment	4	2	-2	2	0	0
	Floral Pavilion	100	67	-33	33	0	0
	Future Golf - Project 1.1	188	125	-63	250	0	0
	Hoylake Golf works depot demolish and replace	1	0	-1	1	0	0
	Library Radio Frequency Identification Kiosks	80	80	0	0	0	0
	New Brighton Gym Equipment	3	2	-1	1	0	0
	Pool Covers	252	168	-84	84	0	0
	Soft Play Areas Leisure Centres	410	273	-137	137	0	0
	Solar Campus 3G	30	0	-30	30	0	0
	Studio refurbishment Les Mills classes	15	10	-5	5	0	0
	West Kirby Concourse/Guinea Gap Reception upgrade / improve	351	234	-117	117	0	0
	West Kirby Marine Lake/Sailing	93	62	-31	31	0	0

Area	Scheme	2023/24			2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
		Budget 01/04/23	Q1 Forecast Budget £000	Variance £000	Budget £000	Budget £000	Budget £000
	Centre – accommodati on						
	Wirral Tennis Centre - 3G Pitch	1,065	710	-355	355	0	0
	Wirral Tennis Centre - Facility Upgrade	515	343	-172	172	0	0
	Woodchurch Sports Pavilion	1,756	1,171	-585	585	0	0
Library	Arts Council Capital LIF	21	14	-7	7	0	0
	Consolidated Library Works Fund	279	186	-93	93	0	0
	Moreton Youth Club & Library	993	662	-331	331	0	0
Museum	Williamson Art Gallery Catalogue	56	37	-19	19	0	0
	Williamson Art Gallery Ventilation 21-22	288	192	-96	96	0	0
Parks	Ashton Park Lake	144	96	-48	48	0	0
	Essential H&S Access Improvement s @ Wirral Country Park	1	1	0	0	0	0
Total		7,345	4,902	-2,443	2,630	0	0

Appendix 2 – Breakdown of Revenue Budget Monitoring

		Budget	Outturn	Variance		Adv/ Fav
		£000	£000	(+ Fav / - Adv) £000	%	
Neighbourhood Safety	Assisted Travel and Transport	2,245	2,245	0	0%	Adverse
	Neighbourhood Safety - Operations	1,324	1,701	377	28%	
Leisure, Libraries and Theatre	Customer Contact Centre	873	873	0	0%	Adverse
	Libraries	2,954	2,954	0	0%	
	Museums	430	430	0	0%	
	One Stop Shops	938	938	0	0%	
	Theatre	-521	923	1,444	-277%	
	Golf	5	5	0	0%	
	Bidston Tennis and Sports Centre	185	185	0	0%	
	Europa Pools	683	683	0	0%	
	Guinea Gap	212	212	0	0%	
	Leasowe Recreation Centre	331	331	0	0%	
	The Oval Sports Centre	999	999	0	0%	
	West Kirby Concourse	408	408	0	0%	
	West Kirby Marine Lake	-35	-35	0	0%	
	Aquatics Management	422	422	0	0%	
	Leisure Call Centre	105	105	0	0%	
	Leisure Management	358	358	0	0%	
	Sales and Retention	105	105	0	0%	
	Sports Development	71	71	0	0%	
Culture and Visitor Economy	Culture & Visitor Economy	418	418	0	0%	

		Budget	Outturn	Variance		Adv/ Fav
		£000	£000	(+ Fav / - Adv) £000	%	
Regulatory Services	Environmental and Trading Standards	1,784	1,784	0	0%	
	Public Conveniences	106	106	0	0%	
	Coroner	730	730	0	0%	
Cross Cutting Funding and Neighbourhoods Management Team	Cross Cutting Funding and Neighbourhoods Management Team	-1,220	-1,220	0	0%	
Surplus / (Deficit)		13,911	15,732	1,821	13%	Adverse



TOURISM, COMMUNITIES, CULTURE & LEISURE COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 25 July 2023

REPORT TITLE:	TOURISM, COMMUNITIES, CULTURE AND LEISURE COMMITTEE PERFORMANCE REPORT
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOODS

REPORT SUMMARY

This report provides performance information in relation the group of Neighbourhood Services that report to the Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee. The report was designed based on discussion with Members through working group activity in 2021 and discussions in 2022. Members requests have been incorporated into the report presented at this committee meeting. Monitoring the performance of Neighbourhood services supports the delivery of the Wirral Plan.

This matter affects all Wards within the Borough.

This is not a key decision.

Appendix 1 of this contains commercially sensitive data and as such, Appendix 1 of this report is exempt from publication by virtue of paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

RECOMMENDATION

The Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee are recommended to note the content of the report and highlight any areas requiring further clarification or action.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 To ensure Members of the Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee have the opportunity to monitor the performance of the Council and partners in relation to Neighbourhood Services.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 As this report has been developed in line with member requirements no other options have been considered.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 Regular monitoring of performance will ensure public oversight and enable Elected Members to make informed decisions in a timely manner.
- 3.2 This report contains performance information relating to the following service areas:
- Leisure & Associated Services
 - Libraries
 - Museums
- 3.3 Performance information for Community Safety is presented to the Committee outside of this report via the well-established Wirral Safety Tracker which is the primary performance management tool for the Safer Wirral Partnership Board.
- 3.4 There is opportunity for the information provided in this report to be developed further as new initiatives are established, and the reporting capability of information systems is increased.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

- 6.1 There are none arising from this report.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 7.1 Information on the key risks faced by the Directorate and the organisation and the associated mitigations and planned actions are included in the Directorate and Corporate Risk Registers. There are no further specific risk implications relating to this report, which is a general performance position update.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

8.1 Neighbourhood services carry out a range of consultation and engagement with service users and residents to work to optimise service delivery and outcomes for residents.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Wirral Council has a legal requirement to make sure its policies, and the way it carries out its work, do not discriminate against anyone. An Equality Impact Assessment is a tool to help council services identify steps they can take to ensure equality for anyone who might be affected by a particular policy, decision, or activity. There is no impact for equality implications arising directly from this report. This report has no direct implications for equalities.

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are no environmental and climate implications generated by the recommendations in this report.

The content and/or recommendations contained within this report are expected to:
- have no impact on emissions of Greenhouse Gases.

11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH IMPLICATIONS

11.1 Moving Communities, an online software tool which tracks participation, performance, and social value at public leisure facilities. Social Value data from Moving Communities is included in the report.

REPORT AUTHOR: **Nancy Clarkson**
Head of Intelligence
email: nancyclarkson@wirral.gov.uk

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee Report Quarter 4 2022-23. (Exempt from Publication).

Appendix 2: Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee Report Quarter 4 2022-23. (Redacted report).

