



Economy Regeneration & Housing Committee

Date:	Tuesday, 20 June 2023
Time:	6.00 p.m.
Venue:	Committee Room One, Birkenhead Town Hall

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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 - 14)

To approve the minutes of the meeting of the Economy, Regeneration and Development Committee held on 8 March 2023 , attached.

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, 15 June 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, 15 June 2023 - 3 working days before meeting 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. The person presenting the petition will be allowed to address the meeting briefly (not exceeding one 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. Please give notice of petitions to committeeservices@wirral.gov.uk in advance of the meeting.

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. 2022/23 BUDGET MONITORING FOR QUARTER FOUR (Pages 15 - 28)**
- 7. 2023/24 BUDGET AND BUDGET MONITORING PROCESSES (Pages 29 - 52)**

SECTION B - WORK PROGRAMME / OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

- 8. APPOINTMENT TO ACTIVE TRAVEL WORKING GROUP (Pages 53 - 60)**
- 9. ESTABLISHMENT OF REGENERATION PROGRAMME WORKING GROUP (Pages 61 - 68)**
- 10. WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE (Pages 69 - 76)**
- 11. 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.

- 12. HIND STREET DELIVERY (Pages 77 - 90)**

Terms of Reference

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

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ECONOMY REGENERATION & HOUSING COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 8 March 2023

Present:

Councillor T Jones (Chair)

Councillors	P Martin	A Hodson
	G Wood	I Lewis
	G Davies	L Rennie
	J Robinson	J Grier
	D Burgess-Joyce	D Mitchell

54 **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

The Chair opened the meeting and reminded everyone that the meeting was being webcast and a copy is retained on the Council's website for two years.

55 **APOLOGIES**

No apologies for absence were received.

56 **MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members were asked to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests and any other relevant interest and to state the nature of the interest.

No such declarations were made.

57 **MINUTES**

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 26 January 2023 be approved as a correct record.

58 **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

The Chair indicated that 9 questions had been received.

Sue Percy asked if the Council had a requirement for a volumetric assessment of water needs as part of the submission process for planning applications for new developments. The Chair stated that an answer would be given in writing within 10 working days of the meeting.

Peter Milner asked a question relating to the proposed Active Travel Scheme on Birkenhead Road in Seacombe, he stated that there was already a cycle

lane in place and that it was not heavily used. He felt that by removing parking spaces on the road, it would have an adverse effect on older and less physically able customers of the Soccer Dome business. He queried why the proposal was deemed necessary.

In response, the Chair explained that the current cycle path was not compliant with current design guidance, and that the promenade route was a leisure route and not suitable for year round use as it was not lit. He also noted that the proposed route would provide a key link between Birkenhead, Wallasey and New Brighton that would encourage less car use to key destinations. By way of a supplementary question Peter Milner suggested other sites that would be more suitable for a cycle path and queried why the money for this scheme could not be used on additional cycle paths elsewhere. The Chair stated that he would ask officers to respond in writing.

Piara Miah asked a question relating to the site at 92 Grange Road in Birkenhead and queried how the Council would ensure that any new delivery partners would work collaboratively with the Council to give priority to local jobs, supply chains and with housing offered to those that need it the most.

The Chair responded that the procurement process used required all prospective developers to complete a statement on Social Value. This included local labour recruitment and local supply chain opportunities. He noted that the Draft Birkenhead 2040 Framework set out the potential for over 9,500 new homes over the next 15 years. Prospective developers were required to demonstrate how their proposed housing would contribute to meeting local housing needs.

As a follow-up question, Piara Miah asked how many jobs had been created from this project. The Chair stated that a written answer would be provided.

Frank Brennan asked a question related to the proposed Active Travel Scheme on Birkenhead Road in Seacombe. He was concerned that the proposal would threaten employment opportunities in the vicinity and increase congestion. He queried how the scheme met with the Wirral Local Plan objectives.

The Chair explained that good active travel infrastructure encourages people to move from driving to cycling. He noted again that the current cycle path was not to current standards. There would be no change to the road layout itself so there would be the same capacity for motor vehicles.

Mr Brennan asked a supplemental question querying what consideration had been given to the loss of employment opportunities that the scheme would cause. The Chair stated that a further response would be provided to Mr Brennan in writing.

Becky Biddulph asked a question related to the proposed Active Travel Scheme on Birkenhead Road in Seacombe. She asked what consideration the Council had given to the vulnerable users of the Soccer Dome business on Birkenhead Road and stated that the number of car parking spaces that would be removed due to the scheme would be 24 and not 9.5 as claimed by officers.

The Chair explained that currently there was 354 metres of available parking space on Birkenhead Road and that under the proposed scheme, this would be reduced to 297 metres with a loss of 57 metres, this equated to 9.5 car parking spaces based on a 6 metre average vehicle parking length. He noted that there was free and unrestricted parking available on various streets in the immediate vicinity. He indicated that the Council would be happy to explore the possibility of providing disabled parking bays outside the Soccer Dome and stated that Disabled Badge holders could park on double yellow lines for up to 3 hours where safe to do so and that patrons who wished to load/unload could do so on double yellow lines where it was safe to do so.

Becky Biddulph asked a supplementary question regarding whether being asked to park further away was safe for customers with large groups of children, especially during the winter with dark evenings. The Chair stated that he would ask officers to respond to her in writing.

Sarah Christmas asked a question related to the proposed Active Travel Scheme on Birkenhead Road in Seacombe. She stated she ran a physiotherapy and massage business from the Soccer Dome and asked what consideration had been given to her patients with mobility issues being able to easily access her treatment room.

The Chair responded that the Council would be happy to explore installing disabled parking bays outside of the Soccer Dome and noted that Disabled Badge holders can park on single or double lines for up to 3 hours where it is safe to do so.

As part of her supplemental question, Sarah Christmas noted that most of her patients were not registered as disabled but injured through sport. The Chair noted that he would ask officers to respond in writing.

Alister Brace submitted a question related to the proposed Active Travel Scheme on Birkenhead Road in Seacombe. Mr Brace was not in attendance and his question was read out by the Lead Principal Lawyer. In the written question Mr Brace asked how the proposed scheme supported the Council's ambitions to offer Brighter Futures, an Inclusive Economy and encourage Active and Healthy Lives as described in the Wirral Plan.

The Chair responded that sustainable travel was at the heart of the Birkenhead 2040 framework. He noted that Seacombe had one of the lowest

car ownership levels in Wirral and therefore provision of safe active travel routes was essential. He noted the physical benefits of active travel compared to journeys by car.

Nicola Porter asked a question related to the proposed Active Travel Scheme on Birkenhead Road in Seacombe. She wished to know how the scheme would benefit her and her children if she could not park close by to the Soccer Dome.

The Chair responded that there were a number of roads near to the Soccer Dome with free and unrestricted parking available. He also noted that as part of the scheme, all existing street lighting would be reviewed and repaired where necessary.

Graham Owen asked a question related to the proposed Active Travel Scheme on Birkenhead Road in Seacombe. He wished to know how the expense of the scheme could be justified while the Council was looking to save money elsewhere.

The Chair responded that the funding for this scheme had been made available by the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority via the Department for Housing and Levelling Up and the European Regional Development Fund. He noted that this funding could only be used for active travel projects and could not be spent on other matters.

As part of a supplementary response, Graham Owen stated that he felt the Council were putting this scheme before the wellbeing and mental health of those that use the Soccer Dome, he asked why this was being done. The Chair responded that he would ask officers to respond in writing.

59 **STATEMENTS AND PETITIONS**

Statements:

Simon O'Brien, the Liverpool City Region Cycling & Walking Commissioner, delivered a statement supporting the proposed Active Travel Scheme on Birkenhead Road in Seacombe.

A statement from Chris Hargreaves of Peel L&P supporting the proposed Active Travel Scheme on Birkenhead Road in Seacombe was read out by the Lead Principal Lawyer.

A statement from Cllr Paul Stuart expressing concerns regarding the proposed Active Travel Scheme on Birkenhead Road in Seacombe was read out by the Lead Principal Lawyer.

Petitions:

Frank Brennan presented a petition of 733 signatures to the committee which stated that it opposed the proposal to upgrade the existing cycle track along the east side of Birkenhead due to the loss of parking bays along the road.

The Chair thanked Mr Brennan for his petition.

Ben Furfie presented a petition of 455 signatures to the committee which gave support to the proposals to upgrade the cycle path on Birkenhead Road, arguing that the scheme represents a brighter vision for the future of Wirral.

The Chair thanked Mr Furfie for his petition.

60 QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

Cllr Ian Lewis asked a question regarding a motion to relocate the Birkenhead Kennels from the site on Corporation Road that was approved by Council in October 2019. He asked for an update the progress made so far.

The Chair responded that officers had been engaging with the Kennels during the past 12 months and that discussions were ongoing regarding the Master Plan proposals. Efforts would continue to find a suitable alternative site for them.

61 SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT WORK PACKAGE 7: BIRKENHEAD ROAD - PROPOSED ACTIVE TRAVEL SCHEME

The Lead Commissioner for Strategic Transport and Technology introduced the report of the Director of Regeneration and Place which considered the objections and expressions of support received regarding the proposed active travel scheme on Birkenhead Road in the Seacombe ward. The report noted that the purpose of the Birkenhead Road scheme was to create an environment that was safe for both pedestrians and cyclists and to help embed walking and cycling as part of new long-term commuting habits.

Members queried whether the funding for this scheme was necessary and if the option to “do nothing” was considered. They were informed that if the scheme was rejected then the funding would be returned to the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority.

Members asked what was going to happen to the trees that would be removed under this scheme and if the trees closest to Seacombe Ferry were due to be removed as there were 11 mature trees on the site presently. It was explained that officers were working with the Council’s Tree Team to see where new trees could be located inline with the Council’s tree strategy. Officer offered to come back to Members with information on the specific trees

that would be moved. The Design and Commissioning Senior Manager confirmed that the trees near the rear car park of Seacombe Ferry would remain under this proposal.

Members queried if there were any figures that would indicate what economic effect increased cycling or walking might have on an area. The Lead Commissioner for Strategic Transport and Technology noted that there were a number of national studies that showed that people walking or cycling were likely to spend more money in an area as they are likely to visit more often.

Members questioned if the consultation process included a contact method other than on-line. They were assured that 360 letters had been sent out to local businesses and letters with details of the consultation and included information on how to contact the Council if they did not wish to use an electronic form of contact.

Councillor J Robinson indicated that she had alternative recommendations to those on the report. The suggested recommendations were shared with Members.

On a motion proposed by Councillor J Robinson and seconded by Councillor P Martin, it was -

Resolved (10:1) – That

In light of the risks identified in Paragraph 7.2 of the report and the concerns raised in terms of the consultation and design, accessibility and impacts on other environmental factors to create the Birkenhead Scheme (removing mature trees), the Director of Regeneration and Place be requested to:

- 1. Seek an extension of time for delivery on this scheme; and**
- 2. Consider other design options, taking into consideration the concerns raised with a view to enable a meaningful consultation to take place (to include residents and local businesses)**

62 DISPOSAL OF THE FORMER MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (MOD) LAND ON OLD HALL ROAD, BROMBOROUGH

The Birkenhead Portfolio Regeneration Lead introduced the report of the Director of Regeneration and Place which set out a route for the disposal of the former Ministry Of Defence (MOD) land on Old Hall Road Bromborough.

