



Local Strategic Partnership Executive Board

Date:	Wednesday, 8 July 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 - 6)
3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
4. ECONOMIC UPDATE (Pages 7 - 16)
5. CAA EMERGING PICTURE - UPDATE BY PETER FORRESTER,
WIRRAL'S CAA
6. PARTNERSHIP DISCUSSION IN RESPONSE TO WIRRAL'S CAA
EMERGING PICTURE
7. WIRRAL HEALTH INEQUALITIES ACTION PLAN (Pages 17 - 18)
8. COMPREHENSIVE ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY - CONSULTATION
PROCESS

Draft for consultation can be found at
<http://www.wirral-lsp.org/content/Documents.aspx>

9. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES ACT (Pages 19 - 22)

- 10. PARTNERSHIP DATA QUALITY AGREEMENT (Pages 23 - 30)**
- 11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Agenda Item 2

Minutes - Local Strategic Partnership Executive (*not a public meeting*)
Tuesday 9th June 2009

Present	
Chair	Cllr Steve Foulkes (Leader, Wirral Council)
Public Sector	Cllr Simon Holbrook (Leader, Liberal Democrat Group, Wirral Council), 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), Mike Hagen (Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service)
Voluntary Sector	Clint Agard (Wirral Voluntary & Community Sectors Network)
Private Sector	
Advisers	Richard Perry (GONW), Peter Forrester, David Wilson (Audit Commission)
Secretariat	Wirral Council - Jim Wilkie (Deputy Chief Executive), Lucy Beed (Corporate Performance Manager), 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) Howard Cooper (Director of Children's Services), David Ball (Head of Housing & Regeneration), Sheila Lynch (Connexions), Brian Simpson (Wirral Partnership Homes)
Apologies	Cllr Jeff Green (Leader, Conservative Group, Wirral Council), Simon Pierce (Learning & Skills Council), Peter Cubbon (Chief Executive, Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust), Myrtle Lacey (Wirral Voluntary & Community Sectors Network) Alberto Bertalli

Index to Minutes

Minute 129 - WELCOME, APOLOGIES, INTRODUCTIONS

Minute 130 - ACTIONS AND AGREEMENTS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Minute 131 - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Minute 132 - WIRRAL LSP – REPORT ON WIRRAL'S RESPONSE TO THE CURRENT ECONOMIC CLIMATE

MINUTE 133 - YOUNG PEOPLE NOT IN EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING – PRESENTATION BY SHEILA LYNCH AND HOWARD COOPER

MINUTE 134 - 2008/09 FULL YEAR PERFORMANCE AND RISK REPORT

MINUTE 135 - CAA EMERGING PICTURE – PRESENTATION BY PETER FORRESTER, WIRRAL'S CAA LEAD

MINUTE 136 - PARTNERSHIP DISCUSSION IN RESPONSE TO WIRRAL'S CAA EMERGING PICTURE

MINUTE 137 - ANY OTHER BUSINESS – VCAW/NETWORK FUNDING UPDATE

Minute 138 - ANY OTHER BUSINESS – MIGRATION IMPACT FUND

Minute 139 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS – COMPREHENSIVE ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

Minute 140 - DATE AND TIME OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Minute 129 - WELCOME, APOLOGIES, INTRODUCTIONS

Apologies received as stated above. The chair welcomed Mike Hagen to the board and advised that the Fire and Rescue Service would be represented on the LSP Executive board following the LSP governance review

Minute 130 - ACTIONS AND AGREEMENTS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

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

Minute Decision : Resolved –

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

Minute 131 - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Board members were asked to declare any interests in relation to agenda items.

Steve Maddox declared that he is a board member of the Greater Merseyside Connexions Partnership.

Minute 132 - WIRRAL LSP – REPORT ON WIRRAL’S RESPONSE TO THE CURRENT ECONOMIC CLIMATE

J Wilkie introduced this report. 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.

J Wilkie advised that all responses to the economic climate are being consulted with the private sector and that a partnership group has been assembled to identify gaps in provision. J Wilkie also advised that there is some good news emerging in Wirral, for example new contracts are being secured by Wirral companies.

J Wilkie advised that the increase in JSA is now in line with the regional and national averages.

Minute Decision : Resolved that –

- (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.
- (2) 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.

- (3) The LSP Executive noted 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.

Minute 133 – YOUNG PEOPLE NOT IN EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING – PRESENTATION BY SHEILA LYNCH AND HOWARD COOPER

Sheila Lynch and Howard Cooper presented this item and outlined the issues related to young people not in education, employment or training and how the partnership is responding.

H Cooper advised that the new apprentice programme which had attracted 49 employers since its advertisement on 1st June. H Cooper further added that the apprenticeships had been targeted at the private sector and there was a need to mobilise the public sector in its role as employers.

Minute Decision : Resolved that –

- 1) The board members noted the presentation and thanked Sheila and Howard for an informative presentation

Minute 134 – 2008/09 FULL YEAR PERFORMANCE AND RISK REPORT

J Wilkie 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.

Simon Holbrook asked for further information about our proposals for implementing self directed payments.

Steve Maddox asked about progress being made to reduce the under 18 conception rate. Howard Cooper advised that Wirral is improving but not at the rate required.

