



Policy and Performance - Regeneration and Environment Committee

Date: Tuesday, 14 July 2015

Time: 6.00 pm

Venue: Committee Room 1 - Wallasey Town Hall

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AGENDA

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

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

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

2. MINUTES (Pages 1 - 6)

To approve the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 23 March 2015.

**3. TOURISM
(Pages 7 - 16)**

**4. LIVERPOOL CITY REGION COMBINED AUTHORITY - SCRUTINY PANEL PROGRESS REPORT
(Pages 17 - 32)**

5. **DIRECTORATE PLAN PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT - YEAR
END 2014/15
(Pages 33 - 40)**
6. **POLICY INFORM BRIEFING PAPER
(Pages 41 - 58)**
7. **SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE
(Pages 59 - 68)**
8. **APPOINTMENT OF THE HIGHWAYS REPRESENTATION PANEL
(Pages 69 - 72)**
9. **ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS APPROVED BY THE CHAIR
(PART 1)**
10. **EXEMPT INFORMATION - EXCLUSION OF MEMBERS OF THE
PUBLIC**

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

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

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

REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT POLICY AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

Monday, 23 March 2015

<u>Present:</u>	Councillor	M Sullivan (Chair)	
	Councillors	KJ Williams D Mitchell S Williams J Crabtree M Daniel R Gregson	A Leech S Niblock J Stapleton G Ellis A Hodson T Pilgrim
<u>Deputies:</u>	Councillors	J Salter (for D Realey) G Watt (for J Hale)	
<u>Cabinet Members:</u>	Councillor	C Meaden and S Whittingham	

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

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

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

Councillor Geoffrey Watt declared a non-pecuniary interest in respect of Item 3 (Directorate Plan) due to his acting as Trustee to a West Kirby Charity with land interests in the Hoylake area.

49 MINUTES

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 3 February, 2015, be approved.

The Head of Environment and Regulation presented the report of the Strategic Director for Regeneration and Environment that set out the 10 key projects to be involving or delivered by the directorate as part of the Council's Corporate Plan.

The Head of Regeneration, responding to comments from Members, reported current progress relating to the Wirral Enterprise Zone / Wirral Waters and the golf resort. He detailed the work undertaken with Peel Holdings, and on the Enterprise Zone report recently presented to the Cabinet that included matters such as the recycling of business rates.. Members asked a number of questions in relation to Tourism and the Chair commented that these issues had already been raised with the Strategic Director. Members requested that tourism be made a specific agenda item for the first meeting in the new Municipal Year.

Officers responded to a series of questions on topics including school grounds maintenance contracts, Wirral 'brand marketing', car parking at Fort Perch Rock and an update on proposals for the re-introduction of a hovercraft ferry service at New Brighton.

In response to comments from Members, the Head of Regeneration and Planning gave information on the redevelopment proposals for Birkenhead Town Centre, which had been considered by the last Cabinet, Birkenhead Market Charter and various retail action plans for retail centres across the Borough.

The Head of Regulation responding to comments from Members, reported that good progress had been made with regard to the tendering of contracts for the supply and installation of LED street lighting. Members were apprised that once finalised, the contract and details of the phased implementation would be provided to Members.

The Chair re-iterated the Committee's request that their comments on the promotion of Wirral tourism be relayed to the Strategic Director.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

During the course of discussion on the item relating to the Golf Resort, Councillor Geoffrey Watt declared a non-pecuniary interest due to his position as Trustee to a West Kirby Charity with land interests in the Hoylake area.

51 **PERFORMANCE REPORT**

The Head of Environment and Regulation presented the report of the Strategic Director for Regeneration and Environment in relation to performance of the Regeneration and Environment Department against the delivery of the Directorate Plan 2014/2015 as at 31 January 2015. He commented that performance against 17 outcome measures indicated that 16 were RAG rated 'green' and the following was as 'red' –

- Reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured in Road Traffic Accidents (KSI)

He outlined the reasons for the 'red' rating and indicated that the greater than expected number of pedestrian KSI casualties was an issue across Merseyside. He commented upon a number of ongoing road safety / pedestrian safety campaigns and indicated that officers were working closely with Merseyside Police to investigate this 'priority' issue sharing budgets where practicable to reduce the numbers killed or seriously injured on the roads.

Members were apprised of the various factors impacting on the KSI statistics, for example the inclusion of figures relating to accidents on the M53 motorway.

Members commented on the tragic human costs associated with this statistic, endorsing the actions being taken to reduce this particular indicator.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

52 **BUDGET MONITOR REPORT**

The Chair introduced the report of the Acting Section 151 Officer that set out the financial monitoring information for the Regeneration and Environment Policy and Performance Committee.

The report informed of the most recent revenue and capital monitoring reports to Cabinet, summarised into a bespoke report for the Committee. The report included information on changes to the agreed budget, 2014/15 current and projected budget variations, 'RAGBY' ratings for each budget area within the Regeneration and Environment directorate, implementation of 2014/15 savings and performance against capital budgets for month 10 (Jan 2015).

No questions were raised by Members in respect of the report.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

53 **SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE**

A report of the Chair of the Committee updated Members on the current position regarding the Work Programme for the Regeneration and Environment Policy and Performance Committee.

The Chair thanked Members and Officers for the excellent work undertaken over the past 12 months.

Further to Minute No 46, 3 February, the Chair updated the Committee on progress on the two items currently included in the new Work Programme agreed on 3 March 2015:

- A Task and Finish Review on the Council's Coastal Strategy – progressing, with initial scoping having already been undertaken, and a detailed scoping exercise to commence on the 25 March 2015.
- A Task and Finish Review on homelessness within Wirral – initial scoping scheduled to be carried out in the new municipal year.

Resolved – That the Regeneration and Environment Policy and Performance Committee work programme for 2014/15, as detailed in the report appendix, be approved.

54 **MINUTES FROM HIGHWAYS AND TRAFFIC REPRESENTATION PANEL - 13TH AND 17TH MARCH**

Councillor Steve Williams, Chair of the Highways and Traffic Representation Panel presented the minutes of the meetings held on 13 March 2015 and 17 March 2015.

Resolved – That

- 1) **the recommendations of the Highways and Traffic Representation Panel as detailed in the minutes of the meetings held on 13 March 2015 and 17 March 2015 be endorsed; and**
- 2) **the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation be recommended to take appropriate action in respect of the following:**
 - a) **Approve - Amendment to Limited Waiting Order existing 30 minutes waiting, proposed 60 minutes waiting, Acacia Grove, West Kirby;**

- b) Approve - Proposed 20mph Speed Limit in residential areas, Ridgewood Drive Area (various roads), Pensby;**
- c) Refuse - Waiting Restrictions Banks Road / Victoria Drive and Dunraven Road, West Kirby;**
- d) Approve as modified – Waiting Restrictions (Avalon School) Caldy Road / Mount Road, West Kirby;**
- e) Approve – Verge / Footway Parking Restrictions Arrowe Road, Greasby;**
- f) Approve – Waiting and Loading Restrictions Birkenhead Market Service Road;**
- g) Approve – 20mph Speed Limits, Whitfield Lane / Downham Road South Area, Heswall; and**
- h) Approve - Waiting Restrictions Eastham Rake, Eastham.**

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WIRRAL COUNCIL

Policy and Performance – Regeneration and Environment Committee

14 July 2015

SUBJECT:	SUPPORTING WIRRAL'S TOURISM BUSINESSES IN 2015-16 AND BEYOND
WARD/S AFFECTED:	ALL
REPORT OF:	EMMA DEGG (HEAD OF NEIGHBOURHOODS AND ENGAGEMENT)
RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	COUNCILLOR PHIL DAVIES, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL AND PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR THE INVESTMENT STRATEGY
KEY DECISION?	NONE

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The aim of this report is to present Members of the Policy and Performance Committee with an overview of the Council's tourism team past performance, current delivery in 2015-16 and plans for the future.
- 1.2 An annual tourism team implementation plan has been informed by detailed visitor research and the creation of a "vision" led by the Wirral Tourism Business Network (i.e. a business-led partnership from the accommodation, attractions, coastal, food and drink, golf, and history & heritage sectors). Delivery is also driven by one of the Council's key priorities, which is to support a healthy, safe and prosperous borough, by helping to sustain and grow Wirral's economy.
- 1.3 The latest statistics for the borough's visitor economy confirm that the ongoing annual implementation plan is working both efficiently and effectively. Wirral's tourism economy is currently valued at over £355 million; employing 4,800 full-time equivalent jobs and attracted over 7.5 million visitors in 2014. The visitor economy has grown by a substantial 41% since 2009, adding £103 million to Wirral's local economy; employment within the sector has increased by over 20%, and visitors to the borough have also risen by 14% during the same period.*

(* Wirral's visitor economy statistics for 2014 are validated by Global Tourism Solutions (UK) Limited and the Liverpool City Region Local Enterprise Partnership).

2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

2.1 Rationale

- 2.1.1 The rising levels of competition between locations in the UK to attract both visitors and investors; combined with a slow to recover financial marketplace, makes the promotion of successful destinations of vital economic importance.
- 2.1.2 VisitBritain, the national tourism agency funded by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport; is responsible for promoting Britain worldwide and developing its visitor economy. It highlights that Tourism is the UK's 5th largest industry; supporting over 3 million jobs within over 200,000 SMEs, and contributes over £127 billion annually to the country's GDP.
- 2.1.3 A recent report undertaken by Deloitte on behalf of VisitBritain (i.e. "Tourism: jobs and growth") highlights that continued tourism business support, targeted marketing and investment are crucial over the next decade for further growth.

2.2 Where Are We Now?

2.2.1 Wirral Visitor Research Study – 2006 results

In 2006, due to the lack of market intelligence available, the Council commissioned a detailed Wirral Visitor Research Study with European funds. The study evaluated the attendance at a selection of Wirral's key tourism locations and the perception of potential visitors to the peninsula.

The findings identified Wirral's key tourism sectors and businesses; key visitors to target and key assets to promote.

This led to the:

- Creation of the Wirral Tourism Business Network or WTBN.
- Development of the "Wirral Peninsula" brand and guidelines for use.
- Creation and delivery of the "Play, Eat and Stay in Wirral" short break marketing and PR campaign – now known as the "Discover Wirral" national campaign.

2.2.2 Wirral Visitor Research Study – 2011 results

In 2011, the Wirral Visitor Research Study was repeated, to monitor and evaluate performance over the previous five years; of both the industry and of the Council's tourism team's delivery.

The study included interviews with WTBN stakeholders; interviews with existing visitors at 12 Wirral tourism locations; 500 telephone interviews with potential visitors from outside of Wirral; three focus groups of potential visitors in Chester, Manchester and Birmingham, and detailed web research. It concluded:

- 90% of existing visitors would recommend Wirral to others as a place to visit.
- 84% of potential visitors are interested in Wirral's coast, countryside and cuisine.
- There has been a significant increase in the proportion of visitors who are satisfied with their visit to Wirral since 2006, and they believe it is a more attractive place than other locations they have visited (i.e. 95% in 2011).
- The largest visitor target group attracted to the borough was identified as aged 55 plus and ABC1s (i.e. more affluent), travelling to Wirral within a 2 hour drive-time for both short breaks and day visits. However, golf proved to be the exception, having a much wider catchment area, and pulling in national and international visitors.
- More visitors are coming to Wirral for the first time than ever before, and more of those "first-timers" are coming from outside of the North West of England, reflecting the positive impact of Wirral's marketing activity to visitors since 2006.
- Wirral Council's tourism dedicated website (www.visitwirral.com) was seen as an essential tool for the borough's tourism businesses to attract both day and short break visitors, and a number of improvements have been implemented. The website is now responsive on all platforms – smart phones, tablets and PCs - and stakeholder social media and web-links encourage direct bookings and feedback. The site attracted over 1 million views in 2014.
- The Council's tourism marketing campaign, in-house designed literature and press coverage are highly praised for their quality, imagery and effectiveness.
- Wirral's tourism business stakeholders said they value their relationship with the Council and the work of the Council's tourism team.

