



Policy and Performance - Regeneration and Environment Committee

Date: Tuesday, 15 September 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 - 8)

To approve the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 14 July 2015.

3. MERSEYTRAVEL (Pages 9 - 14)

**4. NOTICE OF MOTION - PROPOSAL FOR A FIRE STATION ON GREEN BELT LAND IN SAUGHALL MASSIE
(Pages 15 - 16)**

At the meeting of the Council held on 6 July 2015 (minute 31 refers), the attached Notice of Motion proposed by Councillor Chris Blakeley and seconded by Councillor Bruce Berry was referred by the Mayor to this Committee for consideration.

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

**5. NOTICE OF MOTION - WIRRAL'S ECONOMIC SUCCESS
(Pages 17 - 18)**

At the meeting of the Council held on 6 July 2015 (minute 31 refers), the attached Notice of Motion proposed by Councillor Jeff Green and seconded by Councillor Leslie Rennie was referred by the Mayor to this Committee for consideration.

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

6. DEVOLUTION

To receive an update on Devolution. A report to be presented to the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority on 4th September will be made available to Members.

**7. CLIMATE CHANGE ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT AND ACTION PLAN
(Pages 19 - 64)**

8. SCRUTINY OF THE COUNCIL PLAN AND DELIVERY ARRANGEMENTS

To receive an oral presentation.

**9. 2015/16 DIRECTORATE PERFORMANCE PLAN - PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORT (QUARTER 1)
(Pages 65 - 74)**

**10. FINANCIAL MONITORING 2014/15 END OF YEAR REPORT AND 2015/16 QUARTER 1 REPORT
(Pages 75 - 88)**

**11. POLICY INFORM BRIEFING PAPER - SEPTEMBER 2015
(Pages 89 - 116)**

12. MINUTES FROM HIGHWAYS AND TRAFFIC REPRESENTATION PANEL

To approve the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 7 September 2015. **(To Follow)**

**13. SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE
(Pages 117 - 120)**

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

15. EXEMPT INFORMATION - EXCLUSION OF MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

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

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

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

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POLICY AND PERFORMANCE - REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 14 July 2015

Present: Councillors KJ Williams (in the Chair) T Pilgrim
J Crabtree D Realey
G Ellis C Spriggs
R Gregson J Stapleton
D Mitchell A Sykes
S Niblock S Williams

Deputies: Councillors I Williams (In place of M Daniel)
E Boulton (In place of J Hale)
A Leech (In place of M Sullivan)

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M Daniel, J Hale and M Sullivan.

Councillor KJ Williams in the Chair.

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.

Agenda Item 5. Councillor Steve Niblock declared a non-pecuniary interest in respect of Item 5 (Directorate Plan – Performance Management) due to his serving on the Mersey Fire and Rescue Authority - a partner member of the authority working to reduce the number of persons killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents.

2 MINUTES

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 23 March 2015 be approved.

3 TOURISM

The Senior Manager - Visitor Economy presented a report of the Head of Neighbourhoods and Engagement that provided an overview of the Council's tourism team past performance, current delivery in 2015-16 and plans for the future.

The report highlighted an annual tourism team implementation plan had 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). The Senior Manager – Visitor Economy appraised Members that delivery was driven by one of the Council's key priorities, to support a healthy, safe and prosperous borough, by helping to sustain and grow Wirral's economy.

Members were informed that the latest statistics for the borough's visitor economy confirmed that the ongoing annual implementation plan was working both efficiently and effectively.

The Senior Manager – Visitor Economy reported that Wirral's tourism economy is the fastest growing in the city region and currently valued at over £355 million; employing 4,800 full-time equivalent jobs and attracting over 7.5 million visitors in 2014. In addition, the visitor economy had grown by a substantial 41% since 2009, adding £103 million to Wirral's local economy; employment within the sector increasing by over 20%, and visitors to the borough had also risen by 14% during the same period.

Members commented on the quality of the report and expressed their support for the work undertaken by the Council's tourism team, noting the research, engagement and marketing undertaken in support of Wirral's tourism businesses.

Officers responded to a series of questions on topics that included:

- Methods used to encourage Wirral based tourism to Cruise Line visitors
- Promotion of Heritage tourism
- Access to Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) funding to promote the Wirral

- Staffing level within the Council's tourism team
- Competition with Liverpool City attractions
- Ideas and opportunities to attract young people and families to Wirral
- Short break and day visit campaigns
- Promotion of community events with the potential to attract tourism visitors e.g. Sand Yachting
- Notification of local events to Elected Members
- Website development
- Success of Port Sunlight and the Royal Liverpool Golf Club as attractions that attract Cruise Liner passengers
- New Brighton Casino
- Tourism promotions and advertising including Merseyrail
- Developing links to further advertise Wirral's historic sites to overseas visitors

It was proposed and seconded that a Task and Finish Group of Elected Members be established to review the promotion and marketing of Wirral tourism.

In response to comments from Members, the Senior Manager - Visitor Economy undertook to circulate a link to the existing day visitor booklet and competition to support Wirral's attractions.

<http://www.visitwirral.com/>

Resolved – That

- 1) **the report be noted; and**
- 2) **a Task and Finish Group of Elected Members be established to review the promotion and marketing of Wirral tourism.**

4 LIVERPOOL CITY REGION COMBINED AUTHORITY - SCRUTINY PANEL PROGRESS REPORT

The Policy and Performance Committee – Regeneration and Environment received a report of the combined authority scrutiny link member Cllr Mike Sullivan, that set out progress to date on the work carried out by the Liverpool City Region Scrutiny Panel.

The report informed that the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority (LCRCA) Scrutiny Panel had agreed the development of the work programme at its meeting held on the 29 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

The report further informed that European Funding had been 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 Local Enterprise Partnership (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 had helped inform the scope of the review with Members wanting to subsequently focus on two key areas:

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

The review had been conducted over two evidence sessions during February and March and a final report was submitted to the Scrutiny Panel meeting held on 8 April 2015.

A scoping document and final report recommendations were attached as appendices to the report.

The report contained additional summary information regarding:

- a presentation on Liverpool City Region Growth Plan and Strategic Economic Plan; and
- Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Transition Plan and Transport Protocol

The Chair informed the Committee that an LCRCA Scrutiny Panel meeting had been held on 8 July and an update would be provided to Members once the finalised minutes had been agreed.

Resolved - That the progress to date regarding the work of the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Scrutiny Panel be noted.

5 **DIRECTORATE PLAN PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT - YEAR END 2014/15**

The Strategic Director for Regeneration and Environment presented a report that outlined the year end performance of the Regeneration and Environment Directorate against the delivery of its Directorate Plan for 2014/2015.

The Strategic Director informed that the performance of the Directorate Plan was regularly monitored against the targets set at the start of the year and that red, amber and green (RAG) ratings were assigned - depending on the performance level against those targets. He further informed Members of the final year position against 17 outcome measures. 16 (94%) of the measures were rated green and 1 (6%) was rated red.

The measure rated 'red', being: to reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents (KSI).

Members were appraised of the various factors impacting on the KSI statistics, primarily inclusion of figures relating to accidents on the M53 motorway – falling under the remit of the Highways Agency, but included in local authority statistical data.

Members questioned the inclusion of such data, and factors that might influence road safety on the borough's roads and motorway. Examples included statistical variance over the years, and the re-allocation of motorway policing from Merseyside Police Authority to the Cheshire Constabulary.

Members noted that 4 key road user groups sustaining injury (KSI data) showed an increase compared with the same quarter 2014 vs 2013 and remained a priority. These being:

- Adult Pedestrians (60+ yrs)
- Adult vehicle occupants
- Child Pedestrians (aged <4yrs)
- Motorcyclists

The Committee were informed that Public Health funding was being utilised to promote and market road safety via Employers and Employees engagement initiatives, and that a report was to be presented to Cabinet next week containing information on proposals for capital investment in road safety from the Council budget.

Members noted the Directorate's success in meeting its objectives and the Strategic Director's pride in the performance of staff over a challenging year.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

During the course of discussion on the item relating, Councillor Niblock declared a non-pecuniary interest due to his position on the Mersey Fire and Rescue Authority.

6 **POLICY INFORM BRIEFING PAPER**

The Strategic Director for Regeneration and Environment presented a range of Policy Briefing papers that included an overview of emerging policies, ongoing and recent national legislation and bills presented to Parliament.

The Strategic Director informed that during the course of the 2015/16 Municipal Year, the Council's Policy and Strategy team would prepare four policy briefing papers which would be reported to the Policy and Performance Committees for their consideration.

The Committee noted that briefing papers focussed predominantly on the policies and legislation that had emerged from the newly formed Conservative Government. The papers provided a high level summary based on the available information released by Central Government at this time. These included:

- Conservative Manifesto 2015 – Key Points
- The Queens Speech 2015 – Various Bills
- Recent Ongoing National Legislation – Infrastructure Act 2015
- Policy Developments – Apprenticeships and Traineeships for 16-19 year olds

Members questioned whether the removal of public subsidy for onshore Wind Farms would impact the economy of Wirral. It was noted that economic drivers and job focus regarding the Wirral continued to be directed towards offshore facilities.

Further questions were raised by the Committee regarding potential benefits to the Wirral economy (both direct and indirect) arising from specific projects e.g. HS2.

Members were informed that it was expected that the September Briefing Paper would be more detailed following the release of further information from Government and would also consider the implications for Wirral.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

7 SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE

Councillor KJ Williams introduced a report by the Chair of the Regeneration and Environment Policy and Performance Committee and updated Members on the current position regarding the Work Programme.

Councillor Williams informed that the Chair and Party spokespersons had met to discuss the Work Programme for the Municipal Year. Members noted that it had been agreed that the following reports would be included on the Committee's Work Programme:

- Homelessness (including the initial view of the potential impact of the removal of Housing Benefit for under 21's).
- Mersey Travel – its responsibilities, and the background to the levy paid by Wirral, why it is paid and what it is spent on.
- Background to the Enterprise Zone Investment and the Property Development Fund.
- Devolution (up to date position, governance and accountability arrangements etc).
- Wirral Waters – progress update.
- Birkenhead Town Centre – progress update.
- Flood Risk Management – a statutory scrutiny responsibility

Resolved – That the Work Programme for 2015/2016 be approved.

8 APPOINTMENT OF THE HIGHWAYS REPRESENTATION PANEL

The Principal Committee Services Officer reported that Standing Order 33 (1) required that Committees should keep the need for panels under review and, in particular, the position must be reviewed at the first meeting of a Committee in each municipal year. He requested that a review be undertaken of the Highways and Traffic Representation Panel and set out its terms of reference. If the Panel was to be retained, the Committee was requested to appoint Members to serve on it in 2015/2016.

Resolved –

(1) That the Highways and Traffic Representation Panel be retained in 2015/2016, with the terms of reference identified.

(2) That the following Members be appointed to serve on the Highways and Traffic Representation Panel in 2015/2016, with Councillor Steve Williams appointed as Chair –

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

WIRRAL COUNCIL

REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT POLICY AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

15TH SEPTEMBER 2015

SUBJECT:	THE TRANSPORT LEVY
WARD/S AFFECTED:	ALL
REPORT OF:	KEVIN ADDERLEY, STRATEGIC DIRECTOR REGENERATION & ENVIRONMENT
RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	COUNCILLOR STUART WHITTINGHAM, HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT
KEY DECISION?	NO

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide background information in relation to the Transport Levy as requested at the last meeting of the Committee.
- 1.2 Merseytravel in 2014/15 levied the Merseyside Authorities for £127.3M which has been raised by council tax, of which Wirral provided £29.4M.
- 1.3 The transport levy has been lowered to £113.7M for 2015/16 and this has been approved by the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority (LCRCA). Further reductions have been identified by Merseytravel but would need approval from the LCRCA.
- 1.4 It should be recognised that transport funding plays an important part in the economic recovery by enabling growth and reducing the transport budget may have an adverse effect on the recovery.
- 1.5 Both the Local Transport Plan (LTP) and the payment of the levy by the District Councils, including Wirral Council, are statutory requirements.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Merseyside Passenger Transport Executive (PTE) / Passenger Transport Authority (PTA) were established on 1 December 1969 under the Transport Act 1968. The Transport Act 2008 enabled the creation of the Integrated Transport Authority (ITA) and in April 2014 the LCRCA was created. Section 74 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 allows for a combined authority to be given power to issue a levy in respect of its expenses relating to its transport functions.

3.0 MERSEYTRAVEL'S EXPENDITURE AND THE TRANSPORT LEVY

- 3.1 In meeting the needs of people who live, travel and work in the region, Merseytravel obtains funds for transport provision in a number of ways including government grants, raising income / generating fees and a transport levy on the District Councils.
- 3.2 The latest accounts published by Merseytravel are for year ending 31st March 2014, during which period the total expenditure for Merseytravel in 2013/14 was £363.5M.

The accounts show that in 2014 Merseytravel received income of £236.2M which included a Rail Grant of £98.6M.

- 3.3 Merseytravel uses the transport levy to meet the gap between their expenditure and income. The transport levy in Merseyside in 2013/14 was £127.3m and this amount was sought from the five constituent authorities in Merseyside; pro-rata based on population; with Wirral's contribution to the transport levy equating to £29.4M. In 2014/15 the levy in Merseyside remained frozen at the 2010/11 levy level.
- 3.4 The Merseytravel total annual budget, which was reported to the Merseytravel Committee on the 20th February 2015, was just over £370M for 2014/15, and Merseytravel are forecasting an expenditure of £357.4M in 2015/16.
- 3.5 Services funded by Merseytravel include the cost for supported bus services, the lease for Merseyrail services, concessionary tickets, public transport infrastructure, ferry services and the tunnels. There is no specific breakdown of services that are funded directly in Wirral from the Merseytravel budget, as the budget is for transport services that benefit all of Merseyside Authorities / the City Region.
- 3.6 Within the 2013/14 accounts the concessionary ticket scheme supplied by Merseytravel cost £82.5M which was paid for by £26.7M from ticket sales and £55.8M from the levy. The concessionary ticket scheme supplies travel tickets to over 60s, the disabled and to Merseytravel staff.

4.0 THE 2015/16 TRANSPORT LEVY

- 4.1 For the financial year 2015/16 Merseytravel are projecting a reduction in their overall expenditure to £357M. The £13.7M worth of savings are projected as a consequence of a package of cost saving initiatives as Merseytravel continue to drive down costs and raise income from its services where possible.
- 4.2 The measures comprise net savings of £13.7M which can be utilised to bring projected net spending into line with the LCRCA proposed Levy of £113.7M. This represents an 11% reduction in the Transport Levy from £127.4M in 2014/15.
- 4.3 The Transport Levy was established by the LCRCA, which had a statutory duty to agree a levy for 2015/16 prior to 15 February 2015, and was agreed following a financial report by Merseytravel. The LCRCA resolved that a transport levy be established for the Districts of Knowsley, Liverpool, St Helens, Sefton and Wirral of £113.7M. **Table 5.1** sets out the cost split between the Merseyside District Councils.

Table 5.1

	Transport Levy 2014/15 £(M)	Transport Levy 2015/16 £(M)
Knowsley	13.41	11.97
Liverpool	43.17	38.6
St Helens	16.18	14.45
Sefton	25.15	22.4
Wirral	29.433	26.26
Total	127.36	113.7

- 4.4 With the move to the Liverpool City Region under the Combined Authority, the number of local authorities within the City Region has increased and now includes Halton

Council. However, transport provision in Halton is funded directly from its main Council Tax requirement and is not subject to a transport levy from the LCRCA for 2015/16.

- 4.5 The levy reduction has been achieved by incorporating the strategic highways infrastructure grant which accounts for £6.6M and a further £7.1M has been achieved through efficiency savings across a number of service areas including: concessionary travel; supported bus network; rail services and a review of the back office support services costs.
- 4.6 Merseytravel has forecast future reductions in the levy which is detailed within **Table 5.2**. Merseytravel forecast a total reduction to the levy of £24.1M for the Liverpool City Region.

Table 5.2 Proposed Transport Levy reductions from Merseytravel

Year	Levy £(M)	Reduction £(M)	Wirral levy amount £(M)	Percentage reduction against previous year (and cumulative against 2014/15)
2014/15	127.4		29.42	
2015/16	113.7	13.7	26.26	10.8% (10.8%)
2016/17	111.5	2.2	25.75	2.0% (12.5%)
2017/18	107	4.5	24.71	4.0% (16.0%)
2018/19	103.3	3.7	23.86	3.5% (18.9%)

5.0 CONSULTATION

- 5.1 Officers from Merseytravel have been consulted on this report.

6.0 OUTSTANDING PREVIOUSLY APPROVED ACTIONS

- 6.1 None.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

- 7.1 The Liverpool City Region Transport Plan for Growth enables joint working on shared priorities and the levy enables Merseytravel to deliver elements of that Transport Plan as part of the Merseyside Transport Partnership. Working in partnership can achieve greater impact and aggregate benefits from overall investment. The Transport Plan will build on a track record of shared delivery to become more efficient and effective by working with partners and stakeholders. Pooling of resources and expertise across a number of policy areas and embracing as many partners and stakeholders as possible will make the best use of resources for the maximum benefit for the people of Merseyside.

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

- 8.1 Wirral Council's current levy commitment is £26.264M for 2015/16, paid in 10 monthly instalments, which is contained within the approved Revenue Budget for 2015/16. This enables Merseytravel to deliver public transport elements of the Liverpool City Region Transport Plan for Growth.

9.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 Merseytravel, on behalf of the LCRCA, has the legal power to draw down a levy as the ITA through the Local Transport Act 2008.

10.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 As part of the development of LTP3, a comprehensive Integrated Assessment (IA) was carried out in accordance with Government LTP Guidance. The IA included a number of assessments, including an Equality Impact Assessment (link attached below) that can demonstrate that there are no negative implications associated with the implementation of these activities on the 'protected characteristics'.

http://www.letstravelwise.org/files/741779878_2010%2012%20-%20Motts%20-%20Equality%20Impact%20Assessment%20Final%20Report.pdf

- 10.2 The proposed programme of works that supports the Transport Plan For Growth strategy includes measures to assist the transport needs of all sections of the community.

11.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 The majority of schemes in the programme will help to support active travel modes, or will improve the efficiency of travel on the road network therefore will contribute towards a reduction in CO₂ emissions which is a key priority within the Transport Plan for Growth.

12.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 12.1 There are no specific planning implications arising from this report.

13.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 13.1 The Committee is requested to note the content of this report.

14.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 14.1 To examine the Council's contribution through the levy.

