



Regeneration and Environment Policy and Performance Committee

Date:	Tuesday, 17 September 2013
Time:	6.00 pm
Venue:	Committee Room 1 - Wallasey Town Hall

Contact Officer: Mark Delap
Tel: 0151 691 8500
e-mail: markdelap@wirral.gov.uk
Website: <http://www.wirral.gov.uk>

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 - 8)

To approve the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 10 July 2013

**3. NOTICE OF MOTION
- CUTS TO MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE
(Pages 9 - 10)**

At the meeting of the Council held on 15 July 2013 (minute 21 refers), the attached Notice of Motion proposed by Councillor D Roberts and seconded by Councillor J Stapleton was referred by the Mayor to this Committee for consideration.

In accordance with Standing Order 7 (6), Councillor Roberts has been invited to attend the meeting in order for her to be given an opportunity to explain the Motion.

4. YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT IN WIRRAL (Pages 11 - 20)

5. HIGHWAYS AND TRAFFIC REPRESENTATION PANEL - MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Highways and Traffic Representation Panel to be held on 11 September 2013 will be circulated separately

6. WORK PROGRAMME (Pages 21 - 24)

7. DIRECTORATE PLAN PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORT (Pages 25 - 34)

8. REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT BUDGET MONITORING (Pages 35 - 36)

9. USE OF DELEGATED POWERS REPORT (Pages 37 - 40)

10. POLICY UPDATE (Pages 41 - 44)

11. COMMITTEE REFERRAL - PERMITTED DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS (Pages 45 - 56)

At its meeting held on 30 May 2013 (minute 34 refers), the Planning Committee referred the attached report on changes to Permitted Development Rights to this Committee for information.

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)

REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT POLICY AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 10 July 2013

<u>Present:</u>	Councillor	A Brighouse (Chair)	
	Councillors	S Foulkes S Williams E Boulton J Crabtree P Doughty G Ellis R Gregson	M Johnston P Kearney A Leech D Realey M Sullivan KJ Williams
<u>Cabinet Members:</u>	Councillors	G Davies P Hackett B Kenny	

1 INTRODUCTIONS AND WELCOME

The Chair welcomed all who were present and provided a brief outline as to how he expected meetings of the Committee to be conducted. He commented that the Committee would have a considerable workload and he expected that agendas would be small and focused upon the key issues to be identified by Members for inclusion in the work programme.

2 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 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.

3 MINUTES

The Head of Legal and Member Services presented the minutes of the Sustainable Communities and Economy and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committees, whose terms of reference now fell largely within the remit of this Committee.

Members referred to a number of matters from those meetings and requested an update from officers, in relation to a contract awarded for Cheshire Lines Facilities Management; and the Wirral Approved Trader Scheme. (Sustainable Communities (12 March 2013) minutes 74 and 75 refer).

The Head of Environment and Regulation agreed to provide an update in relation to each matter to Members direct.

Resolved – That, subject to the provision of update reports as requested, the minutes of the Sustainable Communities O&S Committee held on 12 March 2013 and the Economy and Regeneration O&S Committee held on 22 April 2013, be approved.

4 **TERMS OF REFERENCE AND AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY**

The Director of Public Health/Head of Policy and Performance presented the Terms of Reference of the Policy and Performance Committees, as set out in Article 6 of the Council's Constitution, which had recently been revised and updated in response to the need to improve the Council's corporate governance and decision making. The report also highlighted the specific Service Areas which fell within the remit of the Regeneration and Environment Policy and Performance Committee and the Director indicated that greater detail was provided in the Scrutiny Briefing Pack that had been circulated to Members (see minute 5 post) –

Environment and Regulation

- Waste & Environment
- Parks & Countryside
- Highways Management
- Traffic & Transport
- Regulation
- Trading Standards
- Environmental Health
- Waste & Environment

Housing and Community Safety

- Housing Strategy
- Housing Renewal, including Private Sector Housing
- Supporting People
- Community Safety

Regeneration

- Regeneration & Economic Development
- Business Support
- Town Centres
- Local Enterprise Partnership
- Planning
- Building Control
- Cultural Services

Tourism

The Chair indicated that, in order for the Committee to work effectively, there would be a need for a significant amount of scrutiny work to be undertaken by Members outside the Committee either by way of individual investigation to be reported back to the Committee, or by targeted task and finish groups with a specific remit and able to focus on detail, in order to get to the heart of the Committees brief.

Resolved – That the Committee's Terms of Reference and specific Areas of Responsibility, be noted.

5 **BRIEFING PACK**

For ease of reference, the Director of Public Health/Head of Policy and Performance presented the comprehensive Scrutiny Briefing Pack, which had been prepared for the Regeneration and Environment Policy and Performance Committee and had

previously been circulated to Members. It provided a summary of the purpose of overview and scrutiny and contained detail in relation to the relevant service areas.

The document provided an outline of the outstanding items from previous scrutiny committees and indicated the key plans and strategies and key policy drivers of relevance to the work of the Committees.

Resolved – That the Briefing Pack be noted.

6 **MEETING PROCEDURE RULES**

Director of Public Health/Head of Policy and Performance presented the Policy and Performance Committee Meeting Procedure Rules, under which the formal meetings of the Committee should be undertaken. The Coordinating Committee was responsible for determining the overview and scrutiny rules and operational protocols and at its meeting held on 3 July 2013 (minute 11 refers) an amendment was proposed to the procedure rules. As a result, they would be revised and re-circulated to Members, to reflect the views expressed by the Coordinating Committee.

The Chair commented also that at the Coordinating Committee, it was proposed that at future meetings of Policy and Performance Committees, Members should not sit in party groups, so as to avoid adversarial politics in the scrutiny function. However, the proposal was not intended to be prescriptive, but to promote improved cross-party working and to reignite scrutiny in Wirral.

Members agreed to the need to raise the profile of scrutiny, in order to have a positive influence on the Cabinet and to provide an effective and informed challenge, where necessary. Key to this however was to ensure that the work undertaken by scrutiny was meaningful and that it was progressed and acted upon. In response to questions from Members in relation to the budget available to the Policy and Performance Committees, the Scrutiny Support Officer indicated that, although there was not a specific budget allocation, requests for funding associated with scrutiny work would be considered on a case by case basis.

Resolved – That the report and the Procedure Rules be noted.

7 **REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE - PLAN**

The Strategic Director – Regeneration and Environment presented the Directorate Plan for 2013/2014, which provided an explanation of the critical key role of the Directorate in the delivery of a number of key strategies and services, which were central to the Council's successful achievement of its Corporate Plan priorities. In addition, further important day to day activities of the Directorate were included in the Service Plans for each service area and were the responsibility of the Heads of Service.

The local environment and economy were amongst the most important factors in driving the quality of life, health and levels of achievement for Wirral residents and services were focused on ensuring that Wirral was a place where businesses flourished and people had access to jobs. To achieve this, the Directorate was committed to supporting business growth and maintaining and developing improvements to our transport system, which was crucial to a successful and growing economy.

Work with partners was being undertaken in communities to address crime and anti-social behaviour and the Plan outlined the eclectic range of services within the Directorate that increasingly were being carried out in various partnership or collaborative arrangements with other public agencies or volunteer/community

groups. There was a clear need to manage demand and public expectation of what the Council was and was not able to do, faced with a period of unprecedented austerity and change. It was therefore crucial that actions and limited resources were channelled to those areas where maximum sustainable benefits could be delivered.

Each of the Heads of Service indicated the Directorates key priority areas that were included in the Plan document and highlighted what was going to be delivered in 2013/2014. The Plan included an analysis of how the Directorate budget delivered the Corporate Plan priorities, together with the Directorate Risk Register and workforce monitor. In response to a comment from a Member regarding risk assessment scoring, the Head of Regeneration proposed to circulate an explanation of the methodology to all Members of the Committee. He assured Members that the risk register was a live document and that updates to it in relation to any risks that escalated would be brought to the attention of the relevant Policy and Performance Committee Members, as they were to the Cabinet.

With regard to the Desired Direction of Travel indicator, the Head of Environment and Regulation accepted comments from Members that it was, in the main, self evident. However, the information was included for clarity, in the light of a number of changes to the way information now had to be measured and reported. In response to a specific enquiry from a Member with regard to issues associated with the use of PDAs in the brown bin collection, officers indicated that although no such concerns had previously come to light, the matter would be investigated and a note would be provided to Members direct.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

8 REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE - PERFORMANCE DASHBOARD AND BUDGET MONITORING

The Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment presented the Directorate Plan Draft Performance Management Report (Performance Dashboard) to support the delivery of the Directorate Improvement Plan for 2013/2014. It translated the priorities set out in the Plan into a coherent set of performance outcome measures and targets that would be used to evaluate the achievement of the priorities outlined in the Plan over the next year.

The Head of Housing and Community Safety commented that the Directorate Plan linked directly to the Corporate Plan and the key indicators contained within it formed a hierarchy underneath the high level indicators specified in the Corporate Plan that was to be considered by the Council in July. In response to a question from the Chair, he indicated that the Dashboard document would be presented to each meeting of the Committee and that it would also be available for inspection on the Council's intranet. Should Members wish to delve deeper in relation to any specific item, additional background information could be provided. In response to comments in relation to seasonal fluctuations, the Scrutiny Support Officer agreed to provide to Members further information to highlight where in the year, fluctuations were expected to occur.

In response to a specific question in relation to the targets for jobs created and safeguarded (via Invest Wirral), the Head of Regeneration stated that although the target for 2013/2014 was significantly lower than that for 2012/2013, it was nevertheless challenging and had been arrived at following a detailed analysis of data associated with the economy and indications of growth over the next 12 months. He proposed to provide to Members an analysis of performance against the targets in 2012/2013, together with information as to how targets were set for 2013/2014. He was pleased to report that the target last year had been exceeded and he hoped that the same would be true in 2013/2014.

Following a comment from a Member in relation to affordability of property, the Head of Housing and Community Safety indicated that the definition of affordability was based upon property provided for the social rented sector although, clearly, in the private sector, definitions of affordability would be variable. He proposed to circulate data to Members in relation to the measure of affordability and, in response to further comments he indicated that future Dashboard reporting would remove jargon or provide an explanation of it.

Resolved – That the Performance Dashboard be noted and the information contained within it be used to inform the Committee’s future work programme.

9 DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED POWERS

The Committee considered the report of the Assistant Chief Executive/Head of Universal and Infrastructure Services, in accordance with the Approved Scheme of Delegation, upon instances where delegated authority had been used with respect to the appointment of contractors pursuant to Contract Procedure Rule 14.4. Whereas the function of Corporate Asset Management was now within his remit, the Assistant Chief Executive/Head of Universal and Infrastructure Services indicated that, in this instance, the delegated authority had been used on behalf of the former Director of Law, HR and Asset Management.

Since the last report to the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee (minute 76 (12 March 2013) refers) the following tenders had been accepted, all being the lowest/most economically advantageous received –

Project Title	Comprehensive Lift Maintenance Contract 2013-2015
Contract Sum	£21,536.28 per annum
Contractor	Knowsley Lift Services Ltd
Funded from	Law, HR & AM Repairs & Maintenance Revenue

Project Title	Birkenhead Town Hall Power/Lighting
Contract Sum	£77,430.53
Contractor	Cottrell Electrical Services Ltd
Funded from	Capital Reserves

Project Title	Asbestos Surveying & Sampling Schedule of Rates Contract 2013-2016
Contract Sum	0% Increase/Reduction to Base Rates
Contractor	Apec Environmental Ltd
Funded from	Law, HR & AM Repairs & Maintenance Revenue

Project Title	Water Hygiene Risk Assessment & Monitoring 2013-2014
Contract Sum	41.5% Reduction to Base Rates
Contractor	Hertel (UK) Ltd
Funded from	Law, HR & Asset Management PPM

The Head of Environment and Regulation commented that, in future, such reports would be presented to the Coordinating Committee, as the information contained within the report fell within its remit.

