



## Constituency Committee - Birkenhead

<b>Date:</b>	Thursday, 30 October 2014
<b>Time:</b>	6.00 pm
<b>Venue:</b>	Birkenhead Town Hall

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### AGENDA

**1. MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

**2. MINUTES (Pages 1 - 10)**

The Committee be requested to approve the accuracy of minutes of the meeting held on 24 July 2014

**3. CONSTITUENCY MANAGERS UPDATE (Pages 11 - 46)**

**4. ELECTORAL REGISTER**

An Electoral Services Officer will address the Committee as requested by the previous Committee (Minute 11 refers).

**5. FUTURE COUNCIL (Pages 47 - 114)**

**6. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

**7. SCHEDULE OF FUTURE COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

26 February 2015

28 May 2015

**8. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS APPROVED BY THE CHAIR**

## CONSTITUENCY COMMITTEE - BIRKENHEAD

Thursday, 24 July 2014

Present:

Chair	Rt Hon Frank Field MP	
Councillors	A Brighouse	AR McLachlan
	P Cleary	M McLaughlin
	G Davies	C Meaden
	P Davies	D Realey
	WJ Davies	D Roberts
	S Kelly	J Stapleton
		P Williams

Also Present

Mr J Brace  
Mrs L Brace  
Mr P Griffiths  
Mrs P Cocker  
Ms T Derbyshire  
Mrs R Shaw  
Mr D Shaw  
Mr M Morton  
Ms M Rushton  
Ms M Moile  
Mr G Vogiatzis

1 **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR**

**RESOLVED (12:1):**

**That Frank Field MP be elected Chair of the Committee for the Municipal Year 2014/2015.**

2 **APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR**

**RESOLVED (Unanimously):**

**That Councillor G Davies be elected Vice-Chair of the Committee for the Municipal Year 2014/2015.**

3 **COUNCILLOR PAT CLEARY**

The Chair welcomed Councillor Pat Cleary, Ward Member for Birkenhead and Tranmere to his first meeting of the Committee.

4 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from:

Councillor J Crabtree  
Councillor P Doughty  
Councillor S Foulkes  
Councillor T Norbury  
Councillor H Smith

5 **CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENT**

The Chair indicated that he would be moving Item 5 – Initiatives to Improve Environmental Quality to end of the agenda to enable a more detailed discussion and allow members of the public to ask questions.

6 **MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor G. Davies declared a personal interest in agenda item 7 – Your Wirral Fund by virtue of his appointment as a Board Member of Magenta Living.

7 **MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:**

**That subject to the addition of “Professor W.R.Lee, Williamson Art Gallery and Museum Action Group” to the list of attendees, and the addition of “At the request of the Chair, Mr W.R Lee, Williamson Art Gallery and Museum Action Group gave the Committee an update in relation to the future of the Williamson Art Gallery and Museum” to Minute 17(5)**

**The minutes of the meeting held on 30 January 2014 and also 10 April 2014 be approved.**

8 **CONSTITUENCY MANAGER'S REPORT**

The Committee considered the report by the Head of Neighbourhoods and Engagement that updated the Committee on progress on the actions taken following its last meeting on 10 April 2014 (Minute 21 refers).

Attached to the report were appendices which the Constituency Manager presented to the Committee in relation to the Antenatal Breast Feeding Project Quarterly Report (April-June 2014); a draft copy of the Birkenhead

Constituency Handbook; Grange Road Action Plan; Community Project Update and a Briefing Paper on the Betas Project.

The Constituency Manager indicated that in relation to the action – Improving the Environment, she had circulated an email to Members asking them for their identified hotspots in relation to dog fouling and areas that appear as eyesores.

Appendix one to the report gave information in relation to the quarterly report for the antenatal project. The Constituency Manager advised that according to the information collated one interesting statistic was that only 40% of mums to be had a support network available to them.

In relation to the proposal to develop a ‘Community Hub’, the Constituency Manager indicated that she had re-written to schools within the Birkenhead area with over 50% of pupils living in areas of high income deprivation and invited them to submit an Expression of Interest for the project with a deadline of Monday 28 July 2014. An update on this project would be shared with the Committee.

The Chair indicated that students at Cambridge University had undertaken a piece of work with Reception teachers to help understand what skills were needed for school readiness. Results had shown that the most effective mechanisms were to have fun with children and reading to them. Ms Zoe Munby from the Birkenhead Foundation Years Project had been liaising with Headteachers of schools regarding carrying out a similar project; Beechwood had so far shown an interest. The Constituency Manager indicated that she would continue to work with Ms Munby to ensure the two projects work effectively together, not creating duplication or contradiction.

The Constituency Manager updated the Committee on the latest position in relation to the newsletter for Birkenhead and indicated that there may be some legal implications that needed to be further explored prior to publication and circulation.

The Head of Legal and Member Services advised the Committee that there was a need to ensure that the newsletter would not breach any aspects of the Code of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Publicity (the Code) and suggested that the decision on this be deferred and brought back to the next meeting of the Committee.

In response, a Member raised concerns that there had already been a significant delay in the implementation of this and that the publication was merely to relay local issues to the residents of Birkenhead who did not receive ‘free’ papers and expressed the view that this proposal should be progressed as a matter of urgency subject to the necessary checks on any legal implications.

In relation to the Committee Handbook, the final version was included with the papers and the Task and Finish Group would be meeting to discuss the implementation of the development of the Community Researchers.

The Constituency Manager indicated that within the Handbook, there was a proposal for members of the public to be able to submit questions prior to meetings and get a detailed response from the appropriate officers.

In relation to the Seven Beats Project, It was suggested and agreed that an update on progress of the project be given to the next meeting of the Committee.

**RESOLVED: That**

- (1) the report regarding the Constituency Managers update be approved;**
- (2) subject to legal clearance from the Head of Legal and Member Services, the arrangements for the publication of a Birkenhead Newsletter be progressed as a matter of urgency; and**
- (3) the Neighbourhood Inspector be requested to provide a progress report on the Seven Betas Project to the next meeting of the Committee.**

**9 CONSTITUENCY BUDGET AND SPEND**

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Neighbourhoods and Engagement updating on the budget allocation for 2013/14 and giving an overview of the budget available for 2014/15.

The report indicated that as well as the budget allocation carried over from 2013/14, Birkenhead Constituency Committee had £40,000 remaining from the 2014/15 allocation and a devolved budget of £77,750 for the Integrated Transport Block Capital Programme Fund funding available for 2014/15. This was summarised within Appendix 2 of the report and expanded in further detail, with recommendations of how to progress the spend with each budget allocation.

Wirral Council had devolved a further £50,000 to the Birkenhead Constituency Committee for 2014/15 to be used to tackle priorities and reduce inequality. At the Birkenhead Constituency Committee meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2014 (Minute 23 refers) it was agreed that £10,000 of the allocation would be allocated to fund the urgently needed repair works to the River Wall and Esplanade at Rock Park.

The report suggested that the Priorities Task and Finish Group be requested to work with the Constituency Manager to draft proposals for the remaining £40,000 allocation for 2014/15. The proposals for spend would be presented for discussion and approval at the Committee meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2014.

**RESOLVED: That**

- (1) the Priorities Task and Finish Group be requested to work with the Constituency Manager to draft proposals for the remaining £40,000 allocation for 2014/15 and the proposals be presented for discussion and approval at the Committee meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2014; and**
- (2) a Working Group consisting of Councillors S. Kelly, G. Davies and D. Realy be established to manage a process of identifying and prioritising schemes of work to be carried out utilising the devolved budget for the Integrated Transport Block Capital Programme and the suggested schemes be presented for discussion and approval at the Committee meeting on 30 October 2014.**

10 **YOUR WIRRAL GRANTS PROGRAMME**

Prior to consideration of this item, Councillor G. Davies who had declared a prejudicial interest in this item left the room and took no part in the consideration of this item.

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Neighbourhood and Engagement informing of the changes to the administration of the Your Wirral fund and request nominations for a 'Working Group' to lead the assessment process of this fund for Birkenhead.

Members raised concerns regarding the Your Wirral Fund and suggested that the fund could be used to support those struggling to pay their rent as a result of the Bedroom Tax and consequently faced eviction, the Committee agreed to defer this item to allow further discussion.

**RESOLVED:**

**That the report be deferred to the next meeting of the Committee to allow officers to undertake further discussions.**

## 11 INDIVIDUAL ELECTORAL REGISTRATION

Following a request from Cabinet (15/3/14 – minute 161 refers) the Senior Electoral Services Officer, gave an update to the Committee on the transfer to Individual Electoral Registration ('IER'). The online registration had already been a success with people being able to register online from 10 June, 2014. It was anticipated that 80/90 per cent of the electorate would receive a letter confirming that they were registered under IER and did not need to do anything else. The focus would be on ensuring the remaining 10/20 per cent of the electorate would be registered in time for the General Election next year.

The Senior Electoral Services Officer indicated that the Department were undertaking a publication campaign and officers would be working within those Wards where there was the biggest deficit.

The Constituency Manager indicated the Neighbourhoods and Engagement Team would be assisting the Electoral team to disseminate the information to local groups.

The Head of Legal and Member Services reported that on-line registrations went live on 10 June; this incorporated individual electoral registration.

It was suggested and agreed that the Chair write to the Chief Executive of Wonga Loans to request information as to how many loans had been issued in Birkenhead and were they checked to see if they were on the electoral register.

A Member raised concerns that she was aware of properties from Magenta Living being advertised on Rightmove and expressed a view that these properties should be on property pool plus. It was agreed that an update on this be provided to the next meeting of the Committee.

### **RESOLVED: That**

- (1) the Electoral Services Officer be thanked for his update and he be invited to the next meeting of the Committee to report on the progress of Individual Electoral Registration;**
- (2) the Constituency Manager, on behalf of the Chair be requested to write to the Chief Executive of Wonga Loans to request information as to how many loans had been issued in Birkenhead and were they checked to see if they were on the electoral register; and**



- (3) **an update report regarding the property Pool Plus be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee.**

## 12 **SCHEDULE OF FUTURE COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

It was reported that the Council's Committee Calendar for the Municipal Year 2014/15 had been drawn up and the Committee was scheduled to meet at 6pm in Birkenhead Town Hall on the following dates:

- 24 July 2014
- 30 October 2014
- 29 January 2015
- 9 April 2015

The Chair proposed that due to the general and local elections being held in 2015 the dates set for January and April be moved to February and late May 2015.

### **RESOLVED:**

**That the Constituency Manager in consultation with the Head of Legal and Member Services be requested to look into suitable dates for February and May 2015.**

## 13 **PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

The Chair invited members of the public to ask questions.

Question 1 – Mrs L Brace

Referring to the Childs Play Area in Gorse Road, she asked if arrangements could be made to open the gates to allow residents to access the play area with their children.

In response, Councillor A. McLachlan indicated that she had recently visited the childrens centre and the gates were unlocked and the play area was in use as was the community centre, she agreed to investigate the points raised.

Question 2 – Mrs L Brace

Referring to the disabled persons parking bay outside her property asked if Officers could arrange for the marking to be repainted as these had been damaged by work undertaken by United Utilities.

Mrs Brace was informed that this would be passed on to the appropriate Department for a response.

## 14 INITIATIVES TO IMPROVE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Environment and Regulation updating on the environmental initiatives undertaken in the Birkenhead area by the Council's Waste and Environmental Services section. The Committee was requested to consider a range of suggestions for enhanced pro-environmental activity in the area.

The recommendations within the report supported the Council's strategic priorities "Protecting vulnerable people and communities" and "Narrowing the gap in inequalities"

The report detailed the progress of the borough wide environmental campaigns to tackle waste related issues and also the enhanced initiatives and associated costs available to the Committee.

In response to questions from the Chair, the Head of Environment and Regulation indicated that the £400,000 contribution from the Waste Development Fund was being used over a two year campaign period to drive pro-environmental behaviours and maximise recycling of household waste in terraced housing areas across the borough. A "Good Neighbour" campaign had also been introduced along with a number of enforcement initiatives.

In response to a question regarding enforcement, the Head of Environment and Regulation indicated that to date around 100 fixed penalty notices had been issued, but it was too early to indicate as to whether or not all notices had yet been paid. The Head of Environment and Regulation agreed to bring back a report to a future meeting of the Committee.

The Head of Environment and Regulation indicated that all cleansing schedules for the Biffa contract were posted on the Council's website and were available to the public. The Chair in response asked if this information could be simplified for the benefit of the general public.

It was noted that even though the Council had allocated a further £400,000 from the budget to move to monthly 'entry' cleansing, the Committee had requested a more enhanced service and rapid response and was allocated a further £20,000.

The Constituency Manager indicated that the requests for a more enhanced service and a rapid response were being explored.

The Head of Environment and Regulation explained that in relation to private land, once the land owner had been established, officers were able to serve notices or put a charge on them to clean up the land which they owned.

A member of the public thanked the Head of Environment and Regulation and his officers for their work they had undertaken to clear the refuse left by builders in Circular Road and asked if officers could help clear another property at Circular Road which had been left empty and was now overrun with rubbish and rats.

A Member expressed a view that despite additional funding being allocated to a project to enhance the cleansing of the area they had not seen a dramatic improvement and asked if the Committee would be allowed to approach social enterprise to assist with cleansing alongside the work undertaken by Biffa.

In response, the Head of Legal and Member Services indicated that as long as the two contracts did not overlap and social enterprise could offer best value, the Committee could approach them. The Head of Legal and Member Services suggested that in line with the Contract Procedure Rules, the Committee could invite Expression of Interest.

The Committee agreed to progress this project as a matter of urgency and report back to the next meeting of the Committee.

In response to the questions and comments made by Members, the Head of Environment and Regulation indicated that the funding of £20,000 could be used in a productive way, for example tackling areas of private land as the Biffa contract covered adopted highway only. He suggested that the Committee could add value by using resources for services that Biffa did not provide.

It was suggested and agreed that a Task and Finish Group be set up to progress the Committees recommendations from a previous meeting as a matter of urgency.

**RESOLVED: That**

- (1) the progress of the borough wide environmental campaigns to tackle waste related issues as outlined in Section 2 within the report be noted;**
- (2) the enhanced initiatives and associated costs available to the Constituency Committee as outlined in appendix 1 to the report be noted ;**
- (3) Officers be requested to submit costings to the Committee for any alternatives to the suggested enhanced initiatives outlined; and**
- (4) a Task and Finish Group be set up to progress the Committee's recommendations as a matter of urgency.**

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## WIRRAL COUNCIL

### BIRKENHEAD CONSTITUENCY COMMITTEE

30<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2014

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>CONSTITUENCY MANAGERS UPDATE</b>
<b>WARD/S AFFECTED:</b>	<b>WARDS WITHIN THE BIRKENHEAD CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARY.</b>  <b>BIRKENHEAD AND TRANMERE BIDSTON AND ST JAMES CLAUGHTON OXTON PRENTON ROCK FERRY</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>HEAD OF NEIGHBOURHOODS AND ENGAGEMENT</b>
<b>KEY DECISION?</b>	<b>NO</b>

#### 1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 Section 2.0 of this report provides an update on progress in relation to agreed schemes of work from the budget allocated and devolved to the Constituency Committee to date, it includes proposals for the remaining budget that is uncommitted.
- 1.2 Section 3.0 of this report details updates from other actions agreed at the previous Constituency Committee meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2014.

#### 2.0 UPDATE ON BUDGET FOR BIRKENHEAD CONSTITUENCY COMMITTEE

##### 2.1 Constituency Committee budget 2013/14- £50,000

The committee were given a budget of £50,000 in 2013/14 to 'kick-start' work on the new neighbourhood working model with a focus on tackling inequalities. Below is an update on each of the schemes of work that were agreed by the committee to be developed utilising this budget allocation to deliver against identified priorities:

1. £20,000 was allocated to 'Improving Communication' through the development of a community publication for Birkenhead.

**Update:** A tender process has been carried out to appoint a provider to deliver this service. The closing date for submissions is 20<sup>th</sup> October and the evaluation of them will take place on 22<sup>nd</sup> October. The 12 month contract start date is 1<sup>st</sup> November 2014.

**Actions:** The Constituency Manager will manage the contract and a report on progress will be provided at each Constituency Committee meeting.

2. £20,000 was allocated to 'Improving the Environment' through the development of a service to improve sites in Birkenhead that have been left open, poorly maintained and/or disused, therefore looking unsightly in the area often attracting litter and fly tipping (dumping of waste illegally). It was also discussed to use this funding to deliver a reactive fly tipping service; this is referred to in point 2.5 of this report.

**Update:** A tender is currently being advertised with a closing date of 14<sup>th</sup> November 2014 and a 12 month contract start date of 1<sup>st</sup> December 2014 to appoint a service to improve poorly maintained sites in Birkenhead.

**Action:** Members of the Constituency Committee have been asked to submit proposals of schemes of work to be considered to be carried out within this contract.

3. The committee to have a clear overview of current spend and delivery on public services within Birkenhead through the appointment of an expert to collate, evaluate and analyse the existing data. Due to the size of this task it was agreed by the committee to initially carry out the task on spend for services of children aged under 5.

**Update:** There has been collection of some of this information (primarily spend is from Public Health, Wirral Council and Clinical Commissioning Groups) which was presented to the Constituency Committee on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2014. There have been no further developments on this work due to the introduction of the Future Council project. Future Council project was established to help meet the future budget challenges and as part of the project Wirral Council has conducted a comprehensive review into all of its services (82 service reviews), the report states 'Every part of the Council has been scrutinised to ensure every pound is spent effectively and every service is as efficient as it can possibly be'. The challenge with this task set by Birkenhead Constituency Committee was that the data required was not available; Future Council will aim to provide the data and intelligence required from services they provide.

Prior to Future Council starting the Chair of the Constituency Committee and Constituency Manager had a series of meeting with Liverpool University and an Audit Manager from KPMG, they are able to offer support to analyse the data.

**Action:** There is a meeting with the Future Council team and the Chair of the Constituency Committee on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2014 to discuss the findings and the information available from the service reviews. Following this a further meeting will take place with Liverpool University and KPMG to discuss next steps to the function they can provide to evaluating the data.

## 2.2 **Public Health outcome Fund 2013/14- £25,000 (plus a further £25,000)**

The committee were given this budget allocation to deliver against specific priorities identified by Public Health. It was agreed by the committee to utilise the funding to focus on one priority of 'Reducing the Impact of Child Poverty'. It was agreed to develop a 'Community Hub' at a local primary school based on a model

that has been delivered in two other sites in Wirral through the Child Poverty Working Group. All primary schools in Birkenhead with over 50% of pupils living in areas of high income deprivation were invited to submit an Expression of Interest to this project, two schools will be offered a grant of £25,000 each to achieve the outcome that 'Children are Ready for School'. They will utilise the funding to:

- Provide high quality service provision and interventions for children below statutory school age that will have a positive affect on Childrens' intellectual and social /behavioral development prior to school entry.
- Work in partnership with parents to help children to learn and develop at home and in the community, delivering the key message and understanding that what parents do is more important than who parents are.
- Build on the strengths and well-being of the local community; mapping what resources are available for parents and children and help families learn about and use resources and services available within the community

Based on the proposal Public Health agreed to offer a further £25,000 to this project.

**Update:** One expression of interest was received and an interview is being carried out with this school on 21<sup>st</sup> October to discuss the proposal in more detail and for the panel to decide if they will receive the funding. The panel consists of:

- Councillor Moira McLaughlin
- Councillor Ann McLachlan
- Birkenhead Constituency Manager
- Public Health Manager
- Chair of the Child Poverty Working Group
- Director, Birkenhead Foundation Years Project

**Action:** This panel will form a Task and Finish Group to monitor the developments to evaluate the impact of this project and provide updates to the committee at each meeting. There is funding to award £25,000 to two schools, as only one was received the Task and Finish group will use their local knowledge and understanding to discuss and progress which other schools to approach to develop the hub in another area.

### 2.3 Voluntary Sector Support Fund- £25,000

On December 10 2013 the Director of Public Health presented a report to Cabinet recommending £100K be administered through the Constituency Committees" aimed at supporting the voluntary sector in Wirral, Birkenhead received an allocation of £25,000. Below is an update on each of the schemes of work that were agreed by the committee to be developed utilising this budget allocation:

1. £15,000 was allocated to increase Breast Feeding initiation rates in Birkenhead by developing an antenatal support programme.