REPORT AUTHOR: **Colin Irlam** Senior Transportation Planning Officer
Regeneration and Environment Directorate
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email: colinirlam@wirral.gov.uk

BACKGROUND PAPERS / REFERENCE MATERIAL

REFERENCE MATERIAL

Liverpool City Region Combined Authority - 'A Transport Plan for Growth'

<http://www.merseytravel.gov.uk/about-us/local-transport-delivery/Documents/8375%20Plan%20for%20growth%20WEB%20FINAL.pdf>

Liverpool City Region Combined Authority – meeting 13th Feb 2015 Agenda Item 8, Minute 80

<http://councillors.knowsley.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?Cid=890&Mid=6352&Ver=4&StyleType=standard&StyleSize=none>

Equality Impact Assessment: http://www.letstravelwise.org/files/741779878_2010%2012%20-%20Motts%20-%20Equality%20Impact%20Assessment%20Final%20Report.pdf

BRIEFING NOTES HISTORY

Briefing Note	Date
None	

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
None	

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PROPOSAL FOR A FIRE STATION ON GREEN BELT LAND IN SAUGHALL MASSIE *(as referred by the Civic Mayor to the Policy and Performance - Regeneration and Environment Committee)*

Proposed by Councillor Chris Blakeley

Seconded by Councillor Bruce Berry

Council acknowledges the overwhelming public opposition to the proposal by Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service for a fire station on green belt land in Saughall Massie, as demonstrated by:

- The 200 people who attended a public meeting arranged by MFRS, and a further 270 who were unable to gain admission to the venue.
- The opposition of the Saughall Massie Village Area Conservation Society and the Wirral Society.
- The 970 people who have, so far, signed a petition against the proposal.

Council impresses upon Cabinet:

- (1) To maintain protection of Wirral's Green Belt, as set by agreed policies and stop inappropriate development.
- (2) Not to gift, sell or lease the land concerned in Saughall Massie, because of the value it has for the community.
- (3) To ask officers to continue to work co-operatively with Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service in identifying and facilitating a more suitable brown field site for operational purposes and to maintain the amenity of the local people.

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WIRRAL'S ECONOMIC SUCCESS *(as referred by the Civic Mayor to the Policy and Performance - Regeneration and Environment Committee)*

Proposed by Councillor Jeff Green

Seconded by Councillor Lesley Rennie

Council notes that:

- (1) Latest information reports that Wirral has 7,400 total enterprises; an 11.1% improvement in the business base since 2011 and the number of total jobs in Wirral currently stands at 113,000 which is the highest figure for 8 years.
- (2) Wirral currently has 3,118 Jobseekers Allowance claimants, a reduction of nearly 3,000 since April 2014. 530 of these Jobseekers are aged 18-24, a reduction of nearly 1,300 since April 2014; this is a reduction in rate of 5.2% which is nearly triple the national average.

Council expresses its relief that the British Electorate has returned a Conservative Government and given it a mandate to continue its support to businesses and the long term economic plan.

Council wishes to congratulate all those local Wirral entrepreneurs, workers and businesses who are contributing to the economic success of Wirral and the country as a whole.

Council therefore instructs the Chief Executive to write to the Chair of the Wirral Chamber of Commerce and invites him to share his thoughts on what the Council can do to further support our local businesses in continuing the Government's vision of more people with the security of a regular wage and the chance to get on.

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WIRRAL COUNCIL

REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT POLICY & PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE – 15 SEPTEMBER 2015

CABINET – 8 OCTOBER 2015

SUBJECT	CLIMATE CHANGE ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT AND ACTION PLAN
WARDS AFFECTED	ALL
REPORT OF	DAVID ARMSTRONG – ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE
RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDERS	CLLR BERNIE MOONEY – ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY
KEY DECISION?	YES

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 This report presents a summary of progress to implement the new climate change strategy for Wirral. It documents the activities of the Wirral Climate Group, introduces the first annual progress report and details the current action plan in support of the strategy.

1.2 It is recommended that progress be noted and the first annual report and ‘rolling’ action plan be endorsed for public reporting purposes.

1.3 As part of the Council’s five year plan, the proposals in this report support the following pledges covered in the plan:

- Providing an attractive local environment for Wirral residents
- Wirral residents live healthier lives
- Thriving small businesses
- Assets and buildings are fit for purpose for Wirral’s businesses

2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

2.1 Climate change presents challenges globally, national and locally. We need to limit pollution that exacerbates climate change and simultaneously adapt to unavoidable change from pollution already in our atmosphere. Much local climate-related pollution is linked to the amount of fossil fuels we use for heat, power and travel. It is also linked to decisions that we take that influence how others use fossil fuels. If we operate more efficiently and are more mindful about the wider impacts of our decisions we can help reduce the danger of climatic disturbance. Extreme weather already impacts on our activities. It is important to be better prepared and adapt so that we become more resilient to such disruption. Many of the actions needed in response to the climate agenda help

advance other agendas too, e.g. less pollution, better health and economic opportunities.

- 2.2** Local authorities have an important role to play in the climate agenda and many including Wirral Council have a long-held commitment and track record of action. Wirral Council is a signatory to the Local Government Association's (LGA) 'Climate Local' initiative (Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 29 January 2013, Minute 63). This commits the council to set out its actions to both reduce climate pollution and to adapt to unavoidable change. Climate Local also requires the public reporting of progress with respect to these actions.
- 2.3** The Council's first submission under Climate Local detailed actions to complete a new climate change strategy for Wirral through the Wirral Climate Change Group. This new strategy was endorsed by cabinet in October 2014 and now forms the basis for co-ordinating and encouraging actions across Wirral. The strategy proposes a 'rolling' action plan and annual public 'score card' to document progress. These have been developed via the Wirral Climate Change Group and are introduced in this report.
- 2.4** When Cabinet endorsed the new climate change strategy it requested an annual report on climate change. This report aims to fulfil this request. It is directed first via the Regeneration and Environmental Policy and Performance Committee in order to fulfil the agreed process for meeting our reporting obligations under Climate Local.

3.0 Wirral Climate Change Group

- 3.1** The Wirral Climate Change Group is a forum set up by Wirral Council to help co-ordinate climate action. The group includes officers and councillors as well as representatives from various public bodies, community and voluntary interests. Taking a partnership approach acknowledges the importance and value of working together and that climate change demands a response from all quarters.
- 3.2** The Wirral Climate Change Group developed the new climate change strategy for Wirral. It agreed the final version of this strategy in July 2014 and recommended it be endorsed by the partners involved. It has since been working to advance implementation of the strategy.
- 3.3** Since developing the strategy the Wirral Climate Change Group has met three times: in November 2014 and March and June 2015. It has helped to:
- 3.3.1 Develop launch events for the climate strategy.** Two events took place in December 2014 at Wallasey Town Hall. A climate workshop for schools and a public launch 'party' to celebrate the creation of the strategy. The school event introduced themes from the strategy as a series of practical workshops using real-world examples. Participating schools were challenged to develop these projects back at school and present their findings to other schools at a Climate Convention. The convention took place in July 2015 at Kingsway Academy. The public launch 'party' introduced themes from the strategy

through a series of festive activities and displays. This 'drop-in' event featured a 'market place' to showcase local organisations and projects. It was opened by the Mayor and featured a performance of Christmas tunes by a school choir accompanied with instruments made from waste materials.

3.3.2 Organise a public event to promote community renewable energy. This event took place at Magenta Living's headquarters in Birkenhead in March 2015 with support from the Liverpool City Region Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP). It attracted over 40 people and featured presentations from three community renewable energy projects and the launch of the LEP's community energy brochure. Seventeen people came forward to express interest in setting up a community renewable energy initiative in Wirral. Work to establish such an initiative is now being progressed via local fuel poverty charity Energy Projects Plus – a partner in the Wirral Climate Change Group.

3.3.3 Update the Joint Strategic Need Assessment (JSNA) climate and health paper. The climate and health paper forms part of the JSNA evidence base and it is subject to regular review. Wirral's demographics suggest certain population groups could be more susceptible to climate change events and at greater risk of the subsequent impacts. These include: residents experiencing multiple deprivation, older people, young children, people suffering from cardiovascular disease (CVD) or respiratory illnesses, those at risk of thermal illness and residents with poor mental health. Hotter, drier summers are expected to increase the risk of CVD, heat stroke, respiratory illness, and food poisoning and gastrointestinal diseases. Extreme temperatures may exacerbate mental health problems. Storms and flooding may lead to injuries, death, susceptibility to respiratory illnesses, gastro-intestinal illness, food poisoning and have a detrimental impact on mental health.

3.3.4 Produce an annual progress report on the climate change strategy. (Appendix 1). The strategy envisages an annual progress report or 'score card'. A first year progress report has thus been produced. This report highlights recent steps taken locally that help progress climate objectives. Its publication, at a relatively early stage in life of the strategy, aims to help raise awareness, build momentum and motivate further action. Future progress reports will likely evolve in style and content as actions progress or stall and more data is collected.

3.3.5 Develop the climate strategy action plan (Appendix 2). The strategy envisages a 'rolling' action plan updated 'in action' over its five year life. This approach recognises:

- (i) The scale of the agenda. It is not necessary or practical to seek progress with all 70-plus objectives at the same time.
- (ii) The need for flexibility. It is important to be able to respond to opportunities and adapt to changing circumstances.
- (iii) The importance of building momentum and encouraging widespread action. Implementation is not the responsibility of a single organisation.

As an early iteration of a 'rolling' plan, the initial action plan document seeks to capture actions from across the Wirral Climate Change Group. Later versions will also seek to capture actions pledged by those beyond.

3.4 The group has also received presentations on:

3.4.1 Carbon reduction at Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS Trust - The Trust had secured £5.6M capital investment through the carbon and energy fund mechanism for Combined Heat and Power, energy efficient lighting and insulation. These measures will reduce carbon emissions by around six thousand tonnes per annum. The investment will be paid back from savings over a 15 year period and is expected to deliver an addition £3m savings over this time-frame.

3.4.2 'WARP-IT'- Cheshire and Wirral NHS Partnership Trust use the on-line Warp-it portal to manage surplus materials and furniture across the organisation and beyond. The service has helped the Trust limit waste and to encourage re-use at a time of estate rationalisation.

3.4.3 The carbon reduction work of Magenta Living - Magenta's property improvement work has helped raise the energy efficiency 'SAP' rating of its housing stock from an average 'D' rating to a 'C' rating.

3.4.4 The carbon reduction and resilience work of Cheshire West and Chester Council - The council is a signatory to 'Climate Local' and has developed an action plan via a 'Sustainability Commission' with a scrutiny panel to oversee progress. The focus is on mitigation and adaptation.

3.4.5 Better Food Wirral - The Better Food Wirral initiative supported by Public Health provides an opportunity to address food and climate-related issues, such as promotion of local, fresh and seasonal produce.

3.4.6 The local climate impact profile for Wirral - Following an update, the profile now covers the period January 2005 to May 2014. The media record is comprised of 185 news items documenting 82 weather episodes. It confirms continued weather disruption to services. The most common weather episodes reported are excessive rainfall and flooding, followed by wind, then frost, snow and ice. The most common impacts reported relate to damage to infrastructure – roads, railways communication networks etc., disruption to processes, damage to buildings or subsidence; and changes in use of facilities or services.

3.4.7 The Resilient Parks Project - This pilot project was made possible due to a successful bid to CLASP (the local authority and public sector sustainability support service for the NW of England) for a small grant. This grant was used to commission a study of five local parks to help consider how we might need to adapt parks in the face of a changing climate. The sites chosen reflected a variety of circumstances and existing weather-related impacts from flooding to wild-fires. The project aimed to get interested parties including parks staff and user groups to think about the implications of warmer wetter winters and

hotter drier summers for parks management. The final project reports have now been published.

3.4.8 Investigation into small scale wind power - The climate strategy includes an objective to 'establish a small scale wind trial'. An investigation to provide some context has thus been undertaken. This found that since 2000 there have been 19 planning applications for wind turbines in Wirral with around two-thirds approved. At present there are five sites hosting nine turbines. All turbines are small in size with none rated over 15kW. Turbines have been developed for a variety of reasons beyond reducing bills and carbon emissions. These reasons include: as a temporary supply of power, for off grid power, educational reasons, to access grant funding, and as part of a wider ecological ethos. Since the investigation was reported to the group the Government has issued a Ministerial Statement which indicates that planning permission should only be granted for one or more wind turbines if the site is in an area identified as suitable for wind energy development in a Local or Neighbourhood Plan and the proposal is backed by the local community. This would cast doubt over the prospect of establishing a small scale wind trial.

4.0 RELEVANT RISKS

4.1 A failure to publicly report progress and identify actions in support of commitments for climate action could pose reputational risk for the Council. Failure to develop an appropriate response to climate change in Wirral will increase the risk of negative impacts from climate change in Wirral and beyond. Climate impacts are likely to be more severe for vulnerable groups.

5.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

5.1 None. This report has been prepared to fulfil a request from cabinet and to meet the reporting requirements of the Climate Local programme.

6.0 CONSULTATION

6.1 The annual progress report and action plan have been developed in discussions with partners in the Wirral Climate Change Group. The climate change strategy 2014-2019 to which these reports relate was developed through a wider public consultation process.

7.0 OUTSTANDING PREVIOUSLY APPROVED ACTIONS

7.1 N/A

8.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

8.1 Climate change poses challenges and creates opportunities for all sectors.

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

9.1 The action plan does not commit the Council to any additional expenditure, IT, or staffing resources.

9.2 The Council's asset strategy acknowledges the importance of responding to the climate agenda and managing assets accordingly.

10.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are no legal issues foreseen associated with recommendation to endorse the progress report and action plan beyond those set out in the body of this report.

11.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

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

(a) Yes and impact review can be found at the link below

<http://bit.ly/transEIA>

12.0 CARBON REDUCTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

12.1 The action plan accords with the climate change strategy and it reflects the Council's existing carbon reduction ambitions.

13.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

13.1 The action plan is compatible with the emerging planning framework for Wirral that supports the transition to a low carbon economy and anticipates the need to adapt to climate change. It includes actions to improve pedestrian, cycle and driver safety and security.

13.2 Recent changes to planning guidance concerning onshore wind turbines make further progress with the strategy objective to 'Establish a small-scale wind turbine trial' unlikely without changes to the Council's Core Strategy Local Plan, which does not currently seek to promote sites for onshore wind power. Draft Policy CS43 would currently only support the micro generation of renewable energy where the energy generated can be used at source.

14.0 RECOMMENDATION/S

14.1 The annual progress report and climate strategy action plan be noted and endorsed and used as the basis for public reporting to meet commitments under Climate Local.

15.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

15.1 The Council is a signatory to Climate Local which requires public reporting of action and progress.

15.2 As part of the Council's five year plan, the proposals in this report support the following pledges covered in the plan:

- Providing an attractive local environment for Wirral residents
- Wirral residents live healthier lives
- Thriving small businesses
- Assets and buildings are fit for purpose for Wirral's businesses

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1:

Annual report: Cool Steps - Progress implementing the Wirral Climate Change Strategy, July 2015

Appendix 2:

Climate Change Strategy Action Plan, August 2015 version

REFERENCE MATERIAL

Cool: Wirral Climate Change Strategy- 2014-2019

[\[http://www.wirral.gov.uk/downloads/7555\]](http://www.wirral.gov.uk/downloads/7555)

Wirral JSNA Climate and Health

[\[http://info.wirral.nhs.uk/ourjsna/climate&health.html\]](http://info.wirral.nhs.uk/ourjsna/climate&health.html)

Wirral Local Climate Impact Profile 2005-2014

[\[http://info.wirral.nhs.uk/document_uploads/Downloads/Wirral_Local_Climate_Impact_Profile_2005_2014.pdf\]](http://info.wirral.nhs.uk/document_uploads/Downloads/Wirral_Local_Climate_Impact_Profile_2005_2014.pdf)

Wirral resilient parks pilot project [\[http://www.wirral.gov.uk/my-services/leisure-and-culture/parks-beaches-and-countryside/parks-development-and-maintenance/resilient-parks-project\]](http://www.wirral.gov.uk/my-services/leisure-and-culture/parks-beaches-and-countryside/parks-development-and-maintenance/resilient-parks-project)

Transforming our Assets and Asset Management - Strategic Asset Management Plan 2014 – 2017 [\[http://www.wirral.gov.uk/downloads/7129\]](http://www.wirral.gov.uk/downloads/7129)

BRIEFING NOTES HISTORY

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SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny	January 2013
Policy and Performance - Regeneration and Environment Committee	September 2014
Cabinet	October 2014

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Cool Steps: Wirral Climate Change Strategy Progress Report at July 2015

Background

Cool, Wirral's climate change strategy - 2014-2019 seeks to encourage and co-ordinate climate change-related action and investment by people and organisations with an interest in Wirral. *Cool Steps* is the first of a planned series of annual reports to detail progress.

This report outlines some recent steps taken towards meeting the main aims of the strategy. It focuses on the activities of participants in the Wirral Climate Change Group, the partnership that helped develop the strategy. It is anticipated that future reports will capture a fuller picture.

Readers are asked to reflect about their own potential role and actions in relation each aim in recognition that the success of the strategy will rest on more widespread action.

Aim: Reducing demand for energy and making Wirral more energy efficient

Recent steps...

- A 12 month programme of energy efficiency awareness raising activity and support for fuel poor households in Birkenhead & Tranmere ward is underway delivered by Energy Projects Plus
- Magenta Living's solid wall insulation programme is continuing utilising ERDF funding.
- Public Health funding is in place to support installation of solid wall insulation for 50 low income private households in areas which are part of the selective licencing of private rented homes.
- An 'energy Champions' training programme for staff of front-line organisations including Wirral Council and Magenta Living has been delivered by Energy Projects Plus.
- 79 Cosy Home Heating Grants were provided by Wirral Council and several Cosy Loans were issued for replacement boilers in 2014/15. Both schemes are continuing in 2015/16.
- The overall trend in domestic CO₂ emissions in Wirral continues to be downwards with a 13.3% decrease from 2005 to 2012. Average standard electricity consumption by the domestic sector in Wirral has decreased by 8.8% between 2008 and 2013 and average gas consumption in Wirral has decreased by 23.0% over the same period.
- There has been £5.6M capital investment in Combined Heat and Power, energy efficient lighting and insulation at Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS Trust hospital campuses. These measures will reduce carbon emissions by around six thousand tonnes per annum.

- A street lighting strategy has been adopted by Wirral Council advocating more efficient lamps and controls.

Aim: Meeting more of our energy needs from renewable sources

Recent steps...

- A public meeting has been held to identify support for renewable energy co-operative. A group of interested parties has been identified. A partner organisation willing to host community funded solar PV has identified two possible buildings to discuss with the emerging community energy group.
- 1,062 kWp of solar PV was installed (registered for FiT) in 2014/15, bringing the total installed under FiT to 5,476 kWp. Wirral Council has installed 391 kWp of solar PV on 18 council buildings.
- An investigation to identify local schools where solar PV panels could be feasible is underway.
- An investigation into existing wind installations in Wirral has been completed to establish the context for any future small scale wind turbine trial

Aim: Making use of more sustainable means for transport

Recent steps...

- Cycle pathways implemented on Bayswater Road, Levers Causeway, Seacombe Ferry/Birkenhead Rd, A41 Eastham/M53 Eastham, A41 Torr Rd to Woodyear Rd, Ivy Street and The Fender.
- A cycle network map has been produced.
- 19 'Dr Bike' cycle maintenance sessions held at local businesses.
- 21 workplace travel plans developed.
- New electric vehicle charging points have been introduced at Seacombe Ferry, Cleveland Street Depot, and Treasury Building, Birkenhead.

Aim: Reducing indirect climate pollution

Recent steps...

- The WARP-IT portal for sharing surplus materials has been introduced by the Cheshire and Wirral NHS Partnership. Wirral Council is currently investigating adopting the system to enable surplus items to be shared within the council local schools and with community and voluntary sector organisations.
- Work to establish a network and develop a 'Better Food Wirral' brand is underway.

