



Regeneration and Environment Policy and Performance Committee

Date:	Monday, 27 January 2014
Time:	5.30 pm
Venue:	Committee Room 1 - Wallasey Town Hall

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AGENDA

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

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

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

2. MINUTES (Pages 1 - 6)

To approve the accuracy of the minutes of the Budget Consultation meeting held on 5 November 2013

3. MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE - PRESENTATION

Further to minute 15 (17 September 2013), the Chief Fire Officer, Dan Stephens) will give a brief presentation to the Committee on the potential impact on the residents of Wirral of Government proposals in relation to the fire and rescue service

**4. NOTICE OF MOTION - IMPROVING WIRRAL'S SITES FOR JOBS
(Pages 7 - 8)**

At the meeting of the Council held on 14 October 2013 (minute 37 refers), the attached Notice of Motion proposed by Councillor P Gilchrist and seconded by Councillor A Brighouse was referred by the Mayor to this Committee for consideration.

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

5. **SUPPORT TO SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES AND THE STRATEGIC APPROACH TO PARTNERSHIPS (Pages 9 - 14)**
6. **CUMULATIVE IMPACT ASSESSMENT (Pages 15 - 18)**
7. **PARKING ON PAVEMENTS AND GRASS VERGES
- UPDATE REPORT (Pages 19 - 24)**
8. **SCRUTINY REVIEW GUIDANCE (Pages 25 - 28)**
9. **DIRECTORATE PLAN PERFORMANCE REPORT (Pages 29 - 36)**
10. **FINANCIAL MONITORING 2013/2014 MONTH 8 (NOVEMBER 2013)
(Pages 37 - 46)**
11. **POLICY UPDATE (Pages 47 - 50)**
12. **DECISION TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED POWERS
- APPOINTMENT OF RETAINED RETAIL AND COMMERCIAL
LEISURE CONSULTANTS (Pages 51 - 52)**
13. **SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE (Pages 53 - 58)**
14. **ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS APPROVED BY THE CHAIR
(PART 1)**
15. **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.

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

**REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT POLICY AND
PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE**

Tuesday, 5 November 2013

<u>Present:</u>	Councillor	A Brighthouse (Chair)	
	Councillors	S Foulkes S Williams E Boulton J Crabtree P Doughty G Ellis R Gregson	K Hodson M Johnston P Kearney A Leech D Realey M Sullivan KJ Williams
<u>Cabinet Members:</u>	Councillors	G Davies P Hackett B Kenny	C Meaden H Smith
<u>In attendance:</u>	Councillor	P Gilchrist	

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

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

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

No such declarations were made.

25 **MINUTES**

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 17 September 2013 be approved.

26 **BUDGET OPTIONS**

The Council's Marketing and Engagement Manager gave a brief presentation on the ongoing 'What Really Matters?' Budget Consultation process, which sought the views of Members, staff, residents and businesses upon a range of savings options that had been proposed by officers for consideration by the Cabinet, to address a budget gap of £27.5m. The consultation had launched on 16 September 2013 and had followed a similar format to that used last year. He indicated that some 200 consultation events had been held to date and there had been direct engagement with in the region of 20,000 residents, with over 50 permanent engagement points. To date, over 5000 completed

questionnaires had been received, with over 1000 from members of staff. He provided an indication of response levels by Constituency, which were in the process of being evaluated. He assured Members that every comment made would be read and categorised, and published with the results following the close of the consultation exercise on 6 December 2013. The results would then be presented to the Cabinet on 10 December, with a recommendation to the Council on 16 December 2013.

The Labour Group spokesperson referred to comments that had been made by the Chair in a recent leaflet circulated to residents, which questioned the value of the consultation exercise. He sought clarification from the Chair that he was now satisfied with the process in the light of the officer presentation.

In response, the Chair expressed his personal view that the consultation had only limited value, as it was essentially self-selective by those who chose to engage with it. It could not be taken as being fully representative of the views of the people of Wirral but nevertheless, he believed it to be a significant improvement over the exercise undertaken in 2012/2013.

Members noted that the value of the budget options was in excess of the savings required, in order that the Cabinet would be able to respond to views expressed as part of the consultation. A Scrutiny Review had been undertaken by a Task and Finish Group upon the 'Impact of the 2013/2014 Budget Options and Potential Options for 2014/2015' (see minute 27 post).

It was agreed that in the light of the officers' comments upon the following Regeneration and Environment budget options, the individual views expressed by Members should be referred to the Cabinet for consideration –

Environmental Health Modernisation

£235k

- That a quality service should be maintained and the officers do all that is possible to maximise income.
- That consideration should be given as to whether charges could be made for the star ratings awarded to eateries.
- That measures should be put in place to ensure that there is no risk to public health as a result of the saving and that statutory obligations would continue to be met.

Floral Pavilion – Review of Operations

£400k

- That a detailed and thorough review should examine all existing activities to ensure the efficient operation of the facility to ensure it is in a position to operate and compete in a commercial environment, without reliance on a subsidy paid by the Council.
- That there should be an increased use of new and online technologies and, in view of assurances from officers, a booking fee should be introduced.
- There should be a greater exploration of additional income streams to maximise the use of the venue.
- That any proposed parking charge to be introduced in New Brighton should have regard to the potential impact on the Floral Pavilion.

Improved Memorial Service **£95k**

- No comments were made.

Birkenhead Kennels **£40k**

- No comments were made other than the potential for friction between paid staff and volunteers working together, which would have to be monitored.

CCTV Monitoring **£420k**

- That the proposed option be supported, as it seeks to avoid duplication of CCTV monitoring activities being undertaken by the Council and the Police and Fire and Rescue Service Control Room.
- Assurance was sought that the Police and Fire and Rescue Service were committed to the proposal and had the resource to undertake additional monitoring.
- Assurance was also sought that incidents in Wirral would continue to be addressed promptly, with response times not adversely affected.

Review of Williamson Art Gallery and Birkenhead Priory **£400k**
Wirral Transport Museum **£124k**

- Assurance was sought that all artworks had been subject to valuation.
- In response to a question, the officers confirmed that no consideration had been given to the sale of any of Wirral's cultural assets.
- That, in order to retain our 'museum' status and to ensure for the care of the collections, it was essential to have a curator in post.
- In response to a question from a Member, the officers proposed to provide a briefing note to Members on the arrangements in place regarding artwork on tour.
- In response to concerns expressed by Members in relation to the challenging target and ambitious timescales, the officers indicated that the savings identified for the Williamson Art Gallery may be realised over a longer time period. If so, a further report would be presented.
- Clarification was sought that the Transport Museum buildings and collection would remain in the Council's ownership.
- Members commented on the role of volunteers at the Transport Museum and highlighted their professionalism and competency.

Heritage Fund **£40k**

- Members supported the proposed saving option and noted that although a saving of £40k would be realised, the option would allow the retention of a budget for the continued funding of activities, £12k having been spent in 2013/2014 (£5k on a bus and transport event and £7k for heritage open days).

Reducing Parks and Countryside Maintenance

£850k

- That the maintenance of parks and open spaces was fundamental to leisure activities in Wirral and a reduction could have a detrimental impact on tourism.
- That a more balanced approach should be adopted by reducing maintenance in all parks, rather than a complete withdrawal of maintenance in those parks identified.
- That the officers should give consideration to the suitability of sites for an asset transfer or community partnership approach with local residents groups.
- That Wirral's beaches should be excluded from the savings option, and that maintenance, and removal of spartina grass, should continue.
- That more initiatives should be undertaken to encourage the public to have pride in Wirral's beaches and our parks and open spaces, and to take away litter.
- In response to concerns expressed by Members about the potential impact on Wirral's beaches by a proposal by Peel Holdings to dredge the River Mersey, the officers proposed to circulate a briefing note to all Members on the latest position.
- Concern was expressed about additional costs that could be incurred by the Council as a result of the savings option (e.g. health issues arising from unclean beaches and anti-social behaviour in overgrown parks and open spaces).
- That the officers should identify further disused sites that may be put to public use.

Street Lighting

£85k

- Officers agreed to address concerns that were expressed in relation to the procurement restrictions being in place, which could prevent the use more efficient lighting technology and adversely impact on the Lighting Strategy.
- That, with many residents being in fuel poverty, it was not acceptable to expect residents to provide or improve their own lighting on their premises to reduce dependence on public lighting.
- That the officers should investigate and compare the costs and potential savings associated with new LED lighting technology against dimming the existing conventional lighting.

Highways Winter Maintenance

£85k

- Members noted that there was no need for grit bins to be removed and that salt could be provided to them at the request of residents who were able to self help with gritting, particularly in more severe winters and in those areas of the Borough with steep roads.
- It was noted that the provision and suitability of locations of grit bins, based on local requirements, could be better addressed by the Constituency Committees.

Coastal Defence and Highways Maintenance

£25k

- No comments were made.

Restructure of Housing Strategy, Standards and Renewal Team £206k

- Concern was expressed by Members that a reduction in the staffing levels of the Housing Strategy and Standards and Renewal Team could leave the Council without the expertise required to react to changes in national policy or future Government initiatives to secure economic growth and attract investment in Wirral.
- However, Members noted that at the present time, of the seven posts to be deleted to achieve the level of savings, five had already left the employment of the Council on a voluntary basis.

