

CABINET

Monday, 5 September 2016

Present:

Councillor	P Davies (Chair)	Leader of the Council Strategic Economic Development, Finance & Devolution
Councillors	C Jones AR McLachlan B Mooney M Patrick T Smith S Whittingham J Williamson	Adult Social Care Transformation, Leisure and Culture Environment Community Engagement and Communications Children and Family Services Highways and Infrastructure Public Health

Apologies

Councillors	G Davies	Housing and Community Safety
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35 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor George Davies – Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood, Housing and Engagement.

36 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

37 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 18 July 2016 be confirmed as a correct record.

38 EXECUTIVE KEY DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED POWERS

RESOLVED:

That the following key decision that had been taken under delegated powers during the period 8 July 2016 (date of publication of last ordinary Cabinet agenda) to 25 August 2016 be noted:

- **Cabinet Member, Public Health - Proposal to Re-commission and Commission Integrated Sexual and Reproductive Health Services.**

Effective from 18 August 2016.

39

WIRRAL PLAN PROGRESS UPDATE: 2016/17 QUARTER 1



Councillor Ann McLachlan, Cabinet Member - Transformation, Leisure and Culture, said:

“The Wirral Plan was created to change people’s lives for the better: our 20 Pledges are a series of outcomes we committed to deliver which combined will have a huge impact, improving the quality of life of our residents.²

Developing the Plan, agreeing it with our Partners and getting unanimous approval at Council were all important steps – now it is all about delivery. We promised Wirral residents we would be open and honest with them about our progress and this report is an important part of this process.”

Councillor Ann McLachlan introduced a report that provided Cabinet Members with the opportunity to review the progress of the delivery of the Wirral Plan. The Wirral Plan had been agreed at a meeting of the Council in July 2015, and had created a long term vision for the borough and a series of 20 Pledges which it was intended would be delivered by 2020.

The report provided a progress update on the delivery of the Wirral Plan for the 20 Pledges. It focused on key activities carried out in Quarter 1 (April to June 2016) and the progress being made. More detailed performance data and information relating to all Pledges would be reported to the Council’s Overview and Scrutiny Committees. The performance of the Wirral Plan would also be monitored by the Wirral Plan Partnership Delivery Group.

Delivery of the Wirral Plan was driven by all partners working together with residents to make a difference. Councillor Ann McLachlan was pleased to report the following points providing examples of where interventions and work commissioned towards the 20 Pledges was driving improvements in the lives of Wirral residents:

- Tackling the problem residents faced in finding appropriate housing was a key goal of the Wirral Plan. The Council was on track to achieve its target of bringing 1,250 empty properties back into use by 2020 and currently, 388 empty properties had been identified,

improved and brought back into use. 760 other properties had also been adapted or improved to help vulnerable people live with greater independence.

- There had been a 9.5% increase in the number of people with disabilities in employment since the Wirral Plan was agreed.
- There were greater job opportunities for Wirral residents being delivered with an increase in the employment rate of 3% compared to the start of the Wirral Plan, and an increase in the number of new jobs created compared to the same period last year.
- Wirral also remained the fastest growing tourism economy in Merseyside with an 8% increase in visitor numbers resulting in an additional £31million being spent in our visitor economy compared to the previous year.
- Progress was being made in ensuring Wirral's neighbourhoods were safer, with a 2% reduction in the total number of crimes compared to this time last year.
- Reports of anti-social behaviour were declining with a 13% reduction in the number of incidents reported to the police compared to the same period last year. This was testament to the success of the Plan's approach to integrate Police and Community Support Officers with the borough's Community Patrol and Anti-Social Behaviour Officers into one team.
- A new approach had been implemented to give victims of Domestic Violence greater confidence to report incidents and this had seen a successful increase in reporting compared to the same period last year.
- Encouraging progress was being made, with six schools being upgraded from 'requires improvement' to 'good' during the first quarter. Now, 9 out of 10 primary school pupils and 8 out of 10 secondary school pupils in Wirral attended a school which was rated at least 'good'.
- The Council had appointed 6 'Future in Minds' workers as part of a new initiative to support young people who may be experiencing mental health issues.
- Issues such as dog fouling remained a high priority. A new enforcement policy had been launched in May 2016 and had immediately delivered positive results. Fixed Penalty Notices issued to irresponsible dog owners in the first quarter equalled the total number issued in the whole of the previous year. Coupled with a continued clampdown on littering, where 2631 Fixed Penalty Notices had been issued in this quarter, these results show the Council and its partners are serious about protecting our environment.

