



Policy and Performance - Regeneration and Environment Committee

Date: Wednesday, 2 December 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 - 16)

To approve the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 15 September 2015.

**3. NOTICE OF MOTION - PROPOSAL FOR A FIRE STATION ON GREEN BELT LAND IN SAUGHALL MASSIE
(Pages 17 - 18)**

At the meeting of the Council held on 6 July 2015 (minute 31(iii) 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.

**4. NOTICE OF MOTION - SUPPORTING WIRRAL'S PART IN OUR NUCLEAR INDUSTRIES
(Pages 19 - 20)**

At the meeting of the Council held on 12 October 2015 (minute 59 (v) refers), the attached Notice of Motion proposed by Councillor Steve Williams and seconded by Councillor Wendy Clements was referred by the Mayor to this Committee for consideration.

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

5. DEVOLUTION - VERBAL UPDATE

**6. AMENDMENT TO SCHEME OF DELEGATION - OBJECTIONS TO HIGHWAY PROPOSALS
(Pages 21 - 28)**

**7. MINUTES FROM HIGHWAYS AND TRAFFIC REPRESENTATION PANEL
(Pages 29 - 32)**

To approve the accuracy of the minutes of the Highways and Traffic Representation Panel meeting held on 23 October 2015.

**8. 2015/16 QUARTER 2 DIRECTORATE PLAN PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORT
(Pages 33 - 40)**

**9. FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT
(Pages 41 - 48)**

**10. WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE REPORT
(Pages 49 - 58)**

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

12. 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.

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

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Councillor J.Stapleton	Agenda Item 4 – Notice of Motion: Proposal for a Fire Station on Green Belt in Saughall Massie	Personal and prejudicial - By virtue of her membership of the Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority	Did not take part in the debate or vote (absented self from the committee room).
Councillor A.Leech	Agenda Item 4 – Notice of Motion: Proposal for a Fire Station on Green Belt in Saughall Massie	Non-pecuniary interest - By virtue of her membership of the Planning Committee	Did not take part in the debate or vote (absented self from the committee room).
Councillor D.Mitchell	Agenda Item 4 – Notice of Motion: Proposal for a Fire Station on Green Belt in Saughall Massie	Non-pecuniary interest – By virtue of his membership of the Planning Committee	Took part in the debate – abstained from voting.

During the course of debate under Agenda Item 3 – Merseytravel, a number of Councillors questioned the Council solicitor regarding the requirement to declare any interest, they being in possession of a concessionary bus pass. It was noted that holding of such a pass was a personal interest, and would not debar Members from taking part in the discussion.

10 MINUTES

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on 14 July 2015 be approved.

Order of Business

The Chair informed the Committee that he would take the Notice of Motion on the Proposal for a Fire Station on Green Belt Land in Saughall Massie as the next item of business, in view of the presence of members of the public specifically for this item.

11 NOTICE OF MOTION - PROPOSAL FOR A FIRE STATION ON GREEN BELT LAND IN SAUGHALL MASSIE

Members of the Policy and Performance Regeneration and Environment Committee considered a motion to Council (6 July 2015) as proposed by Councillor Chris Blakeley and seconded by Councillor Bruce Berry, that:

“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."

The Chair invited Councillor Blakeley to speak for up to a maximum of 10 minutes.

Councillor Blakeley thanked the Chairman for the opportunity to present the case in opposition to the siting of a new Fire Station on Green Belt land in Saughall Massie.

Councillor Blakeley presented a number of key points regarding local objection to the proposed site, that included:

- contravention of the Council's policy of development of the 'Green Belt';
- varied individual objections put forward by residents of Saughall Massie;
- concern that Wirral Council had made its mind up in advance of submission of any planning application;
- that the proposed site would result in extended response times to Arrowe Park Hospital;
- fears regarding biodiversity for proposed site;
- localised flooding in the Green Belt;
- of 6 initial sites only 2 were considered suitable, the proposed site not listed in the original 6; and
- concern from residents and observers that there is perception of a 'done deal'.

The Committee heard that the motion submitted was not that of 'objecting for the sake of objecting', with Saughall Massie residents in full admiration of, and supporting the work of Mersey Fire and Rescue Service. The objections put forward as part of the motion were as listed, i.e. sourcing of an alternative Brownfield site and not to gift or lease Green Belt land due to the value it has for the community thereby protecting the Green Belt in line with existing Council Policy.

The Committee noted that disposal of any Council owned land did not fall under its remit, and planning applications would be considered by the planning committee, when submitted.

During Councillor Blakeley's address, reference was made to a number of 3rd party comments, and e-mail extracts, generating concern amongst Members regarding the sequence of events and site selection process.

A particular point arising from Councillor Blakeley's address to the Committee was mention of a site on the Saughall Massie by-pass, 600 metres from the current proposal (referred to as the 2nd choice site in the first round of proposals - and as informed by Councillor Blakeley, supported by Saughall Massie Residents) which had seemingly been dropped in favour of the site now under consideration.

As a result the Committee requested that a Senior Officer of the Fire Service with knowledge of the site selection process be available for questioning at its November meeting.

The Chair informed that the Committee had been requested to form a view upon the motion as presented, and at the request of Members, a vote was taken. The Committee split five in favour, five against, with one abstention. Following the Chair's casting vote, and at his instruction.

Resolved: That

- 1) a decision on the motion be deferred until the next meeting of the Committee; and**
- 2) the Chief Fire Officer Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service be requested to attend the next meeting of the Committee to provide clarification on the subject of site selection.**

Councillors Niblock and Stapleton declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the item by virtue of their membership of the Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority. Councillor Leech declared a non-pecuniary interest, by virtue of her membership of the Planning Committee. All three Councillors left the Committee Room whilst the item was under discussion.

12 **MERSEYTRAVEL**

The Policy and Performance Regeneration and Environment Committee received an oral update from Mr John Fogarty, Merseytravel Director of Resources and Section 151 Officer. Mr Fogarty, accompanied by Ms Tracy Gibson, informed Members that Merseytravel is the executive body that provides professional, strategic and operational transport advice to the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority to enable it to make informed decisions, also providing for the delivery of public transport across the City Region.

Mr Fogarty set out information on the Transport Levy, in the context of new governance arrangements for the Combined Authority. In conjunction with the oral presentation, the Committee also considered a written report of the Strategic Director Regeneration and Environment that provided background information in relation to the Transport Levy, Minute No. 7 14 July 2015 refers.

Mr Fogarty explained that in terms of the Transport Levy, Merseytravel does not receive all the funds collected. A portion of the levy collected by the Combined Authority is retained to fund infrastructure projects, invest in public transport network assets, and manage debt. In terms of public transport delivery, Mr Fogarty informed that Merseytravel supported and administered the following from the levy:

- Concessionary Travel Scheme - £50m
- Support to Bus Services / Mersey Link – supplementary services £25m (to provide public transport service in areas not covered by private providers)
- Information and advertising promotion of services
- Ferries – service provision, maintenance (ferries and landing stages)
- Administration and support costs

Members were informed that the Mersey Tunnel assets belonged to the Combined Authority, and were purely administered by Merseytravel.

Members noted that in addition to the levy, a Department of Transport Grant was also paid to Merseytravel for the provision / support of Merseyrail (a portion of which is re-directed to Northern Rail service). Mr Fogarty informed that administration arrangements for this direct grant may be considered a form of public transportation 'devolution', which at present exists only in London and Merseyside.

Further information was provided to the committee on how the levy and grant funding had been reducing over the past 3 years, and that financial strategies had been amended accordingly. Linked to the reduced levy, utilising a combination of efficiency savings, value for money, procurement,

management and back office savings Members were told that Merseytravel had continued to maintain service levels and meet performance targets. Mr Fogarty indicated that the challenges ahead would require new options to extend partnership working arrangements and reap economic benefits that would arise from increased patronage of bus services, i.e. reducing subsidies, which could in turn be used re-investing in public transport services. Members were told of the success of the 'my ticket' scheme and the financial modelling strategy supporting it – capped underwriting in the early stages, with service providers benefitting from increased income as a result of increased patronage in the future - Merseytravel would in turn benefit from the ability to improve services through the reallocation of subsidies.