It was reported that the land previously formed part of a portfolio of sites that were bound by an option to purchase in favour of the Wirral Growth Company

but under revised arrangements the Council has full unfettered control over the site.

In response to Member questions on the site, assurances were given that the land was no longer considered contaminated, and that surveys to show this would be available to developers. It was also noted that the land had the benefit of outline planning consent and there was a related planning obligation. Subsequent reserved matters approval would be accompanied by further detailed on the planning obligation requirements. Example planning obligation requirements were a minimum of 20% affordable homes, enhancements to open space within the country park as well as provision of cycle ways and footpaths as part of a detailed travel plan along with new bus stops on Old Hall Road and an agreement to enhance biodiversity on site or to make an off-site contribution.

Members sought clarity and were given assurances that by allowing this site to be developed, it would reduce the pressure to build further property elsewhere such as on the green belt.

On a motion by Councillor G Davies and seconded by Councillor P Martin, it was –

Resolved – That

- 1. Policy and Resources Committee be recommended to declare that the former Ministry of Defence, Old Hall Road, Bromborough site is surplus to the Council's requirements and that authority be given to the Director of Regeneration and Place to secure its disposal on the best terms achievable; and**
- 2. Delegated authority be given to the Director of Law and Governance, in consultation with the Director of Regeneration and Place, to secure the associated legal documentation that will be required to finalise the disposal of the site.**

63 REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET / MONITORING FOR QUARTER THREE

The Senior Finance Business Partner presented the report of the Director of Regeneration and Place which provided an overview of budget performance, including progress on the delivery of the 2022-23 saving programme and a summary of reserves to enable the Committee to take ownership of the budgets and provide robust challenge and scrutiny to officers on the performance of those budgets.

Resolved – That:

- 1. The forecast revenue position at Quarter 3 be noted.**
- 2. The progress on delivery of the 2022-23 savings programme at Quarter 3 be noted.**
- 3. The forecast level of reserves at Quarter 3 be noted.**
- 4. The capital forecast position of £30.39m at Quarter 3 be noted.**

64 WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE

The Lead Principal Lawyer introduced the report which reminded members that the Economy, Regeneration and Housing Committee was responsible for proposing and delivering an annual committee work programme. This work programme was to align with the corporate priorities of the Council, in particular the delivery of the key decisions which were within the remit of the Committee.

Resolved - that the content of the Economy, Regeneration and Housing Committee work programme for the remainder of the 2022/23 municipal year be noted

65 FREEPORTS AND MARITIME INNOVATION AND GROWTH PROJECTS

The Head of Economic Growth presented the report of the Director of Regeneration and Place. The report provided Members with an update regarding the status of Liverpool City Region Freeport ('LCR Freeport') and sought authorisation for the Director of Law and Governance to negotiate, finalise and sign the Memorandum of Understanding ('MoU') between the Council, The Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, Liverpool City Region Combined Authority (LCRCA), Liverpool City Region Freeport Governing Body, Halton Borough Council, and St Helens Borough Council. The MoU sets out the terms, principles and practices that will apply to the working relationship between the parties in respect of the delivery and administration of the Liverpool City Region Freeport.

The report also sought approval to establish a Wirral Freeport Investment Fund. The arrangements for Freeports allow for any growth in business rates above an agreed baseline within the designated Freeport Tax Site area to be retained by the Council as Billing Authority over a guaranteed 25-year period and re-invested to stimulate further development. Proposals for funding would be subject to a full and robust appraisal process and considered and decided on a case-by-case basis.

Members queried the finances of the project and the way that funds were allocated. They were provided with a breakdown of Seed Capital funding for the Liverpool City Region and Wirral's share of this.

In response to concerns raised by Members on the possible impacts to Wirral business that fall outside of the Freeport zone, The Head of Economic Growth assured them that the project was trying to attract businesses to invest in vacant property and that any business that was looking to expand would be eligible if they wished to move into the Freeport site.

A further discussion was had regarding assurances that businesses moving into the site would share Wirral's values and targets such as the net-zero target, as well as offering support to the Metro Mayor, employment charter and investment strategy. Members were informed that there were strong gateway policies, and that businesses would have to demonstrate that they meet the criteria for which would include fair employment, net zero targets for the Liverpool City Region as well as the equivalent policies for each local site.

Councillor J Robinson noted that she had a question that related to one of the exempt appendices and therefore on a motion by Councillor P Martin and seconded by Councillor J Robinson, it was –

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 item of business on the grounds it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined by paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A (as amended) to the Act. The Public Interest test had been applied and favoured exclusion.

On a motion by Councillor D Mitchell and seconded by Councillor P Martin, it was -

Resolved (10:1) – That

- 1. Authority be delegated to the Director of Law and Governance (in consultation with the Director of Regeneration and Place, and the Director of Finance):**
 - (a) to negotiate, finalise and sign the Memorandum of Understanding (substantially in accordance with the draft set out in the exempt Appendix 2 to the report) relating to the terms, principles and practices that will apply to the working relationship between the parties regarding the delivery and administration of the Liverpool City Region Freeport.**

(b) To negotiate and complete any associated legal documentation which aligns with the principles set out in the proposed Memorandum of Understanding.

2. The Business Case for establishing the Wirral Freeport Investment Fund be endorsed.

3. Policy and Resources Committee be recommended to approve that:

(a) the Wirral Freeport Investment Fund is established from 1 April 2023 (or as soon as regulations designate the Wirral Waters Tax Site for business rates retention purposes) and is managed and operated according to the arrangements detailed within this report and accompanying Business Case and the principles set out in the draft Retained Business Rates Strategy which forms a component of the Memorandum of Understanding.

(b) growth in business rates above the baseline within the Wirral Freeport Tax Site is held to a ring-fenced reserve which would fund:

- investment in approved projects and the future repayment of capital borrowing for investments made by the Wirral Freeport Investment Fund;**
- the annual costs required to resource the administration and management of the Wirral Freeport Investment Fund from financial year 2023/24;**
- the Council's pro-rata annual contribution to the Liverpool City Region (LCR) Freeport Management Team costs from financial year 2024/25;**

66 LIVERPOOL CITY REGION COMBINED AUTHORITY BROWNFIELD LAND, 92 GRANGE ROAD, BIRKENHEAD

The Chair re-opened the meeting to the public.

The Birkenhead Portfolio Regeneration Lead introduced the report of the Director of Regeneration and Place which set out the activities undertaken to develop and deliver the 92 Grange Road project. It was noted that the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Brownfield Housing Fund was time limited to March 2025 and would support the Council by enabling access to significant funding to support the regeneration of Birkenhead.

Members queried how long the procurement process would take and received a response that it had begun around September 2022 with the deadline for outline scheme proposals to be submitted to the Council ending on 10th March 2023.

On a motion by Councillor D Mitchell and seconded by Councillor G Davies, it was -

DECISION:

Resolved – That

- 1. The current LCRCA Brownfield Land allocation for this project as set out in the exempt appendix 2 be ring fenced for this purpose.**
- 2. The Director of Regeneration and Place be authorised to;**
 - a. Progress the appointment of a delivery partner for the 92 Grange Road, Birkenhead project further to the ongoing mini-tendering process via the Homes England Housing Delivery Partner Dynamic Purchasing System, in consultation with the Director of Law and Governance; and**
 - b. Offer the selected delivery partner deficit funding to support the delivery of the Council’s objectives regarding this site, should the need for such funding be demonstrated and justified.**
- 3. The Director of Law and Governance be authorised to finalise the legal documentation arising out of the implementation of the above recommendations.**

67 FUTURE HIGH STREET FUND PROGRAMME - EUROPA RESIDENTIAL PHASE 1

The Birkenhead Portfolio Regeneration Lead introduced the report of the Director of Regeneration and Place which set out the activities undertaken to develop one element of the Birkenhead Future High Street programme, namely the Europa Residential scheme.

The report noted that the Future High Street Fund (FHSF) was time limited to March 2024 and will support the Council by enabling access to significant funding to support the regeneration of Birkenhead including that of private sector investment.

On a motion by Councillor G Davies and seconded by Councillor P Martin, it was -

Resolved – That

- 1. The current Future High Street Fund Allocation for this project as set out in the exempt Appendix 2 to the report be ring fenced for this purpose.**
- 2. Policy and Resources Committee be recommended to approve that the Director of Regeneration and Place be authorised to:**
 - a. Progress the appointment of a delivery partner for the Europa Residential Phase 1 project further to the ongoing mini-tendering process via the Homes England Housing Delivery Partner Dynamic Purchasing System, In consultation with the Director of Law and Governance; and**
 - b. Pursue and accept other avenues of funding and proceed to award of contract in the event that a suitably appraised and acceptable bid exceeds the Future High Street Fund allocation for this project.**
- 3. The Director of Law and Governance be authorised to finalise the legal documentation arising out of the implementation of the above recommendations.**

68 EXEMPT INFORMATION - EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

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 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.

69 FREEPORTS AND MARITIME INNOVATION AND GROWTH PROJECTS - EXEMPT APPENDICES

Resolved – That the exempt appendices be noted.

70 ITEM OF URGENT BUSINESS - BIRKENHEAD TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION - PROPOSAL TO CONSIDER THE PURCHASE OF A STRATEGIC ACQUISITION

The Director of Regeneration and Place introduced the report.

Resolved – That the recommendation as detailed in the report be approved.

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ECONOMY REGENERATION & HOUSING COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 20 June 2023

REPORT TITLE:	2022/23 BUDGET MONITORING FOR QUARTER FOUR (THE PERIOD TO 31 MARCH), 2022/23 OUTTURN
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR OF REGENERATION & PLACE

REPORT SUMMARY

This report sets out the financial monitoring information for the Economy Regeneration & Housing Committee as at year end (31st March 2023) of 2022-23. The report provides Members with an overview of budget performance, including progress on the delivery of the 2022-23 saving programme and a summary of reserves to enable the Committee to take ownership of the budgets and provide robust challenge and scrutiny to Officers on the performance of those budgets.

Managing a budget requires difficult decisions to ensure that a balanced position can be presented. Regular Member engagement, which this report forms part of, is considered essential in delivering effective governance and financial oversight.

At the end of Quarter 4, the Committees net revenue budget, of £14.844m is in a balanced position. This compares to a £0.03m favourable position reported at Quarter 3.

This matter affects all Wards within the Borough and is not a key decision.

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

RECOMMENDATION/S

The Economy Regeneration and Housing committee is recommended to:

1. Note the revenue position presented at Quarter 4 Outturn.
2. Note the delivery of the 2022-23 savings programme at Quarter 4 Outturn.
3. Note the level of reserves at Quarter 4 Outturn.
4. Note the capital position of £17.474m at Quarter 4 Outturn.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 It is vitally important that the Council has robust processes in place to manage and monitor the in-year financial position, to ensure it delivers a balanced position at the end of the year
- 1.2 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.
- 1.3 This report presents timely information on the Quarter 4 Outturn for 2022/23.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 The Policy & Resources Committee has previously determined the budget monitoring process to follow 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 As at the year end of March 23 (Quarter 4 Outturn), the position for Economy Regeneration & Housing Committee is a balanced position on the Committees net revenue budget, of £14.844m.

