



Economy Regeneration & Housing Committee

Date:	Monday, 18 September 2023
Time:	6.00 p.m.
Venue:	Committee Room One, Birkenhead Town Hall

Contact Officer: Bryn Griffiths
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Please note that public seating is limited therefore members of the public are encouraged to arrive in good time.

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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 - 6)

To approve the minutes of the meeting of the Economy, Regeneration and Housing Committee held on 17th July 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, Wednesday 13th September 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, Wednesday 13th September 2023 to the Council's Monitoring Officer (committeeservices@wirral.gov.uk) and to be dealt with in accordance with Standing Order 11.1.

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

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

5.3 Questions by Members

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

BUDGET AND PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

6. IN-YEAR BUDGET POSITION (Pages 7 - 14)

KEY AND OTHER DECISIONS

7. ADOPTION OF WIRRAL INTERIM APPROACH TO AVOID AND MITIGATE RECREATIONAL PRESSURE (Pages 15 - 30)

8. UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND: PLACE BASED BUSINESS SUPPORT DELIVERY (Pages 31 - 38)

WORK PROGRAMME / OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

9. WORK PROGRAMME (Pages 39 - 46)

10. EXEMPT INFORMATION - EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

The following items contain exempt information.

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

11. UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND - EXEMPT APPENDICES (Pages 47 - 60)

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

Monday, 17 July 2023

Present: Councillor T Jones (Chair)

Councillors	GJ Davies	J Bird
	R Pitt	E Lamb
	M Skillicorn	E Tomeny
	G Wood	Raymond
	I Lewis (for A Hodson)	L Rennie (For A Gardner)

13 **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

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

14 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillor Andrew Hodson who was substituted by Councillor Ian Lewis. Apologies were also received from Councillor Andrew Gardner who was substituted by Councillor Lesley Rennie.

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

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

Councillor Helen Raymond declared a personal, non prejudicial, interest regarding item 6: Proposal to Consult on Selective Licensing Scheme, as the landlord to three properties in the borough. She noted that none of her properties fell within the areas listed in the report and she would remain in the chamber during the debate and voting on this item.

16 **MINUTES**

Members noted that a request was made at the previous meeting for a project delivery plan to be included in the Work Programme. While the request was reflected in the minutes, it had not been added to the work programme, nor had a report come to committee.

The Chair noted that this would be dealt with during Item 11: Work Programme.

Resolved – that the minutes of the meeting held on 20 June 2023 be approved as a correct record.

17 PUBLIC AND MEMBER QUESTIONS

17.1 Public Questions

The Chair indicated that 3 public questions had been received from 2 members of the public.

Catherine Evans asked a question about the risk of flooding to residents of the Wirral and the assurances the Council could offer regarding their protections.

In response the Chair noted that a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment was published as part of the evidence base for the new Local Plan. Level 2 Flood Risk assessments were produced for areas identified as more at risk. These documents were produced in consultation with the Environment Agency and Lead Local Flood Authority. He noted the Environment Agency was the statutory consultee regarding flood risk from rivers and the sea.

Mr Alan Featherstone asked two questions on behalf of the Birkenhead Market Tenants Association (BMTA). The first question noted that market representatives had met with the Market Manager and they now wished to know if Members would agree to meet with the BMTA to discuss their proposals for a Dutch auction rental proposal.

The Chair noted that the Market Manager met with the BMTA on 12th July 2023 when the proposals were put forward and a number of actions were discussed. He stated that the council must first consider the demand/viability of any proposal of this nature before considering it as a potential policy alongside the future market strategy. He confirmed that officers would review the risks associated with this proposal against the benefits including the financial implications.

Mr Featherstone asked a supplemental question regarding whether councillors would be interested in meeting to discuss their proposals as he felt the Council were losing money by not implementing them.

The Chair responded that the proposals should be discussed with officers first and that Members would consider meeting with the BMTA after this.

Mr Featherstone's second question related to a stated 40% increase in vacant market rents in November 2021 and the effect this has had on the number of

occupied stalls. He asked if this vacant rent increase could be cancelled immediately.

The Chair responded that the Council had benchmarked the rental values against similar markets in the North West and Birkenhead remained one of the most affordable when comparing rents per square foot. In addition, the Council had taken the difficult decision to maintain its current rental values over recent years with significant increases in inflation therefore giving a real value decrease in traders rents when compared to the increasing costs. The market industry has faced significant and wide-ranging pressures in the last decade which was a factor in its decision in acquiring Birkenhead Market and securing its long-term future. He noted that the Council would continue to support Birkenhead Market wherever practically possible.

Mr Featherstone asked a supplemental question seeking clarification on the answer received to his 2nd submitted question. He stated he had submitted evidence that there had been a 40% increase in vacant rents in 2021 and requested an enquiry into why this was being denied.

The Chair responded that he could not give a verbal answer and that a written response would be provided within 10 working days.

17.2 Statements and Petitions

The Chair informed the committee that no statements or petitions had been received.

17.3 Questions by Members

The Chair informed the committee that no questions had been received from Members.

18 PROPOSAL TO CONSULT ON SELECTIVE LICENSING SCHEME

The Strategic Housing Services Senior Manager introduced the report of the Director of Regeneration and Place which set out a proposal to consult on a Selective Licensing Scheme in Wirral through re-designating two Selective Licensing areas that have been in place since 2019 and are due to end on 31st March 2024 and extending the scheme to include two further new areas, both in East Wirral based on a robust evidence base for selection.

Councillors requested further information on the conditions found in rental properties that would not meet the Selective Licensing conditions, what the scope might be for inclusion of further areas in the scheme, how close Wirral was to requiring a borough wide approach to Selective Licensing and whether a banning order applied borough-wide to a landlord that had significantly breached licensing conditions in one of the Selective Licensing areas.

Members also raised concerns over an increase in older tenants and the risks to them regarding being able to afford rent. Officers noted that some very poor conditions in tenanted properties had been discovered and that support was available to those that needed it. Further areas for inclusion could be looked at in future but currently resources dictated how many areas could be managed at one time. It was noted that finances and credibility over the case presented to central government were factors in how areas were chosen for the Selective Licensing Scheme.

It was confirmed that a banning order was enforceable borough wide and that information on banned landlords was publicly available. Officers noted that there was currently no published data on older tenants but that they received feedback from the Healthy Homes team and referrals were made to any tenants that needed support to remain homed.

Resolved - That

- 1. The draft proposal for Selective Licensing be approved in the following four areas from 1st April 2024 until 31st March 2029:**
 - **Birkenhead West;**
 - **Seacombe St Paul's;**
 - **Bidston and St James West; and**
 - **Egremont North;**
- 2. The Business Case set out in Appendix One to the report be approved as the basis for the rationale for wider consultation on Selective Licensing;**
- 3. The consultation plan as set out in Appendix Three of the Business Case be approved; and**
- 4. The Director of Regeneration and Place be authorised to undertake any minor amendments to the Business Case should further evidence be made available which should be included in the consultation.**

19 HIND STREET REGENERATION - DELIVERY

The Head of Regeneration Delivery introduced the report of the Director of Regeneration and Place which sought approval for a capital request for up to £2.255 million for Hind Street Urban Village. The report noted that these costs were crucial for the Council to reach a point by which it could enter a grant funding agreement with Homes England and Liverpool City Region Combined Authority. No further capital funding was anticipated to be required for the delivery of Phases A and B of the development of the Hind Street Urban Village. A further capital request would be made to support land assembly

costs and a two form primary school in 2025. £1.439 million of capital funding was expected to be recovered in the current financial year.

Resolved – That the Policy and Resources Committee be recommended to allocate capital funding of £2.255 million to be utilised for the Hind Street Urban Village scheme.

20 **2023/24 BUDGET MONITORING FOR QUARTER ONE (THE PERIOD TO 30 JUNE 2023)**

The Director of Regeneration and Place introduced his report which set out the financial monitoring information for the Economy Regeneration & Housing Committee as at Quarter One (30 June) of 2023/24. The report provided Members with an overview of budget performance, including progress on the delivery of the 2023/24 saving programme and a summary of reserves and balances, to enable the Committee to take ownership of the budgets and provide robust challenge and scrutiny to Officers on the performance of those budgets.