Car Parking Charges

£100k

- Some comments were made that parking at the locations identified should continue to be free, with the exception of new Brighton, where parking charges could be imposed during the day but could be free in the evening so as not to have a detrimental impact on the operation of the Floral Pavilion.
- That, if parking charges were imposed at the locations identified in the savings option, they should be set at a reduced level so as to mitigate the impact on those residents who used those car parks on a regular basis.
- That, if parking charges were imposed at those locations, there would be a requirement to undertake repair works at some sites to bring them to an acceptable standard.
- That the officers should explore the use of modern technology so as to ensure the most cost effective and convenient method of collection.

Members also gave consideration to whether there were any other areas within the Regeneration and Environment Committee's remit where savings could be identified for consideration by the Cabinet.

The Vice-Chair expressed views –

- That representation should be made to the Government to request that LTP funding should not be ring fenced, so as to give greater freedom to local authorities as to how they used the money to meet local need.
- That representation should be made to Merseytravel to explore the possibility of securing funding to subsidise the winter gritting of bus routes.

Resolved –

- (1) That the range of views expressed by Members in respect of the various savings options be referred to the Cabinet for consideration.**

- (2) That the officers be requested to investigate the suggestions for additional savings/income identified by the Vice-Chair.

27 **SCRUTINY REVIEW: IMPACT OF 2013/2014 BUDGET OPTIONS AND POTENTIAL FOR 2014/2015**

The Chair presented a Scrutiny Review: Impact of 2013/2014 Budget Options and Potential for 2014/2015, which had been undertaken by a Task and Finish Group comprising Councillor Alan Brighthouse (Chair) and Councillor Paul Doughty.

Members thanked Councillors Brighthouse and Doughty and the officer support for the significant work they had undertaken on behalf of the Committee, but were disappointed that the second largest political group had not been represented at any of the six meetings that had been held.

The Chair advised that, given the timescales, it had not been possible to review all of the budget options for 2013/2014 in detail, or the potential options for 2014/2015. However, the Group had focused on the most significant options and had made a number of observations and recommendations.

Resolved – That the Scrutiny Review be referred to the Cabinet for consideration of the recommendations alongside the views expressed by Members to each of the Budget Options (see minute 26 ante).

NOTICE OF MOTION – IMPROVING WIRRAL’S SITES FOR JOBS

Proposed by: **Councillor Phil Gilchrist**
Seconded by: **Councillor Alan Brighthouse**

This Council is determined that Wirral must be well placed to take advantage of funds that may be released to improve the infrastructure within the City Region and Wirral in particular.

Council recognises that recent Employment Land studies listed and scored many sites in Wirral with regard to their availability, accessibility and environmental constraints.

Council notes that the current Corporate Plan recognises the need to provide ‘accessible employment opportunities’.

Council calls on officers to:

- (a) review the employment sites to establish, in co-operation with the owners, whether there are outdated premises and infrastructure that might be replaced with modern energy efficient premises in a range of sizes and locations.
- (b) work with Wirral’s business community to ensure that a range of workshops, modern offices and workplaces is in place, especially in areas of high unemployment.
- (c) bring together proposals that form a bid to be progressed through the new structures involving the Local Enterprise Partnership and the potential of the Combined Authority.

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WIRRAL COUNCIL

REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT

POLICY AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

27 JANUARY 2013

SUBJECT:	SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISE SUPPORT BY WIRRAL COUNCIL
WARDS AFFECTED:	ALL
REPORT OF:	STRATEGIC DIRECTOR – REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT
RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	COUNCILLOR PAT HACKETT CABINET MEMBER – REGENERATION AND PLANNING STRATEGY

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report provides an overview of key investment strategy activity in respect of Small and Medium Enterprises and the future opportunities being undertaken to support SMEs growth.
- 1.2 The report highlights the work and programmes undertaken to date by officers to support SMEs to access funding for development growth and highlighting emerging opportunities for Wirral Businesses.

2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

- 2.1 At Council on the 14 October 2013 (Minute 33 bullet 5) the Leader of the Council confirmed that the following report would be brought to Members on the support given to SME's.
- 2.2 Small and Medium size enterprises account for 99.9% of all private sector businesses in the UK (Business Population Estimates (BPE) for the UK and Regions 2012). SMEs employ 14.1 million people and have a combined turnover of £1,500 billion in the UK.
- 2.3 Wirral has 8,895 Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (UK Business 2012). There are 45,400 people employed in SME's in Wirral (either as an employee or a working proprietor) (BRES 2011). Wirral's enterprise base is predominantly made up of micro-businesses with 73% of Wirral's enterprise base having 0-4 employees. Most size bands have seen an increase since 2011 however; there has been no change or a decline of those businesses which employ 20-249 people. There has been a 3.4% increase in the number of enterprises employing 0-4 employees that new business starts in Wirral have been buoyant over the last 12 months; this is the highest percentage increase for this employment band in the Liverpool City Region.
- 2.4 SME's are major contributors to the UK economy and are significant employers in the local Wirral Economy. This has been reflected by the support and focus of Wirral's Investment Strategy. Wirral's Investment Strategy aims to deliver a strong, vibrant economy with high levels of investment and employment opportunities for Wirral residents. This includes the development and support for Small and Medium sized Enterprises and has enabled SME's across the borough to grow and provide job opportunities.

Investment Support Services

- 2.4 In June 2011 Cabinet (Min 47 refers) agreed to an Investment Support Services Framework that set out the range of activities that could be taken forward to enable Wirral to offer a comprehensive service to businesses seeking to invest in the Borough. This recognised the need to promote Wirral as a preferred business location to ensure that Wirral's economic potential is realised.
- 2.5 Supporting Wirral's businesses is one of the key priorities of the Council's Investment Strategy. A critical element of this is the provision of effective and co-ordinated advice and support services to Wirral's businesses to ensure that they are supported to develop and grow sustainably. To deliver this, Cabinet approved the Investment Support Services Framework (23 June 2011, minute 47 refers) enabling Invest Wirral to offer a single point of contact and seamless advice service to support Wirral businesses.
- 2.6 Invest Wirral currently provides a range of business support services including:
- Locating business premises – Invest Wirral attracted investments approaching £20 million and secured nearly 1,000 jobs during 2011/12;
 - Business advice – the provision of expert guidance including workshops and seminars and access to business investment finance;
 - The launch of a 'Business Angels' network to provide investment in fast growing enterprises;
 - Wirral Business Forum, an on-line business communication service offering opportunities for local inter-trading and development, with a growing membership of over 2,800 Wirral business people;
 - A comprehensive SME business support programme through providing support and advice to businesses on key elements of business growth and employment opportunities.
- 2.7 The business support programme has been positively received by SME's with over 500 receiving advice and support. In November 2012 the Council through the Liverpool City Region LEP secured additional ERDF monies to continue providing business support to Wirral Businesses until March 2015.
- 2.8 In addition Wirral businesses will benefit from an ERDF funded programme that has been co-ordinated by the LCR LEP and will be delivered through Invest Wirral. The New Markets programme will deliver part funded support packages tailored to the needs of high growth businesses and to those businesses with the potential to export or to increase exports. This will enable SME businesses to take full advantage of opportunities to grow and to generate increased GVA and employment as a result. As well as ensuring that businesses benefit from client centred support, the programme will be configured in a way that allows SMEs to select appropriate support providers and will therefore stimulate the private sector to supply appropriate services for the needs of the SME.
- 2.9 As Members may recall in November 2012 Cabinet (item 139) the Wirral Investment Network and Egerton House Ltd merged to form the Wirral Business Partnership. The Wirral Business Partnership has now merged with the Wirral Chamber.

- 2.10 The Wirral Chamber is a membership organisation which provides business support to Members. The Wirral Chamber works closely with the Council's Invest Wirral Team to provide a comprehensive business support service.

Council Payment to SMEs

- 2.11 The Council is committed to pay SMEs providing goods and services to the Council within 10 days. It is important for SMEs to be paid promptly as cash flow and the ability of companies to bank roll finance is usually limited.
- 2.12 Officers are currently in the process of identifying local SMEs that can be paid from the Council within 10 days. By focusing on payments to local SMEs, the costs and resources required for processing the payments will be reduced. Further work on this is being undertaken by the Council's Procurement team.
- 2.13 The Council currently has a target of ensuring 25% of SMEs are being paid within 10 days. This target is being reviewed and the results of payments are monitored on a monthly basis.
- 2.14 The Council's Procurement team are in the process of engaging one extra Payments Clerk to accommodate the increased workload for processing payments within 10 days. This payment service is also part of the Shared Service agenda.
- 2.15 The Council's procurement team are introducing a payment by purchase order only process which will ensure that all transactions for services and goods are managed through the electronic procurement system. Invoices are then submitted by suppliers directly to the central payments team for payment, they can be matched against the iProcurement system records and payment can be made promptly. This system is designed to reduce time and minimise delays and errors in payments. The intention is for this procedure to be in place at the beginning of December.
- 2.16 The Council are also developing a P Card service for selected low value transaction types that will eliminate the requirement to receive invoices. The P Card operates within a system of stringent controls and will allow payments to be made more efficiently with a target of payments within 4 days.
- 2.17 The Council's Procurement team are working to ensure that all of the systems are in place to guarantee prompt payments are made to SMEs to ensure that the Council is doing all it can to support our SME companies to maintain a positive cash flow and allow SMEs to continue providing services to the Council.