Resolved – That the report be noted and referred to the next meeting of the Coordinating Committee.

10 **HIGHWAYS AND TRAFFIC REPRESENTATION PANEL - MINUTES**

The Head of Legal and Member Services presented the minutes of the meeting of the Highways and Traffic Representation Panel held on 13 June 2013.

The Panel had considered –

- Objections to the revocation of a Traffic Regulation Order, the effect of which would be to dispose of the car park in Manor Road, Wallasey.
- Objections to proposals to introduce a toucan crossing on Bridge Road, West Kirby, near to its junction with Orrysdale Road.
- Objections to proposals to introduce a Kerblin ‘Buildout’ and an upgrade of the existing pedestrian refuge island on Torrington Road, Liscard, near to its junction with Marlowe Road.

Resolved – That the Committee recommend to the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation –

- (i) That the Car Park at Manor Road, Wallasey be retained and the Head of Environment and Regulation be requested to investigate whether the income associated with advertising at the site could be ringfenced to be used to cover maintenance costs.**
- (ii) That the proposed scheme to introduce a toucan crossing on Bridge Street, West Kirby, near to its junction with Orrysdale Road, be approved.**
- (iii) That, in the interest of road safety, the proposed scheme to introduce a pedestrian refuge island with associated tactile crossing points on Torrington Road, Liscard, near to its junction with Marlowe Road, be approved.**

11 **HIGHWAYS AND TRAFFIC REPRESENTATION PANEL - APPOINTMENT**

The Strategic Director of Transformation and Resources reported that Standing Order 33 (1) required that Committees should keep the need for panels under review and, in particular, the position must be reviewed at the first meeting of a Committee in each municipal year. He requested that a review be undertaken of the Highways and Traffic Representation Panel and set out its terms of reference. If the Panel was to be retained, the Committee was requested to appoint Members to serve on it in 2013/2014.

Resolved –

- (1) That the Highways and Traffic Representation Panel be retained in 2013/2014, with the terms of reference identified.**
- (2) That the following Members be appointed to serve on the Highways and Traffic Representation Panel in 2013/2014 –**

	Members	Deputies
1 Labour	Mike Sullivan	Steve Foulkes Jim Crabtree Paul Doughty Rob Gregson Anita Leech Denise Realey Jerry Williams

1 Conservative

Steve Williams

**Eddie Boulton
Gerry Ellis
Kathryn Hodson
David Elderton
John Hale
Mike Hornby
Lesley Rennie
Cherry Povall**

1 Liberal Democrat

Alan Brighouse

**Stuart Kelly
Pat Williams
Tom Harney
Phil Gilchrist**

12 **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Public Health/Head of Policy and Performance, which indicated that the four Policy and Performance Committees had been established to undertake the work of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny function. Each Committee was invited to select items within their remit to be included within their work programme and it was suggested that more effective scrutiny would focus on a small number of the most relevant high priority topics. The Coordinating Committee had an additional role to ensure that there was no duplication between the work of the other Committees and to make sure that resources were available, from both Members and officers, for the work items to be completed in a timely manner. The report outlined various methods of undertaking detailed scrutiny work and envisaged that the work programme would be monitored and updated at Committee meetings throughout the municipal year.

The report listed a number of items from previous Overview and Scrutiny Committees, where Members had requested further scrutiny work to take place by the new Policy and Performance Committees. The Scrutiny Support Officer commented that, as part of developing the new work programme, Members may wish to identify items from the list but, it would be beneficial to carry forward only those most significant items.

Members raised a number of topics they believed should be included in the Committee's work programme for 2013/2014. A Member further highlighted the need for early progress to be made, otherwise there would be no prospect of completing the body of scrutiny work before the year end. Accordingly, the Chair proposed that the party spokespersons should meet in the near future, to agree and prioritise the work programme, in order that work may commence as soon as practicable, prior to the next meeting.

In response to concerns expressed by Members that not all topics identified for scrutiny could be completed by the year end, the Head of Regeneration assured Members that the areas not selected for scrutiny would not be neglected. There was a significant amount of work being undertaken by officers in the areas identified, albeit not scrutiny work, that could inform work by Members and form the basis of update reports to future meetings of the Committee.

Resolved –

- (1) That the following items be referred to the Chair and Spokespersons for consideration for inclusion in the Committees work programme for the 2013/2014 municipal year –**

- **The implication and impact of budget changes**
 - **Benefit Reform and Under Occupation (from the Economy and Regeneration O&S Committee)**
 - **Wirral Waters**
 - **A Scrutiny Review of the positive impact on the local economy of the redevelopment of New Brighton**
 - **A Review of the COLAS Contract**
 - **The Impact of Welfare Reforms on Homelessness**
 - **The impact of the Reduction in Street Cleansing**
 - **Tourism**
 - **The Decline of Small Shopping Areas**
 - **Domestic Violence**
- (2) **That the completion and prioritisation of the work programme be delegated to the Chair, party spokespersons and the independent Member of the Committee, prior to the next meeting.**
- (3) **That the Chair and spokespersons be delegated to agree to the commencement of any specific parts of the work programme prior to the next meeting of the Committee.**
-

CUTS TO MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

Proposed by Councillor Denise Roberts

Seconded by Councillor Jean Stapleton

- (1) Wirral Council recognises the excellent work undertaken by Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service and applauds the commitment of its frontline and support staff. This Council also notes that those individuals' ability to protect the people of Wirral is being jeopardised by the Government cuts to funding as well as undermining staff morale.
- (2) This Council is deeply concerned by the findings of the Ken Knight review of fire and rescue services which makes the case for further huge cuts, mergers with other Authorities or Police Crime Commissioners and most worryingly privatisation. The Ken Knight review gives very little recognition of the very difficult decisions taken by Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority to date in managing the deepest cuts inflicted on any Authority in the Country and instead advocates its replacement by a PCC without any evidence whatsoever to prove that this would improve the service delivered to the residents of this city region.
- (3) This Council notes with serious concern the Government's alarming proposals to privatise part if not all functions of the fire and rescue service, along with yet further cuts to their grant funding which will impact on their ability in protecting residents from fire, road traffic collisions and other emergencies within the Borough of Wirral.
- (4) This Council is deeply worried that the Government has lost sight of the fire service's main purpose, to protect residents from fire, road traffic collisions and other emergencies and their devastating impact on our communities and that it threatens to put private profit ahead of the need to save lives and help people feel safe in their homes and community.
- (5) This Council further notes that the Government's proposals are in the context of a programme of ill-conceived efficiencies to fire and rescue services. The impact this will have on the communities of Merseyside is extremely worrying and places vulnerable residents in danger.
- (6) This Council also notes due to Government cuts which has seen Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service suffer cuts totalling £19.2m over the 4 year spending review with 180 firefighters posts deleted and a reduction in Fire engines from 42 to 28 by 2015.
- (7) The Government's proposal for further huge cuts in 2015 will have devastating effects on operational response and the community safety and prevention work delivered by the Authority to such an excellent standard.
- (8) This Council therefore calls on the Government, in particular the Secretary of State for Local Government and the Chancellor's department to cease their ill conceived and irresponsible cuts to our fire and rescue services and pledge instead to protect the public from further risk of fire by protecting this front line emergency service from further cuts and threats of privatisation.

This page is intentionally left blank

WIRRAL COUNCIL

REGENERATION & ENVIRONMENT POLICY & PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

17TH SEPTEMBER 2013

SUBJECT:	YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT IN WIRRAL
WARDS AFFECTED:	ALL
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR OF REGENERATION, HOUSING AND PLANNING
RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER	COUNCILLOR PAT HACKETT

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 At Economy and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 16th January 2013 (Cabinet Ref: Minute 46) Members reviewed a detailed analysis of the effect of the economy on youth unemployment. This report provides Members with an updated position. The report is accompanied by an updated statistical Appendix reviewing data changes since the previous report.

2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

2.1 Members received analysis of youth unemployment statistics up to November 2012 in the previous report showing the following headline facts:

- the scale of people out of work and claiming Jobseekers allowance in England rose by 81.4% since 2008 (pre-recession);
- the change in scale in Wirral was far smaller with a 23.8% rise in numbers;
- the scale of young people claiming Jobseekers Allowance in England rose by 64.9% since 2008;
- the change in scale in Wirral was far smaller with a 22.3% rise in number;
- 2,575 young people in Wirral were claiming Jobseekers Allowance representing 9.9% of all 18-24 years olds;
- 740 young people had been claiming for more than 6 months;
- 400 young people had been claiming for more than 12 months

3.0 UPDATED POSITION: YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT IN WIRRAL

3.1 Comparing this with latest data to July 2013 we can advise that the number of 18-24 year olds claiming Jobseekers Allowance in Wirral has reduced by 8.9% with 2,345 young people now claiming. This represents 9.2% of all 18-24 year old Wirral residents.

3.2 Notably, there has been a 10.8% rise in young people claiming for more than 6 months; with numbers rising from 740 to 820. Conversely, the number of young people claiming for more than 12 months has reduced by 10%, down from 400 to 360. If we look at monthly analysis for new claims, we can reasonably attribute this to non-movement of a large influx of new 18-24 year olds onto the Jobseekers Allowance register seven months prior, in January this year. This is typical of seasonal fluctuations in numbers between December and January each year following the Christmas work period. Wirral Council's Investment Strategy (People) Team produce a monthly factsheet of Jobseekers Allowance and officers, in conjunction with Wirral Economic Development & Skills Partnership members, interrogate emerging peaks and troughs and recommend appropriate responses in

local employment support services. Underlying trends will be picked up via this process.

- 3.3 This robust monthly analysis also increases our understanding of differences within the cohort of young people who are claiming Jobseekers Allowance. It reveals that the vast majority of longer term unemployed young people in Wirral fall within the upper age bracket; making young people aged 20-24 years old five times more likely to be unemployed for 6 months or more than 18 and 19 year olds.

4.0 UPDATE ON INTERVENTIONS: NATIONAL

4.1 Work Programme

Members received information in the previous report regarding a policy change introduced in April 2011 whereby all young people claiming Jobseekers Allowance are mandated into the Work Programme by the time they reach month 9 of their claim. Previously, young people entered a New Deal for Young People programme at 6 months and were required to enter employment or one of four 'meaningful activity' options. This effectively ensured young people were participating in targeted activity, yet removed young people statistically from Jobseekers Allowance; hence the dramatic increases in longer term youth unemployment recorded in Department for Work & Pensions (DWP) statistics since 2011. Whilst DWP undertake performance monitoring of Work Programme provision as a whole, Members noted our concerns centred on the lack of information available specifically about young people's engagement in meaningful activity whilst participating in the Work Programme.

- 4.2 Members are advised that regular performance meetings are now in place between Wirral Council and Wirral Work Programme providers. A data sharing protocol is in place in accordance with DWP protocols which restricts onward circulation of recent data beyond these performance meetings; however historic statistics are available publicly, albeit subject to a significant data lag. The latest public figures – to March 2013 – reveal that 18-24 year olds account for 42% of all job outcomes secured by Work Programme providers in Wirral compared to 35% nationally. Wirral providers are also outperforming regional and national averages with one in 6 young people engaged in the Work Programme achieving a sustainable job, compared to 1 in 7 nationally (this must be set in the context that many engaged will not have reached their potential sustainable job outcome point at this stage in the data reporting period).

5.0 UPDATE ON INTERVENTIONS: LIVERPOOL CITY REGION

5.1 Youth Unemployment Task Force

Members are advised that the Youth Unemployment Task Force has reported its key finding and recommendations since the previous report. The Task Force was set up by the Liverpool City Region Employment & Skills Board as part of the City Deal with Government to halve long term youth unemployment in 3 years. Led by two Employment & Skills Board Champions, namely Sue Riley, District Manager of Jobcentre Plus and Councillor Pat Hackett, Portfolio Holder Regeneration & Planning Strategy Wirral Council, and facilitated by Wirral Council officers; the Task Force was made up of a pool of 14 young people and 8 business representatives from across the Liverpool City Region.