This last point was mirrored in last year's online WTBN survey, which highlighted that 95% of members feel the Council's tourism team provides a "good" service, with 74% saying the team provided an "excellent" service.

The Council's tourism marketing in 2011 was seen as essential to market the borough to attract new, repeat and potential visitors; however a "one size fits all" approach was to be avoided. There are now a range of resources in place including marketing campaigns, www.visitwirral.com and related social media, literature and press activity to support the sector.

Following the conclusions drawn from 2011, an annual implementation plan has been developed in line with the Council's tourism service budget, and delivery is also supported with WTBN income and grant aid where possible. Examples of external funding includes European Regional Development Funds, secured for the Wirral Visitor Research Study in 2006 and 2011; marketing the 2006 and 2014 Open Championships; supporting the Wirral welcome for the Three Queens in May 2015; and the creation of a number of key events including the Wirral Food and Drink Festival, now known as Wirral Farm Feast, and the Wirral Golf Classic. Both these events are now self-financing through sponsorship and ticket entries.

The intention is for an in-depth visitor research study to be undertaken again in 2016 specifically for Wirral. This will inform the ongoing activities of the Council's tourism team to utilise limited resources efficiently and effectively, and market Wirral as a key day and short break destination in order to support the WTBN vision, membership and tourism sector as a whole. The 2016 research study will be funded through existing Council budgets and WTBN contributions.

2.2.3 Tourism Budget and Team Structure in 2015-16

The Council's tourism team and related budget have like others across our organisation undergone significant changes over the past two years. This has resulted in reductions including the budget for two posts and the financial support to events in Wirral. However, following the restructure of the Neighbourhood and Engagement division to maximise budgets and resources for the benefit of Wirral residents, a new Marketing Economy Officer has been created. This shared role has been identified to generate income and explore areas of additional income across the division.

The Council's tourism team staffing structure and key responsibilities in 2015-16 are as follows:

- 1 x Visitor Economy Manager:
To plan, lead and manage the delivery of the annual tourism implementation plan and team to achieve Wirral's tourism vision by 2025; and support the delivery of the division's annual business plan.
- 2 x Visitor Economy Officers:
To undertake research and deliver informed marketing that achieves the maximum benefit for Wirral's tourism businesses and visitors.
- 1 x Marketing Economy Officer:
To deliver marketing that generates income through the promotion of Wirral's group, wedding, function and roadside advertising opportunities.

The Council's budget to support Wirral's tourism sector in 2015-16 is;

- £177,500: 4.25 x staff salaries including the Head of Service (i.e.25%).

- £73,000: tourism marketing.

In addition, £35,000 is forecasted as the income generated through WTBN membership fees, advertising and sponsorship to support delivery (e.g. Tourism Awards, literature and website).

This budget will support a sector currently valued at £355 million, which has increased by 41% over the past six years, adding an additional £103 million into the local economy during the same period.

2.3 Where Do We Want To Be?

2.3.1 Strategic Fit and Vision

The activities and measurable outputs of the Council's tourism team directly link to the following national, regional and local strategic views i.e.

- VisitBritain's vision - to inspire the world to explore Britain.
- VisitEngland's vision - to maximize the positive contribution the tourism sector has on the economy, employment and quality of life in England.
- Liverpool City Region Local Enterprise Partnership visitor economy vision - to increase spend and jobs so that by 2020 annual spend of £4.2 billion is achieved supporting the creation of 13,000 new jobs.
- Wirral Council's vision.
- Wirral's tourism vision recently developed in partnership with the WTBN;

To increase Wirral's visitor economy to £550million by 2025; by encouraging more visitors to come and discover our hidden peninsula, full of award winning surprises.

2.3.2 Wirral Tourism Vision - Strategic Objectives

The vision will be achieved by continuing to deliver and monitor the annual Council-led tourism team implementation plan that supports the following key objectives as agreed with the WTBN:

- Position Wirral as a hidden gem full of award winning surprises where visitors can expect quality, exclusivity, escapism and an enviable backdrop.
- Have a clear focus on those living within a two hour drive time (i.e. older, more discerning tourists seeking high quality experiences; large, multi-generational families and groups for short breaks; and organisers of weddings, functions and conferences who are looking for something unusual in a stunning location).

- Communicate the value, benefits and strength of the Wirral visitor economy to residents, businesses and within Wirral Council.
- Increase the membership and promotion of the WTBN including more engagement with local businesses and those in Liverpool and Cheshire (e.g. via the Wirral Chamber of Commerce, Liverpool City Region Local Enterprise Partnership and Marketing Cheshire).

2.4 How Do We Get There?

2.4.1 Implementation

The following highlights the planned activities to be delivered by the Council's tourism team in 2015-16 and beyond, to achieve both the Wirral tourism vision highlighted above, and drive and increase aspiration and grow jobs within the sector and the borough:

- Manage and administer the WTBN including its six sub-sector partnerships, developed to inform activity as well as generate additional business; and now being used as a model of excellence by both Marketing Cheshire and Liverpool City Region Local Enterprise Partnership (LCR LEP).
- Prepare and deliver the "Wonders of Wirral" regional, day visitor marketing campaign including bespoke booklet (spring 2016).
- Create and deliver the "Discover Wirral" national, short break marketing campaign (summer 2016).
- Manage and maintain www.visitwirral.com and related social media for the WTBN, and evaluate WTBN member referrals from partner websites including www.visitliverpool.com, as part of the ongoing engagement with the LCR LEP.
- Develop bespoke tourism literature for Wirral; distribute the same and create downloadable versions (e.g. Wirral Visitor Guide 2016-17, Wonders of Wirral brochure 2016-17 focusing specifically on the borough's quality attractions; a new Wirral Celebrates guide 2016-17 to promote the borough's wedding and function offer including those belonging to the Council, and a new Wirral for Groups guide 2017-18).
- Attract national press journalists to generate positive PR about Wirral's award winning tourism offer (i.e. valued at over £300,000 in 2014 excluding the media coverage generated for The Open Championship in 2014).
- Plan and deliver the Wirral Tourism Awards 2016 to showcase the borough's quality offer and staff.

- Host familiarisation visits in Wirral for Blue Badge Guides (i.e. the President of the Merseyside Blue Badge Guides sits on the WTBN steering group), corporate businesses, stakeholders and partners.
- Attend targeted trade fairs in partnership with the WTBN, and the LCR LEP and Marketing Cheshire where appropriate, to maximise budgets.
- Co-ordinate and administer film requests and generate related income where possible.
- Represent Wirral Council and the borough's tourism sector on a number of business groups and panels including England's Golf Coast, Gateway to Cheshire Partnership, the LCR LEP local authority tourism managers group and Mersey Rural Leader (MRL) group.

The initial MRL funding programme allocated over £1 million of grant aid to Wirral, creating 75 new jobs within 12 rural tourism businesses. An additional £1.5 million was invested by the Wirral businesses themselves. The Visitor Economy manager is currently working with the MRL manager on the new rural programme for 2015-2020 to deliver the maximum benefit for the borough.

In addition, regarding the promotion of Wirral to Cruise Liner passengers, the Council's tourism team:

- Supported colleagues across the Council, as part of the Wirral welcome for the Three Queens on the 25th May, in celebration of Cunard's 175th anniversary. This included a bespoke page on www.visitwirral.com, highlighting all relevant travel, safety and visitor information, as well as securing a 45sqm screen in New Brighton with European funds, to promote Wirral's tourism offer and highlight "live" coverage of the arrival of the prestigious vessels.
- Provides regular supplies of information about the borough's increasing visitor offer to the Cruise & Operations manager (who is funded by Liverpool City Council) including suggested Wirral tourism itineraries. The manager has attended a number of the WTBN meetings and is fully aware of the most up-to-date information. Examples of WTBN members that have benefitted include Port Sunlight and Royal Liverpool Golf Club. The aim is to target both passengers who are sold excursions by the cruise operators and provide options for independent cruise passengers looking for private excursions.

2.4.2 Outputs

The anticipated tourism growth in 2015-16, resulting from the contribution being made by the activity undertaken by the Council's tourism team for the tourism sector, is 5%.

This equates to an additional £17.5 million being attracted to Wirral's local economy in 2015-16.

3.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 3.1 Any relevant risks, related to the Council's tourism team delivery are highlighted within the Neighbourhoods and Engagement directorate plan for 2015-16, and subject to robust monitoring.
- 3.2 Examples of how the tourism team are reducing potential risks include expanding the WTBN through direct approaches to potential members, including those within the Wirral Chamber of Commerce, and an "Open Day" to highlight the benefits of WTBN membership. In addition, to reduce the risk of sector underdevelopment the tourism team continues to work with local businesses to help them secure funding (e.g. LCR LEP and MRL programme 2015-2020).

4.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 The Corporate Plan for 2015-16 is the Council's key policy document, and drives the development of the Council's directorate plans, and therefore no other options were considered.

5.0 CONSULTATION

- 5.1 Consultation is planned in 2016 with both existing and potential visitors to Wirral through face-to-face and telephone interviews; focus groups, and with WTBN stakeholders and partners, using existing budgets and WTBN contributions. In the interim, regular meetings with the WTBN will continue throughout the year and an annual WTBN online survey is planned in September 2015.
- 5.2 The content of the Corporate Plan for 2015-2016 was also subject to extensive consultation with residents, partners, staff and stakeholders throughout 2014. The directorate plans translate the Corporate Plan priorities and activities into directorate projects and performance measures.

6.0 OUTSTANDING PREVIOUSLY APPROVED ACTIONS

- 6.1 There are no outstanding actions.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

- 7.1 The Corporate Plan makes reference to working closely with voluntary, community and faith groups for the benefit of all Wirral residents and communities; and this partnership ethos of approach will continue to be a key priority for the Council.

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

- 8.1 The activities undertaken by the Council's tourism team in 2015-16 will be delivered through existing resources and income generated via the WTBN and wider tourism sector.

9.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

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

10.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

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

Yes – an equalities impact assessment has been completed for the Council's Corporate Plan:

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

Equalities implications relating to the actions set out in the Neighbourhoods and Engagement directorate plan will be addressed as appropriate and subject to individual equality impact assessments.

11.0 CARBON REDUCTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are no carbon reduction or environmental implications as a result of this report.

12.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

12.1 There are no planning or community safety implications as a result of this report.

13.0 RECOMMENDATION/S

13.1 Committee Members are requested to note and support the contents of this report, which has been written to highlight the research, engagement and marketing being undertaken by the Council, to support Wirral's tourism businesses and help grow the borough's visitor economy.

14.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

14.1 To ensure that Committee Members are provided with detailed Wirral tourism market intelligence, to evaluate the current performance of the Council's tourism team and sector as a whole, as detailed in the Neighbourhoods and Engagement directorate plan for 2015-16.

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APPENDICES

None.

BACKGROUND PAPERS/REFERENCE MATERIAL

Information has been provided by the 2011 Wirral Visitor Research Survey, VisitBritain, VisitEngland and the Liverpool City Region Local Enterprise Partnership.

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Corporate Plan for 2015-16 – Council	December 2014
Neighbourhoods and Engagement – Directorate Plan 2015-16	March 2015

WIRRAL COUNCIL

REGENERATION & ENVIRONMENT POLICY AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

14 July 2015

SUBJECT:	Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Scrutiny – Progress Report
REPORT OF:	Combined Authority Scrutiny Link Member - Cllr Mike Sullivan

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 This report provides members with an update on the work carried out by the Liverpool City Region Scrutiny Panel.

2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

2.1 A report to this Committee on the 3rd December 2014 provided details on the establishment of the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority (LCRCA) Scrutiny Panel and a summary of the first formal meeting of the Panel.

