



## Tourism, Communities, Culture & Leisure Committee

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Wednesday, 24 July 2024</b>
<b>Time:</b>	<b>6.00 p.m.</b>
<b>Venue:</b>	<b>Committee Room 1 - Wallasey Town Hall</b>

**Contact Officer:** Daphne Courtenage  
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Please note public seating is limited therefore members of the public are encouraged to arrive in good time.

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

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

## AGENDA

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

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

#### **4. MINUTES**

To approve the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on >

#### **5. PUBLIC AND MEMBER QUESTIONS**

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

##### **5.1 Public Questions**

Notice of question to be given in writing or by email by 12 noon, Friday 19 July to the Council's Monitoring Officer via this link: [Public Question Form](#) and to be dealt with in accordance with Standing Order 10.

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

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

##### **5.2 Statements and Petitions**

Notice of representations to be given in writing or by email by 12 noon, Friday 19 July, 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 11.1.

Petitions may be presented to the Committee if provided to Democratic and Member Services no later than 12 noon, 3 working days before the meeting, at the discretion of the Chair. The person presenting the petition will be allowed to address the meeting briefly (not exceeding three minute) to outline the aims of the petition. The Chair will refer the matter to another appropriate body of the Council within whose terms of reference it falls without discussion, unless a relevant item appears elsewhere on the Agenda. If a petition contains more than 5,000 signatures, it will be debated at a subsequent meeting of the Council for up to 15 minutes, at the discretion of the Chair. 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 statement/petition by the deadline for submission.

##### **5.3 Questions by Members**

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

#### **SECTION A - KEY AND OTHER DECISIONS**

- 6. APPOINTMENTS OF MEMBER CHAMPION FOR HERITAGE AND TO BIRKENHEAD PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE (Pages 1 - 12)**
- 7. BOROUGH OF CULTURE 2024 (Pages 13 - 26)**

#### **SECTION B - BUDGET AND PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT**

- 8. 2023/24 REVENUE OUTTURN (Pages 27 - 38)**
- 9. 2024/25 BUDGET MONITORING FOR QUARTER ONE (Pages 39 - 48)**
- 10. BUDGET MONITORING AND BUDGET SETTING (Pages 49 - 74)**
- 11. TOURISM, COMMUNITIES, CULTURE AND LEISURE COMMITTEE PERFORMANCE REPORT (Pages 75 - 88)**

#### **SECTION C - WORK PROGRAMME / OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY**

- 12. WORK PROGRAMME (Pages 89 - 98)**

#### **Terms of Reference**

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

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## TOURISM, COMMUNITIES, CULTURE AND LEISURE COMMITTEE

Wednesday 24 July 2024

<b>REPORT TITLE:</b>	<b>APPOINTMENTS OF MEMBER CHAMPION FOR HERITAGE AND TO BIRKENHEAD PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>DIRECTOR OF LAW AND CORPORATE SERVICES</b>

### REPORT SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to enable the Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee to appoint a Member Champion for Heritage and also to review the continuing need for the Birkenhead Park Advisory Committee and to appoint Members and named deputies to serve on those for the 2024/25 municipal year.

The report supports the Council Plan: Wirral Working Together 2023-27, specifically Delivery theme 6: Safe, resilient and engaged communities.

The report effects the Birkenhead and Tranmere Ward. It is not a key decision.

### RECOMMENDATION/S

The Committee is recommended to -

1. appoint a Member Champion in relation to matters concerning the Borough's heritage;
2. authorise the Monitoring Officer as proper officer to carry out the wishes of the Group Leaders in allocating Members to membership of the Birkenhead Park Advisory Committee and to appoint those Members in accordance with the rules on political balance, with effect from the date at which the proper officer is advised of the names of such Members; and
3. give consideration to the proposal to appoint a cross party group of Members to conduct a policy development review in accordance with the approach outlined at appendix 1 of the report.

## **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

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

#### Member Champion for Heritage

- 1.1 In accordance with the Constitution (Part 3 (Section B)) Council and Committees may approach individual Members to take on a specific role to highlight and enhance an area of that Committee or the Council's terms of reference:
- a) The Council or Committee holding the corresponding functions within its terms of reference may appoint a Member Champion from one of their number. This may be the Chair or any other member of the Committee.
  - b) Where the subject of a Member Champion covers functions across the terms of reference of more than one Committee, the Committees may jointly appoint the Member Champion from either of their Committees' number.
- 1.2.1 The role of a Member Champion is to become a focus for the Council and Committee, partners, stakeholders and communities in order to:
- a. Raise the profile of that highlighted area of the Council and Committee's functions, and in conjunction with the relevant Member(s), officers and partner(s), support community engagement activities and other related publicity campaigns;
  - b. Liaise with Members, public sector partners and other stakeholders to promote key initiatives (as appropriate and required);
  - c. Act as an advocate for that highlighted area of the Council and Committee's functions and be required to familiarise themselves with related matters;
  - d. Seek out and share best practice from other areas of the UK;
  - e. Periodically present reports to the members of their Committee or other committees (as necessary and requested) setting out the actions taken and how those actions have contributed to the success and promotion of that highlighted area of the Council and Committee's functions;
  - f. Present, as appropriate, research papers and suggest new initiatives and ideas relating to highlighted area of the Council and Committee's functions for consideration by the Committee(s) or Council.

## Birkenhead Park Advisory Committee

- 1.2 The Committee is required to appoint the membership of various advisory committees which fall under its remit at the start of each Municipal Year.
- 1.3 The key drivers for refreshing policy development work at Committees is the move to a Whole Council Election Scheme in May 2023 and the new four-year Council Plan agreed by Council on 4th December 2023. The Council Plan provides an opportunity to establish a new way of strategically 'working together' across the organisation to deliver the Council Plan vision '*working together to promote fairness and opportunity for people and communities*' and the associated Council Plan enabling and delivery themes:

### **Enabling Theme:**

- Working together to create a more efficient, effective and accessible Council.

### **Delivery Themes:**

- Working together to improve early help for children and families.
- Working together to promote independence and healthier lives.
- Working together to deliver people-focused regeneration.
- Working together to protect our environment.
- Working together to create safe, resilient and engaged communities.

## **2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 2.1 Other options considered included alternative ways in which the Member Champion could operate and how they would be selected.
- 2.2 For the Birkenhead Park Advisory Committee, which is an advisory Committee called a Management Committee, potential options which the Committee could investigate, and potential consequences, include:
- 2.2.1 Not include Members on the Birkenhead Park Advisory Committee, but in view of the target of achieving World Heritage Status the involvement of Councillors is vital to ensure that the Council's aspirations as well as other Committee members are taken into account. The link back to the Council to explore options on practical and strategic matters, is valuable and the meetings provide a good steering group, sounding board and forum for open debate and exploration of barriers and opportunities. Having Councillors on the Advisory Committee can help resolve problems generally and with the potential lottery bid.
- 2.2.2 To vary the numbers or composition of Members. That is a decision that cannot be made by this Committee as that would require a change to the Council's Constitution.

## **Policy Development**

- 2.2 Potential options which the Committee could investigate, and potential consequences, include not conducting policy development work. However, policy development work is clearly contemplated by the Council's Constitution and not conducting this type of work can be viewed by the sector as being indicative of wider governance and service failure issues (it is also considered good practice). Given that the new Council Plan has now been approved, Members now have a clear strategic framework to conduct effective policy development work. It is important as it engenders transparency and enables the Council to be accountable to residents. It can help the Council achieve best value, support further improvement and best practice; and enable locally adopted, enforceable recommendations and policies which deliver better outcomes for the wider community.

## **3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

### Member Champion for Heritage

- 3.1 Member Champions associated with the pledges of the Wirral Plan were created in 2015 to support Cabinet Portfolio holders and were brought to an end in 2019.
- 3.2 Champions for three specific areas, prompted by the involvement of outside agencies and requests, have existed for several years in respect of an Armed Forces Champion, Heritage Champion and the Domestic Abuse Champion.
- 3.3 With the introduction of the committee system, some roles will automatically continue or be subsumed into the chairing role, such as the Armed Forces Champion being the Mayor and the Risk Champion being the Chair of Audit and Risk Management Committee. However, it falls within the terms of reference of the Tourism, Communities, Culture & Leisure Committee to appoint a Heritage Champion.

## **ADVISORY COMMITTEES AND WORKING PARTIES**

- 3.4 Birkenhead Park Advisory Committee is an advisory and consultative body that was retained in 2023/24 to assist the Committee in its work, with the membership for 2023/24 for information. The Committee is comprised of 5 Members (2 Labour, 1 Conservative, 1 Green, 1 Liberal Democrat).

### **(i). Birkenhead Park Advisory Committee**

- 3.4.1 To advise the Council on all issues relating to and affecting Birkenhead Park. Comprised of Members, the Friends of Birkenhead Park group and some other interested individuals.



**2023/24 membership:**

Councillor George Davies

Councillor Helen Cameron

Councillor Allan Brame

Councillor Paul Jobson

Councillor Amanda Onwuemene

plus

Councillor Jerry Williams (ex officio member due to his role as Heritage Champion)

**Policy Development Work****Purpose**

- 3.5 The purpose of policy development work is to achieve positive outcomes for local people by undertaking a thorough, targeted examination of the Council's service provision and procedures (or those services or activities carried out by external organisations which affect the Borough of Wirral or any of its inhabitants). However, it is not possible to examine every service or activity in detail, so it is important for the Policy and Service Committees to prioritise and plan its work programme for the year to be taken forward through the committee, or a dedicated task and finish group.

**Scope**

- 3.6 The Council's Constitution (Part 4, Section 4) states that the Policy and Services Committees are to adopt policy development working practices when undertaking their functions to review the Council's actions or to review or otherwise scrutinise outside bodies and processes. The Policy and Services Committees may conduct policy development to:
- Review decisions made or actions taken by the Authority in so far as they have a direct impact on the role or functions of the Committee and the Committee can make recommendations to the relevant Committee on policies, budget and service delivery.
  - Undertake reviews and make recommendations on services or activities carried out by external organisations which affect the Borough of Wirral or any of its inhabitants where this does not fall within the role or remit of another service committee or where it relates to cross cutting issues, including the review and monitoring of contractual and operational performance of shared service partnerships, joint ventures and outside organisations to which the Council makes a resource contribution, focusing on examination of the benefits of the Council's contribution and the extent to which the body concerned makes a contribution to the achievement of the Council's priorities as outlined in the Council Plan 2023 - 2027.

## Process

- 3.7 A suggested process for determining and prioritising policy development topics is outlined at Appendix 1. This includes:
- **Identify potential issues -**
    - Consulting with all Members of Policy and Service Committees, Senior Leaders and Council Officers.
    - Looking at Wirral Council Plan priorities, Directorate Business Plans, the Forward Plan of the Council, as well as the Medium Term Financial Strategy.
    - Considering events and decisions in the Council's calendar that could require an input from scrutiny, such as setting budgets.
    - Reviewing the Council's risk register - analysis of risk registers on an ongoing basis will mean that scrutiny can understand what the impacts might be if risks are likely to occur, and what steps can be taken to mitigate.
    - Evaluating previous Council performance and identifying any follow-up work required to previous scrutiny work.
    - Carrying out work to engage with local people, for example through surgeries, local media, opinion surveys and online forums.
    - Reviewing customer complaints to identify any reoccurring themes.
  - **Prioritise topics -** Identify and prioritise potential scrutiny topics, considering the resources they would require and the level of impact they could achieve.
  - **Plan policy development and scrutiny work -** Decide which policy topics to review and include them in the work programme.
  - **Review and evaluate -** Review progress and evaluate outcomes to demonstrate the value added.
- 3.8 For every item on the policy development work programme, it should be clear:
- What is the issue/activity/project under consideration?
  - What would the Policy and Service Committee be asked to do?
  - What are the reasons for/expected benefits of policy development in this area?
  - Strategic considerations (aligned to the new Council Plan and underpinning strategic framework).
  - Is there a specific deadline for the piece of work?

## 4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There is no allowance or other remuneration to be paid to Member Champions or appointees to Birkenhead Park Advisory Committee for performing the roles.
- 4.2 Expenses may be met for engagements with outside bodies or public occasions as approved by the relevant lead officer or the Committee and therefore there are no financial implications to this decision.

## **5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 There is a requirement under the Council's Constitution to appoint Members to various panels, advisory committees and working parties which fall within the remit of each Committee.
- 5.2 In undertaking policy development work, the Committee shall have regard to the relevant Regulations, statutory and non-statutory guidance issued by the Secretary of State and best practice as issued by the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny.

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

- 6.1 There are none arising directly from this report as the Member Champion and Advisory Committee are arranged and serviced using existing staff resources.
- 6.2 If any of the options in section 2 were progressed this may increase the resource implications.
- 6.3 Membership of the policy review can consist of cross-party representation based on individual interest in the policy development topic and availability to commit to policy development meetings.
- 6.4 If the Committee so wishes, support will be provided by the relevant Lead Director to identify topics that could benefit from policy development (linked to work already underway in the Directorates). An Officer Team relevant to the policy development topic selected will also be established to support Members to undertake the policy development review. This will consist of expertise from the relevant Directorate, Policy & Strategy support in relation to research development and to ensure strategic alignment (particularly through the new Council Plan), Democratic Services support to ensure policy development is captured through Committee work programming and project support as required.

## **7.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

### Member Champion for Heritage

- 7.1.1 All relevant risks have been considered and the below working arrangements approved by Council;
  - a. Member Champions will liaise as required with the relevant officer lead and the Committee Chair and Spokespersons in relation to their role and activities.
  - b. The Member Champion will follow all appropriate and applicable Council working protocols for engaging with officers, stakeholders, and the public.

- c. The Member Champions shall not do anything that is contrary to or inconsistent with any decision or approach taken by the Committee(s) or the Council.
- d. Where there is any confusion or difference between the Member Champion views/proposed actions and that of the Committee, the Committee's view/position shall prevail.
- e. Member Champions shall seek advice and guidance from the Council's Senior Leadership Team if they are in doubt or confusion on any issue or matter.

### Birkenhead Park Advisory Committee

- 7.1 As these are non-statutory meetings, no risks have been identified from the recommendation. If other options were pursued there was a possibility that the work of the meetings would not be in line with the wider aims of this Committee and the Council.
- 7.2 As part of policy development work, Policy and Service Committees should consider what risks might arise from the implementation of any decisions. Analysis of risk registers on an ongoing basis will mean that policy development can understand what the impacts might be if risks are likely to occur, and what steps can be taken to mitigate those risks.

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

## **10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

## **11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH IMPLICATIONS**

11.1 It is important that Birkenhead Park is well managed and run to ensure the prosperity and continued popularity of the Park as a treasured local asset.

**REPORT AUTHOR: Mike Jones, Principal Democratic Services Officer**

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## **APPENDICES**

None.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

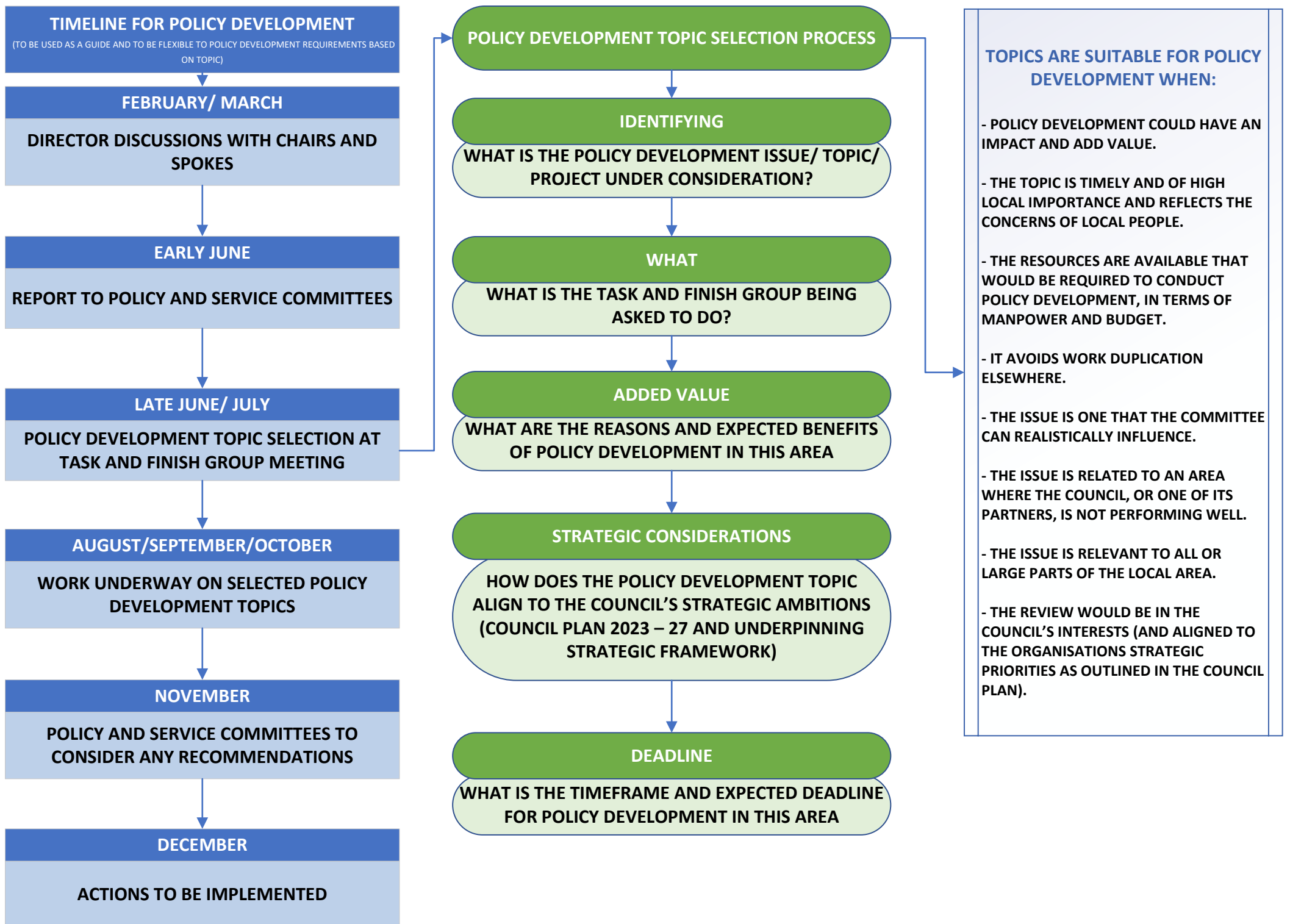
Previous reports on the appointment of panels, statutory / advisory committees and working parties and amendments made during the year and the Council's Constitution.

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

<b>Council Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Tourism Communities Culture and Leisure Committee</b>	<b>22 June 2023</b>
<b>Tourism Communities Culture and Leisure Committee</b>	<b>16 June 2022</b>
<b>Tourism Communities Culture and Leisure Committee</b>	<b>16 June 2021</b>

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# POLICY DEVELOPMENT TIMELINE AND TOPIC SELECTION PROCESS



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## TOURISM, COMMUNITIES, CULTURE & LEISURE COMMITTEE

24<sup>th</sup> July 2024

REPORT TITLE:	BOROUGH OF CULTURE 2024
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR OF REGENERATION AND PLACE

### REPORT SUMMARY

This report presents an update on Wirral's year as Liverpool City Region Borough of Culture in 2024.

The activities outlined in this report contribute directly or indirectly to the objectives in the Wirral Plan 2021-2026:

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

The activities outlined in this report directly support the 'People Focused Regeneration' theme in the Council Plan 2023-2027.

This report represents a key decision as it will have a significant impact on communities. The content of this report affects all Wards within the Borough

### RECOMMENDATION/S

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

- (1) Note progress in respect of Borough of Culture 2024; and
- (2) Grant delegated authority the Director of Regeneration and Place to make any necessary changes to the programme plan for Borough of Culture agreed by the Committee in October 2023 and to manage associated budget accordingly.

## **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

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

To update the Committee as to the programme plan for Borough of Culture 2024 at the request of the Chair and to seek approval for the Director of Regeneration and Place to make any necessary changes to the programme plan as Borough of Culture activities are delivered.

### **2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

2.1 The other option is to discontinue delivery of the Borough of Culture programme.

2.2 This option is not considered feasible given the reputational risk as well as the opportunity presented by the initiative to celebrate culture and heritage in Wirral and deliver economic impact, increase visitor numbers and leave a lasting legacy for the creative sector.

### **3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

3.1 A Culture and Heritage Strategy was commissioned in support of the Council's ambitious regeneration plans and approved by this Committee in March 2022. The importance of the Borough of Culture initiative as an enabler for delivering local outcomes is threaded throughout the Culture and Heritage Strategy.

3.2 The Borough of Culture initiative rotates around the Liverpool City Region (LCR) and has five broad principles:

- Getting children and young people involved in culture and heritage and developing their creative skills and talents.
- Using arts, culture and heritage to improve people's health and wellbeing and achieve other positive outcomes.
- Encouraging communities to participate in creative activities where they live.
- Telling Wirral's stories and promoting the borough's culture and heritage offer to local people and visitors.
- Creating cultural assets and opportunities which will leave a lasting legacy beyond the Borough of Culture year.

3.3 An LCR Combined Authority grant for Borough of Culture of £200,000 is awarded to the host borough. This is funded by the Metro Mayor's One Percent for Culture initiative.

3.4 Wirral was previously LCR Borough of Culture in 2019. Over 500,000 people (residents and visitors) engaged with cultural events and projects during the year with an overall economic impact of £3.8m. The programme created a fertile

environment for cultural and creative industries to emerge and boosted positive perceptions of the borough.

