



Local Strategic Partnership Executive Board (not a public meeting)

Date:	Wednesday, 23 February 2011
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 - 8)
3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
4. THIRD QUARTER PERFORMANCE AND RISK REPORT (Pages 9 - 16)
5. REVIEW OF WIRRAL'S LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP (Pages 17 - 18)
6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS (Pages 19 - 22)
7. DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS: VENUE MERSEY MARITIME

Wednesday 30 March 2011, 5.00 – 7.00pm

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Agenda Item 2

Minutes - Local Strategic Partnership - Executive Board

(Not a public meeting)

Wednesday 29th September 2010

Present	
Chair	Cllr Simon Holbrook (Leader, Liberal Democrat Group)
Public Sector	Cllr Steve Foulkes (Leader, Labour Group), Wirral Council - Jim Wilkie (Deputy Chief Executive), Mike Hagen (Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service), John Martin (Merseyside Police), Sheena Cumiskey (Cheshire and Wirral Partnership Trust), Brian Simpson (Wirral Partnership Homes), Sue Allen (Job Centre Plus),
Voluntary, Community & Faith Sector	Annette Roberts (Voluntary and Community Action Wirral) and Bishop of Birkenhead, The Right Reverend Keith Sinclair
Private Sector	Neil Dutton (Federation of Small Businesses)
Advisors	Richard Perry (GONW)
Secretariat	Carolyn Curr (Head of Policy & Performance, Wirral Council), John Highton (LSP Coordinator), Jane Morgan (Wirral Council) Mark Smith (Wirral Council), Julia Hassall (Wirral Council) Fiona Johnstone (NHS Wirral & Wirral Council), Steve Russell (Wirral Council)
Other	John Smith (Merseytravel), Angela Green and Steve Mowbray (Wirral CVS)
Apologies	Cllr Jeff Green (Leader, Conservative Group, Wirral Council), Steve Maddox (Chief Executive, Wirral Council), Kathy Doran (Chief Executive, NHS Wirral), Len Richards (Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust), Ken Davies (Wirral Chamber of Commerce), Kevin Adderley (Head of Strategic Development), Howard Cooper (Director of Children's Services), John Webb (Director of Adult Social Services), Alberto Bertali (Private Sector, Pete Molyneux (Chief Accountant) Kevin Adderley (Interim Director or Corporate Services, Wirral Council)

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Minute 233 - WELCOME, APOLOGIES, INTRODUCTIONS

Apologies received as stated above.

The LSP would like to extend its thanks to both, Steve Maddox Wirral Council Chief Executive and Marie Armitage, former Director for Public Health (NHS Wirral & Wirral Council), for their support to the partnership over a number of years and offered them the best wishes of the LSP for the future.

The board welcomed Bishop of Birkenhead, The Right Reverend Keith Sinclair and Fiona Johnstone, Director for Public Health (NHS Wirral & Wirral Council) to their first meeting

The chair also welcomed John Smith (Merseytravel), Angela Green and Steve Mowbray (Wirral CVS), Jane Morgan (Wirral Council) and Steve Russell (Wirral Council)

Minute 234 - ACTIONS AND AGREEMENTS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Actions and agreements from meeting held on Wednesday 30 June 2010

Note meeting scheduled for 11th August was cancelled

Minute 226 – Census 2011 - Partners agreed to promote and provide assistance to ensure the 2011 census was a success

Minute 228 – Comprehensive Engagement Strategy – the board noted the progress to date on implementation of the Strategy and will continue to receive further progress reports

Minute 229 – Sustainable Community Strategy Review 2009/10 – the board will be receiving further details on the review if the strategy

Minute 230 – National Coalition Government: Future Policy and New Priorities – Richard Perry's presentation was circulated to board members

Minute Decision :

Resolved that -

- 1) The minutes and actions of the 30th June meeting were accepted as a true record.

Minute 235 - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made by board members.

Minute 236 – VOLUNTEERING

Angela Green (AG), Steve Mowbray (SM) and Annette Roberts (AR) gave this presentation on Volunteering that informed partners on the work being undertaken in terms of supporting volunteering across Wirral, what developments are planned, the difference this project is making and how partners can offer their support.