3.0 LCRCA SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE

3.1 The LCRCA Scrutiny Panel agreed the development of the work Programme at the meeting held on the 29th October 2015. The Scrutiny Panel agreed that the following items would be included on the work programme:

- European Funding
- Skills and Learning / Apprenticeships
- Housing
- Affordable Transport Links

3.2 European Funding was identified as the priority item for the Scrutiny Panel Members. The review commenced in January 2015 with an overview provided by Alan Welby, Director for Key Growth Sectors at the LEP and Martin Eyres, Head of European Affairs at Liverpool City Council. The overview detailed the existing position in relation to the current EU Programme as well the new programme of 2014-2020. This helped inform the scope of the review with Members wanting to subsequently focus on two key areas:

- (a) the governance arrangements in place to shape and oversee the local operation of the programme are effective, robust and accountable; and
- (b) the commissioning/bidding framework being developed to underpin the local delivery of the European programme

- 3.3 The review was conducted over two evidence sessions during February and March and a final report was submitted to the Scrutiny Panel meeting held on 8th April. The scoping document and final report are attached as Appendix 1 and Appendix 2.

4.0 LCRCA SCRUTINY PANEL MEETING – 8th APRIL 2015

4.1 Review of European Funding

The Scrutiny Panel considered the final report and approved all recommendations made. It was also resolved that the Combined Authority be requested to consider the recommendations and report its response to the Scrutiny Panel.

4.2 Liverpool City Region Growth Plan and Strategic Economic Plan

A presentation was made on Liverpool City Region Growth Plan and Strategic Economic Plan by the Chief Executive of St. Helens Borough Council.

The key points arising were:

- Government wanting Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) to have a Growth Plan which identifies priorities and a strategic approach to specific projects and activity; and
- The requirement for LEPs to have a Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) providing the project-level detail.

4.3 A Transport Plan for Growth

A presentation was made Mick Noone, Operational Director, Policy, Planning and Transportation at Halton Borough Council. The Scrutiny Panel was informed that the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority has a Transition Plan and Transport Protocol. This requires a joint strategic framework and delivery plan to be produced and this has been achieved through the development of a single strategic framework and delivery plan for the LCR. It was explained that the plan should see greater collaboration and future joint working across the City Region. Additional points were made around the linkages between improved health and better air quality, the positive role of which John Lennon Airport had in the region and also the Merseytravel Bus Strategy.

4.4 Scrutiny Work Programme

For the three main topic areas remaining from the Scrutiny Panel Work Programme, Members considered that Topic Groups should be formed around each of them to obtain a better understanding of the area. It is intended that Members would indicate a preference for which Topic Group they wish to be part of. To support the delivery of the overall 2015/16 Work Programme, the resource requirements to achieve this would be reviewed by the Lead Officer for Scrutiny.

5.0 RECOMMENDATION/S

- 5.1 The Committee is requested to note the progress to date regarding the work carried out by the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Scrutiny Panel

**REPORT
AUTHOR:**

Michael Lester
Scrutiny Support Officer

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APPENDICES

- 1 – Scrutiny Report – European Funding**
- 2 – Scoping Document**

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LIVERPOOL CITY REGION COMBINED AUTHORITY SCRUTINY PANEL

SCRUTINY REVIEW OF EUROPEAN FUNDING

FOREWORD BY THE CHAIR

I am pleased to present this first piece of scrutiny review work undertaken by the LCRCA Scrutiny Panel. We chose the topic of European Funding, given its importance to the development of the City Region. This is the first piece of work we have engaged on as a Panel and we wanted to learn from the process to help us when carrying out further pieces of scrutiny activity.

I would like to thank Members of the Panel for their contributions to this review and for the commitment they have shown to the process. I think this bodes well for the future.

I would also like to thank Alan Welby (Liverpool European Partnership), Martin Eyres (Liverpool City Council) and Mike Henesey (Department for Local Government and Communities) for the evidence they presented to the Panel.

Councillor Kevan Wainwright
Chair

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Liverpool City Region Combined Authority (LCRCA) was formed in April 2014. One of the requirements of the legislation that put it in place was that it should form a scrutiny body to scrutinise its activities. Hence, the LCRCA Scrutiny Panel was formed. The Panel is made up of fourteen elected Members from the six constituent authorities.

1.2 As well as scrutinising the activities of the LCRCA, the Constitution allows the Panel to undertake reviews of activities in which the LCRCA has an interest and following those reviews, make recommendations and comments to the Authority. At its meeting held on 29 October 2014 the Panel identified four areas of activity that it wished to review, as follows:

- European Funding
- Skills, Learning and Leadership
- Housing
- Affordable Transport Links

The Panel identified European Funding as the first piece of review work it wished to undertake.

- 1.3 It was recognised that, whilst the subject area itself was an important one for the City Region, it was also important for the Panel to develop a review methodology for itself that it could utilise for future review activities. Each of the six constituent authorities had its own approach to scrutiny reviews which differed from one another. Given this was the first review to be undertaken by the Panel it was felt that it should be kept sharply focused and deliver a final report in a relatively short period of time. It is felt that those objectives have been met with the first piece of work.
- 1.4 It was also agreed at the onset that this piece of work would be undertaken by the whole Panel, to enable all Members to be involved in shaping the process. It was recognised that for future reviews the Panel may wish to nominate a smaller group to carry them out.

2.0 THE REVIEW OF EUROPEAN FUNDING

- 2.1 To commence the review the Panel required an overview of the current position in relation to both the existing EU programme (projects can deliver until June 2015) and the new programme 2014-2020. Clearly, Members were most interested in the new programme, particularly as the resources available to the LCR were significantly less than those in previous programmes.
- 2.2 The Panel received a detailed overview of the current position at a meeting held on 21 January 2015. The overview was presented by Alan Welby, Director for Key Growth Sectors at the LEP and Martin Eyres, Head of European Affairs at Liverpool City Council.
- 2.3 The Panel heard that the Liverpool City Region had been allocated £190m as part of the 2014-2020 European Programme. This was only one third of the amount allocated in the previous one. The Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) had led on the City Region's submission, known as the European Structural and Investment Fund Strategy (ESIF). The Strategy sets out the City Region's priorities for use of European monies. It was produced in consultation with local partners across the LCR, including the local authorities. The Panel recognised that its production and submission pre dated the existence of the LCRCA.
- 2.4 The Panel was informed as to how the ESIF was developed via a series of stakeholder events between April and September 2013. The final ESIF had been submitted to Government at the end of January 2014 and had now been signed off by Government. The LCR ESIF was divided into five portfolios, as follows:
- Blue/Green Economy
 - Business Economy
 - Innovation Economy
 - Inclusive Economy
 - Place and Connectivity

- 2.5 A copy of the full ESIF Strategies can be accessed from the website of the Liverpool City Region Local European Partnership.
- 2.6 Following that initial presentation the Panel drew up a Scoping Document to provide a focus to the review they were undertaking. A copy of that Scoping Document is attached as Appendix 1 to this report. The two areas Panel Members particularly wished to focus on for the remainder of the review were to consider whether
- (a) the governance arrangements in place to shape and oversee the local operation of the programme are effective, robust and accountable; and
 - (b) the commissioning/bidding framework being developed to underpin the local delivery of the European programme 2014-2020 will secure the right outcomes for the City Region.
- 2.7 The Panel decided to have two evidence gathering sessions to examine each of the above topics in detail. The first took place on 18 February 2015 and the second on 4 March 2015. The key witness for both those sessions was Mike Henesey from the Department for Communities and Local Government. Mike had been involved in regeneration since 1983, including City Challenge Projects, European Projects since 1999 and was Project Director on the Merseyside 2000-06 Agenda One Programme. He was currently involved in managing the 2007-13 North West Operational Programme.
- 2.8 The first session focused on “the governance arrangements in place to shape and oversee the local operation of the programme” The Panel heard that:
- The 2014-20 ERDF programme was one single national programme for England.
 - Each LEP area had been given a national allocation.
 - The ESIF Strategies drawn up by the 39 LEPs were agreed by Government and brought together in one national programme.
 - The EU rules do not allow decision making to be devolved down to LEPs.
 - The Managing Agents for the programme will therefore be the appropriate Government Department.
 - The Government Department concerned will assess projects using the priorities in the ESIF and in consultation with the LEP and the local ESIF Sub Committee.
 - The local ESIF Sub Committee included nominated Elected Representatives from the LCRCA.

- Project sponsors will ‘contract’ with the appropriate Government Department in order to access funds.
- The final approval for projects rests with the Government Department.
- There is no formal role in the process for the LCRCA.
- There is a European Programme Protocol included in the LCRCA’s Constitution which sets out to govern the relationship between the constituent authorities, the LCRCA and the LEP in relation to the European programme.
- That there have been protracted negotiations between the UK Government and the EU about governance arrangements for the programme, which have caused delays in the commencement of the new programme.
- There was a key role for the LEP in promoting the programme.

In helping them to form their views Members discussed and considered:

- How the funds are allocated within the LCR
- How the performance reserve worked
- Who had the final say on project approvals
- Whether there will be support locally from the DCLG to applicants
- Whether ERDF and ESF can be draw down to support the same project
- Were LEPs equipped to promote the availability of the programme
- Whether the role of the LCRCA in this process needed to be developed/enhanced.

2.9 The second session focused on “the proposed commissioning/bidding framework” At that session the Panel heard that:

- A recent letter issued by Lord Ahmad (Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the Department for Communities and Local Government) reiterated that the DCLG will be the managing agent for the ERDF funds and the Department for Work and Pensions likewise for ESF funds.
- Calls for bids from the new programme were scheduled to go live on 16 March 2015 on the gov.uk website (subsequently put back until 23 March 2015).
- DCLG is working closely with LEPs in putting the content together for the calls.

- All applications received by Government will be shared with the LEP.
- The first calls will focus on activity that currently benefits from EU funding that LEPs and partners would like to see continue in the new programme (predominantly mainstream business support and start up) and for activity that has time critical match funding.
- The various dates that have been identified for the various themes within the programme.
- That the DCLG will work with LEPs to co-ordinate and bring together similar projects across the LCR into region wide projects, recognising the reduced funding available across the LCR.

2.10 In helping them to form their views, Members discussed and considered:

- Who could bid for EU funds
- How the voluntary sector had been and will be engaged in the process
- Would the calls go live when expected, given that discussions are still continuing with the EU
- Would the programme deliver to the LCR priorities

2.11 The Panel was very grateful for the detailed input across the two evidence gathering sessions, from Mike Henesey and thanked him for the clarity of his responses, in what was a very complex issue.

3.0 FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 Following on from the two evidence gathering sessions the Panel then held a final 'wrap up' session on 17 March 2015. The purpose of the wrap up session was "to consider and agree the review's final report and recommendations".

3.2 What follows is a series of recommendations/comments which the Panel has developed. The Panel would want those recommendations/comments to be formally considered by the LCRCA and for the LCRCA to respond to them.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Governance Arrangements

- The Panel recognises that, whilst there is no formal governance role for the Combined Authority (CA) and the fact that the ESIF (European Structural and Investment Fund) Strategy was produced and submitted prior to the formation of the CA, the CA should seek a more formal role in any future arrangements.

- That a more formal role should include
 - Seeking assurance that projects being approved meet the CA’s own plans and strategies.
 - Assurance that the programme is delivering to its required outcomes.
 - A role for the CA in having strategic oversight of the programme.
- The justification for that greater oversight stems from the overall role and purpose of the CA and from the fact that the Local Authorities will still be providers of significant amounts of match funding to support the delivery of many of the projects and therefore the overall objectives of the ESIF.
- Within the Operational Agreement (as part of its Constitution) approved by the CA as part of it establishing itself, there is a “European Protocol” document. The Panel recommends that the CA reviews that protocol alongside the review of its first 12 months of operation, ensuring it is fit for purpose, clearly defining who is responsible for what in relation to the European Funding Programme for the Liverpool City Region. The Panel felt that greater clarity was required in relation to the responsibility and accountability for the programme.
- The Panel heard evidence that the LEP has a formal role to play in the programme. The Panel felt that this needs to be made clearer that the LEP is an integral part of the CA, being one of its thematic boards. The Panel felt that the inter-relation between the LEP and the CA needs greater emphasis.