- 5.2 The Task Force scrutinised 5 key areas of activity; reporting headline findings as follows:

Understanding the scale of youth unemployment within the Liverpool City Region:

- In the Liverpool City Region almost 1 in 10 Young People are claiming Jobseekers Allowance;
- Young People aged 20-24 are 5 times more likely to be long term unemployed than 18/19 year olds;
- Long term youth unemployment is reducing at a faster rate than for those aged over 25, although the scale of the challenge cannot be underestimated;
- The Youth Unemployment Task Force is on track to halve long term youth unemployment by March 2015 with a 34% reduction achieved in the first year.

Understanding the particular issues faced by young people in seeking and accessing sustainable work:

- There is intense competition in the labour market and many young people simply do not have the appropriate networks to secure the many vacancies filled swiftly via word of mouth;
- Young people underestimate the value businesses place on attitude, commitment and enthusiasm;
- There are increasing pressures for jobseekers to take 'any job' and a proliferation of temporary vacancies. Who is there to support young people progress?
- Lack of experience is a major barrier to securing employment.

Considering the support that is available for young people in finding sustainable work and its impact including support for enterprise:

- Support is often perceived as delivered on 'one level' in the pursuit of targets – young people and businesses are seeking a personalised offer;
- Employers are seeking greater financial incentives combined with wraparound support;
- Work experience is highly valued by employers and jobseekers but young people face intense competition to access opportunities;
- 14% of employers in the City Region would consider adopting a youth policy.

Considering how young people receive careers advice to ensure they make informed choices:

- Businesses are keen to do more to support careers education with over a third of employers already engaged in offering career insights in schools;
- The clear distinction between academic and vocational routes through education is unhelpful;
- Careers education ought to be embedded at a very early age and job outcomes be an integral part of the performance framework for education.

5.3 The Task Force consolidated the findings into seven key recommendations supported by a series of proposed actions for the Employment & Skills Board to take forward namely:

1. Maximise Talent Match – working with the £6m Big Lottery Fund for the City Region led by Merseyside Youth Association;
2. Champion Work Experience Opportunities – opening up opportunities for all and developing a City Region wide campaign;
3. Review Financial Incentives – reviewing the offer across the City Region and removing restrictions and limitations that discourage growth;
4. Create a Youth Policy Campaign – working with businesses to develop a set of youth policy principles;

5. Develop Guidelines for Provision – working with employment and skills providers to develop a set of key principles and minimum standards for provision;
6. Increase the Prevalence of Vocational Skills – conducting a holistic review of the 11-24 education with a view to embedding work skills across the offer;
7. Overhaul Careers Support – conducting a holistic review of the careers support landscape for all ages with a view to reshaping into careers education.

5.4 Accepted by the Employment & Skills Board, the findings and recommendations will help shape future provision and commissioning in the City Region. A Board Champion has been identified for each theme and working groups established to progress implementation; four of which (Recommendations 2, 4, 6 and 7) will be facilitated by Wirral Council officers from Investment Strategy and Children & Young Peoples Departments.

6.0 UPDATE ON INTERVENTIONS: WIRRAL COUNCIL

6.1 The Wirral Apprentice

In line with the Council budget allocation for 2013-14 and delivery model approval (Delegated Decision: Cabinet Member – Economy, Leader of Council 29/07/13), a new round of the Wirral Apprentice will open for unemployed young people in September offering a minimum of 50 new apprenticeship places with local businesses. The new programme will work in partnership with DWP (Jobcentre Plus and Work Programme Providers) and the National Apprenticeship Service (via a devolved Liverpool City Region Grant) to provide enhanced national Youth Contract Wage Incentives.

6.2 Worklessness Contract: The ReachOut Partnership

Following budget approval (Delegated Decision: Leader of Council 24/06/13), the Worklessness contract delivered by the ReachOut Partnership has been extended to 31st March 2014. Offering personalised support for jobseekers of all ages in community locations, the contract includes a target to engage 142 young people, accounting for 20% of overall activity.

6.3 Work Experience

As notified to Members in January, Wirral Council has operated a pilot to explore how targeted training and employment opportunities can be generated through Council procurement processes. The pilot was applied to the Worklessness Tender, for contracted services 1st September 2012 – 31st August 2013. 21 work experience opportunities were secured with the contractor and their partners during this pilot and initial analysis of monitoring returns indicates at least 50% of participants were aged 18-24. Evaluation is currently underway and results will help inform the viability of extending and progressing activity. Initial findings, mirrored in the Youth Unemployment Task Force Report, reveal serious system constraints for businesses and young people in navigating the plethora of work experience administration systems and benefit restrictions. The Strategic Director of Regeneration & Environment has written to the District Manager, DWP to express concern about system constraints within national employment support initiatives with a view to revisiting how the Council can work with DWP to provide universal access to opportunities.

7.0 NEW OPPORTUNITIES

7.1 Youth Contract Underspend: Cabinet Office

Cabinet Office has written to each of the Core City Regions to invite competitive submissions for a share of an estimated £50m national budget for innovative

proposals to support young people into work starting this financial year. Funding is conditional on cities working with local stakeholders and DWP to drive up performance of Youth Contract Wage Incentives. An initial draft submission is required by Cabinet Office by 5th September with final submission due 20th September. The Youth Unemployment Task Force report provides the basis for a Liverpool City Region response. Wirral Council officers will work with the City Region Team to progress options for Wirral based delivery.

7.2 Youth Employment Initiative: European Council

The European Council is giving a high priority to tackling youth unemployment across Member States and has allocated €3bn to a Youth Employment Initiative to be matched against European Social Fund (ESF) allocations for 2014-2020. The UK allocation is approximately €200m with South West Scotland, West Midlands, Inner London, Merseyside and Tees Valley/Durham eligible for funds. The indicative allocation for Liverpool City Region is €27m, will need to be committed by 2015 and will require match funding from both the ESF allocation for the area and local funds. Wirral Council officers will work with City Region partners to develop proposals for inclusion in the European Strategy submission due early October.

7.3 Coastal Communities Fund

In April this year, the Big Lottery launched a £21.7m fund on behalf of Crown Estates to support regeneration activities in Coastal Communities. Wirral Council has been successful in the first round submission and invited to develop a competitive second round submission due October 2013. If successful, Wirral Council's Coastal Communities Fund application will include employment and skills activity supporting young people to access sustainable jobs in high demand, significant vacancy volume employment sectors.

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 Regeneration & Environment Policy & Performance Committee note the contents of the report.

18.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

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

REPORT AUTHOR: Helen Carney
Investment Strategy: People
Telephone: 0151 691 8421
Email: helencarney@wirral.gov.uk

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A – YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT DATASHEET AUGUST 2013

REFERENCE MATERIAL

Liverpool City Region Youth Unemployment Task Force: Key Findings and Recommendations (*Supporting the Employment & Skills Board deliver a City Region Deal with Government to halve long term youth unemployment*).

Published: May 2013.

Authors: Helen Carney & Beverley Staniford, Wirral Council.

Available to view at: www.lcrskillsforgrowth.org.uk

Hard copies available on request.

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Economy & Regeneration Overview & Scrutiny Committee	16 th January 2013

Youth Unemployment – Policy & Performance Committee
Datasheet – August 2013

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: Current Worklessness position

Local Authority Area	Total OOWB		OOWB Under 25's	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Wirral	31,650	15.9%	5,410	2.7%
LCR	174,330	17.8%	28,250	2.9%
North West	646,020	14.2%	105,070	2.3%
England	3,892,950	11.3%	645,610	1.9%

Source: DWP Working-age client group, Feb 13

Table 1b: Total Worklessness by benefit type

Local Authority Area	JSA		IB/ESA		Lone Parent		Other income	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Wirral	8,240	4.1%	18,750	9.4%	3,630	1.8%	1,030	0.5%
LCR	52,370	5.4%	98,560	10.1%	18,470	1.9%	4,930	0.5%
North West	196,370	4.3%	363,790	8.0%	66,400	1.5%	19,460	0.4%
England	1,290,120	3.8%	2,034,170	5.9%	438,170	1.3%	130,500	0.4%

Source: DWP Working-age client group, Feb 13

Table 1c: Worklessness by benefit type – Under 25's

Local Authority Area	JSA		IB/ESA		Lone Parent		Other income	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Wirral	2,700	1.4%	1,280	0.6%	1,220	0.6%	210	0.1%
LCR	15,390	1.6%	5,930	0.6%	5,890	0.6%	1,040	0.1%
North West	55,420	1.2%	22,530	0.5%	22,760	0.5%	4,370	0.1%
England	346,080	1.0%	132,500	0.4%	138,720	0.4%	28,310	0.1%

Source: DWP Working-age client group, Feb 13

Key Headlines:

LCR:

- In the Liverpool City Region almost 1 in 11 young people, are claiming Job Seekers Allowance;
- Young people aged 20-24 are five times more likely to be long term unemployed than 18 and 19 year olds;
- Long term youth unemployment is reducing at a faster rate than for those aged over 25, although the scale of the challenge cannot be underestimated;
- The Youth Unemployment Taskforce is on track to halve long term youth unemployment by March 2015 with a 34% reduction achieved in the first year.

Wirral:

- There are 7,405 people claiming JSA in Wirral, this is 3.7% of the total working age population (16-64 m/f);
- 2,345 of these claimants are aged 18-24, this represents 9.2% of all 18-24 year olds in Wirral - over double the Wirral average;
- Wirral contributes 15% of the LCR challenge on Youth Unemployment – there are just 49,000 young people unemployed in the City Region;
- 820 young people have been claiming for 6 months or more – this is 35% of the overall cohort;
- Since the previous report (Jan 13) total number of working age people claiming JSA in Wirral has reduced by 510 (6.4%);
- Since the previous report (Jan 13) the number of 18-24 year olds claiming JSA in Wirral has reduced by 230 (8.9%);
- Since the previous report (Jan 13) the number of 18-24 year olds claiming JSA for over 6 months in Wirral has increased by 80 (10.8%); more than 4x the City Region average.
- Since the previous report (Jan 13) the number of 18-24 year olds claiming JSA for over 12 months in Wirral has reduced by 40 (10%).

2. Jobseekers Allowance Data (JSA)

Table 2a: Total JSA by duration

Local Authority Area	Total JSA		JSA over 6 months		JSA over 12 months	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Wirral	7,405	3.7%	3,375	1.7%	1,960	1.0%
LCR	47,450	4.8%	24,430	2.5%	15,310	1.6%
North West	179,470	3.9%	86,405	1.9%	52,020	1.1%
England	1,149,830	3.3%	567,705	1.7%	345,240	1.0%

Source: NOMIS, Claimant Count, July 13

Table 2b: 18-24 JSA by duration

Local Authority Area	Total JSA		JSA over 6 months		JSA over 12 months	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Wirral	2,345	9.2%	820	3.2%	360	1.4%
LCR	13,515	8.7%	5,440	3.5%	2,740	1.8%

North West	49,210	7.2%	18,330	2.7%	8,790	1.3%
England	299,525	6%	116,285	2.3%	57,660	1.2%

Source: NOMIS, Claimant Count, July 13

3. Trend Analysis

The following trend analysis is based on a performance update from the previous report which used data from November 2012; latest data is for July 2013.

