



Council

Town Hall
Wallasey

9 March 2018

Dear Councillor

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council to be held at **6.00 pm on Monday, 19 March 2018** in the Council Chamber, within the Town Hall, Wallasey, to take into consideration and determine upon the following subjects : -

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AGENDA

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

2. CIVIC MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

3. MINUTES (Pages 1 - 28)

To approve the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting of the Budget Council held on 5 March 2018.

4. PETITIONS

To receive submitted petitions in accordance with Standing Order 21.

5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

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

6. LEADER'S, EXECUTIVE MEMBERS' AND CHAIRS REPORTS (Pages 29 - 56)

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

7. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

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

8. VACANCIES

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

9. MATTERS REQUIRING APPROVAL OR CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL (Pages 57 - 144)

To consider and determine recommendations of the Executive which require the approval or consideration of the Council:-

A. Local Development Framework – Cabinet Member for Housing and Community Safety (and Deputy Leader of the Council), 21 December 2017. (Pages 57 - 84)

The Council is recommended to approve the adoption of the revised Local Development Scheme and that the Scheme comes into effect on the day following the Council resolution.

Further papers considered by the Cabinet Member and referenced in the report can be viewed on the Council website [here](#). (Copies can be provided on request).

B. Calendar of Meetings – Cabinet, 26 February 2018 (Minute 87 refers) (Pages 85 - 106)

The Council is recommended to adopt the calendar of meetings for the 2018/19 Municipal Year.

C. Responsibility For Local Choice Functions at Part 3 of the Council Constitution – Cabinet, 28 February 2018 (Minute 95(6) refers)

Minute 95 (extract) –

.....

(6)so as to provide for appointments which were in furtherance of the exercise of an executive function, including the appointment of representatives on the WGC, it be **RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL** that Paragraph 16 of Responsibility For Local Choice Functions at Table 1 of Part 3 of the Council's Constitution be amended so that the decision making body for the appointment to a body or office reads 'The Council or in respect of executive function the Leader or Cabinet';

D. Pay Policy Statement 2018/19 (Pages 107 - 124)

The Leader of the Council and the Deputy Leader of the Council to recommend the Pay Policy Statement 2018/19 to the Council.

To consider and determine recommendations of Overview and Scrutiny Committees and Council Committees which require the approval or consideration of the Council:-

E. Road Traffic (Vehicle Emissions) (Fixed Penalty) (England) Regulations 2002 - Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 30 November 2017 (Minute 33(2) refers) (Pages 125 - 134)

The Council is recommended to adopt Part 6(3) of the Road Traffic (Vehicle Emissions) (Fixed Penalty) (England) Regulations 2002.

F. Cabinet Member Question Time at Council Meetings - Standards and Constitutional Oversight Committee, 27 February 2018 (Minute 11(2) refers) (Pages 135 - 138)

The Council is recommended to extend Cabinet Member question time at meetings of the Council to 45 minutes.

G. Amendments to the Scheme of Delegation in the Council's Constitution - Standards and Constitutional Oversight Committee, 27 February 2018 (Minute 16 refers) (Pages 139 - 144)

The Council is recommended to adopt amendments to the Scheme of Delegation within the Council's Constitution.

H. Appointment of Monitoring Officer – Employment and Appointments Committee, 6 March 2018 (Minute reference to be notified)

The Council is asked to approve the revision of the post of Assistant Director: Law and Governance to that of Director – Governance & Assurance and to confirm, subject to the Council's standard pre-employment process, the permanent appointment of Philip McCourt to the post of Director – Governance & Assurance (Monitoring Officer).

10. NOTICES OF MOTION (Pages 145 - 154)

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

1. Cuts to Merseyside Fire & Rescue Authority and the Impact on Delivering Public Safety.
2. Labour NEC Interference in Local Government.
3. Car Parking Charges and Supporting Local Commerce.
4. Zero Tolerance of Litter.
5. Scrap Wirral View.
6. Securing Safe Energy Supplies.
7. ISS Facilities Management Limited at the Royal Liverpool & Broadgreen Hospitals NHS Trust.
8. Support for New Trains on the Merseyrail Network.



Interim Director: Law and Governance

COUNCIL

Monday, 5 March 2018

Present: The Civic Mayor (Councillor Ann McLachlan) in the Chair
Deputy Civic Mayor (Councillor Geoffrey Watt)

Councillors	RL Abbey	JE Green	D Realey
	T Anderson	P Hackett	L Rennie
	B Berry	P Hayes	L Rowlands
	C Blakeley	A Hodson	T Smith
	E Boulton	K Hodson	C Spriggs
	A Brighthouse	T Johnson	J Stapleton
	P Brightmore	AER Jones	P Stuart
	D Burgess-Joyce	C Jones	M Sullivan
	C Carubia	T Jones	A Sykes
	P Cleary	S Kelly	T Usher
	W Clements	B Kenny	J Walsh
	A Davies	I Lewis	W Ward
	G Davies	M McLaughlin	S Whittingham
	P Davies	J McManus	J Williamson
	WJ Davies	C Meaden	I Williams
	P Doughty	D Mitchell	KJ Williams
	D Elderton	B Mooney	S Williams
	G Ellis	C Muspratt	G Wood
	S Foulkes	T Norbury	
	P Gilchrist	M Patrick	

111 CIVIC MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair reported on the recent death of former Councillor Gordon Lindsay, Mayor of the Borough in 1985-86.

The Council observed a minutes silence in his memory.

112 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Hale, A Leech and T Pilgrim.

113 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST / RESTRICTIONS ON VOTING

In accordance with the Code of Conduct for Members, the following declarations of interest were made:-

- (1) Declarations of personal interest in agenda item 8 'Council Budget' insofar as it related to schools budget by virtue of holding positions as school governors were declared on behalf of all members of the Labour and Liberal Democrat Groups and by Councillors B Berry, E Boulton, P Cleary, W Clements, J Green, C Jones, L Rennie, A Sykes, GCJ Watt, S Williams.
- (2) Declarations of personal interest in agenda item, 8 'Council Budget' insofar as it related to the schools budget by virtue of close family members working in the either in schools and in the Council's education and Children and Young people's department were declared by Councillors RL Abbey, G Davies, J Green, A Jones, C Meaden and L Rowlands.

114 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Council and of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council held on 11 December 2017 be approved and signed as correct records.

115 **PETITIONS (PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 5(2)(G) COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES)**

In accordance with Standing Orders 5(2)(g) and 21, the Mayor received petitions submitted by:

- (i) Councillor L Rennie on behalf of 569 signatories (online copy) regarding proposed promenade parking charges.
- (ii) Councillor G Ellis on behalf of 1300 signatories regarding proposal to introduce charges for parking on promenades.
- (iii) Councillor G Ellis on behalf of 691 visitors / residents objecting to parking charges on West Kirby, Hoylake, Meols Promenades.
- (iv) Councillor G Ellis on behalf of 116 residents objecting to planning application OUT/17/01085.
- (v) Councillor W Clements on behalf of 333 signatories (online copy) regarding proposal to introduce charges for parking on promenades.
- (vi) Councillor J Green on behalf of 262 visitors / residents (online copy) regarding proposal to introduce charges for parking on promenades.

(vii) Councillor B Berry on behalf of 500 visitors / residents signatories regarding proposal to introduce charges for parking on promenades.

(viii) Councillor B Berry on behalf of 1169 visitors / residents, regarding proposed parking charges on the seafront in New Brighton.

116 PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET AND POLICY FRAMEWORK PROCEDURE RULES (STANDING ORDERS)

Further to Minute 73(3) of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 5 March 2018, the Leader of the Council, Councillor Phil Davies moved, and the Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor George Davies seconded the recommendation to the Council for adoption of changes to the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules at Part 4C of the Council's Constitution.

RESOLVED:

That the revised Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules be approved and adopted.

117 SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS OF THE COUNCIL'S CONSTITUTION

On a motion by Councillor Phil Davies and seconded by Councillor George Davies, it was –

RESOLVED:

That, for the purposes of the Budget Debate, the following Standing Orders be suspended –

(a) Standing Order 12(1) insofar as it related to amendments;

(b) Standing Order 12(9); and

(c) Standing Order 12(10).

118 COUNCIL BUDGET

In accordance with the agreed Budget Council Procedure, the Leader of the Council, Councillor Phil Davies moved and the Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor George Davies seconded the Cabinet's recommended Budget to Council set out in Minute 83 from the meeting of the Cabinet held on 19 February 2018 –

MINUTE EXTRACT - BUDGET CABINET

19 February 2018

83 COUNCIL BUDGET 2018/19



Councillor Phil Davies (Leader of the Council), said:

“We have a responsibility to set a fair, sustainable and balanced budget. This is a challenge which gets more difficult every year, as austerity policies continue to bite.

We have committed to 20 Pledges in our Wirral Plan and, despite the continued reductions in our budget, we are determined we will deliver on what we promised”.

Councillors Phil Davies, Janette Williamson and Bernie Mooney introduced reports on the following budgetary matters:

- (A) Revenue Budget and Council Tax Levels 2018/19 (Councillor Davies) – that provided an update on the Medium Term Financial Strategy and Council Budget 2018/19 reported to Cabinet on 18 December 2017. It set out the background and the key elements contributing to the preparation of the Budget for 2018/19.
- (B) Treasury Management Strategy Statement (Councillor Williamson) – that provided the Authority’s treasury management activity as underpinned by CIPFA’s Code of Practice on Treasury Management (“the Code”), which required the production of annual Prudential Indicators and a Treasury Management Strategy Statement on likely financing and investment activity. The Code also recommended that Members were informed of treasury management activities at least twice a year. The report fulfilled the Authority’s legal obligation under the Local Government Act 2003 to have regard to both the CIPFA Code and the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) Investment Guidance.
- (C) Capital Programme and Financing (Councillor Davies) – the report provided Cabinet with the draft Capital Programme 2018/21 for consideration and referral to Council for approval. It also included information regarding the revenue implications of the Programme and

an update on the latest forecast for capital receipts. The 2018/21 Capital Programme represented a combination of schemes originally approved as part of the 2017/20 Programme, updated through the Capital Monitoring reports in 2017/18 and new bids for inclusion as detailed in the report.

(D) Schools Budget and Formula Funding Changes 2018/19 (Councillor Mooney) – the report set out the Schools Budget for 2018/19 having been previously considered by the Schools Forum at their meeting on 17 January 2018. The Schools Budget covered education provision for all Wirral Pupils aged up to 18 in Early Years, Primary, Secondary and academy schools and for some pupils up to the age of 25 in Special Schools and High Needs providers. The report informed that most budgets were delegated to schools with some central provision for support services including school admissions and High Needs. The report proposed a number of changes to the local funding formula for Schools to allow a transitional transfer to the National Funding Formula.

Councillor Phil Davies informed that the Council continued to face another year of challenge to its budget setting year arising from further cuts in funding imposed by the Government. This year's budget included huge pressures on the Council to generate additional revenue that meant that in addition to raising income through a variety of projects, the Council would be raising additional monies via the permitted Social Care precept and utilising the maximum permitted rise in Council Tax. Councillor Davies added that these decisions had been as a direct result of the huge pressures placed on Local Authorities by Government and that a radical overhaul was required. He informed that the Council would continue to provide input in relation to business rate retention that currently disadvantaged areas such as Wirral through the LGA 'fair funding review' consultation.

Councillor Davies thanked Cabinet Members and Officers of the Council for their hard work in dealing with the financial challenges faced over the past year and the 'perfect storm' that faced Social Care Services (Children's Services in particular) and added that the Council's commitment to this area was demonstrated by its investment of £20million into this area in particular.

Councillor Davies informed that the Council would remain committed to delivery of its 20 Wirral Plan Pledges and would continue in its aim to help grow the Wirral economy through the development of more investment, jobs, businesses and improved income for Wirral residents and workers. He further informed of those areas where the Council would continue to support and focus e.g. housing, improvements to the environment and street scene, the tackling of domestic abuse, improving income generation and supporting its staff - meeting his party values of fairness and social justice.

Cabinet Members each raised their own concerns about the continued financial pressures faced by Wirral from Government and the sustained attack since 2010 and significant reduction of funds since that time. Members commented that they were proud to have managed to retain front line services against the background of austerity and that careful planning would still be required in the future.

Councillor Bernie Mooney informed that the performance of Wirral schools continued to go from strength to strength and gave a commitment to the Wirral Plan to do all to continue to support Wirral schools and ensure that every child in the borough had the opportunity of a good education, and good career. She added the importance of ensuring schools had the resources in place to continue to improve and to provide young people with an excellent education was vital to the future of the borough.

Councillor Janette Williamson commented on the reduced levels of funding received from Government and informed of the vital importance of making sure the Council's finances were well managed, and ensuring commercial opportunities were maximised to support Council services over the longer term. In respect of the Treasury Management Report she added that the report provided the Council with a well thought through, appropriate strategy for managing public resources in the borough.

Councillor Phillip Brightmore endorsed the Leader's earlier statement that environmental matters remained a priority for the Council and informed the Cabinet of the Council's recent success in gaining an award that recognised the borough staff's performance with regard to waste collection.

Councillor George Davies commented on the difficult circumstances faced by the Council to maintaining services and his commitment to helping protect the vulnerable and how the greater than average number of properties (83%) fell into Council Tax Bands A, B and C impacting on the income generated to the borough. He added that this was not a problem for some local authorities in England whose historical housing stock valuations allowed lower Council Tax increases to generate significantly more income.

Councillor Stuart Whittingham stated that he was pleased that the Council was currently still in a position to invest in its infrastructure but was upset that Wirral, as a result of the economic circumstance placed upon it by Government, had to consider the expansion of areas of charged parking. He informed that he had done what he could to keep the fees at modest levels.

Councillor Matthew Patrick reaffirmed the need to protect the most vulnerable and investment in social care. He thanked residents for their response to the budget consultation and for their input and comments that demonstrated people's interest and positive support for the area.

Councillor Angela Davies stated her outrage at the level of cuts to local government funding, but stated that responsible use of capital receipts and the development of the transformation programme had, despite the cuts, made significant inroads to regeneration and the reformation of programmes in areas such as Health and Social Care.

Councillor Chris Jones echoed Councillor Davies' comments, adding that she wished to thank all those staff who worked in Adult Social Care who were managing to deal with unprecedented levels of demand on their service.

RESOLVED: (unanimously)

That the following Budget Resolution be agreed and recommended to the Budget Council:

BUDGET RESOLUTION 2018/19

NATIONAL CONTEXT

Each year, the Council assembles to agree its budget to provide the services it will offer to meet the needs of residents. Each year, the amount of money available in real terms to meet real needs gets smaller.

Since the Government chose the path of austerity in 2010, Wirral Council has been forced to implement more than a quarter of a billion pounds in reductions and cuts to its budget. The impact of austerity bites on the quality of life enjoyed by residents – pay freezes for public sector workers, changes to benefits and the clumsy roll out of Universal Credit, rising prices for energy and utilities and threats and fears about the future of the NHS, the needs of Wirral residents become more complex, more intense and more pronounced.

And each year, as we debate the budget, the members on the Conservative benches roll their eyes and shrug their shoulders, unmoved - and untouched - by the hardships of their national policies. They ignore the hard decisions this Council faces, braying and bellowing for the benefit of the crowd.

Elsewhere, more considered Tory voices are joining the rising tide of national concern.

Last year, bankrupt Tory controlled Surrey Council set a 15% Council Tax rise before being bailed out by the Government at the last moment to prevent the embarrassing scene of a Conservative Council setting illegal budgets to meet unrealistic Tory Government expectations.

This year, Tory controlled Northamptonshire County Council has effectively declared itself 'bust' – cancelling all spending on non-statutory services, unable to meet anything but the most basic needs of its residents.

But still – unmoved, the Tories press on with their austerity policies, oblivious and uncaring about the consequences of their policies on the lives of ordinary people.

Tory Home Secretary Amber Rudd was in meetings in this town hall the week before last – not with Councillors working to support the police, coastguard and fire service – but meeting with local Tory Councillors behind closed doors, plotting her leadership challenge no doubt.

The Tories' obsession with Austerity is rooted in their detachment from the lives of ordinary people. This budget will once again demonstrate that only a Labour administration will protect the services local residents rely upon, invest in the issues Wirral families care about and work with public sector and volunteer group partners to deliver them.

The Tories see the budget as spreadsheet management: A cut here, a reduction there, unconcerned by the real world consequences of these actions.

The Tories know the price of everything, but the value of nothing.

Labour Councillors continue to lead the campaign for the Government to treat local authorities fairly. This campaign was encouraged late last year when Secretary of State, Sajid Javid MP, appeared to buckle under pressure and suggest he was willing to revisit his flagship policy of removing the Revenue Support Grant, a policy in the opinion of this Cabinet, which would hit the young, the elderly and the most vulnerable the hardest. Whether this was political posturing, or an awakening to the reality of their failed policies, local authorities across the country await more details.

With the Government's long term plans or the impact of its Brexit policies unclear, uncertainty and worry surrounding the funding future of the police, fire service, the NHS and other public services, this Budget must again be prepared against a backdrop of difficult financial circumstances.

THE WIRRAL CHALLENGE

Wirral is forced to reduce its spending, or generate more income, by more than £100 million by 2021. Our immediate challenge is to meet a £61 million funding shortfall for 2018/19.

As we have repeatedly warned, this is happening at a time of increased need - an ageing population, deprived communities with complex needs - and rising costs of the services and support which people rely on.

Cabinet believes these reductions to be unfair and unsustainable.

However, as residents know, we refuse to allow this Government to break the services our residents rely on. We will make these difficult decisions but will deliver the 20 Pledges we committed to in our Wirral Plan.

Our overall budget strategy of focussing on attracting additional revenue, transforming services and improving efficiency, will continue. This will be underpinned by our commitment to key Labour principles of fairness and social justice.

INVESTING IN SOCIAL CARE

The challenges facing families and young people in Wirral are well known. The scale of this and our response has been at the very heart of the Council's policy and budget agenda this year. Already great progress is being made, a new leadership team, a complete review of our services and processes and an improvement plan that works with national experts and local care providers to ensure we meet the expectations we set ourselves when looking after our most vulnerable young residents.

We have to prioritise making these changes and improvements and are committing £20m investment in Children's and Families' services in 2018/19.

Locally, social care providers, charities and the NHS have united to call for more investment. The Government's response was to pass the problem on to council taxpayers. We have little choice other than to implement the Government's Care Tax levy, even while knowing this places the burden at the feet of those people least able to pay.

A COLLABORATIVE BUDGET

Again, we remind residents we are here to work for them. We will never set a budget in isolation. Consultation, engagement, and conversations with residents will always underpin every decision we take. Almost 6,000 residents took the time to give us their views on our budget, our priorities and our plans and we pledge to use this valuable feedback as decisions are made.

Cabinet thanks Elected Members – of all parties – who took part in the comprehensive scrutiny process to look in detail at the budget proposals. The feedback from that process has been provided to Cabinet and has proved extremely helpful in making these decisions.

DELIVERING OUR PLEDGES

Regardless of the scale of Conservative Government cuts to this Council's budget, as a Labour Administration our budget will be legal and sustainable, with social justice and fairness at its heart.

Our ethos as an Administration is underpinned by three core principles. These principles help inform our budget and makes sure we can deliver the savings imposed on us while still meeting our promises to Wirral residents.

- The vulnerable are safe and protected and we tackle inequality.
- Wirral is a place where employers want to invest and businesses thrive.
- We have an attractive and sustainable environment, where good health and an excellent quality of life is enjoyed by everyone who lives here.

GROWING OUR ECONOMY

We are relentless in our drive to grow Wirral's economy. In the coming days we will announce our proposal for Wirral Growth Company, the UK's largest public-sector led regeneration programme. Attracting new investment to drive our £1bn growth deal, this joint venture ensures this Council retains control over our assets and benefits from the development of new homes, offices, leisure and retail schemes and accompanying job opportunities.

As part of our work on growing the economy, we will consider innovative approaches to ensuring that as many of the benefits of growth as possible are retained within Wirral. To this end, we are keen to look at models such as community wealth building.

INVESTING IN WIRRAL'S ENVIRONMENT, ROADS AND NEIGHBOURHOODS

We will continue to invest in our local infrastructure and the communities we live in. In 2018/19 we are investing more than £7million in improvements. We are leveraging interest free loans and grants to invest £1.5million in LED street lighting – not only making our roads and neighbourhoods safer, but using technology to reduce the long term running costs. Our programme will see more than £2million invested to replace and repair street lamps across the borough and other improvements to traffic, cyclist and pedestrian infrastructure.

The Council's commitment to protecting our environment and tackling climate change will continue through adopting a zero-tolerance approach to environmental crime, such as littering and dog-fouling; growing the subscriber base of the garden waste scheme; and increasing energy efficiency. Cabinet is committed to Wirral Council remaining at the green cutting edge of environmental issues and will lead the City Region in efforts to phase out single use plastics, reduction of waste and encouraging recycling.

Wirral is also playing a major role in supporting the Metro Mayor in bringing forward transformational projects such as a tidal barrage on the River Mersey.

We will continue our policy of tackling rogue private sector landlords through extending the Selective Licensing Scheme. The Council will shortly also be making a number of announcements about investing in building significant numbers of new housing units on brownfield sites.

TACKLING DOMESTIC ABUSE

Domestic abuse is on the increase across the UK and government cuts and loss of funding means that previously accessible support is no longer available. Adopting a zero tolerance approach to domestic abuse is one of our key pledges. In order to support this pledge, we will invest £5,000 in supporting the Friends of the Freedom Programme in their work in supporting people whose lives have been affected by domestic abuse.

CAR PARKING

We also will introduce new car parking charges at certain coastal visitor locations. In New Brighton, while this does not include Marine Point and Fort Perch Rock, it does include the Derby Pool and Kings Parade. It would also include Leasowe Lighthouse and 'the Gunsite', North Parade between Hoylake and Meols and South Parade in West Kirby. The proposed charges would be £1 for an hour, £2 for all day and £20 for those who leave their vehicles parked overnight. Officers advise us that these tariffs are reasonable and acceptable for visitors to Wirral's coastal attractions, in many cases cheaper and more favourable than charges in Liverpool, Chester and at other local attractions.