Social Value Act

- 2.18 In 2012 the Government enacted the Social Value Act 2012. The passing of this act means that under certain circumstances all public bodies in England and Wales are required to consider how the services they procure might improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of the area.
- 2.19 This Act means that in certain circumstances, where other factors are not prevalent such as framework agreements or matters of urgency, then the authority must consider this act. There is potential for this to be a positive step for Wirral's SME's.
- 2.20 A number of initiatives and actions are currently being developed in Wirral and across the Liverpool City Region in relation to Social Value, particularly in relation to

using public sector procurement to maximise local economic impact including jobs for residents, and opportunities for local businesses and supply chains.

2.21 This work has been taken forward in a number of ways, including a task and finish group of Procurement Managers, Employment & Skills, and Business Support Colleagues from across the City Region. The three main areas of work currently being considered are:

- ensuring procurement activity includes a focus on delivering jobs and skills - this work is being undertaken by the Merseyside Procurement Partnership;
- ensuring that local businesses (especially SMEs) are 'tender ready' and aware of opportunities that present;
- working with businesses to promote the value of them engaging to deliver the City Region's wider economic aspirations.

2.22 Local Councils across the City Region have produced a Charter for Skills and Jobs. This charter has now been agreed as a future way of working for the City Region.

2.23 Wirral's Public Sector Board (PSB) has also gained commitment from key local public sector partners to strategically join up approaches, and as a result a Social Value Task Group has been established. The group are looking to take forward a number of action points which include:

- producing a local toolkit to help organisations understand, deliver and measure outcomes relating Social Value;
- consider undertaking a mapping exercise to establish local spend by value, SMEs, voluntary, community and faith sectors.

2.24 Work is on-going to ensure the implementation of the Social Value Act, embedding it into Wirral Councils processes and systems.

Financial Assistance to Businesses

2.25 As Members will recall, the Council has been successful in securing £5million of Regional Growth Fund to support development in the Offshore Renewable Energy sector. As part of this programme, funds are available to businesses which are looking to move into the offshore energy market or who are looking to grow their business in this area.

2.26 Wirral as part of the Liverpool City Region Local Enterprise Partnerships Regional Growth Fund, has secure £10million to support SME's in the Liverpool City Region (LCR) as well a further £5m to give smaller grants to businesses in the LCR. Wirral is working closely with partners to ensure that this funding opportunity is maximised for Wirral Businesses and that the benefits are felt for the people of Wirral.

2.27 Businesses in Wirral have the opportunity to apply for funding to support business growth and development and this funding is available until March 2015. In addition the Council has resources available through the Think Big Investment Fund to support businesses outside the scope of the RGF programmes.

Future Funding Opportunities

2.28 Work is on-going on the emerging EU programme 2014-2020 which is being led by the LCR Local Enterprise Partnership. The emerging theme portfolios are:

- Blue/Green Economy
- Business Economy
- Innovation Economy
- Place and Connectivity
- Inclusive Economy

2.29 The LEP submitted a draft of the portfolios to Government in October with a final submission at the end of January 2014. The new programme will provide potentially provide several opportunities for SMEs to access funding and business support. The programme is still being finalised, however, supporting business start ups and business support has been identified as a key element of the new programme.

3.0 RELEVANT RISKS

3.1 Ensuring that Wirral is involved in key discussions regarding the emerging EU programme so that funding opportunities are maximised for Wirral Businesses.

4.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

4.1 No other options are considered as apart of this report

5.0 CONSULTATION

5.1 This report is consistent with the principles of Wirral's Investment Strategy, which provides the framework for business support activity and this has been reviewed following an extensive consultation with partners. Wirral will continue to work with partners to progress the work around social value act, regional growth fund and the new EU programme.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

6.1 None as a direct result of this report.

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

7.1 None directly as a result of this report.

8.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 Businesses supported by the Regional Growth Fund programme will be subject to State Aid rules and it will be necessary to ensure compliance with these. Where necessary expert legal advice will be taken to ensure compliance.

9.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

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

(a) Yes and impact review is attached for Wirral Investment Strategy – <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/my-services/community-and-living/equality-diversity-cohesion/equality-impact-assessments/eias-2010/regeneration-housing-planning>

10.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

10.1 None as a direct result of this report

11.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are no direct implications as a result of this report.

12.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

12.1 To note the range of activity taking place to maximise the opportunities for Wirral businesses especially SMEs to grow and create jobs within the borough.

12.2 Update Members on the strategic direction of travel in relation to support for Wirral's Small and Medium Enterprises and ensuring that Wirral's SME's continue to be a priority for the Council's Investment Strategy.

13.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

13.1 To ensure that the Investment Strategy focus is maximising support for SMEs in Wirral.

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REFERENCE MATERIAL

The Investment Strategy 2011-16: Wirral Council website (<http://www.wirral.gov.uk/my-services/business/investment-strategy>)

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Council: Leaders Executive Members and Policy and Performance committee report	14th October 2013
Cabinet: Egerton House	29th November 2012
Cabinet: Wirral Business Support Programme	8th November 2012
Cabinet: Investment Support Services Framework	23rd June 2011

WIRRAL COUNCIL

REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT POLICY AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

DATE 27 JANUARY 2014

SUBJECT:	THE CUMULATIVE IMPACT OF A CONCENTRATION OF LICENSED PREMISES
WARD AFFECTED:	ALL
REPORT OF:	STRATEGIC DIRECTOR OF REGENERATION & ENVIRONMENT
RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER	COUNCILLOR BILL DAVIES, CHAIR OF LICENSING COMMITTEE

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 At the last meeting of this Committee a report was requested to inform Members of the circumstances when it may be appropriate for the Council to adopt a Cumulative Impact Policy in respect of licensed premises under The Licensing Act 2003.
- 1.2 This report provides this information for Members.

2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

- 2.1 In accordance with The Licensing Act 2003 (the 2003 Act) the Council, as the Licensing Authority, is required to issue various authorisations for licensable activities in respect of the supply of alcohol, the provision of entertainment and the provision of late night refreshment . These functions must be undertaken with a view to promoting the Licensing Objectives which are: the prevention of crime and disorder, the prevention of public nuisance, the protection of children from harm and public safety. In discharging its functions under The Licensing Act 2003 the Licensing Authority must have in place a statement of Licensing Policy.
- 2.2 Guidance issued under Section 182 of The Licensing Act 2003 sets out the general principles that should underpin a licensing Policy and includes guidance relating to the inclusion of special cumulative impact policies within a statement of Licensing Policy.
- 2.3 The Guidance makes reference to the fact that cumulative impact is not mentioned specifically in the 2003 Act. It is described in the Guidance as the potential impact on the promotion of the licensing objectives of a significant number of licensed premises concentrated in one area.
- 2.4 The Guidance sets out that there should be an evidential basis for a decision to include a special policy within the statement of licensing policy and provides the following examples of the type of evidence that may be used:
- Local crime and disorder statistics, including statistics on specific types of crime and crime hotspots
 - Statistics on local anti-social behaviour offences
 - Environmental Health complaints

- Complaints recorded by the local authority which may have been raised by residents
 - Evidence from local councillors
 - Evidence obtained through local consultation
- 2.3 In consideration of whether to adopt a special policy relating to cumulative impact the Guidance sets out the following matters to be considered by the Licensing Authority:
- Identify concern about crime and disorder; public safety; public nuisance; or protection of children from harm.
 - Consider whether there is good evidence that crime and disorder or nuisance are occurring, or whether there are activities which pose a threat to public safety or the protection of children from harm.
 - If such problems are occurring, identify whether these problems are being caused by the customers of licensed premises, or that the risk of cumulative impact is imminent.
 - Identify the boundaries of the area where problems are occurring (this can involve mapping where the problems occur and identifying specific streets or localities where such problems arise).
- 2.4 The effect of adopting a special policy of this kind is to create a rebuttable presumption that applications for the grant or variation of premises licences or club premises certificates which are likely to add to the existing cumulative impact will normally be refused or subject to certain limitations, following relevant representations, unless the applicant can demonstrate in the operating schedule that there will be no negative cumulative impact on one or more of the licensing objectives. Applicants should give consideration to potential cumulative impact issues when setting out the steps they will take to promote the licensing objectives in their application.
- 2.5 The adoption of a special cumulative impact policy cannot be absolute as the circumstances of each application must be considered. The licensing authority will still need to show that the grant of the application would undermine the licensing objectives and that appropriate conditions would be ineffective in preventing the problems involved.
- 2.6 Having a special policy in place does not relieve responsible authorities or any other person of the need to make representations, as the licensing authority may only give consideration to such a policy if representations are made. If there are no representations the licensing authority must grant the application.
- 2.7 Wirral does not currently have any special cumulative impact policies within its statement of Licensing Policy. The absence of a special policy does not prevent any responsible authority or interested party making representations on a new application for the grant or variation of a licence on the grounds that the premises will have a negative cumulative impact on one or more of the Licensing Objectives.

2.8 The Guidance also makes reference to using other tools and positive measures in partnership with local businesses and other agencies, outside of special policies, to address problems that may be caused by licensed premises. Such measures have been adopted by Wirral Licensing who work closely with Merseyside Police and other partners to promote the Licensing Objectives and minimises the harm of alcohol. This has resulted in a number of initiatives, including a Charter for Licensed premises across Wirral and a Community Alcohol Partnership. Work is also undertaken with licensed premises through Pub Watch to inform and educate licence holders and staff of their responsibilities under The Licensing Act 2003.