**Update:** Appendix 1 contains the second quarterly report submitted by Home Start, the provider of this service for the period of July- September 2014.

One of the challenges highlighted with this service was low referral rates and ensuring all pregnant women were aware of the support available. A significant development to overcome this challenge is that the Hospital Trust midwifery service has agreed to an information sharing protocol being set up between them and Home-Start Wirral which would mean that the provider would get the contact details of every pregnant Wirral woman and they will then contact them at 28 weeks of pregnancy to offer them information/support. It has also been agreed that a information sharing protocol will be established with the Health Visiting Service and that they will do an automatic referral to Home Start when they do their antenatal visit. They don't at the moment and very few antenatal referrals are received from Health Visitors.

2. £5,000 was allocated to increase and develop the use of the Wirral Well website through improved and targeted promotion.  
**Update:** The artwork and content has been agreed through market testing with residents and the following products will be purchased to promote the website
  - Banner stands
  - Leaflet Vinyl's for shop windows
  - Fold out credit card
  - Stickers

An engagement plan has been written and will be implemented through the Birkenhead Engagement Officer and Community Action Wirral.

3. £5,000 of this budget was allocated to support with the development of a local publication detailed in point 2.1 of this report.

#### 2.4 **Constituency Committee budget 2014/15- £50,000**

The Constituency Committee were given a further £50,000 to develop schemes of work to deliver against agreed priorities.

It was agreed by the committee to use £10,000 of this allocation to give a grant to Rock Park Trust Company to carry out the repairs to the Esplanade.

**Update:** The specification for the works has now been agreed and the Rock Park Trust Company who are currently inviting tenders with the intention of completing the works before winter.

The Priorities Task and Finish group met on 12<sup>th</sup> September to discuss proposals for the remaining £40,000, in attendance were Frank Field MP, Councillor P Davies and Councillor S Kelly. The proposals discussed and recommended to the committee are:

1. An allocation of £2993.24 to improving the environment by increasing the signage in Birkenhead to act as a deterrent for environmental crime and increase awareness of enforcement proceedings, Appendix 2 details the proposal.
2. An allocation of £35,000 to be allocated for a service to aim to reduce anti social behaviour. An overview is included in Appendix 3, this would be developed to be advertised for an organisation to tender to deliver a creative service that will engage with young people to deliver against the outputs suggested.



3. An allocation of £2000 to develop Community Researchers in Birkenhead to increase the engagement with residents to offer greater knowledge sharing for improving public service provision.

The recommendation for the remaining budget is for the committee to consider and approve the proposals detailed above to be implemented.

## 2.5 **'Love Wirral' Funding 2014/15- £10,000**

Love Wirral was a borough wide campaign that was launched in June 2013 to encourage people who live, work and visit Wirral to take pride in our local environment. As part of this campaign a Love Wirral grant scheme was launched in October 2013. This grant scheme aimed to encourage existing and new groups to get involved offering a small amount of funding for projects to be developed to improve the local area and encourage people to take pride and responsibility in keeping their part of Wirral clean and attractive and a pleasant area for them to live, work and visit. The grant was split equally across the 4 constituencies, £10,000 to each.

On reviewing the grant process the following points were highlighted to determine was a grant process the best use of this funding allocation:

- The funding was limited to £500 per application; this meant a lot of the projects were short term with no long term impact or sustainability.
- Many of the proposals required specialist installation and removal (e.g. planters), this was causing additional revenue implications for Wirral Council or community groups.
- Due to the assessment process not including technical expertise some of the projects could not be delivered due to health and safety implications, resulting in groups feeling frustrated and disadvantaged.
- The small projects required a lot of Wirral Councils technical services staff time to advise, this meant some time delays with a lot of the projects, again resulting in frustrated community groups.

Based on the above points being highlighted in has been agreed that for 2014/15 each Constituency Committee will have an allocation of £10,000 that they can use how they wish to, they do not have to follow a grants programme but can devise a scheme that will work towards Improving the Environment.

It was discussed and agreed by the Priorities and Budget Task and Finish Group on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2014 to recommend to the Constituency Committee to utilise this funding to deliver a reactive fly tipping service to Improve the Environment. Appendix 5 details an overview of the criteria, delivery and costings for this service.

## 2.6 **'Your Wirral' 2014/15- £75,000**

The Constituency Committee was informed at the previous meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2014 that 'Your Wirral' funding has been devolved to the Constituency Committees for 2014/15. It is a small grants programme that has been in operation since 2007, it is a strand of the Community Fund that came into being as a result of the Value Added Tax (VAT) return generated by the housing stock transfer from Wirral Council to Wirral Partnership Homes, now Magenta Living. The report on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2014 stated that Birkenhead Constituency Committee was given an allocation of

£75,000 for 2014/15 with the recommendation to offer a Community Grants application process in Birkenhead to deliver against identified priorities.

It was discussed at the July committee meeting and recommended from the committee that better use of the funds would be to support those struggling to pay their rent as a result of the Bedroom Tax and consequently faced eviction. The action following the meeting was a letter was sent from the Chair of Birkenhead Constituency Committee to the Joint Working Group of 'Your Wirral' requesting the budget allocation can be used for this purpose. The Joint Working Group acts an accountable body for the fund and is composed of representation from Wirral Council and Magenta Living. The request from the Chair was considered at a meeting of the Joint Working Group on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2014 and a written response is being sent back to the Chair of the committee, MP Frank Field. This will be discussed at the committee meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> October.

## 2.7 **Integrated Transport Block Capital Programme 2014/15- £77,500**

The Integrated Transport Block Capital Programme for 2014/5 agreed by Cabinet on 13 March 2014 (minute 178 refers) provides an allocation of £77,750 to each Constituency Committee to be distributed in relation to two objectives; Improving Road Safety and Promoting Active Travel and Health (£38,875). This was discussed at the Birkenhead Constituency Committee meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2014 and it was agreed to establish a Task and Finish Group to provide recommendations for this budget, the group agreed from self nominations w Councillor G Davies, Councillor S Kelly and Councillor D Realey. All members of the committee were asked to submit proposals to be considered to meet the objectives of this funding; these were collated and to presented to the Task and Finish group on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2014. The group were to be supported by an officer from the Council's Traffic & Transportation Division to advise on the costs and feasibility of schemes.

**Update:** Councillor S Kelly was the only member of the Task and finish Group in attendance (the Road Safety Manager and Constituency Manager were also present.) therefore decisions on the recommendations could not be made. There was a detailed discussion regarding the submitted proposals and how to progress utilising the funding. Based on the proposals and the timescales to use this funding (it must be spent by March 2015) the following recommendations are being made to the committee:

1. To split the funding into 2 allocations:
  - £32,000 to promote active travel by increasing the volume of dropped kerbs and some cycling infrastructure. Appendix 6 details requests for dropped kerbs that have been submitted.
  - £45,750 to schemes of work to improve road safety e.g. parking issues, speeding reductions.
  
2. To re establish the Task and Finish group with a minimum of 5 members of the committee. The group will be supported by the Road Safety Manager for Wirral council. It is suggested to invite representation from Merseyside Police to discuss input to the road safety issues and how they could support developments and WIRED (Wirral Information Resource for Equality and Diversity). Due to timescales of this funding allocation it is proposed this

working group has the authority to prioritise use of funding and implement the schemes outside of the Committee meetings. An update report will be provided at the committee meeting in February 2015.

### **3.0 Other Updates**

3.1 The Handbook Task and Finish Group met on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2014, in attendance was Councillor G Davies, Councillor M McLaughlin, Councillor A Brighthouse and Councillor T Norbury, Constituency Manager and Engagement Officer for Birkenhead. This meeting focused on developing Community Researchers in Birkenhead as detailed in the handbook and discussed at the committee meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2014. It was agreed to recruit Community Researchers specific to research topics and to engage with community organisations that have a specialism in the identified topics. A pilot piece of research is being developed with the National Citizenship Service (NCS) to pilot the Community Researchers Project using young people to research what it is like to live in Birkenhead. A questionnaire has been developed with a number of young people from the NCS course which will help to gather the opinions of fellow young people online and via a number of 'listening surveys'. It was decided the next piece of research will be with Black and Ethnic Minority groups to enhance understanding of this community group in Birkenhead.

3.2 It was resolved at the Birkenhead Constituency Committee meeting on 24th July 2014 The Constituency Manager, on behalf of the Chair be requested to write to the Chief Executive of Wonga Loans to request information as to how many loans had been issued in Birkenhead and were they checked to see if they were on the electoral Register.

**Update:** The letter was sent to Wonga but it was returned, the contact details have been checked and it is the correct registered address for the company therefore this is being followed up by MP Frank Fields Office.

3.3 It was resolved at the Birkenhead Constituency Committee meeting on 24th July 2014 that the Neighbourhood Inspector for Birkenhead is requested to provide a progress report on the Seven Beats Project to the next meeting of the Committee.

**Update:** This report is at Appendix 7.

### **4.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL; IT; STAFFING; AND ASSETS**

4.1 All resource implications detailed within this report are related to budgets aligned or devolved to the Birkenhead Constituency Committee for their recommended use,

### **5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 The arrangements will help the Council to deliver on the Localism Act 2011 and Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012.

### **6.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 An Equality Impact Assessment will be completed for each of the proposals.

### **7.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 This report has no direct carbon reduction implications.

## **8.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 This report has no planning and community safety implications.

## **9.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Committee are asked to:

9.1 Note and approve the content of the updates detailed at 2.1-2.3 related to specific schemes of work and approve for progress to continue.

9.2 Consider and approve the recommendations for the remaining spend of the 2014/15 budget allocation as detailed at 2.4.

9.3 Consider and agree the proposal detailed at 2.5 for use of 'Love Wirral' Funding.

9.4 Consider the response from the Joint Working Group in relation to the 'Your Wirral' funding and agree actions to progress.

9.5 Consider and agree the recommendations related to the Integrated Transport Block Capital Programme and appoint a minimum of 5 members for the Task and Finish Group.

## **10.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

10.1 To continue to progress the targeted schemes of work identified within the constituency to develop the new approach to neighbourhood working.

**REPORT AUTHOR: Dawn Tolcher, Constituency Manager (Birkenhead)**

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## **APPENDICES**

APPENDIX 1 - Antenatal Breast feeding Project Quarterly Report (July-September 2014)

APPENDIX 2 - Proposal to increase the signage in Birkenhead

APPENDIX 3 - Proposal to reduce Anti- Social Behaviour in Birkenhead.

APPENDIX 4 - Proposal to develop Community Researchers.

APPENDIX 5 - Proposal for 'Love Wirral' funding.

APPENDIX 6 – Requests for Dropped Kerbs in Birkenhead.

APPENDIX 7 - Seven Beats Project Performance Overview



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**Birkenhead Constituency Antenatal Project  
Quarterly Report - July - Sept 2014**

**Section A Outputs**

**1 User Numbers**

**Initial contacts with women seen this quarter:**

St Catherines Hospital at Scan	14
Arrowe Park at Scan	13
Home Visit following referral by staff or volunteer	8
Telephone contact only following referral	4
Roadshow/Events	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>39</b>
Completed antenatal checklist	9
Intend to breastfeed	32
Going to be a first time mum	12

Access to mum's-to-be has been much more difficult this quarter, we believe this is due to some changes at the hospital and we will be meeting with the Hospital Trust Head of Midwifery and Infant Feeding Co-ordinator on Tuesday 7th September to see how we can overcome the difficulties we are currently facing. We are also trying to make links with 121 midwives who do not refer into our service.

## 2 Areas

Which areas of Birkenhead do the above mums live in?

Bidston & St James	0
Birkenhead	12
Claughton	2
Oxton	4
Prenton	3
Rock Ferry	14
Tranmere	4
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>39</b>

## 2 Age Range

Of the mums seen this quarter how many were:

Under 18	0
18-21	4
21-25	9
26-34	13
35-44	2
45+	0
Not stated	11
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>39</b>

## 3 Breakdown of Support

Of the mums seen since April:

How many home visits were made	37
How many telephone calls were made	359
How many texts were sent	476
How many women have a support network available to them	90
How many women were signposted for additional support	18
How many mums initiated breastfeeding	48% *
How many mums breastfed until 6 weeks +	20% *

\* NB 55% of mums being supported are still at the antenatal stage



**4 Promotional Work**

Number of antenatal group support sessions delivered in Birkenhead locations during quarter

Total number of pregnant Birkenhead women attended these support sessions during quarter

Number of presentations/meetings attended in the Birkenhead District to promote benefits of breast feeding during quarter

Number of community/public events attended in Birkenhead District

## Section B Outcomes

### 5 Specific Outcomes of the Service

**Please identify the main impact/improvements:**

Outcome 1 - Improve the health and well-being of children in Birkenhead 48%

Outcome 2 - Providing a targeted intervention for expectant mums in Birkenhead 78%

Outcome 3 - Improving support and care available to mums in Birkenhead during pregnancy. 34%

Outcome 4 - Improving support networks available to pregnant mums 26%

**Please identify any specific problems which have not been successfully addressed by the project:**

The main problem we are facing is lack of referrals as mentioned in Q1.

## 6 Case Study 1

### **Background:**

Mum (from Central Birkenhead area) self referred at her hospital routine 20 week scan after a chat with one of our First Response Workers. She explained that this would be her second child but that breastfeeding was something that she hadn't considered with her first (a toddler). After the chat she decided that she may try breastfeeding and signed up to the service to gather more information. After further contact with the Mum it transpired that Mum's first child now resided with the grandmother with Mum having contact at weekends. Her health visitor also informed us that there was a safeguarding issue with the family and that Mum & Dad were residing with the grandparents.

### **Input:**

Further on into the pregnancy Mum was called and was invited to the Home-Start Wirral's antenatal breastfeeding session however at the time she felt unsure about taking part in a group setting, so was offered an alternative one-on-one home visit instead. At the home visit Mum explained that she'd had problems bonding with her first child and understood that breastfeeding can help with this after receiving information at her 20 week scan from the First Response Worker. This particular benefit was discussed at length with Mum including current guidelines of skin to skin contact with baby to improve bonding. Mum expressed worry that her older child may feel jealous of the new baby so information was given to explore ways in which to keep him involved, including reading stories together during baby's feeds etc. Practical tips on how to prepare for breastfeeding were shared and how Home-Start can support. Further information on the local 'Breastfeeding in Wirral' scheme was also discussed. After the home visit information was sent via text message to the Mum about local breastfeeding events during breastfeeding month. As the Mum's due date app

### **Outcome:**

Baby is now 8 weeks old and is still breastfed. At the most recent contact with Mum (which was via telephone) she reported that everything is going great, she felt very proud of herself and is really happy that she decided to breastfeed as it feels like a natural thing which has helped her to bond with her new baby. Feedback on the service was requested from the Mum who said that it's been amazing and that she hopes the support continues as she will be recommending it to others. She added that before she'd received the support she wasn't sure if she'd breastfeed or not, especially after not breastfeeding her first child, but the support she received helped her to make her decision. She also complimented Home-Start Wirral on raising awareness of the benefits of breastfeeding. The Mum has also been invited to Home-Start Wirral's postnatal breastfeeding support group which she is looking forward to attending. The Mum's postnatal breastfeeding support is ongoing .

**7 Additional Information**

**a) Family Feedback**

"Brilliant service. There was a nice mix of phone calls, voicemails and texts. It was a lovely feeling that you were 'checking up on me' rather than me having to initiate the contact - Thanks a lot."

"Home-Start has helped me gain all the knowledge I need in order to breastfeed successfully and provided me with endless support to help me make the decision to breastfeed."

"I was reassured and given all the facts I needed to support my partner to breastfeed, thank you."

**Completed by:**

Michelle Walsh

**Date Completed:**

30/09/14





## **Appendix 2 Priority Area: Improving the Environment**

**Objective:** To increase the signage in Birkenhead to act as a deterrent for environmental crime and increase awareness of enforcement proceedings.

### **Background Information:**

One of the aims of Birkenhead Constituency Committee is to increase the awareness of enforcement processes the Council and partners have power to carry out related to environmental crime e.g. dropping waste, cigarette butts, fly tipping, parking illegally. This is to inform people of the processes to encourage a change in behaviour and more respect for the area, also to educate people and then if people continue to commit the crimes appropriate enforcement action can be followed.

At a meeting of the Licensing Health and Safety and General Purposes Committee on 18 June 2014 Members resolved 'That a Designated Public Places Order be put in place in respect of the Parliamentary Constituency area of Birkenhead'.

Section 12 of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 provides the police with powers to deal with anti-social drinking in areas that have been designated for this purpose. The police have the power to require a person in a Designated Public Places Order (DPPO) area not to drink alcohol in that area where an Officer reasonably believes that the person has, or intends to do so. In addition an officer has the power to ask that person to surrender the alcohol and any opened or sealed containers in their possession. It is essential to have signage to inform people of these enforcements in place.

### **Project Description:**

1. Purchase signs to actively promote Birkenhead being an Alcohol Free Zone
2. Purchase signs that will inform residents of environmental crime and the enforcements that will be actioned if they commit that crime e.g. Do not drop cigarette butts, the fine for this is £75.

### **Outcomes to be achieved:**

- Improved appearance of Birkenhead
- Improved knowledge of environmental crime and enforcements
- Increased sense of respect for Birkenhead
- Increase number of prosecutions

**Provider:** Wirral Council will source and fit the signs based on guidance, specific requirements and value for money.

### **Project Costs**

Purchase of 150 DPPO area signs and fittings - 5293.24

Purchase of other relevant signs- £2200 (allowing 110 signs @ £20 for purchase and fitting)

**Total** =  
**£7493.24**

**Partner Contributions:**

Contribution from Public Health £1,000

Contribution from Community Safety £3,500

**Contribution from Birkenhead Constituency Committee:** **£2993.24**



### **Appendix 3**

**Priority Area:** Improving Services for Young People/ Reducing Anti Social Behaviour

**Objective:** To reduce anti social behaviour in Birkenhead.

#### **Background Information:**

Anti Social Behaviour is a significant problem in Birkenhead, 8140 incidences were report between 1st April 2014 and 18<sup>th</sup> September 2014. It is also clear from consultation with residents that the volume is higher but a lot are not getting reported.

The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 received Royal Assent on 13 March 2014. It introduces a suite of new powers, rationalising and extending local authorities' capacity to tackle anti-social behaviour. It also gives victims and local people a greater say in the approaches being taken locally (Other measures in the Act relate to dangerous dogs, forced marriages and firearms and policing standards in England and Wales).

The Act seeks to rationalise the existing suite of tools and powers to tackle anti-social behaviour, reducing nineteen remedies to six. This includes replacing the well publicised Anti-Social Behaviour Order. The six new powers are listed below :

- Civil Injunction
- Criminal Behaviour Order`
- Dispersal Power
- Community Protection Notice
- Public Spaces Protection Order
- Closure of Premises

Practitioners across Wirral have developed a multi agency protocol to ensure that the Act is implemented both effectively and efficiently. This protocol is in place to ensure that for the victims of anti-social behaviour in Wirral each agency will approach anti-social behaviour in a co-ordinated way to minimise the risk of duplication of response or of a victim being 'bounced from one agency to another and then back again' in respect of the more formal tools available to tackle the issue. It is recognise that each agency will have its own policy and procedures that it will engage when dealing with anti-social behaviour so therefore does not address how each agency will deal with ASB where it can be effectively challenged with an early informal intervention. Whilst the Whilst the government has sought to reduce bureaucracy by minimising the requirements for consultation, at a local level the protocol helps to ensure that action is co-ordinated across services and agencies and information and intelligence shared, to reduce duplication and ensure the most effective action is taken at a time of decreasing resources.

**Project Description:** To appoint an organisation to deliver an outreach service in Birkenhead that will provide 'on the street' engagement and presence to reduce anti social behaviour. The service will:

- engage with young people and gather research on groups/individuals causing Anti Social Behaviour
- carry out targeted work with individuals making them aware of youth centres and young person related activities in their area,
- signpost young people to support and advice services where necessary utilising existing systems in Wirral.
- identify and protect any young people who are vulnerable due to their own behaviour - for example: drinking alcohol,
- challenge, and where necessary, report to any anti-social behaviour and/or inappropriate behaviour they witness to the appropriate body including Police, Local Authority, Housing Associations; whilst working with in the Wirral's Joint working multi agency protocol to tackle Anti-Social Behaviour .

