



## Council

Dear Councillor

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council to be held at **6.00 p.m. on Monday, 29 July 2024** in the Council Chamber, within the Town Hall, Wallasey, to take into consideration and determine the following subjects:

**Contact Officer:** Anna Perrett  
**Tel:** 0151 691 8564  
**e-mail:** [annaperret@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:annaperret@wirral.gov.uk)  
**Website:** <http://www.wirral.gov.uk>

**PLEASE NOTE: Public seating is limited therefore members of the public wishing to attend are asked to register their attendance in advance by emailing [committeeservices@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:committeeservices@wirral.gov.uk).**

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

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

## 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 - 28)

To approve the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting(s) of the Council held on 18 March 2024, 15 May 2024, and 22 May 2024.

#### **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 12 noon, 24 July 2024 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 for Public Speakers at Committees | Wirral Council](#)

Please contact the Committee Services Officer listed at the top of this agenda if you have not received an acknowledgement of your question by the deadline for submission.

##### **B. Statements and Petitions**

###### Statements

Notice of representations to be given in writing or by email by 12 noon, 24 July 2024 to the Council's Monitoring Officer ([committeeservices@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:committeeservices@wirral.gov.uk)) and to be dealt with in accordance with Standing Order 11.

###### Petitions

Petitions may be presented to the Committee if provided to Democratic and Member Services no later than 12 noon, 24 July 2024 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 minute) 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 the Council for up to 15 minutes, at the discretion of the Mayor. Please give notice of petitions to [committeeservices@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:committeeservices@wirral.gov.uk) in advance of the meeting.

Please telephone the Committee Services Officer if you have not received an acknowledgement of your question/statement 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. CAPITAL OUTTURN REPORT 2023-24 (Pages 29 – 70)**

Council is requested to agree to the following recommendation of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 17 July 2024:

1. the financing of the Programme for 2023/24 be noted.
2. the additional year-end net re-profiling of £24.9m from 2023/24 to 2024/25 be noted.
3. the changes to the outturn attributable to movement in the Programme that occurred after the previous monitoring report to P&R on 26 February 2024 be noted.
4. the funding of capital expenditure in 2023/24 including the use of £38.4m Grants and Contributions, £5.4m capital receipts and £34.3m of borrowing be noted.
5. That council be recommended to approve the virements of budget referred to in Appendix 6 of this report.

Minute Extract and Report are attached.

### **B. CAPITAL MONITORING QUARTER 1 2024/25 (Pages 71 – 104)**

Council is requested to agree to the following recommendation of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 17 July 2024:

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

1. the revised Capital Programme of £100.996 million for 2024/25, including the virements of budget referred to in Appendix 3 of this report.

2. additional funding for Capitalisation of Regeneration Salaries, to be funded by new borrowing, as referred to in section 3.7 in this report.

Minute Extract and Report are attached.

### **C. REVISION TO THE APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE CHAIRS (105 – 108)**

### **D. SIX MONTH ATTENDANCE RULE S85 (1) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 (109 – 112)**

## **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 (113 – 210)**

One decision was taken by the Director of Finance which was excluded from removal of delegation and are therefore reported to Council in accordance with Part 4, Section 4, paragraph 6(a)(ii) of the Constitution.

#### [Appointment of Digital Transformation Partner](#)

Director of Finance  
26 June 2024

The minutes of all committees which have met since 28 February 2024, up until 9 July 2024 are attached below.

Minutes of Committees:

- 28.02.2024 Constitution and Standards Committee
- 05.03.2024 Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee
- 06.03.2024 Children, Young People and Education Committee
- 07.03.2024 Tourism, Communities, Culture & Leisure Committee
- 12.03.2024 Environment, Climate Emergency & Transport Committee
- 14.03.2024 Health and Wellbeing Board
- 14.03.2024 Planning Committee
- 19.03.2024 Pensions Committee
- 20.03.2024 Policy and Resources Committee
- 26.03.2024 Audit and Risk Management Committee
- 27.03.2024 Economy, Regeneration and Housing Committee
- 15.04.2024 Environment, Climate Emergency and



- Transport Committee
- 18.04.2024 Planning Committee
  - 13.06.2024 Regulatory and General Purposes 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. BY-ELECTION RESULT - 4 JULY 2024**

To receive and note the outcomes of the by-election on 4 July 2024 , in that Councillor Graham Cooper was elected as Councillor for Liscard ward

### **8. MOTIONS ON NOTICE (Pages 211 - 214)**

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.



Jill Travers, Director of Law and Corporate Services

## 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, 18 March 2024

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

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

### 88 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In relation to agenda item 7, and specifically Motion 4 (Immediate bilateral long-lasting ceasefire in Gaza), the following Members declared a personal interest by virtue of either themselves or a close family member being a member of or being in receipt of a pension from the Merseyside Pension Fund: -

Councillor Naomi Graham, Councillor Jo Bird

### 89 CIVIC MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Daisy Kenny, Paul Martin and Helen Cameron.

The Mayor announced that the Andy Day Memorial Cup, awarded to the backbench member of the Council, who had shown dedication and selflessness during the Municipal Year in memory of the late Councillor Andy Day, was to be awarded to Councillor Tony Murphy.

The Mayor then announced that the Andy Corkhill award, given to an individual, group, school or business that had done something demonstrably of benefit to the environment be presented to the Friends of Warwick Park.

The Mayor then advised Members that David Armstrong (Assistant Chief Executive) Dave Hughes (Director of Regeneration and Place) Graham Hodgkinson (Director of Adult Care and Health) and Simone White (Director of Children, Families and Education) would be leaving the Council in the upcoming months. He then invited Group Leaders to speak to this.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Paul Stuart expressed his thanks to the Mayor for his work over the previous 12 months. Group Leaders, Councillor Jeff Green, Councillor Pat Cleary and Councillor Phil Gilchrist echoed this

## 90 **MINUTES**

**Resolved – That the minutes of the meetings held on 4 December 2023 and 26 February 2024 be approved as a correct record.**

## 91 **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

The Mayor outlined that three public questions had been received.

Rica Bird asked a question to the Leader of the Council regarding agenda item 7, motion 4, stating that she had been a Wirral resident since 1975 and a beneficiary of the Merseyside Local Government Pension Scheme. Rica Bird asked whether, considering the interest Wirral Council has as managing authority for Merseyside Pensions fund, if the Group Leaders would write to the Prime Minister asking for a ceasefire in Gaza.

The Leader responded to state the situation in Gaza was horrendous and agreed that there was an urgent need for an active, diplomatic process. He also stated that the terrorism of Hamas and the attacks on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2023 should be condemned. The Leader stated the need for an active diplomatic process and an immediate humanitarian ceasefire.

Rica Brid asked a supplementary question, asking how Councillor Stuart defined genocide and how the leader defined people who were oppressed and the oppressor.

The Leader responded that genocide was clearly defined in international law and that people were able to understand the difference between the oppressed and oppressor.

Anne Litherland asked a question to the chair of the Pensions Committee, Councillor Julie McManus, regarding Merseyside Pension Fund and asking for an immediate, bi-lateral ceasefire in Gaza.

Councillor McManus stated she shared the concerns in regard to the situation in Gaza and the need for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire, the need for long-lasting peace and humanitarian aid reaching Gaza. She stated that it is important that public bodies consider ethical and human rights concerns. Merseyside Pension fund has 149,140 Members of whom a very small number have posed the same question. It manages many investments and has a statutory fiduciary duty. The Merseyside Pension Fund has a revised responsible policy and a working party to consider investments. Additionally, an engagement framework has been developed to consider responsible investments.

Anne Litherland asked a supplementary question, asking if Members of the pension fund could be surveyed and informed of their investments in relation to the war in Gaza.

Councillor McManus responded to state that she would take advice to see if this was possible as there are 149, 140 members of Merseyside Pension Fund.

Councillor Phil Gilchrist asked if Councillor Paul Stuart could circulate his statement for all Members to read.

The Director of Law and Corporate Services read out a question on behalf of Keith Randles to the Chair of the Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee, Councillor Elizabeth Grey. Mr Randal's referenced a visit made by Councillor Liz Grey on 4 October 2019, where beach maintenance was discussed, included the possibility of a large fine due to over-spraying and raking. Mr Randal's queried if the chair had acted on hearsay, rather than the reviewing of the Council's own records to verify if the allegations were true or not and if the abandonment of beach maintenance was necessary.

Councillor Liz Grey responded to state that, she had met a senior officer of Natural England and was informed that allegations had been made that the then beach maintenance programme had breached assent from Natural

England. The officer pointed out that permission to do something was not the same as instruction to do something and that knowledge regarding use of glyphosate had moved on since assent had previously been given. Raking ceased until advice was sought from Natural England, which was found to be consistent with the account given to Councillor Liz Grey.

#### 91.1 **Statements and Petitions**

The Mayor advised Members that there were 5 Statements to be read out.

Greg Dropkin read out a statement on Israeli attacks on hospitals and ambulances in Gaza, and on the role of Merseyside Pension Fund investments in companies which supply the weapons used against civilians in Gaza.

Piara Miah read out a statement thanking the people of South Africa, Ireland , Yemen and all the other countries who have been calling for an immediate ceasefire in Palestine. She asked Members to vote for an immediate bilateral ceasefire and an end to the occupation and ensure humanitarian aid reaches the people as a matter of urgency.

Jim McGinley read out a statement on the war in Palestine, noting the significant amount of humanitarian aid needed and asking for negotiations which recognised and addressed historic injustice which are a prerequisite to a durable peace and can only begin with a lasting cease-fire.

Islam Al Ashi read out a statement, summarising her own experiences visiting her family in Gaza in September 2023 and being unable to leave until December 2023 and asking for an immediate, bilateral ceasefire in Gaza.

Arthur Shaw read a statement giving the total figures of fatalities in Gaza, injuries, unaccompanied children, as well as the humanitarian impact (as of March 2024) and asking Members to support the Green Party Motion for a ceasefire.

#### 91.2 **Members' Questions**

Councillor Naomi Graham asked a question to the Chair of the Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee, Councillor Elizabeth Grey querying if given the health and economic benefits of active travel as well as the benefits to other road users of Active Travel, could the Chair commit to sharing information of the benefits with all Directors and Councillors to help inform decision making.

Councillor Elizabeth Grey responded to state that she agreed that delivery of the Active Travel Strategy should start at pace with the document being shared with all officers and Members, noting that there is growing evidence that Active Travel increases health prospects and economic output.

Councillor Julie McManus asked a question to the Chair of the Planning Committee, Councillor Stuart Kelly referencing a petition submitted on behalf of 72 residents from Laird Street, Birkenhead. The question related to residents becoming increasingly concerned about the number of HMO's in the area, which changed the landscape of the area and could put additional pressures on services. Councillor McManus asked the Chair of the Planning Committee whether planning officers could work with housing services to review whether their existing controls in relating to location, concentration and internal layout of HMOs creates the most reasonable living conditions for the occupants of and the residents who live close to HMO's.

Councillor Stuart Kelly responded explaining that he was aware of the application and concerns raised within the Chamber regarding similar applications. He noted that planning and housing were intrinsically linked but they did require different considerations and described the different criteria. He stated that in 2018 a review had been undertaken of the standards required of HMOs, the emerging local plan has actions in place to reduce the number of HMOs, but this did not apply to HMOs which did not require planning permission but asked that this be reviewed and added to the work programme of the Planning Committee.

Councillor Gilchrist asked a question to Chair of the Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee Councillor Elizabeth Grey, querying if, in view of the deteriorating condition of Eastham Rake between Glenburn Avenue and the area near to Plymyard Avenue could she advise whether this section of road was considered suitable for the removal of all the decayed tarmac, taking the road back down to concrete and adjusting the drains and manholes to the new levels? If so, could she advise the timescale for this work to be undertaken?

Councillor Elizabeth Grey responded to state that work was being undertaken with contractors to identify the most appropriate treatment for this and she would share the details with ward Members once these details were agreed. Work is scheduled for the next financial year.

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#### **CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2024/25 AND 2025/26**

The first matter for approval was the Calendar of Meetings 2024/25 and 2025/26 which had been referred to Council by Constitution and Standards Committee on 28 January 2024. The report recommended amendments to the previously agreed dates for Council and Committee meetings for the municipal year 2024/2025 as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report. The report also recommended draft dates for the municipal year 2025/26 at Appendix 2.

The Chair of Constitution and Standards Committee, Councillor Tony Cox noted that a request had been made in consultation with the Chair of Shareholder Board that a meeting of the Shareholder Board be added on 4

July 2024. It had also been noted that the July 2024 and July 2025 Group Meetings had been removed in error for the published Committee Calendar but would be re-inserted into the final published versions.

On a motion by Councillor Tony Cox, seconded by Councillor Phil Gilchrist it was,

**Resolved (unanimously) – That the Calendar of Meetings for the 2024/25 and 2025/26 municipal years be approved with the above additions.**

#### 92.1 ARMC ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23

The second matter for approval was the Audit and Risk Management Committee Annual Report 2022/23 which had been referred to Council by Audit and Risk Management Committee on 15 January 2024. The Chief Internal Auditor had presented the Audit and Risk Management Committee Annual report for 2022-23, which was prepared by the respective Chairs of the Committee in consultation with internal audit and summarised work undertaken by the committee during the period in line with best professional practice.

On a motion by Councillor Jenny Johnson, duly seconded it was,

**Resolved (unanimously) - that the Annual Report for 2022-23 be approved.**

#### 93 REPORTS AND DECISIONS FROM COUNCIL COMMITTEES AND PARTNERSHIP ORGANISATIONS

The Mayor drew Members attention to one Committee decision which had been taken and excluded from removal of delegation and reconsideration by Policy & Resources Committee and is reported to the Council in accordance with Part 4, Section 4, paragraph 6(a)(ii) of the Constitution.

[Utilisation of procure partnerships and Pagoba frameworks.](#)

The decision, Utilisation of Procure Partnerships and Pagabo frameworks was taken by the Economy, Regeneration and Housing Committee on 22 January 2024

#### 94 DECISIONS TAKEN SINCE THE LAST COUNCIL MEETING

Councillor Jeff Green asked a question of the Chair of the Planning Committee, Councillor Stuart Kelly in relation to minute 60 of the Meeting held on 8 February 2024 noting that the Chair had expressed frustrations with the systems used by the authority to process planning applications, following



deferral of this item. Councillor Green asked if Councillor Kelly could update Council with his understanding of how these issues were being tackled.

Councillor Kelly responded to state that it was vital that planning officers had access to planning IT services that were fit for purpose, noting that it was frustrating that the planning IT system had thrown up issues of functionality which had led to delays. Following the meeting on 8 February, views were exchanged with the Chief Executive, Director of Regeneration and Place and head planner that there needs to be a step change in progress. High level communication between the council and programmer have taken place, including weekly project management meetings and with actions captured in weekly progress reports and further guidance delivered to planning staff in regards checking documents.

Councillor Jeff Green asked a question of Councillor Paul Stuart, Chair of Policy and Resources Committee on minute 105, of the held on 17 February 2024, regarding an extra £650k to prevent homelessness in the borough, noting that Council's and Housing associations cannot do this alone, with employers have a key role in supporting staff and preventing homelessness. The Homelessness Covenant was launched in 2010 and to date, 160 leading businesses have signed up. Councillor Green stated he had written to the Chief Executive, asking that the Council sign up to the Covenant and requested that Councillor Paul Stuart does the same.

Councillor Paul Stuart placed on record his thanks for the hard work undertaken by the Housing department, headed by Lisa Newman. Councillor Stuart was sure that the Council was fully supportive of the initiative and would speak with the Chief Executive to bring a paper to the Policy and Resources committee in the future.

Councillor Angela Davies asked a question to Councillor Janette Williamson, chair of the Adult, Social Care and Public Health Committee on minute item 60, of the Committee held on 23 January 2024, in relation to the Maternity and Neo-Natal quarterly report. The report provided an update and oversight of quality and safety of maternity services at Wirral University Teaching Hospital. Cllr Davies asked if Seacombe Birthing Centre was included within this report and requested a brief summary of the findings.

Councillor Janette Williamson responded to explain that the report was produced on the back of the Lucy Letby trial, noting that it was a very positive report. The Seacombe birthing centre was, despite initial concerns, going very well. The centre opened in 2019 and assists with an average 100 births a year, with the experiences of the mothers being stated as very positive.

Councillor Ian Lewis asked a question of Councillor Paul Stuart, Chair of Policy and Resources Committee on the committee minutes for the meeting held on 13 December 2023, to consider work on supporting the Masterplans

in the area, including New Brighton. Councillor Lewis asked if the leader agreed if the use of the promenade by West Wallasey Van Hire harmed the visitor economy and would he attend the next meeting with the officers, the Leader of Conservative group and ward Councillors to seek to have the vehicles removed.

Councillor Paul Stuart responded by stating that he had received many complaints and had met with the company owners to see what the issues were. The Council provided land to the company for vehicle storage and officers had sought to get the situation rectified as quickly as possible. The Leader stated that he would be more than happy to attend the meeting, alongside the other ward Councillors.

Councillor Andrew Hodson asked a question of the Chair of Policy and Resources Committee, Councillor Paul Stuart, relating to the meeting held on 4 December, 2024, minute 26 stating that the Brown Field First Policy had cross party support. Cllr Hodson asked could the Leader confirm if he had made representation to the Leader of the Labour party regarding his pledge to weaken his Green belt protection.

Councillor Paul Stuart responded to say that he was surprised that he has been asked this question, given his support of Brown Field First. But stated that he was more than happy to do this, noting that the Council was the first local authority to put Brown Field First on record.

Councillor Kathy Hodson asked a question of the Chair of Children, Young People and Education Committee, Councillor Sue Powell-Wilde in relation to the meeting of 1 February, minute 11. The minute related to early years funding expansion. The increase in take-up was welcome and asked that the chair confirm that representatives of early years providers were involved and engaged in the Council's funding.

Councillor Sue Powell- Wilde responded to state that this was the case.

Councillor Tony Murphy asked a question of the chair of Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee, Councillor Elizabeth Grey in relation to the minutes of the meeting held on 5 December 2023. Councillor Murphy asked a question, regarding allotment site expansion stating that he attended the Bebington Road Annual General Meeting, and queried the allotment strategy and if it was being refreshed.

Councillor Elizabeth Grey responded to say that allotments were an important part of the Climate Emergency response and supporting residents emotional and physical wellbeing. Members of the committee had long called for better allotment provision, noting that there is a statutory duty to provide allotments that meets demands.

Councillor Simon Mountney asked a question of the Chair of the Policy and Resources Committee, Councillor Paul Stuart in relation to minute 73, of the meeting held on 21 November 2023. Cllr Mountney asked that the Chair update Council on the need for a digital transformation partner and confirm that this expenditure would make it easier for people to contact the council either face to face or in person, noting the 33% increase in older people living in Wirral.

Councillor Stuart responded to state that, one of the biggest frustrations for residents is the lack of face to face or phone contact and that a fuller response would be provided regarding the digital transformation programme.

Councillor Stephen Bennett asked a question of the Chair of Adult Social Care and Adult Health Committee, Councillor Janette Williamson, in relation to the minutes of the meeting held on 28 November 2023. Noting that the government had failed to invest in social care, and a deepening crisis in the sector due to the decision of the Government that families of immigrant workers are no longer allowed to work in the UK. Had a decision been made to continue to use the resources to continue the real living wage as agreed by Council in 2019.

Councillor Janette Williamson responded to state that the challenges faced had been a discussion that had been had by Committee Members, especially in regard to recruitment. Councillor Janette Williamson stated that the real living wage would be kept as a priority, noting the work undertaken by the Director of Adult Care and Health in recent years.

Councillor Mary Jordan asked a question of the Chair of Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee, Councillor Elizabeth Grey in regard to minute 58 of the meeting held on 5 December 2023 and the increase of inconsiderate parking, such as pavement parking, double parking and parking on dropped curbs. The Council and Police both state that the responsibility lies with each other and queried would there need to be a fatality before this is properly dealt with. Councillor Jordan asked if this could be properly considered as part of the Parking Strategy.

Councillor Elizabeth Grey responded to state that parking issues were increasingly problematic and should be considered an important part of the parking strategy.

Councillor Louise Luxton-Kewley asked a question to the Chair of Childrens, Young people and Education Committee, Councillor Sue Powell-Wilde in regard to the meeting held on 29 November 2023, regarding corporate parenting, asking if the Chair could explain to Members what this meant.

Councillor Sue Powell-Wilde responded to state that, Corporate Parenting means having a strong corporate parenting ethos. Everyone from the Chief

Executive and beyond, having a passion about the children looked after, embedding strong governance and accountability, with clear understanding of roles, responsibilities and a whole system approach driven by the voices of young people.

Councillor Gary Bennett asked a question of the Chair of the Economy, Regeneration and Development Committee, Councillor Tony Jones in relation to minute 49 of the meeting held on 6 December 2023. Cllr Bennett asked could the chair please provide a written response and share with members from Moreton West, Saughall Massie and Leasowe and Moreton East, to confirm the current status of works and a timeline of works on the Wirral Growth Company site in Moreton including the development of a supermarket, re-developments to the library and inclusion of facilities to young people.

Councillor Tony Jones responded by confirming that a written response would be provided.

#### **94.1 JOINT ARRANGEMENTS AND EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS**

Councillor Allan Brame asked a question of the Chair of the Liverpool City Region Transport Authority, Councillor Steve Foulkes regarding the Metro Mayors plans to build a new Woodchurch railway station noting that the playing fields in this area are now being used by the Glenavon JFC, Councillor Foulkes would agree to meet representatives of the club and ward members to discuss these concerns and how the station can be designed to accommodate the activities of this long-established football club.

Councillor Foulkes responded to state that the proposed station and design was at very early stages and that the Metro Mayor and officers would be happy to meet with stakeholders to engage along the process.

Councillor Allan Brame asked a supplementary question querying if given the location of the proposed station, it should be called Prenton station, rather than Woodchurch.

Councillor Steve Foulkes noted that the naming of stations was often the most controversial part of the process.

Councillor Julie McManus asked a question of the Chair of the Liverpool City Region Transport Authority, Councillor Steve Foulkes regarding a petition presented at Council on 4 December 2023 to Members of the Council and Liverpool City region Transport Committee regarding the 418 bus route which serves Bidston St James and Prenton and is known as the 'Hospital bus' locally. She noted that the bus route had been funded until April 2024 and sought an update on this.

Councillor Steve Foulkes confirmed that the amount of budget had been established for this route and would be reconsidered come budget setting.

Councillor Naomi Graham stated that she was pleased that this question has been asked and responded to as it covered multiple wards.

95 **MOTION 1 - HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT FUND**

Councillor Phil Gilchrist moved and Councillor Chris Carubia seconded a motion submitted in accordance with Standing Order 13. In moving the motion, Councillor Gilchrist confirmed he was happy to accept the amendment moved by the Labour group, as a friendly amendment, as follows:

Insert additional paragraph after paragraph 3

*'Council regrets that the Government considers that the existing fund should only be extended for six months'.*

*Insert additional paragraph after paragraph 5 In view of this, the approach of the Local Government Association should be endorsed and supported, namely that the Government 'needs to use the next six months to agree a more sustainable successor to the Household Support Fund'.*

Insert additional recommendation as recommendation 1.

*the Leader contacts the Local Government Association with a view to establishing how following their approach will assist Wirral and the interests of communities with similar needs.*

Councillor Jeff Green moved and Councillor Jenny Johnson seconded the following amendment, submitted in accordance with Standing Order 13.3:

Insert new paragraph after paragraph 5

*Council welcomes the additional £500 million announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in the Spring Budget to enable the extension of the Household Support Fund in England from April to September 2024, in order to continue providing targeted support to vulnerable households with the cost of essentials such as food and utilities and notes, to date, Wirral Council has received £15,246,725.46 in Household Support Fund payments to support our most vulnerable residents.*

The Council debated the motion and Conservative amendment which was then put to the vote and was lost (46:16) (1 Abstention).

The original Motion and Labour amendment was then put to the vote and it was –

**Resolved (62:1 ) (1 abstention) – that,**

**Council recognises the work undertaken, with all party support, to make the most effective use of The Household Support Fund in Wirral. Reports presented to members of the Health and Wellbeing Board set out the way in which the funding was made available to local groups and organisations.**

**The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) recognises the work undertaken in Wirral and how groups have been involved as part of its research. Council notes that continuation of the Household Support Fund was supported by a wide range of organisations including, the Local Government Association and the Special Interest Group of Municipal Authorities (SIGOMA).**

**Council regrets that the Government considers that the existing fund should only be extended for six months. Council further notes the speculation and uncertainty over the future of the funding affects the organisations and all in our borough who are receiving support, help and advice.**

**Council notes the Chair of SIGOMA, Cllr Sir Stephen Houghton CBE has recently written to the Chancellor of the Exchequer to explain the impact of ending the Household Support Fund that he described would have disastrous consequences. In view of this the approach of the Local Government Association should be endorsed and supported, namely that the Government ‘needs to use the next six months to agree a more sustainable successor to the Household Support Fund’.**

**Council believes that tackling the impact of poverty, through this scheme and its successors, is essential in order to deal with social isolation, family breakdown and childhood poverty.**

**Council therefore requests:**

- 1. the Leader contacts the Local Government Association with a view to establishing how following their approach will assist Wirral and the interests of communities with similar needs.**
- 2. the Leader of the Council to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer to press for the Household Support Fund to be funded on a permanent basis to deal with the concerns expressed in recent months; and**
- 3. the Director of Public Health, in conjunction with the Director of Finance, to highlight future sources of funding to support Wirral**

**residents who are most in need by working through the relevant committees**

96 **MOTION 2 - FREEDOM OF THE BOROUGH REQUEST FOR MR DAVID ARMSTRONG**

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

The Council debated the motion and the guillotine was applied at 9:30pm. The Council voted as follow:

For the Motion (62) – Councillors A Ainsworth, C Baldwin, P Basnett ,G Bennett, S Bennett, J Bird, M Booth, A Brame, C Carubia, P Cleary, C Cooke, T Cox, A Davies, GJ Davies, G Davies, S Foulkes, A Gardner, P Gilchrist, H Gorman, N Graham, JE Green, EA Grey, J Grier, B Hall, A Hodson, K Hodson, P Jobson, G Jenkinson, J Johnson, T Jones, M Jordan, S Kelly, B Kenny, J Stewart Laing, T Laing, E Lamb, I Lewis, L Luxon-Kewley, C McDonald, G McManus, J McManus, R Molyneux, S Mountney, K Murphy, T Murphy, A Onwuemene, R Pitt, C Povall, S Powell-Wilde, H Raymond, L Rennie, M Redfern, J Robinson, M Skillicorn, K Stuart, P Stuart, M Sullivan, E Tomeny, J Walsh, J Williamson, V Wilson, G Wood

Against the motion – none

Abstentions – (1)– J Williams.

It was therefore resolved that –

**Council acknowledges and honours individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to Wirral and our communities. David Armstrong, the Council's Deputy Chief Executive is one such person. With a career that began in 1975 as a teacher, David epitomises the qualities of a dedicated and diligent public servant, consistently placing people at the forefront of his work.**

**Having been part of Wirral Council since 1990, David has fulfilled various roles over the 34 years, including serving twice as Acting Chief Executive. He has exhibited a willingness to go above and beyond, leading by example during challenging times and actively supporting the council, its staff, residents, local businesses and community groups. David's contributions include mentoring staff, recognising exceptional efforts, and providing personal assistance during emergencies, as well as guiding community groups through change and resolving complex issues. Council expresses our deep appreciation to David for his**

dedication and commitment to Wirral and the people of Wirral and wishes him well for his well- earned retirement.

**Council therefore requests:**

**That Council agrees to recommend that consideration be given at the next Regulatory and General Purposes Committee to a freedom of the borough request for Mr David Armstrong.**

97 **MOTION 3 - REOPEN OUR POST OFFICES**

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

Councillor Brian Kenny moved and Councillor Ann Ainsworth seconded the following amendment, submitted in accordance with Standing Order 13.3:

Insert additional paragraphs after paragraph 2,

*‘During the peak of the Post Office scandal between 2010 and 2012, Sir Ed Davey, the Postal Affairs Minister, declined to engage with postmaster Alan Bates, the leader of the justice campaign. Council recognises that the 2010 Coalition government and the subsequent Conservative administrations neglected to address the scandal. Councils condemns the Post Office for deceiving government Ministers over time and for failing the numerous sub-postmasters and sub-postmistresses nationwide, including those in Wirral, who were unjustly prosecuted’. Insert additional recommendation after final paragraph 7, Council further requests that the Leader to write to the Cabinet Office requesting the Elizabeth Emblem be considered for individuals who were wrongly convicted but have since passed away without receiving justice.’*

The amendment was then put to the vote and was lost (26:36) (1 abstention).

The original motion was therefore put to the vote, and it was –

**Resolved – resolved (62:0) (1 abstention) that -**

**Council recognises the immense distress, anguish and grievance caused by the Horizon scandal for Post Masters and Post Mistresses, their families, staff and the wider community. Council believes the stress upon post office employees since the introduction of the Horizon IT system will have contributed to many choosing to leave their roles, accounting for some of the 7,462 branches which closed between 1997 and 2010. Council notes that since 2010, and in return for its government**



funding, the Post Office has been required to invest in the network, and maintain around 11,500 branches with no further substantive reductions.

Council therefore expresses its grave concern that post offices in Wirral, including Ford Road (Upton), Saughall Bridge (Moreton) and Grove Road (Wallasey), have been closed, causing hardship and difficulties to residents and local businesses. Council thanks those who are campaigning for these branches to reopen, including 1,035 residents who have signed a petition for Grove Road Post Office to reopen and the Upton Village Community Group who have written directly to the Post Office. Council requests the Chief Executive to write expressing these concerns to the Chief Executive and Chairman of the Post Office, and that all Group Leaders similarly write to the Postal Affairs Minister.

Council also notes the request by the Chair of the Audit & Risk Management Committee for the Authority to also consider whether any of the recommendations following the independent Post Office Horizon IT Inquiry can also be applied to processes within the Council, including those from Phase Five of the Inquiry starting in April, regarding internal and external audit, technical competence, stakeholder engagement, oversight and whistleblowing.

98 **MOTION 4 - IMMEDIATE, BILATERAL, LONG LASTING CEASEFIRE IN GAZA**

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

Councillor Allan Brame moved and Councillor Phil Gilchrist seconded part two of the amendment, submitted in accordance with Standing Order 13.3 with Councillor Bird confirmed she was happy to accept the amendment moved by the Liberal Democratic group as follows,

2. the Director of Pensions at Merseyside Pension Fund submit an *initial* report to Members of the Pensions Committee *for their consideration* as soon as practically possible to *outline the feasibility and potential impact of disinvestment by:*

- *providing* details of current investments in companies in the fund and confirmation on whether or not there are any direct links to Israel Defence Force's military campaign in Gaza as per information as sourced in this motion under point 3;
- *outlining* the engagement history by the fund or its partners with these companies; and

- **clarifying** explain how the fund's Responsible Investment Policy should be applied to these companies ~~with a view to potential divestment.~~

For the Motion (20) –J Bird, A Brame, C Carubia, P Cleary, C Cooke, P Gilchrist, H Gorman, N Graham, J Grier, G Jenkinson, S Kelly, E Lamb C McDonald, R Molyneux, K Murphy, A Onwuemene, H Raymond, M Redfern, E Tomeny, J Walsh,

Against the motion (42) Councillors A Ainsworth, C Baldwin, P Basnett ,G Bennett, S Bennett, M Booth, T Cox, A Davies, GJ Davies, G Davies, S Foulkes, A Gardner, JE Green, EA Grey, B Hall, A Hodson, K Hodson, P Jobson, J Johnson, T Jones, M Jordan, B Kenny, J Stewart Laing, T Laing, I Lewis, L Luxon-Kewley, G McManus, J McManus, S Mountney, T Murphy, R Pitt, C Povall, S Powell-Wilde,L Rennie, J Robinson, M Skillicorn, K Stuart, P Stuart, M Sullivan, J Williamson, V Wilson, G Wood

Abstentions – (1) – J Williams.

**It was therefore resolved that – the motion was lost.**

# COUNCIL

Wednesday, 15 May 2024

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

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

<u>Apologies</u>	Councillors	C Baldwin	P Martin
		C Carubia	R Molyneux
		N Graham	A Onwuemene
		G Jenkinson	J Walsh
		T Jones	V Wilson

## 99 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Members of the Council were invited 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.

## 100 CIVIC MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Civic Mayor noted that apologies were received from Councillors Colin Baldwin, Chris Carubia, Naomi Graham, Gail Jenkinson, Tony Jones, Paul Martin, Ruth Molyneux and Amanda Onwuemene, Jason Walsh, and Vida Wilson

The Civic Mayor welcomed Members to Birkenhead Town Hall and spoke of his Honour to have served as Mayor in Wirral and thanked to his wife Irene Williams who helped support over 300 Mayoral engagements.

Highlights of the Civic Year included the opening of the Landican Memorial Gardens, welcoming the Peruvian ambassador, meeting with Guides and Scouting groups, Attending 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday parties, and meeting isolated residents in their homes.

The Civic year had also included the annual Mayors Tea Dance, Civic Ball and the Liverpool Santa Dash, raising money for the Mayoral Charities. The Civic Mayor also noted his appreciation to the many heritage and cultural groups in Wirral, noting that the Hidden Gardens of Oxtun event was supported by 90 Volunteers.

The Civic Mayor also expressed his gratitude to the team who supported the Open Golf Tournament in Hoylake, noting that the event had been a great success. Thanks also went to the Deputy Mayor, The Civic Office, family, and friends for their support during the Civic Year.

#### 101 **ELECTION OF CIVIC MAYOR 2024/25**

The Civic Mayor invited nominations for election of the Civic Mayor for the ensuing municipal year.

On a motion moved by Councillor Jeff Green, seconded by Councillor Paul Stuart and, in the absence of any other nominations, it was,

**Resolved (unanimously) – That Councillor Cherry Povall be elected Civic Mayor of the Metropolitan Borough of Wirral for the 2024/25 municipal year.**

Councillor Povall proceeded to make her declaration of acceptance of office and the retiring Civic Mayor, Councillor Williams vacated the Chair. Councillor Povall occupied the Chair. The new Civic Mayor welcomed her guests and spoke to her election.

#### 102 **ELECTION OF DEPUTY CIVIC MAYOR 2024/25**

The Civic Mayor invited nominations for the election of a Deputy Civic Mayor for the ensuing municipal year.

On a motion moved by Councillor Paul Stuart, seconded by Councillor Jeff Green and in the absence of any other nominations, it was

**Resolved (unanimously) – That Councillor Brian Kenny be appointed Deputy Civic Mayor of the Metropolitan Borough of Wirral for the 2024/25 municipal year. The new Deputy Civic Mayor proceeded to make his declaration of acceptance of office**

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# COUNCIL

Wednesday, 22 May 2024

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

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

Apologies Councillors G Davies P Martin  
J Johnson R Pitt  
D Kenny

## 1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Civic Mayor Adjourned the Council Meeting at 6:00pm due to protestors disrupting the meeting.

The meeting resumed at 6:40pm

The Civic Mayor and Group Leaders then spoke to the adjournment.

Members of the Council were invited 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 the interest.

No such declarations were made

## 2 **CIVIC MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Civic Mayor announced that apologies for absence were received from Councillors Graham Davies, Jenny Johnson, Daisy Kenny, Ritchie Pitt, and Paul Martin.

## 3 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 18 March 2024 had been circulated to Members.

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

**Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 18 March 2024 be approved and adopted as a correct record.**

## 4 **MATTERS REQUIRING APPROVAL OR CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL**

In accordance with Standing Order 1.3 four matters had been submitted for approval by the Council (see minutes 5 to 8 post).

## 5 **ADOPTION OF A REVISED COUNCIL CONSTITUTION**

The first item requiring approval was a referral from Constitution and Standards Committee, to adopt a revised Constitution including revision to the Officer Code of Conduct, Member Officer Protocol, Media Protocol, Financial Procedure Rules, Members Allowance Scheme, Public Questions and Petitions, the Licensing Code of Good Practice. Also included was a recommendation from the Monitoring Officer for minor amendments.

