



Economy and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date:	Thursday, 17 June 2010
Time:	6.00 pm
Venue:	Committee Room 1 - Wallasey Town Hall

Contact Officer: Brian Ellis
Tel: 0151 691 8491
e-mail: brianellis@wirral.gov.uk
Website: <http://www.wirral.gov.uk>

AGENDA

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/PARTY WHIP

Members are asked to consider whether they have personal or prejudicial interests in connection with any item(s) on this agenda and, if so, to declare them and state what they are.

Members are reminded that they should also declare, pursuant to paragraph 18 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, whether they are subject to a party whip in connection with any item(s) to be considered and, if so, to declare it and state the nature of the whipping arrangement.

2. MINUTES (Pages 1 - 4)

To receive the minutes of the meeting of the Regeneration and Planning Strategy Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 15 March, 2010.

3. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR

The Committee is requested to appoint a Vice-Chair.

4. TERMS OF REFERENCE (Pages 5 - 10)

The terms of reference are attached for Members' information.

5. SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2010/11

The views of the Committee are requested concerning topics to be included in this year's scrutiny work programme

6. FORWARD PLAN

The Forward Plan for the period June to September 2010 has now been published on the Council's intranet/website and Members are invited to review the Plan prior to the meeting in order for the Committee to consider, having regard to the Committee's work programme, whether scrutiny should take place of any items contained within the Plan and, if so, how it could be done within relevant timescales and resources.

7. FOURTH QUARTER PERFORMANCE - PRESENTATION (Pages 11 - 18)

The Head of Housing and Regeneration will report verbally.

A copy of the performance report is available in the Web Library.

8. DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED POWERS (Pages 19 - 22)

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

ECONOMY AND REGENERATION OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Monday, 15 March 2010

<u>Present:</u>	Councillor	J Hale (Chair)	
	Councillors	AR McLachlan A Jennings P Johnson A Pritchard RL Abbey	B Kenny S Niblock A Taylor J Keeley (In place of K Wood)
<u>In attendance:</u>	Councillors	G Davies R Moon	
<u>Apologies</u>	Councillors	K Wood	

36 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were asked to consider whether they had personal or prejudicial interests in connection with any item(s) on this agenda and, if so, to declare them and state what they were.

Councillors S Niblock and A Taylor declared a personal interest in respect of minute 38 (Destination Marketing - Update) by virtue of their involvement in the Wirral Farmers Market

Councillor T Pritchard declared a personal interest in respect of minute 39 (Presentation – Housing Options and Choice Based Lettings) by virtue of him being a private landlord

Members were reminded that they should also declare, pursuant to paragraph 18 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, whether they were subject to a party whip in connection with any item(s) to be considered and, if so, to declare it and state the nature of the whipping arrangement. No such declarations were made.

37 MINUTES

Members were requested to receive the minutes of the meeting held on 12 January, 2010.

RESOLVED – That the minutes be received.

38 **DESTINATION MARKETING - IMPLEMENTATION PLAN UPDATE (JANUARY TO MARCH 2010)**

The Director of Corporate Services presented a progress report updating Members on the activities of the Destination Marketing office, during the first quarter of 2010, and highlighted the support being provided to Wirral's tourism businesses.

The Director referred to the successful launch of the new "Wirral Good Food Guide" and to the full year's programme of activity for the Wirral Year of Food (YOF). He responded to questions from members regarding the production of the Good Food Guide and publicity for the Wirral Farmers Market.

RESOLVED –

- (1) That the Committee note the contents of this progress report.
- (2) That arrangements be made for the committee to visit to some of the establishments listed in the 'Good Food Guide'.

39 **PRESENTATION - HOUSING OPTIONS AND CHOICE BASED LETTINGS**

Catherine Green, Rehousing Manager, gave a presentation on the Council's Homelessness Services. She outlined the legislative requirements; the aims and objectives of the Homeless Strategy and Action Plan with key partner agencies to develop homelessness services; the current situation in Wirral with figures and performance data; and the use of the Wirralhomes Choice Based Letting system to provide accommodation for those people who were in serious housing need.