They outlined data from the first year of the project that suggests there is a shift of new volunteers looking for opportunities that could assist their future employment chances.

Partners recognised the good practice already being operated in partner organisations and this should be used as good practice and to enhance the offer from all partners.

JW highlighted the need for local public sector employers in particular to make closer

links to this, and other volunteering projects, given the expected changes to public sector employment. This should be done with an understanding that the type, depth and level of volunteering opportunity is likely to need to change given the raised expectations of a new volunteer force that is fresh from established employment.

Sue Allen (SA) (JCPlus) highlighted new government programmes such as work clubs that volunteering will be an integral part of their offer. SA welcomed the chance to work even more closely with third sector volunteer providers and this project SA also highlighted potential changes to the benefits system that would likely bring former clients nearer to work, and volunteering could be that first step for them with extra support offered.

JW suggested that the project should be represented at the joint LSP Recession Monitoring Group meetings in order to integrate volunteering opportunities as part of any potential changes to public sector employment and other opportunities as they arise.

Chair also asked that the Volunteering project should consider its exit/continuity planning strategy ahead of its final year.

The Chair thanked Angela, Steve and Annette for their presentation.

Minute Decision:

Resolved that -

1) Executive Board members agreed:

- To note the progress to date of the volunteering project and partners would consider how they could support the project
- That the project should seek representation at the LSP Recession Monitoring Group meeting and consider its exit strategy
- To continue to receive further progress reports in due course

Minute 237 – LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN – LTP 3 – UPDATE ON DRAFT PREFERRED STRATEGY CONSULTATION

John Smith (JS) (Merseytravel) presented this report that set out for Executive Board members the present position of the Merseyside Local Transport Plan (LTP) and the draft Preferred Strategy for the area.

JS highlighted a number of changes occurring at the time of this LTP3 that could have a significant impact on the final strategy and delivery consequences such as a potential lower funding settlement, future increases in road usage, the significant challenges to local authorities funding.

However it was also an opportune time to reconsider how best the strategy could work in such challenging circumstances such as a new mobility culture for Merseyside, a use of more local solutions and increased cross sector working.

JS asked board members and partners to comments on the draft Preferred Strategy through the variety of routes to do so. The full LTP3 Consultation documents have been made available at www.transportmerseyside.org or direct via a [link](#).

The Chair thanked John for the presentation and update on LTP3 preferred strategy option

Minute Decision:**Resolved that -**

- 1) Executive Board members agreed:
 - To note the progress and consultation work to date for the LTP3
 - Partners would respond individually through their own internal processes to the consultation questions as available online at www.transportmerseyside.org.
 - To circulate today's presentation to partners for reference
 - To continue to receive further progress reports in due course

Minute 238 – 'WIRRAL'S FUTURE' BE A PART OF IT

Jane Morgan (JM), Corporate Policy Manager, presented this item which provided an update to Board members on the work being undertaken by Wirral Council to engage with residents, businesses, and voluntary and community groups from across the borough to find out their priorities for future spending.

Chair gave Executive board members an update on the background to the consultation process and the opportunities it offered partners in future years. The chair reported that there has been already a very encouraging response by Wirral residents.

John Martin (JM) highlighted the potential to be asking residents similar questions at different times and so welcomed the opportunity offered to develop the coordination of future consultations.

Sheena Cuminsky (SM) offered the support of the Cheshire & Wirral Partnership Trust engagement team to help facilitate the engagement of service users who may favour less traditional options of recording resident views. JM highlighted how all groups had been supported to complete the questionnaire to this point and welcomed the opportunity for additional support.

Richard Perry (RP) welcomed this extensive resident consultation and asked what level of response was expected. JM informed the board that although no specific target had been set the response was expected to be significantly higher than the previous exercise. Also a representative sample was being sought from across the borough and where groups were under represented then specific targeted activities would be undertaken to improve this.

Bishop of Birkenhead, The Rt Rev. Keith Sinclair asked JM how the results would be published and so people would/would not know if their contribution made a difference. JM highlighted the process for reporting back the findings of the consultation which included responding to everyone who had given their contact details and publishing online.