Table 3a: JSA all ages

	November 2012		July 2013		Number change	Rate Change	% Number Change
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate			
Wirral	7,915	4.1%	7,405	3.7%	-510	-0.4%	-6.4%
LCR	52,490	5.5%	47,450	4.8%	-5,040	-0.7%	-9.6%
North West	193,695	4.3%	179,470	3.9%	-14,225	-0.4%	-7.3%
England	1,257,605	3.7%	1,149,830	3.3%	-107,775	-0.4%	-8.5%

Source: NOMIS, Claimant Count, July 13

Table 3b: JSA 18-24

	November 2012		July 2013		Number change	Rate Change	% Number Change
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate			
Wirral	2,575	9.9%	2,345	9.2%	-230	-0.7%	-8.9%
LCR	15,715	9.9%	13,515	8.7%	-2,200	-1.2%	-13.9%
North West	55,905	8.0%	49,210	7.2%	-6,695	-0.8%	-11.9%
England	343,870	6.9%	299,525	6.0%	-44,345	-0.9%	-12.8%

Source: NOMIS, Claimant Count, July 13

Table 3c: JSA 18-24 6months +

	November 2012		July 2013		Number change	Rate Change	% Number Change
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate			
Wirral	740	2.8%	820	3.2%	+80	+0.4%	+10.8%
LCR	5,300	3.3%	5,440	3.5%	+140	+0.2%	+2.6%
North West	17,900	2.6%	18,330	2.7%	+430	+0.1%	+2.4%
England	111,225	2.2%	116,285	2.3%	+5,060	+0.1%	+4.5%

Source: NOMIS, Claimant Count, July 13

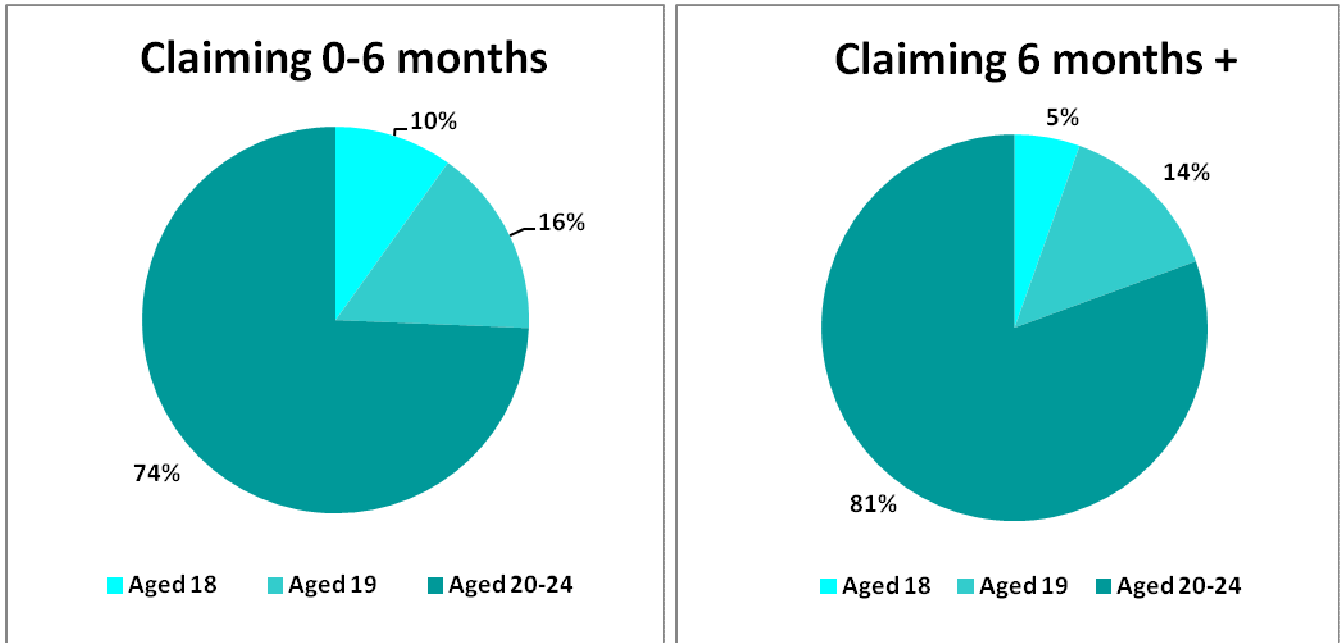
Table 3d: JSA 18-24 12months +

	November 2012		July 2013		Number change	Rate Change	% Number Change
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate			

Wirral	400	1.5%	360	1.4%	-40	-0.1%	-10.0%
LCR	3,100	1.9%	2,740	1.8%	-360	-0.1%	-11.6%
North West	10,005	1.4%	8,790	1.3%	-1,215	-0.1%	-12.1%
England	64,330	1.3%	57,660	1.2%	-6,640	-0.1%	-10.3%

Source: NOMIS, Claimant Count, July 13

Figure 1: Proportion by age of 18-24 year olds claiming Job Seekers Allowance in Wirral.



WIRRAL COUNCIL

REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT POLICY & PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

17TH SEPTEMBER 2013

SUBJECT:	<i>COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME</i>
REPORT OF:	<i>CHAIR & PARTY SPOKESPERSONS</i>

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 The Regeneration and Environment Policy & Performance Committee discussed the formulation of its work programme for the municipal year at its inaugural meeting on 10th July. The Committee agreed to delegate responsibility for developing the work programme to the Chair and party spokespersons. This report updates members on the outcome of those discussions and the proposed work programme for approval by the committee.

2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

- 2.1 Initial discussions at the committee meeting identified a number of areas for review. However it was recognised that it was important to have a manageable programme that could be adequately resourced considering elected member capacity and officer support.
- 2.2 At a meeting convened on 24th July, the Chair and Party Spokespersons reviewed the criteria for selecting items and agreed a number of items to be presented as regular reports, as well as a number of areas suitable for task and finish review.

3.0 WORK PROGRAMME

- 3.1 The work programme is included at Appendix 1. A common work programme format has been adopted for all four Policy and Performance Committees. This is in the form of a schedule for the municipal year highlighting the committee meetings with the proposed activity set out against the following four headings:
- 3.2 **Scheduled Reviews** – These have been prioritised and programmed across the year and include:
- The impact of the 2013/14 budget options / potential options for 2014/15
 - Review of apprenticeships programme
 - Review of Street cleansing post budget options
 - Arrangements for monitoring new Highways contract.

3.3 **Potential Reviews** – The Chair and Party Spokespersons were mindful not to overload the Committee and retain some flexibility in the work programme. Should there be sufficient capacity at a future date, the following were identified as additional items suitable for review:

- Regional Growth – Offshore Industry
- Coastal Issues

3.4 **Reports requested** – The following reports were identified and requested as key areas of interest:

- Report on Youth unemployment to the September (September 2013)
- The effects of the welfare reforms with specific focus on the impact on homelessness (April 2014). This will incorporate the recommendation of the Under-occupation Scrutiny Review (April 2013) to review the effects of Welfare Reform.

3.5 **Standing Items** – This includes the following regular items:

- Performance Dashboard – performance against target for key indicators in the Directorate Plan.
- Budget monitoring – monitoring of the Directorate budget and delivery of budget savings.
- Policy update – an update on any key policies or legislation relevant to this Committee since the last meeting.
- Recommendations from Highways Representation Panels.

3.6 In addition, to the items set out above, two special meetings have been scheduled in November and December to review the proposed budget options for 2014/15 in line with the annual budget consultation timetable.

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 Members are requested to approve the Regeneration and Environment Policy and Performance Committee work programme as set out in Appendix 1.

REPORT AUTHOR: *Michele Duerden*
0151 691 8440

email: micheleduerden@wirral.gov.uk

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Regeneration and Environment Committee Work Programme.

SUBJECT HISTORY

Council Meeting	Date
Regeneration and Environment Policy and Performance Committee	10 th July 2013

Appendix 1 - 2013-14 Regeneration & Environment Committee Work Programme

Key Activities	Lead Member / Officer	Reason for Review	May 2013	June 2013	July 2013	Aug 2013	Sept 2013	Oct 2013	Nov 2013	Dec 2013	Jan 2014	Feb 2014	Mar 2014	April 2014	Outcome
Committee Dates					Wed 10th		Tues 17th		Tues 5th	Tues 3rd	Mon 27th			Wed 9th	
Scheduled Reviews															
Impact of 2013/14 budget options and potential options for 2014/15.		Requested by Members													
Review of apprenticeships		Requested by Members													
Review of street cleansing post budget options		Requested by Members													
Monitoring the highways contract		Requested by Members													
Potential Reviews															
Regional Growth - Offshore Industry		Requested by Members													
Coastal Issues		Requested by Members													
Reports Requested															
Report on Youth Unemployment		Requested by Members													
Effects of the welfare reforms with specific focus on homelessness		Requested by Members													
Standing Items															
Performance Dashboard															
Financial Monitoring															
Policy Update															
Recommendations from Highways Representation Panels															
Special Budget meeting															



This page is intentionally left blank

WIRRAL COUNCIL

REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT POLICY AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

17TH SEPTEMBER 2013

SUBJECT:	DIRECTORATE PLAN PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORT
WARD/S AFFECTED:	ALL
REPORT OF:	KEVIN ADDERLEY (STRATEGIC DIRECTOR OF REGENERATION & ENVIRONMENT)
RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	CLLR GEORGE DAVIES, JOINT DEPUTY LEADER AND PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD, HOUSING AND ENGAGEMENT CLLR PAT HACKETT, PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR ECONOMY CLLR HARRY SMITH, PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION CLLR BRIAN KENNY, PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY CLLR CHRIS MEADEN, PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR HEALTH AND WELLBEING
KEY DECISION?	NO

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The aim of this report (Appendix 1) is to outline the current performance of the Regeneration and Environment (as at 31st July 2013) against its Directorate Plan for 2013/14.
- 1.2 The report translates the priorities set out in the Directorate Plan into a coherent and measurable set of performance outcome measures and targets. These are used to evaluate the achievement of Directorate priorities over the next year of the plan.
- 1.1 The development of the Directorate Plan will be an iterative process during 2013/14 based on the feedback and requirements of elected members and portfolio leads. Therefore, the latest version of the report contains:

- Key finance information
- Year-end forecast position
- Exception reports for (a). To maintain local environmental quality (LEQ) of litter, detritus, dog fouling in main gateways and shopping areas (b). 60% of all major planning applications determined within 13 weeks.

2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

2.1 The Directorate Plan links directly to the Corporate Plan and sets Directorate objectives in national and local context. The indicators contained within the Directorate Plan form a hierarchy underneath the high level indicators specified in the Corporate Plan.

2.2 The Strategic Director for Regeneration and Environment (Kevin Adderley) has signed off the indicators contained within the performance report and agreed the following parameters which underpin their on-going performance management:

- 2013/14 Plan
- 2013/14 Plan trajectory
- 2013/14 Performance tolerance levels (determine RAG [Red, Amber, Green] status)
- Head of Service responsible for delivery of target

2.3 Directorate Plan performance (includes Corporate Plan targets) will be monitored on a monthly basis against the parameters agreed as part of the business planning process (e.g. RAG tolerance levels). A number of indicators are only available on a quarterly basis, in line with the availability of data.

2.4 The outputs from this monitoring process will be performance managed proactively on an exception basis. The system is designed to promote a “no surprises” approach to performance management.

2.5 Heads of Service responsible for the delivery of targets must complete an exception report and delivery plan for all indicators which are under performing (e.g. red RAG rated indicators).

2.6 Monthly Directorate Plan performance reports will be produced and made available (to support corporate challenge) in line to support:

- Monthly DMTs
- Monthly Portfolio Lead briefings
- Quarterly Audit, Risk, Governance and Performance meetings
- Quarterly Policy and Performance Committees

3.0 RELEVANT RISKS

3.1 The performance management framework policy is aligned to the risk management strategy. The next version of the report will include risk information for performance targets which are RAG rated as red.

4.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

4.1 N/A

5.0 CONSULTATION

5.1 The Corporate plan was drafted based on the feedback generated by the What Really Matters public consultation. The Directorate plan underpins this plan.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

6.1 N/A

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

7.1 Financial implications of undertaking the actions to deliver the Directorate Plan will be addressed by Directorate as appropriate.

