



Local Strategic Partnership Executive Board (not a public meeting)

Date:	Wednesday, 11 November 2009
Time:	5.00 pm
Venue:	Mersey Maritime, Monks Ferry, Birkenhead

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AGENDA

1. WELCOME, APOLOGIES, INTRODUCTIONS
2. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS (Pages 1 - 6)
3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
4. WIRRAL LSP - REPORT ON WIRRAL'S RESPONSE TO THE CURRENT ECONOMIC CLIMATE (Pages 7 - 14)
5. QUARTER TWO PERFORMANCE & RISK REPORT (Pages 15 - 32)
6. LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT PERFORMANCE REWARD GRANT REPORT (Pages 33 - 44)
7. COMPREHENSIVE ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY (Pages 45 - 70)
8. COMPREHENSIVE AREA ASSESSMENT - VERBAL UPDATE
9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS - WIRRAL'S CORE STRATEGY
10. DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

Venue Mersey Maritime

Wednesday 20 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 Board

(Not a public meeting)

Wednesday 30th September 2009

Present	
Chair	Cllr Simon Holbrook (Deputy Leader, Wirral Council and Leader of Liberal Democrat Group)
Public Sector	Cllr Jeff Green (Leader, Conservative Group, Wirral Council), Stephen Maddox (Chief Executive, Wirral Council), Superintendent Chief Superintendent Jon Ward, (Merseyside Police), Gillian Thomas (Job Centre Plus), Mike Hagen (Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service), Kathy Doran (Chief Executive, NHS Wirral), Ian Davidson (Acting Chief Executive for Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust) Pat Higgins (Wirral University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust)
Voluntary Sector	Clint Agard (Wirral Voluntary and Community Sector Network), Myrtle Lacey (Wirral Voluntary and Community Sector Network)
Private Sector	
Advisors	Richard Perry (GONW), Peter Forrester (CAA Lead)
Secretariat	Wirral Council - Jim Wilkie (Deputy Chief Executive), Kevin Adderley (Head of Strategic Development), Marie Armitage (Joint Director of Public Health, Wirral PCT & Wirral Council), Howard Cooper (Director of Children's Services), Alan Stennard (Director of Regeneration), Jane Morgan (Corporate Policy Manager), Lucy Beed (Corporate Performance Manager), Pete Molyneux (Chief Accountant), Brian Simpson (Wirral Partnership Homes)
Other	Estelle Rowe (Northstar Strategic)
Apologies	Cllr Steve Foulkes (Leader, Wirral Council), Stephen Maddox (Chief Executive, Wirral Council), Len Richards (Chief Executive, Wirral University Hospital NHS Trust), Gary Foulkes (Jobcentre Plus), Alberto Bertali,

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Minute 162 - WELCOME, APOLOGIES, INTRODUCTIONS

Minute 163 - ACTIONS AND AGREEMENTS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Minute 166 - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Minute 167 - WIRRAL LSP – REPORT ON WIRRAL'S RESPONSE TO THE CURRENT ECONOMIC CLIMATE

Minute 168 – WIRRAL LAA 2008/11 PERFORMANCE & RISK REPORT

Minute 169 – CAA – LATEST POSITION REPORT

Minute 170 – CAA – SELF EVALUATION

Minute 171 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Minute 172 – DATE AND TIME OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Minute 162 - WELCOME, APOLOGIES, INTRODUCTIONS

Apologies received as stated above.

The Chair welcomed Estelle Rowe and Peter Forrester to the meeting.

Minute 163 - ACTIONS AND AGREEMENTS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Minute 164 – Chief Superintendent Jon Ward provided an update to the LSP Executive Board on the data issues and presentation of violent crime data at the last LSP Executive Board. Jon Ward agreed with the presentation in the performance report and advised that Merseyside Police are working closely with Wirral's Community Safety team.

Minute 165 – Howard Cooper provided an update to the LSP Executive Board regarding the previous discussion at the last board meeting regarding young people who are not in education, employment or training. The board had requested that the approach to delivering improvement in this area is reviewed and innovative ways of tackling the issue. Howard Cooper advised the board of the following developments:

- NEET has reduced from 12.52% last year to 11.67% this year
- In learning rates are up
- Draft Education, Employment or Training strategy in development
- September guarantee is expected to meet target
- Wirral apprentice programme

Minute Decision : Resolved that -

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

Minute 166 - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None were declared

Minute 167 - WIRRAL LSP – REPORT ON WIRRAL'S RESPONSE TO THE CURRENT ECONOMIC CLIMATE

Jim Wilkie introduced the report to outline the latest impact of global economic conditions on Wirral's economy, and identify the steps taken by the Council and its partners to respond to the recession through the development of a Recovery Plan. This Plan will contain measures to mitigate the impact of the recession but at the same time maintain momentum on our Investment Strategy.

Minute Decision: Resolved that -

- 1) Executive Board members agreed to:
 - Note the latest report on Wirral's response to the current economic conditions.
 - Agree to support development of a Recovery Plan, aimed at minimising the impact of the recession on Wirral residents and businesses, and planning for future recovery.

Minute 168 - PARTNERSHIP SELF EVALUATION & IMPROVEMENT PLANNING

Jane Morgan presented this report, providing Executive Board members with an update on progress in relation to the self-evaluation work discussed at the Board meeting on 19th August 2009, and setting out proposed next steps to address the issues raised by the evaluation as well as the outcomes of the Comprehensive Area Assessment process.

Estelle Rowe then presented the headline findings of stage 2 of the self-evaluation work for debate by Executive Board members. Particular discussion was had with regard to the need to recognise that some thematic areas are further developed in terms of joint commissioning.

Minute Decision :
Resolved that -

1) Executive Board members:

- Approved Part 1 of the partnership self evaluation for wider circulation and agreed that it be used in developing an ongoing performance management framework for the Sustainable Community Strategy
- Agreed to reschedule the next LSP Assembly meeting and utilise this meeting to undertake a stocktake of partnership achievement and future priorities

Minute 169 - CAA

Peter Forrester, Audit Commission, presented the latest position with regard to Wirral's Comprehensive Area Assessment and advised that a final draft of the area assessment report would be supplied to the partnership in due course.

Marie Armitage expressed thanks that the Audit Commission had taken on board the evidence provided in relation to health inequalities.

Supt Ward requested information as to why anti-social behaviour had not been taken forward as a green flag for Wirral.

Minute Decision :
Resolved that -

- 1) Executive Board members noted the latest position on CAA
- 2) Peter Forrester would provide feedback on why anti-social behaviour had not been taken forward as a green flag

Minute 170 – TOTAL PLACES

Richard Perry, GONW, presented this report, outlining for Executive Board members the latest position on the joint LGA/Government initiative on Total Places.

The report recommended that Executive Board Members note the potential importance of this work in terms of shaping national policy thinking and consider whether there is the potential for a similar piece of work to be delivered on the Wirral.

Executive Board Members debated the report in terms of the approaches being taken at Wirral to identify efficiencies.

Minute Decision :
Resolved that -

- 1) The LSP Executive Board agreed to:
 - a) Note the importance of the Pilot work being undertaken nationally and consider the implications for local services of emerging lessons;
 - b) Consider whether there is an area of local service delivery that could benefit from early consideration using the Total Place methodology.
 - c) Receive a further update on Total Place early in the 2010.

Minute 171 – COMMUNITY COHESION – AUDIT COMMISSION REVIEW

Jim Wilkie presented this report which provided Executive Board members with an overview of the Audit Commission's baseline assessment report.

Minute Decision :
Resolved that -

- 1) Executive Board Members agreed to endorse the approach set out in the report for taking forward cohesion work.

Minute 172 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Jim Wilkie presented a report under any other business with regard to the current position on LAA Reward Grant, specifically an update regarding pump priming grant claims and requests that board members consider using remaining LAA funds to further fund temporary posts within the council's Corporate Policy Team. This would ensure the continuation of support provided with regard to performance management and development of Wirral's LAA and other partnership activities.

Myrtle Lacey indicated that enquiries had been made regarding the availability of funding for welfare benefits posts in the community and voluntary sector and that no confirmation had been received regarding this issue. The Chair advised that this item would be deferred pending further information provided by the Deputy Chief Executive.

Minute Decision :
Resolved that -

- 1) The item was deferred subject to further information being provided by the Deputy Chief Executive.

Minute 173 – DATE AND TIME OF FUTURE MEETINGS

- **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

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WIRRAL LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP – EXECUTIVE BOARD

WEDNESDAY 11th NOVEMBER 2009

REPORT OF THE DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE / DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES

ECONOMIC UPDATE - RESPONSE TO THE RECESSION

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report outlines the latest impact of global economic conditions on Wirral's economy, and identifies the steps taken by the Council and its partners to respond to the recession through the development of a Recovery Plan. This Plan will contain measures to mitigate the impact of the recession but at the same time maintain momentum on our Investment Strategy.
- 1.2 LSP Executive Board is asked to:
 - i.) Note the contents of this economic update
 - ii.) Note progress towards the development of the Recovery Plan, aimed at minimising the impact of the recession on Wirral residents and businesses, and planning for future recovery.

2. BACKGROUND

Since the onset of the recession the Council and its partners have worked hard to ensure that we properly understand how the recession is impacting on the local economy and in response have launched a number of initiatives aimed at mitigating the impact of the recession on businesses and the local community. The Council continues to lead partners in taking forward a co-ordinated and coherent response to the economic situation.

LSP partners will be aware that a number of recession reports have outlined the latest impact of global economic conditions on Wirral's economy, and identified the various short term steps taken by the Council and its partners to respond to the recession.

However, we are proposing a new dimension in Wirral's strategic response to the recession, through the development of a Recovery Plan. This will outline a number of measures to mitigate the impact of the recession, but at the same time maintain momentum on our medium and longer term economic goals and the Investment Strategy. The detailed proposals within the Recovery Plan will be discussed by LSP partners at the next Executive Board in January 2010.

The Council's overarching vision is to build a more prosperous and equal Wirral. Clearly the strategy being pursued by the Council is to work with partners to mitigate the impact of the recession locally, and at the same time continue to prepare for and develop initiatives to ensure that Wirral is best placed to move forward when the recession is over.

3. KEY INDICATORS

The following section provides a comprehensive and up-to-date picture of the impact of the recession. It includes the following labour market key indicators:

Employment rate

Latest data to March 2009 shows that Wirral's Employment Rate has seen a slight reduction after an increase in the previous period. It now stands at 68.6%. Wirral's Employment Rate has declined by 0.1%, which is less than both the NW decline of 0.2% and the national rate of 0.3%.

Claimant Count

Data for September 2009 shows that Wirral's JSA rate now stands at 5.6% (10,353) compared to a regional rate of 4.7% and an England rate of 4.2%. Since August 2009, Wirral's rate has decreased by 0.2% points, this is the biggest reduction within the City Region, whilst the NW and national rates have remained the same.

Business Profile

Recent datasets from the Merseyside Economic Review 2009 demonstrate that Wirral has considerably improved its business performance over the last few years. In 2007, the number of VAT registrations in Wirral was 720. This was up from the previous year's registrations of 590 in 2006 and the same number in 2005.

- a. VAT Business stock in 2007 was 6,140 which had increased from 5,880 in 2006 and 5,755 in 2005. Wirral also had the second highest number of Enterprise "births" in 2007 within the Liverpool City Region. This is an indication of the success of the Wirralbiz programme.
- b. Additionally, the 2007 survival rate of businesses operating for more than twelve months in Wirral is 96.9. This is the best within the Liverpool City Region and higher than that of the Northwest (96.6) and National (96.5) rates.

Whilst not providing an up to date picture of the impact that current market conditions has had, this information indicates that the activities designed for increasing enterprise in Wirral have been successful and makes the prospects of businesses surviving during recession good.

4. PARTNER UPDATES

As outlined above, Wirral Council is also co-ordinating a wide range of feedback and evidence from our partners in order to gain a comprehensive profile of impact. Current evidence includes the following:

4.1. NHS Wirral

NHS Wirral commissions Wirral Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) to provide an advice service for patients within general practice premises. Anecdotal evidence suggests that the take-up of this service has increased and in particular from the non-affluent areas of Wirral. Anecdotally, the demand for mental health services, particularly some of the services offered through the voluntary sector, is increasing.

Feedback from the Wirral PCAL project indicates that Wirral CAB is now the second busiest in the country. Through the Primary Care Advice Liaison service, the project is seeing a wide number of people with more complex debt, leading to repossession and worsening mental health.

4.2. Wirral Housing and Regeneration Department

Feedback from partners has highlighted a number of issues, including:

- The accommodation in the private rented sector has become more readily available.
- A rise in the number of people with unmanageable debts due to job loss or to shorter working hours being imposed
- In response, the section is putting more resources into repossession prevention via third party specialist service eg debt advice

Riverside have reported their work to monitor the effects of the recession on their tenants and communities, and ensuring that they direct resources in the correct way.

They are responding nationally and locally to the recession in a number of ways. Their corporate objectives (revised in 2008) are geared to how they can support tenants who experience: multiple debt issues; a need to access money advice and support to find work. In Riverside's most recent Status Survey (2007) it was clear to them that many of their tenants face multiple issues around poverty, low levels of income and in some cases second and third generation unemployment.