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Moving Communities: Participation in Public Leisure Facilities www.movingcommunities.org

Sport England: Active Lives Survey: <https://www.sportengland.org/know-your-audience/data/active-lives>

Data has been extracted from the Talis and XN Council Systems.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

This report is being considered by the Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee in accordance with Section 6.2 (part k) of its Terms of Reference, providing a view of performance, budget monitoring and risk management in relation to the Committee's functions.

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
TOURISM, COMMUNITIES, CULTURE AND LEISURE COMMITTEE	9 March 2023
TOURISM, COMMUNITIES, CULTURE AND LEISURE COMMITTEE	1 December 2022
TOURISM, COMMUNITIES, CULTURE AND LEISURE COMMITTEE	26 July 2022
TOURISM, COMMUNITIES, CULTURE AND LEISURE COMMITTEE	12 October 2021

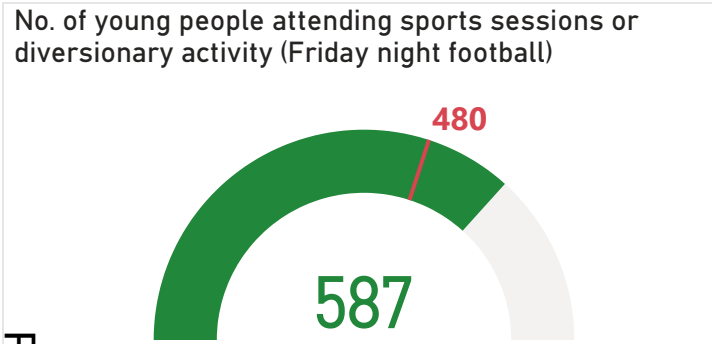
Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee report Quarter 4, 2022-2023

Up to and including March 2023

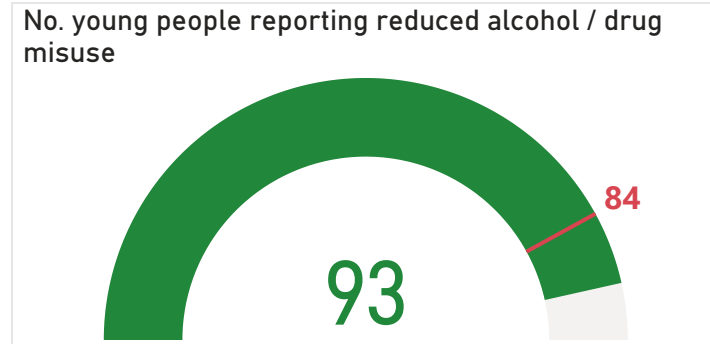
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Community Safety KPIs & Parks Tennis

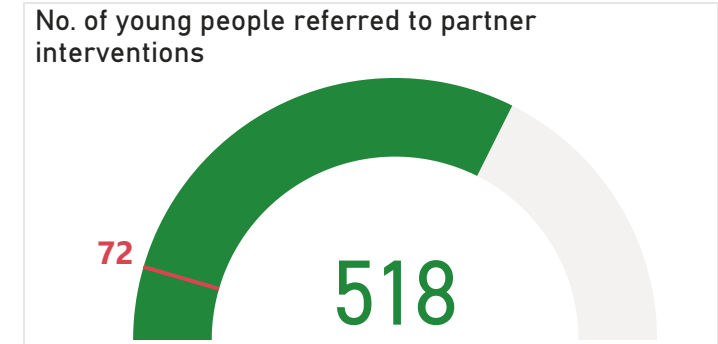
Community Safety KPIs - Year End 2022 - 23 cumulative performance against monthly targets.



Based on a target of 40 attendees per month.



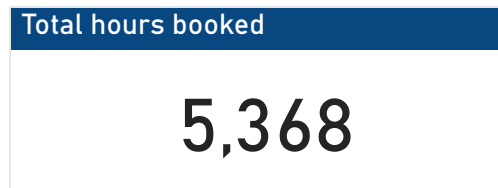
Based on a target of 7 young people per month.



Based on a target of 6 referrals per month

Wirral Parks tennis court bookings 12 months until May 2023

Park	No. of Courts	Total Hours Booked	Unique Bookers
Ashton Park, West Kirby	2	1,270	123
Birkenhead Park	6	1,208	131
Meols Parade Gardens	2	837	192
Marine Park, New Brighton	4	720	40
Higher Bebington Park	3	626	86
Saughall Grange	2	279	32
New Ferry park	4	165	11
Torr Park	2	148	28
Harrison Park, Wallasey	7	40	26
Irby Playing Fields	2	40	25
Arrowe Park	1	22	11
Coronation Park, Greasby	1	13	10
Total	36	5,368	715



Active All sports programme

An activity programme available to children and young people with a disability or additional needs. Sessions run during school holidays and, to a lesser extent, during term time.

Total attendees to date

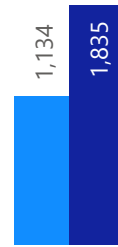
1,134

Attendance rate based on max capacity

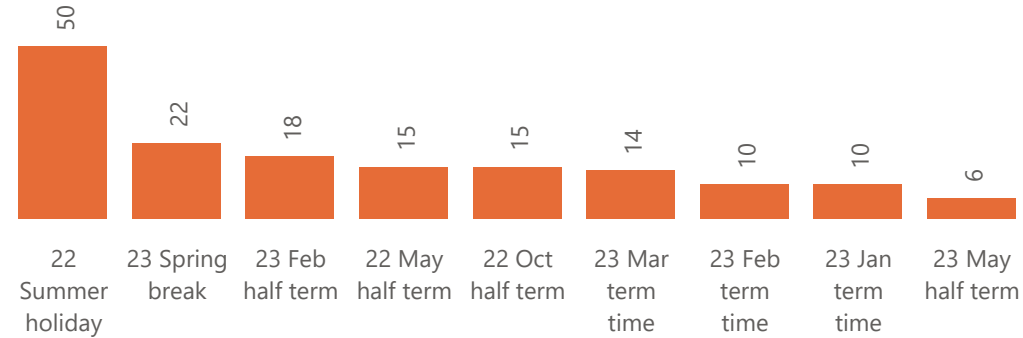
61.8%

Attendance vs capacity

Attendees Maximum capacity



Activity All (school holidays) number of hours of activity

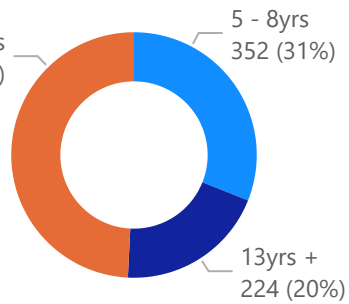


Total hours of activity

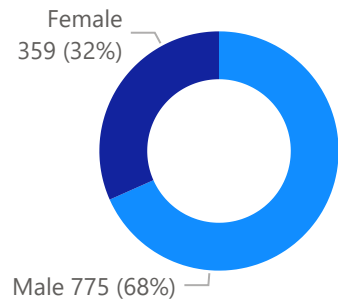
160

Attendee age group

Page 33



Gender of attendees



Attendees by disability or additional need:

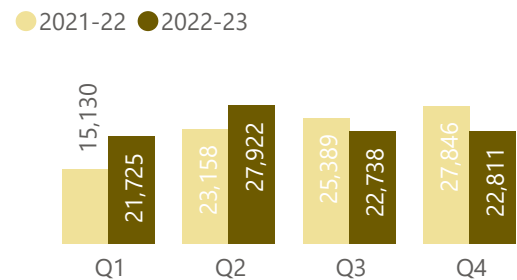
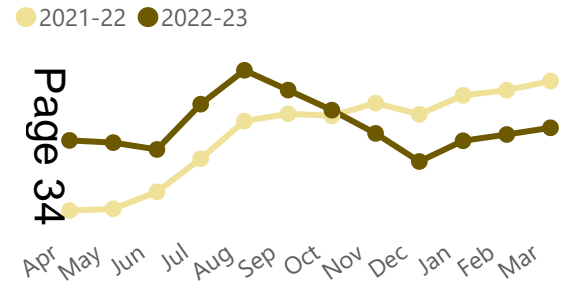
	22 May half term	22 Oct half term	22 Summer holiday	23 Feb half term	23 Feb term time	23 Jan term time	23 Mar term time	23 May half term	23 Spring break
Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD)	17%	19%	24%	21%	14%	32%	17%	27%	12%
Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD)	36%	15%	15%		12%	4%	23%	19%	32%
Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)	19%	14%	13%	25%	17%	13%	16%	14%	14%
Specific Learning Difficulties (SpLD)	21%	12%	16%	11%	3%	22%	19%	2%	7%
Behavioural, Emotional, and Social Difficulties (BESD)	2%	6%		14%	30%	11%		9%	11%
Severe Complex Learning Difficulties (SLD)		11%	5%	8%		4%	4%	4%	
Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD)	1%	4%		5%	2%	5%	8%	8%	2%
Multi Sensory Impairment (MSI)					21%			2%	9%
Speech Language and Communication Needs		4%	2%	3%		3%	10%	10%	
Dyspraxia	3%		11%				3%		7%
Aspergers Syndrome		1%	8%	6%	1%	6%			1%
Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties (PMLD)	1%	2%	4%	5%				1%	4%
Physical Difficulties (PD)		7%	2%	2%				3%	
Hearing Impairment (HI)		2%							1%
Visual Impairment (VI)		3%							

Libraries

Libraries: active borrowers 2022-23 vs 2021-22

95,196 ✓

Financial Year 2021-22: 91,523 (+4.01%)

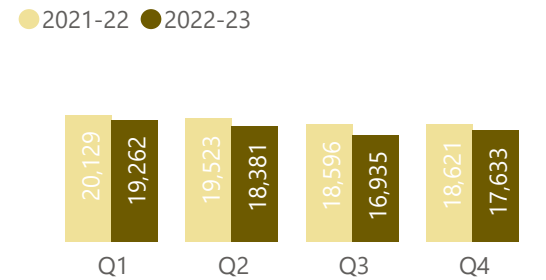
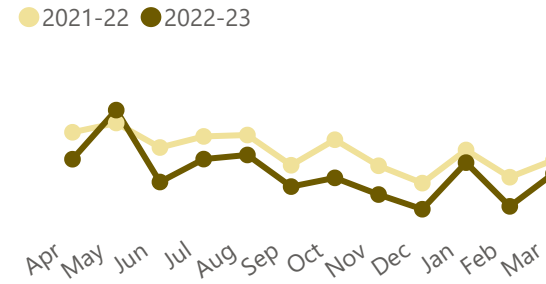


Borrowers with at least one physical book/item transaction during the month. During lockdowns/library closures automatic renewals were/are in place which will account for active users. Extracted from Talis system.

E-book and audio downloads 2022-23 vs 2021-22

72,211 !

Financial Year 2021-22: 76,869 (-6.06%)



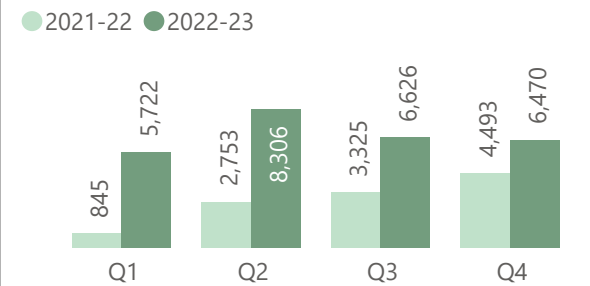
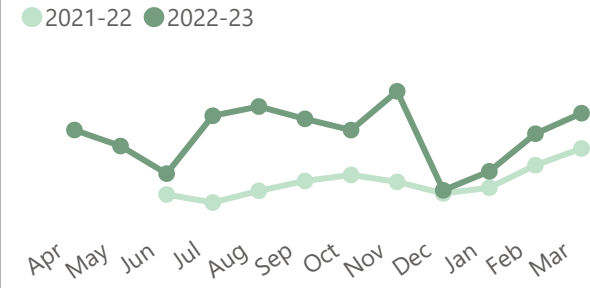
Loans of e-books and audiobooks, online, via the Borrowbox and Overdrive library apps.

Williamson Art Gallery

Number of visitors 2022-23 vs 2021-22

27,124 ✓

Financial Year 2021-22: 11,416 (+137.6%)

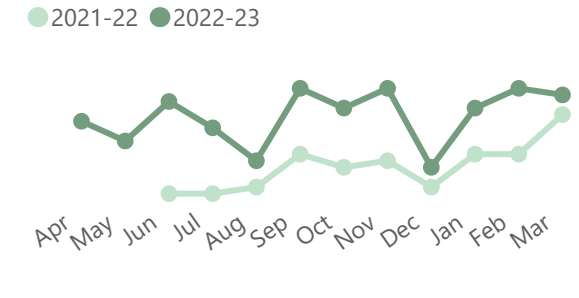


Visitor numbers obtained from a permanently manned clicker located at the Gallery front desk. This is the only entrance to the gallery.

Meetings & events 2022-23 vs 2021-22

141 ✓

Financial Year 2021-22: 41 (+243.9%)





TOURISM, COMMUNITIES, CULTURE & LEISURE COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 25 July 2023

REPORT TITLE:	COMMUNITY SAFETY ANNUAL REPORT
REPORT OF:	ASSISTANT DIRECTOR: NEIGHBOURHOODS, SAFETY & TRANSPORT

REPORT SUMMARY

This report provides an update on key activity in relation to two of the ten thematic areas of Wirral Community Safety Strategy (2021-2026); Violent Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour.