3.0 RELEVANT RISKS

3.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

4.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

4.1 There is no provision for other options to be considered.

5.0 CONSULTATION

5.1 Consultation is not required from this report.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

6.1 There are no specific implications arising from this report.

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

7.1 There are no specific implications arising from this report.

8.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no specific implications arising from this report.

9.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

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

10.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are no specific implications arising from this report.

11.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are no Planning implications arising from this report.

12.0 RECOMMENDATION

12.1 That Members note this report and provide any views to the Licensing Committee for future consideration.

13.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

13.1 This report was requested by Members for information purposes and as the Licensing Committee has the responsibility for dealing with licensing issues any comments should be referred to that Committee for future consideration.

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APPENDICES

None

REFERENCE MATERIAL

- None

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date

WIRRAL COUNCIL

REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT POLICY AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

27TH JANUARY 2014

SUBJECT:	PAVEMENT & GRASS VERGE PARKING UPDATE REPORT
WARD/S AFFECTED:	ALL
REPORT OF:	MARK SMITH, HEAD OF ENVIRONMENT & REGULATION
RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	COUNCILLOR HARRY SMITH, HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORTATION
KEY DECISION?	NO

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report provides Members with an update on progress relating to pavement and grass verge parking since the last report in November 2012.
- 1.2 The report notes that the initiative to publicise the problems relating to pavement parking to the general public and issue warning notices in areas of particular concern is in its early stages but is having some positive effect.
- 1.3 The report recommends a continuation of the current initiative with further updates for Members in due course.

2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

- 2.1 This report provides an update on progress relating to pavement and grass verge parking issues since the report of the then Interim Director for Technical Services in November 2012 to the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 2.2 In that report it was recognised that pavement parking can, in some circumstances, increase danger for road users as they negotiate such hazards. It can also lead to higher traffic speeds on some roads as vehicles need not slow to pass legitimately parked vehicles. The issue is particularly sensitive for the public and Members alike, and is the subject of many enquiries to Streetscene. This is not only a problem for the public of Wirral, it is also a problem nationally.
- 2.3 In residential areas, narrow roads result in drivers parking on pavements/verges in an effort to avoid obstructing the road for through traffic and, in particular, large vehicles such as refuse collection vehicles, removal/delivery vans, etc.
- 2.4 In these locations residential parkers are generally aware that they should not be parking on the pavement/verge but they persist for a variety of reasons. Pavement/verge parking is a major problem at peak times outside most of the school sites in the Borough. Those who pavement/verge park outside schools do so regularly.

- 2.5 Many areas were designed when car ownership was not high. Some older housing estates have a significant number of amenity areas and narrow access roads. Houses in these cases can front onto large grassed areas without direct road frontages. It would be relatively costly to introduce a widescale programme of capital investment to provide parking laybys in many of these locations. Officers estimate that even if such a programme was undertaken, demand for parking is still likely to outstrip provision.
- 2.6 Obstruction resulting from footway or verge parking is not enforceable by the Council's parking management provision – unless there is a specific signed Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) made within the remit of the Road Traffic Act 1984 in place. Enforcement is therefore only generally possible through the Police. Other TROs such as single or double yellow lines in place on a specific section of carriageway cover the whole width of the road including footways. In such cases prosecutions for infringement of the specific yellow line TRO can be undertaken by the Council.
- 2.7 Individual instances of parking on footways or verges can be considered by police officers to be obstructive or dangerous. Whilst these offences appear to clearly indicate parking on footways and verges is not permitted, officers within the police point out that unless there is evidence that a footway or carriageway is fully 'obstructed', there are no other definitions of what constitutes 'obstruction', 'wilful obstruction' or 'unnecessary obstruction' and in such cases they are less likely to secure a successful prosecution. Additionally, as Members may be aware the recent economic downturn has resulted in limitations in police resources, with such offences being seen as a lower priority than burglary, violence and other crime.
- 2.8 There have been 9 'pilot' verge & pavement parking TRO schemes introduced to date at a variety of locations across the Borough. These are reasonably well respected by motorists with good compliance in all locations and few prosecutions undertaken.
- 2.9 Following the report in 2012 and the suggestions made by Members of the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee the leaflet designed by the Council to warn 'offending' drivers of their pavement parking was amended to include specific details of the incident.
- 2.10 These leaflets were finalised and following publicity in the local press and Wirral own website, the initiative was launched in July 2013. Since then over 100 individual warning notices have been issued to a variety of locations where either Members or the general public have informed my officers of particular problems.
- 2.11 During subsequent visits, officers have noted a general reduction in pavement parking, although the problem continues to persist in particular near schools at key start/finish times.
- 2.12 There are on average 2 – 3 occasions annually where reinstatement of badly rutted grass verges is necessary. The work typically involves rolling the grass surface with a heavy roller then making up the ground levels with top soil and grass seed. The total cost of this work is generally less than £500.

- 2.13 Whilst some damage does occur to grass verges over time when drivers choose to fully or partially mount them, though unsightly, this is in itself not normally a danger to pedestrians.
- 2.14 There are some difficulties in generating sufficient evidence to determine that the actual damage caused to a grassed verge has been done by an individual. In addition in many cases vehicle owners may have more than one authorised driver and proving that all of the damage was done by one individual is somewhat more difficult.
- 2.15 The report in November 2012 to the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee identified a number of actions which are continuing to be progressed:
- 1) Undertake consultation with Area Forums, emergency services, WIRED and the Wirral Pedestrian Association regarding appropriate minimum widths, impingement upon which would be deemed obstruction, and report back to Members in due course.
Update – consultation with various groups ongoing, however a nominal width of 1.2 m is currently being used as guidance.
 - 2) Review and if found practical, prepare an invest-to-save proposal to address the consequences for highway maintenance and the defence of personal injury claims arising from pavement and grass verge parking.
Update – This proposal is still being investigated/pursued.
 - 3) If resources are available, conscious of the context described in 7.2 (of that report – *“The pursuit of the pavement and grass verge parking agenda is not currently a funded item and would require resources to be made available. As a “growth” item, careful consideration must be given to whether such resources could be identified considering the Councils financial position. It may be that Area Forums could decide to allocate some of their funds to this topic, but central funding is unlikely to be available.”*.) - that:
 - i) in conjunction with the Police, undertake an information/publicity campaign using a variety of media strands to raise public awareness of the problems and the potential penalties that can be imposed.
Update – initial media launch undertaken. Information provided via a number of outlets including press and website. No additional funding available for further marketing at this time.
 - ii) issuing of specific warning leaflets for drivers together with a database of persistent ‘offenders’ in problem areas.
Update – over 100 warning leaflets have been issued relating to obstructive pavement parking to drivers with details captured.
 - iii) referral to the police for dangerous, damaging or persistent obstructive parking.
Update - No persistent offenders have yet been identified as requiring further police intervention.
 - iv) refer to Area Forums/known community groups for prioritisation of specific pavement /grass verge parking restrictions with subsequent enforcement action, as appropriate.
Update – A number of locations have been identified and referred to the new Constituency Forum Co-ordinators.

v) investigate the creation of a database of details of vehicles regularly parking on footways and grass verges causing obstruction and/or damage.

Update - completed

vi) undertake prosecutions of drivers causing damage to the highway infrastructure.

Update - not yet undertaken

4) Request that Senior Officers raise issues relating to obstruction and footway parking with all Council staff and its contractors.

Update – the Chief Executive has contacted all staff. Senior Officers have raised this issue with contractors.

2.16 Within the provisions of current legislation, where vehicles park partly or fully on a footway or verge, leaving sufficient room for free passage and parking so as not to cause a danger or cause identifiable damage, they would not normally be subject to further action.

2.17 If it can be proved that damage has been caused to the surface of a pavement/verge by a particular vehicle driver, then the Council can take action to recover the costs of the repairs through the Magistrates Court and if the person is found guilty, they are liable to a fine.

2.18 A number of sites have been identified as having ongoing grass verge parking where officers consider that the introduction of a verge/pavement parking TRO could assist. Constituency Forum Co-ordinators have been informed of these to see if the new Forums wish to prioritise their introduction.

3.0 RELEVANT RISKS

3.1 Not taking action will result in continuing damage to footways and grass verges which will require repair, incurring additional costs.

3.2 Unsafe parking practices may result in increased risk of road accidents.

4.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

4.1 None.

5.0 CONSULTATION

5.1 None.

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

6.1 The introduction of further specific Traffic Regulation Orders will require formal advertising, processing and sealing.

6.2 The pursuit of the pavement and grass verge parking agenda is not currently a funded item and would require resources to be made available. As a “growth” item, careful consideration must be given to whether such resources could be identified considering the Councils financial position. It may be that Constituency Forums could decide to allocate some of their funds to this topic, but central funding is unlikely to be available.

6.3 If funding was available, there could be a prospect of extending the role of the Council’s parking enforcement contractor to cover this additional area of enforcement and for them to serve fixed penalty notices on all vehicles parked on the pavements in any of the roads where traffic regulation orders are introduced.

6.4 The creation/implementation of a database to record persistent 'offenders' will require IT support and will need to conform with the data protection act.

7.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Restricting pavement parking could reduce the Council's expenditure on pavement repairs and will maintain the reduction in public liability insurance claims arising from highway related tripping accidents.

