



Economy and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date:	Wednesday, 16 January 2013
Time:	6.00 pm
Venue:	Committee Room 1 - Wallasey Town Hall

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AGENDA

1. MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/PARTY WHIP

Members are asked to consider whether they have any disclosable pecuniary interests and/or any other relevant interest in connection with any item(s) on this agenda and, if so, to declare them and state the nature of the interest.

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 - 12)

To receive the minutes of the meetings held on 6 (Special) and 14 November and 5 December (Special) 2012.

3. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION - MEMBER OF THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY (CETCO)

4. BUDGET 2013/2016 - INITIAL PROPOSALS (Pages 13 - 16)

At its meeting on 20 December 2012 (minute 144 refers), the Cabinet agreed in principle, to savings options for 2013/2016 totalling £29.6 million, subject to the outcome of further consultation where required.

Cabinet minute 144 is attached and the Committee is asked to consider those items, which fall within its remit.

5. YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT IN WIRRAL (Pages 17 - 34)

6. TOWN CENTRES UPDATE (Pages 35 - 46)

7. SUB-REGIONAL CHOICE BASED LETTINGS SCHEME

Report to follow

8. PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORT Q2 AND Q3

Report to follow

9. REVIEW OF SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME (Pages 47 - 58)

10. FORWARD PLAN

The Forward Plan for the period January to April 2013 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.

11. REGENERATION UPDATE

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

13. EXEMPT INFORMATION - EXCLUSION OF MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

The public may be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items 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 items 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.

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

ECONOMY AND REGENERATION OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 6 November 2012

<u>Present:</u>	Councillor	M Johnston (Chair)	
	Councillors	J Stapleton A Hodson P Kearney	R Gregson M Sullivan S Whittingham
<u>Apologies:</u>	Councillors	T Cox D Realey J Williamson P Hackett	Cabinet Member

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

Members were asked to consider whether they had any disclosable pecuniary interests and/or any other relevant interest in connection with any item(s) on this agenda and, if so, to declare them and state the nature of the 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 any item(s) to be considered and, if so, to declare it and state the nature of the whipping arrangement.

No such declarations were made.

29 CONSIDERATION OF FINDINGS - WHAT REALLY MATTERS CONSULTATION

The report of the Chief Executive on the stage one "What Really Matters" consultation findings, to be considered by the Cabinet on 8 November 2012 was presented to the Committee for its consideration. The report indicated that, at its meeting held on 10 July 2012, the Cabinet (minute 45 refers) had instructed officers to implement a comprehensive programme of consultation and engagement in order to inform the development of the Council's Corporate and Financial Plan for 2013-2016 and further to guide the development of significant budget savings.

The Director of Regeneration, Housing and Planning reported upon the results of the first stage of the consultation process, which ran from 10 September to 19 October 2012 and Members received a presentation, which provided a summary and analysis of the findings of the views expressed by residents, staff and other stakeholders. An extensive communications and engagement plan was implemented to ensure the consultation reached the widest possible audience. It involved a programme of over 150 events including scrutiny workshops, and speaking to over 13,000 residents. Over 37,500 paper questionnaires had been distributed, and 6921 responses received represented a return rate of around 18% – a higher response to any previous Wirral Council consultation and, according to published data, higher than any comparable exercise anywhere in the UK.

The Director commented that the second stage of the consultation would focus upon the specific options for savings to be published by officers on 9 November 2012 and it was hoped that levels of engagement would be increased. Further meetings of Overview and Scrutiny Committees would take place in early December and the findings of the stage two consultation would be presented to a special meeting of the Cabinet on 20 December 2012. Further scrutiny committees would then be held prior to the Budget Cabinet in February 2013.

Members noted that the results of the questionnaire agreed with the proposed top three priorities for the Council of, protecting vulnerable adults and children, tackling poverty and inequalities in health, and creating jobs and attracting investment. However, Members noted also that the results suggested that having access to a range of affordable housing should be a low priority. The Director accepted that the consultation was statistically valid, whilst also noting that responses tended to be from a personal point of view. Ultimately, budget decisions would be taken by Members who would have regard to the consultation outcome and draw from it what they considered to be most relevant.

At 6.50pm, the Committee stood adjourned for 10 minutes.

It was moved by Councillor Jean Stapleton and seconded by Councillor Stuart Whittingham –

“That the Economy and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee thanks everyone who contributed to the “What Really Matters” consultation and notes the priorities identified”.

The Motion was put and carried (7:0)

It was further moved by Councillor Mark Johnston and seconded by Councillor Andrew Hodson –

“That the Cabinet be asked to refer to paragraph 7.1 of the report of the Chief Executive, to note that the public’s response to this question is that ‘creating jobs and attracting investment’ is the second highest priority and that this should be reflected when options are being considered”.

The further Motion was put and carried (3:0) (Four abstentions)

Resolved –

- (1) That the Economy and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee thanks everyone who contributed to the “What Really Matters” consultation and notes the priorities identified.**
- (2) That the Cabinet be asked to refer to paragraph 7.1 of the report of the Chief Executive, to note that the public’s response to this question is that ‘creating jobs and attracting investment’ is the second highest priority and that this should be reflected when options are being considered.**

ECONOMY AND REGENERATION OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 14 November 2012

<u>Present:</u>	Councillor	M Johnston (Chair)	
	Councillors	J Stapleton A Cox P Kearney D Realey	M Sullivan S Whittingham J Williamson
<u>Cabinet Members:</u>	Councillors	G Davies and P Hackett	

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

Members were asked to consider whether they had any disclosable pecuniary interests and/or any other relevant interest in connection with any item(s) on this agenda and, if so, to declare them and state the nature of the 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 any item(s) to be considered and, if so, to declare it and state the nature of the whipping arrangement.

Councillor S Whittingham declared his interest in agenda item 5 – Welfare Reform and Under Occupation Draft Scrutiny Review Scope Document (see minute 34 post) by virtue of his membership of the Board of Wirral Partnership Homes.

31 MINUTES

At the request of the Chair, the Director of Regeneration, Housing and Planning provided an update in relation to the activities of the Green Economy Working Group, in the light of the Budget Options referred to in the Scrutiny Recommendations not being taken forward at the present time. He commented also that the reporting timetable had meant that the Q2 Performance Monitoring Report had not been available in time for submission to this meeting. However, no issues had been identified and the report would be presented, together with the Q3 report, to the next meeting of the Committee.

Resolved –

- (1) That, in the light of the Green Growth Scrutiny Report not being taken forward and, having regard to the effective use of Members and officers time, the activities of the Green Economy Working Group be suspended.**
- (2) That the minutes of the meeting held on 5 September 2012, be approved.**

32 **PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION**
- MEMBER OF THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY

The Chair advised that he had invited Rebecca Owens, Marketing manager of Recipro UK, to give a presentation to Members, to highlight the issues that affected the business and to indicate the factors that led to its location and continued operation in Wirral.

Ms Owens commented that Recipro was launched in 2008 and was essentially a free to use online exchange for the re-use of surplus building material. She indicated that the construction industry was the single largest producer of waste in the UK, creating 90 million tonnes of waste each year, of which up to 25 million tonnes was sent to landfill. It had been estimated that 13% of all construction materials arriving on site ended up as surplus and were never used. Those goods alone were valued at £1.5 billion per annum and, there were further large volumes of reusable second hand materials and products generated by the construction industry.

The Waste Regulations 2011 was a significant driver for change that had led to client pressures in relation to corporate responsibility and the need for added value, particularly with regard to carbon savings and waste avoidance. Users of Recipro included construction companies, builders and trades people, charities, DIY enthusiasts and community projects – essentially, anyone who used building materials.

Since 2011, Recipro Managed Services had worked with principal contractors to manage surplus and leftover building materials and products, with the expressed goal of enabling green building, better resource management and benefit for community projects and charities. The service involved surplus materials being collected and delivered to ReciproCity centres, then sold at discounted rates to community projects. The costs to construction companies of the collection of surplus were lower than the costs of disposal and she commented that ReciproCity in Wirral, since February, had seen 92 tonnes of waste diverted, 108 tonnes of carbon saved with a value of £148k. Since July, the centre in Cardiff had seen 12 tonnes of material diverted, 24 tonnes of carbon saved with a value of £46k. Reporting was presented back to clients upon the carbon and waste reductions and community projects that had benefited. Local case studies in Wirral highlighted approximately 30 tonnes of waste that had been avoided and 15 tonnes of carbon saved.

In response to a number of questions from Members, Ms Owens indicated that the impact of the economic downturn on construction had placed a greater value in tenders of the added benefit of carbon and waste reduction. Marketing was undertaken primarily by direct contact with the construction industry, with particular support from Travis Perkins, who had also improved engagement with charities. She commented also that Recipro had received good support and advice from Invest Wirral, particularly upon how best to grow the business and the provision of funding. The company had also benefited from the Wirral 100 Apprenticeship Scheme, with one of the original apprentices now a key member of the team.

Resolved – That the thanks of the Committee be accorded to Rebecca for her informative presentation and best wishes for the continuing success of Recipro.

33 TRADE CENTRE SCRUTINY REVIEW

The Chair presented the Scrutiny Review of Preparations for the International Trade Centre in Wirral, which had been prepared by the Trade Centre Scrutiny Panel, following a Notice of Motion accepted by the Council (minute 154 (16 April 2012) refers).

The Panel comprised Councillors Mark Johnston (Chair), Andrew Hodson and Jean Stapleton and was supported by a Scrutiny Support Officer, Alan Veitch. The Scope of the Review was agreed at the last meeting of the Committee (minute 19 (5 September 2012) refers) and the Chair commented upon the evidence gathering, which had informed the Final Report. The document contained 19 recommendations and he requested the Committee to support the document being referred to the next appropriate meeting of the Cabinet.

Members commented specifically upon the significant work being undertaken with schools in relation to foreign language learning as a skill for future job seekers and also, the need for planning to take place regarding the requirements of children moving to Wirral from overseas as result of the Trade Centre opening. In response to further comments from Members with regard to the support packages to be put in place for companies and employees relocating from overseas to Wirral, the Director of Regeneration, Housing and Planning reported that the increased business rates that would be available to the Council as a result of the Enterprise Zone status could be used to support and facilitate the work of the support team.

Resolved –

- (1) That the contents and recommendations of the Trade Centre Scrutiny Review be supported.**
- (2) That the Trade Centre Scrutiny Report be referred to the next appropriate meeting of the Cabinet.**
- (3) That further reports be presented to the Economy and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee to update members regarding the progress being made towards the implementation of the recommendations.**
- (4) That the thanks of the Committee be accorded to the Members of the Scrutiny Panel for the significant work undertaken in the review of preparations for the International Trade Centre and also to Mr A Veitch, Scrutiny Support Officer.**

34 WELFARE REFORM AND UNDER OCCUPATION - DRAFT SCOPE DOCUMENT FOR FUTURE SCRUTINY REVIEW

Further to minute 24 (5 September 2012), the Chair provided an update on progress with the Benefit Reforms and Under-Occupation Scrutiny Review and presented a detailed Scope for the review, which was agreed by a Task and Finish Group of Members of the Scrutiny Committee on 18 October 2012. The proposed focus of the review was to investigate the impact of changes to housing benefit and the welfare

reforms specifically related to under occupation in both the public and private housing sectors. Key issues for the review would be:

- The impact of the introduction of the Housing Benefit Cap;
- The impact of changes to the Local Housing Allowance, with special reference to the Shared Accommodation Rate for under-35's;
- The allocation process for Discretionary Housing Benefit;
- The impacts of the reforms relating to Under-occupation and how this affects households and communities;
- The impact of the reforms on the Social Housing sector (Housing Associations).

The Chair commented also upon the Select Committee-style of evidence gathering that was to be used for the Scrutiny Review and he set out proposed guidelines to be adopted for the Evidence Gathering Days, which he envisaged would be held in January 2013. Additional evidence-gathering would take place in late January and early February 2013, if necessary, with a final report presented to the Economy and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee on 7 March 2013, prior to its referral to Cabinet. In response to comments from Members on the impact of Universal Credit, the Chair indicated his willingness for additional people to be added to the list of invitees to the Select Committee sessions. However, so as to ensure that the scrutiny review was completed before the end of the municipal year, he believed that the review should focus upon its previously agreed scope. At the present time, full details of Universal Credit were not known and he suggested that it could form the basis of a separate scrutiny review, when more precise information was available.

Resolved –

- (1) That the Scope for the Benefits Reform and Under-Occupation Scrutiny Review, as detailed in Appendix 1, be approved and the progress to date, be noted.**
- (2) That the proposed guidelines for the Evidence Day(s) and the indicative timescale for the review, be noted.**
- (3) That, in addition to the list of invitees to the Select Committee Session, the Task and Finish Group be requested to obtain evidence from representatives of the following organisations –**
 - **The Probation Service**
 - **Wirral Homes**
 - **HM Armed Forces**
 - **The Adaptation s Team**
 - **The Director of Wirral YMCA (to be accompanied by a client affected by the Government proposals)**
- (4) That officers be requested to undertake further planning of the review, in consultation with members of the Task & Finish Group and that an easy to use questionnaire be developed to facilitate evidence gathering.**

35 REVIEW OF SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

Further to minute 24 (5 September 2012), the Chair provided an update of the Committee's work programme, having previously sought the views of Members as to what issues should form the basis of it. He outlined the issues that had already been identified for scrutiny and asked Members whether any new items should be added to the programme.

He commented also that, by March 2013, the Council was required to submit to the Secretary of State the Local Development Framework for Wirral. The Director of Regeneration, Housing and Planning reported that, as part of the LDF, a Housing Needs Assessment was being undertaken and he outlined the implications of such an assessment to the Council.

Resolved –

- (1) That the work programme and outline meeting schedule for the municipal year be approved, subject to the deletion from it of the following items –**
 - **Deep Clean Scheme in town centres**
 - **The operation of the Free after Three parking scheme**
 - **An evaluation of projects for Empty Shops funding**
- (2) That an update report on the Housing Needs Assessment be presented to the next meeting of the Committee.**

36 FORWARD PLAN

The Acting Director of Law, HR and Asset Management reported that the Forward Plan for the period November 2012 to February 2013 had been published on the Council's intranet/website. Members had been 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.

Resolved – That the Forward Plan be noted.