RECOMMENDATION

The Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee is requested to note the content of the report and highlight any areas requiring further clarification or action.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 To ensure Members of the Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee have the opportunity to monitor the performance of the Council and partners in relation to Community Safety.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 This report has been developed in line with a request from Members of this Committee. No other options have been considered.

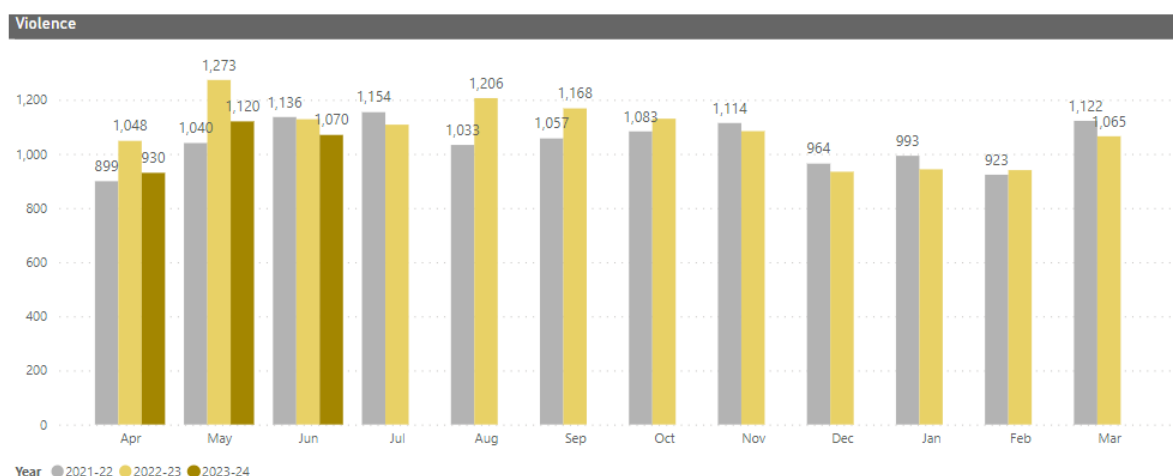
3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 It is a statutory responsibility under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 for Councils to lead on the production of a coherent Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy (Community Safety Strategy). Wirral's Community Safety Strategy (2021-26) was endorsed by full Council on 6 September 2021, minute 29 refers. This sets out ten thematic areas for focused activity. Safe & Vibrant Communities is a key thematic priority in the Wirral Plan (2021-26).
- 3.2 The Assistant Director of Neighbourhoods, Safety and Transport was requested to provide regular updates (at least annually) to Tourism, Communities, Culture & Leisure Committee on progress made in respect to the delivery of the Community Safety Strategy (27 July 2021, minute 18 refers). Periodic performance reports in relation to Community Safety have been reported to this Committee, utilising data captured in the Safer Wirral Tracker; an award-winning interactive Power BI report created by Wirral Intelligence Service. This report does not seek to replicate that information, most recently reported on 9 March 2023 (minute 76 refers), but to provide a more in-depth update on key activity in relation to two thematic areas; Violent Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour.

4.0 PREVENTING AND TACKLING VIOLENT CRIME

- 4.1 The number of offences of violent crime can be seen in Table 1 below. Violent crime has seen a reduction in 2023/4; this is primarily due to a reduction in domestic violence, which has reduced by 20%. Non-domestic abuse related offences have reduced by 3%. Non-domestic violence with injury has reduced by 5%, without injury by 0.5% and stalking & harassment has reduced by 0.5%.

Table 1: Violent crime (April 2021 – June 2023):



4.2 Over the past two years, Wirral has seen escalating issues with organised crime related violence. In the last four months of 2022, there were five firearms discharges resulting in two fatalities: October 2022 resulting in the fatal shooting of 53-year-old Jacqueline Rutter in Moreton and on Christmas Eve 2022, the fatal shooting of 26-year-old Elle Edwards outside The Lighthouse Pub, Wallasey Village. On 6 July 2023 after a 16-day trial, Connor Chapman aged 23 of Woodchurch was found guilty of her murder and also found guilty in relation to a number of other related offences. On 7 July 2023, he was sentenced to life imprisonment, to serve a minimum of 48 years.

4.3 In response to the escalation, Merseyside Police drew officers across the Force to support activity to prevent and tackle serious organised crime, through Operation Remove. Regular co-ordination of activity took place with officers from Community Safety. The Operation was effective in disrupting Organised Crime Groups (OCG) activity; the conviction of a number of OCG members; tenancy enforcement action including evictions by social housing providers; Gang Injunctions and other enforcement activity; together with seizures of cash and goods related to the proceeds of crime. This Operation was stood down in April/May 2023, with the co-ordination cell of the operation remaining in situ, led by a Sergeant, and the targeted focus upon serious organised crime continuing. There has not, at the time of writing this report, been any further firearms discharge in Wirral this year.

4.4 **EVOLVE – Clear, Hold, Build**

4.4.1 A multi-agency partnership tactic was launched in May 2023 – Clear, Hold, Build – which has been designed and part-funded by the Home Office to rescue and regenerate areas most affected by serious and organised crime. The three-phase initiative, known locally as Wirral EVOLVE, uses a combination of targeted high-visibility police operations and covert policing tactics alongside activity from partners and input from residents to protect communities and prevent organised crime groups from operating. Building upon this approach initially piloted in Beechwood, this has been extended to the areas of Woodchurch and Noctorum.

4.4.2 Clear

The 'Clear' element of the strategy sees the relentless pursuit of gang members using all available criminal, civil and regulatory powers, and tactics to clear an area, removing and impeding the Organised Crime Group's (OCG) ability to operate. This will increase and restore community confidence by removing the threat and creating safer places and spaces. Operation Remove referenced above formed part of this phase.

4.4.3 Hold

To continue activity to 'Hold' the location, to prevent other OCG members capitalising on the vacuum created, as they seek to capture illicit markets or gain influence over the local area. Community confidence will be improved by ensuring those areas made safe remain so and perceptions of improved security, reassurance and confidence are not undermined.

4.4.4. Build

The community is enabled to become more assertive and confident and reduce permissive behaviours, tolerance to illicit goods and services and criminal/anti-social behaviour. The living, working and recreational environment will be improved for local residents by empowering them to work with stakeholders, generating resilience and build a safer community. Partner agency and stakeholder connectivity is increased, to improve local services based on need.