M Armitage advised that the health inequalities action plan would be reported to the board meeting.

Minute Decision : Resolved that:

- 1) The board members noted the report.
- 2) Health inequalities action plan will be reported to the next board meeting.

Minute 135 - 136 – CAA EMERGING PICTURE – PRESENTATION BY PETER FORRESTER, WIRRAL’S CAA LEAD FOLLOWED BY PARTNERSHIP DISCUSSION IN RESPONSE TO WIRRAL’S CAA EMERGING PICTURE

Peter Forrester and David Wilson presented on Wirral’s CAA emerging picture. J Wilkie responded with a presentation that addressed each point raised in the Audit Commission’s presentation.

D Wilson advised that the Audit Commission would like to look in detail at the health inequalities action plan. J Wilkie invited D Wilson to attend the next board meeting where the health inequalities action plan will be reported to the board.

P Forrester advised the board that the draft area assessment report would be available in October.

Mike Hagen raised concerns that the presentation did not fully reflect the work of Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service. P Forrester advised that this would be explored further as the process continued.

Jon Ward advised that he had been notified that Wirral had not been successful in achieving a green flag for community safety. P Forrester advised that he was unaware of this and would look into this further.

K Doran asked whether the board can comment on the October report. P Forrester advised that CAA is an ongoing dialogue with the board.

K Doran referred to other assessments / inspections that have taken place and requested assurance that CAA would not duplicate other assessments / inspection regimes. P Forrester advised that CAA will seek to use already available information to build the emerging CAA picture for Wirral. CAA will link to external assessments that have already taken place.

Steve Maddox advised that the LSP Development group who are working to respond to the queries raised by the Audit Commission need to articulate that Wirral is working in partnership through all levels of the partner organisations.

The chair thanked P Forrester and D Wilson for the presentation and advised the board that CAA would be a regular agenda item for the board.

Minute Decision :

Resolved that

- 1) The board noted the presentations.

Minute 137 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS – VCAW/NETWORK FUNDING UPDATE

J Wilkie presented this report which provides an update to LSP Executive Board members of the latest funding position of Voluntary and Community Action Wirral (VCAW) in respect of its Community Empowerment Network function (The

Network).

The board agreed with proposal.

Minute Decision :

Resolved that:

- 1) LSP Executive Board members approved £51,454.50 of the performance reward grant is used together with the £40,000 NHS Wirral allocation as match to secure the £91,454.50 pump priming grant. The total figure of £182,909 will fund The Network function on a three year basis (2009-12)
- 2) LSP Executive Board approved that the £48,545.50 remaining performance reward grant funds is to spent on targeted training and capacity building activity over the next three years, to further strengthen the ability the Third Sector to engage the LSP.

Minute 138 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS – MIGRATION IMPACT FUND

J Wilkie referred to the migration impact fund and advised that Wirral's LSP Executive Board was required to approve any Wirral bids for the fund.

J Wilkie advised that a bid would be circulated to the board the following day and asked the board to respond with any objections by Monday 15th June. The board agreed that no response would constitute as endorsement for the bid.

Minute Decision :

Resolved that –

- 1) The migration impact fund bid would be circulated to board members.

Minute 139 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS

J Wilkie advised that Wirral's Comprehensive Engagement Strategy had now been approved by Cabinet and requested that the strategy is now taken through all partners' organisations.

K Doran advised that the strategy had been reported to the NHS Wirral Executive board.

J Wilkie advised that the strategy will be circulated following this meeting and it will be reported to the next board meeting.

Minute Decision :

Resolved that –

- 1) The Comprehensive Engagement Strategy will be circulated following the meeting and reported to the next board meeting.
- 2) The board agreed that the CES will be reported through partner organisation's individual governance arrangements.

Meeting closed at 7.00 pm

Minute 140 – DATE AND TIME OF FUTURE MEETINGS

- 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

WIRRAL LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP – EXECUTIVE BOARD

WEDNESDAY 8TH JULY 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.
- 1.2 The LSP Executive Board are also asked to endorse a method for collating partners' actions that are contributing to minimising the impact of the recession on Wirral residents.
- 1.3 This report sets out those actions that have occurred or actions that have been taken since the last LSP Executive Board report of the 9th June 2009.

2. CURRENT AREAS OF WORK

- 2.1 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.
- 2.2 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 is updated monthly to support Officers in managing key programmes of activity. Key data is attached at Appendix A to this report.

The Council and its partners continue to meet to gather intelligence and develop responses to support Wirral residents and businesses in the current situation.

The Council recently held the first of a series of strategic partner meetings to ensure a co-ordinated and comprehensive response to the current economic climate.



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.

3. LATEST ACTIONS TAKEN SINCE PREVIOUS REPORT (9th JUNE 2009)

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

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.

Business Support

3.3 Monthly meetings continue between the Council and business leaders. In addition - as partners are aware from previous reports - a structured package of support to businesses has been developed. These have now been publicised to businesses. There has been a high level of interest from businesses and a number of grants have recently been awarded.

Employment Support

3.4 Providing co-ordinated redundancy support: Key partners (Wirral Council, Jobcentre Plus and the Learning and Skills Council) continue to co-ordinate activity through the Wirral Economic Development and Skills (WEDS) Partnership.

