



Local Strategic Partnership Executive Board

Date:	Tuesday, 9 June 2009
Time:	5.00 pm
Venue:	Mersey Maritime, Monks Ferry, Birkenhead

Contact Officer: Lucy Beed
Tel: 0151 691 8006
e-mail: lucybeed@wirral.gov.uk
Website:

AGENDA

1. **WELCOME, APOLOGIES, INTRODUCTIONS**
2. **ACTIONS AND AGREEMENTS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS (Pages 1 - 30)**

The minutes of the previous meeting are attached, together with copies of the presentations.
3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
4. **WIRRAL LSP - REPORT ON WIRRAL'S RESPONSE TO THE CURRENT ECONOMIC CLIMATE (Pages 31 - 40)**
5. **YOUNG PEOPLE NOT IN EDUCATION , EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING - PRESENTATION BY SHEILA LYNCH AND HOWARD COOPER**
6. **2008/09 FULL YEAR PERFORMANCE AND RISK REPORT (Pages 41 - 56)**
7. **CAA EMERGING PICTURE - PRESENTATION BY PETER FORRESTER, WIRRAL'S CAA LEAD (Pages 57 - 82)**
8. **PARTNERSHIP DISCUSSION IN RESPONSE TO WIRRAL'S CAA EMERGING PICTURE**

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- VCAW/Network funding update

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS: VENUE MERSEY MARITIME

Wednesday 8 July 2009, 5.00 – 7.00pm

Wednesday 19 August 2009, 5.00 – 7.00pm

Wednesday 30 September 2009, 5.00 – 7.00pm

Wednesday 11 November 2009, 5.00 – 7.00pm

Wednesday 6 January 2010, 5.00 – 7.00pm

Wednesday 17 February 2010, 5.00 – 7.00pm

Wednesday 31 March 2010, 5.00 – 7.00pm

Agenda Item 2

Minutes - Local Strategic Partnership Executive (*not a public meeting*)
Wednesday 1st April 2009

Present	
Chair	Cllr Steve Foulkes (Leader, Wirral MBC)
Public Sector	Cllr Simon Holbrook (Leader, Liberal Democrat Group, Wirral MBC), Stephen Maddox (Chief Executive), Kathy Doran (Chief Executive, NHS Wirral) Len Richards (Chief Executive, Wirral NHS Trust), Chief Superintendent Jon Ward, Gary Foulkes (Jobcentre Plus), Peter Cubbon (Chief Executive, Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust) Neil Maguire (for Simon Pierce Learning & Skills Council)
Voluntary Sector	Myrtle Lacey, Clint Agard (Wirral Voluntary & Community Sectors Network)
Private Sector	Alberto Bertalli
Advisers	Jane Scullion (IDeA)
Secretariat	Wirral Council - Jim Wilkie (Deputy Chief Executive), Lucy Beed (Corporate Performance Manager), Jane Morgan (Corporate Policy Manager) Peter Molyneux, Chief Accountant (Management and Performance), Alan Stennard (Director of Regeneration), Kevin Adderley (Head of Strategic Development), Marie Armitage (Joint Director of Public Health, Wirral PCT & Wirral Council), David Armstrong (for Director of Children's Services) John Highton (Partnership Performance Officer)
Apologies	Cllr Jeff Green (Leader, Conservative Group, Wirral MBC) Howard Cooper (Director of Children's Services), Simon Pierce (LSC) Jo Lappin and Richard Perry (Government Office, North West) Simon Pierce (Learning & Skills Council)

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Minute 116 - WELCOME, APOLOGIES, INTRODUCTIONS

Apologies received as stated above.

Minute 117 - ACTIONS AND AGREEMENTS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 1st April 2009, were accepted as a correct record.

The board were asked to note:

The NEET presentation requested at the February board meeting will be given by Sheila Lynch, from Connexions, and Howard Cooper, delivery partnership lead for Children & Young People, at the Executive Board meeting in May 2009

Wirral's LAA 2008/2011 Refresh had been concluded and copies of the refreshed LAA were made available to executive board members.

VCAW report and presentation scheduled for this meeting will now be presented at a future meeting

Jim Wilkie informed the board that the Department for Communities and Local Government have calculated that the maximum amount of LAA Performance Reward Grant (PRG) that Wirral is eligible to claim if all LAA targets are met by 2010-11 as £2,281,175.95. This has been checked and verified.

Minute Decision :

Resolved –

- 1) The minutes of the last meeting be accepted as a true record

Minute 118 - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Board members were asked to declare any interests in relation to agenda items and no declarations were made.

Minute 119 - CAA SELF EVALUATION – PRESENTATION FROM JANE SCULLION (IDEA)

Jim Wilkie (JW) introduced this item.

A paper had been circulated to board members that outlined the requirements of and work to date in preparation for Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) and in particular in developing a self-assessment and proposes an approach to supporting the self evaluation process for CAA.

JW invited Jane Scullion (JS) from IDeA to present on the current position of CAA and from her experiences in this developing assessment process. Jane had recently joined IDeA and was previously Assistant Chief Executive (Strategy, Performance and Governance) at Stockport MBC where she led their involvement in the pilot stages of CAA.

JS outlined the lessons learned from the Stockport experience of self-evaluation (and from the pilot with the Audit Commission) and offered some observation on areas to focus on in preparation for this new assessment regime.

The presentation was to be circulated to board members after the meeting.

Executive board members were asked to note the progress made to date on area self assessment and agree that its further development is supported by LSP Development Group and Management Group with further regular reports to the LSP Executive board members

Minute Decision :
Resolved that –

- 1) The board noted the presentation from Jane Scullion and report from Jim Wilkie.
- 2) The chair thanked Jane for the insight into the forthcoming change in regime.
- 3) The board noted the progress to date on CAA and agreed to receive regular updates and support the CAA process as it developed.

Minute 120 – WIRRAL COUNCIL - RESPONSE TO THE CURRENT ECONOMIC CLIMATE

Jim Wilkie (JW) introduced this report. The report provided Board members with Wirral Council's latest response to the economic climate. This report had previously been received by cabinet at their 19th March meeting.

The report outlined the impact of the current recession on Wirral's economy and identifies the steps being taken by the Council to assist businesses affected by the current economic challenges, and builds upon the budget proposals identified at Cabinet on 23rd February 2009.

JW outlined the various aspects that were being undertaken in support of local residents and businesses across Wirral. Partners were also carrying out aspects that were meant to mitigate the circumstances of the recession and/or were as a consequence of the worsening economic outlook.

The board would maintain communication across the partnership where opportunities existed to lessen the impact of the economic climate, and could be developed, in support of local people and business.

The Chair requested that partners contributions to minimise the impact or responding to needs as a result of the current economic climate should be reported to the Executive board.

Minute Decision :
Resolved that –

- 1) The board members noted the report
- 2) The board members agreed to receive further regular reports on the economic situation.

Minute 121 – JOB CENTRE PLUS – RESPONSE TO THE CURRENT ECONOMIC CLIMATE, PRESENTATION

Gary Foulkes (GF) from Jobcentre Plus, presented this item

GF highlighted the changing picture and offer from jobcentre plus as a consequence of government pledges and investment. More support for more people will be available from April 2009. It is also more apparent that local partnerships are imperative to the future employment outcomes of residents.

GF wanted partners to keep Jobcentre Plus informed of any redundancies where there current, and expanding, services could be brought to support individuals and organisations.

GF outlined the variety of support services that can be offered individuals, in many cases from their first day of unemployment. Also other routes that can lead to self employment and interim volunteering.

Board members discussed what unemployment impacts were being felt across Wirral and what intelligence from Jobcentre Plus was informing that view. This presentation complimented the previously presented report on economic climate.

Finally, to support Jobcentre Plus, GF asked partners to contact him with suggestions for local venues where their services could be offered from in the future.

The presentation was to be circulated to board members after the meeting.

Minute Decision : Resolved that:

- 1) The chair thanked Gary for his presentation
- 2) The board noted the presentation
- 3) Partners would provide Jobcentre Plus with details of venues for offering their services in communities as requested
- 4) Partners would provide Jobcentre Plus with details of any actual/proposed redundancies where they existed

Minute 122 – SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES STRATEGY - PRESENTATION

Jim Wilkie (JW) introduced the report and presentation of the Sustainable Communities Strategy.

The public consultation period for Wirral's Sustainable Community Strategy closed at the end of January 2009. Since then further work was undertaken to reflect the responses received. This then ensured the strategy reflected recent strategic developments such as the partnership governance review and the impact of other factors such as the economic downturn. JW presentation outlined the consultation process and the next steps for agreeing and embedding the strategy.

JW reported the timescale for the SCS following this consultation. This included going to Wirral Council Cabinet in April 2009 and a formal launch in June 2009. In order to facilitate this timeframe JW asked for delegated powers for the Chair and Chief Executive of Wirral Council to make any final minor amendments to the SCS. Also JW asked partners to consider adding resources for the production of the SCS for its partnership launch.

JW asked partners to review their delivery plans and strategies where the SCS should be referenced and embedded and this would be reflected in a potential 'annual health check' and ongoing review of our progress made against those priorities for Wirral.