TABLE 1 2022/23 Economy Regeneration & Housing Committee Committee – Service Budget & Forecast Outturn

	Budget	Forecast Outturn	Variance		Adverse/ Favourable
	£000	£000	(+ Fav / - Adv) £000	%	
Regeneration	1,683	2,533	-850	-50%	Adverse
Housing	6,540	5,758	782	12%	Favourable
Asset Management & Investment	5,033	5,031	2	0%	Favourable
Planning	1,074	1,008	66	6%	Favourable
Special Projects	114	114	0	0%	Favourable
Local Plan	400	400	0	0%	
Directorate Surplus / (Deficit)	14,844	14,844	0	0%	Favourable

- 3.2 **Regeneration:** The adverse variance of £0.85m includes capitalisation of staff who are supporting the delivery of assets. Overall this achieved the planned £1.3m, however £0.3m of this shows within Housing rather than Regeneration. There had also been a planned use of the Regeneration reserve (£0.665m) and due to the favourable position in Housing, only £0.03m of this was used. This allows it to be utilised in 23-24 and beyond for supporting the regeneration ambitions.
- 3.3 **Housing:** The favourable variance of £0.782m includes grant awards being allocated which have been able to offset pressures and temporarily fund some council services. As per 3.3, capitalisation of housing staff also delivered £0.3m.
- 3.4 **Asset Management & Investment:** A favourable variance of £0.002m is reported for 2022/23. Income pressures of over £0.7m exist across the rental accommodation within Birkenhead, with income being at 50% of budgeted income targets, principally at Europa House (£0.3m) and Birkenhead Market (£0.3m). These are partially offset with reduced spend on unoccupied buildings, with reduced maintenance and running costs (£0.5m). Holding costs for assets awaiting Community Asset Transfer (£0.1m) recently transferred from Neighbourhoods have been offset by one-off backdated rate relief (£0.2m) on some listed building assets and the write-back of a no longer needed provision (£0.08m) relating to a now settled penalty fee.
- 3.5 **Planning:** A favourable variance of £0.066m has been achieved, in line with Quarter 3 projections due to improved income for planning charges.
- 3.6 **Special Projects:** A break-even position is reported for 2022-23.
- 3.7 **Local Plan:** A break-even position is reported for 2022-23, with the planned utilisation of available reserves of £366k in support of developing the local plan.

Budget Virements

- 3.8 There have been one budget virements since Quarter 3, of £0.087m from Resources relating to the transfer of the Concierge Service to Assets.

Delivery of the 2022-23 savings programme.

- 3.9 In terms of savings, £1.715m of the £1.838m savings targets were delivered, representing 93% of the total savings target with a further 7% or £0.123m relating to capitalisation of staff being mitigated with the favourable position outlined above. The table 2 summarises this progress by Directorate:

TABLE 2: SUMMARY OF DELIVERY OF 2022-23 SAVINGS

Saving Proposal	Approved Saving	Green	Amber	Red	Mitigation	Actual Savings Delivered
Economy Regeneration & Housing						
Cease support for Community Alarms	£0.200m	£0.200m	£0.000m	£0.000m	£0.000m	£0.200m
Reconfiguration of Commissioned Homelessness accommodation	£0.115m	£0.115m	£0.000m	£0.000m	£0.000m	£0.115m
The Closure Public Conveniences	£0.050m	£0.050m	£0.000m	£0.000m	£0.000m	£0.050m
Corporate buildings - holding costs	£0.050m	£0.050m	£0.000m	£0.000m	£0.000m	£0.050m
Capitalisation of Regeneration Staff Salaries	£1.423m	£1.300m	£0.123m	£0.000m	£0.123m	£1.300m
Total Economy Regeneration & Housing	£1.838m	£1.715m	£0.123m	£0.000m	£0.123m	£1.715m

3.10 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 £3m contingency fund set up for non-achieved savings at the end of the year.

3.11 Full details on the progress on specific savings can be found in **Appendix 1**.

Earmarked Reserves

- 3.12 Earmarked reserves represent money that has been set aside for a clearly defined purpose, and which is available to meet future expenditure in that area. The use of earmarked reserves is only permitted with the approval of the Section 151 officer.

TABLE 3: SUMMARY OF EARMARKED RESERVES

Committee	Opening Balance £000	Use of Reserve £000	Contribution to Reserve £000	Closing Balance £000
Economy Regeneration & Housing	7,580	-911	9,504	16,173

This includes a new reserve for Wirral Growth Company Profit: This reserve holds £8.5m of accrued profits from Wirral Growth Company LLP for the period to 31 March 2023, which are ring-fenced to support regeneration activity and capital expenditure approved by the S151 Officer, including the initial 2 year costs of the Birkenhead Commercial District and future regeneration activities.

- 3.13 **Appendix 2** provides the full list of all earmarked reserves.

3.14 Capital Monitoring

TABLE 4: 2022/23 Economy Regeneration & Housing Committee – Capital Budget & Outturn

Scheme	2022/23				2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
	Budget at 01.04.22 £000	Q4 Forecast £000	Actual Spend at 31.03.23	Variance to Q4 Forecast	Budget £000	Budget £000	Budget £000
Aids, Adaptations and Disabled Facility Grants	3,500	5,864	5,863	1	2,520	0	0
Birkenhead Regeneration Delivery Fund	10,128	12,707	3,697	9,010	15,024	0	0
Birkenhead Regeneration Framework	470	750	435	315	0	0	0
Birkenhead Town Centre Masterplanning & Housing Delivery	135	244	219	25	265	0	0
Business Investment Fund	685	100	100	0	585	0	0
Capitalisation of Regen Salaries	2,984	-	-	0	971	984	0
Clearance	388	4	3	1	190	194	0
Empty Property Grant Scheme	318	253	253	0	315	310	0
FHSF New Ferry 21-22	3,189	504	77	427	2,685	0	0
Future High Streets - Birkenhead	10,452	3,959	1,135	2,824	22,879	0	0
Hind Street Movement Strategy Project 21-22	69	178	179	-1	0	0	0
Housing Infrastructure Fund (Enabling Infrastructure)	1	1	-	1	0	0	0
Liscard Town Centre Delivery	172	172	162	10	0	0	0
Maritime Knowledge hub	12,351	-	-	0	12,351	10,650	0
New Brighton Masterplan for Marine Promenade	65	115	110	5	40	0	0
New Ferry Regeneration Strategic Acquisitions	1,054	2,357	1,133	1,224	118	0	0
Office Quarter Building Fit-Out	808	899	264	635	4,613	0	0
Property Pooled Plus I.T System	70	39	30	9	11	0	0
Strategic Acquisition Fund	3,359	1,487	2,043	-556	3,548	0	0
Town Centre scheme - Liscard	18	20	20	0	0	0	0
Town Centre scheme - New Ferry	11	11	6	5	0	0	0
Town Deal Fund - Birkenhead	16,277	4,418	1,720	2,698	12,491	4,620	2,555
Town Fund B'head	53	53	-	53	0	0	0
UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF)	-	68	1	67	109	386	0
West Kirby Masterplan	70	70	22	48	10	0	0
Wirral Waters Investment Fund	3,250	-	-	0	7,000	0	0
Total Economy, Regeneration and Housing	69,877	34,273	17,474	16,799	85,725	17,144	2,555

3.15 Aids, Adaptations and Disabled Facility Grant – grants for people with a permanent disability of any sort – including physical and learning disabilities, sensory impairments and mental illness. The grants are to help towards making changes or adaptations to a home to allow the person to continue living there. Spend is influenced by several factors including referrals received and the extent/value of the adaptations required.

3.16 Town Deal Fund Birkenhead – Funding to enable further regeneration of Birkenhead. The scheme is broken down into smaller projects that are delivered either internally or via external parties. It is now forecast that internally delivered projects will be delivered in 2023/24 hence the rephasing of the budget.

3.17 Future High Streets (Birkenhead) – Part of a large grant award from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC). The works covered by this funding are wide ranging to support the regeneration of Birkenhead Town Centre.

- 3.18 **Birkenhead Regeneration Delivery Fund** - Funding allocated to enable the delivery of the 'Brownfield First' development strategy in support of The Local Plan. Further work is underway to allocate the total budget against individual projects.
- 3.19 **UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF)** – The UKSPF is based on three investment priorities: 'Communities and Place,' 'Local Business' and 'People and Skills.' The programme includes the capital element relating to the Phase 1 investment plan that was agreed at Committee on 7th December 2022.
- 3.20 **Wirral Waters Investment Fund (WWIF)**– Regeneration & Place carried out an assessment of the schemes that had been granted access to the WWIF funding stream. Whilst there are several schemes with funding allocated, such as the 'Marine, Energy & Automotive (MEA) Park Phase 2' and 'Egerton House', construction is not anticipated to begin until the next financial year and therefore funding has been reprofiled accordingly.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 This is the Quarter 4 budget monitoring report that provides information on the outturn for the Council for 2022/23. The Council has robust methods for reporting and forecasting budgets in place and alongside formal Quarterly reporting to Policy & Resources and Service Committees, 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 2022/23 is dependent on a static financial position. This is an impossible scenario due to estimated figures being provided in the calculation for the 2022/23 budget, albeit the best estimates that were available at the time, plus any amount of internal and external factors that could impact on the budget position in year. Examples of which are the significant emerging inflationary and cost of living pressures, new legislation, increased demand, loss of income, increased funding, decreased funding, inability to recruit to posts, ongoing impact of the pandemic etc
- 7.2 A robust monitoring and management process for the 2022/23 budget is in place. If at any time during the year an adverse position is forecast, remedial action must be agreed and implemented immediately to ensure the budget can be brought back to balanced position.
- 7.3 The risk of this not being able to be achieved could mean that the Council does not have enough funding to offset its expenditure commitments for the year and therefore not be able report a balanced budget at the end of the year. This could result in the Section 151 Officer issuing a Section 114 notice.
- 7.4 A key risk to the Council's financial plans is that funding and demand assumptions in particular can change as more information becomes available. Significant inflation and cost of living pressures have already impacted the year end position. and the impact of these pressures will be reviewed and considered in the MTFP as part of routine financial management.

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 2022/23 budget monitoring process and the 2022/23 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 28 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**

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 –Delivery of the 2022-23 Saving Programme
APPENDIX 2 – Earmarked Reserves

BACKGROUND PAPERS

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Policy and Resources Committee	15 February 2023
Council	28 February 2022
Policy and Resources Committee	15 February 2022

Appendix 1 - Delivery of the 2022-23 saving programme

Saving Proposal	Approved Saving	Delivered	Delivered through mitigation	Delayed/ unachieved in year	Comment
Regeneration & Place					
Cease support for Community Alarms	£0.200m	£0.200m	£0.000m	£0.000m	Saving is fully achieved.
Reconfiguration of Commissioned Homelessness accommodation	£0.115m	£0.115m	£0.000m	£0.000m	Saving is fully achieved.
The Closure Public Conveniences	£0.050m	£0.050m	£0.000m	£0.000m	Saving is fully achieved.
Corporate buildings - holding costs	£0.050m	£0.050m	£0.000m	£0.000m	Saving is fully achieved.
Capitalisation of Regeneration Staff Salaries	£1.423m	£1.300m	£0.123m	£0.000m	91% of saving achieved. Remaining saving mitigated through vacancies and within overall funding package for Regeneration (which includes use of reserves)
Total Regeneration & Place	£1.838m	£1.715m	£0.123m	£0.000m	

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Appendix 2 - Earmarked Reserves 2022-23

Regeneration and Place

Reserve	Opening Balance £000	Use of Reserve £000	Contribution to Reserve £000	Closing Balance £000
Selective Licensing	1,354	-34	113	1,433
Wirral Ways to Work	496	0	129	625
Regeneration and Inward Investment	1,423	-38	0	1,385
Urban Development Corporation Bid	410	-333	0	77
Building Control Fee Earning	468	-61	13	420
HMO Licence Fees	164	0	0	164
Major Infrastructure Project Development	183	-121	0	62
Property Repairs rental income	276	0	0	276
DCLG Empty Shops Grant	41	0	0	41
ERDF 4.2 Match Funding	18	0	0	18
Europa Centre Dilapidations	83	-83	0	0
A/M GMT – Community Fund CAT	76	-76	0	0
Licence Survey Work	56	-56	0	0
Emergency Maintenance and Work in Default	206	68	0	274
Heritage Fund	12	-12	0	0
Resettlement Programme Grant	992	0	794	1,786
Supporting People Programme	141	-141	0	0
Homelessness	180	-14	0	166
Domestic Abuse Bill Grant	602	0	0	602
Economic Growth	342	0	0	342
Birkenhead Future High Street funding	57	-10	0	47
Wirral Growth Company Profit	0	0	8455	8,455
Total	7,580	-911	9,504	16,173

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ECONOMY, REGENERATION AND HOUSING COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 20th June 2023

REPORT TITLE:	2023/24 BUDGET AND BUDGET MONITORING PROCESSES
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

REPORT SUMMARY

This report sets out how the 2023/24 budget will 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.