4.4.5 An Operational Delivery Group (ODG), just formed, is chaired by the Assistant Director for Neighbourhoods, Safety & Transport and consists of representatives from across Wirral Council, Merseyside Police, Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service, Wirral Probation Service, NHS, social landlords and the business and community sectors. The purpose of this group is to oversee and co-ordinate the activity in the three EVOLVE locations. It is important to note that the three stages of EVOLVE are not fixed time periods and the locations are likely to 'flex' between the stages.

4.4.6 A performance dashboard has been developed in Power BI by Wirral Intelligence Service, building further upon the exemplary Safer Wirral Tracker. The dashboard collates data across the EVOLVE areas relating to crime, anti-social behaviour, population data, economic conditions, substance misuse, hospital admissions and school exclusions. These data sets may be extended as the work of the ODG develops.

4.4.7 Strategic governance includes the reporting of performance outcomes to the Home Office and Clear, Hold, Build Project Board chaired by the Superintendent for Local Policing, which oversees EVOLVE performance in Wirral, Liverpool, Knowsley, and Sefton.

4.4.8 In addition to above, the data from the EVOLVE programme is also being analysed to determine any wider, health-related determinants from the programme.

4.5 Activity to tackle violent crime

4.5.1 The key initiative outlined above is supported by a plethora of activity across the Community Safety Partnership to tackle violence. Key elements of the Council's contribution have been highlighted below.

4.5.2 **Emergency Control Centre**

The Council's Emergency Control Centre (formerly the Emergency Control Room and Wirral Community Patrol service) has undergone a reconfiguration over the past eight months, brought about in part to respond to corporate efficiencies taken in 2022/3, but also to refocus its resources upon key priorities. Operating from a state-of-the-art centre, funded through Home Office Safer Streets Fund and Town Deal Accelerated Grant, a network of over 145 CCTV cameras is monitored 24/7 to prevent and tackle anti-social behaviour and crime and protect public safety, in both public spaces and some Council buildings. The service also handles out-of-hours emergency calls for the Council and can deploy Community Safety Officers to incidents both proactively and reactively. The CCTV network feeds directly into Merseyside Police Joint Command Centre for improved situational awareness and the Emergency Control Centre (ECC) is now directly linked to Merseyside Police dispatchers and officers on the ground via Airwave radio, which is proving invaluable in tackling live incidents of anti-social behaviour and crime.

4.5.3 The successes of this enhanced approach to partnership working tackling crime and anti-social behaviour in Wirral are demonstrated by additional financial investment into the Council's CCTV network by Merseyside Police funding the purchase and installation of fixed and rapid deployable CCTV cameras targeting serious and violent crime as part of Operation Target. This network of both fixed cameras and temporary cameras deployable to hot-spot locations, is being extended further this year through funding secured from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) to design out crime.

4.5.4 **Emergency Help Points**

Funding from both Merseyside Violence Reduction Partnership and Wirral Community Safety Partnership saw in March 2023 the implementation of a network of 28 Emergency Help Points across the borough in town centres, coastal areas, hot-spots of violent crime and other places where larger number of people are likely to gather or visit. The Help Points, attached to CCTV columns and clearly identifiable by distinctive yellow signage, provide instant, direct, two-way audio connection with the ECC that people can use if they find themselves in difficulty or danger. The attached CCTV camera automatically redirects to focus on the Help Point upon activation, enabling ECC Officers to immediately monitor the situation and alert emergency services if necessary. Further details can be found [here](#). Whilst it is early days, the Help Points have already been used in relation to the reported commission of three offences, Streetscene matters, and a period of time was spent supporting a vulnerable individual.

4.5.5 **Prevention**

There is a wide range of preventative activity to tackle violence both perpetrated by children/young people and as victims. One such activity is 'In The Zone', led by Wirral Youth Justice Service, and providing a bespoke carousel event for all Year 9 pupils in mainstream secondary schools and alternative provision in Wirral. To date the intervention has reached over 4,000 young people. The 'zone' interventions are focused on risks outside the home including knife crime, exploitation, ASB and gangs, drugs & alcohol, and peer pressure. Feedback from schools and children about the impact of the intervention has been very positive.

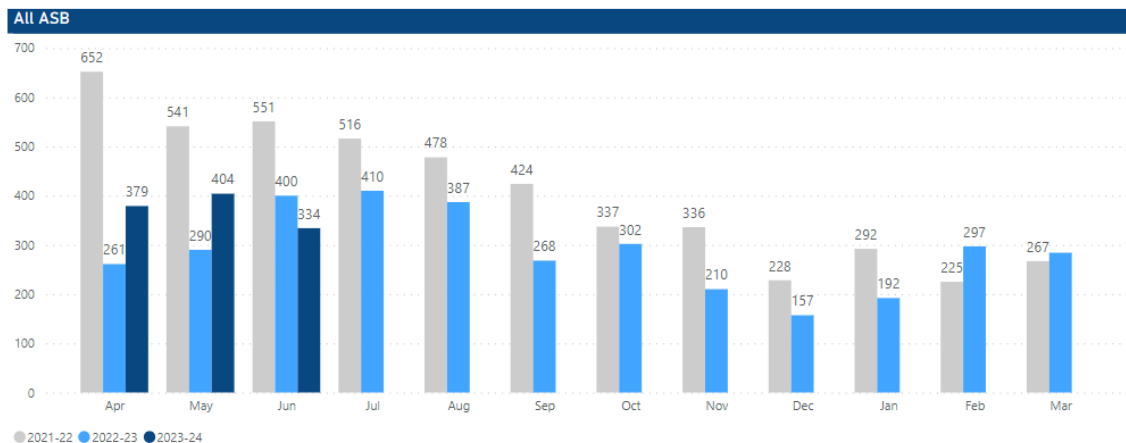
4.6 Serious Violence Duty

- 4.6.1 Introduced as part of the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022, the Serious Violence Duty requires specified authorities to work together to prevent and reduce serious violence in their local area. This Duty is supported by national guidance, finalised in December 2022, which balances prescriptive expectations with room for flexibility. There are three core elements of the Duty: 1) Understand local issues through the preparation of a local Strategic Needs Assessment, 2) Prepare, publish, and implement a strategy (January 2024) and 3) Review the strategy to understand impact and change.
- 4.6.2 The Home Office has recently commissioned Crest Advisory to work with local areas to assess their readiness to deliver the Duty and provide tailored support. Police & Crime Commissioners have a ‘convening’ responsibility within their respective area in relation to the Duty. Preparedness work across Merseyside is being co-ordinated through Merseyside Violence Reduction Partnership, which is co-chaired by Merseyside Police and the Merseyside Police & Crime Commissioner’s Office. A Joint Readiness Assessment was completed by Crest Advisory for Merseyside in May 2023. The analysis suggests that serious violence prevalence and risk in Merseyside is high. The assessment is that Merseyside is “ready and engaged” to respond to the duty.
- 4.6.3 As part of a reconfiguration, the new post of Serious Violence Reduction Co-ordinator is currently being recruited to within the Community Safety service, to assist the Council and Community Safety Partnership in meeting its obligations under the new Duty.