Commissioning/Bidding Framework

- The Panel acknowledges the positive work being done by the DCLG locally and the LEP to shape the LCR European Programme to ensure the maximum benefit is derived for the Liverpool City Region and appreciates that delays have been caused by the programme not being signed off by the EU. The process of committing EU funds is complex and the Panel would wish to see the CA having a clearer role in ensuring the LCR gets maximum benefits from the programme.
- Given that the EU funding available to the LCR is considerably less than that for previous programmes it is imperative that it is spent in the most effective manner. The DCLG have indicated that collaborative and co-ordinated bids will be looked upon favourably, the Panel would like to see the CA encouraging constituent local authorities and other partners to work together to ensure that the collaborative bids are developed. With less money available it is essential that duplication and competition are avoided.
- The CA should have a clearer role in any future review (as outlined in Lord Ahmad’s letter) of the priorities and allocation of European Funding for the LCR.

Wider Issues/Comments

- In carrying out its review the Panel considered the issue of publicity of the availability of resources through the European Programme and was keen to see that the opportunity to access funding went beyond the “usual suspects”. The Panel recommends that the CA seeks assurances and commitment from the DCLG and the LEP that local communications are effective and that support arrangements are in place to facilitate bidding from as wide a range of organisations as is possible.
- The Panel also felt that the CA’s role and responsibilities and those of relevant stakeholders should be mapped out and identified both in general terms and specifically relating to European Funding.
- The Panel also felt, generally, that the absence of a LCRCA website was detrimental to a wider understanding of the CA’s role and value. The Panel fully understands the resource restraints on all constituent Councils but feels the introduction of a dedicated website would go some way to promoting the positive role the CA is playing in the development of the LCR.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Alan Welby Director for Key Growth Sectors at the Local Enterprise Partnership
Martin Eyres Head of European Affairs, Liverpool City Council
Mike Henesey DCLG
The Scrutiny Support Officer Team from the Constituent Councils

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SCRUTINY SCOPING DOCUMENT

Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Scrutiny Panel	
European Funding – Review of: (a) Commissioning/ Bidding Framework (b) Governance Arrangements	
Aims and Objectives	
Aim and Objectives	<p>The aim of the review is to support the Combined Authority and the Local Enterprise Partnership in ensuring that:</p> <p>(a) the commissioning/ bidding framework being developed to underpin the local delivery of the European Programme 2014-2020 will secure the right outcomes for the City Region; and</p> <p>(b) the governance arrangements in place to shape and oversee the local operation of the programme are effective, robust and accountable.</p>
Context/Background	<p>The Liverpool City Region has been allocated £190m as part of the 2014-2020 European Programme. The Local Enterprise Partnership has led on the City Region's submission (ESIF) to form part of the national European Regional Development and European Social Fund programme. Whilst the City Region's ESIF was signed off by government in mid-2014, the government has yet to agree the final national programme (for England) with the EU.</p> <p>Since the Combined Authority was formed in April 2014, it has discharged its strategic economic development function through the Local Enterprise Partnership. It also approved an operating agreement which incorporated a European Programme Protocol setting out the</p>

SCRUTINY SCOPING DOCUMENT

	<p>respective roles, of the Combined Authority, the constituent authorities and the Local Enterprise Partnership in relation to that programme.</p> <p>At its development session in September 2014, followed by its first formal meeting in October 2014, the Scrutiny Panel identified “European Funding” as an area of interest it might wish to examine in more detail in its role to support/ challenge the Combined Authority and its constituent parts. At a briefing session in January 2015, the Panel received a presentation which set out the current context in relation to European Funding in the Liverpool City Region. In considering this information, the Panel agreed two specific aspects of this complex topic that it felt would benefit from closer examination as part of a relatively brief review that could feed its findings into the Panel’s formal meeting scheduled for 8 April 2015. These two aspects were:</p> <p>(a) Local commissioning/ bidding framework; (b) Local governance arrangements.</p>
Methodology	
Timescale	<p>It is proposed that this review will be conducted during the period February to March 2015 with a view to submitting a report/ recommendations to the formal meeting of the Panel on 8 April 2015.</p> <p>It is proposed that the review will comprise 2 evidence sessions, 1 for each topic followed up by wrap-up session to consider the content of final report and recommendations.</p> <p>Following endorsement by the formal Panel meeting, it is anticipated that the report and recommendations will be submitted to a meeting of the Combined Authority in April or June.</p>

SCRUTINY SCOPING DOCUMENT

<p>Evidence session 1</p>	<p>Date of meeting: 11.00am 18th February 2015</p> <p>Purpose of the session: To consider the governance arrangements in place to shape and oversee the local operation of the 2014-2015 programme.</p> <p>Expert witness: Mike Henesey – Department for Communities and Local Government</p>
<p>Evidence session 2</p>	<p>Date of meeting: 11.00am 4th March 2015</p> <p>Purpose of the session: To consider the proposed commissioning/ bidding framework being developed to support the operation of the European Programme 2014-2020 in the City Region.</p> <p>Expert witnesses: Mike Henesey – Department for Communities and Local Government</p>
<p>Wrap up meeting</p>	<p>Date of meeting: 11.00am 17th March 2015</p> <p>Purpose of the session: To consider and agree the review's final report and recommendations.</p>

SCRUTINY SCOPING DOCUMENT

Potential outcomes	
Expected outcomes	<p>It is expected that this review will support the Combined Authority and Local Enterprise Partnership in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) ensuring that the commissioning/ bidding framework being developed for the 2014-2020 European Programme will produce the right results; (b) securing appropriate and transparent governance of the European Programme in the City Region. <p>As this will be the Scrutiny Panel's first in-depth review, it is anticipated that the lessons drawn from carrying it out will inform the Panel's future scrutiny practice.</p>
Measuring success	<p>Any recommendations arising out of the review will be considered by the Combined Authority. Subject to approval, their implementation will be monitored.</p>
Officer/Member involvement	
Members	<p>All Members of the Scrutiny Panel will have the opportunity to be involved in the review, subject to availability.</p>

WIRRAL COUNCIL

REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT POLICY AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

14 JULY 2015

SUBJECT:	DIRECTORATE PLAN PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORT
WARD/S AFFECTED:	ALL
REPORT OF:	STRATEGIC DIRECTOR OF REGENERATION & ENVIRONMENT
RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	<p>CLLR PHIL DAVIES, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL AND PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR INVESTMENT STRATEGY</p> <p>CLLR GEORGE DAVIES, JOINT DEPUTY LEADER OF THE LABOUR GROUP AND PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD, HOUSING AND ENGAGEMENT</p> <p>CLLR PAT HACKETT, PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR ECONOMY</p> <p>CLLR STUART WHITTINGHAM, PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT</p> <p>CLLR BERNIE MOONEY, PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY</p> <p>CLLR CHRIS MEADEN, PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR LEISURE, SPORT AND CULTURE</p>
KEY DECISION?	NO

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 This report sets out the current performance of the Regeneration & Environment Directorate against the delivery of its Directorate Plan as at Year End 2014/15. Committee Members are requested to consider the details of the report and highlight any issues.

2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

2.1 Performance of the Directorate Plan is regularly monitored against the targets set at the start of the year. Red, amber and green (RAG) ratings are assigned depending on the performance level against those targets. For indicators rated red, the responsible officer is required to complete an exception report and highlight what corrective actions will be put in place.

2.2 The Directorate Plan Performance Report (Appendix 1) sets out the final year position against 17 outcome measures. 16 (94%) of the measures are rated green and 1 (6%) is rated red. For the measure rated red, an action plan is provided and included as follows:

- Reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents (KSI) – Appendix 2.

2.3 The Regeneration and Environment Directorate Plan was reported to committee at its last meeting in March. The first quarter performance against this will be reported to the September meeting.

2.4 Work is under way to re-shape the Council's business planning framework for the next planning cycle from 2016 onwards. A new Council Plan will be taken to Policy Council in July and the directorate performance reporting that underpins this will be developed later in the year. This will involve a significant change towards performance reporting against a range of agreed priority outcomes.

3.0 RELEVANT RISKS

3.1 The performance management framework is aligned to the Council's risk management strategy and has been considered as part of the Directorate planning process.

4.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

4.1 N/A

5.0 CONSULTATION

5.1 N/A

6.0 OUTSTANDING PREVIOUSLY APPROVED ACTIONS

6.1 There are none relating to this report.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

7.1 There are none arising from this report.

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

8.1 There are none arising from this report.

9.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are none arising from this report.

10.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

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

11.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are none arising from this report.

12.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

12.1 There are none arising from this report.

13.0 RECOMMENDATION/S

13.1 Committee Members are requested to note the contents of this report and highlight any questions or comments.

14.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

14.1 To ensure Committee Members have the opportunity to review the delivery of the Directorate's 2014/15 Business Plan.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Directorate Plan Performance Report (Year End 2014/15)

Appendix 2 – Exception report/action plan completed for Killed and Seriously Injured (KSI) indicator

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Regeneration and Environment Policy and Performance Committee	23 rd March 2015
Regeneration and Environment Policy and Performance Committee	3 rd February 2015
Regeneration and Environment Policy and Performance Committee	22 nd September 2014
Regeneration and Environment Policy and Performance Committee	22 nd July 2014
Regeneration and Environment Policy and Performance Committee	9 th April 2014
Regeneration and Environment Policy and Performance Committee	27 th January 2014
Regeneration and Environment Policy and Performance Committee	5 th November 2013
Regeneration and Environment Policy and Performance Committee	17 th September 2013