37 REGENERATION UPDATE

The Director of Regeneration, Housing and Planning provided an update on major development schemes within the Borough. He was pleased to report also that, in addition to Wirral having the highest rate of business growth in the UK, the recent publication of the latest Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) figures indicated that the level of JSA for Wirral had reduced and was now better than the city-region and indeed, the North West average.

Members commented that, as part of a pilot, new JSA claims would need to be made online, as would all claims for Universal Credit. Members expressed their concern that the Council was not fully prepared for potentially large numbers of online claimants, who may also require assistance in the use of computers in One Stop Shops and libraries.

Resolved –

(1) That the report be noted.

(2) That the officers be requested to give a presentation on digital inclusion to a future meeting of the Committee.

**38 ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS APPROVED BY THE CHAIR
- SPECIAL MEETING**

The Chair referred to the Special Meetings of Scrutiny Committees that were to take place in early December 2012 to give consideration to the options for savings that had recently been published. The Economy and Regeneration Special Meeting would take place on Wednesday 5 December and the Chair requested that, where possible, advance notice be given to officers of any detailed questions, with officer replies to be sent to all Members of the Committee.

Public Document Pack
**ECONOMY AND REGENERATION OVERVIEW AND
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, 5 December 2012

<u>Present:</u>	Councillor	M Johnston (Chair)	
	Councillors	J Stapleton A Hodson A Cox	R Gregson D Realey M Sullivan
<u>Deputies:</u>	Councillors	E Boulton (In place of P Kearney) J Salter (In place of S Whittingham)	
<u>Cabinet Member:</u>	Councillors	G Davies	P Hackett
<u>Apologies</u>	Councillor	J Williamson	

39 **MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/PARTY WHIP**

Members were asked to consider whether they had any disclosable pecuniary interests and/or any other relevant interest in connection with any item(s) on this agenda and, if so, to declare them and state the nature of the 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 any item(s) to be considered and, if so, to declare it and state the nature of the whipping arrangement.

No such declarations were made.

40 **BUDGET OPTIONS**

The Chief Executive presented for Members' consideration the 'What Really Matters?' Budget Options questionnaire, together with the Budget Options summary papers for both Regeneration and Environment and Transformation and Resources, which had been developed by Council Officers. The questionnaire had informed the option papers, which had been published to indicate where savings might be found for Councillors, Partners, staff and the public to consider.

The Committee considered a presentation on the two stage budget consultation process, which indicated that the initial process had the highest level of consultation response in the UK and had guided the development of the savings options. As part of stage two of the budget consultation, over 70 budget options had been published, which included 25% more savings than was needed, in order to give genuine choice. So far, some 4000 responses had been received.

The Chair commented that this was an opportunity for the Committee to inform the Cabinet of its views, to seek further information on the options and to make suggestions for alternative and/or additional savings. Specific Options with associated savings/income generation from the summary papers, which fell within the remit of the Economy and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee, had been highlighted for consideration by Members, viz:

Regeneration and Environment	
Pre Planning Advice	£10,000
Members indicated their general agreement to the option to introduce a fee, to cover staff time, for all pre-planning advice, in line with most of the local authorities in the Merseyside area.	
Apprentice Programme	£500,000 or £420,000
Members commented upon the value of the Apprenticeship Scheme and expressed a view that consultation should be undertaken to ascertain whether the scheme would remain viable with reduced wage incentives. Members were also pleased that an option remained for the Cabinet to retain the scheme in part, by way of the development of a scheme for the Liverpool City Region.	
Handy Person Service	£209,400
Members noted that the Council would explore ways in which the service might be available, for example, through the establishment of a social enterprise or through links to the Wirral Traders Scheme. Members noted also that a reduced number of staff would still facilitate the fast track hospital discharge service through DCLG funding, which would continue until 2015, and that options would be explored to continue the service beyond 2015.	
Restructure of Regeneration, Housing and Planning Department	£338,900
<p>In response to a comment from a Member that the stage one questionnaire did not provide sufficient detail in relation to the proposed saving, the Director indicated that more detail had been included in both the summary paper and detailed paper. He outlined the rationale for the proposed savings and commented that the proposal included the deletion of seven posts, of which two were currently vacant.</p> <p>Members indicated that with duties being shared amongst reduced teams, increased staff workloads would have to be considered. Members also noted the comments of the Director in relation to the availability of funding and, specifically, that the proposal would continue to allow sufficient resource to deal with deliverable projects seeking some form of external resource.</p>	
Home Insulation Scheme	£985,600 or £925,600
<p>Members considered two options in relation to the future of Council-funded home energy efficiency activity in Wirral; either to remove the budget for the programme, or to reduce the budget and still allow some work related to energy efficiency and fuel poverty. The Director indicated that at the end of March 2013, the Insulation Programme would have reached 59% of the target at year 3 of the seven year programme. He set out the impact of the two options and referred also to the common approach being developed in the Liverpool City Region to deliver the Green Deal, which would provide a mechanism for households to obtain insulation either at no up front cost or through subsidies.</p> <p>Members indicated that their preferred option was to reduce the budget to ensure the continuation of work related to energy efficiency and fuel poverty, but not to fund insulation works.</p>	

BME Support Programme	£100,000
Members noted the proposed option to cease delivery of the Council's Black, Minority and Ethnic (BME) support service in the light of other community based organisations now providing this type of service.	
Supporting People Service	£2,000,000
Members noted that the proposed option would involve a reduction of the Supporting People budget, from 2014/2015, through the renegotiation of contracts, tendering services, remodelling services and closing services. The Director outlined the wide-ranging services delivered by the Supporting People programme and commented that the impact of the proposal would be mitigated by the remaining resources being more closely focused on the most vulnerable.	
Invest Wirral	£352,000
<p>In response to questions from Members, the Director of Regeneration, Housing and Planning commented that the North West was doing very well and bucking the national trend in relation to investment. He was pleased to report that Wirral had the highest rate of business growth in the UK and, in the light of new opportunities expected to come on stream as a result of the new European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) Business Support programme in the new year, proposed to restructure the Council's business support offer.</p> <p>Members noted that the proposals would impact on the Council's ability to invest to support new businesses but would be mitigated by working closely with regional and national organisations to secure the provision of replacement funding.</p>	
Transformation and Resources	
Marketing and Public Relations	£52,000
Members considered a proposed reduction by 50% in the core marketing budget, which would result in fewer resources being invested in the promotion of the Council's services and key messages. Members noted that although its use had been very successful, the remaining resources would be focused on a smaller set of key priorities.	
Destination Marketing	£95,000
<p>Members noted that the proposed option was to take the entire Core and Supported Events Budget as a budget saving, which would result in a new process to support both local and national event organisers, by the provision of more detailed information for event delivery and helping to secure private sector sponsorship and other funding streams.</p> <p>The value of tourism to Wirral currently stood at £289m and Members noted that the economic impact of significant numbers of visitors attracted to events in Wirral would be affected if the budget was withdrawn. Members referred to some of the excellent schemes that had benefited from Council support and questioned whether some funding could be retained to be focused upon key schemes; and/or whether it would be feasible to seek matched funding.</p>	

Tranmere Rovers Sponsorship	£135,000
Members referred to the promotion of Wirral on a national basis and to the significant local community benefit associated with the Council's sponsorship of Tranmere Rovers Football Club, which was now proposed to cease, leaving the Club to seek an alternative sponsor. However, other local football clubs were also involved in Wirral and Members expected that Tranmere would continue to connect with the local community without the Council's sponsorship.	

In response to a comment from a Member with regard to the use of increased Business Rates associated with the International Trade Centre that would be available to the Council for Economy and Regeneration as a result of the Enterprise Zone status, the Director indicated that discussions were ongoing with the LEP for the Council to access those resources. However, there was already a significant call on what would be a limited resource and it was not appropriate to budget for such funding availability at the present time.

The Chair sought assurance from officers that the agreed savings would be realised. The Director confirmed that on a departmental basis, Economy and Regeneration savings had always been delivered within agreed timescales and he met on a regular basis with the Cabinet Members for Regeneration and Planning Strategy and Housing and Community Safety to discuss budget savings and other issues. He anticipated that savings agreed by the Cabinet would be achievable and the appointment of three Strategic Directors to work across Departments should ensure that targets were met.

Resolved –

- (1) That the views of the Committee in relation to each of the savings options within the remit of Economy and Regeneration be presented to the Cabinet for consideration.**
- (2) That information be provided to Members direct, upon the numbers of apprentices kept on by employers at the end of their placement.**
- (3) That the proposed reduction in the Supporting People budget with effect from 2014/2015 be added to the Committee's scrutiny work programme.**

CABINET

20 December 2012

144 BUDGET 2013/16 – INITIAL PROPOSALS

A report from the Interim Director of Finance provided the latest Budget Projections for 2013/16. The Budget Projections for 2013/16 included £11 million for growth arising from demographic changes, Government decisions regarding funding and local decisions relating to income.

It was proposed that an extraordinary Council meeting be convened before the end of January to approve the Council Tax Base and Business Rates Base as they had to be agreed by 31 January 2013. The Mayor had agreed to call this meeting on Monday 28 January, 2013 and all Members had been informed.

Budget Cabinet was scheduled for 18 February 2013 with Budget Council scheduled for 5 March 2013. The Council had to agree the Budget and set the level of Council Tax for 2013/14 by 10 March 2013.

The Chief Executive introduced the report and informed the Cabinet that following the Chancellor of the Exchequer's Autumn statement announcement, the budget gap for the next three years was now £109m. The Local Government Finance Settlement had been announced on 19 December and an initial analysis had been provided to the Cabinet by the Interim Director of Finance, this indicated that Wirral's loss of grant in 2013/14 would broadly be as estimated within Wirral's current budget projections, which was a loss of 6% equivalent to £8 million. Details regarding a number of grant areas were, however, still awaited. The Education Services Grant would only be known in late January and Public Health Funding had not yet been announced.

Joe Taylor, Unison Wirral Branch Secretary was invited to address the Cabinet. He welcomed the extension of the consultation period in respect of proposed changes to terms and conditions and emphasised that no savings had been agreed by any Trades Unions at this stage. With £6m in the salary budget for terms and conditions, the proposed reduction of £2.8m represented a 48 per cent cut, with an additional £1.5m saving if four days unpaid leave was introduced, a 1.5 per cent pay cut lasting three years.

Mr Taylor welcomed the extension of the consultation period in respect of the voluntary enhanced severance scheme and that the Administration would be speaking to the Government about possible capitalisation.

He re-emphasised the Trade Unions opposition to compulsory redundancies and that if any were put in place then the unions would ballot their members. Legal advice from UNISON's solicitors had been forwarded to the Administration and he hoped that following the senior management restructure no redundancy notices would be issued on 21 December, 2012.

Mr Taylor further commented that UNISON's national officer would be coming to Wirral on 16 January, 2013 and would be examining the Council's books in the hope of suggesting alternative savings. He went on to give particular examples

on certain staff of the devastating cuts in pay if the proposed changes to terms and conditions were approved.

Mr Taylor further stated that immediate savings could be made now by making it a priority to cease the employment of consultants, advisors and agency staff. He urged the Administration not to smash communities and the people who voted the Administration into power.

Councillor Phil Davies informed the meeting that the proposed cuts were not of the Labour Group's making but had their origins with the Conservative / Liberal Democrat Coalition Government and were the result of their austerity policies. The previous Administration had also left a budget deficit of £17m. He had demanded a meeting with Eric Pickles, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government and would be lobbying the Government with other Merseyside Labour Leaders.

He went on to state that, as Leader of the Council, he would not shirk his responsibilities in setting a legal budget and he had been elected to prioritise the needs of the poor, weak and vulnerable.

In moving a number of proposed savings options, he stated that they were on the basis that they related to the 'back office' rather than front line services and the consultation exercise had shown that the overwhelming majority of respondents supported saving money on these items. In the first part of December, each Overview and Scrutiny Committee had had the opportunity to discuss the budget options and question relevant officers. This approach would continue with further Overview and Scrutiny Committees to be held in advance of an Extraordinary Council meeting at the end of January.

It should be noted that no proposals relating to staff terms and conditions were being proposed at this time as negotiations with the Trade Unions were ongoing. The Administration was committed to working with the Trade Unions to try to reach agreement on these matters. It should also be noted that a number of these options required more formal consultation. Those relating to staff would be subject to further detailed consultation on the potential impact with employees as part of the statutory process. The outcome of this would be reported back to Cabinet.

The savings options proposed were set out in an appendix which showed the saving over the period 2013-16 amounting to £29.6 million. Of this sum, £14.5 million related to 2013/14.

On a motion by Councillor Phil Davies, seconded by Councillor Ann McLachlan, it was -

Resolved – That:

- (1) The Budget Projections 2013/16 and the increase in the Budget gap from £103 million to £109 million be noted.**
- (2) The Budget Growth 2013/16 totalling £10.7 million be agreed and the detail be built into the Budget.**

- (3) The savings options 2013/16, agreed to date of £11.2 million, be noted.
- (4) Cabinet notes that a special meeting of the Council has been convened for Monday, 28 January 2013 to approve the Council Tax Base and the Business Rates Base.
- (5) Savings options 2013/16 totalling £29.6 million be agreed, in principle, subject to the outcome of further consultation where required.
- (6) It be noted that with the savings agreed to date of £11.2 million these proposals take the total savings to £40.8 million. Of this sum £21.6 million relates to 2013/14 and represents 55% of the Budget gap for 2013/14.
- (7) These proposals be referred to special Overview and Scrutiny Committees for further consideration.