Members questioned Mr Fogarty on a number of matters namely (*summary response in brackets*):

- The expected lifetime for the 'my ticket' scheme. (*It is difficult to predict how long the 'my ticket' scheme will continue, however operators are quite pleased with the take of the service to date. The scheme is being extended, and there is a financial commitment from Merseytravel to continue the scheme over the next few years*).
- The reason for the cancellation of the night bus service to the Wirral, and whether other Merseyside areas still benefitted from a night bus service. (*Discussions on night bus services continue to take place with bus operators. Operators are encouraged where possible to provide this service, but services must be commercially viable, any subsidies provided must compete with other daytime route demands and patronage. An offer was extended for a meeting between Merseytravel officers and Councillors to discuss night bus services*).
- The reason concessionary bus pass entitlement commences at age 60. (*Historically a decision had been taken to ensure equality between the sexes, resulting in the provision of bus passes at the then retirement age for Women i.e. aged 60. This matter could be reviewed in the future – Councillors views would be welcomed*).
- Limited and/or reduced number of 'Fast Tag' lanes accessible at the Mersey Tunnels, in contradiction to the various advertising to promote the 'Fast Tags'. An additional question was raised regarding the minimum tag 'top-up' set at £20. (*These comments would be relayed back to Merseytravel / Tunnel operators. Councillors noted that the initial top-up charge was £20, but subsequent direct debit transfer payments could be set at a level and timing to suit individual tunnel users*).

The Chair thanked Mr Fogarty for his informative report.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

Note: During the course of debate, a number of Councillors questioned the Council solicitor regarding the declaration of interest, they being in possession of a concessionary bus pass. It was noted that holding of such a pass was a personal interest, and would not debar Members from taking part in the discussion because the Committee were not being invited to express an opinion on whether concessionary bus passes should be continued, only to receive information on Merseytravel's operations and plans.

13 **NOTICE OF MOTION - WIRRAL'S ECONOMIC SUCCESS**

Members of the Policy and Performance Regeneration and Environment Committee considered a motion to Council (6 July 2015) as proposed by Councillor Jeff Green and seconded by Councillor Lesley Rennie, that:

“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.”

In the absence of the proposer and seconder, the item was introduced by Councillor S. Williams.

A Member commented on Wirral's success in terms of Jobs and reduction in Jobseeker Allowance claims, and importance of partnership working.

A short discussion took place regarding the statistical element and political statement of the motion as presented.

Resolved: That the motion be noted.

14 **DEVOLUTION**

The Head of Regeneration and Planning provided an oral update on the subject of the devolution package and economic growth plans for the Liverpool City Region.

The Committee was informed that the first draft of the City Region's devolution proposition went to Government on 4th September 2015 with a final devolution deal to be approved by January 2016. A copy of the report presented to the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority on 4th September will be made available to all Members of the Council in due course.

The Head of Regeneration and Planning told the Committee that a devolution measures would also give the authorities in Liverpool, Wirral, Sefton, Knowsley and St. Helens - as well as Halton in Cheshire - greater control over funding in areas such as transport, housing and planning. He informed that as announced in the Budget, the government was working on deals to extend the idea of the "Northern Powerhouse" to Liverpool City Region, Sheffield City Region, and Leeds and West Yorkshire, in return for the creation of directly elected mayors.

Members noted that now the first draft proposal had been submitted more work was required on behalf of the region's local authorities to ensure the flexibility and power to influence was embedded into any forthcoming discussions.

The Members were told that the objectives of the submission were to:

- Accelerate economic growth - growing jobs and increasing productivity
- Reform public services locally to reduce costs and improve outcomes
- Improve the lives and health and wellbeing of local residents by making better use of existing resources and attracting more

Members were mindful of the opportunities any deal could bring in terms of having more influence and control over mainstream Government money spent

within the city region but currently decided in Westminster and Whitehall rather than in the city region. Examples of such budgets include:

- Economic development
- Transport
- Skills and employment
- Housing and planning
- Business support
- Health and social care

The Committee expressed general concerns regarding the lack of detailed information publicly available on the subject of devolution, given that the proposal was the most important change to the administration of local government and funding in the region in the past 40 years.

The Head of Regeneration and Planning informed that the report submission papers and minutes of the recent meeting of the Combined Authority will be circulated to Members in the next week. He also informed that additional information on the progress of bid submissions will be fed back to constituent local authorities in the coming months.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

15 **CLIMATE CHANGE ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT AND ACTION PLAN**

The Sustainability Liaison Officer and the Senior Manager, Asset Management presented the report of the Deputy Chief Executive that presented a summary of progress to implement the new climate change strategy for Wirral. It documented the activities of the Wirral Climate Group and introduced the first annual progress report and details the current action plan in support of the strategy.

Members were told of the important role played by Local authorities in the climate agenda, and how 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).

The report informed of the Wirral Climate Change Group - a forum set up by Wirral Council to help coordinate climate action and develop a new climate change strategy. The Committee noted that the group includes officers and councillors as well as representatives from various public bodies, community and voluntary interests and that since its establishment the Wirral Climate Change Group had met three times, and had received presentations on the following subjects:

- Carbon reduction at Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS Trust
- 'WARP-IT' - Cheshire and Wirral NHS Partnership Trust use of an on-line portal to manage surplus materials and furniture across the organisation and beyond.
- The carbon reduction work of Magenta Living
- The carbon reduction and resilience work of Cheshire West and Chester Council
- Better Food Wirral
- The local climate impact profile for Wirral
- The Resilient Parks Project

Members were told of 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

Discussion took place on a variety of issues impacting on specific localities across the borough and the difficulty in responding to immediate issues, adapting to change, and balancing the need to progress statutory duties. Members discussed recent local flooding as a prime example of the impact of weather patterns, partnership working with the environment agency, the statutory role of the local authority and the impact of planning decisions being overturned on appeal – in effect overruling local member knowledge on flood risk.

In addition to flood risk, Members further discussed actions being taken to reduce demand and make Wirral more energy efficient. The Committee was keen to ensure that all Members of the Council were made aware of the content of the report.

Resolved: That 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.

16 SCRUTINY OF THE COUNCIL PLAN AND DELIVERY ARRANGEMENTS

The Policy and Performance Regeneration and Environment Committee received an oral update from the Head of Environment and Regulation that set the scene for the next stages of Wirral Council's 2020 vision pledges which had that day been the basis of a partnership summit. Members were told that following its endorsement by partners, the Council's 2020 Vision was now to be known as 'The Wirral Plan: A 2020 Vision'.

The Head of Environment and Regulation informed Members that the 'Wirral Plan: A 2020 Vision' contained a series of priorities covering the 3 areas of People, Business and Environment summarised in 3 key statements:

- "WIRRAL is a place where the vulnerable are safe and protected, every child gets a good start in life and older residents are respected and valued;
- "WIRRAL is a place where employers want to invest and businesses thrive; and
- "WIRRAL has an attractive and sustainable environment; where good health and an excellent quality of life is enjoyed by everyone who lives here."

Members were informed that the delivery plan timetable for the 2020 Vision was as follows:

- Delivery plan - currently in development.
- Draft One to be published in October
- October to December - phase 1 scrutiny of priorities and deliverables and consultation and engagement with partners
- Draft two to be published in February

The Head of Environment and Regulation appraised Members that phase one, initial scrutiny and phase two (the compilation of future work programmes) would be dealt with via the Policy and Performance Coordinating Committee. Initial comments and feedback was to be presented to the Coordinating Committee on 30 September. The Coordinating Committee would then be responsible for agreeing a consistent process for phase 1 scrutiny and considering prioritisation and areas of potential overlap between the other Policy and Performance Committees.