They are also introducing new services including:

- Debt advice
- Money line, recently started on Wirral
- Welfare to work programmes
- Community Investment, various projects
- Continued support of Together and the merger with LCT

4.3. Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service (MFRS)

Data for Wirral regarding ASB Fires, Deliberate Property Fires, and Violence against Fire-fighters, has been analysed by MFRS to monitor the difference between 2008 and 2009. Statistics show that:

- Overall ASB fires show a 0.5% drop between 2008 and 2009;
- The level of reported Violence to Fire-fighters has not increased;
- The number of Deliberate Property Fire has shown a significant drop by 15.4% fewer incidents. The reduction in these areas can be attributed to the partners and the service forming proactive strategies, anticipating and planning for the possible and known impacts of a recession. However although there is an overall drop across the Wirral, some Wards show no change whilst other wards show increases in property and ASB incidents.

The service is establishing a new joint Police/Fire team within TRG called Flare with the remit of tackling arson related insurance fraud. This follows unprecedented rise in fire related insurance claims across the UK and is believed to be linked to the financial down-turn.

A slight reduction in commercial fires has been in the last couple of months.

MFRS continues with joint action with operational crew getting to know what is going on in their locality and being extra vigilant whilst about their communities, and linking with specialist advocates such as arson and ASB advocates. Campaigns continue to be run by the Fire Support Network and other partners such as the SPARC, and safe space, and work continues with Wirral community safety team.

4.4. Job Centre Plus

(i) Redundancy data

Data for September 2009 indicates that JCP were notified of 62 redundancies with 1 employer from the accommodation/food sector.

(ii) JSA benefit 'On and Off' Flows

Data for September 2009 indicates an on-flow of 2086 people. This compares with the September 2008 figure of 1747.

However it is important to note that once again, off-flows are higher than in the previous 12 months. Data for September 2009 indicates that off-flows were 2334 people, compared with 1622 in September 2008, indicating buoyancy in the labour market.

(iii) Vacancies notified

Data shows that there were 1521 vacancies notified to JCP in September 2009. This is an increase of 580 vacancies since August 2009.

4.5. Wirral Joint Community Safety Team

Feedback from a recent report produced by the Safer Merseyside Partnership ¹ indicates that, in general, there has been no significant correlation between the recession and any crime increases. Key points from the report include:

- Detailed analysis of burglary trends shows no geographical correlation between increase in JSA claimants and burglary hotspots.
- The trend for burglary in Wirral is comparable with that across all Merseyside.

5. LATEST ACTIONS TAKEN SINCE PREVIOUS LSP EXECUTIVE REPORT

The Council and its partners continue to meet to agree the best ways to support Wirral residents and businesses in the current situation. The interventions outlined below detail some of the existing and planned opportunities, developed in response to our detailed understanding of the impact.

¹ The Impact of the Economic Downturn on Wirral's Crime and Disorder Levels

5.1. Business Support

Wirral has worked with partners to develop a structured package of support to businesses in a direct response to the recession. This has received considerable interest from businesses. Three meetings of the grants panel have taken place to decide on applications up to £20,000. To date a number of awards have been approved, safeguarding in excess of 67 jobs.

In addition, a number of Think Big Grants for amounts in excess of £20,000 have been awarded. The support awarded to these businesses will result in the creation of 96 new jobs through projects already completed. It is hoped that in excess of 350 further jobs will be created through projects currently in development.

Invest Wirral are hosting an event for businesses of Wirral who want to improve their success in tendering for public sector contracts.

The event, "Improving Success in the Public Sector", is designed to help local businesses understand the complex nature of public sector procurement and give an insight in creating a successful tender. This event is scheduled to be held on 10th November 2009.

Wirral Council has maximised the use of ERDF resources to appoint three seconded staff from Business Link Northwest to work with Invest Wirral to enhance its work with engaging with local businesses. The three staff (2 Growth Advisors/1 Training and Skills) are all dedicated solely to engaging with Wirral based business.

Additional to this, the Wirral Business Forum now has more than 700 members. The Forum comprises regular cluster based meetings for its members but also online support services. The latest forum to come on line will specifically support businesses from the Hamilton Quarter area of Birkenhead.

In August, Wirral Council successfully tendered the new business start contract in partnership with the North West Development Agency (NWDA). Wirralbiz were successfully awarded the contract and all partners are confident of continuing the success of the previous programme.

5.2. Employment 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.

5.3. Future Jobs Fund

The Department for Work and Pensions has recently approved the Liverpool City Region bid to the Future Jobs Fund launched in the 2009 Budget. The initiative aims to create 150,000 new jobs for unemployed young people in Britain over the next years and a further 50,000 for the 25+ age group in unemployment hotspots. Wirral Council will receive over £1m to create 187 jobs in the first six months of this initiative, with more jobs expected to be approved over the next few months.

5.4. Wirral Apprenticeship Programme

The Apprenticeship Programme has now moved into delivery, with a wide range of apprenticeship opportunities coming mainly from local SMEs who have never accessed the apprenticeship system before. All 100 places were filled by October and cover a wide range of vocational areas.

The City Employment Strategy (CES) recently made available an unallocated £275,000 of ESF Complementary Strand and asked City Region partners to identify potential projects. Wirral proposed that the allocation should be used to fund an additional number of 17 apprenticeships for the Wirral Apprenticeship Programme taking the overall number of places up to 117. Officers are pleased to report that Wirral's proposal was approved by the CES Board.

6. CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1. Wirral partners continue to take forward a co-ordinated and coherent response to the economic situation.
- 6.2. Despite prevailing economic conditions, the prospects for Wirral's economy remain good. The proposed Recovery Plan will build on a twin track approach of providing support to individuals and businesses to mitigate the effects of the recession, alongside continuing to deliver our LAA objectives. This approach has positioned Wirral to prepare for recovery, to continue generating economic growth and deliver on the economic vision set out in its Investment Strategy.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

Executive Board members are asked to:

- (i) Note this latest report on Wirral's response to the current economic conditions.
- (ii) Note progress towards the development of a Recovery Plan, aimed at minimising the impact of the recession on Wirral residents and businesses, and planning for future recovery.
- (iii) As agreed at the July Board, partners are requested to complete and return the attached template (Appendix A) ahead of future executive board meetings

Jim Wilkie

Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Services

This report was prepared by Rosemary Boylan who can be contacted on 0151 691 8037

Appendix A

<p>Wirral Local Strategic Partnership</p> <p>Economic Update - response to the current economic conditions</p> <p>Collation of key issues and activity undertaken by partners</p>	
<p>Please return completed templates to Rose Boylan at rosemaryboylan@wirral.gov.uk on or before the following dates:</p> <p>Monday 14th December 2009 <i>(note change in date – now earlier)</i> Wednesday 3rd February 2010 <i>(note change in date)</i> Monday 15th March 2010</p> <p><i>(please put 'no update from previous report' if that is the case)</i></p>	
<p>Completed by: Person/date/contact details</p>	
<p>Question</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Update</p>
<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 Rose Boylan by email rosemaryboylan@wirral.gov.uk Tel 0151 691 8037.</p>	



WIRRAL LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP – EXECUTIVE BOARD

WEDNESDAY 11TH NOVEMBER 2009

LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT QUARTER TWO 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 quarter two 2009/10. 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. The report then provides details of any associated high risks to these areas of improvement.

This report will inform Government Office North West's annual review of Wirral's Local Area agreement.

2. Achievements

What's Working Well

Wirral Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) and its partners continue to take the lead in the achievement of positive outcomes for Wirral residents for the identified improvement priorities. The partnership also remains at the forefront of assessing, developing and delivering a proactive and robust response to the present economic recession. The impact of the economic downturn was discussed at Wirral's previous annual review with Government Office North West and the partnership remains committed to delivering a proactive and robust response.

The LSP Executive Board has led on an internal and external self evaluation of the partnership. This will enable partners to plan more effectively for the short, medium and longer term. The outcomes of that reflective approach are being incorporated into the future development of the partnership.

Following a detailed governance review, the new LSP structure was adopted in April 2009 and has provided clarity to the LSP governance arrangements.

Wirral's LSP have developed a Comprehensive Engagement Strategy (CES) for use by all partners that will significantly improve methods of community engagement between public sector and the community.

The Partnership also continues to review its performance management systems and processes which has most recently included the review and development of LAA delivery plans, LAA risk registers and the LSP overarching risk register.

Wirral's LSP worked hard to complete the refresh negotiations earlier this year and to address any baseline data and target setting issues with Government Office North West. The final stages of the LAA negotiation are on target to be completed according to Government Office North West timescales.

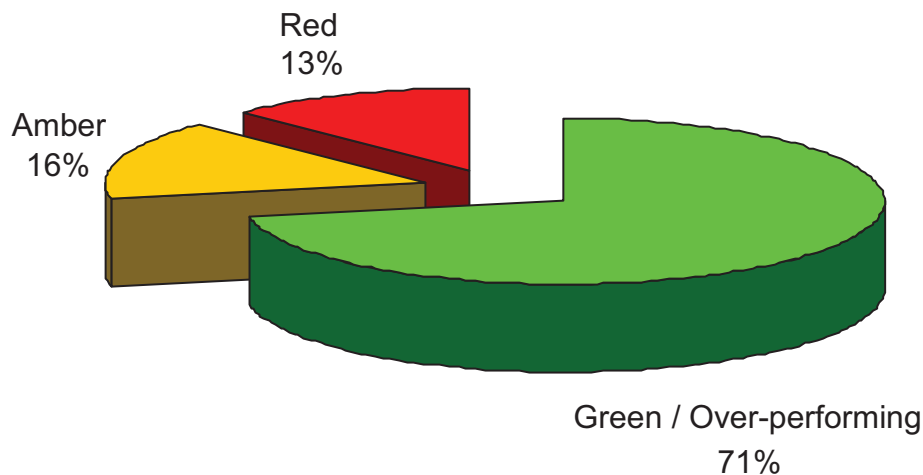
3. Performance Summary

3.1 Overview

Of the 52 indicators in Wirral's 2008-2011 LAA, 32 are reportable against targets at the second quarter. This is due, in part, to a large number of annual indicators e.g. educational attainment indicators. Of these 32 indicators, 72% (23) are on target, 16% (5) are assessed as amber, and 13% (4) have missed the target by more than 10% (red).

3.2 On target summary

The chart below provides a performance summary of the 32 indicators which can be reported against targets at the second quarter.



3.3 LAA Theme Summary

LAA Theme	Performance Indicators which can be reported			
	Green / Over performing	Amber	Red	Total
Health & Wellbeing	6	3	1	10
Life Chances for children & young people	7	2	2	11
Strong local economy	0	0	0	0
Safer Communities	3	0	0	3
Living & Working environment	5	0	0	5
Sustainable appropriate housing	2	0	1	3
Total	23	5	4	32

* There are 52 indicators in Wirral's 2008-2011 LAA. At the second quarter of 2009/10, 32 indicators are reportable against targets.

PART 2: PERFORMANCE & RISK EXCEPTION REPORT

Health & Wellbeing

What's working well?

- Wirral is at the forefront in the national shift of care services towards 'Personalisation', enabling recipients to choose and direct the support they require.
- Carers receiving a needs assessment or review and a specific carer's service, or advice and information is currently exceeding its target, and was over-performing at Quarter 2.
- The indicator to measure reductions in emergency hospital bed days also continues to significantly over-perform against its target and is forecasting to significantly over-perform against the end of year target.
- The number of people with dementia admitted to residential and nursing care continues to meet its target for the fourth successive quarter.
- The indicator measuring alcohol-harm related hospital admission rates continues to over-perform and is still forecasting to exceed its end of year target.
- Wirral submitted 2 nominations to the North West Celebration for the 10 year anniversary of Stop Smoking Services and won both awards. Clients receiving support through the NHS Stop Smoking Services continues to achieve its target at Quarter 2.
- Wirral is also meeting its target for establishing a cohort of clients aged 16-35 with two or more episodes of self harm in the last 12 months who subsequently become engaged in meaningful social activities.

Performance issues

Portfolio	PI no	Title	2009/2010 Q2 Target	2009/2010 Q2 Actual	On target	Direction of travel
Social Care and Inclusion	NI 130	Social care clients receiving Self Directed Support	9%	4.77% (A)	Red	Deteriorated
<p>Context: Wirral has had more people going onto direct payments this quarter than last quarter however the denominator (people receiving community based services) has significantly risen this quarter which has affected the target.</p> <p>Corrective action: Phase 1 near completion. Phase 2 will be implemented. Support and guidance will be provided for staff to promote, offer and explain direct payments to customers. The Council is raising the awareness of direct payment and personal budgets in Wirral.</p>						

Tackling inequalities

- Health inequalities

The life expectancy target is measured by all age, all cause mortality. Mortality in the most deprived areas is higher than for Wirral as a whole and in order to achieve the Wirral target without increasing internal inequalities, it is important that mortality levels are monitored at various geographical levels. Mortality is therefore monitored for Wirral and also for the 20% and 3% of Wirral falling into the most deprived 20% nationally. This data comparison shows that the mortality gap between Wirral and these deprived areas fluctuates but the trend is not narrowing. This is especially the case for men. In 2004/06 (three year rolled data) the gap between Wirral and the 20% most deprived population was 38.9%. This has increased to 44.5% (Aug 2008 - July 2009, note the data are not directly comparable but indicate movement in the wrong direction).

