



Council

Dear Councillor

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council to be held at **6.00 p.m. on Monday, 9 October 2023** in the Assembly Room, within the Town Hall, Birkenhead, to take into consideration and determine the following subjects:

Contact Officer: Dan Sharples
Tel: 0151 666 3791
e-mail: danielsharples@wirral.gov.uk
Website: <http://www.wirral.gov.uk>

Please note that public seating is limited, therefore members of the public are encouraged to arrive in good time.

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

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

AGENDA

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members of the Council are asked to consider whether they have any disclosable pecuniary interests and/or any other relevant interest, in connection with any matter to be debated or determined at this meeting and, if so, to declare it and state the nature of such interest.

2. CIVIC MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

To receive the Civic Mayor's announcements and any apologies for absence.

3. MINUTES (Pages 1 - 18)

To approve the accuracy of the minutes of the meetings of the Council

held on 10 July 2023.

4. PUBLIC AND MEMBER QUESTIONS

To deal with questions, statements and petitions from members of the public, and Members, in accordance with Standing Orders 10, 11 and 12.

A. Public Questions

Notice of question to be given in writing or by email by noon, Wednesday 4 October 2023 to the Council's Monitoring Officer (via the online form here: [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](#)

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

B. Statements and Petitions

Notice of statements to be given in writing or by email by noon, Wednesday 4 October 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 Council if provided to Democratic and Member Services no later than 10 working days before the meeting, at the discretion of the Mayor. The person presenting the petition will be allowed to address the meeting briefly (not exceeding three minutes) to outline the aims of the petition. The Mayor 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 give notice of petitions to committeeservices@wirral.gov.uk in advance of the meeting.

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

C. Members' Questions

To consider Members' questions to the Leader or Deputy Leader of the Council, Committee Chair or a Leader of a Political Group, in accordance with Standing Orders 12.

5. MATTERS REQUIRING APPROVAL OR CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL

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

A. 2023/24 CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING FOR QUARTER ONE (THE PERIOD TO 30 JUN 2023)

Council is requested to agree to the following recommendations of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 12 July 2023:

to approve the revised Capital Programme of £87 million for 2023/24, including the virements of budget referred to in Appendix C of this report.

to approve the additional funding for the schemes referred to in section 3.7, with proposed extra funding from a variety of sources, new borrowing required from the Council, revenue contributions and the repurposing of previously agreed Council borrowing.

Minute extract and report are attached.

B. 2023/24 BUDGET MONITORING FOR QUARTER ONE (THE PERIOD TO 30 JUN 2023)

Council is requested to agree to the following recommendations of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 12 July 2023:

To approve that the Revenue budget be increased by £2.000m due to increased Council funding, detailed in paragraph 3.25 and allocate to the budget areas detailed in Table 2.

Minute extract and report are attached.

C. WIRRAL YOUTH JUSTICE SERVICE ANNUAL PLAN

Council is requested to agree to the following recommendations of the Children, Young People and Education Committee held on 25 September 2023.

To approve the Wirral Youth Justice Service Strategic Plan 2023-2024.

Minute extract and report are attached.

D. MEMBERS PARENTAL LEAVE POLICY

Council is requested to agree to the following recommendations of the Constitution and Standards Committee held on 28 September 2023.

To approve the recommendations of the Constitution and Standards Committee in respect to the Member Parental Leave Policy.

Minute extract and report are attached.

E. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE INTEGRATED CARE PARTNERSHIP

Council is requested to agree to the following recommendations of the Constitution and Standards Committee held on 28 September 2023.

To approve the recommendations of the Constitution and Standards Committee in respect to the establishment of the Integrated Care Partnership.

Minute extract and report are attached.

6. REPORTS AND DECISIONS FROM COUNCIL COMMITTEES AND PARTNERSHIP ORGANISATIONS

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

A. DECISIONS TAKEN SINCE THE LAST COUNCIL MEETING

One urgent decision outside the Budget and Policy Framework was taken by Director of Finance on 17 July 2023 and is reported to Council in accordance with Part 4 Section 3 of the Constitution.

The minutes of all committees which have met since 19 June 2023, up until 15 September 2023 are attached below.

Minutes of Committees:

- 19.06.23 – Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee
- 20.06.23 – Economy, Regeneration and Housing Committee
- 21.06.23 – Children, Young People and Education Committee
- 22.06.23 – Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee
- 27.06.23 – Audit and Risk Management Committee
- 29.06.23 – Planning Committee
- 11.07.23 – Pensions Committee

- 12.07.23 – Policy and Resources Committee
- 17.07.23 – Economy, Regeneration and Housing Committee
- 18.07.23 – Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee
- 19.07.23 – Children, Young People and Education Committee
- 20.07.23 – Health and Wellbeing Board
- 20.07.23 – Planning Committee
- 24.07.23 – Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee
- 25.07.23 – Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee
- 27.07.23 – Policy and Resources Committee
- 17.08.23 – Planning Committee
- 07.09.23 – Regulatory and General Purposes Committee
- 13.09.23 – Policy and Resources Committee
- 14.09.23 – Planning Committee

B. JOINT ARRANGEMENTS AND EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

To receive questions and answers to representatives on Joint Authorities on matters which fall within the responsibility of the relevant Joint Authority, to be received in accordance with Standing Order 12.4. These include:

[Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority](#)

[Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority](#)

[Liverpool City Region Combined Authority](#)

[Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Scrutiny Committee](#)

[Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Transport Committee](#)

7. MOTIONS ON NOTICE (Pages 299 - 302)

Motions submitted in accordance with Standing Order 13.1, are attached. They are listed in accordance with Standing Order 13.2, and the full text of each motion is attached.

Full Council Responsibility for Functions

The full responsibility of functions for Full Council can be found at the end of this agenda.



Paul Satoor, Chief Executive

TIMINGS AND GUILLOTINE

Members are reminded of the following:

Item 2 - under Standing Order 2(iv) Mayor's announcements normally limited to up to 5 minutes.

Item 4A. – under Standing Order 10.7, public questions, up to 2 minutes allowed to put a question and up to 2 minutes for a response. Up to 30 minutes in total allowed for public questions (Standing Order 2(v)).

Item 4B. - under Standing Order 11.1, representations (statements) up to 3 minutes, with public speaking on any one item not exceeding 10 minutes. Up to 20 minutes in total allowed to receive representations (Standing Order 2(vi)).
Petitions – under Standing Order 11.2, present and speak to a petition for up to 1 minute.

Item 4C. – under Standing Order 12.8, questions on notice from Members will not exceed 1 minute and up to 2 minutes for a response.

Item 6 – under Standing Order 2(xii) the total time allowed for questions and answers on decisions of committees is up to 45 minute.

Under Standing Order 9 of the Council Procedure Rules:

The Mayor will adjourn the meeting for a period of ten minutes at a convenient time after one and a half hours.

Where three hours have elapsed after the commencement of any meeting (and in the case of an extraordinary meeting of Council when two hours have elapsed since commencement of the meeting) the Mayor shall interrupt the meeting and the Member speaking must immediately cease doing so and sit down. The meeting shall then dispose of the item then under consideration as if the motion '*That the question be now put*' had been carried (i.e. the debate shall be concluded by the seconder and by the Member who has the right of reply and the vote will then be taken without any further discussion). This rule will not apply to meetings of a quasi-judicial or regulatory nature.

Audio/Visual Recording of Meetings

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

Persons making recordings are requested not to put undue restrictions on the material produced so that it can be reused and edited by all local people and organisations on a non-commercial basis.

COUNCIL

Monday, 10 July 2023

Present: The Civic Mayor (Councillor Jerry Williams) in the Chair
Deputy Civic Mayor (Councillor Cherry Povall, JP)

Councillors	E Lamb	J Johnson	C Baldwin
	L Luxon-Kewley	T Jones	P Basnett
	JE Green	M Jordan	G Bennett
	S Bennett	S Kelly	G Davies
	J Bird	B Kenny	B Hall
	M Booth	J Stewart Laing	G Jenkinson
	A Brame	I Lewis	P Jobson
	H Cameron	J McManus	T Laing
	C Carubia	P Martin	C McDonald
	P Cleary	S Mountney	G McManus
	C Cooke	A Onwuemene	R Molyneux
	A Davies	S Powell-Wilde	K Murphy
	GJ Davies	L Rennie	Murphy
	S Foulkes	J Robinson	R Pitt
	A Gardner	P Stuart	Raymond
	P Gilchrist	Jason Walsh	M Skillicorn
	H Gorman	J Williamson	K Stuart
	EA Grey	V Wilson	M Sullivan
	A Hodson	G Wood	E Tomeny
	K Hodson	A Ainsworth	

<u>Apologies</u>	Councillors	T Cox	D Kenny
		N Graham	M Redfern
		J Grier	

14 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Civic Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and those watching the webcast. He then asked Members to consider whether they had any disclosable pecuniary and/or any other relevant interest in connection with any matters to be determined at this meeting and, if so, to declare it and state the nature of such interest.

No such declarations were made.

15 CIVIC MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Civic Mayor announced that apologies had been received from Councillors Tony Cox, Naomi Graham, Judith Grier, Daisy Kenny and Mike Redfern.

16 **CONFERMENT OF THE TITLE OF HONORARY ALDERMAN**

The Council considered the recommendations from the Regulatory and General Purposes Committee held on 7 June 2023 (minute 9 refers) in relation to the conferment of the title of Honorary Alderman on former Councillors Dave Mitchell and Tony Smith, in accordance with Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972.

The report informed that Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 provided that the title of Honorary Alderman or Honorary Alderwoman might be conferred by the Council on persons who were persons of distinction and/or who had, in its opinion, rendered eminent service to the place or area. The title was to be conferred by a resolution passed by not less than two thirds of the Members voting on it at a meeting of the Council specially convened for the purpose.

It was moved by Councillor Andrew Hodson and seconded by Councillor Stephen Bennett that the Council be recommended to confer the title of Honorary Alderman on former Councillors Dave Mitchell and Tony Smith in accordance with Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972.

Several Councillors made speeches about the two Councillors, who had both served as Civic Mayor of Wirral. Members spoke of the 40 years of continuous service that Dave Mitchell had achieved on the Council, and his extensive knowledge and dedication to the Licensing process. Members further recalled Tony Smith's service as a retired teacher and educational psychologist which gave him the requisite skills to serve as cabinet member for Children's Services.

Following speeches, the motion was put to the vote, and it was –

Resolved (unanimously) - That the title of Honorary Alderman be conferred on former Councillors Dave Mitchell and Tony Smith in accordance with Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972.

17 **HONORARY FREEDOM OF THE BOROUGH (POSTHUMOUS AWARD) – PAUL O'GRADY MBE DL**

The Council considered a report from the Director of Law and Governance in respect to a proposal to admit posthumously, Paul O'Grady MBE DL, as an Honorary Freeman of the Borough.

The recommendation was in pursuance of the provisions of Section 249 (5) of the Local Government Act 1972 and in recognition of his dedicated service to the Borough, that Paul O'Grady MBE DL be posthumously admitted as Honorary Freeman of this Borough.

Several Councillors spoke in relation to the achievements of Paul O'Grady, and the significant contributions that had had made to television, animal welfare, LGBTQ+ rights and to the borough of Wirral and that receiving the nomination of Honorary Freeman of the Borough recognised these significant contributions.

Following the speeches from Councillors, it was –

Resolved (unanimously) – That in pursuance of the provisions of Section 249 (5) of the Local Government Act 1972, that Paul O'Grady MBE DL be posthumously admitted as Honorary Freeman of this Borough.

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COUNCIL

Monday, 10 July 2023

Present: The Civic Mayor (Councillor Jerry Williams) in the Chair
Deputy Civic Mayor (Councillor Cherry Povall, JP)

Councillors	E Lamb	K Hodson	A Ainsworth
	L Luxon-Kewley	J Johnson	C Baldwin
	JE Green	T Jones	P Basnett
	S Bennett	M Jordan	G Bennett
	J Bird	S Kelly	G Davies
	M Booth	B Kenny	B Hall
	A Brame	J Stewart Laing	G Jenkinson
	H Cameron	I Lewis	P Jobson
	C Carubia	J McManus	T Laing
	P Cleary	P Martin	C McDonald
	C Cooke	S Mountney	G McManus
	A Davies	A Onwuemene	R Molyneux
	GJ Davies	S Powell-Wilde	K Murphy
	S Foulkes	L Rennie	Murphy
	A Gardner	J Robinson	R Pitt
	P Gilchrist	P Stuart	Raymond
	H Gorman	Jason Walsh	M Skillicorn
	EA Grey	J Williamson	K Stuart
	J Grier	V Wilson	M Sullivan
	A Hodson	G Wood	E Tomeny

<u>Apologies</u>	Councillors	T Cox	D Kenny
		N Graham	M Redfern

18 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Civic Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and those watching the webcast. He then asked Members to consider whether they had any disclosable pecuniary and/or any other relevant interest in connection with any matters to be determined at this meeting and, if so, to declare it and state the nature of such interest.

Councillor Ian Lewis declared a personal interest in relation to item 6a 'Decisions Taken Since the Last Meeting', specifically in relation to minute item 72 of the Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee, as a trustee of Wallasey Library.

Councillor Angie Davies declared a personal interest in relation to motion 3 'Gill Netting in Wirral' as a member of the Vegan Society and PETA.

Councillor Jeff Green declared a personal interest in relation to item 4a 'Public Questions', specifically the question relating to the installation of a fence at the East Float dock edge by Peel LLP Waters, by virtue of his daughter's employment.

19 **CIVIC MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Tony Cox, Naomi Graham, Daisy Kenny and Mike Redfern.

The Civic Mayor spoke of the sad passing of Glenda Jackson, who was born in Birkenhead before moving to London to pursue a career in acting before becoming the MP for Hamstead and Highgate from 1992 to 2015 and paid tribute to her fearlessness and ferocity in both television and in the House of Commons.

The Civic Mayor further reported that he and the Mayoress had already attended over 50 engagements including the Battle of the Atlantic commemorations, opening the Port Sunlight 10k, the 200th anniversary of Liverpool John Moores University and the graduations for Wirral Met College, and that they had found the diversity of functions to be fascinating.

20 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meetings of Council held on 20 March 2023, 17 May 2023 and 24 May 2023 had been circulated to Members.

It was reported that Councillor Gail Jenkinson's attendance was missing in error from the minutes of the meeting held on 17 May 2023 and that Councillor Julie McManus' apologies had been listed twice in error in the minutes of the meeting held on 20 March 2023.

On a motion by the Civic Mayor, seconded by Councillor Paul Stuart, it was –

Resolved – That the minutes of the meetings held on 20 March 2023, 17 May 2023 and 24 May 2023 be approved as correct records, subject to the inclusion of Councillor Gail Jenkinson's attendance at the meeting held on 17 May 2023, and the deletion of the duplication of Councillor Julie McManus' apologies at the meeting held on 20 March 2023.

21 **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

The Civic Mayor informed the Council that eight public questions had been received.

Chris Cureton asked a question to Councillor Liz Grey as Chair of Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee on whether the Council supported the introduction of a by law to outlaw the use of gill nets in the Dee and Mersey estuaries and North Wirral foreshore.

In response, Councillor Grey outlined that she supported any move to prevent gill nets and that she hoped the debate on the motion on the matter would answer the questioners concerns.

Arthur Shaw asked a question to Councillor Paul Stuart as Leader of the Council on the installation of a fence at the East Float dock edge for public safety.

In response, Councillor Stuart outlined that the matter had been raised with Council officers and Peel Waters LLP, and that Council agrees that the installation of a barrier is the correct course of action but that it was not a public highway and therefore not a matter for which the Council had a responsibility. However, the Council would continue to affirm its position to Peel Waters LLP.

Arthur Shaw asked whether the Council could send a representative to a meeting arrange with Peel Waters LLP on Wednesday 19th July on the matter. In response, Councillor Stuart undertook to arrange for an officer to attend the meeting.

Sean Martin asked a question to Councillor Liz Grey as Chair of Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee on the impact to the roll out of 20 miles per hour zones throughout Wirral, particularly on bus times and taxi fares.

In response, Councillor Grey outlined that most buses spent little time travelling at more than 20mph due to the frequency of stops and the need to negotiate obstacles and that data showed that buses spend less than 25% of their time above 18.5mph. She further outlined that there was no anticipated impact on taxi fares but the consultation on the schemes would be shared with taxi drivers.

Sean Martin outlined the impact on 20mph zones on his journey on Seabank Road which added 1 minute to a 1 mile journey and suggested that the impact would be higher than the quoted data suggested.

The Monitoring Officer read out a question on behalf of John Brace to Councillor Paul Stuart as Leader of the Council on the Council's request for a Capitalisation Directive in 2021 and what lessons had been learnt by the Council including any training for Councillors.

In response, Councillor Stuart outlined the Council's response to the recommendations from the Independent Assurance Panel with the appointment of a new Director of Finance and Director of Law and Governance, an agreed budget for 2023/24 and the delivery of financial training to all members with an ongoing programme of support planned throughout the municipal year.

The Monitoring Officer read out a question on behalf of John Brace who had asked a question on behalf of the organisation Level 80 to Councillor Janette Williamson as Chair of the Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee on the shortage of social care workers compared to demand and what actions the Council was taking to provide adequate social care services.

In response, Councillor Williamson outlined the level of support provided in the social care sector with an 11.6% increase in the numbers of old people requiring support during 2023 with £5m invested to pay care Staff the Real Living Wage and £14.7m additional investment for 2023/24 and advised that the Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee receives quarterly performance reports detailing this activity.

The Monitoring Officer read out a question on behalf of John Brace asked a question on behalf of the organisation Level 80 to Councillor Sue Powell-Wilde as Chair of the Children, Young People and Education Committee regarding careers advice for teenagers in Wirral and the best sources of specialist advice.

In response, Councillor Sue Powell-Wilde outlined the various sources of careers advice available to young people in the borough, including the BE MORE careers portal, the annual Careers Show at the Hive Youth Zone and Career Connect. <https://lcrbemore.co.uk/>

Alison Roberts asked a question to Councillor Paul Stuart as Leader of the Council as to why Bromborough Civic Centre and Library had been placed on a proposed asset disposal list when it was being explored for Community Asset Transfer.

In response, Councillor Stuart acknowledged the recommendation of the Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee in relation to Bromborough Civic Centre which sought the progression of consideration of the business cases for Community Asset Transfer of the site alongside the consideration of the Asset Strategy, which the disposal list formed part of. Councillor Stuart undertook to ensure the concerns raised were brought to the attention of members of Policy & Resources Committee on Wednesday.

As a supplementary Alison Roberts outlined the importance of the site to the overall high street and asked what the masterplan for Bromborough was and

how were residents being consulted. Councillor Stuart undertook to provide a written response.

Keith Marsh asked a question to Councillor Paul Stuart as Leader of the Council seeking reassurance and support for the Community Asset Transfer of Brackenwood Golf Club to Brackenwood Community Golf Ltd and calling for an extraordinary meeting of Policy & Resources to deal with the matter urgently.

In response, Councillor Stuart acknowledged the hard work of the volunteers and outlined his support in principle for Community Asset Transfers. He detailed the need for due diligence to be undertaken on the viability of any business plans to accompany a bid for an asset transfer and that this would take time meaning the item would be considered at the September meeting of Policy & Resources Committee.

Keith Marsh outlined the viability of the group's business plans and that negotiations with Council officers had been done hastily and urged the Council to consider the financial impact on the community group maintaining a Council asset.

22 **STATEMENTS AND PETITIONS**

The Civic Mayor informed the Council that no statements had been received.

The Civic Mayor further informed the Council that one petition had been received from Kieran Gabriel calling on the Council to erect a statue of Paul O'Grady MBE DL and that Dave Humphreys was in attendance to present the petition.

Dave Humphreys spoke to the petition detailing the life of Paul O'Grady and the importance of Birkenhead to him and outlined the suitability of a permanent monument in Birkenhead to honour Paul O'Grady. Dave further reported that the petition had received over 200 thousand signatures nationally with extensive media coverage and lots of generous donations which would be provided to the Council should it decide to agree to the installation of a statue to honour Paul O'Grady.

23 **MEMBERS' QUESTIONS**

The Civic Mayor announced that two questions by members had been received on notice.

The first question was from Councillor Phil Gilchrist to Councillor Liz Grey as Chair of the Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee in relation to the budget for replacement litter bins and seeking information on

the number of bins needing replacement and the number of replacements that were within budget.

In response, Councillor Grey outlined the cost of replacing bins and that there 4,500 bins in circulation, with 186 bins requirement replacement or removal and a budget that allowed 32 bins to be replaced. Councillor Grey further detailed the additional resources allocated to the programme following a review of the progress of addressing the backlog. Councillor Gilchrist expressed his desire for bins to be replaced sooner than 5 years which Councillor Grey shared.

The second question was from Councillor Chris Cooke to Councillor Andrew Hodson as Chair of the Regulatory and General Purposes Committee which sought an update on a meeting held to consider the possibility of creating a new Charitable Trust to support discretionary and non-statutory Council services and seeking its inclusion on the agenda for the next meeting of the Regulatory and General Purposes Committee.

In response, Councillor Hodson outlined that as the matter related to financial contributions to the Council, this would be for Policy and Resources Committee to determine.

24 **CAPITAL OUTTURN REPORT 2022-23**

The first matter requiring approval was the proposed approval of the revised Capital Programme of £178.1m for 2023/24, including the virements of budget referred to in Appendix D as recommended by Policy and Resources Committee on 14 June 2023.

On a motion moved by Councillor Paul Stuart, seconded by Councillor Jean Robinson, it was –

Resolved (unanimously) – That the revised Capital Programme of £178.1m for 2023/24 be approved, including the virements of budget referred to in Appendix D.

25 **2022-23 BUDGET MONITORING FOR QUARTER FOUR (THE PERIOD TO 31 MAR), 2022-23 OUTTURN**

The second matter requiring approval was the transfer to and use of earmarked reserves, as detailed in Appendix 3 as recommended by Policy and Resources Committee on 14 June 2023.

On a motion moved by Councillor Paul Stuart, seconded by Councillor Jean Robinson, it was –

Resolved (unanimously) – That the transfer to and use of earmarked reserves, as detailed in Appendix 3 be approved.

26 DECISIONS TAKEN SINCE THE LAST COUNCIL MEETING

The Civic Mayor introduced the minutes of the various Committees which had met from 1 March 2023 to 16 June 2023 and asked for questions to Committee Chairs on any of the minutes being received.

Councillor Lesley Rennie asked a question to the Chair of the Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee in relation to minute item 67 of the meeting held on 14 March 2023. The question sought an update on the implementation of road safety measures at St George's Primary school and the installation of a vehicle activated speed warning following the change from 30mph to 20mph.

In response, Councillor Liz Grey indicated her support for this proposal and that she would raise it with officers.

Councillor Pat Cleary asked a question to the Chair of the Economy, Regeneration and Housing Committee in relation to minute item 63 of the meeting held on 8 March 2023 outlining concerns over the delivery of the regeneration programme and seeking an update on planned meetings of the Regeneration Working Group to ensure member oversight.

Councillor Tony Jones undertook to provide a written response.

Councillor Gary Bennett asked a question to the Chair of the Economy, Regeneration and Housing Committee in relation to minute item 61 of the meeting held on 8 March 2023 seeking an update on the assessment of the impact of cycle lanes, particularly the Fender Lane route in Moreton.

In response, Councillor Tony Jones outlined that those assessments were taking place and would be shared with members in due course.

Councillor Gary Bennett asked a question to the Chair of the Economy, Regeneration and Housing Committee in relation to minute item 64 of the meeting held on 8 March 2023, asking the Chair to ensure that the items requested to be added to the Work Programme and agreed to be included by the Committee were reflected in the updated version.

In response, Councillor Tony Jones undertook to ensure that they were included in the latest version.

Councillor Phil Gilchrist asked a question to the Chair of the Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee in relation to minute item 71 of the meeting held on 14 March 2023 seeking an update on the roads and

footways no longer in the schedule for maintenance and outlining the frustration of residents.

In response, Councillor Liz Grey outlined that following feedback from contractors a number of locations had changed but that she and the Committee Spokes were in discussion with the Director of Neighbourhood Services regarding these amendments and would keep Councillor Gilchrist informed.

Councillor Jo Bird asked a question to the Chair of the Audit and Risk Management Committee in relation to minute item 58 of the meeting held on 1 March 2023 seeking a date when the final auditors report would be published.

In response, Councillor Jenny Johnson undertook to provide the specific date for its publication.

Councillor Jeff Green asked a question to the Chair of the Policy and Resources Committee in relation to minute item 6 of the meeting held on 14 June 2023 seeking a update regarding the ERP system including its total projected cost including staff time, when it was due to go live, when it was test and implemented and whether there would be a lessons learned evaluation that could be shared with members.

In response, Councillor Paul Stuart undertook to provide the information in writing.

27 **JOINT ARRANGEMENTS AND EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS**

The Civic Mayor informed the Council that no reports or questions had been received in advance of the meeting.

28 **MOTIONS ON NOTICE**

Four motions had been submitted in accordance with Standing Order 13.1, and were determined as detailed in minutes 25 to 28.

29 **WIRRAL SUPPORTS FULL DEMOCRACY**

Councillor Angie Davies moved and Councillor Paul Stuart seconded a motion submitted in accordance with Standing Order 13.

Following a debate, and Councillor Angie Davies having replied as mover of the motion, the motion was put to the vote and agreed (45:16) (1 abstention). It was therefore –

Resolved (45:16) (1 abstention) – That

Following the 2022 Elections Act, voters must now show a document from a small list of photo identification for every general or parliamentary byelection across the UK, and for local elections in England.

The Electoral Commission recently published an interim analysis¹ into the roll out of Voter ID, that came into effect for England's local elections that happened in May of this year.

This analysis states that approximately 14,000 people were turned away from polling stations because they lacked the right ID to vote. [These elections excluded Scotland, Wales, London and Birmingham who did not have scheduled elections in May, so this figure is likely to increase].

In addition, the report said that a survey they ran reported that 4% of people who did not vote, specified it was because of the new voter ID requirements, Worryingly, this indicates that those denied a vote in future elections could be considerably higher and could run into the hundreds of thousands.

The study also warned of “concerning” signs that voters with disabilities, people who are not in employment and those from particular ethnic groups could be disproportionately affected by the policy.

In Wirral, just over half of the people turned away because they did not produce some valid ID, did not return to vote. This is not right in a democratic society. We want all our citizens to be easily able to exercise their democratic right to vote in all elections and not be excluded from having their say. No legitimate voter should be locked out democracy because of the Conservative government's disgraceful attempt at voter suppression and who are desperate to stop people from holding them to account by any means possible.

Council call upon the government to repeal Voter ID legislation in full and ask the Leader of the Council to write to the Secretary of State for the Department of Levelling up, Housing and Communities to demand that this legislation is reversed to ensure that all Wirral citizens who are eligible to vote can fully participate in democracy.

30 HELPING WIRRAL RESIDENTS WITH INFLATIONARY PRESSURES

Councillor Jeff Green moved and Councillor Lesley Rennie seconded a motion submitted in accordance with Standing Order 13.

Councillor Liz Grey moved and Councillor Janette Williamson seconded the following amendment, submitted in accordance with Standing Order 13.3:

Insert after paragraph 1:

‘at a time when they are struggling in the aftermath of the Truss/Kwarteng budget, which estimates wiping billions off the UK economy. Council also notes that this country has some of the least energy efficient homes in Europe and that had the Conservatives continued with the Labour Government’s retrofit policies instead of cutting them in 2013, UK Households would be warmer and richer.’

Insert after first sentence in paragraph 2:

‘by the government’s financial mismanagement.’

In paragraph 3, delete ‘is a lifeline, including’ and replace with ‘includes’.

In the final paragraph, after “the relevant Chief Officer is requested to” insert “continue their hard work to”.

Councillor Allan Brame moved and Councillor Phil Gilchrist seconded the following amendment, submitted in accordance with Standing Order 13.3:

Insert after paragraph 1:

Council recognises that the economic situation in this country has been made even more challenging as a result of the Conservative government’s calamitous Brexit deal and the financial chaos caused by the Truss administration’s disastrous mini-budget.

The Civic Mayor informed the Council that he intended to have a joint debate on the amendments due to the similar nature.

Following a debate, the amendment moved by Councillor Liz Grey and seconded by Councillor Janette Williamson was put to the vote and agreed (45:16) (1 abstention).

The amendment moved by Councillor Allan Brame and seconded Councillor Phil Gilchrist was also then put to the vote and agreed (45:16) (1 abstention).

The substantive motion, as amended, was then put to the vote and it was –

Resolved (45:16) (1 abstention) – That

Council notes that the effects of worldwide inflationary pressures are putting additional strain on household budgets in the UK at a time when they are struggling in the aftermath of the Truss/Kwarteng budget, which estimates wiping billions off the UK economy.

Council recognises that the economic situation in this country has been made even more challenging as a result of the Conservative government's calamitous Brexit deal and the financial chaos caused by the Truss administration's disastrous mini-budget.

Council also notes that this country has some of the least energy efficient homes in Europe and that had the Conservatives continued with the Labour Government's retrofit policies instead of cutting them in 2013, UK Households would be warmer and richer.'

Council thanks those staff working with our vulnerable residents, along with the many voluntary, community and faith groups who are helping those most affected by the government's financial mismanagement.

For those households which are eligible, the help that has been made available by the UK Government includes:

- **Energy bills support scheme**
- **Pensioner Cost of Living Payment**
- **Disability Cost of Living Payment**
- **Household Support Fund**

Council therefore requests that, to ensure more of our residents are able to access the support available, the relevant Chief Officer is requested to continue their hard work to actively promote this support across all the Council's communication channels on a regular basis.

31 GILL NETTING IN WIRRAL

Councillor Pat Cleary moved and Councillor Judith Grier seconded a motion submitted in accordance with Standing Order 13.

Following a debate, and Councillor Pat Cleary having replied as mover of the motion, it was –

Resolved (unanimously) – That

Council notes the harmful effects of the use of gill nets upon fishing populations and other marine life, especially Porpoises and fish-eating birds such as Grebes and Divers.

Council acknowledges how nets are left unattended, suspended in the water over the tide and work by entangling fish by the gills as they try and reverse out of a net they cannot pass through. Because gill nets are non-selective they can catch and kill a wide variety of fish, including young fish, fish of protected species, and non-target species. Discarded bycatch is a common site on Wirral's beaches and has recently been commented on by visitors to Wirral's beaches.

Council notes how other authorities such as Cornwall Council, Devon County Council and Northumberland County Council have banned gill netting as part of a wider trend towards the phasing out of gill netting and supports the introduction of a bylaw in consultation with the Fisheries Authorities.

Furthermore, Council notes that permits currently issued by the Council to facilitate vehicular access enables equipment such as gill nets to be brought on to our beaches.

Council therefore requests that

- 1. The Chair of the Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee writes to the Chief Executive Officer for North West Inshore Fisheries and to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to request that the matter be reviewed as a matter of urgency; and**
- 2. The Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee reviews council permits for vehicular access to Wirral's beaches with a view to specifically excluding the transport of gill nets and gill net trapped fish.**

32 CALL FOR BANKING HUBS

Councillor Phil Gilchrist moved and Councillor Allan Brame seconded a motion submitted in accordance with Standing Order 13.

Following a debate, and Councillor Phil Gilchrist having replied as mover of the motion, it was –

Resolved (unanimously) – That

Council recalls that in October 2022 a motion was considered proposed by Councillor Gilchrist and seconded by Councillor Mitchell, with the title 'Bank and cash services that meet local needs'.

Council supported this motion and, as a result, officers made enquiries of the Link organisation on how access to cash machines could be maintained.

Council recognises that the closure of bank branches has continued with the loss of the HSBC in Bromborough this July. The closure of Lloyds in Prenton is now planned to take place in October. The withdrawal of branches appears to be endless as branches are singled out for closure.

Council appreciates that Post Offices can offer services for depositing cash by arrangement with the banking sector and the Link organisation and that transactions can be made through on line banking and by telephone.

However, Council remains concerned that there is inadequate distribution of post office services to fulfil these functions. There remains a need for residents to obtain financial advice and have face to face discussions with representatives of the banks. Council believes that it is in the best interests of Wirral's people for 'banking hubs' to be developed in Wirral.

Council requests that the Director of Finance writes to the Link organisation and to the banking sector to secure their development.

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MINUTE EXTRACT

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 12 July 2023

20 **2023/24 CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING FOR QUARTER ONE (THE PERIOD TO 30 JUN 2023)**

The Director of Finance introduced the report which provided an update on the progress of the Capital Programme 2023/24 at the end of June 2023. It recommended that the Committee agree the revised 2023/24 Capital Programme of £87 million which took account of re-profiling, virements, additional funding requirements and grant variations identified since the Capital Programme was formally agreed on 27th February 2023 and revised via the Capital Outturn 2022-23 report.

Members discussed the additional capital resources for the litter bin programme and sought further information on the overall cost required to fund the whole programme. An update was sought on the delivery of the Regeneration programme, where it was confirmed that a report was due to be considered by the Economy, Regeneration and Housing Committee in September.

Resolved – That

- (1) Council be recommended to approve the revised Capital Programme of £87 million for 2023/24, including the virements of budget referred to in Appendix C of this report.**
- (2) Council be recommended to approve the additional funding for the schemes referred to in section 3.7, with proposed extra funding from a variety of sources, new borrowing required from the Council, revenue contributions and the repurposing of previously agreed Council borrowing.**

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POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**Wednesday, 12 July 2023**

REPORT TITLE:	CAPITAL MONITORING QUARTER 1 2023/24
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR OF FINANCE (S151 OFFICER)

REPORT SUMMARY

This report provides an update on the progress of the Capital Programme 2023/24 at the end of June 2023. It recommends that Committee agree the revised 2023/24 Capital Programme of £87 million which takes account of re-profiling, virements, additional funding requirements and grant variations identified since the Capital Programme was formally agreed on 27th February 2023 and revised via the Capital Outturn 2022-23 report.

The report supports the delivery of the Wirral Plan 2021 - 26 as the Capital Programme contributes towards projects that support all five Wirral Plan priorities.

This matter is a key decision which affects all Wards within the Borough.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Policy and Resources Committee is requested to recommend to Council the approval of:

- 1 the revised Capital Programme of £87 million for 2023/24, including the virements of budget referred to in Appendix C of this report.
- 2 additional funding for the schemes referred to in section 3.7 in this report. The proposed extra funding is from a variety of sources, new borrowing required from the Council, revenue contributions and the repurposing of previously agreed Council borrowing.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 Regular monitoring and reporting of the Capital Programme enables decisions to be taken faster, which may produce revenue benefits and will improve financial control in Wirral Council.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 Other reporting frequencies could be considered, but quarterly reporting is a standard practice.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3.1 Capital Programme 2023/24 Position by Directorate

Table 1: Wirral Council 2023/24 Forecast Position

Programme	Budget	Forecast	Variance £m	Variance %
	1 April 23 £m	Q1 £m		
Adult Care & Health	3.884	2.786	-1.098	-28%
Children, Families & Education	16.929	9.310	-7.619	-45%
Neighbourhoods	29.143	23.015	-6.128	-21%
Regeneration & Place	116.681	46.137	-70.544	-60%
Resources	11.421	5.703	-5.718	-50%
Total	178.058	86.951	-91.107	-51%

Capital Programme 2023/24 Position by Committee

Table 2: Wirral Council 2023/24 Forecast Position

Programme	Budget 1	Q1	Variance £m	Variance %
	April 23 £m	Forecast £m		
Adult Social Care & Health	3.884	2.786	-1.098	-28%
Children, Young People & Education	16.929	9.310	-7.619	-45%
Economy, Regeneration & Housing	102.351	39.462	-62.889	-61%
Environment, Climate Emergency & Transport	31.008	22.242	-8.766	-28%
Policy & Resources	16.541	8.249	-8.292	-50%
Tourism, Communities, Culture & Leisure	7.345	4.902	-2.443	-33%
Total	178.058	86.951	-91.107	-51%

- 3.1.1 Tables 1 and 2 provide an update on the 2023/24 Capital Programme analysed on a Directorate and then Committee basis. A number of variations have arisen since the original programme was agreed at the end of February 2023 and subsequently revised via the 2022/23 Outturn report. These include the re-profiling of expenditure into and out of the 2022/23 financial year, inclusion of additional grant funded schemes and variations to spend forecasts. There are three new capital funding requests, including the repurposing of previously approved budget, see 3.7 of this report. Within Quarter 1 there has been a net decrease of £91.11 million of budget forecast as required in 2023/24. Appendix A of this report provides further analysis of the movement of the forecast programme across directorates during the year to date.
- 3.1.2 As noted above, the main movements in this year's programme so far are in respect of deferrals of budget into future years along with the inclusion of new funding and schemes into the programme.
- 3.1.3 It is anticipated that further reductions and/or deferrals of budget will be made in future quarters. Such deferrals reduce the borrowing costs incurred during 2023/24 and also delays the resultant Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) charges into future years.
- 3.1.4 Given the budgetary pressures that the Council faces, a review of the programme continues to try and identify schemes that may no longer be financially viable, essential, or deliverable.

3.2 Reprofiling of expenditure

- 3.2.1 Regular meetings are held with officers who are responsible for capital projects contained within the programme. During these meetings assessments are made regarding the deliverability of the schemes and their budgetary requirement for the year. These assessments are reflected in the forecast outturn provided through the quarterly update reports to Members. Should it be assessed that a scheme will continue into the next financial year, or beyond, budget is reprofiled as deemed appropriate at that time.
- 3.2.2 A scheme should not be paused or deferred into a future year if this action were to lead to avoidable detrimental effects on the Council. The project lead officers determine if a scheme is appropriate for deferral and manage any risks or negative impacts associated with this decision. Schemes that are part or fully funded from grant require additional consideration before deferral, so as not to compromise the conditions of the grant agreements, which may jeopardise the scheme funding.
- 3.2.3 A review of the profiling of expenditure within the Capital Programme is continuing and is likely to lead to a further reduction in anticipated spend for the year.

3.3 Scheme Updates

- 3.3.1 Schemes are subject to an ongoing review to ensure that a deliverable programme is in place, that they are compatible with the Wirral Plan 2021/2026 priorities and to try and identify any savings. Current progress on the more significant schemes is provided in Appendix B of this report.

3.3.2 Scheme costs are constantly monitored by project officers. Due to record high inflationary pressures within the economy, financial monitoring of schemes is of utmost importance to identify any potential budgetary issues that may arise such as an increase in the cost of building materials. Any such pressures that are identified will be reported that may jeopardise the delivery of a scheme. It will then be determined as to whether the scheme must apply for additional funding to complete the project, or whether the scheme becomes no longer viable from a financial perspective. Similarly, should a contractor become insolvent in the current financial climate, a decision will need to be taken regarding the future of the scheme.

3.4 Grant Funded Schemes

A new additional award of grant has been received during Quarter 1 relating to the Capital Programme.

3.4.1 Aids, Adaptations and Disabled Facility Grants- £4.724m

Capital funding from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities for the provision of home adaptations to help older and disabled people to live as independently and safely as possible in their homes.

3.4.2 West Kirby Flood Alleviation Project - £3.000m

After publication of the report to Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee on 14 March 2023, it became clear that a number of very complex modifications were required to the design of the flood wall and the surrounding surfaces where moving flood gates need to be positioned. This process has taken longer than predicted and has been further complicated by recently discovered unforeseen underground obstructions, such as pre-existing structural foundations, requiring further modifications and design changes. The costs of the delays associated with these modifications, as well as the additional construction works required as a result, is considerable in circumstances where global prices have continued to increase. Additional grant in aid totalling £3m is due to be received from the Environment Agency to cover all the cost increases and the Section 151 Officer will accept this grant under the Constitution. The construction contract with VolkerStevin Ltd has also been varied accordingly, so that the council can make the necessary payments on time and meet its contractual obligations. A full report on the procurement of the contract and all associated costs will be presented to Audit and Risk Management Committee in autumn 2023, once the works are fully completed and the final contract account is agreed.

3.5 Virements

Appendix C of this report lists the budget virements that have been identified where schemes have been identified as not requiring the full budget allocation as originally expected. This resource is to be reallocated to schemes that require additional resource to fully complete the works.

3.6 Capital Funding Requirements

Table 3 Financing the Capital Programme 2023/24

Source of Financing	Programme 1 April 2023 £m	Programme 30 June 2023 £m	Variance £m
Borrowing	59.811	39.930	-19.881
Grants/Contributions	115.365	45.010	-70.355
Capital Receipts	2.685	1.790	-0.895
Revenue/Reserves	0.197	0.221	0.024
Total	178.058	86.951	-91.107

3.6.1 Any re-profiling that reduces borrowing will produce one-off revenue savings. A permanent saving only occurs if schemes cease, otherwise the full budget will be required in 2024/25 when the re-profiled expenditure is incurred.

3.7 Recommendations to Full Council: Approval for Funding

3.7.1 Below are summaries of the Capital bids seeking approval for funding via this report. Further detail is provided in Appendix D to this report.

3.7.2 Children’s System Development – Additional Borrowing Request £0.330m

A top-up bid to a previously approved scheme; this capital project will see the merger of two separate case management systems into one information system. Application of just one system is expected to yield numerous operational benefits along with financial benefits in only having to maintain one system rather than two. The request for additional funding is due to increased costs on the project due to a number of unforeseen delays due to resource constraints, technical infrastructure problems and supplier development issues. Funding of these additional costs will be covered by the remaining existing capital budget, the utilisation of education capital grant (Schools Basic Needs Grant), contributions from the revenue budget and additional borrowing.

3.7.3 Hind Street Programme – Borrowing Request £2.255m

This proposal is to seek additional capital funding for the Hind Street Urban Village scheme for costs forecast to be incurred in 2023/24. This proposal relates to the delivery of Phases A and B of the Hind Street Urban Village scheme on a brownfield site close to Birkenhead Town Centre in an area of very high deprivation. Phases A and B will deliver 626 new residential units (of which 10% will be affordable homes, delivered with a registered provider and in line with policy) plus 1,439m² of ancillary retail and commercial accommodation. It will also include new active mode and public transport infrastructure and greenspace. The full Hind Street development (also including Phases C, D and E) will deliver a total of 1,578 homes.

3.7.4 Office Quarter Building Fit-Out – Additional Borrowing Request £4.000m

The regeneration of Birkenhead has been a long-term priority for the Authority as it supports our ambitions around inclusive economic growth, sustainable development

and the promotion of increased prosperity for our residents. The delivery of the Birkenhead Commercial District (BCD) represents a key opportunity to contribute significantly to these aims and objectives. This office space will be an anchor in the ambitious regeneration project that is taking place across Birkenhead and will be home for Wirral Council employees along with partner organisations. Further funding is required to deliver the full programme of works including the relocation of the Archives, Records Management and other services.

3.7.5 Environmental Improvements – Borrowing Request £0.300m over four years

The Litter bin provision is a statutory requirement of the Council under the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), as part of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 and the Governments Litter Strategy of 2017 which requires Local Authorities to deliver a cleaner and safer environment for communities and business improvement districts. The main obligation is to provide a comprehensive infrastructure of litter bins to capture litter at specific locations, provide and maintain the Authorities litter bin provision with regard to new installations, repairs and replacement losses for damaged and deteriorated litter bins. There is currently no funding mechanism in place to purchase litter bins and other related items for 2023/24 financial year.

3.8 Other Scheme Matters

3.8.1 Strategic Acquisition - Regeneration

Policy & Resource Committee on 27 April 2023 agreed the recommendation by the Director of Regeneration and Place to acquire a location of strategic importance from a regeneration perspective, subject to the completion of satisfactory due diligence. The transaction was completed in May 2023.

3.8.2 To enhance the information contained within future capital monitoring reports, a data collection exercise is underway to collate specific scheme summary information from project leads. This enhancement to the information will provide context to the position and delivery risk of projects. It is anticipated that this exercise will provide information in time for the Quarter 2 reporting.

3.8.3 Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP)

A budget reduction of £4.13 million has been included with the revised capital programme. A new HR/Payroll system will no longer be incorporated into the ERP project. The decision was made not to proceed with the oracle HCM solution following an assessment of total implementation costs against the potential benefits of integration and a review of the business case. There would also have been some loss of functionality by moving to oracle HCM compared to what the system offers now and there would have been a requirement to pass on significantly higher licence costs to schools which brought a risk that they may elect to take their business elsewhere.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 This is the Quarter 1 Budget Monitoring Report, to the end of June 2023 that provides information on the forecast outturn and progress against the Capital Programme. The Council has systems for reporting and forecasting budgets in place and alongside formal quarterly reporting to Committee. The financial position is regularly reviewed at each Directorate Management Team and corporately at the Investment & Change Board (ICB).
- 4.2 The Capital Programme is funded via a number of sources including Council borrowing, capital receipts, grants and revenue contributions. Where the Authority finances capital expenditure by borrowing, it must put aside resources to repay that debt in later years. The amount charged to the revenue budget for the repayment of debt is known as Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP). If the Capital Programme is delivered as forecast in this report, the Authority will consequently require borrowing of £39.9 million this year to finance the capital schemes covered by this report. This forecast level of borrowing has decreased from the forecast £59.8 million in the revised programme in the 2022/23 Outturn report due to the reprofiling of budget into future years. This debt would be repaid via charges to the revenue budget over the lives of the assets created or enhanced. The revenue impact of the additional £39.9 million of borrowing required to fund all forecast works in 2023/24 is as follows:

Table 4: MRP Charges to Revenue Relating to 2023/24 Debt Funded Capital

	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Additional revenue cost	0.991	1.038	1.088	1.400

Notes

- MRP repayments from revenue only start the year after the capital expenditure has taken place i.e., for spend incurred in 2023/24, the first MRP repayments will be charged in the 2024/25 revenue accounts.
 - The additional revenue costs in Table 4 are not cumulative, rather an annual comparison to the current MRP charges to be incurred.
- 4.3 It is estimated that these costs will peak in 2030/31 at £1.273 million reflecting the fact that the principal repayment associated with debt (the Minimum Revenue Provision) increases over the expected life of the asset funded from borrowing. This repayment profile is due to the Council adopting the “Annuity Method” of repayment which was agreed by Council (on 19 December 2016). The “Annuity Method” produces a profile of principal repayments which starts low and increases each year reflecting the time value of money i.e., £1 in year 1 will have more purchasing power than to £1 in year 10.
- 4.4 Any reprofiling or ‘slippage’ of debt funded capital spend will delay the associated MRP being charged to the revenue budget. Future years MRP is included within the rolling Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP).
- 4.5 The full revised Capital Programme can be found in Appendix E to this report.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Council must set the budget (of which the Capital Programme is part of) 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 Members must bear in mind their fiduciary duty to the Council Taxpayers of Wirral. Members must have adequate evidence on which to base their decisions on the level of quality at which services should be provided.
- 5.3 Where a service is provided pursuant to a statutory duty, it would not be lawful to fail to discharge it properly or abandon it, and where there is discretion as to how it is to be discharged, that discretion should be exercised reasonably.
- 5.4 The report sets out the relevant considerations for Members to consider during their deliberations and Members are reminded of the need to ignore irrelevant considerations. Members have a duty to seek to ensure that the Council acts lawfully. Members must not come to a decision which no reasonable authority could come to; balancing the nature, quality, and level of services which they consider should be provided, against the costs of providing such services.
- 5.5 Once a budget is in place, Council has delegated responsibility to the Policy and Services Committees to implement it. The Committees may not act contrary to the Budget without consent of Council other than in accordance with the Procedure Rules set out at Part 4(3) of the Constitution.
- 5.6 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 There are no staffing, IT or asset implications arising directly from this report.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 7.1 The possibility of failure to deliver the Capital Programme will be mitigated by regular programme review by a senior group of officers, charged with improving performance. The Investment and Change Board (ICB) is supported by the Change Advisory Board (CAB), which will provide enhanced Capital Programme review. The most recent CAB meeting took place in June.
- 7.2 The possible failure to deliver the Revenue Budget is being mitigated by:

- (1) Senior Leadership / Directorate Teams regularly reviewing the financial position.
- (2) Availability of General Fund Balances.
- (3) Where possible, reprofiling of 2023/24 projected Capital expenditure

7.3 In terms of individual scheme specific risks, these are identified as part of the original business case application and any potential risks to deliverability should be flagged as part of the ongoing scheme review process.

7.4 Within the reviews undertaken by the CAB, schemes which encounter difficulties or additional delivery risk will be subject to additional scrutiny and where necessary escalation to ICB.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

8.1 This is an in-year report. Consultation takes place as part of considering the capital programme and over the planning and implementation of the specific schemes within the Programme.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There is a particular requirement to take into consideration the Council's fiduciary duty and the public sector equality duty in coming to its decision.

9.2 The public sector equality duty is that a public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to: (1) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Equality Act 2010; (2) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and (3) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

9.3 Any decision made in the exercise of any function is potentially open to challenge if the duty has been disregarded. The duty applies both to Full Council when setting the budget and to Committees when considering particular decisions.

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

10.1 Capital bids are welcomed that support the Council's Climate Emergency Plan that was compiled following the declaration of a Climate Emergency by the Council in May 2019. Within the existing capital programme there are projects that positively contribute to environmental issues. The environmental and climate implications, both positive and negative, are reported for each scheme separately to the relevant policy and service committee.

10.2 The programme also includes projects that focus on environmental initiatives such as energy efficient buildings, sustainable and green travel infrastructure, energy efficient street lighting, urban tree planting and flood alleviation works.

11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH IMPLICATIONS

11.1 The Community Wealth Building Strategy is a key part of how the Authority will tackle economic, social and health inequalities across the borough and make a major contribution to improving the economic, social and health outcomes on the Wirral. Schemes contained within the Capital programme include several regeneration projects that look to improve the economic outlook for the borough, including job creation, training facilities and enhanced transport links. The Community Wealth Building implications are reported for each scheme separately to the relevant policy and service committee.

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APPENDICES

Appendix A Movement Between Opening Budget and Q1 Forecast Position
Appendix B Scheme Updates
Appendix C Virements Within Quarter 1
Appendix D Capital Bids Seeking Approval for Funding
Appendix E Revised Capital Programme 2023/24
Appendix F Prudential Indicators 2023/24

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the UK 2021/22.
Local Government Act 2003 and subsequent amendments.
Local Government (Capital Finance and Accounting) Regulations 2008.
Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

This report is being considered by the Policy and Resources Committee in accordance with 1.2(a)(i) of the Policy and Resources Committee Terms of Reference:

formulate, co-ordinate and implement corporate policies and strategies and the medium-term financial plan (budget), which includes responsibility for any decision:

(i) that relates to such matters to the extent that they are not reserved to full Council.