BUDGET SAVINGS PROPOSALS – DECEMBER 2012

Budget Option	2013/14 £000	2014/15 £000	2015/16 £000	Total £000	Requires formal staff consultation
FAMILIES AND WELLBEING					
Connexions – reduce contract costs	700	300	0	1,000	No
Transfer of PFI affordability gap to Schools Budget	0	0	2,300	2,300	No
Transfer PPM to Schools Budget	250	200	0	450	No
Academies charges for services	60	0	0	60	No
School Improvements	100	0	0	100	No
Housing Benefits – Maximisation of grant	2,000	0	0	2,000	No
TRANSFORMATION & RESOURCES					
Treasury management activities including borrowing costs	1,700	0	0	1,700	No
Rationalisation of IT	210	90	0	300	Yes
Power supplies – contract saving	11	0	0	11	No
Procurement					
- Procurement cards	40	0	0	40	No
- Services provided charged to Schools budget	80	0	0	80	No
- External Audit of Utility Payments	200	0	0	200	No
- Review and reduce suppliers	0	3,000	0	3,000	No

- Implementation of category management	0	0	5,000	5,000	No
- Review of VAT	0	1,000	0	1,000	No
Senior Management Re-structure					
- Directors/Heads of Service	1,000	0	0	1,000	Yes
- All managers above PO1	2,792	0	0	2,792	Yes
- Re-structure – Finance	621	0	0	621	Yes
- Re-structure - Technical Services	250	0	0	250	Yes
- Re-structure - Regeneration, Housing and Planning	337	0	0	337	Yes
- Consultants and Agency staff	500	0	0	500	Yes
Asset Management Re-structure	50	50	0	100	Yes
Closure of Acre Lane & Municipal Building	0	0	458	458	No
Move to 4 yearly elections	0	0	100	100	No
Re-structure - HR service	292	292	0	584	Yes
Re-structure - Legal Services	300	300	0	600	Yes
Review of Committee Services	175	0	0	175	Yes
Transforming Administration Support	500	1,000	1,000	2,500	Yes
Marketing & Public Relations	52	0	0	52	No
Destination Marketing	95	0	0	95	No
Reduction of External Audit Fees	140	0	0	140	No
Deletion of vacant posts					
- Customer Services	550	0	0	550	No
- Pest Control	30	0	0	30	No
- Education Psychologists	80	0	0	80	No
REGENERATION & ENVIRONMENT					
Charge for pre-planning advice	10	0	0	10	No
Invest Wirral support	352	0	0	352	No
Home Insulation Programme	986	0	0	986	No
SUMMARY					
To further staff consultation	7,027	1,732	1,000	9,759	Yes
Not subject to staff consultation	7,436	4,500	7,858	19,794	No
TOTALS	14,463	6,232	8,858	29,553	

WIRRAL COUNCIL

ECONOMY AND REGENERATION OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

16 JANUARY 2013

SUBJECT:	YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT IN WIRRAL
WARDS AFFECTED:	ALL
REPORT OF:	<i>DIRECTOR OF REGENERATION, HOUSING AND PLANNING</i>
KEY DECISION	NO

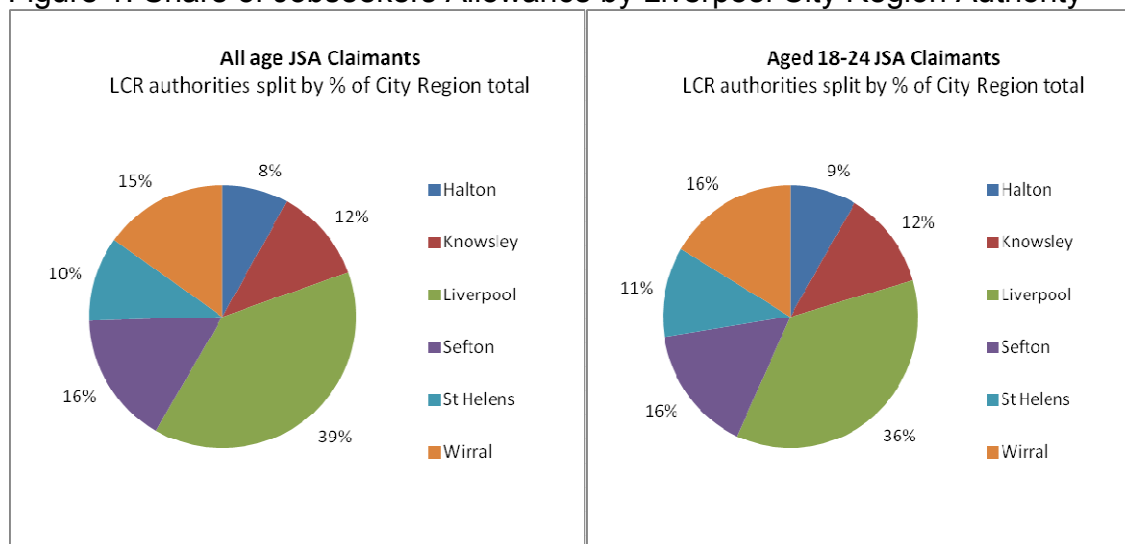
1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 At Economy and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee 5th September 2012 (ref: minute 24), the Chair requested a report on the effect of the economy on youth unemployment. This report provides Members with an overview of the scale of youth unemployment locally and current initiatives available to support young people into employment. A full data sheet of youth unemployment is attached for statistical information at Appendix A.

2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

2.1 Wirral has the lowest rate of Jobseekers Allowance claimants in the Liverpool City Region, the second lowest rate for 18-24 year olds (Figure 1) and has outperformed regional and national averages for the reduction in numbers over the last year.

Figure 1: Share of Jobseekers Allowance by Liverpool City Region Authority



2.2 The scale of people out of work nationally has increased since 2008 (pre-recession) demonstrated by an 81.4% rise in numbers claiming Jobseekers Allowance in England. The change in scale in Wirral however is far smaller with a 23.8% rise in numbers. Wirral's rate of Jobseekers Allowance claimants is now lower than the North West average and we have significantly closed the gap between Wirral and the England average. Similarly, the scale of young people claiming Jobseekers Allowance nationally has increased with a 64.9% rise in numbers claiming

Jobseekers Allowance since 2008, whereas in Wirral the rise is 22.3%. Further analysis on the scale of youth unemployment in Wirral is provided in Section 4 of this report and Appendix A provides detailed data information.

- 2.3 This comparative good performance can be attributed to a multitude of factors. Notable employment led regeneration projects have come to fruition in the period, such as the £60m mixed use development at New Brighton which has created in excess of 700 jobs across the construction and end user phases. The Council's focus on economic growth through its coordinated Investment Strategy activity links people to jobs with targeted interventions such as the Wirral Apprentice and Worklessness programmes. Sections 5 to 7 of this report detail the range of interventions that are in place to support young people in Wirral into employment. Combined, these contribute to mitigating the effects of the overall economy on youth unemployment locally.

3.0 IMPACT OF POLICY CHANGES

- 3.1 In any assessment of trends over time, it is important to highlight the impact of government policy changes on the recorded number and claim duration of 18-24 year olds in receipt of Jobseekers Allowance.

3.2 New Deal for Young People

Prior to 1998, young people fulfilling eligibility criteria for Jobseekers Allowance were included on registered numbers regardless of the length of time of their claim. When New Deal for Young People was introduced in 1998 (January as pathfinder pilot in Wirral, April nationally), young people entered New Deal at 6 months of their claim and were required to enter employment or move into one of four 'options' by month 10. Options included: subsidised employment, training, community work, and environmental work. All options included removal of young people from the Jobseekers Allowance claimant register. Those who had not secured employment at the end of their 'option' returned to the Jobseekers Allowance register as day one claimants. New Deal for Young People was phased out from April 2010 with a technical cessation date of November 2010.

3.3 Young Persons Guarantee: Future Jobs Fund

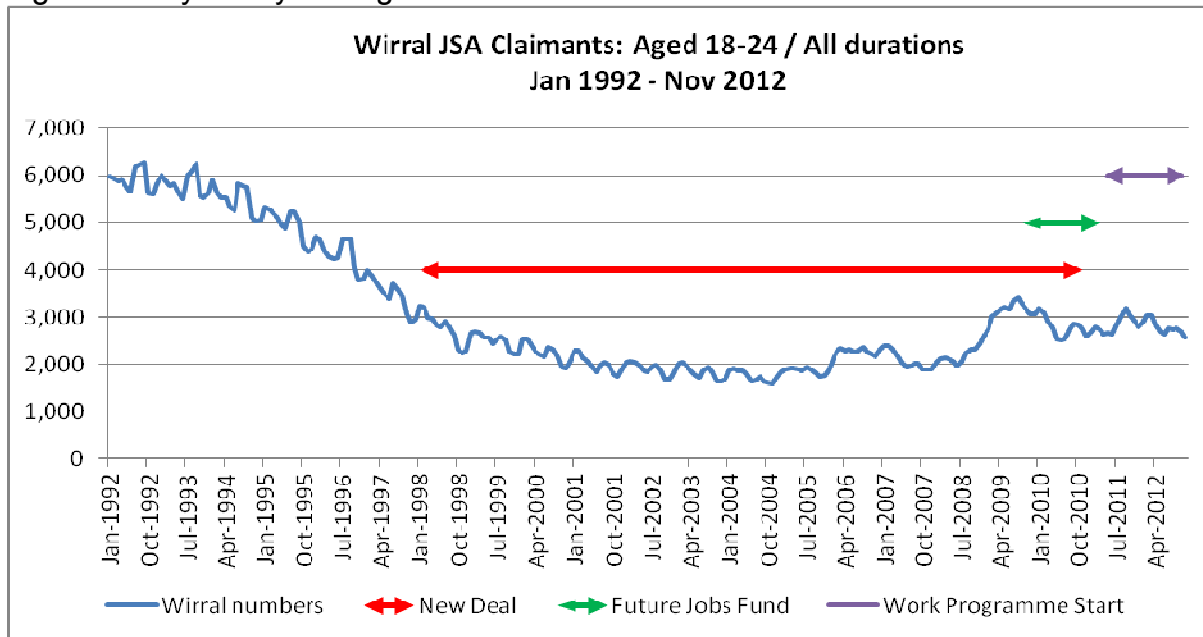
In September 2009 the national Young Persons Guarantee introduced the Future Jobs Fund nationally, a programme that created 685, 26 week paid job opportunities in Wirral for young people claiming Jobseekers Allowance for over 6 months. Those who had not secured further employment at the end of their Future Jobs Fund job returned to the Jobseekers Allowance register as day one claimants. The last recruits to Future Jobs Fund were in March 2011.

3.4 The Work Programme

The Work Programme was introduced in April 2011 to support long term workless Wirral residents into employment, replacing all previous support programmes and initiatives. All young people claiming Jobseekers Allowance are mandated into the Work Programme by the time they reach month 9 of their claim. Referral to this provision however does not result in removal from the Jobseekers Allowance register. This policy change results in an immediate increase in longer term 18-24 year olds Jobseekers Allowance figures, but eliminates the in-flow of young people 'returning' as day one newly unemployed claimants.

3.5 The impact of policy changes for young people on Jobseekers Allowance in Wirral is illustrated in Figure 2.

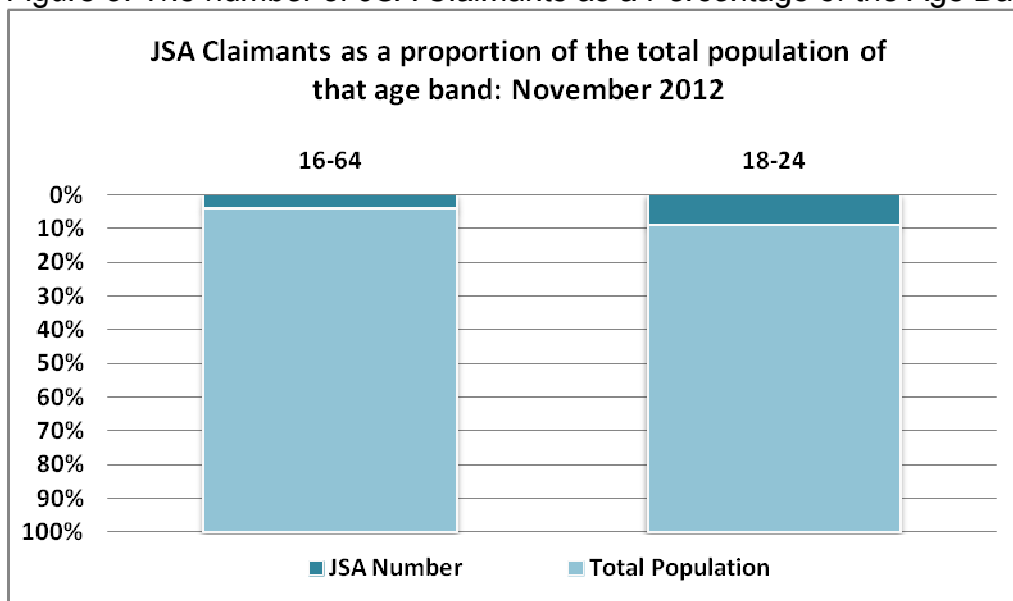
Figure 2: Key Policy Change Points & JSA Claimant Numbers



4.0 THE SCALE OF YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT IN WIRRAL

4.1 There are 7,942 people claiming Jobseekers Allowance in Wirral which represents 4.2% of the total working age population (16-64 year olds) in the borough. A third of these claimants are aged 18-24, a total of 2,575 young people. This represents 9.9% of all 18-24 year olds in Wirral – which means you are nearly 2 ½ times as likely to be unemployed as a young person as illustrated in Figure 3. Interestingly, this was also the case in April 2008 (pre-recession). 740 of the current young people on Jobseekers Allowance have been claiming for 6 months or more – this is 29% of the overall cohort.

Figure 3: The number of JSA Claimants as a Percentage of the Age Band



- 4.2 Since April 2008 (pre-recession) the total number of working age people claiming Jobseekers Allowance in Wirral has increased by 23.8%. The increase in the numbers of young people aged 18-24 claiming has similarly risen by 22.3%. What is a notable change is the number of 18-24 years olds in Wirral claiming Jobseekers Allowance for over 12 months. This has increased by 1,900% since April 2008, more than three times the average increase across the Liverpool City Region. In April 2008, Wirral had only 20 young people recorded on this register; the latest data for November shows there are now 400.
- 4.3 In September 2012, the then Director of Regeneration, Housing and Planning wrote to DWP to express concern at the increase in the number of young people claiming Jobseekers Allowance for over 12 months. This approach to DWP acknowledged key policy changes effecting the figures (see paragraphs 3.1 to 3.5) but importantly questioned and sought reassurance that their monitoring processes could provide an assurance that young people on the Work Programme were participating in meaningful activity to move closer to the labour market. This resulted in a meeting with DWP National Tier staff who outlined their monitoring processes which centres on performance, minimum service delivery standards and sampling participant records. As a defining characteristic, the Work Programme allows providers flexibility to innovate and design support that addresses the needs of the individual and the local labour market; DWP do not monitor the quality and actual activities young people are undertaking.

