



## Local Strategic Partnership Executive Board (not a public meeting)

<b>Date:</b>	Wednesday, 30 June 2010
<b>Time:</b>	5.00 pm
<b>Venue:</b>	Mersey Maritime, Monks Ferry, Birkenhead

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### AGENDA

1. WELCOME, APOLOGIES, INTRODUCTIONS
2. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS (Pages 1 - 8)
3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
4. 2011 CENSUS - REPORT AND PRESENTATION - MARK ROBERTS, CENSUS LA REGIONAL STAKEHOLDER MANAGER (Pages 9 - 12)
5. WIRRAL WATERS DEVELOPMENT - PRESENTATION BY LINDSEY ASHWORTH, DIRECTOR OF PEEL HOLDINGS
6. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY - REVIEW - CAROLYN CURR (Pages 13 - 18)
7. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES STRATEGY - ANNUAL REVIEW 2009/10 - JIM WILKIE (Pages 19 - 22)
8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS
9. DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS: VENUE MERSEY MARITIME

Wednesday 11 August 2010, 5.00 – 7.00pm  
Wednesday 29 September 2010, 5.00 – 7.00pm  
Wednesday 10 November 2010, 5.00 – 7.00pm  
Wednesday 19 January 2011, 5.00 – 7.00pm  
Wednesday 16 February 2011, 5.00 – 7.00pm  
Wednesday 30 March 2011, 5.00 – 7.00pm

# Agenda Item 2

## Minutes - Local Strategic Partnership - Executive Board

(Not a public meeting)

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2010

<b>Present</b>	
<b>Chair</b>	Cllr Steve Foulkes (Leader, Labour Group)
<b>Public Sector</b>	Cllr Simon Holbrook (Leader, Liberal Democrat Group) Cllr Jeff Green (Leader, Conservative Group, Wirral Council), Steve Maddox (Chief Executive, Wirral Council), Mike Hagen (Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service), Jon Ward (Merseyside Police) Kathy Doran (Chief Executive, NHS Wirral),
<b>Voluntary Sector</b>	Myrtle Lacey (Wirral Voluntary and Community Sector Network), Clint Agard (Wirral Voluntary and Community Sector Network),
<b>Private Sector</b>	Neil Dutton (Federation of Small Businesses)
<b>Advisors</b>	Val Edmonds (Audit Commission), Richard Perry (GONW)
<b>Secretariat</b>	Wirral Council - Carolyn Curr (Head of Policy & Performance, Wirral Council), Marie Armitage (Joint Director of Public Health, Wirral PCT & Wirral Council), Pete Molyneux (Chief Accountant), Howard Cooper (Director of Children's Services), Rose Boylan (Principal Economic Officer, Wirral Council, John Highton (LSP Co-ordinator, Wirral Council)
<b>Other</b>	Aidan Melling (National College for Leadership of Schools and Children's Services), Sheila Lynch (Assistant Director, Greater Merseyside Connexions Partnership), Kate Julian (Centre for Local Governance), John Curtis (Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service)
<b>Apologies</b>	Len Richards (Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust), Alberto Bertali (Private Sector), Ken Davies (Wirral Chamber of Commerce), Sheena Cumiskey (Cheshire and Wirral Partnership Trust), Sue Allen (Job Centre Plus), Jim Wilkie (Deputy Chief Executive), Kevin Adderley (Head of Strategic Development), Simon Pierce (Formerly Learning Skills Council), Brian Simpson (Wirral Partnership Homes)

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**Minute 217** - LAA PERFORMANCE & RISK - FULL YEAR 2009/10

**Minute 218** - AUDIT COMMISSION – CAA UPDATE

**Minute 219** - WIRRAL LSP - ECONOMIC RECOVERY PLAN

**Minute 220** - PERFORMANCE REVIEW - NOT IN EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT OR TRAINING (NI 117)

**Minute 221** - ANY OTHER BUSINESS

**Minute 222** - DATE AND TIME OF FUTURE MEETINGS

**Minute 213** - WELCOME, APOLOGIES, INTRODUCTIONS

Apologies received as stated above.

The board agreed that Councillor Foulkes should chair the meeting given the interim position as outlined as agenda item one.

The Chair welcomed to the meeting

- Kate Julian - researcher from the Centre for Local Governance
- John Curtis from Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service
- Aidan Melling from the National College for Leadership of Schools and Children's Services
- Sheila Lynch - Assistant Director Greater Merseyside Connexions Partnership
- Rose Boylan, Principal Economic Officer, Wirral Council

## **Minute 214 - ACTIONS AND AGREEMENTS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

Minute 196 (31/03/10) – Stronger Communities, Vulnerable Localities

- Jon Ward provided a briefing note update on the progress being made in relation to this area of work in the Morpeth super output are (SOA) and this was circulated to board members after the meeting.