A new indicator of health inequalities has been introduced with data released for the first time in November 2009. The indicator is the slope index of inequalities (SII) in life expectancy. This provides a measure for each primary care trust area, dividing LSOAs into deciles from the best to the worst off areas, giving a single score based on the relationship between life expectancy and deprivation across the whole area. This describes the extent of overall inequalities in life expectancy within the area. It is expected that areas with a diverse range of communities from very affluent to very deprived would always tend to have more inequalities in health outcomes and the SII reflect these underlying differences. The following table of SII scores for Wirral show that for males, the gap continues to widen. Five year rolled data is used and will be released annually to monitor progress.

Slope Index of Inequalities

	2001/5	2002/6	2003/7
Males	12.9	13.5	13.9
Females	9.2	9.7	9.7

In order to close the internal gap for life expectancy, the priorities will be action on alcohol harm reduction and action to reduce premature mortality in men. In order to close the gap in life expectancy between Wirral and the national average, the focus will be on reducing premature mortality and morbidity related to cardio-vascular disease. Additional funding and plans are set in place. These include; a comprehensive alcohol treatment programme, young persons' alcohol treatment and prevention programme, cardio vascular disease Health Checks, breast cancer services review and cancer screening equity audit.

The most deprived areas of Wirral have been designated as a Health Action Area (HAA) and five HAA teams have been established. Their role is to set up a programme of community activities that support healthy living (such as physical activities, healthy eating, weight management programmes etc) and make these highly accessible to referrals from health, social care and community services. The HAA teams are targeting hard to reach people who are not regularly in contact with health services such as male manual workers and unemployed and people at high risk of ill health such as people on incapacity benefit, substance misusers, people with mental health problems and those with high risk of CVD and diabetes. The team are carrying out NHS Health checks and Health trainers are supporting people to achieve their lifestyle goals.

- Smoking

Smoking prevalence is directly correlated with deprivation and so is highest in the most deprived communities within Wirral. The current target is to achieve a rate per population of smokers that are helped to quit across the whole of Wirral. In order to reach the target, services are available to all smokers but are specifically marketed to people living in the most deprived areas, with ease of access to support and services a priority. Hence, the highest proportion of people stopping smoking with NHS services, live in the most deprived areas of Wirral. In addition to geographical inequalities, certain population groups are more likely to be smokers. These include some BME groups and manual workers for example, and specific social marketing campaigns are developed with local insight to help ensure that relevant incentives are in place to motivate them to attempt to quit and that appropriate support and services are easily accessible. Such campaigns are delivered with support from partner agencies to ensure their success.

Risks

It is recognised that the design and condition of the streetscene influences the number of falls. Work has begun to highlight those areas with a high frequency of incidents with a view to sharing this information with Highway Maintenance. There is still concern that the ambition to support people to live independently could be challenged by the increasing number of children with complex needs who are approaching adulthood. Detailed procedures are now being developed and implemented to put into practice the transition protocol between the Departments of Children and Young People and Adult Social Services

Life chances for children and young people

What's working well?

- This years GCSE and A-level results have shown that Wirral students have, once again, performed better than ever – achieving results way above the national average. Provisional educational attainment results are encouraging including:
 - The number of pupils achieving 5 or more A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent including English and Maths is on target.
 - The progression by two levels in Maths between Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 is on target, as is achievement at level 4 in both English and Maths at Key Stage 2.

- Wirral is also performing well against indicators which measure “narrowing the gap” for Children and Young People, with looked after children reaching level 4 in Maths at Key Stage 2 over performing against its target, and indicators to measure narrowing the gap between the lowest achieving 20% and the rest at Early Years Foundation Stage and looked after children achieving 5 or more A*-C GCSEs at Key Stage 4 both on target.
- Aimed at 14-19 year olds, a brand new way of learning is underway in Wirral with the introduction of the new Diploma qualifications.
- Wirral Council has helped to pioneer an innovative new scheme, which has seen 117 new apprentice positions created in local companies.
- Obesity in primary school age children (reception year) has met its target.
- Up to 15,000 five - 14 year olds in Wirral will benefit from the launch of a ‘Play in the Peninsula’ programme, enabling children of all abilities and backgrounds to get together and have fun
- A campaign aimed at lowering teenage pregnancy rates has been launched in Wirral with the aim of educating young people about contraception and lifestyle choices

Performance issues

Portfolio	PI no	Title	2009/2010 Q2 Target	2009/2010 Q2 Actual	On target	Direction of travel
Childrens Services & Lifelong Learning	NI 68	Percentage of referrals to children's social care going on to initial assessment	72%	60.9% (P)	Red	Improved

Context:

Corrective action: There remains an increase in the level of referrals that are coming into Children's Social Care. More initial assessments are being completed than in the same period last year. As the Integrated Childrens Service (ICS) training is embedded the quality of data recording is increasing with an increase of almost 20% in this NI since Q1. A further increase is expected over the next quarter. Improved referral pathways are in place to ensure a more appropriate workflow between Central Advice and Duty Team (CADT) and area teams.

Portfolio	PI no	Title	2009/2010 Q2 Target	2009/2010 Q2 Actual	On target	Direction of travel
Childrens Services & Lifelong Learning	NI 117	16 to 18 year olds who are not in education, employment or training (NEET)	8.2% Lower=Better	9.8% (P)	Red	Improved

Context: The 16-18 NEET rate in Wirral at the end of September 2009 of 9.79% (against a target of 8.18%) is an improvement to that at the end of September 08 which was 10.23%. This decrease comes despite the economic downturn and contracting employment opportunities available to young people in certain areas. The Wirral Apprentice (the pledge of 100 Apprenticeship opportunities for young people) is beginning to bear fruit with appointment processes well underway.

Corrective action: Beneath the headline figures there are significant variances between communities and wards across the borough and the 16-18 NEET group is also now predominantly in the older age range with over 50% of 16-18 year old NEETs being 18. The use of advanced Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping capability is being used to inform targeted interventions and resource planning to meet need.

Tackling inequalities

- Teenage conceptions

Teenage conceptions are associated with deprivation. Data are produced annually to show which wards have the highest rates of teenage conceptions and whilst there is some movement up and down the league table, generally those with high conceptions stay towards the top year on year. In the last 12 months, large developments have been made in joining together data sets to provide an increased understanding of rates of conceptions. This will enable work to be further targeted to 'hotspots' through schools and small neighbourhoods.

- Young people not in education, employment or training (NEET)

There are significant variances between communities and wards across the borough, and the 16-18 NEET group is also now predominantly in the older age range with over 50% of 16-18 year old NEETs being 18.

The four wards with the highest 16-18 NEET average in Wirral are:

- Birkenhead and Tranmere: 24.63%
- Seacombe: 23.94%
- Rock Ferry: 23.04%
- Bidston and St James: 21.31%

The cohorts within these wards are also made up of the highest levels of vulnerable groups and young people experiencing multiple barriers of deprivation and in access to Education, Employment and Training.

The use of advanced GIS mapping capability is being used to inform targeted interventions and resource planning to meet need. Connexions are continuing to develop a targeted case loading strategy in order to address the issues associated with NEET, which is being piloted in those wards highlighted above. This means that teams of personal advisers will continue to develop expertise and understanding of the requirements of 16, 17 and 18 year olds, providing support and access to service that best suits their needs. These teams link into area teams to ensure that the approach is joined up and broadens the opportunities available.

Risks

Issues in certain sectors of the community can present a challenge to the partnership. They include the difficulties of engaging with 'seldom heard' groups and the lower value placed on education in individual families and communities. Childrens centres and extended services should help to mitigate these challenges. Concern also remains that the continuing recession could adversely affect the ability of some families to support their children in education. Multi-agency family support programmes and 'narrowing the gap' activities are in place to help to tackle this.

For Children's Social Care concerns remain those potential delays in initial assessments being carried out within seven working days of referral due to the large caseloads of some social workers could be compounded by an increase in referrals resulting from greater

caution, increased vigilance and identification of vulnerable children by agencies. These are being addressed by drafting in additional staff to clear the backlog, continuous monitoring and review of referral numbers, and improved throughput from Assessment Teams, where children need more intensive, and long term support.

As regards young people NEET, the principal uncertainties continue to be the impact of the economic downturn and the degree of positive action by employers and by the partners themselves. There are signs that the control actions, such as targeted programmes (e.g. Wirral Apprentice and employability support) and work with employers and the FE College are having a positive impact on these risks.

Strong local economy

What's working well?

- 268 jobs were created and 272 jobs were safeguarded during the first six months of 2009/10 – despite the depth of the recession both indicators have exceeded targets as a result of the continued work by Invest Wirral to raise awareness of the support packages available.
- Wirral has worked with partners to develop a structured package of support to businesses in a direct response to the recession resulting in a number of grant awards safeguarding in excess of 67 jobs.
- The first phase for Wirral Waters have been given planning approval, offering a unique opportunity to transform derelict brown-field land at Birkenhead Docks, potentially creating 27,000 jobs in one of the country's most deprived areas.
- The first mortgage rescue scheme in Merseyside was delivered in Wirral.

Performance issues

Portfolio	PI no	Title	2009/2010 Q2 Target	2009/2010 Q2 Actual	On target	Direction of travel
Regeneration and Planning Strategy	NI 151	Overall Employment rate (working-age) (WNF)	Latest data available is December 2008. The target for 2008/09 was 70.5%. Actual Performance for this period was 68.6%.			
Corrective action: The recession is having impact on performance, with Job Seekers' Allowance increases in line with Liverpool City Region trends. However, positive interventions to address the impact of the recession have been designed and implemented i.e Wirral Apprentice, Future Jobs Funds, and Construction & Employment Integrator.						
Portfolio	PI no	Title	2009/2010 Q2 Target	2009/2010 Q2 Actual	On target	Direction of travel
Regeneration and Planning Strategy	NI 153	Working age people claiming out of work benefits in the worst performing neighbourhoods (WNF)	Latest data is up to February 09 (Q1). Actual performance for this period was 36.1% against a Quarter 1 target of 35.2%.			
Corrective action: The recession is having impact on performance, with Job Seekers' Allowance increases in line with Liverpool City Region trends. However, positive interventions to address the impact of the recession have been designed and implemented i.e Wirral Apprentice, Future Jobs Funds, Construction & Employment Integrator. Wirral agreed with Government Office North West (GONW) to revisit this indicator in refresh 10/11 targets alongside NI 151 and NI 171 when the full extent of the recession is known, due to the information and data being time lagged. A full recession impact analysis is currently completed on a monthly basis including quarterly updates using Department of Work & Pensions (DWP) data and a range of appropriate indicators. This is circulated to Cabinet and LSP Executive Board.						

Tackling inequalities

- Worklessness and skills

Wirral has a clear understanding of the area, and recognises the challenge it faces to address inequalities faced by disadvantaged groups across Wirral, as well as spatial concentrations of worklessness and low skills within its most deprived communities. This is reflected in the inclusion of the following Local Area Agreement Performance (LAA) Indicator targets assigned to reducing inequalities within our agenda:

- NI153 – worklessness in worst performing neighbourhoods in the LAA/corporate plan and importantly in the basket of worklessness indicators for Working Neighbourhoods Fund reward.
- LOCAL 6280: Level 2 participation from Wirral's 53 most economically deprived Lower Super Output Areas (LSOA).

Wirral has already made progress in applying some good practice approaches to reducing inequalities. In particular, this is clear in terms of our partnership work to agree joint strategic priorities; developing a strong evidence base and our commitment to use Working Neighbourhood Funds to address worklessness and to grow the economy.

Wirral's clear evidence base and understanding of inequalities has been a fundamental driver of Wirral's Investment Framework and the Working Wirral programme that is specifically targeted at spatial and beneficiary target groups and delivers against the following criteria Priority Areas, Priority Customer Groups and the creation of employment in the areas of opportunity within the Borough and the improving of accessibility to jobs in neighbouring areas.

We have developed several interventions, with substantial resources being committed by the Council to mitigate the worst impacts of the recession. In particular, Working Wirral has been used to flex existing projects and to develop new interventions.

Examples of activity aimed at narrowing the gap include:

- Involve Northwest: Reach Out

Reach Out has knocked on over 65,000 doors in Wirral's most deprived areas and helped over 1,000 residents secure employment

- Wirral Change: BRM Outreach Project

Outreach employment service for Wirral's Black & Racial Minority residents offering specialist guidance workers to tackle multiple barriers to employment.

- Wirral Working for Health

Partners in Wirral have established a Wirral Working for Health partnership to address the high levels of Incapacity Benefit.

- Wirral Council: Wirral Apprenticeship Programme

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.

