



Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date: Wednesday, 21 September 2016

Time: 6.00 pm

Venue: Committee Room 1 - Wallasey Town Hall

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AGENDA

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

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

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

2. MINUTES (Pages 1 - 8)

To approve the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 18 July 2016.

3. WORK PROGRAMME WORKSHOP FEEDBACK

4. TRANSFORMING WIRRAL - COMMUNITY SAFETY (Pages 9 - 16)

5. FUTURE DOMESTIC REFUSE COLLECTION SERVICE - PRESENTATION

- 6. WIRRAL PLAN OVERVIEW REPORT: 2016-17 QUARTER 1 – ENVIRONMENT THEME (Pages 17 - 30)**
- 7. FINANCIAL MONITORING QUARTER 1 2016/17 (Pages 31 - 58)**
- 8. POLICY INFORM BRIEFING PAPER (Pages 59 - 70)**
- 9. ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE (Pages 71 - 74)**
- 10. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS APPROVED BY THE CHAIR (PART 1)**
- 11. EXEMPT INFORMATION - EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

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

RECOMMENDED

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

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

ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Monday, 18 July 2016

Present: Councillor P Brightmore (Chair)

Councillors	S Foulkes	I Williams
	T Jones	A Sykes
	J McManus	T Anderson
	C Muspratt	B Berry
	L Reecejones	L Rowlands
	T Usher	C Carubia
	J Walsh	

Apologies Councillors T Pilgrim

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

Councillor S Foulkes declared a Personal Interest in any items contained within the agenda that may contain information relating to Magenta Living by virtue of his appointment of Board Director of Magenta Living.

2 CHAIRS WELCOME

The Chair welcomed all Members, officers and members of the public to the first meeting of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

3 MINUTES

The Chair indicated that the minutes of the former Policy and Performance Transformation and Resources Committee of 22 March, 2016 had been signed off by Council on 11 July, 2016.

4 FLOOD AND WATER MANAGEMENT ACT: SIGNIFICANT FLOOD INVESTIGATION: AUGUST 22ND TO SEPTEMBER 2ND 2015

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Environment and Regulation updating on the findings of the Flood and Water Management Act, Section 19 Flood investigation which covered the flood events from 22nd August 2015 to 2nd September 2015.

Instigated by internal damage to properties, AECOM were commissioned to undertake a Section 19 investigation and report. The commission was split into four key tasks

Task 1 – Review of Flood Events

Task 2 – Identify Flooding locations, Types and Causes of Flooding

Task 3 – Review of Flood Risk Management Agencies' Actions

Task 4 – Recommendations for Action

The Head of Corporate and Community Safety introduced the report and detailed the findings of the Section 19 Report.

In response to Members questions, the Head of Corporate and Community Safety indicated that officers were now working on the recommendations and an action plan and this would be driven through the established Wirral Operational Flood Forum.

In response to a Members' question, The Head of Corporate and Community Safety indicated since the unprecedented flooding which has occurred in 2015, officers were working and planning for any reoccurrence of flooding incidents, sandbags or the equivalent have been issued to affected residents, and work was being undertaken with the Met Office on improved weather warning tools so that early warning can be issued to residents and preparation work can be put in place. Further in-depth engineering work is also being carried out to ensure that flood damage is kept to a minimum.

Officers would also be bidding for funding from the Environment Agency as and when they became available.

A Member raised concern regarding the flooding incidents that had occurred in Bebington, these had been reported by both Ward Councillors and residents but had not been included within the report and nothing had been done to assist residents. She commented that despite meeting the criteria the incidents had not been included within the report, therefore, not been considered for funding. She further indicated that local residents had been given no help and had even provided their own sandbags; some residents had been provided with metal strips but due their disability had been unable to use them but were not offered an alternative.

In response, the Head of Corporate and Community Safety indicated that all reports received were being investigated and if they met the criteria they would be considered for funding. He clarified that the incidents referred to had been captured within the report, but he would clarify this with the Ward Members in writing.

In relation to the flooding incident at Arroe Brook, a Member indicated that this had been largely due to a dam which had been installed by the

Environment Agency not being regularly maintained and was now blocked. Issues had been raised as to who was responsible for maintaining the area but given that the area and nearby properties were separated by a fence then it would be the responsibility of the Environment Agency as they had maintained it previously and asked that the Committee requests that the Environment Agency continue to maintain and undertake clearance of the area as they had done so in the past.

In response, the Head of Corporate and Community Safety commented that he would again investigate the issues raised by Members and assured Members that these concerns had been raised during recent operations meeting, details of which could be shared with the Committee if it wished. He further assured Members that in relation to community engagement, officers were working with the Environment Agency to ensure effective management of flood risk and enhance community engagement.

For those areas highlighted within the report that met the criteria due to internal flooding but were not considered for funding, officers had made representations these were followed up but were refused. The Leader of the Council had announced at a recent Cabinet meeting that he would be approaching the Environment Agency for additional funding.

As detailed within the report there was a greater need to improve communication with residents. A Member indicated that given the lack of resources given to the Council, officers needed to work with to encourage them to help themselves and keep up the momentum.

It was highlighted that following the recent flooding incidents, a drop in service was held for residents offering advice and guidance and support, also officers had given a presentation to affected Constituency Committees. Support and awareness raising was ongoing.

At the conclusion of the debate the Chair suggested that the Committee requests the Leader of the Council to write to the Government requesting that the Council be reconsidered for inclusion in the Flood Scheme; he further suggested that a standing panel be set up to monitor the implementation of the recommendations contained within the report and the Action Plan of the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy and ensure Wirral Council and its partners are best placed to respond effectively to future significant flood events.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Leader of the Council be requested to write to the Government requesting that the Council be reconsidered for inclusion in the Flood Scheme; and**

- (2) **a standing panel be set up to monitor the implementation of the recommendations contained within the report and the Action Plan of the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy and ensure Wirral Council and its partners are best placed to respond effectively to future significant flood events.**

5 **COASTAL STRATEGY SCRUTINY REPORT**

The Committee considered the report of the Members of the Coastal Strategy Scrutiny Review Panel which provided the findings and recommendations emanating from the Coastal Strategy Scrutiny Review.

A copy of the final report was attached as appendix 1.

Introduced by the Chair of the former Regeneration and Environment Policy and Performance Committee, the report detailed the work undertaken by the Task and Finish Group and their recommendations and conclusions.

The Chair of the Task and Finish Group thanked all Members and officers for all their hard work in putting together the final report, and highlighted one of the Panel's recommendations which focused on improved communications with elected Members.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) **Members of the Panel be thanked for all their work in undertaking the Coastal Strategy Scrutiny Review;**
- (2) **The final scrutiny report Coastal Strategy be supported and be referred to the next appropriate Cabinet meeting.**

6 **TRANSFORMING WIRRAL**

The Committee considered the report of the Senior Manager Transformation & Improvement providing information on the proposed approach to pre-decision scrutiny of proposals for new business models.

The report indicated that new business models were being developed for Council services to deliver Wirral's 20 pledges, respond to stakeholder views and provide the financial savings required.

A briefing session on alternative delivery was to be held on 20th July 2016. The session would provide an overview of the different types of delivery models and their relevance and appropriateness to different services.

Pre-decision scrutiny of proposals for new business models enabled Members to engage in reviewing transformation proposals in line with the need for Council to radically change the way services were delivered to secure 2020 outcomes.

A Member expressed a view that they were happy for the proposal for pre-decision scrutiny but would like to ensure that all views from all Members from all parties were captured within future reports to Cabinet.

The Chair expressed the view that he was keen on pre-decision scrutiny which would help in trying to inform outcomes and was a means by which all Members could influence decisions. It would enable Members to become more of a critical friend and he encouraged all Members to attend the briefing session on 20 July, 2016.

The Interim Senior Manager (Alternative Delivery Models) in response to comments from Members informed the Committee that the report would be going to all three Overview and Scrutiny Committees. The proposed approach would ensure that Members were engaged at the earliest opportunity.

It was moved by Councillor Brightmore and seconded –

RESOLVED (unanimously) – That

- (1) this Committee includes pre-decision scrutiny of proposals for new business models as part of the scrutiny work programme as they become available; and**
- (2) that delegated authority be given to the Chair and Spokespersons to agree the appropriate scrutiny approach to review proposals as they are brought forward, providing pre-decision scrutiny against the agreed principles for service models.**

7 2015/16 REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSFORMATION AND RESOURCES DIRECTORATE PLAN CLOSEDOWN REPORTS

The Head of Environment and Regulation introduced a report which set out the 2015/16 year-end position in relation to performance for the Regeneration & Environment and Transformation & Resources Directorate Plans. March 2016 marked the end of the planning cycle for the 2015/16 Corporate and Directorate Plans and as such, these acted as closedown reports for both Plans.

The reports captured performance across a broad suite of performance indicators and Directorate projects. At the beginning of the report, there was an overview which included a summary analysis which also highlighted the key achievements of the plans.

Due to the new scrutiny arrangements, for this committee two Directorate Plan reports (Regeneration & Environment and Transformation & Resources) were included as both plans applied to the scope of the new committee.

Responding to Members' comments the Head of Environment and Regulation stated that Performance Appraisals had improved in the March cycle and again through the current cycle and although there was a marked improvement the Strategic Leadership Team were keen to ensure that all appraisals were undertaken within a timely manner. Human Resources department were undertaking weekly monitoring to ensure that all appraisals are completed by the end of September 2016. In response, the Chair asked that a detailed report be sent to the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee as to the progress to date and work undertaken to ensure that future appraisals would be done in a timely manner.

In relation to the performance monitoring framework, the Head of Environment and Regulation responded to Members' comments and stated that the Council was in the process of introducing a new performance monitoring framework, the new arrangements would be place in the coming weeks and Members would be informed as to the performance framework and indicators.

RESOLVED:

That the contents of the Directorate Plan Closedown Reports and the comments of the Committee be noted.

8 FLOOD AND COASTAL EROSION RISK MANAGEMENT: GOVERNANCE AND REPORTING ARRANGEMENTS

The Committee considered a briefing report of the Cabinet Member – Environment providing a summary of the governance arrangements that were in place to oversee the management of flood and coastal erosion risk.

RESOLVED:

That the Cabinet Member briefing note be noted.

9 POLICY INFORM: ENVIRONMENT

The Chair introduced a report on the July Policy Inform Briefing paper which focussed on the policies and legislation to emerge from the Queen's speech of 18 May, 2016 and which were relevant to this Committee's remit.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

10 **SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME REPORT**

The Committee considered a report from the Chair which explained the process of developing a scrutiny work programme for the new municipal year. The Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee, in cooperation with the other two Overview & Scrutiny Committees, was responsible for proposing and delivering an annual work programme. This work programme should align with the corporate priorities of the Council, in particular the delivery of the Wirral Plan pledges which were within the remit of the Committee.

The report confirmed the transfer of existing scrutiny programme items from the previous Policy and Performance Committees as reported to Cabinet at its meeting on 6 June, 2016 (minute 8 refers).

The Chair confirmed that the 'principles for prioritisation' as referred to in the report and the Committee Members' Briefing Pack were listed in a priority order. He suggested that it made sense to have the Wirral Plan as top priority.

RESOLVED:

That this Committee delegates to the Chair, Vice-Chair and Spokespersons the authority to give detailed consideration to the Committee's work programme prior to the next scheduled meeting of the Committee in September and that all Committee Members be invited to contribute to the Work Programme.

11 **IMPLICATIONS OF THE MODERN SLAVERY ACT 2015 FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES**

The Chair indicated that he would be taking this item under "Any other Urgent Business agreed by the Chair"

Circulated at the meeting the Chair introduced the report of the Head of Legal and Member Services highlighting the implications of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 for local authorities and how Wirral Borough Council would implement the legislation.