**Provider:** A tender process will be carried out to appoint a provider.

**Available Budget:** £ 35,000

## Appendix 4

## Priority Area: Improving Communication

**Objective:** To improve the engagement with residents in Birkenhead to offer greater knowledge sharing for improving public service provision.

### **Background Information:**

Birkenhead Constituency Committee wants to ensure engagement with the community is participatory not just representative. Through the formulation of the Handbook for Birkenhead Constituency Committee it was agreed 'In 2014/15 it is important for the Committee to gather information on what the community has and wants in terms of assets and needs. Birkenhead Constituency Committee will use **Community Researchers** on specific pieces of work or analysis in relation to the priorities in the Constituency Plan'.

**Project Description:** To offer quality training and travel expenses for community researchers to carry out research as directed by the Constituency Committee.

The training offered would be an Open College Network accredited 2 day course and would include:

- The topic being researched
- How to do a 'Listening survey'
- Why we are collating the information and how it will be used
- Confidence and communication skills

Each course would accommodate 10 Community Researchers.

### **Outcomes to be achieved:**

**1) Builds the skills of residents :** By training members of local community to carry out research, the researchers gain new skills which they can use to conduct their own research or may increase the employability skills for the future.

**2) Reveals the stories behind the statistics:** Indepth community engagement can provide important insights into attitudes, beliefs and behaviour in particular communities which quantitative data cannot explain. This deepens understanding of cultural issues and adds the 'how' and the 'why' to statistical data. This can assist significantly with improving service provision.

**3) Uncovers issues unknown to external researchers:** Community researchers have specific knowledge of issues which may not be considered by professionals. Community researchers can inform the research process, improving the quality of the research, and discovering findings which would have otherwise been missed.

**4) Creates partnerships and communication channels:** Working with community researchers develops new partnerships and improves communication between organisations in different sectors and hard to- reach groups. These communication channels can be used for sharing knowledge and information, and engaging with communities again in the future.

**5) Encourages communities to develop their own solutions:** Research should generate benefits for the participants as well as the researchers. Engaging with communities encourages community members to discuss the issues being researched and ideas to improve services and developments to meet their needs.

**Provider:** Alt Valley Community Trust who have local deliverer in Wirral.

**Project Costs:** £2,000

The costs to deliver training are £300 per 2 day course (costs for tutor, paperwork and refreshments)

4 courses = £1,200. This would train 40 Community Researchers.

£600 will be used for travelling expenses of researchers.

**Partner Contributions:** No cash value contributions have been identified but voluntary sector organisations will be contacted to offer venues for training as an in kind contribution.

It will be explored for this training to be sustained or effective through Wirral's Lifelong learning Programme.

**Contribution from Birkenhead Constituency Committee:** £2,000

## Appendix 5

## Budget Allocation: Love Wirral £10,000

**Objective:** To provide a reactive fly tipping service in Birkenhead

**Project Description:** To offer a reactive service for the removal fly tipping service for residents of Birkenhead when appropriate. This will be a pilot service to assess the demand for this service and its impact.

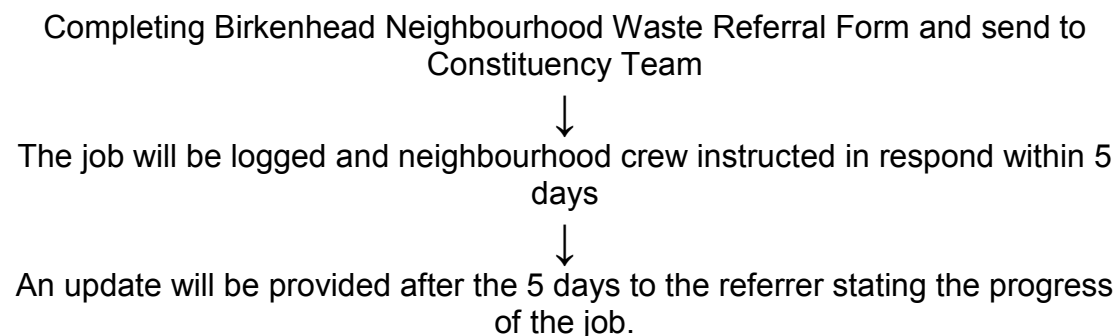
This will be an extension of the Neighbourhood crews. The service to be provided will be:

- The removal of litter or fly tipping on Council owned or unmanaged land.
- Inter frequency cleanses on highway currently responsibility of the Council to maintain where there is a lot of waste and scheduled cleanse is due to take place more than a week from when the referral is raised.

The service will respond to any fly tipping identified by Birkenhead Constituency Committee by:

- Informing people action is being taken e.g. High visibility 'Tape up's of the waste and warning notices issued.
- Removing the waste within 5 working days
- Searching domestic waste and informal consultation with local residents to find evidence of the origins of the waste.
- Work with Wirral Council Waste Enforcement Team when evidence indicates the need for follow up enforcement action.

The following process will be followed to report and reactive to a referral for this service:



**Outcomes to be achieved:**

An effective process to Improve the Appearance of Birkenhead in terms of reacting to fly tipping and working to prevent it happening.

An increased awareness across Birkenhead of the responsibilities of residents to dispose of their waste securely and the enforcement implications.

**Provider:** Due to contractual law this will provided by Biffa as the existing contractor with Wirral Council. A reduced rate has been negotiated and they will offer on a trial basis (up to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014) up 2 hours per day (Monday-Friday) to respond to constituency requirements within their remit (with a driver, operative and cage vehicle).

**Project Costs:** For any identified works that cannot be delivered within the 2 hours free of charge service a unit costs of £55.09 per hour will be charged by the contractor.

This will be monitored by the working group/Constituency Manager and an update of spend from the £10,000 allocation will be provided at each constituency committee meeting.

**Partner Contributions:** 2 hours free of charge per day (£110.18 per day) provided from Contractor.

## NEW REQUESTS

Under consideration with WIRED for 2014/15 Dropped Crossing Programme.

Crossings being done this year as part of other schemes.

Crossings already done in last 12 months as part of other schemes.

Location	Ward	No. of Crossings	Constituency Committee
Front & Rear of Caxton Close	Bidston & St James	4	BIRKENHEAD
Wirral Ladies Golf Club, Bidston Road	Bidston & St James	2	BIRKENHEAD
Claughton rd car pk entrance opp church	Birkenhead & Tranmere	2	BIRKENHEAD
Sycamore Road / Beech Road	Birkenhead & Tranmere	2	BIRKENHEAD
Top of Holm Lane @ Duck Pond Lane -	Prenton	2	BIRKENHEAD
Argyle Street South (Union St-Central Stn)	Birkenhead & Tranmere	TBA	BIRKENHEAD
Balls Road / Woodchurch Road	Birkenhead & Tranmere	2	BIRKENHEAD
Borough Road / Harrowby Road	Birkenhead & Tranmere	2	BIRKENHEAD
Bidston Moss (Either side of entrance into MFI car park)	Bidston & St James	2	BIRKENHEAD
Chester Street / Shore Road (Kerb line rear of Tramway)	Birkenhead & Tranmere	2	BIRKENHEAD
Cleveland Street (Locations to be confirmed)	Birkenhead & Tranmere	TBA	BIRKENHEAD
Entrance bet30 & 36 Olive Mount	Birkenhead & Tranmere	2	BIRKENHEAD
Exmouth Street (at entrance across fire station)	Birkenhead & Tranmere	2	BIRKENHEAD

Gamlin Street (O/S No 1 & 29)	Birkenhead & Tranmere	4	BIRKENHEAD
Grange Road East @ Argyle Street	Birkenhead & Tranmere	2	BIRKENHEAD
Lord Street (at vehicle access to rear of Wirral Heritage Tramway)	Birkenhead & Tranmere	2	BIRKENHEAD
Hinderton Road	Birkenhead & Tranmere	TBA	BIRKENHEAD
Lord Street (vehicle entrance to Municipal Building)	Birkenhead & Tranmere	TBA	BIRKENHEAD
Market Street (Between Argyle Street & Adelphi Street)	Birkenhead & Tranmere	20	BIRKENHEAD
Olive Mount @ Holborn Hill,	Birkenhead & Tranmere	2	BIRKENHEAD
Olive Mount @ Olive Crescent,	Birkenhead & Tranmere	2	BIRKENHEAD
Olive Mount @ Frodsham Street,	Birkenhead & Tranmere	2	BIRKENHEAD
Side of 56 Thompson Street,	Birkenhead & Tranmere	1	BIRKENHEAD
Old Chester Road	Birkenhead & Tranmere	TBA	BIRKENHEAD
Queen Street	Birkenhead & Tranmere	TBA	BIRKENHEAD
Shore Road	Birkenhead & Tranmere	9	BIRKENHEAD
St Mary's Gate @ Chester Street	Birkenhead & Tranmere	2	BIRKENHEAD
Thompson Street @ Warrington St	Birkenhead & Tranmere	2	BIRKENHEAD
Waterloo Place	Birkenhead & Tranmere	4	BIRKENHEAD
Whitfield Street (Access adjacent to 17)	Birkenhead & Tranmere	2	BIRKENHEAD



Bidston Road @ Vyner Road South	Claughton	2	BIRKENHEAD
Noctorum Way @ St Peters Way	Claughton	2	BIRKENHEAD
Olivia Close (opposite sheltered housing bungalows)	Claughton	1	BIRKENHEAD
Olivia Close (Opposite sheltered housing bungalows)	Claughton	TBA	BIRKENHEAD
Ormond Way its junction with Ossett Close	Claughton	TBA	BIRKENHEAD
Ormond Way its junction with Ollerton Close	Claughton	TBA	BIRKENHEAD
Ormond Way its junction with Orlando Close	Claughton	2	BIRKENHEAD
Ormond Way @ Ossett Close	Claughton	2	BIRKENHEAD
Alton Road (Shrewsbury Road to Village Road),	Oxton	TBA	BIRKENHEAD
Bidston Road (Gerald Road to Silverdale Road)	Oxton	2	BIRKENHEAD
Bidston Road at entrance to West Knowe	Oxton	2	BIRKENHEAD
Fairview Road / Fairview Close	Oxton	2	BIRKENHEAD
Fairview Road (at vehicle entrance side of St Josephs school)	Oxton	2	BIRKENHEAD
Fairview Road / Downing Close	Oxton	2	BIRKENHEAD
Fairview Road / The Grove	Oxton	2	BIRKENHEAD
Fairview Road (at St Josephs school entrance)	Oxton	2	BIRKENHEAD
Gerald Road (Shrewsbury Road to Bidston Road)	Oxton	TBA	BIRKENHEAD

Outside 4 Holm Lane (redundant vehicle crossing)	Oxton	TBA	BIRKENHEAD
Outside 38 Holm Lane (redundant vehicle crossing)	Oxton	TBA	BIRKENHEAD
Outside 40a Holm Lane (vehicle crossing)	Oxton	TBA	BIRKENHEAD
Holm Lane at entrance to Holm Cottages	Oxton	TBA	BIRKENHEAD
Nursery Close	Oxton	1	BIRKENHEAD
Shrewsbury Road, Oxton (Palm Hill to Alton Road)	Oxton	8	BIRKENHEAD
Shrewsbury Road (Alton Road to Silverdale Road)	Oxton	TBA	BIRKENHEAD
Spurstow Close, Oxton (junction Calveley Close)	Oxton	2	BIRKENHEAD
Talbot Road, Oxton (Townfield Lane to Holm Lane)	Oxton	6	BIRKENHEAD
Village Road/Claughton Firs, Oxton	Oxton	4	BIRKENHEAD
Village Road (Alton Road to Rose Mount),	Oxton	TBA	BIRKENHEAD
Woodchurch Road @ Woodhurch Court (Opp Oakdene Rd)	Oxton	2	BIRKENHEAD
98/100 Prenton Village Road	Prenton	1	BIRKENHEAD
O/S 1 Mount Road, Prenton	Prenton	1	BIRKENHEAD
Outside 98 Prenton Village Road - Dropped Kerbs.	Prenton	1	BIRKENHEAD
Prenton Village Road/Prenton Dell Road	Prenton	2	BIRKENHEAD
Johnson Road (at both junctions with Prenton Dell Road)	Prenton	4	BIRKENHEAD

Johnson Road (across entrance to garages adjacent to no. 47)	Prenton	2	BIRKENHEAD
Gothic Street (Access adjacent to no. 36)	Rock Ferry	2	BIRKENHEAD
Gothic Street (Access adjacent to no. 47)	Rock Ferry	2	BIRKENHEAD
King Street at its junction with Sefton Road	Rock Ferry	2	BIRKENHEAD
King Street at its junction with Acton Road	Rock Ferry	2	BIRKENHEAD
King Street at its junction with Wilton Road	Rock Ferry	2	BIRKENHEAD
King Street at its junction with Queens Road.	Rock Ferry	2	BIRKENHEAD
Nelson Road (Access adjacent to Derby Arms Public House)	Rock Ferry	2	BIRKENHEAD
Nelson Road at entrance to Nelson Court	Rock Ferry	2	BIRKENHEAD
Woodward Road (Outside 126)	Rock Ferry	1	BIRKENHEAD

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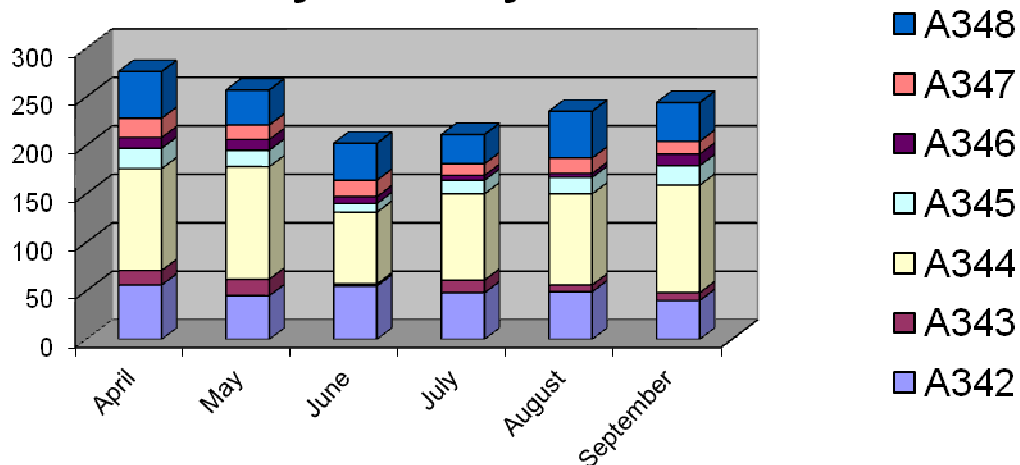
## Appendix 7- Seven Beats Projects Performance Overview

### Sgt Cath Squire

Period reviewed 01/06/2014- 30/09/2014 compare to same time frame previous year

### Statistics

#### **7 Beats By Month By Beat 2014/15**



Burglary Dwelling – 27 compared to 36 in same period last year (major reductions in A345 and 347 from 8 incidents to 2)

Burglary Other- 33 compared to 18 in same period last year

Theft Shop- 220 compared to 286 in same period last year

Criminal Damage- 129 compared to 142 in same period last year

Theft from Motor Vehicle 32 compared to 30 in same period last year

- 7BP has seem real decreases in risk areas of Theft from Shop and Criminal Damage over the summer period. Incidence is traditionally increased in this period. Again with this year's favourable weather conditions against last year's wet conditions it shows the impact of simple officer presence through to targeted operations. However there is still much work to do particularly around Burglary other and vehicle crime.

### Arrests

- 7 Beats Project Staff during this period have made 126 arrests within the 7 Beats area for varying offences. ( This does not include arrests from support sections , Tact Teams, Neighbourhood priority teams or response)

### Warrants

- 17 Search Warrants have been conducted during this period by 7 Beats Staff .
- This has resulted in over 150 cannabis plants, over 15 bags of cocaine/ Heroin and numerous amounts of cannabis being recovered.

- 12 people arrested for these offences.
- Community intelligence has proved essential in the obtaining of warrants as this task gets harder with each application.

### **ASBOS**

- 2 ASBOS have been obtained during the period and 2 ABCs issued.
- 5 more youths are being pursued for their behaviour in the 7BP area and elsewhere on A3. Applications for interim ASBOS were due to be heard last week and papers were served to CPS. However CPS failed to notify the Youth Court of the intention to make the application and as such the matter has been adjourned until January. Since then 2 of these targets have been arrested on suspicion of Criminal damage and they are being proactively targeted
- ASBOS issued to youths in the area prior to the setup of 7BP have been enforced and breaches arrested for whenever they have been identified.

### **Activity**

- 7BP officers and PCSOs regularly make joint visits to addresses / individuals to carry out risk assessments. Whether it is over them being the subject or cause of ASB or criminality a joint agency approach has been taken and has resulted in improvements in behaviour or in some cases private evictions by landlords.
- Environmental focus days have been held with the Environment Agency and skips placed in key locations on 5 occasions. 7BP Officers have attended with the council teams and raised awareness on issues such as fly tipping, dumping of rubble and the effect it has on the area, residents and environment. These clean-up operations directly affect the levels of criminal damage experienced by an area. 4 more of these locations have been identified and will be targeted in the run up to Christmas.
- Environmental scans have taken place and graffiti reported and removed by street scene
- We are working closely with Mersey travel and the Mersey travel PCSOs to combat incidents of damage in and around bus stops and ASB on the public transport network.
- Multi-Agency Operations are run regularly. These can target either a specific geographic area or problem. Tactics utilised have included; ;

High visibility patrolling

letter drops/ door knocks

plain clothes patrolling

targeting of prolific offenders

ANPR

HMCS Court fines, .

Tenancy Enforcement with RSL's

## Mobile Police Station

### Illegal money lending team

- Crime Prevention road shows have been run throughout the area on numerous occasions providing advice from personal safety to vehicle crime..
- We have had mounted patrols and drugs dogs engaging in area and in searches of local hostels. Litter picks have been conducted with ASDA / McDonalds and YMCA.
- We have delivered presentations and awareness sessions in Hostels and vulnerable locations regards knife crime with knife bins being given to these locations.
- We regularly attend the wet rooms and engage with street drinkers to discourage them drinking on the street. S27 direction to leave notices have been utilised to move them from them area for periods of time.
- A new DPPO has been granted and signage is in the process of being ordered and fitted which will allow us to police the area more proactively.
- We work closely with security in the Grange and Pyramids shopping centres to improve working practices and security through layout of cameras and shop design We carry out regular high visibility and plain clothes patrolling in the area. We utilise the shop link radio to receive and give information and respond quickly. We are reviewing our own custody procedures to ensure bail conditions are added banning shop lifters from town.
- Video badges have been obtained and are in use in the community targeting ASB. Victims wear these around their neck and capture footage of the ASB or offences happening.
- We have been working closely with Wirral Met and now hold regular surgeries at their premises in the Pyramids.
- Funding has been obtained for test purchases in partnership with trading standards targeting off licences suspected of selling alcohol to children. These will commence in the next month.
- A new COPS SHOP has been approved and work is beginning soon to bring a central point of police contact to the town centre.

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## WIRRAL COUNCIL

### Birkenhead Constituency Committee 30 October 2014

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>FUTURE COUNCIL: CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BUDGET PROPOSALS</b>
<b>WARD/S AFFECTED:</b>	<b>WARDS WITHIN BIRKENHEAD CONSTITUENCY AREA: Bidston and St James Birkenhead and Tranmere Claughton Oxton Prenton Rock Ferry</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>CHIEF EXECUTIVE</b>
<b>RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER:</b>	<b>LEADER OF THE COUNCIL</b>
<b>KEY DECISION?</b>	<b>NO</b>

#### 1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report provides Members on the Birkenhead Constituency Committee with the opportunity to provide feedback on the Chief Executive's Budget Proposals which are currently out for public consultation.
- 1.2 Members are provided with the publically available information as well as, where practicable, additional information as to the impact of the options on the Constituency area.