This matter relates to all Wards within the Borough and is not a key decision.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Economy, Regeneration and Housing Committee:

1. Notes the process for in-year monitoring of the 2023/24 budget
2. Agree 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.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 The 2023/24 Council budget was agreed at Full Council on 27 February 2023. This budget was made up of savings proposals, pressures/growth items and funding that were based on actual known figures or best estimates available at the time. At any point during the year, these estimated figures could change and need to be monitored closely to ensure, if adverse, mitigating actions can be taken immediately to ensure a balanced budget can be reported to the end of the year.
- 1.2 The Council has a legal responsibility to set an annual balanced budget, which sets out how financial resources are to be allocated and utilised. In order to successfully do so, engagement with members, staff and residents is undertaken. The recommendations in this report inform that approach.
- 1.3 Managing and setting a budget will require difficult decisions to ensure that a balanced position can be presented. Regular Member engagement, which this report forms part of, is considered essential in delivering effective governance and financial oversight.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 The proposals set out in this report are presented to allow for efficient and effective budget monitoring activity that can be conducted in a timely manner. As such, it is considered that to meet the business needs and address the challenges that the Council faces that no alternative options are viable or appropriate at this time.
- 2.2 Not engaging with the Committee at this time, on the matters set out, was an option that was available, however it is considered that involvement of Committees as soon as practical after the agreement of the 2023/24 budget will best assist in delivering the benefits detailed in paragraph 2.1.
- 2.3 In the event of the Section 151 Officer determining that a balanced financial position could not be presented, the Section 151 Officer would be required to issue a section 114 notice and report this to all Members of Full Council. The outcome of which could result in intervention by the Government.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Budget Monitoring Process

- 3.1 On 27 February 2023 Full Council approved the 2023/24 budget, which included significant budget savings/efficiencies (details provided at Appendix A) in order to present a balanced position for the year.
- 3.2 The calculation of the 2023/24 budget was prepared using known figures or best estimates available at the time. At any point during the year, internal or external factors may influence a change in these estimates which could either have a

favourable or adverse impact on the ability to deliver a balanced position at financial year-end.

- 3.3 In order to ensure that a balanced position can be achieved, it is imperative that a robust process for monitoring and managing the budget is in place.
- 3.4 An internal officer governance process is in place, in line with past activity, to scrutinise and challenge budget performance in advance of financial forecasts being presented to the Committees. This process includes:
- Budget holders routinely reviewing budget reports and transactions for accuracy and completeness;
 - Regular meetings between budget holders and finance business partners to review income and expenditure positions to date and to determine future commitments in order to present reliable forecasts;
 - Directorate Management Team (DMT) review of the outcomes of the budget holder/finance business partner meetings;
 - Scrutiny and challenge by DMTs as to the robustness of the figures and forecast presented in the context of Directorate-wide activity;
 - DMT agreement on appropriate remedial action where necessary;
 - Corporate Management Team review and challenge of the forecast position via the Operational Performance Group;
 - Referral and/or escalation to Investment and Change Board for organisational oversight in conjunction with other corporate initiatives (Strategic Leadership and Corporate Management Team members);
 - Progress on savings items monitored through Investment and Change Board;
 - Referral to quarterly Strategic Leadership Team performance meeting for Senior Officer scrutiny and agreement; and
 - Presentation to Committees
- 3.5 For the first meetings in the new municipal year, the Committees will receive confirmation of their budget position, detailed by function, to facilitate an understanding of income and expenditure monitoring against activity (see Appendix B).
- 3.6 The Committees will be responsible for ensuring that the budget is utilised effectively and responsibly and remains within the relevant budget envelope, identifying savings where appropriate to mitigate any adverse positions that may transpire in-year. Once the Annual Budget and related policy framework is approved it becomes the Council's decision and is effective immediately in respect of the relevant financial year in scope. The Council's Constitution provides that Policy and Service Committees and Officers are required to implement the Council's budget and policy framework as set out at Budget Council. In normal operating conditions, Policy and Service Committee may only take decisions which are fully consistent with the Council approved budget and policy framework. It is expected that Committee budgets will be effectively managed in-year within the agreed cash limited budget and value for money will be secured. Chief Officers must ensure that no commitments are made that would result in an approved budget being exceeded.
- 3.7 Policy and Resources Committee will be responsible for ensuring that the entire budget will be in balance, including providing mitigating actions to bring the budget

back in line from any adverse variance position that may be forecast, which may take the form of providing direction to other Service Committees. Policy and Resources Committee will be responsible for advising Full Council on organisation-wide financial activity.

- 3.8 To enable the Committees to manage and monitor budgets effectively in-year, a suite of detailed information will be provided on a quarterly basis, comprising:
- A revenue budget monitoring report for the preceding quarter that will include a full-year forecast;
 - Full list of budget savings proposals and the progress for their achievement;
 - Full list of reserves allocated to the Committee for future one-off commitments;
 - A capital budget monitoring report for the preceding quarter that will include a full-year forecast; and
 - Other specific financial information relevant to the individual committee's decision-making process
- 3.9 This information will be made available at the earliest committee meeting, following the quarter end and completion of the internal governance process, detailed in paragraph 3.4. The anticipated timetable for reporting quarterly financial information to committee is:
- Quarter 1 (1 Apr – 30 Jun): July 23;
 - Quarter 2 (1 Jul – 30 Sep): November 23;
 - Quarter 3 (1 Oct – 31 Dec): February 24; and
 - Quarter 4 (1 Jan – 31 Mar): June 24.
- 3.10 Each Committee is requested to establish a Budget monitoring panel to facilitate regular space to review the budget position in between scheduled committee meetings during stages of the financial year.
- 3.11 The Budget Monitoring Panel will comprise of the Committee Chair and Spokespersons, the relevant Director and Assistant Directors (as required), a Finance and Democratic Service representative.
- 3.12 The purpose of this group is to:-
- Ensure that Members are receiving the most current financial data and are monitoring the budget throughout the year.
 - Question the Director on the financial data before they are available to the wider committee membership and ahead of the scheduled Committee meeting.
 - Seek further explanatory information from the Director/Assistant Director where necessary.
 - Request that certain additional information is provided to the group.
 - Make suggestions as to how the information is presented.
 - Make links between financial performance and activity, to inform decision making of the Committee.
 - Inform the process of efficiency target setting and monitor performance against delivery of efficiency targets agreed.

- 3.13 The Committees have the autonomy (subject to delegation levels) to enact budget virements (transfers) from one function to another within their overall committee budget envelope. Virements will also need to be agreed by the Section 151 Officer as there are certain conditions where budgets are not allowed to be transferred for the purposes of gaining a specific benefit e.g. where budgets from supplies budget headings are transferred to employee budget headings to take advantage of an uplift for pay inflation.
- 3.14 The Committees will be responsible for containing net expenditure within their overall budget envelope and not overspending. Where an adverse variance is forecast, each committee will be required to take remedial action, with detailed plans and timeframes, to bring the budget back in line and ensure that overspends are mitigated.
- 3.15 Where a committee has taken all possible steps for remedial action and is unable to fully mitigate an overspend, this must be reported to the Policy and Resources Committee who will then take an organisational-wide view of how this adverse variance will be managed. There must be immediate action agreed to ensure a deliverable, balanced forecast position can be reported, and this will be monitored on a monthly basis by the Policy and Resources Committee.
- 3.16 Whilst each committee is required to remain within its annual budget envelope, situations may transpire that demonstrate an in-year favourable forecast variance being reported to a Committee. Committees wishing to use any forecast underspend, must have approval from the P&R Committee.
- 3.17 The Council must not be in a situation where one Committee is forecasting an overspend, unable to mitigate it, and another Committee is forecasting an underspend and takes a decision to utilise this for unplanned growth purposes. The Policy and Resources Committee will be responsible for ensuring that operating in silos does not occur and that resources are aligned to Council objectives at all times.
- 3.18 The Policy and Resources Committee has ultimate responsibility for taking any necessary steps required to ensure a whole Council budget can report a balanced position throughout the year. The Section 151 Officer will be responsible for ensuring that any budget actions, proposals and mitigations are achievable and legal.
- 3.19 In addition to the standard budget monitoring process, as outlined above, which will include reviews of savings related activity, in 2023/24 additional scrutiny will be provided to ensure that agreed savings are delivered in a timely manner, in line with the original proposal. Two specific review routes will exist to support financial oversight and the delivery of savings:
- Finance Sub-Committee; and,
 - Chief Executive led savings delivery board (Star Chamber).
- 3.20 The Finance Sub-Committee will meet to support the Policy and Resources Committee in its aims of providing strategic direction to the operation of the Council, to maintain a strategic overview of budgets and to provide a coordinating role across all other service committees through a 'whole council view' of budget monitoring.