The Chair thanked Jane for the presentation and update on the consultation.

Minute Decision :**Resolved that -**

- 1) Executive Board members agreed:
 - To note the progress and work to date for the 'Wirral's Future' Be a Part of it' consultation
 - That partners could consider their wider involvement in future consultation

processes

- To continue to receive further progress reports in due course and share information relevant to the work of partner organisations
- To circulate today's presentation to partners for reference

Minute 239 – 2010 GOVERNANCE REVIEW AND FUTURE PARTNERSHIP CHALLENGES

Carolyn Curr presented the report that set presents the findings of the 2010 review of governance arrangements for Wirral's Local Strategic Partnership (LSP). The review has considered the strategic and operational framework of the Partnership to date with a view to identifying how this might be refreshed in order to provide a revised set of shared improvement priorities that will provide the future basis for partnership working.

The review also considered the outcomes of the annual review of the Local Area Agreement, February 2010, and the findings of a self evaluation of the Partnership, 2009.

The report highlighted a number of significant changes in the external and internal environments in which the Partnership operates and this in turn poses a number of questions about the role of the Partnership in this new context.

Board members recognised the importance of the significant changes as outlined in the report and agreed that further work be undertaken to better understand the impact that these will have on partners and the future role of the Partnership. Board members agreed that this further work needs to be specific and inclusive of partners whilst taking account of expected changes to public sector funding and the continuing difficult economic position.

All partners expressed enthusiasm and support for a quick and productive process to reflect on the partnerships role, consider its place and position given the current real world circumstances and to plan and provide a possible partnership in light of the findings.

The chair thanked Carolyn for her report

Minute Decision : Resolved that -

- 1) Executive Board members agreed to:
 - Note the report
 - Ask Carolyn Curr and colleagues to provide the LSP with a further report at the November meeting on the potential for change for the LSP, what that process might look like and what further steps should be taken to ensure the LSP is 'fit for future purpose'

Minute 240 – LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIPS – REGIONAL GROWTH FUND

Jim Wilkie (JW) presented this report to the Executive Board members. It was an update on Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs). JW pointed out that there are a significant number of changes taking place nationally in relation to Economic Development, including the abolition of Regional Development Agencies, the introduction of a Regional

Growth Fund and the impact of this on the Liverpool City Region. JW outlined Wirral Councils response to the Regional Growth Fund consultation. JW also informed board members of the current arrangements for Wirral's involvement in the Liverpool City Region Local Enterprise Partnership. The bid team was optimistic that this proposal would be successful.

The Chair thanked Jim for his update.

Minute Decision :
Resolved that -

- 1) Executive Board members agreed to.
 - Note the details of the report on LEPs and agreed to receive future updates as and when the bid was successful.

Minute 241 - CHILD AND FAMILY POVERTY STRATEGY FOR WIRRAL

Carolyn Curr (CC) presented the report that provided Executive Board members with an update on the current position of the work that is being undertaken in Wirral, in conjunction with Liverpool City Region authorities, on the development of the Wirral Child and Family Poverty Strategy to meet our obligations under the Child Poverty Act.

The paper covered a number of aspects of the work including: scope of the Child Poverty Act and statutory duties for local authorities; position of the Coalition Government in respect of the commitment to ending child poverty; the Liverpool City Region framework for developing a Child and Family Poverty Strategy and related activities; Governance and arrangements in Wirral and key dates and next steps.

Executive Board members agreed with the request that in support of the work being undertaken that the Local Strategic Partnership's existing Management Group undertakes the role of the Child and Family Poverty Management Board for Wirral. The chair pointed out that whilst it was acting as such it would be accountable to the Council Cabinet and not the Executive.

Mike Hagen and Bishop Keith both would welcome supporting this process, by both Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service and Wirral Churches & Faith groups, joining the Child and Family Poverty Management Board for Wirral

Minute Decision :
Resolved that -

- 1) Executive Board members agreed to
 - Note the approach and progress to date in developing a Child and Family Poverty Strategy for Wirral.
 - Support the proposal that Wirral LSP Management Group act as the Child Poverty Management Board, subject to consideration by Wirral Council's Cabinet as the statutory lead organisation for the Child Poverty Act.
 - To continue to receive updates on progress in developing the Child and Family Poverty Strategy prior to its adoption in April 2011.