#### 2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

- 2.1 The Council, as is the case with many other authorities, is dealing with a budget position which remains extremely stark. We have consistently forecasted the savings required and made substantial savings already. However, the funding gap for the next two years is at least £45 million (as reported to Council in Feb 2014) with further savings required as we add in the likely grant figures for subsequent years (2017/18 and beyond). The outturn position in 2013/14 has been positive and will enable a further contribution to be made to fund the restructuring costs.
- 2.2 The Future Council project has completed a full review process across every Council service. The information gathered has been used to redesign the Council through merging similar services, streamlining senior management and getting better value for contracts and goods purchased. This work has resulted in proposals being developed which would reduce the budget gap for

2015/2016 from £18 million to £2.5 million as well as achieve the already agreed savings of £9.4 million through remodelling the Council.

- 2.3 One 08 September 2014 the Chief Executive published options for public consultation to bridge the remaining budget deficit of £2.5 million. These options totalled around £4 million, leaving genuine choice for Members in setting the budget. Detailed scrutiny work through focussed task and finish groups is ongoing across all Policy and Performance Committees. These groups will report their views into Cabinet before the budget is proposed.
- 2.4 This paper provides Constituency Committees with a reminder of the options which are out for public consultation as well as more detailed information as to the direct impact on the Birkenhead constituency area if the option was accepted.

### 3.0 DELIVERING DIFFERENTLY

- 3.1 This theme focuses on fundamentally changing the way the Council delivers services. The scale of the budget reductions we are facing means that, inevitably, we will commission more services than we provide in the future – either through private companies, the voluntary sector or through another type of arrangement, such as a shared service with another Council or public sector agency. This does not mean we will ‘outsource’ services for the sake of it.
- 3.2 We will analyse, model and research the best, most appropriate and cost effective way of delivering every Council service in the future – using a fair, systematic and consistent approach. To make this work, we will use our influence to make sure that all public services in the borough work together, acting as ‘one team’ to make sure we get the maximum value for public money. We will make sure money isn’t being spent on similar things by different organisations when we can get better value through doing things together. We will also support partners and develop the skills and capacity within the community, voluntary, faith and private sectors so that the services we need to commission externally can be delivered to the standard that we need.

<b>OPTION: WEST KIRBY MARINE LAKE</b>		
2015/2016	2016/2017	TOTAL
£000s	£000s	£000s
25	-	25

This option would see us transferring the day to day operations of the site to another organisation – keeping the facility open but removing some of the financial burden to the Council.

<b>OPTION: ALL AGE DISABILITY SERVICE</b>		
2015/2016	2016/2017	TOTAL
£000s	£000s	£000s
600	-	600

This option would involve a holistic review and redesign of the way we deliver services to disabled children and their families, including overnight short breaks at Willow Tree and the interface between children’s and adults services. It would mean a redesign of how support is delivered, with greater integration with other service areas, in particular early help and adult social care. Detailed consultation with children and families accessing services will take place before any changes.

<b>OPTION: YOUTH AND PLAY</b>		
2015/2016	2016/2017	TOTAL
£000s	£000s	£000s
450	-	450

The Council has committed to making a major capital investment in a state of the art new Youth Zone, to be built in Birkenhead. This option would see the Council reduce the funding associated with the existing youth service while that facility is developed. Initially, this option would involve closing four satellite youth centres, and reviewing the location of the four remaining youth ‘hubs’, currently located in Birkenhead, West Kirby, Wallasey and Eastham. The option would also see the Council stop the funding associated with the current ‘Play Scheme’.

Impact on Birkenhead

In Birkenhead, this would specifically involve removing the funding associated with running Charing Cross Youth Club in Claughton (as well as Bebington, Fender and Moreton Youth Clubs). The option would also see the funding associated with Play Schemes at Beechwood, Gautby Road and Leasowe, the Wirral Play Council, the Civic Award Scheme and the Duke of Edinburgh Award being removed.

**4.0 MANAGING DEMAND**

- 4.1 We will reduce the demand and subsequently the cost of specialist, substantial services through empowering people and communities to help themselves. We will place a major emphasis in the future on working with people, and communities, to both improve their aspirations and achievements and also limit the resources needed for costly, specialist services. We will also focus on improving people’s living situations, aspirations and general family life across a whole range of areas - reducing the demand on Council services, enabling the money saved to be better invested elsewhere.
- 4.2 This will involve a complete redesign of the way outcomes are achieved for children, young people and vulnerable adults in Wirral. The focus will be on increasing independence, and reducing demand on Council resources, as well as joining up our work with partners, such as the NHS – which will provide major savings but also a more integrated service for people receiving support.

<b>OPTION: PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE</b>		
2015/2016	2016/2017	TOTAL

£000s	£000s	£000s
570	-	570

The vast majority of the funding the Council uses to maintain highways comes in the form of grants from national government. Wirral is one of only a few Councils in the country to put extra, local money into this fund to carry out 'preventative' work, across both our highways and our parks. This option would see us removing this additional investment, and focussing our maintenance work where there is a safety implication.

<b>OPTION: SCHOOL CROSSING PATROLS</b>		
2015/2016	2016/2017	TOTAL
£000s	£000s	£000s
90	65	155

Last year, the Council worked alongside all schools in the borough in an effort to share the costs of providing school crossing patrols. Unfortunately, only a few schools agreed to pay towards their costs. Therefore, this option would mean we review the school crossing patrols which are currently at 47 sites across the borough where there is already a pedestrian, pelican or puffin crossing in place. Initial estimates are that out of the 47 sites, a total of 41 school crossing patrols would be removed. We believe that, due to the crossing facilities which are in place 24 hours a day, the demand and requirement for a school crossing patrol is greatly reduced. Before this option is implemented, a full risk assessment will be completed on every crossing site.

#### Impact on Birkenhead

School Crossing Patrols are currently available at the following sites within the Constituency. Each site would be subject to a full risk assessment and, if it is judged that existing road safety measures are sufficient, the crossing patrol would potentially be removed.

- Bidston Village Road / Fender Way
- Borough Road / Brattan Road
- Borough Road / Prenton Road East
- Borough Road / Shaw Street
- Borough Road / Whitford Road
- Cavendish Street / Old Bidston Road
- Church Road / Elm Road
- Conway Street / Cathcart Street
- Hoylake Road / Bidston Village Road
- Hoylake Road / Challis Street
- Laird Street o/s Portland Pri
- Shrewsbury Road / Kingsmead Road
- Singleton Av / Woodchurch Road
- Watson St / St Annes Way
- Whetstone Lane / Derby Road
- Whetstone Lane (no 51) / Park Grove
- Woodchurch Road (no 126)

- Woodchurch Road / Brattan Road
- Woodchurch Rd (239) / Singleton Av
- Holm Lane (No102) Overton Way
- Ingestre Road (o/s16)
- Townfield Lane (o/s school)
- Bebington Road / Hesketh Avenue
- Bedford Road / Highfield Road
- Highfield Lane / Rock Lane West
- Bedford Drive / The Wiend
- Old Chester Road / Oriel Road
- Well Lane / Albany Road

## 5.0 INCOME AND EFFICIENCY

- 5.1 We will not subsidise chargeable services unless it helps us to meet another objective. Every pound spent on bureaucracy and subsidies is a pound diverted from frontline services. The work in this theme will make sure the Council is efficient when it comes to charging and collecting income for services; it will focus on improving and streamlining the way in which we operate and collect funding and bring a commercial approach to the Council's business where it is appropriate.
- 5.2 Many of our services are also chargeable – both in terms of residents paying for them but also other organisations such as schools, housing associations and other partner agencies. We will focus on making sure those charges are appropriate and, importantly, cover what the service costs us to deliver.

<b>OPTION: COUNCIL TAX OVER 70S DISCOUNT</b>		
2015/2016	2016/2017	TOTAL
£000s	£000s	£000s
600	-	600

Wirral Council is the only Council in the UK which offers households a discount on their Council Tax based purely on their age and the Council Tax band of their home. The discount is not means tested, people receive it regardless of their personal financial circumstances, and our residents with the lowest income already receive Council Tax Support and therefore either pay no, or only a proportion of, Council Tax. We therefore propose this option, which would remove that discount for all current recipients to achieve a saving of £600,000.

### Impact on Birkenhead

This particular discount is available to Over 70s Households in Council Tax Bands A, B, C and D. Of the 11,391 households currently in receipt of the discount, 19% (2142) are within Birkenhead wards – ward breakdown is demonstrated in the table below.

<b>BIRKENHEAD</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Bidston & St James	159	1	6	11	<b>177</b>
Birkenhead & Tranmere	177	17	1	1	<b>196</b>

Claughton	134	110	133	41	<b>418</b>
Oxton	130	261	134	40	<b>565</b>
Prenton	84	202	128	62	<b>476</b>
Rock Ferry	171	67	59	13	<b>310</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>855</b>	<b>658</b>	<b>461</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>2142</b>

<b>OPTION: COMMEMORATIONS, REGISTRATIONS AND MEMORIALS</b>		
2015/2016	2016/2017	TOTAL
£000s	£000s	£000s
100	100	200

It is proposed to merge the current births, deaths and marriages registrar team with the crematorium and burials registrar team, co-locating the merged team within one office. It is also proposed to raise burials and cremation fees to closer match those of neighbouring authorities, while not affecting our ability to offer a competitively priced service.

<b>OPTION: CHARGING FOR ALLOTMENTS, BOWLING GREENS AND FOOTBALL PITCHES</b>		
2015/2016	2016/2017	TOTAL
£000s	£000s	£000s
35	-	35

This option proposes that the charges associated with using Council allotments, bowling greens and football pitches are raised over the next two years, to ensure the income collected more closely covers the costs associated with providing maintenance. We will also pursue transferring the management and ownership of Bowling Green sites to the bowling clubs themselves.

#### Impact on Birkenhead

In the constituency area, this option would impact on 17 allotment sites, 2 bowling greens and 5 playing fields. The affected sites are listed below:

<b>Allotment Sites</b>
Bebington Road
Bedford Avenue
Boundary Road
Carrodus
Church Road
Fairview Road
Harris
Hill Road
Lansdowne Place
Molyneux
Mountwood
Ormonde

St James
Sumner Road
Thornton
Tollemache Road
Upton Road

<b>Bowling Greens</b>
Birkenhead Park
Victoria Park

<b>Playing Fields</b>
Birkenhead Park
Borough Road Playing Fields
Conway Playing Fields
Valley Road Playing Fields
Victoria Park

<b>OPTION: CAR PARKING – COUNTRYSIDE PARKS</b>		
2015/2016	2016/2017	TOTAL
£000s	£000s	£000s
50	15	65

This option would introduce pay and display parking charges into the Parks and Countryside car parks at Arrowse Country Park, Eastham Country Park, Wirral Country Park and Royden Country Park. The option will generate income, but requires some investment in providing cash payment ticket machines. The income generated will assist in continuing the maintenance of the park.

<b>OPTION: CAR PARKING – FORT PERCH ROCK</b>		
2015/2016	2016/2017	TOTAL
£000s	£000s	£000s
25	10	35

This option would introduce pay and display parking charges into the Fort Perch Rock car park at New Brighton, where there are presently no charges. The option will generate income from a well utilised car park and requires some investment in providing cash payment ticket machines. There are currently traffic problems developing around the successful New Brighton redevelopment, which it is thought would be eased through this approach – before implementing this option the Council would work closely with all businesses involved

<b>OPTION: LITTER AND DOG FOULING ENFORCEMENT</b>		
2015/2016	2016/2017	TOTAL
£000s	£000s	£000s
70	-	70

Littering and dog fouling offences can impact adversely on the local environmental quality of Wirral. The Council has saved £1 million per year by targeting our street cleansing resources more efficiently. Many community groups have also risen to the challenge and play a significant role in keeping our borough clean and tidy. However, unfortunately, there are a minority of people that persist in discarding their rubbish irresponsibly. The Council proposes to launch a joint dog fouling and litter patrol team to target such offenders. A more generic team will maximise the limited resources available to tackle these problems.

<b>OPTION: COLD CALLING ZONES</b>		
2015/2016	2016/2017	TOTAL
£000s	£000s	£000s
80	60	140

This option proposes that we implement a small charge of £10 per household where a community wishes to implement a 'No Cold Calling Zone' in their street or area. Residents within No Cold Calling Zones will benefit from rapid response to reported instances of 'cold caller' activity, a designated coordinator, link to 'Ringmaster' messaging and alerts, advice and other services.

<b>OPTION: PEST CONTROL</b>		
2015/2016	2016/2017	TOTAL
£000s	£000s	£000s
65	-	65

This option proposes, alongside some staffing changes, a 10% increase in charges for all domestic and commercial services provided by Environmental Health, and the introduction of a charge for the element of the Pest Control service related to rats and cockroaches.

<b>OPTION: PUBLIC CONVENIENCES</b>		
2015/2016	2016/2017	TOTAL
£000s	£000s	£000s
140	-	140

The Council manages ten public convenience facilities which are located mainly in retail and coastal areas across the borough. The provision of public conveniences is not a statutory function and there is no legal obligation on Wirral Council to provide this service. This budget option would be to seek out community organisations that may wish to take on the full delivery, maintenance and operational costs of running the facilities in their area. If no suitable organisations could be identified then it is recommended that the facilities be permanently closed.

<b>OPTION: ROADSIDE GRIT BINS</b>		
2015/2016	2016/2017	TOTAL
£000s	£000s	£000s
55	-	55



The Council installed 100 roadside grit bins, which were strategically located throughout the borough – to help residents living on hills, and other areas where ice and snow caused more dangerous problems. Following the success of this programme, the Council agreed to install extra bins at residents’ request, 198 in total. This option proposes that, while the winter maintenance and gritting routes would remain unaffected, the Council would no longer fill 198 roadside grit bins from the highway. Communities are welcome to continue filling the bins with salt themselves should they wish to. We will continue to provide precautionary salt spreading to the 10 priority routes, the clearance of ice and snow from these routes and major shopping areas and 100 grit bins which have been installed in accordance with the criteria for the statutory provision of grit bins.

**Members are provided with a full list of all Grit Bin locations as an appendix to this report, together with an indication of whether the grit bin would be retained or removed.**

<b>OPTION: GIRTRELL COURT</b>		
2015/2016	2016/2017	TOTAL
£000s	£000s	£000s
385	-	385

Girtrell Court is a ‘short break’, respite service for adults with disabilities. The service has 20 beds, of which 15 are ‘respite’ and 5 are designated as permanent. At the moment, 130 people are registered to access respite through Girtrell Court, and all use it for a certain number of weeks per year. This option would explore the possibility of using this facility more widely. This could potentially see Girtrell Court being invested in, and its capabilities expanded to enable the NHS to use the centre on a joint basis for patients who either do not need hospital care or who are being prepared for discharge following treatment. A full review of all the options available will be undertaken and will require full consultation with those people directly impacted by any proposed changes.

## **6.0 CUSTOMER CONTACT**

- 6.1 ‘Customer Contact’ means, basically, all of the different ways residents contact the Council or access services – either over the phone, online, through letters or emails or face to face at one of our hundreds of buildings. This work will conduct a thorough review of all those access channels, and make sure they are as cost effective and targeted as possible.
- 6.2 We will focus on moving as many services as possible entirely online – removing back office administrative costs, and making processes much easier for customers to complete. The Council also spends millions every year on various forms of information, advice and guidance – both directly providing it and also through contracts. We will again review all of this spend to make sure that we are getting the best value for money possible.

<b>OPTION: COMMUNITY LIBRARIES</b>		
2015/2016	2016/2017	TOTAL

£000s	£000s	£000s
411	-	411

We are one of the only Councils to not close any libraries. We believe this is the right decision as libraries play a hugely important role in any community. However, maintaining 24 libraries in their current form in a borough as small as Wirral is clearly not possible in the current financial climate. This option would see our community libraries, which are smaller and less well used, 15 in total, reduce their opening hours to an alternating 2 or 3 days per week, 10am-2pm. This option would NOT affect central libraries or libraries with One Stop Shop facilities included.

These hours would be implemented on an alternate basis – so that on any given day, at least one library in a constituency area would be open. This option brings the benefit of major savings, while at the same time keeping all 24 of Wirral’s libraries in operation. It also gives us the opportunity to actively seek community involvement to potentially increase the libraries opening times and use in the future – rather than closing the facilities permanently.

Analysis confirms customer demand across these sites currently peaks during 10am – 12pm and 2pm – 4 pm with a significant reduction in demand outside of these periods. It is anticipated that the removal of the lunchtime closure at these sites will encourage more uniform and focused usage across a proposed 4 hour day.

#### Impact on Birkenhead

Libraries at Birkenhead Central and Rock Ferry would be unaffected by this proposal. Opening hours would be reduced at the following community libraries:

- Beechwood
- Prenton
- Ridgeway
- St James

## **7.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

7.1 A full programme risk register has been developed and is regularly updated and reviewed in line with the programme governance arrangements for the Future Council approach.

## **8.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

8.1 Council has made a commitment that all decisions related to the budget setting process should be underpinned by comprehensive, genuine and robust consultation with all stakeholders. Therefore, no further options have been considered.

## **9.0 CONSULTATION**

9.1 The Future Council process has included a comprehensive programme of stakeholder engagement and consultation in the development of a series of budget and service delivery options. These have further been the subject of a wide ranging Member, staff, stakeholder and public consultation process which will commence in September 2014.

9.2 Ongoing, fortnightly briefings are being held with Trade Union colleagues specific to this project, and briefings are ongoing with political parties and Council staff.

## **10.0 OUTSTANDING PREVIOUSLY APPROVED ACTIONS**

10.1 All actions related to this project are either complete or in process.

## **11.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS**

11.1 Effective partnership working with organisations within the voluntary, community and faith sector will be vital to ensure the Council can meet its financial challenges while still ensuring the right outcomes are being achieved for Wirral residents. Comprehensive engagement and discussions with organisations from the sector is ongoing and will continue throughout this process.

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

12.1 None arising as a result of this report.

## **13.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

13.1 None arising as a result of this report.

## **14.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

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

(a) Yes and impact review is attached –

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

## **15.0 CARBON REDUCTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

15.1 None arising as a result of this report.

## **16.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

16.1 None arising as a result of this report.

## **17.0 RECOMMENDATION/S**

17.1 Committee is requested to consider the contents of the report and provide Cabinet with its views on the budget options proposed.

**17.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S**

17.1 Council has made a commitment to ensure all Members are effectively engaged with and provided with every opportunity to comment on and input into the budget setting process.

**REPORT AUTHOR:** Emma Degg  
Head of Neighbourhoods and Engagement

**APPENDICES**

**Appendix 1: Published Business Cases for Budget Options**

**Appendix 2: List of current Grit Bin locations**

# Future Council Public Consultation Pack

# Introduction

Wirral Council continues to face major budget cuts as it seeks to serve residents at a time of increasing demand and complexity. Wirral is not alone, every deprived northern authority faces the same hard choices and there are no easy solutions.

The Council's grant funding will have been reduced by around 57% before the end of 2017 and despite already agreeing savings of more than £100 million since 2013, the Council is being forced to reduce its spending by a further £70 million before 2018.

On top of this, there are £57 million of cuts which have already been agreed and are in the process of being implemented during the next two years. All projections show that austerity will continue until at least 2018, but potentially way beyond.

The Future Council project was established to help meet these challenges and the Chief Executive, Graham Burgess, is inviting everyone with an interest in Wirral Council services to comment on a number of proposals he has put forward to make the necessary savings.

The Council has conducted a comprehensive review into all of its services. Every part of the Council has been scrutinised to ensure every pound is spent effectively and every service is as efficient as it can possibly be.

This project is called 'Future Council', and it has identified new ways of delivering services, proposed reduced levels of senior management, and is squeezing the best value for money possible from contracts and the way the Council manages its finances. These proposals should enable us to reduce the budget gap needed to be bridged by service cuts from £18 million next year, to £2.5 million.

We are not proposing huge service cuts and reductions. The proposals put forward by the Chief Executive may be controversial and unpopular in places, but are targeted at those areas which can be cut while greatly limiting the impact on vulnerable people.

# MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

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**For five years now, deprived Councils throughout the north of England have been forced to make unprecedented cuts as a result of massive funding reductions imposed upon them by central government.** National austerity measures have meant that Wirral Council has had to save over £100 million over the past few years. Despite this, we are still facing a further funding shortfall of £45 million over the next two years. By 2017, our grant from central government will have been sharply reduced by a massive 57% in just five years and this is before further cuts are imposed in 2018.