Wirral's Homeless Strategy emphasised the need for timely intervention to reduce overall homeless levels and this was delivered through a range of policies and initiatives including involvement at an early stage to identify support for specific needs, the provision of debt management or financial advice, and working with residents to reduce the threat of homelessness. In addition, the role of the Council's Homelessness and Housing Advice Team provided a housing options service using a range of assessment and prevention tools to ensure that residents receive advice and support to meet their individual needs. However, it was acknowledged that despite effective prevention tools, homelessness would continue to occur and the strategy therefore offered housing choices for homeless people and support for people to access appropriate homes through Choice Based Lettings.

In terms of achievements, the investment in the staff team to improve access and support had produced positive outcomes with fewer statutory homelessness cases. It was also noted that Choice Based Lettings had increased the number of properties available and this meant that people who were bidding had more properties to choose from.

The Director of Regeneration responded to questions for members regarding the Council's involvement in the development of a Sub-Regional Choice Based Letting System and the purchase of a new computer system with other local authorities, which would be the subject of a report to Cabinet.

Councillor G Davies, Cabinet Member, commented on the emphasis given to the prevention of homelessness, in line with government guidance, indicating that this approach was proving to be very successful. Members endorsed these remarks.

RESOLVED –

(1) That the reports be noted.

(2) That Catherine Green be thanked for her presentation and that she be asked to convey the Committee's appreciation to the staff concerned.

40 **PRESENTATION - QUARTER 3 PERFORMANCE REPORT**

The Director of Regeneration gave a presentation comprising an overview of progress against performance indicators and key projects during the third quarter which were relevant to this Overview and Scrutiny Committee. He set out progress of key projects, provided a direction of travel and target summary and highlighted those performance indicators that had either deteriorated, were not on target, were over-performing or were awaiting data.

The Director responded to questions from members regarding potential job opportunities and apprenticeships created by Neptune Development scheme, the sectors of employers involved in The Wirral Apprentice scheme, current economic trends and the Council's response through a wide range of initiatives to support, maintain and develop businesses, and bring forward major new investment decisions.

Councillor George Davies, Cabinet Member, referred to the recent announcement of major new investment in the Vauxhall Motors Car Plant, Ellesmere Port, which would protect jobs and safeguard the long term future of the plant.

RESOLVED –

(1) That the report be noted.

(2) That the management and staff at Vauxhall Motors be congratulated following the news that its future is secure.

41 **COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME - MONITORING REPORT**

The Director of Law, HR and Asset Management, submitted an updated Monitoring Report on the Committee's Work Programme.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

42 **EXEMPT INFORMATION - EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

RESOLVED –

That, under section 100 (A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined by the relevant paragraphs of Part I of Schedule 12A (as amended) to that Act. The public interest test has been applied and favours exclusion.

43 **REGENERATION UPDATE**

The Director of Regeneration provided an update on major development schemes within the borough.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted

ECONOMY AND REGENERATION OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The overview and scrutiny committee will:

(i) review and/or scrutinise decisions made or actions taken in connection with the discharge of the Council's functions;

(ii) make reports and/or recommendations to the Council and/or the Cabinet and/or any joint or area committee in connection with any policy or the discharge of any functions;

(iii) consider any matter affecting the area or its inhabitants; and

(iv) exercise the right to call in, for reconsideration, decisions made but not yet implemented by the Executive; and

within the following terms of reference of the Cabinet portfolio(s) indicated:

Regeneration and Planning Strategy

- (1) matters relating to the economic and urban regeneration of Wirral
- (2) the economic regeneration strategy for Wirral.
- (3) all economic regeneration programmes including European programmes, any other Council programmes and residual issues in relation to the Single Regeneration Budget.
- (4) consultation and liaison with all organisations involved in regeneration in Wirral, including NWDA, English Partnerships, GoNW, Learning and Skills Council, Greater Merseyside Enterprise, Wirral Metropolitan College, trade unions, the private sector, the voluntary sector, etc.
- (5) all matters in relation to European issues.
- (6) the promotion of Wirral as a premier location for inward investment through the work of Wirral Direct and other organisations; in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Culture, Tourism and Leisure in the case of tourism initiatives.
- (7) to ensure that an adequate supply of sites and premises is provided in order to cater for the needs of local businesses and to help attract new businesses.
- (8) financial support, where appropriate, to businesses, co-operatives and other profit making and non-profit making ventures for the benefit of Wirral.