The Chair indicated that this issue was previously considered by the Families and Wellbeing Policy and Performance Committee and as a Member he had asked for a report.

The report had been considered by the People Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 14 July 2016. The report had been referred by the People Overview and Scrutiny Committee to the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee for further consideration as the report lay within the remit of both Committees.

The Chair indicated that as the report did not provide the detail he had initially requested he would liaise with the Head of Legal and Member Services to provide additional information and bring back to a future meeting of the Committee for further consideration.

RESOLVED:

The Chair to liaise with the Head of Legal and Member Services to provide additional information and bring the report back to a future meeting of the Committee for further consideration.



Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee Wednesday, 21 September 2016

REPORT TITLE:	Transforming Wirral - Community Safety
REPORT OF:	The Chair of the Committee

REPORT SUMMARY

At the previous meeting of this Committee held on 12th July, the interim Director of Transformation presented a report relating to the involvement of scrutiny in reviewing new service models as they are developed. Committee agreed to the general proposals in that report and gave delegated authority to the Chair, Vice Chair and Spokespersons to agree arrangements for the scrutiny of specific transformation projects, as appropriate.

A business case, relevant to the remit of this Committee, is at a stage where review by scrutiny members is appropriate. The business cases relate to Community Safety.

As a result, a workshop was held on 1st September 2016 at which the approach to the outline business case was explained and examined in further detail. The outcomes from the workshop are detailed in this report.

RECOMMENDATION/S

It is recommended that:

- 1) Committee notes the contents of the report.
- 2) Committee refers the report to a future meeting of Cabinet when this proposal will be considered.
- 3) Further consideration is given to the optimal timing for the involvement of scrutiny in the development of future business cases.

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

To ensure that the views of scrutiny members on the business case are reflected to Cabinet prior to further relevant decisions being taken.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Pre-decision scrutiny is regarded as good practice and is aimed at strengthening the decision-making process.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3.1 Scrutiny workshop – 1st September 2016

A workshop was held on 1st September 2016 to review an outline business case which forms part of Wirral Council's Strategic Transformation Programme. The business case relates to Community Safety.

All members of the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee were invited to attend. Seven Committee members attended the session: Councillors Phil Brightmore (Chair), Adam Sykes, Tracey Pilgrim, Louise Reece-Jones, Tom Usher, Irene Williams and Julie McManus. Apologies were received from Councillors Bruce Berry, Steve Foulkes, Christina Muspratt and Tony Jones. The Head of Corporate & Community Safety presented details of the business case following which a question and answer session was held and members had the opportunity to comment on the proposal.

It is intended that the comments provided by members at the session will be made available to Cabinet prior to further decisions being made regarding the future of the business case.

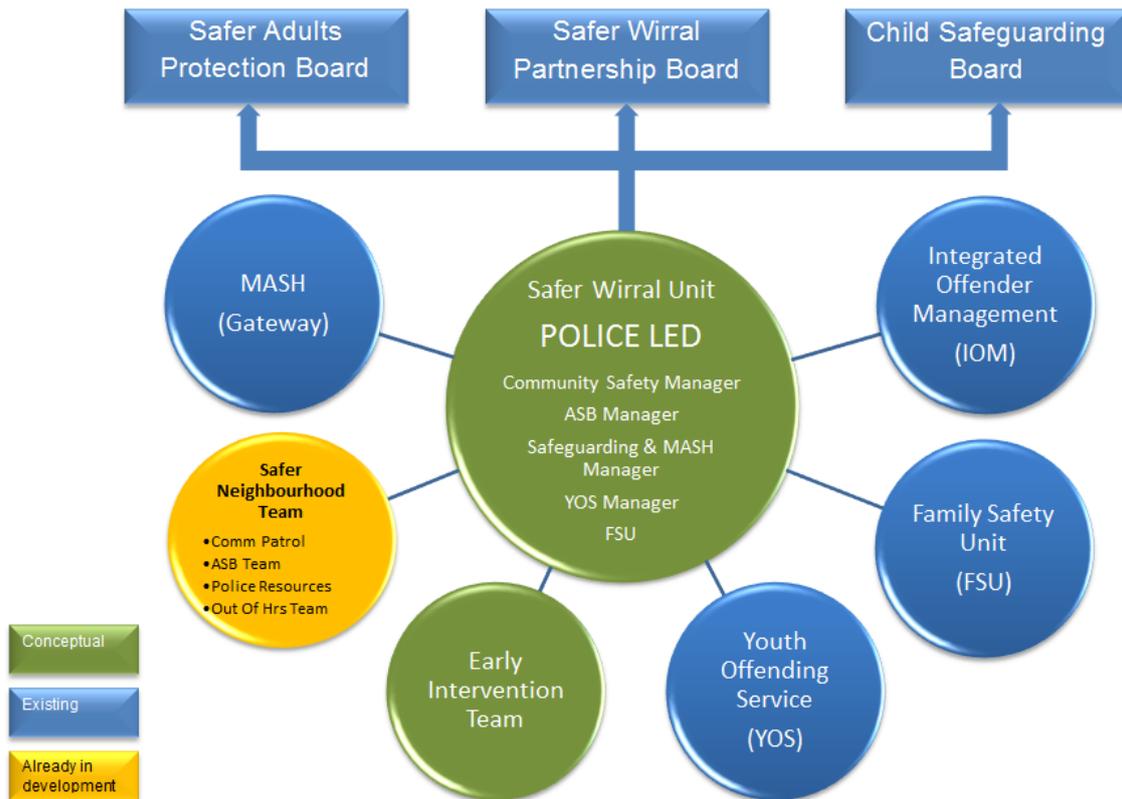
3.2 Summary of proposal

The proposal is to fully integrate Community Safety services with Merseyside Police to create a new Delivery Vehicle, the Safer Wirral Unit. The aim is to make Wirral residents feel and be safer through reducing crime and anti-social behaviour. This has been identified as the number one priority by Wirral residents. All services and teams with a responsibility around community safety would be seconded into the new integrated unit. The new Unit would include Police neighbourhood resources, Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service along with Council functions such as: community patrol, anti-social behaviour, youth offending, the family safety unit and the integrated offender management service which is made up of police and National Probation personnel.

The Operational Management of the Safer Wirral Unit will be led by Merseyside Police but Wirral Council would retain responsibility for the Strategy, commissioning the services and providing the oversight and governance through the Safer Wirral Partnership board.

The new model is shown below (Fig 1).

Fig 1:



The integrated Unit is being delivered in two phases. Phase 1 is 'Lift & Shift' which includes the transfer of some services into the new model and the agreement of the scope of pooled budgets. Phase 2 is the 'Transformation' stage of the delivery model which will enable the service to mature and highlight areas for ongoing development and change. It will also include the transformation of services, and the development of the Early Intervention Team.

3.3 Elected member comments

Operational Delivery

It was explained to Members that under the Local Government Act, there is requirement for local authorities to administer community safety partnerships and to bring relevant partners together to make sure that plans are in place to make a place safe. Members queried the criteria for what makes a place safe and how the perception of people feeling safe is dealt with. It was explained that this proposal is about bringing resources into one place which will provide more options for how the public is engaged and that the community would get a more appropriate person liaising depending on the issue to be resolved.

The levels of crime would still be with the Police to manage, in terms of statutory responsibility, and will be part of the indicator set that sits within the Unit and managed through the Police. Members learned that there is a drive by the Police and partners nationally to move away from purely numerical data around success and crime but to capture perception indicators and issues to identify how they are dealt with. The Unit will not work in isolation

from other services but there will be a greater combined resource to respond and reassure the public and deal with any perception issues.

A Member commented that moving away from raw numerical data was a concern but recognised that there may be some instances where this data, in isolation, could be important. Specifically, it was queried how the actual perception of crime doesn't mask what is really going on. The Head of Corporate & Community Safety responded by informing Members that, in terms of the Safer Wirral Partnership Board, they have inherited the whole suite of crime indicators and they will still be accountable for reviewing them. The Board will see dashboard reports on crime indicators on a regular basis and if a trend is identified, they will then direct appropriate resources to deal with that specific area. The Safer Wirral Partnership Board will include commissioners and representatives of both public health and health services (alcohol services, drug and misuse services). There is also representation from Children's Services and a designated Safeguarding Nurse for both children's and adults. Members agreed that if the Police are moving away from statistical data, consideration needs to be made to retaining some to ensure effective scrutiny can take place to ensure issues can be identified that would otherwise be hidden.

Members queried a risk of the Police potentially handing off some of their responsibilities to Wirral officers, such as Wirral Community Patrol responding to burglary calls. Members were reassured that this would not happen as it is not appropriate. However, it was explained that Wirral Community Patrol, directed by a police officer, may work together in responding to certain appropriate incidents. As community patrols and Police patrols cover the same area at the same time, it was explained that there is a benefit to pairing up at certain times and specific areas to enhance the ability to send a response to the community.

Members were informed that the Police would be operationally responsible for deploying Council officers in response to calls from the community. It was argued by the Head of Corporate & Community Safety that the positive outcome from this would be that it would address the existing issue of police resources being requested, such as for a disturbance, and nobody turning up due to other higher priority demands.

In response to questions relating to the training of officers being appropriate and sufficient for their roles, particularly in high risk situations, reassurance was suitably provided. It was explained that all officers have the appropriate personal protective equipment, similar to that of a PCSO, and that risk assessments are carried out to enable them to carry out their job safely.

As part of the integration, there is an expectation that there will also be improvement in cross-training from the Police to Council staff as well as Council staff to the Police. Members were ultimately assured that Council staff would only undertake roles in which they were adequately trained, provided with appropriate equipment and where risk assessments were in place.

It was reported to Members that the most recent survey completed by Wirral residents highlighted that 88% felt safe during the day. A Member commented that against three other comparative local authorities, the margin of difference was extremely small (91%, 91% and 86%) and whether this is enough to make a significant difference with teams simply being integrated and working closer together. An argument was put forward by the Member that Wirral Council could have looked at this proposal in a different way but the business case does not include any apparent consideration to a completely different model using the same resources. The Head of Corporate & Community Safety responded by stating that 'Phase 1' is simply a relocation of teams but 'Phase 2' in 2017 will see the opportunity to review the model at regular intervals to assess feasibility as well as the outcomes from the Ofsted inspection. With all partners integrated, there would be an opportunity to see what innovation can be achieved and what can be done differently to provide better outcomes for the residents and businesses of Wirral.

Intervention Work

Members commented that the business case to integrate Community Safety services with the Police appears to focus more on being reactive when offending occurs rather than looking at more proactive intervention to stop people offending in the first place. The business case makes no clear reference to specific teams such as CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services), Public Health or services related to drug and alcohol.

It was explained to Members that these proactive services were part of the early considerations when developing the delivery model and will be part of a transition over the next few years. It was explained that there is an Ofsted review currently being carried out on Children's Services. Additionally, Members highlighted the Taylor review on the Youth Justice System, which has yet to be released. Members understand that the outcomes and recommendations from these will need to be considered in the Final Business Case. Members were also informed that key staff from Children's Services wanted to engage in this process but there was no capacity due to involvement with Ofsted. It is understood that the 'Transformation Phase' in 2017 will allow some of this thinking to take place. Additionally, it was also explained that by moving the Youth Offending Service and Anti-Social Behaviour Team over, the appropriate plans and intervention strategies can be captured at the earliest stages of criminality, such as gangs or general bad behaviour.