8.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 Legal implications of undertaking the actions to deliver the Directorate Plan will be addressed by Directorate as appropriate.

9.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

9.1 The Directorate Plan has a clear focus on supporting those who are disadvantaged, including the delivery of specific services and through ensuring that all of Wirral's diverse communities are equally able to access services.

9.2 Equalities implications relating to the actions set out in the Directorate Plan will be addressed by the Directorate as appropriate, and details set out in individual Directorate plans. This work is also monitored by the Corporate Equalities and Cohesion Group and the Council Excellence Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

10.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

10.1 N/A

11.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

11.1 N/A

12.0 RECOMMENDATION/S

12.1 Committee are requested to use the information contained within this report to inform its future work programme.

13.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

13.1 To ensure that the report provides elected members with the information required to evaluate the delivery of the key priorities identified by the Directorate Plan.

REPORT AUTHOR: Tony Kinsella
Head of Performance
Telephone: 07717156941
Email: tonykinsella@wirral.gov.uk

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Directorate Plan Performance Report (13/14)

Appendix 2 – To maintain local environmental quality (LEQ) of litter, detritus, dog fouling in main gateways and shopping areas (exception report)

Appendix 3 - 60% of all major planning applications determined within 13 weeks (exception report).

REFERENCE MATERIAL

N/A

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Regeneration and Environment Policy and Performance Committee	10th July 2013

WIRRAL COUNCIL

Regeneration & Environment Performance, Finance and Risk Report as at 31st July 2013



No.	Description	Data Source	Performance 2012/13	North West 2012/13	Target/Plan 2013/14	YTD Target 2013/14	YTD Performance	Forecast Outturn	Overall Status	Monthly Trend	Reporting Period	Accountable Officer (Head of Service)	Comments
PERFORMANCE													
Environment & Regulation													
1	Number of interventions put in place for travel plans and transport (to improve accessibility to employment & opportunities)	Travel Solutions	868	N/A	1,000	265	742	1,000	G	+	Apr - July	M Smith	The year-end forecasted target will be reviewed prior to August reporting (during September) in light of the better than anticipated performance to date.
2	To maintain local environmental quality (LEQ) via the street cleansing of litter, detritus, & dog fouling in main gateways and shopping areas	Local Survey Data	New Indicator	N/A	92%	90%	83%	92%	R	-	Apr - June	M Smith	Q1 was during a period of consultation with unions and Biffa workforce around redundancies, meaning moral was low in the cleansing workforce. In addition, workforce supervisory levels were lower due to work that needed to be done to implement the £1m street cleansing savings. The area of concern has been identified (detritus along gateway routes) and steps have been taken to bring the performance back on track by quarter two reporting. An Action Plan has been created to support the corrective activities.
3	Prevent any increase in the length of strategic road network requiring maintenance treatment (NI 168)	WDM Ltd annual in-year Wirral road conditions survey	1%	N/A	4%	4%	-	4%		-	-	M Smith	The 2013/14 road surveys are expected September/October 2013. It is expected that Wirral will remain within the agreed levels of the Local Transport Plan 3.
4	Reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents (NI 47)	Merseyside Police	99	N/A	102	26	23	102	G	+	Apr - June	M Smith	This indicator remains on target to achieve anticipated year-end outturn.
P1	Delivery of the Highway Services Beyond 2014 (HSB14) Project	Project Board minutes and reports	New 'Project'	N/A	100%	25%	25%	100%	G	+	Apr - June	M Smith	Project is on target for delivery by reporting year-end.
Housing & Community Safety													
5	Number of new affordable homes (social rented, affordable rented, intermediate housing, and private units funded by government initiatives such as first buy as set out in Government guidelines under the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)).	Housing Strategy Team (Homes & Communities Agency MIS)	202 (forecast outturn)	N/A	322	40	42	363	G	+	Apr - June	I Platt	As a result of new in-year funding opportunities additional units will be delivered. This is reflected in the difference between year end target and forecast yearly outturn (e.g. additional activity not included in the forecast outturn profile).
6	Number of empty properties returned to use or demolished through local authority action	M3 Northgate Database	250 (forecast outturn)	N/A	255	30	30	255	G	+	Apr - June	I Platt	This figure may be subject to change as council tax records are utilised to verify when a property is occupied, and there is often a time lag in the updating of this information. This lag hinders the ability to report the most up to date statistics at the end of the quarter.
7	Number of interventions to improve private rented sector properties	MVM Database	New Indicator	N/A	400	100	174	400	G	+	Apr - June	I Platt	
8	Number of adaptations completed (safeguard and protect as far as possible the most vulnerable among us).	MVM Database	1523	N/A	1860	465	513	1860	G	+	Apr - June	I Platt	
9	Average % repeats of high risk domestic abuse cases taken to the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) in previous 12 months	The Domestic Violence MARAC database is stored on the 'Inter Agency	51.70%	N/A	22.30%	22.30%	19.60%	22%	G	+	Apr - June	I Platt	
10	Decrease in offending rate for those on the cusp of becoming Wirral's most prolific offenders (Compass offenders)	Police Data Warehouse on the 'Delphi' computer system.	73.30%	N/A	71%	71%	50%	71%	A	-	Apr - June	I Platt	A 50% reduction in Compass Offenders (those on the cusp of becoming prolific offenders) is still a significant given Wirral's overall re-offending rate. Each offender has a bespoke plan to address their criminogenic need run jointly by Merseyside Police, Merseyside Probation Trust, Youth Offending Service, Drug and Alcohol Action team and Wirral Council. This plan will be back on track in the second quarter of this year.
11	Number of homeless preventions	P1E and HAPI System	666	N/A	650	162	193	650	G	+	Apr - June	I Platt	

WIRRAL COUNCIL

Regeneration & Environment Performance, Finance and Risk Report as at 31st July 2013



No.	Description	Data Source	Performance 2012/13	North West 2012/13	Target/Plan 2013/14	YTD Target 2013/14	YTD Performance	Forecast Outturn	Overall Status	Monthly Trend	Reporting Period	Accountable Officer (Head of Service)	Comments
Regeneration													
12	Jobs created and safeguarded (via Invest Wirral)	Invest Wirral	1,580	N/A	925	296	296.5	925	G	+	Apr - July	D Ball	
13	Apprenticeships supported (Wirral Apprentice Programme)	Hanlon Information System	New Indicator	N/A	50	TBC	NYA	-		-	-	D Ball	The Wirral Apprentice Programme report has now been approved, signed off and the scheme will be up and running in September.
14	Number of working age people claiming out-of-work benefits (economic in-activity)	NOMISWEB	16.10%	N/A	15.60%	15.80%	15.90%	15.60%	G	+	Q1 February 2013	D Ball	Release dates of data relate to February and November each year. The figure provided in this report is classed as Q1 data and relates to February 2013. The next update of performance progress will be during November 2013.
15	% of Major Planning Applications determined within 13 weeks	Acolaid system	46.15%	N/A	60%	60%	42.86%	60%	R	-	Apr - June	D Ball	Changes to the Scheme of Delegation required (Council approval needed – reports likely to go to Committees in August/September 2013). An Action Plan has been created to support the corrective activities.
16	Complete Town Centre Plans	Action Plans	6	N/A	6	-	NYA	-		-	-	D Ball	The team is responsible for delivering 6 Town Centre Action Plans in the current performance year, with 3 scheduled for completion by the end of the second quarter. At this point a series of meetings should have also been organised with traders and Ward Members from the following areas: Heswall; Hoylake; and Moreton (with the expectation that draft Action Plans for these areas being in place by October/November at the latest).
17	Gross Value Added per head of population	Office for National Statistics	£11,167	N/A	£11,345	-	NYA	-		-	-	D Ball	Annual measure.
P2	Complete review of Floral Pavilion Business	Notes from meetings of the project team	New 'Project'	N/A	100%	25%	25%	100%	G	+	Apr - June	D Ball	Project is on target for delivery by calendar year-end and reviewed by reporting year-end.

FINANCE													
18	Revenue	General Ledger	-	N/A	£99,558,000	TBD	TBD	£99,558,000	G		Apr - May	V Quayle	Cabinet is due to view June 2013 monitoring details on 19th September 2013 after which the details will be published for Committee viewing, in the meantime the following information to May 2013 has been verified.
19	Capital programme	General Ledger	-	N/A	£25,701,000	TBD	£761,000	£25,701,000	G		Apr - May	V Quayle	
20	Savings	General Ledger	-	N/A	£5,758,000	TBD	£3,976,000	5,758,000	G		Apr - May	V Quayle	The delivery of savings is under constant review and directorates are examining ways of funding any slippage before a call on central funding is requested.

RISK: Remaining significant risks to achievement of non-compliant target													
	Objective	Risk Description	Risk Category	Existing Control Measure	Current Net Scores			Risk Review Frequency	Reporting Period	Accountable Officer (Head of Service)	Additional control measures planned		
					Likelihood	Impact	Total						
21	To maintain local environmental quality (LEQ) of litter, detritus, & dog fouling in main gateways and shopping areas	£1M reduction in street cleansing budget reduces available frontline resources by up to 40%	Reputation Service Delivery Performance	Zone 1 (shopping areas) current resource levels are protected. Zone 1 shopping areas are output based, meaning the contractor has to maintain standards (Code of practice of litter and refuse) at own cost/risk.	4	4	16	M	Apr - Jun	M Smith	Attempts to secure "gateway" cleansing teams subject to Union negotiations. Package offered, supported in principle by Council to incentivise unions to accept concessions to enable more jobs to be saved. Specific monitoring of gateways and zone 1 areas to commence May 2013. Identification of additional monitoring resources/ regime to be established from within existing staffing resources.		

PERFORMANCE ACTION PLAN TEMPLATE

This template is to be completed for ALL measures showing **RED** status of non-compliance against the specified target.

INDICATOR OVERVIEW	
Indicator Title	To maintain local environmental quality (LEQ) of litter, detritus, dog fouling in main gateways and shopping areas.
Strategic Director Lead	Kevin Adderley, Strategic Director Regeneration & Environment
Departmental Lead	Mark Smith, Head of Service Environment & Regulation
Target	90% for Quarter 1 2013/14

CURRENT SITUATION: Detail what the performance is for this measure and reason/s for non-compliance		
Performance this Period	83% (Q1)	+ / - Target : - 7%
Non-compliance reason	A period of consultation during Quarter 1 with unions and the Biffa workforce about redundancies resulted in low morale in the cleansing workforce. In addition, workforce supervisory levels were lower due to work that needed to be done to implement the £1million street cleansing savings.	

ACTIONS: This describes what's necessary or how to achieve a 'green' score. This way everyone is clear on what is required and when; knows the expected outcome and how to achieve it .	
What (is required)	The feedback from the newly formulated cleansing survey has been subject to detailed analysis. The results have identified detritus along gateway routes as an area of concern which will need to be addressed. Future surveys will provide confirmation or otherwise of targeted improvements.
How (will it be achieved)	A team has been formed consisting of 1 extra large mechanical sweeper and a 2 man cage crew operating Monday to Friday (the gateway team). It is designed to address resourcing requirements as from 1 st July 2013, and to focus on improving detritus along gateway routes. In addition, further work will be carried out by the new neighbourhood team.
Who (will be responsible)	Tara Dumas, Senior Manager Waste & Environment
When (will results be realised)	It is expected that survey audit scores will be within the forecasted target by Quarter 2 reporting.

Signed: ...Tara Dumas.....Senior Manager, Waste & Environment

Date:.....

Signed: ...Mark Smith.....Head of Service Environment & Regulation

Date:.....

This page is intentionally left blank

PERFORMANCE ACTION PLAN TEMPLATE

This template is to be completed for ALL measures showing **RED** status of non-compliance against the specified target.