- 3.5 A partnership Steering Group is in place to support delivery and evaluation of the 2024 Borough of Culture programme chaired by Future Yard as Wirral's first Arts Council England funded National Portfolio Organisation. Wirral's 2024 programme has been co-created in partnership with a stakeholder group of arts, culture and heritage organisations. It is focused on telling Wirral's stories, promoting community activity and increasing access to arts, culture and heritage with a particular focus on young people, inclusion of marginalised groups and sustainability.
- 3.6 A programme plan for Borough of Culture was approved by this Committee in October 2023 (Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee, 19<sup>th</sup> October 2023, Minute 42). A summary of activities in respect of this plan delivered to date and/or underway is set out at 3.10 below.
- 3.7 As detailed in the report to Committee in October 2023, additional resources became available for culture and heritage activities through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) Investment Plan and associated delegated approval (Economy, Regeneration and Housing Committee, 7th December 2022, Minute 37). This had a significant impact on Borough of Culture in that it is enabling grants to be defrayed to partner and community organisations to contribute to the Borough of Culture programme and legacy outcomes. Direct grant awards to local organisations supported by the UKSPF contribution and/or the LCR Borough of Culture allocation are being managed by the Culture and Visitor Economy Team working closely with the Economic Strategy Team and in line with associated monitoring requirements.
- 3.8 An open grants programme was launched at the beginning of February 2024 and closed in mid-March. The response to this opportunity was unprecedented with a total of 164 applications received for funding. The total 'ask' from the 164 applications received was c.£1.5m. It was necessary to deploy additional staffing resources within Regeneration and Place to support assessment of applications. All applicants were reviewed against a set of basic eligibility criteria then scored against the Borough of Culture principles (see 3.2 above), increasing access to arts, culture and heritage and deliverability. A final assessment and moderation of the scores was undertaken to take into account the capital and revenue funding available (£110,000 capital and £37,000 revenue) and the geographical spread of projects. The projects awarded funding have been announced (following a delay due to the General Election) and are listed at Appendix 1.
- 3.9 The overwhelming response to the grants programme highlights the demand across Wirral for project funding support for arts, culture and heritage. Advice has been provided to unsuccessful applicants including alternative sources of funding which may be suitable for their projects, and links to other resources and support which may be useful. This includes community networking opportunities through Wirral CVS (Council for Voluntary Service).
- 3.10 Borough of Culture events and activities delivered to date, underway and forthcoming include:

<b>Council-led</b>	<b>January 2024</b>	Launch event in January coinciding with the
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		opening of the <i>Is Anybody Listening?</i> exhibition at the Williamson
<b>February 2024</b>		Grand Admiral Miguel de Grau heritage plaque and street naming unveiling
		Launch of Borough of Culture grants programme
<b>March 2024</b>		Procurement of Borough of Culture events partner Walk the Plank
		Launch of <i>Piece by Peace</i> schools project highlighting inclusion and diversity
<b>April 2024</b>		Opening of the L.S. Lowry <i>Going to the Match</i> exhibition at the Williamson
		<i>Sunday Night Live</i> at the Floral Pavilion showcasing local talent in support of Autism Together
<b>May 2024</b>		<p>Gaia artwork in Birkenhead Park (28<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> May) with 3 days of celebratory performances and activities coordinated by Walk the Plank. This event was highly successful, with key outcomes as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 30,000 people attended (target attendance was 10,000).</li> <li>▪ 108 social media posts, reaching 568,000 people.</li> <li>▪ First photos of Gaia in Birkenhead Park received 8,500 engagements on social media.</li> <li>▪ Media coverage included BBC online (x3), Liverpool Echo (x3), The Guide Liverpool (x4) and BBC Radio Merseyside</li> </ul>
<b>June 2024</b>		Civic and community events marking the 80 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of D Day and the Mallory and Irvine centenary
<b>July 2024</b>		<i>Cool and Creative</i> staff engagement week in partnership with Climate Change Team (week commencing 8 <sup>th</sup> July)
		<i>Piece by Peace</i> schools project sharing event (15 <sup>th</sup> July) at Birkenhead Town Hall
		Wirral Libraries <i>Green BiblioFest</i> events (17 <sup>th</sup> , 25 <sup>th</sup> , 29 <sup>th</sup> July)
		Birkenhead Central Library 90 <sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebrations (18 <sup>th</sup> July)
<b>August 2024</b>		<i>Green BiblioFest</i> events – Wirral Libraries, Wirral Country Park and Birkenhead Park (1 <sup>st</sup> – 28 <sup>th</sup> August)
		From 1 <sup>st</sup> August <i>Into the Wyld</i> – Williamson Art Gallery & Museum and other locations
		Wirral Theatre Festival – Floral Pavilion (28 <sup>th</sup> – 30 <sup>th</sup> August)
		Luma Latin American engagement event

		(Date TBC)
	<b>October 2024</b>	<i>The Bar at the Edge of Time</i> , Floral Pavilion (9 <sup>th</sup> and 10 <sup>th</sup> October)
		<i>Into the Wyld: Spirits of Peace Symposium</i> , Williamson Art Gallery & Museum (12 <sup>th</sup> October)
		New work <i>Subterranean Elevator</i> at the Williamson by international artist Di Mainstone commissioned in response to regeneration programme
	<b>November 2024</b>	Borough of Culture finale event delivered by Walk the Plank
<b>Partner-led</b>	<b>February 2024</b>	Launch of <i>LOC</i> – workshops for young people throughout the year coordinated by Open Door (activities including calligraphy, sustainable cooking, sculpture and painting)
	<b>March 2024</b>	Launch of <i>The Town is the Gallery</i> – exhibitions and workshops throughout the year curated by Convenience Gallery
	<b>May 2024</b>	The Reader interactive workshops for children, including in partnership with Eureka!
	<b>June 2024</b>	Wirral MakeFest 2024 at the Williamson and Birkenhead Library – a family-friendly festival promoting creativity and STEAM skills
	<b>July 2024</b>	8 <sup>th</sup> – 13 <sup>th</sup> : <i>New Brighton Arts Festival</i> (C Change and Rockpoint CIC and a range of community partners)
	<b>August 2024</b>	24 <sup>th</sup> – 25 <sup>th</sup> : Future Now Festival – Future Yard and other Birkenhead locations
		28 <sup>th</sup> : <i>LOC 'Use yer head or lose it'</i> workshop – Convenience Gallery Pop-Up (Open Door Charity)
<b>September 2024</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> – 30 <sup>th</sup> : <i>A Creative Tri-factor</i> , Make CIC (Make CIC)	

3.11 The marketing and communications plan for Borough of Culture has evolved as the year has got underway. Whilst extremely positive, the unprecedented level of engagement from partners and communities in the grants programme and in general since the report to Committee in October 2023 has impacted on the capacity of the team to undertake targeted briefings and roll out other awareness raising activity. In response to this growing interest, resources were focused on a partner and community launch event in January 2024 which was extremely successful in showcasing Wirral's plans for the year and facilitating networking amongst a range of stakeholders.

3.12 Following the launch, marketing and communications activity has focused on:

- Finalising a dedicated website for Borough of Culture ([www.wirral2024.com](http://www.wirral2024.com)) which is now live and where partners and communities can upload their events and activities.

- Issuing guidance to partners re: use of the Borough of Culture logo and wider marketing and communications considerations for promoting funded projects and other activity.
- Developing an agreed plan for the use of Council communications channels to align with Council plan priorities and build awareness among staff, residents and visitors.
- Producing a new Wirral culture and visitor guide showcasing the borough's arts, heritage and leisure offer (with the resources available through the Liverpool City Region Strategic Investment Fund Destination Marketing project).

3.13 As mentioned in paragraphs 3.8 and 3.11 of this report, the response to Borough of Culture from partners and communities has been significant and, in addition to the activities already planned, there are numerous opportunities to shape and develop the programme and its legacy moving forward. The Committee is therefore requested to grant delegated authority to the Director of Regeneration and Place to make any necessary changes to the programme plan for Borough of Culture agreed by the Committee in October 2023 and to manage associated budgets accordingly. This includes any additional monies which may become available through grant funding, for example through a review of expected spend across the entire UKSPF Phase 1 programme.

#### **4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 In respect of the resources available for delivering cultural programming, it has previously been noted by the Committee that, in setting the budget for 2021/22, £620k budget was permanently removed as a saving in respect of the Culture and Visitor Economy function.
- 4.2 An annual budget of £50,000 was retained to support development and engagement activities. This entirety of this budget in the current financial year and for the 2024-25 financial year has been earmarked for Borough of Culture development and delivery. A further budget of £15,000 is available annually specifically for heritage activities.
- 4.3 Borough of Culture is further supported by:
- LCR Combined Authority revenue contribution for Borough of Culture in 2024-25 - £200,000.
  - UK Shared Prosperity Fund - a total of £328,000 for culture and heritage capital and revenue projects (across 2023-24 and 2024-25) – the broad objectives for allocating these monies to support culture and heritage and local creative activities is set out in the investment plan agreed with the Combined Authority. The Director for Regeneration and Place has delegated authority to deliver this investment plan and oversee any necessary change controls (ERH Committee, 7th December 2022, Minute 37).
- 4.4 The use of Town Deal monies for public art (£148,500 capital) is also aligned to the Borough of Culture programme given the opportunity to engage with partners and communities on its use.

- 4.5 £111,000 for culture and heritage volunteering and social action from the UKSPF allocation has been incorporated into a 'one front door' project commissioned by Public Health and delivered by Wirral CVS and is being managed accordingly.
- 4.6 Any expenditure relating to Borough of Culture has been undertaken in line with the programme plan agreed by this Committee in October 2023 and Council procedures. As indicated in 3.13 above, the Committee is requested to grant delegated authority the Director of Regeneration and Place to make any necessary changes to this plan and to manage associated budget accordingly. This includes any additional monies which may become available through external grant funding.

## **5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 Standardised and/or one off Grant Funding Agreements with external parties for the delivery of Borough of Culture activities utilising external grant funding (i.e., LCR Combined Authority Borough of Culture grant and/or UK Shared Prosperity Fund) are being issued in consultation with Legal Services.

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

- 6.1 To deliver the 2024 programme and legacy outcomes, staffing resources are being deployed within Regeneration and Place on a temporary basis to support the Culture and Visitor Economy Team. Corporate support is in place, e.g., in respect of marketing and communications.

## **7.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

- 7.1 A key risk is the failure to progress the decisions requested which would impact on planning and delivering a successful programme and legacy outcomes within the resources available. This could lead to reputational damage to the Council as well as undermining the economic and social outcomes of the regeneration programme and associated opportunities.
- 7.2 A number of key mitigations are in place to ensure successful delivery, including a robust programme and risk management approach and clear terms of reference for the Borough of Culture Steering Group. Further scrutiny, particularly in respect of financial management, is being undertaken through the appropriate corporate mechanisms.
- 7.3 Operational risks in respect of Council events and activities taking place as part of Borough of Culture will be managed via the Wirral Event Safety Advisory Group. Delivery partners will be expected to submit event notifications as appropriate.

## **8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION**

- 8.1 Extensive consultation has been undertaken to develop the Borough of Culture plan and to create positive and productive partnerships with culture and heritage stakeholders.

8.2 Borough of Culture delivery is predicated on the need to engage communities as widely as possible to ensure the programme's success. As indicated elsewhere in this report, local communities and organisations have responded well to the opportunity thus far.

## 9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Inclusion is a key theme and workstream of the Borough of Culture programme. Targeted action has already been undertaken to promote inclusion and diversity throughout the year.

## 10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

10.1 Sustainability is a key theme and workstream of the Borough of Culture programme. Targeted action has already been undertaken to promote sustainability throughout the year, working closely with the Council's climate change team and a range of partners.

## 11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH IMPLICATIONS

11.1 Community wealth building is a key consideration for the Borough of Culture Steering Group particularly in respect of ensuring that local artists and creatives benefit from programme opportunities and can access the resources available.

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## APPENDICES

Borough of Culture Grant Awards

## BACKGROUND PAPERS

[Birkenhead Culture and Heritage Strategy](#)  
[Arts Council England Let's Create Strategy](#)

## SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Tourism, Communities, Leisure and Culture Committee	8 <sup>th</sup> March 2022
Birkenhead Culture and Heritage Strategy and	



<b>Museums Service Strategy</b>	
<b>Tourism, Communities, Leisure and Culture Committee</b>  <b>Culture and Heritage Strategy and Borough of Culture Planning</b>	<b>25<sup>th</sup> October 2022</b>
<b>Economy, Regeneration &amp; Housing Committee</b>  <b>UK Shared Prosperity Fund</b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup> December 2022</b>
<b>Tourism, Communities, Leisure and Culture Committee</b>  <b>Borough of Culture 2024</b>	<b>19<sup>th</sup> October 2023</b>

APPLICANT	PROJECT	LOCATION	LEGACY IMPACT	REVENUE AWARD	CAPITAL AWARD	TOTAL AWARD
Friends of Birkenhead Park	Visualising Birkenhead Park: Past and Present	Birkenhead	<i>Project will make a significant contribution to visitor experience</i>	-	£13,710.00	£13,710.00
Grove Street Primary School	Grove Street Community Art Studio & 'Arts for All' Day	New Ferry	<i>Project will make a significant community contribution through creative activities</i>	£1,300.00	£17,781.78	£19,081.78
Wirral Poetry Festival	Wirral Poetry Festival 2024	Wirral-wide	<i>Project will further develop a community-led festival which engages communities across Wirral and will continue in future years</i>	£5,000.00	-	£5,000.00
Port Sunlight Village Trust	A Stitch in Time	Port Sunlight and local communities	<i>Project will deliver high levels of creative community engagement and unlock local heritage</i>	£3,500.00	£10,000.00	£15,000.00
471 Routes CIC	Inspire Tour	Wirral-wide	<i>Project will showcase Wirral creatives and local venues in an innovative way</i>	£3,425.00	-	£3,425.00
Liscard Community Links CIC	Liscard Sound and Vision	Liscard	<i>Project will involve multiple partners to deliver creative activities for young people</i>	£5,000.00	£12,807.00	£17,807.00

APPLICANT	PROJECT	LOCATION	LEGACY IMPACT	REVENUE AWARD	CAPITAL AWARD	TOTAL AWARD
			<i>and build local networks</i>			
<b>Friends of Wallasey Library</b>	<b>Wirral Story Patchwork Project</b>	Wallasey	<i>Although relatively low cost, the project will have a significant impact on target groups</i>	£1,428.00	-	£1,428.00
<b>The Hive Wirral Youth Zone</b>	<b>Young People's Choirs and Musicians Performance Programme</b>	Borough-wide	<i>Project will deliver improved access to music facilities for young people from across Wirral</i>	-	£11,509.39	£16,499.60
<b>New Brighton Coastal Community Team</b>	<b>Beatles Tower Public Art Project</b>	New Brighton	<i>Project will have high visibility and is likely to increase visitor footfall and showcase local heritage</i>	£3,800.00	£5,000.00	£10,000.00
<b>StartYard</b>	<b>StartYard Venue Access Improvements</b>	Birkenhead	<i>Project will make a significant improvement to venue which is enabling inclusive and free to access exhibitions and events</i>	-	£8,000.00	£8,000.00
<b>The Caravan Gallery CIC</b>	<b>Pride of Place Project Caravan Tour</b>	Borough-wide	<i>Project will enable access to art in a unique way close to where people live</i>	£5,000.00	-	£5,000.00
<b>Voices of Wirral</b>	<b>Mind on Music</b>	Wallasey / Liscard	<i>Although relatively low cost, the project will</i>	£3,670.00	-	£3,670.00

APPLICANT	PROJECT	LOCATION	LEGACY IMPACT	REVENUE AWARD	CAPITAL AWARD	TOTAL AWARD
			<i>have a significant impact on target groups</i>			
<b>Wirral Archaeology CIC</b>	<b>Sharing Knowledge About Wirral's Past</b>	Borough-wide	<i>Project will facilitate engagement with schools and a range of groups about Wirral's heritage</i>	-	£10,045.87	£10,045.87
<b>Rebecca Ball Bryson</b>	<b>Flotsam Poppets</b>	Birkenhead, New Brighton, Thurstaston	<i>Project will engage young people and communities on the theme of sustainability whilst developing and showcasing the work of a significant local artist</i>	£5,000.00	-	£5,000.00
<b>Friends of Warwick Park</b>	<b>90 Year Anniversary Activities</b>	Upton	<i>Project will deliver a permanent legacy for a local park in its 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary year and the community which uses it</i>	-	£4,882.87	£4,882.87
<b>Tam O'Shanter Urban Farm</b>	<b>Accessibility Improvements</b>	Bidston	<i>Project will deliver much improved facilities at this heritage and visitor asset and open up for a wider range of visitors</i>	-	£17,280.00	£17,820.00
<b>TOTALS</b>				<b>£37,123.00</b>	<b>£111,016.91</b>	<b>£148,139.91</b>



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## Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee

Wednesday, 24 July 2024

<b>REPORT TITLE:</b>	<b>2023/24 REVENUE OUTTURN</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOODS</b>

### REPORT SUMMARY

This report provides a summary of the year-end revenue and capital position for the 2023/24 financial year as at the end of March 2024. The report provides Members with an overview of budget performance, including progress on the delivery of the 2023/24 saving programme and a summary of reserves and balances, to enable the Committee to take ownership of the budgets and provide robust challenge and scrutiny to Officers on the performance of those budgets.

The year-end revenue outturn for 2023/24, represents an adverse variance against revenue budgets of £3.160m, which is a £0.527m deterioration from the quarter 3 forecast. This adverse position can be offset corporately by utilising the contingency budget, savings from reduced energy costs and funding in year transformational activity costs from capital receipts. The Capital Programme Outturn was £5.020m, against an expected £5.720m.

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

The report contributes to the Wirral Plan 2023-2027 in supporting the organisation in meeting all Council priorities.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

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

1. Note the draft, unaudited 2023/24 outturn adverse variance of £3.160m, which has been managed corporately by utilising the contingency budget, savings from reduced energy costs and use of flexible use of capital receipts;
2. Note the progress on delivery of the 2023/24 savings programme.
3. Note the transfer to and use of earmarked reserves, as detailed in Appendix 1 to this report ;
4. Note the draft, unaudited 2023/24 capital outturn position of £5.020m, as detailed in Appendix 2 to this report.

## **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

### **1.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1.1 Regular monitoring and reporting of the revenue and capital budgets and savings achievements enables decisions to be taken in a timely manner, which may produce revenue benefits and will improve financial control of the Council.
- 1.2 This report presents timely information on the full year financial position for 2023/24, prior to final audit engagement.

### **2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

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

### **3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 3.1 At the meeting on 27 February 2023, the Council agreed a net revenue budget for 2023/2024 of £366.6m to be met by government grants, council tax, and business rates. In quarter 1, a favourable £2.000m variation against the funding relating to an adjustment of Business Rates Section 31 grants, increased the revenue budget to £368.6m.
- 3.2 The Council's Quarter 1 monitoring report, presented on 12 July 2023 to the Policy & Resources Committee, highlighted growing in-year pressures of £3.6m, which had risen to £7.2m by Quarter 2 and £7.97m by Quarter 3. Several potential mitigations were identified that could be used to present a balanced budget at the end of the year. This report sets out the updated revenue financial position for the Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee at the end of the year.

#### **Economic Context**

- 3.3 Throughout 2023-24 the headline consumer price inflation (CPI) continued to decline from 8.7% at the start of the year to 3.4% in February but was still above the Bank of England's 2% target.
- 3.4 Having begun the financial year at 4.25%, the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) increased the Bank Rate to 5.25% in August 2023 and it has remained at this level through to March 2024. Although financial markets have shifted their interest rate expectations downwards, with expectations of a cut early in the new year, the MPC's focus remains on maintaining the current interest rate in order to control inflation over the medium term.
- 3.5 The overall risk environment remained particularly challenging throughout 2023-24, with subdued economic activity, poor outlooks for growth and inflation and increased



geopolitical tensions, all placing significant pressures on finances and restricting the ability to forecast and plan, with confidence.

### Revenue Outturn Position

- 3.6 At the end of 2023/24, against the Committee’s net revenue budget of £12.476m, there is an adverse variance of £3.160m, which can be managed in the overall Council context by utilising the contingency budget, savings from reduced energy costs, utilising flexible use of capital receipts along with reserves management.

**TABLE 1 2023/24 REVENUE BUDGET & OUTTURN**

	Budget	Outturn	Variance	
	£000	£000	(+ Adv / - Fav)	%
			£000	
Neighbourhood Safety	1,323	1,627	304	23%
Leisure, Libraries and Theatre	8,823	11,185	2,362	27%
Culture and Visitor Economy	413	413	0	0%
Regulatory Services	1,805	1,691	-114	-6%
Cross Cutting Funding and Neighbourhoods Management Team	111	720	608	546%
Net Committee Expenditure	12,476	15,636	3,160	25%

### Significant aspects of revenue variances

- 3.7 Neighbourhoods Management: An adverse variance of £0.608m. This mainly relates to shortfalls in Neighbourhood savings from 2022/23 and 2023/24 of £0.500m that have not been achieved. £0.250m has been addressed by budget adjustments for 2024/25, with further service reviews ongoing for the remainder.
- 3.8 Neighbourhood Safety: An adverse variance of £0.304m due to historical, unachievable income shortfalls and a significant reduction in the number of schools choosing to renew Community Safety services, which has partly been addressed in 2024/25 with a £0.150m uplift.
- 3.9 Leisure, Libraries and Customer Engagement – an adverse variance of £2.362m. In the main, this relates to Theatre and Hospitality for £1.853m. This includes one off costs for the Sail Loft of £0.200m that will not recur. The Theatre and Hospitality budget will be reviewed in light of the adverse variance and accounted for in 2024/25. The Floral Pavilion Theatre & Conference Centre budget has been adjusted in 2024/25 to remedy unachievable targets attributed to legacy savings and income of circa £0.900m. Sports and Recreation, specifically the Bidston Sports & Activity Centre has £0.400m unachieved income. This could be attributed to only 6 months actual trading in the 2023/24 financial year, with the centre income profile weighted towards increased income over the spring and summer holiday periods and would therefore be expected to balance for 2024/25. Overspends in libraries for

building repairs and maintenance with works exceeding the allocated budget. These overspends will be dealt with in 2024/25 and future maintenance will be considered as part of the move to a Corporate Landlord Model.