This has meant that we have had to make some extremely difficult decisions and although it does not get any easier, we have prepared ourselves well by reviewing and strongly challenging how we deliver every Council service. This has enabled us to find the majority of existing savings by proposing to reduce senior management, designing new and innovative service delivery models, evaluating contracts and agreeing to significantly change the size and structure of the authority's workforce. Had these potential savings not been identified, the Council would have had no choice but to make even deeper cuts to vital frontline services. Instead, we have protected as much as possible the front line services residents rely on, by agreeing major changes to how we operate and as an organisation, are now undergoing the biggest transformation in our history.

We have already identified around £14 million of efficiency savings for next year that limit the impact on frontline services, and we are reducing our senior management costs by a further £1.5 million. The Leader of the Council has also been clear that unless Government legislation changes, there will be **no increase in Council Tax** for Wirral residents. We now need the views of residents, community groups, partner organisations and staff on a number of proposals, which aim to achieve our remaining budget shortfall of £2.5 million.

Within this document, you will find an explanation of how the Council's budget is put together including where the money comes from, and where it is spent currently. You'll also see how we are approaching the budget this year; specifically how we are changing as an organisation and transforming services to save money.

The workforce and elected members of Wirral Council are public servants. We are here to serve the people of Wirral and that will not change. What must change is how we serve you. Meeting our duty as public servants means finding the best, most cost effective way of improving residents' quality of life.

We have made huge headway under increasing pressure from central government. A lot of time and effort has gone into limiting the impact on front line services but the scale of the cuts we are facing means that it is inevitable that some changes to services still have to be made.

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This document contains my options for how we might achieve the savings required of us. We have sought to find fair options that still help our budget position, while continuing to prioritise the poorest and most vulnerable residents.

I am asking everyone with an interest in the services that the Council provides, including residents, community groups, partners and staff, to consider these options and share your views so that they can be taken into account by councillors when they make their budget decisions later this year.

I also ask you to understand that we have absolutely no choice but to implement some of these savings; to refuse to do so would result in an illegal budget and would put vital services at risk of closure.

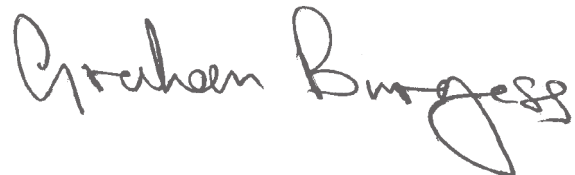
Public feedback has made a genuine difference to the decisions taken in previous years so it is important that you share your views on the proposals. Please visit

[www.wirral.gov.uk/futurecouncil](http://www.wirral.gov.uk/futurecouncil) or any One Stop Shop or library to complete the online survey. The consultation closes on 31st October, when all feedback will be collated into a report for councillors to consider in November.

If anyone has any other ideas for savings that do not appear in this document then we would be happy to hear from you.

Thank you for your contribution.

**Graham Burgess,**  
Chief Executive.





# COUNCIL BUDGET EXPLAINED

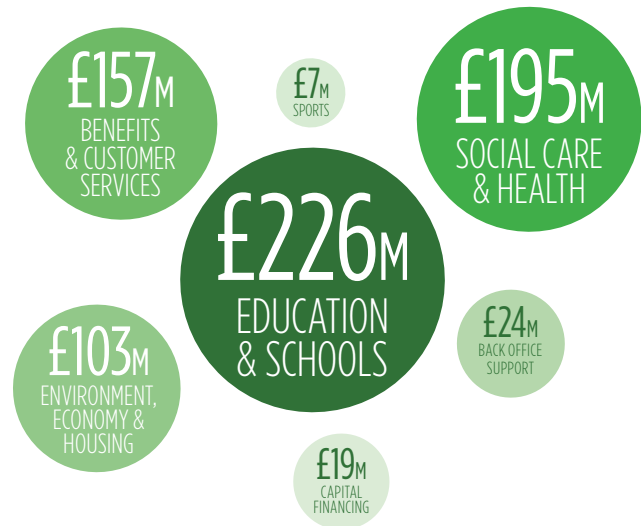
The Council has an extremely complicated budget, with funding coming in from a variety of different sources to deliver a wide range of different services and tasks. This document aims to explain where the money comes from, where it goes and why we need to make £18 million in savings this coming year.

## WHERE OUR MONEY COMES FROM

Many people think that income from Council Tax and Business Rates is used to fund local services. The reality is actually a lot more complex. As you'll see from the diagram - the vast majority of the money comes from the Government, in the form of 'Grants' (£370 million), which is money provided to Councils to provide services mainly for schools and housing, and a 'Settlement' (£128 million), which is divided up among all of the Councils in the country based on need and deprivation. Only 28%, £144 million, of the Council's funding comes from Council Tax and Business Rates. We also make £52 million in income from services and £19 million in 'reimbursements', which is where organisations like the NHS pay us for delivering services on their behalf.



## HOW OUR MONEY IS PLANNED TO BE SPENT:



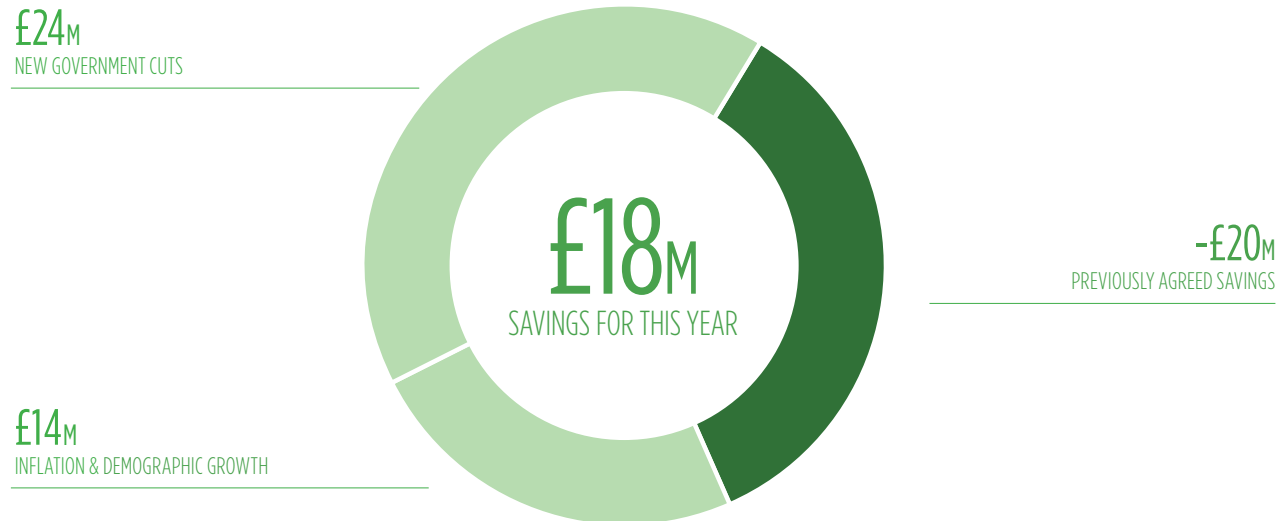
You will see from this diagram that most of this money is either spent on social care and health (£195 million) or on education and schools (£226 million). We also spend £103 million on services to protect and improve our environment, economy and housing, £7 million on sports and £157 million on benefits and customer services - including libraries, one stop shops and call centres.

We spend £19 million on 'capital financing', which are existing costs associated with financing buildings and other major infrastructure projects, and we spend £24 million on 'back office support', which are those services that you rarely see but are essential to keep the Council running - things like Human Resources, Information Technology and Finance. If you look at both diagrams, you will see that next year our current services plan to spend £18 million more than we receive. That trend continues the following year as well, meaning the total budget gap is £45 million over the next two years.

**If we continue to deliver services in the same way, next year, we will spend £18 million more than we receive. If that trend continues the following year, the Council will have a total budget shortfall of £45 million over the next two years. This is clearly unsustainable and will lead to major service cuts.**

# THE BUDGET GAP

## WHERE OUR BUDGET GAP HAS COME FROM:



**Next year, we are facing Government cuts of around £24 million. We must also provide support to an ageing population, which continues to increase, plus unavoidable inflation, which will cost an additional £14 million.** During last year, as part of the What Really Matters Consultation, we agreed savings of £20 million. This means that despite having already saved over £100 million, Wirral Council must still save an additional £18 million next year and a further £27 million the year after.

We have already been able to find savings of approximately £14 million by making changes to our workforce, getting the best value for contracts and proposing different and innovative ways of delivering services, added to the £1.5 million we are proposing to save through reducing our senior management. It illustrates how we have managed to find the majority of savings for 2015/16 reducing the impact on front line services.

The budget gap has therefore been reduced from £18 million to £2.5 million. The remaining £2.5 million now needs to be found by changing, reducing or charging for some Council services.

The Council's earmarked reserves are held for specific purposes, including ring-fenced schools' funds, insurance and for the requirements of remodelling the Council. These reserves are regularly reviewed to ensure they are at an appropriate level for the size and activities of the Council. The Council's current reserves are at an adequate, but not excessive, level. Even considering the significant progress which has been made towards reducing the budget gap for 2015/2016, attempting to use one off funding from reserves to address a recurring funding shortfall is irresponsible and short sighted, and only serves to delay dealing with the root financial problem.

**The Chief Executive has proposed budget options within this document which amount to around £4 million. £2.5 million of these options need to be agreed to contribute towards the £18 million in total savings which need to be agreed next year. This means that there is genuine choice as to where the savings can be made.**

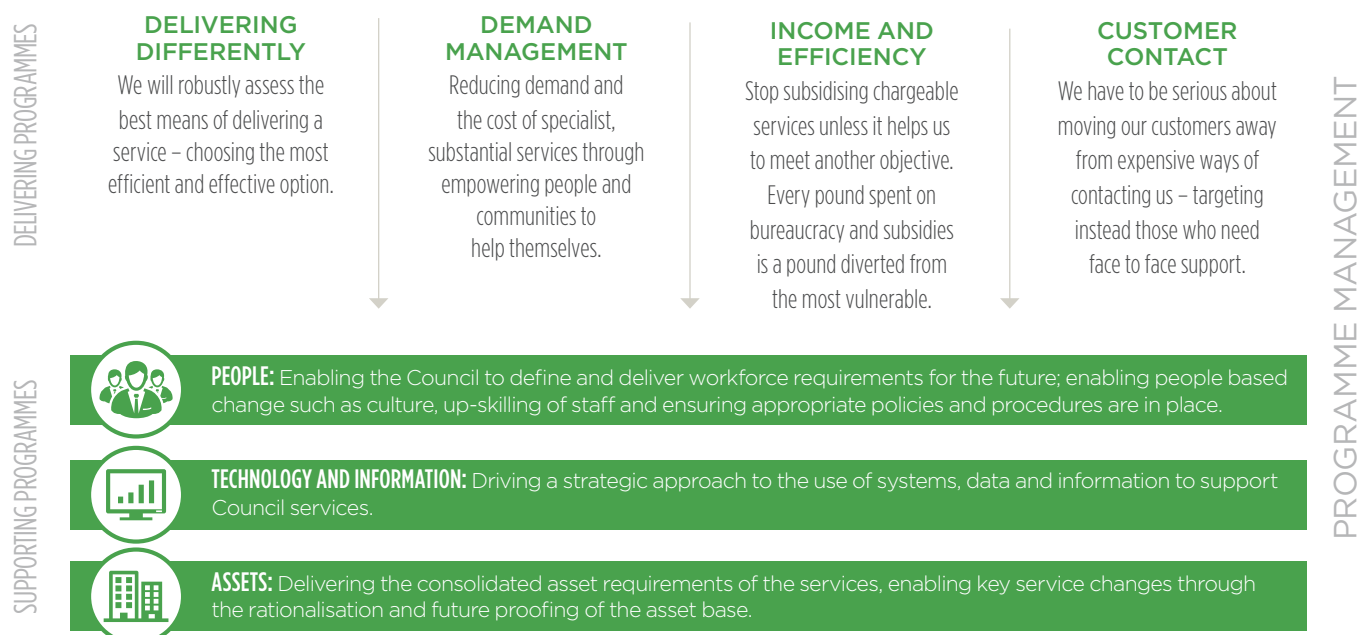
# WHAT IS THE FUTURE COUNCIL PROJECT?

**We have systematically and fundamentally challenged old ways of working – how services operate, what they cost and what they deliver.** We propose to entirely remodel and refocus our so called ‘back office’ and support services to reduce what they cost. We have also agreed to restructure every Council department to reduce our employee costs by almost £10 million, which is part of a decision (and a saving) agreed last year.

While the impact upon residents from these changes will be reduced, saving £10 million in employee costs means, in effect, around 300 Wirral Council jobs will be lost – hopefully mostly on a voluntary redundancy basis. Many more of the changes we are proposing over the next two years will see the organisation shrink even further, as we seek new and innovative ways to provide the same level of services with ever reducing financial support from central government.

**The Future Council project has given us the intelligence and data needed to progress a whole series of major changes and address the funding cuts we face without closing the vital services that residents of Wirral rely on.**

This document explains the initial results of the Future Council project and asks for your views on proposals covering four themes: During 2016/17, a greater level of savings than ever before will be achieved by transforming how the organisation operates. However, despite the majority of savings already having been identified without cutting services, the sheer scale of cuts to our funding mean that our Councillors will still need to make some difficult decisions about local services this year.



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The rest of this document explains the progress that has already been made to achieve savings through the Future Council project, what we will do over the next twelve months to save more money, and the longer term projects that will be implemented over the next two years to transform Council services. It also explains what areas, services and priorities we will continue to invest in – as it is important to remember that, even in a time of vastly reduced resources, Wirral Council still invests £250 million every year in services for residents. Finally, the document also explains the Chief Executive’s budget options that require your feedback, which involve changing, reducing or charging for some Council services.

**We ask you to consider both our long term plans and the shorter-term budget proposals put forward by the Chief Executive to address next year’s budget gap of £2.5 million.**

More details on each project and budget proposal are available on the Council’s website at [wirral.gov.uk/futurecouncil](http://wirral.gov.uk/futurecouncil) or by emailing [engage@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:engage@wirral.gov.uk).

# WHAT WE WILL CONTINUE TO INVEST IN

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**The Future Council project was established to help the Council meet its financial challenges, but it was also set up to make sure that, in making the cuts which are being forced upon us, we do not lose focus on what is most important and what the Council's priorities are.**

At the end of 2017, Wirral Council will still be in a position to invest around £250 million into services for Wirral residents every year. That is a significant amount of money, and means the Council can still have a real impact in improving residents' quality of life, local environment and future prospects.

The Council Leader has been clear about what the Council's priorities should be, and the Future Council project has ensured that investment and cuts have been targeted to support them. Even in a time of unprecedented financial pressure, we must continue to strive to achieve our goals and improve the lives of Wirral residents. The Council is also investing an additional £14 million into supporting key services, over half of which is towards social care. We are also investing in the future, with a further £5 million in capital works, including investment to improve the efficiency of street lights and car parks.

## PROTECT THE VULNERABLE

As part of the restructuring exercise, a decision was made to exclude a number of Council teams from this process where they had a direct impact on providing services to the most vulnerable – particularly within children's social care.

## TACKLE HEALTH INEQUALITIES

Due to our role in leading on the public health agenda for the borough, we are in the positive position of being able to continue to invest resources in improving the health and wellbeing of Wirral residents. We will continue to invest appropriately in all forms of social care, and drive forward work to further integrate our services with the NHS.

## DRIVE GROWTH IN OUR ECONOMY

We will continue to invest in driving growth in our economy, creating jobs and helping our businesses thrive. An exciting new development is planned for Birkenhead Town Centre, while Wirral Waters remains the UK's biggest regeneration project, with planning permission for a new Wirral Metropolitan College building on the site being approved recently. The number of people claiming Job Seekers' Allowance continues to fall, and we will continue to work hard, and invest, to ensure our economy fully recovers and Wirral residents have access to good jobs.

# WHAT HAS THE COUNCIL DONE TO SAVE MONEY?

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**The Council is organised into three strategic directorates. The following pages show how each has already made significant progress in identifying savings.**

## SENIOR MANAGEMENT

The Council Leader has been clear from the outset that, while we are being forced to make huge reductions in our spending due to Government cuts, those savings should be made in a fashion that, as much as possible, protects front line services to the most vulnerable. We have stuck to that principle, and attempted to ensure that the broadest shoulders bear the greatest burden.

To further mitigate the cuts our front line services will need to make, we are proposing to save an additional £1.5 million through reducing the number of senior managers in our workforce. This will be done in a targeted and strategic manner, to make sure that services suffer as little as possible.

## TRANSFORMATION AND RESOURCES

### Remodelling the Council

Substantial, unprecedented reductions across the Council's back office, support services are being proposed. This includes centralising into one unit administrative and process-based work to create a 'Transaction Centre'. This will deliver significant savings for next year and will enable us to deliver further savings through evaluating the most appropriate way to provide the services in the future.

Proposals for savings will also be made next year across our 'professional services', such as Internal Audit, Human Resources, Finance, Legal and others. Again, this will enable us to find significant savings from delivering these services in an entirely different way in the future. Our ability

to deliver what we need will be protected because of the approach we have taken, with centralised, targeted new functions focussed upon income and debt, governance and compliance, and commercialisation and change.

### Cutting Our Costs

Over £2 million in savings within this area will be found without significantly impacting on front line services. Making better use of our 'capital' programme, which is funding that we use to improve and maintain buildings, roads and other infrastructure, will ensure we can free up other resources to make savings. We are also implementing our asset strategy, investing in some buildings and disposing of others to make our use of offices more efficient and less costly.

This includes improvements to Wallasey and Birkenhead Town Halls to allow more staff to be based there, which will have helped to reduce the running costs associated with other office accommodation by around £400,000 by the end of this financial year. The sale of surplus office accommodation, such as Acre Lane in Bromborough and the Municipal Building in Birkenhead, will also generate significant capital receipts for the Council in future years.

We are squeezing every bit of value we can out of various contracts, including telephones, printers, postage and others to make further savings and removing our existing 'cashiers' service. Our One Stop Shops will no longer be able to accept cash payments, which are expensive to process and which we believe is no longer needed as more and more people move to paying for services using credit/debit cards or through our website.

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## REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT

### Remodelling the Council

This area has been extensively remodelled. The Future Council process has enabled us to propose major savings through combining functions such as Traffic and Transport with Highways. We are also proposing to redesign many of our other teams within this area – creating multi-functional services while achieving major savings.

### Cutting Our Costs

We are again making sure that every service which we contract out is as efficient as possible and provides the very best value for the Wirral pound. Income can also be generated through new-build housing, parking and street works, pre-planning advice and implementing small charges for replacement alley gate keys. We will also make savings through our Invest Wirral business support service by making minor reductions and changes to the operation.

The education landscape has changed dramatically during the past five years. Schools are becoming more and more independent from the Council and, in the case of academies, totally independent. This has forced us to redefine our relationship with schools. Currently, the Council provides certain services to schools on a commercial basis – where the school pays for the service we provide. Some of these services, such as grounds maintenance, are provided to schools at a price well below what that service actually costs. In keeping with our principle of only subsidising services that demonstrate wider benefits to Wirral people, we will seek to ensure that all services provided to schools and other organisations ‘break even’.

## FAMILIES AND WELLBEING

### Remodelling the Council

We are focussing on reducing the requirement on specialist, costly services through implementing new models of delivery to target those most at need and at risk, particularly across Children’s Services. Our targeted services are already an example of best practice, and we will scale up and embed what works – such as our approach to Troubled Families.

Following the Council Leader’s principle of protecting the most vulnerable, around £16 million of services within Children’s Services were protected, as well as other services which were either fully grant funded, funded through income or had a direct relationship with protecting the vulnerable.

### Cutting Our Costs

We will talk, on a one-to-one basis, to every adult receiving a ‘care package’ to make sure the support we provide is targeted to make them more independent, in both their abilities and their living situations. This work will be done sensitively and professionally – ensuring our care packages are appropriate, meet the person’s assessed needs and empower them to become as independent as possible.

Our Leisure Centres will continue on their drive to become more efficient, reducing the subsidy the Council provides to maintain them through implementing different working practices, pricing models and products.

# DELIVERING DIFFERENTLY

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## WHAT IT MEANS

**We will robustly assess the best means of delivering a service - choosing the most efficient and effective option.** This theme focuses on fundamentally changing the way the Council delivers services. The scale of the budget reductions we are facing means that, inevitably, we will commission more services than we provide in the future - either through private companies, the voluntary sector or through another type of arrangement, such as a shared service with another Council or public sector agency.