Members asked for further information on the Office Quarter Building Fit costs of an additional £4 million, the likely start of demolition works at the House of Fraser site in Birkenhead and information on a previous request for information regarding the RIBA Stage 3 draft report for Birkenhead Market. The Director of Regeneration and Place noted that the building fit costs were not an unknown additional cost but had not previously been reported to the committee, the building had been received by the Council and now needed to be refurbished to its requirements. He noted that while he could not give a specific date, the demolition of the House of Fraser building was due to start imminently. He offered to return to Members with the information requested on the RIBA Stage 3 report on Birkenhead Market.

Resolved – That

- 1. The adverse revenue forecast of £0.5m as at Quarter 1 be noted;**
- 2. The progress on delivery of the 2023-24 savings programme at Quarter 1 be noted;**
- 3. The level of reserves at Quarter 1 be noted; and**
- 4. The revised capital programme of £39.462m for 2023-24 be noted.**

21 **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Lead Principal Lawyer introduced the report of the Director for Law and Governance which reminded members that 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 the remit of the Committee.

The Lead Principal Lawyer noted that due to the short period of less than a calendar month since the previous Economy, Regeneration and Housing Committee, there had not been enough time to produce a Regeneration Delivery Work Plan and the intention was that this would be brought to the Committee in September.

The Chair noted that some items were not listed on the Work Programme that Members had requested at the March 2023 meeting of the committee. Councillor Ian Lewis noted that these items included a report on The Future of Liscard, a report on Homelessness as a standing item, information on the value for money received from the Councils payments to the Wirral Chamber of Commerce and finally a report on the consultation methods used by the Council following items discussed at the March meeting of the Committee.

Resolved – That the work programme be noted.

22 **ADDENDUM TO MINUTES**

Supplementary Question and Response

Mr Alan Featherstone

Question: The vacant rents were still increased in November of 2021 and you have referred to occupied rents instead. We have supplied evidence that this rise took place. I'm asking for an official inquiry into the key decision that was made in 2021 when the rents for the vacant stalls increased by 40% as the asking price for new traders.

Answer: The matter that you have outlined in your question would not constitute a key decision. It appears that the question is perhaps conflating a particular type of market system with a potential Council decision.

The council continues to be committed in delivering the current market as effectively and successfully as practicably possible alongside the future market strategy. The Council will not discuss commercial arrangements which are by their nature confidential.



ECONOMY REGENERATION AND HOUSING COMMITTEE

Monday, 18 September 2023

REPORT TITLE:	BUDGET REPORT
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR OF REGENERATION AND PLACE

REPORT SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the budgets within the remit of the Committee in respect of the in-year position and the anticipated pressures for future years that are being considered within the Medium Term Financial Plan.

The Council is required to set a balanced budget each year and its Medium Term Financial Plan takes into account the future pressures and savings options that will be taken forward to result in a balanced budget position.

The Council faces a challenging financial outlook due to inflationary and demand pressures alongside the previous significant reductions in Government funding and uncertainty around the future financial settlements. This report provides an update for the Committee on those budget areas within its remit, including any forecast overspends reported in the first quarter and potential pressures in both the current and future years.

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

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

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Economy Regeneration and Housing Committee is recommended to note and endorse the report.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

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

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

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

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 At the meeting on 27 February 2023, the Council agreed a net revenue budget for 2023/2024 of £366.6m to be met by government grants, council tax, and business rates. This report sets out an updated revenue financial position for the Economy Regeneration and Housing Committee.

Quarter 1 Forecast Revenue Outturn Position

- 3.2 Table 1 presents the forecast outturn as a net position, i.e. expenditure minus income. Favourable variances (underspends) are shown as negative values and adverse variances (overspends) are shown as a positive value.
- 3.3 At the end of Quarter 1, there was a forecast adverse variance of £0.5m against the Committee's revised net revenue budget of £13.21m, which is equivalent to a variance of 4% from the annual budget.

TABLE 1: 2023/24 REVENUE BUDGET & FORECAST OUTTURN

	Budget £000	Forecast Outturn £000	Variance (+ Fav / - Adv)	
			£000	%
Regeneration	1,065	1,065	0	0%
Housing	5,779	5,779	0	0%
Asset Management & Investment	4,649	4,649	0	0%
Planning	1,199	1,199	0	0%
Special Projects	118	118	0	0%
Local Plan	400	900	-500	-125%
Net Committee Expenditure	13,210	13,710	-500	-4%

Updates in revenue position since Quarter 1

- 3.4 A number of assets retained as investment purposes will not achieve the anticipated income targets due to surrender or reduction in rents. These primarily centre around the Europa Centre, Birkenhead which includes the unit leased by Wilko's.
- 3.5 Assets which are vacated as part of Directorate savings are being retained, with their strategic future uses being fully worked through. The holding costs and high cost items such as security are being met from Asset Management.
- 3.6 A series of invoices relating specifically to Covid activities for Facilities Management services across all Directorates have been submitted by the contractor but also covers operational orders for security, cleaning and removals.
- 3.7 The additional pressures and any potential mitigating actions are being explored and will be reported back to Committee in the Q2 monitor report.

Progress on delivery of the 2023/24 savings programme.

- 3.8 Progress on savings remains as reported at Q1. Table 2 presents the progress on the delivery of the 2023/24 approved savings as at quarter 1. For savings rated as Amber, an equal amount of temporary in-year mitigation has been identified to cover any shortfalls which may occur. For savings rated as red, a bid will need to be made from the contingency fund set up for non-achieved savings at the end of the year.
- 3.9 In terms of savings, £2.461m of the £2.661m savings targets are either delivered or on track to be delivered, representing 92% of the total savings target with a further 8% or £0.2m anticipated to be delivered through alternative means. The table below summarises the progress by Directorate:

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

Saving Proposal	Approved Saving	Green	Amber	Red	Mitigation
Economy Regeneration & Housing	£2.661m	£2.461m	£0.200m	£0.000m	£0.200m

Mitigating Measures.

- 3.10 It is imperative that the Council reports a balanced position at the end of the financial year.
- 3.11 As per the '2023/24 Budget and Budget Monitoring Processes Report', which was presented to Policy and Resources Committee and all other Policy and Service Committees in June 2023, the relevant Policy and Service 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.

- 3.12 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 which will then take an organisational-wide view of how this adverse variance will be managed. There must be agreed to ensure that a deliverable, balanced forecast position can be reported, and this will be monitored on a monthly basis by the Policy and Resources Finance Sub-group.
- 3.13 The Policy and Resources Committee has ultimate responsibility for taking any necessary steps required to ensure a balanced budget position is delivered. The Section 151 Officer will be responsible for ensuring that any budget actions, proposals and mitigations are achievable and lawful.
- 3.14 The quarter 1 position highlights £0.5m of forecast adverse variances for which as yet no mitigation has been identified. Committees and the relevant Chief Officers will need to agree remedial action to address these variances to ensure a balanced position can be presented at the end of the year.
- 3.15 The service will aim to maximise opportunities to capitalise staffing costs. Income generation opportunities will be sought across the department to mitigate the overall position. In addition to this, expenditure will be delayed until next financial year where possible and mitigation will also be sought from staffing vacancies and non-essential expenditure.

Medium Term Financial Plan

- 3.16 Table 3 below summarises the expected budget pressures being faced in 24-25, each of which has a budget pressure document that is being developed to support the areas outlined.

TABLE 3 2024-25 BUDGET PRESSURES

Pressure Items for 2024/25	Detail
Contract Inflation	General contract inflation will be required, in particular within Supported Housing which has not had inflationary budget increases recently.
Capitalisation of Staff	The amount of staff and costs that can be capitalised is under continuous review to ensure it is compliant with regulations and this process will continue into 24-25 and beyond as the Regeneration programme develops.
Birkenhead Commercial District	Cost associated with the move to BCD offices, lettings, exit clauses from Cheshire Lines and accommodation arrangements for the Archive, Records Management and the Data Centre.
Town Halls feasibility	Feasibility studies are required for both Town Halls to determine the best future use of the 2 assets along with commercial and social opportunities. The work will include updating condition reports and valuations.
Compliance Requirements	A budget is required to undertake a range of compliance checks; fire risk assessments, electrical, asbestos, gas, legionella across the corporate estate. This will be an annual requirement.
Security Requirements	Vacant buildings are posing a security, insurance and safety risk. Following the internal service withdrawal there is a need to appoint a key holding service. A separate contract is also required for the provision of security to vacant buildings response services.
Corporate Landlord	Mobilisation of the Corporate Landlord Model will require dedicated resource, linked to one of the Councils priorities for centralisation of asset/FM functions.
Commercial Property Advice	Funding is required for partner firms to undertake independent valuations, provide property advice linked to Regeneration, disposal routes, investment etc.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The Council must set the budget in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and approval of a balanced budget each year is a

statutory responsibility of the Council. Sections 25 to 29 of the Local Government Act 2003 impose duties on the Council in relation to how it sets and monitors its budget. These provisions require the Council to make prudent allowance for the risk and uncertainties in its budget and regularly monitor its finances during the year. The legislation leaves discretion to the Council about the allowances to be made and action to be taken.