Priority Setting and Targets

Members identified a risk of competing priorities between what the Council, the Police and other agencies want to deliver and that some Police priorities may not be shared with the Council. It was explained that the priorities for the Safer Wirral Unit would be set by the Safer Wirral Partnership Board so the approach to delivering the Pledges would be agreed and there would be a range of outcomes to achieve. The Safer Wirral Unit will be accountable to the Board and, by default, the Safer Adults Protection Board and the Child Safeguarding Board, so any changes in priority will be discussed at the

appropriate strategic level. For the success of this delivery model, it was agreed by Members that consistent priorities will be crucial to ensure Wirral, and the Police achieve shared goals and ambitions. Members were assured that the Council would be instrumental in priority setting within that process. The Chair of the Safer Wirral Partnership Board will be the relevant Cabinet Member and will have the ability to ensure that the Police are more accountable and answerable for delivery.

Members raised a further concern regarding the Council's ambitions aligning to recommendations arising from the Ofsted review or the Taylor report. Assurances were provided that these recommendations would be actioned. For example, if it was recommended that Children's Services should not be located within a multi-agency team led by the Police, this would be complied with and the business case would be modified accordingly.

Governance

Members queried the governance and scrutiny arrangements in place for the Safer Wirral Unit as a result of it being led by the Police. It is understood that the intention is for operational planning to be led by an appointed Officer from Merseyside Police. Officers or managers seconded to the Unit, whether from the Council or from partners, will be managed by this Officer who will be accountable to the three boards detailed in the delivery model (Fig 1.). This Officer will set the strategies, direction and outcomes for delivery based on these partnership boards and will also have a budget and resources allocated.

In terms of the reporting structure, it was explained that each board will have their own indicators which they will manage and monitor themselves. The success of the new model and achievement of the business case will be monitored by the performance monitoring and reporting arrangements. The Safer Wirral Partnership Board will monitor the delivery of these outcomes which will also be reported to the Cabinet Member and through corporate reporting mechanisms. It is expected that Wirral Plan performance indicators will be presented to Overview & Scrutiny for oversight.

A concern was raised by Members that if exception was taken with a poorly performing indicator, it was not clear who would be accountable. It was explained that it would initially be the Strategic Lead for this area of business from the Council's new Strategic Hub. The Safer Wirral Partnership Board has a statutory obligation on behalf of the Council and Police to ensure that people are safe and outcomes are delivered.

Members concluded that the scrutiny processes were unclear at this stage and there was a concern that the ability to scrutinise both the strategic and operational elements of the integrated Community Safety services without representation from the Police and Council officers. This would require more clarification to ensure scrutiny members can fulfil their role.

Communication

A Member commented that if the desired outcomes from the proposal are safer communities and improved quality of life, it will be important for the public to be aware of this. From the community point of view, there is a perception that the Police will be contacted but won't respond. A question was raised around whether there was any plan for an advertising campaign or consultation campaign to inform residents of the proposal and where they need to go to avoid confusion. The Head of Corporate & Community Safety responded by agreeing there is a need for clarity on who to contact and what services will be provided and this will be addressed through the Communication Strategy which is currently being developed. Members were informed that there will be a high profile launch promoting the Safer Wirral Unit and the various teams that have been integrated. There will also be clarity on reporting lines and what those responsibilities are.

Finance

A Member queried the efficiency savings of the proposed model and the potential risk that integrating services may increase the workload of Council funded services. The Head of Corporate & Community Safety reported that the Council budget for the proposal is £0.94M and is primarily for staffing and some transport costs. No efficiency target has been reported at this stage as the transformation work would need to take place first to assess potential savings based on the final model agreed. There is potentially scope for further efficiency savings to be realised and more additional funding may be identified as the new model develops. Members were informed that the Police and other partners have committed to providing resources but have not yet specified their budgets. As such, Members raised concern that the Council may be supporting their reducing budgets with the contribution that Wirral has made.

A Member raised a concern that the proposal appears to look like a savings option and clarity may be needed to demonstrate that the proposal is about doing the right thing with the public interest at heart and to deliver a better service. Although it is acknowledged that opportunities to maximise efficiency savings would be identified, an argument was made that there should not be any reference to efficiency savings within the business case.

Scrutiny Process of the Business Case

Members queried whether this process was pre-decision scrutiny as it appeared the decision to create the Safer Wirral Unit has already been taken and is now being implemented. It was suggested that if pre-decision scrutiny is to take place on new delivery models then this should be scheduled accordingly and before implementation commences. This should be considered for future business cases presented to Members for review.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Although there are financial implications arising from the business case, there are none arising from this report.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are none arising from this report

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

Although there are resource implications arising from the business case, there are none arising from this report.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

Not Applicable

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

Not Applicable

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct equality implications of this report.

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APPENDICES

REFERENCE MATERIAL

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee 'Transforming Wirral'	17 th July 2016



Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee Wednesday, 21 September 2016

REPORT TITLE:	Wirral Plan Overview Report: 2016-17 Quarter 1 – Environment Theme
REPORT OF:	Assistant Chief Executive

REPORT SUMMARY

The Wirral Plan: A 2020 Vision provides the joint partnership strategic planning framework to improve outcomes for Wirral residents over a five year period. It outlines 20 Pledges to residents based around the three themes of People, Business and Environment.

This report provides the Wirral Plan Overview Report which describes performance at Quarter 1 (April to June 2016). It is focused on high level population measures which describe progress towards making a difference to the lives of Wirral residents.

Through the Wirral Plan Performance Management Framework the Wirral Partnership has a robust approach to performance management ensuring that planned activity is monitored and reviewed. Underpinning this Overview Report are more detailed reports for each of the Pledges which are reported at Pledge Steering Groups and published on the Council website. These reports can be included in future quarterly performance updates and the committee may want to identify specific pledges to review in greater detail at future meetings.

Quarter 1 Progress Summary

Delivery of the Wirral Plan is driven by all partners working together with residents to make a difference. In quarter one performance highlights include:

- There has been a 9.5% increase in the number of people with disabilities in employment since the Wirral Plan was agreed, and that is in part due to the innovative work being done by the Wirral Partnership and Wirral Evolutions - the Council-owned company providing day services to vulnerable adults. The employment rate for disabled people in Wirral is now greater than the North West average and we will continue to seek significant progress in helping people with disabilities to live more independent lives.
- The Wirral Plan sets a target for all children to be educated in schools rated good or better by Ofsted by 2020. Encouraging progress is being made, with six schools being upgraded from 'requires improvement' to 'good' during the first quarter. Today, 9 out of 10 primary school pupils and 8 out of 10 secondary school pupils in Wirral attend a school which is rated at least 'good'. The Council continues to work alongside teachers and educators to

make sure every school is supported to improve and to ensure we continue providing young people with an excellent education.

- The Council has appointed 6 'Future in Minds' workers as part of a new initiative to support young people who may be experiencing mental health issues, Our early-years' service has also entered into a partnership with Job Centre Plus to run a programme helping new parents get back into the employment market.
- Good progress is being made in ensuring Wirral's neighbourhoods are safer, with a 2% reduction in the total number of crimes compared to this time last year. The council is working at a local neighbourhood level with partners including the police, local residents groups and the business community to ensure crime reduction resources are focussed where and when there is greatest need.
- Reports of anti-social behaviour are also declining with a 13% reduction in the number of incidents reported to the police compared to the same period last year. This drop in anti-social behaviour is testament to the success of the Plan's approach to integrate Police and Community Support Officers with the borough's Community Patrol and Anti-Social Behaviour Officers into one team.
- The Wirral Partnership has agreed a new approach to give victims of Domestic Violence greater confidence to report incidents and this approach has seen a successful increase in reporting compared to the same period last year. Meeting our pledge of zero tolerance to Domestic Violence relies on a joint approach with partners and communities working together to tackle domestic abuse in all its forms, and we are grateful for the efforts and work carried out by numerous partners across Wirral on tackling this worrying issue.
- The Council continues to work well with Wirral Chamber of Commerce and local businesses on a range of economic and employment issues. We are seeing greater job opportunities for Wirral residents being delivered with an increase in the employment rate of 3% compared to the start of the Wirral Plan, and an increase in the number of new jobs created compared to the same period last year. Wirral also remains the fastest growing tourism economy in Merseyside with an 8% increase in visitor numbers resulting in an additional £31million being spent in our visitor economy compared to the previous year.
- Tackling the problems residents face in finding appropriate housing is also a key goal of the Wirral Plan. We are on track to achieve our target of bringing 1,250 empty properties back into use by 2020 and at the time of writing, 388 empty properties have been identified, improved and brought back into use. 760 other properties have also been adapted or improved to help vulnerable people live with greater independence.
- Issues such as dog fouling remain a high priority for our residents. A new enforcement policy was launched in May 2016 and has immediately delivered

positive results. Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) issued to irresponsible dog owners in the first quarter equal the total number issued in the whole of the previous year. Coupled with our continued clampdown on littering, where 2631 FPNs were issued in this quarter, these results show the Council and its partners are serious about protecting our environment.

- Healthy life expectancy at birth in Wirral is lower than both national and regional figures, and recent Wirral results show an improvement for men but a decrease for women. Work is underway through delivery of the Wirral Plan including the healthier lives pledge with a particular focus on alcohol and tobacco use. This measure is a long term outcome measure which will require significant behavioural change from residents in order for long term improvement to be achieved.

Delivery of Outcomes for Residents

The Quarter One Environment Theme Overview Report is included at Appendix 1. It provides a summary of progress against all pledges and a high level summary from the Environment Pledge sponsors providing context about how the partnership is working together to deliver the projects identified in the Pledge strategies.

Data for the identified indicators is released at different times throughout the year as a result not all Pledges will have results each quarterly reporting period. Some indicators can be reported quarterly and some only on an annual basis, with annual figures reported in the quarter they become available.

At quarter one 15 indicators are available to be reported across the 20 pledges and 4 within the Environment pledges. Progress can be assessed by:

- A direction of travel which illustrates for each indicator whether performance is improving, deteriorating or sustained compared to the previous relevant figure, either from the start of the Wirral Plan (June 2015) or the same period in the previous year.
- Performance against targets set at the start of the year. For each indicator, a Red, Amber, Green or Blue rating is assigned depending on the performance level against the target with Blue noting overachievement.
- Where it is available benchmarking data to support comparison of performance with other areas is also provided for review.

RECOMMENDATION/S

Members of the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee are requested to note the content of this report and highlight any areas requiring further clarification or action.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

To ensure Members have the opportunity to monitor the performance of the Pledges under the Wirral Plan environment theme.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

None, the report follows a standard format in line with the performance management framework for the Wirral Plan.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Wirral Plan Performance Management Framework has been developed to ensure robust monitoring arrangements are in place. Underpinning this report performance reports are available for the Pledges which provide more detailed information regarding projects being delivered and supporting measures to monitor improved outcomes for residents.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are none arising from this report.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are none arising from this report.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

There are none arising from this report.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

The performance management framework is aligned to the Council's risk management strategy and both are regularly reviewed as part of corporate management processes.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

The priorities in the Wirral Plan and underlying pledges were informed by a range of consultations carried out in 2015 and 2016 including the Wirral resident survey.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

Has the potential impact of your proposal(s) been reviewed with regard to equality? No because the report is provided for information. The Wirral Plan equality impact assessment can be found at:

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/communities-and-neighbourhoods/equality-impact-assessments/equality-impact-assessments-2014-15/chief>

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Wirral Plan Overview Report 2016-17 Quarter One.