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No.	Description	Data Source	Performance 2013/14	North West 2013/14	Target / Plan 2014/15	YTD Target 2014/15	YTD Performance	Forecast Outturn	Overall Status	Monthly Trend	Reporting Period	Accountable Officer (Head of Service)	Comments
PERFORMANCE													
DOMAIN 2: REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT													
Environment & Regulation													
1	Improved accessibility to employment and opportunities (Local Strategic Transport Fund – LSTF)	Travel Solutions	2414	N/A	2,200	2200	3067	2,850	G	↑	Apr-Mar	Mark Smith	This project has now concluded as part of the LSTF funded initiative, it has exceeded targets for the second year in succession.
2	To maintain local environmental quality (LEQ) of litter, detritus and graffiti in main gateways and shopping area.	Local Survey Data	90.70%	N/A	93.5%	93.5%	97.5%	93.5%	G	↑	Apr-Mar	Mark Smith	Now in its second year, this indicator has seen consistent improvement across all quarters, compared to the same periods last year. Exceeding the target by 4%, the performance of this indicator is representative of the hard work and resources that have gone in to improving environmental quality in these important gateway and investment areas.
3	Reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents (KSI)	Merseyside Police	126	N/A	100	100	140	140	R	↑	Apr-Mar	Mark Smith	Multi-agency road safety action plan has been developed amongst Council, Police & Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service. Additional traffic enforcement continues to be undertaken by police. Additional engagement initiatives with businesses were introduced during 2014/15 and will continue through 2015 - 2017.
4	Delivery of Major Scheme Business Case (MSBC) for Docks Bridges	Docks Bridges Project Board (Quarterly meeting reports)	N/A	N/A	100%	100%	100%	100%	G	↔	Apr-Mar	Mark Smith	Indicator now Closed. MSBC no longer required. All necessary funding now secured via Highway Maintenance Challenge Fund and Council Capital. OAR (part of MSBC) was delivered as required in Nov 14, which contributed to successful bid.
5	Improve residents satisfaction with parks & countryside sites at less cost	Land Use Reallocation fortnightly reports	N/A	N/A	100%	100%	100%	100%	G	↔	Apr-Mar	Mark Smith	This task was completed by half-year reporting.
Housing & Community Safety													
6	No of affordable homes delivered	Housing Strategy Team (Homes & Communities Agency MIS)	354	N/A	300	300	322	300	G	↑	Apr-Mar	Ian Platt	Year-end target has been achieved.
7	Number of empty properties returned to use or demolished through local authority action	MVM database	300	N/A	260	260	302	260	G	↑	Apr-Mar	Ian Platt	Year-end target has been exceeded.
8	No of adaptations completed	MVM Database	1,934	N/A	1,900	1900	2257	1900	G	↑	Apr-Mar	Ian Platt	This indicator has again achieved it's year-end target.
9	No of interventions to improve private rented sector properties	MVM Database	783	N/A	400	400	523	400	G	↑	Apr-Mar	Ian Platt	Year-end target has been exceeded.
10	No of homeless preventions	P1E and HAPI System	692	N/A	650	650	707	650	G	↑	Apr-Mar	Ian Platt	This indicator achieved it's year-end target as anticipated.
11	Decrease in offending rate for those on the cusp of becoming Wirral's most prolific offenders (Compass)	Police Data Warehouse on the 'Delphi' computer system.	55.6%	N/A	57.8%	57.8%	77.2%	57.8%	G	↑	Apr-Mar	Ian Platt	The cumulative reduction rate in Compass cohort offending is 77.2, well within the target of 57.8% This comprises: Q1 81.3% , Q2 60.0%, Q3 81.5% , Q4 75%.
Regeneration & Planning													
12	% of Major Planning Applications determined within 13 weeks	Acolaid system	47.06%	N/A	60%	60%	79.07%	60%	G	↑	Apr-Mar	David Ball	This indicator achieved it's year-end target as anticipated.
Investment & Business													
13	Total investment secured into Wirral developments	Internal - Invest Wirral Whiteboard & Investment Strategy Team intelligence.	N/A	N/A	£23,000,000	£23,000,000	£38,044,660	£23,000,000	G	↑	Apr-Mar	Alan Evans	The new developments such as Tower Wharf and ongoing success of Wirral's RGF programme have contributed to the achievement of this target. Wirral's Investment Team have worked hard to secure over £1.5m of external funding which will be used in Employment Programmes.
14	Number of jobs created / safeguarded through council interventions	Invest Wirral internal whiteboard.	937	N/A	925	925	970	925	G	↑	Apr-Mar	Alan Evans	This PI has exceeded it's anticipated year-end target.
15	Gross Value Added per head of population	http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/whats-new/articles/2013-09-10-gva-per-head-of-population.html	£11,599	N/A	£12,013	£12,013	£12,482	£12,013	G	↑	2013	Alan Evans	GVA per head of population has greatly improved across Wirral between 2012 – 2013. The latest published data has confirmed that Wirral achieved a 7% increase during 2013 resulting in Wirral accomplishing the highest percentage increase of any standard geographical area in England.
16	Percentage of working age people claiming out-of-work benefits	http://www.wirral.gov.uk/working-age-claim.html	15%	N/A	14.5%	14.5%	14.1%	14.5%	G	↓	Dec-14	Alan Evans	Q4 performance is not available until May 2015. Latest performance data (Q3 2014/15 shows Wirral is performing at 14.1% and is already on track to meet the end of year target for 2014/15.

17	Percentage of 18-24 year olds claiming Job Seekers Allowance (JSA)	https://www.numswest.co.uk/Claimers/Count	7.8%	N/A	6.2%	6.2%	1.6%	6.2%	G	↓	Apr-Mar	Alan Evans	NOTE: JSA Statistics have been impacted by the introduction of Universal Credit in Wirral; it is unclear at this moment in time how the two sets of statistics will be combined for future reporting of unemployment statistics. More information will be given when available
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FINANCE: Corporate Financial position

18	Revenue	General Ledger		N/A	96,620,300		93,270,300	93,270,300			Apr-Mar	Tom Sault	Directorate underspend of £3.35m
19	Capital Programme	General Ledger		N/A	20,917,000		16,643,946	16,643,946			Apr-Mar	Tom Sault	Capital slippage to be requested.
20	Savings	General Ledger		N/A	4,379,000		4,279,000	4,279,000			Apr-Mar	Tom Sault	Underachievement of savings target has been mitigated by underspend in year. Full saving will be achieved in 2015-16 onwards.

RISK: Remaining significant risks to achievement of non-compliant target

Ref	Priority / Objective	Risk Description	Existing Controls	Current Scores			Risk Review Frequency	Reporting Period	Accountable Officer (Head of Service)	Further Additional Controls (including dates to be implemented / expected to take effect)	Target Scores		
				Lik	Imp	Total					Lik	Imp	Total
	Reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents (KSI)	External factors have a negative influence on the number of those Killed or Seriously Injured (KS's) on our roads.	Programmes of Safety Schemes; Safer Routes to Schools; Road Safety Education together with Roads Policing Enforcement	3	4	12	Q	Apr-Mar	Mark Smith	Programme of additional enforcement activity agreed with Merseyside Police. Cabinet approval for Safe & Sustainable Transport project (£320,000 for 2015/16) Additional provision of marketing / advertising will be required.	5	3	15

Risk

↑ Performance is improving
Lower is better

↑ Performance is improving
Higher is better

↓ Performance is deteriorating
Lower is better

↓ Performance is deteriorating
Higher is better

↕ Performance sustained
in line with targets set

G
A
R

Performance within tolerance for target set.

Performance target slightly missed (outside of tolerance).

Performance not on track, action plan required.

Lik = Likelihood

Imp = Impact

Total = Risk score

A qualitative description of the probability or frequency of the risk happening.

The evaluated effect or result of a particular risk happening.

Assessment of the combined scores, for the likelihood and impact of the risk happening, after taking into account any controls in place to manage the risk (Lik x Imp).

PERFORMANCE ACTION PLAN

Q4 (Apr 2014-Mar 2015) PI Ref: REDP09

INDICATOR OVERVIEW			
Indicator Title	Reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents (KSI)		
Strategic Director Lead	Kevin Adderley		
Departmental Lead	Mark Smith, Head of Service Environment & Regulation		
Year End Target	100	Year End Forecast	Original: 100 Revised: 140

CURRENT SITUATION: Detail what the performance is for this measure and reason/s for non-compliance		
Performance this Period	Q4 KSI data (Jan –Dec 2014 reportable police data) 140 KSI	+ / - Target : + 40 KSI
Non-compliance reason	<p>Q1-Q4 2014 -The following road user groups have shown an increase in the number of people sustaining KSI injuries compared to the <u>average</u> during 2011-2013 for Q1-Q4:</p> <p>Adult Pedestrians (60+ yrs) Adult vehicle occupants Child Pedestrians (aged <4yrs) Motorcyclists</p> <p>Analysis of road casualty data across Merseyside also shows an increase in KSI casualties compared to the Merseyside LTP target.</p> <p>Analysis of details of KSI casualty records ongoing (but dependent upon availability from police).</p>	

ACTIONS: This describes what's necessary or how to achieve a 'green' score. This way everyone is clear on what is required and when; knows the expected outcome and how to achieve it.	
What (is required)	<p>This indicator relates to data for calendar year 2014.</p> <p>Actions to continue to address key KSI road casualty risk groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional enforcement action (police). • Additional PR/Marketing activity to make drivers, riders & pedestrians aware of road risk. • Additional resource to enable continuation of Safe & Sustainable Transport project (approved for 2015/16). • Further verification of data supplied by police will be undertaken to ensure compliance with national reporting criteria.
How (will it be achieved)	<p>Programme of additional enforcement activity agreed with Merseyside Police.</p> <p>Cabinet approval for Safe & Sustainable Transport project (£320,000 for 2015/16)</p> <p>Additional provision of marketing / advertising will be required.</p>
Who (will be responsible)	Wirral Collision Reduction Partnership
When (will results be realised)	Road safety targets are set within the Local Transport Plan for 2020. WBC annual targets are milestones. Casualty reductions resulting from ongoing work and additional activity identified here will occur over forthcoming years.

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WIRRAL COUNCIL

REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT POLICY AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

14 JULY 2015

SUBJECT:	POLICY BRIEFING PAPER – JULY 2015
WARD/S AFFECTED:	ALL
REPORT OF:	STRATEGIC DIRECTOR – REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT
RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	PAT HACKETT BERNIE MOONEY STUART WHITTINGHAM
KEY DECISION?	NO

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 This report presents Committee Members with the July Policy Briefing papers which include an overview of ongoing and recent national legislation, bills presented to Parliament and emerging policies.

2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

2.1 The policy briefing papers are intended to provide Members with the latest position on emerging policy and legislative developments to support the committees work programme and future scrutiny work.

2.2 During the course of the 2015-16 municipal year, the Council's Policy and Strategy team will prepare four policy briefing papers which will be reported to the Policy and Performance Committees for consideration. The following table outlines the timetable for the preparation and reporting of policy briefing papers:

Policy Papers	
July 2015	The first policy briefing will focus predominately on the Queen's Speech, which will establish the Government's legislative programme for the parliamentary year ahead.
September 2015	The second policy briefing will be produced in September and will focus predominately on the Chancellor's July 2015 Budget Statement. The policy briefing will provide an update on policy and legislation and will consider relevant implications for Wirral.

Policy Papers	
January 2016	The third policy briefing will be produced in accordance with the local government finance settlement which informs the annual determination of funding to local government. The policy briefing will provide an update on policy and legislation and will consider relevant implications for Wirral.
March 2016	The fourth policy briefing will focus upon the Chancellor of Exchequers Budget. The policy briefing will provide an update on policy and legislation and will consider relevant implications for Wirral.

2.3 The July Policy Briefing papers focus predominantly on the policies and legislation that have emerged from the newly formed Conservative Government. The papers provide a high level summary based on the available information released by Central Government at this time. It is expected that the September Briefing Paper will be more detailed following the release of further information from Government and will also consider the implications for Wirral.

2.4 The Committee may wish to identify specific policy areas to focus upon which are in line with the Committee's work programme. Detailed briefing papers can be prepared for these subject matters at the request of the Committee which would be in addition to the regular policy briefing papers outlined above.

3.0 RELEVANT RISKS

3.1 No specific risks identified.

4.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

4.1 None considered.

5.0 CONSULTATION

5.1 Not applicable.

6.0 OUTSTANDING PREVIOUSLY APPROVED ACTIONS

6.1 Not applicable.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

7.1 There are none arising directly from this report. Any implications identified in ongoing and recent national legislation and policy will require further consideration by the Council to identify the appropriate action that will be taken.

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

8.1 There are none arising directly from this report. Any implications identified in ongoing and recent national legislation and policy will require further consideration by the Council to identify the appropriate action that will be taken.

9.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are none arising directly from this report. Any implications identified in ongoing and recent national legislation and policy will require further consideration by the Council to identify the appropriate action that will be taken.

10.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

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

(c) No because of another reason which is

The policy briefing is intended to provide Committee Members with an overview of ongoing and recent national legislation, bills presented to Parliament, emerging policies and upcoming consultations.

The local implementation of any policy or legislation will require an individual equality impact assessment.

11.0 CARBON REDUCTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are none arising directly from this report. Any implications identified in ongoing and recent national legislation and policy will require further consideration by the Council to identify the appropriate action that will be taken.

12.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

12.1 There are none arising directly from this report. Any implications identified in ongoing and recent national legislation and policy will require further consideration by the Council to identify the appropriate action that will be taken.

13.0 RECOMMENDATION/S

13.1 Committee Members are requested to note the contents of the Policy Briefing papers and identify any area of focus for further detailed policy briefings to be provided.

14.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

14.1 To provide Committee Members with an overview of ongoing and recent national legislation and emerging policy developments.

APPENDICES

1. Policy Papers – July 2015

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Not applicable	N/A

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Policy Inform: Regeneration and Environment

Directorate Policy: July 2015

The Directorate Policy briefings will provide an overview of ongoing and recent national legislation, bills presented to Parliament, emerging policies and upcoming consultations. The Directorate Policy briefing will be produced specifically to inform Portfolio Holders and Elected Members and will be taken to Policy & Performance Committees for discussion.