**Action plan**

- 3.10 It is recognised that there are a number of issues within the outturn position, and particularly the variances between quarter 3 and the final outturn, which will impact on the position in 24/25.
- 3.11 In order to ensure that these issues are appropriately managed, actions for each directorate have been recorded in conjunction with the Director and progress against these will be monitored monthly.
- 3.12 The issues that have emerged during the outturn process are largely relating to business as usual activities that fall outside the main Change Programme. The resourcing of these required activities will be considered alongside the existing transformation resource in place to support the Change Programme.
- 3.13 The outputs of this work and the proposed corrective action will feed into the budget setting process for 25/26 and the next iteration of the Medium-Term Financial Plan.
- 3.14 Enhanced procedural rigour in relation to the budget monitoring process is set out in the report titled 'Budget Monitoring and Budget Setting Processes' found later in the agenda. This outlines the stringent processes implemented for the upcoming fiscal year. The recent reorganising of financial operations has bolstered financial support and resources across the entire organisation to support these processes alongside the implementation of Oracle Fusion. This has equipped the Council with an accessible financial analysis tool. The enterprise resource planning software provides enhanced data integration, processing capabilities and reporting functionalities. With Oracle Fusion now operational, comprehensive insights can be derived from financial data through in-depth analysis, enabling more informed decision-making and strategic planning based on accurate, real-time financial information across all business units and operations.

**Progress on delivery of the 2023/24 savings programme.**

3.15 Table 2 presents the progress on the delivery of the 2023/24 approved savings. In terms of savings, £0.253m of the £0.485m savings targets were delivered, representing 52% of the total savings target with a further 8% or £0.038m achieved through mitigation. The table below summarises the progress by for this Committee:

**TABLE 2: SUMMARY OF DELIVERY OF 2023/24 SAVINGS**

Committee	Approved Saving £m	Delivered £m	Delivered through mitigation £m	Delayed/ unachieved in year £m
Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee	-1.115	-0.516	-0.053	-0.546

3.16 Delayed/ unachieved key variances are as follows:

- Leisure Centre service review – The saving of £0.500m will not be fully achieved until 2024/25. £0.241m of savings was delivered in year, with the remaining savings to be achieved in the next financial year as the full impact of energy efficiency projects are realised and EVR savings agreed.
- Review of Neighbourhoods Staffing Structure - The saving of £0.425m has been delayed whilst work is carried out to ensure there is no overlap with the corporate enabling services saving. EVR/VS requests are still being considered. These delays mean that £0.287m of the saving has been delayed until 2024/25.

**Reserves and Balances**

3.17 Table 3 shows the opening and closing balances of the Committee reserves.

**TABLE 3: SUMMARY OF EARMARKED RESERVES**

Committee	Opening Balance £000	Use of Reserve £000	Contribution to Reserve £000	Analysis of Forecast Closing Balance £000		
				Ring-fenced	Non Ring-fenced (committed)	Non Ring-fenced
Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee	181	-137	0	44	0	0

3.18 There were no contributions to reserves during 2023/24

3.19 The Capital Programme Outturn was £5.020m against an expected £5.720m, details can be found in Appendix 2.

#### **4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 This is the Quarter 4 budget monitoring report that provides information on the revenue outturn for the Council for 2023/24. The Council has robust methods for reporting and forecasting budgets in place and alongside formal Quarterly reporting to Policy and Resources Committee, the financial position is routinely reported at Directorate Management Team meetings and corporately at the Strategic Leadership Team (SLT). In the event of any early warning highlighting pressures and potential overspends, the SLT take collective responsibility to identify solutions to resolve these to ensure a balanced budget is reported at the end of the year.

#### **5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

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

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

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

#### **7.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

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

7.2 In any budget year, there is a risk that operation will not be constrained within relevant budget limits. Under specific circumstances the Section 151 Officer may issue a Section 114 notice but that position has not been reached at the present time. The issuing of a Section 114 notice bans all new spending with the exception of protecting vulnerable people and statutory services and pre-existing commitments.

## **8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION**

8.1 Consultation has been carried out with the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) in arriving at the governance process for the 2023/24 budget monitoring process and the 2023/24 budget setting process.

## **9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

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

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

## **10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS**

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

## **11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH IMPLICATIONS**

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

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

- **Making wealth work for local places**

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**APPENDICES**

APPENDIX 1 – Earmarked Reserves

APPENDIX 2 – Capital Programme

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

**SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)**

<b>Council Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee</b>	<b>02 February 2023</b>
<b>Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee</b>	<b>09 March 2023</b>
<b>Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee</b>	<b>22 June 2023</b>
<b>Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee</b>	<b>25 July 2023</b>
<b>Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee</b>	<b>21 September 2023</b>
<b>Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee</b>	<b>30 November 2023</b>
<b>Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee</b>	<b>25 January 2024</b>
<b>Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee</b>	<b>7 March 2024</b>

## Appendix 1 - Earmarked Reserves 2023/24

<b>Reserve</b>	<b>Opening Balance £000</b>	<b>Use of Reserve £000</b>	<b>Contribution to Reserve £000</b>	<b>Closing Balance £000</b>
Community Safety Initiatives	43	-43	0	0
Environmental Health	40	-40	0	0
Les Mills Classes	54	-54	0	0
Sports Development Reserve	22	0	0	22
Hilbre Island - Legacy	21	0	0	21
Library Donations	1	0	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>-137</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>44</b>

## Appendix 2 – Capital Programme 2023/24

	Q4 Forecast	23/24 Actual	Variance	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	
Arrowe Country Park - Main Driveway Resurfacing & Fencing Work				
Arts Council Capital LIF	14	-	-	14
Ashton Park Lake	174	174		0
Bebington Oval Facility Upgrade	-	-		-
Bidston Court - Path Improvements				-
Catering Units	107	-	-	107
Consolidated Library Works Fund	66	66		0
Defibrillators	9	1		8
Essential H&S Access Improvements @ Wirral Country Park	-	-		-
Essential H&S Infrastructure Improvements @ Wirral Country Park	207	14	-	193
Fitness Equipment	2	-		2
Floral Pavilion	72	72		0
Football Goals				-
Future Golf - Project 1.1	125	58	-	67
Hoylelake Golf works depot demolish and replace	-	-		-
Library Radio Frequency Identification Kiosks	80	80		0
Moreton Youth Club & Library	-	-		-
New Brighton Gym Equipment	2	-		2
Pool Covers	231	207	-	24
Soft Play Areas Leisure Centres	-	-		-
Solar Campus 3G	1	0		1
Studio refurbishment Les Mills classes	10	-	-	10
West Kirby Concourse/Guinea Gap Reception upgrade / improve	-	-		-
West Kirby Marine Lake/Sailing Centre – accommodation	62	20	-	42
Williamson Art Gallery Catalogue	37	-	-	37
Williamson Art Gallery Ventilation 21-22	192	-	-	192
Wirral Tennis Centre - 3G Pitch				-



## Appendix 2 – Capital Programme 2023/24

	1,064	1,064	0
Wirral Tennis Centre - Facility Upgrade	1,345	1,345	0
Woodchurch Sports Pavillion	1,920	1,920	0
<b>Total Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure</b>	<b>5,720</b>	<b>5,020</b>	<b>- 700</b>

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## Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee

Wednesday, 24 July 2024

<b>REPORT TITLE:</b>	<b>2024/25 BUDGET MONITORING FOR QUARTER ONE (THE PERIOD TO 30 JUNE 2024)</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOODS</b>

### REPORT SUMMARY

This report sets out the financial monitoring information for the Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee as at Quarter 1 (30 June) of 2024/25. The report provides Members with an overview of budget performance, including progress on the delivery of the 2024/25 saving programme and a summary of reserves and balances, to enable the Committee to take ownership of the budgets and provide robust challenge and scrutiny to Officers and where appropriate, Committees on the performance of those budgets.

At the end of Quarter 1, there is a balanced forecast position for Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee.

This is not a key decision and affects all wards.

The report contributes to the Wirral Plan 2023-2027 in supporting the organisation in meeting all Council priorities.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

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

1. Note the balanced position presented at Quarter 1.
2. Note the 2024/25 savings programme at Quarter 1.
3. Note the forecast level of reserves at Quarter 1.
4. Note the capital position at the end of Quarter 1.

## **1.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

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

## **2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

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

## **3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 3.1 At the end of Quarter 1, there is a forecast adverse position for the overall Council of £12.493m on Directorate spend. This position is based on activity to date, projected trends in income and expenditure and changes to Council funding.
- 3.2 This is a serious financial position for the Council that needs to be significantly mitigated in-year through all available measures to reduce expenditure and generate cost savings. The source of the overspend reflects the outturn position from 2023/24 for which an action plan has been developed and implemented. This is designed to address the main issues generating the adverse position and progress will be reported on this in all future reports and to the relevant committees. However, the majority of this overspend is a consequence of increased demand and costs for social care services and will not be easily resolved.
- 3.3 Whilst the overall position can currently largely be managed in-year Corporately by
- a) utilising the contingency budgets,
  - b) applying flexible use of capital receipts to fund transformational revenue spend, and
  - c) repositioning of earmarked reserves,
- it is not a sustainable position going forward and will adversely impact budget planning for 2025/26.

### **Economic Context**

- 3.4 While geopolitical events pose potential threats to price stability, the UK's inflation outlook remains positive. The headline Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose by 2.0% in the year to May 2024, while core inflation has markedly declined in recent months. This sustained downward trend in UK inflation is projected to persist, prompting market analysts to forecast lower interest rates in the latter part of the year.
- 3.5 In June, the Bank of England maintained its Bank Rate at 5.25%. While the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) recognises the need to stimulate the UK economy by lowering rates in upcoming quarters, concerns over persistent inflationary pressures are likely to postpone any cuts until the third quarter of 2024.

Experts anticipate a gradual reduction, with rates potentially reaching around 3% by late 2025.

- 3.6 The results of the UK general election will play a pivotal role in determining the economic trajectory in the coming financial year. Regardless of which political party is successful, the election outcome will influence a range of factors, from fiscal policies and public spending to trade relations and regulatory frameworks.
- 3.7 The overall economic environment, whilst forecast to be more stable than recent years, there remains a great deal of uncertainty and challenge which will need to be monitored carefully as the year progresses. In this context, the Council must remain agile and ready to respond to emerging trends and unforeseen events. Regular reassessment of economic indicators and global developments will be key to navigating this calmer, yet still challenging, economic landscape.

**Quarter 1 Forecast Revenue Outturn Position**

- 3.8 Table 1 presents the forecast outturn as a net position, i.e. expenditure minus income. Favourable variances (underspends) are shown as negative values and adverse variances (overspends) are shown as a positive value.
- 3.9 At the end of Quarter 1, against the revised net revenue budget of £14.854m, there is balanced forecast position.

**TABLE 1: 2024/25 REVENUE BUDGET & FORECAST OUTTURN**

	Budget	Forecast Outturn	Variance (+ Adv / - Fav)	
	£000	£000	£000	%
Neighbourhood Safety	1,793	1,793	0	0%
Leisure, Libraries and Theatre	9,472	9,472	0	0%
Culture and Visitor Economy	413	413	0	0%
Regulatory Services	1,816	1,816	0	0%
Cross Cutting Funding and Neighbourhoods Management Team	416	416	0	0%
Coroners	830	830	0	0%
Estate and Facilities Management - Cleaning	113	113	0	0%
<b>Net Committee Expenditure</b>	<b>14,854</b>	<b>14,854</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>

**Significant risks are as follows.**

- 3.10 Leisure, Libraries and Customer Engagement: Balanced.

The Leisure, Libraries and Customer Engagement service is expecting to break even in 2024/25 but has challenges in doing so. During 2023/24, revenue from Leisure Centres fell short of projections, primarily due to the Bidston Tennis Centre's partial-year operation, which resulted in a £0.400m shortfall. For the current financial year, it is anticipated that the Centre will meet its budgeted targets, while income from other areas of the service is expected to remain stable. The overall Floral Pavilion Theatre & Conference Centre position in 2023/24 was not in line with forecast expectations earlier in the financial year and will be closely managed to ensure the revised net budget is achieved.

3.11 A detailed revenue table is attached in Appendix 1.

### **Pressures to be managed.**

3.12 It is financially imperative and legally required that the Council report a balanced position at the end of the financial year. Failure to do so results in the Council's Section 151 officer having to produce a Section 114 report under the Local Government Act 1988.

3.13 A number of actions and projects have been taken by the Senior Leadership Team to try and address the overall position. This ranges from the development of joint commissioning activities within Adults and Childrens, panels reviewing high-cost placements, development of a strategy to increase foster care provision, implementation of the findings from the Home to School Transport review, a number of task and finish groups to address the outstanding issues within Leisure, Libraries and Highways and a review of the Housing Benefit subsidy issues.

3.14 This is in addition to the ongoing transformation programme, elements of this will be accelerated in-year including the property rationalisation and the workforce reductions planned within the agreed budget. A robust vacancy management process has been agreed by SLT and will be implemented. Consequently, any external recruitment will be undertaken by exception.

### **Role of Policy and Service Committee**

3.15 As per the 'Budget Monitoring and Budget Setting Processes Report', which can be found elsewhere on the Committee's agenda and will be presented to all Policy & Service Committees in July, the Committees will be responsible for containing net expenditure within their overall budget envelope and not overspending. Where an adverse variance is forecast, each committee will be required to take remedial action, with detailed plans and timeframes, to bring the budget back in line and ensure that overspends are mitigated.

3.16 Where a Committee has taken all possible steps for remedial action and is unable to fully mitigate an overspend, this must be reported to the Policy and Resources Committee who will then take an organisational-wide view of how this adverse variance will be managed. There must be immediate action agreed to ensure a deliverable, balanced forecast position can be reported, and this will be monitored on a monthly basis by the Policy and Resources Committee Finance Working group.

### **Progress on delivery of the 2024/25 savings programme.**

3.17 Table 2 presents the progress on the delivery of the 2024/25 approved savings. For savings rated as Amber, an equal amount of temporary in-year mitigation has been identified to cover any shortfalls which may occur. For savings rated as red, the contingency fund set up for non-achieved savings will need to be utilised.

3.18 In terms of savings, £10.640m of the £12.390m savings targets are either delivered or on track to be delivered, representing 86% of the total savings target with a further 14% or £1.750m with a high risk of not being achieved within this financial year. The table below summarises the progress by Directorate:

**TABLE 2: PROGRESS ON DELIVERY OF 2024/25 SAVINGS**

Directorate	Approved Saving £m	Green £m	Amber £m	Red £m	Mitigation £m
Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee	-1.300	-1.300	0.000	0.000	0.000

### Reserves

3.19 On 1 April 24, earmarked reserves totalled £0.044m.

**TABLE 3: EARMARKED RESERVES**

Reserve	Opening Balance £000	Use of Reserve £000	Contribution to Reserve £000	Ring-fenced	Non Ring-fenced (committed)	Non Ring-fenced (available)
Sports Development Reserve	22	0	0	22	0	0
Hilbre Island - Legacy	21	0	0	21	0	0
Library Donations	1	0	0	1	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

## Capital Programme

3.20 Table 4 provides an update on the 2024/25 Capital Programme.

**TABLE 4: Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee Capital Programme 2024/25**

Scheme	2024/25			2025/26
	Budget at 01.04.24 £000	Q1 Forecast £000	Variance	Budget £000
Arts Council Capital LIF	21	15	-6	6
Bebington Oval Facility Upgrade	527	157	-370	370
Catering Units	160	112	-48	48
Consolidated Library Works Fund	213	213	0	-
Defibrillators	12	8	-4	4
Essential H&S Infrastructure Improvements @ Wirral Country Park	193	135	-58	58
Fitness Equipment	4	3	-1	1
Floral Pavilion	28	28	0	-
Future Golf - Project 1.1	317	222	-95	95
Moreton Youth Club & Library	993	393	-600	600
New Brighton Gym Equipment	3	2	-1	1
Pool Covers	34	34	0	-
Solar Campus 3G	1	1	0	-
Studio refurbishment Les Mills classes	15	10	-5	5
West Kirby Concourse/Guinea Gap Reception upgrade / improve	351	351	0	-
West Kirby Marine Lake/Sailing Centre – accommodation	73	73	0	-
Williamson Art Gallery Catalogue	56	39	-17	17
Williamson Art Gallery Ventilation 21-22	288	202	-86	86
Wirral Tennis Centre - 3G Pitch	10	7	-3	3
Woodchurch Sports Pavillion	26	18	-8	8
<b>Total Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure</b>	<b>3,325</b>	<b>2,023</b>	<b>-1,302</b>	<b>1,302</b>

3.21 As noted above, there has been a reprofiling of expenditure in this year's Programme so far are in respect of deferrals of budget into future years.

3.22 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 2024/25 and also delays the resultant Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) charges into future years.



- 3.23 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.

#### **4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 This is the Quarter 1 budget monitoring report that provides information on the forecast outturn for the Council for 2024/25. The Council has robust methods for reporting and forecasting budgets in place and alongside formal Quarterly reporting to Policy & Resources Committee, the financial position is routinely reported at Directorate Management Team meetings and corporately at the Strategic Leadership Team (SLT). In the event of any early warning highlighting pressures and potential overspends, the SLT take collective responsibility to identify solutions to resolve these to ensure a balanced budget can be reported at the end of the year.

#### **5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

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

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

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

#### **7.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

- 7.1 The Council's ability to maintain a balanced budget for 2024/25 is dependent on a stable financial position. That said, the delivery of the budget is subject to ongoing variables both positive and adverse which imply a level of challenge in achieving this outcome.
- 7.2 In any budget year, there is a risk that operation will not be constrained within relevant budget limits. Under specific circumstances the Section 151 Officer may issue a Section 114 notice but that position has not been reached at the present time.

## **8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION**

- 8.1 Consultation has been carried out with the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) in arriving at the governance process for the 2024/25 budget monitoring process and budget setting process.
- 8.2 Since the budget was agreed at Full Council on 26 February, some proposals may have been the subject of further consultation with Members, Customer and Residents. The details of these are included within the individual business cases or are the subject of separate reports to the Committee.

## **9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

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

## **10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS**

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

## **11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH IMPLICATIONS**

- 11.1 In year activity will have incorporated community wealth implications. Consideration would have taken account of related matters across headings such as the following:
- **Progressive Procurement and Social Value**  
How we commission and procure goods and services. Encouraging contractors to deliver more benefits for the local area, such as good jobs, apprenticeship, training & skills opportunities, real living wage, minimising their environmental impact, and greater wellbeing.

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

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## **APPENDICES**

APPENDIX 1 – Detailed Revenue Budget

## **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

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

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee 24 Jul 24: Budget Monitoring and Budget Setting Processes Report.

CIPFA's Financial Management Code

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

<b>Council Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee</b>	<b>02 February 2023</b>
<b>Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee</b>	<b>09 March 2023</b>
<b>Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee</b>	<b>22 June 2023</b>
<b>Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee</b>	<b>25 July 2023</b>
<b>Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee</b>	<b>21 September 2023</b>
<b>Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee</b>	<b>30 November 2023</b>
<b>Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee</b>	<b>25 January 2024</b>
<b>Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee</b>	<b>7 March 2024</b>

## APPENDIX 1 – Detailed Revenue Budget

	Budget	Forecast Outturn	Variance		Adv/ Fav
	£000	£000	£000	%	
Neighbourhood Safety - Operations	1,793	1,793	0	0%	On Budget
<b>Neighbourhood Safety Total</b>	<b>1,793</b>	<b>1,793</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
Customer Contact Centre	817	817	0	0%	Balanced
Libraries	3,179	3,179	0	0%	Balanced
Museums	444	444	0	0%	Balanced
One Stop Shops	873	873	0	0%	Balanced
Theatre	499	499	0	0%	Balanced
Sports and Recreation	3,531	3,531	0	0%	Balanced
Sports Development	177	177	0	0%	Balanced
School Library Services	-48	-48	0	0%	Balanced
<b>Leisure, Libraries and Theatre Total</b>	<b>9,472</b>	<b>9,472</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
Public Conveniences	113	113	0	0%	Balanced
<b>Estate and Facilities Management Total</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>0</b>		
Cross Cutting Funding and Neighbourhoods Management Team	416	416	0	0%	Balanced
<b>Neighbourhoods Management Total</b>	<b>416</b>	<b>416</b>	<b>0</b>		
Environmental and Trading Standards	1,816	1,816	0	0%	Balanced
<b>Regulatory Services Total</b>	<b>1,816</b>	<b>1,816</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
Coroner	830	830	0	0%	Balanced
<b>Coroners Total</b>	<b>830</b>	<b>830</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
Culture & Visitor Economy	413	413	0	0%	Balanced
<b>Culture &amp; Visitor Economy Total</b>	<b>413</b>	<b>413</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
Surplus / (Deficit)	14,854	14,854	0	0%	



## Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee

Wednesday, 24 July 2024

<b>REPORT TITLE:</b>	<b>BUDGET MONITORING AND BUDGET SETTING PROCESSES</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>DIRECTOR OF FINANCE</b>

### REPORT SUMMARY

This report sets out how the 2024/25 budget will be monitored through the Committee system, which will facilitate the Policy and Services Committees (the Committees) to take ownership of their specific budgets and present appropriate challenge and scrutiny of Officers on the management and performance of those budgets.

The concurrent activity of budget setting for 2025/26, and how this will be approached, is also set out in this report; incorporated in which are:

- revisions to the approved Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) – the formulation of savings proposals and presentation of pressure/growth items
- the application of the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) principles that underpin the budget process and decision-making, with links to the Council Plan
- how savings plans are to be configured
- considerations of requisite consultation exercises
- the role of the Finance Working Group

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

### RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee:

1. Note the process for in-year monitoring of the 2024/25 budget.
2. Note the proposed approach to 2025/26 budget setting and the key assumptions that will be used.