REFERENCE MATERIAL

N/A

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date

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WIRRAL PLAN OVERVIEW REPORT 2016-17 QUARTER ONE

PERFORMANCE SUMMARY

PLEDGE	INDICATOR	WIRRAL PLAN START	TARGET	2016-17 Q1	TREND	DIRECTION OF IMPROVEMENT
OLDER PEOPLE LIVE WELL	Healthy Life Expectancy at birth: Males	59.8 2011-13	59.8 (Annual)	60.4 Green	↑	Higher is better
	Healthy Life Expectancy at birth: Females	61.8 2011-13	61.8 (Annual)	60.9 Amber	↓	Higher is better
YOUNG PEOPLE ARE READY FOR WORK AND ADULTHOOD	Percentage of schools rated 'good' or 'outstanding' by Ofsted	84% 2014-15 Acad Year	93.4% (Annual)	85% Amber	↑	Higher is better
REDUCE CHILD AND FAMILY POVERTY	Increase the employment rate in Wirral	66.7% Mar 2014 - Mar 2015	70.0%	69.7% Green	↑	Higher is better
PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES LIVE INDEPENDENT LIVES	Employment rate aged 16-64 - Equality Act core or Work Limiting Disabled	37.1% Mar 2014 - Mar 2015	43.6%	46.6% Green	↑	Higher is better
ZERO TOLERANCE TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	Number of domestic abuse Wirral MARAC cases per 10,000 adult females	54 2014-15	13	23 Blue	↑	Higher is better (policy is to increase reporting before figures reduce)
	Children and young people experience domestic abuse (Wirral MARAC cases)	1289 2014-15	381	302 Green	↓	Higher is better (policy is to increase reporting before figures reduce)
	Percentage of incidents of repeat domestic abuse (Wirral MARAC cases)	16% 2014-15	25%	30% Amber	↓	Lower is better
GREATER JOB OPPORTUNITIES IN WIRRAL	Increase the number of jobs created and safeguarded via Invest Wirral	970 2014-15	60	74 Blue	↑	Higher is better
	Increase the employment rate in Wirral	66.7% Mar 2014 - Mar 15	70.0%	69.7% Green	↑	Higher is better

PERFORMANCE SUMMARY

PLEDGE	INDICATOR	WIRRAL PLAN START	TARGET	2016-17 Q1	TREND	DIRECTION OF IMPROVEMENT
VIBRANT TOURISM ECONOMY	Increase visitor numbers each year based on the 2014 baseline	7.08m (2013)	7.87m (Annual)	8.20m Green	↑	Higher is better
	Increase the value of the tourism economy by at least 5% each year	£327.85m (2013)	£372.70m (Annual)	£385.80m Green	↑	Higher is better
TRANSPORT & TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURE FOR THE FUTURE	Reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents	140 2014-15	24	29 Amber	↑	Lower is better
GOOD QUALITY HOUSING THAT MEETS THE NEEDS OF RESIDENTS	Bring 1,250 empty properties back into use	New indicator	349	388 Blue	N/A	Higher is better
WIRRAL'S NEIGHBOURHOODS ARE SAFE	Reports of anti-social behaviour (ASB) to Merseyside Police	11837 2014-15	3056	2764 Blue	↑	Lower is better
	Number of crimes recorded by the Police	19061 2014-15	5238	4906 Green	↑	Lower is better
ATTRACTIVE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT FOR WIRRAL RESIDENTS	Maintain local environmental quality (LEQ) via the street cleansing of litter, detritus, graffiti	New indicator	93%	94.2% Blue	N/A	Higher is better

Key

Trend

↑ Performance Improving ↓ Performance Deteriorating ↔ Performance Sustained N/A - No comparable data available

Based on Wirral Plan start date with exception of: Number of domestic abuse Wirral MARAC cases per 10,000 adult females, Children and young people experience domestic abuse (Wirral MARAC cases), Percentage of incidents of repeat domestic abuse (Wirral MARAC cases), Increase the number of jobs created and safeguarded by Invest Wirral, People killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents, Reports of Anti-social behaviour (ASB) to Merseyside Police, Number of crimes recorded by the police - ALL compared to same period in previous year.

Target Rating (Blue, Green, Amber, Red) based on agreed tolerance range for individual measures

Blue - Above Target Green - Within Target Amber - Below Target Red - Significantly Below Target.

PLEDGE: LEISURE AND CULTURAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL

Overview from the Pledge Sponsor

Good progress is being made in order to achieve the pledge and deliver leisure and cultural opportunities for all. Highlights include:

In June, the Active Wirral campaign was launched to encourage residents to get moving. The focus is on motivating people and suggesting the small and simple ways that people can make a big difference to their family's health. The month of June's focus was on cycling and in particular the benefits of 'getting back on a bike!' The campaign is backed by Tranmere Rovers and the first event 'Bike Breakfast' took place on 29th June at Prenton Park and offered people the chance to take part in organised bike rides and advice sessions with a free breakfast provided.

Footgolf has been introduced to three sites across the Wirral in order to attract a wider audience to our golf sites to bring in much needed revenue capitalising on Merseyside's 'hotbed' of football. With relatively minimal start-up and maintenance costs and easy accessibility Footgolf has already proven to be a great success already with over 6000 people playing throughout Wirral in just under four months, generating over £35k.

Love New Brighton Parade returned this year bigger than ever with this year's Astral Coast Festival taking place alongside the event. The Parade is the product of Love New Brighton and is a fantastic new partnership between New Brighton Community Centre, Brightside Young People's Project, Wallasey Youth Hub with the support of local schools, community organisations, businesses, traders, residents and local artists and also Wirral Council.

Now in its fifth year, Astral Coast is the focal point of the musical year of The Open Door Centre, taking the discussion of Depression, Anxiety and Mental Health in general outside of the medical, clinical world and into people's lives via the world of music, the arts and creativity.

The new Wirral Youth Zone, named by young people as 'The Hive' is making good progress. This is a purpose-built facility for the borough's young people aged 8-19, and up to 25 for those with disabilities. It will be located next to the fire station on Exmouth Street in the centre of Birkenhead and is expected to be completed in 2016.

Preparations are underway to create a mid-river firework display with some special added extras turning it into one of the most ambitious fireworks events in the country. It is hoped that by moving the city's event to the waterfront, it will reach a larger audience and have more of an impact on the local economy in both Wirral and Liverpool.

PLEDGE: WIRRAL RESIDENTS LIVE HEALTHIER LIVES

Overview from the Pledge Sponsor

Work is progressing across all elements of the pledge plan, key actions to note are:

Action to tackle tobacco use:

- One in five adults in Wirral continue to smoke, with higher rates in the more deprived communities meaning that they bear the majority of the harm caused. Current evidence reports that in the UK regular e-cigarette use among young people is almost exclusively confined to those young people who have already smoked with the number of young people who smoke continuing to fall.

Following the release of Public Health England guidance 'Use of e-cigarettes in public places and workplaces' we will develop a vaping policy that will provide the key principles for an approach that maximises the potential for e-cigarettes to improve health while managing the risks in any particular setting.

Action to tackle alcohol misuse:

Reducing the Strength - this voluntary scheme working with local stores who sell alcohol continues to have high engagement with local retailers. 46 businesses have signed up to the scheme together with 20 affiliates who are compliant with reducing the strength criteria, we therefore have 66 retailers not selling super strength alcohol across the borough. Affiliates are verified long term non-venders of super strength alcohol.

Action to promote healthy eating:

- Both Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS Trust and Clatterbridge Cancer for Oncology are working on the development of Food and Drink Plans for both patients and staff. This is a good opportunity to improve the food offer for patients, staff and visitors.
- Takeaway for a change is progressing well with good engagement with local schools and local takeaways to promote healthy eating options, in quarter one in depth work has taken place with 6 schools all in areas of high need.
- 75 businesses have signed up to the Eat Well Wirral scheme, these businesses have taken a number of steps to improve their healthy eating order e.g. using a healthier cooking oil e.g. rapeseed.

Quarter two will see further action to recruit local businesses to the reducing the strength and health eating initiatives. Work will also commence with local alcohol retailers who have asked for training to support customers who want help in changing their lifestyles particularly with regard to drinking too much.

PLEDGE: GOOD QUALITY HOUSING THAT MEETS THE NEEDS OF RESIDENTS

Overview from the Pledge Sponsor

Delivery of the Good Quality Housing that Meets the Needs of Residents pledge is progressing well with Wirral's Housing Strategy recently being signed off. Work started during 2015/16, the first year of the Wirral Plan, on the delivery of our highest priority outcome indicators, with many supporting measures and action plan activities commencing this year. Supported by partners and stakeholders we will deliver our pledge and provide improvements to living environments and the health and wellbeing of our residents and provide support to those in need of our help.

For Quarter 2 we will focus on progressing more of our action plan activities by working in partnership and by collaborating with colleagues internal and external to the Council such as the Liverpool City Region Authorities to deliver and enable access to quality, efficient and affordable housing to our residents.

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During Quarter 1 good progress has been made in several areas:

Empty homes being brought back into use have progressed rapidly during this quarter exceeding target expectations.

- A Soft Market testing Event took place with prospective partners for delivery of Extra Care provision.
- Three further funding agreements were signed for developments to commence as part of the Councils affordable homes programme.
- More than 760 home adaptations have been completed to help vulnerable people remain and live safely in their homes.

INDICATOR	WIRRAL PLAN START	MOST RECENT BENCHMARK DATA	TARGET	2015-16 Q4	2016-17 Q1	TREND	DIRECTION OF IMPROVEMENT
Bring 1,250 empty properties back into use	New indicator		349	N/A	388 Blue	N/A	Higher is better

PLEDGE: WIRRAL'S NEIGHBOURHOODS ARE SAFE

Overview from the Pledge Sponsor

As the sponsor for the Pledge to 'Ensure Wirral Neighbourhoods are Safe' I am delighted to report a 2% reduction in the total number of crimes and a 13% reduction in the number of incidents of anti-social behaviour reported by the Police for Q1 2016-17, compared to the same period the previous year.

The drop in anti-social behaviour is testament to the success of our strategy to further integrate crime reduction staff such as Police and Community Support Officers with the borough's Community Patrol and Anti-Social Behaviour Officers.

Working closely with the Chamber of Commerce and Constituency Managers (amongst many others) residents and the business community are involved in ensuring crime reduction resources are focussed where and with whom there is greatest need.

The media reports of increased crime centred on prejudice, (hate crime), following the EU referendum have not been evident in Wirral or elsewhere in Merseyside.

In the coming months:

- We will promote the reporting of under-reported crimes such as hate crime or domestic abuse where the victim may need specialist support before coming forward.
- We will increase the range of community organisations to support hate crime victims in reporting incidents and to reduce the risk of re-victimisation.

INDICATOR	WIRRAL PLAN START	MOST RECENT BENCHMARK DATA	TARGET	2015-16 Q4	2016-17 Q1	TREND	DIRECTION OF IMPROVEMENT
Reports of anti-social behaviour (ASB) to Merseyside Police	11837 2014-15		3056	11235	2764 Blue	↑	Lower is better
Number of crimes recorded by the Police	19061 2014-15		5238	19956	4906 Green	↑	Lower is better

PLEDGE: ATTRACTIVE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT FOR WIRRAL RESIDENTS

Overview from the Pledge Sponsor

Through a partnership approach delivery is well underway and it is pleasing to note that many of the performance indicators and measures that can be reported this quarter are achieving anticipated targets and that activities underway are progressing well.

Highlights for Quarter 1:

Our performance relating to dog fouling and littering enforcement activities has exceeded expectations, we will continue to focus on these as prime drivers to cultural changes across Wirral.

We achieved our ambitious target for the number of prosecutions undertaken for environmental offences.

In Quarter 2 work is underway to introduce more localised supporting activities, with direct input from constituency based colleagues and Members, these will be focused on improving living environments for residents. Additional work will also be planned to support schools to recycle more which will contribute our overall recycling commitment and obligations.