Minute 206 (31/03/10) - Midlife Planning – Preparing for Retirement

- This report was noted and further consideration will be given to how volunteering may be promoted in the borough including the production of a volunteering guide for use by partner organisations

Minute 207 (31/03/10) - Safeguarding Adults in Wirral

- Partners were requested to report the draft strategy within their individual organisations
- The governance issues emerging from the Safeguarding Adults in Wirral report will be considered as part of the wider review of governance of the partnership.

Minute 210 (31/03/10) – MBA Leadership Programme

- Board members had been requested to consider the scope for their own organisations to participate in the Leadership Programme in the next intake which is likely to be September 2010.

### **Minute Decision :**

#### **Resolved that -**

1) The minutes of the 31<sup>st</sup> March meeting were accepted as a true record with the exception that Clint Agard (Wirral Voluntary and Community Sector Network) was in attendance

## **Minute 215 - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made by board members

## **Minute 216 – LSP IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS - KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT (KM)**

Carolyn Curr, Kate Julian (KJ) from Centre for Local Governance, Researcher and John Curtis (JC) from Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service presented this item.

KJ described the knowledge management model- it was developed by Manchester Metropolitan University and in collaboration with five local authorities and is essentially a self assessment tool that will assist the partnership to improve its KM processes.

There would be no monetary cost to the Partnership however the project would need to be agreed by June 2010 in order to be certain of securing funding from NWIEP. The project team from the University would include a project director / researcher and administrative support. A commitment would be required from partners to:

- Participate in an initial self assessment questionnaire
- Feedback to each collaborating partner
- A facilitated meeting of the partnership to share findings and agree next steps

The timescale for the project would be July – December 2010.

The focus of the work will be inequalities. The KM framework will be tested by collaborating with Partnership staff that are at the forefront of knowledge transfer between the partners *and* who are specifically involved in initiatives that address inequalities.

The Chair queried KM role in terms of efficiencies for partners. JC suggested that the process is more an information sharing collaboration with its outcomes adding clarity to where potential efficiencies could be made. Cllr Holbrook queried the mapping process and the need to have that element correct from the outset. KJ explained that the process will aid understanding and delivery. Cllr Green asked how this should be approached as a partnership in order to consider all the different elements of the partnership. KJ highlighted that the model has generic language to support all agencies. The separate snapshots from partners give an overall picture for the partnership. Marie Armitage (MA) highlighted the benefits of this work and its links to JSNA and provision of a range of services across partners. MA added that there is an aligned KM project on Health Inequalities across Merseyside.

Chair thanked Carolyn Curr, Kate Julian and John Curtis for the report and presentation

**Minute Decision:**

**Resolved that -**

1) Executive Board members agreed:

- To the proposal with particular reference to the questions outlined in 4.1
- To time commitment from their organisation that will be necessary to support the project such as self assessment outlined in 3.2. of the report

**Minute 217 – LAA PERFORMANCE & RISK - FULL YEAR 2009/10**

Carolyn Curr presented this item. It was agreed that the presentation slides would be circulated to board members after the meeting.

CC outlined the performance for the year highlighting where activity and outcomes had worked well and achieved beyond target and also where challenges remained for the partnership. CC described the process for the forthcoming period related to this years CAA and the potential for green flags. The presentation highlighted a substantial number of areas where case studies were being collated to present to the Audit Commission in the coming weeks. These case studies would also be used as a generic evidence bank for the partnership and for submitting for future innovation awards.

Cllr Holbrook queried the corrective action on NI 130 which he thought to be an inadequate explanation. The Chair requested that this issue be resolved. Jon Ward (JW) endorsed the performance & risk report and added that Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabularies (HMIC) had requested information for potential green flags on 'violence against the person, robbery and vehicle crime. Mike Hagen (MH) further endorsed the report and also outlined work by MFRS with Wirral partners. This had resulted in a number of improved outcomes for young people and residents that included aspects such as engagement in positive activities, physical activity, support for vulnerable households, alcohol intervention, qualifications, volunteering, conflict resolution, family interventions, coaching awards, job preparation and employment. Both cases were opportunities for green flags as the presentation highlighted.

Cllr Holbrook asked of the consequences of the change from Learning Skills Council to Skills Funding Agency (SFA) and recording of data. Rose Boylan (RB) agreed this is an issue and discussions continue as to how SFA will resolve the issue for Wirral. Val Edmonds (VE), Wirral's CAA Lead, welcomed the presentation and content of the report as it demonstrated where effort had been put into important areas for Wirral. VE would cover a number of these elements in her presentation.