## **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

### **1.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1.1 The 2024/25 Council budget was agreed at Full Council on 26 February 2024. This budget was made up of savings proposals, pressures/growth items and funding that were based on actual known figures or best estimates available at the time. At any point during the year, these estimated figures could change and need to be monitored closely to ensure, if adverse, mitigating actions can be taken immediately to ensure a balanced budget can be reported to the end of the year.
- 1.2 The Council has a legal responsibility to set an annual balanced budget, which sets out how financial resources are to be allocated and utilised. In order to successfully do so, engagement with members, staff and residents is undertaken. The recommendations in this report inform that approach.
- 1.3 Managing and setting a budget will require difficult decisions to ensure that a balanced position can be presented. Regular Member engagement, which this report forms part of, is considered essential in delivering effective governance and financial oversight.

### **2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 2.1 The proposals set out in this report are presented to allow for efficient and effective budget monitoring activity that can be conducted in a timely manner. As such, it is considered that to meet the business needs and address the challenges that the Council faces that no alternative options are viable or appropriate at this time.
- 2.2 Not engaging with the Committee at this time, on the matters set out, was an option that was available, however it is considered that involvement of Committees as soon as practical after the agreement of the 2024/25 budget will best assist in delivering the benefits detailed in paragraph 2.1.
- 2.3 In the event of the Section 151 Officer determining that a balanced financial position could not be presented, the Section 151 Officer would be required to issue a section 114 notice and report this to all Members of Full Council. The outcome of which could result in intervention by the Government.

### **3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

#### **Budget Monitoring Process**

- 3.1 On 26 February 2024 Full Council approved the 2024/25 budget, which included significant budget savings/efficiencies (details provided at Appendix A) in order to present a balanced position for the year.
- 3.2 The calculation of the 2024/25 budget was prepared using known figures or best estimates available at the time. At any point during the year, internal or external factors may influence a change in these estimates which could either have a

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

- 3.3 In order to ensure that a balanced position can be achieved, it is imperative that a robust process for monitoring and managing the budget is in place.
- 3.4 An internal officer governance process is in place, in line with past activity, to scrutinise and challenge budget performance in advance of financial forecasts being presented to the Committees. This process includes:
- Officers responsible for managing budgets (Budget Holders) should regularly examine financial data and transaction records within the Oracle finance system to ensure their accuracy and completeness.
  - Budget Holders and finance staff should convene frequent meetings to rigorously assess current income and expenditure levels, as well as determine future financial obligations. This analysis will facilitate the provision of dependable forecasts within the Oracle EPM finance system.
  - Directorate Management Team (DMT) review of the outcomes of the budget holder and finance staff meetings.
  - Scrutiny and challenge by DMTs as to the robustness of the figures and forecast presented in the context of Directorate-wide activity.
  - DMT agreement on appropriate remedial action where necessary.
  - Operational Performance Group (OPG) review and challenge of the forecast position.
  - Progress on approved savings items monitored through OPG.
  - Regular updates to Strategic Leadership Team for Senior Officer scrutiny and agreement on latest Council financial position.
  - Referral and/or escalation to SLT of potential financial pressures to provide organisational oversight in conjunction with other corporate initiatives.
  - Presentation to Committees.
- 3.5 To facilitate an understanding of income and expenditure levels against operational activities, Appendix B of this report provides the Committee with a detailed breakdown of their 2024/25 budgetary status, organised by functional area.
- 3.6 Once the Annual Budget and related policy framework is approved, it becomes the Council's decision and is effective immediately in respect of the relevant financial year in scope. The Council's Constitution provides that Policy and Service Committees and Officers are required to implement the Council's budget and policy framework as set out at Budget Council. In normal operating conditions, a Policy and Service Committee may only take decisions which are fully consistent with the Council approved budget and policy framework. Chief Officers must ensure that no commitments are made that would result in an approved budget being exceeded.
- 3.7 Each Committee will be responsible for:
- Ensuring that the committee budget is utilised effectively and responsibly and remains within the relevant budget envelope,
  - Implementing corrective measures, when appropriate, to address any adverse financial situations that may arise during the fiscal year. Such actions could include curtailing expenditure or reassessing spending priorities.

- 3.8 Policy and Resources Committee will be responsible for ensuring that the entire budget will be in balance, including providing mitigating actions to bring the budget back in line from any adverse variance position that may be forecast, which may take the form of providing direction to other Service Committees. Policy and Resources Committee will be responsible for advising Full Council on organisation-wide financial activity.
- 3.9 To enable the Committees to manage and monitor budgets effectively in-year, a suite of detailed information will be provided on a quarterly basis, comprising:
- A report monitoring the revenue budget, including the most recent full-year financial forecast and evaluation.
  - Full list of budget savings proposals and the progress for their achievement.
  - A report monitoring the capital budget, including the most recent full-year financial forecast and evaluation.
  - Other specific financial information relevant to the individual committee's decision-making process.
- 3.10 This information will be made available at the earliest committee meeting, following the quarter end and completion of the internal governance process, detailed in paragraph 3.4. The anticipated timetable for reporting quarterly financial information to committee is:
- Quarter 1 (1 Apr – 30 Jun): July 24
  - Quarter 2 (1 Jul – 30 Sep): November 24
  - Quarter 3 (1 Oct – 31 Dec): February 25
  - Quarter 4 (1 Jan – 31 Mar): June 25
- 3.11 Each Committee should have established a Budget Oversight Panel to facilitate regular space to review the budget position in between scheduled committee meetings during stages of the financial year.
- 3.12 The Budget Oversight Panel will comprise the Committee Chair and Spokespersons, the relevant Director and Assistant Directors (as required), Finance and Democratic Service representative.
- 3.13 The purpose of this group is to:-
- Ensure that Members are receiving the most current financial data and are monitoring the budget throughout the year.
  - Question the Director on implications of the financial data ahead of the scheduled Committee meeting.
  - Seek further information from the Director/Assistant Director where necessary.
  - Make reasonable requests for certain additional information to facilitate strategic decision-making.
  - Make links between financial performance and activity, to inform decision-making of the Committee.
  - Inform the process of efficiency target setting and monitor performance against delivery of efficiency targets agreed.
- 3.14 The Committees have the autonomy (subject to delegation levels) to enact budget virements (transfers) from one function to another within their overall committee



budget envelope. Virements will also need to be agreed by the Section 151 Officer as there are certain conditions where budgets are not allowed to be transferred for the purposes of gaining a specific benefit.

- 3.15 The Committees will be responsible for containing net expenditure within their overall budget envelope and not overspending. Where an adverse variance is forecast, each committee will be required to take remedial action, with detailed plans and timeframes, to bring the budget back in line and ensure that overspends are mitigated. Where a committee has taken all possible steps for remedial action and is unable to fully mitigate an overspend, this must be reported to the Policy and Resources Committee who will then take an organisational-wide view of how this adverse variance will be managed. There must be immediate action agreed to ensure a deliverable, balanced forecast position can be reported, and this will be monitored on a regular basis by the Policy and Resources Committee.
- 3.16 Whilst each committee is required to remain within its annual budget envelope, situations may transpire that demonstrate an in-year favourable forecast variance being reported to a Committee. Committees wishing to use any forecast underspend, must have approval from the P&R Committee.
- 3.17 The Council must not be in a situation where one Committee is forecasting an overspend, unable to mitigate it, and another Committee is forecasting an underspend and takes a decision to utilise this for unplanned growth purposes. The Policy and Resources Committee will be responsible for ensuring that operating in silos does not occur and that resources are aligned to Council objectives at all times.
- 3.18 The Policy and Resources Committee has ultimate responsibility for taking any necessary steps required to ensure a whole Council budget can report a balanced position throughout the year. The Section 151 Officer, in consultation with the Monitoring Officer, will be responsible for ensuring that any budget actions, proposals and mitigations are achievable and legal.
- 3.19 The Finance Working Group will meet to support the Policy and Resources Committee in its aims of providing strategic direction to the operation of the Council, to maintain a strategic overview of budgets and to provide a coordinating role across all other service committees through a 'whole council view' of budget monitoring.

## **Budget Setting Process**

- 3.20 The process for setting the budget for 2025/26 will commence immediately, building on the MTFP that was approved by Full Council on 26 February, as recommended by Policy and Resources Committee.
- 3.21 The most recent version of the MTFP contains a number of financial pressures and savings for 2025/26 (and beyond) that illustrate a budget gap of £3.191m. The budget setting process will need to close the budget gap, which will fluctuate during 2024/25 subject to further information and analysis of potential financial pressures as well as obtaining clarity on government and other funding available to the Council.
- 3.22 Included within the MTFP for 2025/26 is a suite of proposals for consideration in the proposed budget setting process. Officers will develop business cases for these proposals which will be shared with the regular committee Budget Oversight Panel meetings, concurrently serving as budget workshops for the Committees.
- 3.23 The budget workshops, a number of which will be convened between now and August in line with individual committee requirements, will allow current budget intelligence to be reviewed, challenged and modified. In order to close the budget gap, it will be necessary to consider a number of approaches, which will include:
- reviewing budget pressures with the aim of reducing them
  - reviewing income streams to ensure that maximum benefits are being obtained and that achievable targets are set.
  - reviewing opportunities for budget efficiencies and savings
- 3.24 It is considered vital that clear direction is given by Policy & Resources Committee to each Committee in respect of their budget setting objectives. To facilitate this, it is recommended that budget envelopes are constructed for each Committee to work to in order to provide a framework and clear goals to the approaches noted in paragraph 3.22. These envelopes will take account of the work of the change programme and any justifiable budgetary pressures or additional factors that necessitate strategic management and mitigation. The Finance Working Group will play a key role in this process.
- 3.25 The methodology for constructing budget envelopes will follow the convention adopted for 2024/25, whereby MTFP principles were aligned to Directorate activity through targets that:
- Will produce a balanced budget and MTFP.
  - Prioritise statutory services and objectives in line with the Council Plan
  - Ensure that non-statutory services that are not supporting statutory services will be delivered only where there is no net cost to the Council.
  - Facilitate a strengthening of our reserves to ensure we have funds for the future to support the Council Plan
  - Demonstrate an appropriate approach to corporate risk.
- 3.26 Each Committee, via the budget workshops, will be accountable for identifying, developing and agreeing reductions in pressures and deliverable savings proposals to close the 2025/26 budget gap and ensure a draft balanced budget can be considered by the Policy & Resources Committee in November 2024, to enable

budget consultation to start in a timely manner. See Appendix C for a flow chart of the process for the 2025/26 budget and timeline.

3.27 In developing budget proposals, and reviewing budget activity, each Committee must adhere to the MTFS guiding principles, including the overarching principle that all investment and savings decisions will be aligned to the priorities within the Council Plan:

1. Fees & Charges will be reviewed annually and adjusted for inflation, regulatory guidance, and competitiveness. When setting charges, the impact on vulnerable groups will be considered.
2. Capital decisions will be based upon strong business cases, taking account of invest to save principles where appropriate. Whole life capital financing costs impacting the net revenue position of the Council will be fully considered and reflected in the MTFP.
3. Service level spend will be benchmarked with suitable peer groups and regularly reviewed to ensure the principle of an efficient Council is being achieved.
4. The Council will maximise the opportunities from automation and a policy of 'Digital First' in service delivery.
5. Service reviews will be undertaken Council wide within the timeframe of the MTFS. This will ensure that operating models, organisational design and costs are subject to regular reviews and adjustment.
6. Service development, savings, and investment will be brought forward based on business cases that must demonstrate alignment to the Corporate Plan, feasibility, deliverability and value for money.
7. The Council will consult with stakeholders across the borough in forming budget proposals.
8. The Council will review alternate delivery models and seek joint working and management initiatives with regional and other partners to align to the Wirral Plan.
9. The Council will continually review its Earmarked Reserves for appropriateness and purpose. Unearmarked reserves will be brought to a level of 5% of net expenditure by 2026/27.
10. Given the challenging financial position of the Council and the need to maintain key statutory services. The Council will seek to maximise receipts from all funding streams, including Council Tax over the period of the MTFS.

3.28 Further to these guiding principles the following specific key assumptions will be used for the initial formulation of 2025/26 budget figures:

- Council Tax increase of 2.99% (1.99% general fund 1% Social Care Precept)
- A minimum 3% inflation increase within social care services (largely linked to RLW).
- 2% Increase in pay costs
- 2% Contract inflation.
- Levies to be increased in line with levying body forecasts.
- £2m contribution to the general reserves
- The financial pressures faced by the Adults and Children's Directorates must be addressed within their existing budgetary allocations, supplemented by any funding increases derived from the social care precept and any other additional grant funding enhancements.

- Any funding gap for the BCD will be met from the WGC profits in year.
- Remaining Budget Gap will be bridged from savings identified via Change Programme and Strategic Transformation activity.

## **4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 This report sets out the 2024/25 budget monitoring process and 2025/26 budget setting process and has no direct financial implications. The outcome of the processes will, if not adhered to or a suitable alternative process agreed, will have significant financial implications. However, the proposals set out control environments and a timeline of activity deemed necessary as part of sound financial management regime.
- 4.2 If the annual budget cannot be balanced, this may result in a Section 114 report being issued by the Section 151 Officer - once issued there are immediate constraints on spending whereby no new expenditure is permitted, with the exception of that funding statutory services, including safeguarding vulnerable people, however other existing commitments and contracts can continue to be honoured.
- 4.3 The Council delivers both statutory and non-statutory services at present – the requirement to eliminate subsidies provided to non-statutory services is considered to be a key requirement in delivering value for money and ensuring that finite resources are targeted on beneficial outcomes.
- 4.4 The Financial Management Code requires the Council to demonstrate that the processes they have in place satisfy the principles of good financial management, based on the following six principles:
- Organisational Leadership – demonstrating a clear strategic direction based on a vision in which financial management is embedded into organisation culture.
  - Accountability – based on Medium-Term Financial Planning, that derives the annual budget process supported by effective risk management, quality supporting data and whole life costs.
  - Financial management - undertaken with transparency at its core using consistent, meaningful and understandable data, reported frequently with evidence of periodic officer actions and elected member decision making.
  - Professional standards - Adherence to professional standards is promoted by the leadership team and is evidenced.
  - Assurance - sources of assurance are recognised as an effective tool mainstreamed into financial management, including political scrutiny and the results of external audit, internal audit and inspection.
  - Sustainability - The long-term sustainability of local services is at the heart of all financial management processes and is evidenced by prudent use of public resources.

## **5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The Policy and Resources Committee, in consultation with the respective Policy and Service Committees, has been charged by Council to formulate a draft Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) and budget to recommend to the Council.

- 5.2 The Council must set the budget in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and approval of a balanced budget each year is a statutory responsibility of the Council. Sections 25 to 29 of the Local Government Act 2003 impose duties on the Council in relation to how it sets and monitors its budget. These provisions require the Council to make prudent allowance for the risk and uncertainties in its budget and regularly monitor its finances during the year. The legislation leaves discretion to the Council about the allowances to be made and action to be taken.
- 5.3 Once a budget is in place, Council has delegated responsibility to the Policy and Services Committees to implement it. The Committees **may not within, normal business operating conditions**, act contrary to the Budget without consent of Council other than in accordance with the Procedure Rules set out at Part 4(3) of the Constitution.
- 5.4 It is essential, as a matter of prudence that the financial position continues to be closely monitored. In particular, Members must satisfy themselves that sufficient mechanisms are in place to ensure both that agreed savings are delivered and that new expenditure is contained within the available resources. Accordingly, any proposals put forward must identify the realistic measures and mechanisms to produce those savings.

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

- 6.1 At this time, there are no additional resource implications. There may be resource requirements of any action resulting in remedial or mitigating tasks if an adverse forecast is reported with regards the 2024/25 budget in year, however these will be reported at the appropriate time.

## **7.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

- 7.1 The Council's ability to maintain a balanced budget is dependent on a proactive approach due to estimated figures being provided in the calculation for the budget, albeit the best estimates available at the time, plus any amount of internal and external factors that could impact on the budget position in year. Examples of which are new legislation, increased demand, loss of income, increased funding, decreased funding, inability to recruit to posts, etc.
- 7.2 A robust monitoring and management process for the budget is in place. If at any time during the year an adverse position is forecast, remedial action must be agreed and implemented immediately to ensure the budget can be brought back to balanced position.
- 7.3 The risk of this not being able to be achieved could mean that the Council does not have enough funding to offset its expenditure commitments for the year and therefore not be able to report a balanced budget at the end of the year. This could result in the Section 151 Officer issuing a Section 114 notice.

- 7.4 A key risk to the Council's financial plans is that funding and demand assumptions in particular can change as more information becomes available. As such, the MTFP is regularly reviewed and updated as part of routine financial management.
- 7.5 Under the system of retained Business Rates, Authorities benefit from a share of any increased revenues but are liable for at least a share of any falls in income (subject to safety net triggers) and any non-collection. This includes reductions arising from appeals relating to past years which partially fall on the Authority. These risks are mitigated through a combination of the operation of the Collection Fund and General Fund Balances.
- 7.6 Assumptions have been made in the current budget outlook for income and funding from business rates and council tax and social care grants as the main sources of funding. If there is an adverse change to these assumptions as a result of government announcements, additional savings proposals or reduced expenditure would need to be identified as soon as possible to ensure a balanced five-year MTFP can be achieved. Committees will be kept updated with any announcements regarding the local government finance settlement through the year.
- 7.7 Sections 25 to 29 of the Local Government Act 2003 impose duties on the Council in relation to how it sets and monitors its budget. These provisions require the Council to make prudent allowance for the risk and uncertainties in its budget and regularly monitor its finances during the year. The legislation leaves discretion to the Council about the allowances to be made and action to be taken.

## **8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION**

- 8.1 Consultation has been carried out with the Senior Leadership Team in arriving at the governance process for the budget monitoring and setting processes.

## **9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 Wirral Council has a legal requirement to make sure its policies, and the way it carries out its work, do not discriminate against anyone. An Equality Impact Assessment is a tool to help council services identify steps they can take to ensure equality for anyone who might be affected by a particular policy, decision or activity.
- 9.2 There are no specific equality implications of this report regarding processes, however, it is recognised that some of the developing proposals for budgets could have equality implications. Any implications will be considered and any negative impacts will be mitigated where possible.
- 9.3 Equality implications will be assessed during planning, decision and implementation stages and will be recognised as an ongoing responsibility. Any equality implications will be reported to the Committees. Equality issues will be a conscious consideration and an integral part of the process.

## **10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1 At this time, there are no additional environmental and climate implications as these have already been identified for the proposals agreed and submitted. However,

where the budget is unbalanced and further proposals are required, then there may be environment and climate implications associated with these that will be addressed within the relevant business cases presented to the Committee.

## **11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH IMPLICATIONS**

11.1 This report has no direct community wealth implications however any budget proposals to be developed should take account of related matters across headings such as the following:

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

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## **APPENDICES**

Appendix A Savings agreed at full Council for 2024/25

Appendix B Committee Budget Book details

Appendix C Flow chart of the process for the 2025/26 budget setting.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Pressure and Growth Proposals

Savings and Income Proposals

CIPFA's Financial Management Code

**SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)**

<b>Council Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Full Council</b>	<b>26 February 2024</b>
<b>Policy and Resources Committee Environment, Climate</b>	<b>13 February 2024</b>
<b>Emergency and Transport Committee</b>	<b>29 January 2024</b>
<b>Tourism, Communities, Culture &amp; Leisure Committee</b>	<b>2 February 2024</b>
<b>Children, Young People &amp; Education Committee</b>	<b>1 February 2024</b>
<b>Economy Regeneration &amp; Development Committee</b>	<b>22 January 2024</b>
<b>Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee</b>	<b>23 January 2024</b>
<b>Policy and Resources Committee</b>	<b>8 November 2023</b>
<b>Policy and Resources Committee</b>	<b>4 October 2023</b>



## Appendix A – Savings agreed at full Council for 2024/25

Theme	Option	24/25 Saving (£m)	25/26 Saving (£m)	26/27 Saving (£m)	27/28 Saving (£m)	28/29 Saving (£m)
<b>Committee: Adult Care &amp; Public Health</b>						
Changing how we fund or provide services	Review of Adult Social Care cost-effectiveness	-4.800	-5.040	-5.292	-5.557	-5.668
<b>Committee: Children, Young People &amp; Education</b>						
Increasing Business Efficiencies	Reduction in teachers' pension liabilities	-0.200	-0.075	-0.050	0.000	0.000
	Kingsway PFI buy out	-0.500	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
	Re-organisation of Early Help, Family Support and Social Care into locality teams.	-0.550	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Changing how we fund or provide services	Reduction in looked after children (LAC) numbers	-0.330	-0.439	-0.375	0.000	0.000
	Reducing High Cost Residential Care	-1.100	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
	Promoting Independence	-0.300	-0.200	0.000	0.000	0.000
<b>Committee: Economy, Regeneration &amp; Housing</b>						
Increasing Business Efficiencies	Implementation of Corporate Landlord model.	-0.050	-0.250	-0.120	0.000	0.000
<b>Committee: Tourism, Communities Culture &amp; Leisure</b>						
Changing how we fund or provide services	Active Wirral Strategy	0.000	-1.000	-2.000	0.000	0.000
	Review library provision and location of Birkenhead and Wallasey libraries.	0.000	-0.250	0.000	0.000	0.000
	Floral Pavilion	-1.300	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
<b>Committee: Policy &amp; Resources</b>						
Increasing Income	Increase in Fees and Charges	-0.750	-0.600	-0.450	-0.450	-0.450
Increasing Business Efficiencies	Enabling Services	-2.160	-2.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
	Cease subsidised traded services.	-0.350	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
<b>TOTAL SAVINGS</b>		<b>-12.390</b>	<b>-9.854</b>	<b>-8.287</b>	<b>-6.007</b>	<b>-6.118</b>

# Appendix B Committee Budget Details

Budget Book Contents:

- A. Introduction and 2024-25 Budget summary
- B. Service area summary narratives
- C. Key Priorities for 2024-25
- D. 2024-25 Subjective and Objective Budgets
- E. Capital Budgets
- F. Reserves
- G. Agreed Savings 2024/25

## A. Introduction and 2024/25 Budget summary

### **Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee 2024/25 Budgets**

The Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee is responsible for the following areas:

- The provision of Leisure centres including indoor and outdoor activities at Council facilities across the borough.
- Libraries, Museums and Theatres
- The provision of Community Patrol and Antisocial behaviour service
- Council emergency planning
- Running the Transport Depot and providing transport for vulnerable children and adults

The Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee provides a wide range of frontline services for local residents. This includes Library services and the broad leisure and cultural offer which comprises a range of leisure facilities for indoor and outdoor activity, including swimming and municipal golf, the Floral Pavilion theatre, Williamson Art Gallery, The Priory, and the Heritage Tramway.