5.0 TACKLING ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

- 5.1 The number of incidents of anti-social behaviour (ASB) reported to Merseyside Police can be seen in Table 2 below. Although there has been an increase in incidents of ASB in 2023/4 (April–June), the June volume has decreased by 17% compared to June 2022, mainly due to a reduction in ASB by adults. Overall, youth related ASB in 2023/4 is 45% higher than the same period last year, although 2% lower than the same period in 2021/2. The peak day and time across Wirral for youth related ASB is Fridays and 7pm.

Table 2: Incidents of Anti-Social Behaviour (April 2021 – June 2023):



- 5.2 The Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Team, which is co-located across both Local Policing areas, works closely with Merseyside Police and other partners to identify and target perpetrators of anti-social behaviour (ASB) and offenders and utilise the tools and powers available.
- 5.3 Partnership tactical activity is primarily co-ordinated through a weekly Threat, Harm, Risk meeting, chaired by the Chief Inspector for Local Policing. This meeting reviews Force tactical threats, serious organised crime activity, threat management, neighbourhood crime, offender management and forthcoming prison releases, ASB, upcoming events and agrees deployments and focus priorities for the coming week. In addition, location specific Problem-Solving Groups co-ordinated by the ASB Team or Police focus on hot spot locations and co-ordinate a range of preventative, diversionary and enforcement activity to reduce incidents and provide community reassurance.
- 5.4 Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs) have been implemented by the Council to deal with persistent ASB in specific locations; there are four current PSPOs in Woodchurch, West Kirby, New Brighton and Bromborough. These Orders prohibit anti-social behaviours impacting the local community, the penalty for breach of which is by way of Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN).
- 5.5 Anecdotally, ASB has become more transient, with groups of young people moving between locations across the borough, unfortunately resulting in ASB and crime. It should be emphasised that it is a minority of young people engaging in such behaviour. There is also a rising issue of groups of young people wearing face coverings, including balaclavas, to avoid identification; this is causing concern to many local residents. Work is ongoing to review any current PSPOs to seek to extend prohibitions to include face coverings where needed and the evidence supports; this is already included in the PSPO relating to Woodchurch. Analysis is also being undertaken to identify any further locations that may benefit from a PSPO being introduced, subject to consultation. Options to strengthen the capacity to enforce PSPOs are also being explored.
- 5.6 **Activity to tackle anti-social behaviour (ASB)**
- 5.6.1 There is a wide range and breadth of activity across the borough and across sectors to tackle ASB. Key elements of the Council's contribution have been highlighted below.
- 5.6.2 **Operation Openspace**
- 5.6.3 Operation Openspace, led by Merseyside Police, is operating over the summer months to help ensure that Wirral's open spaces, beaches and parks are safe and enjoyable to visitors. Working with the Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Team, Detached Youth Work teams and Parks teams, Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service, HM Coastguard Wirral, British Transport Police and other services and partners, activity is focused upon key hot spots engaging with local residents, visitors and children and young people, gathering intelligence and tackling ASB and violence. This activity is being part-funded by Wirral Community Safety Partnership through the Merseyside Police & Crime Commissioner's Community Safety Grant.

5.6.4 Operation Staysafe

5.6.5 Aligned to and co-ordinated with Operation Openspace, Operate Staysafe focuses upon patrolling hot-spot locations to protect unsupervised children and young people and to reassure the public that issues of concern are being dealt with. The Operation identifies young people who are out late at night and at risk of becoming a victim of crime or being drawn into criminal behaviour and takes them to a place of safety. They are then returned to their parents, carers or guardians and follow up actions may then be put in place to stop problem behaviour from recurring.

5.6.6 The first Staysafe operation took place on 16 June 2023 with the place of safety convened at West Kirby Concourse. This multi-agency operation led by Merseyside Police included St Johns Ambulance who provided paramedic and doctor support and a Mobile Treatment Centre, to help provide medical care for young people found intoxicated. This uplift in resources was able to respond to a significant gathering of young people on a beach in West Kirby in which a 15-year-old male was the subject of an assault involving a knife and St Johns Ambulance was first on scene to administer medical treatment. The Staysafe operations are also part-funded by Wirral Community Safety Partnership through the Merseyside Police & Crime Commissioner's Community Safety Grant.

5.6.7 Early Help & Prevention Co-ordination Hub

5.6.8 The Council's Early Help & Prevention Service (including its Youth Justice Service) is leading on a multi-agency approach to prevention through an Early Help & Prevention Co-ordination Hub. The Hub receives referrals for support for young people who are at risk in the community. A variety of partners work together to identify need and the best service to support the child/young person. The activity of the Hub is overseen through a strategic meeting chaired by the Head of Contextual Safeguarding, with the contribution of senior managers from a number of agencies and service areas who can support and drive the operational delivery.

5.6.9 Turnaround Programme

5.6.10 Wirral Youth Justice Service has received Home Office funding for a three-year period (2022-2025) for the Turnaround programme; to target offending behaviour and anti-social behaviour and reduce the number of first-time entrants into the criminal justice system. The aim is to improve life chances and reduce offending, violence in the community and anti-social behaviour incidents.

5.6.11 Data analysis has showed that many young people have had various touch-point moments with the Police but did not enter the Youth Justice Service for months or several years until after their first contact; these highlighted potential missed opportunities to intervene and divert children and young people from crime and ASB. Wirral has utilised the Turnaround funding to target young people identified through Police data who are arrested for an offence but either bailed or released with 'No Further Action'. Three additional officers have been appointed to run the programme with young people identified through referral to the Early Intervention & Prevention Hub, through the provision of group activities and one-to-one interventions.

5.6.12 HM Government Anti-Social Behaviour Action Plan

5.6.13 On 27 March 2023, the government published its Anti-Social Behaviour Action Plan to crack down on ASB and restore people's confidence that ASB and crime will be quickly and visibly punished. Community Payback Unpaid Work

Local Authorities are key to the success of Community Payback, enabling the delivery of community projects including painting and decorating work, grounds maintenance, litter and fly tipping projects, tree planting, graffiti removal, and work in parks and open spaces, through visible reparation for crime. Many local authorities have already agreed work programmes with Community Payback, and Wirral has a long history of community payback delivered through Wirral Probation Service. Community Payback plays a key role in the Action Plan, giving communities the confidence that these crimes will be quickly and visibly punished. A Community Payback rapid deployment model is being piloted in up to 12 local authorities to clean up graffiti, litter, and remove fly-tipping within 48 hours of notification by the local authority. There is an ambition to roll this model out across England and Wales in 2024 but will require agreements in place with all local authorities. There will be further engagement shortly with Local Authorities via the Local Government Bulletin.

