



Economy and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date:	Monday, 16 January 2012
Time:	6.00 pm
Venue:	Committee Room 1 - Wallasey Town Hall

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AGENDA

1. MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATION 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 - 6)

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 7 November, 2011.

3. PRESENTATION - WIRRAL WATERS

Lindsay Ashworth of Peel Holdings will give a presentation to the Committee.

4. CORPORATE PLAN 2012/13 (Pages 7 - 36)

In accordance with Council minutes 77 and 78 (12 December, 2011), the Committee is requested to consider those parts of the Corporate Plan within the remit of this Committee.

5. OUTCOME OF WIRRAL'S HOUSING MARKET RENEWAL TRANSITIONAL FUNDING BID (Pages 37 - 46)

6. SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME (Pages 47 - 54)

7. FORWARD PLAN

The Forward Plan for the period January to April, 2012 has now been published on the Council's intranet/website. Members are invited to review the Plan prior to the meeting in order for the Economy and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider, having regard to the 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.

8. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS APPROVED BY THE CHAIR (PART 1)

9. EXEMPT INFORMATION - EXCLUSION OF MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

The public may be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item(s) of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information.

RECOMMENDED – That in accordance with section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item(s) of business, on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined by the relevant paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 12A (as amended) to that Act. The public interest test has been applied and favours exclusion.

10. REGENERATION UPDATE

The Acting Director of Regeneration, Housing and Planning will provide a verbal update on major development schemes within the Borough.

11. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS APPROVED BY THE CHAIR (PART 2)

ECONOMY AND REGENERATION OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Monday, 7 November 2011

Present: Councillor M Johnston (Chair)

Councillors A Cox S Niblock
G Ellis D Realey
P Hackett S Whittingham

Deputy: Councillor S Mountney (in place of A Hodson)

Apologies Councillors P Kearney S Kelly

(Councillor Kearney did subsequently arrive for the meeting having been considerably delayed on the motorway because of an incident on the M56)

24 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST / PARTY WHIP

Members were asked to consider whether they had a personal or prejudicial interest in connection with any item on the agenda and, if so, to declare it and to state the nature of such interest.

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 the item to be considered and, if so, to declare it and state the nature of the whipping arrangement.

Councillor Hackett declared a personal interest in minute 28 (European Social Fund) by virtue of his employment at the New Brighton Community Centre.

25 MINUTES

Members were requested to receive the minutes of the meeting of the Economy and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 5 September, 2011.

The Chair referred to minute 19 (Fair Trade Update) and that the last sentence of the preamble should read, 'A final, more detailed report would be presented to the November, 2012 meeting of the Committee.'

The Chair also referred to minute 12 (Budget Issues for Economy and Housing in 2012/13) and circulated a copy of an email response from Councillors George and Phil Davies, in which they suggested late January / early February would be the best time for a special meeting of the Committee to consider any budget savings proposals. He thanked them for their response.

Resolved - That subject to the above amendment, the minutes be approved as a correct record.

26 **INVEST WIRRAL**

Paula Basnett, Head of Investment in the Department of Regeneration, Housing and Planning, gave a presentation to the Committee on the work of Invest Wirral which offered a proactive support service by developing client relationships with businesses to provide information and assistance to help sustainability, growth and to create development opportunities.

She outlined the various areas of business support available including SME Project Managers, Micro Business Managers, the Business Angel Scheme and the Social Enterprise Team. An online business forum had also been established for Wirral businesses with 2030 business members, achievements since 1993 included:

- 941 investment projects
- 16,000 jobs – either new or safeguarded
- £248m in related investments for the Borough

During 2010/11 Invest Wirral had secured 552 jobs and £13m investments, averaging 800 company engagements each year. Over the past three years 3,000 jobs had been secured and £50m attracted in project investments. Business Investment Grant of £2,500,000 on 61 projects had supported £26m of investments.

Responding to comments from Members Paula Basnett and her colleague, Graham Maddrell, Investment Manager, reported that businesses listed in the business forum, did receive 6 and 12 monthly checks on their turnover and numbers of employees. The Invest Wirral team were trying to do as much as they could between investors and investees and they highlighted some of the recent investment successes in Wirral, including Teledyne CML Group's new facility in Bromborough which was positioned to become a major supplier of composite components to the aviation, marine and space markets.

Paula Basnett stated that she would be happy to bring a report back to the Committee on the online business forum and how it was helping local businesses. Research was being undertaken on how long companies were staying on the website and where they were then being directed to. An Inward Investment Manager was due to be appointed in the near future and they would be developing a site strategy for the Wirral.

Resolved – That the presentation be noted.

27 **CHILD POVERTY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN - PROGRESS REPORT**

The Chief Executive submitted a report which set out the work that had been undertaken to date, in accordance with the report to the Cabinet on 14 April 2011 (minute 386 refers), to develop a Wirral Child Poverty Strategy and action plan in partnership with local organisations and agencies, including the voluntary, community and faith sector. This included the contribution of the Wirral Child and Family Poverty Working Group, which had been established to make recommendations to the Council and its partners about a local Child Poverty Strategy and action plan.

The report also provided a progress report on the £10,000 policy option agreed by the Cabinet and Council in February 2010 to invest in targeted engagement with Wirral organisations and local communities and set out the proposed next steps in relation to the further development of the action plan.

The report also detailed the links between Wirral's local approach and the development of a strategy for the Liverpool City Region, which had been shaped by the City Region Commission on Poverty and Life Chances, chaired by Frank Field MP.

At its meeting of 13th October 2011, Cabinet:

“(a) Noted the progress that has been made to date in relation to the development of a child and family poverty strategy for Wirral, including the excellent contribution of the Wirral Child and Family Poverty Working Group, and approves the draft strategy and initial action plan at Appendix 1;

(b) Authorised the Chief Executive to undertake further consultation on the draft strategy and prepare a final version for approval and adoption by the Council and partners;

(c) Authorises the Chief Executive (and any other officer nominated by him) to undertake any other steps and action incidental and conducive to finalising the strategy and progressing the action plan, including working with relevant partners and stakeholders as considered necessary and appropriate;

(d) Agreed that the Wirral Child and Family Poverty Working Group should continue to meet to oversee the further development of the strategy.”

Cabinet further resolved to make tackling child poverty a key priority for 2012/13 and to make sure that all Council strategies and plans were properly amended to include this as a major priority for the Council, with subsequent referral to Council as appropriate.

Jane Morgan, Corporate Policy Manager in the Department of Regeneration, Housing and Planning, responded to comments from Members and informed the meeting that a more detailed 3 year action plan would be brought back to meetings of the Cabinet and this Committee in the new year, once more work had been undertaken.

Resolved –

(1) That this Committee notes the progress made to date on the draft child poverty strategy.

(2) That regular updates on progress on the implementation of the recommendations as agreed by Cabinet on the 13th October 2011 be brought to this Committee particularly in relation to:

- **Workstream 2: Targeting our efforts to make work the best route out of poverty for Wirral families and;**

- **Workstream 5: Recognise and support the role that safe and high quality neighbourhoods and thriving communities can have in transforming lives**

28 **EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND**

The Acting Director of Regeneration, Housing and Planning submitted a report which had been requested by Members of the Committee which gave an analysis of progress against delivery of Wirral's European Social Fund (ESF) activity, including:

- Progress on the contract with the Reachout (Involve Northwest) consortia
- Comparisons with arrangements/results at other local authorities.

Responding to comments from Members, David Ball, Interim Head of Strategic Development and Regeneration, informed the Committee that the Management Information System, which the Council was required to use in its contract with the Reachout Partnership, would provide a much richer source of performance data once fully operational. He also went on to outline the situation in respect of the Intermediate Labour Market posts and that discussions were being held regarding a possible extension to the programme.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

29 **DEPARTMENT FOR WORK AND PENSIONS WORK PROGRAMME**

The Acting Director of Regeneration, Housing and Planning submitted a report which had been requested by Members of the Committee with an analysis of progress against delivery of the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) Work Programme, including comparisons with arrangements / results at other local authorities.

In response to Members' concerns, David Ball, Interim Head of Strategic Development and Regeneration, reported that discussions were taking place with the DWP over the release of performance data and that they might release some information on a confidential basis as it was important from the Council's point of view to understand what was happening in the locality.

Resolved – That the details of the DWP Work Programme be noted and that if agreement is reached with the DWP for the release of information on a confidential basis, the information is reported to this Committee.

30 **PERFORMANCE AND FINANCIAL REVIEW - SECOND QUARTER 2011/12**

The Acting Director of Regeneration, Housing and Planning reported upon the performance of the Council's Corporate Plan 2011-2014 for July to September 2011 in relation to economy and regeneration. He provided an overview of performance, resource and risk monitoring and highlighted what was working well, future challenges and risks.

Responding to comments from Members, Ian Platt, Acting Head of Housing, stated that work was being undertaken with existing tenants and Registered Social Landlords on a pilot basis to address the issue of under occupation of social housing. Once the impact of the Welfare Reform Bill was fully detailed then further work would be undertaken on this issue.

The Chair suggested that a further report on the final situation with HMRI would be useful.

Some Members queried the need for the report to contain information on corporate performance outside the remit of the Committee.

It was then moved by the Chair and seconded by Councillor Hackett that –

“Future reports on performance only contain information on performance indicators relevant to the work of this Committee.”

The motion was put and lost (4:4).

Resolved – That the report be noted and a further report on the final situation with HMRI be added to the work programme.

31 **FUTURE PLANS FOR THE BUSINESS START PROGRAMME**

David Ball, Interim Head of Strategic Development and Regeneration gave an update on the future plans for the Business Start Programme. He informed the meeting that the North West Development Agency was winding up many of its contracts by the end of December, 2011 and this was the decision of the agency themselves, although there may have been some instruction from central Government.

The Acting Director would bring a report back to a future Committee on business start ups.

Responding to Members' comments the Interim Head of Strategic Development and Regeneration referred to the constantly changing scene of business funding initiatives and these would be signposted in reports to the Committee. He would also circulate a briefing note on the DWP funded New Enterprise Allowance scheme.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

32 **SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME**

The Committee received an update on its work programme including the reports to be scheduled for the January meeting.

Councillor Niblock declared a prejudicial interest and left the meeting during consideration of the Chair's question, due to him living in a HMRI area.

In response to a question from the Chair, Ian Platt, Acting Head of Housing, informed the Committee that with the ending of the HMRI, the results of the transition funding application should be available to bring to the January meeting.

Resolved – That, subject to the addition of a report on HMRI transition funding, the work programme be agreed.