The tables below breakdown and explain the financial resources available to the Committee in 2024/25.

# Appendix B Committee Budget Details

## Revenue Budgets

Revenue Budgets are the monies the Council allocates for its day-to-day expenditure. It is the amount of money the Council requires to provide its services during the year. Table 1 below, highlights how the revenue budgets are allocated across the various Service Areas relevant to the Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee.

**TABLE 1 2024/25 Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee Budget**

Service Area	Budget
Coroners	£830,000
Estate and Facilities Management - Cleaning	£112,935
Leisure, Libraries and Customer Engagement	£9,472,114
Neighbourhood Safety & Transport	£1,793,453
Neighbourhoods Management Team	£416,431
Parks and Environment	£1,815,882
Culture and Visitor Economy	£412,868
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>£14,853,683</b>

# Appendix B Committee Budget Details

## B. Service area summary narratives

### **Estate and Facilities Management - Cleaning**

Toilets excluding those based in Parks.

### **Leisure, Libraries, Customer Engagement and Theatre**

The Leisure, Libraries and Theatre service carries out many types of functions as set out below:

- Provision of 15 Libraries providing support for community groups and facilities such as ICT. A new model has been implemented since November 2023, which resulted in the re-provision of 9 sites. Some of these are still part of the Community Asset Transfer process which is currently underway.
- Provision of 2 Golf sites. The remaining 2 closed sites are linked to ongoing Community Asset Transfer proposals.
- Provision of 6 Leisure Centres plus West Kirby Marine Lake along with various grant funded projects which benefit vulnerable groups.
- Floral Pavilion Theatre which also provides support for community groups and a catering facility which is being developed to maximise income generation.
- Museums Service which includes Williamson Art Gallery and Birkenhead Priory
- One Stop Shops and Customer Contact Centre

### **Neighbourhood Safety**

Neighbourhood Safety is responsible for the following areas:

- 24/7 CCTV Control Room
- Emergency Planning
- Community Patrol Service
- Prevention of Anti-Social Behaviour
- Neighbourhood Engagement Service
- Coastal and Inland Water Safety
- Collaboration with partnership agencies to work on joint funded projects.

### **Cross Cutting and Neighbourhoods Management Team**

- This area relates to the budget associated with the Neighbourhoods Management Team and cross cutting functions.

### **Regulatory Services**

- Trading Standards
- Environmental Health

### **Culture and Visitor Economy**

This area reports to the Regeneration and Place Directorate and is responsible for the following:

- Marketing and promotion of the borough to attract visitors.

## Appendix B Committee Budget Details

- Promotion of cultural events which will contribute to the regeneration of the borough and will assist in boosting the economy and encourage inward investment.

# Appendix B Committee Budget Details

## C. Key Priorities for 2024-25

### **Leisure, Libraries and Theatre**

The Active Wirral Programme: Transforming a number of Neighbourhood services to promote independence and healthier lives, delivering better outcomes for residents through more efficient and effective services. To develop a whole system approach to enabling our communities to be physically & mentally active.

The programme will include the following projects.

- Sport and Physical Activity Model
- Leisure Service Review
- Floral Pavilion – Future Model
- Library Service – Future Model

It is intended that this programme will shape organisational objectives and related strategies, policies and investment.

### **Neighbourhood Safety**

The Council signed up to deliver the outcomes laid out in Wirral's Community Safety Strategy 2021-25 which was endorsed by Full Council in January 2022. The strategy was co-produced using the following principles:

- A public health approach: Focus on early intervention and prevention, and the wider determinants of crime and community safety, including social inequalities, employment, skills, health, housing and environment.
- Resident engagement: Work with the local community to understand local priorities and develop an approach that is responsive and effective in increasing feelings of safety.
- Collaboration: Share data and intelligence and work across agencies to facilitate an efficient and effective approach and better targeted interventions.
- Supporting victims: Ensure a focus on victims and strengthen local systems to support victims, reduce repeat victimisation, and recognise that perpetrators of violence can often be victims too.

The Strategy included outcomes laid out against 10 Priority areas and some examples of work to achieve these outcomes include:

- Increasing the amount of public Realm CCTV cameras, increasing public reassurance and increasing the detection of crime.
- Strengthen the effectiveness of the expanding public realm cctv network through the introduction of Video Content Analysis.
- Prioritise the tackling of the most serious criminals who operate in Organised Crime Groups through the Wirral Evolve (Clear, Hold and Build) programme
- The strengthening of the partnership to support the most vulnerable in our society via programmes such as Tackling Modern Slavery, Tackling Hate Crime.

## Appendix B Committee Budget Details

### **Regulatory Services**

Drive behaviour change – re-establish environmental enforcement and public messaging campaigns.

### **Culture and Visitor Economy**

Deliver a Borough of Culture programme which supports people-led regeneration outcomes and increases participation in local activities

## Appendix B Committee Budget Details

### D. 2024/25 Subjective and Objective Budgets

#### TABLE 2 2024/25 Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Subjective Budget

Table 2, below, highlights how the revenue budget is allocated across the various subjective, or types, of expenditure.

Subjective	Budget
<b>INCOME</b>	-£11,965,246
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	
Employee	£17,088,838
Non Pay	£9,730,091
Cost of Care	£0
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>£26,818,929</b>
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>£14,853,683</b>



## Appendix B Committee Budget Details

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

**TABLE 3: 2024/25 Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee – Service budgets (Objective and Subjective combined)**

Directorate	Income	Employee	Non Pay	Cost of Care	Grand Total
<b>Coroners</b>					
Coroners	£0	£0	£830,000	£0	£830,000
<b>Development &amp; Investment</b>					
Estate and Facilities Management - Cleaning	-£31,500	£102,495	£41,940	£0	£112,935
<b>Leisure, Libraries and Customer Engagement</b>					
Customer Contact Centre		£800,654	£16,800	£0	£817,454
Libraries	-£237,300	£2,400,320	£1,015,600	£0	£3,178,620
Museums	-£106,200	£406,294	£144,038	£0	£444,132
One Stop Shops	-£57,800	£887,177	£43,500	£0	£872,877
School Library Services	-£200,000	£96,300	£56,100	£0	-£47,600
Sport & Recreation	-£7,471,529	£6,736,202	£4,266,554	£0	£3,531,227
Theatre	-£3,313,317	£1,706,238	£2,105,598	£0	£498,519
Sports Development	-£0	£164,485	£12,400	£0	£176,885
<b>Neighbourhood Safety &amp; Transport</b>					
Neighbourhood Safety - Operations	-£227,600	£1,369,092	£651,961	£0	£1,793,453
<b>Neighbourhoods Management Team</b>					
Neighbourhoods Management Team	£0	£415,331	£1,100	£0	£416,431
<b>Parks and Environment</b>					
Regulatory Services (Environmental and Trading Standards)	-£320,000	£1,697,482	£438,400	£0	£1,815,882
<b>Regeneration Office</b>					
Culture & Visitor Economy	£0	£306,768	£106,100	£0	£412,868

## Appendix B Committee Budget Details

<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>£-11,965,246</b>	<b>£17,088,838</b>	<b>£9,730,091</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£14,853,683</b>
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### E. CAPITAL BUDGETS

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

**TABLE 4 2024/25 Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee – Capital Budgets**

Capital Scheme	2024/25 Budget £000	2025/26 Budget £000	2026/27 Budget £000	2027/28 Budget £000	2028/29 Budget £000
<b>Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure</b>					
Arts Council Capital LIF	7	0	0	0	0
Ashton Park Lake	48	0	0	0	0
Bebington Oval Facility Upgrade	527	0	0	0	0
Catering Units	53	0	0	0	0
Consolidated Library Works Fund	229	0	0	0	0
Defibrillators	4	0	0	0	0
Fitness Equipment	2	0	0	0	0
Floral Pavilion	33	0	0	0	0
Future Golf - Project 1.1	250	0	0	0	0
Leisure Capital Improvement Programme	470	0	0	0	0
Moreton Youth Club & Library	993	0	0	0	0
New Brighton Gym Equipment	1	0	0	0	0
Pool Covers	10	0	0	0	0
Studio refurbishment Les Mills classes	5	0	0	0	0

## Appendix B Committee Budget Details

Vale Park Toilets	33	0	0	0	0
West Kirby Concourse/Guinea Gap Reception upgrade / improve	351	0	0	0	0
West Kirby Marine Lake/Sailing Centre – accommodation	31	0	0	0	0
Williamson Art Gallery Catalogue	19	0	0	0	0
Williamson Art Gallery Ventilation	96	0	0	0	0
Wirral Tennis Centre - 3G Pitch	355	0	0	0	0
Woodchurch Sports Pavilion	585	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure</b>	<b>4,102</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

## Appendix B Committee Budget Details

### F. Reserves

Earmarked reserves are amounts set aside for specific purposes or projects. Please note that approval from the Policy and Resources Committee is required to contribute to or drawdown from these reserves.

**TABLE 5 2024/25 Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure – Reserve position**

<b>Reserve</b>	<b>Opening Balance £000</b>
Sports Development Reserve	22
Hilbre Island – Legacy	21
Library Donations	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>44</b>

## Appendix B Committee Budget Details

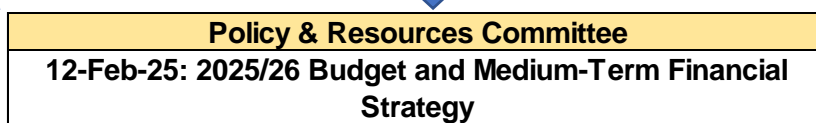
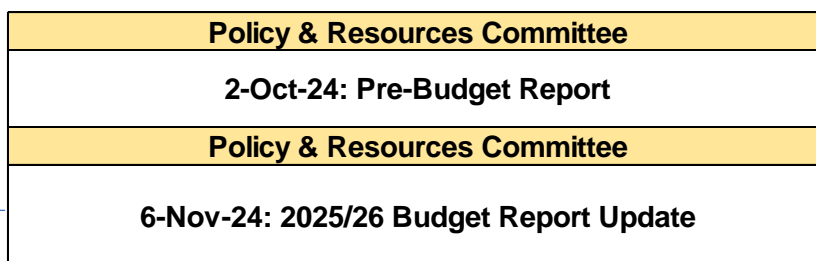
### G. Agreed Savings for 2024/25 for Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee

**TABLE 6 – Agreed savings for 2024/25**

Theme	Option	Description	24/25 Saving (£m)	25/26 Saving (£m)	26/27 Saving (£m)	27/28 Saving (£m)	28/29 Saving (£m)
Changing how we fund or provide services	Active Wirral Strategy	This option builds on the Active Wirral Strategy to review the options for modernising the Council’s existing leisure offer. This will include delivery arrangements, opportunities for greater partner and service integration and an associated investment programme in new or retained facilities to ensure the future provision effectively delivers better outcomes.	0.000	-1.000	-2.000	0.000	0.000
	Review library provision and location of Birkenhead and Wallasey libraries.	This option involves the identification of alternative locations for Birkenhead and Wallasey libraries, potentially as part of an integrated offer with other services.	0.000	-0.250	0.000	0.000	0.000
	Floral Pavilion	This proposal involves pursuing a series of efficiency measures aimed at reducing the net operational costs of the Service. This option also includes, in the medium term, an option to explore an alternative operator for the Floral Pavilion to secure this facility for the future	-1.300	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000

## Appendix C Flow chart for 2025/26 budget setting

Committee	Budget Workshops	Budget Workshop Feedback reported to Committee
Adult Social Care and Public Health	Jul - Aug	15-Oct-24
Children, Young People and Education	Jul - Aug	16-Oct-24
Economy Regeneration and Development	Jul - Aug	14-Oct-24
Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport	Jul - Aug	21-Oct-24
Policy & Resources	Jul - Aug	02-Oct-24
Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure	Jul - Aug	17-Oct-24





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

**Wednesday, 24 July 2024**

<b>REPORT TITLE:</b>	<b>TOURISM, COMMUNITIES, CULTURE AND LEISURE COMMITTEE PERFORMANCE REPORT</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOODS</b>

### **REPORT SUMMARY**

This report provides performance information in relation to Neighbourhoods Services that report to the Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee. The report was designed based on discussion with Members through working group activity in 2021 and discussions in 2022. The arrangement in terms of quarterly reporting is for Community Safety to be reported twice a year to the committee. Other Neighbourhood Services with oversight by the committee will report in the two other quarters of the year.

Monitoring the performance of Neighbourhood Services supports implementation of the Council Plan: Wirral Working Together 2023-27, specifically Theme 6 working together to create safe, resilient, and engaged communities.

This matter affects all Wards within the Borough.

This is not a key decision.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

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

## **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

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

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

### **2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

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

### **3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

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

### **4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

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

### **5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

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

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

- 6.1 There are no resource implications arising from this report.

### **7.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

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



## **8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION**

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

## **9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

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

## **10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS**

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

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

## **11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH IMPLICATIONS**

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

**REPORT AUTHOR:** **Nancy Clarkson**  
Head of Intelligence  
email: [nancyclarkson@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:nancyclarkson@wirral.gov.uk)

## **APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 - Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee. Community Safety Performance Report 2022-23

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Moving Communities: Participation in Public Leisure Facilities [www.movingcommunities.org](http://www.movingcommunities.org)

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

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

## TERMS OF REFERENCE

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

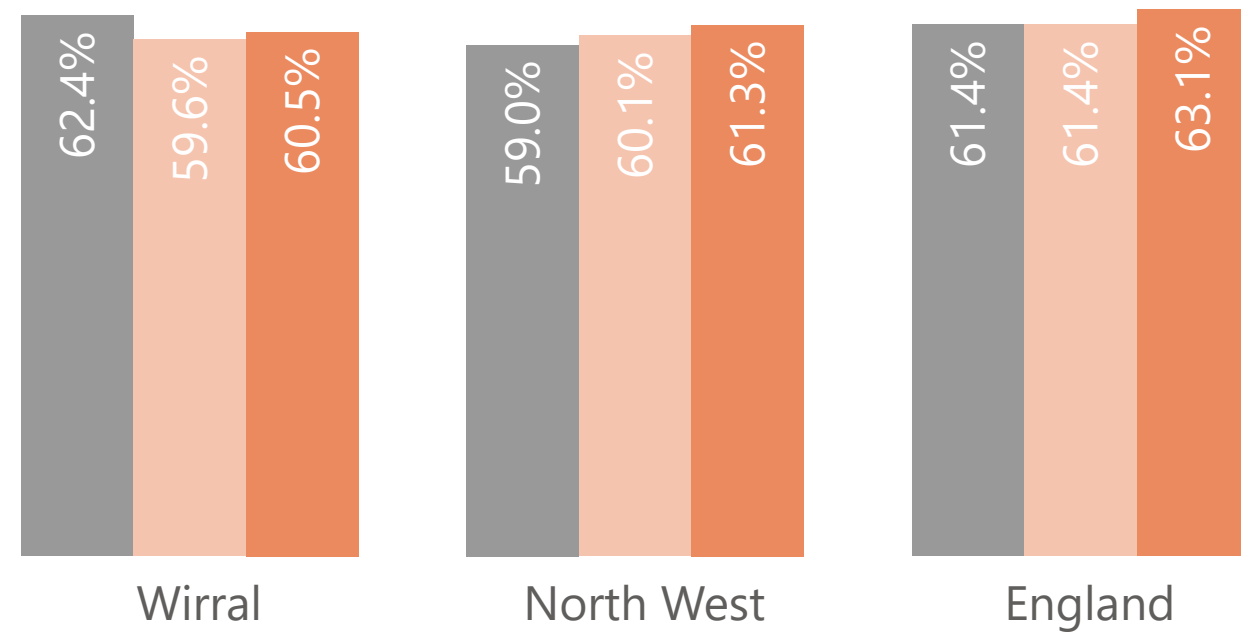
## SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

<b>Council Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>
TOURISM, COMMUNITIES, CULTURE AND LEISURE COMMITTEE	25 July 2023
TOURISM, COMMUNITIES, CULTURE AND LEISURE COMMITTEE	9 March 2023
TOURISM, COMMUNITIES, CULTURE AND LEISURE COMMITTEE	1 December 2022
TOURISM, COMMUNITIES, CULTURE AND LEISURE COMMITTEE	26 July 2022
TOURISM, COMMUNITIES, CULTURE AND LEISURE COMMITTEE	12 October 2021

# Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee report Quarter 4, 2023-2024

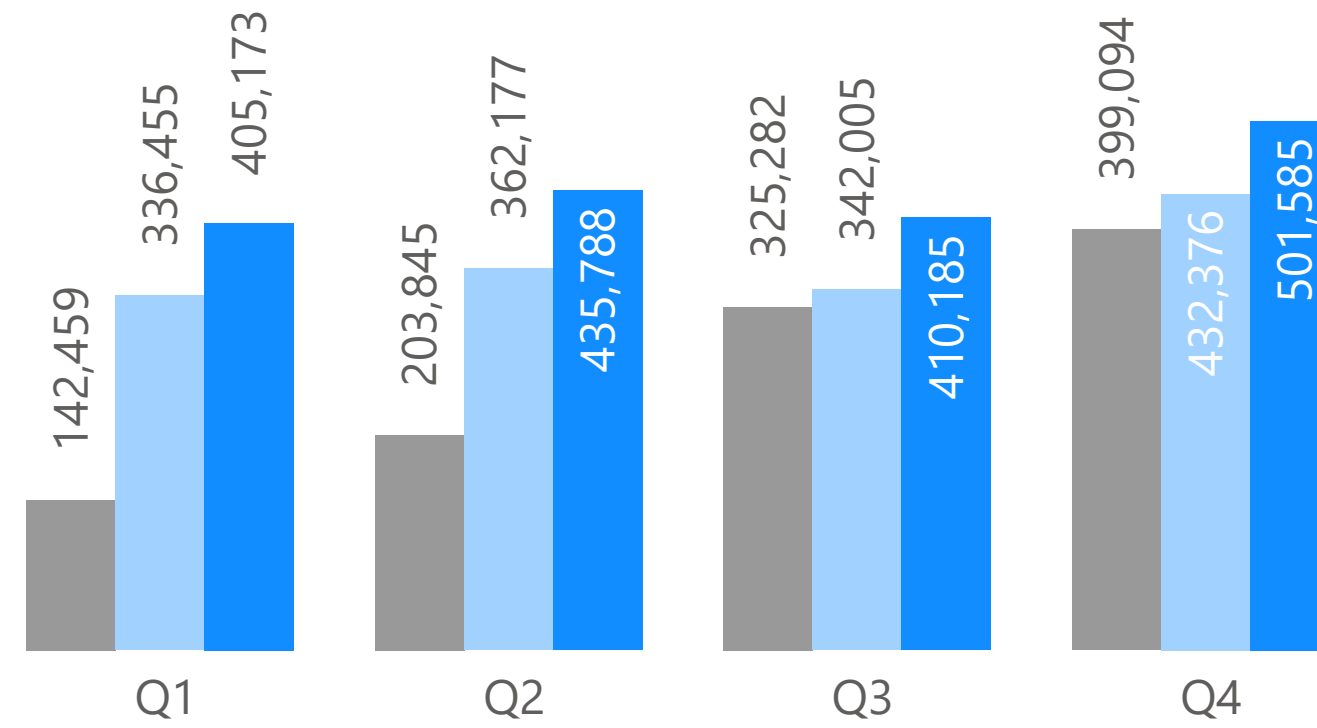
### % of adults who are active

November: ● 2020 ● 2021 ● 2022



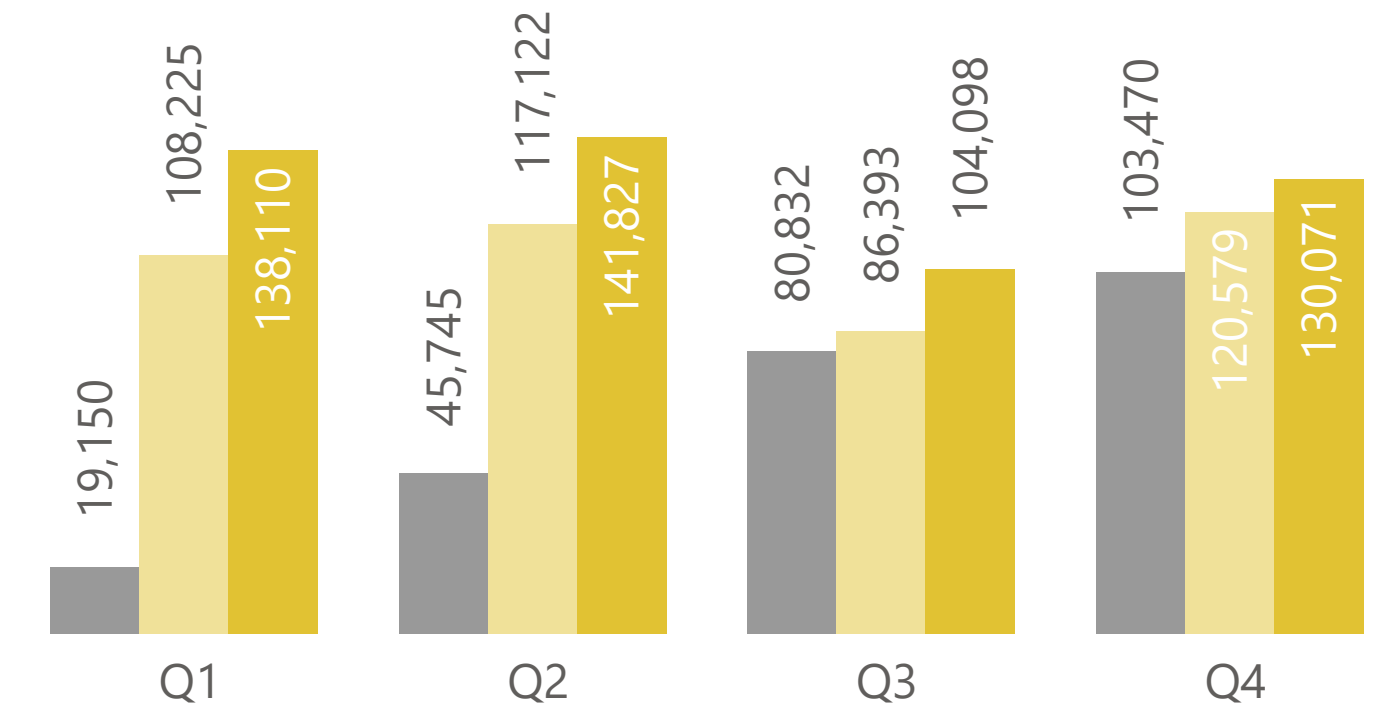
### Participation at leisure sites (heads)

● 2021-22 ● 2022-23 ● 2023-24



### Swimming participation (heads)

● 2021-22 ● 2022-23 ● 2023-24



Active Lives survey: Sport England.  
Adults doing at least 150 minutes per week of moderate intensity equivalent (MIE) physical activity.