8.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

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

No because this is a progress report.

9.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Effective control of on-street parking will have positive effects on quality of life issues such as access to property and visual amenity of the environment. It also supports sustainable goals in encouraging use of public transport and may lead to a saving in resource use where fewer repairs to pavements and verges are required.

10.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

10.1 Enforcing and controlling pavement parking will reduce potential hazards and dangers to users of the public highway.

11.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

11.1 Members are requested to note progress made in continuing to address pavement and verge parking issues.

12.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

12.1 The parking of vehicles on pavements and grass verges is widespread across the Borough. Many motorists are either ignorant or unconcerned of the impact that their actions can have on the condition of the pavement surface or the obstruction that they cause to pedestrians, the elderly and the less able by forcing them to walk around the vehicle and onto the road.

12.2 In terms of its impact on resources it is difficult to estimate exactly how much pavement parking costs the Council in terms of reactive maintenance/repairs but it is thought to be in excess of £40,000 annually with the majority of this cost related to damage done to flagged footways.

12.3 It is Council Policy to replace paving flags with tarmacadam in pavement locations where vehicle overriding is causing damage to the pavement and hazards for pedestrians.

12.4 Despite the benefits outlined in para 12.2, the Council's current financial position makes it difficult to identify resources to target this issue. It may be possible to adopt an invest-to-save model, but this would need further consideration.

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APPENDICES - Nil

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee	21 November 2012
Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee	26 September 2011

WIRRAL COUNCIL

Regeneration and Environment Policy & Performance Committee

27 January 2014

SUBJECT:	Scrutiny Review Good Practice Guidance
WARD/S AFFECTED:	ALL
REPORT OF:	Director of Public Health/Head of Policy & Performance
RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	Cllr Ann McLachlan (Governance and Improvement)
KEY DECISION?	NO

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This reports sets out some draft guidance for the setting up and operation of Scrutiny Review Panels to ensure there is a consistency of approach to task and finish work across the four Policy and Performance Committees.
- 1.2 The draft guidance was presented to the Policy and Performance Coordinating Committee on 15 January 2014.

2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

- 2.1 Changes to the Council's Scrutiny Function were introduced at the start of the municipal year through the creation of four Policy and Performance Committees. Staff support for scrutiny was also increased with the Scrutiny Support Team being brought up to full complement.
- 2.2 All of the Policy and Performance Committees have set out their work programmes for the year. There are now significantly more scrutiny reviews being undertaken and more Members engaged in this work than ever before. As such guidance has been produced to support the process of setting up and managing scrutiny review panels.
- 2.3 In response to issues highlighted by a number of Members, further work will be progressed in the New Year to develop a consistent mechanism for monitoring the implementation of actions and recommendations arising from Scrutiny Reviews.

3.0 SUMMARY OF GUIDANCE

- 3.1 The guidance is included as Appendix 1. It is recognised the approach to scrutiny reviews needs to be flexible and tailored to the nature of the topic in question. However, the guidance is intended to promote good practice and a consistency of approach for the operation of Scrutiny Review Panels.

4.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 4.1 There are none directly 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?

(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.

15.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

15.1 N/A

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Scrutiny Review Good Practice Guidance

Wirral Council

Scrutiny Review Good Practice Guidance

Introduction

The new arrangements for scrutiny introduced in May 2013, aim to:

- Shift the emphasis towards policy development and looking forward
- Develop a work programme informed by the corporate plan and business performance
- Engage non-Executive members more meaningfully with opportunities to influence through 'pre-decision' scrutiny
- Deliver scrutiny outside formal meetings, in the community and away from the Town Hall

Scrutiny Reviews based on a task and finish approach provide a key mechanism for making this happen, providing Members with the opportunity to work in small, informal groups to examine policy and service delivery in greater depth. Whilst the approach needs to be flexible and tailored to the work in question, the following guidelines are intended to support consistency and good practice for Scrutiny Review Panels.

Panel Membership and Chairs

- Membership will usually be drawn from the Policy and Performance Committee. However, there is an opportunity for any non-Executive Member to sit on a panel where they have a specific interest or knowledge.
- Membership will be agreed at meetings of the Policy and Performance Committee. Where this is not possible, a request for volunteers will be coordinated by the Scrutiny Support Team on behalf of the Chair of the Committee.
- There is no limit to the number of Members involved in a Scrutiny Review Panel. The size of the Group will vary depending on its purpose.
- Panels will require an identified Chair to lead the review, chair meetings and report on progress to the Policy and Performance Committee.
- The Chair will be determined by the Committee or, where this is not possible, by agreement of the Review Panel at the initial scoping meeting.
- When a review continues into a new municipal year the Membership of the panel should remain the same for the purpose of continuity.

Meetings and Participation

- The first meeting of the Panel will be to develop the scope of the review. The scope document needs to be endorsed by all Members of the Panel prior to any evidence gathering and should be shared with the relevant portfolio holder.
- The number of meetings will depend on the scope and methodology. Meetings will continue until the task is complete.
- Meetings will be scheduled to fit in with Members availability unless evidence gathering can only be achieved at specific times.
- Members of the Panel will endeavour to attend all meetings scheduled as part of the review. Deputies should not be used for Task and Finish Groups.
- Confidentiality should be maintained throughout the evidence gathering process and findings should be used only for the purpose of the review and final report.

Outcome of the Scrutiny Review

- On completion of its work, the Panel will produce a report with recommendations for the relevant Policy and Performance Committee based on the findings of the Scrutiny Review. If approved by Committee, this will be referred to Cabinet.
- As part of the sign-off for this report, the Panel will be expected to meet with the senior accountable officer and the relevant portfolio holder.
- In developing recommendations, the Scrutiny Review Panel should give consideration to specifying what arrangements should be put in place for these to be reviewed and how desired outcomes will be measured.

Officer Support for Scrutiny

- A dedicated Scrutiny Support Officer will provide the key point of liaison in support of the Chair and the Panel.
- The Scrutiny Support Officer will arrange meetings, prepare papers and coordinate the involvement of people to provide evidence including Council Officers and external witnesses.
- The Support Officer will make a note of all meetings and evidence gathering sessions and circulate these to all participants to ensure their accuracy and any secure any additional information as required.
- Officers providing evidence to the Task and Finish Group will make themselves available to attend meetings and provide information as requested by Members and Scrutiny Officers in a timely fashion.

WIRRAL COUNCIL

REGENERATION & ENVIRONMENT POLICY AND PERFORMANCE

COMMITTEE

27 JANUARY 2014

SUBJECT:	DIRECTORATE PLAN PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORT (AS AT 30TH NOVEMBER 2013)
WARD/S AFFECTED:	ALL
REPORT OF:	STRATEGIC DIRECTOR OF REGENERATION & ENVIRONMENT AND HEAD OF POLICY & PERFORMANCE
RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	<p>CLLR GEORGE DAVIES, JOINT DEPUTY LEADER AND PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD, HOUSING AND ENGAGEMENT</p> <p>CLLR PAT HACKETT, PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR ECONOMY</p> <p>CLLR HARRY SMITH, PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION</p> <p>CLLR BRIAN KENNY, PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY</p> <p>CLLR CHRIS MEADEN, PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR HEALTH AND WELLBEING</p>
KEY DECISION?	NO

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The aim of this report (Appendix 1) is to update Members of the Committee of the current performance of the Directorate (as at 30th November 2013) against the delivery of the Directorate Plan for 2013/14. The report translates the priorities set out in the Directorate Plan into a coherent and measurable set of performance outcome measures and targets.
- 1.2 This report also provides a mechanism for overview and scrutiny of Directorate Plan performance. Members are requested to consider the details of the report and highlight any issues arising from this report.

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

2.2 Directorate Plan performance is monitored on a monthly basis against the parameters agreed as part of the business planning process (e.g. RAG tolerance levels). Some indicators are only available on a quarterly basis, in line with the availability of data. 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).

2.3 Monthly Directorate Plan Performance Reports are produced and made available to support corporate challenge via:

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

3.0 SUMMARY

3.1 The Directorate Plan Performance Report (Appendix 1) sets out performance against 23 measures. Of these there are 2 measures where the outcome metric is under design or due to report at the end of the year. A commentary is provided against these.

3.2 Of the 21 measures that are RAG rated, 17 are rated green, 3 are rated amber and 1 are rated red. The 1 measure rated red has an action plan (included as Appendix 2) which refers to:

- Percentage of all major planning applications determined within 13 weeks

4.0 RELEVANT RISKS

4.1 The performance management framework policy is aligned to the Council's risk management strategy.

5.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

5.1 N/A

6.0 CONSULTATION

6.1 N/A

7.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

7.1 N/A

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

8.1 Financial implications of undertaking the actions to deliver the Corporate Plan will be addressed by Directorates as appropriate.

9.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 N/A

10.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

10.1 Has the potential impact of your proposal(s) been reviewed with regard 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.

11.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

11.1 N/A

12.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

12.1 N/A

13.0 RECOMMENDATION/S

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

14.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

14.1 To ensure that the report provides elected members with the information required to evaluate the delivery of the Directorates Plan.