5.0 INTERVENTIONS: NATIONAL

- 5.1 In November 2011, the Government announced a £1billion Youth Contract to support unemployed young people into work. The Youth Contract consists of a number of initiatives operating under its banner over the next three years as detailed in paragraphs 5.2 to 5.6. Locally, Wirral Council has negotiated added interventions to ensure all unemployed young people, regardless of benefit type or programme provider, can participate where possible.
- 5.2 Work Programme Wage Incentive: 160,000 wage subsidies worth up to £2,275 for employers who recruit and 18-24 year old from the Work Programme.

Local Context: This initiative is accessed via individual Work Programme providers. Wirral Council hosted a multi-agency Employer Incentives event in June 2012 attended by over 100 employers promoting all locally available wage incentive programmes. Wirral Council have subsequently negotiated a single point of access for employers in conjunction with all three Work Programme providers locally and a joint campaign will be launched in the New Year to promote this incentive in Wirral.

- 5.3 Work Experience: unwaged work experience opportunities for 18-24 year olds not yet entered into the Work Programme.

Local Context: This initiative is accessed through Jobcentre Plus. Wirral Council are developing systems for the generation of training and employment opportunities through procurement. An approach was piloted in the recent procurement exercise for the Worklessness contract awarded to the ReachOut Partnership resulting in 20 work experience placements which will be divided out to Jobcentre Plus as Youth

Contract opportunities; to economically inactive customers via Reachout; and to Work Programme customers via providers.

- 5.4 Sector Based Work Academies: up to 6 weeks job specific pre-employment training for 18-24 year olds not yet entered into the Work Programme.

Local Context: This initiative is accessed through Jobcentre Plus. Wirral Council has secured agreement from Jobcentre Plus locally that pre-employment training for vacancies in Wirral will be accessible to all benefit claimants due to our concerns on long term youth unemployment (paragraphs 4.2 to 4.3). Wirral Met College has been particularly successful in working with employers to design pre-recruitment packages for the unemployed.

- 5.5 Apprenticeship Grant for Employers: for small to medium sized employers who have not had an apprentice in the preceding 12 months, grants of £1,500 to recruit 16-24 year old apprentices.

Local Context: this initiative is funded by the National Apprenticeship Service (NAS) and accessed via apprenticeship training providers. In the Liverpool City Region, NAS has agreed to devolve £600,000 of the 2012/13 budget so that authorities can provide matched finance to support an enhanced offer of £3,000 to eligible employers. Wirral Council is administering this enhanced grant locally utilising matched funds from a City Region ESF pot.

- 5.6 Disengaged 16-17 Year Olds: £126million investment to deliver a programme of support to 16-17 year old NEETs into education, an apprenticeship or job with training.

Local Context: this initiative is accessed via Groundwork UK. Wirral Council is working with Groundwork Cheshire to shape the local offer for young people which will be built around a platform of 1:1 intensive mentoring.

6.0 INTERVENTIONS: LIVERPOOL CITY REGION

6.1 Youth Unemployment Task Force

This was requested in summer 2012 by the Liverpool City Region Employment & Skills Board in response to the rising challenges facing young people in the labour market. The Task Force is made up of two Employment & Skills Board Champions, namely Sue Riley, District Manager of Jobcentre Plus and Councillor Pat Hackett, Portfolio Holder Regeneration & Planning Strategy Wirral Council, supported by a pool of young people (8 recruited) and a pool of business representatives (6 recruited) from across the Liverpool City Region.

- 6.2 The establishment of the Task Force forms part of the City Deals with Government with the aim to halve long term youth unemployment in 3 years (defined as 18-24 year olds in receipt of Jobseekers Allowance for more than 6mths). As part of a wider exercise to support the implementation of the City Deals, Wirral Council offered and was subsequently selected as Core Action Lead/Secretariat to provide the day to day support and co-ordination of the Task Force.

- 6.3 The Task Force has agreed to focus on 5 key activities:
- To review the support that is available for young people in finding sustainable work and its impact including support for enterprise;
 - To review how young people receive careers advice to ensure they make informed choices;
 - To understand the particular issues faced by young people in seeking and accessing sustainable work;
 - To understand the scale of youth unemployment within the Liverpool City Region;
 - To consider the support available for business in taking on young people.

The Task Force will present recommendations to the LCR Employment & Skills Board in February 2013, in line with the City Deal agreement to submit a final report and recommendations in Winter 2012/13.

6.4 Big Lottery Talent Match

In July 2012, the Big Lottery Fund announced the launch of Talent Match, a national investment of up to £100 million over four years to deliver creative ways to help long term unemployed young people find work or start their own enterprise. Funding is directed at voluntary sector organisations in 21 targeted hotspot areas across England focusing on Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) geographies. An indicative allocation of £6.3m has been identified for the Liverpool City Region. The Youth Unemployment Task Force has been working closely with Merseyside Expanding Horizons and Merseyside Youth Association, the lead organisations developing the Talent Match programme locally.

7.0 **INTERVENTIONS: WIRRAL COUNCIL**

7.1 The Wirral Apprentice

The Wirral Apprentice programme was launched in 2009 and has seen various iterations of support culminating in the current round which offers 9 and 12 month wage subsidies according to the level of apprenticeship framework. Across 4 rounds of the programme, a total of 427 apprenticeship opportunities have been offered, and 496 young people have been recruited, the additional numbers accounted for with early leavers being replaced. In rounds 1 and 2, 60% (119) secured employment beyond the subsidy period (early leavers not tracked or included) and in round 3, 63% (118) secured employment (early leavers tracked and included).

7.2 The Wirral ILM

From September 2012 to August 2013, £190,000 has been invested to support 30 fixed term subsidised job opportunities for local unemployed residents to enable them to build their work-based skills and qualifications. The programme is part of the Council's wider employment support programme to help residents back into work. 50% of recruits to these job opportunities have been in the 16-24 year old age band.

7.3 Worklessness Contract: The ReachOut Partnership

From September 2012 to August 2013, £960,000 has been invested to support a Wirral wide worklessness support contract prioritising disadvantaged groups and residents. Delivered by the ReachOut Partnership, a consortium of voluntary and community sector organisation, it offers bespoke support to move participants closer to the labour market and make the transition into sustainable employment. It also funds 22 Work Clubs which deliver an accessible and supportive community facility

for jobseekers regardless of their employment status, benefit type or the DWP programme they are assigned to. This contract supports all age groups, with a quarter of all participants recorded as aged 16-24 in both the preceding (August 2011-2012) and the current contract. It is interesting to note that in the preceding contract, 16% of all job outputs claimed were secured by 16-24 year olds; whilst in the current contract, 35% of the outputs claimed so far have been secured by this age group.

7.4 Get Involved Programme

£220,000 has been invested in this financial year to support 16-19 year old NEET (not in employment, education or training) young people with a programme of accredited employability skills, including an extended work experience placement in the voluntary, community, faith sector. 26 NEET young people have participated so far with 73% progressing into education, an apprenticeship or employment. Recruitment is currently suspended as part of the Council budget spending freeze.

8.0 RELEVANT RISKS

8.1 Report for information only: no risk implications as a result.

9.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

9.1 Report for information only: no options to consider.

10.0 CONSULTATION

10.1 Report for information only: no consultation implications as a result.

11.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

11.1 Report for information only: no implications as a result.

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

12.1 Report for information only: no implications as a result.

13.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

13.1 Report for information only: no implications as a result.

14.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

14.1 Has the potential impact of your proposal(s) been reviewed with regard to equality?

(c) No because of another reason which is:

Report for information only: no proposals to review as a result.

15.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

15.1 Report for information only: no implications as a result.

16.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

16.1 Report for information only: no implications as a result.

17.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

17.1 The Economy and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee note the contents of the report.

18.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

18.1 To brief Members on the scale of youth unemployment locally and current initiatives available to support young people into employment.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX A – YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT DATASHEET

REFERENCE MATERIAL

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date

Youth Unemployment – Scrutiny Committee
Datasheet – December 12

Benefit Groups Explained:

Out-of-work benefits (OOWB) are the combined totals of people claiming the following benefits:

- Job Seekers Allowance (JSA)
- Incapacity Benefit / Employment Support Allowance (IB/ESA)
- Lone Parent Benefit
- Other income related benefits

1. Overall Worklessness Context

Table 1a: Total Worklessness

Local Authority Area	Total OOWB		OOWB Under 25	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Halton	14,750	19.0%	2,630	3.4%
Knowsley	21,810	22.6%	3,770	3.9%
Liverpool	67,580	22.0%	11,050	3.6%
Sefton	27,440	16.2%	4,560	2.7%
St Helens	19,890	17.5%	3,650	3.2%
Wirral	33,880	17.7%	5,870	3.1%
LCR	185,350	19.4%	31,530	3.3%
North West	684,180	15.3%	116,740	2.6%
England	4,104,730	12.1%	715,480	2.1%

Source: DWP Working-age client group, Feb 12

Table 1b: Total Worklessness Split

Local Authority Area	JSA		IB/ESA		Lone Parent		Other income	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Halton	4,480	5.8%	8,030	10.3%	1,830	2.4%	410	0.5%
Knowsley	6,560	6.8%	11,910	12.4%	2,760	2.9%	580	0.6%
Liverpool	21,870	7.1%	36,350	11.8%	7,480	2.4%	1,880	0.6%
Sefton	9,000	5.3%	14,910	8.8%	2,630	1.6%	910	0.5%
St Helens	5,870	5.2%	11,150	9.8%	2,230	2.0%	640	0.6%
Wirral	9,280	4.9%	19,250	10.1%	4,150	2.2%	1,200	0.6%
LCR	57,050	6.0%	101,610	10.6%	21,070	2.2%	5,620	0.6%
North West	207,280	4.6%	379,340	8.5%	75,890	1.7%	21,680	0.5%
England	1,356,640	4.0%	2,094,880	6.2%	506,980	1.5%	146,230	0.4%

Source: DWP Working-age client group, Feb 12

Table 1c: Worklessness split – Under 25

Local Authority Area	JSA		IB/ESA		Lone Parent		Other income	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Halton	1,480	1.9%	440	0.6%	620	0.8%	90	0.1%
Knowsley	2,200	2.3%	630	0.7%	800	0.8%	140	0.1%
Liverpool	6,760	2.2%	1,930	0.6%	1,970	0.6%	380	0.1%
Sefton	2,810	1.7%	770	0.5%	800	0.5%	190	0.1%
St Helens	2,010	1.8%	640	0.6%	820	0.7%	180	0.2%
Wirral	3,020	1.6%	1,230	0.6%	1,320	0.7%	290	0.2%
LCR	18,280	1.9%	5,640	0.6%	6,340	0.7%	1,260	0.1%
North West	65,220	1.5%	22,160	0.5%	24,450	0.5%	4,920	0.1%
England	403,620	1.2%	130,230	0.4%	149,110	0.4%	32,520	0.1%

Source: DWP Working-age client group, Feb 12 (Rate as percentage of Working Age Population (16/64))

2. Jobseekers Allowance Data

Key Headlines drawn from tables below (sections 2 and 3):

- There are 7,942 people claiming JSA in Wirral, this is 4.2% of the total working age population (16-64 m/f);
- 2,575 of these claimants are aged 18-24, this represents 9.9% of all 18-24 year olds in Wirral - over double the Wirral average;
- Wirral contributes 16% of the LCR challenge on Youth Unemployment – there are nearly 16,000 young people unemployed in the City Region;
- 740 young people in Wirral have been claiming for 6 months or more – this is 29% of the overall cohort;
- Since April 2008 (pre-recession) the total number of working age people claiming JSA in Wirral has increased by 23.8%;
- Since April 2008 the number of 18-24 year olds claiming JSA in Wirral has increased by 22.3%;
- Since April 2008 the number of 18-24 year olds claiming JSA for over 12 months in Wirral has increased by 1900%; more than 3x the City Region average.

Table 2a: Total Job Seekers Allowance

Local Authority Area	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Halton	2,773	7.3%	1,455	3.6%	4,228	5.4%
Knowsley	3,835	8.4%	2,219	4.4%	6,054	6.3%
Liverpool	13,496	8.8%	6,923	4.5%	20,419	6.6%
Sefton	5,678	6.9%	2,825	3.3%	8,503	5.0%
St Helens	3,665	6.5%	1,817	3.2%	5,482	4.8%
Wirral	5,475	5.9%	2,467	2.5%	7,942	4.2%

LCR	34,922	7.5%	17,706	3.6%	52,628	5.5%
North West	129,529	5.8%	64,486	2.9%	194,015	4.3%
England	811,203	4.8%	448,983	2.7%	1,260,186	3.7%

Source: NOMIS, Claimant Count, November 12

Table 2b: Job Seekers Allowance, Claiming over 12 months

Local Authority Area	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Halton	835	2.2%	400	1.0%	1,235	1.6%
Knowsley	1,105	2.4%	570	1.1%	1,675	1.7%
Liverpool	4,565	3.0%	1,835	1.2%	6,400	2.1%
Sefton	1,895	2.3%	720	0.8%	2,615	1.5%
St Helens	1,140	2.0%	465	0.8%	1,600	1.4%
Wirral	1,505	1.6%	555	0.6%	2,060	1.1%
LCR	11,040	2.4%	4,545	0.9%	15,585	1.6%
North West	37,335	1.7%	14,860	0.7%	52,195	1.2%
England	240,370	1.4%	110,700	0.7%	351,070	1.0%

Source: NOMIS, Claimant Count, November 12

Table 2c: Total 18-24 Job Seekers Allowance

Local Authority Area	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Halton	885	16.0%	440	8.1%	1,325	12.1%
Knowsley	1,220	15.9%	685	9.0%	1,905	12.5%
Liverpool	3,655	10.8%	2,050	6.1%	5,705	8.4%
Sefton	1,675	13.7%	800	6.8%	2,470	10.3%
St Helens	1,155	14.6%	580	7.7%	1,735	11.2%
Wirral	1,780	13.3%	795	6.3%	2,575	9.9%
LCR	10,370	12.9%	5,345	6.8%	15,715	9.9%
North West	37,355	10.5%	18,550	5.4%	55,905	8.0%
England	223,820	8.7%	120,050	5.0%	343,870	6.9%

Source: NOMIS, Claimant Count, November 12

Table 2d: 18-24 Job Seekers Allowance, Claiming 6 months +

Local Authority Area	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Halton	320	5.8%	150	2.8%	470	4.3%
Knowsley	420	5.5%	210	2.7%	630	4.1%

Liverpool	1,360	4.0%	675	2.0%	2,040	3.0%
Sefton	580	4.8%	230	2.0%	815	3.4%
St Helens	425	5.4%	185	2.4%	610	3.9%
Wirral	530	4.0%	210	1.6%	740	2.8%
LCR	3,640	4.5%	1,660	2.1%	5,300	3.3%
North West	12,420	3.5%	5,480	1.6%	17,900	2.6%
England	75,330	2.9%	35,895	1.5%	111,225	2.2%

Source: NOMIS, Claimant Count, November 12

Table 2e: 18-24 Job Seekers Allowance, Claiming 12 months +

Local Authority Area	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Halton	205	3.7%	100	1.8%	305	2.8%
Knowsley	235	3.1%	125	1.7%	360	2.4%
Liverpool	805	2.4%	375	1.1%	1,180	1.7%
Sefton	360	2.9%	125	1.1%	485	2.0%
St Helens	255	3.2%	110	1.5%	365	2.4%
Wirral	290	2.2%	115	0.9%	400	1.5%
LCR	2,145	2.7%	955	1.2%	3,100	1.9%
North West	7,045	2.0%	2,960	0.9%	10,005	1.4%
England	44,005	1.7%	20,325	0.8%	64,330	1.3%

Source: NOMIS, Claimant Count, November 12

3. Trend Analysis

The following trend analysis is based on figures from April 2008 (pre-recession) to the latest data available in November 2012.