The Chair thanked the Head of Environment and Regulation for his report.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

17 **2015/16 DIRECTORATE PERFORMANCE PLAN - PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORT (QUARTER 1)**

The Head of Regeneration and Planning presented a report of the Strategic Director Regeneration and Environment that set out Quarter 1 (April – June 2015) performance against delivery of the Regeneration and Environment Directorate Plan. Members noted that the Directorate Plan had been reported

to the Policy and Performance Regeneration and Environment Committee on 23 March 2015.

A performance report attached as Appendix 1 to the main report set out progress against a suite of agreed key performance indicators.

The report informed that for each performance measure, a Red, Amber or Green (RAG) rating had been assigned, setting out a performance level against a target, and showed the direction of travel for each measure to illustrate whether performance was improving, deteriorating or sustained.

Of the 13 reportable indicators, 11 (84%) were rated Green, 1 (8%) was rated Amber and 1 (8%) was rated Red. For indicators rated Amber and Red, the responsible officer had indicated the corrective action being put in place to get performance back on track.

Members focussed their discussion on those indicators identified as either Red or Amber.

RED – As identified at previous meetings of the Committee it was noted that the road casualty, killed or seriously injured (KSI) data was one of the most difficult areas to address for many local authorities. At the time of the meeting the Council had not yet received an update of the most recent road casualty data from Merseyside Police. Members noted that based on the last year's data, it was likely that the following actions would continue to be needed to address key KSI road casualty risk groups:

- 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.

A Member asked if it was possible to have comparison figures for other areas of the Merseyside region, Officers responded stating that all figures available would be circulated to the Committee when published by Merseyside Police.

AMBER – Members noted that delivery of the Docks Bridges Replacement Major Scheme was now up to contract award stage, and a legal agreement was currently being finalised with Peel Holdings, with a strong leader report due shortly.

A Member requested information regarding the work of the Strategic Housing Services Team regarding the implementation of selective licencing areas (as had commenced in July 2015). The Head of Regeneration and Planning

stated that a briefing update on this subject would be circulated the Committee after the meeting.

Resolved: That the contents of the report be noted.

18 **FINANCIAL MONITORING 2014/15 END OF YEAR REPORT AND 2015/16 QUARTER 1 REPORT**

The Head of Regeneration and Planning presented a report of the Acting Section 151 Officer that set out the financial monitoring information for this Committee. The report provided a basis for Members to scrutinise budget performance for the Directorate. Financial information for the outturn 2014/15 which was reported to Cabinet on 13 July was included.

The Head of Regeneration and Planning reported that the main areas of budget to actual variations within the Regeneration and Environment had resulted in a total underspend of £3.3 million made up as follows:

- Increased income and reduced staffing in various areas – underspend £2.1 million
- Supporting People Programme (early delivery of savings and efficiencies) – underspend £1.0 million
- Additional grant support and match funding not utilised – underspend £0.5 million
- Floral Pavilion – overspend £300 thousand

Members questioned the figures relating to the Floral Pavilion overspend, noting work that was currently underway to reduce the subsidy and plans to address the matter retaining quality and looking at commercial opportunities where possible.

The Head of Regeneration and Planning further reported that the capital spend for the year on the accruals basis amounted to £16.6 million compared to the Revised Programme of figure of £20.9 million as reported in January (Month 10). Summarised the table below:

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

A Member requested information regarding the work of the Strategic Housing Services Team asking what was the current position on aids and adaptation

cases and whether a backlog existed. The Head of Regeneration and Planning stated that an update on this subject would be circulated the Committee after the meeting.

Resolved: That the revenue underspend of £3.3 million for the Regeneration and Environment Directorate and the 2014/15 directorate capital outturn of £16.6 million be noted.

19 **POLICY INFORM BRIEFING PAPER - SEPTEMBER 2015**

The Policy and Performance Regeneration and Environment Committee noted the report of the Strategic Director Regeneration and Environment and the attached September Policy Inform Briefing Paper that included an overview of ongoing and recent national legislation, potential implications for the Council, and emerging policies.

The report and Policy Inform Briefing Paper outlined the key features of the Chancellor of Exchequers Budget Statement, announced on 8 July 2015. The Policy Inform briefing also alluded 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.

The report further informed that the January Briefing Paper would focus on the local government finance settlement informing the annual determination of funding to local government.

Resolved: That the contents of the September 2015 Policy Briefing papers be noted.

20 **MINUTES FROM HIGHWAYS AND TRAFFIC REPRESENTATION PANEL**

Councillor Steve Williams, Chair of the Highways and Traffic Representation Panel tabled the minutes of the meeting held on 7 September 2015.

Resolved – That

- 1) **the recommendations of the Highways and Traffic Representation Panel as detailed in the minutes of the meeting held on 7 September 2015 be endorsed; and**
- 2) **the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation be recommended to take appropriate action in respect of the following:**

- i. **Off-road segregated and unsegregated cycleway / footpath (s) and signalised crossing improvements along the A41 between Port Causeway and Croft Retail Park - that the proposals as detailed within the report be approved for implementation;**
- ii. **Provision of a pedestrian refuge island adjacent to no.26 and no.28 Claremount Road, Liscard - that the proposals as detailed within the report be approved for implementation;**
- iii. **Provision of a pedestrian refuge island to replace the existing traffic splitter island on Wallasey Village adjacent to its junction with Beechwood Avenue, Wallasey - that the proposals as detailed within the report be approved for implementation; and**
- iv. **Provision of a signalised pedestrian crossing phase across the Wiend at its junction with Bromborough Road, Bebington - that the proposals as detailed within the report be approved for implementation.**

21 **SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE**

The Policy and Performance Regeneration and Environment Committee noted the report of the Chair that updated members on the current position regarding the Committee's work programme as agreed for the 2015/16 municipal year.

The report informed that 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 for inclusion on the Committee's work programme. It was anticipated that the review will commence early in the new year and that an initial report be presented to the Committee its meeting scheduled in December.

The report further informed that at the previous Regeneration and Environment Policy & Performance Committee held on 14th July 2015, the Committee had been presented with a report on 'Tourism'. At the meeting it was agreed that a Task & Finish Review to look at the promotion and marketing of Wirral tourism be added to the Committee's work programme. It was anticipated that the review start with immediate effect.

The Chair informed that membership of the Promotion and Marketing of Wirral Tourism Task and Finish Working Group be as follows:

Councillor Jim Crabtree
Councillor Tracy Pilgrim
Councillor Jean Stapleton
Councillor Adam Sykes
Councillor Jerry Williams

Resolved: That

- 1) **the updated Regeneration and Environment Policy & Performance Committee work programme for 2015/16 as shown in the appendix to the report be approved; and**
- 2) **a Task and Finish Working Group be established to consider the promotion and marketing of Wirral tourism, comprising 5 members:**

**Councillor Jim Crabtree
Councillor Tracy Pilgrim
Councillor Jean Stapleton
Councillor Adam Sykes
Councillor Jerry Williams**

PROPOSAL FOR A FIRE STATION ON GREEN BELT LAND IN SAUGHALL MASSIE

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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SUPPORTING WIRRAL'S PART IN OUR NUCLEAR INDUSTRIES

Proposed by Councillor Steve Williams

Seconded by Councillor Wendy Clements

Council notes many Wirral residents work in our major nuclear power and defence industries, both directly (in companies such as Urenco, Cammell Laird and CNS) and indirectly, in the supply chain.

Council believes these highly-skilled, well paid advanced engineering jobs offer opportunities for residents and welcomes the skills and apprenticeship training at Wirral Metropolitan College for young people entering the industry.

Council agrees with the Leader of the Council that Wirral has a strong track record in manufacturing for the nuclear industry and calls on the Administration to play an even greater part in providing students with the skills required to play a full part in future manufacturing and production.