Policy and Resources Committee is recommended to refer the decision to Council in accordance with 2(a)(i)(1) of the Functions Reserved to Council:

The Council reserves to itself the following functions (in accordance with the rules and procedures contained in this Constitution):

(i) The Budget – The approval or adoption of a plan or strategy for the control of the local authority's borrowing, investments, or capital expenditure or for determining the authority's minimum revenue provision, which includes the overarching annual: -

(1) Capital programme

(2) Capital Financing Strategy

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Cabinet – 2019/20 Capital Outturn Report	27 July 2020
Council – 2020/21 Capital Monitoring Q1	19 October 2020
Council – 2020/21 Capital Monitoring Q2	7 December 2020
Budget Council – 2020/21 Capital Monitoring Q3	1 March 2021
Council - 2020/21 Capital Outturn Report	6 September 2021
Budget Council – 2021/26 Capital Programme	1 March 2021
Budget Council - 2021/22 Capital Financing Strategy	1 March 2021
Council – 2021/22 Capital Monitoring Q1	18 October 2021
Council – 2021/22 Capital Monitoring Q2	6 December 2021
Council – 2021/22 Capital Monitoring Q3	28 February 2022
Council – 2021/22 Capital Outturn Report	11 July 2022
Council – 2022/27 Capital Programme	28 February 2022
Council – 2022/27 Capital Financing Strategy	28 February 2022
Council – 2022/23 Capital Monitoring Q1	10 October 2022
Council – 2022/23 Capital Monitoring Q2	5 December 2022
Council – 2022/23 Capital Monitoring Q3	27 February 2023
Council – 2022/23 Capital Outturn Report	10 July 2023
Council – 2023/28 Capital Programme	27 February 2023
Council – 2023/28 Capital Financing Strategy	27 February 2023

Appendix A

Movement Between Opening Budget at 1 April 2023 and Q1 Forecast Position

Programme	Budget 1 April 23 £m	Additional Grant £m	Funding Adjustments (inc Virements) £m	New Bids £m	Scheme Reduction £m	Reprofiling to Future Yrs £m	Forecast Q1 £m
Adult Care & Health	3.884	-	-	-	-0.060	-1.038	2.786
Children, Families & Education	16.929	-	-	0.392	-	-8.011	9.310
Corporate Schemes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Neighbourhoods	29.143	3.000	-	0.075	-	-9.203	23.015
Regeneration & Place	116.681	4.724	-	17.255	-0.001	-92.522	46.137
Resources	11.421	-	-	-	-4.130	-1.588	5.703
Total	178.058	7.724	0.000	17.722	-4.191	-112.362	86.951

Appendix B

Capital Programme – Scheme Updates

B1 Adult Social Care & Health

- **Extra Care Housing** - Adult Social Care Commissioning Leads are working closely with strategic housing colleagues on new site opportunities which are either at planning or pre-planning stage. There are several sites under current consideration across Wirral.
- **Telecare & Telehealth Ecosystem** –Initial work completed to identify precursor events - falls and other emergencies attended by Responders. Identification of pre-cursors to medical events is delayed due to inaccessibility of health data. Telecare Proof of Concept 2 is now underway. New DHSC monies became available in October 2022, focussing on the introduction of digital care systems for social care provider services.

B2 Children, Families & Education

- **School Condition Allocation (SCA)** –Funding to support condition works, including:
 - £1.435m for roof works at:
 - Barnston Primary School
 - Bidston Avenue Primary School
 - Hoylake Holy Trinity School
 - Kingsway Primary School
 - Leasowe Early Years Centre
 - Devonshire Park Primary School
 - Mersey Park Primary School.
 - £0.100m toilet refurbishment at Heygarth Primary School.
 - £0.150m lintel and brickwork at Lingham Primary School.
 - £0.800m for extension works at Raeburn Primary School.
 - £0.100m for classroom conversion at Ganney’s Meadow Library
- **Special Educational Needs and Disabilities / High Needs Provision Capital** – To deliver additional classroom provision for SEN pupils across several Special schools. The planned schemes cover Leasowe Early Years Centre, The Observatory School and Pensby/Elleray Park School

B3 Neighbourhoods

- **Highway Maintenance** – Planning for major schemes commenced in January, with works orders currently being issued.
- **Combined Authority Transport Plan (CATP)** –Ongoing delivery of schemes which meet the priorities of the Road Safety Working Group including implementation of the borough wide 20mph speed limit project and other key

projects relating to local safety, traffic signal, pedestrian access and public rights of way improvements.

- **West Kirby Flood Alleviation** – The precast concrete units are now in place with the majority of the promenade resurfaced. Foundation work is currently underway for the floodgates with installation to follow. The main costs for the 23-24 financial year are the construction of the floodgate foundations and the construction of in-situ walls, work around both of which has been delayed due to poor ground conditions and the discovery of previously unknown underground obstacles.

B4 **Regeneration & Place**

- **Town Deal Fund Birkenhead** – This £25m fund is to enable access to capital grants to support the regeneration of Birkenhead. It encompasses a number of projects to be delivered both internally and by external organisations. A Treasury compliant 'Green Book' business case has been prepared and approved for each of the projects. Grants will be paid out to the organisations delivering the external projects via Grant Funding Agreements. All projects will be delivered by March 2026. Robust monitoring and evaluation arrangements are in place.
- **Aids, Adaptations and Disabled Facility Grant** – This is a ring-fenced grant received for the provision of aids and adaptations which is operated on a rolling basis where works can be committed in one year and expenditure incurred the next or across financial years. The department has been advised that a further allocation will be made this financial year however, this is yet to be confirmed.
- **Future High Streets (Birkenhead)** – This is a capital grant from Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC). Budget currently profiled across a number of years until 2023/24. Funding to support regeneration of Birkenhead Town Centre - Market, Europa Housing and Connectivity (Grange Road/Charing Cross/Conway Street/Bus Station area improvements). Activity is continuing at pace in terms of design, public consultation and the procurement of delivery partners.
- **Maritime Knowledge Hub**
The council continue to work with Peel and the LCRCA to develop the MKH project and all parties are committed to its development and delivery. The parties are currently considering a revised delivery model where the council will take a head lease to mitigate some of the developer risk and enable the project to progress. This revised approach is required because the former proposal whereby the council was proposing to take a 250-year lease and fund the project through borrowing became unviable following the rise in interest rates following the Truss administration. The proposal now has planning consent and all the required survey have been undertaken.

B5 Resources

- **Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) – Phase 1** (Core Financials and Procurement) was delivered in April 23 with EPM going live on 12/06/23. Phase 2 (SQM, Sourcing, Projects, Supplier Portal has been partially delivered and P-Card (expenses) id due to go live on 3rd July 2023. There is high confidence on delivery of Phase 2 and within budget.
- **IT Client Refreshment, Laptops, Desktops & Tablets** - The initial batch of new devices has been purchased. Work is on-going with the delivery partner to plan the deployment and implementation of new technologies.

Appendix C

Virements within Quarter 1

Directorate	Scheme	Proposed Virement £'m	Proposed Reallocation	Reason
Neighbourhoods	Highways Maintenance	0.250	West Kirby Flood Alleviation	To cover the Compensation Event for the landward side re-kerbing, which is all part of the highway and public realm improvements rather than the wall structure and will help improve levels for surface water drainage flow.
Children, Families & Education	Basic Needs	0.100	Children's System Development	Reallocation of grant funding to enable to continuation of the Children's System Development, as part of the additional funding request referenced in this report.

Appendix D

Capital Bids Seeking Approval for Funding

E1 **Children's System Development – Additional Funding Request £0.330m (total additional cost £0.492m)**

Children's Services has historically maintained two distinct case management / information systems. LiquidLogic currently provides the Early Help and Social Care system. Capita provides the Early Years, Education and SEND system.

The Capita ONE Education System is outside its original contract period. Back in 2020 capital funding was secured to replace the Capita ONE Education System with LiquidLogic EYEs (Early Years Education System), meaning that going forward, all Children's Services information would be recorded and maintained in one system. A second capital bid was approved in March 2022 for £692k to bring in additional, technical resource to support with the implementation. This would bring about a number of benefits, both operational and financial.

During year 2, the project had numerous delays which were outside of the projects team's control. Internal technical I.T infrastructure issues, asset relocation, resource capacity conflicts and functionality complications from the supplier have hampered the initial delivery timetable leading to delays.

As a consequence of these delays and to allow a continued protected information service, additional support costs will be payable to Capita ONE. Additional funding is also required to acquire a suitable data migration process and ensure that data quality reports and quality checks are established so that they are prepared, tested and ready for going live on completion.

Of the total additional cost, the capital ask is for a top-up of £0.330m of Council borrowing, with the remaining costs being funded from a combination of existing education grant (£0.100m) and revenue contributions (£0.062m).

E2 **Hind Street Programme – Funding Request £2.255m of borrowing**

This proposal relates to the delivery of Phases A and B of the Hind Street Urban Village scheme on a brownfield site close to Birkenhead Town Centre in an area of very high deprivation. Phases A and B will deliver 626 new residential units (of which 10% will be affordable homes, delivered with a registered provider and in line with policy) plus 1,439m² of ancillary retail and commercial accommodation. It will also include new active mode and public transport infrastructure and greenspace. The full Hind Street development (also including Phases C, D and E) will deliver a total of 1,578 homes.

Homes England grant funding assistance of £25.2 million is sought by Wirral Council towards the development cost. The grant is necessary in order to render the scheme viable. In addition to the Homes England grant, it is also proposed that the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority (LCRCA) will fund active mode transport infrastructure through a grant of £16.1 million.

The Phase A and B project will result in new investment in the heart of Birkenhead and will contribute strongly to levelling up in one of the most deprived areas of the country. It will result in the re-use of a vacant, derelict, brownfield site.

The project will help to meet identified local housing need, attract new residents to central Birkenhead, and increase local expenditure, which will help to sustain and grow activity in Birkenhead Town Centre. Birkenhead has a much lower proportion of private sector housing, and a higher proportion of social housing, than in the wider Wirral area, regionally or nationally. The development will help to rebalance the tenure mix. It will also provide new greenspace, walkways and cycleways including through the creation of Dock Branch Park South, a linear parkway re-using a former railway line.

E3 Office Quarter Building Fit Out – Additional Funding Request £4.000m

Birkenhead Commercial District - New Office Development being Developed by Wirral Growth Company.

- Phase 1 capital works for both buildings are due to complete in early Sept 2023. These works are fully funded by Canada Life. No capital cost to the Council.
- Phase 2 works to allow council occupation of Council staff of part Building
- A1 to commence Sept 2023 with the Council taking occupation in March 2024.
 - Initial budget cost estimate for capital phase 2 works of £5.4m including fees and contingency approved in 2020.
 - Estimated costs now being developed into full cost-plan as detailed scope of works for the phase 2 fit out is finalised.
- Additional costs outside the scope of Phase 2 works include relocation from Cheshire Lines Building and building exit costs, removal and re-install of furniture, IT infrastructure.
- Relocation of the Archive and data centre.
- Additional allowances for continued inflation in build costs is high which has increased the overall capital value of the works. The programme team will continue to value engineer the scheme through the next phase of delivery.

E4 Environmental Improvements – Borrowing Request £0.300m over four years

The Litter bin provision is a statutory requirement of the Council under the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), as part of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 and the Governments Litter Strategy of 2017 which requires Local Authorities to deliver a cleaner and safer environment for communities and business improvement districts.

The main obligation is to provide a comprehensive infrastructure of litter bins to capture litter at specific locations, provide and maintain the Authorities litter bin

provision with regard to new installations, repairs and replacement losses for damaged and deteriorated litter bins.

The current litter bin infrastructure places a high demand on contracted resource for emptying bins and produces a high yield of Carbon footprint to service the current stock of 4600 on street litter bins positioned throughout the borough. It is unlikely that the Council could replace its entire stock of litter bins, however, under the 'Love Where You Live' strategy the replacement of standard type litter bins with Solar Compaction bins can reduce waste collection frequencies and reduce costs. There will also be carbon reduction benefits of reduced mileage and vehicle maintenance and also improve local environmental quality, as operations can be focused more on litter picking and clearing accumulations.

Appendix E

Revised Capital Programme at Quarter 1 2023/24

Scheme	2023/24			2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
	Budget 1 Apr 23 £000	Q1 Forecast £000	Variance £000	Budget £000	Budget £000	Budget £000	Budget £000
Adult Care and Health							
Better Care Fund (Disabled Facilities Grant)	433	433	0				
Citizen and Provider Portal/Integrated I.T.	63	63	0				
Extra Care Housing	1,645	1,057	-588	1,219			
Liquidlogic - Early Intervention & Prevention	214	214	0				
Telecare & Telehealth Ecosystem	1,529	1,019	-510	834			
Total Adult Care and Health	3,884	2,786	-1,098	2,053	0	0	0
Children, Families & Education							
Basic Needs	1,028	100	-928	828	427		
Children's System Development	760	807	47	445			
School Condition Allocation (SCA)	9,198	5,000	-4,198	6,698	2,500	2,500	2,500
Family support	157	137	-20	20			
High Needs Provision Capital	4,392	2,000	-2,392	2,392			
PFI	52	52	0				
School Remodelling/Classrooms (School Place Planning)	1	1	0				
Special Educational Needs & Disabilities	478	350	-128	128			
Transforming Care - Therapeutic Short Breaks	863	863	0				
Total Children, Families & Education	16,929	9,310	-7,619	10,511	2,927	2,500	2,500

Scheme	2023/24			2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
	Budget 1 Apr 23 £000	Q1 Forecast £000	Variance £000	Budget £000	Budget £000	Budget £000	Budget £000
Neighbourhoods							
Air Quality Control DEFRA	120	80	-40	40			
Allotment Sites Expansion	72	48	-24	24			
Arts Council Capital LIF	21	14	-7	7			
Ashton Park Lake	144	96	-48	48			
Birkenhead Park World Heritage Project Team	85	57	-28	28			
Bridges excluding Dock Bridge	894	596	-298	298			
Catering Units	160	107	-53	53			
Cemetery Extension & Improvements (Frankby)	142	95	-47	47			
Churchyard Boundary & Landican Cememetry Structural	56	37	-19	19			
Climate Emergency Budget	52	35	-17	17			
Coastal Defence - Meols Feasibility Study	100	67	-33	33			
Combined Authority Transport Plan (CATP)	3,712	2,475	-1,237	3,397	1,910	1,910	
Coronation Park Sustainable Drainage	222	148	-74	74			
Defibrillators	13	9	-4	4			
Dock Bridges replacement	210	140	-70	70			
Environmental Improvements	0	75	75	75	75	75	
Essential H&S Access Improvements @ Wirral Country Park	1	1	0				
Fitness Equipment	4	2	-2	2			
Flaybrick Cemetery Pathway	200	193	-7	7			
Food Waste	0	0	0	3,200			

Scheme	2023/24			2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
	Budget 1 Apr 23 £000	Q1 Forecast £000	Variance £000	Budget £000	Budget £000	Budget £000	Budget £000
Neighbourhoods (continued)							
Future Golf - Project 1.1	188	125	-63	250			
Grange Cemetery	45	30	-15	15			
Highway Maintenance	7,213	4,642	-2,571	2,884	563	563	
Key Route Network (LGF3) -Operate Key Roads / Routes	166	111	-55	55			
Key Route Network CRSTS	1,757	1,171	-586	586			
Levelling Up Parks Fund-Woodchurch	38	25	-13	13			
Library Radio Frequency Identification Kiosks	80	80	0				
Lyndale Ave Parking & Safety Measures	124	0	-124	124			
Moreton Sandbrook Drainage	203	135	-68	68			
New Brighton Gym Equipment	3	2	-1	1			
New Ferry Rangers Community Clubhouse	843	562	-281	281			
Parks Machinery	2,136	1,424	-712	1,211			
Parks Vehicles	580	387	-193	642	42		
Parks Workshop & various machinery	135	90	-45	45			
Play Area Improvements	177	118	-59	59			
Plymyard Cemetery Roadways	75	50	-25	25			
Plymyard Playing Field	134	89	-45	45			
Quick Win Levy	15	10	-5	5			
Removal of remaining analogue CCTV circuits	4	0	-4	4			

Scheme	2023/24			2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
	Budget 1 Apr 23 £000	Q1 Forecast £000	Variance £000	Budget £000	Budget £000	Budget £000	Budget £000
Neighbourhoods (continued)							
Solar Campus 3G	30	0	-30	30			
Street Lighting Column - Replacement or Upgrade	483	322	-161	161			
Street Lighting -Illuminated Lighting and Signage	27	18	-9	9			
Studio refurbishment Les Mills classes	15	10	-5	5			
Surface Water Management Scheme	57	38	-19	19			
Tower Road National Productivity Investment Fund (NPIF)	157	105	-52	52			
Traffic Signal LED Upgrade	1,166	777	-389	389			
Tree Strategy	64	43	-21	21			
Urban Tree Challenge Fund	147	98	-49	49			
Wallasey Embankment Toe Reinforcement	618	0	-618	618			
West Kirby Flood alleviation	2,505	5,755	3,250				
Williamson Art Gallery Catalogue	56	37	-19	19			
Williamson Art Gallery Ventilation	288	192	-96	96			
Wirral Tennis Centre - 3G Pitch	1,065	710	-355	355			
Wirral Tennis Centre - Facility Upgrade	515	343	-172	172			
Wirral Way Widening	70	70	0				
Woodchurch Sports Pavillion	1,756	1,171	-585	585			
Total Neighbourhoods	29,143	23,015	-6,128	16,336	2,590	2,548	0

Scheme	2023/24			2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
	Budget	Q1	Variance	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget
	1 Apr 23	Forecast					
Regeneration & Place							
Active Travel Tranche 2	1,517	1,011	-506	506			
Aids, Adaptations and Disabled Facility Grants	2,521	4,830	2,309	2,415			
Arrowe Country Park - New Machine Shed & Wash Bay	109	73	-36	36			
Arrowe Country Park Depot: Re-Surfacing, Material Bays	27	18	-9	9			
Bebington Oval Facility Upgrade	527	351	-176	176			
Birkenhead Market Construction	13,300	1,500	-11,800	25,750			
Birkenhead Regeneration Delivery Fund	3,034	1,034	-2,000	2,000			
Birkenhead Regeneration Framework	315	210	-105	105			
Birkenhead Town Centre Masterplanning & Housing Delivery	290	193	-97	97			
Birkenhead Waterfront Programme	21,000	1,030	-19,970	19,970			
Business Investment Fund	585	50	-535	535			
Capitalisation of Regen Salaries	971	971	0	984			
Changing Places Toilets	137	91	-46	46			
Clearance	191	127	-64	258			
Community Asset Transfer	500	0	-500	500			
Concerto Asset Management System	25	17	-8	8			
Connecting Wirral Waters: Detailed Design	42	28	-14	14			
Consolidated Library Works Fund	279	186	-93	93			
Demolitions	1,346	897	-449	449			
Depot Welfare Improvements	45	30	-15	15			

Scheme	2023/24			2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
	Budget 1 Apr 23 £000	Q1 Forecast £000	Variance £000	Budget £000	Budget £000	Budget £000	Budget £000
Regeneration & Place (continued)							
Empty Property Grant Scheme	315	210	-105	415			
Emslie Morgan (Solar Campus)	447	298	-149	149			
Energy efficient buildings	370	247	-123	493			
Future High Streets Fund New Ferry	3,112	1,000	-2,112	2,112			
Floral Pavilion	100	67	-33	33			
Future High Streets - Birkenhead	12,403	4,000	-8,403	8,043			
Health & Safety - Condition Surveys	1,715	1,143	-572	3,072			
Heswall Day Centre (part only)	50	33	-17	17			
Hind Street Programme	0	1,499	1,499	42,056			
Housing Infrastructure Fund (Enabling Infrastructure)	1	0	-1	0			
Hoylake Golf works depot demolish and replace	1	0	-1	1			
Landican Chapels	40	27	-13	13			
Leisure Capital Improvement Programme	470	0	-470	470			
Lever Sports Pavilion	0	0	0	80			
Liscard Town Centre Delivery	10	7	-3	3			
Major Infrastructure Development & Strategic Transport	210	140	-70	70			
Maritime Knowledge Hub	12,351	100	-12,251	12,251	10,650		
Moreton Youth Club & Library	993	662	-331	331			
New Brighton Masterplan for Marine Promenade	45	30	-15	15			

Scheme	2023/24			2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
	Budget 1 Apr 23 £000	Q1 Forecast £000	Variance £000	Budget £000	Budget £000	Budget £000	Budget £000
Regeneration & Place (continued)							
New Ferry Regeneration Strategic Acquisitions	1,342	500	-842	842			
Office Quarter Building Fit-Out	5,248	9,248	4,000				
Parks and Countryside DDA	421	281	-140	140			
Pool Covers	252	168	-84	84			
Property Pooled Plus I.T System	20	13	-7	7			
Soft Play Areas Leisure Centres	410	273	-137	137			
Strategic Acquisition Fund	2,992	10,500	7,508	2,992			
Strategic Acquisitions - Capital Enhancements		333	333	667	500	500	500
SUD - Leasowe to Seacombe Corridor	3,016	0	-3,016	3,016			
TAG Bus Case-A41 Corridor North	192	128	-64	64			
TAG Bus Case-Wirral Waters outline	39	26	-13	13			
Town Centre scheme - New Ferry	5	3	-2	2			
Town Deal Fund - Birkenhead	15,189	2,000	-13,189	8,909	11,455		
Town Fund B'head	53	35	-18	18			
UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF)	176	117	-59	445			
Vale Park Toilets	100	67	-33	33			
West Kirby Concourse/Guinea Gap Reception upgrade	351	234	-117	117			
West Kirby Marine Lake/Sailing Centre – accommodation	93	62	-31	31			
West Kirby Masterplan	58	39	-19	19			

Scheme	2023/24			2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
	Budget 1 Apr 23 £000	Q1 Forecast £000	Variance £000	Budget £000	Budget £000	Budget £000	Budget £000
Regeneration & Place (continued)							
Wirral Waters Investment Fund	7,000	0	-7,000	7,000			
Woodchurch Capital Asset Transfer	330	0	-330	330			
Total Regeneration & Place	116,681	46,137	-70,544	141,816	29,605	500	500
Resources							
Creative & Digital Team - specialist software and hardware	9	6	-3	3			
Customer Experience Improvements Project	738	738	0				
Digital Foundations Programme	1,302	1,302	0				
Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) System	6,130	1,500	-4,630	500			
Legal Case Management System	8	1,790	1,782	1,790			
Local Digital Cyber Fund	163	8	-155				
Replacement of IT Service Management System	173	109	-64	54			
Upgrade of WIFI Network	97	173	76				
Worksmart I.T.	116	0	-116	97			
IT Client Refreshment, Laptops, Desktops & Tablets	2,685	77	-2,608	39			
Total Resources	11,421	5,703	-5,718	2,483	0	0	0
Total Capital Programme	178,058	86,951	- 91,107	173,199	35,122	5,548	3,000

Appendix F

Prudential Indicators 2023/24

(a) Adoption of the CIPFA Treasury Management Code

This indicator demonstrates that the Authority adopted the principles of best practice.

The Council has previously approved the adoption of the CIPFA Treasury Management Code 2021 Edition.

(b) Capital Expenditure

This indicator is set to ensure that the level of proposed capital expenditure remains within sustainable limits and in particular, to consider the impact on Council Tax.

The first Prudential Indicator is the estimate of capital expenditure that the Council will incur in this financial year and the following two years, table G1 below shows the original estimates for 2022/23 onwards when the Capital Financing Strategy 2023/24 was approved (Council meeting 27 February 2023):

Table G1: Prudential Indicator: Original Estimates of Capital Expenditure

	2022/23 Forecast	2023/24 Estimate	2024/25 Estimate	2025/26 Estimate	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Capital Expenditure	86,302	132,239	43,352	5,660	267,553
Total	86,302	132,239	43,352	5,660	267,553

Table G2 shows how these figures have evolved, with the programme amendments detailed within this report.

Table G2: Prudential Indicator: Revised Estimates of Capital Expenditure

	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Estimate	2024/25 Estimate	2025/26 Estimate	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Capital Expenditure	60,937	86,951	173,199	35,122	356,209
Total	60,937	86,951	173,199	35,122	356,209

Capital expenditure has or will be funded as follows:

Table G3: Prudential Indicator: Financing of Capital Expenditure

Capital Financing	2022/23 Actual £'000	2023/24 Estimate £'000	2024/25 Estimate £'000	2025/26 Estimate £'000
Capital receipts	2,930	1,790	8,690	-
Grants and Contributions	39,978	45,010	125,709	16,731
Revenue and Reserves	592	221	7,095	-
Borrowing	17,437	39,930	31,705	18,391
Total Funding	60,937	86,951	173,199	35,122

(c) Capital Financing Requirement (CFR)

Estimates of the Authority's cumulative maximum external borrowing requirement for 2023/24 to 2025/26 as per the Capital Strategy 2023/24, are shown in the table below:

Table G4: Capital Financing Requirement Estimates – Capital Strategy 2023/24

Capital Financing Requirement	31/03/2023 Forecast £m	31/03/2024 Estimate £m	31/03/2025 Estimate £m	31/03/2026 Estimate £m
General Fund	390.0	420.7	419.5	402.1

Table G5 shows how these figures have evolved, with the programme amendments detailed within this report.

Table G5: Capital Financing Requirement Revised Estimates

Capital Financing Requirement	31/03/2023 Actual £m	31/03/2024 Estimate £m	31/03/2025 Estimate £m	31/03/2026 Estimate £m
General Fund	375.3	400.7	417.6	418.8

(d) Gross Debt and the Capital Financing Requirement:

In order to ensure that over the medium-term debt will only be for a capital purpose, the Authority should ensure that debt does not, except in the short term, exceed the total of Capital Financing Requirement in the preceding year plus the estimates of any additional capital financing requirement for the current and next two financial years.

Table G6: Gross Debt and the Revised Capital Financing Requirement Estimates

Debt	31/03/2024 Estimate £m	31/03/2025 Estimate £m	31/03/2026 Estimate £m
Borrowing	303.2	368.3	372.3
PFI liabilities	28.0	24.8	21.3
Total Debt	331.2	393.1	393.6
Borrowing in excess of CFR?	No	No	No

(e) Authorised Limit and Operational Boundary for External Debt

The Operational Boundary for External Debt is based on the Authority's estimate of most likely, i.e., prudent, but not worst case scenario for external debt. It links directly to the Authority's estimates of capital expenditure, the capital financing requirement and cash flow requirements and is a key management tool for in-year monitoring. Other long-term liabilities relate to the Private Finance Initiative that are not borrowing but form part of the Authority's debt.

The Authorised Limit for External Debt is the affordable borrowing limit determined in compliance with the Local Government Act 2003. It is the maximum amount of debt that the Authority can legally owe. The authorised limit provides headroom over and above the operational boundary for unusual cash movements.

There were no breaches to the Authorised Limit and the Operational Boundary, as set in the Capital Financing Strategy report (Council meeting 27 February 2023) during Quarter 1.

Table G7: Authorised Limit and Operational Boundary for External Debt

	Operational Boundary (Approved) 2023/24 £m	Authorised Limit (Approved) 2023/24 £m	External Debt 30/06/2023 £m
Borrowing	448.0	458.0	261.4
Other Long-term Liabilities	51.0	56.0	31.2
Total	499.0	514.0	292.6

(f) Ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream

This is an indicator of affordability and highlights the revenue implications of existing and proposed capital expenditure by identifying the proportion of the revenue budget required to meet financing costs. The ratio is based on costs net of investment income.

Table G8: Ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream

Ratio of Finance Costs to Net Revenue Stream	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate
	%	%	%
Ratio	6.9%	7.7%	7.8%

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MINUTE EXTRACT

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 12 July 2023

21 **2023/24 BUDGET MONITORING FOR QUARTER ONE (THE PERIOD TO 30 JUN 2023)**

The Director of Finance introduced the report which set out the financial monitoring information for the Council as at Quarter 1 (30 June) of 2023/24 and sought approval of an increase to the revenue budget by £2.000m due to increased Council funding and the allocation to the budget areas detailed in the report. It was reported that there was increased funding of £2m due to Business Rates Section 31 grant and that this funding had been proposed to be allocated to budgets where the budget pressure was permanently recurring and would therefore prevent the requirement for future mitigations.

Following concerns raised regarding the estimation of receipt of government grant funding, the Director of Finance advised members that the forecasting was being reviewed to assist in achieving a more accurate income prediction. It was agreed that a meeting of the Finance Sub-Committee would be arranged for September 2023 to consider the budget position in further detail.

Resolved – That

- (1) the Directorate forecast adverse position of £3.618m presented at Quarter 1 be noted alongside the proposed mitigation to reduce the shortfall.**
- (2) Council be recommended to approve that the Revenue budget be increased by £2.000m due to increased Council funding, detailed in paragraph 3.25 and allocate to the budget areas detailed in Table 2.**
- (3) the progress on delivery of the 2023/24 savings programme at Quarter 1 be noted.**
- (4) the forecast level of reserves and balances at Quarter 1 be noted.**

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POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**Wednesday, 12 July 2023**

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

REPORT SUMMARY

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

At the end of Quarter 1, there is a forecast adverse position of £3.6m on the Council's revised net revenue budget, of £368.6m. This position is based on activity to date, projected trends in income and expenditure and changes to Council funding.

This is a key decision and affects all wards.

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

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Policy and Resources committee is recommended to:

1. Note the Directorate forecast adverse position of £3.618m presented at Quarter 1, alongside the proposed mitigation to reduce the shortfall.
2. Recommend to Council that the Revenue budget be increased by £2.000m due to increased Council funding, detailed in paragraph 3.25 and allocate to the budget areas detailed in Table 2.
3. Note the progress on delivery of the 2023/24 savings programme at Quarter 1.
4. Note the forecast level of reserves and balances at Quarter 1.

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 financial control of Wirral Council.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

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

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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

Economic Context

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

Quarter 1 Forecast Revenue Outturn Position

- 3.6 Table 1 presents the forecast outturn as a net position, i.e. expenditure minus income. Favourable variances (underspends) are shown as negative values and adverse variances (overspends) are shown as a positive value.
- 3.7 At the end of Quarter 1, there is a Directorate forecast adverse variance of £3.618m against the Council's revised net revenue budget of £368.600m, which is equivalent to a variance of 1% from the annual budget.

TABLE 1: 2023/24 REVENUE BUDGET & FORECAST OUTTURN

	*Budget	**Forecast Outturn	Variance	
	£000	£000	(+ Adv / - Fav) £000	%
Adult Care & Health	130,579	132,807	2,228	2%
Chief Executive Office	1,685	1,685	0	0%
Children, Families & Education	86,397	86,766	369	0%
Finance	7,030	7,030	0	0%
Law & Governance	5,955	5,955	0	0%
Neighbourhoods Services	37,358	39,679	2,321	6%
Regeneration and Place	13,733	14,233	500	4%
Resources	16,773	17,273	500	3%
Levies	41,139	41,139	0	0%
Strategic Holding Account and Corporate Items	27,951	25,651	-2,300	-8%
Net Directorate Expenditure	368,600	372,218	3,618	1%

Notes:

* Budget figures assume agreement to budget amendments shown in Table 2. The Quarter 1 forecast position prior to budget adjustments can be found in Table 3.

** Forecast Outturn figures assume reserves movements shown in Table 5.

Significant aspects of revenue variances by directorate

Adult Care & Health forecast adverse variance of £2.228m.

- 3.8 The forecast represents the continued pressure within residential and nursing care home placements which is partly related to the system priority to reduce the numbers of people in hospital who are deemed to no longer require hospital treatment. The Adult Social Care element of the winter discharge grant within the Better Care Fund will fund new schemes to support this pressure and to improve flow from the hospital while continuing to meet the cost of the first 4 week post discharge placement.
- 3.9 However, pressure remains from increased residential and nursing care home placements with restricted capacity within the domiciliary care market. During 2022-23 there was an increase in people supported of 11.6%, with 5% of this within residential and nursing care home settings. With additional top-up payments being

made to meet the complex needs of people being discharged from hospital as early as possible, this impact was a 13% increase to the forecast costs. It is too early to tell if this pattern will change in the current financial year.

- 3.10 The forecast assumes the use of £0.500m from the Social Care earmarked reserve and full achievement of the £5.935m saving target, any slippage against this saving will further impact on the adverse forecast.

Children, Families & Education forecast adverse variance of £0.369m

- 3.11 The main pressure relates to Children Looked after and children in higher cost Semi independence/ Supported Accommodation. With the demand increasing from 20 to over 30 children in the latter part of 2022/23, a 50% increase and the average cost increasing by over 20% in the last year. The residential population is more stable although average costs are under pressure. Demand for other placement categories is stable or reducing, with the aim to place more in the lower cost options. These pressures are partially mitigated in year by the one-off use of £1m of the social care reserve.

Neighbourhoods Services adverse variance of £2.321m

- 3.12 The projected adverse position is in part impacted by macroeconomic factors which mean some historic income and savings targets are now unviable. Alternative options for service delivery have been considered previously and will be reviewed to assist in mitigating the current position. The significant areas of note are as follows:
- Neighbourhood Safety and Transport: adverse variance of £0.377m. £0.170m relates to income shortfalls due to third parties making alternative arrangements. In addition, there is a further shortfall of £0.207m which relates to a reduction in the number of schools choosing to renew the Community Patrol services. A changed delivery model provided a technological solution rather than a physical patrol service. This resulted in schools choosing not to buy back the service in its new format.
 - Car Parking: adverse variance of £0.500m relates to Car Parking charges. This is pending a further report being brought to Members for proposed charges in new locations which will be informed by the parking strategy and reflecting the need to efficiently manage parking and traffic within the borough and recover the costs of the service. This forecast variance is expected to reduce if the policy is implemented promptly.
 - Theatre Hospitality and Catering Services – an adverse variance of £1.444m is forecast for 2023/24. This represents a projected improvement on 2022-23 position of circa £0.610m. Within the budget, there remains £0.550m of unachieved legacy saving from the proposal to outsource the Floral Pavilion in 2018, and an additional income target of £0.350 from 2021/22. The new management team have reduced costs through improved operations and improved income generation through innovating the programme of shows, events and other activities taking place at the venue. The projected shortfall is due to anticipated reductions in income. Rising costs of supplies, goods, services, and utilities has significantly impacted the spend attributed to the service. This will be monitored during the year through management of employee rotas and by limiting non staffing costs to essential items only. Whilst the financial position of the Floral

Pavilion is improving, both income and costs could continue to be affected by the current national financial climate with rising interest rates and high inflation having the potential to impact consumer spending decisions. Due to the ongoing adverse financial position it will be necessary to carry out a review of the Service.

Regeneration & Place adverse variance of £0.500m

- 3.13 Local Plan: The local plan has been funded from use of reserve in previous years and the full reserve has been utilised. A further 500k is needed to ensure the plan can be fully delivered.

Resources adverse variance of £0.500m

- 3.14 Following the centralisation of IT related budgets, a thorough review of spend is currently being undertaken to identify opportunities for efficiencies. Previously these budgets were devolved to Directorate level where the pressures were absorbed; collating all activity centrally presents the position that has to be managed. Capital funded projects continue to be delivered by IT staff which will reduce costs against the available revenue staffing budget.

Strategic Holding Account and Corporate Items favourable variance of £2.3m

- 3.15 Energy costs are currently forecast to be lower than initially expected at the time of setting the budget, due to changes in market conditions. However, it should be noted the energy market remains volatile and the position will be monitored closely and updated throughout the year.
- 3.16 A detailed revenue table is attached in Appendix 1.

Pressures to be managed.

- 3.17 It is imperative that the Council report a balanced position at the end of the financial year.
- 3.18 As per the '2023/24 Budget and Budget Monitoring Processes Report', which was presented to P&R and all Service Committees in June, the Committees will be responsible for containing net expenditure within their overall budget envelope and not overspending. Where an adverse variance is forecast, each committee will be required to take remedial action, with detailed plans and timeframes, to bring the budget back in line and ensure that overspends are mitigated.
- 3.19 Where a committee has taken all possible steps for remedial action and is unable to fully mitigate an overspend, this must be reported to the Policy and Resources Committee who will then take an organisational-wide view of how this adverse variance will be managed. There must be immediate action agreed to ensure a deliverable, balanced forecast position can be reported, and this will be monitored on a monthly basis by the Policy and Resources Committee Finance Sub-group.
- 3.20 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 legal.
- 3.21 The quarter 1 position highlights £3.618m 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.

Budget Adjustments

- 3.22 The following budget adjustments are proposed at quarter 1 to limit the adverse position, the impact of which is already built into Table 1.

Use of Reserves

- 3.23 Social Care Reserve of £1.500m will be used to offset some of the pressures forecast in Adults Care and Health and Children, Families and Education.
- 3.24 £2.000m of the Wirral Growth Company Profits reserve will be used to offset variances within the Regeneration & Place Directorate (subject to agreement).
- £1.5m of the adverse variance relates to the lease for the Birkenhead Commercial District (BCD) buildings which is payable from practical completion of the site, expected ahead of schedule in August.
 - £0.5m relates to potential exit costs/dilapidation expenses on buildings the Council are exiting.

Business Rate Funding: Favourable variance of £2.000m

- 3.25 There was an unexpected favourable £2.000m variation against the funding that supports the revenue budget, which relates to an adjustment of Business Rates Section 31 grants. The Business Rates top-up is indexed annually by the change in the small business multiplier. However, the multiplier cap and the freezing of the multiplier in 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24 means the £59.24m top-up (including Better Care Fund) confirmed in the Local Government Finance Settlement is less than Wirral would have received without those measures. Additional unbudgeted Section 31 grants are now anticipated to offset this impact.

Budget Amendments

- 3.26 The favourable £2.000m variation in funding, relating to Business Rates Section 31 grant, provides the opportunity to carry out budget amendments to address some of the budget pressures.
- 3.27 Table 2 proposes the budget areas which will be amended. These amendments are already incorporated into the budget column in Table 1 and are explained below.

Table 2: Proposed Q1 Budget Virements

Directorate	Budget Amendment	£000
Children, Families & Education	SEND	350
Children, Families & Education	Assisted Travel	450
Finance	Audit Fees	150
Law & Governance	Safeguarding & Property Teams Resources	180
Neighbourhoods Services	Car Parking Income	600
Neighbourhoods Services	Winter Gritting	270
Total		2,000

Children, Families & Education

- 3.28 Budget variances in special education needs and disabilities (SEND) and assisted travel requirements. These pressures are due to an increase in Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) and the need to transport the pupils to school. Whilst some funding has been built into the budget there is likely to be higher numbers than expected. There has also been an increase in the demand for EHCP assessments and this has led to a backlog building up and some assessments not being completed within the 20 week statutory timescale. These pressures are proposed to be mitigated by additional budget of £0.350m being allocated to SEND resources and £0.450m to assisted travel costs.

Finance

- 3.29 Variance in Finance due to rising audit fees: year-on-year fees are increasing due to increased additional audit work as part of adhering to the National Audit Office (NAO) requirements and emerging concerns nationally for local authorities such as infrastructure assets, increased testing of pension and retesting of sampling. Audit fees are due to rise by 150%. This pressure is proposed to be mitigated by the allocation of £0.150m of additional budget.

Law & Governance

- 3.30 Despite various recruitment campaigns, there is difficulty in attracting suitably qualified candidates for the Safeguarding and Property Teams. A high number of

locums is necessary to maintain the service which is putting pressure on the service due to the higher costs. We anticipate overall budget pressure will be in the region of £0.180m which is similar to last year. This pressure is proposed to be mitigated by the allocation of £0.180m of additional budget.

Neighbourhood Services

- 3.31 A £0.600m adverse variance relates to a shortfall in car parking income as ticket sales remain low due to an increase in hybrid working and changes in customer behaviour. This pressure is proposed to be mitigated by the allocation of £0.600m of additional budget.
- 3.32 Winter Gritting – An adverse variance of £0.270m is forecast for 2023/24. Costs have increased within this area in recent years due to inflationary rises in the cost of materials and service provision. Therefore a pressure of £0.1m was incorporated into the budget from 2023/24 onwards to help address some of these issues. However this is not deemed sufficient to address all the current pressures, as the service must maintain a minimum level of gritting during the winter to comply with statutory requirements. This has resulted in an ongoing pressure being presented by the service as at Quarter 1. This pressure is proposed to be mitigated by the allocation of £0.270m of additional budget.

Financial Position without budget adjustments

- 3.33 For information, without the budget adjustments detailed above (paragraphs 3.22 to 3.32), at the end of Quarter 1, the Council would be forecasting an adverse position of £9.1m against the originally approved net revenue budget of £366.6m, as shown in Table 3.

TABLE 3: 2023/24 REVENUE BUDGET & FORECAST OUTTURN (without Budget Adjustments):

	Budget	Forecast Outturn	Variance	
			(+ Adv / - Fav)	
	£000	£000	£000	%
Adult Care & Health	130,579	133,307	2,728	2%
Chief Executive Office	1,685	1,685	0	0%
Children, Families & Education	85,597	87,766	2,169	3%
Finance	6,880	7,030	150	2%
Law & Governance	5,775	5,955	180	3%
Neighbourhoods Services	36,488	39,679	3,191	9%
Regeneration and Place	13,733	16,233	2,500	18%
Resources	16,773	17,273	500	3%
Levies	41,139	41,139	0	0%
Strategic Holding Account and Corporate Items	27,951	25,651	-2,300	-8%
Net Directorate Expenditure	366,600	375,718	9,118	2%

Progress on delivery of the 2023/24 savings programme.

- 3.34 Table 4 presents the progress on the delivery of the 2023/24 approved savings. For savings rated as Amber, an equal amount of temporary in-year mitigation has been identified to cover any shortfalls which may occur. For saving rated as red, a bid will need to be made from the contingency fund set up for non-achieved savings at the end of the year.
- 3.35 In terms of savings, £26.280m of the £28.345m savings targets are either delivered or on track to be delivered, representing 93% of the total savings target with a further 7% or £2.065m anticipated to be delivered through alternative means. The table below summarises the progress by Directorate:

TABLE 4: SUMMARY OF PROGRESS ON DELIVERY OF 2023/24 SAVINGS

Directorate	Approved Saving £m	Green £m	Amber £m	Red £m	Mitigation £m
Adult Care & Health	-5.935	-5.935	0.000	0.000	0.000
Chief Executive Office	-0.070	-0.052	-0.018	0.000	-0.018
Children, Families & Education	-4.180	-4.180	0.000	0.000	0.000
Finance	-5.200	-5.200	0.000	0.000	0.000
Law & Governance	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Neighbourhood Services	-1.600	-1.253	-0.347	0.000	-0.347
Regeneration & Place	-2.660	-2.460	-0.200	0.000	-0.200
Resources	-0.160	-0.160	0.000	0.000	0.000
Corporate	-8.540	-7.040	-1.500	0.000	-1.500
TOTAL	-28.345	-26.280	-2.065	0.000	-2.065

Significant variances by directorate.

Neighbourhoods: £0.347m amber rated savings-

- 3.36 The key variances are as follows:
- **Introduction of an environmental enforcement scheme** - The saving of £0.150m has been delayed until policy documents can be agreed at ECET Committee in September. The cost of the delay will be mitigated through vacancy control and through restricting non staffing expenditure to essential items only.
 - **Review of Neighbourhoods Staffing Structure** - The saving of £0.425m has been delayed whilst work is carried out to ensure there is no overlap with the corporate enabling services saving. EVR/VS requests are still being considered. Therefore savings will not materialise until Quarter 2. The cost of the delay will be mitigated through vacancy control and through restricting non staffing expenditure to essential items only.
 - **Development of the events programme at Williamson Art Gallery.** Total saving approved was £0.070m. £0.050m of this saving relates to Community Asset Transfer of the Tram Museum which was agreed at TCCL Committee on 9th March. Holding costs continue to be incurred until the process is completed and will be mitigated. The remaining £0.020m relates to additional

income from events at the Williamson, this is on target to be achieved but due to income trends it will not be clear how much of this saving has been delivered until the end of the financial year.

Regeneration & Place: £0.2m amber rated savings

- 3.37 £0.2m adverse pressure relates to the Wallasey Town Hall Standby saving (which is a £0.4m saving). The saving was based on the building being in standby mode for the full year. However, the building has been used for the local plan consultation and the public enquiry. It's now estimated the building won't be fully on standby until half-way through the year, so the full saving will not be achieved. Control of the maintenance budget is expected to mitigate this pressure, subject to any emergency works that may be required on the council's estate.

Corporate: £1.50m amber rated savings

- 3.38 Review of enabling ('back office') services across the council – work continues on restructuring of enabling services across the organisation. Any delays in achieving the full year saving will be mitigated by freezing recruitment of vacant roles.
- 3.39 A complete list of all approved savings can be found in the Budget report which was presented to Council on 27 February 2023.

Reserves and Balances

Earmarked Reserves

- 3.40 On 1 April 23, earmarked reserves totalled £71.831m. Of the total earmarked reserves, more than a quarter will be spent in 2023/24, on the activities for which they were established. There will be cases however where some of the reserves will be committed over a longer period and have been set aside now to support the Council's financial sustainability and have little or limited impact on future years budgets.

TABLE 5: SUMMARY OF EARMARKED RESERVES

Directorate	Opening Balance £000	Forecast Use of Reserve £000	Forecast Contribution to Reserve £000	Closing Balance £000
Adult Care & Health	7,329	-753	0	6,576
Children, Families & Education	3,661	-713	0	2,948
Finance	1,088	-205	0	883
Law & Governance	270	0	0	270
Neighbourhoods Services	301	-159	0	142
Regeneration and Place	7,718	-1,720	0	5,998
Resources	1,916	0	0	1,916
Other Corporate	49,548	-18,260	9,746	41,034
Total	71,831	-21,810	9,746	59,767

- 3.41 A full list of all earmarked reserves can be found in the Budget Outturn report which was presented to Policy & Resources Committee on 14 June 2023.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

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

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

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

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 7.1 The Council's ability to maintain a balanced budget for 2023/24 is dependent on a stable financial position. That said, the delivery of the budget is subject to ongoing

variables both positive and adverse which imply a level of challenge in achieving this outcome.

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

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

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

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

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

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

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

11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 In year activity will have incorporated community wealth implications. Consideration would have taken account of related matters across headings such as the following:
- **Progressive Procurement and Social Value**
How we commission and procure goods and services. Encouraging contractors to deliver more benefits for the local area, such as good jobs,

apprenticeship, training & skills opportunities, real living wage, minimising their environmental impact, and greater wellbeing.

- **More local & community ownership of the economy**
Supporting more cooperatives and community businesses.
Enabling greater opportunities for local businesses.
Building on the experience of partnership working with voluntary, community and faith groups during the pandemic to further develop this sector.
- **Decent and Fair Employment**
Paying all employees a fair and reasonable wage.
- **Making wealth work for local places**

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 – Directorate Summary Financial Positions

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

Policy & Resources Committee Report 14 Jun 23: 2023/24 Budget and Budget Monitoring Processes Report.

Policy & Resources Committee Report 5 Oct 22: 2023-24 Budget Update

Bank of England – Monetary Policy Report

CIPFA's Financial Management Code

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
Policy and Resources Committee	17 January 2022

	*Budget	**Forecast Outturn	Variance	
	£000	£000	(+ Adv / - Fav) £000	%
Adult Care & Health				
Adult Social Care Central Functions	7,097	7,589	492	7%
Older People Services – WCFT	62,840	64,982	2,142	3%
Mental Health & Disability Services - CWP	54,874	54,566	-308	-1%
Other Care Commissions	109	97	-12	-11%
Delivery Services	5,411	5,325	-86	-2%
Public Health	-261	-261	0	0%
Wirral Intelligence Service	509	509	0	0%
Adult Care & Health Net Expenditure	130,579	132,807	2,228	2%
Chief Executive Office				
Chief Executive Office	156	156	0	0%
Corporate Office	1,529	1,529	0	0%
Chief Executive Office Net Expenditure	1,685	1,685	0	0%
Children Families and Education				
Children and Families	56,502	57,436	934	2%
Early Help and Prevention	10,942	9,842	-1,100	-10%
Modernisation and Support	2,782	3,881	1,099	40%
Schools – Core	16,171	15,607	-564	-3%
Children Families and Education Net Expenditure	86,397	86,766	369	0%
Finance				
Finance & Investment	3,449	3,449	0	0%
Revenues & Benefits	2,988	2,988	0	0%
Audit, Risk & Business Continuity	593	593	0	0%
Finance Net Expenditure	7,030	7,030	0	0%
Law & Governance				
Law & Governance (Corporate)	332	332	0	0%
Legal Services	3,285	3,285	0	0%
Democratic & Member Services	1,424	1,424	0	0%
Coroner Services	730	730	0	0%
Electoral Services	479	479	0	0%
Registrar Services	-175	-175	0	0%
Licensing	-120	-120	0	0%
Law & Governance Net Expenditure	5,955	5,955	0	0%

	*Budget	**Forecast Outturn	Variance	
	£000	£000	(+ Adv / - Fav) £000	%
Neighbourhoods				
Neighbourhoods Management Team	-1,220	-1,220	0	0%
Community Safety and Transport	3,569	3,946	377	11%
Highways and Infrastructure	6,357	6,857	500	8%
Leisure, Libraries and Customer Engagement	8,524	9,968	1,444	17%
Parks and Environment	20,128	20,128	0	0%
Neighbourhoods Net Expenditure	37,358	39,679	2,321	6%
Regeneration & Place				
Regeneration	1,483	1,483	0	0%
Housing	5,779	5,779	0	0%
Asset Management & Investment	4,754	4,754	0	0%
Planning	1,199	1,199	0	0%
Special Projects	118	118	0	0%
Local Plan	400	900	500	125%
Regeneration & Place Net Expenditure	13,733	14,233	500	4%
Resources				
HR & OD and Payroll	3,933	3,933	0	0%
Digital & Improvement	8,055	9,555	1,500	19%
Strategic Change	4,785	3,785	-1,000	-21%
Resources Net Expenditure	16,773	17,273	500	3%
Levies				
Transport Levy	23,043	23,043	0	0%
Waste Levy	17,721	17,721	0	0%
Environmental Health Levy	200	200	0	0%
Environment Agency Levy	175	175	0	0%
Levies Net Expenditure	41,139	41,139	0	0%
Strategic Holding Account & Corporate Items				
Pension	-999	-999	0	0%
Treasury & Debt Management	20,016	20,016	0	0%
Other Corporate Items	15,403	13,103	-2,300	-15%
Public Health Recharge	-6,469	-6,469	0	0%
Strategic Holding Acc. & Corporate Items Net Exp.	27,951	25,651	-2,300	-8%
Total Net Expenditure	368,600	372,218	3,618	1%

Notes:

* Budget figures assume agreement to budget amendments shown in Table 2.

** Forecast Outturn figures assume reserves movements shown in Table 5.

MINUTE EXTRACT

CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE

25 September 2023

WIRRAL YOUTH JUSTICE SERVICE ANNUAL PLAN

The Youth Offending Service Manager introduced the report of the Director of Children, Families and Education. The report provided the Committee with an introduction to the Wirral Youth Justice Service, YJS, Strategic Plan 2023-2024. The Youth Justice Board, YJB, was a non-departmental public body for overseeing the youth justice system in England and Wales. The preparation and submission of an 'Annual Plan' was linked to the terms and conditions of the Youth Justice Board grant award, this award contributed to the funding of youth offending teams and services across England and Wales.

The Chair requested that the Terms of Reference for the Youth Justice Board be shared with the committee so members may consider joining. Officers explained that it is national practice to show the reoffending rates of two years prior. The Chair requested further information to be provided externally regarding the breakdown of reoffending figures. The Chair expressed gratitude to the officers regarding the depth of the work around the bespoke sessions with young offenders. The scheme won the award for inclusion, following its pilot in Wirral, it is now being adopted in other areas.

Resolved – That

- 1. the Wirral Youth Justice Service's Strategic Plan 2023-2024 be endorsed and Council be recommended to approve the plan.**
- 2. the approach and ongoing work within the Youth Justice Service and across the Youth Justice Management Board (YJMB) be noted.**

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CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & EDUCATION COMMITTEE**Monday, 25 September 2023**

REPORT TITLE:	WIRRAL YOUTH JUSTICE SERVICE ANNUAL PLAN
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND EDUCATION

REPORT SUMMARY

This report provides the Children, Young People and Education Committee with an introduction to the Wirral Youth Justice Service, YJS, Strategic Plan 2023-2024.

The Youth Justice Board, YJB, is a non-departmental public body for overseeing the youth justice system in England and Wales. The preparation and submission of an 'Annual Plan' is linked to the terms and conditions of the Youth Justice Board grant award, this award contributes to the funding of youth offending teams and services across England and Wales.

The Wirral Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2023-2024 links to the Wirral 2021-2026 Plan against delivery of the following:

- Brighter futures for all regardless of their background.
- Safe and pleasant communities that our residents are proud of.
- Active and healthy lives for all, with the right care, at the right time to enable residents to live longer and healthier lives.