REWARDING AND PROTECTING OUR STAFF

Our staff are our most important resource. As national austerity policies continue to hit the most vulnerable hardest, it is important we recognise the role council staff play in keeping our front line services operating and supporting people every day. These services have seen their workforce reduced, demand increase and have also seen pay frozen.

It is important that we do all we can to put this right, and that is why I am proud to announce that – alongside and in addition to the national pay award of 2% which we have already included in the budget, we will include a further 1% rise for our employees, which will bring us back in line with the national pay scale. This will be funded from more efficient ways of working that will include release of vacancies and headcount reduction, which will be met by voluntary redundancy wherever possible.

This Administration is committed strongly to good working practices. To that end, we will continue to work constructively with our trade unions.

SENIOR MANAGEMENT STAFFING CUTS

As we make tough decisions on how to balance the budget, we must also look at efficiencies we can make in how we deliver services. As the Council continues to invest in technology and to make transformational changes to how it operates, it is right that we look to make savings amongst our most senior staff and management.

The budget this year sees us reduce the cost of management by £750,000 as we make changes to how the Council works.

CONCLUSION

In summary, this is a balanced budget built around our shared values. It supports the important work being done to deliver services our residents rely on. It invests in our economy, makes improvements to our environment and shares the burden fairly between all those who can afford to contribute and those who enjoy the services Wirral offers.

This is a budget, against a harsh Conservative Austerity agenda, our Labour Council can be proud of.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 Cabinet, having had regard to the responses to the proposals announced at the 18 December 2017 meeting recommends to Budget Council for approval:

Revenue Budget (Agenda Item 6)

- a) The Proposals for 2018/19 as set out at Appendix 2.
- b) The Growth for 2018/19 as set out in sections 3.21 to 3.34 of this report.
- c) The payment of an additional 1% pay award to staff as included within my resolution that will be fully funded by more efficient ways of working. This will result in a total pay increase of 3% in 2018/19.
- d) Approve a one-off revenue contribution to be repaid of £1.3m to the Liverpool City Region Mayoral Combined Authority to support the Single Investment Fund in 2018/19.
- e) The fees and charges, as in Appendix 3, with delegated authority being:

- i) given to the Section 151 Officer to update the Council's Fees and Charges Directory prior to publication before 1 April 2018.
- ii) given to the relevant Director in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holder and Section 151 Officer to vary existing fees and charges.
- iii) Approval of the Pricing and Charging Policy as set out in Annex 1.
- f) The level of General Fund Balances being recommended, as set out in Appendix 4, continuing to be based on a locally determined approach based on an assessment of the financial risks that the Council may face in the future and that the Council maintains balances at, or above, this level.
- g) The release of reserves, as set out in Appendix 5, to General Fund Balances to support the Revenue Budget.
- h) The Chief Financial Officer Statement regarding the robustness of the estimates made for the purpose of the Budget and the adequacy of the General Fund balances and reserves at Appendix 6.

Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2018/21 (**Agenda Item 6B**)

The Treasury Management Strategy 2018/21 including:

- a) The Treasury Management and Investment Strategy for 2018/2021.
- b) The adoption of the Prudential Indicators.
- c) The approval of the Council's Minimum Revenue Provision policy.
- a) That the Council Officers listed in Annex G to approve payments from the Council's bank account for all treasury management activities.

Capital Programme and Financing (**Agenda Item 6C**)

1. That Cabinet agree and recommend to Full Council the Capital Strategy 2018/21 (Appendix1) including the Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Strategy 2018/19 (Annex 2).

2. That the new bids as detailed in the first section of Appendix 3 totalling £19.7 million be approved for inclusion in the Capital Programme. This includes a sum of £0.7 million relating to additional project risk contingency in relation to the Dock bridges replacement scheme as detailed in paragraph 3.15 b.
3. That the bids totalling £3.7 million relating to the Leisure and Cultural Services Review (Appendix 3) are included in the programme for 2018/19 but are deferred to a later commencement date, on an individual basis, in recognition of an ongoing review.
4. That the bids totalling £4.6 million referred to the Council's Technical Design Authority (TDA) (Appendix 3) be included in the programme if they are approved by the TDA.
5. That any new bids supported by grant funding do not commence until written confirmation has been received from the granting authority.
6. That Cabinet recommend to Council for approval the Capital Programme 2018/21 (as detailed in Appendix 4).
7. That progress on delivering the Capital Programme is presented in accordance with the agreed Capital Monitoring arrangements.

Schools Budget (**Agenda Item 6D**)

The Schools Budget of £259,158,600 having taken account of the views and formula proposals from the Schools Forum:

- i) That a Minimum Funding Guarantee of 0% for Wirral schools in 2018-19 is approved to provide additional protection and stability in funding, and to ensure that no school can lose pupil funding unless there is a reduction in pupil numbers.
- ii) That the continuing Contributions to Combined Budgets should be £875,600 in 2018-19.
- iii) That any remaining uncommitted Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) reserves remaining at the end of 2017-18 are used as a contingency to support High Needs pressures in future years.
- iv) There should be a 0.5% top slice from the Schools Budget to support the outcome of the High Needs review.
- v) That the schools funding formula should be a transition formula introducing some elements of the National Funding Formula.

- vi) Headroom should be allocated evenly over all formula elements.
- vii) PFI within the schools funding formula should be increased in line with the contract inflation provision.
- viii) The unit value of the Looked After Children (LAC) element within the funding formula is reduced to take account of the increase in LAC Pupil Premium.
- ix) The following place changes are agreed from September 2018:
 - Birkenhead 6th Form College reduce by 8 places to 57
 - Wirral Met College to increase by 2 places to 119
- x) The base rate element of the Early Years funding formula is increased to pass an extra 2% of grant funding on to providers.
- xi) The SEN Support is redesigned including a traded service for some Hearing and Vision support in schools.
- xii) The Early Years funding formula is retained in its current format.

The Cabinet in making these recommendations has had regard to the Chief Financial Officer Statement regarding the robustness of the estimates made for the purpose of the Budget and the adequacy of the General Fund balances and reserves.

- 2 Cabinet recommends to Budget Council that a separate vote be taken in respect of Council Tax levels for 2018/19 and that :
- a) For Wirral Council Services the Council Tax be increased by 5.99% for 2018/19 which includes the Adult Social Care Precept of 3%.
 - b) The Wirral Council Tax will include the precepts from the Police & Crime Commissioner for Merseyside and from the Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service.

The Statutory Calculations and Resolution

It be noted that in accordance with Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended), that Cabinet on 18 December 2017 calculated the Council Tax Base 2018/19 for the whole of the properties in its area as 92,255.9 for 2018/19 (Item T in the statutory formula).

That the following amounts be calculated and approved by the Council for the year 2018/19 in accordance with Sections 32-36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended) (“the Act”);

- a) £136,464,000 being the amount calculated in accordance with Section 31A (4) of the Act (amended) as the Council Tax Requirement for 2018/19 (item R in the statutory formula). This amount (D) is determined as being the difference between:
- i) £844,568,000 this being the aggregate of the amounts calculated in accordance with Section 31A (2) of the Act (as amended), i.e. the aggregate of the amounts that the Council estimates that will be charged to a revenue account for the year in performing its functions, that are required to be set aside for contingencies and reserves and required to be transferred from its General Fund to its Collection Fund in the year and
- ii) £708,104,000 this being the amount calculated in accordance with Section 31A (3) of the Act (as amended), i.e. the aggregate of the amounts of income that the Council estimates will be credited to a revenue account for the year in accordance with proper practices, the amount of reserves that are estimated to be used to provide for the items referred to in paragraph (a) above, and required to be transferred from its Collection Fund to its General Fund in the year.
- b) £1,479.19 being the amount calculated in accordance with Section 31B (1) of the Act (amended) as the Basic Amount of Council Tax for 2018/19. This amount being calculated as item R divided by item T (as above).
- c) That in accordance with section 36(1) of the Act that the following amounts are calculated for each valuation band in the area:

Wirral – Basic Amount of Council Tax per Valuation Band

2018/19

A	B	C	D
£986.13	£1,150.48	£1,314.84	£1,479.19
E	F	G	H
£1,807.89	£2,136.60	£2,465.32	£2,958.38

These amounts being the amounts given by multiplying the amount calculated as the Basic Amount of Council Tax by the number which in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act is applicable to dwellings in a particular valuation band which is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation Band D.

It be determined that the amount set in (c) above as the Council's Basic Amount of Council Tax for 2018/19 is not excessive in accordance with the principles determined by the Secretary of State under section 52ZC of the Act (as amended) and that no Referendum to approve the Basic Amount of Council Tax is required. The principles require a Referendum to be held for any increases of 6% or above for those authorities with Adult Social Care responsibilities.

Wirral – Basic Amount of Council Tax Comparison for Referendum

2018/19

	2017/18	2018/19	Change	Change
	£	£	£	%
Band D	1,395.59	1,479.19	83.60	5.99

To note that the Police and Crime Commissioner for Merseyside and the Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service issue precepts to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for each category of dwellings in the Council's area. These are indicated in the tables below.

Police and Crime Commissioner for Merseyside

A	B	C	D
£118.65	£138.42	£158.20	£177.97
E	F	G	H
£217.52	£257.07	£296.62	£355.94

Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority

A	B	C	D
£51.04	£59.55	£68.05	£76.56
E	F	G	H
£93.57	£110.59	£127.60	£153.12

That having calculated the amounts for Wirral together with the Police and Fire the Council in accordance with Section 30 (2) of the Act hereby sets the following amounts as the total amount of Council Tax for the year 2018/19 for each of the categories of dwellings.

Total Council Tax for Wirral

A	B	C	D
£1,155.82	£1,348.45	£1,541.09	£1,733.72
E	F	G	H
£2,118.98	£2,504.26	£2,889.54	£3,467.44

WIRRAL COUNCIL REVENUE BUDGET 2018/19

Forecast Income	Budget 2018/19
Council Tax	127.43
- Housing	1.10
- Increase 2.99%	4.00
- Adult Social Care Precept of 3%	3.90
Business Rates	126.24
- Loss of Business Rates Top Up (Due to RSG rolled in)	-7.00
- Improved Better Care Fund Rolled in	12.00
- Business Rates Base increase	4.20
- Business Rates Inflation	1.00
New Homes Bonus	1.56
Capital Receipts to fund another year of transformation	10.00
One-off use of Balances, Reserves & Collection Fund	16.08
Total Funding	300.52

Forecast Operating Structure Expenditure	Budget 2018/19
Business Services	77.01
Corporate Resources & Reform	1.52
Strategy and Partnerships	58.60
Children's Services	84.63
Adult Social Care	78.76
Total Forecast Expenditure	300.52

Forecast Theme/Portfolio Expenditure	Budget 2018/19	
People	Adult Social Care and Health	89.76
	Children & Families	92.80
Environment	Environment	46.20
	Housing and Community Safety	22.12

	Localism and Engagement	1.20
Business	Finance and Income Generation	8.06
	Highways and Transport	33.01
	Leadership	2.18
	Transformation	5.19
Total Forecast Expenditure		300.52

CONSERVATIVE BUDGET OBJECTION 2018/19

Councillor Ian Lewis moved and Councillor Lesley Rennie seconded the following objection to the proposed budget 2018/19 –

“Under Reg 3(1) of The Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) Regulations 2001 (as amended), the Conservative Group submits the following objections to the Cabinet’s Budget Recommendations. We believe the proposed increase in Council Tax (5.99%) is a burden that is excessive, especially for those on low and fixed incomes and, specifically:

- the Conservative Group does not believe that a Chief Officer team costing £1.497 million in 2017/18 should require the additional support of professional management consultants (£2.686 million) and therefore seeks a planned reduction in the costs of consultancy
- the Conservative Group seeks deletion of the proposed charges in coastal areas (£250,000) and the removal of charges in country parks (£150,000)
- the Conservative Group believes that Wirral View has failed to meet its objectives and that spending to date (£254,000) and further spending (£140,000) on this publication and distribution to be unnecessary
- the Conservative Group believes school crossing patrols previously deleted should be reinstated (£90,000)

We therefore seek to have the Cabinet’s Budget Recommendations rejected and request Cabinet to submit fresh proposals to Council, within at least five working days, that reflects these views.”

LIBERAL DEMOCRAT BUDGET AMENDMENT 2018/19

Councillor Phil Gilchrist moved and Councillor Alan Brighthouse seconded the following amendment to the proposed budget 2018/19 –

“(a) “The proposals for 2018/19 as set out at Appendix 2 be approved”, subject to these Amendments:

1. Council recognises that Wirral needs to respond to the serious financial position as a result of lost national revenues (RSG) and the shift of the burden from the national taxpayer to the Council taxpayer. It is unlikely that the local economy can grow quickly enough to fill the budget gap.
2. Council notes that the proposed budget makes extensive use of the reserves, insurance fund, transformation fund and minimum revenue provision to maintain services. Council is not convinced that the best use of these existing and additional resources is yet being made. Council believes that the budget should be referred back to the Cabinet for consideration of the following issues.

3 THE NEED TO CREATE AN EFFECTIVE CHILDREN'S SERVICE

Council is clear that investment in Children's Services is necessary. It will not be effective unless it turns the culture and working practices of the teams around after the critical OFSTED report. Wirral's families need this process to be successful for the benefit of children at risk. The investment will fail unless it is backed up with rapid action to improve the management and supervisory structure. There is a need to replace agency workers with permanent staff.

4 THE NEED FOR PROJECTS THAT BRING RESULTS

Past projects have led to speculative schemes, such as the International Trade Centre, that failed to find backers with real funds to invest. The Council has yet to see real results from the visit undertaken to China at Council taxpayers' expense. Council has concerns about the democratic accountability of the Growth Company and its associated schemes which will take time to come to fruition. The Cabinet needs to be open about the reason and cost of acquisition of the Europa building. The public needs to know the hidden purposes behind these acquisitions.

5 THE NEED TO CHALLENGE INEFFECTIVE AND WASTEFUL SPENDING ON PUBLICITY

In 2017, £30,000 was spent on a MORI survey aimed at informing Council of residents' priorities. There is no evidence that this has informed the current budget. Where the Council has embarked on introducing car parking charges it has done so in the face of overwhelming public opposition.

The delivery of Wirralview, seeking a response to the extension of car parking charges, after the closure of the consultation was a waste of resources and insulting to residents. Council remains of the opinion that Wirralview does not represent an effective use of resources.

6 THE NEED TO CHALLENGE INEFFECTIVE AND WASTEFUL SPENDING ON CONSULTANTS

Council also questions whether the extensive use of Interims and Consultants which reached over £12,000 a day at its peak in January 2018 provides value for money. Even if their effective short term use can be demonstrated, Council calls for their employment to finish as soon as practicable. Over £300,000 was spent on consultants considering the various options for Leisure, Library and Cultural Services. Council therefore seeks confirmation that the budget enables these services to be maintained.

7 THE NEED TO ENSURE CONTINUITY OF SENSORY SERVICES FOR CHILDREN

Council believes there is a need to involve organisations who have raised concerns about the redesign of SEN support services to include traded services for sensory services (Schools Budget proposal xi). The lack of consultation with sensory service users and advocacy groups has led to criticism and potential challenge from the National Deaf Children's Society. The proposal should be put on hold and become the subject of a formal consultation with service users and advocacy groups such as NDCS as required by the Children and Families Act 2014 when an authority intends to change its 'local offer'.

8 THE NEED FOR EFFECTIVE AND MEANINGFUL REPORTING

Council considers that Cabinet Members must provide more meaningful reports to each Council meeting on their activities and decisions. The practice of filling portfolio reports with press release material needs to end.

9 THE NEED FOR CLEAR BUSINESS CASES AROUND CHANGE

Council believes that ending outsourcing of day to day highway and footway repair works presents an opportunity to make savings out of the time consuming and wasteful exchanges between the Council and the contractors. Council calls for streamlined processes that will provide a more timely response to the potholes that frustrate drivers, users of motorcycles, cyclists and pedestrians. Investment is undoubtedly needed in Wirral's roads, pavements and street lighting.

10 THE NEED TO PREPARE FOR THE FUTURE

Council believes that Cabinet should ensure that additional resources are provided:

- (a) to enable the planning team to process applications more quickly and secure an updated Local Plan. This is especially relevant in view of the Secretary of State's intervention.

- (b) to consult upon and prepare for the introduction of the Community Infrastructure Levy. Developers should contribute to the impact of new housing on local communities and the extra infrastructure needed. Other councils have done this - Wirral should too.
- (c) to support people struggling to cope with all the pressures around the change to Universal Credit. It is already apparent that the need for advice and support is requiring our staff to go the extra mile to meet recipients' needs. This was clearly highlighted at the recent scrutiny workshop. Cabinet needs to review the resources available as this pressure develops.
- (d) to ensure that a robust response is provided to the Government's consultation around 'fair funding'.

11 Council requires that Cabinet, in implementing the Budget, ensures that the investment in Children's Services secures the required changes in management and culture in a timely manner.

- (i) that the Budget Proposals are amended such that provision is made for:
 1. abandoning the extension of car parking charges to coastal areas which continue to face strong public opposition (-£250,000), along with those recently introduced to the country parks (-£150,000);
 2. freeing up capital that might be spent on car parking machinery(-£350,000) and using it as capital to fund minor road improvements (+£350,000);
 3. limiting the expenditure on consultants and interims (£260,000);
 4. realising savings from the cessation of WirralView (£140,000);

The Statutory Calculations and Resolution

It be noted that in accordance with Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended), that Cabinet on 18 December 2017 calculated the Council Tax Base 2018/19 for the whole of the properties in its area as 92,255.9 for 2018/19 (Item T in the statutory formula).

That the following amounts be calculated and approved by the Council for the year 2018/19 in accordance with Sections 32-36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended) ("the Act");

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i) £844,168,000 this being the aggregate of the amounts calculated in accordance with Section 31A (2) of the Act (as amended), i.e. the aggregate of the amounts that the Council estimates that will be charged to a revenue account for the year in performing its functions, that are required to be set aside for contingencies and reserves and required to be transferred from its General Fund to its Collection Fund in the year and

ii) £707,704,000 this being the amount calculated in accordance with Section 31A (3) of the Act (as amended), i.e. the aggregate of the amounts of income that the Council estimates will be credited to a revenue account for the year in accordance with proper practices, the amount of reserves that are estimated to be used to provide for the items referred to in paragraph (a) above, and required to be transferred from its Collection Fund to its General Fund in the year.

£1,479.19 being the amount calculated in accordance with Section 31B (1) of the Act (amended) as the Basic Amount of Council Tax for 2018/19. This amount being calculated as item R divided by item T (as above).

That in accordance with section 36(1) of the Act that the following amounts are calculated for each valuation band in the area:

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These amounts being the amounts given by multiplying the amount calculated as the Basic Amount of Council Tax by the number which in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act is applicable to dwellings in a particular valuation band which is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation Band D.

It be determined that the amount set in (c) above as the Council's Basic Amount of Council Tax for 2018/19 is not excessive in accordance with the principles determined by the Secretary of State under section 52ZC of the Act (as amended) and that no Referendum to approve the Basic Amount of Council Tax is required. The principles require a Referendum to be held for any increases of 6% or above for those authorities with Adult Social Care responsibilities.

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A	B	C	D
£51.04	£59.55	£68.05	£76.56
E	F	G	H
£93.57	£110.59	£127.60	£153.12

That having calculated the amounts for Wirral together with the Police and Fire the Council in accordance with Section 30 (2) of the Act hereby sets the following amounts as the total amount of Council Tax for the year 2018/19 for each of the categories of dwellings.

Total Council Tax for Wirral

A	B	C	D
£1,155.82	£1,348.45	£1,541.09	£1,733.72
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£2,118.98	£2,504.26	£2,889.54	£3,467.44

WIRRAL COUNCIL REVENUE BUDGET 2018/19

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- Business Rates Inflation	1.00
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One-off use of Balances, Reserves & Collection Fund	16.08
Total Funding	300.52

Forecast Operating Structure Expenditure	Budget 2018/19
Business Services	77.41
Corporate Resources & Reform	1.52
Strategy and Partnerships	58.20
Children's Services	84.63
Adult Social Care	78.76
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Forecast Theme/Portfolio Expenditure		Budget 2018/19
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	Children & Families	92.80
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	Housing and Community Safety	22.12
	Localism and Engagement	1.06
Business	Finance and Income Generation	8.06
	Highways and Transport	33.41
	Leadership	2.18
	Transformation	4.93
Total Forecast Expenditure		300.52

Budget Debate

Following a debate and Councillors Phil Gilchrist, Ian Lewis and Phil Davies having replied, the Civic Mayor indicated that card votes would be taken in accordance with the Budget Council Procedure.

In respect of the **Liberal Democrat Budget Amendment**, the Council divided as follows:

For the motion (4) - Councillors C Carubia, P Gilchrist, S Kelly and D Mitchell

Against the motion (55) - Councillors R Abbey, T. Anderson, B Berry, C Blakeley, E Boulton, A Brighouse, P Brightmore, D Burgess-Joyce, P Cleary, W Clements, A Davies, G Davies, P Davies, W Davies, P Doughty, D Elderton, G Ellis, S Foulkes, J Green, P Hackett, P Hayes, A Hodson, K Hodson, T Johnson, A Jones, C Jones, T Jones, B Kenny, I Lewis, M McLaughlin, J McManus, C Meaden, B Mooney, C Muspratt, T Norbury, M Patrick, D Realey, I Rennie, I Rowlands, A Smith, C Spriggs, J Stapleton, P Stuart, M Sullivan, A Sykes, T Usher, J Walsh, W Ward, G Watt, S Whittingham, I Williams, KJ Williams, S Williams, J Williamson, G Wood.