Minute Decision :

Resolved that

- 1) The board noted the report.
- 2) The board agreed for delegated powers be given to the chair and Chief Executive of Wirral Council to make any final minor amendments to the SCS
- 3) The revised SCS go to the LSP Board (Strategic Partnership Assembly) in June 2009
- 4) Partners consider resources to produce the partnerships public Sustainable Communities document
- 5) Partners would consider their organisational documents continued to reflect the SCS and embed its intentions

Minute 123 – LAA DELIVERY PLANS - REPORT

Lucy Beed (LB) introduced this item.

This report provided Wirral LSP Executive board members with draft delivery plans for Wirral's 2008/11 local area agreement improvement priorities as requested in November 2008. These delivery plans would be monitored as part of the performance and risk report presented to the board on a quarterly basis. The first report being for quarter one in August 2009.

Board members were requested to review and comment on the draft delivery plans and agree that further work is progressed by thematic groups were appropriate. Any comments should be returned to Lucy Beed or Jim Wilkie.

It is further requested that the draft delivery plans be considered by each partner organisation to ensure that they fully reflect all partner activity required to achieve the LAA improvement targets

Minute Decision :

Resolved that:

- 1) The board noted the production of the draft partnership delivery plans
- 2) Partners would review the details and inform the partnership team of any issues

Minute 124 – SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL REPORT

Graham Gladden (GG) presented this item

This report detailed the steps taken by the Environment & Sustainability Advisory Group (ESAG) to establish a process for a programme of sustainability appraisals of the Sustainable Community Strategy and the Local Area Agreement (LAA).

Appraisals have been carried out on the 2008/11 LAA priorities for improvement.

The work of the group identified risks to the sustainability of the delivery of the priority areas and highlighted interactions between priority areas.

The potential consequences, and as such risks, identified in the sustainability appraisals were to be drawn in line with the work recently completed on risk registers. It was expected that the potential negative impacts would be incorporated into the register and with a performance monitoring process aligned to current practices that allowed them to be reviewed for progress made.

GG highlighted the key message from the work is the clear interaction between the indicators in terms of either achieving a positive or negative outcome. GG pointed out that it was important to have a dialogue across partners that would enhance any potential for sustainable outcomes to be achieved or negative impacts mitigated.

Chair welcomed the sustainability work and detail produced and it allowed the partnership to continue to reflect on its priorities and how best to meet them.

Minute Decision :

Resolved that –

- 1) The report be noted
- 2) The chair and board thanked Graham and ESAG for their work on the sustainability appraisals

Minute 125 - LSP GOVERNANCE REPORT

Jim Wilkie (JW) introduced this item on the latest LSP Governance report.

The purpose of this report was to request final approval from board members on the proposals arising from the review of governance arrangements for Wirral's local strategic partnership (LSP)

The report built upon the reports presented to programme board to date and added further detail as requested by board members on groups, their roles and how that detail fitted together for an overall strategic partnership.

Tabled at the meeting was a proposal from the COMPACT Working Group which requested that COMPACT be fully embedded into the terms of reference for the group and that COMPACT be reflected in the titles of all groups within Wirral's LSP. The board acknowledged the importance of COMPACT, its positive achievements and the national recognition that had been achieved. The board

also acknowledged that working to the COMPACT guidelines was already included in the terms of reference for the proposed LSP groups. The board requested that Jim Wilkie review further how COMPACT can be more fully embedded in Wirral and look at the concerns raised by the Working Group. Myrtle Lacey requested that the board review the proposals in more detail due to paper being tabled at the meeting. It was agreed that the titles of the groups would remain as per the proposal in the report.

Board members approved the structure and terms of reference set out in appendix one and two of the report.

Minute Decision :

Resolved that –

- 1) The board noted the report and late additional comments from the COMPACT working group and would provide further comments regarding the COMPACT proposal if appropriate
- 2) Board members approved the structure and terms of reference set out in appendix one and two of the report
- 3) The board asked JW to ensure that the concerns expressed by the COMPACT Working Group were looked into in more detail

Minute 126 - WORKING WIRRAL REPORT

Jim Wilkie (JW) introduced this report that provided Executive board members with a progress update on the first round of Working Wirral commissioning

Executive Board members are asked to note the cabinet decision of 19th March to agree funding of a number of projects as the accountable body for the Working Wirral resources

Also Executive Board members are asked to note that Government has announced the result of its consultation into the criteria for allocating Working Neighbourhoods Funds (WNF) and that £9,879,492 is confirmed as Wirral's allocation for 2009/10 and confirmation for 2010/11 is still awaited.

Minute Decision :

Resolved that –

- 1) The board members noted the report

Minute 127 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Jim Wilkie (JW) informed the board on some recent information regarding the Sustainable Communities Act.

A report was to be considered by Cabinet on the 9th April which proposed that Wirral's Local Strategic Partnership should act as the "local panel" for considering proposals under the Sustainable Communities Act.

This year's deadline for submitting proposals under the act is 31st July 2009 and arrangements are being made to call for local proposals through the council and

partnership's websites with a deadline of 31st May.

It is therefore proposed that the strategic partnership assembly consider any suggestions at their meeting of the 9th June 2009 and a report is brought to the Executive Board meeting of the 8th July with recommendations relating to submitting any proposals to DCLG (via the LGA).

Minute Decision :

Resolved that –

- 1) The board noted this update
- 2) The board agreed to act as the local panel for this process and would receive recommendations at the 8th July Executive board meeting
- 3) The board requested that the strategic partnership assembly consider any proposals under the Sustainable Communities Act at their meeting of the 9th June 2009 to inform the board report for 8th July 2009

Meeting closed at 7.15 pm

Minute 128 – DATE AND TIME OF FUTURE MEETINGS

- **Cancelled** Wednesday 20 May 2009, 5.00 – 7.00pm (*now moved to Tuesday 9th June 2009*)
- Wednesday 8 July 2009, 5.00 – 7.00pm
- Wednesday 19 August 2009, 5.00 – 7.00pm
- Wednesday 30 September 2009, 5.00 – 7.00pm
- Wednesday 11 November 2009, 5.00 – 7.00pm
- Wednesday 6 January 2010, 5.00 – 7.00pm
- Wednesday 17 February 2010, 5.00 – 7.00pm
- Wednesday 31 March 2010, 5.00 – 7.00pm

JOBCENTRE PLUS

Gary Foulkes
Senior External Relations Manager



jobcentreplus

Part of the Department
for Work and Pensions

North West Position – snapshot Jan 09

	January 2008	January 2009
JSA register	110,250	164,996 + 49.7%
On flows	24,917	37,459 + 50.3%
Vacancies notified	27,040	17,099 - 36.8%

Merseyside Position – snapshot Jan 09

	January 2008	January 2009
JSA register	33,566	44,907 + 33.8%
On flows	6,240	8,419 + 34.9%
Vacancies notified	4,386	3,541 - 19.3%

Wirral Position – snapshot Jan 09

	January 2008	January 2009
JSA register	6,340	8,510 + 25.4%
On flows	1,405	1,874 + 25.2%
Vacancies notified	671	447 - 33%

Jobcentre Plus Response

- 5 point pledge
- Additional £1.3b available to DWP and its providers
- “Find your way back to work” campaign
- Increased staffing for Jobcentre Plus

Jobcentre Plus Response – cont'd

- Doubled the resources available via Rapid Response – further increases in funding from April 09
- Focus on National Employment Partnership
- Increased engagement through Local Employment Partnerships
- £158m initiative between DWP and DIUS

Jobcentre Plus Additional Support

From April 2009 – strengthened package of support for:-

Customers prior to unemployment including:

- increased funding for Rapid Response Service

Customers as they become unemployed including:

- day 1 access to Programme Centres, Adviser Discretion Funding and Local Employment Partnerships (LEP)
- group information sessions on jobsearch techniques
- advice and coaching sessions
- specialist support for professionals

Jobcentre Plus Additional Support (cont.)

Customers 6m+ unemployed including:

- Money and support to set up own business
 - Cash for employers who recruit and train
 - Training to improve skills to get a job
 - Chance to volunteer while looking for a job
-
- Capacity Team looking to make services more accessible

The Challenges

- Meeting the needs of all our customers
- Ongoing review of processes to maintain high level of customer service
- Maintaining performance
- Recruitment and Training

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The role of local self evaluation

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Jane Scullion
Regional Associate – North West



www.idea.gov.uk



part of the LGA group

Knowing your place

- Self Evaluation - A Verb Not a Noun
- Assessing how to get from A to B means:
 - Getting underneath the data/dealing with ambiguity
 - Understanding and building relationship capacity



Inspectorate View of Self Evaluation

- Not a formal requirement
- Will make optimum use of self evaluation
- Will not repeat the work already carried out by the partnership
- Needs to be based on robust evidence



Self Assessment – under CPA?



Self Evaluation under CAA

- For the partnership's own improvement
- Gap analysis of the challenges
- Robust data
- Commitment from Inspectorates for IDeA/LGA approach to self evaluation
- Result in proportionate inspection?