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WIRRAL COUNCIL

STANDARDS AND CONSTITUTIONAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE – 23 NOVEMBER 2015

REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT POLICY & PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE – 2 DECEMBER 2015

COUNCIL – 14 DECEMBER 2015

SUBJECT	AMENDMENT TO SCHEME OF DELEGATION – OBJECTIONS TO HIGHWAY PROPOSALS
WARDS AFFECTED	ALL
REPORT OF	MARK SMITH, HEAD OF ENVIRONMENT & REGULATION
RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDERS	CLLR STUART WHITTINGHAM, HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT
KEY DECISION?	NO

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report considers a change to the existing Scheme of Delegation in respect of unresolved objections to traffic management measures, including traffic regulation orders. The report recommends that delegated powers to decide on such objections be devolved to the Head of Service (in consultation with the Portfolio Holder) in cases where the number of unresolved objections is below a set threshold.
- 1.2 The views of the Regeneration & Environment Policy & Performance and Standards and Constitutional Oversight Committee are sought in advance of seeking approval for this change to the Constitution at Council.

2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

- 2.1 In relation to this report, “traffic management measures” means all proposed highway and traffic management matters (as outlined in Part 3, Schedule 5 of the current Scheme of Delegation) that require public consultation, objections to which would be considered by Highways & Traffic Representation Panel and/or Regeneration & Environment Policy & Performance Committee.
- 2.2 The current Scheme of Delegation for these issues is covered in Part 3, Schedule 5 of the Council’s Constitution, which is reproduced in Appendix 1 to this report.
- 2.3 In accordance with the current Scheme of Delegation, detailed reports regarding objections are put to the Highways & Traffic Representation Panel, which considers the officer’s report and invites representations

from objectors. Members of the Panel will then reach a decision and will make an appropriate recommendation on the objection to be reported to and considered at a subsequent meeting of the Regeneration & Environment Policy & Performance Committee. The Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport then has delegated authority to approve the recommendation of the Policy & Performance Committee if he/she agrees.

- 2.4 The above process is presently necessary regardless of the scale of objections to a particular proposal, and whether it is a single objection or a petition from many individual addresses.
- 2.5 The current process involves significant Officer resources in discussing concerns with objectors. Officers will try to alleviate objectors concerns such that they feel able to withdraw their objections. If this is not possible, the process of writing a detailed report for Panel can take Officers significant time depending upon the complexity of the issues. The frequency of Panel and Committee meetings means that it can be several months before a decision is reached on a particular proposal.
- 2.6 Due to the delay, proposals can be at risk of non-delivery, jeopardising any associated funding and the identified highway benefits whether driven by highway safety, sustainability or economic regeneration, etc. which the proposal would bring.

3.0 PROPOSAL

- 3.1 It is therefore recommended to alter the Scheme of Delegation in relation to unresolved objections to traffic management measures such that it operates in a similar manner to the Scheme of Delegation for objections to planning applications.
- 3.2 Specifically it is proposed to alter the Scheme of Delegation so that the Head of Service for Environment and Regulation, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport, would have delegated authority to reach a decision on those proposals which have attracted objections, except those which have attracted a petition of objection containing 25 or more signatories from individual households or alternatively where there are 15 (or more) individual objections in writing.
- 3.3 In addition, Ward Councillors may also request to take out of delegation those proposals within their Ward that have attracted unresolved objections but which have not reached the thresholds above, by giving notice in writing to the Head of Service. Such notice must include a statement why he/she considers it appropriate for the matter to be taken out of delegation and include valid traffic management reasons in support of the objection.

- 3.4 Decisions taken under this amended Scheme of Delegation could be the subject of a short report to a subsequent Regeneration & Environment Policy & Performance Committee for noting.
- 3.5 The proposed amendments to Part 3, Schedule 5 of the Council Constitution are set out in Appendix 2 of this report.

4.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 4.1 The current Scheme of Delegation involves significant Officer time in preparing a detailed report for Highways & Traffic Representation Panel / Regeneration & Environment Policy & Performance Committee.
- 4.2 The frequency of Panel and Committee meetings means that it can be several months before a decision is reached on a particular proposal.
- 4.3 Due to the delay, proposals can be at risk of non-delivery, jeopardising any associated funding and the identified highway benefits whether driven by highway safety, sustainability or economic regeneration, etc. that the proposal would bring.
- 4.4 The proposed amended Scheme of Delegation would still require Officers to discuss proposals with objectors, with a view to alleviating their concerns. In addition, reports would still be generated but these could be in the form of a briefing note for those proposals where the number of unresolved objections did not meet the thresholds above. These would then be discussed with the Cabinet Member and, if he/she agreed with the recommendation, would be decided under these delegated powers.
- 4.5 If the Cabinet Member disagreed with the recommendation, or if a Ward Member asked for the matter to be taken out of delegation, or if the number of unresolved objections met the threshold, a full report would be generated and reported to the Highways & Traffic Representation Panel and subsequently the Regeneration & Environment Policy & Performance Committee for their consideration.

5.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 Retention of the existing Scheme of Delegation in respect of Part 3 Schedule 5 of the Council Constitution as detailed in Appendix 1 of this report.

6.0 CONSULTATION

- 6.1 There are no specific implications under this heading arising from the recommendation of this report.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

7.1 There are no specific implications under this heading arising from the recommendation of this report.

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

8.1 The proposal will reduce the risk of non-delivery of funded schemes thereby reducing the risk on associated funding and the identified highway benefits (such as highway safety, sustainability and economic regeneration, etc) related to such schemes.

8.2 The proposal would reduce Officer time in dealing with the administration process of unresolved objections.

9.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 None. The Council would still meet its statutory obligations for consultation if this amendment to the Scheme of Delegation were implemented.

10.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

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

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

Regeneration & Environment

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/my-services/community-and-living/equality-diversity-cohesion/equality-impact-assessments/eias-april-2014/eias-regeneration-envir>

11.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are no specific implications under this heading arising from the recommendation of this report.

12.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

12.1 There are no specific implications under this heading arising from the recommendation of this report.

13.0 RECOMMENDATION

13.1 Members of the Regeneration & Environment Policy & Performance and Standards and Constitutional Oversight Committees are requested to:

(1) Note and endorse the proposed changes to the Council's Constitution outlined in this report;

(2) Recommend to full Council for approval.

14.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

14.1 To streamline the Scheme of Delegation in relation to unresolved objections to traffic management measures.

REPORT AUTHOR:

Keith Rodgers
Traffic Network Manager
telephone: (0151) 606 2101
email: keithrodgers@wirral.gov.uk

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Council Constitution - extract from Part 3, Schedule 5

Appendix 2: Proposed Amendment to Council Constitution Part 3, Schedule 5

REFERENCE MATERIAL

Council Constitution:

<http://www.wirral.gov.uk/my-services/council-and-democracy/how-council-governed/constitution-council>

AMENDMENT TO SCHEME OF DELEGATION – OBJECTIONS TO HIGHWAY PROPOSALS

APPENDIX 1

Council Constitution – Extract from Part 3, Schedule 5;

Functions delegated to the Cabinet Member for Highways & Transport:

- (1) To approve the recommendation of the Regeneration and Environment Policy and Performance Committee in connection with all proposed highway and traffic management matters, as set out below, to which objections have been lodged and where he/she agrees with the recommendation:-
- (a) All highway and traffic management matters governed by the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, whether subject to a Traffic Regulation Order or otherwise, including (but not limited to) the following:-
- i. waiting and parking restrictions;
 - ii. speed limits;
 - iii. one way traffic orders;
 - iv. weight limits;
 - v. prohibiting or restricting the use of heavy commercial vehicles;
 - vi. signalised and non signalised pedestrian/cycle/horse crossings;
 - vii. provision of off street parking and parking on roads ,footpaths, pavements and verges
 - viii. traffic signs and traffic signals.
 - ix. Bus lanes and taxi ranks
 - x. Siting of street furniture
- (2) To approve the recommendation of the Regeneration and Environment Policy and Performance Committee in connection with all proposed highway and traffic management matters, as set out below, to which objections have been lodged and where he/she agrees with the recommendation:-
- (a) All highway and traffic management matters governed by the Highways Act 1980 including (but not limited to) the following:-
- i. road humps;
 - ii. traffic calming speed reducing measures;
 - iii. improvement lines for road widening;
 - iv. cycle tracks.
- (3) To approve the winter maintenance arrangements

