



Council

Town Hall
Wallasey

10 March, 2017

Dear Councillor

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council to be held at **6.00 pm on Monday, 20 March 2017** in the Council Chamber, within the Town Hall, Wallasey, to take into consideration and determine upon the following subjects : -

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AGENDA

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members of the Council are asked to consider whether they have any disclosable pecuniary interests and/or any other relevant interest, in connection with any matter to be debated or determined at this meeting and, if so, to declare it and state the nature of such interest.

2. CIVIC MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

To receive the Civic Mayor's announcements and any apologies for absence.

3. MINUTES

To approve the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting(s) of the Council held on 6 March 2017 (one extraordinary meeting and one Budget Council meeting) **(to follow)**.

4. PETITIONS

To receive petitions submitted in accordance with Standing Order 21.

5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

To deal with questions from members of the public, in accordance with Appendix 1 to Standing Orders – up to 30 minutes.

6. LEADER'S, EXECUTIVE MEMBERS' AND CHAIRS REPORTS (Pages 1 - 28)

To receive the written reports of the Executive and Policy and Performance Committee Chairs, and to receive questions and answers on any of those reports in accordance with Standing Orders 10(2)(a) and 11.

7. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

To consider Members' general questions to the Civic Mayor, Executive or Committee Chair in accordance with Standing Orders 10 (2)(b) and 11.

8. MATTERS REFERRED FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES OR OTHER COUNCIL COMMITTEES (Pages 29 - 70)

To consider and determine any references from the Overview and Scrutiny Committees and any other Council Committees.

A. The Council is advised of a referral from Cabinet (16 January, 2017) 'Number of Councillors Scrutiny Review', which originated as a Notice of Motion at Council on 20 October, 2014, "44 Councillors" (minute 57 refers). The minute from the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 30 November, 2016 (minute 32) and the minute from Cabinet (minute 83) are attached together with the Scrutiny Review. In accordance with Standing Order 7(5) the Council will be asked to consider the recommendation of the Committee and Cabinet.
(Pages 29 – 64)

B. The Council is advised of a referral from Business Overview and Scrutiny Committee (24 January, 2017), which originated as a Notice of Motion at Council on 17 October, 2016, "Inward Investment" (minute 67(3) refers). The minute from the Business Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 24 January, 2017 (minute 51) is attached together with the Notice of Motion. In accordance with Standing Order 7(5) the Council will be asked to consider the recommendation of the Committee.
(Pages 65 – 69)

9. VACANCIES

To receive nominations, in accordance with Standing Order 25(6), in respect of any proposed changes in the membership of committees, and to approve nominations for appointments to outside organisations.

Councillor Denise Roberts sadly passed away on 8 February, 2017. As a result, the following vacancies have arisen and will require

consideration at Council:

Committee Appointments

- Employment and Appointments Committee – Deputy
- Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Deputy
- Licensing Act 2003 Committee - Committee Member
- Licensing Health and Safety and General Purposes Committee - Committee Member
- People Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Committee Member
- Standards and Constitutional Oversight Committee – Committee Member (Chair)

Outside Body Appointments

- Mersey Port Health Committee
- Tam O'Shanter Cottage Trust
- Charing Cross Play Youth and Community Centre Joint Management Committee
- Birkenhead Sixth Form College Governing Body
- Beechwood Play and Community Centre Joint Management Committee
- Arch Initiatives - Wirral Management Committee
- Wirral Council for Voluntary Service - Management Committee

Additional Appointments to Outside Bodies

The West Kirby Charity

- Ms Nadine Smith (to be appointed until 18 October, 2020)
- Mrs Alison Wright (to be appointed until 30 October, 2019)

10. MATTERS REQUIRING APPROVAL OR CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL (Pages 71 - 128)

APPROVAL: To consider any recommendations of the Executive or Council Committees which require the approval or consideration of the Council.

CABINET – 20 FEBRUARY, 2017

- A. Capital Monitoring 2016/17 Quarter 3 (Pages 71 – 87)**
(Minute 89 and Cabinet Report attached)

CABINET – 27 FEBRUARY, 2017

- B. Pay Policy Statement 2017/18 (Pages 89 – 102)**
(Minute 97 and Cabinet Report attached)
- C. Draft Calendar of Meetings for the 2017/18 Municipal Year (Pages 103 – 123)**
(Minute 99 and Cabinet Report attached)

OTHER ITEMS REQUIRING APPROVAL OF THE COUNCIL

D. Appointment of Local Returning Officer for the election of the Liverpool Combined Authority Mayor (Pages 125 – 127)
(Report of the Chief Executive attached)

E. Appointment of an Acting Senior Information Risk Officer (SIRO)

The Council is recommended to agree the appointment of Mr Surjit Tour, Assistant Director: Law and Governance as the Interim Senior Information Risk Officer (SIRO) (pending a review of this matter), in place of Mr Mike Zammit, Head of Digital (SIRO).

11. NOTICES OF MOTION (Pages 129 - 132)

Notices of motion submitted in accordance with Standing Order 7(1), are attached. They are listed in accordance with Standing Order 7(2), and the full text of each motion is attached. The Mayor, having considered each motion, in accordance with Standing Order 7(4) has decided that they will be dealt with as follows:

(i). GOVERNMENT CUTS IN SCHOOL FUNDING

To be debated.

(ii). HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION

To be debated.

(iii). KEEPING LARGE LORRIES ON THE RIGHT ROAD

To be debated.

(iv). COUNT THEM IN

To be debated.

(v). GREEN BELT

To be referred to Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

(vi). PAVILIONS IN SPORTS GROUNDS

To be referred to Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

To consider any other items of business that the Civic Mayor accepts as being urgent.



Assistant Director: Law and Governance

COUNCIL
20 MARCH 2017

CABINET PORTFOLIO SUMMARY REPORT

REPORT OF	Councillor Phil Davies
CABINET PORTFOLIO	Leader of the Council
CO-ORDINATING CHIEF OFFICER	Eric Robinson, Chief Executive

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is an update from the Cabinet Portfolio Holder to Members of the Council on matters relevant to his portfolio.

1. GREATER JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Over the last year we have successfully commissioned and launched a suite of programmes to support our residents into employment as a result of successfully winning Government and European funding.

- The Wirral Ways to Work Programme will support almost 3,500 residents over the next two years offering job search, coaching and mentoring, paid work experience, training and skills development, and information, advice, and guidance. Over 600 people have already been engaged since its launch in summer 2016 with more than 100 finding work or training.
- The Health Related Worklessness Programme opened its doors last month and will support almost 2,000 residents over the next two years, tackling social isolation and mental health/wellbeing, offering creative interventions leading to greater readiness for work.

We are ahead of target for the creation and safeguarding almost 1000 jobs this year with just under 750 recorded by December 2016. We continue to support projects from businesses leading to expansion and employment growth, with five key projects progressing through the City Region Single Investment Fund process representing a total public and private investment potential in excess of £50m for the borough.

2. WORKFORCE SKILLS

Through our Devolution Deals with Government we have launched a 'Skills for Growth' Advisor programme across the City Region to work alongside our Business Growth Hub Advisors, providing businesses with tailored advice and funding on skills for their workforce, including advice on the introduction of the Apprenticeship Levy.

We have worked with our city region partners to conduct a comprehensive review of post-16 provision across the 6 authority areas to ensure the long term financial stability of colleges to meet the challenges and demands of the current and future workforce. Following on from

this we will be setting up a Skills Commission this spring to oversee a city region skills strategy which will inform future commissioning of our devolved adult education budget.

Locally, we continue to build on our excellent skills infrastructure supporting key capital investments for the Wirral Met Stem Centre and the Engineering College; and developing new capital proposals in support of the advanced manufacturing and maritime sectors for the Maritime Knowledge Hub and MEA Park in the Wirral Waters Enterprise Zone.

3. INWARD INVESTMENT

We have consulted with businesses and designed 'Wirral Well Made' to promote the borough to investors, and worked with our city region partners to showcase our key sectors, generate international leads, and promote our customs warehousing opportunity, which has resulted in growing investor interest from foreign markets. This month we will launch a series of consultations to support the creation of a Strategic Regeneration Framework to promote our vision for Wirral, and showcase our investment opportunities at MIPIM Cannes to attract further investment in our borough.

We have supported Dong Energy to develop a £10m Operations and Maintenance Base at Kings Wharf, Seacombe which will create up to 75 jobs during the construction phase, with 45 permanent jobs once the site is operational. We have launched the Wirral Waters Investment Fund and agreed a pipeline of priority new developments to be supported over the next three years, starting with the Wirral Waters Health Faculty, Maritime Knowledge Hub and Tower Road Office development.

4. THRIVING SMALL BUSINESSES

We have redesigned our business support offer and have just completed a competitive procurement exercise to select a partner to deliver a comprehensive new service which will launch in June, including support for start-ups; growth; sector networks; relocations and workforce development.

5. VIBRANT TOURISM ECONOMY

Following last year's detailed visitor research study, the development of the Wirral Visitor Economy Strategy is underway, led by a private/public sector steering group including the Wirral Visitor Economy Network, Wirral Chamber of Commerce, LEP & Wirral Council. Wirral already has the fastest growing visitor economy in the LCR; latest figures also show the borough had the highest average hotel occupancy in the LCR in 2016, however the strategy will identify and help maximise Wirral's new opportunities to attract more visitors in order to achieve the Wirral Plan tourism pledge of £450m by 2020.

The 2017 Wirral Tourism Awards have been launched, and over 300 nominations have already been received, with the awards taking place on the 12th April.

CABINET PORTFOLIO SUMMARY REPORT

REPORT OF	Councillor Ann McLachlan
CABINET PORTFOLIO FOR	Transformation, Leisure and Culture
CO-ORDINATING CHIEF OFFICER	Mark Smith, Strategic Lead - Environment

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is an update from the Cabinet Portfolio Holder to Members of the Council on matters relevant to her portfolio.

1. LEISURE & CULTURAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL

The Floral Pavilion's pantomime achieved the highest attendance recorded since its re-opening in 2008, 32,170 visitors enjoying the show. The Floral Pavilion also held its first Autism Friendly Performance. Ensuring accessibility for all and providing entertainment for all generations over the festive period has been a success which will hopefully be built on with shows throughout the year.

Work has also begun on a Digital Marketing Strategy for the venue in the hope to refine, engage and promote digital technologies in a commercial environment. Development of this strategy will help ensure customer growth throughout the programme and how it contributes to our Wirral Plan pledges and the Medium Term Financial Plan.

As part of the MacMillan Cancer Project we are currently preparing a bid in conjunction with the CCG/NHS for a quarter of a million pounds, to deliver an activity programme to help cancer patients. Training has been funded and already completed by staff within Leisure Services.

The 'Fit and Fed' Pilot was commissioned by Birkenhead Constituency in response to growing levels of anti-social behaviour in Birkenhead North; a range of sporting diversionary activities have now started. The first session commenced in February at Gautby Road where the Sports Development team delivered a range of sporting activities. 57 young people took part in the first session which will now run for a number of weeks. The session concluded with all young people being served a dinner together.

2. TRANSFORMATION

The Transformation Programme includes extensive work to integrate services between social care and health. These projects will help the Council and the NHS to provide a more joined up and seamless services to people, help manage demand and use

resources effectively across health and care to deliver better outcomes for the people of Wirral. A March report to Cabinet will provide an update on the work.

Another form of integration, this time with our community safety staff and the police, is making good progress. Again, this is about improving the quality of service to meet public demand through the pooling of staff and targeted priorities.

Leisure, Culture and Parks and Libraries is another key project which, like the previous projects mentioned, aims to redesign services to make sure they better meet the needs of our residents. Our advisors, BWB, have a wealth of experience in working in this field, applying their skills in a social and ethical way. Work is progressing and the first phase of the work will be reported to Cabinet in March.

The Access Wirral project is aimed at vastly improving customer service across key areas of Council services, focussing on Council Tax and Housing Benefit applications initially. Scrutiny sessions were held with the Business Overview and Scrutiny Committee in February. A full business case will be submitted for consideration by Cabinet in March.

REPORT OF	Councillor George Davies
CABINET PORTFOLIO	Housing and Community Safety
CO-ORDINATING CHIEF OFFICER	Mark Smith, Strategic Lead - Environment

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is an update from the Cabinet Portfolio Holder to Members of the Council on matters relating to his portfolio.

1. GOOD QUALITY HOUSING THAT MEETS RESIDENTS NEEDS

Housing services continue to ensure the accommodation and support needs of vulnerable adults and children are met.

The Disabled Adaptations Service has already exceeded its annual target of delivering 2,000 home adaptations to disabled children and adults and continues to work closely with, and support Health and Social Care partners in regard to the delivery of Hospital and Intermediate Care Discharge initiatives. The Homelessness and Housing Options Team is currently preparing for the introduction of new homeless legislation (*The Homeless Reduction Bill*) which will fundamentally change how Councils respond to the issue of homelessness and, similar to the Adaptations Service, has exceeded its target with over 1,000 households having been prevented from becoming homeless.

The Council was successful in both its Liverpool City Region Starter Homes bid and Housing Zones Status Bid to help deliver its housing growth aspirations. The Housing Zone status will help in Wirral being given a greater priority to access government funding opportunities available to help accelerate new build in the borough. This has commenced with the Council awaiting the outcome of a recent bid under the capacity and enabling fund, which is anticipated by the end of February.

Wirral has also had its announcements under the Homes and Communities Agency's Affordable Housing Programme where some 285 units have been identified on named schemes and further capacity of up to 440 indicative units of accommodation which could be secured for the area. We have currently identified a pipeline of priority sites to be developed in the Borough and we are working with Registered Providers and developers to bring forward proposals for the development of housing on these sites.

Progress towards the target of bringing 250 empty properties back into use in 16/17 is good, with 249 achieved by the end of Quarter 3. It is likely this target will be exceeded. 36 Empty Property Grants had been completed by the end of Quarter 3

and we remain on target to complete in the region of 50 grants by the end of the year.

A telephone survey of empty property owners has provided a wealth of intelligence which will inform future interventions to bring empty properties back into use. One of the main findings was a general lack of awareness of the assistance and advice available from the Council and as a result a plan of action will be implemented to raise awareness over the coming months.

Programmed work continues to be primarily focussed on the Council's 4 Selective Licensing Areas where a marketing campaign to raise awareness of the assistance available to empty property owners was started in January 2017. In addition an enforced sale policy has been prepared to inform actions to force the sale of certain longer term problematic empty properties on a case by case basis.

Wirral's Selective Licensing Scheme has now licensed 1270 properties which represents over 99% of known licensable properties. The majority of landlords understand that the objectives of the scheme however the remaining landlords or agents are now subject to court action to ensure that all properties are licensed.

The Council has recently prosecuted a number of landlords and agents for avoiding applying for a license and have been successful in twenty prosecution cases for Housing Act offences against both landlords and managing agents. One of these landlords who was found guilty by Liverpool Magistrates court for failing to obtain a licence, providing false and misleading information and not producing certain documents, was ordered to pay £37,120 in fines and costs.

The HMO team have also stepped up on action against rogue landlords. A local letting agent who managed a House in Multiple Occupation in Wallasey pleaded guilty at Wirral Magistrates Court for multiple offences relating to poor management standards under the Housing Act 2004 and a further landlord was prosecuted for operating an unlicensed HMO over the last quarter.

2. ZERO TOLERANCE TO DOMESTIC ABUSE

The Tomorrow's Women Wirral Peer Mentor Project, a highly effective community based support programme for survivors of domestic abuse. The programme is being managed by Wirral Connect and has established a Peer Mentor Support Group. In addition Tomorrow's Women Wirral (TWW) has been commended by the Butler Trust for their work on a Community Payback project commissioned to address Domestic Abuse and Harmful Practices. The results are impressive, with breach rates low and the majority of the women completing their hours and achieving additional qualifications. TWW are due to receive their commendation from HRH Princess Anne in March 2017.

I'm also happy to report there have been a number of successful bids to provide specialist supported accommodation for victims of domestic abuse have been made, in partnership with Liverpool City Council and Sefton Council.

3. ENSURING WIRRAL'S NEIGHBOURHOODS ARE SAFE

I am pleased to announce the Chief Constable and the Councils Chief Executive signed a Memorandum of Understanding for the creation of a Safer Wirral Hub on the 10th February 2017. The Hub will bring together community safety related services and the police, fire service and other key partners into a single integrated resource. Its aims will be to provide a greater resource to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour across Wirral and also deliver reductions in demand management for the statutory front line services. This is an exciting beginning to enhanced collaborative working where Council resources will be managed and deployed by lead officers from other agencies.

Anti-social behaviour reported to the Police continues to fall year on year and the emphasis put on restorative justice practises, hate crime and domestic violence is helping to support the most vulnerable victims and reduce repeat victimisation.

The Police 'Community First' reorganisation is now fully implemented, with teams based on function rather than location. The Local Policing Team will continue to deliver excellent services alongside it's crime reduction partners exploiting insight and intelligence to overcome the challenges in hard-pressed communities.

Other initiatives carried out include an initiative to target cybercrime, using a social media campaign which will formed part of the global 'Safer Internet Day' on the 7th February 2017. A consultation for a Cumulative Impact Policy for the Central Birkenhead area will be completed by the end of February 2017 which, if implemented, will lead to alcohol licensing applications in the area being rejected unless a strong case can be made. This has the potential to make a marked improvement for members of the community in an area that has been the crime hotspot for Wirral for 30 years and has the highest rate of alcohol fuelled crime and disorder, and to reduce workloads for crime prevention agencies.

CABINET PORTFOLIO SUMMARY REPORT

REPORT OF	Councillor Bernie Mooney
CABINET PORTFOLIO FOR	Environment
CO-ORDINATING CHIEF OFFICER	Mark Smith, Strategic Commissioner - Environment

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is an update from the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Environment to Members of the Council on matters relevant to her portfolio.

1. ATTRACTIVE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT

The Loving our Environment strategy sets out the journey we have embarked on working with partners and residents to drive behaviour change and tackle key environmental issues.

Highlights this quarter include the following:

- Over 98% of the street cleanliness target has been achieved, supported by 20 out of 28 identified hot spots being cleared. Clearances have been achieved in the main through working with private landowners and the results have been the provision of a much better environment for our residents to enjoy.
- Environmental enforcement remains a high priority to the Council and we continue to exceed targets relating to littering. Within the first year of their work to enforce against dog fouling we have so far achieved a 78% improvement when compared to the same period last year.
- Local areas are benefitting from the increased cleanliness and fewer concerns are being raised by residents. The longer term goal is to encourage behavioural change and more involvement by people in their neighbourhood.
- During the last quarter we have been able to support community events where local people have got involved in their local area to improve the environment, for example work undertaken by volunteers from HYPE (Helping Young People Everywhere) who transformed a memorial garden back into use on the Woodchurch estate that had previously fallen into disrepair.

- Wirral Council was nominated for a "Most Improved" Council award at the end of 2016 for Street Cleansing, and while we did not win the category it was an acknowledgement of our endeavours to provide excellent and wide ranging frontline services and recognised our continuous improvement.

This year we have put in a lot of work to determine the best option for domestic refuse collection arrangements in the future. We have prepared a detailed appraisal of options to

deliver the transformation and also considered ways of working more closely with the City Region's other authorities.

Waste management highlights from this quarter include the following:

- We continue to work with Wirral's young people through the Eco Schools programme; this quarter we delivered the 'Lights Out' project, with nine schools reusing some of the Council's old bell light fixtures, to produce sculptures to highlight British species in decline due to climate change and urbanisation.
- We have collected more recycling at the kerbside this quarter than the same period last year and remain positive that by year-end we will achieve our goals.
- I am delighted to inform Council that Waste & Environmental Services were shortlisted for three categories (Quality Improvement, Partnership and Local Authority of the Year) in the annual Keep Britain Tidy Awards.
- The 'Good to Know' recycling campaign continues, with particular emphasis this quarter on paper and card, helping to clarify which items can be collected for recycling in the grey bin.

CABINET PORTFOLIO SUMMARY REPORT

REPORT OF	Councillor Christine Jones
CABINET PORTFOLIO FOR	Adult Social Care
CO-ORDINATING CHIEF OFFICER	Graham Hodgkinson, Director of Adult Social Services

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is an update from the Cabinet Portfolio Holder to Members of the Council on matters relevant to her portfolio.

1. OLDER PEOPLE LIVE WELL

This winter has seen unprecedented demand across Health & Social Care services, with major issues including;

- An increase in ambulance call-out of 20 per day, compared to the same period last year
- Referrals to social care almost doubled, with people significantly more poorly. We have seen a 45% increase in demand for resuscitation over the last 12 month period.
- More frail people with long term conditions are being managed within the community with an aim to keep them supported locally.

Care funding and investment through the Better Care Fund have been focussing upon developing robust 7 day services. We are making key changes in our approach to supporting people to reduce hospital stays and ensure people are supported at home wherever possible. Our re-ablement service, delivered by an independent sector provider, has been key in providing individualised re-ablement support at home. Our intermediate care and discharge to assess services have also proved pivotal to enable individuals to leave hospital as soon as possible and receive appropriate assessment and support from an integrated Multi-Disciplinary Team.

Consultant geriatricians, GP's, Nurses, Therapists, Social Workers and Health & Care staff work collaboratively to achieve the best outcomes for the individual. The team take referrals from GP's and clinicians in the community. They also support WUTH and A&E using the process for "home first" assisting to identify patients who do not require an admission to hospital but do require some enhanced community and therapy support to enable them to return home.

Following the Great Wirral Door Knock pilot in Eastham in September 2016, another successful door knock was held in Woodchurch across three days in December.

Building on the strong partnership approach, Merseyside Police Cadets, Magenta Housing and members of the local community joined the existing team of door knockers with Asda Woodchurch Community Team providing food hampers where needed.

Across the three days, the team knocked on 895 doors and made 98 referrals for residents to receive further advice or support, and identified 6 people who would have been alone on Christmas Day. These people were booked onto Christmas day meals and were also given information about weekly luncheon clubs available locally. Following the event, a follow-up coffee morning was held in Woodchurch Library where some of the residents who identified themselves as feeling lonely came along and were able to make connections with others. As a result of this meeting, a few ladies discussed creating a weekly reading group.

A further door knock will take place 27 - 29 March in Rock Ferry. This door knock will be attended by the Chair of Government's Ageing Better Programme Lord Filkin.

2. PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES LIVE INDEPENDENTLY

The residential service at Girtrell Court has now transferred to Sanctuary, as of 6 February 2017. Other service provisions are being utilised by people, these include, other residential establishments, including specialist autism placements, services for older people, and homes local to where people live. People are also opting to take up activity style breaks, like the ones provided at Barnstondale, and also taking direct payments to book supported or accompanied holidays. A scrutiny review of peoples experience related to the re-commissioning of respite provision will take place between March and September 2017, with a report to Committee in September 2017.