Chair thanked Carolyn Curr for the report and presentation

#### **Minute Decision:**

#### **Resolved that -**

1) Executive Board members agreed to:

- Accept the full year performance & report 2009/10
- Review the full year performance and risk information from the report and presentation and identify any areas for further action.

#### **Minute 218 – AUDIT COMMISSION – CAA UPDATE**

Val Edmonds (VE), Wirral's Audit Commission CAA lead, presented on the CAA update and to a tabled document.

VE outlined the process for updating red flag on the 'OnePlace' website in March, June and September. AC is making every effort to minimise any burden of assessment. VE covered each of the thematic areas highlighting specific aspects as outlined on the tabled document. VE made the partnership aware that she will be asking specialists to assist in the review of specific areas and aspects namely Community Safety and the potential for a green flag and the red tag for housing. VE reiterated the potential for green flags and looked forward to receiving the information on these and generation of further discussions on them.

Progress would be reported at the August Executive Board with the caveat of

understanding the impact of any changes in government and implications that may have to current processes.

Kathy Doran (KD) asked if the CAA process would take account of the recent World Class Commissioning (WCC) review. VE confirmed that WCC would be used to inform the process wherever possible. Marie Armitage (MA) added that the information on inequalities should be included from the forthcoming National Support Team (NST) for Inequalities visit as a follow on from their first full review in 2009.

Howard Cooper (HC) highlighted the work that was taking place in order to achieve improvement in targets such as teenage conception. This performance was massively improved in difficult circumstances and yet it was still showing an underachievement against the exacting target. VE recognised this and would welcome further details to understand the context of the achievement.

Chair thanked Val Edmonds for her report.

**Minute Decision :**  
**Resolved that -**

- 1) Executive Board members agreed to:
  - Accept the report presented by Val Edmonds, Audit Commission CAA lead for Wirral
  - Continue to provide case study information as required for potential green flags

**Minute 219 – WIRRAL LSP - ECONOMIC RECOVERY PLAN**

Rose Boylan (RB) presented this report update to board members on Wirral's Economic Recovery Plan

Positive aspects continued to be realised since February's update to board members. The report highlighted many of these including:

- Business start –ups growing against a backdrop of reductions elsewhere
- JSA – third consecutive monthly reduction – out performing others regionally and nationally
- Apprenticeship programme had been recognised nationally as an exemplar model by those outside of Wirral

Board members discussed what threats may be evident to the success of the recovery plan. Board members would consider implications as more details became apparent on changes to future funding. Richard Perry (RP) highlighted the emergency budget that would be presented on 22<sup>nd</sup> June. Jon Ward (JW) informed board members of the significant funding issues that will be challenging to the partnership in the future and

Mike Hagen (MH) highlighted the need for partners to maintain support across the partnership through this period of change for organisations.

Chair thanked Rose for the update report.

**Minute Decision :**  
**Resolved that -**

- 1) Executive Board members agreed to:
  - Note the report and continued positive improvements
  - Continue to periodically review the recovery plan.

**Minute 220 – PERFORMANCE REVIEW - NOT IN EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT OR TRAINING (NI 117)**

Howard Cooper (HC) and Sheila Lynch (SL) presented this report. This was an update on specific aspects of NEET since it was reported to the January 2010 board.

HC informed board members that NEET performance for Wirral continues to improve and has done so for all but one month of the last year and SL would give some detail and context to those improvements.

SL outlined her report would be answering specific queries from January's Executive Board meeting. NEET performance was improving. Members were asked to recognise that data being used was now based on NCCIS residency based data, rather than previous counting methodology based on where a young person studied and chose to register for work. (National Connexions Customer Information System (NCCIS) provides Management Information (MI) for the Department for Education. An interface between the NCCIS and the various local CCIS located within each Partnership allows the transfer of information between the two).

The pace of reduction has increased as have numbers of young people EET (in Education, Employment and Training). In terms of Churn numbers NEET are not static and few young people remain NEET for substantial periods of time, as there is a constant flux. We have accurate, detailed information and the lowest not known (NK) numbers than ever before in the Borough through robust data analysis by Connexions. The former focus area was an increase in 17 year olds NEET and it is now an increase in 18 year olds NEET. Work is underway at ward level through recruitment drives and other methods. We are having a very positive impact with the lowest 17 year old NEET numbers across the City Region. Wirral Met College now has multiple entrance points in the year to minimise the wait to join a course as it is now 'roll on roll off'.