5.2 The provisions of section 25, Local Government Act 2003 require that, when the Council is making the calculation of its budget requirement, it must have regard to the report of the chief finance (s.151) officer as to the robustness of the estimates made for the purposes of the calculations and the adequacy of the proposed financial reserves.

5.3 It is essential, as a matter of prudence that the financial position continues to be closely monitored. In particular, Members must satisfy themselves that sufficient mechanisms are in place to ensure both that savings are delivered and that new expenditure is contained within the available resources. Accordingly, any proposals put forward must identify the realistic measures and mechanisms to produce those savings.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

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

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

7.1 The Council's ability to maintain a balanced budget for 2023/24 is dependent on a stable financial position. That said, the delivery of the budget is subject to ongoing variables both positive and adverse which imply a level of challenge in achieving this outcome.

7.2 In any budget year, there is a risk that operation will not be constrained within relevant budget limits. Under specific circumstances the Section 151 Officer may issue a Section 114 notice but that position has not been reached at the present time.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

8.1 Consultation has been carried out with the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) in arriving at the governance process for the 2023/24 budget monitoring process and budget setting process. This report will also be shared and reviewed by the Independent Panel.

8.2 Since the budget was agreed at Full Council on 27 February, some proposals may have been the subject of further consultation with Members, Customer and

Residents. The details of these are included within the individual business cases or are the subject of separate reports to the Committee.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

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

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

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

11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH IMPLICATIONS

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

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

REPORT AUTHOR: **Mark Lightburn**
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APPENDICES

None

TERMS OF REFERENCE

This matter is being considered by the Policy and Resources Committee in accordance with section 1.2(b) provide a co-ordinating role across all other service committees and retain a 'whole council' view of [budget monitoring].

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Wirral Borough Council - Medium Terms Financial Plan

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Policy and Resources Committee	14 June 2023
Council	27 February 2023
Policy and Resources Committee	15 February 2023
Economy Regeneration and Housing Committee	17 July 2023
Economy Regeneration and Housing Committee	20 June 2023
Economy Regeneration and Housing Committee	8 March 2023
Economy Regeneration and Housing Committee	26 January 2023



ECONOMY REGENERATION & HOUSING COMMITTEE

Monday, 18 September 2023

REPORT TITLE:	ADOPTION OF WIRRAL INTERIM APPROACH TO AVOID AND MITIGATE RECREATIONAL PRESSURE
REPORT OF:	THE DIRECTOR OF REGENERATION AND PLACE

REPORT SUMMARY

This report seeks approval for the Council to adopt the Wirral Interim Approach to Avoid and Mitigate Recreational Disturbance as a material consideration in the determination of planning applications. The approach provides a mechanism to fund measures, through a tariff on new housing development of 10 or more units, to avoid and mitigate disturbance to birds from human activity on the internationally designated foreshores around the Wirral coast arising from additional visits to the coast generated by new housing development.

The Wirral Interim approach forms part of a wider Liverpool City Region Recreational Management Strategy (LCR RMS) initiative to tackle this issue. The Wirral Interim approach has been produced as an interim measure due to delays in implementing the LCR RMS, which is expected to come into force in 2024. The Wirral Interim approach document was published in draft alongside the Submission Draft Wirral Local Plan 2021-2037 in July 2022 and is in the Local Plan Examination Library as document reference ECC27. The LCR RMS will be implemented through a joint Supplementary Planning Document, and the draft scoping document (currently out to consultation) is appended to this report for noting.

The Local Plan will support all five themes of the Wirral Plan 2021-26: Inclusive Economy, Safe & Pleasant Communities, Sustainable Environment, Brighter Futures and Active & Healthy Lives.

This matter is a Key Decision as the Interim Approach to Avoid and Mitigate Recreational Pressure, and the Local Plan to which it relates, has the potential to significantly impact all wards within the Borough.

RECOMMENDATION/S

The Economy Regeneration and Housing Committee is recommended to approve the adoption of the Wirral Interim Approach to Avoid and Mitigate Recreational Pressure Document as a material consideration in the determination of planning applications.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 To ensure the Wirral Local Plan 2021-2037 and decisions on individual planning applications continue to be legally compliant with the provisions of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (“the Habitats Regulations”). The Liverpool City Region Recreational Management Strategy (LCR RMS) is in development but has been delayed due to the need to update the evidence base. In common with other Liverpool City Region (LCR) districts, an interim mechanism has to be put in place to address this issue while the LCR RMS is completed. A draft Information and Guidance note on the Interim Approach was published alongside the Submission Draft Wirral Local Plan 2021-2037 in July 2022 and can be viewed here: <https://www.wirral.gov.uk/files/ecc27-wirral-interim-approach-avoid-and-mitigate-recreation-pressure-2022-v2.pdf/download?inline?inline>. Formal adoption of the Information and Guidance note as a material consideration in the determination of planning applications will ensure that developer contributions can be secured and distributed. Funds generated through tariff contributions will be spent on a combination of management measures on the coast and also enhancements to Arrowe Park, to increase its attractiveness as an alternative destination to the coast.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 Not to participate in the LCR RMS has been considered. This would place the onus solely on the Council and individual developers to demonstrate compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Regulations in relation to recreational disturbance impacts which would be less efficient, more costly and onerous. Natural England’s willingness to enter into a statement of Common Ground with the Council in relation to the Local Plan is on the basis that the Council will adopt the Interim Approach as a material planning consideration.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Wirral Coastline is of national and international importance for nature conservation. The network of European sites around the Wirral Coast comprise the Dee Estuary, Mersey Estuary and Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore Special Protection Areas for birds, and the Dee Estuary Special Areas of Conservation for species and habitats. These sites are additionally designated as Ramsar sites that are recognised as internationally important wetlands. Following withdrawal of the UK from the European Union, the network of European sites are now referred to as the National Sites Network.
- 3.2 The National Sites Network is subject to strict legal protection which conveys specific duties on public bodies such as Wirral Council and sets out stringent tests to be met before Local Plans can be adopted and projects can be permitted. A precautionary approach is embedded in the Habitats Regulations, that include a requirement to demonstrate that impacts will not occur, rather than proof that they will.

- 3.3 Additional residential development facilitated through Local Plans has the potential to increase the number of visitors to the coast and therefore the potential for disturbance. Birds can be easily disturbed by human activities on the foreshore causing them to take flight which wastes energy, reducing their chances of survival on their migratory journey back to their breeding grounds at the end of winter. As a result, mitigation or avoidance of recreational disturbance of the protected foreshores around the coast resulting from new residential development is an issue which is of concern to Natural England and is having to be addressed by all the LCR constituent authorities through their local Plans.
- 3.4 The LCR constituent authorities along with West Lancashire Council are therefore preparing a Recreation Mitigation Strategy (LCR RMS) that will enable the local authorities to meet their legal duties to protect European wildlife sites from the impacts of recreation associated with housing development both in terms of the allocation of sites in local plans and the consideration of individual planning applications. The LCR RMS will take a strategic approach to visitor and recreation pressure management for the internationally important nature sites in the LCR and will govern how the local authorities plan to mitigate against harm from recreation pressure.
- 3.5 This work is being managed by Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service (MEAS) on behalf of the LCR constituent authorities. Footprint Ecology was commissioned at the end of 2017 to undertake the bulk of the work. An initial evidence document was published on the MEAS web site in July 2021. The main element of the approach is the introduction of a financial levy on new qualifying residential development which is used to fund Site Access Management and Monitoring Measures and/or the enhancement of suitable alternative greenspace sites in inland locations, tied to a policy in the Local Plan.
- 3.6 The LCR RMS is at advanced draft stage, but its completion has been delayed because of the need to update the original baseline evidence. The LCR districts agreed to fund and participate in further evidence gathering in the form of visitor surveys to facilitate completion of the RMS. This work has recently been completed and the survey reports published on the MEAS web site. This updated survey work has however meant that completion and potential adoption of the RMS has been delayed.
- 3.7 While the LCR RMS has been paused, Natural England have been requiring individual local authorities to put in place their own interim approaches to dealing with recreational disturbance to be put in place alongside their Local Plans. Liverpool and Halton have already progressed their interim approaches through their Local Plan examinations using a template document produced by MEAS. These Interim Approach documents are not Supplementary Planning Documents – they are guidance notes which will be used as a basis for securing developer contributions. However, like an SPD, they are linked to relevant Local Plan Policies.
- 3.8 Wirral has prepared its own Interim Approach document (Wirral IA) which was published in draft alongside the Submission Draft Wirral Local Plan 2021-2037 in July 2022 and remains in the Local Plan Examination Library as document reference ECC27 and can be viewed via this link: <https://www.wirral.gov.uk/files/ecc27-wirral-interim-approach-avoid-and-mitigate-recreation-pressure-2022->