- (9) provision of a comprehensive business support service to local companies.
- (10) the development of community employment and training initiatives and other initiatives designed to strengthen the economy of local communities and combat disadvantage including the development of a comprehensive “pathways to Integration” strategy for Wirral.
- (11) monitoring economic trends in Wirral and identifying examples of good practice elsewhere in the field of urban policy and economic regeneration from which Wirral can benefit.
- (12) Lobbying Government and other agencies nationally, regionally and internationally, to ensure that Wirral achieves its economic regeneration objectives.
- (13) Welfare to Work.
- (14) the Development Plan and related plans and policies.
- (15) national, regional and strategic issues, including green belt policy.
- (16) the designation and preservation of conservation areas and liaison with conservation bodies.
- (17) the application of the Planning Acts in relation to:
 - preservation of general amenity
 - shopping improvement areas
 - derelict sites
 - building regulations
 - mineral planning issues
 - contributions to the Council’s urban regeneration initiatives
 - compulsory purchase
- (19) liaison on planning matters with other local authorities and external bodies.
- (20) identification and action in relation to derelict land and building, in liaison with the Cabinet Member for the Environment.

Culture, Tourism and Leisure

- (21) the development, management, implementation and review of all aspects of the Council’s Tourism Strategy. The promotion of Wirral as a location for tourism and in consultation with the Cabinet member for Regeneration and Planning Strategy, to encourage tourism initiatives designed to bring new jobs to the Borough.

Housing and Community Safety

- (22) housing strategy.
- (23) the assessment of housing need including the needs of vulnerable people.
- (24) enabling vulnerable Clients to remain at home, through the provision of low level housing support services (the Supporting People programme).
- (25) the provision of homelessness and housing advice services, including rough sleepers.
- (26) the provision of services to enable access to accommodation.
- (27) the assessment of housing markets.
- (28) housing market restructuring and renewal.
- (29) Housing matters relating to:
- Dealing with unfitness and poor condition
 - Acquisition and clearance
 - Financial policies for home improvement funding
 - Regulation and enforcement of statutory provisions relating to private sector housing
- (30) Housing matters relating to:
- The promotion and monitoring of partnerships to achieve wider strategic housing objectives
 - Monitoring the performance of new Housing Stock Transfer organisations
 - The accreditation and licensing of private landlords
- (31) monitoring and responding to the needs of gypsies and travellers.

All portfolios

- (32) those parts of the Corporate Plan within the remit of this Committee,
- (33) to seek to achieve continuing and improving performance, better value for money and customer satisfaction in respect of those services provided through these areas.
- (34) to support the Council's equal opportunity policies by promoting and monitoring initiatives to encourage equality of opportunity amongst disadvantaged groups including: the disabled, ethnic minorities, the long-term unemployed, the poor, and women;
- (35) to scrutinise Local Area Agreements that fall within the areas set out above and to hold partners to account.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES - TERMS OF REFERENCE

The specific terms of reference for each overview and scrutiny committee are set out below. Their general functions are as follows:

(a) Policy development and review - Overview and Scrutiny committees may:

- (i) assist the Council and the Cabinet in the development of the budget and policy framework by in-depth analysis of policy issues;
- (ii) conduct research, community and other consultation in the analysis of policy issues and possible options;
- (iii) consider and implement mechanisms to encourage and enhance community participation in the development of policy options;
- (iv) question members of the Cabinet and committees and chief officers about their views on issues and proposals affecting the area; and
- (v) liaise with other external organisations operating in the area (whether national, regional or local) to ensure that the interests of local people are enhanced by collaborative working.

(b) Scrutiny - Overview and Scrutiny committees may:

- (i) review and scrutinise the decisions made by and performance of the Cabinet and committees and Council officers, both in relation to individual decisions and over periods of time;
- (ii) review and scrutinise the performance of the Council in relation to its policy objectives, performance targets and/or particular service areas;
- (iii) question members of the Cabinet and committees, and chief officers, about their decisions and performance, whether generally or in comparison with service plans and targets over a period of time, or in relation to particular decisions, initiatives or projects;
- (iv) make recommendations to the Cabinet or appropriate committees of the Council arising from the outcome of the scrutiny process;
- (v) review and scrutinise the performance of other public bodies in the area and invite reports from them by requesting them to address the overview and scrutiny committee and local people about their activities and performance; and,
- (vi) question and gather evidence from any person (with their consent).