Aim: Adapting to unavoidable changes in Wirral's climate

Recent steps

- Wirral's local climate impact profile has been updated.
- The Wirral Resilient Parks project has been completed. This investigation involved five parks and countryside sites that already experience weather

related issues. The aim has been to generate thinking about how parks management can adapt in the face of climate change.

- An update to Joint Strategic Needs Assessment Climate and Health paper is in progress.

Aim: Building capacity for action

Recent steps

- A launch party for Wirral Climate Change Strategy was held in December 2014.
- Web pages for Cool Wirral and Wirral Climate Change Strategy have been created.
- A 'Cool Wirral' project has been established on www.projectdirt.com.
- There have been regular updates for @CoolWirral twitter feed.
- A school 'Climate Challenge' event for Wirral was held in March 2015
- A 'Cool Wirral' team was entered by Community Action Wirral in the 'Big Energy Race' energy saving competition. The team finished third in the national league table.

Next steps

The Wirral Climate Change Group is currently co-ordinating efforts across various organisations through a rolling plan of action in support of the strategy. Success will ultimately depend on wider support and action. To get involved and find out how you can help put Cool into practice, at home in your community and in your workplace:

- Read the strategy available at: www.wirral.gov.uk/climatestrategy
- Join the free mailing list to keep in touch via www.wirral.gov.uk/coolwirral
- Follow @CoolWirral on twitter.
- Connect with others via our Cool Wirral group at www.projectdirt.com

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Wirral Climate Strategy Action Plan

Goal: *Substantially cut climate pollution associated with Wirral*

Aim 1: Make Wirral more energy efficient

Objective 1:01 Contact the owners/occupiers of at least 95% of the remaining “easy to treat” homes to highlight the opportunities for improvement		Justification: There remain around 26,000 residential properties with un-insulated cavities and 4,700 with less than 100 mm of loft insulation. These measures are relatively easy to implement and are thus usually amongst the most cost effective.		
Action	Lead	Measure	Timescale	Progress
Identify areas where easy to treat homes are concentrated	Housing Strategy, Wirral Council	List of priority areas	Dec 2014	A list has been compiled based on energy company funding data and estimates of cavity walled properties.
Publicise national and local energy efficiency initiatives in priority areas.	Housing Strategy, Wirral Council	No. of phone calls to freephone advice line	Aug 2016	This will form part of energy efficiency promotional work from September 2015
Objective 1:02 Improve a minimum of 200 properties each year mainly in the east of Wirral using a range of funding streams including ECO investment		Justification: The Energy Company Obligation (ECO) is a key current investment stream for improving residential energy efficiency. The properties and households most likely to benefit from ECO are more concentrated in the east of Wirral.		
Action	Lead	Measure	Timescale	Progress
Work with Housing Associations to provide cross-tenure offer for areas where they are installing solid wall insulation	Housing Strategy, Wirral Council	Private households benefit from economies of scale	Mar 2016	The Council continues to explore ways for private households to partake in housing association schemes.
Appoint delivery partner to engage households in areas of high fuel poverty with advice and referrals to reduce energy bills.	Housing Strategy, Wirral Council	Contractor appointed Contract outputs met	Sep 2014 Aug 2015	Contract awarded to Energy Projects Plus to concentrate work in fuel poor areas. Data to be provided at end of contract in August 2015.
Objective 1:03 Identify and refer vulnerable and ‘fuel poor’ households to available support via social, health, housing and education services and community and faith groups		Justification: Support is often available for vulnerable and fuel poor households, but it can be difficult to identify those eligible for support. Those who work in community settings have an important potential		

		role in helping to refer those who could benefit to such support.		
Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
Appoint delivery partner to deliver training sessions to front-line organisations, talks to community organisations and work with primary school.	Housing Strategy, Wirral Council	Sep 2014 Aug 2015	Contractor appointed Two training sessions and four talks and partnership with primary school	Energy Projects Plus appointed in September 2014. Training session delivered to councillors in February 2015. Two training sessions for Fire Service and Age UK Wirral booked for June 2015. Drop-in sessions held for parents in St Werburgh's Primary, Birkenhead.
Energy Champions training programme delivered through Liverpool City Region Viridis partnership with largest housing associations.	Housing Strategy Wirral Council	Mar 2015	Training sessions delivered	Training sessions completed. Final numbers yet to be reported.
Work with the child poverty group to identify families who may be in need of support	Public Health, Wirral Council	June 2015	Number of families identified as fuel poor	Item at child poverty group on 16 th June 2015
Ensure appropriate pathways are in place for those identified as 'fuel poor' households	Public Health, Wirral Council	June 2015	Pathway developed and in use	Item at child poverty group on 16 th June 2015

Objective 1:04 Lobby Government for support to improve take-up of energy efficiency measures including steps to make the Green Deal more attractive		Justification: The Green Deal is the government's flag ship energy efficiency initiative offering loans to support investment in energy efficiency at no upfront cost. The initiative has had a relatively slow start and it is not yet delivering levels of investment widely considered necessary.		
Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
Contribute to any Government consultations relating to Green Deal, ECO and the Fuel Poverty Strategy	Housing Strategy, Wirral Council	When required by Government	Consultation responses	Responses submitted to consultations as follows: Private Rented Sector Energy Efficiency Regulations (Domestic) Aug 14, Government's Fuel Poverty Strategy Oct 2014, Housing Standards Nov 2014.
Provide opinions to Government through NEA membership and the North West Carbon	Housing Strategy, Wirral Council	Ongoing	Attendance at meetings	NEA membership renewed for 2015/16, input fed through on all consultations.

Action Network			or respond to calls for evidence	
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Objective 1:05 Target high energy use households in the west of Wirral with information about the Green Deal and other energy efficiency opportunities		Justification: There is a greater concentration of high energy use households in the west of Wirral, although the relative affluence of this part of the Wirral make it less likely benefit from ECO investment. It thus makes sense to target efforts to raise awareness about the Green Deal here.		
Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
Publicise national and local energy efficiency initiatives utilising the free phone advice line	Housing Strategy, Wirral Council	August 2015	No. of phone calls to freephone advice line	Phone line publicised through Energy Projects Plus contract. No. of calls to be reported at end of contract
Assist people to calculate their carbon footprint at Wirral Earth Fest	TTWK Energy Group	September 2015	Number of people calculating their carbon footprint	Planning in progress

Objective 1:06 Create targeted locally relevant support to complement national energy efficiency opportunities taking into consideration existing barriers to local participation		Justification: The take up of national support opportunities varies. Targeted interventions can be more sensitive to local needs.		
Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
Appoint delivery partner to engage households in areas of high fuel poverty with advice and referrals to reduce energy bills.	Housing Strategy, Wirral Council	September 2014 August 2015	Contractor appointed Contract outputs met	Contract awarded to Energy Projects Plus to concentrate work in fuel poor areas. Data to be provided at end of contract in August 2015

Objective 1:07 Develop local capacity in the skills to design, build and refurbish buildings to the highest energy efficiency standards by promoting education and training opportunities and linking them with local building programmes		Justification: If the local area is to benefit fully from investments needed in energy efficiency, it makes sense to ensure the skills to design, build and refurbish buildings to the highest standards are available locally		
Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
Engagement with businesses regarding their skills and training requirements. Linking this activity to work of economic policy (skills)	Wirral Chamber of Commerce	Ongoing		

team.				
Work with City Region REECH programme and partner housing associations to continue to develop local capacity for energy efficiency refurbishment of social housing	Housing Strategy, Wirral Council	End of 2014 for bid outcome.	Successful City Region bid for ERDF funds for energy efficiency improvements to social housing. Outputs dependent on funding awarded.	Bid submitted May 2015. Awaiting outcome

Objective 1:08 Bid to the LCR Local Enterprise Partnership or other sources of funding to work up the feasibility of potential heat networks in Wirral in support of the LCR SEAP		Justification: Heat networks can deliver major energy efficiency benefits. The Liverpool City Region (LCR) Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP) identifies the potential for heat networks locally. The Local Enterprise Partnership endorses the SEAP and may be a source of support to develop heat networks in Wirral		
Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
Work with Peel Holdings to understand the timing & phasing of the Wirral Waters scheme such that an assessment could be made of the potential for a heat network to serve the entirety of the site.	Regeneration and Environment, Wirral Council working via Wirral Waters S106 “Sustainability, Energy and Waste Working Group”			
Introduce CHP-based network at Trust hospital campuses utilising NHS carbon and energy fund mechanism.	WUTH NHS Trust	January 2015	Scheme implemented	Scheme implemented. £5.6M capital investment secured and invested in Combined Heat and Power (CHP), energy efficient lighting and insulation

Objective 1:09 Promote investment in ‘Wirral Waters’ as an exemplar sustainable energy opportunity	Justification: ‘Wirral Waters’ is a major development proposal centred on the regeneration of dock lands into mixed residential commercial and leisure uses. It is anticipated that the development will be an
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		exemplar sustainable community. The LCR Sustainable Energy Action Plan identifies Wirral Waters a key opportunity for a major district heating scheme.		
Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
Work with Peel Holdings to understand the timing & phasing of the Wirral Waters scheme such that an assessment could be made of the potential for the incorporation of sustainable energy measures within the scheme.	Regeneration and Environment, Wirral Council working via Wirral Waters S106 “Sustainability, Energy and Waste Working Group” ctives			

Objective 1:10 Assemble the market evidence to identify areas where it is feasible to demand more than minimum energy efficiency standards through the planning system		Justification: There is a need for evidence to justify ‘more than minimum’ energy efficiency standards through land use planning. Without such evidence it is likely that policies to support them will not be upheld at appeal.		
Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
Viability Assessment in preparation to support the Core Strategy Local Plan	Planning, Wirral Council	Adoption of Core Strategy Local Plan and SPDs before end of 2016. Site specific Local Plan to follow.	Core Strategy found “sound” at Examination	In progress; finalisation linked to completion of Strategic Housing Market Assessment. Core Strategy at Pre-Submission Stage, Scope of SPDs subject to consultation in 2013 The Deregulation Act 2015 removed a clause from the Planning and Energy Act 2008 that enabled Local Authorities to require new housing developments to reach higher energy efficiency standards. A ministerial statement sets out guidance to local planning authorities. For energy performance, authorities will continue to be able to ask for energy performance standards that exceed the Building Regulations until the national zero carbon homes policy is introduced, expected to be in late 2016. Until that time, authorities should not ask for developments to achieve energy standards higher than a

				Code Level 4 equivalent. Local authorities will still be able to ask for BREEAM standards on non-residential development.
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Objective 1:11 Develop targeted energy efficiency campaigns for places of work, leisure, education and worship		Justification: Different settings raise different energy efficiency issues. Targeted campaigns can have a greater impact.		
Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
Promote ‘Switch off fortnight’ and associated assessments as part of Eco schools	Eco Schools, Wirral Council	November 2014 November 2015	Number of schools participating	
Promote Green Office Week via Council intranet	Sustainability, Wirral Council	May 2015	Items posted	Items posted
Seek funding to develop climate-related work with faith communities in Wirral	Faiths4Change	July 2016	Funding secured	

Objective 1:12 Seek support for improving the energy efficiency of community buildings		Justification: The consultation flagged up that those who run community buildings often struggle to fund building improvements including energy efficiency measures. Local grant support has been available in the past. Improvements to community buildings not only benefit climate change but can help groups cut running costs enabling community buildings to operate on a more sustainable basis.		
Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
Seek opportunities and develop/encourage bids for support where appropriate	Community Action Wirral	Ongoing	Support secured	Opportunity identified for community buildings along coast via Burbo Bank Extension Community Fund. Preliminary work to develop bid concept underway.
Provide funding advice to groups seeking to make community building improvements	Community Action Wirral	Ongoing		

Objective 1:13 Assemble a set of “good house-keeping” promotional resources to support energy awareness campaigns		Justification: It makes sense to pool existing promotional resources to avoid the ‘re-inventing the wheel’ and to make it easier to run energy awareness campaigns.		
Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress

Objective 1:14 Create a mechanism to promote voluntary peer review of energy efficiency efforts in different organisations and to encourage the sharing of resources to support the work of energy/eco champions		Justification: With finite resources available, it makes sense to work together and share good practice.		
Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Timescale

Objective 1:15 Create a directory of local suppliers of accredited energy efficient goods and services and promote these through an expo event		Justification: If the local area is to benefit fully from investments in energy efficiency, it makes sense to highlight local suppliers offering energy efficient goods and services		
Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
Investigation by University of Chester students	Sustainability Wirral Council			Survey undertaken but limited response

Objective 1:16 Upgrade outdoor lighting fixtures and controls including street lights		Justification: Outdoor lighting presents an opportunity to introduce energy saving fixtures and controls.		
Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
Develop street lighting strategy	Highway Management Wirral Council	2014	Strategy in place	Street lighting strategy and action plan 2014 approved by Wirral Council in October 2014
Implement retrofit and replacement LED lanterns with a wireless central management systems to the 7,557 high energy consuming street lights across Wirral in line with the street lighting strategy.	Highway Management Wirral Council	July 2015 – March 2016	Number of lanterns to be replaced is 7557	Invest to Save Contract to replace 7557 existing lanterns with retrofit LED units. Installation from July.

Objective 1:17 Create a Wirral-focussed energy efficiency campaign linked to the roll out of smart meters		Justification: Utility companies will be rolling out new smart meters to their customers over coming years. This presents a potential opportunity to engage people about energy saving practices		
Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
Obtain timetable for roll-out in Wirral	Housing Strategy, Wirral Council	2015	Plan activity around timetable	Roll-out began early 2015. Each individual energy company decides when it will roll-out to Wirral households and so the ability to have a high profile

				localised campaign over a short time-frame is no longer possible. May be opportunities to piggy-back on marketing messages.
Create plan of engagement around key milestones for roll-out	Housing Strategy, Wirral Council	2015	Activity plan	See above.
Explore the potential for piggy-backing on the marketing messages of energy companies linked to their smart meter roll outs	Housing Strategy, Wirral Council	2016	Opportunities identified	

Objective 1:18: Pilot a 'smart grid' in at least one Wirral community		Justification: Electricity networks are critical to achieving climate change objectives. A shift from a tradition grid designed to distribute energy one-way from large centralised power stations, to smart grids is anticipated. Smart grids utilise information and communication technologies in an automated way to improve reliability; efficiency and flexibility of the electricity distribution network– including coping with two way flows from more decentralised smaller scale generation sources including renewable energy sources. The transition to a smarter grid presents opportunities to pilot new technologies.		
Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress

Goal: Substantially cut climate pollution associated with Wirral

Aim 2: Generate and source more of our local energy needs from renewable sources

Objective 2:01: Create a renewable energy co-operative to pool local investment		Justification: Incentives are in place to make investment in renewable energy attractive, but not everyone is in a position to exploit the technology directly. Co-operatives have been used elsewhere to enable those who support renewable energy to pool their resources and develop community renewable energy projects. Community-led projects give local people a stake in projects and help ensure the benefits are enjoyed locally.		
Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
Gather information about renewable energy co-operatives elsewhere and support for the	Sustainability, Wirral Council		Information held	Information gathered and used at public event held in March 2015

creation of community renewable energy schemes				
Convene a meeting of interested parties	Sustainability, Wirral Council	February 2015	Meeting held	Public event “Community Energy for Wirral & Liverpool City Region” held in in partnership with LCR Local Enterprise Partnership and hosted by Magenta in March 2015. 41 people took part. The event featured presentations from Lymm Community Energy, Liverpool Community Renewables and MORE (Morecombe Bay Renewables) in Lancaster. 16 people recorded their interest in setting up a similar Wirral initiative.
Follow-up contact with interested parties	Energy Projects Plus	March 2015	Contact made	Contact made to identify ‘core group’.
Bid for support from the Co-operatives UK Energy Mentoring programme to develop a community energy group	Energy Projects Plus	April 2015	Bid progress	Bid submitted. Mentoring support secured June 2015
Facilitate meetings to encourage formation of Wirral Community Renewables as a Community Benefit Society	Energy Projects Plus	June - October 2015	Meetings held. Community Benefit Society Formed	Two meetings held with core group. Work to develop founding documentation begun. Bid developed for M&S Community Energy Fund
Promote “Solar Enlightenment” bid to M&S Community Energy Fund	Wirral Community Renewables with support from EPPlus TTWK Energy Group, Wirral Council	August-September 2015	Support secured for bid	Proposal for installation of 4KWp Solar PV array at Pensby Library submitted and shortlisted
Support formation of Wirral Community Renewables Group	TTWK Energy Group	August 2015- August 2016		Ongoing. Project featured on TTWK Energy group web site

Objective 2:02: Identify potential sites for solar energy investment	Justification: Solar energy proved to be one of the more popular types of renewable energy in the climate strategy consultation process. Wirral enjoys sufficient sunlight (solar insolation) to make solar energy viable in the right locations both to capture heat (solar thermal) and generate electricity (solar thermal). National Planning Policy Guidance
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		indicates that large scale solar farms should be focused on previously developed and non-agricultural land, provided that it is not of high environmental value. This is likely to limit the potential for large scale solar farms within Wirral.		
Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
Encourage the incorporation of active solar and Solar PV in new developments, including through inclusion of appropriate policies in Wirral’s Local Plan and guidance in Supplementary Planning Documents	Planning, Wirral Council	Adoption of Core Strategy Local Plan and SPDs before end of 2016. Site specific Local Plan to follow	Core Strategy found “sound” at Examination	Core Strategy at Pre-Submission Stage, Scope of SPDs subject to consultation in 2013
Seek investment in solar PV projects on Wirral Council buildings with most potential to exploit solar energy	Sustainability, Wirral Council	Ongoing	Number of sites with installations and kWp installed	Top 30 sites identified. 18 sites have PV installed 7 further sites planned by August 2015
Review potential for solar PV on Wirral Schools owned by Wirral Council	Sustainability, Wirral Council	September 2015	Priority sites identified	Desk-top review of 90 primary schools and three Early Years Centres completed to identify top 20 sites for further investigation
Seek investment in solar PV projects on schools	Sustainability, Wirral Council	Ongoing	Number of schools with installations and kWp installed	

Objective 2:03: Establish a small-scale wind turbine trial		Justification: Parts of Wirral have a suitable wind conditions to make wind turbines viable, although constraints exist. In the strategy consultation process wind energy was supported although opinion was more divided. Investigating the potential of wind through a small-scale wind turbine trial will enable local experience to be built.		
Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
Research existing wind turbines in Wirral as a basis for consideration of developing a potential small-scale wind turbine trial	Sustainability, Wirral Council	June 2015	Report produced	Report presented to Wirral Climate Change Group June 2015. Subsequent Government Ministerial Statement appears to limit opportunity to develop a

				trial.
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Objective 2:04: Identify the potential for the use of bio-mass heat and power in parks and countryside facilities		Justification: The consultation workshop included a presentation that featured an example of the use of bio-mass heat and power in parks and countryside facilities. This proved to be popular in subsequent discussion and merits some further investigation.		
Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
Consider implementing household and/or commercial food waste collection schemes to provide source of biomass energy	MRWA	To be determined		

Objective 2:05: Promote the availability of support to establish the feasibility of on farm anaerobic digestion plant and explore other opportunities to produce biogas from wastes		Justification: The On-Farm Anaerobic Digestion (AD) Fund administered by WRAP exists to help farmers build AD plants on their farms. There may be other opportunities to produce biogas from different waste streams.		
Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress

Objective 2:06: Highlight the availability of incentives to support installation of micro-renewable energy including FiTs and RHI		Justification: Incentive payments – The Feed-in-Tariff (FiTs) for renewable electricity and more recently Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) for renewable heat - are a major driver in the uptake of renewable energy.		
Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
Awareness raising among businesses by email, online and during face-to-face meetings	Wirral Chamber of Commerce	Ongoing	Emails sent to all members of Businesswirral.com	
Promote the availability of FiTs and RHI via relevant social media channels and web pages	Sustainability Wirral Council			

Objective 2:07: Promote the use of biomass fuels in off-grid locations and raise awareness about the use of correct appliances in smoke control areas		Justification: Biomass-based fuels, e.g. wood pellets and logs, are an important potential renewable derived heating source. Biomass boilers are a good low carbon alternative for those with heating needs off the gas grid that currently rely on bottled gas, oil or coal fired systems. Much of Wirral is a smoke control area where only smokeless fuels can be burnt unless they are burnt in an exempted appliance		
Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
Promote biomass fuels and awareness via	Sustainability,			

relevant social media channels and web pages	Wirral Council			
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Objective 2:08: Win further resources to develop Wirral as a centre of excellence for wind energy		Justification: Wirral's existing dock and maritime industrial assets make it an obvious location for supporting the development of off-shore wind farms. There has already been some public and private sector investment to make Wirral a centre of excellence in this growing industry.		
Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
New infrastructure projects for development of offshore wind cluster.	Investment Strategy Wirral Council	Complete expenditure by end of March 2015.	Invest £5m in supporting low carbon offshore energy supply chain projects in Wirral.	Entire £5m budget spent - supporting offshore energy and related projects. Leveraging £8.6m million private sector investment, creating 67 jobs and safeguarding 483.