33 **FORWARD PLAN**

The Committee had been invited to review the Forward Plan prior to the meeting in order for it 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.

Resolved – That the forward plan be noted.

34 **EXEMPT INFORMATION - EXCLUSION OF MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

Resolved – That in accordance with section 100A (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 1 of Schedule 12A (as amended) to that Act. The public interest test has been applied and favours exclusion.

35 **REGENERATION UPDATE**

The Acting Director of Regeneration, Housing and Planning provided an update on major development schemes within the Borough.

Resolved – That the report be noted and Lindsay Ashworth, of Peel Holdings, be invited to give a presentation on the International Trade Centre to a future meeting of the Committee.

WIRRAL COUNCIL

CABINET

8TH DECEMBER 2011

SUBJECT:	CORPORATE PLAN 2012-13
WARD/S AFFECTED:	ALL
REPORT OF:	CHIEF EXECUTIVE
RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	CLLR STEVE FOULKES
KEY DECISION:	YES

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report presents the Council's draft Corporate Plan for 2012-13 at Appendix 1.
- 1.2 The draft Corporate Plan reflects the needs of Wirral and priorities for local people. It also puts in place a clear commitment and actions to ensure that the Council's corporate governance failings are addressed through engaging the entire organisation in the challenge and opportunities this presents.
- 1.3 The Corporate Plan provides a clear framework for budget and departmental planning for 2012-13. The plan will directly inform the Council's budget for 2012-13 and departments will prepare individual business plans, which will set out in more detail how the actions in the Corporate Plan will be delivered.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 It is recommended that Cabinet approves the draft Corporate Plan to be referred for adoption by full Council on the 12th December 2011 for implementation from the 1st April 2012.

3.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 On 17th March 2011, the Council agreed a three year Corporate Plan for 2011-14, with a focus on the activity that would be delivered during the current year (2011-12). In line with best practice, and to ensure that the changing needs and priorities of local people are addressed alongside the corporate governance challenges and opportunities faced by the Council, the Corporate Plan has been fully reviewed and refreshed to ensure that it is fit for purpose for 2012-13.

4.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

- 4.1 The draft Corporate Plan at Appendix 1 describes the challenges for the Council and how we will address these.

4.2 The draft Corporate Plan demonstrates how the Council will respond to a number of key drivers. These are:

- The findings of the independent report considered by Cabinet on the 22nd September 2011 entitled 'Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council's Corporate Governance Arrangements: Refresh and Renew' and the subsequent development of a robust work programme and identification of key lines of enquiry to address these findings;
- The recent consultation undertaken across Wirral to inform the development of Neighbourhood Plans for each of the Council's eleven Area Forum areas;
- The development of a child and family poverty strategy for Wirral;
- The Council's revitalised Investment Strategy;
- The effective integration of the Public Health function and new leadership role for local authorities in health and wellbeing

4.3 Subject to approval by Cabinet and Council, the Corporate Plan at Appendix 1 will provide a clear framework for the Council's budget and departmental delivery plans for the period April 2012-13. The timetable for the production of departmental plans and the agreement of the Council's budget is set out in the appendix to the Comprehensive Work Programme report considered by Corporate Governance Committee on the 26th October 2011. Action is now being undertaken in line with this timetable to ensure that departmental plans and the Council's budget are in place by January 2012 and February 2012 respectively. The You Choose Consultation took place between 19 August 2011 and 30 November 2011 and is one element of the ongoing consultation process for setting the 2012/13 Budget. An overview of the process and a summary of the responses are the subject of a separate report on this agenda.

4.4 Prior to the commencement of the 2012-13 financial year, Cabinet is requested to note that the work being undertaken to review and improve the Council's arrangements for policy, corporate and business planning and performance management will impact on the way the Corporate Plan is monitored in 2012-13, for example in respect of the frequency and content of reports to Cabinet and/or Scrutiny Committees, and the way in which corporate and business planning will be delivered in future years. This work, and related recommendations, will be considered by Cabinet as appropriate and in line with the governance arrangements established in respect of the Corporate Governance Committee.

5.0 RELEVANT RISKS

5.1 The corporate risk register will be revised in line with the draft Corporate Plan for 2012-13 to ensure that any risks to delivering the Council's goals are understood and mitigating actions put in place as appropriate.

6.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

6.1 Not applicable

7.0 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 As indicated in 4.2, consultation with local people about their priorities for services has been undertaken through the recent consultation on Neighbourhood Plans. This process engaged individuals and organisations in all areas of Wirral.
- 7.2 The draft child and family poverty strategy which has informed the Corporate Plan is based on consultation with local stakeholders about the needs of children and families in Wirral.

8.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

- 8.1 The draft Corporate Plan sets out actions in relation to working with voluntary, community and faith sector organisations to improve outcomes for local people.

9.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL; IT; STAFFING; AND ASSETS

- 9.1 The Corporate Plan informs the Medium Term Financial Strategy and the Annual Budget which seek to allocate available resources to deliver the priorities as set out in the Plan. By 10 March each year the Council has to agree a Budget, and set Council Tax levels, for the following financial year.

10.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 Legal implications relating to the actions set out in the draft Corporate Plan will be addressed by departments as appropriate.

11.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 An Equality Impact Assessment is attached as Appendix 2.
- 11.2 In developing individual business plans, departments will also be expected to address equalities implications as appropriate, including through undertaking Equality Impact Assessments in line with corporate requirements.

12.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

- 12.1 Carbon reduction is a specific goal in the draft Corporate Plan. Any carbon reduction implications relating to other goals and actions will be addressed by departments as appropriate.

13.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 13.1 Planning and community safety implications relating to the actions set out in the draft Corporate Plan will be addressed by departments as appropriate.

**REPORT AUTHOR: Jim Wilkie
Chief Executive**

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Draft Corporate Plan 2012-2013

Appendix 2: Equality Impact Assessment

REFERENCE MATERIAL

Previous Council and Cabinet reports as detailed in the subject history below

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Meeting	Date
Corporate Plan 2011-2014	Cabinet – 17th March 2011 Council – 18th April 2011
Independent Review	Cabinet – 22nd September 2011
Child Poverty Strategy and Action Plan – Progress Report	Cabinet – 13th October 2011
Neighbourhood Plans and Area Forum Funding	Cabinet – 24th November 2011

FOREWORD FROM THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

This Corporate Plan is about a journey we are all taking together – Councillors, Officers, Council Staff and the people of Wirral. Travelling with us are our partners from public, private and voluntary sector organisations.

Our destination is a Wirral that is healthy and prosperous with a sense of well being that permeates all levels of our society.

It sounds simple but conditions for the journey are not good at the moment. We are in the middle of a Global and European financial crisis. Money is in very short supply and resources for the Council will be very limited for the foreseeable future. Individuals are feeling the pinch too, with pay increases restricted, jobs in short supply and prospects for the future very uncertain.

You might think this was the time to get our heads down, retreat into ourselves and try to weather the storm quietly. Think again.

The ground breaking Education Act which provided free secondary education for all was passed in 1944 at a time of great financial hardship for the Nation. Four years later, in a period of post war austerity, the National Health Service was created, providing free health care for all. Great changes are not just about money. They are about dreams and aspirations and a fierce collective determination to make things work, whatever obstacles may be thrown in the way.

We've come a long way since that post war period, but we haven't come far enough. Over 60 years later, if you live in one of Wirral's poorest areas the statistics show that you are likely to die (ten years) earlier than your counterpart in one of Wirral's wealthiest areas. That has to change. That mortality gap should not be tolerated in a civilised society.

We have a unique opportunity to make that change. The Public Health role is moving from the Health Service to Local Authorities which will allow us to work very closely together, using all our joint facilities and infrastructure, to tackle some of the most challenging problems which mean that gap stubbornly resists any attempt to narrow it.

All the evidence shows that poverty is one of the key factors in physical and mental ill health. Poor quality housing, poor job prospects, unemployment, low levels of education, low aspirations, failing family relationships, poor parenting, poor nutrition, fuel poverty, anti social behaviour, all play their part in creating the conditions which take away any sense of well being and allow ill health to flourish.

As a Council we have traditionally reacted to problems when they became apparent. But we've all heard the saying "Prevention is better than Cure". Well, that's the journey we are setting out on now, and which we are ideally placed to undertake. Identify the causes of problems and tackle them before it's too late. Before the consequences show themselves. Before it costs a great deal more money to put things right.

But this is something we all have to agree on. Preventing things happening is usually not visible. If we are successful, and there are no problems to point at, people may well

ask what we are spending the council tax payer's money on. If we change our priorities to release more money into early detection and prevention activities, there may be other areas that have to manage on less than before, which won't be popular.

We will need to be absolutely clear what we are doing, and why, and we will need real, hard evidence to back up what we are doing. No more decisions based just on anecdotes! If we don't have the evidence, then we will need to set up pilot schemes which can be properly analysed and evaluated first, before we move into a larger arena.

This does not apply only to new initiatives. We have been criticised by the District Auditor for taking decisions to let contracts without having sufficient detailed information and costings in place about our own activities to allow us to prove that an external contract will provide better value for money. From now on we will make sure that the right information is collected and evaluated on all the Council services so we truly demonstrate we are providing value for money for the Council Tax Payer. At a time when resources are limited this is more important than ever.

This brings me to the final element of our journey. We know where we are headed. We know the route map we are using to get to our destination. But we also need to know how to travel that route safely and cost effectively.

It's like driving a car. If you ignore the highway code, crash the gears, stall the engine at stop lights, forget to signal, take short cuts which turn into long cuts, u-turn illegally when you're lost, you may still reach your destination - eventually. But you may well have had several accidents along the way. You are likely to be stressed and exhausted. Your passengers will have had a very uncomfortable ride, and the costs of your journey will have escalated because of your bad driving.

Well right now everyone involved in driving Council activities forward is being put through the equivalent of an advanced driving course. The formal name is a Corporate Governance Review. The aim is to make sure that the basic rules and procedures which govern the way the Council runs, (a kind of Local Authority Highway Code), are brought up to date, and are understood and followed by everyone. That bad habits which have become standard over a period of time are eradicated and replaced with good habits, and that the whole process eventually becomes as automatic to staff and councillors as changing gears becomes to an experienced driver.

It's not newsworthy. It's not particularly exciting. It's a lot of hard graft without any instant rewards. But it is very, very necessary. This way we travel safely. We make sure taxpayers get real value for their money. We make sure services are delivered fairly and consistently, and we avoid unnecessary disasters. And we reach our destination more quickly.

Welcome to our journey to a healthy and prosperous Wirral, where the well being of every resident matters.

Cllr Steve Foulkes

Leader of the Council.