This does not mean we will 'outsource' services for the sake of it.

We will analyse, model and research the best, most appropriate and cost effective way of delivering every Council service in the future - using a fair, systematic and consistent approach.

To make this work, we will use our influence to make sure that all public services in the borough work together, acting as 'one team' to make sure we get the maximum value for public money. We will make sure money isn't being spent on similar things by different organisations when we can get better value through doing things together. We will also support partners and develop the skills and capacity within the community, voluntary, faith and private sectors so that the services we need to commission externally can be delivered to the standard that we need.

## OUR FUTURE PLANS

Throughout the organisation, we will continue to review every service area to assess and evaluate the best way of delivering that service in the future. We are in the process of implementing the biggest change, and reduction, in our back office services we have ever completed, which will bring a big impact on our workforce. We will go further in the future, and find a new, more cost effective and equally as efficient way of delivering all of our back office services, making sure as much public money as possible is invested directly into the front line.

All of our professional services, such as Internal Audit, Finance, HR and Legal, will be further reviewed and a project will be established to explore new ways of delivering those services for 2016-17, delivering significant savings. A similar approach will be taken to the 'Transaction Centre' which we are in the process of establishing.

On the ground, we will be investing in new technology to provide LED Street Lighting. Cheaper to operate, better for the environment and, crucially, brighter - this investment will see us make long term savings in this area without switching off, dimming or otherwise reducing the street lights on the borough's highways.



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## CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BUDGET PROPOSALS

### OPTION: WEST KIRBY MARINE LAKE

15/16	16/17	Total
£000s	£000s	£000s
25	0	25

This option would see us transferring the day to day operations of the site to another organisation - keeping the facility open but removing some of the financial burden to the Council.

### OPTION: ALL AGE DISABILITY SERVICE

15/16	16/17	Total
£000s	£000s	£000s
600	0	600

This option would involve a holistic review and redesign of the way we deliver services to disabled children and their families, including overnight short breaks at Willow Tree and the interface between children's and adults services. It would mean a redesign of how support is delivered, with greater integration with other service areas, in particular early help and adult social care.

Detailed consultation with children and families accessing services will take place before any changes.

### OPTION: YOUTH AND PLAY

15/16	16/17	Total
£000s	£000s	£000s
450	0	450

The Council has committed to making a major capital investment in a state of the art new Youth Zone, to be built in Birkenhead. This option would see the Council reduce the funding associated with the existing youth service while that facility is developed. Initially, this option would involve closing four satellite youth centres, and reviewing the location of the four remaining youth 'hubs', currently located in Birkenhead, West Kirby, Wallasey and Eastham. The option would also see the Council stop the funding associated with the current 'Play Scheme'.

# MANAGING DEMAND

## WHAT IT MEANS

We will reduce the demand and subsequently the cost of specialist, substantial services through empowering people and communities to help themselves. We will place a major emphasis in the future on working with people, and communities, to both improve their aspirations and achievements and also limit the resources needed for costly, specialist services. We will also focus on improving people's living situations, aspirations and general family life across a whole range of areas - reducing the demand on Council services, enabling the money saved to be better invested elsewhere.

This will involve a complete redesign of the way outcomes are achieved for children, young people and vulnerable adults in Wirral. The focus will be on increasing independence, and reducing demand on Council resources, as well as joining up our work with partners, such as the NHS - which will provide major savings but also a more integrated service for people receiving support.

## OUR FUTURE PLANS

We are in the process of reviewing our entire approach to delivering both children's and adults' social care - making sure we tackle potential problems early, before they require costly, specialist support services. We will place more emphasis, and resources, into services for early intervention and prevention - making sure people stay independent for longer and that specialist services are needed less. We will work particularly with our younger people to increase their independence through raising their aspirations and ambitions for the future.

We will also implement a full programme of behaviour change activity, targeted at problem issues in the borough which drain significant public resources sometimes unnecessarily. This will focus on reducing issues such as litter, dog fouling, criminal damage such as graffiti and other forms of vandalism such as fly tipping.

## CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BUDGET PROPOSALS

### OPTION: PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE

15/16	16/17	Total
£000s	£000s	£000s
570	0	570

The vast majority of the funding the Council uses to maintain highways comes in the form of grants from national government. Wirral is one of only a few Councils in the country to put extra, local money into this fund to carry out 'preventative' work, across both our highways and our parks. This option would see us removing this additional investment, and focussing our maintenance work where there is a safety implication.

### OPTION: SCHOOL CROSSING PATROLS

15/16	16/17	Total
£000s	£000s	£000s
90	65	155

Last year, the Council worked alongside all schools in the borough in an effort to share the costs of providing school crossing patrols. Unfortunately, only a few schools agreed to pay towards their costs. Therefore, this option would mean we review the school crossing patrols which are currently at 47 sites across the borough where there is already a pedestrian, pelican or puffin crossing in place. Initial estimates are that out of the 47 sites, a total of 41 school crossing patrols would be removed. We believe that, due to the crossing facilities which are in place 24 hours a day, the demand and requirement for a school crossing patrol is greatly reduced. Before this option is implemented, a full risk assessment will be completed on every crossing site.

# INCOME AND EFFICIENCY

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## WHAT IT MEANS

We will not subsidise chargeable services unless it helps us to meet another objective. Every pound spent on bureaucracy and subsidies is a pound diverted from frontline services. The work in this theme will make sure the Council is efficient when it comes to charging and collecting income for services; it will focus on improving and streamlining the way in which we operate and collect funding and bring a commercial approach to the Council's business where it is appropriate.

Many of our services are also chargeable – both in terms of residents paying for them but also other organisations such as schools, housing associations and other partner agencies. We will focus on making sure those charges are appropriate and, importantly, cover what the service costs us to deliver.

## OUR FUTURE PLANS

We will, over the course of the next year, place a much bigger emphasis on how we buy services and goods, how we collect income and how we charge for certain services. We will become, in the appropriate areas, a much more commercial organisation. Our procurement and change teams are being combined into one unit with a specific remit to focus on driving down costs on contracts, making the Council operate more efficiently, reducing duplication and streamlining processes.

We also operate a series of 'service level agreements', where we provide services to other agencies for a cost. We will review all of these agreements and make sure what we are charging is appropriate, and covers what the service is costing the Wirral taxpayer. Our enforcement teams will focus on community issues such as fly tipping, litter, dog fouling and graffiti.

We are not proposing to close any Leisure Centres. We believe that by modernising them, targeting marketing and promotion, and changing working practices we can drive up income to a level where we can keep our centres open, either managed by the Council or through another arrangement. We also believe we can generate more income through selling advertising space to businesses on Council land and other sites.

## CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BUDGET PROPOSALS

### OPTION: COUNCIL TAX OVER 70S DISCOUNT

15/16	16/17	Total
£000s	£000s	£000s
600	0	600

Wirral Council is the only Council in the UK which offers households a discount on their Council Tax based purely on their age and the Council Tax band of their home. The discount is not means tested, people receive it regardless of their personal financial circumstances, and our residents with the lowest income already receive Council Tax Support and therefore either pay no, or only a proportion of, Council Tax. We therefore propose this option, which would remove that discount for all current recipients to achieve a saving of £600,000.

### OPTION: COMMEMORATIONS, REGISTRATIONS AND MEMORIALS

15/16	16/17	Total
£000s	£000s	£000s
100	100	200

It is proposed to merge the current births, deaths and marriages registrar team with the crematorium and burials registrar team, co-locating the merged team within one office. It is also proposed to raise burials and cremation fees to closer match those of neighbouring authorities, while not affecting our ability to offer a competitively priced service.

### OPTION: CHARGING FOR ALLOTMENTS, BOWLING GREENS AND FOOTBALL PITCHES

15/16	16/17	Total
£000s	£000s	£000s
35	0	35

This option proposes that the charges associated with using Council allotments, bowling greens and football pitches are raised over the next two years, to ensure the income collected more closely covers the costs associated with providing maintenance. We will also pursue transferring the management and ownership of Bowling Green sites to the bowling clubs themselves.

### OPTION: CAR PARKING - COUNTRYSIDE PARKS

15/16	16/17	Total
£000s	£000s	£000s
50	15	65

This option would introduce pay and display parking charges into the Parks and Countryside car parks at Arrowe Country Park, Eastham Country Park, Wirral Country Park and Royden Country Park. The option will generate income, but requires some investment in providing cash payment ticket machines. The income generated will assist in continuing the maintenance of the park.

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#### OPTION: CAR PARKING - FORT PERCH ROCK

15/16	16/17	Total
£000s	£000s	£000s
25	10	35

This option would introduce pay and display parking charges into the Fort Perch Rock car park at New Brighton, where there are presently no charges. The option will generate income from a well utilised car park and requires some investment in providing cash payment ticket machines. There are currently traffic problems developing around the successful New Brighton redevelopment, which it is thought would be eased through this approach – before implementing this option the Council would work closely with all businesses involved.

#### OPTION: LITTER AND DOG FOULING ENFORCEMENT

15/16	16/17	Total
£000s	£000s	£000s
70	0	70

Littering and dog fouling offences can impact adversely on the local environmental quality of Wirral. The Council has saved £1 million per year by targeting our street cleansing resources more efficiently. Many community groups have also risen to the challenge and play a significant role in keeping our borough clean and tidy. However, unfortunately, there are a minority of people that persist in discarding their rubbish irresponsibly. The Council proposes to launch a joint dog fouling and litter patrol team to target such offenders. A more generic team will maximise the limited resources available to tackle these problems.

#### OPTION: COLD CALLING ZONES

15/16	16/17	Total
£000s	£000s	£000s
80	60	140

This option proposes that we implement a small charge of £10 per household where a community wishes to implement a 'No Cold Calling Zone' in their street or area. Residents within No Cold Calling Zones will benefit from rapid response to reported instances of 'cold caller' activity, a designated coordinator, link to 'Ringmaster' messaging and alerts, advice and other services.

#### OPTION: PEST CONTROL

15/16	16/17	Total
£000s	£000s	£000s
65	0	65

This option proposes, alongside some staffing changes, a 10% increase in charges for all domestic and commercial services provided by Environmental Health, and the introduction of a charge for the element of the Pest Control service related to rats and cockroaches.

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#### OPTION: PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

15/16	16/17	Total
£000s	£000s	£000s
140	0	140

The Council manages ten public convenience facilities which are located mainly in retail and coastal areas across the borough. The provision of public conveniences is not a statutory function and there is no legal obligation on Wirral Council to provide this service. This budget option would be to seek out community organisations that may wish to take on the full delivery, maintenance and operational costs of running the facilities in their area. If no suitable organisations could be identified then it is recommended that the facilities be permanently closed.

#### OPTION: ROADSIDE GRIT BINS

15/16	16/17	Total
£000s	£000s	£000s
55	0	55

The Council installed 100 roadside grit bins, which were strategically located throughout the borough – to help residents living on hills, and other areas where ice and snow caused more dangerous problems. Following the success of this programme, the Council agreed to install extra bins at residents' request, 198 in total. This option proposes that, while the winter maintenance and gritting routes would remain unaffected, the Council would no longer fill 198 roadside grit bins from the highway. Communities are welcome to continue filling the bins with salt themselves should they wish to. We will continue to provide precautionary salt spreading to the 10 priority routes, the clearance of ice and snow from these routes and major shopping areas and 100 grit bins which have been installed in accordance with the criteria for the statutory provision of grit bins.

#### OPTION: GIRTRELL COURT

15/16	16/17	Total
£000s	£000s	£000s
385	0	385

Girtrell Court is a 'short break', respite service for adults with disabilities. The service has 20 beds, of which 15 are 'respite' and 5 are designated as permanent. At the moment, 130 people are registered to access respite through Girtrell Court, and all use it for a certain number of weeks per year. This option would explore the possibility of using this facility more widely. This could potentially see Girtrell Court being invested in, and its capabilities expanded to enable the NHS to use the centre on a joint basis for patients who either do not need hospital care or who are being prepared for discharge following treatment. A full review of all the options available will be undertaken and will require full consultation with those people directly impacted by any proposed changes.

# CUSTOMER CONTACT

## WHAT IT MEANS

**We have to be serious about moving our customers away from expensive ways of contacting us – targeting those who need face to face support.** ‘Customer Contact’ means, basically, all of the different ways residents contact the Council or access services – either over the phone, online, through letters or emails or face to face at one of our hundreds of buildings. This work will conduct a thorough review of all those access channels, and make sure they are as cost effective and targeted as possible.

We will focus on moving as many services as possible entirely online – removing back office administrative costs, and making processes much easier for customers to complete. The Council also spends millions every year on various forms of information, advice and guidance – both directly providing it and also through contracts. We will again review all of this spend to make sure that we are getting the best value for money possible.

## OUR FUTURE PLANS

Wirral Council operates more libraries and One Stop Shops than any other borough in the region. We also have a fully integrated call centre, many buildings with reception desks, a website, social media channels and hundreds of phone numbers and email addresses which people use to access services and contact the Council.

Clearly, this is hugely expensive to maintain. Over the next twelve months we will implement a new customer access strategy – applying a strategic, whole-Council approach to how resources are invested in dealing with residents who contact us and access our services. This will completely remodel our approach to our call centre, how our website is used, our library

operations and our one stop shops. We will also, over the next few months, implement an appointments system at many one stop shops – making the services more efficient, less costly and hugely reducing waiting times for customers.

## CHIEF EXECUTIVE’S BUDGET PROPOSALS

### OPTION: COMMUNITY LIBRARIES

15/16	16/17	Total
£000s	£000s	£000s
411	0	411

We are one of the only Councils to not close any libraries. We believe this is the right decision as libraries play a hugely important role in any community. However, maintaining 24 libraries in their current form in a borough as small as Wirral is clearly not possible in the current financial climate. This option would see our community libraries, which are smaller and less well used, 15 in total, reduce their opening hours to an alternating 2 or 3 days per week, 10am-2pm. This option would NOT affect central libraries or libraries with One Stop Shop facilities included.

These hours would be implemented on an alternate basis – so that on any given day, at least one library in a constituency area would be open. This option brings the benefit of major savings, while at the same time keeping all 24 of Wirral’s libraries in operation. It also gives us the opportunity to actively seek community involvement to potentially increase the libraries opening times and use in the future – rather than closing the facilities permanently.

Analysis confirms customer demand across these sites currently peaks during 10am – 12pm and 2pm – 4 pm with a significant reduction in demand outside of these periods. It is anticipated that the removal of the lunchtime closure at these sites will encourage more uniform and focused usage across a proposed 4 hour day.

# HOW TO TAKE PART

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We want everyone to be able to take part in this consultation. The options are difficult, they are important, and we know they are tough choices. They have been put forward because other options would have a major impact on some of the most vital services that Wirral residents, particularly vulnerable people, rely upon. We have tried to make it as easy as possible for everyone to take part.

Over the next few weeks, we will be visiting hundreds of community organisations across Wirral to talk about the changes and options in more detail. You can find more information about the budget options in this document from our website, at [www.wirral.gov.uk/futurecouncil](http://www.wirral.gov.uk/futurecouncil). You can also call into any Council building and ask for copies.

If you would prefer an easy read version of this, or one of the other consultation documents, then they are also available online - or you can contact us via email at [engage@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:engage@wirral.gov.uk) or call into any Council building and we will be happy to send you a copy.

## WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

This consultation is open until 31st October 2014. After that point, Councillors from all of the Council's Policy and Performance committees will look at the results and provide their views.

The Council's Cabinet will then, on November 6th, consider the results of the consultation and make a recommendation on what budget proposals they think should be accepted, based on your feedback. This recommendation will then be debated and voted on by all Councillors when they meet to set the budget.

If you take part in the consultation, please remember to give us both your post code and your email address and we will keep in touch with you as decisions are made over the next few months.





**Chief Executive's Budget Proposal****OPTION: WEST KIRBY MARINE LAKE**

<b>2015/16</b>	<b>2016/17</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>£000s</b>	<b>£000s</b>	<b>£000s</b>
25	-	25

**SUMMARY OF OPTION**

Wirral Sailing Centre is based at West Kirby Marine Lake and offers water sports activities and courses to anyone aged 8 and over. Many sporting and recreational activities are provided at the site such as water sports like windsurfing, kayaking and powerboating.

This option would see us seeking to transfer the day to day operations of the site to another organisation – keeping the facility open but removing some of the financial burden to the Council.

**IMPACT ON RESIDENTS**

No immediate impact on residents. The service would continue to be provided from the centre, with a change in management the only difference.

**IMPACT ON PARTNERS**

No immediate impact on partner agencies.

**IMPACT ON COMMUNITY, VOLUNTARY AND FAITH SECTOR**

No wider impact on community, voluntary and faith sector organisations.

**Chief Executive's Budget Proposal****OPTION: Car Parking – Fort Perch Rock**

<b>2015/16</b>	<b>2016/17</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>£000s</b>	<b>£000s</b>	<b>£000s</b>
25	10	35

**SUMMARY OF OPTION**

This option would introduce pay and display parking charges into the Fort Perch Rock car park at New Brighton, where there are presently no charges. The option will generate income from a well utilised car park and requires some investment in providing cash payment ticket machines. There are currently traffic problems developing around the successful New Brighton redevelopment, which it is thought would be eased through this approach. Prior to implementing this option the Council would work closely with local businesses and traders.

Charging would allow the council to continue to offer public car parks into the future in a fair and sustainable manner, particularly given the financial strains on other areas.

**IMPACT ON RESIDENTS**

May lead to displaced parking into adjacent areas, and may have an adverse impact on visitor numbers and the local economy.

Disabled badge holders do not need to pay for parking as long as they display a valid disabled badge.

**IMPACT ON PARTNERS**

Prior to implementing this option the Council would work closely with local businesses and traders. Policy already exists for permits to be provided to traders for their employees, and these remove the inconvenience of using pay and display machines each day, and are provided at a small discount. Lead officers for regeneration programmes can brief business partners to this effect prior to the public consultation on budget options.

**IMPACT ON COMMUNITY, VOLUNTARY AND FAITH SECTOR**

No direct implications.

**Chief Executive's Budget Proposal****OPTION: Litter and Dog Fouling Enforcement**

<b>2015/16</b>	<b>2016/17</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>£000s</b>	<b>£000s</b>	<b>£000s</b>
70	-	70

**SUMMARY OF OPTION**

Littering and dog fouling offences can impact adversely on the local environmental quality of Wirral. The Council has saved £1 million per year by targeting our street cleansing resources more efficiently. Many community groups have also risen to the challenge and play a significant role in keeping our borough clean and tidy. However, unfortunately, there are a minority of people that persist in discarding their rubbish irresponsibly. The Council proposes to launch a joint dog fouling and litter patrol team to target such offenders. A more generic team will maximise the limited resources available to tackle these problems.

**IMPACT ON RESIDENTS**

The proposals are a service enhancement to current service levels. In addition, longer term impacts should include a reduction in littering and dog fouling, leading to increased environmental quality and less demands on cleansing resources.

**IMPACT ON PARTNERS**

Wirral Council is in the process of delegating powers to Police Community Support Officers for the issuing of littering Fixed Penalty Notices.

**IMPACT ON COMMUNITY, VOLUNTARY AND FAITH SECTOR**

The new team will need to engage effectively with those local community groups that support the Council in achieving these outcomes.

**Chief Executive’s Budget Proposal**

**OPTION: Cold Calling Zones**

<b>2015/16</b>	<b>2016/17</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>£000s</b>	<b>£000s</b>	<b>£000s</b>
80	60	140

**SUMMARY OF OPTION**

Tackling commercial crimes from both legitimate and illegitimate businesses conducted in people’s homes is a national priority. This type of crime can take many forms. It can be distraction burglary or bogus callers, illegal money lending, scams or other forms of fraudulent activity. Survey results show that 95.6% of households do not want doorstep cold callers with 20% of respondents reported having had problems following dealings with cold calling doorstep sellers.

This option proposes that we implement a small charge of £10 per household where a community wishes to implement a ‘No Cold Calling Zone’ in their street or area.

Residents within No Cold Calling Zones will benefit from a rapid response to reported instances of ‘cold caller’ activity. They will also benefit from a designated coordinator, link to ‘Ringmaster’ messaging and alerts, advice and guidance, a continuously updated directory of approved traders, street signage, window stickers, setup, maintenance and admin support.