Table 3a: JSA all ages

	April 2008		November 2012		Number change	Rate Change	% Number Change
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate			
Wirral	6,390	3.3%	7,915	4.1%	+1,525	+0.8%	Up 23.8%
LCR	36,205	3.8%	52,490	5.5%	+16,285	+1.7%	Up 44.9%
North West	111,490	2.5%	193,695	4.3%	+82,205	+1.8%	Up 73.7%
England	693,045	2.1%	1,257,605	3.7%	+564,560	+1.6%	Up 81.4%

Source: NOMIS, Claimant Count, November 12

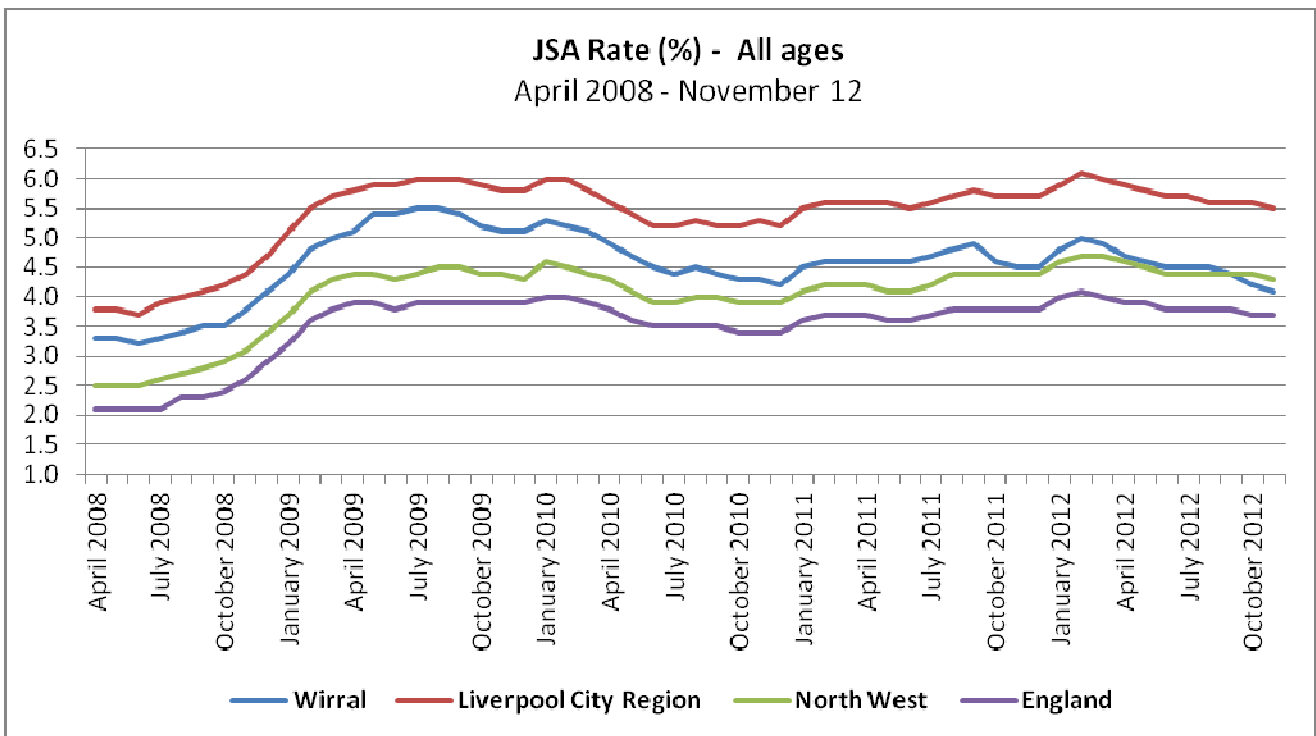


Table 3b: JSA 25+

	April 2008		November 2012		Number change	Rate Change	% Number Change
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate			
Wirral	4,210	4.9%	5,320	6.2%	+1,110	+1.3%	Up 26.3%
LCR	23,755	5.7%	36,725	8.8%	+12,970	+3.1%	Up 54.5%
North West	73,265	3.7%	137,565	7.0%	+64,300	+3.3%	Up 87.7%
England	478,145	3.3%	912,180	6.1%	+434,035	+2.8%	Up 90.7%

Source: NOMIS, Claimant Count, November 12

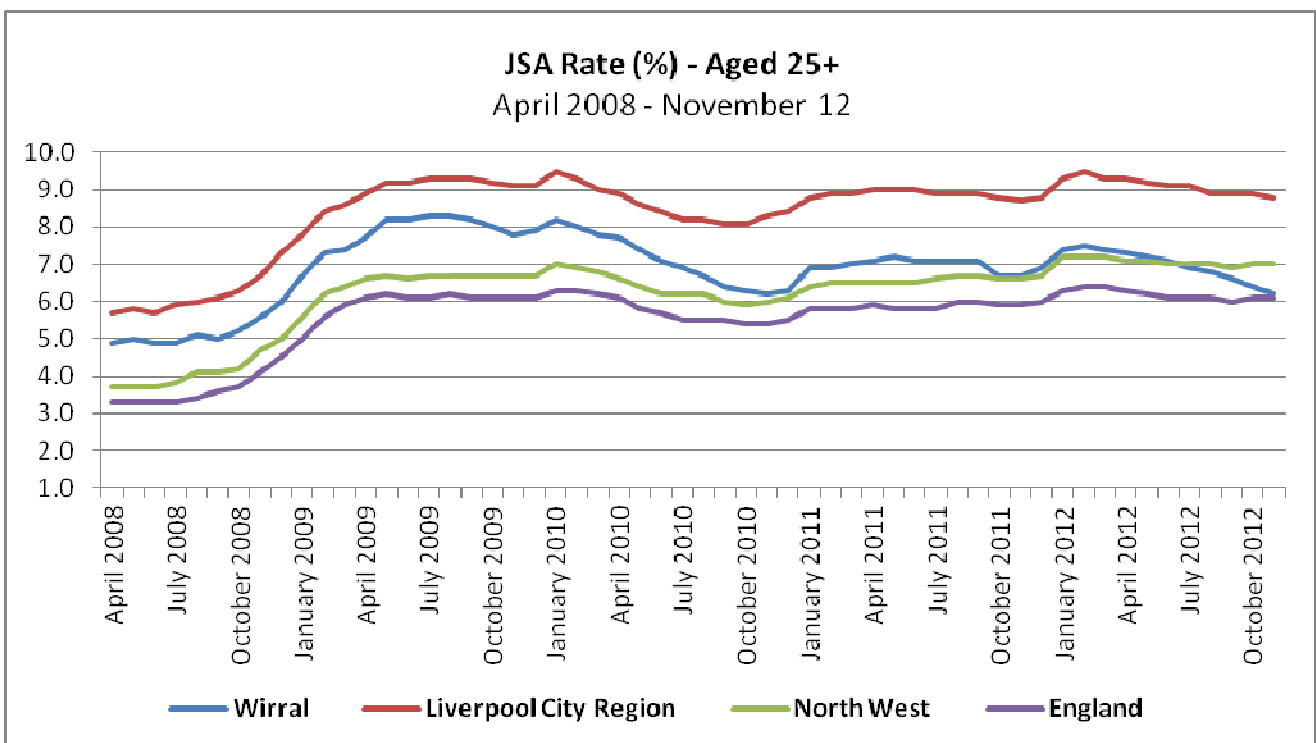


Table 3c: JSA 18-24

	April 2008		November 2012		Number change	Rate Change	% Number Change
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate			
Wirral	2,105	8.1%	2,575	9.9%	+470	+1.8%	Up 22.3%
LCR	12,240	7.7%	15,715	9.9%	+3,475	+2.2%	Up 28.3%
North West	37,215	5.4%	55,905	8.0%	+18,690	+2.6%	Up 50.2%
England	208,520	4.3%	343,870	6.9%	+135,350	+2.6%	Up 64.9%

Source: NOMIS, Claimant Count, November 12

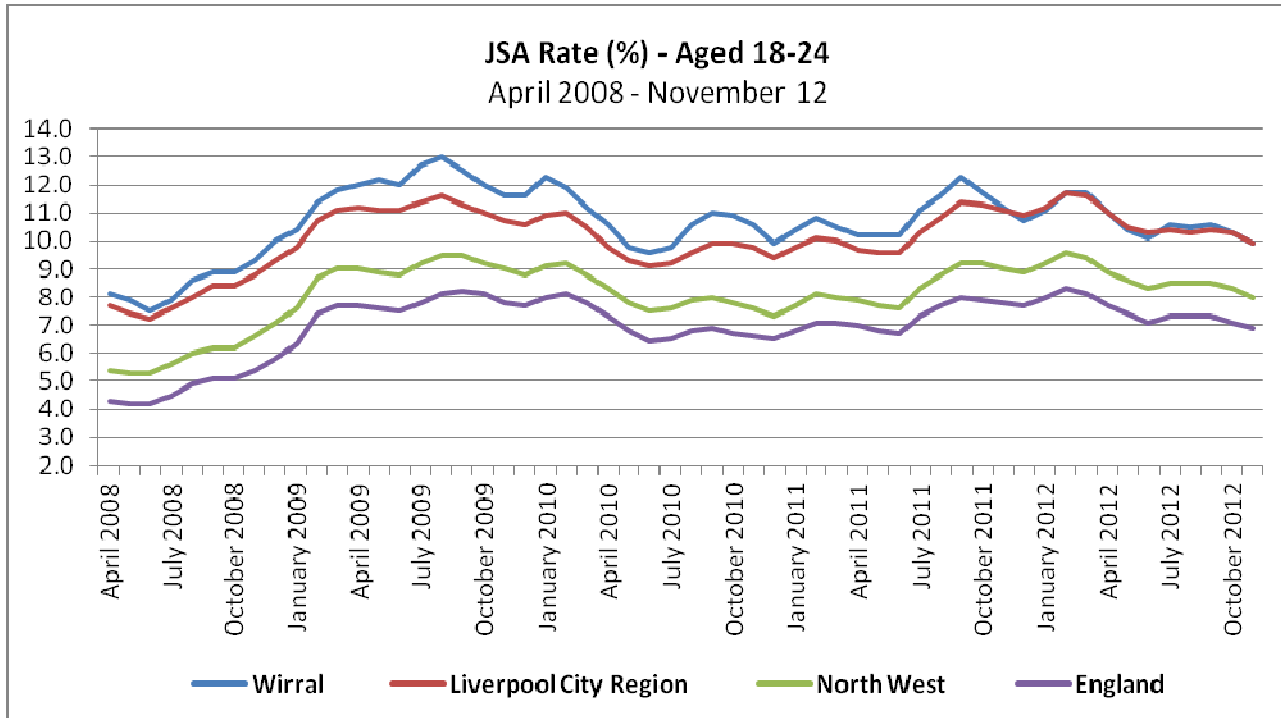


Table 3d: JSA 18-24 6months +

	April 2008		November 2012		Number change	Rate Change	% Number Change
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate			
Wirral	340	1.3%	740	2.8%	+400	+1.5%	Up 117.6%
LCR	2,530	1.6%	5,300	3.3%	+2,770	+0.7%	Up 109.4%
North West	6,000	0.9%	17,900	2.6%	+11,900	+1.7%	Up 198.3%
England	33,125	0.7%	111,225	2.2%	+78,100	+1.5%	Up 235.7%