Minute 242 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Annette Roberts, CEO -VCAW gave board members an update on Wirral's Third Sector response to the Invitation from Central Government ministers asking the voluntary,

community and social enterprise sectors to contribute their ideas to help reduce the economic deficit . AR informed board members that this response had been developed through the sectors Chief Officers Group (COG) and a collated report on the details would be submitted the Executive in due course. A number of aspects were considered by the group - such as the sector is anticipating cuts – there is more planned collaborative work – there is consideration of sharing and joining up services. Better planning will be evident in future as it is clear less money will destabilise work to local residents and beneficiaries. The situation is also see as an opportunity for the sector to input into the debate, the solutions and generally to think differently about a new approach. AR will keep the board informed.

Carolyn Curr to updated board members on the impending work relating to the Adaptation for Climate Change (NI 188). This update followed an email circulation to Executive Board members on 24th September 2010 that highlighted the forthcoming Workshop date for the Adaptation to Climate Change is set for the afternoon of Tuesday 16th November 2010 at Wallasey Town Hall and requested that partners please submit their organisational / sector nominations to Hazel Edwards, 0151 606 2423 at Wirral Council's Sustainability Team

Minute 243 – DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Venue Mersey Maritime

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

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WIRRAL LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP – EXECUTIVE BOARD

23rd FEBRUARY 2011

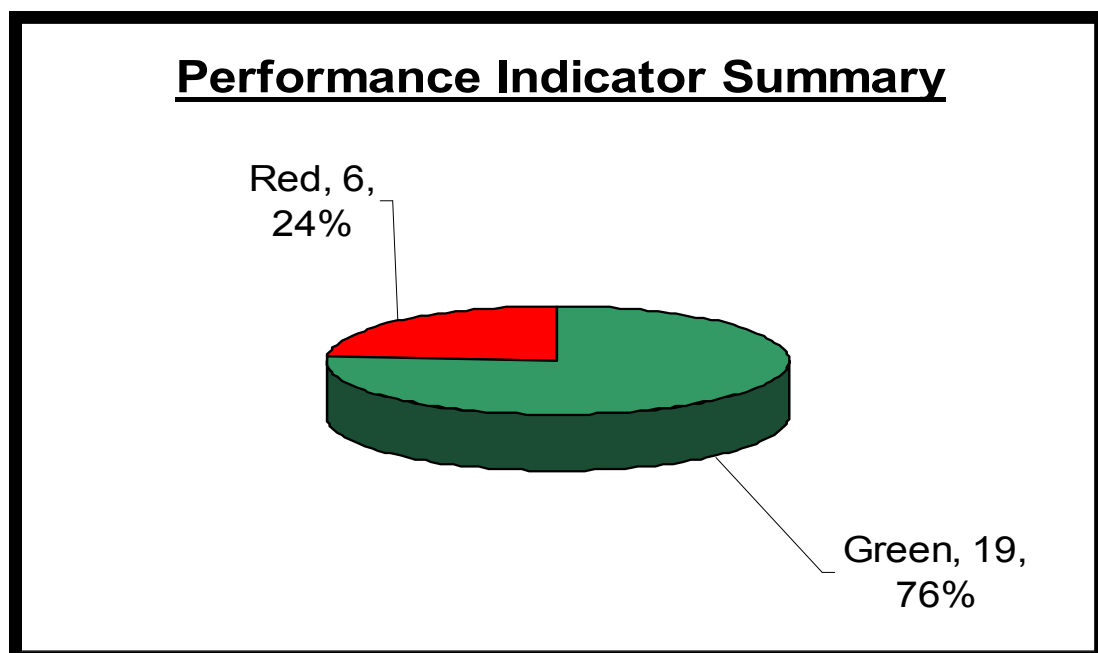
LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT THIRD QUARTER PERFORMANCE AND RISK REPORT

1. Report Purpose

This report provides the LSP Executive Board with an overview of performance against the 2008-2011 local area agreement (LAA) at the third quarter. 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.