- 3.21 A savings delivery board (Star Chamber) will be convened with the aim of facilitating regular, in-depth senior officer and member engagement on savings progress in order to review and challenge activity to date, as well as plans to be subsequently actioned, in order to deliver on the savings proposals agreed by Full Council.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 This report sets out the 2023/24 budget monitoring process and has no direct financial implications. The outcome of the process will, if not adhered to or a suitable alternative process agreed, will have significant financial implications. However, the proposals set out control environments and a timeline of activity deemed necessary as part of sound financial management regime.
- 4.2 If the 2023/24 budget cannot be balanced, this may result in a Section 114 report being issued by the Section 151 Officer - once issued there are immediate constraints on spending whereby no new expenditure is permitted, with the exception of that funding statutory services, including safeguarding vulnerable people, however existing commitments and contracts can continue to be honoured.
- 4.3 The Council delivers both statutory and non-statutory services at present – the requirement to eliminate subsidies provided to non-statutory services is considered to be a key requirement in delivering value for money and ensuring that finite resources are targeted on beneficial outcomes.
- 4.4 The FM Code requires the Council to demonstrate that the processes they have in place satisfy the principles of good financial management, based on the following six principles:
- Organisational Leadership – demonstrating a clear strategic direction based on a vision in which financial management is embedded into organisation culture;
 - Accountability – based on Medium-Term Financial Planning, that derives the annual budget process supported by effective risk management, quality supporting data and whole life costs;
 - Financial management - undertaken with transparency at its core using consistent, meaningful and understandable data, reported frequently with evidence of periodic officer actions and elected member decision making.
 - Professional standards - Adherence to professional standards is promoted by the leadership team and is evidenced;
 - Assurance - sources of assurance are recognised as an effective tool mainstreamed into financial management, including political scrutiny and the results of external audit, internal audit and inspection; and
 - Sustainability - The long-term sustainability of local services is at the heart of all financial management processes and is evidenced by prudent use of public resources.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Policy and Resources Committee, in consultation with the respective Policy and Service Committees, has been charged by Council to formulate a draft Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) and budget to recommend to the Council.
- 5.2 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.
- 5.3 Once a budget is in place, Council has delegated responsibility to the Policy and Services Committees to implement it. The Committees may not within, normal business operating conditions, act contrary to the Budget without consent of Council other than in accordance with the Procedure Rules set out at Part 4(3) of the Constitution.
- 5.4 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 agreed 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. There may be resource requirements of any action resulting in remedial or mitigating tasks if an adverse forecast is reported with regards the 2023/24 budget in year, however these will be reported at the appropriate time.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 7.1 The Council's ability to maintain a balanced budget is dependent on a proactive approach due to estimated figures being provided in the calculation for the budget, albeit the best estimates available at the time, plus any amount of internal and external factors that could impact on the budget position in year. Examples of which are new legislation, increased demand, loss of income, increased funding, decreased funding, inability to recruit to posts, etc.
- 7.2 A robust monitoring and management process for the budget is in place. If at any time during the year an adverse position is forecast, remedial action must be agreed and implemented immediately to ensure the budget can be brought back to balanced position.

- 7.3 The risk of this not being able to be achieved could mean that the Council does not have enough funding to offset its expenditure commitments for the year and therefore not be able report a balanced budget at the end of the year. This could result in the Section 151 Officer issuing a Section 114 notice.
- 7.4 A key risk to the Council's financial plans is that funding and demand assumptions in particular can change as more information becomes available. As such, the MTFP is regularly reviewed and updated as part of routine financial management.
- 7.5 Under the system of retained Business Rates, Authorities benefit from a share of any increased revenues but are liable for at least a share of any falls in income (subject to safety net triggers) and any non-collection. This includes reductions arising from appeals relating to past years which partially fall on the Authority. These risks are mitigated through a combination of the operation of the Collection Fund, General Fund Balances and a Business Rates Equalisation Reserve.
- 7.6 Assumptions have been made in the current budget outlook for income and funding from business rates and council tax and social care grants as the main sources of funding. If there is an adverse change to these assumptions as a result of government announcements, additional savings proposals or reduced expenditure would need to be identified as soon as possible to ensure a balanced five-year MTFP can be achieved. Committees will be kept updated with any announcements regarding the local government finance settlement through the year.
- 7.7 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.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

- 8.1 Consultation has been carried out with the Senior Leadership Team in arriving at the governance process for the 2023/24 budget monitoring process.

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 There are no specific equality implications of this report regarding processes, however, it is recognised that some of the developing proposals for 2023/24 budget and beyond could have equality implications. Any implications will be considered and any negative impacts will be mitigated where possible.
- 9.3 Equality implications will be assessed during planning, decision and implementation stages and will be recognised as an ongoing responsibility. Any equality implications

will be reported to the Committees. Equality issues will be a conscious consideration and an integral part of the process.

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 At this time, there are no additional environmental and climate 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 environment and climate implications associated with these that will be addressed within the relevant business cases presented to the Committee.

11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 This report has no direct community wealth implications however any budget proposals to be developed should take 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**

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APPENDICES

Appendix A Savings agreed at full Council for 2023/24
Appendix B Committee Budget Book details

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Pressure and Growth Proposals
Savings and Income Proposals
CIPFA's Financial Management Code

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee	14 March 2023
Tourism, Communities, Culture & Leisure Committee	9 March 2023
Children, Young People & Education Committee	8 March 2023
Economy Regeneration & Development Committee	7 March 2023
Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee	6 March 2023
Full Council	27 February 2023
Policy and Resources Committee	14 February 2023
Policy and Resources Committee	18 January 2023
Policy and Resources Committee	9 November 2022
Policy and Resources Committee	5 October 2022
Policy and Resources Committee	7 September 2022
Policy and Resources Committee	13 July 2022

Appendix A – Savings agreed at Full Council for 2023/24

Committee	23/24 Budget Saving (£m)
Adult Social Care and Public Health	
<u>Adult Care & Health</u>	
Review of all-age disability transition planning	-1.000
Review of services to support Independent Living	-4.935
Adult Social Care and Public Health Total	-5.935
Children, Young People & Education	
<u>Children, Families & Education</u>	
Increase the number of children looked after placed in family settings as opposed to higher cost residential settings	-1.100
Redesign and restructure of the Assessment and Intervention Service	-0.655
Reduction in contributions to the Regional Adoption Agency in line with the average number of referrals	-0.100
Reduction in financial support to Kingsway High School	-0.134
Reduction in Teacher's pension liabilities to the council	-0.190
Reduction in Wirral's Looked After Children numbers	-0.410
Review of contracts within Children's Services	-0.250
Review of council's contribution towards European Funded Send Inclusion Programme	-0.220
Review of Supporting Families funding and Early Help budgets	-1.121
Children, Young People & Education TOTAL	-4.180
Economy Regeneration & Housing	
<u>Regeneration & Place</u>	
Capitalisation of salaries (Re-direction of qualifying salaries away from the council's central budget	-0.085
Decommissioning of the Solar Campus site and relocation of teams currently working from the facility.	-0.005
Increase eligible rechargeable costs for Building Control services	-0.080
Lease income from rental of floors 4 & 5 at Marris House	-0.136
One off rental income for partial leasing of Cheshire Lines office space	-0.146
Recharging of costs where eligible grant and fee income is rechargeable within Supported Housing services	-0.060
Recharging of staff costs where eligible grant funding is in place for Economic Growth projects	-0.072
Recharging of staff costs where eligible grant funding is in place for Homes for Ukraine Resettlement Programme	-0.593
Redesign and review of contract commissioning for Economic Growth	-0.065
Re-provision of homeless accommodation and review of community alarm grant	-0.137
Review of Housing Support service and Fuel Poverty contract	-0.088
Review of Merseytravel levy budget	-0.122
Stand down and disposal of a number of council owned buildings	-0.672
Standing down of Wallasey Town Hall for a 12-month period	-0.400
Economy Regeneration & Housing TOTAL	-2.660

Appendix A – Savings agreed at Full Council for 2023/24

Committee	23/24 Budget Saving (£m)
Environment, Climate Emergency & Transport	
<u>Neighbourhood Services</u>	
Capitalise Staff costs on infrastructure projects	-0.060
Expansion of the camping offer at Wirral Country Park	-0.010
Introduction of an environmental enforcement scheme	-0.150
Introduction of catering facilities at football playing fields	-0.020
Introduction of Electric Vehicle charging pilot scheme tariffs	-0.010
Introduction of large format digital screen advertising opportunities	-0.020
Introduction of Pet Memorial Garden	-0.010
Reintroduction of Christmas Markets at Birkenhead Park	-0.010
Restructure of the transport fleet	-0.030
Review of Cemeteries and Crematoria service income	-0.100
Review of Pest Control service income	-0.010
Review of Tree Management service	-0.050
Review of vehicle crossing provision	-0.015
Environment, Climate Emergency & Transport TOTAL	-0.495
Policy & Resources	
<u>Chief Executive Office</u>	
Corporate Office Restructure	-0.070
<u>Corporate</u>	
Apply vacancy factor to pay budgets	-2.300
Council wide budget adjustment	-0.340
Reprice pay budgets at Mid-point	-2.800
Review of enabling (back office) services across the council	-2.300
Review of senior management structure	-0.800
<u>Finance/ Resources</u>	
DSG Contribution to statutory functions	-1.200
Insurance reserve - one off	-1.000
Review of current payroll functions	-0.060
Review of digital systems within the Revenue and Benefits service	-0.100
Use of NNDR reserve - one off	-3.000
Policy & Resources TOTAL	-13.970
Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure	
<u>Neighbourhood Services</u>	
Development of the events programme at Williamson Art Gallery	-0.070
Leisure Centre service review	-0.500
Review of current Neighbourhood Directorate assets/ buildings	-0.050
Review of Neighbourhoods Staffing Structure	-0.425
Various underspends across Neighbourhoods	-0.060
Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure TOTAL	-1.105
GRAND TOTAL	-28.345

Appendix B



Economy Regeneration and Housing Committee

Contents

A. Introduction and 2023-24 Budget Summary	Pg 1
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C. 2023-24 Subjective and Objective Budgets	Pg 7
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A. Introduction and 2023-24 Budget Summary

Economy, Regeneration and Housing Committee 2023-24 Budgets

This Committee is responsible for formulating the Council's planning policies and for the Council's housing policies and statutory functions, development projects and growth and the economic development of the Borough.

The tables below breakdown and explain the financial resources available to the Committee in 2023-24

Revenue Budgets

Revenue Budgets are the monies the Council allocates for its day-to-day expenditure. It is the amount of money the Council requires to provide its services during the year.

TABLE 1 2023/24 Economy, Regeneration and Housing Committee Budget

Objective	Budget £000
Regeneration	1,064
Housing	5,779
Asset Management & Investment	4,754
Planning and Building Control	1,199
Special Projects	119
Local Plan	400
Committee Budget	13,315

B. Service Area Summary Narratives

1.0 Regeneration

1.1 Regeneration Delivery is about people, place, economy and environment - creating places where people want to live and which encourage healthy, active lives. Wirral has a range of area-based regeneration programmes, predominantly along the Left Bank of the Mersey. These programmes have a focus on creating new housing, employment space, vibrant town centres, leisure and tourism attractions, while also renewing existing neighbourhoods. Low-carbon, active travel and movement strategies are integrated into these programmes.

Key themes which run through Wirral's regeneration include high quality urban design, addressing climate change and increasing biodiversity, and the importance of art, culture and heritage in creating beautiful places that people are proud of.

1.2 Economic Growth

Area based regeneration programmes are complemented by an ambitious economic strategy for Wirral. The Economic Growth Service is responsible for the development and implementation of the Economic Strategy, working with partners to develop the strategies, programmes, and projects to deliver on the three key pillars of the Economic Strategy:

- Thriving Business (business support services, inward investment, sector development, innovation, investment funds)
- Vibrant Places (town centre/high street interventions, place making, wider stakeholder engagement and embedding of economic development within regeneration delivery)

- Inclusive Economy (employment support services, external workforce skills, external recruitment & redundancy support, economic elements of social value & community wealth)

2.0 Housing

2.1 Homelessness The Housing Options Team discharge the Council's statutory duties under Part VII of the Housing Act including homeless assessments and provision of free advice and assistance to all people experiencing or threatened with homelessness, application of legal duties to prevent someone from becoming homeless, provision and management of a portfolio of temporary, dispersed accommodation, securing of suitable accommodation for homeless households who fall into a 'priority need' category' and undertaking of a legally required 'Review' of homelessness in the borough, at least every 5 years and working with partners (including the Combined Authority to shape homeless policy.

2.2 The **Property Pool Plus** service is responsible for discharging the Council's statutory responsibilities under Part VI of the Housing Act, by ensuring that we provide both a policy and a scheme for the allocation of social housing in the borough, and that the policy surrounding the allocation of this is adhered to.