CABINET PORTFOLIO SUMMARY REPORT

REPORT OF	Councillor Janette Williamson
CABINET PORTFOLIO FOR	Public Health
CO-ORDINATING CHIEF OFFICER	Fiona Johnstone Director of Health and Wellbeing

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is an update from the Cabinet Portfolio Holder to Members of the Council on matters relevant to her portfolio.

1.0 WIRRAL RESIDENTS LIVE HEALTHIER LIVES PLEDGE

I am delighted to announce a new information and advice service to be delivered from the 1st April 2017 by a local 3rd sector partnership led by Wirral CAB (partners including Age UK, Wirral MIND and Wirral Change). This is a joint commission between Wirral Council and Wirral Clinical Commissioning Group to provide a general advice and information service easily accessible by local people and will be called 'Ask Us Wirral'.

The service will provide increased availability of high quality advice, with an emphasis on digital support for those who need help. It will also provide easy access for service users to get the right advice in the right way for them in order to tackle immediate debt problems and support them to be more resilient in the future.

The service will provide support to over 30,000 people with a range of issues to support them to be more independent e.g. help on managing finances, homelessness. Over the three period of the contract the development of online information and advice services will be developed to provide capacity for current and future needs of local people.

Telephone and face to face support will be available for the most complex cases.

I am also pleased to say we have now put in place a network of 13 **Community Connectors** led by Involve North West. The service started on 1st February, 2017 and aims to engage people who are socially isolated to engage with community activity to improve their wellbeing and lead to greater readiness for work. This commission is based on local insight work and driven by the high rates of health related worklessness and social isolation in the East of the Borough. By January 2019, 1015 people aged over 18 and who are workless as a result of their health will be supported to be work ready. 75% of the cohort will be residents of Birkenhead.

Another new service called “**Move on Up**” started on 1st February 2017 to increase the availability of non-medical recovery services for low level mental health conditions. The service will add to the existing limited service provision and support for participants who are workless as a result of their health to manage their mental health/wellbeing and as a result to improve their readiness for employment and move towards more mainstream services specifically employment support programmes. By January 2019, 150 people aged over 18 and who are workless as a result of their health will be supported to be work-ready. 75% of the cohort will be residents of Birkenhead.

We recently had the good news that we were successful in our submission to the Home Office/PHE to become a Local Alcohol Action Area, with a focus on reducing alcohol related health harms by improving the collection, sharing and use of data between Accident and Emergency Departments, local authorities and the police. I will look forward to working with partners to take this work forward. Tackling the impact of alcohol remains an important part of our Healthier Lives Strategy.

Blood Pressure

Since my last report, there have been 3 further public blood pressure testing events. These include a Wirral Care Home Managers health and wellbeing event on the 12th January, Birkenhead Market on the 25th January and the Cherry Tree Centre on the 27th January. Around 300-350 people’s blood pressure were checked at these events, with approximately 1 in 3 showing as ‘raised’. At each of the recent events, people have been identified with extremely high blood pressure that had no symptoms, no modifiable lifestyle issues and normal weight. At the Birkenhead Market event for example, 3 people fell into this category; each of these had a family history of stroke; all were referred for urgent medical treatment. This is an example of why it is so important for everyone to know and understand their blood pressure. In line with the local Blood Pressure Action Plan, the intention is now to try out a larger-scale public testing event, the first of which is likely to be at a Tranmere Rovers match.

Seasonal Flu

In my last report I highlighted the work that we have been doing, working with colleagues across health and social care, to increase uptake of flu vaccination particularly amongst groups who are most at risk of developing serious complications from flu. This work has resulted in an uptake of vaccination across all groups and there has been a substantial increase in uptake amongst health professional staff. This work illustrates the benefits of working together to focus on an important issue which, as well as protecting people, mitigates increased pressures on the NHS at this very busy time.

Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)

I’ll be continuing to support the campaign to reduce overuse, and inappropriate use, of antibiotics. This is an important issue for Wirral as we have very high levels of antibiotic prescribing which if not addressed will drive antibiotic resistance making antibiotics less likely to work in the future. This month Public Health England (PHE) have launched a

pilot awareness campaign across the Granada TV region to support national efforts to reduce inappropriate prescriptions for antibiotics. The key aims of the pilot are to:

- Alert the public to the issue of antibiotic resistance
- Reduce public expectation for antibiotics – i.e. encourage patients to stop asking for antibiotics inappropriately
- Support healthcare professional (HCP) change– by increasing understanding amongst patients about why they might not be given antibiotics and by boosting awareness of/ support for alternatives to prescriptions

Locally we will be supporting and complementing this work building on the local AMR strategy developed in partnership with Wirral CCG. To illustrate my commitment to this issue I have pledged to become an antibiotic guardian. Anyone can sign up to support this campaign via the following web link; [www.http://antibioticguardian.com](http://antibioticguardian.com)

High Streets in Our Communities

High streets play a hugely important role in our communities, providing places to shop, work and for people to meet. The Wirral Plan recognises this and the positive impact high streets can have on the local area, the economy and health and wellbeing. Since November a research team, including 14 local people, and local residents have been exploring each of the first four high streets (Laird Street, New Ferry, Liscard and Upton) getting feedback and ideas from local residents and businesses about what they want to see changed and improved in their local area. Over the next few months this information will be used to develop a bespoke approach for each area that responds to the needs of each high street community.

CABINET PORTFOLIO SUMMARY REPORT

REPORT OF	Councillor Matthew Patrick
CABINET PORTFOLIO FOR	Communications & Engagement
CO-ORDINATING CHIEF OFFICER	Fiona Johnstone, Director of Health and Wellbeing

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is an update from the Cabinet Portfolio Holder to Members of the Council on matters relevant to his portfolio.

1.0 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

I hope to speak to all Members in the coming weeks and months as we review and seek to improve our approach to how constituency committees are delivered and how we can better engage with and support local communities. The outcome of our review will be brought to Cabinet for consideration in the autumn.

It remains important for Council to be aware of the innovative and impressive work being delivered by our communities with support from our staff.

The Wirral South Christmas Together project was delivered, to support people suffering from social isolation. The constituency team supported existing events and developed new ones on Christmas and Boxing Day 2016. Over 75 volunteers ensured that 149 guests did not spend Christmas day alone. Referrals were also made putting guests in touch with the GIFT Network (Wirral South's social isolation contractor) to ensure support was extended beyond the holiday period. All five venues involved have already committed to participating in Christmas Together 2017.

In Wirral West, the team played a major role in delivering the second Great Wirral Door Knock, which has helped more than 200 people from the Woodchurch Estate access help and support which they otherwise would not have been able to get – simply by knocking on their door and talking to them.

The team have also recently evaluated the outcomes of the Magenta Living Your Wirral Fund, which saw 56 projects over the last 2 years by 43 organisations lead to hundreds of people directly benefitting from receiving new services, 13 local community buildings being improved alongside many local parks and open spaces.

Three community pilots are up and running as part of the 'Improving Life Chances' strategy. The pilots are in Seacombe, Birkenhead North End and Beechwood. Including projects to reduce anti-social behaviour, volunteering, clean up days and addressing 'grotspots' and flytipping and much more, the pilots should have a positive impact for residents in a range of areas. The partners have come together in each area and we are working well to achieve outputs for the Improving Life Chances strategy.

In order to help community clean-up efforts, Birkenhead Constituency Committee has provided and planned 77 skips for 2016/7 and given support at various Community Clear Ups and Action Days. While it is difficult to calculate exactly how much waste the constituency team has removed, a rough estimate based on information from the skip hire company and Biffa suggests at least 100 tonnes have been removed. The skip days bring local residents, Councillors, partner agencies like the police together. They improve the environment and provide a platform for closer working.

The Wallasey Constituency Committee allocated £20,000 of small grants to local groups to help the Committee tackle its priorities of improving personal, economic and neighbourhood wellbeing. A large supply of litter picking equipment including high visibility vests and compostable bin bags have been procured, funded by the Committee, to support groups who want to do more to help keep their local areas clean and tidy. This equipment is now available for free hire and means that groups do not have to seek funding for such kit.

The team also continues to support New Brighton Coastal Community Team, a partnership between local businesses, voluntary groups & organisations and Wirral Council. Further work has taken place on New Brighton's planned Mermaid Trail, a colourful tourist trail around the resort. Six identical statues are currently being sculpted by local artist Barry Canning-Eaton who will also decorate one of the statues. The results of a competition have very recently been announced which sees five local schools and groups selected to decorate the remaining Mermaids. These are:

- The Mosslands School, Wallasey
- Wirral Hospitals' School, Claughton
- St George's Primary School, Wallasey
- St Mary's Catholic College, Wallasey
- Ebb & Flow, a community interest company which works with communities, including New Brighton.

The winning designs are distinctive and will remain under wraps until the statues are revealed at the Trail's launch in May 2017.

CABINET PORTFOLIO SUMMARY REPORT

REPORT OF	Councillor Stuart Whittingham
CABINET PORTFOLIO FOR	Transport & Infrastructure
CO-ORDINATING CHIEF OFFICER	Mark Smith, Strategic Commissioner- Environment

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is an update from the Cabinet Portfolio Holder to Members of the Council on matters relevant to his portfolio.

1. TRANSPORT AND TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURE FIT FOR THE FUTURE

I am pleased to report we are working with Merseyside Police and the wider Merseyside Road Safety Partnership to undertake a review of the approach to road safety on our main roads to ensure that we reduce the number of people killed and seriously injured on our roads. The Partnership continues to prioritise our most vulnerable road users. The Partnership have worked with the Police to conduct additional enforcement over recent months linked to dangerous activities such as using mobile phones when driving and not wearing seatbelts. Support activities such as issuing lights to cyclists have also been undertaken.

We continue to work with businesses to encourage healthy active travel and support their employees to travel safely to work and numerous events have been held with local employers as well as targeted promotions for major road safety events such as Brake Road Safety Week.

The Travel Solutions project continues to support residents to access employment and training courses. The project supports Wirral residents to overcome transport barriers to accessing employment and I am pleased to report that over 75% of residents who have received support from the project are still in employment after 6 months.

Across the Liverpool City Region we are working to develop standards for the Key Route Network (KRN), which covers our major roads providing key links to employment and opportunities across the Borough. Consistent standards in terms of highway, maintenance and delivery will support the economic growth of Wirral and the wider City Region and ensure that we keep traffic moving safely and efficiently.

The delivery of the Docks Bridges scheme is on track for completion for January 2018 and advance works have commenced on site. Works on A and C bridges on Tower Road will mean that Tower Road is closed to allow works to commence, firstly on C bridge and the

followed by A bridge. Access will be maintained to the Stena terminal at all times and facilities provided for pedestrians and cyclists. The new bridges are designed to a modern standard and will need much less regular maintenance meaning fewer road closures and better traffic flow on this important link.

Phase 1 of the Street Lighting LED roll out has also been completed resulting in the reduction of maintenance costs and carbon tax costs. Further work is also being undertaken to determine the structural condition of Wirral's 28,000 street lighting columns to determine the potential for a second phase of the work.

Work is ongoing to ensure that transport effectively supports the regeneration and economic growth of the Borough. Transport is an enabler and we are working to identify the key infrastructure projects which will be required to support our growth aspirations and enabling the development of an Integrated Transport Infrastructure plan for the borough. Undertaking this work will ensure that we are well placed to access funding opportunities.

CABINET PORTFOLIO SUMMARY REPORT

REPORT OF	Councillor Tony Smith
CABINET PORTFOLIO FOR	Children and Families
CO-ORDINATING CHIEF OFFICER	Julia Hassall, Director for Children's Services

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is an update from the Cabinet Portfolio Holder to Members of the Council on matters relevant to his portfolio.

1. VULNERABLE CHILDREN REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL

Intensive work continues to improve services for vulnerable children in Wirral. The first recommendation made by Ofsted in their report was that a permanent Head of Children's Social Care should be recruited as soon as possible. Simone White, currently a Senior Ofsted Inspector, was appointed to the newly established post of Deputy Director on 18th January. Simone has a wealth of experience and is ideally suited to this position. I am confident she will support the rapid improvement of social work practice. Simone will start in Wirral on 1 May.

In late January our first two-day Ofsted Monitoring Visit took place. The focus for this visit was the front door into Children's Services. Two inspectors audited the cases of six children who had been referred since 1st December; they also spent time talking to social workers and reviewing their work, focusing in particular on whether they were making a difference, partner involvement and manager's decision making. Inspectors fed back to the Council that we are making progress in improving our services for children in some areas that were considered by inspectors, and that other areas require more work before services for children are good.

During January and February I was pleased to introduce three "Right Service, Right Time" Conferences with attendance of over 450 partners. Led by the Police, Schools, Health and the Council, the Conferences introduced information to support all agencies to make sure children's needs were responded to appropriately (using our thresholds document and tools to assist them) and if not how to escalate concerns. The feedback from the Conferences has been positive, and there is already some evidence of improvement in the quality of referrals being made.

I am constantly reminded of the complexity and volume of the work social workers are dealing with, and how important it is to reduce their caseloads further, which will be made possible through the additional investment from April 2017. There are currently significantly more children becoming looked after which is a trend we want to reduce. We are therefore focusing on how we can develop better services to support children at home in their

community, as well as enabling more children to leave care through returning home when this is safe, or achieving permanence by adoption or special guardianship arrangements.

2. CHILDREN ARE READY FOR SCHOOL

Last time I reported take up of the vulnerable 2 year old offer (for children to attend state funded nursery placements) had improved rapidly to **88.05%** of eligible children and that we needed to understand whether there were improvements in each constituency, and I am pleased to report:

- Birkenhead - increased from 67.15% to **84.76%** in the last term (an increase of 17.61%)
- Wallasey – increased from 77.96% to **89.27%** in the last term (an increase of 11.31%)
- South and West - increased from 72.38% to **90.90%** in the last term (an increase of 18.52%)

This improvement is good, and concerted effort by professionals working with families with vulnerable two year olds as part of the pledge group has contributed to this, however, we must work to ensure all eligible children take up the offer and we understand the circumstances of each vulnerable child who does not.

A new training programme called Cherish has started this month. This is for early years practitioners working with two and three year olds to train them to understand the importance of promoting and developing secure attachments between themselves and children in their setting. Also the sixth programme of the “You in Mind” programme has completed. This eight week group is offered for mothers and babies during their first year where there has been some form of emotional difficulty.

3. YOUNG PEOPLE ARE READY FOR WORK AND ADULTHOOD

I am delighted to report the latest Ofsted published figures confirm 91% of Wirral schools are rated as good or outstanding: a significant improvement of 7% from the previous academic year.

Performance figures for the rate of progress made by students from the end of primary school to the end of secondary schools (Progress 8 score) have also been made available by the DfE. This is a new measure. For the 2015-16 academic year Wirral is ranked slightly below the national average, but compares favourably to North West neighbours, being ranked sixth out of twenty three authorities. Extensive work is underway by the School Improvement Locality Boards to ensure all pupils are able to access the revised curriculum specifications with a view to improve the attainment gap between pupils in receipt of free school meals and their peers.

We are focusing on closer monitoring and reviewing the impact of interventions with our children looked after, through delivering training to designated teachers on the new Electronic Personal Education Plan; and I am pleased to update that of the twelve care

leavers who enrolled on the Employability Skills programme in September, eight have now completed the outward bound residential element with internship employer placements starting in January.

Work to support children with emotional and mental health problems in our schools is progressing well, with the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) workers having now visited most mainstream schools; there is a telephone consultation line available to all schools which has been very positively received and helpful training is being delivered, with more being arranged.

As part of developing the Schools Strategy, a survey was sent to all schools in January 2017 asking schools about the priorities for their children. The major priorities were for children to achieve well and improve outcomes, and the main barriers were identified as issues in the home (56.3%); low expectations from family (47.9%) and mental health issues of parents (39.6%). These findings will inform the delivery of the strategy and wider work to improve outcomes for children

3. REDUCE CHILD AND FAMILY POVERTY

During the Christmas period various seasonal activities, such as a grotto and Christmas table decoration sessions were held. Over 2,500 Christmas hampers were distributed by volunteers, local groups and various agencies. The hampers provided an excellent means to engage families within the community pilot areas and a booklet of locally available services was included in the hampers to signpost families to available services. The range of partners and activities has continued to expand within the pilot areas, including partnering with the Sports Development Team to provide diversionary activities; 'fit and fed' is aimed at young people who are at risk of anti- social behaviour. Each of the pilot areas has a working group to deliver locally agreed action plans.

The Early Childhood Service partnership framework with DWP is working well. A session was held at the early years centre at Brassey Gardens and 100% of parents that attended engaged with Gingerbread and have accessed their services since the event. The child poverty awareness e-learning is now up and running and being promoted with local organisations to enable more people to signpost families to appropriate services.

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REPORT TITLE	OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE CHAIRS' REPORTS
REPORT OF	THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE CHAIRS

REPORT SUMMARY

This report provides Members of the Council with an update on the work carried out by each of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committees. The report includes contributions from each of the Committee Chairs. Members of Council are requested to note the contents of the report set out in section 3 below.

RECOMMENDATION/S

Members are requested to consider the contents of the report and whether they have any questions for the Chairs of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 To update Council Members on the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees and provide an opportunity to ask questions.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 N/A

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY CHAIR'S REPORT

- 3.1 During the time since last Full Council the People Overview and Scrutiny Committee has continued to progress through its work programme. The full committee has received reports on the draft Alcohol and Smoking strategies, and a progress update on the implementation of the Ageing Well strategy.
- 3.2 In order to improve Member involvement in the quality assurance of care home provision in the borough, training of Councillor volunteers has started with 2 groups so far having 3 hour sessions delivered by HealthWatch Wirral. The training was very helpful and informative and I have been very pleased that around 25 councillors have volunteered. All will now have DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) checks carried out before visits to care homes commence.
- 3.3 A review of the impact of changes to funding and contractual arrangements for community pharmacies has been completed, which followed a Notice of Motion to Council by Cllr Gilchrist. The report and recommendations have been submitted to both the Cabinet and the Health and Wellbeing Board. The Panel members have concluded that the most appropriate action is to request Wirral's Health & Wellbeing Board to keep an on-going watching brief over future developments in the local pharmacy market as the long-term effects of the changes to funding and contractual arrangements transpire.
- 3.4 Scoping of the task and finish review of user / carer experience during the re-provision of respite services has also been carried out and arrangements are now under way to gather evidence. We also held a workshop in January to look at the 2017/18 budget proposals and that was well attended.
- 3.5 We continue to monitor the performance of our health partners and care providers through the Health and Care panel and will commence a task and finish review looking at how Continuing Health Care funding is being applied on Wirral.

- 3.6 We have 2 groups of the Children's Sub Committee running alongside each other currently. The focus of one is specifically to scrutinise progress on the Improvement Plan and is chaired by Cllr Angie Davies and the other is to scrutinise other aspects of children's services and is chaired by myself.

Councillor Moira McLaughlin

BUSINESS OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY CHAIR'S REPORT

- 3.7 As part of the 2017/18 budget process, the Committee held a workshop to explore those that fell within the remit of the Committee in more detail, including car parking and business rates. The workshop was valued by Members in attendance and all comments were referred to Cabinet for consideration as part of developing the budget recommendation to Council.
- 3.8 A workshop was also convened to scrutinise the Access Wirral Service Development Proposals before a decision was taken by Cabinet on which approach to adopt. Members appreciated the engagement of the Cabinet Member in the session, including the delivery of a presentation outlining the approach to the Access Wirral project.
- 3.9 At the January committee meeting, the Leader presented a Notice of Motion in relation to the work being undertaken to increase inward Investment to Wirral. This included updating Members on the recent Liverpool City Region delegation visit to China with other Leaders and a number of local businesses. The Notice of Motion was welcomed and supported by all Members. A report on the role of Councillors in relation to Wirral's Asset Strategy was also presented to Committee.
- 3.10 The Committee continues to receive updates on both the work of the LCR Combined Authority and the LCR Combined Authority Scrutiny Panel. A scrutiny review on apprenticeships across the City Region has now been completed and reported to the LCRCA Scrutiny Panel for consideration of the findings and recommendations made. The final report will be included as part of the LCRCA Scrutiny Panel update at the next Committee meeting on 29th March.
- 3.11 A presentation by Peel Holdings on the latest developments with Wirral Waters was delivered on 18th October and was well attended by Members and considered very informative. A further update is being arranged for April, which again will be open to all Members of the Council.
- 3.12 Task & Finish work is progressing in relation to a number of scrutiny reviews. The final report from the Tourism Scrutiny Review was presented to Committee in January and has now been referred to Cabinet. A scrutiny review on the Council's Resident Parking Policy has also been completed and a final report is being drafted. A review on Supporting the Creative Sector in Wirral has commenced and a scoping meeting has now been convened. The objectives of the review are to understand

what makes creative industries flourish and to identify what steps the council can take to support the creative sector moving forward. A visit to Bristol was proposed by the Review Panel to speak to key people who helped the city become one of the leaders in the sector.

Councillor Mike Sullivan

ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY CHAIR'S REPORT

- 3.13 The Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee has met once since the last report to Council. In addition to this, Committee convened a workshop to consider the 2017/18 budget proposals that fell within the Environment remit. The workshop was well attended and Members' comments were reported back to Cabinet for consideration prior to making its final budget recommendations to Council.
- 3.14 A themed approach to meetings is being piloted by the Committee. It is hoped this will enable Members to comprehensively scrutinise a particular Pledge in detail at each meeting by considering reports and presentations around that subject. The themed approach should ensure the systematic scrutiny of all areas within the Environment remit over the course of a municipal year, whilst allowing flexibility for urgent or follow-up items to be taken to committee as required.
- 3.15 The January Committee was based on a Housing Theme. The Committee received a presentation from the Assistant Director for Environment on the Housing Strategy and an update report on Homelessness and the Impact of the Homelessness Reduction Bill. Members look forward to the opportunity to further scrutinise aspects of the housing strategy and associated policies in more detail via a dedicated session in the future. Members particularly welcomed a presentation from Magenta Living on the impact of welfare reforms on residents and Magenta's work to support the Wirral Plan.
- 3.16 The March meeting will have a Community Safety theme, encompassing a review of the Ensuring Wirral's Neighbourhoods are Safe Strategy. Presentations will be provided on the development of the Safer Wirral Unit and an update from Merseyside Police.
- 3.17 Following its endorsement by Committee in November, the report of the Scrutiny Review of the Number of Councillors in Wirral was presented to Cabinet in January. The report findings and recommendations were approved by Cabinet.
- 3.18 A scrutiny review of the implications of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 will get underway this month and a scoping meeting has been scheduled. The Panel will explore the responsibilities of Wirral and its partners regarding identification and prevention of modern slavery in addition to its role in prosecuting perpetrators and supporting victims. A number of contacts have been made with leading regional organisations in this field and evidence sessions will take place in April and May. The

Panel will report findings back to the first Committee in the new municipal year shortly after the review concludes.