- Wirral Council & Working Ventures UK: Wirral Construction Employment Integrator
The CEI will link those most disadvantaged in the labour market to training and employment opportunities created, providing a gateway to recruitment and arranging delivery of additional pre-recruitment support in a model integrated with existing services.

- Connexions Next Steps
This commissioning specification for this project was amended in response to the recession to complement and enhance existing mainstream activity.

- Future Jobs Fund (FJF)
Working Wirral resources are being used to develop a quality and effective programme that will support more than 300 new FJF opportunities for unemployed Wirral residents.

Wirral's unique approach ensures that the Working Wirral resources are clearly targeted to addresses the spatial variation but also significantly recognises and understands the importance of supporting priority customers groups who reside outside Wirral's most deprived areas. This approach is starting to have some very positive impacts in tackling inequalities.

For example, initial analysis of the impact of Working Wirral transitional projects to April 2009 indicates impressive achievements above target profile. Headline performance includes:

- Excellent achievement in reducing worklessness
- Significant support for those with no qualifications
- Over -performance in increasing enterprise and business skills

Analysis of Working Wirral performance for April-June 2009 also indicates significant success in achieving extremely positive outcomes for some of Wirral's most disadvantaged groups and within our deprived areas.

Furthermore, analysis of Working Wirral participants by client group, engaged between April 2009 and June 2009 includes significant numbers of unemployed people, people from BRM groups, Lone Parents and residents in Wirral's most deprived communities.

Risks

The recession still poses the greatest challenge, both across the borough as a whole and in the worst performing neighbourhoods. Wirral Council continues to mitigate the effects of the recession with good intelligence and strong partnership working resulting in informed investment decisions. A twin track approach of providing support to individuals and businesses alongside continuing to deliver the Investment Strategy aims in order to prepare for recovery has positioned Wirral to continue generating economic growth and deliver on the vision set out in its Investment Strategy.

Safer communities

What's working well?

- 7920 anti-social behaviour incidents have been reported during the first six months of 2009/10. This is lower than the target set and an improvement on performance at the

same stage as last year. Wirral Anti Social Behaviour Team is embarking on a new timetable of street-based surveys in a bid to help residents tackle anti social behaviour

- The number of most serious violent crimes has met its target at Quarter 2, having been reported as under-performing at Quarter 1.
- The number of assaults with less serious injury is performing on target at Quarter 2.

Performance issues

No indicators within this theme are currently assessed as red

Tackling inequalities

- Community safety

The Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership Strategic Assessment identifies whether communities suffering the most reside within the most deprived areas. Within strategic and tactical analysis the Community Safety Team has used hotspot clusters as well as Wards and Police Neighbourhoods as catchments giving context by comparison. Our regular tactical multi agency meetings use a variety of catchments dependent on the resources deployed, or initiatives / interventions undertaken. E.g. Alleygates were only installed in Neighbourhood Renewal Areas where the LLSOA was identified as having four times the national burglary rate. Subsequent analysis, (post completion of all installations), demonstrated that the burglary rate within alleygated areas was less than Wirral's non-alleygated areas. The catchment in this instance was only those residential areas protected by completed alleygating projects.

Other assessments of Crime Reduction 'Guardians' include CCTV locations, Section 30 Dispersal areas, Community Mobile Police Station and Problem Solving Groups. These are all most commonly within the 53 LLSOAs of the Working Neighbourhood Fund areas.

Focusing on hotspots and monitoring whether these occur within deprived areas has demonstrated that the vast majority of interventions are taking place within deprived areas.

Recently, the HMRI area (for example) was used as a comparison in Anti Social Behaviour (ASB) analysis, as there is additional funding for ASB Enforcement Personnel within this area. Within HMRI over 2008/9 two hotspots, (Birkenhead and Seacombe) fall into this catchment. For Alcohol related ASB the area suffering the most offences and most prolific offenders is in Charing Cross, Birkenhead. The regular multi agency action-focused ASB Governance Group shares this information and deploys resources from the appropriate agency to reduce disorder and reduce the causes of the problem. This includes graffiti, criminal damage, and secondary fires, fly tipping contributing to NI 195, 33a, and the LAA ASB measure.

Our violence analysis feeds into the Mersey element of the (national) Tackling Knife Acton Plan, our own Violence Reduction Plan, and the Merseyside Multi Agency Guns and Gang Crime agendas. Hotspot analysis on NI 15 and NI 20 has identified areas within Working Neighbourhood Fund areas almost invariably falling within the Birkenhead Town Centre area

Merseyside Fire & Rescue understands local inequality. Data is shared with partners and analysis of MFRS data in conjunction with lifestyle mapping on a ward and most deprived

SOA basis. From this it is possible to identify inequality and then target our proactive resources appropriately. For example our current programme of targeting Home fire safety check campaigns and vulnerable property assessments

Risks

The impact of actions taken by central government (the late issue of new National guidance and problems with the introduction of new drug test equipment) are currently presenting a challenge to the target to reduce drug related offending. There is ongoing dialogue with the Home Office, Police and key partners to overcome these issues. The Road Safety team is continuing to encourage all schools to participate in awareness programmes and is targeting training for motorcyclists, such as the 'Bikesafe' course.

Living and working environment

What's working well?

- Percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting is estimated to be 40% at quarter two, and therefore continues to meet its target.
- 34 Wirral businesses have been awarded Tidy Business awards as a part of a national campaign to encourage businesses to minimise waste, recycle more and improve their environment.
- Performance indicators for street cleanliness continue to improve well with all targets being met or exceeded

Performance issues

No indicators within this theme are currently assessed as red

Tackling inequalities

- Road Safety

On Wirral we have undertaken research into the number; types and causations of road casualties, including analysing areas with higher than expected prevalence of crashes. The development of road safety interventions including engineering measures; programmes of Training & Education together with robust enforcement activity are targeted at these higher risk areas and casualty groups.

Partnership working with Merseyside Police and Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service and others has enabled combined use and targeting of resources.

There have been consistent casualty reductions during recent years with a 7.5% year on year reduction in the overall number of people Killed or Seriously Injured on our roads road death & serious injury (KSI) since 2005.

Road Safety for children has also improved significantly. Since 2005 when there were 37 children Killed or Seriously Injured (KSI) this has been reduced to 14 child KSI's in 2008.

Risks

Concerns remain 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. This is being addressed by the awareness raising work of the Sustainability Unit as well as the activities of Groundwork Wirral, the Investment Network and Wirralbiz.

It has been recognised that congestion could be affected if partners do not take the issues surrounding congestion into account in their strategic decisions or if conflicts with other strategies and targets could arise.

Sustainable, appropriate housing

What's working well?

- 1274 vulnerable households have been assisted with at least one main energy efficiency measure under Warm Front. This indicator exceeded its target for quarter one and has done so again at quarter 2.
- Wirral continues to make progress to reduce the number of homeless households living in temporary accommodation. This indicator continues to significantly over-perform against its target.

Performance issues

Portfolio	PI no	Title	2009/2010 Q2 Target	2009/2010 Q2 Actual	On target	Direction of travel
Regeneration and Planning Strategy	NI 154	Net additional homes provided	250	175 (A)	Red	N/A

Context:

Corrective action: The Council is continuing to seek the accelerated delivery of housing market renewal. The Council is working with Peel Holdings to deliver the Mersey Heartlands Growth Point. Planning applications for the early phases (including 1672 new dwellings) have been recommended for approval subject to referral to Government Office North West. A Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment has been jointly commissioned with Liverpool City Council to identify a long term supply of available, suitable and deliverable housing sites and is expected to report in January 2010. A Core Strategy Development Plan Document is in preparation and a Spatial Options Report will be considered by Cabinet in November 2009.

Tackling inequalities

- Homelessness

Statutory Homeless acceptances in Wirral reduced by 58% in 2008-09 compared with the previous year. In 2006-07, 24% of cases were from CH42 (Tranmere/Rock Ferry) but in 2008-09, the percentage from CH42 had reduced disproportionately to 10%, which illustrates that the overall reduction in homelessness has narrowed the gap in equality in this area. Similarly in the postcode areas CH41, CH43, CH44, CH46 and CH49 the share of homeless acceptances has dropped from 64% to 56%.

Intentional homelessness has reduced by 39%. In 2006-07 89% of intentional homeless cases were from CH41, CH42, CH43, CH44, CH46 and CH49. In 2008-09, the proportion of intentionally homeless cases from these areas has reduced, but only slightly, to 86%. Further work is being done to investigate the reasons for intentional homelessness to enable this inequality to be targeted more closely.

Risks

Fallout from the slowdown in economic activity is also continuing to affect both the provision of new housing and the demand for it, by reducing the availability of mortgages and individuals' ability to service them. Partners are attempting to maintain the level of building through programmes such as HMRI and pursuing initiatives to support home purchases. It has also been recognised that much of the current target is dependent on the delivery of a single major scheme and there has been active working with the private sector partner to identify and remove barriers to delivery.

PART 3: OVERARCHING RISK REGISTER

The following overarching risks to the partnership have been identified by the LSP Management Group. The group is currently undertaking further work to score and identify necessary controls for these risks. The developments of the overarching risk register will be reported to the board in January 2010.

1. Impact of the economic downturn
2. Failure to effectively collect, record share, understand and use information, data and intelligence across the partnership
3. Failure to engage with partners and the community as a whole
4. Failure to deliver the partnership's vision and priorities (e.g. in reflecting these in partners' plans and delivery processes)
5. Failure to identify and optimise available resources in order to deliver joined up and value for money solutions
6. Partners have limited capacity and uncertain long-term funding
7. The partnership is insufficiently agile in responding to the external environment
8. Delivery of priorities is affected by inadequate individual and collective service continuity arrangements in the event of an emergency

PART 4: LAA DELIVERY PLANS

Delivery plans have been created for each LAA improvement target and a recent review has been undertaken of these plans to ensure that they fully reflect all partner activity and that they address any improvement areas highlighted by the joint inspectorate as part of the Comprehensive Area Assessment process.

It is recommended that the delivery plans are managed and monitored by the relevant thematic partnership group. Should an LAA improvement target underperforms for a period of two or more consecutive quarters then it is recommended that the relevant delivery plan is reported to the LSP Executive Board for consideration and to identify any further action that can be taken.

Recommendations:

- 1.1 Executive Board members are requested to review the second quarter performance and risk information contained within this report and identify any areas for further action.
- 1.2 Executive Board members are requested to approve the recommendation set out in part 4 of this report, and agree that delivery plans are reported to the LSP Executive Board for improvement targets which underperform consecutively for a period of two or more quarters.











Appendix One**LAA Theme Performance Summary Index**

Data Key	
Actual	(A)
Estimate	(E)
Provisional	(P)

Tolerances Used	
Over Performing	Exceeded target by more than 10%*
Green	Within +10/-5% of the target*
Amber	Missed target by between 5% and 10%*
Red	Missed target by more than 10%*

* Unless otherwise stated

Health & Wellbeing

PI No.	Title	Quarter 2 Target	Quarter 2 Actual	On Target	Direction of Travel
NI 39	Alcohol-harm related hospital admission rates	1381 (Lower is Better)	1185 (E)	Over Performing	
NI 120a	All-age all cause mortality rate (Male)	714 (Lower is Better)	771.77 (E)	Amber	
NI 120b	All-age all cause mortality rate (Female)	500 (Lower is Better)	545.89 (E)	Amber	
NI 123	Clients receiving support through the NHS Stop Smoking Services	355.9	356 (E)	Green	
NI 130	Social care clients receiving Self Directed Support	9%	4.77% (A)	Red	
NI 135	Carers receiving needs assessment or review and a specific carer's service, or advice and information	20%	22.42% (A)	Over Performing	
NI 136	People supported to live independently through social services (all adults)	2200	2060.08 (A)	Amber	
LOCAL 8228a	The number of emergency unscheduled acute hospital bed days occupied by people aged 75+ in NHS hospitals in Wirral who are admitted through fractured neck of femur, as measured by Wirral NHS data as a result of a fall.	4424 (Lower is Better)	2359 (E)	Over Performing	
LOCAL 8432	Establish cohort of clients aged 16-35 with two or more episodes of self harm in the last 12 months who subsequently become engaged in meaningful social activities.	2	2 (E)	Green	
LOCAL 8436	To reduce the number of people with dementia admitted to residential and nursing care 5% reduction on 2007/8 admittances	81 (Lower is Better)	78 (A)	Green	




Life Chances for Children and Young People

PI No.	Title	Quarter 2 Target	Quarter 2 Actual	On Target	Direction of Travel
NI 55	Obesity in primary school age children in Reception	9.37% (Lower is Better)	9.3% (E)	Green	n/a
NI 68	Percentage of referrals to children's social care going on to initial assessment	72%	60.9% (P)	Red	↑
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	56%	51.7% (P)	Amber	n/a
NI 73	Achievement at level 4 or above in both English and Maths at Key Stage 2	77%	74% (P)	Green	n/a
NI 75	Achievement of 5 or more A*- C grades at GCSE or equivalent including English and Maths	55.2%	53.2% (P)	Green	↑
NI 92	Narrowing the gap between the lowest achieving 20% in the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile and the rest	30.2% (Lower is Better)	31.4% (P)	Green	↔
NI 93	Progression by 2 levels in English between Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2	86%	81.6% (P)	Amber	↔
NI 94	Progression by 2 levels in Maths between Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2	79%	77.8% (P)	Green	↔
NI 100	Looked after children reaching level 4 in maths at Key Stage 2	44%	52% (P)	Over Performing	↓
NI 101	Looked after children achieving 5 A*-C GCSEs (or equivalent) at Key Stage 4 (including English and maths)	7.4%	7.3% (P)	Green	↓
NI 112	Under 18 conception rate	Latest data available is for calendar year 2008. The target for 2008/09 was -28.3%. The actual performance for 2008 was -10.3%.			
NI 117	16 to 18 year olds who are not in education, employment or training (NEET)	8.2% (Lower is Better)	9.8% (P)	Red	↑
LOCAL 1400	Number of looked after children	(Lower is Better)	616 (P)		↔






A Strong Local Economy

PI No.	Title	Quarter 2 Target	Quarter 2 Actual	On Target	Direction of Travel
NI 151	Overall Employment rate (working-age) (WNF)	Latest data available is December 2008. The target for 2008/09 was 70.5%. Actual Performance for this period was 68.6%.			
NI 153	Working age people claiming out of work benefits in the worst performing neighbourhoods (WNF)	Latest data is up to February 09 (Q1). Actual performance for this period was 36.1% against a Quarter 1 target of 35.2%.			