Objective 2:09: Promote Wirral's value as a location for investment in emerging renewable energy technologies		Justification: Wirral's location, skill base and proximity to existing centres of research make it a potentially attractive location for investment in emerging renewable energy technologies		
Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress

Objective 2:10: Build local skills to assess, install and service renewable energy equipment by promoting education and training opportunities and linking them with local renewable energy investments		Justification: If the local area is to benefit fully from investments in renewable energy, it makes sense to ensure the skills to assess, install and service renewable energy equipment are available locally.		
Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
Skills and education shows to have a low carbon element	Economic Policy Team, Wirral Council			
New infrastructure projects for development of offshore wind cluster.	Investment Strategy Wirral Council	Complete expenditure by end of March 2015.	Invest £5m in supporting low carbon	Entire £5m budget spent - supporting offshore energy and related projects. Leveraging £8.6m million private sector investment, creating 67 jobs and

			offshore energy supply chain projects in Wirral.	safeguarding 483.
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Objective 2:11: Create a directory of local suppliers and installers and promote them through an expo event		Justification: If the local area is to benefit fully from investments in renewable energy, it makes sense to highlight local suppliers and installers.		
Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
Investigation by University of Chester Students	Sustainability, Wirral Council			Survey undertaken but limited response

Objective 2:12: Highlight renewable energy tariffs in collective switching and related campaigns		Justification: There have been some recent collective switching campaigns designed to help consumers get a better deal from utility companies. There appears to be an opportunity to promote switching to renewable energy tariffs.		
Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
Specify a renewable energy tariff be provided as part of collective switching offers	Housing Strategy Wirral Council	Next collective switch Sep 14	Tariff offered in every collective switch	

Goal: Substantially cut climate pollution associated with Wirral

Aim 3: Use more sustainable modes of transport, more fuel efficient vehicles and less polluting means of getting around

Objective 3:01: Establish a Wirral cycle route network map and develop the network		Justification: The creation of - and awareness about - a cycle network is an important element in supporting cycle journeys		
Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
Construction of cycle pathways through the Local Sustainable Transport Fund. Cycle links to businesses and to tourism sites	Cycling, Wirral Council	Until end of funding 2014/15	Construction completed	Construction completed on: Bayswater Road Levers Causeway Seacombe Ferry/Birkenhead Rd A41 Eastham/M53 Eastham

				A41 Torr Rd to Woodyear Rd Ivy Street The Fender
Construction of cycle pathways / crossings etc funded through the Integrated Transport Block (ITB)	Cycling, Wirral Council	Annual budget allocation	Construction completed	
Wirral Cycle map published and regularly updated	Cycling, Wirral Council	Map to be re-printed Sept '14	Published map	Map re-printed

Objective 3:02: Promote cycle skills training, cycle maintenance and cycle security measures		Justification: Concerns about safety and security can be a barrier to the more widespread use of cycles.		
Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
Dr Bike maintenance sessions held at businesses to provide a free service to employees bikes	Sustainable Travel Wirral Council	Until end of funding 2014/15	Number of sessions provided at businesses	19 Dr Bike sessions held at businesses
Bikeright to deliver Bikeability to National Standards in Wirral Schools.	Bike Right/ Road Safety Team, Wirral Council	Until end of school year summer 2016	Numbers of pupils trained	Reported at end of financial year

Objective 3:03: New 20 MPH zones in residential areas to improve pedestrian and cycle safety		Justification: The speed of motor traffic can be a deterrent to pedestrians and cyclists.		
Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
Instigate 20mph zones as casualty reduction schemes or via Constituency Committees.	Road Safety Wirral Council	As required	Number of schemes implemented	

Objective 3:04: Run an awareness campaign to discourage pavement parking and take enforcement action where necessary to improve the pedestrian environment		Justification: Pavement parking can create a more dangerous and restricted environment and act as a deterrent for walking journeys		
Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress

Direction of travel: Safer and more convenient routes for pedestrians	Justification: Creating safer and more convenient routes for pedestrians is likely to make walking a more attractive option			
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Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
Meet with local groups to promote walking and look at ways of overcoming challenges	Living Streets	March 2016	Questionnaires	Meeting setup with Wirral Radio, Alpha homes and in other community groups in New Brighton and Bromborough.
Work with community groups, businesses or schools where a need for improvements has been highlighted or where existing issues exist.	Living Streets	March 2016	Improvements identified	

Objective 3:05: Ensure that the majority of households are aware of journey planning tools		Justification: Increasing access to information about transport options and connections between them should help support more sustainable travel choices.		
Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
Travel solutions – Team provides bespoke advice and information on travel from and within the East Wirral area, to help people who are entering employment. This could be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Personalised journey planning Help with travel costs Bike to work scheme Scooter Commuter Travel Training 	Wirral Travel Solutions, Wirral Council	Until end of funding 2014/15	Number of solutions provided	2014/15 figures Total individual engagements: 2720 Total travel passes given out: 1252 Total bikes given out: 593 Total scooters given out: 9 Number of job seekers receiving personal journey plans: 474 Number of individuals receiving travel training: 45 Number of Maxi Taxi cards issued: 57
Merseytravel roadshows and education programme	Merseytravel	Ongoing	Merseytravel road shows Via Employers Network to 41 Wirral organisations Via Education programme to secondary	Merseytravel's engagement team promote sustainable travel behaviour to a wide audience, specific programmes engage newly employed jobseekers, major and smaller employers, educational establishments including apprenticeship providers. This work is core and ongoing year on year. Journey planning tools are a key part of the offer promoted. The team also engage with the public via 50 roadshows per year,

			schools	targeted to reach a Merseyside population of 5,000 individuals. This work is all on target for this year.
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Objective 3:06: Develop travel plans at key employment sites, leisure facilities and retail centres		Justification: Travel Plans are a way to manage travel to and from a site more effectively. They are commonly used to address growing congestion and improve travel choices.		
Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
Consider travel plans received with planning applications	Planning, Wirral Council	Ongoing		
Travel plans developed with businesses through business travel support funded by the LSTF	Sustainable Travel, Wirral Council	Until end of funding 2014/15	20 travel plans developed	21 Travel plans completed and signed off
Baseline travel surveys	Sustainable Travel, Wirral Council	Until end of funding 2014/15	22 surveys undertaken (782 staff a 19.5% response rate)	27 surveys undertaken (2764 staff a 19% response rate) SOV 57.9% Car share 13.7% Bus 10.9% Walk 6.7% Train 4.8% Bicycle 4.2% Follow up surveys with 6 businesses with 329 participants
Hold Walk Doctor events, walking challenges and do walking promotion in at least 5 local businesses before March 2016, engaging an average of 60 employees at each site.	Living Streets	Until end of funding 31st March 16	Target achieved and evaluation completed	Walk Doctor event at Premier Foods engaged 50 staff, walking promotion taken place in at least 5 other business and online challenges promoted during walk to work week in May.
Promote walking maps during business engagement events	Living Streets	Until end of funding 31st March 16	Uptake of maps	New maps received from Robin Tutchings to give out during walking promotions
Run WoW (Walk once a Week) in 55 primary schools.	Living Streets	Until end of school year summer 2016	Hands up questionnaires	60 primary schools were engaged previously. Have written to all schools to see if they wish to continue for a further year.
Run (FyF) Free your Feet walking challenge in 10 secondary schools	Living Streets	Until end of funding 31st	Hands up questionnaires	6 secondary schools have run the scheme in May/June.

		March 16		
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Objective 3:07: Complete the introduction of secure cycle parking at all Wirral railway stations		Justification: Improvements in cycle parking facilities at stations make it more convenient for combined cycle and rail journeys		
Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
Introduction of secure and sheltered cycle parking at Wirral stations	Merseytravel	2014/15	Bike stores built	Bike stores introduced at Bebington, Bidston, Birkenhead Central, Birkenhead North, Birkenhead Park, Bromborough, Bromborough Rake, Conway Park, Eastham Rake, Green Lane, Hoylake, Leasowe, Meols, Moreton, New Brighton, Port Sunlight, Rock Ferry, Spital Cycle, Wallasey Grove Road and West Kirkby. Planned for Hamilton Square.
Bike hire at select Wirral stations	Merseyrail	Ongoing	Bikes hire facilities introduced	'Bike and Go' introduced at Bidston, New Brighton, West Kirby, Port Sunlight. Planned for Hamilton Square

Objective 3:08 Introduce local bus quality partnerships to extend the co-ordination of timetables and ticketing between operators		Justification: Bus quality partnerships provide a means to better integrate services provided by rival operators to make them more convenient and attractive to users		
Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress

Objective 3:09: Promote the development and uptake of flexible ticketing options and ensure the introduction of new ticket systems include consideration of the opportunities for new flexible ticket products.		Justification: Convenient and flexible ticketing can make public transport journeys more attractive		
Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
Implementation of 'Walrus' travel card system - an electronic version of the Saveaway ticket is being rolled out initially	Merseytravel	Autumn 2014	Use of cards	Smart Saveaway piloted in Wirral – Nov 2014 Smart Saveaway roll-out across Merseyside - March 2015 Today or Tomorrow Smart Saveaway – 7th Sept 2015 Weekly Smart Solo – 7th September

				2015 Four weekly Smart Solo – 7th September 2015 Young Person Weekly Smart Solo – 7th September 2015
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Objective 3:10 Establish a network of publicly accessible electric vehicle charging points with at least one rapid charger to serve the strategic road network		Justification: If electric vehicle use is to grow, there is a need for an adequate network of charging facilities. Electric vehicle use can help reduce climate pollution – assuming the carbon intensity of grid supplied electricity continues to fall.		
Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
Implement OLEV funded charging points on public sector estate There are 8 posts proposed for charging points within Wirral Council's estate, at: Allport Lane (Bromborough); Hamilton Square; Perch Rock Car Park / Marine Promenade; West Kirby Concourse Car Park; Wirral MBC, Treasury Building Car Park; Cleveland Street Depot; Wallasey Town Hall; and Green Lane.	Sustainable Travel, Wirral Council	Until end of funding 2014/15	Introduction of charging points. Measure use of charging points	Charging points have been put in at: Cleveland Street (x2) Treasury Building Plans for Elgin Way and Wallasey Town Hall
Investigate the potential for future bids / funding streams	Sustainable Travel, Wirral Council	Ongoing	Successful bids	Bid submitted to lease hire 2 electric vehicles with 75% of the cost being covered by OLEV
E-Vehicle Charging Strategy to establish 11 publicly available electric charging points	Merseytravel	On-going		14 publically available Recharge posts are currently available in LCR. With a further 6 to be added to the network before April 2016

Objective 3:11: Promote the availability of 'alternative' fuels at filling stations through online maps		Justification: Alternatives fuelled vehicles can help reduce climate pollution. Increasing knowledge about the location of filling stations that offer alternative fuels makes the use of alternative fuelled vehicles more likely.		
Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
Back office and online support for public electric charging points so that the public can	Merseytravel	On-going	Website hits / use of	All Recharge posts are linked to the 'Charge Your Car' back office portal

see whether a car charging point is available.			charging points	which means any EV driver can use the posts
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Objective 3:12: Create a directory of local suppliers of alternative fuelled vehicles and vehicle convertors and promote these through an expo event		Justification: If Wirral is to benefit fully from investments in the transition to more sustainable travel, it makes sense to highlight local suppliers and convertors of alternative fuelled vehicles and fuels/charging points		
Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
Investigation by University of Chester Students	Sustainability, Wirral Council			Survey undertaken but limited response
Hold an event for electric vehicle expo for taxi drivers	Merseytravel	N/A	Expo held	Taxi expo was planned but never held. Green fuel event took place at Aintree in Feb 2015, although this wasn't explicitly aimed at taxi drivers

Objective 3:13: Promote smarter driving tips and techniques		Justification: The manner in which people drive can make a big difference to fuel use and resultant pollution produced. Promoting smarter driving should help improve efficiency and reduce pollution.		
Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
Smarter driver leaflet produced	Sustainable travel, Wirral Council	Ongoing	Number of leaflets distributed	Distributed through ongoing business travel support engagement
Mind Your Business Project– offers driver training sessions (practical and theory) which include safer and more economical driving advice	Road Safety, Wirral Council	Until end of funding March 2016	Take up of sessions	Promoted to individual businesses, through marketing and promotion and during seminars.

Objective 3:14: Promote car sharing for journeys when applicable		Justification: Sharing journeys can help cut traffic congestion and the associated pollution		
Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
Car sharing promoted where applicable through business travel support team	Sustainable Travel, Wirral Council	Until end of funding 2014/15	Mode share of staff car sharing will	2014/15 stats, driving assessments offered: 235 sessions offered 5 delivered

			be measured through travel surveys	
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Goal: Substantially cut climate pollution associated with Wirral

Aim 4: Reducing the indirect negative impacts that our decisions have for climate pollution in Wirral and elsewhere

Objective 4:01: Host a green procurement fair to promote the greening of local supply chains and encourage the spread of environmentally sensitive procurement practice		Justification: Purchasing decisions can have many indirect impacts including those on climate pollution.		
Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
SME engagement regarding event. Support with promotion and venue.	Wirral Chamber of Commerce	To be determined		
Objective 4:02: Promote local inter-trading to shorten supply chains through Invest Wirral and local trade associations		Justification: Shortening supply chains can limit climate pollution by reducing unnecessary transportation.		
Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
Businesswirral.com online platform exists to promote and support local inter-trading. Businesses can use this to find local providers of goods and services. Improvements to this system will enable greater number and range of opportunities to be realised.	Wirral Chamber of Commerce	Completed		3,060 members, representing 2,673 organisations on Businesswirral.com
Promote business to business inter-trading and collaborations via Wirral Chamber of Commerce relationship managers	Wirral Chamber of Commerce	Ongoing		
Objective 4:03: Reduce the need to travel through online working or online meetings		Justification: Modern technologies enable transactions and interactions to take place on-line reducing the need to travel along with the associated climate impacts of this travel.		
Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
Leaflet for businesses	Sustainable Travel Wirral Council	Until end of funding	Dissemination of	Leaflet produced and ongoing dissemination

		2014/15	leaflets	
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Objective 4:04: Create a recognisable brand to aid the development of Wirral’s local food movement and promote the consumption of local and seasonal produce		Justification: Wirral has an emergent local food movement. Developing a clear brand should help develop this movement and promote the consumption of local and seasonal produce.		
Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
Better Food Wirral identified as brand for local food movement	Public Health, Wirral Council	April 2014		Brand now established. A company called SO-MO was commissioned in June 2015 to start to further promote the work of Better Food Wirral
Priorities identified as – increase access to good food, supporting the local food market to thrive, allowing people to make good food choices	Public Health, Wirral Council	April 2014		Priorities are still relevant- move to look at adapting these priorities in different settings e.g. hospitals, care homes, schools etc.
Steering Group established to influence agenda, included on the steering group is the sustainability Liaison Officer	Public Health, Wirral Council	On going		Contract awarded to SO-MO is to establish a network to include the sustainability officer and to focus on developing sustainable cities agenda locally.
Work with VCFS such as luncheon clubs, to source food locally	Community Action Wirral			
Great Grove Street ‘eco pie’ harvest event	Eco Schools, Wirral Council	October 2014		Successful event held. To be followed up October 2015 with an ‘eco pudding’ event
Monthly West Kirby farmers’ market and local food newsletter	TTWK Core Group & Mellow Yellow	Ongoing	Number attending farmers’ market Number of downloads of local food newsletter	Monthly market is progressing There were 2,870 downloads of the newsletter in August 2015.
Promote local food foraging, seed swaps and re-skilling	TTWK Food Group, Incredible Edible	Ongoing		ongoing

	Mellow Yellow			
Love Food Hate Waste [Campaign objective is to get people to reduce the amount of food they waste]	MRWA	2012 onwards	Tonnes	MRWA has been leading and continues to lead the region with regards to this national campaign. A Waste Composition Analysis (2010) identified that 109,000 tonnes (28%) of food waste was disposed in household bins. Another analysis to be completed in 2016.
Mersey Munchers	Children’s Food Trust/MRWA	2015 onwards	Tonnes	11 cookery clubs established. Provide cooking lessons and offer cascade training to the community

Objective 4:05: Develop community cultivation on suitable vacant or underutilised land through: asset transfer to create allotments, land sharing and cultivation agreements		Justification: Growing demand for allotments has seen new sites brought into use - although Wirral still has below average allotment provision. The demand for land for growing might also be met through land sharing and cultivation agreements		
Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
Public Health meeting with Local Authority colleagues re: better use of allotments and green spaces	Public Health, Wirral Council	Ongoing		Meeting held with colleagues in Asset Management. Meeting needed with Parks & Countryside to progress.
Better Food Wirral Innovation Fund available to community groups to promote innovate projects such as land sharing etc	Public Health, Wirral Council	August 2014		6 community projects funded last year under innovation fund, hoping to collaborate with Magenta housing to run the fund again in 2015.
Seek funding opportunities for tarmac to cultivation raised beds project	Eco Schools, Wirral Council		Opportunities identified	2 eco gardening courses for co-ordinators at Wirral Environment Network held. Advanced course planned in autumn.
Big Picnic Project in West Wirral distributing baskets of seeds and plants for schools and community groups to grow, culminating in a big picnic at Thurstaston	Eco School, Wirral Council	October 2015		
Seek to develop council managed land situated at Slatey Rd as a teaching centre for cultivation for both adults and children.	Wirral Environment Network			Contact made with Council asset management
Promote locally grown food through Incredible	TTWK Food Group,	Ongoing		Ongoing

Edible, Apple avenue and allotments	Incredible Edible, Mellow Yellow			
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Objective 4:06: Create a directory of local food producers and promote these through an expo event. **Justification:** If Wirral is to benefit fully from the transition to more local and seasonal food system it makes sense to highlight local producers

Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
Better Food Wirral to hold four food exchange events in September with the idea of promoting local community projects and creating a network/directory of food producers/suppliers etc	Public Health, Wirral Council	September 2014		Food exchanges are yet to happen but the first is planned summer 2015. Focus will be around different national events e.g. the big lunch, national sandwich week.
Investigation by University of Chester Students	Invest Wirral, Wirral Council			Wirral Chamber of Commerce relationship managers actively
Monthly West Kirby farmers' market and local food newsletter	TTWK Core Group & Mellow Yellow	Ongoing	Number attending farmers' market Number of downloads of local food newsletter	Monthly market is progressing There were 2,870 downloads of the newsletter in August 2015.