Contents

Introduction:	
Introduction	p.2
Conservative Manifesto 2015:	
Conservative Manifesto- Key Points	p.3
Queens Speech 2015:	
Cities and Local Government Devolution Bill & Buses Bill	p.5
Housing Bill	p.6
Energy Bill	p.7
High Speed Rail Bill	p.7
Enterprise Bill	p.8
Full Employment and Welfare Benefit Bill	p.8
Recent and Ongoing National Legislation:	
Infrastructure Act 2015	p.10
Policy Developments :	
House of Commons Education Report: Apprenticeships and Traineeships for 16-19 year olds	p.11
Endnotes & Sources:	
Endnotes & Sources	p.12

Introduction

The policy briefing paper is intended to provide Members of the Policy and Performance Committee with the latest position on emerging policy and legislative developments to support the committees work programme and future scrutiny work.

During the course of the 2015-16 municipal year, it is proposed that the Council's Policy and Strategy team prepares four policy briefings papers for consideration by the Committee. The following table outlines the timetable for the preparation and reporting of policy briefing papers:

Policy & Performance Committee Briefings	
July 2015	The first policy briefing will focus predominately on the Queen's Speech, which will establish the Government's legislative programme for the parliamentary year ahead.
September 2015	The second policy briefing will be produced in September and will focus predominately on the Chancellor's July 2015 Budget Statement. The policy briefing will provide an update on policy and legislation and will consider relevant implications for Wirral.
January 2016	The third policy briefing will be produced in accordance with the local government finance settlement which informs the annual determination of funding to local government. The policy briefing will provide an update on policy and legislation and will consider relevant implications for Wirral.
March 2016	The fourth policy briefing will focus upon the Chancellor of Exchequers Budget. The policy briefing will provide an update on policy and legislation and will consider relevant implications for Wirral.

The July Policy Briefing paper focuses predominantly on the policies and legislation that have emerged from the newly formed Conservative Government. The paper provides initial information based on the available information released by Central Government at this time. It is expected that the September Briefing Paper will be more detailed following the release of further information from Government and will also consider the implications for Wirral.

The Committee may wish to identify specific policy areas to focus upon which are in line with the Committee's work programme. Detailed briefing papers can be prepared for these subject matters at the request of the Committee which would be in addition to the regular policy briefing papers outlined above.

Conservative Manifesto

Conservative Manifesto- Key Points :

On 14th April 2015, the Conservative Party launched their Manifesto which outlined their party pledges for the parliamentary year ahead if they were elected into Government. The columns below identify the manifesto themes that are of most relevance to local government and more specifically to the Regeneration and Environment Policy and Performance Committee. The majority of the pledges identified have recently been referenced in further detail within the Queen's Speech, following the success of the Conservative Party in the 2015 General Election.

Housing and Planning

- Extend Help to Buy to cover another 120,000 homes
- Construction of 200,000 new starter homes sold at 20% below the asking price to first-time buyers under 40
- New Help to Buy ISA
- Extend right to buy to housing association tenants, funding replacement of properties by requiring local authorities to manage their housing assets more efficiently, with most expensive properties sold off and replaced as they fall vacant.
- Fund Housing Zones to transform brownfield sites into new housing (funded from council house sales)
- Increase the inheritance tax threshold on family homes to £1m by 2017
- Aim at least to double the number of custom-built and self-built homes by 2020.
- A new Right to Build, requiring councils to allocate land to local people to build
- Offer 10,000 new homes to rent at below market rates, to help people save for a deposit
- Let local people have more say on local planning and let them vote on local issues

Infrastructure, Procurement and Transport

- Secure the delivery of superfast broadband in urban and rural areas to provide coverage to 95 per cent of the UK by the end of 2017
- Raise the target for SMEs' share of central government procurement to one-third, strengthen the Prompt Payment Code and ensure that all major government suppliers sign up
- Invest over £100 billion in infrastructure over the next Parliament
- Add 1,300 extra lane miles to our roads, improve over 60 problem junctions, and continue to provide enough funding to fix around 18 million potholes nationwide between 2015 and 2021
- Double the number of journeys made by bicycle and invest over £200 million to make cycling safer
- Build High Speed 2 – the new North-South railway linking up London with the West Midlands, Leeds and Manchester – and develop High Speed 3 to join up the North.

Environment

- Halt new public subsidies for onshore windfarms
- A free vote to repeal the ban on hunting with dogs
- Support low-cost measures on energy efficiency, with the goal of insulating a million more homes over the next five years
- Ensure that every home and business in the country has a Smart Meter by 2020
- Launch a programme of pocket parks – small areas of inviting public space where people can enjoy relief from the hustle and bustle of city streets
- Create a Sovereign Wealth Fund for the North of England, so that the shale gas resources of the North are used to invest in the future of the North
- Review the case for higher Fixed Penalty Notices for littering and allow councils to tackle small-scale fly-tipping through Fixed Penalties rather than costly prosecutions.

Conservative Manifesto- Key Points (Continued):

Economy and Work

- Eliminate the deficit: reduce government spending by one per cent each year in real terms for first two financial years – further £30 billion in fiscal consolidation through: £13 billion from departmental savings, £12 billion from welfare savings and £5 billion from tackling tax evasion
- Requiring 40% of those entitled to take part in strike ballots to vote for a strike before industrial action can be held
- Requiring companies with more than 250 employees to publish their gender pay gap – the difference between average pay for male and female employees
- Give those who work for a big company and the public sector a new workplace entitlement to volunteering leave for three days a year, on full pay.
- In second phase, starting in 2018-19, move into surplus in both fiscal mandate and the current budget
- Introduce a law guaranteeing no rise in VAT, national insurance contributions or income tax
- Increasing the minimum wage to £6.70 by the autumn and to £8 by the end of the decade
- Support Living wage and encourage employers to pay it

Devolution/Constitutional Change

- Strengthen and improve devolution for each part of the United Kingdom in a way that accepts that there is no one-size-fits-all solution. Implement the Smith Commission and St David's Day Agreement or equivalent changes in the rest of the UK, including English votes for English laws
- Devolve far-reaching powers over economic development, transport and social care to large cities which choose to have elected mayors
- Add a new stage to how English legislation is passed; no bill or part of a bill relating only to England would be able to pass to its Third Reading and become law without being approved through a legislative consent motion by a Grand Committee made up of all English MPs, or all English and Welsh MPs
- Deliver more bespoke Growth Deals with local councils
- Extend the principle of English consent to financial matters such as how spending is distributed within England and to taxation including an English rate of Income Tax when the equivalent decisions have been devolved to Scotland.

Other areas of interest

- Cut £12 billion from Welfare Spending
- Review of business rates to report by 2016 Budget.
- Encourage councils to help manage public land and buildings, and will give authorities at least a 10 per cent stake in public sector land sales in their area
- Strengthen the Community Right to Bid – extend the length of time communities have to purchase these assets, and require owners to set a clear 'reserve' price for the community to aim for when bidding
- Set up a Pub Loan Fund to enable community groups to obtain small loans to pay for feasibility work, lawyers' fees, or materials for refurbishment, where they have bid to run the pub as part of our reforms to the Community Asset Register

Queen's Speech 2015

On Wednesday 27th March 2015, the Queen unveiled the Government's legislative plans for the year ahead. Below is a list of each individual Bill which will have implications for local government that were announced during the speech. The list identifies the Policy and Performance committee with whose remit the legislation most closely aligns:

Legislative Plans	Policy and Performance Committee
National Insurance Contributions Bill/ Finance Bill	Transformation and Resources
Full Employment and Welfare Benefits Bill	All Policy and Performance Committees
Trade Unions Bill	Transformation and Resources
Housing Bill	Regeneration and Environment
Cities and Local Government Devolution Bill	Regeneration and Environment
Buses Bill	Regeneration and Environment
High Speed Rail Bill	Regeneration and Environment
Childcare Bill	Families and Wellbeing
Energy Bill	Regeneration and Environment
Education and Adoption Bill	Families and Wellbeing
Enterprise Bill	Regeneration and Environment
Policing and Criminal Justice Bill	Families and Wellbeing Transformation and Resources
Draft Public Service Ombudsman Bill	Transformation and Resources
Psychoactive Substances Bill	Families and Wellbeing

Additional bills that have been announced are outlined below. These will be monitored in relation to any emerging implications for Local Government and reported to the relevant Policy and Performance Committee as appropriate.

Additional Legislative Plans
EU Referendum Bill
Scotland Bill
Immigration Bill
Extremism Bill
Investigatory Powers Bill
Charities Bill
Armed Forces Bill
Bank of England Bill
Northern Ireland (Stormont House Agreement) Bill
Wales Bill
Votes for Life Bill

The bills relevant to the Regeneration and Environment Committee are discussed in further detail below. The information provided has been sourced predominately from the LGiU, as well as SOLACE and the LGC and therefore solely represents a fact-based introduction to the bills.

Cities and Local Government Devolution Bill

*“Devolution of powers to cities with elected metro mayors”
(The Queen’s Speech)*

Synopsis:

The Bill will provide for the devolution of powers to cities with elected metro mayor, continuing the government’s commitment to building a ‘northern powerhouse’. ⁱⁱ

Key Points:

The main elements of the Bill are to:

- To provide new primary legislative powers to fulfill the Government’s manifesto commitments.
- Together with existing powers under the Localism Act 2011, the Bill would also enable the Government to empower towns and counties, building on the programme of Growth Deals which the Government implemented in the last Parliament.
- The provisions in the Bill would be generic (to be applied by order to specified combined authorities and their areas) and would enable:
 - An elected mayor for the combined authority’s area who would exercise specified functions and chair the authority.
 - The mayor to undertake the functions of Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for the area.
 - Where a mayor is to have PCC functions, allow the current PCC term of office to be extended until the mayor is in place.
 - Remove the current statutory limitation on its functions (currently these are limited to those on economic development, regeneration, and transport).
 - Enable local authority governance to be streamlined as agreed by councils. ⁱⁱⁱ

Any Further Details:

As part of the wider devolution package, the Queen’s speech announced the introduction of the Buses Bill which would provide the option for Combined Authority areas with directly-elected mayors to be responsible for the running of their local bus services. The Government says the move would allow cities to promote an integrated transport system. ^{iv}

On the 29th May 2015 the Cities and Local Government Devolution Bill was published in full. The bill stated that the Communities Secretary could enforce the adoption of the elected mayor model and would have the power to remove the dissenting council from the combined authority. ^v

Housing Bill

***“Support home ownership and give housing association tenants the chance to own their own home.”
(The Queen’s Speech)***

Synopsis:

This legislation will give housing association tenants the chance to own their own home. It also aims to increase housing supply and access to home ownership.^{vi}

Key Points:

The main elements of the Bill can be separated into two sections:

Home Ownership:

- To enable the extension of Right to Buy levels of discount to housing association tenants.
- To require local authorities to dispose of high-value vacant council houses, to help fund the Right to Buy extension discounts and the building of more affordable homes in the area.
- To provide the necessary statutory framework to support the delivery of Starter Homes.
- To take forward the Right to Build, requiring local planning authorities to support custom and self-builders registered in their area in identifying suitable plots of land to build or commission their own home.