Two Phases of Trials

- Incredible interest
- Two tiers – Buckinghamshire, Hambleton, Malvern Hills, Suffolk
- Single tier – Barking and Dagenham, Enfield, Richmond, Rotherham, Salford, St Helens, Stockport, Sunderland, Trafford, Wirral



3 Issues Covered

- Understanding local needs and translation into local priorities
- The delivery of improvements and outcomes in the area
- Gap analysis and planning for the future

Prompts for each heading too



How they did it

- Ridiculous timescales!
- Use and refer to existing information
- Sign up and sign off at LSP including political leadership
- Partnership round tables and workshops



Learning

- Different outputs
- LAA important but agreed local priorities vital
- Focus on outcomes – how are we doing?
- Question 3 is most important and most difficult - gaps? plans?
- Shared ownership of performance management framework



Learning continued

- All are seeing it as ongoing process – verb not noun
- Build it into partnership performance management cycle – annual partnership stock take?
- The more self challenging they were, the better the result



Role of Peer Challenge

- Already a well known and supported approach
- Tested in St Helens and Trafford initially
- Can provide a reality check in terms of:
 - Being sufficiently self challenging
 - Based on robust evidence



Further information

- www.idea.gov.uk/caa
self evaluation guidance, members guide,
other guidance
- Policy and Performance Community of
Practice
- Jane.scullion@idea.gov.uk



WIRRAL LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP – EXECUTIVE BOARD**TUESDAY 9TH JUNE 2009****REPORT OF THE DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE / DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES****ECONOMIC UPDATE - RESPONSE TO THE CURRENT ECONOMIC CONDITIONS****1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report outlines the impact of the global economic conditions on Wirral's economy and identifies the steps taken by the Council and its partners to assist businesses affected by the current economic challenges. The LSP Executive Board is asked to support the actions taken and comment on the strategy to support Wirral's economy through the difficult times ahead.

2. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

- 2.1 Nationally, the rapidly deteriorating global economy and the continued difficulties businesses are facing in accessing credit will potentially push the economy deeper into recession in 2009. The Confederation of British Industry (CBI) predicts that the recession, which began in the third quarter of 2008, will last throughout 2009. The UK economy is expected to contract by 3.3 per cent and unemployment will reach close to 2.9 million by the end of the year. The forecasts are that the economy is expected to stabilise early next year with the recovery building throughout 2010.

- 2.2 The North West Development Agency and its partners have produced a report, 'Local Responses to the Economic Downturn in the North West', in which it states that the current economic recession has a number of important potential impacts, including:

- Slowing or even reversal of economic growth
- Increase in unemployment
- Fall in property and land values and property driven economic growth
- Rise in repossessions and demand for social housing
- Fall in business start ups and potentially an increase in insolvency rates
- Fall in income for local authorities locally, e.g. through planning fees
- Pressure on existing schemes to support people back into work as unemployment rises
- Demand for some public services may increase, e.g. demand for social housing
- Negative impact on capital led regeneration schemes, e.g. Housing market Renewal Pathfinders
- More pressure on local communities in tackling the social issues presented by the recession in particular on young people

- 2.3 The key element of responding to the recession is good intelligence. On behalf of the Merseyside local authorities, The Mersey Partnership is commissioning a City Region Economic Assessment to evaluate the effects of the credit crunch and economic downturn on the city region economy, and the prospects for recovery and growth. The study will help assess the risk to businesses, communities and individuals of the current downturn, and prioritise investment in preventative action. The Merseyside information Service (MIS) is developing an online recession tracker which will offer key data sets for monitoring the impact across several areas such as unemployment and crime.
- 2.4 Locally, Wirral Officers are continuing to measure the local impact. Where possible, key data is being produced to inform the investment decisions Wirral Council and local partners and to aid the design of appropriate interventions. This data, similar to the report brought to the Investment Board in February is updated monthly to support Officers in managing key programme of activity. Key data is attached at Appendix A to this report.

3. Actions Taken to Date

- 3.1 In order to support Wirral businesses through difficult time, every effort is being made to ensure companies can easily access the national support available. This includes:
- Invest Wirral working with Business Link to ensure that information is cascaded through and online business forums networks and Wirral Investment Network (WIN) which represents the Business and Professional Sector
 - Setting up an online local business support/events calendar using a mixture of Working Wirral and European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) support which further promotes key support services.
 - Seminar with NWDA in January regarding access to finance held at the Floral Pavilion.

Businesses from across the borough benefited from a 'Boost your Business' event at the Floral Pavilion, held on 25th and 26th of March. Feedback from the event has been positive – for example one company has reported a saving in excess of £6,000 in business rates as a result of advice from the event.

- Introducing new financial support programmes and ensuring existing measure have enough flexibility to provide maximum benefit.
- Development of a Wirral Apprenticeship programme

These measures are outlined in more detail in Section 4. Wirral Council currently operate a number of programmes of activity that have been adapted to the current financial conditions. These include:

Key infrastructure

- 3.2 The Council continue to support the delivery of several key economic infrastructure projects. In line with national policy, every effort is being made

to focus and bring forward key infrastructure projects across the Borough to create employment opportunities and having a positive effect on the economy. Council officers continue to work with the private sector in accessing key external funding to support and where necessary, provide gap funding to key schemes and projects. The Council is ensuring that it works with Regional partners such as the North West Development Agency to maximise funding.

Key infrastructure requirements

- 3.3 Officers are currently in the process of trying to identifying the needs for Wirral in respect of power constraints and digital access. There are a number of constraints that could potentially prevent key sites and premises being brought to the market in the future due for employment use. Addressing these issues will provide where necessary for the inevitable economic upturn.

Business Support

- 3.5 Wirral Council meet monthly with the Wirral Chamber of Commerce and Federation of Small Businesses to ensure that regular and accurate feedback is received on the issues facing small businesses locally.
- 3.6 In consultation with other partners, including the NWDA the Council is looking at providing enhanced business support. To complement existing business networking, every effort is being made to ensure companies can easily access the national support available.
- 3.7 *Small Firms Rate Relief* - this is being followed up with additional awareness promotion of the scheme for eligible businesses to pursue. In addition, the Government announced changes to the Ratings scheme for empty properties as part of the recession budget which come into force from April 2009 – these will of course also be promoted by the Revenues section.

Employment Support

- 3.8 *Providing co-ordinated redundancy support* - Key partners (Wirral Council, Jobcentre Plus and the Learning and Skills Council) co-ordinate activity through the Wirral Economic Development and Skills (WEDS) Partnership.
- 3.9 *Working Wirral* The Council provides a number of commissioned activities and development services across the Borough to help improve local people's skills and employment prospects:

Partner activity

- 3.10 These measures complement work being undertaken by partners including:
- *Jobcentre Plus (JCP)* - In addition to their core services, JCP has brought down the eligibility for certain programmes from six months to day one to enable the newly unemployed to access their enhanced offer
 - *The Learning and Skills Council (LSC)* - the LSC works closely with JCP and to deliver an Integrated Employment and Skills programme across Greater

Merseyside; and Train to Gain programme and the pre employment has been subsequent enhanced in response to the situation

- *Business Link* - is working with Council service areas to increase access to business support services
- *VCAW annual conference, May 2009* - this conference aims to identify the anticipated impact of the economic downturn, look at practical ways of moving forward and highlight the Government's Action Plan, 'Help Right Now' and the support that is available through this initiative. The conference also aimed to identify how COMPACT can be fully utilised to support the sector through these turbulent times.
- *Merseytravel* - Merseytravel has frozen tunnel tolls at their current levels from April 1st 2009 to March 31st 2010, following a meeting of the Passenger Transport Authority. The decision means toll levels for all classes of vehicles will be maintained, with the aim to support businesses and the public during the current economic climate.
- A working group comprising the council, the NWDA, the LSC, Jobcentre Plus, Business Link and Connexions has now been established to share information and ensure a coordinated response across the borough.

Housing Strategy

- 3.11 The recession has prompted a change in the targets for new-build housing as part of the HMRI programme, re-phasing of HMRI development programmes, changing tenure of new-build schemes. It has also led to changing priorities in using public resources, principally land values as in both Fiveways and Church Road the Council's financial stake in HMRI development has been used to pump-prime new-build and see new homes and shops being built. The recession has caused a shift in strategic housing priorities towards creating opportunities to support and enable the occupation of new-build housing particularly by first-time buyers. This has been in the form of developing options for shared equity, rent-to-buy and making the most of national initiatives such as HomeBuy Direct.
- 3.12 Strong partnership working at an operational level is being supported and developed by the WEDS partnership which is receiving regular updates on the downturn and partners share organisational intelligence and policy updates. Officers are also participating in Merseyside meetings to look at the effects of the recession, and agree some co-ordinated responses.