One abstention – Councillor A McLachlan.

The amendment was therefore lost (55:4) (One abstention).

In respect of the **Conservative Budget Objection**, the Council divided as follows:

For the motion (19) - Councillors T Anderson, B Berry, C Blakeley, E Boulton, D Burgess-Joyce, C Carubia, W Clements, D Elderton, G Ellis, J Green, P Hayes, A Hodson, K Hodson, I Lewis, L Rennie, L Rowlands, A Sykes, G Watt, S Williams.

Against the motion (40) - Councillors R Abbey, A Brighouse, P Brightmore, P Cleary, A Davies, G Davies, P Davies, W Davies, P Doughty, S Foulkes, P Gilchrist, P Hackett, T Johnson, A Jones, C Jones, T Jones, S Kelly, B Kenny, M McLaughlin, J McManus, C Meaden, D Mitchell, B Mooney, C Muspratt, T Norbury, M Patrick, D Realey, A Smith, C Spriggs, J Stapleton, P Stuart, M Sullivan, T Usher, J Walsh, W Ward, S Whittingham, I Williams, J Williams, J Williamson, G Wood.

One abstention – Councillor A McLachlan.

The budget objection motion was therefore lost (19:40) (One abstention).

In respect of the **Cabinet Budget Resolution**, the Council divided as follows:

For the motion (35) - Councillors R Abbey, P Brightmore, A Davies, G Davies, P Davies, W Davies, P Doughty, S Foulkes, P Hackett, T Johnson, A Jones, C Jones, T Jones, B Kenny, M McLaughlin, J McManus, C Meaden, B Mooney, C Muspratt, T Norbury, M Patrick, D Realey, A Smith, C Spriggs, J Stapleton, P Stuart, M Sullivan, T Usher, J Walsh, W Ward, S Whittingham, I Williams, J Williams, J Williamson, G Wood.

Against the motion (24) - Councillors T Anderson, B Berry, C Blakeley, E Boulton, A Brighthouse, D Burgess-Joyce, C Carubia, P Cleary, W Clements, D Elderton, G Ellis, P Gilchrist, J Green, P Hayes, A Hodson, K Hodson, S Kelly, I Lewis, D Mitchell, L Rennie, L Rowlands, A Sykes, G Watt, S Williams.

One abstention – Councillor A McLachlan.

The motion was therefore carried (35:24) (One abstention).

In respect of the **Council Tax Levels 2017/18**, the Council divided as follows:

For the motion (36) - Councillors R Abbey, P Brightmore, P Cleary, A Davies, G Davies, P Davies, W Davies, P Doughty, S Foulkes, P Hackett, T Johnson, A Jones, C Jones, T Jones, B Kenny, M McLaughlin, J McManus, C Meaden, B Mooney, C Muspratt, T Norbury, M Patrick, D Realey, A Smith, C Spriggs, J Stapleton, P Stuart, M Sullivan, T Usher, J Walsh, W Ward, S Whittingham, I Williams, J Williams, J Williamson, G Wood.

Against the motion (23) - Councillors T Anderson, B Berry, C Blakeley, E Boulton, A Brighthouse, D Burgess-Joyce, C Carubia, , W Clements, D Elderton, G Ellis, P Gilchrist, J Green, P Hayes, A Hodson, K Hodson, S Kelly, I Lewis, D Mitchell, L Rennie, L Rowlands, A Sykes, G Watt, S Williams.

One abstention – Councillor A McLachlan.

The motion was therefore carried (36:23) (One abstention).

119 **APPOINTMENTS**

The Civic Mayor advised that there were no matters to consider under this item.

120 **VACANCIES**

Further to the notification of proposed changes to appointments to Committees and to outside bodies as detailed on the agenda, on the motion of Councillor Phil Davies and seconded by Councillor Bernie Mooney, it was –

RESOLVED: –

That the following changes to appointments to Committees and to outside bodies be approved:-

Committees

Licensing, Health and Safety and General Purposes Committee: Councillor Steve Foulkes to replace Councillor Tony Norbury as a deputy.

Outside Bodies

Liverpool City Region - Employment and Skills Board: Councillor Pat Hackett to replace Councillor Phil Davies.

Merseyside Society for the Deaf: Councillor Irene Williams to replace Councillor Louise Reecejones

COUNCIL
19 MARCH 2018

CABINET PORTFOLIO SUMMARY REPORT

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

1 INCREASE INWARD INVESTMENT

It's now almost three years since this Council unanimously endorsed the Wirral Plan. Those 20 Pledges challenged us to deliver 3500 new homes, thousands of new jobs, hundreds of millions in new investments and improve the life chances of our residents. Delivering these goals is what drives the council, its staff and our partners every day.

This Council knows if we can help create the jobs and build the homes people need, attract new investors and provide support for Wirral businesses, many of our residents will see their life chances dramatically improve. To do this we need a step change in how the council drives regeneration.

Last month we took a vital step on that journey. We agreed who our preferred partner in Wirral Growth Company would be. This partner shares our ambition to see regeneration delivered at speed and scale, to create jobs and training opportunities and build the homes, offices and commercial developments Wirral needs.

Like many local authorities, Wirral no longer has the skills and expertise in-house to deliver regeneration on the scale required. We have never delivered multiple schemes of this scale and pace in the timeframe required. Aware that we need a partner, we have also been clear the council must hold a 'veto' on what gets built where and when.

Unlike when land is sold to private investors, the council will retain the freehold on all assets. As planning permission is granted, the land value uplift of that permission is all gain for the council and at the end of leases, all assets – office blocks, retail parks, commercial districts and leisure facilities built on council-owned land return to the Council for just £1.

Additionally, our preferred partner has agreed to recycle their profits from early development phases and to forgo profit entirely on the state-of-the-art extra care

village being proposed, in Moreton. We have also agreed a commitment to “Buy Local, Hire Local” with a target of 60% of workers, services and materials to be sourced locally so residents and businesses benefit directly from the regeneration work to be delivered.

Wirral Growth Company will deliver jobs. It will deliver huge investment in our borough, and will deliver economic growth and regeneration on a massive scale. It is truly fantastic news for every Wirral resident. I am proud of what we have delivered so far, and excited for the future. Read more about Wirral Growth Company in the [Liverpool Echo](#), [Wirral Globe](#), [Insider Media](#), the [Construction Index](#), and [Wirral View](#) or google ‘Wirral Growth Company’.

2 GREATER JOB OPPORTUNITIES

At the end of last month I was delighted to attend an event with Modpack, the Romanian integrated export services industry leader, who have chosen to locate their global HQ in Wirral. Since founding the company a decade ago, brothers Valentin and Bogdan Malaescu have become market leaders and worked with blue-chip companies such as Alstom, GE, Ford and Siemens.

It is a real sign of the confidence businesses and investors have in the Liverpool City Region that up and coming businesses like Modpack are choosing our region to set up their operations. I am sure Council will join me in wishing them every success and hope they are able to grow and create more jobs for local people in our region.

I also want to highlight to Council the continued outstanding performance of our Wirral Ways to Work programme, which has now worked directly with more than 3,500 local people – providing guidance on employability, interview skills, training and education. I am pleased to say more than 1600 people were directly helped back into employment or training during the past twelve months, which is fantastic news for everyone involved.

Finally, it is important Council is aware of the jobs which could be created through the proposed Eureka! development on the Wirral Waterfront. The proposal would create a Merseyside-branch of the acclaimed Eureka! children’s museum on the site of the Spaceport facility at Seacombe Ferry, bringing hundreds of thousands of visitors to our waterfront every year, providing children with a first class educational and leisure facility to enjoy and creating new jobs. The development has been selected as the Liverpool City Region bid for national DCMS funding and I urge all Members to support the bid.

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

1 GOOD QUALITY HOUSING THAT MEETS RESIDENTS NEEDS

It has been an incredibly exciting few months for housing in our borough. Not only have we seen the progress of Wirral Growth Company – and the extensive brownfield residential developments it will bring – but we have also seen huge progress in Wirral Waters.

In early February, it was announced that the Council had been successful in securing £6 million extra funding to support the building of more than 1,000 new homes in the borough. The investment will be used to carry out infrastructure works, including land remediation, public realm works and utilities provision, at the Northbank site, part of Peel's Wirral Waters development.

The money, part of an overall £866m investment from the Housing Infrastructure Fund (HiF), will help pave the way for the building of around 1,100 homes by 2025 at Northbank, which is earmarked as a south-facing, waterfront residential 'neighbourhood' anchored by the existing Grade 2 listed East Float apartment block.

You can read more on this in [Wirral View](#) and the [Wirral Globe](#).

Also last month, I was delighted Cabinet endorsed our plans to support a major housing development at Wirral Waters. A £90 million housing programme, involving 500 new apartments, it will kick-start residential development at the site.

It will see a series of apartment blocks built on this key strategic waterfront site in Wirral Waters. It would be constructed using traditional methods, which fit well into the local environment and also focus on quality design.

You can read more on this in [Wirral View](#), the [Wirral Globe](#) and [Liverpool Echo](#).

It's also important Members are aware of the other outstanding work which has been delivered in the past few months through our colleagues in Housing. Some highlights include:

- 181 new affordable homes have been built and completed, funded by a mix of the Help to Buy initiative, the Council's Affordable Homes Programme and the resources of Registered Providers of social housing;
- The Warm Homes Discount was promoted to 6000 households in the areas of the highest rates of Fuel Poverty by the housing Services Team, which resulted in 1600 calls being received and 959 applications for the £140 Warm Homes Discount;
- Following intervention, over 800 homes in the private sector have had hazards removed since the start of the plan to enable those homes to be warmer and safer;

2 ENSURING WIRRAL'S NEIGHBOURHOODS ARE SAFE

The Safer Wirral Hub is now fully operational, and is now able to provide a more joined up and responsive service to Wirral residents. I am pleased to report to the Chamber that ASB complaints reported to Merseyside Police are 11% down on the same period last year, with the reported figures in December the lowest level of reports for any month in the last 10 years.

However, it is clear much work is still to be done – the number of crimes reported by the Police has increased by 16% compared to last year, and we have a number of ASB hot spots and particular issues which are affecting our residents. Together with partners, we are working to address these issues and hope to take action in the coming weeks.

3 ZERO TOLERANCE TO DOMESTIC ABUSE

I am pleased to report the progress of this pledge has continued to deliver impressive outcomes across the whole of Wirral. The intention in the first years of the pledge was to increase awareness of domestic abuse, and a number of campaigns have been carried out to make this happen. In this reporting period the number of 'high risk' cases is higher than the previous year.

We are also supporting a higher number of children experiencing domestic abuse and are seeing a significant increase in the rate of referrals to social care for domestic abuse (age 18+ years). However the percentage of repeat domestic abuse cases (MARAC) has consistently reduced over last 3 quarters, the MARAC team are carrying out further analysis to ensure we have a clear understanding of the situation and can ensure the right support for victims.

CABINET PORTFOLIO SUMMARY REPORT

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

1 ATTRACTIVE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT

After a resolution in this Chamber last year, I am proud Wirral is making great progress towards becoming the first authority in Merseyside to ban single use plastics. These include drinks cups, plastic cutlery, straws, plastic bottles, food packaging, lids and stirrers – which will, through the work we are exploring, be phased out in the borough to cut pollution and protect our beaches.

Our beaches are incredibly important to Wirral, and play a major role in the lives of local residents as well as being an important attraction for visitors. This move will add to the fabulous work carried out by many local groups who work hard to keep our beaches clean by reducing the amount of plastic waste washing up there.

I am delighted to see so many local schools and partner agencies beginning to follow our lead on this important issue, and assure Members we will continue to work and campaign on this issue to ensure Wirral becomes an SUP-free borough.

More on our work to ban SUP in Wirral is available in the [Wirral Globe](#).

We are continuing to support the many hundreds of Wirral residents who go the extra mile in helping their communities, giving up their time to improve their local environments and keep Wirral clean.

One such initiative is our Love Where You Live campaign, which is giving community organisations and groups the opportunity to continue doing their excellent work with extra support from the Council.

The many ‘friends’ groups all across Wirral do outstanding work. I have met and worked with many of them over the past year and we cannot underestimate the importance of the contribution they make to local communities. It is right that the Council does everything possible to support them and demonstrate how highly they are valued.

More information about Love Where You Live is available in the [Wirral Globe](#).

It is also important we not lessen our focus on delivering a complete zero tolerance policy towards environmental crime – issues like fly-tipping, littering and dog fouling affect our residents' quality of life and Wirral's environment and we are determined to continue our clamp down on the small number of people who continue to act irresponsibly.

Therefore I was pleased to see this crackdown continue recently, with two people being successfully prosecuted for allowing their dogs to foul pavements in our borough. The pair were found guilty in their absence after being caught failing to pick up their dog's mess and then subsequently not paying the fixed penalty they were issued with at the time.

There is simply no excuse for leaving dog mess behind in a public place –whenever our enforcement officers see it, they will issue a fixed penalty notice, as they did in these two incidents. What our actions in these cases demonstrate is that we will pursue offenders who subsequently fail to pay the fixed penalty all the way through to the courts where they will end up with a criminal conviction. More on this is available in the [Wirral Globe](#).

Finally in this area, I was delighted to be able to report recently that plans for a major infrastructure improvement in West Kirby are a step closer after the Council was successful in a funding application.

Wirral Council submitted the proposal for a 1.1km floodwall along South Parade in West Kirby to the Environment Agency in the hope of securing Grant Aid for the scheme, which aims to help protect the resort from flooding into the next century.

The bid was approved, meaning the £3m scheme can now progress to the next phase, which will once again involve residents in helping to influence detailed plans as to how the barrier will look and fit in with the needs of the area.

More on this is available in the [Wirral Globe](#).

2 LEISURE & CULTURE OPPORTUNITIES

Already this financial year, we have seen more than 300 events through our parks and leisure services – even despite the recent adverse weather conditions. We are continuing to work on developing our proposal to have Birkenhead Park recognised as a World Heritage Site, which would be a stunning accolade fitting of such a fantastic local asset.

My Cabinet colleague has reported extensively about the exciting cultural programme in place for 2018 – Imagine Wirral – which will provide Wirral residents with the biggest, most extensive and diverse programme of cultural events we have ever delivered.

CABINET PORTFOLIO SUMMARY REPORT

REPORT OF	Councillor Angela Davies
CABINET PORTFOLIO FOR	Transformation
CO-ORDINATING CHIEF OFFICER	Paul Satoor – Director for Corporate Services & Reform

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

1 WIRRAL GROWTH COMPANY

The Leader of the Council has provided Council with an extensive update on the work towards Wirral Growth Company. This joint venture partnership will put the Council in its strongest ever position to drive forward, and direct, regeneration in the borough – putting us in the driving seat to design what Wirral looks like in the future, and creating thousands of jobs, building hundreds of new homes and revitalising our retail centres along the way.

Some truly exciting, transformative developments are on the way – developments which will shape Wirral for generations to come, and provide a blueprint nationally for how Councils can unlock the potential in their assets, create jobs, drive revenue all while retaining control over the future of their local areas.

I am also delighted that through Wirral Growth Company we have been able to agree detailed policies on hiring local people and using local companies. Making sure the success of this initiative is felt by as many local residents and businesses as possible is vital, and I am proud we have been able to create such an innovative, ambitious and entrepreneurial programme.

More information on Wirral Growth Company is available on www.wirralwellmade.com.

2 LIBRARIES, LEISURE & CULTURE REVIEW

We are continuing an extensive review into our Library, Leisure and Cultural services, seeking to find a new way to provide the services to ensure they are sustainable for the long term and are able to meet our residents' needs.

This work continues. We are determined to find a fair, sustainable solution which provides a set of services which residents need, and which can have both the freedom and ability to attract funding and expand.

As the proposals develop, we will bring further reports to Cabinet and make sure the many residents who have helped us with this work up to now are fully involved as it moves forward.

3 CHILDREN'S SERVICES

I am pleased that the Transformation funding invested within children's services is already paying dividends, with a new recruitment campaign to attract new social workers up and running and many service improvements already being implemented.

It is vital that we all support this work and do all we can to ensure our children's services are able to meet the huge demands being placed on them.

4 ACCESS WIRRAL

Wirral residents are signing up to a new, online system to manage their Council Tax and Housing Benefit payments. Part of the Access Wirral programme, the new system allows people to benefit from paperless bills and also allows businesses and landlords to manage their payments.

More work is being developed to improve our online services and offer, Members will see new services and functions being added to the council's website in the coming months.

CABINET PORTFOLIO SUMMARY REPORT

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

1 WIRRAL RESIDENTS LIVE HEALTHIER LIVES

Following the annual campaign to encourage eligible Wirral residents to take advantage of the [flu jab](#), indicators of influenza activity are now falling as we move towards the end of the flu season.

This has been a challenging winter period, with seasonal flu generating additional demand for health and care services. As in previous years the multiagency Wirral Seasonal Flu Group continues to meet monthly working together to plan for, and respond to, seasonal flu.

Early indications are that uptake of the flu vaccine in Wirral has been better than in previous years. In an effort to protect the most vulnerable, vaccination of key residential care staff was rolled out in late 2017. A debrief of the flu season will take place in April and a report will be made available with recommendations for the 2018/19 flu season.

Cancer screening is effective in the early identification of disease and therefore longer term health outcomes. This year's Public Health Annual Report highlights the lives that could be saved from a small increase in uptake of breast and bowel cancer screening.

A workshop, led by Public Health, is scheduled for April 2018 to bring together organisations involved with screening to develop a plan to drive improvement locally.

Throughout the year, the Public Health team provide support to manage and respond to health protection outbreaks and incidents. Most recently this has included a large scale Scabies outbreak, a European outbreak of Hepatitis A, measles and scarlet fever. Working with colleagues in the CCG, Public Health are developing local work to ensure that the local response to outbreaks is as effective and efficient as it can be.

A leading men's health charity is looking for walkers from Wirral to take part in a fundraising March for Men after new figures showed, for the first time, the number of men dying from prostate cancer every year has overtaken the number of women dying from breast cancer, making prostate cancer the third biggest cancer killer in the UK. Read more about this in [Wirral View](#).

2 OLDER PEOPLE LIVE WELL

Just over six months ago Wirral Community NHS Foundation Trust took on the role of providing adult social care services to older people and those with a disability on behalf of the Council. Positive comments have been received from people who have used the newly integrated service since its transfer. This quote from a person using the newly integrated service demonstrates some early signs that our work is paying dividends;

"I was pleased that I didn't get passed from pillar to post and that I had one worker to deal with, thank you as it has reduced the stress".

We will continue to develop the service, to enable people to receive the right care, in the right place and at the right time.

The launch of the Age Friendly retail pilot in the Pyramids Shopping Centre was successful and well attended, with partners and retailers attending alongside more than 100 older people. I am pleased to tell Council that this initiative is now being explored further, with a view to expanding it throughout the Liverpool City Region.

Look out for the Age Friendly logo in shops in Wirral and find out more from [Wirral View](#).

3 PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES LIVE INDEPENDENTLY

We are working to launch prepaid cards for people who receive a Direct Payment as an alternative to more traditionally arranged care and support services. A prepaid card account is just like a current bank account with a debit card. It can be used by a person to pay for their services which are agreed and detailed in their support plan.

These cards make it much easier and put people more in control of their care arrangements. Wirral are one of a number of Councils to be making good use of innovative ways of delivering care and support to people in a more personalised way.

Finally, a new campaign has been launched in Wirral to improve hospital care for people with a learning disability. 'Treat Me Well' is a three-year campaign that will see national charity Mencap working with partners and hospitals across the country. In Wirral, local affiliated group, Wirral Mencap will work alongside the national organisation and Wirral University Teaching Hospital to meet the aims of the campaign.

More on this is available in [Wirral View](#).

CABINET PORTFOLIO SUMMARY REPORT

REPORT OF	Councillor Bernie Mooney
CABINET PORTFOLIO FOR	Children and Families
CO-ORDINATING CHIEF OFFICER	Paul Boyce, Director of Children's Services

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

1 VULNERABLE CHILDREN REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL

Across the entire country, but particularly in the North West of England, vulnerable children and families are being hardest hit by austerity policies. Earlier this month I, along with my colleagues at almost every council in the region, wrote to Chancellor Philip Hammond to once again lobby, in the strongest possible terms, for this situation to be tackled in the next budget.

The facts are stark: in the North West there are now more than 13,000 'Looked After' Children. This represents a 20 year high and is the greatest number of children in care of any region in England. This has been driven by growth of 12% since 2013 alone, double the 6% increase in the rest of the country.

Analysis from the Placements Northwest Census identifies sharp escalation in costs, with a £45m increase in expenditure on residential care placements this year alone.

This is the reason why we have been forced to invest a further £20 million into children's services, to make sure that these huge increases in demand are met and our vulnerable children and families can get the services they so desperately need.

As the Finance Bill makes its way through Parliament, myself and other cabinet members for children's services are asking the Government to respond to the crisis of children's social care, and provide adequate funding to meet these needs. I would urge all Members in this Chamber to support us in our efforts to properly fund children's social care for our residents.

I am pleased to inform the Chamber that our work to recruit new social workers continues at pace. Our new offer, comprising new pay scales, conditions, training and supervision, has been agreed and we are moving forward with a new recruitment campaign. We are also making good progress on reducing the number of agency staff we employ in social care with, at the time of writing, more than 20 agency staff moving to permanent contracts.

You can read more about our social work recruitment campaign on our [recruitment microsite](#).

2 CHILDREN ARE READY FOR SCHOOL

Engaging disadvantaged groups in early education has once again improved, with the take up of the 2 year old funding increasing to 95%. The progress of these children is being supported through the roll out of the cohort tracker tool. The percentage of providers engaged in using the cohort tracker has increased to 60% over the previous 2 quarters.