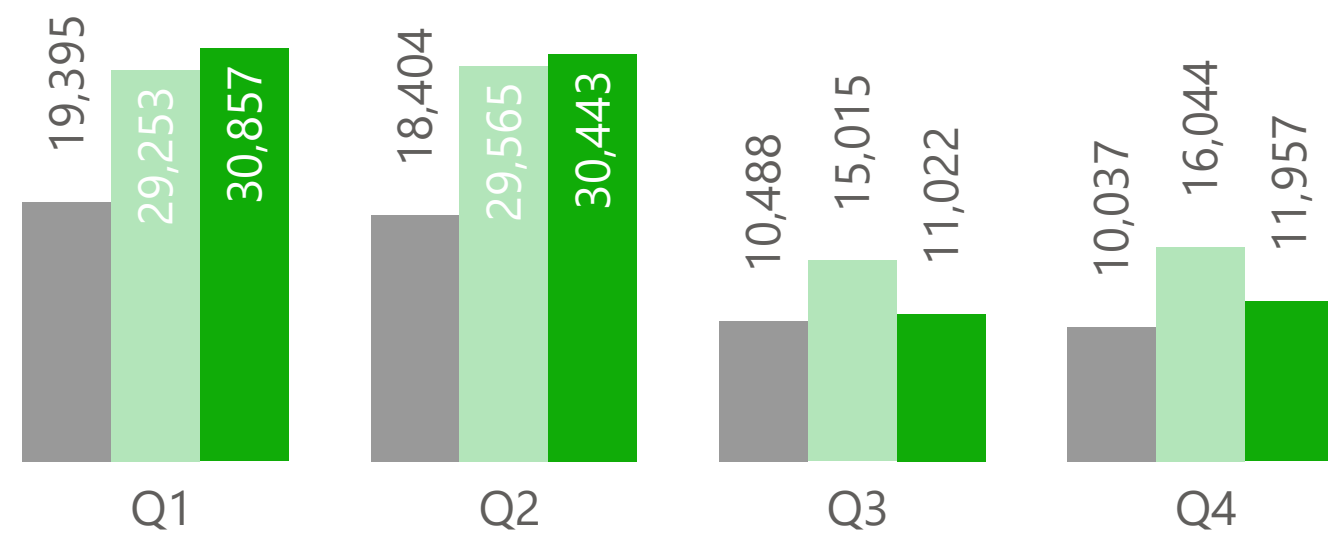
All till transactions, bookings and swiped attendance for a physical activity, gym or fitness class.

Excludes school swimming lessons. Excludes pool based exercise classes.

### Golf participation (heads)

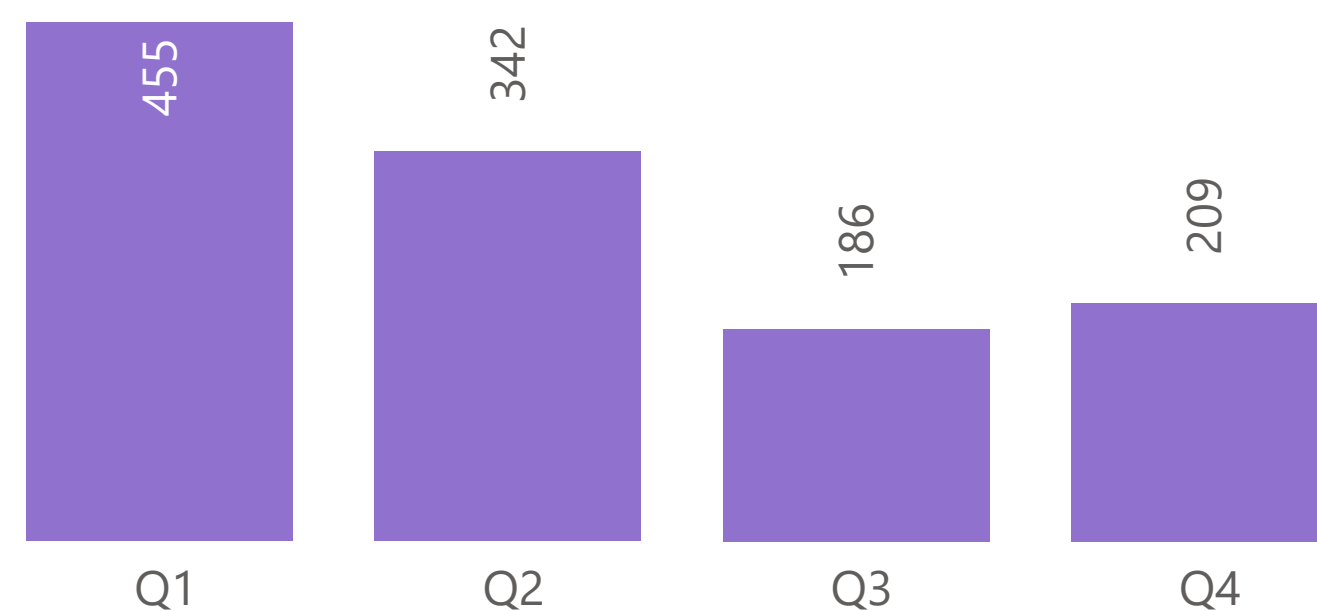
Arrowe Park and The Warrens golf courses

● 2021-22 ● 2022-23 ● 2023-24



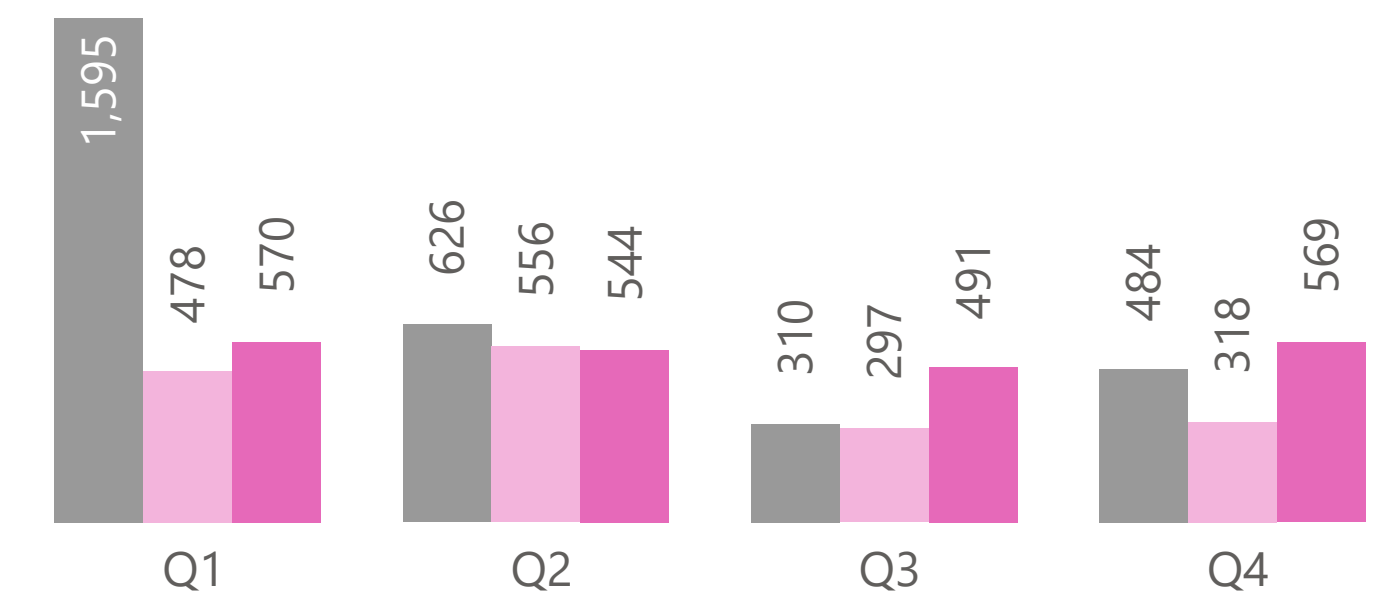
### Lake Licences (number held)

● 2023-24



### Outdoor fitness classes participation (heads)

● 2021-22 ● 2022-23 ● 2023-24



Excludes foot-golf and pitch & putt

Lake Licences; available post April 2023

Outdoor classes such as buggy fit and running clubs.  
Excludes lake/golf course and outdoor courts.

# Bidston Sports and Activity Centre - April 2023 - April 2024

Tennis participation (heads) 2023-24



Tennis court bookings and coaching at Bidston Sports and Activity Centre is managed by our partner Play Point Sports, and as such Tennis participation is reported separately.

### Tournaments

Tournaments	Value
Total number	40
Number of Senior ITF Competitions	1
Number of LTA County Cup Competitions Hosted	4
Highest attended competition (Grade 3)	365

### Inclusive programmes

Inclusive programmes	Value
Weekly wheelchair programme	7
School holiday programmes for children with Autism	17
Number of Inclusive Tennis Festivals	2
Inclusive Tennis Festival attendees	134

### Outreach programmes

Outreach programmes	Value
Number of tennis clubs that access the courts	12
LTA Tennis Foundation Grant (meal and tennis) half term camps - number of children per week	100

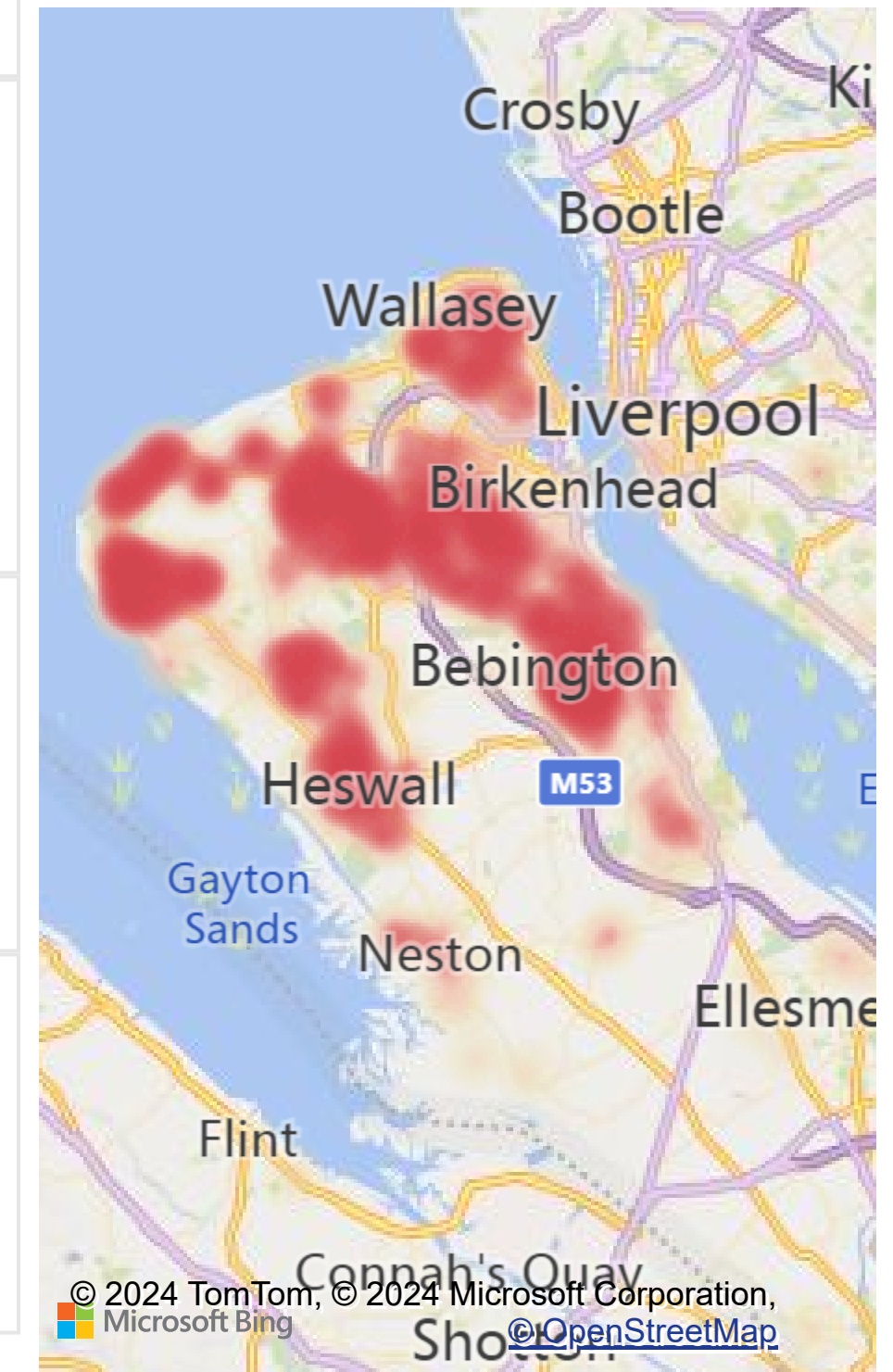
### Outreach programmes

Outreach programmes	Value
Number of children attended	3562
Number schools part of the programme	38
Number of school Roadshows hosted at BSAC	4

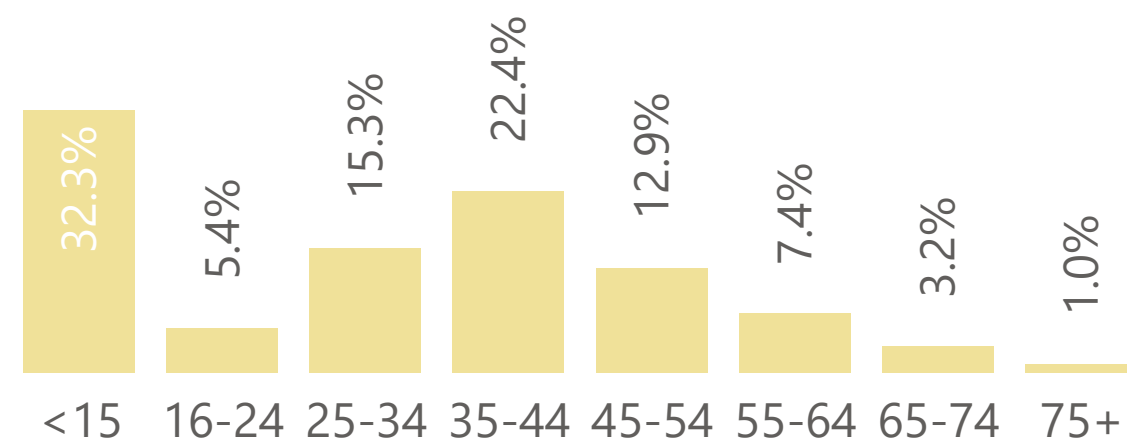
### Outreach programmes

Outreach programmes	Value
Number of Wirral School with Teachers trained to deliver LTA Youth and received £250 equipment voucher	24
Level 1 coaching course delivered, number of participants passing	8

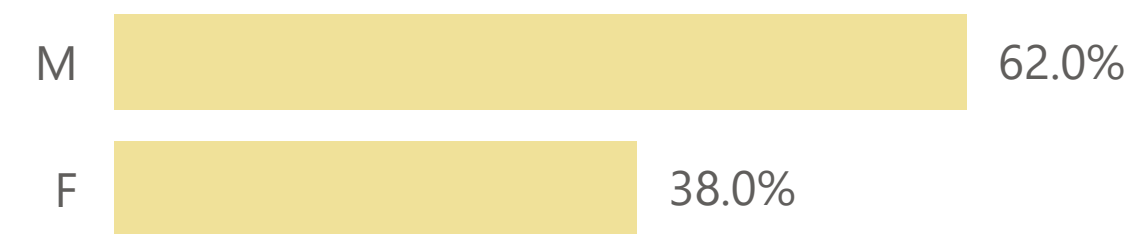
Location of tennis participants (Wirral)



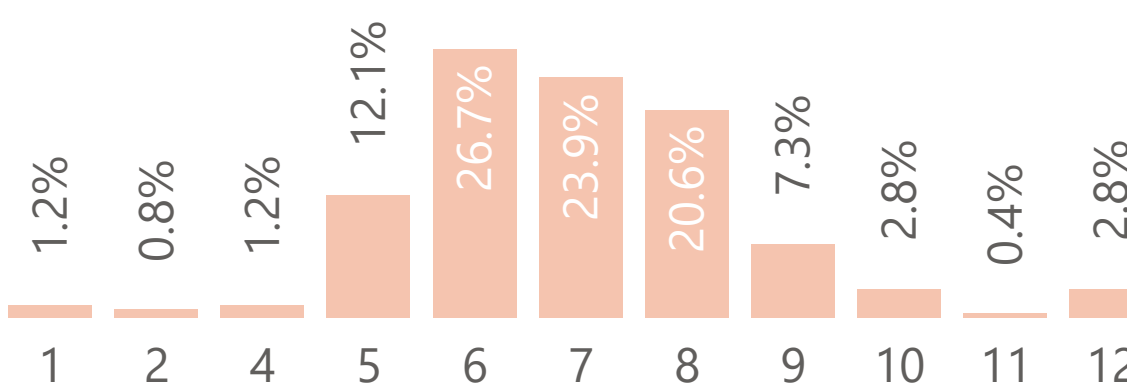
Participation by age group



Participation by gender

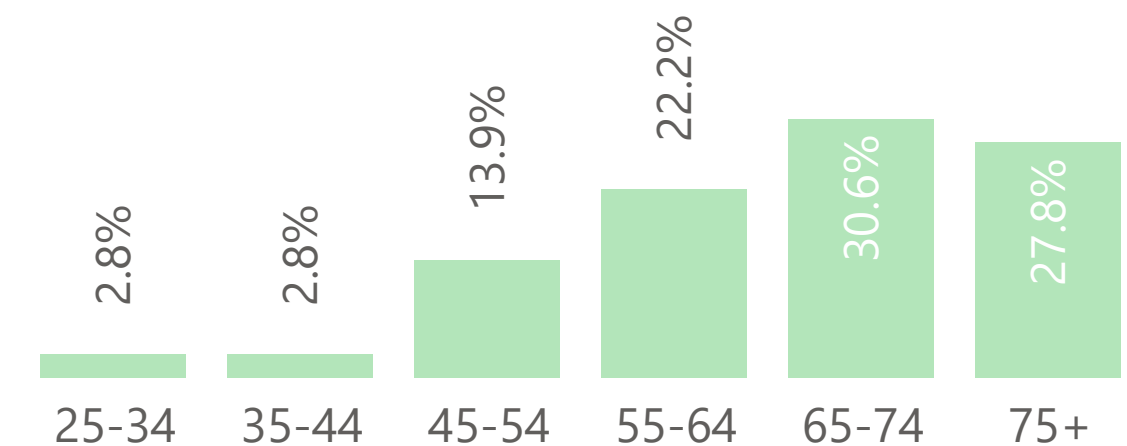


Participation by age (under 15yrs)

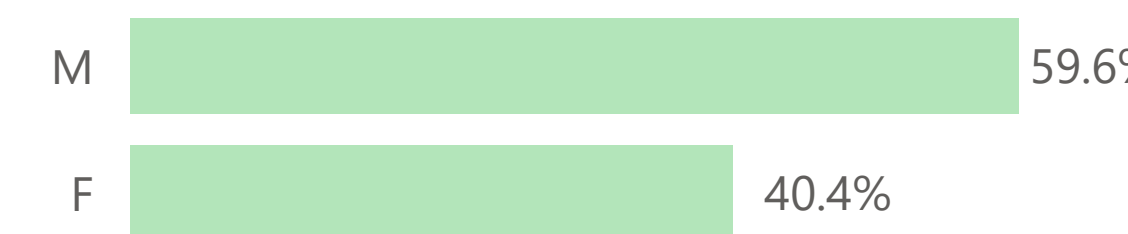


Participation by gender not available

Participation by age group



Participation by gender



Court bookings

Coaching

Social tennis



The Active Wirral **COLLABOR8 Network**, which launched in December 2022, aims to bring organisations and individuals ("Stakeholders") together from across Wirral with the common goal to make sport and physical activity part of everyone's everyday life, and tackle inactivity in Wirral.