Safer, Stronger Communities

PI No.	Title	Quarter 2 Target	Quarter 2 Actual	On Target	Direction of Travel
NI 15	Number of most serious violent crimes (PSA 23: Priority Action 1) per 1000 population	0.33 (Lower is Better)	0.32 (A)	Green	
NI 20	Number of "Assaults with less serious injury" (including racially and religiously aggravated) offences per 1,000 population as a proxy for alcohol related violent offences	2.32 (Lower is Better)	2.42 (A)	Green	
LOCAL 4206	Number of reported incidents of anti-social behaviour	8779 (Lower is Better)	7920 (A)	Green	

Living and Working Environment

PI No.	Title	Quarter 2 Target	Quarter 2 Actual	On Target	Direction of Travel
NI 192	Percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting	41%	40% (E)	Green	
NI 195a	Improved street and environmental cleanliness (levels of litter)	7% (Lower is Better)	7% (A)	Green	
NI 195b	Improved street and environmental cleanliness (levels of detritus)	9% (Lower is Better)	7% (A)	Over Performing	
NI 195c	Improved street and environmental cleanliness (levels of graffiti)	6% (Lower is Better)	3% (A)	Over Performing	
NI 195d	Improved street and environmental cleanliness (levels of fly posting)	0.5% (Lower is Better)	0% (A)	Over Performing	

Sustainable, Appropriate Housing

PI No.	Title	Quarter 2 Target	Quarter 2 Actual	On Target	Direction of Travel
NI 154	Net additional homes provided	250	175 (A)	Red	n/a
NI 156	Number of homeless households living in Temporary Accommodation	14 (Lower is Better)	5 (A)	Over Performing	
LOCAL 4266	Number of vulnerable households assisted with at least one main energy efficiency measure under Warm Front	1153	1274 (A)	Over Performing	

WIRRAL LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP EXECUTIVE BOARD**WEDNESDAY 11TH NOVEMBER 2009****REPORT OF THE DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE / DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES****LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT PERFORMANCE REWARD GRANT REPORT****1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1. This report provides the latest position to LSP Executive Board members on the expected Performance Reward Grant (PRG) that will be received.
- 1.2. The amount of **£7.905m** is expected to be achieved in performance reward grant which equates to **80%** of the **£9.824m** available.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. The LSP Executive Board has received regular reports on the progress made by partners toward achieving the stretch targets. The successful outcome is as a consequence of partnership working and a robust performance management framework.

3. STRETCH TARGET PERFORMANCE

- 3.1 The following outcomes have been achieved by Wirral's partnership during the stretch target period:

Safer communities

- Significant reductions in crime including burglaries, woundings and thefts of motor vehicles.
- Increased levels of domestic violence reporting, and associated reductions in domestic violence repeat incidents

Health and wellbeing

- Smoking cessation amongst black and minority ethnic groups – 249 individuals attending NHS Stop Smoking Services were still not smoking 4 weeks after the set quit date. This significant increase exceeds the stretch target of 100.
- The number of people in vulnerable groups accessing specialist alcohol treatment services has risen significantly to 545, against a stretch target of 340 people.
- Significant reductions have also been seen in unscheduled bed days occupied by older people.
- Older people receiving direct payments have increased dramatically from 2004/05 performance levels.

- The number of carers receiving reviews and specific services has increased significantly compared to performance prior to the stretch target being agreed.

Life chances for children and young people

- The Average Point Score (APS) for all pupils at Key Stage 3 increased from 2004/05 levels to 35.8% in 2007/08.
- 100% of Wirral schools have now achieved Healthy School Status in the National Healthy School programme, a dramatic increase from the 43.7% who had achieved this status prior to the commencement of this local area agreement target.

Strong local economy

- Current performance shows that 801 new business start – ups were supported through Wirral Biz or Business Link by 31st March 2009; of those which can be reported 12 months after start up 445 are still operating. The remaining 356 businesses have not yet reached the 12 month measure stage.

Living and working environment

- Improvements have been made to the cleanliness of Wirral's streets, with only 13% of land and highways assessed as having combined deposits of litter and detritus.

3.2 All of the above achievements have attracted performance reward grant and are as a direct result of the strong partnership working within Wirral and the robust performance management framework that the partnership has embedded. The partnership has made excellent progress towards delivering improvements to the lives of Wirral's residents and the hard work of all individuals who have contributed to this successful outcome is recognised.

3.3 The following priorities did not attract any performance reward grant based on the final levels of performance, however it is acknowledged that a great deal of effort has been focused in these areas:

- Numbers of young people in education, employment and training
- Drug users retained in structured drug treatment programmes
- Older people helped to live at home

3.4 Final performance is not yet known for the number of people receiving attendance allowance and pension credit therefore it has not been possible to calculate the expected Performance Reward Grant. Again, the efforts of all partners involved are recognised and it is expected that the outcome of this performance will be known at the end of November 2009.

4. FORECAST PERFORMANCE REWARD GRANT

- 4.1. The **current expectation of £7.905m** is based on the actual and forecast positions for each LAA reward element target. The reported performance for each stretch target is subject to a review and verification process by Wirral Council as the accountable body. The Council's Internal Audit Team is currently undertaking this work. Wirral Council is required to submit a claim for the performance reward grant by the 16th December 2009.
- 4.2. It should be noted that confirmation is still being sought regarding the award of performance reward grant for the key stage three performance indicators. This is as a result of the curtailment of key stage three tests prior to the full achievement of the stretch target. Wirral achieved the first part of the stretch target and has provided Government Office North West (GONW) with further evidence to demonstrate that the second part would have been met. Preliminary feedback from GONW has indicated the evidence submitted supports the assumption that Wirral would have met the second part of the indicator had tests continued. This remains subject to approval by the Department of Communities and Local Government which is expected in November. For the purposes of this report the full amount of performance reward grant (£818,635) for this indicator has been included in the expected figure.
- 4.3. It should also be noted that forecast performance figures are not available for two indicators provided by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP); attendance allowance and pension credit. The successful achievement of these two indicators would attract £106,422 performance reward grant; however as forecast performance is not known at this stage this amount has not been included in the expected figure.
- 4.4. Appendix A of this report sets out the expected amounts of Performance Reward Grant (PRG) to be claimed.

5. PERFORMANCE REWARD GRANT ALLOCATION

- 5.1 Performance Reward Grant (PRG) for the achievement of stretch targets is payable 50% revenue and 50% capital over two years (2009/10 and 2010/11) as was reported to the LSP Executive Board in November 2008.
- 5.2 The provisional allocations approved by the LSP Executive Board have been updated below based on latest performance. It should be noted that this includes the full allocation for achieving the key stage three (KS3) indicator; however the DWP indicators have not been included in this allocation as it is unknown at this stage if the levels of performance required will be achieved. The board specified that all money awarded through the allocation of Performance Reward Grant is to be spent in Wirral.

Partner / agency	Capital allocation	Revenue allocation	Total allocation
Wirral Council (incl support costs)	£2,941,733	£2,919,880	£5,861,613
NHS Wirral	£548,477	£504,063	£1,052,540
Wirral Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership	£439,537	£405,991	£845,528
Drug and Alcohol Action Team	£22,544	£22,355	£44,899
3 rd Sector (Network)	£0	£100,000	£100,000
Overall	£3,952,290	£3,952,290	£7,904,580

6. PUMP PRIMING GRANT

- 6.1. The LAA received a pump priming grant (PPG) allocation of £1,063,100. Under the conditions of this grant it was a requirement that the PPG be expended by 31 March 2009. In addition to the PPG award the authority made a contribution of £200,000 available from its own resources to support delivery of the LAA.
- 6.2. Details of the final PPG expenditure per target are provided in appendix B. There were a number of minor variations between the final outturn and the individual revised grant allocations. Based upon the claims submitted an underspend of £2,074 was initially identified.
- 6.3. To maximise the PPG grant to 100%, the remaining £2,074 was initially allocated against Corporate Services as there was eligible expenditure in 2008/09 which could be used to meet the grant conditions. Subsequently, target 3 BME smoking cessation has requested additional funding towards expenditure occurred in 2008/09 and the board is requested to consider awarding the remaining £2,074 as a contribution to delivering this stretch target.
- 6.4. There was no restriction to the timing of use of the £200,000 funding provided by the Authority. The LAA Executive Board meeting of 20 January 2009 discussed the reward and PPG position. No additional bids were identified which would lead to the achievement of additional PPG reward grant in the remaining 2 months of the LAA. On this basis and as the Wirral contribution was unallocated, an allocation of £91,454 was agreed to fund Voluntary and Community Action Wirral ('the network') from April 2009. This leaves £108,546 funding available.
- 6.5. The Corporate Policy Team within the Council's Corporate Services Department has to date provided essential resources for coordinating and developing the Local Area Agreement (LAA). This team has previously received funding from pump priming grant and match funding from NHS Wirral to fund temporary posts within the team. This provides funding for these posts until July 2010. It is requested that the remaining £108,546 is allocated to further extend these vital posts for the remainder of the 2008/11 LAA to support the work of the partnership and delivery of the LAA.

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 2007/08 Financial Monitoring Report – May 2008
- Local Area Agreement Reward Element Report – May 2008
- Local Area Agreement Reward Element Report – June 2008
- LAA Financial Report – 19th November 2008
- LAA Pump Priming Grant Expenditure – 20th January 2009
- LAA Reward Element Targets Report - 18th February 2009

8. RECOMMENDATION

- 8.1. Executive Board members are requested to note the expected performance reward grant and approve the indicative allocations outlined in section 4.3.
- 8.2. Executive Board members are asked to note the final position of the PPG expenditure and approve the following requests:
- Allocate the remaining £2,074 pump priming grant to NHS Wirral as a contribution for delivery of the BME smoking cessation target;
 - Allocate the remaining £108,546 council contribution to the LAA is used to continue to fund temporary posts within the council's Corporate Policy Team.

Jim Wilkie

Deputy Chief Executive / Director of Corporate Services

This report was prepared by Lucy Beed and Pete Molyneux on 691 8006 and 691 3389 respectively.