Councillor Ann McLachlan reported that this was an improving picture. The Council continued to face financial challenges and consequently the partnerships developing across the public and private sectors were vital to the delivery of future services.

Councillor Phil Davies concurred with what Councillor Ann McLachlan had said and expressed his gratitude to the officers and staff in the partnership bodies e.g. Police, Health, etc. for their help and support. He informed that it was imperative that the Council found ways to make 'the Wirral £' go further and the benefit of doing that were now being seen e.g. tackling anti-social behaviour.

Councillor Phil Davies also informed that there were still funding challenges and the Council would need to continue to make savings. There was a great deal of uncertainty around future European funding. The Government had agreed to honour commitments in respect of European Regional Development and European Social Fund but only until the Autumn Statement. The Council would need to continue to lobby for any European Funding lost to be replaced by the Treasury as well as working as hard as it could to deliver its pledges.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

40

PROPOSED PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSIONING INTENTIONS FOR 2016/17



**Councillor Janette Williamson Cabinet Member
- Public Health, said:**

"We are now seeing the benefits of public health being part of Wirral Council in terms of focusing our work on prevention and providing people with the tools and resources to improve their health and wellbeing.

It has never been more important to work in partnership in commissioning services across the health and social care sector. We will continue to draw on public health skills across the board as part of our commitment to help people lead healthier lives."

Councillor Janette Williamson introduced a comprehensive report that highlighted the importance of the role the Council had in commissioning services. It had statutory duties across three "domains" of Public Health, as described in the Public Health Outcomes Framework. These duties covered the following components:

- Health improvement – including reducing lifestyle related ill-health and inequalities in health, and addressing the underlying determinants of health;
- Health protection – ensuring that comprehensive plans are in place across the local authority, NHS and other agencies to respond to infectious disease outbreaks and other public health emergencies; and
- Health service improvement - providing NHS Commissioners, including Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs), with expert advice and support to improve and evaluate the quality and efficiency of health services.

The Cabinet was made aware that the Public Health grant awarded to the Council had been designed to deliver the responsibilities set out in the Public Health Outcomes Framework. It required that the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy should both inform and influence the commissioning plans of the Council and so influence how the Public Health grant was attributed.

Those responsibilities were delivered through a combination of external contracts, internal investment, small grants and running costs. The report detailed the Council's commissioning intentions that were to be delivered through a number of external contracts which were categorised in the report shown in Table 1.

The report sought the Cabinet's agreement to progress Public Health's proposed commissioning plans for 2016/17. The commissioning proposals in the report linked to the delivery of the Wirral Plan's 2020 pledges for Healthy Lives and to the Council's Public Health statutory responsibilities.

Appended to the report at Appendix 1 was - Public Health Contracts by Provider 2016/17 (including Commissioning Intentions).

The Cabinet noted that all Public Health contracts were subject to on-going evaluation as part of a clearly defined commissioning cycle approach (in line with the Commissioning Framework developed as part of the Council's Transformation Programme). This methodology ensured that Public Health services (and contracts) were consistently and routinely tested against a range of criteria.

Councillor Janette Williamson reported, in particular, that the Council had been mandated to commission reproductive and sexual health services, these included:

- preventative action to reduce the spread of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) including HIV;
- treatment services for STIs (but not HIV);
- contraception and reproductive health promotion and provision;
- specialist counselling for sexual health.

The four reproductive and sexual health services were currently commissioned as follows:

- Wirral NHS Community Trust provided an integrated Reproductive and
- Sexual Health service, sub-contracting some elements to Wirral University
- Teaching Hospital NHS Trust and Wirral Brook; Terence Higgins Trust provided specialist outreach, prevention and promotion
- to high risk groups in order to prevent the spread of HIV in Wirral;
- Sahir House provided non-clinical support for people living with HIV/AIDS;
- Community Pharmacies provided emergency hormonal contraception.