Source: NOMIS, Claimant Count, November 12

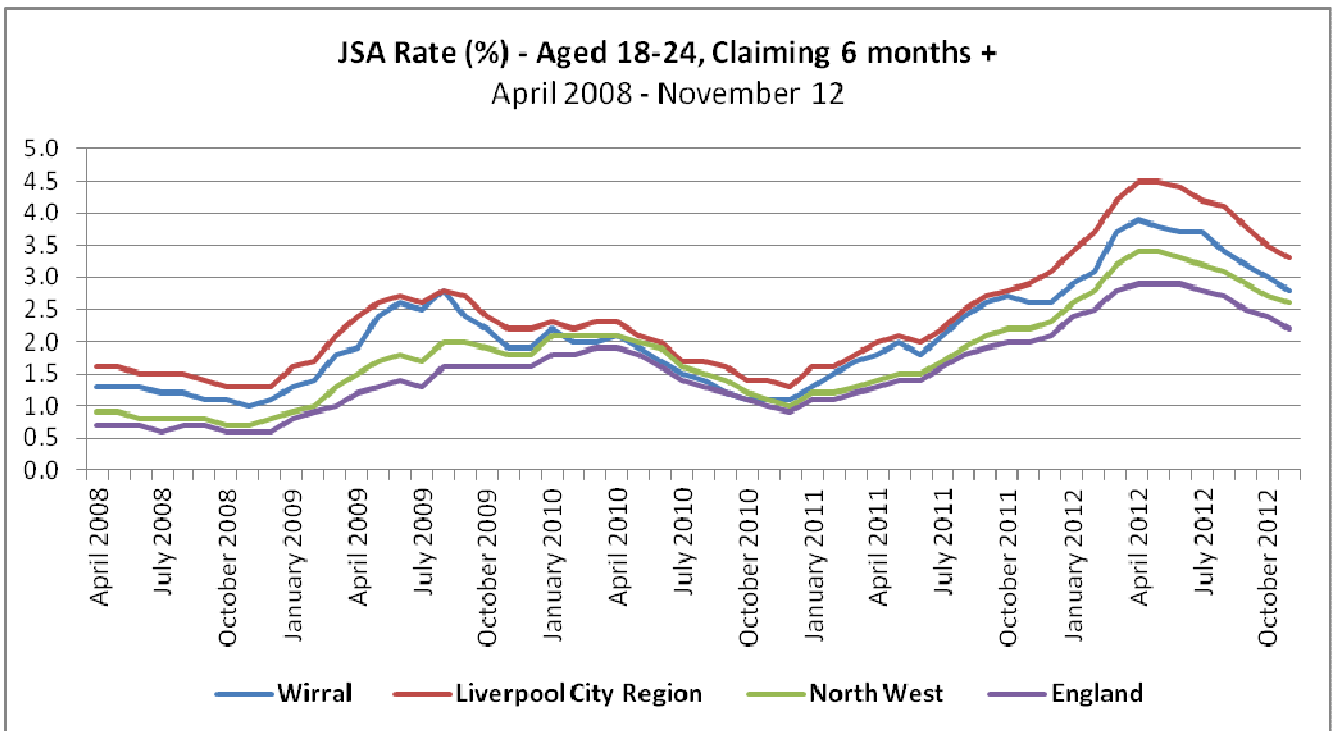


Table 3e: JSA 18-24 12 months +

	April 2008		November 2012		Number change	Rate Change	% Number Change
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate			
Wirral	20	0.1%	400	1.5%	+380	+1.4%	Up 1900%
LCR	445	0.3%	3,100	1.9%	+2,655	+1.6%	Up 597%
North West	780	0.1%	10,005	1.4%	+9,225	+1.3%	Up 1183%
England	4,865	0.1%	64,330	1.3%	+59,465	+1.2%	Up 1222%

Source: NOMIS, Claimant Count, November 12

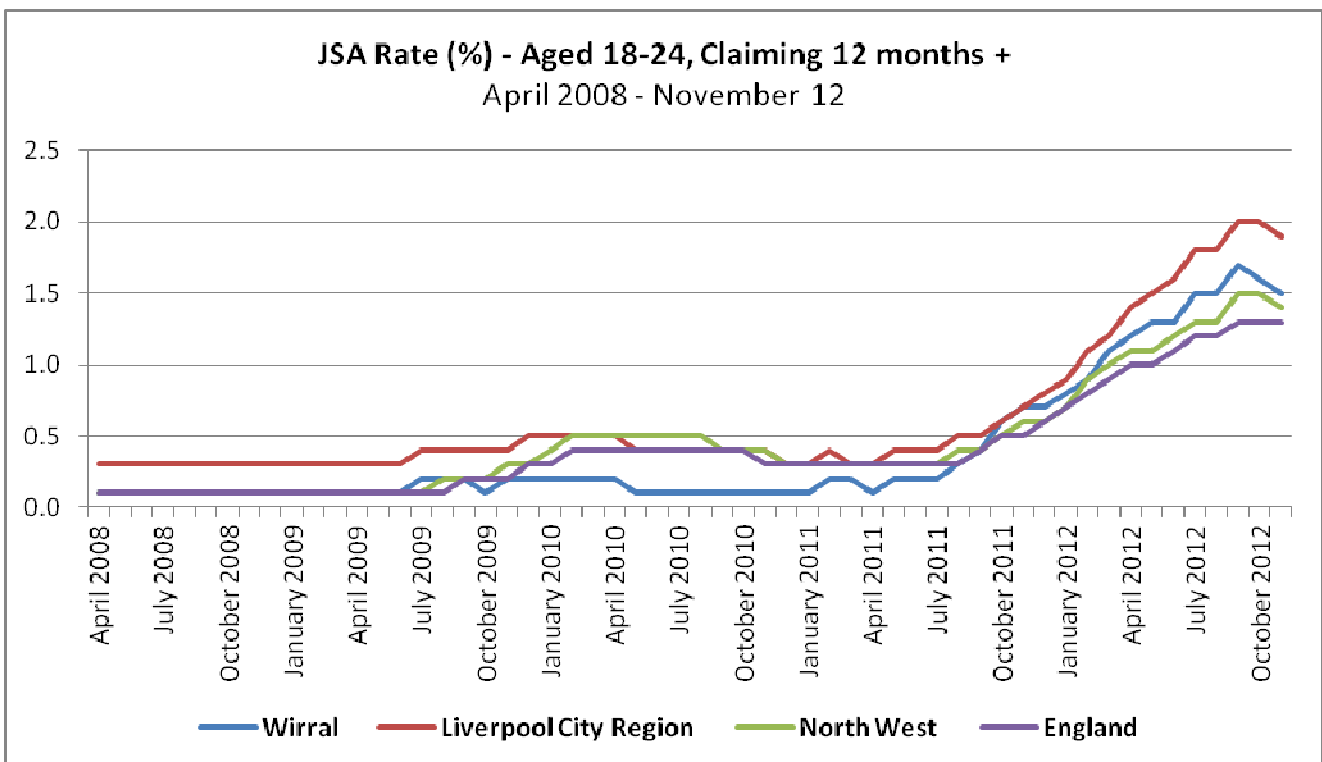


Table 3f: JSA 18-24 claiming 0-9 months

	April 2008		November 2012		Number change	Rate Change	% Number Change
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate			
Wirral	2,025	7.8%	2,040	7.9%	+15	+0.1%	+0.7%
LCR	11,325	7.1%	11,665	7.3%	+430	+0.2%	+3.7%
North West	35,440	5.2%	42,560	6.2%	+7,120	+1.0%	+20.0%
England	198,600	4.1%	259,275	5.2%	+60,675	+1.1%	+30.5%

Source: NOMIS, Claimant Count, November 12

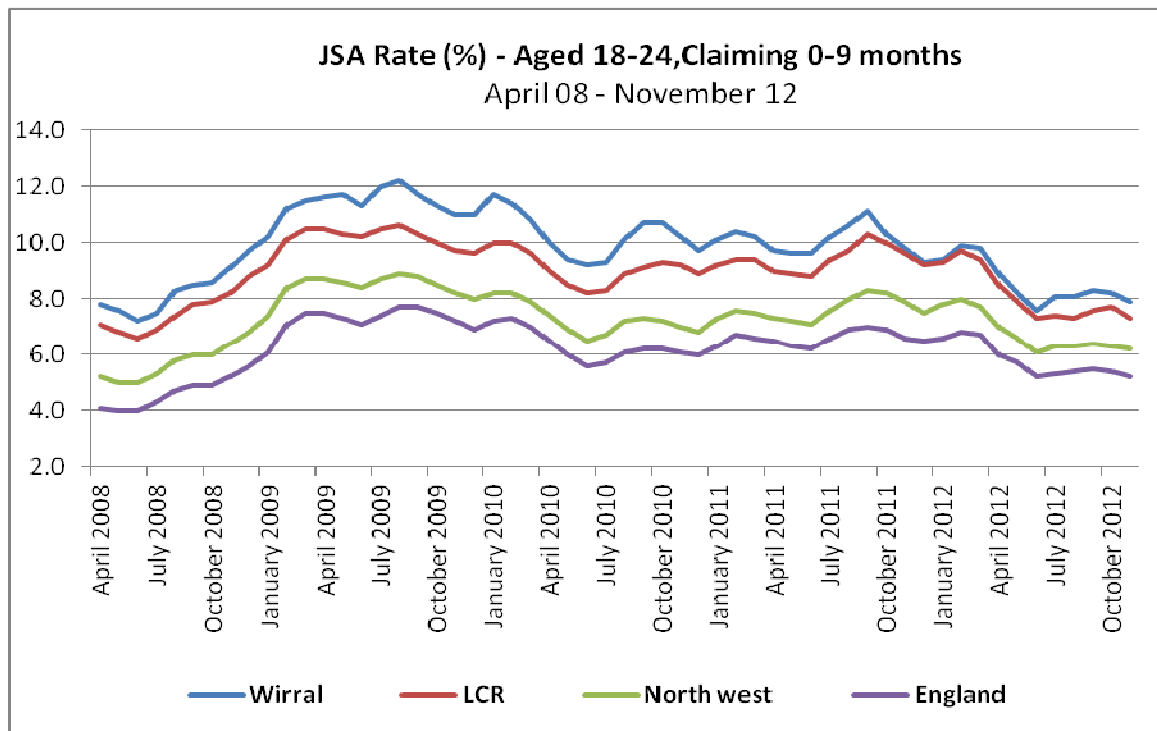
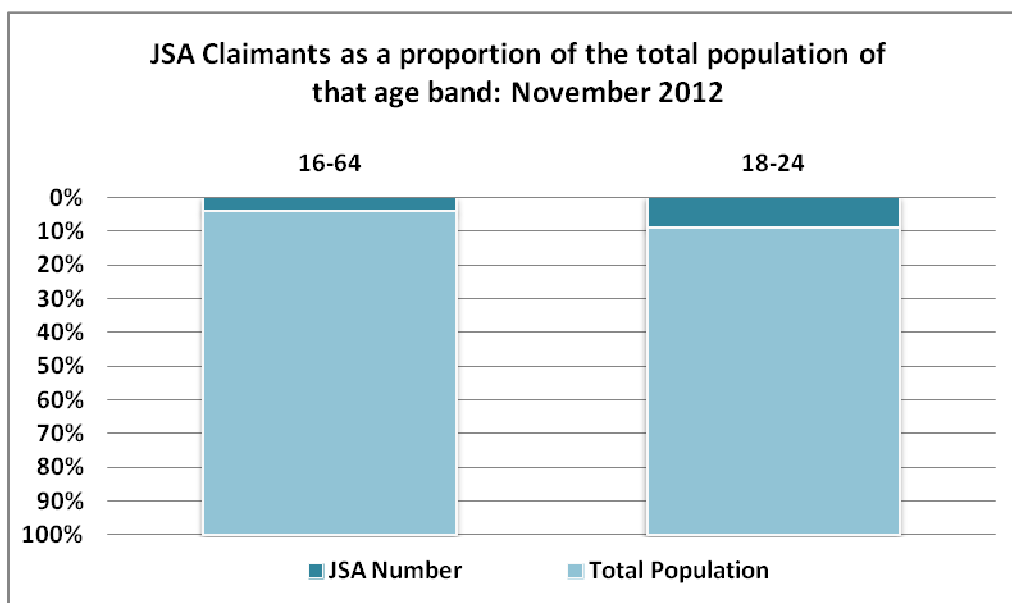
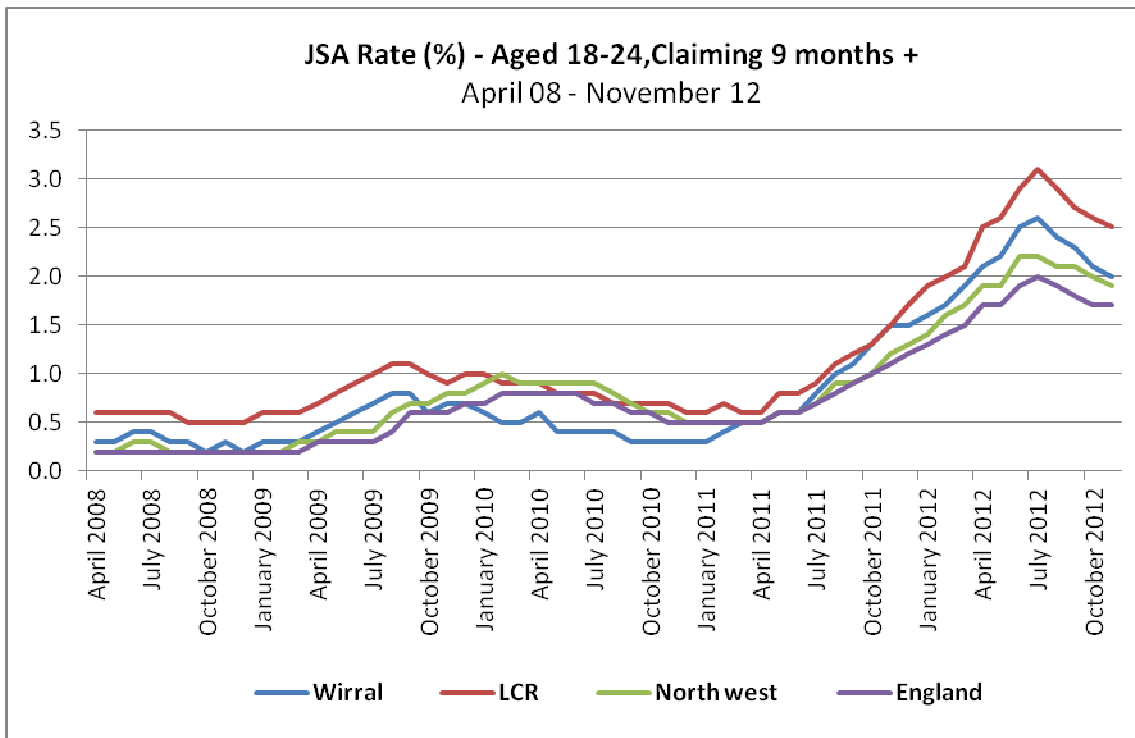


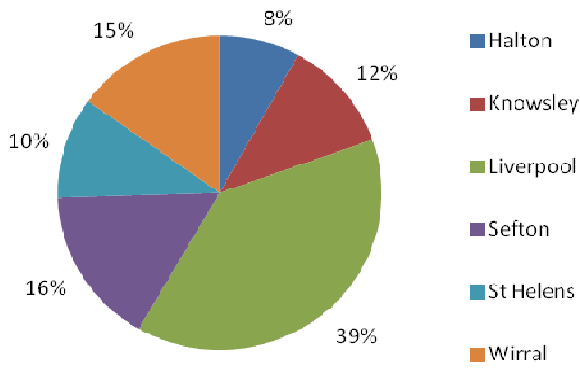
Table 3g: JSA 18-24 claiming over 9 months