It was moved by Councillor Tony Cox, seconded by Councillor Phil Gilchrist, that the recommendations as detailed in the report be agreed

It was then moved by Councillor Pat Cleary, seconded by Councillor Jo Bird, that,

'In addition to the recommendations detailed in the report, that a further recommendation 3 be included,

*(3) That in respect to Part 3(B) Responsibility for Functions – (B) Committees, an additional paragraph be included as follows - All committees adhere to the requirements of Section 15 (as amended) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 in their composition for political proportionality. In the*



*appointment of Chairs and Vice Chairs, the Council chooses to apply the principle of proportionality so that the number of Chairs and Vice Chairs appointed represents the same proportionality as its council membership.'*

Following a number of members talking to the amendment, a number of Members rose to request a recorded vote on the amendment in accordance with Standing Order 17.4 as follows,

For

(14) Councillors Jo Bird, Pat Cleary, Chris Cooke, Harry Gorman, Naomi Graham, Judith Grier, Gail Jenkinson, Ed Lamb, Craig McDonald, Ruth Molyneux, Kieran Murphy, Amanda Onwuemene, Ewan Tomeny and Jason Walsh

Against

(46) Councillors Ann Ainsworth, Colin Baldwin, Paula Basnett, Gary Bennett, Stephen Bennett, Max Booth, Allan Brame, Helen Cameron, Chris Carubia, Tony Cox, Angie Davies, George Davies, Steve Foulkes, Gardener Phil Gilchrist, Jeff Green, Liz Grey, Brenda Hall, Andrew Hodson, Kathy Hodson, Paul Jobson, Tony Jones, Mary Jordan, Stuart Kelly, Brian Kenny, Tom Laing, Ian Lewis, Louise Luxon-Kewley, Grahame McManus, Julie McManus, Simon Mountney, Tony Murphy, Cherry Povall, Sue Powell-Wilde, Helen Raymond, Mike Redfern, Lesley Rennie, Jean Robinson, Mark Skillicorn, James Stewart Laing, Kaitlin Stuart, Paul Stuart, Mike Sullivan, Janette Williamson, Jerry Williams, Vida Wilson and Gill Wood.

Abstentions

(1) Councillor Cherry Povall

As the amendment was lost, the original motion was then put to the vote and was carried (60:0) (1 abstention) it was therefore –

**Resolved – that,**

**(1) the proposed amendments to the Constitution, as detailed in sections 3.2 to 3.15 of the report as recommended by the Constitution and Standards Committee be endorsed.**

**(2) the revised Constitution be adopted.**

6 **APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES**

The second item requiring approval was in relation to the appointment of committees.

It was moved by the Civic Mayor, seconded by Councillor Paul Stuart, that the appointment of committees as detailed in the Council Summons be approved for the 2024/25 municipal year.

An amendment was then moved by Councillor Jo Bird and Seconded by Councillor Pat Cleary that allocation of committee places be amended as set out in the Council Summons Supplement (pt 2)

Following a number of members speaking to the amendment, the amendment was put to the vote and lost (14:46) (1 abstention). The original motion was then put to the vote and was carried (46:14) (1 abstention). It was therefore –

**Resolved, that –**

**(1) the formation of those Committees set out in Part 3(B) of the revised Constitution be agreed and seats on the Committees be allocated as set out in Appendix 1.**

**(2) the Monitoring Officer be authorised as proper officer to carry out the wishes of the Leaders of Political Groups in allocating Members to membership and substitute membership of the committees or other authorities, and to appoint those Members with effect from the date at which the proper officer is advised of the names of such Members.**

**(3) the appointment of sub-committees, panels and statutory/advisory committees be delegated to the appropriate parent Committee of Council.**

**(4) Authority be delegated to the Monitoring Officer, to appoint Members to the Regulatory Panel of the Regulatory and General Purposes Committee and appoint Members to the Licensing Panel of the Licensing Committee, in consultation with the Chair and Spokespersons of these Committees, to enable meetings of either, or both, of these panels, if required, prior to their appointment at the first meetings of each of these committees.**

## **7 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRS AND VICE-CHAIRS OF COMMITTEES**

The third matter requiring approval was in relation to the appointment of Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Committees. In relation to the election of the Leader of the Council (and Chair of Policy & Resources Committee), it was

moved by Councillor Angie Davies, seconded by Councillor Jean Robinson, that Councillor Paul Stuart be elected.

The recommendation was then put to the vote and was carried (46:14) (1 abstention). It was therefore

**A. Resolved – (1) Councillor Paul Stuart be appointed Leader of the Council (Chair of the Policy and Resources Committee).**

Having been invited by the Civic Mayor to make his acceptance speech, Councillor Stuart then spoke to his election as Leader.

In relation to the election of the Deputy Leader of the Council (and Vice-Chair of Policy & Resources Committee), it was moved by Councillor Paul Stuart, seconded by Councillor Angie Davies, that Councillor Jean Robinson be elected.

The recommendation was then put to the vote and was carried (46:14) (1 abstention) it was therefore -

**B. Resolved – (2) That Councillor Jean Robinson be appointed Deputy Leader of the Council (Vice-Chair of the Policy and Resources Committee).**

In relation to the appointment of Chairs and Vice-Chairs, it was moved by Councillor Paul Stuart, seconded by Councillor Jean Robinson, that the Chairs and Vice-Chairs as listed in the supplementary agenda be appointed for the 2025/25 municipal year.

The Civic Mayor advised Members there were amendments to the appointment of Chairs and Vice Chairs by the Green group, to which the Director of Law and Corporate Services advised that these amendments were permissible within the constitution.

It was proposed by Cllr Amanda Onwuemene, seconded by Cllr Judith Grier, that Cllr Amanda Onwuemene is appointed as Chair of Children, Young People and Education committee.

It was proposed by Cllr Gail Jenkinson, seconded by Cllr Jason Walsh-McDonald that Cllr Gail Jenkinson is appointed as Chair of Audit & Risk Management committee.

It was proposed by Cllr Naomi Graham and seconded by Cllr Harry Gorman, that Cllr Naomi Graham is appointed as Vice Chair of Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport committee.

It was proposed by Cllr Kieran Murphy, seconded by Cllr Chris Cooke that

Cllr Kieran Murphy is appointed as Vice Chair of Regulatory & General Purposes committee.

Following a number of members speaking to the amendment, and Councillor Paul Stuart exercising his right of reply as mover of the original motion, Councillor Jeff Green moved that standing order 15.6 (b) be put aside and the Green Group amendments be voted for en bloc. This was seconded by Councillor Paul Stuart.

This motion was put to the vote and carried (45:15) (1 Abstention)

Therefore, the amendments were put to the vote and lost (14:46) (1 abstention).

The original motion was then put to the vote and was carried (46:1) (1 abstention). It was therefore –

**That Chairs and Vice-Chairs be appointed to Committees as referred to in the list circulated in the supplementary agenda, and that the appointments be as set out below.**

<b>Policy and Resources</b>	Paul Stuart	Jean Robinson
<b>Adult Social Care and Public Health</b>	Julie McManus	Phil Gilchrist
<b>Children, Young People and Education</b>	Sue Powell-Wilde	Chris Carubia
<b>Economy, Regeneration and Housing</b>	Tony Jones	Andrew Hodson
<b>Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport</b>	Liz Grey	Max Booth
<b>Tourism Communities, Culture and Leisure</b>	Ian Lewis	Ann Ainsworth
<b>Audit and Risk Management</b>	Helen Cameron	George Davies
<b>Pensions</b>	Steve Bennett	Jeff Green
<b>Planning</b>	Stuart Kelly	Steve Foulkes
<b>Regulatory and General Purposes</b>	Andrew Hodson	Steve Bennett

## 8 APPOINTMENTS AND NOMINATIONS TO OTHER BODIES AND ORGANISATIONS

The fourth matter requiring approval was in relation to the appointment of Members (and/or other individuals) to outside bodies and organisations.

It was moved by Councillor Paul Stuart, seconded by Councillor Jean Robinson, that the recommendations as detailed in the report be agreed.

It was then moved by Councillor Ed Lamb, seconded by Councillor Ruth Molyneux, that the requested additional wording (in bold) be added to recommendation 2,

*'Council is recommended to, (1) Note the list of outside bodies*

*(2) Authorise the Monitoring Officer as proper officer to carry out the wishes of the Leaders of Political Groups during the course of the municipal year, in allocating Members to membership and substitute membership where relevant, of the Outside Bodies listed at Appendix 1, and to appoint those Members with effect from the date at which the proper officer is advised of the names of such Members **with the exception of the Transport Committee of the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority whereby the nominations will be made on a politically proportionate basis – Labour Group 2 / Conservative Group 1/ Green Group***

Following a number of members speaking to the amendment, and Councillor Paul Stuart exercising his right of reply as mover of the original motion, the amendment was put to the vote and lost (14:46) (1 abstention).

The original motion was then put to the vote and was carried (60:0) (1 abstention). It was therefore,

**Resolved – That Council authorises the Monitoring Officer as proper officer to carry out the wishes of the Leaders of Political Groups in allocating Members to membership and substitute membership where relevant, of the Outside Bodies listed at Appendix 1, and to appoint those Members with effect from the date at which the proper officer is advised of the names of such Members.**

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## 15 CAPITAL OUTTURN REPORT 2023-24

The Director of finance presented the report, which detailed the Capital Outturn for 2023/24 and the resources used to fund the Programme. It recommended that Committee agreed the virements of budget identified since the Capital Programme was formally agreed on 26th February 2024.

### **Resolved – that,**

- 1. the financing of the Programme for 2023/24 be noted.**
- 2. the additional year-end net re-profiling of £24.9m from 2023/24 to 2024/25 be noted.**
- 3. the changes to the outturn attributable to movement in the Programme that occurred after the previous monitoring report to P&R on 26 February 2024 be noted.**
- 4. the funding of capital expenditure in 2023/24 including the use of £38.4m Grants and Contributions, £5.4m capital receipts and £34.3m of borrowing be noted.**
- 5. That council be recommended to approve the virements of budget referred to in Appendix 6 of this report.**

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## **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**Wednesday, 17 July 2024**

<b>REPORT TITLE:</b>	<b>2023-24 CAPITAL OUTTURN REPORT</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>DIRECTOR OF FINANCE</b>

### **REPORT SUMMARY**

This report details the Capital Outturn for 2023/24 and the resources used to fund the Programme. It recommends that this Committee agree the virements of budget identified since the Capital Programme was formally agreed on 26th February 2024.

The report supports the delivery of the Council Plan: Wirral Working Together 2023-27 specifically in terms of the Efficient, Effective and Accessible Council theme. The Capital Programme also contributes towards projects that support all five Council Plan delivery themes.

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

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Policy and Resources Committee is requested to:

- 1 note the financing of the Programme for 2023/24.
- 2 note the additional year-end net re-profiling of £24.9m from 2023/24 to 2024/25.
- 3 note the changes to the outturn attributable to movement in the Programme that occurred after the previous monitoring report to P&R on 26 February 2024.
- 4 note the funding of capital expenditure in 2023/24 including the use of £38.4m Grants and Contributions, £5.4m capital receipts and £34.3m of borrowing.
- 5 recommend to Council the approval of the virements of budget referred to in Appendix 6 of this report.

## **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

### **1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 1.1 To inform the committee of the capital position for 2023/24 against the approved budget, revisions, including income and expenditure. To assure the committee funding available has been best allocated in accordance with the Council Plan,
- 1.2 To present to the committee the final outturn position for 2023/24
- 1.3 Regular monitoring and reporting of the Capital Programme enable 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 The Capital Programme 2023/24 was considered by Policy and Resources Committee on 15th February 2023 and approved by Council on 27th February 2023. The Programme contributes towards projects that supports the delivery of the Council Plan: Wirral Working Together 2023-27 specifically in terms of the Efficient, Effective and Accessible Council theme. The Capital Programme also contributes towards projects that support all five Council Plan delivery themes. It was highlighted that the Council's revenue budget position limited scope for unsupported capital expenditure.
- 3.2 Policy and Resources Committee received regular updates in respect of capital monitoring throughout the year. The last monitoring report, for Quarter three, was considered by Policy and Resources Committee on 26 February 2024. Since then, work has been on-going in order to conclude the accounts for the financial year.
- 3.3 During the year the Programme was regularly reviewed which resulted in schemes being deferred to future years along with the supporting funding. This resulted in reduced Treasury Management costs through a reduced need to borrow in 2023/24.

#### **Capital Outturn**

- 3.4 The capital expenditure for the year was £78.316m of spend over 99 active schemes during the year, compared to the revised programme of £97.103m which was reported in February 2024 (Quarter 3).. This is summarised in Table 1.
- 3.5 The outturn also includes the Devolved Formula Capital of £0.546m. This is direct funding delegated to schools to maintain their buildings and fund other small scale capital projects. Please see Appendix 1 Table 1.2.
- 3.6 As a result of the £34.269m borrowed to finance the Capital Programme in 2023/24, the General Fund will be charged with its first repayment via the Minimum Revenue

Provision (MRP) in 2024/25 of £0.754m. This will bring the total MRP charge for 2024/25 to £6.966m for unsupported borrowing associated with delivering the Capital Programme.

### 3.7 Capital Programme 2023/24 Position by Directorate

**Table 1: Capital Outturn 2023/24 Position by Directorate**

Programme	Q3		Outturn Q4 £m	Variance £m	Variance %
	Approved 2023/24 Budget £m	Revised Budget £m			
Adult Care & Health	3.285	1.560	0.435	-1.125	-72%
Children, Families & Education	14.293	10.561	9.221	-1.340	-13%
Corporate Schemes	0	0.000	2.900	2.900	-
Neighbourhoods	11.874	24.369	21.166	-3.203	-13%
Regeneration & Place	93.125	55.307	38.900	-16.407	-30%
Resources	9.662	5.306	5.694	0.388	7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>132.239</b>	<b>97.103</b>	<b>78.316</b>	<b>-18.787</b>	<b>-19%</b>

### Capital Programme 2023/24 Position by Committee

**Table 2: Capital Outturn 2023/24 Position by Committee**

Programme	Approved	Q3		Variance £m	Variance %
	2023/24 Budget £m	Revised Budget £m	Q4 Outturn £m		
Adult Social Care & Health	3.285	1.560	0.435	-1.125	-72%
Children, Young People & Education	14.293	10.561	9.221	-1.340	-13%
Economy, Regeneration & Housing	86.171	49.556	35.898	-13.658	-28%
Environment, Climate Emergency & Transport	9.923	21.658	17.697	-3.961	-18%
Policy & Resources	13.326	9.210	10.045	0.835	9%
Tourism, Communities, Culture & Leisure	5.241	4.558	5.020	0.462	10%
<b>Total</b>	<b>132.239</b>	<b>97.103</b>	<b>78.316</b>	<b>-18.787</b>	<b>-19%</b>

3.8 Tables 1 and 2 show the 2023/24 outturn position on the 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 in quarterly reporting. These include variations to spend forecasts and inclusion of additional grant funding and external contributions. Appendix 1 of this report provides further analysis of the movement in the Programme through to 2023/24 outturn.

3.9 The main movements in the Programme are in respect of deferrals of funding into future years (£146.087m) due to revised delivery of the Capital Programme. Deferrals reduce the borrowing costs incurred during 2023/24 and also delay the resultant Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) charges into future years. Schemes that have seen significant budget deferral activity specifically within Quarter 4 are detailed within Appendix 3 of this report.

### **Scheme Updates**

- 3.10 Given the budgetary pressures that the Council faces, a review of the Programme continues and identifies schemes with the directorates, which may no longer be financially viable, essential, or deliverable.
- 3.11 Schemes are subject to an ongoing review to ensure that a deliverable Programme is in place, that they are compatible with the Council Plan 2023/2027 priorities and to try and identify any savings. Current progress on the more significant schemes is provided in Appendix 5 of this report. The report supports the delivery of the Council Plan: Wirral Working Together 2023-27 specifically in terms of the Efficient, Effective and Accessible Council theme. The Capital Programme also contributes towards projects that support all five Council Plan delivery themes.
- 3.12 Scheme costs are constantly monitored by project officers. Due to record high inflationary pressures within the economy, financial monitoring of schemes is of upmost 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 that may jeopardise the delivery of a scheme will be reported. 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.

### **Grant Funded Schemes**

3.13 Since the Capital budget was approved, the following grants have been awarded to either enable new / budgeted schemes to take place, or to further the funding available for existing schemes within the Programme. There is no request for new Council funding to be considered as part of these schemes. The Section 151 Officer has the power to accept grant funding subject to reporting to the relevant committee. Full details available in Appendix 2.

**Table 3: Grant Funded Schemes**

<b>Directorate</b>	<b>Grant</b>	<b>Awarding Body</b>	<b>£m</b>	<b>Existing Scheme</b>
Children, Families & Education	Connect the Classroom	Department for Education (DfE)	0.768	No
Children, Families & Education	Devolved Formula Capital	Department for Education (DfE)	0.546	Yes
Children, Families & Education	High Needs Provision Capital Allocation	Department for Education (DfE)	2.975	Yes

Directorate	Grant	Awarding Body	£m	Existing Scheme
Neighbourhoods	Further Pothole Fund	Department for Transport (DfT)	0.547	Yes
Regeneration & Place	Dig Once	Liverpool City Region Combined Authority (LCRCA)	0.065	Yes
Neighbourhoods	Kingsmead School Playing Field	Section 106	0.451	Yes
Regeneration & Place	Local Authority Housing Fund (LAHF)	Local Authority Housing Fund (LAHF)	1.056	Yes
Regeneration & Place	SUD Leasowe to Seacombe Corridor - Funding Reduction	Liverpool City Region Combined Authority (LCRCA)	- 2.587	Yes
		<b>Total</b>	<b>3.821</b>	

### 3.14 Virements

Appendix 6 of this report lists the budget virements that have been identified where schemes have been reviewed and deemed 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.

### 3.15 Capital Funding Requirements

**Table 4 Financing the Capital Programme 2023/24**

Source of Financing	Programme at Q3 £m	Programme 31 March 2024 £m	Variance £m
Borrowing	38.398	34.269	-4.129
Grants/Contributions	53.761	38.354	-15.407
Capital Receipts	2.289	5.400	3.111
Revenue/Reserves	2.655	0.293	-2.362
<b>Total</b>	<b>97.103</b>	<b>78.316</b>	<b>-18.787</b>

3.16 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.

3.17 Any unused grant, subject to conditions, has been carried forward into 2024/25 and will be matched against future spend. The Programme was managed to ensure that any grant with a risk of claw back due to time constraints or other factors was fully utilised in 2023/24. Similarly, any external contributions that have not been used will be carried forward into 2024/25.

## Capital Receipts

- 3.18 The Capital Receipts Reserve contains the proceeds of fixed assets sales that are available to meet the future capital investment. Table 4 shows the movements in the Capital Receipts Reserve during 2023/24. Receipts for the year totalled £10.983m (including receipts relating to debt repayments and earmarked receipts) with a balance of £4.093m available at 31 March 2024. Not all receipts can be applied to fund any Transformational activity however, as some may be ringfenced to apply for example to educational schemes of £1.733m.
- 3.19 In accordance with the Capital Receipts flexibilities introduced by the Government capital receipts generated between 1 April 2016 and 31 March 2025 can be used to support transformation of services that results in efficiencies. This flexibility was utilised within 2023/24 as shown below.

**Table 5: Capital Receipts Reserve**

	<b>£m</b>
<b>Balance as at 1 April 2023</b>	<b>2.979</b>
Total Receipts Received	10.983
Receipts Applied to Debt Repayment	-4.469
Receipts Used for Capital Financing	-2.500
Flexible Use of Capital Receipts	<u>-2.900</u>
<b>Balance as at 31 March 2023</b>	<b><u>4.093</u></b>

Note: the figures in the table above are subject to the external audit of the Statement of Accounts.

## Compliance with Prudential Indicators

- 3.20 The Authority confirms that it has complied with its Prudential Indicators for 2023/24 originally approved on 27 February 2023 as part of the Capital Strategy 2023/24. Details can be found in Appendix 7.

### 3.21 Capital Programme Risks

The Capital Budget is prepared on the best estimate of the start date and spend profile for each scheme which is likely to change as the scheme develops. The project cash flow will be variable throughout the life of a project, and therefore the forecast expenditure in each financial year will also vary. This report therefore considers the total life and cost of schemes and the risks associated with their development. All projects carry risk such as delivery risk, third party risk and market risk, including build cost and inflation.

- 3.22 Where funding sources for the Programme are time-limited, officers will continue to monitor progress against these schemes to seek to maximise the level of grant funding used.

## Future Capital Programme Matters

### 3.23 The Hythe, Tower Road South

Members at the Cabinet Meeting of 30th September 2019 agreed to the Council entering into a PUT/CALL option with Peel L&P to enable them to nullify the risk of them constructing, The Hythe, a speculative 3,116sq.m Grade 'A' office on Tower Road. There is potential for Peel to exercise its PUT option within this financial year which will commit the Council to purchase a controlling interest in the Hythe via a 250-year leasehold interest from them. The Regeneration and Place directorate will follow due governance process for the provision of capital funding to be added to the Capital Programme via the quarterly capital monitoring reports during 2024/25.

## 4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 This report sets out the 2023/24 Capital outturn position. 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). The Council required borrowing of £34.269m this year to finance the capital schemes covered by this report. This level of borrowing has decreased from the forecast £38.398m in the Q3 Capital Monitoring Report. This debt will be repaid via charges to the revenue budget over the lives of the assets created or enhanced. The revenue impact repaying the £34.269m of borrowing required to finance works in 2023/24 is as follows:

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

	2024/25 £m	2025/26 £m	2026/27 £m	2027/28 £m
Additional MRP costs to revenue	0.754	0.792	0.832	0.874

### 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 MRP costs to revenue 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 2073/74 at £1.166 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 one will have more purchasing power than £1 in year ten.
- 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).

## **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 Committee to implement it. The Committee 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.

7.2 The possible failure to deliver the Revenue Budget is being mitigated by:

- Senior Leadership / Directorate Teams regularly reviewing the financial position.
- Availability of General Fund Balances.
- Where possible, reprofiling of 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 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 Environment and Climate Emergency Action Plan that was compiled following the declaration of a Climate Emergency by the Council in July 2019. Within the existing Capital Programme there are projects that positively contribute to environmental issues, such as the capital bid listed in the report, associated with the PSDS fund bid. 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.
- 10.3 Within the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2022-27, capital requests are considered to include those that support the Council's Climate Emergency Action Plan following the declaration of a Climate Emergency by the Council in May 2019.

## **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 1 Movement Between Opening Budget and Outturn Position
- Appendix 2 New Grant Funded Schemes
- Appendix 3 Significant Variances
- Appendix 4 Directorate Schemes with Highest Spend
- Appendix 5 Scheme Updates
- Appendix 6 Virements Within Quarter 4
- Appendix 7 Prudential Indicators 2024/25

## **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)**

<b>Council Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>
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
Council – 2023/24 Capital Monitoring Q1	09 October 2023
Council – 2023/24 Capital Monitoring Q2	13 December 2023
Council – 2023/24 Capital Monitoring Q3	26 February 2024

## Appendix 1

Table 1.1 Movement of Capital Programme between Q3 Revised Budget and Outturn Position at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024

Programme	Revised Budget Q3 £m	Additional Grant £m	Funding Adjustments (inc Virements) £m	New Bids £m	Scheme Reduction £m	Reprofiling to Future Yrs £m	Actual Spend 31 Mar 24 £m
Adult Care & Health	1.560	-	-	-	-	-1.125	0.435
Children, Families & Education	10.561	4.289	0.230	-	-	-5.859	9.221
Corporate Schemes	-	-	2.900	-	-	-	2.900
Neighbourhoods	24.369	0.998	0.313	-	-	-4.514	21.166
Regeneration & Place	55.307	0.065	-0.013	-	-2.587	-13.872	38.900
Resources	5.306	-	-	-	-	0.388	5.694
<b>Total</b>	<b>97.103</b>	<b>5.352</b>	<b>3.430</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>-2.587</b>	<b>-24.982</b>	<b>78.316</b>

**Table 1.2 Movement of Capital Programme Q1 through to Outturn Position at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024**

**2023/24**

	<b>Original Programme (Approved by P&amp;R) £'000</b>	<b>Q1 Forecast £'000</b>	<b>Q2 Forecast £'000</b>	<b>Q3 Forecast £'000</b>	<b>23/24 Actual £'000</b>	<b>Variance £m</b>
<b>Adult Care and Health</b>						
Better Care Fund (Disabled Facilities Grant)	-	433	-	-	-	-
Citizen and Provider Portal/Integrated I.T.	-	63	63	63	10	53
Extra Care Housing	1,645	1,057	-	-	-	-
Liquidlogic - Early Intervention & Prevention	-	214	214	45	-	45
Telecare & Telehealth Ecosystem	1,640	1,019	1,452	1,452	425	1,027
<b>Total Adult Social Care and Health</b>	<b>3,285</b>	<b>2,786</b>	<b>1,729</b>	<b>1,560</b>	<b>435</b>	<b>1,125</b>
<b>Children, Families &amp; Education</b>						
Basic Needs	527	100	100	424	43	381
Children's System Development	794	807	807	807	549	1,027
Condition/modernisation (SCA)	8,157	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,048	48
Connect the Classroom	-	-	-	-	767	-
Devolved Formula Capital	-	-	-	-	546	-
<b>Childrens, Families &amp; Education</b>						

2023/24

	Original Programme (Approved by P&R) £'000	Q1 Forecast £'000	Q2 Forecast £'000	Q3 Forecast £'000	23/24 Actual £'000	Variance £m
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Family Hub Transformation Fund	-	-	-	167	82	- 85
Family support	157	137	137	-	-	-
High Needs Provision Capital	4,010	2,000	2,000	3,468	1,612	1,856
PFI	49	52	52	-	-	-
School remodelling and additional classrooms (School Place Planning)	-	1	1	-	27	27
School Works - Department for Education Ringfenced Receipts	-	-	-	-	1	1
SEN and disabilities (new grant)	599	350	350	-	-	-
Transforming Care - Therapeutic Short Breaks	-	863	863	695	546	149
<b>Total Children, Families &amp; Education</b>	<b>14,293</b>	<b>9,310</b>	<b>9,310</b>	<b>10,561</b>	<b>9,222</b>	<b>1,339</b>
<b>Corporate Schemes</b>						
Transformational Capitalisation	-	-	-	-	2,900	2,900
<b>Total Corporate Schemes</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,900</b>	<b>2,900</b>

## 2023/24

Original  
Programme  
(Approved  
by P&R)  
£'000

Q1  
Forecast  
£'000

Q2  
Forecast  
£'000

Q3  
Forecast  
£'000

23/24  
Actual  
£'000

Variance  
£m

**Neighbourhoods**

Air Quality Control DEFRA	-	80	80	80	85	5
Allotment Sites Expansion	64	48	48	48	22	26
Arts Council Capital LIF	-	14	14	14	-	14
Ashton Park Lake	147	96	96	126	174	48
Birkenhead Park World Heritage Project Team	85	57	57	-	-	-
Bridges excluding Dock Bridge	260	596	287	287	160	127
Catering Units	160	107	107	107	-	107
Cemetery Extension & Improvements (Frankby)	142	95	95	95	2	93
Churchyard Boundary & Landican Cememetry Structural	56	37	37	37	-	37
Climate Emergency Budget	-	35	35	35	29	6
Coastal Defence - Meols Feasibility Study	70	67	67	-	-	-
Combined Authority Transport Plan (CATP)	1,354	2,475	2,435	2,435	1,236	1,199
Coronation Park Sustainable Drainage	-	148	148	-	-	-
<b>Neighbourhoods cont.</b>	-					-

## 2023/24

	Original Programme (Approved by P&R) £'000	Q1 Forecast £'000	Q2 Forecast £'000	Q3 Forecast £'000	23/24 Actual £'000	Variance £m
Defibrillators		9	9	9	1	8
DfT Funding Highways Maintenance and Improvements	-	-	765	765	-	765
Dock Bridges replacement	-	140	140	140	-	140
Environmental Improvements	-	75	75	75	-	75
Essential H&S Access Improvements @ Wirral Country Park	-	1	1	1	-	1
Essential H&S Infrastructure Improvements @ Wirral Country Park	-	-	206	206	14	192
Fitness Equipment	-	2	2	2	-	2
Flaybrick Cemetery Pathway	200	193	200	200	-	200
Future Golf – Project 1.1	187	125	125	125	58	67
Grange Cemetery	45	30	45	45	-	45
Highway Maintenance	563	4,642	4,642	4,642	5,588	946
Key Route Network (LGF3) – Operate Key Roads / Routes Efficiently	-	111	111	111	-	111
Key Route Network CRSTS	500	1,171	1,171	1,171	303	868
Kingsmead School – Playing Field S106	-	-	-	-	54	
<b>Neighbourhoods cont.</b>	-	25	25	25	26	1



## 2023/24

	Original Programme (Approved by P&R) £'000	Q1 Forecast £'000	Q2 Forecast £'000	Q3 Forecast £'000	23/24 Actual £'000	Variance £m
Levelling Up Parks Fund-Woodchurch						
Library Radio Frequency Identification Kiosks	80	80	80	80	80	0
Moreton Sandbrook Drainage	180	135	135	-	-	-
New Brighton Gym Equipment	-	2	2	2	-	2
New Ferry Rangers Community Clubhouse	500	562	662	662	956	294
Parks Machinery	2,136	1,424	2,090	2,090	1,330	760
Parks Vehicles	580	387	580	580	127	453
Parks Workshop & various machinery	135	90	135	135	2	133
Play Area Improvements	127	118	118	118	74	44
Plymyard Cemetery Roadways	20	50	50	50	67	17
Plymyard Playing Field	127	89	89	89	18	71
Quick Win Levy	-	10	10	25	-	25
Removal of remaining analogue CCTV circuits	-	-	-	-	3	3
Street Lighting -Column Replacement & Signage	200	322	322	340	536	196
<b>Neighbourhoods cont.</b>						
Street Lighting -Illuminated Lighting and Signage	-	18	18	-	-	-
Studio refurbishment Les Mills classes	-					-

## 2023/24

	Original Programme (Approved by P&R) £'000	Q1 Forecast £'000	Q2 Forecast £'000	Q3 Forecast £'000	23/24 Actual £'000	Variance £m
		10	10	10	-	10
Surface Water Management Scheme	-	38	38	-	-	-
Tower Road National Productivity Investment Fund (NPIF)	-	105	5	5	9	4
Traffic Signal LED Upgrade	655	777	1,432	777	703	74
Tree Strategy	34	43	43	43	92	49
Urban Tree Challenge Fund	-	98	98	98	78	20
Wallasey Embankment Toe Reinforcement	608	-	-	-	21	21
West Kirby Flood alleviation	-	5,755	4,959	4,959	4,950	9
Williamson Art Gallery Catalogue	-	37	37	37	-	37
Williamson Art Gallery Ventilation	-	192	192	192	-	192
Wirral Tennis Centre - 3G Pitch	900	710	710	710	1,064	354
Wirral Tennis Centre - Facility Upgrade	-	343	343	1,345	1,345	0
Wirral Way Widening	9	70	70	70	41	29
<b>Neighbourhoods cont.</b>						
Woodchurch Sports Pavilion	1,750	1,171	1,171	1,171	1,920	749
<b>Total Neighbourhoods</b>	<b>11,874</b>	<b>23,015</b>	<b>24,422</b>	<b>24,369</b>	<b>21,166</b>	<b>3,203</b>

## 2023/24

	Original Programme (Approved by P&R) £'000	Q1 Forecast £'000	Q2 Forecast £'000	Q3 Forecast £'000	23/24 Actual £'000	Variance £m
<b>Regeneration &amp; Place</b>						
Active Travel Tranche 2	-	1,011	740	740	214	526
Aids, Adaptations and Disabled Facility Grants	2,889	4,830	5,242	5,500	6,492	992
Arrowe Country Park - New Machine Shed & Wash Bay	108	73	13	-	4	4
Arrowe Country Park Depot: Re-Surfacing, Material Bays & Electronic Entrance Barrier	26	18	18	-	-	-
Bebington Oval Facility Upgrade	685	351	151	-	-	-
Birkenhead Market Construction	13,300	1,500	1,500	1,909	1,017	892
Birkenhead Regeneration Delivery Fund	15,024	1,034	1,034	1,034	1,997	963
Birkenhead Regeneration Framework	-	210	210	200	89	111
Birkenhead Town Centre Masterplanning & Housing Delivery	265	193	193	193	248	55
Birkenhead Town Centre Sub-Station	-	-	4,500	-	10	10
<b>Regeneration &amp; Place cont.</b>						
Birkenhead Waterfront Programme	-	1,030	1,030	1,030	227	803
Business Investment Fund	585	50	50	-	-	-
Capitalisation of Regen Salaries	1,000	971	971	971	0	971
Changing Places Toilets	20	91	91	91	96	5

## 2023/24

	Original Programme (Approved by P&R) £'000	Q1 Forecast £'000	Q2 Forecast £'000	Q3 Forecast £'000	23/24 Actual £'000	Variance £m
Clearance	191	127	127	160	7	153
Concerto Asset Management System	-	17	17	17	-	17
Connecting Wirral Waters: Detailed Design	-	28	42	42	17	25
Consolidated Library Works Fund	279	186	186	50	66	16
Demolitions	1,380	897	367	2,522	491	2,031
Depot Welfare Improvements	-	30	30	30	32	2
Empty Property Grant Scheme	419	210	210	265	267	2
Emslie Morgan (Solar Campus)	-	298	298	797	209	588
Energy efficient buildings	370	247	247	44	55	11
FHSF New Ferry	2,685	1,000	1,000	1,000	134	866
<b>Regeneration &amp; Place cont.</b>						
Floral Pavilion	75	67	67	67	72	5
Future High Streets - Birkenhead	9,579	4,000	9,125	8,716	340	8,376
Health & Safety - Condition Surveys	1,614	1,143	837	337	295	42
Heswall Day Centre (part only)	50	33	33	33	-	33
Hind Street Programme	-	1,499	1,499	1,499	1,790	291

## 2023/24

	Original Programme (Approved by P&R) £'000	Q1 Forecast £'000	Q2 Forecast £'000	Q3 Forecast £'000	23/24 Actual £'000	Variance £m
Landican Chapels	40	27	27	-	-	-
Leisure Capital Improvement Programme	600	-	-	-	154	154
Liscard Town Centre Delivery	-	7	7	7	15	8
Local Authority Housing Fund 2	-	-	4,225	4,225	973	3,252
Major Infrastructure Development & Strategic Transport Forward Planning - Traffic Management	200	140	210	210	157	53
Maritime Knowledge hub	12,351	100	100	-	19	19
Moreton Youth Club & Library	500	662	662	-	-	-
New Brighton Masterplan for Marine Promenade <b>Regeneration &amp; Place cont.</b>	40	30	30	40	62	22
New Ferry Regeneration Strategic Acquisitions	118	500	500	500	429	71
Office Quarter Building Fit-Out	4,613	9,248	9,387	9,387	6,150	3,237
Parks and Countryside DDA	420	281	281	2	2	0
Pool Covers	-	168	168	242	207	35
Property Pooled Plus I.T System	11	13	13	10	7	3
Soft Play Areas Leisure Centres Strategic Acquisition Fund	- 3,600	273	273	-	-	-

## 2023/24

	Original Programme (Approved by P&R) £'000	Q1 Forecast £'000	Q2 Forecast £'000	Q3 Forecast £'000	23/24 Actual £'000	Variance £m
		10,500	10,500	10,500	12,409	1,909
Strategic Acquisitions - Capital Enhancements	-	333	333	333	474	141
SUD - Leasowe to Seacombe Corridor	-	-	140	140	611	471
TAG Bus Case-A41 Corridor North	-	128	75	75	-	75
TAG Bus Case-Wirral Waters outline	-	26	26	26	4	22
Town Centre scheme - New Ferry	-	3	3	3	9	6
Town Centre - New Ferry	-	-	-	-	15	
Town Deal Fund - Birkenhead	12,491	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,655	655
<b>Regeneration &amp; Place cont.</b>						-
Town Fund Birkenhead	-	35	35	35	-	35
UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF)	109	117	117	117	90	27
Vale Park Toilets	-	67	67	107	207	100
West Kirby Concourse/Guinea Gap Reception upgrade	351	234	34	-	-	-
West Kirby Marine Lake/Sailing Centre – accommodation	127	62	62	62	20	42
West Kirby Masterplan	10	39	39	39	62	23
Wirral Waters Investment Fund	7,000	-	-	-	-	-

## 2023/24

	Original Programme (Approved by P&R) £'000	Q1 Forecast £'000	Q2 Forecast £'000	Q3 Forecast £'000	23/24 Actual £'000	Variance £m
<b>Total Regeneration &amp; Place</b>	<b>93,125</b>	<b>46,137</b>	<b>59,142</b>	<b>55,307</b>	<b>38,900</b>	<b>16,407</b>
<b>Resources</b>						
Creative & Digital Team - specialist software and hardware	5	6	6	6	2	4
Customer Experience Improvements Project	572	738	738	450	483	33
Digital Foundations Programme	900	1,302	1,302	1,000	996	4
ERP	5,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,599	99
Legal Case Management System	-	8	8	8	-	8
Local Digital Cyber Fund	-	109	109	-	0	0
Replacement of ITSM	-	173	173	173	-	173
Upgrade of WIFI Network	-	-	-	-	21	21
Worksmart I.T.	-	77	77	77	303	226
IT Client Refreshment, Laptops, Desktops & Tablets	2,685	1,790	1,790	2,092	2,290	198
<b>Total Resources</b>	<b>9,662</b>	<b>5,703</b>	<b>5,703</b>	<b>5,306</b>	<b>5,694</b>	<b>388</b>
<b>TOTAL PROGRAMME</b>	<b>132,239</b>	<b>86,951</b>	<b>100,306</b>	<b>97,103</b>	<b>78,316</b>	<b>18,787</b>

## Appendix 2

### New Grant Funded Schemes

#### **Connect the Classroom – (Department for Education DfE) - £0.768m**

Connect the classroom is a £200m government-funded programme to improve internet speed in schools, first published on 7th June 2023. This is done by upgrading Wi-Fi access points and network switches. The programme will run until 2025 and is applied for directly by the schools.