The Destination

Our Vision for Wirral.

A Healthy and Prosperous Wirral where a sense of well being permeates every level of society and where the place you live and the amount you earn no longer effects how long you live.

- **A thriving society, with plentiful employment opportunities, and high levels of skills in the local workforce.**
- **A learning society with excellent nursery or pre-school facilities, excellent schools and excellent colleges for young people or older adults who want to re-train or improve their qualifications.**
- **A caring society that protects vulnerable people**
- **A decently housed society where warm, well insulated and affordable housing is readily available.**
- **A stress free society where no one lives in fear because of criminal activities, or anti-social behaviour, or excessive noise or threatening neighbours.**
- **A clean society with a rubbish and graffiti free environment and responsible dog owners.**
- **A relaxed society with plenty of opportunities for leisure and fitness activities.**
- **A greener society that works to reduce carbon emissions and protect the environment.**
- **A conservation minded society that respects its heritage and works together to protect everything that is best about Wirral, including our unique countryside, open spaces and coast line.**

The Journey

The route map we need to follow.

- We will focus on the new Public Health role given to Local Authorities.
- We will seek in everything we do to recognise the way in which Council activities can have a direct impact on the Health and Well Being of Wirral residents.
- We will listen to what local residents and communities tell us are the priorities to improve their neighbourhoods and we will respond by providing services that meet their needs and aspirations.
- We will continue to tackle anti-social behaviour and work with all our partners to reduce crime
- We will ensure that effective safeguarding procedures are in place to protect vulnerable adults and children.
- We will work with our partners to reduce the numbers of children and young people living in poverty and support them and their families to build the foundations for prosperous, healthy and happy lives.
- We will respond quickly and effectively to local circumstances and needs and any potential impact of welfare reform.
- We will work actively to initiate and support early detection and prevention programmes for children and adults which seek to tackle potential problems before they develop.
- We will make sure those programmes are based on well researched evidence which can be analysed and evaluated in order to ensure the very best return in outcomes for any resources invested.
- Where evidence is not readily available, we will seek to run pilot programmes where outcomes can be properly assessed and used as guidance for future programmes.
- We will seek to raise the income of Wirral people by doing everything possible to build a strong and vibrant economy with high levels of employment and opportunities for Wirral residents to improve their skills and find work. We will focus on making sure our young people can achieve their full potential in education and in the workplace.
- We will work to improve the condition of Wirral's housing stock and improve the energy efficiency to reduce levels of fuel poverty.

Travelling Safely

Changing the way we do things. (Improving Corporate Governance).

- We will make sure that this Corporate Plan informs Service Development Plans and is reflected in the budget process.
- We will review and redraft the Council's Code of Corporate Governance
- We will make sure there is a clear understanding of roles and responsibilities between the centre of the organisation and individual departments.
- We will review the Council's Internal Audit Service and make sure any warnings they issue are acted on immediately.
- We will set up a Council Policy Unit to act as a think tank for the organisation, to link together new and established initiatives, to advise on best practice elsewhere and to give advance warning of the impact of any new legislation or policies.
- We will review the way information and advice is given to councillors, and the way in which reports are written, in order to create a democracy which is as open and transparent as possible.
- We will radically improve Corporate Performance Management so the cost of a Service, the way the Service is delivered, and the achievements of the Service are linked together so we can see exactly what the result is of any investment of Council Tax payer money. We will use this information to hold councillors and officers to account for the success or failure of service delivery and we will undertake effective staff training to help us change the culture of the organisation to one that is open, transparent and focussed on positive change.
- We will ensure that the Council meets best practice in respect of equalities and diversity legislation, in all areas of activity including policy development, service delivery, community needs and recruitment.
- We will create a fairer system by implementing a comprehensive schedule of fees and charges for all appropriate Council services in line with the law, the Council's Constitution, accepted best practice and the Council's objectives and we will review that schedule annually.
- We will make sure that anyone elected as a Councillor, on the back benches or in the Cabinet, receives the proper help and training to allow them to carry out their roles and responsibilities effectively, to question and challenge, and be questioned and challenged themselves where necessary. We will ensure that any democratic structures reflect the best possible way of carrying out Council business in the interests of the Council Tax Payers.

Our Values

We will put the interests of all the people of Wirral above other considerations.

Elected members and staff will behave with honesty and integrity at all times.

We will practice openness and transparency and remain focussed on positive change.

We will welcome suggestions on how the Council can improve and positively encourage members, staff and the public to tell us when we have got something wrong.

We will be a “learning” organisation, where good practice is captured and rolled out across the Council, and where we actively seek ideas from other local authorities and external agencies.

We will make sure our decisions are based on clear evidence.

We will welcome public involvement in the work of the Council and we will carry out effective consultation, where appropriate, with the public and key stakeholders.

We will make sure that Council services fairly and transparently take into account the needs of vulnerable and marginalised groups when changes are made and that the Council is responsive to the diversity of Wirral’s communities.

We aim to be excellent in everything we do.

Health and Wellbeing

In following our route map:

- We will focus on the new Public Health role given to Local Authorities.
- We will seek in everything we do to recognise the way in which Council activities can have a direct impact on the Health and Well Being of Wirral residents.
- We will work in partnership to develop clear priorities and joined up services for improving the health and wellbeing of Wirral residents.
- We will improve the health and wellbeing of children and young people and maintain a clear focus on tackling health inequalities that exist within Wirral. This is a priority area in our child and family poverty strategy to ensure that we increase the impact of our activities in partnership with others.
- We will make sure services are in place to help keep older people fitter for longer and that the value and contribution they can make to society is properly recognised and respected.

Child Poverty

In following our route map:

- We will work with our partners to reduce the numbers of children and young people living in poverty and support them to build the foundations for prosperous, healthy and happy lives.
- We will work actively to initiate and support early detection and prevention programmes for children and adults which seek to tackle potential problems before they develop.
- We will make sure those programmes are based on solid evidence which can be analysed and evaluated in order to ensure the very best return in outcomes for any resources invested.
- Where evidence is not readily available, we will seek to run pilot programmes where outcomes can be properly assessed and used as guidance for future programmes.
- In developing approaches to early detection and prevention, we will build on existing activity such as Wirral's involvement in developing Community Budgets around the needs of families with multiple problems.
- We have placed child poverty as a central theme of this Corporate Plan; we will ensure that Council services are developed in line with the needs of children and families in poverty.

- The Council will also lead co-ordinated action to work with partners and local communities to improve the lives of children and families living in poverty and add value to existing services and activity.
- We will improve information sharing amongst partners about best practice, and ‘what works’ in identifying and addressing issues of poverty.
- We will take co-ordinated action with partners to engage more children and families experiencing issues of poverty

Neighbourhood Plans

In following our route map:

- We will listen to what local residents and communities across the borough, from the poorest to the wealthiest areas, tell us are the priorities to improve their neighbourhoods. We will respond by providing services that meet their needs and aspirations.
- We have recently completed a major consultation exercise with Wirral’s communities to listen to what local people like about their neighbourhoods, and what they would like to see improved. We will use this consultation to help shape our neighbourhoods and the services they receive and we will continue to listen to local people’s views as we do this.
- We will help each area to use the devolved funds available to improve and shape where they live.
- Local people overwhelmingly told us that they have pride in their community and that neighbourhoods in Wirral have strong senses of identity and community spirit. We will work to build on this positive asset to strengthen our neighbourhoods and engage local people to help make a real difference to where they live.

Investment Strategy

In following our route map:

- We will pay particular attention to Wirral’s revitalised Investment Strategy which aims to build a strong, vibrant economy, through increasing the competitiveness of our people, places and businesses.
- We aim to have a borough with high levels of employment and investment, where businesses flourish, and all residents have the skills and opportunities to work. We will place a clear focus on increasing the number of jobs and employment opportunities for Wirral residents alongside our efforts to ensure longer-term prosperity through our Investment Strategy.

- **We will seek to address the high levels of economic inactivity in disadvantaged groups and in the most deprived parts of Wirral through improving access to employment and skills, and tackling barriers to work. We will ensure that our young people are engaged in education, training and employment and are developing the skills they need for the future.**
- **We will make Wirral one of the most business friendly Councils in the country and a leading, vibrant global location for businesses and visitors. The delivery of our Investment Strategy is supported by a clear investment package and brand, including support for Wirral's tourism and visitor economy and a strong focus on international investment marketing.**
- **The Wirral Waters investment opportunity is now being promoted on an international basis. The Wirral Waters site has been designated as an Enterprise Zone, which will assist businesses through tax incentives, superfast broadband, improved infrastructure and simplified planning rules. We will also work hard to maximise the opportunities presented by the proposals to develop an International Trade Centre on the Wirral Waters site.**

Your ECONOMY

- We will seek to raise the income of Wirral people by doing everything possible to build a strong and vibrant economy with high levels of employment and opportunities for Wirral residents to improve their skills and find work. We will focus on making sure our young people can achieve their full potential in education and in the workplace.
- As the global recession has impacted on Wirral's economy, the Council has maintained a focus on supporting businesses and individuals during difficult economic conditions. We will make Wirral Council one of the most business friendly and supportive Councils in the country and develop the role of social enterprises in Wirral's economy.
- If we are to deliver a better future for Wirral and eliminate poverty, we need to improve access to employment and skills and tackle barriers to work for our most disadvantaged communities. We will work with partners and local communities to identify innovative ways of achieving this.
- We will position Wirral as a leading, vibrant global location for businesses and visitors. We will continue to support international trade links and develop our relationships with the private sector, to maximise inward investment and enable Wirral businesses to access new markets, sectors and opportunities. We will support Wirral's tourism and visitor economy and a strong focus on international investment marketing.
- We will work hard to deliver all of the opportunities presented by the Wirral Waters development.
- We will support the creation and growth of small and medium sized businesses.