3.19 It is the intention of the Committee to commission another task and finish review before the end of the municipal year.

Councillor Phillip Brightmore

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are none arising from this report.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are none arising from this report.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

6.1 There are none arising from this report.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

7.1 There are none arising from this report.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

8.1 N/A

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 None - the report is for information only.

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APPENDICES – N/A

REFERENCE MATERIAL – N/A

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chair's Report to Council	19 December 2016
Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chair's Report to Council	17 October 2016
Scrutiny Annual Report to Council	11 July 2016

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MINUTE EXTRACT

ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

30 NOVEMBER 2016

32 NUMBER OF COUNCILLORS - REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY REVIEW PANEL

The Chair introduced the report of the Scrutiny Review Panel that set out the findings and recommendations arising from a Scrutiny Review – ‘Number of Councillors’ completed in November 2016. The Review initially arose from a Notice of Motion to Council on 20 October 2014 (minute no 57 refers) and was subsequently commissioned by the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee as part of its work programme.

The aim of the review was for Members to gain a better understanding of the issues surrounding this subject that included the role of the local councillor in Wirral, the role of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, and a review of data comparing Wirral with other local authorities in England.

The Chair informed that it had been Panel Members aim to reach an informed view on whether the Council should actively progress a referral to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England to conduct an Electoral Review that would as part of such a review consider amongst other things, the number of Councillors.

The Chair further informed the Environment Overview and Scrutiny that the findings of the investigation were self-evident. He stated that the Panel had been careful to maintain an analytical, data-led approach to the review.

Members noted the content of the report that summarised that the electoral arrangements employed by Wirral Borough Council compared favourably to its statistical neighbours; that those arrangements did not fall foul of any indicators prescribed by Local Government Boundary Commission for England (the Commission), and therefore did not trigger a Further Electoral Review; and that only the Commission may direct Local Authorities to alter those arrangements. (Local Authorities may not alter electoral arrangements themselves).

The Chair informed that the Panel had developed the following recommendation as detailed in the report at Section 3.0 (Executive Summary & Recommendations) as follows, that:

“Having regard to the evidence presented, the Panel notes that the number of Councillors in Wirral is consistent with comparable local authorities. Consequently the Panel recommends that the Council does not request the Local Government Boundary Commission for England conduct a review of its electoral arrangements at this time.”

The Chair thanked Patrick Torpey, Scrutiny Officer for his support during the review, and his excellent work in the preparation of the report.

Resolved - That

- (1) the Number of Councillors – Report of the Scrutiny Review Panel be noted, and that the findings and recommendations of the review be endorsed; and**
- (2) the Review Panel report and recommendations be REFERRED TO CABINET for its endorsement.**

MINUTE EXTRACT

CABINET

16 JANUARY 2017

83

NUMBER OF COUNCILLORS SCRUTINY REVIEW



Councillor Phil Davies, Leader of the Council – Strategic Economic Development, Finance and Devolution, said:

“This type of in-depth ‘task and finish’ review is an example of the Council’s approach to overview and scrutiny having a real impact on policy development and important decisions. This particular report is extremely helpful, with Members of all three main political parties in Wirral providing a detailed review and analysis of the subject.”

At its meeting on 30 November 2016 the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee had referred the Scrutiny Review, ‘Number of Councillors’ to the Cabinet. The review had been undertaken in response to a Notice of Motion presented to the Council in October 2014.

Councillor Steve Foulkes, a Member of the Scrutiny Panel who had carried out the review attended the Cabinet meeting and introduced the report, completed in November 2016 which set out the Panel’s findings. He informed that the Chair of the Panel, Councillor Phil Brightmore had been unable to attend the Cabinet meeting because of his work commitments.

Councillor Foulkes informed that the Panel had considered the role of the local councillor in Wirral, the role of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England and the available data comparing the number of Councillors in Wirral with other local authorities in England. Panel Members had wanted to reach an informed view on whether or not the Council should actively progress a referral to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England to conduct an Electoral Review. The Cabinet was noted that the work carried out was aligned with the Wirral Plan Pledge – Community Services are Joined up and Accessible.

Councillor Foulkes reported that the Panel, having reviewed the Commission’s remit, processes and timescales for Further Electoral Review, had accepted that the only mechanism to change the number of councillors in Wirral would be via such a review. The Panel had concluded that it would take a significant amount of resources to prepare for and undergo a review and the Commission timescales demonstrated

that this would be a lengthy process, with a less than certain outcome. Any potential savings were unlikely be realised for up to two years.

Councillor Foulkes informed that the Panel had been encouraged by evidence which demonstrated that the Council compared favourably against other councils in respect of electoral equality, as a recognised measure of council size. Of particular note was the ward level data on electoral variation which showed that Wirral was within the Commission's parameters on electoral equality across its wards and, therefore, would not trigger the threshold for a Further Electoral Review.

The Panel had been further reassured that the cost of councillors in Wirral was lower than many of its neighbouring and similar sized national authorities, as evidenced by comparisons of Members' Allowance Schemes and acknowledged by the recent meeting of the Independent Panel on Members' Allowances. The Panel had noted the potential annual saving which a reduction in councillors could deliver, although the Panel believed that any cost saving identified would need to take into account increased costs associated with a likely rise in demand on officer workloads.

The Panel was conscious that statistical comparisons with other authorities should not be used alone to determine the number of councillors and the Panel recognised the uniqueness of each area and the need for each council to tailor its services to the needs of each community. An understanding of the varied role of the local ward councillors in Wirral had been considered by the Panel to be equally important when forming its conclusions. The evidence from the comparisons made was that the Council was providing reasonable value for money and Members had not had an increase in their allowances for a number of years.

Councillor Foulkes reported that having reviewed both general and Wirral specific definitions of the role of councillors, considered average hours per week spent on council business, and the variety of factors which affected the ward councillors' workload, the Panel had concluded that the role of the councillor in Wirral was wide-ranging and varied and placed a significant demand on councillors' time. The Panel had been concerned about the impact a reduction of councillors may have on councillors' ability to fulfil their roles effectively. Currently, the community was well represented although the Council was under represented by woman, ethnic minorities and the disabled.

Councillor Foulkes also informed that the Panel was aware of the significant changes facing councils in the future and the uncertainty around councillors' roles as these were adapted to meet new challenges. In this context, the Panel had concluded that any review of the number of councillors in Wirral should not take place until the extent of these changes and their impact on roles was better understood. This had been the unanimous view of the Review Panel.

Councillor Janette Williamson noted that there was cross party acknowledgement that the Council provided good value. This was based on factual evidence and she hoped that more people could be encouraged to stand for election onto the Council.

Councillor Bernie Moody informed that the public did not understand what Councillors did. The Panel's report had been in depth. Therefore, she hoped that

the Council could move forward with people now having a better understanding of the roles of Councillors. She welcomed the report and thanked everyone who had been involved in its preparation.

Councillor George Davies informed that he considered that the Review Panel had completed a good piece of work and it was now on record that good work could be carried out when the political groups worked together.

Councillor Phil Davies also thanked the Review Panel for the good work it had completed including the evidence based analysis of the facts. He informed that as Councillors, they were well placed in the lower quartile regarding funding and ratio of councillors. Compared to neighbouring councils and its comparator authorities, Wirral Councillors represented good value for money. The Review Panel had undertaken some important work which had concluded that reducing 66 Councillors down to 44 was not a particularly smart way forward. The role of the Council was changing massively and would continue to do so. Councillors would have even more important roles to play as government funding continued to reduce, by working in partnership with other agencies and outside bodies.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the findings of the report be endorsed and the recommendation arising from this review be approved; and**
- (2) the Review Panel's report be referred to the Council for its endorsement of its findings.**

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**Number of Councillors
Scrutiny Review**

**A report produced by a Scrutiny Panel of
The Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

November 2016

WIRRAL BOROUGH COUNCIL
NUMBER OF COUNCILLORS SCRUTINY REVIEW
FINAL REPORT

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

In light of the current economic climate and changes to council services, the size of Wirral Council (Number of Councillors), was questioned via a Notice of Motion to Council in October 2014, proposing that Wirral reduced its number of councillors from 66 to 44.

This included a request to invite the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (the Commission) to conduct an electoral review in Wirral. An electoral review would consider, amongst other things, the number of councillors.

The Notice of Motion was referred to Coordinating Committee and was considered by committee in September 2015. The following resolution was made by Coordinating Committee:

The Committee considers that factors to be considered when determining what constitutes proper, fair representation of Wirral's population go beyond simply numbers and so proposes that it establishes a Task and Finish Panel to undertake a more in depth examination of the issues and that this be added to the Committee's Work Programme.

Following changes to scrutiny arrangements in 2016, this work programme item was referred to the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee. In September 2016 the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee approved the Committee's Annual Work Programme, which included a Task and Finish review of the Number of Councillors at Wirral Council. A review panel was subsequently convened to explore this issue further.

A cross-party Panel of five Members was established and the review commenced in October 2016. The following objective was agreed by the Panel:

To determine if the number of councillors and councillors per ward in Wirral is appropriate with regard to the Council's stated priorities and key challenges, and if the number of councillors in Wirral is consistent with comparable local and national authorities.

Over a number of weeks a series of sessions were convened to consider the issues surrounding this subject, including the role of the local councillor in Wirral, the role of the Commission and a review of data around the number of councillors in Wirral and other local authorities in England. Panel Members aimed to reach an informed view on whether the Council should actively progress a referral to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England to conduct an Electoral Review. This report sets out the findings of the review and the recommendations arising.

2.0 CHAIR'S STATEMENT & REVIEW PANEL

Councillor Phillip Brightmore (Chair)



I believe the findings of this investigation speak broadly for themselves. To speculate further upon those findings here risks undermining the analytical, data-led approach I and others have been careful to maintain.

I note only that the electoral arrangements employed by Wirral Borough Council compare favourably to its statistical neighbours; that those arrangements do not fall foul of any indicators prescribed by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (the Commission), and therefore do not trigger a Further Electoral Review; and that only the Commission may direct Local Authorities to alter those arrangements. Local Authorities may not alter electoral arrangements themselves.

I invite careful consideration of this report, and thank those Councillors and Officers who contributed to its creation

Councillor Moira McLaughlin



Councillor Chris Carubia



Councillor Steve Foulkes



Councillor Adam Sykes



3.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY & RECOMMENDATIONS

Having reviewed the role of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England and its processes and timescales for Further Electoral Review, the Panel found that preparing for and undergoing a review would be a lengthy and resource-intensive process, with a less than certain outcome.

The Panel were reassured by the benchmarking data reviewed, which suggested that the current number of councillors in Wirral represents a good degree of electoral equality. Ward level data showed that Wirral is within the Commission's criteria for electoral equality across wards and would not trigger their threshold for a Further Electoral Review. The Panel was satisfied that the cost of councillors to Wirral, in comparison with other local and national councils, was among the lowest viewed. This position was shared by the Independent Panel on Members Allowances in its June 2016 Report.

The role of councillors was explored as part of the Review. Whilst the role of councillor was hard to quantify, the Panel was satisfied that the evidence demonstrates a role which is wide ranging and as diverse as the communities which councillors in Wirral represent. Being a councillor also places a considerable time demand on those who undertake the role and it was the Panel's opinion that a reduction in councillors would increase this time demand. A significant reduction in the number of councillors may also affect the ability of the Council to carry out its functions effectively. In the current political and economic climate councils are undergoing significant change and the councillor role is evolving and adapting to meet new challenges presented. In Wirral, perhaps the extent of this is not yet fully understood and this may not be right time to consider a review of the number of councillors.

Based on the findings set out in section 5 of this report, the Panel has developed the following recommendation:

Recommendation: Having regard to the evidence presented, the Panel notes that the number of councillors in Wirral is consistent with comparable local authorities. Consequently, the Panel recommends that the Council does not request the Local Government Boundary Commission for England conduct a review of its electoral arrangements at this time.

4.0 METHODOLOGY

Written Evidence

The Review was informed by written evidence including reports from other local authorities and documents from the Local Government Boundary Commission for England and the Local Government Association. To support the evidence gathering sessions officers prepared a number of briefing papers and presentations.

Evidence Gathering Sessions

In order to further understand the issues, the panel used dedicated sessions to examine a number of documents and data comparing Wirral with other local authorities in England. The timetable of sessions is set out below:

Evidence Gathering Session 1

The Role of Councillors and the Role of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, Wednesday 9th November 2016

Evidence Gathering Session 2

The Number of Councillors – Data Analysis, Wednesday 16th November 2016

5.0 FINDINGS

5.1 Local Government Boundary Commission for England (the Commission)

In order to assist the Panel in considering if a referral to the Commission should be pursued, the Panel was keen to fully understand the role of the Commission and to establish their statutory obligations, remit, and to identify the circumstances under which a review of councillors would take place.

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (the Commission) was established by Parliament under the provisions of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009. Independent of central and local government, and political parties, it is directly accountable to Parliament through a committee of MPs chaired by the Speaker of the House of Commons. The Commission's objectives are:

1. To provide electoral arrangements for English principal local authorities that are fair and delivers electoral equality for voters.
2. To keep the map of English local government in good repair and work with principal local authorities to help them deliver effective and convenient local government to citizens.

The Commission is responsible for conducting three main types of review of local government: Electoral Reviews, Principal Area Boundary Reviews and Structural Reviews. For the purposes of this scrutiny review, the Electoral Review is most relevant.

Electoral Reviews

The Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 requires the Commission to conduct Periodic Electoral Reviews (PERs) of every principal local authority in England. Electoral Reviews are reviews of the electoral arrangements of local authorities: the number of councillors, the names, number and boundaries of wards and electoral divisions and the number of councillors to be elected to each. Electoral reviews are initiated primarily to improve electoral equality. This means ensuring, so far as is reasonable, that each councillor elected to a local authority represents the same number of electors. However, electoral reviews can also be carried out at a local authority's request, for example to look at council size (the total number of councillors) or provide for single-member wards or divisions. This is called a Further Electoral Review (FER). The Commission is responsible for putting any changes to electoral arrangements into effect and does this by making a Statutory Instrument or order. The local authority then conducts local elections on the basis of the new arrangements set out in the order. Under current legislation, this is the only mechanism for a council to make changes to its number of councillors.

Wirral Council's electoral arrangements were last reviewed by the Commission in 2003 as part of a programme of PERs of all 386 principal local authority areas in England. The final report and recommendations from this review is available on the Commission website <https://www.lgbce.org.uk/current-reviews/north-west/merseyside/wirral>.

The recommendations are summarised below:

- Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council should have 66 councillors, as at present;
- There should be 22 wards, as at present;
- The boundaries of all of the existing wards should be modified.

The purpose of these proposals is to ensure that, in future, each borough councillor represents approximately the same number of electors, bearing in mind local circumstances.

- In 20 of the proposed 22 wards the number of electors per councillor would vary by no more than 10% from the borough average.
- This improved level of electoral equality is expected to improve further, with the number of electors per councillor in all wards expected to vary by no more than 10% from the average for the borough in 2006.

(LGBCE Final recommendations on the future electoral arrangements for Wirral, Report to The Electoral Commission, March 2003)

The recommendations from the last review of Wirral's electoral arrangements refer to the number of electors per councillor in each ward. This is considered by the Commission as a measure of electoral equality and the Commission's technical guidance states that Council's electors per councillor ratios in each ward should not vary significantly from the council average. A FER will be triggered if this variance exceeds a stated threshold:

When the electoral variances in representation across a local authority become notable, a further electoral review (FER) is required. Our criteria for initiating a FER in those circumstances is as follows:

- More than 30% of a council's wards/divisions having an electoral imbalance of more than 10% from the average ratio for that authority; and/or
- One or more wards/divisions with an electoral imbalance of more than 30%;
- And the imbalance is unlikely to be corrected by foreseeable changes to the electorate within a reasonable period.

We monitor the levels of electoral imbalance across all local authorities in England annually, and those that meet the above-mentioned criteria will, at some point, be included in our review programme.

(LGBCE Electoral Reviews Technical Guidance, April 2014)

As part of this review, the Panel investigated the electoral variance in Wirral currently and this is described in section 5.3.

Although timescales for completion of a Further Electoral Review will vary, the technical guidance provided by the Commission outlines an indicative timescale, which estimates that it would take between 18 to 24 months from the preliminary discussion stage to a Statutory Instrument Order to being made to Parliament.

Councils deciding to commission a Further Electoral Review must make a formal request to the Commission and submit their own evidence based proposals for council size. The Commission will consider these proposals during the preliminary investigation stage. Technical Guidance has been published by the Commission to assist councils with developing their proposal, or 'submissions'. Submissions must include information and evidence to support proposals on how the number of councillors affects three areas: Governance and Decision Making, Scrutiny Functions and the Representational Role of Councillors. The Commission also expects councils to consider and anticipate future changes which may affect the council's structure or services when making proposals on council size.

A FER must take into account the likely changes to electorate over a five year period from the date of the Commission recommendations. To assist with this, the Commission requires all councils undergoing review to prepare and submit electorate forecasts for review alongside their submission documents.

Recent Electoral Reviews

The Notice of Motion which led to this review referred to Knowsley Borough Council's recent FER and the resulting reduction of councillors from 63 to 45. The review of Knowsley Council was conducted in July 2014 following a request by the Council in order to consider council size. Knowsley had high levels of electoral inequality with 29% of wards having a variance of more than 10% from the average for the borough and one ward, Longview, had a variance of 23%. The Commission's final recommendations proposed that Knowsley should reduce its number of councillors from 63 to 45, representing 15 three-member wards. A number of ward boundaries were changed and as a result of these changes, parish council electoral arrangements were also revised.

Further discussion at Coordinating Committee highlighted another local authority, Warrington Borough Council, who's FER in 2015, resulted in an increase in councillors from 57 to 58. This review was triggered by high levels of electoral inequality in Warrington which exceeded the Commission threshold, with 41% of wards having a variance of more than 10% from the average for the borough. The Commission's final recommendations proposed that Warrington Council should comprise 58 councillors (an increase of 1), serving 8 two member wards and 14 three-member wards. Some ward boundaries were changed and as a result of these changes, parish council electoral arrangements were also revised. It should be noted that both of the above

councils have smaller electorates (Knowsley 113,590, Warrington 163,078) than Wirral. Both councils also differ from Wirral in that both have parish and town councils.

A study of these and the most recent reviews published on the Commission website shows that of 19 recent reviews, 10 had resulted in a reduction of councillors, 3 in an increase, and 6 in no change to the number of councillors. Whilst this shows a trend towards a small reduction in Members (average reduction among the ten councils which reduced their number of councillors was 4.2 Members), the Commission does not seek to reduce numbers as one of its aims. It should be noted that in the large majority of these cases the Commission's recommendations matched the councils own proposals. The Panel observed that there is no certainty of outcome with a FER.

Having reviewed the role of the Commission and the procedures and timescale for a Further Electoral Review, the Panel found that the process of preparing for and undertaking a review would require significant resources in terms of officer and councillor time. The Panel also acknowledged that this would not be a quick process, with reviews taking up to two years to complete.

The Panel believe that it would be beyond the scope of this review to attempt to replicate a council submission and formulate proposals regarding council size. The Panel accept that this would take a significant amount of time and resources. Rather, the Panel's scope and focus remained on establishing if there is a case for Wirral to request a FER, using evidence such as Wirral Council electorate data and financial information, benchmarking against other councils, and an exploration of the role and caseload of councillors.

5.2 Data Analysis and Benchmarking

The Panel sought to understand the position of Wirral Council against its neighbours and other similar local authorities in England to help develop an opinion on whether Wirral's number of councillors, levels of electoral equality and costs of councillors were consistent with those of other local authorities. The Panel reviewed a number of pieces of benchmarking data to inform this opinion.

In 2015 the Office for National Statistics estimated Wirral's resident population at approximately 320,300. In December 2014 Wirral's electorate was 235,181. On electorate size, Wirral is the 49th largest of 351 councils in England.

Wirral currently has a council size of 66 councillors across 22 wards with a councillor to elector ratio of **1:3,563**. The average ratio for all English councils is 1 councillor per 2828 electors. Wirral Council ranks as 47th highest number of electors per councillor of 351 English councils. (Source Local Government Boundary Commission for England data set December 2014).

As a recognised indicator of electoral equality used by the Commission, the Panel wanted to compare Wirral with a number of local and statistical neighbours to determine if Wirral had better or worse electoral equality than other comparable local authorities.

The data in Chart 1 below demonstrates that Wirral councillors on average represent more electors than all of its geographical neighbours. The average ratio for the group of councils is 1:2,976.