#### **Devolved Formula Capital – (DfE) - £0.546m**

This is direct funding delegated to schools to maintain their buildings and fund other small scale capital projects.

#### **High Needs Provision Capital Allocation (DfE) - £2.975m**

This grant is paid to Local Authorities to support the creation of new High Needs places or the improvement of existing provision (for pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) or requiring Alternative Provision (AP)

#### **Department for Transport (DfT) Further Pothole Fund - £0.547m**

Funding to repair potholes and maintain and otherwise improve any road for which the council has maintenance responsibilities.

#### **Liverpool City Region Combined Authority (LCRCA) Dig Once - £0.065m**

Contribution towards the Sustainable Urban Development (SUD) Leasowe to Secombe Corridor works.

#### **Kingsmead School Playing Field (Section106) - £0.451m**

Kingsmead School was a private school, now closed. When it closed it sold its playing fields to a developer for housing. As this represented a 'loss' of playing fields the developer was required to pay a S106 contribution for the re-creation of the lost playing fields. Within the S106 agreement, legally binding between the developer and the Council, it was agreed that the local authority use the contribution to finance these works on land off Sandringham Avenue.

#### **Local Authority Housing Fund - £1.056m**

This is an increase in existing funding to secure 5 more properties to support those who have been resettled. Included is £0.483m Grant and match funding of £0.573m from funding already received and S106 monies.

#### **Grant reduction – SUD Leasowe to Seacombe Corridor - £2.587m**

Adjustment to the Regeneration Strategic Transport Capital Programme due to the WP7 schemes not going ahead. As a result, the Combined Authority have made amendments to the grant funding agreement.



## Appendix 3

### Significant Variations in Quarter 4

Table 3.1 – Schemes with Significant Budget Deferral Adjustments in Quarter 4

<b>Directorate</b>	<b>Scheme</b>	<b>Q4 Budget Deferral £m</b>
Children, Families & Education	High Needs Provision Capital	4.831
Neighbourhoods	Combined Authority Transport Plan (CATP)	1.199
	DfT Funding Highways Maintenance and Improvements	1.312
Regeneration & Place	Demolitions	2.031
	Future High Streets - Birkenhead	8.347
	Local Authority Housing Fund 2	3.252
	Office Quarter Building Fit-Out	3.248
Various	Other Adjustments	0.762
	<b>Total Budget Deferral in Q4</b>	<b>24.982</b>

**Table 3.2 – Summary of Significant Programme Variations in Quarter 4**

<b>Directorate</b>	<b>Scheme</b>	<b>Q4 Budget Deferral £m</b>	<b>Departmental Comments</b>
Children, Families & Education	High Needs Provision Capital	4.831	£2.9m was deferred due to a change in allocation which was received and announced late in the financial year for High Needs Provision Allocation grant therefore, this will be utilised in 2024-25 and £1.4m was allocated to schemes for which the work will start in future years.
Neighbourhoods	Combined Authority Transport Plan (CATP)	1.199	Continuation of project into 2024/25 programme.
	DfT Funding Highways Maintenance and Improvements	1.312	There was no expenditure in 2023/24 due to a delay in commencing preparation work. This work will commence into 2024/25 Quarter 1, and it is expected that this scheme will be completed during the 2024/25 financial year.
Regeneration & Place	Demolitions	2.031	Currently 1 site is complete (Eastham Youth Club), 2 sites are in progress (Liscard Municipal & Wallasey Town Hall Annexes) and 2 still to begin in 2024/25 (Clare Mount School & Woodchurch Leisure Centre). The Brownfield grant which makes up most of the £2.031m deferral relates specifically to works at Wallasey Town Hall - Annexes but expands beyond the demolition and should lead to a Grant Fund Agreement between Wirral Council and developers.
	Future High Streets - Birkenhead	8.347	The FHSF grant budget was profiled to 2023/24, however on 13 September 2023 P&R Committee approved an invitation from DLUHC for the Council to participate in a Pathfinder

Simplification Pilot which streamlines Future High Streets Fund, Town Deal and the Council's Levelling Up Round 1 allocation into a single programme with a revised spend deadline of 31st March 2026. On 4 October Policy and Resources Committee delegated the Director of Regeneration and Place, in consultation with Group Leaders, to develop and submit the Pathfinder Investment Plan to DLUCH for approval. An Officer Decision Notice was published on 27 October 2023 providing details of the submitted Investment Plan (IP) and a decision from DLUCH was reached in late December 2023 approving this IP. We are awaiting the signed MoU from DLUHC which is expected imminently. There are also plans to onboard Levelling Up Fund Round 3 for Liscard to the Pilot in which approval for this process was given at P&R Committee in March 2024.

	Local Authority Housing Fund 2	3.252	Funding committed for housing acquisitions that have been identified and are currently in conveyancing. Target date for completions is on or before 31st August 2024.
	Office Quarter Building Fit-Out	3.248	Ongoing costs of the fit-out for the Birkenhead Commercial office buildings as approved at P&R on the 4 <sup>th</sup> of October 2023.
Various	Total of Other Deferrals Across the Programme	0.762	
	<b>Total Budget Deferral in Q4</b>	<b>24.982</b>	

## Appendix 4

### Capital Programme – Directorate Schemes with Highest Spend in 2023/24

#### 4.1 Adult Social Care & Health

- **Telecare & Telehealth Ecosystem (£0.425m)** –The Telecare and Telehealth Ecosystem element of the funding has been spent on equipment designed to enable people to remain safely in their own homes. The equipment “packages” typically consist of a series of sensors that work together to establish the routines and habits of the resident and report changes that provide an early indication of illness or deterioration of a long-term condition. Alarm buttons are also supplied in the event of an emergency. The equipment links to a base unit that collects the information and relays it to an alarm receiving centre. The analogue to digital transition of the Telecare Service by the end of 2024 remains on course. As of 1 May 2024, 82% of Telecare Service customers are now supported with digital systems. Wirral Council will have completed its transition one year ahead of the national deadline, minimising risk to residents and offering improved and more flexible services to customers.

#### 4.2 Children, Families & Education

- **School Condition Allocation (SCA) (£5.048m)** – £2.4m of spend on Kingsway Academy adaptations/ Claremount move phase 1 and Castleway & Leasowe Early Years schemes. £0.83m of spend on roof replacements for various schools. Still experiencing effects of the historic backlog in jobs and increased financial costs due to inflation rises and construction supply chain issues.
- **High Needs Provision Capital (£1.612m)**– To deliver additional classroom provision for Special Educational Needs (SEN) pupils across several Special schools. Current programme includes number of high-cost construction projects.

#### 4.3 Neighbourhoods

- **Combined Authority Transport Plan (CATP) (£1.236m)** - The spend in year relates to 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.
- **Highway Maintenance (£5.588m)** – In the financial year of 2023/24 we completed, some 25 HRA surfacing schemes, 22 footway refurbishments schemes, 54 footway surface treatments, 96 surface treatments to unclassified roads, 15 surface dressing sites, along with 6 concrete re-engineered roads, this was in addition to many roads being patched. The planned programme was fully completed, as set out in the annual plan.

- **Parks Machinery (£1.330m)** – There has been significant spend in 2023/24 with the remainder being carried forward to next year. There was a delay of spend this financial year due to items that it was not possible to procure through the initial procurement (e.g., Skips, Compact Flail's, Pedestrian Sweepers, and Gators). It is expected that all allocated funds will be spent in this financial year.
- **Wirral Tennis Centre 3G Pitch (£1.064m)** - The project involved the construction of a community size artificial football pitch (3G) with associated car parking on the vacant site adjacent to Bidston Sports and Leisure Centre and also included upgrades to the existing changing rooms. The project was made possible, due to the Council successfully securing investment of £893,680 (81%) from the Football Foundation, towards total project costs of £1,100,997. The pitch was formally handed over following practical completion on 23rd March 2024. The facilities were delivered within the overall budget and are now fully operational, generating revenues for the authority.
- **Wirral Tennis Centre Facility Upgrade (£1.345m)** - This included Refurbishment of Bidston Sport and Activity Centre with a renewed reception, café / servery area, gym, interactive spin studio, soft play and adventure play area as well as improvements to the outside car park. The main refurbishment works were project managed and designed by Alliance Leisure. This project was completed in June 2023.
- **Woodchurch Sports Pavilion (£1.920m)** – The project involved the construction of an all-weather supersize 3G football pitch alongside the construction of a new changing pavilion, incorporating a café and community space, on redundant land at the rear of the former Woodchurch Leisure Centre site. The project was made possible, due in no small part to the Council successfully securing investment of £1,168,898 (57%) from the Football Foundation, towards total project costs of £2,049,143.

The pitch was built by Lano Sport PV appointed via Football Foundation's own procurement framework, with local contractors Lyjon appointed to undertake the pavilion build, through Council's own procurement processes.

The facilities were delivered within budget and are now fully operational, generating revenues for the authority.

- **West Kirby Flood Alleviation (£4.950m)** – Piling work, construction of the flood wall and promenade construction were the main costs in the 2022/23 financial year, with adverse ground conditions causing the need for more steel reinforcement to concrete slabs. All of 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.

#### 4.4 Regeneration & Place

- **Aids, Adaptations and Disabled Facility Grant (£6.492m)** – 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.
- **Birkenhead Market Construction (£1.016m)** - This is the ongoing costs for the development of the new market offer in line with the Economic Regeneration and Housing Committee approval on the 27<sup>th</sup> of March 2024.
- **Birkenhead Regeneration Delivery Fund (£1.997m)** - The scheme incorporates a variety of projects all of which are at different stages of completion and or awaiting commencement of works. Funding allocated to enable the delivery of the 'Brownfield First' development strategy in support of The Local Plan. Spend has commenced against individual programmes which are as follows:
  - Hamilton Park Enabling Works
  - Town Centre – Wirral Growth Company
  - Dock Branch Park
  - Waterfront
  - Hind Street.
- **Hind Street Programme (£1.789m)** – Consulting works to deliver a hybrid planning application, business case production towards a £26m Homes England grant application, land assembly and acquisition and a regeneration framework towards a planned housing development in the Hind Street programme. The full business case was submitted in January 2024 and a planning application is being sought for June 2024.
- **Office Quarter Building Fit-Out (£6.150m)** – This relates to the fit-out costs for the Birkenhead Commercial District office buildings as approved at P&R Committee on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2023.
- **Strategic Acquisition Fund (£12.409m)** - Purchase of sites with strategic regeneration benefits, including The Grange / Pyramids, as well as land in Northside (as per P&R Committee on the 15<sup>th</sup> of February 2023).
- **Town Deal Fund Birkenhead (£1.720m)** – 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 funded by this Grant are on track to be delivered by March 2026. Robust monitoring and evaluation arrangements are in place.

#### 4.5 Resources

- **Customer Experience Improvements Project (£0.566m)** – The project is close to delivery of the replacement CRM solution. The expenditure to date is salary recharges for the project team and is lower than forecasted.
- **Digital Foundations Programme (0.608m)** – 2023/24 spend is for the milestones that have been delivered as part of the Microsoft engagement which is modernising our IT Service and improving our Cyber Security
- **Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) (£2.034m)** – The in year spend is milestone payments to Insight Direct UK Ltd and NAMOS Solutions Ltd for the ERP implementation. It also contains capitalised salary costs and Oracle Licenses.

## Appendix 5

### Capital Programme – Scheme Updates

#### 5.1 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. (One site is approaching progression for planning). There are several sites under current consideration across Wirral. Due to current schemes securing alternative funding the current programme has been slipped into 2024/25. One new scheme opened March 2024 in Liscard (53 new apartments), a new LD scheme is due to open in June (12 apartments) and a further Older Peoples scheme is due for delivery in Rock Ferry in July (102 apartments).
- **Telecare & Telehealth Ecosystem** – The analogue to digital transition of the Telecare Service by the end of 2024 remains on course. As of 1 May 2024, 82% of Telecare Service customers are now supported with digital systems. Wirral Council will have completed its transition one year ahead of the national deadline, minimising risk to residents and offering improved and more flexible services to customers.

#### 5.2 Children, Families & Education

- **School Condition Allocation (SCA)** – to be used to keep school buildings safe and in good working order by addressing poor building condition, building compliance, energy efficiency, and health and safety issues. The spend includes expenditure on boiler installation works and £0.83m roofing works at various schools.
- **Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) / High Needs Provision Capital** – To deliver additional classroom provision for SEND pupils across several Special schools. The planned schemes cover Leasowe Early Years Centre, The Observatory School, and Pensby/Elleray Park School.

#### 5.3 Neighbourhoods

- **Highway Maintenance** – The major planned road resurfacing and surface treatment programmes for 2023/24, which account for the majority of the budget, were all substantially completed within Q3. The footway refurbishment schemes, and footway surface treatments were completed within Q4 along with structural repairs in concrete roads. Preparation works will continue for next year's surface treatment programme and improvements to highway drainage assets. Principal bridge inspections were completed within Q4. Street lighting asset capital works were completed by the end of Q4. There is some carry-over slippage of this budget as a result of additional devolved grant funding being allocated too late in the year. The 2024/25 programming is well advanced and will be flexible enough to be able to



incorporate any addition grant funding allocations, provided that council corporate governance procedures allow.

- **Combined Authority Transport Plan (CATP)** – Phase 1 of the 20mph speed limit programme was completed in Q3, utilising funding slipped from 2022/23. Phase 2 commenced in Q4, following Committee approval. A number of local safety schemes and junction improvements have been progressed to design stage during Q3 and were progressed to procurement, consulted upon, and commenced on site in Q4. Orders have been placed for some of the equipment required for traffic signal analogue to digital upgrades within Q3 and Q4. There will be some significant re-profiling and carry-over slippage of this budget as a result of the time taken to complete some of design work against the programme and conduct the necessary consultations. A significant amount of officer time was lost from this programme during Q1 and Q2 in planning and delivering the traffic management plan for the Open Golf tournament. External supplementary resources have been commissioned to mitigate the effects of this. There may also be a need to make some legitimate cross project virements. The 2024/25 programming is well advanced and will be flexible enough to be able to incorporate slippage and any addition grant funding allocations, provided that council governance procedures allow.
- **Parks Machinery** – The Capital allocation for 2023/24 was £2.635m of this amount £2.485m has been spent with orders raised through the procurement system. The remainder will be spent this financial year on items that it was not possible to procure through the initial procurement (e.g., Skips, Compact Flail's, Pedestrian Sweepers, and Gators). It is expected that all allocated funds will be spent in this financial year.
- **Parks Vehicles** – The Capital allocation for 2023/24 was £0.580m, of this amount £0.271m has been used to purchase 1 x Medium Van, 1 x Skip Truck, 1 x Electric Van, 4 x Off Road Vehicles and the installation of 2 charging points. The remainder is being used to purchase 8 x Single Cab Tipper Vans, at a cost of £0.330m this procurement has been undertaken with a supplier identified.

#### 5.4 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 (DFG)** – 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. A further in-year allocation has been awarded to Wirral increasing the budget for 2023/24 by a further £412,184. This will help eligible older and disabled people to live as independently and safely as possible in their homes and where local housing authorities are encouraged to use this additional funding in an agile and responsive way to supplement the core delivery of DFG to further help people to live independently and assist in wider Better Care Fund outcomes. The 2023/24 allocation has been fully spent and / or committed as part of the rolling programme for works which will be completed in 2024/24 financial year.
- **Future High Streets Fund Birkenhead (FHSF)** – This is a capital grant from Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) and includes funding to support the regeneration of Birkenhead Town Centre (Market, Europa Housing and Connectivity (Grange Road/Charing Cross/Conway Street/Bus Station area improvements). Procurement/award of contract for a delivery partner for the connectivity projects has been finalised and demolition of House of Fraser has now commenced. A paper was presented to ER & H Committee in March 2024 and a decision to approve relocating the existing market to a vacant unit within Princes Pavement (formerly Argos) was granted. The FHSF grant budget was profiled to 2023/24, however on 13 September 2023 P&R Committee approved an invitation from DLUHC for the Council to participate in a Pathfinder Simplification Pilot which streamlines Future High Streets Fund, Town Deal and the Council's Levelling Up Round 1 allocation into a single programme with a revised spend deadline of 31st March 2026. On 4 October Policy and Resources Committee delegated the Director of Regeneration and Place, in consultation with Group Leaders, to develop and submit the Pathfinder Investment Plan to DLUHC for approval. An Officer Decision Notice was published on 27 October 2023 providing details of the submitted Investment Plan (IP) and a decision from DLUHC was reached in late December 2023 approving this IP. We are awaiting the signed MoU from DLUHC which is expected imminently. There are also plans to onboard Levelling Up Fund Round 3 for Liscard to the Pilot in which approval for this process was given at P&R Committee in March 2024.
- **Birkenhead Waterfront Programme** - The £19.6m Levelling Up Fund Round 1 allocation is a capital grant administered by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. The funding is intended to support the transformation of the Woodside Waterfront area as a key visitor destination. Projects included a renewed landing stage at Woodside Ferry Terminal, a new International Battle of the Atlantic attraction at Woodside, and a number of public realm and highways enhancements designed to drive footfall between Hamilton Square and the Waterfront. The funding is subject to an additional 10 per cent local contribution, which is being met by the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority and council borrowing. Projects are progressing at pace, with all projects expected to start on site in 2024 and complete by March 2026.

## 5.5 Resources

- **Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP)** – A successful year end has been completed with Oracle Fusion. EPM is being developed to manage Capital Projects. Project closure is planned for May 2024.
- **IT Client Refreshment, Laptops, Desktops & Tablets** – As of 13th May 2024 some 650 Windows 11 Microsoft Surface Go 2 laptop devices have been successfully deployed to Council employees. The IT refresh project prioritised replacing Windows 10 Surface Pro devices for those employees relocating to Mallory from the Cheshire Lines Building, facilitating a standardised desk layout within the new office build at 2 Alice Ker Square.

Replacement Windows 11 Surface Go 2 laptop devices are now being deployed across the remainder of the Children's Services department throughout May. Our Committee Services team, Elected Members, SLT and their PA's replacement laptops are planned for delivery during June, with further targeted enabling services back-office support teams then being scheduled for replacement laptops in July. During the summer months further project work will commence to codesign appropriate Windows 11 solutions for both our Neighbourhoods and Regeneration departments public-facing teams, enabling the remainder of the Windows 11 new device deployments to complete by autumn 2024. The initial batch of new devices has been purchased and have been deployed together with the new Windows 11 solution to pilot users.

## Appendix 6

### Virements for Quarter 4

Scheme	Virement £'m	Reallocation	Reason
Liscard Town Centre Delivery	0.010	Birkenhead Regeneration Framework	Birkenhead Regeneration Framework to Liscard Regeneration Delivery. Required to progress the Brownfield Land Release Fund 2 bid and to review the feasibility of the Dominick House demolition/Cherry Tree redevelopment.
Condition/modernisation (SCA)	0.158	Basic Needs	The virement is to fund BLOOM which is a Single Point of Access for 0-18s Emotional Health and Wellbeing services.
School remodelling and additional classrooms	0.027	Condition/modernisation (SCA)	School place planning (SPP) was released as scheme finished and it was agreed any remaining costs would be funded from the School Condition Allowance.
Vale Park Toilets	0.068	Parks and Countryside DDA	Due to a higher accessible specification and additional ground works required to level the access route further costs met from the Parks and Countryside DDA scheme.
SUD - Leasowe to Seacombe Corridor	0.080	TAG Bus Case - A41 Corridor North	SUD WP7 - expenditure on this scheme is no longer eligible to be claimed from the LCRCA grant. The funding had a timescale of July 23 for scheme delivery and it was not possible for the council to meet this deadline however it had already progressed with design/development of schemes and had paid external consultants and internal highway staff fees.
Energy Efficient Buildings	0.011	Pool Covers	Virement required to finance the overspend on this scheme.
Capitalisation of Regeneration Salaries	1.213	Various Schemes in the programme.	Directly attributed on a scheme by scheme basis.
SUD - Leasowe to Seacombe Corridor	0.034	TAG Bus Case - Wirral Waters	SUD WP7 - expenditure on this scheme is no longer eligible to be claimed from the LCRCA grant. The funding had a timescale of July 23 for scheme delivery and it was not possible for the council to meet this deadline however it had already progressed with design/development of schemes and had paid external consultants and internal highway staff fees.

## Appendix 7

### 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 shows the actual level of capital expenditure that the Council incurred in 2023/24 and the following two years, table 7.1 below shows the estimates for 2023/24 onwards when the Quarter 3 Capital Monitoring Report 2023/24 was approved (Council meeting 26 February 2024):

**Table 7.1: Prudential Indicator: Quarter 3 Estimate of Capital Expenditure**

	<b>2022/23 Actual</b>	<b>2023/24 Estimate</b>	<b>2024/25 Estimate</b>	<b>2025/26 Estimate</b>	<b>Total</b>
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Capital Expenditure	62,103	97,103	152,191	35,263	<b>346,660</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>62,103</b>	<b>97,103</b>	<b>152,191</b>	<b>35,263</b>	<b>346,660</b>

Table 7.2 shows how these figures have evolved, with the programme amendments detailed within this report.

**Table 7.2: Prudential Indicator: 2023/24 Actual and Future Estimate of Capital Expenditure**

	<b>2022/23 Actual</b>	<b>2023/24 Actual</b>	<b>2024/25 Estimate</b>	<b>2025/26 Estimate</b>	<b>Total</b>
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Capital Expenditure	62,103	78,316	100,996	130,883	<b>372,298</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>62,103</b>	<b>78,316</b>	<b>100,996</b>	<b>130,883</b>	<b>372,298</b>

Capital expenditure has or will be funded as follows:

**Table 7.3: Prudential Indicator: Financing of Capital Expenditure**

<b>Capital Financing</b>	<b>2022/23 Actual £'000</b>	<b>2023/24 Actual £'000</b>	<b>2024/25 Estimate £'000</b>	<b>2025/26 Estimate £'000</b>
Capital receipts	2,930	5,400	4,301	722
Grants and Contributions	39,978	38,354	66,966	106,094
Revenue and Reserves	592	293	230	1,205
Borrowing	18,603	34,269	29,499	22,862
<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>62,103</b>	<b>78,316</b>	<b>100,996</b>	<b>130,883</b>

**(c) Capital Financing Requirement (CFR)**

Estimates of the Authority's cumulative maximum external borrowing requirement for the period 2023/24 to 2025/26 as per the Quarter 3 Capital Monitoring Report 2023/24, are shown in the table below:

**Table 7.4: Capital Financing Requirement Estimates – Q3 Capital Monitoring 2023/24**

<b>Capital Financing Requirement</b>	<b>31/03/2023 Actual £m</b>	<b>31/03/2024 Estimate £m</b>	<b>31/03/2025 Estimate £m</b>	<b>31/03/2026 Estimate £m</b>
General Fund	376.489	400.262	413.117	408.215

Table 7.5 shows how these figures have evolved, with the programme amendments detailed within this report.

**Table 7.5: Capital Financing Requirement Revised Estimates**

<b>Capital Financing Requirement</b>	<b>31/03/2023 Actual £m</b>	<b>31/03/2024 Actual £m</b>	<b>31/03/2025 Estimate £m</b>	<b>31/03/2026 Estimate £m</b>
General Fund	376.489	393.989	407.923	414.068

**(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 7.6: Gross Debt and the Revised Capital Financing Requirement Estimates**

<b>Debt</b>	<b>31/03/2024 Actual £m</b>	<b>31/03/2025 Estimate £m</b>	<b>31/03/2026 Estimate £m</b>
Borrowing	308.629	328.629	334.629
PFI liabilities	27.971	24.727	21.296
<b>Total Debt</b>	<b>336.600</b>	<b>353.356</b>	<b>355.925</b>
<b>Borrowing in excess of CFR?</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>

**(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 2023/24.

**Table 7.7: Authorised Limit and Operational Boundary for External Debt**

	<b>Operational Boundary (Approved) 2023/24 £m</b>	<b>Authorised Limit (Approved) 2023/24 £m</b>	<b>External Debt 31/3/2024 £m</b>
Borrowing	448.000	458.000	308.629
Other Long-term Liabilities (PFI)	51.000	56.000	27.971
<b>Total</b>	<b>499.000</b>	<b>514.000</b>	<b>336.600</b>

**(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 7.8 Ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream**

<b>Ratio of Finance Costs to Net Revenue Stream</b>	<b>2023/24</b>	<b>2024/25</b>	<b>2025/26</b>
	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Estimate</b>	<b>Estimate</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
Ratio	6.284%	7.080%	7.292%



## 19 CAPITAL MONITORING QUARTER 1 2024/25

The Director of finance provided a report which updated on the progress of the Capital Programme 2024/25 at the end of June 2024. It recommends that Committee agree the revised 2024/25 Capital Programme of £100.996 million which took account of re-profiling, virements, additional funding requirements and grant variations identified since the Capital Programme was formally agreed on 26th February 2024.

Members queried the revenue costs of Regeneration salaries and were informed that this would be approximately £130k a year.

**Resolved – that,**

**Council be recommended to approve:**

- 1. the revised Capital Programme of £100.996 million for 2024/25, including the virements of budget referred to in Appendix 3 of this report.**
- 2. additional funding for Capitalisation of Regeneration Salaries, to be funded by new borrowing, as referred to in section 3.7 in this report.**

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**POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE****Wednesday, 17 July 2024**

<b>REPORT TITLE:</b>	<b>CAPITAL MONITORING QUARTER 1 2024/25</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>DIRECTOR OF FINANCE</b>

**REPORT SUMMARY**

This report provides an update on the progress of the Capital Programme 2024/25 at the end of June 2024. It recommends that Committee agree the revised 2024/25 Capital Programme of £100.996 million which takes account of re-profiling, virements, additional funding requirements and grant variations identified since the Capital Programme was formally agreed on 26th February 2024.

The report supports the delivery of the Council Plan: Wirral Working Together 2023-27 specifically in terms of the Efficient, Effective and Accessible Council theme. The Capital Programme also contributes towards projects that support all five Council Plan delivery themes.

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 £100.996 million for 2024/25, including the virements of budget referred to in Appendix 3 of this report.
- 2 additional funding for Capitalisation of Regeneration Salaries, to be funded by new borrowing, as referred to in section 3.7 in this report.

## SUPPORTING INFORMATION

### 1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 Regular monitoring and reporting of the Capital Programme enable 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 2024/25 Position by Directorate

**Table 1: Wirral Council 2024/25 Forecast Position**

Programme	Budget	Forecast	Variance £m	Variance %
	1 April 24 £m	Q1 £m		
Adult Care & Health	4.404	4.404	0.000	0%
Children, Families & Education	18.886	18.886	0.000	0%
Neighbourhoods	25.757	18.484	-7.273	-28%
Regeneration & Place	79.637	54.893	-24.744	-31%
Finance	4.329	4.329	0.000	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>133.013</b>	<b>100.996</b>	<b>-32.017</b>	<b>-24%</b>

#### Capital Programme 2024/25 Position by Committee

**Table 2: Wirral Council 2024/25 Forecast Position**

Programme	Budget	Q1	Variance £m	Variance %
	1 April 24 £m	Forecast £m		
Adult Social Care & Health	4.404	4.404	0.000	0%
Children, Young People & Education	18.886	18.886	0.000	0%
Economy, Regeneration & Housing	68.815	45.341	-23.474	-34%
Environment, Climate Emergency & Transport	27.332	20.091	-7.241	-26%
Policy & Resources	10.251	10.251	0.000	0%
Tourism, Communities, Culture & Leisure	3.325	2.023	-1.302	-39%
<b>Total</b>	<b>133.013</b>	<b>100.996</b>	<b>-32.017</b>	<b>-24%</b>

- 3.1.1 Tables 1 and 2 provide an update on the 2024/25 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 2024. These include the re-profiling of expenditure into and out of financial years, inclusion of additional grant funded schemes and variations to spend forecasts. Appendix 1 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 the year (2024/25) 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 Council Plan: Wirral Working Together 2023-27 priorities and to try and identify any savings. Current progress on the more significant schemes is provided in Appendix 2 of this report.
- 3.3.2 Scheme costs are constantly monitored by project officers. Due to 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**

New additional awards of grant have been received during Quarter 1 relating to the Capital Programme:

#### **3.4.1 Aids, Adaptations and Disabled Facility Grants- £5.152m**

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 Levelling Up Fund Liscard - £10.788m**

The Council has secured £10.78m funding for Liscard Town Centre via the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities' Levelling Up Fund 3. The Council has approved £1.386m via its Capital Programme as match funding to support delivery.

The funding is intended to deliver public realm improvements focused on Liscard Way and its surrounds; reconfiguration of key gateway junctions to improve traffic flows and enable cycling and pedestrian travel; unlocking high quality residential development at the Seaview Road Car Park by addressing its viability gap; and enhancing communities' facilities in the Town Centre.

#### **3.4.3 Food Waste Department of housing, Levelling up and Communities (DHLUC) - £2.377m**

This funding is for the capital cost of bins and vehicles to assist in the delivery of weekly food waste collections. This has been added to the programme in 2025/26.

#### **3.4.4 England Coastal Path - £0.355m**

A new grant has been received from Natural England to fund the establishment of the 18-mile Wirral section of the King Charles III England Coast Path.

### **3.5 Virements**

Appendix 3 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 2024/25**

<b>Source of Financing</b>	<b>Programme 1 April 2024 £m</b>	<b>Programme 30 June 2024 £m</b>	<b>Variance £m</b>
Borrowing	35.214	29.499	-5.715
Grants/Contributions	93.233	66.966	-26.267
Capital Receipts	4.301	4.301	0.000
Revenue/Reserves	0.265	0.230	-0.035
<b>Total</b>	<b>133.013</b>	<b>100.996</b>	<b>-32.017</b>

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 the year when the re-profiled expenditure is incurred.

### **3.7 Recommendations to Full Council: Approval for Funding**

3.7.1 Below is a summary of the Capital bid seeking approval for funding via this report. Further detail is provided in Appendix 4 to this report. The proposed extra funding is new borrowing required from the Council.

#### **3.7.2 Capitalisation of Regeneration Salaries - £2.559m over two years**

This capitalisation of staff costs involves critical work to support the delivery of the Regeneration Programme, which includes secured capital funding that requires a staff structure to ensure that the capital funding is spent as detailed in the Grant Offer letters.

There is the likelihood that further external capital funding will be secured which will require resource and capacity to deliver. Capitalisation of salaries will be undertaken where it is allowable under the conditions of the funding received or within the capital regulations.

### **3.8 Other Scheme Matters**

3.8.1 There are currently two sites within Birkenhead town centre being investigated regarding their viability as residential development:

- **Europa Residential** - As part of the approved Future High Street Fund and Investment Plan, Europa Residential is expected to deliver c189 residential units on council owned land to support the acceleration of housing delivery and a diversification of the town centre.
- **St Werburgh's** - Following the demolition of the former House of Fraser building and the recent council decision to relocate the Market Hall to Princess Pavement, an alternative proposal is being brought forward. It is proposed to develop residential space comprising of one bed and two bed apartments over 137,000

sq. ft. Additionally, there will be circa 14,000 sq. ft. designated for retail / leisure / health activities on the ground floor.

Soft market testing and initial RIBA stage 1 feasibility activity is expected to be undertaken shortly, which will provide visibility on the viability gap and suitable funding identified to complete the schemes. Full governance procedures will be undertaken by the Regeneration directorate and the appropriate committees.

#### 4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 This is the Quarter 1 Budget Monitoring Report, to the end of June 2024 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 £29.499 million this year to finance the capital schemes covered by this report in 2024/25. This debt will be repaid via charges to the revenue budget over the lives of the assets created or enhanced. The revenue impact of the additional £29.499 million of borrowing required to fund all forecast works in 2024/25 is as follows:

**Table 4: MRP Charges to Revenue Relating to 2024/25 Debt Funded Capital**

	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Additional revenue cost	0.772	0.811	0.852	0.896

#### Notes

- MRP repayments from revenue only start the year after the capital expenditure has taken place i.e., for spend incurred in 2024/25, the first MRP repayments will be charged in the 2025/26 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 2074/75 at £0.995 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 £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 5 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 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 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 1   Movement Between Opening Budget and Q1 Forecast Position  
Appendix 2   Scheme Updates  
Appendix 3   Virements Within Quarter 1  
Appendix 4   Capital Bids Seeking Approval for Funding  
Appendix 5   Revised Capital Programme 2024/25  
Appendix 6   Prudential Indicators 2024/25

### **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)**

<b>Council Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>
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
Council – 2023/24 Capital Monitoring Q1	9 October 2023
Council – 2023/24 Capital Monitoring Q2	4 December 2023
Council – 2023/24 Capital Monitoring Q3	26 February 2024

## Appendix 1

### Movement Between Opening Budget on 1 April 2024 and Q1 Forecast Position

<b>Programme</b>	<b>Budget 1 April 24 £m</b>	<b>Additional Grant £m</b>	<b>Funding Adjustments (inc Virements) £m</b>	<b>New Bids £m</b>	<b>Scheme Reduction £m</b>	<b>Reprofiling to Future Yrs £m</b>	<b>Forecast Q1 £m</b>
Adult Care & Health	4.404	-	-	-	-	-	4.404
Children, Families & Education	18.886	-	-	-	-	-	18.886
Neighbourhoods	25.757	0.355	0.300	-	-	-7.928	18.484
Regeneration & Place	79.637	3.986	-0.288	0.909	-	-29.351	54.893
Finance	4.329	-	-	-	-	-	4.329
<b>Total</b>	<b>133.013</b>	<b>4.341</b>	<b>0.012</b>	<b>0.909</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>-37.279</b>	<b>100.996</b>

## Appendix 2

### Capital Programme – Scheme Updates

#### 2.1 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 the Wirral but are not yet confirmed for progression. Some areas have multiple sites for consideration, and Officers are mindful to develop where there is an evidenced need or gap in provision, and not over develop.

Sycamore place opened in February 2024 and Spinnaker House is due to open in September 2024.

- **Telecare & Telehealth Ecosystem** – This capital project is replacing analogue Telecare equipment with new digital Telecare equipment, ready for the switching-off of analogue telephone lines in 2025.

4,926 homes are connected to Telecare and 5,142 people are being supported in their own homes. 86% of customers are now connected to digital Telecare. 376 homes are equipped with activities of daily living sensors (ADL) supporting early intervention and prevention.

Completion of digital transition is due by Q4 2024.

#### 2.2 Children, Families & Education

- **School Condition Allocation (SCA)** – to be used to keep school buildings safe and in good working order by addressing poor building condition, building compliance, energy efficiency, and health and safety issues. The allocation includes £1.5m roofing works at various schools, £0.64m for boiler installation works and £0.5m Fire Risk Assessments. Major schemes in 24/25 include Raeburn Primary and Ridgeway CLC.
- **Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) / High Needs Provision Capital** – To deliver additional classroom provision for SEND pupils across several Special schools. The planned schemes cover Joseph Paxton, Foxfield School and Stanley School.