The service therefore undertakes the management and administration of the Council's Choice Based Lettings Scheme and nominations agreements with Registered Providers, management of the housing register, assessment and banding of housing and health and welfare needs as it relates to accommodation needs, provision of advice and assistance to applicants and policy review and development.

2.3 Housing Investment This team undertakes a diverse range of services including:-

- Housing Strategy and policy development at a local and sub regional level, strategically aligning housing programmes with corporate, Wirral plan and Combined/LCR priorities.
- Wirral Housing growth agenda including working with planning colleagues to ensure affordable housing contributions are secured through the planning system, enabling the development of new affordable homes (including specialist and extra care housing) - liaison with Homes England and Registered Provider partners to bring investment into the borough and ensuring housing is placed within wider regeneration programmes.
- Asylum Dispersal, UK, Afghan Resettlement Programmes and Homes for Ukraine response - co-ordinating support and the arrivals process. Ukraine sponsor, accommodation and DBS approvals and provision of

welfare support and collaboration with key partners - CCG, Police, and the CVS.

- Energy Efficiency Programmes including Retrofit – maximising funding opportunities such as ECO and Green Homes and influencing renewal assistance.

2.4 Housing Standards The services within housing standards aim to improve standards of existing private housing stock through a range of interventions, legal enforcement powers and programmes including :-

- Mandatory HMO licensing & Selective Licensing
- Landlord accreditation
- Healthy Homes – signposting key services for vulnerable residents
- Housing standards advice, complaints and statutory enforcement
- Financial Assistance.
- Empty Homes

2.5 Adaptations deliver the statutory Disabled Facilities Grant Programme for adults and children which is supported from the Disabled Facilities Grant determination which is passported through the Better Care Fund. This enables hospital discharge and enables those with disabilities to remain at home and supports independence. This is delivered through a range of specialist technical and support services to enable financial assistance programmes including the Handyperson Service, major and minor adaptations and programme specific projects.

2.6 Supported Housing primarily undertakes the review and commissioning, including regulation of supported accommodation services for homeless people and vulnerable groups. This involves monitoring of demand as this relates to the function of supporting Wirral's homeless service response. This also includes the management and alignment of passported funder including the Rough Sleeper Initiative placements and other Government Homeless specific grants to respond to Government policy at a local level. This service closely aligns to the Homeless Service to enable the Council to meet its statutory duties.

3.0 Asset Management & Investment

Asset Management is a key Council service which manages Wirral's Land and Property Portfolio. Assets fall into two discrete areas (i) operational estate

which ranges from allotments to schools, theatres, leisure, libraries, depots and offices and (ii) non-operational assets which generate income for the Council. Asset valuation is critical to the overall Council budget for accountancy purposes and stands at £507m the Council's MTFP is heavily dependent on sound asset management by way of the successful delivery of our Capital Programmes, Investment Strategies within overarching governance arrangements.

Significant responsibility is placed upon the service for ensuring safety and compliance within the asset portfolio, day to day response for repairs and maintenance whilst investing time to develop business and systems to ensure compliance, information and project management arrangements are robust. Emerging strategies such as Climate Emergency and Sustainability, individual service priorities and Regeneration & Growth are also key activities of the service

The Asset Management & Investment covers a range of services to support the use of the Councils assets, including

- To support the Zero Carbon emissions target through targeted Capital Programme, Estate
- Review and restructure the service and deliver property and asset strategies to align with the Wirral Plan
- Management and energy consumption.
- Deliver the Council's Capital Programme and the Remobilisation of Assets post-pandemic in line with service priorities
- Facilities Management: Complex Management, Cleaning, 3rd party hiring, Safety/Security
- PFI; Contract Management, Change Orders, Finance
- Birkenhead Market; both Operational and Future Developments

4.0 Planning and Building Control

4.1 Development Management: deals with all applications and requests for pre application advice submitted to the Council under the Town and Country Planning act including applications affecting listed buildings, Tree preservation orders, development and changes of use. It also deals with discharges of Planning conditions, enforcement of the regulations and provides advice on development affecting heritage assets including conservation areas.

4.2 The Planning budget also includes the staffing costs for the Forward Planning team that are responsible for delivering the Local Plan. The team are also responsible for the statutory services of Neighbourhood Planning and carrying out the annual monitoring of performance against the local plan including housing delivery. In addition they maintain the brownfield register, produce planning policy guidance and provide guidance to Development Management on the interpretation of Planning policy

- 4.3 **Building Control** Implements statutory functions under The Building Act 1984, The Building Regulations 2010, and certain aspects of the Highways Act 1980. Works to building regulations 2010 which sets minimum standards for the design and construction of new buildings and certain types of alterations to existing buildings. Building Control Surveyors assess submitted applications for compliance for approval, undertake site inspections and issue completion certificates.

Building Control competes with Private 'Approved Inspectors' to provide Building Regulations services in a competitive market. Customers are not obliged to use the Local Authority and can choose to appoint a private 'Approved Inspector' to oversee and certify their development if they wish.

The Building Control budget also includes the services provided for Land Charges and street naming and numbers.

- 5.0 **Special Projects** This team is delivering the regeneration of New Ferry and supporting a range of other projects including the Community Land Trust in New Ferry and Tranmere Rovers at the Solar campus in Leasowe.

6.0 **Local Plan**

The Local Plan is our plan for the future of Wirral. It will play an important part in shaping the future of our towns, villages, infrastructure, environment and economy.

The Plan sets out the Council's priorities for development and gives a clear indication on what development will and won't be permitted in your area. The plan covers housing, commercial, retail, public and private developments. The Plan will impact every resident and we encourage everybody to take part in the consultation process.

The Plan has been submitted for examination and is currently undergoing a rigorous assessment at examination prior to adoption. Once adopted it is a statutory requirement to keep the plan up to date.

C. 2023-24 Subjective and Objective Budgets

TABLE 2 2023/24 Economy, Regeneration and Housing Subjective Budget

Subjective	Budget
	£000
Income	-13,296
Expenditure	
Employee	13,204
Non Pay	13,407
Total Expenditure	26,611
Committee Budget	13,315

Table 3 below, provide a further detailed breakdown of the service budgets.

TABLE 3: 2023/24 Economy, Regeneration and Housing Committee – Service budgets

	Income (£000)	Employee (£000)	Non Pay (£000)	Committee Budget (£000)
Regeneration	-2,840	2,005	1,899	1,064
Housing	-3,396	4,027	5,148	5,779
Asset Management & Investment	-4,535	4,301	4,988	4,754
Planning	-1,796	2,753	242	1,199
Special Projects		118	1	119
Local Plan	-729		1,129	400
Total	-13,296	13,323	13,407	13,315

D 2023-24 Approved Savings specific to Economic Regeneration and Housing Committee service areas

Table 4 2023/24 Approved Savings Economy, Regeneration and Housing Committee

Savings title	23-24 Budget Saving (£m)
One off rental income for partial leasing of Cheshire Lines office space	-0.146
Review of Merseytravel levy budget	-0.122
Capitalisation of salaries (Re-direction of qualifying salaries away from the council's central budget	-0.085
Re-provision of homeless accommodation and review of community alarm grant	-0.137
Lease income from rental of floors 4 & 5 at Marris House	-0.136
Stand down and disposal of a number of council owned buildings	-0.672
Decommissioning of the Solar Campus site and relocation of teams currently working from the facility.	-0.005
Standing down of Wallasey Town Hall for a 12-month period	-0.400
Redesign and review of contract commissioning for Economic Growth	-0.065
Recharging of staff costs where eligible grant funding is in place for Economic Growth projects	-0.072
Recharging of staff costs where eligible grant funding is in place for Homes for Ukraine Resettlement Programme	-0.593
Review of Housing Support service and Fuel Poverty contract	-0.088
Recharging of costs where eligible grant and fee income is rechargeable within Supported Housing services	-0.060
Increase eligible rechargeable costs for Building Control services	-0.080
TOTAL	-2.661

E CAPITAL BUDGET

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 5 2023/24 Economy, Regeneration and Housing Committee – Capital Budget

Scheme	2023/24		2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
	Original Approved Budget £000	Revised Budget at 01.04.22 £000	Budget £000	Budget £000	Budget £000	Budget £000
Aids, Adaptations and Disabled Facility Grants	2,889	2,521	0	0	0	0
Birkenhead Regeneration Delivery Fund	15,024	24,034	0	0	0	0
Birkenhead Regeneration Framework	-	315	0	0	0	0
Birkenhead Town Centre Masterplanning & Housing Delivery	265	290	0	0	0	0
Business Investment Fund	585	585	0	0	0	0
Capitalisation of Regen Salaries	1,000	971	984	0	0	0
Clearance	191	191	194	0	0	0
Empty Property Grant Scheme	419	315	310	0	0	0
FHSF New Ferry 21-22	2,685	3,112	0	0	0	0
Future High Streets - Birkenhead	9,579	12,403	0	0	0	0
Housing Infrastructure Fund (Enabling Infrastructure)	-	1	0	0	0	0
Liscard Town Centre Delivery	-	10	0	0	0	0
Maritime Knowledge hub	12,351	12,351	10,650	0	0	0
New Brighton Masterplan for Marine Promenade	40	45	0	0	0	0
New Ferry Regeneration Strategic Acquisitions	118	1,342	0	0	0	0
Office Quarter Building Fit-Out	4,613	5,248	0	0	0	0
Property Pooled Plus I.T System	11	20	0	0	0	0
Birkenhead Market Construction	13,300	13,300	13,950	0	0	0

Hind Street Movement Strategy Project 21-22			0	0	0	0
Strategic Acquisition Fund	3,600	3,567	0	0	0	0
Town Centre scheme - New Ferry	-	5	0	0	0	0
Town Deal Fund - Birkenhead	12,491	15,189	4,620	2,555	0	0
Town Fund B'head	-	53	0	0	0	0
UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF)	109	176	386	0	0	0
West Kirby Masterplan	10	58	0	0	0	0
Wirral Waters Investment Fund	7,000	7,000	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	86,280	103,102	31,094	2,555	0	0

F Reserves

Earmarked reserves are amounts set aside for specific purposes or projects.

Please note that approval from the Policy and Resources Committee is required to contribute to or drawdown from these reserves.

Table 6 2023/24 Economy, Regeneration and Housing Committee – Reserves

Reserve	Opening Balance £000
Selective Licensing	1,433
Wirral Ways to Work	625
Regeneration and Inward Investment	1,385
Urban Development Corporation Bid	77
Building Control Fee Earning	420
HMO Licence Fees	164
Major Infrastructure Project Development	62
Property Repairs rental income	276
DCLG Empty Shops Grant	41
ERDF 4.2 Match Funding	18
Emergency Maintenance and Work in Default	274
Resettlement Programme Grant	1,786
Homelessness	166
Domestic Abuse Bill Grant	602
Economic Growth	342
Birkenhead Future High Street funding	47
Wirral Growth Company Profit	8,455
Total	16,173

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ECONOMY REGENERATION AND HOUSING COMMITTEE

Tuesday 20 JUNE 2023

REPORT TITLE:	APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO ACTIVE TRAVEL WORKING GROUP
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE

REPORT SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to enable Economy, Regeneration and Housing Committee to review the continuing need for the Active Travel Working Group and, subject to that, to appoint Members to serve on it.