I am pleased to inform Council that a nationally pioneering 'pop up' birthing unit based in Seacombe Children's Centre will provide enhanced choice to expecting mothers in the area. Containing facilities for women to give birth, the community unit will offer women a safe alternative to hospital birth in a more family-friendly environment closer to home.

Based at the local children's centre, the unit will encourage women with a low risk of complications (something established clinically during discussions between a woman and her midwife) to give birth in a non-medicalised setting where wrap around services are also available to support families postnatally and beyond. Read more in [Wirral View](#).

Every month, Wirral View carries stories and features to provide parents with helpful information on services available to them. The most recent edition can be found [here](#).

3 REDUCE CHILD AND FAMILY POVERTY

I think it is important all Members are aware that new criteria affecting working parents who claim Universal Credit and free school meals for their school aged children will be introduced on April 1. Members should advise their constituents to claim free school meals as soon as possible.

Children affected by the new eligibility criteria will continue to receive free school meals until the end of their current phase of education. This protection lasts until 2022.

More information, including how to apply, is available through [Wirral View](#).

Staying with Universal Credit, it is important all Members are aware of the work which is being done to support residents. Many Members will have attended the recent workshop, so will be aware that we are offering advice and guidance at all of our One Stop Shops. Assistance with on line applications is also available at our libraries. In addition the welfare rights team offer advice and assistance including support with appeals.

A great deal of partnership work is taking place both with the DWP and key partners in the Borough, including making sure that HB claims are not made in error and signposting to UC as appropriate.

CABINET PORTFOLIO SUMMARY REPORT

REPORT OF	Councillor Matthew Patrick
CABINET PORTFOLIO FOR	Localism & Engagement
CO-ORDINATING CHIEF OFFICER	Fiona Johnstone, Director of Strategy & Partnerships

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

1 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

For the past few months I have been leading extensive work across the Wirral Partnership, holding discussions with all public agencies in the borough, to develop a new approach for how we work with local communities and encourage resident involvement and participation in decision making and services. I know many Members have contributed to this work and I want to thank everyone for their input. Early in the new Municipal year I will be bringing proposals back to Cabinet for decisions and I look forward to discussing them with all Members.

While this work is ongoing, it is important the ChaPAmber is aware of the continuing good work which is being delivered through our Constituency Teams. Some highlights from the past few months include:

In February 2018, an environmental day was organised by the Rodney Street Resident Association, in partnership with Birkenhead Constituency Committee, Involve Northwest Community Connectors our Waste and Recycling Team, Merseyside Police, Biffa, Councillors and Housing Associations. The volunteers cleared 1.5 tonnes of waste, and Biffa supported through clearing all alleyways in the area.

Birkenhead Constituency team developed and led on an application for funding from the Police and Crime Commissioner's Office, securing £7,000 in autumn of last year. The funding was used to support the Pathfinder Project, which is a partnership of Gautby Road Community Centre, Police, Youth Offending Team and Birkenhead Constituency. The project aims to prevent reoffending in young people by providing a range of interventions after a first arrest. Interventions include workshops and gym sessions with inspiring role model Sean 'Masher'

Dodd, a successful boxer from the North end of Birkenhead, visit to HMP Altcourse and training at Fulwood Barracks, support from Youth Offending Team and Positive futures after care.

Free training is being provided throughout February and March by the Alzheimer's Society to small independent businesses to help them better understand customers with dementia. Following the conclusion of the sessions, which are funded by Wallasey Constituency Committee, a further amount of funding will be made available to help businesses make small practical changes to premises for the benefit of people with dementia, helping to reduce social isolation and increase inclusion.

The Wirral South Neighbourhood Team has been working hard to support the community of New Ferry and its various community based organisations on a number of projects. New Beginnings (now a Community Interest Company) Community Hub opened its doors to the public on Saturday 10th March and a suite of community support/development initiatives will be delivered from this exciting new asset, right in the centre of New Ferry.

The team have also been working closely with New Ferry Rangers Football Club and have now secured £19,000 in development funding from phase two of Power to Change's 'Bright Ideas Fund'. Their project aims to provide a community clubhouse in New Ferry, offering community gym and café (luncheon clubs, holiday hunger projects etc.), 3G football provision and subsidised function hire to the local community. The football club and the neighbourhood team are working closely with regeneration consultants and architects to scope and design the new facility. Following public consultation and planning application, discussions will continue with funders across Merseyside, with a view to bringing the project to fruition by summer 2019.

In January 2017, a local community group Flourish at Ford Way (Community Gardening Project) with help from Wirral Met College's Princes Trust Team and support from the Wirral West Constituency team have worked to bring the second Memorial Garden at the junction of Cheverton Close and Hoole Road back into use after it fell into disrepair. The gardens were established to provide a place of reflection for people who have lost loved ones on the estate. The project has seen the site cleared of weeds and overgrowth and new benches and planters being made and installed by the group.

CABINET PORTFOLIO SUMMARY REPORT

REPORT OF	Councillor Chris Spriggs
CABINET PORTFOLIO FOR	Delivering Differently
CO-ORDINATING CHIEF OFFICER	Paul Satoor – Director for Corporate Services & Reform

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

1 INTEGRATION OF HEALTH AND CARE SERVICES

I was heartened by the progress towards delivering a fully integrated NHS and social care service at the Cabinet meeting in February. For too long, navigating between the NHS, social care and other related services has been incredibly complex, frustrating and challenging for people.

We want to deliver Wirral residents a seamless, well designed and joined up NHS and social care service: one which strengthens our NHS, helps stretch our diminishing resources as far as possible and – crucially – provides our residents with a better service.

We will continue to develop our integration programme in the coming months and will share progress with Members regularly.

2 DELIVERING WIRRAL'S CULTURE STRATEGY

In February, we saw the launch of 'Imagine Wirral' – a new, innovative and exciting programme of culture, arts and heritage events which is sure to attract thousands of new visitors to the borough.

Imagine Wirral is the most ambitious and well-designed programme of events we've ever had in our borough. We're able to showcase local talent and our cultural assets like never before. The programme will place Wirral on a world stage, increasing visitor numbers and capturing the creativity of local people. We're really excited about its potential to increase visitor numbers, involve residents and boost our tourism businesses.

Just a few highlights from the Imagine Wirral programme include:

- **Tall Ships Regatta:** The return of the international fleet of Tall Ships to the Mersey over the Bank Holiday weekend, May 25-28. Includes full supporting programme of family friendly festivals and entertainment in and

around the River Mersey celebrating Celtic connections between Wirral and Liverpool, Dublin and Bordeaux.

- **May Weekender:** The May Weekender is set to attract over 50,000 people to Prenton Park, the home of Tranmere Rovers, over the late May bank holiday. The event is the successor to Wirral Live at the same venue in May 2017. Taking to the stage will be artists who cannot be found performing anywhere else in the UK this summer. The May Weekender team will begin announcing the artist line-up for the festival in the coming weeks.
- **New Brighton Revisited:** One of the 'must see' photographic exhibitions taking place anywhere in 2018 will show work by internationally renowned photographers Martin Parr, Tom Wood and Ken Grant. The Northern Narratives exhibition in New Brighton will bring many iconic and influential photographs of the resort together for the very first time and include many previously unseen images.
- **Wilfred Owen Commemorations:** Marking the centenary of the end of WW1, there will be a full week of events in November commemorating the life and death of Wilfred Owen, who lived in Birkenhead before dying in action in the closing days of the war. His work includes some of the greatest war poetry ever written including 'Dulce et Decorum est.' Wirral's rich history and cultural heritage will be celebrated throughout the year through local events and new collaborations, providing inspiring insights into the distant and recent past.

The Imagine Wirral launch at Birkenhead Town Hall included a one-off special live performance by Zuzu, newly signed to Virgin Records, and fresh from her BBC6Music live session. There was also a unique, one-off musical commission for the event from another emerging local musician, St Jude The Obscure. Both artists were arranged by the Wirral New Music Collective.

Wirral Council will be working with some of the biggest names on the local cultural scene throughout the year including Festival of Firsts, Love New Brighton Parade, Floral Pavilion, Secret Gardens of Oxtown, Wirral Open Studios, The International Guitar Festival of Great Britain, 'Be In Birkenhead' festival, Birkenhead Priory, Gladstone Theatre, Port Sunlight Village Trust, Wirral Chamber of Commerce, Williamson Art Gallery and Museum, Lady Lever Art Gallery and West Kirby Arts Centre.

You can find out more on Imagine Wirral through [Wirral View](#) and in the [Wirral Globe](#).

More exciting news was announced this month, with the creation of the Wirral New Music Collective has set up a Live Music Innovation Fund with £500 grants for local musicians, promoters or music lovers to put on innovative live gigs in Wirral this summer (May-September).

The collective is an independent group of record labels, music writers, promoters, visual artists, artist managers, magazine publishers and musicians who 'believe in music's power to shape a new future for Wirral.'

Read more about this in [Wirral View](#).

CABINET PORTFOLIO SUMMARY REPORT

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

1 TRANSPORT AND TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURE FIT FOR THE FUTURE

Firstly, I think it is important the Chamber recognises the huge amount of hard work by our staff during the recent adverse weather conditions.

Often unnoticed, our staff work through the night in terrible conditions to make sure Wirral can keep moving, and I know from the feedback I have received and the comments I have seen across social media that our residents truly appreciate the work they do.

It is this kind of dedication and well planned work which makes Wirral such an attractive place to live and do business in, and I want to give my congratulations and thanks to everyone involved.

We are in the final stages of the major project to install the new lifting bridge on the docks between Birkenhead and Wallasey. This is an extremely complex engineering project, and unfortunately has been struck by a number of complications and the adverse weather conditions.

The next steps will involve the bridge– which is now completed and awaiting transport from the Contractor’s yard on the quay side – being manoeuvred, first by truck, then by barge, into position between Alfred Dock and East Float.

Moving the bridge from the quayside to the dock entrance is an extremely complex operation which requires the complete suspension of shipping traffic through the Wirral docks for a whole week to allow the process of installing and commissioning the bridge to begin. As with any highly complex logistical procedure, for safety reasons, this can only go ahead if the weather and tidal conditions allow.

Our staff are continuing to work closely with the Contractor and Peel Ports to schedule the critical activities involved in floating the new bridge into place, which will allow them to then carry out the essential testing and commissioning required for the bridge to operate correctly and safely so it can be opened to traffic. I am disappointed that the Contractor is still unable to provide us with definite dates for the bridge installation and road re-opening. However, this project is incredibly complex and there are considerable risks that remain out of our control.

We know that people who use this route on a regular basis have been considerably inconvenienced and frustrated by the length of time this project has taken and the additional delays the project has been subject to. As always, I can only show my appreciation for their continued patience.

Finally, I am pleased that later this month Cabinet will meet to discuss our road maintenance programme for the coming year. I am aware that the quality of our roads and highways is extremely important to residents and I am delighted that this year we will be able to invest significantly in many areas to improve the conditions of our roads. I will make sure Members are fully briefed on our progress.

CABINET PORTFOLIO SUMMARY REPORT

REPORT OF	Councillor Janette Williamson
CABINET PORTFOLIO FOR	Finance & Income Generation
CO-ORDINATING CHIEF OFFICER	Shaer Halewood – Director of Finance and Investment

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

DELIVERING A FAIR AND SUSTAINABLE BUDGET

I was pleased at the Budget Cabinet meeting in February to confirm that, thanks to our robust financial planning and management, the Council was once again projecting to deliver a balanced budget for the current financial year.

This is again in the context of having to deliver £45 million of savings during the year, while at the same time continuing to deliver the services our residents rely on. The fact we are able to do this, under such pressure and with next to no support from Central Government, is testament to our determination to ensure we deliver for Wirral whatever obstacles are placed in our way.

Earlier this month, we agreed our Budget for 2018/19, as part of our Medium Term Financial Strategy. Once again, we were faced with huge financial challenges – a £61 million deficit in the next financial year alone. Once again, we have found new and innovative ways to propose a balanced, sustainable and fair budget which enables us to deliver our pledges as promised.

I would like to once again thank every Wirral resident who took the time to provide us their views on the budget proposals. Around 6,000 local people had their say, and their views were taken into account when we proposed our budget to Council.

What I am most proud of is how we have come together to find ways to support our children's services. Making sure our most vulnerable children are safe and well supported by excellent services could not be more important and, with demand far outstripping supply in almost every area of the North West, it was once again left to councils like ours to find local solutions to national problems.

It is therefore heartening, and a demonstration of this Council's commitment to supporting the most vulnerable that even during a time of such prolonged austerity and financial challenges we were able to invest such significant additional resources into our services for children and young people.

I believe it is right that we continue to call on the Government to meet their responsibilities and provide a proper solution to this developing crisis in children's social care. I am pleased that my Cabinet colleague has joined with children's cabinet members across the region to lobby Phillip Hammond to provide the national support to these serious issues.

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

REPORT SUMMARY

This report provides Members of the Council with an update on the work carried out by each of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committees. The report includes contributions from each of the Committee Chairs covering the period since the previous report presented to council on 11th December 2017. Members of Council are requested to note the contents of the report set out in section 3 below.

RECOMMENDATION/S

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

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

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

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 N/A

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

ADULT CARE AND HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY CHAIR'S REPORT

- 3.1 The 2017/18 municipal year has been a busy one for the Adult Care & Health Scrutiny Committee and we have covered a heavy work programme. The closure of the Eastham Walk in Centre was carried out without consultation and highlighted the need and importance of public scrutiny. The centre re-opened with reduced hours following lobbying from scrutiny, with full time re-opening hours planned for May 2018. Scrutiny will continue to monitor this situation closely. A further update will be presented to Committee on 20th March 2018.
- 3.2 Committee received an update at a special Committee meeting held on 13th February 2018 from Cheshire & Merseyside Sustainability and Transformation Partnership (STP). Cheshire & Merseyside STP informed Committee that STPs represent a shift in the way that NHS England plans its services. While the Health and Social Care Act 2012 sought to strengthen the role of competition within the health system, NHS organisations are now being encouraged to collaborate rather than compete, in response to the challenges facing their local services. This new approach is being called 'place-based planning' and is linked closely to the development of Healthy Wirral. A further update to Committee has been requested early in the new municipal year.
- 3.3 Wirral Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) presented members with a session providing background information to a review of Urgent Care Services in Wirral. A public consultation with proposed options will take place over the summer period, at which time a report will also be presented to the Adult Care and Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee.
- 3.4 A workshop was held on 9th January 2018 for Members of the Committee to explore the budget proposals under the Committee's remit. A report detailing the outcomes of the workshop was presented to the Committee meeting on 30th January 2018 before being referred to Cabinet.

3.5 In March 2017, Cabinet had approved the creation of an integrated social care service for adults and older people and the transfer of services to Wirral Community Trust (WCT). This had been implemented in June 2017. Under the new arrangement, WCT now provides statutory adult social care services on behalf of the Council under a contractual agreement. Services provided included the delivery of assessment, support planning and case management services for older people and adults. A report to Committee on 30th January 2018 provided Members with an opportunity to scrutinise progress of the new arrangements. Although there is still a great deal of work to be done, the first 6 months showed good progress has been made, with early signs of positive outcomes.

Councillor Julie McManus

BUSINESS OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY CHAIR'S REPORT

3.6 At the Committee meeting held on 29th November 2017, a report was presented which detailed the roll-out of Universal Credit Full Service from 15th November 2017 in Wirral. The report was welcomed by the Committee and allowed Members to begin to understand the early and potential impacts of the implementation of Universal Credit. Following this meeting, it was agreed by the Chairs of the four Overview & Scrutiny Committees that a number of workshops would be held to understand the wider implications for the Council in implementation and its impact on residents. Two workshops have been held and they were very well received. Representatives from a number of organisations attended to discuss the issues, including Magenta, Citizens Advice and Trussell Trust Foodbank. A summary of both workshops will be reported to the next Committee meeting on 27th March 2018. Although it is too early to understand the full impact that Universal Credit will have, further sessions will be delivered in the new Municipal Year to provide an update on the impact for residents and the Council.

3.7 Pre-decisions Scrutiny has been undertaken on the Council's Road Safety Plan through a dedicated workshop in December 2017. This Scrutiny activity was instigated through a Notice of Motion heard at a previous Committee on 'Reducing Pedestrian Casualties'. The final report was presented to Committee at January's meeting before a final decision was made by the Cabinet Member.

3.8 A workshop was held on 15th January 2018 for Members of the Committee to explore the budget proposals under the Committee's remit. These included the introduction of parking charges around Wirral's coastal sites as well as the move to paperless Committees. A report detailing the outcomes of the workshop was presented to the Committee before being referred to Cabinet.

3.9 The LCRCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee has now completed a review on the CA's Spatial Development Strategy Programme. Sessions were held with a number of Officers, including the Planning and Development Officers. The capacity to deliver the strategy and the need for the CA to engage with the constituent Local Authorities were raised in the final report which has been referred to the LCR Combined Authority meeting on 9th March 2018. Two reviews are currently underway which are looking at Air Quality across the City Region and the impact of Welfare Reform and Universal Credit.

Councillor Mike Sullivan

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY CHAIR'S REPORT

3.10 Since the last Chair's report the Children & Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee has met on one occasion. Children & Families has a new Director, Paul Boyce who presented the regular and standing item of the 'Improvement Journey' update at Committee on 25th January 2018.

3.11 The Committee also received an update regarding the 'Children Are Ready For School' Pledge. Progress against the pledge was examined via its four identified priority areas, which explored a number of initiatives designed to improve multi-agency working and to provide families with support during the early years. The report also identified future challenges and areas of focus regarding the pledge.

3.12 The Committee received an item detailing changes to services targeted towards 'Children on The Edge of Care'. The Committee explored a number of aspects regarding the reorientation of this service, such as youth outreach, access to respite facilities and family mediation, all designed to ensure children stay in their families and communities where it is safe to do so.

3.13 A summary of standards and provisional outcomes for Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 was presented to Committee. Members examined the significant changes that had been made to the content and grading systems of GCSEs. There was a significant amount of discussion around how this might affect performance; however the changes had been too recent to agree an accurate prediction at this stage.

3.14 The Children & Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee held a budget workshop on January 11th 2018. No savings proposals fell under the remit of the Committee, so the focus of the workshop was to explore and scrutinise the budget increase of £25million. £10million of the budget requirement is a continuation of the Improvement Plan approved during 2017/18. A further £15million relates to demand pressures largely associated with previous and anticipated growth requirements in the number of looked after children.

- 3.15 Our programme of Reality Check visits continues. Two such visits have occurred since the last Chair's report. The first visit took place at Seacombe children's centre on December 7th 2017 as an example of Early Childhood Service provision. The visit gave the Committee a chance to examine plans for a birthing suite, located within the children's centre. Members were reassured by the level of partnership working in the service and explored how this could be enhanced further. The Committee welcomed the idea of the birthing suite and has expressed an interest in receiving an update on the service once it has been fully functional for a number of months.
- 3.16 The second visit was to examine the performance dashboard, a new data monitoring piece of software. Although in its early stages, with further developments planned, members were impressed at the dashboard's ability to allow managers to ascertain greater detail, supporting a more joined-up approach with team managers. Members expressed an interest in ensuring the committee receives updates of further developments.

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

- 3.17 The Children & Families Scrutiny Committee is due to meet on one more occasion this municipal year on 22nd March 2018.
- 3.18 Subject to change in the Committee Chair/Membership, the current Committee has expressed an interest in exploring further its role compared to the Improvement Board, and how the Committee might ensure that the work of the Improvement Board is continued and upheld after it ceases to operate.

Councillor Tom Usher

ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY CHAIR'S REPORT

- 3.19 The Task & Finish Review Panel which is reviewing the implications of the Modern Slavery Act have met with representatives from the Council's Environmental Health, Trading Standards and Licensing departments; with further evidence sessions for Housing Services, Children's and Adults Safeguarding representatives planned in the early part of 2018. The Panel then planned to meet with the Council's partners including the police and representatives from local charitable and voluntary organisations. However, the LGA, in partnership with the Independent Anti-slavery Commissioner, has produced 'A council guide for Modern Slavery'. The Review Panel will be meeting with the Senior Manager to discuss this further. The panel will then decide which direction to take the review and will report back to the Committee.
- 3.20 A dedicated 2018/19 budget proposals workshop for Members of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee was held on Wednesday 9th January 2018. This provided the Committee with the opportunity to examine in greater detail a number of budget proposals affecting services that fall under the remit of the Committee. The

report was referred to Cabinet to be considered as part of its consideration in developing any budget recommendation to Council.

3.21 At the Meeting of Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Wednesday, 31st January 2018 the Committee considered two NOMs referred from the meeting of the Council held on 11 December 2017. The Notice of Motion, [*Economic Viability Assessments from Developers*] proposed by Councillor Stuart Kelly and seconded by Councillor Chris Carubia as well as *'Planning Ahead to Use the Community Infrastructure Levy'* proposed by Councillor Phil Gilchrist and seconded by Councillor Stuart Kelly] were both referred for consideration to a Task and Finish Group to consider economic viability assessments & community infrastructure levies.

3.22 Other items scheduled on the Committee work programme this municipal year include; The Climate Change Strategy, Social Isolation, Management and Regulation of Private Sector Housing and the Perception of Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour on Wirral.

Councillor Paul Stuart

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are none arising from this report.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are none arising from this report.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

6.1 There are none arising from this report.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

7.1 There are none arising from this report.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

8.1 N/A

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 None - the report is for information only.

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APPENDICES – N/A

REFERENCE MATERIAL – N/A

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chair's Report to Council	11 December 2017
Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chair's Report to Council	16 October 2017
Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chair's Report to Council	20 March 2017
Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chair's Report to Council	19 December 2016
Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chair's Report to Council	17 October 2016
Scrutiny Annual Report to Council	11 July 2016

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EXECUTIVE MEMBER DECISION FORM

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

COUNCILLOR GEORGE DAVIES, CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY AND DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

KEY DECISION: YES

PORTFOLIO AREA: HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

PORTFOLIOS AFFECTED: HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

WARDS AFFECTED: ALL WARDS

SUBJECT: *Local Development Framework for Wirral – Monitoring Report 2016/17*

1. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- (1) That the Monitoring Report for 2016/17 and its accompanying background documents and data tables, attached to this report, are approved and made available for public inspection and published on the Council's website.
- (2) That Council is recommended to approve the adoption of the revised Local Development Scheme, attached to this report and to resolve that the revised Scheme will come into effect on the day following the date that the Council resolution is passed.