This matter affects residents across the borough.

This report relates to a key decision.

RECOMMENDATION/S

The Children, Young People and Education Committee is recommended to:

1. Endorse the Wirral Youth Justice Service's Strategic Plan 2023-2024 and recommend to Council that the Plan be approved.
2. Note the approach and ongoing work within the Youth Justice Service and across the Youth Justice Management Board (YJMB).

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 Wirral Youth Justice Service (YJS) is a statutory partnership between Police, Probation, the Local Authority and Health partners in accordance with the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.
- 1.2 Section 39 (1) of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 requires the co-operation of the named statutory partners to form a Youth Offending Team, or YOT (Now known as the 'Youth Justice Service', or 'YJS' in Wirral and in most Local Authority areas nationally). Section 38 identifies the statutory partners and places upon them a duty to co-operate to secure youth justice services appropriate to their area. These statutory partners are:
- The Local Authority.
 - Police.
 - Probation service.
 - Health.

Additional partners may also be recruited to the joint strategic effort to prevent offending by children and young people.

- 1.3 The primary duty to ensure a Youth Justice Service is in place rests with the local authority. Section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 sets out the responsibilities in producing and implementing a plan, after consultation with the partner agencies.
- 1.4 The Youth Justice Service is overseen by the Wirral Youth Justice Management Board (YJMB). The management board should be formed to provide strategic direction with the aim of preventing offending by children and young people.
- 1.5 As a statutory partner under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, Wirral Local Authority has key role to play in delivering Youth Justice. Endorsement by The Council will support the delivery of this Strategic Plan and therefore the linked aspects of The Wirral Plan 2021-2026.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 Not supporting the Wirral Youth Justice Service Strategic Plan 2023-24 may result in less clearly aligned and coordinated multi agency activity to prevent offending and re-offending. The lack of an 'Annual Plan' would be contrary to Section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 Wirral's Youth Justice Service was inspected by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP) in July 2021, receiving an overall rating of 'Good'. All developing actions arising from this inspection are now complete, subject to ongoing oversight from Wirral's Youth Justice Management Board.

- 3.2 The national governing body, the Youth Justice Board (YJB), has previously set out 3 National areas of key performance for all YOTs. These national indicators are:
- The amount and rate of First Time Entrants to the Youth Justice System (FTEs).
 - The use of custody (Use of youth custody as opposed to managing young people in the community).
 - The rate of Re-offending.
- 3.3 From 2023, the YJB has extended these key performance reporting areas to include the below:
- Suitable accommodation
 - Education, training, and employment
 - Special educational needs and disabilities/Additional learning needs
 - Mental health care and emotional wellbeing
 - Substance misuse
 - Out of court disposals
 - Links to wider services
 - Management board attendance
 - Serious violence
 - Victims
- 3.4 Reporting on the additional key indicators is not required until August 2023. National upgrades to the case management system are underway to support the capture and monitoring of the wider set of key indicators.
- 3.5 First time entrants' (FTE) rate between January 2022 and December 2022 was 86 per 100,000 children (26 children) compared to 114 (45 children) the previous year. This compares to an average 25% increase in FTE rate in the other areas of Merseyside and a 2% increase in FTE rate nationally.
- 3.6 Use of custody was 0.10 per 1000 children (10-17 years), compared to 0.16 the previous year. This equated to 2 less young people entering custody in the financial year 2022-23 compared to the previous year.
- 3.7 The rate of re-offending saw a decrease of 0.9 percentage points. This related to a cohort of less offenders overall (78 compared to 86 the previous year), with fewer of that cohort re-offending (32 re-offenders, compared to 36 the year before). Significantly the number of offences committed by re-offenders reduced from 166 to 98, inferring a decreased volume impact of youth related crime on the community and victims.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Wirral YJS Strategic Plan sets out the budget for 2023-24. This is drawn from local authority and statutory partners contributions through direct payment or the commitment of resources as 'in kind' payments. (See Appendix 4 of the Strategic Plan, Page 42).

- 4.2 The cost of remanding young people into custody is an area of unpredictable expenditure. Demand on this area of the budget is highly volatile, driven by serious crimes, which are low in volume and infrequent. Remand costs are such that small numbers can impact significantly on the YJS budget. Grant awards to cover remand expenditure are based on a 3-year cycle, which can sometimes lead to a shortfall, depending on previous years remand. In view of this, Wirral YJS have retained some contingency funds to cover shortfall in this area.
- 4.3 The current financial pressures are noted as a relevant risk within section 7 of this report.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 imposes a statutory duty on local authorities to submit an annual youth justice plan relating to their provision of youth justice services and sets out the youth justice partnership's responsibilities in producing a plan. It is the duty of each local authority, after consultation with the partner agencies, to formulate and implement an annual youth justice plan, setting out how youth justice services in their area are to be provided and funded, how they will operate, and what functions will be carried out. The plan should also address the functions assigned to a youth justice service, including how services will prevent offending behaviour and reduce reoffending.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

- 6.1 The Strategic Plan references a broad range of activity delivered in the context of youth justice in Wirral. As part of the Youth Justice Management Board arrangements, the board will retain an overview of any changes to partnership structures, assets and activities that may impact on service delivery around those activities and services highlighted within the plan.
- 6.2 Changes to the structure of the YJS in Wirral will only be undertaken through report and approval to the Youth Justice Management Board, taking into account local need, cost benefit and considering other options.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 7.1 Failing to deliver the Strategic Plan will be mitigated through management oversight and Youth Justice Management Board arrangements for monitoring performance and delivery. Strategic and operational risk will additionally be monitored through the National Youth Justice Board through the quarterly returns that are a legal requirement of the Youth Justice Board Grant, as well as checks on progress from the regional lead from the Youth Justice Board for the Northwest. Additionally any changes in government policy and funding from the Ministry of Justice for Youth Offending Services could have an adverse effect on the delivery of Youth Justice Service dependent on negative changes.
- 7.2 The current financial pressures facing the Council and its partners represents a risk. Considerations on changes to any future funding arrangements will include cost-benefit analysis, including invest to save considerations.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

- 8.1 Feedback has been gathered through the partnership's participation and engagement network, this included direct feedback from young people involved with Youth Justice.
- 8.2 Members of the Youth Justice Management Board and Community Safety Partnership have been consulted with during the development of the Strategic Plan.
- 8.3 Section 3 (Page 10) of the Strategic Plan highlights the ongoing commitment to the voice of children and victims. This is delivered through participation and engagement across young people and engagement with victims and carers linked to the work of Wirral's Youth Justice Service.
- 8.4 Appendix 7 contains the Wirral YJS Participation and Engagement Strategy, 2021 and Wirral Youth Justice Management Board's Youth Feedback Report, page 46.
- 8.5 The Strategic Plan has also been reviewed externally by the Youth Justice Board (YJB), who have provided the following feedback.
- The Plan demonstrates a strength in the Service's approach to the use of data and analysis to inform practice, supplemented by audits and feedback.
 - The narrative is comprehensive in terms of describing Service delivery and the successful partnership approaches.
 - The Service's attention to the equality and diversity needs of the children and young people the Service works with comes out strongly in the Plan.
 - The Plan evidences a very strong approach to workforce development.
 - Strong evidence of practice including reference to Operation Inclusion
 - Positive endorsement of the education programme 'In the Zone' being worthy of recognition having reached over 4000 secondary school pupils both in mainstream and alternative provisions.

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 A full Equality Impact Assessment has been completed and reviewed for the Wirral Youth Justice Service Strategic Plan. The EIA can be found via the following link:

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/communities-and-neighbourhoods/equality-impact-assessments>

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 There are no environmental and climate implications arising from this report. It is anticipated that the Strategic Plan will have no impact on the emission of greenhouse gases.

11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH IMPLICATIONS

11.1 The work being done to reduce vulnerability to exploitation supports the development of resilient local communities.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Wirral Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2023-24

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Youth Justice Board: Youth Justice Plan guidance 2023-24
Youth Justice Board: Key Performance Indicator Recording Guidance V 1.3

TERMS OF REFERENCE

This report is being considered by the Children, Young People and Education Committee in accordance with section a of its Terms of Reference:

(a) exercising management, oversight and delivery of services to children and young people in relation to their care, wellbeing, education or health, with the exception of any powers reserved to full Council.

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Children, Young People and Education Committee	12 October 2022
Children, Young People and Education Committee	13 September 2021

Wirral Youth Justice Strategic Plan

Service	Wirral Youth Justice Service 2023/2024
Service Manager/ Lead	Kathy Gill
Chair of YJS Board	Elizabeth Hartley



Contents

	Page
Foreword: Elizabeth Hartley. Wirral YJMB Chair	
1. Introduction, vision and strategy	5
2.Children first	9
3.The Voice of the child	10
4.Governance, leadership and partnership arrangements	11
5.Board development	12
6.Progress on previous plan	13
7.Recourses and services	15
8.Performance	17
9.Priorities	32
• Children from groups which are over-represented.	
• Prevention	
• Diversion	
• Restorative Approaches and victims	
• Serious Violence and exploitation	
• Detention in Custody	
• Use of Custody	
• Remand	
• Constructive resettlement	
10.Standards for Children	35
11.Workforce Developments	35
12.Evidenced based practice and innovation.	36
13. Service development plans	36
14. Plan authorisation and signatories	39

- Appendix 1: Staffing Structure Chart.
- Appendix 2: B7 Staff by Headcount.
- Appendix 3: B8 Staffing Chart. Ethnicity and Gender.
- Appendix 4: Partner Contributions to the Youth Offending Partnership Pooled Budget 2023/24
- Appendix 5: YJMB Membership and attendance.
- Appendix 6: Performance Comparison 2022/23
- Appendix 7: Participation Strategy/ Participation Report from the young people
- Appendix 8: Chief executive Report
- Appendix 9: Harmful Sexual Behaviour Toolkit
- Appendix 10: Trauma Action Plan
- Appendix 11: 'In The Zone' Evaluation
- Appendix 12: Quality Assurance Audit / Action Plans
- Appendix 13: Wirral Training and development Plan
- Appendix 14: Common Youth Justice Terms

Foreword

Our Youth Justice Service has continued to build on the excellent work of the last 3 years with the support of our more established and mature Youth Justice Management Board. In this years' planning cycle, board members have had the opportunity to consider and reflect on the new suite of Key Performance Indicators.

This strategic Plan allows us to update stakeholders and the public against our progress. The planning cycle also ensures our staff and board members consider new issues and challenges our partnership and young people may face in the next 12 months. We remain committed to the strategic vision set out in 2021/22; and our priorities, culture and combined focus are driven by the vision to advocate for a 'child first' approach to justice across our collective systems and spheres of influence.

The good recognition and invaluable learning drawn from the visit of (the then) Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation in July 2021 has been embedded into the core work of the Board and Service. New roles have developed around victim work and education. Youth Justice staff and stakeholders working around our children have benefitted from additional training and professional development to further enhance the services we provide.

Our professional development over the last year has seen staff and board members link with local multi-cultural community groups, helping us listen to and equitably serve our diverse communities.

Operationally, our increasing focus on early intervention and prevention and enhanced coordination across prevention partners will help us prevent young people formally entering the criminal justice system. The Youth Justice Service will reach out further over the next year by forging close links with; and supporting, the developing community based multi-disciplinary Family Help hubs and teams. These hubs and teams will see Wirral partners turn the recommendations set out in 'The independent Review of Children's Social Care' into tangible activity, where our children and young people need it most.

Those same young people have been instrumental this year in working alongside our Youth Justice team to develop and enhance our school based 'In the Zone' programme. Our children also helped create a Logo Identity for the service itself, which we are now proud to share at the very head of this document.

The visit of joint inspectorates in December 2022's Joint Targeted Inspection into families who need help and support allowed us to share some of the excellent partnership relationships and practice within the Youth Justice and Contextual Safeguarding arenas.

That inspectors found our partnership to be a strength is of no surprise - but should serve to reassure all those interested in the work of Youth Justice that we remain innovative and brave in our mission to support brighter futures for our children and young people, in safe and vibrant communities.

Elizabeth Hartley

Chair: Wirral Youth Justice Management Board

1. Introduction, vision and strategy

Each Local Authority is required under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to have a Youth Justice Plan that sets out how local Youth Justice Services will be delivered within the available resources. This document sets out our strategy, plans and priorities for 2023/2024, which seeks to prevent offending and re-offending by children and young people.

In preparing this plan, Wirral YJS and partners have considered the Youth Justice Board Strategic Plan, 2022's (then) Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP) Annual Report, alongside the thematic reports published by both HMIP and others relevant sector organisations across strategic partners.

Strategic Vision

Wirral Youth Justice Vision Statement remains:

- For our young people involved, or on the cusp of, the Criminal Justice System are seen as “Children First, Offenders Second”.
- For our young people to be treated fairly by the youth justice system; and receive help that recognises their individual needs and builds on their strengths, through statutory work or preventative interventions.
- To bring about change for our young people and their families, so they can contribute fully to society and live a brighter future, in safe and pleasant communities.

Principles

We remain committed to our principles, which underpin our operational and strategic approach.

- Respect for young offenders as young people.
- Young people's views are integral to service provision.
- Regard for the safety of the public as a priority.
- Provision of a fair and equitable service to young people, parents/carers, staff, victims, and the wider community.
- Respect for diversity, respecting the needs and rights of victims, children, young people, and their families.
- Valuing staff as our most important resource.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

The Strategic Vision for Wirral Youth Justice aims ‘For our young people to be treated fairly by the youth justice system; and receive help that recognises their individual needs and builds on their strengths, through statutory or preventative support and interventions.

The public sector equality duty, set out in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, requires public bodies to address diversity and equality issues. In doing so, Wirral YJS must have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

As a Youth Justice Service, we must consider how the way we work and what we do can affect different groups in different ways. Unless we do this, we are unlikely to achieve our vision and can inadvertently contribute to greater inequality.

In delivering this aspect of the vision, Wirral Youth Justice has the following overarching Equality Objectives:

- To remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by children due to their protected characteristics.
- To take steps to meet the needs of children from protected groups where these are different from the needs of other children.
- To encourage children from protected groups to participate in ways that meet their needs.

The YJMB quarterly performance reports and dashboard data help identify themes linked to protected characteristics, such as gender, ethnicity and disability. This information can then be used to ensure we continue to meet the requirements of the Public Sector Equality Duty. Having a lead member of the Board who has taken lead for Equality and Diversity has supported us in professional challenge and focusing the Board on the subject matter.

Following the HMIP thematic report on Black and ethnic children who are overrepresented in the Criminal Justice system and Wirral wanting to develop our knowledge on young people with protected characteristics we are this year commissioning additional training through are (Central Training Group (CTG) with specific focuses on heritage, identity and cultural competence. This will complement training that staff engaged with in 2022, commissioned through a local community group.

Local Context

Within an area of approximately 60 square miles, Wirral contains individual wards amongst some of the wealthiest in the country, as well as some of the very poorest.

The population is 320,200 including approximately 71,500 children (0-18). The population is predominantly white British (90%) but significant ethnic minority groups exist, particularly Irish, Chinese, and Polish.

Almost two-thirds of the population live within the eastern urban area, where levels of deprivation are higher. Birkenhead is the largest town within the borough, historically built around the maritime trades associated with the Mersey docklands. The decline of this industry left a legacy of white working-class boys with reduced opportunities and aspirations.

In 2023, Wirral ranked 37th for total population out of 309 local authority areas in England, which is a fall of 13 places in a decade. As of 2023, Wirral is the ninth most

densely populated of the North West's 39 local authority areas, with around 14 people living on each football pitch-sized area of land. There has been an increase of 15.5% in people aged 65 years and over, a decrease of 3.9% in people aged 15 to 64 years, and a decrease of 1.6% in children aged under 15 years.

In the latest Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019, Wirral was ranked 77/326 most deprived authority. Fifteen percent of children aged 0-15 years live in poverty. 35.6% of the Wirral population live in the top 20% of the most deprived areas of England.

Strategic Links

The Wirral Plan takes account of the social and economic landscape post pandemic, sets out what the Council's priorities are; and how these will transform the way the council provides services between 2021 - 2026.

The Wirral 2021-2026 Plan focuses on the delivery of the following:

- Brighter futures for all regardless of their background.
- Safe and pleasant communities that our residents are proud of
- Active and healthy lives for all, with the right care, at the right time to enable residents to live longer and healthier lives.
- A thriving and inclusive economy, creating jobs and opportunities for all
- A clean-energy, sustainable borough, leading the way in tackling the environment crisis.

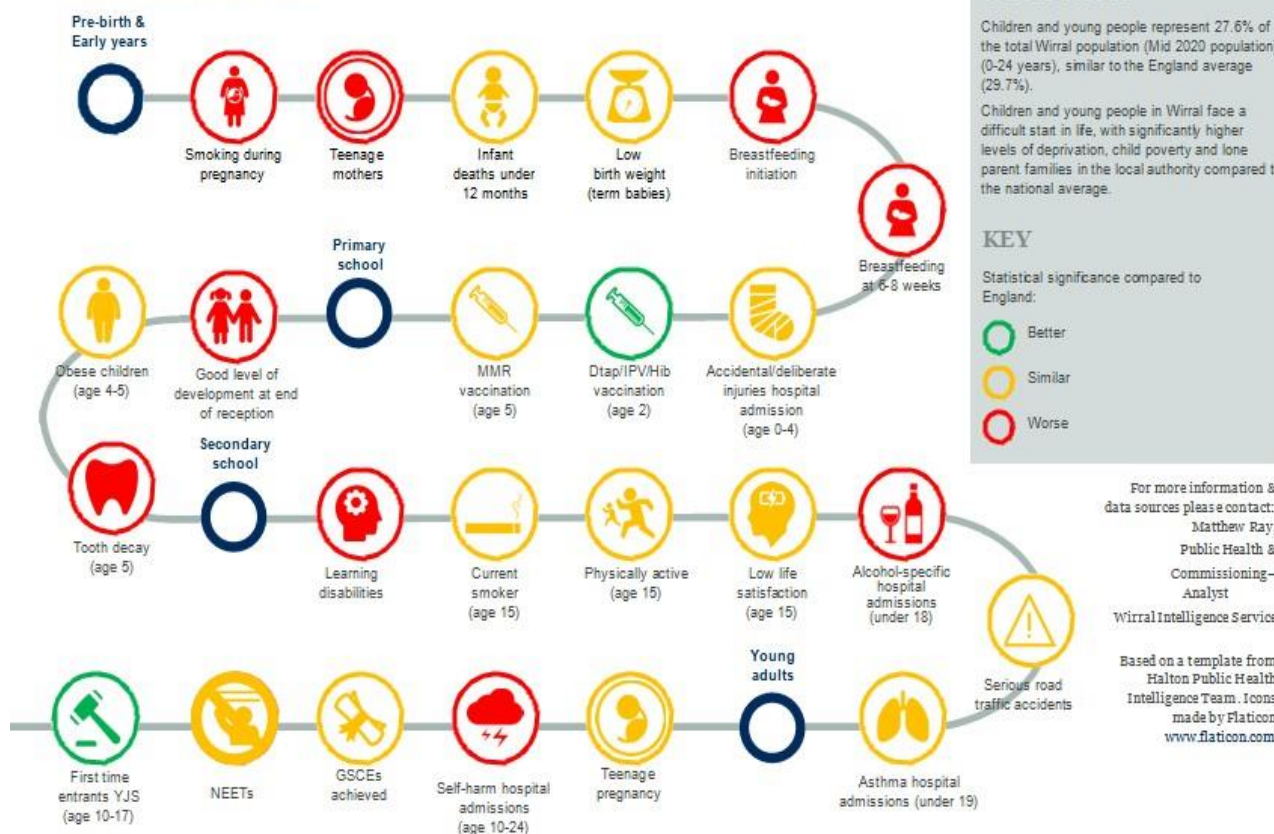
The Wirral Delivery Plan for Brighter Futures 2023 includes the following projects and initiatives:

- Transformational Partnership Accommodation Programme
- Prevention and Early Intervention Programmes
- School Improvement & Sufficiency Strategy

The chart below highlights key facts about Children and Young People in Wirral compared to England:

Children and Young People in Wirral

A comparison to England



Source: Wirral Intelligence Service

The 2023/34 Strategic Youth Justice Plan builds on the last 3 year's work and strategic planning, aiming to contribute to the wider corporate and directorate objectives by providing systems and services that prevent or divert young people away from the criminal justice system.

Our continued effective and committed partnership working will ensure local delivery effectively meets the enhanced national key performance indicators, achieving more positive outcomes for the young people, families, victims, and the wider community in Wirral.

The Youth Justice Service and Youth Justice Management Board are cognisant to linked strategies across the Community Safety Partnership (Safer Wirral Strategy) and the Wirral Safeguarding Children's Partnership's (WSCP) Safer Adolescence Strategy.

The Youth Justice Management Board have established good strategic links locally and nationally; and continue to draw attention to the specific needs of young people, whenever appropriate.

Key areas of work include the development of community based multi-disciplinary Family Help hubs, absorbing the learning from the December 2022 Joint Targeted Inspection and the enhancement and evolution our early intervention and prevention systems.

2. Children First

Responding to young people that encounter the Youth Justice System as “children first” and “offenders second” enhances lives and reduces offending and re-offending. It is the mantra that we use in Wirral Youth Justice Service (WYJS) understanding the trauma and challenges that the young people in our service face or have faced. Over the last year and a half we have developed our trauma aware and trauma informed approach and will continue to develop this over the next 12 months. This plan references our Enhanced Case Managed and Trauma Recovery Models further, below.

To promote children in the Youth Justice System and see them as Children is in the best interest of the child. Understanding individual children’s needs and building in their positive strengths is key to working with young people. All work is child-focused, developmentally informed, acknowledges structural barriers and meets responsibilities towards children.



Wirral’s youth justice service and youth justice system promotes children’s individual strengths and capacities to develop their pro-social identity for sustainable desistance, leading to safer communities and fewer victims. All work is constructive and future-focused, built on supportive relationships that empower children to fulfil their potential and make positive contributions to society. A personalised approach to youth justice is essential to putting children first; and delivering services with equality and impartiality. The effective practice guides produced by Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Probation have helped our partnership and service understand how to ensure we fulfil our commitment to equality.

The Service recognises that young people need to build trusted relationships before change can happen. With this understanding and the development of our Enhanced Case Management programme, Wirral YJS have made real progress in reducing young people’s offending and re offending. This has improved outcomes for some of our most vulnerable children in Wirral.

Feedback from our children who have taken part in the Enhanced Case Management programme has been excellent, we as well as other professionals involved who have seen a difference in relationships with professionals and children as well as a shared understanding of Trauma and its impact on an individual.

Wirral YJS's development work around Trauma and Attachment has now been in place for 18 months. This is now part of our daily practices. Our action plan is attached at Appendix 10. The Plan is reviewed at regular intervals, with oversight from the YJMB.

3. The voice of the child

Wirral YJS have continued to build upon last year's strategic and operational plans, where a specific priority area was to develop young person's participation and engagement worker. Developments in this area have include the use of survey monkey for young people to share their experiences and seek ways the YJS can improve. This feedback is collated and given to the Youth Justice Management Board every six months. This, alongside anonymised case studies on priority themes, helps board members understand the experiences of children who work with the YJS and brings the voice and lived experience of the child to life. When case mangers present at the Board, they are asked to include the child's voice, so as members understand how that child feels about the work.

The YJS have also developed a participation and engagement group of justice-experienced young people see Appendix 7. These young people have helped make the YJS environment and interventions more Trauma informed. An example of this is a piece of work undertaken by children open to our service in how we communicate with them. We have subsequently changed the format or our letter and reports to make them more child friendly. The voice of the Child is embedded in all our daily practises and will continue to over the next 12 months with us continuing to speak to young people regarding any changes that feel would support young people open to the criminal justice system and review and develop our participation strategy regularly. We recently asked the children open to our service to develop and design a logo, or identity, that encompassed the support received from the Youth Justice Service. The winning logo has been included at the front of this plan.

One of our young people fed back to her case manager that she "felt like we were with her through her journey, and that she felt supported, listened to, heard - and we understood her and not looked upon her as a problem, as others may of in the past"

In addition to developing internal participation, Wirral YJS also link into various other children's forums across the partnership, such as the Leaving Care Council and the Special Education Needs (SEN) working group for young people. This ensures we not only get justice exposed young people but a broader aspect of feedback to help inform and evolve our offers and services.

Wirral Youth Justice Management Board also includes the voice of the Victim, with a newly appointed Victim worker we have developed our offer and participation of victims to the service. The victim liaison worker gathers feedback through survey monkey and through one-to-one conversations and support on ways we can support victims.

4. Governance, leadership and partnership arrangements

Wirral's multi agency Youth Justice Service sits within the Children and Young Person Department within the Contextual Safeguarding service area. This has helped develop the Children First vision and ethos, with the YJS leadership team working closely with the specialist child exploitation and missing service, youth workers and other contextual safeguarding colleagues.

The Contextual Safeguarding Service is part of Children's Service's Early Help and Prevention structure. Under the Deputy Director, the service sits alongside Early Childhood Services, Family Matters Services, and wider community-based youth and family support. The Youth Justice Service within this context is strengthened through a consistent and appropriate network of services.

As part of the Children's Services Directorate, the priorities of the YJS are meaningfully shared and included in the departmental performance reports that are subject to scrutiny from the Children, Young People and Education Committee. The Deputy Director of Children's Services also leads the Management Board as chair.

The YJS staffing and Management structure for Wirral is attached as Appendix 1.

The strategic aims of the Wirral Youth Justice Service align to those of the National Youth Justice Board (YJB) and support those contained within the Wirral's Corporate Plan. We aim to ensure that we have both the capacity and capability to achieve these aims by ensuring that all statutory partner agencies are strongly represented and actively engaged through the Youth Justice Management Board (YJMB) at a senior level.

Wirral Youth Justice Management Board (YJMB) meets on a quarterly basis and in addition to statutory partners, has representatives from CAMHS, Community Safety Partnership and Housing. This year we are hoping to expand the Board membership to include a member of the community, voluntary and faith sector within the meetings.

Appendix 5 references all of the current members of Wirral Youth Justice Board and their attendance at the quarterly board meetings. This will of course be tracked through the new Key Performance Indicators set from April 2023, reported quarterly and monitored by the YJMB.

The Wirral Youth Justice Management Board developed fresh Terms of Reference in 2021, alongside the new strategic plan. Members of the Board have all been inducted to the Board and understand the responsibilities that come with being a member. The terms of reference were reviewed in 2022 and will again be reviewed and refreshed if necessary for 2023.

We have over the past 12 months had consistent representation of board members from partner agencies. This has led to a more cohesive and mature board. Where colleagues have moved role, new members have been inducted.

The role of the YJMB is to:

- To provide leadership and oversight of youth justice services.
- To contribute to local multi-agency strategies and work with local and national criminal justice organisations.
- To safeguard children and young people who receive youth justice services.

The WYJMB's overall objectives are to:

- Provide a strategic overview of the work of the Youth Justice Service, to include oversight of serious incidents.
- Promote positive outcomes in the context of the youth justice system and services to children and young people.
- Agree, monitor, and review the implementation of the annual Youth Justice Plan and ensure co-ordination between the Youth Justice Plan and plans and strategies of partner agencies.
- Receive a structured analysis of performance and identify and monitor those measures where steps need to be taken to improve performance.
- Provide support and guidance to the Youth Justice Service to ensure it engages with local and national priorities, promotes race equality and maintains diversity.
- Agree an annual budget, including in-kind contributions and to provide support for additional targeted funding to meet identified and agreed need.
- Support, challenge and oversee the performance of the Youth Justice Service, provide strategic guidance, and hold the Service Manager to account for the work of the Service, when necessary.
- Agree the form and structure of protocols, contracts and Service Level Agreements between the Youth Justice Service and partner agencies.
- Provide a forum for the discussion of community issues which impact upon or are affected by the work of the Youth Justice Service.
- To provide a forum for the exchange of Youth Justice information between partners and the Youth Justice Service, to promote a pro-active approach to partnership working.
- To review, monitor and evaluate service information to ensure that the Youth Justice Service is contributing to improving outcomes for children, young people and the community.

Board Developments

Members have met to consider the new KPIs set by the YJB. This has helped understand a broader suite of factors relevant to the youth justice system. Additional development was undertaken around cultural competence, including face to face training with a local

community group. This was led by our YJMB equality lead, with additional meetings and discussions taking place as to how the YJMB met the recommendations set out in the HMIP Thematic around Young Black Males in the Criminal Justice System. Extraordinary coordination and scoping also took place around improving transition arrangements to probation and adulthood in general. Finally, members have all contributed within the annual planning cycle, identifying progress and priorities in support of our strategic plan review.

Progress on previous plan

Harmful Sexual Behaviour Practices (HSB)

Last year within the Annual Plan we said we would further develop our HSB offer considering the review of Ofsted into Sexual Abuse in schools and colleges, and the 'Everyone's Invited' campaign. We can inform the reader that over the past 12 months we have completed various development projects.

The first was to ensure we increased the pool of staff within Children and Young People who are trained to undertake Assessment Interventions and Moving on (AIM) assessments and AIM interventions. Meaning that there are now staff in Children's Social Care, Children with Disabilities and Family Support who are trained to work alongside Youth Justice staff in AIM interventions.

We have also undertaken numerous HSB awareness briefings across the 12 months to the wider Children's workforce.

The lead manager for HSB has developed a Wirral toolkit (See Appendix 9) to support staff who work families to identify any risk-taking behaviours. This came about following changes in professionals using the 'Brook traffic light' tool, The toolkit has been presented to the Safeguarding Board and Partners and signed off as good practice, as well as being shared across the area to all professionals. Further development around this is to be undertaken within the next 12 months for this Plan discussed within this year developments.

Trauma Informed Practice and Enhanced Case Management (TIP and ECM)

TIP and ECM has been part of Wirral Youth Justice development Plans for the past 2 years. This was part of a 3-year development to ensure that we embed TIP as well as ECM into the core business of Youth Justice. Over the past twelve months we have developed a clear, partnership trauma development plan which is well underway with many areas completed; and reviewed every six months by the Board.

Over the past 12 months we have worked with 15 young people with additional needs and high complexity factors under the umbrella of ECM, with only 1 going on to re-offend.

This will be the final year that Trauma Informed Practice will be part of our 'developments' in the annual planning cycle as we see this as core business for standard operational and YJMB monitoring from 24/25.

Serious youth violence and exploitation

Understanding and responding to serious violence is a recently enacted statutory duty under the Police, Crime, Courts and Sentencing Act 2021. The Youth Justice Services are represented within the working group overseen by Merseyside Violent Reduction Partnership and the Police Crime Commissioner Office.

Wirral Youth Justice continues to attend the Community Safety Partnership Board meeting as well as the Local Authorities MACE (Multi Agency Child Exploitation) meeting, held once a fortnight with an identified Team Leader. The MACE link team leader also supports the MARTHR (Multi Agency Threat, Risk & Harm) meetings.

From a prevention aspect, Wirral YJS work hard to reach out and give young people the correct information about the risk of serious youth violence, educating them in the dangers, how to support peers, and where to go for help or more information.

The 'In the Zone' school education programme has grown, and Wirral YJS and partners now run the intervention in all Schools and alternative Provisions in the Borough. In the Zone is delivered to all Year 9 pupils, resulting in over four thousand children receiving the sessions. Feedback from children and staff has been excellent. Appendix 11 shows last year's evaluation report.

Feedback from the young people engaged in 2022/23 academic year will be used to develop the Zones for next year's Year 9 students.

The themes were drawn from our data and insight, priorities and feedback from young people in 2021/22. The current themes covered are below.

- Knife Crime
- Exploitation
- Gangs and Serious Violence
- Peer pressure, including Sexual Behaviour
- Harmful Substances: Drugs and Alcohol
- Anti-Social Behaviour
- Keeping Safe on the Internet (social media)

Participation and engagement

Section 3 of the YJB Annual Report sets out Wirral's work around 'The Voice of The Child', which overlays this priority area.

Participation and Engagement will continue as an area of priority for Wirral Youth Justice through 2023/24.

Prevention coordination for vulnerable cohorts

Wirral has continued to review data and undertake analysis with our partners to identify individual young people and cohorts at risk of entering the criminal justice system.

Over the past 12 months Wirral has set up Early Intervention and Prevention operational and tactical groups. The groups bring Partners from across the borough together to look at identifying and supporting young people who have been flagged as at risk of offending. The Hub then identifies services and offers that can consider how best to support each child, to help them address potential offending behaviour and increase desistance.

Turnaround funding from the Home Office has allowed Wirral YJS to increase capacity and enable us to offer support for more young people, earlier.

A new development is the use of research tools within Police data to look at key events and intelligence and help officers identify young people who may be at risk of entering the criminal justice system.

Resources and Services

Appendix 4, Table 1 'Partner Contributions to the Youth Offending Partnership Pooled Budget' shows the financial, staffing, and contributions made by local partners. In addition, the Wirral YJS Structure chart (Staffing Chart 'B7 & B8' Appendix 1 and Appendix 2) highlights the staffing information in relation to organisation, gender, and ethnicity.

Our performance will be improved by 2023/2024 by supporting the delivery of youth justice services including delivery of activities and effective specialist interventions such as Harmful Sexual Behaviour, Child to Adult Violence programme, Early Help and Prevention Hub as well as the Trauma development work that continues to be main priorities within this year's Plan. The Service has continued to support their core duties as well as developing the wider priority key areas.

The YJB grant also supports ongoing staff training for general development and responding to new themes and issues. This includes the Cross-Training Group (CTG) training plan for 2023/24 which was agreed by Greater Merseyside Youth Justice Managers and recognises the refresher training and emerging training needs of YJS staff for the coming year and beyond. In addition, Wirral also has specific local issues and training plans which the Grant supports and various in-house training courses. Appendix Training Plan 14.

Wirral YJS continues to be funded by its statutory partners including the Council, Health, Police / PCC, and Probation. Contributions from Health and Probation remain the same as the previous financial year. There has been a decrease in the contribution from the Police Crime Commissioners office this year, as allocated through the Wirral Community Safety Partnership (CSP). The additional Turnaround funding allocated by the Home Office has mitigated the risk of this reduction impacting on performance.

Wirral YJS also oversees the use of the Local Authority's budget provided to meet the cost of young people remanded to the secure estate, transferred under the provisions of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012. The allocation received for 2023/33 was £72,156 Wirral had several long-term remands relating to three young people arrested for grave crimes, this meant that our remand expenditure over the 12-month period over spent by £202,000. This was exacerbated given the young people

were assessed as needing a secure children centre accommodation. This overspend has been met by use of remand reserves, set aside for this purpose last year in view of the volatile and unpredictable nature of the remand costs.

Should the period 2023/24 follow the same pattern as 2022/23 in terms of remand award and expenditure, the award would not meet costs. No remand reserve remains from 2022/23. At the time of writing this plan the award for 2023/24 is yet to be confirmed.

We continue our partnership with Career Connect (formerly Connexions) with Career Connect staff embedded in the YJS. The YJS continues to receive a financial Health contribution for substance misuse interventions. A named School Nurse oversees the YJS Health provision. Wirral YJS have a CAMH's therapist based within the Service two days per week, as well as access to the Criminal Liaison Mental Health Team, who often co-locate at Wirral. Additionally, Wirral has access to an Educational Psychologist (EP) for one and half days per week, who coaches staff and supports Trauma Lead Interventions and Enhanced Case Management. The EP time commitment in kind has seen a slight reduction due increasing demands on the Educational Psychologist teams locally.

Wirral YJS continues to comply with the minimum staffing requirements set out in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

Partnership Arrangements

The YJMB has continued to place great emphasis on the role of strong partnership working and shared ownership of the youth justice performance targets and service delivery. Wirral Youth Justice Service (YJS) is represented on all major strategic partnerships including the Wirral Safeguarding Childrens Partnership, Safer Wirral Partnership Board, the Partnership for Children, Young People and Families, Domestic Abuse Alliance Partnership Board, and the Channel Panel for radicalisation/extremism.

Wirral's YJS Service Manager sits on the Merseyside Criminal Justice Board (MCJB) and feeds back to the Pan Merseyside YOT Managers. The YJS Service Manager also sits on the Youth Performance Improvement Group and leads on a number of MCJB workstreams including the Strategic Domestic Violence & Abuse Group and Youth Detention Scrutiny on behalf of Merseyside YOTs. The YJS Service Manager also attends the Community Safety Partnership Board and the Prevent & Chanel Panel. Other Youth Justice leads across Merseyside attend various other partnership meeting and feedback through the Heads of Service YOT managers meetings these include Out of Court Scitny Panel, Stragetgic MACE, Mersyside MAPPA meetings to name a few.

Within Wirral Council, the Deputy Director of Childrens Services is the YJMB Chair and maintains strong links across a wide range of strategic boards including Wirral Safeguarding Children Partnership Executive Board, Safer Wirral Partnership Board, Partnership for Children, Young People and Families, Children, Young People and Education Committee and the Health and Wellbeing Board.

The Chair of the Board further ensures strong and effective stakeholder engagement and effective partnership working links and networks, which serve to strengthen and challenge the multi-agency working arrangements that support the Youth Justice Service. Additionally, The Head of Service for Contextual Safeguarding who has oversight and direct line management of the Service Manager for Youth Justice and

Youth Justice Service leads the Wirral Safeguarding Partnership Contextual Safeguarding Committee and led the development of the Wirral Safeguarding Children Partnership's Safer Adolescence Strategy. This officer also co-chairs the local Multi Agency Child Exploitation panel, linking into Merseyside and regional forums for child exploitation, county lines and wider contextual safeguarding development. In recent months the Head of Service for contextual safeguarding has also taken lead on chairing the Chanel Panel, further strengthening the links across closely associated forums within safeguarding, community safety and youth justice.

All the above shows that YJS service is represented throughout the partnership and highlights how Wirral makes best use of its resources pooled budgets and partnership arrangements to effectively respond to the issues and needs of young people who find themselves part of the Criminal Justice System.

Prevention and Early Intervention remain paramount to the work of Wirral YJS. The aspiration is that by working across local partners, young people who may benefit from support are recognised and supported at an early stage, being referred, and considered for prevention interventions. The prevention offer has been developed to meet different needs of young people, sharing well developed operational links across local organisations and agencies.

The YJS Business Manager provides data to enable early identification of families which may fit the criteria for the Supporting Families programme. Additionally, data is provided to monitor the Wirral Supporting Families Outcomes Plan and the Breaking the Cycle Programme (BTC) Outcomes Plan. For example, reductions in re-offending and reductions in anti-social behaviour. Additionally, the Youth Justice Service also provides data for the Wirral Safeguarding Partnership's Quality Assurance Board and Contextual Committee, where the Service Manager presents feedback on themes and trends, highlighting challenges and good practice. Headline Youth Justice performance is also presented to elected members and scrutinised via the committee for Children, Young People and Education.

Wirral YJS holds the Restorative Practice Kite Mark from the Restorative Justice Council. The Service will continue to ensure that it upholds this good practice in line with the Restorative Practice Kite Mark and to build on positive restorative outcomes both within the YJS and with partner agencies. The recent role development and recruitment for a victim worker included a focus to develop the restorative offer to victims and lead training and development in the use of Restorative Interventions for partner agencies. This has been included in our development plan for 2024/24.

Performance

The YJMB continues to monitor performance through quarterly quantitative and qualitative reports. The Wirral Youth Justice Service managers convene monthly meeting to support operational delivery against the YJS priorities. As well as Professional Development Meeting with the full service to look at themes, data and professional development.

In addition to the key performance data presented to the Board, the Board also looks a specific dashboard and the core quality assurance of cases conducted by YJS staff. The YJS Operational Managers have undertaken 8 deep dive audits on priority themes and reported back through the YJMB under performance management. Where needed

small working groups and action plans have been devised and implemented to improve outcomes following the audits.

The dashboard data presented quarterly to the Board are as follows:

- Overall performance using local data
- Out of Court Disposals
- Key Indicators
- Equality & Diversity
- Education, Training & Employment

Key themes emerging from the dashboards presented to the Youth Justice Management Board include:

- We are working with more individual children and parent/carers compared to the previous year i.e. we have worked with 273 children (from April 2022 to March 2023) compared to 263 children for the whole of 2021/22. The number of CLA that we are working with is also increasing across all interventions.
- We have exceeded the number of interventions provided during 2022/23 (571 interventions) compared to 2021/22 (476 interventions).
- Although the number of court disposals remain similar to last year, we are seeing higher numbers in Out of Court Disposals and Prevention.
- Whilst the number of Community Resolutions is reducing the number of Outcome 22 interventions are steadily increasing.
- We are increasingly working earlier with more children who exhibit a range of vulnerabilities and health issues including: disabilities, ADHD, speech, language & communication issues, mental health concerns, emotional wellbeing concerns.
- A number of children are identified as at risk of criminal exploitation.
- A number of children are identified as SEN with ECHPs in place.

These dashboards will be extended this year to include the New KPI's that went live in April 2023. The quarterly performance report presented at the YJMB includes the full details of all performance areas with the dashboards giving us a quick glance at data to immediately highlight any themes or increases.

Given the first reporting for the new KPI's is not until August of this year, after submission of this plan, the Business Manager is working on developing the dashboard and the performance reporting elements for our next management board in the quarterly cycle. Additionally, as a management team we will meet quarterly to run through the data on KPI's and monitor any areas where we feel improvements can be made. We will also use the KPI's to undertake Quality Assurance deep dives and later in the year, we have planned a local National Standards Audit, in addition to the National Standards Audit on Courts due in October 2023. This will give us a good baseline as to where we need to improve quality and look at tightening processes. Given the changes to KPI's and reporting we are expecting that there will be some issues that arise but by closely monitoring this any issues will be addressed as soon as identified.

Suitable accommodation

The Local Authority's senior manager for housing sits on the Youth Justice Management Board, they will take the lead on this Key Performance Indicator for accommodation. The senior manager has supported young people leaving custody after serving a DTO

sentence, this young man could not return home due to Dad's capacity issue. The support from housing, youth justice and social care ensured that this young person had a supported placement upon release.

Education, training and employment (ETE)

Wirral YJS have now employed a specific education worker within the service. The role is to include the monitoring and reporting on this KPI, working to a lead responsible manager. Working closely with our Education partners Wirral YJS feel that we can support more of our young people into meaningful and appropriate Education and Employment. The Education Worker and Career Connect staff will work closely together, under the same reporting manager, to ensure enhanced support is provided.

Special educational needs and disabilities/additional learning needs (SEND)

The aforementioned education worker will also support this KPI. The management board Chair has also led on developing SEND within the Local Authority. This clearly gives the Youth Justice Service additional expertise, insight and support in this key area.

Mental health care and emotional wellbeing (EH&WB)

Strong pathways and processes have been developed in this area over the last 12 months with all young people being screened for support at the earliest opportunity. With CAMH's and CJLT sitting within the YJS, and an identified manager taking the lead role appropriate support is more effectively identified and offered to the young people accessing youth justice services.

Substance misuse

Wirral have a Tier 2 and Tier 3 staff within the service who can support young people with substance misuse. The staff who deliver these services are trained and also link into Wirral's drug service agency called Response. These staff regularly link in with Wirral specialist Drug and Alcohol service (Response) to ensure training and professional development remains current and valid for the themes impacting on Wirral children. The Response drugs service is also part of the prevention programme and 'In The Zone' school inputs.

Victims

In addition to the new dedicated victim worker, Wirral Youth Justice Service want to develop this area further by increasing the use of Restorative Practice.

Quality Assurance and Oversight

The areas of Quality assurance that have been covered over the past twelve months are:

- 1) Education – March 2022
- 2) Risk and safeguarding – June 2022
- 3) OOC – Sept 2022
- 4) Trauma informed practice July 2022
- 5) Criminal exploitation -Sept 2022
- 6) BAME – March 2023
- 7) Risk of Serious harm – May 2023
- 8) Child Looked After and safeguarding – April 2023

All eight deep dive audits have been presented at the Youth Justice Management Board for discussion and recommended actions on areas that can be improved. Progress is tracked through YJMB review and within the WYJS management meetings.

Outcomes from the each deep dive have been written up into action plans. The actions plans are presented to the next YJMB.

Whilst all managers and staff quality assure their own practice, Wirral have identified a specific Team Leader, whop works alongside the Business Manager to focus on areas where we may improve practice. This supports managers and staff with continuous improvement, informs the training plans and highlights any good practice to share with all members of the service. Appendix 12 will shows a detailed report of the finding from the interal Audits completled.

In additional to the mandated National Standards Audit, Wirral have scheduled an internal National Standards Audit for later in 23/24.

Four more themes will be chosen in the enxt 12 months, identified through the YJMB members, feedback and data insight.

Throughout 2022/23 performance has been reported on a quarterly basis to the YJMB and quarterly contact with the YJB’s North-West Business Area Local Partnership Advisor has been maintained to identify and address key areas of performance.

In addition to the three Youth Justice Indicators; (reducing first time entrants to the criminal justice system, reducing the use of custody, and reducing re-offending by young people in the criminal justice system), Wirral YJS also have local performance measures in place for re-offending rates following Out of Court Disposals and offending by Children Looked After.

The final 2022/23 reported YJB data summary can be found in Appendix 6.

Reducing the Number of First Time Entrants

The longer terms trend has seen significant reductions in the numbers of first-time entrants to the criminal justice system. In Wirral this was mainly attributable to the operation of Out of Court Disposals with Merseyside Police. Out of Court Disposals divert young people from the criminal justice system and comprises an assessment and brief intervention.

First Time Entrants	Date	YJS Performance rate
Number of first-time entrants to the youth justice system (per 100,000 of 10-17 population)	January to December 2021	114 (35 young people)
	January to December 2022	86 (26 young people)

The YJB Performance Summary uses data from the Police National Computer (PNC). The latest data set published by the YJB compares January to December 2021 with January to December 2022. The YJB have used a population rate of 30,541 for young people living in Wirral aged 10 – 17 years for both cohorts. The latest data set is showing a **26.6% reduction** in the frequency rate of FTE’s when comparing the above periods. This equates to a decrease of nine young people in the actual number of individual FTE’s.

The Merseyside average is an *increase* of 26% and the National average is an *increase* of 2% in FTE’s frequency rates.

The priorities set for 2023/2024 reflect the fact that Wirral is focused on Early Intervention and Prevention.

Wirral YJS continues to provide several preventative and diversionary services to young people at risk of offending or risk of anti-social behaviour. All these single agency referrals come direct to the Prevention Service to avoid delay in accessing intervention.

Following a successful funding bid through the Violent Reduction Partnership (VRP) Wirral YJS in 2021/22 we were able to develop a new programme named Operation Inclusion. These young people will have already been open to the YJS under the OOC or Community Statutory Orders before being considered for the programme. Operation Inclusion is a programme that lasts up to 12 weeks. The young person and their families work with the YJS and Partner agencies to reduce offending behaviour and address the issues that lead to the offending behaviour.

This programme was originally run as a pilot in Wirral and after great success has been rolled out across Merseyside, Operation Inclusion has been a great success in Wirral working in partnership with the Crown Prosecution Service and Merseyside Police.

In 2022/23 we have worked with a number of young people under the umbrella of Operation Inclusion and to date none of the young person has gone on to re-offend.

Operation Inclusion received national recognition from the Howard League for Penal Reform, receiving the ‘Community Award’ under the category of ‘Policing and Children’.

Overall	15 which breaks down to: 11 completed 4 in progress 1 to start
Original Offences	5 POBA 4 POOW 2 Assault 2 PWITS 1 threatening with bladed article 1 Possess indecent image of child
Reoffences at time of writing	0

The above table shows details of the number and outcomes to date for Operation Inclusion.

In addition, the Pan Merseyside Out of Court Disposal Protocol continues to be used whereby young people receive a Community Resolution with restorative justice at the heart of the intervention. Community Resolutions across Merseyside have been very successful and have played a strong role in reducing First Time Entrants. The Merseyside OOCB Scrutiny Panel incorporates representatives from Merseyside YOT Managers, Merseyside Police and Magistrates. The Scrutiny Panel examines and samples OOCB to ensure consistency of decision making and suitability of disposals across Merseyside.

Reducing Re-offending

This measure tracks a rolling cohort of young people who have committed an offence in a 12-month (aggregated quarterly cohorts) period for the subsequent 12 months to identify if they are proven to have re-offended. The data for this performance indicator is taken from the Ministry of Justice published data (using the Police National Computer data) and because of the methodology used there is delay in the time periods tracked and reported.

Binary Re-offending	Date	YJS Performance
Proven re-offending rate of young offenders. (Percentage of young people who have re-offended)	July 19 – June 20	41.9%
	July 20 – June 21	41.0%

Source: YDS version 114

The latest published data indicates **0.9% point reduction** in the re-offending rates when comparing the above periods. It is, however, important to recognise the reduction in the cohort numbers and acknowledge that those who remain within the cohort are young people who may have more complex factors at play.

The actual **PNC** data for the Wirral **12-month** re-offending cohorts is presented below:

Re-offending rate cohort	Jul 19 – Jun 20	Jul 20 – Jun 21
Number in the cohort	86	78
Number of re-offenders	36	32
Number of re-offences	166	98
Average number of re-offences per re-offender	4.61	3.06
Frequency rate	1.93	1.26
Binary rate	41.9%	41.0%

Source: YDS version 114

It is recognised that Youth Justice Services are working with a smaller but more complex cohort of older young people who present with greater risks and vulnerabilities to themselves and the community. The challenge to reduce re-offending has been felt across Merseyside and was recognised as a priority for the MCJB.

Re-offending of young people and the risks it presents including youth to adult transition were identified as key issues for the MCJB Reducing Re-offending Strategy. Merseyside YOT (YJS) Operational Managers jointly collaborated to explore these issues, including revising the Transitions Protocol. Such joint working and collaboration have assisted in sharing good practice and local findings to focus on specific issues of re-offending.

Wirral YJS still addresses all matters pertaining to the young person’s offending including attitudes to offending. This includes victim awareness, restorative practices, offending behaviour programmes, peers and other causal factors including substance misuse, Education Training and Employment (ETE), and emotional health and wellbeing. Many young people are also supported by wider child level plans such as Team Around the Family, Child in Need, Child Protection or other multi agency support mechanisms. We find many of our high-risk re-offenders are also supported by our Family Matters Service due to the complex needs of the young person and their family.

Wirral YJS Management Team has set in place steps to ensure re-offending is a primary focus in intervention and management. This includes ensuring Case Management supervision specifically discusses young people who are re-offending, ensuring that case managers have addressed the re-offending and responded accordingly in relation to their intervention plans.

Wirral YJS has been using the YJB re-offending live tracker tool to conduct analysis around the current cohorts of young people and to establish any trends in re-offending. Indications show reductions in the re-offending rates for the 2022 cohorts. This will allow us to track the specific cohorts and identify specifics such as age, most common re-offending offence, timing of re-offending within an order and as such draw up an action plan to target the identified issues and areas. Findings from the live tracker tool will allow us to target local re-offending more effectively in 2023 and beyond.

Reduce the Use of Custody

The use of custody indicator looks at the number of custodial disposals presented as a rate per 1,000 of the local general 10 –17-year-old population. This data will come from YOT’s case-level data published in the Youth Justice Application Framework.

Use of Custody	Date	YJS Performance
Young people receiving a custodial sentence (per 1,000 of 10-17 population)	April 2021 – March 2022	0.16 (5 young people)
	April 2022 – March 2023	0.10 (3 young people)

Source: YDS version 114

Wirral YJS has seen a **reduction in the custodial rate of 0.06** during the above period when comparing 0.16 with the baseline rate of 0.10. This equates to two less young people receiving custodial sentences. The local population mid-year for 2021 is 30,541.

It is widely recognised that imposing a custodial sentence should be used as a measure of last resort for children and young people.