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:

Apprenticeships

Executive Board members will be aware from a previous report that a Wirral Apprenticeship Programme has been developed in response to the current economic climate. This will fund the salaries of 100 apprenticeship places so that employers can afford to take on new apprentices. Apprentices will be supported at National Minimum Wage rate and will be guaranteed a minimum 2 year employment contract.

The programme has been designed to target Wirral's most 'hard to reach' residents and will reach businesses who have never taken on an apprentice before.

The Apprenticeship Programme has now moved into the early stages of delivery, with branding agreed and marketing to businesses taking place through the Business Networks.

This has resulted in a wide range of apprenticeship opportunities have shown an interest in the programme, with the majority from local SMEs who have never accessed the apprenticeship system before.

Latest feedback at the end of June indicates that:

- 150 Employers have expressed an interest in hosting an apprenticeship

The process continues across July and August and further information will be brought back to Executive Board members at a future meeting.

Future Jobs Fund

In the recent Budget, the Government announced that it would be introducing a major new Future Jobs Fund, aiming to create 150,000 jobs between October 2009 and April 2011. The initiative aims to provide help for young people and those who face significant disadvantages in the labour market, particularly in areas of high unemployment. Wirral is currently working with City Region partners to develop a proposal, and further detail on Wirral's approach has been agreed by Wirral Cabinet in a separate report to elected members on 25th June. The City Region proposal has also been considered by City Region partners and the first phase bid was submitted on 30th June.

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 regular meetings with partners to respond to the recession with key partners from the LSP.

Furthermore regular feedback from partners will be collated to inform the partnership. Partners are asked to collate and report details relating to their area of expertise. This will inform board reports with the details of the continuing

work to minimise the impact of the recession on Wirral residents. Appendix B sets out the questions that should be completed and returned by partner organisations

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.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 Executive Board members are asked to note this latest report on Wirral's response to the current economic conditions

- 6.2 Executive Board members are asked to endorse the request for partners to complete and return reports that relate to their activity to minimise the impact of the current economic recession. Following this board meeting the Partnership Team will make contact with partners to make arrangements for its future completion and return.

Jim Wilkie

Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Services

This report was prepared by Rosemary Boylan and John Highton who can be contacted on 0151 691 8037 and 0151 691 8522 respectively

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 report. 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%. This rate compares with a North West rate of 72.1% and the national rate of 74.5%.

Worklessness

Wirral's Job Seekers Allowance claimant rate has seen a significant increase in the last month; from 5.3% in April 09 to 5.6% in May 09. This represents 10,321 people now claiming JSA in Wirral.

In the corresponding period Wirral's rate has increased faster than both the regional and national rates, which remained the same at 4.6% and 4.1% respectively.

Wirral and Sefton have had the highest increases (0.3% points) of Merseyside districts in the last month. However even after this month's sharp increase, Wirral is the 3rd lowest of Merseyside authorities behind Liverpool (7.5%), Knowsley (6.8%) and Halton (5.9%).

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.

Planning Applications

The number of applications in Wirral fell steadily during the second half of 2008, with a particularly sharp fall in November and December 2008. Since then, applications have begun to increase, with a steady rise between February and April 2009.

Benefits (Housing & Council Tax Benefits plus Local Housing Allowance)

The increase in benefits claimants continues having risen in two months from 39,098 claims to 39,375. There is a noticeable increase in owner occupier claims that are of working age and not in receipt of Job Seekers Allowance which may be reflective of reduced income households rather than increased jobless. This is reflected in numbers through Customer Service access channels (One Stop Shops and Call Centres).