Housing Supply:

- To introduce a statutory register for brownfield land, to help achieve the target of getting Local Development Orders in place on 90% of suitable brownfield sites by 2020.
- To simplify and speed up the neighbourhood planning system, to support communities that seek to meet local housing and other development needs through neighbourhood planning.
- To give effect to other changes to housing and planning legislation that would support housing growth.^{vii}

Any Further Details:

Plans to support home ownership and extend the right-to-buy scheme to 1.3 million social housing tenants in England feature in the new Housing Bill. Under the plans, housing association tenants will be able to buy the homes they rent at a discount. There will also be help for first-time buyers, with 200,000 starter homes made available to under-40s at a 20% discount. Both are commitments which were included in the Conservatives' general election manifesto. The government says the bill will increase the housing supply and ensure local people have more control over planning.^{viii}

Energy Bill

***"Increase energy security"
(The Queen's Speech)***

Synopsis:

The aim of this Bill is to improve energy security. It gives new powers to the Oil and Gas Authority (OGA) to maximise the economic recovery of oil and gas from UK waters and changes the law to give local communities a greater say in planning applications for wind farms.^{ix}

Key Points:

Aspects of the Bill potentially relevant to local government include:

- Ensuring local planning authorities have consenting powers for all onshore wind farms.
- The Bill would make legislative changes to remove the need for the Secretary of State's consent for any large onshore wind farms (over 50MW)
- This, in effect, would devolve powers out of Whitehall by transferring the existing consenting powers, in relation to onshore wind, to local planning authorities.
- This will mean that in future the primary decision maker for onshore wind consents in England and Wales will be the local planning authority. These changes will be supported by changes to the national planning policy framework to give effect to the manifesto commitment that local communities should have the final say on planning applications for wind farms.
- These changes would not impact on the planning regime in Scotland and Northern Ireland.
- The commitment to end new subsidy for onshore wind farms will be delivered separately, and DECC will be announcing measures to deliver this soon.^x

High Speed Rail Bill

***"High-speed rail links between the different parts of the country."
(The Queen's Speech)***

Synopsis:

The aim of this Bill is to provide the Government with the legal powers to construct and operate phase 1 of the High Speed 2 (HS2) railway.^{xi}

Key Points:

The main elements of the Bill are:

- Give the Government deemed planning permission for the railway between London and the West Midlands.
- Give the Government compulsory purchase powers and the power to temporarily take possession of land required to construct and operate the railway.
- Help rebalance the UK economy and free up space on the UK rail network, improving connections between London, the Midlands, the North and Scotland^{xii}

Enterprise Bill

***"Reduce regulation on small businesses so they can create jobs."
(The Queen's Speech)***

Synopsis:

This bill will include measures to reduce regulation on small businesses in a bid to boost job creation.^{xiii}

Key Points:

The main elements of the Bill are:

- Seek to cut red tape for British business by at least £10bn and, for the first time, require independent regulators to contribute to that target.
- Proposes to create a new Small Business Conciliation Service, to help settle disputes between small and large businesses, especially over late payment practices.
- To improve the business rates system ahead of the 2017 revaluation, including by modernising the appeals system
- To introduce a cap on public sector redundancy payments to six figures for the highest earners.^{xiv}

Full Employment and Welfare Benefit Bill

***"Achieve full employment and provide more people with the security of a job."
(The Queen's Speech)***

Synopsis:

The aim of this bill is to achieve full employment. The legislation will continue to expand the Troubled Families Programme as well as continue welfare reform, capping benefits and requiring young people to 'earn or learn'.^{xv}

Key Points:

The main elements of the Bill are to:

- A working-age benefit freeze.
- The new legislation would freeze the main rates of the majority of working age benefits, tax credits and Child Benefit for two years from 2016-17. Pensioners would be protected, as would benefits relating to the additional costs of disability. Statutory payments, such as Statutory Maternity, Paternity, and Adoption Pay would also be exempted.
- The new legislation would lower the benefit cap so that the total amount of benefits a non-working family can receive in a year would be £23,000.
- Households are exempt where someone is entitled to Working Tax Credit or is in receipt of benefits relating to additional costs of disability, or War Widow's and Widower's Pension.
- The Bill includes a duty to report annually on progress against meeting our target of 3 million new apprenticeships.

- Troubled Families Programme: The Bill includes a duty to report annually on progress of the Troubled Families programme. The Bill also seeks to place a requirement on public bodies to provide information to the Secretary of State in order that he may fulfil that duty.
- Put in place a new Youth Allowance for 18-21 year olds with stronger work related conditionality from Day 1. After 6 months they will be required to go on an apprenticeship, training or community work placement;
- Remove automatic entitlement to housing support for 18-21 year olds;
- Provide Jobcentre Plus adviser support in schools across England to supplement careers advice and provide routes into work experience and apprenticeships.^{xvi}

Recent and Ongoing National Legislation

Infrastructure Act 2015

Synopsis:

The Infrastructure Act received Royal Assent on 12th February 2015. The changes introduced by this Act, most of which will come into force at a later date, are intended to make the delivery of a range of infrastructure faster and more efficient through improvements to funding, management and refinement of the planning processes.

Key Points:

A summary of the changes brought by the Infrastructure Act 2015 can be found below:

- The creation of a new Government owned subsidiary company from 1 April 2015 to be known as Highways England will take over the responsibility for strategic roads from the Highways Agency.
- The creation of a strategy for the provision of cycling and walking infrastructure.
- Changes to the nationally significant infrastructure projects planning to improve the administrative process.
- Allow certain types of planning conditions to be discharged upon application if a local authority has not notified the developer of their decision within a prescribed time period
- Transferring responsibility for Local Land Charge searches from local authorities to the Land Registry.
- Changes to the provision of zero carbon homes by allowing off-site 'allowable solutions' to be taken into account.
- Giving communities a right to buy a stake in local renewable electricity schemes.
- Requiring the government to produce a strategy for maximising the economic recovery of UK's offshore petroleum and provide powers to raise levies for holders of certain energy industry licences.
- Streamlining the underground access regime and make it easier for companies to drill for oil, shale gas and geothermal energy.
- Changes to reimburse arrangements whereby electricity customers pay a proportionate of the costs of putting in place infrastructure to connect to the network paid for previously by another customer.
- Providing power to abolish Public Works Loan Commissioners.

For More Information:

[Mark Upton, Infrastructure Act 2015, LGiU, 09/04/15](#)

Policy Developments

House of Commons Education Report: Apprenticeships and Traineeships for 16-19 year olds

Synopsis:

In recent years, the operation of Government-funded apprenticeships and vocational education has undergone significant change due to concerns about the number of young people entering into apprenticeships and the quality of apprenticeships. On the 21st July 2014, the Commons Education Committee launched an inquiry into the effectiveness of apprenticeships, whether apprenticeships represented value for money for the Government and how the Government could encourage more businesses and young people to consider apprenticeships and traineeships.

On the 9th March 2015 the House of Commons published a report entitled 'Apprenticeships and Traineeships for 16-19 year olds' which examined the main findings from the inquiry.

Report Findings:

The report found that the central challenge for the Government's reform programme is to increase the number of young apprenticeship opportunities while ensuring that quality is at least maintained if not improved. The report stated that it supported the Government's efforts to give employers greater say, control and stake in apprenticeships but it must guard against system changes which deter employers, and smaller employers in particular, from participating.

Key Dates:



For More Information:

[Kathy Baker, Apprenticeships and Traineeships for 16-19 year olds: Commons Education Committee, LGiU, 30/04/15](#)

ENDNOTES:

-
- ⁱ Janet Sillett, Briefing: Conservative Manifesto Commitments- The Local Government Perspective, LGiU, 12/05/15
- ⁱⁱ Hannah Blythe et al, Briefing: Queen’s Speech 2015, LGiU, 27/05/15
- ⁱⁱⁱ Hannah Blythe et al, Briefing: Queen’s Speech 2015, LGiU, 27/05/15
- ^{iv} Queen’s Speech 2015: Bill-by-bill, BBC, 27/05/15
- ^v David Paine, Devolution bill paves the way for imposition of elected mayors, LGC, 29/05/15
- ^{vi} Hannah Blythe et al, Briefing: Queen’s Speech 2015, LGiU, 27/05/15
- ^{vii} Hannah Blythe et al, Briefing: Queen’s Speech 2015, LGiU, 27/05/15
- ^{viii} Queen’s Speech 2015: Bill-by-bill, BBC, 27/05/15
- ^{ix} Hannah Blythe et al, Briefing: Queen’s Speech 2015, LGiU, 27/05/15
- ^x Hannah Blythe et al, Briefing: Queen’s Speech 2015, LGiU, 27/05/15
- ^{xi} Hannah Blythe et al, Briefing: Queen’s Speech 2015, LGiU, 27/05/15
- ^{xii} Hannah Blythe et al, Briefing: Queen’s Speech 2015, LGiU, 27/05/15
- ^{xiii} Hannah Blythe et al, Briefing: Queen’s Speech 2015, LGiU, 27/05/15
- ^{xiv} Hannah Blythe et al, Briefing: Queen’s Speech 2015, LGiU, 27/05/15
- ^{xv} Hannah Blythe et al, Briefing: Queen’s Speech 2015, LGiU, 27/05/15
- ^{xvi} Hannah Blythe et al, Briefing: Queen’s Speech 2015, LGiU, 27/05/15

SOURCES EMBEDDED WITHIN THE PAPER:

- [Mark Upton, Infrastructure Act 2015, LGiU, 09/04/15](#)
- [Kathy Baker, Apprenticeships and Traineeships for 16-19 year olds: Commons Education Committee, LGiU, 30/04/15](#)

WIRRAL COUNCIL

REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT POLICY & PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

14 JULY 2015

SUBJECT:	<i>WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE REPORT</i>
REPORT OF:	<i>THE CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE</i>

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 This report updates Members on the current position regarding the work programme for the Regeneration and Environment Policy & Performance Committee.

2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

2.1 The Regeneration and Environment Policy & Performance Committee is responsible for proposing and delivering an annual work programme. This work programme should align with the corporate priorities of the Council and be informed by service priorities and performance, risk management information, public or service user feedback and referrals from Cabinet or Council.

2.2 In determining items for the Scrutiny Work Programme, good practice recommends the following criteria could be applied:

- Public Interest – topics should resonate with the local community
- Impact – there should be clear objectives and outcomes that make the work worthwhile
- Council Performance – the focus should be on improving performance
- Keeping in Context – should ensure best use of time and resources

2.3 The work programme is made up of a combination of scrutiny reviews, standing items and requested officer reports. This provides the committee with an opportunity to plan and regularly review its work across the municipal year. The work programme as at the end of the 2014/15 municipal year is attached as Appendix 1.

3.0 REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT POLICY & PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

3.1 At the Agenda Setting meeting for this Committee, the arrangements for setting the work programme for the 2015/16 municipal year were discussed. It was agreed that a workshop session would be convened and this would be held with the Chair, Vice Chair, Group Spokespersons and senior officers to determine the items to be included on the work programme. Members will be informed of these arrangements and will be requested to discuss any

suggestions for items to be included on the work programme with the Chair or their Group Spokesperson.

4.0 PREVIOUS / CURRENT SCRUTINY REVIEWS – UPDATE

4.1 Coastal Strategy

A Task & Finish review of the Council's Coastal Strategy was agreed as part of the 2014/15 work programme. An initial scoping meeting was convened in February with an outcome that an additional scoping meeting would be required. Due to the election period and Member availability, this was subsequently delayed. The second scoping meeting has recently convened and the scope of the review is in the process of being formalised. An update on the progress of this review will be reported to Committee at the next scheduled meeting in September.

5.0 PROGRESS IMPLEMENTING PREVIOUS RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Under Occupancy

At the Regeneration and Environment Policy & Performance Committee meeting held in March 2013, a report was presented detailing the progress made on the Under-Occupation Scrutiny Review. From the eighteen recommendations made, seven were still reported as outstanding. A further update on progress to implementing these recommendations is attached as appendix 2 to this report.

6.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Members are requested to note the contents of this report, including the arrangements for setting the Committee's work programme for the 2015/16 municipal year.