The newly formed 'TIGER' group has set up a partner 'case conferencing' system which monitors closely NEET joiners and leavers and providers are being asked to refer young people at college or in work based learning to Connexions for support 4 weeks prior to leaving if they have no post course destination. The group has also provided a forum for aligning and co-ordinating the contributions of all key partners in tackling youth unemployment.

These improved outcomes are being achieved by creating a package of opportunities, supported by having a shared partnership priority to reduce NEET numbers. A further benefit is being derived through the January guarantee offer of EET, which is seeing an impact in engaging 16/17 year olds. We have improved neighbourhood working, looking at NEET by street and targeting support measures including individual case support, joint home visits with key partners and young person peer mentors.

HC supported the view that success was due to a collective approach and could not be accredited to one single element. Different approaches are being put in place for different people. We are looking at necessary support elements for smaller groups of



NEET which could be by geography, by street level or as a vulnerable group such as looked after children or care leavers where there is additional help to guarantee more support.

Work continues to match provision to the aspirations of young people and to seek to develop further work opportunities in areas such as construction with partners.

Cllr Holbrook questioned the age correlation seen from period to period. SL recognised the shift to more 18 year olds currently NEET. With reduced employment opportunities for 18 year olds and other initiatives targeting other age groups then there are risks to this cohort in the future. This could be further worsened if Higher Education opportunities reduce. SL confirmed that activity will follow through to target support to 18 year olds to reduce the potential impact of these issues.

HC highlighted that these issues and risks are a growing typical pattern with last years 17 year old NEETs now this years 18 year old NEETs and potentially this could continue for this group of young people.

Cllr Green sought assurance that the 'visibility' to us of certain groups does not leave unseen groups still vulnerable. HC confirmed that work had been, and continued to be focused at supporting vulnerable groups and service providers were aware of continuing to identify those most in need of support. This coupled with the low levels of young people not known to us should enable the effective targeting of resources to meet need.

Mike Potter, Principal of Wirral Met College, was thanked by the chair, via HC, for the work of the TIGER group in supporting outcomes for the NEET cohort.

Chair thanked Howard and Sheila for the report presentation. Chair congratulated everyone involved on the very positive progress currently being made.

#### **Minute Decision :**

#### **Resolved that -**

- 1) Executive Board members agreed to.
  - Noted the update report on NEET

#### **Minute 221 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no further business. Meeting closed at 7.05

#### **Minute 222 – DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

#### **Venue Mersey Maritime**

Wednesday 30 June 2010, 5.00 – 7.00pm  
Wednesday 11 August 2010, 5.00 – 7.00pm  
Wednesday 29 September 2010, 5.00 – 7.00pm  
Wednesday 10 November 2010, 5.00 – 7.00pm  
Wednesday 19 January 2011, 5.00 – 7.00pm  
Wednesday 16 February 2011, 5.00 – 7.00pm  
Wednesday 30 March 2011, 5.00 – 7.00pm



**WIRRAL LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP EXECUTIVE BOARD****WEDNESDAY 30<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2010****REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE****2011 CENSUS****1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1. This report provides Wirral LSP Executive Board members with an outline of the 2011 Census and implications for the Local Authority. On 27<sup>th</sup> March 2011 the Office of National Statistics (ONS) will undertake the 2011 Census across England and Wales. They have asked Local Authorities (LA) and other agencies to provide support and liaison facilities to enable a successful census.
- 1.2. Mark Roberts, 2011 Census LA Regional Stakeholder Manager, will provide a short presentation to members on how you can help to achieve a successful census.

**2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1. Following the 1920 Census Act, a national census is conducted every 10 years. ONS started work on the 2011 census back in 2005 and continue to strive to achieve a high response rate in questionnaire returns. A number of rehearsals have taken place across England and Wales to identify any weaknesses in the census process and to improve the overall result.

**3. HOW CENSUS AFFECTS LOCAL AUTHORITIES**

- 3.1. Census population estimates underpin the planning and funding of public services throughout England and Wales. Central government uses this data to help determine the financial support it will make available for local authorities to plan and fund services. Getting the best possible response rates for the census will make sure these allocations are based on accurate, high quality data. (ONS Councillors Handbook). For authorities to maximise their financial yearly settlements, it is imperative the Census has a high return.
- 3.2. In the 2001 Census, the response varied widely across Local Authorities (LAs). The lowest response rate was 64% and around 30 LAs (out of 376) had a response rate lower than 90%. Providing support and assistance to ONS for the 2011 census should achieve a significant improvement in the results and data output.