¹ Source: ONS Annual Population Survey

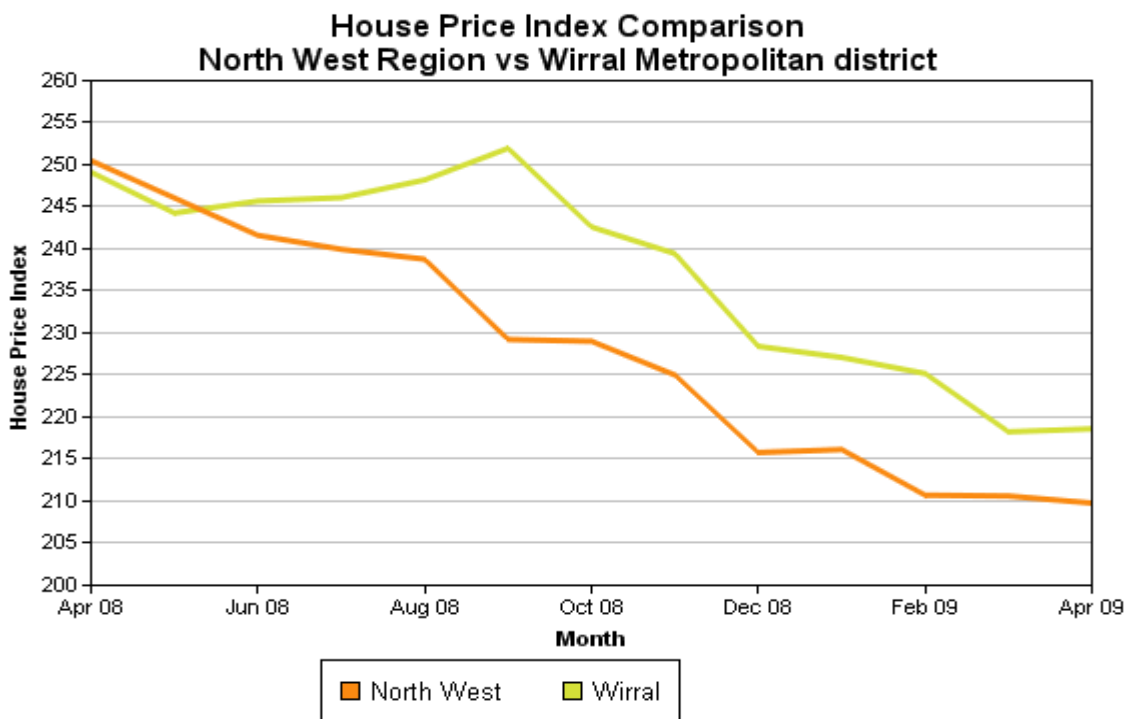


Business Rates (National Non Domestic Rates) & **Council Tax**

The impact continues to be felt with year on year collection at 31st May 2009 showing a 3% downturn which is similar to that seen over the previous year. The factors affecting this are not just recession elated and it is harder to split its causes to that as well as the changes to empty rate and the specialist port occupier issues that Wirral and a small number of other authorities have. Council Tax collection from domestic charge payers remains at previous year’s rates which is nationally well above average and shows thus far no decline although it continues to be carefully monitored.

House Prices

Data from the Land Registry shows an overall fall in house prices in Wirral between April 2008 and April 2009. However the fall in Wirral prices has been significantly less than the reduction for the North West. In addition, prices in Wirral appear to be levelling out in recent weeks.



Source: The Land Registry House Price Index (HPI) captures changes in the value of residential properties. The HPI is published by Land Registry using sales data collected on all residential housing transactions, whether for cash or with a mortgage, in England and Wales

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.



Impact of Third Sector

Wirral CAB is reporting a significant increase in contact from Wirral residents seeking support for a variety of reasons. Debt rose by 21% and Benefit advice by 17% respectively when comparing 2007/08 to 2008/2009.

The VCAW & WVCSN conference evaluation reported an increase of the affects on the sector due to the recession.

Impact on Young People

Feedback from Greater Merseyside Connexions² highlights that the recession is likely to impact on post-16 retention in education and training. Some young people experiencing financial difficulty themselves or as members of families experiencing financial difficulty are likely may drop out of education or training joining the NEET group.

Retail has been one of the sectors most affected in the early stages of the current recession. The other sectors that have been most effected are construction and financial services.

The LSC 2006 Greater Merseyside Skills Assessment identified that 56% of young people aged 16 to 19 who were working were employed in the retail and hospitality and catering sectors. The high percentage is partly accounted for by sixth formers and college students working in these sectors, which offer part-time employment opportunities less likely to conflict with school or college attendance.

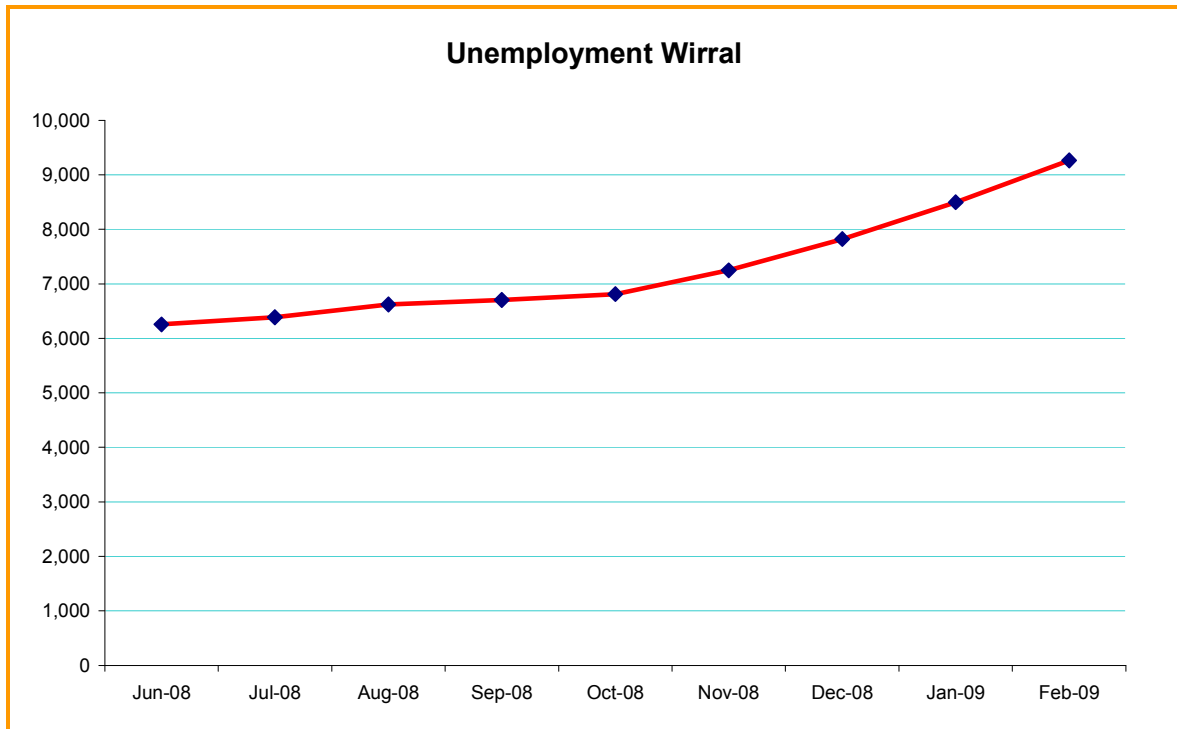
Consumer spending is widely reported in the media to be down, and this will reduce the availability of part-time work in these industries for young people.