Objective 4:07: Ensure climate change issues are reflected in Wirral's local food programme **Justification:** There are many connections between climate and food. Our current energy intense food system is a problem for climate pollution and changes in the climate will have an impact on food production. The creation of a local food programme presents an opportunity to consider and address food-related climate issues

Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
Develop Better Food Wirral network	Public Health, Wirral Council	Ongoing		Contract awarded to SO-MO is to establish a network both physically and virtually - to include the sustainability officer - and to focus on developing sustainable cities agenda locally through the Better Food Wirral network.
Make the connection between local food and the distance (Food miles) that some produce	MRWA	On-going	CO2 emissions	Supported university food technology modules

travels with respect to carbon emissions				
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Objective 4:08: Highlight the benefits of reducing consumption of meat		Justification: Meat forms an important part in the nation’s diet. However, there are some concerns about excessive meat consumption and its consequences. The energy intensity of dominant meat production processes and emissions from ruminant livestock pose some climate concerns.		
Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
Highlight links to relevant resources and materials via social media and web pages	Wirral Council			

Objective 4:09: Bring forward new initiatives - and strengthen existing ones - to reduce waste and encourage the re-use of materials		Justification: The ‘waste hierarchy’ highlights the importance of waste reduction and re-use.		
Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
Use WARP-IT portal to reduce waste of surplus trust materials and furniture	CWP NHS Trust	Ongoing	-	
Introduce WARP-IT portal to reduce waste of surplus council materials and furniture	Facilities management, Wirral Council	September 2015 – 2016	-	
Develop school ‘Big Bin’ challenge	Eco Schools, Wirral Council	July 2016	Number of schools reducing waste collection.	
Merseyside Textile Forum Events. Partners include MRWA, national and local charities and local community groups	Merseyside Textile Forum	On-going	Tonnes	Waste Composition Analysis identified that 22,000 tonnes (4%) of textiles was disposed of in household bins
Promote national ‘Love your clothes’ and ‘Pass it on’ campaigns that encourage repair and re-styling of old clothes.	MRWA		Tonnes	
Develop Really Useful Skills Hubs (RUSH) across the region. RUSH will include re-use, repair and upcycling of unwanted household items. A networks of third sector organisations, community groups and volunteers will come together to swap ideas	MRWA	April 2015	Tonnes	A pilot study is in progress to seek partners and develop the project

and support skills and training opportunities.				
To continue to distribute 'Junk the Junk Mail stickers at events and via requests.	MRWA	April 2014	Tonnes	Unsolicited mail and flyers are resident's biggest pet hate. Stickers are distributed at events attended by MRWA
'Donate and Create Change' project to utilise four community hubs to act as 'pop up' charity shops to resell donated goods and stop them going to landfill	Community Action Wirral			
Publishing Wirral recycling directory	TTWK core group in association with Wirral Environment Network	Ongoing		Ongoing
Wirral Earth Fest focus on not using plastic bottles, recycling and activities such as the community art project which will reuse plastic to make a banner	TTWK core group. Mellow Yellow	September 2015	Uptake of water from sources provided. Successful recycling	Planning in process

Objective 4:10: Encourage the use of sustainability appraisal to ensure climate sensitive decision making and utilise the skills of stakeholders in the Wirral Climate Change Group		Justification: Concerns were expressed during the consultation process that some strategies, plans and decisions are contradictory. Sustainability appraisal is a means to check the compatibility of strategies, plans and policies with commonly accepted sustainability criteria		
Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress

Objective 4:11: Ensure the policies of Wirral's Core Strategy Local Plan (and related supporting documents) that help minimise climate pollution are implemented		Justification: The Local Plan has several policies that can help minimise climate pollution. Some concerns were expressed during the consultation that these need to be implemented.		
Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
Progress the Core Strategy Local Plan and supporting Supplementary Planning Documents to adoption	Planning, Wirral Council	Adoption of Core Strategy Local Plan and SPDs before end of 2016.	Core Strategy found "sound" at Examination	Core Strategy at Pre-Submission Stage, Scope of SPDs subject to consultation in 2013

		Site specific Local Plan to follow		
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Goal: Adapt Wirral to unavoidable climate change

Aim 5: Identify risks and vulnerabilities from expected changes and bring forward plans and actions to limit negative impacts and improve resilience

Objective 5:01: Develop a co-ordinated adaptation response through Wirral’s climate partnership		Justification: Co-ordinated work on adaptation is less well developed than that on mitigation. It makes sense to utilise the existing partnership to develop coordinated adaptation work further.		
Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
Present results of updated local climate impact profile to Wirral Climate Change Group	Sustainability, Wirral Council	June 2015	Presentation	Updated LCIP was presented in June 2015
Present emerging Wirral Council Severe Weather Action Plan to Wirral Climate Change Group	Health, Safety and Resilience, Wirral Council	To be determined	Presentation	

Objective 5:02: Engage key stakeholders in a risk assessment process using UKCIP’s adaptation wizard to identify risks, vulnerabilities and priority actions		Justification: One of the key initial steps in any adaptation response is to consider existing risks and vulnerabilities. The UK Climate Impacts Programme has developed a variety of tools to assist such an assessment		
Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
Share updated local climate impacts profile with key stakeholders	Sustainability, Wirral Council	June 2015	Update shared	Updated draft produced. Agenda item for June 2015 Wirral Climate Change Group
Develop severe weather plan for Wirral Council to manage risks to service disruption from severe weather episodes	Health Safety and Resilience, Wirral Council	August 2015	Plan in place	Initial meeting to discuss severe weather preparedness held in December 2014
Promote use of existing adaptation tools through an adaptation event	Sustainability, Wirral Council	2016		
Consider potential for using the tool as part of the Local Plan evidence base	Planning, Wirral Council	Adoption of Core Strategy Local Plan and SPDs before end of 2016. Site specific	Core Strategy found “sound” at Examination	Core Strategy at Pre-Submission Stage, Scope of SPDs subject to consultation in 2013

		Local Plan to follow		
SME engagement	Wirral Chamber of Commerce			

Objective 5:03: Produce community-specific adaptation information		Justification: Climate adaptation requires a response from households, business and community organisations. Different communities in Wirral may face specific climate-linked challenges. For example, some may be at risk of flood others vulnerable to transport disruption. The provision of community specific information should help encourage an appropriate adaptation response.		
Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
Maintain and develop the Climate & Health content in Wirral JSNA	Public Health / Sustainability, Wirral Council	On going Bi-annual	JSNA section is updated periodically based upon contributions and active involvement of Climate Change Strategy Group and others	Current JSNA Climate & Health content update complete and re-published
Implement the CLASP funded Wirral Resilient Parks project to survey five sites with existing weather impacts in order to develop potential alternative management regimes that might be applied more widely in anticipation of further impacts from climate change	Parks & Countryside, Wirral Council	March 2015		Five sites reviewed Friends groups involved. Project report completed and disseminated
Develop schools climate convention workshop linked to Resilient Parks project	Eco Schools Wirral Council	December 2014		Workshop held. St Alban's and Heswall Primary took part in Resilient Parks session

Objective 5:04: Promote awareness of the links between climate change and health so that local health planning takes climate issues into account		Justification: Anticipated unavoidable changes in the climate will have implications for health and health provision. The links between health and climate change and the need for action in these areas were both highlighted in the strategy consultation.		
Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
Maintain and develop the Climate & Health content in Wirral JSNA	Public Health / Sustainability, Wirral Council	Ongoing Bi-annual	JSNA section is updated periodically based upon contributions and active involvement of Climate Change Strategy Group and others	Current JSNA Climate & Health content update complete and re-published

Objective 5:05: Promote the use of porous materials in gardens, driveways and landscaping schemes and the use of green roofs and walls in buildings to limit run-off, provide shade and ameliorate temperatures		Justification: ‘Hard’ impermeable building and surfacing materials can speed rainfall run-off so contributing to flooding. Such materials can also store heat energy contributing to an ‘urban heat island’ effect where urban areas become hotter than the surrounding rural hinterland. Alternative porous surfaces and ‘living’ structures that incorporate plant life can help reduce these problems. Planning regulations already cover use of impermeable materials for paving over front gardens. From April 2015 the Government requires that Local Planning Authorities ensure that for developments of 10 dwellings or more; or equivalent non-residential or mixed development, sustainable drainage systems for the management of run-off are put in place, unless demonstrated to be inappropriate.		
Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
Implement the new requirements for Sustainable Drainage Systems in new developments	Planning, Wirral Council	From April 2015		On-going

Objective 5:06: Promote water saving practices and the use of rainwater harvesting systems		Justification: The importance of water saving was highlighted through the consultation process. With longer dry spells and the potential for drought anticipated, there is a need to adopt water saving practices. Rainwater harvesting systems can reduce demand for mains supplied water and divert rainfall to storage during periods of intense rain.		
Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
Promote water saving as part of eco schools review	Lynne Struve, Eco Schools			
Incorporate findings of Wirral Water Cycle study 2013 into Planning Policies in Core Strategy Local Plan and guidance in Supplementary Planning Documents as appropriate	Planning, Wirral Council	Adoption of Core Strategy Local Plan and SPDs before end of 2016. Site specific Local Plan to follow	Core Strategy found “sound” at Examination	Core Strategy at Pre-Submission Stage, Scope of SPDs subject to consultation in 2013
Annual school leak detection programme	Sustainability, Wirral Council	Annual – summertime		

Objective 5:07: Raise awareness of the role of the natural environment in combating adverse impacts in order to support investment in Wirral’s green infrastructure and green and open spaces strategies		Justification: Local green infrastructure and parks and open spaces strategies have an important role to play in local adaptation to a changing climate. Green and blue ‘infrastructure’ (e.g. gardens, parks, verges, trees and hedges; ponds, lakes, rivers and streams) provide a range ‘services’ important in climate adaptation (e.g. managing flooding by reducing surface runoff, providing natural storage and slowing water movement; and managing temperatures through evaporative cooling and shade).		
Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
Planning Policies in Core Strategy Local Plan and guidance in Supplementary Planning Documents to provide guidance to plan positively for the creation, protection, enhancement and management of networks of biodiversity and green infrastructure	Planning, Wirral Council	Adoption of Core Strategy Local Plan and SPDs before end of 2016. Site specific Local Plan to	Core Strategy found “sound” at Examination	Core Strategy at Pre-Submission Stage, Scope of SPDs subject to consultation in 2013

		follow		
Objective 5:08: Seek funding to extend Wirral Green Streets-type projects in the east of Wirral		Justification: The east of Wirral is less well served with 'green infrastructure' than other parts of the borough. The Wirral Green Streets programme has seen major investment in street trees helping to address this imbalance.		
Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress

Objective 5:09: Run a campaign to promote engagement with the Environment Agency's 'Climate Ready' programme		Justification: The climate ready programme, led by the Environment Agency, provides advice and support to the public, private and voluntary sectors to enable them to adapt to the changing climate		
Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
SME engagement regarding programme.	Wirral Chamber of Commerce	To be determined		
Highlight 'Climate Ready' support via social media	Sustainability Wirral Council	To be determined		

Objective 5:10: Develop community capacity to respond to weather events.		Justification: Communities can be more resilient to extreme weather if they can harness resources from within the community to help prepare for, respond to and recover from such weather events. Building community capacity promotes self-help in ways that complement responses from local agencies and emergency services.		
Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
Develop Wirral Emergency Volunteers scheme	Health Safety and Resilience, Wirral Council	Ongoing		Scheme established

Objective 5:11: Create a directory of local firms that provide goods and services that help with adapting to climate change and promote them at an expo event		Justification: If Wirral is to benefit fully from investment in adaptation it makes sense to highlight local providers of good and services that may help producers		
Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
Investigation by University of Chester students	Sustainability Wirral Council			Survey undertaken but limited response

Building capacity for action in support of both goals

Aim 6: Building capacity for action by strengthening local networks and partnerships and by developing wider awareness and education initiatives

Objective 6:01: Create an independent Cool Wirral Partnership from the Wirral Climate Change Group		Justification: It is important that the strategy is seen to be a strategy for Wirral, not a Wirral Council strategy. The existing climate change group has evolved over time from an internal council officer group to a wider forum with representatives from various groups. The further evolution of the group into an appropriately constituted partnership appears to be a logical next step consistent with fostering wider ownership. Such a move could also present new opportunities to develop action.		
Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
Consult on future direction and format of Wirral Climate Change Group	Building Services and Sustainability, Wirral Council	Autumn 2016	Report identifying options for development	

Objective 6:02: Develop a Cool Wirral campaign to promote the desirability of climate actions and gather pledges in support of the strategy from individuals and from organisations in the public, private, voluntary, community and faith sectors		Justification: The success of the climate change strategy rests on its uptake more widely across Wirral. A local 'carbon reduction' pledge campaign (CRed Wirral) has previously been developed, but the system upon which it was based is no longer supported. There is an opportunity to build on work undertaken on the CRed Wirral campaign in support of the wider strategy.		
Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
Develop Cool Wirral 'brand' for online media	Sustainability, Wirral Council	October 2014	Logo, web banners, and social media styles developed	Logo developed for twitter and project dirt profiles. Banners developed for web site but not implemented
Maintain @CoolWirral twitter feed	Sustainability, Wirral Council	Ongoing	Monthly number of follows	Transition from @credwirral to @coolwirral complete. Average of 41 extra followers each month during 2014/15
Establish 'Cool Wirral' web presence building on material developed for CRed Wirral campaign	Sustainability, Wirral Council	January 2015	Web presence established. Statistics collected via	Cool Wirral pages included at: www.wirral.gov.uk/coolwirral Limited content and functionality. Current moves to revise council website likely to cut further content. Alternative

Wirral Climate Change Group – Rolling Action Plan – Version at August 2015

			Google analytics	options under discussion.
Develop content for Cool Wirral group on 'Project Dirt' networking website	Sustainability, Wirral Council	Ongoing	Number of group members	
Agree final Wirral climate strategy	Sustainability, Wirral Council	July 2014	Final version agreed	Final strategy agreed by Wirral Climate Change Group July 2014
Seek endorsement of final Wirral climate strategy	Sustainability, Wirral Council	Autumn 2014		Climate strategy endorsed by Wirral Council
Develop and implement launch programme for Wirral climate strategy	Sustainability, Wirral Council	Winter 2014/Spring 2015	Launch programme implemented	Launch events held and press release issued December 2014
Promote Cool Wirral team in national Big Energy Race 2015	Community Action Wirral	February 2015-April 2015		Cool Wirral team came third on the national leader board and was second in the region to the ultimate national winner
Seek funding to develop climate-related work with faith communities in Wirral	Faiths4Change	July 2016	Funding secured	

Objective 6:03: Develop a network in support of Cool (building on existing networks) and provide opportunities for interaction between participants through an e-bulletin, social media and public events

Justification: The success of the climate change strategy rests on its uptake more widely across Wirral. Growing a supportive network and using this to share information and learning is seen as an important foundation for encouraging action. Electronic communication, social media and face-to-face meetings all have a part to play

Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
Establish and maintain general Cool Wirral mailing list	Sustainability, Wirral Council			
SME engagement	Wirral Chamber of Commerce			
Organise a 'Cool Yule' Christmas event linked with strategy launch activities	Eco Schools/ Sustainability, Wirral Council	December 2014		Cool Yule launch event held
Transition Town West Kirby lecture series on energy and climate change	TTWK Energy Group	June 2015 and ongoing	Numbers attending event	
Organise Festi-velo as part of Festival of Firsts	TTWK Core Group	July 2014 July 2015	Number participating	2014 event 130 cyclists took part 2015 event 200 cyclists took part
Wirral Earth Fest	TTWK Core group	10-12 th		This year's Earth Fest is in its planning

	and Mellow Yellow in partnership with St Bridget’s Church	September 2015		phase
Collaboration with Sustrans/Wirral Bike Hubs at Wirral Earth Fest	TTWK Core Group	12 th September 2015		

Objective 6:04: Encourage the formation of low carbon communities/transition towns-type groups to promote climate action at community level with at least one group in each constituency committee area		Justification: Community led ‘Transition town’ and low carbon community-type groups have been set up around the country and are often at the forefront of local climate initiatives. Not all parts of Wirral have such groups in place. The consultation flagged up the need to support the formation of such groups in different parts of the Wirral.		
Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
Provide infrastructure support to new groups	Community Action Wirral			
Develop Transition Town West Kirby activities	TTWK core group and all subgroups	Ongoing		Ongoing

Objective 6:05: Develop a network of exemplar eco buildings including examples of different building types with at least one Superhome in each constituency committee area and promote ‘open house’-type events		Justification: Visible and accessible examples of good practice can provide a powerful catalyst for wider change. The consultation workshops identified exemplar eco buildings as having an important role to play.		
Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
Identify and promote existing exemplar buildings		Ongoing	Exemplar buildings identified	One ‘Superhome’ has been identified
Seek opportunities to develop new exemplar buildings				

Objective 6:06: Expand the number of good practice case studies on-line and encourage connections between organisations in different parts of the borough to spread good practice and avoid ‘reinventing the wheel’		Justification: There are already a number of examples of good practice and associated experience although this practice is not always visible. The importance of showcasing good practice and sharing experience to help avoid reinventing the wheel was a common theme to emerge in workshop discussions		
Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress

Wirral Climate Change Group – Rolling Action Plan – Version at August 2015

Establish case studies section as part of 'Cool Wirral' web presence utilising material collected for CRed Wirral campaign and updating to include new examples	Building Services and Sustainability, Wirral Council	January 2015	Web presence established. Statistics collected via Google analytics	Planned revisions to council website will limit the opportunity to use this platform. Alternative options for web presence are under discussion.
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Objective 6:07: Develop climate change-related resources to support local 'eco' work in schools		Justification: Wirral has a successful eco schools programme. This presents an opportunity to engage school communities in climate related-action and learning		
Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
Develop 'Cool Science' resources	Eco Schools Wirral Council	July 2016		