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2014-15 Regeneration & Environment Committee Work Programme

Key Activities	Lead Member / Officer	Reason for Review	May 2014	June 2014	July 2014	Aug 2014	Sept 2014	Oct 2014	Nov 2014	Dec 2014	Jan 2015	Feb 2015	Mar 2015	April 2015	Outcome
Committee Dates					22nd		22nd		4th	3rd		3rd	23rd		
Scheduled Reviews															
Review of Apprenticeships	Cllrs Pat Hackett and Tony Smith	Requested by Members													Completed - Reported to Cabinet November 2014
Future Council															Completed - Reported to Cabinet November 2014
Car Parking	Cllr Stuart Whittingham	Requested by Members													Completed - Reported to Cabinet November 2014
Coastal Strategy	Cllr Bernie Mooney	Requested by Members													In Progress
Homelessness		Requested by Members													Agreed to commence in the new municipal year.
Potential Reviews															
Reports Requested															
Under-Occupation - Follow up	Kevin Adderley	Requested by Members													Agenda item for 14 July 2015
Review of street cleansing post budget options	Kevin Adderley	Requested by Members													Complete
Monitoring the highways contract	Kevin Adderley	Requested by Members													Complete
DWP Work Programme	Kevin Adderley	Requested by Members													Complete
Dangerous Dogs	Kevin Adderley	Requested by Members													Complete
Investing in Wirral's Infrastructure	Kevin Adderley	Requested by Members													Complete
Notice of Motion															
Underground Coal Gasification															Complete
Investing in Wirral's Infrastructure															Complete
Private Rented Sector Reform															Complete
Standing Items															
Performance Dashboard															
Financial Monitoring															
Recommendations from Highways Representation Panels															
Special Budget meeting															

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Appendix 2

Recommendation	Action	Update
<p>5 – Downsizing Support</p> <p>Completed</p>	<p><i>The Strategic Director for Regeneration and Environment is requested to discuss with the Registered Providers whether a more joined-up approach could be employed regarding the marketing and promotion of downsizing services which are already available to tenants.</i></p>	<p>The Council is working alongside Registered Providers (RPs) regarding the range of options and advice available to assist tenants affected by the under-occupation charge, of which downsizing is one of a number of solutions that could be available. Other solutions include income maximisation and budget management. All RPs are promoting and targeting affected tenants with a range of marketing and promotional materials such as emails, letters and newsletters.</p> <p>Discussions with RPs on a downsizing scheme have not proved popular and therefore downsizing services have not been promoted because the traditional downsizing schemes offer financial incentives to move. This is not the case for Welfare Reform and issues are more related to smaller accommodation being available.</p> <p>Emphasis has changed and agreement reached to offer support and advice via a dedicated welfare reform officer who commenced in post on 1st April 2014. The post holder has been working alongside RPs to further assist residents to understand and explore the full range of options available to help them, such as mutual exchange (further detail in point 5). The post holder has also been working on identifying solutions and implementing interventions to address a mismatch in supply and demand for some property types as a result of the Welfare Reforms e.g. low demand for 2 bed flats and over demand for 1 bed properties. A range of interventions have been identified and implemented including new advertising methods for some low demand properties,</p>

		<p>increasing the number of applications for rehousing from employed households who can potentially afford to under-occupy accommodation, giving preference to employed applicants for a small number of properties where suitable applicants are unlikely via standard advertising criteria, relaxing bedroom need stipulations for households not affected by Welfare Reforms thereby increasing demand, and housing options for these households and potentially increasing supply and lowering demand for 1 bedroom accommodation. .</p>
<p>6 – Promotion of Mutual Exchange</p> <p>Completed</p>	<p><i>The Strategic Director for Regeneration and Environment is requested to consider ways in which mutual exchanges in the social housing sector could be encouraged. This will include use of the Property Pool Plus.</i></p>	<p>A Mutual Exchange facility is available within the PPP Scheme to existing partner Registered Provider tenants. However, until recently this aspect of the scheme has been undersubscribed, with interest and emphasis being focussed on the Choice Based Lettings aspect of the service. The Welfare Reform Officer has been working to promote the Mutual Exchange facility amongst Registered Provider Landlords and their tenants. This work has involved raising awareness, and providing staff training within Registered Provider organisations, together with promotion to tenants by way of a series of Mutual Exchange Information and awareness events which have been held in various community venues. This work has proved successful in that the number of Mutual Exchange applications has increased from 15 when the Welfare Reform Officer post was introduced in April 2014 to almost 300 currently, meaning that there is now a substantial pool of potential exchanges. The Welfare Reform Officer plans to further build on this success by analysing applications and identifying potential exchanges with a view to encouraging applicants to further explore the</p>

		potential to exchange
<p>8 – Training Programme for private landlords regarding benefit reforms</p> <p>Completed</p>	<p><i>The Strategic Director for Regeneration and Environment is supported in undertaking a training programme for private landlords to explain the changes and how prospective tenants will be affected. The holding of seminars regarding Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) and regulations regarding shared accommodation is also supported.</i></p>	<p>Various training sessions and seminars for landlords and letting agents have been regularly carried out by the Council and in partnership with the Residential Landlord Association since the implementation of the Housing Act 2004, the introduction of the new HMO definitions and the introduction of the mandatory HMO licence requirements to ensure that landlords are aware of their legal responsibilities.</p> <p>At Wirral’s Private Landlord Forums, regular agenda items and presentations are given on welfare reform and benefit changes. If presentations are not given, Housing Benefit staff have a stall and area available to provide information and advice. The last Housing Benefit presentation update provided more than 70 landlords and agents and addressed Welfare Reform, including changes to Housing and Council Tax Benefit, in addition to how the Universal Credit could affect landlord attendees. The Housing Benefit Team will continue to play a role in future Private Landlord Forums going forward to keep landlords up to date with welfare benefit changes.</p> <p>Information and advice to landlords is regularly given and also examples and options on how landlords can help in responding to welfare reform changes whilst still letting their properties.</p> <p>Advice and assistance continues to be given to landlords and those intending to introduce new HMOs to ensure relevant standards are met. Training is ongoing as required by new landlords.</p>
<p>9 - Monitoring of Houses in Multiple Occupation</p>	<p><i>The Strategic Director for Regeneration and Environment should establish how the Council can better monitor illegal Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) in</i></p>	<p>Processes are now in place to identify new HMOs and Officers are officially consulted via the planning process, in addition to existing routes via the fire</p>

<p>(HMOs)</p> <p>Completed</p>	<p><i>order to ensure that enforcement action is taken.</i></p>	<p>service and Housing Benefits.</p> <p>In 2014/15, 370 HMOs were inspected, 57 Category 1 hazards were removed and 12 new HMOs were licensed.</p>
<p>15 – The allocation of armed forces veterans on Property Pool Plus</p> <p>Completed</p>	<p><i>Armed forces veterans, by nature of their duty to the country, should be allocated as Band B on the housing waiting list system.</i></p>	<p>A revised version of the Property Pool Plus Policy was introduced in January 2015. The revisions include additional provision for Armed Forces Personnel leaving the forces, by way of increasing the time period for which they can be awarded a Band B priority, to 12 months from the date of leaving the Forces.</p> <p>The revised Policy also allows for the enhancement of the award date by 3 months for Armed Forces Personnel who are eligible for Band A Urgent priority for re-housing.</p>
<p>16 – Partnership working and self-repair projects</p> <p>Completed</p>	<p><i>The Council should act as a community leader to encourage the transfer of hard to let or empty properties to temporary supported housing providers or community organisations. Opportunities to support this should be explored through revenue finance/services from the Supporting People Programme or other relevant revenue funding streams. This support would help provide on-going housing management services so that vulnerable people could maintain tenancies. Consideration should also be given to creative ideas such as self repair projects.</i></p>	<p>Although the Council continues to act as a community leader and to encourage new and varied ways of working with community organisations, there have been no new self-repair projects in Wirral due to a reduction in funding opportunities. The Council continues to explore any opportunities to work with partners to assist vulnerable people to maintain tenancies.</p>
<p>18 – Credit Unions in Schools</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p><i>The Strategic Director for Families and Wellbeing is requested to hold discussions with Wirral Credit Union regarding the possibility of Credit Unions being established in schools in</i></p>	<p>On 16th June 2015 Wirral's child and family poverty group received a presentation from Julia Webster, Church Credit Champions Coordinator which included an example of a pilot scheme in Sefton that is running</p>

	<p><i>order to promote education regarding financial management and budgeting.</i></p>	<p>'money in schools'. Rebecca Mellor to liaise with Leasowe and Woodchurch Hubs, via the steering groups, regarding opportunity to develop and pilot school credit unions. The Hubs steering groups include the local primary schools and are chaired by Holy Spirit Primary and Woodchurch Primary Headteachers.</p>
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WIRRAL COUNCIL

REGENERATION & ENVIRONMENT POLICY AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

14 JULY 2015

SUBJECT:	APPOINTMENT OF THE HIGHWAYS REPRESENTATION PANEL
WARD/S AFFECTED:	ALL
REPORT OF:	STRATEGIC DIRECTOR OF TRANSFORMATION AND RESOURCES
KEY DECISION?	NO

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to enable this Committee to undertake a review of the Highways Representation Panel and to appoint members to serve on that panel if it is to be retained in 2015-2016. Standing Order 33 (1) requires that Committees should keep the need for panels under review and, in particular, the position must be reviewed at the first meeting of a Committee in each municipal year.

Unless appointed as full members, the Leaders and Deputy Leaders of the three largest political groups represented on the Council are entitled to attend meetings of all Committees, Sub-Committees and Panels, with the right to speak at the invitation of the Chair (Standing Order 25(5)).

2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

- 2.1 The Panel's terms of reference are as follows:

- (i). To consider objections relating to all highway and traffic management matters governed by the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, whether subject to a traffic regulation order or otherwise, including (but not limited to) the following:
- waiting and parking restrictions;
 - speed limits;
 - one way traffic orders;
 - weight limits
 - prohibiting or restricting the use of heavy commercial vehicles;
 - signalised and non signalised pedestrian/cycle/horse crossings;
 - provision of off street parking and parking on roads, footpaths, pavements and verges;
 - traffic signs and traffic signals
 - bus lanes and taxi ranks
- (ii). unresolved petitions relating to highway and traffic management matters

- (iii). and to then make recommendations to the Regeneration and Environment Policy and Performance Committee.

2.2 Membership

The membership of the Highways Representation Panel, since its establishment in 2009 has been three members, the Chair of the relevant scrutiny Committee and usually the two Party Spokespersons, or their nominees. In 2014-2015 the membership was as follows:

Members	Deputies
1 Conservative Steve Williams Chair)	Gerry Ellis John Hale Andrew Hodson Tracey Smith Adam Sykes Kathy Hodson David Elderton Eddie Boulton
1 Labour Mike Sullivan	Jerry Williams Jim Crabtree Matt Daniel Rob Gregson Anita Leech Steve Niblock Denise Realey Jean Stapleton
1 Liberal Democrat Dave Mitchell	Alan Brighthouse Chris Carubia Phil Gilchrist Stuart Kelly Pat Williams

- 2.3 The Panel is an advisory panel and therefore does not need to be politically proportionate.
- 2.4 The Panel's recommendations are referred to the Policy and Performance Committee Regeneration and Environment Committee for consideration. The Committee may approve, amend, substitute or reject a Panel's recommendation(s). All approved and / or amended recommendations by the Committee are referred to the relevant Cabinet Member for a formal decision to be made.
- 2.5 Members should note that the panel usually meets during the daytime.

3.0 RELEVANT RISKS

3.1 The Panel was first appointed in June 2009 (minute 6 refers) to enable the streamlining of the decision making process and to hear public representations and receive officer reports.

4.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

4.1 No other options were considered beyond those outlined in the report.

5.0 CONSULTATION

5.1 It is for political groups to decide how they wish to allocate their Panel places.

6.0 OUTSTANDING PREVIOUSLY APPROVED ACTIONS

6.1 N/A

7.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

7.1 There are no implications arising directly from this report

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

8.1 There are no implications arising directly from this report.

9.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no implications arising directly from this report.

10.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

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

No because there is no relevance to equality.

11.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are no implications arising directly from this report.

12.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

12.1 There are no implications arising directly from this report.

13.1 RECOMMENDATION

The Committee is requested –

(1) to confirm that the Highways Representation Panel be re-appointed for 2015-2016 with the terms of reference identified.

- (2) to appoint members to serve on the Highways Representation Panel in 2015-2016, including the appointment of the Chair and named deputies.

14.1 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

To enable the appointment of a Highways Representation Panel to consider objections and unresolved petitions relating to all highway and traffic management matters.

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REFERENCE MATERIAL

Previous reports on the appointment of the Highways Representation Panel, minutes and the Council's Constitution.

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Regeneration and Environment Policy and Performance Committee	22 July 2014
Regeneration and Environment Policy and Performance Committee	10 July 2013
Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee	26 June 2012
Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee	7 June 2011