The three young people sentenced to custody during April 2022 to March 2023 were all aged between 16 years and 18 years old and of white British ethnicity. All three males were sentenced for serious violent offences.

Education

Education is an area of development for the YJMB and YJB following feedback from the HMIP Inspection and will continue to be one of the development programmes for 2023/24, given we have recently employed a bespoke Youth Justice Education Worker to sit within the service.

Audit and analysis have been undertaken to help understand the educational profiles and journey of children open to the service. This has been presented to the YJMB, resulting in an action plan to address recommendations. The YJMB now includes The Virtual Head, whose remit has been extended to include children who are open to the YJS.

Wirral are also supported by an Educational Psychologist, based in the Service for two days a week. This professional has been instrumental in supporting young people through EHCP (Education and Health Care Plans) Assessment, working with school, undertaking case consultation and formulation; and supporting the Enhanced Case Management Interventions.

As of June 2023, the breakdown of education type for current open young people is set out and explained in the chart below:

Education type	School Age	Above School Age
Alternative Provision/PRU	9	0
At School not attending	0	0
Full time education	12	2
Part time education	0	0
Elective Home Education	2	0
Not in ETE	1	6
Not started intervention	0	0
Employed/Working	1	4
College/further education	2	4
Residential school	0	0
Training	0	1
Unemployed	0	4
DTO school/training	0	6

Total	27	27
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Analysis of the above data shows that of the 54 young people, 17 are children looked after (31%). Of the 17 children looked after nine have been identified as either requiring SEN support or given an Education, Health and Care Plan.

Of the school aged children 25 are White British males (92.6%), 1 Black male (3.7%) and 1 White European (3.7%).

Of the above school aged children 25 are White British males (92.6%), 1 Black African male (3.7%) and 1 male of Mixed Ethnic background (3.7%).

Of the 54 young people on open caseloads 43 have been identified as SEN – the breakdown of SEN level is shown below:

SEN Level	Number
Education, Health and Care Plan	20
In college SEN support	1
In school SEN support	17
Home Educated	1
Left school	4
Total	43

Source: Childview

Equality and Diversity

Wirral's YJMB developed a set of Equality Objectives in the 2022/23 Strategic Plan, these are carried forward through 2023/24. This included a named board member with lead responsibility.

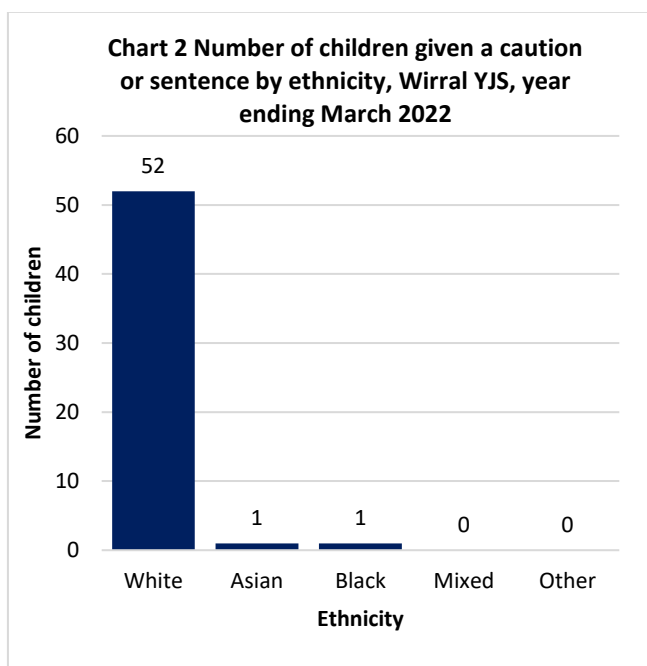
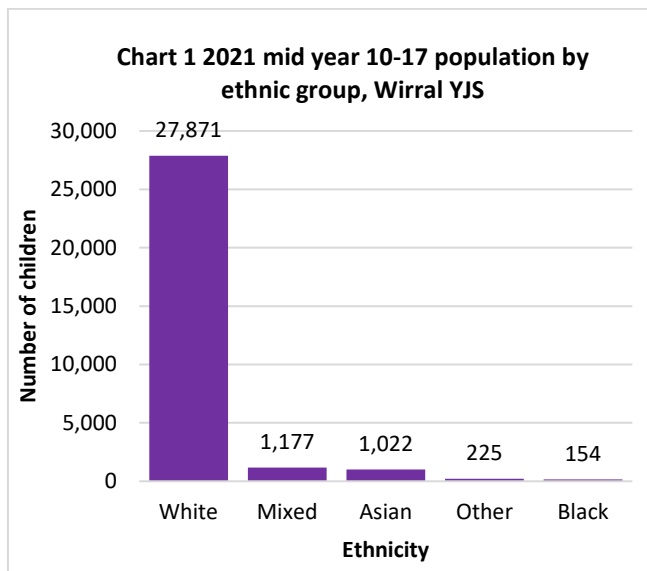
The Business Manager reports a range of performance data and includes a dashboard that outlines any concerns relating to children being over-represented in relation to ethnicity, looked after status, children excluded from school, protected characteristics including disability, mental health, SEN, speech, communication, and language needs.

The YJB Summary Ethnic Disproportionality toolkit 2021/22 for Wirral stated 96% of offenders were from a White background with 2% of offenders from an Asian background and 2% from a Black background.

The YJB Ethnic Disparity toolkit headlines the following data for **Wirral**:

- 30,449 local population aged 10-17 years (2021 census)
- 52 White children were cautioned or sentenced. Compared to the local population of White children (27,871) this represents 0.2% of the local population

- 1 Asian child was cautioned or sentenced. Compared to the local population of Asian children (1,022) this represents 0.09% of the local population.
- 1 Black child was cautioned or sentenced. Compared to the local population of Black children (154) this represents 0.7% showing a disparity for this ethnic group, albeit the sample size (One) here is such that the YJB would not consider this a statistically significant volume.
- White children are most likely to commit a serious offence.
- White children most likely to be sentenced at court rather than receive youth cautions or youth conditional cautions.
- Compared to year ending March 2017 the number of White children receiving a caution or sentence fell by 57%



The breakdown of the YOS Wirral CLA cases by Legal Status week commencing the 19th of June 2023 is listed below:

Legal Status	Number
Full Care Order	5
Interim Care Order	3
Remand in custody	0
Single Period of Accommodation Under Section 20	6
Total	14

Source: Childview

Thirteen of the above Wirral CLA cases are White British males (93%) with one child of mixed ethnic background (7%).

The snapshot of Child Protection cases week commencing the 19th of June 2023 is listed below:

Child	Age	Gender	Ethnicity	Intervention
A	16	Male	White British	Prevention
B	10	Male	White British	Prevention
C	16	Male	White British	Outcome 22
D	17	Male	White British	Bail Support
E	16	Male	White & Black African	Youth Rehabilitation Order

Source: Childview

Four of the above are White British males (80%) with one young male from a White and Black African ethnic group (20%).

The snapshot of CIN cases w/c 19.06.23 is as below:

Child	Age	Gender	Ethnicity	Intervention
A	15	Male	White British	Harmful Sexual Behaviour
B	16	Male	White British	Bail Support programme
C	14	Male	White British	Outcome 22
D	15	Male	White British	Turnaround
E	13	Male	White European	Turnaround

F	12	Male	White British	Prevention Programme
G	17	Male	White British	Turnaround
H	17	Male	White British	Bail Support programme
I	9	Male	White British	Harmful Sexual Behaviour
J	12	Male	White British	Turnaround
K	16	Male	White British	Outcome 22
L	16	Male	White British	Turnaround
M	16	Male	White British	Turnaround

Source: Childview

Twelve of the above children are white British males (92%) with one male from a White European background (8%).

Prevention and Diversion

There are several funding streams targeting prevention and diversionary activity for children and young people as mentioned earlier. Wirral YJS believe that early identification and support is key to changing life outcomes. This includes developing an exit strategy once the young person concludes work with the YJS, helping the young person and their family to be linked into the wider support networks.

In order to support families and young people to help themselves Wirral have launched the Wirral Family Toolbox website (www.wirralfamilytoolbox.co.uk) that is available for anyone to access and offers a range of support from many agencies that parents and carers can contact.

Additionally, Wirral have launched the Zillo Website (www.zillowirral.co.uk) that is a bespoke website where young people can access if they require an additional information or support. Wirral Youth Justice Service have contributed to Zillo with supporting young people who may find themselves in trouble with the Police who need information and support on areas such as what to expect if going to Court, the rights around stop and search, substance misuse and many more.

With the additional funding from the Home Office through the Turnaround grant we have been able to up scale the offer of Prevention to young people in the Wirral and have used the additional resources to develop an activity-based programme with one-to-one support for those young people deemed to fit the criteria set by the Home Office and Turnaround. Last year we exceeded the target of our set number of young people given we had only three months to do this, and staff and managers worked hard to ensure that the right young people were offered the support.

Operation Inclusion

As referenced earlier in this plan, Operation Inclusion is an example of Wirral piloting and developing best practice to be rolled out across Merseyside YOTs, working with the Merseyside Violence Reduction Partnership.

Out of Court Disposals

Data on prevention and diversionary interventions are recorded on the YJS case management system. All Out of Court disposals are recorded initially as a Youth Restorative Disposal following a referral from the Police Service. Once the young person has been assessed and attended the Out of Court Disposal Panel a decision is made whether the case is opened as a Community Resolution, Outcome 22 or Operation Inclusion intervention.

From 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023 there were 41 Community Resolutions, 150 Outcome 22's and 208 Youth Restorative Disposals delivered by the YJS. Ten young people also received Operation Inclusion interventions prior to receiving a Community Resolution or Outcome 22. The remaining 5 young people being offered Operation Inclusion after they had already received a Community Resolution for another offence.

Community Resolutions have a very low re-offending rate. The cohort for January to March 2022 consists of 50 young people tracked forward 12 months shows that four young people have re-offended. This equates to a re-offending rate of 8%. This data is taken from cases recorded in Child view.

In the Zone

The in the Zone programme is a multi-agency delivery of prevention and information sharing for year 9 students across all schools on the Wirral. The programme is run in a whole year group sessions for Year 9 students. Each Zone has a theme, run with approximately 20 young people in each group where they are involved in a game or activity for 45 minutes. These short, intense, and fun sessions are intended to be more productive than power point presentations and assemblies. The YJS team have found that young people are more likely to speak to professionals in smaller groups and to ask questions with their peers.

The Youth Justice Service Manager continues to link in with the Wirral Safer Schools Police officers on identifying young people in need of Youth Justice Prevention services as well as identifying areas where the Youth Justice Service and Merseyside Police can undertake work together to support activity programmes to children through schools, and one to one support.

Serious violence and exploitation

Violence is the main category of offending for youth justice case work. Tackling the prevalence of violence across Wirral is one of the areas of focus under the Safer Wirral Strategy and Safer Wirral Partnership Board. Wirral Youth Justice Service continue to have a seconded manager working within the Merseyside Violence Reduction Partnership, ensuring the work of the partnership supports prevention using a public health approach. The prevention work highlighted in this plan includes targeted education interventions across schools against this theme. Mentors in Violence (MVP) is one such programme, promoting safe bystander interventions and peer support.

The YJS is located within the Contextual Safeguarding Service area. The area includes the specialist exploitation and missing service and the Head of Service Chairs the Safeguarding Partnerships Contextual committee and the Channel Panel. This ensures strong leadership connections and operational links across themes within the serious violence bracket. Wirral's Safeguarding Children's Partnership has developed a Safer Adolescence Strategy. Wirral also has a Multi-Agency Child Exploitation Panel (MACE) to support children at risk of exploitation, the area also has a disruption panel. Both panels are attended by the YJS, who are active contributors.

Compass, Wirral's specialist exploitation team review overnight arrests, stop checks, intelligence and missing reports to ensure local partners are vigilant to signs of exploitation and risk of offending. Any such events would include contact and engagement with the YJS Service. One such example of the operational connections is the voluntary use of Enhanced Case Management approach for victims of exploitation either without offending, or who may have been drawn into other offending not linked to the Modern Slavery defence.

In terms of general violence and the YJS cohort. During April 2022 to March 2023 there were 23 individual children sentenced for a total of 43 violent offences. The breakdown of violent offences is listed below:

April 2022 – March 2023		
Offence	Number	% Of total offences
Assault a constable in the execution of his / her duty	2	5%
Assault a person thereby occasioning them actual bodily harm	3	7%
Assault by beating	12	28%
Assault by beating of an emergency worker	5	12%
Attempt to cause grievous bodily harm with intent to do grievous bodily harm	1	2%
Possess an imitation firearm in a public place - Firearms Act 1968	1	2%
Possess an offensive weapon in a public place	4	9%
Possess knife blade / sharp pointed article in a public place	13	30%
Section 18 - attempt wounding with intent 7	1	2%
Section 18 - wounding with intent 7	1	2%
Total	43	100%

There are several initiatives across the wider partnership focused on youth violence. Multi agency Safe space operations regularly take place in open spaces, as well as targeted high visibility patrolling in the violence hotspots to disrupt serious violence.

'Mini Pathfinders' is a Local Authority community safety led Primary age focused prevention programme for contextual risks. Police also have the more targeted prevention Pathfinders programme, working with higher risk cohorts, using Safer Schools officers across Wirral who link in and work closely with the YJS.

As laid out in the Strategic Plan of 2022/23, Prevention and Diversion, especially linked to serious violence and exploitation will continue to be key themes for Wirral in 2023/24 and beyond.

Gangs/Organised Crime

An emerging theme for 2023/24 is gangs and organised crime, Wirral has seen several firearms incidents through 2022/23, some involving young adults. This has corresponded with an increase in safeguarding contacts for 'Gangs' at the Integrated Front Door (IFD). This has been identified through data and feedback from young people. The 'In the Zone' theme already targets prevention messages on this type of harm, however the local safeguarding, youth justice and community safety partners will consider how the local offer can be strengthened considering this trend.

Constructive resettlement and the use of custody (including remands)

During April 2022 to March 2023 there were six young people who were remanded in custody prior to sentencing. The chart below shows their age, gender, ethnicity, and offence.

Child	Age at beginning of RIC	Gender	Ethnicity	Offence
A	17 year 3 months	Male	White British	S18 wounding with intent
B	17 years 11 months	Male	White British	Robbery
C	16 years 5 months	Male	White British	Rape
D	16 years 8 months	Male	White British	S18 attempted wounding with intent
E	15 years 9 months	Male	White British	Murder (later changed to Manslaughter)
F	17 years	Male	White British	S18 Wounding with intent

During April 2022 to March 2023 three young people were sentenced to custody. One child was given a Hospital Order. The chart below shows their age, gender, ethnicity, and court outcomes to date:

Child	Age at sentence	Gender	Ethnicity	Custodial outcome
A	17 years 9 months	Male	White British	Hospital Order (4.4.23)
B	17 years 11 months	Male	White British	4 months Detention & Training Order
C	17 years	Male	White British	<i>Still remanded in custody</i>
D	16 years 9 months	Male	White British	S250 Custodial Order for 5 years
E	16 years 2 months	Male	White British	<i>Currently on ISS Bail and GPS tag</i>
F	17 years 1 month	Male	White British	S250 Custodial Order 5.2 years

Resettlement was judged as 'Requiring Improvement' in the HMIP 2021 Inspection of Wirral. This was the first HMIP inspection to use the new criteria. Wirral had an action plan at that stage to address resettlement recommendations from a peer review. As part of that plan Wirral have developed a local Policy, in line with the national protocol and continues to be monitored and reviewed.

Transition and accommodation

As with other areas nationally, there is challenge regarding accommodation. This is for a small number of young people who are on the cusp of turning 18 and transitioning to Probation. Wirral's partnership board consider this as an area for further enhancement. Work is currently underway to further develop the offer, this will support resettlement and transition; and contribute to reducing re-offending. Given that this is now a Key Performance Indicator to report on this will be monitored the returns and brought to the discussions at the Youth Justice Management Board. As stated earlier, the board have the senior manager for Housing as a Board Member who is a string advocate for securing appropriate and timely accommodation.

Detention in Police Custody

The Service Manager for Wirral Youth Justice Service sits on the Merseyside Detention in Custody Panel where cases from across Merseyside where young people have been arrested and kept in Custody for 15 hours or more are discussed. The Panel is chaired and ran by the Police Crime Commissioners Office and members include Emergency Duty Team Managers, Youth Justice, Custody Visiting Service and Merseyside Police. Each area has an opportunity to raise issues of young people in the previous month that they feel there could be learning from. We have also developed a process and pathway for Police Custody Staff to telephone our social care teams and inform them of an arrest and even if they do not need an Appropriate Adult given that a family member may be doing this, this ensures that day service and Youth Justice Service can be informed but also adding an additional level of safeguarding for the Local authority to check systems for flags etc. The Panel is now well established, and all areas are happy with how the process works and development work over the past 12 months there has been further development work completed by the group looking as "could the young person have been dealt with by way of voluntary attendance" and numbers being brought to the Panel have reduced which with regards to Child First and Trauma Informed practice is a positive outcome.

From a Wirral development perspective, we have worked closely with Merseyside Police and our Social Care colleagues to deliver Appropriate Adult briefings to a small number of experienced Foster Careers who are on an Appropriate Adult rot. This was to ensure that any young people brought to custody out of hours are dealt with swiftly and not reliant solely on waiting for the Emergency Duty Team.

Additionally, Wirral have identified several very experienced Foster Careers who are able to take young people on an emergency basis from Police Custody. The YJS have supported these Foster Carers to ensure that they are well trained. This has led to young people not being kept in custody for prolonged periods of time, instead being placed in a family home where they can be supported until day services can complete assessments. This has been seen as good practice across Merseyside to the extent that other areas are looking at adopting a similar model.

Remands and Use of Custody

Wirral and other YJS teams report to the MCJB chaired by the Police Crime Commissioner. Working in Partnership with our North-West Regional Representative for the Youth Justice Board, we have very recently changed what is reported from a Merseyside Youth Justice footprint. Given that the participants that attend this meeting are all key stakeholders and policy makers in the Criminal Justice system, areas of concern are picked up through the MCJB governance.

Wirral managers and staff continue to support and challenge, when necessary, the length and the need for remand. Our preference is to offer, tight and well-managed bail packages when we feel the levels of risk can be managed in the community.

If a young person is at risk of being remanded to custody the YJS will liaise with social care so that alternative accommodation arrangements to support a Bail programme can be put forward to Courts.

Prior to a young person being sentenced, the YJS inform the young person about possible Restorative Justice Interventions. When a young person is sentenced, the YJS contact with the Victim, following the victim's code of practice. The case worker will explain the sentence outcome and provide a summary of Restorative Justice which is a voluntary arrangement. If a victim wishes to participate in Restorative Justice, contact will be made via the YJS Victim Worker who will also liaise with the relevant YOI (Young Offender Institution) to organise an RJ conference.

Whilst in custody, multi-agency plans are formulated with the relevant agencies and internal services in the custodial setting. There are good examples of jointed up working whilst in custody with mental health practitioners to allow a sharing of information to best meet the needs of the child and to formulate exit plans for service provisions to meet the needs of the child upon release from custody. Regular legal visits take place to support the child and to continue to build a relationship with professionals as part of the resettlement plan.

During a custody period, Multi agency High Risk Safety and Wellbeing meeting continue to take place with Wirral children locally as per the Risk Policy. This supports case formulation and planning to manage the concerns identified in custody and as part of the resettlement in the community. When required members of the service will attend the critical case panels to manage the risk concerns and attend the Enhanced Support Team meetings to be part of the planning process.

If accommodation is an identified concern, the YJS at the earliest opportunity notify children services and other relevant services with professionals meeting in place to address and formulate a resettlement plan and a robust licence if required.

The YJS promote and support the view that family and carer contact during a custodial sentence is key to the resettlement process. If the young person is cared for by the local authority, arrangements for visits and invitations to planning meetings are discussed with the allocated social worker as soon as possible. Family members are always invited the prison meeting and transportation is always offered.

The impact of a custodial sentence, or a remand period on a young person, in addition to previous adverse childhood experiences and trauma is always considered as part of the immediate planning for release. Plans take account of the experience being different for each young person, and consider individual needs, risks and how and who best to complete interventions with them during the licence period with professional services involved.

The YJS Case Manager ensures the police have been notified that a young person has been released from custody on licence conditions. This is either done by liaising with the YJS Police Officer who will complete the relevant electronic notification systems or alternatively a call can be made to the general police and a police reference number is created. All contacts are recorded and evidenced within the Young Persons contact records.

Constructive Re-Settlement

Wirral is committed to supporting children leaving custody and returning to the community, we ensure that we follow the following five principles when a young person leave custody

Constructive the use of the National and the Pan Merseyside Policy on Re-settlement makes certain that when a young person is returning to the community that any plans, interventions and assessments are constructive and meaningful to the community and the child.

Co-created support plans and risk management, giving the young person a voice in what their resettlement looks like when they leave custody, supporting them and their families to ensure that any risk of reoffending is reduced.

Customised to the young person needs addressing any risks and vulnerabilities of the young person as well as ensuring we manage any risk in the community and community safety.

Consistent we in Wirral YJS ensure that we are consistent in our approach and the partners are also consistent when dealing with young people ensuring that on release from custody that the young person is prepared for life after custody.

Wirral YJS coordinate the plan with the agencies supporting the young people on release to ensure that when the young person is released from custody that the young person has the best life chances on returning to the community. This is achieved through chairing a multi-agency response meeting for resettlement in the community.

Standard for Children and the Justice System

This area has been addressed throughout the plan, with details action plans on Quality Assurance Audits and Actions Plans set on findings.
(Appendix 13)

Workforce Development

Wirral Youth Justice and the Local Authority value and invest heavily in Workforce Development. Wirral Youth Justice Service has invested in Trauma Informed Working Practice, and all staff have completed the Trauma Recovery Model Training/ECM

Training. Managers have also completed Supervision under the Trauma umbrella to support staff with vicarious trauma.

Staff that have joined the service in the past 12 months will undertake Trauma Recovery Training/ECM Training at the end of 2023.

New staff, including seconded staff from partner agencies, have and will continue to be given access to the PCEP training ran in conjunction with the Youth Justice Board Wirral currently have 4 staff undertaking the training. 2 from the YJS teams and 2 from Merseyside Police.

All staff who work in Wirral with Children and Families will also be attending the Systemic Practice training course that has been commissioned by the Safeguarding Partnership. This will complement the Trauma journey and action plan within Wirral Youth Justice Service, and further enhance the support and offer to families on the Wirral.

Staff have a monthly workforce development session aimed at enhancing the staff knowledge base and empowering them to take charge of their own professional development. This session is run in conjunction with managers but led by staff. We have regular guest speakers and training and briefing sessions within development meetings. This includes outside agencies attending on themes and areas highlighted through any quality assurance audits. The themes may also be identified through conversations with the staff teams on areas they feel are necessary to improve their practice.

Given the work we undertake within the Harmful Sexual Behaviour arena, we have and will continue to support staff with quarterly Clinical Supervision, outsourced through the AIM project who are the country's leading experts in Harmful Sexual Behaviour. Feedback from staff has been excellent. They feel having the knowledge base and experience from AIM gives them confidence to work in what can be a challenging and complex specialist field.

All staff within their monthly supervision will discuss additional training that they feel would support them, as well as managers identifying any training that they feel the staff could access to improve practice. All staff have individual training plans.

Appendix 13 contains a copy of Wirral's Training plan, with all training available to staff. Over the past twelve months, staff within Wirral Youth Justice Service have undertaken many and varied training courses ran through the CTG, these include AIM 3 Assessment, Interventions, HSB Technology Assisted. As well as bespoke Gang and County Lines training and Enhance Case Management embedding practice training. Staff have also attended Local Authority Training set for all staff these being Safeguarding training, Systemic Practice training, Equality Diversity and inclusion, keeping safe at work, working safely at home, Cyber ninjas and Hybrid working.

Evidenced Based Practice and Innovation

In addition the excellent progress and result around Operation Inclusion and Enhanced Case Management, the education programme 'In the Zone' is worthy of real recognition. This programme has reached over 4000 secondary school pupils both in mainstream and alternative provisions.

Looking Forward

This year's priorities

We have set six areas for development in this year's Annual Plan, three of which were on last year's Annual Plan, but we feel as a Service they can be further developed to improve outcomes for our children and young people.

Trauma Development

The first of which is Trauma Embedded Development. We set ourselves a 3-year goal to embed Trauma Development and Trauma Recovery model into the Service. This is the final year of this development and from next year will become core business. As you will see in this year's Plan, the use of ECM using the Trauma Recovery model has been extremely successful, with great outcomes to stop young people offending and re-offending.

This year the Authority has invested a heavily on systemic practice across the partnership within Wirral. Wirral Youth Justice Service will link this together with the Trauma Recovery model, as well as increase the capacity of use of ECM to undertake a final review of the Trauma Action Plan (Appendix 14) in 2024.

Wirral have several new staff this year who have all been booked in to attend the Trauma Recovery model training later in the year, as well as Partner agency staff who work at Wirral Youth Justice. Trauma development will then become core business and the Trauma Action Pan will be reviewed on a 12-month basis through the Youth Justice Management Board.

Harmful Sexual Behaviour

The second priority from last year that will remain on our Development Plan is enhancing the offer and interventions across Children's Services. As noted earlier in the Plan, lots of work has been undertaken but we want to expand this by developing our HSB Hub to work with Merseyside Police, Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), Social Care and Youth Justice.

We on the Wirral have seen an increase in the number of referrals received from concerned professionals. Also, since the pandemic referrals have been received and consultation enquiries made for young people involved in concerning behaviours. To address this, we plan this year to review and change our Policy to include consultation and sign off from the CPS and Merseyside Police. The changes we are hoping to achieve is by working with CPS and the Police with regards to young people who are arrested for an offence under the category of HSB, that are released 'under investigation' or 'bailed' on some occasions for 12 months plus. The changes would allow us to work under the AIM umbrella to support children sooner, instead of waiting for the Police or CPS decisions on investigations. Additionally, as mentioned in the update from last year, we have now a pool of staff who are trained across the Children and Young People's department. We are going to work with our newly trained Social Care and Family Support workers to offer a partner wide consultation hub and reference pathway, so we can offer the right service, right intervention, at the right time. HSB briefings will continue throughout the year to engage and support all staff who work with children and families, this will be co-ordinated through the Safeguarding Partnership.

Early Intervention and Prevention

The final element of last year's priorities that will remain on this year's Plan will be Early Intervention and Prevention. Given that we have been resourced with the Turnaround funding for 3 years and already have a commitment to identify and support young people as early as possible. As discussed earlier in the Plan. Last year we developed an Early Intervention and Prevention Hub multi agency operational coordination and a tactical group.

The development this year is to work with Merseyside Police to identify young people with the use of police analysis tools and databases.

Wirral YJS have also led several secondary schools across our borough to support them using early intervention, bringing relevant partners from statutory and third sector agencies to identify children who that may, if not supported, lead to them entering the Criminal Justice system. This will be run in several secondary schools on the Wirral who have been identified through data from us and partners as having some of the most complex young people with high levels of deprivation, and high referrals to the Integrated Front Door. This links to the developing Family Help model of community based multi-disciplinary teams (MDTs) across Wirral. The YJS will be a specialist support team, operating pan Worrall, but with string local links through assigned lead managers.

Three new areas added to this year's Annual Plan for development are as follows.

Transitions

Wirral long serving seconded very recently Probation Officer has retired. Probation leads have identified the replacement Probation Office, who will also take on additional duties under a new funding stream which the Home Office has given to Merseyside National Probation Service (NPS) for young adult support workers. This funding has been expedited given recent tragic and serious offences linked to organised crime across Merseyside.

The additional duties for the seconded Probation Officer to Youth Justice will be to look at an extended transition, working alongside the newly appointed young adult support workers and enhanced transitions. Many young people who transition from Youth Justice to NPS, given their vulnerabilities and lack maturity, can struggle in the adult world of Probation. Many of the young people who transition are linked to County Lines and are on the periphery of organised crime. With the additional support through working in partnership, it is hoped that the additional time and support will decrease the number of breaches and custodial sentences making it a smoother and more supportive transition into the adult arena.

Education

The second development is around the offer of support for young people open to the service, to support them through the education journey, this links into the new Key Performance Indicator (KPI) for education.

Following our HMIP inspection one of the recommendations was that there was a gap in provision in education support for school aged children with many of our young people being NEET or in alternative provisions with no pathway back in to mainstream education.

We acted on this and have recently employed a specific education worker to work with the Youth Justice Service. We have at present a Career Connect member of staff who works with our 16 to 18 cohort, with great outcomes.

Although great steps have been made in supporting the children open to services since our HMIP Inspection, with detailed Audits to ascertain in more detail the education journey of our young people, having a standalone Education Worker in the service will enhance the offer of support to the children more.

The new Education Lead in Youth Justice will work with staff to identify young people who have challenges within the Education System and support the young people and schools to reintegrate them back to mainstream schools if appropriate.

Wirral have recently widened the CME25 panel (Children not receiving 25 hours education). The Service lead for YJS is an active member of this group as well as the Team Manager from the Compass Team (Missing, Exploitation and Contextual Safeguarding). Wirral YJS attend and review cases where our young people have not been able to access the right education provision, or who are missing from school. We support and challenge social workers and school to address any unmet needs within education. The newly appointed Education worker will support the meeting going forward. With the recent recruitment of an bespoke Youth Justice Education Worker, Wirral Youth Justice will in 2024 be looking at applying for the accredited Association of YOT Managers kite mark.

Victims and Restorative Practice




The final development for the Wirral Youth Justice Service for 2023/24 is that of expanding the offer and development to victims and to additionally expand the use of Restorative Practices to the partners.

The victim worker has been involved in the development of victim contacts and Restorative Meetings over the past 12 months.

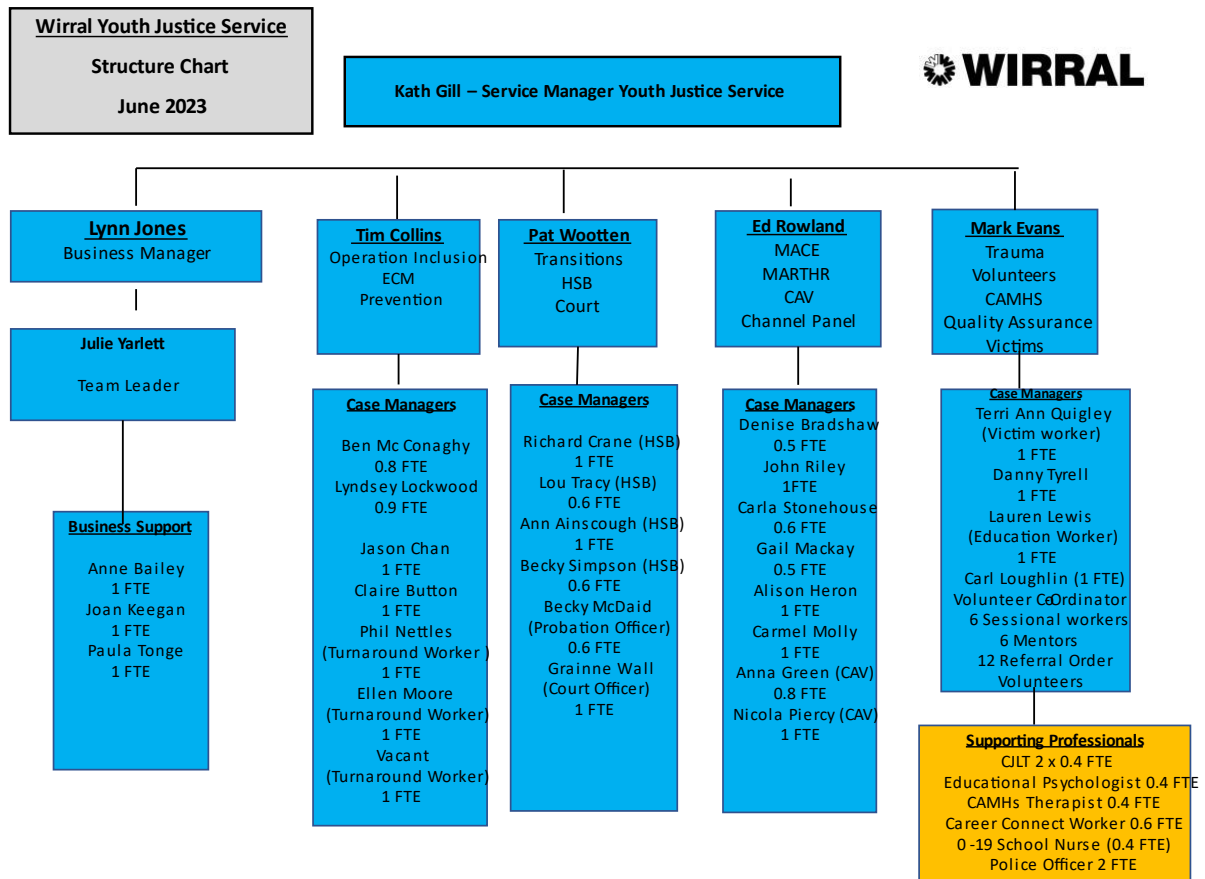
The additional development for this year's plan is to build on Restorative Practices across the partnership. Wirral Youth Justice were successful in a community bid through Wirral's Community Safety Partnership for us to commission a cohort of multi-agency professionals to become Trained Trainers in Restorative Practice Training. The development for the next 12 months is to bring Restorative Training to professionals who work with young people and families. There will be a coordinated response between Youth Justice and the Wirral Safeguarding Partnership to run a minimum of 30 training courses with approximately 600 people trained in the next 12 months in the use of Restorative Interventions and approaches. With a targeted number of courses to be delivered to Wirral Schools, School Police Officers, Local Policing officers, residential placements, and Family support.

Our aim, is that with the systems leadership and operational support from the Youth Justice Service, we can collectively reduce the number of young people entering the criminal justice system.

1. Sign off and approval

Name	Role	Signature	Date
Elizabeth Hartley	Deputy Director Children's Services Chair YJM2		30 th June 2023
Kathy Gill	Service Manager Wirral Youth Justice Service Wirral Council		30 th June 2023
Tony Kirk	Head of Service Contextual Safeguarding Wirral Council		30 th June 2023

Appendix 1: Staffing Structure Youth Justice Service / Senior Management Structure.



Appendix 1: Wirral Council Senior Leadership Chart

[Senior Leadership \(SLT\) Structure.pdf](#)

Appendix 2: Table B7 Staff by contract type (Number of Full Time Equivalent)

B7: Staff in the Youth Justice Team (by headcount as at 30.06.23)												
	Strategic Manager		Operational Manager		Practitioner		Administration		Sessional	Student	Volunteer	Total
	PT	FT	PT	FT	PT	FT	PT	FT				
Permanent												
Fixed Term												
Outsourced												
Temporary												
Vacant												
Seconded Children's Services	0	1	0.6	4	5.2	14	0	4	2	0		30.8
Seconded Probation					0.6							0.6
Seconded Police						2						2
Seconded Health (Mental Health)					1.2							1.2
Seconded Health (Physical health)					0.4							0.4
Seconded Health (Other)												0
Education												0
Connexions					0.6							0.6
Other												0
TOTAL	0	1	0.6	4	8.2	16	0	4	2	0		35.8

Appendix 2: Table B8 Staff by gender and ethnicity

B8: Staff in the Youth Justice Team by Gender and Ethnicity (as at 30.06.23)																
	Strategic Manager		Operational Manager		Practitioner		Administration		Sessional		Referral Order Panel Volunteer		Other Volunteer		Total	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Asian																
Black																
Mixed					1					1					1	1
White	0	1	3	2	10	24	0	4	0	1	3	7	0	1	16	40
Any other ethnic group																
Not known																
Total	0	1	3	2	11	24	0	4	0	2	3	7	0	1	17	41
Welsh speakers*																

Appendix 4: Partner Contributions to the Youth Justice Partnership Pooled budget 2023/24

Agency	Staffing costs (£)	Payments in kind revenue (£)	Other delegated funds (£)	Total (£)
Local Authority	1,151,300	0.4 FTE Ed Psych 0.6 FTE Career Connect		1,151,300
Police		2.0 FTE		
Probation	5,000	0.5 FTE		5,000
Health		0.4 FTE CAMHS School Nurse	28,000	28,000

Police Crime Commissioner Grant (PCC)	48,000			48,000
YJB Youth Justice Grant**	571,000		72,156	643,156
Other				
Total	1,775,300		100,156	1,875,456

Note: Estimate based on remand and YJB awards 2022/23.

Note: The CAMHS worker is currently vacant, at time of writing this report.

Appendix 5: Wirral Youth Justice Management Board Membership

Name	Title	YJMB Meeting Dates Attendance
Elizabeth Hartley Deputy – Tony Kirk	Assistant Director (Chair)	17.2.22, 28.4.22, 5.5.22, 19.5.22, 7.11.22
Carla Jones	Probation	28.4.22, 7.11.22, 14.3.23 (Deputy)
Carolyn Hooper	Wirral Council	28.4.22 (Deputy)
Eifion Burke	Wirral Council	17.2.22 (Deputy), 28.4.22 (Deputy), 5.5.23, 19.5.22, 14.7.22 (Deputy), 14.3.23
Emma Meaney	Wirral Council	17.2.23, 28.4.22, 14.3.23
Helen Heeley (Laura Caldicott from April 2023)	Health	5.5.22, 19.5.22, 7.11.22, 14.3.23
Julie Graham	Public Health	17.2.23, 5.5.22, 19.5.22, 7.11.22, 14.3.23
Karen Metcalf		17.2.23, 28.4.22, 14.3.23(Deputy)
Kath McTavish		14.3.23 (Deputy)

Kathy Gill	Wirral Council (YJS)	17.2.22, 28.4.22, 5.5.22, 19.5.22, 14.7.22, 7.11.22, 14.3.23
Alexandra Kaitell	Wirral Council	17.2.22, 5.5.22, 28.4.22, 14.7.22, 7.11.22
Lynn Jones	Wirral Council (YJS)	28.4.22, 5.5.22, 19.5.22, 14.7.22, 7.11.22, 17.2.23
Mark Heron		28.4.22, 5.5.22, 19.5.22, 7.11.22, 14.3.23(Deputy)
Matthew Moscrop Deputy - Tom Welch	Merseyside Police	28.4.22, 5.5.22, 19.5.22, 14.7.22, 7.11.22 (Martin Earl)
Lisa Newman		5.5.22, 19.5.22, 7.11.22, Apologies 14.3.23
Paul Smith	Wirral Council	17.2.23, 28.4.22, 7.11.22, 14.3.23
Susan Walker	Youth Justice Board	Apologies
Tony Kirk	Wirral Council	17.2.22, 28.4.22, 5.5.22, 19.5.22, 14.7.22, 7.11.22, Chair 14.3.23
Trish Lewis	Wirral Council	17.2.22, 7.11.22, 14.3.23

Appendix 6 Merseyside Performance Comparison for April 2022 – March 2023

Source: YJB YOT Data Summary version 114

Data Summary	Wirral	Liverpool	Knowsley	Sefton	St. Helens
First Time Entrants					
Jan - Dec 2022 (latest period)					
PNC Numbers of FTEs	26	84	24	31	23
PNC rate per 100,000	86	211	162	127	140
Jan - Dec 2021					
PNC Numbers of FTE's	35	50	24	23	16
PNC rate per 100,000	114	128	168	94	98
Number difference					
% Difference	-25%	65%	-3%	35%	43%

Use of custody	Wirral	Liverpool	Knowsley	Sefton	St. Helens
Apr 22 – Mar 23 (latest period)					
Custodial disposals	3	13	1	2	5
Rate per 1,000	0.10	0.34	0.07	0.08	0.31
Apr 21 – Mar 22					
Custodial disposals	5	11	5	0	3

Rate per 1,000	0.16	0.28	0.34	0.00	0.18
Difference in rates	-6%	6%	-27%	N/A	13%

Re-offending rate	Wirral	Liverpool	Knowsley	Sefton	St. Helens
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Jul 20 – Jun 21 cohort

Number in the cohort	78	157	54	48	49
Number of re-offenders	32	62	17	12	14
Number of re-offences	98	169	92	30	89
Re-offences per re-offender	3.06	2.73	5.41	2.50	6.36
Frequency rate	1.26	1.08	1.70	0.63	1.82
Binary rate	41.0%	39.5%	31.5%	25.0%	28.6%

Jul 19 – Jun 20 cohort

Number in the cohort	86	197	44	77	50
Number of re-offenders	36	70	17	24	22
Number of re-offences	166	203	36	48	51
Re-offences per re-offender	4.61	2.90	2.12	2.00	2.32
Frequency rate	1.93	1.03	0.82	0.62	1.02
Binary rate	41.9%	35.5%	38.6%	31.2%	44.0%

Re-offences per re-offenders Difference	-4.6	-0.2	3.3	0.5	4.0
Frequency rate difference	-0.7	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.8
Binary rate difference	-0.9	4.0%	-7.2%	-6.2%	-15.4%

Appendix 7: Participation Strategy / Participation Feedback.



Wirral YJS
Participation and Eng:



Wirral participation
2022.docx

Appendix 8: Chief Exec: Equality for people and places.

Appendix 9: Harmful Sexual Behaviour Tool Kit.



Wirral HSB Tool.pdf

Appendix 10: Trauma Action Plan.



Wirral Trauma
informed action plan 1

Appendix 11: 'In The Zone' Evaluation.



In The Zone Info
Sheet 2022.pdf



Evaluation In the
Zone.pptx

Appendix 12: Quality Assurance Audit Action Plan.



Youth Justice
Service.docx

Appendix 13: Wirral's Training Plan.



Wirral Training plan
2023-24.docx

Appendix 14: Common youth justice terms

ACE	Adverse childhood experience. Events in the child's life that can have negative, long-lasting impact on the child's health, and life choices
AIM 2 and 3	Assessment, intervention and moving on, an assessment tool and framework for children who have instigated harmful sexual behaviour
ASB	Anti-social behaviour
AssetPlus	Assessment tool to be used for children who have been involved in offending behaviour
CAMHS	Child and adolescent mental health services
CCE	Child Criminal exploitation, where a child is forced, through threats of violence, or manipulated to take part in criminal activity
Children	We define a child as anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday. This is in line with the United Nations Convention

	on the Rights of the Child and civil legislation in England and Wales. The fact that a child has reached 16 years of age, is living independently or is in further education, is a member of the armed forces, is in hospital or in custody in the secure estate, does not change their status or entitlements to services or protection.
Child First	A system wide approach to working with children in the youth justice system. There are four tenants to this approach, it should be: developmentally informed, strength based, promote participation, and encourage diversion
Child looked-after	Child Looked After, where a child is looked after by the local authority
CME	Child Missing Education
Constructive resettlement	The principle of encouraging and supporting a child's positive identity development from pro-offending to pro-social
Contextual safeguarding	An approach to safeguarding children which considers the wider community and peer influences on a child's safety
Community resolution	Community resolution, an informal disposal, administered by the police, for low level offending where there has been an admission of guilt
EHCP	Education and health care plan, a plan outlining the education, health and social care needs of a child with additional needs
ETE	Education, training or employment
EHE	Electively home educated, children who are formally recorded as being educated at home and do not attend school
EOTAS	Education other than at school, children who receive their education away from a mainstream school setting
FTE	First Time Entrant. A child who receives a statutory criminal justice outcome for the first time (youth caution, youth conditional caution, or court disposal)
HMIP	Her Majesty Inspectorate of Probation. An independent arms-length body who inspect Youth Justice services and probation services
HSB	Harmful sexual behaviour, developmentally inappropriate sexual

	behaviour by children, which is harmful to another child or adult, or themselves
JAC	Junior Attendance Centre
MAPPA	Multi agency public protection arrangements
MFH	Missing from Home
NRM	National Referral Mechanism. The national framework for identifying and referring potential victims of modern slavery in order to gain help to support and protect them
OOCD	Out-of-court disposal. All recorded disposals where a crime is recorded, an outcome delivered but the matter is not sent to court
Outcome 22/21	An informal disposal, available where the child does not admit the offence, but they undertake intervention to build strengths to minimise the possibility of further offending
Over-represented children	Appearing in higher numbers than the local or national average
RHI	Return home Interviews. These are interviews completed after a child has been reported missing
SLCN	Speech, Language and communication needs
STC	Secure training centre
SCH	Secure children's home
Young adult	We define a young adult as someone who is 18 or over. For example, when a young adult is transferring to the adult probation service.
YJS	Youth Justice Service. This is now the preferred title for services working with children in the youth justice system. This reflects the move to a child first approach
YOI	Young offender institution

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MINUTE EXTRACT

CONSTITUTION AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE

28 September 2023

12 MEMBERS PARENTAL LEAVE POLICY

The Principal Committee Services Officer introduced the report of the Director of Law and Governance which provided the context for and a draft of a Member Parental Leave Policy, following a motion to Council on 20 March 2023 which sought to ensure Members were able to take parental leave at the time of birth or adoption and that reasonable and appropriate arrangements were in place to provide cover during any period of leave taken.

It was moved by Councillor Tom Laing, seconded by Councillor Tony Murphy, that Council be recommended to approve the draft Member Parental Leave Policy, subject to the deletion of the paragraph titled 'Paternity' and the deletion of all references to 'maternity' and 'paternity' and their replacement with the word 'parental'.

An amendment to the motion was then moved by the Chair, Councillor Tony Cox, seconded by Councillor Gary Bennett, that the Director of Law and Governance be given delegated authority to make the necessary amendments to the Parental Leave Policy with the effect of the Special Responsibility Allowance reverting back to a basic allowance to the elected members for the duration of their parental leave, and instead paying whoever is appointed to cover the period of absence the Special Responsibility Allowance.

The Chair spoke to his amendment and outlined his concerns at the prospect of a member appointed to undertake a special responsibility receiving the allowance whilst not undertaking that duty, as well as the financial implications of two members receiving an allowance for the same responsibility for the period of the parental leave. Following a debate on the motion, it was put to the vote and lost (2:5).

The motion as moved by Councillor Tom Laing was then put to the vote and carried (unanimously). It was therefore –

Resolved – That Council be recommended to approve the draft Member Parental Leave Policy, subject to the deletion of the paragraph titled 'Paternity' and the deletion of all references to 'maternity' and 'paternity' and their replacement with the word 'parental'.

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CONSTITUTION AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Thursday, 28 September 2023

REPORT TITLE:	MEMBERS PARENTAL LEAVE POLICY
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE

REPORT SUMMARY

At Council on 20 March 2023, a motion was submitted in accordance with Standing Order 13. Council believed that to ensure that in so far as possible, Members are able to take parental leave at the time of birth or adoption and that reasonable and appropriate arrangements are in place to provide cover during any period of leave taken. The Motion was carried and requested that a report be submitted to the Constitution & Standards Committee for consideration and that a proposed policy be submitted as referral to Council for consideration in October 2023.

The purpose of this report is to provide context and a draft parental leave policy for the consideration of the Committee.

The Wirral Plan 2021-2026 sets out the Councils vision to secure the best possible future for our residents, defined by the community prosperity we create and supported by our excellent people and services. The proposed parental leave policy will assist Members in their delivery of the five key themes within that plan:

- Sustainable Environment
- Brighter Futures
- Inclusive Economy
- Safe and Pleasant Communities
- Active and Healthy Lives

This is not a key decision.

RECOMMENDATION/S

The Constitution & Standards Committee is recommended to comment on and agree the draft policy to be presented for approval at the Council Meeting in October 2023 for inclusion as an addendum to the Members Allowance Scheme.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 The implementation of a Parental Leave Policy will ensure that all Councillors, regardless of the political party they represent, have appropriate support when having a child(ren). A parental leave policy will make it easier for parents and councils alike to plan for when councillors take parental leave.
- 2.1 The objective of the policy is to ensure that where possible, Members are able to take appropriate leave at the time of birth or adoption; that both parents are able to take appropriate parental leave; and that reasonable and adequate arrangements are in place to provide cover for Members in receipt of Special Responsibility Allowances (SRA) during any period of leave taken.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Whilst a suggested draft policy is presented in the appendix to the report, alternative options Members may wish to consider include: -

- 2.1 **Option 1** - Not to consider introducing a draft parental policy. However, this could mean a delay making adequate arrangement to cover a Councillor should they require parental leave. This would also not meet with the request of the Council Meeting
- 2.2 **Option 2** - To approve the policy with the requirement that the SRA revert back to a basic allowance to the elected member for the duration of their parental leave, and paying whoever is appointed to cover the period of absence the SRA.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 In May 2023 and in time for the all-out election, the Council introduced a Member support package which included an induction programme, Member Learning and Development plan and a refreshed Member wellbeing package. Whilst the request for a Members Parental leave policy was requested by Members at Council, it will help strengthen a robust Members support package.
- 3.2 At Council on 20 March 2023, a motion was submitted in accordance with Standing Order 13. Council believed that to ensure that in so far as possible, Members are able to take parental leave at the time of birth or adoption and that reasonable and appropriate arrangements are in place to provide cover during any period of leave taken. The Motion was carried and requested that a report be brought back to this Committee for referral to Council in October 2023.
- 3.3 Research has indicated that only a small number of local authorities had a parental leave policy in place for councillors. For most, arrangements for leave after the birth of a child is discretionary with agreement with the Leader at the time. However, the

number of Council's with a policy in place has increased over subsequent years, with more Council's adopting the Local Government Association Framework.

- 3.4 Elected Members of Parliament and Councillors are MPs are not employees and therefore not eligible for any statutory parental leave. The terms "leave" or "absence" mean something different for MPs or Councillors because they remain the elected constituency representative. However, the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority (IPSA) has developed alternative, flexible funding arrangements to support MPs to take absence from work for an extended period, and so that their constituents and their office continue to be supported during that period. A number of MPs have accessed this support for different reasons and in different ways. MPs are paid their full salary throughout their period of leave.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 To support Members with parental leave, any allowances and Special Responsibility Allowances will remain in place during the period of their leave. This will be met from the existing Members Allowances budget and will be closely monitored by the Head of Democratic & Member Services and further reported to the Policy & Resources Committee as required.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 (the 1972 Act) states that if a Member fails throughout a period of six consecutive months from the date of their last attendance to attend any meeting of the Council, unless the failure was due to some reason approved by the Council before the expiry of that period, the Member will cease to be a councillor. Members who take maternity, shared parental or adoption leave will still be subject to the six month attendance rule. Calculation of the six months will begin from the time a Member last attended a meeting prior to the commencement of any maternity, shared parental or adoption leave and not from the date of commencement of the parental leave. Members may therefore need to seek approval of their continued absence before the expiry of the 6 months parental leave and consultation should take place with the Monitoring Officer regarding obtaining approval from Council.
- 5.2 Once approved by Council, the agreed parental leave policy will be included as an addendum to the Members Allowance Scheme in the constitution.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

- 6.1 Members are not employees and therefore there are no direct resource implications. It will be the responsibility of the political groups to manage the impact on Constituency and Council responsibilities.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

7.1 Not adopting a parental policy means that there are no defined guidelines in place to assist Elected Members or officers should such circumstances arise.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

8.1 Officers have undertaken research with several local authorities in relation to their Elected Members parental policies. A large percentage of Local Authorities do not have such policies in place, however those that do seem to have adopted a variance the LGA Labour Group Model a version of which is attached as appendix 1 of this report.

8.2 As part of the engagement process, Members of the Governance working group were consulted with the draft parental leave policy and feedback was sought.

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. An equality impact assessment has been produced and can be found here.

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/communities-and-neighbourhoods/equality-impact-assessments>

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are no direct Environment and Climate Implications arising as result of this report.

11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH IMPLICATIONS

11.1 Elected Members are committed to improving the lives of the people across Wirral and that is at the core of the work we do. Wirral Council will continue to develop our Social Value agenda to ensure that Members are assisted to supporting to local communities and adding value.