[v2.pdf/download?inline?inline](#). It was published at the Regulation 19 stage in 2022 alongside the Submission Draft Local Plan for the receipt of representations, which are currently being considered through the Local Plan Examination. The Wirral IA is linked to Local Plan Policies WS5.5 and WD3 which it is intended will provide the necessary planning policy basis to protect the European designated sites from the quantum of housing development in the plan period (alone and in combination) to comply with the Habitats Regulations. As part of the Examination process the Council agreed a Statement of Common Ground with Natural England in April 2023 which commits the Council to seeking approval of the Wirral IA as a material planning consideration.

- 3.9 Based on well-established practice elsewhere in the UK and the emerging LCR RMS, there are two key components of the Wirral IA to provide for mitigation:
- Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace must be appropriately located, of sufficient scale and accessible to residents of existing and new development for them to be effective alternatives to visiting the coast; and
 - On-European Site Access Management and Monitoring Measures which are appropriate for Wirral and which can be targeted locally.
- 3.10 Based on an agreed position across the LCR, only developments of 10 or more net additional units will qualify for the mitigation tariff. This includes all houses, flats, houses in multiple occupation and supported living accommodation which come forward for planning consent. Residential care homes and nursing care home accommodation is excluded from the Wirral IA as it is considered that the residents' access to the European sites would be limited and unlikely to contribute to recreational disturbance. The mitigation tariff is weighted to ensure that the impact of development of less than 10 units will be covered by those of 10 or more units.
- 3.11 Mitigation measures are set out in detail in the Wirral IA document from paragraph 8.5 onwards and in Appendix 4. These are focused on three broad areas:
- Communications, marketing and education initiatives – such as targeted awareness-raising of specific activities/user groups, increasing coastal ranger staffing hours targeted on raising awareness with visitors to the coast, installation of signage and provision of householder information packs for new housing developments.
 - Site-specific visitor management and bird refuge projects – such as signage and interpretation, footfall counters, infrastructure provision such as path management and fencing, creation of dog walking routes.
 - New/enhanced strategic alternative greenspace (SANG). In the short to medium term, Arrowe Park will be the focus of enhancements (and costed measures are listed in Appendix 4 of the Interim approach document). In the longer term, further consideration will be given to the potential at other locations listed in the Interim Approach document.

The prioritisation of these mitigation measures will be agreed in consultation with Natural England and the constituent LCR authorities to ensure the measures align with the emerging LCR RMS mitigation measures.

- 3.12 The Wirral IA encourages applicants and developers to ‘opt in’ to the interim approach and make a direct mitigation payment through legally binding Section 106 planning obligations where on-development site mitigation is not possible. Applicants/ developers who chose not to opt into the Wirral IA will nonetheless be required to use a method which uses the same principles as set out in the emerging LCR RMS. In all likelihood this will be less efficient, more costly and onerous for applicants. It also carries a probability that a mitigation payment will nonetheless still be required when the Council verifies the assessment as part of a project-level Habitats Regulations Assessment prior to it being accepted.
- 3.13 There will be a requirement to monitor the effectiveness of the Wirral IA and Table 4 of the Wirral IA document sets out a proposed monitoring framework which will record the mitigation applied, how it relates to development pressure and whether it is effective. If necessary, adjustments to the applicable measures will be made in consultation with Natural England.
- 3.14 Once the LCR RMS is in place in 2024, a key implementation mechanism for the RMS will be through a joint Recreation Mitigation on the Coast supplementary planning document (SPD) and initial consultation on the scope of this document commenced in August 2023 with a view to final adoption by spring/summer of 2024. The scoping document can be found at Appendix 1 of this report. The draft SPD to follow will be subject to public consultation in line with the Wirral’s Statement of Community Involvement.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The mitigation tariff per dwelling is £280.26 which should be adjusted each year in line with the Retail Price Index. As the sums relate to legal requirements under the Habitats Regulations they are not subject to viability considerations. Based upon the potential housing delivery between 2022-2024 (following which it is anticipated the LCR RMS will be adopted) from the sites allocated in the emerging Wirral Local Plan for 10 or more dwellings the estimated potential funding for mitigation from the Wirral IA in 2022-2024 is £113,225.04.
- 4.2 Any funding received through this mechanism would be ringfenced for mitigation measures of the type outlined in the Wirral IA document.
- 4.3 Any local authority that has received developer contributions through section 106 planning obligations must publish online an infrastructure funding statement by 31 December for the preceding financial year. Such a statement is required to detail monies received through developer contributions secured via agreements under section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and how such sums have been spent in the previous year.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The legal protection for the National Sites Network of nature conservation sites is enshrined in the Habitats Regulations. Where Wirral Council as competent authority is undertaking or implementing a plan or project of its own, such as the Wirral Local Plan, or authorising others to do so, such as granting planning permission, the duties

set out within the Habitats Regulations in relation to consideration of plans and projects are applicable.

- 5.2 The Habitats Regulations assessment of the Wirral Local Plan 2021-2037 (Examination library reference SD3) states in paragraph 6.5 that the Council is developing an adequate Interim Approach to mitigate recreational pressure and is a signatory to the future RMS (and these are both included in Plan policy). It concludes that adverse effects on Wirral's estuarine and coastal European sites regarding recreational pressure can therefore be excluded.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

- 6.1 The operation of the Interim Approach is expected to be managed by existing staff resources within the Regeneration and Place and Neighbourhood Services Directorates.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 7.1 Paragraph 2.1 of this report details the implications of not participating in the LCR RMS. Failure to comply with the requirements of the Habitats Regulations could result in the Local Plan being found to be not legally compliant by the Examining Inspectors. Individual planning applications would be subject to objection by Natural England in this regard. This could result in additional cost and reputational harm to the Council.
- 7.2 The approach being promoted through the Wirral IA and the LCR RMS has been implemented successfully elsewhere in England such as the Solent, where similar circumstances apply. While work has been undertaken to assess the potential financial yield from the scheme based on best available understanding of likely future housing development, as an opt-in scheme linked to the submission of planning applications, the amount and timing of funding is not guaranteed, so the improvement measures for Arrowe Park in the Wirral IA might for example have to be wholly or partly funded from other sources, if the need for them became pressing. However as detailed in paragraph 3.13 monitoring and review is a key element of the LCR RMS and Wirral IA, with potential adjustments made to the scheme if necessary.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

- 8.1 The draft Wirral IA document formed part of the package of documents published alongside the Submission Draft Local Plan 2021-2037 for the receipt of representations in 2022. Implementation of the LCR RMS is anticipated to be via an SPD. Technical consultation on the scope of this document commenced on the 14th August 2023 with a deadline for comments of 9th October, and the subsequent draft SPD will be subject to public consultation in line with Wirral's Statement of Community Involvement.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 The Council has a duty under the Equality Act 2010, including the Public Sector Equality Duty, to ensure that the objectives and proposals within the Wirral Local

Plan eliminate unlawful discrimination (direct and indirect), as well as advancing equality of opportunity and fostering good relations between those with protected characteristics and all others. An Equality Impact Assessment has been prepared to inform the preparation of the Submission Draft Plan and can also be viewed here <https://www.wirral.gov.uk/files/wirral-local-plan-eia-pre-submission.pdf/download?inline>

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

10.1 As set out in the report, the Wirral IA is a measure to safeguard the internationally designated nature conservation sites around the Wirral Coastline. Part of the mitigation measures include awareness raising about the importance of these designated sites and the actions individuals can take to help protect them.