Chart 1. Data Source: LGBCE Dec 2014

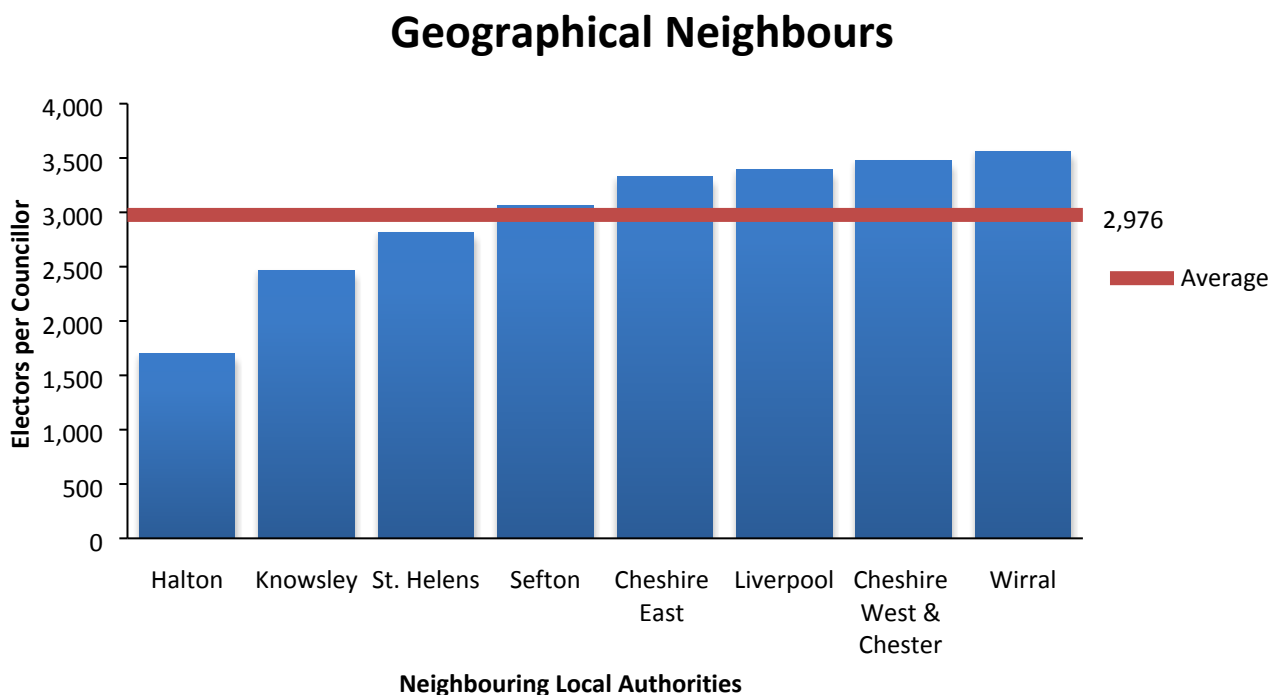
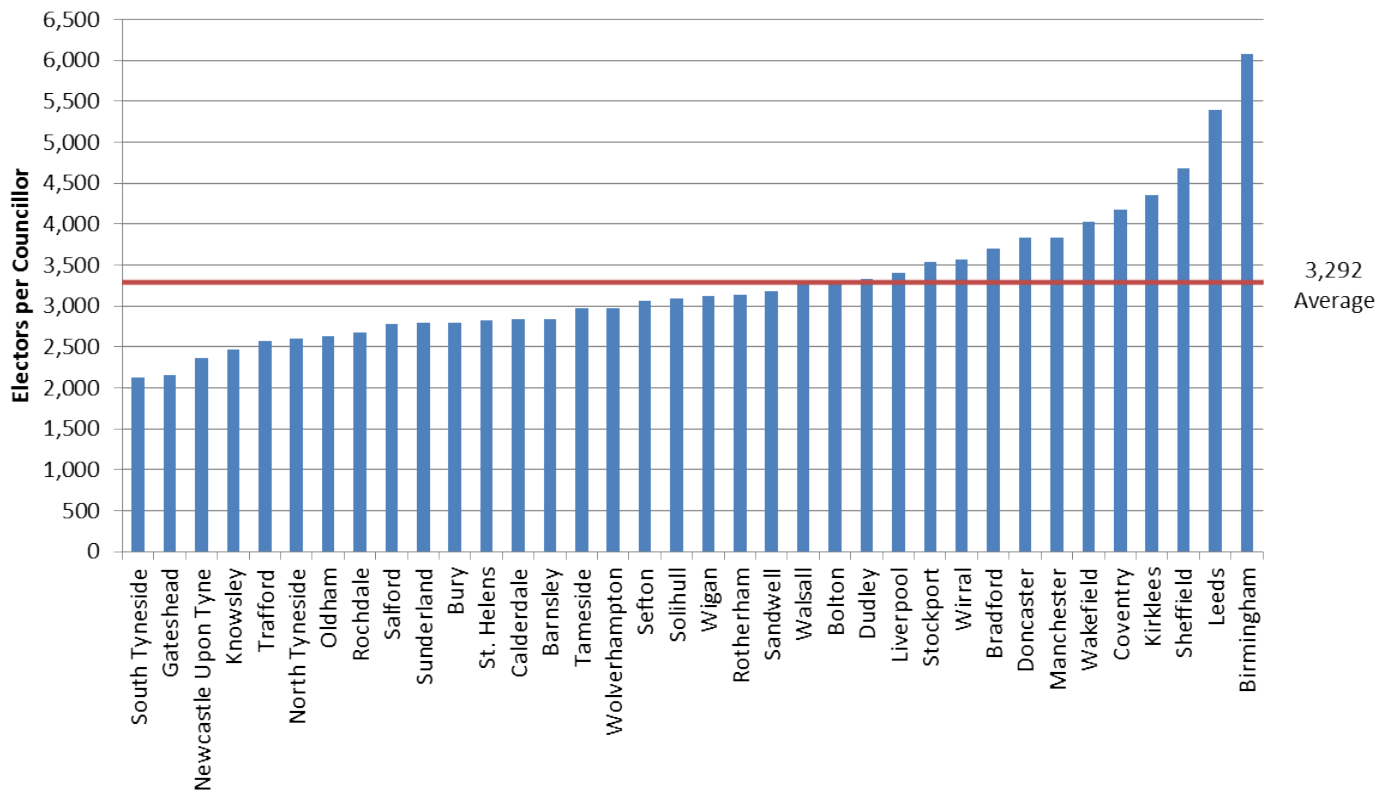


Chart 2 below compares Wirral with other metropolitan district authorities in England. The average councillor to elector ratio for this group of councils is 1:3,292, shown by the red line. Wirral Council is above average in this group, with a ratio of 1:3,563. Wirral ranks as 10th out of this group of 36 councils in terms of the most electors represented by each councillor.

Chart 2. Data Source: LGBCE Dec 2014

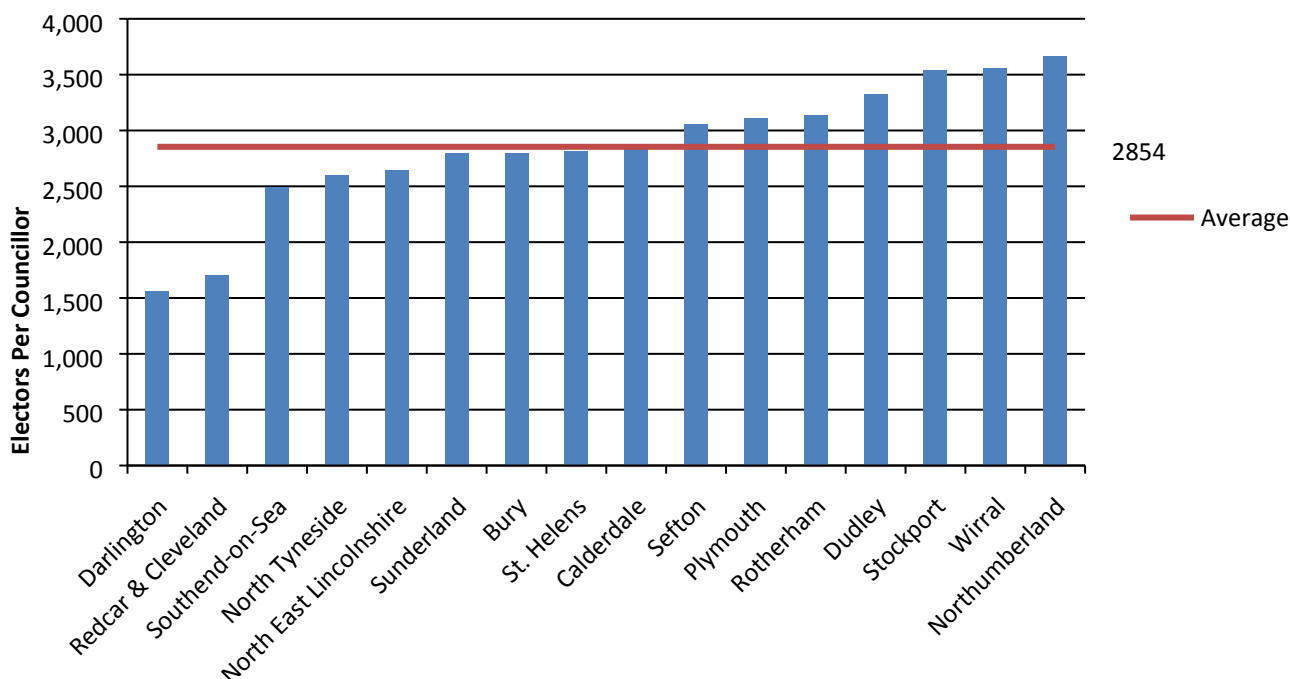
Metropolitan District Authorities



The Panel wished to compare Wirral against authorities with similar socio-economic profiles across the country. In order to select a comparison group of councils, the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Nearest Neighbour Model was used. This model groups councils using a number of socio-economic indicators. Chart 3 below compares Wirral with a group of statistical neighbours. The average councillor to elector ratio for this group is 1:2,854. Wirral Council is above average in this group, with a ratio of 1:3,563 and ranks 2nd out of 16 councils in terms of the most electors represented by each councillor.

Chart 3. Data Source: LGBCE Dec 2014

Statistical Neighbours



In reviewing this data, the Panel observed that councillors represent the entire population in their wards and not simply those on the electoral register. In focussing on electorate figures only, the Panel was concerned that this ignored the work that councillors do to represent children and families.

By way of acknowledging the Panel’s concerns over the use of electorate figures and not population figures when reviewing council size, the Commission says:

“A local authority provides services to those people who are not registered to vote and a Councillor may represent them, but it is through our consideration of community identities and the convenience and effectiveness of local government that those people come into our reckoning. When we talk about the equality of representation, or electoral equality in a review of a local authority’s electoral arrangements, we are therefore referring to those people who are on the electoral register and entitled to vote in local government elections.”

(LGBCE Electorate Forecasts– A Guide for Practitioners Guidance, October 2011)

Ward Level Data

Recognising that one of the Commission’s triggers for conducting an electoral review is the variation of electoral representation between wards, i.e. the extent to which the numbers of electors represented by councillors in a council differs across its wards, the Panel was keen to explore this further and determine the level of variation across Wirral’s 22 wards currently. The

table below shows the total electorate and the electors per councillor figures for each ward in Wirral. The table also shows the percentage variation in each ward from the Wirral average.

Accepting the Commission advice that perfect electoral equality is unlikely to be achieved across any local authority, the Panel was reassured that there is a high level of electoral equality across the borough, with 20 of the 22 wards having a variation of less than 10% from the average and the highest percentage variation being Upton at 12% above the average.

Further analysis of this data shows that the electoral variance between wards in Wirral does not exceed the Commission threshold for undertaking a Further Electoral Review. The Commission criteria for initiating a FER requires that more than 30% of a council's wards have an electoral imbalance of more than 10% from the average ratio for that authority and/or one or more wards has an electoral imbalance of more than 30%.

There are 2 Wards (9% of Wards) in Wirral with an electoral imbalance of more than 10% from the average ratio for the authority. There are no wards in Wirral with an electoral imbalance of more than 30%. Based on this data the Panel was satisfied that the Commission would not initiate a review of Wirral Council on the grounds of electoral inequality.

Table 1. Data Source: Wirral Council Electoral Services September 2016

Ward	Total Electorate	Number of Councillors	Electors per Councillor	% Variance from Average
Bebington	12,181	3	4060	+9
Bidston & St James	10,368	3	3456	-7
Birkenhead & Tranmere	10,085	3	3362	-9
Bromborough	11,728	3	3909	+5
Clatterbridge	11,703	3	3901	+5
Clughton	11,504	3	3835	+3
Eastham	11,296	3	3765	+1
Greasby, Frankby & Irby	11,613	3	3871	+4
Heswall	11,032	3	3677	-1
Hoylake & Meols	10,702	3	3567	-4
Leasowe & Moreton East	10,984	3	3661	-1
Liscard	11,348	3	3783	+2
Moreton West & Saughall Massie	10,921	3	3640	-2
New Brighton	11,355	3	3785	+2
Oxton	11,292	3	3764	+1
Pensby & Thingwall	10,583	3	3528	-5
Prenton	10,985	3	3662	-1
Rock Ferry	9,991	3	3330	-10
Seacombe	10,482	3	3494	-6
Upton	12,467	3	4156	+12
Wallasey	11,994	3	3998	+8
West Kirby & Thurstaston	10,488	3	3496	-6

Total Electorate	245,102			
Average Electors Per Councillor			3714	

Note on data: The ward level data above was collected in September 2016 and therefore shows different total electorate and average number of electors per councillor figures for Wirral Council than data presented in the earlier benchmarking charts. Whilst the ward data is more current, the figures presented earlier were based on LGBCE data sets from Dec 2014. As this data was used to benchmark Wirral against others at a point in time, Wirral's position at that point was used, to allow fair and accurate comparisons.

Cost of Councillors

The Panel recognised that the original Notice of Motion which led to this review included references to reducing the number of councillors as a means of saving money in the current climate. The Panel sought to ascertain the cost of councillors to Wirral, and requested figures on annual Members allowances and other associated costs in order to establish, via benchmarking, if Wirral's councillors provided good value for money and what level of saving could be achieved in the event of a reduction.

Information showing the annual cost of Members to the Council for 2015/16 was presented to the Panel. These figures included Members allowances and other costs and overheads such as admin, buildings, stationery, telephone bills etc. The table is attached as Appendix B. The total figure for 2015/16 is £964,106 and the average cost per councillor is £14,608.

This information included a calculation of the proposed saving which could be achieved if the number of councillors was reduced from 66 to 44. The estimated saving from a reduction in councillors to 44 was £321,369. The Panel acknowledged this annual saving, although it noted that this figure of 44 councillors was arrived at arbitrarily and Wirral would need to determine its own proposals on council size and this along with any Commission review would determine any change in number, and therefore any actual saving. Furthermore, any savings calculation would need to take into account a likely rise in officer costs associated with increased demand on resources as a result of a reduction in councillor numbers. Nonetheless, as an illustrative figure, the Panel acknowledged that this would represent a considerable saving.

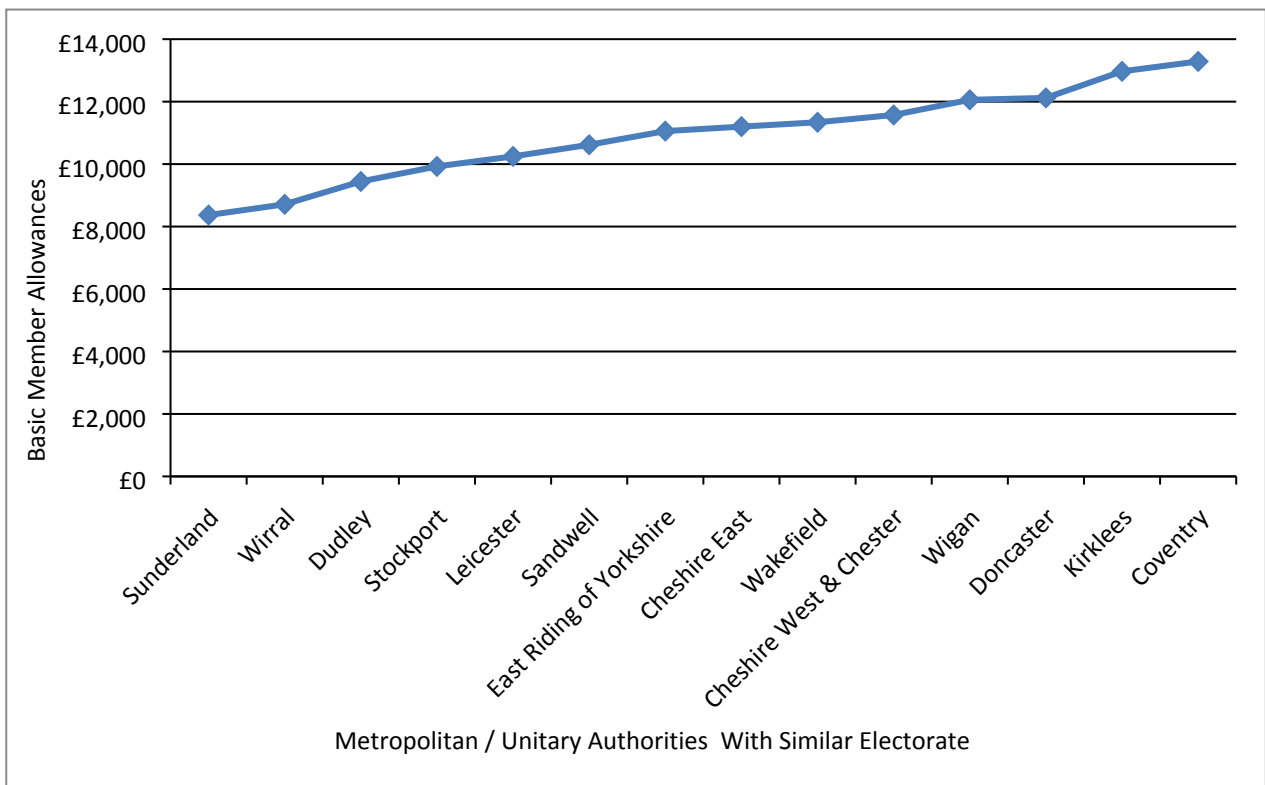
The Panel reviewed data from the Independent Panel on Members Allowances Report, June 2016, Appendix C. The report considered comparisons of Members' allowances with other Merseyside and Cheshire councils and found that allowances paid to Members in Wirral were in the lower quartile. Table 2 provides a summary of basic allowances paid by these councils in 2015/16. The Panel was reassured that Wirral spends less than a number of its geographical neighbours in terms of basic and special responsibility Member allowances.

Table 2. Source: Independent Panel on Members Allowances 2016

Authority	Basic Allowance
St Helens (48)	£7,626
Warrington (58)	£7,911
Halton (56)	£8,262
Wirral (66)	£8,712
Sefton (66)	£8,794
Knowsley (45)	£9,109
Liverpool (90)	£10,077
Cheshire East (82)	£11,200
Cheshire West and Chester (75)	£11,573

To provide wider comparisons regarding Member allowances, the Chart below compares the basic Members' allowances of a number of metropolitan and unitary authorities with a similar electorate size to Wirral. The Panel was further reassured by this data as it illustrates that Wirral has the second lowest basic Member allowance compared with 16 other councils of a similar size and type.

Chart 4. Source: Council Websites



Having reviewed the data on costs of Members in Wirral and comparisons with other local and national councils, the Panel was satisfied with the amount of money that Wirral spends on Members allowances.

5.3 The Role of the Ward Councillor

The Panel recognised that data analysis and benchmarking would only form part of their considerations. It acknowledged that councils and communities have their own unique characteristics and council services and structures should be tailored to the needs of individual areas. A reliance on direct comparisons and statistics alone would not allow the Panel to form a reasoned judgement on the suitability of the current number of councillors in Wirral.

Therefore, the Panel felt that some investigation into the roles and responsibilities of the councillor in Wirral was necessary in order to understand if the current electoral arrangements enable Wirral councillors to provide effective local leadership and representation, and to support the stated vision and aims of Wirral Council.

Defining the Role of the Councillor

The Panel was eager to find a definition of the role of the councillor in general terms as a starting point. The Panel reviewed an interim report from The Councillor Commission, set up by the Local Government Research Unit and The Municipal Journal, October 2016. The aims of this commission were to conduct an independent review of the role and work of the councillor and of the contribution made by councillors to the governance of their communities. The Councillor Commission has sought the views of councillors and those who work with them and has conducted a number of meetings with different councillors around the country and received 147 written submissions so far. The Panel found the Councillor Commission definition of the councillor as a useful reference point and agreed with the report which describes the councillor role under three themes; as a representative of their community, to influence the policies and services of the council, and with an increasing role to interact with external organisations, either as a governor, or to influence, challenge, or scrutinise their services.

Wirral Council defines the role and responsibilities of the councillor in its Constitution through The Members Role Profile and The Members Allowance Scheme List of Approved Duties. The Members Role Profile describes the different councillor roles, duties and entitlements as a Ward Member and Member of Full Council. It also describes the roles and duties as Leader and Cabinet Portfolio Holder as well as a member of scrutiny and other committees. The Members Allowance Scheme List of Approved Duties includes a list of outside bodies which Councillors may be appointed to. The Panel believe that these documents demonstrate the breadth and variety of the roles of the councillor in Wirral.

What is clear to the Panel is the difference between broad 'role' definitions, such as 'local leader' 'champion', 'representative', 'scrutineer' and the more list-like responsibilities in terms of the tasks or obligations that councillors are required to undertake, such as membership of committees, appointments to outside bodies etc. The Panel felt that even with comprehensive definitions such as those above, there are other aspects of the role of the councillor which are not fully captured or quantified.

Quantifying the Role of the Councillor

The Panel believes that it is difficult to quantify exactly the role of the modern councillor. From reviewing evidence such as the Councillor Commission report and other council's submissions in preparation for an electoral review, it is clear that this view is shared widely. As part of their submissions to the Commission, a number of councils listed the roles and responsibilities of councillors as set out in their constitutions, and many listed the committees, panels and sub-groups which members are required to attend. A number of councils conducted surveys and questionnaires to find out councillors views on their workload and responsibilities.

The Panel had sight of the Local Government Association Census of Local Authority Councillors, 2013. Their survey, responded to by 6,902 councillors across England provided a number of findings regarding councillors views of their role and workload. The survey found that councillors reported spending on average 25.1 hours per week on council business and group / party business. In metropolitan authorities this figure was higher still, with councillors among this group reporting that they spend on average 30.9 hours per week on council business and group / party business. The Panel found this information useful in that it reveals the significant time demands on councillors.

The Panel believe that the average weekly hours spent by councillors quoted above is a minimum and it is likely that more hours are spent which are not captured. The role of the councillor is not confined to official council business or limited to attendance at committees and meetings. The Panel commented that the increasing use of social media such as Twitter, Facebook and councillors own websites as tools to communicate with residents means that many councillors consider themselves to be 'on call' or 'on duty' twenty four hours a day, unlike council offices, one stop shops and call-centres which have traditional opening and closing times. When discussing the time demands on councillors, The Councillor Commission interim report refers to councillors describing their role as "a 24 hour a day job, a job which the public, media, party and council itself recognise few if any boundaries."

Whilst traditional methods of engagement with residents such as weekly surgeries are still used by many councillors, it is now accepted that councillors have different methods to engage and communicate with the people they represent. It is further accepted that different councillors will utilise these different methods to a greater or lesser extent depending on circumstances, such as the socio-economic, demographic and geographical make-up of their ward.

The Panel noted that the structure of Wirral Council, with no parish or town councils, would have an impact on councillors caseloads compared with other councils where these structures were in place.

The Panel believed that the surveys conducted by councils, the Councillor Commission and the Census of Local Authority Councillors provide valuable insight into how local councillors view

and evaluate their roles and workloads in a changing landscape and demonstrates the wide variety of roles and responsibilities as well as the variety of ways in which a councillor may carry out his or her work.

The Diversity and Unique Nature of Wirral

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England refers to the unique characteristics of each area when warning against an over-reliance on the use of comparisons with other authorities. The Panel was keen to recognise the unique characteristics of Wirral as a borough and the diversity and differences between its wards and to acknowledge the impact that these differences would have on the type, if not the amount of issues which councillors must deal with. According to the Wirral Joint Strategic Needs Assessment data, Wirral has some of the most deprived and most affluent wards in England, with wards in the highest quintile and wards in the lowest quintile on the national Index of Multiple Deprivation. Wirral also has a mix of rural and urban wards, wards which have a concentration of industrial and business premises, and wards which are primarily residential. The Panel believe that this ward diversity will affect the representational role of the councillor as ward councillors will encounter a wide variety of different issues and concerns. The nature of their work will differ greatly depending on the socio-economic, geographic and demographic profile of the ward which they represent.