Your ECONOMY	
Our goals for the next three years are to...	This year, we will focus on...
Improve access to employment and skills and tackle barriers to work	<p>Increasing the number of jobs and employment opportunities for Wirral residents</p> <p>Ensuring that new investment, economic and business growth is linked to tackling worklessness</p> <p>Tackling barriers to work and low skills in parts of Wirral and within disadvantaged groups, working with partners to ensure that pathways for skills and employment provide the best route out of poverty for local people and families</p> <p>Ensuring that our young people have excellent skills and opportunities into employment, including through Wirral's Apprenticeship programme</p>

	<p>Ensuring that young people not in education, employment and training are effectively supported to access the opportunities available</p> <p>Working with our partners to provide sustainable transport opportunities to access centres of employment.</p>
<p>Position Wirral as a leading, vibrant global location for businesses and visitors</p>	<p>Promoting and expanding our portfolio of high quality opportunity employment sites through the facilitation of priority projects</p> <p>Supporting the start up and development of key sectors by facilitating investment into specific key projects such as the infrastructure for renewable energy opportunities.</p> <p>Continuing to improve our relationships with the private sector to increase levels of inward investment and increase jobs</p> <p>Developing and implementing the Wirral Waters Enterprise Zone to support the Wirral Waters proposals</p> <p>Market Wirral as a business and visitor location through supporting Wirral's Tourism Business Network and delivery of successful visitor attractions including the 2012 Women's Golf Open</p>
<p>Make Wirral Council one of the most business friendly and supportive Councils in the country</p>	<p>Maximising available resources by co-ordinating all business support services through Invest Wirral</p> <p>Supporting the development of successful businesses, particularly those in key growth sectors</p> <p>Enabling an increasing role for social enterprises in Wirral's economy</p> <p>Adopting a more targeted approach to promoting Wirral as an investment location on an international stage and supporting Wirral businesses to access new markets and opportunities</p>

YOUR FAMILY: CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

- **Reducing child poverty is a priority for the Council and we are clear about what we will do to achieve this. We will have a strong foundation to achieve this on the basis of the excellent Children's Services we provide and history of strong partnership working in Wirral.**
- **We will continue to work with our partners to protect children and young people from harm and improve the lives of the children and young people already in our care.**
- **We promise to deliver Children's Services that give all children the best possible start in life. As we are clear from our commitment to work actively to initiate and support early detection and prevention programmes, we will provide early intervention and support for vulnerable children and families through projects and activities with a focus on identifying problems early and stopping them developing.**
- **We will ensure that the services provided through our Sure Start and Children's Centres deliver effective support based on the needs of our local residents and communities.**
- **We will pay particular attention to early intervention measures, including the need to make sure youngsters are school ready and that outreach work and the multi agency approach contained in the Roots and Wings programme are used to make contact with hard to reach families.**
- **The attainment of children who are affected by poverty and disadvantage is an area of focus for the Council and its partners. We will therefore focus on ensuring that these children and young people have the additional support they need to improve their attainment and achieve their full potential and that 16-18 year olds not in employment, education or training can access opportunities**
- **Local people have told us that activities for children and young people in their area are an important priority for them. We will ensure that children and young people have access to a range of activities.**
- **We will continue to engage with our children and young people through forums such as the Youth Parliament and the Children in Care Council to ensure that the views of children and young people are central to the design of the services we provide.**
- **Our success in designing services to divert vulnerable young people from crime and anti-social behaviour has received external recognition. We will continue to work in partnership to promote an integrated approach to supporting young people.**

Your FAMILY: CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE	
Our goals for the next three years are to...	This year, we will focus on...
Protect children and young people from harm and improve the lives of the children and young people already in our care	<p>Safeguarding children and young people in need of protection</p> <p>Ensuring that children in care and care leavers have appropriate support which best meets their needs</p> <p>Commencing the delivery of Munro reforms to ensure that systems are centred on the needs of children and young people</p>
Support schools and other settings to improve educational provision and attainment, maintaining a clear focus on outcomes for those children and young people affected by poverty and disadvantage	<p>Implementing and evaluating the new School Improvement Strategy; ensuring we meet our statutory duties and meet the needs of schools, including Academies, through effective traded services</p> <p>Improving educational outcomes for children and young people affected by poverty and disadvantage</p> <p>Improving the educational attainment of children in care</p> <p>Improving provision, choice and outcomes for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and/or disabilities</p> <p>Reviewing the provision of behaviour support and reducing school exclusion</p>
Provide early intervention and support for vulnerable children and families	<p>Commissioning effective support and intervention services, for example Sure Start, improving outcomes for vulnerable children and families through parenting programmes, children and young people with disabilities and tackling harmful behaviour in children, young people and families</p> <p>Implementing the national Children's Centre payment by results research pilot to further improve the quality of targeted provision</p> <p>Ensuring every child is school ready</p> <p>Further developing effective partnership working to deliver joined up services for vulnerable families with complex needs through the delivery of the Community Budget pilot</p>
Ensure children and young people have opportunities to	<p>Providing children and young people with access to a range of appropriate developmental activities which meet their needs and encourage take up by making activities easily accessible</p>

<p>participate in activities which will help them achieve their potential</p>	<p>Providing opportunities for children and young people to be actively engaged in community and democratic decision making processes</p> <p>Ensuring that all young people aged 16-18 particularly those in vulnerable groups are effectively supported to access the education, employment and training opportunities available and, as part of this, implement the strategy for raising the participation age to 18 by 2015</p>
<p>Improve the health and wellbeing of children and young people, maintaining a clear focus on tackling health inequalities</p>	<p>Effectively implementing the Child Health Strategy and so reducing inequalities in the physical and mental health of children and young people</p> <p>Encouraging and supporting all children and families to achieve and maintain a healthy weight and lifestyle</p>

YOUR FAMILY: ADULTS

- We will safeguard vulnerable adults in Wirral and seek to protect them from harm through working in partnership to ensure that our arrangements and policies for protecting are robust.
- The way the Council delivers social care services is changing. Wirral is now amongst the best in the country for the numbers of eligible people using Personal Budgets, which give adults more choice about the support they receive.
- We will build on these improvements to ensure that local people receive excellent standards of support and care and are protected and feel safe.
- We will listen to people who use services, their carers and communities, to enhance the quality of life of the people of Wirral who have care and support needs. We will work with our local communities to ensure that people can access services that meet their needs locally, and have greater choice and flexibility in the packages of support and care available to them.
- In circumstances where people develop care needs, we will work effectively with our partners to provide them with appropriate support to help them recover and regain their independence as quickly as possible.
- We will make sure that the services we commission from other organisations are high quality, cost effective and meet the needs of local people.
- We will place a specific focus on ensuring that when children with disabilities move into adulthood, they receive quality information, advice and support services to make sure this transition is seamless.

Your FAMILY: ADULTS	
Our goals for the next three years are to...	This year, we will focus on...
Enhance the quality of life of the people of Wirral who have care and support needs	<p>Transforming in-house day services through engagement with local communities, residents and carers</p> <p>Providing integrated, high quality services in local settings</p> <p>Ensuring that people can manage their own support as much as they wish so that they are in control of what, how and when support is delivered to match their needs</p> <p>Provide support for people with learning disabilities and mental health needs to access training and employment opportunities</p>

<p>Delay and reduce the need for care and support</p>	<p>Ensuring that when people develop care needs the support they receive enables them to recover and regain their independence</p> <p>Reduce the need for formal care by increasing the use of high quality cost effective preventions services</p> <p>Ensuring that services commissioned from the voluntary, community and faith sector are cost effective and appropriately targeted</p>
<p>Ensure that the people of Wirral who use services have a positive experience of care and support</p>	<p>Ensuring that children with disabilities are effectively supported with the transition into adulthood</p> <p>Providing universally accessible information and support to people and their carers so that they are able to make choices about the care that they need to remain independent</p> <p>Ensuring that people who use social care and their carers are involved in the planning and evaluation of services, and are satisfied with their experience of care and support services</p>
<p>Safeguard people in Wirral whose circumstances make them vulnerable and protect them from avoidable harm</p>	<p>Ensuring that there are robust arrangements and procedures in place and followed in order that vulnerable people are kept safe and protected</p> <p>Ensuring that the provision of support and care in the independent sector is of the highest possible quality</p>

YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

- In line with the results of the Neighbourhood Plans, we will continue to use devolved funding to allow each area to meet the specific needs of their own communities.
- We will continue to tackle anti-social behaviour and work with the police and other partners to reduce crime. Local people told us that feeling safe in their neighbourhood is an important priority.
- We will work with partners to improve the condition of Wirral's housing stock and improve the energy efficiency to reduce levels of fuel poverty.
- Reducing Wirral's carbon footprint is an important priority for us and we work in partnership with local residents, partners and the private sector to address this.
- We have made impressive year on year progress to improve the amount of waste recycled in Wirral. Forty per cent of all household waste is now recycled and we will continue to build on this success, improving our recycling rates and reducing waste being sent to landfill sites.
- Local residents in all parts of Wirral have told us that having streets that are clean and tidy is an important priority to them. We will ensure that we deliver a reliable street cleansing service in all parts of the borough and use feedback from local residents to help us maintain standards. Wherever possible we will trace and prosecute flytippers
- Local people also want us to focus on having safe and well maintained roads. We have seen reductions in accidents on some of Wirral's busiest roads and we will continue to make Wirral's roads safer and target our resources effectively and in line with what local people have told us about their areas.
- Wirral's parks and countryside are very important to local communities and we will secure their future by improving how they are managed. We will also create even more opportunities for people to get involved and benefit from using these well-loved facilities in the areas in which they live and elsewhere in the borough. We will also encourage greater use of our high, quality and value for money leisure and cultural facilities in Wirral.
- We will respond effectively to the impact of welfare reform on the availability of and access to housing, including close partnership working with landlords in the borough.
- We will support those who are experiencing or who are at risk of homelessness and we will continue to work hard to improve access to advice and information about the housing options that local people have.
- The Council recognises that vulnerable people, including some of our children and young people, have additional housing needs and we will review the services we deliver to ensure that support is effective and targeted appropriately.