(c) Best Value - Overview and Scrutiny Committees will:

- (i) recommend the terms of reference for best value reviews to the Cabinet;
- (ii) receive progress reports on best value reviews;
- (iii) recommend the final report and improvement plans to Cabinet.

- (d) **Finance** - Overview and Scrutiny Committees may exercise overall responsibility for any finance made available to them.
- (e) **Annual Report** - Overview and Scrutiny Committees may report annually to the Council on their workings and make recommendations for future work programmes and amend working methods if appropriate.
- (f) **Officers** - Overview and Scrutiny Committees may exercise overall responsibility for the work programme of any officers employed to support their work.

SCRUTINY PROGRAMME BOARD

The Scrutiny Programme Board will:

- (i) approve and co-ordinate the work programme for the five themed overview and scrutiny committees including resolving any conflict between such committees;
- (ii) allocate work to (or remove work from) any of the five overview and scrutiny committees
- (iii) review or scrutinise decisions made or other actions taken in relation to any executive functions, particularly (but not exclusively) in relation to cross-cutting issues or matters not within the terms of reference of any of the five themed overview and scrutiny committees.
- (iv) consider any call-in notices in relation to any executive functions and determine such notices or allocate them to one or more of the five themed overview and scrutiny committees as it considers most appropriate.
- (v) be responsible for the development and monitoring of an annual scrutiny work programme;
- (vi) undertake scrutiny in its own right with regard to cross-cutting or strategic issues not covered by other overview and scrutiny committees;
- (vii) identify and share good scrutiny practice across all overview and scrutiny committees.

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2009/10 Quarter Four Performance and Financial Review

Presentation by:
David Ball

***ECONOMY & REGENERATION OVERVIEW &
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 17 JUNE 2010***



WHAT WORKED WELL

- Wirral Council is currently looking at the largest planning application in the UK, which has been submitted by Peel for Wirral Waters, a massive development scheme which will change the dockland area in Birkenhead and Wallasey over a 30 year period.
- Planners are now working on the second phase of 'Brand New Brighton' which will include mixed use development along the waterfront. The second phase has been boosted by £3.9 million from Northwest Regional Development Agency and has already attracted six new major businesses to the area. It is hoped it will create 714 new jobs through a series of new retail and leisure facilities by 2012.
- Wirral Council has secured almost £1.5 million for new, affordable rented homes in three areas of the borough.
- Number of affordable homes delivered has improved considerably

WHAT WORKED WELL

- A million pound plus cash injection to boost a major housing development in Tranmere, with £1,078,123 from the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) to enable work to begin in Whitford Road to build 56 family houses.
- Bristol-Myers Squibb is investing £3.5million pounds in its research and development laboratory in Moreton, which will support approximately 100 existing scientific, technical and related jobs at the site.
- Good progress continues to be made to create and safeguard jobs
- The 'Wirral Apprentice Programme' has created 150 new apprenticeships within local small and medium-sized businesses.
- Number of new business start-ups and number of businesses supported through the Council's Business Start Programme continues to improve