2. REASONS FOR THE DECISION

To enable the Council to meet the statutory requirements of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) and the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (SI 2012, No. 767).

3. STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

The report has been prepared with the approval of the Assistant Director Law and Governance and the Assistant Director Finance, in consultation with the Lead Commissioner, Place and Investment; Visitor Economy Senior Manager; Head of Operational Housing Services; Senior Manager Parks & Countryside; Team Leader, Waste Reduction; Corporate and Community Safety Planning Manager; Sustainability Liaison Officer; Team Manager Data Information, Children's Services; and the Council's Conservation Officer.

4. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

<p>Signed: <i>George Davies</i></p> <p>Executive Member:</p> <p>Date: <i>14th December 2017</i></p> <p>Also present: <i>LISA NEWMAN</i></p>	<p>Signed: <i>David Ball</i></p> <p>Chief Officer:</p> <p>Date: <i>18 December 2017.</i></p>
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A list of background papers on this issue is held with:

Contact Officer:

Rob Oates, Senior Planning Officer 0151 691 8110

Date: 6 December 2017

Date of Publication:

Date of Expiry of Call-In Period:

COUNCILLOR GEORGE DAVIES HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY AND DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL	DELEGATED REPORT LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK FOR WIRRAL – MONITORING REPORT 2016/17
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REPORT SUMMARY

This report seeks approval for the publication of the Council's statutory Monitoring Report and associated documents, to report on the impact of land use planning policies and the preparation of local plans and other planning-related documents during 2016/17.

Copies of the Monitoring Report and its associated documents must be made available for public inspection on the Council's website by the end of December 2017.

This report also recommends that Council is recommended to approve the revisions to the future timetable for the preparation of the Core Strategy Local Plan, set out in the revised Local Development Scheme attached to this report, which could also address some of the issues set out in a recent letter from the Secretary of State.

The approval of the Local Development Scheme is a Key Decision requiring the approval of Full Council.

The Monitoring Report and Local Development Scheme provide information that is relevant to all Wards within the Borough.

The revised timetable for the preparation of the Core Strategy Local Plan, set out within the revised Local Development Scheme, will contribute towards the delivery of a wide range Wirral Plan pledges related to People, Business and Environment and the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy.

The Monitoring Report indicates that at 30 November 2017, a total of 1,344 new dwellings had so far been provided towards the target of 3,500 new dwellings set out in the Wirral Plan 2020, for good quality housing which meets the needs of residents.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) That the Monitoring Report for 2016/17 and its accompanying background documents and data tables, attached to this report, are approved and made available for public inspection and published on the Council's website.**
- (2) That Council is recommended to approve the adoption of the revised Local Development Scheme, attached to this report and to resolve that the revised Scheme will come into effect on the day following the date that the Council resolution is passed.**

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 To enable the Council to meet the statutory requirements of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) and the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (SI 2012, No. 767).

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 There are no alternative options, as national regulations require the publication of monitoring information and an up-to-date local development scheme, as soon as possible after the information becomes available.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 Section 35 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires the Council to make a statutory report on the progress made in the preparation of local development documents and on the extent to which the policies set out in existing documents are being achieved.
- 3.2 Section 113 of the Localism Act 2011 amended this requirement, so that local planning authorities must now publish this information direct to the public at least yearly in the interests of transparency. The local planning authority is no longer required to send the report to the Secretary of State but the Secretary of State retains powers to make regulations prescribing the timing, content and form of reports.
- 3.3 Previous monitoring reports have been published on the Council's website at <https://www.wirral.gov.uk/planning-and-building/local-plans-and-planning-policy/development-monitoring>
- 3.4 The Council must report to the public at least annually, with each report covering a period of up to twelve months from the end of the period covered by the last monitoring report. The Council's last Monitoring Report was published in December 2016.
- 3.5 National regulations require the Council to make reports on:
- the approval or adoption of local plans and supplementary planning documents;
 - the stage that each local plan or supplementary planning document has reached against the timetable specified for document preparation in the Council's Local Development Scheme and the reasons for any delay;
 - the delivery of net additional dwellings or net affordable dwellings against any number specified in a local plan, within each reporting period and since the policy was first published, adopted or approved;
 - any adopted local plan policy that the Council is not implementing, alongside the reasons for not implementing it and the steps (if any) that the Council intend to take to secure that the policy is implemented;
 - the making of any neighbourhood development orders or neighbourhood development plans;

- the collection and expenditure of any Community Infrastructure Levy, in the manner set out in the Community Infrastructure Regulations; and
- details of the action taken to co-operate with other local planning authorities and prescribed bodies on strategic matters, to secure the sustainable development or use of land.

3.6 Up-to-date information collected for monitoring purposes must be made available for public inspection at the local planning authority's principal office (and at any other such places as the local planning authority consider appropriate) and must be published on the local planning authority's website, as soon as possible after the information becomes available.

3.7 The Government's Open Data policy for local government recommends that data (unless private or sensitive) is made available on-line, in open and machine-readable formats, so that it can be easily re-used by residents, businesses and other interested parties.

3.8 Council on 13 February 2013 (Minute 108) resolved that the Portfolio Holder be given authority to approve the publication of future monitoring information on the Council's website, in line with the requirements of relevant national regulations.

4.0 MONITORING REPORT FOR 2016/17

4.1 The Council's draft Monitoring Report for Wirral for 2016/17, which has been prepared in line with previous formats, is attached to this report.

4.2 A summary of the main findings is set out below:

Progress on Policy Delivery

Housing Development

4.3 Gross housing completions reduced to 384 in 2016/17, compared to 562 in 2015/16 and 563 in 2014/15; and total net completions reduced to 328, compared to 498 in 2015/16 and 537 in 2014/15. The number of new dwellings under construction had, however, risen to 1,315 in April 2017, from 475 in April 2016, indicating a significant increase in recent rates of activity. At 30 November, the total number of dwellings that were registered as complete since April 2017 was 398 (gross).

4.4 Outside Wirral Waters, which has outline consent for 13,521 new dwellings, the capacity of land with planning permission for new housing continued to rise, to 2,577 dwellings in April 2017, compared to 2,221 in April 2016 and 1,932 in April 2015. The estimated capacity of additional sites, without planning permission, which might be deliverable over the next 15 years had, however, reduced to 4,531 in April 2017, from 5,651 in April 2016.

4.5 The Borough's housing land supply, outside Wirral Waters, was therefore between 1.9 and 1.7 years, in April 2017, when assessed against the higher-end of the objectively assessed need identified in the Council's Strategic Housing Market Assessment (May 2016); or between 3.9 and 3.4 years, when assessed against the Government's proposed new method for calculating local housing needs (September 2017);

compared to between 2.0 and 2.2 years in April 2016, both significantly below the five-year housing land supply required by national policy.

Employment Development

- 4.6 The amount of newly completed employment floorspace reduced slightly, to 18,900 square metres during 2016/17, compared to 19,300 square metres during 2015/16. The amount of new employment floorspace registered as under construction had also reduced, from 19,200 square metres in April 2016 to 12,700 square metres in April 2017.
- 4.7 The calculation of the Borough's employment land supply will be reviewed when the Council's Employment Land and Premises Study Update is published in early 2018.

Retail Development

- 4.8 The amount of newly completed retail floorspace also reduced, from 2,500 square metres in 2015/16 to 1,742 square metres in 2016/17, with the majority continuing to take place outside existing centres. By contrast, all of the additional floorspace for financial and professional services continued to take place within an existing centre.

Waste Development

- 4.9 The latest Monitoring Report for the Joint Waste Local Plan, prepared on behalf of the districts by the Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service will, this year, not be available until early 2018.

Progress on Plan Preparation

- 4.10 The timetable for the preparation of the Core Strategy Local Plan has been revised following further consultation on the Borough's housing needs and land supply, to allow for the completion of a wider review of development options before the final sites to be included in the Local Plan are agreed.
- 4.11 A revised Strategic Housing Market Assessment (May 2016) was published for public consultation in August 2016, alongside the latest update to the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment, for April 2016 (Cabinet, 18 July 2016, Minute 31 refers). The results of consultation were reported to Cabinet in February 2017 (Minute 96 refers).
- 4.12 The review of development options has so far included:
- a revised methodology for the Council's housing land assessments, which was published for public consultation in July 2017;
 - a draft assessment of City Region housing and employment land needs, which was published for public consultation in October 2017;
 - a draft methodology for an initial review of the Green Belt, which was published for public consultation in October 2017;
 - a draft Brownfield Land Register, which was also published for public consultation in October 2017; and
 - a revised Playing Pitch Strategy, which was published in November 2017.

- 4.13 A Retail and Leisure Study Update was completed and approved during 2016 (Cabinet, 18 July 2016, Minute 32 and Council 17 October 2016, Minute 62 refer) and an Employment Land and Premises Study Update is due to report in early 2018.
- 4.14 Given the need to allow for the completion of the review of development options, a revised timetable for the preparation of the Core Strategy Local Plan has been included in an update to the Council's statutory Local Development Scheme, which is also attached as an Appendix to this report.
- 4.15 The revised timetable anticipates initial results from the review of development options to be reported to Cabinet in July 2018, followed by further consultation, if necessary, in September 2018; with draft proposals presented to Cabinet for approval for the completion of statutory appraisals in December 2018; with a view to approving a Revised Proposed Submission Draft Core Strategy in July 2019, for statutory publication in September 2019 and submission to the Secretary of State for public examination in January 2020.
- 4.16 Subject to the examination timetable and the need for any further post-examination modifications, the Core Strategy is therefore currently expected to be adopted by early 2021.
- 4.17 The last approved Local Development Scheme for Wirral dates from 6 July 2015 (Council, Minute 23 refers). Progress against the published Scheme has recently been raised in a letter from the Secretary of State, which will be considered by the Council's Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 7 December 2017.
- 4.18 It is therefore recommended that Council is recommended to formally approve the revisions to the future timetable for the preparation of the Core Strategy Local Plan, set out in the revised Local Development Scheme attached to this report, in addition to the information that has been continuously updated on the Council's website.

Neighbourhood Planning

- 4.19 The Council has now designated five local neighbourhood planning forums, at Devonshire Park; Hoylake; Leasowe; Birkenhead and Tranmere; and for Birkenhead North, to allow them to prepare their own planning proposals for their respective designated areas.
- 4.20 The Neighbourhood Development Plan for Hoylake was formally 'made' by Council on 19 December 2016, following the successful local referendum on 1 December 2016 (Minute 105 refers).

Duty to Co-operate

- 4.21 The Council adopted a Statement of Co-operation on Local Planning, with City Region Partners, on 17 October 2016 (Council, Minute 64 refers).
- 4.22 A draft Liverpool City Region Strategic Housing and Employment Land Market Assessment (SHELMA) was published by the Combined Authority for stakeholder engagement in October 2017, for final approval in early 2018.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no financial implications arising from the publication of the annual monitoring report.
- 5.2 The publication of data in a machine readable format on the Council's website will not incur any additional costs.
- 5.3 Annual monitoring, analysis and reporting has been undertaken using existing resources within Environmental Services.
- 5.4 The continued preparation of the Council's Core Strategy Local Plan will be funded from existing resources for Environmental Services, subject to a further report to Cabinet in July 2018.

6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The publication of monitoring information, at least annually, is a statutory requirement under the Section 35 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended).
- 6.2 The findings of the Monitoring Report can be a material consideration in future development management decisions.
- 6.3 The Council must make any up-to-date information collected for monitoring purposes available to the public as soon as possible after the information becomes available.
- 6.4 The Community Infrastructure Regulations 2010 also require the Council to publish a report on its website no later than 31 December, following the end of the reported year.
- 6.5 The Open Government Licence provides for the Council's right to be identified as the source of the data and for the Council to be protected from any liabilities arising from its use.
- 6.6 Section 15 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires the Council to prepare and maintain a Local Development Scheme, to set out the timetable for the preparation of development plan documents such as Local Plans.
- 6.7 The revised Local Development Scheme must be approved by a resolution of Full Council, specifying the date from which the Scheme is to have effect and the Council must make the Scheme and any more up-to-date information on the timetable available to the public, as soon as it becomes available.

7.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

- 7.1 There are no IT, staffing or asset implications arising from this report, beyond the need to make continued provision for statutory monitoring and data storage and the publication of data in a machine readable format on the Council's website.
- 7.2 The Council's Local Plan will be prepared using existing IT and staff resources in Environmental Services.

8.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 8.1 Failure to report at least annually and to provide for the ongoing collection, analysis and publication of monitoring information would place the Council in breach of a statutory duty.
- 8.2 The Open Government Licence provides for the data to be provided 'as is' and offers no warranty against any errors or omissions or against any loss, injury or damage of any kind caused by its use.
- 8.3 No data which could identify any individual will be published in contravention of the Data Protection Act 1998.
- 8.4 Unless additional land for development can be identified in the emerging Core Strategy Local Plan, the absence of a five-year housing land supply could lead to the loss of appeals against the refusal of planning permission, with costs awarded against the Council, unless any adverse impacts of approving the development would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits, when assessed against national policy as a whole (NPPF, paragraph 14 refers).
- 8.5 The Local Development Scheme will be used by Government to assess the Council's progress in the preparation of an up-to-date Local Plan.
- 8.6 The Council's existing Local Development Scheme, which dates from July 2015, is now significantly out-of-date and does not reflect the most recent decisions taken since February 2017, with regard to the completion of a development options review (Cabinet, Minute 96 refers).
- 8.7 The Secretary of State has the power to direct amendments to the Local Development Scheme, as well as powers over its content and review.

9.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

- 9.1 There is no requirement for public consultation on the content of monitoring reports, which are a factual statement of progress during the previous monitoring year. Copies of annual monitoring information must, however, be made available for public inspection at a principal office and on the Council's website.
- 9.2 The scope of future monitoring, in addition to any statutory requirements, will be subject to future public consultation as part of the preparation of the Council's Core Strategy Local Plan, which must include a series of indicators for monitoring the delivery and effectiveness of local plan policies.
- 9.3 There is no requirement for public consultation on the content of the Local Development Scheme, which is a factual statement of the Council's future timetable for the preparation of the Local Plan for the Borough.

10.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 The relevant Equality Impact Assessment can be viewed at <https://www.wirral.gov.uk/communities-and-neighbourhoods/equality-impact-assessments/equality-impact-assessments-2017/delivery>

- 10.2 Although the Monitoring Report and its accompanying documents and data tables attached to this report includes information on indicators related to population, housing, economic activity and social conditions, it does not in itself have any equalities implications other than providing an additional source of accessible up-to-date public information.
- 10.3 The adoption of a revised Local Development Scheme, which only sets out the timetable for the preparation of the Local Plan, will similarly not have any additional equalities implications.

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APPENDICES

Draft Monitoring Report 2016/17
 Wirral Committed Residential Sites April 2017
 Wirral Housing Completions 2016/17
 Wirral Employment Land April 2017
 Wirral Business Completions 2016/17
 Wirral Business Losses 2016/17
 Wirral Retail and Leisure Completions 2016/17
 Draft Local Development Scheme (December 2017)

REFERENCE MATERIAL

[Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004](#) (Sections 15, 17, 35 and 36 refer)
[Localism Act 2011](#) (Sections 111 and 113 refer)
[Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017](#) (Sections 11 and 12 refer)
[Town and Country Planning \(Local Planning\)\(England\) Regulations 2012](#) (Regulation 34)
[Community Infrastructure Regulations 2010](#) (Regulation 62 refers)
 National Archives [Open Government Licence](#) for public sector information
[Local Government Transparency Code 2015](#) (DCLG, February 2015)
[National Planning Policy Framework and Planning Practice Guidance](#) (DCLG, March 2012)
[Local Development Scheme for Wirral](#) (Wirral Council, July 2015)

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Delegated – Annual Monitoring Report 2015	17 December 2015
Delegated – Annual Monitoring Report 2016	22 December 2016
Delegated – Local Development Scheme	17 December 2014
Council – Local Development Scheme	6 July 2015 (Minute 23)

Council Meeting	Date
Environment Overview and Scrutiny – Wirral Local Plan - Letter from Secretary of State	7 December 2017

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WIRRAL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

SECTION 15

PLANNING AND COMPULSORY PURCHASE ACT 2004

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME FOR WIRRAL

REVISED DECEMBER 2017

**BROUGHT INTO EFFECT
BY RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL
ON XX XXXXX 2018**

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CONTENTS

1	Introduction	5
2	Background	5
3	The Development Plan for Wirral	5
4	The Wirral Local Plan	6
5	Core Strategy Local Plan	7
6	Supplementary Planning Documents	8
7	Neighbourhood Planning Documents	9
8	Resources	9
9	Risk Assessment	9
10	Monitoring & Review	9
11	Useful Contacts	10
12	Background Documents	10

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DRAFT

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Local Development Scheme for Wirral is a statutory document setting out the programme for the preparation of the Council's Local Plans, produced in accordance with Section 15 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.
- 1.2 The Council's Local Plans will form part of the statutory Development Plan for the area and will play a major role in the determination of individual planning applications and in other decisions taken by the Council and by others under the Town and Country Planning Acts.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The first Local Development Scheme for Wirral was approved by the Secretary of State on 31 March 2005 and came into effect on 20 May 2005. Subsequent reviews took place in July 2006, July 2007, January 2010, February 2012 and December 2014.
- 2.2 This current document replaces the Local Development Scheme adopted by the Council on 6 July 2015.
- 2.3 Local Development Schemes no longer need to be approved by the Secretary of State before they can come into effect.

3 THE DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR WIRRAL

- 3.1 The statutory Development Plan for the Metropolitan Borough of Wirral currently comprises the 'saved' policies in the Unitary Development Plan for Wirral, adopted by the Council in February 2000 and the Joint Waste Local Plan for Merseyside and Halton, adopted in July 2013.

Unitary Development Plan for Wirral (February 2000)

- 3.2 The Unitary Development Plan is an 'old-style' development plan that will gradually be replaced by documents contained within the emerging Local Plan for Wirral.
- 3.3 A list of the policies and proposals that are no longer in force, following the adoption of the Joint Waste Local Plan, can be viewed on the Council's website at <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/planning-and-building/local-plans-and-planning-policy/local-plans/unitary-development-plan/written>
- 3.4 The remaining policies of the Unitary Development Plan, including the Written Statement and Proposals Map, can be viewed on the Council's website at <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/planning-and-building/local-plans-and-planning-policy/local-plans/unitary-development-plan>

Joint Waste Local Plan for Merseyside and Halton (July 2013)

3.5 The Joint Waste Local Plan was adopted by each of the six partner councils to come into effect from 18 July 2013. The Joint Waste Local Plan was resolved to be adopted by Wirral Council on 15 July 2013 (Minute 17 refers).

3.6 The Joint Waste Local Plan can be viewed on the Council's website at <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/planning-and-building/local-plans-and-planning-policy/local-plans/joint-waste-local-plan-merseyside>

4 THE WIRRAL LOCAL PLAN

4.1 The Local Plan for Wirral is part of a collection of documents that will set out the Council's policies for the development and use of land within the Metropolitan Borough of Wirral.

4.2 These documents currently include:

- the Local Development Scheme;
- a Statement of Community Involvement;
- the remaining policies in the Unitary Development Plan;
- the Joint Waste Local Plan for Merseyside and Halton;
- a series of Supplementary Planning Guidance Notes and Supplementary Planning Documents to support the delivery of existing adopted Development Plan policies;
- a Proposals Map; and
- a series of Monitoring Reports.

4.3 Over time, these documents will also include:

- a Core Strategy Local Plan;
- a Land Allocations and Heritage Local Plan;
- a series of Neighbourhood Planning documents, including Neighbourhood Development Plans, prepared by the local community;
- a series of additional and replacement Supplementary Planning Documents, to support the delivery of the Core Strategy Local Plan;

4.4 Adopted Local Plans, Neighbourhood Development Plans and the Proposals Map will have status alongside the Unitary Development Plan, as part of the statutory Development Plan for Wirral, until the Unitary Development Plan is fully replaced.

4.5 A list of the local development documents that have already been adopted is provided at Appendix 1.

4.6 This review of the Local Development Scheme provides for the completion of the Core Strategy Local Plan, which will set out the

strategic policies for the area, with which Neighbourhood Plans will need to be in general conformity.

- 4.7 The completion of the Core Strategy Local Plan is intended to be followed by the preparation of a site-specific Land Allocations and Heritage Local Plan, which will be the subject of a future revision to the Local Development Scheme.

Key Milestones

- 4.8 The future timetable for the preparation of the Core Strategy Local Plan is set out in Appendix 2.
- 4.9 A continuously up-dated record of progress is available on the Council's website at <https://www.wirral.gov.uk/planning-and-building/local-plans-and-planning-policy/local-plans/local-development-scheme>.

5 CORE STRATEGY LOCAL PLAN

- 5.1 The Core Strategy Local Plan is a Development Plan Document that is intended to set the long term vision, objectives and spatial strategy for future development in the Borough over the next 15 years.
- 5.2 The Core Strategy will also provide the strategic framework for other area-based or site-specific matters to be addressed in subsequent Local Plans and in Neighbourhood Planning documents.
- 5.3 The Core Strategy Local Plan is now at the final stages of preparation.
- 5.4 Public consultation on Issues, Vision and Objectives took place in February 2009; on Spatial Options in January 2010; on Preferred Options in November 2010; on Settlement Area Policies in January 2012; and on a Proposed Submission Draft Core Strategy in December 2012.
- 5.5 An initial series proposed modifications to the Proposed Submission Draft Core Strategy were made available for public comment between 24 July and 13 September 2013.
- 5.6 A further series of proposed modifications, to policies for Gypsies and Travellers and to policies for Town Centres, were made available for public comment between 8 December 2014 and 6 February 2015.
- 5.7 Reports of consultation are available for each stage of the process undertaken so far and can be viewed on the Council's website at <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/planning-and-building/local-plans-and-planning-policy/local-plans/core-strategy-local-plan>
- 5.8 The revocation of the Regional Spatial Strategy, in May 2013, required the Council to re-assess the Borough's housing needs, complicated by results for Wirral from the 2011 Census, which made previous population and household projections unreliable.