Objective 6:08: Develop leading schools and community buildings as hubs for wider community learning on climate change		Justification: Schools and community buildings (often run by community or faith groups) can act as hubs for wider community learning. They thus present an opportunity to facilitate wider learning on climate change and the actions which can be taken		
Action	Lead	Timescale	Measure	Progress
Run school climate workshops as part of strategy launch activities to initiate school projects linked to strategy themes	Eco Schools Wirral Council	December 2016	Event held Number of schools involved	Workshop held on 10 th December as part of launch programme. Topics covered included energy efficiency (LED lighting); adaptation (resilient parks, coastal management); renewable energy (scope for solar PV); waste reduction (composting and waste electrical equipment)
Hold school climate convention at which schools taking part in the climate workshops will share their projects and lead activities with other schools	Eco Schools Wirral Council	July 2015	Event held	Event held
Utilise the CAW community shops in Prenton, Overchurch, West Kirby and Bromborough	Community Action Wirral			

WIRRAL COUNCIL

REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT POLICY AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

15TH SEPTEMBER 2015

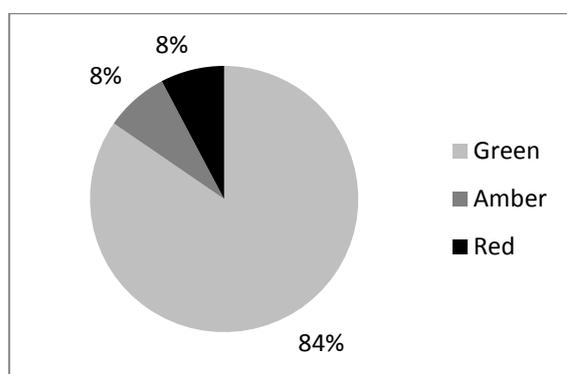
SUBJECT:	2015/16 QUARTER 1 DIRECTORATE PLAN PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORT
WARD/S AFFECTED:	ALL
REPORT OF:	KEVIN ADDERLEY (STRATEGIC DIRECTOR OF REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT)
RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDERS:	CLLR PHIL DAVIES, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL AND PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR INVESTMENT STRATEGY CLLR GEORGE DAVIES, JOINT DEPUTY LEADER OF THE LABOUR GROUP AND PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD, HOUSING AND ENGAGEMENT CLLR PAT HACKETT, PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR ECONOMY CLLR STUART WHITTINGHAM, PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT CLLR BERNIE MOONEY, PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY CLLR CHRIS MEADEN, PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR LEISURE, SPORT AND CULTURE
KEY DECISION?	NO

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

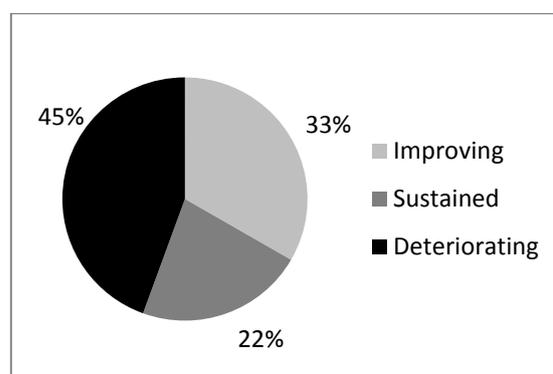
- 1.1 This report sets out Quarter 1 (April – June 2015) performance against delivery of the Regeneration and Environment Directorate Plan. The Directorate Plan was reported to this committee on 23 March 2015. The performance report is attached as Appendix 1 and sets out progress against a suite of agreed key performance indicators.
- 1.2 Whilst the Corporate Plan 2014/16: Refreshed for 2015/16 (and supporting Directorate Plans) have been superseded by the Wirral Council Plan 2020 Vision, they still form the basis of the in-year performance management framework. A new Performance Management Framework will be developed for the Council Plan once the associated delivery plan has been finalised.

2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

- 2.1 The Regeneration and Environment Directorate Plan performance is reported through a set of agreed performance measures aligned to priorities identified in the plan. Performance is monitored against the targets set at the start of the year.
- 2.2 For each measure, a Red, Amber or Green (RAG) rating is assigned depending on the performance level against the target. A number of measures are annual, and these will only be reported when the data is available. The report (Appendix 1) also shows the direction of travel for each measure to illustrate whether performance is improving, deteriorating or sustained.
- 2.3 Of the 13 reportable indicators, 11 (84%) are rated Green, 1 (8%) is rated Amber and 1 (8%) is rated Red. For indicators rated Amber and Red, the responsible officer has indicated the corrective action being put in place to get performance back on track.
- 2.4 Of the 9 measures where it is possible to indicate the Direction of Travel, 3 (33%) are improving, 4 (45%) are deteriorating and 2 (22%) are showing performance being sustained. Of the 4 measures reported as deteriorating at Q1, 3 are rated as Green. The reason for the Direction of Travel against these indicators is explained within Appendix 1. The charts below show the breakdown in terms of the RAG and Direction of Travel ratings:



RAG Rating Breakdown



Direction of Travel Breakdown

- 2.5 The Appendix 1 report has been re-designed to streamline performance reporting to make it both more user-friendly for those receiving reports and more efficient to produce in terms of officer time.

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 Members are requested to note the contents of this report and highlight any areas requiring further clarification or action.

14.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

14.1 To ensure Members have the opportunity to review delivery of the Regeneration and Environment Directorate Plan.

REPORT AUTHOR: Margaret Sandalls

Performance Management Officer

Business Partner to Regeneration & Environment Directorate

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Directorate Plan Performance Report Quarter 1 (Apr – Jun) 2015/16

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Regeneration and Environment Policy and Performance Committee	14 th July 2015
	23 rd March 2015
	3 rd February 2015
	22 nd September 2014
	22 nd July 2014
	9 th April 2014
	27 th January 2014
	5 th November 2013
	17 th September 2013

Regeneration and Environment Directorate Performance Report
Quarter 1 (April - June) 2015/16

2015-16 Regeneration & Environment Performance Indicators		Year End Target 2015/16	April - June (Q1)			Year End Forecast	DoT	Corrective Actions (Red or Amber) Context (Green/where provided)
PI Ref	PI Title		Target	Actual	RAG			
RECP02	To maintain local environmental quality (LEQ) of litter, detritus, & graffiti in main gateways and shopping areas	93.5%	93.5%	93.61%	Green	93.5%	↓	Performance for Q4 2014/15 was 97.5% which exceeded its quarterly target of 93.5%. This resulted in the Direction of Travel (DoT) for Q1 2015/16 being determined as a deterioration however this indicator is on track and has slightly exceeded its Q1 2015/16 target.
RECP03	Number of new affordable homes	250	50	194	Green	250	↑	Target for Q1 has been significantly surpassed due to a number of schemes completing this quarter which were delayed from completion at year-end for 2014/15.
RECP04	Number of adaptations completed	2000	500	699	Green	2000	↑	
RECP05	Number of interventions to improve private rented sector properties	400	100	135	Green	400	↔	
RECP06	Increase the number of jobs created and safeguarded via Invest Wirral	975	60	72	Green	975	↓	Performance for Q1 2014/15 was 465 which considerably exceeded its quarterly target of 160 due to the approval of a number of Regional Growth Fund (RGF) Grant Applications; subsequent monthly performance slowed and the year-end target of 925 was met as anticipated. The Direction of Travel (DoT) has been assessed as a deterioration because of the lower number of jobs created and safeguarded compared to Q1 2014/15 however this indicator is on track and has even slightly exceeded its Q1 2015/16 target.

Regeneration and Environment Directorate Performance Report
 Quarter 1 (April - June) 2015/16

REDP09	Reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents (KSI's)	98	24	38	Red	150	↓	<p>We have not yet had any update of road casualty data from Merseyside Police.</p> <p>Based on last years data, it is likely that the following actions will be needed 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. • Further verification of data supplied by police will be undertaken to ensure compliance with national reporting criteria. <p>The <i>Direction of Travel (DoT)</i> for this indicator has deteriorated compared to Q1 2014/15 which was 30 (KSI's) against a target of 25. This indicator is forecast to miss the 2015/16 year-end target by 52 (KSI's).</p>
REDP12	Number of empty properties returned to use or demolished through local authority action	260	30	31	Green	260	↔	

Regeneration and Environment Directorate Performance Report
Quarter 1 (April - June) 2015/16

REDP13	Number of homeless preventions	750	187	316 (P)	Green	750	↑	<i>The 2015/16 first quarter target has been significantly exceeded due to the first inclusion of Mainstay data, which is a hostel gateway system introduced in Wirral in February 2015. The system enables Wirral Council to capture homeless prevention data linked to numbers of clients accessing Supporting People funded hostels. The service will seek to review the existing 2015/16 target, once data collection for quarter two is complete.</i>
REDP15	% of Major Planning Applications determined within 13 weeks	60%	60%	60%	Green	60%	↓	<i>Q4 2014/15 performance of 79.1% exceeded its quarterly target of 60%, this has resulted in the Q1 2015/16 performance being assessed as deteriorating however performance at Q1 2015/16 is as expected and remains on track to deliver the targets set for the year.</i>
RECP18	Develop and deliver the Wirral Selective Licencing Scheme (WSLS)	100%	17%	17%	Green	100%		

Regeneration and Environment Directorate Performance Report
Quarter 1 (April - June) 2015/16

REDP19	Delivery of the Docks Bridges Replacement Major Scheme up to contract award stage	100%	25%	10%	Amber	100%		<p>Mott MacDonald have commenced document review and issued a draft scoping report for their design services. PIA approved and request issued to Procurement to publish PIN for construction tender processes.</p> <p>Cabinet report has been replaced with Strong Leader report but this is awaiting legal advice regarding state-aid and letter of support/confirmation of financial contribution is received from Peel Ports. Names and contact details of Peel Ports representatives are required as is their confirmation of their commitment and funding support. Options appraisal urgently required and list of questions to be put to Peel Ports. If all of these matters are not resolved prior to the next reporting period, then the end of year forecast will not be achieved.</p>
REDP22	Implementation of LED Street Lighting Project	100%	15%	15%	Green	100%		
REDP23	Develop and deliver a master plan for Birkenhead Town Centre	100%	25%	25%	Green	100%		

**Regeneration and Environment Directorate Performance Report
Quarter 1 (April - June) 2015/16**

Directorate Financial Management	Revenue	89,622,500			Green	89,322,500	An underspend of £0.3 million is currently forecast relating to contract efficiencies within Supported Housing.
	Capital Programme	20,853,000		4,876,000	Green	29,476,000	STEP funding has now been included within the programme as well as approved slippage from 2014-15.
	Savings	2,944,000		2,258,000	Green	2,944,000	The Streetworks Permit option (£200k) requires a statutory process, which is likely to delay the full implementation until 2016-17. Other options requiring income generation will be closely monitored throughout the year.
Direction of Travel (DoT)							

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WIRRAL COUNCIL

REGENERATION & ENVIRONMENT POLICY & PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

15 SEPTEMBER 2015

SUBJECT	FINANCIAL MONITORING 2014/15 2014/15 OUTTURN
WARD/S AFFECTED	ALL
REPORT OF	ACTING SECTION 151 OFFICER

1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report sets out the financial monitoring information for this Committee in a format consistent across the Policy and Performance Committees. The report aims to give Members sufficient detail to scrutinise budget performance for the Directorate. Financial information for the outturn 2014/15 which was reported to Cabinet on 13 July is included.

2 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

- 2.1 Throughout the 2014/15 financial year Cabinet have received updates in respect of Revenue and Capital Monitoring with these reports having been submitted monthly. After the significant changes the Council went through during 2012/13 and 2013/14, 2014/15 has seen an increasingly stable and positive position being reported. These reports have then been used to provide a basis for reports to Policy & Performance Committees.
- 2.2 The last monitoring report, for Month 10, considered by Cabinet on 12 March 2015, projected a General Fund overspend of £0.8 million. The overspending was principally due to slippage or non-delivery of in-year savings and demand pressures in particular services. It was mitigated by underspending in certain Directorates and the implementation of a number of management actions and mitigation to help compensate and limit the adverse variances.
- 2.3 The actual Out-turn was an underspend of £0.5 million. The improvement was essentially due to underspends within Regeneration & Environment, in respect of staffing and increased income, and in Transformation & Resources, with further savings identified from treasury management activities. These more than offset the slippage on the delivery of the Re-modelling savings which were initially to be met from the Re-modelling Reserve.

3 REPORTING TO POLICY & PERFORMANCE COMMITTEES

- 3.1 The relevant sections from the most recent revenue and capital outturn reports reported to Cabinet are summarised into a bespoke report for each Policy and Performance Committee. This will include the following:
- Performance against revenue budget
 - Performance against capital budget

3.2 The following sections have been extracted from the Financial Monitoring outturn reports presented to Cabinet on 13 July 2015.

4 PERFORMANCE AGAINST REVENUE BUDGETS 2014/15 OUTTURN

CHANGES TO THE AGREED BUDGET

4.1 2014/15 Original & Revised Net Budget £000's

	Original Net Budget	Budget Changes	Revised Net Budget
	£000	£000	£000
Regeneration and Environment	95,190	1,430	96,620
Net Cost of Services	95,190	1,430	96,620

4.1.1 The Budget 2014/15 was agreed by Council on 25 February 2014 with any increase in the Budget agreed by full Council. Changes to the Budget since it was set are summarised in the table (4.1) and comprise: variations approved by Cabinet / Council including approved virements; budget realignments reflecting changes to the Directorate structure and responsibilities; the allocation of savings to Directorates; any technical accounting adjustments.

4.2 VARIATIONS

4.2.1 The report uses RAGBY ratings to highlight under and overspends and place them into 'risk bands'. The 'risk band' classification is:

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

4.2.2 2014/15 Budget variations £000's

Directorates	Revised Budget	Outturn	(Under) Overspend	RAGBY Class	Change from prev
Regeneration and Environment	96,620	93,271	-3,349	Y	-1,874
TOTAL	96,620	93,271	-3,349		-1,874

4.2.3 Within the Budget for 2014/15 was £36.2 million of efficiencies. The Revenue Monitoring reports throughout the year highlighted the potential overspending areas which included slippage in the delivery of some of the savings to be delivered. This reflected timing delays in implementation mainly within Families & Wellbeing – Adult Social Services.

4.2.4 Analysis of the Directorate Variations

The table below shows the main areas of budget to actual variations within the Regeneration and Environment. There are over/under spends that make up the total underspend of £3.3 million.

Directorate	Description	Over £m	Under £m
Regeneration and Environment	Increased income and reduced staffing in various areas		2.1
	Supporting People Programme (early delivery of savings and efficiencies)		1.0
	Additional grant support and match funding not utilised		0.5
	Floral Pavilion	0.3	
Total		0.3	3.6
Grand Total			3.3

5 PERFORMANCE AGAINST CAPITAL BUDGETS OUTTURN 2014/15

5.1 Capital Programme 2014/15 Outturn

5.1.1 The capital spend for the year on the accruals basis amounted to £16.6 million compared to the Revised Programme of £20.9 million which was reported in January (Month 10). This is summarised the table below.

Spend	Original Approval	Revised January	Actual Out-turn
	£000	£000	£000
Reg & Env– Env & Regulation	8,407	9,727	7,580
Reg & Env – Hsg & Comm Safety	5,707	4,057	2,812
Reg & Env – Regeneration	5,744	7,133	6,252
Total Programme	19,858	20,917	16,644

5.2 Regeneration and Environment – Environment and Regulation

The Authority continued to improve the highway network spending more than £2.5 million on highway structural maintenance schemes in 2014/15. There was also £0.5 million spent on bridges which included the completion of the Cottage Lane bridge strengthening works and the preparation works and technical report for the future Dock bridges scheme.

£0.5 million of Local Sustainable Transport Funding was used to improve access to key employment sites by providing infrastructure for pedestrians and cyclists on key corridors in East Wirral. This was further supplemented with £0.6 million from the Active Travel funding allocation. The most significant scheme was at Bolton Road.

£0.8 million was spent on road safety improvements such as traffic signals, speed cushions and puffins. Again, the most significant scheme was in Bolton Road (£0.37 million).

The planned investment in new vehicles, plant and equipment as part of the Parks and Countryside services modernisation project has continued with £0.8 million spent in 2014/15.

5.3 Regeneration and Environment – Housing and Community Safety

The support for the provision and re-provision of new housing through the clearance programme saw £1.8 million in total deferred to 2015/16.

Approximately half the Home improvement allocation was spent during the year, an improvement on what was anticipated mid-way through the year.

Disabled Facilities Grants/Aids and Adaptations continue to be approved and the spend committed but the incurring of this spend is determined by the grant applicants which means that there will invariably be works approved but will not be completed until the following year. £2 million was spent in 2014/15.

5.4 Regeneration and Environment – Regeneration

Public realm improvements to New Brighton seafront to increase visitors and improve footfall for local businesses were completed in 2014/15. This included maintenance and traffic improvements outside the Floral Pavilion and to Victoria Parade.

The Regional Growth Fund (RGF) is a £2.6 billion fund operating across England from 2011/16. It supports projects and programmes that lever private sector investment to create economic growth and sustainable employment. 12 projects have been supported committing £4.9 million in RGF grant.

Using the Local Enterprise Partnership funding has enabled 35 projects to be supported. A total of £4.1 million has been expended to date.

6 RELEVANT RISKS

6.1 There are none relating to this report.

7 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

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

8 CONSULTATION

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

9 OUTSTANDING PREVIOUSLY APPROVED ACTIONS

9.1 There is an ongoing requirement to identify during the financial year necessary actions to mitigate any forecast overspend.

10 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

10.1 There are no implications arising directly from this report.

11 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL, IT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

11.1 In respect of the Revenue Budget the Regeneration & Environment Directorate outturn for 2014/15 was a £3.3m underspend.

12 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

12.1 There are no implications arising directly from this report.

13 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

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

14 CARBON REDUCTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

14.1 There are no implications arising directly from this report.

15 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

15.1 There are no implications arising directly from this report.

15 RECOMMENDATIONS

15.1 That Members note the revenue underspend of £3.3 million for the Regeneration and Environment Directorate and the 2014/15 directorate capital outturn of £16.6 million.

16 REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

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

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APPENDICES

SUBJECT HISTORY

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

WIRRAL COUNCIL

REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT POLICY & PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

15 SEPTEMBER 2015

SUBJECT	FINANCIAL MONITORING 2015/16 QUARTER 1 (APRIL - JUNE 2015)
WARD/S AFFECTED	ALL
REPORT OF	ACTING SECTION 151 OFFICER

1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report sets out the financial monitoring information for this Committee in a format consistent across the Policy and Performance Committees. The report aims to give Members sufficient detail to scrutinise budget performance for the Directorate. The financial information is for Quarter 1 (April-June 2015) and was reported to Cabinet on 27 July.