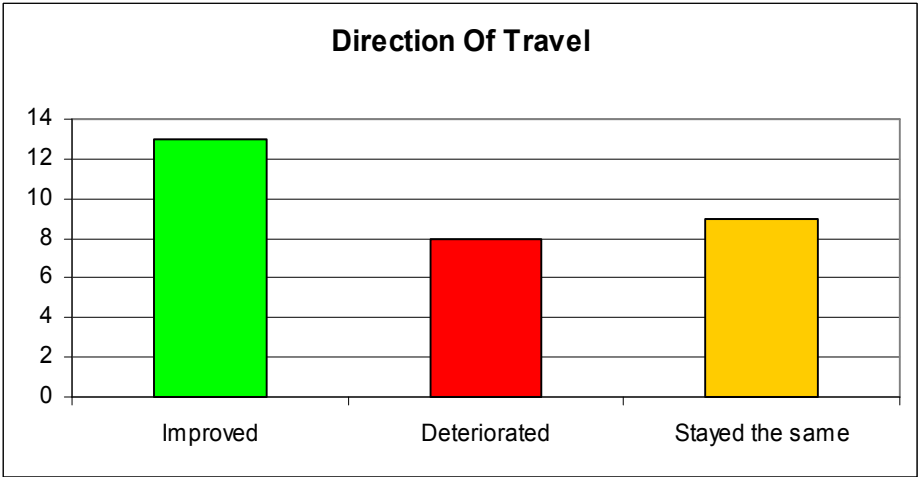
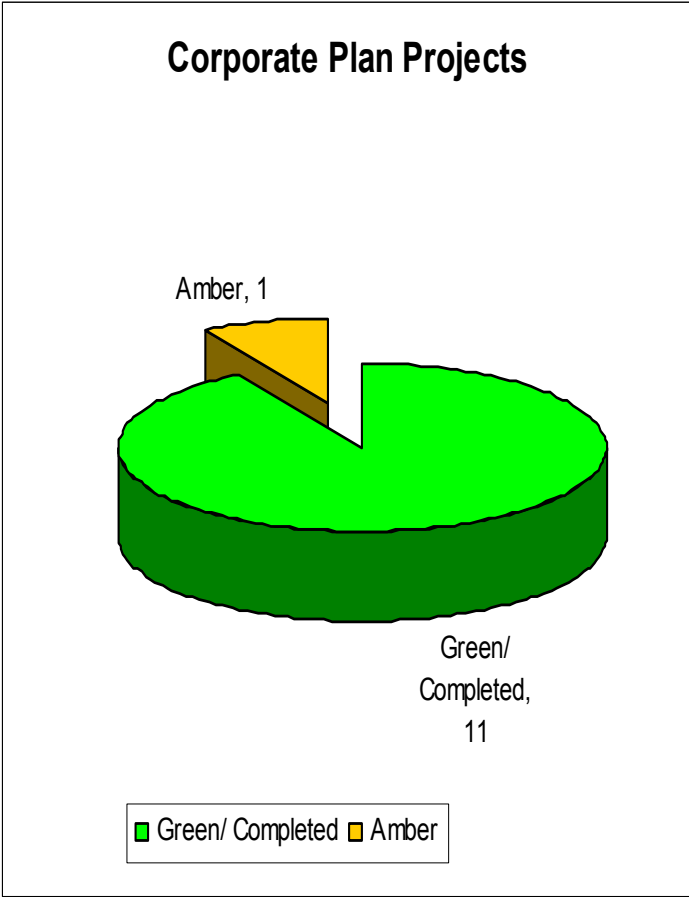
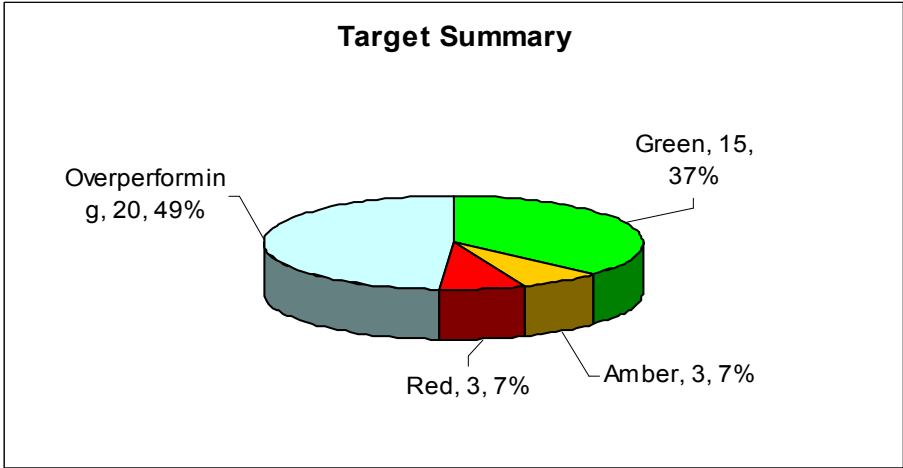
KEY PERFORMANCE ISSUES

- Working age people on out of work benefits
- Net additional homes provided
- Warm Front Scheme may not hit target
- Number of vulnerable households assisted with at least one main energy efficiency measure under Warm Front

KEY RISKS

- The economic environment remains the biggest risk, impacting on levels of employment, the creation of new businesses, the viability of existing businesses and the delivery of new commercial developments.
- Whilst the economic position also poses a threat to our target for new homes, the Council and its partners have continued to experience success in accessing various funding streams to assist with both market recovery and new building.
- An increase in the maximum grant available under the Warm Front programme had presented a threat to our priority around energy efficiency measures. However the Council budget 2010/11 includes the first year of a four year Home Insulation initiative to contribute towards lifting households out of fuel poverty..