AMENDMENT TO SCHEME OF DELEGATION – OBJECTIONS TO HIGHWAY PROPOSALS

APPENDIX 2

Proposed amendments to Council Constitution – Part 3, Schedule 5;

(Proposed amendments underlined)

Functions delegated to the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport:

(A) To approve the recommendation of;

(1) The Head of Environment and Regulation in connection with all proposed highway and traffic management matters, as set out below, to which unresolved petitions of objection of 24 signatures or less from individual households, or 14 or less individual unresolved letters of objection have been lodged and where he/she agrees with the recommendation: -

(2) The Regeneration and Environment Policy and Performance Committee in connection with all proposed highway and traffic management matters, as set out below, to which unresolved petitions of objection of 25 signatures or more from individual households, or 15 or more individual unresolved letters of objection have been lodged and where he/she agrees with the recommendation: -

(3) The Regeneration and Environment Policy and Performance Committee in connection with all proposed highway and traffic management matters, as set out below, to which unresolved objections have been lodged which have been supported by a Ward Member(s) for a Ward(s) affected by the proposals, (such support, including valid traffic management / highway reasons, to be submitted in writing to the Head of Environment and Regulation) and where he/she agrees with the recommendation: -

- (a) All highway and traffic management matters governed by the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, whether subject to a Traffic Regulation Order or otherwise, including (but not limited to) the following:-
- i. waiting and parking restrictions;
 - ii. speed limits;
 - iii. one way traffic orders;
 - iv. weight limits;
 - v. prohibiting or restricting the use of heavy commercial vehicles;
 - vi. signalised and non signalised pedestrian/cycle/horse crossings;
 - vii. provision of off street parking and parking on roads ,footpaths, pavements and verges
 - viii. traffic signs and traffic signals.
 - ix. Bus lanes and taxi ranks
 - x. Siting of street furniture

**AMENDMENT TO SCHEME OF DELEGATION – OBJECTIONS TO
HIGHWAY PROPOSALS**

APPENDIX 2 (Continued)

Proposed amendments to Council Constitution – Part 3, Schedule 5;

(Proposed amendments underlined)

- (b) All highway and traffic management matters governed by the Highways Act 1980 including (but not limited to) the following:-
- i. road humps;
 - ii. traffic calming speed reducing measures;
 - iii. improvement lines for road widening;
 - iv. cycle tracks.

(B) To approve the Winter Maintenance arrangements.

HIGHWAYS AND TRAFFIC REPRESENTATION PANEL

Friday, 23 October 2015

Present

Councillors

M Sullivan
S Williams

D Mitchell

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

Members of the Committee were asked to declare any disclosable pecuniary or non pecuniary interests, in connection with any items on the agenda and to state the nature of the interest

No such declarations were made.

7 **OBJECTIONS: PROPOSALS TO INTRODUCE CALMING FEATURES AND 20MPH SPEED LIMIT, ANNESLEY ROAD AREA, WALLASEY**

A report by the Head of Environment and Regulation considered objections to proposals to introduce traffic calming features and a 20mph speed limit order within the Annesley Road area, Seacombe Ward.

Members heard from the Highways Team Leader that in November 2014, the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority awarded £1,058,000 of Integrated Transport Block Funding to Wirral Council, and that this scheme forms part of the proposed works.

Members were informed that as part of the consultation exercise for this scheme, letters were delivered to local residents in the vicinity of the scheme, informing them of the proposals. Consultation was also undertaken with Party Spokespersons, Ward Members, Cycle Forum, Pedestrian Forum, Emergency Services, Freight Transport Association, Road Haulage Association and Merseytravel.

Members were further informed that during the consultation period 3 objections were received from residents before the deadline of 4th September 2015 and that as a result of further officer discussions with residents regarding the proposals, 2 objections were subsequently withdrawn. Details of objections were listed within the report and also verbally reported to Members

Officers responded to questions from Members.

An Objector addressed the Panel to raise concerns regarding the potential for damage to vehicles as a result of travelling over speed bumps on a regular basis. It was also put to the Panel that there is no real need for speed bumps in this area as it is unusual for vehicle to drive at high speeds down this road due to the numbers of

parked cars. Further concerns were raised regarding safety aspects as it was felt that the first road hump had been positioned too close to the junction and had the potential for causing accidents.

Officers responded to questions from Members regarding concerns raised by the objector and emphasised to the Objector and Members that the priority of this scheme is public safety.

Resolved that –

(1) The Panel note the objections received and the Officers' responses; and

(2) recommend to the Regeneration and Environment Policy and Performance Committee that the proposal as shown on drawing no. DC/0113/100 be approved for implementation.

8 OBJECTIONS: PROPOSALS TO PROVIDE OFF ROAD UN-SEGREGATED CYCLEWAY/FOOTPATH(S) AND ROUNDABOUT IMPROVEMENTS ALONG CORPORATION ROAD AND CLEVELAND STREET BETWEEN DUKE STREET AND BEAUFORT ROAD

A report by the Head of Environment and Regulation considered objections to provide off-road un-segregated cycleway/footpath(s) and roundabout improvements along Corporation Road and Cleveland Street between Duke Street and Beaufort Road. Members heard how these proposals formed part of Wirral Council's 2015/16 Sustainable Transport Enhancement Package (STEP) Capital Programme of works agreed by Cabinet at its meeting of 20th July 2015. Members were informed how it is proposed that the proposed works would link with future works as part of Wirral Council's 2016/17 Integrated Transport Block (ITB) Capital Programme of works.

Members heard how, as part of the consultation exercise for this scheme, letters were delivered to local residents and businesses in the vicinity of the scheme, informing them of the proposals. Consultation was also undertaken with Part Spokespersons, Ward Members, Cycle Forum, Pedestrian Forum, Emergency Services, Freight Transport Association, Road Haulage Association and Merseytravel.

It was explained to Members that one objection had been received to this scheme from a representative of the Wirral Society of the Blind and Partially sighted and a number of objections had been received from Merseyside Cycling Campaign. Objections were outlined within the report. The Highways Team Leader made Members aware that the current proposals with penny Bridge (via Beaufort Road and Wallasey Bridge Road) and with Duke Street between Birkenhead Road and Gorse Lane, are still being developed (which include negotiations with adjacent land owners) but will be shared with the group at an appropriate time.

Officers responded to questions from Members

A representative from Merseyside Cycling campaign addressed the Committee in objection to the proposed scheme. Members heard how the Cycling Campaign supports the scheme in principal but raised some concerns surrounding safety

aspects. In particular, the objections related to the proposed design of the scheme in relation to the potential for the requirement for cyclists to give way at junctions and the subsequent safety issues this could cause.

Officers responded to questions from Members and it was reiterated that full proposals had not yet been developed at this stage.