Your NEIGHBOURHOOD	
Our goals for the next three years are to...	This year, we will focus on...
Reduce anti-social behaviour and ensure that people feel safe in their neighbourhoods	<p>Working in partnership to ensure that preventative measures to reduce anti-social behaviour are in place and that there is a quick response when incidents occur</p> <p>Engaging with the community to ensure that Community Safety interventions are effective</p>
Reduce Wirral's carbon footprint	<p>Delivering the Council's carbon budget</p> <p>Working with local residents, partners and the private sector to improve energy efficiency</p>
Minimise waste by encouraging waste reduction and recycling	<p>Educating and raising awareness to reduce the amount of household waste being sent to landfill and improving recycling rates</p>
Have high standards of environmental quality in all of Wirral's neighbourhoods	<p>Delivering a reliable street cleansing service to keep Wirral's streets clean and tidy</p>
Have a safe and well-maintained highway network for all users	<p>Maintaining and improving Wirral's roads through a programme of highway maintenance and road safety improvements</p>
Provide and maintain high quality parks and countryside in partnership with local communities	<p>Delivering an improved in-house parks and countryside service that is value for money</p> <p>Working with local communities to maximise the use and benefits of Wirral's neighbourhood parks and open spaces</p>
Provide high quality, value for money leisure and cultural facilities for Wirral residents	<p>Promoting the leisure opportunities available within Wirral to impact positively on health and well being</p>

<p>Prevent and alleviate homelessness</p>	<p>Providing a range of interventions to assist people who are at risk of homelessness</p> <p>Ensuring a co-ordinated partnership approach in response to welfare reform, including providing benefits advice</p> <p>Improving access to privately rented accommodation</p>
<p>Support for people, including those who are vulnerable, to access suitable housing options</p>	<p>Reviewing housing services for vulnerable people in order to deliver efficiencies and improved outcomes</p> <p>Developing a plan to address the housing needs of vulnerable children and young people, incorporating the review of housing services for at risk young people and young people in care</p>
<p>Provide high quality and affordable homes and make the best use of the existing housing stock</p>	<p>Responding to housing market failure and restructuring housing market with partner organisations</p> <p>Exploring alternative funding and delivery mechanisms to provide high quality new and affordable homes</p> <p>Improving housing standards in the existing stock to make a positive impact on people's health and wellbeing</p> <p>Bringing empty properties back into use</p> <p>Developing partnership working with landlords to respond to the impact of welfare reform</p>

YOUR COUNCIL

- We will complete the actions under the Corporate Governance Review, (outlined above under Travelling Safely.)
- We will subject the Council to an external peer review in the summer of 2012 in order to assess how effective those actions have been.
- We will make sure that we know what outcomes are being delivered for the level of investment in resources used, both within the Council and in the commissioning of external services.
- We will make sure that we collect and evaluate the appropriate information in order to allow sound judgements to be made on whether or not we are delivering Value for Money in house, and whether or not any planned external contracts would provide better Value for Money or not.
- In taking key decisions, or planning new initiatives, we will move away from the use of anecdotal based evidence to the use of well researched factual evidence which can be clearly used to demonstrate the benefits of a planned course of action.
- We will make sure that the democratic structures in place reflect the most effective way of delivering sound services.
- We will be a skilled, committed and flexible workforce that is willing to go the extra mile for our local residents.
- We will take into account the needs of all Wirral residents and communities and meet our statutory duties in relation to equalities.

Your COUNCIL	
Our goals for the next three years are to...	This year, we will focus on...
<p>Ensure Wirral Council's Corporate Governance arrangements are robust, transparent and effective</p>	<p>Ensuring members and officers continue to work together to build on the foundations put in place by the Corporate Governance Review</p> <p>Ensuring that the Council's policies and practices are fit for purpose, consistently applied and transparently used by everyone</p> <p>Implementing outcomes of peer review taking place in Summer 2012</p>

<p>Improve the efficiency and value for money of Council services</p>	<p>Improving the delivery of services within available resources</p> <p>Ensuring the information provided for all service delivery decisions includes value for money considerations</p>
<p>Ensure we have a well led, skilled, committed and flexible workforce working to deliver excellent services to Wirral's communities</p>	<p>Ensuring Council staff are engaged and supported through cultural change</p> <p>Ensuring Council staff have the skills, training and capacity to deliver the Council's priorities and policies</p> <p>Ensuring the effective integration of the public health workforce and function into the Council</p> <p>Embedding our approach to equalities to ensure the Council fully meets its statutory duties relating to employees</p>
<p>Ensure that Council services fairly and transparently takes into account the needs of vulnerable and marginalised groups when changes are made and that the Council is responsive to the diversity of Wirral's communities</p>	<p>Developing, consulting on and implementing the Council's Equality Scheme</p> <p>Ensuring that the Council publishes and uses information relating to customers who share protected characteristics to shape services.</p>

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Equality Impact Toolkit (new version July 2011)

Section 1: Your details

Head of Service: Jim Wilkie

Department: Policy Unit

Date: November 2011

Section 2: What Council function / proposal is being assessed?

The Council's Corporate Plan 2012-13

Section 3: Is the Council function / proposal relevant to equality? (please tick relevant boxes)

- In services**
- In the workforce**
- In communities**
- Other** (please state)
- None** (please stop here and email this form to your Head of Service who needs to email it to equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk for publishing)

Section 4: Within the Equality Duty 2010, there are 3 legal requirements. Which of the following are relevant to the Council function / proposal? (please tick relevant boxes)

- To eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation
- To advance equality of opportunity
- To foster good relations between groups of people

Section 5: Will the function / proposal have a favourable or negative impact on any of the protected groups (race, gender, disability, gender reassignment, age, pregnancy and maternity, religion and belief, sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnership)?

Please list in the table below and include actions required to mitigate any negative impact.

Protected characteristic	Favourable or negative impact	Action required to mitigate any negative impact	Lead person	Timescale	Resource implications
All	Potential	Equality Impact Assessments identified / undertaken in relation to the specific actions identified in the Corporate Plan	Chief Officers / Heads of Service as appropriate and in conjunction with the Corporate Equality Group	By January 2012, in line with production of departmental plans	To be determined

Where and how will the above actions be monitored?

The Corporate Equality Group will monitor the programme of Equality Impact Assessments linked to the Corporate Plan. An initial exercise will be undertaken to identify the actions in the Corporate Plan which require EIA; some will be covered by existing assessments.

If you think there is no negative impact, what is your reasoning behind this?

-

Section 6: What research / data / information have you used in support of this process?

The Corporate Plan has been informed by a number of key drivers, including consultation with local people and evidence-based priorities for addressing child poverty. Both of these activities have been undertaken with a clear understanding of inequalities issues and the need to target and engage with protected groups.

Section 7: Are you intending to carry out any consultation with regard to this Council function / policy?

No – (please delete as appropriate)

If 'yes' please continue to section 8.

If 'no' please state your reason(s) why:

The Corporate Plan has been directly informed by consultation with local people and organisations.

(please stop here and email this form to your Head of Service who needs to email it to equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk for publishing)

Section 8: How will consultation take place?

Once you have completed your consultation, please review your actions in section 5. Then email this form to your Head of Service who needs to email it to equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk for publishing)

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WIRRAL COUNCIL

ECONOMY AND REGENERATION OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

COMMITTEE (16TH JANUARY 2012)

SUBJECT:	OUTCOME OF WIRRAL'S HOUSING MARKET RENEWAL TRANSITIONAL FUNDING BID INCLUDING PROPOSED EXIT PLAN AND SUGGESTED AMENDED HOUSING INVESTMENT PROGRAMME FOR 2011/12
WARD/S AFFECTED:	ALL WARDS
REPORT OF:	ACTING DIRECTOR OF REGENERATION, HOUSING AND PLANNING
RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	COUNCILLOR GEORGE DAVIES
KEY DECISION?	NO

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update to members on the outcome of the Housing Market Renewal Initiative Transitional Funding bid and to outline amendments to the Council's Housing Investment Programme for 2011/12 to incorporate the Housing Market Renewal Transitional Funding. The report recommends that this change be referred to Cabinet.
- 1.2 The report also advises members on proposals to prepare the exit plan for Wirral's Housing Market Renewal Programme.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION/S

- 2.1 That the contents of this report be noted.
- 2.2 That the proposed changes to the Housing Investment Programme for 2011/12 be reported to Cabinet.

3.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 3.1 A commitment was previously given in November 2011 to report the outcome of the HMRI Transitional Funding bid.
- 3.2 A report on the final situation with the HMRI was added to the work programme for the Economy and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 3.3 The Council approved its Housing Investment Programme for 2011/12 on 13th October 2011. Amendments are now required to incorporate the additional resources secured through the HMR Transitional funding.

4.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

- 4.1 Since 2003 Wirral Council has benefited from substantial financial resources provided through the national Housing Market Renewal Initiative, along with our local authority partners, Sefton and Liverpool, under the umbrella of the 'Newheartlands' Pathfinder. These resources have allowed the Council and its private sector partners to intervene in failing private sector housing markets in the neighbourhoods of Rock Ferry, Tranmere, Birkenhead and Wallasey. The interventions began to tackle a range of low demand issues including, amongst others, derelict and abandoned housing, low property values, anti-social behaviour and poor property conditions. In recognition of the scale and deep rooted nature of the range of problems, it was originally envisaged that the HMRI would be a 15 year programme with funding being released on a competitive basis in 3 year tranches. Alignment with other associated public funding streams and resources from the private sector provided match funding to substantially boost the impact of the various interventions.
- 4.2 Building on previous and ongoing successful housing regeneration investment schemes, the initial HMRI interventions were targeted in Rock Ferry and Tranmere with more limited interventions dealing with 'hot spots' in Birkenhead and Wallasey. Over time, as the initiative progressed, greater resources were focused on Birkenhead, with the intention to move into the Wallasey area towards the later half of the HMRI.
- 4.3 Following the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review in 2010, the HMRI was terminated from the end of March 2011, along with another main source of housing regeneration funding distributed through the Regional Housing Pot. This decision was unexpected and led to a number of challenges. The main challenge involved property acquisition commitments exceeding the resources available, largely in North Birkenhead. Property owners and residents had reasonable expectations of moving house after agreeing a sale price but there was insufficient funding available to meet all of these expectations. Towards the end of the 2010/11 the Council was successful in both securing and utilising £2.1m of additional capital resources from the Homes and Community Agency to assist with these acquisitions. The additional funding enabled completion of both a number of urgent acquisitions and capital resources (Regional Housing Pot / Growth Point) to be carried over from 2010/11 to fund committed clearance schemes in 2011/12.
- 4.4 After the announcement of the demise of HMRI, pathfinder authorities were encouraged to seek alternative funding through the new national Regional Growth Fund. Wirral submitted 2 'Round 1' bids in conjunction with local authority and preferred developer partners and a further 'Round 2' bid however these bids were unsuccessful as the funding was substantially oversubscribed.
- 4.5 In addition to the Regional Growth Fund, the Government has also made available £5m in transitional revenue funding to the HMRI Pathfinders over the next 2 years to provide local capacity to exit former HMRI areas. A bid was submitted with the aim of providing a specialist resource to be able to review and rework intervention programmes within the Merseyside Market Renewal area. The Merseyside bid was successful and it has been awarded £330,000 over 11/12 and 12/13. Wirral will receive £44,000 in 2011/12 and £48,000 in 2012/13. Centrally, this will provide funding to sustain a small team of experienced staff formerly part of Newheartlands. The team will conduct a review of the programme, engineer projects in the short to medium term using the new policy framework and assist with financial feasibility work as new models are explored.
- 4.6 More recently the Government has also made available £30m transitional capital funding to the 5 worst affected HMR areas to achieve a structured exit to the HMRI

programme and to specifically help people trapped in stalled clearance schemes. Merseyside is one of these 5 areas and a joint bid for resources was submitted in July this year. Wirral's share of the original bid was £3.9m. This was subsequently amended downwards to £2.9m following a request from the HCA for all bidding authorities to exclude the cost of acquiring occupied RSL housing units. The capital funding is conditional upon Wirral providing at least 100% match funding. This will be a combination of RHP and Growth Point under-spend from 2011/12, existing and projected capital receipts from property sales and New Homes Bonus (previously agreed by Cabinet on 21st July 2011).