2. Performance Summary



3. LAA Theme Summary

LAA Theme	Performance Indicators which can be reported			
	Green / Over performing	Amber	Red	Total
Health & Wellbeing	5	0	2	7
Life Chances for children & young people	4	0	2	6
Strong local economy	1	0	0	1
Safer Communities	3	0	0	3
Living & Working environment	4	0	1	5
Sustainable appropriate housing	2	0	1	3
Total	19	0	6	25

* At quarter three 2010/11, 25 of 26 indicators are reportable against targets. (1 indicator where a RAG status can not be shown)

PART 2: PERFORMANCE & RISK EXCEPTION REPORT

Health & Wellbeing

Performance issues

Portfolio	PI no	Title	2010/2011 Q3 Target	2010/2011 Q3 Actual	On target	Direction of travel
Social Care and Inclusion	Ni 130	Percentage of Social care clients receiving Self Directed Support	20.0%	11.96% (A)	Red	Improved

Context: This indicator measures the effectiveness of "personalisation". It is the percentage of people who have "self directed support" (having a personal budget or Direct Payment).

Corrective action: Process training rolled out in October to over 200 members of staff. Further training is being planned. Personal budgets went live on 19th November and is now a universal offer to all residents of Wirral. All single service reviews will be assessed using the self directed assessment process resulting in an indicative budget. Assistive Technology provision will be recorded on a initial assessment and support plan and therefore count towards Ni130 Those receiving professional support will go through the self directed assessment process and therefore have their support recorded on a support plan. This will count towards Ni130. Occupational Therapy and visual impairment teams will begin to use the self directed assessment process which will count towards Ni130.

Portfolio	PI no	Title	2010/2011 Q3 Target	2010/2011 Q3 Actual	On target	Direction of travel
Social Care and Inclusion	LOCAL 9000	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.	4203 Lower=Better	4639 (E)	Red	Deteriorated

Corrective action: Overall non elective activity has increased this year a trend which has been seen across the North West. The Urgent Care Network has agreed to undertake a clinical audit to understand this increase in some more detail. The community falls prevention team has also recently set up new referral pathways with A&E and the ambulance service to ensure that patients who have minor falls are referred to try and prevent more serious injury in the future. The health community has also recently set up a "rapid access discharge service" in partnership with the department of adult social services to ensure that patients are discharged from hospital at the earliest possible point in their pathway, with their care being taken up by health and social care multidisciplinary teams in the community.

Risks

In terms of clients receiving Self Directed Support concern had previously been expressed that if the Resource Allocation System was not correct over or under-payment of funds could result. Output from the first two phases of the Personal Budgets Project provided some confidence that this would not be the case and Cabinet has approved Phase3. Previous concern that the take-up of direct payments could be adversely affected by the degree of support available has lessened and this risk has been downgraded accordingly.

In relation to assessments for carers, there had previously been concern around the level of capacity available to identify carers. Action taken to address this issue appears to have been successful and this risk has been downgraded accordingly.

Life chances for children and young people

Performance issues

Portfolio	PI no	Title	2010/2011 Q3 Target	2010/2011 Q3 Actual	On target	Direction of travel
Children's Services & Lifelong Learning	NI 117	16 to 18 year olds who are not in education, employment or training (NEET)	6.9% Lower=Better	8.2% (P)	Red	Improved

Context: Quarter 3 performance is an improvement when compared with quarter 2 and the same period in 2009/10 which highlights the ongoing trend in the reduction of this indicator year on year. However there are many challenges ahead to achieving the target of 6.9% therefore a revised year end forecast of 8% has been set.

Corrective action: There are a number of innovative programmes being commissioned via European Social Funds which focus specifically on the differing needs of the NEET cohort in order to provide an enhanced bespoke, targeted offer. The 14-19 Strategic Partnership with providers is ensuring that 'offer' in Wirral is flexible in its responses. Analysis of the NEET group has also taken place to inform targeted intervention across the partnership. There is an ongoing trend in the reduction of this indicator year on year, but there are many challenges ahead to achieving the target of 6.9% therefore a revised year end forecast of 8% has been set.