A reduction in the availability of work in these sectors is likely to impact on retention and increase the likelihood that some school and college students will for financial reasons drop out of education and into the NEET group while seeking employment. These should add to the NEET 'churn' rather than the 'inactive' or 'unavailable' NEET.

Youth Unemployment

The Connexions report highlights the impact of youth unemployment. The chart below shows the rise in the number of unemployed working age claimants in Wirral from June 08 to February 09. The number of unemployed has been rising more steeply since October 08.

² *'The Impact of the Recession on the Employment Prospects of the Young People of Wirral'* (April 2009) Carolyne Kershaw: Great Merseyside Connexions Service.



Greater Merseyside Connexions, using Office of National Statistics data

Only 75 claimants under 18 were recorded as unemployed in February 2009, but 1,040 claimants under 19 were recorded, a rise from 720 in June 2008.

Appendix B

Wirral Local Strategic Partnership

Economic Update - response to the current economic conditions

Collation of key issues and activity undertaken by partners

Please return completed templates to John Highton at johnhighton@wirral.gov.uk on or before the following dates:

- Monday 3rd August 2009
- Monday 14th September 2009
- Monday 26th October 2009
- Monday 21st December 2009
- Monday 1st February 2010
- Monday 15th March 2010

(please put 'no update from previous report' if that is the case)

Completed by: Person/date/contact details	
Question	Update
<p>1) Please supply to the LSP any systematically collated data for your organisations area of work which relates to the impacts of the current economic recession</p>	
<p>2) Please supply any further information of the impact of the recession e.g. <i>anecdotal evidence, feedback from clients or front line staff;</i></p>	



Question	Update
<p>3) Examples of how you are responding to the current economic climate e.g. <i>if you are restructuring how you deliver services, or increasing service availability, or additional resources in response to increased demand etc.</i></p>	
<p>4) What issues do you see in the future (from – and - to) and how are you planning to meet that challenge? e.g. <i>changes in legislation, budget reviews, new service commissioning rounds, funding changes</i></p>	
<p>5) Are you aware of any other issues related to the recession that the LSP should be made aware of?</p> <p>What are they?</p>	
<p>Please return completed templates to John Highton at johnhighton@wirral.gov.uk or if you require any support or advice on completing the template contact John on 0151 691 8522.</p> <p>To discuss aspects or issues related to the current economic recession that need to inform the LSP please contact Rose Boylan on 0151 691 8037 or email rosemaryboylan@wirral.gov.uk</p>	



WIRRAL LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP EXECUTIVE

WEDNESDAY 9 JULY 2009

REPORT OF THE JOINT DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH

WIRRAL HEALTH INEQUALITIES PLAN

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. This report provides Wirral LSP Executive Board members with a final version of the Health Inequalities Plan for comment and approval. The plan was first drafted in March 2009 and has been amended following discussion and consultation with stakeholders. It is currently being submitted to committees within NHS Wirral and Wirral Council in addition to this committee and amendments as a result will be incorporated into the final version.
- 1.2. The Plan outlines three timescales for action and achieving improved outcomes; 2011, 2013 and 2025. These timescales are linked to national targets and local strategies.
- 1.3. Wirral is currently below trajectory for achieving the national health inequalities target for life expectancy and the Local Area Agreement target for all age all cause mortality. The Health Inequalities Plan identifies priority actions that need to be set in place if these targets are to be met.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. Life expectancy in Wirral is increasing but at a slower rate than for England as a whole. The latest data show a gap in life expectancy of 2.0 years for males and 0.9 years for females between Wirral and England. This is an increase from the baseline year of 1995/97. Approximately 35% of the Wirral population live in the national most deprived lower super output areas (LSOAs) nationally. Life expectancy within this group has improved at a slower rate than for the rest of Wirral and the gap has therefore, widened.
- 2.2. In January 2009, Wirral invited the National Support Team for health inequalities to visit the area and scrutinise current plans and actions for reducing health inequalities. A large number of stakeholders took part in the visit which included individual interviews and group workshops. The visiting team provided a report detailing recommendations for partnership action and have since returned and praised progress that has been made. One of the overarching messages that emerged from the visit was that Wirral needed to plan interventions that were sufficiently equivalent to the scale of need. Recommendations have been incorporated into the Health Inequalities Plan.