INDICATOR	WIRRAL PLAN START	MOST RECENT BENCHMARK DATA	TARGET	2015-16 Q4	2016-17 Q1	TREND	DIRECTION OF IMPROVEMENT
Maintain local environmental quality (LEQ) via the street cleansing of litter, detritus, graffiti	New indicator		93%	N/A	94.2% Blue	N/A	Higher is better



Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee Wednesday, 21 September 2016

REPORT TITLE:	Financial Monitoring Quarter 1 2016/17
REPORT OF:	Section 151 Officer/ Head of Financial Services

REPORT SUMMARY

This report and appendices sets out the projected revenue and capital monitoring position for 2016/17 as at the close of quarter 1 (30 June 2016) as reported to Cabinet on 18 July 2016.

The quarter one revenue report forecast an overspend of £1.1 million for the year and sought approval for the allocation of £11.1 million from the Revenue Contingency Budget contingency to Directorates and the use of £1.6 million of General Fund Balances. The report also updated on other budgetary movements which had arisen since the 2016/17 budget was agreed.

The capital report updated the capital programme to reflect re-profiling of schemes between years which produces a capital programme of £58.97 million for 2016/17. Expenditure after the first quarter concluded was £2.7 million.

RECOMMENDATION/S

1. That members note the report and appendices.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 To ensure Members have the appropriate information to review the budget performance of the authority.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 The appendices contain the standard authority wide capital and revenue monitoring reports. A New Operating Model is to be introduced within the Council and monitoring arrangements will be reviewed once the New Operating Model arrangements are functioning and embedded.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 Under the New Operating Model, existing directorates will be superseded with new structures based around a Strategic Hub, Business Support function and a number of Delivery Units. Overview and Scrutiny Committees have already been reconstituted away from a directorate basis to align with Wirral's 20/20 Vision themes three of Business, People and Environment.
- 3.2 A budget realignment process is to take place to align to the New Operating Model. In very broad terms People will cover areas currently within Adult Social Care and Children and Young People, Environment will cover areas within Regeneration and Environment, whilst Business will cover Transformation and Resources plus aspects of the Regeneration and Environment budget.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Financial implications are contained within the appendices. These explain the latest revenue budget and forecast spend positions and the capital programme budget and spend to date.

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 no implications arising directly from this report.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 7.1 There are none directly relating to this report. The monitoring of financial performance is important to ensure robust financial control procedures are in place.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

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

9.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

9.1 This report is essentially a monitoring report which reports on financial performance.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Revenue Monitoring 2016/17 Quarter 1
Appendix 2 – Capital Monitoring 2016/17 Quarter 1

REFERENCE MATERIAL

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Cabinet	18 July 2016

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COUNCILLOR PHIL DAVIES

CABINET

18 JULY 2016

REVENUE MONITORING 2016/17

QUARTER 1 (TO JUNE 2016)

Councillor Phil Davies (Leader of the Council) said:

“Ensuring robust, transparent and effective management of our finances remains of the utmost importance. As national austerity policies continue, the responsibility falls on local government to ensure the services which residents rely on every day remain viable.

“Wirral Council once again has set a balanced and sustainable budget, and is committed to working hard throughout the year to ensure it is delivered. We are reporting a small variance and projected overspend this year – less than 0.5% of our revised revenue budget – and we remain confident we have the necessary plans and systems in place to quickly rectify this situation and once again deliver a balanced budget at the end of the financial year.”

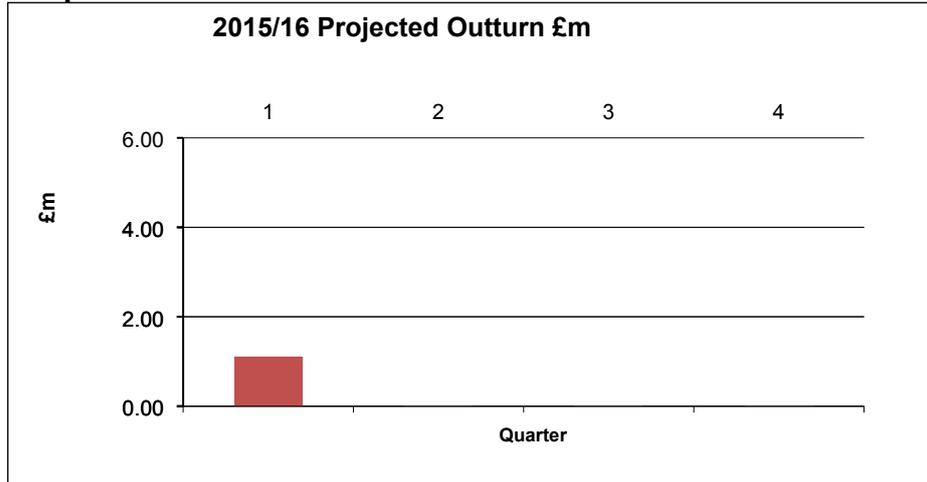
REPORT SUMMARY

This report sets out the projected revenue position for 2016/17 as at the close of quarter 1 (30 June 2016).

The latest position forecasts an overspend of £1.1 million for 2016/17. Council agreed a Revenue Budget Contingency of £12 million in anticipation of increasing pressures and the delayed delivery of previously agreed savings.

The headline position is shown in the graph.

Graph 1: Wirral Council – 2016/17 General Fund Variance



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

Recommendations

1. That the £11.1 million distribution of the Revenue Budget Contingency be approved.
2. That the use of £1.6 million of General Fund balances be referred to Council for approval.
3. That the receipt of £0.17 million of New Homes Bonus Returned Funding Grant which will be added to General Fund Balances be noted.
4. That the underspend of £1.3 million identified following the closure of the 2015/16 accounts being added to General Fund Balances be noted.
5. That Officers identify actions and take measures to reduce the projected overspend of £1.1 million and replenish General Fund balances.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 The Council, having set a Budget at the start of the financial year, needs to ensure that the delivery of this Budget is achieved. Consequently there is a requirement to regularly monitor progress so that corrective action can be taken when required which is enhanced with the regular reporting of the financial position.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 This is a monitoring report but any options to improve the monitoring and budget accuracy will be considered.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3.1 CHANGES TO THE AGREED BUDGET

- 3.1.1 The 2016/17 Budget was agreed by Council on 3 March 2016. Any increase in the Budget has to be agreed by full Council. Changes to the Budget since it was set are summarised in Table 1.

Table 1: 2016/17 Original & Revised Net Budget by Directorate £000's

	Original Net Budget	Proposed Budget Change Quarter 1 Use of Contingency	Proposed Budget Change Quarter 1 Use of Balances	Revised Net Budget
	£ms	£ms	£ms	£ms
FWB - Adult Social Care	71,311	3,900	1,500	76,711
FWB – Children & Young People,	67,773	5,000	-	72,773
FWB - Further Areas: Safeguarding, Schools, Leisure, Public Health	9,383	-	100	9,483
Regeneration & Environment	83,607	-	-	83,607
Transformation & Resources	24,730	500	-	25,230
Corporate Growth, Savings & Grant	7,791	- 9,400		-1,609
Net Cost of Services	264,595	-	1,600	266,195

- 3.1.2 The revenue budget included within it a Contingency to mitigate the financial risks associated with demand pressures and the delivery of previously agreed savings.
- 3.1.3 Following a review of the financial position and having regard to the 2015/16 out-turn it is recommended that £11.1 million of the Revenue budget Contingency now be allocated. This relates to £3.9 million within Adult Social Services, £5 million in Childrens Services, £0.5 million for Transformation and Resources and £1.7 million in respect of corporate budgets.

- 3.1.4 After use to mitigate pressures and additional care fee costs, £0.9 million of the Revenue Budget Contingency will remain. The allocation of General Fund balances will increase the 2016/17 net cost of services budget by £1.6 million.
- 3.1.5 Cabinet on 6 June 2016 agreed Social Care Fees Setting proposals for 2016/17. The investment is £3 million above the current budget. £1.5 million transferred from the Revenue Budget Contingency and a call on General Fund Balances for the remaining £1.5 million.
- 3.1.6 The Passport for Life concession proposal was revoked after the budget was set in March 2016. The cost of this is approximately £0.1 million and is to be met from General Fund Balances in 2016/17.
- 3.1.7 The Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) on 23 May 2016 announced that Wirral would receive a grant payment of £0.17 million. This relates to a national allocation of unrequired monies originally top-sliced from formula grant to fund the New Homes Bonus scheme. This money will be added to General Fund Balances.
- 3.1.8 The closure of the 2015/16 Accounts resulted in an underspend of £1.3 million on the revenue budget. This amount has been added to General Fund Balances. Further details are in the Out-turn 2015/16 report on this agenda.

PROJECTIONS AND KEY ISSUES

- 3.2.1 The projected outturn position as at the end of June 2016, key issues emerging and Directorate updates are detailed in the following sections.

Table 2: 2016/17 Projected Budget variations by Directorate £000's

Directorates	Revised Budget	Forecast Outturn	(Under) Overspend Quarter 1	RAGBY Class	Change from prev
FWB - Adult Social Care	76,711	76,711	0	G	-
FWB – Children & Young People	72,773	76,073	3,300	R	-
FWB - Further Areas: Safeguarding, Schools, Leisure, Public Health	9,483	9,783	300	G	-
Regeneration & Environment	83,607	83,607	0	G	-
Transformation & Resources	25,230	22,730	-2,500	Y	-
Corporate Growth, Savings & Grant	-1,609	-1,609	0	G	-
TOTAL	266,195	267,295	1,100		0

The report classifies the forecast under/overspends for the above areas using a colour RAGBY rating. The ratings are defined as follows:

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

3.3 DIRECTORATE UPDATES

3.3.1 Families and Wellbeing: Adult Social Care

- Following the outcome of the implementation of the Care Cost review, including the impact of the National Living Wage and overnight allowances Cabinet on 6 June 2016 agreed to increase the investment in this service by £3 million as referred to in Section 3.1.6.
- There are a number of savings rated red or amber which are primarily prior year savings. Progress of these will be closely monitored. Resources were identified within, and have been allocated from, the Revenue Budget Contingency to offset the pressures in 2016/17.
- A number of on-going pressures exist around demographics and demand and the Directorate has identified mitigating actions to deal with the remaining pressures. However, these do present risks to the successful delivery of the budget in 2016/17.

3.3.2 Families and Wellbeing: Children and Young People

- There are a number of savings rated red or amber which are primarily prior year savings. Resources were identified within, and have been allocated from, the Revenue Budget Contingency to offset the pressures in 2016/17.
- The forecast overspend relates to significant pressures within looked after children, agency and transport and assumes the achievement of targets in respect of reductions in residential placements and agency staff.

3.3.3 Families and Wellbeing: Other

- Reversal of Passport for Life saving decision requires use of £0.1 million from General Fund Balances.
- Leisure budget pressures of £0.3 million relate to meeting previously agreed saving targets in respect of reduction in overall subsidy combined with new targets.
- Nothing to report at this stage in respect of Schools, Safeguarding and Public Health

3.3.4 Regeneration and Environment

- No variances forecast as yet. Number of areas which generated savings in 2015/16 were incorporated as savings within the 2016/17 Budget.
- As the year progresses underspends may emerge but at this stage outturn is protected to be as the Budget.

3.3.5 Transformation & Resources

- Overall underspend from pro-active treasury management activity including extended temporary internal borrowing being used to replace more expensive external borrowing.

- Asset Management forecasting £0.5 million overspend relating to the delivery of previously agreed savings. Resources were identified within, and have been allocated from, the Revenue Budget Contingency. The position may improve as the year progresses if income and Planned Preventative Maintenance spend is similar to the levels in 2015/16.

3.4 IMPLEMENTATION OF SAVINGS

3.4.1 Savings of £31 million were agreed when setting the 2016/17 Budget. A further £10 million of savings relating to previous years savings had not been implemented. Cabinet in July 2015 agreed to re-profile £9.6 million of the 2015/16 savings to 2016/17, whilst a further £0.6 million was unachieved by March 2016. An analysis of the position of the £41 million of savings has been undertaken and is summarised below.