- 5.9 A revised housing needs assessment was finally completed in May 2016, following the publication of stage 2 household projections in December 2015; and further consultation on the Borough's housing needs and land supply was undertaken in August and September 2016.
- 5.10 The results of consultation were reported in February 2017 and a wider review of development options was approved, to include:
- a Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment Update, for which a proposed revised methodology was published for consultation in July 2017;
 - an Initial Review of the Green Belt, for which a proposed methodology was published for consultation in October 2017;
 - a Liverpool City Region Strategic Housing and Employment Land Market Assessment, which was also published for public consultation in October 2017;
 - a Playing Pitch Strategy Update, which was published in November 2017;
 - an Employment Land and Premises Study Update, which is due to report in early 2018; and
 - a Development Viability Assessment Update, to begin in early 2018.
- 5.11 Further information on the development options review can be viewed at <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/planning-and-building/local-plans-and-planning-policy/local-plans/core-strategy-local-plan-6>
- 5.12 Appendix 2 sets out the amended timetable for the remaining stages of the production of the Core Strategy.
- 5.13 The timetable prior to the submission of the Core Strategy to public examination will largely be determined by the completion of key evidence base documents related to the review of development options, including housing requirements, land supply and development viability.
- 5.14 The timetable following the submission of the Core Strategy will be determined by the Planning Inspector appointed to undertake the independent public examination of the soundness and legal compliance of the proposals.
- 5.15 The estimated date for the adoption of the Core Strategy, following submission to public examination in January 2020, is now therefore January 2021.

6 SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENTS

- 6.1 The Local Development Scheme is no longer required to set out the timetable for the preparation of Supplementary Planning Documents.

- 6.2 The Council consulted on the proposed content of new documents for housing; employment; town centres; and telecommunications, to be brought forward alongside the Core Strategy Local Plan, in July 2013.
- 6.3 The latest progress on the preparation of Supplementary Planning Documents can be viewed on the Council's website at <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/planning-and-building/local-plans-and-planning-policy/supplementary-planning-documents>.

7 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING DOCUMENTS

- 7.1 Neighbourhood Planning documents are prepared by the local community and adopted by the Council, to provide further detail on planning proposals within local areas.
- 7.2 Five neighbourhood forums have so far been designated for neighbourhood areas at Devonshire Park; Hoylake; Leasowe; Birkenhead and Tranmere; and Birkenhead North; and neighbourhood plans have now been formally 'made' for Devonshire Park and Hoylake.
- 7.3 Progress on the preparation of neighbourhood planning documents can be viewed on the Council's website at <https://www.wirral.gov.uk/planning-and-building/local-plans-and-planning-policy/neighbourhood-planning>.

8 RESOURCES

- 8.1 Future land use planning policy documents are prepared by the Forward Planning Team in Environmental Services, which reports to the Council's Cabinet Member for Housing and Community Safety and Deputy Leader of the Council.

9 RISK ASSESSMENT

- 9.1 The principal risks to the delivery of the timetable set out in this Local Development Scheme are set out in Appendix 3 and will be kept under constant review.
- 9.2 The risk register will be regularly updated on the Council's web site at <https://www.wirral.gov.uk/planning-and-building/local-plans-and-planning-policy/local-plans/local-development-scheme>.

10 MONITORING & REVIEW

- 10.1 Progress on Local Plan preparation is reviewed annually in the Council's statutory Monitoring Reports.
- 10.2 Previous Monitoring Reports can be viewed on the Council's website at <https://www.wirral.gov.uk/planning-and-building/local-plans-and-planning-policy/development-monitoring>.

11 USEFUL CONTACTS

11.1 The Forward Planning Team can be contacted:

by post at:

Wirral Council Environmental Services, PO Box 290, Brighton Street,
Wallasey CH27 9FQ

by telephone at:

0151 691 8110

or at forwardplanning@wirral.gov.uk

12 BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

12.1 The following documents provide additional information on local development document processes and requirements:

- Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (HMSO 2004, Chapter 5) (as amended)
- Localism Act 2011 (HMSO 2011, Chapter 20) (as amended)
- Housing and Planning Act 2016 (HMSO, Chapter 22)
- Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017 (HMSO, Chapter 20)
- The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (HMSO SI 2012 No.767) (as amended)
- The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (HMSO, SI 2004 No 1633)
- The Conservation (Natural Habitats &c) Regulations 1994 (HMSO, 1994 No 2716) (as amended)
- The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended) (HMSO SI 2010 No.490)
- The National Planning Policy Framework (March 2012) and associated practice guidance (as continuously updated) can be viewed at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/planning-practice-guidance>

Appendix 1 – Adopted Local Development Documents

1. Local Plans

Unitary Development Plan for Wirral – Adopted February 2000

Written Statement - <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/planning-and-building/local-plans-and-planning-policy/local-plans/unitary-development-plan/written>

Proposals Map - <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/planning-and-building/local-plans-and-planning-policy/local-plans/unitary-development-plan/forward>

Joint Merseyside and Halton Waste Local Plan – Adopted July 2013

Written Statement - <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/planning-and-building/local-plans-and-planning-policy/local-plans/joint-waste-local-plan-merseyside>

Maps and Plans - <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/planning-and-building/local-plans-and-planning-policy/local-plans/joint-waste-local-plan-merseyside>

2. Neighbourhood Development Plans

Devonshire Park Neighbourhood Plan - Made December 2015

<http://www.wirral.gov.uk/planning-and-building/local-plans-and-planning-policy/neighbourhood-planning/devonshire-park>

Hoylake Neighbourhood Plan – Made December 2016

<http://www.wirral.gov.uk/planning-and-building/local-plans-and-planning-policy/neighbourhood-planning/hoylake>

3. Statement of Community Involvement

Statement of Community Involvement - Adopted March 2014

<http://www.wirral.gov.uk/planning-and-building/local-plans-and-planning-policy/community-involvement-local-planning/statement>

4. Supplementary Planning Documents

SPD1 – Designing for Development by Mobile Phone Operators – Adopted October 2006

<http://www.wirral.gov.uk/planning-and-building/local-plans-and-planning-policy/supplementary-planning-documents/designing>

SPD2 – Designing for Self-Contained Flat Development and Conversions – Adopted October 2006

<http://www.wirral.gov.uk/planning-and-building/local-plans-and-planning-policy/supplementary-planning-documents/designing-0>

SPD3 – Hot Food Takeaways, Restaurants, Cafes and Drinking Establishments – Adopted October 2006

<http://www.wirral.gov.uk/planning-and-building/local-plans-and-planning-policy/supplementary-planning-documents/hot-food>

SPD4 – Parking Standards - Adopted June 2007

<http://www.wirral.gov.uk/planning-and-building/local-plans-and-planning-policy/supplementary-planning-documents/parking>

DRAFT

Appendix 2 – Core Strategy Timetable

Document Name: Core Strategy Local Plan		Status: Development Plan Document
Purpose: To provide the long-term vision, objectives and spatial strategy for the Borough and the framework for future Development Plan Documents		
Coverage: Borough wide		Time Period: 15 years
Chain of Conformity: National Planning Policy Framework		Post Adoption Monitoring & Review: Annual Monitoring Report 5 Yearly Assessment
Departmental Responsibility: Environmental Services (Forward Planning) forwardplanning@wirral.gov.uk		Contact: Andrew Fraser, Forward Planning Manager 0151 691 8218
Key Milestones		Key Stakeholders (Regulation 2 bodies): Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Sefton Borough Council Liverpool City Council Cheshire West and Chester Council Flintshire County Council Other Liverpool City Region Authorities Liverpool City Region Local Enterprise Partnership Liverpool City Region Local Nature Partnership Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service Homes and Communities Agency Highways Agency Merseytravel Environment Agency Natural England Natural Resources Wales Marine Management Organisation Historic England Merseyside Police and Crime Commissioner North West Ambulance Service Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service HM Coastguard and RNLI Office of Rail Regulation and Network Rail Civil Aviation Authority Health and Safety Executive National Health Service Organisations Conservation Area Advisory Committees Local Amenity Societies and Friends Groups Wirral Community Networks Wirral Wildlife Developers and Landowners Utilities and Infrastructure Providers Local Business Organisations Neighbourhood Forums Other General Consultation Bodies
Preparation (Regulation 18):		
Commencement:	July 2005*	
SA Scoping:	July 2006*	
Initial Consultation:	September 2007*	
Issues Vision and Objectives:	February 2009*	
Spatial Options: (Regulation 18)	January 2010*	
Preferred Options: (Regulation 18)	November 2010*	
Settlement Areas: (Regulation 18)	January 2012*	
Publication (Regulation 19)		
Proposed Submission Draft:	December 2012*	
Initial Modifications:	July 2013*	
Further Modifications:	December 2014*	
Re-Publication: (Regulation 19)	September 2019	
Representations: (Regulation 20)	September/October 2019	
Submission (Regulation 22)		
Submission: (Regulation 22)	January 2020	
Pre-Hearing Meeting:	March 2020	
Hearing: (Regulation 24)	May 2020	
Main Modifications (if required)	September 2020	
Inspectors Report: (Regulation 25)	December 2020	
Adoption: (Regulation 26)	January 2021	

An asterisk (*) indicates the stages that have already been completed. Dates shown in red are subject to the completion of a wider review of development options.

Appendix 3 – Risk Assessment

Risk	Description	Control Measures
Political	Risk of political approval being withheld and/or change of leadership and/or direction and/or political priorities	Consultation and involvement of Members in the Local Plan preparation process in order to provide ownership, leadership and commitment to future implementation
Procedural	Changes in national policy leads to amended requirements	Seek to future-proof requirements wherever possible
Financial - constrained Council budgets, increases in Planning Inspectorate fees	Risk of inadequate financial provision hindering progress and scope of work required	Regularly report on budget requirements and minimise financial expenditure to ensure value for money, including joint and partnership working wherever feasible
Staff turnover and recruitment difficulties	Staff turnover is difficult to predict. Risk of loss of key staff to other employment would severely affect our ability to progress the Local Plan work programme in a timely manner	Take prompt action to fill vacancies with staff with the appropriate skills. If considered appropriate, secure additional resources through use of consultants, temporary staff and internal secondment
Staff absence (e.g. long term sickness/maternity leave)	Reduced capacity causing slippage in programme	Consider interim arrangements such as temporary appointments, use of agency staff or secondment, subject to resources The adequacy of staffing levels will be evaluated through the ongoing monitoring of the preparation of the Local Plan
Lack of in-house skills for specialised areas of policy work/background studies	Slow progress causing a slippage in programme Evidence base challenged or undermined Quality compromised	Obtain training for areas where expertise is lacking Review staffing requirements as part of annual service reviews Expand partnership working, where possible In some cases it will be more efficient to engage consultants where specialist skills are required to short timescales and in-house development is unrealistic
Pressure on staff time due to competing work streams	Diverts team from Local Plan work causing slippage in programme	Ensure Local Plan is recognised as a corporate priority Identify key staff to be “shielded” from other work, wherever possible

Risk	Description	Control Measures
Legal	<p>Risk of non-compliance with legal procedures and requirements and/or judicial review leading to adopted Local Plan being quashed and additional workloads</p> <p>Changes in plan-making requirements/procedures can also result in delays</p>	<p>Ensure relevant legislation/ regulations are checked and complied with at each stage</p> <p>It is not possible to easily plan for further changes to the planning system. The Council will endeavor to deal with new requirements with minimum disruption to the timetable as part of ongoing monitoring</p>
Third Parties	<p>Risk of comments and representations from third parties causing delay (including lengthening of examination) and/or additional expense from unexpected volumes and/or unforeseen issues arising, with need for additional evidence and/or consultation</p>	<p>Consultation and involvement of relevant stakeholders</p> <p>Ensure timetable is realistic but has some flexibility built in and monitor progress against LDS</p> <p>Consider the need for additional resources as part of ongoing monitoring</p>
Joint working with other internal departments and/or external authorities causes delay	<p>Key milestones in programme not met</p> <p>Duty to Co-operate not met</p>	<p>Ensure timescales for Local Plan realistically reflect partner authorities ability to contribute to joint working</p> <p>Ensure commitment to milestone dates and resource allocation is obtained from relevant parties in advance</p>
Capacity of the Planning Inspectorate	<p>Examination and/or Inspectors Report is delayed</p> <p>Key milestones in programme not met</p>	<p>Close liaison with the Planning Inspectorate to ensure early warning of any problems</p> <p>The Council has sought to minimise the volume of issues to be resolved at examination, through ensuring a robust evidence base and wide pre-submission public consultation.</p>
Soundness – Local Plan found unsound by Planning Inspectorate	<p>Inspectors modifications required</p> <p>Local Plan cannot be adopted without significant additional work, possibly including repeated stages of preparation and consultation</p>	<p>Ensure Local Plan is legally compliant, founded on a robust evidence base, accompanied by appropriate assessments and appraisals and well-audited community and stakeholder engagement. Timetable allows for possible consultation on main modifications, if required.</p> <p>Use of self-assessment toolkit (published by national advisor PAS)</p> <p>Maintain awareness of best practice</p>

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MINUTE EXTRACT

CABINET – 26 FEBRUARY 2018

87 DRAFT CALENDAR OF MEETINGS FOR THE 2018/19 MUNICIPAL YEAR



Councillor Phil Davies, Leader of the Council - Growth, said:

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

Councillor Phil Davies introduced a report which recommended draft dates for Council, Cabinet and Committee meetings (“Council Meetings”) for the municipal year 2018/2019. The report also described the various issues that had been taken into account in compiling it.

Other issues that did not constitute a meeting of the Council and therefore did not require inclusion in the Calendar of Meetings were set out in Appendix 2 of the report. Notification of the other meetings was given now to enable Members to manage their diaries.

Councillor Davies referred to one amendment, which had been suggested by Scrutiny Officers, for the date of the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be changed from 6 June to 3 July, 2018.

RESOLVED: That:

- (1) the draft Calendar of Meetings for the 2018/2019 Municipal Year, set out at appendix 1 to the report for approval, subject to the amendment above, and unless amended at the meeting of Council on 19 March, 2018, be confirmed as the calendar of meetings for the Municipal Year 2018/19;**
- (2) the other meetings detailed set out in Appendix 2 be noted.**
- (3) any proposed amendments to the Calendar of Meetings and Appendix 2 be submitted to the Interim Assistant Director: Law and Governance by no later than 10am on Friday, 9 March 2018.**

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COUNCILLOR PHIL DAVIES

CABINET

26 FEBRUARY 2018

DRAFT CALENDAR OF MEETINGS FOR
THE 2018/19 MUNICIPAL YEAR

Councillor Phil Davies, Leader of the Council - Growth, said:

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

REPORT SUMMARY

This report recommends draft dates for Council, Cabinet and Committee meetings (“Council meetings”) for the municipal year 2018/2019. The report also describes various issues that have been taken into account in compiling it.

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

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

The decision required is not a key decision.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That Cabinet recommends to Council:

- (a) the relevant draft Calendar of Meetings for the 2018/19 Municipal Year set out at Appendix 1 for approval, and unless amended at the meeting of Council on 19 March, 2018, be confirmed as the Calendar of Meetings for the Municipal Year 2018/19; and
- (b) the other meetings detailed set out at Appendix 2 be noted and Members diarise those meetings as appropriate.
- (c) any proposed amendments to the Calendar of Meetings and Appendix 2 be submitted to the Interim Assistant Director: Law and Governance by no later than 10am on Friday, 9 March 2018.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 The Council must approve and publish a Calendar of Meetings for the 2018/19 Municipal Year.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

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

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 Members are asked to consider the applicable draft Calendar of Meeting for the municipal year 2018/19 and provide details and reasons of any changes (if any) they would like to see to the draft calendar.

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

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

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

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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

5.0 LEGAL

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

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

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

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

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

8.0 ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION

- 8.1 The Leader of the Council has been consulted and agreed the Cabinet dates. Officers have been consulted in respect of the dates for regulatory committees, some of which involve the signing off of annual accounts.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 There are no equality implications.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Draft Calendar of Meetings for the 2018/19 Municipal Year
Appendix 2 – Other meetings

REFERENCE MATERIAL

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Council	16 May 2017
Standards and Constitutional Oversight Committee	26 April 2017
Council	20 March 2017
Cabinet	27 February 2017
Council	14 March 2016
Cabinet	7 March 2016
Council	16 March 2015
Cabinet	15 January 2015

MAY - 2018/19 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS Draft (2)

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

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

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

AUGUST

2018

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

SEPTEMBER

2018

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

OCTOBER

2018

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

NOVEMBER

2018

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

DECEMBER

2018

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

JANUARY

2019

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

FEBRUARY

2019

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

MARCH

2019

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

APRIL

2019

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

MAY**2019**

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

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Other meetings

Pre-Council Group Meetings

- Monday 2 July 2018
- Monday 8 October 2018
- Monday 3 December 2018
- Monday 25 February 2019
- Monday 11 March 2019

Youth Parliament

- Tuesday 6 November 2018

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<p><u>THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL</u></p> <p><u>COUNCILLOR PHIL DAVIES</u></p>	<p><u>COUNCIL</u></p> <p>MONDAY 19 MARCH 2018</p> <p><u>PAY POLICY 2018/2019</u></p>
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Councillor Phil Davies, The Leader of The Council, , said:

“The Pay Policy Statement 2018/19 – if agreed – demonstrates our commitment to the Foundation Living Wage and on ensuring our Pay Policy is fair, equitable and sustainable.”

REPORT SUMMARY

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

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

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

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

RECOMMENDATION/S

Council are asked to:

- Agree the introduction of the revised National Living Wage rate of £8.75 per hour, effective from 1 April 2018.
- Approve the Pay Policy Statement for the financial year 2018/19.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

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

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

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

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The draft pay policy statement takes into account the LGA and ALACE guidance issued to Local Authority Chief Executives, and the statement details the Council's current arrangements, using the definitions contained in the Act and associated guidance.

The Act also requires the Council to have regard to statutory guidance entitled 'Openness and accountability in local pay' under the Transparency Agenda. The original guidance was published in 2012, with updated guidance published in February 2013, which stated that the pay policy statement should set out the Council's position in relation to the opportunity, under these arrangements, for full council or a meeting of Members to vote in respect of appointments to posts with salary packages over £100,000 and severance packages over the same amount. For this purpose, salary packages should include salary, any bonuses, fees or allowances routinely payable to the appointee and any benefits in kind to which the officer is entitled as a result of their employment.

The draft pay policy makes reference to this and highlights that full Council has reserved powers in respect of defined posts (the head of paid service, s.151 officer, monitoring officer, returning officer and electoral registration officer) and that, for reasons of accountability, transparency and practicality, chief officer and deputy chief officer appointments are delegated to the Employment and Appointments Committee under the Council's Constitution.

Key Changes

The 2018/19 statement reflects key changes and updates that have occurred within the last financial year as follows:

The Living Wage

A new Foundation Living Wage rate was announced by The Living Wage Foundation on 1 November 2017. The new Living Wage rate is £8.75 per hour, an increase of 30p.

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

- Band A, SCP10 will increase to the Living Wage rate of £8.75.
- Band B, SCP11 will increase from £8.54 to £8.81.
- Band C will include two SCP's: SCP13 will increase from £8.70 to £8.87; and SCP14 will increase from £8.85 to £8.94.

The salary rates detailed above will be subject to review in respect of the pending NJC pay award negotiations.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The cost of implementing the Living Wage rate (effective 1 April 2018) and adjustment to the Council's pay grades as detailed above is approximately £46,900 including on-costs. This will be built into departmental budgets under the provision for pay growth.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Section 38 of the Localism Act 2011 requires the Council to prepare a pay policy statement for each financial year which sets out the following matters:-

- The Council's policies for the financial year relating to: (a) the remuneration of its chief officers; (b) the remuneration of its lowest-paid employees; and (c) the relationship between the remuneration of those chief officers, and the remuneration of its employees who are not chief officers.
- The definition of "lowest-paid employees" adopted by the Council for the purposes of the statement, and the Council's reasons for adopting that definition.
- The statement must include the Council's policies relating to: (a) the level and elements of remuneration for each chief officer; (b) remuneration of chief officers on recruitment; (c) increases and additions to remuneration for each chief officer; (d) the use of performance-related pay for chief officers; (e) the use of bonuses for chief officers; (f) the approach to the payment of chief officers on their ceasing to hold office under or to be employed by the authority; and (g) the publication of and access to information relating to remuneration of chief officers.

The term 'chief officer' is defined by section 43(2) of the Localism Act 2011 and for these purposes includes the statutory chief officers, non-statutory chief officers and deputy chief officers as listed within that Act.

The Council's pay policy statement may also set out its policies for the financial year relating to the other terms and conditions applying to the authority's chief officers.

When preparing and adopting its pay policy statement, the Council must have regard to guidance issued by the Secretary of State under section 40

of the Localism Act 2011. The Secretary of State has issued two sets of guidance. The first, issued in February 2012, is entitled “Openness and Accountability in Local Pay”. The second, supplementary guidance was published in February 2013. Reference is made to the requirements of the guidance in the body of the paper.

The guidance makes it clear that neither the pay accountability provisions in the Localism Act 2011 nor the guidance are intended to –

- supersede the Council’s existing responsibilities and duties which it has as an employer;
- remove the Council’s autonomy to make decisions on pay that are appropriate to local circumstances and which deliver value for money for local taxpayers; or
- determine the Council’s policies or decisions on pay.