The Wirral Plan 2021-2026 sets out the Council's vision to secure the best possible future for our residents, defined by the community prosperity we create and supported by our excellent people and services. This proposal directly supports the following key themes within that plan:

- A prosperous inclusive economy where local people can get good jobs and achieve their aspirations; and
- Safe, vibrant communities where people want to live and raise their families.

This matter affects all Wards within the Borough and is not a Key Decision.

RECOMMENDATION

Economy Regeneration and Housing Committee is recommended to approve 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 Active Travel Member Working Group and to appoint those Members with effect from the date at which the proper officer is advised of the names of such Members.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 The work of the group will enable this Committee to make appropriate decisions and recommendations which will support the delivery of increased levels of sustainable travel as set out in the emerging Local Plan and to support actions required to address the Climate Emergency and the target in the Cool2 Strategy to 'a complete transition to fossil fuel free local travel by around 2030

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 This Committee could resolve to vary the numbers of Members or not appoint Members to it.
- 2.2 It is considered that the Working Group will assist the Council in actively working to deliver ambitious inclusive walking and cycling projects as required to secure a positive outcome in delivering increased levels of sustainable travel as set out in the emerging Local Plan and to support actions required to address the Climate Emergency and the target in the Cool2 Strategy to 'a complete transition to fossil fuel free local travel by around 2030'.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The following is a body retained or created in 2023/24 to assist the Committee in its work, with the membership for 2023/24. The Terms of Reference are attached as Appendix 1.

Active Travel Member Working Group

- 3.2 A working group currently comprising 8 members tasked with securing a positive outcome in delivering increased levels of sustainable travel as set out in the emerging Local Plan. This development of the Local Plan is also within the wider context of the Council's declaration of a Climate Emergency and the target in the Cool2 Strategy to 'a complete transition to fossil fuel free local travel by around 2030'.
- 3.3 The working group has an advisory role in the development of active travel schemes. The group will advise on the direction of active travel policy and delivery across Wirral. This is with a view to aiding greater understanding across the Council of issues associated with the implementation of active travel initiatives. The group will take account of the wider context of the potential for sustainable transport projects to contribute to:
- health and well-being;
 - tackling the climate emergency and improving air quality;
 - improving accessibility;
 - reducing congestion by encouraging active travel modes especially for shorter journeys;
 - achieving value for money;

- helping economic recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic;
- tackling transport poverty and inequality of access; and
- inclusive economic growth.

3.4 Current Membership

Councillor Tony Jones
 Councillor Liz Grey
 Councillor Ian Lewis
 Councillor Andrew Gardner
 Councillor Judith Grier
 Councillor Harry Gorman
 Councillor David Mitchell
 Councillor Orod Osanlou

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The establishment of the Active Travel Working Group is in compliance with the Council's Constitution. This group will not take any decisions but inform the deliberations of this Committee.
- 5.2 The size of the Working Group is currently set at eight members. In addition, Members of other Committees may be invited to attend as and when appropriate at the discretion of the Chair of the Working Group.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

- 6.1 There are no implications arising directly from this report as the Working Group is arranged and serviced using existing staff resources.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 7.1 As the Active Travel Working Group is a non-statutory meeting, no risks have been identified from the recommendations.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

- 8.1 It is for political groups to decide how they wish to allocate their places on working groups.

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 There are no equality implications arising directly from this report.

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are none arising directly from this report

REPORT AUTHOR: **Bryn Griffiths**
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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Terms of Reference for the Active Travel Member Working Group

BACKGROUND PAPERS

The Council's Constitution

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Economy Regeneration and Development Committee	13 June 2022
Economy Regeneration and Development Committee	8 June 2021
Economy Regeneration and Development Committee meeting of 4 March 2021 – Proposal to establish an Active Travel Working Group.	4 March 2021

Appendix 1: Active Travel Member Working Group- Terms of Reference

Background / Context

The Active Travel Working Group (“the Working Group”) been established to consider what the opportunities and barriers may be to deliver ambitious inclusive walking and cycling projects as required to secure a positive outcome in delivering increased levels of sustainable travel as set out in the emerging Local Plan. This is within the wider context of the Council’s declaration of a Climate Emergency and the target in the Cool2 Strategy to ‘a complete transition to fossil fuel free local travel by around 2030’.

In the context of the Local Plan and to guide the future development of Wirral the group will consider the potential for sustainable transport projects to contribute to:

- health and wellbeing;
- tackling the climate emergency and improving air quality;
- improving accessibility e.g. to employment, education, healthcare and leisure opportunities;
- reducing congestion by encouraging active travel modes especially for shorter journeys;
- achieving value for money;
- helping economic recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic;
- tackling transport poverty and inequality of access; and
- economic growth.

Purpose and remit of the Group

The overarching purpose for the Working Group is to act as an Advisory Group, making recommendations on the direction of active travel policy and delivery across Wirral and to aid greater understanding across the Council of issues associated with the implementation of active travel initiatives. The Working Group will consider the role of active travel in the borough, the future vision of Wirral as a sustainable borough and in delivering public health and climate change objectives.

The remit of the Working Group includes:

- Policies, processes and resources;
- Infrastructure, including reviewing best practice and Government guidance;
- Consultation and community engagement; and
- Behaviour change and vision.

This Working Group will be given the following specific tasks:

- advising on the development and implementation of an Active Travel Infrastructure Plan as part of building an evidence base and developing business cases for future funding applications as appropriate;

- advising on wider activity to support the implementation of ‘Gear Change’ and the uptake of active travel across Wirral;
- providing input into a review of current and pipeline active travel projects and supporting the implementation of any actions arising;
- providing a collective voice to respond to consultations on policies and proposals that will impact upon pedestrians and cyclists in Wirral, and wider Liverpool City Region as appropriate;
- facilitating the exchange of ideas and best practice in order encourage and promote increased levels of active travel; and
- guiding, responding to, and working with, as appropriate, the Wirral Active Travel Forum.

The Working Group has no decision-making powers on behalf of the Council, but recommendations and findings from this group will be presented to the Economy Regeneration and Housing Committee.

Membership

1. The Working Group will comprise of eight members. In addition, Members of other Committees may be invited to attend as and when appropriate at the discretion of the Chair of the Working Group.
2. The appointment of Members to the Working Group will be made having regard to the political balance of the Council as a whole.
3. A Chair will be selected by the Group from amongst its number.
4. The Working Group meetings must have at least 3 members to be quorate.
5. The Working Group may appoint a Vice Chair.
6. Relevant officers and representatives of external organisations including the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority and Local or National Active Travel Organisations may also be invited to attend as dictated by the agenda.

Meetings

- Meeting will be virtually at a 4-weekly frequency
- Meetings will last no more than two hours
- Meetings are not open to the public, but minutes will be shared on the website after approval by the Chair as an accurate record.
- The Membership will be consulted throughout the year, as appropriate, regarding individual scheme designs as part of the standard consultation process for infrastructure schemes.

- Meetings will be structured around themes and issues, with evidence and information being provided by officers, partner organisations and technical/policy advisors to support discussion and planning. Context information and background reading will be provided by the Secretariat in advance as appropriate.
- Meetings will include presentations and demonstrations of local, regional and national initiatives, as well as discussions on local active travel delivery.

Secretariat

Meeting agendas and papers to be sent out to representatives at least one week in advance of the Forum and all administration and support will be provided by Democratic Services.

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ECONOMY REGENERATION AND HOUSING COMMITTEE

Tuesday 20 JUNE 2022

REPORT TITLE	ESTABLISHMENT OF REGENERATION PROGRAMME WORKING GROUP
REPORT OF	DIRECTOR OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE

REPORT SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to enable Economy, Regeneration and Housing Committee to review the continuing need for the Active Travel Working Group and, subject to that, to appoint Members to serve on it.

The Wirral Plan 2021-2026 sets out the Council's vision to secure the best possible future for our residents, defined by the community prosperity we create and supported by our excellent people and services. This proposal directly supports the following key themes within that plan:

- A prosperous inclusive economy where local people can get good jobs and achieve their aspirations; and
- Safe, vibrant communities where people want to live and raise their families.

This matter has no ward implications and is not a key decision.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Economy Regeneration and Housing Committee is recommended to:

1. Determine whether there is a continuing need for the Regeneration Programme Working Group; and
2. If the Committee considers that there is a continuing need, approve 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 Regeneration Programme Working Group and to appoint those Members with effect from the date at which the proper officer is advised of the names of such Members.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 The recommendations will enable the Committee to consider if it needs to set up the Working Group to enable detailed consideration, guidance and support for the Council's Regeneration Programme and to aid greater understanding of the key issues arising from it and the reasonable options that exist to address those issues.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 The Committee could seek changes to the Terms of Reference of the Working Group, and it has discretion as to the size of the Working Group.
- 2.2 The Committee could determine that the Working Group is no longer required and if so could consider utilising informal workshop meetings of the Committee to enable detailed consideration of pertinent aspects of the Council's Regeneration Programme.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 On 26 January 2022 the Economy Regeneration and Development Committee upon consideration of a report into Legal Input into Major Regeneration Projects resolved amongst other matters as follows

"Given the importance of the regeneration programme to Wirral in respect of achieving financial stability and sustainability for the Council, as well as other accepted benefits, a working group of elected members comprising the Chair and Spokespersons of Economy Regeneration and Development Committee, with the Chair and Spokespersons of Audit and Risk Management Committee also invited, along with an observer from the current Independent Panel, to oversee the performance of legal support to the regeneration programme, with partners invited when necessary; and

The working group is in acknowledgement of concerns raised by both Committees and will allow for scrutiny of the legal process that will include feedback from partners where needed as an assessment of the performance of the Council legal practice as it relates to the regeneration programme. Its purpose is not to micromanage the process but to allow scrutiny and offer assurance to elected members across both Committees and the wider Council chamber."

- 3.2 On 23 March 2022 the Economy Regeneration and Development Committee resolved amongst other matters to amend the working group arrangements as follows:

"... a Working Group be established to look at the performance of the Regeneration Programme. Along with the Chief Executive, Director of Regeneration and key officers, members from Economy, Regeneration and Development Committee will meet with the Council's development and funding partners regularly to discuss the performance of the regeneration programme for the Borough. This group will look at

the performance of specific projects or schemes within that programme that have been reported by exception as experiencing delays or issues against the expected timeframes.

The second part to the Working Group will be to meet with lead Officers from the key service areas (i.e. the Regeneration Project Manager or lead officers from finance, legal, procurement to consider any matters raised by the Council's Development or Funding Partners). This will provide the opportunity for Members to hear from Officers (and any external support that may be procured) to support the reasons for project being reported by exception and the mitigating actions being implemented. Issues raised by Development and Funding Partners can also be raised and explored.

The Working Group will report their findings and any recommendations to the Economy, Regeneration and Development Committee. Additionally, any significant financial risks will be referred to Audit and Risk Management Committee for its consideration and action."

3.3 The Working Group has had one meeting in the municipal year 2022/23.

3.4 **Current Membership:**

Councillor Tony Jones
Councillor Andrew Hodson
Councillor Judith Grier
Councillor David Mitchell

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 In June 2021 the Constitution and Standards Committee resolved to approve the Guidance Principles for establishing a Working Group. The guidance was for all Policy and Service Committees and in summary it states amongst other matters that, if a Committee is of the view that a Working Group is the mechanism to provide the best outcomes for a given topic, it should ensure that the Working Group scope has been clearly defined. The document also provides that consideration should be given to:

- Appointment of the Chair and Members of the Group. The Chair can either be appointed by the parent committee or at the first meeting of working group/task finish;
- Agreeing the Scope of the Working Group; and
- Number and frequency of meetings.