3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HEALTH INEQUALITIES PLAN

- 3.1. Actions to meet three overarching health outcomes are grouped together under five strategic priorities:

- Address the underlying determinants of health
- Improve access to high quality public services for people with poor health and well-being
- Engage communities and individuals, supporting them to improve their health through the health and well-being choices they make
- Improve opportunities for children, young people and families
- Improve and share data and intelligence on health and well-being

A lead organisation for the completion of each action has been identified in addition to partners who will be integral to its success. An executive leadership group is to be established to ensure full engagement and drive the implementation of the plan. This group will report to the Health and Well-being Partnership Co-ordination Group and produce regular progress reports for the Wirral Local Strategic Partnership Executive.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1. Board members are asked to approve the Health Inequalities Plan and request further updates on progress.

Marie Armitage
Joint Director of Public Health

This report was prepared by Sue Drew
Deputy Joint Director of Public Health
0151 6513948

WIRRAL LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP – EXECUTIVE BOARD

WEDNESDAY 8th JULY 2009

REPORT OF THE DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE/DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES ACT

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report outlines for Executive Board members the present position in terms of the Sustainable Communities Act. In particular the provisions in the act for proposals from the public that require some form of action from central government.
- 1.2 The report details the steps taken to this point by Wirral Council Cabinet and the next stage of the process for the Executive Board acting as the 'local panel' for proposals, before further consideration by Cabinet and subsequent submission to the LGA.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Sustainable Communities Act received Royal Assent on 23 October 2007. The aim of the Act is to promote the sustainability of local communities. Sustainability of local communities refers to encouraging the economic, social or environmental well-being of the area, including participation in civic and political activity. This reflects the well-being powers granted to local authorities by the Local Government Act 2000 and contributes to the broader agenda for partnership working at local level, including the development of the Sustainable Community Strategy and the negotiation of the Local Area Agreement.
- 2.2 One of the provisions of the Act is for proposals to be invited from the public, through community organisations, which require action from central government. Proposals to the Secretary of State can only be made by local councils. However, the Act makes clear that anyone can suggest a proposal via their local council with the expectation that most suggestions for potential proposals will come from community organisations. Guidance relating to the Act is clear that there is no funding attached to implementation, i.e. to fund any such proposals. The deadline for the first round of such proposals is 31st July 2009.
- 2.3 A basic criterion for proposals is that they must be ones that need some form of action from central government (such as a change in legislation, a transfer of responsibilities from one public body to another, a new national policy or a change or strengthening of policy). In considering proposals, local councils need to distinguish between those which could happen anyway, if agreed at local level, and those which need central government action or intervention of

some sort. The latter category covers those appropriate to be submitted onwards, firstly to the LGA as Selector and potentially to the Secretary of State.

3. WIRRAL APPROACH

3.1 At its meeting of the 9th April 2009, Wirral Council's Cabinet agreed a series of proposals relating to the provision in the Sustainable Communities Act for proposals to be invited from the public, through community organisations, which require action from central government.

3.2 Cabinet agreed that:

- A call for proposals, alongside detailed guidance and links to key documents pertaining to the Sustainable Communities Act, would be publicised with a deadline of 31st May 2009;
- Arrangements would be put in place in consultation with Wirral's Strategic Partnership Executive for Wirral's Strategic Partnership to act as the 'local panel' with consideration given to consulting the views of bodies supporting minority and under-represented interests;
- If the panel considered that a proposal or proposals should be progressed, a report would be presented to Cabinet in July for a final decision on whether the proposal or proposals could be submitted to the Selector (i.e. the LGA).

3.3 Further to Cabinet agreement, a call for proposals was published via the internet and through distribution via all partnership networks, with a guidance document and a proforma for submissions.

4. SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED

4.1 A number of submissions were received in response to the call for proposals, as outlined in **Appendix 1**. All but one of these were not eligible for consideration within the scope of the Act, given that they can potentially be dealt with at the local level, i.e. without changes required at central government level. Appendix 1 also outlines the action that has been taken in relation to these proposals.

4.2 One proposal was received which could potentially be suitable for selection under the terms of the Act (attached as **Appendix 2**). This proposes changes in central government legislation and funding relating to Community Asset Transfer

5. NEXT STEPS

5.1 This report proposes that the one proposal received which could potentially be suitable for selection under the terms of the Act (see 3.2 above and Appendix 2) is circulated for comments to the Strategic Partnership Assembly and other

key groups, such as the Older People's Parliament. The deadline for comments will be the 22nd July. Subject to any serious concerns being identified during the course of the consultation, Executive Board is asked to endorse the proposal for further consideration by Cabinet on the 23rd July (see below).