**4. HOW CAN WE ASSIST**

- 4.1. Work has already started between LAs and ONS, together with other organisations to prepare for 27<sup>th</sup> March 2011. Local authorities have assisted in address matching exercises, staff recruitment for a number of census activities

across England and Wales, local publicity, provision of datasets and liaison with ONS officers. More needs to be done in the coming months and ONS have produced a timetable of activities were LA's can provide support.

- 4.2. Executive Board members are asked to consider areas within their own organisations where they can assist in the Census process, either by providing data or assisting in activities such as publicising the Census through their day to day roles within the community

## 5. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Time table of Census Activities.

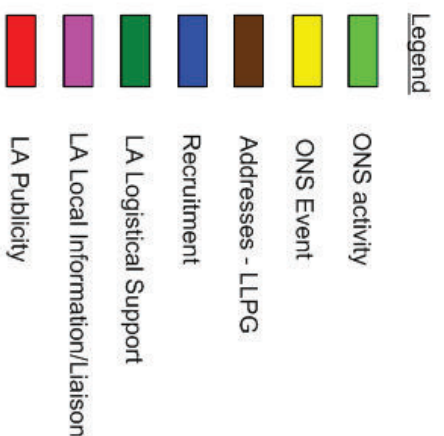
## 6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1. Executive Board members are requested to promote the census and provide assistance to ensure the 2011 census is a success.

**Ian Coleman**  
**Director of Finance**  
**Metropolitan Borough of Wirral**

This report was prepared by Les Woods who can be contacted on 0151 666 3860.

ID	Task Name	Start	Finish	2010												2011							
				Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun				
1	LA's identify potential candidates for address checking posts where nec	22/03/2010	07/04/2010	■																			
2	Address Check & Check Co-ordinators start	12/04/2010	20/04/2010		■																		
3	LA's provide contact detail & addresses for Communal Estates	12/04/2010	20/04/2010																				
4	LA identify staff for CLOs/Area Managers	03/05/2010	23/05/2010																				
5	LA's provide own comms channels to provide address checking publicity	12/05/2010	02/06/2010																				
6	LA final return of Address Queues updates	28/02/2010	19/03/2010	■																			
7	LA's continue to supply address updates	01/03/2010	06/12/2010																				
8	LA provide intelligence on local area language, new build etc.	16/08/2010	07/09/2010																				
9	Area managers & LA's agree local partnership plans	16/08/2010	02/09/2010																				
10	LA publicity mechanisms used for Co-ordinator recruitment	12/10/2010	27/10/2010																				
11	LA provide information on local outlets for publicity	12/10/2010	21/10/2010																				
12	LA provide Community contacts for potential CLO recruits	01/06/2010	25/06/2010																				
13	CRC Regional Events	04/10/2010	21/11/2010																				
14	LA identify staff for Enumerators	18/10/2010	29/10/2010																				
15	LA's publicity vehicle used for Enumerator recruitment	12/11/2010	26/11/2010																				
16	LA publicity used to recruit Team Managers	01/10/2010	05/11/2010																				
17	ONS communicate locations of follow up staff	01/11/2010	30/11/2010																				
18	National Advertising campaign begins	12/01/2011	11/02/2011																				
19	Increase nationwide publicity	17/01/2011	08/02/2011																				
20	Contact centres ready	14/02/2011	21/03/2011																				
21	LA provide storage for equip, questionnaires etc	21/02/2011	25/03/2011																				
22	LA provide information on local outlets for publicity, provide details for Community Establishments	03/02/2011	04/03/2011																				
23	Contact centres go live	11/03/2011	15/04/2011																				
24	CENSUS	27/03/2011	27/03/2011																				
25	LA to feedback on local hot issues	28/03/2011	11/04/2011																				
26	LA publicity used to address local hot issues	31/03/2011	14/04/2011																				
27	Census coverage survey ends	14/06/2011	21/06/2011																				



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**WIRRAL LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP EXECUTIVE BOARD****WEDNESDAY 30<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2010****REPORT OF THE DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE****COMPREHENSIVE ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY – TOWARDS IMPLEMENTATION****1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1 The report provides Wirral LSP Executive board members with an update on progress with implementation of the Comprehensive Engagement Strategy, 2009 - 2011 and the four key areas that were identified for action.

**2 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The Strategy was adopted by the Executive Board at its meeting, November 2009. It provides a framework within which Wirral's LSP will work to create a new environment for partnership development and working. The Strategy did not seek to develop new structures for engagement, but aimed to build on and enhance existing arrangements.

The vision of the 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.**

Additionally, the CES was to support delivery of Wirral's Sustainable Community Strategy, 2008 – 2025 and;

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

- 2.2 Four objectives were identified within the Strategy:

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

2.3 A number of National Performance Indicators were identified that would be useful in helping to determine the success of the Strategy:

NI 1 - % of people who believe people from different backgrounds get on well together in their local area

NI 4 - % of people who feel that they can influence decisions affecting their locality.