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Wirral LSP - Stretch Targets - 2006/2009 - Final PRG calculations - November 2009									
Target No.	PI	Indicator	LAA End Target	LAA End Actual	Audited (Y/N)	% PRG Expected	£ PRG Available	£ PRG Expected at LAA End	Comments
1	4046	Number of dwelling house burglaries in Wirral recorded by the Police	1500	893	Y	100%	£163,727	163,727.00	
	4101	Number of all woundings in Wirral recorded by the Police	3130	1687	Y	100%	£286,522	286,522.00	
	4102	Number of thefts of motor vehicles in Wirral recorded by the Police	1332	560	Y	100%	£368,386	368,386.00	
2	NI117	Percentage of 16 to 18 year olds not in education, employment or training	7.4%	9.1*	N	0%	£818,635	0.00	
3	8134	No. of people from BME groups who attend NHS Stop Smoking Services who had set a quit date and who are still not smoking at 4 weeks, counted according to DH protocol	114	249	Y	100%	£818,635	818,635.00	
4	4103	No. of domestic violence in Wirral reported to Police	5522	5568	Y	100%	£327,454	327,454.00	
	4104	% of recorded domestic violence that are repeat incidents in the previous 12 months	26%	25%	Y	100%	£491,181	491,181.00	
5	8227	No. of emergency unscheduled acute hospital bed days occupied by older people aged 75+ in NHS hospitals in Wirral (excluding those admitted through fractured neck or femur), as measured by PCT data	126551	116378	Y	100%	£409,318	409,318.00	
	8228	No. of emergency unscheduled acute hospital bed days occupied by older people aged 75+ in NHS hospitals in Wirral who are admitted through fractured neck or femur, as measured by PCT data	10534	5613	Y	100%	£409,318	409,318.00	
6	1192	Average Point Score for all pupils at Key Stage 3 (average of English, Maths and science) as measured by National Key Stage 3 Tests	35.6%	35.8% (07/08)	Y	100%	£818,635	818,635.00	Awaiting confirmation from Department for Communities and Local Government that the full amount of performance reward grant will be received
7	8135	No. of people in vulnerable groups namely older people aged 65+ BME, and women in specialist alcohol treatment services	340	545	Y	100%	£245,591	245,591.00	
	8131	No. of drug users retained in structured drug treatment programmes	860	634	N/A	0%	£573,044	0.00	

Target No.	PI	Indicator	LAA End Target	LAA End Actual	Audited (Y/N)	% PRG Expected	£ PRG Available	£ PRG Expected at LAA End	Comments
8	199a	The proportion of relevant land and highways that is assessed as having combined deposits of litter and detritus	14%	13%	Y	100%	£818,635	818,635.00	
9	4128	No. of new business start-ups supported through Wirral Biz or Business Link in Wirral as measured by data form both organisations	330	801*	N	100%	£409,318	409,318.00	
	4129	No. of new businesses supported through Wirral Biz or Business Link in Wirral still operating twelve months after commencement as measured by data form both organisations	264	445*	N	100%	£409,318	409,318.00	
10	1268	% of schools achieving Healthy School Status in the National Healthy School Programme	95%	100%	Y	100%	£818,635	818,635.00	
11	8233	No. of informal carers receiving an assessment or review as a % of the total number of clients and carers receiving assessment or review, as measured by data used for PAF D42	20%	18.58	Y	71.6%	£40,932	29,307.31	
	8232	No of carers receiving a specific carers service as a percentage of clients receiving community based services, as measured by PAF C62	12%	12.23%	Y	100%	£368,386	368,386.00	
	8854	No. of older people helped to live at home per 1,000 population aged 65 and over, as measured by data used for PAF C32	100	56.68	Y	0%	£409,318	0.00	
12	8229	No. of older people in direct receipt of Direct Payments per 100,000 of population, as measured by data used for PAF C51	100	142.15*	N	100%	£712,213	712,213.00	
	8421	No. of Attendance Allowance claimants in Wirral, as measured by DWP published quarterly statistics	13031	UNABLE TO CALCULATE		£28,652		Final outturn figures are expected in November 2009. Performance Reward Grant will be calculated when these figures are known.	
	8422	No. of Pension Credit claimants in Wirral, as measured by DWP published quarterly statistics	20124	UNABLE TO CALCULATE		£77,770			
Total =							£9,823,623	7,904,579.31	
							100%	80%	

* = subject to Internal Audit confirmation of final performance

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							100%	80%	

* = subject to Internal Audit confirmation of final performance

Wirral LAA Pump Priming Grant Summary Final 2009

Item ?? Appendix B

Target	Block/Title	Approved Grant Allocation	Spend to 31/03/08	Total Spend in 2008/09	Total Spend to 31/03/09	Variance
2	Social and Economic well being; decreasing the number of 16-18 not in education employment or training	98,709	35,488	61,026	96,514	-2,195
6	To raise standards in English maths and science in secondary education by 2009	95,129	62,429	32,700	95,129	0
10	Improved health of children and young people in Wirral	48,190	28,190	20,000	48,190	0
	Children and Young People Block Total	242,028	126,107	113,726	239,833	-2,195
9	Support and enable growth of indigenous businesses	83,333	83,333	0	83,333	0
	Economic Development and Enterprise Block Total	83,333	83,333	0	83,333	0
3	Improve access to services for disadvantaged groups through information, advice and practical support to promote people's health and well being	56,469	11,352	45,117	56,469	0
5	To reduce the number of emergency unscheduled acute hospital bed days occupied by older people aged 75+	46,063	9,682	36,381	46,063	0
7	Improve the health and well being of people in Wirral by March 2009	0	0	0	0	0
11	To increase the number of older people and carers identified as needing support and care that will enable them to maintain their independence and quality of life	46,563	8,025	38,659	46,684	121
12	To ensure older people are able to exercise independence and choice that Gives them control over key aspects o their life	65,215	0	65,215	65,215	0
	Healthier Communities and Older People Block Total	214,310	29,059	185,372	214,431	121

1	Reduce crime across Wirral	83,333	82,477	856	83,333	0
4	Reduce the levels of domestic violence	141,483	42,438	99,045	141,483	0
8	To have, cleaner, safer greener public spaces	169,061	52,892	116,169	169,061	0
	Safer Stronger Communities Block Total	393,877	177,807	216,070	393,877	0
	Corporate LAA support costs	129,552	0	129,552	129,552	0
	Corporate Total	129,552	0	129,552	129,552	0
	Underspend to be allocated to Corporate or Health	0	0	2,074	2,074	2,074
	Overall Allocated Total	1,063,100	416,306	646,794	1,063,100	0

WIRRAL LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP – EXECUTIVE BOARD**WEDNESDAY 11TH NOVEMBER 2009****REPORT OF THE DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE/DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES****COMPREHENSIVE ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY – FINAL DRAFT****1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1. This report provides Wirral LSP Executive Board with an update on the progress of the Comprehensive Engagement Strategy (CES) following the end of the three month consultation period. The council has taken the lead in developing this key document and the board is asked to endorse the final version of the CES attached as Appendix A.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Wirral's Local Strategic Partnership Assembly agreed at its meeting of 9th December 2008 to take forward the responsibility for ensuring that the CES meets its key objectives for the borough.
- 2.2 The consultation process followed the guidance set out in the consultation code of the Compact allowing a full 12 weeks of public consultation, including:
- Key LSP partners
 - Available on Internet, other formats by request
 - LSP Website
 - Available on UKOnline (VCAW)
 - Advertised through flyers in one stop shops libraries, community centres and at area forums
 - Distributed through WVCSN
 - Distribution by e-mail to interested parties – lit accumulated through area forums, enquiries and known groups

3. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION RESPONSES

- 3.1 The Feedback on the CES was largely positive with specific requests for changes minimal, including in summary the following from Voluntary Community Action Wirral (VCAW).
- Provide a glossary of terms
 - Provide a brief explanation of the Compact
 - Change the use of the term Council for Voluntary Services (CVS) to Local Infrastructure Organisation (LIO). The term Council for Voluntary Services is gradually being replaced and in its place the term Local Infrastructure Organisation is more frequently being used. This request reflects the changes within the sector.

3.2 The Together Neighbourhood Management Pathfinder Board submitted feedback that raised more fundamental issues regarding, in summary the following:

- Recognition of the role and value of Area Forums but highlighting their limitations as an engagement method for those who are unused to public meetings. They suggest that the LSP and Council may wish to consider other ways of delivering engagement through the Area Forums format. The community engagement team have over the last two years sought new ways to develop the format of area forums including an annual conference, roadshows and altering the format of the forums to allow for greater engagement with partners by using drop ins and surgeries.
- Tranmere Together suggests that there should be further work to capture the view of those tenants and residents who do not want to join a resident's group or attend a formal meeting and public bodies should recognise the value of 'seldom heard' and include them in our work. They suggest that public bodies should capture comments, compliments and general correspondence as a store of resident views and the strategy should provide guidance to public agencies to clarify the purpose for engagement and involvement activities and methods to communicated to residents that their views matter.
- The Council has drafted a corporate engagement framework that should prevent any duplication of consultation activity between departments. This model will require all engagement activities are fed back to participants with clear information how this has helped to shape services. This approach will be shared with other LSP partners through the CES in order to develop best practice in this area of work.

3.7 Feedback from NHS Wirral was also received and included in summary the following areas for development:

"More emphasis could be placed on supporting the development of communities of place; improvement of the performance management section to better reflect specific LSP and partner performance measures; a move towards common communication platforms e.g. community databases (which would need to be generated from scratch), and newsletters etc".

3.8 The feedback received from VCAW, The Together Board, and NHS Wirral, will be further considered by the engagement steering group. The group will also review the CES work plan in order to develop activities that support a wide range of strategic approaches to engagement.

4. PROCESS FOR ADOPTING THE STRATEGY

4.1 It is proposed the final draft of the Comprehensive Engagement Strategy is endorsed by the Executive Board and circulated to all Local Strategy Partnership members for adoption. The governance arrangements for the

delivery plans for the four key elements of the CES will be submitted to the Executive Board at its January meeting and monitored on a quarterly basis by the LSP Executive Board with update reports and presentations to the Strategic Partnership Assembly.

5. BACKGROUND PAPERS

5.1 Appendix A – Final version Comprehensive Engagement Strategy

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1. Board members are requested to endorse the final draft.

Jim Wilkie

Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Services

This report was prepared by Christina Bebbington, Community Engagement Manager, Wirral Borough Council who can be contacted on 0151 691 8063

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Wirral Local Strategic Partnership's Comprehensive Engagement Strategy 2009-2011

Final



Comprehensive Engagement Strategy

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1. Introduction

The members of Wirral's Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) provide a wide range of services to the communities they serve. Whilst each of the partners has their own governance and communications arrangements and requirements, this Comprehensive Engagement Strategy (CES) sets out the wider aims and commitments of the LSP to involve and engage local people in the process of delivering services that are more responsive to their needs.. This strategy aims to bring together the members of the LSP to work towards a co-ordinated approach to engaging with our communities, enhancing accountability to and empowerment of all residents.

The strategy acknowledges that whilst there is a wealth of excellent work and good practice across all sectors within the borough the time is right to deliver engagement activities in a more coordinated way. The aims and objectives of this strategy have been written to ensure that we achieve this vision and in doing so compliment the Sustainable Community Strategy for Wirral;

1.1 Purpose

The purpose of CES is to provide a framework approach within which Wirral's LSP will work to create a new environment for partnership development and working. It is one of three key strategic policy documents to support the process of community engagement, namely:

- The Comprehensive Engagement Strategy (**why** we engage communities);
- The LSP's Community Engagement Toolkit (**how** we engage communities);
- The Compact (engagement **best practice**).

The benefits we seek to deliver to the communities we serve through adoption of the principles of this strategy are:

- Encouraging active citizenship, civic society and local democracy;
- Improving local public services;
- Strengthening local accountability.

Presently, we do not seek to develop new structures for engagement, rather we aim to build on and enhance the existing arrangements. The CES will seek to ensure that decision makers are able to make informed decisions based upon meaningful and mutually rewarding engagement and involvement with the relevant communities of place or interest (see definition below).

1.2 Community: What We Mean

For the purposes of CES we define "community" to mean all persons served by the partners in the LSP, either as residents, citizens, service users or tax payers. Within this context we will specifically talk about

- **Communities of Place:** resident communities within a specific and clearly defined geography;
- **Communities of Interest:** communities based around shared interests, experiences or issues.

It is also important to remember that people often belong to more than one community and communities are always diverse.

1.3 Structure

The strategy is presented in the following key sections:

Section Two: Sets out the vision, values and objectives for our CES;

- Section Three:** Provides an overview discussion of the policy background that informs the development and implantation of our CES;
- Section Four:** Describes the partners and governance arrangements involved in delivering the vision and objectives of our CES;
- Section Five:** Provides consideration of our aims to develop, support and sustain the communities we serve;
- Section Six:** Sets out our objectives achievement of which will make the aims of this strategy a reality;
- Section Seven:** Details the overall approach to measuring progress in realising the Vision of our strategy.

2. Our vision, values and objectives

2.1 Our Vision

The vision we aim to achieve through Wirral LSP's Comprehensive Engagement Strategy is:

To increase the involvement of people in the life of their communities and encourage their greater participation in the decision-making processes that affect their quality of life and the services they receive from all partners of the LSP.

This vision as well as driving our framework for engagement will support the achievement of Wirral's Sustainable Community Strategy, 2008 – 2025:

"...a more prosperous and equal Wirral, enabling all communities and people to thrive and achieve their full potential..."

2.2 Our Values

The key values that inform the achievement of our vision are:

- Empowering communities and embracing their diverse identities;
- Communicating clearly and openly about our decisions and actions and the reasons for them;
- Using a range of tools to allow individuals and organisations to contribute and communicate in their own way;
- Building on and linking together individuals, groups and organisations that already exist, and creating new structures where gaps or needs exist;
- Supporting the voluntary & community sectors and statutory agencies in planning and delivering services to the people of the borough;
- Acting as partners in contributing to and supporting a robust third sector.

2.3 Our Objectives

To ensure the achievement of our vision we will deliver our engagement in a more strategic fashion, therefore, we have four key objectives that inform our delivery of the CES; namely:

- Building Cohesive Communities;
- Developing Procurement and Commissioning;
- Sharing Best Practice;
- Building Capacity.

3. Policy context

Although there is currently no statutory duty to prepare a CES *'community engagement'* is clearly high on the current policy agenda. The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) is leading the drive to "...enable more people to play an active role in the decisions that affect their communities..." In this the *Local Government White Paper 2006* local authorities and their partners are given the flexibility to draw up a strategy to combine activity, improve the coordination of engagement across LSP partners and reduce the risk of 'consultation overload'. In addition, enshrined within the *Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007* is the new duty to involve communities in health decisions and service development (effective from 1 April 2009); where they consider it *'appropriate to do so'*

Creating Strong, Safe and Prosperous Communities Statutory Guidance (November 2007) states that success in meeting the duty to involve will include showing that engagement is *'embedded as standard practice throughout authorities and is central to service delivery, policy and decision making'*. Partners will also be required to demonstrate that we understand the interests and requirements of the local community, and that we use information to ensure accessible engagement opportunities are provided on key issues.