5.0 THE HOUSING MARKET RENEWAL TRANSITIONAL CAPITAL FUNDING

5.1 I am pleased to be able to report that it was announced in November 2011 that the HMRI Transitional bid has been successful and that Wirral will receive £2.7m additional capital funding. Although slightly less than anticipated, this funding, when combined with match funding will enable the completion of most of the existing clearance commitments throughout the former HMRI area. It may be possible to make up the shortfall with New Homes Bonus to complete the programme. This will be subject to a separate report in due course.

5.2 The table in Appendix 1 provides the detail of Wirral's revised HMR Transitional Funding bid and shows how the resources will be used. It should be noted that since the bid was submitted in July, work has been continuing on committed acquisitions, using some of the match funding resources. As such, a proportion of the units identified in Appendix 1 have already been acquired. It should also be noted that there is no compulsion to utilise all of the Transitional Funding in the current financial year. This will allow both negotiations with property owners to continue and support any future CPO action, should this be necessary to acquire the remaining interests.

5.3 In summary, the HMR Transitional Funding along with match funding will enable:

- Birkenhead Area 1 – completion of the remaining acquisitions and demolitions in Milner Street and Carrington Street area, with or without the use of Compulsory Purchase Order(s). This site is one of the committed sites that will subsequently be made available to our partner developer, Keepmoat Homes.
- Birkenhead Area 2 – subject to Cabinet Approval for the Neighbourhood Options Appraisal for Area 2 on 2nd February 2012, completion of the remaining acquisitions and demolition of properties in Thorneycroft Street and Plumer Street area, with or without the use of Compulsory Purchase Order(s) and demolitions be also be completed
- Bray Street – completion of the last property acquisition and demolition, with or without the use of a CPO. The majority of this site has been released to our partner developer Keepmoat Homes and building work has started on at least 58 new homes.
- Belmont – completion of the remaining housing acquisitions in Belmont. Subject to Cabinet approval, this is likely to result in demolition of all derelict housing in Belmont at some point in the future.
- Church Road, Tranmere – completion of the remaining acquisitions in the Church Road area, with or without the use of Compulsory Purchase Orders. This scheme involves a number of sites that will be transferred to our partner developer Lovell for both housing and retail redevelopment. Lovell is already on site and have started the retail redevelopment.
- Borough Road, Tranmere – completion of the remaining acquisitions and, subject to cabinet approval, demolitions in the Borough Road area. This site will be

landscaped in the short term and, in the medium to longer term, will be considered for redevelopment

6.0 HMRI EXIT PLAN

- 6.1 As part of the transitional Funding bid, a commitment has been given to develop a comprehensive exit strategy with local communities and politicians within the next 12 months. Work on developing this plan will now start in earnest.
- 6.2 At the onset of the HMRI, community involvement in developing and delivering the program was actively encouraged and, over time, good working relationships have been built with various community groups, as well as with individual residents and property owners. Wirral residents also participate in the Newheartland's Residents' Panel which has continued to meet after the demise of the program and the Newheartland's governance structure. It is intended to continue with this ongoing engagement to develop and agree a robust exit plan to secure the longer term sustainability of the investment previously made in local neighbourhoods.

7.0 AMENDMENTS TO THE HOUSING INVESTMENT PROGRAMME 2011/12

- 7.1 The Housing Investment Programme 2011-12 builds upon priorities and initiatives in previous reports and consists of the following initiatives:

- Birkenhead Clearance
- Rock Ferry (Sevenoaks/Fiveways) Clearance
- Tranmere (Church Road) Clearance
- Tranmere (Borough Road/Belmont) Clearance
- Wallasey (Trafalgar Road) Clearance
- Facelift Improvements
- Private Sector Home Improvements
- Private Rented Sector Home Improvements
- Healthy Housing Initiative
- Empty Properties
- New Build

- 7.2 The addition of HMR Transitional Funding has now been incorporated into this programme and will be spent in Birkenhead and Tranmere as per the condition that resources can only be used to acquire occupied housing units located in clearance schemes. As previously mentioned in 5.2 the resources can be spread over a number of financial years, thus facilitating ongoing negotiations and possible future CPO action.

- 7.3 The table in Appendix 2 details the revised Housing Investment Programme for 2011/12 and incorporates all of the HMRI Transitional Funding. In summary, the additional resources will enable the completion of the ongoing clearance schemes in Birkenhead and Tranmere, although it is likely that a proportion of the budget will be spent in 2012/13 and 2013/14. Future proposals for expenditure beyond 2011/12 will be reported to Cabinet.

8.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 8.1 As with all outstanding acquisitions there is a risk that owners may not agree to sell to the Council. In this case the use of Compulsory Purchase Orders (CPO) may be necessary. There is a risk that the Council could lose a future Local Public Inquiry

following an objection(s) to a CPO. Members should note that the land assembly already achieved during the HMRI programme has been by negotiation only, without the need to resort to CPO, however, consideration is now being given to the use of CPO powers to secure the outstanding acquisitions in Tranmere and Birkenhead, and for this activity to commence where necessary within the next 12 months.

- 8.2 Failure to agree a comprehensive Exit Plan with residents could have a negative impact on the sustainability of previous investment.

9.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

The HMRI Programme was developed following an extensive community engagement programme and master planning exercises to establish priorities for the housing intervention areas. The proposed revised Housing Investment Programme reflects the need for the Council to finish the outstanding schemes originally started as part of the former HMRI and facilitate new housing provision boosting local housing markets on the eastern side of the borough.

10.0 CONSULTATION

- 10.1 The results of the “Wirral’s Future, be part of it” consultation campaign are reflected in the Housing Capital Programme, which also supports the revised Corporate Objectives. Extensive consultation takes place during the delivery of the Housing Capital Programme in the form of options appraisals, ongoing dialogue with partners, customer feedback surveys etc and the annual review of the Private Sector Housing and Regeneration Assistance Policy. This feedback informs the delivery itself, which is dynamic as opposed to static over the life of the programme.
- 10.2 The ability to complete the stalled demolition schemes and progress the cleared site redevelopments will meet the aspirations of local residents following consultation undertaken as part of various masterplanning events and Neighbourhood Options Appraisals as well as ongoing consultation with private sector developers.

11.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

- 11.1 The HMRI Transitional Funding secured will enable the completion of the outstanding and stalled demolition schemes and the subsequent site redevelopments, where applicable. This will meet community expectations raised at the beginning of the HMRI.
- 11.2 The HMR Programme, working in partnership with Together Neighbourhood Management Pathfinder, Riverside Housing Association, local voluntary organisations and community members, facilitated the establishment of a Neighbourhood Resource Centre (NRC) within a vacant Council owned commercial property in Church Road. This has enabled a variety of services, including housing advice and information on programme activities, to be provided to residents within the local community. Public sector agencies, such as the PCT and Merseyside Police, and voluntary / community organisations have undertaken activities from the NRC, including training and employment courses which have been undertaken in conjunction with Involve Northwest. An example of the type of activities available for local residents is the opportunity to gain registration through the Construction Skills Certification Scheme to assist individuals in finding employment in the construction sector and this has proved very popular along with the healthy eating Bag-A-Bargain scheme which is now operating from the centre. The NRC was recently nominated for a ‘Spirit of Merseyside’ award aimed at recognising and celebrating the achievements and work of voluntary sector organisations and received the Community Cohesion Award in recognition of the

work undertaken in helping to bond the local community and create a sense of belonging amongst residents. Whilst the premises used for the NRC was acquired for clearance purposes it is intended to continue using the building for the NRC until it becomes necessary to demolish to facilitate the redevelopment of the site by Lovell.

12.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL; IT; STAFFING; AND ASSETS

- 12.1 The remaining Private Sector Housing Renewal Team, with support from other Council departments will be responsible for the residual clearance programme and other core private sector housing functions such as empty properties, financial assistance and statutory enforcement of minimum standards. In addition, this team will oversee the residential redevelopment of sites assembled through the HMRI programme. The remaining team has been substantially reduced in number but has been able to retain the core skills to be able to continue to deliver the programme and is currently being funded by a combination of the Council's own resources, the Community Fund and NHS Wirral. Funding is currently in place to maintain the team until the end of March 2012.
- 12.2 The remaining Private Sector Housing Renewal team will be focussing on the delivery of the targets agreed in connection to the Community Fund, the Council's Corporate Plan, the HCA and the HMRI Transition Funding.
- 12.3 The financial resources identified in this report will enable the delivery of the Housing Investment Programme for 2011/12, as detailed in Appendix 1.
- 12.4 It is not possible, at this stage, to quantify exactly the total capital receipts that might be achieved from the disposal of surplus HMRI assets, including land, but current market conditions may mean that certain assets would be better sold by private treaty, which could offer an opportunity to maximise receipts. Receipts could subsequently be used to offset liability costs and support the HMRI exit strategy.
- 12.5 Planned demolitions will reduce the potential income generated under the New Homes Bonus for the following year but any new development and the reuse of empty properties will offset this loss by providing an additional income in future years

13.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 13.1 There will be legal implications if clearance schemes result in the use of Compulsory Purchase Orders to secure sites for redevelopment

14.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 14.1 The revised Housing Investment Programme will have a positive impact on some of the most socially and economically deprived areas of the Wirral. The programme will improve the quality of housing, bring back into use vacant dwellings and the redevelopment of cleared sites with new build will help promote greater choice, increase quality and choice of housing for all local people.
- 14.2 An Equality Impact Assessment has previously been completed in 2009 for the combined delivery of the clearance, refurbishment and new build schemes in line with Housing Market Renewal Programme and the Private Sector Housing and Regeneration Assistance Policy. This Assessment has been reviewed in light of the revised programme for 2011/12.

15.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

- 15.1 The completion of the residual clearance programme will provide sites for housing redevelopment to at least level 3 of the Code for Sustainable Homes providing sustainable, lower carbon homes into the future.
- 15.2 The works completed in connection with the Neighbourhood Facelift Scheme incorporate energy efficiency measures and micro generation through solar thermal panel installations. These works reduce the carbon footprint of 100 year old houses into the future.