The Cabinet noted that it was necessary to re-commission the services highlighted in order to comply with the Public Contract Regulations and Wirral Council Contract Procedure rules, as a result of the full term conclusion of applicable contracts. Work was currently progressing to develop a whole system approach to commissioning an effective and efficient sexual health service

Councillor Janette Williamson informed that the Council was making investments in financially challenging circumstances. She referred to the Government's long awaited Obesity Strategy and informed that she was disappointed that it did not include any actions in respect of irresponsible advertising targeted at children or restrictions on junk food promotions and outlets. Councillor Williamson also informed that she was pleased that Wirral was focusing on obesity like the rest of the Country.

Councillor Phil Davies informed that it was good to see the commissioning of £20,671,175 and echoed Councillor Williamson's comments on obesity. He referred to the disappointing £2.1m in year cut in funding which had made planning impossible. Councillor Davies hoped that this would not happen again and informed that it was necessary to lobby the Government, making this plea.

Councillor Phil Davies referred to the report as positive. He considered the areas highlighted were important and went a long way to addressing the Council's health inequalities pledge.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the contents of the report and the schedule of commissioning be noted and the contracting activities set out in Table 2 (Summary of Commissioning Plans 2016/17) and Appendix 1 to the report be agreed;**
- (2) a provision to meet contracts totalling £20,671,175 (£2,953,025 per annum) for an initial five year contract (2017-22) with an option of**

two one-year extensions for the delivery of reproductive and sexual health services be agreed; and

- (3) a provision to meet contracts totalling £2,202,185 (£440,437) per annum) for an initial three year contract (2017-20) with the option of two one-year extensions for the delivery of information and advice services be agreed.

41 **THE FORMER LYNDALE SCHOOL, EASTHAM**



Councillor George Davies, Cabinet Member - Housing and Community Safety, said:

“Now the former pupils of The Lyndale School are receiving their education at the other excellent schools in the borough, it falls on the Council to determine the best use of the old school building and surrounding land. Making sure we make the best possible use of every public building and asset is vital – to get best value for Wirral residents, to invest in and create jobs, and homes and to protect and improve Wirral’s local environment. This is equally true for this site; we must do everything we can to find the best possible use for the land for the benefit of all local residents.”

Councillor Phil Davies introduced a report with the purpose of declaring the former Lyndale School site in Eastham, as surplus to operational requirements and to seek authority for its disposal. Councillor Davies informed that the School’s former pupils had all been accommodated in other excellent schools in the borough.

It was noted that, if the Cabinet approved this proposal, additional authority would be required from the Secretary of State to dispose of the site and the playing fields and this would be submitted following a statutory consultation period.

Should the disposal be approved by the Secretary of State, it was proposed that a marketing exercise for the site be undertaken on the Council’s behalf by its appointed property consultants and the site be sold on the best terms reasonably achievable as recommended by the consultant. This was considered to be the best way of meeting the Council’s obligation to achieve best value as required by section 123 of the Local Government Act 1972.

The Cabinet noted, in particular, that the Secretary of State required that capital receipts, following the disposal of playing fields, were re-invested in sports facilities, recreation or education facilities at other schools.

The former Lyndale School was located in Lyndale Avenue, Eastham - as shown thickly edged on the plan appended to the Cabinet report. The whole site extended to approximately 2.2 acres. The Cabinet, at its meeting of 17 December 2014, had made the decision to close the school (effective on 31 August 2016) and from that date it was no longer required for Council purposes.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the former Lyndale School be declared surplus to operational requirements and authority be granted to disposal of it on the best terms as recommended by the Council's appointed property consultants, subject to Secretary of State approval;**
- (2) officers be requested to undertake the necessary consultation prior to the Secretary of State application being made to dispose of the school playing fields;**
- (3) demolition of the building be undertaken immediately (which can be prior to the Secretary of State application being approved to dispose the school playing fields and school land, which is allowable);**
- (4) the land be appropriated for planning purposes; and**
- (5) it be made clear that any Capital receipts received for the disposal of the site be re-invested in sports facilities, recreation or education facilities at other schools in the borough.**