The Future - A Changing Role

The Review Panel was conscious that local government was changing significantly. In particular Members considered that the role of Wirral councillors was changing as a result of the financial constraints and new ways of working, with a shift towards a focus on outcomes for residents rather than service delivery via the Wirral Plan and Wirral's new operating model.

Whether as Pledge Champions or more generally, councillors have a role in supporting the delivery of the Wirral Plan and its three key themes of protecting the most vulnerable, driving economic growth and improving the local environment. The Panel see councillors' roles changing as a result of this and moves towards greater commissioning of services. Although the councillor role regarding commissioning will develop over time, this role will require councillors to hold commissioners and providers to account for delivery of the agreed strategic outcomes.

The Panel identified that the councillor of the future would have a vital role as a local leader, in stimulating community initiatives and activity to help new delivery models to accommodate a reduction of public services in areas like culture, leisure and sport, community safety, supporting the vulnerable in the community and looking after the local environment. There would also be a significant role in working with local businesses to support the economy, encourage investment and create jobs.

With the proposed Liverpool City Region Devolution Agreement being considered by all of the City Region local authorities currently, it is hard to predict the impact this will have on the role of Wirral councillors in the coming years.

Taking these things into consideration, and accepting that the full impact and extent of these new ways of working was not yet fully known, the Panel felt that it did not make sense to commission a review of council size at this time. Instead, it may be appropriate to allow time for changes to become embedded and return to this question at a later date following an evaluation of the impact of new ways of working and new roles.

Potential Impact of a Reduction in Councillors

The Panel observed that a significant reduction in the number of councillors, without an accompanying restructure of the Council's governance arrangements could affect the council's ability to carry out its statutory functions. The number, size and frequency of committees, and appointments to bodies would need to be reviewed and reduced significantly. The Panel was concerned about the impact on this would have on Wirral's ability to take decisions effectively, manage the business and responsibilities of the council successfully, and provide effective community leadership and representation. Councillors in Wirral play important roles in holding the executive to account, exercising oversight and monitoring via Overview and Scrutiny Committees, and holding Members and officers to account to ensure effective governance and assurance. The Review Panel was also concerned that a significant reduction in councillor numbers could impact on these roles and may result in less effective oversight, governance and assurance.

Having regard to the 2013 Census of Councillors data which showed the average number of hours spent by councillors on council and party business per week (25.1), the Panel observed that many councillors already balance their role as a councillor with the demands of work, family, and/or caring commitments. The Panel was concerned that a significant reduction in numbers alongside no structural reorganisation of the Council would likely result in a greater demand on councillors time. If the workload and time demand increases further this may have a detrimental effect on councillor retention and recruitment as it may restrict the type of people who are able to take on the role. The 2013 Census of Councillors data showed the average age of councillors in England was 60.2 years old. 46.2% of councillors who responded were retired, 9.5% in part time employment and 8.8% either unemployed or otherwise not working. The Panel believed that should the work demands on councillors increase further, this may lead to the role becoming almost full time and would prevent many working or self-employed people from continuing as, or becoming a councillor. The resulting loss of diversity of representation, experience and skills would be detrimental to any borough, the Panel believed. This view is shared by Warrington Borough Council. Their submission to the Commission states: "Warrington is represented by a diverse range of councillors. The Council values all of its councillors for their different skills and experiences, and believes that it is important that

demands on councillors do not reach levels that restrict the pool of councillors, or limit the opportunities of particular groups to become councillors”.

(Warrington Borough Council Submission to LGBCE Regarding Council Size, February 2015).

The Panel suggested that these types of issues would need to be considered alongside the saving that a reduction in councillors would provide.

The impact of a reduction of councillors on back office and support functions was also acknowledged by the Panel. Whilst this is difficult to quantify, it was agreed that that these functions would have to increase in order to fill the gap left by councillors, so any cost savings identified by reducing councillors would have to take account of any increase in officer workloads.

In summary, the Panel concluded that it is hard to quantify the role of the councillor in absolute terms, but the Panel was satisfied that the evidence clearly demonstrates a significant time demand on councillors and that their role is broad and varied. In the current political and economic climate councils are undergoing significant change and the councillor role is evolving and adapting to meet the new challenges presented. In Wirral, perhaps the extent of this is not yet fully understood and this may not be right time to consider changing the number of councillors. It was suggested that this may be returned to at a later date and that consideration may be given to conducting a survey of councillors to understand their perceptions of the changing role and workload. This may provide a useful insight and inform any future considerations of this issue. There may also be wider benefits of conducting a councillor survey, as it may be used to update the Members’ Role Profile, inform the Member Development Scheme, and used to explain the role of councillors to the public, media and partner organisations.

6. Conclusion and Recommendation

The Panel, having reviewed the Commission's remit, processes and timescales for Further Electoral Review, accepted that the only mechanism to change the number of councillors in Wirral would be via such a review. The Panel concluded that it would take a significant amount of resources to prepare for and undergo a review and the Commission timescales demonstrate that this would be a lengthy process, with a less than certain outcome. Any potential savings are unlikely be realised for up to two years.

The Panel was encouraged by evidence which demonstrates that Wirral Council compares favourably against other councils regarding electoral equality, as a recognised measure of council size. Of particular note was the ward level data on electoral variation which showed that Wirral is within the Commission's parameters on electoral equality across its wards and therefore wouldn't trigger their threshold for a Further Electoral Review.

The Panel are further reassured that the cost of councillors in Wirral is lower than many of its neighbouring and similar sized national authorities, as evidenced by comparisons of Members Allowances Schemes, and acknowledged by the recent Independent Panel on Members Allowances. The Panel noted the potential annual saving which a reduction in councillors could deliver, although the Panel believed that any cost saving identified would need to take into account increased costs associated with a likely rise in demand on officer workloads.

The Panel was conscious that statistical comparisons with other authorities should not be used alone to determine the number of councillors and the Panel recognises the uniqueness of each area and the need for each council to tailor its services to the needs of each community. An understanding of the varied role of the local ward councillors in Wirral was considered by the Panel as equally important when forming their conclusions.

Having reviewed both general and Wirral specific definitions of the role of councillors, considered average hours per week spent on council business, and the variety of factors which affect the ward councillors' workload, the Panel concluded that the role of the councillor in Wirral is wide-ranging and varied and places a significant demand on councillors' time. The panel was concerned about the impact a reduction of councillors may have on councillors ability to fulfil their role effectively.

The Panel is aware of the significant changes facing councils in future and the uncertainty around councillor roles as these adapt to meet new challenges. In this context, the Panel conclude that any review of the number of councillors in Wirral should not take place until the extent of these changes and their impact on roles was better understood. The Panel makes the following recommendation:

Having regard to the evidence presented, the Panel notes that the number of councillors in Wirral is consistent with comparable Local Authorities. Consequently, the Panel recommends that the Council does not request the Local Government Boundary Commission for England conduct a review of its electoral arrangements at this time.

References

Local Government Boundary Commission for England, Electoral Reviews Technical Guidance, April 2014

https://www.lgbce.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0006/10410/technical-guidance-2014.pdf

Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council Report Of The Independent Panel on Members' Allowances, 7 June 2016

<http://democracy.wirral.gov.uk/documents/s50034712/Panels%20Final%20Report%20v2.pdf>

Appendix:

<http://democracy.wirral.gov.uk/documents/s50034697/First%20Draft%20of%20Panels%20Report%20-%20Appendix%201.pdf>

Interim report of The Councillor Commission, Local Government Research Unit and The Municipal Journal, October 2016

<http://www.dmu.ac.uk/documents/business-and-law-documents/cc-interim-report-oct-16-final-3.pdf>

Wirral Council Members Role Profile

<http://democracy.wirral.gov.uk/documents/s50037593/20161110CouncilConstitutionNovember2016.pdf>

Wirral Council Members Allowance Scheme List of Approved Duties

<http://democracy.wirral.gov.uk/documents/s50037593/20161110CouncilConstitutionNovember2016.pdf>

Local Government Association Census of Local Authority Councillors, 2013

[Publications | Local Government Association](#)

Warrington Borough Council Submission to LGBCE Regarding Council Size, February 2015

https://www.lgbce.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0013/25204/WarringtonBC.pdf

Appendices

Appendix A - Number of Councillors Scrutiny Review Scope Document

Scoping Template

Review Title: **Number of Councillors**

Date: **31/10/2016**

1. Contact Information:	
Panel Members: Cllrs: Phillip Brightmore (Chair) Moira McLaughlin Steve Foulkes Chris Carubia Adam Sykes	Key Officers: Surjit Tour (Assistant Director: Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer) Patrick Torpey (Scrutiny Officer) Other Contacts: Eric Robinson (Returning Officer) Kate Robinson (Electoral Services Manager)
2. Review Aims:	
Wirral Plan Pledge/s: Community Services Are Joined Up And Accessible	
Review Objective: To determine if the number of Councillors and Councillors per Ward in Wirral is appropriate with regard to the Council's stated priorities and key challenges, and if the number of Councillors in Wirral is consistent with comparable local and national authorities.	
Scrutiny Outcomes: Members will arrive at an informed and evidence based view on the extent to which Wirral Councillors provide effective community leadership, effective leadership of the Council through strategy/policy development and effective decision making and scrutiny. Members will reach an informed view on whether the Council should actively progress a referral to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England to conduct an Electoral Review.	
3. Review Plan	
Review Approach: Workshop, Evidence Day, Task and Finish? Task and Finish	
Review Duration: A data-led review comprising two evidence sessions over three weeks. The review will be complete by the end of November 2016.	
Scheduled Committee Report Date: Environment OSC 30 th November 2016	
Scheduled Cabinet Report Date:	

To be confirmed

4. Sources of Evidence:

Key Witnesses:

Not applicable for this review

Supporting Papers / Documentation:

Wirral Council briefing notes and background research

[Number of Councillors Review September 2016.docx](#)

Reports and Submission documents from:

- Local Government Association

[LGA Census of Councillors 2013.pdf](#)

[Councillors Commission Role of Cllr Interim Report.pdf](#)

- Local Government Boundary Commission for England

[LGBCE electoral-review-technical-guidance-august-2012.pdf](#)

- Other Local Authorities

[Nottingham CC cover report.pdf](#)

[NottinghamshireCC-CS-2014-09-08-Appendix-1-inc-Annex-A-to-D_Redacted.pdf](#)

[ColchesterBC Evidence Base.pdf](#)

[Warrington BC submission.pdf](#)

- Wirral Council

[Wirral Council Constitution Part 5 - Members Role Profiles.pdf](#)

[Members Allowances Report Jun 16.doc](#)

[Members Allowances Appendix Jun 16.doc](#)

Wirral Council electorate data and comparisons with other Local Authorities:

[Wirral Electorate by Ward at 01.09.16.xlsx](#)

[Comparator Councils inc Members Allowances.xlsx](#)

Involvement of service users / public:

Not applicable

5. Key Communications:

Cabinet Member:

- The scope document will be shared with the relevant portfolio holder at the start of the review (Leader, Strategic Economic Development, Finance & Devolution, Cllr Phil Davies).
- The draft report will also be discussed in advance of being finalised by the task & finish group, before being presented to the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee for approval.

Press Office:

- The scope document will be sent to the press office on approval.
- The final report will be referred to the press office for information.

Appendix B - Cost of Members 2015/16

CC + Description	Income/Expense	Classification	Subj + Desc	SubAnalysis1 + Desc	Act YTD
A7000 - Services To Members	NULL	NULL	0000 - Retained Earnings	00000 - Default	0
A7000 - Services To Members	Expense	E1 Employees	R001 - APT&C	00010 - Basic Pay	81,662
A7000 - Services To Members	Expense	E1 Employees	R001 - APT&C	00011 - Employers NI Contribution	6,825
A7000 - Services To Members	Expense	E1 Employees	R001 - APT&C	00012 - Employers Superannuation Contribution	11,204
A7000 - Services To Members	Expense	E1 Employees	R001 - APT&C	00021 - Employers Fixed Superannuation Contribution	26,600
A7000 - Services To Members	Expense	E1 Employees	R004 - Other Staff	00019 - Pay not classified elsewhere	70,300
A7000 - Services To Members	Expense	E1 Employees	R041 - Agency Staff	00200 - Agency Staff	22,075
A7000 - Services To Members	Expense	E1 Employees	R055 - Disclosure Barring Service - checks	06149 - Disclosure Barring Service - checks	88
A7000 - Services To Members	Expense	E1 Employees	R056 - Employee Corporate Insurance	04300 - Insurance Employee Related	70
A7000 - Services To Members	Expense	E1 Employees	R070 - Pension Costs	00916 - Early retirement strain costs	4,064
A7000 - Services To Members	Expense	E1 Employees	R071 - Redundancy / Severance Pay	00950 - Severance Pay	0
A7000 - Services To Members	Expense	E2 Premises	R106 - Cleaning & Domestic Supplies	11130 - Cleaning Materials	17
A7000 - Services To Members	Expense	E2 Premises	R108 - Rents - external	11300 - Rents	5,245
A7000 - Services To Members	Expense	E3 Transport	R203 - Contract Hire & Operating Leases	23010 - External Fleet and Plant Hire charges	2,974
A7000 - Services To Members	Expense	E3 Transport	R204 - Public Transport	24211 - Travel - Online Booking Service	2,588
A7000 - Services To Members	Expense	E3 Transport	R204 - Public Transport	24214 - Passenger Transport	147
A7000 - Services To Members	Expense	E3 Transport	R205 - Car Allowances	24200 - Car Allowances	1,724
A7000 - Services To Members	Expense	E4 Supplies	R301 - Equipment, Furniture & Materials	32000 - Equipment - Office, Tools and materials	9
A7000 - Services To Members	Expense	E4 Supplies	R301 - Equipment, Furniture & Materials	32001 - Office equipment	167
A7000 - Services To Members	Expense	E4 Supplies	R302 - Printing, Stationery & General Office Expenses	32020 - Printing, Stationery and General Office Materials	0
A7000 - Services To Members	Expense	E4 Supplies	R302 - Printing, Stationery & General Office Expenses	32035 - Newspapers, Books and Periodicals	1,705
A7000 - Services To Members	Expense	E4 Supplies	R302 - Printing, Stationery & General Office Expenses	34000 - Printing Services	150
A7000 - Services To Members	Expense	E4 Supplies	R302 - Printing, Stationery & General Office Expenses	34002 - Photocopying	1,209
A7000 - Services To Members	Expense	E4 Supplies	R302 - Printing, Stationery & General Office Expenses	34009 - Purchase Of Paper	116
A7000 - Services To Members	Expense	E4 Supplies	R302 - Printing, Stationery & General Office Expenses	34010 - Stationery - General	165
A7000 - Services To Members	Expense	E4 Supplies	R302 - Printing, Stationery & General Office Expenses	34025 - Books & Periodicals	0
A7000 - Services To Members	Expense	E4 Supplies	R302 - Printing, Stationery & General Office Expenses	34100 - Communication - Telephone	0
A7000 - Services To Members	Expense	E4 Supplies	R303 - Communications & Computing	32052 - Computer Equipment	43
A7000 - Services To Members	Expense	E4 Supplies	R303 - Communications & Computing	32067 - Communications Equipment	209
A7000 - Services To Members	Expense	E4 Supplies	R303 - Communications & Computing	32506 - Computer Stationery	3,694
A7000 - Services To Members	Expense	E4 Supplies	R303 - Communications & Computing	34016 - Communication - Postages	6,398
A7000 - Services To Members	Expense	E4 Supplies	R303 - Communications & Computing	34100 - Communication - Telephone	17,980
A7000 - Services To Members	Expense	E4 Supplies	R303 - Communications & Computing	34117 - Mobile Phone Charges	6,710
A7000 - Services To Members	Expense	E4 Supplies	R304 - Catering	32040 - Vending machines	0
A7000 - Services To Members	Expense	E4 Supplies	R304 - Catering	32200 - Provisions - Food	32
A7000 - Services To Members	Expense	E4 Supplies	R304 - Catering	32230 - Provisions - vending machines	1,752
A7000 - Services To Members	Expense	E4 Supplies	R304 - Catering	32240 - Catering-Wall C&Ctte	2,694
A7000 - Services To Members	Expense	E4 Supplies	R304 - Catering	32243 - Catering	133
A7000 - Services To Members	Expense	E4 Supplies	R304 - Catering	32300 - Clothing, Uniform & Laundry	0

A7000 - Services To Members	Expense	E4 Supplies	R304 - Catering	32400 - Laundry	6,247
A7000 - Services To Members	Expense	E4 Supplies	R305 - Clothes, Uniform & Laundry	32400 - Laundry	9,320
A7000 - Services To Members	Expense	E4 Supplies	R306 - Services	36266 - Accommodation - Online Booking Service	227
A7000 - Services To Members	Expense	E4 Supplies	R308 - Grants & Subscriptions	36000 - Subscriptions	149
A7000 - Services To Members	Expense	E4 Supplies	R310 - Expenses	34218 - Subsistence	82
A7000 - Services To Members	Expense	E4 Supplies	R310 - Expenses	34220 - Subsistence Members	-30,629
A7000 - Services To Members	Expense	E4 Supplies	R310 - Expenses	34229 - Member - other allowances	0
A7000 - Services To Members	Expense	E4 Supplies	R314 - Advertising, Publicity & Marketing	34020 - Advertising - Misc	39
A7000 - Services To Members	Expense	E4 Supplies	R316 - Members Allowances	34221 - Members N.I.	34,204
A7000 - Services To Members	Expense	E4 Supplies	R316 - Members Allowances	34222 - Members Attend Allowance	779,961
A7000 - Services To Members	Expense	E4 Supplies	R316 - Members Allowances	34229 - Member - other allowances	0
A7000 - Services To Members	Expense	E4 Supplies	R399 - General Supplies and Services	30000 - Unallocated P Card Spend	40
A7000 - Services To Members	Expense	E4 Supplies	R399 - General Supplies and Services	36280 - Expenditure not classified elsewhere	469
A7000 - Services To Members	Expense	E5 Third Party	R499 - Other Third Party Payments	42535 - Hired or Contracted services	74
A7000 - Services To Members	Expense	E5 Third Party	R499 - Other Third Party Payments	45507 - Specialist Contracts & Fees	3,247
A7000 - Services To Members	Expense	E7 Recharge - Other F	R602 - Schools - Departmental Recharges	64660 - Courier and Transport Recharge	0
A7000 - Services To Members	Expense	E8 Recharge - Suppor	R604 - Recharge Admin and Other Buildings Charges	64400 - Admin Buildings Recharge	230,405
A7000 - Services To Members	Expense	E8 Recharge - Suppor	R605 - Recharge Support, Management and Admin	64300 - Recharge - Support Services	57,000
A7000 - Services To Members	Income	I1 Income	R802 - Other Grants, Reimbursements and Contributor	88044 - OGRC - Income from external sources	0

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				Less Accommodation Overhead	-230,405
				Less Special Responsibility Allowances	-175,074
				Total Cost of Members	964,106
				Average Cost per Member	14,608
				Saving from Reduction in numbers by 1/3 - (i.e. 22)	321,369

Members' Allowances – Comparisons with Merseyside and Cheshire Local Authorities May 2016

Members' Allowances	Wirral	Liverpool City	Sefton	St Helens	Knowsley	Cheshire West and Chester	Cheshire East	Warrington	Halton
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Basic	8,712.45	10,077	8,794.51	7,626	9,109	11,573	11,200	7,911	8,262
Leader of the Council	22,927		26,383.54	33,036	27,328	28,931	27,000	20,014	21,306
Deputy Leader of the Council	11,463			18,426		14,466	16,300	15,012	14,488
Leader of the largest opposition Group	13,756	11,009	4,397.26	4,830	6,832	8,679	7,280	8,506	7,095
Deputy Leader of the largest opposition Group	6,878			1,524			3,640		
Leader of the 2 nd largest opposition Group	9,171	7,200 (x 2)	4,397.26	1,524		3,819	5,600	8,506	
Deputy Leader of the 2 nd largest opposition Group	4,585								

Members' Allowances	Wirral	Liverpool City	Sefton	St Helens	Knowsley	Cheshire West and Chester	Cheshire East Cheshire East £	Warrington	Halton
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Cabinet Member	9,171	12,628	17,589.03	15,246	13,664	12,730	13,500	10,008	11,931
Elected Mayor		79,500							
Mayor	10,700		13,191.77	7,626	9,349	6,374	14,000	15,012	11,931
Deputy Mayor	1,500	28,620		762		3,100	5,600	5,012	5,965
Policy and Performance Chairs (Scrutiny)	4,585	8,405	4,397.26	7,626 (Commission) 4,830 (Panels)	6,832	7,521	7,280	8,506	7,095
Planning Chair	4,585	8,405	8,794.51	7,626	6,832	8,679	7,280	8,506	7,095
Licensing Chair	4,585	8,405	8,794.51	7,626	6,832	7,521	7,280	8,506	7,095
Standards Chair	1,375							2,002	7,095
Audit Chair	4,585		4,397.26		4,554	7,521	7,280	8,506	7,095
Member of the Waste Disposal Authority	3,688 (£1,834 x 2)			4,830	911				

Members' Allowances	Wirral	Liverpool City	Sefton	St Helens	Knowsley	Cheshire West and Chester	Cheshire East	Warrington	Halton
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Co-opted Members on the Standards Committee	25 per meeting	20 per meeting				25.25 per meeting	30 per meeting		
Merseyside Police and Crime Panel									

MINUTE EXTRACT

BUSINESS OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

24 JANUARY 2017

51 NOTICE OF MOTION: INWARD INVESTMENT

Further to minute 35 (29/11/16), the Committee were requested to consider the following Notice of Motion proposed by Councillor Phil Davies and seconded by Councillor Ann McLachlan which had been referred by the Mayor at the Council meeting on 17 October, 2016 (minute 67 (3) refers) to this Committee for consideration –

INWARD INVESTMENT

“This council recognises economic growth is key to realising the Wirral Plan and delivering a better life for Wirral’s residents.

Council also notes, despite the government’s lack of enthusiasm for their former Chancellor’s flagship regeneration policy The Northern Powerhouse, this authority remains committed to working closely with other authorities in the region to drive economic success.

Council acknowledges the success to date of the Liverpool City Region in growing the economy – currently worth nearly £29billion with output increasing by 8.4% in the five years up to 2014 - and recognises Wirral’s economic future is tied to the continued success of the City region.

Council further notes the benefit of having Wirral Council’s Leader serve as the portfolio holder for Economic Development across the City Region and the added profile and opportunity this brings forward for Wirral.