NI 6 - Participation in regular volunteering

NI 7 - Environment for a thriving third sector

NI 35 - Building resilience to violent extremism

National Indicator 1 has since been deleted by Government and there is uncertainty around the future of the Place Survey (National Indicators 1, 4 and 6 were measured by the Place Survey). Current performance is outlined in table 1:

Question	National Indicator number	Wirral 2008 score %	Met avg.	M'side avg.	NW avg.	Eng. avg.
People from different backgrounds get on well together	1	79.6	70.8	75.2	73.6	76.4
Can influence decisions affecting local area	4	25.5	27.2	27.9	27.4	28.9
How often gave unpaid help	6	21.2	19.9	19.0	22.2	23.2
Environment for a thriving third sector	7	15.3	-	-	-	-
Building Resilience to Violent Extremism	35	1.7	-	-	-	-

Table 1: National Performance Indicators

2.4 A number of cross cutting actions were also identified in the Strategy:

- Agreeing a common approach to engagement
- Reducing duplication of engagement activity, and
- Reducing costs

### 3 IMPLEMENTATION

3.1 A Strategy Steering group has been formed with membership drawn from across the Local Strategic Partnership Assembly and good progress has been made on the four objectives. Action plans are being reviewed and delivery is underway led by the following:

1. Building Cohesive Communities – Wirral Council and partners



2. Developing Procurement and Commissioning – Wirral Council and NHS Wirral
3. Sharing Best Practice – Compact Working Group
4. Building Capacity – Voluntary Community Action Wirral

Regular updates have been provided to the Assembly. A workshop at the March meeting considered how the two strands of building capacity and best practice could be developed further. This offered an opportunity to the wider membership of the Assembly to have an input into the action planning process and ideas from the workshop are reflected in the action plans. The two remaining objectives will be considered at a future meeting of the Assembly.

### 3.2 Progress within each of the groups is outlined below:

#### Community Cohesion

- Mapping of current community cohesion activities/initiatives underway; initial report end of July
- Raising awareness of issues with all stakeholders
- Monthly community tension monitoring for GONW

#### Procurement and commissioning

- Mapping existing contracts with the Third sector across the local authority and NHS and analysis of funding underway to ensure transparency with all funding arrangements and consistent commissioning and decommissioning activity across the sector
- Develop a Code of Practice for the commissioning and procurement of services from the voluntary sector

#### Sharing Best Practice

- Local event planned to bring together wider partners to raise awareness of Compact and what it means - and to contribute to delivery
- Develop VCAW website to include Compact information
- Links with funding and procurement objective to promote a mutual understanding of commissioning

#### Building capacity within the Third Sector

- New structures to ensure robust representation of the Third Sector – 3SA (Third Sector Assembly)
- Third sector Chief Officer's network re-established
- Opportunities for joint leadership and management training across all sectors being explored
- Volunteer practice in organisations to be identified and a strategy developed

Action plans continue to be developed even as they are implemented with a view to strengthening the focus on outcomes / impact of activity.

## 4 CROSS CUTTING ACTIONS

- 4.1 The Steering group has considered how a common approach to engagement may be developed across the Partnership [in order to reduce duplication and costs]. A number of challenges have been identified, for example:
- 4.2 Although there is extensive evidence of good practice across the Council and the Partnership, much engagement activity is taking place within different service areas and is based around various localities. There is little commonality in the boundaries that organisations use to involve local people; for example the Council's Area Forums, police Neighbourhood Action Groups (although these are changing to ward based meetings) Health Action Areas and Neighbourhood Management Areas are all based on different geographies.
- 4.3 A Neighbourhood Management approach offers a more intensive means of community engagement and is well established in some areas of Wirral. It has shown to be effective in involving residents and improving local environments.

Neighbourhood Agreements also referred to as community contracts or neighbourhood charters, have been developed in these areas in collaboration with local people and through a process of negotiation with service providers. The Agreements reflect priorities identified by residents in their local area. Recently, a Stronger Communities project in Morpeth Dock, led by the Community Safety Partnership, was supported by the LSP.

However, the Neighbourhood Management approach, historically, has primarily been dependent on additional sources of funding rather than mainstream.