Resolved that -

- (1) the Panel notes the objections received and Officers' responses; and**
- (2) recommend to the Regeneration and Environment Policy and Performance Committee that the proposal as shows on drawing no. DC/0113/100 is improved for implementation.**

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WIRRAL COUNCIL

REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT POLICY AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

2ND DECEMBER 2015

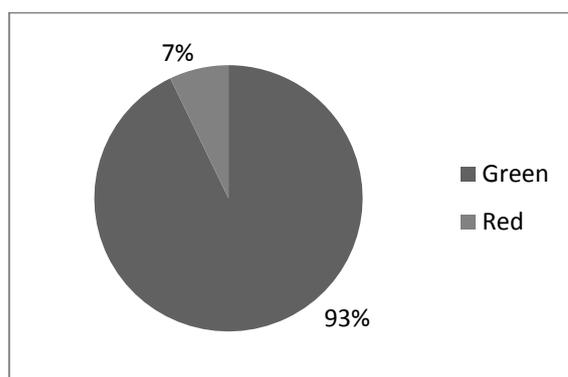
SUBJECT:	2015/16 QUARTER 2 DIRECTORATE PLAN PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORT
WARD/S AFFECTED:	ALL
REPORT OF:	DAVID ARMSTRONG, ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE
RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDERS:	CLLR PHIL DAVIES, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL AND PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR STRATEGIC AND POLICY OVERSIGHT CLLR GEORGE DAVIES, JOINT DEPUTY LEADER OF THE LABOUR GROUP AND PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES CLLR PAT HACKETT, PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR BUSINESS AND TOURISM CLLR STUART WHITTINGHAM, PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR TRANSPORT, TECHNOLOGY STRATEGY AND INFRASTRUCTURE CLLR BERNIE MOONEY, PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION CLLR CHRIS MEADEN, PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR LEISURE AND CULTURE
KEY DECISION?	NO

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

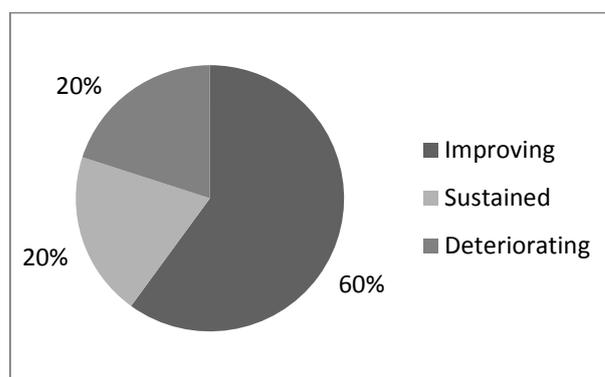
- 1.1 This report sets out Quarter 2 (July – Sept 2015) performance against delivery of the Regeneration and Environment Directorate Plan. The Directorate Plan was reported to this committee on 23 March 2015. The performance report is attached as Appendix 1 and sets out progress against a suite of agreed key indicators and performance measures.
- 1.2 Whilst the Corporate Plan 2014/16: Refreshed for 2015/16 (and supporting Directorate Plans) have been superseded by the Wirral Plan: A 2020 Vision, they still form the basis of the in-year performance management framework. A new Performance Management Framework will be developed for the Wirral 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 14 reportable indicators, 13 (93%) are rated Green and 1 (7%) is rated Red. For indicator rated Red, the responsible officer has indicated the corrective action being put in place to get performance back on track.
- 2.4 Of the 10 measures where it is possible to indicate the Direction of Travel, 6 (60%) are improving, 2 (20%) are deteriorating and 2 (20%) are showing performance being sustained. Of the 2 measures reported as deteriorating at Q2, 1 is 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

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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Email: margaretsandalls@wirral.gov.uk

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Directorate Plan Performance Report Quarter 2 (July – Sept) 2015/16

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Regeneration and Environment Policy and Performance Committee	15 th September 2015
	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
Corporate and Directorate Plan PI Performance Report
Quarter 2 (April-Sept) 2015/16

2015-16 Regeneration & Environment Performance Indicators		Year End Target 2015/16	April -Sept (Q2)			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%	96.67%	Green	93.5%	↑	
RECP03	Number of new affordable homes	250	100	209	Green	250	↑	
RECP04	Number of adaptations completed	2000	1000	1351	Green	2000	↑	
RECP05	Number of interventions to improve private rented sector properties	400	200	471	Green	600	↑	<i>Most of this years activity has been in the first two quarters due to the introduction of the Selective Licensing Scheme, a significant increase in the next two quarters is not anticipated. The year-end forecast will be reconsidered again at Q3.</i>
RECP06	Increase the number of jobs created and safeguarded via Invest Wirral	975	175	190	Green	975	↓	<i>The Direction of Travel (DoT) for Q2 2015/16 has been assessed as a deterioration from this time last year because of the lower number of jobs created and safeguarded. However, last year's figures were due to a spike from the volume of Regional Growth Fund (RGF) Grant Applications awarded. Current performance is on track to meet or slightly exceeded the Q2 2015/16 year-end target.</i>

Regeneration and Environment Directorate
Corporate and Directorate Plan PI Performance Report
Quarter 2 (April-Sept) 2015/16

2015-16 Regeneration & Environment Performance Indicators		Year End Target 2015/16	April -Sept (Q2)			Year End Forecast	DoT	Corrective Actions (Red or Amber) Context (Green/where provided)
PI Ref	PI Title		Target	Actual	RAG			
RECP08	Number of working age people claiming out-of-work benefits (economic in-activity)	13.6%	14.4%	13.4%	Green	13.6	↑ <i>Q1 (to February 2015) performance is the latest information available, Q2 performance will not be available until late November. Performance remains on track to achieve or exceed the year-end forecast.</i>	
RED09	Reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents (KSI)	98	49	69	Red	150	↓ Although the first 6 months of 2015 compared to the same period in 2014 shows there have been some KSI improvements in pedestrian casualties (particularly child KSIs), there have been increases in the number motorcycle and scooter casualties as well as in-car casualties. A multi-agency action/activity plan has been agreed by key partner agencies to address KSI casualties within Wirral.	
REDP12	Number of empty properties returned to use or demolished through local authority action	260	80	82	Green	260	↔	
REDP13	Number of homeless preventions	750	374	596	Green	950	↑ <i>The Homelessness section has implemented new working practices and a new 'Single Homeless Gateway' system has enabled improved and more accurate recording of prevented homelessness.</i> <i>Due to the change in data inclusion, the forecasted year-end target is now anticipated to be in the region of 950 homeless preventions this year.</i>	

Regeneration and Environment Directorate
Corporate and Directorate Plan PI Performance Report
Quarter 2 (April-Sept) 2015/16

2015-16 Regeneration & Environment Performance Indicators		Year End Target 2015/16	April -Sept (Q2)			Year End Forecast	DoT	Corrective Actions (Red or Amber) Context (Green/where provided)
PI Ref	PI Title		Target	Actual	RAG			
REDP15	% of Major Planning Applications determined within 13 weeks	60%	60%	60%	Green	60%	↔	
RECP18	Develop and deliver the Wirral Selective Licencing Scheme (WSLS)	100%	50%	50%	Green	100%		
REDP19	Delivery of the Docks Bridges Replacement Major Scheme up to contract award stage	100%	50%	50%	Green	100%		
REDP22	Implementation of LED Street Lighting Project	100%	40%	40%	Green	100%		
REDP23	Develop and deliver a master plan for Birkenhead Town Centre	100%	50%	50%	Green	100%		
Directorate Financial Management	Revenue	89,448,600			Green	88,718,600	Apr-Sep	An underspend of £0.5 million is currently forecast relating to contract efficiencies within Supported Housing. Car parking income is also currently projected to exceed its budgeted income target by £240,000
	Capital Programme	25,382,000		9,708,200	Green	25,382,000	Apr-Sep	
	Savings	2,944,000		2,258,000	Green	2,944,000	Apr-Sep	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)	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  Deteriorating performance </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  Improving Performance </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  Performance Sustained </div> </div>							

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WIRRAL COUNCIL

REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT POLICY & PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

2 DECEMBER 2015

SUBJECT	FINANCIAL MONITORING 2015/16 QUARTER 2 (JULY - SEPTEMBER 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 2 (July-September 2015) and was reported to Cabinet on 5 November 2015.

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 2 (JULY-SEPTEMBER 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 2	Revised Net Budget
Regeneration & Environment	90,287	-692	-103	89,492
Net Cost of Services	90,287	-692	-103	89,492

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

- The adjustment to the support services budget.