## 2.3 Neighbourhoods

- **Highway Maintenance** – This year we have an ambitious programme, as we look to significantly increase the number of schemes we undertake. This will see an increase in carriageway surface treatments and footway schemes. It will be a challenge and to that end, we commenced our carriageway surfacing schemes in late April and are now already 30% through that programme. Footway schemes have also commenced with around 10% complete. Most of Q1 has been spent on preparation works for surface dressing which we are 70% complete. Detailed preparations are also in place for the main works programmes to commence in Q2. Drainage capital improvements have also taken place, with new and repaired infrastructure on three main problem locations. Concrete rehabilitation works have also been on going, making this a productive first quarter, which usual spend is in preparation design, rather than real spend.
- **Combined Authority Transport Plan (CATP) 2024/25** – Phase 2 of the 20mph speed limit programme was completed during Q1 of the CATP, utilising funding slipped from 2023/24. Consultation/engagement for Phases 3 and 4 of the 20mph programme was approved by the ECET Committee in March 2024 as it formed part of the CATP programme for 2024/25. Consultation for Phases 3 and 4 will commence shortly with the intention to report the outcome to ECET Committee in Q3.

A number of local safety schemes, safer routes to school, school streets, active travel schemes, pedestrian and traffic signal improvements are proposed within the CATP programme with a small number of schemes that slipped from the 2023/24 programme. Good progress is being made with the design and delivery stage with a few schemes and it is expected that we should see some delivery and spend from the programme within Q2. In addition, orders have been placed within Q1 for traffic signals equipment as part of the traffic signal improvements/upgrades. Resources have been fairly lean within the Service and external resources have been commissioned to work on a number of schemes to help deliver them more efficiently and spend the budget in-year and avoid any further slippage.

## 2.4 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 have been 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. The Town Deal Fund is now part of the Simplification Pathfinder Pilot. This pilot streamlines the delivery of three growth funds overseen by it, namely Town Deal, Future High Streets Fund (FHSF) and the Council's Levelling Up Round 1 (LUF1).
- **Aids, Adaptations and Disabled Facility Grant (DFG)** - 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 allocation for 24/25 is £5.152 million. This will help eligible older and disabled people to live as independently and safely as possible in their homes and where local housing authorities are encouraged to use this additional funding in an agile and responsive way to supplement the core delivery of DFG to further help people to live independently and assist in wider Better Care Fund outcomes. Committed (approved grant) applications with a value of £1.731 million have been rolled over from 2023/24 which will be completed in 2024/25 financial year.
- **Future High Streets Fund Birkenhead (FHSF)** – This is a capital grant from Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) and includes funding to support the regeneration of Birkenhead Town Centre (Market, Europa Housing and Connectivity (Grange Road/Charing Cross/Conway Street/Bus Station area improvements). Procurement/award of contract for a delivery partner for the connectivity projects has been finalised and demolition of House of Fraser has now commenced. A paper was presented to ER & H Committee in March 2024 and a decision to approve relocating the existing market to a vacant unit within Princes Pavement (formerly Argos) was granted. The FHSF grant budget was profiled to 2023/24, however on 13 September 2023 P&R Committee approved an invitation from DLUHC for the Council to participate in a Pathfinder Simplification Pilot which streamlines Future High Streets Fund, Town Deal and the Council's Levelling Up Round 1 allocation into a single programme with a revised spend deadline of 31st March 2026. On 4 October Policy and Resources Committee delegated the Director of Regeneration and Place, in consultation with Group Leaders, to develop and submit the Pathfinder Investment Plan to DLUCH for approval. An Officer Decision Notice was published on 27 October 2023 providing details of the submitted Investment Plan (IP) and a decision from DLUCH was reached in late December 2023 approving this IP. We are still awaiting the signed MoU from DLUHC which is expected imminently. There are also plans to onboard Levelling Up Fund Round 3



for Liscard to the Pilot in which approval for this process was given at P&R Committee in March 2024. The Future High Streets Fund Birkenhead (FHSF) is now part of the Simplification Pathfinder Pilot. This pilot streamlines the delivery of three growth funds overseen by it, namely Town Deal, Future High Streets Fund (FHSF) and the Council's Levelling Up Round 1 (LUF1).

- **Birkenhead Waterfront Programme** - The £19.6m Levelling Up Fund Round 1 allocation is a capital grant administered by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. The funding is intended to support the transformation of the Woodside Waterfront area as a key visitor destination. Projects included a renewed landing stage at Woodside Ferry Terminal, a new International Battle of the Atlantic attraction at Woodside, and a number of public realm and highways enhancements designed to drive footfall between Hamilton Square and the Waterfront. The funding is subject to an additional 10 per cent local contribution, which is being met by the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority and council borrowing. John Sisk and Sons Ltd (Sisk) have been appointed and are currently progressing RIBA 3 and 4 design. Sisk are targeting commencement of construction works in the current financial year (following closure of RIBA 4 design) and are still working to complete the main works packages by March 2026.

## 2.5 Finance

- **Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP)** – A successful Implementation completed at the end of May for EPM to manage Capital Projects.
- **IT Client Refreshment, Laptops, Desktops & Tablets** – As of 13th May 2024 some 650 Windows 11 Microsoft Surface Go 2 laptop devices have been successfully deployed to Council employees. The IT refresh project prioritised replacing Windows 10 Surface Pro devices for those employees relocating to Mallory from the Cheshire Lines Building, facilitating a standardised desk layout within the new office build at 2 Alice Ker Square.

Replacement Windows 11 Surface Go 2 laptop devices are now being deployed across the remainder of the Children's Services department throughout May. Our Committee Services team, Elected Members, SLT and their PA's replacement laptops are planned for delivery during June, with further targeted enabling services back-office support teams then being scheduled for replacement laptops in July. During the summer months further project work will commence to codesign appropriate Windows 11 solutions for both our Neighbourhoods and Regeneration departments public-facing teams, enabling the remainder of the Windows 11 new device deployments to complete by autumn 2024. The initial batch of new devices has been purchased and have been deployed together with the new Windows 11 solution to pilot users.

## Appendix 3

### Virements within Quarter 1

<b>Directorate</b>	<b>Scheme</b>	<b>Proposed Virement £'m</b>	<b>Proposed Reallocation</b>	<b>Reason</b>
Resources	Digital Foundations Programme	0.001	IT Client Refreshment, Laptops, Desktops & Tablets	Consolidation of IT budgets.
Resources	Upgrade of WIFI Network	0.073	IT Client Refreshment, Laptops, Desktops & Tablets	Consolidation of IT budgets.
Regeneration & Place	Parks and Countryside DDA	0.300	Play Area Improvements	An agreement has been reached between Regeneration & Place and Neighbourhoods to vire £300k of Capital Funding from the Parks & Countryside DDA project to Play Area Improvements to fund wheelchair swings in play areas.

## **Appendix 4**

### **Capital Bid Seeking Approval for Funding**

#### **4.1 Capitalisation of Regeneration Salaries - £2.559m over two years**

This capitalisation of staff costs involves critical work to support the delivery of the Regeneration Programme, which includes secured capital funding that requires a staff structure to ensure that the capital funding is spent as detailed in the Grant Offer letters.

There is the likelihood that further external capital funding will be secured which will require resource and capacity to deliver. Capitalisation of salaries will be undertaken where it is allowable under the conditions of the funding received or within the capital regulations.

## Appendix 5

### Revised Capital Programme at Quarter 1 2024/25

Scheme	Budget 1 Apr 24 £000	2024/25 Q1 Forecast £000	Variance £000	2025/26 Budget £000	2026/27 Budget £000	2027/28 Budget £000	2028/29 Budget £000
<b>Adult Care and Health</b>							
Citizen and Provider Portal/Integrated I.T.	53	53	-	-	-	-	-
Extra Care Housing	2,276	2,276	-	-	-	-	-
Liquidlogic - Early Intervention & Prevention	214	214	-	-	-	-	-
Telecare & Telehealth Ecosystem	1,861	1,861	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Adult Care and Health</b>	<b>4,404</b>	<b>4,404</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Children, Families &amp; Education</b>							
Basic Needs	727	727	-	427	-	-	-
Childcare Capital Expansion Fund	604	604	-	-	-	-	-
Children's System Development	703	703	-	-	-	-	-
Condition/modernisation (SCA)	7,011	7,011	-	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500
Family Hub Transformation Fund	85	85	-	-	-	-	-
Family support	157	157	-	-	-	-	-

<b>Scheme</b>	<b>Budget 1 Apr 24 £000</b>	<b>2024/25 Q1 Forecast £000</b>	<b>Variance £000</b>	<b>2025/26 Budget £000</b>	<b>2026/27 Budget £000</b>	<b>2027/28 Budget £000</b>	<b>2028/29 Budget £000</b>
<b>Children, Families &amp; Education cont.</b>							
High Needs Provision Capital	8,561	8,561	-	-	-	-	-
School Works - Department for Education Ringfenced Receipts	721	721	-	722	-	-	-
Transforming Care - Therapeutic Short Breaks	317	317	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Children, Families &amp; Education</b>	<b>18,886</b>	<b>18,886</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,649</b>	<b>2,500</b>	<b>2,500</b>	<b>2,500</b>
<b>Finance</b>							
Creative & Digital Team - specialist software and hardware	7	7	-	-	-	-	-
Customer Experience Improvements Project	255	255	-	-	-	-	-
Digital Foundations Programme	1	-	-1	-	-	-	-
ERP	401	401	-	-	-	-	-
Transformational Capitalisation	2,000	2,000	-	-	-	-	-
Upgrade of WIFI Network	73	-	- 73	-	-	-	-
IT Client Refreshment, Laptops, Desktops & Tablets	1,592	1,666	74	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Finance</b>	<b>4,329</b>	<b>4,329</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

<b>Scheme</b>	<b>Budget 1 Apr 24 £000</b>	<b>2024/25 Q1 Forecast £000</b>	<b>Variance £000</b>	<b>2025/26 Budget £000</b>	<b>2026/27 Budget £000</b>	<b>2027/28 Budget £000</b>	<b>2028/29 Budget £000</b>
<b>Neighbourhoods</b>							
Air Quality Control DEFRA	35	24	-11	11	-	-	-
Allotment & Cemetery Standpipes	313	219	-94	94	-	-	-
Allotment Sites Expansion	50	35	-15	15	-	-	-
Allotment Sites Expansion - Top Up	148	104	-44	44	-	-	-
Arrowe Country Park - Main Driveway Resurfacing & Fencing Work	60	42	-18	18	-	-	-
Arts Council Capital LIF	21	15	-6	6	-	-	-
Bidston Court - Path Improvements	350	245	-105	105	-	-	-
Birkenhead Park World Heritage Project Team	85	59	-26	26	-	-	-
Bridges excluding Dock Bridge	1,479	1,035	-444	604	75	-	-
Catering Units	160	112	-48	48	-	-	-
Cemetery Extension & Improvements (Frankby)	140	98	-42	42	-	-	-
Churchyard Boundary & Landican Cemetery Structural	56	39	-17	17	-	-	-
			-7		-	-	-

<b>Scheme</b>	<b>Budget 1 Apr 24 £000</b>	<b>2024/25 Q1 Forecast £000</b>	<b>Variance £000</b>	<b>2025/26 Budget £000</b>	<b>2026/27 Budget £000</b>	<b>2027/28 Budget £000</b>	<b>2028/29 Budget £000</b>
Climate Emergency Budget	23	16		7			
<b>Neighbourhoods cont.</b>							
Coastal Defence - Meols Feasibility Study	100	70	-30	30	-	-	-
Combined Authority Transport Plan (CATP)	4,596	3,217	-1,379	3,289	1,910	-	-
Coronation Park Sustainable Drainage	222	155	-67	67	-	-	-
Defibrillators	12	8	-4	4	-	-	-
DEFRA -Food Waste Collection Service	-	-	-	2,377	-	-	-
DfT Funding Highways Maintenance and Improvements	1,312	918	-394	394	-	-	-
Dock Bridges replacement	210	147	-63	63	-	-	-
England Coastal Path	-	248	248	107	-	-	-
Environmental Improvements	1,150	805	-345	420	75	-	-
Essential H&S Infrastructure Improvements @ Wirral Country Park	193	135	-58	58	-	-	-
Fitness Equipment	4	3	-1	1	-	-	-
Flaybrick Cemetery Pathway	200	140	-60	60	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	3,200	-	-

<b>Scheme</b>	<b>Budget 1 Apr 24 £000</b>	<b>2024/25 Q1 Forecast £000</b>	<b>Variance £000</b>	<b>2025/26 Budget £000</b>	<b>2026/27 Budget £000</b>	<b>2027/28 Budget £000</b>	<b>2028/29 Budget £000</b>
Food Waste <b>Neighbourhoods cont.</b>		-					
Football Goals	97	68	-29	29	-	-	-
Future Golf - Project 1.1	317	222	-95	95	-	-	-
Grange Cemetery	45	31	-14	14	-	-	-
Health & Safety Equipment for Transport Workshop	21	15	-6	6	-	-	-
Highway Maintenance	8,088	5,662	-2,426	8,139	5,763	-	-
Key Route Network (LGF3) - Operate Key Roads / Routes Efficiently	166	116	-50	50	-	-	-
Key Route Network CRSTS	454	318	-136	136	-	-	-
Kingsmead School - Playing Field S106	397	278	-119	119	-	-	-
Landican Cemetery Extension of Burial Area & Modernisation of Chapel Complex	-	-	-	-	550	-	-
Landican Cemetery Extension of Burial Area & Modernisation of Chapel Complex	120	84	-36	676	-	-	-
Levelling Up Parks Fund-Woodchurch	12	8	-4	4	-	-	-
Moreton Sandbrook Drainage	203	142	-61	61	-	-	-
			-1		-	-	-



<b>Scheme</b>	<b>Budget 1 Apr 24 £000</b>	<b>2024/25 Q1 Forecast £000</b>	<b>Variance £000</b>	<b>2025/26 Budget £000</b>	<b>2026/27 Budget £000</b>	<b>2027/28 Budget £000</b>	<b>2028/29 Budget £000</b>
New Brighton Gym Equipment <b>Neighbourhoods cont.</b>	3	2		1			
New Ferry Rangers Community Clubhouse	37	26	-11	11	-	-	-
Parks Machinery	1,305	913	-392	392	-	-	-
Parks Vehicles	902	631	-271	313	-	-	-
Parks Workshop & various machinery	133	93	-40	40	-	-	-
Play Area Improvements	103	282	179	121	-	-	-
Plymyard Cemetery Roadways	8	6	-2	2	-	-	-
Plymyard Playing Field	116	81	-35	35	-	-	-
PSDS Decarbonisation Phase 1	958	671	-287	1,287	-	-	-
Quick Win Levy	45	31	-14	14	-	-	-
Removal of remaining analogue CCTV circuits	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
Solar Campus 3G	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
Street Lighting -Column Replacement & Signage	9	6	-3	3	-	-	-
Studio refurbishment Les Mills classes	15	10	-5	5	-	-	-
			-17		-	-	-



<b>Scheme</b>	<b>Budget 1 Apr 24 £000</b>	<b>2024/25 Q1 Forecast £000</b>	<b>Variance £000</b>	<b>2025/26 Budget £000</b>	<b>2026/27 Budget £000</b>	<b>2027/28 Budget £000</b>	<b>2028/29 Budget £000</b>
<b>Regeneration &amp; Place</b>							
Active Travel Tranche 2	1,363	1,363	-	-	-	-	-
Aids, Adaptations and Disabled Facility Grants	5,627	6,079	452	4,700	4,700	4,700	4,700
Arrowe Country Park - New Machine Shed & Wash Bay	75	75	-	-	-	-	-
Arrowe Country Park Depot: Re-Surfacing, Material Bays & Electronic Entrance Barrier	27	27	-	-	-	-	-
Bebington Oval Facility Upgrade	527	157	- 370	370	-	-	-
Birkenhead Market Construction	3,913	1,913	-2,000	10,800	-	-	-
Birkenhead Regeneration Delivery Fund	1,363	1,363	-	-	-	-	-
Birkenhead Regeneration Framework	210	210	-	-	-	-	-
Birkenhead Town Centre Masterplanning & Housing Delivery	80	80	-	-	-	-	-
Birkenhead Town Centre Sub-Station	2,250	1,250	-1,000	3,250	-	-	-
Birkenhead Waterfront Programme	8,897	3,897	-5,000	16,970	-	-	-
Business Investment Fund	585	585	-	-	-	-	-
Capitalisation of Regen Salaries	741	1,650	909	1,650	-	-	-

<b>Scheme</b>	<b>Budget 1 Apr 24 £000</b>	<b>2024/25 Q1 Forecast £000</b>	<b>Variance £000</b>	<b>2025/26 Budget £000</b>	<b>2026/27 Budget £000</b>	<b>2027/28 Budget £000</b>	<b>2028/29 Budget £000</b>
<b>Regeneration &amp; Place cont.</b>							
Changing Places Toilets	41	41	-	-	-	-	-
Clearance	183	183	-	195	-	-	-
Community Asset Transfer	500	500	-	-	-	-	-
Concerto Asset Management System	25	25	-	-	-	-	-
Connecting Wirral Waters: Detailed Design	26	26	-	-	-	-	-
Consolidated Library Works Fund	213	213	-	-	-	-	-
Demolitions	3,510	3,510	-	-	-	-	-
Depot Welfare Improvements	13	13	-	-	-	-	-
Empty Property Grant Scheme	308	308	-	-	-	-	-
Emslie Morgan (Solar Campus)	737	737	-	-	-	-	-
Future High Streets Fund - New Ferry	1,902	1,000	- 902	2,014	-	-	-
Floral Pavilion	28	28	-	-	-	-	-
Future High Streets - Birkenhead	13,250	3,250	-10,000	11,170	-	-	-
Health & Safety - Condition Surveys	742	742	-	700	700	700	772

<b>Scheme</b>	<b>Budget 1 Apr 24 £000</b>	<b>2024/25 Q1 Forecast £000</b>	<b>Variance £000</b>	<b>2025/26 Budget £000</b>	<b>2026/27 Budget £000</b>	<b>2027/28 Budget £000</b>	<b>2028/29 Budget £000</b>
<b>Regeneration &amp; Place cont.</b>							
Heswall Day Centre (part only)	50	50	-	-	-	-	-
Hind Street Programme	5,413	1,169	- 4,244	22,772	18,528	-	-
Leisure Capital Improvement Programme	316	316	-	-	-	-	-
Levelling Up Fund 3 - Liscard	635	3,934	3,299	8,240	-	-	-
Lever Sports Pavilion	80	80	-	-	-	-	-
Liscard Town Centre Delivery	13	13	-	-	-	-	-
Local Authority Housing Fund 2	4,308	4,308	-	-	-	-	-
Major Infrastructure Development & Strategic Transport Forward Planning - Traffic Management	53	53	-	-	-	-	-
Moreton Youth Club & Library	993	393	-600	600	-	-	-
New Brighton Masterplan for Marine Promenade	7	7	-	-	-	-	-
New Ferry Regeneration Strategic Acquisitions	916	916	-	-	-	-	-
Office Quarter Building Fit-Out	3,248	2,248	-1,000	1,000	-	-	-
Parks and Countryside DDA	351	51	-300	-	-	-	-
Pool Covers			-	-	-	-	-

<b>Scheme</b>	<b>Budget 1 Apr 24 £000</b>	<b>2024/25 Q1 Forecast £000</b>	<b>Variance £000</b>	<b>2025/26 Budget £000</b>	<b>2026/27 Budget £000</b>	<b>2027/28 Budget £000</b>	<b>2028/29 Budget £000</b>
<b>Regeneration &amp; Place cont.</b>	34	34					
Property Pooled Plus I.T System	6	6	-	3	3	-	-
Strategic Acquisition Fund	812	812	-	-	-	-	-
Strategic Acquisitions - Capital Enhancements	526	526	-	500	500	500	-
SUD - Leasowe to Seacombe Corridor	108	108	-	-	-	-	-
TAG Bus Case-A41 Corridor North	112	112	-	-	-	-	-
TAG Bus Case-Wirral Waters outline	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
The Hythe	5,255	5,255	-	-	-	-	-
Town Centre scheme - New Ferry	5	5	-	-	-	-	-
Town Deal Fund - Birkenhead	8,288	4,300	-3,988	15,455	-	-	-
Town Fund Birkenhead	53	53	-	-	-	-	-
UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF)	472	472	-	-	-	-	-
Vale Park Toilets	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
West Kirby Concourse/Guinea Gap Reception upgrade / improve	351	351	-	-	-	-	-

<b>Scheme</b>	<b>Budget 1 Apr 24 £000</b>	<b>2024/25 Q1 Forecast £000</b>	<b>Variance £000</b>	<b>2025/26 Budget £000</b>	<b>2026/27 Budget £000</b>	<b>2027/28 Budget £000</b>	<b>2028/29 Budget £000</b>
<b>Regeneration &amp; Place cont.</b>							
West Kirby Marine Lake/Sailing Centre – accommodation	73	73	-	-	-	-	-
West Kirby Masterplan	21	21	-	-	-	-	-
Wirral Waters Investment Fund	-	-	-	7,000	-	-	-
<b>Total Regeneration &amp; Place</b>	<b>79,637</b>	<b>54,893</b>	<b>-24,744</b>	<b>107,389</b>	<b>24,431</b>	<b>5,900</b>	<b>5,472</b>
<b>TOTAL PROGRAMME</b>	<b>133,013</b>	<b>100,996</b>	<b>-32,017</b>	<b>130,883</b>	<b>38,504</b>	<b>8,400</b>	<b>7,972</b>

## Appendix 6

### Prudential Indicators 2024/25

#### (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 1 below shows the original estimates for 2023/24 onwards when the Capital Financing Strategy 2024/25 was approved (Council meeting 26 February 2024):

**Table 1: Prudential Indicator: Original Estimates of Capital Expenditure**

	<b>2023/24 Forecast</b>	<b>2024/25 Estimate</b>	<b>2025/26 Estimate</b>	<b>2026/27 Estimate</b>	<b>Total</b>
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Capital Expenditure	97,103	92,628	78,013	34,221	<b>301,965</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>97,103</b>	<b>92,628</b>	<b>78,013</b>	<b>34,221</b>	<b>301,965</b>

Table 2 shows how these figures have evolved, with the programme amendments detailed within this report.

**Table 2: Prudential Indicator: Revised Estimates of Capital Expenditure**

	<b>2023/24 Actual</b>	<b>2024/25 Estimate</b>	<b>2025/26 Estimate</b>	<b>2026/27 Estimate</b>	<b>Total</b>
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Capital Expenditure	78,316	100,996	130,883	38,504	<b>348,699</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>78,316</b>	<b>100,996</b>	<b>130,883</b>	<b>38,504</b>	<b>348,699</b>

Capital expenditure has or will be funded as follows:



**Table 3: Prudential Indicator: Financing of Capital Expenditure**

<b>Capital Financing</b>	<b>2023/24 Actual £'000</b>	<b>2024/25 Estimate £'000</b>	<b>2025/26 Estimate £'000</b>	<b>2026/27 Estimate £'000</b>
Capital receipts	5,400	4,301	722	-
Grants and Contributions	38,354	66,966	106,094	33,476
Revenue and Reserves	293	230	1,205	-
Borrowing	34,269	29,499	22,862	5,028
<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>78,316</b>	<b>100,996</b>	<b>130,883</b>	<b>38,504</b>

**(c) Capital Financing Requirement (CFR)**

Estimates of the Authority's cumulative maximum external borrowing requirement for 2023/24 to 2026/27 as per the Capital Strategy 2024/25, are shown in the table below:

**Table 4: Capital Financing Requirement Estimates – Capital Strategy 2024/25**

<b>Capital Financing Requirement</b>	<b>31/03/2024 Forecast £m</b>	<b>31/03/2025 Estimate £m</b>	<b>31/03/2026 Estimate £m</b>	<b>31/03/2027 Estimate £m</b>
General Fund	400.262	409.715	407.728	401.263

Table 5 shows how these figures have evolved, with the programme amendments detailed within this report.

**Table 5: Capital Financing Requirement Revised Estimates**

<b>Capital Financing Requirement</b>	<b>31/03/2024 Actual £m</b>	<b>31/03/2025 Estimate £m</b>	<b>31/03/2026 Estimate £m</b>	<b>31/03/2027 Estimate £m</b>
General Fund	393.989	407.923	414.068	406.445

**(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 6: Gross Debt and the Revised Capital Financing Requirement Estimates**

<b>Debt</b>	<b>31/03/2025 Estimate £m</b>	<b>31/03/2026 Estimate £m</b>	<b>31/03/2027 Estimate £m</b>
Borrowing	328.629	334.629	335.408
PFI liabilities	24.727	21.296	17.581
<b>Total Debt</b>	<b>353.356</b>	<b>355.925</b>	<b>352.989</b>
<b>Borrowing in excess of CFR?</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>

**(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 26 February 2024) during Quarter 1.

**Table 7: Authorised Limit and Operational Boundary for External Debt**

	<b>Operational Boundary (Approved) 2024/25 £m</b>	<b>Authorised Limit (Approved) 2024/25 £m</b>	<b>External Debt 30/06/2024 £m</b>
Borrowing	430.000	440.000	297.796
Other Long-term Liabilities	48.000	53.000	27.971
<b>Total</b>	<b>478.000</b>	<b>493.000</b>	<b>325.767</b>

**(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 8 Ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream.**

<b>Ratio of Finance Costs to Net Revenue Stream</b>	<b>2024/25</b>	<b>2025/26</b>	<b>2026/27</b>
	<b>Estimate</b>	<b>Estimate</b>	<b>Estimate</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
Ratio	7.080%	7.292%	6.968%



## COUNCIL

Monday 29 July 2024

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>REVISION TO THE APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>DIRECTOR OF LAW AND CORPORATE SERVICES</b>

### REPORT SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to advise Council of the resignation of the Chair of Children, Young, Peoples and Education Committee and that notice has been received by the Monitoring Officer from the Leader of the Council proposing that Councillor Stephen Bennett be appointed as the new Chair of Children, Young, Peoples and Education Committee and that Cllr Brenda Hall be appointed as Chair of Pensions Committee in place of Cllr Bennett. In accordance with the relevant provisions of the constitution, Council is therefore requested to appoint a new Chair of Children, Young, Peoples and Education Committee for the remainder of the municipal year and make any further consequential appointments of Committee Chairs as may be appropriate.

### RECOMMENDATION/S

Council is recommended to agree:

- (1) the appointment of a Chair of Children, Families and Education Committee and any further consequential appointments of Committee Chairs as may be appropriate.
- (2) That the Monitoring Officer be authorised as proper officer to carry out the wishes of the Group Leaders in allocating Members to membership and substitute membership of any affected committees as a result of the change in Committee Chairs with effect from the date at which the proper officer is advised of the names of such Members.

## **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

### **1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 1.1 Council is charged with responsibility for appointing a relevant Chair of Children, Young, Peoples and Education Committee. The most recently appointed Chair of this committee has submitted their resignation and therefore a fresh appointment-needs to be made.

### **2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

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

### **3.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES**

- 3.1 The Chair of Children Young Peoples and Education committee has resigned. It is therefore necessary for Council to consider the appointment of a member to be Chair of the Committee for the remainder of the municipal year.
- 3.3 It may also be necessary for Group Leaders to notify the Monitoring Officer of their wishes in allocating Members to membership and substitute membership of any affected committees as a result of the change in Committee Chair.

### **4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

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

### **5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 Part 2 Article 6 of the constitution provides for the Council to appoint Chairs and Vice-Chairs to individual committees.
- 5.2 There is a legal requirement for the Council to appoint Members to its committees on a politically proportionately basis.

### **6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT; STAFFING AND ASSETS**

- 6.1 There are no 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 its Chairs and Vice-Chairs to Committees. It follows that in the event of the resignation of a Chair, the responsibility for the appointment of a new chair similarly rests with the Council.

### **8.0 ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION**

8.1 It is for political groups to decide how they wish to allocate their committee places.

## **9.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 There are no equality implications arising directly from this report.

## **10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 The recommendations contained within this report are expected to have no impact on emissions of Greenhouse Gases.

## **11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH IMPLICATIONS**

11.1 The recommendations contained within this report are expected to have no impact on Community Wealth.

**REPORT AUTHOR:** Anna Perrett  
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## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

The Constitution

### **SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)**

<b>Council Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>
Annual Council	22 May 2024

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## COUNCIL

29 July 2024

<b>REPORT TITLE:</b>	<b>SIX MONTH ATTENDANCE RULE S85 (1) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>DIRECTOR OF LAW AND CORPORATE SERVICES (MONITORING OFFICER)</b>

### REPORT SUMMARY

Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 requires a Member of a Local Authority to attend at least one meeting of that Authority within a six-month consecutive period, unless permission for the absence is granted by the Authority in advance, in order to avoid being disqualified as a Councillor. Without advance permission to be absent, loss of office is automatic and permission cannot be granted retrospectively.

The report requests that Councillor Graham Davies is granted permission to be absent from Council meetings for the remainder of the 2024/25 municipal year.

### RECOMMENDATION/S

It is recommended that:

The absence of Councillor Graham Davies from all Council and Committee Meetings be authorised and approved for the remainder of the 2024/25 municipal year, pursuant to Section 85 (1) of the Local Government Act 1972

## **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

### **1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 1.1 Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 requires a Member of a Local Authority to attend at least one meeting of that Authority within a six-month consecutive period, unless permission for the absence is granted by the Authority in advance, in order to avoid being disqualified as a Councillor. Councillor Graham Davies has been unable to attend meetings due to ill health.

### **2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 2.1 The proposal in this report is made to avoid Councillor Graham Davies being disqualified from office for non-attendance during a period of ill health. Agreeing to the waiver over a different time period other than until the end of the 2024/25 Municipal Year is an option that Members may wish to consider. Were the Council not to approve the reason for absence, a vacancy would then arise on expiry of the six month period of absence.

### **3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 3.1 Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 ('Vacation of office by failure to attend meetings') requires that, if a member of a local authority fails to attend any meeting of the authority throughout a period of six consecutive months from the date of their last attendance at a meeting, they shall, unless the failure was due to some reason approved by the authority before the expiry of that period, cease to be a member of the authority.
- 3.2 Attendance in an official capacity at a relevant meeting of the Council is defined as attendance at a Committee or a Sub-Committee of the Council or at any meeting of a joint Committee or other such body discharging functions of the Council or at any meeting as a representative of the Council is deemed to be a meeting of the Council.
- 3.3 Once any councillor loses office through failure to attend for the six-month period, the disqualification cannot be overcome by the councillor subsequently resuming attendance. Nor can retrospective approval of the Council be sought for an extension.

### **4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 If the recommendations are approved, Councillor Graham Davies will continue to receive the basic allowance which all Councillors are entitled to receive. As this is budgeted for, there are no financial implications arising from the recommendations within this report.

### **5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 If the recommendation set out in this report is not approved Councillor Graham Davies would become disqualified due to the six month non-attendance rule if they



are unable to attend a meeting before 6 December 2023. Approval of continuing absence is allowed under Section 85 (1) of the Local Government Act 1972.

## **6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS**

6.1 There are no resource implications arising from this report.

## **7.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

7.1 If the Council does not approve the recommendation set out in this report a Member may become automatically disqualified. This will mean that some electors will be under-represented until such time that a by-election has taken place.

## **8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION**

8.1 The Leader of Cllr Davies Political Group has informed other Group Leaders on the request to approve a period of absence from meetings for Cllr Davies pursuant to section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972.

## **9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 Any Equality Implications are addressed in section 1.1 of the report and the recommendation.

## **10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 There are no environment and climate change implications arising from this report.

## **11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH IMPLICATIONS**

11.1 There are no direct community wealth implications arising from this report.

**REPORT AUTHOR:** **Steve Fox**  
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## **APPENDICES**

None

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Local Government Act 1972  
Constitution

## **SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)**

<b>Council Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>
------------------------	-------------

Annual Council	22 May 2024
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## CONSTITUTION AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 28 February 2024

Present:

Councillor T Cox (Chair)

Councillors G Bennett M Sullivan  
P Gilchrist  
J Grier  
T Murphy

In attendance:

R Jones  
G Kerr  
J McCosh

### 14 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.

### 15 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Tom Laing, who was deputised by Councillor Angie Davies.

### 16 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(s) on this agenda and, if so, to declare them and state what they are.

Independent Persons in attendance at the Committee declared their interest in item 6, Revisions to the Constitution, in regards to the subject of the Independent Persons Allowance. The Chair noted and appreciated this declaration, and acknowledged advice from the Monitoring Officer that Independent Persons would not need to declare an interest and leave the room as they are not entitled to vote.

### 17 MINUTES

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 28 September 2023 be approved.

### 18 PUBLIC AND MEMBER QUESTIONS

No questions were received.

## 19 REVISIONS TO THE CONSTITUTION

The Director of Law and Corporate Services introduced the report. The report provided a summary of the discussions held by the Governance Working Group over the course of the last municipal year in respect to proposed changes to the Constitution. The proposed changes were in relation to: Officer Code of Conduct, Member Officer Protocol, Media Protocol, Financial Procedure Rules, Members Allowance Scheme, Public Questions and Petitions, and Minor amendments.

In relation to the Members Allowance Scheme, the Chair of the Independent Remuneration Panel, Peter Bounds, addressed the Committee, outlining the 2 proposals the panel had put forward. One proposal suggested the allowance for Independent Members of the Constitution and Standards Committee and the Audit and Risk Management Committee, be increased from £30 per meeting to £60 per meeting. The second proposal suggested that the Chair of the Liverpool City Region Transport Committee, if a member of Wirral Council, should be paid 65% of the Special Responsibility Allowance of the Leader of Wirral Council, which amounts to £10,305.58.

Members commented on the changing responsibilities of the Chair of the Transport Committee and recognised the need for such remuneration. Members also thanked Peter and his colleagues for their work on the Independent Remuneration Panel.

In relation to the Public Questions and Petition Scheme, members were in agreement of the proposal to reduce the deadline for submitting a petition from 10 days prior to the meeting to 3 days prior, at 12 noon, as well as increasing the time allowed for debate of said petition from 15 minutes to 30 minutes.

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

**Resolved - That the proposed amendments to the Constitution, as detailed in sections 3.3 to 3.13 of the report, be referred to the Council for consideration and approval at the Annual Meeting in May 2024.**

## 20 LICENSING CODE OF GOOD PRACTICE

The Head of Legal Services introduced the report of the Director of Law and Corporate Services. The report was submitted to Committee for comment and agreement that the draft Council Members' Licensing Code of Good Practice be presented to Council for inclusion in the Constitution.

Members praised the Code of Good Practice as a valued addition to the constitution and noted that it mirrored the Planning Code of Good Practice.

On a motion by the Chair, seconded by Councillor Tony Murphy, it was,

**Resolved – That the committee,**

- 1. Recommends to Council that the Draft Licensing Code of Good Practice appended to this report be approved by Council and be included within the Council’s Constitution, subject to the views of the Regulatory and General Purposes Committee and the Licensing Act Committee.**

**Agrees that the Draft Licensing Code of Good Practice and the recommendation of the Constitution and Standards Committee be referred to the Regulatory and General Purpose Committee and Licensing Act Committee for their consideration.**

## 21 **CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2024/25 AND 2025/26**

The Director of Law and Corporate Services introduced the report. The report recommended amendments to the previously agreed dates for Council and Committee meetings for the municipal year 2024/2025 as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report. The report also recommended draft dates for the municipal year 2025/26 at Appendix 2.

Members reflected the importance of having a calendar set in advance for those of them who work full time, and were appreciative of the changes made to rectify common movements.

Members questioned the proposed sequence of meetings in July 2024 and 2025, as drafted the Political Group Meetings were scheduled too far in advance of the publication of the council Summons. Members requested that the Director of Law and Corporate Services give consideration to the views expressed by Members and that the July 2024 and July 2025 meeting sequence be amended prior to submission to Council for approval.

On a motion by the Chair, seconded by Councillor Mike Sullivan, it was,

**Resolved – That Council be recommended to approve the calendar of Meetings for 2024/25 and 2025/2026, subject to the Director of Law and Corporate Services, in consultation with the Chair and Group spokespersons, amending the sequence of meetings in July 2024 and July 2025.**

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## **ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE**

Tuesday, 5 March 2024

Present: Councillor J Williamson (Chair)

Councillors P Gilchrist J McManus  
S Mountney M Jordan  
T Murphy G Bennett  
K Murphy J Stewart Laing  
B Hall E Tomeny

74 **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

75 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from:

Cllr Amanda Onwuemene who was substituted by Cllr Ewan Tomeny; and  
Cllr Colin Baldwin who was substituted by Cllr Gary Bennett.