4. New Interventions

- 4.1 The Council and its partners are currently in discussion as to the best ways to support Wirral residents and businesses in the current situation in addition to current activities. The interventions outlined below detail the opportunities are planned:

- 4.2 *Business Conference* - Wirral Council hosted a seminar on the 25th and 26th of March which focused on supporting business through difficult times. The main purpose of the event was to bring together public sector organisations with the private sector to outline the support services that are available. The event aimed to inform the borough's business community of the support available to them during the current economic climate. Invest Wirral - the Council's business support and investment team - have produced a brochure with a breakdown of all of the support agencies that can help as well as their contact details. Feedback from the event has been positive – for example one company has reported a saving in excess of £6,000 in business rates as a result of advice from the event. The event included the North West Development Agency, Business Link North West and will include speakers from a number of other support agencies. Invest Wirral will host this type of event again over the course of coming months.
- 4.3 *BIG Support Grant/ Consultancy Support*: The Council is fully aware of the challenges that many businesses in our area are facing at the present time, and recognises the need for us to work collectively with our partners to minimise the adverse impacts of the economic downturn on businesses and their employees. Access to capital and cash flow has been identified as a major problem. Wirral's business makeup is dominated by micro-businesses (those with fewer than ten employees) and a number of these have reported continued difficulty in speedy access to funds through current and indeed proposed arrangements.
- 4.4 Therefore a programme has been designed to specifically support (SME's 250 employees and less) with a specific focus on micro businesses. The fund will be available for a wide range of support, including access to consultancy and grants. It is also hoped that the availability of such financial support will encourage banks and other lending institutions to also invest in these businesses.
- 4.5 *The "Think Big" Investment Fund* currently supports exiting and inward investing businesses on a range of big projects that will support employment growth and business expansion. Given the current situation, Officers have drafted a new set of criteria for the fund which will allow businesses to safeguard jobs within a new set of defined criteria which will allow businesses to access finance for other outcomes rather than just growth.

Apprenticeships

- 4.6 Officers have developed an apprenticeship programme for the borough, with access to all vocational areas.
- 4.7 Apprenticeships will support the council and its partners to continue tackling worklessness and skills issues by offering support within a structured apprentice programme. Therefore a scheme has been developed across Wirral supported through Working Neighbourhoods Fund (WNF) resources to a maximum of £1.7m. This activity will add value to recent national announcements on supporting apprenticeships with 100 new apprentice places in the workplace available for residents of Wirral.

5. Conclusions

- 5.1 Wirral partners are taking forward a co-ordinated and coherent response to the economic situation. The Council is co-ordinating a series of partners' meeting to respond to the recession with key partners from the LSP.

The underlying principle of responses is based on good economic intelligence and policy, with an understanding of business fundamentals and long term strengths. There is a need to maintain a long-term focus on skills, innovation and regeneration and it is important to keep a longer term strategy ready for when recovery starts.

- 5.2 The LSP Executive are asked to note the progress made by Wirral Council and its partners in supporting business through difficult times and highlight any additional areas which members feel would add value to the current activity.

Appendix A

KEY ECONOMIC INDICATORS**Labour market data**

It is important to note the limitations of many official data sources. For example, data may not be available at the Wirral level or lower. Furthermore, much of the data has a significant time lag – thereby not accurately reflecting more recent worsening conditions. Finally, where possible, this report only uses data that has been updated since the previous Cabinet report (19th March 09). Notwithstanding that, the following is a summary of key indicators:

Employment rate

Latest data for September 08¹ indicates that Wirral's overall Employment Rate has decreased by 3.1% points from its December 2007 position of 71.4% to 68.3%.

Worklessness

The proportion of Wirral's working age population claiming Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) in April 2009 has gone up to 5.3% (9,806). This has increased over the last 12 months from 3.5% (April 2008) – an increase of 3,382 people. The current Wirral rate of 5.3% compares with a regional rate of 4.6% and an England rate of 4.1% for April 2009.

Job Density

Latest data from 2006 indicates that Wirral's job density is 6.8. This means that there are 68 jobs for every 100 working age people. This is an increase from the previous year's rate (2005) which was 6.1.

Redundancies

Analysis of HR14 redundancy notifications provided by Jobcentre Plus has demonstrated a relatively high volume of redundancies in the borough. In 2007/08, 5 employers notified a total of 1051 redundancies (821 of these were attributable to job losses at Burtons). Analysis of HR1s from April 2008 to January 09 shows a further 20 employers notifying an additional 942 job losses.

Recent announcements include Tulip Foods in Bromborough, who recently confirmed the closure of the plant with over 300 job losses. Cammell Laird announced up to 200 redundancies in March 09. Bromborough based chemical plant Croda International have recently announced the closure of the Wirral site with the loss of 115 jobs.

Business Rates (National Non Domestic Rates)

A significant impact has been felt over the last 12 months in respect of Wirral's business rate collection. For example, figures for end of financial year March 2009 indicate that the collection rate had dropped from 97.7% (2007/08) to 93.4%. Although collections are ongoing for these arrears, it is clear that businesses have found it harder to meet their liabilities this year.

¹ Source: ONS Annual Population Survey



Crime and Disorder Levels

Official Home Office figures released in April 2009 and summarised locally in the Daily Post (9th April 2009) reported that overall crime on Merseyside (with the possible exceptions of drugs offences and robbery – the latter being of low volume) is currently at its lowest level since 1985. Against this backdrop it might be difficult for observers to conclude that the economic downturn is having any impact on crime, as suggested in many areas of the national media.

Targets set for serious acquisitive crime reflecting upturn in national trend.

Impact on local businesses

Tulip Foods in Bromborough recently confirmed the closure of the plant with over 300 job losses.

Feedback from businesses

Businesses are still indicating an overall reduction in demand for goods and services, with lower consumer demand cascading through supply chains. Cash and finance are the most urgent concerns. In relation to staffing, there is some evidence that businesses are reluctant to let skilled and committed staff go but are faced with reduced demand impacts.

Housing market

The economic recession exists alongside a slowdown in the housing market across Wirral. This is evidenced by reducing house prices, lower sales numbers, less new-build housing, more empty homes including unsold new homes and greater financial difficulties for mortgaged owner-occupied. This slowdown has had an impact on the construction sector of Wirral and has increased demand for affordable housing whilst loss of economic confidence has dented housing market confidence slowing down interest in moving home or investing in home improvements.

Housing market expectations are that we do not anticipate a marked recovery in the short term. Much will depend on the recovery of the economy generally. Therefore the housing market will continue to be under pressure for the remainder of 2009 and into 2010. This will increase demand for affordable housing, demand for innovative solutions to see new homes built and occupied such as more shared equity schemes. Until economic confidence improves, the housing market is likely to struggle. This will place continued pressure on products designed to stave off repossession.

Feedback from health

It is anticipated that the recession will have an adverse impact on the lifestyle of the population, particularly those adversely affected such as people losing employment and experiencing economic and social problems. This could increase numbers of people smoking, drinking above safe recommended levels, being inactive, eating poor diet etc. The North West Public Health Observatory has been commissioned by the Directors of Public Health to model the expected impact of the recession.

Clients who are in contact with drug and alcohol services may be funding their drug and/or alcohol habit through paid work rather than crime, there is approximately 600

clients with Wirral Drug Service who are also in employment however with the current economic climate if they are to lose their jobs this could lead to an increase in criminality to fund these habits, also we have stable clients who are accessing employment through progress2work who again maybe affected by job losses which may not only affect crime levels but also may cause people to increase their substance misuse due to pressures in other areas of their lives. We obviously have the drug intervention programme in place to pick up offenders who are committing crimes and the re-offending project which has focused on picking up repeat offenders coming through DIP.

Feedback from welfare services

It is anticipated that there will be an increased number of people using Welfare Rights Unit (DASS) services and this has been the case in the last quarter compared to same period last year.

Debt and Financial exclusion

Feedback from voluntary sector organisations demonstrates a substantial increase in service users. Wirral Advice Network indicates significantly increased demand for debt advice over the last year, with Wirral CAB reporting that 25% increase on the same time last year. The CAB have recently accessed government resources to enable additional opening hours for debt advice, in response to the increased demand.

Council Benefits

(Housing & Council Tax Benefits plus Local Housing Allowance) - Over the past months it has become increasingly evident that the economic downturn is directly impacting upon Benefits service delivery locally. This is consistent with the national picture as authorities identify a trend of consistently increasing live caseloads, 'footfall' and general workload. For Wirral, in the past twelve month period the caseload has increased by some 2072 claims, and continues to rise. The rate of change is considerably more noticeable from January 09 onwards.

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WIRRAL LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP – EXECUTIVE BOARD

TUESDAY 9TH JUNE 2009

REPORT OF THE DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE / DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES

2008/09 FULL YEAR PERFORMANCE AND RISK REPORT

1. Report Purpose

This report provides the LSP Executive Board with an overview of performance against the 2008-2011 LAA at the end of 2008/09. The report identifies overall achievements for the partnership as a whole and outlines what's working well for specific areas of delivery. It then identifies future challenges to delivery for the partnership as a whole. The report goes on to provide a summary of performance against the LAA improvement targets and a summary of risks and performance for each of the six LAA themes.

Part 2 of the report gives an overview of performance headlines, detailing the areas of good performance, for each LAA theme, and then identifies those indicators which are currently not meeting their performance targets. For the reporting of performance in this report, tolerances have been removed. This means that wherever an indicator is not meeting its LAA target it is reported as "red". The report then provides details of any associated high risks to these areas of improvement.