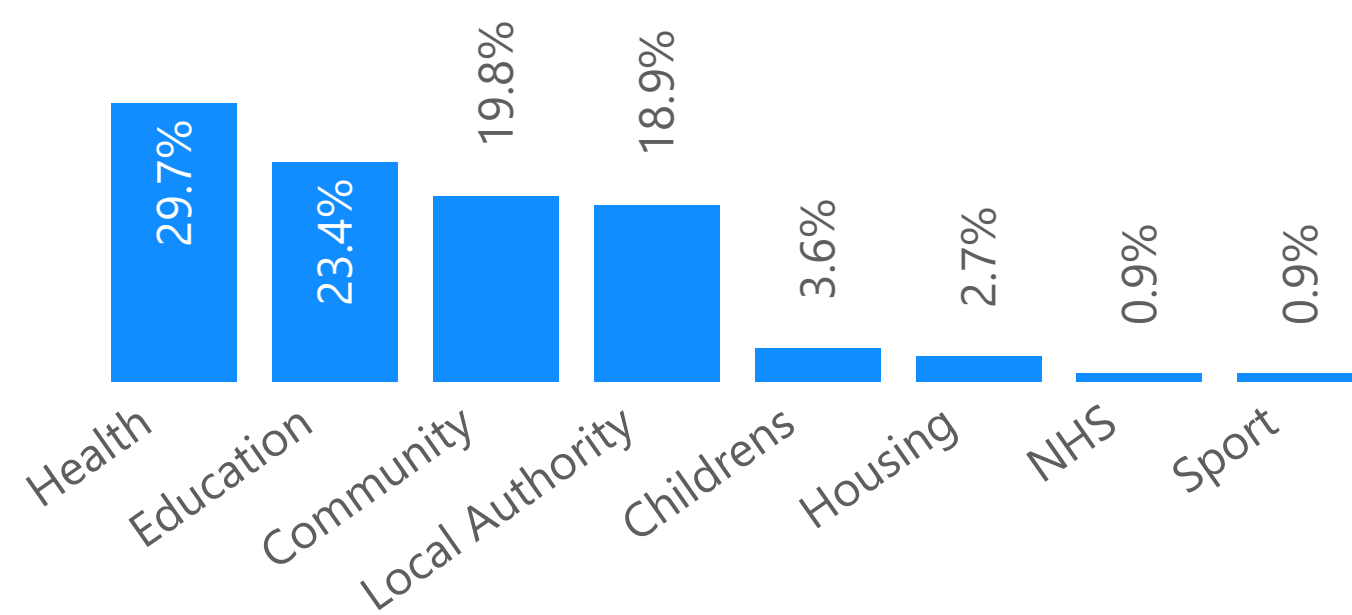
## Total Stakeholders

# 1,167

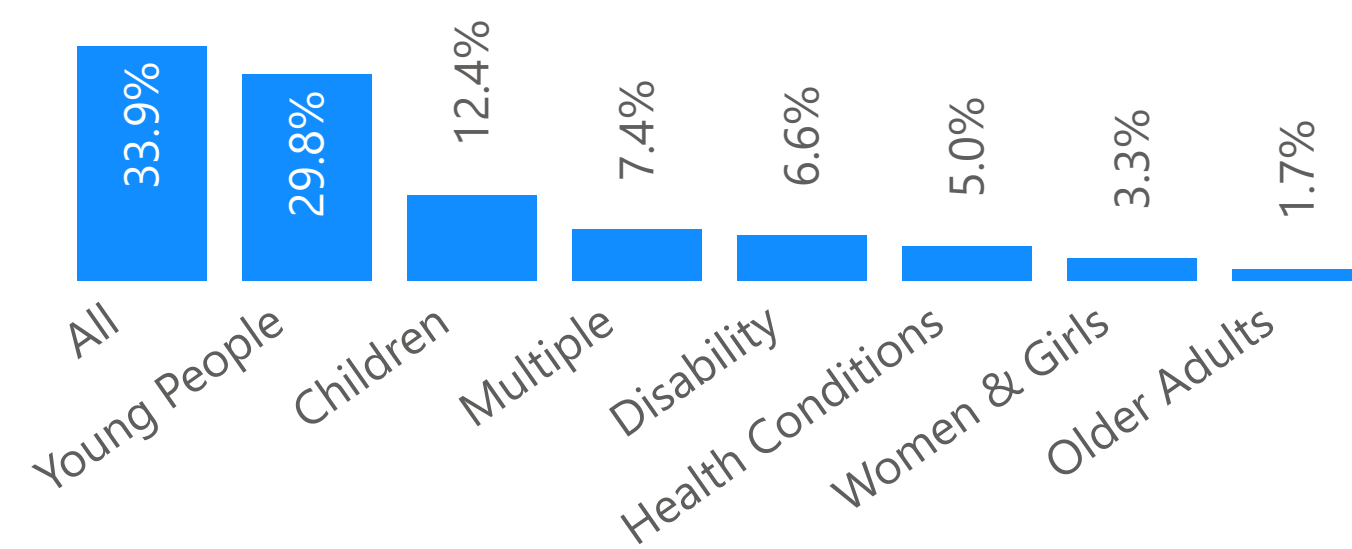
### Geographic influence (ward)

Ward	%
Wirral Wide	71.3%
Birkenhead & Tranmere	7.0%
Bidston & St James	3.5%
Liscard	3.5%
Bebington	2.8%
Cloughton	2.1%
Leasowe & Moreton East	2.1%
Prenton	1.4%
Upton	1.4%
Wallasey	1.4%
West Kirby & Thurstaston	1.4%
Clatterbridge	0.7%
Eastham	0.7%
Heswall	0.7%
Pensby & Thingwall	0.7%

### Stakeholder - Primary Category



### Target audience



The Launch of the Active Wirral **COLLABOR8 Network** took place in December 2022; 100 people attended from 70 organisations to discuss new projects, investment opportunities, gain support and to hear from local community representatives.

**The second annual COLLABOR8 Event took place in early 2024 with 120 people from 80 organisations.**

**Over 2,000 people are part of COLLABOR8.**

Two subgroups formed from the Network Event to look at tackling inequalities for the audiences of older adults and women and girls.

**Women and Girls working group**, currently made up of **24** partner organisations, have met twice to discuss and identify key priorities around women and girls' health and wellbeing.

**'Stay Stronger for Longer'** The older adults group which has a vision to keep the population of Wirral independent through physical activity.

There are **40 partners** involved and they meet every 2 months. The group have defined the objectives as:

- Improving opportunities and access to activities for older adults and those with long term health conditions.
- Working together with health, social care, leisure and voluntary settings to identify needs and opportunities and create an active network.
- To affect a cultural change towards a more positive approach to ageing exercise and activity.

# Active All Sports - Participation

## Total Participants

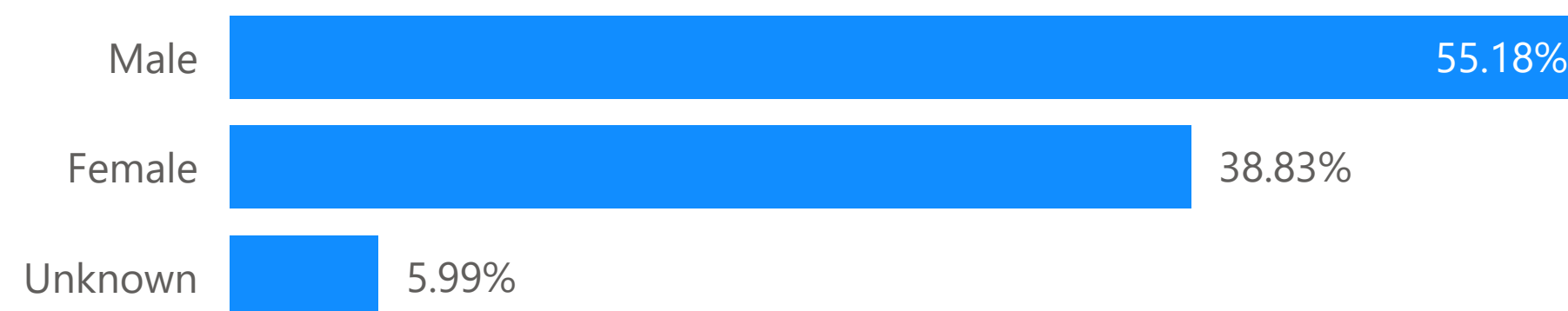
Summer holidays & October Half term 2023

# 1,117

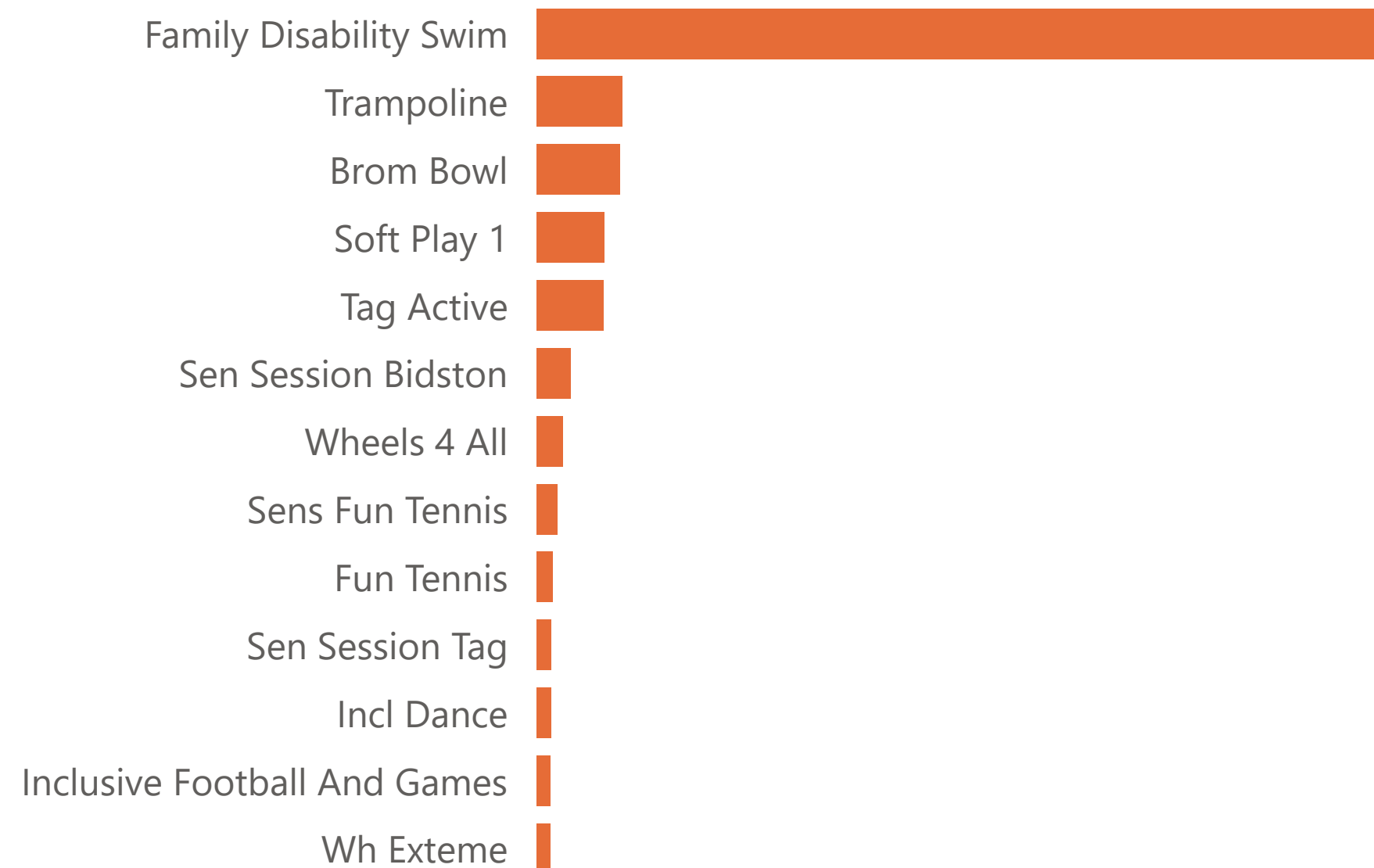
- Active All Sports is a sports holiday programme run by Wirral Council Leisure Services, available to children and young people aged up to 19 years with a disability or additional needs.
- Sessions run from Europa Pools, Guinea Gap, The Oval and West Kirby Leisure centres as well as Arrowe Park Golf Course, Bidston Sports and Activity Centre and Bromborough Bowl.
- Activities include swimming, trampolining, skating/scootering activities, ten pin bowling, foot golf and sports activities and mini games related to ball and net games.

Period	Total participants	%
Summer 2023 week 4	144	13.1%
Summer 2023 week 3	135	12.3%
Summer 2023 week 2	166	15.1%
Summer 2023 week 1	127	11.6%
October half term 2023	148	13.5%
Feb half term 2024	237	21.6%
Easter 2024 week 1	142	12.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,099</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

## Participants by Gender



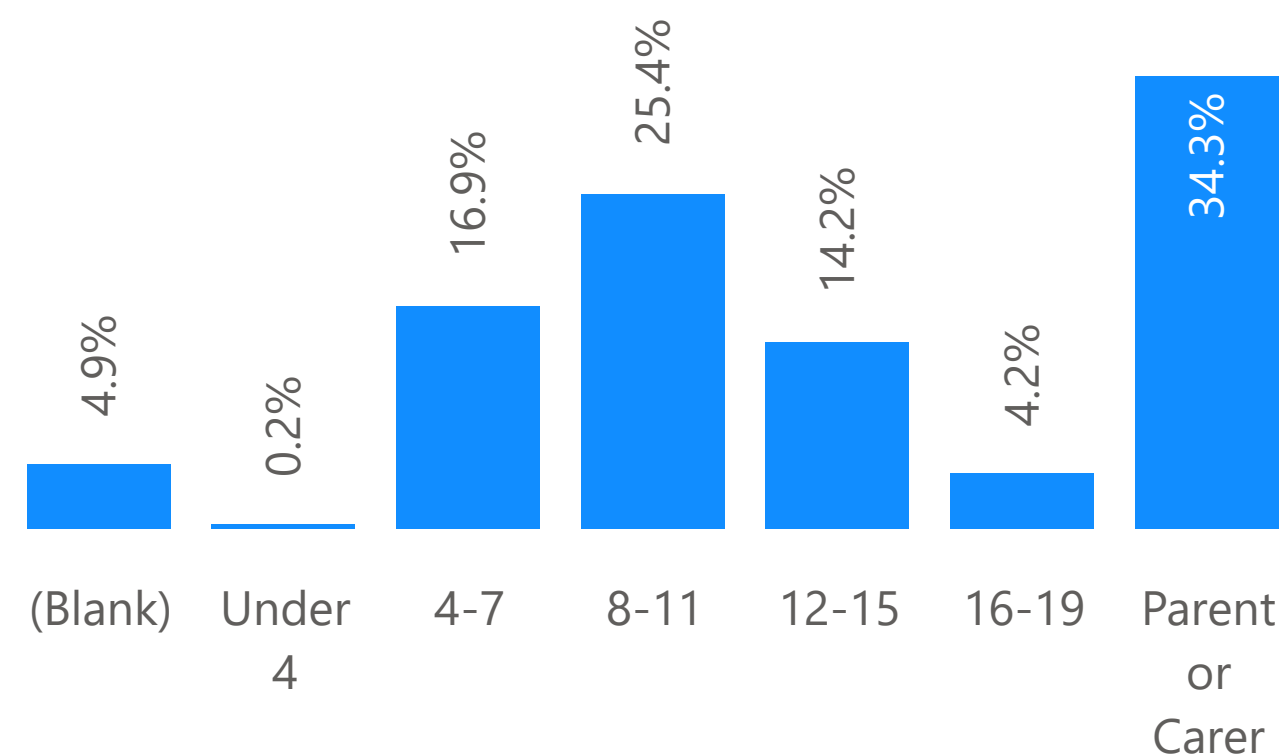
## Participation by Activity



## Participation by ward of residence (Wirral)

Ward	%
Claughton	9.5%
West Kirby and Thurstaston	7.9%
Greasby, Frankby and Irby	7.8%
Pensby and Thingwall	6.2%
Liscard	5.9%
Bidston and St. James	5.8%
Leasowe and Moreton East	5.7%
Wallasey	5.3%
Prenton	5.0%
Oxton	4.3%
Rock Ferry	4.2%
Seacombe	4.0%
Clatterbridge	3.6%
Birkenhead and Tranmere	3.0%
Moreton West and Saughall Massie	2.8%
Bebington	2.6%
Hoylake and Meols	2.5%
Bromborough	2.5%
Upton	2.2%
Eastham	2.1%

## Participants by Age group



Membership all time

425

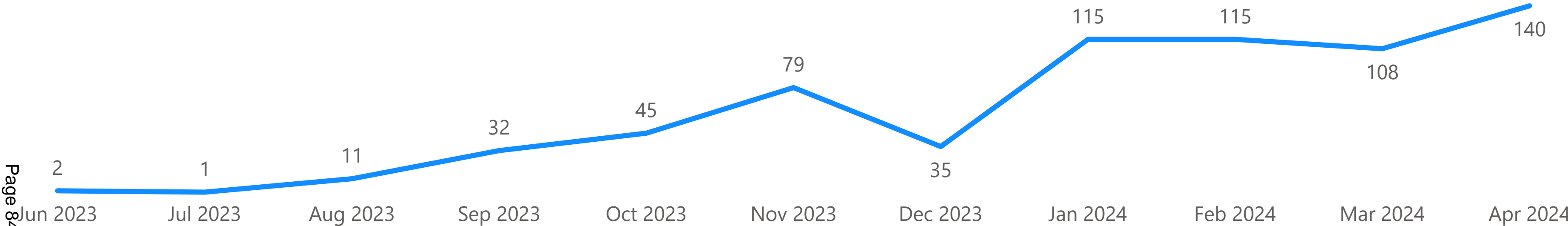
Current Members

As at last month end

140

The Active Wirral 'We Are Undefeatable' programme is a health referral scheme offering discounted health memberships to anyone living with a health condition. The programme also offers help support and advice on becoming active whilst living with a health condition.

Members over time

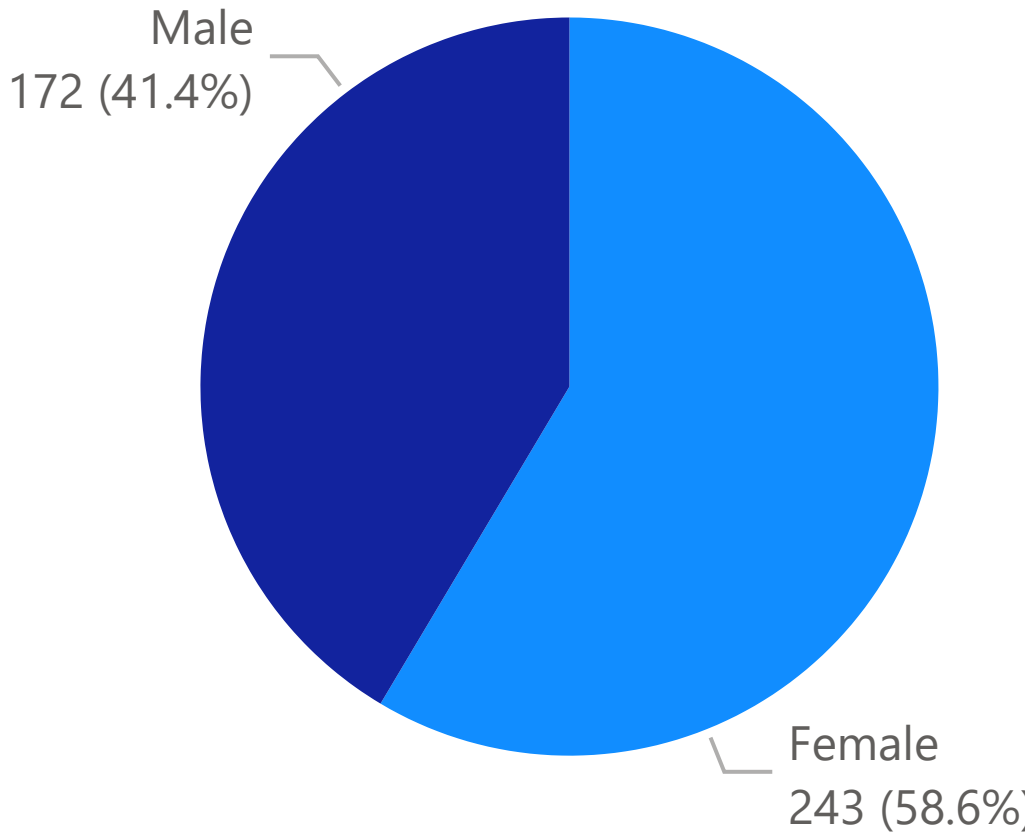


Referrals by disability type

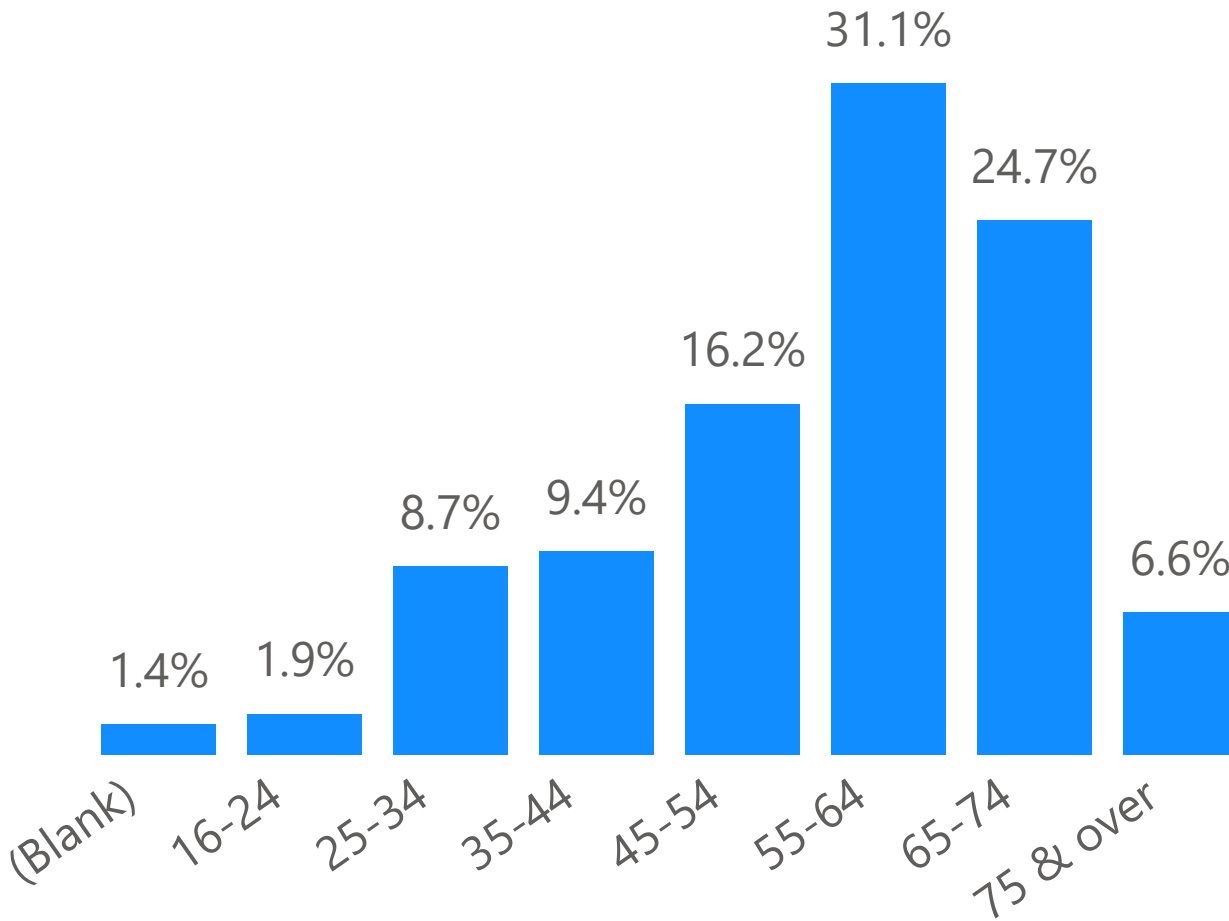
Where recorded

Disability	%
Physical Disability	49.33%
Mental Health	26.67%
Learning Disability	6.67%
Arthritis	5.33%
Cancer	4.00%
Disability (not specified)	2.67%
Hypertension	2.67%
COPD	1.33%
Deaf In Right Ear	1.33%