76 **MEMBER DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The Chair asked for members to declare any interests in any items on the agenda. Cllr Gary Bennet made a declaration of interest as a member of his family was a social worker.

77 **MINUTES**

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 23 January 2024 be agreed.

78 **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

The following public question was received from Ian Seddon on behalf of Wirral Unison and was read by Ian Seddon:

“There is an agreement dating from April 2023, that front line domiciliary workers in adult social care, working for care providers under the Wirral Community Care Market, are paid an enhanced rate of £12 per hour.

Unison are aware of one provider who received funding for the £12 per hour rate from April 2023 but only began paying eligible staff from August 2023.

The union asked for clarification about the funding on a number of occasions and eventually through a formal channel received confirmation from Wirral Council Care Commissioning that the provider in question had received the funds from April but that they were only paying it to their staff from August

2023.

This was queried again by Unison as it appeared from the response that the care provider had received money but not fully passed it on, no explanation has given to us over what had been done with the funds. On various occasions we were told that the issue had been discussed with the care provider but that no answer could be given to our question as it was commercially sensitive.

To remind the Committee: it states in the Wirral Council Market and Sustainability Plan that “in March 2023 the Council agreed to use the Fair Cost of Care and Market Sustainability Fund to raise pay to £12 per hour to both maintain and grow the market”. The payments were due to begin in April 2023.

We would like an urgent investigation into why the provider in question has not passed on the money which was specifically for the one purpose of enhancing pay, and the answer communicated to Wirral Unison as soon as possible.

This is public money provided for a particular purpose and it is also in the public interest to find out what happened to the money that hasn't been paid out, and if the company still has it then it belongs in our members pockets. My question is – Unison were advised that the care provider had been funded to pay qualifying staff from April, these payments only began in August, so what has happened to the money that wasn't paid out?

Unison will provide further details on the provider involved to Councillors and Council Officers as required.”

The Chair stated that as this matter was ongoing the Committee would not be discussing any details at the meeting. The Chair confirmed that the Committee supported paying the real living wage and will ensure that a written response was provided.

The following statement was received from Sean Kirkby on behalf of Acorn House in relation to Item 8 on the agenda pack:

“I would like to raise some serious concerns about the fee setting process and the resulting draft proposals which have been put forward for approval next Tuesday evening.

I have read the report in the agenda for that meeting and there are some inaccuracies I think you should carefully consider. The process is unfair and not transparent, getting the correct information to consider has been difficult and at times unavailable. The draft fee rates have been set mechanistically and if there is going to be a consultation process in the future it should have an inclusive organic approach which is well-integrated with an open comprehensive accurate up to date information network. The Council are supposed to be working in partnership with providers to care for the vulnerable and sick on the Wirral. I'm afraid it is far from that



The current draft proposals make no allowance for any increase for general training, recruitment, handyman/gardener, other non-staff costs, medical supplies, domestic and cleaning supplies, trade and clinical waste, professional service costs, admin costs, and manager's salary.

The whole true cost of care with modelling should be the only figures we should be considering and then we can openly discuss affordability. Other neighbouring Local Authorities are proposing increases on average between 5% and 9% above Wirral's draft proposals. Wirral's proposed fees rates are too low and if approved are setting providers up to fail.

We can't pass on our cost increases to our customers, the Council are responsible for paying providers a fair price having followed due process and given due regard to the actual cost. I hope you will be able to seriously consider the above points and access additional funding to approve realistic minimum fee rates to provide good quality care.”

Mr Kirkby attended the meeting but did not wish to speak so the Head of Legal Services read out the statement. The Chair noted the statement.

There were no petitions to report.

## 79 **NATIONAL SUBSTANCE MISUSE GRANT FUNDING UPDATE**

The Senior Public Health Registrar and the Senior Public Health Manager presented the report of the Director of Public Health which provided an update on the progress made in the delivery of the grant allocations received from national government as part of the government's national drugs strategy (2021). It also set out the continued funding due to be received in 2024/25. It was reported that Public Health had produced a Wirral Drugs Strategy to guide the delivery of the grant funding and had successfully established a nationally mandated local Combatting Drugs Partnership with a number of supporting thematic delivery groups.

The Chair explained that there was an exempt appendix and asked whether any members wished to refer the exempt appendix in the discussion of the report. There were no members who needed to refer to the confidential appendix and it was agreed to continue. It was reported that the Combatting Drugs partnership met regularly to review progress and provide governance of the Supplementary Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery (“SSMTR”) programme which was formerly known as ADDER. Funding had been confirmed for this year as a little under £4.4million with an additional £111,364 for inpatient detoxification. Some of the additional programmes include addressing near fatal overdoses, supporting vulnerable groups, expanding specialist roles and children and young people provision, enhancing residential rehabilitation capacity, supporting recovery and enhancing lived experience initiatives. It was highlighted that the emphasis was on investing in system wide action rather than just the treatment service itself. There was

encouraging evidence that key indicators were improving locally since the grant funding had begun to be spent.

Members highlighted the return on investment and the indirect social benefit it can have and also the need for the recruitment and retention of staff with specialist skills. Members queried whether there was a delay in the funding for the alcohol free bar and an answer will be provided. The report was well received by Members.

**Resolved - That**

**1. The scheduled 2024/25 SSMTR grant of £4,376,408 from OHID be accepted and the provisional Delivery Plan outlined for this funding be agreed (Appendix 1).**

**2. The provisional utilisation of the 2024/25 Inpatient Detoxification grant of £111,364 be accepted and approved.**

**3. The progress made to date in delivering the SSMTR and Inpatient Detoxification grant funding programmes be noted.**

**4. The successful establishment of the Wirral Combatting Drugs Partnership and the publication of the Wirral Drugs Strategy be noted.**

**5. The Director of Law and Corporate Services be authorised to finalise the legal documentation arising from the acceptance of the grant funding referred to in recommendations 1 and 2.**

80 **C&M LD & AUTISM HOUSING STRATEGY**

The Interim Assistant Director, Strategic Commissioning and Integrated Services presented this report which provided a summary of the Cheshire and Merseyside commissioning work programme for “Independent and Fulfilling Lives” and the development of a Learning Disability and Autism Housing Strategy. The strategy had been jointly produced with the Housing Learning and Improvement Network and established a framework for all commissioners when assessing local housing need for this cohort of people and supported new developments, alongside general housing to meet those needs. The strategy is provided in an easy read version. It was asked that the report be shared at a future date with the Economy, Regeneration and Housing Committee. This strategy was a co-ordinated regional policy that signalled to both the housing and the provider market about what the future demand will be. The spectrum of accommodation that was modelled meant that people would have assured tenancies in the future. The report referred to a GAP analysis that modelled future demand of up to 259 units and the strategy will be in place from 2023-2027 to support that work programme.

Members requested that the report also be taken to Children, Young People and Education Committee.

Members asked about the available funding and it was clarified that Wirral resources would be used for Wirral residents but where more specialist facilities were needed across the region these could be developed with other Local Authorities.

It was reported that it seemed appropriate for Local Authorities to work together to develop general needs housing and supported housing options but where needs were more complex it made more sense to work with the NHS across a bigger footprint to plan. There were currently no resources allocated it.

**Resolved - That**

**1. The Cheshire and Merseyside Learning Disability and Autism Housing Strategy as set out in Appendix 2 to this report be approved.**

**2. The report be considered for information at the Economy, Regeneration and Housing Committee and the Children, Young People and Education Committee at a future date to be agreed.**

81 **OUTCOME OF ANNUAL RATE AND FEES ENGAGEMENT**

The Interim Assistant Director, Strategic Commissioning and Integrated Services presented the report which described the outcome of the annual engagement exercise with the Local Community Care Market for fee rates to be paid to care providers for 2024/2025. The service areas that the rates and fees covered were Residential and Nursing care, Supported Living, Extra Care, Care and Support at Home, Direct Payments, Shared Lives and Specialist residential placements. It was reported that a comprehensive exercise was undertaken and the Council has allocated to meet the funds and the new demand for both the increase in the national minimum wage and the real living wage a total of £10.4million for the next financial year. The emphasis was on meeting local need and providers in the sector had been listened to regarding the continued challenges of recruitment into the sector. The funds made available to the Council through the market sustainability improvement fund were at £7.8million and the Council had committed to meet the requirement for both the national minimum wage and the real living wage at £10.4million. An increase in specialist fees of 4.6 percent was proposed. For last years rates and fees there were substantial increases in many sectors of up to 18 or 19 percent, in particular for residential and nursing and all of the funds made available to the Council were allocated last year in the sum of £14.1million. For 2024-2025 wages for frontline staff were prioritised with the funds that had been made available to the Council.

Members discussed training and in particular dementia training. It was reported that providers delivering dementia care registered under the Care Quality Commission are required to provide dementia training to staff. It was clarified to Members that the real living wage rate was included in the direct payments for employers to pay their frontline staff. Members discussed the importance of staff retention and the biggest challenge was the sufficiency of domiciliary care. It was explained that the Council had used the resources that were available to give as much as possible to the care sector.

**Resolved – That the rates as set out in sections 4.2, 4.3 and 4.4 of this report to apply, with effect from 1 April 2024, to services commissioned by the Council and jointly commissioned services between the Council and NHS Cheshire and Mersey Integrated Care Board (ICB), in relation to Residential and Nursing Care, Supported Living, Extra Care, Care and Support at Home, Direct Payments and Shared Lives be approved.**

## 82 ALL AGE DISABILITY STRATEGY

The Assistant Director of All Age Independence and Provider Services presented the report which presented the draft All Age Disability Strategy 2024-2029 for approval. The strategy formed part of the work programme as an outcome of the All Age Disability review which was approved at the Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee on the 13 June 2023. The report highlighted the strategies:- 1. Coproduction journey from March to November 2023; 2. Best practice desktop research; 3. Purpose, vision, mission, core values and outcomes underpinning the strategy; 4. Links with and underpinning of other strategies and plans; and 5. Implementation plan, governance, and impact monitoring. This report was a key decision which was to be presented at the Children, Young People and Education Committee on 6 March 2024.

The co-production journey of the strategy was highlighted and this had involved listening and recognised that language and inclusive approaches were important. It was stressed by the people with lived experience to keep the writing easy and that had been done. The strategy had a clear purpose, vision, mission and core values which were underpinned by four focussed outcomes in the four pillars. The four outcomes were interlinked and it was important to recognise that a multi partnership approach was required to enable the outcomes to be successful.

The next stage was to co-produce a measurable implementation plan to be monitored by the All Age Disability Partnership Board that would bring Annual Impact reports to this Committee and the Wirral Place Based Partnership Board.

It was reported that 71,000 people who are disabled lived in Wirral which was 22 percent of Wirral residents as compared to 19.4 percent of people in the North West and 17.3 percent across England.

Members discussed supported pathways into employment and autism. It was agreed that the Disabled Facilities Grant report from the Joint Health and Care Executive Group could be brought to Committee.

**Resolved - That**

**1. the coproduced draft All Age Disability Strategy 2024-2029, as noted in Appendix 1 to this report be approved; and**

**2. annual progress and impact reports of the implementation of the strategy be received.**

**83 ALL AGE DISABILITY REVIEW IMPLEMENTATION**

The Assistant Director of All Age Independence and Provider Services presented the report of the Director of Care and Health which provided the progress to date of the implementation programme following the All-Age Disability Review that was approved at the Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee on the 13 June 2023. The implementation programme covered high level thematic areas and included starting earlier at age 14, improved accessibility and relevant information for parents and carers. Each work stream in the work programme was interlinked and part of a continual improvement journey. It was reported that each area within the workstreams had made significant progress and some of the workstreams had been completed or were on target for completion. The co-production of the strategy had been included in a report and completed and a co-production preparing for adulthood transitions protocol had been produced and was scheduled to be completed by early March 2024. The real time story board of Thomas demonstrated the benefits of personalisation and systematic transition from one service to another.

Progress against the education, health and care plan provided a snapshot of 25 plans of 14-18 year olds to establish a base line of current practice and included an analysis of cost of care, support packages for improved outcomes and the forecast of potential opportunities for cost avoidance and covers plans for training, volunteering and employment and plans for housing options for 18 year olds. The analysis projected that with good preparing for adulthood planning 15 of the 25 individuals could be supported into employment and 17 of those could be supported into housing options. The report was comprehensive with its own set of recommendations that were to be taken forward in the preparing for adulthood collaboration with stakeholders. In July 2024 a further report will detail opportunities to support people into employment and keep them there. We will look at the current service model for young people moving into adulthood and enable them to flourish. The

coproduction of the pathways from the Education Health and Care Plans was to be in the summer of 2024. This report was to be presented at Children's, Families and Education Committee on 6 March 2024.

**Resolved – That the significant progress to date of the implementation programme following the All-Age Disability Review as in Appendix 1 be noted.**

## 84 CO-PRODUCTION STRATEGY

The Interim Assistant Director, Strategic Commissioning and Integrated Services presented the report of the Director of Care and Health which provided an update on the research, development and co-production of a Co-production Strategy for use within Adult Care and Health services and with wider stakeholders. The requirement for a strategy had been highlighted as part of the Care Quality Inspection preparation for Adult Care and Health and represented best practice when working with people who use services, either as individuals or as stakeholder groups. It was key to involve experts when co-producing services to deliver or commission. A monitoring approach was to be put in place to highlight which pieces of work were to be co-produced and how effective they had been.

The report outlined reciprocity which meant giving something back to people for their input in co-producing which could either be in terms of a financial response such as vouchers or a thank you. The strategy built on a strength based approach and meant that there was an area for development in all of the staff teams to develop this co-production approach. Once the strategy had been approved work was to take place with stakeholders to develop a range of accessible formats.

The Charter was to be officially launched.

Members discussed the fact that this report outlined a commitment to co-produce not how to co-produce and it was highlighted that it would be very difficult to put all the different approaches into one document.

Councillor Kieran Murphy proposed an amendment that the report be sent back to officers to do more work on how the Co-Production Strategy was going to be implemented. This was seconded by Councillor Ewan Tomeny. Following a debate the proposed amendment was withdrawn.

Following a request from Members it was agreed that the font of the report was to be in black rather than grey to make it easier to read.

**Resolved – That the Co-production Strategy and Co-production Charter, which have been co-produced with local stakeholders, carers and people who use services for implementation within Adult Care and Health be approved.**

## 85 PUBLIC HEALTH GRANT

The Director of Public Health presented the report which provided an update on the research, development and co-production of a Co-production Strategy for use within Adult Care and Health services and with wider stakeholders. The requirement for a strategy has been highlighted as part of the Care Quality Inspection preparation for Adult Care and Health and represented best practice when working with people who use services, either as individuals or as stakeholder groups. The report outlined the proposals to bring down the Public Health Grant reserves to an acceptable level over a period of three years and ensure the investments were made upfront and the impact was to be monitored. The Chair highlighted that there had been a concern that this Committee would be paying for staff in regeneration. It was clarified that the additionality of staff in line with the Public Health Grant was to be defined to ensure that core staff in regeneration would not be funded with this grant funding. It was reported that there was to be an additional responsibility in the form of the NHS uplift for the Council's NHS commissioned services which were not previously funded by the Council. There was a small uplift in the public health grant to cover that but the implications of that were still being worked on. Early signs were that the allocated money received would not be sufficient to cover the NHS uplift so a slight adjustment was to be built in. A number of other areas were outlined around fuel poverty, the environmental climate emergency, the positive inclusion programme, tobacco control and the speech and language enhanced parents support.

Members sought clarification to the £200,000 that was allocated to the climate emergency. It was explained that the proposals were not fully worked up yet but officers were looking at what would be the best approach to supplement the work that was already being done. The initial proposal was the creation of an additional post in the Neighbourhoods Team to supplement the work that they were doing but that would depend on whether the additionality could be defined in terms of a public health element.

Members asked whether tobacco control included vapes. The Director of Public Health confirmed that vapes were included in the programme particularly around Trading Standards and explained that there was currently no capacity to carry out test purchasing and restrict the sale of vapes and this was to be part of the programme.

**Resolved – That the Director of Public Health be authorised to make effective use of the Public Health Grant Reserves to tackle the identified emerging pressures, in line with the spending proposals, over a three-year period from April 2024 to March 2027, up to a maximum value of £4,500,000.**

## 86 ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND PUBLIC HEALTH 2023/24 REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING FOR QUARTER 3

The Director of Adults Care and Health and Strategic Commissioning presented the report which set out the financial monitoring information for the Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee as at Quarter 3 (1 Apr – 31 Dec) 2023/24. The report provided Members with an overview of budget performance for this area of activity, including 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. Managing a budget required difficult decisions to ensure that a balanced position could be presented. Regular Member engagement, which this report forms part of, was considered essential in delivering effective governance and financial oversight. At the end of Quarter 3, there was a reported adverse position of £0.435m against a net revenue budget of £131.257m. The outcome figure assumed full delivery of the savings that had been set out for the year. Winter pressures funding had been deployed and focussed on hospital flow and hospital discharges. It was reported that the progress was good but there was a £435,000 adverse position.

#### **Resolved - That**

- 1. the adverse position presented at Quarter 3 be noted.**
- 2. the delivery of the 2023/24 savings programme at Quarter 3 be noted.**
- 3. the reserves allocated to the Committee for future one-off commitments be noted.**
- 4. the level of reserves at Quarter 3 be noted.**

#### **87 ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND PUBLIC HEALTH PERFORMANCE REPORT**

The Interim Assistant Director, Strategic Commissioning and Integrated Services presented the report of the Director of Care and Health which provided a performance report in relation to Adult Social Care and Public Health. The report was designed based on discussion with Members through working group activity in December 2022. Members' requests have been incorporated into the report presented at this Committee meeting. Monitoring the performance of Adult Health and Care services and those of partners supported implementation of the Council Plan: Wirral Working Together 2023-27, specifically Theme 3 to promote independence and healthier lives.

It was highlighted that the number of people supported had now increased to over 9000 and over 5000 people were supported by technology enabled care. There was a continued increase in domiciliary care provision with a return to pre-pandemic figures and this was aligned with the Home First service. The 8.5 percent factor for admissible vacancies within the community care home sector reflected that there was sufficiency in the local market.



It was explained that the CQC were changing the way they take their inspections and since November 2023 they were part of the self-assessment process. There was improved performance where Council services had supported hospital discharges and there was a good reduction in the number of people who did not meet the criteria to reside in the hospital and there was a reduction in the length of hospital stays. It was reported that a new extra care scheme at Sycamore House in Liscard had opened in the last two weeks which was anticipated to greatly improve the figures for the next quarter.

Members discussed the CQC Care Home ratings and the need for well trained dementia nurses. It was explained that the new quality management system was helping to support the quality of the services and this was to be showcased at the Members workshop in April.

**Resolved -That the content of the report be noted and any areas requiring further clarification or action be highlighted.**

## 88 ANNUAL COMPLAINTS REPORT

The Assistant Director of All Age Independence and Provider Services presented the report of the Director of Care and Health which complied with the statutory requirement for the Council to produce an Annual Report about complaints made by, or on behalf of people who receive support or services from Adult Social Care. The Annual Report also provided a mechanism by which the Council could monitor the quality and effectiveness of their services. This report provided an overview and analysis of all complaints received during the reporting period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023 which included, numbers of complaints received, key themes identified, responding to complaints (including performance data against statutory requirements), an overview of complaints escalated to the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman and the learning from complaints. There had been an increase in complaints of 13 percent from 142 to 161. The emerging themes were similar to previous years and included complaints about the standard of care and support, social work concerns and financial charging issues. 87 percent of complaints were resolved at a local resolution stage and did not progress to the local government social care ombudsman. A decrease in the average response time from 62 to 52 working days was reported. Cases were often complex and required further in-depth review and these complaints often exceeded the timescale of 25 working days. 61 percent of complaints were fully or partially upheld. It was reported that the Council were 100 percent compliant with all the recommendations noted in the report. 80 learning points were recorded and the report gave insight into the learning from complaints. 16 complements had been received from people that used the service and staff received a handwritten complement slip from the Director.

A member referred to the 80 learning points and asked whether there could be a never event in terms of hydration and this was to be considered.

Members discussed the increase in complaints which may have been due to an increased profile of the Team and encouraging partners to obtain feedback to enable further improvement.

Complaints around finances were discussed and it was explained that these were dealt with by a separate Directorate which can sometimes create issues and work was taking place with the Personal Finance Units in terms of performance and the notes that go out and the timeliness in terms of charging.

**Resolved – That the contents of the Annual Complaints Report (Appendix 1) relating to statutory Adult Social Care service delivery be considered and noted.**

## 89 DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH ANNUAL REPORT 2024

The Director of Public Health with support from the Senior Public Health Manager presented the Public Health Annual Report (PHAR) which was the independent annual report of the Director of Public Health and was a statutory requirement. The report supported, and helped to build on, the commitment made in Wirral's Health and Wellbeing Strategy to prioritise system-wide work on those underlying factors that will have the biggest impact on the health of our communities. Good employment was one of those factors. The report described the importance of good employment for health and wellbeing, and highlighted some of the barriers and challenges faced by local people in accessing quality employment. It provided an account of the lived experience of some of Wirral's residents and set out some of the evidence on what can be done as a system to address barriers.

It was emphasised that the report had been collaboratively produced and was titled work in progress. The focus of the report was the importance of good work and the evidence of the impact on people's health and wellbeing was really clear. There was a lot of good work in place in Wirral. The case studies showed that little things had helped people to sustain employment and benefit from that employment. It was reported that 21.2 percent of the working age population on the Wirral were economically inactive and of those nearly 36 percent was due to a long-term condition or being long term sick and this area needed a lot more focus. Work had already started on the low figure of 3 percent employment of those with special educational needs and disability. In terms of job density there were only 6 jobs for every 10 people of working age and focussing on local regeneration is key to improving this. The key to this was fair and inclusive employment practices and working with anchor institutions. It was a work in progress which would be helped by a collective approach.

Members discussed meaningful, secure and well paid work and the importance of job security to physical and mental health and wellbeing.

**Resolved – That**

- 1. the Public Health Annual Report be reviewed and endorsed.**
- 2. the ongoing work to drive forward action on ensuring inclusive employment opportunities be supported and health-related worklessness in Wirral be addressed.**

**90 ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND PUBLIC HEALTH WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE**

The Head of Legal Services introduced this report which presented the future work programme of the Committee.

Additional items were suggested including:

- The CWP contract review be moved from June to July 2024,
- The Learning Disability and Autism Respite Service Commission be brought by Jayne Marshall as a key decision in July 2024,
- The Health Protection Strategy be moved from April to June 2024 with at least an annual update instead of a six monthly update,
- The COMF grant item be removed from the work programme,
- Disabled Facilities Grant to come as a scrutiny item.

The Chair and the Committee wished Graham Hodgkinson an amazing retirement and thanked him for his service.

**Resolved – That subject to the changes noted above, the proposed Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee work programme for the remainder of the 2023/24 municipal year be noted.**

**91 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 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.**

**92 EXEMPT APPENDIX 1 - NATIONAL SUBSTANCE MISUSE GRANT FUNDING UPDATE**

**Resolved - That the Exempt Appendix be noted.**

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## CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 6 March 2024

Present: Councillor S Powell-Wilde (Chair)

Councillors P Basnett C Povall  
S Bennett V Wilson  
T Laing C Cooke  
L Luxon-Kewley J Grier  
K Hodson C Carubia

### 14 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.

### 15 APOLOGIES

The Chair informed the committee that no apologies had been received.

### 16 MEMBERS CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

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

Councillor Paula Basnett and the Chair both declared a personal interest as foster carers.

### 17 MINUTES

**Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 1 February 2024 be approved as a correct record.**

### 18 PUBLIC AND MEMBERS QUESTIONS

The Chair noted that no public questions, statements, or petitions had been received.

## 19 EARLY YEARS FUNDING ENTITLEMENT AGREEMENT

The Early Years Operations Manager presented a report on behalf of the Director for Children, Families and Education which noted that the Early Years Funding Entitlement (EYFE) agreement was an annual agreement between Wirral Council and early years providers to deliver funded places to children under 5 years. The agreement was based on a template provided by the Department for Education and the template had been tailored for Wirral which included additional sections that supported relevant strategies such as attendance and summative assessment data.

The funding agreement covered the delivery of EYFE for children aged from nine months to five years, including Early Years Pupil Premium, Disability Access Fund and Special Educational Needs Inclusion Fund (SENIF). SENIF also had a guidance booklet. The funding agreement had been reviewed and updated for financial year 2024-2025 and early years providers had been consulted with the draft document for the previous three months.

Members sought clarity on how children might be considered to have witnessed abuse and who made that determination. They were informed that the Police looked at each case to determine if it met their referral threshold.

Members queried whether schools had capacity to for provision and asked how parents were being communicated with and what would happen if funding could not be secured. They were informed that schools had been consulted and discussions had with headteachers in order to address capacity issues. It was noted that Wirral's marketing team had been promoting the service alongside a national campaign as well as further work with partners to engage with parents. Funding for provision had been secured in every case so far and the Department for Education supported funding for this.

Members queried if spaces for care would be given priority for non-working parents and whether working parents would be penalised. It was noted that the intake of children was not controlled by who received benefits or not but that the Council would push for equity in this matter with providers.

**Resolved – That the draft copy of the Early Years Funding Entitlement agreement for financial year 2024/25 be approved.**

## 20 2023-24 BUDGET MONITORING FOR QUARTER THREE

The Finance Manager presented a report on behalf of the Director of Finance which set out the financial monitoring information for the Children, Young People and Education Committee as at Quarter 3 (1 Apr – 31 Dec) 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 to enable the Committee to take

ownership of the budgets and provide robust challenge and scrutiny to Officers on the performance of those budgets.

The report noted that at the end of Quarter 3, there was a forecast adverse position of £0.364m on the Committees net revenue budget of £88.344m. This position was based on activity to date, projected trends in income and expenditure and potential mitigation to offset areas of adverse/favourable variance.

Members queried whether the figures for looked after children included unaccompanied asylum seekers and asked how many of those were in care in Wirral. Officers noted that they did and that the total number unaccompanied asylum seekers looked after was 17 out of 764 children looked after in total but noted that this figure changed frequently.

Members queried whether the restructuring of services would be noticed by parents in terms of capacity. Officers noted that while services were being remodelled to be more efficient, targets had been met the previous year and more were to be met this year, they noted that a further report on the remodelling of services would come to the committee in future.

Members raised the spending on the IT system used for Children's services and whether a bespoke system had been bought in. Officers noted that the system, called Liquid Logic, was already in use for social care and effectively was being expanded to cover the school system as well to help centralise information.

Members queried the senior management restructure costs and were informed that they were related to the creation of a Joint Health Commissioning post.

**Resolved - That:**

- 1. The forecast revenue position presented at Quarter 3 be noted.**
- 2. The progress on delivery of the 2023-24 savings programme at Quarter 3 be noted.**
- 3. The forecast level of reserves and balances at Quarter 3 be noted.**
- 4. The forecast capital position presented at Quarter 3 be noted.**

21 **ADULT LEARNING ANNUAL ACADEMIC YEAR 2022-23 PERFORMANCE REPORT**

The Head of Service for 14-19 Strategy presented a report on behalf of the Director for Children, Families and Education which set out the service's developments, summary of delivery and learner achievements in the 2022/23 academic year.

It noted that grant funding received from the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority was £1,173,362.

Wirral Council's Lifelong Learning Service actively engaged and supported local residents (aged 19+) who were furthest from the labour market. This education provision provided learners with the confidence to take the next steps back into education and employment. As a grant funded Council service, it had the capacity to support the most disadvantaged, working on difficult issues and using innovative approaches for example, supporting community cohesion, troubled families, Children's Centres, family learning, refugees and improving mental health through learning.

The report noted that the 2022/23 academic year was very challenging for the service with further growth in qualification course delivery, new test and learn projects plus continuation of the MULTIPLY maths intervention support programme.

The Lifelong Learning Service was inspected by Ofsted, February 2018, and assessed as 'Good'. The service was also MATRIX re-accredited, July 2020, recognising its integrated high-quality delivery of careers education and support for its learners.

The Head of Service for 14-19 Strategy noted a correction under paragraph 1.3 which should have read: "The overall number of course enrolments during 2022/23 has now reverted back to pre-Covid pandemic levels..."

Members discussed the number of courses a person was likely to be enrolled on during a year, whether there was a recorded benefit to children whose parents had enrolled on the Lifelong Service, whether the service had a successful impact on getting adults that had been through the service employed, how the courses were funded and how the needs of the customers was led. They also queried whether there were notable issues with enrolment numbers for term two.

Officers responded that one person was likely to be enrolled on two courses per year, that the benefit to children was anecdotal at the moment but that it felt that the impact was positive, that there was statistical evidence that the service helped those that used it to gain employment. They noted that funding was provided by the Liverpool City Region and was granted on a year by year



basis and that the needs of the service users was very much community led by listening to residents and third sector organisations. They noted that there had been no issues with enrolment numbers to date due to the strong work by their business support team.

### **Resolved – That**

- 1. the report be noted; and**
- 2. The services' planned improvements and recognise the contribution to improving the lives of adults and families in Wirral's more deprived communities during 2022/23 be endorsed and recognised.**

## **22 BREAKING THE CYCLE**

The Assistant Director for Early Help and Prevention presented a report on behalf of the Director for Children, Families and Education which provided the committee with the third of three reports on the Breaking the Cycle programme, focused on system change. The Breaking the Cycle programme had been a key strand of the early help and prevention approach, informing long-term system change and contributing to demand reduction for acute services.

The report outlined how Children's Services would be remodelled in 2024 informed by best practice learning from the Breaking the Cycle programme and aligned with the new Children's Social Care National Framework (Department for Education, December 2023).

It noted that the Breaking the Cycle programme was a cross-Council, multi-agency programme which was producing valuable learning about the experiences of people facing multiple disadvantage and how well the local system responded to meeting current need and its planning to prevent future need. The Breaking the Cycle programme had provided opportunity to test and learn informing operational and strategic system change.

Members queried why Wirral had such a high rate of children looked after per 10,000 population, with Wirral at 117.5 in 2023, Wirral's statistical neighbours at 111 and the national average at 71. Officers noted that Wirral was good at bringing children into care but that once they were in the system, they generally stayed there. They noted that Wirral had been improving since 2019, with numbers coming into care lower than its statistical neighbours and that we would eventually fall to similar levels as children aged and left care.

Members queried the mechanisms for community co-design of services. They were informed that the service was developed through parent carer forums,

advisory boards in children's centres as well as third sector organisations and community partners.

Members stated that they were in favour of the programme and congratulated officers on the work that had been undertaken to date.

**Resolved – That the learning gained from the Breaking the Cycle programme be noted; and that the approach to remodelling Children's Services based on that learning and best practice be endorsed.**

## 23 ALL AGE DISABILITY STRATEGY

The Assistant Director of All Age Independence and Provider Services presented a report on behalf of the Director of Care and Health which presented the draft All Age Disability Strategy 2024-2029 for noting. The strategy formed part of the work programme as an outcome of all age disability review which was approved at the Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee on the 13 June 2023.

The report noted that a high proportion (22.2%) of people in Wirral lived with some kind of disability (as defined by the Equality Act 2010). This was 2.8% higher than across the North West and 4.9% higher than England. This proportion was projected to increase. Delivering Better Value analysis forecasted Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND) caseloads in Wirral to increase from 2,700 in 2023, to 4,200 by 2028. These young people will age out of Children's into Adult Social Care, and with that bring increased expenditure.

The All Age Disability Strategy aimed to improve outcomes for the people in Wirral who had a disability. It also provided strategic direction for the next 5 years to enable the Council to plan ahead and provide improved services, across housing and employment, that support people to live as independently as possible and can prevent needs from escalating. Preventative care not only improves outcomes for residents but can reduce cost to councils across a resident's lifetime. With financial efficiencies identified for this service area over the coming years, it was necessary that this strategy was delivered to avoid future costs.

Members queried the timing of the report, which had been agreed in full the previous day by the Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee. Members felt that the report should have come to them for comment prior to it being agreed. Officers noted Members feelings and noted that work had been done across both committees prior to it reaching them. It was agreed that in future a further workshop could be provided to Members of both committees before the report came before them.

Members queried why Wirral had such a high proportion of people with a disability compared the North West and National averages. The Assistant Director of All Age Independence and Provider Services offered to provide a briefing note to Members to give further detail on these figures.

**Resolved – That**

- 1. The coproduced draft All Age Disability Strategy 2024-2029, included as Appendix 1 to this report be noted; and**
- 2. The receipt of annual progress and impact reports of the implementation of the strategy be agreed.**

24 **ALL AGE DISABILITY REVIEW - IMPLEMENTATION**

The Assistant Director of All Age Independence and Provider Services presented a report on behalf of the Director of Care and Health which presented the progress to date on the implementation programme following the All-Age Disability Review that was approved at the Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee on the 13 June 2023.

The report noted that there was a greater reliance in Wirral on more traditional care services, which led to Wirral being a higher spend Council on disability services. This could also mean that outcomes achieved for people with disabilities would not always help them to achieve aspirational targets or to be as independent as they could be. This could be improved through better alignment, joining up planning, and collaboration between services, as evidenced in the report following a review of Education, Health, and Care Plans. The experiences of people supported across the life course would be greatly improved by focussing upon their aspirations and life goals in a more effective and clear manner.

The report also noted that a high proportion (22.2%) of people in Wirral lived with some kind of disability (as defined by the Equality Act 2010). This was 2.8% higher than across the Northwest and 4.9% higher than England. This proportion was projected to increase, for example Delivering Better Value analysis forecasts Special Education Needs Disability caseloads in Wirral to increase from 2,700 in 2023, to 4,200 by 2028. Whilst not all of these young people would require support for Adult Social Care, a number of these young people would transition and with that, the Council was likely to see increased expenditure.

Members queried the reason for only looking into 1.9% of Education, Health and Care Plans for analysis. Officers noted that the emphasis wasn't on the sample base but finding evidence on housing, employment and education and had looked at approx. 60 plans.

**Resolved – That the significant progress to date of the implementation programme following the All-Age Disability Review as in Appendix 1 be noted.**

25 **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Chair introduced their report 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.

**Resolved – That the work programme be noted.**

## **TOURISM, COMMUNITIES, CULTURE & LEISURE COMMITTEE**

Thursday, 7 March 2024

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

65 **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.

66 **APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies for absence.

67 **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.

68 **MINUTES**

**Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 25 January 2024 be approved and adopted as a correct record.**

69 **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

Cathy Roberts from New Brighton Coastal Community Team spoke about the visitor economy of New Brighton, its dependence on the visitor economy and the difficulty for permanent businesses when temporary businesses set up.

The Chair replied that the events were not organised by the Council and queried if the matter needed to be looked at by the Economy, Regeneration and Housing Committee. The Chair also indicated that she believed that the wider policy on the visitor economy was the remit of the Combined Authority

at the Liverpool City Region. A response was promised once these details were established.

A supplementary question was asked which was why it was not this Committee as it was firmly a Tourism issue.

The Chair replied that she will clarify where it sits and would respond.

(subsequently, the following response was sent:  
Thank you for your supplementary question. After some discussions amongst officers and legal guidance, it was decided that Tourism Committee Could look into the issue. There has now been a change in membership of the Committee and the new Chair, Councillor Ian Lewis, has offered to meet you for a discussion about your concerns. He will be in contact in the near future.)

## 70 **STATEMENTS AND PETITIONS**

There were no statements or petitions received.

## 71 **QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS**

There were no questions by Members received.

## 72 **RNLI WIRRAL LIFEGUARD SERVICES ANNUAL REPORT 2023**

The Lead Lifeguard Supervisor for Wirral and Denbighshire presented the report of the Report of Director of Neighbourhood Services which set out the end of year report from the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) regarding the service levels and provision of the RNLI Lifeguard Service in Wirral and includes a review of the Service. It was noted that the RNLI provides the equipment and training and that 95% of the work was prevention, through educational talks. There had been no fatalities during the year.

Members thanked the Institution for their work and cited individual incidents of bravery. Members also queried the recruitment and statistical techniques involved and measures to limit abuse.