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 2	RAGBY Class	Change from prev
Regeneration & Environment	89,492	88,762	-730	Y	-430
TOTAL	89,492	88,762	-730		-

4.3 There has been a further underspend of £430,000 this quarter. Car parking income is currently being projected to exceed its budgeted income target by £240,000. At the start of the financial year, car parking charges were reduced for an initial 12 month trial period. The impact this trial is being assessed but it should also be noted that car parking income is difficult to predict and that this forecast is only an emerging position.

4.4 There also continues to be a high number of vacancies within School Crossing Patrols which is adding to the overall underspend position. However, this is partly offset due to the recent departure of a number of employees with Highways & Transportation meaning there is currently a reduction in the number of engineers working on and charging time (thereby generating income) on capital schemes.

- 4.5 Contract efficiencies within the Supported Housing Programme explained quarter 1's positive variance. There has been some further improvement in this area during quarter 2. Pressures remain within the Floral Pavilion budget (£130k). Income projections will be monitored very carefully but are ultimately dependent on attendance at each show. There is also a forecast income surplus, of at least £50,000, above the budgeted income target within Planning.

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 Q2	To be Delivered
B - delivered	8	1,595	1,595	0
G – on track	8	769	492	277
A - concerns	3	470	265	205
R - high risk/ not achieved	1	25	0	25
Total at Quarter 2 2015-16	20	2,859	2,352	507

6 PERFORMANCE AGAINST CAPITAL BUDGETS QUARTER 2 (JULY-SEPTEMBER 2015)

6.1 Capital Programme 2015/16 at end of Quarter 2 (30 September)

	Capital Strategy	Revisions Since Budget Cabinet	Revised Capital Programme	Actual Spend September 2015
	£000	£000	£000	£000
R&E– Env & Regulation	12,633	-147	12,486	4,698
R&E– Hsg & Comm Safety	6,412	-984	5,428	1,308
R& E – Regeneration	1,808	4,736	6,544	5,018
Total expenditure	20,853	3,605	24,458	11,024

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

6.2 Regeneration and Environment – Environment and Regulation

Highway Maintenance is the largest component of this part of the Capital Programme. So far £3.3 million of the £3.9 million budget has been spent within this area.

Energy schemes (LED Street Lighting). The competitive tendering process has resulted in a contract saving of £1.074 million with the scheme being successful in securing an interest-free loan.

Coast Protection. The aids to Navigation scheme will now be completed during the 2016/17 financial year. In respect of West Kirby Flood Alleviation the business case has been submitted to the Environment Agency. Approval to commence the scheme is awaited and anticipated to be primarily in 2016/17.

6.3 Regeneration and Environment – Housing

In order to allow people with disabilities to live more independently, Aids and Adaptations and grants continue to be approved and the spend committed. The incurring of this spend is determined by the grant applicant which means that there will invariably be works approved which remain uncompleted during the year.

The clearance programme involves complex legal processes and with potential Compulsory Purchase Orders, public enquiries and business relocations do impact on the delivery of the programme.

Within home improvements expenditure is driven by the level of grant applications, the very nature of which translates into some unpredictability in the programme.

6.4 Regeneration and Environment – Regeneration

Regional Growth Fund. Additional grant will be received to match the expenditure relating to this particular regeneration activity. Nearly £5 million has been provided from this and other growth funds to provide investment and assist with the regeneration and development of local businesses.

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 £0.7m underspend as at the 30 September 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 5 November 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	45	84	-	73	157
Active Travel	185	30	185	-	-	185
Transportation	104	23	104	-	-	104
Bridges	1,566	482	728	-	838	1,566
Street Lighting	76	28	26	-	50	76
Highway Maintenance	3,935	3,283	1,400	-	2,535	3,935
Transport for Growth	1,698	80	-	-	1,698	1,698
Start Active, Play Active, Stay active	34	12	34	-	-	34
Wirral Way - widening and safety improvements	14	6	14	-	-	14
Cemeteries Extensions and Improvements	171	5	171	-	-	171
Coast Protection	117	22	117	-	-	117
Energy schemes (LED Street Lighting)	3,162	255	3,162	-	-	3,162
Allotments	165	-	165	-	-	165
Parks Improvements	38	23	-	13	25	38
Parks vehicles replacement	684	404	684	-	-	684
West Kirby Flood Alleviation	100	-	-	100	-	100
Dock Bridges Replacement	280	-	280	-	-	280
	12,486	4,698	7,154	113	5,219	12,486

Regeneration and Environment - Housing	Revised Programme £000	Spend to Date £000	Council Resources £000	Revenue/ Reserves £000	Grants £000	Total Funding £000
Aids, Adaptations and Disabled Facility Grants	2,000	732	-	-	2,000	2,000
LIFT	2	2	2	-	-	2
Clearance	516	184	215	100	201	516
Home Improvement	420	138	270	150	-	420
Improvement for sale grants	180	-	-	180	-	180
Empty Property Interventions	160	37	150	10	-	160
New House Building Programme	1,500	215	1,500	-	-	1,500
Cluster of Empty Homes Fund	650	-	-	-	650	650
	5,428	1,308	2,137	440	2,851	5,428

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Regeneration and Environment - Regeneration

Other Regional Growth Fund Schemes	3,208	2,883	-	-	3,208	3,208
LEP Regional Growth Fund Schemes Targeted Assistance	2,087	2,087	-	-	2,087	2,087
Business Investment Grants	780	239	780	-	-	780
The Priory	69	12	-	-	69	69
Hamilton Square Accessibility Improvements	400	7	-	-	400	400
	6,544	5,018	780	-	5,764	6,544

WIRRAL COUNCIL

REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT POLICY & PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

2 DECEMBER 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 As part of the committee's work programme workshop meeting, a report on homelessness and the impact of removing housing benefit for under-21s was scheduled for inclusion on this agenda to inform a Task & Finish scrutiny review. This report has now been rescheduled for the committee meeting to be held on 18th January to allow for the full impact of the Comprehensive Spending Review to be understood.

- 3.2 At the agenda setting meeting for this committee, the Chair and Party Spokespersons agreed that it would be useful for Members to receive regular updates on the devolution deal for the Liverpool City Region. This update is covered elsewhere on the agenda and will now be included as a standing item for future committee meetings.

4.0 PREVIOUS / CURRENT SCRUTINY REVIEWS – UPDATE

4.1 Tourism

An initial scoping meeting for the Task & Finish scrutiny review on Tourism has now taken place. It was agreed that Councillor Jerry Williams would be Chair of the Review Panel. The remaining members of the Review Panel are Councillors Adam Sykes, Jean Stapleton, Jim Crabtree and Tracey Pilgrim. The scope of the review requires formalising and further updates on progress will be made available to Members during the municipal year.

5.0 WIRRAL PLAN WORKSHOPS

- 5.1 The three scrutiny workshops for Members to consider the delivery of the Wirral Plan have now been held. The workshops covered each of the three themes (People, Business and Environment) and the outcomes are to be presented in a consolidated report to the Policy & Performance Coordinating Committee scheduled for 10th December.

6.0 LIVERPOOL CITY REGION COMBINED AUTHORITY SCRUTINY PANEL - UPDATE

- 6.1 The LCRCA Scrutiny Panel is carrying out a review on “Affordable Transport” with the objective to look specifically at why short journey distance cash fares are expensive and why operators have different fare levels in place across different areas/routes of the City Region. Evidence sessions have now been held with a number of bus operators across the LCR areas. The final report is to be presented to the LCRCA Scrutiny Panel meeting scheduled for 13th January. A copy of this report will be presented to the next Regeneration and Environment Policy and Performance Committee.
- 6.2 The LCRCA Scrutiny Panel agreed that “Housing” would be the next topic for review and an initial meeting is to be scheduled for December to determine the scope.

7.0 PROGRESS IMPLEMENTING PREVIOUS RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 Apprenticeships

An update on the progress made to implement the recommendations arising from the Apprenticeships Scrutiny Review is attached as Appendix 2 to this report.