REPORT AUTHOR: **Anna Perrett**
Principal Democratic Services Officer
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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Draft policy

BACKGROUND PAPERS

LGA Parental Leave Policy

TERMS OF REFERENCE

This report is being considered by the Constitution and Standards Committee in accordance with Section 11.2(a) of its Terms of Reference, to keep the Council's constitutional arrangements under review and to make recommendations as to amendments and improvements to the Council's Constitution, including the codes and protocols.

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Council	20 March 2023

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Appendix 1 – Draft Parental Leave Policy

Introduction

This Policy sets out Members' entitlement to maternity, paternity, shared parental and adoption leave and allowances.

This policy is to ensure that insofar as possible Members are able to take appropriate leave at the time of birth or adoption, both parents are able to take leave, and that reasonable and adequate arrangements are in place to provide cover for portfolio-holders and others in receipt of Special Responsibility Allowances (SRA) during any period of leave taken.

Improved provision for new parents will contribute towards increasing the diversity of experience, age and background of local authority councillors.

It will also assist with retaining experienced councillors – particularly women – and making public office more accessible to individuals who might otherwise feel excluded from it. The Parental Leave Policy constitutes best practice and will be reviewed in line with changes to national legislation.

Leave Periods Maternity Leave

Members giving birth are entitled to up to 6 months maternity leave from the due date, with the option to extend up to 52 weeks by agreement of Council if required.

In addition, where the birth is premature, the Member is entitled to take leave during the period between the date of the birth and the due date in addition to the 6 months' period. In such cases any leave taken to cover prematurity of 28 days or less shall be deducted from any extension beyond the initial 6 months.

In exceptional circumstances, and only in cases of prematurity of 29 days or more, additional leave may be taken by agreement, and such exceptional leave shall not be deducted from the total 52-week entitlement.

Paternity Leave

Members shall be entitled to take a minimum of 2 weeks paternity leave if they are the biological father or nominated carer of their partner/spouse following the birth/adoption of their child(ren).

Shared Parental Leave

A Member who has made Shared Parental Leave arrangements through their employment is requested to advise the Council of these at the earliest possible opportunity. Every effort will be made to replicate such arrangements in terms of leave from Council.

Where both parents are Members, leave may be shared up to a maximum of 24 weeks for the first six months and 26 weeks for any leave agreed thereafter, up to a maximum of 50 weeks. Special and exceptional arrangements may be made in cases of prematurity.

Adoption Leave

A Member who adopts a child through an approved adoption agency shall be entitled to take up to six months adoption leave from the date of placement, with the option to extend up to 52 weeks by agreement if required.

Attendance at meetings

Any Member who takes maternity, shared parental or adoption leave is still required under the Local Government Act 1972 to attend a meeting of the Council within a six-month period unless the Council Meeting agrees to an extended leave of absence prior to the expiration of that six-month period.

Any Member intending to take maternity, paternity, shared parental or adoption leave will be responsible for ensuring that they comply with the relevant notice requirements of the Council, both in terms of the point at which the leave starts and the point at which they return.

Any Member taking leave should ensure that they respond to reasonable requests for information as promptly as possible, and that they keep their Group Leader (if applicable) and Head of Legal and Democratic Services informed and updated in relation to intended dates of return and requests for extension of leave.

Basic Allowance

All Members shall continue to receive their Basic Allowance in full whilst on maternity, paternity or adoption leave.

Special Responsibility Allowances

Members entitled to a Special Responsibility Allowance (SRA) shall continue to receive their allowance in full in the case of maternity, paternity, shared parental or adoption leave.

Where a replacement is appointed to cover the period of absence that person shall receive an SRA on a pro-rata basis for the period of the temporary appointment.

The payment of Special Responsibility Allowances, whether to the primary SRA holder or a replacement, during a period of maternity, paternity, shared parental or adoption leave shall continue for a period of six months; or until the date of the next Annual General Meeting of the Council; or until the date when the Member taking leave is up for election (whichever is soonest). At such a point, the position will be reviewed, and will be subject to a possible extension for a further six-month period.

Should a Member appointed to replace the Member on maternity, paternity, shared parental or adoption leave already hold a remunerated position, the ordinary rules relating to payment of more than one Special Responsibility Allowances shall apply.

Unless the Member taking leave is removed from their post at an Annual General Meeting of the Council whilst on leave, or unless the Party to which they belong loses control of the Council during their leave period, they shall return at the end of their leave period to the same post, or to an alternative post with equivalent status and remuneration which they held before the leave began.

Resigning from Office and Elections

If a Member decides not to return at the end of their maternity, paternity, shared parental or adoption leave they must notify the Council at the earliest possible opportunity. All allowances will cease from the effective resignation date.

If an election is held during the Member's maternity, paternity, shared parental or adoption leave and they are not re-elected, or decide not to stand for re-election, their basic allowance and Special Responsibility Allowance if appropriate will cease from the Monday after the election date when they would technically leave office.

Practical Arrangements

A Member intending to take parental leave must in the first instance inform their group leader (if applicable) and the Head of Democratic & Member Services in writing. Members are asked to provide notice of their intention to take parental leave in accordance with the timescales set out below:

(a) Pregnant Members should give notice by no later than 28 days before they want to commence their maternity leave. Confirmation of the pregnancy and the expected week of childbirth is usually via a MAT B1 certificate (a form given to a woman by their doctor or midwife after the 20th week of pregnancy and shows the expected date of childbirth). As soon as practicable after the birth they should notify the same of the baby's date of birth in writing.

(b) A Member who is a primary adopter should give notice within 7 days of being told they have been matched with a child and provide confirmation of the adoption through the provision of a matching certificate, and the date the child is to be placed with the Member.

(c) For paternity leave a Member should give notice by the 15th week before the Expected week of childbirth.

(d) A Member who is intending to take Shared parental leave must advise of their intention at least 8 weeks before.

Any Member taking leave for more than a 2-month period must meet with the Head of Democratic & Member Services and Group Leader (if applicable) to discuss practical issues including how to keep in touch and about expected dates of return.

The Head of Democratic & Member Services will ensure that business support and payroll are informed of arrangements to ensure that allowances are paid in accordance with the Policy.

Any requests for special or exceptional circumstances, or extensions in line with the policy will be agreed by the Head Democratic & Member Services in consultation with the Leader of the Council, and the group leader (if applicable).

If a Member is independent and not part of a group, the Head of Democratic & Member Services will liaise with that member and any other independent Members as to who is best placed to take on the “caretaking” role.

Appointments to cover areas of special responsibility whilst a Member is on parental leave will be made in accordance with the relevant procedures for appointments.

MINUTE EXTRACT

CONSTITUTION AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE

28 September 2023

13 ESTABLISHMENT OF THE INTEGRATED CARE PARTNERSHIP

The Democracy Business Manager introduced the report of the Director of Law and Governance. The purpose of the report was to establish the Cheshire and Merseyside Health and Care Partnership as a Joint Committee within Wirral Council's Constitution. The Cheshire and Merseyside Health and Care Partnership had been in place since 2020 as a collaborative body between relevant partners and stakeholders, and following the requirement for the establishment of an Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) which is a statutory committee formed between an NHS Integrated Care Board and all upper-tier local authorities within the same Integrated Care System were, Cheshire and Merseyside ICP will be known as the Health and Care Partnership. Council agreed to appoint to the Health and Care Partnership as an outside body at its meeting in December 2022. The Cheshire and Merseyside Health and Care Partnership has since been established as a Joint Committee under S116ZA of the Health & Social Care Act 2022 and the report sought to enable Wirral Council to adopt the Joint Committee arrangements and appoint to the Health and Care Partnership. The Partnership would have one elected member from each of the nine Cheshire and Merseyside Local Authorities, with provision for deputies as required.

Members noted that there was a legal obligation to appoint to the Integrated Care System, regardless of political opinion, and commented that involvement in the system ensured that issues did not arise that were out of Wirral's control.

A further conversation was had regarding the appointment of a named deputy and Members were assured that a Deputy would be a Council appointment. The Chair commented that he had highlighted to the Director of Law and Governance that there should be some function to allow Members to question the representative on this body.

Resolved – That Council be recommended to

(1) establish the Cheshire and Merseyside Health and Care Partnership Joint Committee.

(2) appoint the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board and a named deputy to represent the Council on the Cheshire and Merseyside and Care Partnership.

(3) authorise the Director of Law and Governance to make any necessary changes to the Council's Constitution.

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CONSTITUTION AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE

28 September 2023

REPORT TITLE:	CHESHIRE AND MERSEYSIDE HEALTH AND CARE PARTNERSHIP JOINT COMMITTEE
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE

REPORT SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to establish the Cheshire and Merseyside Health and Care Partnership as a Joint Committee within Wirral Council's Constitution.

The Cheshire and Merseyside Health and Care Partnership has been in place since 2020 as a collaborative body between relevant partners and stakeholders, and following the requirement for the establishment of an Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) which is a statutory committee formed between an NHS Integrated Care Board and all upper-tier local authorities within the same Integrated Care System are, Cheshire and Merseyside ICP will be known as the Health and Care Partnership.

Council agreed to appoint to the Health and Care Partnership as an outside body at its meeting in December 2022. The Cheshire and Merseyside Health and Care Partnership has since been established as a Joint Committee under S116ZA of the Health & Social Care Act 2022 and this report seeks to enable Wirral Council to adopt the Joint Committee arrangements and appoint to the Health and Care Partnership.

The Partnership will have one elected member from each of the nine Cheshire and Merseyside Local Authorities, with provision for deputies as required.

The matter affects all wards and is not a key decision.

The inclusion of the Health and Care Partnership as a formal Joint Committee supports the Council in delivering against the Wirral Plan 2021-2026 Active and Healthy Live priority.

RECOMMENDATION/S

The Constitution and Standards Committee is requested to recommend to Council that:

- (1) the Cheshire and Merseyside Health and Care Partnership be established as a Joint Committee.
- (2) the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board and a named deputy be appointed to represent the Council on the Cheshire and Merseyside Health

and Care Partnership.

- (3) the Director of Law and Governance be authorised to make any necessary changes to the Council's Constitution.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

1.1 The Council is required to establish an ICP as a joint committee.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

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

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3.1 An ICP is a statutory committee which is formed between an NHS Integrated Care Board and all upper-tier local authorities that fall within the same Integrated Care System (ICS) area. The ICP will play a critical role within the ICS with the intent to bring together a broad alliance of partners concerned with improving the care, health and wellbeing of the population, with membership determined locally.

3.2 Cheshire and Merseyside (C&M) has an established Health and Care Partnership, which has been in place since 2020 and is the committee from which the C&M ICS's ICP will develop from. It has been proposed that the new ICP will be known as / referred to as the Cheshire and Merseyside Health and Care Partnership (HCP) because this is a trusted and well-respected brand with partners and stakeholders.

3.3 The core membership of the Health and Care Partnership is included in the Terms of Reference appended to the report, and includes one elected member from each of the nine Cheshire and Merseyside Local Authorities.

3.4 The HCP will work in conjunction with the nine C&M Health and Wellbeing Boards where appropriate to help achieve common objectives and aims to benefit the population. It is therefore proposed that the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board is the nominated representative.

3.5 Where it is not possible for the appointed member to attend, provision is made for a deputy to attend.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Attendance by elected members at meetings of the Cheshire and Merseyside Health and Care Partnership has been designated as an approved duty unless there are specific reasons for not doing so (e.g. where another authority pays expenses to its members). Travel and subsistence will be paid in accordance with the Members Allowance Scheme.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 ICPs are established in legislation by the insertion of a new Section 116ZA to the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. Section 116ZA of the 2007 Act imposes an express obligation on an ICB and all relevant local authorities whose area coincides with or falls wholly or partly within the ICBs area to establish an ICP as a joint committee.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT; STAFFING AND ASSETS

6.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

7.1 There is a requirement under the Council's Constitution that the Annual Council meeting shall appoint Members to outside organisations. Not to appoint would mean that the Council would fail to fulfil its statutory duty as required by the Health & Social Care Act 2022.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION

8.1 The matter was previously considered by Council in December 2022 to appoint to the Health and Care Partnership as an outside body. This report is now presented for consideration to ratify and appoint to the HCP as a joint committee.

9.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are none arising directly from this report, however, some of the organisations to which nominations are made represent such groups as the elderly, ethnic minorities and those with disabilities.

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Cheshire and Merseyside Health and Care Partnership Terms of Reference

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Council Constitution

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The report is being considered by the Constitution and Standards Committee in accordance with Section 11.2(a) of the Terms of Reference 'to keep the Council's constitutional arrangements under review and to make recommendations as to amendments and improvements to the Council's Constitution, including the codes and protocols.'

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Council	5 December 2022

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Cheshire and Merseyside Health and Care Partnership

Terms of Reference

Background

Integrated care systems (ICSs) are statutory partnerships that bring together NHS organisations, local authorities and others to take collective responsibility for planning services, improving health and reducing inequalities across geographical areas.

ICSs comprise two key components:

- **integrated care boards (ICBs):** statutory bodies that are responsible for planning and funding most NHS services in the area
- **integrated care partnerships (ICPs):** statutory committees that bring together a broad set of system partners (including local government, the voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise sector (VCFSE), NHS organisations and others) to develop a health and care strategy for the area.

This dual structure was designed to support ICSs to act both as bodies responsible for NHS money and performance at the same time as acting as a wider system partnership.

ICPs are established in legislation by the insertion of a new Section 116ZA to the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. Section 116ZA of the 2007 Act imposes an express obligation on an ICB and all relevant local authorities whose area coincides with or falls wholly or partly within the ICBs area to establish an ICP as a joint committee.

In the Cheshire and Merseyside Integrated Care System, the ICP is named as the Cheshire and Merseyside Health and Care Partnership (HCP).

These Terms of Reference set out the membership, remit, responsibilities, and reporting arrangements of the joint committee.

Role and Purpose

The Cheshire and Merseyside HCP is a broad alliance of organisations and representatives concerned with improving the care, health and wellbeing of the population, jointly convened by local authorities and the NHS as equal partners in order to facilitate joint action to improve health and care outcomes and experiences, influence the wider determinants of health, and plan and deliver improved integrated health and care.

Its primary purpose will be to act in the best interests of residents across Cheshire & Merseyside, rather than representing the interests of any individual organisation.

The role and purpose of the HCP does not duplicate that of the nine Cheshire and Merseyside Health and Wellbeing Boards. The HCP will work in conjunction where appropriate to help achieve common objectives and aims to benefit local populations.

The HCP provides the opportunity for a Cheshire & Merseyside forum to support and enhance work programmes to improve population health outcomes and reduce health inequalities by addressing complex, long term issues which need an integrated approach across Cheshire & Merseyside.

The HCP, as an Integrated Care Partnership, has a statutory responsibility to prepare, approve and publish an Integrated Care Strategy for the Cheshire and Merseyside ICS, setting out how the assessed needs in relation to Cheshire & Merseyside are to be met by the exercise of functions of:

- the Integrated Care Board
- NHS England
- the nine local authorities whose areas coincide with the ICB area

In preparing this strategy the HCP must involve:

- the Local Healthwatch organisations whose areas coincide with or fall wholly or partly within its area
- the people who live and work in Cheshire & Merseyside

The strategy will have due regard to and respond to the Health and Wellbeing Strategies and Joint Strategic Needs Assessments of each of the nine local authority areas.

Membership and Attendees

Members

Membership of the HCP (as an Integrated Care Partnership) is set out in legislation and must have as a minimum:

- one member appointed by the ICB
- one member appointed by each of the nine local authorities.

Legislation also allows for members to be appointed by the HCP itself.

In all cases, HCP membership will be renewable on an annual basis. Each participant organisation or body will be expected to have formally nominated or confirmed their nominated member by 1st August of each year. Changes in membership during the year are allowed and must be notified to the HCP promptly and before attendance at the next meeting.

Where members are not available to attend meetings, a substitute nominated by organisation may attend on their behalf.

The Chair of the HCP will discuss attendance with any member who fails to attend three consecutive HCP Meetings. The Chair of the HCP will refer any ongoing concerns regarding non-attendance of a member to their organisation with a

recommendation that consideration be given to whether it is appropriate for the individual to continue as a member of the HCP.

The full membership of the Cheshire and Merseyside HCP is:

Organisation / Area	Position
NHS Cheshire and Merseyside ICB	ICB Chair
	Chief Executive
	Assistant Chief Executive
	Executive Director of Finance
	Executive Medical Director
Cheshire East Council	x1 Councillor
Cheshire West and Chester Council	x1 Councillor
Halton Council	x1 Councillor
Knowsley Council	x1 Councillor
Liverpool City Council	x1 Councillor
Sefton Council	x1 Councillor
St Helens Borough Council	x1 Councillor
Warrington Borough Council	x1 Councillor
Wirral Council	x1 Councillor
Other Local Authority Representatives	x2 Directors of Adult Social Care? – drawn from across the 9 responsible Local Authorities.
	x2 Directors of Public Health - drawn from across the 9 responsible Local Authorities
North West Ambulance Service	x1 Representative
Cheshire Police	x1 Representative
Merseyside Police	x1 Representative
Cheshire Fire and Rescue	x1 Representative
Merseyside Fire and Rescue	x1 Representative
Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise Sector	x2 Representatives
Liverpool City Region Local Enterprise Partnership	x1 Representative
Cheshire and Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership	x1 Representative
Primary Care	x2 Representatives
CMAST Provider Collaborative	x1 Representative
MHLD Provider Collaborative	x1 Representative
Carer	x1 Representative
Housing	x1 Representative
Healthwatch	x2 Representatives
Higher Education / University	x2 Representatives

The Other Local Authority Representatives will be notified to the HCP by the nine local authorities.

Members are expected to adopt a partnership approach to working together, as well as listening to the voices of citizens, patients and the public of Cheshire and Merseyside.

Members will commit to working collaboratively, openly and supporting the development and role of the HCP.

Attendees

Only members of the HCP, or their nominated substitute, can participate in HCP meetings, but the Chair may invite relevant organisations to send a representative to an HCP meeting as necessary in accordance with the business of the HCP.

Chair Arrangements

The Chair of the HCP will be drawn from one of the nominated HCP members from the nine local authorities.

The Chair will be appointed on an annual basis at the first meeting of the year (in September) by the local authority members of the HCP present at the meeting. Individuals wanting to be considered for the Chair role will need to be nominated and seconded by one other local authority member of the Board and agreed by way of a majority vote.

The HCP will also have two Joint Vice Chairs – one being the Cheshire and Merseyside ICB Chair and the other being an appointed representative of the VCFSE sector. In the absence of the Chair at a meeting of the HCP, it will be agreed in advance which of the two Vice Chairs will Chair the meeting on that occasion.

Quoracy

The meeting will be quorate if at least 50% of the members are present. If the quorum has not been reached, then the meeting may proceed if those attending agree, but no decisions requiring agreement by the ICB or local authorities may be taken unless at least 50% of the Committee members drawn from these two bodies are present.

If any member of the HCP has been disqualified from participating in the discussion and/or decision-making for an item on the agenda, by reason of a declaration of a conflict of interest, then that member shall no longer count towards the quorum.

Decision making and authority

As far as is possible the HCP will make its decisions by consensus of the members present at the meetings of the HCP.

The HCP has been established as a Joint Committee under S116ZA Health & Social Care Act 2022.

It has not been established under S65Z6 or S75 arrangements between the NHS and Local Authority member organisations of the HCP, and as such does not have the authority as a Committee to exercise joint functions or hold or make decisions on a pooled budget arrangements.

The HCP is authorised to create any relevant sub-groups in order to take forward specific programmes of work considered necessary by the membership.

Meeting arrangements

The HCP will meet up to six times each year. Additional meetings may take place as required.

The HCP Chair, in consultation with and with the agreement of both Vice Chairs, may convene further meetings to discuss particular issues of relevance to the HCP and which cannot wait until the next meeting.

The HCP may meet virtually or in hybrid format when necessary and members attending using electronic means will be counted towards the quorum.

Meetings of the HCP will be held in public. Where meetings are held virtually, arrangements will be made to ensure members of the public can attend and be able to observe the meeting.

The HCP may convene development sessions, which will be held in private and which will not be formal meetings of the HCP.

A copy of the agenda and related reports for each HCP meeting will be sent to each HCP Member at least five clear days before the date of that meeting. Agendas and papers for meetings held in public will be published on the website of NHS Cheshire and Merseyside Integrated Care Board

The HCP shall be supported with a secretariat function. In addition to publication of agendas and supporting papers the secretariat will prepare and circulate minutes of meetings within 10 working days and maintain an action and decision log, as well as a register of interests of HCP members.

As a Joint Committee of the ICB and Councils, local authority members will be bound by their Council's Code of Conduct for the meeting and should declare any interests under that Code.

The Agenda for meetings of the HCP will be agreed by the Chair and Vice Chairs. Members of the Committee can request items to be considered at meetings of the HCP by contacting the Chair two weeks prior to the publication date of papers for the relevant meeting.

Reporting and Accountability

The HCP will receive reports from the Cheshire and Merseyside Health and Wellbeing Boards, which will inform its own priorities and strategy. and the HCP will also provide reports to the Health and Wellbeing Boards on matters concerning delivery of the Integrated Care System priorities and outcomes framework.

The HCP will also provide reports to the ICB, providing a summary of any specific programmes of work undertaken, including the issues considered and recommended

actions, and any key outputs (in particular the Integrated Care Partnership Strategy) from its meetings.

Behaviours and Conduct

The HCP shall conduct its business in accordance with any national guidance. The seven Nolan Principles of Public Life shall underpin the committee and its members.

HCP members should:

- Inform the Chair of any interests they hold which relate to the business of the HCP.
- Inform the Chair of any previously agreed treatment of the potential conflict / conflict of interest.
- Abide by the Chair's ruling on the treatment of conflicts / potential conflicts of interest in relation to ongoing involvement in the work of the HCP.
- Inform the Chair of any conflicts / potential conflicts of interest in any item of business to be discussed at a meeting. This should be done in advance of the meeting wherever possible.
- Declare conflicts / potential conflicts of interest in any item of business to be discussed at a meeting under the standing "declaration of interest" item.
- Abide by the Chair's decision on appropriate treatment of a conflicts / potential conflict of interest in any business to be discussed at a meeting.
- Abide by their own respective organisation's Code of Conduct

As well as complying with requirements around declaring and managing potential conflicts of interest, HCP members should:

- Attend meetings, having read all papers beforehand
- Arrange for their substitute to attend on their behalf, if necessary
- Act as 'champions', disseminating information and good practice as appropriate
- Comply with the HCP administrative arrangements including identifying agenda items for discussion, the submission of reports etc.
- Consider the equality, diversity and inclusion implications of the discussions they undertake at HCP meetings

Review

The HCP will review its effectiveness, including these terms of reference, on an annual basis and earlier if required.

OFFICER DECISION FORM

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY: DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

KEY DECISION YES

DIRECTORATE: FINANCE

WARDS AFFECTED: West Kirby and Thurstaston; Hoylake and Meols

SUBJECT: WEST KIRBY FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEME – ADDITIONAL GRANT FUNDING AND CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT VARIATION

1.0 DECISION:

- 1.1 The Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer), has accepted additional grant in aid (GiA) of £3m from the Environment Agency (EA) and authorised with immediate effect that this be included in the council's Capital Programme for defrayment solely upon the West Kirby Flood Alleviation Project. The Section 151 Officer also decided to approve the necessary purchase orders to vary the council's construction contract with Volkerstevin Ltd with immediate effect, up to a maximum contract sum of £17,273,533, subject to certificates issued by the independent contract Project Manager.

2.0 REASONS FOR THE DECISION

- 2.1 The decision has been taken after the Chief Executive, the Monitoring Officer and the Section 151 Officer have consulted with the Mayor, who has agreed, in accordance with Part 4, Section 3, Paragraph 5, of the Constitution, that this is an urgent decision outside of the council's budget policy framework. The reasons for urgency are that there is an urgent need to make immediate contractual payments and avoid potential significant costs for interest on late payment or litigation for breach of contract.

3.0 STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

- 3.1 The recommendations are made further to legal advice from the Monitoring Officer and the Section 151 Officer has confirmed that they do not incur unlawful expenditure. They are also compliant with equality legislation and an equality analysis and impact assessment has been completed. The recommendations reflect the core principles of good governance set out in the council's Code of Corporate Governance.

4.0 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

- 4.1 None.

Signed:



Officer: Matthew Bennett

Title: Director of Finance

Date: 17 July 2023

A list of background papers on this issue is held with:

Contact Officer: Neil Thomas, Senior Manager Flood and Coastal Risk Management

Date: 17 July 2023

Date of Publication: 19 July 2023

17 July 2023

Report Title:	WEST KIRBY FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEME – ADDITIONAL GRANT FUNDING AND CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT VARIATION
Report of:	ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, HIGHWAYS AND INFRASTRUCTURE, NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

REPORT SUMMARY

This report seeks the approval of the Director of Finance and Section 151 Officer to disburse grant in aid (GiA) of £3m from the Environment Agency (EA) towards the West Kirby Flood Alleviation Project and to approve the necessary purchase orders to vary the council's construction contract with Volkerstevin Ltd up to a maximum value of £17,273,533. The recommendations require an urgent decision under Section 4 of the Constitution as a matter outside of the council's budget policy framework, because there is an urgent need to make immediate contractual payments.

The West Kirby Flood Alleviation scheme strategically aligns with both the Sustainable Environment and Safe and Pleasant Communities themes of the Wirral Plan 2021-26.

The scheme is located within Hoylake & Meols and West Kirby & Thurstaston wards.

The recommendation of this report represents a key decision because of financial value.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Section 151 Officer is recommended to:

- 1) Consult with the Mayor, together with the Chief Executive and the Monitoring Officer, to seek the Mayor's agreement that this is an urgent decision outside of the council's budget policy framework in accordance with Part 4, Section 3, Paragraph 5, of the Constitution;
- 2) To authorise, with immediate effect, that this grant be included in the Council's Capital Programme for defrayment solely upon the West Kirby Flood Alleviation Project, and
- 3) Approve the necessary purchase orders to vary the council's construction contract with Volkerstevin Ltd, with immediate effect, up to a maximum contract sum of £17,273,533, subject to certificates issued by the independent contract Project Manager.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 There is an urgent need to make immediate contractual payments and avoid potential significant costs for interest on late payment or litigation for breach of contract.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 Either waiting until the next meeting of the Council or convening an Extraordinary Meeting of the Council are not practical in the circumstances. Any delay in disbursing the grant in aid (GiA) funding and making it available for immediate defrayment towards contractual payments may render the council in breach of contract, liable for significant interest on late payments, and exposed to the risk of adjudication or litigation proceedings.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The West Kirby Flood Alleviation Scheme project received planning consent in November 2021 and works commenced on site in May 2022. An Engineering and Construction Contract (ECC) contract for the construction works, under the New Engineering Contract 4th Edition (NEC4), had been awarded to Volkerstevin Ltd under an Environment Agency (EA) Framework procurement route in April 2022. The contract is based upon a cost-plus with target model. The target cost at contract award was £9,640,000. The contractor is paid costs incurred in carrying out the construction and is incentivised, under a pain/gain share mechanism, to achieve the agreed target cost. The target cost varies, based upon contact compensation events, the values of which are determined by an independent Project Manager appointed by the council to oversee the contract. The Project Manager issues interim payment certificates on a monthly basis indicating the amount the council must pay to the contractor.
- 3.2 The Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee resolved on 14 March 2023 to accept additional GiA from the EA amounting to £4,400,000 and to vary the construction contract up to a revised sum of £14,282,000, as a result of a number of compensation events that had occurred, which were set out in detail in the report of the Director of Neighbourhood Services to that Committee.
- 3.3 Whilst at the time of drafting the report to the March 2023 Committee and securing additional grant from the EA, in February 2023, the main compensation events were known and had been assessed, the final values for changes to the type of flood gate was based on cost estimates and predicted completion dates at that time. Unfortunately, since publication of the report, it has become clear that a number of very complex modifications were required to the design of the flood wall and the surrounding surfaces where moving gates need to be positioned. This process has taken longer than originally predicted and has been further complicated by recently discovered unforeseen underground obstructions, such as pre-existing structural foundations, requiring further modifications and design changes. The costs of the delays associated with these design modifications, as well as the additional construction works required as a result is considerable in circumstances where construction and materials prices have continued to increase as a result of global inflationary pressures. A bid to the EA for additional GiA of £3m was made by the council in May 2023 and awarded by the EA on 30 June 2023.

- 3.4 The council has been able to meet all contractual payments certified by the Project Manager, by their due date for payment, up until June 2023. However, since the last interim payment was made in May 2023, there is no remaining budget in the Capital Programme allocated specifically to this scheme with which to make any payments to contracted suppliers. The ECC Project Manager's certificate issued for works completed in May 2023, requiring payment by the council before 27 June 2023, in the sum of £845,000, remains overdue for payment. There is another certificate pending for works completed in June 2023, likely to be in the sum of at least £1,500,000, which will become due for payment on 25 July 2023. A further interim payment will become due in August for works completed in July. Works are expected to complete on site in early August and it is anticipated that a final account will be agreed by September 2023.
- 3.5 Following the report to the Environment Climate Emergency and Transport Committee on 14 March 2023 a substantive motion was resolved resulting in an amendment to the recommendations of the report to include the following additions:
- officers be thanked for the considerable amount of work put into the project, and
 - the report be referred to the Audit & Risk Management Committee so that consideration can be given to reviewing concerns relating to the procurement of the construction contract and the increase in cost of the project.

As a result of this resolution a full detailed report will be presented to Audit and Risk Management Committee on 24 October 2023 setting out the procurement process utilised for the main construction contract and detailing all of the final contract costs and reasons for increases, together with the efficiencies and benefits realised.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The current overall project budget is £16,351,296. However, this budget has been fully committed against contractual payments and other project costs incurred up to June 2023 and no funds remain available. Accepting the additional £3m GiA and immediately including this in the council's Capital Programme will result in the total project budget increasing to £19,351,296, enabling the council to meet its current urgent current contractual obligations.
- 4.2 No further council capital borrowing or budgetary implications are anticipated, provided that the GiA is immediately accepted and defrayed for the sole purposes of the West Kirby Flood Alleviation Scheme project budget.
- 4.3 Since the Committee resolution on 14 March 2023, the contract sum has been further increased by £404,173 to £14,686,173 under delegated officer variation.
- 4.4 The current maximum estimated contract sum payable by the council is predicted to be £17,273,533, if all of the compensation events currently under consideration are accepted or assessed at the values the contractor has quoted and if the contractor's final costs remain at the current estimated figure. There is no guarantee the Project Manager will agree with the contractor's compensation event values, so this contract sum remains a prediction at this stage. However, in order that the potential remaining contractual payments can be made, a further contract variation and purchase order will be required so that invoices matching the Project Manager's

certificates can be processed, drawn-down against this amount, in the sum of £2,587,368, being the difference between the likely maximum final contract sum of £17,273,533 and the currently approved contract sum value of £14,686,173, which will require the approval of the Section 151 Officer.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The council has duty under its contract with Volkerstevin Ltd to make payments to them in the sums certified by, and by the due dates certified by, the Project Manager. Failure to do so may result in the council being in breach of contract. The contractor is entitled to register a dispute under the contract and thereafter to commence adjudication or litigation proceedings depending upon the nature of the breach and the council's actions following any dispute notification.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

6.1 There are no resource, staffing, ICT or assets implications arising from this report.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

7.1 If the Section 151 Officer fails to immediately accept the additional £3m GiA provided by the EA and include this in the Capital Programme and approve the contract variation and Purchase Order required to make up the anticipated maximum final contract amount, the council will be in breach of its contract with Volkerstevin Ltd and may incur significant costs for interest on late payment and risk litigation for breach of contract.

7.2 If the council were to fail to make the remaining contract payments before the next meeting of the Council in October 2023, it is estimated that interest on late payments to the value of £32,000 will have accrued.

7.3 The EA has made clear that the GiA funding may not be utilised for interest payments nor adjudication litigation costs by the council, so these risks would present significant pressures upon the council's revenue budget resources if realised.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

8.1 There are no direct engagement or consultation implications arising from this report which is concerned only with grant funding and contractual payment obligations.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no direct equality implications arising from this report which is concerned only with grant funding and contractual payment obligations.

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are no direct environment or climate emergency implications arising from this report which is concerned only with grant funding and contractual payment obligations.

11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are no direct community wealth implications arising from this report which is concerned only with grant funding and contractual payment obligations.

REPORT AUTHOR: **Simon Fox**
Assistant Director, Highways and Infrastructure
telephone: 07714 458169
email: simonfox@wirral.gov

APPENDICES

None

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Various background papers held by: Neil Thomas, Senior Manager Flood and Coastal Risk Management, including:

- Confidential commercially sensitive contractual papers (exempt from publication)
- Environment Agency Variation to Funding Approval letter 30 June 2023

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Strategic Applications Sub Committee	02 November 2021
Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee - West Kirby Flood Alleviation - Award of Contract for Construction Phase	15 November 2021
Decision – West Kirby Flood Alleviation – Advanced Engineering Construction Contract	21 February 2022
Decision – West Kirby Flood alleviation – Award of Main Engineering Construction Contract	11 April 2022
Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee - West Kirby Flood Alleviation – Variation of Construction Phase Contract and Acceptance of Flood Defence Grant Funding	14 March 2023

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ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Monday, 19 June 2023

Present: Councillor EA Grey (Chair)

Councillors S Foulkes M Booth
A Ainsworth G Davies
G Jenkinson N Graham
P Jobson Jason Walsh
V Wilson A Brame

1 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

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

The Chair asked those in attendance to observe a minutes silence in the memory of Pauline Fielding MBE who died on the 4th April 2023

2 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence.

3 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

Councillor Naomi Graham wished to state a non-pecuniary interest by virtue of her husbands employment and her volunteering. This was in relation to Sustainability Central

4 MINUTES

The Chair requested that the word 'accident' be changed to 'collision' or 'crash' in relation to the public questions on road safety.

Resolved – That subject to the above changes, the minutes of the meeting held on 4 March 2023 be approved and adopted as a correct record.

5 PUBLIC AND MEMBER QUESTIONS

5.1 Public Questions

The Chair indicated that 22 Public Questions had been received, those in attendance were invited to ask their question, but due to timings a written response was promised to those unable to attend.

Ian Farrell asked a question regarding a field around Woodchurch leisure centre which had previously been a wildflower meadow, but had recently been dug up. He queried if this could have been retained to counteract beach management. The Chair stated she was not aware that the Woodchurch field was as heavily protected as Hoylake Beach but noted that the Council had been successful in receiving a grant to build a 3g pitch there.

Don Naylor asked a question regarding the proposals for the HyNet North West regional energy network based around 'blue' (or fossil) hydrogen and carbon capture and storage (CCS) under Liverpool Bay. The Chair noted these concerns and asked that the information provided by Mr Naylor be shared with officers and Metro Mayor.

William Tomlinson asked a question regarding public consultation on 5g towers and 15-minute neighbourhoods, claiming a vast majority of the public know nothing about them. The Chair advised that Councillors are informed of 5g Mast Installation and are able to share this information with constituents. The Chair also noted that the public should be informed as to the principals of 15 Minute neighbourhoods and asked that an information statement is published to address this.

Niamh McGarry-Gribbin cited various studies which de-bunked climate change, and queried what credible scientific data is relied on to justify the plans for low traffic neighbourhoods and the goal for net zero carbon. The Chair responded to agree that anthropogenic climate change is not universally agreed upon. However, we must follow national and international law and the Gov has signed legally binding agreements to act on evidence provided by the overwhelming majority of scientists who tell us that climate change is real. The Chair agreed that we should provide credible evidence regarding LTN and our net zero ambitions.

Rebecca Lowe asked a question relating to concerns about the Fender Lane Cycle Path and stated that there was congestion from Bidston Tesco to Moreton roundabout and she had concerns as a local business owner that this increased traffic will affect business. Ms Lowe queried issues with safety, people crossing red lights and access for emergency vehicles. The Chair responded to say that emergency services had been consulted and had

reported any problems with emergency services accessing, but urged Ms Lowe to contact the police if she was aware of vehicles crossing red lights.

Wendy Bennett asked a question regarding the Pasture Road Cycle Lane Between Bidston and Moreton noting that she had rarely seen more than one or two cyclists on it or using it correctly and asked what had the impact on traffic congestion and safety been. The Chair responded to say that following a survey of traffic at this location, there would be an analysis of results. If the survey suggests officers needed to change anything that this would be considered.

Paul Kelly asked a question regarding a proposal to store carbon dioxide 'off shore' in Liverpool Bay and he would appreciate the Council informing residents which method is being proposing to use to store the carbon dioxide whilst it is on the Wirral. The Chair responded to say that the Business Group HyNet North West, had plans for carbon capture and storage in Liverpool Bay, after piping it across north Wales. They plan to pipe Hydrogen across Wirral. The Chair confirmed that that Council is not proposing to store CO2 anywhere except in trees and other vegetation.

Sandra Richards asked a question relating to Low Traffic Neighbourhoods and queried the restriction on freedom to travel outside the 'zones'. The Chair responded to say that there were no plans to restrict freedom to travel outside of Low Traffic Neighbourhoods and stated that further information on this will be published in due course.

Derek Holmes asked a question regarding the number of complaints the Council have received regarding the cessation of maintenance at Hoylake Beach, noting that it had been an amenity beach since before the Second World War. The Chair confirmed that she will get confirmation of that but noted that the Council had also previously been criticised for spraying and raking the beach. If Council resumed the practice now without permission, then it would be breaking the law and could face unlimited fines.

Nicola Verkade asked a question regarding Habitat Regulations Assessments (HRA) and when these are required for certain activities. It was suggested that the Council could add signage on Hoylake Prom reminding groups to check if their activity requires a HRA and how to apply. The Chair responded to confirm that signage is planned for the area and can include information on HRA.

Julien Priest asked a question regarding whether the recent application for Village Green status or a recently submitted legal challenge letter from a local Hoylake resident had had any detrimental effect or may delay the ongoing consultation process for future Hoylake foreshore management. The Chair confirmed that following Committee's resolution of November 2022, the officers have been undertaking the study of the 2 beach management options with MEAS and NE as directed by committee and will be reporting back to

Committee later this year. This work and timescale have not so far been affected by recent applications and challenges.

Charlotte Smith asked a question regarding the inclusion of beaches in the Chair's portfolio when she was a Cabinet Member in 2019, the decision to cease the existing beach maintenance plan and queried impartiality and whether this would have prejudiced and consultation process. The Chair responded to say that the Cabinet Member decision of 2019 was not 'arbitrary' but followed a long discussion with NE in which she was told that NE were investigating Wirral Council for potentially breaching their agreement with NE and for spraying and raking beyond that which was agreed, allegedly destroying protected habitats in the process. It was noted that the final consultation is yet to happen but that 2 options had been put forward by the Committee for consultation.

A supplementary question was asked regarding of pre-existing legislation and agreements regarding the beach, including the need to address blue health and human activities, which would negate the decision of the environmental chair and public consultation process, and if so why was this ignored. The chair responded to say a written answer would follow.

Kathleen Littler asked a question relating to the elderly population in Hoylake who may not have internet access and may be unaware of what is happening at Hoylake Beach in terms of beach management. Committee was asked to ensure that all members of the community are able to have a voice and suggested letters or leaflets are sent to inform and gauge local views. The Chair stated that the public engagement and consultation exercise included not just digital opportunities, but also in-person and face to face sessions with officers responsible for the beach, answering public questions and supplied paper copies of the consultation documents.

All question not asked at the meeting will be published as an addendum to the minutes.

5.2 Questions by Members

Councillor Vida Wilson stated that none of the Moreton West and Saughall Massie Councillors had received notification of the Fender Lane cycle lane in advance. The Chair responded to say that she had been advised that ward Councillors had been informed, and would make further enquiries.

6 CARBON BUDGET PERFORMANCE REPORT 2023/23

The Assistant Director for Climate Change and Environment introduced the report of the Director of Regeneration and Place. Members were informed that this was the third annual Carbon Budget Performance Report and covers the 2022/23 financial year. It showed actual emissions compared against the 2022/23 Carbon Budget Target. This allowed the Council to measure

progress towards its target of carbon net zero by 2030 as included in the Environment and Climate Emergency Policy.

The Carbon Budget emissions limit for 2022/23 was 5,944 tonnes CO₂e. Net actual emissions were 5,661 tonnes CO₂e which is 283 tonnes CO₂e below the limit set for the year. It is expected that future Carbon Budget targets will become progressively more difficult to achieve and considerable effort will be needed to remain on-track. The Carbon Budget sets an emissions limit of 4,505 tonnes CO₂e for 2023/24 – a reduction of 1,003 tonnes CO₂e in comparison to 2022/23 performance. This reduction will only be achieved if fossil fuel use for heating is reduced significantly. The reduction in emissions over 2021/22 has been achieved because of green electricity purchase and reduced use of energy in Council assets. Emissions associated with use of electrical energy have also reduced because of adjustments to Government conversion factors. Although the target has been met, the reduction of emissions associated with use of fossil fuels is identified as a key issue that needs to be prioritised.

Actions to preserve current performance and achieve further reductions are described. Steps to include more emissions sources for the next re-baselining are noted and documented. Longer-term issues that will have to be addressed to meet the 2030 target are noted.

Progress of the actions was summarised within the report, which looks ahead to priority actions the next 12 months to ensure that the Council remains on track to deliver its carbon budget targets. Members were informed that the single most important action for the Council to undertake in the coming years is the decarbonisation of its buildings to reach net zero.

Members queried the achievability of the targets for all Council Departments and if performance indicators were in place. Members were informed that the first carbon budget targets were introduced in 2010 and was refreshed in 2019 to meet net zero targets. Some will meet targets more easily, but officers are working closely with departments to ensure that the right actions are taken to meet targets, however it is not prescriptive.

Resolved, that - Council's performance and progress towards its target of carbon net zero by 2030 be noted and a copy of this report be sent to all Members.

7 ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN PROGRESS REPORT 2022/23

The Climate Emergency Manager presented the report of the Director of Neighbourhood Services. Members were informed that Wirral Council declared an Environment and Climate Emergency at an extraordinary meeting

of full Council on 15 July 2019 and through this committed to action the ecological and climate crisis we face.

The Council developed an Environment and Climate Emergency Action Plan (ECEAP) in response to the declaration. This report provides the second update on the Council's response to the declared environment and climate emergency and progress on the Environment and Climate Emergency Action Plan, covering the 2022/23 financial year. The Environment & Climate Emergency Action Plan supports the delivery of the Environment and Climate Emergency Policy and the Wirral Plan 2021-2026 'Sustainable Environment' theme; 'Working towards a clean-energy, sustainable borough that leads the way in its response to the climate emergency and is environmentally friendly' and the Active and Healthy Lives theme: 'Working to provide happy, active and healthy lives for all'.

Members queried a wide range of topics from tree, electric charging points and planting architecture in parks, to new Council Premises. Also discussed was how the vulnerable could be protected against the implications of climate change.

Members also discussed the Carbon Literacy training provided to Members and Officers and discussed this being available to all report writers. It was requested that a copy of the report be circulated to all Members.

Resolved – that,

- 1. the progress of the Environment & Climate Emergency actions undertaken in 2022/23 be noted; and**
- 2. the priority actions for 2023/24 be endorsed.**

8 PARKING ENFORCEMENT CONTRACT RENEWAL OPTIONS

The Assistant Director for Highways and Infrastructure presented the report of the Director for Neighbourhood Services. Members were informed that the Council has a legal duty to maintain the safe flow of traffic on its network under the Traffic Management Act 2004.

Part of this duty was to deliver a Parking Service which includes the enforcement of on and off-street parking restrictions, the initial processing of penalty charge notices up to and including Notice to Owner stage and the issuing of resident, country park and staff parking permits and parking dispensations. The service also provided emergency cover for the school crossing patrol service. The incumbent contractor is NSL Limited, Registration No. 06033060. The Council have worked with NSL for almost 20 years.

The purpose of this report was to seek approval for a 5-year extension to the Council's current parking enforcement contract with NSL Limited.

Members queried efficiencies including a reduction in staff, the length of contract and length of time to bring the service back in house, querying associated benefits. Members requested more detailed reporting being brought back to committee in the next few years to look at options. Also discussed was key performance indicators and contract compliance. Members also noted residents' complaints about parking on double yellow lines not being ticketed.

On a motion by the chair, seconded by Councillor Jenkinson it was,

Resolved – that,

- 1. The extension of the current contract for parking enforcement services with NSL Limited, Registration No. 06033060 for a further period of 5 years be approved.**
- 2. A report be brought back to Committee in advance of the 2026 review, looking at in-house and hybrid provision.**

9 **DEVELOPMENT OF A WIRRAL PARKING STRATEGY**

The Lead Commissioner for Transport and Technology introduced the report of the Director of Regeneration and Place, which provided Members with an update regarding the on-going work to develop a parking strategy for the borough and sets out the results of phase 1 of public and stakeholder consultation.

The report also seeks approval to undertake phase 2 of consultation. A further report will be submitted to this Committee in December 2023 for consideration of the feedback from the phase 2 consultation and seeking approval for the adoption of a parking strategy.

Members discussed the report and noted that some car parks were significantly underused and opportunities for rationalisation. Residents Controlled parking zones, especially in busy areas around Schools were flagged as something that needs addressing and traffic displacement. Also discussed was dynamic pricing and price management as well as the possible impact on local shopping areas. Members queried the consultation process and getting the comms right, this included adding a section on the Council Website about current consultation.

Resolved – that the Director of Regeneration and Place be authorised to undertake further consultation in Summer 2023 on the potential

interventions (as identified in Section 3.11 of this report) to be considered for inclusion in a Wirral Parking Strategy.

10 **GROUNDS MAINTENANCE MACHINERY – AWARD OF CONTRACT**

The Strategic Manager for Parks and Gardens introduced the report of the Director of Neighbourhoods.

This report requested that the Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee approve the purchase of Parks Machinery, following a recent competitive tender exercise, from the Parks Machinery Capital included in the Council's Capital Programme. This report supports two key priorities in the delivery of the Wirral Plan: -

- Sustainable Environment – the Parks Machinery will be used to manage parks and open spaces, including the management of woodland, beaches, and rewilding / pollinator areas.
- Active & Healthy Lives – The Parks Machinery will be used to maintain the significant number of play pitches within the borough and recreational parkland.

Members were informed that The Parks & Countryside Service used a wide variety of machinery to maintain Wirral's parks and open spaces, play pitches, cemeteries, highway verges and beaches. The majority of machinery was 10 years old or older and has reached the end of its useful life and needs to be replaced.

Members queried the purchase of the beach rake, but not the tractor. Members were informed that the rake was required and that purchasing a tractor would follow. Members noted that some of the equipment used by parks and countryside was past its best, and highlighted how important it is to maintain outside spaces.

Resolved – that the Director of Neighbourhoods be authorised, following the recent competitive tender exercise, to award the contracts to purchase the Grounds Maintenance Machinery detailed in this report from the highest scoring bidders in accordance with the Most Economically Advantageous Tenderer Criteria.

11 **FUTURE OF PARKS TENNIS - IMPLEMENTATION AND PROCUREMENT OF THE FUTURE OPERATING MODEL UPDATE**

The Engagement and Modernisation officer for Leisure Services presented the report of the Director of Neighbourhood Services. The report provided the Committee with an update on the sustainable operating model and programmes of inclusive tennis activity that prevented low income from being

an obstacle to participation in tennis across the borough. The report included details of how the model supported social inclusion and overall participation in relation to the acceptance of the Lawn Tennis Association's (LTA) capital grant funding for tennis court improvement works across Wirral, presented to Committee on 21st July 2022. It also provided an update on the current progress of the tennis court improvement works across Wirral.

Members queried re-surfacing issues at Irby Park, Arrowe Park and New Ferry Park. It was noted that these issues had been reserved. Members also queried charging structures and communications. Members were informed that grant funding bid had been secured to ensure residents could access kit. In terms of payment to access these facilities, Members were assured that the fee could be paid monthly. Also queried was Whitfield Common but were informed that Lawn Tennis Associated this did not extent to these Tennis Courts, but officers assured that various options were being considered.

A further discussion was had on barriers to accessing tennis courts, including gating and fencing and ensuring that young people were still able to access the courts.

Resolved – that,

1.the amendment to the charging policy in paragraph 3.28 within the sustainable operating model to ensure that low income is not an obstacle to participation in tennis across the borough be approved.

2. the operating model as set out in paragraphs 3.26 to 3.28 of the report be implemented and a local operator with charges set in accordance with the principles contained in Option 3 in Appendix 4 as modified by paragraph 3.28 of the report be procured.

12 **ECET QUARTER 4 REVENUE AND CAPITAL MONITORING BUDGET REPORT**

The Senior Finance Business Partner introduced the report of the Director of Neighbourhood Services. The report provided a summary of the year-end revenue position for the 2022/23 financial year as at the end of March 2023 for the Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee. The report also provided Members with an overview of budget performance to enable the Committee to take ownership of the budgets and provide robust challenge and scrutiny to Officers on the performance of those budgets.

Members were informed that the year-end revenue outturn for 2022/23 represents an adverse position of £3.437m on the Committee net revenue budget of £63.761m.

Members noted that the delay in the parking strategy had caused a revenue shortfall and queried the projection for that and noted that some of this was due to home and hybrid working as well as the delayed car parking strategy. In terms of mitigations officers were looking at spend against supplies and contracts. Members also queried using one off reserves to bolster the budget and noted concerns regarding that. Members also queried reserves for energy efficiency and were informed that the budget was there to be spent. Various other underspends were discussed included the climate emergency and sought assurance that these items would be brought forward to 2023/24.

Resolved – that,

- 1. the draft, unaudited 2022/23 outturn adverse variance of £3.437m be noted.**
- 2. the draft, unaudited 2022/23 capital variance be noted.**
- 3. Agree the transfer to and use of earmarked reserves, as detailed in Appendix 2 be agreed;**
- 4. the progress on delivery of the 2022/23 savings programme be noted**

13 2023/24 BUDGET AND BUDGET MONITORING PROCESSES

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

Resolved – that,

- 1. The process for in-year monitoring of the 2023/24 budget be noted.**
- 2. a Budget Monitoring Panel be established to comprise of the Committee Chair and Spokespersons, with sessions to be led by the relevant Director/Assistant Director.**

14 APPOINTMENT TO WIRRAL FLOOD WATER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Head of Legal Services presented the report of the Director of Law and Governance which enabled the Committee to appoint members and possibly named deputies to the Wirral Flood and Water Partnership for 2023/24.

Resolved – that,

The Committee authorise the Monitoring Officer as proper officer to carry out the wishes of the political group leaders in allocating Members to membership of the Wirral Flood and Water Partnership and to appoint those Members with effect from the date at which the proper officer is advised of the names of such Members

15 APPOINTMENT OF PANELS, STATUTORY/ADVISORY COMMITTEES AND WORKING PARTIES

The Head of Legal Services presented the report of the Director of Law and Governance which enabled the Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee to review the continuing need for various panels, statutory / advisory committees and working parties, and to appoint Members and named deputies to serve on those (including the statutory committees and panels) that are to be retained in 2023/24.

Resolved – that,

The Committee authorised the Monitoring Officer as proper officer to carry out the wishes of the Group Leaders in allocating Members to membership of the Active Travel Forum, the Wirral Climate Change Group and the Hilbre Island Management Committee to appoint those Members with effect from the date at which the proper officer is advised of the names of such Members.

16 WORK PROGRAMME

The Head of Legal Services presented the Work Programme and informed Members that 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 only can be considered via other means, such as briefing notes or workshops.

Members requested an update report or briefing on access to green space across the borough, as well as an update on Eco Schools.