**Resolved: That the report by the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) as attached as Appendix 1 to this report be noted.**

## 73 **FLORAL FUTURE OPERATIONAL MODEL**

The Assistant Director – Leisure, Libraries and Customer Engagement presented the report of the Director of Neighbourhood Services which provided an update and information on the proposed short term and medium to long term operational proposals for the future of the Floral Pavilion Theatre & Conference Centre in New Brighton following concerns expressed at the

July 2023 meeting of this Committee at the estimated budgeted out-turn for the Floral Pavilion of circa £1.4m. The forecasted net cost of provision for the Floral Pavilion at year end 2023/4 was estimated to be circa £803k. The operational net subsidy for the 2024/5 financial year had been set at £500k, with plans in place for monitoring of the budget.

Members asked questions about the actions taken and opportunities to increase revenue and praised the more diverse programme of events being offered.

**Resolved: That the Director of Neighbourhoods be authorised to:-**

- 1. Continue to operate the Floral Pavilion as a Council asset for the 2024/5 financial year the within a net operational budget of £500,000, whilst continuing to identify and implement any efficiency or operational savings as are required to remain within this budget.**
- 2. Implement the immediate efficiency measures identified in the Section 4.2 to 4.4 of this report; and**
- 3. Continue with the process of market engagement to establish an alternative operating model to protect the future provision and retention of the venue including the appointment of a commercial operator or the establishment of a charitable trust.**

#### 74 **WIRRAL SMOKE CONTROL AREA CONSOLIDATION AND EXPANSION**

The Senior Manager, Environmental Health, and the Environmental Health Officer presented the report of the Director of Neighbourhood Services which requested approval to revoke all existing Smoke Control Orders (SCOs) and replace them with one consolidated order that covers the whole of the Local Authority area, including the two areas which had not been covered by any SCOs. It was noted that it would aid in consistent enforcement.

Members queried the practicalities and promotion of the new Order.

**Resolved: That**

- 1. the revocation of the existing Smoke Control Orders which affect the Council's administrative area be approved, subject to such revocations (listed in schedule 1 of the draft order) being subject to formal consultation and confirmation by the Secretary of State; and**
- 2. the making of a single Smoke Control Order for the whole of the Council's administrative area in accordance with the draft order set out in Appendix 1 to this report be approved, and also that such order be subject to formal consultation and confirmation by the Secretary of State;**
- 3. that any objections to the orders referred to in recommendations 1 and 2 be referred to a future meeting of this Committee.**

75 **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Consultant Lawyer, Contracts and Commercial, presented the report of the Director of Law and Governance which included the work programme for future meetings of the Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee.

A number of items were suggested to be added, which were:

- A workshop to discuss the future of Floral about options of revamping offer and capital raising;
- a training session regarding what our event policy is;
- Liverpool Visitor Economy Partnership update and progress;
- Customer contact performance and strategy to come back annually and incorporate the issue of consultation bias;
- Heritage strategy including the Battle of Brunanburh site;
- The impact of hosting Open Golf Championship in 2023 – Mark Camborne as a briefing note or other way.

**Resolved: That, subject to the addition of the items identified at the meeting, the Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee work programme be noted.**

76 **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.

77 **FLORAL FUTURE OPERATIONAL MODEL EXEMPT APPENDIX**

**Resolved: That  
the exempt appendix be noted.**



## **ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE**

Tuesday, 12 March 2024

Present:

Councillor EA Grey (Chair)

Councillors S Foulkes  
P Jobson  
V Wilson  
M Booth  
T Murphy

G Davies  
N Graham  
J Walsh  
A Brame  
K Stuart (In Place of  
Cllr A Ainsworth)

73 **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.

74 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillor Ann Ainsworth. Councillor Kaitlin Stuart was in attendance as substitute.

75 **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.

76 **MINUTES**

**Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 29 January 2024 be approved as an accurate record.**

77 **PUBLIC AND MEMBER QUESTIONS**

The Chair reported that 11 public questions had been received in advance of the meeting.

Christine Brie asked if the condition of pavements in the borough could be addressed. As a mother of a disabled son in a wheelchair, Ms Brie stated that the conditions of pavements, paths and walkways, including the condition of dropped kerbs, were not safe to push a wheelchair, were dangerous and as a result in breach of the Equality Act.

In response, the Chair thanked Christine for highlighting the issue and appreciated the concerns raised. As a Committee the condition of pavements was being raised more frequently. Whilst the Chair disagreed that Wirral's pavements were all unsafe or in breach of statutory regulations, it was reported that trained and experienced highways inspectors carried out regular safety inspections on all pavements. Where required, reactive repairs were completed. It was noted that considerable grant funding was invested into planned maintenance of pavements.

Don Naylor asked a question relating to the Sussex Bay Project which aimed to restore a section of the coastline to its natural state through a 'bold collaboration' framework of civic, business and community groups. Mr Naylor asked whether in light of this, could the Council investigate the possibility of an inclusive range of parties, interested in the future of Hoylake Beach, liaising with Sussex Beach representatives in order to better understand how the framework was put in place?

In response, The Chair indicated that the Sussex Bay rewilding project would be investigated further, and that full details relating to the future Hoylake Beach Management Plan would be provided at the meeting of the Committee in April.

Anne Ardern asked a question relating to the Hoylake Beach Management Plan and why the needs of the disabled people's access had not been enshrined in either of the two beach management plan options?

In response, the Chair reported that one of the main objectives of the beach management options was to ensure the safety of users and access across the beach and that both options aligned with this objective. The report to the Committee in April to consider the outcomes of the consultation on the options would include an Equalities Impact Assessment.

The Head of Legal Services read out a question on behalf of Joanne Randles, who asked why individuals outside of Wirral were allowed to participate in consultations relating to Wirral specific issues?

In response, the Chair indicated that Hoylake Beach, as an outside space, was utilised by a range of people including not just those that reside in Wirral. As a result, non-residents may have an interest in providing their feedback. As it was an online public consultation open to all, then all interested parties were able to submit their feedback.

John Brace asked a question relating to appendix 1 of Agenda Item 7 - City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement Combined Authority Transport Plan Programme 2024/25 which reported "16 sperate areas in Phase 3 and 6 separate areas in Phase 4 (various roads)" of the 20mph rollout. Mr Brace

asked which specific areas were currently planned in these areas and how and when they will be decided?

In response, the Chair reported that a report which was presented to Committee on 5 December 2023 contained an Appendix E indicating all the proposed areas for 20mph in map form and that the areas to be considered for phases 3 and 4 were indicated in that report. It was further reported that until phases 3 and 4 were approved there was not a list of specific roads prepared, but at that point the full list of roads would be available to the public.

Mr Brace asked a supplementary question asking how the public can suggest roads they feel strongly about for inclusion for future phases before a decision is made by committee?

In response the Chair indicated that a written response would be provided.

Gail Jenkinson asked a question regarding a Greasby resident who had 13 old paint pots to dispose of and had no means of travelling to the recycling centre in Bidston. It was stated that to use ERIC would require 3 collections for £96.00. Gail Jenkinson asked what plans there were for local collections of smaller specialised items to encourage those unable to travel to the recycling centre or who are reluctant to mitigate the positive contribution of recycling in combating climate change with a dedicated trip by car?

In response, the Chair provided technical advice relating to the disposal of paint pots and other smaller specialised items such as electrical items. It was noted that exploration of the possibility of a separate kerbside collection materials such as electrical items would be considered as part of the future waste collection service, following the end of the current contract in 2027.

The Head of Legal Services read out a question from Barbara Morris which asked the Council to reconsider the proposal of a single socket/single use policy in relation to festive displays.

In response, the Chair reported that the policy limiting the number of attachments plugged into a single lighting column was proposed was due to the expansion of displays by some groups meant many items were connected to one single supply source which could pose a real risk of short circuit and overload if any one transformer failed. It was noted that sockets had been provided in lighting columns for groups to use at certain locations and that the Festive Display policy included that additional sockets could requested at a cost and would be considered on a site by site basis.

Jane Turner, asking a question on behalf of David Parker, asked a question relating to the Hoylake Beach Management Options, and why the Habitat Regulations Assessments (HRAs) for both options failed to take into account two key Special Area of Conservation (SACs) features which were not listed

in the SAC designation: H2110 Embryonic Shifting Dunes and H1210 Annual Vegetation of Drift lines?

In response the Chair reported that this would be investigated fully and addressed at or before the meeting in April to discuss the beach management options.

Jane Turner asked a supplementary question asking whether, on the assumption this would require considerable changes to the options whether there would be a further consultation?

In response the Chair indicated that a written response would be provided.

Sean Murphy asked a question as a Hoylake resident since 1995 whose family had enjoyed the facilities in Hoylake including using the beach. Mr Murphy referenced the motion passed by Committee in November 2022 to progress two beach management options for consideration which indicated any options proposed for public consultation would need Natural England proposal. The Chair was asked when they and party spokespersons were consulted on the details of the consultation prior to its publication.

In response, The Chair reported that Chair and Spokes were informed that the current options were to be consulted on shortly before the consultation began and that the matters raised would be considered at the meeting in April.

Sean Murphy asked a supplementary question asking whether the Chair was satisfied with the level of consultation prior to the publication of the public consultation.

In response the Chair indicated that a written response would be provided.

The Head of Legal Services read out a question on behalf of Chris Stradling regarding the presence of Shore Dock (*Rumex rupestris*), a rare plant in the UK which was present on Hoylake Beach. Mr Stradling's question asked why Shore Dock was not mentioned in the HRAs for the beach management options as removal of the plants would appear in breach of the of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981?

In response the Chair indicated that this was an important issue that would be investigated fully before the meeting in April.

The Head of Legal Services read out a question on behalf of Keith Randles, asking, as Cabinet Member in 2019, whether the Chair was aware of the Hoylake Vision NDP advances to remove a Hoylake amenity beach from Wirral residents as part of their own agenda.

In response the Chair indicated that a written response would be provided.

## 78 **FESTIVE DISPLAY POLICY**

The Assistant Director for Highways & Infrastructure presented the report of the Director of Neighbourhood Services which set out a consolidated policy for festive displays to streamline and standardise the process for community groups whilst minimising the potential liability and risks to the Council. It was reported that the policy provided a structured framework for the discretionary service, ensuring due diligence, adherence to relevant guidance and compliance with legislative safety requirements during the evaluation and approval of festive display permit applications.

Members queried how community groups would be engaged before the implementation of the policy whilst noting the importance of ensuring the policy was user friendly and did not discourage groups. The Assistant Director of Highways and Infrastructure confirmed that subject to approval the Council would ensure pre-implementation workshops were carried out with all groups providing festive displays to ensure the requirements were fully understood. It was further noted in response to queries that the policy formalised the permit system that had been in practice and included flexibility providing groups were compliant.

Members noted the importance of the groups work in providing a community service and their concerns which had been raised directly with Members. It was therefore moved by the Chair, seconded by Councillor Max Booth, that the officer recommendation as detailed in the report be approved with an additional recommendation outlining the Committee's appreciation of the work carried out by festive display groups and the importance on consultation with the groups going forward. It was therefore:

### **Resolved – That**

- 1. The Festive Display Policy as set out at Appendix 1 of the report be approved; and**
- 2. The Committee recognises the tremendous effort, dedication, and countless hours local residents invest in ensuring the lights shine brilliantly year after year. The joy they bring to people of all ages and the sense of community they foster in our towns is truly an invaluable asset in Wirral. It is not just about flipping a switch in November; planning begins as early as the Summer for some groups. We commend all the volunteers who work tirelessly to make this endeavour a success. Having listened to feedback from various lights groups, we recognise the paramount importance of consulting and engaging with them whenever feasible. This approach helps establish working relationships that benefit all relevant stakeholders involved in the process.**

**CITY REGION SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT SETTLEMENT COMBINED AUTHORITY TRANSPORT PLAN PROGRAMME 2024-25**

The Assistant Director for Highways & Infrastructure introduced the report of the Director of Neighbourhood Services which requested Committee approval for City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) Combined Authority Transport Plan (CATP) work programme for 2024/25, alongside the the indicative recommended CATP programme for the remaining years 2025-2027 of the CRSTS first term. It was reported that the programme covered works on the highway network to improve road safety and promote road safety, which included speed limits, school streets and junction improvements and pedestrian crossings.

Members discussed specific works identified in Appendix A of the report for the forthcoming year, including works to improve pavement conditions and road safety schemes around schools. The Senior Network Manager confirmed a list of improvements relating to road safety schemes surrounding schools could be shared with Members. In relation to queries relating to progress of projects included within the programme of works, the Assistant Director for Highways and Infrastructure confirmed engagement with ward members on proposals would be undertaken.

**Resolved – That**

- 1. the proposed City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (“CRSTS”) Combined Authority Transport programme for 2024/25 and the spending of the associated grant funding once accepted by the Council’s Section 151 Officer, as set out in Appendix A to the report, be approved;**
- 2. the indicative CRSTS Combined Authority Transport Plan programme for 2025/27 as set out in Appendix B to the report be approved; and**
- 3. the Director of Neighbourhood Services be authorised to amend the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority for the 2024/25 CRSTS Combined Authority Transport Plan programme having regard for available resources and risk-based prioritisation of schemes, in consultation with the Chair and party Spokespersons of the Committee**
- 4. the Director of Law and Corporate Services be authorised to execute any grant funding agreements associated with these recommendations.**

## **CITY REGION SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT SETTLEMENT, HIGHWAY STRUCTURAL MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME 2024/25**

The Assistant Director for Highways & Infrastructure introduced the report of the Director of Neighbourhood Services which requested Committee approval for the disbursement of grant funding from the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority's (LCRCA) City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) for 2024/25 into the Council's Capital Programme for Highways Structural Maintenance and Bridge Maintenance, alongside indicative highway condition matrix that will be used to inform future programme investment decisions. It was reported that the programme covered works on the highway network to maintain and improve the structural condition using various planned interventions which included resurfacing, surface treatments, footway reconstructions and bridge maintenance.

Members discussed the network condition matrix in Appendix C where the Assistant Director for Highways and Infrastructure reported that the most recent 2023 condition data was still being processed by officers, and once assessed the matrix would be revised and will help inform future programmes of work. In response to queries relating to the use of pavement condition data to inform future programmes of work and funding, the Assistant Director confirmed that data related to footway pavements would be included in future Committee performance management reports. The Highways, Maintenance and Street Lighting Manager reported that an independent survey of footway condition in the borough had been commissioned and completed which would form a substantial part of footway construction work in future.

Members also discussed the monitoring of the success of road treatments and resurfacing after works had been completed by contractors. The Assistant Director reported that in instances where work had failed suppliers were contractually obliged to replace the work and this was enforced.

Members further thanked officers for the substantial work undertaken to produce the programme of works for the forthcoming year.

### **Resolved – That**

- 1. The proposed programme of works for Wirral's Carriageways, Footway Improvements and Bridge Maintenance for 2024/25, using any relevant grant funding allocated to the Council by the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority in the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement - Highways Structural Maintenance allocation, and the spending of the associated grant funding on these works once accepted by the Council's Section 151 Officer, as set out in Appendix 2 to the report, be approved;**

2. **The indicative Red, Amber, Green rated highway network condition matrix as set out in Appendix 3 to the report, to be used by the Director of Neighbourhood Services as one of the decision tools when developing the Council’s highway structural maintenance programmes, be approved;**
3. **the Director of Neighbourhood Services be authorised to revise or amend the delivery or implementation of the work programmes, as deemed necessary, having due regard for the available resources and applicable risk-based prioritisation of locations selected for intervention and treatment, in consultation with the Chair and Party Spokespersons of the Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee; and**
4. **the Director of Law and Corporate Services be authorised to negotiate and finalise any grant funding agreements on behalf of the council, amongst the relevant subject areas over the next 3 years, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report and for any additional grant funding received during this period relevant to the subject area.**

81 **TRANSFER OF BUILDINGS ON HILBRE ISLAND**

The Assets and Surveying Manager presented the report of the Director of Regeneration and Place which sought approval for the transfer of buildings on Hilbre Island to the Hilbre Community Land Trust on a 30-year lease at a peppercorn rent. It was reported that the Trust – comprised of the British Art and Design Association, Friends of Hilbre Island and the Hilbre Bird Observatory - had produced a joint business case to utilise the buildings to provide studios that would allow artists to stay on the island and produce work inspired by the island’s unique location. The business plan included use of the Telegraph Station, Telegraph House, Fog Cottage and Day Room, Buoy Master’s House, workshop and store, and the Trust would be responsible for maintenance of the buildings along with all outgoings.

As the business plan set out proposals to seek planning permission for necessary investment into Fog Cottage and Telegraph House, the following Members declared personal interests as Members of the Planning Committee and left the meeting during consideration of the item: Councillors Jason Walsh, Max Booth and Steve Foulkes.

**Resolved – That the transfer of buildings on Hilbre Island as identified in this report to the Hilbre Community Land Trust for a 30-year lease at a peppercorn rent be approved.**

82 **2023/24 BUDGET MONITORING FOR QUARTER THREE (THE PERIOD TO 31 DECEMBER 2023)**



The Senior Finance Business Partner introduced the report of the Director of Neighbourhood Services which set out the financial monitoring information for the Committee as at Quarter 3 (31 December) of 2023/24. The report provided an overview of budget performance, including progress on the delivery of the 2023/24 saving programme and a summary of reserves and balances. It was reported that at the end of Quarter 3, there was a forecast adverse position £1.632m which related to shortfalls and adverse variance within car parks, tree maintenance and environmental enforcement.

Members queried the capital programme underspend in energy efficiency building work and whether it would be carried into the next financial year. building works. The Assistant Director reported that the underspend was being used to match fund the public sector decarbonisation scheme in partnership with the Liverpool City Region Local Authorities. Members also discussed work to be undertaken to deliver budget savings in the next financial year.

**Resolved – That**

- 1. the Directorate forecast adverse position of £1.632m presented at Quarter 3 be noted;**
- 2. the progress on delivery of the 2023/24 savings programme at Quarter 3 be noted;**
- 3. the forecast level of reserves and balances at Quarter 3 be noted;  
and**
- 4. the forecast capital position presented at Quarter 3 be noted.**

**83 WORK PROGRAMME**

The Head of Legal Services presented the report of the Director of Law and Governance which advised Members that the Committee in co-operation with the other Policy and Service Committees, was responsible for proposing and delivering an annual committee work programme. It was noted that the work programme should align with the corporate priorities of the Council, in particular the delivery of the key decisions which were within the remit of the Committee.

**Resolved – That the work programme be noted.**

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## HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

Thursday, 14 March 2024

### PRESENT:

Councillor Jean Robinson	Chair
Abel Adegoke	Primary Care
Simon Banks	Director of Place (Wirral), NHS Cheshire and Merseyside
Dave Bradburn	Director of Public Health Wirral Council
Libby Eastleigh	Magenta Living
Councillor Phil Gilchrist	Wirral Council
Councillor Jeff Green	Wirral Council
David Hammond	Wirral Community Health and Care
Elizabeth Hartley	Children's Services, Wirral Council
Graham Hodgkinson	Director of Adults and Care, Wirral Council
David Morgan	Merseyside Police
Councillor Amanda Onwuemene	Wirral Council
Matthew Swanborough	Wirral University Teaching Hospital
Councillor Sue Powell-Wilde	Wirral Council
Kirsteen Sheppard	Healthwatch Wirral
Mark Thomas	Merseyside Fire and Rescue

### 37 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Chair welcomed everyone and read the webcast notice.

### 38 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from:

- Paula Basnett, Wirral Chamber of Commerce
- Louise Healey and Adrian Jones, Department for Work and Pensions
- Sir David Henshaw, Chair of Wirral University Teaching Hospital
- Janelle Holmes, Wirral University Teaching Hospital
- Karen Howell, Chief Executive Wirral Community Health and Care
- David Hughes, Director of Regeneration and Place, Wirral Council
- Paul Satoor, CEO, Wirral Council
- Isla Wilson, Cheshire and Wirral Partnership

### 39 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interests.

### 40 MINUTES

**Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board on 7 December 2023 be agreed as a correct record.**

41 **PUBLIC AND MEMBER QUESTIONS**

No questions, statements or petitions were received.

42 **HEALTH AND WELLBEING STRATEGY UPDATE REPORT FOR PRIORITY AREA 2:**

The Senior Public Health Manager and a Wirral Community Health and Care NHS Foundation Trust representative presented the report of the Director of Public Health which was the 2nd report in the rolling quarterly 'deeper dive' session for each of the priority areas. Priority 2 focussed on strengthening health and care action to address differences in health outcomes against the priority's game changer 'cardiovascular disease (CVD) prevention'. It was emphasised that the actions were adaptable over time depending on changing circumstances and outcomes, and the focus was on actions with the greatest impact. It aligned with the NHS prevention pledge to avoid admissions and illness by focussing on issues such as a healthy living environment and engaging in publicity and engagement campaigns.

Members asked about the methods of engaging different sectors including those less digitally accessible.

**Resolved: That**

- 1. the implementation plan for the Priority 2 and the associated 'game changer' CVD Prevention be acknowledged.**
- 2. the strategic direction of this game changer be supported.**

43 **INTERIM CHESHIRE AND MERSEYSIDE HEALTH AND CARE PARTNERSHIP STRATEGY**

The Director of Place at NHS Cheshire and Merseyside presented the report of the Director of Public Health which set out the latest position on NHS Planning Guidance 2024/25 and the refresh of Cheshire and Merseyside Health and Care Partnership's Integrated Care Strategy and NHS Cheshire and Merseyside's Joint Forward Plan. It also set out the approach being taken in Wirral by NHS Cheshire and Merseyside with Place partners to refresh the Wirral Health and Care Plan 2023-24 for the 2024-25 operational planning year. It was noted that the NHS guidance for 24/25 had not been received.

Members questioned the involvement of elected Members in the processes.

**Resolved: That**

- 1. the progress made on the refresh of Cheshire and Merseyside Health and Care Partnership's Integrated Care Strategy and NHS Cheshire and Merseyside's Joint Forward Plan as set out in paragraphs 3.2.1 to 3.2.8 of this report be noted.**
- 2. the approach being taken to update the Wirral Health and Care Plan for the planning year 2024-25, which is being overseen by the Wirral Place Based Partnership Board as set out in paragraphs 3.3.1 to 3.3.4 of this report be supported.**

#### 44 **BCF QUARTER 3 AND END OF YEAR REPORTS**

The Head of Integrated Services presented the report of the Director of Public Health which summarised the mandatory Quarter 3 (Q3) report submitted to National Health Service England (NHSE) on 7 February 2024. It provided data to demonstrate that there have been no changes to the capacity and demand assumptions as set out in Wirral's 2023/25 Better Care Fund (BCF) plan. It demonstrated continued compliance with the requirements of the BCF fund and that the NHSE outcomes for 2023/25 had been met. It was noted that workshops were to take place to examine the data in more detail.

Members questioned the information for them to sign off and the difficulty of achieving sign off with Committee and Government timescales was discussed.

The Chair proposed an amendment for recommendation (4) to state: that delegated authority be given to the Director of Care and Health to approve the year-end BCF report in consultation with chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

This was seconded by Councillor Jeff Green.

**Resolved: That**

- 1. it be noted that there is continued compliance with the requirements of the BCF fund and that (NHSE) outcomes for 2023/25 have been met.**
- 2. it be noted that there are no changes to the capacity and demand assumptions included in the 2023/25 BCF plan.**
- 3. the mandatory joint (with NHS Wirral Integrated Care Board (ICB)) Q3 BCF submission be approved.**
- 4. delegated authority be given to the Director of Care and Health to approve the year-end BCF report in consultation with chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board.**
- 5. the information provided enable the Health and Wellbeing Board to influence the deployment of BCF services within the lifespan of this plan (2023/25) and future plans.**
- 6. it be noted that the current position does not pose a risk to the Section 75 Agreement.**

#### 45 **HEALTHWATCH WIRRAL UPDATE MARCH 2024**

The representative of Healthwatch Wirral presented the report of the Director of Public Health which shared emerging trends and themes gathered from public views and personal experiences relating to health and care. The information was sourced from the people who had contacted Healthwatch via email, phone or by using the Feedback Centre, or during community engagement work. It was noted that the content was shared with service providers and that sample sizes were relatively small but the content of them was the focus. Common themes included communication challenges and concerns about ADHD medication.

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

46 **DELIVERY OF WIRRAL HEALTH AND CARE PLAN**

The Director of Place at NHS Cheshire and Merseyside presented the report of the Director of Public Health which presented the delivery dashboard for the programmes within the Wirral Place Health and Care Plan which provided an oversight of the whole programme portfolio, provides a monthly narrative update and Red Amber Green rating of overall programme delivery, benefits, risks, and issues.

**Resolved: That the overview of the delivery and oversight of the Health and Care Plan programmes to the Wirral Place Based Partnership Board as set out in this report be noted.**

47 **WORKWELL BID**

The report of the Director of Public Health was considered which detailed the bid to fund the WorkWell programme which was an early-intervention work and health support and assessment service, providing holistic support to overcome health-related barriers to employment, and a single, joined-up gateway to other support services.

Wirral Place had been supported by Cheshire and Merseyside Integrated Care Board (ICB) to submit a bid in partnership with Knowsley Place. This is in recognition of the specific economic and population challenges faced by each borough, but also of their work in creating effective partnerships across all sectors. The outcome of the grant application would be known in early April 2024 with a delivery plan required by 31st June 2024 and an aim to have mobilised the service by October 2024.

**Resolved: That this report be noted.**

48 **HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD MEMBERSHIP**

The Head of Legal Services presented the report of the Director of Law and Governance which provided an update of the review of the Board's formal membership as contained within the Wirral Council Constitution

Any amendments were to be recommended to Wirral Council's Constitution and Standards Committee and then to Wirral Council before implementation. Organisations which had not attended 50% of meetings had been written to and a variety of responses had been received. Some were yet to respond.

Members indicated that those who had not responded be removed from the membership but could be co-opted in the future.

**Resolved: That the amendments to the Constitution detailed in Appendix 2 to the report be recommended to Constitution and Standards Committee.**

49 **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Head of Legal Services presented the report of the Director of Law and Governance which gave the proposed work programme.

It was noted that the revised Health and Care Plan would be submitted.

The Chair and Members then took the opportunity to thank the outgoing Director of Care and Health for his service and support as this was his last meeting of the Board before his retirement.

**Resolved: That, subject to an additional item on the Wirral Plan, the Health and Wellbeing Board work programme for the remainder of the 2023/24 municipal year be noted.**

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## PLANNING COMMITTEE

Thursday, 14 March 2024

Present: Councillor S Kelly (Chair)

Councillors S Foulkes J Stewart Laing  
H Gorman G McManus  
K Hodson S Powell-Wilde  
C Baldwin J Walsh  
M Booth

In attendance: Councillors L Luxon-Kewley

### 62 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Chair welcomed Members of the Planning Committee, Officers, members of the public and those watching the webcast to the meeting.

### 63 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Brian Kenny, he was deputised by Councillor Louise Luxon-Kewley.

### 64 MINUTES

**Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 8 February 2024 be approved.**

### 65 APP/23/00551: THE GRANGE, GRANGE ROAD, WEST KIRBY, WIRRAL, CH48 4EE DEMOLITION OF HOUSE AND OUT BUILDINGS TO PROVIDE 12 APARTMENTS TOGETHER WITH ASSOCIATED PARKING, ACCESS AND LANDSCAPING AND WORKS INCLUDING THE RELOCATION OF THE SUBSTATION. (AMENDED DESCRIPTION)

The Development Management Manager presented the report of the Director of Regeneration and Place in relation to the above application for consideration.

Ward Councillor Jeff Green addressed the committee.

The applicant's agent, Mr Nick Fillingham addressed the committee.

On a motion by Councillor Kathy Hodson seconded by the Chair, it was.

**Resolved – That the Director of Regeneration and Place be authorised to:**

**(1) approve the application subject to the following conditions and subject to the completion of a s106 agreement pursuant to section 106 of the Town and County Planning Act 1990 to be prepared, in accordance with section 8.10.1 of this report.**

**(2) refuse the application in the event that a satisfactory section 106 agreement is not completed within 6 months of the date on which Planning Committee resolve to approve the application unless an extension of time is agreed to the satisfaction of the Director of Regeneration of Place in consultation with the Chair and Spokespersons of the Planning Committee.**

**Conditions:**

**1. The development hereby permitted shall begin not later than [3] years from the date of this decision. Reason: To comply with Section 91 (as amended) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.**

**2. The development hereby permitted shall be carried out in accordance with the approved plans received by the local planning authority on 12th April 2023 and 28th November 2023 and listed as follows: 010 Rev D; 011 Rev E; 012 Rev A; 106 Rev C; 107 Rev C; 200 Rev A; 201 Rev B; 003 Rev A; 001. Reason: For the avoidance of doubt and to define the permission.**

**3. No development involving the use of any facing materials shall take place until samples of the materials to be used in the construction of external surfaces of the building have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. Development shall be carried out in accordance with the approved details. Reason: To make sure that the appearance of the building is suitable and that it contributes to the character and appearance of the area having regards to Wirral Unitary Development Plan Policy HS4.**

**4. Prior to the occupation of the development, full details of the relocated electricity substation and any enclosures shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority and thereafter constructed and retained in accordance with the approved details. Reason: To make sure that the appearance of the building is suitable and that it contributes to the character and appearance of the area having regards to Wirral Unitary Development Plan Policy HS4. .**

**5. No development hereby approved shall take place (including ground works and vegetation clearance) until a Construction Ecological Management Plan (CEMP) has been submitted to and approved in**

writing by the local planning authority. The CEMP shall include, but not limited to the following: a) Risk assessment of potentially damaging demolition and construction activities b) A pre-commencement check for hedgehogs and agreement of monitoring measures where necessary c) Identification of “biodiversity protection works” / Reason Avoidance Measures (RAMs) including but not limited to: i Existing vegetation on the site will be gradually cut and removed under ecological supervision to encourage any reptiles present to move away from the affected areas; ii. The working area, together with any storage areas, will be kept clear of debris, and any stored materials will be kept off the ground on pallets so as to prevent reptiles from seeking shelter or protection within them; iii. Any open excavations (e.g., foundations / footings / service trenches etc) will be covered with plywood sheeting (or similar) at the end of each working day. The edges of these sheets will be covered with a thick layer of topsoil or similar) to prevent reptiles from seeking shelter beneath them. Any excavation must be in-filled and made good to ground level with compacted stone or similar at the earliest opportunity, so as to remove any hazard to reptiles; iv. Bat mitigation measures which may be necessary following completion of the bat surveys; v. Measures to avoid harm to breeding birds and location and form of bird boxes; vi. Measures to avoid harm to other UK protected species; vii. Details of how retained trees, scrub and vegetation are to be protected during works; viii. Measures to avoid harm to Conservation sites including Grange Hill and Caldys Sites of Biological Importance detailing pollution prevention measures and details of how designated habitats and geological features will be protected; and ix. Invasive species method statements. The approved CEMP shall be adhered to and implemented throughout the construction period strictly in accordance with the approved details. Reason: To ensure that biodiversity is safeguarded.

6. Prior to first occupation of the development hereby approved, the screening measures adjacent to car parking bays, including the 1.1m high timber fence and hedging, as shown on approved drawing no. 011 Rev E shall be installed and thereafter permanently retained. Reason: To safeguard the amenities of existing and future occupiers.

7. Prior to the installation of any external lighting associated with the development hereby approved, details of the lighting, including appearance and luminance, shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority and thereafter constructed and retained in accordance with the said details unless otherwise agreed. Reason: To safeguard the amenities of neighbouring and future residents and biodiversity.

8. Prior to first occupation of the development hereby approved the refuse storage facilities as detailed on plan nos. 010 Rev D and 011 Rev

**E, shall be installed, and thereafter retained in accordance with the approved details in perpetuity. Reason: To ensure a satisfactory appearance and adequate standards of hygiene and refuse collection, having regard to Policy WM9 of the Joint Waste Local Plan.**

**9. No development shall commence until a scheme for the design and construction of highway improvement works has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Council as Local Planning Authority. For avoidance of doubt, the works shall include: i. The provision of dropped kerbs and tactile paving at the entrance to the development from Grange Road and for this to be widened in accordance with the drawing reference number 010 Rev B and a commercial crossing constructed and installed to the entrance. ii Resurfacing of the footway to Grange Road contiguous with/along the development site frontage to provide a continuous palette of material. iii. The provision of dropped kerbs and tactile paving at the Gerard Close junction with Grange Road. iv. Replacement/upgrade of street lighting as necessary as part of the detailed design. iv. Drainage works necessary to facilitate the highway works. The approved scheme shall subsequently be implemented prior to first occupation of the development hereby approved. Reason: To ensure that the sufficient measures are taken such that the highway network can accommodate the development and that the traffic generated does not exacerbate unsatisfactory highway or transportation conditions.**

**10. The development shall not be brought into use until the areas indicated on the submitted plans to be set aside for parking and servicing have been surfaced, drained, and permanently marked out or demarcated in accordance with the details and specifications shown in drawing number 010 Rev D. The parking and servicing areas shall be retained as such thereafter. Reason: To ensure that adequate provision is made on the site for the traffic generated by the development, including allowance for safe circulation, manoeuvring, loading and unloading of vehicles as well as parking, and that hard-surfaced areas have a satisfactory appearance.**

**11. The development shall not be brought into use until full details of the proposed cycle parking facilities as shown in drawing number 010 Rev D, are submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority and then constructed and retained in accordance with said details thereafter. Reason: To ensure that adequate provision is made for parking cycles on the site; and to preserve the appearance of the development.**

**12. No works shall take place on the site at all until a method statement comprehensively detailing the phasing and logistics of demolition/construction has been submitted to and approved in writing**

by the Council as Local Planning Authority. The method statement shall include, but not be limited to: - Construction traffic routes, including provision for access to the site. - Entrance/exit from the site for visitors/contractors/deliveries

- Location of directional signage within the site
- Siting of temporary containers
- Parking for contractors, site operatives and visitors
- Identification of working space and extent of areas to be temporarily enclosed and secured during each phase of demolition/construction. - Temporary roads/areas of hard standing
- Schedule for large vehicles delivering/exporting materials to and from site.
- Storage of materials and large/heavy vehicles/machinery on site - Measures to control noise and dust.
- Details of street sweeping/street cleansing/wheelwash facilities
- Details for the recycling/disposing of waste resulting from demolition and construction works - Hours of working
- Phasing of works including start/finish dates

The development shall be carried out in accordance with the approved plan, unless otherwise agreed in writing with the Council as Local Planning Authority. Reason: To ensure that adequate on-site provision is made for construction traffic, including allowance for the safe circulation, manoeuvring, loading and unloading of vehicles, as well as parking, and to reduce impact on residential amenity and the general amenity of surrounding occupiers.

13. The development shall only be carried out in accordance with all of the recommendations for mitigation and compensation set out in the Mitigation and Enhancement Measures Statement in relation to bat species (Amenity Tree, 23 January 2024, version 2) which details the methods for maintaining the conservation status of common pipistrelle, unless otherwise approved in writing by the local planning authority or varied by a European Protected Species licence subsequently issued by Natural England. Reason: In the interest of biodiversity.

14. Prior to the commencement of development, the applicant shall submit a method statement on the control of Rhododendron and Cotoneaster, both invasive species, which includes the following information: - A plan showing the extent of the plant(s). - The method(s) that will be used to prevent the plant/s spreading further, including demarcation. - The method(s) of control that will be used, including details of post-control monitoring. - How the plants will be disposed of after treatment/removal. Reason: To remove an invasive species as listed under Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) and ensure the protection of the native natural environment in accordance with Policy NC01 of the Wirral UDP.