Council is proud of the work being done by Liverpool City Region firms who have secured the 2nd highest incidence of high-growth firms in the UK, and by trade and business networks supported by this authority to attract new investment to the Wirral, including Wirral Chamber of Commerce, Liverpool Local Enterprise Partnership and the Council’s Economic Development and Growth unit.

Council supports any opportunity to continue to develop Wirral and the City Region’s maturing relationship with China and Chinese businesses, especially in the key strategic growth industries of Advanced Manufacturing, Marine and Logistics and Clean Energy and Civil Nuclear Engineering.

Council welcomes the decision to partner with Liverpool Vision, Invest Liverpool, Wirral-based businesses and the local Chambers of Commerce to promote the borough and the wider City Region during a forthcoming joint trade mission to Kunming, Guiyang, Qingdao, Shanghai and Wirral’s twin city, Tianjin.

Council supports every effort to drive economic growth, foster stronger relationships with investors, and promote Wirral and the wider City Region as the most attractive investment partners for Chinese and South East Asian investors.”

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

Councillor Davies elaborated on the content of the motion and the work being undertaken to increase inward investment. He had now been a number of times to China, including previously with the Leader of the Conservative Group and former leader of the Liberal Democrat Group. The latest delegation last October, of which he was a part, was the largest yet as it was undertaken as a Liverpool City Region visit, with other Leaders, nine or ten businesses, three from the Wirral, the local Chamber of Commerce and Liverpool Vision.

The delegation had visited six cities in China, Kunming, Guiyang, Qingdao, Shanghai, Beijing and Wirral’s twin city Tianjin. The scale of these cities was enormous, all with populations in the millions. Presentations were made by the LCR in all six cities and ‘match making’ sessions were also held with a variety of businesses. About 102 leads were being proactively followed up with a high proportion of interest in Wirral particularly in low carbon and offshore wind businesses.

Specific companies, such as a cable manufacturing company had expressed an interest in the opportunities regarding offshore wind and were in fact sending a delegation to Wirral in April / May as they were keen to set up a manufacturing operation. The government in Qingdao were keen to develop direct flights to Liverpool and were in discussions with the Operations Director of Liverpool John Lennon Airport. The three Wirral businesses had thought the visit had been a very useful investment of their time and twelve additional businesses had signed up to participate in a future delegation.

The Leader commented on the fact that the delegation had been a City Region wide one which had raised the profile of Wirral and the British Consulate had received good feedback following the visit.

In response to questions from the Committee, Councillor Davies’ comments included the following:

- With regard to timescales for investment, this varied with one company hopeful of investing in the next year and others which would take longer.
- Whilst acknowledging that the City Region had some of the best talent in the creative industries he was not aware of any proposed investment on this side but the delegation had visited an interesting creative industries quarter in Beijing. With regard to tourism the Liverpool John Lennon airport was exploring the possibility of a direct air route.
- Given the scale and size of the cities in China there was a need to promote Wirral as a part of the LCR as it needed to be seen in the context of a wider conurbation.

- With regard to recent funding announcements he welcomed any additional funding from the Government for the LCR but commented on the pace of devolution which the Government needed to speed up. There was a need to lobby for more power to the LCR and he found it frustrating that the Government did not appear to be giving it a higher priority. He had himself met Andrew Percy MP, Minister for the Northern Powerhouse, twice and also with Sajid David, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on his recent visit to the Wirral.
- There was a need for more ‘big ticket’ items such as HS2 into Liverpool and a HS3 from Liverpool to Hull.

Committee Members thanked the Leader for his comprehensive report and for all the work he was doing to try and bring investment into the borough.

It was moved by Councillor Mitchell and seconded by Councillor Abbey, that –

“The motion be supported.”

It was then moved as an amendment by Councillor Blakeley and seconded by Councillor Anderson, that –

“Paragraph 2 of the motion be amended to read:

‘Council also welcomes the Government’s commitment to its flagship regeneration policy, the Northern Powerhouse and would encourage the Council, along with all other authorities in the region to meet with the Minister for the Northern Powerhouse, Andrew Percy MP in order to explore all options to drive economic success.’”

The amendment was put and lost (5:10).

The motion was put and carried (10:5).

Resolved (10:5) – That the motion be supported.

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NOTICE OF MOTION: INWARD INVESTMENT *(as referred by the Civic Mayor to the Business Overview and Scrutiny Committee)*

Proposed by Councillor Phil Davies
Seconded by Councillor Ann McLachlan

This council recognises economic growth is key to realising the Wirral Plan and delivering a better life for Wirral's residents.

Council also notes, despite the government's lack of enthusiasm for their former Chancellor's flagship regeneration policy The Northern Powerhouse, this authority remains committed to working closely with other authorities in the region to drive economic success.

Council acknowledges the success to date of the Liverpool City Region in growing the economy – currently worth nearly £29billion with output increasing by 8.4% in the five years up to 2014 - and recognises Wirral's economic future is tied to the continued success of the City region.

Council further notes the benefit of having Wirral Council's Leader serve as the portfolio holder for Economic Development across the City Region and the added profile and opportunity this brings forward for Wirral.

Council is proud of the work being done by Liverpool City Region firms who have secured the 2nd highest incidence of high-growth firms in the UK, and by trade and business networks supported by this authority to attract new investment to the Wirral, including Wirral Chamber of Commerce, Liverpool Local Enterprise Partnership and the Council's Economic Development and Growth unit.

Council supports any opportunity to continue to develop Wirral and the City Region's maturing relationship with China and Chinese businesses, especially in the key strategic growth industries of Advanced Manufacturing, Marine and Logistics and Clean Energy and Civil Nuclear Engineering.

Council welcomes the decision to partner with Liverpool Vision, Invest Liverpool, Wirral-based businesses and the local Chambers of Commerce to promote the borough and the wider City Region during a forthcoming joint trade mission to Kunming, Guiyang, Qingdao, Shanghai and Wirral's twin city, Tianjin.

Council supports every effort to drive economic growth, foster stronger relationships with investors, and promote Wirral and the wider City Region as the most attractive investment partners for Chinese and South East Asian investors.

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MINUTE EXTRACT

CABINET

20 FEBRUARY 2017

89 CAPITAL MONITORING 2016/17 QUARTER 3



Councillor Phil Davies, Leader of the Council – Strategic Economic Development, Finance and Devolution, said:

‘The Capital Programme demonstrates the major investments we are making in Wirral: improving local infrastructure through investing in schools, housing, roads and public buildings. We are also looking to make use of the opportunities available to use capital funding to deliver transformational change to public services, supporting the delivery of our 20 Pledges.’

Councillor Phil Davies introduced a report that provided the Cabinet with an update on progress towards delivering the Capital Programme 2016/17 at the end of December 2016.

The report recommended that the Cabinet approved the 2016/17 Capital Programme of £30.7 million which took into account re-profiling identified during both the 2015/16 final accounts process, latest reviews of the current year and additional grant funding notified to the Council. It was noted that the expenditure to date was £16.4 million.

This matter was a Key Decision which affected all Wards within the Borough.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the spend at Quarter 3 of £16.4 million, with 75% of the financial year having elapsed be noted; and**
- (2) the revised Capital Programme of £30.7 million be agreed and referred to the Council.**

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COUNCILLOR PHIL DAVIES

CABINET

20 FEBRUARY 2017

CAPITAL MONITORING 2016/17

QUARTER 3 (TO 31 DECEMBER 2016)

Councillor Phil Davies (Leader of the Council) said:

'The Capital Programme demonstrates the major investments we are making in Wirral: improving local infrastructure through investing in schools, housing, roads and public buildings. We are also looking to make use of the opportunities available to use capital funding to deliver transformational change to public services, supporting the delivery of our 20 Pledges.'

REPORT SUMMARY

This report provides Cabinet with an update on progress towards delivering the Capital Programme 2016/17 at the end of December 2016.

The report recommends Cabinet approves the 2016/17 Capital Programme of £30.7 million which takes into account re-profiling identified during both the 2015/16 final accounts process, latest reviews of the current year and additional grant funding notified to the Council. The expenditure to date is £16.4 million.

This matter is a key decision which affects all Wards within the Borough.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Note the spend at Quarter 3 of £16.4 million, with 75% of the financial year having elapsed;
2. Agree and refer to Council the revised Capital Programme of £30.7 million (Table 1).

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

1.1 Regular monitoring and reporting of the Capital Programme enables decisions to be taken more efficiently and effectively, which may produce revenue benefits and will improve the financial control of the Programme.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

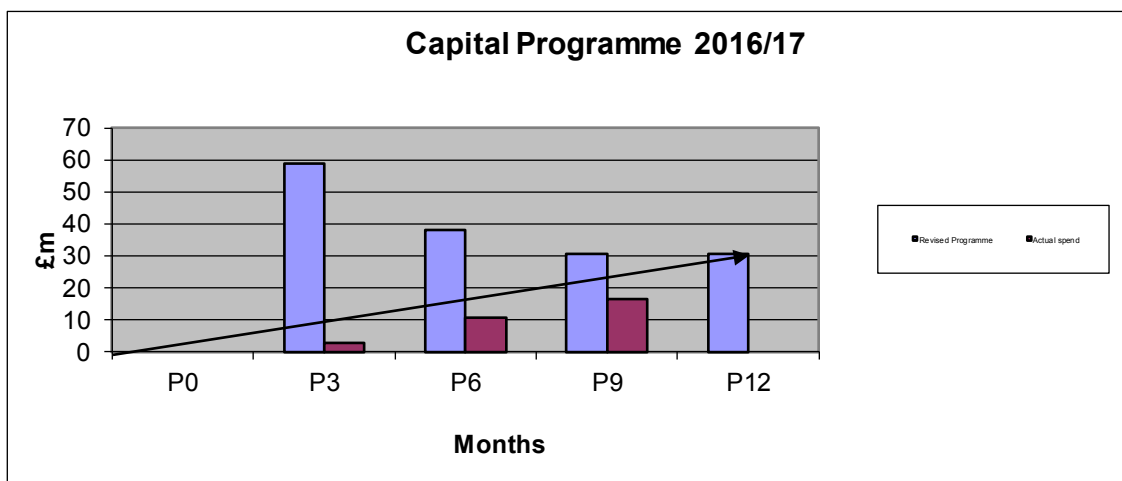
2.1 No other options have been considered.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

OVERALL POSITION AT END OF DECEMBER 2016

3.1 The actual spend against the Capital Programme is summarised in Table 1.

Chart 1: Capital Programme spend below line of best fit



ORIGINAL AND PROPOSED CAPITAL PROGRAMME FOR 2016/17

3.2 The Programme for 2016/17 is subject to change. Presently it reflects;

	£000
Programme agreed by Cabinet on 22 February 2016	48,107
Year end re-profiling from 2015/16	6,364
Additional grant funding	1,750
Variations identified to September 2016	-18,134
Variations identified since September 2016 (see Table 2)	-7,353
Revised 2016/17 Programme	30,734

Table 1: Capital Programme 2016/17 at 31 December 2016

	Capital Strategy	Revisions Since Budget	Revised Capital Programme	Actual Spend Dec 2016
Themes	£000	£000	£000	£000
Business	15,093	-2,562	12,531	7,118
Environment	13,574	-6,293	7,281	3,855
People	19,440	-8,518	10,922	5,415
Total expenditure	48,107	-17,373	30,734	16,388

3.3 PROGRESS TO DATE

3.3.1 Business

The investment in I.T. is focussed on migrating all servers and applications to the core domain and, where possible, upgrading applications to the latest version; upgrading all Windows Server operating systems to a supported operating system and reducing the server footprint by virtualising all servers where possible.

Works to increase building occupancy have mainly focused on Wallasey Town Hall, Moreton Municipal, and Solar Campus. Works are underway at Bebington Civic Centre where a new gas main has been installed in preparation for new efficient boilers to replace the oil fired system.

Works have commenced at Leasowe Millennium Centre to construct a new 70 space car park which will be complete by the end of March. Internal works will then commence to alter and improve the layout of the building which should significantly increase the occupancy of the building.

With the technical approval procedures completed the start on site for the Dock Bridges scheme is now March 2017. The large value equipment orders (i.e. hydraulic cylinders for moving the bridges) are being placed in February 2017. The grant funding received in 2016/17 will be fully utilised in Month 1 of 2017/18. The grant funding scheduled for 2017/18 remains sufficient and the overall scheme completion is still within the original timescales.

A number of sites have been identified for road safety improvements and detailed design work is proceeding. Schemes at Thornton Common Road roundabout and Liscard Road will be completed before April 2017. Further off-road cycleway schemes will be issued for construction along the A41 in Eastham and Bromborough and a new cycle path will be provided along the River Birkett in Moreton, for construction by April 2017.

The Council is working closely with Peel Holdings to design sustainable transport improvements within the Wirral Waters investment site that were scheduled for 2016/17. The schemes will shortly be issued with completion during 2017. A new cycleway/footbridge and cycle path network is being designed in Bromborough to link the Wirral International Business Park to Port Sunlight, across the River Park. Works are due to start on site in February 2017

3.3.2 Environment

New fit for purpose staff accommodation and welfare facilities have been completed at Ashton Park, the work also provides improved pedestrian access and vehicle parking provision. Similarly at Warren Farm full refurbishment of the main building is nearing completion. This provides the opportunity to increase occupancy on the site. Further works at Cleveland Street and Ivy Farm are on hold pending the outcome of the Leisure and Cultural Services Transformation Programme report.

The refurbishment contract for the Oval is in two phases being the new fitness suite and the new aerobics studio. The contract is due to be completed mid February 2017. Customer satisfaction is high since the facility reopened just before Christmas, with 362 new members signing up in the first 15 days.

£1.2 million of grant aid has been provided for essential aids and adaptations giving disabled people better freedom of movement in, and around, their homes.

All resources are committed to secure the completion of the remaining clearance schemes. Some re-profiling has been required which includes completion of the solid wall insulation programme.

The Home Improvement project, on which £0.4 million has been spent, provides a continuation of both financial assistance and intervention to remedy poor housing conditions in the private sector, including serious disrepair/hazards, poor or no heating provision, low market demand and bringing long term empty properties back into productive use.

10 schemes have been committed under the New House Building programme. Two have been completed and two are near completion. 125 units will be delivered, exceeding the original target of 100.

The West Kirby Flood alleviation works involves grant funding and a re-profiled business case has been submitted to the Environment Agency (EA). A number of technical issues were raised during the Project Assurance Review. These are being resolved and a decision expected soon from the EA. Funding has been re-profiled to 2017/18.

3.3.3 People

The provision of extra care / specialised housing remains the subject of on-going consultation and negotiation and therefore the funding has been further re-profiled.

Works have commenced on site at Pensby Wood Day Centre to replace existing boilers and the heating system and is due for completion by the end of March. The main scheme to refurbish the building and provide a new hydro-therapy pool will commence in April and is due for completion in September 2017.

St Georges Primary School is one of our largest schools and was in need of a new pupil entrance to provide improved security and more efficient space, additional pupil toilets and accessibility work. The scheme was successfully completed in 2016. The design of the new entrance retained parts of the original facade and enhanced the look by incorporating a full glazed entrance.

Devonshire Park Primary School has taken additional pupils since September 2015 and the pupil toilets needed full re-modelling. Developed 'In-house' the two toilet blocks on two floors are individual toilets that allow girls and boys to use the facilities on each floor. This model had been used recently in Gayton Primary School and has been a success.

The existing layout to parts of Greanleas Primary School was quite poor and a re-modelling of classrooms and resource areas was required to enhance teaching space and make use of resource space for small group work. The scheme included enlarging existing classrooms which will allow additional pupils, improved resource areas, two new toilet blocks and meeting/support rooms and state of the art storage. This has been a success and the school have seen a dramatic improvement in pupil behaviour.

The Observatory School receives pupils who have social, emotional and mental health problems. Parts of the school require a minor re-modelling to provide better use of existing classrooms and resource/one to one space. Of the two mobile classrooms one was removed and the other refurbished and the playground extended. Internal re-modelling took place to provide a further internal teaching space and resource/group room including new changing facilities for activities. The main hall was very poor acoustically, and new acoustic panelling was installed to remove reverberation when in use, this has dramatically improved noise reduction in the hall. The school have used the new space created in the re-modelling and are satisfied with the outcome.

The Hive, Wirral's soon to be opened Youth Zone, is still progressing according to schedule with the completion date expected mid-February 2017.

Table 2: Cash variations to the 2016/17 Programme

Scheme	£000
Business - re-profiling	
Building refurbishment to increase occupancy	-1,070
Fund to assist land assembly and resale	-470
Cleveland Street Transport Depot	-492
Bebington Town Hall demolition	-316
Former Rock Ferry High School demolition	-213
Leasowe Millennium Centre remodelling	-365
Treasury Building	-360
Transport for Growth	-565
Highway Maintenance	79
Coast Protection	-230
East Float access	-295
Dock Bridges replacement	-500
Total	-4,797
Environment - re-profiling	
Park Depot rationalisation	-350
Transport Museum	-190
Flaybrick Cemetery	-100
Clearance	-360
Home Improvements	-50
New House Building	-175
Oval Sports Centre redevelopment	-50
Environment - additional grant approval	
Flaybrick Cemetery	150
Total	-1,125
People - re-profiling	
Family support schemes – re-profiled	-54
School remodelling	-410
Somerville Mobile replacement	-33
Stanley Special School additional classrooms	-132
Condition/modernisation	125
Basic Needs	-295
Pensby Wood Centre	-632
Total	-1,431
Overall variation since September	-7,353

- 3.4 Schemes remain subject to ongoing review to ensure that a deliverable Programme is in place, that they are compatible with the Wirral Plan and to try and identify any savings.

FINANCING OF THE CAPITAL PROGRAMME

- 3.5 Table 3 summarises the financing sources for the Capital Strategy (original programme) and Revised Programme.

Table 3: Revised Capital Programme Financing

Capital Programme Financing	Capital Strategy	Revised Programme
	£000	£000
Unsupported Borrowing	16,852	7,239
Capital Receipts	13,339	6,564
Revenue and Reserves	1,004	117
Grants	16,912	16,814
Total Financing	48,107	30,734

- 3.6 Any re-profiling which reduces borrowing delivers one-off revenue savings. A permanent saving only occurs if schemes cease, otherwise the full budget will be required in 2017/18 when the re-profiled expenditure is incurred.

PROJECTED LONGER TERM CAPITAL PROGRAMME

- 3.7 Funding for the forecast 2016/17 to 2018/19 Programme reflects the 2016/19 Capital Programme agreed by Cabinet on 22 February 2016 with subsequent amendments for reprofiling and revised grant notifications.

Table 4: Capital Programme Financing 2016/17 to 2018/19

Capital Programme Financing	2016/17 Revised Programme	2017/18 Revised Programme	2018/19 Revised Programme	Total Programme
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Unsupported Borrowing	7,239	17,006	3,770	28,015
Capital Receipts	6,564	1,937	0	8,501
Revenue / Reserves	117	150	0	267
Grants	16,814	18,879	3,000	38,693
Total Financing	30,734	37,972	6,770	75,476

SUPPORTED AND UNSUPPORTED BORROWING AND THE REVENUE CONSEQUENCES OF UNSUPPORTED BORROWING

- 3.8 Based on the current cost, £1 million of Prudential Borrowing would result in additional revenue financing costs of approximately £75,000 per annum in the following year. As part of the Capital Strategy 2016/17 to 2018/19 the Council has included an element of prudential borrowing. Presently there is £28 million new Unsupported Borrowing included over the three years, which will result in approximately £2.1 million of additional revenue costs.

Table 5: Unsupported Borrowing Forecasts & Revenue Costs

	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
	£000	£000	£000	£000
New Unsupported Borrowing	7,239	19,006	1,770	0
Cumulative	7,239	26,245	28,015	28,015
Annual Revenue repayment costs				
Cumulative	127	875	2,000	2,100

CAPITAL RECEIPTS

- 3.9 The Capital Programme uses capital receipts to finance schemes. Available receipts at 1 April 2016 were £8.047 million. The table assumes the proposed spend, set out at Table 1 is agreed. Receipts and funding assumptions are based upon the latest estimates.
- 3.10 Additional flexibilities regarding the use of receipts were confirmed following the Chancellor's Autumn Statement 2015. Receipts generated between 1 April 2016 and 31 March 2019, excluding Right-To-Buy receipts, can be used to fund Transformation provided the Council has agreed a Transformation Programme setting out the projects, costs and deliverable benefits / savings.
- 3.11 A fundamental review of the Council's asset portfolio is currently being undertaken. It is intended that this will highlight assets Members may wish to consider for disposal. Table 6 includes assets subject to either a known disposal or one that is likely to occur and are prior to the outcome of the review so represents the likely minimum value for receipts.

Table 6: Projected Capital Receipts position

	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
	£000	£000	£000
Capital Receipts Reserve	8,047	1,983	446
In - Receipts Assumption	1,000	7,500	6,100
Out - Funding (Capital)	-6,564	-1,937	0
Out - Funding (Transformation)	-500	-7,100	-5,700
Closing Balance	1,983	446	846

3.12 In respect of the major receipts. For Manor Drive the Council should receive £2.2 million during 2016/17 with a similar amount in 2017/18. The sale of Acre Lane is now likely to occur in the summer of 2017 when the first £3.5 million will be received with similar amounts for 2018/19 and 2019/20. No account has been taken as yet for any potential receipt in connection with the former Rock Ferry High School.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The revised 2016/17 Capital Programme is £30.7 million with anticipated capital receipts remaining at the year-end of £1.9 million. This assumes the £0.5 million generated to fund the Transformation Programme have been committed.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

6.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

7.1 The possibility of failure to deliver the Capital Programme is mitigated by a monthly review by a senior group of officers.

7.2 The generation of capital receipts may be influenced by factors outside the authority's control e.g. ecological issues. Lambert, Smith, Hampton continue to provide external support.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

8.1 There has been no specific consultation with regards to this report.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Capital Programme and Funding 2016/17.
Appendix 2 – Capital Receipts 2016/17.