INDICATOR OVERVIEW	
Indicator Title	157a – 60% of all major planning apps determined within 13 weeks
Strategic Director Lead	Kevin Adderley, Strategic Director Regeneration & Environment
Departmental Lead	David Ball, Head of Service Regeneration
Target	60% (Q1)

CURRENT SITUATION: Detail what the performance is for this measure and reason/s for non-compliance		
Performance this Period	42.86 (Q1)	+ / - Target : -17%
Non-compliance reason	All Major applications are required to be determined by the Planning Committee under the provisions of the Scheme of Delegation for Determining Applications; also a number of applications have been deferred for Site Visits resulting in delay; S106 Agreements have also delayed the issuing of Decisions.	

ACTIONS: This describes what's necessary or how to achieve a 'green' score. This way everyone is clear on what is required and when; knows the expected outcome and how to achieve it .	
What (is required)	The scheme of delegation for determining applications is to be amended to allow for increased flexibility in applications being reported to Committee; Member Training to be organised which will include (amongst other things) the issues of deferral for site visits.
How (will it be achieved)	Amend scheme of delegation; report to planning committee and other committees/council by the end of September 2013 for approval. Member training event has been organised for 12th September 2013.
Who (will be responsible)	Matthew Davies, Development Management Manager
When (will results be realised)	30th December 2013 – to allow for changes to scheme of delegation to go through various committees/council by the end of September 2013 and then allow for changes to take effect and show results.

Signed: Matthew Davies Manager responsible for the service

David Ball.

Signed:

Page 33
Head of Service:

This page is intentionally left blank

WIRRAL COUNCIL

Regeneration and Environment Policy & Performance Committee

Tuesday 17 September 2013

SUBJECT:	Budget Monitoring Arrangements
REPORT OF:	Interim Director of Resources

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report proposes the approach to future budget monitoring arrangements for this committee. This is to ensure there is consistency across the Policy and Performance Committees and to ensure that Members have sufficient information to scrutinise budget performance for the Regeneration and Environment Directorate.

2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

- 2.1 Members of the newly formed Policy and Performance Committees have requested that budget monitoring information is provided as a standard item at each committee.
- 2.2 Since September last year monthly revenue and capital monitoring reports have been submitted to Cabinet as a means of providing regular, detailed updates on budget performance.
- 2.3 At its meeting on 3 September, the Policy and Performance Coordinating Committee reviewed the most recent revenue and capital monitor reports submitted to Cabinet in July. These can be viewed at the link below:

<http://democracy.wirral.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=121&MId=4359&Ver=4>

- 2.4 The Coordinating Committee agreed that in order to fulfil its corporate and strategic scrutiny role, it will continue to review the full versions of the most up to date monitor reports at its future scheduled meetings.

3.0 PROPOSED REPORTING TO POLICY AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEES

- 3.1 It is proposed that for the three Policy and Performance Committees aligned to the Directorates, the relevant sections from the most recent revenue and capital monitoring reports are summarised into a bespoke report for each of the Policy and Performance Committees. This will include the following:
- Performance against revenue budget
 - Performance against capital budget
 - Performance against in year efficiency targets

4.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 4.1 There are none relating to this report.

5.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

5.1 N/A

6.0 CONSULTATION

6.1 N/A

7.0 OUTSTANDING PREVIOUSLY APPROVED ACTIONS

7.1 N/A

8.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

8.1 N/A

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

9.1 N/A

10.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

10.1 N/A

11.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

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

The report is for information to Members and there are no direct equalities implications at this stage.

12.0 CARBON REDUCTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

12.1 N/A

13.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

13.1 N/A

14.0 RECOMMENDATION/S

14.1 Members are requested to approve the approach proposed.

14.2 Members are requested to review the last Revenue and Capital Monitor reports to Cabinet in July to determine if they have any specific questions relating to the budget for the Regeneration and Environment Directorate.

15.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

15.1 To ensure Members have the appropriate information to review the budget performance of the directorate.

REPORT AUTHOR: Mike Callon
telephone (0151) 691 8379
email michaelcallon@wirral.gov.uk

APPENDICES

N/A

Agenda Item 9

WIRRAL COUNCIL

REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT POLICY AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

17TH SEPTEMBER 2013

SUBJECT:	<i>USE OF DELEGATED POWERS REPORT</i>
WARD/S AFFECTED:	<i>ALL WARDS</i>
REPORT OF:	<i>STRATEGIC DIRECTOR REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT</i>
RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	<i>COUNCILLOR GEORGE DAVIES</i>
KEY DECISION?	NO

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform members in accordance with the “Approved Scheme of Delegation” and the “Contract Procedure Rules” of the use of delegated authority to

a) accept the lowest tender to continue the maintenance of a number of sites acquired/created during the Housing Market Renewal Initiative, located in Birkenhead, Tranmere, Rock Ferry and Wallasey and;

b) accept the tender to appoint Nathaniel Litchfield and Partners to undertake a new Strategic Housing Market Assessment for Wirral.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION/S

2.1 That the Regeneration and the Environment Policy and Performance Committee note the use of delegated authority to accept the lowest tender to continue the maintenance of a number of sites acquired/created during the Housing Market Renewal Initiative, located in Birkenhead, Tranmere, Rock Ferry and Wallasey

2.2 That the Regeneration and the Environment Policy and Performance Committee note the use of delegated authority to accept the tender to appoint Nathaniel Litchfield and Partners to undertake a new Strategic Housing Market Assessment for Wirral.

3.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

3.1 Contract Procedure Rules require that tenders with a value of more than £50,000 that are approved using delegated authority must be reported to the next meeting of the Regeneration and Environment Policy and Performance Committee.

4.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

Maintenance of sites

4.1 As part of the former HMRI a number of sites were acquired and/or created through the demolition of low demand housing. The majority of these remaining

sites will eventually be redeveloped over time, however, in the mean time, arrangements are necessary to ensure the sites don't become a nuisance and blight on local neighbourhoods. The maintenance of the sites includes grass cutting and fly tip removal. During 2012/13 the maintenance contract was awarded to Lairdside Communities Together and this contract expired on the 31st March 2013. This was extended to allow for the completion of a new tendering exercise to appoint a contractor for 2013/16.

- 4.2 The tendering exercise started on the 28th of May. A total of 12 submissions were received during the tender period. Following the subsequent evaluation of the tenders received, the winning contractor was determined to be Continental Landscapes Ltd. The contract price for the 33 month term is £56,565. This compares to the previous contract sum of £20,000 which covered a 10 month period.

Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA)

- 4.3 Under Section 8 of the Housing Act 1985, local authorities are required to consider the various accommodation needs of the local population and to carry out periodic reviews in order to provide relevant and appropriate provision to meet these needs. The information obtained through this is used to enable the Council to update and inform its Housing Strategy, strategic priorities and to provide the evidence base for the preparation of the Local Development Framework.
- 4.4 Wirral's existing Strategic Housing Market Assessment was completed in 2007 and approved at Cabinet as material consideration in negotiating with developers on affordable housing contributions through S106 agreements.
- 4.5 The SHMA was subsequently updated in 2009, however this evidence base is no longer considered robust due to the fact that the original survey data undertaken dates back to 2006/07. The update also used 2006 household projections as the basis for estimating household change, however the 2011 Census data recently released identifies that the number of actual households recorded is much higher than the number previously projected.
- 4.6 This has placed uncertainty on the previous household projections used in the existing SHMA and highlighted the need to take post Census data into account as part of a new SHMA. In addition there have also been significant changes in relation to the economy, the housing market and people's circumstances since 2006/07, which the existing assessment does not take into account, hence the need for a new assessment to be undertaken.
- 4.7 The tendering exercise started on the 10th May 2013. A total of three eligible submissions were received during the tender period. Following the subsequent evaluation of the tenders received, the winning consultant was determined to be Nathaniel Litchfield and Partners. The contract price submitted was £45,770.

5.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 5.1 The maintenance contract allows for the removal of 300 fly tips of approximately 1 tonne each over the term of the contract. There is a possibility that more than 300 fly tips may occur during this period which will increase the price above the contract sum. The estimated number of fly tips was based on

previous experience and is considered to be realistic for the sites involved. In addition a contingency was built into the original figure and this should protect the Council in the event of unforeseen work.

- 5.2 The Strategic Housing Market Assessment relies on a range of data sources, and in particular consultation with members of the public and key stakeholders. There is the possibility that the overall process for carrying out the SHMA may take slightly longer than the six month timetable agreed. This risk will be mitigated by regular updates from the consultant appointed along with regular meetings to discuss progress. The consultant has also provided a detailed risk assessment documenting how they would mitigate any delays in the overall timetable for this work.

6.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 6.1 In respect of the maintenance contract, the Council's Parks and Open Spaces Team were not in a position to be able to take on this work at the start of the tendering exercise, however there may be opportunities in the future for them to do so.

7.0 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 The tendering exercise was undertaken using the North West's Local Authority Procurement Portal, otherwise known as 'The Chest'.

8.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

- 8.1 The appointed maintenance contractor has advised that opportunities to engage with local communities will be explored and developed by the Contract Manager.
- 8.2 Nathaniel, Litchfield and Partners will engage with a wide variety of stakeholders, members of the public and community, voluntary and faith groups as they undertake specific elements of the Strategic Housing Market Assessment. This includes telephone questionnaires and stakeholder consultation events.

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

- 9.1 The maintenance contract sum is £56,565 spread evenly over 33 months. Resources have been identified to cover these costs from HMRI Revenue Budget (H7140) which in turn is supported by the HMRI/Empty Property Reserve (0000 475B R8036). The contract can be managed using existing IT and staffing resources. During the course of the contract period a number of the sites will be developed and eventually sold thus reducing the Councils liability.
- 9.2 The SHMA contract sum is £45,770. Resources have been identified to cover these costs from a Housing Strategy Research Budget (H7090 R402 46143) managed by the Housing Strategy Team to undertake this type of statutory research.

10.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 A contract between the Council and Continental Landscapes was signed on the 25th of July 2013 and is now operational.

10.2 A contract between the Council and Nathaniel Litchfield and Partners (NLP) was signed on 24th July 2013 and is operational from 1st August 2013 to 31st January 2014.

11.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are no discrimination issues, nor any social inclusion or human rights issues arising from the use of delegated power.

11.2 It is considered that an Equality Impact Assessment is not required in both cases

12.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

12.1 Continental Landscapes Ltd has an Environmental and Re-cycling policy that is certified to ISO 14001:2004. The successful submission for the maintenance contract advised that approximately 85% of the waste generated is recycled.

12.2 The Strategic Housing Market Assessment when complete will enable the Council to update and inform its Housing Strategy, strategic priorities and to provide the evidence base for the preparation of the Local Development Framework. It will identify what new housing supply is required in the borough along with the type and tenure of housing. In instances where new housing replaces older poor quality stock, new improved building standards, practices and materials will be used. This will have a significant impact on carbon reduction across the borough.

13.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

13.1 Results of the SHMA will inform the future housing requirement for the borough and produce the key evidence base for the Core Strategy.

REPORT AUTHOR: Lisa Newman
Senior Manager – Housing Strategy, Standards
and Renewal
telephone: (0151 691 8197)
email: lisanewman @wirral.gov.uk

REFERENCE MATERIAL

SUBJECT HISTORY

Council Meeting	Date

WIRRAL COUNCIL

Regeneration and Environment Policy & Performance Committee

Tuesday 17 September 2013

SUBJECT:	POLICY UPDATE
REPORT OF:	Director of Public Health/Head of Policy & Performance
RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER	Cllr Ann McLachlan (Governance and Improvement)

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 This report provides a policy briefing to Members. This is to enable Members to review new areas of policy and the government initiatives that will impact on local government in the short to medium term. Members are requested to consider the policy briefing and whether there are any items that could be included in the work programme for this committee.

2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

2.1 One of the key elements of good Overview and Scrutiny highlighted by the Centre for Public Scrutiny is horizon-scanning. This means looking ahead to future changes in local government in order for the Council to have sufficient time to adapt to them.