**15. Prior to development reaching damp-proof course level and installation of landscaping features a Biodiversity Enhancement Plan (including stock details and quantities) demonstrating a Biodiversity Net Gain will be provided to the LPA for approval in writing. The approved plan shall be fully implemented as approved. Reason: to maintain the landscape and biodiversity value of the site and comply with Policy NC7 of the Wirral Unitary Development Plan (Adopted 2000) and comply with Section 15 of the National Planning Policy Framework.**

**16. Prior to the commencement of any works a survey must be undertaken by a suitably qualified ecologist to confirm the presence/absence of terrestrial mammals. If any signs of badgers or other mammals are found during the pre-commencement check further survey work will be required to be undertaken and a mitigation strategy submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority prior to the commencement of any works within 30 metres of any sett. The mitigation strategy shall be implemented in full in accordance with the approved details. Reason: To prevent the disturbance of protected species and the destruction of any sett tunnels within the site.**

**17. No tree felling, scrub clearance, vegetation management, ground clearance or building works is to take place during the period 1 March to 31 August inclusive. If it is necessary to undertake works during the bird breeding season then all trees, scrub 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. Reason: In order to ensure no net-loss in biodiversity.**

**18. The tree works methodology hereby approved and set out in Tree Protection Plan in accordance with the Arboricultural Implications Assessment (ACS Consulting, as received on 3rd October 2023) shall be adopted and complied with in full unless agreed otherwise in writing with the Local Planning Authority. Reason: To preserve the biodiversity of the site and health of the trees on the site in accordance with UDP Policy GR7.**

**19. No development shall take place until a Site Waste Management Plan, confirming how demolition and construction waste will be recovered and re-used on the site or at other sites, has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The approved Plan shall be implemented in full unless otherwise agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority. Reason: To ensure that the proposed development would include the re-use of limited resources, and to ensure that the amount of waste for landfill is reduced to accord with Policy WM8 of the Joint Waste Local Plan for Merseyside and Halton.**

**20. Prior to the commencement of development, details of a sustainable surface water drainage scheme and a foul water drainage scheme shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The drainage schemes must include: (i) An investigation of the hierarchy of drainage options in the National Planning Practice Guidance (or any subsequent amendment thereof). This investigation shall include evidence of an assessment of ground conditions and the potential for infiltration of surface water in accordance with BRE365; (ii) A restricted rate of discharge of surface water agreed with the local planning authority (if it is agreed that infiltration is discounted by the investigations); (iii) Levels of the proposed drainage systems including proposed ground and finished floor levels in AOD; (iv) Incorporate mitigation measures to manage the risk of sewer surcharge where applicable; and (v) Foul and surface water shall drain on separate systems. The approved schemes shall also be in accordance with the Non-Statutory Technical Standards for Sustainable Drainage Systems (March 2015) or any subsequent replacement national standards. Prior to occupation of the proposed development, the drainage schemes shall be completed in accordance with the approved details and retained thereafter for the lifetime of the development. Reason: To promote sustainable development, secure proper drainage and to manage the risk of flooding and pollution.**

**21. Prior to occupation of the development a sustainable drainage management and maintenance plan for the lifetime of the development shall be submitted to the local planning authority and agreed in writing. The sustainable drainage management and maintenance plan shall include as a minimum: a. Arrangements for adoption by an appropriate public body or statutory undertaker, or, management and maintenance by a resident's management company; and b. Arrangements for inspection and ongoing maintenance of all elements of the sustainable drainage system to secure the operation of the surface water drainage scheme throughout its lifetime. The development shall subsequently be completed, maintained and managed in accordance with the approved plan. Reason: To ensure that management arrangements are in place for the sustainable drainage system in order to manage the risk of flooding and pollution during the lifetime of the development.**

**22. The dwellings hereby permitted shall not be occupied until the landscaping plan (plan no. 011 Rev E) hereby approved in conjunction with any Biodiversity Enhancement measures has been implemented in full, including the planting of all new trees shown on the plan. The landscaping provisions shall be retained in situ in perpetuity. Reason: In the interests of visual amenity and to accord with saved policy GR5 of the Wirral Unitary Development Plan.**

**23. Works will not commence unless the local planning authority has been provided with a copy of a licence issued by Natural England pursuant to Regulation 55 of The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 authorising the specified development to go ahead or evidence that the site has been registered under the bat low impact class licence (CL21). Reason: In the interests of biodiversity.**

**24. Upon occupation, the occupier(s) of each dwelling shall be provided with a copy of the information leaflet 'Respecting Nature in Wirral: A voluntary code for responsible recreation' (or any document that supersedes or updates that document) as part of their homeowner/tenant information pack. The developer shall maintain a register of the date on which each occupier was supplied with the leaflet and, no later than one month after occupation of the final dwelling comprised in the development, the register shall be deposited in writing with the Local Planning Authority. Reason: To avoid significant adverse effects upon statutory designated nature conservation sites arising from recreational disturbance to qualifying species, in accordance with saved policies NC1 and NC3 of the Wirral Unitary Development Plan and paragraph 180 of the National Planning Policy Framework.**

66 **RVC/23/01413: 100 & 102 MEOLS DRIVE, CH48 5DB SECTION 73 APPLICATION FOR THE VARIATION OF CONDITION 2 OF CONSENTED SCHEME REF APP/20/01716 TO REMOVE BASEMENT AND PROVIDE PARKING AT GROUND LEVEL, TOGETHER WITH INTERNAL LAYOUT ALTERATIONS AND TO PICK UP AN ERROR IN THE APPROVED SOUTH ELEVATION PLAN**

The Development Management Manager presented the report of the Director of Regeneration and Place in relation to the above application for consideration.

An objector to the application, Mr Tom Hutchinson addressed the Committee.

An objector to the application, Mr Chris Moore, representing Hoylake Conservation Areas Association, addressed the Committee.

The Lead Principal Lawyer addressed the Committee and advised that Ward Councillor Andrew Gardner had sent apologies that he was unable to attend the meeting and read a representation that he had sent to the Committee.

The applicant's agent, Ms Maria Dychala addressed the Committee.

Councillor Max Booth raised the following motion for refusal, seconded by Councillor Kathy Hodson; The proposed scheme, as a result of the formation of additional hardstanding and car parking to the front of the site, fails to preserve or enhance the distinctive characteristics of the Meols Drive



Conservation Area, contrary to saved policy CH2 of the Wirral Unitary Development Plan and the Meols Drive Conservation Area Character Appraisal. This less than substantial harm to the significance of the designated heritage asset is not outweighed by the public benefits of the development, contrary to the provisions of the National Planning Policy Framework.

**The motion was put and lost (3:8).**

On a motion by the Chair seconded by Councillor Steve Foulkes, it was,

**Resolved (8:3) – That the Director of Regeneration and Place be authorised to:**

**(1) approve the application subject to the following conditions and subject to the completion of a supplemental agreement to the existing s106 agreement pursuant to section 106 of the Town and County Planning Act 1990 to be prepared, in accordance with sections 8.4.2 and 8.4.3 of this report.**

**(2) refuse the application in the event that a satisfactory supplemental section 106 agreement is not completed within 6 months of the date on which Planning Committee resolve to approve the application unless an extension of time is agreed to the satisfaction of the Director of Regeneration of Place in consultation with the Chair and Spokespersons of the Planning Committee.**

**Conditions:**

**1. The development hereby permitted shall begin no later than 14th April 2026. Reason: To comply with Section 91 (as amended) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.**

**2 The development hereby permitted shall be carried out in accordance with the approved plans by the local planning authority on 25/11/2020, 29/03/2022, 01/04/2022, and 28/11/2023 (unless otherwise stated) and listed as follows: 22-MEOLS-SITE-101 Rev C – Amended Site Plan; 22-MEOLS-PLAN-102 Rev A– Amended Ground Floor Plan; 22-MEOLS-PLAN-103 Rev A– Amended First Floor Plan; 22-MEOLS-PLAN-104 Rev A– Amended Second Floor Plan; 22-MEOLS-PLAN-111 Rev A - Amended Side (South) Elevation; P19070-FCH-XX-B1-DR-A-1310 Revision P03; P19070-FCH-XX-XX-DR-A-1400 Revision P10 P19070-FCH-XX-XX-DR-A-1401 Revision P10; P19070-FCH-XX-XX-DR-A-1403 Revision P07; 22/MEOLS/SITE1003 RevA; P19070-FCH-XX-B1-DR-A-1310 Revision P03; P19070-FCH-XX-XX-DR-A-1400 Revision P10 P19070-FCH-XX-XX-DR-A-1401 Revision P10; P19070-FCH-XX-XX-DR-A-1403 Revision P07  
Reason: For the avoidance of doubt and to define the permission.**

**3 The facing materials to be used in the external construction of this development hereby approved and set out in the Design and Access Statement shall then be used in the construction of the development unless agreed otherwise in writing with the Local Planning Authority. Reason: To ensure a satisfactory appearance to the development in the interests of visual amenity and to comply with Policy HS4 of the Wirral Unitary Development Plan.**

**4 The dwellings hereby permitted shall not be occupied until a detailed scheme for landscaping (including a management plan) has been submitted to and agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority. For the avoidance of doubt, the proposed landscaping shall include details of the at least 20 replacement trees for those existing trees removed. The landscaping shall be carried out in accordance with the approved details before any of the apartments are occupied. The landscaping provisions shall be retained in situ in perpetuity. Reason: In the interests of visual amenity and to accord with saved policy GR5 of the Wirral Unitary Development Plan.**

**5 Prior to first occupation of the development hereby approved arrangements for the storage and disposal of refuse including recycling facilities, and vehicle access thereto, shall be made within the approved residential curtilage and be retained in situ in perpetuity. Reason: To ensure a satisfactory appearance and adequate standards of hygiene and refuse collection, having regard to Policy WM9 of the Joint Waste Local Plan.**

**6. The development shall be constructed in full accordance with the Construction Environment Management Plan (BlueOak Estates Limited, April 2023) as discharged under application reference: DIS/23/00813. Reason: To adequately demonstrate biodiversity and highway safety is safeguarded.**

**7. The development hereby permitted shall not be occupied until details of bat boxes to include number, type and location on an appropriately scaled plan as well as timing of installation, has been provided for approval and implemented in accordance with those details. Reason: In the interest of biodiversity.**

**8. Prior to the occupation of the development hereby approved, a lighting scheme designed to protect amenity, ecology and which does not result in excessive light spill onto the habitats in line The Institution of Lighting Professionals (ILP) Guidance shall be submitted for approval and implemented in accordance with those details. Further guidance is available at the Bat Conservation Trust website <https://www.bats.org.uk/news/2018/09/new-guidance-onbatsandlighting>**

**Reason: In the interest of amenity and to preserve biodiversity and habitat in accordance with NPPF.**

**9. The development hereby permitted shall not be occupied until details of bird boxes to include number, type and location on an appropriately scaled plan as well as timing of installation, has been provided for approval and implemented in accordance with those details. Reason: In the interest of biodiversity and habitat in accordance with NPPF (paragraph 180).**

**10. No tree felling, scrub clearance, vegetation management, ground clearance or building works is to take place during the period 1 March to 31 August inclusive. If it is necessary to undertake works during the bird breeding season then all trees, scrub 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. Reason: In order to ensure no net-loss in biodiversity.**

**11 The tree works methodology hereby approved and set out in accordance with the Arboricultural Method Statement (Mulberry, dated: 07/08/2023; Ref: MTM0016.MS/Rev E) shall be adopted and complied with in full unless agreed otherwise in writing with the Local Planning Authority. Reason: To preserve the biodiversity of the site and health of the trees on the site in accordance with the NPPF and UDP Policy GR7.**

**12. The development hereby permitted by this planning permission, including all components of the sustainable drainage system, shall be carried out in accordance with the approved final Sustainable Drainage Strategy, including any phasing embodied within, and maintained in perpetuity in accordance with an agreed Operation and Maintenance Plan, to be submitted for each development phase, approved by the Local Planning Authority, in consultation with the Lead Local Flood Authority. The approved drainage scheme shall be fully constructed prior to occupation in accordance with the approved details, phasing and timetable embodied within the approved final Sustainable Drainage Strategy, or within any other period as may subsequently be agreed, in writing, by the Local Planning Authority in consultation with the Lead Local Flood Authority. 'As built' drainage design/layout drawings and a final Operation and Maintenance Plan, confirming asset details and maintenance arrangements, shall be submitted to the Lead Local Flood Authority, in accordance with any approved phasing, prior to occupation. Reason: To ensure satisfactory sustainable drainage facilities are provided to serve the site in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework.**

**13. The development shall not be brought into use until the areas indicated on the submitted plans to be set aside for parking and servicing have been surfaced, drained and permanently marked out or demarcated in accordance with the details and specifications shown in drawing number 22-MEOLS-SITE-101 Rev C – Amended Site Plan. The parking and servicing areas shall be retained as such thereafter.**

**Reason: To ensure that adequate provision is made on the site for the traffic generated by the development, including allowance for safe circulation, manoeuvring, loading and unloading of vehicles as well as parking, and that hard-surfaced areas have a satisfactory appearance.**

1 RVC/23/01413: 100 & 102 Meols Drive, CH48 5DB Section 73 application for the variation of condition 2 of consented scheme ref APP/20/01716 to remove basement and provide parking at ground level, together with internal layout alterations and to pick up an error in the approved South Elevation Plan

1 RVC/23/01413: 100 & 102 Meols Drive, CH48 5DB Section 73 application for the variation of condition 2 of consented scheme ref APP/20/01716 to remove basement and provide parking at ground level, together with internal layout alterations and to pick up an error in the approved South Elevation Plan

#### 67 **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 declarations were made

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## PENSIONS COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 19 March 2024

Present: Councillor J McManus (Chair)

Councillors A Ainsworth P Cleary  
B Hall R Molyneux  
B Kenny C Carubia  
GJ Davies  
T Cox  
A Gardner  
C Povall

In attendance: Councillors J Aston  
P Lappin  
J Rae

### 41 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Chair welcomed everyone and read out the webcasting notice.

### 42 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Martin Bond.

### 43 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Usual declarations:

Councillor George Davies	Personal interest as his wife is a member of Merseyside Pension Fund.
Councillor Andrew Gardener	Pecuniary interest by virtue of being a Member of Merseyside Pension Fund.
Councillor Brian Kenny	Personal interest as his fiancée is a member of Merseyside Pension Fund.
Councillor Cherry Povall	Personal interest as daughter is a member of Merseyside Pension Fund.
Councillor Brenda Hall	Pecuniary interest by virtue of her and her husband being Members

	of Merseyside Pension Fund.
Councillor Julie McManus	Pecuniary interest by virtue of her son being a Member of Merseyside Pension Fund.
Councillor Paulette Lappin	Pecuniary interest by virtue of being a Member of Merseyside Pension Fund.
John Rae	Pecuniary interest by virtue of being a Member of Merseyside Pension Fund.

#### 44 **MINUTES**

Members were advised that the Responsible Investment Working Party had met on the 19<sup>th</sup> February 2024 and considered a number of stewardship reports including an initial report on the defence industry. Sustainable investments levers of actions were considered to be either to engage, invest or exclude. There would be a second meeting of the Responsible Investment Working Party in the second quarter, and a work plan had been agreed which would include discussions on the Fund's investments in defence companies.

**Resolved – That the minutes of the Pensions Committee meeting held on 11 December 2023 be agreed as a correct record.**

#### 45 **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

##### 45.1 **Public Questions**

No admissible questions were received.

##### 45.2 **Statements and Petitions**

A statement was received from Tony Norbury which read as follows;

“When making the decision to invest our Merseyside pension money into arms companies or not who are supplying weapons to kill innocent civilians in an acts of genocide against United Nations laws and the findings of the Court Of Human rights organisations set up to prevent the acts of genocide and oppression that happen during and before the 2WW from ever happening again

will the councillors on the pension committee reflect on the reasons they attend the cenotaph every year alongside religious leaders who represent all denominations to remember the millions of soldiers who died fighting for a world where fascism is replaced by democracy and people of the world could

live in freedom whatever their religion, colour or political views , without fear of oppression.

Not only remembering the soldiers and civilians who died but the reasons they died and the reasons for their sacrifice which was freedom from fascist dictators who think it's ok to wipe out a whole section of humanity, their culture, history and existence.

I for one as a member of the Merseyside pensions committee give my vote to support those who have stood up against genocide and sacrifice so much to say not in my name.”

The Chair thanked Mr Norbury for his statement.

#### 46 **QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS**

#### 47 **LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME (LGPS) UPDATE**

The Head of Pensions Administration introduced the report of the Director of Pension to the Committee. The report provided an overview of changes affecting the future administration and governance of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS).

**Resolved – That the Committee note the administration and governance changes to the LGPS, to ensure continued compliance with legislation, statutory guidance, and industry codes of practice.**

#### 48 **TREASURY MANAGEMENT POLICY FOR 2024/25 AND ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2022/23**

The Head of Pensions (Finance and Risk) introduced the report of the Director of Pension to the Committee. The purpose of the report was to request that Members approved the treasury management policy statement and the treasury management practices for Merseyside Pension Fund (MPF) for the year 2024/25.

**Resolved – That the Committee approve the treasury management policy statement and the treasury management practices for Merseyside Pension Fund for the financial year 2024/25.**

#### 49 **MERSEYSIDE PENSION FUND BUDGET FINANCIAL YEAR 2024/25**

The Head of Pensions (Finance and Risk) introduced the report of the Director of Pension to the Committee. The purpose of the report was to request that Members approved the budget for Merseyside Pension Fund (MPF) for the financial year 2024/25.

**Resolved – That the Committee,**

- (1) Approve the budget for 2024/25 subject to a review of charges from the administering authority for support services.**
- (2) A further report on the outturn for 2023/24 with finalised estimates, in particular for departmental & central support charges and any known changes in supplies and services for 2024/25, be presented to Members of Pensions Committee at a future meeting.**

50 **LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME (LGPS) CONSULTATION OUTCOME: NEXT STEPS ON INVESTMENTS**

The Director of Pensions introduced the report to committee. The report provided the Committee with details of the response to a consultation by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities (DLUHC) which sought views on the Local Government Pension Scheme's (LGPS) "next steps on investments".

Members noted the areas of good practice on which Merseyside Pension Fund were leading.

Members requested training regarding legislative changes takes place before the next Responsible Investments Working Party.

In response to member queries, officers advised that Northern LGPS had received some indication that the pooling structure implemented may not align with the governments preferred pooling method and that they were awaiting guidance from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. Officers also advised that investments in the Merseyside region which fall under the levelling up category, have data on the economic, environmental and social benefits they bring but the pool was considering ways in which this could be enhanced.

**Resolved - That the Committee consider the report.**

51 **NORTHERN LGPS UPDATE**

The Director of Pensions introduced the report to committee. The report provided Members with an update on pooling arrangements in respect of Merseyside Pension Fund (MPF) and the Northern LGPS Investment Pool. Minutes of the previous Northern LGPS Joint Committee meeting were appended for noting.

Members requested a report regarding responsible investment parties to return to Committee.



**Resolved - That the Committee note the report and the minutes of the Joint Committee meeting.**

52 **WIRRAL LOCAL PENSION BOARD MINUTES**

The Director of Pensions introduced the report to committee. The report provided the Committee 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.**

53 **MINUTES OF WORKING PARTY MEETINGS**

The Director of Pensions introduced the report to committee. The purpose of the report was to provide Members with the minutes of meetings of Working Parties held since the previous Committee meeting.

**Resolved - That the minutes of the Working Party be approved.**

54 **PROPERTY PORTFOLIO RENT ARREARS AND WRITE OFFS**

The Head of Pensions (Finance and Risk) introduced the report of the Director of Pension to the Committee. The purpose of the report was to request that the Committee approve the write off of £28,000 of irrecoverable rent arrears from the Fund's property portfolio. For context, the annual property rental income for 2022/23 was £31.7 million.

**Resolved - That the Committee approve the write off of uncollectable property rental income of £28,000.**

55 **EXEMPT INFORMATION - EXCLUSION OF MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

The following items contain exempt information.

**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 the relevant paragraphs of Part I of Schedule 12A (as amended) to that Act. The Public Interest test has been applied and favours exclusion.**

56 **PROPERTY PORTFOLIO RENT ARREARS AND WRITE OFFS - EXEMPT APPENDIX**

57 **PROPERTY CONTRACT**

**Resolved – That the Director of Pensions be authorised to finalise a contract on the terms set out in the report with CBRE Capital Advisors for the provision of property advisory services to Merseyside Pension Fund such a contract being awarded via the Crown Commercial Services (CCS) framework.**

**58 FACILITIES MANAGEMENT CONTRACT**

**Resolved - That the Director of Pensions be authorised to finalise a contract with Emcor on the terms set out in the report for the provision of facilities management services to Merseyside Pension Fund.**

# POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 20 March 2024

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	G Jenkinson

## 119 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting as well as those watching the webcast.

## 120 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Pat Cleary. Councillor Gail Jenkinson was in attendance as substitute.

## 121 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were asked to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests and any other relevant interest and to state the nature of the interest. No such interests were declared.

## 122 MINUTES

**Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 13 February 2024 be approved as a correct record.**

## 123 PUBLIC AND MEMBER QUESTIONS

The Chair advised that no Public Questions, Statements or Petitions had been received.

The Chair read out a statement in regards to disruption by protestors at Pensions Committee held on 19 March 2024, voicing concerns about the behaviour and language exhibited towards Members and Officers, noting that

a lessons learnt review would be undertaken. The wellbeing of both Members and Officers was a priority for both the Leader and the Chief Executive.

The Chief Executive updated Members on a recent meeting of the Internal Assurance Panel. The Panel, chaired by Carolyn Downes congratulated Wirral Council on the progress made by Wirral Council over the past two years. The Chief Executive advised that it would be the panel's last meeting, subject to future report being presented to the Policy and Resource Committee and the Department for Levelling up, Housing and Communities. The Chair noted his thanks to Carolyn Downes and the Panel, as well as Group Leaders, the Chief Executive and officers for their hard work in implementing the improvement plan.

#### 124 **ALLOCATION OF IMPROVEMENT PROJECT FUND**

The Director of Neighbourhood Services presented the report. Members were informed that as part of the 2024-25 budget setting, Council on 26 February 24 approved the creation of a £1.246m revenue project investment fund and a £1m environmental improvement capital fund for investment into specific improvement activities that will have a visible impact across the Borough. The report considered the specific improvement activities that these funds will be used for in 2024-25.

Members noted their appreciation of the improvement project fund, nothing that the improvement activities highlighted in the report were the main areas of concern for residents across the borough.

**Resolved – that,**

- 1. The use of Neighbourhoods Project Investment Funds can be used for the improvement activities, detailed in appendix 1 be agreed.**
- 2. Delegate monitoring of delivery of these projects, and the determination of arrangements for doing so be delegated to the Policy and Resources Finance Sub Committee.**

#### 125 **REGENERATION DELIVERY RESOURCING**

The Assistant Director for Property and Regeneration Investment presented the report of the Director of Regeneration and Place. Members were informed that, the report sought approval to fund additional resourcing requirements that had been identified following a comprehensive review of regeneration projects and processes.

The requirement was for a mix of internal fixed-term roles and externally procured disciplines over a period of 2 years. Funding had been identified from Wirral Growth Company profits and where possible, capitalisation of costs. The Regeneration Programme was a core part of the Council Plan supporting Brownfield First and the Local Plan. The Council had been successful in securing over £150 million of funding for the regeneration of the borough. As a result, there was a need to prioritise delivery of numerous projects by March 2026 which required additional skills and capacity. The Birkenhead 2040 Framework detailed a comprehensive regeneration vision that would deliver 21,000 new homes and 6,000 new jobs in Birkenhead over the next 20 years and transform Birkenhead and parts of Wallasey and New Ferry.

This builds on Government funding support secured over the past 3 years to support infrastructure improvements and town centre intervention, creating new neighbourhoods, and driving economic growth. A Framework of this scale and the emerging Masterplans required a joined-up approach to a number of regeneration-based activities.

As the Council moves into delivery it is imperative to have the appropriate resources in place to deliver this programme of work to March 2026, and beyond. By shifting to an Intelligent Client model (which refers to the capability and capacity to translate policy to outcomes), existing teams need to be strengthened and technical design teams, need to be procured where appropriate, to support the Council's vision and delivery programme.

The Council Plan 2023-2027 had been developed and the recommendations within this report support the delivery of the following themes: People focused regeneration. The recommendations in this report focus on the Birkenhead 2040 Framework. This meant that the matter more immediately affected Birkenhead and Birkenhead & Tranmere, Bidston & St James, Seacombe and Liscard Wards, but in the longer term may potentially impact on other wards in the Borough.

Members discussed the complexity and pressures of regeneration and building projects, especially keeping to prescribed timescales and possible clawback of funding. Members were assured that the report contained a prioritisation matrix applied against projects based on investment confidence, legal commitment, strategic value, and delivery confidence. Members noted their appreciated that the report included regeneration in New Ferry and sought further assurance regarding funding arrangements and the use of Wirral Growth Company funding.

It was noted that the regeneration programme in Wirral was one of the largest in the Country and officers provided assurance that it was an attractive borough to work in.

**Resolved – that**

**1. the Director of Finance be authorised to allocate Council reserves arising from Wirral Growth Company profits and/or Capitalisation totalling £2.7m for the use of additional Regeneration Delivery resources to March 2026.**

**2. the use and impact of the newly allocated additional resources (up to £2.7m) will be overseen by the Economy, Regeneration and Housing Committee.**

126 **LEVELLING UP FUND 3 LISCARD - INCLUSION IN SIMPLIFICATION PATHFINDER PILOT**

The Assistant Director: Chief Regeneration Officer presented the report of the Director of Regeneration and Place, which sought approval for the amendment of the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) Simplification Pathfinder Investment Plan, and the inclusion of the Liscard Levelling Up Fund allocation.

The report also sought authority for the Director of Regeneration & Place to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding which includes the Liscard Levelling Up Fund allocation within its scope.

This report was intended to be taken to the Council's Economy, Regeneration and Housing Committee, with recommendations given to a subsequent Policy & Resources Committee. However, due to the timetabling of the Council Committees, and to prevent delays to programme delivery, the Director of Regeneration & Place had consulted with the Economy, Regeneration and Housing Committee Chair and Party Spokespersons prior to this Committee.

Members noted their approval of the report and noted that the community attended the meetings on the project and looked forward to progress updates, especially around the Community Wealth Building implications. Members also sought clarity around the governance of the project.

The Chair then moved the recommendations as set out in the report with some minor additions to recommendations 1 and 2, this was due to the fact that the final template document from DLUCH is still awaited.

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

**Resolved – that,**

- 1. the draft addendum to the Simplification Pathfinder Investment Plan included in Appendix 1 to this report be approved;**
- 2. the Director of Regeneration and Place be authorised to submit the final addendum to the Simplification Pathfinder Investment Plan to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and enter into a Memorandum of Understanding which includes the Liscard Levelling Up Fund allocation within its scope, in consultation with the Director of Law and Corporate Services;**
- 3. the renaming of the Birkenhead Wallasey and New Ferry Simplification Pathfinder Pilot Board to the Simplification Pathfinder Pilot Board be approved; and**
- 4. the inclusion of the Liscard Levelling Up Fund programme within the Simplification Pathfinder Pilot Board's remit be approved.**

## 127 **COUNCIL CHANGE PROGRAMME**

The Head of Corporate Office presented the report of the Director of Finance. The report informed Members that the Change Programme was the Council's vehicle for developing and implementing the required projects that support the delivery of the Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP).

The Change Programme had been reviewed and refreshed to ensure it directly supported the refreshed Medium-Term Financial Strategy and Plan (approved by Council in February) and the implementation of the new Council Plan (approved by Council in December 2023).

The re-set of the Council's Change Programme ensured there was a single, organisational approach to transforming the business that was effectively resourced, controlled and monitored to deliver the Council's strategic priorities and outcomes, as defined in the Council Plan and the required efficiencies as set out in the MTFP. The report provided Members with an update on progress since the Change Programme was last reported to Policy and Resources Committee in December 2021. The report also provided an overview of the refreshed Change Programme and the rationale for the various elements within it.

Members discussed the progress of change within the Council, noting lessons learnt and benefits realisation of the improvement projects, also noted was the increase in public and Member oversight in recent years.

**Resolved – that,**

- 1. the Council’s Change Programme as presented in this report be supported.**
- 2. the Elected Member oversight arrangements for the programme as set out in paragraph 8.1 be supported.**

## 128 **COUNCIL PLAN PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK**

The Head of Corporate Office presented the report of the Director of Law and Corporate Services. The new Council Plan: Wirral Working Together 2023-27 was approved by Council in December 2023. Members were informed that this report set out a draft Performance Management Framework (PMF) that would ensure the implementation of the Plan is effectively monitored and reported over the next 4 years.

The PMF had been developed to ensure there is rigour in measuring the Council’s progress towards delivering the priorities in the plan and specifically outcomes identified under each of the plan themes. The PMF had been co-produced following engagement with all Policy Committees which provided an opportunity to share an early draft and for Members to input into the final design.

The report supported the implementation of the Council Plan: Wirral Working Together 2023- 27. Adoption of the PMF or similar ensures effective monitoring and performance management arrangements are in place to evidence progress against each of the Council Plan themes.

Members discussed the workshops undertaken by Committee Members, noting that some feedback had not been incorporated. Members were assured that the feedback would be incorporated once the plan had been further developed, noting that this report had been drafted to work within the time frames required by the Independent Assurance Panel meeting in March 2024.

**Resolved – that,**

- 1. the content of this report and associated appendices be noted and**
- 2. further feedback or comments be highlighted in advance of the Performance Management Framework being implemented in the new financial year.**



## 129 **BIRKENHEAD COMMERCIAL DISTRICT UPDATE**

The Assistant Director for Property and Regeneration Investment presented the report of the Director of Regeneration and Place.

Members were informed that the Birkenhead Commercial District (“BCD”) programme was reaching a major milestone in that the phase 2 – CAT B (fit out) capital programme was completing for official handover between our appointed contractor and Wirral Borough Council on Friday 22nd March 2024.

The Council was to be taking full occupation across 3.5 floors with phased occupation dates from Monday 8 th April 2024 at Building A (2 Alice Ker Square - Mallory). The Council will partially exit Cheshire Lines Building and retain a lease of the basement to support archive storage, Police and Criminal Evidence (“PACE”) room and data centre.

The Council was working with agency partners to market the remaining vacant spaces in both new buildings. The outcome of the pandemic had resulted in changes for a lot of organisations looking for new office accommodation, resulting in smaller and more flexible space requirements. This paper provided an update on the BCD programme, including appendix 1 providing updates on revenue and capital costs, along with tenant demand and concept for fit out on Building B (Irvine building).

Members queried the environmental credentials of the building and were informed that they had been built to BREEAM excellence standards, which is the longest established method of certifying the sustainability of buildings. Also discussed the procurement processes and lessons learnt on completion of the project.

**Resolved – that,**

- 1. the update as set out in this report be noted; and**
- 2. the intended approach to fit out of Building B as referred to in Appendix 1 be endorsed.**

## 130 **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Chair introduced the report which provided the Committee with an opportunity to plan and regularly review its work across the municipal year.

Members requested the Community Asset Transfer be added to the Work Programme, to include timelines and legal process.

Resolved – That the work programme, with the inclusion of a report on Community Asset Transfer, be noted.

131 **MINUTES OF THE SENIOR OFFICER AND STAFFING SUB-COMMITTEE**

**Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 6 February 2024 and 7 February 2024 be approved be noted.**

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

The Chair moved the exemption, seconded by Councillor Jean Robinson at which point Councillor Joe Bird queried why the report was exempt. The Lead Lawyer advised that the appendix contained information that was commercially sensitive in relation to vacating Cheshire Lines building and also supply chain works.

**Resolved (2:13) that,**

**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 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.**

133 **BIRKENHEAD COMMERCIAL DISTRICT UPDATE - EXEMPT APPENDIX**

**Resolved – that the exempt appendix be noted.**

## AUDIT AND RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 26 March 2024

Present:

Councillor J Johnson (Chair)

Councillors GJ Davies I Lewis  
P Basnett S Kelly  
M Skillicorn N Graham

44 **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.

45 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was received from Independent Member Joanne Byrne.

46 **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.

Councillor Paula Basnett declared a pecuniary interest in her capacity as the Executive Chair of Wirral Chamber of Commerce in relation to the delivery of a business support contract referred to in Item 7 of the agenda.

47 **MINUTES**

**Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 15 January 2024 be approved.**

48 **PUBLIC AND MEMBER QUESTIONS**

There were no public questions, petitions, statements or member questions received in advance of the meeting.

49 **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 and items of note undertaken during the period 1 February to 15 March 2024. Notable work reported included an ongoing review of the regeneration programme governance arrangements and an update on progress of identified actions arising from the audit of the Council's agency worker's contract.

Members queried the progress on outstanding actions arising from the audit of Climate Emergency and Health and Safety which had been previously reported to Committee. The Chief Internal Auditor confirmed two recommendations remained outstanding and work was being undertaken with senior managers to address these on a cross-directorate level. Members also discussed the grading and roles of agency workers recruited within the Matrix contract, examination of contract governance of highways contracts and resourcing of the Simplification Pathfinder project delivery within the regeneration programme governance audit.

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

## 50 **CORPORATE RISK MANAGEMENT UPDATE**

The Risk, Continuity & Compliance Manager presented the 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. Outcomes of the latest review of the Corporate Risk Register (CRR) by the Senior Leadership Team were reported and that there were minor updates to the mitigating controls and planned actions for the existing Corporate Risks, but no change in scores. It was noted that The Council's Risk Management Policy Statement and Strategy had been updated to reflect the Council's committee structure and lines of reporting as well as the vision set out in the Council Plan 2023-27.

Members discussed the impact of recommendations on corporate risks entailed in the External Audit Annual Report. The Risk, Continuity and Compliance Manager confirmed these would be reviewed in the next scheduled review with SLT. Members also discussed how the effectiveness of controls could be monitored within the CRR and reiterated the importance of policy and service committees undertaking regular reviews of their respective directorate risk registers.

**Resolved – That the report be noted and the Risk Management Framework be endorsed.**

## 51 **REGENERATION AND PLACE RISK MANAGEMENT**

The Director of Regeneration and Place presented the report which provided a review of the Regeneration and Place Directorate risks as requested by the

Audit and Risk Management Committee in January 2024. The report included a review of the directorate risk register, information on how risks were managed, processes for managing new risks as they arise, and expected outcomes from current programmes through delivery. In relation to delivery, The Director of Regeneration and Place reported that work had been undertaken to assess the feasibility of all current projects and pipeline projects, to ensure that the Council had the appropriate skills and capacity to deliver prioritised projects and that project management and performance arrangements were strengthened. It was noted that the Council's successful application as a 'Pathfinder' as part of the Government's simplification process had secured mitigation to schemes without impacting on the scale and ambition of delivery.

Members discussed risk scores identified within the directorate risk register. In relation to regeneration delivery, Members noted the importance of retention and recruitment of sufficient skills to manage risks. The Director of Regeneration of Place affirmed that the Directorate had made progress in address gaps capability and delivery skills over the previous 12 months and work was being undertaken to improve this further. In addition, Members highlighted the importance of sufficient openness and transparency of governance arrangements where changes are made to delivery programmes, alongside the Audit and Risk Management Committee's role in receiving assurance that risks were being managed. Members also discussed risks scores associated with housing and homelessness services and sought assurance on the reporting of these issues to the Economy, Regeneration and Housing Committee.

The Chair noted the Committee's concerns relating to resourcing within the directorate, risks of clawback within individual schemes, work of funding partners and future risk management training with policy and service committees. With those caveats, it was:

**Resolved – That the comprehensive arrangements in place within the Regeneration and Place Directorate for managing all Directorate risks be noted.**

## 52 EXTERNAL ANNUAL AUDIT REPORT 2022/23

Representatives from Grant Thornton introduced the report of the Director of Finance which presented the Council's external auditors (Grant Thornton) Annual Audit Report which identified key issues/findings relating to the audit of the 2022-23 statutory accounts. The Annual Audit Report contained a set of recommendations for the Council to implement, alongside Management's response to these recommendations included within in the report.

Members discussed in further detail issues and recommendations highlighted within the report including:

- Uncertainties relating to the Dedicated Schools Grant deficit balance.
- Levels of debt and in-year borrowing.
- Contract procedure rules.
- Levels of Council reserves.
- Risk associated with partnership working with enterprises such as Wirral Growth Company and Edsential.

Members also sought assurance that the committee received oversight on actions taken in response to recommendations within the annual report on a six-monthly basis.

**Resolved – That the Annual Audit Report be approved for onward approval to the Policy and Resources Committee, Full Council and publication on the Council website.**

**53 ANNUAL UPDATE OF WHISTLEBLOWING CONCERNS RAISED IN THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2023/24**

The Principal Lawyer: Litigation & Governance presented the report of the Director of Law and Corporate Services which was an annual report required by the Council's Whistleblowing Policy. The report summarised the number / nature of the concerns raised under the Whistleblowing Policy, details of the service(s) to which the concerns relate, and the steps being taken to investigate the concerns further, and any relevant matters or issues that had arisen in connection with the Whistleblowing Policy. It was reported that During the period 1 April 2023 to date there had been one whistleblowing report made. The concerns/issues raised are within the Resources Directorate in respect of the acquisition of corporate IT systems. Actions and next steps were noted.