11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH IMPLICATIONS

11.1 The Interim Approach to Avoid and Mitigate Recreational pressure does not have any direct community wealth implications. Adoption of the Local Plan will result in the delivery of significant development which will give opportunities for social wealth capture. The Submission Draft Plan includes a Social Value Policy (Policy WS 2 refers).

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Recreation Mitigation on the Coast Supplementary Planning Document draft Scoping Report July 2023

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Information And Guidance Note: Interim Approach To Avoid And Mitigate Recreation Pressure In Wirral <https://www.wirral.gov.uk/files/ecc27-wirral-interim-approach-avoid-and-mitigate-recreation-pressure-2022-v2.pdf/download?inline?inline>

Wirral Local Plan 2021-2037 Submission Draft <https://www.wirral.gov.uk/files/sd1-wirral-local-plan-2021-2037-submission-draft-may-2022-reg-19-publication-final-260422/download?inline>

Wirral Local Plan 2021-2037 Habitat Regulation Assessment (SD3): [file:///s02vs-uenv05.core.wcent.wirral.gov.uk/user\\$/EntwistleJC/Downloads/SD3%20-%20Habitat%20Regulations%20Assessment%20of%20the%20Wirral%20Local%20Plan%20April%202022.pdf](file:///s02vs-uenv05.core.wcent.wirral.gov.uk/user$/EntwistleJC/Downloads/SD3%20-%20Habitat%20Regulations%20Assessment%20of%20the%20Wirral%20Local%20Plan%20April%202022.pdf)

Final Statement of Common Ground with Natural England on Habitats Regulations Assessment of Wirral Local Plan and Approach for Addressing Recreational Disturbance

Issues to Protect the European sites of the Liverpool City Region from Recreation Pressure (WBC029)

https://www.wirral.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2023-05/WBC029%20Statement%20of%20Common%20Ground%20between%20WBC%20and%20Natural%20England%20V2_Redacted.pdf

LCR RMS Evidence Report 2021

http://www.meas.org.uk/media/11039/LCR_RMS_EvidenceReport_v24_Optv2.pdf

LCR RMS SPD Scoping document consultation:

<https://www.sefton.gov.uk/recreationmitigation>

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2017/1012/contents/made>

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Full Council - Wirral Local Plan 2021-37 - Publication of Submission Draft Plan (Regulation 19) and Submission to Secretary of State for Examination (Regulation 22)	21 st March 2022

Liverpool City Region and West Lancashire

Recreation Mitigation on the Coast

Supplementary Planning Document

Scoping Report

July 2023

Recreation Mitigation on the Coast SPD

The Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) of the Liverpool City Region (Halton, Knowsley, Liverpool, St Helens, Sefton and Wirral) and West Lancashire are jointly preparing a Recreation Mitigation on the Coast Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), in partnership with Natural England and the National Trust. Once adopted, this will replace the current interim approaches several of the Councils have in place.

Recreation mitigation on the coast is a process to reduce harm arising from new housing development due to more people visiting the coastal internationally important nature sites. The SPD will set out what proposals applicants for certain new developments will have to do to meet the requirements of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) (the Habitats Regulations) regarding recreation pressure on the Coast.

This scoping report is the first step in preparing the SPD. The SPD will provide detailed guidance on the interpretation and implementation of policies within the Local Plans of each of the participating authorities.

The purpose of this document is to engage key stakeholders in considering the scope and content of the SPD in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended).

The responses on this scoping report will inform the preparation of a draft SPD, which will then be published for formal consultation together with a Consultation Statement setting out how comments received have informed the content of the SPD. All comments received will be taken into account in preparing the final version of the SPD which will then be taken forward for adoption. Once adopted the SPD will carry full weight as a material consideration in the determination of planning applications.

Comments should be made by 08.00 Monday 09 October 2023

What is a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)?

SPDs give more detailed guidance to policies in the Adopted Local Plan, 'made' (i.e. adopted) Neighborhood Plans and a future Spatial Development Strategy for the Liverpool City Region. They are subject to public consultation under The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. Once adopted SPDs are material considerations in the determination of planning applications.

Planning Policy Context

SPD Links with National Policy and Legislation

The SPD will be produced so it is consistent with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. Regard will also be had to the Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) (the Habitats Regulations).

SPD Links with Local Plans

The SPD will be prepared to provide further guidance in relation to the interpretation and implementation of the relevant policies in each of the Local Plans of participating authorities.

Halton

Policy HE1: Natural Environment and Nature Conservation

Pages 166-168

Policy CS(R)20: Natural and Historic Environment

Pages 80-82

CS(R)21: Green Infrastructure

Page 89 of

<https://www3.halton.gov.uk/Documents/planning/planning%20policy/newdalp/DALP%20Adopted.pdf>

Knowsley

Policy CS8 Green Infrastructure

Pages 81-82 [Knowsley Local Plan: Core Strategy](#)

<https://localplanmaps.knowsley.gov.uk/documents/knowsley-local-plan-adopted-core-strategy.pdf>

Liverpool

Policy STP3 Protecting Environmentally Sensitive Areas

Policy GI6 Protection of Biodiversity and Geodiversity

Pages 239-240 of <https://liverpool.gov.uk/media/1361302/01-liverpool-local-plan-main-document.pdf>

St Helens

Policy LPC06 Biodiversity and Geological Conservation

Pages 125-126 of [Microsoft Word - Local Plan Written Statement - FINAL adoption version 16.06.2022 \(sthelens.gov.uk\)](#)

https://www.sthelens.gov.uk/media/4315/St-Helens-Borough-Local-Plan-up-to-2037/pdf/Local_Plan_Written_Statement_-_FINAL_adoption_version.pdf?m=637940059004200000

Sefton

Policy NH2 Nature

Pages 136-137 of [Local Plan \(sefton.gov.uk\)](#)

<https://www.sefton.gov.uk/media/1133/a-local-plan-for-sefton-for-adoption-final.pdf>

Wirral (note, Local Plan submitted for examination)

Policy WD3 Biodiversity and Geodiversity

Pages <https://www.wirral.gov.uk/files/sd1-wirral-local-plan-2021-2037-submission-draft-may-2022-req-19-publication-final-260422/download?inline>

West Lancashire

Policy IF4: Developer Contributions

Policy EN2 Preserving and Enhancing West Lancashire's Natural Environment

Pages 133-136 and 141-149 of https://www.westlancs.gov.uk/media/546038/wllp_oct-2013.pdf

Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment

Supplementary Planning Documents do not require a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) but may in exceptional circumstances require a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) if they are likely to have significant environmental effects that have not already been assessed during the preparation of the relevant strategic policies.

This SPD supplements policies in the Local Plans of the participating LPAs, all of which have been subject to SA and SEA and detailed scrutiny at the Examination (in the case of Wirral examination is underway). The SPD is focused on environmental mitigation measures. It is therefore considered that a Strategic Environmental Assessment is not required.

If you believe SEA is required, please set out what the exceptional circumstances are requiring one to be undertaken as part of your response.

Habitats Regulations Assessment

Supplementary Planning Documents in exceptional circumstances require a Habitats Regulations Assessment where they are likely to have a significant effect on the conservation objectives of designated nature sites of international importance or on the integrity of such a site.

This SPD is being prepared to help reduce likely significant effects on the internationally important nature sites on the Coast (shown at Appendix A) which were identified in the Habitats Regulations Assessment Reports for the Local Plans in each area. The SPD seeks the conservation management of the habitats and species for which these sites were designated. It is therefore considered that further Habitats Regulations Assessment is not required for this SPD.

If you believe further Habitats Regulations Assessment is required, please set out what the exceptional circumstances are requiring one to be undertaken as part of your response.