2. Achievements / Challenges

What's Working Well

- Wirral has made significant progress to reduce the number of homeless households living in temporary accommodation and has become the second authority in Merseyside to achieve the 2010 government target.
- Recycling rates continued to improve during 2008/09 and the provisional full year figure is **36.64%**. Targets for 09/10 have been refreshed as a result of the 2008/9 target being exceeded. Wirral was the most improved metropolitan council for recycling rates in 2007/08 and the second most improved Local Authority overall in England and Wales.
- Wirral has made significant progress in reducing the numbers of children who are killed or seriously injured on our roads and has surpassed the 2010 target.
- Other headlines include:
 - Improvements in educational attainment
 - Improvements in street cleanliness
 - Numbers of anti-social behaviour incidents have reduced and during 2008/09 there have been 23% less reports than the target set.

- Numbers of assault with less serious injury incidents have reduced and during 2008/09 there have been 17% less reports than the target set.

Future Challenges

- The impact of the recession continues to impact upon the performance of Wirral's services. The numbers of additional homes provided has not met the target due to a severely depressed housing market nationally; however progress has been made in relation to the provision of affordable homes in the borough and despite the current economic climate and financial risks associated with house building 77% of the affordable housing target has successfully been delivered. Despite the prevailing economic conditions, Wirral continues to make steady progress in reducing the number of residents claiming Incapacity Benefit. Wirral has seen a reduction in its Incapacity benefit rate that is double the national average. Lone Parent Benefit rates have remained stable in-line with the national trend. However, these reductions are balanced by up to date figures for Job Seekers Allowance. The proportion of Wirral's working age population claiming JSA now stands at 5.2% (9,520) compared to a regional rate of 4.5% (191,145) and an England rate of 4.0% (1,272,858). Wirral has seen a 1.7% point (3,070) increase from March 2008, which is less than the both the regional and national increase which stand at 1.9% points and 1.8% points respectively.

Additionally, Wirral businesses have felt the full impact of the global financial situation. A number of large redundancies have been announced, with complete plant closures and a lot of small businesses struggling with financial planning issues such as cash flow. Planned developments have been put on hold whilst access to finance has been a problem for most developers across Wirral. Overall, this will have a negative effect on GVA and whilst 2007 figures for GVA will be published in the 3rd quarter 2009/10, it will be time lagged. Therefore, given the impact outlined above GVA in Wirral will definitely be affected in real time terms despite the ongoing work of the Investment Strategy.

The Council has responded to the situation and designed a grant system to support businesses through difficult times with financial planning advice and access to grants. The existing grant scheme for larger projects has also been amended to reflect current market difficulties. The council continues to offer a wide range of support to business.

- Number of 16 to 18 year olds who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) failed to meet the local area agreement stretch target and therefore will not attract any performance reward grant. Performance has improved since last year; however significant challenges remain against the backdrop of the economic downturn.
- Self directed support continues to not meet the set target. An action plan is in place to increase the take up of direct payments.

3. Performance Summary

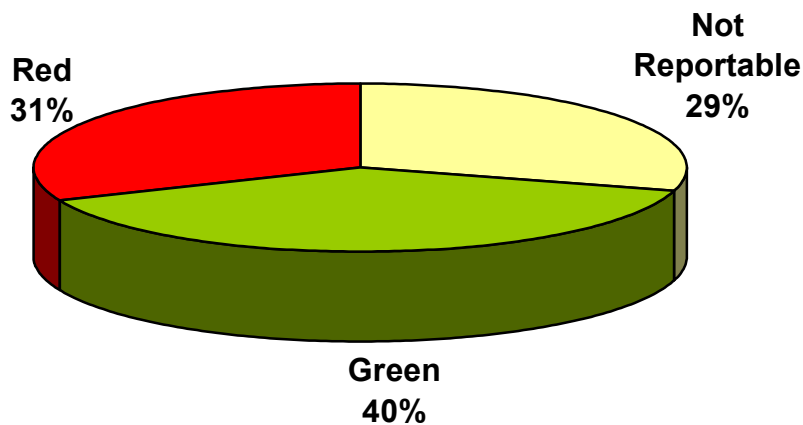
3.1 Overview

There are 51 improvement targets within Wirral's 2008/11 LAA. At the year end stage there are 35 indicators which are able to be reported, of which 60% (21) are on target, and 40%

(14) which have not met their 2008/09 target. The remaining 16 indicators are unable to be reported as the data is provided from an external source which is not yet available or they are being baselined during 2008/09.

At Quarter Three, 22 indicators were able to provide performance forecasts for the end of the year. 68% (15) of these have since met or exceeded the level of performance forecast, whereas 32% (7) have failed to achieve the forecast level.

3.2 On target summary



3.3 LAA Theme Summary

LAA Theme	Performance Indicators which can be reported			
	Green	Red	Not reportable	Total
Health & Wellbeing	7	3	0	10
Life Chances for children & young people	1	9	7	17
Strong local economy	0	1	4	5
Safer Communities	5	1	1	7
Living & Working environment	6	0	2	8
Sustainable appropriate housing	1	2	1	4
Total	20	16	15	51

PART 2: PERFORMANCE & RISK REPORT**4. Health & Wellbeing****What's working well?**

- Carers receiving needs assessment or review and specific carers' service or advice and information continues to over-perform against its target.
- People supported to live independently through social services continues to perform well, and is now over-performing against its target.
- Recent data received for the target to increase the numbers of clients receiving support through the NHS Stop Smoking Services indicate that this target will be met. This is a significant improvement upon previously reported performance.
- The number of emergency unscheduled acute hospital bed days occupied continues to over-perform due to the recruitment of all necessary staff and a number of improvements made to services and systems.
- A number of improvements have been made to services for people with dementia, which have led to this improvement area continuing to over-perform against its target.

Performance issues - LAA indicators which are not meeting the target

At the time of writing this report all of the 10 indicators within this theme can be reported. The following indicators have not met the 2008/09 targets:

PI no	Title	2008/09 Target	2008/09 Actual	Direction of travel
NI 130	Social care clients receiving self directed support	322.3	154.0	n/a
Corrective action:				
For 2008/09 this indicator counted the number of people across all ages receiving direct payments and not individual budgets. There is an action plan in place to increase the take up of direct payments, although this target has not been achieved. Personal budget pilot will impact on this indicator in Quarter 2 of 2009/10. This indicator is in the Department's Balanced Scorecard for all of the Access and Assessment Branch, and take up of Direct Payments and Personal Budgets will be monitored through performance surgeries and action plans.				

PI no	Title	2008/09 Target	2008/09 Actual	Direction of travel
NI 120a	All-age all cause mortality (m) (Lower is Better)	735.00	773	n/a
Corrective action:				
773 is an estimate. Year end actual is expected in August 2009. Draft Health Inequalities Action Plan has been produced and will be taken to all the necessary Boards for sign off. It will require rapid implementation in order to impact on the target.				

PI no	Title	2008/09 Target	2008/09 Actual	Direction of travel
NI 120b	All-age all cause mortality (f) (Lower is Better)	513.00	555.9	n/a

Corrective action:

555.9 is an estimate. Year end actual is expected in August 2009. A draft Health Inequalities Action Plan has been produced and will be taken to all the necessary Boards for sign off. It will require rapid implementation in order to impact on the target.

Risks

The ambition to support people to live independently could be challenged by an increasing number of children with complex needs who are approaching adulthood. A transition protocol has been agreed with the Department of Children and Young People and further work is needed to fully embed this protocol.

5. Life chances for children and young people**What's working well?**

- Improvements in education attainment indicators, including the number of looked after children achieving level 4 in English at KS2 achieving the target and improvements made in Key Stage 2 and A*-C GCSE achievement
- The stability of placements of looked after children indicators are all on target and have improved from last year
- A reduction is being seen in the under-18 conception rate due to activity progressed in this area.

Performance issues - LAA indicators which are not meeting the target

At the time of writing this report 10 of the 17 indicators within this theme can be reported. The following indicators have not met the 2008/09 targets:

PI no	Title	2008/09 Target	2008/09 Actual	Direction of travel
NI 117	16-18 year olds not in employment, education or training (Lower is Better)	7.4%	9.1%	Improving

Corrective action:

The end of year performance was achieved against a back drop of significant economic downturn. There was a significant reduction in the number of vacancies for young people in the borough. Focused Activity with the NEET cohort during December led to a return for that month of 8.49%, a 5 year low for NEET in the Borough. Partnership activities are required to sustain this effort as outlined in the Borough EET strategy. The Authority EET Action plan is in place which outlines partner responsibilities and contributions to achieving the NEET target. The Wirral Wise Programme, supported by ESF, has commenced, with its 3 strands of interventions targeted at young people who are NEET, aimed at progression via placements and work trials. The September Guarantee thresholds have been met in Wirral this year, with: 94.95% of Year 11 and 80.51% of 17 year olds having a recorded offer of a place in EET. Targeted action with vulnerable young people and within

NEET hotspot areas continues. An Apprenticeship Programme is planned to be in place for June 2009, targeted at stimulating demand among employers for 100 new apprenticeships. Wirral's 14-19 offer is in place, providing a rich menu for students including: Diplomas, foundation Learning Tier, General Qualifications and Apprenticeships. The student offer will be enhanced by access to impartial Information Advice Guidance and Support. All year 11 leavers and those leaving one year post 16 programmes of study have the offer of a guarantee of a place in Learning. This offer is supported by the electronic prospectus Ichoosewirral.org.uk detailing post 16 opportunities and the common application process.