SUBJECT HISTORY

Council Meeting	Date
Capital monitoring reports presented to Cabinet Capital Programme – Council Capital Programme – Council	Quarterly 22 February 2016 3 March 2016

Capital Programme and Funding 2016/17

APPENDIX 1

	Revised Programme £000	Spend to Date £000	Council Resources £000	Revenue/ Reserves £000	Grants £000	Total Funding £000
Business						
Building refurbishment to increase occupancy	847	745	847	-	-	847
Fund to assist land assembly and resale Cleveland Street. Transport Depot	423	349	423	-	-	423
Demolish Bebington Town Hall	8	8	8	-	-	8
Demolish former Rock Ferry High School	62	13	62	-	-	62
Demolish former Rock Ferry High School Stanley Special School / renovation	267	217	267	-	-	267
Demolish former Foxfield School	18	1	18	-	-	18
I.T. Development	30	6	30	-	-	30
Millennium Centre re-modelling	1,423	1,418	1,423	-	-	1,423
Treasury Building	158	28	158	-	-	158
Road Safety	140	61	140	-	-	140
Active Travel	26	20	26	-	-	26
Bridges	8	8	8	-	-	8
Street lighting	862	223	292	-	570	862
Transport for Growth/Integrated Transport	60	-	-	-	60	60
Highway Maintenance	1,499	259	536	-	963	1,499
Pothole Action Fund	3,321	2,681	575	-	2,746	3,321
Coast Protection	206	196	-	-	206	206
East Float access Tower Road	12	2	3	9	-	12
East Float access Duke Street	200	2	-	-	200	200
	100	41	-	-	100	100

Business (continued)	Revised Programme £000	Spend to Date £000	Council Resources £000	Revenue/ Reserves £000	Grants £000	Total Funding £000
International Business Park Port Sunlight	195	-	-	-	195	195
Dock Bridges Replacement	2,096	660	66	-	2,030	2,096
Energy schemes (LED Street Lighting)	32	94	32	-	-	32
Business Investment Grants	238	86	238	-	-	238
Growth Fund	300	-	300	-	-	300
	12,531	7,118	5,452	9	7,070	12,531

People

Pensby Wood Centre	268	18	268	-	-	268
School Place Planning	990	424	296	-	694	990
Somerville Mobile Replacement	68	18	68	-	-	68
Stanley Special School	485	456	485	-	-	485
Private Finance Initiative	85	-	-	85	-	85
Condition/Modernisation	3,325	2,153	-	-	3,325	3,325
Basic Need allocation	1,205	855	-	-	1,205	1,205
Children's' Centres	-	2	-	-	-	-
Universal Free School Meals	-	36	-	-	-	-
Wirral Youth Zone – the Hive	1,900	1,200	1,900	-	-	1,900
Family Support Scheme	47	47	47	-	-	47
Community Intermediate Care Services	100	-	100	-	-	100
Citizen and Provider Portal/Integrated I.T	1,078	105	461	-	617	1,078
Transformation of Day Service	156	101	-	-	156	156

	Revised Programme £000	Spend to Date £000	Council Resources £000	Revenue/ Reserves £000	Grants £000	Total Funding £000
People (continued)						
Extra Care housing	600	-	-	-	600	600
Assistive Technology	615	-	230	-	385	615
	10,922	5,415	3,855	85	6,982	10,922
Environment						
Park depots rationalisation	652	502	652	-	-	652
Transport Museum	71	4	71	-	-	71
Flaybrick Cemetery	225	191	75	-	150	225
CCTV Cameras and other equipment	100	-	100	-	-	100
West Kirby Marine Lake – Integrated accommodation and service delivery	250	188	100	-	150	250
Wirral Tennis Centre re-roofing	300	271	300	-	-	300
Wirral Tennis Centre – Pitch / Fence	48	12	48	-	-	48
West Kirby/Guinea Gap	82	78	82	-	-	82
Oval Sports Centre re-development	1,030	545	1,030	-	-	1,030
West Kirby Flood Alleviation	103	5	100	3	-	103
Gorsefield Avenue flood relief	100	-	-	20	80	100
Cemetery Extensions and Improvements	273	7	273	-	-	273
Start Active, Play Active, Stay active	14	23	14	-	-	14
Wirral Way - widening / safety improvements	4	2	4	-	-	4
Allotments	121	117	121	-	-	121

	Revised Programme £000	Spend to Date £000	Council Resources £000	Revenue/ Reserves £000	Grants £000	Total Funding £000
Environment (continued)						
Parks vehicles replacement	117	12	117	-	-	117
Aids, Adaptations and Disabled Facility Grants	2,000	1,169	-	-	2,000	2,000
Clearance	200	8	100	-	100	200
Home Improvement	600	394	600	-	-	600
Restore Empty Homes	278	-	-	-	278	278
New House Building Programme	709	318	709	-	-	709
The Priory	4	9	-	-	4	4
	7,281	3,855	4,496	23	2,762	7,281

Note : The Programme in Appendix 1 assumes that the changes in Table 2 of the report are agreed.

APPENDIX 2

CAPITAL RECEIPTS RECEIVED DURING 2016/17

Cash Received	£000
Ex-HRA Magenta Housing Right to Buy	389
North Star, 294 Laird Street	15
One O'Clock Gun site	10
Hind Street /Thomas Street land	195
Empty Homes (various)	55
Caretakers house Mount Pleasant Road	137
Manor Drive deposit	100
Total	901

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MINUTE EXTRACT

CABINET

27 FEBRUARY 2017

97 PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2017/2018



Councillor Phil Davies, Leader of the Council, said:

“The Pay Policy Statement 2017/18 – if agreed – demonstrates our commitment to the Living Wage and on ensuring our Pay Policy is fair, equitable and sustainable.”

Councillor Phil Davies introduced a report that informed that the Localism Act 2011 set out the requirements for Councils to determine and publish annual pay policy statements. The requirements of The Localism Act included:

- The Pay Policy Statement to be approved by the Council, in advance of the Financial Year to which it related.
- The Pay Policy Statement to be published on the Council website.

The Cabinet noted that the Pay Policy Statement was required to set out the Council’s policies relating to the following:

- Chief Officer Remuneration, including salary, allowances, and enhancements at termination.
- Remuneration of its lowest paid employees.
- The relationship between Chief Officer Remuneration and that of other employees.

Appended to the report was the draft Pay Policy Statement 2017 - 2018.

Councillor Davies reported that he was proud of the fact that the Council was one of the first Councils to introduce the Living Wage.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the introduction of the revised National Living Wage rate of £8.45 per hour, effective from 1 April 2017 be agreed; and**
- (2) the Council be recommended to approve the Council's Pay Policy Statement for the Financial Year 2017/18.**



COUNCILLOR PHIL DAVIES

CABINET
MONDAY 27 FEBRUARY 2017

PAY POLICY 2017/18

Councillor Phil Davies, The Leader of The Council, , said:

“The Pay Policy Statement 2017/18 – if agreed – demonstrates our commitment to the Living Wage and on ensuring our Pay Policy is fair, equitable and sustainable.”

REPORT SUMMARY

The Localism Act 2011 sets out the requirements for Councils to determine and publish annual pay policy statements. The requirements of The Localism Act include:

- The Pay Policy Statement to be approved by Full Council, in advance of the financial year to which it relates.
- The Pay Policy Statement to be published on the Council website.

The Pay Policy Statement is required to set out the Council’s policies relating to the following:

- Chief Officer Remuneration, including salary, allowances, and enhancements at termination.
- Remuneration of its lowest paid employees.
- The relationship between Chief Officer Remuneration and that of other employees.

RECOMMENDATION/S

Cabinet to agree the introduction of the revised National Living Wage rate of £8.45 per hour, effective from 1 April 2017.

Cabinet to consider and recommend to Council the approval of the Council's Pay Policy Statement for the financial year 2017/18.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

The Council is required by Section 38 of The Localism Act 2011 to prepare a Pay Policy Statement for each financial year.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

No other options were considered as the Pay Policy Statement is a requirement of the Localism Act 2011.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Key Changes

The 2017/18 statement reflects key changes and updates that have occurred within the last financial year as follows:

The Living Wage

A new National Living Wage rate was announced by The Living Wage Foundation on 1 November 2016. The new Living Wage rate is £8.45 per hour, an increase of 20p.

The introduction of the new Living Wage rate has implications for the Council's pay grades as follows:

- Band A, SCP10 will increase to the Living Wage rate of £8.45.
- Band B, SCP11 will increase from the pay award rate of £8.4602 to the local rate of £8.5497.
- SCP12 to be no longer used.
- Band C will include two SCP's: SCP13 at £8.70 and SCP14 at £8.85.
- Any employee on SCP12 will increment to SCP13, effective 1 April, 2017.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The cost of implementing the Living Wage rate (effective 1 April 2017) and adjustment to the Council's pay grades as detailed above is approximately £14,000 including on-costs. This will be built into departmental budgets under the provision for pay growth.

The cost of the pay awards, including NJC, JNC (Craft, Youth and Community, Chief Officers) and the Soulbury Committee has been made in the 2016-17 budget proposals (1% budget provision made).

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The Council is required to meet the requirements of the Localism Act 2011.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

There are not any resource implications arising from this report.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

The Council is required to prepare and approve its Pay Policy Statement 2017/18 before 31 March 2017. The Council will be at risk of not meeting the requirements of The Localism Act 2011 if this is not achieved.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

The Trade Unions have been consulted on the key updates and changes for the 2017/18 Pay Policy.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

The EIA is available at:

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APPENDICES

Appendix One: The Pay Policy Statement 2017-18

REFERENCE MATERIAL

N/A

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Council	14 March 2016
Council	12 March 2015
Council	10 March 2014
Council	5 March 2013
Council	1 March 2012

WIRRAL COUNCIL

PAY POLICY STATEMENT

2017 – 2018

DRAFT

1. Introduction and Purpose

- 1.1. The Localism Act 2011 (sections 38-43) requires local authorities in England and Wales to publish a pay policy statement for each financial year.
- 1.2. The purpose of the statement is to provide transparency with regard to the Council's approach to setting the pay of its employees (excluding schools based staff) by identifying:
 - The methods by which salaries of all employees are determined;
 - The detail and level of remuneration of its most senior staff i.e. 'Chief Officers', as defined by the relevant legislation;
 - The Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service responsibility for ensuring the provisions set out in this statement are applied consistently throughout the Council and recommending any amendments to Full Council.
- 1.3. The Council will consult with the relevant Trade Unions in relation to changes and updates to the Pay Policy, before the Policy is considered by Full Council.
- 1.4. Once approved by Full Council, this policy statement will come into immediate effect and will be subject to review on a minimum of an annual basis; the policy being approved by 31 March each year.
- 1.5. The Council may, by resolution, amend this Pay Policy, including after the beginning of the financial year to which it relates.

2. The Scope of this Policy

- 2.1. This Pay Policy Statement relates to staff employed by Wirral Council whose remuneration including rate of pay and terms and conditions are determined by and within the control of the Council.

3. Other Legislation Relevant to Pay and Remuneration

- 3.1. In determining the pay and remuneration of all of its employees, the Council will comply with all relevant employment legislation.
- 3.2. It is Council policy to ensure that there is no pay discrimination within its pay structures and that all pay differentials can be objectively justified through the use of job evaluation mechanisms, which directly establish the relative levels of posts in grades according to the requirements, demands and responsibilities of the role.
- 3.3. Under the Public Sector Equality Duty 2011, the Council is required to publish and analyse equal pay across protected groups and disaggregate the information to address under-representation across the workforce.
- 3.4. The Council will ensure that it meets the requirements of the Local Government Transparency Code 2014. The Transparency Code requires that all local authorities publish certain information related to the organisation, salaries and fraud including:

- Organisation chart
- Senior salaries
- The pay multiple
- Trade union facility time
- Fraud
- Constitution

3.5. The Council will ensure that it meets the requirements of the Gender Pay gap reporting regulations, April 2017 (subject to approval of Parliament).

4. Pay Structure

- 4.1. The Council uses a local variation of the nationally negotiated pay spines (i.e. a defined list of salary points) as the basis for its pay structure, which determines the salaries of the large majority of its (non schools) workforce.
- 4.2. The Council's National Joint Council for Local Government Services (NJC) pay spine is varied at Band A, B and C through the introduction of the Living Wage (see Living Wage).
- 4.3. The grading structure for Bands A to H (up to spinal column point (scp 34) was implemented as part of the Council's Job Evaluation process in August 2008, using the National Joint Council for Local Government Services (NJC) Job Evaluation Scheme.
- 4.4. The Council also employs staff on other pay and terms and conditions including Craft, Youth and Community, Soulbury, Teachers, Public Health and other locally agreed pay rates.
- 4.5. Public Health staff are currently on the same pay and terms and conditions as at the time of the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employees: TUPE) transfer (1 April 2013). Public Health staff are TUPE static.
- 4.6. The Council adopts the national pay bargaining arrangements in respect of the establishment and revision of the national pay spine, for example through any agreed annual pay increases negotiated with joint trade unions, subject to any local agreements in place.
- 4.7. Where a nationally negotiated pay spine does not apply, the Council will determine the salary rate through local negotiation and agreement.
- 4.8. All other pay related issues are the subject of either nationally or locally negotiated rates, having been determined from time to time in accordance with collective bargaining machinery.
- 4.9. In determining its grading structure and setting remuneration levels for any posts which fall outside the scope of the national pay bargaining arrangements, the Council takes account of the need to ensure value for money in respect of the use of public expenditure, balanced against the need to recruit and retain employees who are able to meet the requirements of providing high quality services to the community.

4.10. There are circumstances where the terms of Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employees: TUPE) may determine the eligibility of pay awards for employees who transfer into the Council.

4.11. Variations to Pay Grade

4.11.1. From time to time it may be necessary to take account of the external pay levels in the labour market in order to attract and retain employees with particular experience, skills and capacity. Where necessary the Council will ensure the requirement for such is objectively justified by reference to clear and transparent evidence of relevant market comparators, using data sources available from within the local government sector and outside, as appropriate.

4.11.2. Any temporary supplement to the salary scale for the grade is approved in accordance with the Council's Honoraria Policy, or any applicable market rate supplement arrangements.

4.12. Job Evaluation

3.12.1 The Council has implemented Job Evaluation for NJC employees paid up to scp 34, using the NJC Job Evaluation Scheme.

3.12.2 The Council is committed to implementing a new grading structure and pay line for NJC posts over scp 34.

3.12.3 The Council will review all other non NJC posts.

4.13. The Living Wage

4.13.1. Living Wage rates are based on Minimum Income Standards methodology and seek to take account of real living costs for essential goods and services.

4.13.2. Through the Council's Pay Policy Statement, the Council is committed to and pays the Living Wage for all employees.

4.13.3. The Living Wage rate is reviewed and announced by The Living Wage Foundation on 1 November each year. The Council will consider any increases to the Living Wage as part of the annual Pay Policy Statement. If agreed, increases to the Living Wage will take effect from 1 April the following year. The provision for the Living Wage will be kept under review.

4.13.4 The current Living Wage rate for outside London increased from 1 November 2016 to £8.45 per hour.

4.14. New Appointments

4.14.1. New appointments will normally be made at the minimum scp of the relevant pay scale for the grade. Where the candidate is already in receipt of a salary above the minimum scp of the relevant pay scale, the appointment will

normally be made at the nearest equivalent scp in the grade. If the employee is already in receipt of acting up or honoraria this will also apply.

- 4.14.2. The appointment salary may be varied with the agreement of the Assistant Director: Human Resources & Organisational Development. Proposals should be made by the recruiting manager, supported by a business case providing objective justification for the proposed variation prior to any offer of employment.

4.15. Progression through Pay Grades

- 4.15.1. An employee's progression through the increments of a particular pay grade is linked to length of service. Increments are awarded on 1 April each year, or for new appointments between 1 October and 31 March, six months from the start date.
- 4.15.2. The arrangements and factors considered in determining an individual's progression through different pay grade may be determined by experience, skills and qualifications as set out in the relevant Job Description and progression criteria.

5. Senior Management Remuneration

- 5.1. For the purposes of this statement, senior management means 'Chief Officers' as defined within the Localism Act. This includes statutory Chief Officers, non-statutory Chief Officers and deputy Chief Officers.
- 5.2. The posts falling within the statutory definition are set out in '*The Code of Recommended Practice for Local Authorities on Data Transparency (the data transparency code)*'.
- 5.3. The Council's grading structure for Chief Officers is as follows:
- **Chief Executive**
 - **Senior Director**
 - **Director 1**
 - **Director/Deputy Director 2**
 - **Assistant Director 1**
 - **Assistant Director 2**
- 5.4. The terms and conditions, including the payment of any allowances for Chief Officers is set out within the Joint Negotiating Committee for Chief Officers of Local Authorities constitution conditions of service salaries. All details of Chief Officer salaries are published in accordance with the Transparency Code.
- 5.5. The Chief Executive handbook sets out the terms and conditions of employment for the Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service. Some provisions within this also apply to Council's Statutory Officers (Section 151 Officer and Monitoring Officer).

6. Recruitment of Chief Officers

- 6.1. The Council’s policy and procedures with regard to recruitment of Chief Officers is set out in Part Four of The Council’s Constitution. The appointment of Chief Officers and Deputy Chief Officers is delegated to The Employment and Appointments Committee as set out in Part Three of The Council’s Constitution.
- 6.2. When recruiting to all posts, the Council will take full and proper account of all provisions of relevant employment law and its own Equal Opportunities, Recruitment and Selection, and Redeployment Policies as approved by Council.
- 6.3. The determination of the remuneration to be offered to any newly appointed Chief Officer will be in accordance with the pay structure and relevant policies in place at the time of recruitment.
- 6.4. In line with guidance under The Localism Act, proposed appointments to posts with remuneration exceeding £100,000 will be subject to a vote at Full Council.
- 6.5. The appointments of Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service, Section 151 Officer and Deputy Section 151 Officer, Monitoring Officer and Senior Information Risk Owner (SIRO) will be subject to a vote at Full Council.

7. Additions to Salary

- 7.1. In addition to basic salary, the following posts receive additional pay as set out below:

Post / Tier of post	Payment details
Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service	Returning Officer duties: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National statutory amount for Parliamentary/National Elections. • Locally determined amount in accordance with national guidance for Local Government Elections.
All eligible employees	Allowances in accordance with The Council’s Terms and Conditions.

8. Pension Contributions

- 8.1. The employer’s pension contribution is required to be published under S7 of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2011.
- 8.2. The Council will automatically enroll all eligible employees into the Local Government Pension scheme and the Council is required to make a contribution to the scheme representing a percentage of the pensionable remuneration due under the contract of employment of that employee.

8.3. The rate of contribution is set by Actuaries advising Merseyside Pension Fund and reviewed every three years in order to ensure the scheme is appropriately funded.

9. Payments on Termination

9.1. The Council's approach to statutory and discretionary payments on termination of employment for all employees, including Chief Officers, prior to reaching normal retirement age, is set out within the Council's Enhanced Discretionary Severance Scheme.

9.2 The Council will keep its Enhanced Discretionary Severance Scheme under review. Any changes, as approved by Full Council are published in accordance with the Local Government (Early Termination of Employment) (Discretionary Compensation) (England and Wales) regulations 2006.

9.3 In line with guidance under The Localism Act, any payments upon termination exceeding £100,000, (apart from contractual payments, where the Council has no discretion) shall be subject to a vote at Full Council, or the relevant Committee or Panel of Elected Members with delegated authority to approve such payments. Payments upon termination are subject to any future legislative change or caps that may be introduced.

10. Lowest Paid Employees

10.1. The lowest paid persons employed by the Council are employed on full time (36 hours) equivalent salaries in accordance with spinal column points 10 (Band A) of council's grading structure (locally agreed). The grading structure takes account of the Living Wage hourly rate (see section 3 above).

10.2. The relationship between the rate of pay for the lowest paid and Chief Officers is determined by the processes used for determining pay and grading structures as set out earlier in this policy statement.

10.3. The current pay levels within the Council define the multiple between the average full time equivalent (FTE) earnings and the Chief Executive as 1: 6.46.

10.4. The current pay levels within the Council define the multiple between the lowest paid employee full time equivalent (FTE) earnings and average Chief Officer earnings as 1: 5.92.

10.5. The current pay levels within the Council define the multiple between the average FTE earnings and the average of Chief Officer earnings as 1: 3.28.

10.6. As part of its overall and ongoing monitoring of alignment with external pay markets, both within and outside the sector, the Council will use available benchmark information as appropriate. In addition, upon the annual review of this Statement, the Council will also monitor any changes in the relevant 'pay multiples' and benchmark against other comparable local Authorities.

11. Accountability and Decision Making

11.1. In accordance with the Constitution of the Council, the Employment and Appointments Committee is responsible for decision making in relation to Chief Officer recruitment.

11.2 The Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service has delegated responsibility for decision making in relation to the recruitment, pay, terms and conditions and severance arrangements in relation to employees of the Council below Chief Officer level.

12. Re-employment / Re-engagement of Employees

12.1. The Council will not re-employ any former employees that have left the Council through early retirement or under the Voluntary Severance Scheme where there has been a cost to the Council, except in exceptional circumstances and with the approval of the Assistant Director: Human Resources and Organisational Development.

13. Publication

13.1. Upon approval by Full Council, this statement will be published on the Council's Website and Intranet.

13.2. In line with the requirement of the Local Government Transparency Code 2014, the Council will publish an organisation chart covering staff in the top three levels of the organisation, which will include the following information:

- Grade
- Job Title
- Salary in £5,000 brackets
- Salary ceiling (the maximum salary for the grade)

13.3. The following information for senior salaries (employees whose remuneration in that year was at least £50,000) will also be published:

- Job Title
- Salary

MINUTE EXTRACT

CABINET

27 FEBRUARY 2017

99 DRAFT CALENDAR OF MEETINGS FOR THE 2017/18 MUNICIPAL YEAR



Councillor Ann McLachlan, Cabinet Member - Transformation, Leisure and Culture (and Joint Deputy Leader of the Labour Group), said:

“This report sets out a programme of meetings for the coming Municipal Year, allowing the Council to plan its business effectively and enable effective governance and scrutiny of all decisions.”

Councillor Ann McLachlan introduced a report that recommended draft dates for Council, Cabinet and Committee meetings (“Council meetings”) for the Municipal Year 2017/2018. The report also described various issues that had been taken into account in compiling it. Appended to the report as Appendix 1 was the Draft Calendar of Meetings for the 2017/18 Municipal Year.

Other meetings that did not constitute a meeting of the Council and, therefore, did not require inclusion in the Calendar of Meetings were set out at Appendix 2 to the report. Councillor McLachlan informed that notification of these other meetings was provided now to enable Members to manage their diaries.

The Wirral Plan: A 2020 Vision set out a shared partnership vision to improve outcomes for Wirral residents. Delivery of the priorities and outcomes described in the Plan was dependent on the efficient operation of the democratic process to scrutinise and make the decisions required and the requirement for the scheduling of Council meetings which took these decisions.

The decision required was not a key decision.

RESOLVED: That:

- (1) the relevant draft Calendar of Meetings for the 2017/18 Municipal Year set out at Appendix 1 for approval, and unless amended at the meeting of Council on 20 March, 2017, be confirmed as the Calendar of Meetings for the Municipal Year 2017/18;**

- (2) the other meetings detailed set out at Appendix 2 be noted and Members diarise those meetings as appropriate; and**
- (3) any proposed amendments to the Calendar of Meetings and Appendix 2 be submitted to the Assistant Director: Law and Governance by 10am on Friday, 10 March 2017.**



**COUNCILLOR
ANN MCLACHLAN**

**CABINET MEMBER FOR
TRANSFORMATION, LEISURE
AND CULTURE**

CABINET

Monday, 27 February 2017

**DRAFT CALENDAR OF MEETINGS FOR
THE 2017/18 MUNICIPAL YEAR**

Councillor Ann McLachlan, Cabinet Member - Transformation, Leisure and Culture (and Joint Deputy Leader of the Labour Group), said:

“This report sets out a programme of meetings for the coming municipal year, allowing the Council to plan its business effectively and enable effective governance and scrutiny of all decisions.”