5.6.16 Immediate Justice Pilots

Merseyside was selected as one of 10 initial trailblazer police force areas to pilot a new policy of Immediate Justice, whereby those found committing ASB will be made to repair the damage they inflict on victims and communities. Through this programme, police officers will issue out-of-court disposals to ASB perpetrators with conditions to swiftly repair any damage (or undertake some other civic activity) – the aim being for them to start within 48 hours of a relevant order or referral to the Funder Service being made. The types of services and activity undertaken should be informed by community engagement and consultation and, where appropriate, (e.g., for public facing/outdoor work), participants should wear high-visibility clothing, clearly branded as part of the Immediate Justice programme, to ensure maximum visibility to the public. This will be rolled out nationally in 2024. Police and Crime Commissioners will take a leading role, commissioning services for Immediate Justice to fulfil out of court disposals, working with local authorities, the police, youth offending teams and other agencies to do so. An initial discussion took place with Merseyside Police & Crime Commissioner's Office in May 2023 and a verbal update will be provided at this Committee following the anticipated conclusion of that dialogue shortly. £1m has been allocated to Merseyside to deliver this pilot.

6.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

7.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

8.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

8.1 There are no resource implications arising from this report.

9.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 9.1 Information on the key risks faced by the Directorate and the organisation and the associated mitigations and planned actions are included in the Directorate and Corporate Risk Registers.
- 9.2 Corporate savings taken in 2022/3 in relation to the Wirral Community Patrol/Emergency Control Room service, resulting in a reconfiguration of the service, has had impacts in terms of the capacity to respond to incidents of ASB and other public safety matters. The capacity to respond to ASB is being mitigated slightly through utilisation of grant funding from the Merseyside Police & Crime Commissioner to add capacity in the short-term.
- 9.3 The challenges in relation to tackling violent crime and steps to mitigate are set out in this report.

10.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

- 10.1 Neighbourhood services and partner organisations including Merseyside Police carry out a range of consultation and engagement with residents to work to optimise service delivery and outcomes for residents.

11.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 Wirral Council has a legal requirement to make sure its policies, and the way it carries out its work, do not discriminate against anyone. An Equality Impact Assessment is a tool to help council services identify steps they can take to ensure equality for anyone who might be affected by a particular policy, decision or activity. There are no direct equality implications arising from this report.

12.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

- 12.1 There are no environmental and climate implications generated by the recommendations in this report.
- 12.2 The content and/or recommendations contained within this report are expected to have no impact on emissions of Greenhouse Gases.

13.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH IMPLICATIONS

- 13.1 The activity supports the reduction of crime and anti-social behaviour in the borough which has a range of community wealth implications. This includes increasing safety for people, protecting community assets and local businesses and the ability to tackle any inaccurate perceptions of crime in Wirral. The impact of these can lead to investment in the borough, increase footfall in businesses including retail and the night-time economy and creation of local employment opportunities.

REPORT AUTHOR: **Caroline Laing**
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APPENDICES

None.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

HM Government Anti-Social Behaviour Action Plan, March 2023.
Wirral Community Safety Strategy (2021-26)

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
TOURISM, COMMUNITIES, CULTURE AND LEISURE COMMITTEE	9 March 2023
TOURISM, COMMUNITIES, CULTURE AND LEISURE COMMITTEE	1 December 2022
TOURISM, COMMUNITIES, CULTURE AND LEISURE COMMITTEE	26 July 2022
TOURISM, COMMUNITIES, CULTURE AND LEISURE COMMITTEE	12 October 2021
COUNCIL	6 September 2021
TOURISM, COMMUNITIES, CULTURE AND LEISURE COMMITTEE	27 July 2021

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TOURISM, COMMUNITIES, CULTURE AND LEISURE COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 25 July 2023

REPORT TITLE:	TOURISM, COMMUNITIES, CULTURE AND LEISURE WORK PROGRAMME
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE

REPORT SUMMARY

Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee, in co-operation with the other Policy and Service Committees, is responsible for proposing and delivering an annual committee work programme. This work programme should align with the corporate priorities of the Council, in particular the delivery of the key decisions which are within the remit of the Committee.

It is envisaged that the work programme will be formed from a combination of key decisions, standing items and requested officer reports. This report provides the Committee with an opportunity to plan and regularly review its work across the municipal year. The work programme for the Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

RECOMMENDATION

The Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee is recommended to note and comment on the proposed Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee work programme for the remainder of the 2023/24 municipal year.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 To ensure Members of the Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee have the opportunity to contribute to the delivery of the annual work programme.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 A number of workplan formats were explored, with the current framework open to amendment to match the requirements of the Committee.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The work programme should align with the priorities of the Council and its partners. The programme will be informed by:

- The Council Plan
- The Council's transformation programme
- The Council's Forward Plan
- Service performance information
- Risk management information
- Public or service user feedback
- Referrals from Council

Terms of Reference

The Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee has responsibility for customer contact, community development and community services, including all of those functions related to community safety and also those regarding the promotion of community engagement. The Committee is charged by full Council to undertake responsibility for the Council's role and functions:-

(a) for customer and community contact services, including various offices and meeting points, customer contact centres and advice and transaction services

(b) community engagement, incorporating the Council's approach to equalities, inclusion communities, neighbourhoods and the voluntary and charitable sector, community wealth building and social value;

(c) in considering options and develop proposals for neighbourhood arrangements, including capacity building, use of assets and devolving powers and services to neighbourhoods;

(d) for the provision and management of leisure, sports and recreation facilities;

(e) for delivery of the authority's library and museums services, including but not limited to art galleries, historic buildings and their gardens and the functions of the Council regarding public records, and the Council's

(f) concerning tourism, the arts, culture and heritage, including provision of theatre, entertainments, conferences and events;

(g) in relation to bereavement services and support to the Coroner's service;

(h) regarding community safety, crime and disorder and all associated matters;

(i) for trading standards and environmental health, including but not limited to:

(i) consumer protection;

(ii) product safety;

(iii) fair trading;

(iv) metrology;

(v) food standards and animal health;

(vi) air pollution control;

(vii) health and safety at work (except in so far as it relates to the Council as an employer);

(viii) public conveniences

food safety; and

(x) control of nuisances;

(j) in respect of emergency planning and community resilience (community, regulatory and asset services);

(k) providing a view of performance, budget monitoring and risk management in relation to the Committee's functions; and

(l) undertaking the development and implementation of policy in relation to the Committee's functions, incorporating the assessment of outcomes, review of effectiveness and formulation of recommendations to the Council, partners and other bodies, which shall include any decision relating to the above functions.