Scope of Recreation Mitigation on the Coast SPD

It is proposed that the SPD will cover and be organised as follows:

- **Introduction**
General introduction to the topic; what we are trying to achieve; what an SPD is; overview of the sub region
- **Legislative and Policy Context**
Overview of relevant legislation and the national planning context; summary of city region Spatial Development Strategy and individual Local Plan policies; summaries of Local Plan HRA conclusions

- **Protected areas in sub-region**
Overview of designated nature sites of international importance in the area (including map – see Appendix A); the reason for their protection; overview of how they are under threat/pressure
- **Need for sub-regional approach**
Why impacts arising from recreational disturbance is cross boundary; link to evidence and link to survey work to show how people visit from the wider area
- **Potential and likely impact of new development on protected areas**
Scale and type of new development proposed (e.g. housing, employment, visitor accommodation etc); potential impact of that growth; summary of survey work and what this shows
- **Identified mitigation measures required**
General overview of mitigation measures; introduction, definition and explanation of Strategic Access Management and Monitoring (SAMMs) and Suitable Accessible Natural Green Spaces (SANGs); types of measures that will be acceptable
- **Securing mitigation measures**
Different options that developers have to mitigate the impact of their proposal; introduction of an approach to mitigation through a financial contribution that developers can opt in to; potential different zones for variable charging rates; charging rate to pay for mitigation measures; approach if developers do not opt in
- **Implementation and Monitoring**
How we will secure improvements; how we will collect 'opt in' fee; how will identify priorities for spend; how this will be managed; indicators

Timetable of SPD preparation and Next Steps

Note, this timetable is indicative at this stage and is subject to change.

SPD Scoping consultation starts	Monday 14 August 2023
SPD Scoping consultation end	08.00 Monday 09 October 2023
Draft SPD prepared, considering comments made to the scope, Chief Planners and Growth Director approval	October - November 2023
Political reporting / approval following consideration of comments	November 2023
Publish draft SPD for consultation	December 2023
Take account of comments made and update the SPD	Early 2024
Adopt the SPD	Late Spring - Summer 2024

This consultation (on the scope of the SPD) will run for eight weeks to take account of summer holiday period. Following this, Officers will review your comments, which will be used to inform the preparation of a draft SPD. This will then be consulted on and the responses again reviewed and appropriate amendments made to the SPD, as necessary, before the final version of the SPD is then adopted by all the LPAs.

How to get involved

This document has been prepared to identify the scope of the emerging Recreation Mitigation on the Coast SPD and raise awareness of, and interest in the document. Comments are sought on the scope that has been set out through this document.

How to comment

Comments on whether you agree with the scope of this SPD and/or whether there are other things that should be included should be sent to:

rmsconsultations@sefton.gov.uk

RMS Scoping Consultation
Merseyside EAS
The Barn, Court Hey Park
Roby Road
Huyton
Merseyside
L16 3NA

Comments must be received by **08.00 Monday 09 October 2023**

For help in completing this form, please contact rmsconsultations@sefton.gov.uk

Data Protection

The personal information provided in your consultation responses will be processed in accordance with the requirements of the Data Protection Act 2018.

- All comments, including personal details, received will be logged securely.
- Comments from private individuals will be published online but these will be made anonymous
- Comments from groups, organisations and companies will be published online giving name of group, organisation and company only
- No contact details (including home address, email or telephone number) will be published
- The Council may need to contact you to request further information or clarification in relation to the comment(s) made
- Personal details will be used for the purposes of SPD production only

For further information see:

Halton

[Data Protection \(halton.gov.uk\)](https://www3.halton.gov.uk/Pages/councildemocracy/Data-Protection.aspx)

<https://www3.halton.gov.uk/Pages/councildemocracy/Data-Protection.aspx>

Knowsley

[Data protection | Knowsley Council](https://www.knowsley.gov.uk/your-council/data-protection)

<https://www.knowsley.gov.uk/your-council/data-protection>

Liverpool

[Privacy notice - Liverpool City Council](https://liverpool.gov.uk/privacy-notice/)

<https://liverpool.gov.uk/privacy-notice/>

St Helens

[Your data rights - St Helens Borough Council](https://www.sthelens.gov.uk/article/5374/Your-data-rights)

<https://www.sthelens.gov.uk/article/5374/Your-data-rights>

Sefton

www.sefton.gov.uk/PlanningGDPR

Wirral

[Data Protection Policy | wirral.gov.uk](https://www.wirral.gov.uk/about-council/freedom-information-and-data-protection/data-protection-policy)

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/about-council/freedom-information-and-data-protection/data-protection-policy>

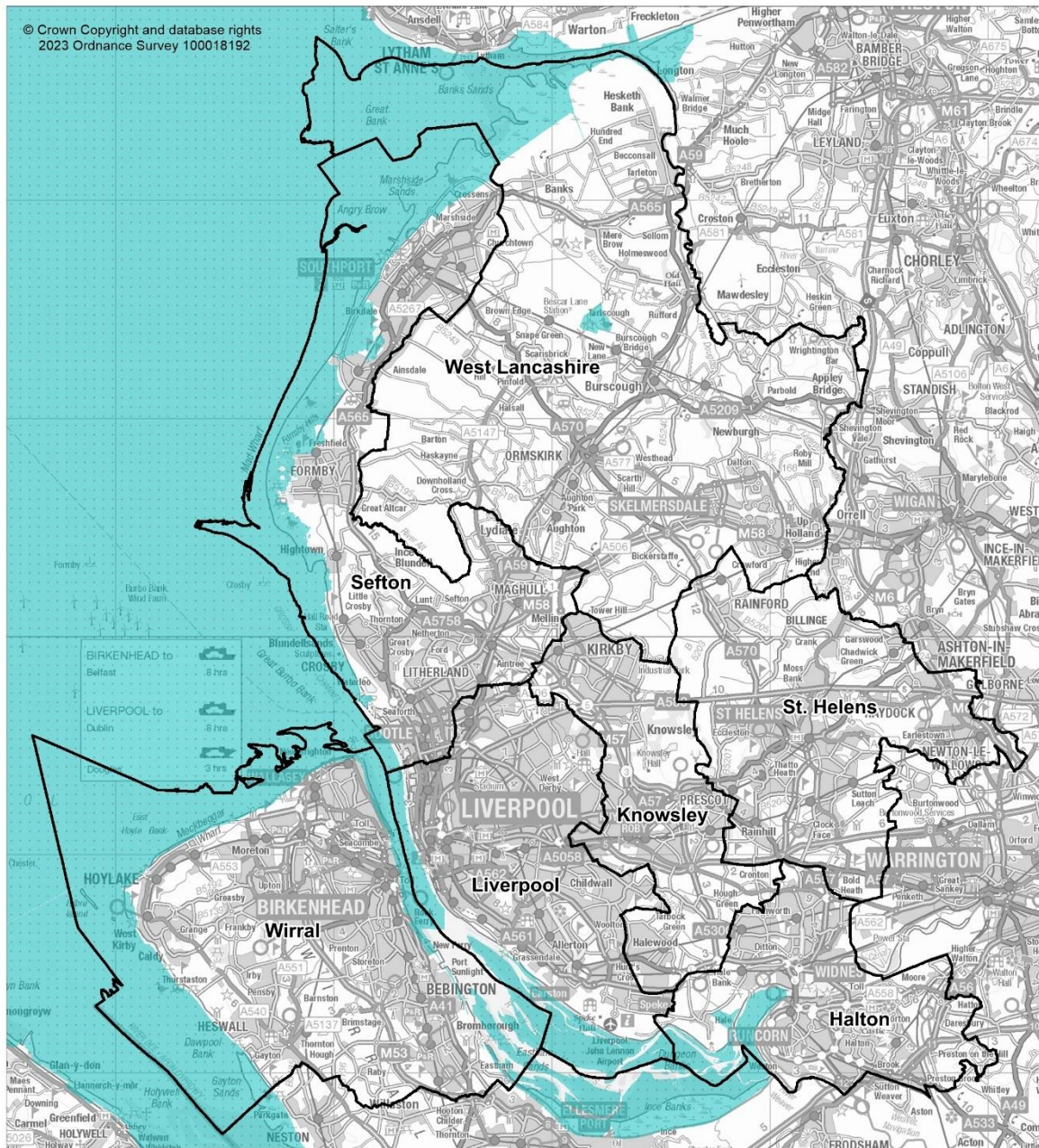
West Lancashire

[UK General Data Protection Regulation \(GDPR\) - West Lancashire Borough Council \(westlancs.gov.uk\)](https://www.westlancs.gov.uk/about-the-council/information-governance/general-data-protection-regulation-gdpr.aspx)

<https://www.westlancs.gov.uk/about-the-council/information-governance/general-data-protection-regulation-gdpr.aspx>

Appendix A

Map of Participating Authorities and Protected Coastal Designations





ECONOMY REGENERATION & HOUSING COMMITTEE

Monday 18 September 2023

REPORT TITLE:	UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND: PLACE BASED BUSINESS SUPPORT DELIVERY
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR OF REGENERATION AND PLACE

REPORT SUMMARY

This report provides details of the Council's UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) Place Based Business Support (PBBS) grant funding allocation of £952,320 from Liverpool City Region Combined Authority (LCRCA). The report sets out recommendations for how the Council should utilise the grant to deliver the required outputs and activities. The grant funding presents the opportunity to achieve savings against the Council's revenue budget.