Resolved – that the Environment Climate Emergency and Transport Committee work programme for the remainder of the 2023/24 municipal year be noted.

17 EXEMPT INFORMATION - EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved – That, under section 100 (A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business on the grounds 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.

18 **APPENDIX 1 FOR GROUNDS MAINTENANCE MACHINERY – AWARD OF CONTRACT**

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

ECONOMY REGENERATION & HOUSING COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 20 June 2023

Present: Councillor A Hodson (Chair)

Councillors GJ Davies A Gardner
R Pitt J Bird
M Skillicorn E Lamb
G Wood E Tomeny
J Robinson (for T Jones) S Kelly (for H Raymond)

1 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Councillor Hodson opened the meeting. He explained that Councillor Jones (Chair of the Committee) had submitted his apologies for the meeting so he as Vice Chair of the Committee would chair the meeting. He reminded everyone that the meeting was being webcast and a copy would be retained on the Council's website for two years.

2 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Tony Jones who was substituted by Councillor Jean Robinson. Apologies were also received from Councillor Helen Raymond who was substituted by Councillor Stuart Kelly.

3 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 Stuart Kelly declared a prejudicial interest in item 12 as Chair of the Planning Committee and member of the Strategic Applications Sub Committee. He noted that any planning proposal arising from any decision on this this item would likely be determined by the Strategic Applications Sub Committee of which he would be a member. He would therefore leave the chamber for this item.

Councillor Jean Robinson declared a personal interest as a Joint Venture Board Member of the Wirral Growth Company in relation to items 5.2 and 6. It was clarified that as no decisions were due to be taken directly relevant to the Wirral Growth Company, Councillor Robinson would not be required to leave the chamber for any items on the agenda.

4 **MINUTES**

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 8 March 2023 be approved as a correct record.

5 **PUBLIC AND MEMBER QUESTIONS**

5.1 **Public Questions**

The Chair indicated that 4 public questions had been received from 3 members of the public.

Arthur Shaw asked a question regarding Redbridge Quay on the Wirral Waters development and the lack of fencing at the edge of the water.

In response the Chair explained that the landowner had previously been offered grant funding for the installation of a cycle route around the dock edge and if this was to be installed there had been a recommendation to include a railing at the water's edge. The developer did not submit an updated design to include a barrier and the offer of grant funding had been withdrawn. The Council's view was that installation of a barrier along the dock edge was an appropriate response, however the decision in this respect was a matter for the landowner.

Arthur Shaw asked a supplementary question, querying what had changed during the development process as sections of the dock edge next to Redbridge Quay did have barriers.

The Chair noted that he sympathised with the issue and stated that the Council would ensure that Peel Holdings were made aware of Arthur Shaw's representations.

William Alan Featherstone on behalf of the Birkenhead Market Tenants Association asked two questions. The first question asked if Councillors would agree to release information previously requested of the Market Manager and whether Councillors would meet with members of the Birkenhead Market Tenants Association.

The Chair explained that the Committee was not the appropriate body to decide whether the information should be released or not and the appropriate route was via the Freedom of Information process which had already been

lodged with the Council's information governance team. Regarding meeting with the market traders, the Chair suggested that the Birkenhead Market Tenants Association should meet with the Market Manager.

Williams Alan Featherstone asked a supplementary question seeking clarity on the Freedom of Information process and that his understanding was that for a subject to be deemed financially sensitive, the onus was on the Council to prove that this was the case.

The Lead Principal Lawyer, at the request of the Chair, clarified that there were set internal procedures to challenge Freedom of Information Request responses and which could be further escalated to the Information Commissioner.

William Alan Featherstone's second question related to the number of unused stalls at Birkenhead Market and he asked whether the Committee felt that there was a deliberate policy to degenerate the market by raising vacant rents.

The Chair reported that rental values for the stalls at Birkenhead Market had been benchmarked against similar markets in the region and Birkenhead remained one of the most affordable. He noted that the Council had not increased market rents but had maintained current rental values over recent years. He stated there was very little evidence that rental values were a reason that stalls were not being used.

William Alan Featherstone asked a supplemental question regarding whether Birkenhead Market rents had not been increased between October and November 2021.

The Chair responded that he did not have those facts available to him and William Alan Featherstone would receive a response in writing within 10 working days.

David French asked a question relating to negotiating with the Market Manager for a stall at Birkenhead Market and whether the Council were trying to keep stalls empty.

The Chair stated that the Council had supported and would continue to support businesses at Birkenhead Market. He noted that commercial negotiations were confidential, and the Committee was not a suitable forum to discuss them. He referred the questioner back to the officers responsible for such discussions.

5.2 **Statements and Petitions**

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

5.3 **Questions by Members**

Councillor Ewan Tomeny asked a question relating to reported slippages in schedule within the Future High Streets Scheme and wanted to know when the combined Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) Stage 3 report was expected to be completed and when the demolition of the House of Fraser site in Birkenhead would begin.

The Chair responded that the combined RIBA Stage 3 draft report for Birkenhead Market had been received for review on 5 June 2023. He noted that this document was in excess of 900 pages and that officers were working through it with a view to providing feedback by the end of June 2023. In regard to the House of Fraser site, the Chair stated that subject to the completion of a tender appraisal and contract completion with the successful part, the winning tenderer required a minimum of 4 weeks to begin works.

Councillor Tomeny had a supplementary question asking when the planning application for the new Birkenhead Market was likely to be submitted.

The Chair responded that the planning application can be submitted once the RIBA Work Stage 3 review is completed.

6 **2022/23 BUDGET MONITORING FOR QUARTER FOUR**

The Director of Regeneration and Place introduced his report which set out the financial monitoring information for the Economy Regeneration and Housing Committee as at year end (31st March 2023) of 2022-2023. The report provided Members with an overview of budget performance, including progress on the delivery of the 2022-2023 saving programme and a summary of reserves to enable the Committee to take ownership of the budgets and provide robust challenge and scrutiny to officers on the performance of those budgets.

Members queried the Council's commitment to active travel, raising an example of funding having to be returned. The Director of Regeneration and Place noted that the scheme in question was not approved at the previous meeting of the Economy Regeneration and Housing Committee, however further funding had been sought and approved for active travel schemes in the borough.

Members noted that at the Policy and Resources Committee held on 14 June 2023, it was agreed Wirral Growth Company Profit be moved from Regeneration and Place reserves to Resource reserves and that this was not

reflected in this report to Economy Regeneration and Housing Committee. The Director noted that the decision by Policy and Resources Committee took place after the agenda for Economy Regeneration and Housing Committee was published and that the recommendation related to the Quarter 4 Outturn which pre dated the Policy and Resources Committee meeting.

Resolved – That

- 1. The revenue position presented at Quarter 4 Outturn be noted.**
- 2. The delivery of the 2022-2023 savings programme at Quarter 4 Outturn be noted.**
- 3. The level of reserves at Quarter 4 Outturn be noted.**
- 4. The Capital position of £17.474m at Quarter 4 Outturn be noted.**

7 2023/24 BUDGET AND BUDGET MONITORING PROCESSES

The Director of Regeneration and Place introduced his report which set out how the 2023-2024 budget would be monitored through the Committee System, which will facilitate the Policy and Services Committees (the Committees) to take ownership of their specific budgets and present appropriate challenge and scrutiny of Officers on the management and performance of those budgets.

Members asked a question on the requirement for a Homelessness Review every five years as stated in 2.1 of Appendix B to the report and queried when that review was next due. The Director of Regeneration and Place noted that the last review had been undertaken for 2019-20 which meant that the current strategy was robust up until 2025 with the review to be started in 2024.

Resolved – That

- 1. The process for in-year monitoring of the 2023/2024 budget be noted; and**
- 2. A Budget Monitoring Panel be established comprising of the Committee Chair and Spokespersons, with sessions led by the relevant Director/Assistant Director**

8 APPOINTMENT TO ACTIVE TRAVEL WORKING GROUP

The Lead Principal Lawyer introduced the report of the Director of Law and Governance which set out to enable the Committee to review the continuing need for the Active Travel Working Group and, subject to that, to appoint Members to serve on it.

Members noted that the appendix to the report made reference to the Membership of the Active Travel Working Group being appointed having regard to the political balance of the Council as a whole. If proportionality were applied this would mean that the Working Group would be comprised of 4 Labour Members, 2 Conservative Members, 1 Green Party Member and 1 Liberal Democrat Member. Members noted that for the past 2 years the Active Travel Working Group had disregarded political proportionality in favour of an equal split of 1 representative of each party from each of the parent committees (being Economy Regeneration and Housing Committee and Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee). Members requested that this arrangement be continued for the 2023-2024 municipal year. This would give 8 Members with 2 Labour, 2 Conservative, 2 Green Party and 2 Liberal Democrat Councillors sitting on the Working Group. Members unanimously backed this suggestion.

Resolved – That the Monitoring Officer be authorised as proper officer to carry out the wishes of the Group Leaders in allocating Members to membership of the Active Travel Member Working Group and to appoint those Members with immediate effect from the date at which the proper officer is advised of the names of such Members with 4 Members from Economy Regeneration and Housing Committee and 4 Members from Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee with 1 Member from each political group from each committee.

9 ESTABLISHMENT OF REGENERATION PROGRAMME WORKING GROUP

The Lead Principal Lawyer introduced the report of the Director of Law and Governance which enabled the Economy Regeneration and Housing Committee to review the continuing need for the Regeneration Programme Working Group and, subject to that, to appoint Members to serve on it.

Members noted that the group had only met once during the 2022-2023 municipal year.

Resolved – That

- 1. The Monitoring Officer be authorised as proper officer to carry out the wishes of the Group Leaders in allocating Members to membership of the Regeneration Programme Working Group and to appoint those members with effect from the date at which the proper officer is advised of the names of such members; and**
- 2. Councillor Tony Jones be appointed Chair of the Regeneration Programme Working Group**

3. Councillor Andrew Hodson be appointed Vice-Chair of the Regeneration Programme Working Group

10 WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE

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

Members stated that they felt more items should be on the work programme and specifically requested that they would like to see a project delivery plan added for the next meeting.

Resolved – That the work programme be noted.

11 EXEMPT INFORMATION - EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

12 HIND STREET DELIVERY

The Head of Regeneration Delivery presented the report of the Director of Regeneration and Place.

Resolved – That the recommendations as detailed in the report be approved

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CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 21 June 2023

<u>Present:</u>	Councillor	S Powell-Wilde (Chair)	
	Councillors	P Basnett	V Wilson
		T Laing	C Cooke
		P Jobson (for S Bennett)	J Grier
		L Luxon-Kewley	C Carubia
		K Hodson	M Jackson (Independent Person)
		C Povall	

1 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting as well as those watching the webcast.

2 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Stephen Bennett with Councillor Paul Jobson substituting.

3 MEMBERS CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

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

A number of councillors raised that they were school governors or foster parents. The Head of Legal Services advised that there was a standard dispensation for such interests and that they were not required to be noted.

The Chair declared a personal interest as a foster carer.

4 MINUTES

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 7 March 2023 be approved as a correct record.

5 PUBLIC AND MEMBERS QUESTIONS

The Chair informed the committee that two public questions had been received.

Lorraine Krimou asked a question relating to the award of higher funding rates to nurseries that have staff with a qualified teacher status which they felt created a two tier system of provision to nurseries that all offered the same level of services.

The Chair responded that the Government informed councils in mid-December that the Teacher Pay and Pensions Grant (TPPG) would be included in the early years funding block. The guidance supplied from the government encouraged local authorities to use the rolled-in funding to continue to support some of the costs for which the original grants had been introduced. A consultation of early years providers had been undertaken to determine how they thought the TPPG should be delivered. With all various methodology applied, schools would see a reduction in their funding for the TPPG element compared with the previous year. The quality supplement's follow the same line as flexibility supplements with different eligibility criteria applied. The Local Authority proposed that the TPPG funding be delivered through the quality 2 supplement and the base rate. This was agreed through the School Forum Committee and was ratified through full council.

Sarah Spoor asked a question regarding the continued closure of the music and sensory rooms at Wallasey Youth Club due to Covid restriction. She wanted to know when the space could be reopened to children and young people.

The Chair responded that Wirral's youth offer for Wallasey was delivered in collaboration with Merseyside Fire and Rescue Services which provides the accommodation for the Youth Hub. Following the Covid-19 pandemic, services were now deemed safe to offer again. The Chair confirmed that the rooms could be re-opened with immediate effect.

Sarah Spoor asked a supplementary question regarding the provision of internet access at the Youth Hub.

The Chair stated that a written response would be sent to her within 10 days.

The Chair confirmed that no statements or petitions had been received.

The Chair confirmed that no questions from Members had been received.

6 **NEW CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLES EMOTIONAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING MODEL**

The Joint Commissioning Lead introduced the report of the Director of Children, Families and Education. The report set out the new local model to be jointly commissioned from April 2024. The joint commission between Children, Families and Education Services, Public Health and Wirral Place Integrated Care Board would transform available support and provide a more effective and co-ordinated approach to improve outcomes for children and young people.

Members asked for further details on the organisation Capacity. The Joint Commissioning Lead stated that they were an organisation that worked with public services that are looking to transform services, offering information on research around other alliances in the country, providing needs analysis, organising focus groups and producing update reports.

Member sought assurances that new model wouldn't adversely effect Children and Young People already within the system or put a further strain on Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS). The Joint Commissioning Lead assured Members that any Children and Young People currently receiving intervention would not be effected and that the new model should help to ease the pressure on CAMHS by filtering out Children and Young People that may need help but do not require the services of CAMHS.

Members queried whether existing services would be informed of any changes, whether the new model would allow for different approaches to mental health issues and when Members could expect to see results from the new model. The Joint Commissioning Lead noted that the Future Mind Group kept all stakeholders informed, that the new model would respect different approaches to mental health provision and would allow people to help themselves before seeking further help. She noted that the Service had identified a number Key Performance Indicators and were clear on the data that needed to be collected and measured.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

7 **SCHOOL CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2023-2024**

The Assistant Director of Education introduced the report of the Director of Regeneration and Place. The report noted that the Department for Education allocated grant funding each year to help maintain and improve the condition of school buildings and grounds. All local authorities must ensure that they have a sound Capital strategy for education services, ensuring that facilities are sufficient, safe and offer the best teaching environment for pupils of all abilities.

The report gave details of the planned Capital work for Maintained Schools over the following 12 months and gave details of proposed spend of two capital grants: (i) School Condition Allocation and (ii) High Needs Provision Capital Allocation.

Members asked for information on the boiler replacements in schools and how environmentally clean the replacements were likely to be. The Assistant Director of Education noted that where possible the most carbon neutral options were being chosen and that he would arrange for further information to be provided to Members in writing from the Assets Team.

In response to a query on the Higher Needs Provision The Assistant Director of Education explained that the Council received its' allocation directly from Department for Education (DfE). He noted that officers have been in contact with the DfE to ask about the availability of further funding.

Members queried whether schools with a budget surplus could divert that surplus towards school improvements. The Assistant Director of Education noted that there was a distinction between Revenue and Capital budgets and that for the schools that Wirral Borough Council was directly responsible for, there was a rigorous process to where Capital allocations are made to ensure needs are met. However, where schools wish to make their own budget decisions, there would be the option to discuss this with them and to potentially make a Revenue to Capital transfer. He noted that ultimately the Capital funding should fulfil Wirral's school needs as per the guidance from the DfE.

Members asked about the process for school repairs were an academy school to be given back to the Council. The Assistant Director of Education noted that there is no option for an academy school to be returned to a Local Authority. The Director of Children, Young People and Education noted that if an academy ceased to trade, the building would fall back to the Local Authority and at that point a decision would need to be made on the building and its use.

Members asked for a breakdown of the Basic Need allocation of £381,049 pounds, and queried why there was no allocation for 2021-22 or 2022-23. The Assistant Director of Education noted that Basic Need was linked to rising pupil numbers, for example if there is a population increase in a particular area. Wirral had not had an allocation for the past 2 years as there had been a decline in pupil numbers over that period. The Assistant Director of Education offered to provide further details on Basic Need in writing to Members.

Resolved – That:

- 1. The Identified projects be included in the Schools Capital Programme funded by the Department for Educations.**
- 2. Asset Management be requested to progress all project designs, tender documentation, and initiate project implementation. Noting that all projects over £100,000 will be required to present tender details and prices via Officer Decision Notices.**

8 2022/23 BUDDGET MONITORING FOR QUARTER FOUR (THE PERIOD TO 31 MAR 2023) OUTTURN

The Director of Children, Young People and Education introduced her report which set out a summary of the year-end revenue and capital position for the 2022/23 financial year for the Children, Families and Education Committee. The report provided Members with an overview of budget performance, including progress on the delivery of the 2022-23 saving programme and a summary of reserves to enable the Committee to take ownership of the budgets and provide robust challenge and scrutiny to Officers on the performance of those budgets.

Members queried an area that had been delayed around approved savings. The Director of Children, Young People and Education noted that the delay had been centred around the move to buy a property to create a unit for Children and Young People with learning difficulties and mental health difficulties. The owner of the property had unfortunately died during the process of purchasing it, which meant the property had to go through probate. This process had now been completed and the purchase was moving at pace towards completion,

Members sought further information on community wealth building and whether there were other example like Juno Community Interest Company (CIC). The Director of Children, Young People and Education noted that Juno CIC was the first of its model in the whole country and stated that it was groundbreaking.

In response to a query on the level of need for provision residential care for children and young people, the Director of Children, Young People and Education noted that Wirral has just under 70 children in residential care at any one time, as well as some in supported living arrangements. She noted that work was continuing to ensure that the right homes were available to meet the needs of those children that needed them.

Resolved – That:

- 1. The year-end revenue position of £3.471m adverse variance reported for 2022/23 be noted;**

2. **The progress on delivery of the 2022-23 savings programme be noted;**
3. **The level of reserves at the end of 2022/23 be noted; and**
4. **The capital position at the end of 2022/23 be noted.**

9 **2023/24 BUDGET AND BUDGET MONITORING PROCESSES**

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

Resolved – That

1. **The process for in-year monitoring of the 2023/2024 budget be noted; and**
2. **A Budget Monitoring Panel be established comprising of the Committee Chair and Spokespersons, with sessions led by the relevant Director/Assistant Director**

10 **CHILDRENS' SERVICES PERFORMANCE REPORT QUARTER FOUR**

The Interim Head of Operations for Children's Services introduced the report of the Director of Children, Young People and Education. The report provided the latest performance information for Children's Services. The design and content of the report was developed following discussions with the Chair of the Children, Young People & Education Committee and party spokes at a Performance Monitoring workshop back in March 2021.

Members asked whether the information on free school meals could be broken down between primary and secondary schools. The Interim Head of Operations for Children's Services stated she did not have the information to hand but would be happy to send Members the information in writing.

Members requested further information on care leavers aged 19-21 and the number that are not in education or employment. The Director of Children, Young People and Education noted that all care leavers are monitored and offered to provide Members further data regarding the work undertaken to support them. She noted that in her experience the care leavers that she had witnessed in employment had been a huge asset to their place of work and wished to encourage other committees to present employment opportunities to care leavers.

In response to a query on support offered to SEND children that were being electively home educated, the Assistant Director of Education noted that where a child has an EHCP, and is being electively home schooled, conversations were being held through SEND assessments regarding what support can be offered.

Members noted there had been a rise in suspensions and permanent exclusions from schools, with figures higher than the national average and queried why that was and what work was being undertaken. The Assistant Director of Education noted that for the first three quarters of the year, the figures were below the national average but there had been a spike in quarter 4 and he acknowledged that work needed to be done to work out why that had happened.

Members queried the Interim Head of Operations for Children's Services confidence in the accuracy of the data on the numbers of electively home schooled children. The Interim Head of Operations for Children's Services noted that when a parent takes a child out of the school system, they have to notify the school so the service will be fully aware of all children being electively home schooled. She noted that data for social care was updated on a daily basis and that SEND and Education data was currently updated weekly if not daily.

Resolved – That the content of the report be noted.

11 **OFSTED SUMMARY REPORT 2022-2023**

The Assistant Director of Education introduced the report of the Director of Children, Young People and Education. The report 2023 gave an outline of all inspections that had taken place across for the academic year 2022-2023 and that had been published at the point of report writing. The attached summary document (appendix 1) gave a summary of the school inspected, the date, overall outcome and areas for development.

Resolved – That the contents of the report be noted.

12 **ALL AGE DISABILITY SERVICE REVIEW**

The Assistant Director of All Age Independence introduced the report of the Director of Children, Young People and Education. The report presented the findings and recommendations for greater alignment of All Age Disability Service. Noting that the scoping, initiation, planning and engagement phase was complete.

Members noted that only 3.1% of people with a learning difficulty in Wirral were employed compared to 5.1% nationally and queried what was being

done to improve this. The Assistant Director of All Age Independence noted that work was being done to provide a coordinated approach to this issue with a co-produced strategic framework to identify how to improve employment for people with disabilities and learning difficulties.

The Director of Children, Young People and Education stated the importance of the subject matter of the report and that working collaboratively with the Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee was important to the success of improving access to employment for people with disabilities and learning difficulties.

The Chair asked that further work on the All Age Disability Service be added to the Work Programme.

Resolved – That the priorities and indicative timeframe, as listed in Appendix 4 of the report be noted.

13 **APPOINTMENT OF PANELS, STATUTORY / ADVISORY COMMITTEES AND WORKING PARTIES 2023 / 2024**

The Head of Legal Services introduced the report of the Director of Law and Governance. The purpose of the report was to enable the Committee to review the continuing need for various panels, statutory / advisory committees and working parties, and to appoint members and named deputies to serve on those (including the statutory committees and panels) that are to be retained in 2023/2024.

The Head of Legal Services noted an error regarding political balance for the Corporate Parenting Panel within the report. The report stated that the 5 members of the Panel were to be made up of 2 Labour Members, 2 Conservative Members and 1 Green Party Member. She noted that the correct balance should in fact be 2 Labour Members, 1 Conservative Member, 1 Green Party Member and 1 Liberal Democrat Member.

Members noted that the Young People's Advisory Group had not met in some time and asked if further meetings could be arranged.

The Assistant Director of Early Help and Prevention noted that since the lockdowns during the Covid-19 Pandemic the group had not met and agreed that it was time to re-establish those meetings.

Resolved – That:

- 1. The Monitoring Officer be authorised as proper officer to carry out the wishes of the Group Leaders in allocating Members to membership of the Statutory and Advisory Committees listed in the report, with the agreement that the Corporate Parenting Panel**

be made up of 2 Labour Members, 1 Conservative Member, 1 Green Party Member and 1 Liberal Democrat Member, and to appoint those Members with effect from the date at which the proper officer is advised of the names of such Members;

- 2. The current constitution and membership of the School Appeals Panel be noted.**

14 **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Head of Legal Services introduced the report of the Director of Law and Governance which reminded members that the Children, Young People 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 Chair noted that she would like a workshop on the All Age Disability Service to be added to the work programme.

Resolved – That the work programme be noted.

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TOURISM, COMMUNITIES, CULTURE & LEISURE COMMITTEE

Thursday, 22 June 2023

1 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

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

2 APOLOGIES

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

3 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

4 MINUTES

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

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

5 PUBLIC AND MEMBER QUESTIONS

6 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

6.1 Statements and Petitions

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

7 QUARTER 4 REVENUE AND CAPITAL MONITORING BUDGET REPORT

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

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

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

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

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

Resolved – That

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

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

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

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

8 2023/24 BUDGET AND BUDGET MONITORING PROCESS

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

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

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

Resolved – That

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

9 LIBRARIES: IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW OPERATING MODEL

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

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

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

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

10 COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER

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

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

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

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

Brackenwood

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

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

Resolved- That

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

Bromborough Civic Centre

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

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

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

Resolved – That

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

Woodchurch Leisure Centre

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

Resolved (7:4) – That,

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

11 APPOINTMENT TO BIRKENHEAD PARK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

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

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

12 **APPOINTMENT OF HERITAGE CHAMPION**

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

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

13 **WORK PROGRAMME**

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

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

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

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

15 **COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER - EXEMPT APPENDICES**

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AUDIT AND RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 27 June 2023

Present: Councillor J Johnson (Chair)

Councillors GJ Davies I Lewis
P Basnett S Kelly
M Skillicorn N Graham

Independent Persons J Byrne

1 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

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

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

3 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(s) on this agenda and, if so, to declare them and state what they were.

The following declarations were made:

- Councillor Paula Basnett declared personal interests by virtue of being a Foster Carer, a member of the town deal board and the Chair of Wirral Chamber of Commerce.
- Councillor Naomi Graham declared a pecuniary interest by virtue of being a member of Merseyside Pension Fund, and a personal interest by virtue of her husband's employment.
- Councillor George Davies declared a personal interest by virtue of his wife being a member of Merseyside Pension Fund.
- Councillor Ian Lewis declared a personal interest by being the founder of a community group involved in a community asset transfer of Wallasey Village Library.

4 MINUTES

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 1 March 2023, be approved.

5 PUBLIC AND MEMBER QUESTIONS

There were no questions, petitions or statements received for this meeting.

6 INTERNAL AUDIT UPDATE REPORT

The Chief Internal Auditor presented his report which identified and evaluated the performance of the Internal Audit Service and included details of any issues arising from the actual work undertaken during the period 1 March to 31 May 2023. Appendix 1 outlined items of note, including a review undertaken of the access controls within the Liquidlogic (children's) system and continued support of Internal Audit in the implementation of Oracle Fusion system.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

7 INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN - 2023-24

The Chief Internal Auditor presented a report identifying the Internal Audit Plan for 2023-24 which was in line with professional standards for a risk based Internal Audit plan in Local Government. The work scheduled within the plan reflected findings of an extensive planning exercise to ensure relevance of risks previously identified, alongside inclusion of risks to the organisation that had emerged since the exercise or were likely to emerge in the near future. It was noted that the plan was thematic rather than focused upon specific pieces of work in order to reflect the changing nature of risks over time and to provide flexibility.

Commenting upon the plan, Members sought assurance that the Council's complaints procedures were operating effectively and requested an overview of the data relating to complaints received. The Chief Internal Auditor was to produce a briefing note in advance of the next committee meeting to provide an overview of complaints received.

Resolved – That the work proposed in the Internal Audit Plan for 2023/24 be endorsed in accordance with the terms of reference for the Audit and Risk Management Committee.

8 CIA ANNUAL REPORT AND OPINION 2022-23

The Chief Internal Auditor presented a report which summarised the work undertaken by the Internal Audit Service in the previous year. The report also provided an annual opinion on the overall adequacy and effectiveness of the Council's control and governance processes, which was in accordance with Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS) requirements. It was reported that the opinion of the Chief Internal Auditor was that the Council generally

maintained adequate and effective control and governance processes overall. The opinion noted that where weaknesses in the design or application of controls had been identified, there had been positive engagement with management in agreeing recommendations. Action plans were in place to address all issues identified through the work of internal audit.

In response to questions from Member relating to risks associated to compliance with no Purchase Order – No Pay Policy, the Chief Internal Auditor outlined that a Task and Finish group was being led by the Director of Finance to address issues identified and a report would be brought to the next committee meeting following the outcomes of the group.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

9 **RISK MANAGEMENT UPDATE - CORPORATE RISK REGISTER**

The Risk, Continuity & Compliance Manager presented a report of the Director of Finance which provided an update on activity related to the Corporate and Directorate Risk Registers and the Council's risk management arrangements. It was noted that a detailed review of the Corporate Risk Register had been undertaken following discussion with the Council's Senior Leadership Team, which had resulted in a reduction of risks from the register which had grown to over 20 as of March 2023. Appendix 1 detailed the outcome of the review, with an updated register of 8 corporate risks set out.

Members expressed concern that risks relating to Safeguarding and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) had been devolved to the respective Directorate Risk Registers. The Risk Continuity and Compliance Manager set out that all devolved risks would be reconsidered by the relevant directorates and directors had the opportunity to put forward risks to the Senior Leadership Team for re-escalation to the Corporate Risk Register. Until further assurance was provided that the risks could be managed on a directorate level, it was:

Resolved – That the report be noted with

- 1. the re-inclusion of the SEND and Safeguarding Risks on the Corporate Risk Register; and**
- 2. the Senior Leadership Team will further reconsider the Register in light of the Committee's discussions.**

10 **MERSEYSIDE PENSION FUND EXTERNAL AUDIT PLAN 2022-23**

Stuart Basnett from Grant Thornton presented a report of the Director of Finance which informed Members of the plan for the external audit of the Merseyside Pension Fund's Statutory financial statements for 2022/23. The results of the audit would be reported back to the Committee.

Resolved – That the External Audit Plan for 2022-23 as prepared as Grant Thornton be noted.

11 WIRRAL COUNCIL EXTERNAL AUDIT PLAN AND PUBLIC SECTOR UPDATE 2022-23

Naomi Povey from Grant Thornton presented a report of the Director of Finance which detailed the plan for the audit of the Council's financial statements by the Council's appointed auditors, Grant Thornton, which was to take place during the Summer, to be reported back to the Committee in September 2023. The report also contained a public sector update from Grant Thornton.

Resolved – That

- 1. The proposed Audit Plan be considered confirming that the arrangements set out meet the Committee's expectations with regard to providing independent scrutiny.**
- 2. The report be noted.**
- 3. The Public Sector Update be noted.**

12 DRAFT STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND DRAFT ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT FOR 2022/23

The Senior Finance Business Partner introduced a report of the Director of Finance which presented the draft unaudited Statement of Accounts for 2022-23 alongside the draft Annual Governance Statement for 2022-23. The Statement of Accounts set out the Council's financial position as at the 31 March 2023, along with a summary of its income and expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2023. The Annual Governance Statement reflected key governance issues up to the date of the approval of the annual statement of accounts, and therefore a final version was to be reported to the Committee in September 2023 for approval along with the final version of the Council's financial statements. It was noted that the draft Annual Governance Statement was published on the Council's website within the statutory deadline of 31 May 2023. However, due to an uncontrollable delay in receiving actuarial reports from external sources, the draft unaudited Statement of Accounts were published on the Council's website on 2 June 2023.

Resolved – That

- 1. The draft, unaudited Statement of Accounts for 2022/23 be noted; and**
- 2. The Annual Governance Statement for 2022/23 be noted and approved, including the actions planned in 2023/24 to address the**

two significant governance issues identified from this year's annual governance review.

13 **SOCIAL IMPACT FUND**

The Senior Finance Manager for Major Projects and Corporate Activity presented a report of the Director of Finance which provided an update on the Council's investment in the Altana Social Impact Fund. Audit and Risk Management Committee requested in July 2022 that a report be brought in regard of Social Impact Fund Investment to a future meeting of the Committee. This was in response to Grant Thornton's, the Council's external auditors, External Audit Annual Report 2020-21.

Members discussed the level of investment returns over the previous 3 years since investment in the Fund and the anticipated returns in the forthcoming years, the length of the investment, the types of investments carried out by the Fund and the impact of inflationary factors and bond increases.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

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PLANNING COMMITTEE

Thursday, 29 June 2023

Present:

Councillor	S Kelly (Chair)	
Councillors	S Foulkes	B Kenny
	H Gorman	J Stewart Laing
	K Hodson	G McManus
	C Baldwin	S Powell-Wilde
	M Booth	Jason Walsh

9 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Chair welcomed Members of the Planning Committee, Officers and members of the public to the meeting.

10 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies were received.

11 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members of the Committee were asked whether they had any personal or prejudicial interests in connection with any item on the agenda and if so, to declare them and state what they were.

Councillor Sue Powell-Wilde declared a prejudicial interest in item 6 (3 Dudley Road, Wallasey), by virtue of a family member living close to the application site and left the room during its consideration.

12 APP/22/01848 - GROVE HOUSE HOTEL, 45 GROVE ROAD, WALLASEY VILLAGE, WIRRAL, CH45 3HF. PROPOSAL FOR A TEMPORARY CHANGE OF USE FROM A HOTEL TO HOSTEL, PROVISION OF 18NO BEDROOMS FOR 36 MONTHS.

The Development Management Manager presented the report of the Director of Regeneration and Place in relation to the above application for consideration.

Ward Councillors Ian Lewis and Lesley Rennie addressed the Committee.

A representative of the Applicant, Jane Burnham addressed the Committee.

On a motion by Councillor Harry Gorman and seconded by the Chair it was –

Resolved (8:3) – that the application be approved subject to the following conditions.

- 1. The development hereby permitted shall be for a limited period being the period of 36 months from the date of this permission. At the end of this period the development hereby permitted shall cease.**
- 2. The development hereby permitted shall be carried out in accordance with the approved plans received by the local planning authority on 22 June 2023 and listed as follows:
2060-ABWA-Z1-GF-DR-A-(20)0100-P02**
- 3. There shall be no more than 18 bedrooms with a maximum of 36 residents provided at any time, in accordance with the details submitted and shown on plan reference; 2060-ABWA-Z1-GF-DR-A-(20)0100-P02**
- 4. Within 3 months of the date of this permission full details of cycle parking shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The approved cycle parking shall be made available for use within 3 months of the decision date of the development and shall thereafter be retained.**

- 13 **APP/22/01887 - WIRRAL POINT, 37 STANLEY ROAD, HOYLAK, WIRRAL, CH47 1HN. FULL PLANNING APPLICATION FOR THE CONVERSION AND EXTENSION OF THE EXISTING BUILDING FOR THE PROVISION OF FOUR RESIDENTIAL APARTMENTS (USE CLASS C3) WITH ASSOCIATED LANDSCAPING AND PARKING**

The Development Management Manager presented the report of the Director of Regeneration and Place in relation to the above application for consideration.

A representative of the Applicant, Deborah Baker Barnett addressed the Committee.

On a motion by Councillor Steve Foulkes and seconded by Councillor Kathy Hodson it was –

Resolved (unanimously) – that the application be approved subject to the following conditions.

- 1. The development hereby permitted shall be begun before the expiration of 3 years from the date of this permission.**
- 2. The development hereby permitted shall be carried out in accordance with the approved plans received by the local planning authority on 3**

November 2022 and listed as follows: 18/STAN/PLAN02 Rev A and PLAN05 in accordance with the approved plans received by the local planning authority on 19 Dec 2022 and listed as follows: PLAN01 Rev B in accordance with the approved plans received by the local planning authority on 1 March 2023 and listed as follows: PLAN07 Rev B, PLAN06 Rev B, PLAN04 Rev B in accordance with the approved plans received by the local planning authority on 3 March 2023 and listed as follows: PLAN03 Rev C.

3. Before any construction commences, details of the materials to be used in the external construction of this development shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The approved materials shall then be used in the construction of the development.

4. The vehicular access shall be widened to 4.5 metres before the first occupation of the dwellings hereby permitted and retained as such thereafter

5. Production of a detailed Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) expanding on the submitted outline CEMP (Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan – Wirral Point Hoylake, Tyler Grange, Ref: TG Report No. 12793_R04_JD_MM, 30th August 2021) – detailing all necessary pollution control measures, visual and acoustic disturbance mitigation measures and noise monitoring to be implemented on site during construction works shall be submitted to the local planning authority for approval prior to the start of any construction activities on site. The development shall thereafter be undertaken only in accordance with the approved plan.

6. Prior to the commencement of development, including any demolition, acoustic hoarding, as specified on page 3 of the Outline CEMP and shown on plan 12793_P04 shall be installed. The hoarding shall thereafter be retained in situ until the completion of the development.

7. Prior to the commencement of development the Natterjack toad avoidance measures as detailed within the outline CEMP (Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan – Wirral Point Hoylake, Tyler Grange, Ref: TG Report No. 12793_R04_JD_MM, 30th August 2022) shall be implemented. These measures shall be maintained for the duration of building works.

8. Prior to the first occupation of the dwellings hereby permitted an Ecological Management Plan (as detailed in paragraph 6.43 of the

Shadow Appropriate Assessment submitted with this application) shall be submitted to, and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The plan shall include the following:

- **Description and evaluation of the features to be managed;**
- **Ecological trends and constraints on site which may influence management;**
- **Aims and objectives of management, to include management of dune grassland, Southern horsetail and Natterjack toad habitat;**
- **Appropriate management options for achieving aims and objectives;**
- **Prescriptions for management actions;**
- **Preparation of a work schedule (including an annual work plan and the means by which the plan will be rolled forward annually);**
- **Personnel responsible for implementation of the plan;**

Confirmation

- **Confirmation of funding and ownership; and**
- **Details of a programme of monitoring and remedial measures triggered by monitoring.**

Management of the site shall thereafter be undertaken in accordance with the provisions of this plan.

9. Prior to the first occupation of the dwellings hereby permitted a residents information pack shall be submitted to, and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The pack shall advise new residents of the importance of the nearby designated sites and outline a responsible user code, for example in relation to pet ownership. The pack shall thereafter be made available to all new residents of the development in perpetuity.

10. The development shall only be carried out in accordance with all of the recommendations for mitigation and compensation set out in the dusk bat survey report (Dusk Survey Results – Wirral Point, Tyrer Ecological Consultants Ltd, September 2022) which details the methods for maintaining the conservation status of bats unless varied by a European Protected Species licence subsequently issued by Natural England.

11. Works will not commence unless the local planning authority has been provided with a copy of a licence issued by Natural England in respect of bats pursuant to Regulation 55 of The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 authorising the specified development to go ahead

12. Prior to the first occupation of the dwellings hereby permitted a lighting scheme designed so that ecology is protected and excessive light spill is prevented from affecting important habitats shall be

submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. Any lighting installed shall comply with the requirements of this scheme. Any replacement lighting thereafter installed shall comply with this scheme in perpetuity, unless any amendments are agreed by the Local Planning Authority.

13. Prior to the commencement of development a method statement, prepared by a competent person, which includes the following information, shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority:

- A plan showing the extent of cotoneaster on site;
- The methods that will be used to prevent the plant/s spreading further, including demarcation;
- The methods of control that will be used, including details of post-control monitoring; and
- How the plants will be disposed of after treatment/removal.

The development shall thereafter be carried out in accordance with the approved method statement.

14. The mitigation measures outlined in Section 6.0 of the Flood Risk Assessment prepared by bEK Enviro Ltd on behalf of Blueoak Estates Limited (Report Reference: EK-RB20001-1. July 2020) and the letter of 05 February 2023 from bEK Enviro Ltd to Environment Agency, shall be fully implemented (insofar as they relate to the present scheme for conversion of the existing building) prior to occupation of the dwellings hereby permitted.

15. The balcony screens hereby permitted to the first floor Plot 1 retreat balcony shall be installed before the balcony is first bought into use. The screens shall thereafter be retained

16. Full details of the proposed bin/cycle store, shown on the approved site plan, shall be submitted to and approved in writing prior to first occupation.

The approved store shall be provided and made available prior to the first occupation of the dwellings hereby permitted and retained as such thereafter.

17. Prior to the first occupation of Plot 3, the existing window next to the proposed balcony of Plot 2 shall be blocked up as indicated on the proposed plans and elevations and retained as such thereafter.

18. The side facing second floor Plot 2 retreat window shall not be glazed otherwise than with obscured glass and fixed shut (with the

exception of an opening light above 1.7 metres should this be required) and thereafter be permanently retained as such.

19. Any trees that require removal as part of the widening of the vehicular access shall be repositioned in accordance with details to be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority prior to the occupation of the dwellings hereby permitted.

Should it become apparent that the trees cannot be satisfactorily repositioned details of replacement tree planting, at a ratio of 2 for 1, shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The replacement tree planting shall thereafter be carried out only in accordance with the approved details.

Should any repositioned or replacement trees die within 5 years of (re)planting then they shall be replaced by an equivalent species within 6 months

20. Before any equipment, machinery or materials are brought onto site, details of measures to be taken to protect existing trees shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. These measures shall be implemented before any equipment, machinery or materials are brought onto site and shall be maintained in a satisfactory manner until the development is completed. During the period of construction, no material shall be stored, fires started or trenches dug within these enclosed areas without the prior consent in writing of the Local Planning Authority.

- 14 **APP/23/00599 - 3 DUDLEY ROAD, NEW BRIGHTON, WALLASEY, WIRRAL, CH45 9JP. CHANGE OF USE FROM COUNSELLING/THERAPIST CENTRE (CLASS E) TO RESIDENTIAL (C3) IN THE FORM OF A SINGLE DWELLING.**

Councillor Sue Powell-Wilde declared a prejudicial interest in this matter and left the chamber during its consideration.

The Development Management Manager presented the report of the Director of Regeneration and Place in relation to the above application for consideration.

Ward Councillor Tony Jones addressed the Committee.

On a motion by the Chair and seconded by Councillor Kathy Hodson it was –

Resolved (unanimously) – that the application be approved subject to the following conditions.

1. The development hereby permitted shall begin not later than 3 years from the date of this decision.

2. The development hereby permitted shall be carried out in accordance with the amended plans received by the local planning authority on 18 April 2023 and listed as follows:

Site Location Plan DR-01 (dated 05.03.2023)

Proposed Floor Plans DR-05 rev A (received 13.06.2023)

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PENSIONS COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 11 July 2023

<u>Present:</u>	Councillor	J McManus (Chair)	
	Councillors	A Ainsworth B Hall B Kenny GJ Davies C Povall	P Cleary R Molyneux V Wilson K Hodson
	Councillors	T Cardwell, Liverpool Council J Aston, Knowsley Council P Lappin, Sefton Council	

1 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Chair welcomed everyone and read out the webcasting notice.

2 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from:
Roger Bannister, UNISON retired members representative
Martin Bond, St Helens Council
Councillor Chris Carubia, Wirral Council
Councillor Tony Cox, Wirral Council
Councillor Andrew Gardner, Wirral Council

3 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chair asked members to declare any interests in items on the agenda. The following declarations were made:

Councillor Tom Cardwell, Liverpool Council	Personal interest as his mother was a member of the Merseyside Pension Fund.
Councillor George Davies	Personal interest as his wife was a member of the Merseyside Pension Fund.
Councillor Brenda Hall	Personal interest as a Member of the Merseyside Pension Fund and her husband was also a member.
Councillor Brian Kenny	Personal interest as his fiancée was a member of the Merseyside Pension Fund.
Councillor Julie McManus	Personal interest as her son was a member of the Merseyside Pension Fund

Councillor Cherry Povall	Personal interest as her daughter was a member of the Merseyside Pension Fund.
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4 **MINUTES**

Resolved – That the minutes of the Pensions Committee meeting held on 21 February 2023 be agreed as a correct record.

5 **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

No questions, statements or petitions had been received.

6 **EXTERNAL AUDIT PLAN MERSEYSIDE PENSION FUND 2022-23**

The External Audit Manager from Grant Thornton introduced this report which detailed the plan for the external audit of the Fund’s statutory financial statements for 2022/23. During the summer Grant Thornton would undertake their audit of the relevant financial activities and provide verification of the Pension Fund’s financial statements. The results of this audit would be reported back to the Committee.

Members sought clarification on significant risks identified and were reassured that none were unique to Merseyside Pension Fund.

Resolved – That the external audit plan for 2022/23 as prepared by Grant Thornton be noted.

7 **STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2022/23 – MANAGEMENT QUESTIONS**

The Head of Finance and Risk at Merseyside Pension Fund presented the report of the Director of Pensions which presented the management responses to questions posed by the Fund’s external auditors, Grant Thornton.

Resolved – That the management responses to questions posed by the Fund’s external auditors, Grant Thornton, be endorsed.

8 **LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME (LGPS) UPDATE**

The Head of Pensions Administration at Merseyside Pension Fund presented the report of the Director of Pensions which provided an overview of changes affecting the future administration and governance of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS). Changes include a revised revaluation date to remove the impact of inflation on growth in pension benefits. This, together with increases to HMRC annual allowance limits, would reduce the number of members who exceeded the annual allowance, and for those who are affected to a lesser degree it was noted that a recommendation that an increase to the state retirement age to 68 be brought forward was not to be implemented and 10 years notice would be given on any change. It was also noted that the government response to the McCloud remedy had been issued confirming the extension of the underpin to all members regardless of age with service before 31/03/2012. In addition the Dashboard implementation had been delayed until at least October 2026 to allow time for infrastructure to be developed.

Resolved – That the administration and governance changes to the LGPS, to ensure continued compliance with legislation, statutory guidance, and industry codes of practice, be noted.

9 MEMBERS' LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

The Director of the Merseyside Pension Fund presented his report which updated Members on revisions to CIPFA's (the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy) guidance on Pensions Knowledge and Skills, and also sought approval for officers to prepare an updated learning and development framework.

The Chair stressed the importance for Members to attend training, especially the Fundamentals Training.

Resolved – That:

- (1) the report and the recommended areas of learning and development be noted.**
- (2) the updating of the existing learning and development framework to reflect revisions to CIPFA's Knowledge and Skills Framework be approved.**

10 MERSEYSIDE PENSION FUND BUDGET OUT-TURN 2022/23 AND FINAL BUDGET 2023/24

The Head of Finance & Risk at Merseyside Pension Fund presented the report of the Director of Pensions which request approval of the out-turn for the financial year 2022/23 and the finalised budget for the financial year 2023/24. It was noted that the actual out-turn for 2022/23 was £18.5m which was lower than the original budget approved 22 June 2022 of £25.0m. The underspend was largely due to lower investment management fees, planned projects and areas of work being deferred to 2023/24, and the assumptions used for staffing. The budget for 2023/24 was lower at £21.3m than £25.0m in 2022/23 primarily due to lower investment management fees being forecast.

Resolved – That:

- (1) the out-turn for 2022/23 be noted.**
- (2) the finalised budget for 2023/24 be approved.**

11 APPOINTMENTS TO EQUITY PROTECTION FRAMEWORK

The Director of the Merseyside Pension Fund introduced his report which informed Members of a procurement exercise and sought approval (subject to the satisfactory conclusion of final checks and legal agreements) for the appointment of investment managers, providing equity overlay risk management strategies, to a framework agreement available to Northern LGPS partner funds. The audit trail for the procurement exercise and the investment firms recommended for inclusion on the framework were included in a confidential appendix.

Resolved – That the establishment of the framework as set out in the report be approved.

12 **WIRRAL LOCAL PENSION BOARD MINUTES**

The Director of Pensions introduced his report which provided Members with the draft minutes of the previous meeting of the Wirral Local Pension Board.

Resolved – That the minutes of the Wirral Local Pension Board be noted.

13 **MINUTES OF WORKING PARTY MEETINGS**

The Director of Pensions introduced his report which provided Members with the minutes of meetings of Working Parties held since the previous Committee meeting.

Resolved – That the minutes of working parties be approved.

14 **NORTHERN LGPS UPDATE**

The Director of Pensions for Merseyside Pension Fund introduced his report which provided Members with an update on pooling arrangements in respect of Merseyside Pension Fund and the Northern LGPS Investment Pool. Minutes of the previous Northern LGPS Joint Committee meeting were appended for noting.

Resolved – That the minutes of the Joint Committee meeting be noted.

15 **EXEMPT INFORMATION - EXCLUSION OF MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

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 the relevant paragraphs of Part I of Schedule 12A (as amended) to that Act. The Public Interest test has been applied and favours exclusion.

16 **APPOINTMENTS TO EQUITY PROTECTION FRAMEWORK EXEMPT APPENDIX**

Resolved – That the exempt appendix be noted.

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 12 July 2023

Present: Councillor P Stuart (Chair)

Councillors J Robinson JE Green
J Williamson H Cameron
P Gilchrist S Mountney
EA Grey L Rennie
A Davies P Cleary
S Powell-Wilde H Gorman
T Jones J Bird

13 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting as well as those watching the webcast.

14 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence.

15 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

The following interests were declared:

Councillor Angie Davies	Personal Interest in item 10 'Edsential Draft Annual Business Plan Review and Options' as a school governor.
Councillor Jean Robinson	Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in Item 9 'Wirral Growth Company Accounts' as a Director of Wirral Growth Company.
Councillor Jeff Green	Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in Item 9 'Wirral Growth Company Accounts' as a Director of Wirral Growth Company.
Councillor Pat Cleary	Personal Interest in item 10 'Edsential Draft Annual Business Plan Review and Options' as a school governor.
Councillor Paul Stuart	Personal Interest in Item 6 'Strategic Asset Disposals' as his place of employment, 6 Manor Road, Wallasey was proposed for disposal.
Councillor Phil Gilchrist	Personal Interest in item 10 'Edsential Draft Annual Business Plan Review and Options' as a

	school governor which used Edsential services.
Daniel Sharples	Personal Interest in Item 6 'Strategic Asset Disposals' as a Trustee of Wirral Foodbank which occupied units within Wirral Business Centre which was proposed for disposal.

16 MINUTES

Councillor Helen Cameron outlined that her comment regarding benchmarking the Council's risk appetite was not specific to Treasury Management and made under item 9 '2023/24 Budget and Budget Monitoring Processes' instead of item 10 'Treasury Management Annual Report 2022-23'.

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 14 June 2023 be approved as a correct record, subject to the comment made regarding benchmarking the Council's risk appetite being included under minute item 10.

17 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The Chair reported that two public questions had been submitted.

The first question was from Philip Barton to the Chair which set out the desire for Tranmere Tunnels to become a tourist attraction as part of Phase 2 of the Birkenhead Dock Branch initiative, of which Holborn Square was a key site for. The questioner sought the deferment of the disposal of Holborn Square until options for disposal by Community Asset Transfer or purchase following a community share issue had been fully explored.

In response, Councillor Paul Stuart outlined that Holborn Square would be offered as an investment opportunity and sold subject to any leases existing at the time of disposal, therefore there was still an opportunity for Tranmere Tunnels Volunteer Ltd and the Birkenhead & Tranmere Community Benefit Society Ltd to set out their proposal.

A supplementary question was asked on whether there was support to continue working with the two companies to deliver Tranmere Tunnels as a community led project. Councillor Stuart responded the project would be considered as part of the asset disposal process.

The second question was read out on behalf of Sarah Hewitson which sought the payment of the Real Living Wage for staff employed by Edsential as a company partly owned by Wirral Council.

In response Councillor Paul Stuart advised that the Council encourages Edsential to pay the Real Living Wage as a shareholder, but that it does not

procure services directly from the company and the schools that commission services have the ability to influence their providers in this respect. He further outlined that the shareholders had provided significant financial support to the company in the form of loans but could not subsidise the company on a day-to-day basis due to subsidy control regulations.

18 **STATEMENTS AND PETITIONS**

The Chair reported three members of the public had registered to make statements.

Percy Hogg spoke in relation to Item 6 'Strategic Asset Disposals' encouraging the Committee to ensure that the Community Asset Transfer for Bromborough Civic Centre and Library could continue to completion.

Phil Simpson spoke in relation to Item 6 'Strategic Asset Disposals' and outlined concerns regarding some of the site for disposal due to the open space implications but urged the Committee to support the disposal of most assets to protect the Local Plan process.

Jim Cadwallader spoke in relation to Item 6 'Strategic Asset Disposals' and outlined the importance of Holborn Square to the Tranmere Tunnels community project and sought support from the Committee to explore a Community Asset Transfer of the site to Tranmere Tunnels Volunteers Ltd.

The Chair reported that there were no petitions submitted.

19 **QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS**

The Chair reported that no questions by members had been submitted.

With the consent of the Committee, the Chair altered the order of business.

20 **2023/24 CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING FOR QUARTER ONE (THE PERIOD TO 30 JUN 2023)**

The Director of Finance introduced the report which provided an update on the progress of the Capital Programme 2023/24 at the end of June 2023. It recommended that the Committee agree the revised 2023/24 Capital Programme of £87 million which took account of re-profiling, virements, additional funding requirements and grant variations identified since the Capital Programme was formally agreed on 27th February 2023 and revised via the Capital Outturn 2022-23 report.

Members discussed the additional capital resources for the litter bin programme and sought further information on the overall cost required to fund

the whole programme. An update was sought on the delivery of the Regeneration programme, where it was confirmed that a report was due to be considered by the Economy, Regeneration and Housing Committee in September.