16.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 16.1 The HMRI programme has directly supported the Council's strategy for urban regeneration and the re-use of brownfield land and has supported the implementation of the Council's Interim Planning Policy for New Housing Development. The revised Housing Investment Programme for 2011/12 will continue to support these objectives. Relevant Planning Permission will be required for any housing redevelopment. Renewed planning permissions for the remainder of phase 1 (W/APP/10/01205, 148 dwellings approved 26th January 2011) and phase 2 of Rock Ferry (W/APP/10/01206, 78 houses and 57 apartments approved 26th January 2011) have been granted to enable the development to be completed. Planning permission for the mixed use scheme of 100 dwellings, 55 apartments and 9 A1 retail units at Church Road in Tranmere was granted 1st April 2011(W/APP/11/00038). Planning Permission for the redevelopment of the Bray Street site with 58 housing units was approved in October 2011.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – HMRI Transitional Funding Expenditure Table

Appendix 2 – Amended Housing Investment Programme 2011/12

REFERENCE MATERIAL

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
New Homes Bonus Allocation 2011-2012	21st July 2011
Wirral's Housing Market Renewal Programme End of Year Report 2010-11 and Housing Investment Programme 2011/12	13th October 2011

APPENDIX 1 - HMRI TRANSITION FUNDING BID EXPENDITURE TABLE

Category	Street / block name	Site size (ha)	Adjacent areas benefiting (description and hectares)	Total no of homes (inc demolished)	No. of vacant homes	% vacant homes	(Possibly temporary) Sustainable End State	Wider benefits (inc cost savings)	Costs to acquire homes £000	Assumptions	Resident Relocation Costs £000	Assumptions	Sustainable End State Costs £000	Assumptions	Total cost £000	Funding sought £000	Local Matched Funding £000	Match Funding Source	Match Funding Status	No of commercial interests	No of households
1	Miner/Carrington St, Birkenhead	1.674	Both pairs of streets adjoin the Laird Street retail corridor with direct connectivity to Birkenhead town centre and the motorway network, which provides links to other areas of economic growth such as Chester and Liverpool. These adjacent areas will benefit from having a residential population that may either use local facilities or be employed by them. On the opposite side of Laird Street a recent multi-million pound Group Repair scheme invested in the existing pre-1919 housing stock providing a long term future for these particular properties (4.5ha). To the west of the site is an estate of former 1970's Council houses, now owned by Wirral Partnership Homes. These properties have also undergone major private investment to bring them up to the Decent Homes Standard, and redevelopment of the site will further strengthen the local housing market and help secure the future of this particular estate. The site is also close to the Birkenhead dock system and the major redevelopment scheme Wirral Waters which will provide a wealth of new employment opportunities over time.	138	133	96%	Site transferred to Keepmoat as part of development agreement.	Redevelopment of these sites independently or together will remove blight and complement previous public sector investment schemes and the proposed private development of Wirral Waters. New housing provision and increased housing choice will strengthen the local housing market and reinforce comprehensive regeneration of the area. Scheme completion would eliminate ongoing liability costs associated with security, environmental management, council tax and utilities saving the Council an estimated £200k p.a. These sites form part of a development agreement with Keepmoat Homes to build 310 new homes in Birkenhead, which will lever in £10m private sector funds.	730	10 units @ average cost £73k each (5 occupied, 5 empty)	199	4 home loss payments @ £7,300 each, 4 disturbance allowances @ £850 each, 3 relocation loans @ £45k each, 1 Business re-employment @ £25k.	255	5 loss payments @ £5,475 each, 70 demolitions @ £3k each (inc. security & service disconnection)	1164	564	620	RHP / Growth Point	Confirmed	1	4
3	Thornycroft / Plumer St, Birkenhead	1.262	Site immediately adjacent to Birkenhead Park which has undergone substantial investment during the last decade, providing a major recreational facility within easy reach of any future residents. Site also adjoins Laird Street which is a major transport route connecting Birkenhead and Wirral to Chester and Liverpool via the M53 Motorway. The site perimeter includes existing pre-1919 housing stock and a small estate of 1970s bungalows owned by Wirral Partnership Homes. These existing properties will directly benefit from the future redevelopment of the site due to a stronger and more desirable local housing market both retaining and attracting residents to the area. The site is also close to the Birkenhead dock system and the major redevelopment scheme Wirral Waters which will provide a wealth of new employment opportunities over time. New housing provision around and close to the Wirral Waters Scheme will reinforce the comprehensive regeneration of the area as a whole.	94	58	62%	Site transferred to Keepmoat as part of development agreement.	New housing provision and increased housing choice will strengthen the local housing market and reinforce comprehensive regeneration of the area. Scheme completion would eliminate ongoing liability costs associated with security, environmental management, council tax and utilities saving the Council an estimated £200k p.a. This site forms part of a development agreement with Keepmoat Homes to build 310 new homes in Birkenhead, which will lever in £10m private sector funds.	1938	25 units @ £77.5k each (30 units - 11 RSL owned)	657	Home Loss £7,300, Disturbance £850, Potential relocation loan £45k.	317	6 loss payments @ £5,812.50 each, 8 demolitions @ £3k each (inc security & service disconnection) @ £3k each.	3112	1167	1945	RHP / Growth Point / Capital Receipts	Confirmed	0	30
1	Brey St, Birkenhead	1.58	Site forms part of the North West gateway to the Otton Conservation Area and is located in both a prominent and elevated position, making it visible from the main transport access route that is Boreas Road. The site is also close to the central shopping area of Birkenhead and Birkenhead Library. The built environment surrounding the site in question has undergone private investment in recent years and has seen some regeneration, however the blight that is Belmont risks decaying the area in the longer term. Redevelopment of the Belmont site will complete the regeneration of the local area.	48	47	98%	Site transferred to a developer with no expectation of additional / future gap funding.	Removal of blight from a prominent road junction on periphery of a conservation area (Otton). Complementary to adjacent private sector investment including church restoration, a new built environment and commercial refurb of an existing terrace. Reduction in local authority costs associated with public safety and environmental issues (approx. £20k p.a). This site will be developed in partnership with one of the Council's preferred developers and will lever in over £5m of private sector funding.	75	1 occupied unit @ estimated £75k.	53	Home Loss £7,300, Disturbance £850, Potential relocation loan £45k.	9	3 demolitions @ £3k each (inc security & service disconnection)	137	128	9	Capital Receipts	Confirmed	0	1
1	Belmont, Birkenhead	1.054	Site is located on a major transport route linking various neighbourhoods to Birkenhead and Liverpool (Via the Kingsway Tunnel) and forms part of a larger traditional linear retail/commercial provision. The realisation of direct retail and commercial units and the provision of a new smaller retail centre will substantially improve both the look and feel of the northern end of the Church Road corridor, boosting confidence in the neighbourhood resulting in an improved local housing market. There has already been a major private sector residential redevelopment immediately adjacent to the northern perimeter of the site indicating confidence in the area and its plans. Previous additional housing investment in the immediate area at Hot Hill, Farnax Road and Lighton Road has strengthened the housing offer in the area (1.25ha). Finishing the redevelopment of Church Road will be the final piece in the jigsaw that secures the future of the higher Tranmere.	20	19	95%	Site transferred to a developer with no expectation of additional / future gap funding.	Reduction in local authority costs associated with public safety and environmental issues (approx. £3k p.a). This site is part of a development agreement with Lovell to build 510 homes and eighth shops in Tranmere and Rock Ferry, which will lever in £10m private sector funds.	375	1 occupied unit @ £375k, 5 units @ average cost of £75k.	54	Home Loss £8,500, Disturbance £850, Potential relocation loan £45k.	79	5 loss payments @ £4,350 each, 19 demolitions @ £3k each (inc. security & service disconnection)	508	139	369	Capital Receipts / New Homes Bonus	Confirmed	7	1
1	Church Rd, Tranmere	2.372	Site is located on a gateway access road serving both Birkenhead and Liverpool (Via the Kingsway Mersey Tunnel) which has been a hot spot for new development in recent years. Removing what is currently a blight on the local area will improve the visual amenity both for local residents and people using Borough Road and those living in Shaw Street (0.22ha) immediately adjacent to the Borough Road site.	106	101	95%	Site transferred to Lovell as part of development agreement.	Reduction in local authority costs associated with public safety and environmental issues (approx. £20k p.a). This site is part of a development agreement with Lovell to build 510 homes and eighth shops in Tranmere and Rock Ferry, which will lever in £10m private sector funds.	1040	9 units @ average cost £115k (5 occupied, 3 vacant)	433	4 business relocation loans @ £45k each, 4 com. disturbance allowances @ £50k each, 1 res. disturbance allowance @ £850, 4 loss payments @ £3750 each & 1 home loss payment @ £115k.	92	3 loss payments @ £3,750 each, 21 demolitions (inc. security & service disconnection) @ £3k each.	1565	823	742	Capital Receipts / New Homes Bonus	Confirmed / Unconfirmed	4	1
3	Borough Rd, Tranmere	0.16	Site is located on a gateway access road serving both Birkenhead and Liverpool (Via the Kingsway Mersey Tunnel) which has been a hot spot for new development in recent years. Removing what is currently a blight on the local area will improve the visual amenity both for local residents and people using Borough Road and those living in Shaw Street (0.22ha) immediately adjacent to the Borough Road site.	13	9	69%	Site clearance and landscaping pending future redevelopment.	Removal of blight from a prominent through road to Birkenhead/Liverpool and Otton, which will have direct effect on Shaw St terrace. Reduction in local authority costs associated with public safety and environmental issues (approx. £20k p.a).	160	4 units @ average cost £40k each	101	£45k Business Relocation Loan, £30k com. disturbance allowance, 4 loss payments @ £3k each, 3 home loss payments @ £4k each & 3 res. disturbance allowances @ £650 each.	40	13 demolitions @ £3k each (inc security & service disconnection) + £1k landscaping costs	301	141	160	New Homes Bonus	Unconfirmed	1	3
Total Wirral				8.3	>6.97	419	367		4318		1687		792		6807	2962	3845			13	40

APPENDIX 2: REVISED HOUSING INVESTMENT PROGRAMME 2011/2012

	RHP Carry Over	Capital Programme	Growth Point	Community Fund	Wirral NHS	Capital Receipts & Recycled Contributions*	Revenue & Reserves	HMRI Transition Funding*	New Homes Bonus	Total
Clearance										6,510,570
Birkenhead	504,572	83,272	648,529			294,155		2,430,000		3,960,528
Rock Ferry									90,000	90,000
Tranmere	160,919	376,728				762,395		270,000		1,570,042
Wallasey	890,000									890,000
Improvements to retained stock										1,980,512
Private Sector Facelift Scheme						1,018,212				1,018,212
Equity Renewal Loans	10,327	90,000								100,327
Home Repair Assistance	13,464	300,000				8,499				321,963
Cosy Homes Heating		250,000								250,000
Empty Property Work	30,010	125,000							30,000	185,010
Healthy Homes (Fire Safety Loans)		105,000								105,000
Staffing & Resources										924,000
				600,000	21,000		303,000			924,000
TOTAL FUND	1,609,292	1,330,000	648,529	600,000	21,000	2,083,261	303,000	2,700,000	120,000	9,415,082

* Not all to be spent in 2011/12

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UPDATE ON WORK PROGRAMME : ECONOMY & REGENERATION OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 16/01/12

Reports to assist in monitoring the Committee's work programme

It was agreed by the Scrutiny Chairs Group in September 2008 to use the following reports to monitor the work programme for each Scrutiny Committee. The last item on each Scrutiny Committee agenda should be 'Review of the Committee Work Programme'.