- 4.4 Area forums are the Council's front line mechanism for engaging with local communities. Forums have some delegated funding, Funds for You, You Decide and monies from the Integrated Transport Block and local people have a say in how this is spent. In the past, Forums have produced area plans which link activity in the local area to the Local Area Agreement although the degree to which residents were involved in developing the plans is unclear. The plans are now around two years old.
- 4.5 A common approach to engagement within this current strategic and operational context obviously poses a number of challenges. Against this backdrop, a *consistent* rather than *common* approach is probably more appropriate and more feasible. This will be facilitated by an engagement database that the Council is developing, Wirral ENGAGE that will map and monitor its consultation and engagement activity and provide a tool to identify and challenge duplication. This library of data and information will promote a comprehensive understanding of engagement activity and support meaningful and targeted engagement about local priorities. The Strategy Steering group will consider how this may be rolled out across the Partnership.

## 5 FUTURE OPTIONS

The Partnership is operating in a significantly different environment when compared to a few months ago when the Strategy was agreed. There are many implications within the National Coalition's proposed public sector reforms for community engagement such as "Big Society" and "...giving new powers to local councils, communities, neighbourhoods and groups."

Implementation of the Strategy so far has shown that it provides a robust framework for partnership working in a number of very specific areas, however, a number of challenges have been identified around delivery of the cross cutting issues and some of these have been outlined in the report. Opportunity should be taken within the changing national and local context to ensure that the Strategy remains a relevant and useful tool for how the LSP wishes to further develop its engagement and empowerment activity.

The Partnership should draw further on the good practice that has been developed nationally by the Network of Empowering Authorities and others that have been successful in devolving decision making, budgets and services to more local levels, "...putting power and responsibility in the hands of every citizen."

## 6 RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board is requested to:

- Note progress to date on implementation of the Strategy's four objectives and agree how frequently it would like to receive future updates.
- Consider the challenges around delivery of the cross cutting actions and the drivers for review within the changing national and local context.

**Jim Wilkie – Deputy Chief Executive, Wirral Borough Council**

This report was prepared by Carolyn Curr, Head of Policy & Performance who can be contacted on 691 8152.

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**WIRRAL LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP EXECUTIVE BOARD**

**WEDNESDAY 30<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2010**

**SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY – ANNUAL REPORT 2009-10**

**1. SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report sets out the approach being undertaken to produce an annual report relating to Wirral's Sustainable Community Strategy which has been in place since April 2009. This is in accordance with the commitment set out in the Community Strategy document to review progress annually. It is proposed that the annual report should initiate partnership discussions and consultation with local communities about future improvement priorities.
- 1.2 It should be noted that there is a wide range of existing partnership and thematic documents and reports which will inform the content of the annual report. These include the Children and Young People's Plan Annual Report, Local Area Agreement end of year performance report, Community Safety Partnership strategic assessment, Economic Recovery Plan reports, and Wirral's Public Health Annual Report.
- 1.3 As Executive Board members will be aware, the Wirral 2025 strategy sets out a vision for partnership working in the borough and provides the framework for key local authority and partner strategies. In the current financial and economic climate, where all sectors in Wirral face change and uncertainty, ensuring that this vision and framework remains 'fit for purpose' is critical. The risks presented by the current climate to delivering the vision set out in the Sustainable Community Strategy are of course considerable. The production of the annual report provides an opportunity to articulate these risks and begin to consider how the Local Strategic Partnership can mitigate against them through joint working, building on the activity that is being delivered for example through Wirral's Recovery Plan.
- 1.4 The report also provides a vehicle for emerging partnership responses to legislative and other policy drivers and plans including the Child Poverty Bill, the Marmot Review and the development of the third Local Transport Plan.

**2. OUTLINE OF THE ANNUAL REPORT**

- 2.1 Section 1 of the annual report will review the Community Strategy vision and objectives and provide a summary of overall progress. Wirral's vision is about increasing the prosperity of the borough through strategic economic regeneration and ensuring that partners work together to reduce inequalities in outcomes for different groups and for people in different parts of the borough. Wirral has taken steps in the last twelve months to deliver this vision, for example through progressing key regeneration projects. Work is being undertaken to ensure that the spatial vision for the borough provided by the Local Development Framework reflects the over-arching vision provided by the Community Strategy and an update in this respect will be provided in Section 1 of the full report.