(m) in respect of the Police and Justice Act 2006, the functions to:

(i) review or scrutinise decisions made or other action taken, in connection with the discharge by the responsible authorities of their crime and disorder functions; and

(ii) make reports or recommendations to the local authority with respect to the discharge of those functions

Overview and Scrutiny

The Committee's role includes an overview scrutiny approach to its responsibilities which shall be conducted in accordance with the overview and scrutiny means of working set out at Part 4(4)(B) of this Constitution. As part of its work programming the Committee shall consider:

(a) Overview and Policy Development -The Committee may undertake enquiries and investigate the available options for future direction in policy development and may appoint

advisors and assessors to assist them in this process. They may go on site visits, conduct public surveys, hold public meetings, commission research and do all other things that they reasonably consider necessary to inform their deliberations.

(d) Overview and Scrutiny – The Committee holds responsibility:

(i) for scrutinising and reviewing decisions made or actions taken by the Authority in so far as they have an impact on the role or functions of the Committee, its policies, budget and service delivery;

(ii) for the overview and scrutiny of external organisations whose services or activities affect the Borough of Wirral or any of its inhabitants where this does not fall within the role or remit of another service Committee or where it relates to cross cutting issues; and

(iii) for those overview and scrutiny functions in respect of crime and disorder as set out in paragraph 6.4(m) above which are to include the establishment and

functioning of joint arrangements as set out at paragraph 15 of this Section

Stakeholder Engagement - The Committee may invite stakeholders to address the committee on issues of local concern and/or answer questions in so far as it impacts directly or indirectly on the role of functions of the committee.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 This report is for information and planning purposes only, therefore there are no direct financial implication arising. However, there may be financial implications arising as a result of work programme items.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report. However, there may be legal implications arising as a result of work programme items.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

6.1 There are no direct implications to Staffing, ICT or Assets.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

7.1 The Committee's ability to undertake its responsibility to provide strategic direction to the operation of the Council, make decisions on policies, co-ordinate spend, and maintain a strategic overview of outcomes, performance, risk management and budgets may be compromised if it does not have the opportunity to plan and regularly review its work across the municipal year.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

8.1 Not applicable.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

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

This report is for information to Members and there are no direct equality implications.

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

10.1 This report is for information to Members and there are no direct environment and climate implications.

11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH IMPLICATIONS

11.1 This report is for information to Members and there are no direct community wealth implications.

REPORT AUTHOR: Anna Perrett
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APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Tourism Communities Culture and Leisure Committee Work Programme

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Wirral Council Constitution
Forward Plan
The Council's transformation programme

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Standing Item	

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TOURISM, COMMUNITIES, CULTURE AND LEISURE COMMITTEE

WORK PROGRAMME 2023/24

Contact Officer/s: Anna Perret/Joe D’Henin

September 2023 Agenda

Item	Key Decision	Lead Officer
Borough of Culture 2024	Yes	Jane Morgan
Liverpool City Region Local Visitor Economy Partnership (LVEP)	No	Jane Morgan
Sport & Physical Activity Strategy Update	No	Andy McCartan
Work Programme Update	No	Anna Perret/Joe D’Henin
Third Sector CVF update report	No	David Armstrong/Dave Bradburn

UPCOMING KEY DECISIONS – WAITING TO BE SCHEDULED

Item	Lead Departmental Officer	Wirral Plan Priority
Facilities Investment Strategy (October 2023)	Andy McCartan	Health and Active lives
Heritage and Conservation Strategy (TBC)	Jane Morgan	Healthy and Active Lives

ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS – WAITING TO BE SCHEDULED

Item	Approximate timescale	Lead Departmental Officer
Battle of Brunanburh	TBC	
Thornton Hough Public Convenience	TBC	David Ball
Open Golf	TBC	Mark Camborne
Update on Customer and Community Contact (Revenue and Benefit)	TBC	Andy McCartan
Trading Standards update	TBC	
Playing Pitch update strategy	TBC	David Ball/ Andrew Frazer
Air Pollution update	TBC	

STANDING ITEMS AND MONITORING REPORTS

Item	Reporting Frequency	Lead Departmental Officer
Financial Monitoring	Quarterly	Shaer Halewood
Performance reports	6 monthly	Nancy Clarkson
Third Sector Report	6 monthly	D Armstrong

WORK PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE COMMITTEE

Item	Format	Timescale	Lead Officer	Progress
Spotlight sessions / workshops				
Budget Monitoring	Workshops	2023	All	Ongoing
Corporate scrutiny / Other				
Risk	Workshop	TBC	Nicki Butterworth	

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

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Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee – Terms of Reference

The Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee has responsibility for customer contact, community development and community services, including all of those functions related to community safety and also those regarding the promotion of community engagement.

The Committee is charged by full Council to undertake responsibility for the Council's role and functions:-

- (a) for customer and community contact services, including various offices and meeting points, customer contact centres and advice and transaction services
- (b) community engagement, incorporating the Council's approach to equalities, inclusion communities, neighbourhoods and the voluntary and charitable sector, community wealth building and social value;
- (c) in considering options and develop proposals for neighbourhood arrangements, including capacity building, use of assets and devolving powers and services to neighbourhoods;
- (d) for the provision and management of leisure, sports and recreation facilities;
- (e) for delivery of the authority's library and museums services, including but not limited to art galleries, historic buildings and their gardens and the functions of the Council regarding public records, and the Council's
- (f) concerning tourism, the arts, culture and heritage, including provision of theatre, entertainments, conferences and events;
- (g) in relation to bereavement services and support to the Coroner's service;
- (h) regarding community safety, crime and disorder and all associated matters;
- (i) for trading standards and environmental health, including but not limited to:
 - (i) consumer protection;
 - (ii) product safety;
 - (iii) fair trading;
 - (iv) metrology;
 - (v) food standards and animal health;
 - (vi) air pollution control;
 - (vii) health and safety at work (except in so far as it relates to the Council as an employer);
 - (viii) public conveniences;
 - (ix) food safety; and
 - (x) control of nuisances;
- (j) in respect of emergency planning and community resilience (community, regulatory and asset services);
- (k) providing a view of performance, budget monitoring and risk management in relation to the Committee's functions; and
- (l) undertaking the development and implementation of policy in relation to the Committee's functions, incorporating the assessment of outcomes, review of effectiveness and formulation of recommendations to the Council, partners and other bodies, which shall include any decision relating to the above functions.
- m) in respect of the Police and Justice Act 2006, the functions to:

- (i) review or scrutinise decisions made or other action taken, in connection with the discharge by the responsible authorities of their crime and disorder functions; and
- (ii) make reports or recommendations to the local authority with respect to the discharge of those functions