- 5.2 A separate report will be taken to the Council's Cabinet on the 23rd July 2009, advising of the Strategic Partnership Executive Board endorsement of the proposal and requesting delegated authority be given to the Deputy Chief Executive / Director of Corporate Policy to submit the proposal to the LGA as the selector.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Sustainable Communities Act 2007
- Sustainable Communities Act 2007: A Guide, *DCLG 2008*
- Letter from Secretary of State – invitation to submit proposals, 14th October 2008
- Council Notice of Motion 3rd November 2008 Minute 65
- Cabinet Report April 9th 2009 Minute 448

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 As outlined in 5.1, it is recommended that the one proposal received which could potentially be suitable for selection under the terms of the Act (see 3.2 above and Appendix 2) is circulated for comments to the LSP Assembly and other key groups. Subject to any serious concerns being identified during the course of the consultation, it is recommended that the proposal is endorsed by the Strategic Partnership Executive Board for further consideration by the Council's Cabinet

Jim Wilkie

Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Services

This report was prepared by Jane Morgan who can be contacted on 0151 691 8140 respectively

APPENDIX 1**SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS**Harvest project

North Birkenhead Neighbourhood Forum submitted a proposal which was in effect an application for funding for a straw bale building to be constructed at the allotment site for the purpose of community education and furtherance of the 'Good Food Project'.

The proposer has been referred to the Council's lottery and voluntary sector liaison officers for assistance.

Wirral Environmental Network

The Wirral Environmental Network submitted a non specific proposal which was inadmissible as it was requesting funding.

Forum Housing Association Young People's Project Panel

This submission, whilst inadmissible as it does not require any central government action, contained some suggestions that have been forwarded to the Head of Youth Service for comment and progression if appropriate.

Central Liscard Area Residents Association (CLARA)

CLARA submitted a proposal relating to recognition of Tenants and Residents Associations as special interest groups and representation on the LSP.

A reply was sent pointing out that structures already exist to allow associations like CLARA to connect with strategic groups such as the Strategic Housing Partnership, and with the Local Strategic Partnership through representation via the Voluntary and Community Sector Network.

Individual Submission

This submission was in two parts. The first suggested a mandatory council register of landlords with the aim of assisting community members report incidences of anti-social behaviour. Advice was taken from the Housing Strategy team and a reply sent with the details of a current government consultation which includes the points raised in the submission.

The second suggestion was to have mandatory dog licensing with a DNA sample taken to enable identification in cases of dog fouling. Advice was taken from the principal Environmental Health Officer.

WIRRAL LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP – EXECUTIVE BOARD

WEDNESDAY 8th JULY 2009

REPORT OF THE DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE / DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES

WIRRAL LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP DATA QUALITY AGREEMENT

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. The document attached outlines Wirral Strategic Partnership's agreement for the quality and accuracy of all data shared and used to support the partnership. In delivering the vision for a more prosperous and equal Wirral, Wirral LSP relies upon a range of data and information produced by a number of organisations. This information is used to inform decision making by partners, plan for the future and monitor service delivery. Consistent, high quality, timely and comprehensive information is therefore vital to secure the delivery of improved outcomes in line with the vision for Wirral.
- 1.2. Data quality is the responsibility of every member of the partnership entering, extracting or analysing data from any of the partnership's information systems. The commitment to data quality should be communicated clearly throughout the partnership. Partners are asked to sign the Data Quality agreement, and to ensure the data quality requirements set out within the agreement are communicated within their own organisations.
- 1.3. Wirral LSP recognises that each organisation will have established its own procedures to manage the quality and ensure the reliability of its data. This agreement sets out common data quality principles, based upon best practice that demonstrates the commitment of the partnership to provide good quality data.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. Wirral Local Strategic Partnership needs to ensure that it has information that is fit for purpose, accurate and reliable to manage services and account for performance. The 2006 Local Government White Paper, *Strong and Prosperous Communities*, and the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 have set out a new performance framework for local services, and with the introduction of the new National Indicator Set, against which the Wirral Strategic Partnership will be assessed, a greater reliance will be placed on the quality and accuracy of the data the partnership is using.
- 2.2. Good quality data is essential for reliable performance and financial information. In November 2007, the Audit Commission produced "Improving information to support decision making: standards for better quality data", in which they emphasised the need for all public bodies to be able to rely upon the data they are using for performance and service management. The Audit Commission also recommended in their report that public bodies should clearly specify the partnership's approach to data quality.

- 2.3. Wirral Local Strategic Partnership already has arrangements in place to ensure the quality of the data used and produced by partners, including the use of a common Performance Information Management System (PIMS), which all partners have access to, to enable partnership performance data to be captured and reported on a partnership-wide basis.
- 2.4. The Data Quality agreement for Wirral Local Strategic Partnership, in Appendix One, sets out the Partnership's approach to Data Quality clarifies the partnership's data quality requirements and the responsibilities of those involved.
- 2.5. This agreement does not replace any data quality agreements or protocols in place within partner organisations.
- 2.6. The following partners are asked to sign up to the principles in the Data Quality Agreement:

Wirral Council
NHS Wirral
Jobcentre Plus
Learning & Skills Council
Merseyside Police
Cheshire & Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service
Voluntary & Community Sectors Network
Connexions
Wirral Partnership Homes
Mersey Travel
Wirral Probation Service
Energy Saving Trust Advisory Centre (ESTAC)
Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1. Executive Board members are asked to endorse the partnership data quality agreement and named partners are requested to sign and return a copy of the attached agreement.
- 3.2. Thematic Delivery Partnership Chairs are requested to communicate the agreement to each Thematic Delivery Partnership.