2.2 As part of the reorganisation of Scrutiny within the Council, the scrutiny support team is now located alongside the Council's Policy unit to ensure these areas are joined up more effectively. The Policy Unit has developed a range of products to help Members and officers understand the evolving policy context within which the Council operates.

3.0 POLICY UPDATE

3.1 The 'Policy Inform' briefing is included at Appendix 1. This has been developed to provide Members with those new areas of policy that align with the remit of this committee. Each area covered includes a range of information including the Accountable Officer, the relevant portfolio, a brief synopsis, key points to consider, the implications and further information.

4.0 RELEVANT RISKS

4.1 There are none relating to this report.

5.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

5.1 N/A

6.0 CONSULTATION

6.1 N/A

7.0 OUTSTANDING PREVIOUSLY APPROVED ACTIONS

7.1 N/A

8.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

8.1 N/A

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

9.1 N/A

10.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

10.1 N/A

11.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

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

- ~~(a) Yes. The impact review has been sent to the Equality and Diversity Co-ordinator and is located at-~~
~~(b) No because there is no relevance to equality.~~
(c) No because of another reason which is

The report is for information to Members and there are no direct equalities implications at this stage.

12.0 CARBON REDUCTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

12.1 N/A

13.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

13.1 N/A

14.0 RECOMMENDATION/S

14.1 Members are requested to note the contents of this report and consider whether they wish to receive any further, more detailed reports or add any specific items to the work programme of this committee.

15.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

15.1 To ensure Members have the opportunity to consider new policy initiatives and their relevance to the Committee's on going work programme.

REPORT AUTHOR: Mike Callon
telephone (0151) 691 8379
email michaelcallon@wirral.gov.uk

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Policy Inform Regeneration & Environment

Regeneration and Environment

Title:	Draft Consumer Rights Bill
Accountable Officer:	Kevin Adderley
Portfolio(s) Affected:	Environment
Category:	New Legislation
Synopsis:	This proposed bill would update consumer-protection laws so they cover digital purchases such as downloaded music and e-books.
Key Points:	Trading Standards will be granted new powers, such as being able to get a court to order a trader to pay compensation when consumer law is breached.
Implications:	This draft bill will have provide Trading Standards with new powers and responsibilities. The impact on the existing work of the Trading Standards service may need to be explored as the Draft Bill develops through the legislative process.

Title:	Mortgages / Help to Buy
Accountable Officer:	Kevin Adderley
Portfolio(s) Affected:	Neighbourhoods and Engagement
Category:	Government Announcement
Synopsis:	Announcement of two new schemes to boost the housing market.
Key Points:	£3.5 billion 'Help to Buy' Shared Equity Scheme, aimed at people looking to own a new build home. A 'Help to Buy Mortgage Guarantee' will also increase the availability of mortgages on new or existing properties for those with small deposits.
Implications:	The Local Authority may wish to further explore the impact of this announcement.

Title:	Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs)
Accountable Officer:	Kevin Adderley
Portfolio(s) Affected:	Economy
Category:	Guidance
Synopsis:	The Government has now set out the guidance and a timetable for the production of Strategic Economic Plans, which will determine the allocation to local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) of the Single Local Growth Fund (now referred to as the Local Growth Fund, or LGF).
Key Points:	They can use this from April 2013 to build the capacity and capability they will need to develop their Investment Strategies. LEPs are considered to be key strategic drivers. They will: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Work with local partners to decide which projects to support• Help to identify match funding

- Oversee arrangements for selecting projects or for using co-financing organisations to procure European Structure Funds (ESF) provision, in discussion with Managing Authorities
- Deliver the milestones and results agreed in their strategy, including making sure that enough money is spent each year to meet annual spend targets
- Involve local partners across the spectrum.

Further Information: The Local Government Information Unit have recently produced a 'State of LEPs' briefing:

<http://www.lgiu.org.uk/briefing/the-state-of-leps/>

Implications: Local authority commitment to the Strategic Economic Plans is a key component of their acceptability and hence the allocation of LGF to LEPs. It is expected that local authority members of LEPs will put economic development at the heart of all they do and work collaboratively across the LEP area.

This guidance will be of interest to Members and Officers with particular interests and responsibilities for economic development, planning, and regeneration.

Title: **Neighbourhood Planning Areas**

Accountable Officer: Kevin Adderley

Portfolio(s) Affected: Environment

Category: Guidance

Synopsis: Neighbourhood Planning Regulations were introduced as part of the Localism Act and took effect in April 2012. Their purpose is to give communities the power to set the priorities for local development.

Key Points: Neighbourhood planning can be taken forward by two types of body - town and parish councils or 'neighbourhood forums'. Neighbourhood forums are community groups that are designated to take forward neighbourhood planning in areas without parishes. It is the role of the local planning authority to agree who should be the neighbourhood forum for the neighbourhood area.

The Government attempted to keep the criteria for establishing neighbourhood forums as simple as possible to encourage new and existing residents' organisations, voluntary and community groups to put themselves forward.

Neighbourhood forums and parish councils can use new neighbourhood planning powers to establish general planning policies for the development and use of land in a neighbourhood. These are described legally as 'neighbourhood development plans'.

Further Information: The Local Government Information Unit (LGIU) has issued a briefing that compiles best practice examples from a number of Neighbourhood Planning Areas.

<http://www.lgiu.org.uk/briefing/policy-in-practice-neighbourhood-planning/>

Implications: The findings of this Review will be of interest to members and officers supporting and developing Neighbourhood Plans. In Wirral this is being progressed in four neighbourhoods: Devonshire Park Neighbourhood Forum; Hoylake Community Planning Forum; Central Liscard Area Residents Association and Greasby Community Association.

PLANNING COMMITTEE

30 May 2013

34 PERMITTED DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS

A report by the Head of Regeneration and Planning outlined a number of changes to Permitted Development Rights for home owners and commercial premises that are due to take effect on 30 May 2013-06-03.

It was reported that the main change is to increase the size limits for the depth of single – storey domestic extensions from 4 metres to 8 metres (for detached houses) And from 3 metres to 6 metres for all other houses, in non- protected areas for a period of three years.

Members were informed that the Government have also announced changes to extend existing permitted development rights for certain telecommunications equipment and will grant new permitted development rights to change offices into residential use without the need for planning permission.

It was suggested that Members would benefit from a training session and this will be arranged in due course.

Officers responded to questions from Members

Resolved –

(1) That Members note the contents of the Report; and

(2) the contents of the report be referred to the Council's Policy and Performance Committee for Regeneration and Environment.

This page is intentionally left blank

WIRRAL COUNCIL

PLANNING COMMITTEE

30 MAY 2013

SUBJECT:	CHANGES TO PERMITTED DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS
WARD/S AFFECTED:	ALL
REPORT OF:	HEAD OF REGENERATION & PLANNING
RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	COUNCILLOR PAT HACKET
KEY DECISION? <i>(Defined in paragraph 13.3 of Article 13 'Decision Making' in the Council's Constitution.)</i>	NO

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report outlines for Members a number of changes to permitted development rights for home owners and commercial premises that are due to take effect on 30 May 2013. This report will summarise the main changes together with any potential issues which may arise as a result of the Government introducing these changes to regulations.
- 1.2 The main change is to increase the size limits for the depth of single-storey domestic extensions from 4 metres to 8 metres (for detached houses) and from 3 metres to 6 metres for all other houses, in non-protected areas, for a period of three years. The Government has also announced changes to extend existing permitted development rights for certain telecommunications equipment and to grant new permitted development rights to change offices into residential use without the need for planning permission.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Government issued a new Statutory Instrument (2013 No. 1101) on 9 May 2013 setting out new provisions for permitted development through the planning system. This significantly relaxes the controls on what will require planning permission. The new regulations come into force on **30 May 2013**.

3.0 CHANGES TO REGULATIONS

- 3.1 **HOUSE EXTENSIONS** – Article 4 of Statutory Instrument 2013 No. 1101 amends A1 (e) of Part 1 of Schedule 2 to the Town & Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 to allow for an increase in the size limits for the depth of single-storey rear extensions. This increase in size limits is only for a temporary period of 3 years (until 30 May 2016). The Government has clarified that existing limitations and conditions designed to protect the amenities of neighbouring properties would remain. For example, development will not be able to cover more than 50% of the

curtilage of the house, single-storey extensions must not exceed 4 metres in height and any extensions which have an eaves height of more than 3 metres must not be within 2 metres of the boundary. It has also been clarified that the proposed changes do not apply to certain protected types of land such as National Parks, Areas of Outstanding Beauty, World Heritage Site and Conservation Areas (only the latter (Conservation Areas) applies to Wirral).

- 3.2 The new, temporary permitted development right is subject to a new procedure which would take the form of the following:

Homeowners wishing to build extensions under the new powers will notify their local planning authority with the details. The Council will then inform the adjoining neighbouring properties. If no objections are made to the Council by the adjoining neighbours the development can proceed. If objections are received the Council must then consider whether the development would have an unacceptable impact on neighbours' amenity. The development may not proceed until the local planning authority have given notification of their decision or until the expiry of 42 days without such a decision being notified.

- 3.3 In terms of the specifics of this new regulation, a homeowner wishing to benefit from the larger single-storey rear extension permitted development right must provide in writing the following:

- a. a written description of the proposal which includes the length that the extension extends beyond the rear wall of the original house, the height at the eaves and the height at the highest point of the extension;
- b. a plan of the site, showing the proposed development;
- c. the addresses of any adjoining properties, including at the rear; and
- d. a contact address for the developer and an email address if the developer is happy to receive correspondence by email.

There is no fee in connection with this process.

- 3.4 If any adjoining neighbour raises an objection within the (minimum) 21-day notification period, the local authority will take this into account and make a decision about whether the impact on the amenity of all adjoining properties is acceptable. No other issues aside from amenity can be considered. In terms of adjoining neighbour, this will be held to be those properties "next to and joined with." (The legal definition of adjoining goes further and defines it as "persons, such as next door neighbours or backyard neighbours, who own lands that share common boundaries").
- 3.5 The development can proceed if there have either been no objections (therefore, it has not been necessary to consider the impact on amenity) or following objections and having considered those objections, it has been decided that the effect on amenity of adjoining properties is acceptable.
- 3.6 Members will need to be aware that if the local authority does not notify the developer of its decision within the 42-day (6 weeks) determination period, the development may go ahead as consent will be deemed to have been given.
- 3.7 If approval is refused, the homeowner may appeal.