**IMPACT ON RESIDENTS**

This option will impact on residents that wish to implement a ‘No Cold Calling Zone’ in their street or area.

**IMPACT ON PARTNERS**

No direct implications.

**IMPACT ON COMMUNITY, VOLUNTARY AND FAITH SECTOR**

No direct implications.

**Chief Executive's Budget Proposal**

**OPTION: Pest Control**

<b>2015/16</b>	<b>2016/17</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>£000s</b>	<b>£000s</b>	<b>£000s</b>
65	-	65

**SUMMARY OF OPTION**

This option proposes, alongside some staffing changes, a 10% increase in charges for all domestic and commercial services provided by Environmental Health, and the introduction of a charge for the element of the Pest Control service related to rats and cockroaches.

Under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949 the Local Authority has a duty to take such steps as may be necessary to secure so far as practicable that their district is kept free from rats and mice. The exact definition of this duty is not clear. However, Wirral introducing a charge for rats does align with a number of other Local Authorities. The proposed charge of £25 being introduced for rats offers value when compared to commercial charges by the larger private companies. However, a review of the information on the website would be undertaken to ensure the advice being provided is clear on what action can be taken to help prevent infestations by pests such as rats and mice.

The introduction of the charge for rats and the commercialisation of the service reduces the competitive impact of the Council on private pest control firms that operate within Wirral. There are a number of private businesses which operate in Wirral that offer pest control services and a number of well known DIY stores located in Wirral that sell a range of products that can be used to control the common pest which Wirral Council currently treat. If this budget option was approved the Call Centre staff would be trained to provide general advice on where to go to get advice on home treatments and what alternative private pest control companies operate in Wirral.

**IMPACT ON RESIDENTS**

The main implication for this budget option is the introduction of the charge for rats. With regard to the charge for rats: this charge is still being subsidised and the success of the commercial services will ensure that this subsidy is sustainable. Service users who are dissatisfied with the increased charges could choose to self treat or opt to use the wide range of commercial businesses, large and small, that offer pest control services in Wirral. As and

when in-house expert advice is required that cannot be provided by our existing officers, expertise would have to be sought externally through our network of contacts or bought in, as required.

Local businesses may benefit from the review of this service as the Local Authority will be competing on a more commercial basis with reduced subsidies.

#### **IMPACT ON PARTNERS**

No direct implications.

#### **IMPACT ON COMMUNITY, VOLUNTARY AND FAITH SECTOR**

No direct implications.

## **Chief Executive's Budget Proposal**

### **OPTION: Public Conveniences**

<b>2015/16</b>	<b>2016/17</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>£000s</b>	<b>£000s</b>	<b>£000s</b>
<b>140</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>140</b>

### **SUMMARY OF OPTION**

The Council manages ten public convenience facilities which are located mainly in retail and coastal areas across the borough. The provision of public conveniences is not a statutory function and there is no legal obligation on Wirral Council to provide this service.

This budget option would be to seek out community organisations that may wish to take on the full delivery, maintenance and operational costs of running the facilities in their area. If no suitable organisations could be identified then it is recommended that the facilities be permanently closed.

### **IMPACT ON RESIDENTS**

The public convenience facilities managed by the Council are located in retail and coastal areas which during the summer months in particular can be popular with shoppers and visitors, especially if the weather is good.

However, in some of the popular areas where these facilities are based there are potentially alternative toilet provisions in shops and Council buildings that members of the public could use. In areas where there are alternative toilet provisions, improved signage could be placed advising where the nearest alternative provisions exist.

The number of service users of these facilities is unknown as the facilities are cleaned by mobile attendants and no counting system is use. However, anecdotally the high use sites in popular coastal areas such as West Kirby and New Brighton are thought to be used by thousands of service users every year.

Although in some areas alternative provisions exist, in other locations there are no local alternative toilet provisions. In these areas visitors and potentially shoppers may be put off from visiting if the public conveniences were closed.



Local businesses may benefit from the withdrawal of these services as market forces may identify a chargeable service for toilets that can be offered to meet demand.

#### **IMPACT ON PARTNERS**

No direct implications.

#### **IMPACT ON COMMUNITY, VOLUNTARY AND FAITH SECTOR**

This budget option would provide the opportunity for community organisations to operate a facility around the times that more suit the needs of their local community. Currently the reduced resources associated with this service severely limit the opening times of the facilities.

**Chief Executive's Budget Proposal****OPTION: Roadside Grit Bins**

<b>2015/16</b>	<b>2016/17</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>£000s</b>	<b>£000s</b>	<b>£000s</b>
55	-	55

**SUMMARY OF OPTION**

The Council installed 100 roadside grit bins, which were strategically located throughout the borough – to help residents living on hills, and other areas where ice and snow caused more dangerous problems. Following the success of this programme, the Council agreed to install extra bins at residents' request, 198 in total. This option proposes that, while the winter maintenance and gritting routes would remain unaffected, the Council would no longer fill 198 roadside grit bins from the highway. Communities are welcome to continue filling the bins with salt themselves should they wish to.

We will continue to provide precautionary salt spreading to the 10 priority routes, the clearance of ice and snow from these routes and major shopping areas and 100 grit bins which have been installed in accordance with the criteria for the provision of grit bins.

**IMPACT ON RESIDENTS**

Grit bins are provided at 298 locations. Not having to fill 198 of the grit bins will ensure that resources used for that purpose are available for priority winter services and other highway maintenance activity. Users will need to take care on icy surfaces, and if they choose to, clear snow from the pavement near their homes, if not on a priority salting route.

**IMPACT ON PARTNERS**

No direct implications.

**IMPACT ON COMMUNITY, VOLUNTARY AND FAITH SECTOR**

It is possible that those community and voluntary services which support vulnerable residents may face increased demand if those residents choose not to go out themselves.

**Chief Executive's Budget Proposal****OPTION: Girtrell Court**

<b>2015/16</b>	<b>2016/17</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>£000s</b>	<b>£000s</b>	<b>£000s</b>
385	-	385

**SUMMARY OF OPTION**

Girtrell Court is a 'short break', respite service for adults with disabilities. The service has 20 beds, of which 15 are 'respite' and 5 are designated as permanent. At the moment, 130 people are registered to access respite through Girtrell Court, and all use it for a certain number of weeks per year.

This option would explore the possibility of using this facility more widely, this could potentially see Girtrell Court being invested in, and its capabilities expanded to enable the NHS to use the centre on a joint basis for patients who either do not need hospital care or who are being prepared for discharge following treatment. A full review of all the options available will be undertaken and will require full consultation with those people directly impacted by any proposed changes.

**IMPACT ON RESIDENTS**

This option could improve the facilities at Girtrell Court and expand the level of care and support which is currently available at the site. Change is always difficult for people and their families, therefore there may be some resistance to change and if an integrated model is actioned there may be a requirement for some people to access respite within a different community setting.

**IMPACT ON PARTNERS**

This option would bring benefits to the NHS in particular, who have indicated they would welcome the opportunity to commission the support they require from an improved facility at Girtrell Court.

**IMPACT ON COMMUNITY, VOLUNTARY AND FAITH SECTOR**

No direct implications.

**Chief Executive's Budget Proposal****OPTION: Community Libraries**

<b>2015/16</b>	<b>2016/17</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>£000s</b>	<b>£000s</b>	<b>£000s</b>
<b>411</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>411</b>

**SUMMARY OF OPTION**

We are the one of the only Councils to not close any libraries. We believe this is the right decision as libraries play a hugely important role in any community. However, maintaining 24 libraries in their current form in a borough as small as Wirral is clearly not possible in the current financial climate. This option would see our community libraries, which are smaller and less well used, 15 in total, reduce their opening hours to an alternating 2/3 days per week, 10am-2pm. This option would NOT affect central libraries or libraries with one stop shop facilities included.

These hours would be implemented on an alternate basis – so that on any given day, at least one library in a constituency area would be open. This option brings the benefit of major savings, while at the same time keeping all 24 of Wirral's libraries in operation. It also gives us the opportunity to actively seek community involvement to potentially increase the libraries opening times and use in the future – rather than closing the facilities permanently.

Analysis confirms customer demand across these sites currently peaks during 10am – 12pm and 2pm – 4 pm with a significant reduction in demand outside of these periods. It is anticipated that the removal of the lunchtime closure at these sites will encourage more uniform and focused usage across a proposed 4 hour day.

**IMPACT ON RESIDENTS**

Wirral libraries have approximately 52,000 active borrowers (average for local population) and process approximately 1,500,000 customer transactions (above average) per year. Other services such as public access IT facilities are also well-used (approximately 215,000 user hours per year), especially in comparison with other regional/national authorities.

Reducing available opening hours/closing community libraries will obviously restrict this provision though access is still available from central libraries (Birkenhead, Wallasey, West Kirby and Bebington) and merged sites (Eastham, Heswall, Moreton and Rock Ferry). Alternative access via the web; call centre or home reader is unaffected by these proposals.

Analysis confirms the current opening hours/number of sites is over-comprehensive when compared to actual demand (and regional/national comparator authorities) and that the trend over the last 5 years is for a reducing number of physical library visits.

### **IMPACT ON PARTNERS**

There are no significant implications as partners could potentially utilise the buildings outside of proposed opening hours.

### **IMPACT ON COMMUNITY, VOLUNTARY AND FAITH SECTOR**

Voluntary and Community groups often use libraries as a venue for surgeries and meetings. Alternative times or venues would need to be explored for some of these sessions or self access could be arranged outside of proposed opening hours.

The voluntary sector has previously shown an interest in supporting library provision on Wirral (e.g. Reader organisation) and may present new offers as a result of the budget options being presented.

As mentioned individual community groups may also offer support.

**Chief Executive's Budget Proposal****OPTION: ALL AGE DISABILITY SERVICE**

<b>2015/16</b>	<b>2016/17</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>£000s</b>	<b>£000s</b>	<b>£000s</b>
600	-	600

This option would involve a holistic review and redesign of the way we deliver services to disabled children and their families, including overnight short breaks at Willow Tree and the interface between children's and adults services. It would mean a redesign of how support is delivered, with greater integration with other service areas, in particular early help and adult social care.

Detailed consultation with children and families accessing services will take place before any changes.

**IMPACT ON RESIDENTS**

Willow Tree is currently accessed by around 58 children and young people. This is a valuable yet high cost intervention and there could be opportunities to deliver the service more efficiently. The priority will be ensuring minimal impact on families.

The Children with Disabilities Team works with around 230 children and young people. Around 1/4 of these children are open to Social Care but do not have a Social Worker.

It is recognised that the majority of parents of disabled children do not want social work intervention; instead they want high quality, reliable consistent support to help them as a family. They also want a smooth transfer into adult services when appropriate. Therefore the benefit of these proposals is that families would receive help and support via an early help approach, and a graduated response to need wherever possible. They could also benefit from an integrated approach between children's and adult services.

The service has a total budget of £5.5 million. Benchmarking Data for this area indicates that Wirral's spend is £35 per chid (aged 0 – 17) and this compares with a Statistical Neighbour average of £17 in 2013-14.

A different approach to helping disabled children and their families could deliver longer-term efficiencies. An early help approach would put the emphasis on helping families in a preventative way, making social work intervention a last resort.

## **IMPACT ON PARTNERS**

The Council has a duty to provide a range of short breaks to disabled children and their families. Whilst the Council is legally responsible it may choose to commission services to partner agencies and/or voluntary organisations as is currently the case.

## **IMPACT ON COMMUNITY, VOLUNTARY AND FAITH SECTOR**

No direct implications, other than the potential for services for children with disabilities being commissioned from the sector in the future.

# **FUTURE COUNCIL**

## **Chief Executive's Budget Proposal**

### **OPTION: Youth and Play**

<b>2015/16</b>	<b>2016/17</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>£000s</b>	<b>£000s</b>	<b>£000s</b>
450	-	450

### **SUMMARY OF OPTION**

The Council has committed to making a major capital investment in a state of the art new Youth Zone, to be built in Birkenhead. This option would see the Council reduce the funding associated with the existing youth service while that facility is developed.

The Youth Service currently costs the Council £2.38 million, and this option proposes a saving of £450,000; around a 19% reduction.

Initially, this option would involve closing four satellite youth centres. The Council will continue to deliver provision within the four larger youth 'hubs' (currently located in Birkenhead, West Kirby, Wallasey and Eastham), however, this will reduce from five to four evenings per week.

The option would also see the Council stop the funding associated with the three current 'Play Schemes', Wirral Play Council, the Civic Award Scheme and the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

There is a potential for voluntary, community and faith sector organisations to provide services which would replace the proposed reduction in Council service. There could also be funding made available through constituency committees to support youth work, particularly outreach work in areas of high risk, throughout their communities.

### **IMPACT ON RESIDENTS**

In 2013/14 approx 8,000 individual children and young people aged 6-19 years, used the service, a majority of who are targeted within areas of high socio-economic deprivation. 88% of young people using the provision are from the 20% most deprived districts in Wirral.

The service responds to local need through experienced, specialist, professional staff and benefits from responding to and contributing to regional and national agendas. Key to its sustainability is how it builds social capital and ensures young people contribute as respected and respectable citizens within



their own communities, the workplace, education and within the youth community.

## **IMPACT ON PARTNERS**

To enable the strategic co-ordination of Youth and Play work activities and facilities across Wirral and to avoid duplication, the service currently works closely with a variety of partner agencies including Public Health, Merseyside Police, Wirral Brook and Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service.

The Youth Support Service has aligned provision across the four constituencies and works with partners to plan and meet the needs of young people by identifying gaps, sharing resources and good practice and ensuring that activities and facilities are co-ordinated and any duplication is avoided. Youth Outreach Teams target hot spot areas for youths causing disruption.

Withdrawal and/or reduction of Youth and Play services would reduce its ability to do this which will impact on the contribution the Service makes to partners' targets (e.g. teenage conception rates, substance misuse, youth crime, anti-social behaviour). This could result in partners not realising national and local performance indicators.

## **IMPACT ON COMMUNITY, VOLUNTARY AND FAITH SECTOR**

The Youth Support Section has aligned provision across the four constituencies and its managers work closely with other community, voluntary and faith sector youth providers in each constituency. Through these close links, partnership work ensures joint planning to meet the needs of young people, identification of gaps in provision, sharing resources and good practice and ensures that activities and facilities are co-ordinated and duplication is avoided.

If this option was accepted, funding would be made available for local constituency committees to commission their own youth outreach work in their local communities to mitigate the reduction of services provided directly by the Council.

**Chief Executive's Budget Proposal****OPTION: Preventative Maintenance (Parks and Highways)**

<b>2015/16</b>	<b>2016/17</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>£000s</b>	<b>£000s</b>	<b>£000s</b>
570	-	570

**SUMMARY OF OPTION**

The vast majority of the funding the Council uses to maintain highways comes in the form of grants from national government. Wirral is one of only a few Councils in the country to put extra, local money into this fund to carry out 'preventative' work, across both our highways and our parks. This option would see us removing this additional investment, and focussing our maintenance work where there is a safety implication.

If non-essential maintenance is a priority for the community, then Constituency Committee budget priorities might include serviceability maintenance of highway and coastal infrastructure. Increasing volunteer involvement in the maintenance of infrastructure, subject to safe systems of work, might allow continued maintenance of the appearance of street furniture, for example, through painting of railings or restoration of highway seats.

Repairs to damage caused by vehicle collisions or vandalism represent a significant part of the maintenance budget. Recovery of that expenditure needs to be improved and a campaign for the support of the public in identifying those causing the damage might lead to increased recovery of the costs, resulting in greater funding being available for other maintenance or further savings.

The service needs to continue to build on the good work in managing the highway network, through continued improvement in its asset management approach to optimising maintenance choices and techniques. This will provide confidence that decisions are making the best use of resources, and help the Council to demonstrate that it is efficient in its use of capital funding provided by government, thereby attracting greater capital funding, since it is expected that funding levels from government capital will be determined by the Council's ability to prove it is applying best practice and making sustainable efficiencies. It is important that capital funding is available to carry out preventative maintenance to support the reduction in reliance on revenue budget funding.

## **IMPACT ON RESIDENTS**

The maintenance of highways is a statutory duty for the Council as local highway authority and in exercising permissive powers to provide and maintain coastal defences; the Council is governed by statute. Highway Maintenance is a universal service - the highways are used by every resident, business and visitor, either directly as a pedestrian, cyclist, passenger or driver, or indirectly by relying on delivery services, waste collection, home care and the like.

## **IMPACT ON PARTNERS**

The Council has objectives to increase growth in the borough's economy. The deterioration in the condition and appearance of highways may lead to a loss of confidence in the transport infrastructure and the local environment; reducing investment in jobs in Wirral.

All services provided by the Council and other agencies rely on the highway network to carry out their work, and could be affected by declining network conditions.

The Council's highway services contractor will experience an approximate 20% reduction in revenue funded routine and preventative maintenance ordered through the contract. This will potentially result in job losses in the contractor's local workforce.

## **IMPACT ON COMMUNITY, VOLUNTARY AND FAITH SECTOR**

No direct implications in relation to Highways Maintenance, however Park Friends Groups would be concerned by this reduction as demand for preventative maintenance works is significant across the borough's parks and countryside sites, however given the difficult financial situation facing the council it may be unavoidable.

**Chief Executive's Budget Proposal****OPTION: School Crossing Patrols**

<b>2015/16</b>	<b>2016/17</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>£000s</b>	<b>£000s</b>	<b>£000s</b>
90	65	155

**SUMMARY OF OPTION**

Last year, the Council worked alongside all schools in the borough in an effort to share the costs of providing school crossing patrols. Unfortunately, only a few schools agreed to pay towards their costs. Therefore, this option would review the school crossing patrols which are currently at 47 sites across the borough where there is already a pedestrian, pelican or puffin crossing in place. Initial estimates that out of the 47 sites, a total of 41 school crossing patrols would be removed. We believe that, due to the crossing facilities which are in place 24 hours a day, the demand and requirement for a school crossing patrol is greatly reduced. Before this option is implemented, a full risk assessment will be completed on every crossing site.

**IMPACT ON RESIDENTS**

Surveys conducted in 2012 and 2013 indicate that school crossing patrols assist more than 20,000 people daily at all sites across the Borough. Over 11,000 people use SCP sites at light controlled crossing points daily. Additional road safety education and training will be undertaken on the use of light controlled crossings in schools to mitigate the removal of any crossing patrol. Where patrols are to be removed, schools may wish to continue the service by paying for the provision of the patrol at that site. Contact will be made with schools prior to removal of patrols.

**IMPACT ON PARTNERS**

There may be an impact on schools. Whilst there is no direct impact on partners, any increase in road casualties is likely to have some implications for the emergency services and NHS.

**IMPACT ON COMMUNITY, VOLUNTARY AND FAITH SECTOR**

No direct implications for partners.

**Chief Executive's Budget Proposal****OPTION: Council Tax Over 70s Discount**

<b>2015/16</b>	<b>2016/17</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>£000s</b>	<b>£000s</b>	<b>£000s</b>
600	-	600

**SUMMARY OF OPTION**

Wirral Council is the only Council in the UK which offers households a discount on their Council Tax based purely on their age and the Council Tax band of their home. The discount is not means tested, people receive it regardless of their personal financial circumstances, and our residents with the lowest income already receive Council Tax Support and therefore either pay no, or only a proportion of, Council Tax. We therefore propose this option, which would remove that discount for all current recipients to achieve a saving of £600,000.

Wirral has over 15,500 over 70's households with low incomes that receive Full Council Tax Support as a protected vulnerable group. These households will be unaffected by this proposal.

**IMPACT ON RESIDENTS**

There is the potential that amongst the 11,700 current recipients of partial Council Tax Support that some households losing the discount could fall into financial hardship.

**IMPACT ON PARTNERS**

No direct impact on partners.

**IMPACT ON COMMUNITY, VOLUNTARY AND FAITH SECTOR**

No direct implications on community, voluntary and faith sector organisations.

**Chief Executive's Budget Proposal****OPTION: Commemorations, Registrations and Memorials**

<b>2015/16</b>	<b>2016/17</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>£000s</b>	<b>£000s</b>	<b>£000s</b>
100	100	200

**SUMMARY OF OPTION**

It is proposed to merge the current births, deaths and marriages registrar team with the crematorium and burials registrar team, co-locating the merged team within one office. It is also proposed to raise burials and cremation fees to closer match those of neighbouring authorities, while not affecting our ability to offer a competitively priced service.