Other key relevant policy areas include:

- **The Sustainable Communities Act:** Defines participation in civic and political activity as part of "improving social, economic and environmental well being of the area".
- **The Government's Community Empowerment Action Plan:** Declares, "Participatory and representative democracy are complementary".
- **The new National Performance Indicator (PI) set:** Includes PIs on civic participation and how far people "feel they can influence local decisions".
- **Comprehensive Area Assessment:** Will "assess the quality of involvement of local people" especially the vulnerable.
- **Local Government Act:** Introduces new "duty to inform, consult and involve people".
- **Place Shaping Guidance:** Says, "...services will only be improved and communities strengthened if local people are effectively engaged and empowered".
- **LAA Operational Guidance:** Says, "The development of Local Area Agreements should be based on strong local involvement" and "need for a comprehensive approach to community engagement".

The development of a Comprehensive Engagement Strategy for Wirral will place the area at the forefront of developing a partnership approach to engagement, create the environment for fulfilling the new duty to involve and provide the framework for driving this work forward.

4. Our partners and governance arrangements

4.1 Partners to the Process

The LSP consists of the range of partners who will actively contribute to the delivery of this strategy drawn from the statutory, third and private sectors. We will actively seek the involvement of others outside of our established partnership to deliver the actions that will contribute to making the vision of this strategy a reality. The local authority leads the LSP and supports some of the key mechanisms of engagement within the borough. These mechanisms are set out in more detail in 4.2.4 of this strategy.

4.2 Governance Arrangements

The responsibility for the direction, implementation and monitoring of CES lies with the LSP partners, in this respect we have established the following structure for this strategy, building upon existing structures and responsibilities within the LSP and its partners. Operational responsibility for achieving the vision and ensuring the development of a common approach to all methods of engagement sits with the Engagement Steering Group (ESG) who will provide direction to and receive reports from the working groups established to deliver the specific CES objectives.

It is not intended that additional meetings are established – existing structures are to be utilised. The exception to this situation is the proposed establishment of a Community Cohesion Board in recognition of a gap in the LSP's ability to respond - as effectively as desired - to specific challenges in this area through its existing structures.

It is proposed to bring together a strategic funding group for Wirral to ensure funding is used in a more co-ordinated and strategic manner for best affect.

4.2.2 Engagement Steering Group

This engagement strategy will seek to provide ongoing evidence of how the process is co-ordinated and communicated. We do not seek to prescribe a single consultation method or mechanism, but rather set out clear principles, resources and timeframes, allowing communities to understand how and when they can contribute and what resources are in place to support that engagement.

To achieve this there are three documents that support and direct effective engagement:

- This strategy which details the engagement approach;
- The LSP engagement toolkit which provides a practical 'how to' guide for all partners; and
- The Wirral Compact which ensures that all partners carry out their engagement activities using best practice.

In order to monitor and review the effectiveness of our arrangements, the LSP's Engagement Steering Group has been established. The co-ordination activity of this group will be crucial to ensuring that the principles of our common approach to all methods of engagement are embedded into the working practice of partners.

4.2.2 Partner Governance and Constitution

The LSP partners in Wirral each have their own governance and communication arrangements to keep local people informed, monitor if and how needs are being met and to gauge views. Equally

they each have their own appropriate governance and accountability arrangements and operational codes of conduct.

Within the governance arrangements set out above it is recognised that partners require a process of validation and approval of agreements. Accordingly, our processes recognise the need for internal approval to proceed from individual partners through the allowance of sufficient time to achieve fully supported agreement.

4.2.3 Governance of Place and Interest

We recognise the need to provide the fullest opportunity for communities of place and interest to access and influence the decisions of partners. We therefore will incorporate existing community engagement through formal and informal means:

- **Formal and structured:** including all existing partner engagement structures, such as Area Forums; Patient Public Involvement exercises including LINK; legacy programmes (Pathways and Neighbourhood regeneration Partnerships); and the Wirral Community and Voluntary Sectors Network (VCAW);
- **Informal/ad hoc:** recognising the value and effectiveness of service users/patient/resident/tax payer/etc, complaints and correspondence as a store of community views to bring issues to life. We will require partners to listen to what people are saying and viewing this in a positive manner.

4.2.4 What We Are Already Doing

The Chief Executive of the Local Authority has consistently demonstrated a strong personal commitment to the concept of engagement and has driven the introduction of a number of initiatives including, Area Forums, Youth Forums, Younger Peoples and Older Peoples Parliament and the Business Forum.

The Council and its partners have established 11 Area Forums across the Borough. Each Forum covers two Wards with membership being drawn from the Local Authority, other partner agencies, and the local community. The Area Forums have been an extremely useful vehicle to engage and consult with the local community and to ascertain their views on a number of key issues.

The Area Forums have already been able to distribute funds for local projects and this has allowed local residents a much greater say in how public money is used. The Community Initiatives Fund has been running for some years and has been used to fund a wide range of local initiatives. However, last year the Authority introduced "You Decide" which was an additional budgetary allocation to each Area Forum that allowed local communities to decide on which extra Council services they would like to "purchase" for their local area. This initiative is very successful and has been extended for a further year.

The Authority and its partners see the Area Forums as a key element in our comprehensive Engagement Strategy and discussions are underway to consider how the role of Area Forums might develop in the future.

We have also established Youth Forums which are specifically directed at engaging with young people on a geographical basis.

In addition, the Authority has established a Youth Parliament and an Older People's Parliament which are specifically designed to ensure that these two groups have a more effective voice within the Borough.

The Local Authority has a long track record of supporting a wide range of community based organisations and for many years has supported Local Infrastructure Organisations (LIO's) within the Borough.

The Authority has recently supported the coalescence of four Council for Voluntary Services into one organisation "Voluntary Community Action Wirral" (VCAW). VCAW is now the LIO preferred partner within the CES.

The Council has also gone to considerable lengths to improve engagement with the business community within Wirral. We have, over the last year, established a Business Forum which consists of a number of sector based clusters who meet to consider issues of common interest and concern so that the Authority and its partners can be better informed on the views of the private sector across Wirral. We are bringing businesses together on a regular basis to discuss a range of specific and topic related views

An important aspect of the Business Forum has been the creation of a new free on-line networking facility. This is exclusive to Wirral businesses and enables every Wirral business to have an online profile page, communicate electronically with the Council and other agencies, and receive important information about business support and what partner agencies are doing.

The Council also continues to support the Wirral Investment Network which has a public, private sector partnership to promote Wirral and Wirral businesses.

The Council is also engaging with individuals on a one to one basis through the 'ReachOut' programme which supports a door knocking service to identify and refer unemployed residents to both mainstream and other relevant projects that support employment and training. Employment Support Workers continue to work with clients to develop action plans to remove barriers to employment and training. The Council is committed to supporting engagement projects such as ReachOut during this economic downturn.

The Council is currently engaged in preparing our Local Development Framework which will set out the planning framework for the Borough. As part of the Local Development Framework we have developed a Statement of Community Involvement which sets out how we will consult local communities on planning issues. Our statement of Community Involvement exceeds the requirements set out by national legislation and represents the Council's commitment to facilitate early community involvement when planning policies are being drawn up.

5. Our aims

5.1 Introduction

The aims of CES are to:

- Enable and empower our communities to more effectively contribute to informed decision making and better governance;
- Support the development of a strong third sector;
- Support the effective delivery of Wirral's Local Area Agreement and Sustainable Community Strategy.

5.2 Aim 1: Enabling Better Governance

Our aim is to build on the skills of people and communities so that they can fully engage in local service delivery such as neighbourhood management and regeneration projects. Overall the aim is to empower local citizens, supporting the development of their sense of place, enhancing civic participation and thereby effectively contributing to local democratic renewal.

We seek to provide equality of opportunity for all to participate, ensuring that all local people are valued, actively listened to and heard, therefore providing them with appropriate opportunity to influence decision making.

5.3 Aim 2: Supporting the Development of a Stronger third sector

Our aim is that all key partners work in partnership to ensure that we have a robust third sector that is fit for purpose and financially secure. This will be achieved through the development of a strategy for the sector; this work will require commitment from all partners.

5.4 Aim 3: Delivering the Local Area Agreement (LAA) and the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS)

Our aim is to ensure the levels of community involvement crucial to the success of the LAA and the SCS.

- The LAA will tackle the key challenges facing Wirral through its three year delivery plan.
- The SCS acknowledges that the strong and effective partnerships with Wirral's voluntary and community sector have been at the forefront of much of the activity to tackle worklessness, deprivation and low skills within some of our most deprived neighbourhoods.

This strategy will seek to ensure that our engagement activities provide the necessary platforms for our communities to continue to have their voices heard regarding the LAA delivery plan and the long term vision set out for the borough in the SCS.

6. Our objectives

The objectives below are the key themes that will enable us to make the vision and aims of this strategy a reality;

- Build cohesive communities;
- Developing procurement and commissioning;
- Share best practice;
- Build capacity within the third sector.

Each of these thematic objectives will be supported by cross-cutting action (led and monitored by the ESG) that applies to all - in which we will:

- Agree a common approach to all methods of engagement.

6.1 Cross Cutting Action: Agree a Common Approach to all Methods of Engagement.

The Community Engagement Toolkit adopted in December 2006 by the LSP has been refreshed and updated. This document contains all of the practical guides to engage with communities.

The use of the community engagement toolkit and the common approach to all methods will be monitored through the LSP website by the Engagement Steering Group.

6.1.1 Cross Cutting Action: Reduce Duplication

It is accepted that duplication of engagement occurs and that partners are constantly looking for ways to reduce the burden of consultation and engagement activities within our communities. The ESG will bring together the key staff from each of the partner organisations and a forward plan of joint engagement activity will be co-ordinated and reviewed as a permanent agenda item. The LSP website will contain a specified area for the ESG and CES as well as providing another platform for communication.

6.1.2 Cross Cutting Action: Reduce costs

Engaging with communities incurs costs on a number of levels. This strategy will be supported by an agreement that acknowledges the funding requirements for effective engagement systems for all partner organisations. The partner organisations will work towards the development of agreed common policy for the funding for engagement activities and publish arrangements on the LSP website.

6.2 Theme 1: Building Cohesive Communities

Community Cohesion is a local and national priority, since the disturbances of 2001 and the acts of a small group of extremists in London in July 2005 there has been increased focus upon addressing this area. The development of community cohesion is the attempt to build communities with four key characteristics:

- A common vision and a sense of belonging for all communities;
- The valuing of diversity;
- Similar life opportunities for all; and
- Strong and positive relationships are being developed between people from different backgrounds and circumstances in the workplace, in the school and within neighbourhoods.

Building a cohesive Wirral around these characteristics means recognising diverse needs and taking action to tackle inequality. We want the diversity of people's different backgrounds and circumstances to be appreciated and positively valued, and for positive relationships to be developed between people from different backgrounds. Our aims are to:

- Increase the representation of diverse groups;
- Develop a single forum (the proposed Community Cohesion Board);
- Build on existing area forum structures to include the principles of neighbourhood working.

There is also a need to develop mechanisms for ensuring engagement activities are developed for communities of place and this will be further explored through the ongoing work of the council's area forums.

6.3 Theme 2: Procurement and Commissioning

Well targeted financial support for the third sector in Wirral is a critical element to its success. It is acknowledged that third sector economy makes a significant contribution to the achievement of the outcomes of the Wirral Local Area Agreement (LAA).

Working together, LSP partners will lead to a more cohesive approach to supporting the work of the third sector in Wirral. This will help all in the pursuit of excellence for their service users (the community). Strategic co-ordination of commissioning is vital within the current climate to ensure sustainability for the third sector offering effective, innovative service provision for our communities. Future strategies for commissioning the third sector in Wirral will need to compliment other strategies and funding streams affecting the key stakeholders and all LSP partners will be consulted on development of local guidance to include the Full Cost Recovery (FCR) model. It is intended that FCR funding should be commensurate with the level of project or service being provided and should not disproportionately fund other core services. We also intend to develop a strategic funding group.

6.4 Theme 3: Sharing Best Practice

The consultation and policy appraisal code of the Wirral's Compact is the accepted tool for monitoring best practice within the field of engagement.

The ESG will have as a standing agenda item, 'Compact Working Principles' the group will include one of the joint chairs of the Compact steering group in its membership. This will therefore ensure that through the representation of the Compact Working Group and pursuing its agenda that best practice is being followed in the development of a common approach to engagement.

It is our intention to:

- Further develop the Compact's Engagement Toolkit;
- Review the existing governance and membership arrangements within existing working groups to ensure they adhere to recognised good practice;
- Provide further support and resources to the establishment of the Compact Champions Network.