2 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

- 2.1 Members of the Policy and Performance Committees have previously requested that financial monitoring information is provided as a standard item at each Committee.
- 2.2 Since September 2012 regular revenue and capital monitoring reports have been submitted to Cabinet as a means of providing regular, detailed updates on budget performance.
- 2.3 The Coordinating Committee has agreed that in order to fulfil its corporate and strategic scrutiny role, it will continue to review the full versions of the most up to date monitor reports at its future scheduled meetings.
- 2.4 The relevant sections from the most recent revenue and capital monitoring reports reported to Cabinet are summarised into a bespoke report for each Policy and Performance Committee. This will include the following:
- Performance against revenue budget
 - Performance against in year efficiency targets
 - Performance against capital budget

3 PERFORMANCE AGAINST REVENUE BUDGETS QUARTER 1 (APRIL-JUNE 2015)

CHANGES TO THE AGREED BUDGET

3.1 Changes to the agreed Regeneration & Environment Budget for 2015-16

	Original Net Budget	Approved Budget Changes Prior Mths	Approved Budget Changes Quarter 1	Proposed Budget Changes Quarter 1	Revised Net Budget
Regeneration & Environment	90,287	-	-664	-	89,623
Net Cost of Services	90,287	-	-664	-	89,623

3.1.1 The approved budget changes take account of the following adjustments:

- the completion of remodelling and restructuring of Council services
- adjustments between Children & Young People and Regeneration & Environment
- the allocation of Corporate Growth, Savings and Grant budgets

4 BUDGET VARIATIONS

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

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

4.2 2015/16 Projected Budget variations £000's

Directorates	Revised Budget	Forecast Outturn	(Under) Overspend Quarter 1	RAGBY Class	Change from prev
Regeneration & Environment	89,623	89,323	-300	B	-
TOTAL	89,623	89,323	-300		-

4.3 An underspend of £0.3 million is currently forecast relating to further contract efficiencies within Supported Housing.

5 IMPLEMENTATION OF SAVINGS

5.1 The delivery of the agreed savings is key to the Council's financial health and is tracked at both Council and Directorate level. The Budget for 2015/16 included £38 million of efficiency measures and it was recognised that the delivery of the savings, particularly within Adults and Children's Services was challenging being more of a transformational / change nature.

Budget Implementation Plan 2015/16 (£000's)

BRAG	Number of Options	Approved Budget Reduction	Amount Delivered at Q1	To be Delivered see T4
B - delivered	8	1,595	1,595	0
G – on track	9	794	463	331
A - concerns	3	470	200	270
R - high risk/ not achieved	0	0	0	0
Total at Quarter 1 2015-16	20	2,859	2,258	601

6 PERFORMANCE AGAINST CAPITAL BUDGETS QUARTER 1 (APRIL-JUNE 2015)

6.1 Capital Programme 2015/16 at end of Quarter 1 (30 June)

	Capital Strategy	Revisions Since Budget Cabinet	Revised Capital Programme	Actual Spend June 2015
	£000	£000	£000	£000
R&E– Env & Regulation	12,633	2,491	15,124	180
R&E– Hsg & Comm Safety	6,412	2,381	8,793	374
R& E – Regeneration	1,808	3,751	5,559	4,322
Total expenditure	20,853	8,623	29,476	4,876

Note: revisions reflect re-profiling of schemes from 2014/15 plus additional grant funding

6.2 Regeneration and Environment – Environment and Regulation

This element of the capital programme will involve £15.1 million of investment.

The largest element of the programme is LED lighting scheme. The tender process for the installation has been completed, and installation will commence mid-August. The scheme remains on schedule and the budget savings are expected to be achieved.

Cabinet 20 July 2015 received reports detailing planned use of Integrated Transport Block and Sustainable Transport Enhancements Package (STEP) funding.

6.3 Regeneration and Environment – Housing and Community Safety

Investment of £8.8 million is planned for this element of the programme. This includes support for the provision and re-provision of new housing through the clearance programme with £1.8 million deferred to 2015/16 from 2014/15 as well as approximately half of the 2014/15 Home Improvement allocation.

The authority has received DCLG funding via Liverpool City Council (acting as the accountable body) of £1.2m for a grant scheme entitled “Cluster of Empty Homes Fund”. This capital funding is to be used in accordance with the bid

conditions to bring empty property (including commercial property) into use as housing. £31,657 has been used to support the Council's Empty Homes Grant programme. The remaining funding has been allocated to contribute to the overall costs of renovating and converting the Old Court House in Manor Road and The Ark, Birkenhead.

Disabled Facilities Grants/Aids and Adaptations continue to be approved and the spend committed but the incurring of this spend is determined by the grant applicants which may result in delays.

6.4 Regeneration and Environment – Regeneration

Approximately £5.6 million of expenditure is forecast in the year for this area. £4.3 million has been incurred to date in respect of Regional Growth Fund activity.

7 RELEVANT RISKS

7.1 There are none relating to this report.

8 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

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

9 CONSULTATION

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

10 OUTSTANDING PREVIOUSLY APPROVED ACTIONS

10.1 There is an ongoing requirement to identify during the financial year necessary actions to mitigate any forecast overspend.

11 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

11.1 There are no implications arising directly from this report.

12 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL, IT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

12.1 In respect of the Revenue Budget the Regeneration and Environment Directorate is projecting a £0.3m underspend as at the 30 June 2015.

13 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

13.1 There are no implications arising directly from this report.

14 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

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

15 CARBON REDUCTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

15.1 There are no implications arising directly from this report.

16 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

16.1 There are no implications arising directly from this report.

17 RECOMMENDATIONS

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

18 REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

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

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APPENDICES

Extracted from the Capital Monitoring report to Cabinet on 27 July 2015:-
Annex 1 Revised Capital Programme and Funding 2015/16

SUBJECT HISTORY

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

Annex 1 Revised Capital Programme

Regeneration and Environment - Environment & Regulation	Revised Programme £000	Spend to Date £000	Council Resources £000	Revenue/ Reserves £000	Grants £000	Total Funding £000
Road Safety	157	14	84	-	73	157
Active Travel	185	13	185	-	-	185
Transportation	104	11	104	-	-	104
Bridges	1,566	-	728	-	838	1,566
Street Lighting	76	18	26	-	50	76
Highway Maintenance	3,105	80	400	-	2,705	3,105
Integrated Transport	1,558	-	-	-	1,558	1,558
Start Active, Play Active, Stay active	34	6	24	10	-	34
Wirral Way - widening and safety improvements	14	-	14	-	-	14
Cemetery Extensions and Improvements	171	-	171	-	-	171
Coast Protection	251	4	251	-	-	251
Energy schemes (LED Street Lighting)	4,236	-	4,236	-	-	4,236
Allotments	165	-	165	-	-	165
Parks Improvements	13	8	-	13	-	13
Royden Park	2	-	-	-	2	2
Parks vehicles replacement	684	23	684	-	-	684
Reeds Lane Play Area	23	3	-	-	23	23
West Kirby Flood Alleviation	1,500	-	-	200	1,300	1,500
Dock Bridges Replacement	280	-	280	-	-	280
Preventative Maintenance to Unclassified and Residential Streets	500	-	500	-	-	500
Preventative Maintenance to Classified Roads	500	-	500	-	-	500
	15,124	180	8,352	223	6,549	15,124

Regeneration and Environment - Housing & Community Safety	Revised Programme £000	Spend to Date £000	Council Resources £000	Revenue/Reserves £000	Grants £000	Total Funding £000
Aids, Adaptations and Disabled Facility Grants	3,235	263	1,162	-	2,073	3,235
LIFT	298	2	298	-	-	298
Clearance	1,840	16	755	350	735	1,840
Home Improvement	854	66	485	369	-	854
Improvement for sale grants	180	-	-	180	-	180
Empty Property Interventions	236	27	190	46	-	236
New House Building Programme	1,500	-	1,500	-	-	1,500
Cluster of Empty Homes Fund	650	-	-	-	650	650
	8,793	374	4,390	945	3,458	8,793

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Regeneration and Environment - Regeneration	Revised Programme £000	Spend to Date £000	Council Resources £000	Revenue/Reserves £000	Grants £000	Total Funding £000
Other Regional Growth Fund Schemes	3,208	3,208	-	-	3,208	3,208
LEP Regional Growth Fund Schemes - Targeted Assistance	1,102	1,102	-	-	1,102	1,102
Business Investment Grants	780	-	780	-	-	780
The Priory	69	12	-	-	69	69
Hamilton Square Accessibility Improvements	400	-	-	-	400	400
	5,559	4,322	780	-	4,779	5,559

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WIRRAL COUNCIL

REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT POLICY AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

TUESDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER 2015

SUBJECT:	POLICY BRIEFING PAPER – SEPTEMBER 2015
WARD/S AFFECTED:	ALL
REPORT OF:	STRATEGIC DIRECTOR REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT
RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	GOVERNANCE, COMMISSIONING & IMPROVEMENT
KEY DECISION?	NO

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 This report presents Committee Members with the September Policy Inform Briefing paper which includes an overview of ongoing and recent national legislation, potential implications for the Council 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 years, 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 & 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 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 focus on 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 2016 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 September Policy Inform briefing outlines the key features of the Chancellor of Exchequers Budget Statement, which was announced on the 8th July 2015. The Policy Inform briefing also alludes to any potential implications for Wirral Council, and elaborates on any legislation or policy updates that have been implemented, or developed since the last policy briefing in July. It is expected that the January Briefing Paper will focus on the local government finance settlement which informs the annual determination of funding to local government.

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 – September 2015

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Not applicable	N/A

POLICY INFORM: REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT

Directorate Policy: September 2015

The Directorate Policy briefings will provide an overview of key political events, ongoing and recent national legislation, and emerging policies. 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.

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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.

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 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 focus on the Autumn Statement and 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 2016 Chancellor of Exchequers Budget. The policy briefing will provide an update on policy and legislation and will consider relevant implications for Wirral.

The September policy briefing outlines the key features of the Chancellor of Exchequers Budget Statement, which was announced on the 8th July 2015. The policy briefing also alludes to any potential implications that have been highlighted by relevant Officers for Wirral Council, and elaborates on any legislation or policy updates that have been implemented or developed since the last policy briefing in July.

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.

Chancellors Statement- 8th July 2015

On 8th July 2015, the Chancellor of the Exchequer George Osborne gave his Budget statement to the House of Commons. The budget set out £17bn of savings and deferred announcements on another £20bn to the autumn's Spending Review. The key announcements outlined in the statement have been divided into themes and are displayed below:

Social Housing

- The budget details plans to legislate to freeze working-age benefits, including tax credits and the Local Housing Allowances, for 4 years from 2016-17 to 2019-20. This is forecast to save £4 billion a year by 2019-20.
- Rents in social housing in England will be reduced by 1% a year for 4 years.

Welfare

- Working-age benefits, including tax credits and Local Housing Allowance, will be frozen for 4 years from 2016-17 (this doesn't include Maternity Allowance, maternity pay, paternity pay and sick pay).
- The household benefit cap will be reduced to £20,000 (£23,000 in London).
- Support through Child Tax Credit will be limited to 2 children for children born from April 2017.
- Those aged 18 to 21 who are on Universal Credit will have to apply for an apprenticeship or traineeship, gain work-based skills, or go on a work placement 6 months after the start of their claim.
- From April 2017 the Budget will remove the automatic entitlement to housing support for new claims in Universal Credit from 18-21 year olds who are out of work.

Housing

- Rents for social housing will be reduced by 1% a year for 4 years.
- £800 million of funding is designated for Discretionary Housing Payments over the next 5 years.
- Social housing tenants with household incomes of £40,000 and above in London, and £30,000 and above in the rest of England, will be required to "Pay to Stay", by paying a market or near market rent for their accommodation.

Children and Education

- From the 2016-17 academic year, cash support for new students will increase by £766 to £8,200 a year. New maintenance loan support will replace student grants. Loans will be paid back only when graduates earn above £21,000 a year.
- From September 2017, the free childcare entitlement will be doubled from 15 hours to 30 hours a week for working parents of 3 and 4 year olds.
- Parents with a youngest child aged 3 or older (including lone parents) who are able to work will be expected to look for work if they are claiming Universal Credit.
- £30 million will be provided to further speed up the adoption process while paving the way for the introduction of regional adoption agencies.

Pay

- From April 2016, a new National Living Wage of £7.20 an hour for the over 25s will be introduced. This will rise to over £9 an hour by 2020.
- Public sector pay will increase by 1% a year for 4 years from 2016-17.
- The budget details plans to increase the National Insurance contributions (NICs) Employment Allowance from £2,000 to £3,000 a year.

Efficiency

- The budget supports plans to continue to pursue more efficient ways of working and further reform to public services. The government will provide funding for the Cabinet Office to explore a number of cross-cutting savings proposals. The Treasury, working with Cabinet Office, will develop specific proposals to inform the Spending Review.

Devolution

- The budget commits to transport devolution in all of the country's city regions that elect a Mayor, as well as the country's counties. This includes the rollout of Oyster-style smart and integrated ticketing systems.
- The government is working towards further devolution deals with the Sheffield City Region, Liverpool City Region, and Leeds, West Yorkshire and partner authorities, to be agreed in parallel with the Spending Review. The Budget notes that agreement will be reached based on combined authorities agreeing to an elected mayor working with local leaders to oversee any new powers devolved from ministers.
- The Budget announces further devolution of powers to Manchester, including devolving Fire Services under the control of the new directly-elected Mayor, establishing a Greater Manchester Land Commission and granting the city region more powers over planning subject to the agreement of the Cabinet member representing the district in which the power is used.
- The Budget states that it will be offering towns and counties the opportunity to agree devolution deals.

Economic Development

- The government is inviting bids for a new round of Enterprise Zones. The existing Enterprise Zones have supported the creation of over 15,000 jobs throughout England.
- To ensure that local areas have a greater say over their own economies, the government will consult on devolving powers on Sunday trading to city mayors and local authorities.
- The budget details plans to invest £23m in 6 Next Generation Digital Economy Centres over 6 sites (London, Swansea, Newcastle, Nottingham, York and Bath), leveraging £22 million of additional funding, and partnering with LEPs, regional councils, and local SMEs. These centres will exploit opportunities across sectors of the digital economy including the creative industries, finance, healthcare and education.

Queen's Speech 2015- Designation to Policy and Performance Committees

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 Families and Wellbeing 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.

Queen's Speech 2015- Developments and Implications

Cities and Local Government Devolution Bill

Synopsis and Key Points:

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'.

Key Points:

- 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.

Further Developments:

The Cities and Local Government Devolution Bill has recently completed its journey through the House of Lords resulting in some significant changes:

Agreed changes to the role of Mayor-

- Mayors will be appointed for a term of four years
- The consent of member authorities will be needed to the allocation of responsibilities to elected mayors.

Setting up a Combined Authority-

- A major new proposal creating a streamlined route to setting up a combined authority was put forward during Report stage of the Bill. The aim is to create a two-track process. The fast track will make it possible to establish a combined authority based on a negotiated devolution deal, removing the requirement for councils to undertake the lengthy process of preparing a governance review and scheme.

Further Developments Continued:

Structuring Combined Authorities-

- New possibilities for structuring combined authorities are being introduced. These new structuring arrangements include:
- Local authorities that do not have contiguous boundaries will be able to form combined authorities and economic prosperity boards. This will include combined authorities and economic prosperity boards that have a 'doughnut-shaped' area
- A county council in a two-tier area will be able to join a combined authority for only part of its area where that area coincides with one or more districts.
- Councils will be able to prompt changes to the funding, constitution or functions of an economic prosperity board.

Local Authority Functions and Responsibilities-

- Two new clauses introduced changes that will allow functions of public authorities to be conferred on local authorities as well as combined authorities. Amendments that were agreed include provision for:
- Responsibilities being exercised either by the public authority or the combined authority, or by joint working arrangements.
- Avoiding devolution of regulatory functions to local authorities which are providing the regulated service.

Accountability and Governance: Overview and Scrutiny-

- Opposition amendments have been aimed at bringing the government's original proposals for overview & scrutiny of mayoral and combined authority decisions into line with practice in local government. These arguments have struck a chord with government, and some key points were agreed:
- Members of committees will have access to documents containing exempt or confidential information
- Panels and members of the combined authority will reach agreement on how decisions made but not yet implemented will be scrutinised, and allow for a delay while the decisions are under consideration
- It will be possible to follow general rules for the appointment of an independent chair of scrutiny, or to agree local arrangements for inclusion in the Order creating the mayoral combined authority
- Rules on political balance will apply.

Accountability and Governance: Audit Committee-

- The Government also agreed proposals for a Audit Committee:
- A requirement for a combined authority to appoint an audit committee
- Audit committee functions to include reviewing and scrutinising or assessing:
 - the authority's financial affairs
 - the authority's risk management, internal control and corporate governance arrangements
 - the economy, efficiency and effectiveness with which resources have been used in discharging the authority's functions

Further Developments Continued:

Parliamentary Accountability-

- Two requirements introduced at the start of the debate, and agreed after a vote and against government opposition, are more radical. These require
- An annual report to parliament on the devolution programme for all areas of England
- A devolution statement for each new parliamentary Bill, in which the minister introducing the Bill confirms that it is compatible with the principle that powers should be devolved to combined authorities or the most appropriate local level.

Wirral Implications:

- Wirral has an ongoing role with LCR partners in working up the detail about our devolution asks;
- LCR proposals to be submitted to Government's Comprehensive Spending Review by 4th September;
- Senior Civil Servants and LCR Officers will continue to work up the further detail required to underpin the deal by mid-November this year;
- Communications and engagement with key stakeholders is taking place over the coming weeks.

Housing Bill

Synopsis and Key Points:

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.

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.

Further Developments:

- There are no further developments at this time. The Housing Bill will be kept under review and developments will be outlined in future Policy Inform briefings.

Wirral Implications:

- **Extend Right to Buy-** There is still further detail to be announced as to how the actual scheme will work, discounts to be offered, the level of high value assets, however the extension of right to buy to housing association tenants and the Councils tenants (the council owns 23 houses where tenants have the preserved RTB) will reduce the availability of social housing stock generally to meet housing needs in the borough. It is likely this would be seen more so in the more attractive residential areas thereby reducing provision in these. The extent of the take up is difficult to forecast as levels of discounts, individual's financial circumstances and the ability of people to secure mortgages would need to be taken into account.

The impacts of this would need to be mitigated in part by increased provision of even further new build social housing stock. However whilst the aim of the

Wirral Implications Continued:

- Government is for income received from sales to be reinvested into new affordable housing provision, it is unlikely that the sale of higher value local authority housing assets will fund this and it is anticipated that any future provision will have to be subsidised. The Institute for Fiscal Studies have identified that under the existing Right to Buy initiative only one in ten homes have been replaced, this is likely to cause an increased pressure on the supply available to meet housing needs via the Allocations System.

There could also be issues around the charitable status of RPs and their standing as being outside of the public sector borrowing and the use of assets to cover loans which RP have to enable development and investment. Any shortfall to be covered by RP's will result in less being able to be invested back into replacement affordable housing and also services.

- **Starter Homes**- The detail on how this will be achieved in a balanced way to ensure the Borough is able to at least take a pro-rata share (which would be equivalent to 1,300 homes) is unknown at present. The pledge to build 200,000 Starter Homes is supported by an exception site policy which directs Starter Homes to under-used or nonviable industrial and commercial land that has not been currently identified for housing. This could put pressure employment sites in Wirral that have been identified for employment use to support sustainable communities. It could have the unintended consequence of site owners resisting future employment uses and removing existing employment uses where higher land values could be accrued for Starter Homes sites. The Starter Homes policy could also undermine the provision of alternative forms of affordable housing, in areas where it is needed. In stronger market areas, a 20 per cent discount on open market value may still price out many first time buyers. Furthermore, the CIH (Chartered Institute of Housing) have indicated that these developments would be exempt from section 106 agreements, meaning no new affordable housing could be sought within these developments.