Portfolio	PI no	Title	2010/2011 Q3 Target	2010/2011 Q3 Actual	On target	Direction of travel
Children's Services & Lifelong Learning	LOCAL 1400	Number of looked after children	565 Lower=Better	668 (A)	Red	Deteriorated

Context: The increase in children becoming looked after is a national trend, reported in the most recent Association of Director of Children's Services survey.

Corrective action: A thorough profiling of the Looked After Children population is taking place to enable more targeted interventions. A number of strategies, underpinned by the new Fieldwork structure, are available to ensure that children's plans do not drift, and that more children achieve permanence through Adoption, Special Guardianship or by returning

home. Each District Team is tightly overseeing the plans for children to safely leave care; this is monitored by Senior Managers, and plans to overcome barriers to achieving this outcome are in place. The refreshed Looked After Children Review project submitted to the strategic change program will also impact on this indicator.

Risks

In relation to looked-after children, caseloads are still high in some social work teams. Additional social workers are now in post and there is regular monitoring of caseloads

Academic attainment can also be affected by the ability and willingness of individual families to take up the opportunities available to them. On-going multi-agency family support programmes and narrowing the gap interventions have helped to tackle this. But, as indicated above, some of these may also end as funding is removed or reduced.

Strong local economy

Performance issues

There are no red or amber performance indicators within this theme.

Risks

The Wirral's Future consultation resulted in final proposals to Cabinet in December. Against the context of finding significant budget reductions across the Council, the consultation broadly re-affirmed Wirral's strong commitment to economic development and regeneration. A refreshed Investment Strategy is now being developed to take forward the specific recommendations from the consultation, and to reflect the wider policy and funding changes to economic development and regeneration.

Government reductions to public sector budgets will have a significant impact on future resources for economic development and regeneration. In addition, public sector job losses will impact on Wirral's economy.

As part of addressing these challenges, and to enable greater private sector growth, the emerging Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) for the Liverpool City Region has recently been approved by Government. Together with Regional Growth Fund bids, this will help to develop the economy so that Wirral and the LCR can start to 'punch its weight' nationally and internationally as a first class investment location

Safer communities

Performance issues

There are no performance issues within this theme.

Risks

Concern remains that proposed restrictions to the powers of local authorities to use directed surveillance may affect the ability to tackle anti-social behaviour. Work with potential witnesses, may help to reduce the impact. The situation will become clearer following a review of RIPA 2000. Increased demand, both within Wirral Council and from the private sector, could place further pressure on anti-social behaviour services.

The partnership’s ability to monitor and evaluate progress in tackling violent crime could be affected if partner agencies change their strategies or categorisation without considering their impact on the target. This is off-set to some degree by the ability to raise the issue of potential blockages in meetings of the Community Safety Partnership.

The late introduction of new drug test equipment is still creating uncertainty around achievement of the target to reduce drug related offending. Ongoing dialogue with other agencies, re-assessment of the equipment and the re-training of staff has helped to counter the problem to some degree

Living and working environment

Performance issues

Portfolio	PI no	Title	2010/2011 Q3 Target	2010/2011 Q3 Actual	On target	Direction of travel
Streetscene and Transport Services	NI 195d	Improved street and environmental cleanliness (levels of fly posting)	0.5% Lower=Better	1% (A)	Red	Unchanged

Context: Noticeable improvement in overall cleansing performance as a result of new initiatives such as extended working hours and resources.

Corrective action: The second tranche score for NI195 D is higher than average as it is the first survey carried out after the summer months. Due to a heightened number of events and overall activity throughout the summer there tends to be a greater level of fly-posting identified (depending on the wards being surveyed). It is anticipated that the third and final tranche will see a drop in occurrence and as such the annual target should still be met.

Risks

Seasonal variations in weather have reduced the amount of garden waste available for composting. However increased performance in recycling and a decrease in waste sent to landfill have helped to offset this impact and it is expected that the target for 2010/11 will still be met.