5.2 On completion of its work the panel should produce a final report with clear recommendations to present to the relevant Policy and Service Committee for consideration.

- 5.3 Whilst there is no legal requirement for the Working Group to be politically proportionate members may wish to have regard to proportionality with reference to the allocation of seats on Economy Regeneration and Housing Committee.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

- 6.1 There are no substantive ICT Staffing and Assets implications arising out of the proposals set out within this report.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 7.1 The management of risks to the Council in respect of its Regeneration Programmes come in the form of managing the risks to delivery, as well as managing the commercial and financial risks and the risks for proper governance and legality
- 7.2 The Working Group can gain further insight into the risks and relevant mitigations of risk as part of its work.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

- 8.1 Consultation has not been undertaken on the proposals given that the purpose of the Working Group has already been determined by a previous Committee decision.

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. Whilst there are no equality implications arising from this report, the associated actions arising from the project and programmes that Council are involved with may need to be assessed and any equality issues mitigated in terms of any negative impact that may emerge.

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 There are no environment or climate implications arising from the proposals set out within this report.

11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING

- 11.1 There are no Community Wealth Building implications arising from the proposals set out within this report.

REPORT AUTHOR: Matthew Neal
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Department of Law and Governance

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Terms of Reference of Working Group

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APPENDIX 1

Regeneration Programme Working Group -Terms of Reference

Purpose of the Regeneration Programme Working Group

To enable detailed consideration, guidance and support for the Council's Regeneration Programme and to aid greater understanding of the key issues arising from it and the reasonable options that exist to address those issues

Role of the Regeneration Programme Working Group

1. As part of the first phase, along with the Chief Executive, Director of Regeneration and Place and key officers, to meet with the Council's development and funding partners to discuss the performance of Wirral's regeneration programme. Furthermore, to look at the performance of specific projects or schemes within that programme that have been reported by exception as experiencing delays or issues against the expected timeframes.
2. As part of a second phase, to meet with lead Officers from the key service areas (i.e. the Regeneration Project Manager or lead officers from finance, legal, procurement) to consider any matters raised by the Council's Development or Funding Partners. This will provide the opportunity for Members to hear from Officers (and any external support that may be procured) to support the reasons for project being reported by exception and the mitigating actions being implemented. Issues raised by Development and Funding Partners can also be raised and explored.
3. The Working Group will report their findings and any recommendations to the Economy, Regeneration and Housing Committee. Additionally, any significant financial risks will be referred to Audit and Risk Management Committee for its consideration and action.

Membership of the Regeneration Programme Working Group

1. The Working Group comprise 4 members
2. The Council's Substitution Scheme will apply
3. The Chair of the Working Group will be selected by the Group from amongst its number.
4. The Working Group meetings must have at least 3 members to be quorate.

Regeneration Programme Working Group Arrangements and Principles

1. The Members will be supported by officers as appropriate.

2. The Working Group has no decision-making powers. Its purpose is to aid greater understanding of issues, desires, and policy development.
3. The focus of the Working Group is on key issues the Council's Regeneration Programmes not all related detailed issues.
4. Meetings to be held on an 'as required' basis.
5. Meetings are not open to the public, but outcomes from the Working Group will be made available to all Members as appropriate.
6. The Working Group will cease upon it concluding its work and reporting its findings to the Economy Regeneration and Housing Committee.



ECONOMY REGENERATION AND HOUSING COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY 20 JUNE 2023

REPORT TITLE:	ECONOMY REGENERATION AND HOUSING WORK PROGRAMME
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE

REPORT SUMMARY

The Economy Regeneration and Housing 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 Economy Regeneration and Housing Committee is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

Following the whole-Council elections, the newly composited Committee is invited to review the 2023-24 work programme moving into the 2023-24 municipal year. It is proposed that issues on the existing work programme that are for information purposes can only be considered via other means, such as briefing notes and workshops/

RECOMMENDATION

The Economy Regeneration and Housing Committee is recommended to:

- (1) note and comment on the proposed Economy Regeneration and Housing Committee work programme for the remainder of the 2023/24 municipal year.
- (2) review its items for future consideration on the work programme.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 To ensure Members of the Economy, Regeneration and Housing 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 Economy Regeneration and Housing Committee is responsible for the Council's adult social care and preventative and community based services. This includes the commissioning and quality standards of adult social care services, incorporating responsibility for all of the services, from protection to residential care, that help people live fulfilling lives and stay as independent as possible as well as overseeing the protection of vulnerable adults. The Economy Regeneration and Housing Committee is also responsible for the promotion of the health and wellbeing of the people in the Borough. The Committee is charged by full Council to undertake responsibility for:

- (a) formulation and delivery of the Council's strategic development objectives for planning, sustainability and transportation;
- (b) developing and recommending those plans and strategies which together comprise the Local Plan;
- (c) developing and adopting or recommending (if reserved to Council) other spatial planning documents, including but not limited to
 - (i) supplementary planning documents (SPD) and planning policy advice notes;
 - (ii) Master Plans and development briefs;
 - (iii) The Infrastructure Delivery Plan; and
 - (iv) [The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) when applicable];

- (d) economic development, including but not limited to infrastructure, enterprise, skills and seeking, securing and managing external funds to achieve that, directly or in partnership with joint ventures and external companies or bodies as well as with the Combined Authority and government bodies;
- (e) the Council's functions and partnerships regarding the promotion of economic growth and the establishment and development of business;
- (f) the promotion and development of the economic factors in the area, such as seeking to ensure sufficient and appropriate employment sites, investment, adult skills, apprenticeship schemes, productivity, development sites and so forth;
- (g) overseeing the progress of major projects (including major building, infrastructure or other projects involving the erection or significant alteration of major permanent structures or landmarks) undertaken by the Council directly or as enabler, funder or joint enterprise partner, including but not limited to the Wirral Growth Company LLP;
- (h) the Authority's role and functions in relation to strategic and private sector housing policies and as the housing authority, including but not limited to
 - (i) the Council's Housing Strategy;
 - (ii) homelessness and the allocation of housing;
 - (iii) private sector housing, including taking action to remedy overcrowding, disrepair, unfitness and statutory nuisances; to promote fire safety in private sector housing and the Council's functions in relation to houses in multiple occupation;
 - (iv) licensing schemes;
 - (v) tenancy relations and the provision of housing advice;
 - (vi) relationship with Registered Providers of housing;
 - (vii) housing loans and grants;
 - (viii) housing related support services;
 - (ix) policies and actions with a view to reducing and eliminating street homelessness to ensure that appropriate action is taken; and
 - (x) analysis, development and overview of housing policies in terms of spatial planning to inform the Local Plan and planning policies;
- (i) reviewing major projects and any project boards having regard to capacity to deliver, corporate priorities and resources, and advise the Policy and Resources Committee as appropriate;
- (j) providing a view of performance, budget monitoring and risk management in relation to the Committee's functions; and
- (k) 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.

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.

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APPENDICES

Committee Work Plan

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Wirral Council Constitution

Forward Plan

The Council's transformation programme

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Economy, Regeneration and Housing Committee	27 October 2020 24 November 2020 26 January 2021 4 March 2021 8 June 2021 26 July 2021 29 September 2021 26 October 2021 22 November 2021 26 January 2022 9 March 2022 13 June 2022 20 July 2022 20 September 2022 7 December 2022 26 January 2023 8 March 2023

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ECONOMY, REGENERATION AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

WORK PROGRAMME 2023/24

KEY DECISIONS BETWEEN JULY AND OCTOBER 2023

Item	Brief Description	Committee Meeting	Lead Departmental Officer
Solar Campus	To report proposals for the use of the Solar Campus site for economic and educational purposes.	July 2023	David Armstrong
Proposal to Consult on Selective Licensing Scheme	TBC	July 2023	Lisa Newman

NON- KEY DECISIONS AND UPDATE REPORTS

Item	Lead Departmental Officer	Wirral Plan Priority
Council House Building Options	Lisa Newman	'Inclusive Economy'
Finding land	Lisa Newman	Inclusive Economy'

STANDING ITEMS AND MONITORING REPORTS

Item	Reporting Frequency	Lead Departmental Officer
Financial Monitoring Report	TBC	Shaer Halewood
Regen Committee Work Programme Update	TBC	Committee Team

WORK PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE COMMITTEE

Item	Format	Timescale	Lead Officer	Progress
Working Groups/ Sub Committees				
Active Travel Working Group	Workshops	Ongoing	Julie Barnes	Ongoing
Regeneration Working Group	Workshops	Ongoing	Matthew Neal	Ongoing

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

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Economy, Regeneration and Housing Committee – Terms of Reference

The Economy, Regeneration and Housing Committee has responsibility for developing and delivering a vision for Wirral as a place. It is responsible for developing and determining or recommending all planning policies, including the Local Plan, and infrastructure planning. It is also responsible for promoting regeneration, economic development and associated activities, including the tourism, culture and visitor economy, and for removing barriers to growth. It is also responsible for taking a strategic approach to the Council's various housing functions, including issues concerning social rented and affordable housing, homelessness, allocations and standards of housing.

The Committee is charged by full Council to undertake responsibility for:

- (a) formulation and delivery of the Council's strategic development objectives for planning, sustainability and transportation;
- (b) developing and recommending those plans and strategies which together comprise the Local Plan;
- (c) developing and adopting or recommending (if reserved to Council) other spatial planning documents, including but not limited to
 - (i) supplementary planning documents (SPD) and planning policy advice notes;
 - (ii) Master Plans and development briefs;
 - (iii) The Infrastructure Delivery Plan; and
 - (iv) [The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) when applicable];
- (d) economic development, including but not limited to infrastructure, enterprise, skills and seeking, securing and managing external funds to achieve that, directly or in partnership with joint ventures and external companies or bodies as well as with the Combined Authority and government bodies;
- (e) the Council's functions and partnerships regarding the promotion of economic growth and the establishment and development of business;
- (f) the promotion and development of the economic factors in the area, such as seeking to ensure sufficient and appropriate employment sites, investment, adult skills, apprenticeship schemes, productivity, development sites and so forth;
- (g) overseeing the progress of major projects (including major building, infrastructure or other projects involving the erection or significant alteration of major permanent structures or landmarks) undertaken by the Council directly or as enabler, funder or joint enterprise partner, including but not limited to the Wirral Growth Company LLP;
- (h) the Authority's role and functions in relation to strategic and private sector housing policies and as the housing authority, including but not limited to
 - (i) the Council's Housing Strategy;
 - (ii) homelessness and the allocation of housing;
 - (iii) private sector housing, including taking action to remedy overcrowding, disrepair, unfitness and statutory nuisances; to promote fire safety in private sector housing and the Council's functions in relation to houses in multiple occupation;
 - (iv) licensing schemes;

- (v) tenancy relations and the provision of housing advice;
 - (vi) relationship with Registered Providers of housing;
 - (vii) housing loans and grants;
 - (viii) housing related support services;
 - (ix) policies and actions with a view to reducing and eliminating street homelessness to ensure that appropriate action is taken; and
 - (x) analysis, development and overview of housing policies in terms of spatial planning to inform the Local Plan and planning policies;
-
- (i) reviewing major projects and any project boards having regard to capacity to deliver, corporate priorities and resources, and advise the Policy and Resources Committee as appropriate;
 - (j) providing a view of performance, budget monitoring and risk management in relation to the Committee's functions; and
 - (k) 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.