Members by Gender



Members by Age group



Wirral ward

Where a valid postcode is available

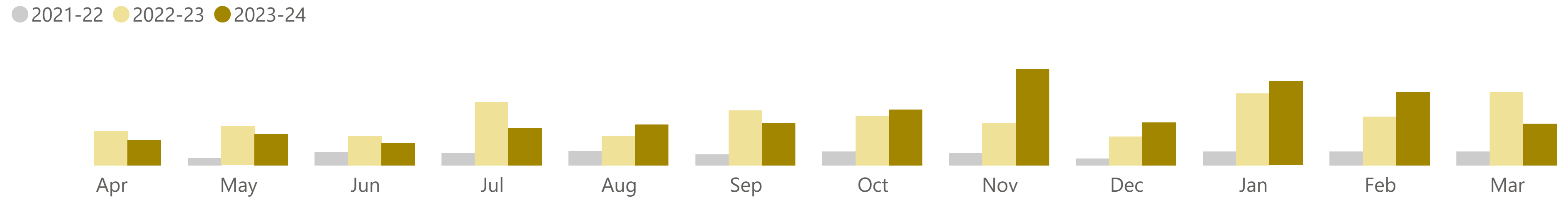
Ward name	%
New Brighton	8.47%
Birkenhead and Tranmere	8.24%
Greasby, Frankby and Irby	7.76%
Liscard	6.82%
Bebington	6.12%
Bidston and St. James	5.88%
Seacombe	5.41%
Hoylake and Meols	4.71%
Moreton West and Saughall Massie	4.47%
West Kirby and Thurstaston	4.47%
Leasowe and Moreton East	4.24%
Oxton	4.00%
Pensby and Thingwall	4.00%
Prenton	4.00%
Rock Ferry	4.00%
Cloughton	3.53%
Upton	3.29%
Wallasey	3.29%
	2.12%
Clatterbridge	1.88%
Bromborough	1.18%
Eastham	1.18%
Heswall	0.94%



# Catering income

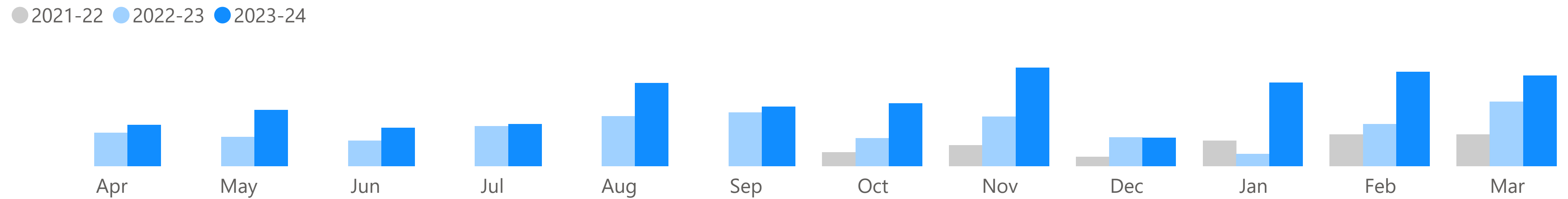
## Floral Pavilion Cafe Income 2023-24

**£1,043,393**  
Last year: £993,118 (+5%)



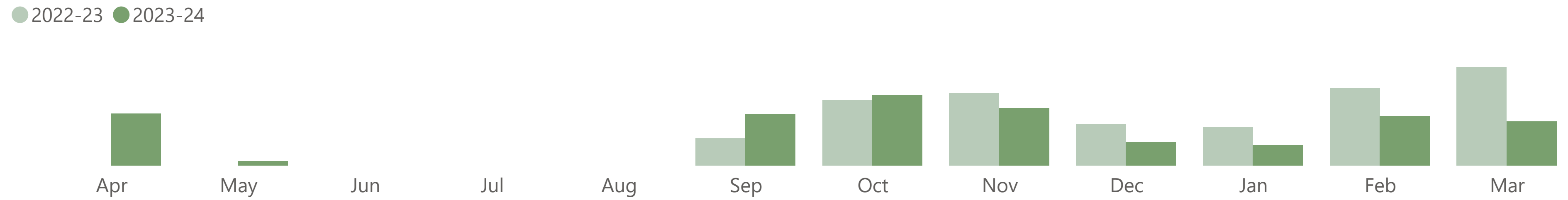
## Williamson Art Gallery cafe Income 2023-24

**£102,643**  
Last year: £60,255 (+70%)



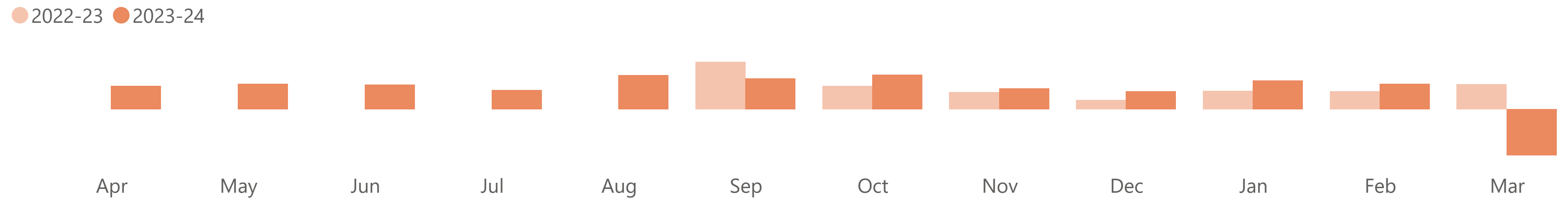
## Catering Pods Income 2023-24

**£13,126**  
Last year: £14,797 (-11%)



## Royden Park catering Income 2023-24

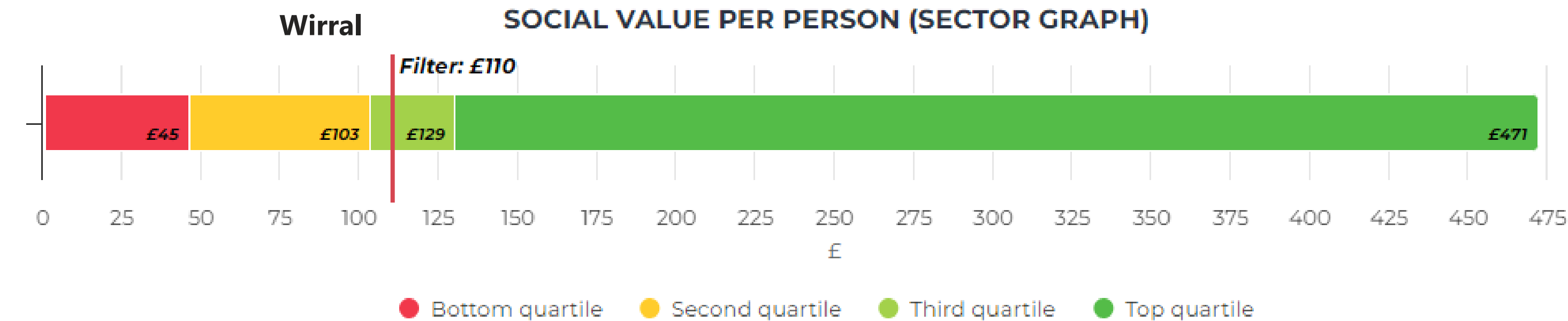
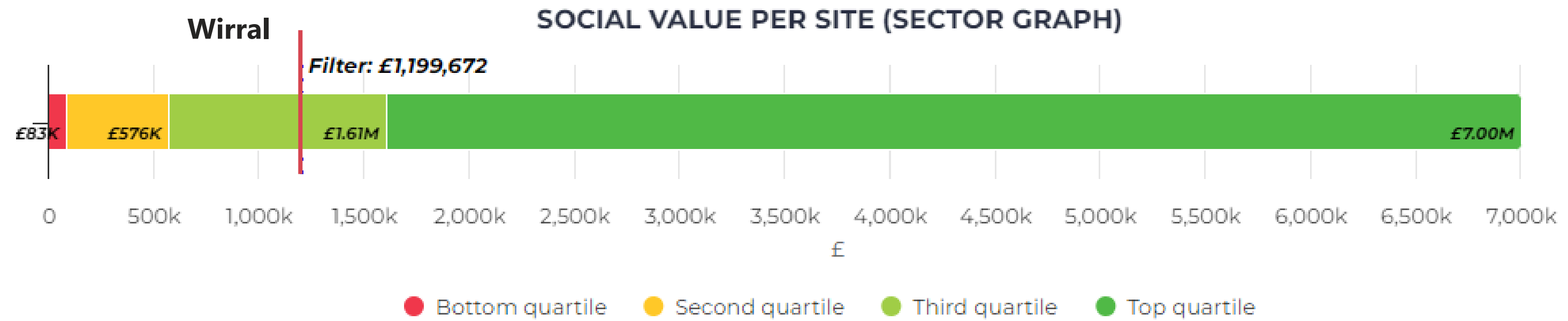
**£84,317**  
Last year: £55,802 (+51%)



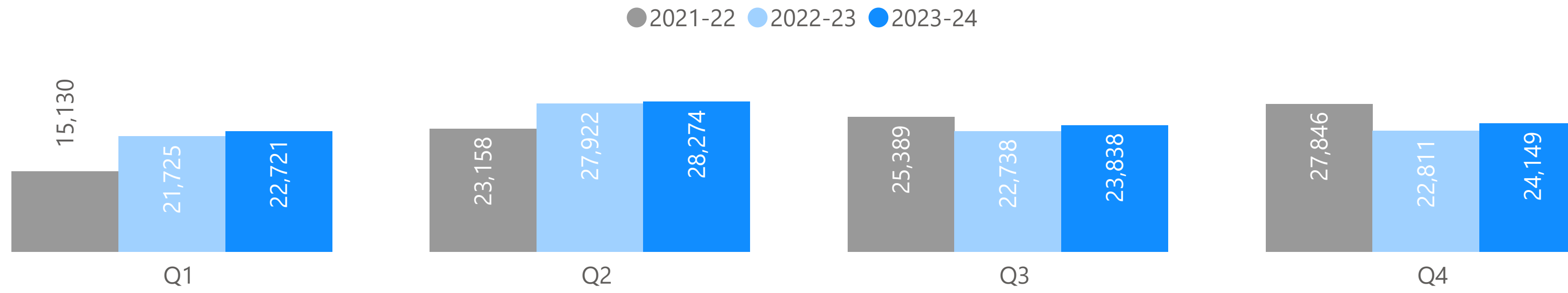
**Notes:** Covid remobilisation: Floral Cafe closed until May 2021, Williamson Art Gallery closed until October 2021, Catering Pods & Royden Park Catering opened September 2022

The Social Value tool was developed by 4Global in partnership with Sheffield Hallam University and Experian. The tool monetises the social value created by participation in sport at sport and leisure facilities in terms of health and social care saving, criminal justice cost savings, costs saved achieving the same level of wellbeing outside of sport and earnings generated through the correlation between participation in sport and educational achievement. This creates a way of measuring and demonstrating value created from investing in sport and physical activity.

## Social Value of Wirral sites compared to the participating leisure sectors nationally. Financial year 2023-24

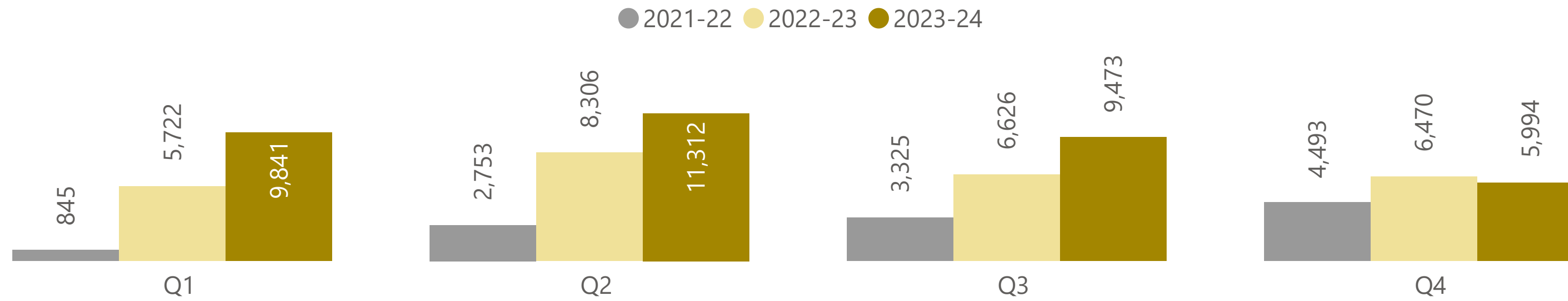


Wirral Libraries active borrowers



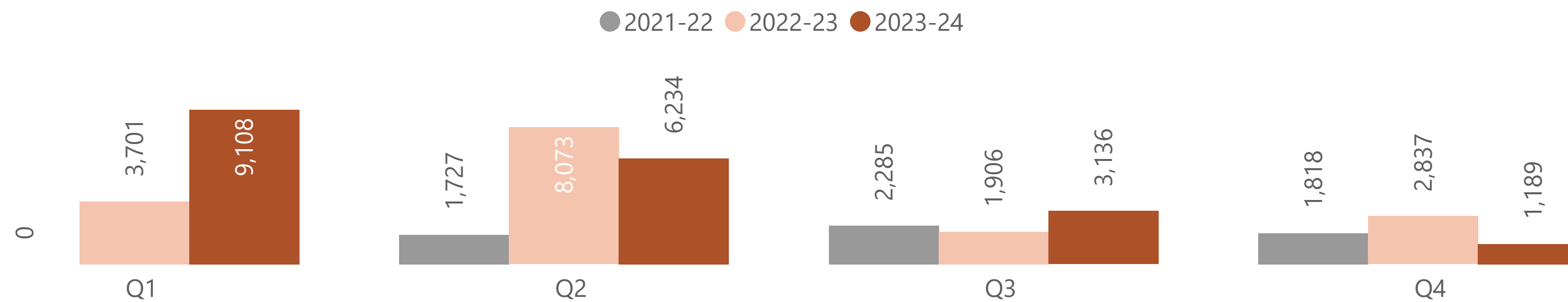
Borrowers with at least one physical book/item transaction during the month. Extracted from Talis system.

Williamson Art Gallery Visitors



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

Birkenhead Priory Visitors



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

**Wednesday, 24 July 2024**

<b>REPORT TITLE:</b>	<b>TOURISM, COMMUNITIES, CULTURE AND LEISURE WORK PROGRAMME</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>DIRECTOR OF LAW AND CORPORATE SERVICES</b>

### **REPORT SUMMARY**

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

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

### **RECOMMENDATION**

The Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee is recommended to note and comment on the proposed Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee work programme.

## **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

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

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

### **2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

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

### **3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

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

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

### **3.2 Terms of Reference**

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

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

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

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

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

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

- (f) concerning tourism, the arts, culture and heritage, including provision of theatre, entertainments, conferences and events;
- (g) in relation to bereavement services and support to the Coroner's service;
- (h) regarding community safety, crime and disorder and all associated matters;
- (i) for trading standards and environmental health, including but not limited to:
  - (i) consumer protection;
  - (ii) product safety;
  - (iii) fair trading;
  - (iv) metrology;
  - (v) food standards and animal health;
  - (vi) air pollution control;
- (vii) health and safety at work (except in so far as it relates to the Council as an employer);
- (viii) public conveniences
  - (ix) food safety; and
  - (x) control of nuisances;
- (j) in respect of emergency planning and community resilience (community, regulatory and asset services);
- (k) providing a view of performance, budget monitoring and risk management in relation to the Committee's functions; and
- (l) undertaking the development and implementation of policy in relation to the Committee's functions, incorporating the assessment of outcomes, review of effectiveness and formulation of recommendations to the Council, partners and other bodies, which shall include any decision relating to the above functions.
- (m) in respect of the Police and Justice Act 2006, the functions to:
  - (i) review or scrutinise decisions made or other action taken, in connection with the discharge by the responsible authorities of their crime and disorder functions; and
  - (ii) make reports or recommendations to the local authority with respect to the discharge of those functions

### **Overview and Scrutiny**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### **4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

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

#### **5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

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

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

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

#### **7.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

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

#### **8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION**

8.1 Not applicable.



## 9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

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

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

## 10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

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

## 11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH IMPLICATIONS

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

**REPORT AUTHOR: Mike Jones**  
telephone: 0151 691 8363  
email: michaeljones1@wirral.gov.uk

## APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Tourism Communities Culture and Leisure Committee Work Programme

## BACKGROUND PAPERS

Wirral Council Constitution  
Forward Plan  
The Council's transformation programme

## SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Standing Item	

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**TOURISM, COMMUNITIES, CULTURE AND LEISURE COMMITTEE  
WORK PROGRAMME 2024/25**

**Contact Officer:** Daphne Courtenage

**24 July 2024 Agenda**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Key Decision</b>	<b>Lead Officer</b>
2025-26 Budget and Budget Monitoring Processes	No	Carla Wright/ Julie Frowe/ Mark Goulding
Q4 finance Outturn report and Q1 24/25 Budget Monitoring Report	No	Carla Wright/Julie Frowe
Member Champion for Heritage and Birkenhead Park Management Advisory Committee appointments	No	Anna Perret
Borough of Culture update	No	Jane Morgan/ Becky Lowry
Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee Performance Report	No	Andy McCartan/ Nancy Clarkson
Work Programme	No	Anna Perret

**UPCOMING KEY DECISIONS – WAITING TO BE SCHEDULED**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Lead Departmental Officer</b>	<b>Wirral Plan Priority</b>
Facilities Investment Strategy (following workshop)	Andy McCartan	Healthy and Active lives
Birkenhead Park Heritage Status	Rob Belcher	

**ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Approximate timescale</b>	<b>Lead Officer</b>
Leisure, Libraries and Museums Dashboard		Andy McCartan/ Nancy Clarkson
Trading Standards update	September 2024	Gill Vicary

Floral Consultation outcomes.	September 2024	Andy McCartan
Heritage Strategy including Battle of Brunanburh	October 2024	Jane Morgan/ Becky Lowry
Liverpool Visitor Economy Partnership update	November 2024	Jane Morgan/ Becky Lowry

### STANDING ITEMS AND MONITORING REPORTS

Item	Reporting Frequency	Lead Departmental Officer
Financial Monitoring	Quarterly – Next due October 2024	Carla Wright/Julie Frowe
Performance reports (Community Safety)	Annually – next January 2025	Mark Camborne/ Nancy Clarkson
Customer Experience Strategy update	Annual – next March 2025	Fergus Adams
Performance reports (Leisure/Libraries/Museums)	Annually – next July 2025	Andy McCartan
Annual Air Quality (ASR) update	Annual - TBC	Deeta Cooper/ Jennifer McKeown
Third Sector Report	Annual - Last November 2023	TBC

### WORK PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE COMMITTEE

Item	Format	Timescale	Lead Officer	Progress
<b>Spotlight sessions / workshops</b>				
Budget Monitoring	Workshop	2024	Carla Wright/ Julie Frowe/ Matt Bennett	
Community Asset Transfers (process with complexities and delays, inc experience of groups who have recently taken over assets)	Workshop	September /October 2024	David Ball	
Community Asset Transfers (to focus on latest library CATs, include update on Hoylake Golf Course and impact of Open Golf Championship)	Briefing Note	September /October 2024	David Ball/ Mark Camborne	
Facilities Investment	Workshop	TBC	Andy	

Strategy - to present outcomes of consultant exercise			McCartan	
Playing Pitch update strategy (to go to ERH as responsible Committee, with comments from ECET and TCCL. Briefing note being drafted to outline process)	Briefing note	TBC	David Ball/ Andrew Fraser	
Communications effectiveness	Briefing note	TBC	Gail Mooney, Nancy Clarkson	
Consultations	Briefing note	TBC	Gail Mooney, Nancy Clarkson	
Air Quality Strategy	Briefing note	TBC	Victoria Chadderton (Health Protection)	
<b>Corporate scrutiny / Other</b>				
Risk (at request of Audit Committee)	Workshop	Early in Municipal Year	TBC	

**Schedule of meetings:**

19 September 2024

17 October 2024

28 November 2024

23 January 2025

6 March 2025

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

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

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

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

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