Sustainable, appropriate housing

Performance issues

LSP EXECUTIVE BOARD

Portfolio	PI no	Title	2010/2011 Q3 Target	2010/2011 Q3 Actual	On target	Direction of travel
Housing and Community Safety	NI 156	Number of homeless households living in Temporary Accommodation	4 Lower=Better	5 (A)	Red	Deteriorated
<p>Corrective action: We will continue to work with RSLs and the private sector to source suitable move-on accommodation for those we have a statutory duty to provide move on accommodation, and to maintain a high success rate in homeless prevention.</p>						

Risks

The economic situation remains the greatest threat in this area. The lower level of economic activity has led to far fewer completions in the year to date. Of those building projects which have been completed, most have been supported by some form of public subsidy. This too is expected to reduce significantly. The Strategic Market Housing Assessment and Housing Strategy have been updated to reflect the new funding climate and were reported to Cabinet in October.

Previously there had been concern that reduced funding for the Warm Front initiative and a possible tightening of the eligibility criteria could mean that fewer households qualify for it. These risks have lessened for now with the coalition government's announcement that this year's budget will not be cut and there should be no changes to the eligibility criteria before April 2011.

Recommendations:

Executive Board members are requested to review the third quarter performance and risk information contained within this report and identify any areas for further action.

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Wirral Local Strategic Partnership Briefing Note

Title:	Review of Wirral's Local Strategic Partnership
Date:	23rd February 2011

1. Executive Summary

As requested by the LSP Executive Board on the 29th September 2010, a review has been undertaken of the Wirral Local Strategic Partnership. All members of the Executive Board and Assembly members have been approached and have had the opportunity to express their thoughts and views with regards to the future role of the LSP. The findings that emerged from the review are provided within this briefing note .

2. Background

In September 2010, Wirral's LSP Executive Board requested a review of the future purpose of the LSP, given the changing policy environment at both local and national level. Nationally, the Coalition Government has signaled a strong move towards the local determination of priorities and local accountability for the delivery of services. A number of the mechanisms of central/local relationships, such as local area agreements (LAA) and Comprehensive Area Assessments (CAA), have been abolished and whereas previously LSPs had been 'required' by central government, Ministers' clear view now is that it is entirely within the gift of local areas to determine if they should have an LSP and what that LSP should focus on. The review of Wirral's LSP therefore represents an excellent opportunity to focus future partnership activity on what is important for Wirral.

In October and November 2010, John Highton (Wirral Council) and Richard Perry (Government Office North West) undertook a review of the LSP Executive Board and Assembly. This involved interviews with each member of the Executive Board, the collation and review of comments from Assembly members and a desk review of practice from other LSP areas.

3. Emerging Areas of Priority

What is working well:

The review found that the following aspects of the LSP were currently working well and should be retained moving forward:

- There was a strong commitment from partners for the LSP and the value of bringing key partners together to share a common understanding of priorities;

- The LSP is well run and well serviced;
- It provides a useful mechanism for keeping people informed and has prompted partner activity as a result of information brought to it;
- It is strong on performance management and performance information (although there is not universal belief that the right priorities are being managed);
- There was strong support for the 'dragons den' style exercise and theme champions that had supported the development of local area agreement priorities.
- The Sustainable Community Strategy, Comprehensive Area Assessment and Local Area Agreements had provided a focus that now needed to be updated
- Voluntary, Community and Faith (VCF) sector feel well engaged at a strategic level.

What is not working so well:

The Review found that the following aspects of the LSP were currently not working so well and should be resolved moving forward:

- The LSP has defaulted to an information sharing forum and lost its focus on problem solving and joint partner action;
- The agenda has been dominated by 'national' as opposed to 'local' issues and this has been reflected in the LAA;
- Meetings are local authority led with limited challenge made to partners at the meetings
- There is a perceived lack of action arising from meetings and no clear continuity, and resolution, of priorities;
- The Assembly feels disconnected from the Board, lacking a clear role and focus;
- Private sector engagement, still not clear to what purpose and whether LSP is the appropriate mechanism;
- Clarification needed on the distinction between the VCF as a deliverer of services and a representative of community interests. VCF want to move from commenting on problems to helping to solve them.

4. Next Steps

These findings will inform further discussion at the LSP Executive Board meeting on the 23rd February 2011 to agree the future role of the partnership.