The Council remains bound by relevant employment (and other) legislation as the employer and any changes which may be proposed by the policy must bear in mind the requirements of such legislation.

A purpose of the Act and guidance is to require that the Members’ role in ensuring that the remuneration, particularly that of the most senior staff, is appropriate and commensurate with their responsibility.

The Council can amend the pay policy on an annual basis as required by the Act but may also amend the policy as needed to take into account changing legislative requirements.

When considering its pay policy statement, the Council must have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful conduct under the Equality Act 2010, the need to advance equality of opportunity and the need to foster good relations between persons who share a protected characteristic and those who don’t (the public sector equality duty). A proportionate equality analysis is referenced below in order to support consideration of these matters.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

There are not any resource implications arising from this report.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

The Council is required to prepare and approve its Pay Policy Statement 2018/19 before 31 March 2018. The Council will be at risk of not meeting the requirements of The Localism Act 2011 if this is not achieved.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

The Trade Unions have been consulted on the key updates and changes for the 2018/19 Pay Policy.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

The EIA is available at:

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/communities-and-neighbourhoods/equality-impact-assessments/equality-impact-assessments-2017>

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APPENDICES

Appendix One: The Pay Policy Statement 2018-19

REFERENCE MATERIAL

N/A

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Council	20 March 2017
Council	14 March 2016
Council	12 March 2015
Council	10 March 2014
Council	5 March 2013
Council	1 March 2012

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WIRRAL COUNCIL
PAY POLICY STATEMENT
2018 – 2019

1. Introduction and Purpose

- 1.1. This Statement explains the Council pay policies for its highest and lowest-paid employees. It is written and published in line with the Localism Act 2011 (the Act) and with regard to the guidance issued by the Secretary of State (the Guidance). It was first approved by the Council on 1 March 2012. Local authorities in England and Wales are required to publish a pay policy statement for each financial year.
- 1.2. The purpose of the statement is to provide transparency with regard to the Council's approach to setting the pay of its employees (excluding schools based staff) by identifying:
 - The methods by which salaries of all employees are determined;
 - The detail and level of the salary package of its most senior staff i.e. 'Chief Officers', as defined by the relevant legislation;
 - The Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service responsibility for ensuring the provisions set out in this statement are applied consistently throughout the Council and recommending any amendments to Full Council.
- 1.3. The Council will consult with the relevant Trade Unions in relation to changes and updates to the Pay Policy, before the Policy is considered by Full Council.
- 1.4. Once approved by Full Council, this policy statement will come into immediate effect and will be subject to review on a minimum of an annual basis; the policy being approved by 31 March each year.
- 1.5. The Council may, by resolution, amend this Pay Policy, including after the beginning of the financial year to which it relates.

2. The Scope of this Policy

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

3. Other Legislation Relevant to Pay and Salary Package

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

all local authorities publish certain information related to the organisation, salaries and fraud including:

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

3.5. Wirral Council is required by law (The Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties and Public Authorities) Regulations 2017) to publish an annual gender pay gap report. The first Gender Pay Gap Report is attached at Appendix 1.

4. Pay Structure

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

employees who are able to meet the requirements of providing high quality services to the community.

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

4.11. Variations to Pay Grade

- 4.11.1. From time to time it may be necessary to take account of the external pay levels in the labour market in order to attract and retain employees with particular experience, skills and capacity. Where necessary the Council will ensure the requirement for such is objectively justified by reference to clear and transparent evidence of relevant market comparators, using data sources available from within the local government sector and outside, as appropriate.
- 4.11.2. Any temporary supplement to the salary scale for the grade is approved in accordance with the Council's Honoraria Policy, or any applicable market rate supplement arrangements.

4.12. Job Evaluation

- 3.12.1 The Council has implemented Job Evaluation for NJC employees paid up to scp 34, using the NJC Job Evaluation Scheme.
- 3.12.2 The Council is committed to implementing a new grading structure and pay line for NJC posts over scp 34.
- 3.12.3 The Council will review all other non NJC posts.

4.13. The Living Wage

- 4.13.1. Living Wage rates are based on Minimum Income Standards methodology and seek to take account of real living costs for essential goods and services.
- 4.13.2. Through the Council's Pay Policy Statement, the Council is committed to and pays the Living Wage for all employees.
- 4.13.3. The Living Wage rate is reviewed and announced by The Living Wage Foundation on 1 November each year. The Council will consider any increases to the Living Wage as part of the annual Pay Policy Statement. If agreed, increases to the Living Wage will take effect from 1 April the following year. The provision for the Living Wage will be kept under review.
- 4.13.4 The current Living Wage rate for outside London increased from 1 November 2017 to £8.75 per hour.

4.14. New Appointments

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

remuneration above the minimum scp of the relevant pay scale, the appointment will normally be made at the nearest equivalent scp in the grade. If the employee is already in receipt of acting up or honoraria this will also apply.

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

4.15. Progression through Pay Grades

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

5. Senior Management Salary

- 5.1. For the purposes of this statement, senior management means 'Chief Officers' as defined under section 43(2) of the Localism Act 2011. This includes statutory chief officers, non-statutory chief officers and deputy chief officers as listed within that Act.
- 5.2. The posts falling within the statutory definition are set out in '*The Code of Recommended Practice for Local Authorities on Data Transparency (the data transparency code)*'.
- 5.3. The Council's grading structure for Chief Officers is as follows:
- Chief Executive
 - Senior Director 1
 - Senior Director 2
 - Director 1
 - Director/Deputy Director 2
 - Assistant Director 1
 - Assistant Director 2
- 5.4. The terms and conditions, including the payment of any allowances for Chief Officers is set out within the Joint Negotiating Committee for Chief Officers of Local Authorities constitution conditions of service salaries. All details of Chief Officer salaries are published in accordance with the Transparency Code.
- 5.5. The Chief Executive handbook sets out the terms and conditions of employment for the Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service. Some provisions within this

also apply to Council's Statutory Officers (Section 151 Officer and Monitoring Officer).

6. Recruitment of Chief Officers

6.1. The Council's policy and procedures with regard to recruitment of Chief Officers is set out in Part Four of The Council's Constitution. The appointment of Chief Officers and Deputy Chief Officers is delegated to The Employment and Appointments Committee as set out in Part Three of The Council's Constitution.

6.2. When recruiting to all posts, the Council will take full and proper account of all provisions of relevant employment law and its own Equal Opportunities, Recruitment and Selection, and Redeployment Policies as approved by Council.

The determination of the salary to be offered to any newly appointed Chief Officer will be in accordance with the pay structure and relevant policies in place at the time of recruitment.

6.4 The Guidance says that Council should have the opportunity to vote before salary packages of £100,000 or more. Through The Council's Constitution, this is delegated to the Employment and Appointments Committee, as above, which appoints Chief Officers other than for those roles where the full Council has reserved powers in respect of defined posts.

6.5 There is a statutory requirement to notify the Leader of the Cabinet of the selection decision, and provide an opportunity for each Cabinet Member to make representations on the decision to the proper officer.

6.6 A meeting of full Council will approve the appointment to the following:

- Head of Paid Service;
- Section 151 Officer (also known as Chief Finance Officer);
- Monitoring Officer;
- Returning Officer (for which expenses may be claimed); and
- Electoral Registration Officer.

7. Additions to Salary

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

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

8. Pension Contributions

- 8.1. The employer's pension contribution is required to be published under S7 of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2011.
- 8.2. The Council will automatically enroll all eligible employees into the Local Government Pension scheme and the Council is required to make a contribution to the scheme representing a percentage of the pensionable Salary due under the contract of employment of that employee.
- 8.3. The rate of contribution is set by Actuaries advising Merseyside Pension Fund and reviewed every three years in order to ensure the scheme is appropriately funded.

9. Payments on Termination

- 9.1. The Council's approach to statutory and discretionary payments on termination of employment for all employees, including Chief Officers, prior to reaching normal retirement age, is set out within the Council's Enhanced Discretionary Severance Scheme.
- 9.2. The Council will keep its Enhanced Discretionary Severance Scheme under review. Any changes, as approved by Full Council are published in accordance with the Local Government (Early Termination of Employment) (Discretionary Compensation) (England and Wales) regulations 2006.
- 9.3. Any payments upon termination in respect of a chief officer exceeding £100,000, (apart from contractual payments, where the Council has no discretion) shall be subject to a vote at Council or relevant Committee or Panel of Members with delegated authority to approve such payments. Payments upon termination are subject to any future legislative change or caps that may be introduced.

10. Lowest Paid Employees

- 10.1. The lowest paid persons employed by the Council are employed on full time (36 hours) equivalent salaries in accordance with spinal column points 10 (Band A) of council's grading structure (locally agreed). The grading structure takes account of the Living Wage hourly rate (see section 3 above).
- 10.2. The relationship between the rate of pay for the lowest paid and Chief Officers is determined by the processes used for determining pay and grading structures as set out earlier in this policy statement.
- 10.3. The current pay levels within the Council define the multiple between the average full time equivalent (FTE) earnings and the Chief Executive as 1:6.79.
- 10.4. The current pay levels within the Council define the multiple between the lowest paid employee full time equivalent (FTE) earnings and average Chief Officer earnings as 1:6.51.

- 10.5. The current pay levels within the Council define the multiple between the average FTE earnings and the average of Chief Officer earnings as 1: 3.92.
- 10.6. As part of its overall and ongoing monitoring of alignment with external pay markets, both within and outside the sector, the Council will use available benchmark information as appropriate. In addition, upon the annual review of this Statement, the Council will also monitor any changes in the relevant 'pay multiples' and benchmark against other comparable local Authorities.

11. Accountability and Decision Making

- 11.1. In accordance with the Constitution of the Council, the Employment and Appointments Committee is responsible for decision making in relation to Chief Officer recruitment.
- 11.2 The Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service has delegated responsibility for decision making in relation to the recruitment, pay, terms and conditions and severance arrangements in relation to employees of the Council below Chief Officer level.

12. Re-employment / Re-engagement of Employees

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

13. Publication

- 13.1. Upon approval by Full Council, this statement will be published on the Council's Website and Intranet.
- 13.2. In line with the requirement of the Local Government Transparency Code 2014, the Council will publish an organisation chart covering staff in the top three levels of the organisation, which will include the following information:
- Grade
 - Job Title
 - Salary in £5,000 brackets
 - Salary ceiling (the maximum salary for the grade)
- 13.3. The following information for senior salaries (employees whose Salary in that year was at least £50,000) will also be published:
- Job Title
 - Salary



Gender Pay Gap Report

Wirral Council is required by law (The Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties and Public Authorities) Regulations 2017) to publish an annual gender pay gap report.

This is its report for the snapshot date of 31st March 2017.

Gender Gap	%age	Male Rate	Female Rate	Council Rate
The mean gender pay gap	5.85	£ 14.14	£ 13.31	£ 13.61
The median gender pay gap	4.78	£ 13.07	£ 12.45	£ 12.07
The mean gender bonus gap	0.00	n/a	n/a	n/a
The median gender bonus gap	0.00	n/a	n/a	n/a

The Mean gender pay gap is the average gap across all staff included

The Median gender pay gap is the middle rate of all hourly rates included

Pay quartiles by gender			
Quartile	Males	Females	Description
Lower	29.6% (280)	70.4% (666)	Includes all employees whose standard hourly rate places them at or below the lower quartile
Lower middle	38.5% (364)	61.5% (582)	Includes all employees whose standard hourly rate places them above the lower quartile but at or below the median
Upper middle	36.7% (347)	63.3% (599)	Includes all employees whose standard hourly rate places them above the median but at or below the upper quartile
Upper	41.4% (392)	58.6% (554)	Includes all employees whose standard hourly rate places them above the upper quartile

Quartiles are defined by dividing the workforce into 4 equal sized groups, then split by gender.

The figures set out above have been calculated using the standard methodologies used in the Equality Act 2010 (Gender Pay Gap Information) Regulations 2017.

How does Wirral Council's gender pay gap compare with that of other organisations?

The vast majority of organisations have a gender pay gap, and we are pleased to be able to say that the Council's gap compares favourably to the national averages and other public sector organisations.

	Wirral Council	2017 ONS ASHE whole sector
Mean gender pay gap	5.85%	17.4%
Median gender pay gap	4.78%	18.4%

**Office for National Statistics*

***Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings*

This is the first year for the requirement to report the gender pay gap. To date, only a small proportion of organisations have published their gender pay gap prior to the 2018 deadline. The Council is therefore unable to perform detailed benchmarking against similar public sector organisations at this point.

What is a gender pay gap?

Gender pay is not about equal pay. Unequal pay means that individual women and men are not getting equal pay for doing equal work. The gender pay gap shows the average difference between the earnings of women and men. It has a number of contributory factors, most of which are more about the kinds of industries and jobs open to women than about the ways in which men and women are paid.

Just because there is a gender pay gap does not make it unlawful. Having a gender pay gap does not mean the Council is discriminating against women.

A gender pay gap is not solely the result of pay practices. It is about much broader influences. Gender pay gaps are the outcome of economic, cultural, societal and educational factors.

What are the contributing factors of Wirral Council's gender pay gap?

Factor	Impact and Reasons
Workforce make-up	Wirral Council has a predominantly female workforce, with 63.5% employees female and 36.5% male. Across the UK economy as a whole, men are more likely than women to be in senior roles (especially very senior roles at the top of organisations). In Wirral, the top quartile roles are occupied by more women than men.

Wirral Pay Policy	<p>The Council has a clear policy (Wirral Pay Policy Statement 2017-18) of paying employees equally for the same or equivalent work, regardless of their gender (or any other protected characteristic). Wirral Council is therefore confident that its gender pay gap does not stem from paying men and women differently for the same or equivalent work. Rather, its gender pay gap is the result of the roles in which men and women work within the organisation and the salaries that these roles attract.</p> <p>The Council adopts the national pay bargaining arrangements through any agreed annual pay increases negotiated with joint trade unions, subject to any local agreements in place.</p>
Foundation Living Wage	<p>As a FLW employer, Wirral's pay rates in the lower quartile are comparatively higher than national rates, which narrows the gap.</p>
Reforming Services	<p>The Council's workforce has reduced and changed significantly with many services no longer provided directly. The impact has been that the number of traditionally male dominated roles paid at mid-quartile rates has decreased, e.g. Construction workers, whilst the number of traditionally female dominated, lower-quartile roles has also reduced, e.g. Catering, Care and Domiciliary workers.</p>
Harmonisation	<p>The Council harmonised terms and conditions in 2008. This included new premium payments and removal of bonuses. Premium payments are generally paid to lower paid employees thus enhancing their pay. In Wirral, the premium payments are paid to as many women as men.</p>
Ageing Workforce	<p>Wirral Council has an ageing workforce with 52.54% aged between 45 and 59 years.</p> <p>It is acknowledged that the pay gap widens for women aged 40 plus years and at Wirral, of those aged 40 and over, 64% are female. Wirral reflects this trend with the gender pay gap widening from 5.85% to 10%.</p>
Employment Contracts and Flexible Working	<p>Wirral has a variety of flexible work options, e.g. full-time, part-time, term-time, seasonal, providing a number of working arrangements for individuals to choose from that fit into their work-life balance.</p> <p>It is acknowledged that females are traditionally viewed as the primary carers meaning these employment options tend to attract and retain more females than males.</p> <p>Since Wirral has a number of roles falling into the lower quartile with minimal work hours which accommodate work-life balance arrangements, this influences the higher proportion of females in lower quartile job roles.</p>
Career Break	<p>Career Break is a local government term and condition which has been in place for many years. This enables women to take time away from work after having children and return to work at an equivalent position and level of pay, meaning women returning to the workplace aren't disadvantaged financially or with their career opportunities. This is not broadly used in the private sector and will contribute towards narrowing the pay gap.</p>

Next Steps

Based on the outcomes of this exercise, Wirral will undertake further analysis and detailed benchmarking to identify any actions that may address the pay gap differential.

MINUTE EXTRACT

ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Thursday, 30 November 2017

33 LOCAL AUTHORITY POWERS TO REQUIRE DRIVERS TO SWITCH OFF ENGINES WHEN PARKED

The Senior Manager, Environmental Health provided a report which sought to gain authorisation to enforce the Road Traffic (Vehicle Emissions) (Fixed Penalty) (England) Regulations 2002 in order to reduce polluting emissions from stationary vehicles. It was reported that vehicles idling while stationary caused unnecessary use of fuel, an increase in emissions and could also create a noise environment, especially for residents and businesses.

Members were informed that should a driver refuse to switch off when requested, fixed penalty notices of £20 could be issued to drivers who allowed their vehicle engines to run unnecessarily while the vehicle was stationary. The adoption of the legislation would support The Wirral Plan 20/20.

It was reported that twenty one locations across Wirral were monitored for Nitrogen Dioxide levels and that one site that had exceeded the national objective was that situated at the taxi rank in Liscard, however this did not require any statutory action as it was not a relevant exposure area.

Members were advised that during the last three years there had been ten complaints received by Environmental Health and seven complaints by the Licensing Section in respect of idling vehicle engines in various locations throughout the Borough. It was considered that adoption of enforcement powers would provide an opportunity for educative initiatives surrounding the issue of air quality.

In response to questions from Members, the Senior Manager, Environmental Health advised that £20 was the maximum penalty that could be charged, however the Council was considering converting this to a civil charge which would be £80. He advised that the Department of Transport Guidance must be followed and that the first drive would be to educate people in respect of the issues.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Council adopts Part 6(3) of the Road Traffic (Vehicle Emissions) (Fixed Penalty) (England) Regulations 2002;**
- (2) Schedule 4A Part 2 of the Council Constitution be amended in order to insert the Road Traffic (Vehicle Emissions) (Fixed Penalty) (England) Regulations 2002; and**

- (3) an in house policy be implemented for drivers to switch off engines when parked, which should include drivers of Council vehicles and employees using their own vehicles for work purposes.**

**Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Thursday, 30 November 2017**

REPORT TITLE:	Local Authority powers to require drivers to switch off engines when parked
REPORT OF:	<i>Colin Clayton, Senior Manager Environmental Health & Trading Standards, Environmental Services</i>

REPORT SUMMARY

This report seeks to gain authorisation to enforce the Road Traffic (Vehicle Emissions) (Fixed Penalty) (England) Regulations 2002 in order to reduce polluting emissions from stationary vehicles. Vehicles idling while stationary cause unnecessary use of fuel, an increase in emissions and can also create a noisy environment, especially for residents and businesses.

It is an offence under Regulation 98 of the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986 to leave a vehicle engine idling unnecessarily whilst stationary. Powers are available to authorised Local Authority officers and other person(s), under Part 6 of The Road Traffic (Vehicle Emissions) (Fixed Penalty) (England) Regulations 2002, to issue fixed penalty notices of £20 to drivers who allow their vehicle engines to run unnecessarily while the vehicle is stationary. It is important to note that the fixed penalty can only be issued if the driver refuses to switch off when requested.

The adoption of this legislation will support The Wirral Plan 20/20. The Environment section states that the Council's priorities include "*Working to reduce levels of inequality, particularly in relation to health, remains of paramount importance to this Council. We want all of our residents to have a good quality of life and live healthy lifestyles in clean and safe environments*". Pledge 16 of the plan is to help Wirral residents live healthier lives and pledge 20 of the plan is to provide an attractive local environment for Wirral residents.

Air pollution is associated with a number of adverse health impacts. It is recognised as a contributing factor in the onset of heart disease and cancer. Additionally, air pollution particularly affects the most vulnerable in society: children and older people, and those with heart and lung conditions. There is also often a strong correlation with equalities issues, because areas with poor air quality are also often the less affluent areas^{1,2}.

Idling engines unnecessarily add to pollution, particularly in congested urban environments which affects the quality of air that the community is exposed to.

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

RECOMMENDATION/S

It is recommended that the Council adopts Part 6(3) of the Road Traffic (Vehicle Emissions) (Fixed Penalty) (England) Regulations 2002. If adopted, the powers would be used by Environmental Health or other relevant services such as Licensing, Education and Transport Services to launch an educational campaign regarding idling vehicles. Any potential enforcement by these services would be limited to reacting to evidence based complaints or as part of a planned project targeting idling hot spots (i.e. taxi ranks and parking around schools). Limited existing resources would prohibit any other proactive work.

It is therefore recommended that the Schedule 4A Part 2 of the Council Constitution be amended in order to insert the Road Traffic (Vehicle Emissions) (Fixed Penalty) (England) Regulations 2002. The effect of this will be to give delegated powers to certain officers (including the Assistant Director of Environmental Services) to authorise officers to issue Fixed Penalty Notices relating to drivers of idling vehicles.

It is recommended that Wirral Council implement an in house policy for drivers to switch off engines when parked, which should include drivers of council vehicles and employees using their own vehicles for work purposes.

¹ Environmental Equity, Air Quality, Socioeconomic Status and Respiratory Health, 2010

² Air Quality and Social Deprivation in the UK: An Environmental Inequalities Analysis, 2006

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 Regulation 6(3) of The Road Traffic (Vehicle Emissions) (Fixed Penalty) (England) Regulations 2002 allows a local authority to authorise any officer of the authority, or any other person, in any area of that authority, to issue a Fixed Penalty Notice in respect of a stationary idling offence committed in its area. Regulation 6(3) also allows authorised persons to stop the commission of stationary idling offences by requiring vehicle engines to be switched off. It is therefore proposed that relevant officers and other persons may be granted authority to issue fixed penalty notices.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 The option to not adopt the legislation has been considered, however this would not provide the council with the legislative powers to effectively deal with idling engines and any complaints that may arise. It would also limit the impetus and opportunities to engage with the public and businesses on the issue

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 National air quality objectives have been set regarding Nitrogen dioxide level (NO_2). NO_2 is released during combustion of fuels (for example from car engines) and is therefore strongly linked to traffic levels. Wirral Council currently monitors for Nitrogen Dioxide in twenty one locations across Wirral, using diffusion tubes. These are analysed on a monthly basis to provide an annual mean result. The annual mean, at sites of relevant exposure, must not exceed $40 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. In Wirral, in 2016, the results from twenty of the twenty one diffusion tube sites were below the national objective. The one monitoring site that exceeded the national objective was the tube sited at the taxi rank in Liscard. This monitoring site was selected following a complaint from a member of the public regarding idling taxis outside the taxi rank. The annual mean result for this diffusion tube in 2016 was $44 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. As this location is not a site of relevant exposure because there is no housing, school, care home etc. in the immediate vicinity, the exceedance does not

require declaration of an Air Quality Management Area by the Local Authority. It does however indicate that localised air quality issues may be linked to idling engines.