Table 3: Budget Implementation Plan 2015/16 (£000's)

RAG	Total identified Shortfall from 2015/16 and prior	Pre-Agreed 16/17	Agreed in 2016/17	Total
Red	5,400	460	3,205	9,065
Amber	1,592	1,420	1,365	4,377
Green	3,200	940	401	4,541
Blue	-	300	23,452	23,752
TOTAL	10,192	3,120	28,423	41,735

3.4.2 The savings tracker contains an assessment of the 2016/17 savings.

- **Blue:** Represents £23.7 million of savings (57% of total) which have already been realised.
- **Green:** Savings on track to deliver
- **Amber:** Some concerns regarding delivery and will require closer scrutiny and monitoring and includes savings within Adults, Children and Asset Management.
- **Red:** Concerns although largely covered by Revenue Budget Contingency as detailed earlier in the report. Comprised of Children's (£4.3 million), Adults (£1.1million) and Remodelling (£1.7 million).

3.5 INCOME AND DEBT

3.5.1 Revenue and Income falls into four broad areas for reporting purposes. Amounts raised and collected in the year are shown in Table 4.

Table 4: Amount to be Collected in 2016/17

	2016/17	2016/17	
	Collectable	Collected	%
	£000	£000	
Council Tax	146,136	40,444	27.7%
Business Rates	76,389	22,392	29.3%
Fees and charges: Adults & Children	24,957	9,492	38.0%
Fees and charges: all other services	23,350	13,853	59.3%

COUNCIL TAX

- 3.5.2 Compared with June 2015 the collection performance is the same in percentage terms but in terms of cash received an additional £1.7 million has been collected. The following table compares the amount collected for Council Tax in the period 1 April 2016 to 30 June 2016 with the amount collected in the same period in 2015/16:

Table 5 Council Tax Comparatives

	Actual	Actual
	2016/17	2015/16
	£000s	£000s
Cash to Collect	146,136	139,662
Cash Collected	40,444	38,739
% Collected	27.7%	27.7%

- 3.5.3 The major change this year relates to a 4% increase in the amount collectable of which 2% is for Adult Social Care. Overall Council Tax levels are £6.5 million more than this time last year. There has been a reduction in numbers eligible for Council Tax Support over the last 12 months which increases the number of people who may face difficulties in paying this additional cost.

BUSINESS RATES

- 3.5.4 Cash received to 30 June 2016 is up by £0.4 million on the equivalent period a year ago. The percentage collected to date however is lower due to the timing of in year receipts from some large properties. Business Rate levels collectable are £4.5 million than this time last year reflecting increases to the valuation list.
- 3.5.6 The table compares the amount collected for the period 1 April 2016 to 30 June 2016 with the amount collected for the same period in 2015/16:

Table 6: National Non-Domestic Rates Comparatives

	Actual	Actual
	2016/17	2015/16
	£000s	£000s
Cash to Collect	76,389	71,215
Cash Collected	22,392	21,905
% Collected	29.3%	30.8%

3.5.5 Wirral is part of the Liverpool City Region Business Rates Retention pilot scheme. It is expected that next year we may retain 100% of all Business Rates collected; the figure is currently 49%. Any increase in income will however likely be offset by reduction/cancelling of Government grants and the transfer to Wirral of additional responsibilities. The DCLG have stated that pilot authorities will not be financially disadvantaged by being part of the pilot. Wirral currently receives more in the centrally allocated NNDR 'top-up' grant than its proportion of collectable NNDR.

DEBTORS

3.5.7 At the end of June 2016 the arrears stood at £25.2 million. The table provides an analysis across service areas and the amount of debt at each recovery stage:

Table 7: Accounts Receivable Outstanding Arrears Analysis

Directorate Description	Less than 10 days	1st reminder	2nd reminder	3rd reminder	Total at 30.06.16
	£	£	£	£	£
Chief Executive	84,847	2,181	17,678	928,456	1,033,162
Neighbourhood	40,662	0	5,316	12,843	58,821
Transformation & Resources	6,037,312	722,184	167,242	1,285,860	8,212,598
Families & Wellbeing	4,049,227	669,452	480,082	9,901,379	15,100,140
Regeneration & Environment	633,779	33,932	81,185	323,928	1,072,824
Policy & Performance	0	0	0	121,353	121,353
Totals	10,845,827	1,427,749	751,503	12,573,819	25,598,898

3.5.8 The above figures are for invoices in respect of the period up to the end of June 2016. Payments as well as amendments such as write-offs and debt cancellations continue to be made after this date on all these accounts. There is a further deduction of £362,995 to be made for unallocated payments at month end leaving a balance of **£25,235,903**

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 On 22 February 2016 Cabinet agreed to the level of General Fund balance for 2016/17 being based upon a risk calculation and a minimum of £11.5 million. The level is kept under review during the year to reflect changing circumstances and in-year developments.

4.2 As reported elsewhere on this Cabinet agenda the 2015/16 financial year saw an underspend of £1.3 million on the revenue budget which will be added to balances. A further £0.2 million will be added from the receipt of returned New Homes Bonus grant which was top-sliced from the finance settlement by the DCLG.

- 4.3 As referred to in this report above £1.5 million of balances are required for funding 2016/17 care fees and a further £0.1 million to fund the passport for life saving reversal,

Table 8: Summary of the Projected General Fund Balances

Details	£m
Balance 31 March 2016 when setting the Budget 2016/17	+11.5
Add; Additional Returned New Homes Bonus Grant	0.2
Add: Increase following closure of 2015/16 accounts	1.3
Less: Allocation for care fees	-1.5
Less: Reversal of passport for life budget option	-0.1
Projected Balance Excluding Current Year Projection	11.4
Less: Potential overspend at June 2016	-1.1
Projected Balance 31 March 2017	10.3

- 4.4 The requirement to replenish the General Fund balances to the minimum level will be addressed through Directorates identifying potential underspends in the current financial year together with a mid-year review of the Earmarked Reserves. The Reserves excluding School balances totalled £58.8 million at 1 April 2016. These include reserves relating to the cost of transformation, mitigation of future financial risks and specific project support.
- 4.5 There are no IT, staffing or asset implications arising directly out of this report.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The entire report concerns the duty of the Council to avoid a budget shortfall. The Chief Finance Officer has a personal duty under the Local Government Finance Act 1988 Section 114A to make a report to the executive if it appears to them that the expenditure of the authority incurred (including expenditure it proposes to incur) in a financial year is likely to exceed the resources available to it to meet that expenditure.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS; ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

- 6.1 There are no implications arising directly from this report.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 7.1 The possible failure to deliver the Revenue Budget is being mitigated by:
- Senior Leadership Team / Directorate Teams reviewing the financial position.
 - Tracking system of savings options to monitor progress.
 - Benefits Realisation Group monitors the delivery of key change projects.
 - Use of temporary additional support to assist with revenues collection.
 - Use of earmarked reserves and General Fund Balance savings risk contingency

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

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

9.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

9.1 This report is essentially a monitoring report which reports on financial performance.

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SUBJECT HISTORY

Council Meeting	Date
Budget Council	3 March 2016

**COUNCILLOR PHIL DAVIES****CABINET****18 JULY 2017****CAPITAL MONITORING 2016/17****QUARTER 1 (TO JUNE 2016)****Councillor Phil Davies (Leader of the Council) said:**

'It is important that we are robust and transparent in how we manage all Council expenditure. This report demonstrates the major investment we are making against our priorities and that we are taking sensible and pragmatic steps to make best use of resources to develop our assets to support our services to the public.'

REPORT SUMMARY

This report provides an update on the progress in delivering the Capital Programme 2016/17 at the end of June 2016. The report recommends that Cabinet agrees the 2016/17 Capital Programme of £58.97 million which now takes into account re-profiling identified during both the 2015/16 final accounts process and the current year together with any additional grant funding notified to the Council. Expenditure to date is £2.7 million.

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

RECOMMENDATIONS

To note the spend to date at Month 3 of £2.7 million, with 25% of the financial year having elapsed, a period when a number of payments relate to the 2015/16 accounts.

To agree and refer to Council the revised Capital Programme of £58.97 million (Table 1).

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

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

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

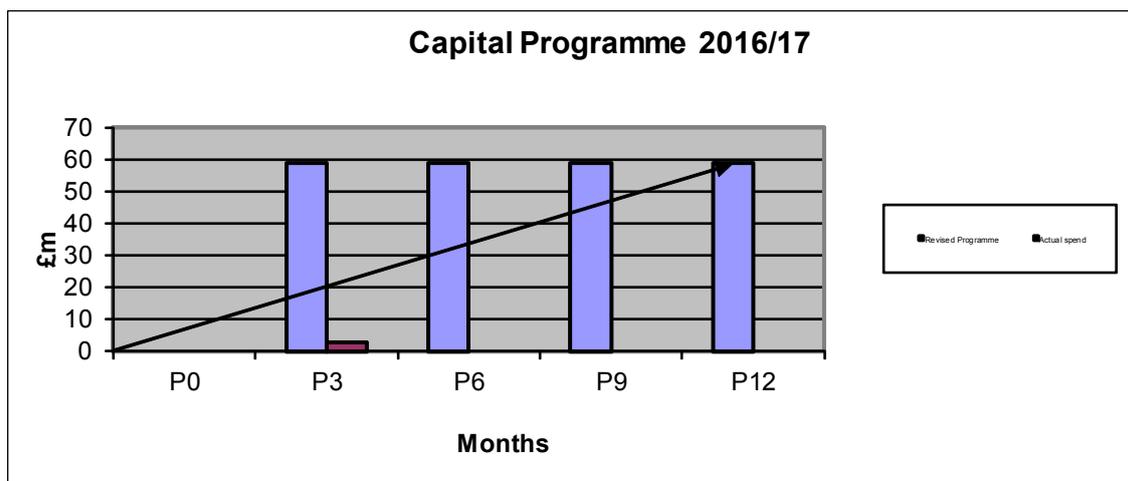
2.1 No other options have been considered.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

OVERALL POSITION AT END OF JUNE 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
Variations identified Month 10 monitoring 2015/16	2,750
Year end re-profiling	6,364
Additional grant funding	1,750
Revised 2016/17 Programme	58,971

Table 1: Capital Programme 2016/17 at 30 June 2016

	Capital Strategy	Revisions Since Budget Cabinet	Revised Capital Programme	Actual Spend June 2016
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Transformation Resources	7,863	1,755	9,618	637
Families – Children	9,185	3,766	12,951	564
Families – Adults	10,255	794	11,049	167
Families – Sport & Rec	2,871	368	3,239	351
R&E– Env & Regulation	10,016	2,635	12,651	551
R&E– Hsg & Comm Safety	7,317	847	8,164	430
R& E – Regeneration	600	699	1,299	4
Total expenditure	48,107	10,864	58,971	2,704

- 3.3 As outlined above a number of schemes within the Programme have been re-profiled to reflect updated project delivery forecasts and changes in available funding. These are reflected in Table 1. The expenditure figures are suppressed by the inclusion of a number of credits for capital accruals charged against the 2015/16 year in accordance with accounting practice. The significant variances which have arisen since Budget Cabinet are shown in Table 2 below.