Dear Colleague

As a CEO of a Wirral Wide organisation which delivers services to the community and is in receipt of some public sector funding, I am writing to invite you to become part of the Chief Officers' Group (COG).

Although the group was set up some years ago with a very specific remit, the existing members would like to extend the membership, with the original members becoming the 'working group' in order for preparation and work to be carried out between quarterly meetings. The general criteria for the extended membership is that you:

- are a CEO or General Manager
- have a Wirral Wide remit
- have strategic responsibility
- are a service provider

The COG will meet quarterly and the terms of reference include:

- To provide a vehicle for Chief Officers and, therefore, key strategic partners, of the third sector providers to come together to share information, support and influence future policy and strategy
- To speak with one informed voice
- To provide an effective link between the third sector providers and the private and public sectors
- To act as a consultative body, receive and input into future appropriate strategies of public sector partners
- To participate in planning draft strategies, for example commissioning and tendering, comprehensive engagement etc
- To support the public sector in the work around health and social care, advise if appropriate on issues including mental health, housing and other big topics
- To help to identify development needs within the third sector

The government budget cuts and the effect of them on the local public sector and therefore on our sectors, is of course, a concern to us all. Therefore, the working group of the Chief Officers' Group (COG) would like to invite you to attend a Consultation Event surrounding the public sector budget cuts which will have an impact on the third sector.

This event will take place on Wednesday 22 September 2010 at 3.00 pm (venue to be confirmed) and will be an opportunity to discuss the cuts with other CEOs and explore possible ways of working collaboratively, as

well as forming a 'one voice' approach. The aim would be to try to influence the decision-makers before the final decisions are made.

We have put together a framework which the consultation event will be based around. The framework and information from the consultation event will form the basis of a report which will be presented to the CEOs of the public sector.

Please complete the attached questionnaire and send it back to Charlotte Bevan so that the information can be collated and a report prepared before the Consultation Event. The deadline for the questionnaires to be sent back is Friday 13 August. The questionnaire is not long and should only take 10 or 15 minutes for you to complete.

Please indicate to Charlotte Bevan whether or not you wish to be included in the membership of the COG. If you wish to be kept updated of events and included in information sharing, but do not wish to be an 'active' member, then please let Charlotte know on 0151 513 8259 or email at charlotte.bevan@vcawirral.org.uk.

With best regards

Annette

Annette Roberts
Chief Executive
Voluntary & Community Action Wirral

OPEN LETTER TO THE VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL ENTERPRISE SECTORS

Dear all,

As you know the Coalition government attaches a high priority to tackling the deficit and restoring confidence in the economy. I am sure you will agree that this is in the long term interest of the voluntary and community sector.

We have to make significant savings across all areas of Government; however as the Chancellor has said, the deficit reduction plan cannot just be about cuts. It must also be about finding better ways of doing things. We want to hear your thoughts on how this is best done. Your voice is particularly important as you work on the front line delivering services, often to the most vulnerable people. You also have a great deal of experience of engaging with the State and can see what is working and what can be done better.

We are working with colleagues across Government to ensure they consider the impact on the voluntary, community and social enterprise sectors when making decisions that may affect it and to remind them of the importance of taking account of the Compact as savings and efficiencies are identified in their department. We are also working with colleagues in the Department for Communities and Local Government and the Local Government Association to encourage Local Authorities to respect the Compact and work through the challenges in partnership with the local voluntary and community sector. In this context we are interested in examples of best practice that can be shared across the network.

We have asked our strategic partners and advisory body to gather information on the impact of cuts and where the biggest issues may arise and we urge you to work with your representative organisations to pass your examples of good practice and your ideas for savings and so on to the Office for Civil Society.

As of today you can e-mail sectorchallenge@cabinet-office.x.gsi.gov.uk to share information and thoughts with us, and we have created an open-space on the Cabinet Office website for you to post comments. You can access this at: www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk.



Managing the deficit programme of this scale will be a challenge and difficult choices will have to be made. However, we want to hear your views and we will work in partnership with you to ensure your concerns, ideas for savings, and examples of best practice are taken into consideration.

Yours sincerely,

FRANCIS MAUDE

NICK HURD