PI no	Title	2008/09 Target	2008/09 Actual	Direction of travel
NI 72	Achievement of at least 78 points across the Early Years Foundation Stage with at least 6 in each of the scales in Personal Social and Emotional Development and Communication, Language and Literacy	54%	49%	Improving

Corrective action:

Communication, Language and Learning Difficulties project work was implemented in September 2008 in 10 schools to raise outcomes for Foundation Stage, with regard to language and literacy. The development and implementation of a universal training programme linked to Early Years Foundation Stage, Social Emotional Aspects of Development and vulnerable groups got underway in January. More targeted work is planned in consultation with Special Education Support Services and Speech and Language services.

PI no	Title	2008/09 Target	2008/09 Actual	Direction of travel
NI 75	Achievement of 5 or more A*- C grades at GCSE or equivalent including English and Maths	52%	50.2%	Improving

Corrective action:

Ongoing targeted support, intervention and monitoring through National Strategies programmes and through School Improvement Partners. Implementation of specific intervention programmes such as National Challenge, Gaining Ground and 1-1 tuition. Specific teaching and learning and curriculum developments: Assessing Pupil Progress and 14-19 Strategy.

PI no	Title	2008/09 Target	2008/09 Actual	Direction of travel
NI 92	Narrowing the gap between the lowest achieving 20% in the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile and the rest (Lower is Better)	31.5%	31.9%	Improving

Corrective action:

Ongoing targeted support and intervention through the work of Sure Start and National Strategies programmes. Ongoing Continuing professional development programmes. A range of targeted programmes/ projects. The work outlined under NI 72 also contributes to NI 92.

PI no	Title	2008/09 Target	2008/09 Actual	Direction of travel
NI 100	Looked after children reaching level 4 in maths at Key Stage 2	62.5%	61.5%	Improving
<p>Corrective action:</p> <p>It is important to recognise the volatility and mobility of this cohort and that they are small numbers. There has been a specific focus on Maths at all key stages. 1-1 tuition has been introduced. We have significantly improved the systems for tracking pupils with earlier identification of under-achievement. The role of personal Education Plans and the Designated teacher have been reinforced. The "Virtual School" is moving into the Learning and Achieving Branch.</p>				

PI no	Title	2008/09 Target	2008/09 Actual	Direction of travel
NI 101	Looked after children achieving 5 A*-C GCSEs (or equivalent) at Key Stage 4 (including English and maths)	13.5%	10.5%	Improving
<p>Corrective action:</p> <p>Provisional local data, pending Department of Children's Schools & Families validated data release at end of April. - The attainment of looked-after children is examined on an individual basis and various factors that might affect performance are taken into account, such as level of attendance. Designated teachers for Looked After Children are in place. Schools have been given an additional £500 per pupil through their budgets to assist in work to support Looked After Children.</p>				

PI no	Title	2008/09 Target	2008/09 Actual	Direction of travel
NI 55	Obesity among primary school age children in Reception year (Lower is Better)	9.23%	9.57%	Deteriorated
<p>Corrective action:</p> <p>This target is not being achieved. Unless all partners examine current policy and practice in relation to promoting healthy weight progress will not be made. Provision of food in workplaces and public building such as schools and leisure centres, green transport policy, and planning policy relating to the provision of fast food outlets, planning policy in relation to physical environment such as provision of cycle lanes, cycle parking are required to create a non obesogenic environment to compliment social marketing.</p>				

PI no	Title	2008/09 Target	2008/09 Actual	Direction of travel
NI 112	Under 18 conception rate	36.3	47.64	Stayed the same.
<p>Corrective action:</p> <p>Progress towards delivering the Priority Action Plan will depend on the partner's commitment to implementing the initiatives and overcoming barriers to communication. Since the previous update an Information Sharing Agreement has been established between the LA and NHS Wirral. Two data workshops have been facilitated by Centre for Local Economic Strategies which has provided a</p>				

number of actions to be progressed through the Performance Management Group to further strengthen the analysis and use of local data. An elected member's teenage pregnancy briefing is due to be held on the 21st April with support from GONW and the Regional Teenage Pregnancy Coordinator. A Media and Communications Plan is currently being developed for Wirral along with a targeted Aspiration Campaign using social marketing techniques due to be launched in September 2009. Additional funding has been made available to offer each Secondary School a Bite Size brook event.

Risks

The slowdown in the economy presents significant short-term challenges for the NEET group, both in terms of a reduction in opportunities and greater competition from adults for those which are available. The City Region is working with employers and providers around Apprenticeships and how we can support our young people to continue in learning if their employer has to let them go. Additional planned controls include continuing the Activity Agreement pilot to focus on structured activities and incentive payments for NEET young people. This pilot is already demonstrating improved progression rates, increased employability and reduced time spent NEET.

In terms of looked after children, there is concern that the size of individual social workers' caseloads could impact on the speed of referrals, although additional staff are being brought in to deal with any back log in data entry. . The Baby P case has raised the profile of safeguarding nationally and could lead to greater caution and more referrals to children's social care; this is being addressed by ongoing monitoring and review of referral numbers. Wirral Council has increased this area of the budget for 2009/10.

Addressing teenage conceptions requires multi partnership action to address risk taking behaviour (e.g. alcohol consumption), raising aspirations through education, training and employment opportunities and provision of young people friendly health and sexual health services and support. Progress is being made in all areas but requires continued focus to adequately impact within the timescale to meet the target.

6. Strong local economy

What's working well?

- Number of jobs created and jobs safeguarded have exceeded targets as a result of the continued work by Invest Wirral to raise awareness of the support packages available

Performance issues - LAA indicators which are not meeting the target

At the time of writing this report none of the 5 indicators within this theme can be reported, this is due to the data being provided by external sources.

Risks

The current downturn in the economy presents the greatest threat to impacting upon levels of employment, the creation of new businesses, the viability of existing businesses and the delivery of new commercial developments in the borough. The most significant threat in this area is presented by the current global economic slowdown with unemployment rising and

expected to worsen over the next twelve months, with JSA trends in Wirral rising above the national average. The Wirral Economic Development and Skills partnership, through the Working Wirral programme has commissioned activity to support workless people into training and employment in line with the Investment Framework.

7. Safer communities

What's working well?

- Targets to reduce crime have been met, including violent crime, and assaults and anti-social behaviour incidents as a result of the initiatives brought about by improved partnership working and activities progressed by the Wirral Joint Community Safety Team.
- Projected figures for drug related re-offending have exceeded target.
- Wirral has this year surpassed its 2010 target for the reduction of children killed or seriously injured on our roads

Performance issues - LAA indicators which are not meeting the target

At the time of writing this report 6 of the 7 indicators within this theme can be reported. The following indicators have not met the 2008/09 targets:

PI no	Title	2008/09 Target	2008/09 Actual	Direction of travel
NI 47	People killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents (% annual change, based on 3-year rolling average)	11.3%	10.3%	n/a

Corrective action:

Under performance of 1% set against an 11.3% target. Re-development of multi-agency Road Safe Action Plan focusing existing and additional resources against high-risk casualty and road user groups. It should be noted that road casualty data is subject to random fluctuation and that total numbers of KSI's are within expected standard deviation range.

Risks

There are no high risks identified in the LAA risk register at this time.

8. Living and working environment

What's working well?

- Percentage of household waste reused, recycled and composted continues to improve with an end of year figure of 36.64% against a target of 34%.
- Indicators measuring improved street and environmental cleanliness for levels of litter, detritus, graffiti and fly posting have all achieved or exceeded targets.

Performance issues - LAA indicators which are not meeting the target

At the time of writing this report 6 of the 8 indicators within this theme can be reported. There are no indicators which have not met the 2008/09 targets.

Risks

There is a concern that the economic situation could present a problem in relation to reducing CO2 emissions, by deterring householders and businesses from taking up subsidies for energy efficiency initiatives. In order to address this, the Sustainability Unit is being created within the council and activities continue to raise awareness.

9. Sustainable, appropriate housing**What's working well?**

- Target has been exceeded for the number of homeless households living in temporary accommodation
- Number of homes acquired, demolished, refurbished or built as a result of HMRI investment has exceeded target.

Performance issues - LAA indicators which are not meeting the target

At the time of writing this report 3 of the 4 indicators within this theme can be reported. The following indicators have not met the 2008/09 targets:

PI no	Title	2008/09 Target	2008/09 Actual	Direction of travel
NI 154	Net additional homes provided	500	218	Deteriorated

Corrective action:

Reason for this is severely depressed housing market nationally; locally HMRI is continuing to support the housing market in targeted areas of east Wirral. The future targets of 500 are set through the regional spatial strategy and can only be adjusted through a review, expected to be completed by 2011.