Resolved – That

- (1) Council be recommended to approve the revised Capital Programme of £87 million for 2023/24, including the virements of budget referred to in Appendix C of this report.**
- (2) Council be recommended to approve the additional funding for the schemes referred to in section 3.7, with proposed extra funding from a variety of sources, new borrowing required from the Council, revenue contributions and the repurposing of previously agreed Council borrowing.**

21 **2023/24 BUDGET MONITORING FOR QUARTER ONE (THE PERIOD TO 30 JUN 2023)**

The Director of Finance introduced the report which set out the financial monitoring information for the Council as at Quarter 1 (30 June) of 2023/24 and sought approval of an increase to the revenue budget by £2.000m due to increased Council funding and the allocation to the budget areas detailed in the report. It was reported that there was increased funding of £2m due to Business Rates Section 31 grant and that this funding had been proposed to be allocated to budgets where the budget pressure was permanently recurring and would therefore prevent the requirement for future mitigations.

Following concerns raised regarding the estimation of receipt of government grant funding, the Director of Finance advised members that the forecasting was being reviewed to assist in achieving a more accurate income prediction. It was agreed that a meeting of the Finance Sub-Committee would be arranged for September 2023 to consider the budget position in further detail.

Resolved – That

- (1) the Directorate forecast adverse position of £3.618m presented at Quarter 1 be noted alongside the proposed mitigation to reduce the shortfall.**
- (2) Council be recommended to approve that the Revenue budget be increased by £2.000m due to increased Council funding, detailed in paragraph 3.25 and allocate to the budget areas detailed in Table 2.**

(3) the progress on delivery of the 2023/24 savings programme at Quarter 1 be noted.

(4) the forecast level of reserves and balances at Quarter 1 be noted.

22 **WIRRAL GROWTH COMPANY ACCOUNTS**

Councillors Jean Robinson and Jeff Green left the room and took no part in the debate due to a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in the item.

The Director of Finance introduced the report which sought the approval of the 2021 (retrospectively) and the 2022 accounts for Wirral Growth Company Limited Liability Partnership (WGC) following the approval of the accounts by the WGC LLP board.

The Committee discussed the role of Policy & Resources Committee in approving the accounts and the use of the profit from the company. Concerns were raised regarding the oversight of the governance of the company, where officers advised that the Internal Audit team were reviewing the governance of Council-owned-companies. This would be reported to the Audit and Risk Management Committee, but members were advised that Policy and Resources Committee could be provided with further information to consider the role of the company and that this would be added to the work programme.

Resolved – That

(1) the Wirral Growth Company LLP accounts for year ending 31st December 2022 be approved.

(2) the Wirral Growth Company LLP accounts for year ending 31st December 2021 be approved retrospectively.

23 **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Chair introduced the report which provided the Committee with an opportunity to plan and review its work across the municipal year. The Chair brought members' attention to items for future consideration and matters outside of the Committee where it was noted that a number of the requests for information had been circulated.

Following a discussion on the contents of the work programme, it was proposed that a workshop be held to consider the Council's risk appetite alongside oversight of the risk register. It was further proposed that the Committee review the response from Link following Council's resolution to write to the organisation to progress the development of Banking Hubs.

The Committee discussed the request for an extraordinary meeting of Policy & Resources to consider the Community Asset Transfer of Brackenwood Golf Club sooner than September. It was moved by Councillor Helen Cameron, seconded by Councillor Paul Stuart that an extraordinary meeting of Policy & Resources be arranged to consider the Community Asset Transfer of Brackenwood Golf Club. The motion was voted upon and agreed by assent. It was therefore –

Resolved – That

- (1) the work programme be noted, subject to the inclusion of the additional items discussed under this and previous items.**
- (2) an additional meeting of Policy and Resources Committee be arranged to consider an item on the Community Asset Transfer of Brackenwood Golf Club.**

24 **MINUTES OF SENIOR OFFICER AND APPOINTMENTS STAFFING SUB-COMMITTEE**

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting of the Senior Officer and Appointments Staffing Sub-Committee held on 15 March 2023 be noted.

25 **STRATEGIC ASSET DISPOSALS**

The Director of Regeneration and Place introduced the report which provided a list of property assets which formed a programme of proposed disposals over the coming years. The report followed the approval of the Asset Strategy by the Committee on 9 November 2022 and the directive of the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to meet the capitalisation directive.

The Committee discussed the report and concerns were raised regarding the process and the role of Policy and Services Committees in declaring assets surplus to requirements. The Committee was reminded of the urgency in raising capital receipts to pay off the capitalisation directive to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities within the recommended timeframe, as well as the requirement to dispose of land to support the delivery of the Local Plan and the need to satisfy the Independent Panel of the Council's intent to make timely and strategic decisions.

Following a debate, the Committee agreed to consider the long list of assets and dispose of those where there was unanimity. After considering each asset, it was –

Resolved – That

(1) the following assets be declared surplus to requirements and the Director of Regeneration and Place, in consultation with the Director of Law and Governance, be authorised to consider and determine any responses or objections to the sale of any of these assets which is considered to be open space as defined by Section 123 of the Local Government Act 1972; and progress and conclude sales of the assets on the best terms reasonably possible:

**Oaklands Outdoor Centre, Llanwryst
29 Seaview Road, Liscard
129 – 131 Laird Street, Birkenhead
Land at Pearson Road, Tranmere
Seacombe Library, Liscard Road, Seacombe
Units 10/12/14 Kelvinside, Seacombe
Arrowe Hill Facilities Management Store, Woodchurch
Eastham Youth & Community Centre
Coronation Gardens (Café), West Kirby
Albion Street Lifeguard Station, New Brighton
Hamilton Building, Birkenhead
Dee Lane Kiosk, West Kirby
Marine Technology Park, Tranmere
Manor Road 6, Wallasey
Former Liscard Municipal Offices and adjacent Car Park
Fender Way Former Scout Hut, Beechwood
Price Street Car Park, Birkenhead**

The Committee then considered each asset where members had requested for information or discussion prior to a decision, beginning with those where the discussion could take place within the public session.

The Committee considered the disposal of Holborn Square given the representations made by Tranmere Tunnels Volunteers Ltd (TTVL) and the Birkenhead & Tranmere Community Benefit Society Ltd (BATCBS) and were of the view that the groups should be given time to make a bid for Community Asset Transfer. It was raised that a timeframe should be put on the process to ensure the delivery of the Community Asset Transfer process or otherwise in a timely manner.

On a motion by the Chair, seconded by Councillor Pat Cleary, it was –

Resolved – That

(2) Holborn Square be referred to the relevant Policy and Services Committee to consider the potential for a Community Asset Transfer.

The Committee then considered Bebington Town Hall, Annexe and car park (site of the former) where the case was made that it would be a preferable site

for extra care housing. On a motion by the Chair, seconded by Councillor Phil Gilchrist, it was –

Resolved – That

(3) the site of the former Bebington Town Hall, Annexe and car park be declared surplus to requirements and the Director of Regeneration and Place, in consultation with the Director of Law and Governance, be authorised to consider and determine any responses or objections to the sale of the assets which is considered to be open space as defined by Section 123 of the Local Government Act 1972; and progress and conclude the sale following exploration of the potential for extra care housing.

The Committee considered Bedford Place Cleared Site & Amenity Open Space where concerns were raised over its disposal. It was moved by Councillor Pat Cleary and seconded by Councillor Jo Bird that the matter be referred to the relevant Policy and Services Committee for further investigation. The motion as put to the vote and fell (3:12).

On a motion by Councillor Jeff Green, seconded by Councillor Angie Davies, it was –

Resolved (12:3) – That

(4) Bedford Place Cleared Site & Amenity Open Space be declared surplus to requirements and the Director of Regeneration and Place, in consultation with the Director of Law and Governance, be authorised to consider and determine any responses or objections to the sale of the assets which is considered to be open space as defined by Section 123 of the Local Government Act 1972; and progress and conclude the sale on the best terms reasonably possible.

The Committee considered The Carrs Agricultural Land, Meols and felt that its disposal was contrary to the Council's determination to protect greenspace.

On a motion by Councillor Jean Robinson, seconded by Councillor Jeff Green, it was –

Resolved – That

(5) The Carrs Agricultural Land, Meols be removed from the asset disposal list.

The Committee considered the proposed disposal of Clare Mount Specialist Sports College, Moreton, where it was felt that site contributed to the Playing Pitch Strategy. It was moved by Councillor Pat Cleary, seconded by Councillor Harry Gorman, that Clare Mount Specialist Sports College,

Moreton be referred to the relevant Policy and Services Committee for further consideration. The motion was put to the vote and fell (4:11).

On a motion by the Chair, seconded by Councillor Jeff Green, it was –

Resolved (11:4) –That

(6) Clare Mount Specialist Sports College, Moreton be declared surplus to requirements and the Director of Regeneration and Place, in consultation with the Director of Law and Governance, be authorised to progress and conclude the sale on the best terms reasonably possible.

It was felt by the Committee that the outstanding sites could not be determined within the public session. On a motion by the Chair, seconded by Councillor Angie Davies, it was –

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

The Committee considered the remaining sites and discussed their potential disposal in detail. During the exempt session, it was –

Resolved – That

(7) (12:3) the land at Ditton Lane, Moreton be declared surplus to requirements and the Director of Regeneration and Place, in consultation with the Director of Law and Governance, be authorised to progress and conclude the sale on the best terms reasonably possible.

(8) the Land at Old Clatterbridge Road, Bebington be declared surplus to requirements and the Director of Regeneration and Place, in consultation with the Director of Law and Governance, be authorised to consider and determine any responses or objections to the sale of the assets which is considered to be open space as defined by Section 123 of the Local Government Act 1972; and progress and conclude the sale on the conditions set out by the Committee.

(9) Wirral Business Centre, Dock Road, Wallasey be declared surplus to requirements and the Director of Regeneration and Place, in consultation with the Director of Law and Governance, be authorised to progress and conclude the sale on the conditions

set out by the Committee.

- (10) (11:4) Bromborough Civic Centre be declared surplus to requirements and the Director of Regeneration and Place, in consultation with the Director of Law and Governance, be authorised to consider and determine any responses or objections to the sale of the assets which is considered to be open space as defined by Section 123 of the Local Government Act 1972; and progress and conclude the sale on the best terms reasonably possible.**

Having arrived at three and a half hours since the commencement of the meeting, on a motion by the Chair, seconded by Councillor Jeff Green, it was

–

Resolved (9:6) – That the meeting continues beyond 3.5 hours in duration.

26 **EDSENTIAL DRAFT ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN REVIEW AND OPTIONS**

The Director of Finance introduced the report which invited the Committee to consider and review the Draft Annual Business Plan submitted by Edsential CIC setting out the current position of the company, its view of the immediate future and steps that it proposes to take to continue trading successfully and compliantly. The report sought approval for the Director of Finance to negotiate any detailed changes to the draft Annual Business Plan and present an agreed version for approval by Policy and Resources Committee.

Following a discussion, it was moved by Councillor Jo Bird, seconded by Councillor Pat Cleary, that the officer recommendations in the report be agreed, with the inclusion of an addition resolution ‘that the Council, in consultation with the other shareholder, request Edsential to prioritise the payment of the Real Living Wage within the overall benefits package for employees, and to present options to the shareholders to this effect in the future.’

The Chair sought the input of the Director of Finance on the implications of the motion, where he advised if both shareholders insisted that the Real Living Wage was paid, Edsential would likely have to change their pricing structure accordingly. To ensure the business remained in a solvent position, the costs would need to be passed onto schools who could potentially look elsewhere for those services, potentially leading to the decline of the business.

The motion was then put to the vote and fell (4:11).

On a motion moved by Councillor Jeff Green, seconded by the Chair, it was –

Resolved (11:4) – That

(1) option 5 as detailed within the report be endorsed to allow Edsential CIC to continue to trade in the manner proposed in the Draft Annual Business Plan.

(2) the Director of Finance be authorised in consultation with the Director of Law and Governance and, so far as is practicable, with appropriate representatives of Cheshire West and Chester Council to agree and approve the content of the Annual Business Plan.

27 COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER - WOODCHURCH LEISURE CENTRE

Resolved – That the matter be deferred to a meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee to be arranged as soon as possible after the meeting.

28 EXEMPT INFORMATION - EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

29 HIND STREET DELIVERY

The Director of Regeneration and Place introduced the report.

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

30 EDSENTIAL DRAFT ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN REVIEW AND OPTIONS - EXEMPT APPENDICES

Resolved – That the exempt appendices be noted.

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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.

ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 18 July 2023

Councillors	C Baldwin	S Mountney
	P Gilchrist (Vice -Chair)	Murphy
	B Hall	K Murphy
	G Jenkinson	A Onwuemene
	M Jordan	G Wood
	J McManus	

Apologies

J Williamson (chair)

18 **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

The Vice-Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting as well as those watching the webcast.

19 **APOLOGIES**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Janette Williamson.

Councillor Gillian Wood was in attendance as substitute.

20 **MEMBER DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members were asked to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests and any other relevant interest and to state the nature of the interest. No such declarations were made.

21 **MINUTES**

Councillor Gail Jenkinson requested a correction to the minutes for agenda item 6, asking that reference to professional carers be amended to kinship and friendship carers. Members also observed that comments had been made regarding the social value weighting within the Sexual and Reproductive Health Agenda item and noted that these were not included in the minutes.

Resolved – That the minutes of the meetings held on 18 June 2023 be approved as a correct record subject to the above amends and comments.

22 **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

The Vice-Chair reported that there were no public questions, statements, petitions or questions by members.

23 **BETTER CARE FUND 2022/23 SECTION 75 ARRANGEMENTS**

The Assistant Director for Health and Commissioning presented the report of the Director for Care and Health. The report requested Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee to retrospectively approve the Section 75 pooled fund arrangement for 2022/23 between the Integrated Care Board (ICB) and the Council and give delegated authority to the Director of Law and Governance in consultation with the Director of Care and Health to sign off the agreement. The report described the arrangements, content, and value of the 2022/2023 Section 75 and sets out the additional funding that the ICB contributed to the pool. The report set out how the content of the Section 75 supported the outcomes of the Healthy Wirral Plan and achieved the Governments priorities for 2022/23.

Members queried how the disabled facilities grant was functioning, and whether the right resources were in place within the Housing team. It was noted that it was running well, with improved pathways, fast tracking and regular reporting. Also discussed was the annex to the report with Members being informed that this was an exemplar of what may be considered in future years.

Members also requested a workshop be held to assist Members to consider the context and detail of the Better Care Fund and further detail be presented regarding movement in funding streams.

On a motion by the Vice-Chair, seconded by Councillor Mary Jordan it was,

Resolved – that,

1. the continuation and value of the pooled fund arrangement between the Council and the ICB for 2022/23 as set out in the report be approved.

2. the shared risk arrangements are limited to the Better Care Fund (BCF) arrangements only, which is currently reporting a break-even position be noted.

3. the increase in the Section 75 pooled fund in November 2022 as a result of the Adult Social Care Discharge Fund be noted

4. The Director of Law and Governance be authorised in consultation with the Director of Care and Health to enter a S75 Agreement with the Wirral ICB for 2022/23

5. Committee would welcome an explanation of the movements in the Better Care funding streams at a forthcoming workshop.

24 **CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLES EMOTIONAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING MODEL**

The Director of Public Health presented the report which sought agreement to include the current Public Health funding, allocated specifically for emotional health and wellbeing support for children and young people, within the new local model to be jointly commissioned from April 2024. The joint commission between Public Health, the Children and Young People's Department and Wirral Place Integrated Care Board (ICB) will transform available support and will provide a more effective and co-ordinated approach to improve outcomes for children and young people.

Members sought clarification on what the model would include and were informed that a digital platform is the first point of contact, followed by various routes which included face to face or virtual offer. The model would be communicated via play and youth services. Members also discussed staffing implications and how the model will be monitored for outcomes. Members were informed that there are quarterly monitoring meetings, where data is reviewed. Also discussed was the ability of moderators to be reactive and ensure that safeguarding is in place online, as well as ensuring that this model will ensure satisfactory outcomes for end users.

Resolved – That,

- 1. The Director of Public Health be authorised to allocate the budget for the current mental health commissions funded from the Public Health Grant into the joint commission led by Wirral Place ICB for the Emotional Health and Wellbeing Model, for a contract period of five years (1st April 2024 – 31st March 2029). With the option of two one-year extensions in accordance with the spend profile in paragraph 4.5 of this report.**
- 2. The Director of Public Health be authorised to agree in consultation with Director of Children's services the Council's preferred tenderer and notify the Wirral Place ICB of this decision**

25 **INFORMATION AND ADVICE SERVICE COMMISSION UPDATE**

The Director of Public Health presented the report which provided an update on the progress made in re-commissioning of the Information and Advice service. Approval was given by committee in November 2022 to re-commission the current service in line with Wirral Council Contract Procedure rules.

The report provides an overview of the findings of the independent evaluation undertaken by Liverpool John Moore's University and the local mapping work that has been undertaken to support the re-commissioning of the service as agreed at Adult Social Care and Public Health committee on 29 November 2022.

Members noted that permission was given to commence the tender process, the current economic pressures that residents were under, the value of the service in reducing stress during difficult times, and queried how qualitative and quantitative data was monitored and demand would be forecast.

Members also noted that number of volunteers (75) was a good improvement and wanted to put on record their thanks to the volunteers and managers for the service provided.

Resolved – that the work undertaken to recommission the Wirral Information and Advice Service be noted.

26 **ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND PUBLIC HEALTH 2023/24 Q1 BUDGET MONITORING**

The Director of Care and Health presented the report set out the financial monitoring information for the Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee as at Quarter 1 (1 Apr – 30 Jun) 2023/24. Members were informed that at the end of Quarter 1, there is a reported adverse position of £2.228m on the Committee's net revenue budget of £130.579m.

Members discussed several concerns such as winter pressures and Criteria to Reside which is a tool used for discharge planning, noting that delays to discharge can cause additional issues with rehabilitation and reablement.

Resolved – that,

- 1. the adverse position presented at Quarter 1 be noted.**
- 2. the delivery of the 2023/24 savings programme at Quarter 1 be noted.**
- 3. the reserves allocated to the Committee for future one-off commitments be noted.**
- 4. the level of reserves at Quarter 1 be noted.**

27 **CHESHIRE AND WIRRAL PARTNERSHIP - DRAFT QUALITY ACCOUNTS**

The Associate Director of Operations for Cheshire and Wirral Partnership presented the 2022/23 Quality Account, which is an annual report to the people we serve about the quality of services provided to residents, achievements of the past year and improvements in quality of care delivered by CWP and ambitions for the upcoming year. Members were informed that CWP provides Mental Health Support for adults and almost adults.

Members congratulated CWP on the Health Services Journal award and were informed that the project was based on a digital database which brings together information to assist service users. Members also discussed provision for eating disorders and for service users with autism or other special needs. Also discussed was access to services; including availability of face to face and digital support. Members also flagged concerns and queries about waiting times for both triage and treatment, reviews and also emergency support for crisis situations.

Resolved - that the draft quality accounts be noted.

28 **WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE**

The Head of Legal Services presented the report of the Director of Law and Governance. Members were informed that the Committee 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.

Further to the June Committee, Members had nominated Cllr Julie McManus and Cllr Mary Jordan to champion Dementia awareness within the Borough. The Vice-Chair invited both Councillors to provide a summary update of their work to date. This included the need for a dementia friendly borough, a localised dementia strategy as well as identifying key officers and stakeholders Committee could work with. It was noted that awareness of dementia should be raised with officers from all directorates. Cllr Jordan then provided committee with metrics and data around dementia diagnosis and prevalence in Wirral. It was agreed that a workshop be organised to facilitate discussion and next steps.

Members also discussed additional workshops on pooled funding and drugs and alcohol strategy and several additional items on the work programme such as an update on dentistry.

Resolved – that work programme be noted and above items be included.

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CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 19 July 2023

Present: Councillor S Powell-Wilde (Chair)

Councillors P Basnett V Wilson
S Bennett C Cooke
T Laing J Grier
L Luxon-Kewley C Carubia
M Jordan (for K
Hodson)

15 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting as well as those watching the webcast and reminded them that a copy of the webcast would be retained on the Council's website for two years.

16 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Kathy Hodson who was substituted by Councillor Mary Jordan. Apologies were also received from Councillor Cherry Povall and Margaret Jackson.

17 MEMBERS CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

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 Tom Laing declared personal interest on agenda item 7 as a member of the Cooperative Group and a pecuniary interest on agenda item 7 relating to the nature of his employment and stated that he would leave the chamber for this item.

Councillor Paula Basnett and the Chair both declared personal interests as foster carers.

18 MINUTES

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 21 June 2023 be approved as a correct record.

19 **PUBLIC AND MEMBERS QUESTIONS**

The Chair noted that no public questions, statements or petitions had been received.

The Chair informed the committee that one Member question had been received.

Councillor Chris Cooke asked a question on the nature of reports being submitted to committee and whether reports such as item 8, 2023-24 Budget Monitoring for Quarter 1 and 11, SEND Dashboard, on the agenda for this meeting which were purely for noting could be omitted in future.

The Chair responded that Policy and Resources Committee are responsible for agreeing the amount of budget allocated to each directorate. Directorates and their committees were then responsible for managing that budget throughout the year. It was agreed that each committee would monitor their in-year position and agree with the directorate what adjustments or reductions in service needed to be made should an overspend be reported. She noted that while budget monitoring reports were not key decisions, they were regarded as highly important in order to that the committee have oversight of the directorate's budgetary position.

Regarding the SEND Dashboard report, the Chair noted that performance reports were normally brought to committee each meeting. She noted that the directorate was in the process of redesigning their agendas to allow the committee to look in more detail at an area of performance.

The data dashboard available at committee would allow elected members to see performance across children's services, health providers, adult services and schools for children with special educational needs. The opportunity to challenge children's services and other providers based on detailed evidence of provision would complement the other information being provided in the SEND reports that are coming to committee and allow elected members a detailed look into a very challenging area of our work. The SEND dashboard that was presented was not the dataset that elected members normally receive, it is the dataset that the DfE are using and OFSTED will use to manage our overall performance.

20 **ACCEPTANCE OF LIFELONG LEARNING SERVICE 2023/24 ACADEMIC YEAR GRANT FUNDING**

The Head of Service, Integrated Learning, Skills and Employment introduced the report of the Director of Children, Family and Education. The report sought the authority to accept the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority (LCRCA) funding of £1,322,591.37 awarded to the Council under the Adult Education Budget for the academic year 2023/24. The request included the

discrete funding to deliver the Department for Education (DfE) Multiply Programme.

Resolved – That

- 1. The Director of Children Family and Education be authorised to accept grant funding for the 2023/24 academic year from Liverpool City Region Combined Authority in the sum of £1,135,646 for the purposes set out at paragraph 3.4 of this report; and**
- 2. The Director of Law and Governance be authorised to enter into any necessary agreements or other legal documentation to implement the above recommendations.**

21 COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER - HIGHER BEBINGTON LIBRARY

The Assistant Director, Special Projects, introduced the report of the Director of Finance. The report sought approval of the Heads of Terms to transfer this asset to the COOP Academy (Bebington) for education.

Members thanked the Assistant Director, Special Projects for the report and noted the good outcome for the building.

Resolved – That the transfer of the former Higher Bebington library to COOP Academy (Bebington) on the Heads of Terms in Appendix 1 of this report, subject to the consent of Unilever, be approved.

22 2023-24 BUDGET MONITORING FOR QUARTER ONE

The Director of Children, Family and Education introduced her report. The report set out the financial monitoring information, revenue, and capital position, for the Children, Families and Education Committee as at Quarter 1 (30 June) of 2023/24. The report provides Members with an overview of budget performance, including progress on the delivery of the 2023-24 saving programme and a summary of reserves 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 queried the favourable variance of £1.1 million in section 3.5 of the report and asked if this figure would reduce over time due to staff members moving up their pay scale. They were informed that this variance was based on an average across the council and noted that while staff would move up their pay scales over time, there would also be a similar level of new starters over the same time. Further work was to be undertaken to ensure the accuracy of this information.

Members queried whether all members of the Committee could attend budget workshops. The Chair agreed that a budget workshop for all members of the Committee would be welcome. Members also queried what was being done to mitigate overspends in the directorate. They were informed that various savings via changes to services and future opportunities were constantly being investigated.

Members asked if there were enough registered foster carers to cover demand and how numbers could be increased. They were informed that the service would always want to increase the number of foster carers as they can make a huge difference to a child's life. The service was always encouraging more people to come forward and were confident that they could sell the virtues of fostering to more people.

Resolved - That

- 1. The forecast revenue position presented at Quarter 1 be noted;**
- 2. The proposed allocation of additional £0.800m funding from the increased council budget of £2.000m, subject to council approval be noted;**
- 3. The progress on delivery of the 2023-24 savings programme be noted;**
- 4. The forecast level of reserves at Quarter 1 be noted; and**
- 5. The capital position at the end of Quarter 1 be noted.**

23 BREAKING THE CYCLE

The Assistant Director Early Help and Prevention introduced the report of the Director of Children, Family and Education. The report provided the Committee with the second of three reports on the Breaking the Cycle programme, focused on change for professionals and services. The Breaking the Cycle programme is a key strand of the early help and prevention approach, informing long-term system change and contributing to demand reduction for acute services. As the first programme to launch following the Council adopting the Prevention Policy and Prevention Framework in October 2021, the series of reports would provide an overview of learning, impact and provide direction to workforce remodelling activity.

Members gave praise for the programme and stated that they looked forward to seeing it rolled out across the borough. They queried the role of the charity Right to Succeed and were informed that they provided the backbone of support for the programme, undertaking research and providing data. It was noted that without their work the programme would not have worked.

The Assistant Director Early Help and Prevention offered to arrange a workshop for Members which the Chair confirmed would be appreciated.

Resolved – That a further findings report be agreed to be brought to the Committee from the Breaking the Cycle programme.

24 **SEND TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME UPDATE**

The Assistant Director Early Help and Prevention introduced the report of the Director of Children, Family and Education. The report provided members with an update on progress of the SEND Transformation Programme. In September 2021, the local area's services for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, SEND, was inspected by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission, CQC. As a result of the inspection, the local area was required to submit a Written Statement of Action, WSoA to address the ten areas of improvement which had been identified. This was approved by Ofsted on behalf of the CQC on 28th March 2022.

The SEND Transformation Board had overseen WSoA activity since April 2022, with monitoring provided by the Department for Education and NHS England. In June 2022, a series of 'deep dive' workshops took place with each of the six workstreams to evaluate progress and develop a current self-assessment.

Members noted that more places were going to be required for children with special educational needs and asked if there was a timetable for alternative premises. They were informed that there was a long-term strategy being developed for 2023-2028. It was noted that since 2020-2021 an additional 350 places had been added using funding from the DfE. Further information would be brought to the Committee as the position was made clearer.

Members queried what a Care Navigator was and were informed that the role was there to help parents navigate through the Educational and Health Care Plan (EHCP) process as a single point of contact to keep them informed of their progress.

Members had further questions on the EHCP process and officers suggested that a workshop explaining this in further detail would be beneficial. The Chair agreed and requested that a workshop be arranged.

Resolved – That the findings of the position statement be noted and that a further monitoring report be brought to Committee at a future date.

25 SEND DASHBOARD

The Assistant Director Early Help and Prevention introduced the report of the Director of Children, Family and Education. The report explained that the Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) Dashboard was prepared quarterly and contained the latest performance information from the Local Authority and Health organisations. The SEND Dashboard could be found in Appendix A and related to Quarter 4 2022/23 (period ending March 23).

Members noted that some of the statistics were confusing that national and internal benchmarks were not clear. Officers accepted this, noting that internal benchmarks were usually set to mirror national averages where Wirral were underperforming but that some internal benchmarks could be more aspirational than national averages.

Members queried the wait times for speech and language therapy and whether the needs of children being educated from home were being picked up. Officers explained that there was a high demand for speech and language therapists and while a lot of the support did not need to be provided by a speech and language therapist, it was frequently requested by parents that their child be supported by one. It was noted that there was a mixed picture for children being home educated being put through the EHCP process and it depended on when the child's needs were picked up. If the child had not been registered in the school system and parents did not seek support then the service could not offer support.

Members asked about missing information within the dashboard and were informed that a system had been upgraded and there had been a corruption of data in the migration to the new system. The service was currently waiting on the verification of the data before it was published.

Resolved – That the content of the SEND Dashboard attached in Appendix A. be noted.

26 THE GRADUATED APPROACH

The Assistant Director of Education introduced the report of the Director of Children, Family and Education. The report provided Members with an overview of the new Graduated Approach and associated toolkit. The report noted that in September 2021, the local area's services for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities was inspected by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission. As a result of the inspection, the local area was required to submit a Written Statement of Action to address the ten areas of improvement which had been identified. This was approved by Ofsted on behalf of the CQC on 28th March 2022. The Assistant Director of

Education gave a demonstration of the Graduated Approach to the committee.

Members asked whether a child waiting for an ASD diagnosis could still receive support without a diagnosis. They were informed that they could, with the school being able to choose to pursue support based on their evidence.

Members queried whether the Graduated Approach would alleviate inconsistencies in how children were offered support by offering a standardised approach. Officers responded that this was the intention with training being offered to all schools over the next academic year. All schools would be inspected by OFSTED and they would speak to Wirral on oversight. There was an expectation that all schools including academies would follow this approach as it was in their interest to evidence what the needs of their pupils were.

Members asked if parents homeschooling their children would have access to this information and were informed that it was publicly available and that a streamlined version was planned in future for that purpose.

The Chair thanked officers for their work and looked forward to seeing it rolled out.

Resolved – That the content of the report be noted.

27 **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Head of Legal Services introduced the report of the Director of Law and Governance which reminded members that the Children, Young People 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.

Members requested a workshop on Edsential and an update on The Hive to be added to the work programme.

Resolved – That the work programme be noted.

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

Resolved - That under section 100 (A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business on the grounds that it involved 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 had been applied and favoured exclusion.

29 **COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER - HIGHER BEBINGTON LIBRARY
APPENDICES**

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

Thursday, 20 July 2023

PRESENT:

Councillor Jean Robinson	Chair
Abel Adegoke	Chair of Primary Care Council
Mark Armstrong	Magenta Living
Simon Banks Place Director	NHS Cheshire and Merseyside
Dave Bradburn	Director of Public Health, Wirral Council
Councillor Andrew Dawson	Wirral Council
Councillor Phil Gilchrist	Wirral Council
Graham Hodgkinson	Director of Adult's Care and Strategic Commissioning, Wirral Council
Ali Hughes	Wirral Community Health and Care NHS Foundation Trust
Councillor Amanda Onwuemene	Wirral Council
Councillor Sue Powell-Wilde	Wirral Council
Kirsteen Sheppard	Healthwatch Wirral
Matthew Swanborough	Wirral University Teaching Hospital
Mark Thomas	Merseyside Fire and Rescue
Simone White	Director of Children's Services, Wirral Council

1 **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

The Chair welcomed everyone and read the webcast notice.

2 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from:

David Bradburn, Director of Public Health, Wirral Council;
Prof Michael Brown for Wirral Community Health and Care;
Councillor Jeff Green, Wirral Council;
Louise Healey, Department for Work and Pensions
Janelle Holmes and Sir David Henshaw, Wirral University Teaching Hospital;
David Hughes, Director of Regeneration and Place;
Paul Satoor, Chief Executive, Wirral Council;
Councillor Janette Williamson, Wirral Council

3 **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

There were no declarations of interests.

4 **MINUTES**

Resolved - That the minutes of the meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board on 23 March 2023 be agreed as a correct record.

5 **PUBLIC AND MEMBER QUESTIONS**

No questions, statements or petitions were received.

6 HEALTH AND WELLBEING STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION PLAN UPDATE

The Assistant Director: Consultant in Public Health Wirral Council introduced the report of the Director of Public Health which provided an update on the implementation of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2022–2027 and summarised key areas of progress to date, along with proposed next steps. One workshop had been held and another was planned for September.

Members discussed the development of the Plan, the workshops, reporting back and the focus on particular conditions and areas.

Resolved - the progress update be noted and the next steps be approved.

7 WIRRAL COUNCIL FOR COMMUNITY VOLUNTARY AND FAITH SECTOR SERVICE

The Senior Public Health Manager presented the report of the Director of Public Health which provided an update on developments within the community, voluntary and faith sector (CVF), and a new commission by Public Health with Wirral Council for Community Voluntary and Faith Sector Service (Wirral CVS), to deliver a programme of activity to support collaboration between key system partners and the CVF sector. Through a series of workshops, a CVF working group and engagement with the wider sector, the first Wirral sector led plan, 'Community, Voluntary and Faith Sector Coming Together', was developed and was presented to Board in December 2021. Wirral CVS had been commissioned by Wirral Council to lead on the delivery of this Plan, and a 1-year contract was issued in May 2023, funded by the Public Health Grant. It was noted that there were about 1,800 groups involved in the CVF and a formal process to decide who represented them.

Resolved –

The Health and Wellbeing Board notes the information contained within this report and acknowledges and supports the work that Wirral CVS will be undertaking to support the CVF sector and deliver positive outcomes for Wirral residents.

8 HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD MEMBERSHIP AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Head of Legal Services presented the report of the Director of Law and Governance which provided an opportunity to review the membership and note the Terms of Reference. It was noted that any amendments would have to be referred to the Constitution and Standards Committee. It was also noted that there were changes in organisational structure within the NHS.

The Chair stated that she wished to review the terms of reference, the type of reports coming to the Board to avoid duplication, meeting dates and membership and suggested a workshop.

The Chair moved the motion that a workshop be held on how the Board will fulfil its statutory functions as well as the full membership of the Board before the September meeting. This was seconded by Councillor Amanda Onwuemene and agreed by assent.

Resolved – That a workshop be held on how the Board will fulfil its statutory functions as well as the full membership of the Board before the September meeting.

9 WIRRAL PLACE UPDATE REPORT

The Place Director (Wirral), NHS Cheshire and Merseyside presented his report which was an update on the development of Wirral as a “place” within the Integrated Care System (ICS) and of the working arrangements of NHS Cheshire and Merseyside in the borough.

Members queried the forecast overspend and requested more details. It was explained that it was not a pressure on local authority budgets but there was concern that it would impact patient care. A further report on the breakdown of the overspend and savings plan would be brought back to the Board. The Chair proposed a new recommendation to request such a report.

Resolved - That:

- (1) this report be noted and similar updates be received at future meetings.**
- (2) the minutes of the Wirral Place Based Partnership Board held on 9th February 2023 and 9th March 2023 be noted.**
- (3) the minutes of the Wirral Place Based Partnership Board from 22nd June 2023 be requested when approved.**
- (4) a report be brought to a future meeting with a breakdown of the forecast overspend.**

10 COMMUNITY VOLUNTARY AND FAITH SECTOR REFERENCE GROUP UPDATE

Representatives of the Community, Voluntary and Faith sector Reference Group (CVF RG) presented the report of the Director of Law and Governance which provided the latest updates and proposals from the CVF RG, which had been established as a mechanism to promote the views of the CVF Sector to the Health and Wellbeing Board. Their update included a precis of the documents which were to inform the delivery of the prototypes, the formation of partnerships and the transformations at community level as required in legislation and guidance. Progress on the CVF RG areas of work on Community Hubs, Family Hubs, Green and Open Spaces, People Plan for Nature and Street Safety were presented.

Members discussed the application and links with Councillors in particular neighbourhoods and wished to ensure that consultation with elected members was carried out.

Resolved - That:

- (1) the continuing progress of the CVF Reference Groups work on Community Hubs, Family Hubs, Green and Open Spaces, People Plan for Nature and Street Safety be noted; and**
- (2) the contents of the attached reports, and the continuing involvement and support to the delivery of the Council’s approved**

Health and Wellbeing Strategy and to the continued development of work for engagement with communities and residents be noted.

11 WORK PROGRAMME

The Head of Legal Services presented the report of the Director of Law and Governance which gave the proposed work programme for the following Municipal Year.

The Chair noted that the workshop mentioned in Minute 8, above, would include a review of the remit of the Board and which reports would appear, to avoid duplication and focus on the Terms of Reference of the Board. Member organisations could be emailed to feed in their items into the reviewed work programme.

Resolved - That

- (1) the proposed Health and Wellbeing Board work programme for the remainder of the 2023/24 municipal year be noted; and**
- (2) a review of the work programme be undertaken.**

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Thursday, 20 July 2023

Present: Councillor S Kelly (Chair)

Councillors S Foulkes G McManus
K Hodson S Powell-Wilde
C Baldwin J Walsh
M Booth

Deputies: Councillors G Davies (for B Kenny)
L Luxon-Kewley (for J Stewart Laing)
K Murphy (for H Gorman)

15 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Chair welcomed Members of the Planning Committee, Officers and members of the public to the meeting.

16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor B Kenny who was deputised by Councillor G Davies, Councillor J Stewart Laing who was deputised by L Luxon-Kewley and Councillor H Gorman who was deputised by K Murphy.

17 MINUTES

The Director of Law and Governance submitted the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 29 June 2023.

Resolved – That the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 29 June 2023 be approved.

18 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members of the Committee were asked whether they had any personal or prejudicial interests in connection with any item on the agenda and if so, to declare them and state what they were.

No such declarations were made.

19 ORDER OF BUSINESS

With the consent of the Members of the Committee, the Chair agreed to vary the order of business.

- 20 **APP/22/02189; 38 CARLTON ROAD, OXTON, BIRKENHEAD, WIRRAL, CH42 9NQ, USE OF THE PROPERTY AS AN 8 BED HMO AND THE INSTALLATION OF AN AUTOMATIC OPENING VENT ROOFLIGHT ON THE REAR ROOF TO REPLACE EXISTING ROOFLIGHT.**

The Development Management Manager presented the report of the Director of Regeneration and Place in relation to the above application for consideration.

The Lead Petitioner, Liam Orr addressed the Committee.

Ward Councillor Amanda Onwuemene addressed the Committee.

The Applicant, Leo Suarez addressed the Committee.

On a motion by the Chair and seconded Councillor Kathy Hodson it was –

Resolved (unanimously) – that the application be approved subject to the following conditions:

1. The development hereby permitted shall begin not later than 3 years from the date of this decision.

2. The development hereby permitted shall be carried out in accordance with the approved plans received by the local planning authority on 19 December 2022 and listed as follows:

- **Proposed Ground Floor Plan (S-09)**
- **Proposed First Floor Plan (S-10)**
- **Proposed Second Floor Plan (S-11)**
- **Proposed Roof Plan (S-12)**
- **Proposed Basement Floor Plan (S-13)**
- **Proposed Sections (S-14)**
- **Proposed Front and Side Elevations (S-15)**
- **Proposed Rear Elevation (S-16)**
- **HMO Management Plan**
- **Acoustic Report by Howell Acoustics**

3. The basement floorspace shall be used for storage and not as a habitable room or rooms.

4. No laundry facilities shall be provided within bedroom 8, as shown on drawing S-11 hereby approved.

5. Prior to the first occupation of either bedroom 5 or bedroom 7, as shown on drawings S-10 and S-11 respectively, the refuse and cycling facilities shown in the rear yard on drawing S-09 hereby approved shall be provided and made available for use to all occupants, and the provision shall be maintained as such thereafter.

6. The car parking shown on drawing S-09 hereby approved shall be retained in its existing form for the lifetime of the development.

7. Prior to the occupation of the bedrooms hereby approved the following communal facilities shall be provided and made available for use to all occupants, and the facilities shall be maintained as such thereafter:

- Ground Floor – WC, Laundry, door leading to Rear Yard (as shown on drawing S-09 hereby approved);
- First Floor – Living Room and Diner-Kitchen (as shown on drawing S-10 hereby approved).

8. No more than eight persons shall be resident at the property.

21 **APP/23/00495; CHERRY COTTAGE WEXFORD ROAD, OXTON, PRENTON, WIRRAL, CH43 9TB, RETENTION OF GARAGE CONVERSION FOR USE AS A HOLIDAY LET**

The Development Management Manager presented the report of the Director of Regeneration and Place in relation to the above application for consideration.

The Lead Principal Lawyer addressed the Committee and advised that Ward Councillor Allan Brame had sent apologies that he was unable to attend the meeting and read a representation that he had sent to the Committee.

The Chair, seconded by Councillor Jason Walsh moved approval of the application subject to the amendment of Condition 3.

The amendment was put and lost (1:9) (1 abstention).

On a motion by Councillor Kathy Hodson and seconded Councillor Steve Foulkes it was –

Resolved (10:1) – That the application be approved subject to the following conditions:

1. The development hereby permitted shall be carried out in accordance with the approved plans received by the local planning authority on March 29th 2023, and listed as follows:

- **Drawing Number: 2020 149 103, Revision 05, dated 27th July 2022**
2. **The accommodation hereby approved shall be let out as short-term stay holiday accommodation only in accordance with the terms of the application.**
 3. **The 1.7m high x 1.5m deep privacy screen adjacent to the boundary shared with Laguna shall be retained as such thereafter unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority.**
- 22 **APP/22/01592; 22 MONTPELLIER CRESCENT, WALLASEY, CH45 9AB, DEMOLITION OF EXISTING SINGLE STORY REAR EXTENSIONS TO MONTPELLIER MANSIONS. ERECTION OF FULL HEIGHT REAR EXTENSION, NEW MANSARD ROOF WITH DORMERS AND INTERNAL ALTERATIONS TO APARTMENTS. ERECTION OF A TWO STORY REAR EXTENSION AND INTERNAL RECONFIGURATION TO THE COACH HOUSE. (AMENDED PLANS AND DESCRIPTION)**

The Chair reported that a request had been received to defer this matter.

On a motion by the Chair and seconded by Councillor S Foulkes it was –

Resolved – That the consideration of this application be deferred to a future meeting of the Planning Committee.

ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Monday, 24 July 2023

Present: Councillor EA Grey (Chair)

Councillors S Foulkes G Davies
G Jenkinson N Graham
P Jobson Jason Walsh
V Wilson A Brame
M Booth

19 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

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

20 APOLOGIES

Councillor Anne Ainsworth sent apologies. Councillor Angie Davies was in attendance as substitute.

21 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were asked to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests and any other relevant interest and to state the nature of the interest. There were no declarations of interests.

22 MINUTES

Cllr Naomi Graham asked that the climate emergency action plan be updated to include protecting vulnerable residents from heatwaves and flooding. The Chair asked that the public question relating to Fender Way be amended to 'had not reported any problems' and reference to Director of Regeneration and Place be changed to Director of Neighbourhood services. Reference to 'it was noted that these issues are reserved should be changed to 'resolved'. The chair also asked that the statement that 'the council had no intention of taxing people to the point of poverty' include that the council has 'no intention of introducing roadblocks, cameras or other restrictions'.

Resolved – that the minutes of the meeting held on 19 June 2023 be approved as a correct record with the above amendments.

23 PUBLIC AND MEMBER QUESTIONS

23.1 Public Questions

The Chair advised that 17 public questions had been received.

Catherine Evans asked a question relating to Low Traffic Neighbourhoods, stating that she had submitted a Freedom of Information request regarding the trial LTN for Grange Road West and suggested that the response was not comprehensive. Ms Evans requested that the Council scrap LTN.

The Chair responded to say that the Grange Road Scheme was due to be implemented using an experimental Traffic Order which would be in place for 18 months. Feedback would be welcomed from businesses. During the development of the scheme to date the Council engaged with businesses, and prior to the public consultation also undertook a separate consultation for local businesses. There is significant evidence to demonstrate that increasing pedestrian and cycling activity can boost a second consultation has just ended on the 19th July and therefore until the feedback from this has been reviewed it would be inappropriate to pre-determine the outcome and recommendations regarding the scheme.

A question was read on behalf of Keith Randals, who asked if an Equality Impact Assessment had been conducted in respect of the cessation of maintenance on Hoylake Beach.

The Chair responded to say that an Equality Impact Assessment was carried out before the Cabinet Member Decision to pause spraying and raking was taken, and an EIA will definitely be part of the process of deciding a final beach management plan for Hoylake Beach.

A question was received from Linda Ferrie who asked what proposals will the Council have for enforcing the 20mph speed restrictions, who was going to enforce these restrictions and by what means.

The Chair responded to say that the Police are the only people who can enforce speed restrictions and the Council work closely with Merseyside Police, noting that Merseyside Police support Road Safety work the Council are undertaking.

Anthony Pritchard asked a question regarding 20 mph zones, asking if the committee considered that consultation regarding the 20mph scheme, carried out October / November 2022, was fair and inclusive of all Wirral residents.

The Chair responded to say that consultations on 20mph are carefully done in line with legal requirements and are promoted via multiple channels including the local press, social media, emails to residents and the Council website.

Catherine Kelly asked a question relating to 20 mph zones, stating that this could have an impact on carers, district nurses, and emergency services. Ms Kelly asked the chair to confirm what risk assessments had the Council carried out pertaining to people waiting in their homes for carers as well as confirming whether any consultations had taken place with Home Care Agencies.

The Chair responded to confirm that an equality impact assessment was carried out before the recommended 20mph policy was agreed by the committee and subsequently by Full Council.

Charlotte Smith asked a question relating to the removal benches along the prom at Hoylake refurbishment and to accommodate buses/coaches during the Open. Has the council ever considered an Equality Impact Assessment in making this decision and noted that in her opinion the council is in breach of the Equality Act 2010 by not providing temporary seating to accommodate people with disability/mobility needs.

The Chair responded to say that she had been informed that the benches were in need of refurbishment and repair to keep them safe and fit for use.

Elaine Revans asked a what was the Councils opinion on keeping the 20mph limits to necessary areas such as around schools and nurseries whilst allowing drivers to exercise common sense in 30mph areas and could the Council provide the sources of the statistics from their own research for accidents and fatalities in the Wirral zones they are targeting for the new restriction.

The Chair responded to say that 20mph zones were not introduced to reduce pollution but to reduce road danger and numbers killed and seriously injured. The Chair also noted that it would be helpful to explain the benefits of 20mph more and confirmed that officers are working on this right now.

Rosie Evans asked a question stating that the Birkenhead 2040 Framework clearly stated that the Wirral Council's preference for the Birkenhead tunnel is to become not for cars but public transport only and asked if the Council would be engaging with the Liverpool City Region, as owners of the tunnel, to facilitate a feasibility study.

The Chair responded to say that the Council are not aware of any immediate proposals from the LCR for changes to the Birkenhead tunnel. Any proposals would have to be led by the LCR as owners of the asset and would

be subject to comprehensive feasibility studies and consultation with all affected parties. The Chair also noted that, the 2040 Framework recognised that the Queensway tunnel provides strong strategic highway links that are essential for the flow of people and goods but does note that the infrastructure has a lifespan which naturally requires its renewal, replacement, or change of use in the future to extend the economic life of the tunnel.

Derek Holmes asked why could the Council send out letters to residents to let them know about the Open Golf, not one letter was sent out about the Beach Management consultation.

The Chair responded to say that letters were sent to residents close to the golf event who were likely to be disrupted by it. Letters cannot be sent to all people that use the beach as it is an open space available to all Wirral residents and visitors and that would be too many people to write to.

Colin Roper stated that The Department of Transport plans to close all its managed train companies' ticket offices across the Country. He also stated Mersey Ferries have become cashless, and many of the street parking machines in Birkenhead and beyond have also become cashless. Mr Roper asked what initiatives are the Council taking to protect the use of cash on the Wirral, ensuring the public can use it to travel and park.

The Chair responded to state that she would ask officers to respond to Mr Roper's concerns and that they are shared with the LCRCA, who are responsible for the tunnels, ferries and local trains.

Sandra Richards asked a question relating to 20mph zones, stating that the zones will increase fuel usage and asked as the Committee is charged with environmental matters, how did it justify the fact this decision would adversely affect pollution, or is this a plan to stop private car ownership. Had a risk assessment been undertaken in respect of this and are these risks covered in the Council's public indemnity insurance.

The Chair responded to say that there is evidence that reduced speeds reduce fuel use unless people drive erratically. Risks are assessed for all policy decisions and with evidence that 20mph is much safer than 30mph, the council believe it will be of benefit in reducing risk.

David Felton asked a question relating to 20mph zones, asking what is the exact number of people needed to object, or the exact proportion of respondents required, to stop further MPH zones from being introduced?

The Chair responded to state that the decision to proceed with 20mph was made by elected members of the Council before the recent local elections. It was not raised as a concern at the local elections and many of us received messages of support for 20mph. The Chair noted that the figures showed that

during consultation 0.002% of residents opposed 20mph zones and that consultation objections are always taken seriously and if valid, they are acted upon.

Dermot Bolger stated that numerous surveys, including a recent 2023 IMF survey on Public Perceptions of Climate Mitigation Policies, indicate that the vast majority of everyday people do not want to pay for climate mitigation policies. Mr Bolger asked if the Council planned comprehensively survey the Wirral public to ascertain if they support climate policies and if the public do not support such policies, will the council withdraw from the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Five Year Climate Action Plan.

The Chair responded to confirm that she very much supported the idea of comprehensive engagement with residents on the issue of climate change and climate change policies and asked for greater urgency in communicating with residents across the city region.

Monika Skinner asked if the Council planned to be upfront about the medium to long term target in regard to private car ownership.

The Chair responded to state that Wirral has a close working relationship with the rest of the Liverpool City Region. However, the city region is not alone in wanting to enable as many people as possible to choose to travel by public transport and active travel, noting that the aim was to give people more choice.

Jeremy Cook asked a question relating to 5G, asking if the Council claimed that the real nature of the 5G deployment process underway in Wirral is one of telecommunications only.

The Chair responded to state that the answer was, yes.

The Chair read out a question on behalf of Sally Scott, who asked how many Councillors had undertaken training in environment issues, asking for the list of carbon literate councillors to be made public and that Council consider increasing its climate communications with the public and greater levels of public consultation beyond just 'Have your Say'.

The Chair responded to state that the list will be updated and made available, and the Climate Emergency team will consider your suggestions for increased communications and engagement.

23.2 Statements and petitions

The Chair advised Members that 4 petitions had been received.

Councillor Jason Walsh presented a petition on behalf of residents of Thornton Avenue and the connected Thornton Road slip road, Higher

Bebington, who requested that modal filters are positioned within the avenue restrict traffic flow in both roads. They petitioned for this as a more effective solution to traffic conditions than restricting the speed limit to 20mph.

A petition was received from Amanda Parker in relation to sewage dumping in New Brighton, asking Committee that action is taken by the Secretary of State for Environment to stop the sewage dumps by United Utilities into the local river.

A petition was received from Lee Mathie in regards to restrictions at Kings Parade New Brighton which only referred to motor caravans. The petition asked why such restrictions are not applied to other classes of motor vehicles and requested somewhere designated for motor caravans.

A petition was also received from Mark Skillicorn in relation to the use of weed killer spraying.

23.3 Questions by Members

Councillor Graham Davies asked a question regarding Heswall Primary School and traffic calming measures. Cllr Davies stated that a petition had been submitted by a constituent but no response had been received.

The Chair stated that a response should have been prepared for this and that she would ask officers to look into this further.

24 BIRKENHEAD TOWN CENTRE MOVEMENT SCHEMES

The Lead Commissioner for Strategic Transport and Technology presented the report of the Director of Regeneration and Place, stating that the report provided an update on the Phase 1 consultation undertaken regarding the town centre movement schemes at Conway Street/Europa Boulevard and Grange Road Charing Cross/Grange Road West and sought approval to delegate authorisation to the Director of Neighbourhoods to consider the outcome of the Phase 2 consultation and make the decision regarding the implementation of the schemes.