REPORT SUMMARY

This report recommends draft dates for Council, Cabinet and Committee meetings (“Council meetings”) for the municipal year 2017/2018. The report also describes various issues that have been taken into account in compiling it.

Other meetings that do not constitute a meeting of the Council and therefore don’t require inclusion in the Calendar of Meeting are set out at Appendix 2. Notification of these other meetings is given now so as to enable Members to manage their diaries.

The Wirral Plan: A 2020 Vision sets out a shared partnership vision to improve outcomes for Wirral residents. Delivery of the priorities and outcomes described in the Plan is dependent on the efficient operation of the democratic process to scrutinise and make the decisions required and the requirement for the scheduling of Council meetings which take these decisions.

The decision required is not a key decision.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That Cabinet recommends to Council:

- (a) the relevant draft Calendar of Meetings for the 2017/18 Municipal Year set out at Appendix 1 for approval, and unless amended at the meeting of Council on 20 March, 2017, be confirmed as the Calendar of Meetings for the Municipal Year 2017/18; and
- (b) the other meetings detailed set out at Appendix 2 be noted and Members diarise those meetings as appropriate.
- (c) any proposed amendments to the Calendar of Meetings and Appendix 2 be submitted to the Assistant Director: Law and Governance by 10am on Friday, 10 March 2017.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 The Council must approve and publish a Calendar of Meetings for the 2017/18 Municipal Year.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

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

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 Members are asked to consider the applicable draft Calendar of Meeting for the municipal year 2017/18 and provide details and reasons of any changes (if any) they would like to see to the draft calendar.

- 3.2 Convening an extraordinary Council meeting or changing a scheduled meeting can often prove difficult given the demands placed upon Members. Matters are compounded by the membership of committees, etc being limited to a specific number of Members (and deputies) which impacts upon availability. It is therefore important that the Calendar of Meetings comprehensively captures Council meetings in such a way that it enables the Council to manage and discharge its functions in a timely and costs effective manner.

- 3.3 Access to information rules and regulations shall apply to meetings detailed in the Calendar of Meetings. However, such rules and regulations do not apply in respect of those meetings detailed in Appendix 2 - Other Meetings.

- 3.4 Dates are not included in the Calendar for Member training. A programme of dates will be drawn up by the Member Training Steering Group in due course and circulated to Members.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Council is required to ensure there are sufficient resources to administer all Council meetings in accordance with relevant legislation and the Council's Constitution

5.0 LEGAL

- 5.1 The Council is under a duty to publish a Calendar of Meetings in respect of each municipal year.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

- 6.1 The Council is required to ensure there are sufficient resources to administer all Council meetings in accordance with relevant legislation and the Council's Constitution.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 7.1 Council has previously decided that the Cabinet, Regulatory Committees, Overview and Scrutiny Committees and Constituency Committees meet a certain number of times in the municipal year to discharge the Council's functions. It is proposed that the Cabinet has at least ten ordinary meetings and one 'budget' meeting during the municipal year.
- 7.2 It is not possible to pre-empt or predict the exact number of Council meetings that are required and when they will need to take place. Additional Council meetings will be convened when necessary (and in accordance with the Council's Constitution) to ensure that the Council discharges its duties, obligations and responsibilities.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION

- 8.1 The Leader of the Council has been consulted and agreed the Cabinet dates. To take into account scheduling issues (e.g. linked to considerations of purdah) which have impacted on Constituency Committees in previous years, three meetings have been scheduled for each of the Committees in consultation with Constituency Managers, with the condition that each Constituency Committee Chair has the discretion to schedule an additional meeting in January 2018 or at another time in line with the needs of the Committee's work programme.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

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

No, as there are no equality implications.

REPORT AUTHOR: Andrew Mossop
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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Draft Calendar of Meetings for the 2017/18 Municipal Year
Appendix 2 – Other meetings

REFERENCE MATERIAL

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Council	14 March 2016
Cabinet	7 March 2016
Council	16 March 2015
Cabinet	15 January 2015

MAY - 2017/18 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS Draft

Monday	1	Bank Holiday
Tuesday	2	
Wednesday	3	
Thursday	4	LCR Mayoral Election
Friday	5	
Saturday	6	
Sunday	7	
Monday	8	
Tuesday	9	
Wednesday	10	
Thursday	11	
Friday	12	
Saturday	13	
Sunday	14	
Monday	15	ANNUAL COUNCIL (PART 1)
Tuesday	16	ANNUAL COUNCIL (PART 2)
Wednesday	17	
Thursday	18	
Friday	19	
Saturday	20	
Sunday	21	
Monday	22	
Tuesday	23	
Wednesday	24	Licensing Act 2003 Cttee; Licensing, H&S and GP Cttee
Thursday	25	
Friday	26	
Saturday	27	
Sunday	28	
Monday	29	Bank Holiday
Tuesday	30	<i>Half Term</i>
Wednesday	31	

Thursday	1	Planning Committee
Friday	2	
Saturday	3	
Sunday	4	
Monday	5	Cabinet
Tuesday	6	
Wednesday	7	Birkenhead Constituency Cttee
Thursday	8	Wallasey Constituency Cttee
Friday	9	
Saturday	10	
Sunday	11	
Monday	12	Audit and Risk Management Cttee
Tuesday	13	Standards and Constitutional Oversight Cttee
Wednesday	14	
Thursday	15	Wirral West Constituency Cttee
Friday	16	
Saturday	17	
Sunday	18	
Monday	19	
Tuesday	20	
Wednesday	21	Wirral South Constituency Cttee
Thursday	22	Planning Committee
Friday	23	
Saturday	24	
Sunday	25	
Monday	26	Cabinet
Tuesday	27	Employment and Appointments Cttee
Wednesday	28	People Overview and Scrutiny Cttee
Thursday	29	
Friday	30	

Saturday	1	
Sunday	2	
Monday	3	
Tuesday	4	Business Overview and Scrutiny Cttee
Wednesday	5	Environment Overview and Scrutiny Cttee
Thursday	6	
Friday	7	
Saturday	8	
Sunday	9	
Monday	10	COUNCIL
Tuesday	11	
Wednesday	12	
Thursday	13	
Friday	14	
Saturday	15	
Sunday	16	
Monday	17	Cabinet; Pensions Cttee
Tuesday	18	
Wednesday	19	Health and Wellbeing Board
Thursday	20	Planning Cttee
Friday	21	
Saturday	22	
Sunday	23	
Monday	24	
Tuesday	25	
Wednesday	26	<i>School Summer Holidays</i>
Thursday	27	
Friday	28	
Saturday	29	
Sunday	30	
Monday	31	

AUGUST

2017

Tuesday	1	
Wednesday	2	
Thursday	3	
Friday	4	
Saturday	5	
Sunday	6	
Monday	7	
Tuesday	8	
Wednesday	9	
Thursday	10	
Friday	11	
Saturday	12	
Sunday	13	
Monday	14	
Tuesday	15	
Wednesday	16	
Thursday	17	Planning Cttee
Friday	18	
Saturday	19	
Sunday	20	
Monday	21	
Tuesday	22	
Wednesday	23	
Thursday	24	
Friday	25	
Saturday	26	
Sunday	27	
Monday	28	Bank Holiday
Tuesday	29	
Wednesday	30	
Thursday	31	

SEPTEMBER

2017

Friday	1	
Saturday	2	
Sunday	3	
Monday	4	Cabinet
Tuesday	5	
Wednesday	6	
Thursday	7	
Friday	8	
Saturday	9	
Sunday	10	
Monday	11	
Tuesday	12	
Wednesday	13	People Overview and Scrutiny Cttee
Thursday	14	Planning Cttee
Friday	15	
Saturday	16	
Sunday	17	
Monday	18	Pensions Cttee
Tuesday	19	Business Overview and Scrutiny Cttee
Wednesday	20	Licensing H&S and GP Cttee
Thursday	21	Environment Overview and Scrutiny Cttee
Friday	22	
Saturday	23	
Sunday	24	
Monday	25	Audit and Risk Management Cttee
Tuesday	26	
Wednesday	27	Wallasey Constituency Cttee
Thursday	28	Birkenhead Constituency Cttee
Friday	29	
Saturday	30	

OCTOBER

2017

Sunday	1	
Monday	2	Cabinet
Tuesday	3	
Wednesday	4	Wirral South Constituency Cttee
Thursday	5	Wirral West Constituency Cttee
Friday	6	
Saturday	7	
Sunday	8	
Monday	9	
Tuesday	10	
Wednesday	11	
Thursday	12	
Friday	13	
Saturday	14	
Sunday	15	
Monday	16	COUNCIL
Tuesday	17	
Wednesday	18	Licensing Act 2003 Cttee
Thursday	19	Planning Cttee
Friday	20	
Saturday	21	
Sunday	22	
Monday	23	<i>Half Term</i>
Tuesday	24	
Wednesday	25	
Thursday	26	
Friday	27	
Saturday	28	
Sunday	29	
Monday	30	
Tuesday	31	

NOVEMBER

2017

Wednesday	1	
Thursday	2	
Friday	3	
Saturday	4	
Sunday	5	
Monday	6	Cabinet
Tuesday	7	
Wednesday	8	
Thursday	9	
Friday	10	
Saturday	11	
Sunday	12	
Monday	13	Pensions Cttee
Tuesday	14	
Wednesday	15	Health and Wellbeing Board
Thursday	16	Planning Cttee
Friday	17	
Saturday	18	
Sunday	19	
Monday	20	Standards and Constitutional Oversight Cttee
Tuesday	21	Audit and Risk Management Cttee
Wednesday	22	Licensing, H&S and GP Cttee
Thursday	23	Employment and Appointments Cttee
Friday	24	
Saturday	25	
Sunday	26	
Monday	27	Cabinet
Tuesday	28	People Overview and Scrutiny Cttee
Wednesday	29	Business Overview and Scrutiny Cttee
Thursday	30	Environment Overview and Scrutiny Cttee

DECEMBER

2017

Friday	1	
Saturday	2	
Sunday	3	
Monday	4	
Tuesday	5	
Wednesday	6	
Thursday	7	
Friday	8	
Saturday	9	
Sunday	10	
Monday	11	COUNCIL
Tuesday	12	
Wednesday	13	
Thursday	14	Planning Cttee
Friday	15	
Saturday	16	
Sunday	17	
Monday	18	
Tuesday	19	
Wednesday	20	
Thursday	21	
Friday	22	
Saturday	23	
Sunday	24	Christmas Eve
Monday	25	Christmas Day
Tuesday	26	Boxing Day
Wednesday	27	
Thursday	28	
Friday	29	
Saturday	30	
Sunday	31	

JANUARY

2018

Monday	1	New Years Day
Tuesday	2	
Wednesday	3	
Thursday	4	
Friday	5	
Saturday	6	
Sunday	7	
Monday	8	
Tuesday	9	
Wednesday	10	
Thursday	11	
Friday	12	
Saturday	13	
Sunday	14	
Monday	15	Cabinet;
Tuesday	16	
Wednesday	17	
Thursday	18	Planning Cttee
Friday	19	
Saturday	20	
Sunday	21	
Monday	22	Pensions Cttee
Tuesday	23	Business O&S Cttee
Wednesday	24	Licensing, H&S and GP Cttee
Thursday	25	
Friday	26	
Saturday	27	
Sunday	28	
Monday	29	Audit and Risk Management Cttee
Tuesday	30	People Overview and Scrutiny Cttee
Wednesday	31	Environment Overview and Scrutiny Cttee

FEBRUARY

2018

Thursday	1	
Friday	2	
Saturday	3	
Sunday	4	
Monday	5	
Tuesday	6	
Wednesday	7	
Thursday	8	
Friday	9	
Saturday	10	
Sunday	11	
Monday	12	
Tuesday	13	
Wednesday	14	
Thursday	15	Planning Cttee
Friday	16	
Saturday	17	
Sunday	18	
Monday	19	Budget Cabinet <i>Half Term</i>
Tuesday	20	
Wednesday	21	
Thursday	22	
Friday	23	
Saturday	24	
Sunday	25	
Monday	26	Cabinet
Tuesday	27	Standards and Constitutional Oversight Cttee
Wednesday	28	

MARCH

2018

Thursday	1	Birkenhead Constituency Cttee
Friday	2	
Saturday	3	
Sunday	4	
Monday	5	BUDGET COUNCIL
Tuesday	6	Employments and Appointments Cttee
Wednesday	7	Wirral South Constituency Cttee
Thursday	8	COUNCIL (BUDGET RESERVE)
Friday	9	
Saturday	10	
Sunday	11	
Monday	12	Audit and Risk Management Cttee
Tuesday	13	Wallasey Constituency Cttee
Wednesday	14	Health and Wellbeing Board
Thursday	15	Wirral West Constituency Cttee
Friday	16	
Saturday	17	
Sunday	18	
Monday	19	COUNCIL
Tuesday	20	People Overview and Scrutiny Cttee
Wednesday	21	Licensing, H&S and GP Cttee
Thursday	22	Planning Cttee
Friday	23	
Saturday	24	
Sunday	25	
Monday	26	Cabinet; Pensions Cttee
Tuesday	27	Business Overview and Scrutiny Cttee
Wednesday	28	Environment Overview and Scrutiny Cttee
Thursday	29	
Friday	30	Good Friday
Saturday	31	

APRIL

2018

Sunday	1	Easter Day
Monday	2	Easter Monday
Tuesday	3	
Wednesday	4	
Thursday	5	
Friday	6	
Saturday	7	
Sunday	8	
Monday	9	
Tuesday	10	
Wednesday	11	
Thursday	12	
Friday	13	
Saturday	14	
Sunday	15	
Monday	16	
Tuesday	17	
Wednesday	18	
Thursday	19	Planning Cttee
Friday	20	
Saturday	21	
Sunday	22	
Monday	23	
Tuesday	24	
Wednesday	25	
Thursday	26	
Friday	27	
Saturday	28	
Sunday	29	
Monday	30	

MAY**2018**

Tuesday	1	
Wednesday	2	
Thursday	3	Local Elections
Friday	4	
Saturday	5	
Sunday	6	
Monday	7	Bank Holiday
Tuesday	8	
Wednesday	9	
Thursday	10	
Friday	11	
Saturday	12	
Sunday	13	
Monday	14	
Tuesday	15	
Wednesday	16	
Thursday	17	
Friday	18	
Saturday	19	
Sunday	20	
Monday	21	
Tuesday	22	
Wednesday	23	
Thursday	24	
Friday	25	
Saturday	26	
Sunday	27	
Monday	28	Bank Holiday
Tuesday	29	
Wednesday	30	
Thursday	31	

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Other meetings

Pre-Council Group Meetings

- Monday 3 July 2017
- Monday 9 October 2017
- Monday 4 December 2017
- Monday 26 February 2018
- Monday 12 March 2018

Youth Parliament

- Tuesday 7 November 2017

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REPORT TITLE	APPOINTMENT OF A LOCAL RETURNING OFFICER FOR THE ELECTION OF A COMBINED AUTHORITY MAYOR
REPORT OF	CHIEF EXECUTIVE

REPORT SUMMARY

The Combined Authority (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017 formally requires that each constituent council shall appoint an officer of the council to be the Local Returning Officer (LRO) for the election of a combined authority Mayor.

RECOMMENDATION/S

It is recommended that Wirral Borough Council appoint the Chief Executive to act as the Local Returning Officer (LRO) in respect of the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Mayoral election which will take place on 4th May 2017.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 As outlined in this report, there is a legal requirement that a formal appointment should be made to the position of Local Returning Officer for the election of a combined authority Mayor and it is recommended that this position is appointed to the Returning Officer for Wirral Borough Council.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 No other options were considered.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 All Councils are required to appoint an officer to be its Returning Officer in accordance with section 35 of the Representation of the People Act 1983. The Returning Officer's general duty at those elections is to do all such acts and things as may be necessary for the effectual conduct of those elections. For Wirral Borough Council that is normally the Chief Executive.
- 3.2 Ordinarily, statutory provisions will provide that a council's Returning Officer will also be the Returning Officer for any other polls held in the Borough (such as the Police and Crime Commissioner).
- 3.3 There is a lack of clarity around the Combined Authority (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017. Article 5 implies that the constituents' council Returning Officer will be the Local Returning Officer for the election of the combined authority mayor. However the rules also provide that each constituent council **shall appoint** an officer of the council to be the Local Returning Officer specifically for this election.
- 3.4 As a precaution it is deemed sensible for the Council to formally appoint the Returning Officer for Wirral to also undertake the role of Returning Officer for the Combined Authority Mayor.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 None

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The legal implications have been set out within the main body of this report.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

6.1 None

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

7.1 The Council is under a statutory duty to ensure a Local Returning Officer is appointed.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

8.1 None

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 (b) No because there is no relevance to equality.

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APPENDICES

None

REFERENCE MATERIAL

None

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date

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Council – 20 March, 2017

Motions

The following motions have been submitted in accordance with the notice required by Standing Order 7(1) and are listed in accordance with Standing Order 7(2).

1. GOVERNMENT CUTS IN SCHOOL FUNDING *(to be debated)*

Proposed by Councillor Tony Smith

Seconded by Councillor Warren Ward

Council is opposed to the government's imposition of real term funding cuts on schools by freezing per-pupil funding while inflation and the cost of employer pension and national insurance contributions increase. This affects all schools and academies alike. Without further funding, schools will lose £3bn in real terms by 2020.

This Council does not want children in this country to miss out on a decent education, supplied by dedicated teachers and support staff with sufficient resources. The average primary school cut is £87,000 or £339 per pupil. The average secondary cut is £405,000 or £477 per pupil. Wirral schools could lose up to £15,696,153. That is 421 teachers or 872 support staff.

Council agrees to write to the Secretary of State for Education to demand that these damaging cuts be reversed.

2. HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION *(to be debated)*

Proposed by Councillor Ian Lewis

Seconded by Councillor Chris Blakeley

Council notes the Planning Committee's unanimous refusal of an application to create a 10-occupant house of multiple occupation in Laird Street, Birkenhead and congratulates those residents, supported by their Ward Councillors, who opposed this application.

Council wishes to promote the need for quality, affordable homes in Wirral that raise the quality of life for all residents, regardless of tenure.

Council therefore welcomes the recent consultation by the Department for Communities and Local Government on proposals to extend mandatory licensing of Houses in Multiple Occupation, including:

- the extension of the scope of the definition of a HMO, which will enable the quality of potentially 200,000 more properties to be improved

- the introduction of a national minimum room size, in order to ensure no HMO falls below the overcrowding standard established in the 1985 Housing Act
- tougher standards for licensees, including potential DBS checks, and the increase and extension of fines imposed on licensees in breach of these standards

Council urges the DCLG to listen to the views expressed by authorities such as Wirral during the consultation and to introduce legislation in Parliament to secure these objectives.

3. KEEPING LARGE LORRIES ON THE RIGHT ROAD *(to be debated)*

Proposed by Councillor Phil Gilchrist
Seconded by Councillor Dave Mitchell

This Council supports the initiative taken by the Local Government Association in seeking the use of the most appropriate satellite navigation devices being used in lorries as opposed to those designed for motor cars.

Council believes this is necessary to reduce the damage caused to the highway infrastructure arising from vehicles being misdirected to roads that are too narrow or bridges that have weight or height restrictions, aimed at keeping the largest or heaviest vehicles off that route.

Council recognises that a number of incidents have taken place in Wirral, involving damage to both railway and road bridges, necessitating expensive repairs and highly visible markings to warn of height restrictions. Whilst these have been few in number, the introduction of better navigation systems could well minimise the possibility of future incidents.

Council considers that the cost of the most appropriate devices is not excessive. Council understands that the road haulage industry considers that good practice and common sense should prevail and lead with the use of the devices that give due warning of height and weight restrictions. However, Council believes that the Local Government Association is right to seek legislation aimed at ensuring and enforcing the use of proper systems, resolves to advise them accordingly and advise Wirral's Members of Parliament of this opinion.

4. COUNT THEM IN *(to be debated)*

Proposed by Councillor Jeff Green
Seconded by Councillor Lesley Rennie

Council notes the Leader of the Council has pledged his support to The British Legion's 'Count Them In' Campaign to include questions concerning military service and membership of the Armed Forces community in the next 2021 census.

Council wishes to add its full support to this campaign as the data collected will provide essential information for the Council to accurately map the profile and needs of our Armed Forces Community in Wirral.

Council notes the UK Statistics Authority is responsible for coordinating the census arrangements across the UK but it is for the UK Parliament, Scottish Parliament and Northern Ireland Assembly to determine what questions feature in the final census documents.

Council therefore instructs the Chief Executive to write to the Borough's four Members of Parliament and to Charles Byrne, Director General of The Royal British Legion, confirming Council's full support for the 'Count Them In' campaign.

5. GREEN BELT *(the Civic Mayor to refer to the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee)*

Proposed by Councillor Chris Blakeley

Seconded by Councillor Adam Sykes

Council welcomes and supports the Leader of the Council's resolute commitment to protect Wirral Green Belt when he stated, "I am not prepared to allow our green belt land to be built on. I am resolute about that commitment. It is the jewel in Wirral's crown and greatly valued by our residents."

Council recognises the valuable part green belt provides in halting urban sprawl and protecting our much loved green spaces, including Council owned land in Saughall Massie which is under attack from the Fire Service, and the land in Hoylake and West Kirby earmarked for housing and a golf resort.

Council therefore resolves to confirm its unconditional guarantee to protect Wirral's green belt and further resolves that it will not release or allow Council owned green belt land to be developed under any circumstances.

Council also looks forward to the Housing Bill, giving extra protection to Green Belt as outlined in the Housing White Paper.

6. PAVILIONS IN SPORTS GROUNDS *(the Civic Mayor to refer to the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee)*

Proposed by Councillor Paul Hayes

Seconded by Councillor Bruce Berry

Council notes that, among the 2020 Pledges, is a commitment to ensure 'leisure and cultural opportunities for all'.

Council is therefore concerned with the poor condition of many of the sports pavilions and changing rooms within our parks, sports grounds and open spaces.

Council requests that a review of provision be undertaken by the Environment Scrutiny Committee, including visits to sites and evidence from sports clubs, football teams and other users, to enable a full assessment of the condition to take place and to explore opportunities for attracting external funding for refurbishment and repair.