The Council has commissioned Wirral Chamber of Commerce and Industry (WCC) under contract to deliver the Business Support Service (BSS) until 31 December 2023, with the option to extend delivery to 31 December 2025. It is proposed that the BSS Contract is varied to incorporate PBBS outputs and be part-funded from the Council's UKSPF PBBS allocation. The PBBS allocation will also enable the commissioning of additional specialist interventions to support growth in key sectors and clusters and the funding of two full-time equivalent council staff posts during the UKSPF grant funding period.

The proposals contained in this report directly support the Inclusive Economy theme within the Wirral Plan 2026, aiming to create a prosperous, inclusive economy by helping businesses to thrive and creating jobs and opportunities for all.

This matter is a key decision and affects all Wirral wards.

Appendices 1 and 2 of this report are exempt from publication by virtue of paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Economy, Regeneration & Housing Committee is recommended to authorise:

1. the expenditure of the UKSPF allocation to deliver Place Based Business Support as outlined in paragraphs 4.1 to 4.7 of this report; and
2. the Director of Law and Governance, in consultation with the Director of Regeneration and Place to enter into an extension of the Business Support Service contract with Wirral Chamber of Commerce and Industry for an additional two years from 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2025.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 **Cost saving:** Utilising the UKSPF PBBS grant allocation to fund a proportion of the Business Support Service and council staff costs will temporarily reduce planned revenue costs of £561,963 (2023/24: £176,679, 2024/25: £385,284).
- 1.2 **Mobilisation:** Given the time constraints of the UKSPF funding, the Council needs to commence delivery of funded activities as soon as practically possible. The Council is well positioned to quickly mobilise a seamless approach to delivering UKSPF PBBS outputs and activities within the current contractual provisions.
- 1.3 **Performance and experience:** BSS contract performance to date has met or exceeded equivalent outputs to those required in the UKSPF PBBS Grant Funding Agreement, representing an effective proven delivery route for this provision.
- 1.4 **Consistency of service:** The BSS has operated as a commissioned service since June 2017. Maintaining a consistent, high quality, universal offer ensures that businesses continue to benefit from a recognised, 'one front door' access point to publicly funded business support in Wirral.
- 1.5 **Investing in growth:** PBBS funding presents a low-risk, low-cost means to invest in the growth of emerging sectors that support Wirral's Economic Strategy and enable regeneration. Investing a proportion of the PBBS allocation on additional specialist interventions will accelerate growth in the borough.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 Commission new Place Based Business Support activity, in addition to the existing, contracted BSS: This risks a duplication of the BSS offer creating a confusing landscape for local businesses. It would not relieve in-year budget pressures and would reduce Wirral Council's timeframe to achieve PBBS outputs.
- 2.2 Commission a new BSS, integrating UKSPF Place Based Business Support from January 2024: Wirral Council has an established and recently recommissioned service (2022) following a comprehensive review which fulfils the aims of the PBBS. A new commission would reduce Wirral Council's ability to achieve PBBS outputs.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

UK Shared Prosperity Fund

- 3.1 The Place Based Business Support grant has been allocated as part of the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority's (LCRCA) UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) Investment Plan as agreed with HM Government. Further background regarding UKSPF is available via previous report presented to this Committee on 7 December 2022: [UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND](#)

3.2 The UKSPF is based on three investment priorities and funding is allocated in the following phases:

Phase 1 - Communities and Place

Phase 2 - Local Business

Phase 3 - People and Skills

This report relates to Phase 2 of the UKSPF allocation.

Place Based Business Support

3.3 The agreed LCR PBBS Investment Plan requires the Council to ensure that the following services are provided to businesses and entrepreneurs in Wirral:

- Universal free support to any existing businesses
- Business start-up support
- Remove barriers to job creation
- Advice & guidance
- Brokerage into national and UKSPF programmes, including innovation signposting
- Key Account and Relationship Management of SMEs and larger companies
- Specialist business support that matches local economic priorities and opportunities

3.4 In addition, the six LCR Local Authorities are required to work in collaboration with The Growth Platform. The Growth Platform provides a coordination function to ensure local authority business support activity aligns with LCRCA's strategic objectives and other PBBS funded programmes commissioned by LCRCA.

3.5 Wirral's Place Based Business Support will include:

- **UNIVERSAL BUSINESS SUPPORT SERVICES:**
A programme of universal business support services available to all businesses in the borough, regardless of sector, size or location. Support will operate in conjunction with the LCRCA/Growth Platform brand, offering in-depth diagnostic assessment of business needs, brokerage to available support from other UKSPF programmes, support for people looking to start a business, and a range of procured specialist advice on areas such as marketing, business planning and financial management.
- **BESPOKE PLACE-BASED ACTIVITIES:**
The commissioning of bespoke interventions that respond to identified needs, supporting businesses in a particular area, sector or cluster. Indicative examples: support for creative, digital and technology sectors aligned with Wirral Council's Culture and Heritage strategy; support for town centres; initiatives to support collaboration and supply chain development in growth sectors. This element will be commissioned by the Economic Growth Team in consultation with relevant stakeholders, including collaboration with other Local Authorities where a joint approach could maximise impact and value for money.

Wirral Council Business Support Service

- 3.6 The current Business Support Service provided by the Wirral Chamber of Commerce commenced delivery in January 2022. The contract runs to 31 December 2023, with an option to extend for an additional two years subject to satisfactory performance.
- 3.7 The BSS provides Wirral businesses with free universal access core business growth support advice and guidance in areas such as marketing and finance; entrepreneurship/business start-up support; community, voluntary, and faith (CVF) sector support.
- 3.8 Additionally, the BSS provides Wirral Council with inward investment support, sector development initiatives, and business intelligence to inform decision-making and strategy development.
- 3.9 Performance of the BSS is measured against key performance indicators (KPIs). Eighty percent of BSS KPIs are either exceeding performance or within tolerance. A detailed overview of BSS performance is available in Appendix 1 of this report.

Internal Fixed Term post

- 3.10 The acceptance of the UKSPF funding will enable the Director of Regeneration and Place to recruit to the current vacant full-time fixed-term post within the Economic Growth team, which will be fully funded by the UKSPF allocation.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Each of the six LCRCA Local Authorities have been awarded funding to deliver PBBS from Phase 2 of the LCR UKSPF allocation, as shown in Table 1. These allocations have been determined by the LCRCA in line with national UKSPF allocation methodology for geographical areas, which for Wirral is 19.84%. The Grant Funding Agreement for Wirral totals £924,544, after deducting a top slice for the LCRCA's Growth Platform of £27,776 from the total grant allocation of £952,320. All six authorities received a proportionate top slice deduction from their grant allocations to enable the required central coordination role facilitating consistent access to PBBS across LCR.

Table 1:

Local Authority	Allocation	Amount
Halton	7.87%	£377,760
Knowsley	10.14%	£486,720
Liverpool	33.17%	£1,592,160
Sefton	16.79%	£805,920
St Helens	12.19%	£585,120
Wirral	19.84%	£952,320
Total	100%	£4,800,000

4.2 Proposed allocation of the Council’s UKSPF PBBS grant aligned with existing revenue budget from 1 October 2023 to 31 March 2025 is shown in Table 2.

Table 2:

Proposed activity	2023/24	2024/25	Sub-total	Total UKSPF PBBS Allocation
UKSPF Staffing Contribution	£45,264	£122,454	£167,718	£167,718
UKSPF Specialist Interventions	£249,599	£112,982	£362,581	£362,581
UKSPF Contribution to BSS	£131,415	£262,830	£394,245	£394,245
Wirral Contribution to BSS	£87,610	£175,220	£262,830	-
Top Slice: Growth Platform	(£27,776)			£27,776
Total	£513,888	£673,487	£1,187,375	£952,320

4.3 The current Regeneration and Place budget for the BSS is £438,050pa inclusive of a £50,000pa contribution from the Public Health Grant. The value and content of the specification was agreed following a pre-commissioning review conducted by Mickledore and CLES; the specified service delivers aspects of activities that are out of scope of UKSPF requirements. 60% of contractual costs are in scope of UKSPF from 1 October 2023 to 31 March 2025.