6.5 Theme 4: Building Capacity

In order to develop the strategic engagement methods within the borough it will be necessary to work with the third sector to build capacity and respond to the need for the sector to have a strong voice. A strong third sector will be able to influence at all levels whilst increasing the understanding

of the role and the contribution that the sector plays in supporting the work of the public bodies within the borough.

It is our intention to:

- Develop a strategic plan for Wirral's third sector;
- Improve representation between statutory decision makers and the third sector through a recognised democratic process, strengthening links to achievement of our community cohesion objectives;
- Build capacity in the sector to deliver goods and services in their own right as well as on behalf of partners in the public sector;
- Support and develop the capacity within the sector to represent themselves within the LSP.

7. Performance management

7.1 Developing an Action Plan

An annual action plan for each of the key thematic objectives will be developed which sets out how they will be achieved. This will include existing work plus new initiatives to improve and enhance effective engagement with the communities we serve. Some actions which may be included are:

- Publish and maintain details of engagement opportunities across the borough on Wirral LSP's website;
- Investigate new ways for improving coordination of work "on the ground" across agencies through the ESG;
- Develop cross sector training and development activities for engagement targeted at both communities and staff at all levels;
- Undertake periodic evaluations to measure the benefits of engagement and its impact on improved services and quality of life.

7.2 Measuring Progress

In order to measure the overall performance of the CES and how well the public bodies and the third sector are engaging with the communities they serve it will be necessary to develop some local indicators of performance. These will be based around and provided demonstrable links to the achievement of the following National Indicators set by central government, (See Appendix two Wirral LSP's Comprehensive Engagement Strategy Action Plan)

7.2.1 Measuring Progress: Building Cohesive Communities

Progress against our objective to build cohesive communities will be measured against the following National Indicators:

- **National Indicator 1:** % of people who believe people from different backgrounds get on well together in their local area.
- **National Indicator 35:** Building resilience to violent extremism.

The proposed Community Cohesion Board will develop an action plan that will incorporate local indicators that will provide demonstrable evidence of achievement of these indicators. Additionally, it is important to state that achievements against NI 1 will be measured by the proposed Community Cohesion Board through the biennial place survey.

7.2.2 Measuring Progress in Developing Procurement and Commissioning

Progress against our objective to sustain the work of the third sector in Wirral through well targeted financial support will be measured against the following National Indicator:

- **National Indicator 7:** Environment for a thriving third sector.

The Compact Procurement Code and strategic funding group will develop an action plan that will incorporate local indicators that will show demonstrable evidence of achievement of this indicator.

7.2.4 Measuring Progress in Sharing Best Practice

Progress against our objective to share best practice in the field of engagement will be measured against the following National Indicators:

- **National indicator 4:** The % of people who feel that they can influence decisions affecting their locality.
- **National indicator 7:** Environment for a thriving third Sector

An action plan to incorporate local indicators that will provide demonstrable evidence of achievement of these indicators will be developed

Monitoring achievement against NI 4 through the biennial Place Survey

7.2.5 Measuring Progress in Building Capacity

Progress against our objective to build capacity within Wirral's third sector will be measured against the following National Indicators:

- **National Indicator 6:** Participation in regular volunteering.
- **National Indicator 7:** Environment for a thriving third sector.

An action plan to incorporate local indicators that will show demonstrable evidence of achievement of these indicators will be developed.

Additionally, monitoring of achievement against NI 6 through the biennial Place Survey will also take place

Appendix one: National Indicators

Source: National Indicators for Local Authorities and Local Authority Partnerships: Handbook of Definitions
(Department for Communities and Local Government: London, April 2008)

Place Survey Indicator			
NI 1: % of people who believe people from different backgrounds get on well together in their local area			
Is data provided by the LA or a local partner?	Y	Is this an existing indicator?	Y
Rationale	<i>The Local Government White Paper</i> sets out Government's aim of creating strong and cohesive communities – thriving places in which a fear of difference is replaced by a shared set of values and a shared sense of purpose and belonging. The aim in doing so is to ensure that the economic and cultural benefits of diversity are experienced by everyone in each community, recognising that this means promoting similar life opportunities for all. This particular measure is widely recognised as a key indicator of a cohesive society, shown to measure a number of strands of the community cohesion definition. The question that feeds this indicator was previously used in the 2006/7 BVPI satisfaction survey. Note that the methodology for the Place Survey is comparable with the BVPI satisfaction survey.		
Data Source	Collection will be through the new Place Survey. Local authorities will submit data to the Audit Commission, who will weight it and submit it to CLG directly, and provide authorities with weighted copies of their own data sets.		
Collection Interval	Biennial		
Reporting organisation	Audit Commission		
Spatial level	Single tier, district and county council		

Place Survey Indicator			
NI 4: % of people who feel they can influence decisions in their locality			
Is data provided by the LA or a local partner?	Y	Is this an existing indicator?	Y
Rationale	The Government aims to build communities where individuals are empowered to make a difference both to their own lives and to the area in which they live. A key indicator of community empowerment is the extent to which people feel able to influence decisions affecting their local area. The question that feeds this indicator was previously used in the 2006/7 BVPI satisfaction survey. Note that the methodology for the Place Survey is comparable with the BVPI satisfaction survey.		
Data Source	Collection will be through the new Place Survey. Local authorities will submit data to the Audit Commission, who will weight it and submit it to CLG directly, and provide authorities with weighted copies of their own data sets.		
Collection Interval	Biennial		
Reporting organisation	Audit Commission		
Spatial level	Single tier, district and county council		

Place Survey Indicator			
NI 6: Participation in regular volunteering			
Is data provided by the LA or a local partner?	Y	Is this an existing indicator?	N
Rationale	<p>High levels of volunteering are one sign of strong, active communities. Volunteers are vital in supporting the range of activity undertaken by third sector organisations and within the public services. Local government has an important role to play in creating a culture in which individuals are able to contribute to their communities by volunteering.</p> <p>Regular volunteering is defined as taking part in formal volunteering at least once a month in the 12 months before the interview. Formal volunteering is defined as giving unpaid help through groups, clubs or organisations which support social, environmental, cultural or sporting objectives. The question that feeds this indicator is based on a question previously used in the Citizenship survey. Note that the methodology for the Place Survey is different to the Citizenship survey.</p>		
Data Source	Collection will be through the new Place Survey. Local authorities will submit data to the Audit Commission, who will weight it and submit it to CLG directly, and provide authorities with weighted copies of their own data sets.		
Collection Interval	Biennial		
Reporting organisation	Audit Commission		
Spatial level	Single tier, district and county council		

NI 7: Environment for a thriving third sector**Is data provided by the LA or a local strategic partner?****N****Is this an existing indicator?****N****Rationale**

A vibrant, diverse, and independent third sector is a vital component of a fair and enterprising society. It can help communities to be more cohesive and inclusive, and help individuals to have more say over issues that affect them. In addition, the third sector can help local statutory agencies to address a wide range of community concerns. These issues range from strengthening community cohesion, to increasing environmental sustainability, to tackling many of the causes and consequences of social and economic disadvantage.

Local statutory agencies can be influential in shaping the environment in which independent third sector organisations operate. This could be, for example, through their approaches to partnership working, consultation, funding relationships, or in the way that they commission and procure services. Sometimes this influence will be direct and specific, other times diffuse and broad. Taking account of these influences, this indicator is designed to capture the overall contribution made by local statutory agencies to the environment in which third sector organisations operate.

Definition

This indicator will measure the contribution that local government and its partners make to the environment in which independent third sector organisations can operate successfully.

The indicator will be scored according to the proportion of third sector organisations who answer the following question as 'positive' or 'very positive' on a five point scale:

“...how do the local statutory bodies in your local area influence your organisation's success?”

In answering the question, third sector organisations will be encouraged to take a wide view of the influence of local statutory bodies on the success of their organisations.

The indicator will be measured in 2008 and again in 2010 by a new, bespoke, centrally-administered survey of registered and incorporated third sector organisations based in each local area.

This is an APACS indicator			
NI 35: Building resilience to violent extremism			
Is data provided by the LA or a local partner?	Y	Is this an existing indicator?	N
APACS number	For APACS, this indicator will be trialled and evaluated in 2008/09 and as a consequence, it will not be published in APACS or used for assessment in APACS in 2008/09.		
Rationale	<p>The aim of the 'Prevent' work stream of the CONTEST strategy is to stop people becoming or supporting violent extremists. The revised Prevent work stream has seven core objectives (see further guidance section below) which require action at local, national and international levels. Local partners have a key role to play in developing programmes in support of each of these objectives – notably objectives to enhance the resilience of communities to violent extremism and to identify and support individuals vulnerable to recruitment to the cause of violent extremism.</p> <p>The context for Prevent work will be subject to regional variations and an approach specific to local circumstances will be essential. The work needs to be done in close conjunction with the local community. The policing response will be guided by the emerging ACPO strategy.</p> <p>Given the issues concerned it is inherently difficult to directly measure outcomes. This indicator therefore assesses the standard of local areas' arrangements against a number of key factors.</p>		
Definition	<p>Assessment framework which evaluates the effectiveness of Prevent related work programmes on a 1 – 5 scale against 4 main criteria. These four criteria are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding of, and engagement with, Muslim communities; • Knowledge and understanding of the drivers and causes of violent extremism and the Prevent objectives; • Development of a risk-based preventing violent extremism action plan, in support of delivery of the Prevent objectives; • Effective oversight, delivery and evaluation of projects and actions. <p>The assessment framework will be available shortly at http://www.communities.gov.uk/communities/preventingextremism/</p> <p>Performance is defined at each stage of the scale, e.g. when considering 'understanding of, and engagement with, Muslim communities' LSPs would rate their performance between a 1, where:</p> <p>'The community are engaged on an ad hoc basis and through wider faith/minority groups. Mechanisms and engagement is/are not self sustaining or productive. Understanding of the make-up of the local Muslim community is cursory and limited';</p> <p>and a 5:</p> <p>'A self sustaining, dynamic and community driven engagement which takes place on a number of different levels and in a number of different ways, with innovative approaches to communication and engagement of all groups. Sophisticated understanding of local Muslim communities is used to drive policy development and engagement.'</p>		

Collection interval	Annual (Financial year)	Data Source	Assessment is carried out by the Local Strategic Partnership
Reporting organisation	Local authority		
Spatial level	Single tier and district councils. All authorities are expected to report, except those areas where agreed otherwise with Government.		
Further Guidance	<p>HMIC and the Audit Commission will work with a number of priority areas during 2008/09 to identify good practice which can be shared, with a view to building up learning and effective implementation across the country. In due course, this indicator will be captured as part of the Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) process.</p> <p>This indicator also forms part of the APACS (Assessments of Policing and Community Safety), which is available at http://police.homeoffice.gov.uk/apacs</p> <p>For APACS, this indicator will be trialled and evaluated in 2008/09 and as a consequence, it will not be published or used for assessment in APACS in 2008/09.</p> <p>Further detail on the Prevent Strategy can be found at www.security.homeoffice.gov.uk and at www.communities.gov.uk/communities/preventingextremism/ and www.idea.gov.uk/idk/core/page.do?pagelD=7890410</p> <p>Further guidance on Prevent will also be published shortly.</p> <p>The revised Prevent work stream of CONTEST has seven core objectives: 1) Challenge the violent extremist ideology and support mainstream voices; 2) disrupt those who promote violent extremism and support the institutions where they are active; 3) support individuals who are being targeted and recruited to the cause of violent extremism; 4) increase the resilience of communities to violent extremism; 5) address the grievances which ideologues are exploiting; 6) develop understanding, analysis and evaluation; 7) strategic communications.</p>		
Notes	For the latest guidance for this indicator, including any corrections or clarifications, please consult the APACS technical guidance which is available at: http://police.homeoffice.gov.uk/performance-and-measurement/assessment-methods/assessment-technical-guidance/		

Term	Definition
Local Strategic Partnership	A partnership of
Voluntary and Community Sectors	A collection of organisations that represent communities of interest and communities of place
Statutory Agencies	Public sector bodies such as Police, NHS, Merseyside Fire and Rescue, Local Authorities
Third Sector	A term used to describe
National Performance Indicator	National Performance Indicators are set by the government to provide a framework by which local areas can measure improvement in relation to a range of issues. For example how well services are improving.
Comprehensive Area Assessment	An assessment process to measure how well a local area is setting priorities and delivering outcomes for communities.
Local Area Agreement	An agreement between local government and partners to deliver on priority national indicators that encourage and contribute to a more prosperous and equal Wirral
LINK	A network of individuals and organisations that provide a scrutiny role of NHS services
Area Forum	The council's method of engaging with local people based within ward boundaries
Sustainable Community Strategy	A long term vision for an area agreed by partners working together to improve the quality of life for local people
Full Cost Recovery	Ensuring that when organisations in particular third sector organisations, that funders take into account the full cost of delivering the service being tendered for
Procurement	The process of buying goods and services within a legal framework
Commissioning	The process of identifying services needed
Compact	The Compact is an agreed way of working with the public sectors and third sector to ensure strong partnerships are formed based on core principles
Best Value Performance Indicator	A series of national measures of local authority performance, set by central Government.

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