Table 2: Significant Variations (> £0.2m) to the 2016/17 Programme

Scheme	£000
Transformation & Resources	
Building refurbishment to increase occupancy – schemes proceeding ahead of schedule	-202
Park depot rationalisation – re-profiled	252
Energy efficiency initiatives – re-profiled	218
I.T. Development – re-profiled	1,423
Families & Wellbeing – Children	
School Place Planning – re-profiled	1,617
Condition/Modernisation – re-profiled	1,028
Basic Needs – re-profiled	1,096
Wirral Youth Zone (The Hive) – scheme proceeding ahead of schedule	-500
Families & Wellbeing – Adults	
Citizen and Provider Portal – re-profiled	617
Reg & Env – Environment & Regulation	
Transport for Growth – re-profiled	216
Highway Maintenance – re-profiled	222

Additional Grant Funding – flood defence, pot holes, integrated transport, highways maintenance	1,750
Reg & Env – Housing Aids, Adaptations and DFGs – reduced requirement to reflect a more deliverable programme	-612
New House Building Programme	1,000
Reg & Env – Regeneration Business Investment Grants – re-profiled	675
	8,800

- 3.4 Schemes will be subject to an ongoing review to ensure that a deliverable programme is in place, that they are compatible with the 2020 Vision and to try and identify any savings.

FINANCING OF THE CAPITAL PROGRAMME

- 3.5 Table 3 summarises the financing sources for the original and latest programmes.

Table 3: Revised Capital Programme Financing

Capital Programme Financing	Capital Strategy	Revised Programme
	£000s	£000s
Unsupported Borrowing	16,852	20,970
Capital Receipts	13,339	14,762
Revenue and Reserves	1,004	1,184
Grants	16,912	22,055
Total Financing	48,107	58,971

- 3.6 Any re-profiling which reduces borrowing will produce 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 is in Table 4. This reflects the 2016-19 Capital Programme agreed by Cabinet on 22 February 2016 with subsequent amendments for reprofiling and revised grant notifications. The programme post 2016/17 is fairly small at the moment but may increase as 2015/16 schemes are reprofiled and new schemes are identified for inclusion in future capital programmes during the year.

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

Capital Programme Financing	2016/17 Revised Programme	2017/18 Programme	2018/19 Programme	Total Programme
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Unsupported Borrowing	20,970	2,040	1,720	24,730
Capital Receipts	14,762	2,414	0	17,176
Revenue / Reserves	1,184	66	50	1,300
Grants	22,055	13,135	0	35,190
Total Financing	58,971	17,655	1,770	78,396

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 £24.7 million new unsupported borrowing included over the three years, which will result in approximately £1.9 million of additional revenue costs detailed at Table 5.

Table 5: Unsupported Borrowing Forecasts & Revenue Costs

	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
	£000	£000	£000	£000
New Unsupported Borrowing	20,970	2,040	1,720	0
Cumulative	20,970	23,010	24,730	24,730
Annual Revenue repayment costs				
Cumulative	367	1,608	1,756	1,855

CAPITAL RECEIPTS POSITION

- 3.9** The Capital Programme is reliant on the Council generating capital receipts to finance future schemes. Available capital 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.

Table 6: Projected Capital Receipts position

	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
	£000	£000	£000
Capital Receipts Reserve	8,047	285	4,871
In - Receipts Assumption	7,000	7,000	4,500
Out - Funding assumption	-14,762	-2,414	0
Closing Balance	285	4,871	9,371

3.10 Additional flexibilities relating to the use of future capital receipts were announced in the Autumn Statement. This may result in a re-assessment of the Authority's intended use of future receipts with a subsequent impact on the financing of future capital programmes.

3.11 The Council is currently negotiating with the prospective developers of Acre Lane and the Manor Drive sites. 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 £58.97 million and anticipated capital receipts remaining at the year-end £0.3 million.

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 will be mitigated by the monthly review by a senior group of officers, charged with improving performance.

7.2 The generation of capital receipts may be influenced by factors outside the authority's control e.g. ecological issues. Lambert, Smith, Hampton are still providing 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 previous report to Cabinet	Various
Capital Programme – Council	24 February 2015
Capital Programme – Council	3 March 2016

Capital Programme and Funding 2016/17**APPENDIX 1**

Transformation & Resources	Revised Programme £000	Spend to Date £000	Council Resources £000	Revenue/ Reserves £000	Grants £000	Total Funding £000
Building refurbishment to increase occupancy	1,417	395	1,417	-	-	1,417
Cleveland St. Transport Depot	2,878	-	2,878	-	-	2,878
Demolish Bebington Town Hall	378	-	378	-	-	378
Demolish former Rock Ferry High	395	-	395	-	-	395
Park depots rationalisation	1,002	37	1,002	-	-	1,002
Energy efficiency Initiatives	218	-	218	-	-	218
Demolish Stanley Special & external renovation work	18	-	18	-	-	18
Demolish Foxfield	30	-	30	-	-	30
CCTV Cameras and other equipment	100	-	100	-	-	100
I.T. development	1,423	190	1,423	-	-	1,423
Transport Museum	261	-	261	-	-	261
Flaybrick Cemetery	175	12	175	-	-	175
Industrial Estates	150	-	150	-	-	150
Millennium Centre re-modelling	523	2	523	-	-	523
Treasury Building	650	-	650	-	-	650
	9,618	636	9,618	-	-	9,618

Families and Wellbeing – CYP	Revised Programme £000	Spend to Date £000	Council Resources £000	Revenue/ Reserves £000	Grants £000	Total Funding £000
Elleray Park Special School redevelopment	72	-	72	-	-	72
School Place Planning	3,117	61	2,423	-	694	3,117
Condition/Modernisation	4,114	243	-	-	4,114	4,114
Basic Need allocation	2,510	95	-	-	2,510	2,510
Children's centres	32	-	-	-	32	32
Youth Capital	149	-	98	-	51	149
Funding for 2 year olds	17	-	-	-	17	17
Universal Free School Meals	-	13	-	-	-	-
Somerville Mobile Replacement	101	-	101	-	-	101
PFI	85	-	-	85	-	85
Family Support Scheme	237	45	237	-	-	237
Wirral Youth Zone – the Hive	1,900	-	1,900	-	-	1,900
Stanley Special - additional classrooms, medical/hygiene provision	617	107	617	-	-	617
	12,951	564	5,448	85	7,418	12,951

	Revised Programme £000	Spend to Date £000	Council Resources £000	Revenue/ Reserves £000	Grants £000	Total Funding £000
Families and Wellbeing – DASS						
Citizen and Provider Portal for Social and Health Services	617	-	-	-	617	617
Transformation of Day Service	156	92	-	-	156	156
Integrated IT	461	75	461	-	-	461
Pensby Wood day service re-modelling	1,200	-	1,200	-	-	1,200
Extra Care housing	2,000	-	1,000	-	1,000	2,000
LD Extra Care housing	3,000	-	3,000	-	-	3,000
Integrated social care – Girtrell Court	2,000	-	2,000	-	-	2,000
Assistive Technology	615	-	230	-	385	615
Community Intermediate Care Services	1,000	-	1,000	-	-	1,000
	11,049	167	8,891	-	2,158	11,049
Families and Wellbeing - Sports & Recreation						
West Kirby/Guinea Gap/Europa Pools	242	3	242	-	-	242
Refurb of Artificial Turf Pitch & perimeter fence repairs at the Tennis & Sports Centre	48	-	48	-	-	48
West Kirby Marine Lake – Integrated accommodation and service delivery	825	37	675	-	150	825
Leasowe Leisure outdoor 3G pitches	820	-	820	-	-	820
The Oval re-development	979	45	979	-	-	979
Bidston Tennis Centre re-roofing	325	266	325	-	-	325
	3,239	351	3,089	-	150	3,239

Regeneration and Environment - Environment & Regulation	Revised Programme £000	Spend to Date £000	Council Resources £000	Revenue/ Reserves £000	Grants £000	Total Funding £000
Road Safety	97	52	97	-	-	97
Active Travel	78	-	78	-	-	78
Bridges	292	8	292	-	-	292
Highway Maintenance	3,373	257	311	-	3,062	3,373
Preventative maintenance to unclassified and residential streets	500	-	500	-	-	500
Pothole Action Fund	206	-	-	-	206	206
Transport for Growth	478	-	-	-	478	478
Integrated Transport	1,375	-	-	-	1,375	1,375
Start Active, Play Active, Stay active	14	5	14	-	-	14
Wirral Way - widening / safety improvements	4	2	4	-	-	4
Cemetery Extensions and Improvements	273	-	273	-	-	273
Coast Protection	242	-	242	-	-	242
East Float access improvements Tower Road	200	-	-	-	200	200
Wirral International Business Park connections	200	-	-	-	200	200
East Float access improvements Duke Street	400	12	-	-	400	400
Energy schemes (LED Street Lighting)	32	55	32	-	-	32
Allotments	121	150	121	-	-	121
Parks vehicles replacement	117	-	117	-	-	117
West Kirby Flood Alleviation	1,953	-	503	150	1,300	1,953
Gorsefield Avenue flood relief	100	-	20	-	80	100
Dock Bridges Replacement	2,596	8	771	-	1,825	2,596
	12,651	549	3,375	150	9,126	12,651

Regeneration and Environment - Housing & Community Safety	Revised Programme £000	Spend to Date £000	Council Resources £000	Revenue/ Reserves £000	Grants £000	Total Funding £000
Aids, Adaptations and Disabled Facility Grants	3,696	317	1,550	-	2,146	3,696
Clearance	1,443	5	712	350	381	1,443
Home Improvement	722	108	423	299	-	722
Improvement for sale grants	180	-	-	180	-	180
Housing renewal	470	-	350	120	-	470
New House Building Programme	1,001	-	1,001	-	-	1,001
Cluster of Empty Homes Fund	652	-	-	-	652	652
	8,164	430	4,036	949	3,179	8,164
Regeneration and Environment - Regeneration						
Business Investment Grants	975	-	975	-	-	975
The Priory	24	4	-	-	24	24
Growth Fund	300	-	300	-	-	300
	1,299	4	1,275	-	24	1,299
Total	58,971	2,701	35,732	1,184	22,055	58,971

Capital Receipts 2015/16**APPENDIX 3**

Cash Received	£000
Ex-HRA Magenta Housing Right to Buy	389
North Star, 294 Laird Street	15
One O'clock Gun House	10
Empty Homes (various)	55
Total	469

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POLICY INFORM: Environment

Policy Inform- September 2016

The Policy Inform briefings will provide an overview of ongoing and recent national legislation, bills presented to Parliament and emerging policies.

The Policy Inform briefings have been produced specifically to inform Portfolio Holders and Elected Members and will be taken to the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committees for discussion.



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Introduction

The Wirral Plan:

A 2020 Vision which sets out a shared partnership vision to improve outcomes for Wirral residents.

The Plan focuses on three key priority areas:



The Wirral Plan Environment Priority states:

“Wirral has an attractive and sustainable environment, where good health and an excellent quality of life is enjoyed by everyone who lives here.”

Environment Policy Briefing:

This policy briefing focuses specifically on policies and legislation relating to the Environment Priority and is intended to provide Members of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee with the latest position on emerging policy and legislative developments to support the committees work programme and future scrutiny work.

The following table outlines the timetable for the preparation and reporting of policy briefing papers:

Overview & Scrutiny Briefings	
July 2016	The first policy briefing will focus predominately on the Queen’s Speech, which will establish the Government's legislative programme for the parliamentary year ahead.
September 2016	The second policy briefing will be produced in September; it will provide an update on policy and legislation and will focus on Wirral Implications relevant to the government’s programme of legislation as outlined in the previous policy briefing.

<p>January 2017</p>	<p>The third policy briefing will focus on the Autumn Statement and the Spending Review which sets out how Government money will be allocated. The policy briefing will provide an update on policy and legislation and will consider relevant implications for Wirral.</p>
<p>May 2017</p>	<p>The fourth policy briefing will focus upon the 2017 Chancellor of Exchequers Budget. The policy briefing will provide an update on policy and legislation and will consider relevant implications for Wirral.</p>

The September policy briefing focuses on the policies and legislation that have emerged from the Queens speech, which was delivered on 18th May 2016 and provides an update on the developments of this legislation and highlights any emerging implications.