7.2 Car Parking Scrutiny Review

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

8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 Members are requested to note the contents of this report and 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													
Tourism	Cllr Chris Meaden	Requested by Members													
Homelessness	Cllr George Davies	Requested by Members													
Wirral Plan - Development of delivery plan	Cllr Moira McLaughlin	Proposed by Spokespersons													
Potential Reviews															
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													Completed
Enterprise Zone Investment and Property Development Fund	Kevin Adderley	Requested by Members													
Devolution	Kevin Adderley	Requested by Members													Completed
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													
Supporting Wirral's Part in our Nuclear Industries		Referred from Council													
Standing Items															
Performance Dashboard															
Financial Monitoring															
Policy Inform															
Recommendations from Highways & Traffic Representation Panels															

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APPENDIX 1

Apprenticeships Scrutiny Review – Recommendations Progress Update

Recommendation	Update	Recommendation Implemented
<p><u>Recommendation 1</u> Officers to develop generic mentoring and pastoral care guidance for all employers engaged in the Wirral Apprenticeship Programme. Officers should consider the use of Business Toolkits, currently being developed as a key action of the LCR Youth Unemployment Task Force report, which aim to support businesses and socialise young people into the workplace. Officers are requested to include the relevant guidance to the existing business induction process from January 2015.</p>	<p>Toolkit not currently developed by Youth Unemployment Task Force.</p> <p>Revised 14-19 Service approach with employers from January 2015 includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Employers made aware of the role of apprenticeship training providers in respect of pastoral care for young people undertaking an Apprenticeship, this includes, mandatory and formal reviewing arrangements, health & safety, employee rights and responsibilities, etc... ii. Mediation provided between apprenticeship training provider, employer and Apprentice as required. iii. Employers guided towards and made aware of employer resources produced by the National Apprenticeship Service (NAS). 	<p>Yes</p>
<p><u>Recommendation 2</u> Wirral currently support care leavers to access Wirral Apprentice vacancies, using existing dialogue with employers to negotiate guaranteed interviews. Officers should apply the same principle to an extended priority target group with key organisations the Council is working with. This would result in a supply of guaranteed interviews for these participants. The Wirral Apprentice team should prioritise joint working with specific key partners & employers to identify participants and potential employers. This work should commence by April 2015.</p>	<p>The 14-19 Service works key stakeholders and employers to guarantee interviews and opportunities for vulnerable young people, including care leavers.</p> <p>In the 2015 Wirral Apprenticeship Programme 8 percent (4x Apprentices) of Apprenticeship opportunities have 'ring fenced' for Wirral care leavers. Wirral key stakeholders and employers that have employed a vulnerable young person, include, NYAS, Regal Wholesale, Lifelong Learning (CYPD, Wirral Council), Inclusion Service (CYPD, Wirral Council), Liverpool Football Club, etc... The 14-19 Service is currently working with Lang O'Rouke,</p>	<p>Yes</p>

	<p>Wirral NHS and Magenta Living.</p> <p>Also, currently investigating current procurement policy to identify any legal / contractual opportunities to embed Apprenticeship opportunities for vulnerable young people.</p>	
<p><u>Recommendation 3</u></p> <p>Youth Employment Initiative funding through The European Union and the Coastal Communities Fund will both provide funding to support the reduction of youth unemployment. Officers are requested to investigate how any part of this funding could be used to provide or promote pastoral support for Wirral apprentices. This report should be made available to the Committee by November 2015. Officers should further commit to exploring any future funding source which could support this budget.</p>	<p>Wirral was unsuccessful in its bid for Coastal Communities Fund. The 14-19 Service and Council Investment Policy teams continue to identify local opportunities access funding and grants to support youth unemployment.</p>	Yes
<p><u>Recommendation 4</u></p> <p>Officers should highlight good examples of the availability and quality of apprenticeship information in schools. This activity should commence by January 2015.</p>	<p>Good examples of the availability and quality of Apprenticeship information in schools include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Liverpool City Region Apprenticeship 'HUB' funding has been used to support employment of Apprenticeship Ambassadors in 2015. The role of the Ambassadors has been to raise the profile of Apprenticeships in schools through, for example, Radio City experience and competition, careers fairs and talks in schools, etc... ii. 14-19 Service facilitated schools network. Network chair by Council Apprenticeship and Skills Manager. Employer and Wirral Chamber of Commerce attend to promote local Apprenticeship opportunities. iii. Mersey Interactive (www.merseyinteractive.com) online skills and careers portal has been redesigned to include a key section for Apprenticeship and 	Yes

	<p>Traineeship resources. The new version is due to go live November 2015.</p> <p>iv. 14-19 Service careers education, information, advice and guidance in schools is currently ongoing. Schools are being challenged and supported, as appropriate, in relation to how they promote and provide up to date information regarding Apprenticeship opportunities.</p>	
<p><u>Recommendation 5</u> Officers should promote apprenticeship opportunities by offering NAS a pop up shop at a venue and date which will maximise footfall from relevant groups. Officers should liaise with Social Landlords and other partner organisations to promote the apprenticeship opportunities available to all groups in Wirral. This activity should commence by January 2015.</p>	<p>Due to the 2014 pop up shop activity having very limited impact it was decided, with key stakeholders, that a different approach should be considered.</p> <p>In March 2015 (Apprenticeship Week) a bespoke Apprenticeship promotion event took place at Birkenhead Town Hall. The event was supported by local employers and stakeholders promoting real live Apprenticeship opportunities. Employers in attendance included, Vauxhall Motors, Magenta Living, NHS, Unilever, DWP, Wirral met College etc... The event was attended by over 350 young people seeking more information on Apprenticeships.</p>	Yes
<p><u>Recommendation 6</u> The panel requests that Officers provide annual reports to the relevant Policy & Performance Committee detailing Participation Trends and that Wirral apprentice outcomes are given a permanent place on the performance dashboard reporting tool, by the beginning of the next reporting period.</p>	<p>An annual report on Apprenticeship participation and standards has been completed by the 14-19 Service. The 14-19 Strategy Manager will undertake to find out which Policy & Performance Committee would be best to receive this information. Work is currently being carried out by the Performance Team and 14-19 Service with consideration to establishing an appropriate performance measure for 2016/17.</p>	No
<p><u>Recommendation 7</u> Officers from the 14-19 Team should lead in promoting stronger school/employer links via the Chamber of Commerce to raise the profile of traineeships and opportunities for work experience. Officers should engage with this activity by January 2015.</p>	<p>14-19 Service Apprentice and Skills Manager is an active member of the Young Chamber Steering Group. Current activity includes, liaison and promotion with schools, delivery of skills show experience / find you future events, facilitating links to the Merseyside EBP Network, etc...</p>	Yes

<p><u>Recommendation 8</u> Officers should promote the concept of pre-traineeship, extended work experience and work readiness courses where considered appropriate as an intervention through the Risk of NEET Indicator (RONI) programme from September 2014. As per recommendation 7, this should be facilitated by the 14-19 Team promoting stronger school/employer links via the Chamber of Commerce and Inspiring Futures.</p>	<p>The risk of NEET indicator programme is no longer delivered having been replaced by the 'Unlocking Potential' Programme currently being delivered by Career Connect (April 2015 to March 2018). This new approach is focused on developing young peoples' mental resilience and toughness. Opportunities for career progression, including Apprenticeships, are included in schools own careers programmes as identified by the current 14-19 Service CEIAG audit (see recommendation 4.)</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p><u>Recommendation 9</u> Officers and Members to support Merseytravel & key partners in lobbying to make transport more affordable for young people and for the introduction of a travel concession scheme for apprenticeship travel regardless of the apprentice's age. Officers should look to gain further lobbying support through the Liverpool City Region Apprenticeship link.</p>	<p>Mersey Travel have committed cap fares for young people aged 16 to 19 at young person's rates.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p><u>Recommendation 10</u> Officers should arrange to discuss the potential transfer of the Wirral Apprenticeship Programme's responsibilities and associated budgets to Children & Young People's Department.</p>	<p>Fully complete.</p>	<p>Yes</p>