Report 1 - Monitoring Report for Scrutiny Committee Work Programme

This report will list all items that have been selected by the Committee for inclusion on the work programme for the current year.

It will also include items, such as previous Panel Reviews, where recommendations have been made to Cabinet. It is important that the implementation of these recommendations is monitored. Otherwise there is no measure of the success of scrutiny.

For each item on the work programme, the report will give a description, an indication of how the item will be dealt with, a relative timescale for the work and brief comments on progress.

Report 2 - Suggestions for Additions to Work Programme

The Work Programme for the Committee should be reviewed at each meeting. This will enable members to ask for new Items to be added to the programme. This report will list any newly suggested items. Committee will then have the opportunity to agree (or not) for them to be added to the programme.

Report 3 - Proposed Outline Meeting Schedule for the Municipal Year

The report will, for each scheduled Committee meeting, list those items which are likely to be on the meeting agenda. This will give the opportunity for Committee members to take a greater lead in organising their work programme.

Report 4 - Progress Report on In-Depth Panel Reviews

This report will give a very brief update on progress / timescales for in-depth panel reviews which are in the 'ownership' of the Committee.

REPORT 1
MONITORING REPORT FOR SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME
ECONOMY & REGENERATION : 2011 / 2012

Date of New item	Topic Description	How the topic will be dealt with	Estimated Complete Date	Comments on Progress	Complete?
06/06/11	The implementation of affordable housing policies	Report to Committee on 05/09/11		During the discussion on the 'End of Year Performance Report' on 06/06/11, members requested a report to the next meeting on this item. Report on Affordable Housing presented to Committee on 05/09/11. Further report requested to include 'Mortgage help for first-time buyers'.	
06/06/11	Wirral Apprenticeship scheme	Report to Committee		During the discussion on the 'Apprenticeship Programme' item at the meeting on 06/06/11, members requested a further update specifically on level 3 up-take and on the preparedness of the education sector for the challenge of the new requirement for functional skills. Further report on 'The Wirral Apprentice' provided to Committee on 05/09/11.	Complete
06/06/11	Green Growth – Motion agreed at Council in April requesting this Scrutiny Committee to “investigate and draw up a report for Cabinet on the best ways to create and support a ‘cluster’ of companies to lead the way in driving a Green economy on Wirral and across the country”.	In-depth Scrutiny Review by Working Group of Members	December 2011	This item was proposed by members for inclusion on the work programme at the committee meeting on 06/06/11. Scope document for the Review agreed by Committee on 05/09/11. It is expected that the final report for the review will be presented to Committee in March 2012.	

Date of New item	Topic Description	How the topic will be dealt with	Estimated Complete Date	Comments on Progress	Complete?
06/06/11	Business Start Programme The Programme has performed well but: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are we supporting businesses for the future? • What size of business is supported? • How long have supported businesses remained in business? Were businesses satisfied with the support?	Report to Committee		This item was proposed by members for inclusion on the work programme at the committee meeting on 06/06/11. Report presented to Committee on 07/11/11. Agreed that a further report on the future options for a business start-up programme be brought to a future meeting.	
06/06/11	European Social Fund and the Work Programme to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress report on the contract with the Reach-Out consortia What are the comparisons with arrangements / results at other Local Authorities?	Report to Committee in November		This item was proposed by members for inclusion on the work programme at the committee meeting on 06/06/11. Report presented to Committee on 07/11/11.	Complete
06/06/11	Inward Investment	Report to Committee		This item was proposed by members for inclusion on the work programme at the committee meeting on 06/06/11. Report presented to Committee on 05/09/11. Agreed that a further report will be provided once the Inward Investment Manager is in post.	
06/06/11	Housing Market Renewal Initiative (HMRI) What are the options now that HMRI has ended?	Report to Committee		This item was proposed by members for inclusion on the work programme at the committee meeting on 06/06/11. Report due to be presented to Committee on 16/01/12.	
06/06/11	Visit to regeneration and housing sites, for example, housing schemes, Wirral International Business Park, Wirral Waters	Members visit to be arranged by Kevin Adderley		This item was proposed by members for inclusion on the work programme at the committee meeting on 06/06/11. Visit took place Friday 21/10/11.	Complete

Date of New item	Topic Description	How the topic will be dealt with	Estimated Complete Date	Comments on Progress	Complete?
05/09/11	Budget Issues for Economy & Housing in 2012/13	Officer report		Initial report presented to Committee on 05/09/11 following a request by the Council Leader for Scrutiny Committees to be consulted on budget issues for 2012/13. On 05/09/11, Committee agreed that Cabinet-led suggestions highlighting potential savings be requested. A special Committee meeting will be arranged to discuss those options / suggestions.	
05/09/11	Fair Trade	Mark Johnston		The Chair provided a verbal report to Committee on 05/09/11 regarding the work undertaken by him as Fair Trade Champion. In future, this work will be organised by the Economy & Regeneration Scrutiny Committee (rather than by Champions). A further report will be provided to a Committee meeting in the future (possibly November 2012).	
07/11/11	Child Poverty Strategy	Officer Reports		A progress report on the Child Poverty Strategy and Action Plan was presented to the Committee on 07/11/11. Agreed that regular updates will be brought to Committee in the future.	
07/11/11	Presentation by Lindsay Ashworth, Peel Holdings	Presentation to Committee		A presentation will be made by Lindsay Ashworth to the Committee meeting on 16/01/12.	

REPORT 2
SUGGESTIONS FOR ADDITIONS TO WORK PROGRAMME
ECONOMY & REGENERATION : 16/01/12

Topic Description	Topic suggested by	How the topic will be dealt with	Estimated Completion Date
On 12/12/11, Council approved a Notion of Motion regarding Affordable Homes. In particular the NOM referred to the Government's New Mortgage indemnity scheme. The NOM requested that the Economy & Regeneration OSC should request a report on how Wirral can "be at the vanguard of any implementation plan of the Government's scheme".	Council meeting held on 12/12/11.		
On 12/12/11, Council referred the draft Corporate Plan to the relevant Scrutiny Committees for comment.	Council meeting held on 12/12/11.		
Request invitation to representatives of the local business community to attend a meeting of the Economy & Regeneration OSC to discuss their concerns with the economy of the borough.	Cllr Mark Johnston		

REPORT 3
PROPOSED OUTLINE MEETING SCHEDULE FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR
ECONOMY & REGENERATION : 2011 / 2012

Meeting Date	Topic Description
06/05/11	<p>Terms of Reference for the Committee End of Year Performance report 2010-11 Apprenticeship Programme Scrutiny Work Programme Forward Plan Regeneration Update</p>
05/09/11	<p>Implementation of affordable housing policies (to include options for localised definition of affordable housing) (Ian Platt) Inward Investment (Kevin Adderley) Performance Monitoring Report – Quarter 1 (Kevin Adderley) Budget Issues for Economy & Housing in 2012/13 (Kevin Adderley) Green Growth Scrutiny review: Update (Report of Working Group – Cllr Mark Johnston, Chair) Referral from Council meeting on 18th July 2011 – Motion regarding Shale Gas Fracking The Wirral Apprentice – Update report Fair Trade – Progress report (Cllr Mark Johnston) Scrutiny Work Programme Forward Plan Regeneration Update</p>
07/11/11	<p>Invest Wirral – Presentation (Paula Basnett) Future plans for the Business Start Programme (Kevin Adderley) European Social Fund and the Work Programme (Kevin Adderley) Department for Work & Pensions Work programme (David Ball) Performance Monitoring Report – Quarter 2 (Kevin Adderley) Child Poverty Strategy – Update (Jane Morgan) Scrutiny Work Programme Forward Plan Regeneration Update (Exempt Item)</p>

Meeting Date	Topic Description
16/01/12	<p>Presentation by Lindsay Ashworth (Peel Holdings) Progress Report on Housing Market Renewal Initiative (HMRI) and transition funding (Ian Platt) Draft Corporate Plan 2012/13 (Kevin Adderley) Performance Monitoring Report – Quarter 3 (Kevin Adderley) Scrutiny Work Programme Forward Plan Regeneration Update</p>
To be arranged	<p>Special Meeting – Budget Issues for Economy & Housing in 2012/13</p>
08/03/12	<p>Green Growth Scrutiny Review – Final report Scrutiny Work Programme Forward Plan Regeneration Update Plus other items.....</p>

**REPORT 4
PROGRESS REPORT ON IN-DEPTH PANEL REVIEWS
ECONOMY & REGENERATION : 16/01/12**

Title of Review	Members of Panel	Progress to Date	Date Due to report to Committee
Green Growth Scrutiny Review	Cllr Mark Johnston (Chair) Cllr Peter Kearney Cllr Steve Niblock Cllr Stuart Whittingham	<p><u>As at 28/07/11:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two meetings of the working group have been held to discuss the general approach to the review • A draft Scope for the review has been agreed • Further meetings will be held in September with Council officers and members of the business community to commence evidence-gathering for the review <p><u>As at 12/10/11:</u> Meetings have been held with officers representing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invest Wirral. • Forward Planning (Wirral Council). • Strategic Policy, Economic & European Unit (Wirral Council). • Marketing Department (Wirral Council). • Asset Management (Wirral Council). • Three Wirral businesses operating in the green sector. <p>Further meetings with officers and businesses are being planned. A questionnaire for green sector businesses in Wirral is also being developed.</p> <p><u>As at 19/12/11:</u> The evidence-gathering stage of the review is now complete. Members have started to produce their conclusions / recommendations from the review. It is expected that the final report for the review will be presented to Committee in March 2012.</p>	March 2012