4.4 From 1 April 2025 to 31 December 2025 the BSS commission will revert to being funded from the Council’s Regeneration and Place revenue budget.

4.5 £362,581 of the UKSPF PBBS funding will be invested in specialist business related interventions for identified areas, key sectors and clusters that respond to economic needs and opportunities in Wirral. This represents an appropriate delivery budget to enable interventions at the scope and scale required to ensure meaningful impact and delivery of contracted outputs.

4.6 The UKSPF PBBS grant will be paid by LCRCA in quarterly instalments in arrears following submission of a claim by the council of defrayed costs.

4.7 The decision to accept the UKSPF PBBS grant funding allocation of £924,544 was taken by the Section 151 Officer in accordance with 2(d) of Part(C) of the Constitution ‘Overview and Scheme of Delegations of Authority to Officers’. In respect to the receipt of grant funding, express delegation is given to the Section 151 Officer. Relevant Chief Officers are required to subsequently report the acceptance of the grant funding to the appropriate Committee. Spend of grant funding will be dealt with in accordance with sections 2(a) to 2(c) above.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 As the Lead Local Authority, Liverpool City Region Combined Authority issued Wirral Council with a grant funding agreement on 27 July 2023. LCRCA may terminate the grant offer and any obligation to make any further payment of the PBBS grant on giving the Wirral Borough Council three month’s written notice should it be required

to do so by financial constraints or a change in legislation or Government policy, or if in the view of LCRCA it is no longer necessary or appropriate to support the PBBS project to achieve LCRCA's objectives.

- 5.2 The Council's current Business Support Service commission runs for a period of 24 months from 1 January 2022 until 31 December 2023, with an option to extend the contract term for a further two years until 31 December 2025 on the same terms by giving written notice before 31 October 2023. The contract with Wirral Chamber of Commerce and Industry has the option for the Council to extend the initial term by up to 2 years and the extension will comply with rules 13 and 17 of the Council's Contract Procedure Rules. In accordance with Wirral Council's Contract Procedure Rules the Public Contracts Regulations 2015, the Council will issue a Deed of Variation to Wirral Chamber of Commerce and Industry to amend the current Business Support Service specification to incorporate UKSPF Place Based Business Support grant funding requirements.
- 5.3 The Council will take steps to ensure the use of UKSPF funding is in accordance with UK subsidy control legislation.
- 5.4 Specialist activity that is complementary to the Business Support Service will be procured in accordance with Wirral Council's Contract Procedure Rules and the opportunity will be competitively tendered as per Public Contracts Regulations 2015.
- 5.5 Following on from the acceptance of the UKSPF PBBS grant funding allocation by the s151 officer as referred to in paragraph 4.7 of this report the Director of Law and Governance will embody that acceptance by way of a formalised grant funding agreement.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

- 6.1 There are no council assets, ICT equipment, or recharged services affected arising from matters in this report.
- 6.2 It is recommended that two existing FTE staff posts in the Economic Growth Team structure will be fully funded using the Council's UKSPF PBBS allocation between 1 October 2023 and 31 March 2025, one of which is currently vacant. The activities undertaken by these posts will include coordination of the PBBS programme and key account management activity.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 7.1 LCRCA may withdraw or reduce, or require the Council to repay all, or any proportion of the Grant on grounds listed in the Grant Funding Agreement if the Council does not adhere to the purpose or terms and conditions of the grant. The Council will mitigate this risk through regular monitoring and performance management of all relevant contract activity.
- 7.2 If all available grant funding is not spent by the end of the UKSPF PBBS funding period, the council risks not drawing down the full allocation. This will be mitigated by appropriate commissioning and ongoing risk and financial management throughout the period to ensure spend and delivery meets the required profile.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

- 8.1 The current Business Support Service contract was informed by wide-ranging consultation with stakeholders that included local businesses, representative bodies, council officers, business support providers, Liverpool City Region Growth Platform representatives and third sector organisations.
- 8.2 The LCRCA has undertaken extensive stakeholder engagement and consultation on their UKSPF Investment Plan. Further background regarding this is available via the following report, presented to this Committee on 7 December 2022: [UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND](#)

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 Equality and Diversity Implications have been considered during the development of the LCRCA Investment Plan, including engagement with representative groups for underrepresented communities and groups. There are a number of activities proposed which will provide targeted support for people with protected characteristics. There will be a requirement for all activities commissioned and delivered utilising this funding to demonstrate how they are complying with the requirements of the Equality Act 2010: this will include a summary of the positive action being undertaken to engage with, support and narrow the gaps for those with protected characteristics.
- 9.2 The potential impact of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund has been reviewed with regard to equality and links to the existing EIA conducted for Wirral's Economic Strategy, which can be found here: <https://www.wirral.gov.uk/communities-and-neighbourhoods/equality-impact-assessments>. No material changes to the EIA are required because of this report. There may be a future requirement for any individual project or scheme to have their own EIA conducted.

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 The Wirral Plan 2026 includes a set of goals and objectives to create a sustainable environment which urgently tackles the environment emergency.
- 10.2 The community wealth building and local supply chain development aspects of our BSS commission continue to support the transition to a low carbon economy.

11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 Community Wealth is a cornerstone of the Wirral Economic Strategy 2021-26, identified as one of 3 Working Principles, with associated actions and performance outputs.
- 11.2 The Place Based Business Support grant will support Wirral Council's Community Wealth Building Strategy outcome ambitions to deliver a more inclusive economy in the borough to address inequality and ensure that all residents in the borough feel the benefits of economic growth through, for example, agreement with projects which receive funding to ensure good and fair quality employment, training and

apprenticeships, and by aiming to maximise social value opportunities in relation to progressive procurement of goods and services and use of local supply chains.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Business Support Service Performance to 30th June 2023 and Case Studies

Appendix 2 - UKSPF Place Based Business Support Grant Funding Agreement Summary

Appendices 1 and 2 of this report are exempt from publication by virtue of paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

[Birkenhead 2040 Framework](#)
[Wirral Economic Strategy 2021- 2026](#)
[Wirral Plan 2020 - 2026](#)

TERMS OF REFERENCE

This report is being considered by the Economy, Regeneration and Housing Committee in accordance with Section 4.2 (d) and 4.2 (e) of its Terms of Reference.

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Economy, Regeneration, and Development Committee (Business Support Services: Commissioning Intentions)	4 March 2021
Policy and Resources Committee (BUSINESS SUPPORT SERVICES: COMMISSIONING INTENTIONS PAPER)	17 March 2021
Officer Decision Notice Business Support Service: short-term extension	16 September 2021
Officer Decision Notice Business Support Service: procurement outcome	6 December 2021
Economy Regeneration and Housing Committee (UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND)	7 December 2022



ECONOMY REGENERATION AND HOUSING COMMITTEE

MONDAY 18 SEPTEMBER 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
	20 June 2023
	17 July 2023

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**ECONOMY, REGENERATION AND DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE
WORK PROGRAMME 2023/24**

KEY DECISIONS BETWEEN JULY AND OCTOBER 2023

Item	Committee Meeting	Lead Departmental Officer
UK Shared Prosperity Fund: Place Based Business Support	September 2023	Dave Hughes
Adoption of Wirral Interim Approach to Avoid and Mitigate Recreational Pressure	September 2023	Dave Hughes
Active Travel Funding – Tranche 3 and Tranche 4	October 2023	Julie Barnes

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
Project Delivery Plan	David Hughes	Inclusive Economy
Future of Liscard	David Hughes	Inclusive Economy
Chamber of Commerce Value	David Hughes	Inclusive Economy
Consultation Methods	David Hughes	Inclusive Economy

STANDING ITEMS AND MONITORING REPORTS

Item	Reporting Frequency	Lead Departmental Officer
Financial Monitoring Report	Quarterly	Matthew Bennett

Regen Committee Work Programme Update	Every Cycle	Committee Team
Homelessness	TBC	Lisa Newman

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
Update on consultation process for Active Travel Projects	Workshop / Briefing Paper	TBC	Cathy Palmer	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;
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- (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.