REPORT AUTHOR: **Tony Kinsella**
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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Directorate Plan Performance Report (2013/14)
Appendix 2 – Percentage of all major planning applications determined within 13 weeks (Exception/Delivery Report)

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Regeneration & Environment Policy & Performance Committee	17th September 2013

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WIRRAL COUNCIL
Regeneration & Environment Performance, Finance and Risk Report as at 30th November 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	652	1,788	2,000	G	+	Apr - Nov	M Smith	The Wirral Travel Solutions programme continues to gain referrals at a faster pace than expected. This is partially due to the increased levels of promotion of the programme and the fact that the Wirral Travel Solutions Team has a weekly presence at local Job Centre Plus sites. The year-end forecast has again been revised, to a volume of 2,000, to reflect the continued success of the programme, however the pace of referrals being made is expected to slow in December and January in line with the general slowing of the job market.
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%	88%	88.7%	92%	G	+	Apr - Sep	M Smith	Standards have improved from quarter 1, especially for detritus grades along main gateways that previously scored poorly. The quarter 2 target has been met.
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%	1%	4%	G	+	Apr '13 - March '14	M Smith	The 2013/14 in-year road surveys have confirmed that Wirral has remained within the Local Transport Plan (LTP3) requirements for the maintenance level of the strategic road network and has in fact exceeded the target for the second consecutive year.
4	Reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents (NI 47)	Merseyside Police	99	N/A	102	78	80	102	A	-	Apr - Sep	M Smith	During quarter 1 and quarter 2 (Jan to June 2013) compared to the same period in 2012, there has been an increase in the number of child pedestrian and motorcycle casualties. Compared to 2012, the overall improved weather during 2013 may have encouraged more vulnerable road users on the road network. Additional enforcement activity has been identified and implemented from July onwards by the Wirral Collision Reduction Partnership which includes the police. Additional training scheme for motorcyclists has also been implemented. The road safety team continue to prioritise education in schools & colleges aimed at key casualty groups. Investigations into best practice for casualty reduction in other areas is also being undertaken.
P1	Delivery of the Highway Services Beyond 2014 (HSB14) Project	Project Board minutes and reports	New 'Project'	N/A	100%	50%	50%	100%	G	+	Apr - Sep	M Smith	April to September 2013 comprised of completion of tender documents, pre-qualification and inviting 5 firms to tender, achieved as planned. During October and November activities continued including evaluation of the 3 received bids, an Internal Audit 'Healthcheck' and external Gateway 3 Reviews; a report was presented to Cabinet on 7th November with a decision to award to the preferred bidder. A delay occurred in November because of a challenge received however this has now been addressed and the project is now back on track; it is still expected that the new contract can commence from 1st April 2014, as planned.
Housing & Community Safety													
5	Number of new affordable homes (social rented, affordable rented, intermediate housing, and those 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	117	111	365	A	-	Apr - Sep	I Platt	Overall forecast has increased from original year-end target due to additional units (secured as a result of new funding opportunities), these were unable to be forecasted at the start of the year. Progress at quarter 2 is below original target as a number of units expected to complete in quarter 2 have been delayed, however these will be completed by year-end i.e. Great Eastern Pub and Bromborough Pool.
6	Number of empty properties returned to use or demolished through local authority action	M3 Northgate Database	250 (forecast outturn)	N/A	255	80	139	255	G	+	Apr - Sep	I Platt	Over-performance has occurred as a result of the Council's involvement with Magenta Living (previously called Wirral Partnership Homes) tower blocks that were formally demolished within this quarter.
7	Number of interventions to improve private rented sector properties	MVM Database	New Indicator	N/A	400	200	274	600	G	+	Apr - Sep	I Platt	More private rented sector landlords are putting forward all self contained units within a Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) for accreditation, previously only 1 or 2 units were being put forward now averaging 4 to 5 self contained units per HMO. • Accredited HMO's have seen a steady climb in the improved star rating with the implementation of regular and programmed inspections. • Mandatory HMO licensing was implemented in April 2006, HMO's which hold a licence are now inspected on a 12 monthly basis. The majority of those HMO's were granted a licence between May and October. Each HMO will have 5 or more units inspected. • One officer concentrated on 40 self contained units that proved extremely difficult to access for the purposes of Housing, Health and Safety Rating Scheme (HHSRS) - used to assess unfit property. Those properties were accessed and full HHSRS inspections undertaken.
8	Number of adaptations completed (safeguard and protect as far as possible the most vulnerable among us).	MVM Database	1523	N/A	1,860	930	1,020	1,860	G	+	Apr - Sep	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 Monitoring Form'.	15.70%	N/A	22.30%	22.30%	22.1	22.30%	G	+	Apr - Sep	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%	69.20%	71%	G	+	Apr - Sep	I Platt	
11	Number of homeless preventions	P1E and HAPI System	666	N/A	650	324	338	650	G	+	Apr - Sep	I Platt	

WIRRAL COUNCIL
Regeneration & Environment Performance, Finance and Risk Report as at 30th November 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 & Investment													
12	Jobs created and safeguarded (via Invest Wirral)	Invest Wirral	1,580	N/A	925	562	579	925	G	⬇️	Apr - Oct	A Evans	
13	Apprenticeships supported (Wirral Apprentice Programme)	Hanlon Information System	New Indicator	N/A	50	TBC	NYA	-		-	-	A Evans	The Wirral Apprentice Programme is now underway and will report in-year annual achievement during January 2014.
14	Number of working age people claiming out-of-work benefits (economic in-activity)	NOMISWEB	16.10%	N/A	15.60%	15.60%	15.60%	15.60%	G	⬆️	Jul-Sep	A Evans	Latest data received during November 2013 relates to performance progress during July to September 2013.
15	% of Major Planning Applications determined within 13 weeks	Acolaid system	46.15%	N/A	60%	60%	50%	60%	R	⬆️	Apr - Sep	D Ball	An amendment to the Scheme of Delegation will be recommended with a report going to Planning Committee in January 2014 and subsequently to full Council for approval; Liaising with Legal Services will be essential to explore alternative arrangements to speed up the section 106 process. Due to the in-depth process required to enable possible changes to the Scheme of Delegation it is anticipated that performance results will remain 'Red' for the rest of 2013/14, however every effort will be made to improve the current status prior to 2013/14 year-end.
16	Complete Town Centre Plans	Action Plans	6	N/A	6	4	2	6	A	⬇️	Apr - Dec	D Ball	Two of the six action plans required to be completed by 31 March 2014 have now been completed and the remaining four will be completed by the end of the financial year. These action plans involve meetings with traders and the local community and are consulted on at various draft stages of the individual plans. This process which is necessary to ensure an agreed action plan can take time and sometimes an action plan may not quite be completed in a particular quarter. However, this target will be achieved by March 2014.
17	Gross Value Added per head of population	Office for National Statistics	£11,167	N/A	£11,345	-	NYA	-		-	-	A Evans	Annual measure.
P2	Complete review of Floral Pavilion Business Plan.	Notes from meetings of the project team	New 'Project'	N/A	100%	50%	50%	100%	G	⬆️	Apr - Sep	D Ball	Project is on target for delivery by calendar year-end and reviewed by reporting year-end.

FINANCE

Page 34	Revenue	General Ledger	-	N/A	£99,507,100	TBD	TBD	£98,296,700	G		Apr - Oct	V Quayle	Net forecast is nil. Directorate budget forecast to be £1.3m underspent due to early delivery of savings. However these monies have been earmarked for use against corporate 13/14 budget pressures bringing spend up to budget.
	Capital programme	General Ledger	-	N/A	£23,861,000	TBD	£6,523,000	£23,146,000	G		Apr - Oct	V Quayle	The change in the capital target is due to numerous capital schemes being re-phased and budgets being slipped into future years. Spend is 20% of programme.
20	Savings	General Ledger	-	N/A	£5,758,000	TBD	£5,758,000	£5,758,000	G		Apr - Oct	V Quayle	The delivery of savings is under constant review and the Directorate continues to examine 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	% of Major Planning Applications determined within 13 weeks	Any reduction in staffing could impact on the ability of the service to determine applications in a timely manner	People Operational	All Major applications are managed through the Development Management System (Acolaid) which allows for monitoring and reporting either, daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly or annually.	2	2	4	HY	Apr - Sep	D Ball	An amendment to the Scheme of Delegation will be recommended with a report going to Planning Committee in January 2014 and subsequently to full Council for approval; Liaising with Legal Services will be essential to explore alternative arrangements to speed up the section 106 process.

Key for Status and Trend Columns

- ⬆️ Performance is improving
Lower is better
- ⬆️+ Performance is improving
Higher is better
- ⬆️- Performance is deteriorating
Lower is better
- ⬆️- Performance is deteriorating
Higher is better
- ⬆️ Performance sustained
in line with targets set

G	Performance within tolerance for target set.
A	Performance target slightly missed (outside of tolerance).
R	Performance not on track, action plan required.

PERFORMANCE ACTION PLAN TEMPLATE

INDICATOR OVERVIEW	
Indicator Title	157a – 60% of all major planning apps determined within 13 weeks
Strategic Director Lead	Kevin Adderley
Departmental Lead	David Ball
Target	60%

CURRENT SITUATION: Detail what the performance is for this measure and reason/s for non-compliance		
Performance this Period	50	+ / - Target : -10%
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; Applications with S106 Agreements also have to be reported to Committee which can cause a delay in the issuing of a decision. ONE application during Quarter 2 2013/14 was subject to a S106 Agreement and caused performance to dip from 57.1% (Green) in this quarter down to 50% (Red).	