Overall Performance Summary



Financial Headlines

- The outturn position for the departments for the Financial Year 2009/10 has now been finalised and they are within budget.

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WIRRAL COUNCIL

ECONOMY AND REGENERATION OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
– 17th June 2010

REPORT OF DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE/DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE
SERVICES

**ACCEPTANCE OF TENDER USING DELEGATED AUTHORITY –
INTERMEDIARY SERVICE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION EMPLOYMENT
INTERGRATOR (CEI)**

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report informs Members of the use of delegated authority by the Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Services to accept a tender in the maximum sum of £111,008 for the Construction Employment Intermediary Service..

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Cabinet on 28th May 2009 (Agenda Item 14, Minute 20) agreed that Working Wirral resources (including Working Neighbourhoods Fund (WNF) and Deprived Areas Fund) should be used to commission activity to implement a Construction Employer Integrator (CEI) project.
- 2.2 The CEI will be called 'Build Wirral' and will provide a mechanism that will ensure people from disadvantaged groups and areas within Wirral are able to access jobs and training opportunities arising in the construction industry.
- 2.3 A business plan for the CEI was prepared by Amion Consulting on behalf of the Council and the employment coalition Working Ventures (UK). The business plan included the appointment of a specialist intermediary as part of the CEI delivery structure. The intermediary will manage the recruitment, training and placement of individuals into construction opportunities that have been captured through the planning and procurement processes.
- 2.4 The appointment of an intermediary was commissioned through a tender process under the contract procedure rules which involved a notice being posted in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU). The timescale for this contract is 2 years, which will end in June 2012.

- 2.5 The cost for delivering the service will be dependent on demand. The estimated number of participants that will be engaged in the CEI is likely to be approximately 100 over the next two years. The anticipated costs for the service are based on this estimate.
- 2.6 The tenders received were evaluated against two elements, Quality weighted at 60% and Price worth 40% of the marks. The overall scores were then calculated as a percentage of the highest quality score from evaluating all of the tenders. The overall score for cost was similarly calculated as a percentage of the lowest cost tendered.
- 2.7 Four submissions were evaluated as part of the Invitation to tender; a summary of the evaluation is shown below:

Overall Ranking	Tender	Overall Score for Price & Quality (%)	Maximum Value
1	Wirral Metropolitan College	100.00	£111,008
2	Fusion 21	79.39	£190,450
3	Shire 4 Education	78.33	£149,039
4	CFM Partnerships and Nobles Construction	43.48	£189,800

- 2.8 The most economically advantageous tender received that has been accepted under delegated powers in accordance with paragraph 14.4 of the contract procedure rules, was as follows:

<u>Tender</u>	<u>Maximum Value</u>
Wirral Metropolitan College	£111,008

3.0 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 The cost of the intermediary will be funded from the Working Neighbourhoods Fund.

4.0 **STAFFING IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The contract for the Intermediary Service will be managed from existing staff resources in the Regeneration Department. .

5.0 **EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The CEI identifies an opportunity for securing employment in the construction industry for workless and other disadvantaged people who are furthest away from the labour market.

6.0 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

7.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no Local Agenda 21 Implications

8.0 PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no planning implications.

9.0 ANTI-POVERTY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 The CEI will target people who are workless and from disadvantaged groups and this will promote social inclusion.

10.0 SOCIAL INCLUSION IMPLICATIONS

10.1 The CEI will target people who are workless and form disadvantaged groups and this will promote social inclusion.

11.0 LOCAL MEMBER SUPPORT IMPLICATIONS

11.1. There are no specific implications arising directly from this report.

12.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

12.1 Cabinet Report, Construction Employment Integrator, 28th May 2009 (Agenda Item 14)

13.0 ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT

13.1 There are no Information Act implications.

14.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

14.1 Committee is asked to note that the tender submitted by Wirral Metropolitan College for the anticipated value of £111,008 was the most economically advantageous tender and has been accepted under delegated powers exercised by the Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Services in accordance with paragraph 14.4 of the contract procedure rules.

Jim Wilkie
Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Corporate Services

This report was prepared by Lee Parker who can be contacted on 691 8432.