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

**54 ANNUAL UPDATE OF USE OF SURVEILLANCE POWERS UNDER THE REGULATION OF INVESTIGATORY POWERS ACT 2000 (RIPA)**

The Principle Lawyer for Litigation and Governance presented the report of the Director of Law and Corporate Services which provided an annual update on issues relevant to certain types of surveillance activity which the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 enabled local authorities to carry out. It was reported that in 2023 there had been three applications under RIPA made to the Magistrates' Court to enable test purchases to be made by juveniles (under the supervision of Trading Standards Officers) in conjunction with national enforcement exercises, from retailers who were suspected of selling e-cigarettes to young persons under the age of 18, and one application for the citing of a covert CCTV camera at a location in the Borough for the purposes of investigating incidents of fly tipping.

Members queried the outcomes of the applications made under RIPA in 2023. The Principal Lawyer for Litigation and Governance confirmed that ongoing legal proceedings were under consideration by trading standards in relation to underage sale of e-cigarettes, whilst incidents of flytipping ceased to occur following installation of the covert camera at that location.

**Resolved – That the use made by the Council of covert surveillance between 1 January 2023 and 31 December 2023 be noted.**

55 **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Director of Law and Corporate Services presented the committee work programme which included all reports of a statutory and legislative nature and reports which are required to be reported to public sector audit committees during the municipal year for compliance with the Public Sector Internal Audit Standard.

**Resolved – That the proposed Audit and Risk Management Committee work programme for the 2024/25 municipal year be noted.**

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# ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Monday, 15 April 2024

Present: Councillor EA Grey (Chair)

Councillors S Foulkes M Booth  
A Ainsworth N Graham  
P Jobson J Walsh  
V Wilson A Brame

Deputies: Councillors A Gardner

## 84 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.

## 85 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Davies. Councillor Garner was in attendance as substitute.

## 86 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.

### 86.1 Public Questions

The Chair advised that several questions has been received.

Paul Cardin asked why the Council had not made provision to protecting the six mature cherry trees, situated in close proximity to the North Annex, Brighton Street, Wallasey which was being demolished. The Chair responded to state that she shared her concerns regarding the loss of mature trees, it had been determined that successful retention of the trees in such proximity

to the building had not been possible and that the decision had been made to allocate resources towards replacement planting instead of attempting transplantation.

Charlotte Smith asked a question regarding the Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) for Hoylake Beach, noting that a EIA had not been undertaken since 2021, stating that this was unacceptable and has failed the needs of disabled residents especially since Hoylake Beach has deteriorated since 2021.

The Chair responded to state that, following the identification of beach management plan the Council will work with Natural England to gain assent for the option. This engagement and the application for a licence from the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) takes time, in the meantime the Council would ensure Hoylake beach remains accessible and work with the RNLI to ensure their operations can be delivered.

The Head of Legal Services read out a question on behalf of Julien Priest who queried the installation of petrol interceptors to the roadway drainage system that discharges onto the foreshore. Mr Priest asked if these could be installed outside the area covered by environmental protections and if the Chair could confirm that these could be installed prior to the Natural England assent of the Beach Management Plan.

The Chair response to state that the Council would engage with Natural England at the earliest opportunity following Committee's decision this evening and will discuss the installation of the petrol interceptors and required preparation work with them as part of this initial engagement.

The Head of Legal Services read out a question on behalf of Mike Thomas regarding Green Netting, stating that the netting so far has not stopped any sand from reaching the prom and has failed to be maintained in line with the agreement in place when it was put up. Mr Thomas queried if the council had included in their costing the cost of sand removal from the prom and surrounding roads due to vegetation being removed and netting?

The Chair responded to state that sand removal formed part of the street cleansing operation provided for within the current contract with Biffa and the cost of sand removal will be met from established service provision budgets. However it was not envisaged there will be a significant increase in wind-blown sand as a result of the implantation of the identified beach management option.

## **86.2 Statements and petitions**

Charlotte Smith read a statement on behalf of the Hoylake Beach Community Group, regarding the long campaign to return an amenity beach between

Kings Gap and Hoylake Beach Lifeboat Station and asking that the Committee resolves to approve option 2 of the consultation results.

### 86.3 Questions by Members

The Chair advised that two Members questions had been received.

Councillor Naomi Graham asked a question regarding the Hoylake Beach management plan options and impacts, noting the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) comments within the report and asking for clarity on what assessments had been made of the windblown sand and flooding risks associated with the options and what were the results.

The Chair responded to state that Royal Haskoning had advised there were no adverse additional effects on flooding from either option, and additional windblown sand is not anticipated but will be monitored once the temporary green netting has been removed.

Councillor Jason Walsh asked a question regarding the suitability of flat, grassed 'runways' for lifeboats, kept clear of debris and tall vegetation as an alternative to the fully cleared strips.

The Chair responded to state that The Council had worked closely with the RNLI to develop the beach management options and to clarify and build in their operational requirements for access and egress across the beach. Removing vegetation from the RNLI's access and egress routes is essential as it will grow and further establish over time, impeding rescue operations.

Councillor Allan Brame asked a question regarding the West Kirby Flood Alleviation Scheme asking if the Chair could comment, further to the flood event at West Kirby on April 9th, the effectiveness of the wall in dissipating the energy of the waves, and existing highway drainage.

The Chair stated that the highway gullies had worked effectively once the tide dropped, the draining of the "overtop" water was accelerated when the sliding gates were opened, with the area clear of water within 2 hours after high tide. However, there was some standing water due to some gullies being blocked due to the amount of sand washed over, but these were cleaned, approximately 3 hours after high tide. a full review of the storm dimensions and the performance of the sea defence system would be undertaken jointly with the Environment Agency.

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### **HOYLAKE BEACH MANAGEMENT PLAN**

The Director of Neighbourhoods Services presented the report which provided the Committee with the results of the recent consultation exercise relating to the management of Hoylake Beach. In light of the consultation and progress made thus far with Natural England, Members were asked to determine a preferred position upon which officers could proceed development of a beach

management plan for Hoylake Beach as they had sufficient information to resolve a preference. This preference was used as the basis for Wirral Council's position, although no beach management was to be implemented without Natural England's assent.

Councillors discussed the remit of Natural England with The Deputy Chief Executive confirming that they were a regulatory body and work could not be undertaken on the beach without a beach management plan which had been approved by Natural England. Members commented on the costs surrounding the resolution of the beach management plan and the range of views on the matter.

Also discussed was beach accessibility, both for the public and RNLI as well as the need for a united message, noting the response to the consultation. It was noted that conversations had been had with RNLI about access.

Members considered the need for Natural England assent on the beach options and the need for further work to be undertaken with officers to get an agreement which was as close as possible to the consultation outcome. Assurance was also sought on protecting the Site of Special Scientific Interest, with officers assuring Members that they would ensure that nothing would be breached.

The recommendations within the report were moved as a motion by Councillor Elizabeth Grey, seconded by Councillor Max Booth.

*The Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee is recommended to:*

- 1. Consider the content of the Hoylake Beach Management Plan Consultation Report enclosed as Appendix A to this report; and*
- 2. Authorise the Director of Neighbourhood Services to work with Natural England to develop a beach management plan that approximates as closely as possible the consultees' overall preferred option (Option 2 - Amenity Beach).*
- 3. Authorise the Director of Neighbourhood Services to*
  - a. progress the items referred to in paragraph 4.4 of this report which are all required to be in place before the beach management plan can be implemented; and*
  - b. finalise and implement the beach management plan subject to assent being in place from Natural England*

Councillor Naomi Graham then moved an alternative motion. This was seconded by Councillor Jason Walsh,

*The Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee is recommended to:*

*1. Consider the content of the Hoylake Beach Management Plan Consultation Report enclosed as Appendix A to this report; and*

**2. Authorise the Director of Neighbourhood Services to work with Natural England to develop a beach management plan that ensures stable, debris-free and managed grassed access for RNLi activities and access for all to the sandy beach beyond the current continuous grassed area.**

*3. Authorise the Director of Neighbourhood Services to*

*a. progress the items referred to in paragraph 4.4 of this report which are all required to be in place before the beach management plan can be implemented; and*

*b. finalise and implement the beach management plan subject to assent being in place from Natural England.*

Members then voted on the motion as moved by Councillor Liz Grey and it was,

**Resolved (9:2) - that,**

**1. Consider the content of the Hoylake Beach Management Plan Consultation Report enclosed as Appendix A to this report be noted**

**2. the Director of Neighbourhood Services be authorised to work with Natural England to develop a beach management plan that approximates as closely as possible the consultees' overall preferred option (Option 2 - Amenity Beach).**

**3. the Director of Neighbourhood Services be authorised to**

**a. progress the items referred to in paragraph 4.4 of this report which are all required to be in place before the beach management plan can be implemented; and**

**b. finalise and implement the beach management plan subject to assent being in place from Natural England**

The motion moved by Cllr Graham therefore fell away because it was a negation of the motion that had just been carried.

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## PLANNING COMMITTEE

Thursday, 18 April 2024  
Times Not Specified

Present:

Councillor S Kelly (Chair)

Councillors	S Foulkes	J Stewart Laing
	H Gorman	G McManus
	K Hodson	S Powell-Wilde
	C Baldwin	J Walsh
	M Booth	

68 **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

The Chair welcomed Members of the Planning Committee, Officers, members of the public and those watching the webcast to the meeting.

69 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillor Brian Kenny, he was deputised by Councillor George Davies.

70 **MINUTES**

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 14 March 2024 be approved.

71 **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 declarations were made.

72 **LDP/24/00138: 70 CHARLOTTE ROAD, EGREMONT, WALLASEY, WIRRAL, CH44 0DW APPLICATION FOR A LAWFUL DEVELOPMENT CERTIFICATE RE: USE OF A C3 DWELLING AS A CHILDREN'S HOME FOR A MAXIMUM OF FOUR CHILDREN, WITH UP TO THREE CARERS, WITH SLEEP OVERNIGHT, WORKING ON A ROTA BASIS TO C2 CLASS**

The Development Management Manager presented the report of the Director of Regeneration and Place in relation to the above application for consideration.

Ward Councillor Jeanette Williamson addressed the committee.

The applicants, Micheal Parks and Jake Boness addressed the committee.

On a motion by the Chair, seconded by Councillor Colin Baldwin, it was,

**Resolved – that the application be approved subject to the following conditions.**

**The dwelling would be used as a children's home supervised by non-resident carers. This puts the proposed use within use class C2 rather than the current use which is class C3. Nevertheless, on the basis of the submitted evidence on the balance of probabilities the use of the building and the character of activity associated with that use would not be significantly different to that which could be expected at a single dwellinghouse of this size. Therefore, a material change of use would not occur by virtue of the proposed use.**

73 **RVC/23/01961; THE QUADRANT ALBERT ROAD / STATION ROAD, CH47 2EE VARY CONDITION 12 (17/01191, 19/00065 & 22/01426) IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DETAILS SUBMITTED AS SET OUT IN PHASING PLAN REFERENCE 19084-SK-12 DATED 30 JULY 2021 (PHASING PLAN MARCH 2019 REV. A & 19084-201-R). THE PROPOSAL IS TO ALLOW INDEPENDENT OCCUPATION THAT PERMITS RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL UNITS OF PHASE II, TO BE FULLY OCCUPIED AND BROUGHT INTO USE SEPARATELY OF PHASE I (CONVERSION OF THE TOWN HALL) - OR WHICHEVER PHASE, IS COMPLETED FIRST.**

The Development Management Manager presented the report of the Director of Regeneration and Place in relation to the above application for consideration.

Ward Councillor Andrew Gardener addressed the committee.

On a motion by Councillor Steve Foulkes, seconded by the Chair, it was,

**Resolved – that the application be approved subject to the following conditions.**

**1 APP/17/01191 Implemented**

**2 The development shall be carried out using all external materials approved under discharge of condition application DIS/19/01764**

**3 The sustainable drainage design shall be implemented as per the details submitted and approved under DIS/23/01611**



**4 Prior to the occupation of any properties, a completed Operation and Maintenance Plan with appended as-built drawings must be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority in consultation with Lead Local Flood Authority along with evidence of arrangements to secure funding and maintenance of the sustainable surface water drainage system for the lifetime of the development through an appropriate legally binding agreement. The approved Operation and Maintenance Plan shall be implemented prior to first occupation of any of the approved dwellings, or completion of the development, whichever is the sooner.**

**5 The fume extraction shall be implemented as per the details submitted and approved under DIS/20/01243**

**6 The ground floor commercial premises shall not be used except between the hours of :- 08:00 hours and 22:00 hours Mondays to Thursday 08:00 hours and 11:30 hours Friday and Saturdays 10:00 hours and 22:00 on Sundays and Bank Holidays without the written consent of the Local Planning Authority.**

**7 The development hereby permitted shall be carried out in accordance with the approved plans received by the local planning authority on 31st January 2018 and 1st September 2022 listed as follows: 02-02-000, 02-02-001, 02-02-002, 02-02-003, 02-02-004, 02-03-000, 02-03-001, 02-03-002, 02-05-004, 02-05-003, 02-05-002, 02-05-001, 190-201-R. and plans relating to NMA/23/00157 received on 6th February 2023 and listed as follows:  
19084-201-T  
and phasing plan - 19084-SK-12 dated 30 July 2021 ( Phasing Plan March 2019 Rev. A & 19084-201-R)**

**8 The cycle parking as shown on plan 190-201-R (received 01/09/22) shall be provided in accordance with the approved details and made available for use prior to the first use of the development hereby permitted and shall be retained for use at all times thereafter.**

**9 The Construction Management Plan shall be adhered to in line with the details submitted and approved under DIS/20/01243**

**10 The Site Waste Management Plan shall be adhered to in line with the details submitted and approved under DIS/20/01243**

**11 Prior to the first occupation of the dwellings arrangements for the storage and disposal of refuse including recycling facilities, and vehicle access thereto, shall be made within the curtilage of the site, in**

accordance with details to be submitted to and agreed in writing by the local planning authority. The approved details shall be implemented in full unless otherwise agreed in writing with the local planning authority.  
(Details submitted DIS/22/00911)

12 Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the development are hereby permitted to be carried out and brought into use independently of one another and in accordance with the details submitted in phasing plan reference 19084-SK-12 dated 30 July 2021 (Phasing Plan March 2019 Rev. A & 19084-201-R). For the avoidance of doubt, either Phase 1 or Phase 2 may be brought into use first.

13 Development shall not be commenced until a Travel Plan has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The provisions of the Travel Plan shall be implemented and operated in accordance with the timetable contained therein unless otherwise agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority.  
(Details submitted DIS/22/00911)

74 **APP/23/01878; CAR PARK WOODHEAD STREET, NEW FERRY, WIRRAL, CH62 5ER ERECTION OF 43 NEW DWELLINGS WITH ASSOCIATED NEW ROADS AND AMENITY SPACES (100% AFFORDABLE HOUSING).**

The Development Management Manager presented the report of the Director of Regeneration and Place in relation to the above application for consideration.

Mark Craig, an objector to the application, addressed the committee.

Ben Green, the agent to the applicant, addressed the committee.

The solicitor read out a statement submitted by Ward Councillor Jo Bird.

On a motion by the Chair, seconded by Councillor Kathy 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 received by the local planning authority on 8 December 2024 and listed as follows:**

**Overall Development Plans  
Drainage Strategy Report**

1829-JMA-ZZ-00-DR-A-0110 Rev 04 (site plan)  
1829-JMA-ZZ-00-DR-A-0450 Rev 04 (whole site elevations)  
1829-JMA-ZZ-00-DR-A-0117 Rev 03 (common green space)  
1829-JMA-ZZ-00-DR-A-0118 Rev 03 (boundary treatments)

**Apartments**

1829-JMA-ZZ-00-DR-A-0257 Rev 03  
1829-JMA-ZZ-00-DR-A-0258 Rev 03  
1 829-JMA-ZZ-00-DR-A-0256 Rev 03  
1829-JMA-ZZ-00-DR-A-0451 Rev 03

**Housing**

1829-JMA-00-ZZ-DR-A-0250 Rev 03  
1829-JMA-00-ZZ-DR-A-0251 Rev 03  
1829-JMA-00-ZZ-DR-A-0252 Rev 03  
1829-JMA-00-ZZ-DR-A-0255 Rev 03  
1829-JMA-00-ZZ-DR-A-0254 Rev 03  
1829-JMA-00-ZZ-DR-A-0253 Rev 03

**3 No above ground development involving the use of any facing materials shall take place until samples of the materials to be used in the construction of external surfaces of the building have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. Development shall be carried out in accordance with the approved details**

**4 A scheme of landscape proposals including a timetable of works shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority prior to first occupation of the proposed development. The scheme shall include (where practical) but not be limited to, species of local provenance and native and non-native flowering perennial species and features such as bird boxes, log piles, bug boxes, solitary bee houses and hedgehog homes to encourage net gains in biodiversity and full plans and specifications for all hard and soft landscape works and indications of all existing trees and hedgerows on the land, including those to be retained. All planting, seeding and/or turfing comprised in the approved details of landscaping shall be carried out in the first planting and seeding seasons following the occupation of the building(s) or the completion of the development, whichever is the sooner, and any trees, shrubs, hedges 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.**

**5 No tree felling, scrub clearance or building works is to take place during the period 1 March to 31 August inclusive. If it is necessary to undertake works during the bird breeding season then all buildings, trees, scrub 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.**

**6 Prior to first occupation, notwithstanding the information included in plan 1829-JMA-ZZ-00-DR-A-0118, details of the heights and materials to be used in the construction of the boundary treatments shall be submitted to and agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority. The boundary treatments as agreed shall then be implemented and maintained as such.**

**7 Detailed drawings shall be submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority following site clearance to indicate the finished site and ground floor levels intended at the completion of the development in relation to the existing site levels and the levels of the adjoining land and the development shall be carried out and completed in accordance with the details so approved.**

**.**

**8 Notwithstanding the provisions of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 2008 (or any subsequent Order or statutory provision revoking or re-enacting the provisions of that Order), no garages, outbuildings or other extensions to a dwelling shall be erected unless expressly authorised.**

**9 Notwithstanding the provisions of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 2008 (or any subsequent Order or statutory provision revoking or re-enacting the provisions of that Order), no fencing, gates or other types of enclosures to a dwelling shall be erected unless expressly authorised.**

**10 The development hereby permitted by this planning permission, including all components of the sustainable drainage system, shall be carried out in accordance with the approved Drainage Strategy as detailed in the following submissions:**

**• Drainage Strategy Report, New Ferry, Wirral – Site A / ref: 221-166 / dated 31 July 2023 / by AJP**

**For the avoidance of doubt, the surface water discharge rate from the development shall be no more than 5l/s.**

**The approved scheme shall be fully constructed prior to occupation in accordance with the approved details, phasing and timetable embodied within the approved Sustainable Drainage Strategy, or within any other period as may subsequently be agreed, in writing, by the Local Planning Authority in consultation with the Lead Local Flood Authority.**

**11 The development hereby permitted by this planning permission, including all components of the sustainable drainage system, shall be**

carried out in accordance with the approved final Sustainable Drainage Strategy, including any phasing embodied within, and maintained in perpetuity in accordance with an agreed Operation and Maintenance Plan, to be submitted for each development phase, approved by the Local Planning Authority, in consultation with the Lead Local Flood Authority. The approved drainage scheme shall be fully constructed prior to occupation in accordance with the approved details, phasing and timetable embodied within the approved final Sustainable Drainage Strategy, or within any other period as may subsequently be agreed, in writing, by the Local Planning Authority in consultation with the Lead Local Flood Authority. 'As built' drainage design/layout drawings and a final Operation and Maintenance Plan, confirming asset details and maintenance arrangements, shall be submitted to the Lead Local Flood Authority, in accordance with any approved phasing, prior to occupation.

12 No development shall take place until a Site Waste Management Plan, confirming how demolition and construction waste will be recovered and re-used on the site or at other sites, has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The approved Plan shall be implemented in full unless otherwise agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority.

13 No development shall take place until a full scheme of works and timetable for the construction of the new adoptable highways and/or amendment of the existing adopted highway made necessary by this development, including new carriageways, footways, street lighting, surface water drainage, traffic signs, TRO's, road markings, traffic calming, tactile paved pedestrian crossings, street furniture, access onto the adjacent highway has been submitted to and agreed in writing with the Local Planning Department. The approved works shall be completed in accordance with the LPA written approval and in accordance with the approved development phasing plan.

75 **DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE UPDATE - PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

The Development Management Manager presented the report of the Director of Regeneration and Place to the committee.

On a motion by the Chair, seconded by Councillor Steve Foulkes, it was,

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

76 **DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE UPDATE PLANNING APPEALS**

The Development Management Manager presented the report of the Director of Regeneration and Place to the committee.

On a motion by the Chair, seconded by Councillor Steve Foulkes, it was,

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

77 **DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE UPDATE-  
ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY BETWEEN: 1ST JULY 2023 TO 30TH  
SEPTEMBER 2023, 1ST OCTOBER 2023 TO 31ST DECEMBER 2023 AND  
1ST JANUARY 2024 TO 26 MARCH 2024**

The Development Management Manager presented the report of the Director of Regeneration and Place to the committee.

On a motion by the Chair, seconded by Councillor Steve Foulkes, it was,

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

## **REGULATORY AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

Thursday, 13 June 2024

Present: Councillor A Hodson (Chair)

Councillors S Bennett G Jenkinson  
L Luxon-Kewley E Tomeny  
B Hall K Murphy  
M Booth A Brame  
G Davies G Wood  
C McDonald

### 41 **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.

### 42 **APOLOGIES**

The Chair confirmed apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Paula Basnett and James Stewart Laing.

### 43 **MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Steven Bennett declared a pecuniary interest in the 'Request by Tranmere Rovers Football Club to Register as a Trademark the Tranmere Rovers Football Club Badge' item as he had previously undertaken security work for the club.

### 44 **MINUTES**

**Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 31 January 2024 be approved.**

### 45 **PUBLIC AND MEMBER QUESTIONS**

The Chair reported that there had been no public questions, statements, petitions or questions by members.

### 46 **MINUTES OF THE LICENSING PANEL**

**Resolved – That the minutes of the Licensing Panel meetings held on 10 November 2023, 13 December 2023, 18 January 2024, 9 February 2024,**

**15 February 2024, 8 March 2024 and 5 April 2024 be agreed as an accurate record.**

**47 HONORARY FREEDOM OF THE BOROUGH – DAVID ARMSTRONG**

The Director of Law and Governance submitted a report requesting that Members of the Committee recommend to Council that David Armstrong be admitted as an Honorary Freeman of this Borough at an Extraordinary meeting of the Council to be held on 29 July 2024. The Civic and Electoral Services Manager reported that this was a significant step for the Council to take and the Award should only be made to someone of distinction who had made an exceptional contribution to the Borough. David Armstrong was considered to be within this category due to his eminent service to the Borough over 34 years during which he had been employed in a variety of roles including Acting Chief Executive and had consistently demonstrated dedication, commitment, flexibility and a willingness to do what was required. The Civic and Electoral Services Manager advised Members of the Committee that all Political Group Leaders had been consulted and supported the proposals.

**Resolved: That:**

**(1) 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, David Armstrong be admitted as Honorary Freeman of this Borough at an Extraordinary Council Meeting to be held on 29 July 2024; and**

**(2) the Director of Law and Corporate Services be requested to:**  
**(a) take all the necessary actions associated with (1) above; and**  
**(b) arrange for a small civic reception for David Armstrong, family members and invited guests on a mutually agreeable date following the extraordinary meeting of Council.**

**48 APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE LICENSING PANEL AND THE CHARITABLE TRUSTS SUB-COMMITTEE**

The Senior Solicitor (Litigation and Governance) introduced the report of the Director of Law and Governance which detailed the process for appointing Members to the Charitable Trusts Sub-Committee and sought names for that Sub-Committee as well as noting its Terms of Reference. It was noted that deputies for the Sub-Committee could be drawn from remaining members of the parent Committee. The report also noted the Terms of Reference for the Licensing Panel and requested authority for the Director of Law and Corporate Services (Monitoring Officer) to convene Licensing Panels in consultation with the Chair and Spokespersons as and when required for the purposes of carrying out the Council's functions to deal with applications, determinations and reviews of licences or registrations, and any related matter, in respect of any licensed activity that is the responsibility



of the Authority (other than under the Licensing Act 2003 or the Gambling Act 2005) and agree that the term of membership be continued until such time as a new Regulatory and General Purposes Committee is appointed.

**Resolved: That**

**(1) the Terms of Reference of the Charitable Trusts Sub-Committee and the Licensing Panel as referred to in paragraphs 1.1 and 1.3 of this report be noted.**

**(2) the Director of Law and Governance (Monitoring Officer) be authorised to carry out the wishes of the Group Leaders in allocating Members to membership of the Charitable Trusts Sub-Committee and to appoint those Members with effect from the date at which the proper officer is advised of the names of such Members.**

**(3) delegated authority be given to the Director of Law and Governance (Monitoring Officer), in consultation with the Chair and Spokespersons to convene Licensing Panels as and when required for the purposes of carrying out the Council's functions to deal with applications, determinations and reviews of licences or registrations, and any related matter, in respect of any licensed activity that is the responsibility of the Authority (other than under the Licensing Act 2003 or the Gambling Act 2005) and agree that the term of membership be continued until such time as a new Regulatory and General Purposes Committee is appointed.**

49 **REQUEST BY TRANMERE ROVERS FOOTBALL CLUB TO REGISTER AS A TRADEMARK THE TRANMERE ROVERS FOOTBALL CLUB BADGE**

The Senior Solicitor (Litigation and Governance) presented the report of the Director of Law and Corporate Services which dealt with a request received by the Mayor from Tranmere Rovers Football Club to register as a trademark the Tranmere Rovers Football club badge. The badge is derived from the Council's Coat of Arms and Tranmere Rovers Football Club wish to register the badge as a trademark due to unconnected businesses using the badge unofficially.

Members questioned whether the badge was unique and noted that it contained elements of the Council badge but did not replicate it and would be used to brand their merchandise to prevent unlicensed copies.

**Resolved: That the request to register as a trademark the Tranmere Rovers Football Club Badge which is derived from Wirral Borough Council's Coat of Arms be approved.**

50 **HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE CRITERIA**

The Licensing Manager presented the report of the Director of Law and Corporate Services which considered the results of a consultation in respect

of the current criteria for licensing Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles as well details of all the written comments made by those responding to the consultation. The report provided recommended amendments to the criteria having regard to the Statutory Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Standards and the Department for Transport Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Licensing Best Practice for Licensing Authorities in England. The details of relevant criteria used in the other Licensing authorities within the City Region were also provided to Members of the Committee.

**Resolved: That**

**1. the following amendments to the criteria for licensing Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles contained within the Council's Statement of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy be approved:**

**a) The requirement that Hackney Carriage Vehicles presented for licensing for the first time must be 3 years old or less from the date of manufacture be replaced with the following:**

**A vehicle presented for the grant of a Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licence with Wirral Council must have been compliant with Euro 5 emission standards at the date of first registration.**

**b) The requirement for MOT testing for Hackney Carriage Vehicles be replaced with the following:**

**A Hackney Carriage Vehicle that is 11 years of age or more from the date of first registration, will be subject to a licence of no more than 6 months and will therefore be required to pass an MOT and Compliance test every 6 months.**

**c) That the following criteria be removed:**

**In circumstances when a Hackney Carriage Vehicle proprietor wishes to change a Hackney Carriage Vehicle that is currently licensed to a different vehicle the replacement vehicle must be the same age or less than the vehicle that is currently licensed, up to a maximum of 10 years old. Vehicles that are ten years old or more must be replaced by a vehicle that is no more than ten years old.**

**d) The requirement that Private Hire Vehicles must be 10 years of age from the date of manufacture or date of first registration whichever is the earliest, be replaced with the following:**

**A vehicle presented for the grant of a Private Hire Vehicle Licence with Wirral Council must have been compliant with Euro 6 emission standards at the date of first registration.**

**e) The requirement for MOT testing for Private Hire Vehicles be replaced with the following:**

**A Private Hire Vehicle that is 8 years of age or more from the date of manufacture, will be subject to a licence of no more than 6 months and will therefore be required to pass an MOT and Compliance test every 6 months.**

**f) The requirement for tinted windows in respect of both Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles be amended as follows:**

**The front windscreen must allow at least 75% of light through, the front side windows must allow at least 70% of light through and the windows rear of the B-pillar must allow a minimum light transmission of 30%. No windows or glass fitted to the vehicle may have been subject to an enhanced film / after-market tinting post manufacture.**

**g) The requirement in respect of an additional step for Private Hire Vehicles be amended as follows:**

**A vehicle with a top tread for the entrance which exceeds 38cms from the ground must be fitted with a step to allow easy access into and egress from the vehicle. Any vehicle that does not have a step fitted must carry a portable step to be available for passengers. Both a fitted and portable step must be robust to carry the weight of a passenger and covered with a non-slip surface. The step height must be no more than 38cms from the ground. The driver of the vehicle must risk assess the use of a portable step on each occasion it is requested by a passenger.**

**2. That the recommended amendments to the criteria for licensing Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles have immediate effect.**

**3. Authorise the Licensing Manager to amend relevant licensing documents in accordance with any amendments made to the criteria for licensing Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles.**

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## Council – 29 July 2024

### 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. WORKING WITH THE NEW LABOUR GOVERNMENT**

**Proposed by Councillor Paul Stuart**  
**Seconded by Councillor Angie Davies**

Council congratulates the new Labour Government on their resounding and decisive victory in the recent general election.

This is an immense milestone for our nation and people clearly voted for ‘Change’.

Council extends special congratulations to the four elected Members of Parliament who will serve Wirral going forward:

Dame Angela Eagle MP – Elected for the Wallasey constituency.  
Alison McGovern MP – Elected for the Birkenhead constituency.  
Matthew Patrick MP – Elected for the Wirral West constituency.  
Justin Madders MP – Elected for the Ellesmere Port & Bromborough constituency.

Their successful campaigns and subsequent election as Members of Parliament are a testament to the hard work, dedication, and the trust the constituents have placed in them and our new Labour government.

Council recognises and appreciates the commitment and efforts of Wirral candidates from all political parties who participated in a positive campaign, as well as their campaign teams.

It is also important that we recognise and thank all the council staff who worked so hard to make things run smoothly throughout the General Election process.

Council requests that the Leader write to all four MPs to give our heartfelt congratulations and confirm our commitment to working collaboratively with our MPs and the New Labour Government to improve the lives of Wirral residents, communities and businesses.

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#### **2. PROTECTING WIRRAL’S PRECIOUS GREEN BELT**

**Proposed by Councillor Jeff Green**  
**Seconded by Councillor Lesley Rennie**

Council thanks all those involved in the preparation, submission and appraisal of our long-delayed draft Local Plan, including:

- Council Officers, in planning, regeneration and housing
- Councillors, including former Councillor Anita Leech
- Campaigners, including Wirral Green Space Alliance
- The local media
- Inspectors Mike Worden BA (Hons) Dip TP MRTPI and Tom Bristow BA MSc MRTPI AssocRICS

Council recognises that with 5,691 on the waiting list for housing, it must be a priority for the Council to increase housing supply and affordability, but this must not be at the expense of the Borough's precious natural environment.

In his conference speech 2023, Sir Keir Starmer promised to 'bulldoze through' the restrictive planning system and to build 'the next generation of Labour new towns'.

Following Labour's landslide victory on July 4<sup>th</sup>, the newly appointed Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State of Housing, Communities and Local Government, will be writing to local planning authorities instructing them to 'review' Green Belt boundaries with a view to releasing land for development.

Having undertaken the work required to reach this stage of the Local Plan process and to comply with the 2004 Act, Council does not believe that any land designated as Green Belt or Local Green Space in Wirral is appropriate for development.

Council therefore resolves to:

- Instruct the Chief Executive to respond accordingly to any correspondence received
- Reassure residents of the Council's commitment to the Green Belt
- Seek assurance from the Secretary of State that funds previously allocated for brownfield development remain unaffected by the change of Government
- Request that all Group Leaders write to Wirral's four MPs to invite support for retention of Wirral's Green Belt, regardless of any previous positions they may have taken, and to share their responses with all councillors.

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### **3. SOCIAL HOUSING GROWTH NEEDS AN END TO RIGHT-TO-BUY**

**Proposed by Councillor Judith Grier**

**Seconded by Councillor Ruth Molyneux**

Council welcomes the new government's emphasis on affordable homes. Council believes the best way to ensure development meets genuine local need and reaches the highest standards in sustainability and liveability is to maximise the proportion of homes that are genuinely affordable socially owned homes. However, we recognise that the social housing stock continues to be reduced through so-called 'right to buy'.

Council is aware of the implications of a shortage of affordable and social housing options nationally meaning that households are remaining in Temporary Accommodation for longer periods while they wait for a more sustainable longer-term homes. At the time this motion was submitted, In Wirral there are currently 5,691 active applications for social housing. At the time of writing there were 188 total homeless cases with duty owed. It is evident from these figures that lack of social housing is a real issue. Reporting figures obtained from the councillor enquiry system demonstrate that there at least two housing enquiries per day from residents fed through councillors.

Council notes that new award winning sustainable council housing such as the Goldsmiths Street development in Norwich, a new development of around 100 homes completed in 2019, is already subject to right-to-buy applications.<sup>1</sup> Analysis from the Chartered Institute of Housing has found that 40 per cent of Right to Buy homes are now being let out privately. As a result, it's thought that £9bn is paid in housing benefit to private landlords in those properties.

Council further notes that there has been a distinct lack of investment in new social housing in Wirral and how since 2010, there has been a reduction of 63% to the new National Affordable Homes programme.<sup>2</sup>

Council therefore believes it's time to begin the phasing out of the right to buy so that homes can belong to their communities for ever.

Council also believes that any new homes should be built to the most energy efficient design standards possible, such as 'Passivhaus', referring to buildings created to rigorous energy efficient design standards so that they maintain an almost constant temperature.<sup>3</sup> This increases quality of life, reduces household bills and helps meet our net zero commitments.

Council also notes a substantive motion, 'Protecting Vulnerable People' was carried unanimously at [Council in December 2023](#). Council welcomes the report on homelessness that was brought to the relevant committee last March and we look forward to its two other decisions and subsequent action that remain outstanding on the Economy Regeneration and Housing Committee with regards to:

- availability and planned construction of new council housing and socially rented homes on Wirral with secure tenures and affordable rents; and
- protections available to social housing stock from the right to buy and right to acquire schemes.

Council therefore requests that the Leader write to the new Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities expressing:

- 1) this council's support for significant growth in the numbers of socially owned homes;
- 2) this council's support for any new homes to be built to Passivhaus or equivalent standards; and also to
- 3) call on the Government to commit to ending right-to-buy as soon as possible.

<sup>1</sup> <https://energysavingtrust.org.uk/passivhaus-what-you-need-know/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://democracy.wirral.gov.uk/documents/s50111981/Homelessness%20in%20Wirral%20and%20the%20use%20of%20Temporary%20Accommodation.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <https://energysavingtrust.org.uk/passivhaus-what-you-need-know/>

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#### **4. AN END TO SEWAGE DISCHARGES INTO OUR WATERS**

**Proposed by Councillor Phil Gilchrist  
Seconded by Councillor Allan Brame**

Council recognises that forty years have passed since mounting public concern over water pollution led to creation of the Mersey Basin Campaign. The work of that body continued for a quarter of a century and secured conditions in which many fish returned to our river.

Council is concerned that this achievement has been and is being undermined by pollution from storm overflows. This had led to growing public frustration with the increased frequency of sewage entering our watercourses and ending up in our river.

Council notes that The Water Services Regulation Authority (Ofwat) have now put forward proposals requiring United Utilities to address the situation with appropriate levels of investment. Whilst these are the subject of challenge and review it is essential that progress is made with the overflows which threaten the water quality along our shores.

Council looks forward to the outcome of meetings being held between the regulator and the Secretary of State, to seek a fair outcome for Wirral's residents rather than unreasonable levels of profit to remote and unaccountable shareholders.

Council therefore requests that the Director for Neighbourhoods writes to the CEO of United Utilities to request information and to seek assurances on their planned programme of works to ensure an end to their sewage leaks and that the findings be shared with all members of the Council.



## 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.