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 needs to be amended to allow for increased flexibility in applications being reported to Committee; Member Training was held on 12th September. Investigation is required to establish how changes can be implemented; any recommendations will require full Council approval.
How (will it be achieved)	An amendment to the Scheme of Delegation will be recommended with a report going to Planning Committee in January 2014 and subsequently to full Council for approval; Liaising with Legal Services will be essential to explore alternative arrangements to speed up the section 106 process.
Who (will be responsible)	Matthew Davies (Development Management Manager)
When (will results be realised)	Due to the in-depth process required to enable possible changes to the Scheme of Delegation it is anticipated that performance results will remain 'Red' for the rest of 2013/14 however every effort will be made to improve the current status prior to 2013/14 year-end.

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WIRRAL COUNCIL

REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT POLICY & PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

27 JANUARY 2014

SUBJECT	FINANCIAL MONITORING 2013/14 MONTH 8 (NOVEMBER 2013)
WARD/S AFFECTED	ALL
REPORT OF	DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES

1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 This report sets out the financial monitoring information for this Committee to ensure consistency across the Policy and Performance Committees and aims to give Members sufficient detail to scrutinise budget performance for the Directorate. Financial information for Month 8 (November 2013) reported to Cabinet on 16 of January is included.

2 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

2.1 Members of the Policy and Performance Committees have requested that financial monitoring information is provided as a standard item at each Committee.

2.2 Since September 2012 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 2013, the Policy and Performance Coordinating Committee reviewed the most recent available revenue and capital monitor reports submitted to Cabinet in July.

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 PROPOSED REPORTING TO POLICY & 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 in year efficiency targets
- Performance against capital budget

3.2 The following sections have been extracted from the Financial Monitoring reports presented to Cabinet on 16 January 2014.

PERFORMANCE AGAINST REVENUE BUDGETS MONTH 8 (NOV 2013)

3.3 CHANGES TO THE AGREED BUDGET

3.3.1 2013/14 Original & Revised Net Budget £000's

	Original Net Budget	Approved Budget Changes Prior Mths	Approved Budget Changes Month 8	Revised Net Budget
Places - Environment & Regulation	79,651	39	-	79,690
Places – Housing & Comm Safety	15,342	-551	-	14,791
Places – Regeneration	5,134	-18	-1,987	3,129
Places - Directorate Support	-	-	200	200
Places - Invest Strat & Bus Sup	-	-	1,936	1,936

3.3.2 Changes to the Budget agreed since the 2013/14 Budget was set

Items	£m
The Anti-Social Behaviour team is part of the Families and Well Being Directorate - Children and Young People and the budget has therefore been transferred from Housing and community safety.	-0.569
Realigning of the call centre recharge relating to the new garden waste service from Environment & Regulation to Transformation and change.	-0.009
Transfer of budget from Waste & Environment Service Area to create new roles to lead Constituency Committees.	-0.042
Strategic Directors costs moved to Places from Chief Exec Dep	0.149
Transfer of Allotments budget from Asset Management (CYP) to Parks and Countryside (R&E).	0.090

3.3.3 All of the budget changes have been virements to reflect the re-alignment of functions, and the related budgets, between the Regeneration and Environment Directorate and other Directorates. There have been no changes approved by Cabinet which increase the Directorate and Council spending.

3.3.4 From this month the budgets for Investment Strategy and Business Support (previously shown within the Regeneration Service Area) have been separated as have Directorate Management Support (previously reflected within the Chief Executive Department).

3.4 VARIATIONS

3.4.1 The report will use RAGBY ratings that will highlight under and overspends and place them into 'risk bands'. The 'risk band' classification is:

- Extreme: Overspends - **Red** (over +£301k), Underspend **Yellow** (over - £301k)
- Acceptable: Amber (+£141k to +£300k), Green (range from +£140k to - £140k); Blue (-£141k to -£300k)

3.4.2 2013/14 Projected Budget variations £000's

Directorate	Revised Budget	Forecast Outturn	(Under) Overspend Month 8	RAGBY Classification	Change from prev mnth
Places - Environment & Regulation	79,690	79,320	-370	Y	-370
Places – Housing & Comm Safety	14,791	14,791	-	G	-
Places – Regeneration	3,129	3,064	-65	G	-65
Places - Directorate Support	200	200	-	G	-
Places - Invest Strat & Bus Sup	1,936	1,936	-	G	-

3.4.3 RAGBY full details

Department	Number of Budget Areas	Red	Amber	Green	Blue	Yellow
Environment & Regulation	4	0	0	3	0	1
Housing & Comm Safety	1	0	0	1	0	0

3.4.4 The net saving forecast is £435,000 (month 7 nil). A significant saving has also been achieved as a result of the early implementation of savings relating to Supporting People. £1.3 million which has been earmarked to resolve a number of annex 12 issues, which cover all directorates.

3.5 IMPLEMENTATION OF 2013/14 SAVINGS

3.5.1 Budget Implementation Plan 2013/14 £000's

BRAG	Number of savings Options	Approved Budget Reduction	Amount Delivered at Nov	Still to be Delivered
B - delivered	17	5,176	5,176	0
G – on track	1	582	582	0
A - concerns	0	0	0	0
R - failed	0	0	0	0
Total at M8 Nov	18	5,758	5,758	0

3.5.2 The Savings Tracker is Annex 5 of the Cabinet report and appended to this report details those areas classed under Regeneration & Environment.

3.5.3 Budgetary Issues £000's

Description	£000	Action
Homeless Grant rolled into Formula Grant, but not taken out of budget. No solution.	221	2013/14 from forecast savings in M8 2014/15+ from grant adjustment
Car Parking Income shortfall from changing market	350	Compensatory savings identified for 2013/14, potential growth request 2014/15+ if modeling indicates permanent change

3.5.4 At this stage the issues that have been identified of concern are reported at Annex 12 Budgetary Issues of the Cabinet report and this identifies solutions to those savings where delivery is not anticipated in 2013/14.

3.6 PERFORMANCE AGAINST CAPITAL BUDGETS MONTH 8 (NOV 2013)

3.6.1 Table 1: Capital Budget

	Capital strategy	Changes approved by Cabinet	Reprofile to be approved	Other changes to be noted or approved	Revised Capital Programme
Places - Regeneration	5,979	5,162	-2,555	-	8,586
Places - Environment	7,196	6,084	-	-	13,280

Significant variations to be approved or noted by Cabinet for Period 8 are set out in Table 1. The majority of changes already approved are made up of reprofiling of scheme expenditure from 2012/13.

A summary of Reprofile to be approved:

People Regeneration	-	-1,200	Residual Clearance Programme - Now anticipated that this will continue until 2016/17 partly due to difficulty in predicting accurately when the rights to purchase can be obtained. (D)
		-580	New Brighton – Original tenders resulted in scheme estimates approximately 50% greater than the programme approval. Scheme has been redesigned with tenders anticipated in January and scheme completion May 2014.(D)
		-775	Maritime Business Park - The Council has agreed to purchase a site for the supplier park. In conveyancing with completion expected early January. The site will then be cleared early next year ready for redevelopment to commence once a preferred developer has been appointed. (D)

3.6.2 Table 2: Spend to date September (8/12 = 66.6%)

	SPEND TO DATE		COMMENTS ON VARIATION RAG
	£000	%	
Places - Regeneration	2,600	30	Green -acceptable
Places - Environment	6,350	48	Green -acceptable

Expenditure on capital to date is compared to budget in Table 2. Details of issues within the outlined areas are:

The expenditure on Disabled Facilities Grants is currently £1.24M completed from a £3.1M total programme with a further £0.69M committed to date with works in progress. A further £1.17M is to be committed before the end of the financial year.

Cabinet on 7 November 2013 approved 2 grants from the Regional Growth Fund totalling £0.710 million. As based upon delivery of the schemes by the grant recipients this expenditure has yet to be incurred.

3.6.3 Table 3: Projected Outturn compared to Revised Budget £000's

	REVISED	PROJECTED	VARIATION
	BUDGET	OUTTURN	
Places - Regeneration	8,586	8,586	0
Places - Environment	13,280	13,280	0

Budgets are revised throughout the financial year to reflect the projected outturn.

4 RELEVANT RISKS

4.1 There are none relating to this report.

5 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

5.1 Any option to improve the monitoring and budget accuracy will be considered.

6 CONSULTATION

6.1 No consultation has been carried out in relation to this report.

7 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

7.1 There are no implications arising directly from this report.

8 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL, IT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

8.1 In respect of the Revenue Budget the Regeneration & Environment Directorate is projecting a £435k under spend as at the 30 November 2013.

9 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no implications arising directly from this report.

10 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

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

11 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are no implications arising directly from this report.

12 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

12.1 There are no implications arising directly from this report.

13 RECOMMENDATIONS

13.1 Members are requested to review the information presented to determine if they have any specific questions relating to the budget for the Regeneration & Environment Directorate.

14 REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

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

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APPENDICES

Extracted from the Revenue Monitoring report to Cabinet on 16 January 2014:-

Annex 5 Savings Tracker

Annex 12 Budgetary Issues

SUBJECT HISTORY

Council Meeting	Date
Monthly financial monitoring reports for Revenue and Capital have been presented to Cabinet since September 2012.	