**IMPACT ON RESIDENTS**

Initially, there may be some confusion caused by the co-location and merging of the two teams but this can be mitigated through effective and timely promotional material on the web and in key locations.

**IMPACT ON PARTNERS**

By co-locating the teams, partner organisations will only need to contact one office.

**IMPACT ON COMMUNITY, VOLUNTARY AND FAITH SECTOR**

As above.

**Chief Executive's Budget Proposal****OPTION: Charging for Allotments, Bowling Greens and Football Pitches**

<b>2015/16</b>	<b>2016/17</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>£000s</b>	<b>£000s</b>	<b>£000s</b>
35	-	35

**SUMMARY OF OPTION**

The Council provides major subsidies for the maintenance and other running costs associated with football pitches, allotments and bowling greens across the borough. This option proposes that the Council implements an appropriate and reasonable price increase for people using these facilities so that, while not making the service break even, the subsidy required from the Council does reduce.

**Football Pitches;** 376 teams play on the 130 Council owned football pitches. The current price for a Type A Grade pitch, including changing and shower facilities, is £499 per year. This option would increase that charge by 10% to £549 per year.

**Bowling Greens;** 57 bowling clubs play on Council owned greens. This option would increase the annual charge for 'half share' from £1200 to £1440. The Council would still continue to subsidise this service by 85%. We will also work with bowling clubs to explore the possibility of transferring ownership and management of the greens from the Council to the clubs themselves.

**Allotments;** Fees for allotments are charged per plot. This option would increase the charge currently in place from £35.70 per year, to £52 per plot (or £1 per week).

**IMPACT ON RESIDENTS****Football Pitches:**

If this option is implemented, in the short term the fees they pay for this positive activity will increase and this may lead to a decrease in the number of teams playing or in young people and other people without much disposable income no longer being able to play, unless their teams or leagues can find ways to subsidise the memberships of these people. In the medium to longer term, additional funding may become available for clubs or leagues as a result of the adoption of the sports pitch strategy, enabling pitches to be rationalised and improved. If this does happen, the impact on other park users and landscape appeal of the parks affected will also need to be taken into account.

### **Bowling Clubs:**

Some service users (bowlers or parks users) would need to take on legal, financial, promotional and maintenance responsibilities. This could become a strain on the users and their families, especially over time, as those who take on the responsibilities become advanced in years. For success to continue into future years, advice to groups and clubs on succession planning for committee members will be required.

### **Allotments:**

If this option is implemented, the fees people pay for this positive activity will increase and this may lead to a decrease in the number of people requesting or maintaining allotments.

## **IMPACT ON PARTNERS**

### **Football Pitches:**

Sport England and the FA have welcomed the borough's decision to appoint consultants to carry out the work required to create the playing pitch strategy to meet Sport England's requirements. However, the Tranmere Rovers project is seen as a more pressing priority and has already led to a delay in the steering group meeting process, which has to be in place to meet Sport England's quality requirements. The proposed increase in football pitch letting charges might place pressure on Sport England to see the playing pitch steering group process as a more pressing priority for their attendance than appears to be the case at present.

### **Bowling Clubs:**

Through this potential asset transfer, the continuation of a vibrant bowling community across the borough will be possible. Elderly and mature members of the population will continue to be able to take part in this healthy physical activity and participants will not be at risk of social isolation. This will help avoid increasing the workload of GPs and the NHS.

### **Allotments:**

No direct partner implications. However, continuing a subsidised service, albeit with increased prices, allows people to continue to grow their own produce which positively contributes towards the developing food plan for the borough.

## **IMPACT ON COMMUNITY, VOLUNTARY AND FAITH SECTOR**

### **Football Pitches:**



In the medium to long term it might be that less parks have football pitches, if the playing pitch strategy recommends a move to fewer sites with higher investment in facilities, but in the short to medium term the proposal would lead to Wirral's amateur football clubs and amateur leagues needing to take on more of the work required to run and maintain football pitches and pavilions in the borough's parks. A positive implication is that clubs and leagues would be able to take charge of decisions as to whether to carry on playing in poor conditions, rather than feeling frustrated by the council making decisions as to whether games will have to be cancelled due to wet conditions damaging playing surfaces.

#### **Bowling Clubs:**

Clubs may wish to ask for advice from existing voluntary organisations on constitutional or funding issues. Parks Friends groups and Bowls clubs would be taking on additional responsibilities along with opportunities for income generation (use of pavilions for selling teas/ices etc.)

#### **Allotments:**

There would only be an impact where a community or voluntary sector group has taken on an allotment.

**Chief Executive's Budget Proposal****OPTION: Car Parking – Countryside Parks**

<b>2015/16</b>	<b>2016/17</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>£000s</b>	<b>£000s</b>	<b>£000s</b>
50	15	65

**SUMMARY OF OPTION**

This option would introduce pay and display parking charges into the Parks and Countryside car parks at Arrowe Country Park, Eastham Country Park, Wirral Country Park and Royden Country Park. The option will generate income, but requires some investment in providing cash payment ticket machines. The income generated will assist in continuing the maintenance of the park.

Charging would allow the council to continue to offer public car parks into the future in a fair and sustainable manner, particularly given the financial strains on other areas. Charges are already in place in many other Council-provided car parks in other communities, particularly where there is a significant demand for parking.

The hours when charges would apply are to be determined on a site by site basis, taking into account local factors, but are likely to start from 10am. Income from Parks car parks (after deduction of costs of collection) will be ringfenced for use on projects in the country park where the charge applies.

It might be possible to provide discounted parking for volunteers and other regular users of the parks, including consideration for such provision across multiple sites.

**IMPACT ON RESIDENTS**

May lead to displaced parking into adjacent areas, and may have an adverse impact on visitor numbers and the local economy.

Friends and volunteer groups who use the parks regularly will be subject to the proposed parking charges, and this may impact on the numbers of people becoming volunteers or joining Friends groups at these parks.

Disabled badge holders do not need to pay for parking as long as they display a valid disabled badge.

## **IMPACT ON PARTNERS**

No direct implications.

## **IMPACT ON COMMUNITY, VOLUNTARY AND FAITH SECTOR**

Friends and volunteer groups who use the parks regularly will be subject to the proposed parking charges, and this may impact on the numbers of people becoming volunteers or joining Friends groups at these parks.



Current Grit Bin Locations

<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>To be considered for removal</b>
<b>WEST WIRRAL</b>	
<b>CALDY</b>	
Caldy Rd/Melloncroft Dr	
Kings Dr/Hairpin bend, Cald	
Kings Dr.Thorsway	
Caldy Rd/Kings Dr	
Barton Hey Drive / Mill Hey Road	X
<b>WEST KIRBY</b>	
Burlingham Ave/Croome Dr	
Beacon Drive/Ennisdale Drive	X
Beacon Dr/Kings Walk	
Monks way/Priory Rd	X
The Kirklands/Village Rd	X
Gilroy Rd/Greenbank Road	X
Lang Lane/Jubilee Dr	X
Bridge Rd/Darmonds Green	
Banks Rd/Dee Lane	X
Shrewsbury Rd/Banks Rd	X
Grange Rd/Darmonds Green	
Jct Carpenters Lane / Church Road	X
China Farm Lane / Grange Farm Crescent	X
Mount rd/Stonehey Dr	
Long Lane - s/o l/c 24	X
York Avenue / Sandy Lane	X
Jct Carpenters Lane / Church Road	X
Mount Rd/Caldy Rd	X
Grammer School Lane/Column Road	X
<b>HOYLAKE</b>	
Kings gap/Kings Court	X
Market st nr rab	X
Market st o/s co-op	X
North Parade, new lifeboat stn	
Alderley Rd nr North Parade	X
Birkenhead Rd/Cottage hospital	
Shaws Dr/Birkenhead Rd	
Stanley Road / The Kings Gap	X
Outside Melrose Hall, Melrose Avenue	X
Jct of Cable Road / Valentia Road	X
<b>GREASBY</b>	
Coomo Rd/Thingwall Rd Greasby	X
Brookdale Ave Sth/Dingwall Dr	
Greasby Community Centre	
Greasby Rd Shops/Macdonald dr	
Cortsway/Brookway/Cortsway West	X
Circular Drive/Greasby Road	X
Fuchsia Walk/Thorns Drive	X
Escolme Drive at Brookdale turning	X

Current Grit Bin Locations

<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>To be considered for removal</b>
<b>IRBY</b>	
Martin Cl/Sandy Ln Greasby	X
Roslin Rd/Thingwall Rd	X
Irby Rd/Thurstaston Rd	X
Mill Hill Road/Hill View Road, Irby	X
Woodlands Road/Irby Road	X
<b>UPTON</b>	
Overchurch Primary School, Moreton Road	X
St Josephs school, Moreton Rd	X
Hoole Rd - o/s shops	X
Arrowe pk rd shops	X
Leeswood Road j/o Arrowe Park Rd Upton	X
Top of Common Field Rd corner of Church Lane	X
Royden Rd Shops	X
<b>MORETON</b>	
Sandbrook Lane/Hoylake Rd	
Knutsford Road - walkway to Witley	
Chapelhill Rd/Sunningdale Ent	X
O/s motorworld, Moreton Cross	X
Moreton Cross/Holt Ave	
Millhouse lane/Hoylake Road	
Pasture Rd O/s ambulance stn	
Pasture Rd Bridge	Missing
O/s 19 Childwall Ave jct Cobham Road	X
Kestrel Road/Edgehill Road	X
o/s 120 Bermuda Road/Wastdale Dr	X
Epsom Road -by l/c 4	X
Pasture Crescent/Ivy Lane	X
Garden Hey Road s/o 1 Birchfield, Saughall Massie	X
<b>LEASOWE</b>	
s/o 249 Leasowe Road	X
O/s 14 Farmside (Reeds Avenue East)	X
Cameron Road/Mackenzie Road	X
Grant Road/Ross Avenue	X
<b>LISCARD</b>	
Buckingham Rd/Breck Rd, Liscard	
Cliff Rd/Breck Rd	
Cliff Rd/Torrington Rd	
Fox Hey Rd/Breck Rd	X
Wallasey Rd/Knaresborough Rd	X
Egerton Grove / Liscard Village	X
Eric Road/Greasby Road	X
Berwyn Road / Belgrave Street	X
<b>SEACOMBE</b>	
Wickham Close - Top of	

Current Grit Bin Locations

<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>To be considered for removal</b>
Sherlock Lane f/bridge	X
St Pauls Rd nr church	X
Shakespeare Rd	
King St/St Brides Rd	
Mostyn St - Bottom of road	X
Hillcroft Road / Poulton Road	X
Percy Road - opp 24	X
Greenwood Lane / Withens Lane	X
Oakdale Avenue - opp 69	X
Ferryside Jct Borough Road East	X
Kinglake Road / Wright Street	X
Tobin St/Brighton St	
<b>NEW BRIGHTON</b>	
Atherton St railway stn	X
Atherton St by school	X
Vaughan Rd by school	X
Albion St/Portland Street	
Rowson St/Field Rd-health centre	X
Rockland Road opp Stoneby Dr	X
Seabank Road / Sheen Avenue	X
Kimberley Road - s/o 1A	X
Tollemache Street jct Prom	X
Molyneux Drive - s/o 18 in Grosvenor Road	X
St Georges Park jct Rowson Street	X
Osborne Rd/Osborne Vale	X
Magazine prom/Hertford Drive (1)	
Magazine prom/Hertford Drive (2)	
Lincoln Drive/Egremont prom	
Dalmorton Rd/Maitland Road	
Vaughan Rd/Maitland Rd	
Portland St/Wellington Road	
St James Rd/Rowson St	
Virginia Rd/Victoria Parade	
<b>WALLASEY</b>	
Claremount Rd/Grove Rd	X
Claremount Rd/St Hilary Brow	X
Broadway Ave/Claremount Rd, Liscard	
Wallacre Rd/Breck Road	
Broadway/Claremount Rd, Liscard	
Mockbeggar Dr/Harrison Drive	X
Oarside Drive - opp 23	X
Top of Sandy Lane - o/s 40	X
Marshlands Road - o/s 27	X
Thornccliffe Road nr l/c 1	X
Radley Road - opp 32	X
<b>BEBINGTON</b>	
Old chester rd o/s Fairs Cameras	X
Kings lane by bank	X
Kings Road/ Broadway	X

Current Grit Bin Locations

<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>To be considered for removal</b>
Kirkway	X
Mount Ave/Mount Rd	
Bentfield Gardens	
Orchard way/Well Lane	X
School Lane/Shallmarsh Rd	
Derwent Rd/Shallmarsh Rd	
Derwent Rd/Top of	
Teehey Lane/Roland Ave	X
Cross lane shops	X
Heathfield Rd/Heath Rd	X
Church rd (3 Stags pub)	X
Kings Lane/Queenswood Ave	X
Barlow Avenue Jct Oaklands Drive	X
Elmure Avenue / Bracken Lane	X
Glendale Grove / Heron Park Way	X
Gorseville Road / Holmville Road	X
Little Storeton Lane opp Roman Road	X
Corner of Mill Road and Millbut Close	X
Kings Close - Top of	X
Acre Lane/Tudorville Road	X
<b>CLATTERBRIDGE</b>	
Mere Ave/Blakeley ave	
Ormesby Grove/Raby Drive	
Blakeley Rd/Raby Dr	
Raby Close/Raby Dr	
Marfords Avenue jct Cunningham Dr	X
St Georges Way / Thornton Common Rd	X
Allport Rd/Brookhurst Ave	
Brookhurst Road outside school	X
Raby Hall Rd Opp Lawns Ave	
<b>EASTHAM</b>	
Airdrie Close	X
Delemere Ave/Willington Ave	
Eastham Rake (clinic)	
Eastham Rake (library)	X
St David Rd	
Clifton Avenue/Mill Park Drive - s/o old post office	X
Top of Stanley Road corner - by bend	X
Seaview Avenue / Mayfield Drive Eastham	X
Heygarth Road outside school	X
Dearnford Avenue - j/w Hillary road at the back of the footway. opp 73 Hillary rd.	X
Bridle Pk- O/s 5	
<b>BROMBOROUGH</b>	
Bromborough Precinct - Allport Lane	X
Mill Rd/Spital Road	
New Ferry precinct	X
New Ferry Rd bridge	X
Croft Avenue/Spital Road	X



Current Grit Bin Locations

<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>To be considered for removal</b>
York Street by the village hall	X
Bromborough civic centre and library	X
Corner of Bolton Road East and Woodhead Rd	X
<b><u>PENSBY/THINGWALL</u></b>	
Ambleside Close	X
Barnston Rd/Beaumaris Dr	X
Barnston Rd/Fox & Hounds	
Beverley Gardens, Thingwall	X
Kylemore Drive/Hillfield Dr, Pensby	
Gills Lane/Pensby Road - o/s Church	X
Nelson Drive/Kylemore drive	X
Wimborne Avenue/Pensby Road	X
Gwendoline Close/Axholme Road	X
Top of Woodlands Drive	X
The Foxes/Pensby Road Thingwall	X
Meadow Walk/Alexander Drive	X
By l/c 5, Meadow Walk	X
Pineview Drive/Kylemore Drive	
<b><u>HESWALL</u></b>	
Acre Lane, Heswall	X
Anthony's Way/Hillside Rd, Heswall	
Brackenside/Grange Rd, Heswall	
Circular Dr - half way up	
Erica Crt/Quarry Rd East, Heswall	
Highgate Close Heswall	X
Morland Cl/South Dr. Heswall	
Mount Ave, Heswall	X
Oldfield Dr/Greenfield Lane - Top	
Oldfield Dr/Greenfield Lane - Bottom	
Pensby Rd/Poll Hill Rd	X
Poll Hill Rd/Tower Rd South	
Radnor Ave/Pensby Rd, Heswall	
Redstone Rd/Ferns Close, Heswall	
School Hill -half way	
Teals Way/Gulls Way	
The Mount/Dee View Rd	
Tower Rd Sth/Pensby Rd. Heswall	
Village Rd, Heswall	
Warren Way/Hatton Close, Heswall	
Whitfield Lane/Downham Rd Nth - school	X
Telegraph Road opp Ego restaurant	
Mount Ave Car park	
Long Meadow Jct Cottage Lane, Gayton	X
Jct Oldfield Way and Oldfield Close	X
Top of Seabank Road, Davenport Road	X
Top of Florence Avenue jct Holland Grove	X
Station Road/Village Road	X
Florence Ave -Bottom of	
<b><u>OXTON</u></b>	

Current Grit Bin Locations

<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>To be considered for removal</b>
Alton Rd/Shrewsbury Road	X
Arno Rd/Bellfield Dr	X
Birch rd/Storeton Rd	X
Birch Close/Birch Road	X
Churton Ave/Townfield Lane	X
Davenham Close/Davenham Ave	X
Fairview Rd/Bennetts Hill	
Nursery Close (top)	
Oulton Close 86/88	X
Tabley Close/Holm Lane	X
Laburnum Road / Bessborough Road	X
Beresford Road / Shrewsbury Road - by school	X
Roslin Road / Rosemount - nr 2	X
Townfield Lane by school	X
Corner of Gorsefield Road and Woodchurch Road	X
Opp 15 Rowton Close	X
Ringwood, Oxton	
Holm Lane/Talbot Road - On bend	
<b>PRENTON</b>	
Burrell Close (bottom)	
Burrell Close (top)	
Burrell Rd/Pine Walks	X
Dickens Ave/Prenton Village Road	X
Mendip Rd/Storeton Rd	
North Rd/Greenway Road	X
Pine Walks/Prenton lane	X
Roman Rd/Prenton Dell Rd	
Stuart Rd/Greenway Road	X
Woodchurch Lane (bottom)	X
Woodchurch Lane (top)	X
Woodchurch rd (steps to f/bridge)	
Hawthorne Road / Willowbank Road Prenton	X
Cheviot Road - o/s 99	X
Bramwell Avenue / Prenton Dell Rd (school)	X
Durley Drive - by new cycle way	X
Mountwood Rd/Mount Rd	
Stanley Avenue / Mount Road	X
O/s 20/22 Clee Hill Road	
<b>BIRKENHEAD/TRANMERE</b>	
Frodsham St/Church Rd	X
Holborn Hill/Queen Street	
Holborn Hill/Olive Mount	
Holborn Hill/Olive Mount	
Pearson Rd/Holt Rd	
Woodside bus terminal	
Briardale Road - s/o 2, Birkenhead	X
o/s 53 Clifton Road	X

Current Grit Bin Locations

<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>To be considered for removal</b>
Rodney St/Helena Street	X
Sisters Way o/s 1	X
Holt Road/Old Chester Road	
Sidney Rd/Old Chester Road	
o/s 5. Lowwood Road, Birkenhead	X
Argyle St South/Whetstone lane	
<b>ROCK FERRY</b>	
Bebington Road/Egerton park	
Bedford Drive half way up by school	X
Victoria Pk -Church Rd by r'bout.	X
Well Lane (post box)	X
O/s 3 Raby Grove off Thornton Road	X
S/o Well Lane Police Station	X
Top of Rocklands Avenue and College Drive	X
Junction of Woodland Grove and Woodland Rd	X
Rock Lane East / close to to Rock Park entrance	X
Junction of Knowsley Road/Harrogate Road	X
<b>BIDSTON</b>	
Landsdowne Road / Tollemache Road	X
School Lane / Fender Lane	X
<b>CLAUGHTON</b>	
Heather Brow/Upton Rd	
Merebank, Noctorum Lane	
Rivington Ave/Pleasington Dr	
Upton Rd (shopping area) Shrewsbury Rd	X
Wendover Close, Noct (Top of)	
Westwood Rd O/s 32	
Wilfred Owen Drive - s/o 33	X
Buttermere Avenue - Top of	X
Eleanor Rd/Statham Rd, Bidston	
Alderley Ave nr j/o Valerian rd	
Bidston Ave	
Grange Mount - o/s Chinese Takeaway.	X
Grange Road West - s/o sports centre	X
Westway - o/s 1	X
Ridgeview Road o/s Ridgeway High School	X
Lingdale Avenue - s/o 1	X
Wingate Close	
Lingdale Rd/Valerian/Alderley Roads	
Manor Hill - O/s Nazereth House	
Bassenthwaite Ave	

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