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

Queen's Speech 2016- Designation to Overview and Scrutiny Committees

On Wednesday 18th May 2016, the Queens Speech was delivered, outlining the Government's programme of legislation and policies for the coming year.

Below is a list of each individual Bill that will have implications for local government that was announced during the speech, including those Bills carried over from the 2015-16 session. The list identifies the Overview and Scrutiny Committee remit that the legislation most closely aligns:

Legislative Plans	Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Neighbourhood Planning and Infrastructure Bill	Business and Environment
Bus Services Bill	Business
Local Growth and Jobs Bill	Business
Digital Economy Bill	Business
Modern Transport Bill	Business
High Speed Rail Bill	Business
Better Markets Bill	Business
Finance Bill	People and Business
Children and Social Work Bill	People
Education for All Bill	People
Higher Education and Research Bill	People
National Citizen Service Bill	People
Policing and Crime Bill	People and Environment
Soft Drinks Industry Levy	People and Environment

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

Additional Legislative Plans
Wales Bill
Lifetime Savings Bill
Prison and Courts Reform Bill
Investigatory Powers Bill
Bill of Rights
Criminal Finances Bill
Counter-Extremism and Safeguarding Bill
Cultural Property (Armed Conflicts) Bill
Small Charitable Donations Bill
NHS (Overseas Visitors Charging) Bill

The Bills relevant to the Environment priority are discussed in further detail in this paper.

Queen's Speech 2016- Legislative Developments

Neighbourhood Planning and Infrastructure Bill

"To support economic recovery, and to create jobs and more apprenticeships, legislation will be introduced to ensure Britain has the infrastructure that businesses need to grow."

Synopsis

The purpose of the Bill is to:

- Support the Government's ambition to deliver one million new homes, whilst protecting those areas that we value most including the Green Belt
- Deliver the homes and infrastructure that this country needs
- Transform the way we plan for major infrastructure projects in this country

Further Developments

The Neighbourhood, Planning and Infrastructure Bill will be introduced to Parliament 'as soon as Parliamentary time allows'.

The Cabinet Office have also recently released information outlining the main benefits of the Neighbourhood Planning and Infrastructure Bill:

- Further empower local communities to plan the homes and infrastructure that they need
- Drive more effective and efficient delivery of housing and infrastructure that local communities need, and make the process clearer, faster and fairer
- Support long term economic growth through an overarching and independent assessment of the long-term infrastructure needs of the nation
- This will help deliver the manifesto pledge to invest over £100 billion in our infrastructure over this Parliament.

Potential Implications

Although most of the details are still to be announced, the Bill is expected to maintain the

Continued Potential Implications

Government's commitment to deliver 1 million new homes and long-term economic growth and continue the drive to further promote community-led neighbourhood-level land-use planning. Wirral so far has four designated neighbourhood forums, working on their own local planning proposals, with one adopted neighbourhood plan, another plan past referendum and at least two other groups expected to apply.

Policing and Crime Bill

“Strengthen the capability and accountability of the police service in England and Wales.”

Synopsis

The Policing and Crime Bill will carry over from the previous Parliamentary session. The Bill will continue the reform of policing, reforming out-of-date complaints and disciplinary procedures, and increasing public confidence in the police. The Bill will also:

- Improve the efficiency and effectiveness of police forces, including through closer collaboration with other emergency services, and to enhance the democratic accountability of police forces and fire and rescue services.
- Build public confidence in policing by strengthening protection for people under investigation by, or who come into contact with, the police.
- Enable fire and police services to work more closely together (p.59) and to take further steps to protect children from sexual exploitation (p.60).

Further Developments

The general debate on all aspects of the Bill took place on the 18 July.

Committee stage – line by line examination of the Bill is scheduled to start on 14 September.

Potential Implications

The Policing and Crime Bill will be monitored for further developments and any potential implications will be reviewed in January's Policy Inform paper.

Soft Drinks Industry Levy

“A soft drinks industry levy to help tackle childhood obesity.”

Synopsis

The Purpose of the legislation is to introduce a new soft drinks industry levy in the Finance Bill 2017 targeted at producers and importers of soft drinks that contain added sugar from April 2018.

Further Developments

The Cabinet Office have also recently released information outlining the main benefits of the Soft Drinks Industry Levy:

- To encourage companies to reformulate by reducing the amount of added sugar in the drinks they sell, moving consumers towards lower sugar alternatives, and reducing portion sizes. Under this levy, if producers change their behavior, they will pay less tax.

Potential Implications

Sugar consumption is as a major factor in childhood obesity. Sugar-sweetened beverages (SSB) are disproportionately consumed by children and adolescents and are **the single** biggest source of dietary sugar for children and teenagers. Locally 22.4% of school children in Reception are overweight or obese rising to 33.6% in Year 6. The consumption of alternative drinks that are lower in sugar can potentially contribute to weight loss. This can indirectly prevent the incidence of other issues associated with obesity such as diabetes and cardiovascular disease. Excess sugar consumption also negatively impacts on child dental health. Wirral has above average prevalence of decayed, missing or filled teeth in children (aged 0-3) when compared to the rest of England.

The soft drinks industry levy will be a central component of the pending national childhood obesity strategy, which is due for publication in autumn 2016. The levy, and the broader national childhood obesity strategy, will contribute positively to tackling childhood obesity; diabetes and other cardiovascular conditions as well as improve dental health. This will also contribute to delivering Wirral's Healthier Lives Strategy. Maximising the impact of the levy will however be dependent on the local implementation of the national childhood obesity strategy.

Potential Implications Continued

The levy has a potential dual impact as the revenue generated by the levy will be, it is proposed, invested in primary school PE and sport premium; thereby also potentially improving children's physical activity levels. For those children who are overweight or obese, they will have increased support locally to enjoy physical activity and lose weight. This will also help us to promote a more active culture among children; making a contribution to Wirral's Leisure Strategy.

In addition to enabling the implementation of the national childhood obesity strategy at local level it is however also important to recognise that the effectiveness of the levy in reducing sugar intake, and consequently contributing to improving health outcomes, will be dependent on a number of factors. These include how producers and retailers respond both in terms of the extent to which manufacturers reformulate drinks, how the tax is either absorbed by producers or passed on to customers and/or if consumer choices change and what they change to. Furthermore, the current proposals for the levy also include a number of exemptions including immunities for small operators, fruit juice and milk based e.g. milkshakes drinks. The design of the tax will therefore be critical in terms of realising the potential health benefits and any contribution to the consultation should address these issues.

Policy Developments

[Briefing: Brexit: What about the Common Agricultural Policy?](#)

This briefing describes the EU's Common Agricultural Policy CAP and the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP). Both the CAP and the CFP, as they apply to the UK, will have to be re-negotiated on Brexit. The CAP is the second largest EU budget item after the combined resources for the Structural and Cohesion Funds and other support for economic development.

Although the UK is a net contributor to the EU's budget, it receives substantial amounts back for the CAP; over 2014-20 the UK will receive €27.7 billion through the CAP; of this, €25.1 billion is in direct payment to farmers and €2.6 billion in rural development funds. The CAP supports many aspects of the EU policy, including those for the Internal Market, external trade, the environment, food safety and standards, animal welfare, and regional development; the CFP is an important support for the sustainability of the marine environment.

Source: [Andrew Jones, Briefing: Brexit: What about the Common Agricultural Policy? LGiU, 9th August 2016](#)

[Briefing: Dog Fouling: Issues and Local Authority Best Practise](#)

The purpose of this briefing is to advise APSE members on best practice available on tackling dog fouling. This includes:

- Falkirk Council Green Dog Walker Scheme
- Stafford Borough Council's £75 reward for residents reporting fouling
- City of Edinburgh Council's 'don't make our city EdinBURGH' campaign
- Corby Borough Council's highlighting the problem of dog waste
- Gedling Borough Council's dog poo tree
- Wirral Council's glow-in-the-dark posters to tackle nightmare fouling
- North West Leicestershire Dog Watch scheme
- North Ayrshire Council's Report It app

Source: [Briefing: Dog Fouling: Issues and local authority best practice, ASPE, July 2016](#)

Sources

[Government, The Queen's Speech 2016- Contents, www.gov.uk, 18th May 2016](#) – *An in-depth overview of the Queen's Speech 2016 which outlines some of the main benefits of the proposed Bills.*

[Parliament, Bills before Parliament 2016-17, www.parliament.uk](#) – *An outline of all of the Bills currently before Parliament*

[Queen's Speech: 18th May 2016, LGiU, 18th May 2016](#) – *An explanation of the Bills announced in the Queens Speech 2016*

[Jameson, Heather, Queen's Speech 2016: Local government at the heart of legislation, 18th May 2016](#) – *A brief introduction into the main legislation impacting on local government*

[Enterprise Act 2016, Parliamentary website](#) - *Previous debates on all stages of the Enterprise Act and any latest updates*

[Enterprise Act becomes law, Government website, 4th May 2016](#) – *Outlines the Enterprise Act as it receives Royal Assent*



Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee 21 September 2016

REPORT TITLE:	Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee - Work Programme Update
REPORT OF:	The Chair of the Committee

REPORT SUMMARY

This report explains the process of developing and managing the scrutiny work programme for the municipal year. The Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee, in cooperation with the other two Overview & Scrutiny Committees, is responsible for proposing and delivering an annual work programme. This work programme should align with the corporate priorities of the Council, in particular the delivery of the Wirral Plan pledges which are within the remit of the Committee.

The report provides an update regarding progress made since the last Committee meeting held on 18th July. The current work programme is made up of a combination of scrutiny reviews, standing items and requested officer reports. This provides the committee with an opportunity to plan and regularly review its work across the municipal year.

RECOMMENDATION/S

1. Members are requested to approve the proposed Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee work programme for 2016/17, making any required amendments, including suggestions for additional items.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

To ensure members of the Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee have the opportunity to contribute to the delivery of the annual work programme.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Not Applicable

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3.1 PROPOSED ITEMS FOR THE 2016/17 WORK PROGRAMME

At the previous meeting of this Committee, held on 18th July 2016, it was agreed that a dedicated work programme workshop session would be convened. This session was for Members to give consideration to the Committee's work programme prior to the next scheduled Committee meeting on 21st September. The session has now been held and the prospective items for the work programme were identified. These are detailed below.

Item	Format	Timescale	Lead Departmental Officer
Transforming Wirral – Community Safety Business Case	Workshop	Sep	Mark Camborne
Flood Risk Standing Panel (Potential merger with existing flood risk partnership)	Standing Panel	1st meeting October 2016	Mark Camborne
The Number of Councillors	Task & Finish	Oct/Nov	TBC
Modern Slavery Act	Task & Finish	Oct/Nov	TBC
Leisure and Culture Strategy	Committee Report / Presentation	Nov	Clare Fish
Impact of implementation of Universal credit	Committee Report	Nov	TBC
Homelessness	Committee Report	Nov	TBC
Transforming Wirral – Further business cases	Workshops	TBC	TBC
Other Pledge Strategies	Committee Report / Presentation	Nov/Jan/Mar	TBC

3.2 PREVIOUS / CURRENT SCRUTINY REVIEWS – UPDATE

The final report of the Coastal Strategy Scrutiny Review was included on the agenda of the previous Committee meeting held on 18th July 2016. Following agreement by the Committee, the report has now been referred to Cabinet for consideration of the recommendations made. Cabinet’s response to these recommendations will be included in a future Committee work programme report.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Not Applicable

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Not Applicable

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

The delivery of the scrutiny work programme will be met from within existing resources.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

Not Applicable

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

Not Applicable

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

This report is for information to Members and there are no direct equality implications.

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APPENDICES

REFERENCE MATERIAL

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date

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