The report also sought approval for the acceptance of a further allocation of £1,625,000 of Active Travel Tranche 3 funding to support the delivery of the Conway Street/Europa Boulevard scheme. The Conway Street/Europa Boulevard scheme and the Grange Road/ Charing Cross/Grange Road West projects are part of the council's Future High Street Fund (FHSF) programme.

The Conway Street/Europa Boulevard scheme also has an allocation of Active Travel Tranche 3 Funding.

The projects were both critical components of the regeneration of Birkenhead town centre, aiming to make the town centre more attractive through supporting improved accessibility and increasing active and sustainable travel movements.

Members queried various aspects of the scheme, raising some concerns as to schemes being dislocated and lacking in ambition, and were informed that an Active Travel Vision Document would be coming to Committee later in the year, and that a full detailed infrastructure plan was being developed. Members also noted that applications for grants needed to be in line with government policy and criteria in order to be feasible. Members also shared frustration that the deadlines for applying for funding were tight, suggesting that there was less time for consultation.

Members discussed each scheme and car parking, asking if a full assessment for car parking spaces will be undertaken. Also considered was the impact of anti-social behaviour on the scheme as well as making the public realm dementia friendly.

A motion was then put by Councillor Max Booth, Seconded by Councillor Vida Wilson that,

In reference to option 2.1 and in light of the committee not seeing the phase two consultation results, the Director of Neighbourhoods is requested to seek an extension of time beyond the 31st of March 2024 funding deadline. This will accommodate for a time whereby the ECET committee can analyse the phase two consultation responses during the ECET committee meeting scheduled to take place on the 20th of September 2023

A vote was had and the motion was lost (4:8)

On a motion by the chair, seconded by Councillor Steve Foulkes. The motion was then voted on and agreed (8:4). It was therefore,

Resolved – that,

1. The outcome of the Phase 1 consultation regarding the Conway Street/Europa Boulevard and the Charing Cross/Grange Road/Grange Road West scheme and associated officer comments which are included with Appendix 1 – 4 of this report be noted;

2. Delegated authority regarding the implementation of the Conway Street/Europa Boulevard scheme and the Grange Road/ Charing

Cross/Grange Road West scheme be given to the Director of Neighbourhoods, following consultation with the Ward Members, Chair and Spokespersons of the Economy, Regeneration and Housing Committee and the Environment, Transport and Climate Emergency Committee regarding the objections and expressions of support received during the Phase 2 consultation;

3. £1,625,000 of additional Active Travel Tranche 3 Funding to support the delivery of the Conway Street/Europa Boulevard scheme be accepted.

25 **LIVERPOOL CITY REGION COMBINED AUTHORITY - FIVE YEAR CLIMATE ACTION PLAN 2023/25**

The Chair presented the report of the Director of Neighbourhood Services, which contained as an appendix the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority – Five Year Climate Action Plan.

Members were informed that report was approved by the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority on 14 July 2023. The report sought Combined Authority approval for the Liverpool City Region Five Year Climate Action Plan, and identified actions for the Combined Authority to lead, enable or champion to 2028. These actions would contribute towards the decarbonisation needed in the Liverpool City Region to reach net zero carbon by 2040 or sooner, as well as delivering multiple co-benefits.

Members discussed various aspects of the plan, including the recycling priority action, food waste and numbers using their cars for short journeys. Use of Hydrogen and innovative technologies for transportation were also debated by the committee.

Members were informed that thought had been put into the language used in the document and how it could be made as easy as possible for residents to get on board. It was noted that the footprint of Liverpool City Region was large and diverse, and queried what could be done as a local authority, noting that more localism and involvement by citizens could be incorporated to deliver the strategy.

Resolved – that the priority actions be endorsed.

26 **2023/24 BUDGET MONITORING FOR QUARTER ONE (THE PERIOD TO 30 JUNE 2023)**

The Senior Finance Business Partner presented the report of the Director of Neighbourhood Services, which set out the financial monitoring information for the Council as at Quarter 1 (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, which enabled the Committee to take ownership of the budgets and provide robust challenge and scrutiny to Officers on the performance of those budgets.

At the end of Quarter 1, there was a forecast adverse position of £0.500m on the Committee's proposed revised net revenue budget, of £65.840m. The revised net revenue budget included an increase of £0.870m in Quarter 1, which is still subject to Council approval. This position was based on activity to date, projected trends in income and expenditure and changes to Council funding.

Members discussed the impact of the upcoming enforcement policy and love Wirral Policies and the adverse variance due to car parking charges being delayed. Also requested was more detail in the revenue table, which goes down to £6m and a request was made to break this down in future reports. Members also queried the variance due to the West Kirby Wall and were advised that the information contained in the report was the most up to date.

Resolved – that,

- 1.the Directorate forecast adverse position of £0.500m presented at Quarter 1 be noted.**
- 2. the allocation of additional £0.870m funding from the increased council budget of £2.000m, subject to Council approval be noted;**
- 3. the progress on delivery of the 2023/24 savings programme at Quarter 1 be noted**
- 4. the forecast level of reserves and balances at Quarter 1 be noted.**
- 5. the forecast capital position presented at Quarter 1 be noted**

27 **ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND TRANSPORT PERFORMANCE REPORT**

The Director of Neighbourhood Services presented the report which provided a performance report in relation to Environment and Climate Emergency, and Highways and Infrastructure. The report was designed based on discussion with Members through working group activity in 2021. Members requests have been incorporated into the report presented at this committee meeting.

Members discussed missed bin collections and poor recycling rates and noted that public feedback in regard to highways maintenance was poor. It was

noted that the date reflected a full week of industrial action and poor weather conditions that went into mid-January and that recycling performance is static.

Members were also informed that surveys do tend to get negative results, but that the network is in reasonably good condition, however there is slippage on residential roads and pavements. Member also discussed cycling and car free days, noting that funding had been requested from the City Region to promote car free days. Members also queried the tree strategy and noted the offer of free trees through the garden waste strategy.

Resolved – that the report be noted

28 **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Head of Legal Services presented the report of the Director of Law and Governance and advised Committee that they were 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.

Resolved – that the report be noted.

The Chair informed Committee that this would be the Director of Neighbourhoods final committee meeting and thanked her for her drive and energy, not just in Wirral but across the City Region. The Director of Neighbourhoods thanked Members for their support.

TOURISM, COMMUNITIES, CULTURE & LEISURE COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 25 July 2023

Present: Councillor H Cameron (Chair)

Councillors	P Martin	G Bennett
	P Jobson	J Johnson
	T Laing	C McDonald
	G McManus	R Molyneux
	K Stuart	M Redfern

16 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

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

17 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence.

18 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

19 MINUTES

The chair requested that minute be altered so as to substitute "claiming" for "noting" in relation to Jean Robinson's statement on Woodchurch Leisure Centre.

Resolved – that subject to the above changes, the minutes of the meeting held on 22 June 2023 be approved and adopted as a correct record.

20 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The Chair advised that one public question had been received.

Percy Hogg asked a question relating to Bromborough Civic Centre and the decision made at Policy and Resources Committee on 12 July asking why members of this committee who also were on the Policy and Resources committee overruled a well thought through decision by this committee which had evaluated the issue at length.

The Chair responded to say that this Committee had not commented on the merits of the two contending bids but arranged a workshop to discuss the three options and agreed to undertake further due diligence on both of the bids.

The chair also confirmed she attended Policy and Resources Committee on 12 July during which the Committee discussed the long list of assets proposed for disposal and considered whether a decision could be made on each in the public session. The Committee resolved that Bromborough Civic Centre needed to be debated within the exempt session as members needed to refer to the confidential information detailed within the exempt appendix. Therefore, all discussions on this matter, including her own contribution, took place within the exempt session.

21 **2023/24 BUDGET MONITORING FOR QUARTER ONE (THE PERIOD TO 30 JUNE 2023)**

The Finance Business Partner presented the report of the Director of Neighbourhood Services, which 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, which enabled the Committee to take ownership of the budgets and provide robust challenge and scrutiny to Officers on the performance of those budgets.

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

Members queried capital programme in relation to play equipment in New Brighton and were informed that this was superseded by an application to use the space as a Water sports Centre. The Capital was therefore used instead for equipment in the Tennis Centre. Members were also concerned by the £1.4m adverse variance in the Floral Pavilion and what the plans would be moving forward. It was noted that these were historic, un-met income targets and could be put forward as an unachievable budget pressure. Members also questioned defibrillators, their placement in council owned spaces and maintenance. Members were informed they were in place and maintained and there had been a capital bit to put in to place additional defibrillators in parks in Wirral.

Resolved – that,

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

22 TOURISM, COMMUNITIES, CULTURE AND LEISURE COMMITTEE PERFORMANCE REPORT

The Director of Neighbourhood Services presented the report which provided performance information in relation to the group of Neighbourhood Services that report to the Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee. The report is iterative, and the report was based on discussion with Members through working group activity in 2021 and discussions in 2022.

Members discussed parks tennis, and queried the usage figures, after improvement works had been completed. Members were informed that officers had been working with the Lawn Tennis Association to improve usage. Also discussed was the opportunity to market facilities for those on waiting lists and queried the gender imbalance for sports programmes. Members discussed library data, including a new offer for online newspapers. Members also discussed the Williamson Art Gallery and improvements made, with spaces being opened up for events and conferences and a focus on weddings.

Resolved – that the report be noted.

23 COMMUNITY SAFETY ANNUAL REPORT

The Assistant Director for Neighbourhood Safety and Transport presented the report of the Director of Neighbourhood Services which provided Members with an update on key activity in relation to two of the ten thematic areas of Wirral Community Safety Strategy (2021-2026); Violent Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour.

Members were informed that Violent crime has seen a reduction in 2023/4; this is primarily due to a reduction in domestic violence, which has reduced by 20%. Non-domestic abuse related offences have reduced by 3%. Non-domestic violence with injury has reduced by 5%, without injury by 0.5% and stalking & harassment has reduced by 0.5%.

It was noted that over the past two years, Wirral has seen escalating issues with organised crime related violence. In the last four months of 2022, there were five firearms discharges resulting in two fatalities.

In response to the escalation, Members were informed that Merseyside Police had drawn officers across the Force to support activity to prevent and tackle serious organised crime, through 'Operation Remove'. Regular co-ordination of activity took place with officers from Community Safety.

Members discussed the emergency help-points and breakdown of calls and were informed that this would be incorporated into a tracker. Capturing of data was also discussed, as well as community engagement in regards to anti-social behaviour and Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO) and diversion activities. Also discussed was the influence of social media, and access to negative information online. It was noted that this is being dealt with pro-actively by schools and youth services. Members queried how the Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) was distributed and were informed that whilst the Council had no say on where this money is distributed, Wirral does get a fair allocation. Members also noted the hard work undertaken by the Community Safety team during the Open Golf held in Hoylake.

Resolved, that the report be noted.

24 **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Legal Officer introduced the report of the Director of Law and Governance.

Members discussed the inclusion of a report on leisure services marketing and a report Open Golf. Also queried were empty premises and the list of surplus assets and whether the Policy and Resources Committee could be requested to consider whether some could be appropriated for leisure services.

Resolved – that the report be noted and the above items be included within the work programme.

The Chair advised Members it was the Director of Neighbourhood's last Committee Meeting as she was leaving the Authority and wished it to be noted her thanks for her hard work and dedication over the years.

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

Resolved – That, under section 100 (A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business on the grounds it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined by paragraph 3 of Part I of

Schedule 12A (as amended) to that Act. The Public Interest test has been applied and favours exclusion.

**26 TOURISM, COMMUNITIES, CULTURE AND LEISURE COMMITTEE
PERFORMANCE - EXEMPT APPENDIX**

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POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Thursday, 27 July 2023

Present: Councillor P Stuart (Chair)

Councillors J Robinson S Mountney
P Gilchrist L Rennie
EA Grey H Gorman
A Davies J McManus (In
T Jones place of S Powell-
JE Green Wilde)
H Cameron C Cooke (In place
of P Cleary)
A Onwuemene (In
place of J Bird)
GJ Davies (In place
of J Williamson)

31 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting as well as those watching the webcast.

32 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received by Councillors Jo Bird, Pat Cleary, Sue Powell-Wilde and Janette Williamson.

Councillors Chris Cooke, Amanda Onwuemene, Julie McManus and George Davies were in attendance as substitutes.

33 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

No declarations were made.

34 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The Chair indicated that one public question had been submitted in advance of the meeting.

David Allen spoke on behalf of Wirral Archaeology Community Interest Company and outlined the significance of Brackenwood Golf Course as a site in the search for the location of the Battle of Brunanburh. His question was should the golf course be transferred to Brackenwood Community Golf Ltd, could a clause be included in the transfer to allow suitable access for archaeological investigation.

In response, the Chair outlined his recognition that the site was potentially vital for the location of the Battle of Brunanburh and that he intended to ask officers to explore how appropriate rights of access for archaeological investigations could be retained should the transfer be agreed.

35 STATEMENTS AND PETITIONS

The Chair indicated that three members of the public had registered to make a statement in advance of the meeting.

Christine Smalley spoke in relation to item 5 'Community Asset Transfer – Brackenwood Golf Course' as a local resident who used Brackenwood Golf Course as a place to walk her dog. Christine spoke of the biodiversity and wildlife on the site and the work volunteers had undertaken to keep the course fit for purpose during 483 days of uncertainty. Christine outlined that she felt there was an abundance of pitches nearby and urged the Council to transfer the site for the benefit of the local community.

Keith Marsh spoke in relation to item 5 'Community Asset Transfer – Brackenwood Golf Course' and outlined the support that Brackenwood Community Golf Ltd had received locally and internationally for the proposed transfer. Keith thanked officers for their hard work in supporting the group through the process and thanked the volunteers who had worked passionately, professionally and with tenacity to protect the land for the local community.

Robin Clarke spoke in relation to item 5 'Community Asset Transfer – Brackenwood Golf Course' and spoke of the members of Brackenwood Golf Club and the various reasons why local people chose to be members of the club for social, community, health and wellbeing reasons, urging the Committee to consider those people and transfer the site.

The Chair placed on record his thanks to the public speakers for their passionate speeches.

36 QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

The Chair reported that no questions by members had been received.

37 COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER - BRACKENWOOD GOLF COURSE

The Assistant Director of Special Projects introduced the report of the Director of Finance which set out the proposed transfer of Brackenwood Golf Course to Brackenwood Community Golf Limited based on the Heads of Terms set out in the report. It was reported that the proposal included an improved rental offer and the provision of two mini 5-a-side pitches and four full size playing pitches, as opposed to two full size pitches as detailed in the report.

The Committee discussed the proposal in detail and considered the wider provision of playing pitches within Wirral, urging officers to encourage schools with existing facilities to make them available for community use to contribute to the Local Plan. The Committee further discussed the feasibility of the pitches at Brackenwood and the promotion of biodiversity on the site.

Members around the table placed on record their thanks to the volunteers at Brackenwood Golf Club for their ongoing maintenance of the site, the detailed information shared with members to aide their decision and the polite but determined, tenacity of the volunteers to progress the transfer. On a motion by the Chair, seconded by Councillor Jeff Green, it was –

Resolved (unanimously) – That

(1) the Committee agrees to the transfer of Brackenwood Golf Course to Brackenwood Community Golf Limited (BCGL) on the basis of the Heads of Terms set out in the report, noting the improved rent offer and the required provision of two mini 5-a-side pitches and four full-size playing pitches and also subject to appropriate provision made in the lease to enable appropriate access to be made for archaeological investigation.

(2) the intent to transfer is advertised as the asset is public open space. If no objections are received, then delegated authority be given to Director of Neighbourhoods in consultation with the Director of Law and Governance to proceed to transfer the identified land. To note that if objections are received then the matter will return to Committee for consideration as set out in paragraph 5.8.

38 **COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER - WOODCHURCH LEISURE CENTRE**

The Chair reported that several members had indicated that they wished to discuss the content of the exempt appendices. Therefore, on a motion by the Chair, seconded by Councillor Angie Davies, it was –

Resolved – That, under section 100 (A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business on the grounds it involves the likely

disclosure of exempt information as defined by paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A (as amended) to that Act. The Public Interest test has been applied and favours exclusion.

The Assistant Director of Special Projects introduced the report (of the Director of Finance) which set out the proposed Community Asset Transfer of Woodchurch Leisure Centre to Woodchurch Wellbeing.

Following a debate on the matter, it was –

Resolved (unanimously) – That

- (1) Committee notes and concurs with the key objectives set out in the business plan.**
- (2) Committee is minded to support the Community Asset Transfer of Woodchurch Leisure Centre to Woodchurch Wellbeing with capital funding up to a maximum of £330,000 and to that effect will issue a letter of intent accordingly.**
- (3) Such a letter is subject to:**
 - a. Receipt of additional grant funding by Woodchurch Wellbeing to match Council capital contribution of £330k plus 20% revenue costs by Friday 27 October 2023.**
 - b. Receipt of a revised business plan by Friday 27 October 2023 for consideration by Policy & Resources Committee on 8 November 2023.**

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Thursday, 17 August 2023

<u>Present:</u>	Councillor	S Kelly (Chair)	
	Councillors	H Gorman K Hodson C Baldwin B Kenny	J Stewart Laing S Powell-Wilde Jason Walsh
<u>In attendance:</u>	Councillors	L Luxon-Kewley M Jordan G Davies	
<u>Apologies</u>	Councillors	S Foulkes M Booth G McManus	

23 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Chair welcomed Members of the Planning Committee, Officers, members of the public and those watching the webcast to the meeting.

24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor M Booth, who was deputised by Councillor M Jordan, Councillor S Foulkes who was deputised by Councillor George Davies and Councillor G McManus who was deputised by Councillor Luxon-Kewley.

25 MINUTES

The director of Law and Governance submitted the minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 8 June and 20 July 2023.

Resolved – That the minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 8 June and 20 July 2023 be approved.

26 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members of the Committee were asked whether they had any personal or prejudicial interests in connection with any item on the agenda and if so, to declare them and state what they were.

No such declarations were made.

- 27 **APP/22/01592; 22 MONTPELLIER CRESCENT, WALLASEY, CH45 9AB. DEMOLITION OF EXISTING SINGLE STORY REAR EXTENSIONS TO MONTPELLIER MANSIONS. ERECTION OF FULL HEIGHT REAR EXTENSION, NEW MANSARD ROOF WITH DORMERS AND INTERNAL ALTERATIONS TO APARTMENTS. ERECTION OF A TWO-STORY REAR EXTENSION AND INTERNAL RECONFIGURATION TO THE COACH HOUSE. (AMENDED PLANS AND DESCRIPTION)**

The Development Management Manager presented the report of the Director of Regeneration and Place in relation to the above application for consideration.

An objector of the application, Gabrielle Simpson addressed the committee.

The Applicant, Paul Brett, addressed the committee.

On a motion by the Chair seconded by Councillor K Hodson it was –

Resolved - that the application be approved subject to the following conditions.

1 The development hereby permitted shall begin not later than [3] years from the date of this decision.

2 The development hereby permitted shall be carried out in accordance with the approved plans listed as follows:

PL.001 Location Plan

PL.002(A) Existing Site Plan

PL.004(A) Existing Elevations

PL.003(B) Existing Floorplans

PL.005 Existing Street Elevations

PL.006(E) Proposed Site Plan

PL.007(E) Proposed Floor Plans

PL.009(D) Proposed Street Elevations

PL.008(E) Proposed Elevations

PL.010(B) Proposed Elevation Materials

Bat Scoping Assessment (Mulberry Consultants, ref. KE22/02693, dated 19.12.22)

Arboricultural Method Statement (Mulberry Consultants, ref. TRE/MMASNB, dated 20.12.22)

Arboricultural Implications Assessment (Mulberry Consultants, ref. TRE/MMASNB, dated 20.12.22)

3 Notwithstanding the hereby approved Proposed Elevation Material Plan (ref. PL.010(B)), prior to the commencement of any works to the superstructure (other than demolition), the applicant will submit to the LPA and have approved in writing, details of all external facing materials.

4 Notwithstanding the hereby approved Proposed Site Plan (ref. PL.006(E)), prior to the commencement of any works to the superstructure (other than demolition), the applicant will submit to the LPA and have approved in writing, details of the 14no. cycle parking stands/enclosures. The development will be built-out strictly in accordance with the approved details and maintained and be used solely for the purpose of cycle parking for the life of the development.

5 Other than the 2no. dedicated disabled spaces, the 14no. car-parking spaces as shown on hereby approved Proposed Site Plan (ref. PL.006(E)), shall be built-out strictly in accordance with the hereby approved details and maintained and be used solely for the purposes of parking for the life of the development.

6 Unless otherwise agreed in writing by the LPA, the 2no. disabled parking spaces as shown on hereby approved Proposed Site Plan (ref. PL.006(E)), shall be built-out strictly in accordance with the hereby approved details and maintained and be used solely for the purposes of parking of blue badge holders for the life of the development.

7 Prior to the commencement of any works to the superstructure (other than demolition), a detailed scheme for landscaping will be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The scheme shall comprise of a plan and specification and demonstrate: i) The materials to be used for hard and soft surfacing; ii) tree and hedge planting across the site (including a minimum of nine trees and, where iii) detailed planting plan and specification for soft landscaping of land iv) the location and design of fences, gates, walls, railings or other means of enclosure v) the timing of implementation of the scheme and vi) the specification and siting of a box scheme is produced for the site including suitable nesting features for house sparrows which should be built into the hereby approved extensions. Thereafter development shall be carried out as approved.

8 No tree, shrub or hedgerow felling is to be carried out on the site between 1 March and 31 August in any year. If it is necessary to undertake works during the bird breeding season then all buildings, trees, scrub, hedgerows and vegetation are to be checked first by an appropriately experienced ecologist to ensure no breeding birds are present. If present, details of how they will be protected are required to be submitted for approval.

9 No plant or materials shall be brought onto site until Root Protection Area fencing and Ground Protection has been installed in accordance with the submitted tree protection plan MMNB/MS/01 and specification within the hereby approved Arboricultural Impact Assessment and Method Statement by Mulberry Consultants. Thereafter: Development shall be carried out in accordance with the approved details and the fencing shall be retained until development subject to this consent is completed. There shall be no excavation or other alteration of ground levels, storage of materials or plant, parking of vehicles, deposit of soil or rubble, lighting of fires or disposal of liquids within any area fenced off as part of the tree protection plan and specification, without prior approval of the arboricultural consultant and / or the local planning authority.

The Tree Protection Barriers and Ground Protection shall not be removed, breached or altered without prior written authorisation from the local planning authority or client arboriculturist, but shall remain in a functional condition throughout the entire development, until all development related machinery and materials have been removed from site. If such protection measures are damaged beyond effective functioning, then works that may compromise the protection of trees shall cease until the protection can be repaired or replaced with a specification that shall provide a similar degree of protection.

10 The Arboricultural Method Statement TRE/MMASNB and plan MMNB/MS/01 submitted in support of the application shall be adhered to in full.

11 Prior to the commencement of development, a Construction and Environmental Management Plan shall be submitted to and approved in writing by The Local Planning Authority. The provisions of the Construction and Environmental Management Plan shall be implemented in full during the period of construction and shall not be varied unless otherwise agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority.

12 The development hereby permitted shall not be occupied until the windows identified on the hereby approved proposed floor plans; PL.007(E) and proposed elevations; PL.008(E) are fitted with glazing obscured to at least Pilkington level 3. Thereafter the obscured glazing shall be retained for the life of the development.

28 DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE UPDATE- PLANNING APPEALS

The Development Management Manager presented the report of the Director of Regeneration and Place to update Members on the performance of the

Development Management Service regarding planning appeals, including the percentage of the Council's decisions overturned (on appeal) by the Planning Inspectorate.

In a response to a query regarding why the report was not brought to committee in July 2023, the Development Management Manager detailed the current work load and staffing changes taking place in the planning department, and informed members that this was the earliest opportunity to produce the report.

Councillor K Hodson praised the planning team for its recent work and noted that quarter 1 figures would reduce following the outcome of a planning appeal hearing.

The Chair expressed contentment with the information produced.

On a motion by the Chair, seconded by Councillor K Hodson, it was –

Resolved – That the performance update report be noted and endorsed.

29 **DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE UPDATE - PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

The Development Management Manager presented the report of the Director of Regeneration and Place to update Members on the performance of the Development Management Service with regard to determining planning applications. The report outlined performance against government targets in terms of the speed of processing all applications.

Members noted that the change to a use of a new software had caused a backlog of cases.

In response to a member query as to whether the department was adequately resourced, the Development Management Manager informed members that the team currently has sufficient staff levels, however this could change depending on the unpredictable nature of the workload.

On a motion by the Chair, seconded by Councillor K Hodson, it was –

Resolved – That the performance update report be noted and endorsed.

30 **DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE UPDATE- ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY BETWEEN 1ST JANUARY 2023 TO 31ST MARCH 2023, AND 1ST APRIL 2023 TO 30TH JUNE 2023.**

The Development Management Manager presented the report of the Director of Regeneration and Place to update Members on the performance of the

Development Management Service with regard to its planning enforcement activity for the period of 1st January 2023 to 31st March 2023, and 1st April 2023 to 30th June 2023.

Members requested further information from officers, such as roll over figures regarding cases yet to reach a key milestone.

On a motion by the Chair, seconded by Councillor K Hodson, it was –

Resolved – That the performance update report be noted and endorsed.

REGULATORY AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Thursday, 7 September 2023

Present:

Councillors	C Cooke	M Redfern
	B Hall	J Stewart Laing
	M Jordan	K Stuart
	L Luxon-Kewley	M Sullivan
	C McDonald	E Tomeny
	K Murphy	I Lewis (In place of
	R Pitt	A Hodson)

Apologies

Councillors	A Hodson
	S Bennett
	G Davies

11 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

In the absence of the Chair and Vice-Chair, Members of the Committee were asked to appoint a Chair for this meeting.

On a motion by Councillor M Jordan and seconded by Councillor M Sullivan, it was –

Resolved – That Councillor I Lewis be appointed Chair for this meeting.

12 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and those watching the webcast.

13 APOLOGIES

The Chair confirmed apologies had been received from Councillor A Hodson (Chair) for whom he was deputising, Councillor S Bennett (Vice-Chair) and Councillor G Davies.

14 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members of the Committee were asked to declare any disclosable pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests in connection with any item on the agenda and state the nature of the interest.

No such declarations were made.

15 **PUBLIC AND MEMBER QUESTIONS**

The Chair reported that there had been no questions submitted from any members of the public or from any Members.

16 **STATEMENTS AND PETITIONS**

The Chair reported that there had been no statements or petitions received.

17 **MINUTES**

Resolved – That the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 7 June 2023 be approved.

18 **MINUTES OF THE REGULATORY PANEL AND THE LICENSING PANEL**

Resolved – That the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting of the Regulatory Panel (now re-named as the Licensing Panel) held on 19 May 2023 and the Licensing Panel meetings held on 20 June, 28 July and 4 August 2023 be approved.

19 **HONORARY FREEDOM OF THE BOROUGH (POSTHUMOUS AWARD)
GLENDA JACKSON**

The Director of Law and Governance submitted a report requesting that Members of the Committee recommend to Council that Glenda Jackson be posthumously admitted as Honorary Freewoman of this Borough at an Extraordinary Council meeting to be held on 9 October 2023.

The Civic and Electoral Services Manager reported that this was a very significant step for the Council to take. Very few people had been awarded this status and it should only be awarded to someone who had made an exceptional contribution to the Borough. Glenda Jackson of Birkenhead is considered to be within this category.

Councillor M Sullivan paid tribute to Glenda Jackson for her great service to the country and highly commended that this award be given.

In response to a question from the Chair, the Civic and Electoral Services Manager advised that proposals for this award may be provided by a Councillor or anyone in the Borough for consideration by this Committee.

On a motion by Councillor M Sullivan and seconded by Councillor J Stewart Laing, it was –

Resolved –

- (1) That in pursuance of the provisions of Section 249(5) of the Local Government Act 1972 and in recognition of her dedicated service to the Borough, that Glenda Jackson be posthumously admitted as an Honorary Freewoman of this Borough at an Extraordinary Council Meeting to be held on 9 October 2023; and**
- (2) That officers be requested to take the necessary actions associated with (1) above and arrange a small civic reception for family representatives of Glenda Jackson and some invited guests on a mutually agreeable date following the Extraordinary Meeting of Council on 9 October 2023.**

20 **PARLIAMENTARY POLLING PLACE AND POLLING DISTRICT STATUTORY REVIEW**

The Director of Law and Governance submitted a report advising Members of the arrangements for the statutory polling place and polling district statutory review 2023.

The Civic and Electoral Services Manager reported that the Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) must conduct a statutory review of polling places and polling districts every five years which can start no earlier than 1 October 2023 and must be completed within 16 months. Therefore, this must be completed no later than 31 January 2025.

Members were informed that the statutory responsibility for reviewing UK Parliamentary polling districts and places rests with each relevant local authority in Great Britain for so much of any constituency as is situated in its area.

The Local Authority has a statutory duty to undertake a full review of their Parliamentary polling places and polling districts within the Borough and make such changes as would be considered necessary to ensure they remain accessible to all electors. Any proposed changes to current arrangements would be presented for consideration at the Regulatory and General Purposes Committee meeting on 23 November 2023.

In response to questions from Members of the Committee, the Civic and Electoral Services Manager advised that any proposed changes would be presented to this Committee at its meeting on 23 November in order that the new register could be published on 1 December 2023 to enable the register to be used for elections held in May 2024 as publication would be delayed otherwise. Members were also advised that no changes were envisaged for local elections and that in addition to the statutory review required to be taken

every 5 years, polling places were reviewed following each election by Electoral Services.

Members were advised that the consultation in respect of the polling place and polling district review would take place with local disability and community groups and all Members, notices would be placed in Birkenhead Town Hall and on the internet, there would be a press release then local MP's would be invited to comment and anyone who wishes to comment would be invited to do so. Details of these comments would be published on a paper notification in Birkenhead Town Hall, on the internet and as part of a press release.

The Chair thanked the Electoral team for their ongoing hard work.

On a motion by Councillor M Redfern and seconded by Councillor M Sullivan, it was –

Resolved – That the Polling Place and Polling District review be undertaken and any proposed changes to current arrangements be presented for consideration at the Regulatory and General Purposes Committee meeting on 23 November 2023.

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 13 September 2023

Present: Councillor P Stuart (Chair)

Councillors J Robinson JE Green
J Williamson H Cameron
P Gilchrist S Mountney
EA Grey L Rennie
A Davies H Gorman
S Powell-Wilde J Bird
T Jones C Cooke (In place
of P Cleary)

39 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised that due to a technical issue, the meeting would be recorded but not live streamed.

The Chair advised the Committee that the Leverhulme appeals had been rejected by the Planning Inspectorate and placed on record his thanks to all of the officers and campaigners involved in the appeals. Councillors Green, Gilchrist and Gorman echoed the Chair's remarks.

40 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received by Councillor Pat Cleary, with Councillor Chris Cooke in attendance as a substitute.

41 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

No such declarations were made.

42 MINUTES

Resolved – That the minutes of the meetings held on 12 July 2023 and 27 July 2023 be approved as a correct record.

43 PUBLIC AND MEMBER QUESTIONS

The Chair reported that there were no public questions, statements, petitions or questions by members.

44 **DEPARTMENT FOR LEVELLING UP, HOUSING & COMMUNITIES
SIMPLIFICATION PATHFINDER PILOT**

The Director of Regeneration and Place introduced the report which sought approval to take part in a Simplification Pilot delivery model known as a “Pathfinder” as established by the Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities (DLUHC) which the Council had been selected and formally invited to join.

The proposed pilot would streamline the delivery of 3 local growth funds (external grants) overseen by DLUHC. The funding streams in question were the Towns Deal, Future High Streets Fund (FHSF) and the Council’s Levelling Up Round 1 (LUF1) allocation. The Pilot would allow the council to amalgamate the three funds into one large regeneration fund and only one claim will be completed each quarter instead of three separate claims.

The Committee discussed the benefits of the pilot and thanked officers for their work in securing the potential pilot to bring the projects together. In response to queries by members the Director of Regeneration and Place gave assurances that the additional flexibility would not unduly delay the delivery of projects but ensure that the projects were fully developed, and the funding was in place. Further assurances were given by the Director of Finance that effective treasury management was in place and that capital funding was used to offset borrowing costs.

The Committee further discussed the governance of the delivery of the projects, reiterating that the Council was the accountable body and seeking broad representation on any oversight bodies.

Resolved – That

- (1) the invitation to participate in the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Simplification Pilot be accepted.**
- (2) the Director of Regeneration and Place be authorised to enter into the Pathfinder Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), in consultation with the Director of Law and Governance.**

45 **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Chair introduced the report which provided the Committee with an opportunity to plan and review its work across the municipal year. The Chair brought members’ attention to items for future consideration and matters

outside of the Committee where it was noted that all items were now scheduled.

Additional information was sought on the detail to be included in the briefing notes listed in the work programme and the report on the introduction of the ERP system. Following a discussion, it was agreed that the workshop on risk would be a collaborative session held in-person.

Resolved – That the work programme be noted.

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PLANNING COMMITTEE

Thursday, 14 September 2023

Present:

Councillor S Kelly (Chair)

Councillors S Foulkes
H Gorman
K Hodson
M Booth
B Kenny

J Stewart Laing
G McManus
S Powell-Wilde
Jason Walsh
S Mountney (In
place of C Baldwin)

31 **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

The Chair welcomed Members of the Planning Committee, Officers, members of the public and those watching the webcast to the meeting.

32 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillor C Baldwin, who was deputised by Councillor S Mountney.

33 **MINUTES**

The Director of Law and Governance submitted the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 17 August 2023.

Resolved – That the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 17 August 2023 be approved.

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

Members of the Committee were asked whether they had any personal or prejudicial interests in connection with any item on the agenda and if so, to declare them and state what they were.

Councillor G McManus declared a prejudicial interest in Item 5 (St Oswald's Church, Bidston Village Road, Bidston – Installation of 1800mm x 1200mm Church Noticeboard Mounted on Aluminium Posts) by virtue of being a parishioner of St Oswald's Church (minute 35 refers).

35 **LEVERHULME APPEAL**

The Chair with the agreement of the Committee raised the Leverhulme appeal as an item of urgent business. He referred to the recent news concerning a number of appeals in respect of applications that had been considered by the Planning Committee. On behalf of the Committee, he acknowledged the wisdom of the Planning Inspectorate and specifically thanked the leader of the Public Inquiry Mr John Barrett, Senior Officers Kath Lawless and Mark Loughran and all other officers involved who had been listed in the decision letter. He believed it had been a good victory, the Green Belt had been defended and the Brownfield First policies had cleared a hurdle.

The Vice-Chair agreed with the remarks of the Chair and reflected that with the UDP in place and the new Local Plan, the Council had a good case and wished to move a formal vote of thanks to officers.

Councillor K Hodson referred to building affordable houses on the Green Belt, levelling up and the Brownfield First and reiterated her thanks to the Planning Officers, when the McCarthy Stone appeal was won, in particular Martin Klabou who was the leading officer also all other officers who had worked hard in respect of the Leverhulme appeals and Public Inquiries and large cases where the Planning Inspector had concurred with the Planning Officers' decision.

Councillor H Gorman supported all the comments made.

On a motion by the Vice-Chair and seconded by K Hodson, it was -

Resolved – That all officers within the Planning Team be thanked for their work.

36 **ST OSWALDS CHURCH, BIDSTON VILLAGE ROAD, BIDSTON, CH43 7QT
INSTALLATION OF 1800MM X 1200MM CHURCH NOTICEBOARD
MOUNTED ON ALUMINIUM POSTS.**

Councillor G McManus declared a prejudicial interest in this matter and left the room during its consideration (minute 34 refers).

The Senior Planning Officer presented the report of the Director of Regeneration and Place in relation to the above application for consideration.

Ward Councillor Julie McManus addressed the Committee.

The applicant, Reverend Joe Smith addressed the Committee.

On a motion by the Chair and seconded by Councillor Kathy Hodson it was –

Resolved (7:3) – That the application be refused on the following grounds:

1. The proposal by reason of its siting, size, design and materials would be harmful to the setting of the surrounding Grade II listed buildings at St Oswald's Church, Stone Farm and Lilac Cottages and harmful to the character and appearance of the conservation area including its key views contrary to policies CH01, CH1, CH2 and CH4 of Wirral's Unitary Development Plan, National Planning Policy Framework (2021) paragraphs 136, 195, 200 and 202 and Policies WD 2.1, WD2.2, WP3.1 and WD10 of Wirral's emerging local plan.

**37 LOCK UP GARAGES (19) EDGEMOOR CLOSE, BEECHWOOD, CH43 9XH
ERECTION OF 2 BUNGALOWS AND ASSOCIATED HARD AND SOFT
LANDSCAPING.**

The Senior Planning Officer presented the report of the Director of Regeneration and Place in relation to the above application for consideration.

Ward Councillor, Elizabeth Grey addressed the Committee.

On a motion by Councillor Kathy Hodson and seconded by the Chair it was –

Resolved (unanimously) – that the application be approved subject to the following conditions:

1. The development hereby permitted shall be begun before the expiration of 3 years from the date of this permission.

2. The development hereby permitted shall be carried out in accordance with the approved plans received by the local planning authority on 26th July 2023 and listed as follows: P359.2_202, P359.2_203G, P359.2_204, P359.2_205A, P359.2_206B, P359.2_207B and P359.2_208B.

3. Prior to the commencement of the development, a full scheme of works for the reinstatement to standard footway levels of any existing vehicle accesses from the highway that are rendered obsolete by the development shall be submitted and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The development shall not be occupied until the approved works have been completed in accordance with the approved scheme.

4. Before any construction commences, details of the brick and roof materials to be used in the external construction of this development shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning

Authority. The approved materials shall then be used in the construction of the development.

5. Details of the species mix, height and density of new planting shown on the approved plan ref. P359.2_203G shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority prior to first occupation of the proposed development. All planting, seeding and/or turfing comprised in the approved details and the approved landscaping of plan ref. P359.2_203G shall be carried out in the first planting and seeding seasons following the occupation of the building or the completion of the development, whichever is the sooner, and any shrubs or plants which within a period of five years from the completion of development die, are removed, or become seriously damaged or diseased shall be replaced in the next planting season with others of similar size and species.

6. The hard landscaping scheme hereby approved shall be carried out prior to the occupation of any part of the development or in accordance with a timetable to be agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority.

7. The development shall not be occupied until the parking has been provided in accordance with the approved plans and the areas shall thereafter be retained for that use and shall not be used other than for the parking of motor vehicles.

8. The western and eastern side facing windows of the approved bungalows shall be obscure glazed and non-opening (with the exception of an opening light 1.7 metres above the floor of the room in which the window is installed) and thereafter be permanently retained as such.

9. Notwithstanding the provisions of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (or any subsequent Order or statutory provision revoking or re-enacting the provisions of that order) no window shall be installed to the side elevations of the approved bungalows where facing the eastern front elevations of houses on Edgemoor Close and the western rear elevations of houses on Everleigh Close unless it is obscure glazed and non-opening (with the exception of an opening light 1.7 metres above the floor of the room in which the window is installed) and thereafter be permanently retained as such.

Council – 9 October 2023

Motions

The following motions have been submitted in accordance with the notice required by Standing Order 13.1 and are listed in accordance with Standing Order 13.2.

1. RESPONDING TO RESIDENTS' CONCERNS REGARDING CONSULTATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF 20MPH ZONES

Proposed by Councillor Jeff Green

Seconded by Councillor Lesley Rennie

Council notes the Secretary of State for Transport allocated the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority a £710 million, five-year City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) in April 2022. Schemes funded by the CRSTS are developed by the Combined Authority.

Council further notes the funding for 20 MPH zones is via the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Transport Plan (Integrated Transport Block) which should fulfil Objective 5 of the Combined Authority Transport Plan: *To secure a transport network that is well maintained, safe and resilient.*

Council recalls the introduction of 20 MPH zones followed a Notice of Motion at Council calling for the introduction of 20mph speed limits on residential roads across the Borough with a view to making progress with their introduction.

Council notes, if struck by a vehicle:

- at 40 mph there is a 90 percent chance a pedestrian will be killed.
- at 35 mph there is a 50 percent chance a pedestrian will be killed.
- at 30 mph there is a 20 percent chance a pedestrian will be killed.
- at 20 mph there is a 2.5 percent chance a pedestrian will be killed.

Council believes that pedestrians have a shared responsibility with motorists and all other road users for road safety and should take measures to protect their own safety, including using the road safety measures put in place by the Council and following the updated Highway Code.

Council notes the disappointing response to the proposed 20MPH speed limit scheme Phase I consultation, reported to Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee on 30th January 2023, whereby only 728 responses had been received from a whole Wirral population of 320,000.

Council welcomes that since the rollout of Phase I - 20MPH schemes in Wirral, public awareness of road safety has increased dramatically.

Council therefore requests that the Director of Neighbourhoods and the Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee:

1. reviews the all-encompassing criteria of 'all residential areas'

2. reviews the public's responses (giving priority to impacted local residents) to the Phase I implementation and considers whether a further consultation and scheme amendment is required
3. with the exception of outside schools, pauses all activity on Phase II, whilst the review requested in 1 and 2 above is undertaken
4. publishes the baseline data, by ward, showing the numbers killed or seriously injured over the last 10 years.

Furthermore, Council requests the Director of Law and Governance to provide a report to Policy and Resources Committee, which reviews the Council's consultation timings, approach and mechanisms as a matter of urgency.

2. NEW DEAL FOR WORKING PEOPLE

Proposed by Councillor Brian Kenny
Seconded by Councillor Julie McManus

This Council recognises that there must be a fundamental change in our economy, and for this to happen the world of work must be fundamentally changed, to the benefit of all working Wirral residents.

Council therefore agrees that there must be a New Deal for Working People. Council notes with concern that the Government wants to continue with insecure and exploitative employment eg Zero hours contracts, resulting in many Wirral residents suffering.

Council affirms that Wirral residents need to have a new partnership with employers and trade unions, to create jobs and build a society where everyone is entitled to fair pay, job security and dignity at work.

To achieve this, all Wirral workers must have a comprehensive set of rights and protections with trade unions empowered to organise, bargain and win for working people.

Council agrees that fair and decent work that provides security, improves national productivity, increases economic opportunity, and protects health is what all Wirral residents deserve.

Council affirms that it is entirely possible to have a future economy that rebalances wealth and power to serve the needs of working people.

Council is adamant that all Wirral residents need and deserve improved living standards and economic security.

Council therefore agrees to request the Council Leader to write to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions – Mel Stride MP, to insist that a New Deal for Working People is agreed and introduced, as soon as possible.

3. CLEAN AIR FOR A HEALTHIER WIRRAL

Proposed by Councillor Ewan Tomeny
Seconded by Councillor Ed Lamb

Health inequalities on Wirral are substantial, deeply rooted, and in many cases, worsening.

The *2022/2023 Wirral Plan Refresh* underscores that health inequalities within our borough remain 'stubbornly persistent', and outlines addressing them as a key priority for the upcoming year.[1]

Health inequalities are caused by a web of many complex factors. One such factor is poor air quality, as recognised in the *Wirral 2023 Air Quality Annual Status Report (ASR)* published this June.[2] The report additionally recognises how air pollution disproportionately affects the most vulnerable in our communities, including children, the elderly, and those with pre-existing heart and lung conditions. Considering our commitment to reducing the significant health inequalities on Wirral, it is vital that we proactively pursue strategies able to mitigate contributing factors to these disparities.

In *Bidston St James, Rock Ferry, Birkenhead & Tranmere*, and *Seacombe* the number of deaths from respiratory diseases is over twice the expected rate based on national data.[3] On Wirral, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), a respiratory condition linked to both air pollution levels and income,[4] is more prevalent compared to the rest of England. However, the Wirral COPD burden is not spread evenly, with the rate of emergency hospital admissions in Seacombe five times higher than in Heswall.[5]

Last year, Wirral Council undertook monitoring of the pollutant nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) at 56 sites across the borough.[2] These monitoring sites encompassed roadside and kerbside detection, and sensors outside of seven schools. At one-third of the 43 sites with comparative data from 2021, NO₂ levels had increased, while just one of the 56 sites met World Health Organization (WHO) air quality guidelines (10 µg/m³ for annual average NO₂ levels).[6] Four out of five sensors placed at schools also showed an increase in NO₂ levels compared to 2021. Furthermore, PM_{2.5} (particulate matter which causes a range of diseases) has seen no overall reduction between 2018 and 2022 and remains above WHO guidelines.[6]

Currently, the 'Wirral Plan 2022/23 Refresh' document does not make any explicit mention or reference to air quality.

Council therefore requests the Chief Executive to include air quality considerations in the refreshed Wirral Plan to be presented to P & R in November 2023, taking into account the recommendations and priorities detailed in the *Wirral Air Quality Annual Status Report*.

Furthermore, in alignment, with the Council's commitments to reduce health inequalities and safeguard against the adverse effects of air pollution, Council supports the World Health Organization Air Quality Guidelines as long-term targets,

and requests that the Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee consider the adoption and implementation of these as part of its work programme.

1: <https://democracy.wirral.gov.uk/documents/s50091567/Enc.%20%20for%20Wirral%20Plan%20Update.pdf>

2: <https://www.wirral.gov.uk/files/wbc036-wirral-air-quality-annual-status-report-2023.pdf>

3: <https://www.localhealth.org.uk/>

4: <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/31285306/>

5: <https://wirral.communityinsight.org/>

6: <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240034228>

4. THE UNACCEPTABLE COST OF CHILD PLACEMENTS

Proposed by Councillor Chris Carubia

Seconded by Councillor Phil Gilchrist

Council notes that the number of children in need of support nationally from Local Authorities is now at its highest level since before the pandemic.

Council further notes that the funding announced in the Government's Children's Social Care Implementation Strategy falls way short of addressing the £1.6 billion shortfall required each year simply to maintain current service levels.

Council believes that there needs to be significant additional funding for all Local Authorities, not just for those chosen for the DFE's pilot and pathfinder schemes, so it can be wisely invested in stabilising the current system to ensure strong foundations on which to build future reform.

The number of Wirral's children in care fluctuates around eight hundred, the cost of which in 2022/23 was £27.952m. The current average cost of a care placement for Wirral is £5,887.83 per week. With the cost for Wirral's children with more complex needs being many times higher.

Council therefore requests that the Leader of the Council writes to The Secretary of State for Education, the Rt Hon Gillian Keegan MP to highlight the need to implement regulations to prevent private companies setting exorbitant fees for childcare placements, and from benefiting from huge profits made off the backs of our most vulnerable children in care.

Full Council – Responsibility for Functions

1. Introduction

Full Council is the primary decision-making body of the Council and, as such, is responsible for the exercise of all of the functions that are held by the local authority.

Whilst decisions in relation to these functions could be made by the Council, and indeed some functions can only be carried out by the Full Council, in order to operate more effectively as an organisation, most of the Council's functions are exercised through delegation to a committee, sub-committee or an officer, or to another local authority.

This part of the Constitution contains the remits of the Council, Committees, Sub-Committees and Panels and also contains the Scheme of Delegation to Officers.

2. Council Functions

The Council reserves to itself the following functions (in accordance with the rules and procedures contained in this Constitution):

- (a) All non-delegable functions as defined by the Local Authorities (Committee System) (England) Regulations 2012 including: -
 - (i) **The Budget** – The approval or adoption of a plan or strategy for the control of the local authority's borrowing, investments or capital expenditure or for determining the authority's minimum revenue provision, which includes the overarching annual:-
 - (1) Capital programme
 - (2) Capital investment strategy
 - (3) Medium term financial plan
 - (4) Treasury management strategy,except for any amendment, modification, variation or revocation which—
 - (aa) is required for giving effect to requirements of the Secretary of State or a Minister of the Crown in relation to a plan or strategy submitted for approval, or to any part submitted; or
 - (bb) is authorised by a determination made by the local authority—
 - in pursuance of arrangements made for the discharge of functions as set out in the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules set out at Part 4(3) of this Constitution (including virements); and
 - at the time when the local authority approves or adopts the plan or strategy, as the case may be.

(ii) **Policy Framework (Required)** – The making or revoking or amending the following policies, plans and strategies required to form a part of the Council’s Policy Framework:

- (1) Annual Library Plan;
- (2) Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy;
- (3) Development Plan Documents;
- (4) Licensing Authority Policy Statement;
- (5) Policies made under the Gambling Act (including any resolution relating to casinos);
- (6) Local Transport Plan;
- (7) Plans and alterations which together comprise the Development Plan;
- (8) Sustainable Community Strategy; and
- (9) Youth Justice Plan;

except for any amendment, modification, variation or revocation which—

- (aa) is required for giving effect to requirements of the Secretary of State or a Minister of the Crown in relation to a plan or strategy submitted for approval, or to any part submitted; or
- (bb) is authorised by a determination made by the local authority—
 - in pursuance of arrangements made for the discharge of functions as set out in the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules set out at Part 4(3) of this Constitution; and
 - at the time when the local authority approves or adopts the plan or strategy, as the case may be.

(iii) Making of a Members Allowance Scheme and amending the same.

(iv) Determination of Mayor’s and Deputy Mayor’s allowances.

(v) Making a request for single member electoral wards to the Local Government Boundary Commission.

(vi) Resolution to change a scheme for elections.

(vii) Making an order giving effect to the recommendations made in a Community Governance Review.

(viii) Conferring voting rights on co-opted members of Overview and Scrutiny Committees (if any).

- (b) **Policy Framework (Choice)** - The making or revoking or amending the following policies, plans and strategies reserved by Council to form a part of the Council's Policy Framework
 - (i) The Council Plan.
- (c) Setting the Council's Council Tax requirement
- (d) Electing the Mayor and Deputy Mayor
- (e) Appointing the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council (Chair and Vice-Chair of Policy & Resources Committee)
- (f) Agreeing or amending the committee structure, the remit/terms of reference of committees, their size and membership
- (g) Confirming the appointment (or dismissal) of the Head of Paid Service, Monitoring Officer and Chief Finance (Section 151) Officer.
- (h) Confirming the appointment of the Independent Persons.
- (i) Making, amending, revoking, re-enacting or adopting bylaws and promoting or opposing the making of local legislation including bylaws or personal bills.
- (j) Appointment of the Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer.
- (k) Significant changes to the Council's Constitution, including adopting and amending standing orders, Rules of Procedure, Contract Procedure Rules, Financial Regulations, Codes and Protocols that make up the Constitution.
- (l) All other matters which by law are reserved to the Council including: -
 - (i) Ombudsman reports where there has been a finding of maladministration with injustice and the report has been rejected
 - (ii) Statutory officer reports of the Monitoring Officer, Chief Financial Officer and Head of Paid Service and External Auditor's public interest reports.
- (m) Conferring the title of Honorary Freeman and Honorary Alderman.
- (n) Approving the Annual Senior Officer Pay Policy Statement.
- (o) Changing the name of the Borough.
- (p) Appointment of representatives of the local authority not otherwise delegated to a Committee.
- (q) Nomination of councillors and other persons to outside bodies
- (r) Consideration of reports from committees or any other body constituted by the Council.

- (s) To receive the minutes of committees and sub-committees acting under delegated powers for question and comment.
- (t) Making recommendations to the Secretary of State on the Borough boundaries, ward boundaries, electoral divisions, ward or polling districts; and
- (u) any other function which must by law be reserved to full Council.

Note

For the avoidance of doubt, the Full Council retains ultimate responsibility for the actions and decisions of all its Committees and also retains the ability to exercise all its powers whether or not they have also been delegated to a Committee or Officer. Full Council shall not, however, exercise a power that has been delegated without first ensuring that such a step is in the best interests of the Council and in accordance with the rules set out in the Articles of this Constitution. The Council's ability to exercise its powers will not override or supersede any decision or action already taken and implemented by a Committee or Officer acting under delegated authority.