PI no	Title	2008/09 Target	2008/09 Actual	Direction of travel
NI 4266	Number of vulnerable households assisted under Warmfront	2765	2717	n/a

Corrective action:

The reported 2717 households assisted was an improvement on the 07/08 figure however was 1.74% below target due to a lower than expected number of households assisted in January. A reason could be the negative publicity surrounding Warm Front in the national media towards the end of 2008. In addition to the area-based promotional activity and training planned in Q2 2009/10, to ensure targets are met a mail-shot will be carried out in partnership with EAGA late in Q1.

Risks

In terms of new homes generally, the current economic climate is both reducing people's ability to afford and/or obtain finance to purchase a new homes and developers' willingness/ability to finance new building. There is a further concern in relation to affordable homes that the effect of the economic downturn on RSLs and private developers will reduce Homebuy schemes and S106 developments. This is being tackled through existing initiatives and the evaluation of other options such as mortgage rescue packages and the possibility of RSLs acquiring private developments for use as social housing.

Recommendations:

1.1 LSP Executive board are asked to review the full year performance and risk information contained within this report and identify any areas for further action.

Appendix One**LAA Theme Performance Summary Index****Health & Wellbeing**

PI No & Title	2008/09 Target	2008/09 Actual	Performance Target Status	Performance Status Change
NI 135 Carers receiving a needs assessment or review and a specific carers' service, or advice and information.	18.0%	25.46%	Green	n/a
NI 130 Social care clients receiving Self Directed Support	322.3	154.0	Red	n/a
NI 136 People supported to live independently through social services	2185.80	2842.49	Green	n/a
LOCAL 8436 To reduce the number of people with dementia admitted to residential and nursing care (Lower Better)	171	150	Green	Improving
NI 39 Alcohol harm related hospital admission rates(Lower Is Better)	2581	2336	Green	n/a
NI 120a All-age all cause mortality (m) (Lower is Better)	735.00	773	Red	n/a
NI 120b All-age all cause mortality (f) (Lower is Better)	513.00	555.9	Red	n/a
NI 123 Stopping smoking	896	910	Green	Improving
LOCAL 8432 Establish a cohort of clients aged 16-35 with two or more episodes or self harm	2	2	Green	n/a
LOCAL 8228 The number of emergency unscheduled hospital bed days through fractured neck of femur (Lower is Better)	10534	5613	Green	Deteriorated

Life Chances for Children and Young People

Title	2008/09 Target	2008/09 Actual	Performance Target Status	Performance Status Change
NI 68 Percentage of referrals to children's social care going on to initial assessment	71%	67.6%	Red	n/a
LOCAL 1400 Safely reduce the number of looked after children	590	Awaiting Data		
NI 117 16-18 year olds who are not in employment, education or training (NEET) (Lower is Better)	7.4%	9.1%	Red	Improving
NI 72 Achievement of at least 78 points across the Early Years Foundation Stage with at least 6 in each of the scales in Personal Social and Emotional Development and Communication, Language and Literacy	54%	49%	Red	Improving
NI 73 Achievement at level 4 or above in both English and Maths at Key Stage 2	No target set 2008/9	75%	Provisional Data	Improving
NI 75 Achievement of 5 or more A*- C grades at GCSE or equivalent including English and Maths	52%	50.2%	Red	Improving
NI 87 Secondary school persistent absence rate (Lower is Better)	No target set 2008/9	4.9%	Provisional Data	Improving
NI 92 Narrowing the gap between the lowest achieving 20% in the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile and the rest (Lower is Better)	31.5%	31.9%	Red	Improving
NI 93 Progression by 2 levels in English between Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2	No target set 2008/9	85%	Provisional Data	Improving
NI 94 Progression by 2 levels in Maths between Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2	No target set 2008/9	77.4%	Provisional Data	Improving
NI 99 Looked after children reaching level 4 in English at Key Stage 2	60%	62.0%	Green	Improving

Title	2008/09 Target	2008/09 Actual	Performance Target Status	Performance Status Change
NI 100 Looked after children reaching level 4 in Maths at Key Stage 2	62.5%	61.5%	Red	Improving
NI 101 Looked after children achieving 5 A*-C GCSEs (or equivalent) at Key Stage 4 (including English and Maths)	13.5%	10.5%	Red	Improving
LOCAL 1700a Increase young people's participation in positive activities - Participation	No target set 2008/9	21%	Provisional Data.	Improving
NI 111 First time entrants into the Youth Justice System aged 10-17	Introduced in 2009/10.			
NI 112 The reduction in the rate of under-18 conceptions (Lower is better)	36.3	47.64	Red	Stayed the same
NI 55 Obesity in primary school age children in Reception (Lower is Better)	9.23%	9.57%	Red	Deteriorated

A Strong Local Economy

PI No & Title	2008/09 Target	2008/09 Actual	Performance Target Status	Performance Status Change
NI 151 Overall employment rate (working age)	70.5	69.3	Red	Stayed the same
NI 153 Working age people claiming out of work benefits in the worst performing neighborhoods	35.2	Data provided by DWP – expected 27.05.09.		
NI 171 New business registration rate	Baselined 2008/09. This target is still to be negotiated with GONW.			
LOCAL 6281 Increase in NVQ Level 2 skills participation	3283	Latest data available is Q3. The 2008/09 figure is expected Dec 09.		
LOCAL 6280 The amount of floor space (ha) developed and brought to the market for employment use	Baselined 2008/09.			

Safer, Stronger Communities

Title	2008/09 Target	2008/09 Actual	Performance Target Status	Performance Status Change
LOCAL 8431 The percentage reduction in the rate of drug related offending (Lower is Better)	45.0%	37%	Green	Improving
NI 15 Number of most serious violent crimes per 1,000 population (Lower is Better)	0.37	0.38	Green	n/a
NI 20 Number of assaults with less serious injury offences per 1,000 population (Lower is Better)	5.48	5.05	Green	n/a
NI 47 Percentage reduction in people killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents	11.3%	10.3%	Red	n/a
NI 48 Percentage reduction in children killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents	16.3%	25%	Green	n/a
LOCAL 4206 Reduce the number of reported incidents of anti-social behaviour (Lower is Better)	17917	15524	Green	Improving
NI 21 People who agree that the police and local councils are dealing with anti-social behaviour and crime in their area	Baselined 2008/09 - Place Survey			

Living and Working Environment

Title	2008/09 Target	2008/09 Actual	Performance Target Status	Performance Status Change
NI 192 Percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting	34%	36.64%	Green	Improving
NI 195a Improved street & environmental cleanliness (litter) (Lower is Better)	8%	7%	Green	n/a
NI 195b Improved street & environmental cleanliness (detritus) (Lower is Better)	10%	9%	Green	n/a

Title	2008/09 Target	2008/09 Actual	Performance Target Status	Performance Status Change
NI 195c Improved street & environmental cleanliness (graffiti) (Lower is Better)	7%	4%	Green	n/a
NI 195d Improved street & environmental cleanliness (fly-posting) (Lower is Better)	1%	0%	Green	n/a
LOCAL 4178 Improved street & environmental cleanliness in Wirral's most deprived areas	28%	13%	Green	n/a
NI 186 Per capita reduction in CO2 emissions in the LA area	3.7%	Awaiting Data from Defra		
NI 167 Congestion – average journey time per mile during the morning peak	104.3	Awaiting Data from DfT –expected June 09.		

Sustainable, Appropriate Housing

Title	2008/09 Target	2008/09 Actual	Performance Target Status	Performance Status Change
NI 154 Net additional homes provided	500	218	Red	Deteriorating
NI 155 Number of affordable homes delivered	149	Data unavailable until September 09.		
NI 4266 Number of vulnerable households assisted with at least one main energy efficiency measure under Warm Front	2765	2717	Red	n/a
NI 156 Number of households living in temporary accommodation (Lower is Better)	18	4	Green	n/a