- 3.8 The extension must be built in accordance with the details either approved by the local authority or, if no objections were raised by adjoining neighbours, the details as submitted.
- 3.9 The extension will still need to meet other tests set out by Part 1 of Schedule 2 of the Regulations which include the fact the extension cannot cover more than 50% of the curtilage or that the extension must be constructed using materials of a similar appearance to those used in the construction of the dwellinghouse.
- 3.10 To benefit from these permitted development rights, the extension **must** be completed on or before 30 May 2016. The developer/homeowner must notify the local planning authority in writing of the date of the completion.
- 3.11 **OFFICE TO RESIDENTIAL** – Article 6(2) of the Statutory Instrument inserts a new Class J into Part 3 of Schedule 2 of the Town & Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 under Changes of Use. This allows the change of use from B1 (Office) to a C3 (Dwelling) without the need for planning permission (unless it is a listed building).
- 3.12 Again, this new permitted development right is temporary and will expire on 30 May 2016. Development will not be permitted where the site is or forms part of a safety hazard area, is or forms part of a military explosives storage area or, as mentioned above, the building is a listed building or a scheduled monument.
- 3.13 The new Class J development will be permitted subject to the condition that before development begins, the developer shall apply for a determination as to whether the prior approval of the authority will be required as to the following matters:
- a. Transport and highways impacts of the development;
 - b. Contamination risks on the site; and
 - c. Flooding risks on the site.
- No other issues can be addressed.
- 3.14 Normal procedures for Prior Approval apply to this class of permitted development and the Council will have 56-days (8 weeks) to determine whether prior approval is required. A fee is also payable for determining applications for a determination as to whether the prior approval will be required under this Class.
- 3.15 Where the application relates to prior approval as to transport and highways impacts of the development (where in the opinion of the local planning authority the development is likely to result in a material increase or change in the character of traffic in the vicinity of the site) the local planning authority shall consult:
- a. the Secretary of State for Transport, where the increase or change relates to traffic entering or leaving a trunk road;
 - b. the local highway authority, where the increase or change relates to traffic entering or leaving a classified road; and

- c. the operator of the network which includes or consists of the railway in question, and the Secretary of State for Transport, where the increase or change relates to traffic using a level crossing over a railway.
- 3.16 Where the application relates to prior approval as to the flooding risks on the site, the local planning authority shall consult the Environment Agency where the development is:
 - a. in an area within Flood Zone 2 or Flood Zone 3; or
 - b. in an area within Flood Zone 1 which has critical drainage problems
- 3.17 The local planning authority shall notify the consultees referred to Paragraphs 3.15 and 3.16 specifying the date by which they must respond (being not less than 21 days from the date of the letter).
- 3.18 Other publicity requirements also apply, such as the posting of Site Notices and notification to adjoining owner(s)/occupiers(s).
- 3.19 Members will need to be aware that if the local authority does not notify the developer of its decision within the 56-day (8 weeks) determination period, the development may go ahead as consent will be deemed to have been given.
- 3.20 **AGRICULTURAL BUILDINGS** – Article 6(2) of the Statutory Instrument also inserts a new Class M into Part 3 of Schedule 2 of the Town & Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 under Changes of Use. This allows existing agricultural buildings to change its use to a flexible use falling within Use Class A1, A2, A3, B1, B8, C1 or D2 in the Schedule to the Use Classes Order. Such uses include shops/retail, financial and professional services, restaurants and cafes (for the consumption of food/drink on the premises), light industry, storage or distribution, guest houses or boarding houses or assembly/leisure uses.
- 3.21 To benefit from the new permitted development right the building must have:
 - a. been solely in agricultural use since 3 July 2012; or
 - b. if the use began later than that date, for a period of at least 10 years.
- 3.22 No more than 500 square metres of floorspace in the building can be converted to a new use under the new permitted development right.
- 3.23 Before beginning the development, the person relying on the new right must notify the local planning authority giving details of the date the site will begin to be used for any of the flexible uses, the nature of the use or uses proposed and a plan indicating the site and which buildings will change use.
- 3.24 If the change of use relates to more than 150 square metres of floor space (and less than 500 square metres), the new permitted development right is subject to determination as to whether the prior approval of the authority will be required as to:
 - a. transport and highways impacts of the development;

- b. noise impacts of the development;
- c. contamination risks on the site; and
- d. flooding risks on the site

and the provisions as set out in Paragraphs 3:15 to 3:19 shall again apply in relation to any such application.

3.25 **AMENDMENTS IN RELATION TO MINOR OPERATIONS** – Article 5 of the Statutory Instrument amends Class A of Part 2 of Schedule 2 of the Town & Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 to allow schools to build a higher boundary fence or wall up to 2 metres in height adjacent to a highway, provided it does not create an obstruction which is likely to be a danger to highway safety. “School” is defined to include buildings which qualify for the right to change temporarily to use as a state-funded school under the new Class C of Part 4 of Schedule 2 (see 3.26 below) from the date the local planning authority is notified by the relevant Minister that the site has been approved for temporary school use.

3.26 **AMENDMENTS IN RELATION TO TEMPORARY USE OF BUILDINGS** – Article 7 inserts a new Class C into Part 4 (Temporary Buildings and Uses) of the Town & Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995. This new permitted development right enables various types of building to change use to use as a state-funded school for a single academic year (meaning any period beginning with 1st August to ending with the next 31st July), subject to the following:

- a. the site must be approved for use by the relevant Minister (meaning the Secretary of State with policy responsibility for schools);
- b. the relevant Minister must notify the local planning authority of the approval and the proposed opening date of the school;
- c. the site is used as a state-funded school (a school wholly or mainly funded from public funds) and for no other purpose, including any other purpose falling within Class D1 (non-residential institutions);
- d. the site reverts to its previous lawful use at the end of the academic year.

3.27 Article 7 also inserts a new Class D into Part 4 of Schedule 2 to the 1995 Order which is a new permitted development right allowing any building within Use Classes A1 (Shops), A2 (Financial/Professional Services), A3 (Restaurants/Cafes), A4 (Bars) A5 (Hot Food Takeaways), B1 (Business), D1 (Non-Residential Institutions) and D2 (Assembly and Leisure) to change to a flexible use falling within either use class A1, A2, A3 or B1 for a single continuous period of up to 2 years beginning on the date the building and any land within its curtilage begins to be used for one of the flexible uses. The change of use only applies to floorspace of no more than 150 square metres and after the 2 year period, the building and any land within its curtilage will revert to its former use.

3.28 **INDUSTRY AND WAREHOUSING DEVELOPMENT** – Article 8 of the Statutory Instrument amends Part 8 of Schedule 2 of the 1995 Order to increase permitted

development rights to erect, extend or alter industrial and warehouse premises from 25% gross floor space or by 100 square metres (whichever is the lesser) to 50% or 200 square metres (or only by 10% in Conservation Areas). This new permitted development right is only temporary and will expire on 30 May 2016.

- 3.29 **ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS** – Article 9 of the Statutory Instrument amends Part 24 of Schedule 2 of the 1995 Order which sets out permitted development rights in relation to developments by electronic communications code operators. Article 9 provides that, in relation to Article 1(5) land (i.e. National Parks, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty; Conservations Areas, Sites of Special Scientific Interests and the Norfolk Broads), the construction, installation or replacement of telegraph poles, cabinets or lines for fixed-line broadband services will not require prior approval for a 5-year period. In order to rely on this new permitted development right, development must have been completed before 30 May 2018. This new measure is to support the implementation and improvement of the broadband network.
- 3.30 **EXTENSIONS TO OFFICES** – Article 11 of the Statutory Instrument amends Part 41 of Schedule 2 of the 1995 Order to allow for increased permitted development rights to extend or alter an office building from 25% of gross floor space or 50 square metres (whichever is the lesser) to 50% or 100 square metres. This new permitted development right is temporary and will expire on 30 May 2016. In order to rely on this new right, development must have been completed before that date.
- 3.31 **EXTENSIONS TO SHOPS, CATERING FACILITIES OR FINANCIAL AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES** – Article 12 of the Statutory Instrument Statutory Instrument amends Part 42 of Schedule 2 of the 1995 Order to allow for increased permitted development rights to extend or alter a shop, catering, professional or financial services establishment from 25% of gross floor space or 50 square metres (whichever is the lesser) to 50% or 100 square metres. This new permitted development right is temporary and will expire on 30 May 2016. In order to rely on this new right, development must have been completed before that date. The current exclusion of development within 2 metres of the boundary of the curtilage is also removed during the same time period (i.e. until 30 May 2013) unless the premises adjoin land or buildings which are in residential use. The extension can be up to the site boundary unless the site is in a Conservation Area or abuts a residential property.

4.0 POTENTIAL ISSUES ARISING FROM THESE CHANGES TO PERMITTED DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS

- 4.1 In relation to the changes to the permitted development rights for domestic rear extensions, Wirral Council processed 109 applications for rear extensions in 2012/13 which would now be subject to the new permitted development right. This number of applications generated fees of £17,472. As no fee will be chargeable for under the new process for dealing with these types of notifications from 30 May, the Development Management teams will need to do this work for no charge.
- 4.2 Only neighbours physically adjoining the site can be notified of the proposals which will, in turn trigger the additional assessment of amenity. In some cases, the neighbour notification will be less that the Council's current practice. In addition, if adjacent properties are rented or vacant or the homeowner is away, then no assessment about the impact of the proposed extension could be made as it is likely that no objections

would be received to trigger the further consideration of amenity. Objections received after the 21 days cannot be taken into account.

- 4.3 It is likely that these changes will result in increased enforcement investigations/complaints as officers will be asked to check that new extensions fall within the scope of the new regulations. Additionally, there could be more challenges and complaints to through the Council's complaints procedures and the Local Government Ombudsman.
- 4.4 In terms of the changes relating to change of use from offices to residential, the Council applied to the Secretary of State for an exemption from this change in relation to the Wirral International Business Park. This application was refused and as such, no parts of the Wirral are currently exempt from this relaxation in permitted development rights. Again, the Council will lose fee income and also loses the opportunity to apply Section 106 Legal Agreements that may otherwise have been considered. Whilst there is a requirement on the local planning authority to notify adjoining owners, any representations received can only be considered in relation to the aspects that require prior approval (as set out 3.13 above). No other matters could be considered.
- 4.5 Having regard to the new provision for temporary permitted development to allow for new state-funded schools for a single academic year, the provision contains no power for the local authority to intervene at all. There is no requirement to notify neighbours, to assess transport, parking and drop-off arrangements or safe-routes-to-schools, noise or any other matters.
- 4.6 The new permitted development rights relating to agricultural buildings are designed to help the rural economy and farm diversification but there is the potential to result in an uses being located in unsustainable locations (although for uses over 150 square metres, prior approval will be required for some aspects of the proposals).
- 4.7 Having regard to the proposals for other commercial changes of use, as outlined at Paragraph 3.27 above, these changes are trying to ensure a range of services to meet local needs. However, the relaxation in permitted development will allow changes of use to cafes, restaurants or betting shops, for example, but without any assessment of noise or odours or controls on opening hours, since applications for planning permission will not be needed.

5.0 CONSULTATION

- 5.1 A consultation, *Extending Permitted Development Rights for Homeowners and Businesses* was published in November 2012. The proposals have controversial, with local authorities and professional bodies (such as the Royal Town Planning Institute and the Planning Officers Society) have been critical of them. In response to the concerns that were raised the Government amended the Growth and Infrastructure Act 2013 to ensure that there will be a neighbour consultation processes on new domestic extensions.
- 5.2 The new rules on the new permitted development rights are now provided for by statutory instrument and come into force on 30 May 2013.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

6.1 There are no direct impacts for voluntary, community and faith groups.

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

7.1 There is likely to be a reduction on fee income from the relaxation of permitted development rights, particularly with regards single storey rear domestic extensions. It is difficult to predict the reduction in income that might be lost from these changes but given the extent of applications and fee income generated last year from applications that will now be exempt from charges, there is likely to be a significant reduction in fee generation although the Development Management teams will be expected to process the new procedures for notification and prior approvals for no charge from 30 May 2016. The regulations do mention a fee for some aspects of the Prior Notification but the amount has not been announced yet although there is an indication that it will be £80. No additional I.T. will be required as it is proposed to use the existing Development Management I.T systems. No additional staff will be required as existing staff will be able to provide the enhanced service.

8.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 The Growth and Infrastructure Act 2013 and Statutory Instrument 2013 No.1101 Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (Amendment) (England) Order 2013 allow the changes to permitted development rights as outlined above. There are no further legal implications arising from these proposals.

9.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no direct implications arising from these proposals which adversely affect equality and diversity.

10.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

10.1 The implications of these proposals on climate change and carbon resources are largely neutral.

11.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

11.1 The planning implications arising from this report are outlined above and there are no direct Community Safety implications arising from this report.

12.0 RECOMMENDATION/S

12.1 That the Planning Committee note the contents of the report and the changes to permitted development rights

13.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

13.1 The recommendations reflect Central Governments relaxation of a number of permitted development rights which are set against the background of the provisions within the Growth and Infrastructure Act 2013.

REPORT AUTHOR: Matthew Davies
Development Management Manager
telephone: (0151) 691 8078
email: matthewdavies@wirral.gov.uk

APPENDICES

None

REFERENCE MATERIAL

None

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date

This page is intentionally left blank