- **Brownfield Land**- The Government has pledged to encourage the provision of housing on previously developed (brownfield) sites. The Council could be required to maintain a register of all brownfield sites available and ensure that 90 per cent of suitable brownfield sites have planning permission for housing by 2020 through local development orders. The provision of local development orders on such a scale could represent a significant use of limited Council resources, particularly when planning permission can still be granted on sites, irrespective of whether a local development order is in place. This initiative has previously been subject to public consultation to which the Council submitted an officer-level response, which forms the basis of these comments.

- **Right to Build**- The new Right to Build (once enacted) will require the Council to establish a local register of custom builders who wish to acquire a suitable land to build their own home and to have regard to the demand on their local register when developing its Local Plan and determining planning applications. The Right could require the Council to offer registered custom builders suitable plots of land (with some form of planning permission and servicing), which would have resource implications for planning and housing. The Right could have an impact on the future capital receipts from the sale of Council-owned land for self-build plots, if plots are to be provided at a discounted rate. This form of development is also driven by the demand and capability and ability of individuals to be able to build or commission new build. There have been very few expressions of interest from community organisations on this in the Wirral area as part of the approach to looking at Custom Build when this has been promoted as part of the HCA programme.

Energy Bill

Synopsis and Key Points:

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.

Key Points:

- 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.

Further Developments:

- The Energy Bill had its second reading which consisted of a general debate on all aspects of the Bill on 22nd July 2015. The Committee Stages of the Bill will commence on 7th September 2015.

Wirral Implications:

- Wirral will become the Local Planning Authority for all future planning applications for on-shore wind farms. These applications will be dealt with through the existing Development Management processes which are already in place.

High Speed Rail Bill

Synopsis and Key Points:

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.

Key Points:

- 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

Further Developments:

- On 2 July 2015, the Government published their response to the House of Lords' Economic Affairs Committee report on 'The Economics of High Speed 2'. Their overall conclusion is that there is a convincing and compelling case for investing in HS2. In response to the Committee's concerns about the final cost of HS2 being even higher than the £50.1 billion currently estimated, the Government says that they aim to deliver HS2 below this figure and that there are strong controls in place to ensure they remain within budget.
- The members of the current HS2 Hybrid Bill Select Committee were appointed on 8 June 2015. On 4 June 2015, the Secretary of State for Transport as promoter of the Hybrid Bill for the first stage of HS2, published his response to the 'First Special Report' (PDF document) which was published by the Bill Committee in March. Many of the Committee's recommendations related to specific local areas or concerns about the compensation arrangements for those whose properties are affected by construction of the line and much of the response focuses on how these issues will be addressed.
- The Government announced in June 2015, that it was instructing the HS2 Bill Committee to consider more than 120 amendments it wishes to make to the Bill. These amendments have resulted from discussions between HS2 Ltd and communities on phase 1 of the route. They include changes to the route near Lichfield which will avoid the need for two crossings over the Trent and Mersey Canal; altering the proposals for the relocation of the existing Heathrow Express depot at Old Oak Common to Langley near Slough; and the construction of sidings to the west of the Old Oak Common station, which could facilitate a future connection between Crossrail and the West Coast Main Line, if needed. These amendments were debated and agreed by the House of Commons without a vote on 23 June and will now be subject to a consultation which is expected to run from mid-July to late August. Anyone affected by the changes will also be able to petition the Bill Committee about them.

Wirral Implications:

- The passing of this Bill confirms the start of the construction of Phase 1 of HS2. The significant investment in infrastructure should unlock growth but ensuring that these benefits are fully realised within the city region will require the progression of HS3 linking the key cities across the north including Liverpool.

Enterprise Bill

Synopsis and Key Points:

Synopsis:

- This bill will include measures to reduce regulation on small businesses in a bid to boost job creation.

Key Points:

- 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

Further Developments:

- There are no further developments at this time. The Enterprise Bill will be kept under review and developments will be outlined in future Policy Inform briefings.

Wirral Implications:

- 'There are no recorded implications at this time. This policy will be kept under review by the relevant officers with any future implications reported in future policy papers to Elected Members.'

Welfare Reform and Work Bill

Synopsis and Key Points:

Synopsis:

- The overriding aim of the Bill is to reduce expenditure and “help to achieve a more sustainable welfare system.” A related aim is to support efforts to increase employment and “support the policy of rewarding hard work while increasing fairness with working households.”

Key Points:

- It is essentially a Bill of three parts. First, it will introduce a duty to report to Parliament on:
 - Progress towards achieving full employment.
 - Progress towards achieving 3 million apprenticeships in England.
 - Progress with the Troubled Families programme (England).
- Second, it will repeal almost all of the Child Poverty Act 2010 and introduce a new duty for the Secretary of State to report annually on “life chances”: children living in workless households and educational attainment at age 16, in England.
- Finally, the Bill allows for the introduction of extensive changes to welfare benefits, tax credits and social housing rent levels. These will account for around 70% of the £12-13 billion in welfare savings identified in the Summer Budget 2015. The welfare/housing measures include:
 - Lowering the benefit cap threshold and varying it between London and the rest of the UK.
 - A four year benefits freeze.
 - Limiting support through Child Tax Credits/Universal Credit.
 - The abolition of Employment and Support Allowance Work-Related Activity Component.
 - Changes to conditionality for responsible carers under Universal Credit.
 - Replacing Support for Mortgage Interest with Loans for Mortgage Interest.
 - Reducing social housing rent levels by 1% in each year for four years from 2016-17.

Further Developments:

- The Welfare Reform and Work Bill was presented on 9 July 2015. The Bill passed its second reading on 20 July 2015. MPs also agreed a programme motion which schedules the Bill to be considered in a public bill committee. Proceedings in the public bill committee are scheduled to conclude by Thursday 15 October 2015, but could finish earlier.

Wirral Implications:

- **Freeze Working Age Benefits** - This will impact on household disposable income, not previously frozen albeit uprating was nominal in 2014/15. This will potentially increase the strain on Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP) Local Welfare Allowance (LWA) with consequential harder to collect charges. This will affect all Revenues areas such as Personal Finance Unit charges, Benefits overpayments and Council Tax. Rent arrears locally will increase as with all cuts and will continue as (social) landlords maintain rent levels and annual increases.

Wirral Implications Continued:

- **Freeze Working Age Benefits Continued** - This will increase pressure on LA Housing Benefit services from Social Landlords which is evident already via the rent shortfall in Bedroom Tax and insufficient DHP. In the private sector it may see a freezing of Local Housing Allowance rates which will give Private Sector landlords further issue with taking on tenants who rely on HB. This is likely to have a consequential impact on the levels of people being threatened with homelessness in the Borough.
- **Cutting Household Benefit Cap** – This will certainly impact locally, regrettably we cannot identify how many within present caseload will be affected, nor by how much in monetary terms on a weekly basis, as DWP consider circumstances of household and benefits in payment that LA are unable to identify from records held. The LA's HB service administers the Cap not the DWP who advise us of each situation. There are currently 72 cases live (but cases go on and off and DWP projected our numbers would be 130). The change would bring more case with a consequential impact on resources, both front and back of house. Those affected would have an increased reliance on other means of support, financial, Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP - annual cash limited budget) or the Local Welfare Assistance potentially (LWA - finite residual budget as scheme no longer nationally funded). Likely impact will see increased problems for those in temporary accommodation with large families and again, for LA, placing the homeless or those at risk etc., then reliance on the limited discretionary schemes (DHP).
- **General Issues for Wirral/Benefits Service** - As a consequence of these changes there will be a need to revise local schemes and policies with an increased reliance on any discretion the authority can, within its local policies and resources, exercise (again for example its LWA/DHP funds). The definition of 'vulnerable' will need review given the ratio of those reasonably deemed to be vulnerable which are those financially at risk, including dispossession. This will impact on key grant limited local schemes such as Council Tax Support Scheme which currently awards £27m pa. This will provide a significant challenge for officers reviewing the Council Tax Support Scheme for 2016/2017 onwards and will see collection issues increase as more people face difficulty paying, ultimately having their national benefits reduced at source to pay Council Tax. Broadly we can expect from these changes increased contact to services, both front facing public contact and back of house processing and decision making services with an increased need and reliance on knowledgeable, experienced, skilled resource, ensuring accessibility.
- **Remove Housing Benefit from Young People** 18-21 year olds, this will see more remain at home where it may not be appropriate to do so which will see issues for householder with Housing Benefit non dependant charges being applied and more rent to pay (as adult is meant to contribute as resident). These cases which will increase already provide issues for the LA with collection of information and provision of evidence of household occupants.
- **Troubled Families Programme-** It is expected that approximately 450 of the 600 families Wirral will work with this year, through the Troubled Families Programme (Family Intervention), will be affected by the Welfare Reform and Work Bill through changes to benefits and the implementation of Universal Credit. To support these families Wirral's provision of Advisors from JCP (Job Centre Plus) has increased from 1FTE (full time equivalent) to 2FTE. These staff will work specifically with

Wirral Implications Continued:

- those affected by the changes. They will also provide the wider Family Intervention workforce with updates and training about the roll out of universal credit and enable them to support their families better. A Manager has been appointed from JCP to oversee all work with Troubled Families across Merseyside and he will be joining Wirral's Troubled Families Board to provide quarterly updates on the progress of moving Troubled Families into employment.
- Wirral will continue to report to the DCLG on progress into employment for Troubled Families and to submit the cost benefit analysis for each of those families.
- At this stage it is hard to predict what the specific implications for families might be. This could be: more reliance on food banks, more families moving out of social housing into private housing, more families unable to secure tenancies, more applications for discretionary payments.
- Reports will be provided outlining the implications as time progresses.

Policy Developments

Briefing: The first 100 days: impact on local government

August 14th 2015 marked 100 days since the election of the new government. As per tradition, this milestone provides an opportunity to review government actions during this period and assess the impact on local government.

Key areas of development have been in relation to devolution; social care and housing and planning.

Devolution and local government

- Publication of 'Cities and Local Government Devolution Bill' about to go into the Commons from Lords.
- Cornwall is the first county to have negotiated a deal and groups of authorities are pressing ahead with new deals.

Health and Social Care

- Postponement of cap on social care costs until 2020
- Councils affected by proposed £200m cut in 2015-2016 public health grants.
- Progress on improving mental health services.

Housing and Planning

- Plans to extend the Right to Buy to 1.3m housing association tenants has been confirmed in the Queen's speech and forms part of the housing bill to be published in Autumn.
- A commitment to increase the housing supply by 200,000 homes
- Faster planning application processing

Significant developments have been the momentum behind the devolution bill; however, controversy and concern remain in areas such as Social care and the Environment.

Source: [Janet Sillett, Briefing: The first 100 days: impact on local government, LGiU 19th August 2015](#)

Faster decision making on shale gas for economic growth and energy security

Under new government measures, shale gas planning applications will now be fast-tracked through a dedicated planning process in a bid to ensure faster decision making on the exploration of shale gas for the purpose of economic growth and energy security.

Local authorities must now fast-track applications and provide a decision within a 16-week timeframe to prevent prolonged uncertainty.

The government asserts that there are plans that will ensure that local people have a strong voice over any development of shale exploration in their area and that they will ensure both communities and industries benefit from the faster processes for developing new sites.

Councils that repeatedly fail to process applications and provide decisions within the specified timeframe will be identified and any further applications may be decided by the Communities Secretary. Councils have therefore been urged to take full advantage of funding available through the £1.2 million shale support programme for resourcing to enable timely decision making in 2015 to 2016.

The government has also stated that communities that participate in the development of shale and gas exploration should benefit from the financial returns generated. Proposals for a new sovereign wealth fund will be presented later in the year.

Source: [Department of Energy & Climate Change, Department for Communities and Local Government, 13th August 2015.](#)

Briefing: Mapping climate disadvantage in England

“Climate change is a route through which deprivation can be worsened.”

The briefing outlines a new online mapping tool has been developed by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) in partnership with Climate UK, the Environment Agency and Manchester University. It aims to help local decision makers understand at a fine level of spatial detail the relationship between climate change and social vulnerability/disadvantage

- The mapping tool can be used to overlay various climate change impacts with a range of socio- spatial vulnerabilities at the neighbourhood scale.
- The online portal contains a wealth of more guidance and information to get the most from the mapping tool.

The mapping tool has been described by Core Cities as “a fantastic resource that will enable councils to understand the climate disadvantage in their area and respond accordingly, planning for a changing climate whilst also creating a more equal society”.

Source: [Steven Bland, Briefing: Mapping climate disadvantage in England, 4th August 2015](#)

Briefing: High Speed Rail Update: Summer 2015

This briefing reports on key developments in the HS2 project and other related proposals since April 2015.

It covers:

- The Government response to a report from the House of Lords Economic Affairs Committee examining the economic case for HS2 and concluded that the analysis presented to justify the project is seriously deficient.
- The briefing includes the Secretary of State’s response to the ‘First Special Report’ by the Select Committee examining the Bill for phase one of HS2. It also includes a brief overview of other recent developments relating to HS2 and HS3, the proposed east-west high-speed rail link.

Source: [Ruth Bradshaw, Briefing: High Speed Rail Update: Summer 2015, 23rd July 2015](#)

Briefing: What does the new government mean for planning? Part 2: The Productivity Plan

The government’s productivity plan ‘Fixing the Foundations: Creating a more prosperous nation’ identifies the planning system as being a key constraint to improving productivity.

It focuses on:

- Improving the rate of building on brownfield land
- Punishing local planning authorities that fail to get a local plan adopted or are slow to make planning decisions.

Source: [LGiU, Briefing: What does the new government mean for planning? Part 2: The Productivity Plan, 22nd July 2015.](#)

Useful Sources

Chancellors Budget Statement

[Chancellor George Osborne's Summer Budget 2015 Speech, Government website, 8th July 2015](#) - Full speech

[Andrew Jones, July 2015 Budget Analysis, LGiU, 14th July 2015](#) - Brief analysis and key points emerging from the Chancellor Budget Statement

Cities and Local Government Devolution Bill

[Hilary Kitchen, Devolution Bill: Important changes in the Lords, LGiU, 28th July 2015](#) – Outlines some of the key changes to the Devolution Bill

[Hilary Kitchen, Devolution: 2nd Reading of Cities and Local Government Devolution Bill, LGiU, 15th June 2015](#) – Outlines the main topics discussed at the House of Lords on 8th June 2015

[Dr Jonathan Carr-West and Dr Patrick Diamond, Devolution: A Road Map, LGiU, 5th June 2015](#) - Outlines the practical ways in which devolution can happen at scale and at speed to avoid a bureaucratic log jam in Whitehall.

[Cities and Local Government Devolution Bill, Parliamentary website](#)- Previous debates on all stages of the Cities and Local Government Devolution Bill and any latest updates

[Mark Upton, Wave 1 City Deals – NAO report, 29th July 2015](#) – Examines the progress of Wave 1 City deals

Housing Bill

There are no further developments at this time. The Housing Bill will be kept under review and developments will be outlined in future Policy Inform briefings.

Energy Bill

[Energy Bill, Parliamentary website](#) - Brief analysis of the Welfare Reform and Work Bill

High Speed Rail Bill

[High Speed Rail Bill, Parliamentary Website](#) - Brief analysis of the High Speed Rail Bill

[Ruth Bradshaw, High Speed Rail Update: Summer 2015, LGiU, 23rd July 2015](#) – Update on key developments and other related proposals since April 2015.

Enterprise Bill

There are no further developments at this time. The Enterprise Bill will be kept under review and developments will be outlined in future Policy Inform briefings.

Welfare Reform and Work Bill

[House of Commons, Briefing Paper- Welfare Reform and Work Bill, 16th July 2015](#) – Brief analysis of the Welfare Reform and Work Bill

[Welfare Reform and Work Bill, Parliamentary website](#) - Previous debates on all stages of the Childcare Bill and any latest updates

[Andrew Jones, The Welfare Reform and Work Bill: Welfare Reform Update, 20th August 2015](#) – Brief overview of the Bill and any latest updates

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WIRRAL COUNCIL

REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT POLICY & PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

15 SEPTEMBER 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 as agreed for the 2015/16 municipal year.

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 current work programme for the Committee is attached as Appendix 1.

3.0 REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT POLICY & PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

3.1 At the previous Regeneration and Environment Policy & Performance Committee held on 14th July 2015, the Committee was presented with a report on 'Tourism'. It was further agreed that a Task & Finish Review to look at the promotion and marketing of Wirral tourism should be added to the Committee's work programme. It is anticipated that this review will start imminently and a request for volunteers to form the review panel will be sent to all Members of this Committee.

- 3.2 At the Agenda Setting meeting for this Committee, a Task & Finish review on homelessness and the impact of removing housing benefit for under-21s was also agreed to be included on the Committee's work programme. It is anticipated that the review will commence early in the new year with an initial report presented to the Committee for the meeting scheduled in December.

4.0 PREVIOUS / CURRENT SCRUTINY REVIEWS – UPDATE

4.1 Coastal Strategy

Evidence-gathering sessions are commencing for this review and further updates will be provided to Members at the next scheduled meeting.

5.0 PROGRESS IMPLEMENTING PREVIOUS RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Under-Occupation Scrutiny Review

At the Regeneration and Environment Policy & Performance Committee meeting held on 14th July 2015, a report was presented to Members detailing the progress made on the seven outstanding recommendations in relation to the Under-Occupation Scrutiny Review.

5.2 Car Parking Scrutiny Review

An update on the Car Parking Scrutiny Review will be provided to this Committee later in the municipal year.

6.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 Members are requested to approve the updated Regeneration and Environment Policy & Performance Committee work programme for 2015/16 as shown in the appendix, making any required amendments.

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2015-16 Regeneration & Environment Committee Work Programme

Key Activities	Lead Member / Officer	Reason for Review	May 2015	June 2015	July 2015	Aug 2015	Sept 2015	Oct 2015	Nov 2015	Dec 2015	Jan 2016	Feb 2016	Mar 2016	April 2016	Outcome
Committee Dates					14th		15th		3rd	2nd	18th		2nd		
Scheduled Reviews															
Coastal Strategy	Cllr Bernie Mooney	Requested by Members													In Progress
Tourism	Cllr Chris Meaden	Requested by Members													
Homelessness	Cllr George Davies	Requested by Members													
Potential Reviews															
Scrutiny of the Council Plan and Delivery Arrangements															
Reports Requested															
Tourism	Emma Degg	Requested by Members													T&F Review agreed
Homelessness / Impact of removal of Housing Benefit for under 21s	Kevin Adderley	Requested by Members													
Merseytravel	Kevin Adderley	Requested by Members													
Enterprise Zone Investment and Property Development Fund	Kevin Adderley	Requested by Members													
Devolution	Kevin Adderley	Requested by Members													
Wirral Waters	Kevin Adderley	Requested by Members													
Birkenhead Town Centre	Kevin Adderley	Requested by Members													
Flood Risk Management	Kevin Adderley	Requested by Members													
Notice of Motion															
Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority		Referred from Council													
Wirral's Economic Success		Referred from Council													
Standing Items															
Performance Dashboard															
Financial Monitoring															
Policy Inform															
Recommendations from Highways Representation Panels															

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