EXTRACT FROM FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT MONTH 8 (NOV 2013)

Annex 5 SAVINGS TRACKER

Regeneration and Environment

Saving	Target £000	Comments / progress on implementation	BGAR	Amount delivered at M8 Nov 13 £000	To be delivered £000
Invest Wirral	352	Savings achieved	B	352	0
Home Insulation	926	Savings achieved	B	926	0
Apprentice Programme	420	Savings achieved	B	420	0
Pre-Planning Advice	10	Savings achieved	B	10	0
Pest Control	30	Savings achieved	B	30	0
Dog Fouling Enforcement	97	Savings achieved	B	97	0
Household Waste Collection	80	Savings achieved	B	80	0
Handyperson Scheme	209	Savings achieved	B	209	0
Trading Standards	71	Savings achieved	B	71	0
Highway Maintenance	588	Savings achieved	B	588	0
Street Cleansing	1,000	Savings achieved	B	1000	0
School Waste	180	Savings achieved	B	180	0
Street Lighting	265	Savings achieved	B	265	0
Highway Drainage	106	Savings achieved	B	106	0
Reduction in Parks Maintenance	450	Savings achieved	B	450	0
Housing Support for BME Communities	111	Savings achieved	B	111	0
Car Parking	281	Savings achieved	B	281	0

Garden Waste Collection	582	Income target met and currently overachieving. Garden waste tonnages slightly below projections but drop in recycling credit income will be offset by subscription income and budget monitoring exercise has picked up necessary adjustments. Negotiations with Biffa over savings to be identified through fleet reduction are underway (to be completed by November 13).	G	582	0
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EXTRACT FROM FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT MONTH 8 (NOVEMBER 2013)

Annex 12 BUDGETARY ISSUES

	Service area	Issue	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	Resolution
Places							
	RHP	Homeless Grant rolled into Formula Grant, but not taken out of budget.	221	221	221	221	2013/14 from forecast savings in M8 2014/15+ from grant adjustment
	Car Parking	Income shortfall from changing market	350	350	350	350	Compensatory savings identified for 2013/14, potential growth request 2014/15+ if modeling indicates permanent change
Totals			571	571	571	571	

Solutions			2013/14	2014-15	2015/16	2016/17	
		Homeless Grant	-221	-221	-221	-221	2013/14 from increased balances forecast in M8 monitor in M8, 2014/15+ from grant adjustment
		Car Parking	-350	-350	-350	-350	2013/14 compensatory savings within R&E parks & countryside, Environmental Health and Waste. 2014/15+ potential growth/budget adjustment request if modeling indicates permanent change
Current additional resource required from savings			0	0	0	0	

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WIRRAL COUNCIL

Regeneration and Environment Policy & Performance Committee

27 January 2014

SUBJECT:	POLICY UPDATE
WARD/S AFFECTED:	ALL
REPORT OF:	Director of Public Health/Head of Policy & Performance
RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	Cllr Ann McLachlan (Governance and Improvement)
KEY DECISION?	NO

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 scrutiny work programme.

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. 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?

(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.

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.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Policy Inform: Regeneration and Environment

Policy: INFORM



Date: 27th January 2014

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:	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:	<p>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:</p> <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:	<p>The Local Government Information Unit have recently produced a 'State of LEPs' briefing:</p> <p>http://www.lgiu.org.uk/briefing/the-state-of-leps/</p>
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.

Further Information:

Contact: Wirral Council Policy Unit
Telephone: 0151 691 8030
Email: policy@wirral.gov.uk

**WIRRAL COUNCIL
REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT
POLICY AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE**

27th JANUARY 2014

SUBJECT:	DECISION TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED POWERS: APPOINTMENT OF RETAINED RETAIL AND COMMERCIAL LEISURE CONSULTANTS
WARD/S AFFECTED:	VARIOUS
REPORT OF:	STRATEGIC DIRECTOR, REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT
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, of any instances where delegated authority has been used by the Strategic Director, Regeneration and Environment to appoint contractors.

2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

The following tender has been accepted under delegated powers:

Project Title: Provision of Retained Retail and Leisure Consultancy
Contract: 2013-2018 (subject to an annual review of performance)
Contract Sum: £5,000 per annum plus additional commissions on an “as required basis” up to OJEU threshold
Contractor: Nathaniel Lichfield and Partners
Funded from: Reserves needed to support the completion of the Local Development Framework including the Core Strategy Local Plan

The above tender scored highest in the evaluation.

3.0 RELEVANT RISKS

3.1 There are no risks in relation to this report.

4.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

4.1 There are no other options to be considered in relation to this report.

5.0 CONSULTATION

5.1 There are no consultation issues in relation to this report.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

6.1 There are no implications directly arising from this report.

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

7.1 Funding for this project is as detailed above. There are no other resource implications as a result of this report.

8.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no legal implications as a direct result of this report.

9.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

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

(b) No because there is no relevance to equality.

10.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are no carbon reduction implications as a direct result of this report.

11.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

11.1 The retained consultants will provide advice in relation to the consideration of planning applications and formulation of planning policy in relation to main town centre uses.

12.0 RECOMMENDATION/S

12.1 That the report be noted.

13.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

13.1 To advise members in accordance with the Approved Scheme of Delegation.

REPORT AUTHOR: John Entwistle

Principal Forward Planning Officer

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APPENDICES

None.

REFERENCE MATERIAL

None.

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date

WIRRAL COUNCIL

Regeneration and Environment Policy & Performance Committee

27 January 2014

SUBJECT:	WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE REPORT
WARD/S AFFECTED:	ALL
REPORT OF:	Director of Public Health/Head of Policy & Performance
RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	Cllr Ann McLachlan (Governance and Improvement)
KEY DECISION?	NO

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 This report updates Members on progress delivering the Scrutiny Work Programme. This includes an update of the work on items included in the Work Programme for this committee agreed at the Committee meeting in September 2013.

2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

2.1 At their first and second meetings held in July and September, all four Policy and Performance Committees discussed and agreed their work programmes for the municipal year.

3.0 REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME - TASK & FINISH WORK UPDATE

3.1 A Work Programme for the Regeneration & Environment Policy & Performance Committee was approved on 3 September 2013. This proposed four pieces of work under the following headings:

- Impact of budget options 2013/14 and options for 2014/15
- Review of Apprenticeships
- Review of Street cleansing post budget options
- Arrangements for monitoring new Highways contract.

3.2 At the Party Spokespersons meeting on 13 November 2013 the following piece of work was added to the Work Programme

- Car Parking

3.3 A brief summary of the work against these topics is summarised below. The updated work programme for this Committee is attached as Appendix 1.

Impact of Budget Options 2013/14 and options 2014/15

- 3.4 This review considered the impact and deliverability of 2013/14 budget options and looked to make an informed contribution towards 2014/15 budget options. A report of the Task & Finish Group was presented to Committee on 5 November 2013 and referred to Cabinet for consideration.

Review of Apprenticeships

- 3.5 A Scrutiny Review Panel of four Committee Members has been established to explore this topic. The Chair of this Panel is Councillor Mark Johnston. The panel have met with Senior Officers, key stakeholders and external organisations. The review is ongoing and the group is expected to report this municipal year.

Review of Council's Car Parking Strategy

- 3.6 Recommendations made in the Impact of Budget Options Review proposed the review and development of Wirral's Car Parking Strategy. A Scrutiny Review Panel of six Committee Members has been confirmed. The first meeting on 21 January 2014 will agree a Chair and determine the scope of this review.

Review of Street Cleansing Post Budget Options

- 3.7 This review will look at the impact of budget options from 2013/14 on Street Cleansing. This work is scheduled to commence this Municipal Year.

Arrangements for monitoring new Highways contract

- 3.8 This review will look at the arrangements for monitoring the new Highways Contract. This work is scheduled to commence this Municipal Year. The new Highways contract is not due to start until April 2014 and Members may wish to consider commencing this review in the next Municipal Year.

4.0 REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT POLICY & PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE – OFFICER REPORT UPDATE

- 4.1 In addition to the scheduled reviews the Committee has requested Officer Reports on the following topics to be added to the agenda of future meetings:

- Report on Youth Unemployment
- Effects of Welfare Reforms with specific focus on homelessness
- The Impact in Wirral of Cumulative Impact Assessments
- An update on Parking on Pavements & Verges

5.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 5.1 There are none directly relating to this report.

6.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

6.1 N/A

7.0 CONSULTATION

7.1 N/A

8.0 OUTSTANDING PREVIOUSLY APPROVED ACTIONS

8.1 N/A

9.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

9.1 N/A

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

10.1 N/A

11.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

11.1 N/A

12.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

12.1 Has the potential impact of your proposal(s) been reviewed with regard 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.

13.0 CARBON REDUCTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

13.1 N/A

14.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

14.1 N/A

15.0 RECOMMENDATION/S

15.1 Members are requested to approve the updated Regeneration & Environment Policy & Performance Committee work programme as set out in Appendix 1 and make any necessary amendments.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Regeneration & Environment Work Programme

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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													http://democracy.wirral.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=682&Mid=4586&Ver=4
Review of apprenticeships		Requested by Members													
Review of street cleansing post budget options		Requested by Members													
Car parking		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													
Parking on Pavements Report		Requested by Members													
Cumulative Impact Assessment Report		Requested by Members													
Standing Items															
Performance Dashboard															
Financial Monitoring															
Policy Update															
Recommendations from Highways Representation Panels															
Special Budget meeting															

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