	April 2008		November 2012		Number change	Rate Change	% Number Change
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate			
Wirral	80	0.3%	535	2.0%	+455	+1.7%	+568%
LCR	915	0.6%	4,050	2.5%	+3,135	+1.9%	+342%
North West	1,775	0.2%	13,345	1.9%	+11,570	+1.7%	652%
England	9,855	0.2%	84,595	1.7%	+74,740	+1.5%	758%

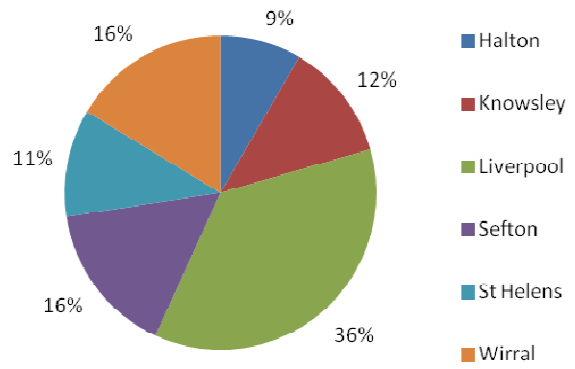
Source: NOMIS, Claimant Count, November 12



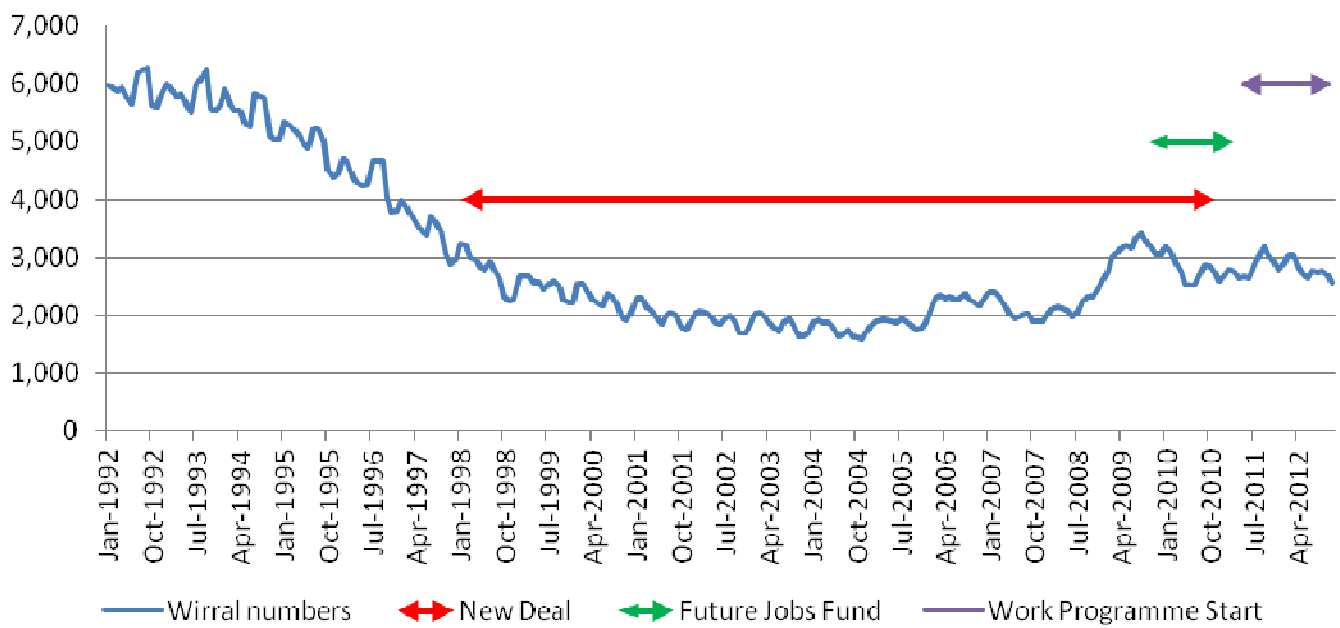
All age JSA Claimants
LCR authorities split by % of City Region total



Aged 18-24 JSA Claimants
LCR authorities split by % of City Region total



Wirral JSA Claimants: Aged 18-24 / All durations
Jan 1992 - Nov 2012



WIRRAL COUNCIL

ECONOMY AND REGENERATION OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

16 JANUARY 2013

SUBJECT:	TOWN CENTRES UPDATE REPORT
WARDS AFFECTED:	<i>ALL</i>
REPORT OF:	HEAD OF REGENERATION
KEY DECISION	NO

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 At the meeting of this Committee on the 5th September 2012. I reported on the support being given to Wirral's retail areas. The Chair of this Committee has now asked for an update report on Wirral's retail centres, and the initiatives that are being pursued to support them. This report summarises progress with current initiatives, the development of a Trader Toolkit and Action Plans for individual centres. The report is for information and noting.
- 1.2 A short presentation on the contents of this report along with a demonstration of the toolkit and an example of one of the action plans will be given at the meeting.

2.0 PROGRESS REPORT

- 2.1 This report outlines progress to date on various initiatives and work areas.

Town Teams

- 2.2 In the September report, I indicated that following the second round of Portas Pilot announcements, Government had further announced a Town Team Partnership scheme which comprised a national package of support totalling £5.5 million. The purpose of this funding was to give those Town Teams which were unsuccessful in bidding to be Portas Pilots, the opportunity to sign up to be a Town Team Partnership. These proposals had to be endorsed and submitted to Government, by the Member of Parliament in whose constituency the Town Team is located.. The Town Team Partnerships will receive £10,000 of Government funds as part of a package of support, to help them put elements of their plans into action and they will also be able to access support from a variety of experts to help tackle issues within their centres. The Association of Town Centre Managers (ATCM) is playing a key role in delivering this support. The ATCM has published a 'Town Team Prospectus' which summarises what support will be available and which can be viewed on their website. A "Town Team Special Advisor" for the North West Region has been appointed, whose role it is to support, mentor and provide advice to Town Teams, especially those newly established. However, the support is not a full time role, but on a consultancy basis and with around 50 Town Teams in the North West Region, the advisor is not able to offer 'face to face' advice such as attending individual town team meetings although she may be able to attend a meeting of all the Town Team Partners in Wirral and this is currently being explored.

- 2.3 Seven Town Team partnerships are being supported by Government funding across the Borough and a summary of the individual projects and lead partner organisations are highlighted at Appendix 1. Liscard Town Team for their own reasons, chose not to submit an application to become a Town Team Partnership.

High Street X-Fund

- 2.4 Members will recall that at the end of August 2012, the Government announced – *Our Town First: Future High Street X-Funds Prospectus*. Information regarding this opportunity was reported to Cabinet on 8th November 2012. The initiative sought bids from town centre locations to bid for resources to reward those areas that had introduced innovative and imaginative schemes in their locality since May 2011. The application process required applicants to submit an accompanying 2-4 minute YouTube video with their application form, along with a letter from the local authority, confirming its intention to act as the accountable body for any successful awards.
- 2.5 Information regarding the scheme was circulated widely to Town Teams and Trader groups and the closing date for applications to be submitted to Government was 6th December. Only one application has been forthcoming, that submitted by Oxtan Road Traders in Birkenhead, which is seeking support to build on previous work refurbishing empty units and then sub-dividing them into micro units for start up businesses.
- 2.6 The outcome of applications is expected to be announced in March 2013 and Members of this committee will be kept advised.

The Town Centre Tool Kit

- 2.7 In the September report I indicated that officers were commencing work on the production of a Town Centre ‘toolkit’. The Toolkit aims to provide advice and encouragement to those centres without an active trader group by outlining some of the benefits of businesses working together, whether formally or informally. In addition the Toolkit provides advice on planning and other regulatory issues tailored to the specific needs of retailers and signposting them to appropriate contacts. It is intended that the toolkit will be a predominantly online resource and will be updated and expanded as necessary and form part of the suite of business support tools provided by the Council.

Planning Policy Developments in Relation to Retail Areas

Core Strategy Local Plan Progress

- 2.8 At its meeting of 15th October, Council approved the Proposed Submission Draft Core Strategy for Consultation. The consultation commenced on 12th December and runs until 11th February 2013 – The document can be viewed here www.wirral-consult.limehouse.co.uk/portal. The Core Strategy proposes a network of 23 centres in the Borough (in addition to Birkenhead) which have provided the basis of the Strategy and Action Planning work. Additional policies relate to development within these centres, Food and drink uses, retail impact assessments and criteria for edge of centre and out of centre development

Progress with Town, District and Local Centre Action Plans

- 2.9 As Members may recall, my September report identified 6 centres to be the subject of a first phase of more detailed action planning work following on from the completion of the Town District and Local Centres Study and Delivery Framework in July 2011. These are Liscard, New Ferry, Seacombe (Poulton Rd / Borough Rd), New Brighton (Seabank Rd), Wallasey Village and Irby.
- 2.10 It is intended that each action plan will follow a common format and maps will be produced for each area. Each action plan will begin with an introductory section, which outlines the background to the work and explains the linkages with other plans and strategies. This leads into a section outlining the situation in the centre now, under the thematic headings of “Diversification and Identity”, “Transport and Accessibility”, “Placemaking” and “Events and Marketing”. This is followed by a section on the centre looking forward with suggested goals, outcomes and possible interventions in table format for each of the above headings.
- 2.11 The range of issues to be addressed under each heading within each action plan will vary between centres depending on their individual circumstances, but will include such things as:
- Clustering of non- retail uses and the appropriate policy response;
 - Detailed assessment of upper floor uses;
 - Detailed work on scope for contraction (or expansion) of the centres and how this would be managed;
 - Potential detailed environmental improvements;
 - Traffic management and parking;
 - Centre-specific design and other guidance;
 - Options for the local marketing of the centre and linkage to any borough wide initiatives.
- 2.12 An internal Council Team has been looking at each of the centres in turn drawing on expertise from Urban Design, Forward Planning, Transport and Investment Strategy teams. The first draft Action Plans for Liscard, New Ferry and Seabank Road have been prepared in draft form and are undergoing consultation with trader groups (where they exist), Ward Members and other stakeholders. It is intended that following consultation the first six finalised Action Plans will be reported to Cabinet in April for adoption. It is planned that a further six Action Plans will be prepared during 2013/14 and this will be considered further in the April Cabinet report.

3.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 3.1 A risk register for each of the Town Centre Action Plans will be developed.

4.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 The action Plan reports for each area will consider options during the process of their preparation.

5.0 CONSULTATION

5.1 Consultation has been undertaken on all of the elements outlined in the report. The Action Plan work will involve a series of consultation meetings which will be arranged for each of the centres.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

6.1 The Action Plan work will provide opportunity to involve voluntary, community and faith groups to inform the detail of the action plans.

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

7.1 Existing resources from a number of departments have been used to undertake this work.

7.2 There are no IT or asset implications.

8.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are none arising from this report.

9.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Has the potential impact of your proposal(s) been reviewed with regard to equality?

(a) Yes and impact review is attached – (*insert appropriate hyperlink*).

<http://www.wirral.gov.uk/my-services/community-and-living/equality-diversity-cohesion/equality-impact-assessments/eias-2010-0>

10.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

10.1 The Town Centre work will be in conformity with national policy in terms of sustainable development.

11.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

11.1 These are set out in the report.

12.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

12.1 That progress is noted.

13.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

13.1 To update Members on the progress made to date on initiatives taking place in Town Centres.

REPORT AUTHOR: Hayley Crook/ John Entwistle
Investment Strategy / Forward Planning
telephone: (0151) 691 8297 / 8221
email: hayleycrook@wirral.gov.uk or Johnentwistle@wirral.gov.uk

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 - TOWN TEAM PARTNERS – SUMMARY OF WIRRAL PROPOSALS

REFERENCE MATERIAL

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Cabinet- Town, District and Local Centre Study and Delivery Framework	21 July 2011
Cabinet – Neighbourhood plans and Area Forum funding	24 November 2011
Cabinet – Wirral Town Team funding	12 April 2012
Economy and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee	5 September 2012
Cabinet - Our Town First: High Street X-Fund	8 November 2012

**APPENDIX 1 - TOWN TEAM PARTNERS
SUMMARY OF WIRRAL PROPOSALS**

Town Team and Sponsor	Project Summary
Birkenhead Market Town Team (Birkenhead Market)	The resources will be used as a contribution towards the refurbishment of the ladies toilet block within the market complex.
Birkenhead Town Centre (Wirral Chamber of Commerce & Industry)	Funding will be used as a contribution to the salary costs to employ a dedicated Town Centre Manager, with a view to seeking further resources to establish a business improvement district for the area.
Hoylake Town Team Partnership (Hoylake Village Life)	The funding will be spent on a series of creative community events i.e. arts and cultural activities to be held in 2013 aimed at helping invigorate the high street and bringing businesses and communities together. These will complement activities that are being proposed in relation to a Viking Festival in the area.
Moreton Cross Town Team (Leasowe Development Trust)	The project seeks to pilot an initiative around alternative currency and to develop a Local Business Association through a dedicated web portal.
New Ferry Town Team (NFRAG)	To commission consultants to undertake a masterplanning exercise to turn the fortunes of the town around by attracting new, independent traders and nurturing start up businesses.
New Brighton Town Team (New Brighton Community Partnership)	The project will focus on a number of activities to create a "Town Square" concept. This will include activities such as markets, arts and book fairs and carnivals.
Seabank Rd Town Team (Seabank Rd Residents & Tenants Association)	Funding will go towards creating websites for 10 local businesses to promote their shops and the creation of a Business and Enterprise Forum. In addition project will support local unemployed residents to enable access to IT training and CV and jobhunting techniques and volunteer opportunities.

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Equality Impact Toolkit (new version February 2012)

Section 1: Your details

Council officer: Hayley Crook

Email address: hayleycrook@wirral.gov.uk

Head of Service: David Ball

Chief Officer: Kevin Adderley

Department: Regeneration, Housing and Planning

Date: December 2012

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

Town Centre Action Plans

Section 2b: Is this EIA being submitted to Cabinet or Overview & Scrutiny Committee?