Wirral Area Assessment Audit Commission Update May 2009



Comprehensive Area Assessment
A new way of assessing local public services



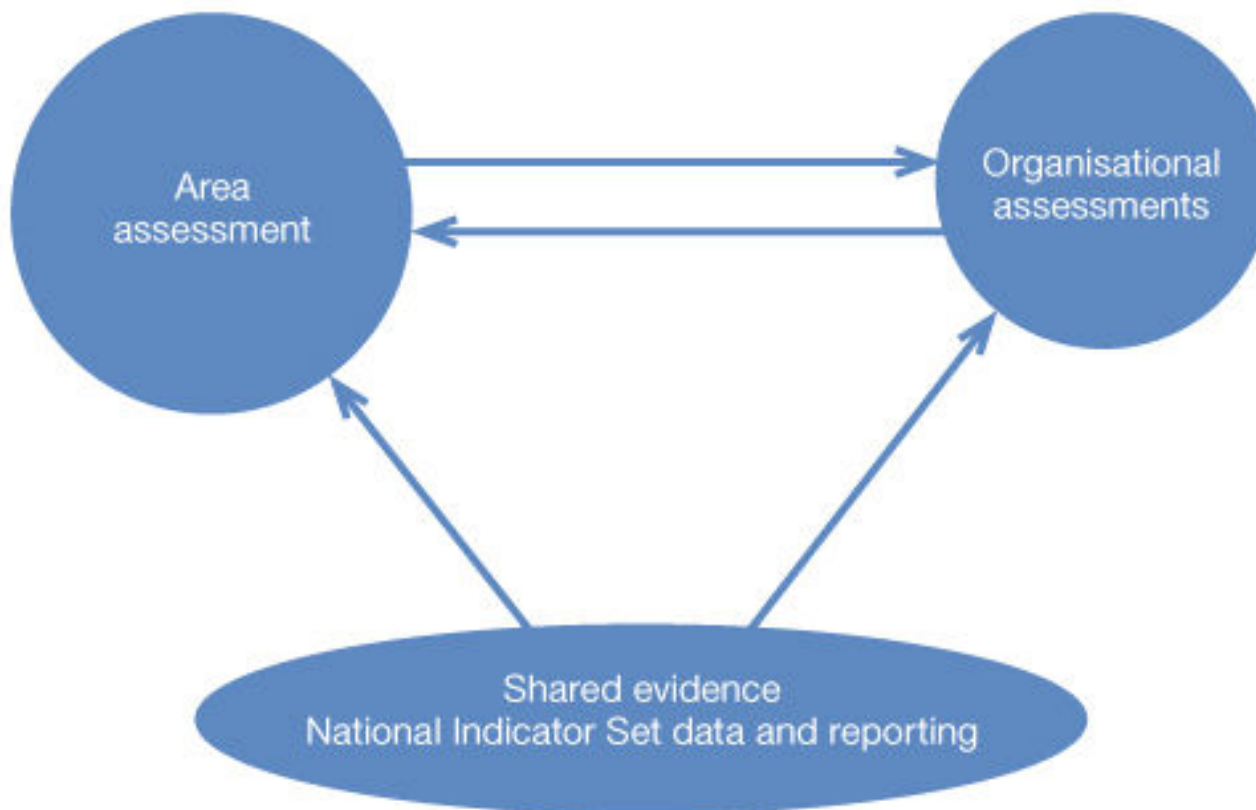
Agenda

- Introduction to CAA
 - the framework
- Emerging Picture
 - Initial impressions from the Audit Commission's work
 - AC work NOT joint inspectorate at this stage
- Next Steps
 - Response
 - Further work
 - Updates from inspectorates



The CAA Framework



The CAA framework





Area assessment

Forward looking, focused on outcomes in local priorities

- Answers three questions:
 1. How well do local priorities express community needs and aspirations?
 2. How well are the outcomes and improvements needed being delivered?
 - 3. What are the prospects for improvement?**
- These questions will be underpinned by four themes that run through the assessment: sustainability, inequality, vulnerable people and value for money
- Green  and red  'flags' will signal exceptional performance, improvement or innovation, and significant concerns about future outcomes
- Judgement agreed across inspectorates



Stage 1 AC work

- Early initial views
- Limited scope of review
 - Background notes/research
 - Direction of Travel
 - APAs
 - Local performance information
- Will be updated e.g.
 - NIS
 - Place survey
 - Local performance information
- Not a Joint inspectorate view at this stage
- Views could change over time



How well do local priorities express community needs and aspirations?



How well do local priorities express community needs and aspirations?

- Clear understanding of the disparity within and across geographical communities.
 - Both SCS and LAA are grounded in context of Wirral.
- Good understanding of issues in relation to young people, older people.
- Range of examples on engagement e.g. community forums.
- Comprehensive engagement strategy being developed at a partnership levels.



How well do local priorities express community needs and aspirations?

Prospects for improvement – Further information needed

- How has community engagement informed priorities?
- SCS
 - What longer term outcome measures are to be in place
 - How will partners know if they have been successful in reducing inequalities?
 - How are partners going to deliver the priority around reducing inequalities? Is there a coherent and co-ordinated approach?
 - How are the plans cited in the SCS brought together to deliver partnership priorities?



How well are outcomes and improvements being delivered?

What are the prospects for future improvement?



A strong local economy for Wirral.

- Wirral is ranked as the eighth most deprived area of the country in relation to employment.
- There are variations in levels of economic inactivity across Wirral
- Wirral has a higher than average proportion of the working age population on benefits
- The people with the lowest qualifications are least likely to find employment
- Whilst less people are claiming incapacity benefit more people are claiming job seekers allowance



A strong local economy for Wirral.

Prospects for improvement

- Investment Strategy in place
- Wirral Waters development
- Partnership arrangements reviewed - Wirral's Economic Development and Skills (WEDS) Partnership to lead.
- Working Wirral brings together a number of resources
- Wirral partners are developing a co-ordinated response to the recession.



A strong local economy for Wirral.

Questions

- Partners are working to understand the impact of the recession? What have they found and what action is being taken. What is the impact of interventions?
- What is being done to improve the levels of skills in Wirral?
- What is being done to reduce levels of worklessness?



Safer, stronger communities in all parts of the borough.

- Overall crime levels have been falling over time
- Rates of burglaries, violent crimes, robberies and vehicle crimes have fallen although certain communities of the borough continue to suffer higher levels of crime than others.
- There has been a fall in residents' fear of crime. However, anti-social behaviour remains a significant issue for local people
- Serious injury and death of road users and pedestrians in Wirral continues to be a significant challenge.
- Serious violent crime – not on track to be achieved.



Safer, stronger communities in all parts of the borough.

Prospects for improvement

- Crime and Disorder Reduction and Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategies in place
- Eight Neighbourhood Teams,
- Wirral was selected by the government as one of 40 Respect areas as part of the drive against anti-social behaviour.
- Partners have achieved beacon status award for Positive Youth
- However, questions over sustainability of activities as a result of the withdrawal of existing funding



Safer, stronger communities in all parts of the borough.

Questions

- Violent crime – what is being done to reduce this?
- Road safety
- Sustainability of further improvements - What impact will any agreed changes in funding have?



The best possible health and well-being for all families and individuals.

- Overall life expectancy is rising
 - But big variations in life expectancy between the most affluent and the most deprived areas,
- Key challenges in relation to tackling health inequalities are addressing alcohol harm
- There is a good understanding that poor health is linked to other deprivation indicators such as those around worklessness, as well as levels of educational attainment and aspiration.
- Rising older population



The best possible health and well-being for all families and individuals.

Prospects for improvement

- Recent I&DeA Healthy Communities Peer Review was positive about the work of the partnership and a health inequalities action plan is being developed.
- The health inequalities National Support Team have also undertaken work in Wirral recently.
- NHS Wirral and the Council have worked together to develop five lifestyle strategies to support improvement



The best possible health and well-being for all families and individuals.

Questions

- Future plans to reduce health inequalities?
- Actions arising from national support team review?
- Progress in alcohol reduction?
- Strategic Framework for Older People – is there a strategic framework for older people (over 50's) that goes beyond social care?



Excellent life chances for children and young people.

- Overall attainment levels in primary schools are above the national and around 70% of all pupils in Wirral attain five or more A*-C GCSE grades.
 - However, there are gaps in attainment levels across the borough.
- Progress has been made in reducing the number of young people 16-18 not in education, employment or training
 - In the most deprived areas of the borough have disproportionately higher levels of young people not in education employment or training.
- Rates of teenage parenthood in Wirral continue to be highest in those areas that experience higher levels of deprivation and poorer educational attainment.
- In 2007, the proportion of children who were classified as either overweight or obese was 25% of Reception Year children and 35% of Year Six children.



Excellent life chances for children and young people.

Questions

- Ofsted assessment for children and young people
- What is being done to reduce inequalities?
- Actions to reduce teenage conceptions?
- Reductions of levels of NEETs



A high quality living and working environment

- Waste and recycling targets are being achieved
- Improvements in street and environmental cleanliness, graffiti & fly posting
 - However, levels of litter and detritus in more deprived areas have significantly worse performance
- Co2 Emission reductions – no progress information on this at the moment
- Congestion – average journey time per mile during the morning peak – indicates that journey times along the corridor are within target.



A high quality living and working environment

Questions

- How dealing with the levels of litter and detritus in more deprived areas?
 - implementation of a temporary SOA manager for waste and cleansing issues to work closely with community groups to improve environmental quality in the longer term.
- Reduction in the CO2 emissions and congestion?



Sustainable, appropriate housing for all.

- There is a contrast between different parts of the Wirral in terms of tenure mix
 - areas containing a high proportion of social housing also coinciding with measures of high deprivation.
- There are low levels of new social and affordable housing. High numbers of empty properties
- Homelessness is decreasing, although not at the rate of some other authorities
- The strategic housing inspection carried out in 2007 indicated that Wirral had good intelligence about housing markets and stock condition,
- The annual performance review of NewHeartlands carried out in 2008 concluded it was “performing well”.



Sustainable, appropriate housing for all.

Questions

- Strategic Housing priorities - how priorities align with needs
- Housing Markets – How well Wirral understands stock condition in distinct areas of the borough and the outcomes of its work in the HMR area.
- What proposals are there to reduce number of empty homes?
- Homelessness - Wirral's preventative work?



Next Steps

- Discussion with partners about the issues raised
- Update us on progress
- Performance information – NIS, Place Survey, local information
- More work with other inspectorates to develop the emerging picture

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