Jim Wilkie

Deputy Chief Executive / Director of Corporate Services

This report was prepared by Siân Williams who can be contacted on 0151 691 8637.



Appendix One

Wirral Local Strategic Partnership: Data Quality Agreement

Purpose

This document outlines Wirral's Strategic Partnership's agreement for the quality and accuracy of all data shared and used to support the partnership.

Context

The Wirral Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) brings together the key stakeholders operating in Wirral. The aim of the LSP is to bring together these key people to represent their organisations and discuss strategic issues that affect the area. In delivering the vision for a more prosperous and equal Wirral, enabling all communities and people to thrive and achieve their full potential, Wirral LSP relies upon a range of data and information produced by a number of organisations. This information is used to inform decision making by partners, plan for the future and monitor service delivery. Consistent, high quality, timely and comprehensive information is therefore vital to secure the delivery of improved outcomes in line with the vision for Wirral.

Performance information is also increasingly being used by external bodies to assess our performance, often as an alternative to inspection. This is causing external bodies to place a bigger emphasis on data quality as inspectorates need to ensure that the data used for this purpose is accurate.

The Wirral Local Strategic Partnership Data Quality agreement sets out the Partnership's approach to Data Quality clarifies the partnership's data quality requirements and sets out clearly what is expected of whom. It outlines the approach needed to ensure all provide the highest possible standard of data. The agreement recognises the importance of producing reliable and accurate data and the risks associated with poor data quality (e.g. decisions may be based upon inaccurate information; resources wasted; and poor performance could go unreported and uncorrected).

Wirral Local Strategic partnership is therefore committed to ensuring that a consistent approach is applied across each partner organisation and high standards of data quality are maintained.



The Agreement:

Data quality is the responsibility of every member of the partnership entering, extracting or analysing data from any of the partnership's information systems. Each partner should be aware of his or her responsibilities with regard to data quality. It is vital that all members of the partnership are open and willing to share information in good faith.

The commitment to data quality should be communicated clearly throughout the partnership. Partners are responsible for this communication within their own organisations.

Each partner agrees to the following principles:

Accuracy:

- Responsibility for ensuring data is sufficiently accurate and reliable lies with the organisation involved in the collection, recording, reporting and analysis of the data. Our overall aim is to get it right first time. Partners endeavour to limit the use of manual intervention to produce information to increase accuracy.
- Performance indicator outturns are supported by clear evidence to demonstrate their accuracy and a clear set of working papers, and are signed off at a senior level.

Validity:

- All partners will ensure that the data produced is recorded and used in compliance with the relevant requirements, including the correct definitions and rules. Responsibility for data quality is clearly assigned within individual organisations as necessary, and everyone understands their role. Each PI has a named officer or officers who are responsible for collecting and reporting the information to ensure consistency.
- Staff at all levels recognise why data quality is important, and procedure notes and training are used to ensure staff are able to correctly collect and record data. Each partner is responsible for the data quality of the information from their organisation.

Reliability:

- All partners will ensure that they have stable and robust collection and monitoring systems in place, and that these operate according to the principle of right first time. Partners will proactively review arrangements for producing performance data and report and remedy any deficiencies.

Timeliness:

- All partners will ensure that all data is reported in accordance with the set deadlines e.g. at the end of the month/quarter/year as agreed, to ensure that data is readily available to influence partners' decision making.

Relevance:

- All partners will ensure that the data produced is relevant and "fit for purpose".



Completeness:

- The partnership recognises that missing, incomplete or invalid records distort information and do not give a fair picture. All partners will therefore ensure that all relevant data is captured.

Legality:

- There is an assumption that data are shared with or made available to partners and the public unless legal restrictions prevent this. Data is held securely and used and shared in compliance with all legal requirements. Where there are legal issues which need to be addressed e.g. if the data is of a personal nature – partners will seek legal advice to ensure proper arrangements are put in place. Where relevant partnership data is not shared, there is clarity about why this is the case e.g. data security or confidentiality constraints.

Other:

- All partners agree to performance data provided by their organisation being subject to verification as part of Wirral Council's PI Review process to ensure accuracy, validity, relevance and completeness.
- Partners take appropriate action to identify and address any weaknesses regarding Data Quality. They agree to keep each-other informed of identified issues and of how these are being addressed.
- Partners can provide assurance that processes which supply information to the council through partnership arrangements are secure.
- The partnership uses the principle of "COUNT" (collect once, use numerous times) to underpin data collection and storage. Information input into the Performance Information Management System (PIMS) is done so on the understanding that it has been "signed off" by relevant senior officers and is appropriate to be shared with the public.
- Partnerships consider risks to securing data quality as part of their risk management arrangements, and take appropriate action to manage any risks identified.
- Partners will ensure that they have adequate arrangements in place to promote data quality, including a named individual as a Data Quality Champion, responsible for ensuring the quality, accuracy and timeliness of data.



Blank Page



Wirral Local Strategic Partnership:
Data Quality Agreement

Organisation Name.....

Officer Name.....

The data supplied to Wirral Local Strategic Partnership meets the criteria outlined above.

Signed..... Date.....



This page is intentionally left blank