Yes If 'yes' please state which meeting and what date
Economy and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny January 2012

And please add hyperlink to your published EIA on the Council's website

... <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/my-services/community-and-living/equality-diversity-cohesion/equality-impact-assessments/eias-2010/regeneration-housing-planning>

Section 3: Will the Council function / proposal affect equality in? (please tick relevant boxes)

Services

The workforce

Communities

Other (please state)

If you have ticked one or more of above, please go to section 4.

None (please stop here and email this form to your Chief Officer who needs to email it to equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk for publishing)

Section 4: **Within the Equality Duty 2010, there are 3 legal requirements. Will the Council function / proposal support the way the Council**
..... (please tick relevant boxes)

Eliminates unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation

Advances equality of opportunity

Fosters good relations between groups of people

If you have ticked one or more of above, please go to section 5.

None (please stop here and email this form to your Chief Officer who needs to email it to equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk for publishing)

Section 5: **Will the function / proposal have a positive 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)?**

You may also want to consider socio-economic status of individuals.

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

Overarching Rationale

The Investment Strategy is intended to improve Wirral's overall economic performance and economic well being across the Borough. The Strategy recognises that economic

inequalities exist within the population, and that the Council and our partners will seek to address these inequalities through targeted regeneration interventions and specific projects.

Protected characteristic	Positive or negative impact	Action required to mitigate any negative impact	Lead person	Timescale	Resource implications
All	Positive: Positive - The work will help to bring community, traders, businesses and partners together to tackle issues within their high street	N/a		On Going 2013	Staff time
All	Negative – potential for some community groups to not be as involved as others.	Encourage Town Teams to be as inclusive as possible and engage and consult as widely as possible.		On going 2013	Staff time

Section 5a: Where and how will the above actions be monitored?

Work will be continuing through 2013 and will be monitored whilst working on the specific action plans

Section 5b: If you think there is no negative impact, what is your reasoning behind this? N/A

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

The process has been informed by the Council's Town, District and Local Centre Study and Delivery Framework 2011 and the Core Strategy

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

Yes

If 'yes' please continue to section 8.

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

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

Section 8: How will consultation take place?

We will be engaging with local traders, community groups where appropriate and Members to help inform and shape the Action Plans going forward.

Before you complete your consultation, please email your 'incomplete' EIA to equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk via your Chief Officer in order for the Council to ensure it is meeting it's legal requirements. The EIA will be published with a note saying we are awaiting outcomes from a consultation exercise.

Once you have completed your consultation, please review your actions in section 5. Then email this form to your Chief Officer who needs to email it to equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk for re-publishing.

Section 9: Have you remembered to:

- a) **Add a hyperlink to your published EIA on the Council website?** (section 2b)
- b) **Include any positive impacts as well as negative impacts?** (section 5)
- c) **Send this EIA to equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk via your Chief Officer?**
- d) **Review section 5 once consultation has taken place and sent your completed EIA to equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk via your Chief Officer for re-publishing?**

UPDATE ON WORK PROGRAMME : ECONOMY & REGENERATION OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 16th JANUARY 2013

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 : 16th JANUARY 2013

Date of New item	Topic Description	How the topic will be dealt with	Estimated Complete Date	Comments on Progress	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	<p>This item was proposed by members for inclusion on the work programme at the committee meeting on 06/06/11.</p> <p>Scope document for the Review agreed by Committee on 05/09/11. The final report for the review was presented to Committee on 08/03/12 and was referred to the Cabinet meeting held on 12th April 2012. Cabinet also received a departmental report providing a response to the recommendations of the scrutiny review.</p> <p>An officer / member working group, the Green Economy Working Group, has been set up to lead the implementation of the recommendations.</p> <p>An update report regarding progress of the Working Group and the impact of the review’s recommendations will be provided to Committee in March 2013.</p> <p>Due to the impact of budget reductions on the implementation of the scrutiny review’s recommendations, Committee agreed, on 14/11/12, that the Working Group will no longer meet as planned.</p>	

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		<p>During the discussion on the 'End of Year Performance Report' on 06/06/11, members requested a report on this item. Report on Affordable Housing presented to Committee on 05/09/11. A further report on Mortgages / Affordability was provided on 08/03/12. Cabinet (12/04/12) was requested to consider the creation of a LA Mortgage Scheme.</p> <p>The outcome of the Cabinet debate was reported back to Committee on 07/06/12. It was agreed that the item should be retained on the Committee's work programme.</p>	
06/06/11	<p>Business Start Programme</p> <p>The Programme has performed well but:</p> <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? <p>Were businesses satisfied with the support?</p>	Report to Committee		<p>This item was proposed by members for inclusion on the work programme at the committee meeting on 06/06/11.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Progress report presented to Committee on 08/03/12. The views of Committee were referred to Cabinet on 12/04/12. The outcome of the Cabinet debate was reported back to Committee on 07/06/12.</p>	

Date of New item	Topic Description	How the topic will be dealt with	Estimated Complete Date	Comments on Progress	Complete?
06/06/11	Inward Investment	Report to Committee		<p>This item was proposed by members for inclusion on the work programme at the committee meeting on 06/06/11.</p> <p>Report presented to Committee on 05/09/11. Agreed that a further report will be provided once the Inward Investment Manager is in post.</p> <p>An update report was provided to Committee on 05/09/12.</p>	
05/09/11	Fair Trade	Mark Johnston		<p>The Chair provided a verbal report to Committee on 05/09/11 regarding the work undertaken by him as Fair Trade Champion.</p> <p>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).</p>	
07/11/11	Child Poverty Strategy	Officer Reports (Jane Morgan)		<p>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. Progress report provided to Committee on 08/03/12. Further Progress reports will be provided to Committee.</p> <p>Committee agreed, on 05/09/12, to retain this item as part of the work programme.</p>	

Date of New item	Topic Description	How the topic will be dealt with	Estimated Complete Date	Comments on Progress	Complete?
07/06/12	Visit to regeneration and housing sites, for example, housing schemes, Wirral International Business Park, Wirral Waters	Members visit to be arranged by Kevin Adderley / David Ball		Tour of sites took place on 03/07/12.	Complete
07/06/12	Housing Welfare Reform - The impact of Welfare Reform on both private and social housing sectors, and particularly on under occupation in the social sector.	To be agreed	Final Report due to be presented to Committee on 7 th March 2013	This topic was suggested by the Economy & Regeneration Scrutiny Committee, 8 th March 2012. On 05/09/12, Committee agreed "Further scrutiny work being undertaken on the impact of Welfare Reform on both private and social housing sectors and, in particular, on under-occupancy in the social sector". A special meeting of members was held on 18/10/12 to discuss the scope for a planned scrutiny review. The draft Scope document was agreed by Committee on 14/11/12. Evidence Days will be planned for January 2013.	
07/06/12	Wirral Trade Centre – Referral from Council Council agreed a motion on 16 th April 2012 which included: "Council calls on the three Parties to agree membership for a 1:1:1 Member Working Party, reporting to the Economy and Regeneration OSC. This Working Party will scope a project leading to recommendations to ensure this Council and its partners are Trade Centre ready and able to embrace all opportunities for development through its growing links with China and other countries and that potential barriers to businesses and investors are identified and recommendations made as to how these can be overcome".	In-depth Scrutiny Review by Working Group of Members	End of 2012	This item was proposed by members for inclusion on the work programme at the Committee meeting on 07/06/12. The final report from the Working Group was agreed by the Committee on 14/11/12. The report was referred to a future Cabinet meeting. An update report regarding the implementation of the recommendations will also be presented to a future meeting of this Committee.	

Date of New item	Topic Description	How the topic will be dealt with	Estimated Complete Date	Comments on Progress	Complete?
05/09/12	Budget Consultation – Scrutiny Workshop	Workshop		A Scrutiny Workshop regarding the budget and future priorities was held on 25/09/12. A further special meeting was held on 06/11/12 to discuss the outcomes of the 'What Really Matters' Consultation process. A further meeting to discuss Budget Options has been arranged for 05/12/12.	
05/09/12	The effect of the economy on youth unemployment in Wirral	Report to Committee	Jan 2013	A report to Committee is due in January 2013.	
05/09/12	Sub-Regional Choice Based Lettings Scheme	Report to Committee		A report to Committee is due in January 2013.	
05/09/12	Deep Clean scheme in town centres	Report to Committee		Further to a report to Committee regarding 'Town Centres Update' on 05/09/12, a future report on the Deep Clean scheme was requested. Due to the impact of budget reductions on future services, Committee agreed, on 14/11/12, that this report was no longer required.	Closed
05/09/12	The operation of the Free after Three parking scheme	Report to Committee		Further to a report to Committee regarding 'Town Centres Update' on 05/09/12, a future report on the Free after Three parking scheme was requested. Due to the impact of budget reductions on future services, Committee agreed, on 14/11/12, that this report was no longer required.	Closed

Date of New item	Topic Description	How the topic will be dealt with	Estimated Complete Date	Comments on Progress	Complete?
05/09/12	An evaluation of projects for Empty Shops funding	Report to Committee		Further to a report to Committee regarding 'Town Centres Update' on 05/09/12, a future evaluation report of projects for Empty Shops funding was requested. The report is to be delivered approximately 12 months after the funding was provided. Due to the impact of budget reductions on future services, Committee agreed, on 14/11/12, that this report was no longer required.	Closed
05/09/12	Progress reports regarding the Shopping Centre Action Plans	Report to Committee		Further to a report to Committee regarding 'Town Centres Update' on 05/09/12, a future report on the Shopping Centre Action Plans was requested.	
14/11/12	Digital Inclusion	Presentation (Rose Boylan)		A presentation is planned for the Committee meeting due to be held on 07/03/13.	
05/12/12	Supporting People – future service provision			Special Committee meeting to discuss Budget Options (05/12/12) agreed to add this topic to the work programme – probably for the new municipal year (2013/14)	

REPORT 2
SUGGESTIONS FOR ADDITIONS TO WORK PROGRAMME
ECONOMY & REGENERATION : 16TH JANUARY 2013

Topic Description	Topic suggested by	How the topic will be dealt with	Estimated Completion Date

REPORT 3
PROPOSED OUTLINE MEETING SCHEDULE FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR
ECONOMY & REGENERATION : 16TH JANUARY 2013

Meeting Date	Topic Description
07/06/12	Presentation and discussion – Dave Furlong & Lisa Thompson, Mole Group Terms of Reference for the Committee – Presentation (David Ball) Role of Scrutiny – Presentation (Alan Veitch) Green Growth in Wirral – – Feedback from referral to Cabinet, 12 th April 2012 Wirral Trade Centre – Notice of Motion – Referral from Council, 16 th April 2012 Affordability and Mortgages including First-Time Buyers – Feedback from referral to Cabinet, 12 th April 2012 Business Support – Feedback from referral to Cabinet, 12 th April 2012 Equality Impact Assessments – Referral from Scrutiny Programme Board, 28 th February 2012 Regeneration Tour, 3 rd July 2012 Scrutiny Work Programme Forward Plan Regeneration Update
05/09/12	Presentation and discussion – David Downing, Chairman of Drivecompare Trade Centre Scrutiny Review: Update (Report of Working Group – Cllr Mark Johnston, Chair) Performance Monitoring Report – Quarter 1 (Kevin Adderley) Feedback from the Member’s Regeneration / Housing Tour held on 3rd July Shopping Centre Regeneration – Update (David Ball) Investment Manager’s post – Update (David Ball – verbal report) Budget Consultation – Scrutiny Workshops Scrutiny Work Programme Forward Plan Regeneration Update
25/09/12	Budget Consultation – Scrutiny Workshop
06/11/12	Outcomes of the ‘What Really Matters’ Consultation process.
12/11/12	Presentation and discussion – Rebecca Owens, Recipro UK Trade Centre Scrutiny Review – Final Report Welfare Reform and under-occupation – Draft Scope document for future scrutiny review Scrutiny Work Programme Forward Plan Regeneration Update
05/12/12	Consultation – Budget Options

Meeting Date	Topic Description
21/01/13	Presentation and discussion – CETCO The effect of the economy on youth unemployment in Wirral Sub-Regional Choice Based Lettings Scheme (Ian Platt) Progress reports regarding the Shopping Centre Action Plans (David Ball) Performance Monitoring Report – Quarter 2 and Quarter 3 (Kevin Adderley) Draft Housing Needs Assessment (Kevin Adderley) Fair Trade (Cllr Mark Johnston) Scrutiny Work Programme Forward Plan Regeneration Update
18/03/13	Presentation and discussion – Member of the Business Community Green Growth Working Group – Update report (This item may be deferred) Digital Inclusion – Presentation (Rose Boylan) Welfare Reform and under-occupation – Report from the Member’s Working Group Scrutiny Work Programme Forward Plan Regeneration Update Plus other items to add.....
Outstanding items – yet to be allocated to a specific meeting	Child Poverty Strategy - Update

REPORT 4
PROGRESS REPORT ON IN-DEPTH PANEL REVIEWS
ECONOMY & REGENERATION : 16TH JANUARY 2013

Title of Review	Members of Panel	Progress to Date	Date Due to report to Committee
Trade Centre Scrutiny Review	Cllr Mark Johnston (Chair) Cllr Jean Stapleton Cllr Andrew Hodson	<p><u>As at 02/07/12:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Working Group has met to discuss the draft scope for the review. • The Scope for the review will be finalised and will be reported to Committee in September • A meeting at the Confucius Centre (Calday Grange Grammar School) has been arranged. • Further meetings with Council officers and members of the business, voluntary and community sectors will be arranged as the evidence-gathering for the review continues. <p><u>As at 09/10/12:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Several further evidence-gathering meetings have taken place. • Members have met to discuss draft recommendations for the review. • The final report for the Trade Centre Scrutiny Review is due to be submitted to Committee on 14/11/12. <p><u>As at 20/11/12:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The final report for the Trade Centre Scrutiny Review was submitted to Committee on 14/11/12 and to Cabinet on 20/12/12. 	End of 2012
Welfare Reform and under-occupation	Cllr Mark Johnston (Chair) Cllr Rob Gregson Cllr Denise Realey Cllr Jean Stapleton Cllr Mike Sullivan Cllr Janette Williamson	<p><u>As at 20/11/12:</u> The Scope for the Review was discussed / agreed by the Committee on 14/11/12. Evidence Days will be organised. These are due to be held on 15th and 22nd January 2013.</p>	

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