3.2 Although the legislation enabling authorised officers to formally address idling engines was introduced in 2002, it has not been deemed necessary for Wirral to adopt the legislation until recently. Wirral has not identified any breaches of national air quality objectives, in areas of relevant exposure and has therefore not been required to declare any Air Quality Management Area. As the taxi rank is not a relevant exposure area, no statutory action is required. A previous mailshot has been followed up with another letter to taxi drivers in July. However further action now needs to be considered to tackle such localised issues and highlight this issue.

3.3 Environmental Health and the Licensing section deals with complaints about stationary vehicles, particularly buses and taxis, being left with their engines running. In the last three years, Environmental Health has received ten complaints regarding idling vehicle engines in various locations throughout the Borough. The licensing section has received seven complaints in the same period. These incidents are usually dealt with by:

- Writing to bus operators asking them to speak to their drivers and / or
- Undertaking site visits where idling has been alleged to be a problem and speaking to the bus or taxi drivers directly.

The methods used to address complaints regarding idling vehicles have met with varying success, being more successful where the complaint has been connected to buses. However, the lack of any statutory enforcement powers has meant that if informal advice does not result in behavioural change, there is no alternative or graduated action that can be taken. It is felt that the lack of enforcement power also undermine the message given during interventions by officers. Adoption of enforcement powers would also provide an opportunity for educative initiatives surrounding the issue of air quality.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The introduction of anti-idling legislation may not be universally popular. However, Environmental Health Officers and other relevant services will be undertaking an educational campaign to raise awareness of the legislation and the reasons behind it, to encourage changes in behaviour. Following the educational campaign, a graduated enforcement approach would be considered before the issuing of a penalty notice.

Officer time would be required for the planning and implementing of an educational campaign and the production of educational materials, such as leaflets and posters is likely to be necessary. The campaign will utilise platforms such as the council's website, social media, and local newspapers etc. to raise awareness and the communications team assistance is likely to be required.

In parallel to this anti-idling campaign, broader public engagement projects looking at air quality in general may be undertaken.

Whilst the expectation of enforcement may be high, due to limited resources, proactive work outside of planned projects at idling hotspots will not be undertaken. As a consequence, the volume of FPN's issued is expected to be minimal and no increase in staffing numbers would be required to enforce the regulations. It should also be remembered that FPNs are only issued where the driver refuses to switch off an idling engine.

Should there be a need to either increase this area of enforcement dramatically or carry out more proactive work beyond the initial campaigning, then the need for further resources would be carefully reviewed.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Regulation 2 of the Road Traffic (Vehicle Emissions) (Fixed Penalty) (England) Regulations 2002 states that "stationary idling offence" means "a contravention of, or failure to comply with 'so much of' regulation 98 (stopping of engine when stationary) of The Road Vehicles (Construction and Use)

Regulations 1986, as relates to the prevention of exhaust emissions. Secondly Regulation 7 of the 2002 Regulations states that emission offences and stationary idling offences under section 42 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 are prescribed as fixed penalty offences for the purposes of the 2002 Regulations.

- 5.2. Regulation 6(3), allows the council to authorise 'any officer of the authority', or any other person, in accordance with regulation 12, to stop the commission of stationary idling offences and, in accordance with regulation 13, to issue a fixed penalty notices in respect of such offences committed in its area'. Under Regulation 12 any authorised person may, having shown their authorisation, require the engine of a vehicle to be stopped. A driver who fails to comply may be prosecuted. However, the most appropriate course of action in most instances is to use powers under Regulation 13 where any authorised person, can issue a fixed penalty notice to the driver of the vehicle.
- 5.3. It is therefore recommended that the Schedule 4A Part 2 of the Council Constitution be amended in order to insert the Road Traffic (Vehicle Emissions) (Fixed Penalty) (England) Regulations 2002. The effect of this will be to give delegated powers to certain officers (for instance: Assistant Directors) to authorise officers to issue Fixed Penalty Notices relating to drivers of idling vehicles.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

- 6.1 There will be cost implications associated with the design and production of leaflets and posters etc. that will be used in the educational campaign.

There will be staff implications associated with the time required to plan and implement the educational campaign. In the short term, the time required to deliver this campaign could be managed within existing resources.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 7.1 If the legislation is not adopted, Wirral Council have no legal powers to prevent idling vehicles. The raised levels of Nitrogen dioxide detected outside the taxi rank in Liscard suggest that idling vehicles have a detrimental effect on local air quality.

7.2 Should the educative campaign, together with enforcement, fail to address idling then a review of resources available to carry out further work would need to be undertaken.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

8.1 Environmental Health have engaged with the licensing section regarding the adoption of Regulation 6(3) of the Road Traffic (Vehicle Emissions) (Fixed Penalty) (England) Regulations 2002.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no equality arising directly out of this report.

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APPENDICES

REFERENCE MATERIAL

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date

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MINUTE EXTRACT

STANDARDS AND CONSTITUTIONAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 27 February 2018

32 STANDARDS AND CONSTITUTIONAL OVERSIGHT WORKING GROUP

RESOLVED:

That (1) subject to the amendment of Minute 19 to indicate the next meeting of the Working Group to be held on Friday 23 March 2018, the minutes of the Standards and Constitutional Oversight Working Group be approved as a correct record;

(2) the recommendation at Minute 11 'Discussion on the Timely Handling of Cabinet Member Questions at Council' be confirmed and the Council be recommended that Cabinet Member question time be extended to 45 minutes.

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STANDARDS AND CONSTITUTIONAL OVERSIGHT WORKING GROUP

13 FEBRUARY 2018

Minute extract

11 **DISCUSSION ON THE TIMELY HANDLING OF CABINET MEMBER QUESTIONS AT COUNCIL**

The Chair reflected on the expressed dissatisfaction at the consideration of questions to Cabinet Members at meetings of the Council, noting that several approaches had been tried but none had adequately resolved the issue. The Deputy Monitoring Officer acknowledged the difficulties in addressing the issue, noting options including limiting the number of questions and reconsidering the time limit.

Members acknowledged the discretion of the Mayor in managing the process and referred to the maximum limit of five questions to each Cabinet Member and a possibility of returning back to a 45 minute question time.

With regard to rule that questions should relate only to the content of the Cabinet Members' reports, comment was made that the reports made reference to Pledges and to recent media reports, and not what the Cabinet Members had actually done in the preceding months which, it was suggested, had been the initial intended purpose of the reports. The Chair noted that the Cabinet Members might be reminded of the intended purpose of their reports to Council.

RESOLVED:

That the Working Group recommend that the Council meeting Cabinet Member question time be extended to 45 minutes.

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MINUTE EXTRACT

STANDARDS AND CONSTITUTIONAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 27 February 2018

36 CONSTITUTIONAL UPDATES

The Committee were advised of required amendments to Part 3 of the Council's Constitution relating to delegation of functions.

The Committee were advised of the relevant legislative provisions and considerations given which now required amendment to the Constitution:

- i. a delegation at Part 3 'Responsibility for Functions' Schedule 4A Part 2 of the Council Constitution enabling Officers, including the Assistant Director of Environmental Services, to authorise Officers to issue Fixed Penalty Notices to drivers of idling vehicles pursuant to Part 6(3) of the Road Traffic (Vehicle Emissions) (Fixed Penalty) (England) Regulations 2002, as recommended by the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee at a meeting held on 30th November 2017; and
- ii. a delegation at Part 3 'Responsibility for Functions' Schedule 5 'Delegation of Functions to Individual Cabinet Members' of the Council Constitution to enable the Cabinet Member for Environment, supported by Officers, to be the person nominated by the authority to hear the applicant and determine the matter pursuant to Schedule 1 s7 to the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013, agreed by the Cabinet at a meeting held on 10 October 2013, but not included in the Constitution at that time.

RESOLVED:

That the required amendments to the Council Constitution be noted and the Council be recommended to confirm their adoption.

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Standards and Constitutional Oversight Committee
Tuesday, 27 February 2018

REPORT TITLE:	Constitutional Updates
REPORT OF:	Assistant Director: Law & Governance (Monitoring Officer)

REPORT SUMMARY

This report presents details of required amendments to Part 3 of the Council's Constitution relating to the delegation of functions.

RECOMMENDATION/S

The Committee is asked to note amendments required to Part 3 of the Council Constitution.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

Keeping the Constitution under review is a role of the Standards and Constitutional Oversight Committee and it is therefore appropriate to report to the Committee on required amendments to the Constitution.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

None, amendment to the Constitution being a Council function.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The following Constitutional amendments are submitted for Members' attention.

Delegations - Road Traffic (Vehicle Emissions) (Fixed Penalty) (England) Regulations 2002

At a meeting held on 30th November 2017 (Minute 33 refers), on consideration of a submitted report, the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee resolved that –

- (1) *the Council adopts Part 6(3) of the Road Traffic (Vehicle Emissions) (Fixed Penalty) (England) Regulations 2002;***
- (2) *Schedule 4A Part 2 of the Council Constitution be amended in order to insert the Road Traffic (Vehicle Emissions) (Fixed Penalty) (England) Regulations 2002; and***
- (3) *an in house policy be implemented for drivers to switch off engines when parked, which should include drivers of Council vehicles and employees using their own vehicles for work purposes.***

It is an offence under s98 of the Road Traffic Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986 to leave a vehicle engine idling unnecessarily while stationary. Part 6 of the 2002 Regulations makes available powers to authorised Council Officers and other person(s) to issue Fixed Penalty Notices to drivers who allow their vehicle engines to run unnecessarily while the vehicle is stationary and who refuse to switch off the engine, thereby reducing polluting emissions from the stationary vehicle, when so requested by the authorised officer.

The Committee is asked to note that agreement of this proposal by the Council at the meeting to be held on 19 March 2018 will require and have the effect of inserting the abovementioned legislation into a delegation at Part 3 'Responsibility for Functions' Schedule 4A Part 2 of the Council Constitution enabling Officers, including the Assistant Director of Environmental Services, to authorise Officers to issue Fixed Penalty Notices to drivers of idling vehicles.

Delegations - Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013

In the event of a local authority being minded not to issue, vary or renew, or to revoke, a licence under the 2013 Act, Schedule 1 s7 to the Act provides that the local authority must give the applicant opportunity of appearing before, and being

heard by, a person appointed by the authority to determine the matter. A right of appeal against the decision of the local authority then exists to the Magistrates Court. A delegation to the Cabinet Member for Environment (then the Cabinet Member for Environment and Sustainability) supported by Officers was agreed by Cabinet at a meeting held on 10 October 2013, but was not incorporated into the Constitution at that time.

In the four years or so since the enactment, the first requirement for an oral hearing has now arisen and this oversight has been noted. For the avoidance of doubt and in case the authority's arrangements are challenged, the Committee is asked to note the inclusion of the delegation to be made to Part 3 'Responsibility for Functions' Schedule 5 'Delegation of Functions to Individual Cabinet Members' of the Council Constitution

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications associated with this report as it deals with procedural matters only.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no further legal issues associated with this report beyond those highlighted within the report.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

There are no resource implications associated with this report as it deals with procedural matters only.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

Delegation to Members and Officers needs to be properly recorded and maintained in the Council Constitution to mitigate against potential challenge.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

No engagement or consultation has been undertaken on this report as it deals with procedural matters only.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct equality implications associated with this report as it deals with procedural matters only.

REPORT AUTHOR: **Mark Hardman**
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There are no background papers to this report.

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Council – 19 March, 2018

Motions

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

1. CUTS TO MERSEYSIDE FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY AND THE IMPACT ON DELIVERING PUBLIC SAFETY

Proposed by Councillor Brian Kenny
Seconded by Councillor Janette Williamson

Council recognises the excellent work undertaken by Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service (MFRS) in delivering community safety and prevention initiatives across Liverpool City Region, including Wirral.

Council appreciates that MFRS has to deal with a wide range of incidents, both speedily and effectively, and therefore requires diverse and appropriate resources. MFRS also supports National Resilience and is required to respond to incidents regionally, nationally and internationally, such as terrorist threats, severe weather, flooding and any incident that may have an impact on critical infrastructure.

MFRS delivers interventions that meet the needs of our communities including: 'Safe and Well' visits that target our most vulnerable residents. This Service is held in very high regard and gains access to over 50,000 homes annually, to deliver community safety interventions.

Council believes that the Government should recognise the Fire and Rescue Service is a unique public body that plans for 'risk,' not 'demand,' and therefore should fund it accordingly.

Council is concerned that MFRS has experienced the worst budget reductions in the whole of the Country. The number of stations, engines and firefighters have all been cut drastically, thereby increasing the risk to the communities that the service works so hard to protect.

The impact of the cuts to MFRS are as follows:

	2010	2017	2020	% Reduction
Appliances (engines)	42	26	22	Minus 48%
Stations	26	25	22	Minus 15%
Fire Fighters	927	646	580	Minus 37%
Support/Control staff	507	349	309	Minus 34%

Council therefore calls on the Government to:

1. Cease any further cuts to the MFRS budget
2. Fund a real increase in firefighters' pay
3. Undertake a full evaluation of the impact of these cuts to date

Council wishes to place on record its wholehearted thanks and appreciation for the work undertaken by MFRS, firefighters and support staff for their dedication, commitment and continuing professionalism, in keeping our communities safe.

2. LABOUR NEC INTERFERENCE IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Proposed by Councillor David Burgess-Joyce

Seconded by Councillor Tom Anderson

Council is concerned that the Leader of Wirral Council is currently unduly influenced in decision-making that directly impacts on the communities he serves.

Council is aware the Leader, along with other Labour council leaders across the country, has written to his party headquarters to voice his concern about National Executive Committee interference in local decisions.

Clearly involvement by a non-elected body such as the Labour Party NEC into Wirral Council workings is anathema to the very tenet of democracy and all right-thinking councillors of every party would feel it wrong.

To this end Council would ask the Leader of the Council to reiterate his disdain for such actions by the NEC and confirm to Council that no actions or decisions he or his Cabinet have made since his letter to the NEC have, or will be, altered as a result.

3. CAR PARKING CHARGES AND SUPPORTING LOCAL COMMERCE

Proposed by Councillor Stuart Kelly
Seconded by Councillor Alan Brighthouse

This Council is concerned that the retail offer in Wirral's main retailing centres, with the range and variety of businesses, needs to be better placed to withstand the impact of online retailing and the challenges facing well know multiple chains.

Council recognises that the warning signs, evidenced in the 2014 review of charges, are becoming yet more relevant.

Council notes that the September 2014 Scrutiny Review into car parking charges at shopping centre (<http://democracy.wirral.gov.uk/documents/s50021835/Car%20Parking%20Scrutiny%20Review.pdf>) considered that car parking charges should follow the following Policy Objectives:-

- P01 To support the long-term economic viability of the Borough's shopping and commercial centres.
- P02 To ensure that the price for car parking is fair and not detrimental to the economic well-being of shopping and commercial centres.

Council considers these objectives are not being met and that car parking charges are now used as a 'cash cow' to augment Council income rather than to aid local business and support centre viability.

Council notes that car parking charges make a 'profit' of in excess of £800,000.

Council therefore requests Cabinet to instruct officers to work with retail organisations to develop a scheme of car parking charges that meets these objectives first identified in **2014**.

The new scheme should include an offer of a refund of £1 on a ticket where validation by participating retailers of spend of £5 or more has taken place in the shopping retail centres of Birkenhead, Liscard, Heswall and West Kirby.

4. ZERO TOLERANCE OF LITTER

Proposed by Councillor Phill Brightmore

Seconded by Councillor Phil Davies

This Council reaffirms its support for a zero tolerance approach towards litter in the Borough.

Council rejects criticism by the Green Party that our approach towards people who drop litter in Birkenhead is 'heavy-handed and ineffective' and that smokers are being targeted.

This Labour Administration makes no apology for clamping down on people who drop litter. In the last six months 1,800 litter Fixed Penalty Notices have been issued in the Birkenhead area. This is approximately half of all litter FPNs issued in the Borough. Although 93.6% of these were for cigarette litter, this simply represents the most common form of littering rather than any attempt to target smokers.

Council believes that the Green Party's stance of being soft on litter louts is not shared by the vast majority of residents who are pleased with the priority the Council is giving to tackling this issue. This Council will not tolerate littering and rejects Green party calls to do so within Birkenhead.

5. SCRAP WIRRAL VIEW

Proposed by Councillor Wendy Clements

Seconded by Councillor Lesley Rennie

Council is concerned that the Wirral View newspaper continues to be beset with problems – including patchy distribution and low levels of external advertising.

Council believes that £254,000 spent to date, and the further £140,000 planned for 2018/19, is a waste of money and therefore calls on Cabinet to put the publication out of its misery.

6. SECURING SAFE ENERGY SUPPLIES

Proposed by Councillor Phil Gilchrist
Seconded by Councillor Dave Mitchell

Council recalls that, at its meeting of 18 July 2011 (Minute 28), Council unanimously approved a Notice of Motion proposed by Cllr Mark Johnston and seconded by Cllr Dave Mitchell.

The Motion responded to and set out this Council's response to public concerns at that time. These concerns remain as shown by the strong opposition to developments in Lancashire and in North Yorkshire.

As part of the motion, it was resolved that Council:

- (a) states its opposition to any application by IGas or other companies to carry out shale gas or coal gas methane testing or extraction in Wirral until such time as the Council is satisfied as to the safety of the process and that the risk of adverse environmental impacts have been fully addressed.
- (b) requests the appropriate chief officer prepare a report for the Planning Committee, the Economy and Regeneration and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committees to aid members in better understanding the Council's responsibility and regulatory role in relation to gas exploration.
- (c) further requests the Economy and Regeneration OSC to include a study of the potential economic impacts of shale gas exploration and exploitation in Wirral in its workplan, including whether the impact of a proliferation of shale gas drilling on the Liverpool City Region will adversely impact on it becoming a leading area for the manufacture of low carbon technologies and development of a green economy.

Since the compilation of this Motion, there have been a number of developments:

- i. The Prime Minister has spoken of her intention that the UK should have a secure and safe supply of energy in the future (18 October 2017). This includes the continued development of shale gas fields.
- ii. The Oil and Gas Authority issued 'Consolidated onshore guidance' in December 2017 https://www.ogauthority.co.uk/media/4622/160218_consolidated-onshore-guidance-compendium_vfinal.pdf
Within this document, Chapter 7 contains paragraphs 27 and 32 which may have a bearing on our local geology.
- iii. The Planning Committee of our neighbouring Council, Cheshire West and Chester, refused application 17/03213/MIN on 25 January 2018, the Committee report and Minute being set out here:

<http://cmttpublic.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/documents/s56155/1703213MIN%20-%20Final.pdf>

<http://cmttpublic.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/mgAi.aspx?ID=42393>

The Committee felt that the application did not *"mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change, ensuring the development makes the best use of opportunities for renewable energy use and generation."*

- iv. The recent comments from the Liverpool City Region Mayor, Steve Rotheram, that there is no need or justification for shale gas extraction in the City Region given the abundance of alternative sustainable energy sources.

In the light of these developments and continuing public concern, Council requests that officers examine the guidance from the Oil and Gas Authority, the decision of Cheshire West and Chester's Planning Committee, along with the views of the LCR Mayor, and report further on how this Council can best maintain a robust policy and stance on this controversial process.

7. ISS FACILITIES MANAGEMENT LIMITED AT THE ROYAL LIVERPOOL & BROADGREEN UNIVERSITY HOSPITALS NHS TRUST

Proposed by Councillor Matthew Patrick

Seconded by Councillor Brian Kenny

Council notes that staff employed by ISS Facilities Management Limited (ISS) provide vital services at the Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen University Hospitals NHS Trust (RLBUHT), cleaning hospital wards, transporting patients around hospital departments and cooking for patients, visitors and staff.

Council notes the changes that ISS have made to the sick pay scheme for facilities management workers at RLBUHT and a couple of other NHS Trusts in the country, which has reduced sick pay to 12 days. Council notes that this means that staff who are the most seriously ill and most in need of time away from work, workers suffering from illnesses like cancer, heart problems or physical injuries, are the people who are faced with the difficult decision of either working when medically unfit to do so or facing severe financial difficulties due to not being paid.

Council further notes the collective grievance containing over 270 names submitted by Unite the Union to ISS management calling for the full sick pay scheme to be reinstated, which has so far been repeatedly ignored by ISS management.

Council therefore calls on ISS to negotiate with Unite with a view to reinstating the full sick pay regime so that ISS facilities management staff at RLBUHT have access to a fair sick pay scheme on the same basis available to NHS workers and ISS worker at other NHS Trusts and also calls on the RLBUHT Board and management to put pressure on ISS to make this happen.

Council requests that the Leader of the Council writes to the Chief Executives of ISS and RLBUHT outlining the terms of this motion.

8. SUPPORT FOR NEW TRAINS ON THE MERSEYRAIL NETWORK

Proposed by Councillor Les Rowlands

Seconded by Councillor Chris Blakeley

Council welcomes the decision by all members of Merseytravel Transport Committee to support the introduction of new trains on the network.

Council believes the new carriages, replacing rolling stock that is 40 years old, will improve the quality of service for all rail users and, in particular, improve access for disabled passengers.