- 2.2 Section 2 of the annual report will provide detailed narrative about the achievements which have been made against the six delivery objectives of the Community Strategy alongside future challenges for each thematic partnership area. Evidence already demonstrates that:

***Wirral is strengthening its local economy***

- 738 jobs were created and 545 jobs safeguarded during 2009-10
- Wirral Apprentice Programme has allocated funding for 200 new apprenticeships within local small and medium-sized businesses
- Increased business engagement has delivered clear outcomes, for example 252 businesses supported through the Council's business start programme continue to operate 12 months after start up
- Plans for economic regeneration are moving forward, for example the 2nd phase of 'Brand New Brighton' and progress on Wirral Waters

***Wirral is safer***

- Crime is falling more rapidly in Wirral than in other parts of the region and the borough has the lowest rate of recorded crime in Merseyside
- Number of reported incidents of anti-social behaviour has fallen again this year, success which is linked to an intelligence led focus on hotspot locations to deploy resources and the Respect Consortium
- A stronger communities initiative is in place focusing on Morpeth Dock

***Wirral is healthier***

- Wirral became the first borough in the North West to achieve National Healthy School Status (NHSS) for every school.
- Hospital admissions relating to alcohol harm are significantly lower than the target set in Wirral's Local Area Agreement
- Targeted and successful smoking cessation activities, including the BME Quit and Win Campaign, are making lifestyles healthier

***Life chances for children and young people are improving***

- Wirral has seen a reduction in teenage conceptions
- There have been improvements in GCSE results and rates of persistent absence in secondary schools are lower
- Less children were involved in road traffic accidents in 2009-10
- Looked after children are achieving well at Key Stages 2 and 4
- Performance has improved in relation to the numbers of young people not in employment, education or training
- Positive involvement of children and young people is taking place in a wide range of ways

***Wirral's living and working environment is improving***

- Less people were involved in road traffic accidents in 2009-10

- Wirral wide carbon reduction activities are in place support by the Wirral Climate Change Group, which involves a wide range of partners and stakeholders
- There has been investment in Energy Efficiency programmes
- Wirral's CRed website has been launched

### ***Working to deliver sustainable & affordable housing***

- The number of affordable homes delivered has improved
  - Wirral has secured almost £1.5m for new affordable rented homes in Seacombe, Bebington and Prenton
  - Homelessness in Wirral reduced by a further 74% in 2009-10
- 2.3 There will be a particular focus in Section 2 of the annual report on the outcomes which have been achieved in relation to tackling inequalities in Wirral and how such activity will continue to be focused. Case studies and best practice gathered in preparation for Comprehensive Area Assessment will also be utilised in the production of Section 2 to ensure that this evidence is not wasted in light of the abolition of CAA.
- 2.4 Section 3 of the report will seek to demonstrate how partnership working in Wirral is improving. It will, for example, include updates on the delivery of the Local Strategic Partnership's Comprehensive Engagement Strategy and the development of an Equality Charter for Wirral, and the actions being undertaken to make smarter and more efficient use of information across the partnership. These include the knowledge management project agreed by Executive Board members at their last meeting in May. Section 3 will also refer to how the delivery of the Community Strategy is supported by the Local Strategic Partnership's governance arrangements, which are currently subject to review. It is proposed that this review of partnership governance is considered by Executive Board members alongside the full annual report in August.

## **3. PARTNERSHIP INVOLVEMENT**

- 3.1 The Council's Corporate Policy Team is working closely with thematic partnerships on the production of the annual report through the Local Strategic Partnership's Management Group to identify appropriate sources of information and evidence. A presentation was made to the Local Strategic Partnership Assembly on 9<sup>th</sup> June to outline the approach being undertaken to produce the annual report and to invite discussion. Plans are also in place to convene a session in conjunction with Voluntary and Community Action Wirral to engage the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sector Assembly in the issues emerging from the report.
- 3.2 As indicated in 1.1 above, the annual report will provide the starting point for engaging with partners and local communities on future improvement priorities for Wirral. As Executive Board members are aware, Wirral is now in the final year of the current Local Area Agreement, which sets out a series of improvement priorities and targets for 2008-11. Whilst no announcement has yet been made by the Department for Communities and Local Government about the future of LAAs, it is proposed that the Local Strategic Partnership seeks to identify a revised set of shared improvement priorities to drive forward joint

working in Wirral from 2011 onwards. Consultation with local people will inform this prioritisation process.

#### **4. RECOMMENDATIONS**

4.1 It is recommended that Executive Board members:

4.1.1 Note the approach being undertaken to produce an annual report relating to Wirral's Sustainable Community Strategy.

4.1.2 Agree that the annual report provides a vehicle for the Local Strategic Partnership to set out the challenges to delivering the Community Strategy vision presented by the economic and financial climate, and to identify how partners will work together to address these.

4.1.3 Agree to consider a draft of the full annual report at the next Executive Board meeting in August 2010, alongside a review of the Local Strategic Partnership's governance arrangements.

**Jim Wilkie**

**Deputy Chief Executive / Director of Corporate Services**

This report was prepared by Jane Morgan, Wirral Council's Corporate Policy Manager, who can be contacted on 691 8140.